My Report to You on the Special Session

The Legislature convened in a special session last week, and I wanted to take a moment to update you on what we did. As you know, most of the session was focused on fixing the budget, addressing police procedures and racial equity, and making sure voters have safe options to vote this November. Here were the highlights:

Budget and Economy
- Balanced the 2020 budget by reducing appropriations for 2021. Further cuts will be required when we reconvene in January however.
- Voided unexpended and unobligated funds from 2019 capital projects, and changed the road distribution fund and public school improvements.
- Increased the monthly distributions of gross receipts taxes made to cities and counties and waived certain gross receipts taxes.
- Established a state Small Business Recovery Loan Program with funds to be taken from the Severance Tax Permanent Fund.

Race and Rights
- Created a Civil Rights Commission to develop or enhance policy proposals for the deprivation of constitutional rights.
- Passed a new law that requires peace officers who interact with the public to wear a body camera while on duty.

Elections
- Created a temporary election provision for absentee balloting for counties with a health emergency, if declared by the Secretary of the Department of Health.

All of the bills we passed can be found at www.nmlegis.gov and as always, if you have any questions at all, you can reach me at home at 505-275-2355 or on email at senmimistewart@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Mimi