

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

## Office of the Attorney General

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DON STENBERG ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE GRASZ LAURIE SMITH CAMP DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

# 98024
NO.
STATE OF NEBRASKA
OFFICIAL
APR 10 1998

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DATE:

April 9, 1998

SUBJECT:

Application of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-612(1) (Supp. 1997) and Change of Political Party Affiliation Timeframes to the Situation Where a Registered Voter Moves Out of a County and Wishes to File for Office as a Candidate of a Different Political

Party in a New County

REQUESTED BY:

Scott Moore

Nebraska Secretary of State

WRITTEN BY:

Don Stenberg, Attorney General

Dale A. Comer, Assistant Attorney General

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-702 (Cum. Supp. 1996) allows a political party in Nebraska to adopt rules which require that an individual whose name is placed on that party's partisan primary election ballot must be affiliated with that party. When such a party rule exists, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-610 (Cum. Supp. 1996) provides further that no person shall be allowed to file a candidate filing form as a partisan candidate for public office or to have his or her name placed on the primary election ballot of that political party unless that person is a registered voter of the political party in question.

You have now requested an opinion from this office with respect to the application of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-612(1) (Supp. 1997) in the context of the statutes cited above. Section 32-612(1) provides:

David K. Arterburn L. Jay Bartel J. Kirk Brown David T. Bydalek Dale A. Comer Suzanna Glover-Ettrich Royce N. Harper Lauren I. Hill Jay C. Hinsley Amy Hollenbeck William L. Howland Marilyn B. Hutchinson Kimberly A. Klein Jennifer S. Lilledahl Joseph P. Loudon Charles E. Lowe Lisa D. Martin-Price Lynn A. Melson Donald J. B. Miller Ronald D. Moravec Fredrick F. Neid Marie C. Pawol Paul N. Potadle Mark D. Raffety Carla Heathershaw Risko Hobert B. Rupe James D. Smith James H. Spears Mark D. Starr Martin Swanson David R. Tarvin, Jr. Timothy J. Texel John R. Thompson Barry Waid Terri M. Weeks Melanie J. Whittamore-Mantzios Linda L. Willard Scott Moore April 9, 1998 Page -4-

the clear intent of § 32-612(1), we believe that such a change in party affiliation should trigger application of the timeframes stated in that statute.

Sincerely yours,

DON STENBERG

Attorney General

Dale A. Comer

Assistant Attorney General

05-73-14.op

Approved by:

Attorney General