



From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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Voter turnout inches up with addition of early voting ballots

LINCOLN – Voter turnout in Nebraska inched up slightly to 47.41 percent with the addition of early voting ballots to those ballots already cast on Election Day. Secretary of State John Gale stressed that the numbers are still considered unofficial until the Nebraska Board of State Canvassers meets in December.

Initially Gale had predicted a turnout of 50 percent statewide. "Sixty-three counties exceeded that turnout and another three were statistically close to that. The county with the highest turnout was McPherson at almost 72 percent. Thurston County had the lowest turnout, just about 31 percent."

County election officials have until Monday, November 10 to complete counting of their provisional ballots. As they finish that process, each county canvass board will meet to certify the local results. That deadline is November 24. Results from the local, state and federal races will be compiled by the Secretary of State's office and presented to the state canvass board which will convene on Monday, December 1. Only results for offices filed through the Secretary of State's office are included in that record.

If the final certified results of a race fall within the parameters of an automatic recount, the state canvass board will order that a recount be carried out on December 3.

The Nebraska Legislature will canvass the results from the state constitutional races. That will occur at the first meeting on January 7.

Gale said overall, he was pleased with how the general election turned out. "Each election is different, no two are the same. We had some highly contested races on all levels and the minimum wage issue was a big draw. Early voting certainly played a significant role in this election and I'm sure it will again in 2016. The message that we want to keep drumming home is that of citizen participation in the election process. In the end, every vote counts, as demonstrated by some of the races we witnessed earlier this week."

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