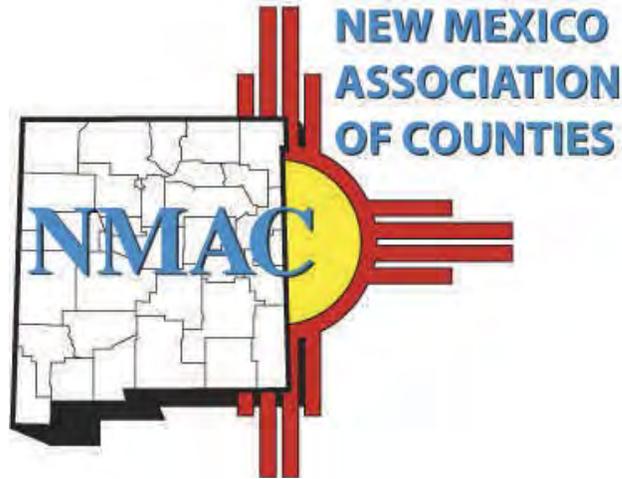


New Mexico Association of Counties



2016 NMAC Legislative Priorities

**As approved by the
NMAC Board of Directors
August 6, 2015**

**THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (as of October 1, 2015)**

Officers	District Representatives
Sharon Stover, President Los Alamos County Clerk	Liz Stefanics, District I Santa Fe County Commissioner
Clyde Ward, President Elect San Juan County Assessor	Gabriel J. Romero, District II Taos County Commissioner
Tyler Massey, Vice President Hidalgo County Treasurer	Danny Monette, District III Socorro County Commissioner
Paula Garcia, Past President Mora County Commissioner	Patrick Martinez, District IV Guadalupe County Clerk
Nicolas Leger, Treasurer (Ex-Officio) San Miguel County Commissioner	Kenneth C. Lyon, District V Sierra County Commissioner
Steve Kopelman (Ex-Officio) NMAC Executive Director	James Duffey, District VI Chaves County Commissioner

THE NMAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as of October 1, 2015)

Debbie O'Malley, Bernalillo County	Carol Bowman-Muskett, McKinley County
Susan Griffin, Catron County	Paula Garcia, Mora County
James Duffey, Chaves County	Steven Boyle, Otero County
Corrine Padilla, Cibola County	Mike Cherry, Quay County
Bill Sauble, Colfax County	Barney Trujillo, Rio Arriba County
Wesley Waller, Curry County	Malin Parker, Roosevelt County
Becky Harris, De Baca County	Clyde Ward, San Juan County
David Garcia, Doña Ana County	Nicolas T. Leger, San Miguel County
Glenn Collier, Eddy County	Glenn Walters, Sandoval County
Ron Hall, Grant County	Liz Stefanics, Santa Fe County
Patrick Martinez, Guadalupe County	Kenneth C. Lyon, Sierra County
Pete Callahan, Harding County	Danny Monette, Socorro County
Tyler Massey, Hidalgo County	Gabriel J. Romero, Taos County
Rebecca Long, Lea County	Betty Cabber, Torrance County
Rhonda Burrows, Lincoln County	Mary Lou Harkins, Union County
Sharon Stover, Los Alamos County	Jhonathan Aragon, Valencia County
Linda Smrkovsky, Luna County	
Ex-Officio members:	
Liz Stefanics, NACo Board Member (Urban)	Wendell Bostwick, Multi-Line Representative
Tyler Massey, NACo Board Member (Rural)	Wayne Hancock, Workers' Compensation Representative
Danny Monette, WIR Board Member	Steve Kopelman, Executive Director
Susan Flores, WIR Board Member	

GERMANE LEGISLATION IN THE EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS

N.M. Constitution Art IV

Sec. 5. [Time and length of sessions; items considered in even-numbered years.]

A. Each regular session of the legislature shall begin annually at 12:00 noon on the third Tuesday of January. Every regular session of the legislature convening during an odd-numbered year shall remain in session not to exceed sixty days, and every regular session of the legislature convening during an even-numbered year shall remain in session not to exceed thirty days. No special session of the legislature shall exceed thirty days.

B. Every regular session of the legislature convening during an even-numbered year shall consider only the following:

- (1) budgets, appropriations and revenue bills;
 - (2) bills drawn pursuant to special messages of the governor; and
 - (3) bills of the last previous regular session vetoed by the governor.
- (As amended November 5, 1940, November 5, 1946, and November 3, 1964.)



2016 NMAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY PROCESS

May Advisory Council Meeting

- Affiliates present legislative resolutions.

June Annual Conference

- Affiliates submit legislative resolutions during Conference.
- Non-elected official affiliates submit legislative resolutions through the Managers Affiliate for endorsement.

July Ad Hoc Legislative Committee Meeting

- Review of affiliate legislative resolutions to determine countywide impact and statewide significance and make recommendations to the Board at the August meeting.

August Board Meeting

- The endorsed legislative resolutions to be considered as a priority are then voted on by the Board, which selects a limited number of resolutions as NMAC legislative priorities.



2016 NMAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The following were selected as priorities by the NMAC Board of Directors for the 2016 session. They are listed with their originating entity and are not in numerical order.

- Page 6
- **Restore Detention Center Funding**
Support an increase in the 2016 General Appropriations Act that would fund the County Detention Facilities Reimbursement Act at a level sufficient to reimburse counties for the actual cost of holding the three categories of prisoners specified under the Act.
- Page 7
- **Support Funding for a Statewide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Assessment**
Support an appropriation to conduct a statewide EMS assessment through the New Mexico Department of Health EMS Bureau, in coordination with the State Fire Marshal, and reconvene the NMAC EMS Task Force, to develop additional policy recommendations regarding appropriate funding levels and mechanisms for recurring EMS services funding.
- Page 8
- **Funding for the New Mexico 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) to Develop Light Detection and Ranging Technology (LiDAR)**
Support legislation that would allocate funding to be used in collaboration with other federal, local, and tribal funds to match federal funding from the National 3D Elevation Program. LiDAR applications include watershed and water resource management, infrastructure planning and development, and precision agriculture and forestry management.
- Page 10
- **Gross Receipts Tax Reform**
Counties should partner with state government in any legislative efforts at gross receipts tax restructure and reform.

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
DETENTION ADMINISTRATORS AFFILIATE RESOLUTION 1

Short Title or Subject: Restore Detention Center Funding

Affected Affiliates: Commissioners, Managers, Finance, Attorneys

Impact on County Revenues/Finances: Revenue Generating

Legislative Resolution or Non-Legislative Resolution or Resolution for Congressional Delegation: (circle one)

Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2016 Session: Yes or No (circle one)

WHEREAS, the County Detention Facility Reimbursement Act was passed unanimously by the 2007 Legislature, as a Legislative Finance Committee endorsed bill, was signed by the Governor, and was funded at \$5 million; and

WHEREAS, the Act specifies reimbursement by the state to counties for three specific categories of offenders in county jails: 1) parole violators, 2) inmates sentenced to prison and awaiting transport, and 3) offenders under supervision for both probation and parole violations; and

WHEREAS, the cost to counties for housing the three categories of offenders covered by the Act is currently \$5,525,453 according to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission; and

WHEREAS, funding for the Act has been reduced to \$2,960,900 for Fiscal Year 16, which is a 21% reduction from the \$3.3 million level of funding for Fiscal Year 15; and

WHEREAS, the cost to county government for detention centers is, on the average, at least one third of county budgets.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico Association of Counties supports an increase in the 2016 General Appropriations Act that would fund the County Detention Facilities Reimbursement Act at a level sufficient to reimburse counties for the actual cost of holding the three categories of prisoners specified under the Act.

Signed  Date 7-30-15

Matt Elwell, Detention Administrators Affiliate Chair

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGERS AFFILIATE RESOLUTION 1

Short Title of Subject: Support Funding for a Statewide EMS Assessment

Affected Affiliates: Managers, Healthcare, E911, GIS

Impact on County Revenues/Finance: No Impact on County Finance

Legislative Resolution or Non-Legislative Resolution or Resolution for Congressional Delegation: (circle one)

Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2016 Session: Yes or No (circle one)

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of rural communities for providing potentially life-saving emergency care and transportation by ambulance and to the nearest emergency medical treatment hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, rural counties with low income populations, where the need for EMS is especially acute, often do not generate enough tax revenue, particularly through EMS gross receipts tax, to provide adequate funding to sustain reliable and viable emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) in 2014 endorsed creation of a recurring revenue stream at the state level, similar to that used for the Fire Protection Fund, that is a separate source of revenue dedicated to rural Emergency Medical Services and that does not diminish or impair the existing Fire Protection Fund; and

WHEREAS, to develop specific policy recommendations, NMAC has established an EMS Task Force that includes the EMS Bureau of the Department of Health, the State Fire Marshal, statewide EMS providers, and local government representatives, who studied the issues related to rural EMS challenges; and

WHEREAS, after several work sessions, the NMAC EMS Task Force identified the need for additional information in order to make informed policy recommendations to the state legislature about the extent of the need for state funding for rural EMS; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force recommended that a necessary step toward securing the appropriate funding level for rural EMS is the collection of data through a statewide EMS assessment of existing services and of the potential need for additional resources to provide an appropriate level of medical care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico Association of Counties supports an appropriation from the state legislature to the Department of Health EMS Bureau to conduct a statewide EMS assessment, in coordination with State Fire Marshal, using monies currently reverted from the Fire Protection Fund, to the State General Fund;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NMAC EMS Task Force be reconvened to meet as needed, and to use recommendations from the EMS assessment to develop additional policy recommendations for the legislature regarding appropriate funding levels and mechanisms for recurring funding for EMS services in New Mexico.

Signed [Signature]

Date 6/19/15

Paul Quairol, Fire & Emergency Managers Affiliate Chair

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

GIS AFFILIATE RESOLUTION # 1

Short Title or Subject: State Level Contribution to the New Mexico 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)

Affected Affiliates: Commissioners, Assessors, Fire & Emergency Managers, GIS, Land Use, Public Works

Impact on County Revenues/Finances: Establish Source for Collaborative Funding to Match Federal Funds

Legislative Resolution or Non-Legislative Resolution or Resolution for Congressional Delegation: (circle one)

Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2016 Session: (Yes or No (circle one))

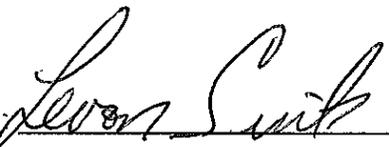
WHEREAS, New Mexico's increasing key geospatial data needs must be met with high-quality, high-resolution, and current elevation data to support asset, resource and water management, wildfire and flood hazard response and mitigation, infrastructure and project planning and development, and a multitude of other state and local programs and initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, most of New Mexico's current elevation data are more than 40 years old at a spatial resolution of 10 meters and with vertical accuracies ranging from 1 or 2 meters to 40 meters or worse; and

WHEREAS, current Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) technology can easily produce elevation data sets over large areas at one meter spatial resolution with vertical accuracies in the range of 10 cm (3.94 inches); and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Geospatial Advisory Committee through its Elevation Data Planning/Acquisition Subcommittee has not only escalated the State's priority in the National 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) but also been awarded a first funding year grant based on the Subcommittee's Statewide LiDAR Acquisition Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico Association of Counties supports legislation that would allocate funding over a five year period to be used in collaboration with other federal, local and tribal funds to match federal funding from the National 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). Proposed funding level would be 2.5 million dollars per fiscal year over five consecutive fiscal years.

Signed:  _____

Levon Sink, GIS Affiliate Chair

Date 6/18/15

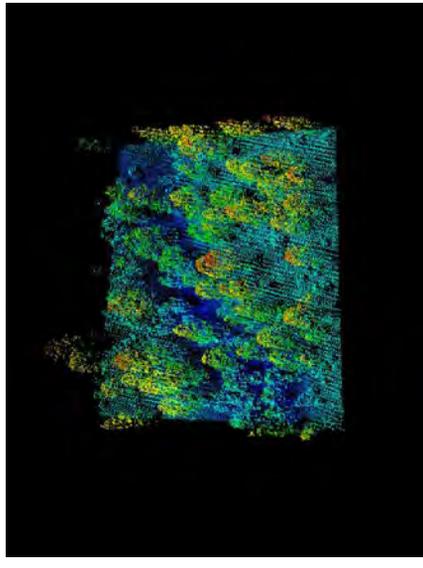
Signed: _____

Manager's Affiliate Chair

Date _____

Value to New Mexico from Enhanced Elevation Data (QL2 Lidar Data)

- New Mexico's Greatest Concern: **WATER**
watershed, drainage, runoff, drinking water, irrigation, flooding, floodplain, evaporation, water resource protection and delivery ...
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Wildfire and Urban Impacts
flood hazard/risk, emergency response/mitigation, fuel load, access, recovery ...
- Transportation and Utility Corridors
- Urban Growth and Planning
- Forest Management
restoration, thinning to increase water yield, post-fire mass wasting ...
- Energy Development
oil and gas, solar, wind
- Homeland Security and Defense
military installations, national laboratories, WIPP, 200-mi border with Mexico
- Tribal Lands
- Agricultural Demands
irrigation, grazing, dryland farming ...



LIDAR over Coconino Forest from NAU

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

MANAGERS AFFILIATE RESOLUTION #1

Short Title or Subject: GROSS RECEIPTS TAX REFORM

Affected Affiliates: Impacts all Affiliates

Impact on County Revenues/Finances: Increased & Stabilized Revenues

Legislative Resolution or Non-Legislative Resolution or Resolution for Congressional Delegation: (circle one)

Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2016 Session: (Yes or No (circle one))

WHEREAS, property tax revenue has long been the primary revenue source for county government, but the reluctance of citizens to increase those taxes has resulted in increased county gross receipts taxes (grt), in order to pay for basic county services; and

WHEREAS, the county local option grt structure is a complicated and convoluted patchwork of increments, many of which are either unused and unusable; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Association of Counties supports tax reform efforts that improve economic efficiency, economic development, ease of administration, and overall fairness of the state and local tax system, and tax policy principles of simplicity, transparency, economic neutrality, and equity; and

WHEREAS, the current structure of grt credits, exemptions, and deductions results in a tax that is both higher and less broad than indicated by the actual rate structure, and as a result, seriously hampers local economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, gross receipts tax revenues are essential to local government's ability to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, any proposed grt changes would impact local government's ability to provide necessary services; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a significant discussion of gross receipts tax reform at the state level; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a paramount interest in any and all discussions related to both property and gross receipts tax reform.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico Association of Counties requests full participation by the Association in any legislative efforts at gross receipts tax restructure and/or reform;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature consider formation of a tax policy committee to study and reform New Mexico gross receipts taxes.

Signed 
Mike Gallagher, Managers Affiliate Chair

Date 6/18/2015