

Resolution No. 2023-19

Resolution Supporting the New Mexico Counties 2023 Legislative Priorities

WHEREAS, in September 2022, the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors approved four legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2023 session; *and*

WHEREAS, NMC has requested that the Board of County Commissioners in each of the state's 33 counties discuss and approve support for NMC's legislative priorities as an important step in assuring maximum understanding of NMC's legislative priorities at the county level; *and*

WHEREAS, county support enables NMC to demonstrate strong local and statewide support to the state legislature for the following issues:

1. **HB 2 Appropriations**

Detention Reimbursement Fund

Increase the County Detention Facilities Reimbursement Act fund to reimburse counties for the cost of housing New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) inmates.

- Currently the fund is \$5 million.
- According to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, the five-year average cost to house NMCD inmates is \$7.5 million.

Prisoner Transport and Extradition

Create a line item in the DFA budget with \$750,000 to reimburse counties that provide transportation for state prisoners.

- Statute 4-44-18C NMSA requires the state to make such payment.
- Counties should not be responsible to pay for state prisoner extradition.

Emergency Medical Services

Create a line item in the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bureau budget with \$10 million to assist local government emergency medical services.

- Emergency medical services in New Mexico have been significantly underfunded for years.
- Current state appropriations, taxes collected through local GRT increments, and other sources of revenue do not provide sufficient support to local governments to meet community needs, especially in rural areas of the state.
- Emergency medical services are vital to the health and welfare of New Mexico citizens.

2. **Public Safety Package**

Return to Work

- Local governments struggle to fill critical public safety positions.
- Allowing able and willing retirees to return to work would create a pool of qualified applicants to fill essential public safety positions.

Recruitment and Retention

- Sufficient numbers of detention staff are essential to a safe and well-operated detention facility which is directly correlated to community safety.
- A public safety recruitment and retention fund would provide local governments with much needed resources to provide detention services to their communities.

Staffing Crisis in Fire & EMS

Create a Fire and EMS fund at \$50 million to support volunteer and paid staff.

- Many New Mexico fire departments are volunteer or combination departments; number of volunteers has greatly declined.
- Call volume and large events continues to rise in New Mexico.

3. Courthouse Funding

Create a fund for construction and renovation for state district courthouses.

4. IPRA Election Related Records & Data

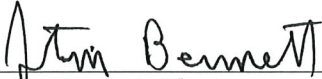
Clearly define how IPRA relates to election records and data.

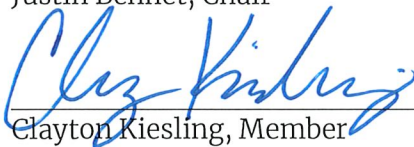
- Need clear guidance on many aspects related to elections records and data that may be subject to IPRA.
- (2) NMSA 1-12-69. A. and G. 1-12-70.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [County Name] Board of County Commissioners does hereby support NMC's legislative priorities as set forth above and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the state legislature during its 2023 session.

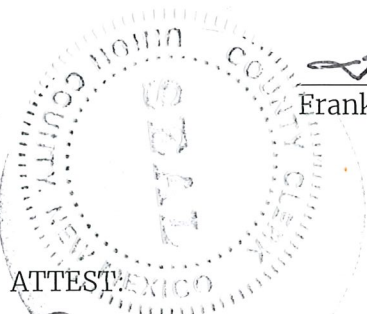
ADOPTED this 15th of November, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION, NEW MEXICO

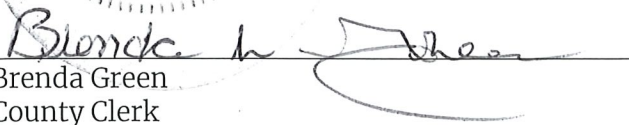

Justin Bennet, Chair


Clayton Kiesling, Member


Frankie Aragon, Member



ATTEST


Brenda Green
County Clerk