



## State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Bill Richardson singled out as most fiscally Responsible Democratic governor**

*Cato Institute gives Governor Richardson high marks for tax cuts*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson was honored today by the Cato Institute, which singled him out as the most fiscally responsible Democratic governor in the nation. Citing Governor Richardson's successful efforts to cut income and capital gains taxes while keeping spending in check, the Cato Institute gave the governor a grade of B on its seventh biennial fiscal policy report.

"Bill Richardson is, bar none, the best new Democratic governor in the nation - for that matter, he is one of the best new governors of any party," the study says.

Governor Richardson was recognized today during a news conference in Washington, D.C.

"What we've been able to do in New Mexico in a short time is cut taxes, cut waste, and make key investments in education, health care, and economic development," Governor Richardson said during the news conference. "We've done this with bipartisan cooperation and common goals."

Governor Richardson led the charge in 2003 to cut personal income taxes from 8.2 percent to 4.9 percent, which will save nearly a half million New Mexicans \$360 million per year. The Governor also worked with the Legislature to cut capital gains taxes in half.

In 2004, the Governor worked with the Legislature to repeal the food tax, which was a “temporary” tax enacted in the 1930s.

Since Governor Richardson has taken office, 42,000 more New Mexicans are getting paychecks today than were two years ago. New Mexico’s unemployment rate has dropped from 6.8 percent to 5.1 percent, and it has been at or below the national average for more than twenty straight months. And New Mexico has consistently ranked in the top ten in the country for job growth over the last two years.

“I believe government should exercise fiscal restraint and balance its budgets,” Governor Richardson said. “That requires clear priorities and principles, political will, and bipartisanship. These are some areas where Washington, with a running deficit of more than \$300 billion a year, could take some cues from the states.”

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