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April 26, 2018

Contact: Joey Keefe (505) 469-2783

Toulouse Oliver's Office Conducts Mock Elections Ahead of 2018 Primary

SANTA FE – New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver's office began conducting mock elections today in preparation for the 2018 Primary Election. The tests are designed to ensure that votes are tallied and reported correctly before voters head to the polls next month.

“We want to make sure every county is ready for anything that can happen between now and Election Day,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “Conducting these tests will give New Mexico's voters and county clerks a higher level of confidence that the Primary Election results are accurate.”

The mock elections give county clerks and their staff an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the vote tallying technology and to verify that the voting systems are working properly. This verification process includes testing the ballot style of each precinct in the state to ensure that voting machines recognize each ballot type and count the votes correctly.

As part of the mock election process, multiple counties will upload their results to the state's server to simulate the large transfers of data that occur after voting ends on Election Day. The mock elections also are designed to help county clerks meet their statutory obligations to certify that their voting machines have been sufficiently prepared for the Primary Election.

The mock elections will occur every Thursday until May 24. Starting the week of April 30, the results of the mock elections will be [posted on the Secretary of State's website](#) and will be labeled with the word “TEST” at the top of the results.

On May 8, early voting will be available at each county clerk's office during normal business hours. Countywide early voting begins on Saturday, May 19 and ends on Saturday, June 2. Election Day is Tuesday, June 5. Voters may visit the [voter information portal on the Secretary of State's website](#) to find nearby polling locations and their hours of operation.

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