
9 Ways in 9 Days Way 6 Day



9 ways to raise revenue and prevent more budget cuts

Potential Revenue: New Mexico is one of the few states that allows tax payers to take a deduction for state and local taxes paid in the previous year. Filers who itemize on their income tax return can take this deduction on their federal return. Most states require that itemizers add this amount back onto their state return. New Mexico does not

Potential Consequences: The state loses \$65 million¹ due to this tax loophole that mainly benefits higher-income filers. The Legislative Finance Committee recommends cutting \$64.8 million from the budget for higher education.² If New Mexico colleges and universities raise fees and other expenses (such as on-campus housing) to make up the difference, many lower-income students will be unable to attend.

Ask any New Mexico family struggling to make ends meet—the impact of the national recession has hit our state very hard. Yet, many of the proposals being floated to address the state’s falling revenues will reduce opportunity, increase economic insecurity, and stall recovery.

Legislators can make a better choice: instead of relying on deeper, more damaging cuts for programs like education and health care as the only option, they can choose a balanced approach—one that doesn’t lay all the sacrifice on working families and that offers a sensible, long-term solution.

We urge them to make the *Better Choice for New Mexico*.

Tell our Legislature: Don’t jeopardize future prosperity, stall economic recovery, throw more people out of work, and pack more students into already overcrowded classrooms—just to protect big tax breaks for the rich and powerful. There’s a better choice for New Mexico’s families—a balanced approach for opportunity and security.

Visit *Better Choices New Mexico* on <http://betterchoicesnewmexico.com> for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.

¹ General Fund Revenue Update and Outlook for 2010 Legislative Session, Legislative Finance Committee, January 10, 2010

² Ibid

ABRAZOS FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
AMERICA VOTES EDUCATION AND ACTION FUND
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS NEW MEXICO
CENTER FOR CIVIC POLICY
COMMUNITY ACTION NM
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA
FAMILIES AND YOUTH, INC.
FARM TO TABLE
HANDS ACROSS CULTURES
HEALTH ACTION NEW MEXICO
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NM
LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS NM
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION NEW MEXICO
NM ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
NM CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
NM COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS
NM CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES
NM EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE
NM PROGRESSIVE ACTION
NM SCHOOL NURSES ASSOCIATION
NEW MEXICO SOLUTIONS
NM VOICES FOR CHILDREN
NM YOUTH PROVIDERS ALLIANCE
RESULTS – SANTA FE
SANTA FE ALLIANCE
SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT