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## In Case You Missed It

### **Abq. Journal Op-Ed by GOP Chairman Yates: Democrat's Criticism Off Base**

Albuquerque, NM—The following op-ed was written by GOP Chairman Harvey Yates Jr. and published in today's edition of the Albuquerque Journal. It was written in response to a November 28<sup>th</sup> op-ed authored by Fred Harris.

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### **ABQ Journal Op-Ed: Democrat's Criticism Off Base**

Read this story online at:

[http://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/guest\\_columns/022150509446opinionguestcolumns12-02-09.htm](http://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/guest_columns/022150509446opinionguestcolumns12-02-09.htm)

By Harvey Yates Jr.  
Chairman, Republican Party of New Mexico

Fred Harris and I are both “long in the tooth.” Thus, it is strange that he missed part of New Mexico political history, and therefore does not see the hypocrisy in his op-ed column published Saturday.

Mr. Harris complains that Republican gubernatorial candidates attack Diane Denish “with malice and recklessness that we usually don't see until the weeks right before an election.”

Why should “malice and recklessness” be acceptable either now or weeks before an election? Mr. Harris might remember that the state chairman of the Democratic Party had occasion in the 2002 election to ask Diane Denish and her primary opponent to stop bashing each other in television ads. Her opponent labeled Denish' ads “desperate” and referred to her “dirty tricks.” (Santa Fe New Mexican, Nov. 31, 2002) Denish refused to stop her ads.

The opposition party and candidates serve a public purpose, which is to lay the facts on the table so the public can make informed political choices. Some complain of “negativity” in campaigns. But, “negativity” is not the issue. Honesty is the issue. Let me give Mr. Harris some examples.

On July 5 the Albuquerque Journal published an op-ed written by me in which I suggested that corruption abounds in this administration (Is there anyone left who will deny that?), and that if Diane Denish has not had the courage to stand up to it, she should not be elected governor. By using the word “if,” I left an opportunity for Denish to respond by giving examples of which I, an outsider, would have been unaware. Instead, Denish and her camp suggested that I “negatively” attacked her, and that she is against corruption as evidenced by her support of an “ethics” commission, and so forth.

All this is dishonest eyewash and a common political ploy. After all, Gov. Bill Richardson himself supports “ethics” commissions. The truthful answer would have been for Denish to acknowledge that it is important to elect someone as governor who has had the courage to stand up to corruption, and then to give specific examples evidencing that she has had that courage. That she has not done so leaves the impression there are no such examples, or she has been complicit in the corruption itself.

Thus, while some might label the statement I made as “negative,” it has served the public by revealing more about Diane Denish.

In the op-ed I also suggested that as to this administration “there has been a marked lack of prudence in managing the state's financial resources....” Some would label my statement as a “negative.” Yet, it caused the Denish camp to respond in a way that reveals that she likely would continue Richardson's economic policies. That is important for the public to know.

Ted F. Martinez, chair of the Committee to Elect Diane Denish, wrote: “[T]hanks to the leadership of the lieutenant governor and the Richardson-Denish administration, New Mexico has better managed the downturn than many other states.” And later, “After the last six years, New Mexico is stronger, more economically dynamic state than ever.” (Albuquerque Journal, July 8). Not a word here about taking New Mexico in a different direction. Instead, Denish wrapped herself in Richardson's economic policies. This exchange is both revealing and beneficial to the public.

Mark Snead, an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, said last week, “New Mexico entered the national recession later than the rest of the county, then went downhill quickly...” “Conditions turned quickly and hard ...” And later, “[As to housing] New Mexico is by far the weakest in the (Kansas City Fed) district.” (Win Quigley on the Albuquerque Journal Online Edition, Nov. 20) Will Denish have the courage still to take credit for “managing the downturn” in New Mexico?

Mr. Harris, no “malice or recklessness” is intended here, or by the Republican gubernatorial candidates. Just, trying to ferret out the real Diane Denish so the public will have the information with which to make a wise decision next year.

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