



# From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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## **Gale will hold data until commission answers questions**

LINCOLN – Although one of his requests has been fulfilled, Secretary of State John Gale says he still needs a few more answers, before providing voter data to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. In a written response to the commission, Gale acknowledged receipt of a signed affidavit, as required by state law.

“That oath attests that the information contained may not be utilized for any commercial purposes,” explained Gale. “Initially, the commission had indicated that the information would be made publically available, which would have been a violation of Nebraska law.”

Despite receiving the signed document, Gale admitted to reservations about the manner in which the data would be secured, how it might be accessed and how it would be properly destroyed once the commission concluded its work.

“I’ve asked the commission in particular, about what its obligation might be to turn over the accumulated data, as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Additionally, it would be good to know how long the data would be maintained under federal law and what kind of security and privacy will be provided to Nebraska’s voter data, once the commission is finished.”

Gale also asked the commission to explain its current directive to states, in light of several lawsuits that have been filed. “At one point the commission asked the states to hold off on sending any data, due to a legal challenge. It is possible that other lawsuits might also prevent the transmission of data at this point in time. It would be good to get further clarification on that.”

Noting the recent data breach involving Equifax, Gale admitted to taking a cautious approach to sharing voter data. However, if the commission answered all questions to his satisfaction, Gale said he would have no choice but to provide information on current registered voters, as provided under state law.

“That data would include name, address, birth date, phone number, party affiliation and voter history over the past 10 years. It would not include social security, driver’s license or state identification numbers.”

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