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Mock election gives voice to Nebraska students

LINCOLN – Elementary, middle and high school students in Nebraska voted in a mock election held as part of Nebraska Student Vote, sponsored by Secretary of State John Gale and the Omaha World-Herald.

The students favored Democrat Barack Obama over Republican John McCain for president by a margin of 51 percent to 46 percent. Four other presidential candidates split the remainder of the vote.

The student vote differed from the Nebraska results of the Nov. 4 election, where McCain won the popular vote.

The student vote showed the following results in other races:

--Senate: Republican Mike Johanns, 50 percent; Democrat Scott Kleeb, 32 percent; and two other candidates split the remainder of the vote.

--First Congressional District: Republican Jeff Fortenberry, 72 percent; Democrat Max Yashirin, 28 percent.

--Second Congressional District: Democrat Jim Esch, 51 percent; Republican Lee Terry, 49 percent.

--Third Congressional District, Republican Adrian Smith, 75 percent; Democrat Jay C. Stoddard, 25 percent.

The student vote in the Senate and House races mirrored the results of the Nov. 4 election, except that Terry beat Esch in the 2nd Congressional District.

More than 63,000 students participated in Nebraska Student Vote. In addition to the mock election, students benefited from civics instruction and readership of the Omaha World-Herald as part of the program.

"This program helps advance civics education by teaching students some of the basics of government and giving them experience in voting," Gale said. "Our goal is to encourage Nebraska students to be lifelong voters."

Voting results from Nebraska Student Vote were reported to the National Student/Parent Mock Election program.

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