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Contact: Joey Keefe (505) 469-2783

SOS Toulouse Oliver Releases Three Draft Rules and Announces Opportunities for Public Input *Rules to Address Campaign Finance Reporting, Ballot Order and Provisional Voting*

SANTA FE – New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver has [released three new draft rules](#) that would outline procedures for candidates transferring funds from one campaign finance account to another under the Campaign Reporting Act (CRA), establish the order in which statewide judicial races appear on the ballot while clarifying other ballot order issues, and make procedures for provisional voting uniform statewide. Secretary Toulouse Oliver has also announced that she will host a public hearing on the three draft rules and accept official written comments to give members of the public an opportunity to provide input.

“As the state’s chief election officer, I am doing everything I can to establish uniform procedures in the conduct of elections throughout New Mexico,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “These reforms will reduce confusion on a wide range of election issues and help candidates, political committees, and local election officials comply with state law.”

The first draft rule would provide guidelines for candidates who wish to transfer funds from one state campaign account to another when running for a new office. The draft rule would also outline the steps a candidate who has transferred funds would need to take in order to come into voluntary compliance with the CRA in the event that the transferred funds exceed what is allowable for the office they are seeking.

The second draft rule would clarify the order in which certain offices appear on Primary and General Election ballots. Currently, candidates for seats on the State Supreme Court or Court of Appeals appear on the ballot in the order that the seats became vacant, but the ballot does not currently specify the numerical position of each seat. The new rule would require that the numerical positions of these judicial seats are specified on the ballot so that the voter knows which seat each candidate is seeking and who the candidate’s opponent is. The second draft rule would also provide guidelines to ensure compliance with a provision of the state’s Constitution requiring that the Governor and Lieutenant Governor be elected jointly. The new language would clarify that a political party would not be allowed to appear on the ballot for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor if the party fails to designate a qualified nominee for either office. In addition, this rule would provide a process for independent and minor party candidates to draw lots to determine who will appear on the General Election ballot in the event that the number of candidates qualified for Governor does not match the number of candidates for Lieutenant Governor.

Finally, the third draft rule would codify standard practices on the issuance, processing and qualifying of provisional ballots. The new language would bring uniformity to provisional voting procedures statewide and clarify the process to allow voters to track the progress of their provisional ballots and appeal any decision to disqualify their provisional ballots.

In addition to releasing the drafts of these proposed rules, Secretary Toulouse Oliver has also announced that she is offering a robust public comment period and encourages all interested New Mexicans to provide input.

Interested parties may attend a public hearing on the three proposed rules in Santa Fe at the State Capitol Building, 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 321, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501, on March 30, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (MDT). Additionally, interested parties may submit official written comments to Kari Fresquez, State Elections Director, New Mexico Secretary of State, 325 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501, Suite 300, send an email to sos.rules@state.nm.us, or send a fax to (505) 827-8081.

Learn more about the draft Campaign Finance Rule [here](#).

Learn more about the draft Ballot Order Rule [here](#).

Learn more the draft Provisional Voting Rule [here](#).

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