Deadlines approach for general election candidates & issues

LINCOLN – The ball is rolling toward the general election. Secretary of State John Gale says dates are coming up impacting candidates and issues.

The first of those dates, July 11, signals the start of the early voting process. Voters who wish to cast a ballot by mail can submit their request to their local county election official, starting on that day. Early voting ballots will be mailed to registrants who have made a request starting on September 23, including to those Nebraskans who are living or serving in the military overseas.

July 15 is the last day for any current office holders not previously on the primary ballot, to file. Those races include: public power district board members (grossing less than $40 million dollars), reclamation districts, educational service unit board members, county weed boards, township officers, village board of trustees and Class II schools.

August 1 is the deadline for new candidates to file for office in those same races. That's also the last day that judges can file for retention of office.

Not all races require filing a form with the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. To see which ones do require a form as well as the associated filing fees, candidates can get more information here: http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/2016/pdf/2016-Instructions-Candidates-Filing.pdf.

Gale says his office is also making preparations to receive thousands of signatures collected for three petitions related to putting horse gambling on the ballot in November. "If organizers are successful, we can expect thousands of sheets of signatures, all of which will need to be directed to the proper county election officials for processing," said Gale.

Those petitions are due to the Secretary of State's office by July 7. County election officials will have a little over a month to verify the signatures, making sure they match the names of registered voters.

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