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SOS Toulouse Oliver & State Canvassing Board Certify Partial Statewide Recount of Libertarian Write-In Votes

SANTA FE – New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver and fellow State Canvassing Board Members, Governor Susana Martinez and Supreme Court Chief Justice Judith Nakamura, met at the state capitol building today to certify the results of a partial statewide recount that was requested by Libertarian write-in candidate for Governor Bob Walsh and Libertarian write-in candidate for Lieutenant Governor Robin Dunn. Following the recount, the two candidates received fewer votes than what state law requires, so they will not appear on the General Election ballot.

“Today’s certification is another reminder that New Mexico’s elections are fair and secure, so voters should feel confident that their votes really do matter,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “Now that all Primary Election recounts have concluded, New Mexicans should make sure they are registered to vote because the General Election is approaching quickly.”

State law required that unopposed candidates Walsh and Dunn each receive at least 230 votes in the 2018 Primary Election in order to advance to the General Election this November – the number of nominating petition signatures the candidates would have been required to collect had they filed to run for pre-primary designation along with other major party statewide candidates on February 6, 2018.

However, the official, certified results of the Primary Election showed Walsh receiving 175 votes and Dunn receiving 177 votes. The candidates then requested a recount of the write-in votes they received in eight counties: Bernalillo, Chaves, Doña Ana, Los Alamos, Otero, San Juan, Sandoval and Santa Fe. The recount in those eight counties took place on Wednesday, July 11. The results of the recount, which were certified at today’s meeting, showed Walsh receiving 186 votes and Dunn receiving 190 votes. Because the candidates did not receive 230 votes following the recount, they will not appear on the 2018 General Election ballot.

State law requires candidates requesting a recount to deposit sufficient funds to cover the cost of a recount, which in the case of this partial recount was estimated to be \$10,400. A deposit for this amount was paid to the Secretary of State by Robin Dunn. The funds from the deposit will be used to reimburse counties for any costs associated with paying poll officials to re-tally the write-in votes received by Walsh and Dunn. Any remaining funds will be returned to Ms. Dunn.

The chart below shows the number of votes received by write-in candidates Walsh and Dunn before and after the partial recount took place in eight counties.

County	Bob Walsh: Write-In Governor Candidate		Robin Dunn: Write-In Lieutenant Governor Candidate	
	Before Recount	After Recount	Before Recount	After Recount
*Bernalillo	84	85	84	87
Catron	3		3	
*Chaves	6	7	6	7
Cibola	2		2	
Colfax	0		0	
Curry	0		0	
De Baca	0		0	
*Doña Ana	5	7	5	7
Eddy	2		2	
Grant	0		0	
Guadalupe	0		0	
Harding	2		2	
Hidalgo	0		0	
Lea	3		3	
Lincoln	3		3	
*Los Alamos	14	14	13	13
Luna	3		3	
McKinley	1		1	
Mora	0		0	
*Otero	8	9	8	8
Quay	0		0	
Rio Arriba	4		4	
Roosevelt	3		3	
*San Juan	3	5	2	4
San Miguel	3		3	
*Sandoval	7	7	7	7
*Santa Fe	13	17	15	20
Sierra	1		1	
Socorro	0		0	
Taos	3		3	
Torrance	1		3	
Union	0		0	
Valencia	1		1	
Total	175	186	177	190

In order to qualify as a major political party in New Mexico, a party's candidate for the office of Governor or President must receive at least five percent of the total statewide vote at the most recent General Election. Additionally, the total number of voters who are registered with the party must equal at least one-third of one percent of the total number of voters registered in the state on the date that the Governor issues the Primary Election proclamation. The Libertarian Party of New Mexico qualified as a major political party for the first time in 2018 after Libertarian Presidential candidate Gary Johnson received approximately nine percent of the statewide vote in the 2016 General Election. The Libertarian party's voter registration total exceeded the requirements outlined in state law when Governor Martinez issued the Primary Election Proclamation on January 29, 2018.

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