NEW MEXICO LEGISLATORS NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU – Your elected officials are real people and elected into office by real people like you. Legislators want to hear from their constituents and rely on their input. Get to know your legislator and let them know what is important to you! Get to know your legislator before, during or after a legislative session has ended, but get to know them.

WHEN DO LEGISLATORS MEET?
Interim committees are made up of both senators and representatives, and they meet between Sessions. Standing committees meet during the Session. Committee meetings are open to the public and have set times for public comment. These meetings can also be watched online via webcasting. The Legislative Session begins the 3rd Tuesday of January. The Session runs for 60 days on odd years and 30 days on even years.

HOW DO I LOCATE MY LEGISLATOR?
Your senator or representative can be found at the New Mexico Legislature website by zip code or address. The annual Legislative Almanac is available at the east entrance to the Round House.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS FOR A LEGISLATIVE BILL TO BECOME A LAW?
1. Bills are drafted with input from interested parties. They are sponsored by Senators and House of Representative and given a number. Use Bill Finder or My Roundhouse to follow a bill.

2. Ranking Senators and Representatives assign bills to committees that hold hearings on those bills. Assigned committees hear each bill and either pass, or do not recommend the bill.

3. The entire Senate or House may hold floor debates and vote for a bill that has been passed out of committee. If legislation is amended after passing one chamber, it returns to that chamber for consideration, sometimes action on the floor and sometimes back to Committee.

4. Bills vary from the Senate to the House and may require a Conference Committee (composed of Senators and Representatives) to agree on the content of a proposed bill.

5. Bills that pass both the Senate and the House go to the Governor to be signed.

6. If the bill is signed by the Governor, it becomes law. If a bill is on the Governor’s desk, contact their office to urge signing or not signing the bill. 505-476-2200
REMEMBER - Telling your own story and the effects the bill will have on your situation is powerful. Get people who are affected by the legislation to call, write or email – NUMBERS COUNT. During the session, calling is often the most effective method to tally support or non-support for a bill. If you are unsure of the direct phone number, call the capitol switchboard and ask to be transferred. Legislators also pay attention to Twitter feeds, e.g. #nmlegis.

IMPORTANT NEW MEXICO “ROUND HOUSE” CAPITOL INFORMATION:
- Round House address - 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, & FREE parking garage at 420 Galisteo St.
- NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE - www.nmlegis.gov or TWITTER - #nmlegis
- FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR - https://nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_My_Legislator
- FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR BY ADDRESS - https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_By_Address
- BILL FINDER - https://nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Bill_Finder
- MY ROUNDHOUSE - nmlegis.gov/lcs/roundhouse/
- TO LOCATE LIVE WEBCASTING GO TO - nmlegis.gov – HIT WEBCAST TAB
- CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD - (505-986-4300)
- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – (505-476-2200) & www.governor.state.nm.us
- LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - (505-986-4600)

UNM OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS:
- SIGN UP TO RECEIVE BILL UPDATES AND ALERTS – https://govrel.unm.edu/updates/index.html

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR:
- Monday, December 17, 2018 – Friday, January 11 - Legislation may be pre-filed
- Tuesday, January 15 - Opening day (noon)
- Thursday, February 14 - Deadline for introduction (Note: a legislation, dummy bill can be introduced at any time.)
- Friday, March 16 - Session ends (noon)
- Monday, April 5 - Legislation not acted upon by governor is pocket vetoed
- June 14 - The effective date of legislation, not a general appropriation bill or a bill carrying an emergency clause or other specified date

IMPORTANT COMMITTEES:
- Legislative Finance Committee - The Legislative Finance Committee plays a unique role in the New Mexico budget as they are one of a few service agencies in the nation that make budget recommendations along with the Governor of New Mexico. The LFC also monitors the financial health of the New Mexico state government.
- Appropriations and Finance Committee
- House Education Committee