

NEW MEXICO

The race for Governor of New Mexico is heating up, with Governor Martinez running some very negative ads about Gary King. So far he has not responded very forcefully, but he has pumped another \$500,000 into the race; however, Martinez has over \$4 million in her war chest and she will be using a large amount of that money to help Republican House members keep their seats and to try and unseat at least four Democrats. They would then take control of the House, which they have not done in 65 years. There is a very real chance that when it's all over, it could end up in a tie (35 – 35), and then it is going to be very interesting on who will end up in control, the Democrats or the Republicans.

Sen. Tom Udall has a big lead over his opponent, Allen Weh, and should win and be re-elected to the U. S. Senate for District 1. Representative Michelle Lujan should win easily over Republican Michael Free in District 1. Steve Pearce, Republican in District 2, should defeat Roxanne Laru, Democrat. In District 3, Representative Ben Ray Lujan will be re-elected, and so the Congressional delegation will not change.

The upcoming 2015 Legislative Session will be the long 60-Day session. This session will be open to any and all legislation. We can look forward to several minimum wage bills and a bill to de-criminalize marijuana. The State has over \$13 billion in the permanent fund so we can look for several bills to take money from the fund. The Session will begin on January 20, 2015, and end on March 21, 2015, with at least a dozen new Representatives. It will be interesting.

Governor Martinez has stirred things up with an announcement that her administration proposes to re-impose and broaden work-related requirements on low-income New Mexicans to qualify for food stamps.

"Starting in October, the state plans to restore a 20-hour-a-week work requirement for an estimated 26,600 childless adults to get food stamps. The mandate was suspended in 2009 because of the national recession. On-the-job training and community service also can help meet the work mandate."

The administration also proposes to implement a requirement for low-income parents and other caregivers of children ages 6 and older. Adults would have to search for a job or participate in community service to obtain the food assistance.

Food stamp-eligible parents or other household members caring for a child – regardless of the child's age – have been exempt from job search requirements. Pregnant women and some others, including those who are considered physically or mentally unable to work, would continue to be exempt.

About 420,000 New Mexicans receive food stamps averaging \$265 a month. Children represent about 46 percent of those receiving assistance.

The Human Services Department says it's uncertain how many people would be affected by the proposed job search changes. But social services advocates worry the work requirements would knock poor people off food stamps. They also contend the proposed requirements are a bad idea when New Mexico has been losing jobs recently and the economy remains weak.

"If we had a glut of jobs in this state, it would be one thing to consider making this mandatory, but that's just not the case," said Louise Pocock, a lawyer with the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty.

Human Services spokesman Matt Kennicott said the 2009 waiver of the work requirement *"was only temporary and was never intended to stay indefinitely. These are the same broad-based job search requirements that have existed for years in most public assistance programs throughout New Mexico."*

There are work requirements for people in the state's welfare program, he said. *"The department also proposes to broaden who must search for a job to include 16- and 17-year-olds if they're not attending school or attending a training program, and adults from ages 51 to 59."*

The state restored the job search requirement last year for low-income adults ages 18 to 50 but continued to exempt those caring for children. The number of food stamp recipients has dropped by about 20,000 since last summer when the changes were approved, according to the agency's latest enrollment figures through February. The job search requirement also was suspended during the recession.

Once the new requirements are implemented, Kennicott said, about 59,000 food stamp recipients could be subject to the job search requirement. That figure includes those were covered by it last year. The department has scheduled an Aug. 29 hearing in Santa Fe to receive public comment on proposed rule changes. People qualify for food stamps – what the federal government calls the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – based on their income.

"An individual can earn up to about \$1,580 a month – just under \$19,000 a year – and a family of four is eligible with income of up to \$3,239 a month or not quite \$38,900 a year." (Albuquerque Journal, August 5, 2014)

The State of New Mexico is ranked 49th for job growth and our unemployment rate is the second highest in the nation. So what is the answer from the Union and community organizers? – *"Let's raise the minimum wage"* – what a unique idea!

The city of Las Cruces has passed an \$8.00 per hour minimum wage. This has not pleased the activists who are now trying to get enough signatures and send it to the voters to vote on it; they want \$10 per hour with a cost of living annually. If this goes to the public for a vote, it will pass. Albuquerque has also passed an \$8.60 per hour minimum wage with

a cost of living annually. Santa Fe is up to \$10.50 per hour with a cost of living annually.

The Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee has been meeting and is looking at ways to fund New Mexico highways and bridges. They would like to increase the state excise tax, which is currently \$.17 per gallon and has not been raised since 1991. Governor Martinez has said she will not sign any kind of tax increase. I guess we will just beat another dead horse.

New Mexico is still in a drought, but we have had some rainstorms all across the state recently, which have caused floods in some areas.



Ruben Baca
Executive Director,
New Mexico Petroleum
Marketers Association

NMPMA CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW BIG SUCCESS for 2014

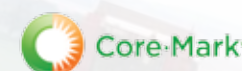
The Marriott Pyramid Hotel in Albuquerque was the place to be on August 19-20! Thanks to all our exhibitors and sponsors who helped make our event the success it was.

ADD Systems	Daniel B Stephens & Associates	NM Environmental Dept / PSTB	Rush Truck Centers of NM Inc
B&H Wholesale	Eaton Sales & Service LLC	National Purchasing Partners	Schaeffer Fuel Additives
C&L Pump Service Inc	FDR & CP Services Inc	New Mexico Lottery	Sinclair Oil Corp
CDM Smith Inc	Federated Insurance	Petroleum Card Services	Souder, Miller & Associates
Cochise Companies	Heil Trailer International	Philadelphia Insurance Co	WMI Mutual Insurance & WMI TPA
Core-Mark International	Kachina Petroleum Equipment Co	Renewable Energy Group Inc	Western States Insurance Group Inc
Corner Capital Advisors	McLane Company	Rice Christ Inc	WorldPay
D&H Pump Service Inc			
DSA Architects			

PREMIER



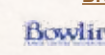
PLATINUM



GOLD



BRONZE



Corporate

DC Carriers



PAR PRODUCTS
A DIVISION OF PARCO, L.P.

