



From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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Sec. Gale: Plenty to motivate voter turnout in general election

LINCOLN – With the November general election looming, Secretary of State John Gale is excited about the prospect for a strong voter turnout. After reviewing relevant data, he is hopeful it will reach 50 percent.

With a major petition initiative on the ballot with strong positions on both sides, an open U.S. Senate seat and the first open seat for governor in 16 years, Gale added, “there’s a plateful of big reasons to motivate people to vote in the upcoming general election.”

“While I am counting on the top of the ticket to produce a meaningful turnout, let me also point out that local ballot issues and races need good turnout as well. It’s often the local races that have a more direct impact on voters, and there are lots of those choices on the ballot”

In 2010, the last non-presidential election voter turnout was 43 percent. Gale said he expected a boost in turnout this year based on several factors: voter registration has increased by about 8,000 people since the primary, early voting has been robust and the state’s three largest counties are expecting turnouts of around 45 percent.

Gale went on to remind citizens that “voting is a chance to be captain of their ship. As a ‘government of the people, by the people and for the people,’ we honor our

forefathers who wrote our U.S. Constitution, acknowledge the sacrifices of our veterans, and thank our ancestors who preserved our representative democracy that we inherited from them. In the broader scheme of things, the world is watching to see if we walk the walk and not just talk the talk. We need to validate what we tell other nations about the values of a democracy.”

Additionally, Gale issued a challenge to Nebraska voters. “Nearly 50 counties in Nebraska regularly meet or exceed 50 percent turnout. Aren’t the voters in other counties willing to step up and do their part as well?”

Statewide voter registration for the general election totals 1,159,085. Registration breakdown by political affiliation is: Republican Party, 559,494; Democratic Party, 357,899; nonpartisan, 235,984; and Libertarian 5,708.

Polls are open for the November 4 general election from 8 a.m. CDT (7 a.m. MDT) to 8 p.m. CDT (7 p.m. MDT). Early results will be available on the Secretary of State’s website (<http://www.sos.ne.gov>) shortly after polls close.

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