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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nebraskans for Civic Reform commends Nebraska election officials and their staff on a well-run primary election. As in past years, Nebraskans for Civic Reform has trained and dispatched non-partisan election observers to various polling sites in select counties. This primary election, NCR election observers were present in the following counties: Douglas, Lancaster, Colfax, and Saline.

“We received some reports early on from our observers of some confusion surrounding nonpartisan registered voters and which ballots they could receive under Nebraska’s partially closed primary system for higher offices”, reports Bri McLarty, Director of Voting Rights with the nonprofit advocacy group and State Director of the Election Protection Program.

“The poll workers were proactive in seeking out the right answer and because of their due diligence, from our reports, most voters were able to request and receive the appropriate ballot”, McLarty continued. In Lancaster and Douglas counties, election observers reported seeing signs and posters attempting to explain the closed primary system and available ballots.

NCR appreciates the effort those county election officials went through in creating the materials and commends them on having the foresight to anticipate voter confusion, but suggests some changes in the future. “From what I saw at my polling place and what other observers reported back to headquarters, the information posted to instruct nonpartisan voters was not uniform across the different counties”, stated McLarty, “And when we’re talking about access to the ballot, the information needs to be clear and uniform.”

NCR intends to seek uniformity in election instructions and materials in the future, but, for now, NCR thanks the election staff and “Congratulates all election staff on a job well-done.” stated McLarty “We understand the hard work and long hours that go into conducting an election and we want to say thank you to all those who made voting today easy, accessible, and fair for every Nebraskan”.

For additional comments please contact Bri McLarty, Director of Voting Rights, Nebraskans for Civic Reform, via email at bri.mclarty@nereform.org or please call her cell at (210) 912-4826. A full report of observations from the 2016 Primary Election will be available at a later date.

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Nebraskans for Civic Reform is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to increasing K-12 civic engagement and community engagement, veterans job readiness, and protecting voting rights for all Nebraskans. NCR works to create a more modern and robust democracy for all Nebraskans. More information on NCR's programs is available at www.nereform.org