

2019 Election Legislation and SOS Efforts to Increase Voter Participation in Tribal Communities

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Office of the NM Secretary of State



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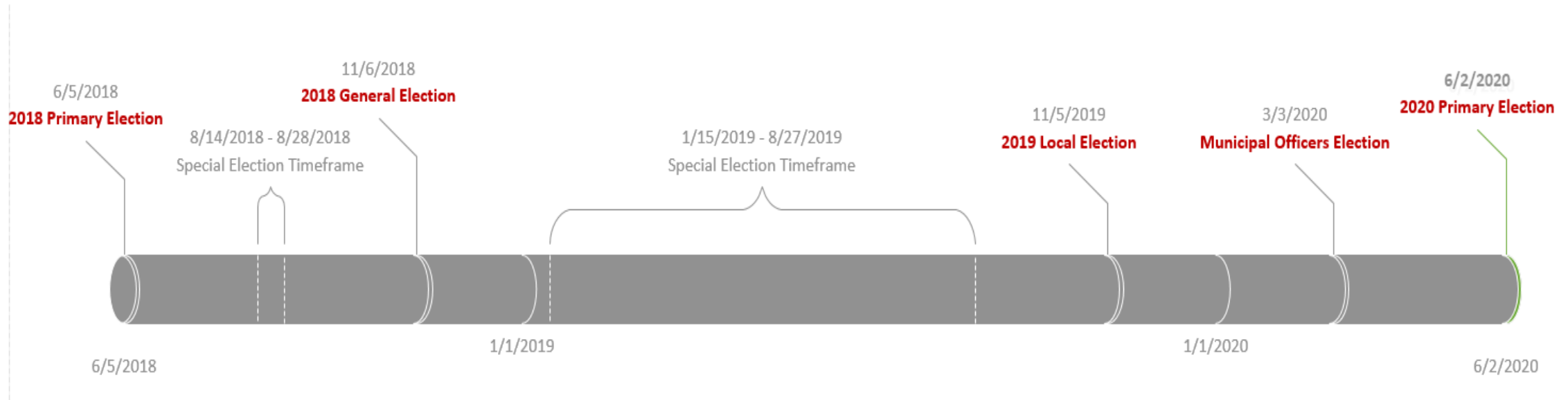
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Election Timeline





Regular Local Election Turnout in Tribal Communities

- 12% of eligible voters on NA land precincts voted in the RLE
 - 8,132 votes
- Large percentage turnout in San Juan County due to NA running for candidacy. (14% turnout)
- Largest percentage of voters per precinct (unofficial)
 - Nambe Pueblo Tribal Admin Blg – 33%
 - Beclabito Chp. – 22%
 - Ojo Encino Chp, Whitehorse Lake Chp, Tohatchi Elm, Two Grey Hills, Tiis Tsoh Kikaad Chp (Navajo) – 21%
 - Laguna Pue Encinal Rec. Blg – 21%



2019 ELECTIONS LEGISLATION

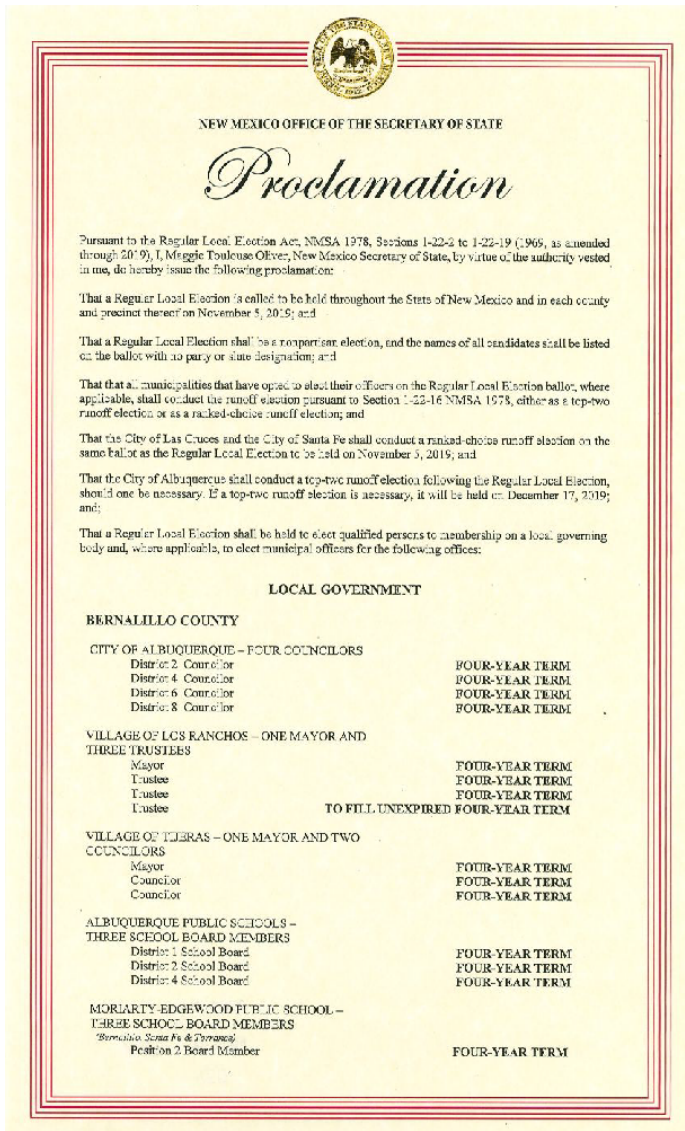
- The Legislature's recent updates to our election laws make it easier for New Mexicans to register to vote, enhance election security, and improve accessibility at the ballot box for eligible voters.
 - Election Law Tune-Up - House Bill 407
 - Local Election Act
 - SOS Admin Rules
 - Voter Registration Changes
 - Proper filing officer or all non-statewide officers
 - Same Day Voter Registration – SB 672
 - Automated Voter Registration – SB 672
 - Campaign Finance – SB 3
 - Admin Rule
 - Public Financing – SB 4



Voter Benefits - HB 407

- House Bill 407 was important for New Mexicans because our election laws must continually evolve to meet the needs of 21st Century voters.
- Serve Constituents and Voters better and integrates Local Elections
- Benefits
 - Absentee ballots pre-paid postage
 - Election consolidation/efficiency – County clerks run all Regular Local Elections (RLE)
 - Voter expectations/education
- Drop-off boxes for mail-in ballots
 - Security of the drop off boxes
- Absentee ballots are protected the same way as Provisional ballots
- Voter Registration – privacy improvements

2019 Regular Local Election



- Over 900 candidates declared for the first Regular Local Election
- Over 250 candidate contests across the state
- Santa Fe and Las Cruces conducted Ranked Choice Voting for Municipal Officer Elections.
- City of Albuquerque has started early voting for its Top-Two Runoff Election.
- First time New Mexicans could register to vote during early voting.

RLE OVERVIEW

- 18.19% of eligible voters voted RLE.
- Counties with highest percentage turnout
 - Harding – 44%
 - Union – 39%
 - Mora – 39%
 - Guadalupe – 33%
 - Los Alamos – 31%

Voter Turnout and Same Day Registration Numbers

Regular Local Election Voter Turnout Through October 31, 2019				
County	Early	Absentee	Total	Same Day Registration
Bernalillo	28501	6426	34927	773
Catron	177	27	204	3
Chaves	822	83	905	22
Cibola	180	14	194	2
Colfax	239	65	304	4
Curry	342	22	364	3
De Baca	40	6	46	1
Dona Ana	5393	289	5682	150
Eddy	676	23	699	4
Grant	1640	149	1789	66
Guadalupe	300	125	425	4
Harding	62	53	115	2
Hidalgo	70	19	89	0
Lea	724	24	748	6
Lincoln	350	39	389	5
Los Alamos	1783	33	1816	29
Luna	617	26	643	20
McKinley	502	8	510	38
Mora	331	59	390	0
Otero	1260	86	1346	27
Quay	265	78	343	3
Rio Arriba	987	51	1038	53
Roosevelt	126	7	133	2
San Juan	1907	468	2375	14
San Miguel	394	43	437	11
Sandoval	3692	347	4039	113
Santa Fe	3994	237	4231	17
Sierra	381	11	392	4
Socorro	525	109	634	12
Taos	529	67	596	1
Torrance	352	25	377	4
Union	389	38	427	4
Valencia	1733	201	1934	32
TOTALS	59283	9258	68541	1429

SOS Efforts to Increase Voter Participation in Tribal Communities

Supporting Counties in ADA compliance in Tribal Communities

Native American Election Information Program

Native American Voting Task Force

2 Native American Election Information Program Liaisons

- Martin Aguilar – Santa Fe - Martin.Aguilar@state.nm.us
- Helene Crosby – Fruitland - Helene.Crosby@state.nm.us



DOJ Seeks ADA Compliance on NA Lands

- Based on a Complaint, DOJ surveyed and assessed the NM County buildings, including polling places, for compliance with the ADA.
 - DOJ survey identified architectural barriers under the ADA at County polling places, including inaccessible parking, ramps that were too steep, and doorways that were too narrow. Additionally, access to public telephones, restrooms, service counters and drinking fountains were found to be inaccessible to persons with disabilities.
 - Under the ADA, counties that conduct local, state, or federal elections may not select polling places that are inaccessible during elections to individuals with disabilities.
- County's must employ temporary measures, such as portable ramps, signage, and propped open doors, as well as certain permanent changes, such as paved parking and ramps.
- In addition, the County will train its poll workers on the requirements of the ADA and how to use temporary measures to ensure each polling place is accessible during elections.

DOJ Seeks ADA Compliance on NA Lands

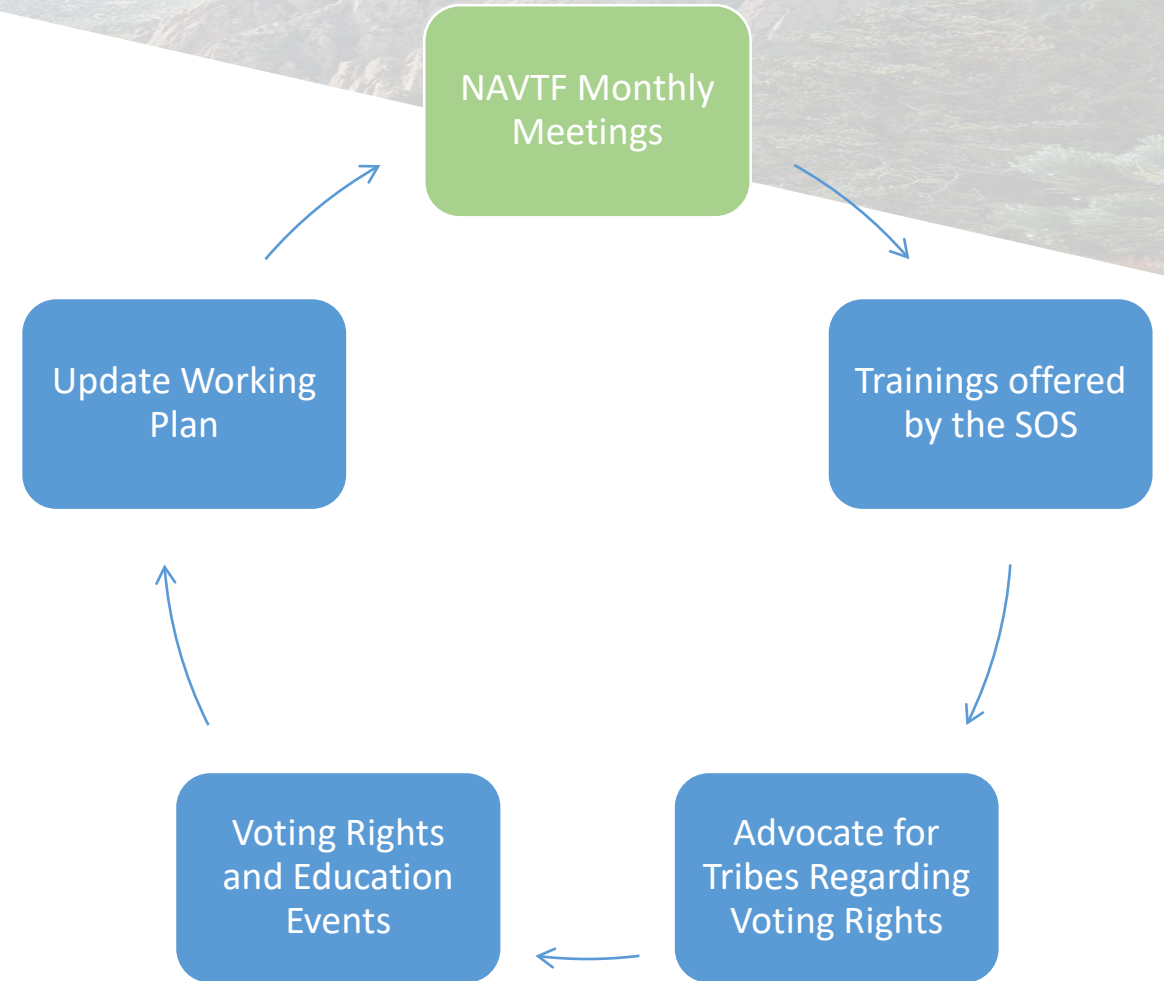
- DOJ determined 3 Counties are out of compliance with ADA at NA polling locations. (mobility and vision disabilities)
 - San Juan County – 2015
 - Sandoval County – 2019 Agreement re accessible voting program
 - McKinley County – 2019 Agreement re accessible voting program
- Joint County and State issue to solve funding gap regarding polling locations
- Sandoval County's quote for compliance is \$49,455.83
 - Van Accessible and Wheel-Chair Accessible signs
 - EZ-Access Ramps
 - 1,5000 traffic cones
- San Juan County's quote for compliance is \$42,559.00
 - Expanding doorways, EZ-Access Ramps, door stops...
- SOS is seeking supplemental funding (FY20-FY21) for cost of compliance.
 - \$127,000 for three counties to help comply with ADA

Native American Election Information Program

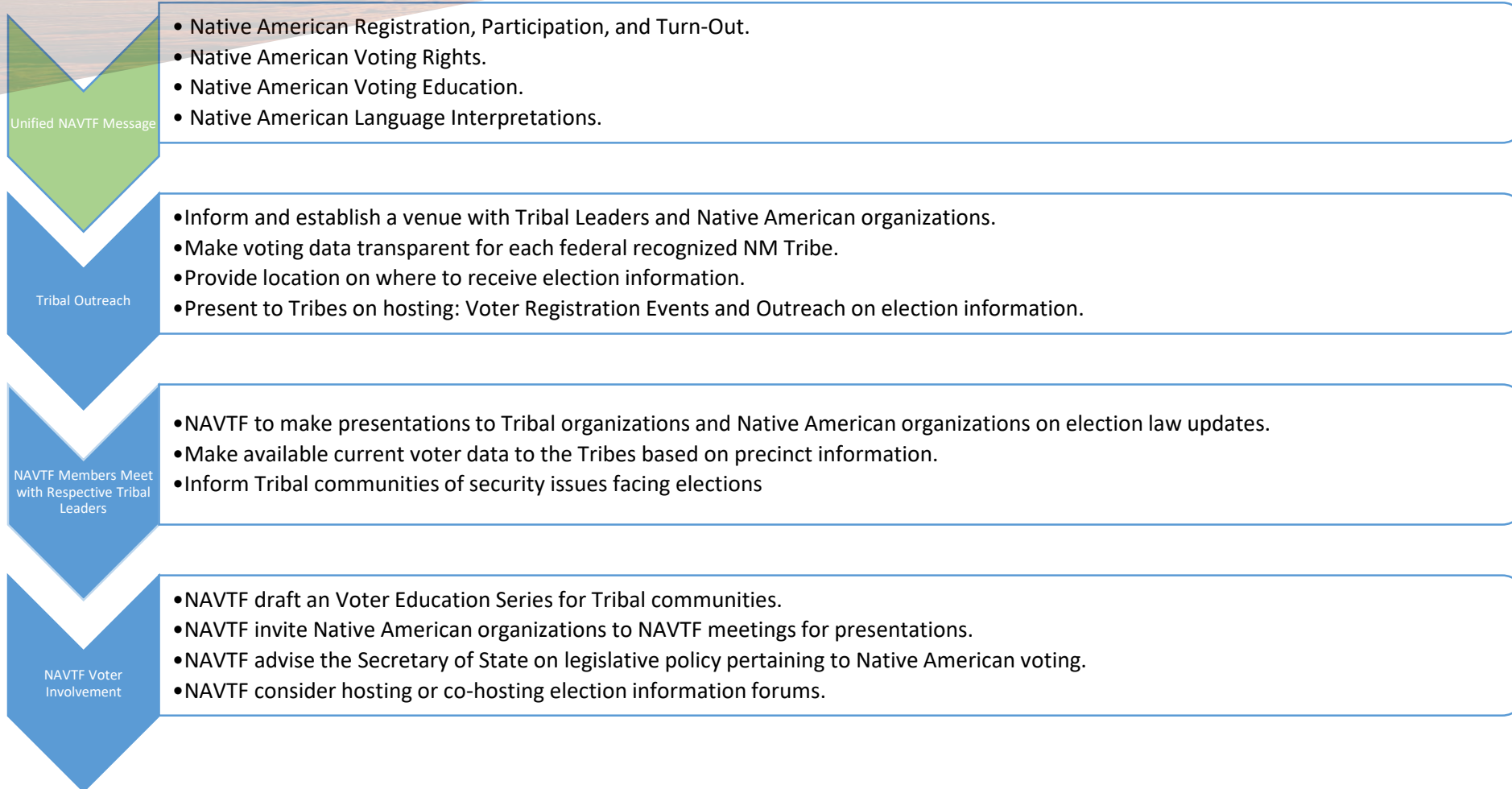
- NAEIP works with twenty-three federally recognized Tribes/Pueblos throughout New Mexico to provide outreach and voter education within their respective communities.
 - The Navajo Nation, Three Apache Tribes, and 19 Pueblos
- NAEIP provides election related translations for eight NA languages.
- NAEIP assists Tribes with election laws, voter information and voter data.
- NAEIP works with five counties having NAEIP programs and bilingual programs.

Native American Voting Task Force - Purpose

- The Native American Voting Taskforce will consult, advise and make recommendations to Secretary of State on Native American voting issues, including:
 - Increasing voter registration in Native American communities
 - Establishing adequate early voting sites
 - Increasing access to the ballot
 - Providing election documents in Native American languages
 - Increasing voter outreach and voter education in Native American communities
 - Assisting the federal government in recognizing areas of need in New Mexico's Native American communities, including in urban areas
 - Increasing dialogue between the task force, the counties, the state and tribal leadership
 - Advocating to the legislature to address the digital divide and internet connectivity
 - Incorporating Native American input into future redistricting efforts



NAVTF – 2019 Strategic Plan



NAVTF – 2019 Strategic Plan Continued

Miguel Trujillo Project

- Formal Letter to Governor of Isleta Pueblo as part of Pueblo protocol.
- Set meeting to define the criteria and purpose for this project
- Involve the family of the late Miguel Trujillo.
- seek sources for the continued funding this project.
- Draft a process and timeline to initiate project and a plan on publicizing this effort.

Legislation to Establish NAVTF

- To request legislative acknowledgement of NAVTF.
- Secretary of State propose a draft budget with input from NAVTF members.
- Draft legislative language with SOS
- Develop Legislative Strategy
- Advocate

Government to Government Relationship

- Request that Tribes have periodic meetings with the local County Clerks and NAVTF
- Actively present throughout the state on the election process
- Provide transparency to Tribes on all information requested.
- Assist in securing Native American language services.
- Review Native American voting rights statues and recommend changes to Secretary of State.

Outreach to Urban Native Organizations

- NAVTF members identify appropriate urban Native organizations to partner with on voter registration
- Develop an voter feedback Form for Urban Native organizations to submit their voting experience.

Campaign Finance Updates – SB 3 (2019)

- Resolved Constitutional Issues with NM Campaign Finance Law
 - Replaces the two-tier, **\$2,600** limit for contributions to non-statewide candidates and **\$5,700** limit for statewide candidates with a blanket, **\$5,000** limit for all candidates in primary and general elections, except for gubernatorial candidates. NMSA 1978, § 1-19-34.7(A).
 - Limits for contributions to gubernatorial candidates shall be **twice the limit** for other candidates (**\$10,000** per primary or general election). NMSA 1978, § 1-19-34.7(B).
 - **Exempts** from contribution limits contributions to political committees that only make independent expenditures and contributions to political committees that are deposited in a segregated bank account that may only be used for independent expenditures. NMSA 1978, § 1-19-34.7(I).

Campaign Finance Updates – SB 3

- Creates a separate limit for contributions to political parties and legislative caucus committees of **five times** the limits for contributions to non-gubernatorial candidates (\$25,000 per primary or general election). NMSA 1978, § 1-19-34.7(C).
- Exempts from contribution limits in-kind contributions by political parties and legislative caucus committees to their parties' candidates. NMSA 1978, § 1-19.34.7(J).

☑ Questions?

