The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The top half is dominated by a dark blue field with white stars. The bottom half shows the white and red stripes of the flag, with the red stripe visible in the bottom right corner.

A Guide for
REGISTERING to
VOTE and **VOTING**
in **NEBRASKA**



The background of the slide is a stylized American flag, with a blue field containing white stars and a red and white striped field. The flag is slightly blurred and has a soft glow.

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 - Seek out information - 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 or how to register. Don't know 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?

- Simple math: A democracy functions most effectively when **ALL** voices are heard.
- If only older citizens vote, it's a pretty safe bet 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's available at:
 - your County Election Office,
 - online at www.sos.ne.gov,
 - where you renew your driver's license,
 - at public assistance agencies.
- Complete the personal information including your name, date of birth, address, and driver's license number.
- Designate your party affiliation or if you prefer, you may check nonpartisan.
- 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 and let you know that your application was complete and accepted, or if it's not.
- 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 allows all registered voters to complete an Early Voting Application permitting the voter to cast their ballot at the county office 35 days prior to any statewide election 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 to mail in or fax 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.

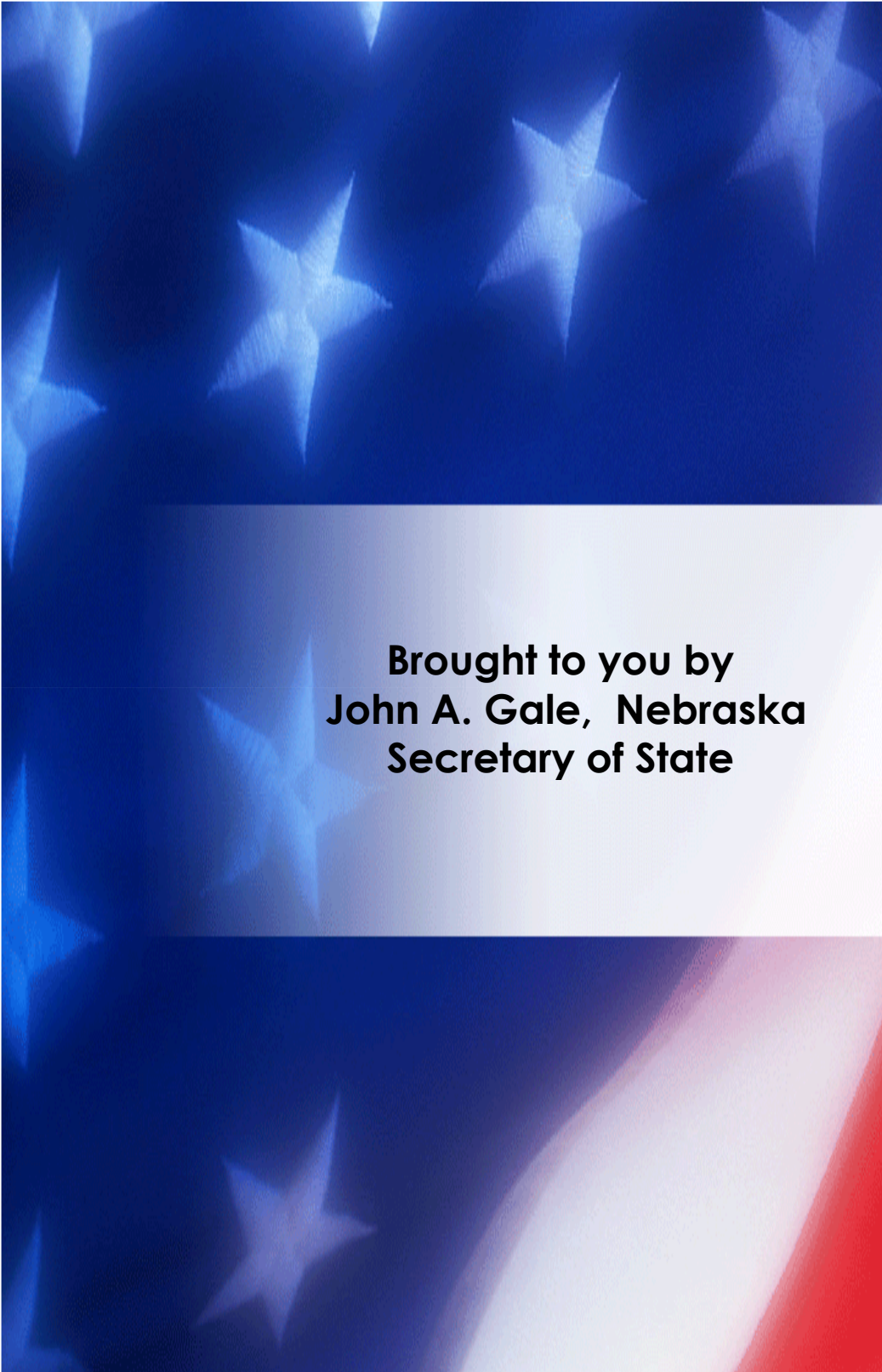
Congratulations

- Soon you will be the person wearing the “I Voted” sticker.
- Welcome to the Club!



Jim A. Lee



The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The stars are prominent in the upper left and lower left, while the stripes are visible in the lower right. The colors are vibrant, with a deep blue, bright white, and a rich red.

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