

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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David Bacon commits to Clean Elections

David Bacon, Green Party candidate for Public Regulation Commission, district 4, has enrolled in New Mexico's first ever publicly funded election campaign. The legislature agreed to this system in 2002, and the 2006 election will be the first to implement it. The public funding system calls for contribution limits of \$100 per donor, disallows donations from corporations regulated by the PRC, and puts a cap on total spending during the campaign.

"Taking corporate money out of politics is one of the most important things we can do to restore voters' faith in our government," Says David Bacon. "This law is an admission that corporate donors and lobbyists have an undue influence on our democracy."

David's campaign has already raised and spent most of the \$5000 in seed money allowed by the new law, as indicated in his July 6 filing. After July 11, the campaign will not be allowed to raise any more private funds.

"Asking people for money is the most unpleasant aspect of a campaign, said Bacon Campaign press secretary and former Green Party legislative candidate Rick Lass. "Thank goodness we can now spend our time talking to voters and focusing on the important issues in front of the PRC."

Also this week, David Bacon signed on to Common Cause New Mexico Voters First Pledge. Along with other candidates, officeholders, and groups, David is pledged to Restore Accountability, Protect Voters' Right to Know, and Make Elections Fair. As the pledge puts it so well, "vision and voters should matter more than donors and dollars".

"The Public Regulation Commission is designed to protect the citizens of this state against unbridled corporate greed," says David. "I want to make sure utility and insurance companies doing business in New Mexico offer just and reasonable rates and provide honest and efficient service."

For more information about the David Bacon campaign, see www.davidbacon2006.org
For more information about the Green Party, see www.gp.org

For more information about the Voters First pledge, see www.commoncause.org
Note: Common Cause does not endorse political candidates

COMMON CAUSE NEW MEXICO VOTERS FIRST PLEDGE

It's time to clean up the electoral process.

With public corruption scandals at the state and local level, voters are tired of “politics as usual” in New Mexico. We want an end to the headlines about pay-to-play scandals. We want more transparency in the relationships between big campaign contributors and the people we elect to serve our interests. We want solutions that improve fairness in campaign fundraising and allow new voices and ideas to be heard.

It's time to clean up New Mexico's electoral process by pledging to put voters first. For our state's future, vision and voters should matter more than donors and their dollars. We urge all candidates to move beyond empty rhetoric and make a promise to support real reform.

By signing below, I pledge to put the voters of New Mexico first by supporting legislation to:

1. Restore Accountability.

Pass and enforce meaningful restrictions on gifts to public officials from persons having a financial interest in their official actions. Create an independent ethics commission to oversee and enforce the ban. Limit cash contributions, limit individual contributions, and limit or ban corporate and union contributions.

2. Protect Voters' Right-To-Know.

Require elected officials and candidates to disclose more precise information on campaign reports (such as all of the employers and all of the occupations of donors) and require them to report more than once per year. Require disclosure of all independent expenditures, including those coming from outside of our state. Require lobbyists to disclose more information in regular reports, such as what specific legislation they are interested in influencing during each legislative session.

3. Make Elections Fair.

Establish and enforce campaign spending limits by providing a set amount of public funding for all candidates who agree to take no private contributions.

Signature:

Date:

Please return via fax to 505-323-6399, or by mail to Common Cause New Mexico, P.O. Box 4067, Albuquerque, NM 87196-4067.