

From the Office of Secretary of State Robert B. Eeven

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Nebraska Chosen for a National Pilot Project in Elections

Lincoln- Secretary of State Robert Eeven thanks the National States Geographical Information Council (NSGIC) for selecting Nebraska in its pilot project. NSGIC is hosting a GEO-enabled elections project that will help assure that correct ballots will be issued to voters with even greater accuracy. "Nebraska is one of five states selected for this pilot program," stated Secretary Eeven. "Nebraska is dedicated to improving our elections data management system by integrating new technology." Geographic Information System (GIS) technology is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data.

"Integrating GIS systems will work to ensure voters are given the correct ballot for the precinct in which they live." Secretary Eeven explained, "This is especially important in local elections such as county commissioner, NRD districts, and school boards." With GIS integration voters can be confident they are receiving the correct ballot that matches their address. Nebraska has a unique opportunity to improve the state's election data management system. By identifying voting districts with this technology, Nebraska will be better prepared for redistricting after the 2020 census.

Secretary Eeven has identified a core team for implementation testing led by Wayne Bena, Deputy Secretary of State-Elections. The project will start with Sarpy County testing a previously unused GIS module of Nebraska's voter registration system, with the ultimate goal of a statewide implementation. Sarpy County with approximately 113,000 registered voters, was the county selected as the pilot county to test the GIS module and place it into production. The GEO-Enabled Elections Pilot Program duration is three months rolled out in three identifiable phases. Upon successful completion of this initial testing, a process document will be created which will be made available to other counties that wish to utilize the GIS solution.

"This is one of many initiatives under my administration that will continue to assure that Nebraska's elections are accurate and secure," Secretary Eeven explained. "I would like to thank John Watermolen of the Nebraska OCIO's office, Sarpy County Election Commissioner Michelle Andahl, and our vendor Election Systems and Software, for their cooperation in getting this pilot program off the ground," he concluded. For more information about the pilot and NSGIC visit <https://elections.nsgic.org/>

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