



From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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Users make most of online options going into Voter Registration Month

LINCOLN – September, Nebraska’s annual Voter Registration Month, marks a milestone. It has been nearly one year since the launch of NEReg2Vote, the state’s online voter registration system. Secretary of State John Gale says overall, voter registration has been on a steady climb since his office started tracking numbers monthly in June 2015. Since then, nearly 48,000 new voter registrations have been added bringing the total to 1,178,020.

“In terms of election interest, the signs have been encouraging,” Gale noted. “Earlier this year I talked about the potential of reaching 1,185,000 registered voters by the general election. If that happens, it would certainly be a new record.”

The last time voter registration for a general election was so high was the presidential election of 2012. Of the 1,163,871 people registered that year, 804,245 actually voted.

Gale says he hopes that efforts to register translate into action at the polls. “There’s always a discrepancy between the vast number of people who register and those who go to the trouble of completing their ballot or go to the polls. The goal is to engage those who are registered, so that they feel excited to cast their votes and have their voices heard.”

Since the launch in September 2015, 38,675 voter registrations have been submitted online through NEReg2Vote. Of those, 11,159 have been new registrations, 27,516 were updates.

By comparison, 73,778 voter registrations have been submitted through the Department of Motor Vehicle's website, which went online in January 2016. Of those, 18,525 are new registrations and 55,253 submissions consist of updates.

"It's obvious that the majority of people are taking advantage of the fact they can update their voter registration when they log onto the DMV to renew or apply for a duplicate license," observed Gale. "That's a huge convenience."

The top five counties for online voter registration, including break down by source are as follows:

Douglas	14,034 (NEReg2Vote)	21,744 (DMV)
Lancaster	8,131 (NEReg2Vote)	12,353 (DMV)
Sarpy	4,599 (NEReg2Vote)	9,313 (DMV)
Hall	1,005 (NEReg2Vote)	1,970 (DMV)
Buffalo	877 (NEReg2Vote)	2,014 (DMV)

Combining totals from both sources, this is a breakdown of online voter registration since September 2015 by party affiliation:

Republicans	44,565
Democrats	35,743
Nonpartisan	29,385
Libertarian	2,760

"I'm encouraged that so many people are finding NEReg2Vote as well as the DMV online voter registration process so easy to use," said Gale. "It reduces the amount of paper processed by the counties and reduces data entry mistakes, since the transmission is done through a secure electronic process."

Gale said both NEReg2Vote and the DMV website had recently undergone minor enhancements to make them more user-friendly for individuals who are disabled.

"There may be additional tweaks down the road, but the response we've had in the last year has been overwhelmingly positive."

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