



Legislative Advocacy Training

February 4, 2023



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—NEW MEXICO—

Normal process

- Someone has an idea ...
- They find a legislator to sponsor a bill.
- The sponsor gets the bill drafted.
- The bill is introduced.
- It goes to a committee in the Senate or the House Speaker for committee assignments.
- If it passes out of its assigned committees, it goes for a vote of the entire chamber body.
- It then crosses over to the other chamber to follow the same procedure.
- If it passes there, it goes to the governor for signature.



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Nuances

- Resolutions are only within a single chamber.
- Joint resolutions go through both chambers but rarely involve the governor.
- Constitutional Amendments (CA's) must go through both chambers, but do not go to the governor for signature.
- CAs end up on ballots for major statewide elections.
- Do Pass motion must be seconded, then voted upon.
- Do Pass motion with no recommendation is also seconded and voted on.
- Motion to table:
 - Does not require a second;
 - Is not debatable and supersedes other motions;
 - Usually kills the bill, but not always.



How it works in New Mexico

- Follows the procedure but is heavily influenced by lobbyists and activists.
- Never assume you know where someone stands on an issue - this can make the difference on an outcome.
- Your voice is **CRITICAL** to the process in changing minds.



Leverage your voice

Respond to all Calls to Action (CTAs)

- BTNM: fully automated CTAs - 15-30 seconds to respond
- Can automatically connect you for calls with a short script
- GOP County and state - manual but important



Capitol Dress Code

Recommended but not enforced for visitors:

Business attire that usually means:

- For Men: suit and tie, sports coat with tie, or long sleeve shirt with tie.
- For Women: Skirt, dress, pant suit, nice pants and top
- Saturday: jeans okay with same top code



Your health at the Capitol

The Capitol is a Petrie dish of germs;
Guard your health!

- Carry sanitizer and use it between handwashing.
- Never touch the walls, handrails, elevator button, or door handles, if possible.
 - Use your elbow or forearm when using the stairs;
 - Use an elbow or notebook to push buttons;
 - Use automatic door opener when possible.



Testimony Prep

- Read and understand the bill.
- Know why you support or oppose and have personal stories that you can share.
- Your points can be - and are better - if personal.
- Know what others are saying and don't repeat what has already been said.



Meeting Legislators

ALWAYS be polite and use their title of Senator or Representative

- Visit committee members in their offices and discuss bills or issues you care about.
- Hang out at the Chair's office and meet legislators on their way into the committee room.
- Prior to the start of the meeting, go to the Legislator's seat and introduce yourself.
- Always be kind and respectful - that have a challenging job regardless of their position on bills and life.



Find the Committee

Finding the right committee:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Calendar/Session>



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Upcoming Session Calendar



Finding the committee

Committee schedules at 'What's Happening'

House of Representatives

Floor

[House Floor Calendar \(PDF\) - 1/27/2023](#)
Last update: 1/26/2023 5:48:31 PM

[House Floor Calendar \(HTML\)](#)

Committees

[House Committee Schedule \(PDF\) - 1/27/2023](#)
Last update: 1/26/2023 5:49:04 PM

[House Education \(PDF\) - 1/27/2023](#)
Last update: 1/27/2023 9:22:07 AM

Senate

Floor

[Senate Floor Calendar \(PDF\) - 1/27/2023](#)
Last update: 1/26/2023 7:08:25 PM

[Senate Floor Calendar \(HTML\)](#)

Committees

[SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES](#)

[Senate Committee Schedule \(PDF\) - 1/27/2023](#)
Last update: 1/27/2023 9:25:45 AM



Committee Rules

Make sure that pre-registration is not required

**For public participation please click on the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3396422464>, or via telephone at 1 346 248 7799, meeting ID: 339 642 2464. To provide written comments or to register to speak using zoom please email SRC.zoom@nmlegis.gov.



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In Person Testimony

- Make sure you're in the right committee by checking the schedule near the door.
- When they call for support or opposition on the bill, raise your hand to be recognized;
- When you are acknowledged, stand up, and speak clearly:
 - Madame/Mister Chair and members of the committee
 - My name is ____ and I represent ____ with ____ people
 - And I support/oppose bill XYZ because _____. State your reasons without repeating what others have said.
- I urge you to vote for/against this bill.
- When you're done, say 'Thank you' and sit down.



After you speak

- Stay there and listen to other participants and committee members
- Make notes of important points and who said it
 - This information might be useful for future legislative discussions
 - It might be useful for future campaigns
- Note the vote



Online Testimony

Find the right committee: Same process as in person

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Calendar/Session>



Connecting to testify

Online Testimony:

- Make sure you've got the right Zoom link.

Meeting may be viewed via Webcast at www.nmlegis.gov (Click on the Webcast tab and select Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee).

For public participation we have been advised that you can please click the link below to join the zoom webinar <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9124526531> or via telephone +1 253 215 8782, webinar ID: 912 452 6531



Committee Rules

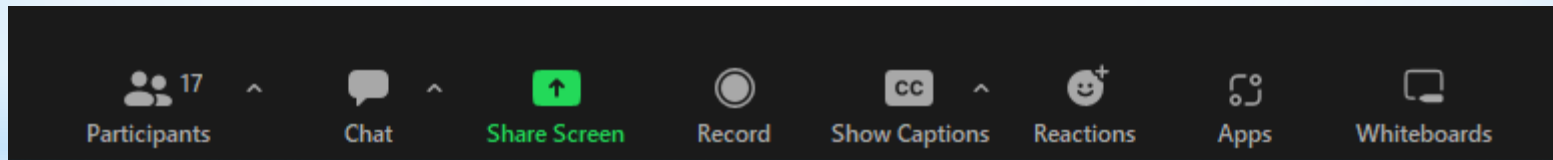
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Make your presence known

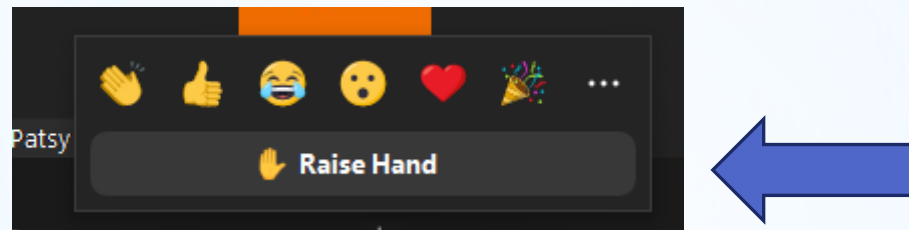
Online Testimony:

- When your bill is called, listen carefully if they are taking support/opposition.
- Be ready to press the ‘raise hand’ icon at the bottom of the screen.
- Found under ‘Reactions’

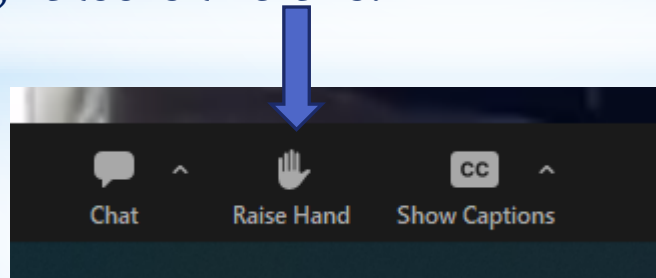


Make your presence known

- This is what you see when you click ‘Reactions’.



- If you click the wrong one, just click again and it will go away.
- Sometimes, it looks like this:





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Online testimony

- When they call for support or opposition, raise your hand to be recognized in the group recognized.
- When you are acknowledged, hit the 'Unmute' button that should pop up in the middle of the screen, speak clearly:
 - Madame/Mister Chair and members of the committee
 - My name is ____ and I represent ____ with ____ people
 - And I support/oppose bill XYZ
 - Because _____. (State your reasons without repeating what others have said.)
- I urge you to vote Yes/No on this bill.
- When you're done, say 'Thank you'.



Caution

Online testimony:

- They will usually lower your hand when you're finished speaking but check to assure that is done.
- They will usually mute you but be careful what you say until you are sure your mic is off!



Finish the job

Online testimony:

- Stay online and listen to other participants and committee members
- Make notes of important points and who said it
 - This information might be useful for future legislative discussions
 - It might be useful for future campaigns
- Note the vote



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Questions