

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 20, 2017**

Contact: Joey Keefe (505) 469-2783

## **Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver Announces Sexual Harassment Trainings for Lobbyists**

*Draft Policies to Prevent Sexual Harassment Also Made Available*

SANTA FE –New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver today announced that she is providing two sexual harassment trainings for New Mexico lobbyists, which will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 and Thursday, January 18, 2018. Additional details on the trainings will soon be shared on the Secretary of State’s website.

“Sexual harassment in state government is as much a problem here in New Mexico as it is nationally,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “That’s unacceptable and it’s past time to step up and confront this issue.”

Existing registered lobbyists have been sent their annual registration forms for the coming 2018 legislative session. For the first time, lobbyists will be asked to disclose if they have existing sexual harassment policies in place and whether they have received any sexual harassment training in the last twelve months. The responses from registered lobbyists, which will be displayed in a searchable format on the Secretary of State’s website, will be used as a baseline for determining appropriate next steps in combatting this problem.

As the Office of the Secretary of State does not have legal authority to mandate sexual harassment training for lobbyists the 2018 trainings will be voluntary. At the same time, Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver will push the legislature to make regular sexual harassment training for lobbyists mandatory.

As part of today’s news, Secretary Toulouse Oliver also announced that her office is providing all lobbyists with [draft sexual harassment policies and background information on how to recognize and prevent harassment](#). The draft policies are available to help lobbyists establish sexual harassment policies in their own offices or to improve upon existing policies.

“This is just the beginning of my efforts to keep sexual misconduct and harassment out of the Roundhouse,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “I will continue working with lobbyists and the legislature to ensure we are properly addressing the problem.”

###

Follow Secretary Toulouse Oliver on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).