



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Gilbert Gallegos
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2217

Governor Bill Richardson Announces State Treasurer, Former UNM Law School Dean to Spearhead Efforts to Pass Comprehensive Anti-Corruption, Campaign Reporting Initiatives

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced that State Treasurer Doug Brown and Robert Desiderio, former Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, will lead the efforts to pass the Governor's comprehensive anti-corruption package that will close legal loopholes and toughen ethical laws. The Governor's initiatives include campaign reporting reforms that are designed to make campaign contributions more transparent.

"The bottom line is that we're taking strong, specific action to provide transparency and accountability where it is most needed, and to restore the public trust and confidence in the financial dealings of the state and elected officials," said Governor Richardson.

The Governor praised Treasurer Brown for the reforms he has already implemented in the Treasurer's Office, and said he will focus on passing the reform initiatives specifically dealing with that office. Robert Desiderio will spearhead the support for other key parts of the package, including protections for the contracting process, enhanced penalties for corrupt conduct, and changes to the campaign reporting act.

Governor Richardson recognized the legislators who will be carrying the legislation, including Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela, Senator Dede Feldman, Representative Joseph Cervantes, and Representative Al Park.

Here are the Governor's anti-corruption and campaign reporting initiatives:

Treasurer's Office Reforms

1. Require that the Governor appoint a public member with investment experience to the State Board of Finance
2. Give the State Board of Finance the authority to adopt guidelines and oversight of State Treasurer investments. The Board would require more transparency of state investments, increased reporting, and oversight of the State Treasurer's relationships with investment advisors and broker/dealers.
3. Establish the State Treasurer's Investment Committee in law to include two Board of Finance members and two public members with investment experience.
4. Enhanced campaign contribution reporting requirements and financial relationship disclosures for the State Treasurer and applicable staff.
5. Prohibit campaign contributions and any other thing of value to the State Treasurer and applicable staff from any person (and their organization) who is a prospective or current contractor with the State Treasurer.

Contracting Process

1. Ban campaign contributions and any other thing of value from prospective contractors to applicable elected officials and employees during contracting process.
2. Disclosure of campaign contributions by prospective contractors.

Enhanced Penalties

1. Public officers will face stiffer penalties for corrupt conduct. The bill allows imprisonment to be increased by one year upon a finding that: 1) The offender is a public official and 2) The felony relates to, arises out of, or is in connection with the holding of the public office.
2. Potential loss of retirement benefits upon felony conviction.

Campaign Reporting Act

1. Increased reporting in non-election years from once a year to twice a year (May and November).
2. Require the reporting of employers for all donors.
3. Require the reporting of cumulative totals of contributions received from a person or an entity making a donation.
4. Strengthen the investigatory and audit powers of the Secretary of State by giving the Secretary power to subpoena records and provide a penalty for failure to cooperate with the SOS investigation.
5. Require the Secretary of State to post reports on-line under a set timeframe (within 10 days of verification of the report) and to post on-line as delinquent those who fail to file appropriately.
6. Expressly require reporting of independent expenditures made by "527" groups and individuals who are advocating the election or defeat of a candidate.
7. Prohibit donations in the form of cash in excess of \$100.