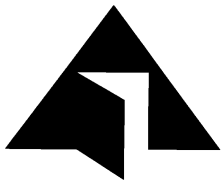


# Position Paper



GREATER  
ALBUQUERQUE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

## Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

# BOARD POSITION

*Action: APPROVED*

*Date: March 16, 2017*

### **Chamber Opposes Tax Being Considered by Bernalillo County Commission**

#### **Position**

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce stands in opposition to a tax increase being considered by the Bernalillo County Commission. Given recent tax increases imposed on the citizens of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, the Chamber believes that the Bernalillo County Commission should first identify specific needs and then address meeting these needs through greater economies and efficiencies in county government.

County taxpayers are already dealing with economic issues of their own as a result of the economic downturn and certainly they do not need the additional burden of yet another tax. We urge the Bernalillo County Commission to address ways to “right size” county government and reconsider the need for an additional tax and the imposition of such a tax on its citizens.

#### **Background**

The Bernalillo County Commission is considering a staff recommendation to impose a final 3/16 tax available to them under a “hold harmless” tax passed by the New Mexico Legislature to offset losses from the removal of taxes on food. This tax increase on Bernalillo County residents would raise approximately \$30 million.

Bernalillo County increased taxes by \$30 million in 2015. If passed, this current tax increase would result in County taxpayers being asked to bear the burden in two years of a \$60 million tax increase.

Additionally, city taxpayers will see their taxes go from 6.625% to 7.5% if the county tax is put in place. Assuming each 1/16 tax increase generates \$10 million. Passage of the county tax will result in an annual tax increase of \$140 million in taxes in the past 6 years. This is an approximate 13% increase.

No Bernalillo County Commissioner has brought forward this tax increase. Rather it will be considered as a staff recommendation. The proposal will be up before the Bernalillo County Commission for final action at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.