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Preliminary figures show 42 percent voter turnout in Nebraska

LINCOLN – Preliminary figures show that voter turnout for the Nov. 2 general election in Nebraska was 42 percent of registered voters, according to Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale.

The turnout figure will grow as counties review provisional ballots. People vote provisional ballots when there are questions regarding their voter registration.

“The low turnout can be attributed to the fact that there were a lack of high-profile races and issues throughout the state,” Gale said. “The electorate simply was not energized.”

The 2010 election figure is likely to mark the lowest turnout for a non-presidential general election in Nebraska since 1968, when Nebraska adopted statewide voter registration. The previous low was in 2002, when turnout was 45 percent.

Gale said a bright spot in the 2010 election was that 45 counties equaled or exceeded 50 percent turnout.

The county with the highest turnout rate was Blaine County with a 75 percent figure. Thurston County had the lowest figure of 32 percent.

The state’s three most-populous counties contributed to the low turnout rate – Douglas County (37 percent), Lancaster County (39 percent) and Sarpy County (42 percent).

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