

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 451

FINAL READING

Introduced by Murante, 49.

Read first time January 17, 2017

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to elections; to amend sections 18-2713,
2 32-208, 32-301, 32-304, 32-312, 32-404, 32-566, 32-573, 32-601,
3 32-802, 32-915, 32-939, 32-939.02, and 32-947, Reissue Revised
4 Statutes of Nebraska, and section 49-1494, Revised Statutes
5 Cumulative Supplement, 2016; to change provisions relating to city
6 and village election procedures and voter registration list funding;
7 to harmonize provisions relating to a penalty; to eliminate a
8 restriction on an election commissioner becoming a candidate for
9 elective office; to change provisions relating to deadlines for
10 certifications, notifications, and published notice; to change
11 provisions relating to filling certain vacancies; to provide a
12 voter's oath for nonresidents and change provisions relating to
13 ballot instructions; to change provisions relating to the filing of
14 a statement of financial interests by a candidate for elective
15 office; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
16 sections.

17 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 18-2713, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 18-2713 Before adopting an economic development program, a city
4 shall submit the question of its adoption to the registered voters at an
5 election. The governing body of the city shall order the submission of
6 the question by filing a certified copy of the resolution proposing the
7 economic development program with the election commissioner or county
8 clerk not later than fifty ~~forty-one~~ days prior to a special election or
9 a municipal primary or general election which is not held at the
10 statewide primary or general election or not later than March 1 ~~fifty~~
11 ~~days~~ prior to a statewide primary election or September 1 prior to a
12 statewide general election. The question on the ballot shall briefly set
13 out the terms, conditions, and goals of the proposed economic development
14 program, including the length of time during which the program will be in
15 existence, the year or years within which the funds from local sources of
16 revenue are to be collected, the source or sources from which the funds
17 are to be collected, the total amount to be collected for the program
18 from local sources of revenue, and whether the city proposes to issue
19 bonds pursuant to the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act to
20 provide funds to carry out the economic development program. The ballot
21 question shall also specify whether additional funds from other noncity
22 sources will be sought beyond those derived from local sources of
23 revenue. In addition to all other information, if the funds are to be
24 derived from the city's property tax, the ballot question shall state the
25 present annual cost of the economic development program per ten thousand
26 dollars of assessed valuation based upon the most recent valuation of the
27 city certified to the Property Tax Administrator pursuant to section
28 77-1613.01. The ballot question shall state: "Shall the city of (name of
29 the city) establish an economic development program as described here by
30 appropriating annually from local sources of revenue \$..... for
31 years?". If the only city revenue source for the proposed economic

1 development program is a local option sales tax that has not yet been
2 approved at an election, the ballot question specifications in this
3 section may be repeated in the sales tax ballot question.

4 If a majority of those voting on the issue vote in favor of the
5 question, the governing body may implement the proposed economic
6 development program upon the terms set out in the resolution. If a
7 majority of those voting on the economic development program vote in
8 favor of the question when the only city revenue source is a proposed
9 sales tax and a majority of those voting on the local option sales tax
10 vote against the question, the governing body shall not implement the
11 economic development program, and it shall become null and void. If a
12 majority of those voting on the issue vote against the question, the
13 governing body shall not implement the economic development program.

14 Sec. 2. Section 32-208, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 32-208 The election commissioner in counties having a population of
17 more than one hundred thousand inhabitants shall be a registered voter, a
18 resident of such county for at least one year, and of good moral
19 character and integrity and capacity. No person who is a candidate for
20 any elective office or is a deputy, clerk, or employee of any person who
21 is a candidate for any elective office shall be eligible for the office
22 of election commissioner. The election commissioner shall not hold any
23 other elective office or become a candidate for an elective office during
24 his or her term of office ~~or within thirty days after leaving office~~. An
25 election commissioner may be appointed to an elective office during his
26 or her term of office as election commissioner, and acceptance of such
27 appointment shall be deemed to be his or her resignation from the office
28 of election commissioner.

29 Sec. 3. Section 32-301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
30 amended to read:

31 32-301 (1) The Secretary of State shall implement, in a uniform and

1 nondiscriminatory manner, a single, uniform, official, centralized,
2 interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined,
3 maintained, and administered at the office of the Secretary of State that
4 contains the name and registration information of every legally
5 registered voter in the state and assigns a unique identifier to each
6 legally registered voter in the state. The computerized list shall serve
7 as the single system for storing and managing the official list of
8 registered voters throughout the state and shall comprise the voter
9 registration register. The computerized list shall be coordinated with
10 other agency data bases within the state and shall be available for
11 electronic access by election commissioners and county clerks. The
12 computerized list shall serve as the official voter registration list for
13 the conduct of all elections under the Election Act. The Secretary of
14 State shall provide such support as may be required so that election
15 commissioners and county clerks are able to electronically enter voter
16 registration information obtained by such officials on an expedited basis
17 at the time the information is received. The Secretary of State shall
18 provide adequate technological security measures to prevent unauthorized
19 access to the computerized list. ~~No General Funds shall be appropriated~~
20 ~~for purposes of this list, and funds available in the Election~~
21 ~~Administration Fund may be used for such purposes.~~

22 (2) The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide for the
23 registration of the electors of the county. Upon receipt of a voter
24 registration application in his or her office from an eligible elector,
25 the election commissioner or county clerk shall enter the information
26 from the application in the voter registration register and may create an
27 electronic image, photograph, microphotograph, or reproduction in an
28 electronic digital format to be used as the voter registration record.
29 The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide a precinct list
30 of registered voters for each precinct for the use of judges and clerks
31 of election in their respective precincts on election day. An

1 electronically prepared list of registered voters in a form prescribed by
2 the Secretary of State shall meet the requirements for a precinct list of
3 registered voters.

4 Sec. 4. Section 32-304, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
5 amended to read:

6 32-304 (1) The Secretary of State in conjunction with the Department
7 of Motor Vehicles shall, on or before September 1, 2015, develop and
8 implement a registration application process which may be used statewide
9 to register to vote and update voter registration records electronically
10 using the Secretary of State's web site. An applicant who has a valid
11 Nebraska motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card
12 may use the application process to register to vote or to update his or
13 her voter registration record with changes in his or her personal
14 information or other information related to his or her eligibility to
15 vote. For each electronic application, the Secretary of State shall
16 obtain a copy of the electronic representation of the applicant's
17 signature from the Department of Motor Vehicles' records of his or her
18 motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card for
19 purposes of voter registration.

20 (2) The application shall contain substantially all the information
21 provided in section 32-312 and the following informational statements:

22 (a) An applicant who submits this application electronically is
23 affirming that the information in the application is true. Any applicant
24 who submits this application electronically knowing that any of the
25 information in the application is false shall be guilty of a Class IV
26 felony under section 32-1502 of the statutes of Nebraska. The penalty for
27 a Class IV felony is up to two five years imprisonment and twelve months
28 post-release supervision, a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both;

29 (b) An applicant who submits this application electronically is
30 agreeing to the use of his or her signature from the Department of Motor
31 Vehicles' records of his or her motor vehicle operator's license or state

1 identification card for purposes of voter registration;

2 (c) To vote at the polling place on election day, the completed
3 application must be submitted on or before the third Friday before the
4 election; and

5 (d) The election commissioner or county clerk will, upon receipt of
6 the application for registration, send an acknowledgment of registration
7 to the applicant indicating whether the application is proper or not.

8 Sec. 5. Section 32-312, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
9 amended to read:

10 32-312 The registration application prescribed by the Secretary of
11 State pursuant to section 32-304 or 32-311.01 shall provide the
12 instructional statements and request the information from the applicant
13 as provided in this section.

14 CITIZENSHIP—"Are you a citizen of the United States of America?"
15 with boxes to check to indicate whether the applicant is or is not a
16 citizen of the United States.

17 AGE—"Are you at least eighteen years of age or will you be eighteen
18 years of age on or before the first Tuesday following the first Monday of
19 November of this year?" with boxes to check to indicate whether or not
20 the applicant will be eighteen years of age or older on election day.

21 WARNING—"If you checked 'no' in response to either of these
22 questions, do not complete this application.".

23 NAME—the name of the applicant giving the first and last name in
24 full, the middle name in full or the middle initial, and the maiden name
25 of the applicant, if applicable.

26 RESIDENCE—the name and number of the street, avenue, or other
27 location of the dwelling where the applicant resides if there is a
28 number. If the registrant resides in a hotel, apartment, tenement house,
29 or institution, such additional information shall be included as will
30 give the exact location of such registrant's place of residence. If the
31 registrant lives in an incorporated or unincorporated area not identified

1 by the use of roads, road names, or house numbers, the registrant shall
2 state the section, township, and range of his or her residence and the
3 corporate name of the school district as described in section 79-405 in
4 which he or she is located.

5 POSTAL ADDRESS—the address at which the applicant receives mail if
6 different from the residence address.

7 ADDRESS OF LAST REGISTRATION—the name and number of the street,
8 avenue, or other location of the dwelling from which the applicant last
9 registered.

10 TELEPHONE NUMBERS—the telephone number of the applicant at work and
11 at home. At the request of the applicant, a designation shall be made
12 that the telephone number is an unlisted number, and such designation
13 shall preclude the listing of the applicant's telephone number on any
14 list of voter registrations.

15 EMAIL ADDRESS—an email address of the applicant. At the request of
16 the applicant, a designation shall be made that the email address is
17 private, and such designation shall preclude the listing of the
18 applicant's email address on any list of voter registrations.

19 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER OR LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY
20 NUMBER—if the applicant has a Nebraska driver's license, the license
21 number, and if the applicant does not have a Nebraska driver's license,
22 the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

23 DATE OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION—the month, day, and year when
24 the applicant presented himself or herself for registration, when the
25 applicant completed and signed the registration application if the
26 application was submitted by mail or delivered to the election official
27 by the applicant's personal messenger or personal agent, or when the
28 completed application was submitted if the registration application was
29 completed pursuant to section 32-304.

30 PLACE OF BIRTH—show the state, country, kingdom, empire, or dominion
31 where the applicant was born.

1 DATE OF BIRTH—show the date of the applicant's birth. The applicant
2 shall be at least eighteen years of age or attain eighteen years of age
3 on or before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to have
4 the right to register and vote in any election in the present calendar
5 year.

6 REGISTRATION TAKEN BY—show the signature of the authorized official
7 or staff member accepting the application pursuant to section 32-309 or
8 32-310 or at least one of the deputy registrars taking the application
9 pursuant to section 32-306, if applicable.

10 PARTY AFFILIATION—show the party affiliation of the applicant as
11 Democrat, Republican, or Other or show no party affiliation as
12 Nonpartisan. (Note: If you wish to vote in both partisan and nonpartisan
13 primary elections for state and local offices, you must indicate a
14 political party affiliation on the registration application. If you
15 register without a political party affiliation (nonpartisan), you will
16 receive only the nonpartisan ballots for state and local offices at
17 primary elections. If you register without a political party affiliation,
18 you may vote in partisan primary elections for congressional offices.)

19 OTHER—information the Secretary of State determines will assist in
20 the proper and accurate registration of the voter.

21 Immediately following the spaces for inserting information as
22 provided in this section, the following statement shall be printed:

23 To the best of my knowledge and belief, I declare under penalty of
24 election falsification that:

25 (1) I live in the State of Nebraska at the address provided in this
26 application;

27 (2) I have not been convicted of a felony or, if convicted, it has
28 been at least two years since I completed my sentence for the felony,
29 including any parole term;

30 (3) I have not been officially found to be non compos mentis
31 (mentally incompetent); and

1 (4) I am a citizen of the United States.

2 Any registrant who signs this application knowing that any of the
3 information in the application is false shall be guilty of a Class IV
4 felony under section 32-1502 of the statutes of Nebraska. The penalty for
5 a Class IV felony is up to two five years imprisonment and twelve months
6 post-release supervision, a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both.

7 APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE—require the applicant to affix his or her
8 signature to the application.

9 Sec. 6. Section 32-404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 32-404 (1) When any political subdivision holds an election in
12 conjunction with the statewide primary or general election, the election
13 shall be held as provided in the Election Act. Any other election held by
14 a political subdivision shall be held as provided in the act unless
15 otherwise provided by the charter, code, or bylaws of the political
16 subdivision.

17 (2) No later than December 1 of each odd-numbered year, the election
18 commissioner or county clerk shall give notice to each political
19 subdivision of the filing deadlines for the statewide primary election.
20 No later than January 5 of each even-numbered year, the governing board
21 of each political subdivision which will hold an election in conjunction
22 with a statewide primary election shall certify to the Secretary of
23 State, the election commissioner, or the county clerk the name of the
24 subdivision, the number of officers to be elected, the length of the
25 terms of office, the vacancies to be filled by election and length of
26 remaining term, and the number of votes to be cast by a registered voter
27 for each office.

28 (3) No later than June 15 ~~July 1~~ of each even-numbered year, the
29 governing board of each reclamation district, county weed district,
30 village, county under township organization, public power district
31 receiving annual gross revenue of less than forty million dollars, or

1 educational service unit which will hold an election in conjunction with
2 a statewide general election shall certify to the Secretary of State, the
3 election commissioner, or the county clerk the name of the subdivision,
4 the number of officers to be elected, the length of the terms of office,
5 the vacancies to be filled by election and length of remaining term, and
6 the number of votes to be cast by a registered voter for each office.

7 (4) The Secretary of State shall prescribe the forms to be used for
8 certification to him or her, and the election commissioner or county
9 clerk shall prescribe the forms to be used for certification to him or
10 her.

11 Sec. 7. Section 32-566, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 32-566 (1) When a vacancy occurs in the Legislature, the office
14 shall be filled by the Governor. The Governor shall appoint a suitable
15 person possessing the qualifications necessary for a member of the
16 Legislature.

17 (2) If the vacancy occurs at any time on or after May 1 of the
18 second year of the term of office, the appointee shall serve for the
19 remainder of the unexpired term. If the vacancy occurs at any time prior
20 to May 1 of the second year of the term of office ~~within sixty days of a~~
21 ~~regular general election and if the term vacated expires on the first~~
22 ~~Tuesday following the first Monday in the following January, the~~
23 ~~appointee shall serve until the first Tuesday following the first Monday~~
24 ~~in January, and if the term extends beyond the first Tuesday following~~
25 ~~the first Monday in the following January, the appointee shall serve~~
26 ~~until the first Tuesday following the first Monday in January following~~
27 ~~the second regular general election next succeeding his or her~~
28 ~~appointment. If the vacancy occurs more than sixty days before a regular~~
29 ~~general election, the appointee shall serve until the first Tuesday~~
30 ~~following the first Monday in January following~~ the next ~~such~~ regular
31 general election and at the regular general election a member of the

1 Legislature shall be elected to serve the unexpired term as provided in
2 subsection (3) of this section.

3 (3)(a) If the vacancy occurs on or after February 1 and prior to May
4 1 during the second year of the term of office, the vacancy shall be
5 filled at the regular election in November of that year. Candidates shall
6 file petitions to appear on the ballot for such election as provided in
7 section 32-617.

8 (b) If the vacancy occurs at any time prior to February 1 of the
9 second year of the term of office, the procedure for filling the vacated
10 office shall be the same as the procedure for filling the office at the
11 expiration of the term and candidates shall be nominated and elected at
12 the statewide primary and general elections during the second year of the
13 term.

14 Sec. 8. Section 32-573, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 32-573 (1) When a vacancy occurs in the Board of Regents of the
17 University of Nebraska, the office shall be filled by the Governor. The
18 Governor shall appoint a suitable person possessing the qualifications
19 necessary for a member of the Board of Regents.

20 (2)(a) If the vacancy occurs during the first year of the term or
21 before February 1 during a calendar year in which ~~more than seventy-five~~
22 ~~days before a statewide general election will be held,~~ the appointee
23 shall serve until the first Thursday following the first Tuesday in
24 January following such general election and at such general election a
25 member of the Board of Regents shall be elected to serve the unexpired
26 term if any.

27 (b) If the vacancy occurs on or after February 1 during a calendar
28 year in which ~~within seventy-five days before a statewide general~~
29 ~~election will be held~~ and if the term vacated expires on the first
30 Thursday following the first Tuesday in January following such general
31 election, the appointee shall serve the unexpired term.

1 (c) If the vacancy occurs on or after February 1 during a calendar
2 year in which ~~within seventy five days before~~ a statewide general
3 election will be held and if the term vacated extends beyond the first
4 Thursday following the first Tuesday in January following such general
5 election, the appointee shall serve until the first Thursday following
6 the first Tuesday in January following the second general election next
7 succeeding his or her appointment and at such election a member of the
8 Board of Regents shall be elected to serve the unexpired term if any.

9 Sec. 9. Section 32-601, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 32-601 (1) Each political subdivision shall notify the election
12 commissioner or county clerk of the offices to be filled no later than:

13 (a) January 5 of any election year as provided in subsection (2) of
14 section 32-404; or -

15 (b) June 15 of any election year as provided in subsection (3) of
16 section 32-404.

17 (2) The election commissioner or county clerk shall give notice of
18 the offices to be filled by election and the filing deadlines for such
19 offices by publication in at least one newspaper of general circulation
20 in the county once at least fifteen days prior to such deadlines.

21 Sec. 10. Section 32-802, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
22 amended to read:

23 32-802 The notice of election for any election shall state the date
24 on which the election is to be held and the hours the polls will be open
25 and list all offices, candidates, and issues that will appear on the
26 ballots. The notice of election shall be printed in English and in any
27 other language required pursuant to the Voting Rights Act Language
28 Assistance Amendments of 1992. In the case of a primary election, the
29 notice of election shall list all offices and candidates that are being
30 forwarded to the general election. The notice of election shall only
31 state that amendments or referendums will be voted upon and that the

1 Secretary of State will publish a true copy of the title and text of any
2 amendments or referendums once each week for three consecutive weeks
3 preceding the election. Such notice of election shall appear in at least
4 one newspaper designated by the election commissioner, county clerk, city
5 council, or village board no later than forty-two ~~forty~~ days prior to the
6 election. The election commissioner or county clerk shall, not later than
7 forty-two ~~forty~~ days prior to the election, (1) post in his or her office
8 the same notice of election published in the newspaper and (2) provide a
9 copy of the notice to the political subdivisions appearing on the ballot.
10 The election commissioner or county clerk shall correct the ballot to
11 reflect any corrections received within five ~~ten~~ days after mailing the
12 notice as provided in section 32-819. The notice of election shall be
13 posted in lieu of sample ballots until such time as sample ballots are
14 printed. If joint elections are held in conjunction with the statewide
15 primary or general election by a county, city, or village, only one
16 notice of election need be published and signed by the election
17 commissioner or county clerk.

18 Sec. 11. Section 32-915, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 32-915 (1) A person whose name does not appear on the precinct list
21 of registered voters at the polling place for the precinct in which he or
22 she resides, whose name appears on the precinct list of registered voters
23 at the polling place for the precinct in which he or she resides at a
24 different residence address as described in section 32-914.02, or whose
25 name appears with a notation that he or she received a ballot for early
26 voting may vote a provisional ballot if he or she:

27 (a) Claims that he or she is a registered voter who has continuously
28 resided in the county in which the precinct is located since registering
29 to vote;

30 (b) Is not entitled to vote under section 32-914.01 or 32-914.02;

31 (c) Has not registered to vote or voted in any other county since

1 registering to vote in the county in which the precinct is located;

2 (d) Has appeared to vote at the polling place for the precinct to
3 which the person would be assigned based on his or her residence address;
4 and

5 (e) Completes and signs a registration application before voting.

6 (2) A voter whose name appears on the precinct list of registered
7 voters for the polling place with a notation that the voter is required
8 to present identification pursuant to section 32-318.01 but fails to
9 present identification may vote a provisional ballot if he or she
10 completes and signs a registration application before voting.

11 (3) Each person voting by provisional ballot shall enclose his or
12 her ballot in an envelope marked Provisional Ballot and shall, by signing
13 the certification on the front of the envelope or a separate form
14 attached to the envelope, certify to the following facts:

15 (a) I am a registered voter in County;

16 (b) My name or address did not correctly appear on the precinct list
17 of registered voters;

18 (c) I registered to vote on or about this date

19 (d) I registered to vote

20 in person at the election office or a voter registration site,

21 by mail,

22 by using the Secretary of State's web site,

23 through the Department of Motor Vehicles,

24 on a form through another state agency,

25 in some other way;

26 (e) I have not resided outside of this county or voted outside of
27 this county since registering to vote in this county;

28 (f) My current address is shown on the registration application
29 completed as a requirement for voting by provisional ballot; and

30 (g) I am eligible to vote in this election and I have not voted and
31 will not vote in this election except by this ballot.

1 (4) The voter shall sign the certification under penalty of election
2 falsification. The following statements shall be on the front of the
3 envelope or on the attached form: By signing the front of this envelope
4 or the attached form you are certifying to the information contained on
5 this envelope or the attached form under penalty of election
6 falsification. Election falsification is a Class IV felony and may be
7 punished by up to two five years imprisonment and twelve months post-
8 release supervision, a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both.

9 (5) If the person's name does not appear on the precinct list of
10 registered voters for the polling place and the judge or clerk of
11 election determines that the person's residence address is located in
12 another precinct within the same county, the judge or clerk of election
13 shall direct the person to his or her correct polling place to vote.

14 Sec. 12. Section 32-939, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 32-939 (1) As provided in section 32-939.02, the persons listed in
17 this subsection who are residents of Nebraska but who reside outside of
18 Nebraska or the United States shall be allowed to simultaneously register
19 to vote and make application for ballots for all elections in a calendar
20 year through the use of the Federal Post Card Application or a personal
21 letter which includes the same information as appears on the Federal Post
22 Card Application:

23 (a) Members of the armed forces of the United States or the United
24 States Merchant Marine, and their spouses and dependents residing with
25 them who are absent from the state;

26 (b) Citizens temporarily residing outside of the United States and
27 the District of Columbia; and

28 (c) Overseas citizens.

29 (2)(a) As provided in section 32-939.02, a person who is the age of
30 an elector and a citizen of the United States residing outside the United
31 States, who has never resided in the United States, who has not

1 registered to vote in any other state of the United States, and who has a
2 parent registered to vote within this state shall be eligible to register
3 to vote and vote in one county in which either one of his or her parents
4 is a registered voter.

5 (b) A person registering to vote or voting pursuant to this
6 subsection shall sign and enclose with the registration application and
7 with the ballot being voted a form provided by the election commissioner
8 or county clerk substantially as follows: I am the age of an elector and
9 a citizen of the United States residing outside the United States, I have
10 never resided in the United States, I have not registered to vote in any
11 other state of the United States, and I have a parent registered to vote
12 in County, Nebraska. I hereby declare, under penalty of
13 election falsification, a Class IV felony, that the statements above are
14 true to the best of my knowledge.

15 THE PENALTY FOR ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO TWO
16 FIVE YEARS AND TWELVE MONTHS POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION OR A FINE NOT TO
17 EXCEED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, OR BOTH.

18 (Signature of Voter)

19 Sec. 13. Section 32-939.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 32-939.02 (1) Upon request for a ballot, a ballot for early voting
22 shall be forwarded to each voter meeting the criteria of section 32-939
23 at least forty-five days prior to any election.

24 (2) An omission of required information, except the political party
25 affiliation of the applicant, may prevent the processing of an
26 application for and mailing of ballots. The request for any ballots and a
27 registration application shall be sent to the election commissioner or
28 county clerk of the county of the applicant's residence. The request may
29 be sent at any time in the same calendar year as the election, except
30 that the request shall be received by the election commissioner or county
31 clerk not later than the third Friday preceding an election to vote in

1 that election. If an applicant fails to indicate his or her political
2 party affiliation on the application, the applicant shall be registered
3 as nonpartisan.

4 (3) A person described in section 32-939 may register to vote
5 through the use of the Federal Post Card Application or a personal letter
6 which includes the same information as appears on the Federal Post Card
7 Application and may simultaneously make application for ballots for all
8 elections in a calendar year. The person may indicate a preference for
9 ballots and other election materials to be delivered via facsimile
10 transmission or electronic mail by indicating such preference on the
11 Federal Post Card Application. If the person indicates such a preference,
12 the election commissioner or county clerk shall accommodate the voter's
13 preference.

14 (4) If the ballot for early voting has not been printed in
15 sufficient time to meet the request and special requirements of a voter
16 meeting the criteria of section 32-939, the election commissioner or
17 county clerk may issue a special ballot at least sixty days prior to an
18 election to such a voter upon a written request by such voter requesting
19 the special ballot. For purposes of this subsection, a special ballot
20 means a ballot prescribed by the Secretary of State which contains the
21 titles of all offices being contested at such election and permits the
22 voter to vote by writing in the names of the specific candidates or the
23 decision on any issue. The election commissioner or county clerk shall
24 include with the special ballot a complete list of the nominated
25 candidates and issues to be voted upon by the voter which are known at
26 the time of the voter's request.

27 (5) Any person meeting the criteria in section 32-939 may cast a
28 ballot by the use of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. The Federal
29 Write-In Absentee Ballot may be used for all elections. If a person
30 casting a ballot using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot is not a
31 registered voter, the information submitted in the Federal Write-In

1 Absentee Ballot transmission envelope shall be treated as a voter
2 registration application.

3 ~~(6)(a) (6)~~ Any person requesting a ballot under this section may
4 receive and return the ballot and the oath prescribed in subdivision (b)
5 of this subsection (2) of section 32-947 using any method of transmission
6 authorized by the Secretary of State.

7 (b) An oath shall be delivered with the ballot and shall be in a
8 form substantially as follows:

9 VOTER'S OATH

10 I, the undersigned voter, declare that the ballot or ballots
11 contained no voting marks of any kind when I received them, and I caused
12 the ballot or ballots to be marked.

13 To the best of my knowledge and belief, I declare under penalty of
14 election falsification that:

15 (a) I,, am a registered voter
16 in County;

17 (b) I have voted the ballot and am returning it in compliance with
18 Nebraska law; and

19 (c) I have not voted and will not vote in this election except by
20 this ballot.

21 ANY PERSON WHO SIGNS THIS FORM KNOWING THAT ANY OF THE INFORMATION
22 IN THE FORM IS FALSE SHALL BE GUILTY OF ELECTION FALSIFICATION, A CLASS
23 IV FELONY UNDER SECTION 32-1502 OF THE STATUTES OF NEBRASKA. THE PENALTY
24 FOR ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO TWO YEARS AND TWELVE
25 MONTHS POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION OR A FINE NOT TO EXCEED TEN THOUSAND
26 DOLLARS, OR BOTH.

27 I also understand that failure to sign below will invalidate my
28 ballot.

29 Signature

30 (7) The Secretary of State shall develop a process for a person
31 casting a ballot under this section to check the status of his or her

1 ballot via the Internet or a toll-free telephone call.

2 Sec. 14. Section 32-947, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 32-947 (1) Upon receipt of an application or other request for a
5 ballot to vote early, the election commissioner or county clerk shall
6 determine whether the applicant is a registered voter and is entitled to
7 vote as requested. If the election commissioner or county clerk
8 determines that the applicant is a registered voter entitled to vote
9 early and the application was received not later than the close of
10 business on the second Friday preceding the election, the election
11 commissioner or county clerk shall deliver a ballot to the applicant in
12 person or by mail, postage paid. The election commissioner or county
13 clerk or any employee of the election commissioner or county clerk shall
14 write or cause to be affixed his or her customary signature or initials
15 on the ballot.

16 (2) An unsealed identification envelope shall be delivered with the
17 ballot, and upon the back of the envelope shall be printed a form
18 substantially as follows:

19 VOTER'S OATH

20 I, the undersigned voter, declare that the enclosed ballot or
21 ballots contained no voting marks of any kind when I received them, and I
22 caused the ballot or ballots to be marked, enclosed in the identification
23 envelope, and sealed in such envelope.

24 To the best of my knowledge and belief, I declare under penalty of
25 election falsification that:

26 (a) I,, am a registered voter
27 in County;

28 (b) I reside in the State of Nebraska at

29 (c) I have voted the enclosed ballot and am returning it in
30 compliance with Nebraska law; and

31 (d) I have not voted and will not vote in this election except by

1 this ballot.

2 ANY PERSON WHO SIGNS THIS FORM KNOWING THAT ANY OF THE INFORMATION
3 IN THE FORM IS FALSE SHALL BE GUILTY OF ELECTION FALSIFICATION, A CLASS
4 IV FELONY UNDER SECTION 32-1502 OF THE STATUTES OF NEBRASKA. THE PENALTY
5 FOR ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO TWO FIVE YEARS AND
6 TWELVE MONTHS POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION OR A FINE NOT TO EXCEED TEN
7 THOUSAND DOLLARS, OR BOTH.

8 I also understand that failure to sign below will invalidate my
9 ballot.

10 Signature

11 (3) If the ballot and identification envelope will be returned by
12 mail or by someone other than the voter, the election commissioner or
13 county clerk shall include with the ballot an identification envelope
14 upon the face of which shall be printed the official title and post
15 office address of the election commissioner or county clerk.

16 (4) The election commissioner or county clerk shall also enclose
17 with the ballot materials:

18 (a) A registration application, if the election commissioner or
19 county clerk has determined that the applicant is not a registered voter
20 pursuant to section 32-945, with instructions that failure to return the
21 completed and signed application indicating the residence address as it
22 appears on the voter's request for a ballot to the election commissioner
23 or county clerk by the close of the polls on election day will result in
24 the ballot not being counted;

25 (b) A registration application and the oath pursuant to section
26 32-946, if the voter is without a residence address, with instructions
27 that the residence address of the voter shall be deemed that of the
28 office of the election commissioner or county clerk of the county of the
29 voter's prior residence and that failure to return the completed and
30 signed application and oath to the election commissioner or county clerk
31 by the close of the polls on election day will result in the ballot not

1 being counted; or

2 (c) Written instructions directing the voter to submit a copy of an
3 identification document pursuant to section 32-318.01 if the voter is
4 required to present identification under such section and advising the
5 voter that failure to submit identification to the election commissioner
6 or county clerk by the close of the polls on election day will result in
7 the ballot not being counted.

8 (5) The election commissioner or county clerk may enclose with the
9 ballot materials a separate return envelope for the voter's use in
10 returning his or her identification envelope containing the voted ballot,
11 registration application, and other materials that may be required.

12 Sec. 15. Section 49-1494, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
13 2016, is amended to read:

14 49-1494 (1) An individual who files to appear on the ballot for
15 election to an elective office specified in section 49-1493 shall file a
16 statement of financial interests for the preceding calendar year with the
17 commission as provided in this section.

18 (2) Candidates for the elective offices specified in section 49-1493
19 who qualify other than by filing shall file a statement for the preceding
20 calendar year with the commission within five days after becoming a
21 candidate or being appointed to that elective office.

22 ~~(3) A statement of financial interests shall be preserved for a~~
23 ~~period of not less than five years by the commission.~~

24 (3) (4) If the candidate for an elective office specified in section
25 49-1493 files to appear on the ballot for election prior to January 1 of
26 the year in which the election is held, the candidate shall file
27 supplementary statements, covering the preceding calendar year, with the
28 commission on or before March 1 of the year in which the election is held
29 or, if the filing deadline for the elective office is after March 1 of
30 the year in which the election is held, the candidate shall file such
31 supplementary statements on or before the filing deadline for the

1 elective office.

2 (4) If the candidate for an elective office specified in section
3 49-1493 files to appear on the ballot for election during the calendar
4 year in which the election is held, the candidate shall file a statement
5 of financial interests for the preceding calendar year with the
6 commission on or before March 1 of the year in which the election is held
7 or, if the filing deadline for the elective office is after March 1 of
8 the year in which the election is held, the candidate shall file such
9 statement on or before the filing deadline for the elective office.

10 (5) A candidate for an elective office specified in section 49-1493
11 who fails to file a statement of financial interests as required in
12 subsection (1) or (2) of this section within five days after the deadline
13 in subsection (3) or (4) of this section and section 49-1493 shall not
14 appear on the ballot.

15 (6) A statement of financial interests shall be preserved for a
16 period of not less than five years by the commission.

17 Sec. 16. Original sections 18-2713, 32-208, 32-301, 32-304, 32-312,
18 32-404, 32-566, 32-573, 32-601, 32-802, 32-915, 32-939, 32-939.02, and
19 32-947, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 49-1494,
20 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016, are repealed.