

**Cooperation, Communication and Coordination:  
Keys to Legislative Session Success  
By Senator Pete Campos**

Cooperation, communication and coordination among all branches of government are the keys to a successful 2008 30-day legislative session. During this session, the legislature will be focusing on several key areas. These include balancing an estimated \$6 billion operational budget, fully funding essential governmental capital projects, addressing major health care initiatives, financing a new funding formula for public schools and developing a general obligation bond package to fund construction and improvement of crucial projects for entities such as higher education and senior citizen centers.

By keeping the 3 Cs (cooperation, communication and coordination) in mind, necessary budget issues for the chief executive, courts and legislature will be addressed, the pros and cons of major issues will be productively discussed and solutions that will be best for the majority of New Mexico citizens will emerge. This 3-C-Concept will promote full-budget accountability, meet state program and project priorities and lay the groundwork to eliminate or minimize budget problems that may surface in the next several years.

I am pleased that Governor Richardson is home. He represented New Mexico in an excellent manner on the presidential campaign trail and kept his message positive. He showed the nation that we can talk about the important issues of the day and still remain respectful of one another. Now that our governor is home, I know he is fully focused on ensuring that we meet the public health, educational and economic needs of the entire state.

The commitment, wisdom and experience of our citizen legislators, in combination with their myriad skills and backgrounds, provide the depth and breadth of knowledge and experience necessary for us to share ideas that ultimately make legislation better. It is important to mention that the citizens of the state offer immense and priceless testimony during committee meetings, visits with legislators and interaction with one another. These groups, along with the valuable information lobbyists provide, give us the basis to make well-thought-out decisions and pass needed legislation and a balanced budget. Our future depends on a better understanding of the process, the willingness to work together and the 3 Cs — cooperation, communication and coordination — to move forward and have a successful legislative session.