



From the Office of Secretary of State
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Signature Verification Completed for Medicaid Expansion Initiative

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale announced today that county election officials have completed their task of reviewing 136,791 signatures submitted as part of the petition to expand Medicaid eligibility. County certifications have been received by the Secretary of State within the time period required by law.

“After careful review by our counties, I can confirm that the statutory requirements for valid signatures have been met,” Gale said. “The measure will be placed on the 2018 general election ballot, barring an order from the district court handling the pending lawsuit that challenges the initiative petition.”

At least 84,269 valid signatures were required to add the petition question to the 2018 general election ballot. “104,477 valid signatures were certified to my office, which amounted to a 74 percent acceptance rate,” explained Gale.

In addition, signatures of more than five percent of registered voters were collected in 47 of the state’s 93 counties. This meets the distribution requirement of 38 counties for an initiative petition.

“Certified letters will be mailed to the sponsors, notifying them as to the results of the petition campaign,” added Gale.

Gale went on to explain that the next steps in the process would be announced by his office at a later date. “We will schedule dates for a public hearing to be held in each of the three congressional districts as well as produce a brochure about the initiative that will be distributed to each of the county election offices.”

Information about the Medicaid expansion petition may be found on the Secretary of State’s website at: <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/2018/elections.html>

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