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Registration for Nebraska Student Vote begins

LINCOLN – Registration has started for classes to enroll in Nebraska Student Vote, a program that combines civics instruction with a mock election in connection with the Nov. 7 general election.

The program is sponsored by Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale and the Omaha World-Herald

The program is designed for grades four through 12. Teachers can get information about the program and register their classes online at www.nestudentvote.com.

“The program has been well received by Nebraska schools since its inception in 1996 and is highly regarded nationally. Students who have an opportunity to participate in programs like this are more likely to become active citizens and lifelong voters,” Gale said.

“The World-Herald is pleased to work with the state of Nebraska to bring such a valuable, educational tool to our state’s students,” said Joel Long, director of public relations for the Omaha World-Herald. “The student vote program brings together two of the foundations of our democracy: the First Amendment’s guarantee of free speech and the right to vote.”

The program provides the following online: a student guide, a teacher guide with lessons and extension activities, and profiles on candidates. In addition, participating students will receive a copy of the Omaha World-Herald every Wednesday from Oct. 4 through Nov. 8.

Students will cast their votes in a mock election during the period of Oct. 30 through Nov. 2. Results will be reported on the Nebraska Student Vote Web site and sent to the National Mock Election program.

Nebraska Student Vote is conducted every two years in connection with the November general election. Nearly 83,000 students participated in the 2004 program.

“Civics education has been a very high priority of my office,” Gale said. “Upon reaching the age of 18, participating students will have learned how to be informed and how to cast a ballot.”

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