



From the Office of Secretary of State

John A. Gale

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Stenberg is eligible candidate determines Secretary of State

LINCOLN – Claims that incumbent Don Stenberg is ineligible to run for re-election in the race for state treasurer, are unfounded according to Secretary of State John Gale. Gale was asked by Democratic candidate Michael O'Hara to determine whether the treasurer's office was already vacant and if Stenberg, a Republican, was qualified to be a candidate in the general election due to a state law requiring that the treasurer reside "and keep his office at the seat of government."

Stenberg resides in Gretna, where he is a registered voter.

In a written response, Gale noted that an amendment to the state constitution passed by voters in 1998 superseded state law. Article IV, Section 1 of the Nebraska Constitution removed a requirement stipulating that executive officers reside in Lincoln, and replaced it with a requirement that they need only reside within the state during their respective terms in office.

Gale said that any other claims about Stenberg's candidacy stemming from that change were without merit. In addition, the deadline had already passed for O'Hara to challenge Stenberg's candidacy.

In closing Gale said he did not believe the office of state treasurer to be vacant and denied the request to declare Stenberg ineligible to be a candidate for office.

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