



From the Office of Secretary of State

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Nebraska Voter Registration Application gets new look

LINCOLN – A revamped version of the Nebraska Voter Registration Application is being phased into use across the state, according to Secretary of State John Gale.

“On the new form we are asking registrants to print their complete legal name,” explained Gale. “In the past, sometimes people would register with their initials or a nickname. That is problematic when we compare the names in our voter registration database to other databases, especially if that is the only information that we have on file.”

Asking for the complete legal name creates consistency and prevents duplicate registrations in the voter registration system, noted Gale.

Also more visible on the form is the request for previous registration information. Gale said knowing where a person was registered before can also help to eliminate errors and duplicate registrations.

“The changes are not huge, and certainly, we are not asking for any new information. However, as we start to think about online voter registration in Nebraska as well as increasing the number of cross-checks that we do with other states, it’s important to eliminate those inconsistencies among voter records.”

Some county election clerks have started requesting the new form for their offices. While that form is phased in, the old form will continue to be accepted. The form is

only necessary from first time registrants or those who need to update their voter registration information.

Gale launched an initiative earlier this month with the same goal in mind – to update records in the voter registration system.

“We sent letters to 16,000 registered Nebraskans for whom we did not have a driver’s license number or the last four digits of their Social Security Number. That data also helps us to cross match individuals when we run voter registrations against various databases. When we only have a nickname or part of a name on record, those matches are impossible to make.”

Initially, there were about 45,000 registrants in this category. Gale said that during the past three years, that number was greatly reduced by county election officials who were able to match voters individually with the Department of Motor Vehicles and Social Security databases, thereby reducing the number to 16,000.

“We appreciate the cooperation of those people who have sent us their updated information or who have let us know that the person we were trying to contact had moved or was deceased,” said Gale. “None of the information provided to our office is shared with anyone else and failure to comply does not impact anyone’s voter record or their ability to vote.”

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