

## MAYORS CAUCUS

*A Subsection of the New Mexico Municipal League*

March 11, 2017

Dear Senator:

The Mayors throughout the State are opposed to CS/HB 174. This Committee Substitute repeals our current "Municipal Election Code" and consolidates elections for municipalities, school districts, community college districts, arroyo flood control districts, soil and water conservation districts, water and sanitation districts, special hospital districts, technical and vocational institute districts, learning center districts, special zoning districts, watershed districts and conservancy districts.

Unlike all of these special district elections that are presently administered by the County Clerks, **Municipal Elections are not administered by County Clerks.** Our Municipal Clerks have been trained to administer our Municipal Elections under the Municipal Election Code. The Municipal Election Code has been amended from time-to-time to address issues that are unique to municipal elections and **are not addressed in the State Election Code nor included in CS/HB 174.**


This bill proposes County Clerks to administer all 106 Municipal Elections including Home Rule, Charter and Territorial Elections. Municipalities have Home Rule authority under Article X, Section 6 of the Constitution. Home Rule Charters are adopted by referendum vote of the citizens of the municipality and amendments are voted on by these citizens, thus circumventing the provisions of these Home Rule Charters. Article X, Section 6 E. of the New Mexico Constitution provides "for maximum local self-government. A liberal construction shall be given to the powers of municipalities." Additionally, Article IV, Section 24 of the New Mexico Constitution expressly prohibits the legislature from passing special laws concerning "...changing or amending the charter of any City, Town or Village; the opening or conducting of any election or designating the place of voting..."


The CS/HB 174 would not guarantee that the locations for filing declarations of candidacy and polling places for municipal elections would be located within the municipality.

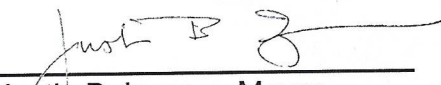
The Mayors Caucus stands in firm Opposition to CS/HB 174 and we would appreciate your vote to amend municipalities out of this proposed legislation or defeat this proposed Local Election Act.


Thank you,


Gregory D. Hull  
Chairman - Mayors Caucus  
Mayor - City of Rio Rancho

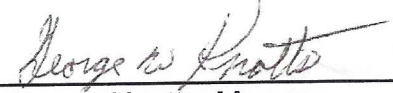
  
Linda Calhoun, Mayor  
Town of Red River

  
Richard J. Berry, Mayor  
City of Albuquerque


  
Justin B. Ingram, Mayor  
Village of Fort Sumner

  
Tommy Roberts, Mayor  
City of Farmington


  
Jackie McKinney, Mayor  
City of Gallup

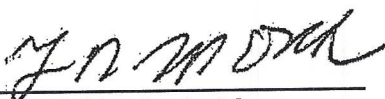
  
George Knotts, Mayor  
Village of Milan


  
Richard A. Cordova, Mayor  
Village of Eagle Nest


  
Dan L. Barrone, Mayor  
Town of Taos

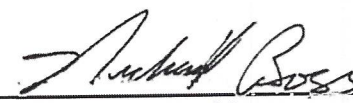
  
Jose A. Campos, Mayor  
City of Santa Rosa


  
Phil Burch, Mayor  
City of Artesia


  
Tuck N. Monk, Mayor  
Village of Melrose

  
Durward Dixon, Mayor  
Town of Elida

  
Sam D. Cobb, Mayor  
City of Hobbs

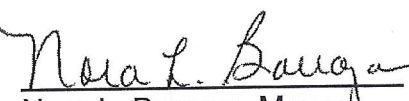
  
Richard Boss, Mayor  
City of Alamogordo

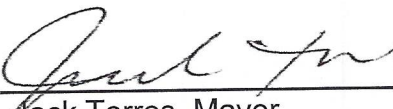
  
Dave C. Venable, Mayor  
Village of Cloudcroft

  
Tom Battin, Mayor  
Village of Ruidoso

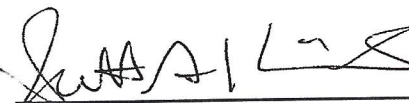
  
Diane Munilo-Trujillo, Mayor  
City of Anthony

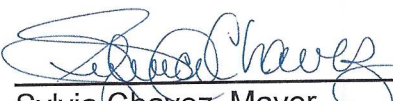
  
Ken Ladner, Mayor  
Town of Silver City

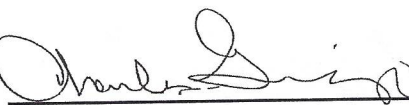
  
Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
Town of Mesilla

  
Jack Torres, Mayor  
Town of Bernalillo

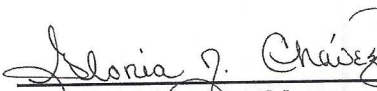
  
Jerah Cordova, Mayor  
City of Belen

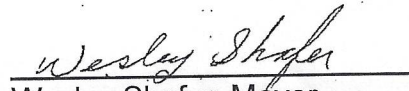
  
Scott A. Kominiak, Mayor  
Village of Corrales

  
Sylvia Chavez, Mayor  
Town of Estancia

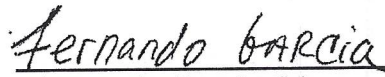
  
Charles Griego, Mayor  
Village of Los Lunas

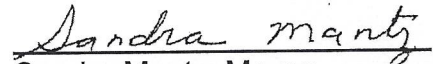
  
Ted A. Hart, Mayor  
City of Moriarty


  
Gloria J. Chavez, Mayor  
Village of Tijeras

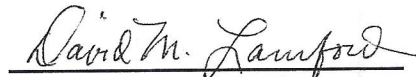
  
Wesley Shafer, Mayor  
Village of Grady

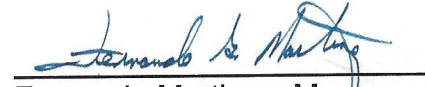
  
Barbara Cottam, Mayor  
Village of Angel Fire

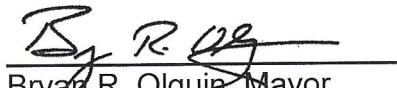
  
Fernando Garcia, Mayor  
Town of Springer

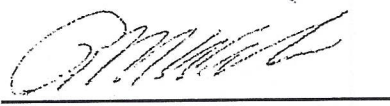
  
Sandra Mantz, Mayor  
City of Raton

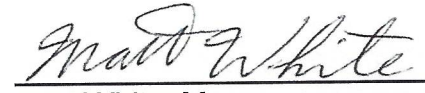
  
Saffy Burbridge, Mayor  
City of Aztec

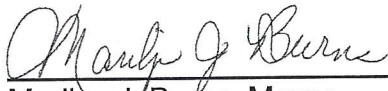
  
David M. Lansford, Mayor  
City of Clovis

  
Fernando Martinez, Mayor  
Town of Hurley

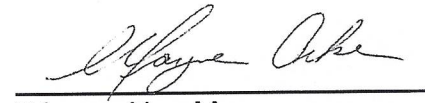
  
Bryan R. Olguin, Mayor  
Town of Peralta


  
Robert Wilson, Mayor  
Village of Jemez Springs

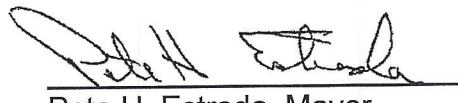
  
Matt White, Mayor  
City of Eunice

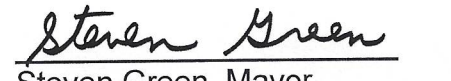
  
Marilyn J. Burns, Mayor  
Town of Tatum

  
Andy Nunez, Mayor  
Village of Hatch

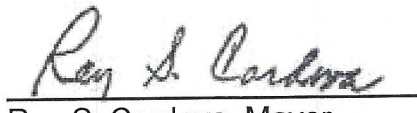
  
Wayne Ake, Mayor  
Village of Bosque Farms

  
Richard Rumpf, Mayor  
Village of Magdalena


  
Pete H. Estrada, Mayor  
Village of Loving


  
Steven Green, Mayor  
City of Truth or Consequences

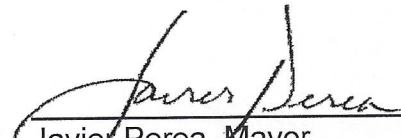
  
Mark Gallegos, Mayor  
Village of Questa

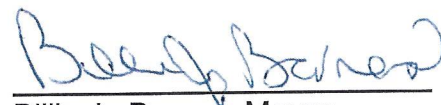
  
Ray S. Cordova, Mayor  
Village of Tularosa

  
Ron Russom, Mayor  
Village of Chama

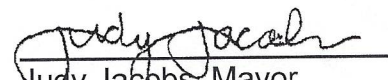
  
Cheryl Chance, Mayor  
City of Jal

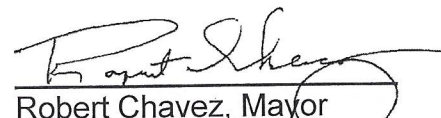
  
Neal King, Mayor  
Village of Taos Ski Valley

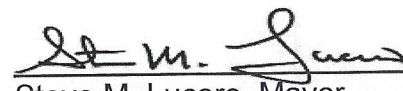
  
Javier Perea, Mayor  
City of Sunland Park

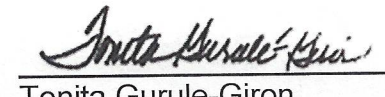
  
Billie Jo Barnes, Mayor  
Village of San Jon

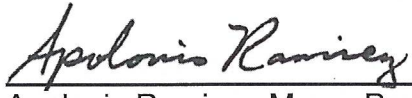
  
Dennis Kintigh, Mayor  
City of Roswell

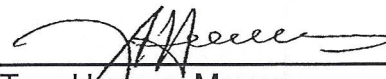
  
Judy Jacobs, Mayor  
Village of Grenville

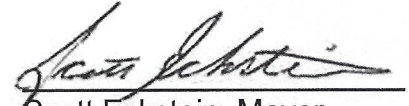
  
Robert Chavez, Mayor  
Village of Willard


  
Steve M. Lucero, Mayor  
Village of San Ysidro


  
Tonita Gurule-Giron  
City of Las Vegas


  
Apolonio Ramirez, Mayor Pro Tem  
Village of Logan

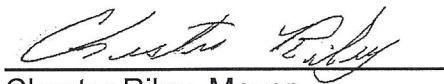
  
Tom Herrera, Mayor  
Village of Wagon Mound

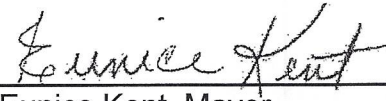
  
Scott Eckstein, Mayor  
City of Bloomfield

  
Mark Gwinn, Mayor  
City of Rio Communities


  
Dennis Haskell, Mayor  
Village of Capitan

  
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor  
City of Socorro

  
Chester Riley, Mayor  
Town of Mountainair

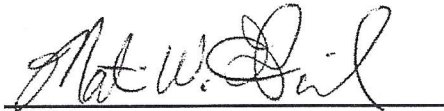
  
Eunice Kent, Mayor  
City of Elephant Butte

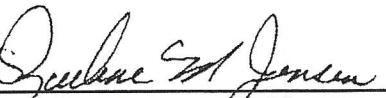
  
Richard Hyatt, Mayor  
Town of Carrizozo

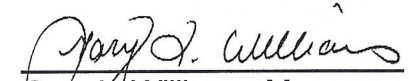
  
Dale Janway, Mayor  
City of Carlsbad

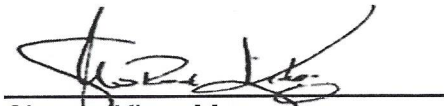
  
Benny Jasso, Mayo  
City of Deming

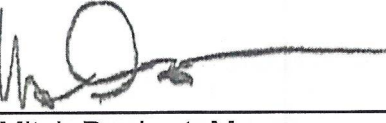
  
Mark Hatzenbuhler, Mayor  
Village of Cuba

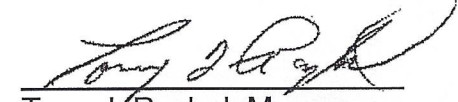
  
Martin W. Hicks, Mayor  
City of Grants

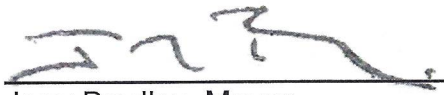
  
Rulene M. Jensen, Mayor  
Village of Virden

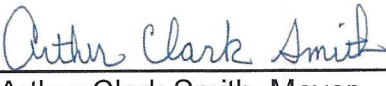
  
Gary D. Williams, Mayor  
Village of Ruidoso Downs

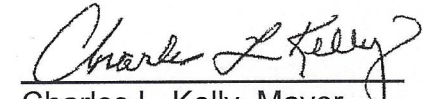
  
Sharon King, Mayor  
City of Portales

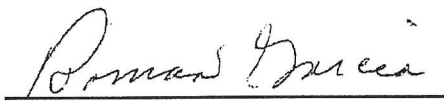
  
Mitch Daubert, Mayor  
Town of Dexter


  
Tony J. Roybal, Mayor  
Village of Pecos


  
Jerry Bradley, Mayor  
City of Texico

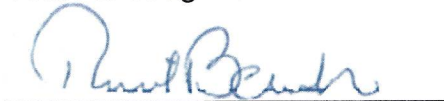
  
Arthur Clark Smith, Mayor  
City of Lordsburg

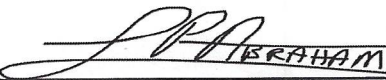
  
Charles L. Kelly, Mayor  
City of Bayard

  
Roman Garcia, Mayor  
Town of Vaughn

  
Deb Stubblefield, Mayor  
Village of Williamsburg

  
Alice A. Lucero, Mayor  
City of Espanola

  
Richard Bauch, Mayor  
Village of Santa Clara

  
Larry Abraham, Mayor  
Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque

Dear Mayors,

I want to take a moment of your time to personally thank you for your support in helping voice our concerns to the legislature over HB174 (Local Elections Act).

I am happy to report that our combined efforts and concerns yielded an amendment to the bill from Senator Ivey-Soto that allows municipalities to "Opt-Out" which preserves "maximum local governance". Although our goal was to stop the bill, being allowed to "Opt-Out" was a best compromise for us all.

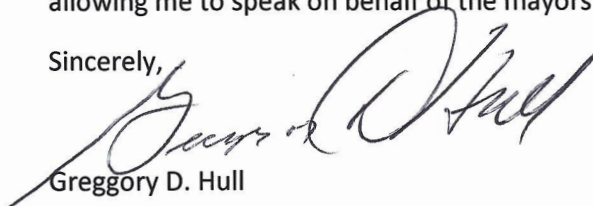
As you are all aware, the bill in its un-amended form sought to consolidate elections and force municipalities to surrender control of local elections to the county. The premise for the nearly 300 page bill is that it will reduce cost and improve voter turnout, ideals I greatly support but that could not be substantiated with data or financial reports that clearly delineated the actual charge or cost the individual municipalities.

The cities, towns and villages have managed their own elections with few issues and have employed non-partisan clerks that have been trained and are skilled in the process of running local elections. We must also commend our city clerks for standing with the mayors and councils of New Mexico in supporting the amendment to HB174.

Municipalities must be allowed to maintain "maximum local governance" and charter communities must have the confidence that their governing voter adopted rules must be allowed to stand.

Thank you again for helping me achieve this great victory for our communities and thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the mayors of New Mexico, I am humbled by your trust in me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory D. Hull", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Greggory D. Hull

Chairman – New Mexico Mayors Caucus