

**JOHN A. GALE**  
Nebraska Secretary of State

P.O. Box 94608  
State Capitol, Suite 2300  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4608  
Phone: (402) 471-2554  
Fax: (402) 471-3237  
[www.sos.state.ne.us](http://www.sos.state.ne.us)

**News Release**  
May 3, 2006

**Contact:** Neal Erickson  
(402) 471-4127, [neal.erickson@sos.ne.gov](mailto:neal.erickson@sos.ne.gov)

## **Gale predicts turnout of 32 percent for primary election**

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale predicted a turnout of 32 percent of registered voters for the May 9 primary election in Nebraska.

He said high-profile races on the Republican Party ticket for governor and U.S. Senate should help boost turnout for the election.

Because the Republican Party ticket has more contested races than the Democratic Party ticket, Gale predicted that the election will attract a higher percentage of Republican voters than Democratic voters. He predicted the following turnout by political affiliation for the election: Republican Party, 47 percent of registered voters; Democratic Party, 19 percent; and nonpartisan, 11 percent.

Gale mentioned two other factors that will help increase turnout for the election:

--There are a large number of hotly-contested races for Legislature as a result of term limits. Twenty senators are barred from running for reelection this year because of term limits.

--Voters will be deciding a proposed constitutional amendment to increase the salary of state senators.

Recent primary elections in Nebraska have seen very low turnouts, such as the 2004 primary that drew 21 percent of registered voters.

But Gale said this year's primary election resembles the 1998 primary election, which attracted 36.1 percent of registered voters. Voting in that election was boosted by a competitive race for the Republican nomination for governor.

Voter registration in the state for the May election stands at 1,140,816, 4.9 percent higher than the figure of 1,087,842 for the May 2004 election.

The registration breakdown by political affiliation is: Republican Party, 578,888; Democratic Party, 371,110; nonpartisan, 184,150; Nebraska Party, 6,307; and Green Party, 361.

Gale urged Nebraskans to go to the polls and exercise their right to vote. "Government belongs to those who show up," he said.

#