



★ NEW MEXICO ★

PUTTING NEW MEXICANS *FIRST*

AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE

Why New Mexico Needs America First Policies

New Mexico, as its motto proclaims, is the “Land of Enchantment.” While certainly a reference to its geological beauty, the motto also speaks to the state’s culture and history. Just as New Mexico’s diverse landforms—including the Sangre De Cristo Mountains, Colorado Plateau, High Plains, and Chihuahuan Desert—combine to form a mosaic-like landscape, so the state’s diverse cultures continue to shape its complex and rich way of life.

The mosaic that is New Mexico has continued to evolve since statehood in 1912. The enduring influence of Hispanic and Native American heritages, the lore of the Wild, Wild West, and the legacy of 20th century scientific and military developments are just some of the threads woven into the state’s historical tapestry. These threads, however, are not just relics of the past. They echo in the traditions and demographics of the state today.

New Mexico’s modern identity is deeply rooted in its culture and history.

New Mexico is home to the highest percentage of Hispanics in the United States and the second-highest percentage of Native Americans. These communities play a central role in shaping the state’s culture, language, and values. For decades, these demographic groups were viewed as a reliable base of support for the political Left, often aligning with candidates and policies framed around social welfare and civil rights in addition to a robust political machine that, until 2012, allowed citizens to vote a straight party ticket for all partisan elections on their ballot.

However, the political landscape is changing. In the 2024 election, a noticeable shift occurred nationwide, and New Mexico was no exception. Hispanic and Native American voters began to move away from traditional support for the Left and toward political positions that promote greater economic opportunity, prioritize public safety, and secure our borders. This shift reflected a growing discontent with the failed and ineffective policies that the radical Left has championed for decades in the state.

Indeed, the rise of America First leadership appealed to many voters who feel that their values—faith, family, work ethic, and patriotism—have been overlooked or taken for granted. In communities with deep ties to land and tradition, there is growing concern about federal spending policies that have yielded decades-high inflation, increased crime, a weakened border, and disastrous education policies. These issues have struck a chord, resonating with voters looking for solutions that are pragmatic and consistent with their values.

Far-left radicals appear unwilling to allow the state’s political awakening to proceed without a fight. In March 2025, the Republican Party of New Mexico’s headquarters was targeted in an [arson attack](#), with the words “ICE = KKK” spray-painted on the building. Yet intimidation tactics do not lessen the desire that state residents have for secure borders and immigration enforcement. Indeed, New Mexicans witnessed the devastating consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration’s lax border policies firsthand: the rise in human trafficking, the deadly spread of fentanyl, and widespread cartel activity that threatens the health and safety of their neighborhoods.

Now is a perfect time for clear and assertive America First policies. While New Mexico remains a place of cultural and geographic richness, its political landscape is shifting. New Mexicans deserve policies that not only respect their state’s heritage and values but also seek to improve the quality of life for its people.

This is the mission and vision of the America First Policy Institute’s New Mexico State Chapter.

The America First Policy Institute’s state chapters are more than regional extensions; they are mission-driven hubs built to translate our national America First vision into real legislative wins, active policy engagement, and lasting cultural influence. The New Mexico state chapter is a bold, scalable, and innovative roadmap for launching and growing America First policies in the state. It is grounded in policy expertise, powered by citizen involvement, and focused on reshaping the state’s political landscape.

Launching a state chapter in New Mexico is about more than advancing policies—it’s about building power, engaging people, and establishing a lasting presence. By listening first, crafting smart policy solutions, recruiting courageous legislators, and showing up in every corner of the state, we’re doing more than influencing lawmakers—we’re building a movement. America First is not just a slogan; it’s a strategy to reclaim our institutions, revive civic courage, and return government to the hands of the people.

We base our work on the following policies:

Secure the BORDER and Defeat the Cartels

The Trump Administration has identified New Mexico as a critical front in its efforts to strengthen border security and support U.S. Border Patrol operations. In April 2025, the administration [transferred](#) a 170-square-mile stretch of federal land along the New Mexico-Mexico border to the U.S. Army, designating this area as a “National Defense Area.” To maximize the impact of these efforts, state and local law enforcement agencies in New Mexico should more actively collaborate with federal initiatives aimed at dismantling cartel networks and curbing illegal activity along the border. As part of this cooperation, these agencies should adopt policies that require informing federal authorities when individuals in the country illegally commit crimes and enter the state justice system.

Prioritize Parents’ Choice in EDUCATION

In February 2025, the National Assessment of Educational Progress released its public education rankings, placing New Mexico’s schools in [last place](#) among the rest of the states for the ninth year in a row. New Mexico must make public education reform a top priority to improve academic outcomes for K–12 students and restore local control over its schools. The state should pursue [legislative solutions](#) to establish Education Savings Account programs, using scholarship models or income-based eligibility to give families the opportunity to leave underperforming schools. Expanding the charter school system would not only increase school choice but also empower local districts to address the unique needs of their communities better.

Restore Equal JUSTICE and LAW and Order

To ensure public safety for New Mexico’s families, the state must take decisive action on multiple fronts. As of May 2025, New Mexico has some 25 “[sanctuary](#)” cities and counties. Eliminating these laws will help

keep foreign criminals out and make communities more secure. Closely related to addressing the illegal immigration crisis, the state can lead by cracking down on drug trafficking, which is essential to reducing organized crime and drug abuse. New Mexico must also aggressively combat and prosecute human trafficking to protect society’s most vulnerable.

Return to Patient-Centered HEALTHCARE

New Mexico must focus on improving the quality and affordability of the state’s healthcare system while maintaining fiscal responsibility. State lawmakers should take a cue from conversations on the federal level that seek to expose and eliminate Medicaid fraud and abuse and audit their own Medicaid rolls. The state should also enact tort reform for medical malpractice lawsuits—the rate of which in New Mexico is more than twice the national average, according to a February 2025 [study](#). Excessive judgments in the state have raised premiums for legally required malpractice insurance to unsustainable levels in New Mexico, with [some cases](#) being as high as 500%, and have led to a chronic [shortage](#) of physicians.

Focus on Rural Revitalization and Small Family FARMS

New Mexico has a strong agricultural heritage, and family farms are vital to the stability of the state’s local economies. The state should implement [policies](#) that reduce regulatory burdens, expand access to affordable water and land, and provide financial assistance and technical training to help these farms thrive. New Mexico must ensure that its rural communities remain vibrant, self-sufficient, and central to the state’s economic future.

For more information and policy recommendations, check out AFPI’s website today!

LEARN MORE

A Strategic Approach for New Mexico

To develop these strategies in New Mexico, AFPI-New Mexico brings key partners together who can help build out these policy prescriptions. New Mexico has a legacy of liberty and freedom-oriented thought-leaders, including academic institutions, think tanks, civic groups, and religious organizations. Many of these organizations can be counted on to help reverse the decline of this great state.

WE WILL BUILD THE **AMERICA FIRST** MOVEMENT FOR NEW MEXICO THROUGH:

Engagement

By connecting with New Mexico communities, we strengthen alliances and foster new relationships.

Policy Development

We are building out an agenda that develops New Mexico-specific policies and solutions, tapping into best practices from academic experts, policy practitioners, and other thought leaders.

Research Partnerships

By bringing together like-minded New Mexicans, we work as a force multiplier for each other's work so that our assets go even further.

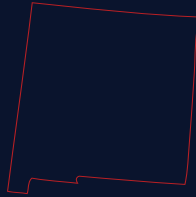
Events

By regularly convening speakers and meetings across New Mexico, we reinforce the message that there are still many hardworking, honest, and thoughtful New Mexicans who want to save their state.

By mobilizing these efforts, we are expanding upon the America First Agenda and addressing the needs of hardworking New Mexicans.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE, AND IT NEVER WILL BE TOO LATE.

For an in-depth understanding of our work, please visit
americafirstpolicy.com/state-chapter/america-first-new-mexico



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