June 6, 2022

The Honorable Maggie Toulouse Oliver Office of the Secretary of State New Mexico Capitol Annex North 325 Don Gaspar, Suite 300 Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: New Mexico Values PAC
PO Box 14111
Albuquerque, NM 87191
(575) 201-3628
newmexicovaluespac@gmail.com

Dear Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver:

By this letter, I am filing a formal complaint against New Mexico Values PAC for flagrant violations of multiple state campaign finance laws.

In recent days, voters in House District 41 have received campaign mail pieces paid for and authorized by The New Mexico Values PAC (see Appendix A). While I support the First Amendment rights of any individual or entity to communicate with voters about elections, they must do so in compliance with all applicable laws. The New Mexico Values PAC failed to do so, violating—at a minimum—Sections 1-19-26.1, 1-19-27.3, and 1-19-29 NMSA 1978, as detailed in subsequent pages.

The result of NM Values PAC's refusal to comply with basic campaign finance laws is that the voters of House District 41 do not have access to legally required information about who is attempting to influence their votes in tomorrow's primary election.

Faith and confidence in government and elections are at an all-time low in this country, and voters are faced with disinformation campaigns that are escalating in size, scope, and intensity. To help restore and protect voters' faith in elections, we must ensure that they have access to the information they need to evaluate the sources of all communications they receive. That's why it is critical for your office to aggressively enforce campaign finance laws, and impose the maximum penalties on New Mexico Values PAC, and Sara Ridley, the PAC's Treasurer.

I thank you very much for your time and attention to this most pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Susan Herrera State Representative, House District 41

cc: Kari Fresquez, Deputy Secretary of State
Mandy Vigil, Director of the Bureau of Elections

#### **NEW MEXICO VALUES PAC: CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATIONS**

## Failure to Report Expenditures

Pursuant to 1-19-29 (B)(5), New Mexico Values PAC was legally required to report all expenditures through May 31, 2022, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary report filed June 2, 2022. However, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, New Mexico Values PAC filed a Statement of No Activity. This is impossible, given that mail from the PAC arrived in mailboxes in Northern New Mexico on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. For mail to arrive then, the printing and mail house costs would have been incurred before June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Because the definition of "expenditure" in 1-19-26 (M) includes an "obligation or promise to pay...", there is no way that New Mexico Values PAC could have incurred printing and postage costs without an obligation or promise to pay during the 3<sup>rd</sup> primary reporting period.

## **Failure to Report Contributions**

Pursuant to 1-19-29 (B)(5), contributions received by May 31<sup>st</sup> were legally required to be reported by New Mexico Values PAC on its 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary Report of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. As a nonstatewide election in a single House district, any contributions of more than \$1,000 received after May 31<sup>st</sup> were legally required to be reported in a 24-hour report filed with the Secretary of State. No such report was filed.

## Failure to Report Independent Expenditures

Pursuant to 1-19-27.3 (A), independent expenditures like the New Mexico Values PAC mail pieces must be reported to the Secretary of State within three days if made more than a week before the election. If made within 7 days of the election, the report must be filed within 24 hours. Whichever timeline is applicable to the mail program referenced here, New Mexico Values PAC filed no such reports.

#### Failure to Register Purpose for Committee

Pursuant to 1-19-26.1(C)(2), the required statement of organization for New Mexico Values PAC was to include a statement of the purpose for which the committee was organized. In its May 24, 2022, committee registration, Andrew Thornton, the organizer of New Mexico Values PAC, states that the purpose of the committee is to "support candidates who prioritize child welfare in the state of New Mexico, and to oppose those candidates who do not."

This sworn statement is patently false. The mail piece produced and distributed by New Mexico Values PAC makes no reference whatsoever to child welfare or any related issues, and any assertion that child welfare is relevant to the claims in the mail piece is absurd. Clearly, the real purpose for which the committee was organized has been obscured from voters, depriving them of information to which they are legally entitled.

New Mexico Values PAC has clearly violated at least four different sections of New Mexico law. It is incumbent upon the Office of the Secretary of State and/or the Attorney General to enforce the law by imposing criminal penalties as provided in 1-19-36 NMSA.

#### **APPENDIX A:**

# California Values aren't New Mexico Values.

Susan Herrera spent most of her adult life in California and she brings her Californian values to New Mexico. She found a kindered spirt and mentor in Speaker Egolf and they have pushed a progressive agenda - pushing for higher tax on gasoline and diesel fuels (SB14, 2022), voting to restrict gun ownership every time it comes up for a vote (HB87 & HB8 2019, SB5 2020), restricting hunting and fishing on public lands, & supporting late term abortion (SB10 2021). They want to eliminate oil and gas as a fossil fuel which generates a third of our state budget. She means well - but she is too far left for New Mexico, good thing she has a left-wing Speaker to tell her what to do.

She doesn't share the same values as Northern New Mexico.



Paid for by: The New Mexico Values PAC PO Box 14111 Albuquerque, NM 87191

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