

## **2011-2012 NMML LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The New Mexico Municipal League Board of Directors met October 1 to set legislative priorities for the 2012 30-day legislative session. The Board looked at the 46 Annual Resolutions and 2011 Statement of Municipal Policy adopted by the League's membership during the 2011 Annual Conference in August. Since the 2012 Legislature is a 30-day session and is restricted only to appropriations and finance issues, many of the Resolutions adopted this year would not be germane to the session unless they were added to the Governor's "call," which are issues she asks the Legislature to specifically address. Our main legislative priorities are as follows:

Retention of municipal revenues and maintaining local taxing authority are the League's main legislative priorities for the coming session. Local government financial conditions remain vulnerable and protecting revenue sources is of primary concern. Funding local government services takes an ever-increasing amount of ingenuity in light of the national and state economies. Preserving local governments' taxing authority is a key element in maintaining basic municipal services and funding governmental operations.

New Mexico public libraries provide books and other services to meet the educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs of all New Mexicans. Support for library funding has historically been a League priority, as it remains so this year. The League will support introduction of legislation to place a \$29.6 million General Obligation Bond before voters in the 2012 General Election to fund libraries statewide.

The Legislature in 2003 enacted the Convention Center Financing Act that allows certain municipalities to impose a fee on lodging rooms to finance convention centers. The League, as a priority, will seek legislation to amend the Act to allow any municipality, regardless of size, to enact such a fee to defray the cost of construction, expansion or operation of convention centers.

The League's third legislative priority concerns fireworks and their potential effects on public safety. During the recent Special Session, legislation was introduced that would give municipalities and counties the authority to ban fireworks during times of extreme drought. The League will support fireworks legislation if introduced again.

The League looks forward to working with the Legislature and the Governor during the 2012 legislative session.