

LWVNM
TRANSPARENCY AUDIT PROPOSAL
2026-27

Every year during “Sunshine Week” in March, LWVSFC joins other organizations in celebrating public right-to-know laws, also known as “sunshine” laws. In New Mexico, we have two such laws: The Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) and the Open Meetings Act.

This proposal would determine county-level compliance with IPRA. League members across New Mexico would be recruited and trained to request five specific records from government entities in all 33 counties. The requests (made online) would be made between September and November 2026. Participants would record levels of compliance or denial in a shared spreadsheet. The project coordinator would then write a report detailing statewide compliance or shortcomings. This report would be released to the news media for publication during Sunshine Week 2027 (March 14-20).

WHO: Our goal is to recruit participants from all four local leagues in New Mexico in order to cover all 33 counties. One possible division of labor:

LOS ALAMOS	SANTA FE	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN
San Juan	Santa Fe	Bernalillo	Grant
Rio Arriba	Taos	Cibola	Sierra
McKinley	Colfax	Catron	Hidalgo
Los Alamos	Union	Socorro	Luna
	Harding	Valencia	Dona Ana
	San Miguel	Torrance	Otero
	Mora	Guadalupe	Lincoln
	Quay	De Baca	Chaves
	Curry	Roosevelt	Eddy
		Sandoval	Lea
4 volunteers	9 volunteers	10 volunteers	10 volunteers

Ideally, we would recruit one volunteer for each county although a single volunteer could take more than one county.

WHAT: The project lead would specify five documents that are clearly public records to be requested in each county. Possibilities include: contracts, bids, salaries, personnel files, accident reports, arrest records, permits and site plans and salary information.

WHEN: The project would be based on the following timeline:

- August 2026: Recruit participants

- September 2026: Train participants via Zoom (multiple sessions)
- October-December 2026: Requests made, responses recorded
- January 2027: Responses analyzed; report written, reviewed and approved
- February 2027:
 - News releases written, approved and sent in late February with report EMBARGOED for use during Sunshine Week, March 13-20.
 - Op-eds written and sent to newspapers for use during Sunshine Week.
 - Solicitation of on-air interviews of LWVNM participants by local TV/radio

Read about previous transparency audits in New Mexico:

- 2016: <https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/2016/05/17/public-records-audit-details-response-new-mexico-offices/84518316/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epti=z114801e009100v114801d--48--b--48--&gca-ft=218&gca-ds=sophi>
- 2000: <https://www.nfoic.org/wp-content/uploads/nmaudit.pdf>

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteers don't have to go anywhere. You only need a computer and a personal email account!
You will:

- Attend an hourlong training in September (Zoom option, multiple sessions available)
- Write and send emails requesting specific documents as assigned between October and December.
 - Requests will be in your own words but for documents specified by project leader
 - You will sign requests with your name and contact information only – not as an LWV member
 - Responses will be recorded on a shared Google Drive document (procedure to be covered in training)