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Students across Nebraska participate in election program

LINCOLN – Elementary, middle and high school students across Nebraska got a taste of the election process by participating in Nebraska Student Vote this fall.

The program, sponsored by Secretary of State John Gale and the Omaha World-Herald, involved 42,152 students from 313 schools. Students in the program voted Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in a mock election.

Results from the mock election showed students favored Republican Dave Heineman for governor, Democrat Ben Nelson for the U.S. Senate, and Republicans Jeff Fortenberry, Lee Terry and Adrian Smith for the U.S. House of Representatives.

In addition to the mock election, students benefited from civics instruction and readership of the Omaha World-Herald as part of Nebraska Student Vote.

“This program helps advance civics education by teaching students some of the basics of government and giving them experience in voting,” Gale said. “Our excellent partnership with the Omaha World-Herald is promoting Nebraska students to be lifelong voters.”

The mock election showed the following results:

--Governor: Heineman, 69 percent; Democrat David Hahn, 15 percent; Nebraska Party's Barry Richards, 12 percent; and Mort Sullivan (by petition), 3 percent.

--Senate: Nelson, 60 percent, and Republican Pete Ricketts, 40 percent.

--First Congressional District: Fortenberry, 75 percent, and Democrat Maxine Moul, 25 percent.

--Second Congressional District: Terry, 62 percent, and Democrat Jim Esch, 38 percent.

--Third Congressional District: Smith, 58 percent, and Democrat Scott Kleeb, 42 percent.

Voting results from Nebraska Student Vote (www.nestudentvote.com) were reported to the National Student/Parent Mock Election program (www.nationalmockelection.org).

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