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**From the Office of Secretary of State
Robert B. Evnen**

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Albert Goes Virtual Nebraska Wins National Award for Election Innovation

LINCOLN-Nebraska Secretary of State Robert Evnen is pleased to announce that his office was the recipient of the inaugural Innovators Award presented by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED). The award was a result of a collaboration between the Secretary of State's office, Nebraska's voter registration database vendor Election Systems and Software (ES&S) and the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC), which is the entity contracted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide cybersecurity resources for elections.

Secretary Evnen stated, "The award marks achievements for innovation in election security highlighting technologies, partnerships and practices." Secretary Evnen continued, "This collaboration resulted in the first Albert sensor having been placed in the voter registration environment at a private elections vendor."

An Albert sensor is an intrusion detection device that will detect suspicious activity in Nebraska's voter registration system and will alert the Secretary of State's office to real-time threats to the voter registration system. While most sensors use bulky hardware, this was the first use of a virtual server in the nation. The Albert sensor is federally funded and supported through the Center for Internet Security, Inc. (CIS). To date, Nebraska's approach to this technology has been replicated in four states and territories that use the same voter registration system.

"Nebraska paved the way for states to deploy Albert sensors to Election Vendors. Their work with their vendor, DHS, and the EI-ISAC to implement a virtual Albert sensor is a prime example of the kinds of collaboration that state election officials are undertaking to secure our elections. NASSED is proud to present them with our inaugural Innovators Award – they set the bar high, and we applaud them for their achievement." **Keith Ingram, President, National Association of State Election Directors and Director of Elections, Texas Secretary of State**

"The Albert sensor installation in Nebraska is a great example of how partnerships among state governments, federal agencies and private entities can further the integrity of our nation's democracy. We are glad to see the State of Nebraska recognized for this innovative work." **Tom Burt, ES&S CEO and president.**

“The EI-ISAC congratulates Nebraska on receiving the inaugural NASED Innovators Award. We are proud to have contributed to this team effort along with ES&S. Using virtualization to support multiple jurisdictions at a vendor site laid the groundwork for future Albert enhancements that will help improve the ability of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to secure their networks in local, hosted, and cloud environments.” **Ben Spear, Director of the EI-ISAC.**

The award was presented to Deputy Secretary Wayne Bena on behalf of Secretary Evnen during the summer NASED conference in Austin, Texas, July 14, 2019.

Secretary Evnen said, “This award shows our commitment and the commitment of our partners to lead in election security for 2020 and beyond in Nebraska.”

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