

# A Brief Introduction to Websites\* of Interest to Legislators

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- **State Legislatures**



**National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL):** [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org).

Provides information to state legislators, legislative staff and others. Legislators and legislative staff may register for full-site access. The website includes these features, and more:

- research by topic or by list of NCSL contacts/subject specialists;
- a 50-state+ searchable legislation database containing the full text of every bill in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Congress for the current session:  
<http://www.ncsl.org/aboutus/ncslservice/bill-information-services-overview.aspx>;
- *The NCSL Blog*, covers the practice of representative democracy, state politics, elections and federalism. Includes state policy issues and NCSL news and priorities. Entries provide links to statistical summaries and policy briefs:  
<http://www.ncsl.org/blog.aspx>;
- *State Legislatures*, national magazine of policy and politics:  
<http://www.ncsl.org/bookstore/state-legislatures-magazine.aspx>;
- NCSL on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=NCSL>; and
- NCSL on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/search/ncslorg>.



**Council of State Governments (CSG):** [www.csg.org](http://www.csg.org).

Provides information and programs for state officials and staff, including:

- information by subject: "Policy & Research", <http://www.csg.org/policy/default.aspx>;
- recent publications and research: "Knowledge Center",  
<http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/>;

- *The Book of the States*,  
<http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/category/content-type/content-type/book-states>;
- **Capitol Comments**, CSG's blog: <http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/blog>;
- CSG on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CSGovts>; and
- CSG on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CSGovts/statuses/264468348023214081>.



**American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC):** [www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org).

Includes model legislation and other policy information. ALEC members can register for access to the full site, including model legislation:

- ALEC on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alec.states/>; and
- ALEC on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/ALEC\\_states](https://twitter.com/ALEC_states).



**National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO):** [www.naleo.org](http://www.naleo.org).

Includes "Latest News" at home page:

- NALEO on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=NALEO%20Latino>; and
- NALEO on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NALEO>.



**National Caucus of Environmental Legislators:** <http://ncel.net/>.



**National Caucus of Native American State Legislators:**

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/state-tribal-institute/national-caucus-native-american-state-legislators.aspx>.



**National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL):** [www.ncoil.org](http://www.ncoil.org).



**National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS):**

[www.nclgs.org](http://www.nclgs.org).



**National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), including the National Order of Women Legislators (NOWL):**

[www.womenlegislators.org](http://www.womenlegislators.org).



National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators: <http://nhcsl.org/index.php>.



State Legislative Leaders Foundation: [www.sllf.org/](http://www.sllf.org/).



State Legislators for Legal Immigration:  
[www.statelegislatorsforlegalimmigration.com/](http://www.statelegislatorsforlegalimmigration.com/).



State Innovation Exchange: <https://stateinnovation.org/>.



Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL), a program of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND): [www.willwand.org/](http://www.willwand.org/).

● **New Mexico State Legislature**



New Mexico Legislature: <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/>.


Includes:

- bill texts from 1996 to present: ⇒ Legislation ⇒ Bill Finder, or [https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Bill\\_Finder](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Bill_Finder);
- member information: ⇒ Legislators ⇒ Find my Legislator, or [https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find\\_My\\_Legislator](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_My_Legislator);
- session publications, such as locators and indexes: ⇒ Publications ⇒ Session Publications, or <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/>;
- interim committee reports: ⇒ Publications ⇒ Interim Committees, or <https://www.nmlegis.gov>, ⇒ "Committees";
- LFC web pages: ⇒ Committees ⇒ Interim Committees ⇒ Legislative Finance Committee, or [https://www.nmlegis.gov/Entity/LFC/Committee\\_Information](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Entity/LFC/Committee_Information);
- LESC web pages: ⇒ Committees ⇒ Interim Committees ⇒ Legislative Education Study Committee, or [https://www.nmlegis.gov/Entity/LESC/Committee\\_Information](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Entity/LESC/Committee_Information);
- New Mexico Legislature on Twitter: If you have a Twitter account, use #nmleg. If you do not have an account, go to the New Mexico Legislature home page screen, <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>, and scroll down past the search boxes to the Twitter feed.

The first entry should contain a link in the heading, "NMLegislature", click on this link for access to the Twitter account;


- Legislative Council Service Digital Library: a growing collection of documents, including responses to memorials, documents required by statute for submission to the legislature and other publications of interest to legislators; accessible on the legislative network only at [http://shareportal.nmlegis.gov/lcs\\_library/SitePages/Search.aspx](http://shareportal.nmlegis.gov/lcs_library/SitePages/Search.aspx). Please ask information technology staff at (505) 986-4615 for support if you have difficulty accessing the site; for assistance in searching, contact the library at (505) 986-4656; and
- other publications and miscellaneous reports, studies, legislative procedure and information bulletins: ⇒ Publications ⇒, or <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/>.

- **New Mexico State Government**

 **Secretary of State:** [www.sos.state.nm.us](http://www.sos.state.nm.us)

Includes:

- election information: current general election results are on home page;
- previous election results: Bureau of Elections Resources ⇒ Election Results ⇒ Past Election Results, or [http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Elections\\_Data/Past\\_Election\\_Results.aspx](http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Elections_Data/Past_Election_Results.aspx);
- lobbyists: ⇒ Candidates, Lobbyists, Political Committees ⇒ Lobbyists, or [http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Lobbyist\\_Information/default.aspx](http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Lobbyist_Information/default.aspx);
- *Constitution of the State of New Mexico*: <http://www.sos.state.nm.us/2015nmconst.pdf>;
- *2015 New Mexico Blue Book* (abbreviated version): [http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Public\\_Records\\_And\\_Publications/2015-nm-blue-book.pdf](http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Public_Records_And_Publications/2015-nm-blue-book.pdf); and
- *State of New Mexico Roster - Congressional, State, Legislative, District & County Officials*: <http://www.sos.state.nm.us/2015-roster-web.pdf>.

 **State Board of Finance:** [http://nmdfa.state.nm.us/board\\_of\\_finance.aspx](http://nmdfa.state.nm.us/board_of_finance.aspx)

Includes:

- general fund reports: General Fund and the Economy ⇒ General Fund Financial Summary, or [http://nmdfa.state.nm.us/General\\_Fund\\_Financial\\_Summary.aspx](http://nmdfa.state.nm.us/General_Fund_Financial_Summary.aspx); and

- capital projects database: Capital Projects ⇒ Capital Projects Search, or <http://bof.sks.com/cps/Default.aspx>.

### **New Mexico Courts New Mexico Judiciary:** [www.nmcourts.com](http://www.nmcourts.com).

Provides access to state and local courts that have gone online, including:

- published opinions of the New Mexico Supreme Court and New Mexico Court of Appeals from 1859 to date: NM courts ⇒ Supreme Court ⇒ Opinions, Rules & Forms ⇒ Opinions, or <http://www.nmcompcomm.us/nmcases/NMAR.aspx>.



### **Sunshine Portal:** [www.sunshineportalnm.com/](http://www.sunshineportalnm.com/).

Official transparency and accountability portal for New Mexico state government.

## ● **Congress - Federal Government**

- **CONGRESS.GOV**, site of the Library of Congress for information on congressional bills back to 1989 and public laws back to 1973: <https://www.congress.gov/>;
- **U.S. House:** [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov); and
- **U.S. Senate:** [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).
- **U.S. Government Printing Office Federal Digital System** - access to the *Congressional Record*, *Federal Register*, *Code of Federal Regulations*, federal legislation and documents: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>;
- **FedStats**, a U.S. government site for official statistics collected and published by more than 100 federal agencies: <http://fedstats.sites.usa.gov/>;
- **USA.gov**, an interagency portal for federal government information maintained by the U.S. General Services Administration: [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov);
- **SearchGov**, a search engine specifically for government information, including links to federal and state resources: <http://www.aboutus.com/SearchGov.com>; and
- **QuickFacts - U.S. Census Bureau** - statistical information on all geographies, including states and counties. This flexible site covers a vast array of topics and includes percentages and comparisons with similar geographies. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>.

- **Online News — New Mexico**

- *Albuquerque Journal*: <https://www.abqjournal.com/> (some content requires password);
- Newsbank: current and archival stories from New Mexico newspapers around the state, **available only from a state government computer IP address**. Accessible from the legislature's web page: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/> ⇒ Quick Links ⇒ Other Websites ⇒ El Portal - New Mexico State Library ⇒ Newspapers (under popular resources) ⇒ Newsbank; and
- *The Santa Fe New Mexican*: [www.santafenewmexican.com](http://www.santafenewmexican.com).

- **Selected Blogs**

### National

- **Capitol Comments**, by CSG: <http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/blog> (also linked at CSG home page); and
- **The NCSL Blog**: <http://www.ncsl.org/blog.aspx>.

### New Mexico

- **Capitol Report New Mexico**, owned and published by the Rio Grande Foundation: <http://capitolreportnm.blogspot.com/>;
- **Morning Word - Santa Fe Reporter**, <http://www.sfreporter.com/santafe/articles.sec-191-1-morning-word.html>;
- **New Mexico In Depth**: <http://www.nmindepth.com/>;
- **New Mexico Politics with Joe Monahan**, a public relations consultant and political commentator: <http://joemonahansnewmexico.blogspot.com/>;
- **New Mexico Watchdog**, a project of the Rio Grande Foundation: <http://watchdog.org/category/new-mexico/>;
- **NM Political Report**, <http://nmpoliticalreport.com/>;
- **NM Politics.net**, <http://nmpolitics.net/>;
- **Rio Grande Foundation**, <http://www.errorsofenchantment.com/>; and
- **Roundhouse Roundup: The Blog**, by *The Santa Fe New Mexican* reporter and columnist Steve Terrell: <http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/blogs/politics/>.

- **Miscellaneous Information**

- New Mexico State University's Arrowhead Research Center collection of economic statistics on New Mexico, including county economic-base studies: <http://arrowheadcenter.nmsu.edu/economic-and-policy-studies/>; and
- **El Portal:** [www.elportalmn.org/](http://www.elportalmn.org/).

A collection of databases presented by the New Mexico State Library that provides free 24/7 access to resources, such as newspapers, magazine and journal articles, and books such as encyclopedias.

The Legislative Council Service library staff can provide suggestions for other internet resources and services such as ready reference for telephone numbers, retrieval of statutes and bills from other states, research from previous sessions of the legislature and background information on current issues. See this interview with Idaho's legislative librarian under "Librarians (LRL)": <http://www.legislativecareers.org/CareerPaths.aspx>.

Please let us know if you have other resources to recommend for this list.

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