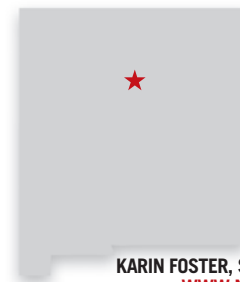


# MY VOICE IN NEW MEXICO



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## NFIB Members Brave Blizzard To Attend Capitol Event

A BLIZZARD AND FREEZING temperatures proved no barriers to attendance at the first annual Small Business Day at the Capitol event hosted by NFIB/New Mexico on Jan. 29.

A hardy band of small business owners from around the state met with key legislators to discuss the issues important to their survival as entrepreneurs. Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives Ben Lujan and other legislative leaders, such as state Reps. Tom Taylor and Dan Foley, came to share thoughts and ideas about improving New Mexico's small business climate.

The conversations were lively and informative for the members and for lawmakers, several of whom commented after the event that small business issues—particularly healthcare—are of great concern to them as policymakers.

"New Mexico is comprised of small businesses, and paying for the governor's universal healthcare plan will fall on our backs," said House Minority Whip Dan

Foley, who also owns a small business in Roswell. "We need to come up with a plan that we can all afford. A private-public partnership might be the answer."

Also taking time to address NFIB members was Ruby-Ann Escibel, deputy secretary of Human Services, who outlined the details in Gov. Bill Richardson's Health Solutions plan. Dr. J.R. Dameron discussed his counter plan, the Healthcare Exchange Act, which is being supported by Foley.

After breakfast, the group crossed the street to the Roundhouse where it attended a House Health and Government Affairs Committee meeting, which temporarily tabled Foley and Dameron's proposal.

We thank everyone who attended the first Small Business Day at the Capitol and encourage you to keep your calendar open for next year's event. Stay informed about policy decisions made in Santa Fe at [www.NFIB.com/NM](http://www.NFIB.com/NM). Also, remember to vote your member ballot and attend the 2009 Small Business Day at the Capitol.

## 2008 New Mexico Member Ballot Results

Should New Mexico require employers with more than six employees to provide healthcare or pay that same amount into a government "fair share" program?

Yes .....	4%
No .....	93%
Undecided .....	3%



Should the Legislature pass a constitutional amendment limiting the rate of state spending?

Yes .....	69%
No .....	22%
Undecided .....	10%

Would you support raising the gas tax to pay for improvements to state transportation infrastructure?

Yes .....	10%
No .....	88%
Undecided .....	2%

Should the Legislature support public campaign financing as part of an overall ethics reform package?

Yes .....	17%
No .....	73%
Undecided .....	7%
No Response.....	2%

## 5 WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR STATE CAPITAL

**1** Contact your lawmakers: Tell your lawmakers about the important issues that your business faces. The most effective way to contact your legislator is by personal letter on your business letterhead. You can also fax a letter directly from NFIB.com.

**2** Schedule a visit to the capitol: Whether with NFIB or on your own, meeting with your legislators or their staff is an effective way to convey a message about a specific issue.

**3** Contact the media: When small business owners make their voices heard in the media, people notice. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper or call your local radio and television stations to tell them about the issues that matter to you.

**4** Vote your ballot: Tell us what matters most to small business owners, and we'll share that message directly with decisionmakers. And the best way to do that is to vote your member ballot. To receive future state ballots by e-mail, register on NFIB.com or call 800-NFIB-NOW.

**5** Tell your story: NFIB wants to ensure that your lawmakers understand the small business point of view. If you have a story to tell, we want to hear from you. If your story supports NFIB's work, a media-relations representative may call you to ask for your help.

For more information on these and other ways to make a difference in your state capital, visit [www.NFIB.com/getinvolved](http://www.NFIB.com/getinvolved).

Need a Speaker?  
LET NFIB HELP.

NFIB State Director Karin Foster would like to come to your community and talk about the impact of legislation on your business.

*There is no cost to your organization, but we do need time for scheduling. Contact Karin at 505-238-8385 or at [karin.foster@nfib.org](mailto:karin.foster@nfib.org).*