

THINK NEW MEXICO

A Results-Oriented Think Tank Serving New Mexicans

20TH ANNIVERSARY

— 1999–2019 —



**YEARS OF RESULTS
FOR NEW MEXICANS**

2018–2019 ANNUAL REPORT

About the Cover

The cover features images from Think New Mexico's first two decades, including the photograph "Summer Storm Over the Painted Kiva" by Alex Candelaria Sedillo, which inspired our logo; details of the painting "Seasons of the Acequia" by Jim Vogel, featured on the cover of our 2003 policy report on the Strategic Water Reserve; the cover art by Jeff Drew for our 2011 report, "Rethinking the PRC"; the image from our 2001 report on abolishing the food tax; a photograph of a full-day kindergarten student by Dorie Hagler; and photographs of Leadership Interns and supporters including Fire Captain Cynthia Main, John Espinoza, Stuart Bluestone, Senator Tom Udall, former Attorney General Paul Bardacke, former Judge Tim Garcia, Annie Dear, Sandy Brickner, Liz Cerny-Chipman, Joseph Chipman, Charlene Cerny, M. Carlota Baca, Neel Roy, Julisa Rodriguez, Mitchel Latimer, EmmaLia Mariner, and Elena Purcell.

About Think New Mexico

Think New Mexico is a results-oriented think tank whose mission is to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans, especially those who lack a strong voice in the political process. We fulfill this mission by educating the public, the media, and policymakers about some of the most serious challenges facing New Mexico and by developing and advocating for effective, comprehensive, sustainable solutions to overcome those challenges.

Our approach is to perform and publish sound, nonpartisan, independent research. Unlike many think tanks, Think New Mexico does not subscribe to any particular ideology. Instead, because New Mexico is at or near the bottom of so many national rankings, our focus is on promoting workable solutions.

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A Results-Oriented Think Tank Serving New Mexicans



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20th Anniversary

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Think New Mexico's Results

As a results-oriented think tank serving New Mexicans, Think New Mexico measures its success based on changes in law or policy we help to achieve and that improve the quality of life in New Mexico.

Our results include:

- Making full-day kindergarten accessible to every child in New Mexico
- Repealing the state's regressive tax on food and successfully defeating efforts to reimpose it
- Developing a Strategic Water Reserve to protect and restore New Mexico's rivers
- Establishing New Mexico's first state-supported Individual Development Accounts to alleviate the state's persistent poverty
- Redirecting millions of dollars a year out of the state lottery's excessive operating costs and into full-tuition college scholarships
- Reforming title insurance to lower closing costs for homebuyers and homeowners who refinance their mortgages
- Winning passage of three constitutional amendments to:
 - increase the qualifications of Public Regulation Commission (PRC) commissioners,
 - transfer insurance regulation from the PRC to a separate department that is insulated from political interference, and
 - consolidate the PRC's corporate reporting unit with the business services division of the Secretary of State's Office
- Modernizing the state's regulation of taxis, limos, shuttles, and moving companies to promote job creation, small business formation, and lower prices for consumers
- Creating a one-stop online portal for all business fees and filings
- Establishing a user-friendly health care transparency website where New Mexicans can find the cost and quality of common medical procedures at any hospital in the state

IMAGE:

*Summer storm over the
Painted Kiva. Photo copyright
Alex Candelaria Sedillos
westlight@yahoo.com*

THINK NEW MEXICO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Consistent with our nonpartisan approach, Think New Mexico's board is composed of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans. They are statesmen and stateswomen who have no agenda other than to help New Mexico succeed. They are also the brain trust of this think tank.

Clara Apodaca, a native of Las Cruces, was First Lady of New Mexico from 1975–1978. She served as New Mexico's Secretary of Cultural Affairs under Governors Toney Anaya and Garrey Carruthers and as senior advisor to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Clara is the former President and CEO of the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation.



Jacqueline Baca has been President of Bueno Foods since 1986. Jackie was a founding board member of Accion and has served on the boards of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, the New Mexico Family Business Alliance, and WESST. In 2019, she was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Denver Branch Board of Directors.



Paul Bardacke served as Attorney General of New Mexico from 1983–1986. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, and he currently handles complex commercial litigation and mediation with the firm of Bardacke Allison in Santa Fe. Paul was a member of the National Park System Advisory Board for seven years.



Garrey Carruthers served as Governor of New Mexico from 1987–1990 and as Chancellor of the system and President of New Mexico State University from 2013–2018. In between he served as Dean of the College of Business at NMSU and as President and CEO of Cimarron Health Plan. Garrey was instrumental in establishing the Arrowhead Center for economic development in Las Cruces.





Edward Lujan is the former CEO of Manuel Lujan Agencies, the largest privately owned insurance agency in New Mexico. Ed is also a former Chairman of the Republican Party of New Mexico, the New Mexico Economic Development Commission, and the National Hispanic Cultural Center of New Mexico, where he is now Chair Emeritus.



Liddie Martinez is a native of Española whose family has lived in northern New Mexico since the 1600s. She is the Market President-Los Alamos for Los Alamos National Bank and also farms the Rancho Faisan. Liddie has previously served as Executive Director of the Regional Development Corporation and board chair of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation.



Fred Nathan, Jr. founded Think New Mexico and is its Executive Director. Fred served as Special Counsel to New Mexico Attorney General Tom Udall from 1991–1998. In that capacity, he was the architect of several successful legislative initiatives and was in charge of New Mexico's lawsuit against the tobacco industry, which resulted in a \$1.25 billion settlement for the state.



Roberta Cooper Ramo is the first woman elected President of the American Bar Association and the American Law Institute. Roberta has served on the State Board of Finance and was President of the University of New Mexico Board of Regents. In 2011, she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Roberta is a shareholder in the Modrall Sperling law firm.

Dear New Mexican:

We launched Think New Mexico two decades ago with the simple idea that a results-oriented think tank that advocates for bipartisan solutions could help to advance New Mexico in some of those national rankings where the state is too often at or near the bottom.

Our timing was not particularly good, as it seems that bipartisan problem-solving has never been more out of style than it is now.

However, by focusing on a single issue each year, a necessity given our small size, we have been able to avoid the partisan warfare long enough to achieve some notable results for the people of New Mexico.

These results are directly attributable to a growing group of New Mexicans spread across the Land of Enchantment who faithfully support our work year after year and who contact their legislators to express their support for our legislative proposals. Their ranks have grown from 52 in 1999, our first year, to 942 this last year. You can find all of their names on pages 24–40 of this report.

The other major factor in our success is that we have been led by some remarkable New Mexicans who lend their wisdom as well as their sterling reputations to Think New Mexico’s board. We refer to them as the “brain trust” of Think New Mexico. This year we are delighted to welcome back former Governor Garrey Carruthers, who went on emeritus status while leading New Mexico State University.

As it has been from the beginning, the core of our work is produced by my phenomenal colleagues, who are my favorite policy wonks in the state.

We look forward to continuing our work to improve the lives of all New Mexicans over the next two decades, especially if bipartisanship should ever come back into style. I encourage you to join us by sending a contribution to Think New Mexico in the enclosed yellow envelope, giving online at www.thinknewmexico.org, or in one of the many ways described on pages 29–38.

Fred Nathan, Jr. *Fred Nathan Jr.*

June 1, 2019



RETROSPECTIVE: THINK NEW MEXICO'S POLICY REPORTS

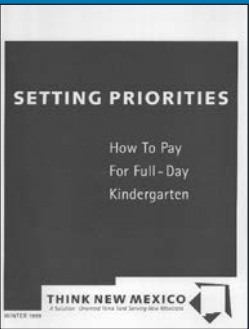
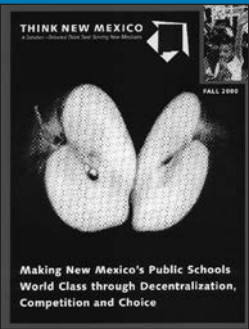
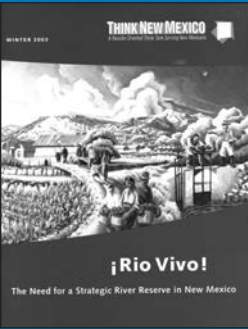
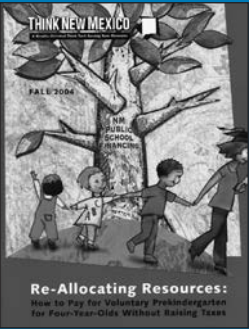
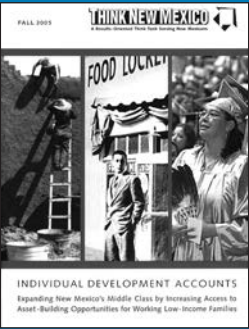
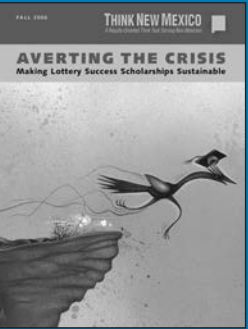
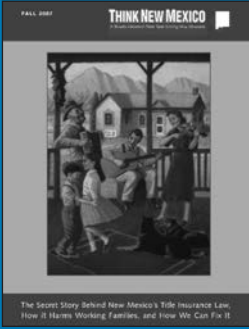
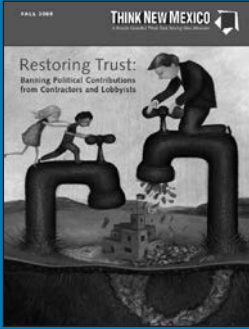


IMAGE ON LEFT: Susan Martin, Business Manager, Fred Nathan, Executive Director; Kristina G. Fisher, Associate Director; Othiamba Umi, Field Director. Photo by Peter Ellzey.

RETROSPECTIVE: 20 YEARS OF RESULTS FOR NEW MEXICANS

2017–2019: MOVING DOLLARS FROM ADMINISTRATION TO THE CLASSROOM

Think New Mexico's biggest victory this year came in the state budget, which included language to maximize the amount of the state's education dollars that are spent in the classroom, rather than on central administration. This language was based on legislation that Think New Mexico drafted after our research found that, over the past decade, 61 of the state's 89 school districts grew their central administration faster than their classroom spending. Statewide, spending on school district general and central administration grew more than twice as fast as classroom spending over the last decade. So we drafted a bill (House Bill 77) that would limit the growth of administrative spending and direct more dollars to the classroom. Although we were disappointed that we were unable to pass House Bill 77, due to the powerful opposition of school district administrators, we were gratified that the governor and the legislative finance committees agreed with us that limiting administrative spending is essential to improving education quality. For the first time, this year's budget directs the Public Education Department to reject the budget of any school district or charter school that spends a disproportionate amount on administration, relative to similarly sized school districts or charter schools. This reform is particularly important in a year like 2019, when education funding increased by about 16%, or \$450 million.



The Communicator **PERSPECTIVES**

March 28, 2019

NM on the cusp of big changes

By Tom McDonald

Gazette Media Services

...Plus, along with all the extra tax dollars going into education, a more pragmatic approach was also written in, with restrictions on how much money a district can spend on its central office administration. The idea stems from a 2017 study by the nonpar-

tisan think tank Think New Mexico that showed the most successful districts are the ones that invest a greater percentage of their money directly into the classroom. It makes perfect sense, since it's in the classroom, not at central office, where learning takes place.

Ensure new funds go to classroom

One of the bills we will be keeping an eye on when the 2019 legislative session begins Tuesday is HB 77, which would ensure that the new money that will be allocated for education this session goes to the classroom and not to administration.

A district court judge ruled last year that the state was not adequately funding education for at-risk students. That ruling, along with an infusion of new money this year thanks largely to increased oil and gas production, will almost certainly result in a hefty increase in education spending. But if that spending does not reach the classroom, it will not achieve the results demanded by the courts.

The bill, which originated from the public policy group Think New Mexico and is sponsored by Rep. Bobby Gonzales, a former school district superintendent, would seek to limit future growth of school administrations. Like all school funding bills, this a bit complicated. It would link any increases in administrative spending to either the consumer price index or the state's total distribution for education, whichever is less. Waivers would be available for districts that rank in the top 10 percent in school performance or where the administrative expenditures are lower than 90 percent of similarly sized districts.

We became more interested in this issue following reporting in 2018 that showed Las Cruces Public

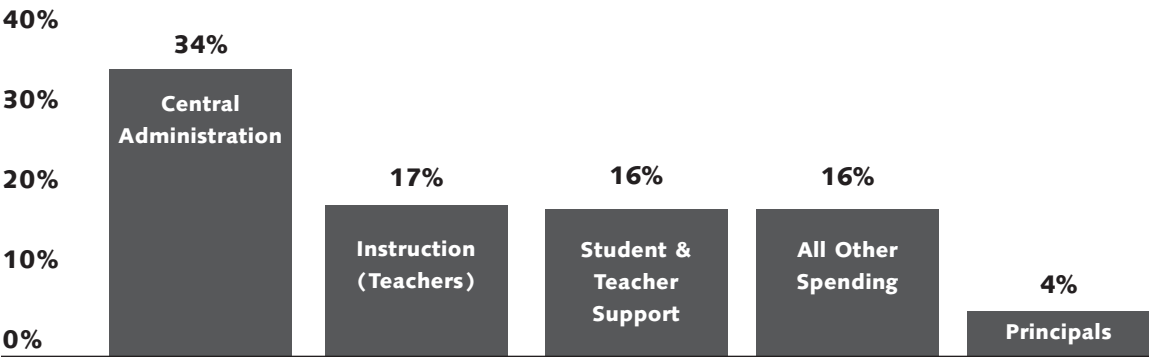
Schools was projected to increase administrative salary and benefit costs by \$2 million, or 60 percent, in comparison to the year before Greg Ewing took over as superintendent. District officials disputed that number, but after making the adjustments they requested, administrative expenses were still up by \$1.9 million.

In a guest column published in the Sun-News in August, Think New Mexico Executive Director Fred Nathan cited a report by the National Center on Education Statistics that showed New Mexico only spends an average of 57 percent of its education dollars on instruction. Another 13 percent goes to student and instructional support. The rest – 30 percent – goes to administration. And it's getting worse. In the decade between the 2006-07 school year and 2016-17, 61 of the 89 school districts in the state increased spending in the central office at a faster rate than they did in the classroom, according to data from the Legislative Finance Committee.

We are strong believers in local control of our schools, and view any infringement by the state with great suspicion. But as we go into this session, the state is under court order to improve its education system. And, one of the things specifically mentioned by the judge was the need for additional funding on classroom instruction programs.

Written by the Las Cruces Sun-News Editorial Board

Percent Increases in Categories of NM Public School Spending 2007–2017



Source: New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee

It has been four years since we published our report recommending reforms to New Mexico's unique and dysfunctional process for funding public works projects. New Mexico is still the only state that divides up its public infrastructure dollars among all 112 legislators and allows them to spend the money in their sole discretion while keeping secret which legislators are sponsoring which projects. This year, each Representative got to disperse about \$2.1 million, while Senators had \$3.6 million apiece—about \$300 million in total. After multiple unsuccessful attempts to pass legislation creating a merit-based process for prioritizing and fully funding projects, this year we tackled just the transparency aspect as a way to deter the worst pork projects. House Bill 262 (sponsored by Representative Matthew McQueen, D-Santa Fe, and Senator Sander Rue, R-Albuquerque) would have required each legislator to disclose how much money they appropriate for each project. The bill passed the House 68-0 and made it through two Senate committees where it has died in past years, but unfortunately did not survive its hearing before the full Senate on the final night of the session. We will continue working to shed some sunlight on how legislators spend public dollars.



ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019

Legislature should shed light on capital spending

Could it finally happen?

Could New Mexicans in the near future actually know how capital projects are funded by their legislators and governor? Who offered how much from their respective capital outlay buckets for which projects?

This has been a well-kept secret for decades, with many key lawmakers resisting efforts to shine a light on this process.

But, much as was the case with live webcasting, New Mexico could be on the verge of moving away from this unnecessary secrecy to a more enlightened system.

House Bill 262, a project of Think New Mexico and sponsored by Democratic Reps. Matthew McQueen, Natalie Figueroa and Joy Garratt, would require that, beginning in 2020, the Legislative Council Service publish on the legislative website a “searchable list of capital projects that passed the Legislature and the names of legislators or the governor who allocated a portion of the capital outlay appropriation or bond authorization for each project.” It goes on to require publication of the “amount of the allocation designated by each legislator and the governor.”

This would allow constituents to understand which projects their elected representatives selected for funding and how they ordered priorities.

As there was with livestreaming, there has been incredible resistance to this — with the exception of some legislators who voluntarily agreed to make their requests public. Why the resistance? Perhaps because secrecy avoids scrutiny and questions.

Why, for example, did a lawmaker decide to allocate money to a small but perhaps politically expedient “pork” item rather than something that would be a significant investment in the state or in his or her hometown or district? Which of the many requests lawmakers receive did they decide to fund?

If all that is secret, you don’t have to do much in the way of explaining your decisions. It’s part of why New Mexico consistently gets terrible grades for its capital outlay system.

But there is progress.

HB262 has passed the House unanimously and is awaiting a hearing in Senate Judiciary in the closing hours of the session. It had been slated for consideration Wednesday, but committee time ran out and it didn’t reconvene after a long floor session. The measure already has cleared Senate Rules on a 4-2 vote and there is no reason for delay in Finance as the measure has no real fiscal impact. Moving it to a floor vote would be an important step forward.

Think New Mexico’s executive director, Fred Nathan, is urging action in Senate Finance and a floor vote, no doubt encouraged by both the House passage and Republican caucus statement, as they seem to reflect a growing appetite for transparency — a glimmer of light in a session where there have been too many assaults on open government and the public’s right to know.

New Mexicans who would like to know how their money is being spent no doubt would agree with him.

Senators Addicted to Pork Sink Accountability Bill

Fred Nathan and the good people at Think New Mexico are again taking up the cause of exposing how denizens of the Roundhouse spend our tax money. Think New Mexico is a well-respected, non-partisan think tank that works year-round to champion causes for the public.

Senate Bill 144, sponsored by senators Bill Tallman, D-Bernalillo and Sander Rue, R-Bernalillo presented the bill Feb. 8 in the Senate Rules Committee.

New Mexico has the second worst system in the country for funding capital projects. Most states have gone to either a stand alone committee, composed of legislators and citizens, with a mix of engineers, architects and lawyers; or a committee of legislators, representing both sides of the aisle.

New Mexico does it differently. It's commonly called pork. Organizations from all over the state, large and small, chase their representatives and senators to get a piece of each legislator's pork allowance.

Money is allotted to elected officials based on overall revenue available. The governor gets a percentage and what is left gets divided between the senate and house. That amount is then divided individually. It's estimated this year senators will receive \$3 million, representatives \$2 million.

The list of projects for each legislator is long, with at least \$20 million in requests to each senator and representative. This is public information, listed with each legislator.

However, the final list is not public. It's the public's money, it should know how it's spent, and by whom.

Rue accurately described the bill as a baby step toward capital spending transparency.

"This isn't our money," he said. "It belongs to the citizens of New Mexico."

The bill was supported by Think, New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, New Mexico Association of Counties, League of Women Voters and Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce.

No one in the gallery spoke in opposition. ...

Kudos to Sen. Cliff Pirtle, R-Chaves, Eddy and Otero counties, and Sen. Clemente Sanchez, D-Cibola, Socorro, McKinley and Val counties.

They both opposed the bill and voiced what every senator and representative is thinking. They don't want the municipalities, tribes, *acequias*, counties and land grants to know what each other is getting.

"That creates problems for us," Sanchez said.

Rue had the proper response for both of them.

"Face the music," Rue said. "Explain what you did (funding). If you can't you shouldn't take the money."

In short: do what you were elected for. ...

Pirtle addressed another elephant in the room. He wants to get credit for his funded project list. It sounds like he's in the Roundhouse for self glory, not representing his constituents fairly.

"Who's going to get the credit for it?" he said referring to projects funded by several legislators. "We'll work against each other to get equal credit."

Pirtle made an amendment to remove the parts of the bill which attribute projects to legislators' names, the meat of the bill. The amendment passed and the bill failed 5-6 because there was nothing of meaning left in it.

A similar bill passed the House unanimously and sits in Senate Rules, awaiting a hearing. We fear it will suffer the same fate unless the likes of Pirtle and Sanchez are brought to their senses.

When Think New Mexico began working to repeal the food tax back in 2001, we never would have guessed that we would still be engaged in this fight nearly two decades later. In 2005, after a three-year campaign by Think New Mexico, the legislature and governor repealed the food tax. This brought New Mexico into line with the 34 other states that do not tax the sale of groceries, including our neighbors in Arizona, Colorado, and Texas. Yet just about every year since 2010, Think New Mexico has had to fight attempts to bring back this regressive tax. This year, three bills were introduced to reimpose the food tax, and we opposed them alongside allies like the AARP, the Conference of Catholic Bishops, New Mexico Voices for Children, and the New Mexico Coalition of Food Banks. Fortunately, none of this year's food tax bills gained any momentum, but we remain vigilant.



RESULTS: New Mexico families have saved \$134 million a year thanks to the food tax repeal, for a total savings of \$1.88 billion since 2005.

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2019

Debate over food tax resurfaces

BY DAN BOYD
JOURNAL CAPITOL BUREAU

SANTA FE — There's a new food fight brewing at the Roundhouse.

Several influential senators, including Senate Finance Committee Chairman John Arthur Smith, have filed legislation that would bring back the gross receipts tax on grocery items.

Lawmakers repealed the food tax in 2004, and proposals in recent years to reinstate it have been met with fierce opposition.

Smith, a Deming Democrat, acknowledged the idea is unpopular politically but said the food tax exemption has exacerbated flaws with New Mexico's tax system and placed a burden on state and local governments.

"We quite frankly made our system more regressive instead of more progressive," Smith told the Journal.

He also described the legislation as a "message bill," adding, "If I'm still here five years down the road, I'll say 'I told you so.'"

Critics of the plan to reinstate the food tax, including Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, say bringing it back would hit low-income New Mexicans the hardest.

"The governor opposes a food tax and believes such initiatives disproportionately target the poor and widen the income gap," Lujan Grisham spokeswoman Nora Sackett said Tuesday.

Two bills dealing with the food tax were filed last week, shortly before the deadline to file legislation for the ongoing 60-day session that ends March 16.

Senate Bill 585, the measure Smith filed with Senate GOP floor leader Stuart Ingle of Portales, calls for a full reinstatement of the state food tax. ...

Smith said many rural New Mexico communities have few stable revenue streams, and said allowing them to tax food and grocery items would give them more stability.

"If you're really going to broaden the base and lower the rate, you've got to bring medical (expenses) and food back into the mix," Smith said.

In addition, there has been debate over how much the food tax affects New Mexico's poorest residents.

Some backers of reinstating the tax argue that because roughly 222,000 low-income New Mexicans qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps, they see little benefit from tax-exempt food items and have faced higher taxes on other items.

But others counter that SNAP doesn't cover all food needs and that those whose income barely exceeds the food stamp eligibility level — currently set at \$32,640 annually for a family of four — would face a heavy cost burden if the food tax is put back in place.

Fred Nathan, the executive director of the Santa Fe-based Think New Mexico, is in that camp. His think tank advocated for the 2004 law that removed the tax on grocery items.

"New Mexico's tax system is a mess and is undermined by more than 300 special interest loopholes, exemptions and deductions," Nathan said. "So it is puzzling that these bills, rather than focusing on overall tax reform, instead focus on the food tax exemption, the one exemption which benefits hundreds of thousands of low- and middle-income New Mexico families and which enjoys wide public support."

However, those arguments haven't stopped attempts to reinstate the tax on food items.

Legislators actually approved a 2010 plan to impose city and county gross receipts taxes on most food items — in the midst of a state budget crunch — but that proposal was dubbed a tortilla tax by opponents and ultimately vetoed by then-Gov. Bill Richardson.

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Monday, December 24, 2018

Food tax should remain dead and buried

Bad ideas in New Mexico don't die. They are resurrected each December in anticipation of another session of the state Legislature.

The worst of the perennial proposals is taxing groceries. It's back in the form of a trial balloon, one that should be burst with gusto.



**Milan
Simonich**
Ringside Seat

Bill Fulginiti, executive director of the New Mexico Municipal League, for years has been lobbying legislators to reinstate the tax on groceries. ...

Fulginiti isn't a villainous sort. He's a bureaucrat with blinders.

Everybody has to buy groceries. The municipal league's idea would harm people with the smallest incomes, those worrying about how they're going to put food on the table.

I've been writing about proposals to tax groceries since my first newspaper job in the 1970s in Colorado. I covered a city where thousands of steelworkers were laid off during the weeks before Christmas. ...

With so many unemployed steelworkers, sales-tax revenue slumped. City administrators wanted to tax groceries to make up the difference.

I still remember the disdain of one City Council member as he heard a pitch to fatten the government treasury at the expense of people without jobs.

"You don't tax food," said the councilman, whose name was Isaac Duran. "City Hall doesn't exist to hurt people."

The time and place are different, but many who are part

of governments in New Mexico still see a tax on groceries as a pipeline of fresh money. ...

Instead of pressing for a tax on groceries, Fulginiti's municipal league might examine the hundreds of other tax exemptions in New Mexico.

State legislators don't know which ones help the economy and which bleed it dry because somebody with clout received a tax break.

Railroads, airlines, lottery retailers and even jockeys at racetracks receive exemptions. Yet Fulginiti and others in government want to tax groceries, perhaps because it really is low-hanging fruit.

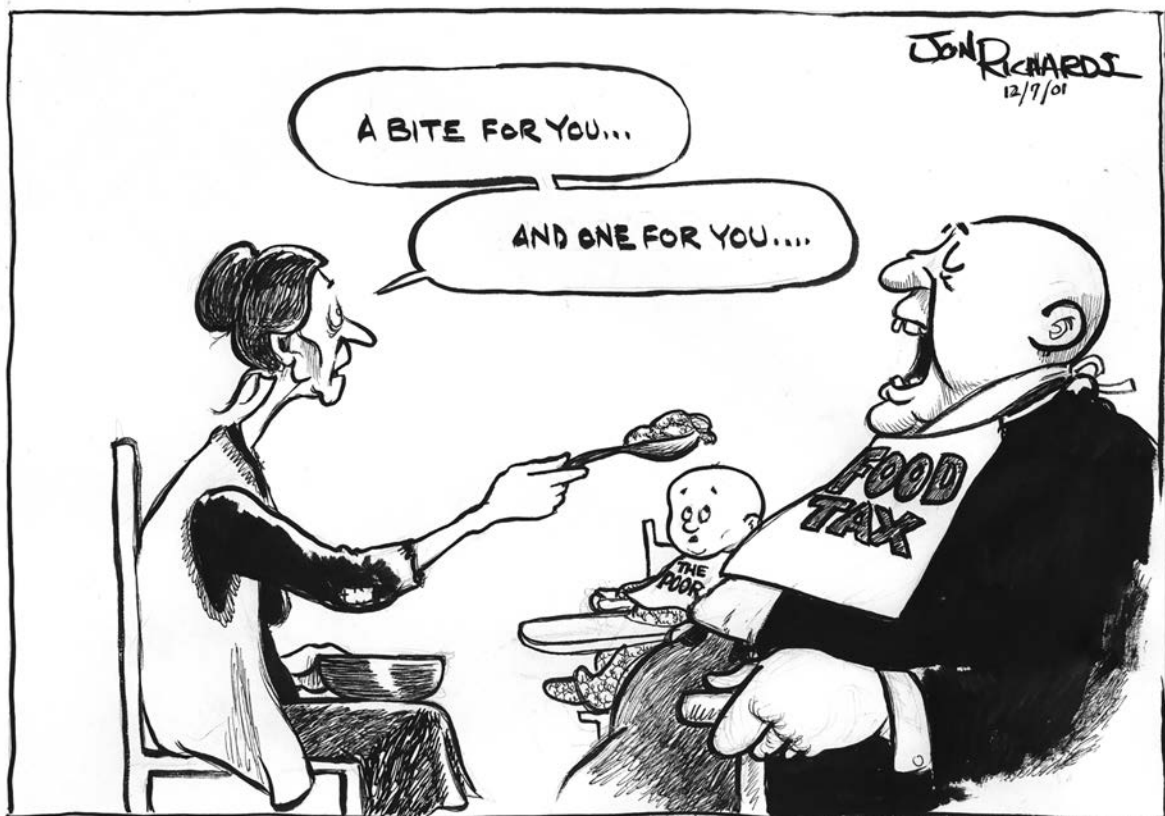
Fred Nathan and his small staff at the policy organization Think New Mexico are encouraging mayors and city councilors to break from the municipal league by opposing the tax.

And the advocacy group New Mexico Voices for Children is distributing poll results that show overwhelming public opposition to reinstating a tax on groceries.

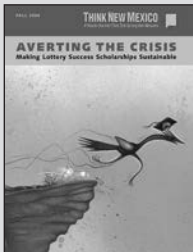
"New Mexicans believe their leaders should be fighting hunger, not making it worse," said James Jimenez, executive director of the agency.

This is Christmas Eve, peak time for generosity. When the workweek returns to normal, Fulginiti and his cohorts won't face any great difficulties. They will still be well-fed.

Not everyone in checkout lines at the grocery is so secure. They can't afford lobbyists.



Cartoonist Jon Richards illustrated the three-year fight to repeal New Mexico's food tax.



In 2006, only about 23 cents of every dollar bet on the lottery were reaching the scholarship fund. Thanks to the law Think New Mexico drafted and passed in 2007, the lottery is now required to deliver at least 30% of revenues to scholarships. The scholarship fund has received more money every year since the 30% guarantee was enacted than it did in any year before. Yet because more money for students has meant less money for the gaming corporations that contract with the lottery, bills have been introduced every year for the past five years to repeal the 30% guarantee.

This year, we brought together the leadership of the UNM College Democrats (whose president was a Think New Mexico Leadership Intern) and the UNM College Republicans and they published their first ever joint opinion editorial. We were pleased that the bill sponsor agreed to add multiple protections for students to the bill, including capping the lottery's operating costs at 15%, sending unclaimed prizes to scholarships, and ensuring that scholarships would receive at least \$41 million per year. The bill ran out of time awaiting a hearing of the House, so the 30% guarantee remains in place.

RESULTS: The lottery has delivered an additional \$9 million a year to scholarships every year for the past decade, \$90 million additional dollars so far.

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019

Lottery changes must put students first

BY JULISA RODRIGUEZ

PRESIDENT, UNM COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

AND SUMMER BEGAY

PRESIDENT, UNM COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

As leaders of the UNM College Democrats and Republicans, we disagree about many things, but we both feel strongly about the importance of protecting the lottery scholarship program. For this reason, we urge the Legislature and governor to oppose any legislation that fails to put the interests of students first and maximize the amount of lottery revenues going to scholarships.

Every year for the past decade, students have received more money from the lottery scholarship program than they did in any year before 2008.

This is because, in 2007, the Legislature and governor passed a law guaranteeing that at least 30 percent of lottery revenues must go to the scholarship fund. This law has increased the dollars going to scholarships by about \$9 million a year, according to research by the independent think tank Think New Mexico.

Most of those additional dollars came at the expense of the lottery's outside vendors, multinational gaming corporations that contract with

the lottery. Because their contracts were reduced to send more money to scholarships, these companies have hired lobbyists to try to repeal the 30 percent guarantee.

Last year, UNM students worked with Think New Mexico and our allies in the Legislature to transform the lottery vendors' bill into one that put students first. Legislators added three amendments to the bill which made sure that students would receive at least \$40 million a year — the lottery has delivered an average of \$42 million a year to scholarships over the past decade; transferred unclaimed prize money — \$2-3 million a year — to scholarships rather than returning it to the prize fund; and capped the lottery's operating expenses at no more than 15 percent. The bill also had a sunset clause so that the 30 percent guarantee would come back automatically if the lottery ever failed to deliver at least \$40 million to scholarships.

This year, Senate Bill 283 was introduced to repeal the 30 percent guarantee. We are glad that the bill phases in a cap on the lottery's operating expenses, and grateful that the Senate Education Committee amended the

bill to make sure that the scholarship fund will receive at least \$40 million in lottery revenues next year, \$40.5 million the year after and \$41 million every year after that. If the lottery ever fails to make these minimum payments to the scholarship fund, the 30 percent guarantee will automatically return.

However, while this bill includes important protections for students, we are very troubled that the lottery is trying to kill Senate Bill 80, which would transfer unclaimed prizes to the scholarship fund.

Twenty-nine states send unclaimed prizes to the lottery's beneficiaries, e.g., scholarships, while only 12 put the money back into the prize fund as New Mexico does. As Sen. Bill Soules, D-Las Cruces, explained when he presented Senate Bill 80, many people who do not claim their lottery prizes assume that the money will go to students.

We hope legislators and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham will listen to the voices of students, just as lawmakers did last year, and reject any changes to the lottery that fail to put the interests of students first.

On January 1, 2018, the first phase of New Mexico's new health care transparency website came online. This website was developed as a result of legislation Think New Mexico championed in 2015, and it currently includes the average prices paid by Medicaid (which covers about 45% of all New Mexicans) for nine common non-emergency procedures at each of the state's 44 hospitals. It also includes quality metrics for the hospitals, such as 30-day readmission rates and patient ratings. During the 2019 legislative session, Think New Mexico successfully advocated for \$900,000 to create an All-Payer Claims Database, which will collect the data needed to publicize the average prices paid for medical care by New Mexicans who are covered by individual or employer-based insurance policies. This will incentivize hospitals to compete to improve quality and lower costs, and it will allow New Mexicans with high deductibles to shop around for the highest quality, most affordable health care.



RESULTS: The first phase of the health care transparency website is live at nmhealthcarecompare.com and \$900,000 has been appropriated to expand it.

Alamogordo DAILY NEWS

September 18, 2018

Reduce health costs with all-payer claims database

Kristina G. Fisher
Guest columnist

As deductibles and out-of-pocket costs for health care continually increase, New Mexico families face a conundrum: they are expected to shop around for the most affordable non-emergency care, yet they have no way to find out in advance the cost of a medical procedure at different providers.

Fortunately, earlier this year New Mexico took a first step toward making health care prices more transparent with the launch of a website, nmhealthcarecompare.com, where anyone can find the average prices paid by Medicaid for nine common, non-emergency procedures at each of the state's 44 hospitals. The website, which was created as a result of legislation that Think New Mexico drafted and advocated for, also includes quality metrics for the hospitals, such as 30-day readmission rates and patient ratings.

Now it is time to take the next step: increasing the number of procedures listed on nmhealthcarecompare.com and adding the average prices paid by New Mexicans who are covered by individual or employer-provided insurance policies.

Seventeen other states, including our neighbors in Colorado and Utah, are showing us how it can be done. These states are pulling back the veil on health care prices by creating All-Payer Claims Databases (APCDs), which collect information on the prices paid for health care by all payers and allow those states to

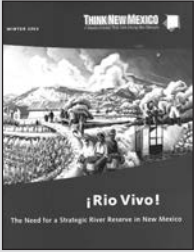
provide information about the average costs of care for people with different types of insurance.

Revealing this information on nmhealthcarecompare.com has the potential to yield significant savings for New Mexico families. A 2013 study by researchers at the University of Chicago found that the price of common elective procedures dropped by an average of 7% in states with transparency websites.

New Mexico taxpayers also stand to benefit from an APCD. In California, the health care system for retired state employees saved \$5.5 million on knee and hip replacements after a transparency initiative determined that the cost of these procedures varied from \$15,000 to \$100,000 and the state announced that it would pay no more than the average cost, \$30,000. In response, 40 of the higher-priced hospitals reduced their prices by as much as a third.

An APCD would be an excellent investment for a small portion of the additional revenue that New Mexico expects to receive this year due to high oil and gas prices. We hope readers will join us in urging lawmakers and gubernatorial and legislative candidates to support the creation of an All-Payer Claims Database to give all New Mexicans the tools they need to find the best health care for their families.

Kristina G. Fisher is associate director of Think New Mexico. She represents the interests of health care consumers on the New Mexico Health Information System Act Advisory Committee.



During the 2019 legislative session, we successfully advocated for \$242,000 for the Strategic Water Reserve, the innovative water management tool that Think New Mexico designed back in 2005 to keep more water in New Mexico's rivers and allow us to proactively control our own water destiny, rather than letting it be dictated by the federal courts and other states. Since it was created, the Strategic Water Reserve has grown to include over 4,500 acre-feet of water on the Pecos River and just over 1,000 acre-feet in the middle Rio Grande. However, due to tight state budgets, the Strategic Water Reserve had not received funding in several years. This year's appropriation arrives at an especially urgent time, as the state prepares for the possible consequences of the Texas v. New Mexico lawsuit, which might result in the Supreme Court ordering New Mexico to keep more water in the Lower Rio Grande.

RESULTS: \$3.5 million has been spent to acquire over 5,500 acrefeet of water for the Strategic Water Reserve on the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers.

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, 2005

Senate Embraces Water Reserve

BY TANIA SOUSSAN
Journal Staff Writer

New Mexico could establish a pool of state-owned water rights to help endangered species and to meet water delivery obligations to other states under a measure sent to Gov. Bill Richardson.

The Senate voted unanimously Tuesday to approve the "strategic water reserve" bill.

The proposal would allow the Interstate Stream Commission to lease or purchase water rights from willing sellers, obtain rights to store water and accept donations of water rights. However, the commission would be prohibited from acquiring water rights from acequias.

"It's just kind of another tool in the kit of the state engineer and Interstate Stream Commission," bill sponsor Rep. Joe

Stell, D-Carlsbad, said Wednesday.

State Engineer John D'Antonio said the water reserve would help protect New Mexico water users from the threat of the federal government taking water to meet Endangered Species Act requirements.

"The passage of this bill is a big bipartisan victory for New Mexico's rivers and the communities that depend on them," said Fred Nathan, executive director of Think New Mexico, a think tank that called for a water reserve in a 2003 report.

"The Strategic Water Reserve will help New Mexico proactively resolve our water conflicts before they become as contentious as the silvery minnow lawsuit or as expensive as the Pecos River settlement," he said.

The need to provide water for the endangered Rio Grande minnow during the drought sparked fights between environmentalists, farmers, cities and others.

On the Pecos, the state needs about \$30 million this year to retire water rights and ensure New Mexico meets its compact delivery obligations to Texas. If that money doesn't come from other legislative appropriations, the Strategic Water Reserve might be able to help, Stell said.

The bill is supported by business and environmental groups and by rural and urban interests, including the Association of Commerce and Industry, the Sierra Club, the New Mexico Rural Water Association and the New Mexico Municipal League.

2011–2019: REFORMING THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

In 2011, Think New Mexico identified the core problem plaguing the state's Public Regulation Commission: it had too much power (a broader jurisdiction than any state regulatory agency in the nation) and too few qualifications for commissioners (who were only required to be at least 18 years old, residents of New Mexico for at least a year, and not convicted felons). The next year, we won passage of three constitutional amendments to: (1) transfer the PRC's corporate reporting duties to a one-stop shop for business filings at the Secretary of State's office (profiled below); (2) move insurance regulation out of the PRC to an independent agency that was better shielded from political influence; and (3) increase the qualifications of PRC commissioners. We also won passage of legislation that modernized the PRC's regulation of taxis, limos, shuttles, and moving companies.



RESULTS: Removing corporate filing from the PRC eliminated a four-month backlog and saved taxpayers \$2.7 million a year.

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

(A lot less of) your state tax dollars at real work

A 97 percent increase in efficiency.

A 71 percent decrease in cost.

Welcome to the new and much-improved New Mexico Corporations Bureau. What a difference a little effective oversight can make.

When the bureau was moved via constitutional amendment from the Public Regulation Commission to the Secretary of State's Office earlier this year, it was a poster child for bureaucratic bloat and inefficiency. It had a 110-day waiting period to process documents and register corporations. It offered slightly expedited service for a surcharge. It used a Byzantine registration system that stymied would-be business owners and an online system that was perpetually off-line. The public price tag for running things this badly? A whopping \$3.8 million a year.

If that didn't amount to an SOS for someone to get the state open for business, it's hard to imagine

what would. But since July, an SOS of another sort, the Secretary of State's Business Services Division under the steady hand of administrator Ken Ortiz, has systematically removed the ridiculous government delays and incompetence that put up roadblocks to private-sector economic drivers and job creators.

According to a report this month to the Legislative Finance Committee, it now takes an average of three days to process documents and register corporations. The online system has been fully developed and has streamlined operations. Yet the annual budget has been slashed to \$1.1 million, putting a lie to the conventional New Mexico wisdom that if we would just spend enough money it would fix everything.

And it begs the question what else could this kind of thinking improve for New Mexicans and how much more money could it save?

In 2019, Think New Mexico helped pass legislation that built on our past reforms. House Bill 407 was a comprehensive update to the election code that included a provision that we drafted requiring candidates for the PRC to specifically list how they meet the qualifications requirements when they file to run for office – rather than just signing a one-sentence statement saying that they are qualified. As a result, voters will have specific information about the qualifications of PRC candidates before they vote next year.



During the 2009 legislative session, Think New Mexico drafted and won passage of a package of reforms designed to make home ownership more affordable by reducing the cost of title insurance for New Mexico families. The reforms opened the title insurance industry to price competition and increased discounts for homeowners who refinance their mortgages. It also included a first in the nation law designed to reduce the cost of title insurance for New Mexico's tribal nations when they buy land and transfer it to the federal government to be held in trust. In 2012, Think New

Mexico learned that many title insurers were failing to provide customers with the full discounts included in our reform law, so we successfully petitioned the Superintendent of Insurance and won an order enforcing the enhanced discounts and allowing homeowners who had overpaid to get refunds.

RESULTS: To date, 7,677 New Mexicans have received discounts on title insurance averaging \$143, for a collective savings of just over \$1 million.



January 19, 2011

New Regulations to Reduce Closing Costs for Homebuyers

By Gerald Garner Jr.

SANTA FE – New Mexicans who are buying or refinancing a home will likely get some much-needed savings in closing costs thanks to new state regulations, which took effect on Friday, Dec. 31, 2010.

Until last week, title insurance companies were bound by the 1985-enacted New Mexico Title Insurance Law, which required companies to abide by a single rate schedule established by the Superintendent of Insurance. The law nullified price competition by prohibiting companies from charging rates lower than the standard

established by the state's insurance boss.

However, legislation sponsored by House Speaker Ben Lujan in 2009 opened the door for competition within the market thus paving the way for potential savings for New Mexicans.

Superintendent of Insurance John Franchini said he's pleased that the new, consumer-friendly title reform regulation is now in effect.

"This is fantastic news for New Mexicans who are either buying or refinancing a home," Franchini said. "Anything that can benefit our citi-

zens during these very trying financial times is a blessing and bringing price competition back to New Mexico will help the state's economy as well as the struggling housing market."

In addition to lower closing costs, 2009 legislation also increased and extended discounts available for title insurance policies purchased with mortgage refinancings, according to Think New Mexico Executive Director Fred Nathan. Think New Mexico was one of the champions of the 2009 title insurance reform effort.

In 2006, Think New Mexico led the effort to create New Mexico's first state-sponsored Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) with the enactment of the Family Opportunity Accounts Act. IDAs are matched savings accounts and financial literacy classes where working families can learn how to save for education, homeownership, or starting a small business. Think New Mexico's legislation included an initial appropriation of \$1.5 million. Additional funding was appropriated for the program in subsequent years.



RESULTS: A total of \$2.5 million in state funding has been appropriated to support IDAs in New Mexico.

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

August 8, 2008

Anti-poverty program can reap dividends

Written by the Las Cruces Sun-News Editorial Board.

The problem with most government anti-poverty programs is that they provide temporary assistance, which may be sorely needed, but do little to help people in the long term to climb out of poverty and join the ranks of the middle class.

The individual development account program is different. While it provides little in the way of immediate help, it does provide a pathway for people to make permanent changes. The idea behind IDAs is that the government will lend a helping hand, but those receiving the help have to do their share.

That means starting a savings account and attending financial literacy classes where participants learn about things like establishing a household budget and handling credit. Participants then set up interest-bearing

bank accounts. For every \$1 deposited in the account, the government will add \$4, up to \$600. They must save at least \$10 a month.

The money in that account can't be squandered on a weekend in Vegas. It has to be used for buying a house, starting or expanding a business or paying for education.

In 2006, the New Mexico Legislature, at the urging of the public-policy group Think New Mexico, passed a bill appropriating \$1.5 million to get it rolling.

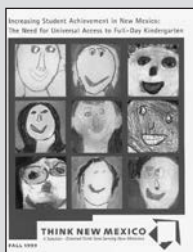
In pushing for the program, Think New Mexico showed lawmakers how successful they have been in other states. A Ford Foundation study showed that 59 percent of IDA owners are more likely to stay employed. In Illinois, 76 percent of those who completed the financial literacy classes reduced their credit

card debt, and 74 percent increased their savings.

In New Mexico, a 2002 study showed that only 25.5 percent of low-income families had interest-bearing bank accounts. The rest had no access to mainstream financial institutions, and were therefore more vulnerable to payday loans and other more predatory types of lending.

The program in New Mexico is just now starting to pay benefits.

Last month, Ivan and Pauline Chacon used the money from their IDA account to purchase their first home on North Mesquite Street, where they are now settling in with daughters Angelina and Clarissa. Both Ivan and Pauline are graduates of the program. And, according to Pauline, they are saving more and thinking about the future.



Think New Mexico's very first initiative focused on some of the youngest New Mexicans. Because the research is clear that early childhood education profoundly influences a child's ability to succeed, we aimed to make high-quality full-day kindergarten accessible to every child in New Mexico. When we launched the initiative, only about 14% of five-year-olds in the state had access to full-day classes. The law we drafted and successfully championed in 2000 made full-day classes available in every school district by 2004, bringing New Mexico from the bottom to the top of

at least one significant national ranking—access to full-day kindergarten—in only five years. Other states continue to follow New Mexico's lead.

RESULTS: Since it was fully phased in, 325,000 New Mexico children have had access to full-day kindergarten.

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Friday, August 27, 2004

School bells ringing on full-day kindergarten

While the state of our state's public education remains wretched, New Mexicans have new hope for eventual improvement as the school year begins:

Full-day kindergarten, for the first time, will be offered in all our state's schools.

Approved by the Legislature in 2000, the full-day schedule was phased in over five years to ease the budgetary strain.

Kindergarten should include the many phases of early learning; good citizenship, courtesy, sharing and tolerance also should take hold, preparing youngsters for the crucial basic training of the primary grades.

Yet during years of half-day sessions in some of our state's districts, teachers could offer little more than milk-and-cookie time for our state's 5-year-olds. In many of the smaller districts, money was raised locally for full-day classes. But those serving the great majority of New Mexico families were financially too thin to do it.

That's where Think New Mexico came in. A bipartisan, results-oriented think-tank thought up by Fred Nathan, who'd served Tom Udall as deputy attorney general, it attracted a strong, influential and diverse board of directors:

Edward Archuleta of 1000 Friends of New Mexico; former Attorney General Paul Bardacke; David Buchholtz, attorney and promoter of commerce and industry; former Gov. Garrey Carruthers; adminis-

trative executive Elizabeth Gutierrez; LaDonna Harris, founder of Americans for Indian Opportunity; strategic planner Rebecca Koch; Ambassador Frank Ortiz; Roberta Cooper Ramo, first female president of the American Bar Association, and former congressman/Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.

With folks like that collaring legislators and then-Gov. Gary Johnson, a kindergarten bill was squeezed through a 30-day session of the Legislature and gained the governor's signature.

In the next six to eight years, some results of this stronger start to education might be seen, since the full-day phase-in began with schools where student achievement tended to be lower. Full results might not be seen for 12 years, when all our state's 11th-graders will have had the benefit of full-day kindergarten.

But already, there are hints of progress: While our state's high-school juniors performed abysmally on achievement tests, third-graders last year showed improvement over third-graders the year before.

Might that be a result of full-day kindergarten kicking in? It's probably too soon to tell. But we're convinced that Think New Mexico, its many supporters from business, industry, labor and the public sector, and the legislative leaders who saw the idea as a chance to make a difference in coming generations, took a great step forward with it.

Future generations will thank them — and so should today's New Mexicans.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP INTERNS



*Shannon
Fonseca*



*Josue
Gandarilla*



Rouzi Guo



*Maggie
Honeyfield*



*Natalie
Longmire-Kulis*



Ceryn Schoel



Connor Schultz



*Lia
Stefanovich*



2018 Leadership Interns

*Neel Roy, Julisa Rodriguez,
Mitchel Latimer, Emma Lia
Mariner, Elena Purcell*

Shannon Fonseca (fall 2018) graduated first in her class from Albuquerque Academy and is now studying Political Science at New York University Abu Dhabi. In 2018, Shannon completed a 6,000-mile bike tour of the United States and Canada.

Josue “Joshua” Gandarilla (summer 2019) is a first-generation college student from Sunland Park who just graduated from New Mexico State University. Josue founded a nonpartisan voter registration and education organization called the NMSU Council of Collegiate Voters.

Rouzi Guo (summer 2019) grew up in Albuquerque and is now a junior at Georgetown majoring in Political Economy. Rouzi has previously interned for New Mexico Ethics Watch and for then-Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Maggie Honeyfield (spring 2020) grew up on a cattle ranch in Raton and graduated from New Mexico Tech. While at college, she founded “Techies Stand Up: Educate, Empower, Advocate” to advocate for better Title IX implementation. She is now earning her J.D. from the Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

Natalie Longmire-Kulis (summer 2019) grew up in Santa Fe and is a sophomore at Stanford University. Natalie served as the head of Santa Fe Teen Court and the Assistance Dogs of the West Youth Board, and she founded the Teen Court Canine Program to provide trained emotional support dogs for teen defendants.

Ceryn Schoel (fall 2019) grew up in Santa Fe and is now a junior at the University of New Mexico. She has lobbied in Washington, D.C. with the Friends Committee on National Legislation and interned with Senator Tom Udall.

Connor Schulz (summer 2019) was raised in Los Alamos and just graduated from New Mexico State University, where he participated in Model U.N. and volunteered as a judge in Speech and Debate tournaments. He has served as a student panelist for NMSU’s Domenici Public Policy Conference.

Lia Stefanovich (spring 2019) grew up in Albuquerque and is now a senior at the University of New Mexico, where she serves as Secretary of the executive board of the UNM College Democrats. Lia volunteered on multiple local campaigns during the 2018 midterm election.

A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP INTERNS

Over 60 students have participated in the Leadership Internship since Think New Mexico launched it in 2008 with the goal of nurturing a new generation of leaders. We mentor our interns in how to develop and enact sound public policy, and we help them network and find career paths in public service here in New Mexico.

We are very proud of the diverse accomplishments of our interns, from serving as a Resident Scholar at the School for American Research to producing stories for National Public Radio. Three of our interns have been selected as Truman Scholars, three have received Fulbright Fellowships, and one is a Marshall Scholar. Here are just a few examples of where our Leadership Interns are now:

Jacob Candelaria (2008) worked as a program evaluator for the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee and as a policy analyst for New Mexico House Speaker Ben Lujan before running for office himself and becoming one of the youngest state senators elected in New Mexico.

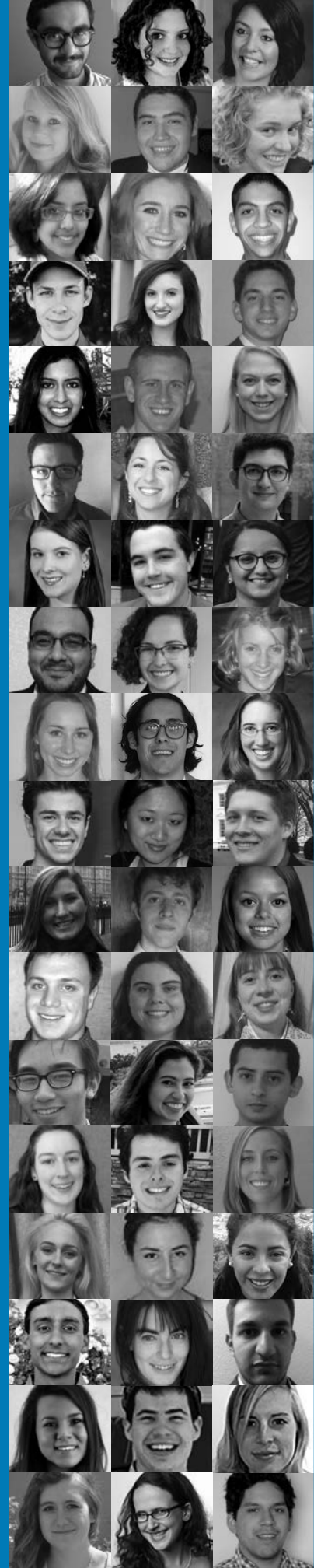
Matt Baca (2012) went on to clerk for the New Mexico Supreme Court and for the past four years has been Senior Counsel at the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General.

Diane Alongi Berger (2008) produced the acclaimed documentary, “Everyone’s Business: Protecting Our Children,” which was broadcast on multiple local television stations.

Jay Maharath (2016) went on to serve as Program Assistant with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of New Mexico.

Carlie Malone (2012), **Julia Downs Cogan** (2015), **Ellen Rabin** (2015), and **Noel Martinez** (2015) were all hired as fiscal analysts at the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, to analyze the fiscal impacts of bills and help develop the state budget.

To learn more about Think New Mexico’s Leadership Internship, read bios of all of our past interns, and find out how to apply, please visit: www.thinknewmexico.org. If you are interested in supporting the internship program, donations can be made to the Udall-Carruthers Leadership Internship endowment, which is profiled on page 38 of this report.

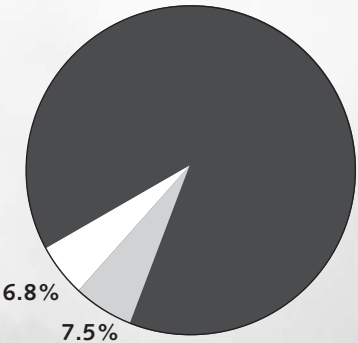


Statement of Income and Expenditures

INCOME	
Business Contributions	20,043
Car Donations	283
Endowment/Interest Income	8,346
Foundation Grants	284,750
Individual Contributions	288,505
Sale of Reports & Online Store Items	852
Total Income	\$ 602,779

EXPENDITURES	
Audit/Accounting	8,882
Benefits: Health, Dental & Disability Insurance	56,937
Benefits: Pension Plan & Fees	22,110
Computer Consulting & Website	2,152
Contract Services	39
Depreciation	552
Donated Real Estate Expenses	13,263
Educational Outreach	7,500
Graphic Design	525
Insurance	2,787
Internship Pay & Program Expenses	16,826
Investment Management Fees	1,446
Legal Fees	0
Marketing	0
Online Vendor Processing Fee	2,093
Payroll Taxes	24,526
Postage	6,167
Printing & Bulk Copying	18,152
Professional Fundraising	0
Rent/Utilities Expense	31,452
Salaries	304,735
Security/Janitorial	1,493
Stewardship/Board Expenses	743
Supplies	1,666
Telephone & Internet	2,686
Training/Research/Dues	5,039
Travel	495
Total Expenses	\$532,266

Administration & Fundraising
as a Percentage of Income: 2018



Think New Mexico’s fundraising
expense as a percentage of in-
come in 2018 was 6.8%. Think
New Mexico’s administrative
overhead (“management and
general”), as a percentage of
income in 2018 was 7.5%.

NOTE: These financial statements do
not include in-kind contributions of
services or materials from 2018, which
were valued at \$10,345. They also do
not include unrealized investment
appreciation.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Year Ended Dec. 31, 2018

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	335,100
External Endowment Funds	104,462
Udall-Carruthers Endowment	74,029
Grants Receivable	20,335
Investments	884,501
Land held for sale	1,522,734
Prepaid Expenses	0
Property and Equipment*	274
<hr/>	
Total Assets	\$2,941,435
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	631
Accrued Expenses	0
<hr/>	
Total Liabilities	\$631
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	2,821,020
With donor restrictions	119,784
<hr/>	
Total Net Assets	\$2,940,804
<hr/>	
Total Liabilities	
and Net Assets	\$2,941,435

** Net of Accumulated Depreciation.*

Source for pages 22–23: Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2018 and Think New Mexico’s IRS Form 990 for 2018. Independent auditors: Swain & Grieco, LLC CPA.

IMAGE: Alex Candelaria Sedillos
westlight@yahoo.com

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

(JANUARY 1, 2018—MAY 31, 2019)

- Abeles Foundation

Aceves-London Family Fund

Azalea Fund

Barker Welfare Foundation

Bingaman Foundation

Brindle Foundation

Cabin Fund

Candelaria Fund

Caprock Fund of Tides Foundation

Castagnola Family Fund

Chase Foundation

Delle Foundation

Earth & Sky Fund of the
Santa Fe Community Foundation

Eye Associates Gerald & Alice Rubin
Memorial Foundation Fund

Feinberg Foundation

Fleischaker Women's Legacy Fund

Foster Foundation Inc.

Foundation for Sustainable Living

Frost Foundation

Gale Family Foundation

Garfield Street Foundation

Hanna and Matthew Foundation

John H. Hart Foundation

Peter & Maria De Anda Hay Fund of the
Santa Fe Community Foundation
- Hunt Family Foundation

IDM Foundation

Independent Community Foundation, Inc.

Kaufman Fund of Communities of
Coastal Georgia Foundation

Klein Foundation

Kate Klein Fund of the
Santa Fe Community Foundation

Kuhn Foundation

LEF Foundation

Louise Arnold Maddux
Environmental Foundation

McCune Charitable Foundation

Scandia Foundation

Second Anonymous Fund of the
Santa Fe Community Foundation

Simon Charitable Foundation

Solis-Cohen Spigel Family Fund

Special Relativity Educational Foundation

Thoma Foundation

Thornburg Foundation

Edith M. Timken Family Foundation

Toan-O'Brien Foundation

Doris Goodwin Walbridge Foundation, Inc.

Individual Social Investors (JANUARY 1, 2018—MAY 31, 2019)

Anonymous (13)
Kathy & Rick Abeles
Paul Abrams
Ann N. Aceves
Richard M. & Kay R. Adam
Jan & Rick Adesso
Lewis & Marge Agnew
Dr. Mercedes M. Agogino
Omar Ahmed
John B. Aidun & Joan M. Harris
Pamela Saunders Albin
Anne Albrink
Drs. Joe Alcorn &
Sylvia Wittels
Johnnie R. Aldrich PhD
Christian L. Alexander
Mark & Martha Alexander
Judith & Bill Alger
Catherine A. Allen
Elizabeth Allred
Linda & Carl Alongi



Arthur Alpert
Tim & Lucia Amsden
Rudolfo Anaya
Charles & Cheryl Anderson
Jean Anderson
Judy Anderson
The Honorable Phelps Anderson
Maggie & Christian Andersson

John F. Andrews & Jan Denton
Clara Apodaca
Lynne E. Arany
Amber Archer
Laurie Archer
Patricia & Richard Arens
Susan Arkell
Karyl Ann &
Kenneth Armbruster
Dale & The Honorable
Gail Armstrong
Robert G. &
Sara Clark Armstrong
Roberta Armstrong &
Al Webster
Aaron Arner
Meleah Artley
Ralph Atenasio
Rev. Victor Lee Austin
Gary Axen
Patricia Fleury Ayala
M. Carlota Baca PhD
Drs. Sally Bachofer &
Margaret Vining
Robert "Cid" & Betty Backer
Ian Bailey
Drs. Rebecca & Brant Bair
Ed & Kiyomi Baird
Russell Baker
Carl & Penny Baldwin
Carol & John Balkcom
Tina L. Bandick
Keith Banks
The Honorable Paul Bardacke &
Lisa Enfield
Cris & Marilyn Barnes
Laurie & Thomas Barrow
Dan Barsotti
John & Nolana Bassett
Sara & Patrick Bauman
Ann & Steve Baumgarn



John O. Baxter
David E. Beavers
Mary & Len Beavis
Richard & Sue Bechtold
Anne E. Beckett
Noel & Frances Behne
Rachel Belash
Letty Belin
Dr. Barry & Natalie Beller
Lisa T. Bemis
Fred Bender
Joann Benenati
Raphael & Karen Benjamin
Marilyn Bennett
Mary Ann Bennett
Reed & Melinda Benson
Laura Berg
Sonya Berg
Diane Alongi Berger
Lucinda & Robert Berglund
Karen & Steven Berkowitz
Charles G. Berry
Karen & Stephen Bershad
George & Joyce Berzins
Dr. Lynn Bickley
Yetta H. Bidegain
John & Sarah Bienvenu
Reed & Rosalind Bienvenu

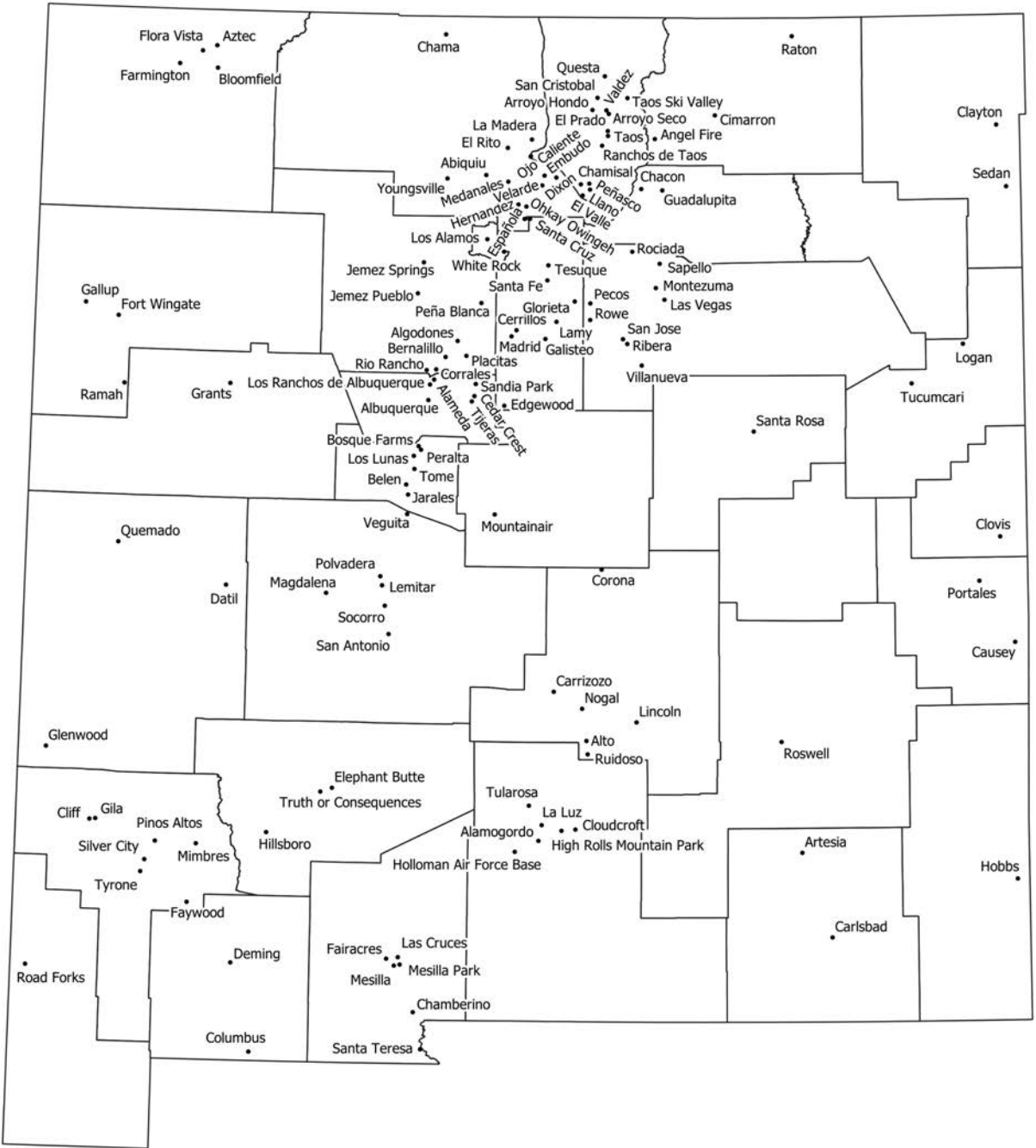
What's a "Social Investor?" We call our contributors "social investors" because we believe that nonprofits should be evaluated based on the social return they produce each year. For example, because Think New Mexico's 1999 income was \$109,499, the \$135 million appropriated annually for full-day kindergarten means that our investors continue to receive social dividends of approximately \$1,230 for every \$1 invested in Think New Mexico's initial full-day kindergarten project.

Featured on these pages are Think New Mexico social investors and friends wearing their Think New Mexico "thinking caps" around the world. Their names and locations are listed on the back inside cover.

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During our first two decades, Think New Mexico’s social investors have come from **132** communities across New Mexico – as well as 40 other states, the District of Columbia, and Saskatchewan, Canada! We have supporters in all but two of New Mexico’s counties, so we’re offering special prizes for our first social investors from De Baca County (population 1,829) and Harding County (population 692).



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MANY THANKS TO OUR MONTHLY AMIGOS!

“Monthly Amigos” make automatic monthly donations to Think New Mexico from their banks or credit cards. The Amigos listed below have signed up to make contributions ranging from \$5–\$300 a month. Their recurring gifts provide Think New Mexico with steady, predictable income throughout the year. Our Amigos never have to remember to mail us a check!

If you’d like to become a Monthly Amigo, you can easily sign up to make a recurring donation on the “Support” page of our website (your donation will be processed through PayPal, and you can change the amount of your donation or cancel it at any time).

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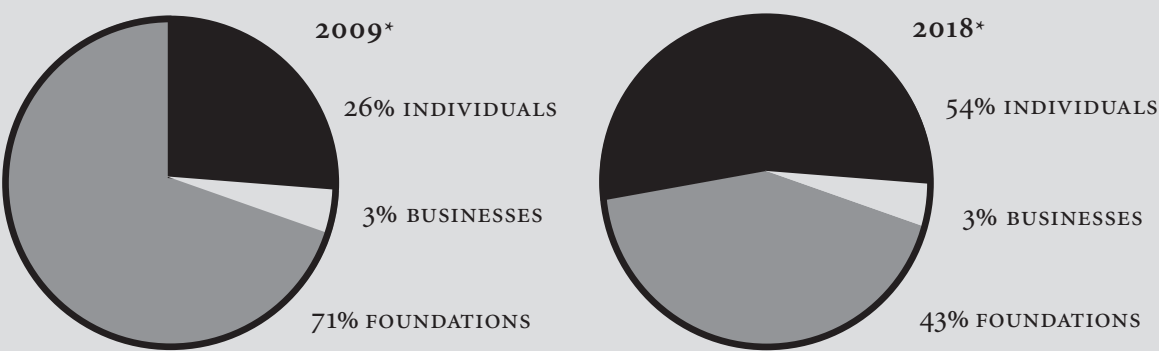
CHECK OUT THINK NEW MEXICO’S NEW ONLINE STORE

One of the perks of becoming a Monthly Amigo is a discount at Think New Mexico’s new online store. However, you do not need to be a Monthly Amigo to enjoy the store, where you can purchase all sorts of gear, from Think New Mexico stickers to tote bags, cell phone cases, notebooks, water bottles, mugs, t-shirts, hoodies, and more! For a limited time, we also have items at the store celebrating our 20th anniversary. They make great gifts and Think New Mexico gets 10% of the price of anything you buy. You can find the store at: <http://www.thinknewmexico.org/online-store/>.



STAY IN TOUCH! Visit Think New Mexico’s website at www.thinknewmexico.org to sign up for our email alerts, and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

THINK NEW MEXICO IS POWERED BY YOU



In Think New Mexico’s early years, the vast majority of our funding came from foundation grants. Today, most of the dollars that fuel our work come from individual contributions.

**Proportions reflect the average of the previous five years, 2005–2009 and 2014–2018*

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“In these days of shouting and not listening, thanks for all your good work!”
DAVID C. MCGUIRE, JR., ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, JULY 5, 2018

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**Think New Mexico's
 Ranking for Best
 Advocacy Campaign**

Year	Rank
2018	60th
2017	60th
2016	60th
2015	58th
2014	57th
2013	57th
2012	70th

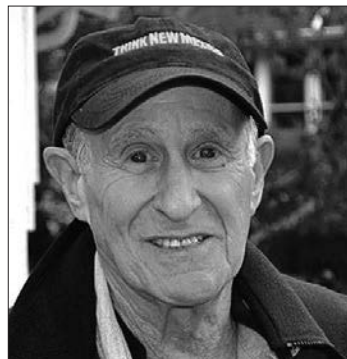
Every year, the University of Pennsylvania publishes a report evaluating over 7,800 think tanks world-wide. Think New Mexico is the only state-based think tank ranked in the top 100 in the world.

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MAKING THINK NEW MEXICO A LASTING PART OF YOUR LEGACY

We are enormously grateful to the people listed here, who have included Think New Mexico in their wills or designated Think New Mexico as the beneficiary of a retirement account, insurance policy, or other estate gift. Please consider joining them by making a charitable provision in your will for Think New Mexico. It is an investment in New Mexico and its long term future.

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	Fred, Jr. & Arlyn Nathan	*deceased

We also wish to extend our sincere thanks to several anonymous donors who have made provisions for legacy gifts to Think New Mexico. For more information on making a legacy gift, please visit our website or contact Fred at (505) 992-1315.

LEGACY DONOR PROFILE: SENATOR BILL TALLMAN

Meet Bill Tallman, career public servant and now a state senator from Albuquerque.

Beginning about a half century ago, Bill has been City Manager of a series of progressively larger cities in New York, Connecticut, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, where he managed thousands of city employees, implemented cost-saving measures, and built infrastructure. In 2006, he and his wife, Becky, moved to the Land of Enchantment.

In his “retirement” in 2016 at age 75, Bill decided to run for the state senate. He won what political blogger Joe Monahan called “a stunning upset” by defeating an incumbent senator. Bill knocked on 7,000 doors to speak with voters and he wrote about 2,000 personal letters asking for support. At the Roundhouse, Bill personifies the servant leader, routinely working 12-hour days and quietly carrying dozens of bills, as well as staying in constant communication with his constituents. We are honored that when Bill recently revised his will, he included a bequest to Think New Mexico.

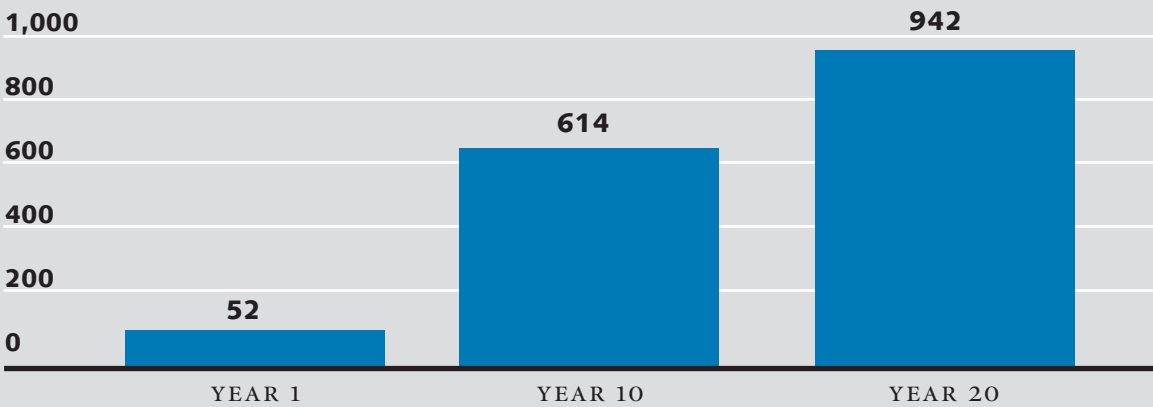


“The folks at Think New Mexico succeed by being honest brokers of sound information, solid research and good ideas. They fight the lobbyists who make large political contributions and take legislators out for high-priced meals at fancy restaurants. And they work incredibly hard, as I learned when I teamed up with them to try to make capital outlay spending transparent to taxpayers in New Mexico.”

—Senator Bill Tallman

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“I’m a great fan of your organization and I’m so glad you are growing bigger and better all the time. You provide an invaluable service to New Mexico and all its people.”

—SUSAN SLADE, SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO, OCTOBER 22, 2018

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DONATE A CAR, TRUCK, BOAT, OR OTHER VEHICLE

Whether it's running or not, your car, truck, RV, boat, or other vehicle can make a positive difference in the lives of New Mexicans if you donate it to Think New Mexico. We partner with the nonprofit CARS, which will come pick up the vehicle, sell it at auction, and forward the proceeds to Think New Mexico.

If you have any questions or would like to donate your vehicle call CARS at 1-877-411-3662 (be sure to tell them that the donation is for Think New Mexico) or visit the "Support" page of our website.



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DONATE DIRECTLY FROM YOUR RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA/401K)

If you own an Individual Retirement Account and are over age 70 and a half, you are eligible to receive tax benefits if you transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to Think New Mexico. The transfer will count toward fulfilling your required minimum distribution from your IRA and will not be considered part of your gross income for federal tax purposes.

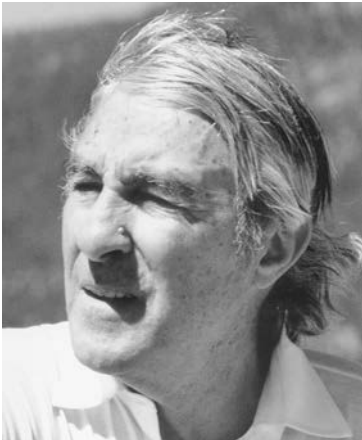
For more information on donating from your IRA, just give us a call at (505) 992-1315 and we'll give you all the information you need to make the transfer. Then simply contact the financial services company that serves as your IRA custodian and let them know that you would like to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Think New Mexico from your IRA.

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SUPPORT THE UDALL-CARRUTHERS LEADERSHIP INTERNSHIP ENDOWMENT



The Honorable Stewart L. Udall



The Honorable Garrey Carruthers

In order to sustain our Leadership Internship program over the long term, Think New Mexico's board created an endowment fund in honor of Stewart Udall, our founding board Chair, and Garrey Carruthers, who succeeded him in the role.

Stewart Udall served three terms in Congress and was Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. He chaired Think New Mexico's board from its founding in 1999 until his passing in 2010.

Garrey Carruthers was also a founding board member of Think New Mexico, and he chaired our board from 2010–2015. He grew up in Aztec, NM, earned his PhD from New Mexico State University, received a White House Fellowship, and served as Governor of New Mexico from 1986–1990.

Both Stewart Udall and Garrey Carruthers exemplify a deep dedication to public service and working across the aisle for the public good. This sort of leadership is too rare today, and it is exactly what we hope to cultivate in our interns.

Think New Mexico has raised over \$80,000 of our \$100,000 goal for the endowment. When it is fully funded, the endowment will support two paid internship positions every year in perpetuity. If you are interested in helping us complete the Udall-Carruthers Leadership Internship endowment, please contact us.

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Think New Mexico began its operations on January 1, 1999. It is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In order to maintain its independence, Think New Mexico does not accept government funding. However, contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations are welcomed, encouraged, and tax-deductible.

“Thinking Cap” Photos

PAGE 25: Leadership Intern Martha Hughes, Colombia;
Travis Crawley, Albuquerque

PAGE 28: Filmmaker John Sayles and Pio Arevalo, New Mexico;
Eliza Mariner and Sophie Roberts, Albuquerque

PAGE 32: Leadership Intern Phil Wilkinson, Santa Fe;
Donald Meyer (1934–2019), Santa Fe;
Leadership Intern Shannon Fonseca, mangrove forest,
Abu Dhabi

PAGE 36: Leadership Interns Marcos Duran, Jay Maharath, and
Prasamsa Dhakal, Santa Fe
Anne Beckett, Moeraki Boulders, New Zealand

Acknowledgments

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COMMITTED
CITIZENS
CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD.
INDEED, IT IS
THE ONLY THING THAT
EVER HAS.

Margaret Mead