

For Immediate Release
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COREY MOCK STATES HE WILL IMPROVE VOTER EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

(BISMARCK, N.D.) -- Today, North Dakotans were reminded once again why new leadership is needed in the office of Secretary of State, said State Representative Corey Mock.

Secretary Jaeger was quoted saying in a AP article that "he's disappointed by the lack of voter interest in Tuesday's election." Voter turnout was around 19% of eligible voters this year, showing very little change from the low turnout in 2008.

"If Secretary Jaeger is 'disappointed' in the amount of voter apathy that exists in our state, perhaps he needs to look at the Secretary of State's office itself, and place some of the blame on the lack of voter education."

Jaeger also said that these local elections deserve more attention, and Rep. Mock couldn't agree more. "When Secretary Jaeger says that these elections deserve more attention, it's yet another reminder of why I'm running for office." According to Rep. Mock, North Dakota has not had a voter education program through the Secretary of State's office in more than four years.

"Secretary Jaeger's voter education includes nothing more than 4-year old information buried amongst broken links on an outdated website. North Dakotans deserve a Secretary of State that engages citizens and provides the resources they need, when they need it, to cast an informed ballot in every election."

North Dakota has some of the lowest barriers to voting in the nation. It is the only state that does not require voter registration, there is no-excuse absentee voting, and early voting is prevalent throughout the state. These attributes should be front and center in the public dialog, according to Mock. "Hundreds of thousands of North Dakotans did not vote yesterday for the local officials that keep our communities growing. It is the responsibility of the Secretary of State to speak to the voters of North Dakota, and keep them updated on elections."

"The Secretary of State needs to be less 'disappointed' and more proactive with voter education as we move forward. This is one of the issues that my campaign will speak to over the next five months, and one that I will bring with me to the office."

Mock said that voter outreach and education would be one of his top priorities as Secretary of State. "I will travel across North Dakota and speak to classrooms, community organizations, and service groups about the importance of voting. The Secretary of State has an obligation to ensure the most accurate information is getting in the hands of our citizens in an efficient and user-friendly manner."

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