

2022 Legislative Positions

The Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and Clovis Economic Development (CED) are non-profit organizations that represent business and economic vitality in Clovis and Curry County, New Mexico. The Chamber and CED are a unified voice of **750+ representative members** including business and community leaders within the area. Both the Clovis Economic Development and the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce are tasked with strengthening the Clovis and Curry County economy by developing business opportunities and recruiting new business and industry.

City of Clovis and Curry County Capital Outlay

The Chamber and CED **support** the City of Clovis and Curry County Capital Outlay requests:

- MLK Improvements 7th to 21st Street - \$1,000,000
- Roy Walker HVAC & Roof Repairs - \$600,000
- Residential Street Lighting - \$200,000
- FBO Building Plan and Design - \$300,000
- Playground Improvements (Potter, Rierson, Greene Acres) - \$375,000
- Lyceum Theater Improvements - \$400,000
- Curry County Fairgrounds Improvements - \$6,000,000 – Design and Construct Improvements to the Fairgrounds consisting of a multi-purpose horse stall/livestock facility
- Road Projects - \$480,000 – County Road 10 from NM 108 to County Road E AND County Road 6 from NM 348 to US 70
- County Line Volunteer Fire Station - \$600,000 – Design and Construct a Fire Station for the County Line Volunteer Fire Department
- New County Road Signs - \$150,000 – Purchase and install new Road Signs at the County Road Intersections
- County Museum - \$200,000 to design, construct and furnish

Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and Clovis Economic Development (CED) Capital Outlay

The Chamber and CED **request** \$400,000 in Capital Outlay to renovate and repair the Business Enterprise Center, including upgrades to the Norman & Vi Petty Rock 'n' Roll Museum, parking lot repairs, restroom improvements, and kitchen area upgrades.

Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority (ENMWUA)

The Chamber and CED strongly **support** the continued support and funding for the Water Trust Board and the endorsement of the 20/30/40 proposition of the Interim Groundwater Project. We encourage state legislature to continue their support of the ENMWUA, a regional water supply project in east-central NM.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The New Mexico SBDC is a viable economic partner for New Mexico businesses. Over the last 31 years, NMSBDC has faithfully served our state's entrepreneurs. The NMSBDC will continue to place fundamental focus on this important task and expand efforts in serving economic based businesses. The NMSBDC provides technical assistance in the form of one-on-one confidential business advising, seminars, workshops, resources, and referrals. The Chamber and CED **support** the continued quality services and related activities of the NMSBDC Network.

Clovis Municipal Schools

The Chamber and CED **support** sufficiently funding districts' ability to retain and compete for school personnel with other states in our region by maintaining and/or ensuring competitive salaries, as well as modifying the required sit-out period for ERB Return-to-Work requirements to no more than ninety-one (91) days – thereby enhancing tools for recruiting and retaining quality educational personnel.

We also **support** the request for district authority to design and deploy the instructional program as best meets the needs of the local community including, but not limited to, the school calendar, therefore assuring flexibility for local control and decision-making to align with each community's educational needs.

Our priority is meeting the needs of NM students via financial solvency by ensuring operational and transportation funding stability. We also **support** the request for adequate funding to provide for current programs, plus any new mandates or requirements. The Chamber and CED request that the Legislature protect reserves to help districts navigate unforeseen challenges.

Clovis Community College (CCC)

The Chamber and CED **support** CCC's funding requests for:

- Norman & Vi Petty Performing Arts Center improvements (for lighting, sound boards, etc.)
- Installation of a digital sign that will advertise the offerings of the college, as well as public service announcements (for bad weather, etc.) and community updates that align with the college's mission.
- Expanding CCC's welding program. In effort to reduce the waiting list (currently sitting at two years).
- A \$2 million match to expand the nursing, allied health building

The Chamber and CED also **support** CCC's effort to form partnerships that bring solutions to the licensed CDL driver shortage in the area.

Economic Development Incentives

The Chamber and CED **support** retaining all economic development incentives and **oppose** any legislative changes that would create a competitive disadvantage, as outlined by the NM Economic Development Department. New Mexico must maintain a competitive environment to attract new jobs and industry.

Cannon Air Force Base

The Chamber and CED **support** improving the military spouse licensure portability law. Our priority is improving quality of life for our military community as it relates to affordable housing, access to specialty medicine, education, economic growth, and spouse employment opportunities. The Chamber and CED **support** the legislative priorities as outlined by Cannon AFB leadership:

- Emphasis on public education and developing an engagement strategy with the state to address school grading criteria, impact aide distribution, military child identifier, etc. Cannon AFB would support increased funding or a statewide initiative to establish charter school options for NM Public Schools that service military installations.
- Environmental issues with emphasis on streamlining the permit review and approval process between federal and state agencies that have become unduly drawn-out in the wake of PFOS/PFOA. Cannon AFB's Waste Water Treatment Plant permit, which expired in April 2018 and for which NMED fined the base in Jan. 2020, was finally renewed in Dec. 2021.
- Renewable Energy: Cannon AFB supports legislative resolution to emphasize that protection of military airspace, training routes and training areas within the state should be factored into permitting decisions for wind turbine developments.
- Medical Capacity – Cannon AFB supports legislation that could make additional medical resources (especially adolescent behavioral health) available in New Mexico communities that service military installations.
- Economic Development with respect to quality of life and spouse employment. Leverage Clovis' gigabit internet capability to pursue a remote employment worksite hub. Also, Cannon AFB would like to engage legislature to take up making military retirement pay exempt from state income tax. Locally, we hire a number of civilians and contractors who are retired military and our ability to retain these individuals is adversely affected by state tax policy, especially when Texas and Florida do not tax military retirement pay. Cannon AFB supports the creation or employment of state tax incentives for business development in areas and communities near military bases to include tax policy as it relates to military retirement pay.

Outdoor Recreation

The Chamber and CED **support** the Outdoor Recreation Division that is growing rural economies

- \$2 million for outdoor infrastructure grants.
- \$250,000 for ORD marketing and one-time marketing materials.
- \$76,000 for one FTE to manage the Trails & Infrastructure program, now funded at \$7M.

New Mexico Department of Tourism and NM Film Office

The Chamber and CED **support** the continued funding of the New Mexico Department of Tourism, specifically the Cooperative Advertising Fund. The Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and CED also **support** legislative incentives and funding of the New Mexico Film Office.

New Mexico Partnership

The Chamber and CED **support** the continued funding of the NM Partnership with a budget amount of \$2 million. The Partnership has been instrumental in bringing a number of projects to Clovis including the SEI Call Center and a bio-diesel plant project that we hope will move forward soon.

Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP)

The Chamber and CED **support** the funding of the closing fund for economic development projects (LEDA) at \$50 million and the Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) at \$13 million.

Agriculture

The Chamber and CED **support** the amendments to exempt small businesses and place a cap on the new paid sick leave law in the Healthy Workplaces Act. We **oppose** legislation that would allow up to 12 weeks of family/medical paid leave. We **oppose** adjustments to the Clean Fuel Standards that would increase the required carbon reduction percentage and raise consumer gas prices. We **oppose** legislation to raise minimum wage to \$15 since it will impact small businesses. We **support** improvements of real infrastructure (primarily roads), water lines and utilities (broadband).

MainStreet

The Chamber and CED **support** increased investment for the New Mexico MainStreet program, which works throughout the State's downtown communities to create an economically feasible business environment through the preservation of historical and cultural locations. New Mexico's nationally recognized MainStreet program can revitalize districts in rural and urban communities across the state.

- \$10 million for New Mexico MainStreet Capital Outlay - Rural communities must often choose between essential and community services (health, well-being, education, and safety) vs. economic redevelopment – leveraging these state funds allows rural communities to achieve both.

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