



From the Office of Secretary of State

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Gale offers guidelines for smooth voting on Election Day

LINCOLN – While more and more Nebraska voters are choosing to cast their ballots early, most voters still choose to go to their polling place on Election Day, says Secretary of State John Gale. To make that process go as smoothly as possible on May 13, he recommends the following guidelines:

Check your voter registration and polling place. People can check the status of their voter registration and location of their polling place by contacting their county election office or accessing <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/>. That is also the same place where voters can check the status of their early voting ballot or their provisional ballot.

Change of address. If a registered voter has moved within a county (out of their former precinct) and not updated their registration, the person should go to the polling place associated with their current residence. The person will be required to vote a provisional ballot. Voters can check their registered address at <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/>.

Be prepared. Before going to the polls, the voter should become informed about the candidates and issues on the ballot. Sample ballots are printed in newspapers and posted on county websites. Mark and take the sample ballot with you to the polling place.

Conduct at the polls. To maintain proper decorum at the polls, it is requested that people turn off their cell phones, smart phones and other electronic devices.

Campaigning prohibited. Campaign items such as buttons, stickers and T-shirts are not allowed in a polling place. It is illegal to campaign within 200 feet of a polling site.

Voter identification. Proper identification may be required at the polling place of people who are newly registered by mail and have not voted previously in Nebraska or provided identification with their application. These people may be required to provide identification showing their current residence. Identification at the polling place is not required of other voters.

Nonpartisan voters. If you are registered without a political party affiliation, you will receive the nonpartisan ballot. In addition, nonpartisan voters may request a Republican Party ballot for U.S. Senate and House races, or they may request a full Democratic or Libertarian Party ballot.

Early voting ballots. Up until the day prior to the election, in person early voters may cast a ballot at the county election office. All mailed early ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day. Voters may drop off their early voting ballot on Election Day at the county election office. They will not be accepted at the polling place.

Provisional ballots. Voters who forget to return their early voting ballot may vote provisionally at the polls on Election Day with a provisional ballot. That ballot will be counted once it is confirmed that no other ballots have been cast for that particular voter.

Polls are open on Election Day from 8 a.m. CDT (7 a.m. MDT) to 8 p.m. CDT (7 p.m. MDT).

Unofficial election results for statewide races will be posted starting at 8 p.m. CDT on the main page of the Secretary of State's website <http://www.sos.ne.gov>.

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