
20 Ways in 20 Days

Way 4 Day

20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: New Mexico’s court system already saw a 3.5 percent funding decrease, even as average court case loads grew by 7 percent.¹ Another 3 to 5 percent cut will reduce \$6 to \$10 million from statewide courts and district attorney offices.²

Potential Consequences: The state has a constitutionally mandated duty to assure due process, yet our courts are already struggling to fulfill their responsibilities. Deeper cuts would cause further trial delays and possibly an increased in case dismissals. As most of the court’s budget is for personnel, staffing would likely take the biggest hit, probably through mandatory furloughs. Given that demands on the judiciary system increase during tough economic times, further cuts will overburden the case loads of remaining personnel to an impossible level.

A Better Choice: While some cuts are inevitable, we urge lawmakers to take a more balanced and fair approach by raising revenue as well.

Legislators have a clear choice: they can either cut funding for our judicial system or they can take a more 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 expenditures, close the loopholes for out-of-state corporations, and rollback the tax breaks for the wealthy.

Follow ***Better Choices New Mexico*** on facebook.com, twitter.com, and betterchoicesnewmexico.pbworks.com for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.



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1 Legislative Finance Committee 2009 Post-Session Review

2 Ibid