

**JOHN A. GALE**

Nebraska Secretary of State

Phone: (402) 471-2554

www.sos.ne.gov

**News Release**

March 27, 2008

**Contact:** Neal Erickson

(402) 471-4127, neal.erickson@sos.ne.gov

**Precincts in four counties converted to all-mail voting**

LINCOLN – Voters in 22 precincts in four Nebraska counties will no longer go to the polls on Election Day and will instead vote by mail.

Plans for the all-mail precincts in the four counties were approved in February by Secretary of State John Gale.

“Using mail in these instances is an attempt to cut costs and reduce voter hardships in sparsely populated areas,” Gale said.

Sixteen of Cherry County’s 20 precincts are being converted to all-mail. In terms of area, Cherry County is the state’s largest county and is bigger than Connecticut.

Other counties using all-mail precincts are Morrill County (three precincts), Boone County (two) and Keya Paha County (one).

Registered voters in affected precincts will be mailed ballots by first-class mail, which will include envelopes with sufficient first-class postage for the ballots to be returned.

The all-mail precincts were authorized by the Legislature in 2005. The law allows a county with fewer than 7,000 residents to apply to the secretary of state to conduct all elections by mail in any or all of the precincts in the county.

Here are the 22 precincts that have been converted to all-mail voting:

--**Cherry County:** Barley, Cleveland, Cody, Crookston, Gillaspie, Goose Creek, Kennedy, Kilgore, King, Lackey, Loup, Mother Lake, Nenzel, Russell, Wells and Wood Lake.

--**Morrill County:** Gilchrist, Haynes and Redington.

--**Boone County:** North Branch/Shell Creek and Zion Lutheran Church in Albion.

--**Keya Paha County:** Norden.

Factors that were considered in reviewing applications for all-mail precincts included a low number of registered voters, minimally maintained roads, polling sites that did not meet disability standards and difficulty in obtaining poll workers.