



## **Governor Bill Richardson Announces State Has Collected \$62.5 million in Delinquent Taxes**

**The total amount collected exceeds the Governor's goal and was  
reached one month early**

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Santa Fe - Governor Bill Richardson announced today that as of May 31, 2004 the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue's back tax collection efforts have netted \$62.5 million in delinquent taxes - of which \$51.4 is general fund - well ahead of a June 30, 2004 deadline.

"This is a key part of my efforts to eliminate duplication and waste, and increase the efficiency of state government," said Governor Richardson. "Taxpayers deserve to know we are making the most of every dollar."

According to New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Secretary Jan Goodwin, New Mexico is owed millions of dollars in delinquent personal and gross receipts taxes. In January 2003 the Department received a legislative and executive mandate to collect \$50 in delinquent taxes by June 30, 2004 - the \$50 million was in addition to the \$51 million the department normally collects.

"Uncollected taxes are uncollected revenue," Secretary Goodwin said. "As a result of our back tax collection efforts, the state's general fund is now \$51.4 million richer and local governments received an additional \$11.1 million. This means more money for schools, public safety programs, health and human services and local governments."

Secretary Goodwin spent the last year traveling the state to meet with business and trade organizations to educate the public and promote the collection efforts, "Our message was simple: when you pay your taxes you are investing in New Mexico's communities. We wanted to remind people that our tax dollars pay for the services we all use and depend on."

In addition to educating taxpayers the department expanded its call center hours to 8 p.m. and added a half-day schedule on Saturdays; the department's Managed Audit program was expanded to include more taxpayers. Under the Managed Audit program taxpayers who know that they may owe taxes can approach the tax department, conduct a self-audit under the guidance of department officials and report the tax liability. If the liability is paid within thirty days, penalties and interest will be waived - which can save taxpayers thousands of dollars.

"This administration is committed to collecting the money owed the state and reinvesting it in our communities," Goodwin said.

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