

A Brief Introduction to Web Sites* of Interest to Legislators

Compiled by the Legislative Council Service Library
December 2014

● State Legislatures



National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL): www.ncsl.org.

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

- research by topic or by list of NCSL contacts/subject specialists;
- bill information services;
- access to current state and federal legislation and a comprehensive list of state documents, including state statutes, constitutions, legislative audits and research reports (all 50 states):
<http://www.ncsl.org/aboutus/ncslservice/bill-information-services-overview.aspx>;
- **The Thicket**, a blog about the state legislative institution and federalism written by and for legislative junkies: http://ncsl.typepad.com/the_thicket/;
- **The GrassCatcher**, a daily collection of articles from national media on state and national policy issues (see column at left in home page). You may also sign up for desktop delivery as "E-News";
- NCSL on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NCSLorg>; and
- NCSL on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/search/ncslorg>.



Council of State Governments (CSG): 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.

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

- ALEC on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegislativeExchangeCouncil>; and
- ALEC on Twitter: https://twitter.com/ALEC_states.



National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO): www.naleo.org.

Includes "Latest News" at home page:

- NALEO on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/naleo.org>; and
- NALEO on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NALEO>.

● **Other National Organizations**



National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL):
<http://www.nbcsl.org/>.



National Caucus of Environmental Legislators: www.ncel.net/index.cgim.



National Caucus of Native American State Legislators:
<http://www.ncsl.org/collaboration/nativeamericanlegislators>.



National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL): www.ncoil.org.



National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS):
www.nclgs.org.



National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), including the National Order of Women Legislators (NOWL): www.womenlegislators.org.



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



State Legislative Leaders Foundation: www.sllf.org/.



State Legislators for Legal Immigration: 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/.

● State Government



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

Includes:

- bill texts from 1996 to present: ⇒ Legislation ⇒ Bill Finder, or http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/billfinder/bill_finder.aspx;
- member information: ⇒ Members ⇒ Find Your Legislator, or http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislator_search.aspx;
- session publications, such as locators and indexes: ⇒ Legislative Publications ⇒ Session Publications, or http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislative_publications.aspx;
- other publications, such as interim committee reports and information bulletins: ⇒ Other Resources ⇒ Legislative Publications, or http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislative_publications.aspx; and
- LESC and LFC web pages: ⇒ Agencies, or <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/lesc/lescdefault.aspx>; and <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/lfc/lfcdefault.aspx>.



Secretary of State: www.sos.state.nm.us

Includes:

- *State of New Mexico Roster* and an abbreviated version of the 2012 *New Mexico Blue Book* (2015 planned for coming year):
http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Public_Records_And_Publications/NMCentennialBlueBook.pdf;
- election information: current general election results are on home page;
- previous election results: Bureau of Elections Resources ⇒ Elections Data ⇒ Past Election Results, or http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Elections_Data/; and
- Lobbyists: ⇒ Lobbyist Information, or
http://www.sos.state.nm.us/uploads/FileLinks/fb2154f522fd4467a3b1f10ce4cec47d/ptLobbyistwEmployer_2014Registered.pdf



State Board of Finance: <http://www.board.nmdfa.state.nm.us/>.

Includes:

- general fund reports: General Fund and the Economy ⇒ General Fund Finance Summary, or 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 Judiciary: 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 2000 to date: Court Sites ⇒ Supreme Court ⇒ Rules, Forms & Opinions ⇒ Opinions, or www.nmcompcomm.us/nmcases/NMCases.aspx.



Sunshine Portal: www.sunshineportalnm.com/.

Official transparency and accountability portal for New Mexico state government.

● **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-base-studies>.
- **El Portal:** www.elportalnm.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.

- **Congress**

Provides access to bill texts, summaries and status; hearing schedules, committee and member information; and more:

- **THOMAS**, site of the Library of Congress for information on congressional bills back to 1989 and public laws back to 1973: <http://thomas.loc.gov>;
- **U.S. House**: www.house.gov; and
- **U.S. Senate**: www.senate.gov.

- **Federal Government**

- **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; and
- **SearchGov**, a search engine specifically for government information, including links to federal and state resources: www.searchgov.com.

- **Online News — New Mexico**

- *Albuquerque Journal*: www.abqjournal.com (some content requires password);
- Newsbank: archival stories from New Mexico newspapers around the state, **available only from a state government computer IP address**. Please note that content from some papers is spotty (please call Laurie if you have difficulty with access): http://infoweb.newsbank.com/iw-search/we/Homepage?p_action=doc&p_theme=current&p_nbid=M58B4FNDMTQxNjUwOTI5NC44MjIxNzA6MT00OjY1Njc; and
- *The Santa Fe New Mexican*: www.santafenewmexican.com.

- **Selected Blogs**

National:

- **Capitol Comments**, by CSG: <http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/blog> (also linked at CSG home page); and
- **The Thicket at State Legislatures**, by NCSL: http://ncsl.typepad.com/the_thicket; (also linked at NCSL home page).

New Mexico

- **Capitol Report New Mexico**, owned and published by the Rio Grande Foundation: <http://www.capitolreportnewmexico.com/>;

- **Inside the Capitol**, by long-time columnist Jay Miller: <http://insidethecapitol.blogspot.com/>;
- **New Mexico In Depth**, in development as of early December 2012: <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://newmexico.watchdog.org/>; and
- **Roundhouse Roundup: The Blog**, by *The Santa Fe New Mexican* reporter and columnist Steve Terrell: <http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/blogs/politics/>.

The Legislative Council Service library staff can provide suggestions for other internet resources and such services 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.

Laurie Canepa, Librarian	986-4656; laurie.canepa@nmlegis.gov
Valerie Brooker, Session Librarian:	986-4668; valerie.brooker@nmlegis.gov
Kevin Lancaster, Session Librarian:	986-4667; kevin.lancaster@nmlegis.gov

* If the internet address does not appear as a link, please copy and paste it into your browser. Contact laurie.canepa@nmlegis.gov for help with any address that is not working.