



## State of New Mexico

April 5, 2013

### SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 58

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore  
And Members of the New Mexico State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 16, as amended, which was enacted during the Fifty-First Legislature, First Session, 2013.

Senate Bill 16, as amended, seeks to amend the Voter Action Act. However, it is entirely unclear that this proposed legislation is constitutional and allowing publicly-financed candidates, including judges, to raise an unlimited number of \$100 contributions flies in the face of the intent of the law.

We need a broad, ground-up reform of the entire judicial election system. We have the unusual procedure of using a bi-partisan judicial nominating commission process with an immediate open partisan election system. I encourage the Legislature to consider broadly reforming our election system when it comes to judges and am willing to address the issue of public-financing reforms in that overall context.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martinez".

Susana Martinez  
Governor  
RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR