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Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver Responds to Unanimous House Passage of Bill to Expand Public Financing of New Mexico Elections

SANTA FE – Tonight, the New Mexico House of Representative passed an important update to the state’s public financing system that will expand public financing of certain races in New Mexico elections. Senate Bill 4 passed the Senate 34-1 earlier this session and passed the House floor tonight 59-0. It will now go back to the Senate for concurrence after amendments were added in the House.

“People from all backgrounds and walks of life should have the ability to run for public office, not just the wealthy and well-connected,” said Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver. “Tonight’s passage of Senate Bill 4 by the New Mexico House of Representatives is a great step toward a better and better-funded public financing system for elections which will give more ordinary New Mexicans the ability to serve their communities.”

Senate Bill 4 is sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth and has been a priority for Secretary Toulouse Oliver in this legislative session. [The bill makes changes to the state’s Voter Action Act](#), which provides for public financing for statewide judicial candidates and candidates for the public regulation commission.

Senate Bill 4 is very similar to Sen. Wirth's [Senate Bill 97 from 2017](#) that passed the Senate 37-0, passed the House 51-15, but was vetoed by then-Governor Susana Martinez.

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