

# District 13 Questionnaire - 2012 Session

Please select either YES or NO after the alternatives presented. If more than one person is responding to this survey, please use a different color ink for each respondent.

To complete this survey online, go to <http://bit.ly/rzT1GJ>

**1. The New Mexico economy inches toward recovery, buoyed by increased activity in the oil patch but held back by a worsening home foreclosure rate in Albuquerque. Our revenue is up and we will have over \$250 million more to budget in the upcoming session. In the past three years we've cut almost \$1 billion in services, starving education and health care, and requiring state workers to take home less.**

**Should the legislature use the surplus this year to:**

- Restore funding for services  Yes  No
- Continue the austerity plan  Yes  No
- Use the new revenue to reduce taxes, as the Gov. suggests  Yes  No
- Restore funding for frozen state positions and reduced take-home pay  Yes  No

**2. To speed recovery and create jobs—while balancing the budget as required by the constitution—the legislature should:**

- Continue with a no-new-taxes approach  Yes  No
- Use bonds to invest in road improvements, school construction, and public facilities  Yes  No
- Reduce benefits and eligibility in Medicaid and other health programs to save money  Yes  No
- Close tax loopholes like “combined reporting” that allow out-of-state corporations to avoid full state taxes to raise more revenue  Yes  No
- Equalize tax rates for smokeless tobacco to the level of cigarette taxes  Yes  No
- Cut or eliminate gross receipts taxes on small businesses with less than \$3,000 per month in gross income  Yes  No
- Take advantage of matching funds, grants and tax credits available through the federal health care bill (estimated as high as \$654 million in 2014) to boost jobs in the health care sector  Yes  No
- Restore funding to public and higher education to past levels  Yes  No
- Review tax breaks to see whether they are working to create jobs and economic activity  Yes  No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. A number of constitutional amendments will be proposed this session.**

- Should the NM Constitution be amended to allow voters to decide whether to devote a small portion (1.5%) of the Land Grant Permanent Fund to early childhood education programs?  Yes  No
- Should the NM Constitution be amended to change the Public Regulation Commission?  Yes  No

**If yes, which reforms would you favor:**

- Restricting the commission's jurisdiction to utility and telecommunications matters only, with health insurance regulation removed to another agency  Yes  No
- Requiring PRC candidates to have a college degree or five years of relevant professional experience  Yes  No
- Appointing PRC Commissioners, either by the Governor or the Legislature or both  Yes  No

**4. Regarding Drivers' Licenses for undocumented residents, do you favor:**

- The Governor's proposal for drivers' licenses only for those who have a social security number, a passport or visa  Yes  No
- The Senate proposal for increased penalties for those who traffic in licenses, a tightened residency requirement and revocation for those who cannot comply  Yes  No
- Keeping the present system  Yes  No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Regarding the Gov's proposals for education reform, do you favor:**

- Pegging teacher pay to student test performance  Yes  No
- Pegging teacher pay to improvement on student tests  Yes  No
- Requiring 3rd grade students who cannot read at grade level to repeat third grade (with no extra funding for remedial programs)  Yes  No
- Delaying the A-F grading of public schools until schools implement common standards (suggested by APS Principals)  Yes  No

- Requiring colleges to compete for funding based on course completions and number of degrees awarded  Yes  No

**6. State pension funds for teachers and state employees are facing a shortfall in future years. The legislature has appropriated money to shore up the funds in the past, but can no longer afford it. To reduce the gap between what the funds bring in and must eventually pay out, do you favor:**

- A proposal by the Educational Retirement Board (ERB) to reduce annual cost-of-living increases for current and future retirees as well as to set a minimum retirement age of 55  Yes  No
- Continuing the higher share of contributions to retirement benefits born by state employees and teachers  Yes  No
- Reduction of cost-of-living increases and beginning a minimum retirement age of 55 for Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) members  Yes  No
- Reductions and retirement age requirements should not be applicable to public safety employees  Yes  No
- None of the above (solvency for both funds is limited)  Yes  No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Do you favor a requirement that potential voters present government issued picture identification in order to vote in city, state and federal elections?  Yes  No**  
**Or, is this an attempt at voter suppression?  Yes  No**

**8. Regarding Healthcare, do you favor:**

- A state run marketplace for health insurance policies that would ease the purchase of policies with subsidies for individuals and businesses  Yes  No
- Supporting the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with its protections against insurance company practices and high prices aimed at those who are ill  Yes  No
- A mandate that everyone carry health insurance (with premium subsidies for low and middle income people)  Yes  No
- A Medicare-for-All approach paid for with state funds through a waiver from federal law  Yes  No

**9. The state wants to “modernize” the health program for NM's low-income families, disabled and nursing home residents. Do you favor these methods:**

- Increasing co-pays and other payments so recipients assume more “personal responsibility”  Yes  No
- Taking advantage of the federal dollars to expand the program to more adults in 2014  Yes  No
- Increasing administrative efficiency by combining “waiver” programs for people with mental illness, disabilities and nursing needs into a single program  Yes  No
- Instituting a “pay for performance” program for providers that will use public dollars to pay for quality outcomes  Yes  No

**10. Do you favor a bill to allow the Governor, as well as local governments, to ban the sale and use of fireworks during times of drought or extreme fire danger?  Yes  No**

**11. Should redistricting be taken out of the legislature's hands and done by an independent redistricting commission?  Yes  No**

Use the space below for any other comments for Dede

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