



NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING TASK FORCE

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER – SECRETARY OF STATE

Minutes

Meeting: Native American Voting Task Force
Date: February 1, 2018
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Old Senate Chambers, 2nd Floor, Bataan Memorial Bldg., Santa Fe, 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 1:15 pm – Vice Chair Nez
2. Roll call

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Everett Chavez ✓ Rick Nez ✗ Linda Yardley-Monteau ✓ Arden Kucate ✓ Julie Badonie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lisa LeFlore Davis ✓ Laurie Weahkee ✓ Eric Spitty ✓ Annette Martinez for Leon Reval ✗ Jamie Henio
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3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance– Vice Chair Nez & Secretary Toulouse Oliver
4. Approval of the January 10, 2018 Minutes –with edits on roll call reflecting Linda Yardley-Monteau as absent; Julie Badonie as present; Jamie Henio as absent.
 - **Motion:** made by Julie Bedonie
 - **Second:** made by Lisa LeFlore Davis
 - **For:** all
 - **Against:** none, passed unanimously
5. NAVTF
 - Adoption of Work Plan Ideas
 - Get buy-in from Tribal Leaders for Task Force Work

- Outreach to all tribal leaders
 - Need Counties or NAVTF to reach out to constituent groups
 - Speak before APCG
 - Meet with County Clerks, ask questions, get information, create dialogue
 - Have the task force attend Election School
 - Also election offices within tribes
 - Try to emulate state/tribal collaboration act? Government to Government relationships to create more of an institutionalized effort
 - Election School – have task force members attend
 - GIS Mapping collaboration between Tribes and Clerks is necessary
 - Some Clerks easy to work with some difficult
 - Create legislation to establish this taskforce in its own right
 - Voter Education Forums
 - Elected officials/Legislators talking to voters about the importance of their voices
 - Voter Registration events
 - High School Seniors
 - Doing education events
 - Individual work within home tribes
 - Leadership education
 - Connecting the dots for tribal leadership
 - Measure progress by looking at the baseline of turnout from 2014
 - Use candidates to help engage communities
 - Combine meetings
 - Develop voter guides that explain the purposes of the offices that are on the ballot
 - Describe what is this job
 - How does it affect my tribe/Indian community
 - Identify Local/Tribal media outreach opportunities
 - Basic talking points for interviews, etc. - focused on messaging
 - Localized, needs of the community
 - Working to reach out to non-tribal community native voters
 - Elder Outreach to help get the young people involved
 - Elders want opportunities to be more engaged
 - Younger people are respectful and responsive to elders' opinions
 - "Miguel Trujillo Award" to recognize outstanding youth advocate
 - Sub-Grants for tribes to be called "Miguel Trujillo" Grants?
 - Work together with other organizations - like urban Indian organizations, etc., to help with programs
- Create a unified NAVTF message- **"The importance of Citizenship"** Tribal, State, Federal Government - need to partake in all of those
 - Focus on citizenship, the meaning of, responsibilities of
 - Non-partisan, bias-free

- Exercise their right, regardless of Party
- Potential to lose voting opportunities if they are not taken advantage of
- Not just the tribe – the tribe is dependent upon governments outside of the tribal government
 - Funding, etc.
- History of Native Voting, Miguel Trujillo
- The fact the state government is acknowledging the importance of tribal participation
 - Also not trying to apply a top-down approach
 - Changing the relationship
- Creating a partnership between the state and Tribes, respect between the governments, institutionalizing the partnership – long term goal of building and maintaining the relationships
- Trying to increase Native American turnout in all elections
- All elections are run fairly, and that communities have every opportunity to vote
- That native people run for office – better representation of Native people in local, state and Federal government
- Tribal leadership needs to be more invested

6. Discussion and Deliberation

- Also recommended that the work plan be in a visual form, i.e., a timeline with priorities and dates.
- Laurie offered facilitating the formalization of the message - next meeting
- Discussed next meeting should be a combination of work session and regularly scheduled meeting. Date decided on was 2/23/18 from 10 am – 1 pm for work plan/session (facilitated by Laurie) then 2 – 4 for the regularly scheduled meeting where the work plan can be voted on and adopted. Meeting to be tentatively held at Sandia, Chair Chavez to contact governor for facility use.

7. Public Comment – suggestions for task force

- Local leader/community members that there is a forum they can express themselves. Informing voters to share their voice.
- Lack of information to our voters.
- Work on systematic problems throughout county offices.
- Lack of information that gets to our rural families, specifically McKinley County.
- Need youth component participants as part of task force, branch out.
- Simplify voting to their language
- Training – offered to youth, that is not interesting to them, possibly approach them differently. Through HS classes to get their attention.

8. Adjournment – 4:10 pm