



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

MARY HERRERA
SECRETARY OF STATE

DON FRANCISCO TRUJILLO II
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

February 5, 2010

Mr. David Abbey
Executive Director, LFC
325 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

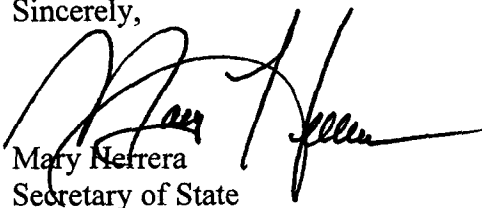
Dear Mr. Abbey:

It was good to speak with you the other evening. As a follow-up to your question regarding the monies appropriated to the Secretary of State's Office, I am extremely concerned at the proposed underfunding of the 2010 election cycle for both the Primary Election and General Election. To date, it appears that the legislature has adopted the LFC recommendation for HB2, which underfunds the 2010 Primary Election by \$467,800 and the 2010 General Election by \$784,450. The New Mexico Legislature continues to not appropriate sufficient money to meet the statutory obligations of the Secretary of State's Office pertaining specifically to elections. A simple breakdown is attached for your convenience.

During the 2008 Primary Election, we were underfunded and the Board of Finance fortunately was able to lend us the balance of \$550,000. For the 2008 General Election we were underfunded by \$1,637,400 and thankfully the Governor called a Special Session in which he placed the request on the call and the legislature did appropriate the balance; however, how would we have financed the election had there not been a Special Session in fall of 2008? As you know, the Board of Finance loan fund is a limited fund that begins each fiscal year with \$1.5 million and is for the needs of all entities statewide. With today's economic climate there is no guarantee that a sufficient balance will be available at any given time to assist with any shortage in the election budget.

We appreciate your assistance in ensuring that the LFC does all possible to recommend funding of the 2010 election cycle sufficiently.

Sincerely,



Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

C: Honorable Bill Richardson, Governor
Honorable New Mexico Legislators

2010 PRIMARY ELECTION

Required	\$3,011,000
Included in Elections Budget	\$825,500
2009 Special Appropriation	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
Requested Balance	\$1,185,500
Included in HB2-Special	<u>\$717,700</u>
Shortage	\$467,800

2010 GENERAL ELECTION

Required	\$4,798,575
Included in HB2-Special	\$2,912,000
Included in HB2-Operating	<u>\$1,102,125</u>
Shortage	\$784,450

Total Shortage - Primary & General

\$1,252,250