

Approximately 16,000 registered Nebraskans soon will be receiving letters in the mail from Secretary of State John Gale. Recipients are being asked to provide their driver's license number and the last four digits of their social security number.

The information will be used to update the voter registration data that is already on file for those recipients.

"The request is intended as routine list maintenance and is voluntary on the part of those being contacted," explained Gale. "Having such data greatly improves the accuracy and security of our registration database."

All Nebraskans who register to vote are asked to provide either their driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number.

Gale said, "Since we regularly compare our database to other databases such as the USPS Change of Address notification, the Department of Motor Vehicles and Bureau of Vital Statistics' death records, such data really improves our cross-checks and our accuracy."

In most cases these 16,000 voter registrations were submitted prior to 2003 when social security information and driver's license numbers were first required in Nebraska under the Help America Vote Act. Many in fact, may be active voters.

"The letter is on letterhead and includes my signature so people will know it is an authentic request," said Gale.

In addition to the letter, recipients will also receive a return postage paid mailing through which they can provide the updated information. The information is secured and is not available to anyone outside the election system process.

"Anyone who has questions about the mailer or why we're asking for it can call the phone numbers provided in the letter," said Gale. "I'm hopeful that the response will be positive and we're able to update many of these records going forward."