

## Secretary of State Announces Findings

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SANTA FE— Yesterday, the New Mexico Supreme Court held a hearing concerning a lawsuit filed in 2006 by the Republican Party against the Motor Vehicle Division of the Taxation and Revenue Department. Under the former Governor, the Taxation and Revenue Department refused to allow a public review of the drivers licenses issued to non-citizens. The purpose of the lawsuit was to determine whether non-citizens had registered and voted in New Mexico elections.

The Secretary of State's office has so far been able to match 117 voter registrations to names and dates of birth in the MVD Foreign National database – all 117 of those have Social Security numbers on their voter registrations that do not match up to their names. The records make it clear that at least 37 of those identified have voted in New Mexico elections. These are still under investigation to verify the accuracy of the information. The Secretary of State also has thousands of registrations that she intends to check against the Social Security Administration's database for further investigation.

This morning, there were critical developments in the House Voters and Elections Committee. A former legislative leader said that the founders of the Constitution would prefer we make 37 mistakes than keep one legal person from voting.

"I was saddened to hear the legislator's statement," said Duran. "This culture of corruption that has given all New Mexicans a black eye is unacceptable and I will not tolerate it as the Secretary of State. I know New Mexicans will agree that even one illegal vote is one too many. For every illegal vote by a non-citizen, an honest vote is disenfranchised. I heard this from the majority of New Mexicans when I travelled around this great State during the last election."

The Secretary noted that New Mexico has always had close elections. Officials have won or lost by a handful of votes, or and have even been placed into office by a game of chance after a tie vote. "I wonder what they and their constituents feel an acceptable number of illegal votes would be?" asked Duran.

"I will continue to work to make sure every legitimate and legal vote is counted. I join Governor Martinez in saying the culture of corruption in Santa Fe is over. I know there are more Legislators who agree with me and Governor Martinez than there are legislators who believe there is an acceptable number of illegal votes." The Secretary pledges to keep the citizens of New Mexico informed as this matter moves forward.

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