

Different Strategic Approach for 2007 Session Needed

By Senator Pete Campos

It is time once again to organize requests for the 2007 legislative session. I am already working on (always in consultation with my colleagues) updated legislation for: a new district state police headquarters, a new H-Club Hall of Honor addition to the NMHU Wilson Gymnasium, the additional funds needed to start and complete a new Behavioral Health Institute (BHI) long term care facility, badly needed salary upgrades for (BHI) and public school support services personnel, a new judgeship for the fourth judicial district (if at all possible, not at the expense of losing any established court programs or personnel), funds to plan, design and construct a new Trustee Auditorium for Luna Community College (LCC), additional funds to complete the San Miguel County Courthouse complex, plan and design funds for a new beginnings facility and program (that will prepare parents from the conception of their children to Pre-K for the best start possible towards a lifetime of meaningful learning) for the Las Vegas City Schools and plan and design resources for a new NMHU music facility that will be home to regionally renowned music and chorus programs. These issues are among several others that I am mulling over strategies and funding sources to complete.

Preparation for each legislative session requires an analysis of many factors that include: available funding, constituent needs, current economic trends and how the forces align. The exciting components of this 60-day session are: it follows an election year, there will be newly elected officials aggressively seeking changes in laws and budgets, new leadership may surface and one-of-a-kind valuable experience will be gained by all participants in the legislative process.

Amazingly, through the upcoming session, new friendships will develop, many existing relationships will become stronger and yes, there will be some disappointments expressed about what did or did not happen. This emotional rollercoaster provides everyone involved during the session with an opportunity to grow in experience and character. Whether you are a visitor, legislative employee, lobbyist, state employee directly affected by the budget, program activist or member of the legislature new awakenings evolve.

During this session, thousands of issues will be forged into proposed legislation and introduced for discussion, debate and possible approval. We will consider a broad range of concerns that include social justice, quality of life and community needs.

What an extraordinary process! I am especially grateful for the confidence placed in me by the electorate to pursue the legislation and resources that makes a positive impact for communities like Las Vegas, Santa Rosa and Moriarty. It is because of the strategic approach we have taken for the past 16 years that we can best prepare for the unexpected. It is imperative to pull together as a community and pursue what is necessary for the common good in the areas of health care, education, public safety and a strong economy.

As legislators, it is important that we exercise our authority with care, humility, vision and the highest level of professionalism because we do represent others and not ourselves.

Senator Campos is a member of the Legislative Finance Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. He also chairs the Senate Sub-Committee on Capital Outlay.