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Gale says state seal is off limits for campaign use

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale has advice for candidates running in the Nov. 2 general election: Don't use the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska for campaign purposes.

Gale, the keeper of the Great Seal, said its use is strictly limited to official state government business and educational purposes. The state seal cannot be used for political or commercial purposes.

The secretary of state issued his warning after several candidates running in the May primary election used the state seal on their campaign websites. His office notified candidates regarding their inappropriate use of the state seal.

The restrictions on the use of the state seal also apply to the state flag, which uses the seal as its centerpiece.

"The state seal is not in the public domain, and it is not available for anyone's use," Gale said. "Use of the state seal must be approved by my office."

Political or commercial use of the state seal could deceive the public into thinking that the state is endorsing a particular candidate or business, he said.

If the public becomes aware of inappropriate uses of the state seal, they should contact the Secretary of State's Office.

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