



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

2021 Legislative & Policy Positions

- **Governmental Balance and Power to the People:** Our state government must correct the imbalances in power between branches. State elected officials should assure that there is a reasonable balance of power and that the Governor cannot self-initiate extension of powers granted by the legislature without its approval. At the federal level, New Mexico should support a Convention of States to reduce the federal government's control, require a balanced budget and implement Congressional term limits.
- **Coronavirus Economic Recovery and the State Budget:** New Mexico needs: a) A budget that provides for the state's needs (public safety, education, roads and other infrastructure, etc.) based on reasonable projections of predictably recurring revenue which should be based on an equitable distribution; b) A fiscally sound, transparent, and equitable pandemic recovery plan that provides for the immediate safe opening of all businesses to a capacity that allows New Mexicans to provide for their families.
- **Tax code:** Smart tax management means more state revenue. The tax code should be rewritten to replace Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) with a straight sales tax and eliminate the numerous special interest tax incentives. A clean, broad based and fair tax code will promote business growth, employment opportunities and stabilize state revenue while making NM more competitive.
- **Employment Laws:** Increased mandated wages and benefits result in forced inflation, reduced hours for workers and fewer jobs for New Mexicans. Free market competition is what improves worker conditions and allows businesses to thrive and grow while creating new employment opportunities. Each time our base wages and mandated benefits are artificially inflated, it makes New Mexico less competitive on a global scale.
- **Economic incentives:** Invest in job preservation and creation that benefits New Mexico and its businesses. Incentives should focus on helping existing businesses survive the overly strict Governor-mandated Covid lockdown requirements. Rather than offering money to out-of-state companies, those funds should be used to support New Mexico businesses with such things as reduced or forgiven income or property taxes, grants, etc.

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- **Public safety:** Safety breeds prosperity. New Mexico's criminal code and judicial system must be strengthened to: a) Stop 'catch and release' policies that enable repeat offenders; b) Stop the practice of providing sanctuary for those who are living in New Mexico illegally and committing crimes; c) Review all laws to determine if they are necessary, functioning as intended, or if they unnecessarily infringe upon basic rights; d) Increase enforcement of all laws deemed appropriate after review. New Mexicans deserve to feel safe in their communities.
- **Energy:** Balance our needs and goals with real world conditions. As we work to meet the requirements of the Energy Transition Act (ETA), our lawmakers must craft common sense legislation that acknowledges the following realities of our situation: a) The value that fossil fuels provide to our state budget, educational system, and employment; b) Our ability to effectively manage our land to allow extractive and other industries to revitalize production, job creation, energy, and budget support for our state; c) Provision for nuclear or gas electricity production to supplement renewable energy which currently lacks adequate, cost effective storage, and requires the need for reliable, abundant and on demand power as a backup for our homes and businesses.
- **Manufacturing and Workforce Development:** Our educational achievement ratings are dismal; we must completely revamp our educational system based on proven models from other states. We need to provide manufacturing and other technical training opportunities in New Mexico's schools. Our children deserve a quality education, including technical and trade related options, as well as new job opportunities that encourage them to stay in our state. The best way to help New Mexico's low income families improve their financial security is to provide a solid education with effective workforce and job skills training for those not college bound.
- **Regulatory burdens:** Reduce the impact of unnecessary regulation that stifles New Mexico's potential. While sound regulation is necessary, New Mexico's over regulation and enforcement has been an impediment to business creation and growth without accomplishing desired results. This includes Executive branch authority which must have legislative oversight. New and existing regulations should be reviewed to determine: 1) Is it necessary? 2) Can implementation be streamlined? and 3) Is it contradictory or duplicative of other regulations?
- **Permanent fund:** Permanent Fund depletion will hurt the future of New Mexico's children. The Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF) is New Mexico's education endowment fund. Left alone (at the current 5% allocation rate), the LGPF will soon provide \$1 billion dollars annually for education. Increasing the current distribution rate jeopardizes future distributions and, historically, increased funding has not improved educational outcomes.