



State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Represents New Mexico at Democratic National Convention

Will promote tourism, bring back educational ideas and economic development initiatives for New Mexicans

Santa Fe - Today Governor Richardson announced at a press conference his goals for the Democratic National Convention. Governor Richardson made the following remarks.

“The Democratic National Convention is now just five days away and New Mexico is playing an important role. New Mexico is a key battle ground state. Our votes are not being ignored; instead candidates are fighting hard to get New Mexico’s attention.

The Convention is yet another step in a yearlong process in which New Mexico has been leading the way.

First, last September New Mexico was chosen to host the first Democratic National Presidential Debate in Albuquerque.

Second, New Mexico held its first ever Democratic Caucus in February.

Now, the Democratic National Convention in Boston is about to begin, with New Mexico the focus of several national news stories, like the NY Times article yesterday detailing the amount of money being spent in New Mexico on television advertisements: Between March 13th and early June both camps had spent more than 1.4 million dollars, with an additional half-million dollars more for Democratic-leaning political groups.

This is good news for New Mexico, especially when we compare to just four years ago, when New Mexico was in the shadows of the podium and this year we are at the center of the national stage.

However, the Convention is just part of what we'll be participating in and learning about in Boston. While in Boston we'll be working hard in bringing back jobs and ideas to New Mexico and continued partnerships.

I'll be touring a couple of Boston summer school programs, the Boston Latin School and the Boston Arts Academy. Both programs have done tremendous work in preparing children for higher education. The Boston Summer School program has focused on children whose parents never went to college and have been successful in getting those children accepted into Colleges. The Boston Arts Academy has found ways to incorporate music into every aspect of the summer curriculum, like music into their math program.

I'll also be visiting the Latino Health Institute, which is a non-profit group focused on Latino health and has developed innovative programs to deal with alcohol and substance abuse, two problems that we face here in New Mexico.

Building a high wage economy in New Mexico is a top priority and I will visit with several National Business leaders in Boston to share the progress we have made in making New Mexico a business friendly state. Thursday I will visit the Thermo Electron Manufacturing Facility, which has its Radiation Measurement and Protection Business Facility right here in Santa Fe. They visited with me in Albuquerque and invited me to tour their manufacturing facility in Massachusetts. This 2.2 billion dollar company already employs 100 people in New Mexico and is considering expanding its operations here by more than 20-percent within the year. I hope to work with Thermo Electron to bring more high-wage jobs to New Mexico.

The Conventions are also a great place to "sell" New Mexico as a vacation destination. Our Tourism Bus, now dubbed "Santa Fe East" will be at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. This is the perfect opportunity to introduce New Mexico to hundreds of thousands of people looking for their next vacation spot. By the time the Tourism Bus returns it will have visited several cities across the nation.

I'm proud to be serving as the Chairman of the Democratic Convention and putting New Mexico on center stage, making sure both political parties vie for our political support as a key battle ground state in this year's Presidential Campaign."