



From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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17 Nebraska counties exceed 50 percent turnout in primary

LINCOLN – While the number of voters in the primary fell short of expected, Secretary of State John Gale says he appreciates those Nebraskans who took time to vote in the election. Based on early estimates, 27 percent of registered voters cast ballots. Gale speculated that turnout might reach 30 percent, fueled in part by the highly contested U.S. Senate and gubernatorial races.

“We won’t know the specific numbers until the election results are certified,” explained Gale. “However, it appears that Republican turnout averaged 40 percent statewide, Democrats had an 18 percent turnout and around nine percent of Libertarians voted.”

Of the 1,152,180 people registered for the primary, 316,124 voted. That number does not include provisional ballots that are still left to be counted. County election officials have until Tuesday, May 20 to review them and report the results.

“Examining the initial election results, at least 17 counties had better than 50 percent voter turnout,” said Gale. “That includes early and in person voting at the polls.”

McPherson County, which had 367 registered voters in the primary, had the highest turnout at 67 percent. Thomas, Keya Paha, Banner and Loup counties rounded out the top five for voter turnout.

“Obviously, we would like all counties in Nebraska to have such strong turnouts, even in the primary,” noted Gale. “Sometimes, local races are the ones that really matter when it comes to drawing voters in. That’s why we always reinforce voting from the top of the ballot, including the state and federal races, all the way to the bottom of the ballot, which consists of the local races.”

Results from the statewide election will be certified on June 11 by the State Canvassing Board.

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