

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

[SOS.NM.GOV](https://sos.nm.gov)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Secretary's Message **3**

---

Meet the SOS Executive Team **4**

---

Bureau of Elections **5**

---

Security Division and Election Security **9**

---

Business Services Division **11**

---

Information Technology **13**

---

Finance Division **15**

---

Legislative Affairs **16**

---

Legal Affairs **17**

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# Our Mission: **Serving the People of New Mexico**

*The New Mexico Office of the Secretary of State administers safe and secure elections, promotes civic engagement, and provides essential resources to businesses, entrepreneurs, and government entities.*



## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To administer elections and government ethics in accordance with state and federal law and to maintain and provide access to the laws, official acts, and other instruments vital to the efficient operation of state government. It is also the mission of the Secretary of State to file and maintain records vital to the interests of commerce and industry.

The Office of the Secretary of State is a constitutional office and second in line of succession to the Governor. By statute, the Secretary fills in when both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are absent, serves as the keeper of the Great Seal of New Mexico, and convenes the House of Representatives at the start of each new legislative session until a Speaker is elected. Beyond these constitutional functions, the Secretary of State administers a broad range of responsibilities such as overseeing New Mexico's elections, and the administration of campaign finance and lobbying regulations, and managing key commercial filings such as trademarks, UCC and agricultural liens, and notary applications.



# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

My Fellow New Mexicans,

As we reflect on our work in 2025, I am proud to share this year's Annual Report and the progress we have made together in strengthening democracy, supporting civic engagement, and improving services for the people of New Mexico. Despite the challenges posed by substantial state and federal budget cuts, our team, in partnership with county clerks, the Legislature, and community leaders across the state, continued to advance transparency, accessibility, and innovation in all areas of our work.

This year brought real challenges. Federal reductions, including major cuts to Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding and diminished support for critical cybersecurity programs, are creating significant strains on state election administrators nationwide. New Mexico historically received about \$1 million annually in HAVA funds to secure election infrastructure and support voter education. In 2025, that amount dropped to just \$277,000, with no expectation of future federal support.

Yet even in the face of these challenges, we continued to lead. Our Office is working closely with the Legislature to ensure state-level investment fills the gaps left by federal cuts so we can continue administering the nation's best-run elections. Meanwhile, 2025 was also the second full year of our Elections Outreach Program, which expanded civic learning opportunities for New Mexicans of all ages across the state, and increased voter awareness.

In 2025, our policy and regulatory work also moved forward with purpose. We conducted four administrative rule hearings this year and, with the support of our legislative sponsors, passed important reforms including semi-open primaries, stronger lobbyist reporting requirements, and new provisions for the Regular Local Election structure. Both behind the scenes and in the public square, we continue to work with the Legislative Finance Committee and members of the Legislature to secure the sustainable operating budget our Office needs to support our core services.

As always, the accomplishments detailed in this report reflect the shared dedication of our staff and our partners. It is through our collective commitment to democracy that we navigate challenges, protect the integrity of our institutions, and build a stronger future for the generations to come.

Thank you for your continued trust and for your unwavering support of democracy in New Mexico.

Sincerely,



Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
Secretary of State



# MEET THE TEAM



**Hon. Maggie Toulouse Oliver**  
Secretary of State

**Sharon Pino**  
Deputy Secretary of State  
and Chief of Staff

**Mandy Vigil**  
Elections Director

**Johanna Kehoe**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Cristina Chavez**  
Business Services Director

**Bradley Purdy**  
Chief Information Security Officer

**Erica Chambers**  
Business Services Supervisor

**Lindsey Bachman**  
Executive and Legislative  
Affairs Director

**Greg Rockstroh**  
Chief Information Officer

**Anthony Humphries**  
Election Security  
Program Supervisor

**Jesse Gutiérrez**  
Deputy IT Director

**Anastacio Trujillo**  
Deputy Elections Director

**Peter Auh**  
General Counsel

**Charles Romero**  
Deputy Elections Director

**Alex Curtas**  
Communications Director



# BUREAU OF ELECTIONS OVERVIEW

*The Bureau of Elections within the Secretary of State's Office is a multi-divisional bureau with three divisions: Elections, Ethics, and Special.*

The **Elections Division** oversees statewide elections in New Mexico, ensuring accuracy, integrity, ballot secrecy, and compliance with state and federal laws like the National Voter Registration Act and the Voting Rights Act. It advises election officials, provides training, maintains the official voter file, and handles voter registration and legislative responsibilities.

The **Ethics Division** works collaboratively with the State Ethics Commission to administer and enforce compliance with acts like the Campaign Reporting Act, Voter Action Act, Financial Disclosure Act, Lobbyist Regulation Act. It also oversees public election funding, lobbyist reporting, and educates stakeholders on ethical standards and requirements.

The **Special Division** administers the *Safe at Home* program, which provides a confidential substitute address for survivors of crimes like domestic violence and stalking to protect their privacy. The program forwards mail to participants' private addresses, maintains confidentiality in business with agencies, and enables participants to vote without risking exposure through public records. Currently, the program has 212 active participants.



# BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ The successful 2025 Regular Local Election in November 2025 was operated smoothly by state and county election administrators, seeing **1,386,879 (25.29%)** voters participate. During the election, over **7,000** voters registered to vote using same-day voter registration and over **68,000** New Mexicans made their voices heard using a absentee/mail-in ballot.
- ✦ Successful implementation of **automatic voter registration (AVR)** in July 2025 included a statewide public outreach advertising campaign, systemic enhancements to the State Elections Registration and Voting Integrity System (SERVIS), and ongoing collaboration with the Motor Vehicle Division.



*A billboard example from the 2025 AVR public education campaign*

- ✦ Won a **Cumbre Award** from the New Mexico Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for our *Seeing is No Longer Believing* public education campaign ahead of the 2024 elections about the risks of artificial intelligence and the manipulation of election information.
- ✦ Completed Request for Proposal (RFP) process for creating and implementing a new Campaign Finance Information System (CFIS) in early 2026, based on partial funding received from the Legislature.
- ✦ Expanded and built upon our county clerk and public officials training program, **providing 21 trainings** throughout the year, including our annual Election School that brings together all 33 county clerks and their staff for collaboration and training ahead of every election.



# BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

2025 saw the second full year of our **Elections Outreach Program** and was filled with work that educated New Mexicans about civic participation and deepened the Office's involvement with community partners across the state:

✦ The 2024 **John Lewis Youth Leadership Award** (awarded in January 2025) was presented to two exceptional youth leaders, Lila Quezada and Thanh Nguyen, during a ceremony in Santa Fe surrounded by colleagues, friends, and family.



✦ Throughout the year we partnered with the state's public libraries to conduct eight **Voter 101 Townhalls**, both in-person and virtually, for constituents across the state to educate them on the basics of registration, voting, election security, the importance of civic participation, and much more.

✦ Joined with the Office of the State Historian and State Records & Archives for **Women's History Month** in March for a lively presentation and discussion about the impact of female civic leaders in New Mexico with Secretary Toulouse Oliver and State Historian Robert D. Martinez.

✦ Collaborated with the NM Public Education Department (NMPED) to develop a **Civics Diploma Seal** for New Mexico's highschoolers, modeled after the very popular Bilingual Seal. In June, Sec. Toulouse Oliver kicked off the collaboration during NMPED's statewide convening. Since then, NMPED leadership has approved the development of the Seal and we have convened a statewide steering committee that began meeting in November to plan the program's implementation.

# 2025 THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Sec. Toulouse Oliver speaks to reporters and the public about New Mexico's new semi-open primary elections (April 2025)



State Historian Rob Martinez and Sec. Toulouse Oliver during a Women's History Month event (March 2025)



Through generous staff donations we sponsor 25 families annually for the Salvation Army Giving Tree (December 2025)



State Election Director Mandy Vigil speaks to a group of young women from Girls Inc. about the voting and election process (March 2025)



Celebrating Martin Aguilar's retirement from the Secretary of State's Office after 30 years (July 2025)



Our Cumbre Award for our AI awareness public information campaign. (September 2025)



Sec. Toulouse Oliver interviews with a local reporter about semi-open primaries (April 2025)



# ELECTION SECURITY OVERVIEW

*The SOS Security Division is overseen by our new Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), funded by the Legislature in 2024, and houses the SOS Election Security Program.*

The program provides cyber and physical security support to the Office and New Mexico's 33 counties. The program provides hardware, software, and support to election security initiatives in New Mexico and partners with state and federal entities to train county personnel, report events/incidents, provide scrubbing services, support ballot drop boxes, support election night reporting, manage tabulator security, and support cyber security projects.

This program also conducts IT roundtables which provide support and guidance to county clerks and IT staff during the election cycle and assesses cyber security risk for the Office and counties.



## The Impact of Federal Budget Cuts in 2025

Federal budget cuts are placing growing strain on state election administrators. Recent reductions in federal support — especially from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the cessation of key threat-intelligence networks, and reductions in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding — are heightening concerns about the security and efficiency of elections across the nation. Our office has historically received approximately \$1,000,000 annually in HAVA to utilize for election security and other engagement initiatives critical to election administration. In 2025, this amount dropped to \$277,000.00 and is not anticipated that this funding will continue to be granted to states in the future.

The federal funds provided through HAVA, and additional support we've received through CISA and other federal agencies, have supported our work to protect the critical infrastructure of elections. These programs and projects touch all 33 counties and approximately 1,665,813 eligible voters in New Mexico. It is essential that funding and support of these efforts continue, which is why our office is working with the legislature to supplement the loss of federal funds so we can continue administering the nation's best run elections.



# ELECTION SECURITY

## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ Trained county clerks and staff from all 33 counties during our annual **Election School** on various aspects of cybersecurity, election processes, and procedures.
- ✦ Worked in conjunction with SOS IT Staff, the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), the National Guard, and other government agencies to **secure and protect the November 2025 Regular Local Election**.
- ✦ Managed **ongoing maintenance of secure ballot dropboxes**, including their cameras and sensors, for all 33 counties.
- ✦ Worked with DoIT and internal IT staff to improve the SOS overall security posture, facilitate updates/upgrades, and reduce vulnerabilities within our environment.
- ✦ Conducted a **voting machine equipment audit** for all 33 counties.
- ✦ Assisted counties in investigating system compromises and ransomware events.
- ✦ Provided ongoing training to SOS and county clerk staff on Phishing and other cybersecurity issues.
- ✦ Continued to provide effective support and assistance on cybersecurity issues to county clerks and staff despite significant and damaging local and federal budgetary cuts.



# BUSINESS SERVICES OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

*The Business Services Division serves as the initial point of contact for enterprises seeking to conduct business in New Mexico.*

Focused on providing exceptional customer service, the Division assists businesses of all sizes in navigating compliance with state statutes, facilitating their entry into our state's economy.

Additionally, the Division is tasked with commissioning Notaries Public, processing Trademarks, UCC filings, the authentication of documents, and processing official government filings.

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- ✦ Our Business Services staff fielded **41,454** customer calls throughout 2025 (an increase of 3,475 from previous year), assisted **2,228** walk-in customers (an increase of 300 from previous year), and responded to **12,743** email requests (an increase of 3,311 from previous year).
  - ✦ The Business Services Division conducted a total of **200,079** business transactions in 2025 (an increase of 35,340 from previous year), which includes all Notary and Apostille requests, and processed **415** Executive Orders (an increase of 194 from previous year).
  - ✦ Processing of business filings are completed on the same day for our customers and our Office generated **\$3,382,584** in revenue to the General Fund in fiscal year 2025, with over **\$2,836,856** generated so far in fiscal year 2026.

# 2025 THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Sec. Toulouse Oliver alongside other Secretaries of State during a delegation trip to Germany (September 2025)



Spooky celebrations with SOS staff (October 2025)



Sec. Toulouse Oliver greets new citizens after speaking at their naturalization ceremony (May 2025)



Sec. Toulouse Oliver speaks during a delegation trip to Germany (September 2025)



SOS staff introduce themselves during the 2025 Regular Local Election School (August 2025)



SOS Elections Outreach Coordinator, BC Nguyen, receives her citizenship (May 2025)



Our annual Election School convening is attended by all 33 NM county clerks and their staffs (August 2025)



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

*The Information Technology (IT) Division manages the Office's technology operations, including assets, policies, systems, and infrastructure.*

The Division ensures efficient communication, collaboration, and service delivery for staff and the public, providing secure access to election, governmental ethics, and commerce information in New Mexico.

Supported by modern IT solutions hosted at the NM State Data Center, and in collaboration with the the Security Division, IT also maintains and secures Critical Infrastructure systems for statewide elections.

Our IT team supports 5 major information systems for our Office, including the Statewide Electronic Registration and Voter Information System (SERVIS); the Campaign Finance Information System (CFIS); the SOS Enterprise (SOSE) Business Filings System; the Online Voter Services Portal; and the Election Results Reporting System.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ Replaced our previous Business Filing System (NMFBS) with the modern **SOS Enterprise (SOSE) Business Filings System** that offers more robust electronic and online features. SOS staff responds to an average of 170 calls per week and, with the new system, the average caller's wait time dropped from 10+ minutes to less than 5 minutes and typically less than 2 minutes.
- ✦ After approval by the Legislature in 2024, IT was able to hire a new Application Developer 2 position who is actively providing system maintenance and enhancements.
- ✦ Using existing computer infrastructure, the IT team created a **new environment to host SOS-developed web applications** that support elections, including Online Voter Registration and Same Day Voter registration. Moving the applications to the new environment has helped set the stage to decommission some older servers.
- ✦ New **Microsoft Development Technology standards** were agreed to and are being used on all new development efforts.
- ✦ The IT Development team made great progress in developing a system conversion for our Same Day Registration system to newer technology, to be implemented in early 2026.
- ✦ **Replaced 2 critical network switches** that were past end-of-life and out of manufacture support.
- ✦ All SOS hardware is within a support lifecycle and is under an active support agreement.
- ✦ An automated patching system is being used to maintain visibility and address needs in response to vulnerability reports.
- ✦ In support of DoIT and NM Office of Cybersecurity (OCS) initiatives, the SOS **onboarded our end-user computers to New Mexico's Microsoft Defender**. Consequently, the state has better visibility into malware and virus threats in our Office's computer environment.
- ✦ Due to critical system needs and resource constraints, we struggle to remove/upgrade a few servers and are **seeking funding to improve our infrastructure**.



# FINANCE DIVISION OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

*The Secretary of State's Finance Division is managed by our Chief Financial Officer and oversees the fiscal management of the Office, ensuring responsible stewardship of public funds and compliance with all applicable financial laws and regulations.*

The Division develops and administers the Office's annual budget, monitors expenditures, and manages accounting, procurement, and financial reporting functions. Finance staff work closely with Division directors, Legislative staff, SOS staff, county clerks, and vendors to align resources with operational needs and strategic priorities.

Through careful planning, transparency, and accountability, the Division supports the Office's ability to deliver services efficiently while maintaining the public's trust in the responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

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-  The Finance Division delivered a **balanced operating budget under sustained funding constraints**. Throughout the year our team successfully developed and managed a balanced budget while absorbing ongoing state and federal funding pressures, ensuring uninterrupted support for elections, business services, and core constitutional functions.
  -  This year we strengthened financial oversight and compliance across all divisions within our Office. We maintained compliance with state financial laws and reporting requirements through disciplined monitoring of expenditures, procurement controls, and timely financial reporting, reinforcing public trust in the use of taxpayer funds.
  -  Our team continued its support of legislative and operational decision-making with transparent financial analysis. We partnered closely with Office leadership, county clerks, and legislative staff to align limited resources with mission-critical needs, including preparation for the Fiscal Year 2027 operating request amid long-standing structural underfunding.



# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

*Our legislative affairs are conducted through a single director who serves as the primary liaison between our Office and state lawmakers, facilitating communication and collaboration on legislative matters.*

We monitor, analyze, and provide input on proposed legislation that impacts our Office's operations, priorities, and stakeholders.

We also educate legislators on our Office's strategic initiatives and ensure compliance with enacted laws.

By fostering strong relationships with policymakers, the department supports our Office's mission and enhances its ability to serve the public effectively.

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 Working with our legislative sponsors, we passed **important legislation** to allow semi-open primaries (SB 16), increased lobbyist reporting (HB 143), and removing the conservancy districts from the Regular Local Election (HB 308).

 Conducted 4 **administrative rule hearings** throughout the year on Campaign Finance Rule Amendments, Processing Voter Registration Certificates, Recount, Audit Rechecks, and Contests Rule Amendments, Public Official Home Address Confidentiality, and Emergency Election Procedures.

 Because of the perennial underfunding of our Office, continual work was done throughout the year with the Legislative Finance Committee and other stakeholders to ensure the full **funding of our operating budget request** during the 2026 legislative session.



# LEGAL AFFAIRS OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

*Our legal affairs are overseen and carried out by our General Counsel, providing legal guidance and counsel across all functions of the Office, ensuring that our programs and operations are conducted in accordance with state and federal law.*

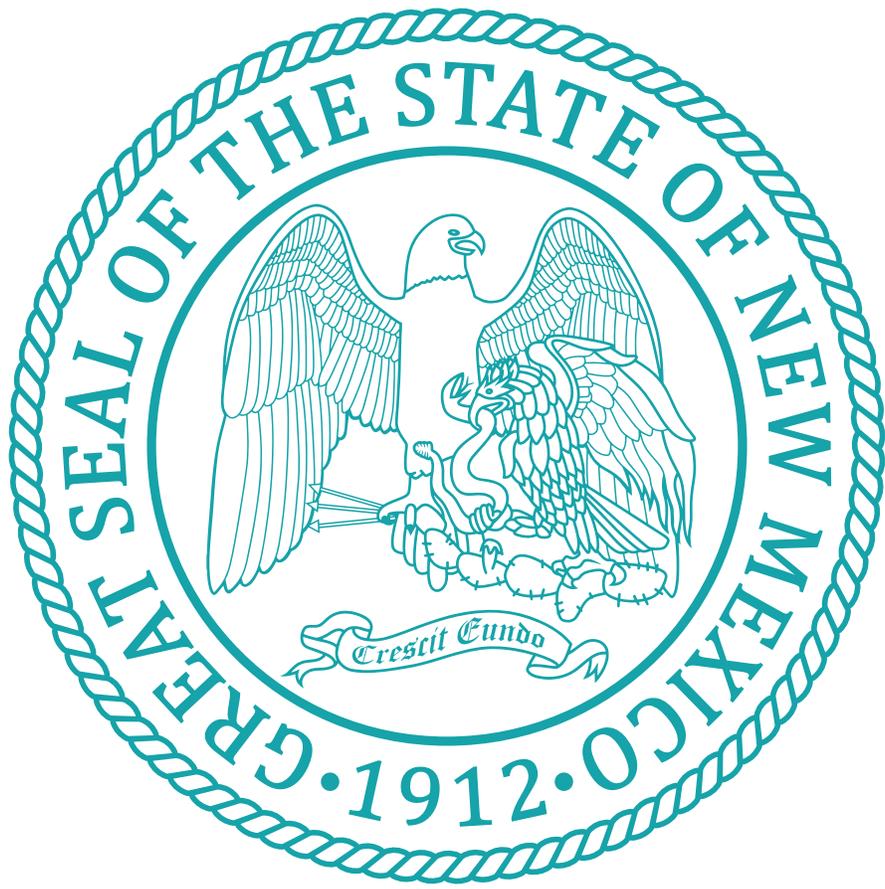
Our General Counsel advises leadership and staff on statutory interpretation, rulemaking, litigation, and risk management, while also supporting election administration, business services, and ethics oversight. By safeguarding the legal integrity of the Office's work, the General Counsel helps protect voters, uphold the rule of law, and ensure public confidence in New Mexico's democratic institutions.

✦ As the state's chief election officer, the Secretary of State must be served in any court action challenging a provision or procedure of the Election Code, even when she is not a named party. When such cases raise issues of significant importance, the Legal Affairs Division will seek leave to file an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief or intervene as an interested party. Examples in 2025 include:

- During the Regular Local Election, the Secretary filed an amicus brief in the New Mexico Supreme Court, in the case of *Gonzales, et al. v. Kavanaugh and Telles*, which raised the issue of whether a city charter's shorter time period to submit nominating petition signatures than the Election Code provided.
- Our office intervened in *Babcock v. Village of Bosque Farms* which involved a dispute over the proper procedure for filling a vacancy for the office of mayor.
- The Secretary intervened in *Sais v. Bernalillo County Clerk* in which the petitioner alleged that the county clerk had incorrectly rejected his nominating petition for failing to submit the required number of qualified signatures.

✦ Throughout the year, our Office worked collaboratively with the Campaign Legal Center, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, to implement a seamless **voter registration process for formerly incarcerated individuals** with felony convictions during the reentry phase of their sentence.

✦ In 2025, actions by the federal administration and its Department of Justice required substantial time and resources to address new legal challenges. For example, **New Mexico joined 18 other states in litigation opposing Executive Orders** that seek to undermine states' authority to administer elections, and our Office is currently defending against a federal lawsuit seeking access to the personal private voter information of every New Mexican voter.





*STATE OF NEW MEXICO*  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

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