

**2022 PROPOSED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Members

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Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Co-Chair
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Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Harry Garcia
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Sen. Linda M. Lopez

Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. William P. Soules
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

Approved Work Plan

The New Mexico Legislative Council created the Indian Affairs Committee (IAC) on April 26, 2022. The IAC addresses issues and policies that affect Native Americans in New Mexico. IAC meetings are essential to the work of the legislature in addressing the issues affecting this segment of its constituency.

The IAC will address the following topics affecting Native Americans during the 2022 interim, including updates that include or address:

A. State-Tribal Relations:

1. presentations from Native American liaisons or similarly tasked individuals from state executive agencies regarding outreach efforts, challenges and successes;
2. economic opportunities and challenges of uranium mine cleanup;
3. funding for tribal capital projects;
4. an update from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force;

5. impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and tribal gaming;
6. an update on veterans' affairs in tribal communities;
7. presentations from the Indian Affairs Department, the Department of Environment and the New Mexico Finance Authority on water infrastructure needs on tribal land;
8. a report from the New Mexico Film Office on the Senator John Pinto Memorial Fund;
9. a presentation on film education, culture and Native American language preservation through film;
10. a report from the Department of Transportation on tribal roads and construction;
11. an update from the secretary of state on tribal election issues and precinct changes post-redistricting;
12. a presentation from the State Land Office on easements;
13. a presentation from the Council of State Governments Justice Center on the States Supporting Familiar Faces program;
14. an update on the federal Indian Boarding School Initiative; and
15. proposed legislation regarding Native American affairs;

B. Economic Development:

1. broadband access on tribal lands;
2. reports from the Department of Finance and Administration and the Indian Affairs Department regarding legislation passed during the 2022 legislative session dealing with Native American issues and the state budget;
3. effects of legalization of recreational cannabis on tribal communities; and
4. updates from the Economic Development Department, the Indian Affairs Department and the Workforce Solutions Department on the Energy Transition Act;

C. Education:

1. the *Zuni v. State of New Mexico* lawsuit and the state equalization guarantee distribution, impact aid and funding formula;
2. an update on *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* and the state's action plan;
3. preservation of Native American languages;
4. Native American teacher retention and increasing access to Native American teachers; and
5. culturally relevant early learning programs;

D. Health: updates from the Department of Health and the Navajo Nation on continued COVID-19 responses and efforts on tribal lands; and

E. Annual Reports from Executive Agencies:

1. reports from the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission regarding:
 - a. *Aamodt* settlement obligations and effects on federal funding;
 - b. the status of proposed Indian water rights settlements requiring state financing;
 - c. the distribution of funds from the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund to implement approved settlements and the proposed timing of the distributions; and
 - d. recommendations on the level of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund necessary to timely implement Indian water rights;
2. a report from the Indian Affairs Department regarding:
 - a. the compiled reports from all state agencies on activities pursuant to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, including information on policies, plans, contact individuals, training, programs and services from each agency; and

- b. the department's priorities and initiatives, as well as updates on current issues that tribal communities are facing; and
3. a report from the Tribal Infrastructure Board regarding the total expenditures from the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund for the previous fiscal year, the purposes for which expenditures were made, an analysis of the progress of the projects funded and proposals for legislative action in the subsequent legislative session.

**Indian Affairs Committee
2022 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 25	Santa Fe
July 11-13	Crownpoint/Breadsprings Chapter of the Navajo Nation/Thoreau
August 16-17	Jicarilla Apache Nation
September 7-9	Shiprock (Joint meeting with the Legislative Education Study Committee)
October 3-5	Pueblo of Sandia/Pueblo of San Felipe/Kewa Pueblo
November 17-18	Pueblo of Cochiti/Santa Fe