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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>District Representatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Stover, President</td>
<td>Liz Stefanics, District I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Alamos County Clerk</td>
<td>Santa Fe County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clyde Ward, President Elect</td>
<td>Gabriel J. Romero, District II</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Juan County Assessor</td>
<td>Taos County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Massey, Vice President</td>
<td>Danny Monette, District III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hidalgo County Treasurer</td>
<td>Socorro County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Garcia, Past President</td>
<td>Patrick Martinez, District IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mora County Commissioner</td>
<td>Guadalupe County Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicolas Leger, Treasurer (Ex-Officio)</td>
<td>Kenneth C. Lyon, District V</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Miguel County Commissioner</td>
<td>Sierra County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Kopelman (Ex-Officio)</td>
<td>James Duffy, District VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>NMAC Executive Director</td>
<td>Chaves County Commissioner</td>
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### THE NMAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as of October 1, 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debbie O'Malley, Bernalillo County</td>
<td>Carol Bowman-Muskett, McKinley County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Griffin, Catron County</td>
<td>Paula Garcia, Mora County</td>
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<td>James Duffey, Chaves County</td>
<td>Steven Boyle, Otero County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corrine Padilla, Cibola County</td>
<td>Mike Cherry, Quay County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Sauble, Colfax County</td>
<td>Barney Trujillo, Rio Arriba County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wesley Waller, Curry County</td>
<td>Malin Parker, Roosevelt County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Harris, De Baca County</td>
<td>Clyde Ward, San Juan County</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Garcia, Doña Ana County</td>
<td>Nicolas T. Leger, San Miguel County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn Collier, Eddy County</td>
<td>Glenn Walters, Sandoval County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Hall, Grant County</td>
<td>Liz Stefanics, Santa Fe County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Martinez, Guadalupe County</td>
<td>Kenneth C. Lyon, Sierra County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pete Callahan, Harding County</td>
<td>Danny Monette, Socorro County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Massey, Hidalgo County</td>
<td>Gabriel J. Romero, Taos County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Long, Lea County</td>
<td>Betty Cabber, Torrance County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhonda Burrows, Lincoln County</td>
<td>Mary Lou Harkins, Union County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Stover, Los Alamos County</td>
<td>Jhonathan Aragon, Valencia County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Smrkovsky, Luna County</td>
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**Ex-Officio members:**

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<tr>
<td>Liz Stefanics, NACo Board Member (Urban)</td>
<td>Wendell Bostwick, Multi-Line Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Massey, NACo Board Member (Rural)</td>
<td>Wayne Hancock, Workers’ Compensation Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Monette, WIR Board Member</td>
<td>Steve Kopelman, Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Flores, WIR Board Member</td>
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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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Gross Receipts Tax Reform**
  Counties should partner with state government in any legislative efforts at gross receipts tax restructure and reform.
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: [Signature]
Date: 7-30-16

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

Date 6/19/15

Paul Quairoli, Fire & Emergency Managers Affiliate Chair
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: ___________________________  
Date _____________________________

Manager’s Affiliate Chair
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
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