



47th

State in the Union

NEW MEXICO

Highest percent of poverty
Lowest income growth
Highest crime rate

50th in education
49th child well being
49th in opportunity
45th in infrastructure
44th in economy

**WHY?
WHAT CAN BE DONE?**



1912

WHY? TIMES HAVE CHANGED

24 Senators
30 in the House of Representatives
double

The population in 1910 - 327,301
6 fold+

Operating budget in 1969 was
\$219,690,218
38 times

The building originally used cost \$140,000
using salvaged materials
and unpaid labor from the
Penitentiary of New Mexico
33+ times

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42 Senators
70 in the House of Representatives

The population in 2020 - 2,117,522

Operating budget in 2021 was **\$8,380,000,000** (Billion)

The Round House was dedicated in 1966
and was built at a cost of \$4,676,860

NOW

WHO CAN RUN

The salary for legislators has not changed since 1912. NM has the only [unsalaried](#) legislature in the US.

- Intended to be of ordinary citizens
- Began in 1912 as a [citizen legislature](#) and remains so
- In reality, only people who can afford to work for free can serve
- This skews who can serve and who is served
- This also invites “help” from those with the interest and time, ie lobbyists.

1910



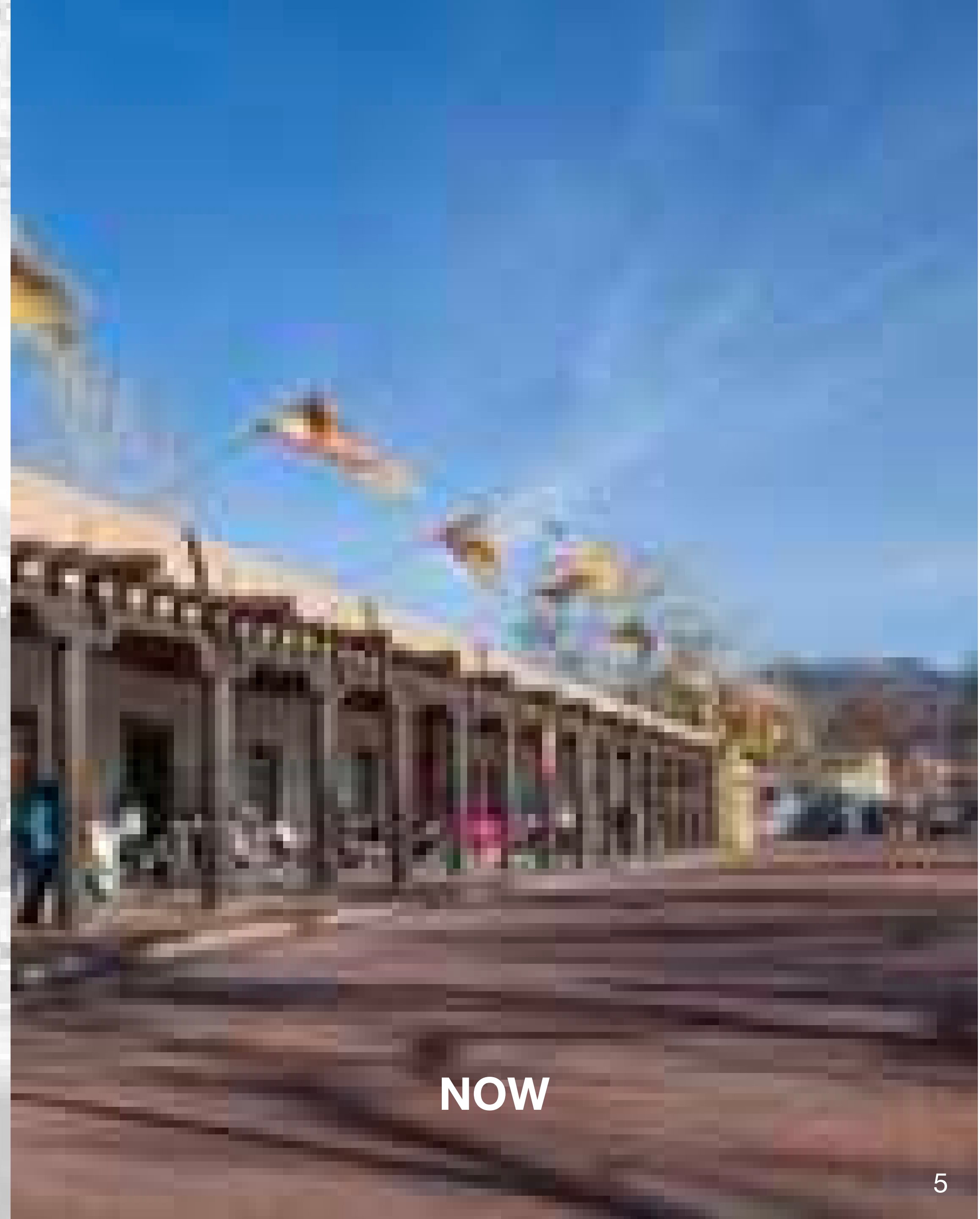
NOW

SHORT SESSIONS

NM legislative sessions are also some of the shortest in the US.

- 30 day and 60 day sessions starve bills with a lack of time to adequately debate them and prevent a lot of good legislation from being passed.
- Back in 1912, these short sessions kept law-making power in the hands of those who could afford to travel to Santa Fe once a year. Now they enable the clock to run out on important legislation.
- More complex issues now than in 1912.
- The Governor's priorities include the **environment, education and crime and criminal justice**, requiring solutions that are smart, comprehensive and well thought out. This takes study, debate and TIME.

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NOT ENOUGH STAFF

Most legislators do not have paid [staff](#).

- Not enough time to thoroughly understand complicated issues and to serve constituents
- Lack of staff and office space means legislators don't have the resources to work deeply on complex issues and provide comprehensive solutions to our most pressing problems. This lack of resources results in legislators relying on lobbyists for direction, thus creating the potential of undue influence.
- Having paid staff would allow our representatives to dig into thorny problems to find solutions and to meet community needs both directly and indirectly.

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BENEFITS TO ALL NEW MEXICANS

- Increased economically diverse voices in legislature, more points of view represented
- Better representation of community
- More responsive constituent services
- Fewer temptations for ethical violations
- A larger, more varied pool of people spending more time solving complex issues
- All of this adds up to laws that citizens support and that, in turn, support the entire community, future generations and the environment.

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Consensus Proposal

- Fairly compensate legislators
- Provide legislators paid staff and office space
- Extend the length of sessions

It's TIME for a

RESPONSIVE

INCLUSIVE

TRANSPARENT

DIVERSE

EQUITABLE

THOUGHTFUL

HONEST

MODERN LEGISLATURE

NOW

Coalition members

- 350NM - *Tom Solomon*
- Legislative Momentum Project - *Beth Bardwell*
- 350SF - *Robert Cordingly*
- Common Cause NM - *Deborah Condit*
- NM Ethics Watch - *Kathleen Sabo, Tony Ortiz*
- LWVNM - *Judy Williams*
- NMFirst - *Sharon Berman, Danielle Gonzales*
- NM Voices - *Charles Goodmacher*
- Indivisible SOS - *Ricann Bock*
- NM Chamber - *Rob Black*
- Cliff Rees*

PULL OUR STATE INTO THE **NEW MILLENNIUM**

- Contact representatives to show our support of this issue
- Get our fellow Indivisibles to help!
- Support in interim committees
- LTEs starting after the November election
- Support in legislative session 2023
- Public outreach through 2023

NOW

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COMMON QUESTIONS

- How much do we spend now on legislators and staff?
Legislators currently do not receive a [salary](#), only per diem and they can participate in a pension fund. Currently, the per diem is set at \$192/legislative day and hearings. It totals \$733,000/yr. We foresee being able to reduce this number.
- What about the pension they receive?
On the [pension](#), all legislators are given the option to participate and most do. They make a contribution of \$1000/yr they serve. They can collect at at 65 or older after 5 yrs service, or at any age after 10 yrs service. The rate is 11% of the per diem x 60 x yrs of service. At today's per diem rate that equates to around \$1000/mth for 10 yrs service. They receive this for life. The average term of service in the current senate is 8.26 yrs, ranging from 36 yrs to newbies serving their first term. 12 senators have served 10+ yrs.
- Is there another state(s) we can compare ourselves to?
[14 states](#) have part time legislatures. The lowest paid is NH \$100/yr & the highest is Mississippi at \$23,500/yr.
- How much will it cost for paid legislators and staff?
There is an unofficial estimate that to pay our legislators, a staff for them and to provide basic benefits, office space and equipment will cost around 25 million dollars a year.

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We can fix this!

Fairly compensate legislators

Extend the length of sessions

Provide legislators paid staff
and office space



NOW