

Nebraskans Voting Early, Changing Parties, Before Primary

(KTNC) - Nebraskans are voting early and changing their party affiliation in advance of the primary election. Secretary of State John Gale says nearly 10,000 people have voted early so far. That number includes those who have voted in person at their county election offices and those who have voted by mail.

Early voting began April 7. Of the ballots cast during the first 10 days of early voting, 5,083 were from registered Republicans and 3,490 are from Democrats. Nearly 700 non-partisan voters have also cast ballots, while only five Libertarians have voted early in the state.

More than 38,500 Nebraskans have requested an early ballot for the May primary.

Early voting ballots that are mailed in must be received in county election offices by the time polls close on Election Day, May 13. That also holds true for ballots that are hand-delivered. They must be returned to the county election office by the time polls close.

In-person early voting can be done at local county election offices through the close of business on May 12.

Gale also notes that more than 8,000 registered voters have changed their party affiliation. Approximately 4,300 have changed to the Republican Party, more than 2,000 have become Independents and 1,300 have changed to the Democratic Party.

While he says it's hard to know why a significant number of voters have changed their party affiliation to Republican since January, he says a crowded Republican field for Governor and U.S. Senate may be a factor.

Many Signals Communications