### LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

# ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

### FIRST SESSION

# LEGISLATIVE BILL 776

Introduced by Bostar, 29.

Read first time January 18, 2023

# Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to elections; to amend sections 32-212, 2 32-314, 32-401, 32-502, 32-503, 32-506, 32-507, 32-509, 3 32-518, 32-519, 32-520, 32-521, 32-522, 32-523, 32-524, 32-525, 4 32-526, 32-528, 32-529, 32-557, 32-564, 32-603, 32-605, 32-609, 32-616, 32-617, 32-619.01, 32-622, 32-624, 32-625, 32-710, 32-720, 5 6 32-801, 32-810, 32-811, 32-813, 32-814, 32-817, 32-912, 32-1028, and 32-1032, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 32-223, 7 32-230, 32-312, 32-602, 32-607, 32-615, 32-618, 32-623, 32-716, 8 9 32-809, 32-961, 32-1002, 32-1027, and 32-1033, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to provide for nomination and election 10 of candidates on a nonpartisan ballot; to change and eliminate 11 provisions relating to selection of election workers, voter 12 13 registration, the statewide primary election, filling vacancies, 14 filing for office, write-in candidates, selection of Lieutenant 15 Governor candidates, declining a nomination, political party provisions, ballot preparation, poll watchers, provisional ballots, 16 county canvassing boards, and certificates of nomination; 17 18 harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to 19 outright repeal sections 32-611, 32-612, 32-621, 32-627, 32-702, 32-721, 32-815, and 32-1507, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 20 21 and 32-610, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022.
- 22 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

- 1 Section 1. Section 32-212, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 32-212 Each election commissioner shall appoint other deputies,
- 4 precinct and district inspectors, judges of election, clerks of election,
- 5 deputy registrars, and peace officers to serve at elections and other
- 6 assistants necessary for the performance of the duties of his or her
- 7 office, the registration of voters, and the conduct of elections. Such
- 8 employees shall be registered voters representing all political parties
- 9 as nearly as practicable in proportion to the number of votes cast in
- 10 such county at the immediately preceding general election for the office
- 11 of Governor or President of the United States by the parties,
- 12 respectively.
- 13 Sec. 2. Section 32-223, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 14 2022, is amended to read:
- 15 32-223 (1) Except as otherwise provided in the Election Act, the
- 16 election commissioner shall appoint a precinct inspector and a receiving
- 17 board to consist of at least two judges and two clerks of election for
- 18 each precinct. The election commissioner may appoint district inspectors
- 19 to aid the election commissioner in the performance of his or her duties
- 20 and supervise a group of precincts on election day.
- 21 (2) The election commissioner may allow persons serving on a
- 22 receiving board as judges and clerks of election and precinct inspectors
- 23 to serve for part of the time the polls are open and appoint other judges
- 24 and clerks of election and precinct inspectors to serve on the same
- 25 receiving board for the remainder of the time the polls are open.
- 26 (3) On each receiving board at any one time, one judge and one clerk
- 27 of election shall be registered voters of the political party casting the
- 28 highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of
- 29 the United States in the immediately preceding general election, and one
- 30 judge and one clerk of election shall be registered voters of the
- 31 political party casting the next highest number of votes in the county

- 1 for Governor or for President of the United States in the immediately
- 2 preceding general election, except that one judge or clerk of election
- 3 may be a registered voter who is not affiliated with either of such
- 4 parties. If a third judge is appointed, such judge shall be a registered
- 5 voter of the political party casting the highest number of votes in the
- 6 county for Governor or for President of the United States in the
- 7 immediately preceding general election. All precinct and district
- 8 inspectors shall be divided between all political parties as nearly as
- 9 practicable in proportion to the number of votes cast in such county at
- 10 the immediately preceding general election for Governor or for President
- of the United States by the parties, respectively.
- 12 (4) The election commissioner may appoint an elector residing
- 13 outside the county as a precinct inspector, district inspector, judge of
- 14 election, or clerk of election if the elector resides in a county which
- 15 conducts all elections by mail pursuant to section 32-960.
- 16 (5) If authorized by the Secretary of State and registered voters of
- 17 the county are unavailable, the election commissioner may appoint an
- 18 elector residing outside the county as a precinct inspector, district
- 19 inspector, judge of election, or clerk of election.
- 20 (6) The election commissioner may appoint a person who is at least
- 21 sixteen years old but is not eligible to register to vote as a clerk of
- 22 election. Such clerk of election shall meet the requirements of
- 23 subsection (3) of section 32-221, except that such clerk shall not be
- 24 required to be a registered voter. No more than one clerk of election
- 25 appointed under this subsection shall serve at any precinct. A clerk of
- 26 election appointed under this subsection shall be considered a registered
- 27 voter who is not affiliated with a political party for purposes of this
- 28 section.
- 29 Sec. 3. Section 32-230, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 30 2022, is amended to read:
- 31 32-230 (1) As provided in subsection (4) of this section, the

- 1 precinct committeeman and committeewoman of each political party shall
- 2 appoint a receiving board consisting of three judges of election and two
- 3 clerks of election. The chairperson of the county central committee of
- 4 each political party shall send the names of the appointments to the
- 5 county clerk no later than February 1 prior to the primary election.
- 6 (2) If no names are submitted by the chairperson, the county clerk
- 7 shall appoint judges or clerks of election from the appropriate political
- 8 party. Judges and clerks of election may be selected at random from a
- 9 cross section of the population of the county. All qualified citizens
- 10 shall have the opportunity to be considered for service. All qualified
- 11 citizens shall fulfill their obligation to serve as judges or clerks of
- 12 election as prescribed by the county clerk. No citizen shall be excluded
- 13 from service as a result of discrimination based upon race, color,
- 14 religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. No citizen shall be
- 15 excluded from service unless excused by reason of ill health or other
- 16 good and sufficient reason.
- 17 (3) The county clerk may allow persons serving on a receiving board
- 18 to serve for part of the time the polls are open and appoint other
- 19 persons to serve on the same receiving board for the remainder of the
- 20 time the polls are open.
- 21 (4) In each precinct at any one time, one judge and one clerk of
- 22 election shall be appointed from the political party casting the highest
- 23 number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of the United
- 24 States in the immediately preceding general election, one judge and one
- 25 clerk shall be appointed from the political party casting the next
- 26 highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of
- 27 the United States in the immediately preceding general election, and one
- 28 judge shall be appointed from the political party casting the third
- 29 highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of
- 30 the United States in the immediately preceding general election. If the
- 31 political party casting the third highest number of votes cast less than

- 1 ten percent of the total vote cast in the county at the immediately
- 2 preceding general election, the political party casting the highest
- 3 number of votes at the *immediately* preceding general election shall be
- 4 entitled to two judges and one clerk.
- 5 (5) The county clerk may appoint registered voters to serve in case
- 6 of a vacancy among any of the judges or clerks of election or in addition
- 7 to the judges and clerks in any precinct when necessary to meet any
- 8 situation that requires additional judges and clerks. Such appointees may
- 9 include registered voters unaffiliated with any political party. Such
- 10 appointees shall serve at subsequent or special elections as determined
- 11 by the county clerk.
- 12 (6) The county clerk may appoint an elector residing outside the
- 13 county as a precinct inspector, district inspector, judge of election, or
- 14 clerk of election if the elector resides in a county which conducts all
- 15 elections by mail pursuant to section 32-960.
- 16 (7) If authorized by the Secretary of State and registered voters of
- 17 the county are unavailable, the county clerk may appoint an elector
- 18 residing outside the county as a precinct inspector, district inspector,
- 19 judge of election, or clerk of election.
- 20 (8) The county clerk may appoint a person who is at least sixteen
- 21 years old but is not eligible to register to vote as a clerk of election.
- 22 Such clerk of election shall meet the requirements of subsection (1) of
- 23 section 32-231, except that such clerk shall not be required to be a
- 24 registered voter. No more than one clerk of election appointed under this
- 25 subsection shall serve at any precinct. A clerk of election appointed
- 26 under this subsection shall be considered a registered voter who is not
- 27 affiliated with a political party for purposes of this section.
- 28 Sec. 4. Section 32-312, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 29 2022, is amended to read:
- 30 32-312 The registration application prescribed by the Secretary of
- 31 State pursuant to section 32-304 or 32-311.01 shall provide the

- 1 instructional statements and request the information from the applicant
- 2 as provided in this section.
- 3 CITIZENSHIP—"Are you a citizen of the United States of America?"
- 4 with boxes to check to indicate whether the applicant is or is not a
- 5 citizen of the United States.
- 6 AGE—"Are you at least eighteen years of age or will you be eighteen
- 7 years of age on or before the first Tuesday following the first Monday of
- 8 November of this year?" with boxes to check to indicate whether or not
- 9 the applicant will be eighteen years of age or older on election day.
- 10 WARNING—"If you checked 'no' in response to either of these
- 11 questions, do not complete this application.".
- 12 NAME—the name of the applicant giving the first and last name in
- 13 full, the middle name in full or the middle initial, and the maiden name
- 14 of the applicant, if applicable.
- 15 RESIDENCE—the name and number of the street, avenue, or other
- 16 location of the dwelling where the applicant resides if there is a
- 17 number. If the registrant resides in a hotel, apartment, tenement house,
- 18 or institution, such additional information shall be included as will
- 19 give the exact location of such registrant's place of residence. If the
- 20 registrant lives in an incorporated or unincorporated area not identified
- 21 by the use of roads, road names, or house numbers, the registrant shall
- 22 state the section, township, and range of his or her residence and the
- 23 corporate name of the school district as described in section 79-405 in
- 24 which he or she is located.
- 25 POSTAL ADDRESS—the address at which the applicant receives mail if
- 26 different from the residence address.
- 27 ADDRESS OF LAST REGISTRATION—the name and number of the street,
- 28 avenue, or other location of the dwelling from which the applicant last
- 29 registered.
- 30 TELEPHONE NUMBERS—the telephone numbers of the applicant. At the
- 31 request of the applicant, a designation shall be made that a telephone

- 1 number is an unlisted number, and such designation shall preclude the
- 2 listing of such telephone number on any list of voter registrations.
- 3 EMAIL ADDRESS—an email address of the applicant. At the request of
- 4 the applicant, a designation shall be made that the email address is
- 5 private, and such designation shall preclude the listing of the
- 6 applicant's email address on any list of voter registrations.
- 7 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER OR LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY
- 8 NUMBER—if the applicant has a Nebraska driver's license, the license
- 9 number, and if the applicant does not have a Nebraska driver's license,
- 10 the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.
- 11 DATE OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION—the month, day, and year when
- 12 the applicant presented himself or herself for registration, when the
- 13 applicant completed and signed the registration application if the
- 14 application was submitted by mail or delivered to the election official
- 15 by the applicant's personal messenger or personal agent, or when the
- 16 completed application was submitted if the registration application was
- 17 completed pursuant to section 32-304.
- 18 PLACE OF BIRTH—show the state, country, kingdom, empire, or dominion
- 19 where the applicant was born.
- 20 DATE OF BIRTH—show the date of the applicant's birth. The applicant
- 21 shall be at least eighteen years of age or attain eighteen years of age
- 22 on or before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to have
- 23 the right to register and vote in any election in the present calendar
- 24 year.
- 25 REGISTRATION TAKEN BY—show the signature of the authorized official
- 26 or staff member accepting the application pursuant to section 32-309 or
- 27 32-310 or at least one of the deputy registrars taking the application
- 28 pursuant to section 32-306, if applicable.
- 29 PARTY AFFILIATION—show the party affiliation of the applicant as
- 30 Democratic, Republican, or Other ...... or show no party affiliation as
- 31 Nonpartisan. (Note: If you wish to vote in both partisan and nonpartisan

- 1 primary elections for state and local offices, you must indicate a
- 2 political party affiliation on the registration application. If you
- 3 register without a political party affiliation (nonpartisan), you will
- 4 receive only the nonpartisan ballots for state and local offices at
- 5 primary elections. If you register without a political party affiliation,
- 6 you may vote in partisan primary elections for congressional offices.)
- 7 OTHER—information the Secretary of State determines will assist in
- 8 the proper and accurate registration of the voter.
- 9 Immediately following the spaces for inserting information as
- 10 provided in this section, the following statement shall be printed:
- To the best of my knowledge and belief, I declare under penalty of
- 12 election falsification that:
- 13 (1) I live in the State of Nebraska at the address provided in this
- 14 application;
- 15 (2) I have not been convicted of a felony or, if convicted, it has
- 16 been at least two years since I completed my sentence for the felony,
- 17 including any parole term;
- 18 (3) I have not been officially found to be non compos mentis
- 19 (mentally incompetent); and
- 20 (4) I am a citizen of the United States.
- 21 Any registrant who signs this application knowing that any of the
- 22 information in the application is false shall be guilty of a Class IV
- 23 felony under section 32-1502 of the statutes of Nebraska. The penalty for
- 24 a Class IV felony is up to two years imprisonment and twelve months post-
- 25 release supervision, a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both.
- 26 APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE—require the applicant to affix his or her
- 27 signature to the application.
- 28 Sec. 5. Section 32-314, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 29 amended to read:
- 30 32-314 (1) Any person going into another territory or state and
- 31 registering to vote or voting in that territory or state shall lose his

- 1 or her eligibility to vote in this state. Any person going into another
- 2 county of this state and registering to vote or voting in that county
- 3 shall lose his or her eligibility to vote in the county where he or she
- 4 was registered.
- 5 (2) A registered voter who changes his or her residence in one
- 6 county to a residence address in a different county in the state shall
- 7 register again or update his or her voter registration record in order to
- 8 be eligible to vote.
- 9 (3) A registered voter who changes his or her name or residence
- 10 within the county and has retained legal residence in the county since
- 11 the date of his or her last registration shall register again or update
- 12 his or her voter registration record to avoid additional requirements at
- 13 the time of voting as provided in sections 32-914 and 32-915 and may be
- 14 entitled to vote pursuant to section 32-914.01, 32-914.02, or 32-915.
- 15 (4) A registered voter who wants to change his or her party
- 16 affiliation for purposes of a primary election shall complete a
- 17 registration application pursuant to section 32-312.04 and submit it to
- 18 the election commissioner or county clerk as provided in and prior to the
- 19 deadline prescribed by section 32-302 or 32-321.
- 20 Sec. 6. Section 32-401, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 21 amended to read:
- 22 32-401 The statewide primary election shall be held on the first
- 23 Tuesday after the second Monday in May in even-numbered years. The
- 24 statewide primary election shall be held for the purposes of (1)
- 25 nominating all candidates to be voted for at the statewide general
- 26 election except (a) candidates who were unopposed at the primary election
- 27 and not required to be on the ballot and (b) candidates who petition on
- 28 the ballot or are nominated by their political party, (2) electing
- 29 delegates to the county, state, and national political party conventions,
- 30 <del>if applicable, (3)</del> in each presidential election year, voting on a
- 31 preference for President of the United States, and (3) (4) electing

- 1 officers in political subdivisions which hold their general elections at
- 2 the time of the statewide primary election.
- 3 Sec. 7. Section 32-502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 32-502 Two United States Senators shall be elected for terms of six
- 6 years at the statewide general election. One senator shall be elected in
- 7 1994 and every six years thereafter, and one senator shall be elected in
- 8 1996 and every six years thereafter. Candidates for the United States
- 9 Senate shall meet the qualifications found in Article I, section 3, of
- 10 the Constitution of the United States. The senators shall be elected on
- 11 the nonpartisan <del>partisan</del> ballot.
- 12 Sec. 8. Section 32-503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 13 amended to read:
- 14 32-503 The United States Representatives in Congress shall be
- 15 elected from the three congressional districts established in section
- 16 32-504 for terms of two years at the statewide general election in each
- 17 even-numbered year. Candidates for the United States House of
- 18 Representatives shall meet the qualifications found in Article I, section
- 19 2, of the Constitution of the United States. The representatives shall be
- 20 elected on the nonpartisan partisan ballot. The representatives shall be
- 21 elected in accordance with the laws of the United States.
- 22 Sec. 9. Section 32-506, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 23 amended to read:
- 24 32-506 The Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be elected at the
- 25 statewide general election in 1994 and each four years thereafter. Such
- 26 officers shall serve for terms of four years or until their successors
- 27 are elected and qualified. Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant
- 28 Governor shall meet the qualifications found in Article IV, sections 1
- 29 and 2, of the Constitution of Nebraska. The Governor and Lieutenant
- 30 Governor shall be elected on the <u>nonpartisan</u> partisan ballot.
- 31 Sec. 10. Section 32-507, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

- 1 amended to read:
- 2 32-507 The State Treasurer, Auditor of Public Accounts, Secretary of
- 3 State, and Attorney General shall be elected at the statewide general
- 4 election in 1994 and each four years thereafter. Such officers shall
- 5 serve for terms of four years or until their successors are elected and
- 6 qualified. Candidates for State Treasurer shall meet the qualifications
- 7 found in Article IV, section 3, of the Constitution of Nebraska. Such
- 8 officers shall be elected on the nonpartisan partisan ballot.
- 9 Sec. 11. Section 32-509, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 10 amended to read:
- 11 32-509 (1) The State of Nebraska is divided into five public service
- 12 commissioner districts as provided and described in sections 75-101.01
- 13 and 75-101.02. A candidate for the office of public service commissioner
- 14 shall meet the qualifications found in section 75-101. The commissioners
- 15 shall be elected on the nonpartisan <del>partisan</del> ballot.
- 16 (2) Each public service commissioner shall be elected for a term of
- 17 six years. One public service commissioner from public service
- 18 commissioner district number one and one public service commissioner from
- 19 public service commissioner district number three shall be elected at the
- 20 statewide general election in 1994 and each six years thereafter. One
- 21 public service commissioner from public service commissioner district
- 22 number four and one public service commissioner from public service
- 23 commissioner district number five shall be elected at the statewide
- 24 general election in 1992 and each six years thereafter. One public
- 25 service commissioner from public service commissioner district number two
- 26 shall be elected at the statewide general election in 1996 and each six
- 27 years thereafter.
- 28 Sec. 12. Section 32-517, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 29 amended to read:
- 30 32-517 Except as provided in section 22-417, a county clerk shall be
- 31 elected in each county having a population of four hundred thousand

- 1 inhabitants or less at the statewide general election in 1994 and each
- 2 four years thereafter and in counties having a population in excess of
- 3 four hundred thousand inhabitants at the statewide general election in
- 4 1996 and each four years thereafter. The county clerk shall meet the
- 5 qualifications found in sections 23-1301 and 23-3203 if applicable. The
- 6 county clerk shall be elected on the <u>nonpartisan</u> <del>partisan</del> ballot.
- 7 Sec. 13. Section 32-518, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 8 amended to read:
- 9 32-518 Except as provided in section 22-417, (1) a register of deeds
- 10 shall be elected in each county having a population of more than twenty
- 11 thousand and not more than four hundred thousand inhabitants at the
- 12 statewide general election in 1962 and each four years thereafter and in
- 13 counties having a population in excess of four hundred thousand
- 14 inhabitants at the statewide general election in 1964 and each four years
- 15 thereafter and (2) if the population of a county which has a separate
- 16 office of register of deeds pursuant to this section falls below twenty
- 17 thousand inhabitants after establishing such an office or if a county
- 18 which has a separate office of register of deeds immediately prior to
- 19 July 10, 1990, has a population of twenty thousand inhabitants or less,
- 20 the office of the register of deeds shall continue and the officer shall
- 21 be elected pursuant to this section as if the county had a population of
- 22 more than twenty thousand and not more than four hundred thousand
- 23 inhabitants. The term of the register of deeds shall be four years or
- 24 until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The register of
- 25 deeds shall meet the qualifications found in section 23-1501. The
- 26 register of deeds shall be elected on the nonpartisan partisan ballot.
- Sec. 14. Section 32-519, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 28 amended to read:
- 29 32-519 (1) Except as provided in section 22-417, at the statewide
- 30 general election in 1990 and each four years thereafter, a county
- 31 assessor shall be elected in each county having a population of more than

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statewide general election.

- 1 three thousand five hundred inhabitants and more than one thousand two
- 2 hundred tax returns. The county assessor shall serve for a term of four
- 3 years.
- 4 (2) The county board of any county shall order the submission of the question of electing a county assessor in the county to the registered 5 voters of the county at the next statewide general election upon 6 presentation of a petition to the county board (a) conforming to the 7 provisions of section 32-628, (b) not less than sixty days before any 8 9 statewide general election, (c) signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters of the county secured in not less than two-fifths of 10 the townships or precincts of the county, and (d) asking that the 11 question be submitted to the registered voters in the county. The form of 12 13 submission upon the ballot shall be as follows: For election of county 14 assessor; Against election of county assessor. If a majority of the votes cast on the question are against the election of a county assessor in 15 16 such county, the duties of the county assessor shall be performed by the county clerk and the office of county assessor shall either cease with 17 the expiration of the term of the incumbent or continue to be abolished 18 19 if no such office exists at such time. If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of the election of a county assessor, the 20
- (3) The county assessor shall meet the qualifications found in sections 23-3202 and 23-3204. The county assessor shall be elected on the nonpartisan partisan ballot.

office shall continue or a county assessor shall be elected at the next

- Sec. 15. Section 32-520, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 32-520 A county sheriff shall be elected in each county at the statewide general election in 1990 and each four years thereafter. The term of the county sheriff shall be four years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The county sheriff shall meet the

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qualifications found in sections 23-1701 and 23-1701.01. The county 1

- 2 sheriff shall be elected on the nonpartisan partisan ballot.
- 3 Sec. 16. Section 32-521, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 32-521 A county treasurer shall be elected in each county at the 5
- statewide general election in 1990 and each four years thereafter. The 6
- term of the county treasurer shall be four years or until his or her 7
- successor is elected and qualified. The county treasurer shall meet the 8
- 9 qualifications found in section 23-1601.01. The county treasurer shall be
- elected on the <u>nonpartisan</u> partisan ballot. 10
- Sec. 17. Section 32-522, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 11
- amended to read: 12
- 32-522 Except as provided in section 23-1201.01, a county attorney 13
- shall be elected in each county at the statewide general election in 1990 14
- and each four years thereafter. The term of the county attorney shall be 15
- four years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. 16
- 17 Candidates for the office of county attorney shall meet
- qualifications found in sections 23-1201.01 and 23-1201.02. The county 18
- attorney shall be elected on the <u>nonpartisan</u> partisan ballot. 19
- Sec. 18. Section 32-523, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 20
- amended to read: 21
- 32-523 Except as otherwise provided in sections 23-3401 and 23-3404, 22
- the public defender shall, in counties having a population in excess of 23
- 24 one hundred thousand inhabitants which have not elected a public defender
- prior to July 10, 1984, be elected at the next statewide general election 25
- following July 10, 1984, or the year in which the county attains a 26
- population of one hundred thousand inhabitants and shall, in other 27
- counties, be elected at the first statewide general election of county 28
- officers following approval by the county board and every four years 29
- thereafter. The term of the public defender shall be four years or until 30
- his or her successor is elected and qualified. The public defender shall 31

- 1 meet the qualifications found in section 23-3401. The public defender
- 2 shall be elected on the <u>nonpartisan</u> partisan ballot.
- 3 Sec. 19. Section 32-524, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 32-524 (1) Except as provided in section 22-417:
- 6 (a) In counties having a population of seven thousand inhabitants or
- 7 more, there shall be elected one clerk of the district court at the
- 8 statewide general election in 1962 and every four years thereafter; and
- 9 (b) In counties having a population of less than seven thousand
- 10 inhabitants, there shall be elected a clerk of the district court at the
- 11 first statewide general election following a determination by the county
- 12 board and the district judge for the county that such officer should be
- 13 elected and each four years thereafter. When such a determination is not
- 14 made in such a county, the county clerk shall be ex officio clerk of the
- 15 district court and perform the duties by law devolving upon that officer,
- 16 unless there is an agreement between the State Court Administrator and
- 17 the county board that the clerk of the county court for such county shall
- 18 be the ex officio clerk of the district court and perform such duties.
- 19 (2) In any county upon presentation of a petition to the county
- 20 board (a) not less than sixty days before the statewide general election
- 21 in 1976 or every four years thereafter, (b) signed by registered voters
- 22 of the county equal in numbers to at least fifteen percent of the total
- 23 vote cast for Governor at the most recent gubernatorial election in the
- 24 county, secured in not less than two-fifths of the townships or precincts
- 25 of the county, and (c) asking that the question of not electing a clerk
- 26 of the district court in the county be submitted to the registered voters
- 27 therein, the county board, at the next statewide general election, shall
- 28 order the submission of the question to the registered voters of the
- 29 county. The form of submission upon the ballot shall be as follows:
- 30 For election of a clerk of the district court;
- 31 Against election of a clerk of the district court.

- 1 (3) If a majority of the votes cast on the question are against the election of a clerk of the district court in such county, the duties of 2 the clerk of the district court shall be performed by the county clerk, 3 4 unless there is an agreement between the State Court Administrator and the county board that the clerk of the county court for such county shall 5 be the ex officio clerk of the district court and perform such duties, 6 and the office of clerk of the district court shall either cease with the 7 8 expiration of the term of the incumbent or continue to be abolished if no 9 such office exists at such time.
- (4) If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of the election of a clerk of the district court, the office shall continue or a clerk of the district court shall be elected at the next statewide general election as provided in subsection (1) of this section.
- 14 (5) The term of the clerk of the district court shall be four years
  15 or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The clerk of the
  16 district court shall meet the qualifications found in section 24-337.04.
  17 The clerk of the district court shall be elected on the nonpartisan
  18 partisan ballot.
- 19 Sec. 20. Section 32-525, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 20 amended to read:
- 21 32-525 (1) Except as provided in section 22-417 and except for 22 counties which vote not to elect the county surveyor as provided in 23 subsection (2) or (4) of this section, a county surveyor on either a 24 full-time or part-time basis, as determined by the county board in 25 accordance with section 23-1901, shall be elected in each county having a 26 population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants at the 27 statewide general election in 1990 and each four years thereafter.
- (2)(a) Except as provided in section 22-417 and in subsection (3) of this section, in each county having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, the question of electing a county surveyor in the county shall be submitted to the registered voters of the county at

- 1 the statewide general election in 2020. The form of submission upon the
- 2 ballot shall be as follows: For election of county surveyor; Against
- 3 election of county surveyor.
- 4 (b) If a majority of the votes cast on the question are against the
- 5 election of a county surveyor in such county, the office of county
- 6 surveyor shall cease as an elected office with the expiration of the term
- 7 of the incumbent or shall remain as it exists if no elected official
- 8 holds that office. In such counties, the office shall be filled as
- 9 provided in subsection (2) of section 23-1901.01.
- 10 (c) If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of
- 11 the election of a county surveyor, the office shall continue to be
- 12 elected as provided in subsection (1) of this section or, if no elected
- 13 county surveyor is in office, a county surveyor shall be elected at the
- 14 next statewide general election as provided in subsection (1) of this
- 15 section.
- 16 (3) If a county having a population of less than one hundred fifty
- 17 thousand inhabitants has an elected county surveyor in office on January
- 18 1, 2020, the county board may, prior to February 1, 2020, following a
- 19 public hearing, adopt a resolution to continue to elect the county
- 20 surveyor for the county and not to submit the question pursuant to
- 21 subsection (2) of this section.
- 22 (4)(a) Beginning in 2021, in each county having a population of less
- 23 than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, the county board shall
- 24 submit the question of electing a county surveyor in the county to the
- 25 registered voters of the county at the next statewide general election if
- 26 (i) the county board, by majority vote of all the members of the county
- 27 board, adopts a resolution on or before September 1 prior to the next
- 28 statewide general election to submit the question to the voters or (ii) a
- 29 petition conforming to section 32-628 asking for the submission of the
- 30 question to the voters is presented to the election commissioner or
- 31 county clerk on or before September 1 prior to the next statewide general

- 1 election signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters of the
- 2 county. The election commissioner or county clerk shall verify the
- 3 signatures pursuant to section 32-631 and place the question on the
- 4 ballot if he or she determines that at least ten percent of the
- 5 registered voters of the county have signed the petition.
- 6 (b) The form of submission upon the ballot shall be as follows: For election of county surveyor; Against election of county surveyor.
- 8 (c) If a majority of the votes cast on the question are against the
- 9 election of a county surveyor in such county, the office of county
- 10 surveyor shall cease as an elected office with the expiration of the term
- 11 of the incumbent or shall remain as it exists if no elected official
- 12 holds that office. In such counties, the office shall be filled as
- 13 provided in subsection (2) of section 23-1901.01.
- 14 (d) If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of
- 15 the election of a county surveyor, the office shall continue to be
- 16 elected as provided in subsection (1) of this section or, if no elected
- 17 county surveyor is in office, a county surveyor shall be elected at the
- 18 next statewide general election as provided in subsection (1) of this
- 19 section.
- 20 (5) The term of the county surveyor shall be four years or until his
- 21 or her successor is elected and qualified. The county surveyor shall meet
- 22 the qualifications found in sections 23-1901 and 23-1901.01. The county
- 23 surveyor shall be elected on the <u>nonpartisan</u> <del>partisan</del> ballot.
- 24 Sec. 21. Section 32-526, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 25 amended to read:
- 26 32-526 Except as provided in section 22-417, a county engineer shall
- 27 be elected in each county having a population of one hundred fifty
- 28 thousand inhabitants or more at the statewide general election in 1990
- 29 and each four years thereafter. The term of the county engineer shall be
- 30 four years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The
- 31 county engineer shall meet the qualifications found in section 23-1901.

1 The county engineer shall be elected on the <u>nonpartisan</u> partisan ballot.

Sec. 22. Section 32-528, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

3 amended to read:

32-528 (1) In counties having a county board of three commissioners, 4 two commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election in 5 1994 and each four years thereafter, and one commissioner shall be 6 7 elected at the statewide general election in 1996 and each four years thereafter. In counties having a county board of five commissioners, 8 9 three commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election in 1994 and each four years thereafter, and two commissioners shall be 10 elected at the statewide general election in 1996 and each four years 11 thereafter. In counties having a county board of seven or more 12 13 commissioners, one commissioner shall be elected in each odd-numbered commissioner district at the statewide general election in 1994 and each 14 four years thereafter, and one commissioner shall be elected in each 15 even-numbered commissioner district at the statewide general election in 16 17 1996 and each four years thereafter.

(2) Except for commissioners first elected after the county adopts 18 the commissioner form of government or has increased the number of 19 commissioners, the term of each county commissioner shall be four years 20 or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. At the first 21 election held to choose the board of commissioners in any county having 22 three commissioners, the person having the highest number of votes shall 23 24 serve for four years and the two receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve for two years, and if any three or more persons have 25 the same number of votes, their terms of office shall be determined by 26 the county canvassing board. The county commissioners shall meet the 27 28 qualifications found in section 23-150. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the reelection of a commissioner holding office if 29 the commissioner is reelected to represent his or her respective 30 district. The county commissioners shall be elected on the <u>nonpartisan</u> 31

- 1 partisan ballot.
- 2 (3)(a) In counties having not more than one hundred fifty thousand
- 3 inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census,
- 4 one commissioner shall be nominated and elected from each district by the
- 5 registered voters of the district.
- 6 (b) In counties having a population of more than one hundred fifty
- 7 thousand but not more than four hundred thousand inhabitants as
- 8 determined by the most recent federal decennial census, one commissioner
- 9 shall be nominated and elected from each district by the registered
- 10 voters of the district as provided in subsection (5) of this section.
- 11 (c) In counties having more than four hundred thousand inhabitants
- 12 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, one
- 13 commissioner shall be nominated and elected from each district by the
- 14 registered voters of the district.
- 15 (4) In counties in which a majority has voted to have five
- 16 commissioners as provided in section 23-148, the three commissioners of
- 17 such county whose terms of office will expire after the election shall
- 18 continue in office until the expiration of the terms for which they were
- 19 elected and until their successors are elected and qualified. Two
- 20 commissioners shall be appointed pursuant to sections 32-567 and 32-574
- 21 to serve until the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January
- 22 following the next statewide general election. At the next statewide
- 23 general election, commissioners shall be elected to fill the positions of
- 24 any commissioners appointed under this section. At the first primary
- 25 election after such appointments, filings shall be accepted for terms of
- 26 two years and for terms of four years so that two commissioners will be
- 27 elected to four-year terms at one election and three commissioners will
- 28 be elected to four-year terms at the next election.
- 29 (5) In counties having more than one hundred fifty thousand but not
- 30 more than four hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most
- 31 recent federal decennial census:

- 1 (a) At the primary election in 2010, one commissioner shall be
- 2 nominated from each odd-numbered district, and at the ensuing general
- 3 election, one commissioner shall be elected from each odd-numbered
- 4 district. Their successors shall be nominated and elected every four
- 5 years thereafter; and
- 6 (b) At the primary election in 2012, one commissioner shall be
- 7 nominated from each even-numbered district, and at the ensuing general
- 8 election, one commissioner shall be elected from each even-numbered
- 9 district. Their successors shall be nominated and elected every four
- 10 years thereafter.
- 11 Sec. 23. Section 32-529, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 12 amended to read:
- 13 32-529 At the first general election after the adoption of township
- 14 organization by a county, one supervisor shall be elected in each
- 15 supervisor district. Thereafter one supervisor shall be elected in each
- odd-numbered supervisor district at the general election two years after
- 17 the first general election and each four years thereafter, and one
- 18 supervisor shall be elected in each even-numbered supervisor district at
- 19 the general election four years after the first general election and each
- 20 four years thereafter. Each county supervisor shall be nominated and
- 21 elected by the registered voters of the district from which he or she is
- 22 elected. Except for supervisors first elected after the county has
- 23 adopted township organization, the term of each county supervisor shall
- 24 be four years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The
- 25 county supervisors shall meet the qualifications found in section 23-268.
- 26 The county supervisors shall be elected on the nonpartisan partisan
- 27 ballot.
- 28 Sec. 24. Section 32-557, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 29 amended to read:
- 30 32-557 All elective city, village, and school officers shall be
- 31 nominated and elected on a nonpartisan ballot unless a city or village

- 1 provides for a partisan ballot by ordinance. No ordinance providing for
- 2 nomination and election on a partisan ballot shall permit affiliation
- 3 with any party not recognized as a political party for purposes of the
- 4 Election Act. Such ordinance providing for nomination and election on a
- 5 partisan ballot shall be adopted and effective not less than sixty days
- 6 prior to the filing deadline.
- 7 Sec. 25. Section 32-564, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 8 amended to read:
- 9 32-564 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this
- 10 section:
- 11 (a) If a vacancy occurs in the office of Representative in Congress
- on or after August 1 in an even-numbered year and prior to the statewide
- 13 general election in such year, the Governor shall order a special
- 14 election to be held in conjunction with such statewide general election.
- 15 The only candidates who may appear on the ballot for such office at such
- 16 special election are those who were nominated at the statewide primary
- 17 election in such year, those who comply with section 32-616, and those
- 18 who comply with section 32-625 32-627 to fill a vacancy on the ballot if
- 19 such a vacancy exists. The candidate receiving the most votes at such
- 20 special election shall serve for the remainder of the vacated term and
- 21 for the succeeding term of office;
- 22 (b) If a vacancy occurs in the office of Representative in Congress
- 23 on or after the day of the statewide general election and prior to the
- 24 end of the term of the office which is vacated, no special election shall
- 25 be called; and
- 26 (c) If a vacancy occurs in such office at any time other than as
- 27 described in subdivision (a) or (b) of this subsection, the Governor
- 28 shall order a special election to be held within ninety days after the
- 29 vacancy occurs. Each political party which polled at least five percent
- 30 of the entire vote in the district in which the vacancy occurs may select
- 31 a candidate following the applicable procedures in subsection (2) of

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- section 32-627, except that the certificate and filing fee shall be 1 2 submitted at least sixty-five days prior to the day of the election. Any candidate so selected shall have his or her name placed on the ballot 3 4 with the appropriate political party designation. Any other person may 5 have his or her name placed on the ballot without a political party designation by filing petitions pursuant to sections 32-617 and 32-618 6 and paying the filing fee as provided by section 32-608, except that the 7 deadline for filing the petitions and paying the fee shall be sixty-five 8 9 days prior to the day of the election. The candidate receiving the most votes at such special election shall serve for the remainder of the 10 vacated term. 11
  - (2)(a) If the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives announces that there are more than one hundred vacancies in the House of Representatives requiring special elections according to 2 U.S.C. 8, as such section existed on July 18, 2008, and there is any vacancy in the office of Representative in Congress representing Nebraska, the Governor shall issue a writ of election. The writ of election shall specify the date of a special election to fill such vacancy to be held within fortynine days after the Speaker's announcement.
- (b) The Secretary of State shall notify the public of chairperson 20 21 and secretary of each political party which polled at least five percent 22 of the entire vote in the district in which the vacancy occurs that the party may select a candidate following the applicable procedures in 23 24 subsection (2) of section 32-625 32-627, except that the certificate and 25 filing fee shall be submitted within seven days after notification by the Secretary of State. Any candidate <u>filing petitions pursuant to sections</u> 26 32-617 and 32-618 so selected shall have his or her name placed on the 27 ballot with the appropriate political party designation. 28
- (c) The ballot for any voter meeting the criteria of section 32-939 shall be transmitted to such voter within fifteen days after the Speaker's announcement and shall be accepted if received by the election

1 commissioner or county clerk within forty-five days after transmission to

- 2 the voter.
- 3 (d) The candidate receiving the most votes at such special election
- 4 shall serve for the remainder of the vacated term.
- 5 Sec. 26. Section 32-602, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 6 2022, is amended to read:
- 7 32-602 (1) Any person seeking an elective office shall be a
- 8 registered voter at the time of filing for the office pursuant to section
- 9 32-606 or 32-611.
- 10 (2) Any person filing for office shall meet the constitutional and
- 11 statutory requirements of the office for which he or she is filing. If a
- 12 person is filing for a partisan office, he or she shall be a registered
- 13 voter affiliated with the appropriate political party if required
- 14 pursuant to section 32-702. If the person is required to sign a contract
- 15 or comply with a bonding or equivalent commercial insurance policy
- 16 requirement prior to holding such office, he or she shall be at least
- 17 nineteen years of age at the time of filing for the office.
- 18 (3) A person shall not be eliqible to file for an office if he or
- 19 she holds the office and his or her term of office expires after the
- 20 beginning of the term of office for which he or she would be filing. This
- 21 subsection does not apply to filing for an office to represent a
- 22 different district, ward, subdistrict, or subdivision of the same
- 23 governmental entity as the office held at the time of filing.
- 24 (4)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of this subsection, a
- 25 person shall not be eligible to file for an office until he or she has
- 26 paid any outstanding civil penalties and interest imposed pursuant to the
- 27 Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act. The filing officer
- 28 shall determine such eligibility before accepting a filing. The Nebraska
- 29 Accountability and Disclosure Commission shall provide the filing
- 30 officers with current information or the most current list of such
- 31 outstanding civil penalties and interest owed pursuant to subdivision

- 1 (13) of section 49-14,123.
- 2 (b) A person owing a civil penalty to the commission shall be
- 3 eligible to file for an office if:
- 4 (i) The matter in which the civil penalty was assessed is pending on
- 5 appeal before a state court; and
- 6 (ii) The person files with the commission a surety bond running in
- 7 favor of the State of Nebraska with surety by a corporate bonding company
- 8 authorized to do business in this state and conditioned upon the payment
- 9 of the civil penalty imposed under the Nebraska Political Accountability
- 10 and Disclosure Act.
- 11 (5) The governing body of the political subdivision swearing in the
- 12 officer shall determine whether the person meets all requirements prior
- 13 to swearing in the officer.
- 14 Sec. 27. Section 32-603, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 15 amended to read:
- 16 32-603 (1) No candidate for member of the Legislature or an elective
- 17 office described in Article IV, section 1 or 20, or Article VII, section
- 18 3 or 10, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall be eligible to file as a
- 19 candidate, to petition on the ballot as a candidate, to accept a
- 20 nomination by a political party or by party convention, caucus, or
- 21 committee to fill a vacancy, or to be a declared write-in candidate for
- 22 more than one elective office to be filled at the same election except
- 23 for the position of delegate to a county, state, or national political
- 24 party convention. No candidate for any other high elective office as
- 25 defined in subsection (6) of section 32-604 shall be eligible to file as
- 26 a candidate, to petition on the ballot as a candidate, to accept a
- 27 nomination by a political party or by party convention, caucus, or
- 28 committee to fill a vacancy, or to be a declared write-in candidate for
- 29 more than one high elective office to be filled at the same election. Any
- 30 such person who has filed for a high elective office shall withdraw such
- 31 filing prior to filing for any other elective office to be filled at the

- 1 same election except for the position of delegate to a county, state, or
- 2 national political party convention. Any such person who has won a
- 3 nomination in a primary election and who is nominated to any additional
- 4 offices by a write-in vote or by a political party convention or
- 5 committee shall decline one of the nominations pursuant to section 32-623
- 6 and shall do so within seven days after receiving any subsequent
- 7 nomination. If the candidate fails to take such action, any subsequent
- 8 nomination shall be declared void. Any filing made in violation of this
- 9 section shall be void, and the Secretary of State, election commissioner,
- 10 or county clerk shall not place the name of any person on the ballot for
- 11 any office for which such person filed in violation of this section.
- 12 (2) If a filing officer determines that a candidate has filed for
- 13 more than one office in violation of subsection (1) of this section, the
- 14 filing officer shall notify the Secretary of State, the Secretary of
- 15 State shall determine the order of the filings and notify the candidate
- 16 that the subsequent filing is invalid, and the candidate's name shall not
- 17 be printed on the ballot for such office. The Secretary of State shall
- 18 notify the filing officers of the counties involved of the action taken
- 19 on such subsequent filing.
- 20 (3) When the name of a candidate appears on the ballot for more than
- 21 one office during an election in violation of subsection (1) of this
- 22 section, the filing officer when possible shall correct the error by
- 23 removing the candidate's name from the ballot and reprinting corrected
- 24 ballots. When it is not possible to print a corrected set of ballots in
- 25 time for the election, all votes cast for such candidate as a candidate
- 26 for the subsequent office appearing on the ballot shall not be counted,
- 27 and no certificate of nomination or election shall be issued to such
- 28 candidate for such subsequent office.
- 29 Sec. 28. Section 32-605, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 30 amended to read:
- 31 32-605 No candidate defeated at a primary election shall be

- 1 permitted to file an affidavit declaring a write-in candidacy or  $\tau$  file
- 2 by petition, or file a nomination, if nominated by party convention or
- 3 committee, for the following general election for the same office except
- 4 as provided in section 32-615, 32-616, or 32-625.
- 5 Sec. 29. Section 32-607, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 6 2022, is amended to read:
- 7 32-607 All candidate filing forms shall contain the following
- 8 statement: I hereby swear that I will abide by the laws of the State of
- 9 Nebraska regarding the results of the primary and general elections, that
- 10 I am a registered voter and qualified to be elected, and that I will
- 11 serve if elected. Candidate filing forms shall also contain the following
- 12 information regarding the candidate: Name; residence address; mailing
- 13 address if different from the residence address; telephone number; office
- 14 sought; party affiliation if the office sought is a partisan office; a
- 15 statement as to whether or not civil penalties are owed pursuant to the
- 16 Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act; and, if civil
- 17 penalties are owed, whether or not a surety bond has been filed pursuant
- 18 to subdivision (4)(b) of section 32-602. An email address shall also be
- 19 included on the filing form as an optional field. Candidate filing forms
- 20 shall be filed with the following filing officers:
- 21 (1) For candidates for national, state, or congressional office,
- 22 directors of public power and irrigation districts, directors of
- 23 reclamation districts, directors of natural resources districts,
- 24 directors of metropolitan utilities districts, members of the boards of
- 25 educational service units, members of governing boards of community
- 26 colleges, delegates to national conventions, and other offices filled by
- 27 election held in more than one county and judges desiring retention, in
- 28 the office of the Secretary of State;
- 29 (2) For officers elected within a county, in the office of the
- 30 election commissioner or county clerk;
- 31 (3) For officers in school districts which include land in adjoining

- 1 counties, in the office of the election commissioner or county clerk of
- 2 the county in which the greatest number of registered voters entitled to
- 3 vote for the officers reside; and
- 4 (4) For city or village officers, in the office of the election
- 5 commissioner or county clerk.
- 6 Sec. 30. Section 32-609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 7 amended to read:
- 8 32-609 The candidate filing form filed pursuant to sections 32-606
- 9 and 32-607 by each candidate for the State Board of Education, member of
- 10 the Legislature, Regent of the University of Nebraska, director of a
- 11 public power and irrigation district, reclamation district, or natural
- 12 resources district, every other nonpartisan office created by law, member
- 13 of a school board of a Class IV or V school district, and candidate for
- 14 elective office of a city of the first or second class or a village shall
- 15 not in any way refer to or designate the political affiliation of the
- 16 candidate except as otherwise provided pursuant to section 32-557.
- 17 Sec. 31. Section 32-615, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 18 2022, is amended to read:
- 19 32-615 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this
- 20 section, any candidate engaged in or pursuing a write-in campaign shall
- 21 file a notarized affidavit of his or her intent together with the receipt
- 22 for any filing fee with the filing officer as provided in section 32-608
- 23 no earlier than January 5 and no later than the second Friday prior to
- 24 the election.
- 25 (2) For any county office elected pursuant to sections 32-517 to
- 26 32-529 which is subject to subdivision (1)(b) of section 32-811, a
- 27 candidate may engage in or pursue a write-in campaign if he or she files
- 28 a notarized affidavit of his or her intent together with the receipt for
- 29 the filing fee with the filing officer as provided in section 32-608 on
- 30 or before March 3 of the year of the statewide primary election. If such
- 31 an affidavit is filed as prescribed, the election commissioner or county

- 1 clerk shall place that county office on the statewide primary election
- 2 ballot with the names of the candidate properly filed for the nomination
- 3 of the applicable political party and a line for write-in candidates.
- 4 (3) A candidate submitting an affidavit under this section for a
- 5 partisan office shall be a registered voter of the political party named
- 6 in the affidavit unless the political party allows candidates not
- 7 affiliated with the party by not adopting a rule under section 32-702.
- 8 (2) (4) A candidate who has been defeated as a candidate in the
- 9 primary election or defeated as a write-in candidate in the primary
- 10 election shall not be eligible as a write-in candidate for the same
- office in the general election unless (a) a vacancy on the ballot exists
- 12 pursuant to section 32-625 or (b) the candidate was a candidate for an
- office described in sections 32-512 to 32-550 and the candidate lost the
- 14 election as a result of a determination pursuant to section 32-1122 in
- 15 the case of a tie vote.
- 16 (3) (5) A candidate who files a notarized affidavit shall be
- 17 entitled to all write-in votes for the candidate even if only the last
- 18 name of the candidate has been written if such last name is reasonably
- 19 close to the proper spelling.
- 20 Sec. 32. Section 32-616, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 21 amended to read:
- 22 32-616 (1) Any registered voter who was not a candidate in the
- 23 primary election and who was not registered to vote with a party
- 24 affiliation on or after March 1 and before the general election in the
- 25 calendar year of the general election may have his or her name placed on
- 26 the general election ballot for a partisan office by filing petitions as
- 27 prescribed in sections 32-617 to 32-619 32-621 or by nomination by
- 28 political party convention or committee pursuant to section 32-627 or
- 29  $\frac{32-710}{}$ .
- 30 (2) Any candidate who was defeated in the primary election and any
- 31 registered voter who was not a candidate in the primary election may have

- 1 his or her name placed on the general election ballot if a vacancy exists
- 2 on the ballot under subsection (2) of section 32-625 and the candidate
- 3 files for the office by petition as prescribed in sections 32-617 and
- 4 32-618 or  $\tau$  files as a write-in candidate as prescribed in section
- 5 32-615, or is nominated by political party convention or committee
- 6 pursuant to section 32-627 or 32-710.
- 7 Sec. 33. Section 32-617, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 8 amended to read:
- 9 32-617 (1) Petitions for nomination for office partisan and
- 10 nonpartisan offices shall conform to the requirements of section 32-628.
- 11 Petitions shall state the office to be filled and the name and address of
- 12 the candidate. Petitions for partisan office shall also indicate the
- 13 party affiliation of the candidate. A sample copy of the petition shall
- 14 be filed with the filing officer prior to circulation. Petitions shall be
- 15 signed by registered voters residing in the district or political
- 16 subdivision in which the officer is to be elected and shall be filed with
- 17 the filing officer in the same manner as provided for candidate filing
- 18 forms in section 32-607. Petition signers and petition circulators shall
- 19 conform to the requirements of sections 32-629 and 32-630. No petition
- 20 for nomination shall be filed unless there is attached thereto a receipt
- 21 showing the payment of the filing fee required pursuant to section
- 22 32-608. Such petitions shall be filed by September 1 in the year of the
- 23 general election.
- 24 (2) The filing officer shall verify the signatures according to
- 25 section 32-631. Within three days after the signatures on a petition for
- 26 nomination have been verified pursuant to such section and the filing
- 27 officer has determined that pursuant to section 32-618 a sufficient
- 28 number of registered voters signed the petitions, the filing officer
- 29 shall notify the candidate so nominated by registered or certified mail,
- 30 and the candidate shall, within five days after the date of receiving
- 31 such notification, file with such officer his or her acceptance of the

- 1 nomination or his or her name will not be printed on the ballot.
- 2 (3) A candidate placed on the ballot by petition shall be termed a
- 3 candidate by petition. The words BY PETITION shall be printed upon the
- 4 ballot after the name of each candidate by petition.
- 5 Sec. 34. Section 32-618, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 6 2022, is amended to read:
- 7 32-618 (1) The number of signatures of registered voters needed to
- 8 place the name of a candidate upon the <del>nonpartisan</del> ballot for the general
- 9 election shall be as follows:
- 10 (1) (a) For each nonpartisan office other than members of the Board
- of Regents of the University of Nebraska and board members of a Class III
- 12 school district, at least ten percent of the total number of registered
- 13 voters voting for Governor or President of the United States at the
- 14 immediately preceding general election in the district or political
- 15 subdivision in which the officer is to be elected, not to exceed two
- 16 thousand;
- 17 <u>(2)</u> <del>(b)</del> For members of the Board of Regents of the University of
- 18 Nebraska, at least ten percent of the total number of registered voters
- 19 voting for Governor or President of the United States at the immediately
- 20 preceding general election in the regent district in which the officer is
- 21 to be elected, not to exceed one thousand; and
- 22 (3) (c) For board members of a Class III school district, at least
- 23 twenty percent of the total number of votes cast for the board member
- 24 receiving the highest number of votes at the immediately preceding
- 25 general election in the school district.
- 26 (2) The number of signatures of registered voters needed to place
- 27 the name of a candidate for an office upon the partisan ballot for the
- 28 general election shall be as follows:
- 29 (a) For each partisan office to be filled by the registered voters
- 30 of the entire state, at least four thousand, and at least seven hundred
- 31 fifty signatures shall be obtained in each congressional district in the

- 1 state;
- 2 (b) For each partisan office to be filled by the registered voters
- 3 of a county, at least twenty percent of the total number of registered
- 4 voters voting for Governor or President of the United States at the
- 5 immediately preceding general election within the county, not to exceed
- 6 two thousand, except that the number of signatures shall not be required
- 7 to exceed twenty-five percent of the total number of registered voters
- 8 voting for the office at the immediately preceding general election; and
- 9 (c) For each partisan office to be filled by the registered voters
- 10 of a political subdivision other than a county, at least twenty percent
- 11 of the total number of registered voters voting for Governor or President
- of the United States at the immediately preceding general election within
- 13 the political subdivision, not to exceed two thousand.
- 14 Sec. 35. Section 32-619.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 15 amended to read:
- 16 32-619.01 The candidates candidate for Governor of each political
- 17 party receiving the highest number of votes and the second highest number
- 18 of votes in the primary election shall select a candidate for Lieutenant
- 19 Governor of the same political party by filing an affidavit indicating
- 20 his or her choice with the Secretary of State. The candidate for
- 21 Lieutenant Governor shall file a written consent with the Secretary of
- 22 State. Both the affidavit and the written consent shall be filed on or
- 23 before September 1 for the names to be on the general election ballot.
- 24 The written consent shall be in lieu of a candidate filing form, and no
- 25 filing fees shall be required for the candidate for Lieutenant Governor.
- 26 Sec. 36. Section 32-622, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 27 amended to read:
- 28 32-622 (1) If any person who has filed for elective office pursuant
- 29 to subsection (1) of section 32-606 notifies the filing officer in
- 30 writing duly acknowledged by March 1 before the primary election that he
- 31 or she declines to be a candidate, the name shall not be printed on the

- 1 primary election ballot, but no declination shall be effective after such
- 2 date. A filing of nomination pursuant to section 32-611 shall extend the
- 3 time for declination until March 6 before the primary election.
- 4 (2) If any person who has filed for elective office pursuant to
- 5 subsection (2) of section 32-606 notifies the filing officer in writing
- 6 duly acknowledged by August 1 before the general election that he or she
- 7 declines to be a candidate, the name shall not be printed on the general
- 8 election ballot, but no declination shall be effective after such date.
- 9 (3) Any election commissioner or county clerk receiving notice of
- 10 declination for a candidate who originally filed with the Secretary of
- 11 State shall immediately notify the office of the Secretary of State by
- 12 telephone and forward the declination statement.
- 13 Sec. 37. Section 32-623, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 14 2022, is amended to read:
- 15 32-623 If any person nominated for elective office for the general
- 16 election notifies the filing officer with whom the candidate filing form
- 17 or other acceptance of nomination was filed by filing a statement, in
- 18 writing and duly acknowledged, that he or she declines such nomination on
- 19 or before August 1 before the election, the person's name shall not be
- 20 printed on the ballot, but no declination shall be effective after such
- 21 date. The filing officer shall inform one or more persons whose names are
- 22 attached to the nomination if the candidate was nominated by a political
- 23 party convention or committee or, if nominated at a primary election, the
- 24 chairperson or secretary of the campaign or political party committee of
- 25 his or her political party if there is one within the jurisdiction of the
- 26 filing officer and, if not, at least three of the prominent members of
- 27 the candidate's political party within the jurisdiction of the filing
- 28 officer that such candidate has declined the nomination by mailing or
- 29 delivering to them personally notice of such fact. Such declination shall
- 30 create a vacancy on the ballot which may be filled pursuant to section
- 31 32-625 32-627. In lieu of filing a declination with the Secretary of

- 1 State, the person so nominated may file a declination with the election
- 2 commissioner or county clerk in the county in which <u>such person</u> he or she
- 3 resides. Any election commissioner or county clerk receiving such a
- 4 declination shall within five days after its receipt forward a copy of
- 5 the written declination statement to the Secretary of State. The
- 6 Secretary of State shall make notifications required by this section for
- 7 all individuals for whom he or she receives a copy of the written
- 8 declination statement.
- 9 Sec. 38. Section 32-624, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 10 amended to read:
- 11 32-624 A candidate filing form which appears to conform with
- sections 32-606 and 32-607 shall be deemed to be valid unless objections
- 13 are made in writing within seven days after the filing deadline. If an
- 14 objection is made, notice shall be mailed to all candidates who may be
- 15 affected thereby. Any political party committee may institute actions in
- 16 court based upon fraud or crime resorted to in connection with the
- 17 candidate filing forms or the acceptance of a nomination. No county
- 18 committee shall have the authority to bring such action as to candidates
- 19 for congressional or state office or as to candidates to be elected from
- 20 legislative districts composed of more than one county. A state political
- 21 party committee may institute actions to determine the legality of any
- 22 candidate for a state or congressional office or for any district office
- 23 if the district composes more than one county. Objections to the use of
- 24 the name of a political party may also be made and passed upon in the
- 25 same manner as objections to a candidate filing form or other acceptance
- 26 of nomination.
- 27 The filing officer with whom the candidate filing form was filed
- 28 shall determine the validity of such objection, and his or her decision
- 29 shall be final unless an order is made in the matter by a judge of the
- 30 county court, district court, Court of Appeals, or Supreme Court on or
- 31 before the fifty-fifth day preceding the election. Such order may be made

- 1 summarily upon application of any political party committee or other
- 2 interested party and upon such notice as the court or judge may require.
- 3 The decision of the Secretary of State or the order of the judge shall be
- 4 binding on all filing officers.
- 5 Sec. 39. Section 32-625, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 6 amended to read:
- 7 32-625 (1) If there is a vacancy on the ballot for a nonpartisan
- 8 office after the time for filing and before the primary election, the
- 9 vacancy may only be filled by a petition candidate after the primary
- 10 election pursuant to sections 32-617 and 32-618.
- 11 (2) A vacancy shall exist on the ballot for the general election
- 12 when (a) any person ceases to be a candidate for the office for which he
- 13 or she filed a candidate filing form in the primary election and the
- 14 number of candidates for office is less than twice the number of
- 15 positions to be filled, (b) no person was nominated for the office in the
- 16 primary election, or (c) one of the candidates who received a certificate
- 17 of nomination for a nonpartisan office as a result of a primary election
- is ineligible, disqualified, deceased, or for any other reason unable to
- 19 assume the office for which he or she was a candidate. If such a vacancy
- 20 exists for a nonpartisan office, such vacancy may be filled by filing
- 21 petitions for nomination pursuant to such sections no later than
- 22 September 1 prior to the general election.
- 23 Sec. 40. Section 32-710, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 24 amended to read:
- 25 32-710 Each political party shall hold a state convention biennially
- 26 on a date to be fixed by the state central committee but not later than
- 27 September 1. Candidates for elective offices may be nominated at such
- 28 conventions pursuant to section 32-627 or 32-721. Such nominations shall
- 29 be certified to the Secretary of State by the chairperson and secretary
- 30 of the convention. The certificates shall have the same force and effect
- 31 as nominations in primary elections. A political party may not nominate a

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1 candidate at the convention for an office for which the party did not

2 nominate a candidate at the primary election except as provided for new

3 political parties in section 32-621. The convention shall formulate and

promulgate a state platform, select a state central committee, select

5 electors for President and Vice President of the United States, and

6 transact the business which is properly before it. One presidential

7 elector shall be chosen from each congressional district, and two

8 presidential electors shall be chosen at large. The officers of the

convention shall certify the names of the electors to the Governor and

10 Secretary of State.

11 Sec. 41. Section 32-716, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

12 2022, is amended to read:

13 32-716 (1) Any person, group, or association desiring to form a new political party shall present to the Secretary of State petitions 14 containing signatures totaling not less than one percent of the total 15 votes cast for <u>President Governor</u> at the most recent general election for 16 17 such office. The signatures of registered voters on such petitions shall be so distributed as to include registered voters totaling at least one 18 19 percent of the votes cast for <u>President Governor</u> in the most recent presidential gubernatorial election in each of the three congressional 20 districts in this state. Petition signers and petition circulators shall 21 22 conform to the requirements of sections 32-629 and 32-630. The petitions 23 shall be filed with the Secretary of State no later than January 15 24 before any statewide primary election for the new political party to be 25 entitled to have ballot position in the primary election of that year. If the new political party desires to be established and have ballot 26 27 position for the general election and not in the primary election of that 28 year, the petitions shall be filed with the Secretary of State on or before July 15 of that year. Prior to the circulation of petitions to 29 form a new political party, a sample copy of the petitions shall be filed 30 with the Secretary of State by the person, group, or association seeking 31

- 1 to establish the new party. The sample petition shall be accompanied by
- 2 the name and address of the person or the names and addresses of the
- 3 members of the group or association sponsoring the petition to form a new
- 4 political party. The sponsor or sponsors of the petition shall file, as
- 5 one instrument, all petition papers comprising a new political party
- 6 petition for signature verification with the Secretary of State. All
- 7 signed petitions in circulation but not filed with the Secretary of State
- 8 shall become invalid after July 15 in the year of the statewide general
- 9 election.
- 10 (2) The petition shall conform to the requirements of section
- 11 32-628. The Secretary of State shall prescribe the form of the petition
- 12 for the formation of a new political party. The petition shall be
- 13 addressed to and filed with the Secretary of State and shall state its
- 14 purpose and the name of the party to be formed. Such name shall not be or
- 15 include the name of any political party then in existence or any word
- 16 forming any part of the name of any political party then in existence,
- 17 and in order to avoid confusion regarding party affiliation of a
- 18 candidate or registered voter, the name of the party to be formed shall
- 19 not include the word "independent" or "nonpartisan". The petition shall
- 20 contain a statement substantially as follows:
- 21 We, the undersigned registered voters of the State of Nebraska and
- 22 the county of ....., being severally qualified to sign this
- 23 petition, respectfully request that the above-named new political party
- 24 be formed in the State of Nebraska, and each for himself or herself says:
- 25 I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name; I am
- 26 a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and county of ......
- 27 and am qualified to sign this petition; and my date of birth and city,
- 28 village, or post office address and my street and number or voting
- 29 precinct are correctly written after my name.
- 30 Sec. 42. Section 32-720, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 31 amended to read:

- 1 32-720 (1) In case of a division of any political party, the Secretary of State shall give the preference of party name to the 2 convention held at the time and place designated in the call of the 3 regularly constituted political party authorities, and if the other 4 faction presents no other party name, the Secretary of State shall select 5 a name or title and place the same on the ballot before the list of 6 candidates of such faction. The action of the preceding national 7 convention of such party, regularly called, shall determine the action of 8 9 the Secretary of State or the court in its decision. The Secretary of State may be compelled by peremptory order of mandamus to perform such 10 duty. 11
- (2) A political party may dissolve by filing a notice of dissolution 12 with the Secretary of State. The notice shall be filed by the executive 13 committee or state central committee of the political party or, if no 14 such committee exists, by an officer of the political party. If the 15 16 notice is filed prior to December 1 of the calendar year before the 17 statewide primary election, the Secretary of State shall not accept any filings for the political party or place the political party on the 18 19 statewide primary election ballot for the statewide primary election.
- Sec. 43. Section 32-801, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 32-801 At least fifty days before any statewide primary or general 22 election, the Secretary of State shall transmit in ballot form to each 23 24 election commissioner or county clerk a certification of the candidates, 25 offices, and issues that appear on the state ballot. The certification prior to the primary election shall name the office to be filled, the 26 length of the term, the number of candidates to be voted for, and the 27 name of each candidate for whom candidate filing forms or petitions have 28 been filed in the office of the Secretary of State and who is entitled to 29 be voted for at such primary election, and the party affiliation or 30 nonpartisan status of each candidate. A separate statement of the city or 31

- 1 village of residence of each candidate shall be included with the
- 2 certification, but the city or village of residence shall not appear on
- 3 the official ballot. The certification prior to the general election
- 4 shall name the office to be filled, the length of the term, the number of
- 5 candidates to be voted for, and the name of each candidate who was
- 6 nominated at the primary election or who filed by petition as shown by
- 7 the records in the office of the Secretary of State and who is entitled
- 8 to be voted for at the general election, and the party affiliation or
- 9 nonpartisan status of each candidate for partisan offices.
- 10 Sec. 44. Section 32-809, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 11 2022, is amended to read:
- 12 32-809 (1) The form of the official ballot at the statewide primary
- 13 election shall be prescribed by the Secretary of State. At the top of the
- 14 ballot and over all else shall be printed in boldface type the name of
- 15 the political party, ...... Official Ballot, Primary Election 20.. .
- 16 Each division containing the names of the office and a list of candidates
- 17 for such office shall be separated from other groups by a bold line. The
- 18 ballot shall list at-large candidates and subdistrict candidates under
- 19 appropriate headings.
- 20 (2) All proposals for constitutional amendments and candidates on
- 21 the nonpartisan ballot shall be submitted on a ballot where bold lines
- 22 separate one office or issue from another. Proposals for constitutional
- 23 amendments proposed by the Legislature shall be placed on the ballot as
- 24 provided in sections 49-201 to 49-211. All constitutional amendments
- 25 shall be placed on a separate ballot when a paper ballot is used which
- 26 requires the ballot after being voted to be folded before being deposited
- 27 in a ballot box. When an optical-scan ballot is used which requires a
- 28 ballot envelope or sleeve in which the ballot after being voted is placed
- 29 before being deposited in a ballot box, constitutional amendments may be
- 30 printed on either side of the ballot and shall be separated from other
- 31 offices or issues by a bold line. Constitutional amendments so arranged

- 1 shall constitute a separate ballot.
- 2 (3) Except as otherwise provided in section 32-811, the statewide primary election ballot shall contain the name of every candidate filing 3 4 or recognized under subsection (1) of section 32-606 and sections 32-611, 5  $32-613_T$  and 32-614 and no other names. No name of a candidate for member of the Legislature or an elective office described in Article IV, section 6 7 1, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall appear on any ballot or any series of ballots at any primary election more than once. When two or 8 9 more of the last names of candidates for the same office at the primary 10 election are the same in spelling or sound, the official ballots may, on the request of any such candidate, have his or her address printed 11 immediately below his or her name in capital and lowercase letters in 12 13 lightface type of the same size as the type in which the name of the candidate is printed. 14
- Sec. 45. Section 32-810, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 17 32-810 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall place the names of all partisan candidates certified to him or her by the Secretary 18 19 of State and of those partisan candidates filing in his or her office on the a primary election ballot headed with the political party 20 21 designation. The names of each nonpartisan candidate certified by the 22 Secretary of State and of each nonpartisan candidate filing in the office 23 of the election commissioner or county clerk shall be placed on the 24 primary election ballot headed by the words Nonpartisan Ticket.
- 25 (2) If any office is not subject to the upcoming election, the
  26 office shall be omitted from the ballot and the remaining offices shall
  27 move up so that the same relative order is preserved. The order of any
  28 offices may be altered to allow for the best utilization of ballot space
  29 in order to avoid printing a second ballot when one ballot would be
  30 sufficient if an optical-scan ballot is used. All proposals on the ballot
  31 submitted by a political subdivision shall follow all offices on the

- 1 ballot for such political subdivision.
- (3) The election commissioner or county clerk shall follow the order 2 of precincts or wards as set out in the official abstract book on file in 3 his or her office in preparing the official ballots. At the primary 4 election, on the first set of ballots for the first precinct or ward 5 shall be the names of candidates filing by date and hour as certified by 6 the Secretary of State and for local candidates the names of candidates 7 shall be listed in the order of filing by date and hour with the election 8 9 commissioner or county clerk. When there are more candidates than vacancies for the same office, the names of all partisan and nonpartisan 10 candidates at a primary election shall be rotated precinct by precinct in 11 each office division in the order in which the precincts are set out in 12 the official abstract book. In making the changes of position, the 13 printer shall take the line of type at the head of each office division 14 and place it at the bottom of that division, shoving up the column so 15 that the name that was second shall be first after the change. 16
- 17 Sec. 46. Section 32-811, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 18 amended to read:
- 32-811 (1)(a) If the names of candidates properly filed for 19 nomination at the primary election for directors of natural resources 20 districts, directors of public power districts, members of airport 21 authority boards elected pursuant to sections 32-547 to 32-549, members 22 of the boards of governors of community college areas, members of the 23 24 boards of Class III or Class V school districts which nominate candidates at a primary election, and officers of cities of the first or second 25 class and cities having a city manager plan of government do not exceed 26 two candidates for each position to be filled, any such candidates shall 27 28 be declared nominated and their names shall not appear on any primary election ballots. 29
- 30 (b) If the number of candidates properly filed for the nomination of a political party at the primary election for any county officer elected

- 1 pursuant to sections 32-517 to 32-529 does not exceed the number of
- 2 candidates to be nominated by that party for that office, any such
- 3 properly filed candidates shall be declared nominated and their names
- 4 shall not appear on any primary election ballots.
- 5 (b) (c) The official abstract of votes kept by the county or state
- 6 shall show the names of such candidates with the statement Nominated
- 7 Without Opposition. The election commissioner or county clerk shall place
- 8 the names of such automatically nominated candidates on the general
- 9 election ballot as provided in section 32-814 or 32-815.
- 10 (2) Candidates shall not appear on the ballot in the primary
- election for the offices listed in subsection (2) of section 32-606.
- 12 (3) If the number of candidates for delegates to a county or
- 13 national political party convention are the same in number or less than
- 14 the number of candidates to be elected, the names shall not appear on the
- 15 primary election ballot and those so filed shall receive a certificate of
- 16 election.
- 17 Sec. 47. Section 32-813, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 18 amended to read:
- 19 32-813 (1) The names of all candidates and all proposals to be voted
- 20 upon at the general election shall be arranged upon the ballot in parts
- 21 separated from each other by bold lines in the order the offices and
- 22 proposals are set forth in this section. If any office is not subject to
- 23 the upcoming election, the office shall be omitted from the ballot and
- 24 the remaining offices shall move up so that the same relative order is
- 25 preserved. The order of any offices may be altered to allow for the best
- 26 utilization of ballot space in order to avoid printing a second ballot
- 27 when one ballot would be sufficient if an optical-scan ballot is used.
- 28 All proposals on the ballot submitted by a political subdivision shall
- 29 follow all offices on the ballot submitted by a political subdivision.
- 30 (2)(a) If the election is in a year in which a President of the
- 31 United States is to be elected, the names and spaces for voting for

1 candidates for President and Vice President shall be entitled

- 2 Presidential Ticket in boldface type.
- 3 (b) The names of candidates for President and Vice President for
- 4 each political party shall be grouped together, and each group shall be
- 5 enclosed with brackets with the political party name next to the brackets
- 6 and one square or oval opposite the names in which the voter indicates
- 7 his or her choice.
- 8 (c) The names of candidates for President and Vice President who
- 9 have successfully petitioned on the ballot for the general election shall
- 10 be grouped together with the candidates appearing on the same petition
- 11 being grouped together, and each group shall be enclosed with brackets
- 12 with the words "By Petition" next to the brackets and one square or oval
- 13 opposite the names in which the voter indicates his or her choice.
- 14 (d) Beneath the names of the candidates for President and Vice
- 15 President certified by the officers of the national political party
- 16 conventions pursuant to section 32-712 and beneath the names of all
- 17 candidates for President and Vice President placed on the general
- 18 election ballot by petition, two write-in lines shall be provided in
- 19 which the voter may fill in the names of the candidates of his or her
- 20 choice. The lines shall be enclosed with brackets with one square or oval
- 21 opposite the names in which the voter indicates his or her choice. The
- 22 name appearing on the top line shall be considered to be the candidate
- 23 for President, and the name appearing on the second line shall be
- 24 considered to be the candidate for Vice President.
- 25 (3) The names and spaces for voting for candidates for United States
- 26 Senator if any are to be elected shall be entitled United States
- 27 Senatorial Ticket in boldface type.
- 28 (4) The names and spaces for voting for candidates for
- 29 Representatives in Congress shall be entitled Congressional Ticket in
- 30 boldface type. Above the candidates' names, the office shall be
- 31 designated For Representative in Congress ..... District.

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1 (5) The names and spaces for voting for candidates for the various 2 state officers shall be entitled State Ticket in boldface type. Each set of candidates shall be separated by lines across the column, and above 3 4 each set of candidates shall be designated the office for which they are 5 candidates, arranged in the order prescribed by the Secretary of State. The two candidates for Governor of each political party receiving the 6 7 highest number of votes in the primary election shall be grouped together with their respective candidates for Lieutenant Governor. Each group 8 9 shall be enclosed with brackets with the political party name next to the brackets and one square or oval opposite the names in which the voter 10 indicates his or her choice for Governor and Lieutenant Governor jointly. 11 The candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor who have successfully 12 13 petitioned on the general election ballot shall be grouped together with the candidates appearing on the same petition being grouped together. 14 Each group shall be enclosed with brackets with the words "By Petition" 15 16 next to the brackets and one square or oval opposite the names in which the voter indicates his or her choice for Governor and Lieutenant 17 Governor jointly. Beneath the names of the candidates for Governor 18 nominated at a primary election by political party and their respective 19 candidates for Lieutenant Governor and beneath the names of all 20 candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor placed on the general 21 election ballot by petition, one write-in line shall be provided in which 22 the registered voter may fill in the name of the candidate for Governor 23 24 of his or her choice and one square or oval opposite the line in which 25 the voter indicates his or her choice for Governor.

(6) The names and spaces for voting for other nonpartisan candidates shall be entitled Nonpartisan Ticket in boldface type. The names of all nonpartisan candidates shall appear in the order listed in this subsection, except that when using an optical-scan ballot, the order of offices may be altered to allow for the best utilization of ballot space to avoid printing a second ballot when one ballot would be sufficient:

- 1 (a) Legislature;
- 2 (b) State Board of Education;
- 3 (c) Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska;
- 4 (d) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
- 5 (e) Judge of the Supreme Court;
- 6 (f) Judge of the Court of Appeals;
- 7 (g) Judge of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court;
- 8 (h) Judge of the District Court;
- 9 (i) Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court;
- 10 (j) Judge of the County Court; and
- 11 (k) County officers in the order prescribed by the election 12 commissioner or county clerk.
- (7) The names and spaces for voting for the various county offices
  and for measures submitted to the county vote only or in only a part of
  the county shall be entitled County Ticket in boldface type. If the
  election commissioner or county clerk deems it advisable, the measures
  may be submitted on a separate ballot if using a paper ballot or on
  either side of an optical-scan ballot if the ballot is placed in a ballot
  envelope or sleeve before being deposited in a ballot box.
- 20 (8) The candidates for office in the precinct only or in the city or 21 village only shall be printed on the ballot, except that if the election 22 commissioner or county clerk deems it advisable, candidates for these 23 offices may be submitted on a separate ballot if using a paper ballot or 24 on either side of an optical-scan ballot if the ballot is placed in a 25 ballot envelope or sleeve before being deposited in a ballot box.
- (9) All proposals submitted by initiative or referendum and proposals for constitutional amendments shall be placed on a separate ballot when a paper ballot is used which requires that the ballot after being voted be folded before being deposited in a ballot box. When an optical-scan ballot is used which requires a ballot envelope or sleeve in which the ballot after being voted is placed before being deposited in a

- 1 ballot box, initiative or referendum proposals and proposals for
- 2 constitutional amendments may be placed on either side of the ballot,
- 3 shall be separated by a bold line, and shall follow all other offices
- 4 placed on the same side of the ballot. Initiative or referendum proposals
- 5 and constitutional amendments so arranged shall constitute a separate
- 6 ballot. Proposals for constitutional amendments proposed by the
- 7 Legislature shall be placed on the ballot as provided in sections 49-201
- 8 to 49-211.
- 9 Sec. 48. Section 32-814, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 10 amended to read:
- 11 32-814 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall place the
- 12 names of all <del>nonpartisan</del> candidates upon the same official general
- 13 election ballot—as the partisan candidates. The names placed on the
- 14 official and sample general election ballots shall be the names of
- 15 candidates nominated in the primary election, the names of petition
- 16 candidates if any, the names of automatically nominated candidates as
- 17 provided in section 32-811, and the names of candidates filing as
- 18 provided in subsection (2) of section 32-606. The names of the candidates
- 19 shall be placed under the proper titles.
- 20 (2) The election commissioner or county clerk shall place on the
- 21 official general election ballot in each office division no more than
- 22 twice as many names as there are places to be filled at the general
- 23 election unless more than one candidate has successfully petitioned on
- 24 the ballot to fill a vacancy after the primary election. The names of the
- 25 <u>two</u> nonpartisan candidates who received the highest number of votes for
- 26 the office for which they were candidates in the primary election shall
- 27 be placed on the official ballot. If more than one person was a candidate
- 28 for the same position in the primary election, the election commissioner
- 29 or county clerk shall place on the official ballot the names of the two
- 30 persons who received the highest number of votes in the primary election
- 31 for the position for which they were candidates.

- 1 (3) When the name of a person is written in and voted for as a 2 candidate for an office for which he or she did not file in the primary election, such person shall not be entitled to a certificate of 3 4 nomination at the primary election and shall not have his or her name 5 placed on the general election ballot unless he or she (a) receives at least five percent of the total vote cast for Governor or for President 6 7 of the United States at the immediately preceding general election in the political subdivision from which nominees for such position are to be 8 9 chosen, (b) is one of the candidates receiving the number of votes qualifying him or her for nomination, and (c) meets the requirements for 10 the office. 11
- (4) If there are more candidates than vacancies for the same office, 12 13 the election commissioner or county clerk shall rotate the names of the nonpartisan candidates on the official general election ballot. The 14 election commissioner or county clerk shall follow the order of precincts 15 or wards as set out in the official abstract book on file in his or her 16 office in preparing the official ballots. The first set of ballots for 17 the first precinct or ward shall be the names of candidates filing by 18 date and hour or of those candidates filing petitions, and for local 19 candidates the names of candidates shall be listed in the order of filing 20 by date and hour with the election commissioner or county clerk or of 21 22 those candidates filing petitions. Thereafter the names shall be rotated 23 precinct by precinct in each office division in the order in which the 24 precincts are set out in the official abstract book. In making the change 25 of position, the printer shall take the line of type at the head of each division and place it at the bottom of that division, shoving up the 26 column so that the name that was second shall be first after the change. 27
- Sec. 49. Section 32-817, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 30 32-817 The names of the candidates shall be set in boldface type 31 using capital and lowercase letters. A square or oval shall be printed

- 1 opposite the name of each candidate. At the general election, the name of
- 2 the party represented by a candidate for partisan office shall be printed
- 3 in capital and lowercase letters next to the name. Proposals submitted by
- 4 initiative or referendum or for constitutional amendments shall be
- 5 printed in capital and lowercase letters, but the title heading and
- 6 number thereof shall be in boldface type, and the square or oval for
- 7 voting thereon shall be printed opposite the text so that it is clear for
- 8 which issue the voter is casting a vote. Ballots shall be printed with
- 9 substantially the same appearance, including type and form, as the sample
- 10 ballot furnished by the Secretary of State.
- 11 Sec. 50. Section 32-912, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 12 amended to read:
- 13 32-912 (1) Any registered voter desiring to vote in a primary
- 14 election held under the Election Act shall be entitled to participate in
- 15 such primary election upon presenting himself or herself at the polling
- 16 place for his or her residence. A registered voter who is affiliated with
- 17 a political party shall receive from the receiving board all nonpartisan
- 18 ballots and the partisan ballot, if any, of the political party indicated
- 19 on his or her voter registration. Except as provided in subsection (2)
- 20 subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a registered voter who is not
- 21 affiliated with any political party shall receive only nonpartisan
- 22 ballots at a primary election.
- 23 (2) Any political party may allow registered voters who are not
- 24 affiliated with a political party to vote in the primary election for
- 25 preference for President if any elective office for which the party has a
- 26 <u>person on the ballot for President but not candidates except</u> for the
- 27 office of delegate to the party's county, state, or national convention.
- 28 Any political party desiring to permit such registered voters to vote for
- 29 <u>preference for President</u> candidates of that party in the primary election
- 30 shall file a letter stating that the governing body of the political
- 31 party has adopted a rule allowing registered voters who are not

- 1 affiliated with a political party to vote in the primary election for
- 2 candidates of that party. The letter and copy of the adopted rule shall
- 3 be filed with the Secretary of State at least sixty days before the
- 4 primary election. The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate
- 5 election commissioners and county clerks in writing that the political
- 6 party filing the letter will allow registered voters who are not
- 7 affiliated with a political party to vote in the primary election for
- 8 preference for President candidates of that party. Once filed, the rule
- 9 allowing such voters to vote in such primary election shall be
- 10 irrevocable and shall apply only to the primary election immediately
- 11 following the adoption of the rule.
- 12 (3) A registered voter who is not affiliated with a political party
- 13 and who desires to vote in the primary election for the office of United
- 14 States Senator or United States Representative may request a partisan
- 15 ballot for either or both of such offices from any political party. The
- 16 election commissioner or county clerk shall post a notice in a
- 17 conspicuous location, easily visible and readable by voters prior to
- 18 approaching the receiving board, that a registered voter who is not
- 19 affiliated with a political party may request such ballots. No such
- 20 registered voter shall receive more than one such partisan ballot.
- 21 (3) (4) The registered voters residing in a political subdivision
- 22 may cast their ballots for candidates for the offices in that subdivision
- 23 and for issues proposed for that subdivision, except that when officers
- 24 are to be nominated or elected from a subdistrict of the political
- 25 subdivision, the registered voters residing in the subdistrict may only
- 26 vote for candidates from the subdistrict and for candidates for officers
- 27 to be elected at large from the whole political subdivision.
- 28 Sec. 51. Section 32-961, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 29 2022, is amended to read:
- 30 32-961 (1)(a) To be eligible to be a poll watcher, an individual
- 31 shall be either:

- 1 (i) A registered voter of this state; or
- (ii) An individual representing a state-based, national, orinternational election monitoring organization.
- 4 (b) A candidate or a spouse of a candidate on the ballot at the election shall not be eligible for appointment as a poll watcher at such election.
- (2) For poll watchers eligible under subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this 7 section, any political party in Nebraska, a candidate for election in 8 9 Nebraska not affiliated with a political party, an organization of persons interested in a question on the ballot, or a nonpartisan 10 organization interested in Nebraska's elections and the elective process 11 may appoint one or more poll watchers. Any such person or organization 12 intending to appoint one or more poll watchers shall provide written 13 notification to the election commissioner or county clerk of the county 14 in which the poll watchers will be active on election day no later than 15 16 the close of business on the Wednesday prior to election day. The notification shall include a list of appointed poll watchers and a list 17 of the precincts that the poll watchers plan to observe and shall be 18 provided prior to each election at which one or more poll watchers will 19 be active. A poll watcher shall not be denied entry to a polling place 20 because the poll watcher is not on the list or because the precinct is 21 22 not on the list.
- 23 (3) For poll watchers eligible under subdivision (1)(a)(ii) of this 24 section, any national or international election monitoring organization intending to appoint one or more poll watchers shall provide written 25 notification to the Secretary of State no later than the close of 26 business on the Wednesday prior to election day. The notification shall 27 include a list of appointed poll watchers and a list of the counties and 28 precincts to be observed and shall be provided prior to each election at 29 which one or more poll watchers will be active. 30
- 31 Sec. 52. Section 32-1002, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

- 1 2022, is amended to read:
- 2 32-1002 (1) As the ballots are removed from the ballot box pursuant
- 3 to sections 32-1012 to 32-1018, the receiving board shall separate the
- 4 envelopes containing the provisional ballots from the rest of the ballots
- 5 and deliver them to the election commissioner or county clerk.
- 6 (2) Upon receipt of a provisional ballot, the election commissioner
- 7 or county clerk shall verify that the certificate on the front of the
- 8 envelope or the form attached to the envelope is in proper form and that
- 9 the certification has been signed by the voter.
- 10 (3) The election commissioner or county clerk shall also (a) verify
- 11 that such person has not voted anywhere else in the county or been issued
- 12 a ballot for early voting, (b) investigate whether any credible evidence
- 13 exists that the person was properly registered to vote in the county
- 14 before the deadline for registration for the election, (c) investigate
- 15 whether any information has been received pursuant to section 32-308,
- 16 32-309, 32-310, or 32-324 that the person has resided, registered, or
- 17 voted in any other county or state since registering to vote in the
- 18 county, and (d) upon determining that credible evidence exists that the
- 19 person was properly registered to vote in the county, make the
- 20 appropriate changes to the voter registration register by entering the
- 21 information contained in the registration application completed by the
- 22 voter at the time of voting a provisional ballot.
- 23 (4) A provisional ballot cast by a voter pursuant to section 32-915
- 24 shall be counted if:
- 25 (a) Credible evidence exists that the voter was properly registered
- 26 in the county before the deadline for registration for the election;
- 27 (b) The voter has resided in the county continuously since
- 28 registering to vote in the county;
- 29 (c) The voter has not voted anywhere else in the county or has not
- 30 otherwise voted early using a ballot for early voting;
- 31 (d) The voter has completed a registration application prior to

- 1 voting as prescribed in subsection (6) of this section and the residence
- 2 <u>address provided on the registration application completed pursuant to</u>
- 3 subdivision (1)(e) of section 32-915 is located within the precinct in
- 4 which the person voted; and  $\div$
- 5 (i) The residence address provided on the registration application
- 6 completed pursuant to subdivision (1)(e) of section 32-915 is located
- 7 within the precinct in which the person voted; and
- 8 (ii) If the voter is voting in a primary election, the party
- 9 affiliation provided on the registration application completed prior to
- 10 voting the provisional ballot is the same party affiliation that appears
- on the voter's voter registration record based on his or her previous
- 12 registration application; and
- 13 (e) The certification on the front of the envelope or form attached
- 14 to the envelope is in the proper form and signed by the voter.
- 15 (5) A provisional ballot cast by a voter pursuant to section 32-915
- 16 shall not be counted if:
- 17 (a) The voter was not properly registered in the county before the
- 18 deadline for registration for the election;
- 19 (b) Information has been received pursuant to section 32-308,
- 20 32-309, 32-310, or 32-324 that the voter has resided, registered, or
- 21 voted in any other county or state since registering to vote in the
- 22 county in which he or she cast the provisional ballot;
- 23 (c) Credible evidence exists that the voter has voted elsewhere or
- 24 has otherwise voted early;
- (d) The voter failed to complete and sign a registration application
- 26 pursuant to subsection (6) of this section and subdivision (1)(e) of
- 27 section 32-915;
- 28 (e) The residence address provided on the registration application
- 29 completed pursuant to subdivision (1)(e) of section 32-915 is in a
- 30 different county or in a different precinct than the county or precinct
- 31 in which the voter voted; or

- 1 (f) If the voter is voting in a primary election, the party
- 2 affiliation on the registration application completed prior to voting the
- 3 provisional ballot is different than the party affiliation that appears
- 4 on the voter's voter registration record based on his or her previous
- 5 registration application; or
- $(f) \frac{(g)}{(g)}$  The voter failed to complete and sign the certification on
- 7 the envelope or form attached to the envelope pursuant to subsection (3)
- 8 of section 32-915.
- 9 (6) An error or omission of information on the registration
- 10 application or the certification required under section 32-915 shall not
- 11 result in the provisional ballot not being counted if:
- 12 (a)(i) The errant or omitted information is contained elsewhere on
- 13 the registration application or certification; or
- 14 (ii) The information is not necessary to determine the eligibility
- of the voter to cast a ballot; and
- 16 (b) Both the registration application and the certification are
- 17 signed by the voter.
- 18 (7) Upon determining that the voter's provisional ballot is eligible
- 19 to be counted, the election commissioner or county clerk shall remove the
- 20 ballot from the envelope without exposing the marks on the ballot and
- 21 shall place the ballot with the ballots to be counted by the county
- 22 canvassing board.
- 23 (8) The election commissioner or county clerk shall notify the
- 24 system administrator of the system created pursuant to section 32-202 as
- 25 to whether the ballot was counted and, if not, the reason the ballot was
- 26 not counted.
- 27 (9) The verification and investigation shall be completed within
- 28 seven business days after the election.
- 29 Sec. 53. Section 32-1027, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 30 2022, is amended to read:
- 31 32-1027 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall appoint

- 1 two or more registered voters to the counting board for early voting. One
- 2 registered voter shall be appointed from the political party casting the
- 3 highest number of votes for Governor or for President of the United
- 4 States in the county in the immediately preceding general election, and
- 5 one registered voter shall be appointed from the political party casting
- 6 the next highest vote for such office. The election commissioner or
- 7 county clerk may appoint additional registered voters to serve on the
- 8 counting board and may appoint registered voters to serve in case of a
- 9 vacancy among any of the members of the counting board. Such appointees
- 10 shall be balanced between the political parties and may include
- 11 registered voters unaffiliated with any political party. The counting
- 12 board may begin carrying out its duties not earlier than the second
- 13 Friday before the election and shall meet as directed by the election
- 14 commissioner or county clerk.
- 15 (2) The counting board shall place all identification envelopes in
- 16 order and shall review each returned identification envelope pursuant to
- 17 verification procedures prescribed in subsections (3) and (4) of this
- 18 section.
- 19 (3) In its review, the counting board shall determine if:
- 20 (a) The voter has provided his or her name, residence address, and
- 21 signature on the voter identification envelope;
- (b) The ballot has been received from the voter who requested it and
- 23 the residence address is the same address provided on the voter's request
- 24 for a ballot for early voting, by comparing the information provided on
- 25 the identification envelope with information recorded in the record of
- 26 early voters or the voter's request;
- 27 (c) A completed and signed registration application has been
- 28 received from the voter by the deadline in section 32-302, 32-321, or
- 29 32-325 or by the close of the polls pursuant to section 32-945;
- 30 (d) An identification document has been received from the voter not
- 31 later than the close of the polls on election day if required pursuant to

- 1 section 32-318.01; and
- 2 (e) A completed and signed registration application and oath has
- 3 been received from the voter by the close of the polls on election day if
- 4 required pursuant to section 32-946.
- 5 (4) On the basis of its review, the counting board shall determine
- 6 whether the ballot shall be counted or rejected as follows:
- 7 (a) A ballot received from a voter who was properly registered on or
- 8 prior to the deadline for registration pursuant to section 32-302 or
- 9 32-321 shall be accepted for counting without further review if:
- 10 (i) The name on the identification envelope appears to be that of a
- 11 registered voter to whom a ballot for early voting has been issued or
- 12 sent;
- 13 (ii) The residence address provided on the identification envelope
- 14 is the same residence address at which the voter is registered or is in
- 15 the same precinct and subdivision of a precinct, if any; and
- 16 (iii) The identification envelope has been signed by the voter;
- 17 (b) In the case of a ballot received from a voter who was not
- 18 properly registered prior to the deadline for registration pursuant to
- 19 section 32-302 or 32-321, the ballot shall be accepted for counting if:
- 20 (i) A valid registration application completed and signed by the
- 21 voter has been received by the election commissioner or county clerk
- 22 prior to the close of the polls on election day;
- 23 (ii) The name on the identification envelope appears to be that of
- 24 the person who requested the ballot;
- 25 (iii) The residence address provided on the identification envelope
- 26 and on the registration application is the same as the residence address
- 27 as provided on the voter's request for a ballot for early voting; and
- 28 (iv) The identification envelope has been signed by the voter;
- 29 (c) In the case of a ballot received from a voter without a
- 30 residence address who requested a ballot pursuant to section 32-946, the
- 31 ballot shall be accepted for counting if:

- 1  $\hspace{1cm}$  (i) The name on the identification envelope appears to be that of a
- 2 registered voter to whom a ballot has been sent;
- 3 (ii) A valid registration application completed and signed by the
- 4 voter, for whom the residence address is deemed to be the address of the
- 5 office of the election commissioner or county clerk pursuant to section
- 6 32-946, has been received by the election commissioner or county clerk
- 7 prior to the close of the polls on election day;
- 8 (iii) The oath required pursuant to section 32-946 has been
- 9 completed and signed by the voter and received by the election
- 10 commissioner or county clerk by the close of the polls on election day;
- 11 and
- 12 (iv) The identification envelope has been signed by the voter; and
- 13 (d) In the case of a ballot received from a registered voter
- 14 required to present identification before voting pursuant to section
- 15 32-318.01, the ballot shall be accepted for counting if:
- 16 (i) The name on the identification envelope appears to be that of a
- 17 registered voter to whom a ballot has been issued or sent;
- 18 (ii) The residence address provided on the identification envelope
- 19 is the same address at which the voter is registered or is in the same
- 20 precinct and subdivision of a precinct, if any;
- 21 (iii) A copy of an identification document authorized in section
- 22 32-318.01 has been received by the election commissioner or county clerk
- 23 prior to the close of the polls on election day; and
- (iv) The identification envelope has been signed by the voter.
- 25 (5) In opening the identification envelope or the return envelope to
- 26 determine if registration applications, oaths, or identification
- 27 documents have been enclosed by the voters from whom they are required,
- 28 the counting board shall make a good faith effort to ensure that the
- 29 ballot remains folded and that the secrecy of the vote is preserved.
- 30 (6) The counting board may, on the second Friday before the
- 31 election, open all identification envelopes which are approved, and if

- 1 the signature of the election commissioner or county clerk or his or her
- 2 employee is on the ballot, the ballot shall be unfolded, flattened for
- 3 purposes of using the optical scanner, and placed in a sealed container
- 4 for counting as directed by the election commissioner or county clerk. At
- 5 the discretion of the election commissioner or county clerk, the counting
- 6 board may begin counting early ballots no earlier than twenty-four hours
- 7 prior to the opening of the polls on the day of the election.
- 8 (7) If an identification envelope is rejected, the counting board
- 9 shall not open the identification envelope. The counting board shall
- 10 write Rejected on the identification envelope and the reason for the
- 11 rejection. If the ballot is rejected after opening the identification
- 12 envelope because of the absence of the official signature on the ballot,
- the ballot shall be reinserted in the identification envelope which shall
- 14 be resealed and marked Rejected, no official signature. The counting
- 15 board shall place the rejected identification envelopes and ballots in a
- 16 container labeled Rejected Ballots and seal it.
- 17 (8) As soon as all ballots have been placed in the sealed container
- 18 and rejected identification envelopes or ballots have been sealed in the
- 19 Rejected Ballots container, the counting board shall count the ballots
- 20 the same as all other ballots and an unofficial count shall be reported
- 21 to the election commissioner or county clerk. No results shall be
- 22 released prior to the closing of the polls on election day.
- 23 Sec. 54. Section 32-1028, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 24 amended to read:
- 25 32-1028 The election commissioner or county clerk shall appoint two
- 26 or more registered voters to constitute a county canvassing board. The
- 27 election commissioner or county clerk shall be a member of the county
- 28 canvassing board. One registered voter shall be appointed from the
- 29 political party casting the highest number of votes for Governor or for
- 30 President of the United States in the county in the immediately preceding
- 31 general election, and one registered voter shall be appointed from the

- 1 political party casting the next highest number of votes for such office.
- 2 The election commissioner or county clerk may appoint additional
- 3 registered voters to serve on the county canvassing board and may appoint
- 4 registered voters to serve in case of a vacancy among any of the members
- 5 of the county canvassing board. Such appointees shall be balanced between
- 6 the political parties and may include registered voters unaffiliated with
- 7 any political party.
- 8 Sec. 55. Section 32-1032, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 9 amended to read:
- 10 32-1032 Upon the completion of the canvass by the county canvassing board, all books shall again be sealed, and the election commissioner or 11 county clerk shall keep all election materials, including the ballots-12 cast containers from each precinct, the sealed envelopes containing the 13 precinct list of registered voters, the precinct sign-in register, the 14 official summary or summaries of votes cast, and the container for early 15 voting materials, for not less than twenty-two months when statewide 16 17 general, or special elections involve federal candidates, and issues and not less than fifty days for local elections 18 not held in conjunction with a statewide primary, general, or special 19 election. The election commissioner or county clerk shall keep on file 20 one copy of each ballot face used in each precinct of the official 21 candidate partisan, nonpartisan, constitutional amendment, and initiative 22 and referendum ballots, as used for voting, and all election notices used 23 24 at each primary and general election for twenty-two months. The precinct sign-in register, the record of early voters, and the official summary of 25 votes cast shall be subject to the inspection of any person who may wish 26 to examine the same after the primary, general, or special election. The 27 28 election commissioner or county clerk shall not allow any other election materials to be inspected, including ballots and provisional ballot 29 envelopes, except when an election is contested or the materials become 30 31 necessary to be used in evidence in the courts. The election commissioner

- 1 or county clerk shall direct the destruction of such materials after such
- 2 time, except that the election commissioner or county clerk may retain
- 3 materials for the purposes of establishing voter histories.
- 4 Sec. 56. Section 32-1033, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 5 2022, is amended to read:
- 6 32-1033 The election commissioner or county clerk shall, on or
- 7 before the sixth Monday after the election, prepare, sign, and deliver a
- 8 certificate of nomination or a certificate of election to each person
- 9 whom the county canvassing board has declared to have received the
- 10 highest vote for county, city, or village offices. No person shall be
- 11 issued a certificate of nomination as a candidate of a political party
- 12 unless such person has received a number of votes at least equal to five
- 13 percent of the total ballots cast at the primary election by registered
- 14 voters affiliated with that political party in the district which the
- 15 office for which he or she is a candidate serves. The certificate shall
- 16 be substantially as follows:
- 17 State of Nebraska. At an election held on the ...... day of ......
- 18 20.., ..... was elected to the office of ..... for the term
- 19 of ..... years from the ...... day of ..... 20.. (or when filling
- 20 a vacancy, for the residue of the term ending on the .... day of ......
- 21 20..). Given at ...... this .... day of ...... 20...
- 22 Sec. 57. Original sections 32-212, 32-314, 32-401, 32-502, 32-503,
- 23 32-506, 32-507, 32-509, 32-517, 32-518, 32-519, 32-520, 32-521, 32-522,
- 24 32-523, 32-524, 32-525, 32-526, 32-528, 32-529, 32-557, 32-564, 32-603,
- 25 32-605, 32-609, 32-616, 32-617, 32-619.01, 32-622, 32-624, 32-625,
- 26 32-710, 32-720, 32-801, 32-810, 32-811, 32-813, 32-814, 32-817, 32-912,
- 27 32-1028, and 32-1032, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections
- 28 32-223, 32-230, 32-312, 32-602, 32-607, 32-615, 32-618, 32-623, 32-716,
- 29 32-809, 32-961, 32-1002, 32-1027, and 32-1033, Revised Statutes
- 30 Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are repealed.
- 31 Sec. 58. The following sections are outright repealed: Sections

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- 32-611, 32-612, 32-621, 32-627, 32-702, 32-721, 32-815, and 32-1507, 1
- Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 32-610, Revised 2
- Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022. 3