Resolution No. R-17-47

A Resolution Supporting the 2018 Legislative Priorities of the New Mexico Association of Counties

WHEREAS, in August 2017, the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Association of Counties approved five legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2018 regular legislative session; and

WHEREAS, NMAC has requested that the Board of County Commissioners in each of the state’s 33 counties discuss and approve a resolution supporting NMAC’s legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, this is an important step in assuring maximum understanding of, and support for, NMAC’s legislative priorities at the county level; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such resolutions will enable NMAC to demonstrate to the state legislature strong local and statewide support for NMAC’s legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, the legislative priorities include support for legislation on the following five issues:

- **Forfeiture Act Reform**
  Support legislation that would correct the unintended consequences of the 2015 amendments to the NM Forfeiture Act to address federal equitable sharing, storage of abandoned property, and expand local authority to seize and dispose of forfeited property while preserving due process protections.

- **Protecting County Funding of Healthcare**
  Support the significant involvement of county policy makers in federal, state, and local healthcare, human services, and Medicaid planning, funding, and service delivery decision making, and oppose any measure that would further shift federal and state healthcare costs to county government.

- **Tax Reform**
  Support legislation that protects county revenue and does not have a negative impact on county government. NMAC strongly believes that counties must be at the table for and fully participate in all tax reform efforts; strives to minimize tax policy that places counties and other local governments in conflict; and opposes any efforts that reduce the state’s hold harmless distribution to counties or that reduces county GRT authority.

- **Local Election Act**
  Support legislation that would enact the Local Election Act, aligning the date for local, non-partisan elections with taxation authority, to the same day in the odd-numbered year.

- **Extend 2014 HB16 Liquor Tax Distribution Sunset**
  Support legislation that would permanently increase the distribution percentage to the local DWI grant fund.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grant Board of County Commissioners does hereby support the legislative priorities of the New Mexico Association of Counties as set forth above, and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the state legislature during its 2018 regular session.

ADOPTED this 19th day of September 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Gabriel Ramos, Commissioner, District #1 For/Against

Brett Kasten, Chairman, District #2 For/Against

Alicia Edwards, Commissioner, District #3 For/Against

Gerald W. Billings Jr., Commissioner, District #4 For/Against

Harry Browne, Commissioner, District #5 For/Against

ATTEST:

Marisa Castrillo
County Clerk
Legislative Priorities
2018

As approved by the Board of Directors
August 4, 2017
# THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (as of August 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>District Representatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Flores, President Otero County Commissioner</td>
<td>Carol Bowman-Muskett, District One McKinley County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Long, President Elect Lea County Commissioner</td>
<td>Gabriel J. Romero, District Two Taos County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Cage, Vice President Eddy County Sheriff</td>
<td>Susan Griffin, District Three Catron County Assessor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Massey, Past President Hidalgo County Treasurer</td>
<td>Betty Cabber, District Four Torrance County Assessor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Moreno, Treasurer (Ex-Officio Santa Fe County Commissioner</td>
<td>Linda Smrkovsky, District Five Luna County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Kopelman (Ex-Officio NMAC Executive Director</td>
<td>Steven Boyle, District Six Otero County Assessor</td>
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# THE NMAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as of August 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linda Stover, Bernalillo County</th>
<th>Carol Bowman-Muskett, McKinley County</th>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Griffin, Catron County</td>
<td>Paula Garcia, Mora County</td>
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<td>Dave Kunko, Chaves County</td>
<td>Steven Boyle, Otero County</td>
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<td>Corrine Padilla, Cibola County</td>
<td>Mike Cherry, Quay County</td>
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<td>Linda Gallegos, Colfax County</td>
<td>Linda Padilla, Rio Arriba County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wesley Waller, Curry County</td>
<td>Dennis Lopez, Roosevelt County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Harris, De Baca County</td>
<td>Jimmy Volta, San Juan County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrique Vigil, Doña Ana County</td>
<td>Janice Varela, San Miguel County</td>
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<td>Mark Cage, Eddy County</td>
<td>David Heil, Sandoval County</td>
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<td>Gabriel Ramos, Grant County</td>
<td>Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernest Tapia, Guadalupe County</td>
<td>Glenn Hamilton, Sierra County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip Trujillo, Harding County</td>
<td>Manuel Anaya, 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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<td>Rebecca Long, Lea County</td>
<td>Betty Cabber, Torrance County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Shepperd, Lincoln County</td>
<td>Justin Bennett, Union County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pete Sheehey, Los Alamos County</td>
<td>Jhonathan Aragon, Valencia County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Smrkovsky, Luna County</td>
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**Ex-Officio members:**

| Edward Moreno, Treasurer     | Susan Flores, WIR Board Member         |
| Jhonathan Aragon, NACo Board Member | Jim Fambro, Multi-Line Pool Board Representative |
| Tyler Massey, NACo Board Member | John Vasquez, Workers’ Compensation Pool Board Representative |
| Carol Bowman-Muskett, WIR Board Member | Steve Kopelman, Executive Director |
2018 NMAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **Forfeiture Act Reform**
  Support legislation that would correct the unintended consequences of the 2015 amendments to the NM Forfeiture Act to address federal equitable sharing, storage of abandoned property, and expand local authority to seize and dispose of forfeited property while preserving due process protections.

- **Protecting County Funding of Healthcare**
  Support the significant involvement of county policy makers in federal, state, and local healthcare, human services, and Medicaid planning, funding, and service delivery decision-making, and oppose any measure that would further shift federal and state healthcare costs to county government.

- **Tax Reform**
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  Support legislation that would enact the Local Election Act, aligning the date for local, non-partisan elections with taxation authority, to the same day in the odd-numbered year.

- **Extend 2014 HB16 Liquor Tax Distribution Sunset**
  Support legislation that would permanently increase the distribution percentage to the local DWI grant fund.
2018 NMAC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY PROCESS

Year-Round Policy Committee Meetings

May Advisory Council Meeting
- Affiliates present legislative issues and final affiliate meeting agendas with possible joint meetings to the advisory council for discussion. NMAC staff summarizes affiliate legislative issues for the Legislative Committee.

June Annual Conference
- Affiliates submit legislative issues during conference.
- Non-elected official affiliates submit legislative issues through the Managers Affiliate for endorsement.

July Legislative Committee Meeting
- The Legislative Committee reviews and categorizes (legislative and non-legislative issues) policy committee, pool board, and affiliate legislative issues to determine if they have countywide impact and statewide significance.
- The Legislative Committee makes recommendations for the Board’s August meeting.
- Non-legislative issues shall be referred to respective policy committees for further consideration.

August Board Meeting
- The Legislative Committee, policy committee chairs, pool board chairs, affiliate chairs and/or their designated representative present legislative issues to the Board for endorsement.
- The endorsed legislative issues to be considered as a NMAC legislative priority are then voted on by the Board, which selects a limited number as NMAC legislative priorities.
- Those endorsed legislative issues that are not voted as priorities may be advanced by the policy committee, pool board, and affiliates for legislative action with support from NMAC, as time and resources permit.

September – December Legislative Interim Committee Meetings/Selection of Sponsor/Drafting
- Board members present NMAC legislative priorities to Board of County Commission for endorsement and report to the NMAC Board at the October meeting on the commission discussion.
- Affiliates continue to work on legislative issues during fall affiliate meetings.
- NMAC presents bills to interim committees, identifies sponsors for proposed priorities, and Legislative Council Service drafts bills.
- Legislative interim committees may vote to endorse some bills at their last meeting.
- NMAC to write FIR responses for priorities.
- NMAC and NMML Executive Boards meet to discuss and endorse legislative priorities.
NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES POLICY STATEMENT

The New Mexico Association of Counties’ (NMAC) mission is to strengthen New Mexico counties’ ability to govern their own affairs and to improve the well-being and quality of life of their constituents.

**County Government**
NMAC supports a policy making process in which all elected county officials and citizens have a voice and recognizes that each county government can best determine how to manage its own affairs and meet the needs of its constituents.

NMAC opposes preemption of local authority and any attempts to restrict local authority.

NMAC opposes unfunded mandates imposed on county government.

**Economic Development & Infrastructure**
NMAC supports programs, such as LEDA and JTIP, that create and aid both public and private enterprises to plan, finance, and develop job-related industries, businesses, and facilities, including renewable energy production, that are compatible with local needs and desires.

NMAC supports a transparent, efficient, and effective capital outlay process.

NMAC supports affordable high-speed connectivity access.

NMAC supports adequate and recurring federal and state funding sources for public road, bridges, and transportation programs.

NMAC opposes any restriction on the ability of counties to assess fees against users of public rights-of-way or the right of local government to control rights-of-way, zoning authority, or the right to receive usage and rental compensation from telecommunication and other utility providers.

**Elections and Accountable Government**
NMAC supports transparency in governmental decision-making, open elections, and increased voter participation.

**Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources**
NMAC supports significant involvement of county policy makers in federal, state, and local environmental, energy, and natural resources initiatives.

NMAC believes that strong working relationships among federal, state, local and tribal entities aid land management and that federal and state government should not preempt local authority.

NMAC supports adoption of sustainable water management policies.
Healthcare and Human Services
NMAC supports the significant involvement of county policy makers in federal, state, and local healthcare, human services, and Medicaid planning, funding, and service delivery decision making, and opposes any measure that would further shift federal and state healthcare costs to county government.

Justice and Public Safety
NMAC supports adequate community behavioral health services and effective diversion of individuals with serious mental illness and substance abuse problems from county detention facilities.

NMAC supports effective and efficient delivery of public safety and emergency response services in all counties.

NMAC supports adequate funding for emergency medical services, 911 services, and the Local DWI Grant Fund.

NMAC supports effective and efficient criminal adjudication processes.

NMAC opposes unnecessary incarceration of youth and adults in county detention facilities.

NMAC supports continued and adequate funding for county detention facilities.

Taxation and Revenue
NMAC supports tax reform efforts that improve economic efficiency, economic development, ease of administration, and overall fairness of the state and local tax system. It is essential that NMAC fully participate in legislative and executive efforts to restructure and reform the state and local tax system.

NMAC supports the following tax policy principles: simplicity, transparency, economic neutrality, and equity.

NMAC supports a high quality property tax valuation system designed to maximize equity, fairness, and transparency among property tax owners, while minimizing administrative complexity and confusion.

NMAC supports full federal funding of Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools.

NMAC opposes legislation that has a significant negative impact on county revenue.
Short Title or Subject: Forfeiture Act Reform

Affected Affiliates: Sheriffs, Managers

Impact on County Revenues/Finances: Substantial and recurring

Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2018 30-Day Session: Yes or No (circle one)

The New Mexico Association of Counties supports legislation that would correct the unintended consequences of the 2015 amendments to the NM Forfeiture Act to address federal equitable sharing, storage of abandoned property, and expand local authority to seize and dispose of forfeited property while preserving due process protections.

- In 2015 the legislature passed and the governor signed substantial amendments to the state Forfeiture Act.
- The 2015 amendments have had costly and unintended consequences to local law enforcement
- SB 202 (2017) was a 2017 NMAC priority.
- SB 202 addressed the concerns of the majority of sheriffs and was acceptable to a broad spectrum of stakeholders.
- SB 202 received unanimous support of the Senate and passed the House Judiciary Committee, but was never called up for a vote on the House floor.

Signed Susan Griffin
Susan Griffin, Chair
Criminal Justice Policy Committee Chair

Date 5/25/17
SB 202 PROPERTY FORFEITURE AUTHORITY BY LOCAL AND STATE LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (2017 Session)
Sponsors: Ivey-Soto; Wooley

Summary: Extends provisions of the Forfeiture Act to apply to all seizures, forfeitures and
dispositions of property subject to forfeiture in the state (except contraband, controlled
substances and deadly weapons). "Property subject to forfeiture" means property declared to be
subject to forfeiture by the act, a state law outside of the act, or a local ordinance. Expands the
authority of state and local law enforcement agencies to seize and dispose of forfeited property.
Deletes the prohibition of retention of the forfeited property by a law enforcement agency. This
bill made it through the Senate with no negative votes but was never called up for a vote on the
House floor.
NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

HEALTHCARE POLICY COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ISSUE # 1

Short Title or Subject: Protecting County Funding of Healthcare Services

Affected Affiliates: All

Impact on County Revenues/Finances: Substantial

Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2018 30-Day Session: Yes or No (circle one)

The New Mexico Association of Counties supports the significant involvement of county policy makers in federal, state, and local healthcare, human services, and Medicaid planning, funding, and service delivery decision making, and opposes any measure that would further shift federal and state healthcare costs to county government.

- New Mexico counties currently pay 1/16th percent gross receipts tax (grt) to fund the New Mexico State Medicaid programs, and pay 1/12th percent grt to fund the State Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP) healthcare program.
- New Mexico counties bear the expense of continued funding for indigent health programs to support uninsured and underinsured populations, provide the single source of funding for health care for detention facility detainees, incur the cost of housing State Public Health Offices, and provide additional healthcare related services for other county residents who are part of the “working poor,” and therefore not eligible for Medicaid services.
- New Mexico counties oppose any measure or mandate that would further shift federal and state healthcare costs to counties.

Signed ___________________________  Date 7/19/17 ___________________________
Liza Gomez
Healthcare Policy Committee Chair
NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

TAX POLICY COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ISSUE #1

Short Title or Subject: Protect County Revenue

Affected Affiliates: ALL

Impact on County Revenues/Finances:

Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2018 30-Day Session: Yes or No (circle one)

The New Mexico Association of Counties supports legislation on tax reform that protects county revenue and does not have a negative impact on county government. NMAC strongly believes that counties must be at the table for and fully participate in all tax reform efforts. NMAC strives to minimize tax policy that places counties and other local governments in conflict. NMAC opposes any efforts that reduce the state's hold harmless distribution to counties, or that reduces county GRT authority. NMAC reiterates the following positions:

- NMAC supports tax reform efforts that improve economic efficiency, economic development, ease of administration, and overall fairness of the state and local tax system. It is essential that NMAC fully participates in legislative and executive efforts to restructure and reform the state and local tax system.

- NMAC supports the following tax policy principles: simplicity, transparency, economic neutrality, adequacy and equity.

- NMAC supports a high quality property tax valuation system that is designed to maximize equity, fairness, and transparency among property tax owners, while minimizing administrative complexity and confusion.

Signed Katherine Miller
Katherine Miller
NMAC Tax Policy Committee Chair

Date 6/16/2017
NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
CLERKS AFFILIATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUE # 1

Short Title or Subject:   Local Election Act
Affected Affiliates:     County Clerks
Impact on County Revenues/Finances: None anticipated based on the bill.
Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2018 30-Day Session:  Yes

The Local Election Act seeks to align the election day for all local, non-partisan public bodies with ad valorem taxation authority. The target day for the Local Election is November of the odd-numbered year (one year away from the partisan General Election). The local elections would be administered by the County Clerk pursuant to the Election Code. This bill passed in 2017 (HB 174) and was pocket vetoed by the Governor.

- Previously endorsed by the Clerks Affiliate and the NMAC Board
- Will promote greater awareness in local issues by constituents

/Sl/ Dave Kunko
Date: June 21, 2017
Dave Kunko
Clerks Affiliate Chair
NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

DWI AFFILIATE RESOLUTION # 1

Short Title or Subject: Extend 2014 HB16 Liquor Tax distribution sunset

Affected Affiliates: DWI

Impact on County Revenues/Finances: Increase in LDWI Funding

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

Requested as NMAC Legislative Priority for 2017 Session: Yes or No (circle one)

WHEREAS, a distribution pursuant to Section 7-1-6.1 NMSA 1978 shall be made to the local DWI grant fund in an amount equal to forty-one and fifty hundredths percent of the net receipts exclusive of penalties and interest, attributable to the liquor excise tax; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 HB16 allowed for a distribution pursuant to Section 7-1-6.1 NMSA 1978 shall be made to the local DWI grant fund in an amount equal to forty-six percent of the net receipts exclusive of penalties and interest, attributable to the liquor excise tax and to sunset in fiscal year 2018; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico DWI Coordinators rely on the annual distribution to the local DWI grant fund to provide services to DWI offenders to eradicate driving under the influence, provide behavior modification for DWI offenders and substance abusers, reduce the incidence of DWI, alcoholism, alcohol abuse and alcohol related domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico DWI Coordinators support legislation permanently setting the percentage of the distribution to forty-six percent of the net receipts of the State Liquor Excise Tax to the local DWI grant fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico Association of Counties supports legislation that would permanently increase the distribution percentage to the local DWI grant fund.

Signed: [Signature]

Kelly Ford, DWI Affiliate Chair

Date: 6/22/2017