



# NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING TASK FORCE

**MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER – SECRETARY OF STATE**

## Minutes

Meeting: Native American Voting Task Force  
Date: November 3, 2017  
Time: 9:00 A.M.  
Location: State Capitol Building  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 315  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Members:

Chair	Everett Chavez	Vice Chair	Rick Nez
Member	Julie Badonie	Member	Leon K. Reval
Member	Jamie Henio	Member	Eric Spitty
Member	Arden Kucate	Member	Laurie Weahkee
Member	Lisa LeFlore Davis	Member	Linda Yardley-Monteau

- Call to Order – 9:10 AM
- Welcome & Invocation – Martin Aguilar, Office of the Secretary of State, NAEIP Liaison
- Pledge of Allegiance – John Blair, Deputy Secretary of State
- Native American Voting Task Force Member Introduction – Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Secretary of State
  - o Welcomed and thanked members for participating and helping move the Native American Voting program forward. Working with our office, county clerks, and tribal governments collectively to ensure the right resources and tools are available to ensure an equal and positive voting experience for our Native American community.
  - o Gave a brief history on the task force. Our office worked together with Representative Lente of Sandia Pueblo to have the state legislation create this task force it would have still been under the auspices of the SOS’s office but would have had that legislative support. Due to budget constraints it was unable to move forward, but we felt conceptually it was incredibly important to do this under the authority of the SOS’s Office; therefore, we moved forward.
  - o Hopes to meet as much as possible with the task force members, has applied for a grant for this task force and the Native American program on funding.

- o Meeting today to get this task force up and running and how our office can help. Spend quite a bit of time on what the goals and objectives should be from the task force's perspective.
- Objectives and Goals
  - o Secretary Toulouse Oliver opened the discussion by presenting the list of goals and objectives her office is proposing. Soliciting the task force's feedback and input as this is a working document. After much discussion amongst the members several points were brought up on issues that should be considered:
    - Education (elders)
    - Advocate for the digital divide
    - More county involvement
    - Bring / drive folks to voting locations
    - Connectivity – internet is slower system
    - Ballots are hard to understand – need help explaining what is on it
    - Need qualified translators
    - Unity within the pueblos
    - Funding
  - o Based on what the Secretary heard during the discussion regarding goals and objectives, below is what she is suggesting be added and then that the new list be brought at the next meeting.
    - Streamlining and reducing inconsistencies in the voting process
    - Improving translation services inclusive of language diversities
    - Increasing dialogue between the task force, the counties, the state and tribal leadership
    - Advocating to the legislature to address the digital divide and internet connectivity
      - Incorporating Native American input into future redistricting efforts
    - Securing additional funding for Native American voter outreach programs
- Task Force Organization
  - o Roll Call
    - Linda Yardley – absent
    - Everett Chavez – present
    - Arden Kucate – present
    - Rick Nez – present
    - Jamie Henio – present
    - Julie Badonie – present
    - Leon Reval – present
    - Pascal Enjady – present (representative for Eric Spitty)
    - Lisa LeFlore Davis – present
    - Laurie Weahkee – absent
  - o Selection of Co-Chairs – decision was made that there will be a chair and vice chair selected.
    - Motion – made by Jaime Henio to select Mr. Chavez as Chair
      - Second – Leon Reval
      - Favor – all
      - Opposed – none
      - Passed - unanimously
    - Motion – made by Arden Kucate to nominate Mr. Nez as Vice Chair
      - Second – Jaime Henio

- Favor – all
- Opposed – none
- Passed – unanimously
- Times and Locations
  - Suggestion made by the Secretary that in the interim the meetings be held in Santa Fe or Albuquerque until there is funding for travel. At the same time unless unavailable. Members agreed.
  - Chair Chavez agreed and recommended the same room in Santa Fe in December. In addition would like to present to the legislative body before the session. Possibly a joint meeting of this committee and appear before the Indian Affairs subcommittee on the same day. Asking members to hold 11/29 as the date since the subcommittee is meeting. Asked the Secretary to get the task force on the agenda.
- Terms
  - The secretary stated that it was her intent to have members serve through her current term and will continue as long as she is in office.
- Native American Election Information Program & Upcoming Elections – Martin Aguilar provided an update on what the program does in the SOS's office, update on upcoming elections and what we are doing with our existing funding.
- Adjourn – Chairman Chavez adjourned at 11:44 am

**NAVTF Action Items for Next Meeting:**

- Educational outreach focus
  - Slogan - outreach message, voter registration
  - Resources
    - Stats that can be provided in a one pager to legislators
    - NA eligible voters vs. voter turnout comparisons - charts/tables