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Contact: John Blair (505) 490-1952

## **Ballot Order Determined for 2018 General Election**

*Random Drawing of Lots Done by Major and Minor Political Parties*

SANTA FE – Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver held the ballot order drawing for the 2018 general election this afternoon at the New Mexico State Capitol. For the first time – as a result of an administrative rule adopted by Secretary Toulouse Oliver – qualified minor parties participated in the same drawing as qualified major parties, ensuring that all qualified parties have the same opportunity to appear at the top of the ballot. Under state law, the order in which political parties appear on the general election ballot is determined through a drawing of lots.

“It’s important that New Mexico voters have equal access to the ballot and that our elections are fair and secure,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “A reminder for all New Mexicans that that you have until October 9, 2018, to get registered to vote in the 2018 general election. Just go to [NMVote.org](http://NMVote.org) to register or update your registration.”

The random drawing of lots today by representatives of all the qualified major and minor political parties in New Mexico resulted in the following ballot order for the 2018 general election:

1. Constitution Party of New Mexico;
2. Democratic Party of New Mexico;
3. Green Party of New Mexico;
4. Better for American Party of New Mexico;
5. Libertarian Party of New Mexico; and,
6. Republican Party of New Mexico.

As the Constitution Party, Green Party and Better for America Party do not have any candidates on the 2018 general election ballot, the order will effectively be:

1. Democratic Party of New Mexico;
2. Libertarian Party of New Mexico; and,
3. Republican Party of New Mexico.

The changes to the general election ballot order rule that were adopted earlier this year establish the last Friday in August as the date of the drawing of lots. Previously, the drawing by political parties was held on the first Wednesday of September. Recent legislation moved the deadline for county clerks to provide final ballot content to the state’s printer from 56 days to 63 days prior to Election Day, meaning the ballot order drawing would have

occurred after the deadline for the ballots to be ready. Secretary Toulouse Oliver's adopted changes ensure that the ballot order is finalized before the printer deadline passes.

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