

NMFAM

NEW MEXICO FAMILY ACTION MOVEMENT

NMFAM Navigation Guide

Your Roadmap to Civic Engagement in New Mexico

You don't have to be a policy expert to make a difference. You just need clarity, confidence, and a starting point.

This guide walks you step-by-step through how to engage your elected officials in New Mexico — whether during the 60-day legislative session, the 30-day session, or throughout the interim season.

- 📄 **New Mexico is a citizen legislature.** That means your voice carries weight — when you choose to use it.

Section 1: How to Contact Your Legislator

Every New Mexican is represented by:

One State Representative

Your voice in the House of Representatives

One State Senator

Your voice in the Senate

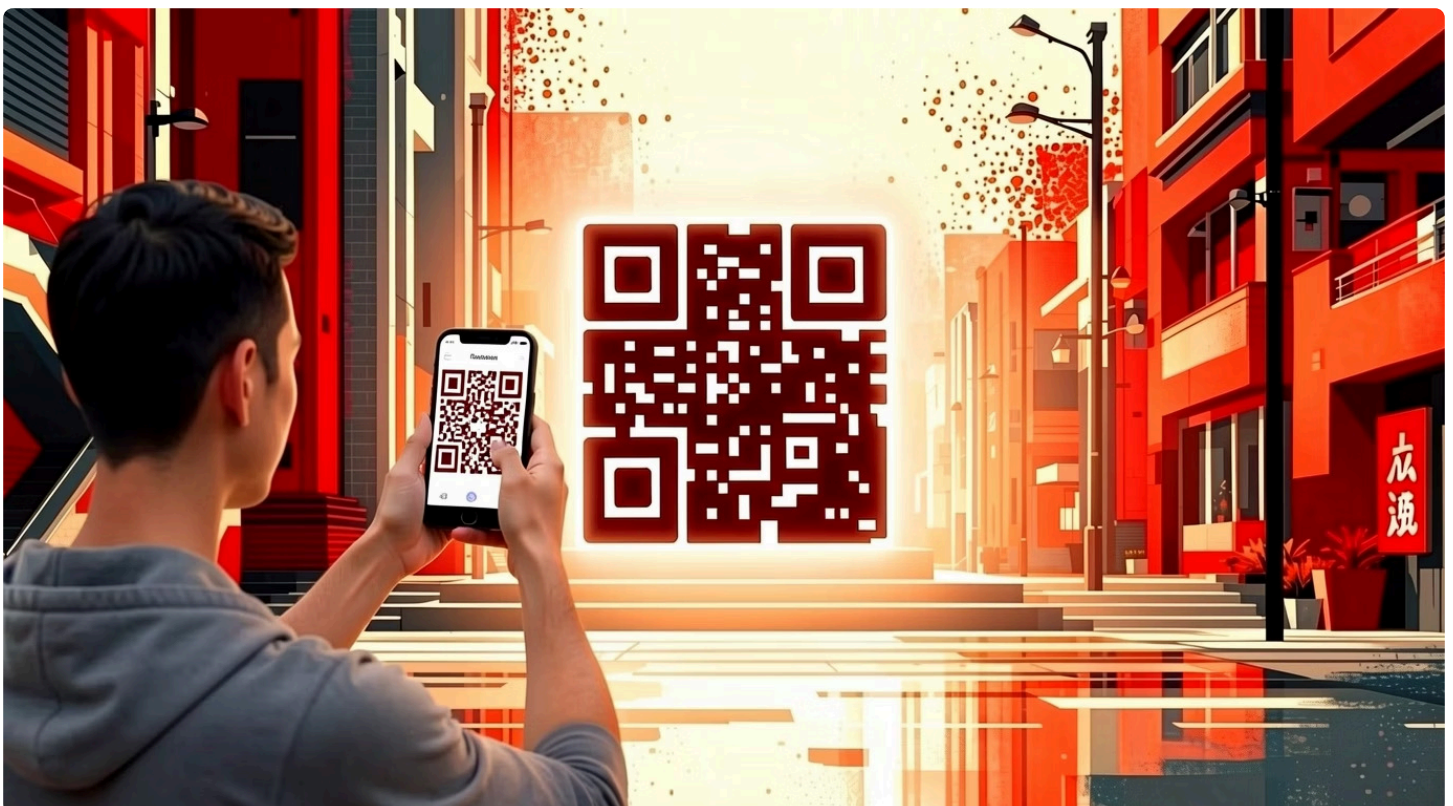
These lawmakers serve part-time and are especially accessible to constituents.

Step 1: Find Your Legislator

Use the **"Find My Legislator"** button on the NMFAM Action Center. This tool connects you directly to:

- Your State Representative
- Your State Senator
- Contact information (email and phone)





  **Start there.**



Step 2 & 3: Engaging with Your Legislator

Step 2: Use NMFAM Action Items

The Action Center provides the tools you need to engage on current issues quickly and effectively:

 Issue Summaries Plain language overviews.	 Talking Points Clear, concise arguments.	 Email Templates Pre-drafted, ready to send.	 Direct Contact Instant links to reach them.
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Step 3: Send a Personal Note

Legislators prioritize hearing from informed constituents. Follow these steps for impact:

01 Introduce yourself	02 Reference the bill or rule	03 Share your community impact
04 State your clear request	05 Be respectful and concise	

"As a constituent from Albuquerque, I am writing regarding the upcoming discussion in the Health & Human Services Interim Committee..."

Section 2: How to Give Public Testimony

Public testimony is one of the most powerful tools citizens have in New Mexico. While most legislative testimony happens during the January–March session in Santa Fe, engagement opportunities exist year-round.

Ways to Testify

Testify In Person

Attend committee hearings at the State Capitol to present your views directly to legislators.

Testify Virtually

Use provided platforms to participate remotely during committee sessions from anywhere in the state.

Submit Written Comment

Send your position via email or official portals if you cannot attend the session in real-time.

How to Prepare



Check the Calendar

Review the committee schedule to confirm hearing dates and times for the bill or rule you are tracking.



Review Materials

Use NMFAM's Legislative Guides available in the Action Center under 'Navigation Guide' to understand the bill's impact, key arguments, and messaging points specific to your issue.



Register Early

Follow the specific registration requirements for each committee, which may require signing up to testify in advance.

Structure Your Testimony

01

State your identity

Introduce yourself as a constituent and mention your home district.

03

Explain personal impact

Connect the legislation to your specific community or professional experience.

02


Identify the bill

Clearly state the bill number or rule you are addressing.

04

Make your ask

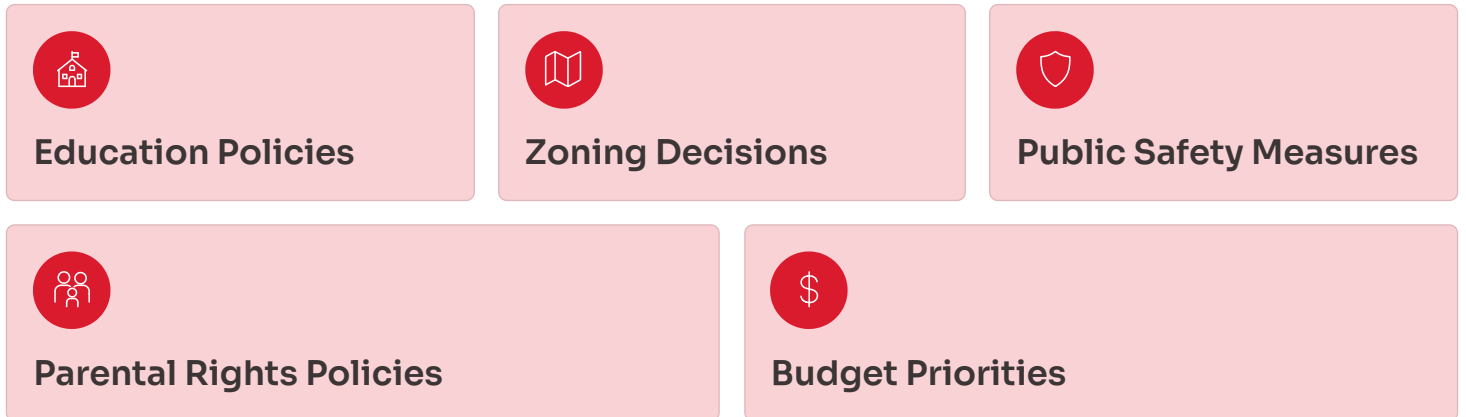
Conclude with a direct call for support, opposition, or amendment.

 "Chair and members of the committee, my name is [Name], a constituent from Albuquerque. I am testifying today in support of [Bill Number] because it provides critical resources for local healthcare infrastructure in our community..."

Local Government Testimony (Year-Round)

You do not have to travel to Santa Fe to engage. New Mexicans can testify at city council meetings, school board meetings, and county commission meetings.

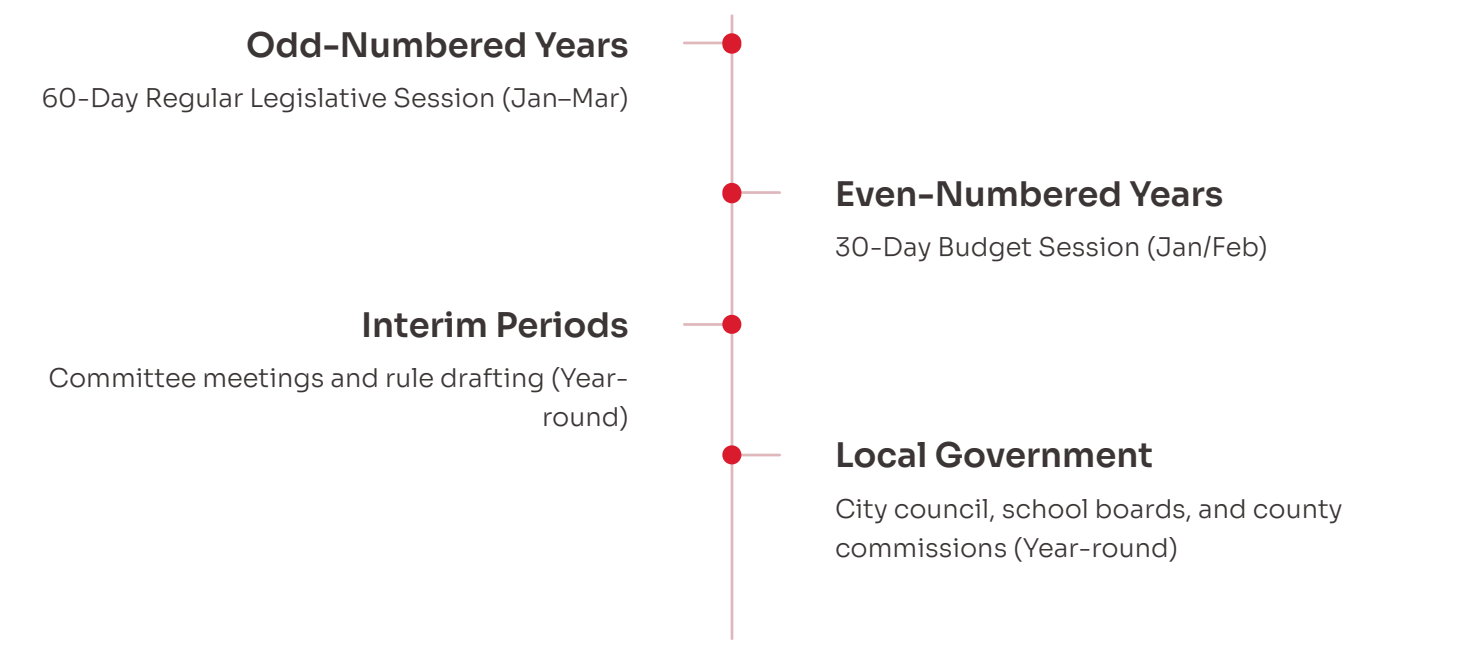
These local bodies often influence:



Check your local government website for meeting calendars, public comment sign-up instructions, and time limits.

  **Local engagement often has immediate and measurable impact.**

New Mexico Legislative & Local Engagement Calendar



Section 3: How to Use NMFAM Legislative Guides

NMFAM provides in-depth Legislative Guides to help you understand:

What the Guides Cover

- What a bill actually does
- What amendments changed
- Fiscal implications
- Messaging considerations
- Likely arguments and rebuttals

These guides are designed to equip you to:

- Speak clearly with legislators
- Write informed emails
- Prepare strong testimony
- Educate others in your church or community

When Reading a Guide, Focus On:

The "Simplified Breakdown" Section

Key Concerns or Benefits

The "Messaging & Fact Tool"

Action Recommendations

You do not need to master every detail — you just need to understand the core issue.

Section 4: Engaging During the Interim

The "Off-Season" That Isn't

In New Mexico, the legislative session may end, but policy work does not. During the interim:

Committees Meet

To study issues and prepare future legislation

Agencies Draft Rules

Administrative rules are written and refined

Budget Priorities Shaped

Fiscal direction is set before session begins



Future Bills Refined

The groundwork for next session is laid

This is where groundwork is laid. You can engage by:

- Contacting interim committee members
- Submitting written comment on proposed rules
- Attending public meetings
- Encouraging transparency and accountability

  **Interim engagement is strategic engagement.** By January, much of the direction has already been set.

  **Make your impact easier.** Visit the **NMFAM Action Center** to find current interim committee issues, track proposed rules, and discover engagement opportunities. It is your central hub for staying informed and taking action throughout the off-season.

Practical Tips for Effective Engagement

Keep these principles in mind every time you engage:

Be Respectful and Concise

Your tone shapes how your message is received.

Stay Issue-Focused

Avoid personal attacks. Keep the conversation on the policy.

Communicate Consistently, Not Just Once

Follow up when appropriate. Persistence matters.

Your goal is not to win an argument.
Your goal is to influence outcomes.

Final Encouragement

Civic engagement is not reserved for insiders. New Mexico's system is uniquely accessible. Legislators serve part-time. Committees are open to the public. Public comment is available to citizens.

When informed voters engage thoughtfully and consistently, policy shifts.

Visit the NMFAM Action Center

Find Your Legislator

Stay Engaged Year-Round

Your voice matters — not just during session, but all year long.

 Because strong families require informed citizens.