

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Alex Curtas, Director of Communications

505-469-2783

[alex.curtas@state.nm.us](mailto:alex.curtas@state.nm.us)

### **Sec. Toulouse Oliver Discusses New Mexico's Election Security Preparedness at Panel Discussion with the Bipartisan Policy Center**

SANTA FE – Yesterday, Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver participated in a panel discussion at the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) in Washington D.C. about how election officials at all levels of government are addressing cybersecurity concerns ahead of the 2018 general election.

“Yesterday’s panel discussion was a great opportunity to highlight New Mexico as a national leader in election security,” said Sec. Toulouse Oliver. “The collaboration among federal agencies, state and local elections officials, and non-governmental partners like the BPC is essential for election security throughout the country. I’m grateful I had the chance to learn from my colleagues and promote the great work we’re doing in New Mexico.”



*Sec. Toulouse Oliver at yesterday's Bipartisan Policy Center panel*

The [Bipartisan Policy Center](http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org) is a nonpartisan think tank based in Washington, D.C. that “combines the best ideas from both parties to promote health, security, and opportunity for all Americans.”

Sec. Toulouse Oliver was joined on the panel – entitled “Are We Ready to Run Our Elections?” – by Thomas Hicks (Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission), Matthew Masterson (Senior Cybersecurity Advisor, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security), and Wayne Williams (Colorado Secretary of State).

During the panel, Sec. Toulouse Oliver highlighted the election security best practices her Office utilizes to protect the integrity of the vote and voting process at every step. She noted that her Office has used a portion of New Mexico’s [\\$3.6 million in Help America Vote Act funding](#) to create a specific cybersecurity position within her information technology department. New Mexico, like Colorado, utilizes pre-election testing and post-election auditing to ensure that elections run smoothly and that election outcomes are accurate. The use of paper ballots in every election is another best practice that Colorado and New Mexico utilize to ensure secure and accurate outcomes, and both states are known nationally as leaders in election practices and election security.

Sec. Toulouse Oliver is a founding member of the Election Infrastructure Subsector Government Coordinating Council (EIS-GCC) and one of only eight Secretaries of State to serve on the Council. She is also the current Treasurer of the nonpartisan [National Association of Secretaries of State](#).

An archived version of the panel discussion can be viewed [HERE](#).

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**Alex Curtas | Director of Communications**

New Mexico Office of the Secretary of State

325 Don Gaspar, Ste. 300 | Santa Fe, NM 87501

Cell: 505-469-2783 | Desk: 505-827-3613

[alex.curtas@state.nm.us](mailto:alex.curtas@state.nm.us)

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