



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson says election is victory for children

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today said new vote totals on Constitutional Amendment #2 appears to ensure victory for plans to put more money into classrooms across New Mexico.

Governor Richardson released the following statement today:

We celebrate a great victory for every child, for every parent, for all of us who knew change was needed, who knew our schools had to improve. Today, we won. The future just got brighter for every child in New Mexico.

I want to thank the voters, the people of New Mexico – for bucking the status quo, for voting for change and endorsing progress.

I know the vote was very close. And as I've said before, I got the message that that voters want state government to be careful with the money in the Permanent School Fund. And we will.

At the same time, as I traveled across the state and visited dozens of schools, I heard loud and clear from parents and teachers who demanded New Mexico's schools improve. They told me that we couldn't afford to wait to fix our schools. This generation of New Mexicans deserves the best schools and now, with this victory, they will finally get what they asked for.

Yes on One means now there will be a Secretary of Education—providing real accountability for our educational system—and ensuring that for the first time, the buck stops with one person, the Governor. I will make sure dollars go into the classroom and not into administration.

Yes on Two means we'll have more money for our classrooms to pay our teachers and educational employees better and give our kids the tools they need to succeed.

Progress like today's victory only comes from hard work and I want to thank the all the many thousands of people that worked so hard to achieve this milestone tonight; the business community, the Chambers of Commerce, the teachers' organizations, educational assistants and all of the employees who make schools work. The PTA, the AARP, school board members, superintendents – Democrats and Republicans – we all worked together shoulder to shoulder to pass these important amendments.



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I said over and over as I traveled across the state that this was the most important election in modern New Mexico history. I wasn't exaggerating. This is an historic bipartisan victory for all New Mexicans.

I want to thank the voters for putting their faith in me and for giving me the tools I need to get the job done. I take this responsibility seriously and I will get results.

I think the Alamogordo Daily News may have summed up this election the best: Dare to be great and today, New Mexico, we all dared to be great.

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