



**NASS**  
National Association  
of Secretaries of State

For Immediate Release  
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## **Administering Elections in a Nonpartisan Manner**

*Statement by the 39 Secretaries of State Who Serve as the Chief State Election Officials*

When we were sworn in as chief state election officials, we each took an oath in which we promised to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office. None of us takes that promise lightly. We work every day to ensure that elections in our home states are run fairly.

But we don't do it alone. State government, like federal government, is ruled by a checks and balances system that seeks to guarantee the fair and equal application of election laws and procedures:

- We are bound to uphold the election laws that are passed by our state legislatures and by Congress;
- We must abide by the related rulings of our state and federal courts;
- And we are required to work with thousands of local officials to administer elections.

Many of us further ensure an evenhanded process by allowing observers from the major political parties to watch the votes being cast and counted. And whatever our party affiliations, we work together as members of the nonpartisan National Association of Secretaries of State to share practices and continue to improve the process.

Because many of us are elected by the people, our constituents have the opportunity to vote us out of office if they are unhappy with the work we are doing. In fact, some secretaries have served for more than twenty years, while others have instilled such confidence in voters that they have been elected to higher offices.

As our states' chief election officials, we will continue to administer free and fair elections, in accordance with our states' laws and constitutions.

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