

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: John Blair | (505) 490-1952

## **SOS Toulouse Oliver & State Canvassing Board Certify PRC District 5 Recount**

*Partial Statewide Recount Ordered for Libertarian Write-In Candidates*

SANTA FE – New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver and the State Canvassing Board reconvened today at the State Capitol Building to certify the results of an automatic recount of the Republican Primary contest in Public Regulation Commission (PRC) District 5. The State Canvassing Board also approved an order to recount the ballots in eight New Mexico counties for the Libertarian Party of New Mexico (Libertarian) write-in candidate for Governor and the Libertarian write-in candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

“After two successful automatic recounts, it is clear that the integrity of New Mexico’s elections is high,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “I urge all New Mexicans to get registered to vote and take part in the electoral process because your voice really does matter.”

When the State Canvassing Board reconvened today, the results of the PRC District 5 automatic recount confirmed Ben L. Hall as the victor of the contest with 5,510 total votes received compared to Chris P. Mathys, who received 5,485 votes. The automatic recount for PRC District 5 began on Thursday, June 28, and was conducted by the eleven County Clerks whose counties contain at least some portion of the district: Catron, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance and Valencia.

Last week, the State Canvassing Board certified the [results of the 2018 Primary Election](#) for each contest for federal office, statewide office, public regulation commission, public education commission, district attorney, district judge and legislative offices located in more than one county. At the meeting, the State Canvassing Board ordered a recount in PRC District 5 and in State House District 27 because state law requires an automatic recount when the margin between the top two vote-getters in a race for a districted office other than the United States House of Representatives is less than one percent. The automatic recount for House District 27 began on Wednesday, June 27 and was conducted by the Bernalillo County Clerk. The Bernalillo County Canvassing Board will meet on July 6, 2018 to certify the results of the House District 27 automatic recount.

Earlier this week, the Libertarian write-in candidate for Governor, Bob Walsh, and the Libertarian write-in candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Robin Dunn, filed an application with the Secretary of State’s office for a recount of the physical ballots in eight counties: Bernalillo, Chaves, Doña Ana, Los Alamos, Otero, San Juan, Sandoval and Santa Fe. [The Order for Recount](#) approved today by the State Canvassing Board directs that the recount of

those eight counties will begin on July 11, 2018, provided that the Libertarians pay the full estimated cost of the recount, \$10,400.

State law requires that an unopposed write-in candidate must receive at least as many votes as the number of nominating signatures the candidates would have needed to collect to qualify. As reflected in last week's certification of the 2018 Primary Election, Mr. Walsh received 175 votes and Mrs. Dunn received 177 votes. Both Mr. Walsh and Mrs. Dunn needed 230 votes to qualify for the 2018 General Election. 691 registered Libertarians voted in the 2018 Primary Election.

The Statewide Canvassing Board will meet again on July 18, 2018, to certify the results of the recount that was ordered today. To view the official 2018 Primary Election results for all contests, including the two that required automatic recounts, visit [NMVote.org](http://NMVote.org) and click on the button that reads "Click here for 2018 Official Primary Results."

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