

Santa Fe New
Mexican
Santa Fe, NM
Circ. 25854
From Page:
a6
11/14/2009
360552



Governor names deficit task force

*Forty members
come from
industries, groups
across the board*

By Steve Terrell
The New Mexican

Gov. Bill Richardson on Friday named more than 40 New Mexicans to a task force on ways to balance the state budget.

The group includes representatives of several industries including banking, mining, agriculture, insurance, alcohol and tobacco as well as members of environmentalist, labor, education and religious organizations.

In his announcement, Richardson said that besides cutting spending, "We must also take a serious look at options to increase our revenue in ways that allow us to maintain our competitive advantage and address New Mexico's long-term financial health."

Among the proposals the task force will study are raising or restructuring gross receipts and compensating taxes; taxes on tobacco, liquor, insurance premiums and motor vehicles; personal and corporate income taxes and withholding taxes; taxes on oil, natural gas, coal and uranium. The panel also will consider tax compliance and administration rules and rules defining business incentive tax credits.

The task force is expected to meet at least five times before the next legislative session, which begins in January. The meetings will be at various locations statewide. The first is set for 1 p.m. Monday at Santa Fe Community College.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, who is running to succeed Richardson as governor,

released a statement Friday that said "before we start a debate about tax increases or cuts to education, we must get serious about financial reforms. That means overhauling the state's capital outlay process, ending the practice of 'double-dipping' and better using technology to streamline government operations. Taken together, these reforms will save the state millions of dollars, generate economic activity in both the short term and long term, and provide greater accountability to the public for how their tax dollars are spent."

Denish also commented on Richardson's announcement Thursday that he would eliminate at least 84 political appointive jobs under his control. She said the move was "a good start," but added, "we must take a hard look at each appointed government position to make certain the position is providing value to the taxpayer."

She noted that the budget cuts announced by Richardson "are less than those passed by the Legislature. This means we have yet to find the savings needed to balance our budget." But she said, "Instead of cutting Medicaid, I believe we could have done more to make our government agencies leaner and more efficient across the board. I'm concerned that by making cuts to Medicaid, vulnerable New Mexicans will suffer and the state will be forced to turn away much needed federal matching funds."

Contact Steve Terrell at 986-3037 or sterrell@sfnewmexican.com. Read his political blog at roundhouseroundup.com.

ON THE WEB

◆ www.nmrevenueoptions.com/



Santa Fe New
Mexican
Santa Fe, NM
Circ. 25854
From Page:
a6
11/14/2009
360552



Task force members

Chairman

◆ Rick Homans, Secretary, Taxation and Revenue Department

Other members

◆ Lt. Gov. Diane Denish or designee
 ◆ Mark Thompson, lieutenant governor, Acoma Pueblo
 ◆ Jim Berry, executive director, Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
 ◆ Terri L. Cole, president and chief executive officer, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce
 ◆ Raymond Mondragon, chair, New Mexico Economic Development Partnership
 ◆ Alex Romero, president and chief executive officer, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce
 ◆ Chuck Wellborn, Wellborn Strategies, LLC
 ◆ Sharon Lombardi, executive director, Dairy Producers of New Mexico
 ◆ David S. Smoak, president, RSF Land and Cattle Co.
 ◆ Don Chalmers, principal dealer, Don Chalmers Auto
 ◆ Jerry Walker, president and chief executive officer, Independent Community Bankers Association of New Mexico
 ◆ Jim Horton, director, Public Policy and Government, Associated General Contractors
 ◆ Odes Armijo-Caster, president, Renewable Energy Industries Association
 ◆ Leland Gould, chairman, New Mexico Oil and Gas Association
 ◆ Jim Hinton, president, Presbyterian Health Services
 ◆ Michelle Welby, director of medical operations, Molina Healthcare of New Mexico
 ◆ Jami Grindatto, corporate affairs director, Intel
 ◆ Tony Trujillo, government relations director, Phelps Dodge
 ◆ Kathi Bearden, editor, *Hobbs Sun News*
 ◆ Steve Anaya, executive vice president, Realtors Association of New Mexico
 ◆ Carol Wight, chief execu-

tive officer, New Mexico Restaurant Association

◆ Bob Barberousse, Cigar Association of America
 ◆ Fred O'Cheskey, New Mexico Beverage Wholesalers and Southern Wine & Spirits
 ◆ Thom Turbett, president and chief executive officer, Independent Insurance Agents of New Mexico
 ◆ Bob Murphy, executive director, Economic Forum of Albuquerque
 ◆ Rick Clemente, Production Central ABQ
 ◆ Leanne Leith, political and programs director, Conservation Voters New Mexico
 ◆ Ruth Hoffman, director, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-New Mexico
 ◆ Allen Sanchez, director, New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops, president, St. Joseph Community Health
 ◆ Gayla Brumfield, mayor of Clovis
 ◆ Bill Fulginiti, executive director, New Mexico Municipal League
 ◆ Paul Gutierrez, executive director, New Mexico Association of Counties
 ◆ Charles Bowyer, executive director, National Education Association-New Mexico
 ◆ Carolyn Abeita, Esq., member, University of New Mexico Board of Regents
 ◆ Carter Bundy, legislative director, AFSCME
 ◆ Pat D'Arco, chairman, Rio Rancho Planning & Zoning Board
 ◆ Jackson Gibson, member, District 6, Transportation Commission
 ◆ Bill Jordan, policy director, New Mexico Voices for Children
 ◆ Leo Garza, Legislative Committee chair, AARP New Mexico
 ◆ Richard Anklam, president and executive director, New Mexico Tax Research Institute
 ◆ Fred Nathan, executive director. Think New Mexico