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Contact: Joey Keefe (505) 469-2783

Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver Releases Details on Lobbyist Sexual Harassment Trainings

SANTA FE –New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver today released details on two sexual harassment trainings for lobbyists that she announced in December. The trainings will take place on Thursday, January 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and Thursday, January 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Both trainings will be held in the Old Senate Chambers in the Bataan Memorial Building, 400 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, NM. Secretary Toulouse Oliver will make public the list of lobbyists who attend the trainings.

“Sexual harassment should never be tolerated in any workplace, and it’s past time to confront the issue head on,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “These trainings are an initial step in my efforts to ensure that the Roundhouse is a safe space for everyone who enters it.”

Last month, annual registration forms for the coming 2018 legislative session were made available to new and returning lobbyists. For the first time, lobbyists are being asked to disclose if they have existing sexual harassment policies in place and whether they have received any sexual harassment training in the last twelve months. The responses from registered lobbyists, which will be displayed in a searchable format on the Secretary of State’s website, will be used as a baseline for determining appropriate next steps in combatting this problem.

As the Office of the Secretary of State does not have legal authority to mandate sexual harassment training for lobbyists, the 2018 trainings are voluntary. At the same time, Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver will push the legislature to make regular sexual harassment training for lobbyists mandatory.

In December, Secretary Toulouse Oliver also announced that her office is providing all lobbyists with [draft sexual harassment policies and background information on how to recognize and prevent harassment](#). The draft policies are available to help lobbyists establish sexual harassment policies in their own offices or to improve upon existing policies.

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