

**2025 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 28, 2025. 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 2025 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 the transportation of uranium between various chapter houses on the Navajo Nation;
3. funding for tribal capital projects;
4. an update from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force and the State Department of Justice's missing indigenous persons specialist;
5. an update on tribal gaming, sports betting and alcohol on gaming floors;

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 secretary of state and the Native American Voters Alliance on tribal election issues;
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. a presentation on the liquor excise tax and tobacco tax and potential uses for those funds;
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. a presentation on domestic violence shelter funding on tribal lands;
16. updates on fire and flooding concerns on tribal lands;
17. an update on the Navajo Code Talkers Museum;
18. an update on public safety and cross-commissioning of law enforcement officers;
19. an update from Indigenous Women Rising;
20. a presentation from the State Department of Justice on the department's work with tribal communities;
21. a presentation from the Aging and Long-Term Services Department concerning services available to Native Americans; and

22. proposed legislation regarding Native American affairs;

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;
4. the status of abandoned, uncapped and converted oil and gas wells; and
5. the impact of tribal gaming;

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;
5. culturally relevant early learning programs;
6. Bureau of Indian Affairs salary parity and infrastructure concerns; and
7. tribal education for health care providers; 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;
 - d. recommendations on the level of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund necessary to timely implement Indian water rights; and
 - e. water line updates;
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
2025 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 2	Santa Fe
July 16-18	Tohatchi/Church Rock
August 14-15	Taos
September 25-26	Alamo
October 22-24	To'hajiilee/Albuquerque
November 13-14	Santa Fe