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Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver Announces Successful 2016 General Election Vote Systems Audit

SANTA FE – New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver today announced the successful audit of the electronic vote tabulation systems used in the 2016 general election. Having conducted a hand recount, [the official audit](#) found no additional recounts are required.

“New Mexicans should feel confident in the accuracy of our voting systems and in the integrity of the voting process,” said Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver. “It’s important that every New Mexican recognizes the power of his or her vote and that they exercise that power in every election.”

Following each general election, New Mexico law requires a voting system check for the federal and statewide offices in which the winning candidate won by the smallest percentage margin of all statewide candidates. The two statewide races identified for audit with the smallest winning percentage margin in 2016 were for President and Vice President of the United States, and Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

In randomly selected precincts across the state, hand recounts were conducted for election day voting, early in-person voting and absentee by mail voting. These hand recount results were compared against the voting machine tabulator results from each affected county’s precinct report. The error rate found by the 2016 system check audit was 0.094% for the President and Vice President of the United States contest and 0.040% in the Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court contest (See [Appendix B-1 of 2016 Post Election Voting System Check Audit Results](#)). These results reflect a highly accurate tabulation process in New Mexico.

New Mexico has some of the best pre- and post-election audit and security checks in the country, which help to ensure the safety and integrity of our electoral system. Some of these safeguards include:

- **PAPER BALLOTS** - Our election process is based on paper ballots and these ballots can be, and are, recounted as needed to ensure the vote count is correct.
- **NO INTERNET** - Casting and tabulating of ballots is not done over the Internet. All machines are stand alone and the memory cards that store the votes are encrypted and sealed in with tamper proof indicators. These cards are encrypted and require specialized software to unencrypt and read the results.
- **PRE-ELECTION AND POST-ELECTION ACCURACY TESTING** - All tabulation equipment is tested for accuracy in each county prior to the election in addition to the audits conducted after the election on tabulation equipment.
- **RESULT CANVASS** - Official results are certified only after verification that all paper ballots have been tabulated and accounted for.

The announcement of the 2016 audit results is part of Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver's commitment to greater transparency in the Office of the Secretary of State.

The full audit report and analysis can be found on the [New Mexico Secretary of State's website](#).

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