
20 Ways in 20 Days Way 15 Day



20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: Public safety funding goes to the state's Department of Public Safety and the New Mexico Corrections Department. Both departments already suffered a 4 to 5 percent funding decrease for the current fiscal year, leaving them with a combined budget of just \$379 million.¹

Potential Consequences: New Mexico's state police force is already short 100 officers and the state's revenue crunch is making it more difficult to recruit and train new officers. More budget cuts could also adversely impact numerous public safety programs, such as: the state prison system, the police academy, disaster and emergency response, search and rescue, the sex offender registry, the Amber Alert system for missing children, and the state crime lab, which processes physical evidence found at crime scenes and provides expert testimony in criminal trials. Public safety is a concern to all New Mexicans.

A Better Choice: A balanced approach that includes raising revenues is the best strategy for weathering the recession.

Legislators have a clear choice: they can make deeper, more damaging cuts in the funding that protects public safety or 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**.

First things First, New Mexico. Tell our Legislature: **Don't balance the budget on the backs of New Mexico's working families.** Instead, open the books on tax breaks for special interests, close the loopholes for out-of-state corporations, and rollback tax cuts for the wealthy.

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

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