

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver Posts 2017 Financial Disclosure Statements Online**

*Readily Available Documents Boosts Transparency; Increases Accountability for Public Officials*

SANTA FE – Ushering in a new era of transparency and accountability in State government, New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver today has made available all of the 2017 Financial Disclosure Statements for public officials (2017 Statements) on the Secretary of State’s website. [The 2017 Statements can be found here](#). In the coming months, the Office of the Secretary of State (the Office) will also post online the financial disclosure statements for the previous five calendar years.

“The business dealings of our public officials should be accessible and available to scrutiny by all New Mexicans,” said Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver. “This kind of transparency should give confidence to New Mexicans that the vast majority of public officials working on their behalf are living within the law and maintaining the public’s trust.”

All statewide elected officials, State legislators, and State agency heads or officials whose appointment to a board or commission is senate confirmed are required to file an annual financial disclosure statement. Some State employees are also required to file an annual financial disclosure statement by executive directive as are State employees and public officials with financial interests that may be affected by their employment but who are otherwise not required by law to file.

“There are a number of commonsense reforms my office will pursue this year that will help to streamline the reporting process and expedite our review of the submitted statements,” said Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver. “However, in order to provide the appropriate review of the financial disclosure statements my office needs additional financial support from the Legislature. Quite simply, I don’t have the budget or enough employees to conduct the swift and thorough review that New Mexicans expect and deserve.”

Later this year, the Office will begin to promulgate rules to provide additional clarity and guidance for proper filing of future financial disclosure statements. Additionally, the Office will begin an overhaul of the actual forms used by public officials to provide much needed updates and greater transparency. These reforms are expected to minimize many of the minor errors often found on financial disclosure statements.

State law directs that the Office should first attempt to get voluntary compliance from those submitting financial disclosure statements, and that a person who violates the Financial Disclosure Act unintentionally or for good cause shall be given ten days to correct any errors before any fines would be imposed.

As a precaution, the “Residence Address” sections of the 2017 Statements for public officials working in the judicial, law enforcement and related agencies have been redacted for the online versions only. The redactions do not affect the integrity of the originally submitted document.

Original, non-redacted copies of these financial disclosure statements are available for in-person review at the Office.

The 2017 Financial Disclosure Statements are available for review here:

<https://portal.sos.state.nm.us/FinancialDisclosure/search.aspx>

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