

New Mexico: Another Democrat Wins Congressional Seat After 8,000 Votes Were Found in a Warehouse

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Republican Yvette Herrell campaigned for the 2nd Congressional District on a Trump-like platform, pro-border wall and speaking about illegal immigration, and appeared alongside Vice President Mike Pence and White House counselor Kellyanne Conway. Herrell is refusing to concede, as she claims that an hour after some media outlets called the race and she gave her victory speech, the Secretary of State's office called and said, "They had magically found 4,000 ballots that had not been counted." She said about an hour and a half later, the office called again and said there were an additional 4,000 ballots found.

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And after narrowly losing the congressional race to Democrat Xochitl Torres Small in Tuesday's election, Herrell showed up on President Donald Trump's favorite TV network Saturday. The state legislator told a Fox News host that she isn't conceding to Torres Small, and she questioned the counting of absentee ballots that provided the final margin of victory for her opponent.

According to Herrell, an hour after some media outlets called the race and she gave her victory speech, the Secretary of State's office called and said, "They had magically found 4,000 ballots that had not been counted." She said about an hour and a half later, the office said there were an additional 4,000 ballots.

The Secretary of State's office said the election was fair.

"Doña Ana County voters can have every confidence that their votes were counted properly and in accordance with the law and any suggestion that absentee ballots were somehow

‘magically found’ on election night is simply false,” spokesman Alex Curtas said in a statement.

These ballots were absentee ballots in Doña Ana County. *NM Political Report* wrote about the absentee ballot process in the county and how the county received more absentee ballots than the last two elections combined.

Herrell said the county knew there was record absentee turnout, and said the county clerk said they forgot about them. This is not true, however: The county clerk told *NM Political Report* that poll workers had been working on counting the ballots all day Tuesday.

“I think that maybe we need to look into it a little bit more,” Herrell said of the ballots that they finished counting the night after the election.

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