

**2026 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

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Work Plan

The Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee (ERDPC) was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on April 17, 2026. During the 2026 interim, and as time permits, the ERDPC will explore and discuss major areas and specific issues affecting economic and rural development and policy as follows:

A. updates from government agencies and experts involved in economic and workforce development initiatives and priorities in communities and sovereign nations around the state, which could include:

1. the Economic Development Department, the Workforce Solutions Department and the University of New Mexico; and
2. experts on the health care and child care workforces, workforce training, the Patient's Compensation Fund, healthy food initiatives, mobile health units, air transportation, taxation and the economy, previous recommendations from the Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force and the economic impacts of detention centers;

B. updates from government agencies and experts involved in energy development, site readiness, electric grids, the state's power generation portfolio, energy efficiency and clean technologies in New Mexico, which could include:

1. reports on oil and gas development from:
 - a. the Oil Conservation Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department;
 - b. the Mineral Resources Division of the State Land Office; and
 - c. experts on gas pricing and related economic impacts;
2. reports on mining, mining safety, mineral development and permitting from:
 - a. the Mining and Minerals Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department; and
 - b. the Mineral Resources Division of the State Land Office; and
3. reports on renewable energy, geothermal development and the circular economy from:
 - a. the Energy Conservation and Management Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department;
 - b. the Commercial Resources Division of the State Land Office;
 - c. the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority; and
 - d. Sandia National Laboratories;

C. updates from government agencies and experts on fires, flooding, drought and water management, housing insurance costs, infrastructure needs and impacts to local economies and sovereign nations, which could include:

1. the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department regarding fire forecasting, thinning and prescribed burns;
2. the Office of the State Engineer;
3. the Public Regulation Commission on community solar, microgrids and working with co-ops; and

4. experts on the impacts to local businesses from closures for fires, flooding and other natural disasters;

D. updates from government agencies and experts on recreation, tourism, horse racing, cultural enterprises and expansion of creative industries, which could include:

1. the State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department;

2. the Department of Game and Fish regarding wolf management and the effects on land from wildlife and grazing;

3. the Tourism Department; and

4. the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division of the Economic Development Department;

E. updates from government agencies and political subdivisions and experts on farming, food systems, regenerative agriculture, water and land access for agriculture and agricultural industries as economic generators, water quality and quantity and water science and technologies, which could include:

1. the New Mexico Department of Agriculture;

2. the Surface Resources Division of the State Land Office; and

3. experts on the economic impacts of federal actions, including the Iran conflict, on the state;

F. updates from government agencies and experts on affordable housing, zoning, construction, revitalization and redevelopment, manufactured housing and housing availability, which could include:

1. the New Mexico Finance Authority; and

2. the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority;

G. updates from government agencies and experts on artificial intelligence, tariffs, border industries and trade ports, border infrastructure and frontier technologies, which could include:

1. the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department;

2. a New Mexico State University expert on artificial intelligence;

3. experts on data centers, including decommissioning and impacts to rural communities;

4. experts on critical minerals; and

5. experts on the impacts from tariffs;

H. updates from government agencies and experts on challenges and opportunities facing New Mexico industries and small businesses, regulation of food trucks, the cannabis industry, economic effects of sports stadium construction, liquor licensing and transportation infrastructure;

I. consideration of legislation relevant to these topics; and

J. as necessary, examinations of other issues relevant to the economy, economic and rural development and related policies.

**Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee
2026 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 14	Santa Fe
June 30-July 1	Los Lunas/Albuquerque
August 3-4	Roswell
September 8-9	Deming/Las Cruces
October 20-21	Santa Fe