

Rebecca Vigil-Giron

Currently serving as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), Rebecca Vigil-Giron is a leader of national stature in the area of election reform. She is the first Hispanic to serve as President of NASS. Established in 1904, the Association is the oldest organization of major public officials in the United States.

As president of NASS she serves as a member of the United States Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Standards Board and Board of Advisors, and is a leading architect in the national implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Congress appropriated \$3.8 billion dollars for HAVA election reform to be distributed in every state of the nation. She is a member of the EAC's Working Group for Statewide Database Voter Registration Systems.

As former Chair of NASS's Standing Committee on Elections and Voter Participation, she testified before the United States Congress as an advocate for the Help America Vote Act and has continued to support federal election reform legislation in appearances before national organizations throughout the country. She is the recipient of the prestigious "Excellence in Government Service Award" presented by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).

New Mexico Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron is an 11th generation New Mexican born and raised in Taos, New Mexico. As Secretary of State, she is second in line to succeed the office of Governor and has served as Acting Governor in the absence of the Governor and Lt. Governor during her term. She is the Chief Elections Officer in the state and the highest ranking elected Hispanic woman state official in the United States. She serves as an Ex-Officio Member of the New Mexico Public Employees Retirement Board and on the Executive Committee of the Council of State Governments. She is a member of the Council's 21st Century Foundation.

Between her terms as Secretary of State, Vigil-Giron used her expertise in elections as a consultant for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Nicaragua, Equatorial Guinea, and the Dominican Republic. She served as a Member State Delegate with the United Nations in Angola, Africa's presidential elections. In 1991 she was appointed Executive Director of the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women.

Elected in 1986 on a platform of election reform, during her first term, she was successful in breaking down restrictive voter registration requirements and established one of the most advanced voter registration and elections management systems in the nation. Her work to create online access to campaign reports in New Mexico earned her Common Cause of New Mexico's 2004 "Working for the Best in Government Award". She is an honorary board member of Girls Inc. and a recipient of the New Mexico Governor's Annual Outstanding New Mexico Woman Award and many other state and national honors. Secretary Vigil-Giron holds a Bachelors Degree in French and Social Science from New Mexico Highlands University. She is a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.