

**2026 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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**Work Plan**

The New Mexico Legislative Council created the Indian Affairs Committee (IAC) on April 17, 2026. The IAC addresses issues and policies that affect Native Americans in New Mexico. IAC meetings are essential to the work of the legislature in addressing the issues affecting this segment of its constituency.

The IAC will address the following topics affecting Native Americans during the 2026 interim, including updates that include or address:

**A. State-Tribal Relations:**

1. presentations from Native American liaisons or similarly tasked individuals from state executive agencies regarding outreach efforts, challenges and successes;
2. a presentation on universal child care in tribal communities;
3. funding for tribal capital projects;
4. an update from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force and the Department of Justice's missing indigenous persons specialist;
5. an update on tribal gaming, sports and other betting, recent gambling lawsuits and compacts;

6. an update from the Veterans' Services Department and tribal veterans' affairs organizations on veterans' affairs in tribal communities;
7. presentations from the Indian Affairs Department, the Department of Environment and the New Mexico Finance Authority on water infrastructure needs on tribal land;
8. a report from the Department of Transportation, the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs on tribal roads and construction;
9. an update from the University of New Mexico School of Law on Native American student enrollment;
10. an update from the Children, Youth and Families Department on the Indian Family Protection Act;
11. a presentation on the Indian Resources Development Program;
12. the implementation of Senate Bill 3 (2026);
13. updates on substance use issues, suicide prevention, drug trafficking, youth violence and behavioral health in New Mexico;
14. an update on housing, poverty, food insecurity and employment issues for Native Americans;
15. updates on fire and flooding concerns on tribal lands;
16. an update on the Navajo Code Talkers Museum;
17. an update on public safety and cross-commissioning of law enforcement officers and other law enforcement agreements between tribal and non-tribal entities; and
18. a presentation from the Aging and Long-Term Services Department concerning services available to Native Americans;

B. Economic Development:

1. broadband access on tribal lands;
2. updates from the Economic Development Department, the Indian Affairs Department and the Workforce Solutions Department on the Energy Transition Act;

3. tribal energy development, including proposed uranium mining near Chaco Canyon and other tribal lands;
4. the status of abandoned, uncapped and converted oil and gas wells on or near tribal lands; and
5. the impacts of drought on tribal irrigation farmers;

C. Education:

1. the *Zuni v. State of New Mexico* lawsuit and the state equalization guarantee distribution, impact aid and funding formula;
2. an update on *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* and the state's action plan;
3. preservation of Native American languages and language equity;
4. Native American teacher retention and increasing access to Native American teachers; and
5. culturally relevant early learning programs; and

D. Annual Reports from Executive Agencies:

1. reports from the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission regarding:
  - a. *Aamodt* settlement obligations and effects on federal funding;
  - b. the status of proposed Indian water rights settlements requiring state financing;
  - c. the distribution of funds from the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund to implement approved settlements and the proposed timing of the distributions; and
  - d. recommendations on the level of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund necessary to timely implement Indian water rights;
2. a report from the Indian Affairs Department regarding:
  - a. the compiled reports from all state agencies on activities pursuant to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, including information on policies, plans, contact individuals, training, programs and services from each agency; and

- b. the department's priorities and initiatives, as well as updates on current issues that tribal communities are facing; and
3. a report from the Tribal Infrastructure Board regarding the total expenditures from the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund for the previous fiscal year, the purposes for which expenditures were made, an analysis of the progress of the projects funded and proposals for legislative action in the subsequent legislative session.

**Indian Affairs Committee  
2026 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 26	Santa Fe
June 23-25	Ruidoso
August 10-12	Shiprock/Dulce
September 21-23	Twin Lakes/Acoma
October 29-30	Pojoaque
November 12	Santa Fe