



Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
New Mexico Secretary of State

Linda Yardley - Taos Pueblo   April Chavez – Santo Domingo Pueblo   Arden Kucate - Zuni Pueblo  
Amanda Tolino - Northern Agency   Vacant - Eastern Agency   Julie Bedonie - Ft. Defiance Agency  
Shauna Tafoya - Jicarilla Apache Nation   Eric Spitty - Mescalero Apache Tribe  
Lisa LeFlore Davis - Ft. Sill Apache Tribe   Vacant - Urban Native American

### MEETING MINUTES

Meeting:      Native American Voting Task Force Meeting  
Date:          October 20, 2021  
Time:          10:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location:      Tele-Conference   Santa Fe, New Mexico

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Time 10:11 a.m.      Chairman Arden Kucate
2. Roll Call

Arden Kucate - Present	Amanda Tolino – Absent (alternate Sam Bee)
Linda Yardley – Present	Julie Bedonie - Absent
April Chavez – Present	Shauna Tafoya – Absent (alternate Tyrell Largo)
Eric Spitty - Absent	Lisa Leflore Davis- Absent (alternate Kam Killsfirst)

3. Invocation: Chairman Arden Kucate      Pledge of Allegiance: Maggie Toulouse Oliver
4. Approval of the May 21, 2021, meeting minutes

1<sup>st</sup> motion by: Linda Yardley to accept the May 21, 2021 meeting minutes with the high lights.  
2<sup>nd</sup> motion by: April Chavez   All members approved: No opposed & No Abstained  
Meeting minutes of May 21, 2021, accepted and approved by Task Force Members.

### 5. Presentations:

- a. Native American Voters with Disabilities by Robin Garrison, Advocate, Disability Rights NM; Lisa McNiven, Disability Specialist & Daniel Macy NM Gov's Commission on Disability; Joseph Ray, Pueblo of Laguna, Laguna Pueblo Election Commission

Robin Garrison introduced herself and her team. She thanked everyone for being invited and giving their presentation at this meeting. She mentioned that it is an important issue here in NM and often overlooked, not intentionally, just overlooked and with a lot that's going on.

Robin Garrison screen shared her slide presentation to everyone.

Slide Presentation: Voter Awareness: *Understanding the Voting Process for Individuals with Disabilities*

*First slide: Agenda*

*2<sup>nd</sup> slide: A Brief History- 1990 ADA the passing of it*

*3<sup>rd</sup> slide: 2002 – Help America Vote Act (HAVA) All people with disabilities to have access to an independent and private voting experience.*

*4<sup>th</sup> slide: Numbers of disability 61million adults in the US have a disability*

*5<sup>th</sup> slide: Voter Turnout – Without a disability – in previous turnouts 8.4%; With a disability in previous turnouts – 30.1%*

*6<sup>th</sup> slide: New Mexico – In NM According to CDC & Prevention in 2017, 28.6% of adults in NM have some type of disability.*

*7<sup>th</sup> Slide: Accessibility – 5 identifiable reoccurring barriers to voting*

*8<sup>th</sup> Slide: Issues with Accessibility – Funding and Resources*

*9<sup>th</sup> Slide: Technology Barriers – Registration & absentee ballots; accessible machine*

*10<sup>th</sup> slide: Poll worker training – regulations; operations; understanding and respecting their needs*

*11<sup>th</sup> Slide: Structural Barriers (outside) – Parking not accessible; Ramp issues; Cracked sidewalks.*

*12<sup>th</sup> Slide: Structural Barriers (inside) – Doors; obstructed pathways; inaccessible booth; no privacy*

*13<sup>th</sup> slide: ADA -Area of Concern- Parking; path of travel; doors*

*14<sup>th</sup> slide: Photographs of accessibility issues such as doors, sidewalks, parking areas*

*15<sup>th</sup> slide: Stigma – people with disabilities are often treated differently (taken seriously; assumed to be incapable of performing tasks; spoken to differently.*

*16<sup>th</sup> slide: Assumptions associated with stigmas are not helpful – when individuals with disabilities are treated differently, they are not offered or provided with the same opportunities.*

*17<sup>th</sup> slide: Diversity – Each person with a disability experience it in a unique and very personal way. No one should assume they know or understand what an individual with a disability need.*

*18<sup>th</sup> slide: Negative Impacts – Legal rights violations; Disenfranchising voters with disabilities.*

*19<sup>th</sup> slide: The Department of Justice – Reaches agreement with Sandoval County to ensure accessible voting sites.*

*20<sup>th</sup> slide: Sandoval County makes it Accessible: Showing of pictures of making voting sites accessible and ADA compliance.*

*21<sup>st</sup> Slide: Individuals with disabilities are people first – Use people-first language; Avoid using terms like*

*22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> slide: Etiquette – help before providing assistance...*

*25<sup>th</sup> slide: Voter Rights – Equal access to websites for registration and access to absentee ballots; equal polling sites; access to mobile polling units; an accessible machine that is positioned to provide privacy; has a right to choose someone to help them.*

*26<sup>th</sup> slide: All voting sites must be accessible to all registered voters including those with specific needs.*

*27 & 28th slide: Resources: see slide*

*29th slide: End of Presentation. Questions – contact numbers are shown*

*Maggie Toulouse Oliver wanted to add a couple of things from respective of the Secretary of State office and for the task force members.*

*First, we find disability rights New Mexico and Governors commission's office incredible resources not only for our office, but we also bring someone in from to present to our county clerks before every election to update and develop their poll worker training and ADA compliance.*

*For this group as leaders in tribal communities across the state, from my point of view one of the challenges that we have seen are locations for voting, polling places in our tribal communities we have limited options depending on how rural it is. Sometimes it's a Chapter house, community center or school often aren't fully ADA compliance. We are working with the counties; Sandoval is a good example that Robin pointed to. For the Task Force to be aware that the Secretary of State has funds that we can provide to our county clerks with to make temporary ADA compliance. We do this for every election. We have been working San Juan County to help them get some of the polling location in ADA compliance. We have been using capital out lay funding from the legislatures to make some of these locations permanent fully compliance. This is an ongoing priority with our office and working together with All tribal leaders, state leaders and legislators are trying to work together on this.*

**b. 2021 Regular Local Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, Martin Aguilar, NAEIP/SOS**

*Presented a flyer on the Regular Local Election that is taking place and he shared information about Early, alternate, election day voting locations, times, and dates. Also, shared information about Same day registration and absentee voting information.*

**c. 2022 Primary: Starts with the Circulation of Nominating Petitions for Candidates Qualifications, Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, Martin Aguilar, NAEIP/SOS**

- Presented a handout on steps and procedures for the 2022 primary nominating petition such as signatures to run as a candidate for the 2022 election. The forms weren't available as mentioned in the election handbook due to the delay of the 2020 Census data.
- Petitions are available for State-Wide District Court, District Attorneys and Metro and Magistrate Courts.

- Due to the NM Re-district, threshold numbers for NM districted races are not available until NM re-districting final has been approved by the legislators.
- Petition signatures must make sure they are registered in the state and must give full address to have it cross check by the SOS.

Arden Kucate questioned “which side are providing the same day voting?” Martin replied to McKinley County Clerk, one in Zuni, one in Crownpoint at the election office, and twin lakes. Continued to share information about voting sites and SDR at other Native American voting sites. November 1, 21, would be the day to request for voting locations for the 2022 election.

Maggie Toulouse Oliver: same day registration is available at all county clerks through Early Voting until a voter can register and vote at those locations. Bernalillo and Dona Ana for sure have it at their satellite early voting sites. We’re Waiting for approval from the voting system certification committee which were hoping to do this November to have it go into effect for all polling locations during early voting and election day to have it in place for the primary next year. For now, every county clerk’s office and other voting locations. Is this available only at the county clerk and not at the tribal voting location?

Helene Crosby: Elaborated more on voting locations, absentee ballot locations and same day registration. Will get more information on these and share with Arden Kucate.

6. Public Forum: members of the public wishing to speak must request to the Chairman, to speak.

Melvin Harris had requested to speak. He works with the Navajo Nation Election Office as an Election Board supervisor. He mentioned that their office is upstairs and that would be a disability issue. He shared that our voters with disability, our elders want to register, the staff has to run downstairs to do so. We hope this will change, were supposed to move downstairs. Appreciates all the work we do together. Have been working on the redistricting with the Human rights commission. We do have a new executive director; her name is Rosita Kelly.

Helene Crosby commented by thanking all the Task Force members and alternates for attending the meeting.

Maggie Toulouse Oliver: Not much to update, just what has been put out there today.

## 7. Meeting Adjournment: 11:57 pm

Motion to Adjourn: 1<sup>st</sup> motion by: April Chavez 2<sup>nd</sup> motioned by: Sam Bee

All members in favor to adjourned. No oppose or abstained.