



DGA News

Democratic Governors' Association news release

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Gov. Bill Richardson
Federal Liaison

BJ Thornberry
Executive Director

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DGA Announces 2004 Leadership Team Richardson Will Serve as Vice Chair

Washington, DC – The Democratic Governors' Association (DGA) will be led by a diverse, accomplished team of governors for the 2004 calendar year. Today, DGA Chair and Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack announced that New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson will serve as the 2004 DGA Vice Chair.

“Bill Richardson has earned the respect and admiration of leaders across the country and will be a huge asset to the DGA and his peers this election year. Governor Richardson has done an excellent job of governing New Mexico and a superb job of earning New Mexico a permanent and important role in national politics,” Governor Vilsack said today.

"I look forward to working with Governor Vilsack. Democratic governors are fighting on the front lines to balance budgets, create jobs, and improve education," Governor Richardson said.

“To revive our ailing economy and to meet - rather than short-change - our responsibilities to educate and protect all Americans, our country needs strong executive leaders. Democratic governors are answering this call. We are enacting and funding policies that create hope and opportunity for the next generation of young people. We are honoring seniors and families by meeting the responsibility of providing quality health care in difficult economic times. We are working to stop the tide of national job losses in our states and to offer working adults a sense of restored economic security. Governor Richardson is doing all of this in New Mexico and more. It will be my honor to work with him this year to showcase the smart policy ideas that Democratic governors are generating,” Vilsack added.

Elected in 2002 by the largest margin of any candidate since 1964, Bill Richardson is New Mexico's governor and already one of the country's most accomplished public servants. Under his stewardship, New Mexico has become one of the fastest growing economies in the country. During the economic downcast of the past year, the state not only steered clear of running a deficit, New Mexico ran a surplus plentiful enough that Gov. Richardson was able to provide a tax cut to residents. Richardson has been a strong advocate for more adequate federal funding for state homeland security, first responders, equipment and training. Governor Richardson is a top, go-to expert on

international affairs and energy policy. The Governor is also an energized advocate for Hispanic Americans and this year delivered the first ever Spanish language response the State of the Union address.

As DGA Vice Chair, Governor Richardson will play an active role in all policy lobbying and campaign activities for Democratic Governors on the national stage.

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