

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Sec. Toulouse Oliver Attends September Native American Voting Taskforce Meeting**

*New Native American Voting Guide and translation services were highlighted*

SANTA FE – The Secretary of State’s Native American Voting Taskforce (NAVTF) September meeting took place today at the Dancing Eagle Casino/Conference Center (Laguna Pueblo, Casa Blanca, NM). Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver attended the meeting and provided updates on her efforts to improve translation services and increase voter outreach in Native American communities.

“I’m extremely proud of the work the Taskforce is doing and I want to make sure that eligible Native American voters know about the resources that are available to help them vote in the November 6<sup>th</sup> general election,” said Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver. “I encourage tribal members throughout New Mexico to get registered to vote before the October 9<sup>th</sup> deadline by visiting [NMvote.org](http://NMvote.org).”

Friday’s agenda included an update about the first-of-its-kind Native American Voting Guide that has been produced by the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, in conjunction with the NAVTF. The Guide will be distributed prior to early voting and will contain pertinent election information, including a candidate and ballot question listing, voting location dates, and how to access Native American language translation services.

“The League of Women Voters is excited about the opportunity to provide these special voter guides for the Native American population of New Mexico,” said Judy Williams, President of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. “We believe an informed electorate is the key to our democracy, and in the power of the vote. The vote is the essential part of making democracy work. We are grateful to the Thornburg Foundation for underwriting the printing of the guides.”

Following the NAVTF meeting, the Secretary of State’s Office conducted a training for the language interpreters responsible for the official election recordings in the various Native American languages to be aired on radio stations where the Indian nations, tribes, or pueblos are located.

The NAVTF is comprised of Linda Yardley - Taos Pueblo, Everett Chavez - Santo Domingo Pueblo, Arden Kucate - Zuni Pueblo, Rick Nez - Northern Agency, Jamie Henio - Eastern Agency, Julie Bedonie - Ft. Defiance Agency, Leon Reval - Jicarilla Apache Nation, Eric Spitty - Mescalero Apache Tribe, Lisa LeFlore Davis - Ft. Sill Apache Tribe, Laurie Weahkee - Urban Native American.

More information about the NAVTF can be found on the [Secretary of State’s website](#).

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