



From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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For Release:

October 31, 2016

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Gale outlines ballot selfies and other reminders for Election Day

LINCOLN – Changes in law will impact voters heading to the polls on Election Day. Secretary of State John Gale says the most publicized update has to do with the taking of ballot selfies. Law passed during the most recent legislative session permits voters to take a photo of their completed ballot within the polling place, without penalty.

“The law went into effect this summer so, during the primary election, ballot selfies were still off limits,” said Gale. “Although legal now in Nebraska, I would still request that voters be respectful of the privacy and wishes of other voters, who may not want to be part of your photograph.”

Gale said another change in law affects the placement of campaign signs near polling places.

“It’s now possible to place campaign signs on private property within 200 feet of a polling place. Previously, that was not the case. The new rule includes an important distinction. While you can put the sign on private property, it cannot include the property on which the polling place is located.”

Other Election Day reminders include:

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 locate the polling place for their current address at <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/>.

Be prepared. Before going to the polls, make an effort to become aware 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 for any purpose other than their ballot selfie. Phone conversations or loud bell tones are distractions to others.

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, other than placing campaign signs according to law and off site of the polling site property.

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.

Early voting ballots. Up until November 7, the day prior to the election, people may still vote early in person at the county election office. Early ballots sent by mail must be received at the county election office by the close of polls on Election Day. Anyone with a completed early voting ballot can turn it in prior to closing time at the county election office or by using an official election drop box, available in some counties. They will not be accepted at the polling place.

Provisional ballots. Voters whose early voting ballots are lost, spoiled or not received from the county election office may vote 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 (7 p.m. MDT) on the main page of the Secretary of State's website <http://www.sos.ne.gov>.

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