



**GREATER
ALBUQUERQUE** 
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2025-2026

PLAN OF ACTION

*Working to make our city and state a great place
to start and grow a business and a safe, exciting
place to work and raise a family*



IN THIS PLAN OF ACTION

01

Letter to Investors
from Chamber
Leaders

02

The City We Love

03

The Chamber's
Mission, Focus,
and Work

04

Chamber Priorities, Plans,
and Policy Progress

- Bold Issue Groups (BIGs) 6
 - Public Safety
 - Education Reform
 - Downtown Transformation
- Economic Development Teams 14
- Connection Advocacy Networks 15

16

Chamber Programs

- Leadership ABQ 17
- ABQ Reads 18
- NM Roadrunners 19

20

Chamber Membership
Brings Big Benefits

- Advocacy 24
- Connections 28

32

Chamber Leadership

- The Board of Directors 33
- The Leadership Circle 36

Cover photo, Jeff Loe, UNM Health



Dear Investors,

Welcome to the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce 2025-2026 Plan of Action. Thank you for your investment in our work. By investing in us, important goals are accomplished that no single business could achieve on its own. Together we are stronger, more effective and more influential. While New Mexico brings many blessings - unparalleled natural beauty, vibrant diverse cultures and kind, generous people - there are many challenges to growing our economy and supporting our businesses of all sizes.

The GACC is often the catalyst for positive change in our community and in our state by bringing together teams of business and community leaders to develop solutions and advocate for these changes at the federal, state and local levels. And, Chamber activities foster connections between business leaders and government officials, expand awareness of issues through presentations by experts, networking with other businesses and gaining access to resources which promote individual businesses in our community.

Our advocacy focus continues to be on addressing high crime rates, strengthening academic performance in public schools, expanding job readiness training and education, and transforming downtown Albuquerque into a safe and vibrant destination to live, work, and play. Through our network of government leaders, subject area experts, Board members, and the broader membership, we work together to identify solutions that benefit all.

Our work takes us everywhere from Albuquerque City Hall to the Roundhouse in Santa Fe and Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. We use multiple approaches including testifying, writing letters, organizing meetings, and sharing information. Our north star is to always be a steadfast and effective advocate for businesses so they can grow and prosper. We love Albuquerque and New Mexico, and we thank you for your investment in the Chamber. It's an investment that pays dividends in a better business environment, a better quality of life and a better future for all of our citizens.

Sincerely,



Peter Lorenz

Peter Lorenz, Chair of the Board
Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce



Terri Cole

Terri Cole, President and CEO
Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce



THE CITY AND STATE WE LOVE

A Destination City

- More than 6 million visitors to Albuquerque each year
- The 2024 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta powered by ExxonMobil attracted an estimated 838,337 guest visits, over nine days.
- No. 1 — “Best Places to Live and Work as a Movie Maker — Big Cities” (MovieMaker Magazine, 2025)
- No. 9 — Happy Accidents is one of the Top 10 Bars in the U.S. (Food & Wine, 2025)
- No. 1 — Orbit won the USA Today’s 10Best Readers’ Choice Award for the best minor league baseball mascot. (USA Today, 2025)
- No. 1 — Named top city for a career change in 2025 (Elevate Leadership, 2025)
- Old Town Holiday Stroll named Best Christmas Light Display in NM (Travel + Leisure, 2025)
- No 1 — Santa Fe ranked as the best U.S. city in the 2025 (Travel + Leisure World’s Best Awards, 2025)
- No. 1 — Taos the Best Shopping Town in the U.S. for 2025 (Travel + Leisure, 2025)

Outdoor Recreation

- No. 24 city for outdoor access and recreation (Trust for Public Land, 2025)
- No. 15 — Park Systems in the United States — 90% of residents live within a walkable half-mile of a park (ParkScore Index, 2025)
- No. 62 — Best Cities for Outdoor Activities in America (Niche, 2025) Rio Grande and its bosque runs through Albuquerque
- No. 3 — New Mexico is third-best state for camping, as well as ranking No. 4 for most biodiverse having 4,583 species (Drift Travel, 2025)
- Excellent hiking, biking, camping, skiing and much more!

Culture and Heritage – Like No Other Place in America

- Founded in 1706 as a Spanish colony
- New Mexico is home to 23 tribes and pueblos
- ABQ boasts cultural assets like the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and National Hispanic Cultural Center
- Majority-minority city, home to 70 ethnic groups
- Old Town, art, dance, museums – ABQ has it all!

**ONE
ALBUQUE
RQUE**

A Great Place to Live and Work

- Average commute time of just 22 minutes
- New Mexico: lowest property taxes in America (Tax Foundation, 2025)

Snapshot of Albuquerque

Population Estimates:

- 562,000 – Albuquerque
- 674,000 – Bernalillo County
- 916,000* – Greater Albuquerque (4-county metro area)

Racial / Ethnic Diversity:

- 49.8% Hispanic
- 37.4% White
- 19% American Indian, Other, Mixed
- 3.2% Black
- 3.1% Asian



THE CHAMBER'S MISSION:

A Greater Albuquerque

The Chamber exists to improve our city's quality of life and promote a dynamic, growing economy in the Albuquerque metro area. We believe that when it's easy for businesses to start, grow and thrive, our entire community benefits. Together, we can build an even greater Albuquerque — one that is safe, exciting and full of opportunities for children, residents and workers alike.

MISSION

Founded in 1917, we work with government, business and community partners to promote and develop a welcoming business environment and thriving, diverse economy in New Mexico. Our goal is to make our city and state a great place to start and grow a business and a safe, exciting place to work and raise a family.

FOCUS

Advocacy

- A powerful voice on behalf of businesses
- Driving policy changes — especially in the areas of economic development, public safety, education reform and downtown transformation
- Collaboration and engagement at all levels of government

Connections

- Business to Government
- Business to Business
- Business to Resources — including critical information, meeting space, trainings, and leadership development

OUR WORK INCLUDES

- Policy analysis, convening and negotiation
- Lobbying decision makers
- Benchmarking and best practices
- Sector-by-sector business advocacy
- Events with leaders and experts
- Networking opportunities
- Facilitation and coalition-building
- Expansion and replication of high-performing charter schools
- Strategic public communication on behalf of businesses
- News and information distribution
- Promotion and support of our investors



ADVOCACY
CONNECTIONS
SUPPORT



400 Tijeras NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505.764.3700
www.GreaterABQ.com



Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham spoke to Chamber members midway through the 2025 60-day legislative session urging continued support for her strategic water plan, economic development initiatives and public safety legislation.

CHAMBER PRIORITIES, PLANS, AND POLICY PROGRESS

BIGs

BOLD ISSUE GROUPS

Chamber policy committees that drive forward a multi-year agenda in three key areas essential to long-term economic growth: transforming Downtown Albuquerque, improving academic achievement in our public schools and reducing crime to make our city a safer and even more welcoming place.



EDTs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

Sector-specific groups of Chamber investors, board members, policy experts, trade associations and other partners who meet and mobilize when an opportunity or threat to an economic sector arises; the coalition's goals range from impacting public policy decisions (at all levels of government) to encouraging innovation and workforce development initiatives.



CANs

CONNECTION ADVOCACY NETWORKS

Various efforts in which the Chamber builds partnerships on a local and national level with other business organizations and economic development partners to amplify the voice of the business community and increase the collective impact of our advocacy work.



Top Advocacy Issues for the Chamber in 2025-2026

- Public Safety: Pretrial release/detention changes
- Health Care: Provider shortages, liability reform
- Homelessness: Site to take people, overnight beds
- Energy: All-of-the-above approach
- Downtown: Increased projects, crime reduction
- School leadership: Principal development
- Economic Development: Incentives
- Infrastructure: Funding
- Education: High-quality charters, student proficiency focus
- Regulations: Fair paid family medical leave
- Investing: Stable state permanent funds
- Taxes: Reduced pyramiding, GRT rate reduction
- Technology: Crime-fighting, broadband

BIGs

BOLD ISSUE GROUPS

The Chamber is in the business of solving BIG problems.

We support employers in our community by working to remove barriers to economic growth and create a welcoming and competitive business climate in our city and state. In order to achieve these goals, we will continue to push for fair and sensible tax, regulatory and budget policies at all levels of government. However, Chamber leaders have also identified three systemic challenge areas that pose a fundamental threat to our long-term prospects for prosperity: high crime rates, inadequate academic performance in our public schools, and a need for renewal and revitalization in Downtown Albuquerque.

The Chamber has formed policy committees known as Bold Issue Groups (BIGs) to address these key challenges, and the Board has approved a multi-year strategic plan that identifies our priorities and structures our work within these policy arenas. Our primary goal for each issue area, as well as our core beliefs and policy objectives, are outlined on the following pages. Enhancing public safety, improving public education and transforming Downtown Albuquerque will take time and require great intention and focus. We are up to the task and in it for the long haul. After all, the Chamber knows that a safe community, with a thriving downtown and a talented well-educated work force, is a place where jobs are created and economic growth is robust and long-lasting.

Bold Issue Groups (BIGs) Leadership

PUBLIC SAFETY



Chair: Janice Torrez
Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico



Vice Chair: Andres Garcia
Capra Bank

EDUCATION REFORM



Chair: Paul Madrid
Madrid Wealth Management



Vice Chair: Scott Hindman
Excellent Schools New Mexico

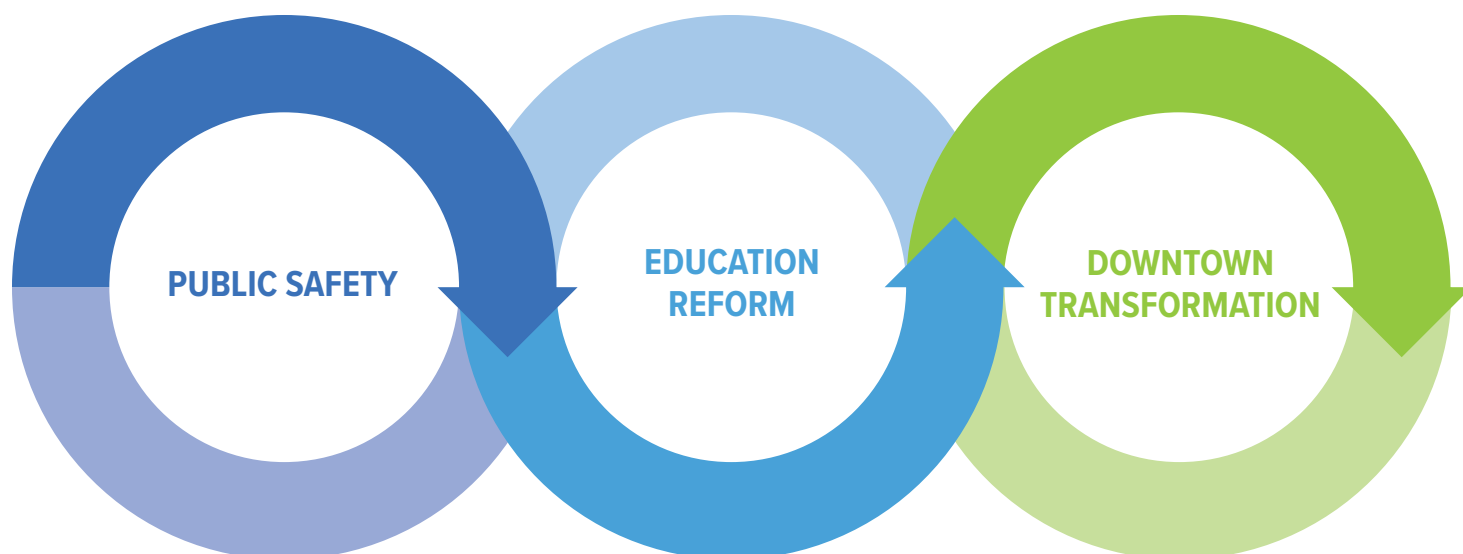
DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION



Chair: Doug Majewski
Hartman + Majewski Design Group



Vice Chair: Tom Briones
Briones Business Law Consulting



THREE KEY POLICY COMMITTEES (BIGs):



PUBLIC SAFETY

Our Primary Goal

Advocate for and help implement local and state-level policies and practices that will result in a reduction in crime in Bernalillo County and a tough, strategic and technologically advanced criminal justice system.



EDUCATION REFORM

Our Primary Goal

Advocate for education policies and practices that will lead to a direct improvement in the academic achievement of students in public schools and give every child the opportunity to receive a high-quality education that adequately prepares them for success in college, the workforce and life.



DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION

Our Primary Goal

Work with business, government and community partners to revitalize and transform Downtown Albuquerque into the vibrant heart of our city – an area with broad appeal that is exciting, welcoming and safe for businesses, residents and visitors alike.

On the following pages, read about the Chamber's core beliefs in each of our BIG areas and the major policy initiatives we are pursuing to make progress in our community.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A Crime Reduction Mission

OUR CORE BELIEFS:

- > High crime impedes economic growth, raising business costs and making it harder to attract employers and workers.
- > Those who commit crimes must face swift and certain apprehension and punishment; this is a key deterrent, and in New Mexico, it's not happening.
- > Crime in Albuquerque is substantially driven by drugs, trafficking, addiction and behavioral health disorders; courts and behavioral health systems must take more seriously the need to provide and require immediate treatment for those who pose a danger.
- > Recent major changes to New Mexico's justice system, like court-imposed deadlines for pretrial detention hearings that prosecutors cannot realistically meet, have made it harder for police and prosecutors to gather evidence; as such, it has become easier to commit a crime in New Mexico without facing adequate consequences.



Successful exit of Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA)

After more than a decade, the federal Department of Justice is no longer in our “Casa”. DOJ oversight of our police department was ended by court order in May of 2025, a goal long sought after by the Chamber and a host of political and business leaders in the city. Hard work by the front-line police officers and staff resulted in the department achieving full compliances with federal requirements. The department is now on a solid path to building a modern, community-focused police department that integrates trust, accountability and safety. This ruling finalizes what the department and our community have worked tirelessly for over the last decade. As a result, we have earned back the right to run our own police department.

Legislature Enacts Crime Fighting Package

After a special session late in 2024 failed to produce even a single anti-crime bill, the Legislature finally stepped up in the 2025 60-day session enacting six bills that were signed by the Governor. The package included reforms to competency statutes, increased penalties for making a shooting threat, increased penalties for auto theft and drug trafficking, a ban on so-called “Glock switches” and allowing DUI bloods testing for drugs as well as alcohol.

In addition to this package, “swatting” or making a false report of a major crime is now a felony. Also, important changes were made to the state’s RICO statutes, adding several heinous crimes to the list that prosecutors can use to go after crime syndicates and gang leaders.



Photo Courtesy of the Albuquerque Journal

CHAMBER PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2026

Crack Down on Serious Repeat Offenders

- Support federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutors in identifying offenders with warrants who are driving violent crime and drug trafficking - and get them held in jail and off the streets.

Juvenile Crime Initiative

- Push for an update of the Children’s Code and other statutory changes to provide clearer consequences and more effective interventions for young violent offenders that reflect better the nature of today’s juvenile crimes.

Attack Fentanyl Trafficking

- Support legislation increasing penalties for the trafficking of fentanyl, as well as efforts to stop the flow of fentanyl across New Mexico’s southern border.
- Urge strong local and federal collaboration on cross boarder crime and cartel violence.

Add to Officer Ranks

- Support efforts to recruit more police officers to Albuquerque, oppose policies that would hinder recruitment.
- Now that the city is out from under DOJ, push hard on local and state officials to recruit more officers in Albuquerque.

Pre-Trial Release of Serious Offenders

- Push for further statutory changes to the current pre-trial release system, including the creation of a rebuttable presumption of detention for repeat offenders and those arrested for serious violent crimes.

Crime-Fighting Technology

- Help secure capital funding for more police technology and equipment, including cutting-edge tools to support and assist in solving homicides, robberies and burglaries.

EDUCATION REFORM

Working to Ensure Every Child Can Attend a High-Quality Public School

OUR CORE BELIEFS:

- Every child is capable of learning and growing academically, regardless of their background.
- The success of New Mexico's schools should be measured primarily by whether students are learning.
- Talented, effective school leaders are essential to turning around New Mexico's alarmingly low academic performance, where just 3 in 10 students read on grade level and 1 in 4 do not graduate from high school.
- Public schools delivering great results for kids should (a) have their successful practices integrated into struggling schools, (b) develop and send out talented administrators and teachers to other schools, and (c) in the case of charter schools, expand to serve more children.
- We have stellar examples of other low-income states dramatically improving academic performance. New Mexico should rigorously follow this successful playbook.
- Intervening early with students helps them develop critical literacy skills and can prevent them from becoming discouraged and dropping out.
- Our schools are the workforce pipeline for New Mexico's employers; they should help train students for great careers in key economic sectors and workforce shortage areas.

Improved Method of Teaching Reading Now Law

At one of the very informative Chamber issue luncheons, Dr. Carey Wright, Superintendent of Schools in Mississippi, lead the "Mississippi Miracle" public education turnaround by stressing the need to teach reading using the "science of reading" method and the need to notify parents of how their children are progressing in reading and seeking interventions to ensure the necessary competency level is achieved. This year, the Chamber supported and the Legislature enacted a statute to mandate providing "science of reading" curriculum to those seeking an education degree. This is a good start but should go further in mandating statewide implementation of the "science of reading." Also, the Legislature needs to require parent notification. It's no secret that parental involvement is very necessary to ensure that children stay on track.



CHARTER SCHOOLS



Meaghan Hindman of Altura Prep Elementary School, right, who has helped lead her school to top 5% achievement in the state with off-the-chart academic performance received her Excellent Schools of the Year Award from Del Archuleta, Founder of the Chamber's Education Reform Initiative. The Chamber was a strong supporter of launching Altura Prep and, as can be seen, this decision has been well rewarded with students achieving at very high levels of competency.



Trey Smith, right, of East Mountain High School, who has led his school to student achievement results among the best in the state, was awarded the Chamber's Excellent Schools of the Year Award by Del Esparaza, the former GACC Board of Directors Chair. The Chamber supported and lobbied the APS Board for approval of a middle school in the East Mountains advocated by Smith. The Board approved the request for this long-needed school.

CHAMBER PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2026

Public Charter School Growth

- Continue meetings between local business leaders and the directors of high-quality charter schools, urging and helping them to open another campus, add grade levels or expand enrollment.
- Maintain bipartisan opposition in the Legislature to charter school enrollment caps and moratoria on new charter schools.

Albuquerque Reads

- Sustain the Chamber's ABQ Reads literacy tutoring program for struggling K-1 readers.

Early Childhood and Care

- Our significant investments in early childhood and care should be aimed at insuring children are prepared for a lifetime of learning when they enter kindergarten.

School and Student Performance at APS

- Support the rigorous measurement of academic progress.
- Support the APS superintendent and board in pursuit of supporting the student achievement goals as outlined in the district's Strategic Plan.
- Support innovative strategies for connecting high school students to productive pathways.

Literacy Instruction

- Ensure every New Mexico child receives literacy instruction that is aligned to the science of reading approach which has led to dramatic improvement in literacy in other states.

Support "Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce Initiative" with the US Chamber of Commerce and College Board

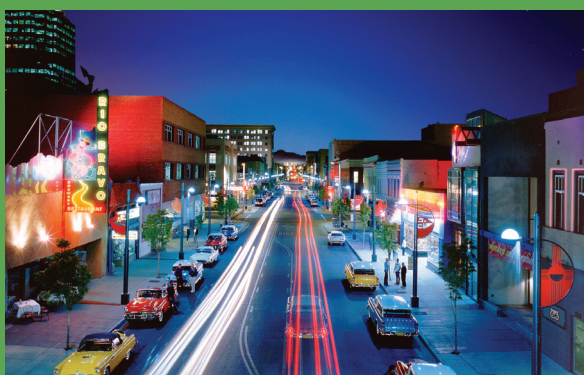
- The initiative ensures today's high school students have the skills needed to excel in their future careers and builds a stronger workforce for tomorrow.

DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION

Creating a Vibrant Live / Work / Play Environment in the Core of Our City

OUR CORE BELIEFS:

- Successful and thriving cities tend to have a vibrant downtown, bustling with people.
- Successful downtowns have a diverse economic base, with adequate housing, shopping and dining options, entertainment venues, public transit, and open spaces that support congregation and recreation.
- Successful downtowns are intolerant of high crime rates and widespread homelessness, which discourage living, working, visiting and investing.
- Successful downtowns invest in game-changing development projects that broaden the range of uses, attract more visitors and employers and induces further investment, thereby raising the overall attractiveness and quality of the downtown area. TIF financing can attract new private investment and doesn't take away from existing public service needs.
- Successful downtowns bring economic and quality-of-life benefits for the entire city.



ABQ RAIL TRAIL

As described by the city, “The Albuquerque Rail Trail is a 7-mile urban multi-use trail that will link Albuquerque’s vibrant downtown area to nearby neighborhoods, cultural destinations, entertainment districts, mass transportation options, and the Rail Yards, creating a world class urban amenity that will catalyze redevelopment.” To date, \$39.5 million in funding has been secured. The final price tag is estimated between \$60 and \$90 million. Additional funding will likely come from a combination of federal grants, state funds, and City money.

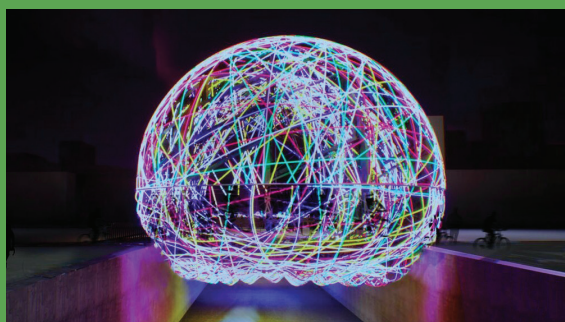


THE ALBUQUERQUE RAIL TRAIL: Anchor Attraction

The Chamber is a strong supporter of the city's ongoing plans to develop a 7-mile, heart shaped urban trail that would allow residents and visitors to walk or bike from the historic Rail Yards to Downtown proper, to Old Town and the Sawmill District, to our museums and BioPark facilities and the beautiful Rio Grande bosque. We see it as an anchor attraction in Downtown, catalyzing the development of commercial enterprises and unique public spaces that will pull more people into the area.

Albuquerque-based and internationally-renowned architect Antoine Predock developed a vision for the project. At "hotspots" along the route, which Predock calls "auras", Rail Trail users will be invited to pause to take in a collage that captures the history of the place, along with a QR code visitors can scan with their smartphones to learn more. The most dramatic of these will be an electric tumbleweed, a 25-foot neon sphere cyclists and pedestrians will walk through and cars will drive underneath at a railroad under pass.

Another hardscape feature will be the Enchantment Plaza, where the trail will be raised above the ground to give users a spectacular view of the city and the Sandia Mountains, while creating space for pop-up shops and restaurants underneath.



CHAMBER PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2026

The Albuquerque Rail Trail

- Secure local, state and federal funding – as well as public support – for the ongoing development of a nearly 7-mile trail connecting key parts of the greater Downtown area.

Business Improvement District (BID)

- Launch a Downtown business improvement district, allowing businesses to pool and spend their own (not taxpayer) resources on Downtown-specific projects that can include marketing downtown as a place to live and work, beautification, special events, enhanced security patrols and public safety ambassadors, enhanced cleanliness, homeless interventions and additional public safety improvements. Denver and Seattle have both used "Bid's" to revitalize disadvantaged and underdeveloped areas making them attractive centers for entertainment and recreation spurring billions in investment and sustained population growth in the downtown area.

2050 Downtown Redevelopment Plan

- Actively partner to drive implementation actions of the 2050 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

Tax Increment Financing for Downtown Redevelopment Projects (TIF)

- Work with the city and county to capture and invest additional revenue for Downtown development projects, up to twentyfold, pursuant to a new state law which allows cities to designate a zone as a TIF district. Current property taxes are frozen and used to support existing public services. When new revenue is added by virtue of increased values and growth, that revenue is placed in the TIF fund. This money then is dedicated to financing redevelopment projects and infrastructure improvements, thereby, enhancing the economy and quality of life in the downtown area. Austin, Texas and Portland, Oregon are two examples of successful TIF implementation.

Homelessness - A Central Challenge

- The Chamber continues to support increasing the Gateway Center capacity so that more can be sheltered there and more can get coordinated services.

EDTs



Tom Jenkins
Chair
Real Estate Advisors

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

BUSINESS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

Sector by sector, the Chamber is working to improve our state's economy by advocating for regulatory and legislative changes that will help diversify and grow our private sector. As issues or opportunities arise that would impact a particular industry — or group of industries — in New Mexico, the Chamber will convene Economic Development Team meetings to discuss the business community's response to the situation and advocacy strategy. These meetings will include investor companies from the affected sector(s), Chamber staff and Board members, allied organizations and trade associations, leading experts and other local leaders. The goal is to build a strong coalition with a clear message, goal and game plan for driving pro-business changes at the local, state or federal level.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS



Banking and Financial Services,
Audit and Accounting, Legal and
Other Professional Services
Chair – Brett Thompson
KPMG, LLP



Manufacturing, Design and
Construction, Real Estate,
Commercial and Residential
Chair – Frank Gallegos
Intel



Energy and Utilities,
Telecommunications, Information
Technology, Technology,
Innovation, and Aviation/Space
Chair – Ryan Shell
New Mexico Gas Company



Retail and Services, Restaurants,
Leisure, Recreation, and Hospitality,
Vehicle Rentals and Sales
Chair - Mike Canfield
Valliant Consulting Group



Healthcare and Senior Services
Chair – Kate Becker
UNM Hospitals

CANs



Kevin Eades
Chair
Molzen Corbin & Associates

CONNECTION ADVOCACY NETWORKS

STANDING STRONG FOR BUSINESSES... TOGETHER

The Chamber's Board of Directors and legislative team — which includes business leaders, lobbyists, policy experts and skilled communicators — works with numerous other business organizations to ensure bills and ordinances that pass serve the common and greater good. In 2025 these collaborations ensured these initiatives **did NOT** move forward:

- An onerous legislative bill that would have imposed an unworkable and extremely costly Paid Family and Medical Leave program on businesses and workers
- Bills that would have severely restricted oil and gas production (largest revenue contributor to the state)
- Legislation that would have increased personal and business taxes
- Several bills that sought to impose unworkable environmental standards
- Another attempt to replace the appointed public education secretary with an unaccountable, mostly-elected state board
- Initiatives to virtually force all New Mexicans to receive Medicaid healthcare and to mandate unworkable hospital staffing levels

In 2025, these collaborations ensured these initiatives moved forward:

- Funding was provided to construct inland trade ports, sites ready for construction and continued job training and local economic development projects
- Governor's strategic water plan was enacted
- A package of crime fighting bills was passed and signed by the Governor and significant restructuring the behavioral health system was enacted
- Funding was provided to support development of cutting-edge technologies such as quantum computing
- Enhanced funding was provided to expand tourism, provide housing assistance and move the new UNM medical school forward
- Major reforms were made to child welfare agencies to increase accountability and oversight



Terri Cole (seated) joins Gallup Chamber President Bill Lee and other business leaders in opposition to PFMLA

Partnering Stopped PMFLA Legislation

Proposed legislation would have mandated up to six weeks of paid leave for all employees paid through costly payroll taxes on both employers and employees, 12 weeks of family leave for child birth or adoption and provided parents with \$9,000 cash without designating a funding source. In total at least 200 employees would have been added to the state bureaucracy. Fiscal integrity of the program was very shaky, perhaps inducing tax increases in the future. Business groups across a wide spectrum of industries banded together to stop this ill conceived initiative.

Local Partners

Other Chambers of Commerce

A statewide chamber association meets regularly and, prior to each legislative session, collaborates on setting business priorities.

Economic Development Organizations

The Chamber often works with EDOs to stop harmful legislation that would hurt business recruitment and pass legislation making NM more competitive for jobs.

Trade Associations

Various trade groups join the Chamber's Sector Advocacy Team meetings, and we collaborate on advocacy efforts with groups representing restaurants, hospitals, contractors, realtors, and others.

National Partners

We partner with three national chamber organizations to promote economic growth across the United States.

Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives



U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Western Association of Chamber Executives





CHAMBER PROGRAMS



Leadership Albuquerque

A widely-acclaimed professional education program that develops knowledgeable and engaged civic leaders in our community



Albuquerque Reads

An education program that provides low-income elementary students up to 20 books per year and 90 minutes of one-on-one literacy instruction each week by volunteer tutors



New Mexico Roadrunners

Goodwill ambassadors representing Albuquerque's business community who travel each year to different parts of New Mexico to build relationships with local elected officials, chambers of commerce, and other partners

LEADERSHIP ALBUQUERQUE



Jeremy Oswald
Chair
Citizens Bank



Leean Kravitz
Vice Chair
Fidelity Investments

Developing knowledgeable and engaged civic leaders in our community

Leadership Albuquerque develops and prepares professionals to expand their influence in their organizations and increase their engagement in the community.

What Leadership Albuquerque Offers Participants:

- ACCESS to top influencers and decision makers in our city and state
- Interesting and exciting EXPERIENCES
- KNOWLEDGE about the critical issues impacting economic growth and our quality of life
- Meaningful CONNECTIONS with other business and civic leaders in Albuquerque
- Opportunities for SERVICE and professional LEADERSHIP growth

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE

- Public Safety & Behavioral Health
- Energy and Water
- K-12 and Early Childhood Education
- State and Local Government
- Economic Development & Diversification
- Tourism and Quality of Life
- Downtown Transformation
- Skill Building: Negotiations and Leading Intergenerational Workplaces



"If you care about the future of Albuquerque and see the potential in our state, Leadership Albuquerque sparks ideas, builds deeper understanding, and introduces participants to those in our community who are building a better future."

— Caryn Carson
Sandia National Laboratories





ALBUQUERQUE READS



Rob Hester
Chair
Amazon



Albuquerque Reads, our partnership with Albuquerque Public Schools that provides a trajectory-changing literacy tutoring program, has been going strong for more than two decades. ABQ Reads provides kindergarteners and first-graders with 90 minutes of one-on-one literacy instruction each week, delivered by more than 150 adult volunteers. A collaborative effort between the Chamber and APS, the program serves mostly students from low-income families at three elementary schools. The Chamber also provides each student with up to 20 books of their very own to read at home.

But don't just take it from us: Here's what one of our Albuquerque Public Schools school site coordinators says:

I'm going to call her Faith. She came to Bel-Air about the middle of the school year. She had not been attending school; and, in fact, she and her mother had been without a home. She had one little dress and some torn sneakers. The school system immediately took her to the clothing bank, and the family got help finding them a temporary home.

She had the most beautiful smile! But she was way behind in her learning. She didn't know how to sit still in a chair. She had never held a pencil or used crayons. She had trouble in the classroom joining group activities. When she started attending Albuquerque Reads with one-on-one support, she made connections with her tutors. Her tutors quickly learned what she needed to know. They focused on her following along in books and beginning to point to each word. They realized she didn't know the colors so would get out the box of crayons and help her use and name the colors. They helped her learn to write her name and name the letters. They helped her draw pictures and "tell a story about them as the tutors wrote down her words. She was quickly able to sit (most of the time) and focus on her learning. By the end of the school year Little Ms. Faith was reading and writing with help from her tutors. She was not "on grade level" but had certainly made HUGE gains. That beautiful smile was bigger, and those eyes were shining with pride.

Bel-Air Elementary Program



GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY

Interested in volunteering to help a child learn to read or donating to support this important work? Visit www.abqreads.com, or contact Kayla Nelson at **505-843-7323** or reads@greaterabq.com.



NM ROADRUNNERS



Kevin Eades
Chair
Molzen Corbin & Associates

The New Mexico Roadrunners are goodwill ambassadors representing Albuquerque's business community. In the metro area they support our local businesses, whether it's at a ribbon-cutting, groundbreaking or expansion, emphasizing that we all prosper when New Mexico's business sector grows and thrives.

Across the state, the Roadrunners travel each year to different parts of New Mexico to meet with local businesses, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, elected and appointed officials, and university and community leaders. Along the way, they share exciting "New Mexico True" experiences and eat at iconic restaurants, learn about important issues and local concerns, and build strong relationships in support of a shared mission: to make New Mexico a great place to start and grow a business and a great place to work and raise a family.



On April 8 - 10 2026, the Roadrunners will head for Roswell, Artesia, Hobbs, Portales, and Tucumcari.



In 2018, Roadrunners traveled to southern New Mexico, touring the Borderplex at Santa Teresa and Spaceport America and meeting with leaders from Deming, New Mexico Tech, New Mexico State University and local businesses to strengthen each other's understanding of our communities.



In 2019, the Roadrunners used the spring to hit the road to northwest New Mexico, visiting the Navajo agricultural products industry and Chaco Canyon and having in-depth conversations with the Navajo Nation president, local oil and gas producers, Farmington school district leaders and key lawmakers from Farmington and Gallup to find where we could work together.

In fall 2019, they filled the bus again and headed to eastern New Mexico to meet with legislative and Eastern New Mexico University leaders and oil and gas producers, along with touring a dairy and Cannon Air Force Base. Again, the goal was to share strengths and challenges and find common ground to join forces as advocates.



In 2023, Roadrunners visited Carlsbad and saw the oil and gas sector at work with industry leader OXY, toured the WIPP underground nuclear waste storage facility and visited with chamber and business leaders from Carlsbad and Roswell to better understand what was working and what we could collaborate on to improve.



In 2024, Roadrunners headed north to the Enchanted Circle to check out the tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. The trip covered a lot of ground — from a tour of Bandelier National Monument to a behind-the-scenes look at the state's behavioral health hospital. Chamber, community and business leaders in Los Alamos, Taos, Questa, Red River and Las Vegas shared their successes and challenges and helped forge lasting partnerships to help New Mexico live up to its potential.



CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP BRINGS BIG BENEFITS

Del Esparza, Chairman of the Board 2024-2025

AN IMPORTANT MISSION

The Chamber works with government, business, and community partners to promote and develop a welcoming business environment and thriving, diverse economy in New Mexico. Our goal is to make our city and state a great place to start and grow a business and a safe, exciting place to work and raise a family.

A REPUTATION-BUILDER FOR BUSINESSES

Chamber involvement says a lot to consumers about a business. In fact, a 2020 scientific survey by Research & Polling, Inc. found that **OVER HALF of all Bernalillo County residents (52%) have a more favorable opinion of a business if it is active in our local chamber of commerce** (compared to just 12% who view chamber affiliation unfavorably). These results hold across all regions of Albuquerque and across all demographic lines.

Nationally, we find similar results. The Schapiro Group found that **businesses active in their local chamber experience a greater level of consumer trust, awareness, and favorability**. Seven out of ten consumers believe that being actively involved in their local chamber demonstrates that a company engages in good business practices.

A PRIVATELY-FUNDED BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

Our investor companies represent over 130,000 employees statewide, and 70% of our Chamber investors have been with our organization for a decade or more. The Chamber is privately-funded - not a part of government - and is a long-standing and well-respected voice for businesses in our community.



*Investing in the Chamber
Brings Benefits in Two Key Areas*

EVENTS AND SPONSORS

The Chamber organizes informative and fun events year-round with a focus on business priorities.

ADVOCACY

The Chamber is a powerful and necessary voice for business at all levels of government

BUSINESS RESOURCES AND CONNECTIONS

The Chamber is uniquely suited to help its investor companies connect with government agencies and officials, other businesses, and critical resources and information

THANK YOU

to our event sponsors!



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
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COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER
RAINFORST INNOVATIONS





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MEMBER BENEFITS:

ADVOCACY

A POWERFUL VOICE FOR BUSINESS ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

PILLARS OF THE CHAMBER'S ADVOCACY WORK

Economic Development Teams (EDTs)

Industry-specific groups discuss barriers to business growth, develop recommendations for the Chamber's advocacy work at the local, state, and federal levels, and build coalitions with aligned partners. Chamber investors are encouraged participate in their industry's SAT when the need arises.

ISSUES GROUPS (BIGs)

Three policy committees work with government and community leaders to transform Downtown Albuquerque, reform and improve public education, and reduce crime. Progress in these three areas will make our community a more welcoming, thriving, and attractive place to live, work, and do business.

LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF BUSINESS

The Chamber's team of policy experts, communicators, and lobbyists analyzes policy proposals and monitors government decision-making at all levels, engaging with appointed and elected leaders to help craft and pass legislation that **(a)** incorporates the perspective of the business community, **(b)** supports economic growth and **(c)** makes it easier to be a job creator. At times, the Chamber must work to stop legislation that is detrimental to economic growth. In the 2022 legislative session, five policy analysts, writers, and lobbyists – as well as several board members – were involved in the Chamber's business advocacy work in Santa Fe.

POLICY MEETINGS AND BEST-PRACTICE VISITS

The Chamber meets throughout the year with government officials and various partners to develop pro-business policy proposals, visits other cities and states to identify best practices (in order to implement them here), and convenes hosts task forces that address critical issues and challenges. At the local and state level, the Chamber is often involved in negotiating the various provisions of ordinances and bills.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Chamber is a prominent and active voice for businesses in the traditional news media – through interviews, op-ed pieces, and press conferences – and on social media.



MEMBER BENEFITS: ADVOCACY - SIGNATURE EVENTS

Signature Events with Experts, Thinkers and Leaders

The Chamber holds a number of events each year with top decision makers and experts, bringing the business community quite literally to the table on any number of important issues.

- At our annual CrimeSTAT meeting, 2nd Judicial District Attorney Sam Bregman delivered remarks where he shared detailed crime statistics spanning all categories, and outlined his administration's dedication to enhancing public safety throughout the city and state. The inaugural Prosecutor of the Year award was presented.
- At our annual meeting last year, Robert Pondiscio of the American Enterprise Institute presented to our membership. His speech on reimagining our schools enlightened the crowd and motivated them with an optimistic outlook that meaningful change is possible.
- And Gov Michelle Lujan Grisham was the speaker at a luncheon recapping the just-completed legislative session and identifying the wins and losses while reinforcing her firm but competitive approach to working with legislative leaders.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Chamber regularly hosts elected leaders, government officials and policy experts to lay out the state of things and take questions on the pressing issues facing Albuquerque, New Mexico and the nation, giving our board members the opportunity to engage in conversation. Guests in the past year have included:

- Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and numerous state legislators
- Influential thought leaders including the former Legislative Finance Committee Director and the Executive Director of Think New Mexico.
- Senior leaders from our higher education institutions including UNM, CNM and Touro College of Dental Medicine NM
- Top officials in public education from the New Mexico Education Trust Board, NDI New Mexico and Solare Collegiate Charter School.
- Senior Executives from New Mexico businesses including New Mexico Gas Co.; the NM Oil and Gas Association, the Association of General Contractors
- Leading local government officials working on major redevelopment projects

And while the Chamber has a spacious meeting room for board meetings, the group often goes off-site to combine monthly business with a tour of an impressive local facility. This past program year included visits to Intel, Netflix and Amazon.

BUSINESS BEAT SPEAKER SERIES

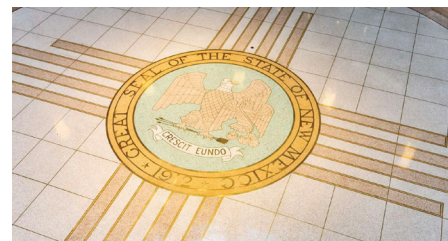
Each year the Chamber presents a virtual event series called the Business Beat Speaker Series, which features high-ranking speakers on various newsworthy topics, for example, the status of state finances with the Director of the Legislative Finance Committee. Each year, we also offer members of the NM Congressional delegation the opportunity to report from Washington on issues of concern to the business community and to respond to questions from our members.



Dr. Carey Wright, Maryland Superintendent of Schools and former Mississippi Superintendent of Education addressed the Chamber at our annual Education luncheon, sharing the inspirational story of how Mississippi's public schools vaulted from among the lowest-performing in the nation to among the very best.



Gabriella Blakey, Superintendent of APS



From left, Albuquerque Public School Board candidates Joshua Martinez, David Ams, Board Vice President Courtney Jackson and Board President Danielle Gonzales are introduced by the Chamber's Scott Darnell, at lectern, during the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting on July 24.

MEMBER BENEFITS: ADVOCACY - SIGNATURE EVENTS

OP-EDS

During the last program year, the Chamber leadership actively worked to ensure the varied concerns of the business community were heard by decision-makers and the public at large via guest columns in local media. Myriad recent issues have included public safety, improvements in our school district, Downtown redevelopment, a state-of-the-art film studio project and funding for our state's only Level 1 trauma center. This advocacy work provides a united voice and shows our strength in numbers on the important issues facing our residents, employees and business owners.

TESTIMONY

The Chamber staff, lobbyists, Board members and our president and CEO regularly provide public testimony at City Council, County Commission, state Legislature as well as subcommittee and agency hearings to articulate the business community's perspective on important issues. In the past year these issues have covered a wide range, and in many cases Chamber testimony helped get a positive proposal over the finish line and a disastrous plan shelved. These include:

- 153 bills in the 2025 regular session of the New Mexico Legislature on topics ranging from finally developing a plan for the State Fairgrounds to staving off attacks on oil and gas to creating a framework to rebuild our behavioral health system.
- Opposing an overbroad Albuquerque City Council proposal, and then supporting a revised version, to target commercial building vacancies Downtown.
- Supporting the Mesa Film Studios project before the Environmental Planning Commission
- Supporting the proposed Downtown Tax Increment Financing District to revitalize Downtown
- Supporting Albuquerque Public Schools right-sizing plan
- Supporting revisions to the city's Integrated Development Ordinance to facilitate housing construction
- Supporting Albuquerque Public Schools inclusion of a financial literacy course for graduation

LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND AGENCIES

The Chamber frequently expresses the viewpoints of the business community in letters to elected and appointed local, state and national decision makers. In recent months the Chamber has written letters in support of a wide range of issues – everything from support for interstate health care compacts and funding for Phase 2 of Bernalillo County's Trade Port; to funding for job training along the Rail Trail, updated City Clerk Office's record keeping and the state Tourism Department; to concerns over tying prevailing wages to privately funded industrial revenue bonds and proposed overbroad heat-illness regulations, which were shelved. Support for the Pacific Infusion nuclear fusion project has resulted in permit approval for building construction as well as preliminary approval of Local Economic Development and Industrial Revenue Bond funding.

With national partners like the U.S. Chamber, we have supported bipartisan permitting reform, key to development opportunities and joined a coalition to support the Border Water Infrastructure Program. We also lent support to federal legislation to include a 10-year moratorium on enforcement of state and local AI regulations in order to develop uniform federal standards. The Chamber is proud that so many individuals, businesses and private and government organizations value its voice and want its leaders to weigh in on the issues of the day.

The Chamber has actively supported launching the quantum venture studio, a key stepping stone to establishing New Mexico as the locus for quantum science research and development. Legislation enacted in 2025 has resulted in the Economic Development Department awarding \$25 million to Roadrunner Venture Studios which will immediately bring three quantum companies to New Mexico with high paying jobs and accelerating growth of this industry.



Film studios will bring lights, cameras and good jobs to West Side

BY TOM JENKINS AND TERRI COLE
OPERATIONS MANAGER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

At the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, we advocate for changes that will help diversify and grow our private sector. There's been no bigger private-sector success story for New Mexico than the film industry, and in Albuquerque there's no greater need for jobs and private-sector development than on our West Side. The city's Environmental Planning Commission is looking at a proposed from Mesa Film Studios that offers the perfect marriage of these two — an expansive, state-of-the-art location for productions that

benefits of \$1.4 million, and the hundreds of jobs that come with the projects that choose Albuquerque as their base of operations.

Make no mistake, a state-of-the-art campus is key to ensuring projects choose Albuquerque, and when they do, revenue and jobs follow. In 2023 alone, the 42 productions in New Mexico generated \$794 million in revenue and more than 522,000 worker-days. In its first 10 years Mesa Film Studios is projected to have a \$1.2 billion direct economic impact to the state.

And for those taxpayers who would say this industry only enriches Hollywood elites, note that the co-owner of Mesa Film Studios is a fifth-gen-



Tom Jenkins

Terri Cole

MEMBER BENEFITS: ADVOCACY - POLICY MEETINGS, CAMPAIGNS AND BEST PRACTICES

The Chamber works alongside coalition partners to develop public policy proposals, negotiate the details of these proposals with local and state officials, and advocate for their passage. The Chamber has, and continues to, work closely with the appropriate decision-makers on topics touching education, public safety and Downtown redevelopment as well as business interests. Most recently, the focus has been on policies that will finally move the needle on the crime plaguing our state. We also were a key leader in defeating a fiscally unsound proposed Paid Family and Medical Leave Act.

The Chamber also weighs in on ballot items that have a tie to our advocacy work, from funding public projects like the Gateway Center and UNM Hospital, to Albuquerque Board of Education and Public Education Commission elections. We are very actively involved in the 2025 Albuquerque Public Schools elections as the outcome is critical to retaining the current Superintendent and the course of placing student success above other interests.

IN THE NEWS

Chamber staff and Board members regularly appear on local news platforms to promote Chamber initiatives, discuss policy issues and promote the city's business community. Whether it's our President and CEO Terri Cole breaking down complex legislation in the Albuquerque Journal, Chairman Peter Lorenz or immediate past Chairman Del Esparza discussing business and community concerns, or the annual call for volunteer tutors to give the gist of literacy to our youngest students, the Chamber has respected, informed and passionate individuals ready to step up and speak out.



BEST PRACTICE VISITS

Chamber often leads delegations of local officials to study programs/initiatives that have worked elsewhere to combat challenges facing our city and state. In recent years, Mayor Tim Keller and other city leaders joined the Chamber for a visit to San Antonio, Texas, for a view into the city's effective system for sheltering and connecting people experiencing homelessness to the resources they need. This visit became the basis of Albuquerque's Gateway Center.



'Numbers don't lie'

UNM athletic director details successes, challenges to Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce crowd

BY STEVEN REIDER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
It's not hard to count New Mexico's recent on-field — and on-court — successes. A men's basketball program off to a record-breaking start? Check. A football program that notched its first win in over 20 years? Check. And a track and field program continuing to excel in school and conference meets at a near-weekly pace? Check, again.

As for counting off off-field successes? Thursday was all about that.

Speaking at a luncheon hosted by the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, UNM Athletic Director Fernando Lovo, and head football coach Aaron Eck detailed the "staggering" he added, representing nearly a fourth of the total economic impact provided by the department in that span.

"Investing in athletics is investing in economic development," Lovo said. "The numbers don't lie."

The study also revealed the athletic department has brought in \$25 million in advertising value through nationally televised football and basketball games over the last three years. With six games on ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN3, Lovo said.

Lovo detailed the challenges the athletic department has faced in balancing the budget, with the school's athletic department operating at a loss of \$10 million in 2022, the equivalent of \$6 million in lost revenue from advertising campaigns, Lovo said.

"It's treacherous," he added, representing nearly a fourth of the total economic impact provided by the department in that span.

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MEMBER BENEFITS: ADVOCACY - SIGNATURE EVENTS

EFFECTIVE PRESENCE IN SANTA FE

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

Before each legislative session, the Chamber's Board of Directors approves an agenda of priorities with the perspective of the business community – everything from economic development incentives and tax policy to education and public safety. The agenda combines the perspectives of investors, EDT's and industry partners.

THE "LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP":

During the session, the Chamber publishes a nightly legislative recap – heralded as a "must-read" by Roundhouse watchers, legislators, and local businesses – that keeps investors and our partners apprised of what's going on in the Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY:

Each year, the Chamber publishes a comprehensive "Legislative Summary" magazine that provides business leaders with information about what happened in Santa Fe during the session – including key successes for the business community and concerns.



2025 REGULAR SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Public Safety

The Governor's attempt to force the Legislature to address crime and public safety in a special session was unsuccessful. However, this attempt elevated the issues and in the regular session, the Legislature did take some meaningful steps which we supported but fell short of addressing some critical issues such as juvenile crime, felons in possession of a firearm and pretrial detention.

On the positive side, a six-bill package addressing mental competency, increased penalties for shooting threats, auto theft, drug and human trafficking, a ban on "Glock switches" and allowing blood testing for drugs as well as alcohol, were all signed by the Governor. She also signed bills making false reporting of crimes a felony and much needed enhancements to the state's RICO statute to go after organized crime rings pedaling drugs and engaging in human trafficking.

Behavioral Health Initiatives

Part of the solution to reducing property crimes, muggings and other assorted street crimes is to ensure that those suffering from mental health and addiction issues can get help. Three Senate bills set about the task of restructuring and funding the state's mental health system. When successful, the revolving door of catch and release criminal justice should be slowed as there will be a place to send nonviolent offenders for help. Currently, most often such individuals are simply released back on the street after arrest.

Child Welfare Changes

It's no secret that too many children are being abused and even killed in our state. Two important steps were taken: first, overhauling the state's Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to require development of safe care plans for babies born with exposure to drugs or alcohol. Second, an independent child advocate position was created to oversee the Children Youth and Family Department.

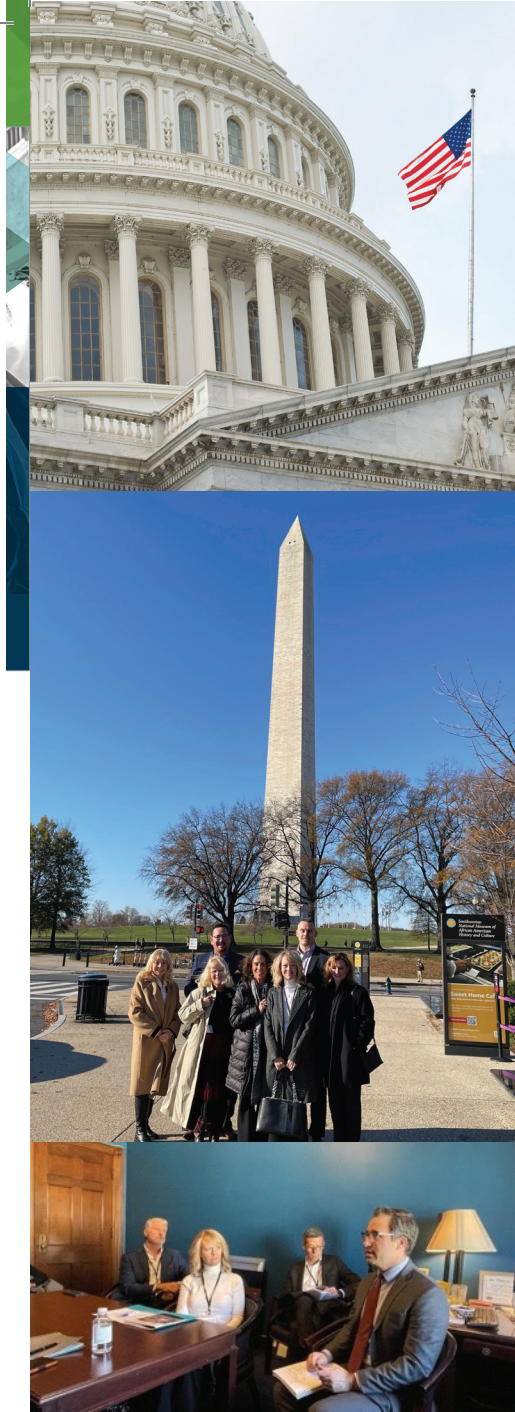
Economic Development, Health Care and Education

Site readiness legislation was passed to ensure that properties for development are available to meet marketplace needs. The Governor's Strategic Water Plan initiative was adopted, funds to develop inland trade ports is now law and traditional incentives such as job training and infrastructure development were maintained along with new incentives to promote quantum computing and other high-tech companies. Unfortunately, very little was done to address the availability of quality health care, a major concern of employers and employees looking to locate or expand in our state. However, first steps in expanding the UNM Health Sciences Center were successful.

Similarly, the low achievement of New Mexico students concerns businesses and, despite record breaking increases in public education funding, the needle hasn't moved much. One root cause is poor training and support of principals and superintendents that was addressed in this session – a goal long sought after by the Chamber that led studies documenting how strong school leadership is critical to boosting student achievement. Another critical factor in increasing student learning is ensuring that reading competency is achieved at an early state. The Legislature passed legislation requiring that teachers now be trained in the "science of reading", a proven methodology to teach reading.

WHAT DIDN'T PASS

Very often, stopping bad legislation is a key achievement. The Chamber led the way in defeating a very costly and onerous Paid Family and Medical Leave Act for the fifth session in a row saving New Mexico businesses from a half billion-dollar tax increase. Also stopped were radical environmental proposals, tax increases on oil and gas, an increase in the minimum wage and an increase in corporate income tax.



MEMBER BENEFITS: ADVOCACY - IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The Chamber works alongside coalition partners to develop public policy proposals, negotiate. Last December, as it has in years past, the Chamber took a group of business leaders and local government officials to Washington, D.C., for a series of meetings with members of New Mexico's congressional delegation and national organization leaders. Over the course of three days, the group had informative discussions with our elected representatives and/or their staff members, including Sen. Martin Heinrich, Rep. Melanie Stansbury, Rep. Gabe Vasquez and Mark Zientek, senior advisor on business for Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez. (The Chamber will be returning to Washington, D.C., May 12-15, 2026).

As always, our delegation members were generous with their time and excited to sit down with fellow New Mexicans.

- Heinrich addressed a wide range of issues with the Chamber members, including public safety, homelessness, artificial intelligence and the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Vasquez echoed the need for improved and expanded technology at the border to better secure it and laid out the balancing act required to fight smuggling but protect the supply chain and jobs. He also advocated for a humane farm worker policy for New Mexico's agricultural sector.
- Stansbury said behavioral health is one of the top issues she thinks she can help with by obtaining funding to build out facilities and coordinating state and federal law enforcement's attack on fentanyl.
- And Zientek provided a rundown of what the office is working on, including reviving the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act; securing additional funding for fire relief, police, and technology at the border; attacking fentanyl and protecting the immigrant community.

The Chamber group also met with:

- National Alliance for Public Charter Schools President and CEO Starlee Coleman to discuss national trends in charter school authorization and expansion and the Chamber's work to advance charter school growth in New Mexico.
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce for a briefing on current federal issues and where chambers of commerce fit into the mix as trusted local and state advocates.
- Ed Pinto, who runs the American Enterprise Institute's Housing Center, for a briefing on how to best address the housing shortage in New Mexico.



Rep. Melanie Stansbury speaks with the GACC delegation in her office.



Ed Pinto, who runs AEI's Housing Center, speaks to the GACC group including Chairman of the Board Del Esparza and President and CEO Terri Cole during a meeting in Washington, D.C.

MEMBER BENEFITS: CONNECTIONS AND BUSINESS RESOURCES

FREE MEETING SPACE

Have your meetings at the Chamber's modern and comfortable Downtown office across from Civic Plaza. With three conference rooms of various sizes to choose from, your team can reserve the room that fits your headcount. Our conference rooms include AV connectivity with display monitors. Bathrooms are conveniently located in the building.

RIBBON CUTTINGS FOR IMPORTANT EVENTS

The Chamber helps its investors celebrate important milestones with ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Promotion of these events is shared at Chamber Board meetings and distributed to Chamber investors and local media.

BUSINESS PROMOTION VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

Our investors' latest news, announcements, programs and specials are routinely promoted on the Chamber's social media platforms.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Chamber facilitates introductions and networking to help local businesses find solutions to problems, strengthen partnerships and start new ventures that will serve the community.

ADVERTISING AND EXPOSURE FOR CHAMBER INVESTORS

Chamber investors can submit announcements about upcoming events, sales, promotions or programs to be included in a twice-monthly "Investor Deals and Announcements" distribution.

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

The Chamber issues certification documentation for goods produced in New Mexico that are sold internationally.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

Business Beat News Summary

The Chamber sends a roundup of important news items on weekdays to the Leadership Circle and Board of Directors. This provides convenient and efficient access to relevant news information, especially when traveling or in meetings.

'News and Views' Weekly E-Newsletter

The Chamber publishes a regular e-newsletter to inform our investors on the latest developments surrounding important policy issues, as well as report on the activity at the Chamber's signatures events and Board meetings.

'Legislative Roundup'

During the session, the Chamber publishes a nightly legislative recap-heralded as a "must-read" by Roundhouse watchers, legislators and local businesses that keeps investors and our partners apprised of what's going on in the Legislature.

Breaking News Alerts and Calls to Action

When major news breaks that affects the business community or a significant action is taken by the Legislature or City Council, the Chamber sends alerts to its investors to ensure they are well informed. Also, prior to key votes or decisions on public policy matters that impact economic growth, the Chamber sends "call to action" emails that urge businesses to make contact with particular elected and appointed officials.

GREATER ALBUQUERQUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Legislative RoundUp

2025 Regular Session
57th Legislature
Saturday, March 1, 2025
Day Thirty-Nine

Welcome to the **Legislative RoundUp**, your update on the most important news from the Legislature

ANTI-OIL AND GAS BILL GETS DERAILED IN HOUSE ENERGY COMMITTEE (YAY!)



We've observed that every time one turns around in this Roundhouse, you find a bill that targets oil and gas. But today, one of those bills was voted down in the House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee. House Bill 481, the Oil and Gas Well Plugging and Abandonment Responsibility, was sponsored and presented this morning by the committee's chairman, Rep. Matthew McQueen (Sandoval & Santa Fe).

After a lengthy discussion with major concerns expressed by several committee members, the panel tabled the bill on a 6-3 vote. Democrat Reps. Nathan Small (D-Dona Ana) and Meredith Dixon (D-Bernalillo) joined with Republicans to stop this bill in its tracks.

GREATER
ALBUQUERQUE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER NEWS AND VIEWS

July 29, 2025

Top Stories

MEET THE CANDIDATES: Chamber Board hears from 4 candidates running for Albuquerque Public School Board



From left, Albuquerque Public School Board candidates Joshua Martinez, David Arns, Board Vice President Courtney Jackson and Board President Danielle Gonzales are introduced by the Chamber's Scott Darnell, at lectern, during the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting on July 24.

On July 24, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors members heard from four candidates running for the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education. All four have children in public school, and all four are aligned with the Chamber's education reform initiatives that put student achievement first.



MEMBER BENEFITS: CONNECTIONS – BIZ TO BIZ AND BIZ TO GOVERNMENT

BUSINESS TO GOVERNMENT - SIGNATURE EVENTS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Each year, the Chamber hosts several large events featuring local, state and federal leaders. These include our annual Congressional Series with members of New Mexico's congressional delegation, a post-legislative session reception with Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and events with prominent community leaders such as Mayor Tim Keller, Attorney General Raúl Torrez, UNM President Garnett Stokes, CNM President Tracy Hartzler, District Attorney Sam Bregman and many others.

ACCESS AND PROBLEM-SOLVING CONNECTIONS STATEWIDE

The Chamber helps its investors navigate government more easily, including connecting businesses to government agencies or leaders when they have concerns or need assistance.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

'SHAKERS AND STIRRERS' NETWORKING EVENTS

The Chamber holds engaging luncheons and after-hours events that allow Albuquerque professionals to extend their networks in an exclusive, entertaining environment. We hold these events multiple times per year at unique, local venues.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Meeting

October 30, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: James Capretta, American Enterprise Institute
"Healthcare Policy in Time of Uncertainty"

Governor's Post Session Report 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

After end of session (TBD)

Update on UNM Hospital and Medical School Presentation

April 14, 2026 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Garnett Stokes, President UNM

NEW MEXICO ROADRUNNERS

The New Mexico Roadrunners are the Chamber's goodwill ambassador team. This goodwill group travels throughout the state of New Mexico to establish and build closer relationships. This team also participates in celebratory activities such as member anniversaries, ribbon cuttings and special events. This is a great business-building opportunity!

CHAMBER EXCLUSIVE REFERRALS PROGRAM

When businesses or members of the general public ask the Chamber for guidance in finding a certain type of product or service in the Albuquerque metro, the Chamber staff refer them exclusively to our investor companies.



For questions about joining the Chamber and partnering in our important work, please call (505) 764-3700 today.



CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

Peter Lorenz, Chairman of the Board, 2025 inaugural Energy Meeting , August 27, 2025



Peter Lorenz, Chairman of the Board

- Serves as CEO of Unirac Inc., 2011-present
- 20-plus years experience in the electric power and renewables industry, including leadership roles at Quanta Service (PWR), McKinsey & Co and Royal Dutch Shell (RDS)
- Vice Chair and Founding board member of Solare Collegiate Charter School in the South Valley



Kellie Mixon, Chairman Elect of the Board

- President and CEO of New Mexico Mutual – has been with company for 29 years
- Native of Los Alamos and named 2019 Woman of Influence by Albuquerque Business First
- Also serves on the boards of the Economic Forum, Girl Scouts of New Mexico and Capra Bank



Terri Cole*, President and CEO

- Joined the Chamber staff in 1978 and has served as President and CEO for 40 years
- The first female to lead a big-city chamber of commerce in the U.S. and the first female to lead the American Chamber of Commerce Executive Association
- Certified Chamber Executive, CCE professional designation, 1988
- Graduate, Institute of Organization Management, 1986
- Chair, Stanford Institute of Organization Management, 1991 and faculty member



CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026 Executive Committee



Del Archuleta
Molzen Corbin
& Associates
Member At Large



Tom Jenkins
Real Estate Advisors
LLC, EDTs Chair



Sherman McCorkle
State Legislative
Affairs Chair Sandia
Science and
Technology Park



Terri L. Cole
Greater Albuquerque
Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO



Leeann Kravitz
Fidelity Investments
Federal Government
Advocacy Chair
LA Vice Chair



Kellie Mixon
New Mexico Mutual
Chair Elect



Del Esparza
Esparza Advertising
Immediate Past Chair



Peter Lorenz
Unirac Inc.
Chairman of
the Board



Jeremy Oswald
Citizens Bank
Leadership Albuquerque Chair



Rob Hester
Amazon
ABQ Reads Chair



Paul Madrid
Madrid Wealth
Management
Education
BIG Chair



Janice Torrez
Blue Cross Blue Shield
of New Mexico Public
Safety BIG Chair



Shad James
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PAST BOARD CHAIRS

1917 – Max Nordhaus	1960 – Archie Westfall	1982 – William G. “Bing” Grady	2004-05 – James H. Hinton
1918 – A.B. McMillen	1961 – Edward L. Jory	1983 – Roy W. Bidwell	2005-06 – Cindy McGill
1919 – W.C. Oestreich	1962 – Charles S. Lanier	1984 – J.B. “Bud” Mulcock, Jr.	2006-07 – Lonnie Talbert
1920 – Dr. Leroy S. Peters	1963 – Caswell U. Forrest	1985 – J. Howard Mock	2007-08 – Paul Sowards
1921 – G.E. Breece	1964 – Arthur L. Welsh	1986 – Robert E. Jancar	2008-09 – Don Chalmers
1922 – R.E. Putney	1965 – Jack Jones	1987 – I.B. Hoover, Jr.	July 1, 2009 – January 22, 2010
1923 – Arthur Prager	1966 – Gene E. Hinkle	1988-89 – Sherman McCorkle	– Michael Zientek
1924 – Allen Bruce	1967 – W.D “Dub” James	1989-90 – Joyce Godwin	January 23, 2010 – June 30, 2010
1925-27 – Ira N. Sprecher	1968 – Alfred Valdez	1990-91 – George Friberg	– Adelmo “Del” Archuleta
1928 – Clyde Oden	1969 – Frank M. Schifani	1991-92 – Tony Strati	2010-11 – Pat Vincent-Collawn
1929 – Sol Benjamin	1970 – Jim Summers	1992-93 – Joseph McCabe	2011-12 – Jed Fanning
1930 – E.N. Boule	1971 – Mahlon Love	1993-94 – Don K. Padgett	2012-13 – Dr. Paul Roth
1931-34 – Clyde Oden	1972 – Jerry D. Geist	1994-95 – Donald E. Kawal	2013-14 – Elizabeth Shipley
1935-41 – Oscar Love, Sr.	1973 – Robert P. Matteucci	1995-96 – Bob McCabe, AIA	2014-15 – Adelmo (Del) Archuleta
1942-45 – Clyde Oden	1974 – Thomas P. Ryan	1996-97 – Jeff Sterba	2015-16 – Elizabeth Shipley
1946 – Charles Broome	1975 – John P. Salazar	1997-98 – Kathleen Avila	2016-17 – Tom Antram
1950 – Elmer Elliot	1976 – Richard F. Mather	1998-99 – Victor J. Chavez	2017-18 – Meg Meister
1951 – Don Woodward	1977 – Jack Westman	1999-00 – Adelmo “Del” Archuleta	2018-19 – Pat Vincent-Collawn
1952 – Robert Fitzgerald	1978 – Robert Hoffman	2000-01 – Rick Alvidrez	2019-20 – Mike Canfield
1953 – Robert L. Tripp	1979 – Bill Trembly	2001-02 – Michael Stanford	2020-21 – Kyle Beasley
1958 – R.P. Tinnin	1980 – Chet Caldwell	2002-03 – Norman Becker	2021-2022 – Norm Becker
1959 – Sam Brown	1981 – Lee B. Zink	2003-04 – Jesse D. Domphe	2022-2023 – Peter Lorenz
			2024-2025 – Del Esparza



Sherman McCorkle displays the Distinguished Public Service Award presented by Terri Cole, President and CEO on behalf of the Chamber Board of Directors.

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

In July, the Chamber Board of Directors awarded Sherman McCorkle the “Distinguished Public Service Award” for more than 40 years of faithful service dedicated to improving the lives of all New Mexicans. His leadership in civic organizations, in business and on the Chamber Board exemplify the tremendous impact that can be made by a tenacious and determined citizen. Sherman’s legacy is one demonstrating that extraordinary service to the public good requires no title but rather dedication, vision and genuine concern for the well-being of others.

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The Chamber's Leadership Circle is comprised of upper-tier investor companies and organizations in our community that receive access to exclusive benefits, above and beyond the advocacy and connection opportunities afforded to all Chamber investors, including:

CHAMBER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



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- Advance access to the Chamber's various policy reports
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- Subscription to the daily "Business Beat," a short e-compilation of important business and community news... and more



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