

“16 year olds & non-citizens allowed to vote...😬” February 14, 2023



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**



NMBC is pleased to report that our members, along with the Better Together New Mexico (BTNM) grassroots advocacy network, is making a difference!

**A new record was set yesterday with over 229,000 emails sent to legislators in one day!**

It's not just in Santa Fe where BTNM advocates are making their voices heard either. Check out [this great commentary](#) by Sarah Smith on government subsidized housing issues in Las Cruces.

### *Legislative Heroes and Zeroes Update*



NMBC brings information about public officials who have the power and responsibility to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

We never label individuals as 'Zeros,' but will identify legislation that would do zero good for our state. On the other hand, 'Hero' legislation and policy that would help our state are on the table too.

Here a few **Hero** bills that would be good for the state with a link that can be used to send a quick email to legislators who are voting on these bills:

- [HB 110](#) Voter ID Requirement, sponsored by Reps [John Block](#) & [Mark Duncan](#); **support HB 110 easily [HERE](#).**
- [HB 80](#) Limiting Emergency Orders w/o Legislative Approval, sponsored by Reps [Greg Nibert](#), [Randall T. Pettigrew](#), [Stefani Lord](#) & [Jimmy Mason](#); **support HB 80 easily [HERE](#).**
- [HJR 9](#) Denial of Bail for Violent Offenders, sponsored by Reps [Andrea Reeb](#), [Bill](#)

[Rehm](#) & [Stefani Lord](#); **support HJR 9 easily [HERE](#)**.

Here are a few **Zero** bills that would bad for the state with a link that can be used to send a quick email to legislators who are voting on these bills:

- **[SB11](#) Paid Family Medical Leave Act**, sponsored by [Mimi Stewart](#), [Michael Padilla](#), [Christine Chandler](#), [Linda Serrato](#), [Patricia Roybal Caballero](#); **oppose SB11 easily [HERE](#)**.
- **[SB180](#) Election Law Changes**, sponsored by [Katy M. Duhigg](#) and [Leo Jaramillo](#); **oppose SB180 easily [HERE](#)**.
- **[SB165](#) Increase Electric Rates**, sponsored by [Liz Stefanics](#) and [Carrie Hamblen](#); **oppose SB165 easily [HERE](#)**.
- **[HB218](#) Low Income Public Utility Rates**, sponsored by Reps [Kristina Ortez](#), [Angelica Rubio](#), [Derrick J. Lente](#), [Cynthia Borrego](#) & Sen [Mimi Stewart](#); **oppose HB 218 easily [HERE](#)**. Read analysis and commentary by NMBC President Carla Sonntag about why passing HB 218 would hurt NM working families [HERE](#).
- **[HB4](#) Voting Registration and Election Law Changes**, sponsored by [Javier Martínez](#), [Gail Chasey](#), [Katy Duhigg](#), [D. Wonda Johnson](#), [Raymundo Lara](#); **oppose HB4 easily [HERE](#)**.
- **[HB25](#) Increase Min Wage**, sponsored by [Christine Chandler](#), [Patricia Roybal-Caballero](#), [Peter Wirth](#), [Janelle Anyanonu](#), [Yanira Gurrola](#); **easily oppose HB25 [HERE](#)**.

NMBC is testifying in committee hearings daily so we have first hand knowledge that the process of allowing public input isn't always followed by committee leadership:

- **[SB 165](#) Local Choice Energy Act**, Rep. Chairwoman [Liz Stefanics](#), chair of the Senate Conservation Committee, limited public comments in opposition of the bill without notice or a valid explanation. **NMBC President Carla Sonntag shared the reason why SB 165 is problematic with the Albuquerque Journal. Read her comments [HERE](#)**.
- **[HB 7](#) Reproductive & Gender-Affirming Healthcare**, Rep. [Christine Chandler](#), chair of the House Judiciary Committee, only allowed those who signed up before the meeting to speak. This requirement was not published prior to the meeting and her own staff confirmed that requirement was not in place for previous meetings. **NMBC sent a letter to Rep Chandler pointing out how these actions disenfranchise New Mexicans wanting to participate in the legislative process. We look forward to her response. Read the letter [HERE](#)**.

Written comments sent to committees on selected bills are available [HERE](#).

A consolidated list of 'Call to Action' forms is available [HERE](#).

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**16 year old children and people who are not in the U.S. legally being allowed to vote isn't conspiracy theory, it's part of legislation proposed in New Mexico.**



**[HB 217](#): 16 & 17 Year Olds as Qualified Electors, sponsored by Reps Christine Trujillo and Kristina Ortez would allow children as young as 16 to vote.** Fortunately, this bill was stopped on Saturday in the House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee by Reps Wanda Johnson, Martin Zamora, John Block & Bill Rehm. **NMBC testified against this bill and are glad to say it was killed in the first committee thanks to Reps [Wanda Johnson](#), [John Block](#), [Martin Zamora](#) & [Bill Rehm](#).**

**[HB4](#): Voting Registration and Election Law Changes (see above under 'Zero' bills), has provisions for 'automatic voter registration' without permission or knowledge of those being registered.** The automatic registration mandate includes NM 'residents' who may not be here legally, which increases the likelihood of non-U.S. citizens being registered to vote. **This bill passed two committees and is now scheduled for a floor vote in the House of Representatives. Help NMBC stop this bill; take action [HERE](#).**

**Non-citizens voting is a reality in Washington, D.C.** With Republicans now in the majority, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution (H.J. Res. 24), to disapprove of and void a Washington, D.C., Council law allowing non-citizens living in the District to vote. **New Mexico Congressional Reps Melanie Stansbury and Gabe Vasquez voted NO on the resolution; Congressional Rep Teresa Ledger Fernandez voted YES.**

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## Ready to have some fun? Join us at Revel Entertainment!

Up next on our calendar is our Post-Legislative BASH (Business and Social Hour) from 5-7PM, on Thursday, May 4, at Revel Entertainment!

**Discounted tickets (for a limited time) [HERE!](#)**

Sponsors: [John Thomas Jewelers](#) & [Revel Entertainment Center](#)

*Interested in sponsoring this event? See options [HERE](#).*

## Mark your calendars for other great 2023 events!

- Summer BASH- August 10 ; Sponsored by [John Thomas Jewelers](#).

- **2023 Heroes Event-** November 9

Click [HERE](#) for more information on Sponsorship opportunities.

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**Business Spotlight: Great New Mexicans doing great things!**

As we know, small businesses are the backbone of our economy and NMBC is honored to showcase these important jobs and service providers, like EXHIB-IT!

Learn more about this incredible New Mexico Small business [HERE](#).

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[We're always advocating for New Mexicans.](#)  
[Join our team today and help us continue our work!](#)

*Connect with NMBC: Call us at (505) 836-4223 or email [nmbiz@nmbizcoalition.org](mailto:nmbiz@nmbizcoalition.org)*

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