

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 October 2018

Contact:

Alex Curtas, Director of Communications

505-469-2783

alex.curtas@state.nm.us

New Native American Voter Guide Released as Voting Begins for the 2018 General Election

Today marks the voter registration deadline for the general election, start of absentee voting

SANTA FE – Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver is proud to announce today’s release of the first-of-its-kind Native American Voter Guide as voter registration for the 2018 general election closes and absentee voting begins.

“These guides will provide greater access to election information to our tribal communities, which leads to more participation in the democratic process among Native Americans,” said Sec. Toulouse Oliver. “The Native American Voting Taskforce has identified ways to increase participation in elections within Native American voting precincts and these guides are an important tool in that endeavor.”

The new Native American Voter Guide has been produced by the League of Women Voters in conjunction with the Secretary of State’s Native American Voting Task Force. The Guide provides pertinent election information to tribal communities who, by and large, have limited to no internet access, making it difficult to obtain even the most basic of voting information.

The guide includes a candidate and ballot question listing, a description of each elected official’s responsibilities, voting locations and times specific to tribal communities, and information about how to access Native American language translation services. Paper versions of the Guide will be distributed in the twelve New Mexico counties with federally recognized tribal communities and can be obtained at county clerk’s offices, through the Secretary of State’s Office, or at voting locations in those counties.

Digital copies are also available online at the Secretary of State’s [Native American Voting Task Force webpage](#).

As Tuesday, October 9, 2018 also marks New Mexico’s voter registration deadline, Sec. Toulouse Oliver encourages all eligible New Mexicans to use NMvote.org to register to vote or to update their registration online today. The website also features a wealth of election information where registered voters can obtain a sample ballot, view voting locations and hours, and review the districts in which they are eligible to vote.

State law requires the closure of voter registration books once absentee voting begins on the 28th day before the election (§1-4-8(A) NMSA 1978).

To obtain a paper voter registration form, visit any county clerk's office, the Secretary of State's office, or many state agencies such as motor vehicle offices and offices offering public assistance. New Mexicans can also contact the Secretary of State's office by phone at 1-800-477-3632 or by email at sos.elections@state.nm.us for assistance with getting registered.

Today also marks the beginning of absentee voting and eligible voters may cast a paper absentee ballot or vote in-person in their county clerk's office during normal business hours beginning today. Voters can request an absentee ballot online at NMvote.org or by contacting their county clerk's office. Any voter experiencing a problem in obtaining their absentee ballot should contact the Secretary of State's office at 1-800-477-3632 or by emailing sos.elections@state.nm.us.

####