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For immediate release:

Nebraska county pilots Vote at Home, sees 58% turnout vs. 24% statewide average in 2018 primary

In the first ever 100% Vote at Home (VAH) election in Nebraska, the model of putting ballots in the hands of every voter proved its value yet again. Garden County requested and received permission from Secretary of State John Gale to conduct the May 15, 2018 primary election entirely via mailed-out ballots to every registered voter.

The results mirrored what has been seen in so many other elections across the country. Garden County saw a 58.7% turnout compared to an average 24.3% for all counties in Nebraska – not only 34% points higher, but also more than double the rest of the state.

Vote at Home Coalition Chair Phil Keisling (former Oregon Secretary of State) summarized the outcome: “First, let’s give credit to Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale for allowing this pilot to take place. And of course, hats off to the Garden County elections staff who drove the request and implemented the process.”

He continued, “Once again, we are seeing the benefit of VAH-friendly policies in getting more voters to cast their ballots, especially in elections such as primaries that often see low turnout via the traditional polling place model. We hope this sets the stage for Nebraska to expand its use of VAH in future elections.”

Garden County not only reported turnout results among the top three of all the 93 counties in the state, their full results came in first, less than 45 minutes after the polls closed.

Nebraska now joins Alaska (City of Anchorage) as having run a successful pilot of VAH in 2018, with the rollout of the first five California counties set for next month's primary, and the step up to 27 of 29 Utah counties set for November. Rockville, Maryland in 2019 and Kauai County, Hawaii in 2020 are already on the calendar. With 31 of 53 counties in North Dakota, over 1000 precincts in Minnesota, and of course the 100% VAH states of Colorado, Oregon and Washington, the momentum of this better voting model continues to build across the country.

The National Vote at Home Coalition is a 501c (4) organization dedicated to providing better access to the ballot for Americans, leading to increased voter turnout and lower cost while protecting the integrity of the vote. Much more at www.voteathome.org