



STATE OF NEBRASKA

ROBERT B. EVNEN
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Secretary Evnen releases statement concerning investigation into petition circulator fraud

Secretary of State Bob Evnen issued the following statement today concerning the arrest of five people who were petition circulators collecting signatures for proposed charter amendments in Lincoln:

"The Lancaster County Sheriff's office today announced the arrests across the country of five petition circulators who will be charged with felony election fraud in Nebraska. The time has come to address the persistent problems with Nebraska's election petition signature collection process. I will be working on legislation to bring order to this chaos. I agree with the Governor that the per-signature payment of petition circulators should be prohibited.

"I thank the Lancaster County Election Commission for their hard work on the signature verification process for these petitions.

"It takes a great deal of investment of both time and money for county officials and their staff to verify petition signatures and ensure thresholds have been met. Circulator fraud is wrong, it is illegal, and it also places an undue burden on these election offices, wasting time and taxpayer money to comb through petition pages containing overwhelming numbers of fraudulent signatures."

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