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SOS Toulouse Oliver Announces Online Independent Expenditure Filing System

Next Independent Expenditure Reporting Deadline is May 14

SANTA FE – New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver today announced a new online system for filing independent expenditure reports as part of her ongoing commitment to increasing disclosure requirements for political spending. On Monday, May 14, entities that have already spent money on independent expenditures for the 2018 June Primary Election will be required to file reports [on the Secretary of State's website](#). In the coming weeks, the reports will be publicly available in a searchable format.

“New Mexico’s voters are bombarded with political ads trying to convince them to vote one way or another, and they deserve to know who is paying for them,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “This new system will get us closer to the level of disclosure that New Mexico has been lacking for far too long. I’ll keep working to shine a light on dark money wherever possible.”

An independent expenditure is a political expenditure made by someone who is not otherwise coordinating with a candidate, a campaign committee, or a political party for purposes of influencing an election. Independent expenditures are paid for advertisements that specifically urge voters to vote for or against a particular candidate or ballot measure. Independent expenditures that are disseminated within 30 days of Primary Election Day or within 60 days of General Election Day can also include advertisements that refer to a candidate or ballot measure without specifically urging voters to take an action.

The reports filed by entities making independent expenditures must meet requirements outlined in a new campaign finance rule that Secretary Toulouse Oliver adopted in the fall of 2017 to bring much-needed guidance to the state’s campaign finance laws. Entities making an independent expenditure must create an account in the new filing system and describe the advertisement they are funding and its purpose.

Independent expenditures totaling \$3,000 or less for non-statewide races or ballot measures, or \$7,500 dollars or less for statewide races or ballot measures, must disclose each donor who gave at least \$200 to the expenditure. If the amounts of the independent expenditure are greater than \$3,000 or \$7,500, respectively, the filing entity must disclose donors who gave more than \$200 if the independent expenditure is using a segregated bank account, or donors who gave more than \$5,000 if they are not using a segregated bank account. Additionally, independent expenditures totaling over \$3,000 that are made within 14 days of Election Day must be reported within 24 hours after making the expenditure.

In addition to independent expenditures, Primary candidates for state and county office and political action committees will be required to file campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State on May 14. The reports for candidates and political action committees will be published in a searchable format in the [Campaign Finance Information System \(CFIS\)](#) on Secretary Toulouse Oliver's website in real time.

[More information on independent expenditures can be found here.](#)

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