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Passage of Local Election Act a Win for New Mexico Voters

Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver Championed Bill in Legislature

SANTA FE – The New Mexico State Senate and House of Representatives have passed the Local Election Act, which would consolidate most local non-partisan elections to be held together on one day each November of odd-numbered years. If the bill becomes law, beginning in 2019 elections for school districts, special hospital districts, community college districts, technical and vocational institute districts, learning center districts, arroyo flood control districts, special zoning districts, and water and sanitation districts will be held on the same day.

“The Local Election Act is a real win for New Mexico voters,” said New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver. “Consolidated elections will make it easier for voters to follow when elections are happening and to be informed about the candidates and issues on the ballot. It’s great that New Mexicans will know to expect and prepare for an election every November - partisan elections like U.S. President and the State Legislature in the even-numbered years and non-partisan elections in the odd-numbered years.”

Currently, there are several small local elections held throughout the year which are all advertised and conducted in a different manner. This legislation requires that all non-partisan candidates and questions be placed on a single ballot allowing for uniform election administration, and, most importantly, easier voter participation.

New Mexico cities will be included in the law unless their governing bodies approve an ordinance explicitly opting out. The bill now goes to Governor Susana Martinez for her signature.

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