

STAFF REPORTS

NEW MEXICO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,
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Q2 saw Governor Lujan-Grisham loosen some of the restrictions under her public health order. New Mexico continues to be one of the top five most restrictive states. The Governor has kept in place the 14- day quarantine for persons traveling into New Mexico from out of state. Persons working in the oil & gas industry are exempt from this requirement as the administration has deemed them as essential.

New Mexico held its primary the first Tuesday in June. This turned out to be disheartening as several of our friends in the Senate lost their primary elections. These were all moderate democrats that lost to progressive members of the party. The loses included Sen. Mary Kay Papen, President Pro-Tem from Las Cruces; Sen. John Arthur Smith, Chairman of Senate Finance from Deming; Sen, Clemente Sanchez, Chairman of Corporations and Transportation from Grants and Sen. Gabriel Ramos, Chairman of Indian Affairs from Silver City. It is very urgent that we are able to hold the Republican seats in the Senate and hopefully pick up 3 to 4 new seats.

As far as the outcome of the primary regarding House seats there were no significant surprises. Minority Leader Jim Townsend is working hard to pick up additional seats in that body.

Governor Lujan-Grisham called the legislature back in special session on June 18th to address the \$2.4 billion budget deficit for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. The Governor also identified eight other measures for consideration. The New Mexico Constitution allows the Governor to set the agenda for the special session, so although 40 bills were introduced, only those identified in the proclamation were referred to committees.

In all, seven bills passed the short special session:

HB1 and SB 5 both addressed the deficit. HB 1 “sanded” general fund appropriations for FY 21 while SB 5 cut capital outlay spending. All of this trimmed \$600 million from the FY 21 budget.

HB 5 creates the New Mexico Civil Rights Commission.

HB 6 creates temporary tax waivers and allows for increased distributions to cities and counties.

SB 3, the Small Business Recovery Act of 2020 creates a method for the NM Finance Authority to make low interest loans to NM businesses.

SB 4 allows temporary election changes, mainly regarding mail-in ballots.

SB 5 compels law enforcement agencies to require peace officers to wear body cameras while on duty.