

## See Something, Do Something

By Ramona Goolsby

Government accountability is foundational to a functioning democratic republic. It ensures that public officials and institutions act in the best interests of the community they serve. As citizens, we have both the right and the responsibility to hold our government accountable. This duty extends beyond voting; it includes actively engaging with and monitoring governmental actions to ensure they meet legal and ethical standards.

When citizens observe misconduct, inefficiencies, or corruption, it is their civic duty to report these issues. Doing so not only helps prevent the erosion of trust in public institutions but also reinforces the integrity of our democratic systems. By speaking up, we contribute to a transparent, fair, and just society. Each report or complaint is a step toward more accountable governance, reminding those in power that they are ultimately answerable to the people they serve.

Therefore, it is crucial that we, as members of our community, remain vigilant and proactive. Whether it's through direct engagement, utilizing oversight mechanisms, or participating in public discourse, our active involvement is essential in shaping a government that truly represents and serves its citizens.

Here is a comprehensive list of New Mexico agencies where citizens can file complaints or seek assistance, along with a brief description of their jurisdictions:

1. **New Mexico Ethics Commission** - Handles complaints related to ethical violations by public officials and employees. <https://www.sec.nm.gov/>
2. **New Mexico Department of Justice** - Addresses legal complaints including consumer issues, civil rights, charity issues and internet crimes against children. <https://nmdoj.gov/>
3. **New Mexico Judicial Standards Commission** - Oversees the conduct of judges and ensures judicial accountability. <https://nmjsc.org/>
4. **New Mexico Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court**- The Disciplinary Board is responsible for handling complaints about attorney misconduct. <https://nmdisboard.org/for-the-public/search-attorney-or-discipline/>

5. **New Mexico Secretary of State Board of Election** - Handles issues related to electoral processes and voter rights. <https://www.sos.nm.gov/>
6. **New Mexico Office of the State Auditor's** - Investigates allegations of fraud, waste, or abuse within public resources. <https://www.osa.nm.gov/>
7. **New Mexico Human Rights Bureau** - Resolves complaints regarding discrimination in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations. <https://www.dws.state.nm.us/Labor-Relations/Human-Rights/Charge-Investigation-Process>
8. **New Mexico Ombudsman Program** - Assists with resolving complaints against long term care facilities and nursing homes. <https://aging.nm.gov/long-term-care/ombudsman>
9. **New Mexico Environment Department** - Handles complaints related to environmental policy violations. <https://www.env.nm.gov/>
10. **New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department** - Regulates and licenses various professions and industries, addressing complaints related to professional conduct and licensing issues. <https://www.rld.nm.gov/>

This list covers a wide array of jurisdictions, offering numerous avenues for ensuring government accountability in New Mexico.

It is up to each of us—if we see something, we must do something. If you have any questions or want more information, please contact me at [ramonaclawson@yahoo.com](mailto:ramonaclawson@yahoo.com) or phone: 903-246-1413.

(I am not an attorney, nor do I play one on TV; I am just a citizen like you).