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Civil Rights Groups React to Secretary Gales Decision on Voter Information

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LINCOLN – Today Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale announced that he would only comply with a request to share information about Nebraska voters with the Presidential Commission on Election Integrity “with assurance that this request meets compliance with Nebraska law” and answers to “how the data will be used, how it will be secured and how it might be publically shared.”

“This is a victory for Nebraska’s election integrity and Nebraska voter’s personal privacy. In line with our proud Nebraska values the salvation of the state continues to be the watchfulness of the citizen. The reaction from Nebraska voters to this breathtakingly broad request for personal information was resounding and clear – Nebraskans don’t want their private information to be turned over to the federal government or to be made public. The ACLU commends Secretary of State John Gale for shutting the door on this sham commission’s unprecedented request for information. The request attacks the integrity of Nebraska elections and unnecessarily risks Nebraska voter’s personal privacy. Secretary of State Gale also indicated with appropriate ‘assurances’ he may comply with future requests to divulge this sensitive information. A wink and a nod is not good enough under Nebraska law. We pledge to stay vigilant and ask Secretary of State Gale to stand strong as well,” said Danielle Conrad, Executive Director ACLU of Nebraska.

“Nebraska law and Nebraska’s hardworking election officials already have appropriate safeguards in place to prevent voter fraud in Nebraska. All voters in Nebraska should have the expectation that Sec. Gale sticks to his word. While we commend the Sec. for closing the door on this unprecedented request we renew our request that he convenes a group of Nebraska stakeholders to evaluate future requests and ‘assurances,’ open up public hearings with Nebraska voters to learn more about their concerns, and make public all future correspondence with members of this commission so Nebraska voters can decide for themselves if their private

information will be protected,” Bri McLarty Huppert, director of voting rights at Nebraskans for Civic Reform.

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ABOUT: The ACLU of Nebraska and its diverse membership works in courts, the legislature and our communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States and Nebraska guarantee everyone in this state.

Nebraskans for Civic Reform is a nonpartisan, 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