

# The People Behind the Process

## Building New Mexico's Budget

As we get closer to the start of the Legislative Session we've introduced a five-part series called The People Behind the Process – Building New Mexico's Budget. There are two main committees that focus on budgetary matters, they are the House appropriations and finance committee and the Senate finance committee. Throughout the next few weeks, we will highlight members of these respective committees and the important work they do in helping create the state budget. The upcoming 30 days legislative session will be largely devoted to budgetary items along with items on the Governor's call.

"The creation of the state budget is essential to the daily operations of state government along with many supporting programs," says Tiffany Rivera, Director of Government Affairs for NMF&LB. "The budget is carefully crafted based on budget revenue estimates provided throughout the year by the NM Department of Tax and Revenue, the NM Department of Finance and Administration, and the Legislative Finance Committee. The recent influx of federal dollars and the rise in oil and gas revenue means New Mexico will be flush with an historic amount of funding and our state's budget committee members will have an extremely important job ahead of them."

**Our first installment features Representative Candie Sweetser.**



# Representative Candie Sweetser

## House District 32

### Biography

Representative Candie Sweetser represents House District 32, which encompasses portions of Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna counties. Candie is a native New Mexican and served as Deming's hometown broadcaster for over 31 years as the managing partner of KDEM-FM and KOTS-AM. She has served in the legislature since 2017 and currently sits on the House Appropriations and Finance committee and the House Education committee. Previously she was vice-chair of the House Agriculture and Water Resources committee and is a strong supporter of NM agriculture.

### Education

- Bachelor's Degree in Radio and TV Broadcasting - Eastern New Mexico University
- Master's Degree in Communication Studies - New Mexico State University

**How long have you served on HAFC?** This is my sixth year.

**What is your favorite part of serving on the committee?** I value getting the "big picture" of state finances, since the budget committee interacts with every state department and agency.

**What is the most important thing you have learned while serving on the committee?** Changes in policy are often ineffective without changes in financial priorities. As with most things, the state has to put its money where it wants results.

**What do you anticipate for the upcoming 30-day session?** There is a great deal of federal money coming to the state, which could be transformational. The challenge will be directing the one-time money where it can best be utilized and to make certain one-time monies aren't used to create recurring expenses.

**Is there anything else you'd like our membership to be aware of as we enter the upcoming legislative session?** It's important to be informed and participate in the legislative process. Lawmakers value input from our constituents because they are the experts in their particular fields. We can't be expected to anticipate unintended consequences unless we are educated by those most affected. We appreciate your input!