

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF REGISTRATION**  
**March 3, 2017**

**I. Call to Order**

This special meeting of the Santa Fe County Board of Registration commenced at approximately 10:45 a.m. in the Legal Conference Room, County Administration Building, 102 Grant Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**II. Roll Call**

A quorum was achieved with the following Board members present:

**Members Present:**

Clifford M. Rees [Dem.]  
Michael Gallegos [Rep.]  
Francesca DiPalma [Dem.]  
Samuel LeDoux [[Rep., alternate]

**Member(s) Absent:**

Katherine Clark [[Dem., alternate]

**Others Present:**

Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk  
Steve A. Fresquez, Chief Deputy Bureau of Elections  
Theresa Atencio, Elections Administration Supervisor  
Christella Valdez, Assistant County Attorney

**III. Nomination of Board Chair**

Ms. DiPalma nominated Clifford Rees to serve as Chair. There were no other nominations and Mr. Rees was named Chair by acclamation.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Rees requested that staff provide information regarding the methodology employed in developing the list of voters as part of item V.

Mr. Gallegos moved to approve the agenda as amended and Ms. DiPalma seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

# **VI. Approval of Future Meeting Schedule & Oath of Office**

Asserting the Chair's prerogative, the schedule for the next meeting was addressed.

There was Board consensus to hold the meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 11:30 in the same location and Ms. DiPalma so moved. Mr. Gallegos seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Clerk Salazar distributed the oath of office to the members for signature noting staff will provide copies.

# **V. Review of the List of Eligible Voters as Required by NMSA 1978, 1-4-28(E)**

Staff identified the following code citations that inform the work of the Board of Registration:

- New Mexico Election Code, Sections 1-4-24 NMSA 1978
- New Mexico Election Code, Sections 1-4-28 to 1-4-29 NMSA 1978
- New Mexico Election Code, Sections 1-4-32 NMSA 1978
- New Mexico Election Code, Sections 1-4-33 to 1-4-46 NMSA 1978
- NMAC 1.10.35.9

Chair Rees said at the 2015 Board of Registration meetings he found legal citations errors in the materials provided by the Secretary of State's Office which were corrected by the Clerk's Office.

Ms. Valdez said the Board members were provided the 2017 County Board of Registration Uniform & Nondiscriminatory Guidelines for Removal of Ineligible Voters as prepared by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Fresquez said the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA or Act) establishes requirements for how states maintain voter registration lists. The primary purpose of the Act is to ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained and requires that the State shall remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters by reason of death of the registrant or a change in the residence of the registrant. The procedures the County has used included a mailing in August 2014. He mentioned that the mailings the State conducted in 2007 through 2009 were not recognized by the federal government. The 2011 mailings were used as the basis for the last purge/maintenance effort.

If an individual has been voting regularly he or she will not be on the list nor purged. Mr. Fresquez indicated that there was a mailing initiated by the Secretary of State in August/September 2014 as the first step toward the removal of ineligible voters.

Clerk Salazar mentioned a second mail-out that all 33 New Mexico County Clerks are using through the ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) program to assist in

improving the accuracy of voter rolls and to increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens. That provided information on those considered eligible and not registered. Chair Rees remarked that his 17-year-old daughter received a voter eligibility information mail-out.

Clerk Salazar said the counties in New Mexico have been in catch-up mode because the Secretary of State did not conduct list maintenance in 2011.

Mr. LeDoux recalled that the process has several tiers.

Mr. Fresquez said active status can be achieved through one of the following ways: the voter returns the confirmation mailer with an updated/corrected address indicating that the voter still resides in the county; the voter votes in any election after receiving the confirmation mailer; or the voter submits a new voter registration application to update his or her voter registration record. Those not meeting any of the three conditions would be removed from the voter file.

Mr. Fresquez said staff continues to manage the list and as of March 3, 2017 the count now has 4,740 names. The list includes names of those who have not voted in the last two elections. It was clarified by Ms. Valdez that any election (GO Bonds, School Board, etc.) serves the purpose of the second method.

Mr. Fresquez provided the following information regarding the County's 99,055 eligible voters: 64 percent are Democrats, 16 percent are Republicans, 18 percent declined to state, and 3 percent are other party.

The purge list is as follows:

<u>Party</u>	<u>#registered</u>	<u># for removal</u>
American Independent	2	1
Democrat	62,760	2,395
Declined to State	17,872	1,399
Green Party	550	37
Independent	1,366	24
Independent NM Party	37	1
Libertarian	457	16
NM Independent		2
Other		1
Republican	15,789	878
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,055</b>	<b>4,754</b>

Mr. Gallegos noted an error on the list which illustrated the importance of the Board members reviewing the list material. Clerk Salazar invited the Board to contact staff regarding any questions.

Clerk Salazar said she prefers identifying the list as part of the maintenance process rather than calling it a purge list.

During the 2015 process, Mr. LeDoux said he checked the list for accuracy and used the Secretary of State's website voterview.state.nm.us.

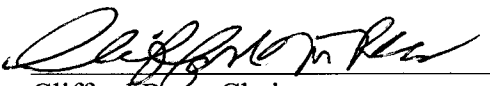
Staff offered to provide the list in an electronic .pdf format.

Chair Rees noted the statutory deadline is a March 15, 2017 for completing the list purge/maintenance. He asked about notifying the residents of this process and Clerk Salazar said she would send out a press release and post the information on the County website.

## VII. Adjournment

Having completed the agenda and upon motion by Ms. DiPalma and second by Mr. Gallegos, the Board of Registration adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Approved by:

  
Clifford Rees, Chair  
Board of Registration

ATTEST TO:

  
GERALDINE SALAZAR  
COUNTY CLERK 3-27-2017



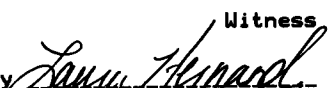
Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

BOARD OF REGISTRATION  
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 27TH Day Of March, 2017 at 02:52:33 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1821426  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

