

Resolution 2026-19

Resolution Supporting the New Mexico Counties
2026 Legislative Priorities

WHEREAS, in August 2025, the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors approved four legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2026 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

Fully fund County Detention Facility Reimbursement Act Fund to reimburse counties for the actual cost of housing state inmates.

- According to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, the five-year average cost to house New Mexico Corrections Department inmates is \$9.3 million.
- Current fund at \$5 million

Courthouse Funding

Authorize continued funding to AOC for construction and renovation of state district courthouses.

- Counties maintain that courthouses are a state responsibility and that the rising costs of construction, security, and IT necessitate a shared revenue stream.

Detention Recruitment and Retention

Authorize continued funding for the newly formed Corrections Workforce Capacity Building Fund administered by DFA.

- Adequate detention staff are essential to a safe, well-operated detention facility, which is directly correlated to community safety.

Firefighter/EMS Recruitment Fund

Authorize continued funding for the Fire & EMS Recruitment Fund administered by DFA for fire departments to staff, recruit, and retain career and volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

- Call volume has increased by as much as 50%.
- Response systems are overburdened.
- Average age of New Mexican volunteer is 65.

700 MHz Radios

Authorize continued funding for the monthly operational costs of 700 MHz radios to build out state interconnectivity infrastructure.

RISE Funding

Secure HSD funding for county participation in the RISE (Reach, Intervene, Support, and Engage) Program to provide behavioral health, medically assisted treatment (MAT), housing, vocational, and other services to people in detention.

2. IPRA Improvements

Amend the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) to exempt from disclosing specific information and prohibit certain requests used to compromise and obstruct critical local government services.

3. Timeline for Veteran Property Tax Exemptions

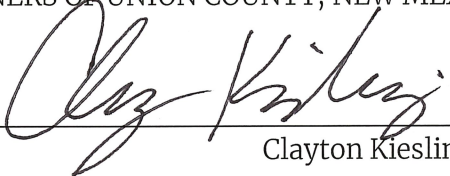
Require all veterans to file for a property tax exemption within the existing property tax annual schedule to ensure equitable treatment for all taxpayers and allow counties to accurately budget for the fiscal year. Veterans would have 30-days after the notice of value to file an exemption or request an extension for up to 180 days to resolve any delays in certification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Union County 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 2026 session.

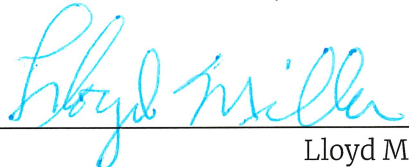
ADOPTED this 14th of October 2025.


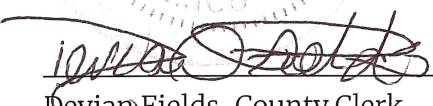
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ATTEST:


Clayton Kiesling, Chairman


Justin Bennett, Member


Lloyd Miller, Member



Devian Fields, County Clerk