



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

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### **Governor Richardson Names Members of Reinstated Ethics Reform Task Force**

*Bipartisan Group Will Review Ethics Reform Results of 2007 Legislative Session and  
Special Session, and Recommend Timeframe for Special Session on Ethics Reform*

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced his appointees to the recently reinstated Governor's Task Force on Ethics Reform. The task force is charged with evaluating options for governmental ethics and campaign finance reform and reviewing the results of the 2007 regular and special legislative sessions. The Task Force will also advise the Governor on the timing of any special session dedicated to ethics reform.

The task force has twenty-three members with a mix of returning members and new members.

"I am pleased that so many members of the first task force have agreed to continue their service, and grateful to the new members who give a fresh perspective to the work of the group," said Governor Richardson. "The work of this group is critical, and I expect the task force to meet quickly and begin their work as soon as possible. Republicans and Democrats, business and government, non-profit and public, I believe this diverse group will help ensure the public's best interests are well represented."

The task force will be again co-chaired by former Governor Garrey Carruthers, currently Dean of the New Mexico State University School of Business Administration and Economics, and Suellyn Scarnecchia, Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law.

"Governor Carruthers and Dean Scarnecchia put together a comprehensive package of recommendations in 2006," Governor Richardson said. "I have asked them to review the

results of first ethics reform package, draft new recommendations for change, and give me their recommendations for a special session dedicated to ethics reform.”

The members of the **Governor’s Task Force on Ethics Reform** are:

### **Co-Chairs**

Governor Garrey Carruthers, Dean, NMSU College of Business  
Suellyn Scarnecchia, Dean of the UNM School of Law

### **Members**

1. Diane Denish, Lt. Governor State of New Mexico
2. Stewart Udall, Former United States Secretary of the Interior
3. Governor Charlie Dorame, Governor, Pueblo of Tesuque
4. James Lewis, New Mexico State Treasurer
5. Stuart Bluestone, New Mexico Chief Deputy Attorney General
6. Dede Feldman, New Mexico State Senator
7. John Ryan, New Mexico State Senator
8. Ken Martinez, House Majority Leader, New Mexico State Representative
9. Jeff Steinborn, New Mexico State Representative
10. Don Tripp, New Mexico State Representative
11. Bill McCamley, Dona Ana County Commissioner
12. Jim Noel, Executive Director, Judicial Standards Commission
13. Doug Brown, Principal, Brown and Brown Ventures
14. Leonard Sanchez, CPA, Moss Adams LLP
15. Norman Thayer, Attorney, Sutin Thayer and Browne
16. Tom Keesing, Realtor, Santa Fe Agency Real Estate
17. Geno Zamora, President, Zamora Strategic Advisors
18. Fred Nathan, Executive Director, Think New Mexico
19. Matt Brix, Policy Director, Center for Civic Policy
20. Claire Weiner, Public Member
21. Maralyn Budke, Public Member

In 2007, Governor Richardson proposed and the legislature passed amendments to the Governmental Conduct Act, which provides stricter standards of conduct for state employees and elected officials. The Act also now includes judges, who will be held to the same standard as other public officials. Governor Richardson’s legislation to limit gifts to state officials and state employees also passed during the 2007 session.

Governor Richardson also signed special session legislation making New Mexico one of two states in the country that provides public financing for judicial candidates. Public financing helps assure that Court of Appeals and Supreme Court judges can run for office without the pressures of partisan campaigning or fundraising.

These three bills build on a 2006 law requiring disclosure of campaign contributions when seeking state contracts and banning campaign contributions and any other thing of value from prospective contractors during the contracting process.

The Legislature did not pass other elements of the Governor's ethics package –including an independent ethics commission, campaign contribution limits, and better campaign reporting information.

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