

Other Duties

As provided by law, the secretary of state has the following additional duties:

Keeper of the Great Seal. The secretary is the official keeper of the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska, affixing it to official government documents to validate them.

Real Estate Commission chair. The commission regulates the real estate industry and licenses real estate brokers and agents.



Records Board chair. The board oversees electronic access to state government information and approves online services.

Collection Agency Licensing Board chair. The board is responsible for licensing collection agencies and overseeing their financial stability.

Pardons Board secretary. The board considers applications for pardons of criminal convictions and commutations of sentences.

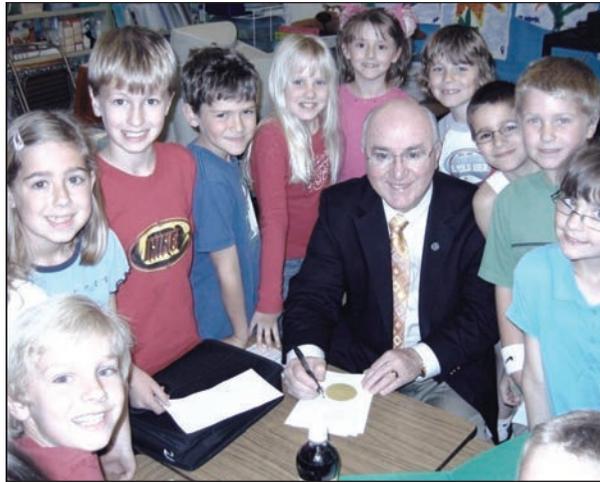
Board of State Canvassers secretary. The board certifies results following each statewide election and orders recounts as needed.

Accountability and Disclosure Commission member. The commission administers and enforces state laws regarding ethics, campaign finance and lobbying.

John A. Gale

John Gale became the 26th Nebraska secretary of state on Dec. 18, 2000, when he was appointed to the office by Gov. Mike Johanns. A Republican, Gale was elected to four-year terms in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

Gale's tenure has focused on quality public service, professionalism and integrity. He has significantly improved the election system and practices in the state, vastly increased the state's online programs and streamlined state business services in Nebraska. He is devoted to quality service to the public through his motto of "Prompt, Personal and Professional Service."



A fifth-generation Nebraskan, Gale practiced law in North Platte for 29 years before serving as secretary of state. His background also includes service as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Roman Hruska in Washington, D.C., and as an assistant U.S. attorney in Omaha and Lincoln.

Gale is a graduate of Omaha North High School, received a B.A. degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and earned a law degree from the University of Chicago. He and his wife, Carol, have three children and five grandchildren.

JOHN A. GALE



Nebraska Secretary of State

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Services of the Nebraska Secretary of State

Business Services

Corporate, (402) 471-4079
Uniform Commercial Code, (402) 471-4080
Notary Public, (402) 471-2558

The Business Services Division provides several important functions for the business sector and public. Online service is available for many filings. Registrations are recorded for corporations (for-profit and nonprofit), limited liability companies, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, trade names and trademarks. The division records Uniform Commercial Code and other security interest filings. The division regulates notary public commissions and handles apostilles and authentications (documents going to other countries).



Capitol Ceiling

Rules and Regulations

(402) 471-2385

The Secretary of State's Office maintains the Nebraska Administrative Code. The office is responsible for the filing and certification of state agency rules and regulations, and making them available for public inspection.

Elections

(402) 471-2555

The secretary of state serves as Nebraska's chief election officer, seeking to ensure uniformity, accuracy, accessibility and fairness. Working with election officials in the state's 93 counties, the Elections Division supervises election law, the conduct of elections in the state, election tabulation equipment and the state voter registration system. The division accepts candidate filings and tabulates results for statewide, legislative, judicial retention and certain district elections. The division oversees filings for statewide initiative and referendum petitions.

International Relations

(402) 471-1572

The secretary of state serves as Nebraska's chief protocol officer for international relations. In that role, the secretary serves as a goodwill ambassador and promotes commerce, educational studies and cultural exchanges between Nebraska and the world. The office's goal is to develop contacts and expertise to connect Nebraska with the international community.

Licensing

(402) 471-8606

The Licensing Division protects the public interest by licensing or registering several occupations. The division oversees collection agencies, debt management agencies, credit services organizations, private detectives, truth and deception examiners, athlete agents and nonrecourse civil litigation funding companies.

Records Management

(402) 471-2559

The secretary of state serves as the state records administrator. The Records Management Division assists state and local government agencies in managing the creation, use, storage and disposal of records in an efficient and economical manner. The division provides services and does consulting for government agencies. Services include records retention schedule development, the storage of state records and the conversion of records into different formats for storage.



Capitol Exterior

Youth Services

(402) 471-6044

The Secretary of State's Office conducts programs and activities to promote civics education for Nebraska's youth. The office's goal is to encourage youths to become good citizens and lifelong voters.