



## Rural/Urban Economic Development Legislative Agenda

Town Hall 36

[updated 1/27/09]

New Mexico First convened its 36<sup>th</sup> statewide town hall in March 2008. The event, *Business as Unusual: Rural and Urban Economic Development* brought together community members, business people, and policymakers from all regions of New Mexico. Over 200 people took part in the event. After the town hall, an implementation team was established to advance the citizens' recommendations, and that team has developed the following priorities for the 2009 Legislative Session. (*The full report, containing all 18 final town hall recommendations, is available at [www.nmfirst.org](http://www.nmfirst.org).*) The implementation team is chaired by Silver City resident Linda Kay Jones, along with subcommittee chairs Beverlee McClure of Albuquerque, Judy Stubbs of Roswell, and Jamai Blevin of Santa Fe.

Priority	Bill or Policy Description	Status
<p><b>Simplify state and local regulations.</b></p> <p><i>(Advancing town hall rec. 18)</i></p>	<p>So that economic development efforts can be enhanced, New Mexico should have a state and local regulatory frame work that is fair, simplified, uniform, accessible, timely, consistent, affordable, and transparent. The implementation team supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HB 45</b>, which would require regulatory impact statements for each rule, regulation, or standard promulgated by a state agency.</li> <li>• The creation of an interim committee or task force to review and make recommendations on the implementation of the Administrative Procedures Act since New Mexico is the only state that has not adopted such an act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 45 introduced by Representative Richard Berry and endorsed by New Mexico First and ACI.</li> <li>• Legislation has not yet been introduced regarding the Administrative Procedures Act.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enable lawmakers to make informed decisions about tax policies.</b></p> <p><i>(Advancing town hall rec. 19)</i></p>	<p>In order for decision-makers to review the tax structure of New Mexico, data is needed to make informed decisions. The implementation team proposes creating an independent Office of Fiscal Accountability that will conduct tax and economic policy research as well as other duties such as Fiscal Impact Report reviews.</p>	<p>A bill has not yet been introduced but the concept is endorsed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Mexico First</li> <li>• ACI</li> <li>• NM Municipal League</li> <li>• NM Association of Counties</li> <li>• NM Tax Research Institute</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Work regionally to meet workforce skills and training needs.</b></p> <p><i>(Advancing town hall rec. 17)</i></p>	<p>The town hall agreed that New Mexico needs a trained and educated workforce that meets the needs of existing and new businesses. The implementation team supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HB 7</b>, providing funding for the Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP).</li> <li>• The <b>Layoff Assistance Bill</b> that would support retraining for 600 unemployed mine workers as well as fund collection of data in the western New Mexico region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 7 was introduced by House Speaker Ben Lujan and is endorsed by New Mexico First, WNMU, and NM-IDEA.</li> <li>• The Layoff Assistance Bill is expected to be introduced by Senator Howie C. Morales.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strengthen NM's educational system, pre-school through college.</b></p> <p><i>(Advancing town hall rec. 16)</i></p>	<p>A robust and seamless educational system is essential to creating an appropriately trained workforce and a pipeline of youth entrepreneurs. The implementation team supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IDEAL-NM</b>, a joint statewide education initiative between the public and higher education departments to provide educational opportunities that increase digital literacy skills for rural and urban youth.</li> <li>• The <b>New Mexico Rural Revitalization Initiative (NMRRI)</b>, established to help rural school districts and communities work together to stimulate the economy, revitalize the community, and provide educational improvement opportunities for all students.</li> <li>• <b>SB 29</b>, which would fund entrepreneurial training and technical support statewide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for IDEAL-NM is part of the state Economic Development Department's proposed agency budget. New Mexico First endorsed the initial establishment of the initiative and supports ongoing funding for it.</li> <li>• The NMRRI is an existing initiative and a bill is expected that will provide this year's funding.</li> <li>• SB 29 was introduced by Senator Mary Jane Garcia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use marketing strategies to promote local communities and sustain businesses.</b></p> <p><i>(Advancing town hall rec. 7)</i></p>	<p>So that rural communities can sustain existing businesses and attract new ones, the communities should form partnerships to plan and implement marketing strategies. The implementation team supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HB 38</b>, which would provide for marketing state agricultural products based on regional, varietal, or specialty labels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 38 was introduced by Representative Paul Bandy.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Sustain and retain small business.</b></p> <p><i>(Advancing the spirit of town hall recs 8 and 10, as well as several group vision statements.)</i></p>	<p>Because small business is such an integral part of the economic growth strategies of NM's rural and urban communities, the implementation team supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB 14</b>, business incubator programs.</li> <li>• <b>SB 97</b>, a statewide small business development center at Santa Fe Community College.</li> <li>• <b>SB 45</b>, extending the existing research and development (R&amp;D) tax credit to 2013. The tax credit is set to expire in 2009.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB 14 was introduced by Senator Carroll Leavell.</li> <li>• SB 97 was introduced by Senator Carlos Cisneros.</li> <li>• SB 45 was introduced by Senator Bernadette Sanchez.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use data to understand local needs and set economic goals.</b></p> <p><i>(Advancing town hall recs 5 and 6)</i></p>	<p>The town hall called for the systematic collection of economic data, as well as the use of data in local development planning. Proposals that appear to be aligned with those goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund the operations of UNM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research to secure a thorough statistical picture of New Mexico's workforce to include a gap analysis of specific employer's needs versus an accurate assessment of skill sets available in New Mexico's workforce.</li> <li>• The Layoff Assistance Bill (referenced above) is expected to support regional data collection including community demographics and economic profiles.</li> </ul>	<p>Bills have not yet been introduced.</p>

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