



## From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

[www.sos.ne.gov](http://www.sos.ne.gov)

**For Release:**

May 8, 2018

**Contact:** Laura Strimple

402-471-8408

### **Election equipment tested and ready for voters in May primary**

LINCOLN – A process that tests the functionality of election equipment across the state has been completed by all 93 county election officials ahead of the May 15 primary. Secretary of State John Gale says in addition to putting tabulation machines through their paces, the mock election also allows counties to make sure that election results are properly loaded into the website hosted by his office.

“The mock election is coordinated and monitored through my office, but the process itself is carried out by our county election officials,” explained Gale. “Three sets of ballots are created for use by each county election office. Then, those ballots are run through the tabulation equipment and machine results are compared with a hand count of the ballots, to ensure that the results match.”

In addition to testing the logic and accuracy of the tabulation equipment, the mock election also gives county election officials a chance to post results to the Secretary of State’s website.

“It is good practice leading up to Election Day, because we want to make sure that all numbers are displaying accurately for each candidate listed on the statewide ballot. However, it is important to remember that totals listed on that website are not the official election results. The official numbers are based on the paper ballots tabulated by each county and then certified by local canvassing boards.”

Election results will be posted when polls close at 8:00 p.m. Central Time (CDT)/7:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MDT). Until then, the website will remain password protected.

“That eliminates any chance that someone might access the site, until such time that election results are ready to be displayed,” said Gale.

The first results that will be published once the polls close will primarily be those from early voting. By law, counties can start tabulating early ballots up to 24 hours prior to the opening of polls on Tuesday, May 15.

The website where those results can be found is: <http://www.sos.ne.gov>. After the initial results are posted, they will be updated every five minutes thereafter.

###