



From the Office of Secretary of State

John A. Gale

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For Release

October 15, 2014

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Supplemental Note: Early voting by mail started September 29. In person voting started October 4 (the date mandated by statute), although most county election offices were not open until Monday, October 6.

Early voting faring well in Nebraska, midway through cycle

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale says that 33 percent of early voting ballots have been returned or cast in person at county election offices. “This rate of return is higher than it was at the same point in the last non-presidential election, which was 24 percent”, Gale said he was pleased to report.

Early voters include those who have returned a ballot by mail as well as those who have voted in person at their county election offices. Early voting by mail lasts for 35 days in Nebraska and 30 days for those voting in person.

Gale said he’s encouraged by the numbers. To date, 58,186 requests have been made for early voting ballots. At the same point in 2010, 37,055 requests had been made.

“It shows that people are strongly interested in early voting and that there’s been a significant uptick since the last non-presidential election, which is our best source of comparison,” explained Gale. He went on to add that voting tended to be higher overall in presidential elections.

Gale stressed, there is still time for voters to request that a ballot be mailed to them. “The last day to make that request is October 29. You can vote early in person up until the day before Election Day. Paper ballots may be returned to the

county election office up until and including Election Day, but must be there by the time polls close.”

Early voting requests are available on the Secretary of State’s website www.sos.ne.gov. Voter registration forms are available there as well.

Gale said registrations have continued to climb since the May primary, up to 1,157,504. That’s an increase of 5,360 registrations since the 2014 primary, and over 15,000 since the 2010 general election when 1,142,057 people were registered to vote in Nebraska. In 2012, 1,163,871 people were registered.

October 17 is the last day voters can register by mail. That’s also the last day voter registrations can be completed at Department of Motor Vehicle offices, county treasurer offices, state agencies or departments. The last day to submit a voter registration in person to the county election office is October 24.

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