

Speech begins with Salutations in English and Spanish.

## NEW MEXICO: WE ARE IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

My friends and fellow New Mexicans, I am deeply humbled and so very proud that you have given me this opportunity to serve as your new governor. To every New Mexican who voted for me, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the confidence you have shown in me. To those who did not vote for me, I ask that you give me the chance to earn your respect and support -- and I extend to you my most sincere and optimistic wish that we can now unite and work together to build and improve our beloved New Mexico. To every New Mexican, I promise that I will use every skill, every resource, and every ounce of energy that I possess, to work with you, to move our state forward, to confront the challenges that face us. Today, we are all New Mexicans, not Democrats, not Republicans, not Independents, but New Mexicans. Let us put aside our differences, between north and south, rural and urban, between the Governor and the legislature. Let us be one New Mexico, a New Mexico family fighting for our future united, and above all, that we are in this for the long haul.

I want to commend Governor Gary Johnson for his tenure as Governor of New Mexico and personally thank him for his graciousness during my transition.

To my wife Barbara, my best friend, my foundation, I thank you from my heart.

And, to Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish, the first woman Lt. Governor in history, I thank you for your loyalty and look forward to hard work and tenacity in our goals.

A great campaign recently ended: a campaign that knew the wonderful energy, creativity and potential of the people of New Mexico. We saw the need for our state government to be more effective in building upon that energy and creativity, so that we will realize our great potential. Our campaign witnessed the talents, the hopes and the dreams of the people of New Mexico, but we also saw so many hopes unfulfilled, so many dreams unrealized, so many talents undeveloped. We saw commitment. Indeed, we saw deep commitment from our businesspersons, our educators, our healthcare professionals, our state workers, from all our people, to their communities and to their state. But, we also saw poverty and failing schools, inadequate health care and poor housing. We saw justified frustration with bureaucratic inefficiency. We listened to the yearnings for leadership and for initiative from their next Governor.

The voters of New Mexico showed on Election Day that they want a state government that proposes bold initiatives and creative ideas to improve the quality of government, of education, of healthcare, of environmental protection. They want a state government that supports sustainable business growth and technological development. They want New Mexico's state government to work with private business to create good, high-wage jobs while protecting our state's precious natural resources.

The people also told us they want a modern tax code that allows us to compete with our surrounding states and grow our economy.

The people also told us they want their state government to pursue these goals with energy, hard work, and fiscal responsibility. We heard you New Mexico. We heard you. And, we are ready, ready to work with you to make today's hopes and dreams tomorrow's reality.

The political campaign has now ended. Now is the time for bold and sensible reform of state government. Now is the time for responsible action to address our state's problems and to make our state all that it can be.

Now is the time for energy, commitment and leadership. The campaign is over. And, now, my fellow New Mexicans, begins the hard work for which I have been elected. It is time to build a stronger New Mexico.

Over the last several weeks, I have lived up to my commitment to appoint a Cabinet that reflects the diversity of our great state. I have appointed women, Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics and Anglos. I have appointed more to cabinet level positions than any Governor in history. The doors are open to all New Mexicans and I will continue to recruit the best and the brightest to help me move our state forward.

So let me tell you what we are going to do, what we have, indeed, already begun to do:

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL:

A LEANER STATE GOVERNMENT AND A STRONGER ECONOMY

Our state budget must be a reflection of our priorities and a down payment on our goals.

I promised during the campaign that I would run a tight fiscal ship, and that is exactly what I intend to do. Every state employee must be a productive servant of the taxpayers. The highest priority of this administration will be to insure that every tax dollar is spent wisely and efficiently, and that every program is achieving results. Accordingly, beginning this week, we will begin the process of a **comprehensive statewide performance audit** of every state agency: Every program will be put to the test on behalf of the people of New Mexico. The audit will be completed in six months. Inefficient programs and agencies will be reformed, restructured, streamlined or, where appropriate, eliminated.

We will pursue an aggressive effort to promote exports both nationally and internationally, especially with our *vecino*, Mexico, to the south. Today, the Governor of Chihuahua, Patricio Martinez, has joined us to symbolize his commitment to a stronger, more profitable trade relationship between our two states.

We have a neighbor in Mexico, one that offers enormous opportunity to New Mexican companies. We will strengthen the alliances between the private and public sectors. We will take advantage of our potentially enormous economic resources. We will involve our state universities, our national laboratories and the business community. We will actively promote the transfer of technology from the cutting edge research of our labs to the private sector. We can nurture this growth to build a high-wage economy.

We will lower our taxes on individuals and our businesses to grow our economy – and we have a plan to pay for this.

We will attract business to our state with high-quality workers and services. And we will expect from the businesses we attract that they be good corporate citizens committed to the long-term growth of our state. We are in this for the long haul, and so must those companies be who benefit from our state incentives.

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL:

#### WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

New Mexico's development must be environmentally sustainable. We must protect our state's extraordinary natural resources. We must bring our unique technological and scientific resources to the cutting-edge of the newest, environmentally-friendly technologies. My administration will provide incentives for energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources. We will make New Mexico an exporter of the cleaner technologies of the future. As we build a more vibrant economy, we will always remember that the great natural beauty of New Mexico, the pristine gift of this land and these skies, is who we are. Loving and protecting our land, air and water pervades every aspect of what it means to be a New Mexican. Protecting our natural environment and quality of life will be a top priority of my administration.

We must face the fact that there are some very immediate environmental problems, the most pressing of which is water. Water is the most urgent environmental and economic development issue across the western United States, and water is the lifeblood of New Mexico. My administration will do everything in its power to make sure that New Mexicans have enough water for years to come. We will encourage conservation and demand more efficient use of water, assuring that water resources are allocated equitably, while respecting historical and cultural water rights and uses. Because we are in it for the long haul, we will make sure that water shortages do not threaten the sustainability of our state's development.

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL:

#### IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR A WORLD CLASS WORKFORCE

Ignorance has always been the weapon of tyrants; enlightenment the salvation of the free. Education enables people and societies to be what they can be. It is education that allows us to see that we are in this for the long haul, and it is education that will give us the tools we need to build a better future for New Mexico.

As we all know, there is much work to be done: New Mexico's students today test well below the national average in almost every category of achievement. Improving education is a top priority of this administration.

To accomplish this will take both the allocation of more resources and better use of the resources we allocate. It will take hard work. Each person must be accountable. As a first step toward showing our teachers, our students, our parents, and our private sector employers that we are committed to improving education, **in the budget I will present tomorrow, I have proposed a 6% increase in teacher salaries to take place in the next fiscal year.** This first step will raise New Mexico teacher salaries from 44<sup>th</sup> to 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation. In return, we will hold teachers to the high professional standards which we have the right to expect from those who have nothing less than our state's future in their trust. To help fund this pay increase, we shall shift 5% of our schools administrative budgets back to the classroom, by reducing unnecessary administrative costs.

I want a seamless educational system that nurtures learning from kindergarten through college, including full-day kindergarten for every child in the state.

I am proposing the creation of a new office, Secretary of Education, and that Secretary and my administration shall be held accountable for the results of our schools. We are in this for the long haul, but we expect to be held accountable from day one for what we accomplish or fail to accomplish.

Commitment, efficiency and accountability at all levels, from teachers and administrators to the Secretary and the Governor. This is my recipe for improving our state's educational system: a partnership for the future of our state.

#### CONCLUSION: A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE LONG HAUL

The challenges facing our state are great, but so are the talents of our people and their desire for progress. New Mexico will prosper and grow in the years ahead because of the common commitment that we all make today toward that goal. I have outlined my vision for you today. I have spelled out the first concrete steps that my administration will take to realize that vision. Commitment, hard work, efficiency, accountability: these are the elements in my approach to governing, and my strategy for success. Do not judge me on my promises: judge me on my results. Let us now roll up our sleeves and get to work. Our partnership for the long haul begins today.

I ask the New Mexico legislature to work with me on a bipartisan basis to move our state forward.

Thank you, New Mexico, for the honor and the opportunity you have bestowed upon me.