Revised: November 9, 2026

TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
SIXTH MEETING
of the
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

November 12, 2026
Santa Fe Indian School
Humanities Common Room
1501 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe

Thursday, November 12

9:30 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Shannon D. Pinto, Chair

9:35 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Update from Santa Fe Indian School**
—Christie Abeyta, Superintendent, Santa Fe Indian School

10:30 a.m. **Tour of Paolo Soleri Amphitheater***

11:00 a.m. (2) **Updates from the Department of Transportation: Cattle Guards and School Zones**
—David Quintana, Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation

11:50 a.m. **Working Lunch and Public Comment****

12:05 p.m. (3) **Updates from the Department of Justice (NMDOJ): Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Task Force and Kalshi Litigation**
—Stephanie Padilla, Chair, MMIP Task Force, NMDOJ
—Birga Alden, Member, MMIP Task Force, NMDOJ
—Danica Cotov, Indian Affairs Attorney, NMDOJ
—Michael Kiehne, Indian Affairs Attorney, NMDOJ

12:50 p.m. (4) **Office of the State Engineer: Indian Water Rights and Rio Grande Compact Update**
—Nat Chakeres, General Counsel, Office of the State Engineer
—TBD

1:40 p.m. (5) **Recurring Funding for County and Tribal Health Councils per House Bill 137 (2019)**
—Valeria Alarcón, Executive Director, New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils
—Gerilyn Antonio, Tribal Liaison, New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils

2:30 p.m. (6) **Scaling Work with Indigenous Entrepreneurs: The Importance of Liaison/Navigator Roles for Tribal and Rural Economic Development**
—Elizabeth Kuuttila, President, UNM Rainforest Innovations, University of New Mexico
—Vanessa Roanhorse, Chief Executive Officer, Roanhorse Consulting, LLC
—Cecilia Becenti, Tribal Liaison Program Manager, UNM Rainforest Innovations, University of New Mexico

3:20 p.m. (7) **Indigenous Language Education: Saad K'idilyé Diné Program**
—Warlance Chee, Director, Saad K'idilyé

4:10 p.m. (8) **Protecting the Española Basin Aquifer**
—Santiago Rodriguez, Deputy Director, Resource Protection Division, Department of Environment
—Chenoa Scippio, Project Coordinator, Environmental Justice Program, Tewa Women United
—Talavi Denipah Cook, Manager, Environmental Justice Program, Tewa Women United

4:35 p.m. **Proposed Legislation and Letters for Endorsement**

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

*This is an invitation-only tour for committee members and committee staff.

**Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Indian Affairs Committee web page.

If you have a disability and require assistance accessing a meeting, please click here to request an accommodation. You may also call Robin Garrison at (505) 986-4685 or email ada.assist@nmlegis.gov. Please help us prepare your accommodation by submitting your request at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Requests made with less than a 24-hour notice cannot be guaranteed.