



# NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING TASK FORCE

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER – SECRETARY OF STATE

## Minutes

Meeting: Native American Voting Task Force  
Date: May 30, 2018  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Location: Metro Center, Gallup NM

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

1. Call to order 10:37 pm – Chair Chavez
2. Roll call

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ Everett Chavez - present       | ✗ Lisa LeFlore Davis - absent    |
| ✓ Rick Nez - present             | ✓ Laurie Weahkee - present       |
| ✗ Linda Yardley-Monteau - absent | ✓ Eric Spitty – present on phone |
| ✓ Arden Kucate - present         | ✓ Leon Reval - present           |
| ✗ Julie Badonie – absent         | ✗ Jamie Henio – absent           |

3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance– Vice Chair Nez & Chair Chavez
4. Approval of the February 23, 2018 meeting minutes

- **Motion:** made by Laurie Weahkee
- **Second:** made by Arden Kucate
- **Approved:** all
- **Against:** none, passed unanimously

5. Discussion and Deliberation

- 2018 Work Plan – board is bringing this item up for approval. After many meetings, workshops and discussions, the plan is ready to be approved. The motion made by Laurie was to approve the document as a working document, to allow for amendments as needed.

- **Motion:** made by Laurie Weahkee
- **Second:** made by Arden Kucate
- **Approved:** all
- **Against:** none, passed unanimously
  
- Dulce meeting update
  - No quorum present but two additional items were discussed aside from the work plan. The task force was tasked to give input on the letter to the tribes and the resolution. Those items were later circulated for approval electronically and since completed.
- Update from Rebecca Martinez
  - Work plan – in order to gauge how well the efforts that are contained within the work plan are going the SOS has provided the most up to date voter registration information for each precinct that falls within the perspective communities. We are proposing that we use this as a starting point to see if the efforts being made drove up voter turnout. After the election and canvass Martin would be able to prepare that documentation and provide those results to you all based on that data we can rework or tweak the work plan as needed.
  - Reminder to please communicate with the SOS any VR drives, meetings or engagements you are doing within your communities those should be contained within this document. It is important because we have some communities that on paper looks like there have been no engagement, but we know that is not the case.
  - Would like to offer the Native American Coordinators instruction at our election school. As soon as general election school in August.
- McKinley County Clerk's office staff gave an update regarding the efforts of their office in regards to voter registration, education and the primary election.
- Secretary Toulouse Oliver
  - HAVA Grant money update, it is primarily for election security, but through the help America Vote Act allows us to use some of the funds to hire the Navajo Coordinator for at least a couple of years. Would like someone from the community whose primary role is to be out and about in the Navajo Nation and help with the efforts outlined in the work plan. This position would be a value added resource to the county staff.
  - Finally able to fund some of the task force's expenses, like travel and programmatic activities.
  - Agrees there should be verbal reports from each member at the meetings on the outreach activities in their communities.
  - With the permission of the this body, would like to create a Facebook page for the taskforce with meetings, activities being done around the work plan, provides us with a central place for people to reach out to members of the task force.
  - Our office can provide an identification card/badge that is official looking showing that you are representing our office as a task force member.

- Our office can assist with putting together a basic voter guide that can include who's on the ballot, what do the offices do, what is an Independent, what's a Democrat, what is a Republican. What I'm proposing is to invite one or two advocacy organizations to work with this group. The League of Women Voters and Common Cause are nonpartisan, voter education organizations that have spent decades doing this kind of work. We can work together with them and create our own guide for Native NM.
  - Other items discussed
    - Several task members discussed and expressed the value of the task force with in the communities. It is a great step forward in getting voter registration numbers up and all should be commended for the efforts already done in such a short amount of time.
    - Possible MOU with the clerks and task force.
    - Using the document that was created by Strong Families as a resource for the Native NM voter guide.
    - Leading up to elections it is really hard to have a more nonpartisan discussion, so doing the guide discussion post-election.
    - Invite the elected officials to be on the radio and explain to listeners what they do, how it affects the community, where they get their funding.
    - Continue to build trust, very important. Don't give up on people, keep trying.
  - NAEIP Program Update – Martin Aguilar, SOS
6. Public Forum – none
7. Adjournment – Chair adjourned meeting at 12:47 PM