

STATE OF NEBRASKA

ROBERT B. EVNEN SECRETARY OF STATE

For immediate release: December 5, 2023

Media contact: Jackie Ourada (402) 471-4086

Candidates should not use Nebraska's state seal in campaigns

Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen reminds candidates running for office and political consultants that the use of the state seal is prohibited for political and campaign purposes. Secretary Evnen, who is the keeper of the Great Seal of Nebraska, reminds candidates that the use of the seal is limited to state government and educational use.

Anyone wishing to utilize the state seal must request written permission from the Secretary of State. Each request is evaluated to determine if it meets the guidelines.

"Using the state seal is like having a stamp of state endorsement, which is a wholly inaccurate message if being conveyed by political campaigns or product marketing," Secretary Evnen said. "As a recognized icon and honored symbol of the state, the Great Seal should be treated with integrity and respect."

It is a common misconception that the state seal is available for public use. There is only one official and correct image. Images that are available on the internet are frequently inaccurate.

Candidate filing begins January 5, 2024. Individuals looking to run for office in Nebraska can find more information on filing deadlines and resources on the Secretary of State's website <u>here</u>.

As a reminder to candidates and voters, Nebraska's new voter ID law will take effect for the May 14, 2024, statewide primary and will be in effect for every election in Nebraska after that.

There is preliminary voter ID educational material <u>on our website</u>. There will be more educational resources and events published and advertised in 2024.