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## Taxation and Revenue Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke confirmed for second term

SANTA FE — Taxation and Revenue Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke has been confirmed by the New Mexico Senate to serve a second, four-year term.

Schardin Clarke has led the Department since early 2019 after being asked to serve by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. The New Mexico State Senate reconfirmed Schardin Clarke on Saturday.

“I’m honored the governor and Legislature have put their trust in me,” Schardin Clarke said. “Thanks to their support and that of the amazing staff here at Tax and Rev, we’ve accomplished a great deal over the past four years. And we’ll continue working hard every day to provide New Mexicans the best service possible.”

Under Schardin Clarke’s leadership, Taxation and Revenue has improved customer service for drivers and taxpayers, implemented meaningful changes to the state’s tax code and modernized its operations.

Among the highlights of the past four years:

- The Department has cut its vacancy rate from about 30 percent to around 21 percent and has steadily improved its culture as measured by an annual corporate culture survey of staff.
- Revolutionary improvements to customer service at the Motor Vehicle Division. Wait times at offices are now about 4 ½ minutes compared to 17 minutes four years ago thanks largely to a new appointment model, greatly improved vacancy rate and an expansion of on-line offerings. The number of licenses renewed online, for example, are seven times higher now than in 2019.

- The Department issued about \$1 billion in tax rebates to about 875,000 households in New Mexico in 2022.
- Expansion of the Working Families Tax Credit, the Low Income Comprehensive Tax rebate and other legislated changes have made the New Mexico tax system more progressive.
- Internet-based sales are now subject to Gross Receipts Tax, expanding the tax base and eliminating an advantage that out-of-state companies had over New Mexico businesses.
- Implementation of new tax programs, including the Cannabis Excise Tax, insurance premium tax and the health care quality surcharge.

Schardin Clarke has more than 20 years' experience in State and local government in New Mexico. She has served as deputy cabinet secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, director of the State Board of Finance, Santa Fe County Finance director, and as an economist for both the Department of Finance and Administration and the Legislative Finance Committee. She earned a Master's in Economics from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor's in Economics from the George Washington University.

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*The Taxation and Revenue Department serves the State of New Mexico by providing fair and efficient tax and motor vehicle services. It administers more than 35 tax programs and distributes revenue to the State and to local and tribal governments throughout New Mexico.*

*The Department strives to reduce taxpayer burden through clearer communication, statutes, regulations, forms, correspondence and instructions.*

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