

A COMMUNITY VISION AND ASSESSMENT ROSWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY 2026

Overview

The Roswell Public Library, located in the City of Roswell New Mexico, serves the people of Roswell and Chaves County. As the City of Roswell is located in Chaves County, this document's focus is Chaves County, which sprawls from a highly populated urban area to small towns and from irrigated farmland to dairy farms to rangeland.¹

Vision Statement for Chaves County

The Chaves County government will strive to provide our citizens with an efficient and responsive government which meets the needs of our citizens while being good stewards of the monies we have been entrusted.

Community Assessment

1. Population

There are an estimated 65,645 people living in Chaves County on April 1, 2020. Of those 65,645 people, 48,366 live within the City of Roswell.²

Over the next decade, New Mexico will likely see overall declines, particularly among younger and rural populations.³

The University of New Mexico Population Research Unit predicts a decline in the population in Chaves County over the next 20 years with the population:

- 64,016 in 2025
- 63,132 in 2030
- 61,960 in 2035
- 60,586 in 2040⁴

Yet according to the 2026 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Roswell "Roswell's population has remained relatively stable over the past two decades, following a period of significant growth in the mid-20th century. ...The city's population was approximately 13,482 in 1940 and nearly doubled to 25,738 in 1950. By 1960 it surged again to 39,593 before declining slightly in 1970.

¹ Roswell-Chaves County Economic Development Corporation (key Industries)
https://www.chavescounty.net/?page_id=53

² U.S. Census <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/chavescountynewmexico/PST04522>

³ Bryan, S. M. (2021, April 26). 'Census: New Mexico among slowest growing states.' Associated Press.
<https://apnews.com/article/nm-state-wire-new-mexico-census-2020-government-and-politics-247b33f2fd910d9e689de28a7b288807>

⁴ The University of New Mexico Geospatial and Population Studies 'Population Projections'
<https://gps.unm.edu>

Since then growth has been moderate with the city reaching its highest recorded population of 48,422 in 2020, according to the U.S. Census. Although this figure represents a historical high, the rate of increase has slowed in recent years. The city's recent trend reflects long-term stabilization rather than rapid expansion.

To better understand future growth potential, two population projection scenarios have been developed.

The Baseline Growth Rate (0.068%) reflects the average growth observed from 2010 to 2023

The Optimistic Growth Rate (0.75%) assumes accelerated growth based on planned public and private investments that could stimulate in-migration and economic expansion.

Roswell Population Projections (2030-2050)

Year	Baseline Growth Rate (0.068%)	Optimistic Growth Rate (0.75%)
2030	48,051	50,391
2040	48,379	54,300
2050	48,709	58,513

The Roswell Population Projections (2030-2050) table shows that under the baseline scenario, Roswell is projected to grow modestly to approximately 48,709 by 2050. Under the optimistic scenario the population could reach 58,513 in the same timeframe.

These projections provide a planning framework to evaluate the city's long-term needs for infrastructure, housing, public service, and economic development.

Regardless of the growth rate realized, continued coordination across departments will be essential to maintain quality of life and support future residents.”⁵

⁵ 2026 Comprehensive master plan for the City of Roswell, New Mexico: Propel Roswell prepared for the City of Roswell by able.city

2. People living in Chaves County

Age	2018 ⁶	2020 ⁷	2025 estimated
Less than 5 years old	4,477	4,344	No data provided
5-14	9,909	9,606	No data provided
15-19	9,686	5,319	No data provided
20-24	4,414	4,226	No data provided
25-65	31,339	31,183	No data provided
65 and older	10,048	10,234	No data provided

Again quoting from the 2026 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Roswell “Understanding Roswell’s current population structure provides insight into both emerging opportunities and future planning needs. ...Roswell maintains a relatively balanced age structure, with a strong presence of residents between the ages of 25 and 54, which represents the core working-age population. This demographic advantage positions the city to support continued labor force participation and economic activity. Compared to the State of New Mexico, where rural communities typically have a higher percentage of residents ages 65 and older. Roswell has a broader base of younger and middle-aged adults. ...[Roswell has] an evenly distributed youth population, with residents under the age of 19 making up a substantial portion of the community. This suggests that many adults in the 25-54 range are parents raising school-aged children, further emphasizing the need for continued investment in public education, recreational amenities and family-supportive infrastructure. At the same time, Roswell’s population is gradually aging. The proportion of residents ages 65 and older continues to grow, mirroring broader state and national trends. The shift underscores the importance of planning for age-friendly housing, accessible healthcare, and reliable transportation options to meet the evolving needs of older adults.”⁸

3. Households in Chaves County

In 2016-2020, there were 23,641 households in Chaves County, New Mexico. The average household size was 2.65 people.

Married-couple households made up 45.0 percent of the households...while cohabiting couple households made up 5.7 percent of households. Female householders with no spouse or partner present were 29.8 percent of all households, while 19.5 percent of households were male householders with no

⁶ American Community Survey

2018 https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?tid=ACSDP5Y2018.DP05&g=0400000US35_0500000US35005

⁷ American Community Survey

2020 https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP05&g=0400000US35_0500000US35005

⁸ 2026 Comprehensive master plan for the City of Roswell, New Mexico: Propel Roswell prepared for the City of Roswell by able.city

spouse or partner present. Of people living alone, 14.0 percent were male householders, and 15.8 percent were female householders, for a total of 29.8 percent of all households.

...35.4 percent of all households have one or more people under the age of 18; 31.5 percent of all households have one or more people 65 years and over.

...1,876 grandparents lived with their grandchildren under 18 years old. Of those grandparents, 40.9 percent were responsible for the basic needs of their grandchildren.

Taken from American Community Survey (ACS) for Chaves County New Mexico 2016-2020 ASC 5-year Narrative Profile.⁹

Households in Chaves County

2018 ¹⁰	23,169
2020 ¹¹	23,641
2025	No data

4. Languages Spoken At Home

Among people at least five years old living in Chaves County... 34.0 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Spanish was spoken by 32.2 percent of people at least five years old; 10.2 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."¹²

5. Ethnic Groups

For people reporting one race alone,

- 80.6 percent were White;
- 1.6 percent were Black or African American;
- 1.6 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native;
- 1.0 percent were Asian;
- 0.0 percent were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander,
- 7.6 percent were some other race.

An estimated 7.6 percent reported two or more races

- An estimated 57.6 percent of the people in Chaves County are Hispanic or Latino.

⁹ American Community Survey (Household and Families) <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

¹⁰ American Community Survey (Household and Families) <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2018/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

¹¹ American Community Survey (Households and Families) <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

¹² American Community Survey (language) <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

- An estimated 38.1 percent of the people in Chaves County are White alone, non-Hispanic.
- People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Taken from American Community Survey (ACS) for Chaves County New Mexico 2016-2020 ASC 5-year Narrative Profile.¹³

The 2026 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Roswell states

“Roswell’s demographic profile emphasizes the need for inclusive planning approaches that reflect the city’s multicultural populations. Strategies that prioritize equity, language access, and cultural representation will be crucial in ensuring civic engagement and access to opportunities for all residents. In addition to long-standing community demographics, institutions such as the New Mexico Military Institute, Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, and local medical facilities contribute to the city’s diversity through faculty, staff, students, cadets, and professionals from across the country and abroad.”¹⁴

6. Major Industries

The Roswell Air Center (RAC) is located five miles south of the central business district of the City of Roswell and is the core of southeastern New Mexico’s industrial activity. There you will find the largest used plane parking lot in the world. Various industries are located at Roswell Air Center, including those that store, refurbish, and dismantle airliners. The Airport also has commercial service. In 2025 the National Championship Air Races moved to Roswell.

Leprino Foods Company is the world's largest mozzarella cheese maker and top producer of whey protein and dairy ingredients, supplying companies around the globe. The plant, located in Roswell, employing nearly 600 people and is a key player in the local dairy industry.

Bultwise Structures provides high-quality, private label, off-site modular housing production to regional builders and developers for their ongoing housing products designs and developments.

Red Mountain Arsenal, located in Roswell, is the State of New Mexico's only manufacturer of military-grade small-caliber ammunition for military and law enforcement agencies in both the domestic and international markets.

EquipmentShare, currently building a site in Roswell is a leader in connected jobsite technology and one of the largest equipment rental providers in the United States

¹³ American Community Survey (Hispanic origin and Race) <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

¹⁴ 2026 Comprehensive master plan for the City of Roswell, New Mexico: Propel Roswell prepared for the City of Roswell by able.city

The Chaves County agriculture community varies widely, has many different situations, and challenges... Chaves County still leads the state in hay production and number of dairy cows, with many other crops and livestock produced. Water continues to play a very important role in our agriculture production.

Chaves County led the state with 75,950 milk cows, resulting in over \$338 million in cash receipts from milk for the year. Livestock production resulted in over \$558 million in cash receipts. Chaves County ranked #1 in corn silage production with 391,000 tons and produced 391,000 tons of top quality alfalfa. In 2015, the local pecan industry produced 7.1 million pounds of pecans.

Chaves County is home to USA Beef Packing, a family owned and operated meat-processing plant, [in Roswell], USA Beef is a BRCGS Certified Facility, which processes beef and bison.

Taken from Roswell-Chaves County Economic Development Corporation.¹⁵

9. **Percentage of Residents who are Unemployed**

54.5 percent of the population 16 and over were employed and 42.4 percent were not currently in the labor force.¹⁶

10. **Median Family Income**

The median income of households was \$46,254. An estimated 7.9 percent of households had income below \$10,000 a year and 2.5 percent had income over \$200,000 or more.¹⁷

11. **Percent of the families income that are below the poverty line**

In 2016-2020, 19.4 percent of people were in poverty. An estimated 26.5 percent of children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 15.5 percent of people 65 years old and over. An estimated 17.2 percent of people 18 to 64 years were below the poverty level.¹⁸

12. **Does the Population Change Widely During Different Seasons?**

No, but we are affected by the number of people working in the Oil and Gas industry as many people stay in the hotels in the area and commute to work.

¹⁵ Roswell-Chaves County Economic Development Corporation (key Industries)
https://www.chavescounty.net/?page_id=53

¹⁶ American Community Survey (Employment Status and Type of Employer)
<https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

¹⁷ American Community Survey (Income) <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

¹⁸ American Community Survey (Poverty and Participation in Government Programs)
<https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

13. Where People Get Their Information

Information Source	Available Locally	How Many
Local Newspapers	1	Roswell Daily Record
Local Radio Stations	2	Pecos Valley Broadcasting Majesty Radio
Local Television Stations	0	0
Bookstores	2	Books Again Happy Jacks Trading Post
Video Stores	0 but we do have several Redbox	
Music Stores	0	
Local Community Access Cable	0	
Internet Service Providers (ISPs)	7	Plateau, Sparklight Local Net Qwest/Century Link Southwest Wireless Straight Shot Wireless Sky View Satellite, Inc.
Other (community organizations, etc.)		Social media

Hispanic Target Media Radio Amigo 96.1 FM offers information in Spanish

14. Other Libraries in Chaves County

Check	Type of Library	How Many
X	Elementary School	Estimate 19 see school list
X	Junior High/Middle School	Estimate 13 see school list
X	High School	Estimate 8 see school list
	Vocational Technical	0
	Community College	0
X	Junior College	New Mexico Military Institute
X	College or University	Eastern New Mexico University- Roswell
	Hospital/Medical	0
	Law	0
X	Special	New Mexico Energy Library, Inc.,
X	Other	UFO Museum Research Center

15. Public and Private Schools

The total school enrollment in Chaves County, New Mexico was 17,240 in 2016-2020.

- Nursery school enrollment was 1,325.
- Kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment was 12,631.
- College or graduate school enrollment was 3,284.¹⁹

16. Home Schooling

We estimated 511 home school families in Chaves County, which is equal to the number of members of the Roswell NM Homeschool Group.

17. Education Level of those 25 Years and Older

- 79.4 percent had at least graduated from high school.
- 17.7 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.
- An estimated 20.6 percent did not complete high school.²⁰

¹⁹ American Community Survey (Education) <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

²⁰ American Community Survey (Education) <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>

Type of School	Public	Private
Preschools	Parkview Early Literacy Center Southeastern New Mexico Community Action Corporation (SNMCAC)	Gateway Christian School
Elementary Schools	Berrendo Elementary Del Norte Elementary East Grant Plains Elementary El Capitan Elementary Military Heights Elementary Monterrey Elementary Nancy Lopez Elementary Pecos Elementary Sunset Elementary Valley View Elementary Washington Elementary Dexter Elementary School Hagerman Elementary School Lake Arthur Municipal Schools Sidney Gutierrez Elementary School	All Saints Catholic School Gateway Christian School Lighthouse Academy Roswell Baptist Academy
Middle/Junior High Schools	Berrendo Middle School Mesa Middle School Mountain View Middle School Sierra Middle School Dexter Middle School Hagerman Middle School Lake Arthur Municipal Schools Sidney Gutierrez Middle School New Mexico Military Institute	All Saints Catholic School, Gateway Christian School, Lighthouse Academy Roswell Baptist Academy
High Schools	Early College High School Dexter High School Goddard High School Hagerman High School Lake Arthur Municipal Schools Roswell High School University High School New Mexico Military Institute	Gateway Christian School Lighthouse Academy
Vocational/technical		
Community Colleges		
Junior College	New Mexico Military Institute	
Colleges/Universities	Eastern New Mexico University- Roswell	

18. Social Service Providers

Service	Number
3 - Nursing homes (extended care)	Mission Arch Center Casa Maria Health Care Center Sunset Villa Care Center
4 - Adult Day-Care Centers	Midway J.O.Y. Center Roswell J.O.Y. Center Hagerman/Dexter J.O.Y. Center Roswell Adult Center Tobosa Developmental Services
8 - Child Day-care centers	See list on NewMexicokids.org
Shelters/Halfway Houses/Drug Treatment Centers	Assurance Home Inc. Roswell Homeless Coalition ²¹ Roswell Refuge ²² Rivers on Life
Youth and Recreation Centers	New Mexico National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Academy
Others ** Early Childhood Special Services	Brighter Strides ABA ^{**23} Chaves County CASA Program Choice Center for Independent Living Inc. Community Kitchen Esperanza House Habitat for Humanity International Inc. Harvest Ministries of Roswell Juvenile Detention Center Lend-A-Hand of Roswell Inc. Let's Pay It Forward Project Meca Therapies ^{**24} Serenity Club Incorporated Tobosa Developmental Services ^{**25} UNM ECSC Toy Lending and Resource Library ²⁶ Ukombozi

²¹ Roswell Homeless Coalition <https://www.roswellhomelesscoalition.com/>

²² Roswell Refuge <http://www.roswellrefuge.org/>

²³ Brighter Strides <https://www.brighterstridesaba.com>

²⁴ Meca Therapies <https://www.mecatherapies.com>

²⁵ Tobosa Developmental Services <https://www.Tobosa.org>

²⁶ UNM ECSC Toy Lending and Resource Library <https://www.newmexicokids.org/toy/>

20. List and Types of Organizations ²⁷

Organization Type	Number in Community
Foundations Friends Groups Endowments	Armstrong-Clark Foundation Basta NM Foundation Charles F and Jessica Moore Headens Scholarship Chaves County Community Foundation Chaves County Retired Senior Volunteers Foundation Endowment Trust Conner Christian Scholarship Foundation Friends of the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge Inc. Friends of the Roswell Animals Inc. Friends of the Roswell Public Library Southeastern New Gus Winter Roswell Rotary Foundation Inc. Historical Foundation for Southeast New Mexico Mexico Down Syndrome Foundation New Mexico Youth Challenge Foundation Paul McCutchen Foundation Presbyterian Church of Roswell New Mexico Foundation Rolla R Hinkle Iii Foundation Roswell Library Foundation Roswell Masonic Foundation Roswell Museum and Art Center Foundation Spring River Corridor Foundation St Andrews Church Foundation Inc. Toles Foundation United Way of Chaves County Foundation Zia Girl Scouts Foundation
Religious	Adventure Bible Church Atkinson Bible Church Berrendo Baptist Church Bykota Baptist Church Christian Outreach Ministries of Roswell Community of Poor Clares of New Mexico El Calvario Baptist Church First Baptist Church Grace Community Church Gateway Church Hope Family Church of God Lighthouse Ministries Midway Assembly of God Church New Mexico District Church of the Nazarene

²⁷ GreatNonprofits <https://greatnonprofits.org/>

Religious	OPSW Ministries Reflection Ministries Roswell Christian Center Roswell Faith Center Roswell Foursquare Church Russian Orthodox Church of America Senior Saviors Inc. St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran Church Valley Christian Center Church Victory Chapel Ministries Ware Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church of Roswell NM
Sports	Amateur Athletic Union of the United States Chaparral Skeet Club Chaves County Rodeo Association Eastern New Mexico Senior Gold Association Elite Gymnastics Academy Booster Club First Tee of the Pecos Valley Inc. Goddard Girls Basketball Inc. Goddard High School Football Booster Club GRV Inc. Mexico Senior Olympics Inc. Parent Booster Club Roswell Girls Basketball Booster Roswell Girls Softball Roswell Invasion Wrestling Club Roswell Volleyball Inc. Pecos Valley Gun Club United State Bowling Congress Inc.
Arts	Hpad Dance Team Booster Neverland Theatre Company Pecos Valley Jazz and Art Festival Pecos Valley Quilters Roswell Area Arts Council Roswell Symphony Orchestra S.O.Y. Marichi Young Professionals for the Arts Collective Way Way Off-Broadway Theatre Company
Health	Arc of Roswell Berrendo Co-operative Water Users Association Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern New Mexico Chaves County Cancer Fund, Inc. Chaves County Off Road Search and Rescue Embrace Inc. Emergency Nurses Association

Health	New Mexico Alzheimer's Association Roswell Wings for Life (WFL) Tops Club United Way of Chaves County
Clubs	Altrusta International of Roswell American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees American Legion Auxiliary American Legion Post 61 Benevolent & protective Order of Elks Boy Scouts of America Fraternal Order of Police Pecos Lodge Historical Society For Southeast New Mexico Knights of Columbus National Air Traffic Controllers Association National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution New Mexico Garden Clubs Inc. Optimist International Pecos Valley Amateur Radio Club Order of the Eastern Star of New Mexico Grant Chapter Pecos Valley Chapter Military Officers Association of America P.E.O. Roswell Sertoma Club Inc. Roswell Woman's Club Rotary International United Grand Imperial Council Knights of Red Cross of Constantine United Way of Chaves County
Education	Character Counts in Chaves County Cmsa Scholarship Fund Inc. Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Del Norte PTO Global Intercultural Resources National Education Association of New Mexico Inc. PTA New Mexico Congress Roswell Literacy Council Laubach Method Inc.
Animals	Chaves County Farm and Livestock Bureau Inc. Eastern New Mexico State Fair Board Inc. Ranger Legacy Equine Rescue Roswell Humane Society Incorporated
Business	Roswell Chamber of Commerce Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District

Taken from <https://greatnonprofits.org/>

21. Computer and Internet Use

In 2014-2018, 81.7 percent of households in Chaves County, New Mexico had a computer, and 69.7 percent had a broadband internet subscription.

An estimated 66.6 percent of households had a desktop or laptop, 66.8 percent had a smartphone, 50.3 percent had a tablet or other portable wireless computer, and 5.3 percent had some other computer.

Among all households, 43.7 percent had a cellular data plan; 50.5 percent had a broadband subscription such as cable, fiber optic, or DSL; 8.8 percent had a satellite internet subscription; 0.7 percent had dial-up alone; and 0.3 percent had some other service alone.²⁸

²⁸ American Community Survey (Computer and Internet Use)
<https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2020/report.php?geotype=county&state=35&county=005>