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Gale predicts 72 percent turnout for Nov. 4 election

LINCOLN – Citing high public interest, Secretary of State John Gale predicts that 72 percent of registered voters will cast ballots in Nebraska in the Nov. 4 election.

Gale is expecting a turnout of 833,000 voters out of 1,157,034 registered voters.

The November 2004 election in Nebraska attracted 792,827 voters, or 68.3 percent of registered voters.

The 2004 turnout is a record in terms of the total number of people voting. The turnout record based on the percentage of registered voters is 80.8 percent, which was set in the November 1968 election.

"A historic presidential race is driving much of the interest in this election," Gale said. "However, we also have a number of highly visible races and issues in the state that will contribute to a high turnout."

Gale said he expects turnout to be boosted by voting in the 2nd Congressional District, which includes Omaha. The district features intense competition for the congressional seat and an Electoral College vote in the presidential race.

The Nebraska election features a U.S. Senate race, three contests for the U.S. House of Representatives, races for the Legislature and a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban affirmative action on the part of public agencies.

In addition, there are a number of local ballot issues that are drawing public attention, Gale noted. He said these include adding fluoride to water systems, levy overrides and organizational changes in county government.

Gale urged registered voters to vote in the Nov. 4 election. "Government belongs to those who show up," he said.

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