

NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES INTRODUCTION

Legislative interim committees do much of the pre-work for the next session, which next year will be 60 days long, starting January 19. Hearings are held, usually at various places around New Mexico, often bringing in experts on a given topic, and usually taking public comment on that topic by New Mexicans, either in attendance in person or on zoom. For example, the Economic and Rural Development and Policy (Interim) Committee met in 2025 from June to December in Santa Fe, Mescalero, Corona, Los Lunas, Farmington and back in Santa Fe.

Legislators often use these hearings to suggest legislation that they will have written by the Legislative Council Service and introduce during the regular legislative session, when time crunches are much more pressing. There are 25 interim committees, each composed of selected senators and representatives, usually members of relevant session-time committees, from both parties. The chair of each committee alternates every two years between being a senator or representative; for example, the chair of the Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee right now is Rep. Liz Thomson and starting after the 2027 regular session, will be Sen. Linda López.

Here's how to find out what has happened or is going to happen at each of these committees:

1. Go to the Legislature's excellent website, nmlegis.gov.
2. At the top of the home page, click on "[Committees](#)."
3. On the left side of the page are the session-time committees, divided among the House and the Senate. On the right side are the 25 interim committees.
4. Click on the committee you're interested in. You'll find a lot of information there, including
 - Committee chair and members. Senators and representatives are listed as "members" and "advisory," most of the former showing up for each meeting, some of the latter also being there.
 - Planned meeting schedule and location (as of early March, most have not yet entered a schedule).
 - Agendas for upcoming meetings.
 - Instructions as to how to testify both in person and virtually.
 - Past agendas, minutes and handouts – these are especially helpful to see what sorts of issues the committee has taken up in previous years.
 - Let Lance (lancekathy@gmail.com) know what interim committee(s) you're interested in following and reporting on to RGI as a whole. More than one person can sign up for any given committee, and probably some committees won't attract an RGI member at this point.

Here's a list of the substantive interim committees:

Courts, Corrections & Justice Committee
Economic & Rural Development & Policy Committee
Indian Affairs Committee
Investments & Pensions Oversight Committee
Land Grant Committee
Legislative Education Study Committee
Legislative Finance Committee
Legislative Health & Human Services Committee

Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee
Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee
Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force
Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Committee
Revenue Stabilization & Tax Policy Committee
Science, Technology & Telecommunications Committee
Water & Natural Resources Committee