



2016 STATEWIDE TOWN HALL

Economic Security and Vitality for New Mexico

Presented by Heather Balas
President & Executive Director - New Mexico First
Annual Board Meeting – June 23, 2016

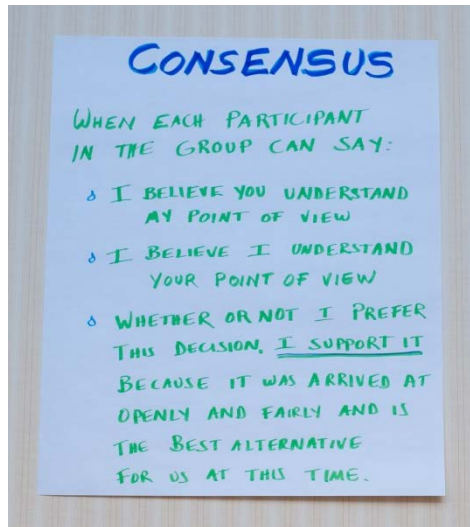


What is New Mexico First?

Nonpartisan and
Nonprofit

Generator of
Unbiased Research

Champion for Citizen
Engagement in Policy





How do we make a difference?

- ▶ Water planning funding, 2015
- ▶ Near-passage of Forest and Watershed Restoration Act, 2015
- ▶ Teacher training in STEM fields, 2014
- ▶ Funding for Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP), 2014
- ▶ Renewal of regional water planning process, 2013
- ▶ Expansion of federal Medicaid, 2013
- ▶ Small Business Task Force on Regulatory Reform, 2011
- ▶ Establishment of NM Mentorship Day, 2011
- ▶ Executive Order on energy dev., 2009
- ▶ Marketing support for NM agricultural products, 2009
- ▶ Workplace Wellness Memorial 24, 2009
- ▶ Healthy New Mexico Task Force, 2008
- ▶ Medical student financial support: aid to repay loans, incentives to stay in NM, 2008
- ▶ Alignment of HS graduation requirements with college entrance exams, 2007
- ▶ PED Math & Science Bureau, 2006
- ▶ High School Reform Act, 2006
- ▶ Small Business Regulatory Relief Act, 2005
- ▶ Renewable Energy Act and the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit, 2002
- ▶ NM Tax Research Institute, 2001
- ▶ Phase-in of full-day kindergarten, 1999

About the Town Hall

- ▶ Over 200 people, from all six regions of NM
- ▶ Urban, rural and tribal
- ▶ Business, environment, researchers, municipalities, agriculture, government, elected officials, students
- ▶ 11 final recommendations-6 themes



New Mexico First's 2016 Statewide Town Hall on Economic Vitality

Six Big Themes

- ▶ Small Business Climate and Entrepreneurship
- ▶ Rural and Tribal Development
- ▶ Diversifying Our Economy
- ▶ Government and the NM Economy
- ▶ Economic Security for Families
- ▶ A Changing Workforce

Sample Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION 1: SMALL BIZ TOOLBOX

ACTION: Develop a fully resourced small business development toolbox.

STRATEGIES:

- a) Market powerful tax and financial incentives for small businesses, placing as much emphasis as is devoted to large economic base industries.
- b) Promote resources and support New Mexico small businesses and recruit out-of-state small business leaders to the state.
- c) Improve access to capital, and explore micro finance alternatives, especially in rural, tribal and frontier areas.
- d) Map, align and coordinate resources at all levels of government and across sectors to provide access to the small business development toolbox.



Actively Support Small Business

Rec 1: Create a small business “toolbox”

- ▶ Incentives on par with industrial recruitment
- ▶ Access to capital
- ▶ Better coordination (govt, EDOs, incubators)

Rec 2: Fund innovation & quality

- ▶ Result: Successful, innovate small businesses
- ▶ High-speed, universal broadband
- ▶ Measure success well
- ▶ Build on existing assets (i.e., film, software)



Create Thriving Rural and Tribal Economies

REC 3: INVEST IN RURAL AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

- ▶ Remove barriers to LEDA, JTIP etc.
- ▶ Reserve part of the New Mexico Catalyst Fund for early seed investments.
- ▶ Remove regulatory barriers that unnecessarily inflate or delay to infrastructure projects.

REC 4: INVEST IN YOUTH

- ▶ Create vocational or workforce pathways that fit rural economies (including overall employment skills).
- ▶ Elevate Future Farmers of America, 4H, and similar programs.
- ▶ Expand the NM Youth Conservation Corps .



Further Diversify the Economy

REC 5: RESTRUCTURE THE TAX CODE

- ▶ Form a commission to study and recommend reforms

REC 6: ADVANCE A CULTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Support local EDOs.
- ▶ Promote regionalism.
- ▶ Substantially increase and stabilize funding.
- ▶ Restructure state and local ec dev efforts to be more efficient; less duplication.



Advance Effective Roles of Government

REC 7: BUILD RESULTS-DRIVEN GOVERNMENT

- ▶ Review licensing and permitting requirements.
- ▶ Pick the proven, fund consistently, and measure success.
- ▶ Facilitate broader public participation in government.

REC 8: IMPROVE TECH TRANSFER

- ▶ Identify more sources of capital for tech coming out of the labs and educational institutions.
- ▶ Remove roadblocks that impede commercialization of viable technologies.
- ▶ Empower entrepreneurs to protect ownership of their ideas and grant exclusive licenses.
- ▶ Get reports from federal delegation and labs on TT progress.



Focus on Family Economics

- ▶ **RECOMMENDATION 9:
ADVANCE FAMILY-FRIENDLY
POLICIES**
- ▶ Invest in education from birth through adulthood
- ▶ Financial literacy
- ▶ Include family impact considerations in the development of public policy.
- ▶ Eliminate “cliff effects.”
- ▶ Incentivize employers to adopt family-friendly policies.



Strengthen the Workforce through Education

REC 10 & 11: ALIGN WORKFORCE WITH A PURPOSE-DRIVEN ECONOMY

- ▶ Develop a workforce qualified to satisfy the needs of employers.
- ▶ Promote life-long academic success.
- ▶ Re-establish vocational programs in K-12 education.
- ▶ Improve K-12 reading, writing and math skills, plus financial literacy.
- ▶ Improve regulatory structures.
- ▶ “Design Thinking Process”

Implementation

- ▶ The recommendations will not sit on a shelf.
- ▶ Implementation team to advance the town hall's priorities at least 18 months and beyond.
- ▶ Bipartisan co-chairs.

Bill Garcia

- ▶ Former Cabinet Secretary for NM Dept. of Economic Development
- ▶ Roles in telecom, economic development and micro-chip manufacturing
- ▶ Civic leadership, numerous charities, Santa Fe and statewide

Tom Taylor

- ▶ 16 years as a New Mexico Representative
- ▶ 12 years as Farmington Mayor,
- ▶ Business owner, investor, 4 Corners Economic Development
- ▶ Civic leadership, numerous boards, Farmington and statewide

What can you do?

- ▶ Look for ways to support the New Mexico economy with your own purchasing and hiring decisions.
- ▶ Call your legislator!
- ▶ Stay informed on economic issues.
- ▶ Join New Mexico First – nmfirst.org