

*“Good News & Bad News...which do you want first?” January 31, 2023*



We are two weeks into the Legislative Session and several bills are moving through the process that would not help our state if passed.

**Here are a few:**

- [SB180](#): Election Law Changes
- [SB77](#): Home Build Requirements
- [SB165](#): Increase Electric Rates
- [HB25/HB28](#): Increase Min Wage
- [HB119](#): Raise Top Personal Tax Rate
- [HB120](#): Limit Capital Gains Deduction
- [HB215](#): Unemployment to those not currently eligible
- [HB9](#), [HB50](#), [HB72](#), [HB100](#), [HB101](#): Anti 2nd Amendment laws
- [HJR4](#): Environmental Rights Constitutional Amendment



In the mix, however, are bills that would limit unchecked power, improve election integrity, lower taxes and promote public safety. **Here are a few:**

- [HB58](#): Additional Penalties for Violent Felonies
- [HB110](#): Voter ID Requirement
- [HB80/HJR3](#): Limiting Emergency Orders w/o Legislative Approval
- [HB98/HB203](#): Reinstate Qualified Immunity for Police Officers
- [HB60](#): Enhanced Sentencing for Fentanyl Related Offenses
- [HJR9](#): Denial of Bail for Violent Offenders
- [SB38](#): Reducing Gross Receipts Tax, Eliminating/Reducing Others

- [SB174](#): Pretrial Release Standards for Violent Offenders
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## Legislative Calls to Action & Training

Click [HERE](#) for 'Call to Action' forms, allowing you to quickly send an email to decision makers. And...

[Legislative Advocacy training](#), for those who want to learn more about how to effectively stop bad and support good legislation, will be held this Saturday, February 4, at 1:00 pm, [via Zoom](#).

### Sign up for advocacy training [HERE](#).

NMBC is working hard to advocate for all New Mexicans, testifying in numerous committee hearings, calling legislators, sending targeted emails to key legislative leaders and encouraging others to participate in the process too. **Stay up to date on legislation we are monitoring by viewing the NMBC BillTracker [HERE](#).**

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NMBC often hears from business owners who say one of their biggest challenges is a shortage of workers.

Supply chain issues, inflation, and government mandates are not helping either.

A NM small business owner brings the labor shortage issue and increasing government mandates into perspective,

"If Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and the Legislature want to really help family-owned businesses and their workers, here is what they should do this legislative session: Leave us alone to run our businesses." [Read more HERE](#).

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**Good News: NM unemployment rate is the lowest it's been in 15 years.** According to a report by the NM Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS), the unemployment rate in December dropped to 3.9%. That's better than it has been since 2008.



**Now the Bad News:** A low unemployment rate sounds good but is deceiving because it does not account for many in NM who are working age but not in the labor force. **NMDWS data confirms the percentage of people working or looking for work in our state is only 56%.** If one is skeptical about that many New Mexicans NOT working - consider the fact that 48% of New Mexicans are on Medicaid and the numbers begin to line up. **Read more [HERE](#).**

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NMBC has some great upcoming events:

- **Post-Legislative BASH - May 4; Sponsored by [John Thomas Jewelers](#).**
- **Summer BASH - August 10 ; Sponsored by [John Thomas Jewelers](#).**
- **2023 Heroes Event - November 9**

**Want to sponsor an event? [Click HERE](#) for opportunities!**

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**We're changing New Mexico everyday! Join us today by [Supporting our work.](#)**

**Connect with NMBC: Call us at (505) 836-4223 or email [nmbiz@nmbizcoalition.org](mailto:nmbiz@nmbizcoalition.org)**

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