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# Somos Un Pueblo Unido

July 2010 Update

[\(en español\)](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

## Quick Alerts

Join us on Tuesday, July 20th  
for **Somos' 1st Outdoor Movie  
Night**



[Download Movie Night Flier Here](#)



At SOMOS  
SAT. JULY 24th

We need your help to defend  
immigrants' rights in NM  
[PLEASE DONATE NOW!](#)



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## Driver's License Update

## Immigration Reform Update

### New Mexico continues mobilizing for immigration reform

Last week, President Obama delivered his first major immigration speech at American University urging Republicans to put bipartisan and election politics aside and help Democrats fix our broken immigration system once and for all. While many pundits and policy makers harp on the unlikelihood of this, New Mexico's communities determinedly continue to keep the pressure on our elected leaders.



Here are some highlights:

- The New Mexico Democratic Party endorsed a progressive [pro-immigrant resolution](#) as part of its 2010 platform on April 24th.
- On April 29th, *Somos* members from *New Mexico Students in Action* helped pass an immigration [reform resolution](#) at Rio Arriba's County Commission.
- Grant County approved a [reform resolution](#) on May 13th.
- *Somos* ally, Commissioner Oscar Vasquez-Butler, sponsored an immigration resolution in Doña Ana County which passed unanimously on May 25th.

### Local media to hold live immigration forum on Wednesday, July 14th

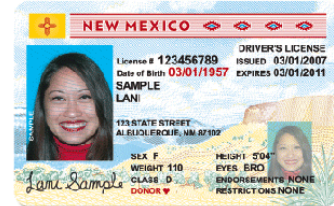
The *New Mexico Independent*, KNME, and KUNM are hosting a webcast forum on immigration policy Wednesday, July 14th at 6:00 PM in Albuquerque's KNME studio (1130 University Blvd., NE). Panelists include academics, local policy makers, and *Somos Un Pueblo Unido*. Join us at the studio or check out the live webcast at [knme.org](#), [newmexicoindependent.com](#) or tune in at [KUNM 89.9 FM](#).

We were all shocked to see media reports indicating that Lt. Governor Diane Denish no longer supported New Mexico's immigrant driver's license law. Hundreds of you from all over the state responded to our action alert and called the Lt. Governor in protest. ¡MUCHÍSIMAS GRACIAS! We were able to meet with her and her staff to express our concerns about this sudden anti-immigrant turn. Many of our allies across the state did as well.

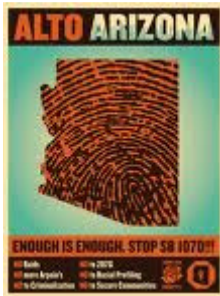
Since, the Lt. Governor has said in media interviews that she would consider changing the driver's license policy to reduce fraud by out-of-state applicants, but she stops short of saying she would repeal our law. Her opponent, Susana Martinez, has repeatedly called for repealing the law and revoking immigrants' drivers' licenses.

Here's quick fact check on DL's:

1. MVD has issued close to 80,000 driver's licenses to immigrants without social security numbers since 2003.
2. MVD has spent considerable resources since 2007 instituting several security measures to make New Mexico's drivers' licenses secure for everyone. Most attempts by people out of state to get a driver's license is thwarted by extra scrutiny at Tax and Rev's fraud department.
3. The REAL ID Act is virtually dead at the national level due to overt non-compliance by the majority of states. **And even if we were forced to comply, the REAL ID Act allows states to give drivers' licenses to undocumented immigrants.**



## SB 1070 Update



The US Department of Justice filed a lawsuit last week challenging Arizona's SB 1070, scheduled to go into effect on July 29th. Several national civil rights organizations lodged their own lawsuit in May and expect to seek injunctive relief at a hearing this month.

Meanwhile, several organizations in New Mexico like *Somos* and LULAC have publicly supported Arizona groups' calls for a boycott. In May, the City of Santa Fe unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming its commitment to protecting the civil rights of immigrants and inviting organizations and conferences that are boycotting Arizona to come to Santa Fe where they will not be asked about immigration status. In June, Rep. Antonio "Moe" Maestas (D-Bernalillo) said he will introduce several bills at the Legislature prohibiting state resources from being spent in Arizona

New Mexico ACLU has issued a [travel advisory](#) with information about our rights when traveling to Arizona. **If you must travel to the state, do what we do--only patronize the tribes.**

To check out a great website that serves as a clearing house for Arizona boycott efforts, [click here](#).

## Somos News...

### We need donations for *Somos*' BIG garage sale

*Somos* Workers' Committee is organizing a BIG GARAGE SALE on Saturday, July 24th in our office parking lot. To make donations, contact Zulema Chavero at 424-7832.

### *Somos* hosts outdoor movie night on Tuesday, July 20th

Come support *Somos* and hang out with family and friends at our first outdoor movie night on Tuesday, July 20th at 7:30 PM. We'll be showing classic Mexican cartoons for the kids and "ZOOT SUIT," a 1981 classic Latino film about the real-life events of the Sleepy Lagoon murder trial - when a group of young Mexican-Americans were wrongfully charged with murder. This is a fundraiser, so we're asking for a \$5 donation. Food and popcorn will also be for sale. See you here!

### Tune in to *Nuestra América* at its new time

*Nuestra América*, *Somos*' weekly radio show, has a new day and time, Wednesdays at 6:30 PM on KSFR 101.1 FM. Tune in to hear the stories of



our struggles and triumphs as Latinos in New Mexico and in other parts of the country. You can also catch the show streaming live at [ksfr.org](http://ksfr.org).

### Guatemalan Consulate in Santa Fe and Albuquerque



The Guatemalan Consulate will be at *Somos Un Pueblo Unido* from 9:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, July 25th. It will also be Albuquerque on Saturday, July 24th (714 4th St.)

For more information, contact the consulate at (602) 200-3660.

## In Other News

### New Mexico's Jail Policies in the News

As Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry invites ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) into his jail booking facility, *Somos* continues to work in other New Mexico communities to narrow ICE's access to immigrant inmates. Santa Fe's local jail does not allow ICE to interview inmates nor review booking records, and as a recent [Albuquerque Journal article](#) points out, Santa Fe County is the only one in the state to sever its' relationship with the agency.

ICE's jail access programs, ostensibly meant to deport "criminal aliens," are of great concern to immigrant and criminal justice advocates across the country. The federal government admits that the majority of immigrants deported from local jails were arrested for minor crimes and misdemeanors and had no criminal convictions. And we know of several instances in which inmates were racially profiled and not apprised of their right to refuse an interview with ICE or ask for their attorney. The broader policy concern is a public safety one--immigrant families will avoid the police if landing in jail for minor incidences triggers deportation.

*Somos* is now working with community members and students in Taos and other counties to improve jail policies and ensure that immigrants' civil rights are respected. For a bilingual fact sheet about our rights while in jail, [click here](#).



### New studies show immigrants help reduce crime in U.S.

While politicians here and around the country keep on inciting fear by painting Latino immigrants and border communities as violent and dangerous, national studies continue to find that the foreign-born (both documented and undocumented immigrants) are less likely to commit crimes than the native-born.

In a recent [Immigration Reform Bulletin](#), the Cato Institute cites various research describing this phenomenon. One such study published last week by University of Colorado's Tim Wadsworth in *Social Science Quarterly*, shows that cities with the largest increases in immigration in the 1990's also experienced the largest decreases in homicides and robberies, suggesting a strong link between an influx of immigrants and a drop in crime.

You wouldn't know it by listening to the politicians, but even in Arizona, the violent crime rate is at its lowest since the 1970's. Let's keep asking New Mexico's fear mongering candidates and policy makers where they're getting their facts and figures and demand that they stop lying about our community.

**Text "Justice" to Support Immigration Reform**  
**Just text the word "JUSTICE" or "JUSTICIA" to the number 69866 for up-to-date information and alerts (standard text messaging fees apply).**

If you use Cricket or Plateau cell phone service, just call or e-mail *Somos* with your name,

city, e-mail, and cell phone number, and we'll be sure to get you connected.

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