



“Independent, Ethical and Protecting New Mexico Taxpayers”

Contact: Hector Balderas
(505) 730-1342

For Immediate Release

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE HECTOR BALDERAS
RUNNING FOR NEW MEXICO STATE AUDITOR**
Balderas to Establish Taxpayer Protection Initiative

WAGON MOUND—State Representative Hector Balderas (D-District 68) today announced he is running for New Mexico State Auditor. Balderas is independent, ethical and he will protect New Mexico taxpayers.

As State Auditor, Balderas will establish a *Taxpayer Protection Initiative* to improve government accountability by investigating fraud and illegal acts that affect government resources. Through this initiative, the State Auditor’s Office will assist in the prosecution of cases related to the improper use of public funds.

“The State Auditor’s office must do everything within its power to guarantee that public funds are being used correctly” said Balderas. “This means going beyond the basics of two plus two equals four. The State Auditor must be given the authority to play a more active role in the investigation and prosecution of fraud and illegal acts that involve taxpayer money.”

In addition to the constitutional duties of being State Auditor, Balderas will actively engage the public about how taxpayer funds are being used and educate public officials regarding the best practices for honest and effective government.

Balderas said, “Open government is critical for a stronger New Mexico and I will ensure the work of the State Auditor’s Office is open to all taxpayers.”

Currently, Balderas serves thirty-three Northern New Mexico communities in the New Mexico House of Representatives. He has led the fight against price gouging, and advocated DUI reform and the development and implementation of renewable energy.

Balderas is also a Special Prosecutor in the Fourth & Eighth Judicial Districts where he prosecutes white collar crimes, fraud, DUI and domestic violence. Prior to practicing law, he worked in Washington, DC as a Budget Analyst for the United States Department of Agriculture.