

10 Ways in 10 Days Way 8

10 ways budget cuts will hurt working New Mexicans



The Cut: Like all state agencies, our judicial system is expected to take another hit in the budget department this year. Unfortunately, the courts are already operating on a shoestring.

The Consequences: The budget for New Mexico's court system has already been decreased by 10 percent and job vacancies have gone unfilled. That, despite an increase in caseloads. Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Daniels told legislators that more money will be needed if New Mexico is going to keep all its court-houses open. He reminded the lawmakers that "justice delayed is justice denied," according to a local reporter.

Indeed, the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to a speedy trial, but that will be harder and harder for the state to provide without adequate resources. Without enough funding, the courts may have no choice but to dismiss some cases, which could put New Mexico's families in harm's way.

A Better Choice: Governor Martinez and the Legislature need to take a balanced approach to addressing our state's revenue crisis. They should:

- Get rid of tax giveaways that do not create jobs.
- Ensure that profitable corporations and the rich pay their fair share.
- Make big out-of-state corporations and banks play by the same rules as our home-grown businesses.
- Make our system of tax breaks more transparent and accountable.

It's only fair that we stand up for New Mexico families and small businesses.

Urge our politicians to make the **Better Choice for New Mexico**.

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