



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, November is Native American Heritage Month a celebration of the Indigenous nations. In New Mexico, this month honors the Indigenous populations of the 19 Pueblos, 3 Apache Tribes, the Navajo Nation. The month further recognizes the deep and long-standing languages, cultures, traditions, and histories of Indigenous Peoples, since time immemorial, the month provides many opportunities for New Mexicans to learn about the rich cultures and unique knowledges Native Peoples have contributed to our state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the 23 Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos make up 11% of the total population of the state and speak eight unique languages - Jicarilla Apache, Keres, Ndé Bizaa' (Mescalero Apache), Diné Bizaad (Navajo), Tiwa, Tewa, Towa, and Shiwi'ma Bena:we (Zuni); and

WHEREAS, past policies towards Indigenous Peoples have resulted in a dramatic decrease of the number of traditional language speakers over the past 500 years and Indigenous language sustainability is critical to the preservation of Indigenous histories, heritages, cultures, identities, ties to the land, and values and is integral to, Native American inherent sovereignty and birth rights, for the holistic wellbeing of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, language resiliency thrives from the tremendous efforts of our Indigenous language educators, teachers, and community members to keep Indigenous languages alive for generations to come is treasured and valued; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Indigenous Youth Council supports the preservation of Indigenous cultures and languages as an urgent priority and recommend government support through the necessary and appropriate allocation of resources and awareness for Indigenous languages in New Mexico; and to recognize all Indigenous languages of the Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos as the first languages of New Mexico.

NOW THEREFORE, I Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim November as:

“New Mexico Indigenous Languages Month”

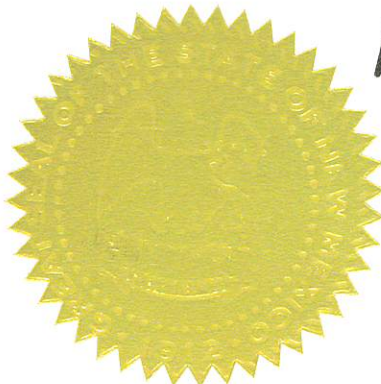
throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
27th day of September 2022.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor