

**From:** Joe Monahan <jmonahan@ix.netcom.com>  
**Date:** Tue Jul 5, 2005 10:14:03 PM America/Denver  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - NM GOP DISCOVERS POSSIBLE DATABASE THEFT



NM GOP DISCOVERS POSSIBLE DATABASE THEFT

Large Number of Republican Email Subscribers Received Chavez Message

ALBUQUERQUE: The Republican Party of New Mexico announced today that it has launched an internal investigation into the possible theft of its email database. This was determined necessary after being advised of an email blast sent to numerous Republican email subscribers over the 4th of July weekend by the Marty Chavez for Mayor re-election campaign.

"Something wrong has happened when a large number of GOP email subscribers, many of whom live outside of Albuquerque and even out-of-state, all receive unsolicited emails at the same time from Chavez's re-election campaign. He's a member of the Democrat Party and would not have had access to this list," said State GOP Chairman Allen Weh.

In response to numerous complaints from subscribers, the GOP sent an email to its database on Sunday asking subscribers if they received the Chavez email. GOP officials say they have received a flood of responses to their email.

"We are moving methodically to ensure we have all the facts," said Weh, adding that the GOP is reviewing all options open to it if they determine any portion of its database has been stolen.

"The New Mexican Republican Party has spent tens of thousands of dollars building and maintaining our email database. This proprietary database is extremely valuable, as is the privacy of our subscribers. We take its possible theft very seriously," said Weh.

Weh noted that the content and timing of the Chavez email is very suspicious. The GOP had sent an email to its subscribers last week containing Albuquerque City Council President Brad Winter's criticism of Marty Chavez's praise of a controversial Supreme Court ruling that expanded the powers of local governments to take private property. "We believe it's reasonable to conclude, the email sent by the Chavez campaign to essentially the same recipients on the same issue is more than just a coincidence." Said Weh.

#####