

CORRECTION (April 5, 2018): An earlier version of this press release stated that Joseph Aaron Bizzell, a candidate for Public Regulation Commission, District 5, had been qualified to receive public financing. Mr. Bizzell is still a candidate for PRC, District 5. However, he withdrew from consideration for public financing. We apologize for the error.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2018

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SOS Toulouse Oliver Certifies PRC and Judicial Candidates for Public Financing

SANTA FE – New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver has certified candidates for the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) and statewide judicial seats to receive public financing to fund their campaigns in the 2018 election cycle.

“Public financing gives voters confidence that candidates for these important offices will not be swayed by large corporate donations and special interest money,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “I encourage these candidates to contact my office with any questions they may have about how to comply with the state’s public financing requirements.”

State law allows candidates for the PRC or any statewide judicial seat to apply for public financing. To qualify for public financing, eligible candidates must first file a declaration of intent with the Secretary of State. Candidates then must collect \$5 qualifying contributions from a number of voters equal to at least one-tenth of one percent of voters from the candidate’s party in the state or district. The period for candidates to collect qualifying contributions for this year’s election cycle began on October 2, 2017 and ended on March 20, 2018. The qualifying contributions that candidates submit to the Secretary of State are deposited into the state’s Public Election Fund.

Secretary Toulouse Oliver and her staff reviewed the qualifying contributions submitted to her office and certified those candidates who submitted their declarations of intent and the required number of contributions. The final day to certify publicly financed candidates for the 2018 primary election was today, March 30, 2018. In addition to meeting the public financing requirements, candidates for the PRC and any statewide judicial seat must have also successfully met the candidate filing requirements outlined in state law.

According to state law, a publicly financed candidate for the PRC who has an opponent in the Primary Election receives twenty-five cents for each voter from the candidate’s party in their district. A candidate for a statewide judicial seat who has a Primary Election opponent receives fifteen cents for each voter from the candidate’s party in the state. Any candidate who does not have a Primary Election opponent receives half the amount they would receive if they had an opponent.

Candidates for the PRC and any statewide judicial seat who have an opponent in the General Election receive twenty-five cents and fifteen cents, respectively, for every voter in the candidate's district or the state. Any candidate who does not have a General Election opponent receives half the amount they would receive if they had an opponent. All requirements for publicly financed candidates can be found in the [New Mexico Public Financing Guide for the 2018 Election Cycle](#).

A full list of candidates who qualified for public financing, and the funds that will be distributed to them, are listed below (political parties of candidates listed alphabetically)*:

| | Primary | General |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Court of Appeals, Position 1 | | |
| Kristina Bogardus, DEM | 41,848 | 180,656 |
| Stephen G. French, REP | 27,789 | 180,656 |
| Court of Appeals, Position 2 | | |
| Jacqueline R. Medina, DEM | 41,848 | 180,656 |
| Hank Bohnhoff, REP | 27,789 | 180,656 |
| Court of Appeals, Position 3 | | |
| Briana H. Zamora, DEM | 41,848 | 180,656 |
| Emil John Kiehne, REP | 27,789 | 180,656 |
| Court of Appeals, Position 4 | | |
| Megan P. Duffy, DEM | 41,848 | 180,656 |
| Daniel Jose Gallegos, REP | 27,789 | 180,656 |
| PRC, District 2 | | |
| Kevin J. Sanders, DEM | 9,992 | 55,555 |
| Jefferson L. Byrd, REP | 23,778 | 55,555 |
| PRC, District 5 | | |
| Ben L. Hall, REP | 17,303 | 55,261 |
| Chris P. Mathys, REP | 17,303 | 55,261 |

***Only one candidate from each contested Primary Election will advance to the General Election. Therefore, only one Republican from PRC District 5 will receive the General Election disbursement.**

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