



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1967, New Mexico became the first state in the nation to enact the White Cane Law, setting a benchmark for accessibility and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, codified under 28-7-1 NMSA (1978), the White Cane Law underscores the State's steadfast dedication to empowering individuals who are blind or have low vision, enabling their full participation in the social, economic, and cultural life of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the law affirms that individuals who are blind or have low vision hold the same rights as all citizens, ensuring their unrestricted access to streets, highways, sidewalks, public buildings, and all public spaces throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, it guarantees equitable access to transportation, accommodations, and services including common carriers, hotels, places of public accommodation, and all public venues; and

WHEREAS, all motorists are mandated to exercise the utmost caution to prevent harm to pedestrians using a white cane or accompanied by a guide dog, reinforcing our collective responsibility for safety and respect; and

WHEREAS, the White Cane Law symbolizes more than a mobility aid it stands for safety, independence, dignity, and the immeasurable contributions of individuals with disabilities to our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides critical services such as independent living training, orientation, white cane travel instruction, Braille education, assistive technology, and vocational rehabilitation empowering New Mexicans who are blind or have low vision to live independently, thrive in employment, and fully engage in community life; and

WHEREAS, by promoting awareness of the White Cane Law and the services it inspires, we help cultivate a more inclusive, supportive environment enriching lives, fostering innovation, and strengthening New Mexico's diverse economy.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October 15th, 2026, as:

"White Cane Awareness Day"

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
16th day of September 2026.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

