



2020 Primary Nebraska

www.Vote411.org

**League of Women Voters
of Nebraska**

Email: NebraskaVotersGuideLWV@gmail.com

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Nebraska Voters Urged to Vote by Mail

COVID-19 Alert: Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), **in-person** early voting for the May 12 election has been canceled per the Secretary of State.

All voters are encouraged to **request a vote-by-mail ballot**. In-person **early** voting has been canceled. In-person voting will take place **only** on May 12. We encourage you to request an absentee (mail-in) ballot.

[Early Voting \(Vote-by-Mail\) Application – English](#)

[Early Voting \(Vote-by-Mail\) Application – Spanish](#)

IMPORTANT! Contact your county clerk or election commissioner for information about in-person voting on May 12, as each county has different rules in place. [Election Officials/County Offices across Nebraska](#)

REQUEST your MAIL BALLOT EARLY to ensure it arrives before Election Day.

May 1, 2020: Last day to request a ballot to be mailed to you.

All vote-by-mail ballots must be received by 8 pm (CT) on Election Day.

Drop boxes will be available at local county offices starting April 24.

See the last page of this document for more information from the Secretary of State.

Primary 2020 Notes:

- 1: Candidate information has not been corrected or modified and is presented exactly as the candidate submitted their content.
- 2: Candidates who submitted their content by April 15 are included in this document.
- 3: Candidate information that was submitted after April 15 may be accessed via the Vote411.org portal.
- 4: Candidates may reach out to LWV of Nebraska for inclusion in Vote411's online portal anytime up to the May 12 primary via #5 below.
- 5: Additional candidates who are interested in participating in the Vote411.org portal may email Voter Services at LWVNE their name, county, and race to: NebraskaVotersGuideLWV@gmail.com
- 6: Candidates were notified of the character limits for biographical and open-ended answers. If the limit was exceeded, that answer will be truncated – possibly even mid-sentence.
- 7: Candidates who did not respond to LWVNE's Invitation to Participate are noted with 'No response received'.
- 8: Candidates in uncontested races were not contacted.
- 9: Candidate information for Douglas County (Omaha) is not included in this document. The Vote411 Voters' Guide for Douglas County can be accessed [HERE](#).

FEDERAL RACES (NEBRASKA)

U.S. SENATOR

Matt Innis (Rep): No response received

Chris Janicek (Dem): <http://chrisforsenate2020.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *-Mary Our Queen Catholic -Archbishop Ryan High School -University of NE - Omaha*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *-Youth Emergency Services -Nebraska Aids Project -Big Brothers/Sisters -Stephen Center -Open Door Mission*

Dennis Frank Macek (Dem):

Website: <http://www.macekforsenate.com/>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None (N/A)*

Past Public Office, dates held: *N/A* Education: *BA Marquette University; MA University of Arizona; Extension courses U of Cal; qualified for Ph. D in English Education University of Texas at Austin (degree not completed); finished HVAC program at Capitol City Trade and Technical School Austin, TX*

Military Experience: *N/A However, sporadic contract work for U. S. military 1973-1975, Pacific Theater (Zukeran, Okinawa, Japan)*

Volunteer Experience: *McGovern campaign, 1971; Dave Domina for Senate campaign, 2014*

Larry Marvin (Dem): No response received

Angie Phillips (Dem):

Website: <http://angiefornebraska.com>

Education: *Studied Behavioral Science at Bellevue University*

Volunteer Experience: *I've spent the last 4 years organizing for humanitarian aid and human rights advocacy. My focus has centered on women's rights, immigration reform, and social and economic justice. I also founded and chaired the DCDP Women's Caucus.*

Ben Sasse (Rep): No response received

Alisha Shelton (Dem):

Website: <http://sheltonforsenate.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Past Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Education: *Masters of Science in Clinical Counseling, Masters of Science in Human Services, Bachelor of Science in Psychology Pre-Medicine.*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *I volunteer with several organizations. Most recent Center for Holistic Development, providing free therapy to clients. I serve as the regional program, planning, & development co-coordinator for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, past president & more .*

Gene Siadek (L): No response received

Andy Stock (Dem):

Website: <http://andystockforsenate.com/>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *B.A. UNK; M.A. UNL; Ph.D. U of Colorado; and J.D. University of Texas School of Law*

Military Experience: *I served as a medic in the Nebraska Army National Guard.*

Daniel M Wik (Dem):

Website: <http://wiksenate.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *2016 Democratic Candidate US Congress Nebraska District 1*

Education: *1976 White Earth Indian Reservation Mahnomen, MN. 1980 BA Biology/Chemistry. Concordia College, Moorhead, MN 1985. Doctor of Chiropractic. Northwestern Health Sciences University. 2000 Doctor of Medicine. St. George's University School of Medicine.*

Volunteer Experience: *Medical Lobbying, American Medical Association, American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, Wisconsin Medical Society.*

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD CONGRESS DO TO PROTECT THE U.S. VOTING SYSTEM FROM FOREIGN INFLUENCE?

Chris Janicek: We must invest in our election infrastructure to protect the integrity of our elections. Congress' primary focus needs to be securing our elections from foreign influence. 17 U.S. intelligence agencies found Russia interfered and attempted to influence the 2016 elections with most agreeing that they did influence the outcome. Russia itself announced it plans to do it again in 2020. Robert Muller's report stated "they are doing it as we speak." The federal government must act with the urgency, force and funding that this threat to our democracy deserves. The threats of cyber attacks on paperless voting machines has to be addressed immediately. Congress must put a plan together to protect back-end election management systems with paper audit trails. A national law requiring all votes to be recorded on paper would be the easiest fix. States then will be required to conduct statistically sound, risk-limiting audits after every election so the results of our votes are accurate.

Dennis Frank Macek: Pass legislation that coordinates the U. S. Cyber Command with the private sector in evolving and deploying ENCRYPTING SOFTWARE and other products to protect our infrastructure--INCLUDING our election process--from cyber attack and mischief; also pass legislation that partners the Department of Energy and relevant federal agencies with the private sector in maintaining U. S. WORLD LEADERSHIP in developing--and deploying--ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. Concurrently, Congress must ensure that the work of our first lines of defense--the U. S. intelligence agencies and diplomatic community--cannot be subverted. That kind of work should be fully enabled. If it results in calls for implementing specific sanctions or other forms of retribution, Congress must act accordingly and promptly.

Larry Marvin: We should already have severe penalties in place. I will help get them updated.

Angie Phillips: We have evidence that Russia interfered in the 2016 elections. It is Congress's responsibility to defend the U.S. voting system from foreign influence. We can safeguard American elections by updating election infrastructure and mandating paper ballots and post-election audits. I support the Protecting American Votes and Elections (PAVE) Act of 2019 to help ensure the integrity of our elections is protected. This Act would replace insecure voting machines with reliable, secure hand-marked paper ballots and gives states the funding needed to defend their election systems. The PAVE Act will also ban internet, WiFi, and cellular connections for voting machines and creates minimum cybersecurity standards for voting machines, voter registration databases, and electronic poll books. To combat the spread of disinformation, I also support reinstating the cybersecurity coordinator at the National Security Council and additional sanctions for countries that engage in election interference.

Alisha Shelton: As a U.S. Senator I would introduce an election security bill than request all voting machines run independently of the internet. We need research completed on our entire voting infrastructure with recommendations on protecting voter information and the integrity of the voting system. The bill would also address foreign influence by

mandating all candidates enter this into their quarterly reports. Election Day should be a National holiday and voters should be automatically enrolled upon turning 18.

Andy Stock: Our democracy is at stake and we need to dedicate the money and resources necessary to insure our elections are free from foreign interference and influence. Obviously, bolstering our cyber security capabilities would be a key component of any congressional bill addressing this issue.

Daniel M Wik: Cyber Security Technology investment should parallel US Military Cyber Security Technology. The key to success is testing security in non-election years on local elections to perfect all flaws.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Chris Janicek: Science backed evidence establishes that climate change is real. Under this current administration we can forecast more attacks on the environment right now and in the future. I will work tirelessly in challenging the lawlessness of environmental protections being lifted and work towards reducing carbon emissions and clean water legislation. I will advocate relentlessly for solutions that will protect people, farms, animals and the planet, now and for the future. The United States must re-enter the Paris climate agreement and work with other countries on a global scale. We must invest in wind energy, solar, geo-thermal, nuclear, hydro and all other forms of green energy. We must stop new fossil fuel exploration and phase out leaking and polluting pipelines. Our environment is suffering, wildlife is struggling with a loss of habitat and starving. We cannot wait, we must take action now. We must elect better representatives. I want a democracy to live in and a planet to live on.

Dennis Frank Macek: Begin eliminating the root CAUSES of global-climate changes. For openers, fossil fuel must no longer be subsidized. As a U. S. Senator from Nebraska, I will sponsor and fight for legislation-- to immediately deploy in all U. S. electric power systems the best market-based technology utilizing 100% SOLAR ENERGY or 100% MIXED sources of renewable energy, to facilitate--immediately--free-market development of technologies to use renewable sources of energy FOR MOST FORMS of transportation, to partner with states and cities and private industry to modernize our electric-power grids FOR USING 100% RENEWABLE-SOURCED energy. Moreover, I will press for U. S. WORLD LEADERSHIP in stopping global-climate warming. Here our diplomatic community must weigh in with Congress, for instance to oblige Brazil to stop destroying our planet's "lungs"--the Amazonian Rain Forest. Always I will support scientific and technical innovations, such as carbon sequestration.

Larry Marvin: Climate change is scientific and I also want to know their reports on the climate that caused Nebraska to be covered by water possibly millions of years ago.

Angie Phillips: We must take swift action to reduce the effects of climate change. The United States should re-enter the Paris Climate Agreement as well as work to surpass those goals. We must end our reliance on fossil fuels and move toward 100% clean energy by decarbonizing electricity, vehicles, and buildings. Nebraska can lead the way in carbon sequestration with regenerative agriculture. Regenerative organic agriculture could remove more than 100% of the current CO2 emissions while building soil health, maintaining crop yield, increasing crop resilience, and improving profitability. Regenerative organic agriculture also increases water absorption and reduces runoff and the release of toxins into our water supplies. We must also work to end and correct environmental injustices placed on marginalized communities including Native people who have been disproportionately impacted by companies that place profits over the preservation of Native lands and sacred sites.

Alisha Shelton: In order to lessen the effects of climate change I support the Green New Deal, moving to 100% clean energy by 2030. We currently have Nebraskans farmers who are practicing regenerative farmer and not receiving incentives for this, while farmers and ranchers in California do. I support this being a federal program where all farmers and ranchers can benefit and take pride in saving our environment.

Andy Stock: I support the goals of the Green New Deal and many of the proposed programs but I would put more emphasis on a carbon tax and directly redistribute those receipts to every man, woman, and child in America on a monthly basis. A carbon tax works by putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions, giving companies an economic incentive to lower their emissions. Individual consumers are also incentivized to make greener choices because it would make goods produced by companies that emit less greenhouse gasses cheaper than goods from companies that emit more. A “revenue neutral” carbon

tax simply means that whatever revenues the government collects from its carbon tax should be redistributed to all citizens equally. Making a carbon tax revenue neutral is important because it would make the new tax an economic stimulant rather than depressant. Moreover, it would help compensate citizens for the damages they have suffered from greenhouse gas emitters.

Daniel M Wik: 1. 50% Ethanol & biodiesel will drastically reduce carbon emissions, save imminent farm bankruptcy, and Nebraska has the ethanol processing capacity to start in 120 days. 2. Nebraska is one of the highest wind capacity states in America, as technology investment develops wind energy will become self sufficient and profitable self sustaining. Wind energy has the capacity to lower property and income taxes in Nebraska. 3. Ethanol byproducts feeds livestock, is more nutritious, and cheaper than feeding livestock corn, producing more nutritious protein food sources. 4. 50% decreases Mideast Oil Imports, increasing American Energy Independence. 5. 50% Ethanol decreases Chinese Export Manipulation and American dependence on trade negotiations, and creates another export product for the United States which will decrease overseas carbon emissions, as this must be a world wide participation.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION POLICY?

Chris Janicek: Our current immigration policy is not working and is a violation of human rights and current immigration law. Immigrants crossing the border through legal ports of entry seeking asylum should be documented and within 48 hours have a legal decision on residency. It is costing the U.S. taxpayer hundreds of \$millions and destroying families and lives in detaining immigrants that could be integrated into our workforce and economy. They are coming here in search of a better life. Immigrants who cross the border illegally should be exposed to our legal system to determine eligibility for documentation and/or returned to their country. Those that break and violate our laws should be deported. The United States has close to 900,00 DACA (deferred action for early childhood arrivals) protected immigrants. This protection could be revoked at any time under the current administration. I advocate putting all DACA members on a path to citizenship. The U.S. is the only home they have known.

Dennis Frank Macek: It has to be realistic and pragmatic. We in the U. S. are extremely fortunate to have foreign-national STEM professionals here on work permits, green cards or student visas. We need to KEEP 'EM HERE--whatever that takes. Any such measures should transcend quota numbers. In any year, the USA does not have infinite capacity to accept immigrants. Moreover the number of new arrivals annually shouldn't exceed reasonable limits. Therefore we need immigration quotas that accord with changing realities. Quotas would be--and currently are--of two classes: educated and trained persons who can fill specific needs, and people who offer only basic skills and muscle. We need both. What the quotas should be only the experts can say. I can say with conviction that DACA recipients should have a clear, far less onerous path to U. S. citizenship. They have been--they are--US.

Larry Marvin: Immigration is a twisted and emotionally hot issue. My Savior Jesus Christ was a refugee from the criminal dictator king Herod. We need to update our laws. We have our regular laws on immigration and then we have NAFTA or the new USMCA laws that facilitate businesses and skilled laborers. Our old laws deal with Green Cards or temporary visas.

Angie Phillips: Our current immigration system is broken and inhumane. The system has been further strained by President Trump's harmful executive orders and policies. Millions of migrants, including children, are being detained in unsanitary and overcrowded detention centers. The Remain in Mexico order has endangered the lives of thousands. Seeking asylum is legal and migrants being detained on civil charges should be released immediately as well as all end forms of family separation. ICE has proven to be a corrupt agency and should be abolished. We should return the handling of immigration services back to Immigration and Naturalization Services and implement more efficient ways to address human and drug trafficking. DACA and TPS recipients should have an immediate path to citizenship and there should be an immediate end to the Trump administration's Muslim ban. We also must address climate change as part of the solution to immigration as it will continue to contribute to the displacement of migrant

Alisha Shelton: My thought on our immigration policy is that it needs to change as soon as possible. We need a clear step-by-step process for individuals when they seek asylum that does not separate them from family and force them to sleep at our border. The option to live with American families, while completing steps to apply for asylum should be reinstated. We need a complete immigration reform where adults & parents are granted citizenship after 3 years of DACA with automatic inclusion of their minor children.

Andy Stock: Our government could've fixed our broken immigration system long ago but instead it bowed down to corporate masters that demanded an endless supply of cheap, non-unionized labor. The decades old charade of pretending to fix immigration continues to this day. Sadly, under President Trump a disturbing new twist has been added; his administration inflicts needless cruelties on immigrant children and families to further sell the charade that they are fixing the system. They aren't. To fix our broken system we need to take two steps. One, stop the inflow of new undocumented immigrants. And two, give all 10 million of the undocumented immigrants who are already here—so long as they've never committed a crime of violence—free and full citizenship. This would not only profoundly improve their lives, it would improve the lives of all American workers by bringing our shadow economy into the light, making it easier for workers to organize and fight for better wages and conditions.

Daniel M Wik: 1. DACA, no criminal record, 2 years citizenship, not 7, with deportation protection. DACA kids for the most part are American kids and should not live in fear of deportation. 2. Non Citizen Adult Immigrant employed, no criminal record, 2 year citizenship, not 7 years. Labor Unions, not ICE administer to protect from deportation. Law abiding decent people who simply want to work and care for their families are the quality people we want in America. 3. Foreign Worker Employment Administration by Labor Unions monitoring matching American Employers with job openings and Foreign Workers with no criminal record, guaranteed 2 year sponsored job sensible controlling border crossing. If American Employer wishes to permanently hire Foreign Worker, no criminal record, 2 year citizenship. America needs honest working immigrants to contribute to our society. 4. The Border Wall does not solve Immigration, this is a workable common sense immigration solution.

WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR "SENSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION"?

Chris Janicek: The 2nd Amendment protects the right of gun ownership. I respect this amendment. Over 90% of Americans, including gun owners, support common sense gun laws. I am for enforcing the laws we currently have and recommend the following: 1) Root out the problems that make guns too easy to obtain, regulating easy, unrestricted access. 2) Background checks on all purchases. 3) Registration on all owned firearms. 4) Gun training and a certificate or license to own and operate. Compare to driver's education and license. 5) Insurance on guns in case of an accident. 6) National assault weapon registry and off premise "assault weapon library" storage with check out accessibility.

Dennis Frank Macek: The Second Amendment is the law of the land, but for the sake of public safety, universal background checks on prospective gun purchasers must be implemented. Too many crazies own firearms that kill or maim; the stats bear this out. Of course we need to close ALL gun-sales loopholes. Collaterally, a person who is not on military duty has no business owning--or using--military or military-style ordnance. ANY military ordnance. Weaponry designed to kill many people fast must be banned and deemed illegal. Public safety and common sense DEMAND that the Congress do this.

Larry Marvin: I stress self defense. The day Congresswoman Gabby Gifford was wounded and others were killed, and elderly woman grabbed the killers gun and hands and two other men helped her take the gun away from the killer who ran away. So, who do you think would next to be shot if the killer had succeeded to reload his gun? Maybe that lady and maybe those two men. So, this is self help or self defense. We have other cases of bystanders stopping mass shootings. We really need mental health coverage on our Patient Protection Affordable Care Act.

Angie Phillips: All Americans are impacted by gun violence and with the majority of Americans are in support of responsible gun legislation. The only thing standing in our way of ending gun violence are lobbyists and organizations like the NRA spending billions of dollars lobbying Congress and spreading disinformation. I will work towards ending gun violence in the following ways through universal background checks, creating a federal licensing system, increasing waiting periods, capping firearm purchases, strengthening anti-trafficking laws, banning high capacity ammunition magazines, prohibit accessories that turn semi-automatic weapons to fully automatic weapons, closing the "boyfriend" loophole, developing federal safety standards, holding manufacturers and dealers accountable, fully funding evidence-based intervention programs and gun violence research, establishing federal safe storage laws, and passing extreme risk protection or "red flag" legislation.

Alisha Shelton: My recommendations for sensible gun legislation would include expanding background checks, encouraging manufacturers to implement smart guns, and introduce parental controls.

Andy Stock: I support background checks, waiting periods, closing the gun show loophole, an assault weapons ban, magazine clip limitations, and reinstating the Violence Against Women Act. But we also need to attack income inequality. Countries with less income inequality have considerably lower levels of gun violence. And we need to finally end our failed War On Drugs. The War On Drugs has done nothing to lower drug usage rates and it has had a number of unintended consequences. One of those unintended consequences has been the proliferation of drug cartels and gangs, two large sources of gun violence in America.

Daniel M Wik: 1. I own guns. I support Constitutional Amendment II; right of the people to keep and bear arms. 2. Security background and fingerprint checks should be the same in gun shops, gun shows, gun swap meets, or any place where gun commerce is engaged. Honest gun owners do not mind waiting 2-4 weeks for a gun license. 3. Fingerprint Technology, print recognition on each gun much like cell phones, prevents anyone other than the owner from using the gun. This prevents many potential accidental shootings and stolen guns being unable to use. 4. Requiring gun purchases to participate in a one day class parallel to concealed carry classes allows an additional layer of observation of potential malignant gun users. 5. Affordable psychological care is key in preventing mass killings, thus Healthcare reform is key to treating mass killings. 6. Gun laws must be common sense workable solutions, as many highly restrictive gun laws do not work.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 1

Kate Bolz (Dem):

Website: <http://katebolz.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Nebraska State Senator, 2013-present*

Education: *University of Michigan, MSW Nebraska Wesleyan University, BS/BA*

Volunteer Experience: *Meals on Wheels Volunteer Board Member, Lincoln Public Schools Foundation Governor's Board of Advisors, Nebraska Wesleyan University Board Member, Nebraska Association of Social Workers*

Jeff Fortenberry (Rep): - No response received

Dennis B Grace (L):

Website: <http://electdennisgrace.com>

Education: *Omaha South High School-1988; Metro Community College-1996, associates in Criminal Justice; Bellevue University- 2003, Bachelor's Degree, Criminal Justice Administration; Bellevue University, 2004-2005, no degree, Master's levels course work in Sec*

Military Experience: *US Navy, USS Forrestal, Aviation Boatswains Mate (Aircraft Handler), Honorable Discharge 1990*

Babs Ramsey (Dem):

Website: <http://www.babsforcongress.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *A.S. Information Technology B.A. History*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Cofounded transgender support group in Bellevue. Member of 4-H all through school. Flag football coach. Host mom for foreign exchange student.*

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD CONGRESS DO TO PROTECT THE U.S. VOTING SYSTEM FROM FOREIGN INFLUENCE?

Kate Bolz: I support provisions in H.R. 1 to protect our American democracy, including clarifications on the the prohibition of participation of foreign nationals in election-related activities, auditing and reporting of illicit foreign money in Federal elections, and prohibitions on contributions and donations by foreign nationals in connection with ballot initiatives and referenda.

Dennis B Grace: Congress has tried to pass bills to combat that issue, but cant move past their budgetary chess board. Their idea is simply to throw money at cyber security, to the tune of tens of billions of dollars each year, just to watch as an average of 78 reported cyber attacks on government systems happen each year. And at the end of it all, they place the responsibility at the feet of the states. Which is where it belongs, of course. Congress can provide funding and IT assistance to the states. In at least one Congressional advisory statement, it is suggested that the Department of Homeland Security and the intelligence apparatus be the arbiter of security, as well as accuracy, in elections. It is suggested we allow the Department of Homeland Security even more access to personal information and complete control of YOUR voter registration. I'm sure most people would see the risk potential there. Leave the process to the states, where they can quickly and locally address problems.

Babs Ramsey: We need to look at standardizing our election process across our nation. Each state has different ways that they accept voting. We need to moved to vote by mail nationwide, in addition to moving to paper ballots. I work in the technology industry. Any computer system can be hacked and manipulated. If we have a paper ballot system we are able to keep the polling safe from foreign entities.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Kate Bolz: I would prioritize a transition to a clean energy economy to lesson our dependence on fossil fuels, including incentives for innovation and re-training programs for workers. In the Nebraska Legislature, I have supported the University of Nebraska Water for Food Institute, which uses training and technology to increase water sustainability, and as a Member of Congress would develop additional similar institutes nationwide.

Dennis B Grace: The problem with addressing real issues like climate change, is that we are quick to immediately label it a crisis and activate emotional response systems. Rather than stating that some of human industrialization may be causing unforeseen damage to our ecosystems, we show videos of polar bears. In order to have an immediate impact on climate change, we must be truthful with the facts and understand that much of what we see is cyclical. We know that nuclear energy is not only the cleanest form of energy, but also among the safest and most regulated industries. Nuclear power is the best way forward, and an important aspect to combat climate change. Funding conservation efforts, promoting sustainable urban farming, fishing and outdoor education, and getting people out of the house will provide a lifetime of benefits. Imagine the difference we can make by simply spending more time without devices, talking to our neighbors, and teaching our children about the world around them.

Babs Ramsey: I support the United States returning to the Paris Agreement and being a leader in the fight against climate change. I believe that we need to modernize our electrical grid and transition coal plants to solar and wind farms. In doing so we will retrain existing workers and create more jobs in our state. We can also combat climate change through agriculture. Through regenerative agricultural we can reduce the carbon in our atmosphere while also increasing our soil productivity. This would also improve resilience to flooding and droughts. Increased yields would also be seen, allowing us to further support our growing population. By working with our farmers and ranchers, we can become a force against climate change. Our agriculture industry should be a leader in developing climate change policies, and they have earned a seat at the table.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION POLICY?

Kate Bolz: I believe in comprehensive immigration reform and a humane response to families at the border. In my service in the Nebraska Legislature, I have voted for driver's licenses and professional licensure for Dreamers.

Dennis B Grace: Immigration policy is such a politicized issue that it literally tears apart families. Ironic, when we think about it. The immigration issue is a political hand grenade. Just mentioning it can spell the end of a new politician's dreams of public service. But I've made it a central issue in my campaign. Our current issues regarding immigration policy are repairable by addressing three primary facets: border security, current illegal immigrants, and relations with our neighbor states. No conversation can be complete without addressing our porous border. But we can do it without hostilities. We can address the role all immigrants have played in our country and the benefits of their presence. We can do this while maintaining our principles and their dignity. We can help our neighbors rectify their emigration issues while maintaining their sovereignty.

Babs Ramsey: One of the most important reasons that I am in this fight is to reform our failed immigration system. Congressman Fortenberry has been an enabler of the policy that permits the separation of families, denial of proper care for immigrants detained at the border, and is a supporter of diverting important tax dollars to build a wall at the southern border. These policies have proven ineffective, counter-productive, and are symptoms of partisan maneuvering rather than meaningful change. I will fight to end the separation of families at our border. I support all the dreamers in our country and will work to support and expand DACA and DAPA. We must support asylum seekers. Largely, immigrants are fleeing to our country to escape violence, oppression, and persecution. It's important that we remind the world that the United States is a safe-haven. If you play by the rules and contribute economically, then you are welcome here.

WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR "SENSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION"?

Kate Bolz: First and foremost, I believe in violence prevention strategies, including job training programs, after school programs, and family counseling services. Like the majority of Americans, I also support universal background checks.

Dennis B Grace: Sensible gun legislation has already been passed and is used, in the form of background checks and restrictions on fully automatic weapons. I would revisit discussions on suppressors, which are not as they are depicted in the movies.

Babs Ramsey: I come from a family that has been affected by gun violence. This issue is personal to me. Every day one hundred people are killed with guns in America. Our country has the second highest gun deaths per year. No more thoughts and prayers as the only response to mass shootings. It is time that we stand up to corrupt politicians and the NRA. It is time to act. When I am in Washington, I will fight to reinstate the assault weapons ban and make it permanent. No citizen should own weapons of war. The time is long overdue for the United States to require a license to own a gun. This, along with strong background checks and red flag laws, will help to combat gun violence in this country.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

NEBRASKA U.S. HOUSE OF REP - DISTRICT 2

Paul Anderson (Rep):

Website: <http://Paulanderson4congress.com>

Education: *High School Diploma (1971) Kensington, Ks. Associate Degree (Construction) 2018 Metro Community College*

Military Experience: *Retired from U.S. Navy Reserve 2008 (21 yrs. Mobilized in 2004 Operation Iraqi Freedom 2005*

Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort

Volunteer Experience: *Habitat for Humanity (5 yrs.) DAV Volunteer Driver (5 yrs.)*

Ann Ashford (Dem):

Website: <http://annashford2020.com>

Education: *BA, Government/International Studies, University of Notre Dame JD, Creighton University School of Law*

Volunteer Experience: *Various non-profit Boards including Inclusive Communities, ICAN, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Planned Parenthood*

Don Bacon (Rep):

Website: <http://donjbacon.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Representative, Nebraska's Second District 2017 - current*

Education: *Masters, National War College; MBA, University of Phoenix; BA, Northern Illinois University*

Military Experience: *29.5 years in United States Air Force; Retired as Brigadier General; Five time commander, including Ramstein and Offutt; Four deployments; Former Director of ISR Strategy, Plans, Doctrine and Force Development, AF/A2, Headquarters of USAF, Pentagon*

Volunteer Experience: *My volunteerism has included the following: - USAF Academy Advisory Board - VP, Air Force Association, Aksarben Chapter - Chaplain, Nebraska Military Officers Association of America - Boy Scout Merit Badge University Instructor - Life member VFW*

Kara Eastman (Dem):

Website: <http://www.eastmanforcongress.com>

Past Public Office, dates held: *Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors 2015-2019*

Education: *MSW Loyola U; BA Pitzer College*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Board Member, Nonprofit Association of the Midlands*

Gladys Harrison (Dem):

Website: <http://gladys4congress.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Graduated Marian High School 1985 Attended College of St. Mary's Omaha, Nebraska Attended Bellevue University Bellevue, Nebraska*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Youth Group Leader and Women's Group Leader Northside Mennonite Church Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival Open Door Mission Habitat for Humanity Brew Ha Ha Career Day Mt. View Elementary School Art and Soup VNA Food Bank Celebrity Chef*

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD CONGRESS DO TO PROTECT THE U.S. VOTING SYSTEM FROM FOREIGN INFLUENCE?

Paul Anderson: As your congressman, I will sponsor legislation, to require, that the federal election, will be done by, voting by mail. If and when this would become law, I would encourage the state of Nebraska to join the states of Colorado, Washington, and Oregon who vote entirely by mail. In my view, this would increase our voting systems integrity and security from foreign influence. Here are some other positives, it would increase voter turnout, save the taxpayers money, allow more time for the voter to educate themselves about the candidates and ballot issues, and possibly eliminate the need for a voter ID law.

Ann Ashford: Voting is our most important right and must be secured from the influence of all bad agents. The House passed the Safe Act and the Shield Act in 2019 and both must be passed by the Senate. The Safe Act provides for voting security, banning voting machines connected to the Internet, mandated cyber security measures, requiring voting machines to be manufactured in the US, and paper ballots as backup. The Shield Act requires any candidate for federal office report any offer of foreign assistance, forbids campaigns from sharing information with foreign agents, and applies the rules to online ads as well as tv/radio. Finally, Citizens United must be addressed to remove the influence of dark money. Transparency must be legislated and enforced to prevent undue influence by foreign or domestic actors.

Don Bacon: As a retired USAF intelligence general officer who oversaw cyber intelligence training for the Air Force, this is an area of concern that I take seriously and have taken actions in our defense. There are three areas of concern with election security and foreign influence: election ballot hacking, social media influence operations, and hacking into candidate emails with intent to undermine those candidates. Congress has a role to defend our voting process from foreign

influence, but that does not include taking control of elections away from the states, staying in compliance with our Constitution. I've cosponsored bills to strengthen cyber-security, which gave over \$800 million to states to shore up their election systems. I cosponsored the Honest Ads Act which increases transparency into social media ads and reduces foreign intelligence capabilities in this area. My three decades of experience in cybersecurity and intelligence makes me a key voice in Congress on national security.

Kara Eastman: We need to aggressively tighten cyber-security and prosecute officials who illegally take foreign contributions in violation of federal law.

Gladys Harrison: Congress should do what every is necessary to ensure that our elections are protected from foreign influence. The right to vote is a privilege for everyone born in America, and those who come here and become citizens. There are parts of our Constitution which were added to ensure that we all have the right to vote, and we must be committed to defending that basic right. The House has already voted and passed The For the People Act of 2019, which protects the rights of voters, makes it easier to vote, decreases gerrymandering and limits efforts to purge the voter rolls. What we need now is for the Senate to vote and pass this act to protect our right to vote.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Paul Anderson: The low sulfur coal that comes out of Wyoming, is the sole reason I got to enjoy a 35 yr. career with the railroad. The carbon foot print from burning coal and petroleum products, has probably had the largest negative effect on our climate. In my view, the 24/7 availability of nuclear power to generate our electricity, would be the best way to lessen the effects of climate change. Solar and wind generation, are not available 24/7. Congress, also needs to support and encourage, high speed light rail, and electric car production.

Ann Ashford: The House has passed the Climate Action Now Act, HR 9 and it must be passed by the Senate. The Act keeps the United States in the Paris Agreement and requires the President to develop and update annually a plan for the US to meet its obligations within the agreement. Under this Act, the President must include steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025, provide clean energy job development in rural areas, slash emissions, and cut off new fossil fuel development on public lands. I will support legislation that will move to de-carbonize the US energy system by 2050 and limit global warming to 1.5°C or below. Additionally, I will support actions such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, sponsored by the Citizens Climate Lobby, that bring all government, industry, and individual citizens together with a common goal.

Don Bacon: I believe climate change is real and happening. I am a strong supporter of renewable energy and I led the efforts in the U.S. House to reinstate tax credits for its producers. In fact, I was called the "Champion of Wind Energy" by leaders of renewable energy in Omaha. I believe in incentivizing behavior we want, not using punishments. I believe in the "all of the above" approach so that our nation expands in renewable energy, but also so that we become energy independent. With these incentives, our free market system and innovation have enabled America to reduce carbon emissions more than the next 12 countries combined, while becoming the largest energy producer in the world. American natural gas has been part of this success and it burns 40% cleaner than Europe's. I also support battery storage and carbon capture research to expand our renewable energy capabilities. I oppose carbon taxes that will raise gas prices, utilities costs and air fares, and that falls unfairly on the poor.

Kara Eastman: I support the Green New Deal. We need to move to carbon-neutral energy. Basically let's get everything on the grid and make the grid green.

Gladys Harrison: To lessen the effects of climate change we must continue to lead, and educate the world on climate change. We must develop a realistic plan that allows us to care for and clean up the environment without causing a loss of jobs or business. We need a plan that creates a win-win situation for all of us, as well as the environment, and that's going to require a true partnership between government, technology, business, science and unions.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION POLICY?

Paul Anderson: I believe that the number of non-citizens should be limited. I would support legislation to do away with the birthright of children, born of illegal immigrants. I also do not favor, building a wall on our north or south border. I would favor legislation that would require all employers, who have non-citizen workers, to provide time off (with pay), to learn

how to read, write, and speak the English language. I would also favor legislation, to shorten the amount of time and amount of money, that it takes to become an American citizen.

Ann Ashford: The US immigration policy must recognize our history and role in the world as being the beacon of hope and aspiration. We must never again tolerate children in cages or turning away asylum seekers. Steps to take include: 1) We must provide a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and their families; 2) Never separate families at the border; 3) Never use for-profit prisons to house individuals coming in at the border; 4) Allow individuals to be in the US while waiting for status determinations, and not require them to return to their country of origin; 5) Once the COVID-19 pandemic is controlled, accept a larger share of refugees and asylum seekers; 6) Assuming hiring levels return to pre COVID-19 levels, increase the number of work permits and visas available; 7) Suspend the operation of detention camps during the COVID-19 pandemic releasing those who have not been otherwise charged with a felony to alleviate the virus propellant effect of detention activities.

Don Bacon: When I first ran for Congress I supported a pathway for DACA recipients when many in my party did not. I was one of seven GOP representatives who asked the President to reconsider his policy on DACA, and he subsequently modified his views. I support allowing those with TPS protections to stay in the country legally while they pursue citizenship, because they have contributed to society and proven to be good neighbors. I was also one of the GOP representatives to ask the President to stop the policy of family separations (which was started in previous Administration) and he subsequently shifted to a more humane policy, while still protecting children who are being trafficked or in custody of adults wanted for previous crimes. I support E-Verify and better border controls, including a targeted border wall, to reduce illegal immigration and human/drug trafficking. Evidence exists that walls work. In the end, we must support legal immigration and respect those who naturalize the legal way.

Kara Eastman: We need a clean DACA bill passed right away. We need to protect TPS individuals. We need to move away from "enforcement only" policies. We need to fully fund the state department and increase foreign aid to countries that are economically struggling.

Gladys Harrison: Unless your ancestors were among the indigenous peoples of this country, we are all immigrants—some by choice, and some by force. My vision is that we would continue to be a country that provides opportunities for people to legally come to this country, adhere to our existing laws and ultimately to become American citizens. I have a member of my family that is a ‘Dreamer.’ Their parents were seeking a better way of life, and they came here as children. This family grew up in America, was educated here, made friends in America, learned to read, write and speak English in America; made memories in America and graduated high school in America. As an adult, they became a tax paying member of our society. This is the only home they know. We need to create a path for citizenship for ‘Dreamers,’ enforce the laws that we currently have around immigration which legally allow people to come here from foreign countries and ensure that our borders are protected in a safe and sensible manner.

WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR "SENSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION"?

Paul Anderson: I'm a strong supporter of the 2nd amendment. I would support legislation, that would require, that when a gun is purchased at a gun shop, gun show, from a neighbor, friend, or family it must be registered. Of course, the big loophole with this would be, persons who intend on committing a crime with a gun, won't be registering their gun. A number of years ago, I saw this on a bumper sticker, " Gun Control is Not About Guns", I agree with the message.

Ann Ashford: It is possible to provide for sensible gun regulation while protecting 2nd amendment rights. Every life lost to gun violence is one life too many. I would recommend at least the following legislation: 1) universal and expanded background checks; 2) close the boyfriend loophole; 3) adopt national red flag laws; 4) regulate magazine purchases; 5) restrict individuals convicted of hate crimes from purchasing firearms; 6) adopt national red flag laws to permit local law enforcement to obtain a court order to remove firearms from individuals believed to be a danger to themselves/others; 7) fund research into gun violence causes and effects; and 8) enact “no fly, no buy”. Almost 20 years ago, a friend committed suicide using a gun and none of this legislation could have prevented that. But we owe it to our fellow human beings to prevent every loss of innocent life possible.

Don Bacon: The best thing we can do to reduce senseless gun violence is to enforce laws already on the books. Criminals don't follow laws, so creating new ones won't have an impact. Instead, we should focus on enforcement of existing laws.

I've worked closely with the law enforcement community on legislation they say will be of the greatest benefit in reducing gun violence, like straw purchases (when someone buys a gun for an individual who is not allowed to have one) and stronger information fusion centers, which allow law enforcement agencies to better communicate with each other regarding threats. Our own Omaha Chief of Police says the most important action we can take to reduce gun violence in Omaha is enforce the Straw Purchase Laws, which are not being enforced now and leads to dangerous felons getting firearms illegally. I supported the Stop School Violence Act that passed, and led efforts to fund these needed programs.

Kara Eastman: I support red flag laws and universal background checks on the federal level.

Gladys Harrison: Having been the victim of gun violence, the changes I would recommend for sensible gun legislation are comprehensive background checks, raising the minimum age to purchase a gun, extend requirements for multiple purchases and mandatory training on gun safety.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NEBRASKA U.S. HOUSE OF REP - DISTRICT 3

Larry Lee Scott Bolinger (Rep):

Website: <http://www.LarryBolinger.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *na*

Past Public Office, dates held: *I served on the Alliance City Planning Commission from about 2004 to 2010*

Education: *Structural tech in the US Airforce information tech at WNCC Political Science and Criminology at UNO*

Military Experience: *US AirForce as a structural Tech Army National guard (13 Bravo)*

Volunteer Experience: *I am currently volunteering to help with the Activate Alliance to help get people to exercise more. I am currently helping with a bike borrowing program.*

William Elfgren (Rep): No response received

Mark Elworth Jr (Dem):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Acting State Chairperson Legal Marijuana Now Party of Nebraska and Iowa from 2015 to present*

Education: *College Dipolma in Real Estate from Van Ed Educational Center, Boulder, Colorado*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Owner and operator of the Peace Garden of South Omaha, a free food good in Omaha Nebraska*

Dustin C Hobbs (L): No response received

Arron Kowalski (Rep): No response received

Justin Moran (Rep): No response received

Adrian Smith (Rep): No response received

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD CONGRESS DO TO PROTECT THE U.S. VOTING SYSTEM FROM FOREIGN INFLUENCE?

Larry Lee Scott Bolinger: To protect our voting system from foreign involvement will always be a consistent effort to build a better program. Eventually there will most likely be voting online and I'm sure it will have its faults to. Hand counting can lead to a miss count. Computerize can end up with hacking issues. So there needs to be firewalls and experts

maintaining the program and revote if there is a glitch. We want to make voting a easy thing to do so that we can get the most participation.

Mark Elworth Jr: Right now voting is ran by the states. So the federal government needs to make sure each state has what it needs to secure voting. It's a states right issue that a state runs it's own elections. I do support states rights to keep running our elections.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Larry Lee Scott Bolinger: There are many ways to help with climate changes. To get out of using fossil fuels, that is a two part program to replace a energy source and advancing technology. We want to be able to do both within our state rather than outsourcing jobs. Replacing a energy source, we will lose many jobs in the coal industry, fracking and RailRoad. So we have to push technology to make up for lost jobs while advancing for change. We also need to work on newer technology to cleaning up our water supply and push to try and end the fracking the keystone pipeline.

Mark Elworth Jr: I support the green new deal. I support building a new economy based on sustainability. I support green energy and recycling programs. I want to get our electric vehicle grid built, so that it's convenient to start driving electric cars nationwide. We should start growing earth friendly crops like hemp and cannabis and produce products and jobs from them. .

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION POLICY?

Larry Lee Scott Bolinger: The immigration policies have been an issue for over a hundred years and it is something we still need to improve on. I do believe that the DACA needs a policy for citizenship and I also believe if someone serves in our military they should have citizenship. We do need to work on the waiting periods. A 90 day waiting period in a immigration holding facility, then after approve there could be another 2 to 3 year waiting period for a court date. Those waiting periods are unacceptable. But, while someone allowed into the US, they should be automatically given a visa so they have a form of ID and so they can work. If elected, I would want to personally take a look at the immigration camps and review their policies.

Mark Elworth Jr: I'm for more legal immigration. Lots of our farming and labor are done with the help of immigration. I want a road for good people who are here illegal now to become legal in the future.

WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR "SENSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION"?

Larry Lee Scott Bolinger: I am a firm believer in the second amendment and what it stands for. The number one thing I try support is a good gun safety course. I have taken a stance for the sanctuary counties against the anti-gun lobbyists. I had spoke at one of the County Commissioners meetings to show my support. In the push for teachers to carry that is a back and forth topic. I believe if allowed, they should go through a gun safety course, a conceal carry course, and a self-defense and de-escalation course.

Mark Elworth Jr: I'm for the second amendment. I think marijuana should be legalized and that it should no longer be considered a federal crime to possess both guns and marijuana at the same time. You shouldn't lose gun rights because you use marijuana.

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NEBRASKA STATE RACES

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 1

Janet Palmtag (NP):

Website: <http://PalmtagForNebraska.com>

Past Public Office, dates held: *Univ of Nebraska Presidents Advisory 2009-2019, NE Dept of Economic Development Commissioner 2002-2010, NE Equal Opportunity Commissioner 2012-2018, Nebr City Airport Auth 2002-2008*

Education: *University of Nebraska B.S. University of Phoenix M.B.A. Peru State College Lourdes Central Catholic Highschool*

Volunteer Experience: *St. Marys hospital foundation, Veterans memorial bldg renovation, India-women entr. training, Kenya-dental/medical clinic, NYC hurricane recovery, CASA, student tutor, Habitat for Humanity, Nat'l organization flood response, Brownville Concert Series*

Dennis Schardt (NP):

Website: <http://www.schardtforlegislature.com/>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Pawnee County Comissioner Past 7 years*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Village of Table Rock board member*

Education: *K-12 Elk Creek High School*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Fire chief 26 years 4h president 15years volunteer ambulance driver TR community foundation board*

Julie Slama (NP): No response received

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Janet Palmtag: No. Redistricting is handled by the state legislature, whom we elected. They should ensure that it is done fairly and for valid purposes, without partisan political intentions. We must demand this of our representatives in the Nebraska Unicameral.

Dennis Schardt: I believe it should be changed to area instead of population

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Janet Palmtag: Yes. I support Secretary of State Evnen's effort to ensure a voter is who they claim to be, without creating an unfair burden on voters. Fair elections are paramount to democracy.

Dennis Schardt: To some degree yes at least ask for a form of Id when you vote ie drivers license

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Janet Palmtag: The prison systems are in a critical state and the problems must be adressed urgently. There are under-utilized solutions that show significant promise, like increasing funding for mental health and drug treatment programs, and using problem-solving courts like "Drug Court" and "Veterans Court" to address populations that have special needs within the justice system, and building additional prison space. Allocating funds for services to reduce prisoner bottlenecks -- like drug testing when coming into the system and required drug treatment programming for getting out -- will reduce the prison population and "warehousing" citizens. I'll work tirelessly to help resolve this urgent crisis.

Dennis Schardt: Looks to me that we're going to have to build another prison

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Janet Palmtag: Paid family leave is important for strengthening our families and the development of children- also for keeping quality employees at our Nebraska companies. Small business owners are hit hardest, however, when trying to finance and manage their businesses of just a few employees in leave situations. Voluntary paid programs are used to attract and maintain quality workforce but with smaller companies, the employer cannot afford the duplication of payroll costs, nor can the employee afford to take needed time off- it's a problem. I support a voluntary plan because a mandatory plan without help to protect small businesses could close small businesses and cost the very jobs we are trying to improve for women. I'm a mother of three and a small business owner. I know first-hand the struggles faced here. Our company has been a supporter of family-first management policies for my entire career, but it's not enough. We need to find a solution.

Dennis Schardt: Not sure yet

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Janet Palmtag: The Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission does a good job of monitoring campaign contributions and expenditures with full transparency so we can see how candidates are being funded and by whom. Nebraska is one of the most transparent governments in the nation.

Dennis Schardt: As I'm campaigning I think the lobbyists and PACs should be limited on what they can give a person for their campaign

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Janet Palmtag: We must help our businesses and workforce survive during this pandemic and after by simplifying processes for unemployment, loans for business and mortgage loan suspensions, and extending filing deadlines as needed. Nebraska and our Federal Government have been very responsive thus far but when this is over, already fragile situations will be dire. Rural broadband Internet has become as important as utilities. School online, telemedicine and work from home during this pandemic has taught us that access to high-speed Internet is critical to every Nebraskan. We need accurate coverage maps to be awarded grants and we must work with Internet service providers quickly to build high-speed Internet infrastructure in rural Nebraska. Going forward, Nebraska needs its own reserve supply of medical respirators, facemasks, and virus-testing equipment plus other supplies to help address non-viral health crises.

Dennis Schardt: We're going to have to tighten the belts on our spending a lot. Possible loosen some of our regulations to enable business to get going again

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NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 3

Carol Blood (NP):

Website: <http://www.carolblood.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *2016 to 2020 Nebraska Legislature-District 3 Senator*

Past Public Office, dates held: *2008 to 2016 Bellevue City Council At-Large Council Representative*

Education: *Metropolitan Community College*

Volunteer Experience: *Bellevue Public Safety Foundation, Nebraska Farmers Market, Sarpy County Nursing Homes, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Sarpy County Museum, Nebraska Veteran's Day Parade, Riverfest, Worldfest, Bellevue Police Citizens Advisory Council*

Rick Holdcroft (NP): No response received

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Carol Blood: Yes it does. It is paramount that we have a process that is fair, non-partisan and information based. The location of district lines decide which voters will vote for which representative. Changing these lines changes the relevant voters, and it can also change the identity, allegiance, and political priorities of a district's representative, and of the body of the legislature as a whole. We must have a process that does not dilute minority votes, divide communities, or increase partisanship here in Nebraska.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Carol Blood: I believe that it is our job to make it easier for people to vote and not harder. There is zero evidence of voter fraud in Nebraska. We have many more important problems to address such as property taxes, school funding and public health. We should not be trying to find a solution to a problem that does not exist where there are many more important issues to be handled.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Carol Blood: There's no one fix for the overcrowding issue. The most obvious and easily addressed issue that must be kept in the forefront is making sure those who are eligible for parole have easy access to the rehabilitation programs that are required in order for them to be released by the State Board of Parole. However, there is a component that must be fixed and that is making sure the parole board offers release reconsideration should someone be denied and also makes it a priority to get those ready for parole in front of them to move them through the system. I think we are moving in the right direction by looking at our laws and deciding if the punishments truly fit the crimes when they are victimless crimes. We strive to keep people out at the judicial level and work with special demographics such as we do in Veteran's Court. It's not one answer, it's many answers. Additionally, if we lift up those who live in cycles of poverty and provide good resources, we sent a foundation for the future

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Carol Blood: The reasons for paid family medical leave are endless. If you look at the current research on this benefit, it clearly shows that businesses who offer paid family and medical leave have increased employee loyalty and reduced turnover, resulting in a cost-saving for businesses. It allows employees the flexibility to devote more time to family demands, which boosts efficiency, productivity and engagement while on the job. In a state where we have more jobs than we do people, it would serve us well to be more enticing to young families who may be considering which states offer them a competitive advantage where they may want to live and raise their families.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Carol Blood: Yes. I believe it will reduce the political shenanigans and partisanship that we see in today's political arena. It's nauseating to see how many people are elected based on how much they spent. I believe in Nebraska that all races should be kept at \$5,000. Then it won't be a competition as to how much money can be raised/spent but it becomes more about how many doors can be knocked. I also believe that outside organizations that get involved should be clearly transparent and MUST give clear information about who they are, where they come from (state located) and the bias they are pushing.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Carol Blood: We protect our infrastructure and economy during the pandemic by doing everything we can to flatten the curve and move Nebraska forward. We have the ability to slow down the progress if EVERYONE follows the rules and stays home whenever possible. As a member of the legislature, I and other senators made it a priority to come and vote for emergency funding to make sure our frontline pandemic workers have the tools they need. Providing unemployment benefits, resources and funding in tandem with the federal government helps to keep our citizens and businesses above water until we are on the downslide of this pandemic. Then, as things improve we must continue to be cautious while helping get Nebraska residents back into the workforce and the storefronts open as soon as we can. Meanwhile, as

individuals, we can provide resources, outreach and lead by example. My office has been making thousands of outreach calls to our residents for wellness checks and to provide resources.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 15

David Rogers (NP): No response received

Lynne M Walz (NP):

Website: <http://www.lynnnewalz.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Nebraska Legislature, District 15 since 2017* Education: *Arlington High School, 1981; Midland Lutheran College (B.A. in Elementary Educations), 1994.*

Volunteer Experience: *Salem Lutheran Church Children's Ministry, Fremont Kiwanis, Low Income Ministry.*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Lynne M Walz: Nebraska should look at new ways to redistrict. It is not fair for politicians to draw lines for themselves or their friends. No matter what political party you belong to, free and fair elections are key to our democracy. District lines should be drawn in a nonpartisan way that excludes current and former elected officials, lobbyists, and party leaders to give the power back to the people.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Lynne M Walz: There is no evidence that voter fraud is an issue in Nebraska or in the United States. It's an unnecessary regulation to fix a problem that doesn't exist. Voter ID makes it harder for people to vote, especially minorities, low income families, young people who move around a lot, and elderly people. We should be encouraging more people to participate in the democratic process.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Lynne M Walz: This is a complex issue with no easy solution. Our number one priority is public safety. Violent offenders that have high risk of recidivism should remain in prison. However, we need to look at ways to help non-violent offenders receive rehabilitation and training through drug courts, job programs, or other means instead of throwing them in jail. This could help us lower our prison population and expand our workforce and tax base.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Lynne M Walz: I've supported family medical leave and will do so again. Right now, we are seeing the perfect example of why it's needed. Workers should be able to take care of themselves or an immediate family member without having to worry about losing their job or pay check. Businesses will profit more in the long-run by having a healthy and productive workforce. We need to work with businesses and workers to come up with the best model for everyone.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Lynne M Walz: Until Citizens United is overturned or there is a constitutional amendment, there isn't a lot we can do. Our first priority should be to restrict dark money groups that don't disclose their donors. Elections should be based on merit, not money. That would be a good first step toward making our elections more honest and transparent for voters.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Lynne M Walz: Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, I've been talking with businesses and workers about what is needed to keep our economy afloat. I think most people agree, the health and safety of our community is the number one priority

right now. We will have a lot to deal with over the next year or more in helping people get back to work. We will also have to deal with the challenge of keeping our schools strong for kids, rebuilding our needed infrastructure, keeping our healthcare system strong, and much more on a lower budget. I'll be a nonpartisan leader who will work to get things done for people in these trying times.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 17

Joni Albrecht (NP): No response received

Sheryl Lindau (NP):

Website: <http://www.lindauforlegislature.com>

Past Public Office, dates held: *NE State College Board of Trustees 1994 - 2004 Mayor of Wayne 1994-2004 City of Wayne Councilmember 1986 - 1994*

Education: *BA Political Science UNL MPA UNO*

Volunteer Experience: *Big Sister volunteer 2007 - 2015*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Sheryl Lindau: Yes To remove political gerrymandering from the process of redrawing district lines after a new census. I would support the current ballot initiative which would take that authority away from the legislature and give it to an independent commission.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Sheryl Lindau: No

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Sheryl Lindau: Cut prison sentences for drug crimes/offer treatment for more minor drug offenses as an option. Give judges greater discretion in sentencing. Allow more prisoners to reduce their sentences through credit for good behavior. Send more foreign inmates back to their home country.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Sheryl Lindau: Yes. Paid family leave offers security to employees during significant life events and gives them the peace of mind that they are not in jeopardy of losing their jobs. It can also have a positive effect on infant and maternal health, reducing rate of infant mortality and stress and depression in mothers. It also helps employers because it can increase employee morale, productivity, and labor force attachment once the employee returns to work.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Sheryl Lindau: Yes. The Citizens United decision has resulted in unprecedented campaign spending and introduced dark money into our elections. I support disclosure to identify donors to Super PACs and to limit the amount of individual donations. I support the LWV's efforts to establish a public finance system of elections.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Sheryl Lindau: The federal government has identified 16 critical infrastructure industries in response to the COVID-19 emergency necessary for public health and safety and community well-being. State and local level decision-making to combat this crisis must include a plan to ensure their continued operation. The workers needed to maintain these critical

infrastructures must be prioritized and given the support they need to continue to work during periods of community restriction, social distancing or closure orders. The health and safety of the public must be the overriding concern of public officials during this crisis. Public/private partnerships to address shortages and provide a safety net for those hit hardest by the crisis will be key until the economy can begin a return to normalcy. State and local government must continue to press the federal government for the support they need to help individuals and families pay their bills and give businesses a path survival.

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NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 21

Joseph Couch (NP):

Website: <http://josephcouch.com>

Education: *I went to public school in Seward Nebraska. And I studied Mathematics at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, class of 2016.*

Military Experience: *2013-Present: Nebraska Army National Guard*

Brodey Weber (NP): No response received

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Joseph Couch: Yes. The legislature currently draws its own districts, which means they can and will draw districts that favor those currently in power. Any serious game has a neutral referee observing the rules.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Joseph Couch: No. Voter fraud is virtually non-existent. Instead, we should implement policies that increase voter turnout such as same-day/automatic voter registration, and by expanding early/mail-in voting.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Joseph Couch: Legalize marijuana and expunge all convictions. End cash bail and end the war on drugs.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Joseph Couch: Yes, because it's the right thing to do. Medical bills are the leading cause of bankruptcies, healthy workers are better workers and it's the right thing to do.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Joseph Couch: Yes, because right now the wealthy few get far more influence in government than regular people. I would support a cap on total campaign spending. Campaigning shouldn't be the business it is now and I shouldn't need half a million dollars to compete for the state legislature. When campaigns take more than a year, and the office only pays \$12k like the Nebraska legislature, poor people can't run. Lowering the total spending cap

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Joseph Couch: COVID-19 wouldn't be the disaster it is if we had paid sick and family leave, if we had universal healthcare, or if it weren't the case that 40% of Americans can't afford a \$400 emergency. Retail workers are the backbone of our economy and absolutely deserve a thriving wage. We also need leaders in government with some scientific literacy. We need at least enough to defer the right experts and communicate properly to avoid conspiracy theories.

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NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 23

Bruce Bostelman (NP): No response received

Helen Raikes (NP):

Website: <http://raikes2020.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Past Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Education: *BS Journalism MS Human Development PhD Child Development*

Military Experience: *NA*

Volunteer Experience: *Boards of Directors: Nebraska Children and Families Foundation; Sixpence Early Learning Fund; Buffett Early Childhood Fund; Nebraska Historical Foundation; Lincoln Community Foundation; Omaha Early Learning Centers; Nebraska Jazz Orchestra*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Helen Raikes: We are upon another decade with need/opportunity to redistrict. I witnessed the redistricting that occurred following the 2000 Census and it was not admirable. Despite efforts such as those of my late husband, who was in the Legislature at that time, there was some gerrymandering to meet the aims of dominant political powers. Political power should not be driving the redistricting process. As someone who is running to powerfully represent a rural district, I, of course, do not want to see the rural portions of Nebraska lose representation, though I know recent population shifts lead in that direction. Currently, rural landholders are paying more than their share of taxpayer costs and they need representation. There needs to be a check/balance (e.g., the Nebraska Supreme Court) to ensure fairness and lack of partiality to political parties for the redistricting process.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Helen Raikes: Unnecessary ID procedures have been used to block persons from voting, especially low-income, minority and elderly voters. Not everyone has a drivers' license. The goal is to make voting accessible and easy, but also legal. I am not opposed to Voter ID, if it is reasonable to ensure you are the person on the voter list, and there is opportunity for a provisional ballot. No legal resident should be prevented from voting.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Helen Raikes: I promote more efforts on the "front end" of incarceration. Two "front end" action steps that have the potential to reduce overcrowding are sentencing reform and faster trajectories towards work or education release. Sentencing reform involves a more varied sentencing approach when it comes to minor offenses as opposed to flat sentencing. Moving more quickly towards work or education release involves identifying early on the prisoners' potential for work or education release. Next, we need to complete remediation programs early after evaluation is completed not waiting until near final release date. Then, when the remediation program is successfully completed, more speedily allow the inmate to transfer to work or education programs. Housing inmates in work or education release facilities earlier together with sentencing reform can move inmates, as appropriate, through the system more quickly, reducing overcrowding. Some new prison facilities probably will still need to be built.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Helen Raikes: There are many reasons for paid family medical leave, including childbirth (with leave for both mothers and fathers) and family illness. Our medical policies need to be humane and to lend themselves to practices that lead to the best outcomes for all. During the post partum period, trajectories for children's development and relationships are established. There is nothing more important for the parent/s than to form a relationship with their newborn, as this early period sets the

stage for the child's life to come. It is also important to spend time with ill family members. It is impossible to undervalue these supports, and the tensile strength the family brings to our society.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Helen Raikes: Absolutely. Currently, outside interests dominate Nebraska politics. Two opponents for the Legislature may be authentically battling it out, when an outside interest dumps \$100,000s to a single Legislative race. The amount is insurmountable to local political aspirants and the tactics are unfair. Moreover, the simple \$25 - \$100 donations of Nebraskans in support of their candidates are totally eclipsed by the tsunami of outside funding, frequently referred to as "Dark Money." I support caps and absolute restriction of outside PAC funds in Nebraska races.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Helen Raikes: This is an important question. I do not think any of us know at this point what the specific challenges of a (hopefully) post-COVID 19 world will be. The leading industry of the state, agriculture, was already reeling before COVID and even more so today. Many of our ag economy issues could be solved by trade—removal of tariffs, new markets for our products, re-energizing the ethanol market. Perhaps we develop our own international policies and pursue them vigorously. On the other hand, the food we produce is a key commodity; we need to get out in front of the demand. We will need more funds to support the small business and ag economy (e.g., we still have crippling local property taxes). Infrastructure, including schools and their functioning, needs to be assured, and we are still rebuilding after floods, so, bridges will require additional state funding. We will probably need to tap into reserve funds for the rebuilding period, but a leading edge will be to reestablish markets.

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NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 25

Suzanne Geist (NP): No response received

Stephany Pleasant (NP):

Website: <http://PleasantforNE.com>

Education: *Nebraska College of Law, J.D., 2017 University of Nebraska - Lincoln, B.A., 2013*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Stephany Pleasant: Nebraska should review its method of redistricting and ensure that it is implemented fairly and not for the benefit of a political party.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Stephany Pleasant: "A restriction on a right, is never created to be more inclusive." Those were the wise words of my late professor, Dr. Combs. Dr. Combs taught me a long time ago, that rights should not have qualifications, and if they do, it is not a sign that the person creating the qualification wants everyone to participate. Voting is a right in this country. Voter ID laws put a qualification on this right, that prevents some from exercising that right. As such, I do not believe there is a need for them.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Stephany Pleasant: Nebraska is facing one of the worst prison overcrowding issues in the nation. This issue did not form at the end of the line. Instead, Nebraska could reduce its prison population by diverting more low-level crimes out of the penal system, giving more funding to mental health initiatives, and creating more community-based correction programs.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Stephany Pleasant: Yes. Nebraska needs to implement a paid family medical leave program. Only a few U.S. states have taken responsibility for caring for its workers and providing paid leave for employees. Evidence shows that paid family leave creates more productive and healthier employees. It also closes the wage gap between women and men. Nebraska can provide protection for both its workers and its businesses.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Stephany Pleasant: Campaign finance reform is necessary to create a more transparent government. Constituents have the right to know who is bankrolling their candidates so they can make informed decisions on who to vote for. I support any regulation that would increase transparency.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Stephany Pleasant: To ensure Nebraska's infrastructure during and after the pandemic, we must continue to support families while they are unable to work. In addition, we cannot put more barriers on an already struggling family. That is why the state should push to block evictions and utility cut-offs during this time. Putting families out on the street will make the recovery harder and will increase the chance of the virus spreading.

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NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 27

Brenda Bickford (NP): No response received

Anna Wishart (NP): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 29

Eliot Bostar (NP):

Website: <http://eliotbostar.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *This is the first time I would serve in elected office.*

Education: *BS, Business, Embry-Riddle University*

Volunteer Experience: *Lincoln Electric System, Board of Directors City of Lincoln Climate Resilience Task Force, Member*

Jacob Campbell (NP): No response received

Jennifer Carter (NP):

Website: <http://carterforlegislature.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *B.A., Columbia University, J.D., Boston University School of Law*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Past President, Board of Directors for HopeSpoke; Past President, Board of Directors for Prairie Hill Learning Center; Member, Board of Directors, Friends of Lied*

A Neal Clayburn (NP):

Website: <http://voteclayburn.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *BA Social Sciences U of Northern Colorado MA Educational Administration, U of Nebraska-Kearney*

Military Experience: *United States Navy 1970-1976, Second Class Petty Officer, Honorable Discharge*

Volunteer Experience: *Leadership Lincoln, Boy Scouts of America, Nature Conservancy, YMCA Youth Sports, Lincoln Southwest Boosters*

Michael Connely (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *No public offices to date*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Multiple Schools and Training. Over 300 semester credit hours of college. Majors include: Political Science, Sociology, Business, Education, Medical Laboratory, Com/Nav Electronics, Military Intelligence, NBC Warfare Disaster Preparation and others*

Military Experience: *USMC: Com/Nav Aviation Electronics, Military Intelligence, Nuclear Biological Chemical Disaster Preparation USAF: Medical Lab, Military Police Grenada/Lebanon Era Desert Storm Era Multiple Letters of Commendation*

Volunteer Experience: *Big Brothers of America... Lincoln Literacy Counsel... American Red Cross*

Lisa Lee (NP):

Website: <http://www.leeforlegislature.com/>

Education: *University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA - Bachelors of Business Administration, Accounting, December 1985 Certified Internal Auditor, 1992*

Volunteer Experience: *Teammate, 2011-current Rotary Club #14, 2016-current St. Mark's UMC, 2015-Current Leadership Lincoln Fellows, 2014-15 Lincoln Green by Design, 2012-14 Blue Valley School District: Superintendent's Legislative Committee, 2000-10 PTO President, 2004-06*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Eliot Bostar: Voters should choose their representatives; politicians shouldn't choose their voters. To protect Nebraskans from partisan gerrymandering, Nebraska needs a nonpartisan redistricting process that ensures boundaries are drawn fairly so everyone's voice is represented in our democratic system.

Jennifer Carter: Yes. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. I support the proposed constitutional amendment to create an independent redistricting commission and require that election districts be drawn in a non-partisan, transparent manner.

A Neal Clayburn: I would like to see redistricting done by a bipartisan commission rather than the legislature. I think it would be best if the commissioners did not have the personal interest that legislators have in the design of the Districts.

Michael Connely: At this time, Nebraska Redistricting would probably not make a significant difference in election results but in the future it may become more and more important. It may be good to take the following actions. 1. Establishes a nine-member independent citizens commission to determine district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives and the Nebraska Legislature. 2. Requires commission meetings will be held exclusively in public and requires open sharing of maps and data being considered by the commission.

Lisa Lee: Yes, faith in the electoral system must rely on the integrity of the work done by those in charge of redistricting. Despite the non-partisan nature of the Legislature, the senators involved in the redistricting process are influenced by political parties in the state. A fair and non-partisan approach should be adopted with public hearings offered for citizen involvement.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Eliot Bostar: There is no need for increased voter ID requirements. This is a solution in search of a problem. Numerous studies have concluded that the occurrence of voter impersonation in this country is exceedingly rare; in fact, there have been zero documented cases of it occurring in Nebraska. The negative impacts of implementing voter ID laws, however, are wide-ranging and have been demonstrated to prevent eligible U.S. citizens from exercising their right to vote. Let's focus on making it easier to vote, not stopping eligible voters from participating.

Jennifer Carter: No. Voter ID is not necessary. A secure registration process is key to avoiding fraud. Voter ID on the other hand disenfranchises minority and low-income voters.

A Neal Clayburn: I do not see the need for voter ID. I have seen no evidence of voter fraud in Nebraska. I fear that voter ID would suppress the vote. We should do what we can to encourage people to participate and vote in elections.

Michael Connely: There are so many activities where an ID is required. Not requiring an ID for voting leaves open the possibility of massive voter fraud. A friend of mine witnessed an out of state bus pulling up to a voting area. A crowd of people got out just 20 minutes before voting was stopped. It appears as if a group of people were committing voter fraud, voting with the names of registered voters who had not voted that day. Lack of a voter ID can significantly skew election results. Voter IDs should be given out to high school seniors in US Government training class. At the same time students should be instructed on how and when they can vote. For older individuals, everyone when registering to vote should be issued a voter ID which is at zero cost. Do note that every state has its own laws concerning the legal requirements to vote. Before voter IDs can be issued, it is important that the legal requirements be verified.

Lisa Lee: We all agree we want to have faith in our electoral system, which would include confidence there is no voter fraud in our elections. However, I do not believe we need voter ID for two reasons. Former Secretary of State, Gale stated many times that regular and routine audits over the voter rolls and election results have never identified voter fraud in Nebraska. The state also participates in audits with neighboring states with similar results. As a former audit professional, statistical sampling methods can be relied upon to identify fraud or not. And second, the fiscal note / cost if we did implement a state ID was estimated at \$200,000. I do not believe we need to spend state dollars when there are so many competing needs.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Eliot Bostar: Nebraska has the second most overcrowded prisons in the country, which requires immediate action by the State Legislature. Comprehensive legislation that addresses overcrowding, staffing issues, and rehabilitative programming is needed to create a long-term solution to the problems facing our criminal justice system. We need to address why people are ending up in our prisons in the first place and improve services for mental health and drug addiction. For those who are already in our prison system, there needs to be robust rehabilitation programs to reduce the recidivism rate and ensure the safety of our communities. These solutions require taking a comprehensive approach and pulling many different stakeholders together. I've done this kind of work for years to address environmental and economic challenges, and will bring this same long-term, collaborative approach to addressing the problems facing our criminal justice system.

Jennifer Carter: Prison overcrowding requires a multi-faceted approach, including sentencing reform, bail reform, and specialty courts like drug and mental health courts. We also must focus on preventative measures to reduce the incidence of non-violent crimes which would lessen our prison population. Poverty and the lack of mental health treatment contribute to non-violent crimes that could be prevented.

A Neal Clayburn: I do not think the solution to prison overcrowding is more prisons. I think we should work to reduce prison populations by investing in mental health services and education. Education helps create economic opportunity and access to mental health services will help to decrease the number of people being incarcerated.

Michael Connely: Non violent criminals who do not pose a threat to others should be on house arrest, not in prison. Our judicial system should be reformed. What is an imprisonable offense in our state is not even a slap on the wrist in other states. What really makes a crime? I have a large number of relatives who have served in the prisons of Nebraska as counselors, nurses, guards and more. Because of this I have a close up perspective of the problems in our prisons. When

residents of other states commit crimes in Nebraska, but also have warrants out in other states, Nebraska tries them here instead of sending them back to the other courts. If we send them to the other states first, that would help. If they are tried here and put into prison here, when they get out of prison, they stay in Nebraska with their new prison acquaintances. So not only does insisting on trying them here overcrowd our prisons, but it also increases the overall criminal element percentage in Nebraska.

Lisa Lee: Nebraska's overcrowded prisons at 166% capacity is a huge problem for the state. Incarceration alternatives that include drug courts, rehab for non-violent offenders and more mental health and educational programs would be a start. Criminal justice reform to lessen sentences for lower-level drug cases and make those changes retroactively. And finally, consider half-way houses for non-violent offenders, the cost to house between \$8-\$12,000/per year compared to \$35,000/per year in prison.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Eliot Bostar: Nebraska should have a paid family medical leave program. The current pandemic makes clear the impact of having a family member fall sick and the importance of providing flexibility for workers to care for their loved ones. Businesses and workers need to be brought together to design a common-sense approach -- that ensures workers can prioritize their wellbeing without fear of losing their job or missing a paycheck and that our small businesses can thrive.

Jennifer Carter: Yes. As someone who worked on policies facing working families and families in poverty, and as a parent who had to use leave under the Family Medical Leave Act when our daughter was born early, I know how important these policies are.

A Neal Clayburn: Yes, the current virus pandemic shows us the need for paid family medical leave. The need for social distancing should not cripple the economic situation of a family. We also should implement the medicaid expansion that the voters approved as soon as possible. Every Nebraskan should have access to health care.

Michael Connelly: Your question needs to be more specific. I am unable to answer it as asked.

Lisa Lee: Nebraska ranks number one in the country in the percentage of households with both parents working. In my Legislative District #29, we rank third out of 49 districts in this category. Our aging population also increases the need for caregivers to have a need for emergency time off to care for an elderly family member. Though counterintuitive, providing paid family and medical leave helps keep people employed. However, how to pay for it is challenging, especially the potential impact on small businesses. I would need to study the specific legislation and the impact on the state's budget and/or Nebraska's businesses before establishing a final position.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Eliot Bostar: Yes. Nebraska is one of the only states in the country with no contribution limits for individuals, corporations, or PACs. Nebraska needs to increase transparency and reduce the influence of special interests by setting a limit on campaign donations and passing other common sense reforms.

Jennifer Carter: Large donations distort representative government by making elected officials dependent upon the biggest donors. We need to explore restrictions on money in politics. It is critically important that campaign expenditures and donations be transparent and that we end dark money influence on campaigns.

A Neal Clayburn: Yes, I think we need to reform the way political campaigns are funded. The Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court effectively derailed Congressional attempts at reform. I do not have a specific answer but I do want to be a part of the discussion and I believe reform is needed.

Michael Connelly: I detest yard signs. Nearly all of them end up in landfills in the future. I also do not like a constant deluge of emails requesting donations for election campaigns. Yes, there should be restrictions. I believe that campaign expenses should be limited to as low as \$500 per election for lower levels. \$5,000 per election cycle in Congressional, Senatorial and Gubernatorial races, and \$50,000 in Presidential Elections. I know this is extreme, but sites such as this one, televised debates, and other methods can allow individuals to be well known without massive amounts of advertising.

Personally, I will not spend more than \$500 on the Nebraska State Senate Race. Time and effort in contacting constituents will not require a large amount of money, just time and effort.

Lisa Lee: I believe most would agree that people or organizations who make large political donations should not have more political influence than others. Spending laws have become very complex on the federal level, but the so called “dark money” is a problem when donors are not transparent. I would support legislation eliminating the ability to shelter donors. As for Nebraska campaign finance laws, I would support legislation limiting the amount a sitting elected official can contribute to a campaign of no more than \$1,000 per candidate, for state and local races.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA’S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Eliot Bostar: The health and safety of Nebraskans is the most important thing for us to focus on as we look at how to stabilize the economy and rebuild in the wake of COVID-19. Most immediately, we need to ensure our critical infrastructure - medical facilities, utilities, and supply chains - is secure and reliable as the pandemic spreads. We also need to be compassionate towards those who have been impacted by illness or job-loss. As a member of the LES Board, I advocated to suspend disconnections. Our utilities must continue to provide this relief to those in our community who need help. Once this public health crisis is over we need to get Nebraskans back to work. We must support our small, local businesses - those places that form the identity of our community and create thousands of jobs. We need to invest in our roads, bridges, dams and levees. We also have to invest in our human infrastructure, by supporting quality schools, paid family medical leave, and access to affordable healthcare.

Jennifer Carter: First, we have to shorten the timeline of the pandemic through enough testing, medical equipment, PPE, as well as strict social distancing, quarantines, and stay at home orders. Second, we have to support the economy now by supporting workers and small businesses through a robust unemployment insurance system and low-interest loans or grants through the Small Business Administration. We have to utilize the flexibility granted in our federal support programs - ADC, SNAP, and Medicaid - to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community, and those who are newly vulnerable, are able to meet their basic needs. Third, post-pandemic, each sector of our community - government, schools, businesses - must have pandemic plans in place to prepare for a potential future pandemic. We must also do more to ensure our healthcare system is accessible, affordable, and that our health care professionals have what they need if we are ever faced with this challenge again.

A Neal Clayburn: We need to provide an economic safety net for workers and families now. We need to provide liquidity for small business now so they can continue to pay employees. As we get the economy back to work we need to invest in infrastructure (roads, bridges, education for workforce development, digital capabilities etc.) to support a positive business climate to create jobs and grow the economy.

Michael Connely: Part of my military training included Nuclear Biological Chemical Warfare Disaster Preparation. The question here requires an extensive answer that cannot be written here, but I can include a few specific points. * Pre organized biohazard control inventory including full biohazard suits * Inventory of all state medical supply companies with production capacities * Issuance of special work and travel priority marks on State IDs (medical personnel and food distribution etc) * Transparent news information service (It is not transparent now) * Small separate mobile units with quarantine capacities * County seat testing facilities with biohazard containment areas (not hospital testing) * Uniform biohazard shopping methods with near zero person to person contact * Coordinated road block plans (biohazard suits) and designated travel refueling points for interstate travelers I am currently in Japan. I have been stranded because of the outbreak. The biohazard procedures here are very high.

Lisa Lee: Although we are only beginning to understand the ramifications of COVID-19 on our economy, as a policymaker I would recommend the Legislature immediately begin to proactively address these anticipated revenue shortfalls now. First by identifying all federal dollars available through the federal COVID-19 relief package for state governments directly, educational institutions, businesses and individuals. And then proactively identify and prioritize potential cuts to the state budget or potential delays in scheduled expenditures. Being proactive allows for more control and options when these become necessary down the road. Going forward we need to address the following: rule changes so the Legislature and other government entities can convene remotely when necessary, expand rural broadband to increase the ability to work

from home, work with insurance companies for telemedicine coverage, address the need for paid family medical leave and finally consider election-by-mail.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 35

Raymond M Aguilar (NP): No response received

Dan Quick (NP):

Website: <http://www.votedanquick.com/>

Current Public Office, dates held: *State Senator, District 35, 2017-Current*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *High School Graduate, Hordville High School*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Knights of Columbus events, Church Events - Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Grand Island Central Catholic Events*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Dan Quick: Yes. Fair elections are fundamental to our democratic process. Politicians should not choose their own constituents, the people should choose who represents them. The only fair way to do this is to have an independent committee draw district lines without the influence of elected officials, lobbyists, special interest groups, and party leaders.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Dan Quick: After the 2016 election, President Trump launched a commission to investigate voter fraud. The commission found no evidence that voter fraud was a problem. Requiring an ID to vote is trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist and in the process, it disenfranchises low-income families, minorities, and other groups who don't have IDs or up-to-date IDs. We should be encouraging more people to vote and be engaged in the process.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Dan Quick: We need corrections reformed to address prison overcrowding for the safety of the inmates and the corrections officers. The public safety of our citizens should always be our top concern. We need to work to keep non-violent offenders that don't pose a risk to the public out of jail and give them rehabilitation and assistance that they need rather than throwing them behind bars. We also need to examine why our numbers are so high and invest in education, mental health services, and other programs that are proven to help keep people out of the system.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Dan Quick: We need a plan that works for businesses and workers. Studies show that businesses are most productive when their workforce is happy and healthy. Workers need time to take care of themselves and immediate family when they are sick so they don't spread it to other people. A paid family leave program allows families to receive the care they need without worrying about losing their job or seeing a decreased paycheck.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Dan Quick: This is a difficult question to answer as I have run for election before and needed campaign contributions to run a successful campaign. I do believe that elections should be fair, transparent, and based on merit and ideas and as much as some would like to see money out of politics, funding is a critical part of getting your message out to voters. However, voters should make choices based on who would best represent them, not who could afford the most advertising. From my experience hard work, honesty, and meeting people face to face are big factors in getting elected. Common-sense

restrictions that put certain limits on campaign fundraising might be beneficial, but because of Supreme Court rulings like Citizens United v. FEC, we are limited in what we can do right now. One of the biggest issues facing politics is dark money. The ability for groups to receive and spend unlimited funds without having to disclose the donors creates distrust between the voters and candidates.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Dan Quick: Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, I've been talking with businesses, workers, and health leaders about how to keep our community safe, while keeping our economy intact as much as possible. Over the next couple years we will have a lot to consider, including getting working families back to their jobs and ensuring assistance for local businesses. We also need to ensure we work with medical professionals to improve our healthcare system for future events, rebuilding our infrastructure, and keeping our school system strong for our kids. We need nonpartisan leaders right now who will do what is best for our community and for Nebraska, not their party. I am committed to putting the people's needs first.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 37

Mercadies Damratowski (NP): No response received

John S Lowe Sr (NP): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 43

Tom Brewer (NP): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 45

Susan Hester (NP):

Website: <http://votesusanhester.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Bachelors Degree in Secondary Social Studies Education earned at The Ohio State University. Masters Degree in Special Education with an emphasis in High Ability Learners from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Bellevue Public Schools Foundation Executive Board, ENCAP Board, CDBG Committee for the City of Bellevue, Bellevue Together, Kiwanis, Bellevue Women's Club, Bellevue Fraternal Order of the Eagles*

Rita Sanders (NP): No response received

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Susan Hester: Nebraska, like much of the United States, needs to change its method of redistricting. Leaving this entire process to partisan participants will not and has not resulted in fair redistricting. We need a process where the people choose their elected officials, not politicians choosing who they represent. The only way to do that is a nonpartisan commission that is transparent and accountable to the people, not a political party or special interest group.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Susan Hester: No, there is no need for voter ID to vote. There is no evidence that voter fraud is a problem either in Nebraska or the other states. If fraud were to be discovered, it can be handled on a case-by-case basis. I do think that offering government identification to people who want it is a good idea. But requiring an ID to vote disenfranchises low income families, minorities, students who move around a lot, and elderly people. We should encourage more people to be engaged in our democratic process, not less.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Susan Hester: Prison overcrowding in Nebraska is a real crisis. First and foremost, we need to protect the public and keep violent offenders in jail. However, we need to explore ways to rehabilitate non violent offenders through programs such as drug courts, rather than incarceration.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Susan Hester: This is an interesting question in the days of COVID-19. Yes, we need paid family medical leave programs. People need to be able to take care of a sick person in the family or be able to stay home from work themselves when ill. Businesses will be more successful in the long run if their employees are safe, healthy and productive. There probably will need to be various ways this is handled based on the size of the business, but some way for workers to accrue leave needs to be put in place.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Susan Hester: There should be more restrictions on money in politics. Elections should be based on merit, rather than special interest groups spending large amounts of money through dark money groups to buy elections. Unfortunately, the Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court limits the types of restrictions can be put in place. However, I would look at ways to make elections fair so that the people choose their representatives.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Susan Hester: Right now, business and workers are hurting. It is easy to understand why some want to return to normal, but we need to take care of the safety and health of the people first. I applaud efforts done at the state and federal level to help workers who have been laid off and for businesses who were forced to close or scale back during the pandemic. However, if this drags out for months, we will need to do more. The most important thing we can do is to listen and do whatever we can to support workers and local businesses. We also need to ensure that our schools, long-term care facilities, and others impacted by this remain strong. This won't be an easy fix. It will take a bi-partisan effort at all levels of government to get things back on track, and I'm willing to listen to any idea, regardless of who presents it.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 49

Jen Day (NP):

Website: <http://jendayfornebraska.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Past Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Education: *BS Political Science, University of Nebraska at Omaha*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *Member of community boards. Hosted multiple fundraisers, food drives, blood drives, and clothing drives as owner of Artis Strength and Fitness. Volunteer for multiple community picnics, food banks, etc.*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Jen Day: Yes, Nebraska needs to change its method of redistricting. The current method allows for partisan gerrymandering, which waters down the strength of our democracy and directly inhibits the will of the people. Voters should choose their representatives; representatives shouldn't choose their voters. We need a method that allows for voters to be represented in a fair and unbiased way, such as independent redistricting commissions or the tech-based solutions we are seeing in other states.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Jen Day: No, Nebraska does not need voter ID, at least not in the form it is currently being introduced. The current legislation is not only an incredibly expensive waste of taxpayer dollars, but if implemented, it would disenfranchise thousands of Nebraska voters. There is absolutely zero evidence of voter impersonation or voter fraud in Nebraska; this is a "solution" begging for a problem. We need to stop wasting Nebraskans time and money with useless bills that don't solve real problems Nebraskans are facing.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Jen Day: The problem of prison overcrowding is a serious one in Nebraska and has led to problems for both incarcerated individuals and corrections officers. It is a complex issue with many layers, but I believe the starting point to solving the issue in a timely manner resides in a combination of sentencing reform; implementing a pay structure for staff that emphasizes retention, protection, and attracts new staff members; and reducing recidivism rates by making sure that individuals who are incarcerated have the proper environment to keep them from coming back to prison.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Jen Day: Yes, Nebraska needs a paid family medical leave program. We have to the contributions our Nebraska families make to our state by making sure that, when they need it, we provide them with the framework necessary to foster healthy relationships and economic prosperity. Whether that is a new mother or father spending time with their newborn without fear of losing their income or job, a son being able to provide care for his elderly mother, or an emergency situation that requires intensive care from family, we should provide Nebraskans with the peace of mind that comes with paid family medical leave. This protects families from economic ruin in times of need.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Jen Day: Yes there needs to be increased restrictions on money in politics. Elections should not be bought, they should be earned. Many politicians, including those here in Nebraska, have learned that they no longer have to do the hard work of campaigning if they have enough money to do paid advertising via mailers, TV, and radio ads. so much time is spent as a candidate on fundraising, when I believe that time could be better spent reaching voters. I would be in favor of capping donations for state level races, just like they are capped for federal level races. You should earn the votes of your constituents through door knocking, phone calls, community events, and quality, responsive representation, not by out-fundraising and out-slandering your opponent.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Jen Day: An emergency relief package was passed by the legislature to bolster Nebraska's infrastructure and I believe this was an excellent first step. However, I believe more relief is needed for individuals and businesses. Nebraska small businesses, like mine, are the backbone of our economy and we need to be sure that we are mitigating the risk of too many of these businesses closing their doors. Additionally, our agriculture sector, which feeds Nebraskans and much of the country and the world, needs to be supported in their efforts to continue producing so that the food supply chain is not interrupted. We can rebuild our economy, but we can not rebuild from nothing. We need to be sure that individuals and businesses are surviving this storm, so that when it is all over, we have a foundation from which to start.

NEBRASKA DISTRICT RACES

NEBRASKA PPD - DIST 7

Robert J Cooper (NP):

Education: *High School Graduate, Sioux City Central High School, 1969 B.A.E., Wayne State College, 1973 M.S.E. Wayne State College, 1975 Certified Loss Control Professional, National Rural Electric*

Volunteer Experience: *Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scout, Troop Leader York County Crime Stoppers Sertoma Club of York Elks Lodge Member*

Sheila A Hubbard (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *City of York City Council December 2014 to present.*

Past Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Education: *MA in Guidance and Counseling; 32 Additional graduate hours in Social Services, Counseling, and Fine Arts; BFA in Visual Art*

Military Experience: *NA*

Volunteer Experience: *Voices of Hope Crisis Line & Advocate; Camp Kindle Psycho/Social Director, a camp for youth impacted by HIV/AIDS; People's City Mission Thanksgiving Meal Coordinator; York County 4-H; My Church: SS teacher & Leadership committees*

James W Mestl (NP): No response received

Wayne Williams (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Trade School*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Local Community Serves on Nebraska Christian Foundation Board Serves as Chair for Nebraska Christian Executive Building Committee*

IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Robert J Cooper: Increasing the use of renewable energy resources is a priority for me. Environmental awareness is too. I would hope that a reasonable combination of renewable energy resources can be combined with more traditional, base load type power production, to meet the needs and desires of the public in the years to come. I firmly believe that everyone would like to maintain the level of electrical service and availability that they have come to know and rely upon. I would work to do this. In selecting sources of renewable energy we need to consider them in balance with the more traditional sources. I would advocate much more use of hydro electric generation if it was reasonably possible to construct more facilities for it.

Sheila A Hubbard: Increasing the use of renewable energy is a personal priority. I am running for the NPPD Board to ensure we keep bills low and provide reliable electricity to Nebraskans. Investing in clean energy is a smart business decision that is good for our health, our safety, and our economy. According to a recent Rural Poll on Energy conducted by the University of Nebraska, 80% of Nebraskans want to see increased investment in clean energy. Beyond the potential for a reduction in environmental impacts, renewable and clean energy options present the opportunity for economic gains. As a member of the York City Council, I understand how important it is to bring economic development into our rural communities - it's how we retain young people, reduce the property tax burden, and maintain a vibrant community. Right

now, many companies are looking for places where they can get their electricity from clean sources - being able to provide that means bringing good paying jobs to our communities.

Wayne Williams: I currently own the largest solar installation company in Nebraska. We span over 11 states from Massachusetts to Colorado. I do it because I believe in renewable energy. However, it cannot be deducted from that statement through conjecture that in today's market I am against the use of fossil fuels in order to maintain spinning reserve or spinning inertia on the grid. Today, fossil fuels are very important to maintain grid resiliency. Potentially is the answer. Newer technologies are being developed that are forecasting the possibility - but it is not completely here yet. I keep my finger on the pulse of all advanced technology. New innovative approaches are being proposed every day. Eventually, the power industry and its approach to energy production will evolve. It always has and it will continue. It's important that we have knowledgeable and experienced individuals at the helm of the decision-making process in order to keep capital costs under control which in turn keeps rates low.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

Robert J Cooper: I would do what I could to ensure "transparency". Depending on the facts and situation.

Sheila A Hubbard: Transparency is paramount in any government agency and it would be a personal priority and a professional obligation. I would be available to the constituents in District 7 through a variety of technology formats and face to face interactions. It would be a goal of mine to regularly share a recap of ideas, public discussions gleaned from board meeting attendance, study, and research about what is happening with NPPD to the people in District 7. While the agendas and minutes of all board meetings are available through the NE Open Meetings Act, I will provide additional context for my constituents by frequently engaging with them. This 360 feedback system would provide opportunities for me to hear ideas and concerns they want shared with the board. My experience as a counselor, and more recently as a mediator, has shown me how important the honest exchange of information is and I bring a diverse skill set to provide many approaches and forums to ensure transparency.

Wayne Williams: Kenneth Blanchard once said, "None of us is as smart as all of us". It's also been said, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice". I've lived by those philosophies. In order to do that you cannot operate in a vacuum. You have to share your ideas and ask for input. In doing so, you have to be very transparent and willing to dialog with many different opinions. Through that process, you need to be vulnerable and willing to listen to opposing viewpoints. Problem-solving is a direct derivative of critical thinking. Critical thinking can happen in isolation, however, it is vetted through collaboration with like peers that understand the issues. Running a \$1 Billion company from a Board level requires having experienced individuals that have lived in the space of the core business. If you expect sound fiscal decisions from your elected leaders, you need to elect people that understand the issue and are not spending their first term learning the business.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Robert J Cooper: The outcome of the pandemic could affect how I would look at things and that would be a consideration. I would work for reasonable rates, good service, more use of renewable's, maintaining a quality workforce, and what's right for Nebraskan's. I have over 43 years working in Public Power and believe that I can help to make the right decisions for N.P.P.D. in the future. I worked over 19 years for what is now Perennial Public Power, and over 23 years for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association/Northeast Com. College. These experiences allowed me to work with power companies across the state, and in Wyoming, in a variety of situations. These experiences should help to make me a good board member.

Sheila A Hubbard: If elected, I will prioritize safe, affordable, reliable electricity. As a member of the York City Council I advocated for a business-friendly environment, and as a director on the NPPD Board, I will fight for low electricity bills and good paying jobs. It will be exciting to learn both the global outreach and organizational details of this outstanding NE Public Utility. Being a professional mediator, I know how to ask the right questions and come up with agreements that work for everyone. Community involvement is important to me from being an educator at York Public Schools, working with 4-H, my church, and youth camps. This backs up my promise to be a voice for District 7 as their NPPD Board Director. I want to ensure you are heard and wasteful spending is eliminated.

Wayne Williams: Projected load growth within our network would be an area that I would want to look at in unison with the cybersecurity of our grid and plants. The world of energy is ever-changing and the challenges are just as predominant. How real are the terroristic threats to our livelihood. Many questions are at hand with the introduction of the electric vehicle. What impact will it have on our current grid infrastructure and how quickly do we need to respond to it. Questions such as how fast will the change happen and what the impact is will need researched and assessed by competent experts that understand power generation, transmission, and distribution. What role will renewable energy play in the answer? NPPD upper management needs a Board of directors that they don't have to teach many of the fundamentals of the power generation business. Leadership needs experienced Board directors when trying to address critical needs through strategic planning and large capital projects. That's who I am.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT BOARD: LOWER BIG BLUE, DIST 1

Ryan Birkett (NP): No response received

Anne DeVries (NP):

Education: *BS Mechanical Engineer*

Volunteer Experience: *Long time member of Wachiska Audubon Society and founding member of Bluebirds Across Nebraska. Volunteer for Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Planned Parenthood, NE Environmental Trust, Civic Nebraska, NE Appleseed, Citizen's Climate Lobby*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Anne DeVries: Have programs that will reduce water use in growing crops for food and support crops that can withstand wide changes expected.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Anne DeVries: Local area educational meetings to provide the facts about what the changes will impact in their lives.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Anne DeVries: The projects need to be focused on saving the water resources for future generations. Exploiting our water resources and not conserving them will not be supported.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Anne DeVries: I was part of a citizen science testing from a UNL research project. This area has been pretty fortunate to not have high levels of nitrates. Education to farmers on when and how much to put fertilizer on fields will be a top priority to get implemented to keep the levels low.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Anne DeVries: Keep our attention on the science that is showing us how we need to address climate change. Preserving our water resources for future generations.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT BOARD: LOWER PLATTE SOUTH, DIST 4

Gary R Aldridge (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *DIRECTOR LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD SUB 4. CY 2017 - PRESENT*

Education: *M.A. U. ILLINOIS*

Edison McDonald (NP):

Education: *Hastings College BS Lincoln Southeast High School*

Volunteer Experience: *Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Governors Advisory Board on Developmental Disabilities, Rotary, Young Professionals Group, Young Non-Profit Professionals, Habitat for Humanity, Boy Scouts*

Ron Roeber (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *PhD Agricultural Economics; MS Agronomy (Crop Physiology); BS Agronomy (Crop Production) High distinction*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Lincoln Mayor's Climate Resiliency Task Force; Nebraska Well-Being Initiative President of the Board of Directors; Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society Board of Directors; Lutheran Family Services Fitness Volunteer; Meals on Wheels*

LeRoy Sievers (NP):

Website: <http://leroyseivers.com>

Education: *BA (Math) Doane University, MS (Management in Computer Science) The American University, JD UNL College of Law*

Military Experience: *US Army 1970-73*

Volunteer Experience: *Past Board member & President of Lancaster County Red Cross, Cornhusker Council Boy Scouts, Lincoln Bar Association and currently member of board of the Capital Humane Society.*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Gary R Aldridge: MANY - MOST AGREE THERE IS SOMETHING WOBBLY GOING ON WITH CLIMATE. ALAS - AT THIS TIME CLIMATE CHANGE HAS BEEN SQUEEZED OUT OF THE IMMEDIATE LIFE OF MOST. LPSNRD DIRECTORS HAVE DISCUSSED CLIMATE CHANGE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. A SOLUTION MAY INCLUDE A MOVE AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS. ANY NRD HAS ONLY LIMITED IMPACT IN THAT AREA. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHICH WAY CHANGE WILL IMPACT A NRD - SINGLY OR COLLECTIVELY. I HEAR PREDICTION BOTH WAYS - CLIMATE CHANGE WILL PRODUCE MORE PRECIPITATION; OR LESS PRECIRITATION. MORE PRECIPITATION SUGGESTS FLOODING. LESS PRECIRITATION SUGGESTS DIMINISHED SURFACE AND GROUND WATER. HUMANS CAN NOT PREVENT FLOODING; HUMANS CAN ONLY WORK TO MITIGATE FLOODING. LPSNRD HAS COOPERATED W/ OTHER GOVERNMENT LEVELS ON FLOOD MITIGATION WITHIN LINCOLN. I SUPPORT THAT EFFORT. LPSNRD IS EXPLORING OPTIONS TO PROVIDE, DURING DROUGHT, ADEQUATE SURFACE WATER. I SUPPOERT THAT EFFORT. A NRD HAS LIMITED ABILITY TO RESTRICT TAKING OF GROUND WATER.

Edison McDonald: In the last few years, we have seen horrendous impacts from a variety of events. In particular last year, we saw the impacts of flooding that ravaged the state. A large part of why I am running is because I don't think we have

done enough to prepare for these sorts of events. In order to respond, I think that it is vital we focus on helping to develop regenerative farming tools like cover cropping. Cover cropping significantly expands the ability of the land to hold water, increases the carbon capture, and significantly improves the quality of the soil. This is something I have actively worked to expand previously working with a variety of elected entities and have done on our family farm.

Ron Roeber: Promote soil health initiatives that would build the water holding capacity of local soils, reducing run-off and sequestering carbon. Farmers cannot be expected to adopt practices such as cover crops or changes in production practices without the contribution of non-farmers who benefit from these practices. We can test and adopt “Farming carbon” practices like those being rolled out in the North Platte NRD. I would also support policies to increase tree planting and development of other long-lived vegetation areas to sequester carbon.

LeRoy Sievers: Current projections relating to climate change include higher or more intense precipitation events in the future. Such events would result in increased flooding potential. Consequently it is important to examine the current physical structures such as levees and dams to assure that they are being adequately maintained. Additionally there is a need to coordinate with other entities such as cities, counties and the Corps of Engineers to determine what protective measures need to be increased or implemented. Currently some of the dams and reservoirs are being rehabilitated. The levees on Salt Creek came close to over-topping in prior years. Although a review of them occurred then, a re-evaluation now may be warranted in light of more recent study results. Also both urban and rural land practices can be supported which reduce the initial runoff during storm events.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Gary R Aldridge: EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS RE: CLIMATE CHANGE: THE BULLY PULPIT COMES TO MIND. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. THE CHALLENGE OR ISSUE IS: CONVINCING PEOPLE THERE IS A PROBLEM. THE PATH TO SOLUTION MAY NOT BE TRANQUIL. BEHAVIOR OR ACTIONS NEED TO CHANGE. CHANGES ARE/WILL BE NECESSARY. CHANGE(S) IN ESTABLISHED PATTERNS ARE USUALLY NOT PAINLESS OR EASY. FOR ANYONE!! LPSNRD STAFF HAS A SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM. STAFF WILL THEN BE THE CONDUIT TO SHARE WITH SCHOOLS (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) RESOURCES TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE. SHERPA - I AM NOT. MY JOB IS NOT AS MUCH TO LEAD THE WAY BUT TO STAND BEHIND AND KINDA NUDGE PEOPLE IN A DIRECTION. I AM NEITHER CLAIRVOYANT OR OMNIPOTENT LPSNRD NEED TO RELY ON THE 'EXPERTS' IN CLIMATOLOGY. OTHERS MAY HAVE A BEST ESTIMATE OF HOW TO MOVE FORWARD. LPSNRD PERSONNEL MAY THEN NEED TO ADAPT AND MODIFY THESE 'BEST ESTIMATES' FOR OUR SLICE OF LIFE.

Edison McDonald: My mother was a teacher and raised me to know the importance of education. So I hope to expand the NRD's educational work on climate care issues. I also work some for a company that develops solar panels and have discovered how much that hands-on understanding can make a difference.

Ron Roeber: The first would be to inform the public about the growing challenges faced by our farms and urban areas due to changing weather patterns and how these changes stress our current infrastructure to deal with flooding and drought both in urban and rural areas. The second educational priority would be to promote science-based projects and policies that can be implemented in our district to deal with rising carbon dioxide levels. Topics would include building soil health to sequester carbon and reduce water runoff; planting long-lasting vegetation—trees, prairies, perennial crops—that can sequester carbon and improve our soils.

LeRoy Sievers: As the science evolves regarding anticipated climate changes, I would focus on the anticipated effects the changes would have on areas over which the NRD has jurisdiction, such as flood mitigation. Also as the effects become better understood, they can be highlighted through coordinated efforts with other impacted jurisdictions such as cities and counties, which will need to expend money on protective measures. The public will need to be informed on not only what local entities are doing but what individuals can do to create solutions. The NRD is currently engaged in these activities through efforts in a number of grade schools and I would continue to support those efforts. Additionally the NRD publishes a newsletter, which is inserted into the newspaper, and is an excellent means of educating the public.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Gary R Aldridge: I AM NOT SURE OF THE QUESTION. BOTH CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS HAVE, THROUGH LAW, RULE, OR REGULATION, ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS. BOTH HAVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC DOLLARS. IS LPSNRD, FOR SOME REASON, REQUIRED TO FAVOR ONE OVER ANOTHER. UNLESS STIPULATED IN LAW OR REGULATION, IT SEEMS TO ME LPSNRD SHOULD NOT FAVOR ONE ABOVE ANOTHER. COULD THERE BE COMPETITION BETWEEN CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS FOR LPSNRD RESOURCES. POSSIBLY. SOME PROGRAMS (COMMUNITY FORESTRY) ARE PROVIDED ON A FIRST COME BASIS. WHEN THE BUDGET DOLLARS ARE EXHAUSTED THE PROGRAM BENEFIT IS NO LONGER PROVIDED. UNTIL THE NEXT BUDGET YEAR. THE PROGRAM BROCHURE (AVAILABLE ONLINE) NORMALLY ADVISES. ONE OR MORE NRD CURRENTLY W/BONDING AUTHORITY HAS PRIORITIZED CERTAIN PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPERS. I AM NOT (NOT) A HUGE FAN OF THIS TYPE OF TAX DOLLAR ALLOCATION. I AM TOLD THESE TYPE PROJECTS BENEFIT A SMALL SLICE AT THE EXPENSE OF EVERYONE. BOND PROJECTS DO NOT OCCUR, AT THIS TIME, IN LPSNRD.

Edison McDonald: Ensuring the balance of citizens with varying needs and interests is an important task. It requires thought, research, and lots of stakeholder engagement. As I've interacted with the development process before the largest recurring theme that I've seen is that dialog is key. If more conversations are had earlier, people are notified, and developers are upfront it goes a long way. I will work to ensure that this process is followed in a fair and equitable way. However, frequently decisions are made that not everyone can agree to. In those cases, I will prioritize safety, fair use, and water quality.

Ron Roeber: I would listen to their concerns and work with other board members to find the right balance on a case by case basis. The NRD's have statutory authority to operate in twelve areas involving natural resources. Where individual and developer objectives overlap with public objectives there would seem to be opportunities for them to access NRD projects. I will listen openly to all positions.

LeRoy Sievers: Public access to projects such as reservoirs is currently provided through recreation areas developed in cooperation with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission &/or the City of Lincoln &/or the US Army COE. Public access is also provided to trails including trailheads and parking lots at various locations. Some access must be prohibited for safety reasons, such as inlets for water passage through dams. Concerns of the public for additional access would need to be evaluated based on the access sought and any needs for safety. However public access should be allowed whenever possible. Concerns of developers wanting access to NRD projects will need to be carefully considered. Using taxpayer money to develop projects should not be used to subsidize private developers without adequate offsetting benefits to the public &/or reimbursement for the public expenditures.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDIATING THE SITUATION?

Gary R Aldridge: YES. MY UNDERSTANDING - WIDE AREA WATER QUALITY TESTING IS DONE AT THE STATE OR FEDERAL LEVEL. WORKING WITH STATE AND FEDERAL COOPERATORS LPSNRD - BOARD AND STAFF - PROVIDE, ON A YEARLY BASIS, INFORMATION OF GROUND WATER QUALITY. THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE OWNERS (CITIZENS TAXPAYERS). LPSNRD STAFF WILL OFFER - FROM TIME TO TIME - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LANDOWNERS (OTHER THAN LINCOLN) TO HAVE SIMPLE TESTING DONE ON WATER SAMPLES, SUCH AS POTABLE WELLS. THE ANALYSIS RESULTS ARE PROVIDED. STAFF WILL WORK WITH ANY HIGH NITRATE AREA OR PROPERTY TO DEVELOPE A MITIGATION PLAN. A MITIGATION PLAN MAY REQUIRE AN EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY. THE BOARD APPROVES THE MITIGATION PLAN. I SUPPORT SUCH ACTION TO MITIGATE EXCESSIVE NITRATE LEVELS.

Edison McDonald: Currently, there are a great many impaired waters in my district. In particular Stagecoach Lake, Wagon Train, and Bluestem are listed as Category 5's according to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. I grew up going camping there as a Boy Scout and still enjoy those areas, however, I'm afraid to let my dog go into the water. Any

concentration above 5 ppm has been shown to increase the rates of cancer. I will work to ensure those levels get dropped to ensure we can use those areas without concern.

Ron Roeber: I am aware of problems in Waverly city wells that are near or exceed 10 ppm. Nitrate concentration issues appear in shallower aquifers sooner so there are likely other wells in this district that may one day have high nitrate levels. There are no quick solutions to fixing a ground water nitrate problems. Short-term solutions include blending multiple water sources that mix low and higher nitrate concentrations to a safe level. Long-term solutions require reducing nitrogen leaching from the soil and “mining” the aquifer's nitrogen using irrigation. Other NRD’s have been working on these types of solutions for decades—we can learn from their experiences. The public has a stake in any change in production practices a producer undertakes to reduce nitrogen leaching. Education and demonstration are important, however sometimes the public must invest in the changes to ensure private economic success is not sacrificed to achieve larger public benefits.

LeRoy Sievers: Yes. The NRD has adopted a Ground Water Management Plan. It specifies that ground water from wells will be tested annually. The plan is reviewed and updated annually. The meeting that the NRD had scheduled for March 19, 2020 was to receive the Report on the 2019 Ground Water Management Plan Review, which details the ground water sampling for nitrates and other pollutants conducted over a period of years at various locations. The plan itself outlines the steps that are taken if sampling shows elevated nitrates. The Report explains what the testing has shown and the areas that are included in the various “phases” of controls. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan for remedying elevated levels could be undertaken as well as evaluating its effectiveness for preventing reaching such levels.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Gary R Aldridge: MY LIST - ONGOING OR CONTINUING: 1. ENSURE THAT TAX DOLLARS ARE WELL AND WISELY SPENT. I SEE SILLINESS IN BUDGETS. SUCH THAT I VOTED AGAINST THE LPSNRD BUDGET IN BOTH FY 2019 AND FY 2020. 2. HAVE BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS BROADCAST (REALTIME OR DELAYED) ON LOCAL ACCESS TV. THIS ALLOWS THE OWNERS (CITIZENS, TAXPAYERS) TO SEE LPSNRD DEBATE AND ACTION. THE MEETINGS, NOW, ARE PROVIDED AS A POD CAST ONLY ON LPSNRD WEBSITE. I INCLUDED, IN ONE ANNUAL BUDGET, MONEY TO TAPE AND BROADCAST. THIS WAS FRUSTRATED BY A BOARD MEMBER. 3. I VISIT ANNUALLY HICKMAN, HALLAM, ROCA, SPRAGUE. IN LPSNRD SUB 4 EACH FUNCTION WITH AN ELECTED BODY. I HAVE VISITED EACH ONCE/ANNUM FOR THREE YEARS. MY PURPOSE (INITIALLY) WAS A INTRODUCTION. SINCE THEN, MY VISIT IS TO SAY: CAN LPSNRD HELP YOU; YOU ARE NOT FORFGOTTEN. 4. REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ELECTED DIRECTORS ON LPSNRD. IT SEEMS TO ME 21 DIRECTORS IS EXCESSIVE. A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK.

Edison McDonald: 1 Flood Mitigation- Following the detrimental floods of 2019 we need to dig more into potential flood prevention tools. 2 Water Quality- We need to work on developing tools that will help us to correct the high nitrate levels. I think one of the best ways to do this is by expanding our cover crop program. 3 Smart Long Term Budgeting- We need to prepare for large expense items like flooding and if we have to start paying for nitrate filtration. In Des Moines it cost the average rate payer an increase of 10% when they started paying for filtration. We need to prepare to mitigate the cost and effects.

Ron Roeber: My first-year priority would be to become more knowledgeable about the soil conservation and soil health building opportunities for the NRD through local and national initiatives. I would track the success of soil improvement and carbon sequestration projects in other districts, particularly the pilot project in the North Platte NRD. I would work to bring those lessons to the Lower Platte South NRD. Soil conservation would not only focus on farms but also in urban areas where erosion—particularly during construction—can harm the environment and create problems for homeowners in lower lying areas.

LeRoy Sievers: My priorities include property tax relief, enhanced flood mitigation efforts, support for trails, increasing soil and water conservation efforts and increasing planting of trees. Space limitations prevent a detailed explanation of what each of these involve. Thus I will address those that I can within the limitations. Property taxes rise when property valuations rise. The NRD needs to recognize that simply maintaining the current mill levy is effectively a tax increase for those whose valuations increased. I would advocate for not increasing revenue from property taxes. I would also seek to review the current flood mitigation efforts to determine in which ways they can be enhanced in the most cost effective ways.

Coordination with other jurisdictions, such as cities, will be critical so that resources can be utilized in such a way as to leverage additional funding from the federal government such as the Corps of Engineers and Department of Agriculture.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT BOARD: LOWER PLATTE SOUTH, DIST 10

Bastienne Salners (NP): No response received

Ray A Stevens Jr (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Director, Lower Platte South NRD. 2012 to present.*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Lancaster County Commissioner 2001-2011.*

Education: *BS in Bus. Admin. from UNL*

Volunteer Experience: *Peoples City Mission, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, United Way, GPTN, Lincoln Parks Foundation, Prairie Corridor Cabinet, LIBA, Westminster Pres. Church, FarmHouse Assoc., Lincoln Track Club.*

Eric Lee Wimer (NP): No response received

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Ray A Stevens Jr: The NRD Board held a retreat in February of this year to hear representatives from Nebraska Extension and the State Climatologist and to discuss climate change and how best to prepare local landowners, residents and the NRD for changes to come. These changes include higher temperatures, an increased growing season, drier summers, wetter springs, falls and winters. Precipitation will increase and there will be more days with greater than 1 inch of rainfall. The NRD's role will be to education our constituents and to insure our levies and flood control structures meet and exceed the Army Corps of Engineer standards. An active education plan is ongoing.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Ray A Stevens Jr: The NRD should continue our educational efforts with district schools through field trips to demonstrate maintenance and preservation of wildlife and wetland areas. Student and adult education can be enhanced by conducting climate change seminars at local schools and community centers. These seminars can be facilitated by the NRD and include experts from UNL to discuss how the climate is changing and the best management practices to mitigate and adjust to the changes. This includes how to cope in our daily lives but especially changes required in production agriculture.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Ray A Stevens Jr: The NRDs operate under guidelines of the Army Corps of Engineers and Nebraska State Statutes. Consequently, citizens and developers must largely adhere to the same guidelines. The NRDs allow access to properties owned and managed by the NRDs for noninvasive recreational activities. We encourage citizen use! We also cooperate and cost share with developers and landowners who wish to enhance their land or production that has an ancillary benefit to the NRD.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Ray A Stevens Jr: Yes. Remedial action for nitrate levels above federal limits starts with identifying point sources of the excess nitrates and attempting to stop them. This may involving reductions in nitrogen application in agricultural areas, moving animals and removing animal waste. Nitrate levels above federal limits must be noted and restricted from human

and animal use. If remediation is not possible, new sources of water must be acquired. This could involve new wells, development of a community water source or access to a district water source.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Ray A Stevens Jr: 1). Continuing support for the development of the Prairie Corridor from Pioneers Park to Spring Creek Prairie. This involves a collaboration with the City of Lincoln and 21 other community organizations to acquire land or easements and develop a 7 mile trail corridor that provides recreational opportunities and preservation of prairie land. 2). Implementation of the Dead Man's Run project to enhance stream flow and reduce flood potential along Dead Man's Run from 33rd street to 48th street along the north edge of the UNL East Campus. This will remove approximately 500 structures from the 100 year flood plain and lower or eliminate the requirement for flood insurance. It should also enhance the north entry to the East Campus. 3). Reopen the Lied Bridge over the Platte River to facilitate recreational use on both sides of the river. 4). Work to create a user friendly solution to complete the MoPac Trail between Lincoln and Omaha.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT BOARD: UPPER BIG BLUE, DIST 5

Neal Hoff (NP): No response received

Kendall J Siebert (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Have a bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis on ecology*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Multiple church related activities cleaning up after flooded areas and tornado impacted areas. Have assisted in yard clean up for people who have trouble doing it themselves. Volunteer at county Fair and spring shows to help line up classes.*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Kendall J Siebert: Weather along with resource availability can vary greatly in our area so I think the best course of action to dealing with those changes is paying attention to how they are impacting our residents and listening to the problems people are having in their local area. Whether it is water shortages in low water areas or a demand for more public Access areas for residents usually there are people being impacted by those things so keeping in touch with your residents and being aware of changes as they are happening will give us time to make decisions to help decrease the impacts of those changes. This will also allow us to prepare as best as possible for the uncertain future.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Kendall J Siebert: Many of the challenges we face managing resources come from climate change whether globally or locally and certainly locally can impact us dramatically from one year to the next. I think the NRD should get students more involved in research opportunities getting them out into nature or on a farm or ranch this will allow them to see how much weather impacts what people can and cannot do from one year to the next as well as providing good science learning opportunities and a good work force for accomplishing goals. If you want to understand the impacts of weather on natural resources it is best to see it first hand. We need to be connected to each other to understand why certain things are significant.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Kendall J Siebert: There are a lot of stakeholders involved in NRD projects and I think communication will be the most important attribute to keeping up with everyone's concerns and ideas. The public has a right to know what is going on and the developers need to understand the goals of the project and how much they need to be involved or not involved. The NRD also needs to keep up with what development is taking place and what impacts it might have on our people as well as resources. Public meetings are important for keeping in touch with citizens but communicating with individuals in your daily life is important as well to get input from people who are not as comfortable in a public setting.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Kendall J Siebert: Yes our district has tested it's water for nitrates and there are communities who are currently dealing with the nitrates being above 10ppm and as of now there are certain limits to what the NRD can do since they are not allowed to provide financial assistance on a homeowner by homeowner basis. As for now helping communities with the paperwork process for getting grants and getting good trackable data of nitrate movements in the groundwater will be some of the best practices. Large scale water treatment plant a and new well drilling and different well packing techniques are all tools to produce safe drinking water in a reasonable amount of time and whatever cost share, contact information, and knowledge that the NRD has to offer should be provided as best as possible. Also need to find areas of continued nitrate leaching and work with land owners through education, research and cooperation to help solve their problem.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kendall J Siebert: The majority of my focus for my first year would be getting to know all the board members personally and figuring out where they are coming from with their beliefs on certain issues and trying to connect with as many people involved in the NRD as possible. Also try to get a greater involvement from the public in the NRD and their activities, projects, and meetings. If I do not understand the people and problems I am going to be dealing with I will be of no use to the people I am representing. So trying to get a better understanding of the people I represent as well as the board members I will be working with will be my main focus.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION - DIST 3

Mike Goos (NP):

Website: <http://discoverycounselingne.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Columbus Public Schools Board of Education (2008 - 2020)*

Education: *Ed.S., University of Nebraska - Kearney*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *TeamMates, Centro Hispano De Comunitario, Citizen's Advocacy*

Patti S Gubbels (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Norfolk Public Schools Board of Education Member 2015-Present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Ph.D. University of Nebraska, Lincoln Program: Educational Psychology- Cognition and Learning M.S.E.*

Wayne State College Program: Counseling B.S. Wayne State College Program: Sociology, Psychology

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Team Mates Mentor, Red Cross Pillowcase Project Presenter, Norfolk Arts Center Board Member and Officer*

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Mike Goos: I believe most schools have dealt responsibly with school safety in terms of physical preparedness with the presence of SRO's or improved police relationships. In addition, schools have improved their safety through technical measures (i.e., cameras and limited access to building during the school day). In my opinion, schools can provide better safety measure for students and staff through increased knowledge and awareness of mental health issues as well as easier access to mental health services.

Patti S Gubbels: There are a number of important measures that can be taken to help students and teachers be as safe as possible. First, schools need to have a comprehensive safety plan and procedures. Second, teachers and staff members benefit from being trained on safety procedures and learning how to use available safety tools that might prevent or mitigate crisis situations. It is beneficial for students to participate in safety drills. Third, there needs to be consistent communication and coordination with community agencies involved in crisis situations. Fourth, secure entrances for school facilities are an important safety/security measure. Finally, school resources officers provide an additional layer of school security through the positive relationships they develop with individual students and the expertise they have as law enforcement officers.

DO YOU SEE THIS BOARD AS BEING AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED BODY? PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR REASONING.

Mike Goos: The State Board of Education should be an elected body. The State BOE must be allowed to function as a nonpartisan entity. The main function of the State BOE should be an equitable and quality education for all Nebraska children.

Patti S Gubbels: I believe members of the Nebraska State Board of Education need to be non-partisan officials elected by the voters in their districts. The state board provides oversight of education in Nebraska so it is important that the board represents the diverse educational systems found across our state. Elected state school board members are likely to reflect the educational values of the communities they serve. When state school board members are elected, they are accountable to the citizens who elect them. The citizens who elect them maintain some sense of local control of education. If state school board members are appointed by the governor, the sense of local control is minimized. The potential exists for all of the appointed members to share the same political beliefs and educational perspectives. Appointed officials are not accountable to citizens, they are accountable to the politician who appointed them.

HOW CAN THE CONTINUING EDUCATION OF TEACHERS BE SUPPORTED?

Mike Goos: Teachers are the backbone of a strong and viable learning experience for our children. I believe teachers should be in control of their professional learning experience. Personally, I strongly believe that well designed Professional Learning Communities with administrative support can lead to meaningful learning experiences for educators which improve student performance in the classroom.

Patti S Gubbels: Continuing education of teachers can be supported in a variety of ways. The most important way to support continuing education of teachers is to promote a mindset that "teaching is learning". School districts promote that mindset by providing appropriate ongoing learning experiences for teachers and by expressing appreciation for continued learning. The State Board of Education can support continuing education of teachers by establishing policies that enable, encourage, and expect teachers to grow professionally. Professional development experiences such as mentoring programs for novice teachers, teacher-to-teacher collaborations with peer assessments, and teacher supervision that focuses on improvement are a few examples of ways continuing learning can be supported.

*******VOTE TODAY!*******

BOARD OF GOVERNORS, SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE - AT LARGE

Timothy R Cerveny (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *SCC Board of Governors*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Chairman - Nebraska/Iowa Society of Maintenance and Reliability Professionals | President - Wilber-Clatonia Athletic Booster Club*

Education: *Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools - Graduate | SCC, Milford, NE - Associate of Applied Science Degree / Electromechanical Technology | Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE - Bachelor of Science Degree / Management*

Military Experience: *n/a*

Volunteer Experience: *Youth sports coach | 4-H volunteer | FFA Alumni Chapter | Wilber Czech Festival Volunteer | Church Council Groups*

Neal Stenberg (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Not Applicable*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Not Applicable*

Education: *UNL, BA, 1972; UNL, Juris Doctor, 1975*

Military Experience: *Not Applicable*

Volunteer Experience: *Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Pinewood Bowl, Inc. Board for twenty years including service as president; Choir Member St. Mark's UMC; Choir Member St. Paul UMC; St. Paul UMC Foundation Board; TADA Board of Directors; Lincoln Choral Artists*

Bob Van Valkenburg (NP):

Website: <http://www.vansopinions.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *While I have not held any "Past Political Public Offices" I have served as an officer and director on a number of "Private" and closely held corporate boards of directors Education: BA in Chemistry and Communications from Oklahoma State University. EMBA in Marketing and Finance from University of Nebraska - Lincoln Graduate of the Command and General Staff College, US Army, Ft. Leavenworth, KS*

Military Experience: *I served 31+ years in U.S. Army active duty and National Guard position from Private to Lieutenant Colonel. In addition to serving as a commander, I logged over 4,000 hours as a helicopter pilot leading to an 80% disability rating by the VA.*

Volunteer Experience: *I offer to the position years of experience serving on a large number of boards of directors and as an officer of dozens of entities ranging from small non-profit service organization to multi-million dollar national entities. Examples of such inclu*

HOW SHOULD COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIFFERENTIATE THEMSELVES FROM FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES?

Timothy R Cerveny: Community colleges offer an alternative to four-year universities. They provide many students with the education required to contribute in technical fields. The demand for this type of employee continues to grow as baby boomers move closer to retirement. I work in the utility industry and the need for skilled employees has never been greater. Community colleges also offer the opportunity to complete coursework in preparation for pursuing a degree from a university. In these times of high tuition rates, this alternative is very attractive and makes higher learning more attainable.

Neal Stenberg: Provide Affordable Education. The role of the Southeast Community College should be to provide high quality instruction to students at very affordable rates of tuition. Emphasize Career/Technical Instruction. Unlike four-year institutions, the main area of emphasis at SCC should be in career/technical fields. Meet the Needs of Business and Industry. More so than is the case with respect to four-year institutions, career/technical programs must be carefully tailored to the specific needs of business and industry in the SCC Area. Meet the Needs of Working Students. Many of SCC's students

work their way through school while attending on a part-time basis. In the fall of 2019, 64% of students were enrolled on a part-time basis. The College must work with such students to accommodate their work schedules. Provide Quality Transfer Program. SCC should provide a quality transfer program using faculty with advanced degrees, having smaller class sizes, and lower rates of tuition.

Bob Van Valkenburg: Community Colleges in Nebraska provide a means for individuals to become educated and qualified in trades and professions at far less costs of a “University education” At a time when attending a university is cost prohibitive for many young people not born into wealthy families, they are forced to borrow via student loans or attempt to hold down jobs which don’t pay very well. Community Colleges can also augment university education by allowing early courses to be taken at lesser expenses and then transfer of credits to formal degree programs.

WHAT INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS WOULD YOU CHANGE AT YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE? WHY, OR WHY NOT?

Timothy R Cervený: The instructors at Southeast Community College are excellent. They are well versed in their field of study, are committed to their students and take a genuine interest in improving the college and providing more opportunities for students. I don’t know that I would change any qualifications for the instructors.

Neal Stenberg: I believe that instructors at SCC are already well-qualified to teach in their assigned areas. In the career and technical areas, the College is looking for persons who, in addition to having good teaching skills, have succeeded and distinguished themselves in a real work environment. A really good welding instructor must first be a really good welder. In the transfer program, the College typically hires only those persons having a master’s or PhD degree.

Bob Van Valkenburg: In addition to having appropriate formal education and competence in subject material taught to students, I would favor only faculty members having significant actual experience and "working knowledge" of subjects taught. I do not believe the "Board" should be involved in micro-managing the leadership in each facility whose duties appropriately involve the selection, monitoring and managing the faculty and staff members.

WHAT SAFETY MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE TO KEEP STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF SAFE?

Timothy R Cervený: My two children are currently college students at separate institutions. Safety can take many forms. Physical safety is the most important. There needs to be security in place to ensure that a student feels safe while on campus. Another element of safety is the ability to be comfortable expressing your opinion. Students should be able to share their thoughts without fear of retribution from administration, educators or student groups. Opinions should be welcomed and considered rather than stifled.

Neal Stenberg: The College should employ public safety officers charged with the duty to provide safety and security on all Southeast Community College campuses; inspect security systems, equipment, buildings, and property; provide educational training programs to the campuses which cultivate safety and security awareness; engage in proactive appraisal of crime risks and take the action needed to remove or reduce that risk. The College should provide training to students and staff in how to deal with an active shooter situation. The College should have a method of reliably and quickly communicating with all students in the event of an active shooter situation. Maintain facilities and equipment in good condition. Equip all buildings with automatic sprinklers in case of fire. Regularly inspect and replace power tools. Students using power tools must be carefully monitored by trained staff and students and must be instructed in proper safety procedures.

Bob Van Valkenburg: Essentially the same security measures taken at our State Capitol. All external doors having electronically locking devices controlled by a central on duty security person preferably armed. Emergency warning siren and all full time staff personnel trained in EMS and military type defensive measures. While I do not necessarily advocate arming faculty, I would consider allowing former law enforcement and military personnel to have carry permits and be armed while on duty in each facility. All exterior doors locked during times students in facility and each door equipped with a "panic bar" type of unlocking device to permit leaving the facility when necessary.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST-YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Timothy R Cervený: Southeast Community College is currently in the process of major facility upgrades. My first priority would be to ensure that these projects are completed on time and on budget. These facilities will provide great opportunities for students to receive a world class education. SCC's administration is committed to student success. They have been very proactive in monitoring the metrics related to this and I would like to become more involved in finding ways to promote the success of all students whether traditional or non-traditional.

Neal Stenberg: I would encourage the use of employer surveys to help the College better understand the hiring needs of local businesses and to evaluate whether the training offered by the College matches the needs of local businesses. I would support the creation of additional trade programs whenever necessary to support the needs of business and industry in Nebraska. In order to serve the 15-county service area better, Southeast Community College opened six Learning Centers in Falls City, Hebron, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, Wahoo and York. I very enthusiastically support the creation and maintenance of these learning centers because they make SCC's educational programs accessible to all persons residing in the SCC Area. One of my priorities would be to determine whether the programming offered at each center is meeting industry and community needs in that specific location. Programming at each center should be determined by local industry and community needs.

Bob Van Valkenburg: 1. Expansion of courses and programs in training and educating individuals in health care delivery professions. The current pandemic has clearly shown a need for more nurses, technicians, facility administrators and other para-professionals. 2. Being an effective advocate for increased focus on the needs, importance and value of diverting a larger portion of educational funds from taxes to Community Colleges rather than continuing to fund wasteful spending in our Universities. 3. An increased focus on recruiting military veterans returning to the civilian work force to provide a more rapid capability of good wage earning professions in shorter periods of time. Success in these areas will be self defining by increases in the number of individuals enrolling in and complete certificate and degree programs.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

MAYORAL RACES

CITY OF FREMONT, MAYOR

Jim Bloom (NP): No response received

Glen Ellis (NP):

Website: <http://www.voteglenellis.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Fremont City Council member, Ward 2 - Elected Nov 2018*

Education: *Raytown High School Lee Summit Community College Grace Bible College*

Isaac Paden (NP):

Website: <http://isaacpaden.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Past Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Education: *BA: UNL, MA: UNO,*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *Habitat for Humanity, YMCA coach, Teammates mentoring program.*

Joey Spellerberg (NP):

Website: <http://www.joeyspellerberg.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Graduate from Archbishop Bergan High School, Fremont, NE, Bachelors degree in Marketing and Sales, University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB)*

Military Experience: *No Military Experience*

Volunteer Experience: *Chairman of the Fremont Area Leadership Prayer Breakfast, Rotarian - Fremont Rotary Club, Board Member of the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, Graduate of Leadership Fremont, Member of Fremont Alliance Church*

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Glen Ellis: Here is what I'd like to do when I become Fremont's Mayor: Focus on the people of Fremont - together let's determine what matters most to the citizens of Fremont. Let the people of our town have a say in the direction we move. Whether it's beautifying our city, addressing drainage issues or igniting smart economic development... this is the people's town. Restore trust through transparency - town hall meetings, improving video capabilities of council meetings, create a local TV channel for important city information, keep Fremont citizens at the forefront when negotiating with corporations and developers, and do so in a judicious manner. Prepare Fremont for the future - seek smart economic development that attracts companies outside the parameters of ag and manufacturing to make Fremont a city of choice for technology and the arts.

Isaac Paden: My first item is to continue to listen to the people. The mayors job is to listen to the citizens to help improve our town. The second would be to listen the department heads to help improve the communication and streamline our local public services. Finally, I want to meet with each elected council person. So we can all be on the same page and work together to put Fremont first. As a side note, being fiscally responsible and transparent in decision making are givens. Those are not goals. Those are how we will conduct the government.

Joey Spellerberg: 1. Establish a Core Identity – In my business, I work with hundreds of destinations trying to promote themselves and drive tourism. I know the value of strong messaging and a clear vision. If you elect me as your next Mayor, my family and I will represent the future of Fremont. We are the best place in the USA to live, work, and raise a family! 2. Focus on our Strengths – Our world class YMCA, State Lakes Recreation Area, Midland University, and many other strengths make Fremont the great community it is. We need this positive message out there and in the forefront. 3. Communication and Collaboration - Growing Fremont Together involves being in constant communication with everyone. Unity of purpose only happens when we work together striving for the same goal. My mission will be to Grow Fremont Together by listening intently, committing to the greater good, and leading our community into the future.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Glen Ellis: As a small business owner, I think that our city should be seeking out entrepreneurs to start small businesses, instead of 'Chasing Smokestacks'. I would rather have an entrepreneur eco-system that would generate 10 jobs in 100 small businesses than one company generate 1000 jobs. I know this goes against the norm that has been followed in the past, but I believe that if we want to position Fremont to be competitive in the world economy, we must be looking at other viable ways into the future. Please don't think that I don't value our heritage of agriculture and manufacturing. That must be part of our future. What I am saying is that we need to add more diversity to our local economy by pursuing technology as another value-added industry.

Isaac Paden: I would like to get rid of as much red tape as possible. My plan would make it as easy as possible to start a business or to grow an existing business. Just as importantly, protecting our citizens along the way. I don't want to grow Fremont at the expense of taking care of our population. The local government should be a resource for the people not an obstacle.

Joey Spellerberg: Just like many towns in Nebraska, Fremont relies on its Ag economy to grow and provide good paying, primary job growth. My vision for growth is to take our strengths and attract ancillary businesses in these industries. Fremont can become one of the most innovative and attractive towns for Ag related business. Our location, quality of life, and access to work force are extremely attractive and competitive. Having high quality, primary job growth is the #1 factor in attracting people of all backgrounds to work, live, and raise a family in Fremont. I want to help the people of Fremont to have better opportunities for themselves and their families.

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

Glen Ellis: Gun violence is not a major issue with the citizens of Fremont. I believe our Federal and State laws are sufficient in protecting our citizens.

Isaac Paden: A prepared and well equipped police force is a must. That means staffing and adequate supplies. Safety is always a top priority for governments. Secondly, communication is of the utmost importance. I would make sure to let the community know of possible threats so everyone could take appropriate action. Using text alerts, emails, or whatever means necessary to keep the public informed.

Joey Spellerberg: Respect and honor all authorities and laws regarding guns. Go through personal protection training and gain new skills and knowledge to take control of your own safety.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Glen Ellis: I am the candidate for change. If the citizens of Fremont want to change, I am your candidate. I have a track record of voting for the people of Fremont. I know what it is going to take to make lasting change and I am willing to make the hard decisions to get it done. Imagine a city government that keeps you informed about issues that concern you Imagine a city government that cares about what you think and listens to you Imagine a city government that is concerned about keeping taxes as low as possible Imagine a city government that spends your tax dollars wisely Imagine small businesses throughout town growing and thriving Imagine a city with walking trails throughout town Imagine a downtown full of nightlife with eateries, arts, and entertainment This is all possible but will require a lot of work and effort. Join me in making these images become a reality.

Isaac Paden: I am the best candidate for mayor because I truly care about our town. I love it here and want the best for Fremont. I have worked full time for the city so I know how things work on the back end. I am raising my family here and so I am vested in the community. I have a strong financial background to ensure a fiscally responsible approach to government funds. I am a good listener and problem solver. I also understand that I don't have all the answers. I think anyone who believes they do are making a big mistake. I just need to be smart enough to recognize the right answer when I hear it. I think that is one of the qualities of a good leader. I am excited for this opportunity and look forward to the challenges ahead. Thank you.

Joey Spellerberg: In the end, this election for Mayor is not about Joey Spellerberg. This is about you. The people of Fremont. You are the true heroes. To the single mom, working multiple jobs to support her children, to the small business owner who forgoes his paycheck to make payroll for his employees, to the women's groups throughout our community dedicated to praying for all of us. When we face challenges, they become opportunities to show the the world who we truly are. And we saw that in the flooding last March, all of us coming together, unified. What was our hardest challenge became our finest hour. We will always be much better together than we are a part. As your next Mayor, I will represent your spirit, toughness, and resiliency. May God Bless the great city of Fremont, NE! Join me in Growing Fremont Together! I ask for your vote!

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

CITY OF GIBBON, MAYOR

Johnathon Pearson (NP):

Education: *High school Graduate*

Deborah VanMatre (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Mayor, City of Gibbon, December 2012-present; Director, Central Platte Natural Resources District, February 2015-present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Gibbon Public School Board, January 1999-December 2010*

Education: *Gibbon Public School Kearney State College*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *Currently or formerly involved with numerous professional, civic, philanthropic, and church organizations on local, state and national levels for entire adult life.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Johnathon Pearson: The first thing I'd like to change is our landfill layout. It doesn't make any sense having our town dump the grass and tree limbs in one spot then make the city employees transport it a quarter mile into another spot. There is no reason we can't have our town dump grass or limbs directly on where they will be burned. Then all we do is shut the landfill down like on a Friday and Saturday once a month and burn it and let it simmer through the weekend. Obviously a city employee or myself checking on it and making sure it's not out of control. The other thing is our Hwy30 through Gibbon is absolutely horrible and falling apart especially from the east side of Casey's all the way east of the Packing House. It's time to do something about this. There are also a few spots needing attention on court street and also a few cul-de-sacs that have absolutely no storm sewers or help the volunteer fire dept get the supplies they actually need or new welcome to gibbon signs or do a new time capsule

Deborah VanMatre: If re-elected, I plan to continue moving the city forward on the positive trajectory we have been on for the last seven years under my leadership. My immediate personal goals include planning for a renovated fire hall/city hall/community room, working on potential housing developments, continued improvement with our wastewater treatment plant operations and compliance, successful application as a Leadership Certified Community with Nebraska Department of

Economic Development, and completion of the update of the Municipal Code. I look forward to continuing to work with the city council on our mutually established goals as identified in our strategic action plan.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Johnathon Pearson: One thing about Gibbon is the town has been great at growth and development on it's own and new businesses have come to gibbon because of that. I think gibbon will continue to grow without issues because it's such a great small community and if new Ideas come about then we should have a discussion about them and the future ideas or plans.

Deborah VanMatre: During my tenure as mayor, we have had numerous new businesses open, in addition to commercial entities moving their operations to our community. We have identified areas for redevelopment, and will continue to work with the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County in attracting businesses, as well as working with developers on affordable housing opportunities.

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

Johnathon Pearson: I am a big Believer in the second amendment and it doesn't need to be infringed upon any more than it has been. The United States already has thousands of gun laws and making another new gun law or ordinance will not accomplish anything. Honestly I'm more for our town citizens to be more prepared by owning and understanding a firearm vs being put in a situation where a firearm could have saved your life and someone else's life. Maybe we can possibly create a (Community Preparedness Class) that way we can appease some people.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Johnathon Pearson: The big reason I'm running is we need a good mayor for our town and one that doesn't buckle under the pressure. I want the town to know they can come up to me and talk to me about issues or ideas or whatever they want and know they can trust me and I'll do my best to help or work with an individual or business or family on any situation and if I can't I will let them know why instead of leaving them in suspense or with no answers. I know people are going to ask themselves how can I be mayor if I work the railroad? Yes I do work a week away from town but, then I'm home for a week and my answer is what is the difference between a mayor that's here in Gibbon 24-7 and doesn't do much or anything for the city vs me and I most likely and hopefully can get more done when I'm home every other week.

Deborah VanMatre: My experience and my leadership. We have had many successes and seen many improvements during my tenure. We have identified a number of goals and projects with our strategic plan, and I am in the best position to see them accomplished.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF HENDERSON, MAYOR

Wesley Peters (NP):

Volunteer Experience: *Henderson Fire & Rescue 1991-1994*

Mike Yoder (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Wesley Peters: 1. Completion of street paving projects 2. Community Center advancement 3. Housing increase

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Wesley Peters: Economic development is a priority to continue the growth of Henderson. Attracting new businesses to town is a priority. That in itself can help grow a community.

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

Wesley Peters: Eliminate "Gun Free" zones. Allow legal/trained citizens to carry firearms everywhere. Mass murder events occur where easy victims are located.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Wesley Peters: I am a fair and level headed candidate. I have no agenda coming into this election. I am not a candidate that will be swayed by special interests if it isn't for the betterment of the community.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY COUNCIL RACES

CITY OF ALLIANCE, CITY COUNCIL

Mara Andersen (NP): No response received

Gary A Goodell (NP): No response received

John S McGhehey (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Past Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Education: *BS in Business Administration, University of Kansas.*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *Box Butte Development Corporation United Way - Box Butte County St. Agnes Academy Foundation
Box Butte Health Foundation*

Travis Turman (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

John S McGhehey: 1) I would encourage and support any efforts to have good relationships with our key employers and local business owners. 2) We have lost two key retail businesses (K-Mart, Shopko) which provided basic products. We need to continue to try to fill that void, particularly for those who aren't able to travel - or use the internet - to obtain those products. 3) Maintain funding for Box Butte Development Corporation because of their efforts in promoting new and existing businesses 4) Develop funding for the Community Redevelopment Authority so they can assist with revitalization in key areas to promote outside investment in existing and/or new business.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

John S McGhehey: 1) Ensuring citizen safety through communication; emergency response personnel 2) Coordination with healthcare services 3) Maintaining (or restoring) access to essential services (e.g., electricity, water)

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

John S McGhehey: 1) The City of Alliance is in a strong financial condition and I will support policies that would help maintain that strength. 2) I would seek to work with outside partners (e.g., Box Butte Development Corporation, Alliance Chamber of Commerce, etc.) to develop action plans to promote local entrepreneurship and other new business through the use of LB840 funds and other economic development incentives. 3) I think it is important to make sure basic infrastructure needs (e.g., roads; electric, water and sewer services) are maintained on a regular basis.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

John S McGhehey: The biggest challenge for Alliance will be adapting to a constantly changing economic environment. Our major employer, BNSF, is confronted with a declining demand for coal. This has ramifications for Alliance. With the rise of internet shopping we will likely continue to see a decline of store fronts - particularly in rural areas. There are no easy answers to these trends. The City of Alliance has been pro-active in creating incentives (e.g., LB840 funds) and entities (Community Redevelopment Authority), to encourage economic development. Continued emphasis on these - and any new tools - should be encouraged.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF BATTLE CREEK, CITY COUNCIL

Brent Nygren (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *City Council from 2013 to present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Madison County Planning and Zoning 2008-2013*

Education: *Northeast Community College (Electrical)*

Volunteer Experience: *Battle Creek Betterment Club*

Chris Prauner (NP):

Education: *Battle Creek High School Northeast College- Welding*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Brent Nygren: I would like to establish flood control for housing growth and more businesses to come to the community.

Chris Prauner: Improve the safety of the town. Look at new ways that are proven and makes sense for the town to expand and grow.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Brent Nygren: Maintaining electrical to the community and water. Also need to keep people informed about what is happening in the community during those times of disasters. Get the people to listen to radio stations and the city's face book page.

Chris Prauner: Being prepared and having a set plan of action in place.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Brent Nygren: #1 Flood control, we need to establish it to keep from having a majority of the town from being placed in a flood zone. That would cause houses to have flood insurance that would likely to keep people from building here. That would also save property damage. #2 Housing developments, we need future places for people to build new houses that would bring more people into our community and school system. #3 Business developments, we need to get more businesses back in the community. That is a hard one with everything on-line but there are service orientated businesses that could work in the community. Would like to find some manufacturing business also. It would be nice to come up with a plan that the city can help with some kind of available aid.

Chris Prauner: Treating everyone as one community. Budget for the city. Safety and street improvements

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Brent Nygren: Keeping people informed about what the city is doing and what the people expect the city to do. That is a hard one to accomplish but need to get the public to come to City Council meetings to listen and ask more questions of what is going on. Possibly put more information on the cities' website.

Chris Prauner: Future development and Successful growth to keep people interested in wanting to move to Battle Creek. Keep the small town life style because that is one reason people move here. Look in to new places that make sense for business and housing development

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF BELLEVUE, CITY COUNCIL, AT LARGE

Todd A Santoro (NP):

Website: <http://santoro4council.com>

Education: *BA, History University of Iowa*

Military Experience: *1985-2001 - Army National Guard/Reserve Basic Training Fire Direction Control AIT Officer*

Candidate School Field Artillery Office Basic Course

Volunteer Experience: *European Special Olympics Coordinator Johnson County Iowa Historical Commision Goal Buddies Mentoring P4K Mentoring Bellevue Public Safety Foundation*

Pat Shannon (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Todd A Santoro: My first priority is to work with the city government to prioritize the redevelopment of the Fort Crook Corridor and Downtown Bellevue. Both of these areas have economically degraded significantly and the current pandemic is only going to accelerate that. We need to review the development plan proposed 12 years ago for Ft Crook and get it started and at the same time bring residents and businesses to the downtown area. Next we need to energize our industrial and tech focus to bring those companies to Bellevue. Part of that is going to be looking at the border plan decided decades ago with Papillion. We need to expand our borders.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Todd A Santoro: Listen to Jeff Roberts, Bellevue's Public Works Director.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Todd A Santoro: 1. Civility and respect between our residents, elected officials, and City Employees. 2. Transparency to our residents from our City Government. Right now our City doesn't have metrics that our residents can hold our government accountable to. Many cities have defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with chart driven online dashboards providing regular updates to their citizens. There's no reason for us not to. 3. Returning the Voice of the Voters. Over the last few years there have been several instances of restricting the voters voice. From usurping the voters right of recall to removing the voter feedback at the end of the City Council meetings we disenfranchised our cities residents. While the speaking time at the end of the City Council meetings has some additional influences that must be addressed we should immediately rescind the ordinance providing the City Council with the ability to remove a City Councillor. The ordinance should go to voters at the next election

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Todd A Santoro: The cities surrounding us have taken substantial steps to grow their tax base, improve their demographics (businesses follow demographics), and improve their perception to potential residents and businesses. We have not only not improved, we have slipped back from our strengths from decades ago. Omaha's improvements to the thirteenth st corridor threaten to push Fort Crook past the point of no return. Papillion and La Vista, while significantly smaller than Bellevue, have made huge strides in improving their business environments and mid to higher end residential real estate. Our biggest long term challenge is to reinvigorate our cities business areas and our residential demographics so that Bellevue can be the jewel it is capable of. All of that while not losing the character that comes from being Nebraska's first city. We need to be Nebraska's First City again.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF CROFTON, CITY COUNCIL, AT LARGE

Juliet de Shazer (NP): No response received

Bob Evans (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *I currently serve as President of the Oversight Committee for Economic Development Council. I just finished a twenty years of service as a Crofton BOE Member.*

Past Public Office, dates held: *I served the past twenty years has a BOE member. The last half of my BOE time I proudly served my community as BOE President. While I was a BOE member I served as Secretary and Vice President.*

Education: *I have a Masters Degree in Career Technical Education. I attended college at USD/S until it closed in the summer of 1984. I earned a Associate Degree and VTTE Degree. I earned my Master Degree for Wayne State College.*

Volunteer Experience: *I have had the pleasure of serving my church as a Council Member. I spent many years as a volunteer at our local Senior Citizen Center. I proudly as coach in our youth softball, baseball and basketball programs.*

James Murphy (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *none*

Past Public Office, dates held: *none*

Education: *Associate Degree from North East*

Military Experience: *Air Force Vet*

Volunteer Experience: *Head of Crofton Community Club Parish Counsel President for 4 years.*

Arlene Steffen (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Bob Evans: As a proud member of this community I have been working with a variety of local agencies to assure the growth of town. I have taken part in researching the potential for many opportunities for growth, both short term and long term. I know that currently we are struggling to meet the needs for affordable housing for working class families in our town. We also have major concerns with daycare in our town. We simply don't have enough providers. We also have several providers that are at or close to the end of their career. We need more excellent places that parents can trust to care for their most valuable possessions. If we can continue to provide outstanding quality of life that our small town offers, and add more excellent daycare along with affordable working family housing, our community will flourish. We have a highly intelligent, highly skilled workforce. That workforce could serve as an excellent employee base for manufacturing or processing information.

James Murphy: Crofton is a bed room community of Yankton SD. and living so close to SD we need to create a community that people want to move to. The back bone to any community in my opinion are your Schools & Churches. Crofton has been very proactive with both. We have two Elementary Schools a Catholic & Public, and a fairly new High School with land to grew. With those in place as a community we just need to keep promoting Crofton as a great place to raise a family.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Bob Evans: My top priority would always be the care of the citizens in this community. Caring for the health and wellbeing of each individual is vitally important. When all citizens are safe and out of harms way, I would go to work assuring the community has the resources needed to mobilize and get things going back in the right direction. I would utilize every resource that was available to assist in the situation. I would seek all potential options for resources to help our cause.

James Murphy: First pray it never happens. Second learn from other communities that have had bad weather events like Pilger. I would send my fire chief down to towns like Pilger and ask questions, What worked and what didn't work? Then put a plan together of past experiences and hope you never have to implement them.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Bob Evans: I believe that we are currently in a recovery transition stage. My first priority would be to work diligently with the other Council Members to restore the faith in our city leaders. I have been working in the trenches to support the growth of a healing process. Our fine city has so much to offer. We have tremendous resource in our outstanding people. We are intelligent and very hard working with deep commitment to our faith and family. Secondly, is to help secure a sound financial future for the growth of community. We have to invest in our future. We cannot let opportunities pass us by. We have to maximize every dollar of Economic Development resources to help our community thrive and prosper. The third concern that I want to address is the need for affordable work force housing. We know that we are traditionally a Bedroom Community. We have a great place to live and attracting young workers to the community is vital. We need affordable housing for people.

James Murphy: Infrastructure, infrastructure, infrastructure. Our water pipes and roads are terrible shape. One third of our city has rust colored water to drink and no one seems to care.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Bob Evans: The single biggest challenge is bringing our great community back to the amazing place that I choose to live in. This is a great town and we need to work together. I was part of the amazing BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD that Crofton received. I would work very hard to help our town become a BLUE RIBBON WINNER. At the heart of growing our town back together is helping people develop their talents. We have so many great people that have so much to offer. I would work to bring those talents to the forefront to help us be a strong, growing, vibrant community. We need to move forward, learning from the past and investing our efforts in future.

James Murphy: Crofton's challenges are probably like most small towns in Nebraska. No one in Crofton want's to address the big picture and that is infrastructure. I see other communities working on roads, water, sewer, and trails. We need to find out how they are paying for these improvements. I grew up in Beemer NE. in the early 70's Beemer replaced their asphalt streets with cement and their are still in great shape. Most of the streets in Crofton don't even have curb & cutters. These issues are over do they need to be addressed!!!!

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

CITY OF DAVID CITY, CITY COUNCIL, FIRST WARD

Matt Fleming (NP): No response received

Tom Reisdorff (NP):

Education: *Grad at Aquinas, 1986*

Volunteer Experience: *Knights of Columbus Boy Scouts (helper) Act. of St. Marys Parish*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Tom Reisdorff: - Lower property taxes - Use taxes to improve citys infrastructure - reintroduce the recycle center

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Tom Reisdorff: - people safety my number 1 concern - clear of roadway in e.g...fallen trees, snow on roads

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Tom Reisdorff: 1. clean up the town - clean yards up to look nice 2. streets need work on. O St needs curb to curb resurfacing 3. lower income housing - young & old people to stay in our town

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Tom Reisdorff: We need more people to have there voices heard & have the council abided to what they say

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF FREMONT, CITY COUNCIL, FIRST WARD

Vern Gibson (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None at this time*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Chairman, Business Council, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, 1999 to 2018.*

Chairman, leadership fremont, 2001

Education: *Santa Ana Senior High - Santa Ana, Calif. Bachelor of Business, Cal. State Long Beach, Calif., Mortuary Science Degree, Kansas City Community College, Professional Leadership Degree, Fremont, Nebraska*

Military Experience: *United States Army, 1963 - 1966. Three years stationed in Berlin Germany.*

Volunteer Experience: *Chairman Fremont Chapter American Red Cross, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, Educational Service Unit #2, (29 Years), American Legion Post #20, Crime Stoppers, Fremont, Masonic/Shrine Lodge, Cosmopolitan Club, Fremont, Kiwanis Club, Fremont,*

Steven Ray (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Vern Gibson: Since I would be representing ward #1, which is the developing part of Fremont, I hope to continue the communication with residents as to population increase, because of the affordable housing shortage. Fremont is moving East, and there are a lot of areas to build. Since we just had the Lincoln Premium Poultry, (Costco) build, the need for housing is already behind.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Vern Gibson: Safety of our citizens. We had flooding last year and the volunteers were amazing.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Vern Gibson: Less negativity, both on the council and the citizens. Transparency both council and city government, economic growth.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Vern Gibson: Communication between the city and citizens. We have very few people show up at meetings because nobody wants to express themselves in front of a microphone. I would be in contact with my people in my ward as much as possible and let them know they are welcome to address the council at any time. We need to shorten our council meetings, (last 5 were over 4 hours). Council members need to either have sub-committees or other means to discuss council matters, prior to the meetings.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF FREMONT, CITY COUNCIL, FOURTH WARD

Donald Cunningham (NP):

Education: *Educational Specialist, UNL Masters, Educational Administration UNK Masters, History UNK*

Volunteer Experience: *Kiwanis member since 1993 John C Fremont Days Board 11 years*

Sally Ganem (NP): No response received

James Hartkorn (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None* Education: *Graduated from Drake University with a degree in Public Relation*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *I have volunteered many hours to our businesses industry partners over the years.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Donald Cunningham: Fremont recently added a major meat packing plant to the list of prominent town operations. Lincoln Premium Poultry brought in a massive chicken processing plant, offering, potentially, over 1000 employment opportunities. As a result, providing housing for these workers and their families sits on the front burner of the economic activity stove. When this current health crisis subsides, Fremont needs to return to its efforts to add housing options to the community. While progress has been made improving city streets, Military Avenue could use an upgrade. The flooding issue around the power plant needs attention.

James Hartkorn: Fremont is a vibrant town and is currently growing. I plan to work the Greater Fremont Development Council to continue to grow our community and attract new business to our current developments along with championing revitalization efforts to keep Fremont historic and beautiful.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Donald Cunningham: When the worst occurs, the top priority is safety for the population. Working from the most vulnerable to the most capable, aid must be offered to provide for the basic needs for survival. Our town experienced this type of situation during the floods of 2019. City resources, combined with private vendors, staved off what could have been a more devastating event than it was. This spring, the two entities joined up again as the levee broke west of town. This type of teamwork ought to continue. Effective collaboration of agencies is the key.

James Hartkorn: 1) Ensure our city administrator is well equipped with up to date processes and equipment to handle the event 2) Make sure the department of utilities, public services and other essential services can continue to provide service to the public 3) Reach out to neighboring communities leadership and Help Organize volunteer efforts to assist those in urgent need if cities emergency services is overwhelmed

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Donald Cunningham: Our Council is in need of some basic training in the role of an elected board. Any elected committee, council or board serves in a policy making role. There are current members who speak for long periods of time about their personal issues. Seeking to embarrass, some members attack city personnel, one another, the mayor and others with whom they have disagreements. This is all done in public...defended by a perverted notion of transparency. Until this is fixed, the Council will struggle. Extending a fire and police presence to the south and east will be on the docket. We are growing that direction quickly. Consolidation of services could reduce costs while maintaining the necessary city functions we have come to expect.

James Hartkorn: I want to maintain a safe and clean city and ensure our streets, parks and neighborhoods remain safe for our current citizens and attract new families to our community. I want to keep Fremont moving forward to a brighter future with economic development and revitalization efforts to the current infrastructure, including housing and commercial properties to keep Fremont historic and beautiful. Finally, I'd hope to help streamline our current city government to be as effective and efficient as possible through a priority first focused city administration.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Donald Cunningham: Merging new populations into our town will be a challenge for years to come. Our employment force appears to be expanding. Intergration of those new people has to be accomplished with a welcoming eye. Churches, schools and informal associations all need to focus on acceptance and assimilation. A lofty goal would be to instill pride in being a Fremont resident to all who work and live here. Recognition gives birth to personal pride; aligns the newly arrived with the culture of the town. WE all need to go out of our way to greet one another at every opportunity.

James Hartkorn: We seem to have a lack of trust within our current political sphere and our current city administration. We need to come together to best serve our community and keep Fremont moving forward. I have help build a business over the past 10 year and building the right team to carry out a unified mission is not an easy task. Fremont need bold leaders and a solid leadership team. I plan to bring my current leadership experience along with continuing to develop my leadership ability and get Fremont moving forward to a bright prosperous future for all.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF FRIEND, CITY COUNCIL, DIST 1

Steven McDonald Jr (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Past Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Education: *Certified Welding Inspector License*

Military Experience: *NA*

Volunteer Experience: *Assistant fusion football coach Assistant Friend baseball coach*

Kristen Milton (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Past Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Education: *High School: Exeter-Milligan 2008 College: AAS Office Professional-Medical Focus Southeast Community College-2011*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *Friend Pool Committee 2018-Present American Legion Auxiliary Unit 183 Member since 1991 Trunk or Treat 2019 Easter egg fundraiser 2017-present Friend Country Club Fundraising & Flower bed maintenance Friend 4th of July-Free Family event 2018-present*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Steven McDonald Jr: The definition of economic development means general improvement of living conditions. Making improvements for economic gains requires a day to day effort of its citizens. Without feedback from the community we will not be able to start problem solving in between the once a month meetings. I know this sounds juvenile but I would like to see a suggestion box for anyone who has questions, concerns, or ideas on how to see our town grow. I am not an expert on anything financial or economic but I consider it to be my obligation to learn, research, and make sound decisions based off facts and collaboration with others serving the city.

Kristen Milton: It is important that we look to the future when setting priorities. To grow our community, we need to appeal to new businesses and families. We need to offer things that they want in their community. In turn, our community and school system would likely see an increase in census. Let's work to identify what these wants and needs are, then set goals. I believe there is strong community interest for indoor community recreation, a dog park, and additional downtown businesses. Additionally, we can look into working with local groups to put together incentives to attract new businesses to establish in Friend. Let's work to get the storefronts in our downtown to be exactly that, storefronts. We can improve our quality of life and be more self-sufficient with some of these ideas. Having healthy and happy citizens is vital to a progressive community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Steven McDonald Jr: Strong communication is an essential requirement in securing the safety of the town and its residents. Whether its extreme cold temperatures, power outages, tornadoes, or flooding we need to take into consideration not everyone has access to vital information such as internet or cable. I know having a strong plan of action is essential when it comes to response to these natural disasters, but I feel the more warning time that is available is an effective way to minimizing casualties. If elected I would like to implement an emergency number residents can call to get important weather updates specified for our town.

Kristen Milton: My top priority would be to make sure the City has an up-to-date extreme weather event plan and a contingency plan before severe weather happens. I have reached out to the City to see what our current plan is and if necessary, I would work with them to improve it. It is vital to have trusted, key people identified and prepared to lead our citizens. Having citizens aware of the set plan, contingency plan, and the form of communication ahead of time is the best way to be prepared. An extreme weather event would be scary and being clear and organized is essential.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Steven McDonald Jr: I would like to improve safety measures taken during an intruder drill in our schools. I wish this wasn't a situation that would ever need to be addressed but unfortunately it is. Statistically speaking 9 out of the 10 most deadliest mass school shootings took place in communities of 50,000 people or less. This is a serious issue that should be addressed. If elected I would like to start coordinating with the school on different scenarios and plans of how to better protect our children and staff during school hours. Transparency is another one of my top priorities making sure the community is aware of decisions and issues in discussion. I would like to implement a system to guarantee that decisions and information are being thoroughly reviewed prior to being approved. Another part of the system would be to specifically define the responsibilities of every individual in city council. On a final note I would like to see more family friendly activities taking place in the community.

Kristen Milton: 1. I think Friend needs clear direction and goals for our community. I would very much want to work on a 5 and 10 year strategic plan for our community. While the Community Redevelopment Authority already provides some of this planning, I would like to increase public awareness about any strategic plan and encourage public involvement and support of these goals. 2. Communication and relationship building with the citizens of Friend to help regain trust. More collaboration and transparency along with encouraging citizens to be informed in the city's process of decision making will help achieve this. I will work to encourage an open and honest working relationship with city employees, leadership, and the public. 3. Consistent with the above-identified strategic plan, I would want to provide motivation to clean-up some of the abandoned homes in town and identify support for decent affordable housing in our community.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Steven McDonald Jr: One attribute I love about Friend is the camaraderie. Most people are from here or have family here. However, sometimes this strong relationship has a significant role in decision making based off of personal relationships and feelings. I consider myself to have excellent leadership qualities and know that I'm able to separate biased or personal issues to achieve goals. I know I have the morals and values to serve this town and I hope to be elected to Friend City Council. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristen Milton: The biggest challenge in our community is the rebuilding of public trust. This past year it was revealed that taxpayer funds had been misused for many years. That has caused a lot of mistrust within the community. I would like to

help our citizens regain confidence and trust in our City Government. We need to continue to work together, transparently and honestly to move forward.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 1

Patrick Birkel (NP):

Website: <http://pbforgi.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *none*

Past Public Office, dates held: *none*

Education: *some college*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Chairman of the TriCities Libertarian Party of Nebraska District 3 Coordinator of the Libertarian Party of Nebraska*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Patrick Birkel: My biggest economic priority is to see the city quit using tax increment financing. It is not the tax payers responsibility to make sure developers can turn as big a profit as possible.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Patrick Birkel: My top priority in an extreme weather event would be warning the populace as soon as possible to ensure that they can take whatever steps are necessary to maintain their safety. Next would be restoration of services after the event. My third priority would then be clean up.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Patrick Birkel: My first priority is ending the use of Tax Increment Financing. My second priority is to make sure there will be no new taxes. The city should be able to live within it's means like the rest of us have too. My third priority is to find a way to reduce overall spending. Government is known for wasteful spending and I would like to reduce that to an absolute minimum.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Patrick Birkel: The biggest challenge facing Grand Island is the lack of first responders. We are struggling to find the money to pay for them because of the use of tax increment financing. TIF funnels all property tax back into the infrastructure the city is paying for which in turn stretches our available resources to the breaking point without adding anything to the tax base.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF GRETNA, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 2

Kara Alexander (NP):

Education: *Currently finishing a degree in Nonprofit Administration and Fundraising*

Military Experience: *I am a Gold Star widow.*

Volunteer Experience: *13 year Board President of Matt's Music Memorial. 2 year Board Member for the Lincoln Continentals Chorus. Past Board Member of 17 other small nonprofits. Volunteer for many other organizations.*

John A Ellis (NP): No response received

Lauren L Liebentritt (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kara Alexander: Gretna is a fast growing town. We need to support businesses opening here and encourage growth while considering the long term plan for our community. I believe the city has made some good strides in this in the last few years, but there is still plenty of work to be done. I would focus on having a strong working relationship with Sarpy County, Sarpy County Economic Development Corporation (a subsidiary of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce), and the State. The best advice I received when I started working at the Gretna Area Chamber of Commerce was just to show up. We can't advocate for our community if we aren't in the room. I would be in the room.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kara Alexander: In general, I don't think a lot of City wide changes are needed here. City crews work day and night during snow to make our city streets as safe as possible. Community wide my top priority would be 1) Hwy 6/31 & Hwy 370 followed by 2) access in and out of neighborhoods, paying extra attention to intersections that connect to the highway (Angus and Hwy 6/31 is a good example of a challenging intersection.) Many of the roads in our community are under County jurisdiction for plowing, or have an HOA or SID that hires independently. Communication with those organizations would also be a priority.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kara Alexander: 1) Community wide support. Because much of our community is not annexed or is caught up in the annexation currently in the courts, many of those families don't have direct representation. Yet, because they are a part of the cities ETJ, the city, city council, and mayor make many decisions that affect them. We should be communicating with, to, and on behalf of them as well. They are a big part of Gretna's future. 2) Consideration of ideas. Several ideas have been proposed for our community in recent years and they are rarely considered by current leadership. I'd like to see proposed ideas have more research done and I'm willing to be the one who asks the tough questions. 3) Security at our city parks. I live next to a city park. I have a 1 year old who will play at our parks this summer. City parks should be safe places for our kids. Neither city staff nor parents should be picking up tobacco, drug, or liquor remnants from our parks. Let's set the rules and enforce them.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kara Alexander: Communication. Like it or not, Gretna is no longer a small town. School district numbers show that we are currently a community of 25,000+, and Heartland 2050 believes we will be a community of 50k by 2050. The small town word of mouth no longer works effectively. I want to see people and processes put in place to help city staff communicate with the community. Sarpy County just took on this initiative and discovered quickly they needed more than one person to handle it. The city needs staff hours dedicated to communication, not secondary to other important positions. And they need effective systems in place to back that staff up. We also need the whole community to have easier access to elected officials, more than just emails. And easier access for freedom of information requests. In today's world of technology, there is no reason to operate in a vacuum.

*******VOTE TODAY!*******

CITY OF HASTINGS, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 3

Paul C Hamelink (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Hastings City Council 2016 – Present Hastings City Council President 2018 – Present Nebraska Commission on Housing & Homelessness 2014- Present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Hastings City Planning Commission 2012-2016*

Education: *BA – Macalester College MM – Northwestern U PhD studies (ABD) – U of South Florida Six Sigma Green Belt – Villanova U Graduate studies – Bethel Sem. Numerous certifications from National Cen. for Housing Management*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Numerous boards including Community Theater, Chamber of Commerce (Past Chair), Police Retirement, Board of Health, Community Redevelopment Auth., Noon Rotary (Past Chair) Member Cham. of Commerce, Downtown Center Association, St Mark's Pro-Cathedral*

Joy Huffaker (NP):

Website: <http://eldonsautomotiverepair.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *None at this time*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *I have by BSN.*

Military Experience: *None*

Willis Hunt (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Hastings Planning Commission September 2018 – April 2020*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Hastings City Engineer 1970 – 1977 Hastings City Council 1980 – 1984 Hastings Board of Public Works 2006 – 2018*

Education: *B.S. Kearney State (UNK) Masters Degree Program Nebraska Licensed Civil Engineer*

Military Experience: *U.S. Army – Veteran*

Volunteer Experience: *4-H Youth Leader 1985 – 2014 Board Member of Adams County Agricultural Society 1985 – 1994 Rodeo Volunteer/Fair Volunteer 1995-2019 Hastings Chamber of Commerce 1985 – 2020*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Paul C Hamelink: Considerable development has been a direct result of economic assistance such as TIF funds, façade grants, LIHTC funds and other incentives supported through the efforts of HEDC, the CRA and BID. Hastings should continue to pursue grant funding, such as CBDG funds, to continue to attract private investment. These funds have been key to projects like the Brewery Lofts and North Park Commons. New projects add to our economic base and address important needs such as housing. The city must address infrastructure issues as we continue to grow. The 42nd St. improvement and Hwy 6 projects are good examples of addressing needs in growing areas. Updating our aging systems must become a priority before it becomes an emergency. Hastings Utilities is a key component for future growth. HU is successfully addressing the nitrate problem assuring a good water supply. The new solar farm moved us toward the future with clean energy and keeps us competitive with other communities.

Joy Huffaker: I would like to see the City of Hastings grow from within. If the small business's within our community grow they will have more job openings thus attracting more individuals and or families to our community. Hastings is already doing a great job of adding on and growing towards the north, I would like to also see development on all sides of the city. Hastings has a lot of small communities that come here for shopping, vehicle repair, ect and we want to continue to grow and provide more choices.

Willis Hunt: My priorities for economic development in Hastings is to support the continuation of the activities of the Economic Development Corporation as I did while a member of the Hastings Board of Public Works. One of the projects I

worked on included the expansion of Thermo-King through a grant. This grant provided high paying jobs for Hastings and the surrounding area.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Paul C Hamelink: First, ensure public safety. Mobilize staff to clear roads for first responders, repair/restore utility services and activate emergency plans and personnel. The COVID-19 crisis has helped refine our emergency procedures. Clear lines of communication must be established. Emergencies require cooperation between numerous city, county, state and sometime federal agencies. Hastings is currently upgrading IT functions so key staff can perform essential job functions and communicate outside of their workspace. The public must be kept informed. The recent addition of a Public Information Director has proven to be an invaluable addition during the Corona Virus outbreak. This will also position Hastings to utilize communication paths such as social media. Relief efforts must be launched, especially for our vulnerable populations. The Red Cross, Salvation Army, along with other community resources must be enlisted to assist in providing shelter, food and basic needs to those most effected.

Joy Huffaker: I would like to see procedures in place so if or when there are extreme weather events that all departments know their part and exactly what to do and when. Also these procedures need to be available for the public to access so the citizens know what to expect during those times.

Willis Hunt: In the event of an extreme weather emergency, one of the top priorities for the city is the planning and preparation required before this weather event occurs. The establishment of a command center, under the direction of the Mayor, along with the support of all City Departments, and with other Government agencies, including the County Emergency Management and the State and Federal governments should have a plan in place. This combined group would establish what would be the top priority to the weather event negate. As a councilman from the Third Ward, I would offer my services, if needed, in support of whatever priority or action this group would decide to take on.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Paul C Hamelink: 1. Economic Development, Hastings needs to enable, not inhibit, private investment in our community. A strong business community will make for a strong Hastings. The Council must continue to support the efforts of HEDC, CRA and the BID as well as our existing manufacturers, retailers, businesses large and small, non-profits and schools. 2. Keep Hastings Affordable. Hastings enjoys some of the lowest utility rates in Nebraska. Those rates must stay low. We must also maintain Hastings strong financial position by not encumbering taxpayers with further city debt, looking for efficiencies and avoid unnecessary spending of tax dollars. Economic development will increase out tax base and help keep taxes in check. 3. Make Hastings User Friendly. Working with the city should be easy and approachable. Our quality of life will thrive as we invest in our parks & rec, expand our trails and increase accessibility/walkability. City government needs to be quick to serve and slow to restrict.

Joy Huffaker: 1. Community growth, as I touched on above I believe that Hastings is a great community and that if we support our local businesses and they are able to grow they will attract individuals and their families to our community for job opportunities. 2. Open communication and the concerns of the citizens being heard. This is a great community because of all the citizens that live here. The city council members are the voice for the citizens and the majority of the citizens want their concerns or ideas validated. The more open communication is between the council and the citizens the less misunderstanding there will be. 3. Positive Culture change. We have a lot of great people working for the City as well as some individuals that have recently started and changes are being made and new ideas and ways of doing things are happening. We want to attract great individuals and families to our community, this will happen as we are seen as a welcoming community with positive City employees.

Willis Hunt: One of the top priorities that became apparent to the citizens of the Third Ward is the lack of open discussion or decision which affect major changes in the transportation system of the City of Hastings. A street was closed and direct access to some businesses was greatly affected, causing them to close. This action was taken with no public hearing on this matter. Only after a petition was circulated, which had more than twenty-seven hundred signatures, did the City Council take action to stop the process of removal of an elevated railroad crossing that had been utilized by the traveling public for more than eight decades. A study to determine the cost of repairs has now been undertaken. This was done only after the

petition was filed. It took a major public response to bring this about. As elected officials, you openly represent the public in all matters. This needs to be a high priority. Petitioning the government to respond should be the public's last resort

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Paul C Hamelink: Hastings needs to be prepared to move into a rapidly changing future. We face a number of issues such as: workforce shortages, lack of quality affordable housing, the need for additional well-paying jobs, affordable daycare and the loss of our young people. In early 2020 I began to identify and address these and other future concerns by gathering community leaders with the goal of crafting an achievable plan for the future of our city. In February I invited Mike Flood, former Speaker of the NE Legislature, to present at the annual meeting of the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce. His work in NE Nebraska brought us examples of how communities like Hastings can successfully address future concerns. He was very well received. While this group is currently on hold due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we will reconvene as soon as possible. I expect this group will be able to set concrete goals which will directly address the needs of our community in the years to come.

Joy Huffaker: I feel that there is a lot of negativity regarding the growth of our community. One of the biggest problems is lack of knowledge by the citizens as to why things are done the way they are. More public knowledge and ease of access to obtain this information would help with a lot of misconceptions.

Willis Hunt: The biggest and greatest challenge we face today is the Covid-19. This is a challenge to our community and to the world! How will local governments survive the large economic loss and continue to provide service to its citizens. It will take strong, dedicated, knowledgeable public servants willing to make the hard decisions and be ready to detail their actions to the citizens they represent. There will be some hard decisions that will need to be taken and I stand ready to do that. I believe my public service in difficult economic times has prepared me for the very decisions which are ahead for all public officials.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

CITY OF HOLDREGE, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 3

Russell Carlston (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Past Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Education: - *University of Colorado at Colorado Springs - Barry University - St. Joseph Medical Center*

Military Experience: *NA*

Volunteer Experience: - *Mission Medical Clinic - TPMF Medical Mission - Catania Italy Mission - Special Olympics - Heal to Stride - JDRF Walk - Helping Hands Hurricane Harvey*

Nicholas Smith (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Russell Carlston: To help further the economy within Holdrege, we need to create business-friendly policies to attract employers and make use of currently vacated buildings. We can also engage with current businesses to find ways to support them, their workforce, the potential to create new jobs, and contribute to residents quality of life. Discussion with residents to learn their needs or desires for new services and amenities as well as any policies or ordinances which may be negatively affecting their quality of life is essential moving forward.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Russell Carlston: A top priority in an extreme weather event would be the creation or review of an emergency preparedness plan regarding appropriate shelter and access to needed items when sheltering in place or in situations involving evacuations. Likewise, another top priority would be the maintaining of utility services and roadway access for essential workers as well as emergency services.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Russell Carlston: Economic development would be my top priority with a focus on encouraging business growth, reviewing regulatory hurdles and carefully scrutinizing the sale of land/buildings for local projects to ensure they properly serve our community. Second, fiscal responsibility is an important aspect of any healthy city. Budgets should be balanced, debts paid and a reserve fund maintained. Lastly, the city of Holdrege needs an increase in affordable housing. We should seek and support partnerships to improve neighborhoods and rentals. Deregulation of unnecessary housing ordinances should also be considered so people have more control over their personal property.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Russell Carlston: A large number of Holdrege business employees presently do not reside within Holdrege and an increase in affordable housing is necessary to recruit and retain that workforce. There are a number of homes in a state of ruin and a plan should be made so that those lots may have functional and safe housing as both a way of providing housing to residents but also to help beautify Holdrege. Quality housing is essential and Holdrege needs to encourage efficient, practical residential construction with high standards.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

CITY OF LAVISTA, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 4

John Pluta (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications Management*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, Open Door Mission, Bethlehem House, and St. John Vianney Church.*

Kevin Wetuski (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

John Pluta: My priorities for economic development would be to keep the momentum moving with the 84th Street project. Making sure that sustainable, long term partnerships are further developed and investigating what aspects need to be leveraged to fully utilize and enjoy the urbanization of the area. All while not losing sight on opportunities in other parts of the city as well. Especially Ward 4 where there is plenty to continue to build on and grow economically.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

John Pluta: My top priorities in an extreme weather event would be resources for emergency services and first responders. I would review or help develop a plan for specific events or scenarios . I would make sure all parties involved know their parts and the needed resources were in place to act on those plans. I would also work to make sure trials or simulations were run to confirm the plans work and that everyone knows their parts including communications to the citizens.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

John Pluta: My top priority would always be to do what I feel is best for future generations. Above all else I would make decisions that would benefit generations to come. My next priority would be make sure that city finances are held in check and that all expenses are bringing the most value. I would vigorously pursue any opportunity to lower expenses and taxes for citizens. My third priority would be transportation flow and safety. I would work to help improve the transportation system. Developing an infrastructure that allows for efficient travel to all parts of the city in an environmentally friendly manner as possible is a key component to the future of our community.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

John Pluta: The biggest challenge I see at the moment is the 84th Street redevelopment. While this is one of the biggest opportunities for the city that I can remember it is also one filled with many moving parts. Constant vigilance will need to be paid so the citizens of the city can take full advantage of this opportunity. That challenge needs to be met while not overlooking opportunities in other parts of the city. I would make sure to provide that vigilance and attention needed to take full advantage of this opportunity.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF NORFOLK, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 1

Kory Hildebrand (NP):

Education: *Northeast Community College Mitchell Technical Institute*

Juan E Sandoval (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kory Hildebrand: We need to continue working to grow our community. We need to work with Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce to aid in getting new jobs here and help with our existing business to strive for the next generation. We can do this in so many different ways, we can help by coming together for one another and act as one community to benefit everyone and all generations.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kory Hildebrand: Public Safety is always a top priority of mine. I also have the working staff of the City in mind by providing the knowledge and training they need to do their jobs safely and efficient when crisis happens. The staff of the city also needs the Personal Protective Equipment they need to carry out their duties safely. No single force can mend what's been done by a major weather event, so we need to build a bond with other agencies to have the best available outcome. We can all rely on each other's expertise in a catastrophic event.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kory Hildebrand: 1) Growing Norfolk. We need to continue working to grow our community. We need to work with Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce to aid in getting new jobs here and help with our existing business to strive for the next generation. We can do this in so many different ways, we can help by coming together for one another and act as one community to benefit everyone and all generations. 2) Updating Our Infrastructure. Come up with a solution to maintain the infrastructure we need. Being financially responsible, replace what is in disrepair or soon will be. Please look at the 6-year road plan. 3) Industry and Technical Jobs. I think if we can attract the right Industries and Technical companies to move to Norfolk or existing Norfolk companies to move in this direction, we can prosper Norfolk and the surrounding area with good paying jobs.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kory Hildebrand: More good and better paying jobs. I think if we can attract the right Industries and Technical companies to move to Norfolk or existing Norfolk companies to move in this direction, we can prosper Norfolk and the surrounding area with good paying jobs. If we have more good paying jobs in Norfolk, we will attract more people to move here and raise a family. This is part of what it is going to take to Grow Norfolk and leave it better for the next generation.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

CITY OF NORFOLK, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 2

Frank C Arens (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Norfolk City Planning Commissioner Appointed 2016- current Vice-Chair since 2019*

Past Public Office, dates held: *none*

Education: *High School: Hartington Cedar Catholic College: Kearney State College B.A. Human Resource Management*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Elkhorn Valley Pheasants Forever member and past president, Youth mentor volunteer Salvation Army christmas gift delivery*

Randy E Dee (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *no previous*

Past Public Office, dates held: *no previous*

Education: *University of Nebraska at Omaha*

Military Experience: *Army National Guard*

Volunteer Experience: *Norfolk Rotary Club- President 2019-2020; Boy Scouts of America Assistant Scoutmaster; Eucharistic Minister; past Kiwanis Club of Norfolk; past Norfolk Catholic Finance Committee; past Chair Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors*

Bill Hattery (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Frank C Arens: Encourage economic diversity to keep Norfolk attractive to people of all ages. Use the tax increment financing appropriately as developments and businesses look to expand into the future. Continue with the downtown redevelopment projects as this brings housing and employment opportunities to the community. Enable the housing developments to offer affordable housing options.

Randy E Dee: We need to bring more businesses to the area. In order to do this, we need to have more housing for the employees of these new companies. Several people that work in the city live outside of the city for the simple facts that there is not enough housing. We also need better infrastructure. This city has done a decent job with this to date, but there is much more that needs to be done. I would continue to support more road projects. There should be no non-paved roads in the city. We also should be active about attracting these businesses. The increase of more restaurants in the area was a good start. We need more larger businesses that employ 200+ staff.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Frank C Arens: Immediately be in contact with the local, state and federal authorities to establish a plan of action. Be available at all times to assist with the operation. Last year we had a scare with the massive flooding surrounding and including parts of our city, the emergency first responders and safety director did an excellent job in maintaining the citizen's safety.

Randy E Dee: Our community does well when there is an emergency in the area. We always come together and help our neighbors. During the floods of 2019, the levee system saved a great deal of the city from being underwater. The areas that were flooded, we saw the community come together and help those in need. I will continue to build that community pride through service clubs and religious organizations.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Frank C Arens: Promote economic development for continued job growth: increase additional housing to increase revenue and broaden the tax base. Generate employment opportunities and attract capital investment. Keep Norfolk attractive to business and people of all ages: stay innovative in our thought process for employment opportunities. Norfolk's downtown redevelopment has been very a positive change to this community and the image the last few years has been noticed statewide. Skyline renovation project significantly improved the living conditions and safety of the 92 units available to the disabled and senior residents. This is something I approved as a member of the Norfolk Planning Commission and will continue to fight for this type of improvement for our community. Maintain our fiscal budget and support the safety of our community: Establish a firm financial standing and review the spending in the budget. Support the people who are in a position of leadership, especially our first responders.

Randy E Dee: 1. Infrastructure... Too many roads have potholes and are in bad shape. This also includes having a better snow removal program better. 2. A safer Norfolk... More support for our First Responders, Police and Fire Divisions. We need to increase their budget. There should be more police protecting our children in schools. As a citizen, I requested a better police presence at the Norfolk Middle School to deter drivers speeding during dismissal. I was told there was not enough in the budget to have a dedicated officer. Money should never be the reason we decide not to do everything to protect out children. 3. Housing... We need to get more housing built. We are currently at 23,348 population. To be a stronger community that larger companies will look at moving to, that number needs to be increased to 25,000 at first with a goal to be at 30,000 by 2035.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Frank C Arens: The retention of our population, specifically the younger people in our community. This requires Norfolk to remain attractive to people not only already living here but to others looking to move here. We need to make sure amenities such as parks, trails, shopping etc...are available. We need to look for ways to use our city's assets to their fullest and expand toward the future needs requested by our citizens.

Randy E Dee: The biggest challenge is transparency in the city. Too many issues pass through quickly without questions asked. While all ordinances pass in the open meeting process. The citizens should know and have a say whenever their tax dollars are spent. While the city does a good job at this. It could be better. I will ensure that citizens know and can speak up with they oppose or support issues. I will be their voice. I will question anything that I and my constituents do not agree with.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF NORTH PLATTE, CITY COUNCIL, WARD 4

Tracy Martinez (NP):

Education: *Graduated North Platte High School Took classes at Mid Plains until course was dropped,*

Volunteer Experience: *AYSO coach, Chair Buffalo Bill Soccer Tournament, President Sandhills Symphony, North Platte Community Play House Pit Orchestra, numerous fund raising. Don Gill stated my bass playing "made the night" at the Veteran's Memorial fund raising dance.*

Lawrence Ostendorf (NP): No response received

Mark Woods (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Tracy Martinez: One of my proudest accomplishments was my support of the Walmart Distribution Center. I would like to see more growth like that. We should develop air/cargo terminals and facilities east of the airport, toward Maxwell. If you have ever driven around Eppley Airport in Omaha, you can see all the shipping terminals. Nationally there is a shortage of air terminal space. North Platte has advantages of being centrally located. The internet has changed the way Americans shop. We need to join in with the changing economy. We could also work in conjunction with the railroad. Sadly, we see the situation with Union Pacific. Being from a railroad family; we need to change the industrial structure of North Platte. From primarily rail traffic to primarily air traffic. North Platte should invest in the industrial park. We need to construct large modern buildings ready to “move in”, to help encourage business growth. Companies want “ready to go” now, not in a year and a half.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Tracy Martinez: I believe that our local emergency weather service is doing a good job. That being said, the City always needs to keep up with technological advances. We could use “lightning” indication equipment for all outdoor sporting centers. Having been director of the Buffalo Bill Soccer Tournament, I have seen firsthand how the air can become so static filled, ready for a lightning strike, that a child’s hair stands straight out all over. “Like someone rubbed a balloon all over it”, all without any noticeable storm indications. Another weather event that is likely to happen in this area is blizzards. It’s always a “crap-shoot” Residents of N.P. realize past City Councils have used the “snow removal” funds for other City endeavors. I don’t criticize spending dollars to move snow and overtime, if the job gets done. If the plows are out pushing snow. The Viaducts must be plowed and treated first. Down town on the south side of Streets need to move snow so you don't create an ice mess.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Tracy Martinez: When you reflect on the last 40 years of city government; you can see many ways that they failed us. We all can see how the City Fathers drove North Platte in the Ground. Especially the past Ward 4 Councilmen and Woman. Many streets in town are in bad shape. The A Street sewer needs fixed. It was promised when the High School was built, then the City changed its mind. The 9th Street and Buffalo intersection is another example of failure. Once they got Buffalo St. going from the lake, north all the way to the rodeo arena the City forgot about finishing the job. The Council forgets about the north west side of town. I have been saying since 1996 that it should be on the 1 & 6 plan, but it has just recently was put on the Plans, but still our councilman said that doesn’t mean it will happen. West 9th St. corridor is over 60 years old. It’s Past time to put gutters, curbs, and road-way in. The north-side needs to have the full support like the “Dixie Street project” was afford

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Tracy Martinez: Biggest challenge... How to fix the social-economic disparities and discrimination, Blatant ethnic discrimination. That is why we don't attract modern family's to town. Example: I am identified as the Mexican on west 9th St. When my Irish Mother’s family has been here since the potato famine and my Father’s family has been here 100 years. I am a 2nd-generation American who has never been to Mexico. I was born in my mother's bed room on west 9th St. where I reside. Mind you, I’m not saying all people in North Platte are bigots; but a lot of people on the south side think they are "better" than the north side. Residences in the 4th Ward want good homes, streets and a place to raise the next generation. In my lifetime experiences I have been blessed to have known and seen how the lowest persons in N.P. exist and how the richest person in N.P. Lives. The 4th Ward deserves improvements, they pay taxes too.

*******VOTE TODAY!*******

CITY OF PAWNEE, CITY COUNCIL

John L Dahlgren (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *City Council 2012-2020*

Education: *High School*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Church board, Avenue of Flags,*

Donnie Fisher (NP): No response received

Bruce Haughton (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Pawnee Housing Authority, Vice Pres., Pawnee Historical Society, Vice Pres., Pawnee Arts Council, board member, Pawnee City Assisted Living, board member, Elder at Zion Lutheran church*

Education: *B. S. in Education, (teaching). Insurance Agent, licensed in Nebraska*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Chartered member of Pawnee City Education foundation, past member/treasure of Pawnee City Library Foundation*

Volunteer Experience: *Developed "Pawnee Pride Association." Current and appointed by City Council*

Vickie L Zelenka (NP): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

John L Dahlgren: CJ Foods, Keeping the stores we have! Try to get more housing and rentals, Annexing, that creates more taxes for city streets and more.

Bruce Haughton: We are primarily a farming community with property taxes as a real concern. I would like to work with the Economic Development Board and see if we can generate any new business activities. Also be looking at ways to improve (help) the existing small business in this area. Keeping people at home to shop is a real challenge. We are a city of less than 900 and have most everything you would need as a consumer, however we know people drive out of town each week to get their needs. Perhaps there is a need to start an incentive program that generates points (credit incentives) if you purchase at home, much like Menards, Orscheln and Caseys.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

John L Dahlgren: A Tornado—if a storm hit the down town it would be devastating! I am sure many of are businesses would not repair. the only thing a would say is help them with grants or with reuse money.

Bruce Haughton: I would have the city employees and volunteers check on the elderly, making sure they have safety until the storm passes. Central Nebraska did a nice job of this during the flood of 2019. Volunteers, firefighters and the National Guard rescued a number of flood victims.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

John L Dahlgren: 1. the budget for the city, a person has to be smart and use common sense, for you only have what people pay in taxes to work with! 2. Sewer plant, try to keep the cost of maintenance down. each time you raise cost to customers, elderly especially you take away food, for they will pay bill before they eat! 3. Annexing some businesses in to the city limits. that does creates tax revenue.

Bruce Haughton: I would continue a big push to clean up vacant properties and help with homes that are in a blighted area. The main thrust is to make Pawnee City a pleasant picture to prospective home owners. In the realty business we call this "curb appeal". My second priority would be to generate some affordable housing for teachers, the elderly and single people

not wanting to buy or own a house. My last priority would be to generate activities that would include the youth of the area. Encouraging them to take pride in the town they live in. This can be done by developing school-to-work programs and making available apprenticeship connection with local businessmen. This process gives school age youth (namely high school) the opportunity to explore work careers before they leave a community.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

John L Dahlgren: trying to create more revenue for the city. its something you need to discuss with those businesses, sit down and explain your reason why, what can we both get from this!

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CITY OF ST PAUL, CITY COUNCIL, AT LARGE

Dustin Anderson (NP): No response received

Mike Feeken (NP):

Education: *B.A. Hastings College*

Volunteer Experience: *St. Paul Library Board, St. Paul Housing Authority Board, St. Paul Rotary Club, GCA Days, Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, South Central Economic Development District, Nebraska Economic Developer's Association*

Chuck Schmid (NP):

Website: <http://schmidchuck@gmail.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Current Chairmen of the Planning Commission and President of the Cemetery Board for St Paul, Nebraska*

Education: *Grand Island Senior High diploma. Various coursework and certifications to meet requirements of municipal work through Central Community College of Hastings.*

Military Experience: *U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran, 1968-1970*

Volunteer Experience: *47 yrs American Legion, 35 yrs on the St. Paul Fire Dept. including 5 yrs as Fire Chief. GCA Days. Park Restroom Committee to build a new restroom. Raise funds by collecting aluminum cans for park improvements as we built anew gazebo in the park*

Steffany Tartaglia (NP):

Education: *University of Nebraska at Omaha*

Volunteer Experience: *Religious Education Teacher, A Woman's Touch Pregnancy Center, Siena Francis Clothing Drive Coordinator*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Mike Feeken: As a former economic development director, priorities include making sure that our community is spending our economic development dollars efficiently in order to position St. Paul as a number one option for businesses and residents to locate. Making sure smart investments are made to our aging infrastructure in targeted areas will help spur natural growth with housing. If elected, I'll work to make sure that issues outlined in our downtown revitalization and comprehensive plan are addressed and prioritized.

Chuck Schmid: Continue to work on bringing in new businesses and grow existing businesses. Work to improve our Hwy 281 corridor for future business and economic growth. Partner with citizens to identify sound development opportunities for our community.

Steffany Tartaglia: I have a lot of experience with financial analytics. I understand that economic growth is important to keep any institution thriving. I would make it a priority to ensure that growth opportunities are met with fiscal responsibility, encouraging new business but ensuring that proposed growth is beneficial to the city.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Mike Feeken: To make sure that all residents are safe and have adequate supplies during the event. After making sure those priorities are secure, start to address preventive measures for future events. This could be flood control, ditch/canal maintenance, community wide shelters, warning systems, etc.

Chuck Schmid: Maintain the critical infrastructure of the city (electricity, water, wastewater, streets, parks, cemetery.) Work with local, state and federal agencies to provide aid to the citizens of St Paul. Provide ongoing communicants to the citizens both during and after the event.

Steffany Tartaglia: In an extreme weather event, my top priority is the safety of the people. This would include physical safety from disaster conditions as well as ensuring supplies for continued survival. My goal would be to make sure that those affected have shelter, food, water, medical attention, and any other items necessary to maintain. Once immediate safety needs have been met, my next priority is to ensure the safety of the city itself. This includes maintaining critical structures as well as how to repair and rebuild any damages sustained.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Mike Feeken: 1. Completing the downtown revitalization plan. Because there are opportunities for outside agency funding, we cannot simply kick-the-can down the road. These items (especially infrastructure) need to be addressed while these potential funders are willing to invest. 2. Indebtedness - I would like to thoroughly assess the amount of public indebtedness that the community has incurred and see if there are ways to utilize existing dollars that are in savings to pay off the debt. 3. Public transparency across all departments and spending of the community. This would include utility rates. I've heard from too many residents that can't find out information about where and why their utility or property tax dollars are being spent.

Chuck Schmid: First, bring our wastewater system into compliance with current State and EPA rules a regulations. Second is to get our streets repaired which is very much needed now. Third, I would look into any improvements that might be needed by our citizens of St Paul.

Steffany Tartaglia: My top three priorities as an elected official are fiscal responsibility, community safety, and to be an advocate of the people. I want to ensure that city funds are spent sensibly in ways that are beneficial to the people of the city. I want to promote community safety through strong relationships with first responders including fire, police, and EMS. This would also include making sure that city services have the equipment necessary to secure public safety. I firmly believe as an elected official, it is my duty to be the voice of the people. I will always work to do my best to serve the needs of my community, addressing any concerns brought to me and always making decisions with the best interests of my community in mind.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Mike Feeken: Aging infrastructure and the costs associated with replacing. We already know that we'll need to look at different systems for the sanitary sewer systems in the near future - so we need to start planning ahead with figuring out how to pay for this improvement. I would like to see a schedule create of other infrastructure needs - so that we are not "surprised" when those items need to be replaced. I would like for St. Paul to be more proactive then reactive.

Chuck Schmid: The challenges will be to find the funds to pay for the sewer improvements mandated by the State and EPA. We must be mindful to not raise our sewer rates too high for the customers of St Paul . There will be many challenges to lower taxes and I'll work hard to do so.

Steffany Tartaglia: I believe the biggest challenge in any community is to maintain a healthy fiscal environment. Last year, we faced difficulties from severe flooding. This year, we're trying to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that we work together as a community to overcome obstacles we face. Being fiscally responsible as a city allows

us to successfully prevail over any challenges that arise. Prudent spending ensures economic stability as well as continued community growth.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

CITY OF YORK, CITY COUNCIL

Karen Harris (NP): No response received

Vicki Northrop (NP): No response received

Stephen R Postier (NP): No response received

Mathew Wagner (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *City Council Member 2016 to Present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Not Applicable*

Education: *B.S. Multidisciplinary Studies,*

Military Experience: *Retired from the United States Army as a First Sergeant. Occupation Specialties were Infantry, Recruiter, and Career Counselor. 27 years of military leadership and associated courses for career progression*

Volunteer Experience: *York Veteran's Avenue of Flags, York Junior Chamber of Commerce. Team Mates. American Legion. Veteran's of Foreign Wars.*

Diane Wolfe (NP):

Past Public Office, dates held: *City Council 2007-2018*

Education: *High School Graduation*

Volunteer Experience: *Local Animal Shelter, City Functions, Past Youth Group Leader, Dog Obedience Training Assistant and photographer*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Mathew Wagner: I have always been a proponent to see York grow. I support our current commitment to our Development Corporation of \$80,000 a year. If in the future additional funds are available I would like to see additional support if feasible.

Diane Wolfe: The city has a great partnership with YCDC. Housing for middle income families is becoming available. We need to make jobs with a higher pay scale a priority along with keeping our downtown businesses open. This would include jobs for both women and men and include both trades school type jobs and professional.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Mathew Wagner: The people are always the most important part of any problem that affects a community. Because Nebraska weather is so unpredictable and the type of event is not defined, this question is not easy to answer. Based on the event, the scope and impact would have to be evaluated before action is taken after we ensure the safety of our citizens. People cannot be replaced, everything else can be replaced.

Diane Wolfe: Being an insurance agent and married to a police officer, I have attended yearly weather training classes for many years. Safety is of course the top priority. Working with law enforcement and first responders in setting up a plan to do whatever is necessary. This would include a base camp to organizing meals, clean up, and other types of help needed.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Mathew Wagner: In our community it is important to me that we limit the waste of our resources. We need to manage our budgets and not spend them. The monies we spend belong to the taxpayer and they deserve to have the best return on their tax dollar. Maintaining our existing facilities is very important. Why continue to add capital assets if we are not maintaining our existing assets? Before adding to our communities, we need to maintain what we already have before adding additional burdens to our budgets. Streets and utilities within a community require attention. We must always be mindful of what our community needs to keep our infrastructure in a serviceable state and avoid large projects that need to be bonded because of neglect.

Diane Wolfe: Maintaining a balanced budget while making sure we purchase what is needed for each department so that we do not fall behind and maintain what we have as far as buildings. Working with York Community Development Corporation in conjunction with bringing businesses to York which would create jobs, and also the development of housing. Funding for maintaining our current buildings. We need to come up with a plan that would cover the cost of big expenditure items for all of the city buildings instead of letting them go and not fixing them. Items such as a new roof, heating/air, even windows can all be costly as we are finding out. Make sure we apply for and use any grants and funding that is available for these types of items.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Mathew Wagner: Our community has added multiple positions that required the addition of salaries, benefits, vehicles, and assets. We have also added several big ticket items that have added hundreds of thousands of dollars to our annual budget, and millions in bond debt. Unfortunately it was not realized that as the expenses were greatly increased, revenues did not increase to meet the new debt and cash reserves were depleted. We are in a recovery phase to build our reserves and rebuild. I feel that we need to continue to reduce wasteful spending, limit unneeded positions, cut expenses, and build back our reserves.

Diane Wolfe: Jobs and shopping locally. Overall our community does a great job at trying to shop local, but there are too many times that either because of price or because it is not offered here, people go out of town. Once people go out of town for one item, it is too easy to get everything out of town. There are also people that have jobs in Lincoln, so will shop in Lincoln. We are not bringing in the revenue that we could be because of this. We don't have the type of jobs for people to make a living off of. It is too easy to drive 50 miles for the higher pay wage.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

COUNTY COMMISSIONER RACES

ANTELOPE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 2

Donald Lallier (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Past Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Education: *BA Business Adm. 1988*

Military Experience: *17 Years in the US Army. I am a Korean vet. I entered the service at 16 years old.*

Volunteer Experience: *As a Retired US Army Veteran, Active Amateur Radio Operator, Storm Spotter and Volunteer Fireman serving my country, community and state.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Donald Lallier: I feel we need to attract more companies in to our area. Attendance to seminars in Lincoln and Omaha with information handouts being provocative with possible new companies may help. Looking for new companies all the time will help. Working with the state of Nebraska will be an definable help. We need a recycle program, to much garbage ends up in our land fills. We have a large Amish Community in our county and it is a untapped resource that could attract tourists to out county. The Ash Fall Fossil Beds located near Orchard-Royal could be a larger tourist attraction than it is now with better advertising.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Donald Lallier: 1. Communication with the Weather Bureau for up to date weather information. 2. Communication with the public to assure they have received any warnings needed. Assure the county is prepared to act as needed. 3. Communication with the other County officials to stay informed of the progress of the weather and expect needs from the county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Donald Lallier: 1. We have a new school being built in our county, I would like to assure the building is being built to specifications and we are getting our monies worth according to our contract with the builder. I would like to see the road between Orchard and the New school and the road between Clearwater and the school and the road between Ewing and the school improved so it will be able to handle the increased traffic safely. These roads need to widen with some new paying including yellow traffic lines painted down the middle of the road and white lines painted on the side and lot of reflectors on the sides. These roads are going to be handle lots of school buses and student and teachers cars and a mix of Farm machinery and some trucks. 2 I would like to see seat belts in all new school buses and old buses. 3. We need more control over new companies coming in to our county- Wind-farms, and solar panel farms as example.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Donald Lallier: With a BA in Business and over 40 years as a Quality Manager I feel I will provide Antelope County and the Towns of Orchard and Clearwater with the best possible representation on the county board because I have worked and controlled budgets in the millions of dollars and had to supervise up 50 workers. County government is Big Business with millions of dollars being given to them to by the county citizens for them to oversee the spending and budgeting monies to their best effort. There is no excuse or reason that any hard earned tax monies should be spent or paid out with out the best effort being put forward by the members of the county board. Mistakes made by the board because they don't know their job or don't care are not acceptable.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

BROWN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Tim Iverson (Rep):

Past Public Office, dates held: *Brown County Ag Society Director from 2006 until 2016.*

Education: *I attended first through eighth grade at Long Pine Elementary and went on to graduate from Ainsworth High School in 1981. I also attended Larabee School of Real Estate in 2003 attaining my real estate license in 2004.*

Volunteer Experience: *Ainsworth Elks Lodge 1790 member for 28 years. I served in the officer chairs for six years, then as Exalted Ruler and six years on the trustees. I also served on the South Pine Volunteer Fire Department with one term as Fire Chief.*

Dewey L Jefferis (Rep): Education: *12th grade diploma*

Cherie Priest (Rep): Education: *Business Management*

Raymond Buddy Small (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Brown county Commissioner January 2008 to present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *School Board North Brookfield MA Board of Selectmen North Brookfield MA 1970 to 1986 Conservation Commission*

Education: *Attended Clark University and Worcester State University in Worcester MA*

Military Experience: *United States Air Force*

Volunteer Experience: *Boy Scout Committee, Boy Scout Webelos Leader, various church groups, driving patients to medical services e.g. chemotherapy, dialysis.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Tim Iverson: Brown County is extremely agricultural based and the economy in the area is reflected by the margin between the cost of that production and the price of the commodity at the time of sale. Taxes weigh heavy on those bottom lines. Travel and tourism play a part in the economic role in Brown County. Maintaining access to private and public land for outdoor activities are a big part of this piece of the pie. It has been brought up many times about wind energy also being an avenue as revenue for our county. I personally do not believe this is a viable endeavor, however I am a strong supporter of personal property rights. With that being said, if a resident chooses to pursue wind energy and can do so without adversely affecting their neighbors I would not be standing in the way of their right to do so. I am also open to listening to anyone that has ideas about the economic development in Brown County.

Dewey L Jefferis: Follow planning & zoning recommendation to promote economic development in brown county.

Cherie Priest: Agriculture is the primary economic driver in our county. My first priority would be to support and develop ag-friendly policies that would support those currently involved in agribusiness and also encourage expansion and growth in that area. Another priority would be to insure that our infrastructure, specifically broadband coverage, adequately covers our county not only to provide access to needed technology for our farmers and ranchers but also provide access to telehealth and work-from-home platforms for all of our residents. As economic growth drives further economic growth, we need long term plans and policies that support main street business and infrastructure to support that growth.

Raymond Buddy Small: I am pro business. As a commissioner I support economic growth in virtually all areas.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Tim Iverson: In the event of extreme weather events such as fire brought on in drought conditions, flooding, tornado and blizzards, the first priority is the safety of the residents of Brown County. To achieve this, all roads must be maintained to

provide access for rescue personnel. Floods present their own challenges by creating a need to determine whether roads, bridges and culverts have been compromised and need to be closed until fixed assuring user's safety. High wind events can create situations in which the county needs to work closely with utility crews dealing with down power lines. Blizzards like the previous scenarios deal with opening roads to assure the response of fire and rescue if they are called upon. Second, is to assess the resources of the county and determine if it is adequate to handle the situation. Third, would be to contact state and federal sources if it is determined a need for additional assistance is required.

Dewey L Jefferis: Roads, public safety, and funding also Resources to deal with an extreme weather event

Cherie Priest: First, the safety of all of our residents and our first responders who are responding to critical needs. Insuring that assistance and aid is expedited to those most severely impacted. Second, assessing the impact to the entire county and quickly acting on detailed plans to make sure roads are drivable and basic needs are met and obtainable in all areas of the county. Then develop, prioritize and act on a longer term plan that returns all affected areas to a "back to normal" state as quickly as possible. Third, reach out to all appropriate state agencies responsible for disaster relief and assistance to insure that all necessary resources are available and in place for the county's recovery.

Raymond Buddy Small: The safety of the residents, the opening of roads and public buildings as soon as possible, rendering aid to assist folks with getting back to normal, routine lives.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Tim Iverson: #1 Quality infrastructure providing access throughout the county with frugal and common sense practices. #2 Address the financial challenges that I believe are soon to become a reality in Brown County. As a result of declining values for agricultural products which in turn will likely affect land values. #3 Healthcare in Brown County by working with the respective board members of the Hospital and the Care Center.

Dewey L Jefferis: Roads: keep roads passible to get commodities to & from market safely. Keep roads safe for driving public to get to & from their homes & industry. Promote: New business to come to our county. Will be open to any ideas or suggestions on creating growth. Taxes: try to keep tax spending down. Keep tax spending within the budget Y

Cherie Priest: 1- Property taxes and controlled spending. Economists say that the first essential ingredient of economic prosperity is a sound fiscal policy, with reasonable and appropriate taxes and spending frugally on a core set of public goods. These are principles that I embrace and would enforce. 2- Economic growth and revitalization that will encourage and enable our educated children to return to Brown County. Policies that support and encourage agricultural growth and expansion. Support of Main Street businesses and infrastructure that makes continued economic growth sustainable. 3- Increased communication and transparency between the board of commissioners and residents of the county. Our county residents should know that their commissioners are there to serve them. They should always feel respected and know that they have been heard whenever they have a need to communicate with the board or any individual commissioner.

Raymond Buddy Small: Maintaining a reasonable budget and conducting the affairs of the county within the budget, maintaining the county roads and all county properties in the best state of conditions as possible, and supporting the economic growth of the county.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Tim Iverson: I believe if elected to the Brown County Commissioner seat, I will represent you, my neighbors, with a common sense approach and an understanding of Brown County that only comes from living here my entire life. The 57 years of life experience in Brown County has shown me many positive advances and some that were just the opposite. I have voiced my opinion at times when it was not the popular thing to do, but rest assured I do it with the betterment of Brown County and both my home and yours in mind. I hope you will consider me when casting your vote. Thank you for taking the time to read some of my thoughts about Brown County.

Dewey L Jefferis: I am a life long brown county resident. Have 45 years of experience working for brown county road department. Have experience running heavy equipment building roads and bridges. Was a licenced bridge inspector for the county. Was road fireman for many years for the county.

Cherie Priest: I have 25 years of experience in business management with responsibilities for managing budgets, setting and meeting financial goals, and crisis management. I have 13 years of experience working for local agribusinesses. As a local ranch owner with my husband, I am committed to Brown County and its future. In all of my work experiences, I have been known as someone who “gets things done”. My past experience has given me the ability to view situations from a big picture perspective. I have also developed the skills to plan and execute those plans at a very detailed level. I believe my perspective and skills will be a benefit for Brown County as we meet the challenges ahead of us.

Raymond Buddy Small: I have served the county faithfully and honorably for 11 years. I have formed relationships with people within the county and across the state of Nebraska that can benefit our county as I have the contacts necessary to perform my duties as a commissioner by achieving results with projects and programs. I treat everyone respectfully and with equal concern to their needs. I am available full time to assist the residents of Brown County. I am open with my ideas and my actions and have no hidden agenda. My sole desire is to serve my friends and neighbors with kindness, fairness, consideration of their needs and a solid future for the younger generations that will build their lives here in Brown County.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

BUFFALO COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 4

Joseph Klingelhofer (Rep): No response received

Daniel L Lynch (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *College level*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Boy Scouts of America, United Way, Police Officer's Association of Nebraska Past President, Police Chief's Association Past President, recently assisted Two Rivers Health Department in organizing Covid19 testing for Emergency Responders in 7 counties*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Daniel L Lynch: Initially, my priorities have been to address concerns regarding roads, road conditions and maintenance. I was also contacted by citizens regarding property taxes. After all that we have had over the last few months, I believe that we will need to address how we can help the citizens recover from the pandemic which I feel will be a monumental challenge for all government bodies but most assuredly for those closest to the people.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Daniel L Lynch: Public Safety. We are rural and as such, being able to reach citizens, to communicate and to assist is the most urgent issue in severe weather. The health and safety must be top priorities. Maintenance of public thoroughfares. The ability to travel and to supply are always paramount. Plan and respond to any necessary repairs to infrastructure.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Daniel L Lynch: Pandemic issues regarding health/ safety and economic stability. Road conditions, maintenance and improvement. Economic development and sustainability issues.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Daniel L Lynch: I am very well versed in government operations, functions and budgeting. I have an excellent working relationship with County Officials and many Officials in several of the communities in the county. I bring a track record of cooperation and collaboration that is well documented. As a 40 plus year resident of the area I understand many of the

pressures and concerns of the public. I think I can help all of us to improve our quality of life and address necessary and needed changes and growth. I have sufficient time, energy and experience to do an excellent job.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 4

Michael Barrett (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Mayor City of Weeping Water 2014-2018 Mayor City of Weeping water 2018-Present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Education: *Undergraduate Degree in Education from Nebraska Wesleyan University Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane University Master's in Administration from UNK*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *I have been involved in public service for over 30 years as an educator and administrator for Weeping Water Public Schools. I have volunteered in coaching, scouting, church activities, food bank, Red Cross Blood Drives, and community fundraising whil*

Daniel Dean Henry (Rep):

Website: <http://practicalgov.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Cass County Commissioner December 2012 to current*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Mayor Louisville Nebraska December 2000 to February 2003*

Education: *High school*

Military Experience: *None*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Michael Barrett: I would work with the Cass County Economic Development office to try and generate new industrial and agricultural growth. Another area of major development that would benefit our county would be retail growth in our smaller cities. We need to bring businesses, such as grocery stores back to the local communities. I would also seek medical services to come to local towns once a week to provide services for Dermatology, Optometrist, Ear/Nose/Throat, Chiropractic, and Physical therapist. We also need to be working with housing developers to create affordable housing so our cities will continue to gain new growth. One other area of economic growth that our county could do a better job capturing and advertising is our recreational opportunities.

Daniel Dean Henry: My main priority will be to maintain and help our current businesses to thrive, to make sure our farmers have every tool we have available to make them successful and finally work with Cass County Economic Development to encourage new business to locate here.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Michael Barrett: One can never do enough to secure the health and safety of our citizens. The first action I would take as commissioner to secure our citizens health and safety would be to make sure our First Responders have everything they need to handle different situation that might face our county. I would also want to have them work together to create a communication of networking so they all can work to help each other, rather than worry only about their individual communities. The next step I would take would be to build more emergency management response centers, like the one located at the Cass County Fairgrounds. These response centers need to be place at more than one location to benefit everyone in the county. We also need to make sure our weather alert system for the county is up to date and working. I would rely heavily on the Cass County Heath Board and Emergency Management team to make sure we are as prepared for Natural Disasters as much as possible.

Daniel Dean Henry: Constituent safety, help any victims and preserve infrastructure.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Michael Barrett: My top priority is to create economic stimulus for Cass County. New businesses will benefit all communities. Secondly, I want to improve the integrity of our transportation infrastructure including bridges, highways, and county roads. Finally, I intend to scrutinize the budget making it as efficient as possible. Cass County citizens deserve the best possible return for their hard-earned tax dollars. Success is putting the most thoughtful effort into finding creative ways to solve complex problems. Likewise, one must constantly evaluate results and adjust for improvement.

Daniel Dean Henry: Making sure County government operates as efficiently and effectively as possible, continue to work on the Budget process and finally work with the Legislature to come up with a more equitable process for needed revenue instead of relying so heavily on property tax.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Michael Barrett: When I first came to office as mayor, my goal was bring together entities that had been at odds. Several groups had their own agendas and seemed unable to see other perspectives when it came to making policy. I worked to rebuild relationships and was successful in meeting the needs of diverse groups and guiding us all towards common goals benefiting our town as a whole. I want to strengthen cooperation at the county level in much the same way.

Daniel Dean Henry: My career with the City of Louisville gave me extensive experience with budgets and operations of government, it also helped me understand the need for long term planning. During my time as Commissioner I have been on the Budget Committee every year, also during this time we have increased both building facilities and Roads Department equipment. I believe if you talk to anyone that knows me they will tell you I am a very good steward of taxpayer money.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 1

Duane Dinnel (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Chase County Zoning Board ~2005-2008*

Education: *Three semesters college at University of Nebraska*

Military Experience: *Two years U.S. Army, including one year Vietnam/Cambodia infantry*

Volunteer Experience: *Eight months staff member with Mexico Caravan Ministries, Tijuana, Mexico*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Duane Dinnel: Chase County is predominately an agriculture based economy. As such, I will support efforts that will increase production and efficiency of existing farms and businesses. I will also support new enterprises that will add value to the products that are already being produced. I believe that a multi-faceted economy is important to the overall economic health of a community. I will support any new enterprise that can contribute in a positive manner to the county. Such enterprises must be self-sustaining and not rely upon tax dollar support for their success.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Duane Dinnel: 1. Safety of all residents, including county employees responding to the event. 2. Preservation of livestock and other assets. 3. Maintaining infrastructure.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Duane Dinnel: 1. Fiscal Responsibility. I believe that I am accountable for each tax dollar that is spent. I will scrutinize the budgets of every department to eliminate any unnecessary spending. This may include not funding some requests that have

been made in the past. I believe that every dollar spent should have a benefit that exceeds the cost. 2. County roads represent the single largest budget item for the county. I will work to see that we have the best roads that we can reasonably afford. By allocating labor and equipment more efficiently, we can have better roads for the same dollars spent. I have several ideas on how to accomplish this. 3. Work with other local, state and federal agencies to eliminate overlap of services. This may involve eliminating or curtailing some non-essential services. I am not in favor of unfunded mandates from state and federal agencies. My underlying philosophy is, if you alone benefit from a service, then you, not the taxpayer, should bear the cost.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Duane Dinnel: I am retired, therefore I have the time available to do the job. I am fiscally conservative as I believe most of my constituents are. I will endeavor to make sure that every dollar spent is to the taxpayers' benefit. I am willing to listen to any concerns in regard to county functions or operations. I would appreciate hearing suggestions for improvement along with the concern, rather than it just being a complaint. In this way, we can work together to accomplish a better result.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

GOSPER COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 3

Glenn L Hofman (Rep):

Past Public Office, dates held: *School Board member* Education: *Bachelor of Science plus 60 hours*

Military Experience: *Vietnam Veteran*

Volunteer Experience: *Lions Club VFW American Legion*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Glenn L Hofman: I am a fiscal conservative and plan on monitoring and upgrade county roads and bridges as needed. I would investigate becoming a more livestock friendly county. Spend tax money wisely.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Glenn L Hofman: Safety of the roads and bridges for people to travel on Tornado designated shelters in place Access to down lines for Electrical Power Suppliers, Twin Valley, Dawson County public power

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Glenn L Hofman: Taxes and Roads and law enforcement support.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Glenn L Hofman: I feel like I am approachable, conservative and will strive to be informed

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HALL COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 2

Karen Bredthauer (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Elected to Hall County Board Commissioners 2016*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Grand Island-Hall County Regional Planning 2007, Grand Island - Hall Co. Zoning Board Adjustments 2006 and Hall Co. Interjurisdictional Planning Commission Board 2008*

Education: *Graduated Ord High School 1985, Graduated with a Technical Trade Certificate 1987, Institute of Excellence Leadership Development Program 2019.*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *Habitat for Humanity Builders Committee, United Way Chairperson for Hall County Employees - 2018 and Red Cross Volunteer*

Todd D Morgan (Rep):

Website: <http://www.sparkyswingsauce.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Past Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Education: *Some college*

Military Experience: *NA*

Volunteer Experience: *Red Cross, GI Northwest High School fundraisers, Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive, Firefighter Memorial.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Karen Bredthauer: Knowing that economic development is the key to broadening the tax base and therefore keeping the tax levy in check, I would support the following: 1. Continue to improve our roads and bridges insuring that the infrastructure is solid when a new or expanding business seeks land for development. With little undeveloped land available within the city, larger tracts of land would more likely be available in rural areas. 2. Continue to promote policies which support business rather than policies that could make business development more difficult. For instance, promoting conditional use permits like the recent "Smart Soil, LLC". 3. Continue to financially support Economic Development's day to day operational expenses.

Todd D Morgan: I feel as an elected official it is my responsibility to widen the tax base by bringing in new business or assist existing businesses by finding out what they need to help them grow. That would include small business, manufacturing, and especially Agribusiness. I also feel at this time we really need to find ways to assist area businesses in these tough economic times.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Karen Bredthauer: In an extreme weather situation I would continue to support the following: 1. Measure to keep our employees safe, such as allowing employees to come to work when they feel safe to travel, using their accumulated paid time off. 2. Encourage the road department to clear roads, as soon as they can safely, using overtime if necessary to support safe travel on rural roads, particularly for emergencies. 3. Encourage all down town sidewalks and parking lots near County buildings be cleared and safe from slips and falls.

Todd D Morgan: Public safety is always first and foremost. County infrastructure, to include not only water, food, electricity, and basic necessities of life. Identify the problems and mitigate the situation. Tornadoes, flood, and blizzard in my opinion fall under the category of extreme weather. This would include being involved with forming a unified task force of state and local entities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Karen Bredthauer: My top priorities during the last 4 years on the board, have been and will continue to be the following: 1. Maintain or lower the present tax levy so that people can afford to remain in their homes, and so that business can flourish. 2. Encourage Hall County to look for ways to work more efficiently and effectively so that during these economic times the County can maintain their workforce and therefore the services our Taxpayers deserve. 3. Work to improve our County roads and bridges to insure safe travel for all.

Todd D Morgan: Public Safety: I would like to sit down and speak with Sheriff Conrad, Todd Bahensky of Hall County Corrections, and EMS Division Chief Russ Blackburn(GIFD) to discuss with them their basic needs and long term goals. Roads: This falls along the same lines in my first goal. I would like to sit down with Steve Reilly. I know they are in need of a different location as they are almost landlocked and out of space. Budget: This is probably first and foremost in these tough economic times. Priorities may need to shift a little to make sure we can keep the Mill Levy in check but make sure that the citizens of Hall County have the confidence in us to make the right decisions.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Karen Bredthauer: I'm committed to Hall County and want to continue as a Public Servant to serve the residents of Grand Island - Hall County. My voting record 'Has Proven' I am a fiscal conservative, with NO increases in taxes (mill levy), putting the cap on spending, watching out for issues that are important to the taxpayer of Grand Island - Hall County. I have gone up against some tough opponents to fight for issues that are important to Grand Island - Hall County. Because I Have Listened to the concerns of the taxpayer, my 12 years experience serving in Hall County Government has me successful serving for four years on the Hall County Board of Commissioners focusing on No tax levy increases, revitalizing the economy and creating an atmosphere in which both large and small business can thrive.

Todd D Morgan: For almost thirty years I served the citizens of Grand Island as a Firefighter, with the last eighteen years holding the rank of Captain. I have been trained in decision making, employee relations, & public relations. I have been involved in City budgets, contract negotiations, and Request for Proposals. Being an officer also involves managing people. It was my job to make sure that those people could trust me to make the right decisions and treat everyone fairly. I am also a small business owner. I started "Sparky's Wing Sauce" in 2011 by making it on my kitchen stove and delivering it to small businesses. We are now in over 25 states, 500 grocery stores and food service establishments, along with six wholesale distributors. I know budgets, whether they are multi-million dollar budgets or small startup businesses. I have been married to Fae for almost 39 years. We have two beautiful daughters, two fantastic son-in-laws & five grandchild. I understand family values.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 2

Michael J Hoff (Rep):

Education: *Loup City High School graduate, some Hasting Tech college education.*

Volunteer Experience: *I have taught Hunters Education, I also volunteer with Ducks Unlimited.*

Richard P Kosmicki (Rep): No response received

Gary A Rasmussen (Rep): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Michael J Hoff: I would encourage any business to open in Howard County. The more products and or services we can get here the better.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Michael J Hoff: 1: safety of the residents and employees. I would try to make travel for emergency responses a top priority. 2: make sure every resident can get what they need....or get to where they need to be. Farmers and ranchers need to tend to their livelihoods. 3: build up needed products for the road department.... gravel, crushed concrete, fuel . Etc

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Michael J Hoff: 1: I really want to make Howard County employees happy. Fair raises and benefits. Our employees deserve fair treatment/benefits. 2: I would like to think that our county attorney will be out of office soon. I want to be in the position to replace our county attorney with a great sensible person if given that opportunity. This is very important, we have been having a very hard time in the courtroom and we need someone to fight for the good people of Howard County. 3: save money. I want to have sensible spending. We have great equipment and great maintenance personnel. We do not need new expensive equipment all the time. I will also save money by not drawing the county insurance. I will also fight any increase in county board members getting a pay increase. I will not except any county board member pay increase if I get in the position.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Michael J Hoff: I have been actually working in Howard County for many years, I have been through many stressful situations. I talk to employees about the conditions....I know how they feel. I will be genuinely concerned for the wellbeing of our employees and bring common sense to the office. I have been supervising the Sheriff's Office deputies for many years and understand how to make employees feel appreciated. I can bring this into play for the entire county. I think everyone will benefit from having happy appreciated employees. Your vote will be greatly appreciated!

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 2

Theodore Evans (Rep): No response received

Kevin Kuhlmann (Rep): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

KEITH COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 1

Kim H Elder (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Keith County Commissioner July of 2016 - April of 2020*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Administrative Certificate, Principalship 7-12, University of Nebraska-Kearney, 2000. Master of Arts in American History, Kearney State College, 1983. Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies, Kearney State College, 1975*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Paxton Housing Authority, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, and Youth Basketball and Baseball*

Dale L Schroeder (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *2018- Midwest Electric Board of Directors, 2012- Paxton Rural Fire Board, 2010- Paxton Farmers Elevator Board,*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Keith County Planning and Zoning Commission*

Education: *BA in Secondary Education*

Volunteer Experience: *Paxton New Life Lutheran Church Council, Keith County Community Emergency Response Team, FCA Huddle leader,*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Kim H Elder: To continue to work directly with Keith County Area Development, the Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce, the West Central Nebraska Development District, and the Keith County Joint Housing Authority to continue to make Keith County a welcoming, attractive, and progressive place for economic development. Keith County has a tremendous base within the tourism economy. This is based upon our proximity to the Interstate 80 corridor, the history of the county, and Lake McConaughy /Kingsley Dam. This needs to continue, as well as grow, to allow Keith County to prosper and grow in the future. Secondly, it is imperative that we continue to market Keith County throughout the region and the state of Nebraska as a viable alternative for economic development. And thirdly, we have an excellent Planning and Zoning Department within the county that fully supports our needs and wants in regard to economic development, zoning, and future planning for future growth.

Dale L Schroeder: The questions posed here are coming at a time of severe economic crisis for our county and country. We are all being affected by the COVID-19 crisis. I believe our county to be most resilient and able to overcome the issues associated with our national and world wide situation. When elected, I intend to make it a top priority of the Commissioners to construct plans to do our best to save the businesses we have that are being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ability to preserve the businesses we currently have will ultimately determine how we will be able to prioritize our needs for future economic development in District #1 and the rest of Keith County. When we are able to move past the economic circumstances at hand, there will be a need for more pinpointed economic development plans that must include the following: Agriculture/Ag Tech. industries, Housing, Manufacturing and Tourism.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kim H Elder: Safety for all of our affected citizens of Keith County would be the main priority which would be guaranteed by the following high priority items within Keith County: • Keith County has placed a premium on an Emergency Manager (Emergency Operations Center) that is well-trained and certified in extreme weather events. • A fully staffed and trained Keith County Sheriff's Office, Ogallala Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, Brule Fire Department, Ogallala Fire Department, Paxton Fire Department, Keystone-Lemoyne Fire and Rescue, and a fully trained 911/Dispatch Center, in addition to trained weather spotters throughout the County. • A fully staffed and trained Ogallala Community Hospital/Banner Health are available for emergency needs, during this extreme weather event, for all citizens. Fully staffed and trained ambulance squads throughout the county; as well a Life Flight helicopter are available.

Dale L Schroeder: This is something that I have spent some time learning about and working on while serving as a current member of the Keith County Community Emergency Response Team. My priorities include but are not limited to the following: 1. Provide for the immediate safety of the resident of District #1 and the whole of Keith County. 2. Ensure that our first responders and health care providers are well equipped and trained in every way possible to safely manage such an event as extreme weather. This would involve county and region wide preparedness plans, which need to have shelter and transport allowances as priorities. 3. Make certain that our area wide supply chain is prepared for disasters such as weather events and guarantee that all measures are taken to keep supplies available to those who need them.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kim H Elder: The Keith County Commissioners are currently in the process of initiating a Needs Assessment Study in regard to the possible construction of a Keith County Detention Center. Currently, prisoners are "boarded" within other

county facilities. The expense involved in this has become a burden on the jail budget. The Keith County yearly budget continues to be a priority for all of the Keith County Board of Commissioners. It is extremely important to our constituents that we continue to focus on the individual offices' budgets to make sure the overall budget allows us to provide the variety of services that the citizens of Keith County want, need, and deserve. With over 800 miles of roads throughout throughout Keith County it is imperative that we provide the best mode of transportation that we can possibly afford. Our Department of Roads personnel are provided with the equipment that is essential for the maintenance of our roads. Our constituents need adequate roads for all activities!

Dale L Schroeder: The priorities that I list below are some that I have discussed with fellow residents over the course of the past 27 years of being a resident of Keith County's District # 1. Priority 1: Help to ensure that all of my constituents and their businesses are supported the best that they can be during this world wide crisis we are facing. When the COVID-19 crisis is lessened, we must work to increase the overall value of the people and resources our county has available. This would ultimately help ease the per person tax burden in District #1 Priority 2: It is my charge to be financially responsible with tax dollars to make certain that we are able to support unforeseen events that will arise in District #1. Priority 3: Provide for a greater engagement with state offices and officials such as, Nebraska Game and Parks, NDOT, NEMA, in order to better support District #1 financially.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Kim H Elder: Currently, I have 3 1/2 years of experience as a Keith County Commissioner. I believe that this experience allows me to be the best candidate because of the extreme learning curve that accompanies this position. Time and "working in the trenches" are the best ways to become a better commissioner. I am a 44 year resident of Keith County. Serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Nebraska Association of County Officials has allowed me to work with commissioners from counties across the state in a leadership role. I was recently appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to serve on the Nebraska Jail Standards Board which has allowed me to work with officials from across the state of Nebraska involving the jail standards in facilities across the state. I am planning on this experience aiding me in Keith County as we look to build a new detention center. I believe that my integrity and having the time to be available for all that a commissioner's job entails are also personal strengths.

Dale L Schroeder: If we can run our local government under the COVID-19 restrictions, we can learn new normalcies to run a more efficient and effective local government. This will take changes at all levels, including the representation of District #1. I am the best candidate for District #1 Commissioner for a variety of reasons. I have served and currently serve on multiple local and regional governing boards, most of which are listed above. These appointments, as well as my occupation, have given me opportunity to work in a wide variety of unique situations. They have allowed me to network with multiple and resourceful contacts. I was an educator for 20 years and have a great deal of experience working in a public setting. I have the ability to work under stress and produce success. Having been an educator, I understand the importance of being frugal with other people's money. Having run my own tax paying business, I understand the importance of county officials being frugal with my money.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

KIMBALL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Justin Perry (Rep): No response received

Carl Stander (Rep): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 1

Joe Hewgley (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Lincoln County Commissioner June 1985-Current*

Past Public Office, dates held: *NA*

Education: *Professional Architectural Degree (equivalent to Masters Degree in Architecture)*

Military Experience: *NA*

Volunteer Experience: *Volunteer youth sports coach (baseball, basketball, soccer, football) Past and present member of several civic organizations including Jaycees, Shriners, Masons, Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Joe Hewgley: I have been on the Board of Directors for the North Platte/Lincoln County Development Corporation for over 30 years. Economic development has always been one of my top priorities. . I would my main areas of focus are supporting and empowering the businesses that are already a part of our community through retention and expansion of local merchants. A second top priority is the recruitment of new business and industry to Lincoln County. As a member of the Development Corporation, we have been successful in helping recruit such businesses as Menards and Walmart Distribution Center #7018, which currently employs over 550 hourly workers alone here in Lincoln County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Joe Hewgley: 1. Public safety and response coordination. 2. Seeing that adequate local resources are in place to respond to the event: a. Emergency Management personnel b. Current "LEOP" - Local Emergency Operations Plan c. Mobile Command Center properly manned and dispatched in a timely manner. 3. Coordination of all public information and local resources to help mitigate the event after it has subsided. This would include filing of a local emergency declaration and submitting necessary documentation to FEMA and NEMA to assist in funding recovery efforts if applicable.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Joe Hewgley: 1. Maintaining current essential services without raises taxes. I have voted each year to reduce the proposed Lincoln County budget requests, resulting in a savings to the taxpayer in excess of a million dollars. Also, as a board, we have strived to share resources, including personnel, with the City of North Platte, passing this savings on to the taxpayer. 2. The reconstruction and re-opening of South River Road (from S. Buffalo Bill west) to the public. 3. Completion of the jail expansion and maintaining strong public safety/law enforcement.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Joe Hewgley: The biggest asset I feel I bring is my experience and overall understanding of the operations of this county. As an elected official, I look at both sides of each and every issue presented, based upon the information available at the time, and proceed with what I feel would be in the best overall interest of the county. In all of my years in office I have never told someone I would agree to any one specific project that they might personally benefit from, but to represent what, in my opinion, is in the best interest of all citizens of Lincoln County. I have worked very hard over the years, not only as your representative here at home, but also in seeing that your concerns are heard by elected officials in both Lincoln and Washington, D.C.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 4

Chris Bruns (Rep): No response received

Walter W Johnson (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Lincoln County Commissioner-District 4 December 2018 to current*

Past Public Office, dates held: *District 5 School Board 1981-1994*

Military Experience: *US Army 1965-1967* Volunteer Experience: *4-H Council, Food Pantry, Blood Donor*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Chris Bruns: The County really needs to take the lead and provide a strategic vision for short and long-term growth that all of our communities can coalesce behind. This is something that other counties across the state are doing with tremendous success in growth. Implementing that vision will require strengthened partnerships with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and all Lincoln County cities, towns, and villages, as well as our local development corporations. We need to aggressively market Lincoln County and champion new industry and business development with a concerted emphasis on creation of high-wage earning jobs. What is going to be extremely important is the encouragement and support that we provide existing local businesses so they can grow and expand. Likewise, with new industry comes the need to foster public-private partnership programs for skills training of the workforce in our communities.

Walter W Johnson: Unfortunately the county does not have any infrastructure, so the only thing we can do to create economic development is to control taxes and work with the city and villages to attract new industries.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Chris Bruns: In an extreme weather event, I would work to ensure that county first responders, emergency personnel, and various departments have the resources they need and ability to perform their essential job functions to serve impacted citizens. Next, is ensuring that roads and infrastructure are accessible, and if not, working quickly to get them open. After that, and depending on the type of event, is ensuring that commodities distribution points, shelter locations, and communications are up and running using county resources or partnering with applicable public/private partners. Effective planning, preparation, and training are needed prior to an event ever occurring. My years of military experience responding to natural disasters, major weather events, and other situations that can impact a large populations' ability to function normally, provide me a unique ability to coordinate, command, control and communicate with the various departments, local governments, or state resources that ma

Walter W Johnson: Safety of the residents Stabilizing the situation Reestablishment after the event

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Chris Bruns: There are three big areas where I truly believe that significant work needs to be done and where I will focus a lot of my efforts as a County Commissioner. First, is a multifaceted approach toward growing Lincoln County. Over the past several decades our county's population and tax base has stagnated. We've lost several retail stores and other commercial businesses, and our largest employer is on a trajectory to cut more jobs. We must find ways to attract new industry and business to our communities. Second, is finding ways to reduce our property taxes through smaller and smarter government. In order to attract new industry, we need to have a competitive position with regard to taxes—and frankly, our existing taxpayers deserve it too. Third, is finding ways to improve our roads and infrastructure. These things will take a lot of work and partnership to achieve, but are vital for our future and what I will work tirelessly toward.

Walter W Johnson: Controlling taxes through expenditures Road maintenance Work with the constituents of the county to expand the tax base

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Chris Bruns: I will bring a fresh set of ideas to the County Board that are influenced by unique and diverse experiences that I've had in my life thus far. My time spent all over the world in my decade of military service has taught me precisely what great things can be accomplished with limited resources and a can-do attitude. This was my classroom for learning the leadership skills that I utilize every day helping businesses grow across western Nebraska. I work in the financial services and insurance industry—a background that will serve the county citizens well from a budgetary standpoint. I'm also a rancher, so I have a good understanding of what impacts many of our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. As a Constitutional Conservative, I promise to provide trusted leadership and a business-minded approach of governing for all Lincoln County citizens that protects individual rights. I believe these reasons set me apart and make me the right candidate to help lead Lincoln County into t

Walter W Johnson: I feel I have the time and ability to represent district 4 and the entire county, which I have been a resident of my entire life. I am always willing to listen to and help any resident of our county.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 2

Zak Hookstra (L): No response received

Eric Stinson (Rep):

Education: *Associate of Applied Science/Mortuary Science Arapahoe Community College, Littleton, CO. Norfolk Catholic High School*

Volunteer Experience: *President Norfolk Catholic School Board, President Norfolk Catholic Booster Club, President Norfolk Catholic Academic Excellence. City of Norfolk Budget Review Committee. Several other Church and school committees and activities.*

Chris Thompson (Rep):

Education: *Graduated From Newman Grove High School Drafting class at Northeast Community College thru Nucor Detailing Center*

Volunteer Experience: *Member of the Fraternal Order of Masons Mosaic Lodge #55 Parents for Christian Education at Our Savior Lutheran Church*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Eric Stinson: The growth and development of Norfolk and Madison County brings with it a need for more housing. I will work diligently with the City of Norfolk, Madison County, and other agencies to provide more housing for the city of Norfolk and the surrounding areas. I have a very good relationship with Mike Flood who will be our next state senator and potentially the next speaker of the legislature. With this relationship we can work to make Madison County, more attractive for businesses and individuals to locate here. Madison County has shown tremendous growth and I believe with this elected office I will provide knowledge and assets to allow further economic and demographic expansion. I will work with 4 Lanes 4 Nebraska to finish 275 from Stanton to Scribner along with other agencies on the continuation of the Industrial Highway west and south to highway 275. These improvements would provide tremendous corridors for business and industrial growth to Norfolk and Madison County.

Chris Thompson: If elected I would work with the other Commissioners in Madison County and lead the District 2 road crew to improve and maintain the roads in the district. Work with other local elected officials to make decisions that help Madison County be a growing area that people want to live, work and raise their families.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Eric Stinson: In the event of an extreme weather event public safety would be my number 1 priority. This could be keeping residents in their homes or providing shelter locations in each community, depending on the circumstances. The next priority would be making sure that roads are clear for emergency services, ie. fire, rescue, law enforcement etc. can get where needed. Finally I would work with the public utilities to restore or maintain services to our residents. Each event will pose it's own set of circumstances, so we would need to adapt to that specific event. The three priorities I listed could apply to several different weather events, not necessarily everyone, so we would need to be flexible, prepared and adapt.

Chris Thompson: Priority #1 - The safety of the residents of Madison County! To ensure that safety, it is extremely important that all local officials work together. For example the flooding of 2019. I would lead the district 2 road crew by not only instructing them on what needed to be done but also working with them to get the work done! Priority #2 - Communication with all of the related entities to ensure that everything that needs to be done is being done in the quickest manner possible. Priority #3 - Working with everyone involved to get the cleanup done to rebuild normal life to ensure that the economy remains stable.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Eric Stinson: Economic development as mentioned in the first question would be on of my top priorities and some of the methods I would pursue it, along with working the the Norfolk area Chamber and promoting Madison County. Another priority would be keeping taxes as low as possible. When you are spending someone else's money, you need to account for every dollar spent. This doesn't mean eliminating necessary services, it means I will watch the budget process closely. I am like every other citizen in Madison County, I don't want to pay any more taxes than are absolutely needed. Roads would be another priority. Maintaining and improving our roads are a constant concern. The county is in the process of reconstructing Benjamin Avenue from Victory Road to Highway 35. This is one example, we also need to maintain and improve our county roads and bridges, but we need to utilize outside funds as much as possible (FEMA, State and other government programs).

Chris Thompson: The most important issues are improving the County Roads, bridges and culverts. Helping build a TEAM with each district's road crews and a TEAM between all three Districts. Working with the other Commissioners to ensure your tax dollars are spent efficiently, and working with other local officials to do our part in growing Madison County.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Eric Stinson: I am a lifelong resident of Norfolk; I spent 17 years as a funeral director and 20 years in investments and insurance. Throughout my life I have gained a tremendous understanding of Norfolk, Madison County, and the surrounding area. I will use this understanding and knowledge to further the growth and development of Madison County. Over the past 17 years, I have worked with the county attorney's office, the sheriff's office and the county clerk's office closely and have a very good relationship with them. This will be very beneficial in ensuring a smooth transition to a new commissioner. I understand that this position will require time and preparation and I am prepared and in the position to commit to both. I would ask for your vote on May 12, 2020 if you are in district 2, and if not please encourage your friends and family to vote for me.

Chris Thompson: If elected, I want you to know, I am open minded and would be available to listen to your concerns and address them in the best way possible! Like all of you, my goal is to make Madison County the best it can be! And like I said above, work with all elected officials to continue to grow Madison County to only make it better for the generations to come!

*******VOTE TODAY!*******

MORRILL COUNTY COMMISSIONER, AT LARGE

Steve Lattin (Rep): No response received

Josh Schmidt (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *none*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Bridgeport Board of Adjustment 2008-2012*

Education: *1996 Bridgeport High School Graduate Attended WNCC as a Criminal Justice Major*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department Court House and Jail Rock Golf Foundation Past member of the Eagles Auxiliary*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Josh Schmidt: We are an Ag-based community, so at the County level I would advocate for common-sense based zoning rules and regulations that enhance existing Ag-based and other operations within the County. I will not hinder the establishment of new businesses, Ag or otherwise. Additionally, we need to maintain our arterial roadways so our Ag based businesses can effectively and efficiently move their goods to market.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Josh Schmidt: Work along side the Region 21 Emergency Management team to provide aid in any way possible to insure the safety of the members of our community. Continue to support the Sheriff , Fire and Rescue Departments to make sure they have everything they need to support a complete recovery before, during and after each event. Provide all the necessary support to be prepared and ready to respond as soon as any event takes place. Timely support will be a priority in insuring the safety for everyone in the county. Plan for the unexpected and we will be prepared for the event as soon as they occur.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Josh Schmidt: A) Keeping property tax asking as low as possible. I'll ask the tough questions about how we can do more with less. B) Our roads are vital to the continued successful operation of our Ag community. We need to find creative solutions to meet the challenges brought on by ever-increasing costs associated with road maintenance, management and repair. C) Local economic effects of Covid-19. Help prepare the county for a changing economy.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Josh Schmidt: I'm the best candidate for Morrill County Commissioner because I will make the right decisions. As a christian I value honesty and integrity which I will display in our County government. I'll keep the county tax levy as low as possible. I support our law enforcement, roads department and County Public Transportation. My family and I have our roots here in Morrill County and I'm excited to be a part of the next generation of leadership and find creative solutions for the challenges that our County may face in the next four years. Thank you

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

OTOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 5

Dan Crownover (Rep):

Website: <http://danny.crownover49@gmail.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *Village board of unadilla chairman for 16 years 2004-2020*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Village of unadilla planning commission from 2000-2004*

Education: *Graduated from syracuse high school*

Military Experience: *Air force national guard from 1968-1974*

Volunteer Experience: *Previous unadilla fire dept. currently on board of directors for american legion vets club and american legion baseball*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Dan Crownover: By keeping roads and bridges in good shape for safe travel for family's and movement of farm equipment having county employees keep in close contact with people of the communities so they can work together in getting any problems in our dist. Solved. of course working with the help and leadership of the commissioner

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Dan Crownover: Make sure all employees are aware of possible weather event and able to be located. Make sure all equipment is in proper working order communication between commissioner, shop foreman and maintenance personal is essential

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Dan Crownover: Having all employees including supervisors working on the same page to make our county safe and in good condition in all ways necessary. Keep the budget as low as possible while still maintaining the amount of revenue to keep our county in good operating condition Have the correct personel in place to write the grant applications so we are getting all the state,,federal and open grant financial that we are qualified to apply

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Dan Crownover: Knowledge,experience in working with county,state and federal agencies acquiring money to create park equipment, bike-walk path park shelter and numerous other projects 15 years working for the nebr. dept. of transportation taking care of roads and snow removal. Dealing with fema and nema when high winds caused considerable damage in town. Working and helping to create a working budget for our town without raising taxes. I have knowledge,experience and work for economic government

*******VOTE TODAY!*******

PAWNEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 1

Kenneth Edwards (Rep): No response received

Lavon L Heidemann (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Board of Directors for Nebraska Cattlemen, Fire Board for the Elk Creek Fire District, Elder at St. Peter's Lutheran Church*

Past Public Office, dates held: *I have served our state as a Nebraska State Senator 2003-2012, University of Nebraska Board of Regents 2012-2013, and Lt. Governor 2013-2014*

Education: *I graduated from Elk Creek Public School. Life experiences and reading have furthered my education*

Volunteer Experience: *I volunteer as a firefighter for the Elk Creek Fire District.*

Benjamin Laun (Rep): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Lavon L Heidemann: My priorities for economic development in our county are the use of property taxes and the upkeep of infrastructure. It is important to run our county as efficiently as possible by using our property taxes wisely. It is also vital to keep the quality of our infrastructure up to keep the businesses we have and attract new economic activity to our county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Lavon L Heidemann: My first priority is to keep the infrastructure operating especially our county roads. This gives our emergency response teams the ability to access those in need. Another priority is to make sure everyone is safe and healthy. Finally, it is important to assist businesses as needed.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Lavon L Heidemann: My top three priorities would be to use property taxes wisely, run our county efficiently, and help businesses grow and prosper in Pawnee County.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Lavon L Heidemann: Due to years of Public Service, I have the connections to people, groups, and agencies in this state that would help address problems as they arise. These contacts would help guide us through decisions and the legality of situations. As former chair of appropriations committee in the legislature, I will be able to contribute to the budgeting process. I am a proven leader that leads by example and works well with others to successfully achieve goals. I will listen to your concerns and do what I can to best serve you and meet the needs of our county. I believe I have the desire, determination, hard-work ethic, and common sense to be a great commissioner for Pawnee County.

*******VOTE TODAY!*******

RED WILLOW COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 2

Randy Dean (Rep):

Education: *Republican Valley High School, McCook Community College*

Volunteer Experience: *Indianola Rural Fire Board, Indianola Economic Development Corp., Southwest Community Builders, Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency-911 Committee, REWARD committee, Little League baseball coach, Hillcrest Board of Trustees, Hillcrest Foundation*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Randy Dean: Lower property taxes, Road maintenance, Insurance premiums and Health Care costs, Availability of childcare, Affordable housing, Recruiting new business, Encouraging expansion of existing businesses, and Citizen Involvement

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Randy Dean: Insure that our county roads are maintained to the highest degree possible not only for everyday accessibility but also for emergency personal and vehicles. Availability of competent emergency systems of communications in order to be able to respond to any emergency Emergency dispatching system and accessibility to vehicles that can respond under any circumstances.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Randy Dean: I consider myself as a fiscal conservative that believes we can control ever increasing tax levels. We need to look at all discretionary spending and accomplish our due diligence of receiving competitive prices for all county necessities. We also need to investigate all possible funding sources from outside of the county. Expand the tax base by promoting the recruitment of new business to expand in our area but it is more imperative we support and encourage our existing businesses. Guaranteeing continued access to high quality health care for our young as well as our senior population.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Randy Dean: I want Red Willow County voters to know that I spent the better part of my adult life volunteering for causes that I believe in and that improves the quality of life for my fellow residents. I have and continue to serve on many volunteer boards in Red Willow County. During my better than 44 years of community involvement I have gained a beyond measurable amount of experience in how this county operates. I pride myself in my ability to listen to all opinions (both pro and con) and then not only make a decision but be held accountable for that decision.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

RICHARDSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 2

Les Baker (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *none*

Past Public Office, dates held: *none*

Education: *high school*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Church activities and filling the pulpit part time.*

Jonathan C Kirkendall (Rep):

Education: *AAS from Mounthwest Community College*

Military Experience: *Active duty Army for 12 years and Nebraska National Guard for 5 years*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Les Baker: I will always be open to new ideas, but we do have an organization dedicated to that now and I will help them any way possible.

Jonathan C Kirkendall: My priorities for economic development are providing core services. Those core services are the public welfare and infrastructure, human services and criminal justice. If elected I want to find ways to further develop our county economic initiatives.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Les Baker: Making sure our equipment is ready. Keeping emergency routes open as well as priority routes. Maintaining county roads in a timely manner.

Jonathan C Kirkendall: My first priority would be the safety of our county citizens and first responders. My second priority would be contacting the necessary agencies within the county to determine what additional resources are needed to help with the extreme weather event. My third priority would be evaluating the impact the event had on the county and how we as a community can come together to recover and continue to prosper.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Les Baker: That the hard earned tax dollars of this county are guarded and prioritized as to not be wasted on things that do not directly help or benefit the ones paying for it. Overseeing county budgets and try to find savings. Helping to make sure county offices are always user friendly.

Jonathan C Kirkendall: Priority 1: Push for our county tax rate to stay the same or become lower. No increase within the county. Priority 2: Improve county roads by evaluating lessons learned and seeking new ways of improvement through other elected and appointed officials; but with our citizens input. Priority 3: Seek other ways our county can continue to improve economically.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Les Baker: I would not presume to be the best candidate but because that candidate did not file I am willing to try my best for this county. I do believe in term limits so we get fresh eyes on tax funded issues.

Jonathan C Kirkendall: I am young, enthusiastic and ready to serve Richardson County.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

SALINE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 3

Thais Brejcha (Dem): No response received

Marvin A Kohout (Dem): http://NA

Current Public Office, dates held: *Saline County Commissioner--January 2005-present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Dorchester Board of Education--January 1993-2005*

Education: *Graduated from Dorchester Public School; Graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University with a BS in Business Administration*

Military Experience: *NA*

Volunteer Experience: *Saline Center Lodge #389; Dorchester Little Kids Wrestling*

Gary Veprovsky (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Graduate of Dorchester High School*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *N/A*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Marvin A Kohout: Saline County needs to have a wider cross section of businesses located within the county. We need to increase the number and unique types of agricultural diversity in business opportunities (farming, livestock, organic

opportunities, etc.) We need to encourage industrial and commercial businesses to move to Saline County. We could use more small businesses located within the county. The more diversity we have within the county, the better we will be able to withstand economic downturns, the corona virus pandemic, and other disasters including weather related.

Gary Veprovsky: In a small county there are not many local funds available for economic development. For small business development, my best answer at this time, is to apply with Department of Economic Development, or other government grants. My personal opinion is an ag based county, such as Saline, needs to develop ag based industry to utilize the products we currently produce here.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Marvin A Kohout: One of my biggest concerns would be making sure the residents of the county are safe where they are at and that the county has the necessary equipment available locally to react to the weather event. We also have drones available to assist emergency rescue personnel to do their jobs in extreme weather events if necessary.

Gary Veprovsky: 1. I think it is extremely important we are maintaining our 911 systems before an extreme weather event so that all services are fully functional during the event, meaning equipment must be kept up-to-date and upgrades are being done routinely. 2. Keep citizens informed through coordination between emergency management officials and the general public. 3. Necessary maintenance and quick repair of county roadways so emergency and power company personnel can reach effected areas and bring in necessary assistance.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Marvin A Kohout: One of top priorities would be to make sure we have a good road infrastructure. In order to have farmers farm, they need to have good roads to market their grain and livestock. The rural road structure would also need to allow for school buses, mail carriers, delivery trucks, personal vehicles and others to traverse the roads in a safe manner. Another priority would be to recruit a wide variety of businesses to locate within the county (see economic question answer above). Lastly, with property taxes paying the brunt of the load for schools, city, village and county activities, we need to lobby our legislature to get that 3 legged stool more in balance. We need to continue the fiscal restraint in determining which requests are "needs" and which are "wants" when balancing the county budget.

Gary Veprovsky: 1. Listen fairly to citizens comments and suggestions - each citizen deserves unbiased representation. 2. Property tax relief for all citizens - by common sense spending to try and hold the county levy to a minimum. 3. Commissioner meetings need to be conducted in a manner that follows state statutes and regulations.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Marvin A Kohout: As county decisions are getting harder and harder to make considering all of the circumstances before voting, you need someone with experience in budgeting, personnel, understanding the function of each county office, having a thick skin, working with the other elected and appointed officials and communicating with the county employees. I have successfully experienced all of the above and I would be most appreciative of continuing my efforts to better Saline County for everyone.

Gary Veprovsky: "If you aren't part of the solution, you may be part of the problem," is what a well respected educator once told me. After attending many board meetings in the past year, it is clear to me we need new energy channeled towards seeking focused solutions for our county, people, and businesses. I strongly believe that any proposed projects need to be in the citizen's best interest, not just financially, but also in terms of health, well-being, and also be considerate of our future generations. All county projects need reviewed to appropriately determine impact on ALL citizens instead of just the "here and now" or instant gratification. Moving forward, I think it is important that leadership must constantly look to the bigger picture and greater good of our counties current and future circumstances to avoid such injustices. My candidacy for commissioner is based on the idea of how to better our county for now and in the future based on the foundations created by generations before us.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

SALINE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 5

Sarah M Brown (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *B.A. Sociology; B.A. English and Teaching Certificate; Masters of Education in Curriculum & Instruction (Doane College/University); Ph.D. in Education (University of Nebraska - Lincoln); and various past/present certificates.*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Church Clerk -- Plymouth United Church of Christ (5 yrs); NE Council of Teacher Education (25 yrs); Professional Practices Commission (6 yrs); Reserve Officer - Crete Police Department (11 yrs); NE Writing Project Board (7 yrs); other organizations.*

Brian K Pribyl (Rep): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Sarah M Brown: In this time of a fluctuating market and the need to develop an economic strategy for the future, we need to expand our vision to a global and regional perspective while acting at home. The first priority would be developing an on-going research group to analyze and compare Saline County to an array of counties from around the United States to see what problems others are solving thereby developing a workable and realistic plan for the future. We need to recognize that there are opportunities awaiting Saline County involving not just one event or program but a commitment to growth. Secondly, we need to shore up current infrastructures while developing better technical and technological advances: cell towers, fiber-optics, internet, etc. And, thirdly, promote Saline County across a variety of economic venues starting with our own residents by assisting businesses to grow, better utilizing the talent found in our own community and encouraging potential leaders to remain/return.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Sarah M Brown: Since I am a firm believer in being proactive, I believe we should have a plan in place for many foreseeable emergencies, including extreme weather events. The first priority in an extreme weather event is the safety and protection of the more than 14,350 residents of Saline County through adequate communications and warning systems, fire departments and law enforcement responses as well as well-defined and prepared shelters. The second highest priority is the stabilizing of the situation and the environs thereby recognizing the dangers to people and property in an effort to make the area safe while providing basic needs to those most affected. The third highest priority is preparing for any future extreme weather events either caused by the first or through extended adversity. By networking with federal, state and local agencies and assessing the plan as designed, corrections should be made for the future.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Sarah M Brown: My top three priorities for Saline County include building a coalition between all of the county's agencies to better serve the residents, expanding communications and technological infrastructure, and promoting Saline County in all available areas. Many of the social and health agencies are under the direct auspices of the county commissioners, and we have an opportunity to bring many groups together to optimize the effectiveness and use of funds through coordinated efforts and collegiality. Perhaps many residents of the county are unaware of the planning committees and organizations currently available and may have skills/resources which may help these boards/committees better serve the populace. In many areas of the county, cell phone service is spotty or non-existent and the internet is unreliable. A coordination of services and resources should be considered for reasons of emergency, education and business. Through promotion, Saline County has much to offer all residents.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Sarah M Brown: As a nearly 45-year resident of Saline County and 30 years as a teacher, I have been involved in many aspects of the county's concerns. Years ago, I worked with law enforcement and the establishment of CISDA and have taken these life experiences with me into education and my perspectives. I am very creative and often solve problems by looking outside of the typical paradigms. While not overly experienced with political offices, I am, nevertheless, experienced in working with budgets, and am very dedicated to my responsibilities. I am a hard-worker and will be very active in the pursuit of the betterment of this office. Residents will find me intelligent, knowledgeable and decisive after listening to their input. I look forward to serving all residents of Saline County.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

SEWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DIST 2

Becky Paulsen (Rep): No response received

Darrell J Zabrocki (Rep):

Education: *Bachelors degree in Personnel Management with a minor in Criminal Justice*

Volunteer Experience: *Seward County Habitat for Humanity Board for 5 years, church board member for 2 terms, and a reserve police officer for the Seward Police Department for 10 years.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Darrell J Zabrocki: There is an economic plan in place. The Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership works with the county and the other municipalities in the county around economic development. There has been good progress and the growth is accomplished with purpose. New growth is welcome as long as it compliments our existing industry. Seward County is largely agricultural in nature and we need a focus in this area. There have been some recent agricultural industries locate here and we need to encourage this type of growth. Any growth needs to take into account the local labor pool along with the available number of housing units in the county. We also need to have a clear idea as to the impact on the tax base. Any new industry needs to have a positive impact to the taxpayer in Seward County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Darrell J Zabrocki: Communication with the public is very important. This can be accomplished using several means to include social media. People need to hear from local officials and be assured that all that can be done is being done. The emergency preparedness plan needs to be implemented and adjusted if necessary to meet the circumstances of the current event. Things often need to happen in the moment and those in charge need to be empowered to adjust planning to meet the current needs of our residents. First responders are key. Police, fire and rescue all need to be coordinated. There must be a central command to coordinate the event. Most of this should be included in a preparedness plan to include who makes the call for mutual aid from other jurisdictions, and when we need to involve the state and federal government to aid in search, rescue, and the rebuilding of the community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Darrell J Zabrocki: Address the inter-local agreement situation. These are necessary and provide some valuable services to area residents across a couple of counties. There seems to be issues between some county officials as well as issues between some officials and the Board. The turf wars need to cease and an equitable solution needs to be found. I have questions around the command structure at the Sheriff's Office. Seven command positions for a department of less than 20 appears excessive. I have met with the Sheriff and he assures me that there has not been an impact to the taxpayer with these changes. Maybe not for this year, I am more concerned with the impact going forward. There needs to be a resolution around the Drug Task Force Commander at the Sheriff's Office. Currently he has a six-month term as the newly created

Civilian Task Force Commander. If he is unable to certify with the Law Enforcement Training Center, then he needs to resign. This is a law enforcement position, not civilian.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Darrell J Zabrocki: My working career spans 50 years. During that time as a law enforcement officer and an insurance claims adjuster and manager I worked through legal and regulatory issues and problems on a regular basis. I have managed teams of various sizes and disciplines. I have been responsible for budgets (my last team budget was \$2.5 million dollars). I am familiar with expense control, fiscal responsibility, and efficiently achieving goals and objectives. I was active in the community as a board member for Seward County Habitat for Humanity for five years. I served two terms as a church board member for my church. I was a volunteer reserve police officer for the Seward Police Department for 10 years. I have now retired and have no other outside commitments and have no conflicts of interest. I will be a full-time commissioner and a full-time voice for the constituents of District 2 (Wards 3 and 4). I feel my experience and community involvement make me an excellent candidate for Commissioner.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

SIOUX COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Joshua T Skavdahl (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Sioux County Commissioner 2009-present. Vice President, Board of Directors, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Panhandle District Representative NACO Board of Directors 2017-April 2019. 2nd Vice President NACO Board April 2019-December 2019* Education: *Graduated from Sioux County High School and then the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a finance degree. Also studied finance at Oxford University and completed 2 internships in Washington DC (working for the Secretary of Ag and a Congressman)*

Military Experience: *2 years ROTC in college*

Volunteer Experience: *Member of the Harrison Memorial Methodist Church and serve as a trustee; serves with the Harrison Volunteer Fire Department and as secretary of the VFW Auxiliary.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Joshua T Skavdahl: Sioux County is largely a farming and ranching county. My priorities include maintaining a good infrastructure to get our products to market, and also to maintain good access to the state and federal parks in our area. I would also continue to support and work with the Northwestern Tourism Board to promote Sioux County as a tourist destination which would result in bringing revenue into our community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Joshua T Skavdahl: In the case of an extreme weather event I would first assess the situation and decide whether or not it was necessary to declare an emergency. Then we would focus on making sure roads were open for the people with health issues or concerns to ensure they had access to proper health care. My next priority would be to ensure that the mail routes were open and running effectively to ensure vital prescription medicines could be delivered through the United States Postal Service, and finally, to ensure the rest of the roads be in a safe condition to allow for community members to go about their business and normal activities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Joshua T Skavdahl: My top three priorities are keeping property taxes reasonably low, providing essential services to the constituents of Sioux County, and improving and maintaining our road systems.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Joshua T Skavdahl: I have served as Sioux County Commissioner for the past 12 years. I have leadership experience and training at the local and State levels. I have been active in the Nebraska Association of County Officials, first at Panhandle District meetings and then as the Panhandle District Representative for NACO since 2017. I am currently serving as NACO Vice President and slated to be President of the Board of Directors in 2021. I plan to continue making a voice for the Panhandle and Western Nebraska. I first became involved in politics because I wanted to make a difference. As a commissioner I have tried to keep property taxes reasonable but still provide essential county services. Property owners in Sioux County have paid two-thirds to half the property taxes of citizens of neighboring counties over the past ten years. I am committed to keeping property taxes low and continue serving the constituents of Sioux County to the best of my abilities.

*******VOTE TODAY! *******

COUNTY SUPERVISOR RACES

ADAMS COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 4

Harold Johnson (Rep):

Past Public Office, dates held: *Kearney County Rural Fire Board 1988 - 1998, Production Credit Association Board 1980 - 1988, May Township Roads Board 1975 - 1985, ACS Board 1975 - 1983*

Education: *Graduate of Minden High School in 1965*

Military Experience: *Vietnam Veteran 1968-1969 Army Reserves*

Volunteer Experience: *Helped with the Crossroad's Thanksgiving meal and helped with assembly of animal cages at Start Over Rover; helped disabled friends with their needs.*

Scott Thomsen (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *County Supervisor 2010- Present*

Education: *college*

Volunteer Experience: *Teen Court Judge, work with youth in diversion program Horizon Recovery alcohol and drug addiction*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Harold Johnson: 1. The need for a new jail 2. Make sure our roads and bridges are safe to be driven on 3. Keep taxes down. " As a former farmer most of my life I understand the hardships they are facing."

Scott Thomsen: Heading up committee to get a Justice Center built to replace antiquated jail. Put on ballot to have voters decide if it something they want. Would help create up to 20 middle class paying jobs which are greatly needed in our community

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Harold Johnson: 1. Keeping the residents of our county safe. "Safety should be our absolute primary concern." 2. Making sure our roads are always open so emergencies can be dealt with. 3. Working with employees so they are ready for any extreme weather. Equipment needs to be up and running for any type of extreme weather event.

Scott Thomsen: Currently am Chairman of Building and Grounds. All ways do drills to keep county employees prepared. Am on counties safety committee

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Harold Johnson: 1. Uniting the County Board so we all work together as one Board. 2. Keeping the price of a new jail down so our taxes don't become more of a hardship on everyone. 3. Being available to listen to the concerns of the Adams County Residents.

Scott Thomsen: Serve on budget committee so all ways searching for ways to keep taxes down. Get a Justice Center approved. Create more jobs for Adams County

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Harold Johnson: I have always enjoyed working around people. As the former Adams County Maintenance Supervisor for 16 1/2 years I made sure the building was a clean safe place for employees to work in and the public to be in. I have worked on budgets and am eager to listen to people's concerns.

Scott Thomsen: Best job I have ever had. When you enjoy what you are doing you are more apt to function at a high level. 10 years experience is a plus.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

BOYD COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 2

Nancy Ruda (Rep): No response received

Roger L Ruda (Rep):

Education: *Bachelors degree in Nursing/ RN*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Roger L Ruda: Improving infrastructure

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Roger L Ruda: Safety Critical need assessment Costs

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Roger L Ruda: Cost containment Road improvement County government structure revision. Do away with supervisors/townships and go to Commissioners and a Manager.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Roger L Ruda: History of management, consistency, fairness and ability to think about what is best for the COUNTY and its citizens.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

BUTLER COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 4

Max Birkel (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Butler County Supervisor District 4 2016-2020*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Butler County Supervisor District 4 2000-2016*

Education: *Aquinas High School, Gateway Electronic Institute –Technical School*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *St Mary's Church- Parish Council, Knights of Columbus*

Robert Coufal (Rep): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Max Birkel: Butler County relies on agriculture for its economic sustainability. When agriculture is successful it trickles down to the rest of the businesses in Butler County. We must encourage new business and try to improve our infrastructure to handle the increase of traffic on our roads throughout the county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Max Birkel: 1-Public safety should be our first priority during an extreme weather event. We need to work with our Emergency Manager and First Responders to make sure all county residents are safe and have a roof over their head. 2-We need to work with federal and state officials to provide outside funding when available to help county residents that are in need. FEMA is a tool that needs to be used if available. 3-County roads are important during extreme weather events. We must be ready to maintain public safety when extreme weather events happen.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Max Birkel:) 1-We need to recover from the current Covid-19 virus crisis. This virus has affected all of our residents and we must learn from this and try to be better prepared for the next pandemic. 2-We must continue to work on roads and infrastructure to provide a safe and productive environment for our residents. The proposed Platte River Bridge north of Bellwood would be a good addition to the county and would promote more development in Butler County. 3-We need to continue to try to work with Butler County Landfill to provide a safe and clean environment for our county residents. If that is not possible we will need to find an alternative for our landfill needs.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Max Birkel: I am the best candidate for this position because of my experience working with people in both local and state government. It has not always been easy making decisions, especially in the last few years due to the flooding and extreme weather conditions that we have had to deal with. Through all of this, I have always tried to remain fiscally prudent and make decisions that are in the best interest of Butler County and its residents. I appreciate the support I have received in my prior years of County Supervisor service and look forward to your support in the future. Thank You.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

BUTLER COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 6

Greg A Janak (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *District 6 Supervisor from 2013 to Present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Village of Brainard Board/ Board Chairman 2004 to 2012*

Education: *East Butler High School. 2 years Southeast Community College Milford.*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Worked with community members in hosting BRAN Ride across Nebraska. Senior Center Volunteer for various events Holy Trinity Parish Volunteer*

Ryan J Svoboda (Rep): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Greg A Janak: Agribusiness opportunities are the most prevalent in the County. I am livestock friendly and try to promote that ,and support it whenever possible. With a major business in the county closing, we do have some nice manufacturing space available. I hope to help in anyway I can to promote getting that space filled. We need to continue to create jobs locally, in order to keep the younger generation here in the county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Greg A Janak: Flood control of our River on the North border. In the event of severe weather in the area, our volunteer fireman do an excellent job of storm watching and early warning for the County. .I would make sure that our relationship stays strong through our Emergency Manager. Blizzards can be life threatening out here. Our roads department is staffed well, and good equipment is ready for them to help clear roads for medical emergencies, or power outages.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Greg A Janak: A good road infrastructure is essential in rural Nebraska for Commerce to continue . We have many livestock facilities, that need attending to every day. That takes much maintenance and daily care. I want to continue making that a high priority. The Butler County Health Care Center is a essential part of this Community. It is a strong organization with great leadership. They are adding new services all the time for this community, and I want to make sure that continues. I want to be able to provide the Departments in our County Government the best tools and technology to serve the public . We need to keep moving forward, in order to be providing a service to the Taxpayers, that they expect. I want to be fiscally responsible with their Tax dollars, while being efficient.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Greg A Janak: I am a lifelong resident and business owner in Butler County. I use the roads and services just like everyone else in our Community. I have 15 years of experience in Leadership . I have been involved with many Community organizations, such as the Hospital, Senior Center, Region V Services ,Knights of Columbus, and my local Parish. I want to continue to help improve our County and Communities. We are in the middle of several projects now, such as 2 new bridge projects, audiology department for BCHCC, and some major livestock facilities going up in our County. I want to make sure that they are managed well, to integrate into our Community. I care about Butler County and its residents.

*******VOTE TODAY!*******

CUSTER COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 4

Dwain Bryner (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Custer County Supervisor District 4 - Lexington Landfill board member - Central Nebraska Community Action Partners board member*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Lincoln County Fair Board Member - NestBuilders*

Education: *Graduate of Broken Bow Public Schools*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Chamber of Commerce*

Jeff Wardyn (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Technology.*

Volunteer Experience: *Teach 6th grade church at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus Officer; Greeter & Eucharistic minister, donate blood regularly*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Dwain Bryner: Continue to encourage local trade, and expansion of our local enterprises as well as developing relationships with other companies that could be encouraged to expand into our area.

Jeff Wardyn: I would want to focus on how we can help businesses including farmers & ranchers. Businesses need to recover, rehire and get back to normal after the Covid-19 pandemic. Everyone was effected by this and we all need to work together to get back on a good track.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Dwain Bryner: Safety of all our citizens, communication with emergency management, and law inforcement.

Jeff Wardyn: Communications, Safety for people and animals, Major infrastructure concerns (water, sewer, roads).

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Dwain Bryner: Continue to work on developing a long term plan for roads and infrastructure. Being financially responsible with tax payers dollars. Continue to develop the county employees to best serve our citizens in the most efficient manner.

Jeff Wardyn: Roads - Making good decisions on the future of roads & bridges. Taxes - A common sense approach to evaluations & taxes. Budget - Looking at making it work financially with good planning.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Dwain Bryner: I bring over 40 years of business experience, having experience in bidding jobs and employee relationships as well as budgeting. I have served 4 years on the Custer County Board representing district 4, learning the operations of the county from the inside.

Jeff Wardyn: If elected I hope to give a different perspective on the issues, get more involved with the community and make good decisions for the good of the county. There are a lot of wonderful people and businesses in this community and working together with sound decisions we can make a difference in our future.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

CUSTER COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 6

Donnis Hueftle-Bullock (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *none*

Past Public Office, dates held: *none*

Education: *Eustis Public School*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Officer for PEO, Board member of the Gothenburg Chamber of Commerce, Gothenburg Improvement Corporation, BARN Committee, Board Member Professional Photographers of Nebraska, Bell ringer, Sponsor Super Kids Club once a month.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Donnis Hueftle-Bullock: If elected, I feel Custer County is missing out on tourism dollars. The County Supervisors has a tourism board that reports back to the supervisors, as a Supervisor I would like to be directly involved also with the tourism board. I have experience with tourism as past Executive Director of the Broken Bow Chamber and from the years I was in business for myself in Gothenburg. I feel also, with the interest I have to grow Custer County I could work more directly with the Custer Economic Development Director.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Donnis Hueftle-Bullock: A. Be certain the citizens in my district are safe B. Be certain that all county employees are safe but doing their required jobs C. Be certain that all citizens can reach their homes safely or get to their jobs or livestock safely

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Donnis Hueftle-Bullock: Top 3 priorities making sure I am present in my district at township meetings and understanding the needs of the district. Taking an active part in the conditions of the districts roads and getting more of an active tourism director.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Donnis Hueftle-Bullock: I am the best candidate because with looking to retirement in 2021 I would have the time it takes to be involved. Not just showing up for meetings, if I was not giving 2-3 days or more a week to the position, I feel I would not be doing the best job. I have a passion for the overall well being of Custer County.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

DIXON COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 2

Iris Dutton (Rep):

Education: *Master of Science in Education*

Military Experience: *Retired Military Spouse*

Volunteer Experience: *President, Dixon County Farmers Market, Secretary to the Board of the Northeast Nebraska Resource, Conservation and Development, Secretary of the Ponca Historical Society, working with the Ponca Quilt Byway to celebrate Nebraska's Sesquicentennial*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Iris Dutton: Continue Agri Tourism Development with the Dixon County Farmers Market, work together with the Ponca Tribe to develop a working relationship to honor and recognize the historical significance of the tribe in our community and work to improve road conditions in District 2 related to Agri Tourism.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Iris Dutton: 1. Work with County Emergency Manager and local authorities to support their efforts. 2. Promote C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) within District 2. 3. Help assess damages.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Iris Dutton: 1. Road Improvement. Working with the Board of Supervisors to develop priorities. 2. Property tax relief (support current efforts by legislators). 3. Agri Tourism Development as listed previously, primarily supporting the local food movement with educational opportunities. Supporting historical activities with the Ponca Historical Society and Heritage Museum Network to promote local tourism. Pursuing grant opportunities in Agri Tourism.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Iris Dutton: I am the most qualified candidate, serving the County as a Representative to the Northeast Nebraska R C & D, supporting grant money for County Weed Management, celebrating Nebraska's Sesquicentennial by developing a Barn Quilt Trail, in 2017, establishing The Dixon County Farmers Market and having an ability to gather people together for community improvement.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

DODGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 4

David W Saalfeld (Rep): No response received

Terry Synovec (Rep):

Website: <http://www.terrystynovec.com>

Past Public Office, dates held: *County Supervisor, Dodge County, 2012-2016 Fremont City Planning Commission, 2008-2012*

Education: *BS, University of Nebraska-Lincoln M.B.A, Keller Graduate School of Management*

Volunteer Experience: *Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Trinity Lutheran Church Board of Directors. Care Corp Board of Directors. Past President of Nebraska Bowling Proprietors Association.*

Pat Tawney (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *President of the North Bend Rural Fire District. 2018-Current*

Education: *Graduate of North Bend Central High School. Bachelor of Science from Bellevue University*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *Volunteer Firefighter on North Bend and Lincoln Southeast Fire Departments for 4 1/2 years.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Terry Synovec: There are several key issues. With last years flooding here in Dodge county, we still are having trouble repairing roads so I would would like to work closer with the Nebraska Department of Roads, as well as FEMA to make them safer. I think that an upgrade to our counties technolgy would be a tremendous for all residents. I still would like to explore our current jail situation, as well as a joint Sheriff/Fremont Police joint center.

Pat Tawney: Lincoln Premium Poultry has been a tremendous endeavor by both the county and the city. We have to continue to support them and businesses like Wholstone foods. But I do not feel that the county can stop there. We need to continue to strive for more local business. I think we are going to see some closures with the situation the country is facing and we need to do our best in keeping those types of businesses open. Along the lines of business, we have to keep an eye on housing. With the increase of jobs in the county,I feel there is going to be a great demand for housing. That issue will be closely monitored. Dodge County is blessed to have people that know how to work,and solve problems. If someone wants to make this their home, we are glad to have them and want to have enough jobs for everyone.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Terry Synovec: 1. Safety for all. 2. The county has experienced a lot in the last 12 months, but I think things have gone well. Between the flood of 2019 and the COVID-19 this year, I think we have done well to this point. I would hope to continue that path. 3. Try to find the funding to repair what mother nature threw our way. Repair roads and levees that were damaged.

Pat Tawney: This is easy. With what we all just went through one year ago, this should be on the minds of every citizen of Dodge County. #1 is always life safety. Communicating to the public, and being able to keep lines of communication open as the event unfolds. #2 Having enough help to fix the problem. I feel it is extremely important to have staff and equipment at the ready. It is also important to get that equipment into place as soon as it is needed. #3 Which is as important as anything. After the event you need to be there for the citizens you have been elected to help and protect. They are going to want to be heard and you need to be the person willing to listen to those concerns. And with that comes prioritizing. You are going to have to make tough decisions on what needs attention first. But with time I think those things float to the top and you start putting the pieces back together.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Terry Synovec: Review Dodge counties current jail situation Review road maintenance Review courthouse policies

Pat Tawney: One of the most important things I feel the county needs is to make sure the last phase of the hi-way 30 by-pass gets completed. Once completed we need to monitor it and make sure it opens and opens sa Also, I think the citizens of Dodge County are very fortunate to have an excellent Sheriffs Department. We need to make sure their needs are met. Also, the county is extremely close to getting their new radio system up and running. This will be a huge improvement for the officers on the road. Last but not least, the county infrastructure. We have to continue to maintain and improve on the structures we have in place. We have to make sure the dikes in our county are fixed and are able to withstand another flood.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Terry Synovec: As a former County Supervisor, I was on the Road and Bridge, Technology, Security and Finance committees. I understand how the county works and I am looking forward to helping the board move Dodge county move forward.

Pat Tawney: I have lived or worked in Dodge County for most of my life. I have served on the Fremont Fire Department as a Fire Captain/Paramedic for the past 28 years. I am currently the President of the North Bend Rural Fire District. I have followed county government for several years, and I feel I have the ability to communicate with people, as well as represent the people of District 4. My career has helped me become a problem solver. I look forward to the possibility of serving the citizens of Dodge County. I grew up in North Bend and feel that I have a good grasp of what the county wants and more importantly needs are. I will listen to the people of District 4 and be the voice for them at the county level.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

GAGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 2

Linda D'Andrea-Thomsen (Rep):

Website: <http://DAndreaRealty.com>

Past Public Office, dates held: *Gage County Supervisor 1998-2002*

Education: *Graduated Beatrice High School Attended South East Community College Graduated Joseph's College of Beauty Graduated Larabee Real Estate School*

Volunteer Experience: *Past President Chamber of Commerce Past President Sertoma Club Tri County Board of Realtors Nebraska Board of Realtors Board Member Eagles Auxillary Member American Legion*

Emily Rohe Haxby (Rep):

Education: *Bachelor's in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska Lincoln*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Linda D'Andrea-Thomsen: Encourage the growth of new businesses. Provide infrastructure, grow amenities, provide support to intrigue new business opportunities, while still saving the "Mom and Pop" businesses. Help the City and County to continue to work together for the betterment of all..

Emily Rohe Haxby: I think economic growth is important for the county with the current financial situation. We need to make sure Gage County stays competitive. One way to do this is to keep developing and maintaining our highway system because the economy grows around good infrastructure. We have been doing great at that in the past and need to continue to develop in the future. I support what NGage is currently doing to further drive economic development. I think we need to look at zoning requirements and make sure we are doing all we can to ensure that Gage County continues to grow.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Linda D'Andrea-Thomsen: #1 Safety: Work with all the First Res-ponders, the City & the County, to put together a plan for safety of all the people in the County should there be an extreme weather event or terrorist attack. #2 Infrastructure: Provide a proper budget to maintain and support all infrastructure in the area. Provide safe quality roads and bridges. #3 Implement shelters.:Build or construct safe areas in the event of extreme weather events (tornadoes, floods etc.) for the protection of the community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Linda D'Andrea-Thomsen: #1 Safety of all persons in the County. Have a written plan for all First Res-ponders, should there ever be a terrorist attack, act of nature or etc. Provide training to all the community so everyone works together. #2 Work close with the Sheriff's Department and the Police Department to cut crime in the area. Make better use of all the officers. Provide better training to help solve the crimes and provide a safe community. #3 Work with local businesses to see what they need to continue to grow and prosper in today's uncertain economy. Provide the support and trust needed to have everyone work together.

Emily Rohe Haxby: I am a proponent of setbacks because it gives residents the opportunity to educate themselves and the choice of whether or not they want the impacts of wind turbines on their property. I want to give our communities the right to choose what is right for them. I would also like to make sure and look at rock/gravel options across the county to see if there is a way to keep/make the roads we have in better conditions. Finally, reducing spending. I'd like to look continuously at ways that will save the county dollars and help relieve the impact of Beatrice 6. Sometimes cheaper isn't always the best option and I understand that. Cutting costs is good but not at expense of quality outcome to the taxpayer.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Linda D'Andrea-Thomsen: I am a strong willed, caring, supportive woman. I speak my mind while still listening to others and their wants and needs. I am a business owner, a wife, a mother, a farmer and so much more. I was born and raised in this community. I am well known and liked by all that have met me. I have integrity, "guts", and I care about others. Although I am only five foot tall, I strive to reach the top of all I do. I am not a quitter! I want the best for my community, family, friends and neighbors. I have been told by many that I "see outside the box" and that I have great ideas.

Emily Rohe Haxby: I grew up on a farm outside of Clatonia. As a Gage County native, I cherish our community ties and values. After getting my Bachelor's in Animal Science from UNL, I moved back to where I grew up and started a family with my husband, Justin. My family is committed to a life of farming and livestock where financial management is key to success. Along with farming, we own and operate Haxby Welding and Fabrication. I feel that I have good roots in the community, I understand the challenges faced by Gage County, and I'm invested in creating a better future by representing you as District 2 County Supervisor with bringing fresh, new ideas to the board.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HARLAN COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 2

Max O Schultz (Rep): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HARLAN COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 4

Cynthia M Boehler (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Harlan County Supervisor, District #4 since December 3, 2018.*

Education: *Graduate of Axtell Community Schools and Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.*

Volunteer Experience: *Church organizations, Team Mates, Beta Sigma Phi Service Sororities, Nursing Home Music Volunteer, Meals On Wheels. I volunteer weekly.*

Michael Stemper (Rep): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Cynthia M Boehler: In light of the current COVID19 Crisis, I will put all of my energies towards saving and renewing our current businesses first and then continue efforts to attract new businesses that would enhance our local and tourist experience in Harlan County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Cynthia M Boehler: Through training and simulated events, I feel we have a good grip on most weather conditions the might arise in our area. Our highest priority in any extreme weather related event is the safety of our citizens, visitors and travelers. We work in conjunction with several law enforcement agencies to ensure that we are communicating quickly and efficiently to keep everyone safe. We have experienced Disaster Management officials who are willing and able to coordinate on sight response, triage and evacuation. After our citizens, it would be a priority to then implement crisis management for livestock and property, in that order. We were proactive in the flooding crisis last spring and summer and are continuing our effort to finish up the damage repairs to some of our remaining bridges and roads...it has been a very long process. I am very confident in our Crisis Management teams and or Emergency coordinators in our Law Enforcement and Health Care facilities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Cynthia M Boehler: 1. To ensure that our Hospital and Clinic are healthy and a thriving, comfortable place for all who receive care and who are employed there. 2. To sustain our current businesses and population through the COVID19 Crisis. 3. To continue to provide transparent leadership to all citizens of Harlan County.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Cynthia M Boehler: I believe I am the best candidate for this position as I have been trained in Communications. Being able to communicate, whether listening or speaking is vital to a good relationship in all facets of life. I also believe that it is very important to be accessible to the general public and not have an agenda that is fueled or driven by special interest groups or individuals. I do my best to listen to anyone who would like to talk to me, investigate the evidence that is before me and then make a decision based on those facts, no matter how hard it may be.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HARLAN COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 6

Traci Dietz (Rep): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HOLT COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 2

Steve Boshart (Rep): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

KNOX COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 4

James Sokol Jr (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Knox County District 4 Supervisor January, 2012 to present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Verdigre Public School Board January 1999 to December, 2008*

Education: *Associates of Applied Science Residential and Commercial Wiring*

Volunteer Experience: *Verdigre Fire Department, Verdigre Improvement Club, Knox County Fair Board*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

James Sokol Jr: To promote small business's through the County's reuse loans and more livestock facilities since Knox County is a livestock friendly County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

James Sokol Jr: The safety of our Knox County residence. Keeping the tax levy low in times of low commodity prices. Making sure roads and bridges are passable in the fastest and safest way possible.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

James Sokol Jr: Taxes - lowering the mill levy Infrastructure - maintaining roads and bridges Law Enforcement - making sure everyone is safe

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

James Sokol Jr: I have held the District 4 supervisor position for 8 years, this makes me the most experience candidate. I also serve on other organizations that deal with the public, through this, I feel I am passionate about helping and serving people.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NANCE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Andrew Ditter (Rep): No response received

Douglas A Russell Jr (Rep): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

SAUNDERS COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 2

Doris M Karloff (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Saunders County Supervisor Chair of the Board of Supervisors current time from 2016 - 2020*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Saunders County Supervisor for nine terms. Yutan Public School Board for 2 terms.*

Education: *Business School graduate and additional education in Insurance, both life and liability and Government educational opportunities and leadership and character growth.*

Military Experience: *None - Member American Legion Auxiliary, Yutan*

Volunteer Experience: *Stephen Ministry with Lutheran Church of the Master, Omaha*

Chris Kems (Rep): No response received

John Zaugg (Rep):

Education: *Bachelors Degree in Management from Bellevue University*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Doris M Karloff: Economic Development for Saunders County is protecting our valuable farmland and recognizing growth in areas around the communities. We are a Livestock Friendly County and recognize the value of integrating through well managed Planning and Zoning Regulations.

John Zaugg: Create tax incentives and deregulation for business to locate to Saunders County for job creation. Create a Strategic Planning group with specific goals for contacting business in the area and by focusing on infrastructure in the county. Specifically bridges that need to be repaired or replaced. Saunders County has the highest number of bridges in the State. The Strategic Planning Group should be comprised on private Business leaders in the area with a background on developing business. Federal agencies such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Economic Development Administration (EDA), Small Business Administration (SBA) USDA Rural Development, and Department of Labor can be utilized to meet these objectives. Another key component that can be used is to utilize funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. This could be used for creating recycling programs though out the county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Doris M Karloff: My priorities for extreme weather events is first of all protecting individuals and keeping them safe. Maintaining roads for travel whether it be for emergency vehicles or families moving themselves or livestock. Having a good Emergency Manager and Plan and volunteers with our Local Fire and Rescue. In this Pandemic of Covid 19, it is our Health Departments and medical staff and facilities that are on the front lines. And always our volunteers

John Zaugg: 1. Improve communication between the county and our partners in emergency management. These would include; Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, and the Nebraska State Patrol. Updates can be presented to the Board of Supervisors on a quarterly basis. 2. Create an updated website on County Emergency Information and county activities in general. The current website is out of date and needs to be more user friendly with current information. 3. Increase the enrollment of residents into our Saunders County ALERT system. This is a free service that allows you to sign up and receive notifications on your phone about emergencies with up-to-date information about incidents that may have a significant impact on our residents.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Doris M Karloff: Taxes are the highest priority. Valuations limits are set by state but the County tries to keep them at a level that is equalized. We have lowered our tax asking dollar for at least the last 6 years. Maintaining budgets so county

dollars are spent wisely. Providing adequate dollars for our employees to continue the services offered to our citizens. Services are what we offer our citizens and we want to do our best.

John Zaugg: 1. Improved Infrastructure Focusing on Bridges and Gravel Roads. I am concerned about the number of bridges abandoned and bridges that are deemed unsafe for crossing. I would also like to see updated specifications of grading on our gravel roads. Currently some areas are unsafe when meeting oncoming traffic. 2. Increase Setbacks on Poultry Confinement facilities. I understand the need for this type of facility, but I also feel that it should not be a nuisance for people that already reside in the county. There should be a minimum of half a mile setback from any homestead or resident. 3. Increase Engineering and Environmental Oversight on any new Housing Developments. There needs to be a more thorough process to approve new housing developments by taking in account any off site damage created for adjoining neighbors.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Doris M Karloff: I am the best candidate for County Supervisor in District 2 because of my experience and leadership ability. I am dedicated. I am Chair of the County Board and also Chair of the NIRMA Board of Directors. NIRMA is our Risk Management Insurance Pool for all counties in Nebraska for Liability and Workers Compensation. My involvement on both the county and state level provides me with the opportunity to reach out to others for networking and valuable information. I am on the Region V Board, a 16 county organization which is for Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Substance Abuse. I have been Chair for this Board for 14 years and continue on the Executive Board. I have been President of the Nebraska Association of Counties and served on the National Association of Counties Board. I have worked tirelessly for Saunders County whether for our new Hospital or Law Enforcement Center or our Senior Citizens or Youth and I am ready to continue serving the citizens of our County.

John Zaugg: I feel I am the best candidate for this position due to my 37 years' experience in serving the public with protecting our Natural Resources. My employment with the Papio-Missouri River NRD has afforded me experience in the following areas; Soil and Water conservation, groundwater testing for quality and quantity and developing and maintaining rural Water supply distribution systems. NRD's and county governments work very similar in how they create budgets, develop long range planning and conduct Flood Emergency Operations.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

SAUNDERS COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 4

Tom Slobodnik (Rep):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Yutan, NE Rural Fire Board 4/22/19 to Current 4 year term*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Saunders County SID #4 Pawnee Meadows Dist. #11 School Board Saunders County*

Education: *High School: Abraham Lincoln High School, Council Bluffs, IA*

Volunteer Experience: *Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium ZooFari Fundraiser. Joslyn Museum Gala Fundraiser*

Scott Sukstorf (Rep):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Tom Slobodnik: My priority for economic development is to work with all department in Saunders County, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce and the Saunders County Chamber to facilitate new and existing growth in agricultural as well as future development of commercial, residential, industrial, and educational development. I will also work with land owners, developers, brokers, Zoning administrators, Planning Directors, County Assessor/Recorder of deeds, Saunders County DMV, and the County Clerks office to assist any potential development as possible.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Tom Slobodnik: My highest priority in any type of extreme weather event will be First Respondent's, LIFE SAFETY, roads and infrastructure, power and utilities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Tom Slobodnik: 1. Flexibility and getting to know all public employee's in Saunders County and understanding there needs and how they can help make Sunders County the best place to live and raise a family. 2. Accountability for the current board of Supervisors. 3. Economic Development 4. Taxation and finding the best solution for management of the Taxes collected, including looking for tax relief.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Tom Slobodnik: I believe that I'm the best candidate for this position because I'll be fresh, new to the position, I'll work well with all county departments, I love to be challenged, I love people, who by the way are are best resource. I have many years of management experience including budgets, cost associated with accounting, working with and for a large corporation, working with small bushiness and understanding our school boards, and our first respondents who by the way risk their lives every day to serve and protect us. I'm ready to take this challenge, I'm ready to challenged, I'm ready to fight for whats best for our community, our children, our grandchildren and our neighbors. These are very hard, confusing, scary times that each and everyone of us are living through. The COVID-19 virus puts everyone of us at the same level, we are all in new territory, understanding this new way of life and working through the day to day challenges has found new strengths and new weakness. God Bless!

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

SAUNDERS COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 6

Ken Stuchlik (Rep):

Education: *Associates in Agriculture Management, Certified Insurance Counselor*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Ken Stuchlik: As a Supervisor, I will be willing to work with the right agencies to ensure new and existing businesses in the county thrive. I will ensure to promote businesses that bring growth, stability, and environmental sustainability to the county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Ken Stuchlik: In the event of an extreme weather event, I will work with local, state, and federal officials to ensure necessary funding for affected areas. I will also make it a top priority to work with local authorities to provide security for affected areas of the county. Lastly, I will be as transparent and open with communication about the event as possible with other authorities and citizens.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Ken Stuchlik: My top priority will be to encourage fiscal responsibility and integrity within the county. My second priority will be to be transparent with the public about county issues and encourage citizens input. Lastly, a top priority will be to build and maintain open communication with other county officials.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Ken Stuchlik: I believe that I am the best candidate for District 6 Supervisor because I have 25 years of experience in owning and operating my own business. I am also versed in issues that the county and its citizens are facing. I am willing to

investigate and find facts to problems within the county. I am open to constructive conversations and am steadfast in doing what is right for our county citizens.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 5

Jay P Anderson (Rep): No response received

Herta M Bouvia (Rep):

Past Public Office, dates held: *Blair Community School Board I served 3 terms, 12 years.*

Education: *High School*

Volunteer Experience: *Coached children's sports, taught Sunday school, 4-H leader for 13 years. Volunteer at other non-profit groups.*

Mike Mackie (Rep): No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Herta M Bouvia: Our county is so concerned about economic development, hard surfacing roads or giving tax reduction to new business when all the while we don't maintain what we have. Our county has not and I don't see any time soon growing all the while we continue to tax our residents. Washington county has been headed toward a community of production plants that bring extreme wear and tear on our roads along with unsafe area's. The schools some people thought we needed didn't pan out, we were forced to close neighborhood schools. The school population is dropping not increasing over the average of the last 40 years. If elected I would look at the whole picture, budget, schools, roads, safety, and development.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Herta M Bouvia: COMMUNICATE with our residents!!!! Make sure everyone has been alerted of upcoming extreme weather whenever possible. Next we as a board should insure safe routes/roads available for emergency personnel or residents safely can get to there destination to other housing or emergency aide. Continue to communicate with law enforcement and county road superintendent for updates of all area's in the county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Herta M Bouvia: Reduce tax burden to all our resident's especially our local farmer's and rancher's. Create and follow a feasible budget that Washington County should already have in place. Spending is out of control in many area's and not enough revenue budgeted for our existing roads.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Herta M Bouvia: I'm running for county supervisor not commissioner.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DIST 7

Kevin Barnhill (Rep): No response received

Ronald Hinehline (Rep): No response received

SCHOOL BOARD RACES

ANSELMO MERNA SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 15

Jeff Baker (NP):

Education: *Bachelor of Science in Pastoral Ministry (with a Christian Education Minor) from Nebraska Christian College ('86)*

Volunteer Experience: *-Former mentor in Teammates -Variety of areas volunteering in several schools/churches -Former member of DYQ board -Former member of Nishna Valley (IA) YMCA board*

Tom Griffith (NP): No response received

Brandon Miller (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Anselmo-Merna High School/ Kansas State University*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Youth Coach in Basketball, Baseball, and Football/ St. Anselm's Catholic Church CCD Teacher*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Jeff Baker: A-M Schools has always been one of the leaders in its use of technology for students, teachers and the classroom. This has been very evident in the need to adapt learning during this current pandemic. I'm not sure about broadband, but I'm confident that A-M will continue to cycle new hardware & technology into the classroom and offices as they become available and financially possible. Technical training for staff and students will need to continue to be a priority. We have to continue to use our technology coordinator, local entities and the ESU to the maximum of their potential.

Brandon Miller: Although we need to be cognizant to create balance between technology and human interaction, an increase in distance learning courses should be considered to diversify learning opportunities and steer students' education in a direction that fits their interests and skillset. I believe that students who are interested in what they are learning and are challenged, will be engaged and will experience a rewarding outcome. This currently happens to a degree at the high school level, but it should be even more diversified, and be implemented earlier in school. Technology offers a wide variety of resources that teachers should utilize to expand their students' minds. From leveraging different perspectives from other scholars around the globe to creative, alternative ways of learning that are engaging to students; we are just beginning to realize the power that technology can offer the education system, and I would like to see my school district be on the leading edge of that movement.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Jeff Baker: We have good safety measures for inside our building, but can improve that as training and technology improves in the years ahead. Our students & staff spend plenty of time traveling and away from our building... we can't let our guard down, so we need to constantly revisit school policies that ensure safety to and from wherever our people are under school supervision. We always need to protect our students and staff from themselves in online and technical settings. Identity thieves are always going to stay cutting edge in their attempts & we need to stay a step ahead of them with how we protect our children, staff and the financial & other records we store.

Brandon Miller: Harm can be emotional, sexual, social, or physical. Creating a safe environment begins with culture. Educators should create a culture where everyone can feel support, friendship, and security within the school. That culture

should be led by example from the top down. Students need to be taught that there are consequences for actions. Expectations must be clear and corrective measures should look deeper than punishment and into guidance and support, where educators are empathetic towards the drivers behind the action. It's important for educators to attempt to recognize warning signs of risk in its early stages and take a proactive approach. Troubled young people need to feel support, friendship, guidance, and in a sense, therapy from their educational leaders. I believe that early warning signs of evil can be steered in the direction of good if educators can identify the root cause of the evil drivers and provide necessary support early on. This ties back to culture.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Jeff Baker: We aren't and won't become a cookie cutter school. Our kids have their own idea about who and where they want to be. Our teachers will continue to guide them to have the strongest base each child needs, especially in the elementary years. Exposing them to different careers and schooling is an ongoing project. Technology will continue to play an important part of exposing our children to all of the possible directions school and careers can take for them with dedication. Finances DO play a role in how many teaching positions we can have & the curriculum we prioritize. While it is unfortunate that finances do play into teaching offerings, it gives the opportunity to be creative and flexible outside of core subjects to meet needs. The bottom line is we need to be excellent in what we do and creative in what extra we can do.

Brandon Miller: Several concerns that I have with young people entering the job market from the education system, including my school district, must be addressed. Academically, I think that my school district sets very high standards and excels in this category. With that said, areas that could be improved for young individuals to better prepare for the next chapter in their lives include diversified life skills, willpower, confidence, passion, problem solving, free and revolutionary thinking, effort, attitude, and embracing challenge. Academics are important; however, high exam scores will only take them so far in their career without the aforementioned characteristics and skillsets. They must be diversified people with the ability to think freely and confidently influence members in their organization in order to positively advance throughout their professional careers.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 1

Laura Baker (NP): No response received

Lacy Krakow (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Past Public Office, dates held: *N/A*

Education: *Master of Science in Education Bachelor of Science in Education Master coursework in Secondary Administration and Business*

Military Experience: *N/A*

Volunteer Experience: *President of Banner County Foundations Committee*

Larry R Pahl (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *School Board member Jan. 2019 to present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *none*

Education: *BS Chadron State College Graduate work at UNL and CSC*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *First English Lutheran in Kimball, Ne board member. Calvary Memorial Church in , NE board member. Math tutoring in Kimball. Track coaching in Kimball, NE. Team Mates mentor in Kimball, NE.*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Lacy Krakow: As an online instructor, I understand the value of technology in the classroom, however, I also believe that education can be equitable and rigorous with limited technology, especially in a rural system such as Banner County. I feel that providing students with curiosity and research abilities will allow them to move forward in any career field that they desire, including a technological field, without utilizing technology in every aspect of their education.

Larry R Pahl: Not all students in our district have access to internet. I am not sure how the district, being as rural as it is, can address that concern. We can continue to work with the NWC to offer more dual credit classes and to continue to work with other districts to offer on line classes and distant learning opportunities .

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Lacy Krakow: I believe that it is important to teach awareness among all patrons of the community, in and out of the school building. If we are aware of our surroundings, we are able to see potential issues while functioning without fear. Our school has a number of safety measures in place that I believe are working well, however, I will continue to learn about other safety measures that may be implemented and will bring them forth to the school board as I see fit.

Larry R Pahl: Our doors are locked, all people must check in to enter the building through one entrance and must indicate where in the building they are going, I feel the building is secure. A play ground improvement would be the addition of rubber mulch to the play ground area, especially under the play ground equipment area. We should possibly consider making sure our buses parked on the school grounds during the day are secure.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Lacy Krakow: Working with members of the community and surrounding communities will help to understand the expectations of area colleges, trade schools, and places of employment. I feel it is important to prepare students to be able to choose any career path that suits them while helping them to understand what jobs are available in the area they want to live. Teaching students to care about their work, to work through issues to find a resolution, and to be able to research to find information they don't yet know will help them function in any career they choose, including careers that have not yet been created.

Larry R Pahl: As a board member I must keep watch on the balance of (1) post education, 4 year, 2 year and (2) opportunities for entry into the work force on graduation. We must (1) inform students and (2) encourage students to enter the trades. We need electricians, plumbers, builders, farm workers, truck drivers, railroaders, medical service personal, and service industry personal. I also believe we need to educated our students that they can get a good job, get a good post secondary education with out incurring these insane students loans. I believe that we must educate our students, not only how to make money, but how to spend it with out incurring huge credit card debits.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

FREEMAN SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 33-1

Chad Harms (NP): No response received

Anthony Meints (NP): No response received

Chelsea Schaaf (NP):

Education: *2006 Graduate from Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Majoring as a Veterinarian Technician and Minor in Animal Science*

Military Experience: *Military Spouse for 16 years*

Volunteer Experience: *Volunteer and Co organizer of the Elderly assistance program, Volunteer to help school in classrooms, TeamMate Mentor, and Freeman Strengths Team*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Chelsea Schaaf: Technology is something we can always continue to grow in. Through the use of technology we would be able to better prepare our students through prerequisite courses. Continuing to provide chrome books to students to use at school and while at home. Our school does an excellent job of providing what our students need, but continuing to be able to make upgrades and new ways to adhere to school standards and being leaders in the matter requires broadband access that is not interrupted. As our world continues to evolve, its important for our school to be able to evolve along with it. To be able to continue communication with students, parents and the community is a key component in assuring our students success rate.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Chelsea Schaaf: As a parent to two children who currently attend Freeman Public Schools, safety of students and teachers is important. Making sure we have an overall understanding what is expected of students and teachers and adhering to those standards through education. We learn through how we are led and I believe that it is the School Boards responsibility to lead as an example. Being a leader of a current team of over 750 team members, I believe I have those skills and knowledge to set that into motion.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Chelsea Schaaf: I would best advocate for the district's teachers and students by being an active listener and doer. One thing I have learned because of Freeman is how to use my Strengths to help better others. One of those strengths is Achiever. When given a task, I see it through 100% and take the matter at hand serious. Students and teachers at Freeman Public Schools needs that voice. The school has done a great job in many areas of already ensuring myself, as a mother, that they have our children's best interests at heart. The world is always changing and with that is the way the job market changes. Being a Licensed Veterinary Technician for 8 years, Dental Assistant for 6 years, and now a successful Entrepreneur for the last 4 years, I have seen how the industry changes and what it takes to adapt and over come what our children today will face.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

GRAND ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 2, WARD A

Randy Stueven (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *I currently do not serve in any public office.*

Past Public Office, dates held: *I served 21 years on the Merrick Planning and Zoning Commission. I am a past Chapman School Board member. I am a past member of the Grand Island Rural Fire Board.*

Education: *I am a 1976 graduate of GIPS.*

Volunteer Experience: *Every public office was an unpaid position. I volunteer with my church and other organizations*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Randy Stueven: I believe we already do everything we can. No one is sitting back letting technology leave us behind. I believe the Grand Island school board is constantly considering what can be done to make improvements and acting on what they can. The recent events have presented technology challenges that I believe were worked out very rapidly and impressively well. Funding is always a reality of life, spending large amounts of tax dollars won't fix educational outcomes. Equity and educational outcomes, that so much depends on the individual and their attitude. Educational opportunities for every individual exist in our district, what that student does with that is up to them. Personal responsibility is key to any success.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Randy Stueven: Teach respect for others, that every individual has a right to feel safe in school. Swift enforcement of policy when a problem comes up is very important. We need to step up Alternative Education use for troubled students. Earlier intervention with troubled students and their parents is so important. I am not against having some teachers with guns. I believe we need to look at self defense being part of our education program. Background checks for staff, look at staff and student Facebook and tweets. We need to be more aware of the adults that should not be employed. The staff is the front line, they are the ones that can make the difference. To keep everyone safe takes information and clear defined action.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Randy Stueven: I think Grand Island needs to continue to grow their district. Grand Island is a metropolitan community which has many employment opportunities. I feel the Grand Island district needs to address a second high school. Grand Island has around 1000 district students attending the Northwest school system for a traditional education. Many houses are built in the west end of town with people believing they will be Northwest district students. Zach Mader of the Northwest school board says their taxpayers subsidize those 1000 Grand Island option students for not less than \$2,000 each. Northwest high school building is in the Grand Island school district. Grand Island needs to address that 10% of our student population and why they are at Northwest. Grand Island option students represents over 70% of the Northwest student population. As a growing metropolitan community I would advocate for one county one district.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HARVARD SCHOOL BOARD

Michael B Nierman (NP): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HIGH PLAINS COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 75

Kristi Farley (NP): No response received

Erin Meyer (NP): No response received

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

KIMBALL SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 1

Jennifer Griebel (NP):

Education: *Master of Science and Nursing*

Volunteer Experience: *Volunteer firefighter and EMT in Colorado*

Albert Hargreaves (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *K-12 - Kimball High school - graduated 1989 Southeast Community College - Milford - John Deere Ag Tech - Associate Degree - graduated 1992*

Military Experience: *None*

Maggie Laughlin (NP): No response received

Lanny Little (NP): No response received

Heather Norberg (NP): No response received

Laura Perry (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None* Education: *Doctorate of Nursing Practice*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Kimball Parade of Lights 2013-current Kimball Ranch Rodeo 2013-current*

Carrie M Tabor (NP): No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Jennifer Griebel: Considering the recent pandemic, it is evident that technology is important education. I am aware that the technology is being used in the classroom. Recently, we have needed to incorporate the technology from school and home combined to finish up the remainder of the current school year. I believe this was an easier transition for the older elementary children and highschooler to have been using their computers regularly in class. I'm certain the transition was more difficult for the staff, students, and parents of the younger children as there was no familiarity with the program. I believe that it would be important to try to build on this for future experience. If this was considered a routine back up plan then maybe snow days, heat days, and odd closures would be easier to manage with more consistency.

Albert Hargreaves: I feel our school system utilizes current technology well. I feel we need to still maintain the student/teacher interaction. I don't feel we should be using teachers online when we have well qualified teachers in the classrooms.

Laura Perry: Kimball school district can improve students access to learning resources and homework online while students are absent from school. Kimball school district monitoring that technology is not replacing teacher contact time with students: lectures and hands on teaching.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Jennifer Griebel: I believe the current measures to manage the safety of the students and staff at the school have been addressed well. Our schools have recently had their security measures increased. Safety of the staff and student should always be a primary priority. It is important to continuously evaluate the risk and be prepared for as much as possible to avoid casualties. Part of preparation also includes being resourceful and the ability to improvise should the need arise.

Albert Hargreaves: Kimball schools uses a card lock system to keep unauthorized people out of the schools. I feel this is a good system. A resource officer on school grounds would help ensure no illegal activities or unauthorized people are getting into the school.

Laura Perry: Kimball school board, administration and committees should continue to do yearly evaluations to update and add new protocols for potential safety concerns.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Jennifer Griebel: As a school board member and professional I believe that it is important to support the school staff so the students are well prepared to enter the job market of current days. It is important to build a strong foundation at the elementary level. This will prepare them as they enter middle school and high school. This will better prepare them for the real world. As part of the high school it is important to include life skills and prepare everyone for their life after school today unique situation as best as possible. Part of this could be including general budget managing with the work-study program. Some kids may not attend schooling and enter the workforce immediately, others will enroll in college or a trade program. All these choices need to be supported and can be prepared for at the high school level.

Albert Hargreaves: I support the career day that our school currently does. I feel this gives students ideas of what careers are out there and learn about them from the people that are doing those jobs currently. Making sure we keep the necessary classes that will help our students be better prepared for their future. Examples would be FFA, civics, ag, auto mechanics, etc.

Laura Perry: I would advocate for and encourage discussion on: offering trade classes; life skill classes; providing high school students opportunities to job shadow; and high school student's opportunity to earn college credits. I would advocate for and encourage discussion on: teacher turnover rates; budget for teachers to have additional classroom materials each year for contact time with students; and survey teachers each year regarding current curriculum and any new curriculum being considered.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

LEYTON SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 3

Susan M Ernest (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *I do not currently hold any public office.*

Past Public Office, dates held: *I was elected to the Leyton Board of Education in 1999 and served from 2000-2008. I served as Secretary for many years.*

Education: *I have a B.S. in Education and a Minor in Vocational Special Needs from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. I taught Special Education from 1990-1994 in Lodgepole, NE. I was a substitute at Lodgepole, Sidney and Leyton for 6 years.*

Volunteer Experience: *I have volunteered in many ways in my communities. I was a volunteer coach for 10 years for various sports. Soccer, T-Ball and coach pitch for boys and girls teams. I served on the Cheyenne County Community Center's Board of Directors for 6 years.*

Roland Rushman (NP): No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Susan M Ernest: I do believe the Leyton District to be very up to date on this technology. Being in a rural area, it is a challenge to have adequate access, but that has improved over the years.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Susan M Ernest: Our district takes the safety of students and teachers/staff very seriously. The buildings are all closed to the public and you must be allowed in via a security camera. There are also cameras in all hallways and the gyms.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Susan M Ernest: I believe that there needs to be an emphasis put on the trades. Students need to be given wider choices and experiences that will help them make a decision for what path they choose in life. For many years, emphasis has been put too heavily on the 4 year college route and we have ignored a large part of the students who never felt that a 4 year college education was for them. By allowing some experience in multiple career areas, we better prepare students to make the choice that is best for them.

*****VOTE TODAY!*****

LOUP CITY SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 1

Scott Friesen (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Have been on the Loup City Public School Board for four years.*

Education: *Graduate of Loup City Public Schools in 1997, attended NCTA for two years, and finished in Lincoln at UNL.*

Michael D Kaminski (NP): No response received

Kyle Kowalski (NP): No response received

Janelle Krzycki (NP): No response received

Kelli Loos (NP):

Education: *BS Agricultural Honors 1988, University of Nebraska - Lincoln MS Animal Science Reproduction 1990, University of Kentucky*

Volunteer Experience: *4-H Leader 25+ years UMC Youth Group Leader UMC VBS Coordinator Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator Life on the Farm Educator 15+ years*

Loraine Panowicz (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *Loup City School Board 2016-2020*

Past Public Office, dates held: *Loup City School Board 1998-2014*

Education: *College*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *FCE, 4-H, St. Josaphat's Catholic Church*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Scott Friesen: We have stayed up to date with our current technology efforts, the best way we can improve here is to become more proficient with our resources.

Kelli Loos: Our school has quickly adapted to the covid-19 pandemic with the roll out of home based learning using our existing laptops. In order to enhance the opportunities for technology in the long-term, we need to analyze what is available for programming, what can best be utilized by our teachers and what can most benefit our students. Once that is determined, we need to give the best possible training and support to our teachers, paras, and IT staff so that they can truly make the most of the technology and help our students achieve the greatest success. Throughout all of this pandemic, the greatest realization is that teachers and students want to be in the same room. However, we can supplement that interaction with proper and appropriate use of technology to enhance the learning experience.

Loraine Panowicz: Technology is always changing and having faster broadband access in rural Nebraska is much needed for both school and business. I believe we need reliable broadband at a reasonable price for our staff and students. Due to the current situation with Covid 19. I believe we've discovered that going one on one with I pads has helped LCPS to transition to at home education easier than we would have in the past. Parents from other school districts that have relatives attending LCPS have complemented us on our proactive use of technology.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Scott Friesen: We have plans in place and just keep practicing them so everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of an incident.

Kelli Loos: Our school has a strong locked-door policy and offers one main entrance at each building. In order to ensure continued safety, we need to make sure the surveillance cameras are properly positioned, adequately monitored and also properly connected to law-enforcement officials and school administrators. We also need to consider training for teachers, coaches and staff that are responsible for supervising students at off-campus activities to ensure that the safety standards practiced in our school are continued at all school functions.

Loraine Panowicz: We at LCPS are always looking at new ways to keep our students and staff safe. Over the years I have served on the school board we have went from being an open door institution to a locked down campus. We have installed cameras in our buildings and on our grounds. We have had our staff and students doing lockdown drills. The board is always looking ways not only to keep our students physically safe but also cyber safe, by offering trainings and have conversations with both parents and students.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Scott Friesen: I would like to see a better partnership with the community to make sure we are meeting the needs of it. Also never stop exploring more options to bring business back to rural Nebraska. We have a wonderful community and would like to see it grow.

Kelli Loos: Successful students need to learn not only academics but also life skills, people skills, relationship skills, communication skills, career skills, technology skills, professional skills, leadership skills, teamwork and integrity among other things. I will advocate for this by encouraging the hiring of passionate, professional teachers of the highest integrity that will not only model great ideals but will also use their talent and training to meet each student at their level and help

them reach their full potential. I will also encourage input from teachers, staff, parents and students so that the atmosphere is continually positive and everyone feels like their voice and their opinion is important. This buy-in is essential to building a strong school that helps to build mutual support for a strong community. By being inclusive, everyone is willing to give their all and their best for the benefit of the students the school, the community and ultimately the future of the world.

Loraine Panowicz: I believe we need to build our curriculum from the standpoint of what do we want our students to learn. Then look at the resources need to accomplish that goal. I believe we need to offer our teachers professional development to ensure that our students have the best teachers possible. I believe that the ESUs help us to accomplish this goal.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

MINDEN SCHOOL BOARD

Kenneth Carpenter (NP): No response received

Cody E Krull (NP):

Education: *Bachelor of Science Degree - University of Nebraska Kearney - Business Administration*

Volunteer Experience: *Teammates Board Member/Mentor; Optimist Club, Minden Opera House Board Member, Two Rivers Public Health Department Board Member, Kearney area Chamber Young Professional Board Member, Kearney County Health Services Family Advocacy Board member*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Cody E Krull: Our school is currently overwhelmed with technology because of the current pandemic that has swept our nation. Technology is truly the only thing that is saving our children from not getting any form of education. Prior to the pandemic I would have said that we are utilizing the right amount of technology throughout our schools. There needs to be a good balance between technology and pen and paper teaching. The struggle that some faculty have is the supervision of the technology and how do we enforce it properly. If I'm elected to the school board I will make sure to survey teachers after the pandemic and see what their feedback will be.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Cody E Krull: I think one issue that gets overlooked that can lead to safer schools would be the increase funding and awareness of mental health throughout our school. I truly believe that most people that are going to cause harm to someone or something probably has some form of underlying health issue that's not getting addressed that could possibly help solve a lot of problems. This issue doesn't start at the school level though, this issue needs to start at the top and have more funding supported within the schools and communities.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Cody E Krull: We need to make sure we're continually evaluating what higher education is expecting out of Freshman through Senior when they join their respective schools. I think this needs to be an open dialogue with school districts and higher education facility. There are a lot of job fairs and career opportunities to include internships from higher education. I firmly believe in the internship programs within higher education and in the last couple years we have had an intern within our office and it's been great for both parties. This is how we open up our students to new opportunities. The experience of hands on learning is far better than what a classroom setting could teach and prepare you for the next stage in life.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NORTH BEND CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD, DIST 595

Bob Feurer (NP):

Website: <http://wordpress.com/view/bfheartfriendofeducation.wordpress.com>

Current Public Office, dates held: *North Bend Central Board of Ed, 2016 to present*

Past Public Office, dates held: *none to note* Education: *BS/E and MS/E both from Kearney State College, 1978 and 1984, respectively*

Military Experience: *none*

Volunteer Experience: *Curator of Franklin-Cotterell Greens arboretum, 1991 to present, Dodge County Long Term Recovery Committee, volunteer tree work North Bend City Park, North Bend Economic Development Committee,*

R Douglas Hoops (NP): No response received

Andy Swanson (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Graduate of NBC ('99), BS in Agricultural Science from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *I volunteer my time for Knights of Columbus fundraisers. I am also a 7th grade Parish Religious Education teacher.*

Karrie Van Nortwick (NP): No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Bob Feurer: Using technology to replicate what is already being done is a misuse of the resource. It should be used to make students producers rather than consumers; photo albums, movies of phenomena or performance, digital portfolios, data analysis, music, ad campaigns, web pages, blogposts and podcasts can all be accomplished. Students are currently finding Zoom as a tool to gather at a distance with their teachers and classmates as well as a tool to gather information. Not certain how to address the broadband access situation as there are so many carriers out there and our district hosts students from 13 zip codes. This may be more a state legislature issue than a local one. We are currently providing wifi "hot spots" as our district has undertaken an elearning platform during the Covid outbreak but don't know if that will be sustainable in the future.

Andy Swanson: During this current Corona virus crisis, I feel that our district has done a great job of utilizing technology to continue the children's education. There are those homes, however, who do not have access to reliable internet connections, whether it is because of household income, or due to geography (when you live in the country, you know where the 'good' spots are for reception). I believe that our school and other schools in rural Nebraska can amplify the call for better coverage and more widespread internet access. This will benefit all of us in rural areas, not just our schools.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Bob Feurer: Honestly, there is not a way to ensure safety 100%. We have approximately 150 closed circuit cameras around campus; both elementary and secondary as well as on all of our route buses. We have buzz in access only during the school day. We have also hired a school resource officer who is shared with a neighboring district. Our campus is extremely well lit including the back parking areas of the building. Access is granted to faculty and staff by key card. A lot of problems can be prevented by taking care of the mental health aspects of all persons in the buildings. We have recently hired a full time counsellor instead of contracting with the ESU. Bullying education also has a key role in preventing safety situations.

Andy Swanson: While we will never be able to eliminate all risk from our daily lives, I do believe that when it comes to safety in our schools, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In the next decade, North Bend Central will be one of three public high schools in this county. We will continue to grow with new students as the geography of our community grows. We need to make sure that we maintain a small enough class size so that our teachers are able to know their students and be able to pick up on cues that things may be changing in a student's life, and have the time to ask a few questions or offer some guidance. I also believe that being involved in activities with their peers is a great way for students to stay engaged. While athletics is a great way to do this, going out for a sport is not for everyone, and often these are the kids who get lost. I'd like to see an equal amount of emphasis placed on activities outside of sports to keep kids involved and included.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Bob Feurer: I've found that aspect more of a challenge than I thought it would be when I was first elected. I participated in an international group called Modern Learners and took an eight week experience called Change School which drastically changed my perspectives on the difference between "school" and "learning"; they are not the same thing! Testing drives too much of education with little to no gains shown from millions and millions of dollars spent. Students need to become producers of content rather than consumers. They have more information gathering power in their pockets than in 1,000s of city libraries. We need to break down the study by subject, study by age group and come to understand that seat time is not the same as learning! Why do we assume that achievement on standardized tests is the best way to measure the success of students and schools? Why do we do what we do? How can we make it better? I have a pretty experienced and progressive group of friends who keep me fresh!

Andy Swanson: Sometimes we can all get trapped in our own echo chambers and not realize that the world has continued on. I believe that the education system has been slow to change in the past. I am very proud of the continuing change that I have seen in our school district in the 20 years since I graduated. I think that NBC grads are some of the most prepared to enter the work force or continue with their education. We need to seek out entrepreneurs and industry leaders to ask their opinions on how we can adapt for the next ten years rather than react to what has happened in the last ten. Opportunity abounds in this age of rapid change if we can give our students the skills to meet the challenges that inevitably come along with those opportunities.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

NORTH PLATTE SCHOOL BOARD, WARD 2

Angela R Blaesi (NP): No response received

Pat Cullen (NP):

Current Public Office, dates held: *None*

Past Public Office, dates held: *None*

Education: *Doctorate University of NEBRASKA Specialist Chadron State College Masters Degree Chadron State College BA Physical Education Chadron State BA Business Education Chadron State*

Military Experience: *None*

Volunteer Experience: *Coached Kid's Wrestling in Alliance Holy Rosary Catholic Church Past Optimistic Club Member*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Pat Cullen: The use of technology is critical in providing all students a quality education that not only they need but deserve. Every student from grade 4 through 12 should have their own lap top computer that can be used both at school and home. Every class should integrate technology into the lessons. All students need to learn to use the technology as a tool for education and not just for entertainment. Some students might not have the internet or broadband access at home. In

situation where students don't have online access at home, they should be provided a hotspot by the school to get them online. Another option, maybe a special deal could be worked out with the internet provider to provide internet access to homes where school aged children doesn't have online capabilities. When students have the tools and access to the internet at home, education will improve across the district for all kids.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Pat Cullen: The first things to ensure school and community safety is to review the policies and procedure to make sure that the school district is following what "Best Practice" tells us and that everybody understands their role in promoting safety throughout the district and community. It would be a significant benefit if everybody had the ability to report anonymously. If you want people to report, the administration must listens to them, respond appropriately to their concerns, and treat all people like valued people. Without strong school /community relationships in the district very little reporting will happen unless the patrons and others can trust their administration in handling these difficult situations. The district should review technology that can be used to help monitor inappropriate online behaviors. This technology should be used if the use of the software is not overreaching or impacts students or staff members' constitutional rights.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Pat Cullen: The best way to prepare for the 21st Century is provide all kids with a quality education. One of the pillars of great communities is great schools. When our children are not provided an exceptional education not only do the students suffer but the entire community. If we want our children to compete with other students in the state and throughout the nation, the school district has to provide our students with the best education possible that is infused with technology. To provide a school of quality, you have to build positive relationships with all people, set high expectations for all students, and making sure that no kid fails. Every kid has to have a pathway to success to excel in the 21st century job market. For our children to move forward in life, we have to quit leaving our students educationally behind in school and life.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

REGISTERED NONPARTISAN VOTERS (INDEPENDENTS)

Registered voters not affiliated with a political party can vote in Nebraska's 2020 primary election on May 12, 2020. Registered nonpartisan voters can request a partisan ballot to vote for Democratic, Libertarian, or Republican candidates running for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

When a registered nonpartisan voter requests a Democratic ballot upon check-in for the primary, they will be eligible to vote in all partisan local, state, and federal offices listed on their ballot, including the Democratic presidential primary election.

Registered voters not affiliated with a political party can only receive one party's partisan ballot for the primary.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

OVERSEAS VOTERS

Voters maintain their right to vote when they are serving in the military or are temporarily living outside the United States through the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act.

Nebraska participates in the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) process, which simultaneously registers applicants to vote, as well as mails them an Early Voting ballot.

It is important to note that the MOVE Act requires that overseas voters send an early voting request **EACH calendar year** (*see Resource Links*).

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

HOMELESS VOTERS

Homeless citizens, who are otherwise eligible to vote, have the right to cast their ballots.

The address of a homeless shelter or a day center can serve as their address of record. Also acceptable is the address of the local Election Commissioner or County Clerk's office.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

FORMER FELONS & INCARCERATED PERSONS AWAITING TRIAL

In 2005, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB53, which automatically restores the right to vote to the former felon **TWO YEARS AFTER** they have:

- completed their prison sentence, **AND**
- finished parole.

To verify that you are eligible, visit with your local County Clerk or Election Commissioner, or complete a voter registration form (*see Resource Links*).

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

By law, each precinct must provide at least one device for persons with disabilities to vote unassisted and in private. If you cannot read, are blind, or have a physical disability, you can request assistance when completing your ballot on election day.

A friend or relative can assist you or you can request the assistance of two election board members – each from a different party.

Technology makes exercising your right to vote more inclusive and is utilized by Nebraska with both optical scan and direct recording electronic machines at precincts.

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

VOTER REGISTRATION

Registering to vote is your civic responsibility and allows you to have a voice. If you plan to vote for the first time – congratulations!

Nebraska allows those who are 17, but turn 18 by the general election on Nov. 3, to vote in the 2020 primary election.

If you have registered in the past but haven't voted regularly, it is important to **VERIFY** your registration. Your voter registration is required to be updated when moving, changing names, or changing parties (*see Resource Links*).

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Provisional ballots are used to record your votes when there is a question about your voter eligibility. This discrepancy must be resolved before your votes are counted.

To avoid this situation, verify your voter registration no later than the third Friday before an election (*see 2020 Key Dates*).

If you receive a provisional ballot at your precinct, verify that it was validated and counted (*see Resource Links*).

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

RESOURCE LINKS

[Register to Vote – English](#)

[Register to Vote – Spanish](#)

[Early Voting \(Vote-by-Mail\) Application – English](#)

[Early Voting \(Vote-by-Mail\) Application – Spanish](#)

[Overseas Voter Registration & Absentee Ballot Request](#)

[Verify your Voter Registration](#)

[Verify your Early Voting Ballot was Received & Counted](#)

[Verify your Provisional Ballot was Validated & Counted](#)

[Election Officials/County Offices across Nebraska](#)

*******VOTE TODAY! *******

KEY 2020 DATES

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

April 24: Last day to postmark your voter registration application for the 2020 primary election

April 27: Last day to register on-line to vote (by midnight Central Time)

Oct. 16: Last day to postmark your voter registration application and last day to register on-line for the 2020 general election

Oct. 23, by 6 pm: Last day to register at your Election Commissioner or County Clerk's office

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

VOTE-BY-MAIL (EARLY VOTING) APPLICATION DEADLINES

Jan. 13 – May 1: Submit application for a vote-by-mail ballot for the 2020 primary election

July 6 – Oct. 23, by 6 pm: Submit application for a vote-by-mail ballot for the 2020 general election

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

VOTING DATES

April 6: First day a vote-by-mail ballot can be mailed to voters for the 2020 primary election

April 13 – May 11: Return vote-by-mail ballots. Drop boxes will be available at your local county office starting April 24.

May 12: Vote at your precinct from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (CT)

Sept. 28: First day a vote-by-mail ballot can be mailed to voters for the 2020 general election

Oct. 5 – Nov. 2: Vote early for the 2020 general election at your Election Commissioner or County Clerk's office and return vote-by-mail ballots

Nov. 3: Vote at your precinct from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (CT)

*****VOTE TODAY! *****

UPDATES TO IN-PERSON, EARLY VOTING

(PER THE SECRETARY OF STATE: sos.nebraska.gov/elections/early-voting)

Gov. Pete Ricketts issued an executive order to suspend in-person, early voting. ([View Executive Order](#)), dated April 7, 2020.

EARLY VOTING APPLICATION DATES & DEADLINES:

April 6, 2020: Early voting ballots begin to be mailed out

May 1, 2020: Last day to **REQUEST** a vote by mail ballot

May 12, 2020: Election Day - **8 PM CDT (7 PM MT)** All mail-in ballots must be **RECEIVED** by your [local county election office](#). Drop boxes will be available at local county offices starting April 24.

IMPORTANT! Early Voting applications must be physically signed.

You can take a picture or scan your Early Voting request and email it to your local [county election official](#). You can also mail or fax your Early Voting application to your local [county election official](#).

You can apply for an Early Voting ballot by contacting your [county election office](#) by mail or by fax.

You can print an online Early Voting application, complete the form, and then mail, fax or scan/take a picture of your application and email it to your [county election office](#).

[Election Officials/County Offices across Nebraska](#)

IMPORTANT! The last day to request an early-voting application is May 1, by 6 p.m. (CT).

VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Voters with disabilities can use the accessible ballot marking device to vote early by scheduling an appointment with their [County Election Office](#).

See the Secretary of State's press release for more information for voters with disabilities about changes to in-person, early voting. ([View Press Release](#))

*******VOTE TODAY! *******