



2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION | KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

AFFORDABILITY

We worked to lower costs, address our housing crisis, raise wages, and strengthen benefits.

- Dedicated **\$145 million** to address housing shortages, homelessness, and tribal housing issues statewide.
- Created a program providing no-interest loans to help working families buy their first home and incentivize the building of affordable, starter homes.
- Invested **\$294 million** in lowering out-of-pocket healthcare costs and strengthened the Healthcare Affordability Fund to keep healthcare coverage affordable for New Mexicans, despite federal cuts.
- Dedicated **\$3 million** for the state-level expansion of vital food programs, amid federal cuts.
- Protected patients from excessive facility fees for routine healthcare and required increased price transparency.
- Required insurance companies to cover wheelchairs and other essential devices for individuals with disabilities.
- Provided **1%** raises for educators, nurses, police, firefighters, bus drivers, custodians, social workers, and other public employees who maintain the vital services all New Mexicans need.
- Reduced the cost of high-speed internet for low-income families.
- Lowered health insurance costs for school teachers and staff, so they can keep more of their hard-earned pay.
- Expanded workers' compensation benefits for firefighters.
- Updated the Public Employees Retirement Act to fair and ensure timely payouts.
- Improved fairness, efficiency, and timeliness in applying the state's property tax exemption for disabled veterans.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

We made investments to recruit and retain providers to serve New Mexicans and expanded access to care.

- Made targeted changes to the state's medical malpractice laws to bring them more in line with other states and improve the climate for healthcare providers, while protecting patient safety.
- Extended eligibility for student loan repayment to a larger list of providers and increased the amount for physicians to **\$300,000** over four years of service in New Mexico – one of the nation's most generous programs.
- Dedicated **\$24 million** to support residencies and rotations in rural communities.
- Invested in doubling the UNM medical school to help recruit and retain more providers.
- Provided down payment assistance to UNM residents to encourage them to set up practice in our state.
- Allocated **\$4 million** to rural and tribal health councils.
- Expanded access to healthcare through participation in interstate medical and social worker compacts, allowing qualified healthcare providers licensed in other states to more easily serve patients in New Mexico.
- Made sure New Mexico families can access and afford the vaccinations their doctors recommend, no matter what happens at the federal level.
- Removed excessive preauthorization requirements for prescriptions for chronic diseases and serious mental illnesses, so New Mexicans can access critical medications when they need them.
- Protected the personal data of patients and healthcare providers by repealing an antiquated state statute requiring that abortions performed in the state be reported to the state registrar.

EDUCATION & CHILD WELL-BEING

We continued investments in cradle-to-career education, supported educators, and established a sustainable, high-quality universal childcare program.

- Built on the legislature's multi-billion-dollar investments in early childhood education and care to establish a sustainable, high-quality universal childcare system that prioritizes families in need.
- Ensured early childhood educators are paid a living wage, so New Mexico can recruit and retain quality educators for our children and build the capacity needed to fully implement universal childcare.
- Protected licensed, in-home childcare providers from unnecessary restrictions, fees, and taxes.
- Provided recurring funding for the recently-created Office of the Child Advocate to oversee child wellbeing.
- Allocated a total of **\$4.7 billion** in recurring funding for public education
- Created the Office of Special Education within the Public Education Department.
- Implemented new teaching, curriculum, and reporting requirements to improve literacy and math education.
- Strengthened reporting requirements for virtual learning programs in public schools, to make sure all kids are getting a good education and the state's education funding is going where it's needed most.
- Raised pay for teacher residents to ensure they are paid a living wage as they work toward a teaching license.
- Created a first-of-its-kind Higher Education Major Projects Fund, which will fully fund the UNM School of Medicine expansion, a mixed-use humanities building at NMSU, and student life and housing projects statewide.
- Dedicated **\$50 million** to Career Technical Education programs and maintained our investments in training and apprenticeships to help prepare New Mexicans for careers in high-demand trades.
- Required employers on road public works projects to contribute to apprentice and training programs.
- Allowed voters to decide whether to amend the state's constitution to reform the regent process at the state's educational institutions.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

We took action to improve community safety by addressing root causes of crime, ensuring law enforcement officers have the resources they need, and taking smart, targeted steps to reduce violent crime.

- Invested in proactive public safety solutions, including **\$2 million** for crime-reduction grants and **\$3 million** for evidence-based diversion programs at CYFD to prevent at-risk youth from becoming involved in crime.
- Supported law enforcement with **\$2 million** for intelligence-led policing, **\$1.5 million** for the Organized Crime Commission, increased funding for DAs, and a fund to support the recruitment and retention of public safety staff.
- Grew our courts' capacity by expanding Juvenile and Teen Drug Court, and adding judges in two judicial districts.
- Expanded treatment options for those with severe mental illness who pose a high risk of harm to self or others.
- Prohibited state and local governments from contracting with ICE for civil immigration detention and prevented ICE from deputizing local officers for immigration enforcement.
- Safeguarded New Mexicans' personal data in MVD systems, and protected routine surveillance data from misuse.
- Protected New Mexicans' voting rights and the integrity of state elections from federal interference.
- Ensured victims of childhood sexual abuse are not denied justice by ticking clock by eliminating the statute of limitations for certain sex crimes.
- Created a special committee to investigate allegations of criminal activity at Jeffrey Epstein's Zorro Ranch.
- Modernized our parole system to ensure parole boards make evidence-based decisions and safeguard the rights of victims to participate in the process.
- Protected the safety of pedestrians and cyclists by strengthening driver's education requirements.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

We supported the growth and expansion of our economy and fostered a resilient business environment.

- Dedicated over **\$200 million** total to economic growth, including **\$75 million** to attract growing industries
- Capitalized on New Mexico's unique strengths with **\$13 million** to support our growing outdoor economy.
- Invested in innovation, including **\$25 million** for a circular economy and advanced technologies, **\$20 million** for innovation hubs, **\$11.6 million** in grants for start-ups and entrepreneurs, and support for quantum ecosystems.
- Established the Office of New Americans within the Workforce Solutions Department to help immigrant families integrate into New Mexico's communities and support this significant and growing segment of our workforce.
- Provided tax incentives for doctors, affordable housing construction, local journalism, and economic growth.

INFRASTRUCTURE

We invested in the infrastructure and technology our communities and state programs need.

- Provided robust funding for acequia and transportation infrastructure, including road and bridge repairs.
- Funded schools, parks, and public infrastructure across the state, through Capital Outlay and NMFA projects.
- Extended tax exemptions for redevelopment projects to incentivize development in areas of need.
- Supported the redevelopment at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds, committing bond funding for land acquisition, infrastructure improvements, pedestrian safety upgrades, and a new 10-acre public park.
- Allowed voters to decide whether to approve bonds to support statewide libraries, senior centers, and schools, and whether to approve a land swap between the city of Santa Fe and the state's General Services Department.
- Provided **\$26 million** for cybersecurity at state institutions, and improved access to software for state agencies.

SUSTAINABILITY

We made significant investments to protect our water supply and natural resources, increased funding for state agencies, continued the state's transition to clean energy, and supported animal welfare.

- Dedicated over **\$350 million** to statewide water projects, including robust funding for infrastructure, the River Stewards Program, Irrigation & Construction Works Fund, Water Security Planning Act, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Lower Rio Grande Water Settlement projects, beneficiaries of the Indian Water Rights Settlement, acequias, ag-related projects, aquifer mapping, clean water testing, and well issues.
- Streamlined future water project funding to allow the state to more quickly address emergencies.
- Strengthened penalties for water law violations for the first time in over a century.
- Clarified the role of Watershed Districts and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Strengthened the investment capacity of conservation funds and ensured they can be used effectively.
- Increased Oil and Gas industry tax distributions for plugging abandoned wells.
- Expanded clean energy manufacturing tax credits for solar, wind, battery & fusion elements, and critical minerals.
- Strengthened the integrity of our Wildlife Commission by giving the Supreme Court jurisdiction over removals.
- Supported statewide spay and neuter programs by extending a nominal tax on pet food manufacturers.

GOOD GOVERNMENT

We enhanced the transparency and efficiency of state programs and worked to strengthen our state government.

- Passed a measure allowing voters to decide whether to modernize the state legislature.
- Increased transparency and accountability for projects funded through GRO.
- Improved Capital Outlay reauthorization requirements to ensure effective use and prevent unspent funds.
- Strengthened PRC structure and funding to improve oversight of energy utilities and telecommunications.
- Updated the state's tax code to improve administration, enforcement, and clarity.