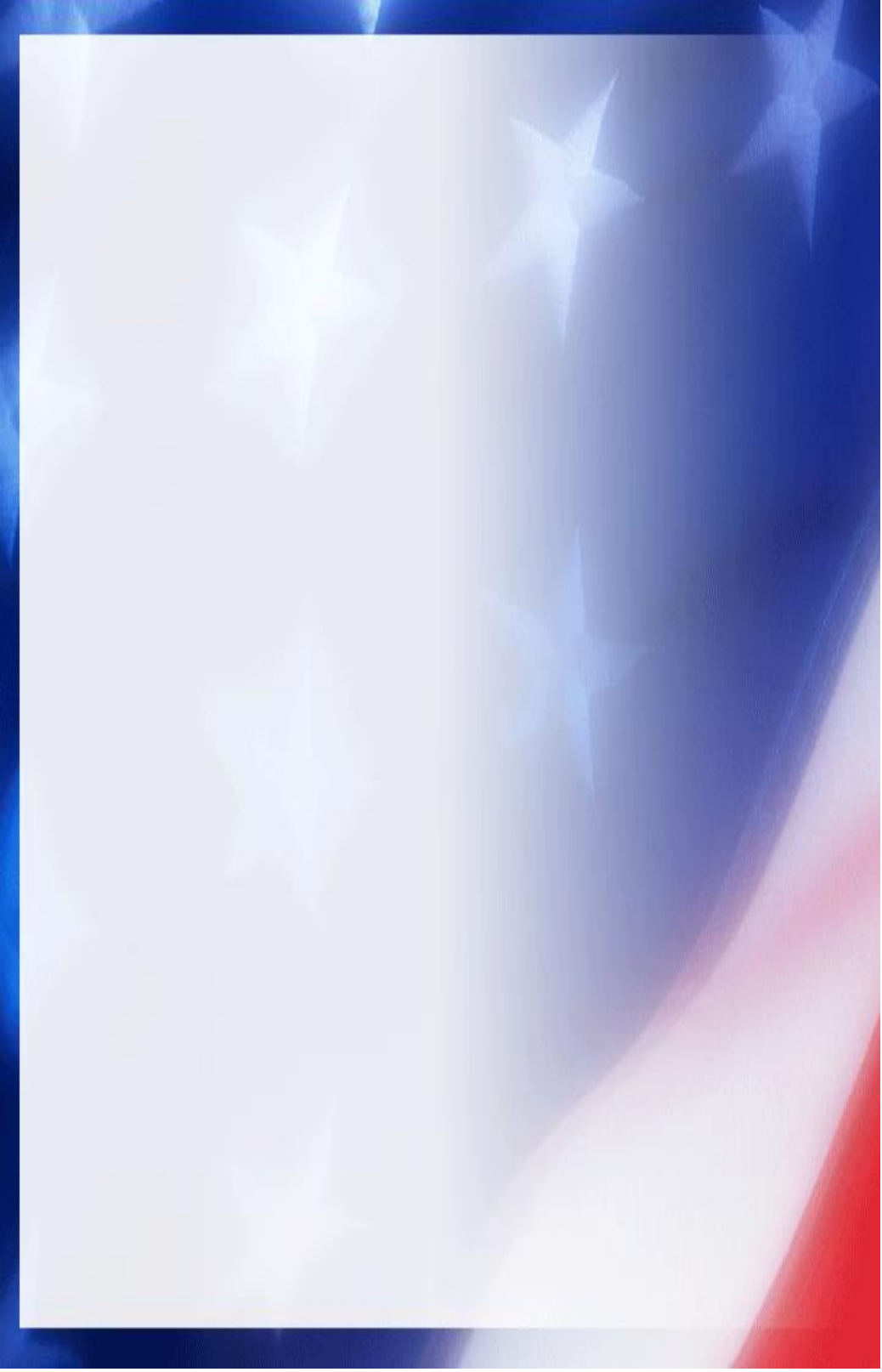


# A Guide for Registering to Vote and Voting in Nebraska

*This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.*



The background of the slide is a stylized American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. The text is centered and reads:

# A message from John A. Gale, Nebraska Secretary of State

- When you register to vote, you have taken the first step in deciding the future for your generation and generations to come.
- Citizen participation in the democratic process is easy.
- Register to vote – Be informed -  
Make your decision - Cast your ballot.
- Nebraska needs you. Our country needs you. Make the commitment today to take an active role in the decision making processes that affect your school, your city, your state and your country.

# Now More Than Ever.....

- Young voters can play an important part in an election.
- In order to do that, you need to register to vote.
- It's never too early to start thinking about registering to vote, or
- considering which candidates and issues you support, and
- discussing your view points with friends, family, fellow students or co-workers.

# Young Voter Participation

- Trends across the country indicate a downward spiral in voter turn-out for persons in the 18-24 year old age group.
- Down from a 50% turnout in the 1970's presidential elections to just over 30% in the new millennium.
- Excuses, you know them; there are plenty.
- "Not enough time. Don't know where to register. Don't know how to register or who to vote for. Don't know where to vote. Can't get home from school or work in time to vote."

# What does it really matter? Why should I vote?

- Simply put: A democracy functions most effectively when **ALL** voices are heard.
- If only older citizens vote, it's a pretty safe assumption some of the issues facing young people, such as higher costs for education, student loans, jobs, and health insurance will not be addressed in the same manner as the younger generation would.
- Here's the bottom line.....  
**If you don't vote, someone else is deciding your future for you.**

# To Vote in Nebraska.....

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be 18 years of age on or before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the current calendar year.
- You must have a valid voter registration record on file with the County Clerk or Election Commissioner in the county of your residence.

# How do I register to vote?

- You need to fill out the Nebraska Voter Registration Application.  
It is available :
  - at your County Clerk or County Election Office,
  - online at [www.sos.ne.gov](http://www.sos.ne.gov)
  - through DMV when applying for, or renewing your driver's license
  - at public assistance agencies.
- Complete the personal information including your name, date of birth, address, and driver's license number.
- Choose a party affiliation or if you prefer, you may check nonpartisan(no party affiliation).
- Read the oath and sign the application.



# When is the last day to register to vote?

- In person registration at the County Election Office must take place prior to 6 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election in which you wish to vote.
- Applications mailed to the Election Office must be mailed and postmarked on or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday preceding the election in which you wish to vote.
- Applications delivered by a personal agent or messenger must arrive at the Election Office on or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday preceding the election in which you wish to vote.

# How will I know where to vote?

- County Election Officials will contact you via the mail to acknowledge your application was complete and accepted, or if additional information is needed.
- Printed on the acknowledgement will be the name and address of your polling place.
- Public notices will be published in the local paper to inform voters
  - when an election will take place,
  - where the polling places are located, and
  - what time the polls are open.

# What if I won't be able to go to the polls on Election Day?

- Nebraska law allows all registered voters to complete an Early Voting Application permitting the voter to cast their ballot at the county office 30 days prior to statewide elections or 15 days prior to a special election.
- Or, the voters may have their ballots sent to them at their permanent address or to a temporary address such as: a college dorm, military base, or medical facility.
- Early Voting Applications are available by calling or stopping in the County Election Office.
- Early Voting Applications are also available online that can be mailed or faxed to the County Election Office.

# What should I expect when going to the polls on Election Day?

- When you arrive at your polling place, you will be asked to state your name and address.
- This allows workers to verify that you are registered and what ballots you should receive as far as party ballots or city and school.
- Workers will issue you the proper ballots upon which they will have placed their initials.
- Workers will instruct you on voting procedures: how to mark your ballots, what to do if you make a mistake, and returning your ballots for deposit into the ballot box.

# Go ahead - You can do it!

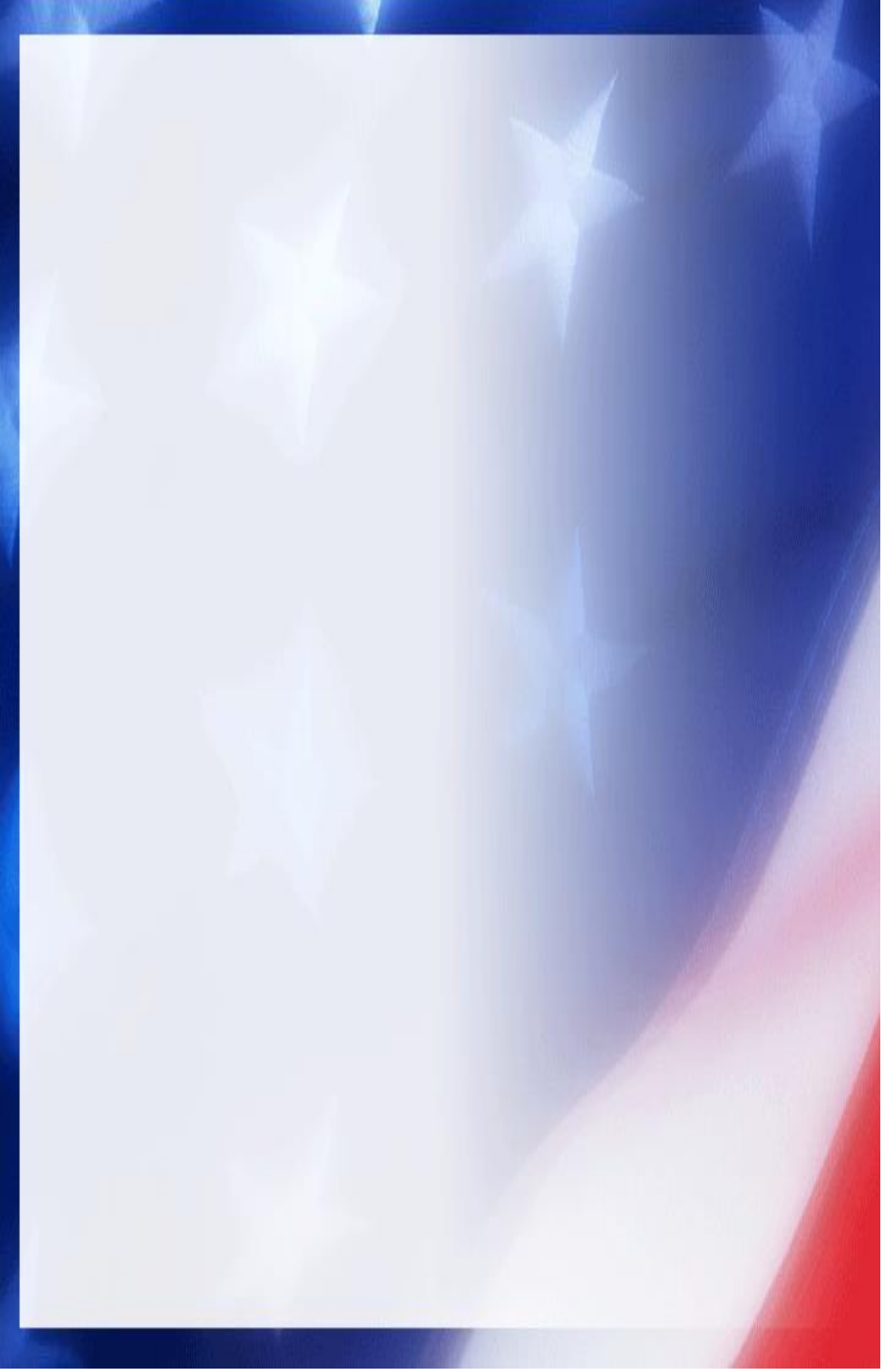
- Start thinking about voting this year.
- Register to vote.
- Talk to your family and friends about “practicing democracy.”
- Encourage them to register and vote.
- Contact your County Clerk or Election Commissioner or download the forms you need.
- Learn about the candidates and issues.

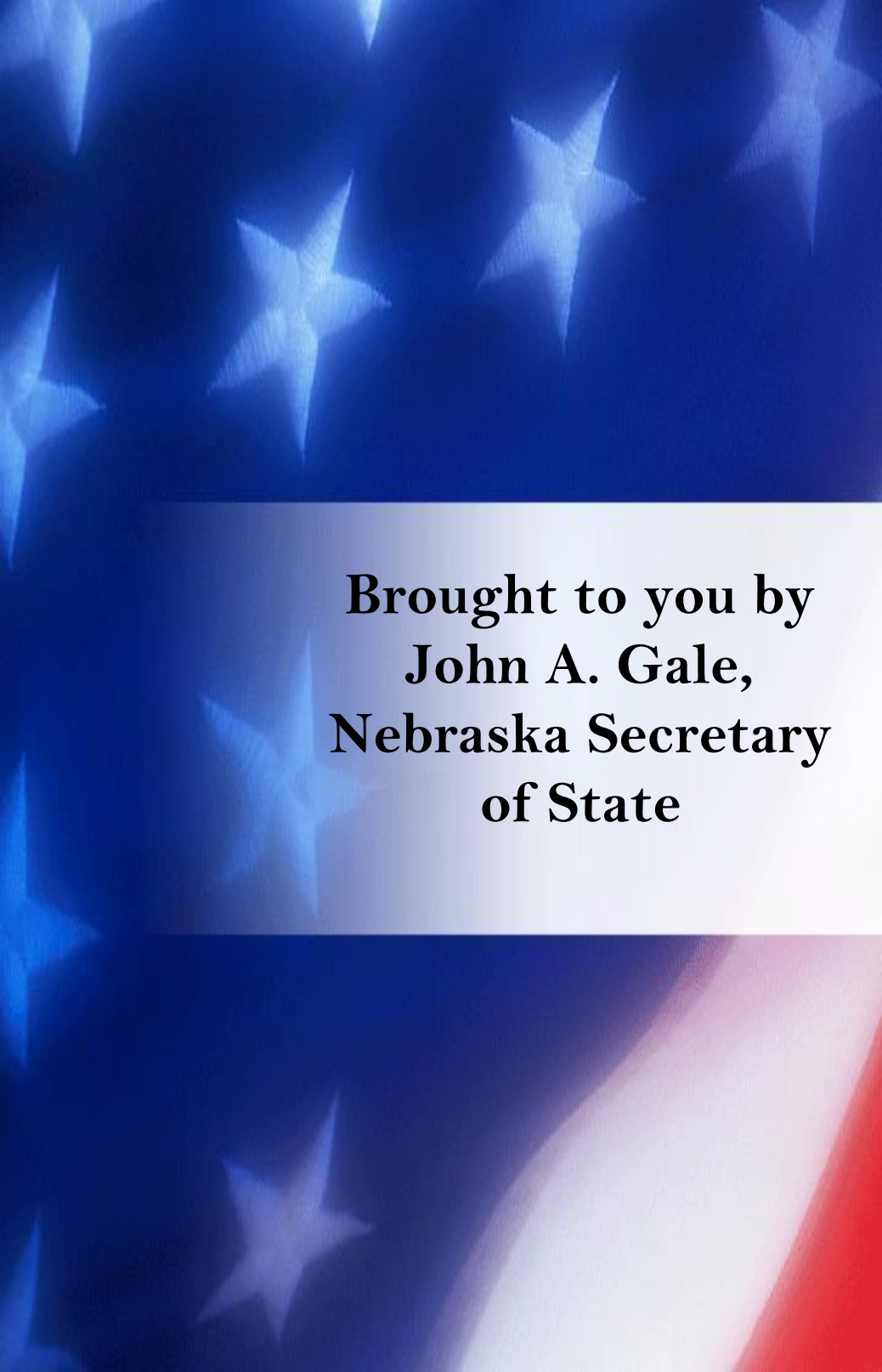
# Congratulations !

- Soon you will be the registered voter proudly wearing the “I Voted” sticker.
- Welcome to the club!



*John D. Gale*



The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The top half is dominated by the blue field with white stars, while the bottom right corner shows the red and white stripes. The text is centered in a white horizontal band across the middle.

**Brought to you by  
John A. Gale,  
Nebraska Secretary  
of State**