

THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

The New Mexico Legislature consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. There are 70 members of the House of Representatives and 42 Senators. Representatives must be at least 21 years old and Senators must be at least 25 years old. All legislators must be citizens of the United States and live in the district from which they are elected. Members of the House of Representatives are elected every two years and Senators are elected every four years.

By law, the New Mexico Legislature convenes in Santa Fe each year on the third Tuesday in January. Sessions last for 60 days in odd-numbered years and 30 days in even-numbered years. New Mexico's citizen-legislators receive no salary for their services to the state. Other than a per diem and mileage allowance for attending legislative sessions and interim committee meetings, the constitution of New Mexico specifically prohibits any other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

Before reapportionment in the 1960s, legislators represented counties. Now they are elected from districts of approximately equal population. As New Mexico's population center, the city of Albuquerque and its suburbs account for almost one-quarter of New Mexico's 112 legislators.



GREAT SEAL of the STATE of NEW MEXICO

The great seal of New Mexico has changed little since the Territorial seal of 1851. The American bald eagle shielding the smaller Mexican eagle within its wings symbolizes New Mexico's change of sovereignty in 1846. The bald eagle, which represents bravery, skill and strength, clasps

three arrows in its talons. The smaller Mexican brown (or harpy) eagle grasps a snake in its beak and cactus in its talons. This portion of the seal is still the official symbol of Mexico; it illustrates the ancient myth in which the gods ordered the Aztecs to settle where they saw an eagle perched on a cactus devouring a serpent. The scroll below the American and Mexican eagles contains the motto *Crescit Eundo* or, translated from Latin, "It Grows As It Goes." The date 1912 was added to the seal when New Mexico was admitted as the forty-seventh state. The word "territory" was replaced by "state" in that year.



THE STATE FLAG of NEW MEXICO

New Mexico's current flag is one of many to have flown over the state. It was preceded by the flags of Spain, Mexico, the Confederate States of America, the United States and an earlier state flag. The first state flag featured a small American flag in the upper left quadrant, a state seal in the lower right and the words "New Mexico" stitched in red diagonally across a dark blue background. This flag flew from 1912 to 1925, when it was replaced by the Zia flag.

The Zia flag is a modern interpretation of an ancient sun design on a late 19th century water jar from Zia Pueblo. The red sun symbol is called a "Zia" and is shown on a field of gold. Red and gold are the colors of Queen Isabella de Castile and represent the colors of old Spain.

OFFICIAL SALUTE to the FLAG

"I salute the flag of the State of New Mexico and the Zia symbol of perfect friendship among united cultures."



THE ZIA SUN SYMBOL

New Mexico's distinctive Zia sun symbol is closely associated with the Land of Enchantment. Inspired by a design found on a 19th century water jar from Zia Pueblo, it represents a circular sun with linear rays extending in four directions. To the Zia people, four is a significant number. It is embodied in the four directions of the earth, the four seasons of the year, the four times of the day: sunrise, noon, evening and night, and in life's four divisions of childhood, youth, adulthood and old age. Everything is bound together in a circle of life, without beginning, without end. The Zia believe, too, that in this Great Brotherhood of all things, man has four sacred obligations: he must develop a strong body, a clear mind, a pure spirit and a devotion to the welfare of his people.

OFFICIAL STATE SYMBOLS

Cookie: **Biscochito (Bizcochito)**

Fossil: **Coelophysis (Rioarribasaurus)**

Gem: **Turquoise**

Grass: **Blue Gramma**

Insect: **Tarantula Hawk Wasp**

Poem: "A Nuevo Mexico" —Luis Tapia

Nickname: **Land of Enchantment**

Slogan: **"Everybody is Somebody in New Mexico"**

Bird: **Roadrunner**



Fish: **Cutthroat Trout**



Flower: **Yucca**



Mammal: **Black Bear**



Tree: **Piñon**



Vegetables: **Chile & Pinto Bean**



STATE CAPITOL



SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

WELCOME to the NEW MEXICO STATE CAPITOL

The unique history of New Mexico is reflected in its capitols. New Mexico claims the oldest as well as one of the newest capitols in the United States. The Palace of the Governors, built in 1609 on the north side of the Plaza, is the oldest capitol building. It was the seat of Spanish, Mexican and American governments. Today it is the New Mexico State History Museum.

The current State Capitol was dedicated on December 8, 1966. The building was designed by W.C. Kruger and constructed by Robert E. McKee. It is built in New Mexico Territorial style, which is an adaptation of Greek revival and Pueblo adobe architecture. The building forms the Zia sun symbol.

The Capitol was renovated in the early 1990s and rededicated on December 4, 1992. The renovation included expansion of the committee rooms, asbestos abatement, mechanical and electrical improvements and handicapped barrier removal. The Capitol Art Foundation and art collection were also created at this time. All the art and handcrafted furniture in the Capitol's permanent collection were created by New Mexico artists.



Holly Hughes
3rd Floor Rotunda Overlook

THE CAPITOL ART FOUNDATION is a nonprofit organization established by the New Mexico legislature in 1991. The Foundation was created to assist in the acquisition of art for permanent, public exhibition in the State Capitol. The Collection features contemporary masterworks by artists who live and work in New Mexico. The Capitol Art Collection is housed throughout the public areas of the building on all four floors, as well as outdoors on the Capitol grounds. The Collection consists of a wide range of mediums, styles and traditions, including handcrafted furniture groupings. The mission of the Capitol Art Foundation is to collect, preserve, exhibit, interpret and promote appreciation of works of art that reflect the rich and diverse history, cultures and art forms of the people of New Mexico. A catalog of the Capitol Art Collection featuring selected works is available for sale at the information desk.



Janusz Kozikowski
3rd Floor East Lobby

THE GOVERNOR'S GALLERY (fourth floor) was founded in 1973 as a venue for presenting the arts to a broad public and serves as an outreach facility of the Museum of Fine Arts. The focus of the Gallery is on the art and artists. Although the Governor's Gallery is separate from the Capitol Art Collection, there is some collaboration, and the curator for the Gallery serves on the Capitol Art Foundation.



BUILDING FORMAT and SELF-GUIDED TOUR

First Level – This floor (below ground) houses the House and Senate chambers, which are not open to the public; visitors interested in viewing the chambers can do so from the second floor galleries.

Second Level – Visitors enter on this floor. The Rotunda in the center of the building measures 49 feet in diameter and is inlaid with a turquoise and brass mosaic of the Great Seal. The marble is Travertine marble native to our state. Looking up, the flags of New Mexico's 33 counties are on permanent display from the fourth floor balcony. The skylight 60 feet from the floor represents an Indian basket weave; the blue represents the sky and the pale pink the earth. Visitors interested in viewing the House and Senate chambers can do so on this floor. The House gallery seats 281 and is located on the south side of the building. The Senate gallery, which seats 206, is on the north side of the building.

Third Level – This floor houses House and Senate committee rooms and the offices of the chairmen; it also features an overlook of the Rotunda and most of the Capitol Art Collection.

Fourth Level – This floor houses the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Council Service, as well as the Governor's Gallery.



Gary Morton
4th Floor East Lobby