

# MCOM 105: SPECIAL DIVERSITY FOCUS



January 20, 2007

(AP) New Mexico Gov. **Bill Richardson** intends to take the initial step toward the Democratic nomination, hoping his extensive resume will fuel an insurgent campaign to become the **first Hispanic** president.



New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson speaks to reporters in Albuquerque, N.M., after returning from Sudan on Jan. 11, 2007. He's expected to announce on Jan. 21 that he will file the papers to form an exploratory committee in preparation for a 2008 presidential run. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

## FAST FACT

**Despite having one of the most varied and impressive portfolios in politics, Richardson enters the race as an underdog.**

Richardson plans to announce on Sunday that he will soon file the papers to create a presidential exploratory committee, several officials with knowledge of his plans said Friday. The governor is scheduled to appear on ABC's "This Week."

**His entry would make the Democratic race the most diverse presidential contest in history.** Beside Richardson's bid to be the first Hispanic chief executive, Sen. Barack Obama would be the **first black** president and likely candidate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton would be the **first female** president.

Richardson, 59, is a former congressman, U.N. ambassador and Energy Department secretary. He brings a wealth of experience in international affairs that has extended even into his governorship of a small but politically important swing state.

He has hosted talks on North Korea's nuclear program in New Mexico and most recently traveled to Sudan to meet with the country's president to press him for an end to the bloodshed in Darfur.

Despite having one of the most varied and impressive portfolios in politics, Richardson enters the race as an underdog. Polling in early voting states shows him ranking near the bottom in a very crowded Democratic field led by Clinton, Obama and 2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards.

Richardson does not have the national fundraising network of some of his rivals in what is bound to be a very expensive race. And he'll have to spend the next two months concentrating on a legislative session in Santa Fe instead of campaigning.

But Richardson's decision to form an exploratory committee will allow him to begin raising money and putting together his campaign organization. A decision on whether to formally enter the race is expected in the spring.

On Friday, Richardson ended a talk to the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce by responding to an audience member's prodding for him to announce his plans.

He grinned and said: "Number one, the announcement will be made in New Mexico. Number two, I said I would do it before the end of January — I will stick with that. And number three ... regardless of any announcement, my main priority is being governor (and) the legislative session."

"Now, anything more," he said. "Tune in."

His office had no additional comment.

William Blaine Richardson was born in Pasadena, Calif. His father was an international banker from Boston; his mother was Mexican. He spent his early childhood in Mexico City, where his father worked for Citibank. As a teenager, he attended a tony boarding school in Concord, Mass., where he was pitcher on the baseball team — a sport he follows closely to this day.

After graduating from Tufts University in 1971 with a master's degree in international affairs, Richardson worked first as a congressional aide and then for the State Department under Henry Kissinger. He was a staffer for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when he decided to leave Washington in 1978 to launch a political career.

Richardson settled in New Mexico, partly because of the state's large Hispanic population. In 1980, after only two years in the state, he surprised political experts by coming within 1,000 votes of unseating veteran Republican Rep. Manuel Lujan, who would later serve as Interior Secretary. In 1982, Richardson was elected to the House from New Mexico's newly created 3rd Congressional District. He was re-elected seven times, becoming a member of the Democratic leadership.

Richardson was disappointed that President Clinton didn't select him for Secretary of State. However, Clinton did tap Richardson to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in 1996, where he served until 1998, when he joined the Clinton cabinet as Secretary of Energy. He was criticized by Congress during his two years at the helm of the Energy Department for his handling of alleged breaches of nuclear secrets and the botched case against Los Alamos scientist Wen Ho Lee.

After leaving the federal government in 2001, Richardson worked briefly for Kissinger's consulting firm and served on the boards of several corporations while preparing another campaign for public office.

He was easily elected governor of New Mexico in 2002 and re-elected in November with 68 percent of the vote. While governor, Richardson has continued to keep a high profile nationally and served as chairman of the Democratic Governors Association as it expanded its ranks with wins across the country.

© MMVII The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

### ***BLOGS ON CBS NEWS – Public Reactions to Bill Richardson***

*Now you're in the public comment zone. What follows is not CBS News stuff; it comes from other people and we don't vouch for it. A reminder: By using this Web site you agree to accept our **Terms of Service**. Click here to read the **Rules of Engagement**.*

#### **Comments**

Have any of you had the opportunity to live in the state of New Mexico under Bill Richardson's government, you would see that most of you are wrong...the reason he would have my vote is because of the changes I saw during the many years I lived there. Yes he may support opening the borders, but until you get your facts straight...you are just looking ignorantly at the immigration issue. The fact lies in the truth for what he has done for the state since his first inauguration and what he has done with his foreign policies around the world. He sure has my ticket and I plan to follow these elections carefully. I suggest you all do some research and do the same.

**Posted by lilmac6481 at 11:47 AM : Jan 20, 2007**

---

So now we have a race to see who will contend for first female, black, and Hispanic president.

WOW! I am so underwhelmed.

BG

**Posted by battleground at 11:44 AM : Jan 20, 2007**

---

Is he crazy?? With Hillary and Obama on the Democrat, presidential prowl, Richardson is DOA!

BG

**Posted by battleground at 11:41 AM : Jan 20, 2007**

---

BILL RICHARDSON ---- The best friends the Illegals have..If he gets voted in you better learn Spanish cause he is a card carrying member of the Screw The USA Program ...Between him, McCain and Kennedy you won't for the sake of getting votes jave a country left..Via La Mexico  
**Posted by FARTKNOCKER2 at 10:24 AM : Jan 20, 2007**

---

I wonder if Lieberman18 has ever looked in the mirror to see what a nasty vicious person he has become! He is an walking talking adverstement for staying away from the NeoCon movement if I have ever seen one! I wouldn't wish his sickness off on one of my worst enemies!  
**Posted by grumpas at 10:14 AM : Jan 20, 2007**

---

This is another clown.

A guy whose daddy thought he was more Hispanic than white. Sound familiar? Just like Barak's Mommy, though in a different ethnicity.

Ricardoson talks like a centrist at times on foreign policy, yet like all good Latino DemoRATS he pities the poor ILLEGAL - note I said ILLEGAL, not legal immigrant, and wants open borders for them.

Good, Bill. But please be sure like all of the other Mechistas that you pay out of your own pocket for their English lessons, for their NEGATIVE impact on the economy, and for the crime rates. In fact, Billy, if any of them commit a crime in New Mexico, can your citizens SUE YOU?

No, I didn't think so.

Lousy UN Ambassador - so-so New Mexico Governor -definitely NOT qualified to be President of the United States.

But Ricardoson, there's still hope. You can always become El Presidente of Mexico. In fact, you might even be an improvement on your fellow ILLEGAL supporter, Fox.

**Posted by lieberman18 at 09:07 AM : Jan 20, 2007**

---