



# **New Mexico Office of Lt. Governor Statutory Duties**

*As of April 18, 2016*

## **Summary**

The New Mexico lieutenant governor has ten (10) statutory duties. The lieutenant governor is designated to serve on seven boards, commissions, or councils covering issues from finance and community development to military bases and border authority. The lieutenant governor is named an ombudsman to the people and s/he is required to report his/her activities annually in a report to the governor. Statute also specifically empowers the lieutenant governor to serve on the governor's cabinet and requires the Attorney General and all state agencies to cooperate in the performance of office of lieutenant governor duties.

## **Citations**

Statutory duties of Lieutenant Governor as prescribed by New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA):

1. Serve as an ombudsman to the people
  - a. To "facilitate and promote the cooperation and understanding between the people of this state and the agencies of state government, by assisting them in their dealings with such agencies, and by assisting the agencies to explain their functions, duties and administrative procedures insofar as they affect the people of this state";
  - b. To "refer any complaints or special problems of the citizens of this state to the proper agency";
  - c. To "keep records of his activities and make an annual report to the governor"; and
  - d. To "perform any other duties that may from time to time be assigned him by the governor." (NMSA 8-3-1)
2. Serve as a Children's Cabinet member (NMSA 32A-22-2)
3. Serve as a State Board of Finance member (NMSA 6-1-1)
4. Serve as a Military Base Planning Commission member (NMSA 9-15-49)
5. Serve on the Community Development Council (NMSA 11-6-4)
6. Serve as an ex officio non voting member of the Border Authority (NMSA 58-27-4)
7. Serve as a Mortgage Finance Authority member (NMSA 58-18-4)
8. Serve as an ex officio non voting member of the Spaceport Authority (NMSA 58-31-4)
9. Serve as a statutory member of the governor's executive cabinet, specifically "There is created the "executive cabinet" headed by the governor and consisting of, but not limited to, the lieutenant governor, and the secretaries of such departments as are hereafter created and designated as "cabinet departments" pursuant to law." (NMSA 9-1-3)

10. Participate in at least four Youth Alliance meetings, specifically that the “Youth alliance coordinator ... organize alliance meetings, at least four of which shall include the lieutenant governor and the children's cabinet and at least two of which shall include the governor.” (NMSA 9-2A-22)
11. The attorney general shall provide, upon request, legal opinion and advice to the lieutenant governor. All state agencies shall cooperate with the lieutenant governor in the performance of his duties. (NMSA 8-3-2)

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