

Welcome to The New Mexico Independent's live blog FAQ

Live-blogging is a relatively new tool in news gatherers' kit and we're still figuring out how to use it most effectively. In the meantime, here are the answers to some frequently asked questions:

1. Why do I hear an echo?
2. Why is my video/audio frozen/choppy/not working?
3. Is this a chat room?
4. Why are my comments not showing up?
5. Do you really moderate EACH comment?
6. How do I stop the scrolling?
7. How do I mute those weird typing sounds?
8. What happened in the last hour? Can you fill me in?
9. Is this live blog liberal or conservative?
10. Who is the New Mexico Independent?
11. Whose video/audio feed is this?
12. Why do some people post in bold font?

1. Why do I hear an echo?

If you have two video or audio windows open at once, you'll hear an echo. Close one of the windows and it will go away.

2. My video/audio is frozen/choppy/not working.

Try refreshing, then trying turning the video player on and off. Often, workplaces may block video or limit bandwidth.

3. Is this a chat room?

It's a live blog, which is a bit different. We focus on substantive, on-topic commentary as opposed to the free-flowing style of a chat room.

4. Why are my comments not showing up?

Comments are individually moderated, which means your comment won't be published right away. Your comment will always be published if it's on-topic, respectful and substantive. Here's when we might not moderate your comment:

1. If it's disrespectful or offensive. This means no racist, sexist, homophobic, offensive, etc. language, but also no name-calling ("That guy is a moron!"). There are plenty of places on the internet where you can call someone a moron or use Ad hominem attacks. This isn't one of them.
2. If it's incredibly off-topic. In slow periods, off-topic comments will sometimes be allowed, but when there's heavy traffic, those will be skipped over. This includes jokes, even if they're funny! In REALLY heavy traffic, less

- substantive on-topic comments may be skipped over to keep up with the comments. (Ex: "This is awesome, guys!")
3. And though they may be technically on-topic, comments about other news or politics may not be published if the blog is going quickly.
 4. If you're baiting, or insulting other commentators. (Example: "You Republicans are all the same. You always say x y z.")
 5. If you're impersonating someone. (Attn. Karl Rove: When and if you decide to join one of our live blogs, send us an e-mail and we'll approve you. Until then, no Karl Roves in our live blog.) We politely request (but cannot, obviously, require) that you post under your own full name.
 6. Comments about moderation. (Example: "Why aren't my comments publishing? Can you read this comment? Is this showing up?") If you're not sure why your comment wasn't published, feel free to ask. If possible, we'll get back to you through a private message.
 7. The fine print: When comments get fast and furious, comments not normally approved might be approved by accident. Account for human error. Also, there are often different people moderating the live blog, so the consistency on what's allowed in vs. what's not may vary.

5. Do you really moderate EACH comment?

Yes. And sometimes there's dozens of comments in 10 seconds, so the comment queue can get backed up 2-4 minutes.

6. How do I stop the scrolling?

Click on the small, white, round button at the bottom of your chat box.

7. How do I mute those weird typing sounds?

Click on the button to the left of the scroll button.

8. What happened in the last hour? Can you fill me in?

Before you ask that question, be sure to scroll up in the live blog, and see if you can pick up what you missed. Also, click the Summary Blog link directly under the chat box.

9. Is this live blog liberal or conservative?

Neither. Some people who join our live blogs are liberal. Some are conservative. Some need a paragraph, not a word, to define their political beliefs. But the bottom line is that The New Mexico Independent is a non-partisan organization. End of story.

10. Who is the New Mexico Independent?

The New Mexico Independent is a fleet-footed webpaper of politics and policy. We

are the ink-stained wretches of the digital era. We aim for snap-crackle-pop reporting in our articles and blog posts – all working together to tell a bigger story. We provide thought-provoking commentary from insightful experts. We write to record scenes from the passing show, to stir things up and to keep those in power honest. We seek to explore and define the Land of Enchantment and the context for our times. The New Mexico Independent belongs to a network of state-based online news sites founded by the non-profit [Center for Independent Media](#) . We often co-host live blogs with other media outlets including the [Santa Fe Reporter](#) and its blog, [SFReeper.com](#).

11. Whose video/audio feed is this?

NMI reporters and contributors usually take turns webcasting, but occasionally we use the video stream of another news organization, or live blog to events on national television or radio.

12. Why do some people post in bold font?

Those posting in bold are New Mexico Independent reporters, staff from the Center for Independent Media, colleagues from other media outlets and approved panelists. Approved panelists are guests who have been invited to join us. In the past, panelists have included legislators, spokespersons for relevant organizations and members of other news outlets.

[New Mexico Independent reporters](#) you'll often see on the blog: Gwyneth Doland, Heath Haussamen, Trip Jennings, Marjorie Childress, Matthew Reichbach and David Alire Garcia. Their names are usually followed by our initials in parentheses (NMI). Likewise, you may also see reporters from the Santa Fe Reporter posting with (SFR) after their names.