From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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Sec. Gale responds to *60 Minutes* election security report

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale is reiterating that voter registration information was secure leading up to and following the 2016 presidential election. No breaches occurred and based on confirmation provided by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Nebraska was not one of 21 states allegedly targeted by Russia.

Sec. Gale is responding to a story that aired on the CBS television program *60 Minutes* Sunday night. The program stated that its reporters had obtained a previously undisclosed internal DHS document that included information that hackers had "tried to get into 20 state election systems and an election IT provider in Nebraska."

Gale explained that while there may have been an issue detected with a third party election provider, there was never a hack or manipulation of the voter system maintained by that vendor for Nebraska.

"I can say with complete confidence that Nebraska was not impacted during the 2016 election and that the steps taken by my office during that period are steps that continue today, to ensure that websites associated with election processes in Nebraska are safe from intrusion."

In 2016, the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) provided scanning services to state websites related to elections. In addition, vendors were cooperative in reviewing their own security protocols and performing self-scans of their systems.

Gale said that since 2016, his office has enlisted services provided through DHS to further enhance the security of the state's election system.

"Obviously, I cannot speak to the situation involving the election IT provider that was mentioned in the *60 Minutes* story. However, I can assure voters that Nebraska's data was not manipulated or hacked in 2016 and that I continue to have confidence in the security of the system today."

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