



COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Reforms in Higher Ed, Workforce, Economy, Water and Agriculture

A New Mexico Consensus Platform

New Mexico First's 2019 legislative platform comes from three consensus-driven town halls (water, economy and higher education) as well as the statewide Resilience in Agriculture project, for which we serve on as the backbone organizer. Each project's policy platform was developed by broad groups of stakeholders representing urban, rural and tribal communities. Participants included business, nonprofit and community leaders, educators, students and government officials. The complete policy platforms are available at nmfirst.org. This document represents New Mexico First's 2019 legislative priorities led by New Mexico First and endorsed legislation that reflects New Mexico First policy platforms.



New Mexico First is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that engages people in public policy. It conducts independent research and citizen deliberations on education, healthcare, the economy, good government and natural resources. It advances consensus supported change in the public and private sectors for the betterment of New Mexico communities and the state. The organization was co-founded in 1986 by retired U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D) and the late Senator Pete Domenici (R).

Legislative Priorities

New Mexico First is honored to lead the effort to pass the following legislative proposals on behalf of town hall participants and the Resilience in Agriculture project.

HB 127/SB 81: COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY FUND REPLENISHMENT AND EXPANSION

Sponsors: Rep. Andrés Romero (D), Sen. Gay Kernan (R)

- Supports the reinstatement of dollars and expansion for the College Affordability Fund (CAF).
- The existing endowment is depleted and without legislative intervention, there will be no CAF scholarships this year for the 3,000-5,000 New Mexico nontraditional and tribal students who rely on the modest tuition support the program provides.



HB 253: SUNPATH HIGHER ED AND WORKFORCE PATHWAYS

Sponsors: Rep. Liz Thomson (D), Rep. Kelly Fajardo (R)

- Funds proven SUNPATH career pathways program at NM community colleges.
- SUNPATH accelerates students directly to in-demand healthcare careers and provides clear, student-centered pathways with key mentoring support.
- Without intervention, the state will lose the long-term, return on investment benefits gained from this nationally recognized program.
- SUNPATH contributing partners include New Mexico higher education institutions, Department of Workforce Solutions, Higher Education Department, and industry leaders.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Ask your legislator to support our priority and endorsed bills. Add your organization's name to the list of supporters. Donate today to New Mexico First and subscribe to our legislative updates at nmfirst.org.

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- The non-reoccurring, proposal requires measurement of program and student outcomes and provide the option to expand into other in-demand industries (energy, IT, K-12 teacher training).

HB 155 / SB 113 – LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAXES

Sponsors: Rep. Rebecca Dow (R), Sen. Liz Stefanics (D)

- Provides municipalities and counties with the tools to expand and diversify their local economy.
- Supports investment in meaningful economic development by allowing local voters to (1) approve an incremental infrastructure gross receipts tax increase that may be used for economic development and (2) increase the portion of the revenue collected that may be used for contracts with economic development organizations (EDOs).

HB 315 – NM AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACT

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Bandy (R), Sen. Joseph Sanchez (D)

- Funds creation of an agricultural workforce development program to assist agricultural businesses with up to half of the costs of hiring interns and expand training opportunities for aspiring next generation of farmers and ranchers.
- New Mexico's agriculture industry currently lacks a sufficiently trained and ready labor pool to meet New Mexico's agriculture needs and leverage current and future opportunities.



Endorsed Legislation

HIGHER EDUCATION TOWN HALL

- HB 41–RURAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER TAX CREDIT CHANGES (M.Garcia)
- SB 89–NEW MEXICO RECONNECT SCHOLARSHIP ACT (Hochman-Vigil/Tallman)
- SB 119–NEW MEXICO WORKS ACT CHANGES (Woods)

ECONOMY TOWN HALL

- HB 203–ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE & AG ENTERPRISES (Allison, Lara, et al.)
- HB 459–LOCAL GOVERNMENT LOANS TO BUSINESSES (Rubio)
- HB 308–DENTAL THERAPISTS, LICENSURE (G.Armstrong/Gallegos)
- HB 160–REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE (Bash/Ferrary/Gallegos/L.Trujillo/Thomson)
- HB 123- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT FUNDS (H.Garcia/Alcon)
- HB 126- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUND APPROPRIATION (Sweetser)

WATER TOWN HALL

- HB 266–FOREST AND WATERSHED RESTORATION ACT (Bandy/Wirth)
- SB–485 SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS (Neville)
- SB 12–WATER RIGHTS NOTIFICATIONS ONLINE (Cisneros, Salazar)

AGRICULTURE IN RESILIENCE TASK FORCE

- HB 125–FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SCHOOL PROGRAMS (Sweetser)
- HB 319–NMSU STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ED PROGRAMS (Chatfield, Crowder)
- SB 83–NM-GROWN PRODUCE FOR SENIOR CENTER MEALS (G.Armstrong, Stefanics)
- SB 84– SENIOR CENTER FOOD GARDENS (G.Armstrong, Stefanics)
- HB 328–NM-GROWN PRODUCE FOR SCHOOL MEALS (Bandy, Small)
- SB 115–NEW MEXICO-GROWN PRODUCE FOR SCHOOL MEALS (Stefanics, Woods)
- SB 478–NMSU AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (Stuart Ingle, Papen)
- HB–571 STUDY MEAT INSPECTION (Small)

Monitored Proposals

We are also monitoring and advising on HB 4 – STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ACT (Ely/Steinborn) and SB 619 – STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ACT (Lopez), proposals that would establish a state ethics commission.