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Gale predicts turnout of 53 percent for general election

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale predicts a turnout of 53 percent of registered voters for the Nov. 7 general election in Nebraska.

He anticipates about 603,000 of the 1,138,069 registered voters will cast ballots in the election.

He said high-profile races for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives should help boost turnout for the election.

Nine state ballot measures have drawn considerable interest and also should help turnout, he noted. Among the measures are ones dealing with a state spending lid, video keno and school-district consolidation.

Gale mentioned two other factors that will help increase turnout for the election:

--There are 20 open seats for the Legislature as a result of term limits.

--The percentage of early voting seems to be climbing to a record number this election, part of a nationwide trend.

The Nebraska registration breakdown by political affiliation is: Republican Party, 572,869; Democratic Party, 370,600; nonpartisan, 187,004; Nebraska Party, 7,152; and Green Party, 444.

Gale urged citizens to go to the polls and exercise their right to vote. “This is your chance to offer your voice on a number of significant candidate races and ballot measures,” he said.

“Every vote does make a difference in elections,” he added. “Those that govern are those that show up.”

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