



# SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Melvin J. Baker, Chairman – 970.563.2320

Summer Begay, Communication Specialist– 970.563.2313

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 23, 2025

## Statement in Support of Jessie Danielson for Secretary of State



Southern Ute Indian Reservation – Last week, State Senator Jessie Danielson announced her candidacy for Colorado Secretary of State. Based on Sen. Danielson’s experience, proven record on issues important to the Tribe, and commitment to defending the Tribe’s sovereignty, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe supports her candidacy. In her decade in the State legislature, Sen. Danielson has been the prime sponsor of major legislation protecting voter access and strengthening Colorado’s election laws. These efforts reflect a long-standing dedication to this work. Prior to joining the legislature, Senator Danielson helped develop the Voter Access and Modernized Election Act of 2013 and ultimately served on the Commission overseeing its implementation after being appointed by then Governor Hickenlooper.

The Tribe also deeply appreciates Sen. Danielson’s legislative focus on families, workers, and the environment. She has also been a major proponent of critical legislation protecting workers and families in Colorado and has supported key efforts to protect our environment. She has been a leader in the Colorado legislature in recognizing and protecting the sovereign rights of both the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Colorado and has also worked to support all Indigenous communities in this State. Her voting record demonstrates a commitment to protecting the Tribes’ land and water, ensuring crimes committed against our Native population are addressed, and preserving Native culture and families. Chairman Melvin J. Baker affirmed, “Senator Danielson has been a powerful voice for our Tribe—defending our lands, honoring our heritage, and standing with us in action, not just words. She is a powerful voice for justice and equity.”

It is rare for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to officially endorse a candidate for office. But Jessie Danielson has demonstrated her integrity and earned our respect. She is a true leader who will work collaboratively with the two sovereign Tribes within the exterior boundaries of the State of Colorado and who will be a strong advocate for all citizens in this State.