



From the Office of Secretary of State

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### **Sec. Gale recommends interim study to evaluate Voter ID in Nebraska**

LINCOLN – While generally supportive of adopting Voter ID in Nebraska, Secretary of State John Gale says issues associated with such a plan warrant further study.

He submitted a letter of testimony to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee in response to LB381 sponsored by Senator Charlie Janssen.

Gale commended Senator Janssen for addressing the issues of potential voter fraud, and said now is the time for Nebraska to address it. While Gale said that LB381 was a straight-forward bill and constitutional, and would certainly address certain voter impersonation issues, it does not cover the range of things that should receive attention. "I think the bill has identification standards that are the strictest among the 33 states that have Voter ID, and may be stronger than Nebraska needs."

Gale said he recognized that a significant percentage of Nebraskans think some form of Voter ID is necessary to protect the integrity of the state's elections. "At the same time," said Gale, "since we have not experienced any systemic fraud in Nebraska, despite some occasional and isolated incidents, I'm not sure the strict standards of LB381 and the costs involved are necessarily the best answer for Nebraska."

Gale went on to say that for those reasons, he is asking the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee to consider authorizing an interim study this year

that would allow further investigation into issues of voter registration and voter fraud in Nebraska.

"I think such a study can result in a well-honed bill addressing broader issues of potential fraud, and a bill that is our own unique Nebraska Voter ID law."

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