



NASTY WOMEN NM

**PARTIAL GUIDE  
TO THE  
2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

[www.nastywomennm.com/initiatives](http://www.nastywomennm.com/initiatives)

## PREFACE

### TO THE NWNM PARTIAL 2019 LEGISLATIVE GUIDE

It is likely that more than 4,000 bills will be introduced during the 2019 legislative session. Often, the process of tracking a piece of legislation with the intent of supporting or opposing it can be a daunting task. Bills move quickly from committee to committee, are sometimes amended in ways that fundamentally change the bill, can be tabled in committee and re-heard at times that are inconvenient for public comment. Committee schedules change, and committee hearings are postponed.

One way to keep track of legislation is to get updates from the organization/s that are leading the lobbying efforts for or against a piece of legislation. Their updates are likely to be timelier and may make effective participation in the legislative process a little easier.

For this reason, our NWNM guide is organized by topic area and lead organization. Most of the topics listed have a coalition of organizations working together, and the guide often does not list *all* of the participating organizations. Rather, we tried to identify the lead organization, and provide their website and contact information.

This guide is not intended to be exhaustive. Rather, we attempt to list key legislation in those topic areas already part of the NWNM conversations on SLACK.

There are many other organizations that will carefully follow legislation this session, including the Adelante Progressive Caucus of the NM Democratic Party (<https://adelantecaucus.org/>) Retake Our Democracy (<https://retakeourdemocracy.org/>) and Progressive Democrats of America / Central New Mexico (<https://pdacnm.org/>). Each of these groups is an excellent place to find training and help in learning to lobby the legislature.

In addition, the New Mexico Legislature Bill Tracker ([www.nmlegis.gov/legislation/bill\\_finder](http://www.nmlegis.gov/legislation/bill_finder)) is helpful in finding a bill number (as well as following memorials, resolutions and Financial Impact Reports [FIRs]). It can be searched by topic area; a number of bills have already been pre-filed ahead of the first day of the session.

Our country and our state need us. Jump in and help pass progressive legislation to guarantee a more fair, equitable and progressive New Mexico!

*The time has never been better and our help has never been needed more.  
Adelante!*

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## TOPIC AREA: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

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**Organization:** ACLU and NM-SAFE Coalition

**Website:** [www.nmsafe.org](http://www.nmsafe.org)

**Mission:**

A coalition of community groups working to refocus New Mexico's correctional efforts on cost-effective, evidence based alternatives to incarceration that rehabilitate offenders, keep families intact, and make our communities safer

**2019 Legislative Priority:**

To raise revenue in New Mexico through several tax bills, and use that revenue to invest in education, health care, public safety and infrastructure which would help low- and working-income families.

(1). Expand re-entry and re-integration legislation:

- Expungement
- Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act;
- Fair chance hiring for private employers (Ban the Box)

(2). Prison and Parole Reform:

- Solitary confinement reform
- Geriatric/medical parole
- Parole Board procedures reform

(3). Drug Policy:

- Expansion of Good Samaritan law to probationers and parolees
- Legalization of marijuana
- Reducing penalty for simple possession of marijuana

(4). Sentencing:

- Fiscal impact of criminal sentencing
- Decriminalization of certain offenses

**How to Help:**

Go to the SAFE NM web site and sign up to receive their action alerts throughout the 2019 session: [www.nmsafe.org](http://www.nmsafe.org)

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## TOPIC AREA: DISABILITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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**Organization:** Arc NM

**Website:** <http://www.arcnm.org>

**Mission:**

The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. The Arc NM monitors national, state, and local legislation and regulations which impacts individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and participates in every major advocacy effort in New Mexico on behalf of and in partnership with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

**2019 Legislative Priorities:**

1. **HB 68:** Reduce the number of individuals on the Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DDW) and the Mi Via Waiver waiting lists by 25-50% in the next 5 years. There are currently approximately 4500 individuals on a 12-15 year waiting list.
  - Appropriate \$25,000,000 from the general fund to the Department of Health for FY 2020 and 2021 for such purposes.
  - Issue allocation letters for supports and services to 600 individuals on the waiting list per year from FY 2020-2024.
2. **HB 143:** Strengthen and enhance the value of direct caregivers of individuals with disabilities. Fairly value Direct Support Staff and improve their wages.
  - Increase reimbursements rates for personal care services in the Medicaid program.
  - Appropriate \$6,000,000 from the general fund for expenditures in fiscal year 2020 of which no less than 50% must be dedicated to increase wages for direct caregivers.
3. **HB 61:** Appropriate funds (\$450,000) to the Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC) to fund a study on sexual assault on people with disabilities to determine how to streamline reporting and data collection. Abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against individuals with developmental disabilities is underreported and reporting and data collection in New Mexico is confusing and unclear.
4. Arc NM supports a Medicaid Buy-In Program for NM. Medicaid buy-in for individuals with disabilities would remove the loss of Medicaid as a barrier to work among individuals with disabilities. Individuals who earn over \$14,160 per year are not eligible for Medicaid benefits.

**How to Help:** Go to the Arc NM web site for ways to help. <https://www.arcnm.org/public-policy/>

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## TOPIC AREA: ECONOMIC JUSTICE and EQUALITY

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**Organization:** New Mexico Voices for Children

**Website:** [nmvoices.org](http://nmvoices.org)

**Mission:**

To improve the status, well-being and racial/ethnic equity of New Mexico's children, families, and communities in the areas of health, education, and economic security

**2019 Legislative Priority:**

To raise revenue in New Mexico through several tax bills, and use that revenue to invest in education, health care, public safety and infrastructure which would help low- and working-income families.

(1). Revise the personal income tax structure:

- Raise personal income tax for high earners
- Repeal capital gains deduction
- Enact a new state child tax credit
- Increase the Low Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate for low income and elderly
- Increase the Working Families Tax Credit (NM's Earned Income Tax Credit)

(2). Revise the gross receipts tax:

- Extend the gross receipts tax to include internet sales
- Repeal wasteful and ineffective tax breaks in order to...
- Lower the state gross receipts tax by at least .25%

(3). Revise corporate income tax:

- Repeal the corporate income tax cut enacted in 2013
- Enact mandatory combined reporting

**How to Help:** Go to the NM Voices website and sign up to receive their action alerts throughout the 2019 session: [www.nmvoices.org/take-action](http://www.nmvoices.org/take-action)

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## TOPIC AREA: ECONOMIC JUSTICE addendum

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**Organization:** Organizers in the Land of Enchantment (Ole)

**Website:** [olenm.org](http://olenm.org)

**Mission:**

Ole members and staff work together to strengthen our communities through social advocacy and economic reform, using issue-based campaigns and electoral engagement to ensure that working families are playing a critical role in shaping New Mexico's future with a united voice.

**2019 Legislative Priority:**

Increase the minimum wage paid to New Mexico workers. There are two proposals: [HB 46](#) introduced by Patricia Roybal Caballero, with no phase-in, beginning a \$15/hour minimum wage January 1, 2020, with a yearly cost of living increase; phased in, [HB 31](#) introduced by Miguel Garcia, which raises the minimum wage to \$11/hour by July 2020, and tops out at \$12/hour by 2021, with yearly cost of living increases.

**How to Help:** Contact Ole, and fill out form indicating your interest in lobbying. <http://olenm.org/lobbying-ole/>

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## TOPIC AREA: EDUCATION and EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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**Organization:** New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty / State Land Commissioner

**Website:** [nmpovertylaw.org](http://nmpovertylaw.org); [nmslo.com](http://nmslo.com)

**Mission:**

(Center on Law and Poverty) To advance economic and social justice through education, advocacy and litigation. The Center works with low-income New Mexicans to improve living conditions, increase opportunities, and protect the rights of people living in poverty.

**2019 Legislative Priority:**

(1) **Public Education.** To ensure that public education is adequately funded to provide the educational programs and resources needed to fix our public education system and address long-standing inequities for low-income, Native American and English language learner students.

Background: In 2018, The Center on Law and Poverty won an historic lawsuit against the State on New Mexico that sets the stage for transformation of the public education system in New Mexico. In her ruling on the case, the Judge stated that the lack of sufficient education for all NM students violates the students' Constitutional rights. During the 2019 legislative session, the Center will work to get public education funded to fix the Constitutional deficiencies.

(2). **Early Childhood Education.** To fund early childhood education for all New Mexican children. Stephanie Garcia Richard, the newly elected State Land Commissioner, has included Early Childhood Education in her 2019 legislative priorities. She proposes to use an additional 1% of the permanent fund to pay for early childhood education.

Background. Research shows that early childhood education can have profound impacts on future educational attainment. Investing in early care and education can close the education gap in NM.

**How to Help:** For Education updates, go to [nmpovertylaw.org](http://nmpovertylaw.org) subscribe to their mailing list. For Early Childhood Education, go to [nmslo.com](http://nmslo.com) to sign up.

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## TOPIC AREA: EDUCATION

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**Organization:** New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

**Website:** [nmpovertylaw.org](http://nmpovertylaw.org)

**Mission:**

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**2019 Legislative Priority:**

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**How to Help:** Go to the website and subscribe to their mailing list.



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## TOPIC AREA: ENVIRONMENT: CLEAN ENERGY, AIR and WATER

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**Organization:** Conservation Voters NM Education Fund, supporting The Environmental Alliance of NM, which includes over two dozen conservation groups working collaboratively to elevate environmental issues at the state legislature.

**Website:** [cvmef.org/environmental-alliance-of-new-mexico/](http://cvmef.org/environmental-alliance-of-new-mexico/)

**Mission:**

To convey a united front to decision makers about the legislative priorities of the environmental community in New Mexico. EANM is committed to protecting the critical common-sense safeguards that protect the air, land and water that our families and communities depend on.

**2019 Legislative Priorities for the Environment Alliance of New Mexico:**

**(1) Renewable portfolio standards increased**

Background: New Mexico hasn't increased its renewable energy standard in over a decade. When passed, the state's 20 percent by 2020 renewable portfolio standard (RPS) was among the leading standards in the country. Today, it is in the bottom half of standards. Increasing the standard to 50 % renewable energy by 2030 will allow the state to keep pace with its neighbors. In the west, Colorado, California, and Oregon already have higher standards and Nevada where voters just passed a 50 percent standard through a ballot initiative.

**(2) Require a competitive procurement process for investor-owned electric utilities.**

Background: This legislation would require utilities to select the least-cost solutions to energy resource demands, with preference for the least environmentally damaging resource. Across the country states have recognized that not having RFP requirements artificially limits choice of resources, ownership of resources, and limits the availability of low-cost options.

**(3) Copper Rule to fix changes enacted by Govern or Martinez to NM Water Quality Act**

Background: The Copper Rule allows mining companies to exceed water quality standards at mining sites, including open pit operations and waste rock piles. Under the rule, pollution standards do not apply at the bottom of the pit, where water gathers in deep open pit mines.

**(4) Water Supply Fairness Act - to redirect funds from Gila River diversion to priority water projects that would increase the long-term security of water supplies in Southern NM.**

**How to Help:** Go to the website [cvmef.org/activist-toolkit/get-involved/](http://cvmef.org/activist-toolkit/get-involved/) for tips on how to be involved. The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club will be advocating for the Alliance priorities and many other bills. For their alerts and lobbying training: [www.riograndesierraclub.org](http://www.riograndesierraclub.org)

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## TOPIC AREA: GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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**Organization:** Progressive Democrats of America NM

**Website:** [pdacnm.org](http://pdacnm.org)

**Mission:**

To transform the Democratic Party and our country, to build a party and government controlled by citizens, not corporate elites – with policies that serve the broad public interests, not just private interests. PDA is a grassroots PAC operating inside the Democratic Party.

**2019 Legislative Priority:**

Every legislative session, PDA NM, through Paul and Laura Stokes, sends Action Alerts to Email subscribers, with everything needed to contact the relevant legislators on a wide variety of progressive legislation. Action Alerts will come into your in-box at all times of the day, and often you will get multiple alerts in one day. You will have sufficient time to act; when the schedule for when a bill is to be heard changes at the last minute, you will be told what the window of action is. Each Action Alert includes the name of the bill, a summary of its provisions, a summary of why it is to be supported or opposed, a link directly to the bill itself, the name of the committee that is considering it and when, a link to each committee member's email, and phone number, and a proposed talking point email or phone message.

**How to Help:** Contact Paul Stokes and ask to be placed on the list to receive the Action Alerts. You will be asked specifically if you agree to receive the Emails: [stokescorales@mac.com](mailto:stokescorales@mac.com)

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## TOPIC AREA: GOOD GOVERNMENT

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**Organization:** Common Cause

**Website:** [commoncause.org/new-mexico/](https://commoncause.org/new-mexico/)

**Mission:**

To uphold the pillars of our democracy by working at the local, county and state levels to ensure that all New Mexicans are well represented by their government and to fight for accountable, transparent and reflective democracy.

**2019 Legislative Priorities:**

(1). To enact enabling legislation for the creation of an independent state ethics committee.

Background: The Constitutional Amendment to create a state ethics committee passed during the November 2018 elections. However, the legislature must act to create the committee. Common Cause is fighting to make sure that the ethics committee is impartial and balanced.

(2). To create an independent re-districting commission.

Background: Gerrymandering in states throughout the country has resulted in the political advantage for a particular party or group by the manipulation of district boundaries. Common Cause believes that a better solution for drawing the Congressional and state House of representative lines is a commission, independent of the party in control of the legislature.

(3). To strengthen the rights of voters through:

- Automatic voter registration
- Same day voting registration
- Open primaries (where Independent and Decline to state candidates could also run)

(4). To reduce the money and influence of money in the legislature by:

- Updating the lobbyist registration act
- Enacting a 2 year waiting period for elected officials to become lobbyists

**How to Help:** Go to the website and sign up on the top banner (**Take Action**) to receive their action alerts.

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## TOPIC AREA: GUN SAFETY

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**Organization:** Moms Demand Action New Mexico, Everytown

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/MomsDemandActionNM/](https://www.facebook.com/MomsDemandActionNM/)

**Mission:**

To advocate for gun safety / gun sense in America.

**2019 Legislative Priority:**

Legislation requiring background checks to close several loopholes, including internet sales, garage sales, and gun sales through newspaper ads.

**How to Help:** Go to the Facebook page to follow legislative action.

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## TOPIC AREA: HEALTH

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**Organization:** Health Action New Mexico

**Website:** [healthactionnm.org](http://healthactionnm.org)

**Mission:**

To bring together organizations and consumers to influence policy that affects the health of all people living in New Mexico; to develop policy solutions to improve access to healthcare; to promote leadership and a consumer voice on health issues; and to share tools and resources for advocacy.

**2019 Legislative Priorities:**

**(1). Medicaid Buy-In**

Background: There is much conversation about universal healthcare. Most people believe that a single payor / universal healthcare / healthcare for all system would have to be enacted at the federal level. There are many federal laws regulating private business and the provision of employee health insurance that cannot be circumvented at the state level. Additionally, the cost of a state level single payor system may be prohibitive. Medicaid buy-in is a plan to allow low-income people who are uninsured, or unable to afford employer-based health insurance, to “buy-in” to the state’s Medicaid program. A memorial was passed in the 2018 session to study the Medicaid buy-in plan and a report has been presented to the legislature explaining some of the problems and the cost of the expansion. In the 2019 legislative session, Health Action will work with a coalition of organizations to pass legislation creating a targeted model program to demonstrate how Medicaid buy-in will work.

**(2). Dental Therapy**

Background: New Mexico does not have enough dentists (and no dental school) to meet the need, especially in rural areas. Other states have created accredited programs for dental therapists. Dental therapists are an intermediate level provide between dental hygienists and dentists – similar to Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. Health Action is supporting legislation that would allow people with a degree from an accredited school in another state to practice in NM and allow NM community colleges and universities to create a dental therapists degree program.

**How to Help:** Go to the website and sign up under TAKE ACTION to receive their advocacy and legislative updates.

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## TOPIC AREA: HEALTH SECURITY PLAN

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**Organization:** New Mexicans for Health Security Campaign

**Website:** [nmhealthsecurity.org](http://nmhealthsecurity.org)

**Mission:**

To pass legislation – the Health Security Plan - that would establish a state health plan that would provide health insurance for all New Mexicans.

**2019 Legislative Priority:**

**To pass the Health Security Plan.** The plan would provide comprehensive primary care coverage, but individuals and employers could purchase supplementary insurance.

Background: Since about 1994, the Health Security Campaign has been trying to pass the Health Security Act / Plan. It has been studied several times. Last session, the plan passed the House but died in the Senate, where there were concerns over the cost of the plan, especially the amount of money the state would have to place in reserve while it transitioned from traditional health insurance to the Health Security Plan. Critics of the plan say that several issues make the Plan very difficult to implement: the cost is prohibitive, there are federal laws that would make implementation difficult if not impossible, and there would be disruption to the jobs now provided by the insurance industry, and they argue that a healthcare for all solution is best dealt with at the federal level.

**How to Help:** Go to the website and sign up to receive action alerts and updates.

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## TOPIC AREA: IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

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**Organization:** ACLU

**Website:** [aclu-nm.org](http://aclu-nm.org)

**Mission:**

To maintain and advance the cause of civil liberties, civil rights and constitutional freedom in New Mexico.

**2019 Legislative Priority**

The ACLU is also seeking a statewide sanctuary bill, similar to the current law in Santa Fe. This Legislation would prohibit local law enforcement from cooperating with immigration enforcement officers.

**How to Help:** Go to the ACLU website and sign up to receive their Action Alerts throughout the 2019 session.

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## TOPIC AREA: LGBTQ

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**Organization:** Equality New Mexico

**Website:** [eqnm.org](http://eqnm.org)

**Mission:**

To lobby officials and leaders at the state and local levels for policy changes that improve the lives of LGBTQ New Mexicans.

**2019 Legislative Priorities:**

- (1). Allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in local school board elections. These youth would then be automatically registered to vote in state and federal elections when they turn 18.
- (2). Allow selection of gender identification of X (instead of F or M) on state drivers' licenses.
- (3). Remove small employer exemption from the state's Human Rights Act. The Act currently allows small employers (fewer than 14 employees) to discriminate against LGBTQ people when hiring.
- (4). Safe Schools Act to repeal and replace NM's current bullying prevention statute (see the Equality New Mexico web site for a complete description).
- (5). Vital Records Sex Designation to allow transgender New Mexicans to amend their birth certificate to reflect their true gender without the requirement of surgery.
- (6). Oppose any legislation that attempts to re-instate conversion therapy.

**How to Help:** Go to the website home page and sign up to receive their Action Alerts. Equality NM will be using social media extensively to keep people informed during the 2019 legislative session.



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## TOPIC AREA: WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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**Organization:** Planned Parenthood New Mexico  
(In coalition with the ACLU, Young Women United, Strong Families)

**Website:** [www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-votes-new-mexico](http://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-votes-new-mexico)

**Mission:**

To create and protect state policies that protect reproductive health care access; to fight for effective sex education and prevention policies; to protect a woman's right to determine when and whether she becomes pregnant; and to challenges government interference in personal decisions that should be left to women and their families.

**2019 Legislative Priorities:**

**(1). Overturn the ban on abortion in New Mexico.**

Background: New Mexico has a law that bans abortion. As long as Roe v Wade allows abortions, it supersedes New Mexico law. But, if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v Wade, abortion will be illegal because of the existing NM law. Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico (which is the lobbying arm for Planned Parenthood) is working in coalition with other organization to repeal the abortion ban.

**(2) Contraceptive equity.**

Background: The Affordable Care Act requires all insurance plans to cover, without cost sharing, all of the FDA approved contraceptive methods. Many states have enacted legislation that codify into state law the same benefits afforded by the ACA. This insures that if the ACA coverage changes, the state will have its own law mandating contraceptive equity.

**(3). Increased funding for LARCs (Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives - for example, IUDs and Implants).**

Background: The funding would be available for health clinics throughout the state.

**How to Help:** Go to the website and sign up to receive email alerts, or to follow on social media.

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