Primary Election Date: May 14, 2024

Visit Vote411.org for additional candidate information specific to your voting district.
Visit lwvgo.org for printable PDF versions of the Voters’ Guide.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that never endorses or opposes any political parties or candidates.
About Nebraska’s New Voter ID Law

Nebraska’s new voter ID law (LBS14) requires all registered Nebraska voters to present a photo identification (ID) when voting in an election in Nebraska.

Voter ID begins with the May 14, 2024, primary.
Every election in Nebraska after the May 2024 primary will require voter ID.

**Photo IDs:**
- Nebraska driver’s license (from DMV)
- Nebraska state ID (from DMV)
- Nebraska college ID (public or private)
- Nebraska political subdivision ID (state, county, city, school, etc.)
- United States Passport
- Military ID
- Tribal ID
- Hospital, assisted-living facility or nursing home record

*ID must include name and photo.*

**ID must have your name and photo. ID can be expired.**

How voter ID will work:
- **Voting in person at the polls:** Present a photo ID or vote provisionally.
- **Voting early at the election office:** Present a photo ID or vote provisionally.
- **Voting early by mail:** Write driver’s license/state ID number on ballot application or enclose a copy of photo ID or reasonable impediment certification with your ballot application.
- **Voting in by-mail precincts or by-mail special elections:** Write driver’s license/state ID number on ballot return envelope or enclose a copy of photo ID or reasonable impediment certification in your ballot return envelope.

Active-duty military members, active-duty military spouses, and citizens overseas covered by UCCAVA (Uniformed & Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) are exempt from voter ID.

If you forget your ID, you will fill out a provisional ballot. For your ballot to count, you will need to present a photo ID to your county election office on or before the Tuesday after the election.

If you don’t have an ID, you can get a state ID for free (for voting purposes) from the Nebraska DMV. You will need to bring certain documents to get a state ID, so check with the DMV website ahead of your visit.

If you need a copy of your birth certificate to get a free state ID, you can get a free certified copy of your Nebraska birth certificate from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. This is only available if you do not have an ID and need a state ID for voting purposes.

If you cannot get an ID due to disability/illness, religious objection to being photographed, or lack of documents to obtain a free state ID, you can complete a reasonable impediment certification.

Visit [VoterID.Nebraska.gov](http://VoterID.Nebraska.gov) for more information.
All responses received by March 24, 2024 have been included. All responses received until the election will be available at VOTE411.org, in English and Spanish.

Voter ID Law – effective as of April 1, 2024

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For more information on how to obtain an ID and what to do if you can’t get one, go to: https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/voter-id

What does “Nonpartisan” mean in a Partisan Primary?
In Nebraska law, the term Nonpartisan describes voters as well as elected offices.

• **Nonpartisan office**: An elective office where candidates are not required to be members of a political party. All voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote for these candidates. (Examples include Legislature, Utilities (MUD and OPPD), Board of Education, Learning Community, Natural Resources District, etc.) These will appear on the Nonpartisan Ballot. The League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha will not list the candidate’s party for those offices in our printed Voters’ Guide. In VOTE411, those candidates will be shown as “No Party”.

• **Nonpartisan voter (NP)**: An individual who registers to vote with no affiliation to a political party recognized in Nebraska. These voters are sometimes referred to as Independent. During a partisan primary election (such as the May 14, 2024 election), Nonpartisan voters have different options when exercising their right to vote.
  
  o An NP may choose to vote solely for the Nonpartisan Ballot and Special Issues ballot (if any). OR;
  o An NP can re-register for the political party of choice to vote for the full ballot of partisan offices in addition to the Nonpartisan Ballot. For 2024, the deadline to do so is April 29, 2024 by mail or May 3, 2024 in person at the Douglas County Election Commission. OR;
  o An NP can request a Nonpartisan [Republican/Democratic/Libertarian/Legal Marijuana NOW] ballot, in addition to the Nonpartisan Ballot. The political parties may “close” or “open” their ballots to NPs. In a “closed” primary ballot, only the races for United States Senator and U.S. House of Representatives are available. In an “open” primary ballot, all races of a partisan nature will appear on the ballot. An NP can only select ONE Nonpartisan [Republican/Democratic/Libertarian/Legal Marijuana NOW] ballot – no mixing and matching of parties is allowed.
Many voters ask, “Why don’t I see [office/candidate’s name] on my ballot?

1. It might be because the candidate is running unopposed, or the office has too few candidates to appear on the Primary ballot. Those candidates will appear on the General Election ballot in November. Look for language like “These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.” under the name of the office.

2. It might be because Nebraska has Closed Primary Elections. Persons running for office on the Presidential, Federal, State and County Tickets appear on the ballots corresponding to their party. Voters of the same party may vote for those candidates. Parties may allow “non-affiliated voters” (i.e. voters registered as Nonpartisan) to vote for their candidates. The process is covered on the previous page. The Republican Party does not allow non-affiliated voters to vote for any Republican candidate on the Presidential, State or County Ticket. The Republican Federal Ticket remains open for Nonpartisan voters who request a Nonpartisan Republican ballot.

3. Finally, it might be because the candidate is registered as Nonpartisan but is running for a Partisan race. Such candidates can appear on the General Election ballot if their petition to appear is successful, but cannot on the Partisan portion (Presidential, Federal, State and County Tickets) of a Primary Election ballot.

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The following is a list of all races that appear throughout Douglas County. Please note that not all races will appear on your specific ballot.

Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter. All submissions are reproduced as submitted, with no corrections to spelling, grammar or punctuation.

If a candidate did not respond by the deadline for print publication, “No response received” is printed. All candidate responses, including those received after the print deadline, are available at VOTE411.org in English and Spanish.

The League does not support or oppose any candidates or parties.

**FEDERAL TICKET**

**President of the United States**

Notes: Questions and answers for the presidential race were created and collected by League of Women Voters of the United States, using their criteria for acceptance.

All candidates who will appear on the Nebraska ballot are listed below, but only those that meet the following criteria were invited to respond:

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party’s nomination for President; and,
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.

Joe Biden (D):
Website: https://joebiden.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/joebiden
Twitter: @joebiden

Dean Phillips (D): Candidate has withdrawn but will appear on ballot.

Charles Ballay (L): Candidate did not meet criteria.

Jacob Hornberger (L): Candidate did not meet criteria.

Lars Mapstead (L): Candidate did not meet criteria.

Chase Russell Oliver (L): Candidate did not meet criteria.

Michael Rectenwald (L): Candidate did not meet criteria.

Nikki Haley (R): Candidate has withdrawn but will appear on ballot.

Perry Johnson (R): Candidate did not meet criteria.

Donald J. Trump (R): No response received.

**What steps should be taken to address the high cost of living and depressed wages in America, including for families, people with disabilities, and people that are economically disadvantaged?**

Joe Biden: President Biden and Vice President Harris will continue to invest in the American people and fight to lower costs for families. They will continue working to eliminate junk fees and call on corporations with higher markups to pass savings onto consumers. President Biden and Vice President Harris are also pushing Congress to lower the cost of housing, lower prescription drug prices for more Americans, expand access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care, extend the enhanced Child Tax Credit, ensure access to paid family and medical leave for every American, make preK free and college more affordable, and more. Additional information can be found in this letter: http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter

**What steps will you take to ensure all Americans have access to quality and affordable health care, including reproductive care and prescription drug coverage?**

Joe Biden: The Biden Administration is lowering prescription drug prices – President Biden was the first president to take on Big Pharma and win. He has capped the cost of insulin at $35 for seniors and finally allowed Medicare to negotiate drug prices — starting with some of the costliest, most widely used drugs used to treat blood clots, cancers, diabetes and more. The Biden-Harris Administration is also defending in court a woman’s ability to access medication abortion, fighting to ensure that women receive the medical care they need in emergencies including miscarriages, working to protect the right to travel across state lines to access care, and strengthening privacy protections for patients and doctors.

http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter

**What will you do to support an economy and job market that are strong and inclusive of all people?**

Joe Biden: President Biden and Vice President Harris came into office with a vision to grow the economy from the middle out and the bottom up—not the top down. They’re focused on an economy that builds more in America, invests in American
workers, and promotes competition to lower costs – and their economic vision is working.

Additional information can be found in this letter: http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter

What are the most important steps you will take to create an accessible path to citizenship, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients?

Joe Biden: President Biden and Vice President Harris are also using all the tools at their disposal to build a safe, orderly, and humane immigration system. While Donald Trump has repeatedly said that immigrants are poisoning the nation’s blood and is calling for an extreme immigration plan that would wreak havoc across communities while doing nothing to keep us safe, the Biden-Harris Administration has both increased legal pathways for migration and increased border enforcement. And, since Day One, President Biden has called on Congress to take action to build an orderly and humane immigration system.

Additional information can be found in this letter: http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter

What measures do you support to expand voter access and restore trust in our elections?

Joe Biden: As president, Joe Biden has made the defense, protection, and preservation of American democracy the central cause of his administration. This starts with strengthening and fighting for our democratic institutions and free and fair elections and President Biden is using every tool at his disposal to do so — including through an Executive Order directing all agencies to promote voting and voter registration, calling on Congress to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act to establish national baseline standards for access to the ballot.

Additional information can be found in this letter: http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter

U.S. Senator
2-year term

Preston Love Jr. (D): Education: Master’s Degree in Professional Studies; Volunteer Experience: President of the men at Antioch Church of God In Christ, Founder and Executive Director of the Black Votes Matter Institute of Community Engagement
Website: https://love4senate.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Love4Senate

Pete Ricketts (R): No response received.

Mac Stevens (R): Response received too late for print, but is available on VOTE411.org.

John Glen Weaver (R): Education: Masters in Econ, BA in Animal Science; Military Experience: 22 years Active Duty Air Force
Website: https://www.weaverforsenate.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/JGWeaverNE

How do you plan to address immigration reform?

Preston Love Jr.: I am supportive of a bipartisan effort to fix our immigration system. America is a country of immigrants, and we must create more pathways to citizenship and work eligibility for those entering our country. We need to come together for a solution to this critical issue - if both sides are just focused on winning, we will never see progress. Our leaders should not use people's lives and legal status as a political bargaining chip. As your Senator, I’ll take a common-sense, people-first approach to this important issue.

John Glen Weaver: Close the border / deport the illegals that have come into this country. We should only let in immigrants that love America and have a skill to add to our country.

What is your stance on access to abortion and contraception?

Preston Love Jr.: In our pursuit of a just and equitable society, I firmly believe in the fundamental right of women to make decisions about their reproductive health. The majority of Nebraskans oppose restrictive bans on abortion. I stand with women across our State who are tired of the government coming in between them and their doctor.

John Glen Weaver: I am pro-life and I support President Trump America first policies
Preston Love Jr.: There are many ways that Nebraska can address climate change that is affecting our weather patterns, local farmers, and even our safety. I'll advocate for initiatives that help Nebraska farmers adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, supporting the development and implementation of practices that enhance resilience in the face of changing weather patterns. I'll also push for the extension and enhancement of conservation programs to support Nebraska farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices that preserve soil health, protect water resources, and promote biodiversity.

John Glen Weaver: None.

What are the most important challenges facing our country, and how do you propose to address them?

Preston Love Jr.: I'm running for Senate to put people over politics. It's time for leadership that works to bridge the economic, partisan, geographic, and racial gaps that are growing in our country and our state. I'm ready to represent all Nebraskans - not just the ones who agree with me. I'm running to bridge the gaps that divide us. That's what my candidacy is about, that's what my entire career has been about, and that's what I'll prioritize as your Senator.

We need leadership that prioritizes access to reproductive rights, affordable healthcare, voting rights, and supporting a strong economy in the urban and rural parts of our state. I'm ready to be that leader and get real results for all Nebraskans.

John Glen Weaver: Our invasion at the southern border and our $34T National Debt, and the fentanyl crisis.

What, if any, actions would you support to address the threats facing the United States due to climate change?

Kerry Eddy: Immigration reform needs careful, compassionate consideration. We must trust experts who study and understand the issues that drive immigration and the social and economic factors that impact communities near our borders to guide policy-making. We need updated facilities and streamlined processes to ease the burden on those communities most directly affected.

How do you plan to address immigration reform?

Kerry Eddy: There should be no impediment to a woman's bodily autonomy. Full stop. We must trust experts in reproductive health to provide sound medical advice when it comes to difficult decisions in reproductive matters, and we must trust women to do what is best for themselves and their families.

What is your stance on access to abortion and contraception?

Kerry Eddy: We must take action by encouraging the exploration and development of renewable energy. Incentivizing research and development of alternatives to fossil fuels, single-use plastics, stemming the use of forever chemicals, and environmentally destructive mining and agricultural practices are all steps in the right direction.

What are the most important challenges facing our country, and how do you propose to address them?

Kerry Eddy:
- Income inequality - propose a universal basic income and a ‘maximum wage’ for CEO pay
- Insurmountable healthcare costs - universal healthcare/Medicare for all
- Education - bolster public school programs, better teacher pay, strengthen separation of church and state
- Gun violence - regulation of firearms and access to firearms

U.S. Senator

Kerry Eddy (LMN): Education: University Of Nebraska Omaha, BA 1997, University of Nebraska Lincoln MFA program (current); Military Experience: Nebraska Air National Guard, 1992 – 1999

Website: https://www.kerryeddy.com/

Kenneth Peterson (LMN): No response received.

Arron Kowalski (R): No response received.

Deb Fischer (R): No response received.
U.S. House of Representatives
Nebraska District Two

**Tony Vargas (D):** Education: Bachelors of Arts, University of New York - Rochester; Masters of Education, Pace University; Current Office held: Nebraska Legislature, District 7 (January 2017 - Present); Member, Appropriations Committee; Chair, Legislature's Planning Committee; Vice Chair, Executive Board of the Legislative Council; Past Office held: Omaha Public Schools Board of Education, Subdistrict 9 (Dates: October 2013 - December 2016); Volunteer Experience: Board Member, One World Community Health Center; Member, Sons of Italy Nebraska; Member, GI Forum; Member, Dahlman Neighborhood Association; Parishioner and Eucharistic Minister, St. Francis Cabrini Church
Website: [https://www.vargasfornebraska.com/](https://www.vargasfornebraska.com/)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/vargasfornebraska](https://www.facebook.com/vargasfornebraska)

**Don Bacon (R):** Education: Bachelors of Political Science, Northern Illinois University; Masters Degrees from the University of Phoenix and the National War College; distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, Navigator-Electronic Warfare School; Current Office held: January 2017 to Present; Military Experience: Retired Brigadier General, United States Air Force; Volunteer Experience: Youth for Christ; Salvation Army's Kroc Center
Website: [https://donjbacon.com/](https://donjbacon.com/)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/DonJBacon](https://www.facebook.com/DonJBacon)

**Dan Frei (R):** Candidate chose not to respond.

**Discuss how you would maintain the solvency of Social Security and Medicare.**

**Don Bacon:** Since 2015, I have been adamant that we need to modernize Social Security and Medicare to ensure they do not go insolvent for both the generations who have paid into them and are soon expecting their hard earned benefits, but for future generations as well. If we do nothing, recipients will lose approximately 25% of their benefits in 2034, with each year thereafter those benefits further declining. I have cosponsored HR 281, legislation that would establish a Bipartisan Commission to address the long-term solvency of Social Security. Republican and Democrat legislators, their policy staff, and experts in the field must come together to ensure Social Security and Medicare will survive for this generation and beyond.

**Tony Vargas:** Social Security is a promise that must be maintained for every generation. Plans to cut earned benefits or raise the retirement age must be stopped. My mother retired last year. She worked two or more jobs for much of her life and now she deserves a fulfilling retirement that Social Security provides. With more people relying on the program for their entire retirement savings, we must take steps to secure a retirement for everyone who worked hard to earn it. To maintain the solvency, I support the wealthy paying their fair share by making earnings over $400,000 a year taxable for Social Security. We must expand the ability of Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices on more drugs to save seniors money.

**How do you plan to address immigration reform?**

**Don Bacon:** This country was founded by immigrants, and there is no secret that American industry is starving for more workers. That being said, immigrants to this country need to come here through a legal process. Unless provisions are included to secure the Southern Border and stop the flow of fentanyl and human trafficking, it will be very difficult to get immigration reform passed. Border security should include the Remain in Mexico Policy, increased funding for border patrol, physical barriers where necessary, and a mandate from the Congress to the executive branch to enforce the current immigration laws on the books. Effective border security will enable legal immigration reform and more opportunities for people to legally immigrate to America.

**Tony Vargas:** I support bipartisan immigration reform that creates an earned pathway to citizenship for those without criminal records. I believe this must be coupled with effective border security measures that will keep families safe. We need more border security officers, more inspection equipment to keep out fentanyl and stop drug smugglers, and more resources to properly process those seeking to come to this country in safe and humane ways. But above all, this issue just shows how broken Washington is. Everyone agrees that our current immigration system is broken, yet they can’t put politics aside to get something done that will fix it. If we want results, it’s time to send a representative to Washington who is a proven bipartisan leader.

**What is your stance on access to abortion and contraception?**

**Don Bacon:** I believe we are created in God's image and, therefore, am pro-life and believe in the dignity of human life in the womb. I have always stated that we should protect the life of the mother. I have also agreed to exceptions for rape and incest, if that agreement enabled restrictions on abortion to three months, like we have in Nebraska now. At the federal level, I am supportive of Senator Graham’s 15-week abortion restriction because some states have zero abortion restrictions even at nine months of pregnancy, while I acknowledge no abortion legislation will pass 60 votes in the Senate. I support the Hyde amendment because I agree with most Americans that taxpayers should not fund abortion. I support access to contraception.
Tony Vargas: Politicians should have no say in women’s personal medical decisions. The overturning of Roe and the subsequent abortion ban passed here in Nebraska have made it harder for doctors to do their job, and have put women into dangerous situations. Subsequent attacks like the decision in Alabama have threatened IVF and other family planning services. Access to IVF must be protected. I will work to restore Roe v Wade into law to protect the freedom and rights of Nebraskans. As someone who’s wife nearly died during the birth of our daughter, this issue hits particularly close to home. We felt the terror of a family in a medical crisis. It was doctors and nurses who helped us through it, not politicians inserting themselves into the doctor’s office.

What are the most important challenges facing our country, and how do you propose to address them?

Don Bacon: It is clear to me that the number one problem facing this nation is our own internal divisions. Americans must stop looking at each other as enemies, but instead as good people who can agree to disagree. Elected leaders must do a better job setting a positive standard for the American people, and I am committed to that mission. We must lower the temperature, calm the rhetoric, and remember that we are all Americans working toward a more perfect union.

Our national debt is also a crippling problem for our nation’s future. I support a bipartisan commission to address our national debt and restore fiscal responsibility in our government.

Finally, we must support our allies against the rising threats of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

Tony Vargas: We must lower costs for Nebraska families. My wife and I are working parents who have to budget and balance our accounts every month. The costs of food, childcare, housing, and medical care have become outrageous and prohibitive for many Americans. These can all be addressed in Congress if we elect people who understand the struggle of going through them. Working to hold corporations that are price gouging accountable, expanding the ability of Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices and extending those prices to all Americans, incentivizing affordable housing investments, and reinstating the expanded child tax credit are all my goals. My top priority when I am elected will be to put more money back into your pocket.

STATE TICKET

Public Service Commissioner

6-year term, $75,000 salary.

The Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created executive body comprised of five seats including one chairperson. This commission is responsible for regulating telecommunications carriers, natural gas jurisdictional utilities, major oil pipelines, railroad safety, household goods movers and passenger carriers, grain warehouses and dealers, construction of manufactured and modular homes and recreational vehicles, high-voltage electric transmission lines, and private water company rates. The Commission also oversees and administers the Nebraska Universal Service Fund the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund, and the Nebraska Telecommunications Relay System Fund.

Tim Schram (R): Education: University of Nebraska Lincoln Bachelor of Science College of Agriculture; Current Office held: Nebraska Public Service Commission District 3 January 2007 to present.; Past Office held: Sarpy County Commissioner District 5 1995-2006; Volunteer Experience: Sarpy County Fair and Rodeo Benefit Auctions for Alzheimer’s, Ducks Unlimited, PF, American Heart, 4-H and NWTF

What are the most important challenges facing our state public services, and how do you propose to address them?

Tim Schram: Modernizing 911
Convert aged copper networks to IP Internet Protocol Network in process of implementing Next Generation 911 Cybersecurity threats to United States critical infrastructure. Prohibit equipment originating from hostile sources that manufacture malicious malware components.
Require utilities, telecommunications and internet service providers to comply with National cybersecurity standards.
Public funding investment into hardening networks. Firewall protection.
Broadband Access and Affordability
Support federal and state broadband grants.
Incentivize private investment to deploy broadband networks.
Public support to sustain broadband networks in rural high cost areas.
Affordable to low income to close digital divide.
How can the PSC better enforce rail safety in Nebraska?

Tim Schram:
Appropriate funds to hire state track inspector to supplement Federal Railroad Administrations efforts.
State coordination with FRA.
Comply with EPA transportation regulations of hazardous materials.

What is the status of the state’s goal to expand broadband access in underserved areas?

Tim Schram:
State Broadband Office created in 2023 will administer federal BEAD program $405 million.
Nebraska Public Service Commission has implemented policies and grants promoting broadband.
Bridge grant. program $20 million per year.
Capital Projects federal grant $80 million.
NUSF-99 grants
NUSF-108 grants
NUSF-92 grants has constructed over 200 cell towers in Nebraska some are 4G and 5G capable.
Policies have raised speed thresholds 25/3 to 100/100mbps symmetrical scalable to receive state funding
BEAD, ACAM, and RDOF federal programs continue to be in progress. Many of the underserved and unserved Nebraska areas will be the focus over the next 5 years. Progress continues according to FCC broadband map. BEAD has a 100/20 speed requirement.

COUNTY TICKET

Douglas County Clerk

Dan Esch (D): This candidate is unopposed and will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

Douglas County Commissioner

4-year term, $59,814.96 (2023)
The county operates under the board of commissioners-administrator form of government. Policymaking and legislative authority is vested in the Board of Commissioners, which consists of seven members. The Board of Commissioners is responsible, among other things, for passing resolutions, adopting the budget, appointing committees and hiring the county’s chief administrative officer. The board is elected within their respective districts.

Districts 1, 3 and 7

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

District 5

Brian J Fahey (D): This candidate is unopposed and will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

Kenneth L. Anderson (R): Education: Bachelor of Technology in Business Administration, Bachelor of General Studies in General Sciences, Associate of Applied Science in Electronics Technology, Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene; Past Office held: Omaha Public Schools Board of Education - served the now obsoleted subdistrict 11 (Keystone, Benson, +): 1991-1994; Volunteer experience: For years I’ve prayed daily for this county & those surrounding it and declare protection over them by the host of the army of heaven: visit HostInitiative.org; KatKerrToOmaha.Live allows term & phrase searches of transcripts of Kat Kerr’s speeches; Website: https://essstealsourvote.substack.com/p/hatch-act-disregarded-in-leaked-army

Sean Kelly (R): Education: Bachelor of Science - University of Minnesota & Masters of Business Administration - Carnegie Mellon University; Volunteer Experience: Dundee Elementary & YMCA; Website: https://kellyforcommissioner.org/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557116334328

Why are you running for Commissioner, and what qualifies you for the position?

Kenneth L. Anderson: Commissioners fund the county ELECTION system, federally deemed to be critical infrastructure, but fail in oversight of it to prevent election corruption, long suspected, now proven. The blood of so many patriots for so long paid for our votes to be counted rightly. No other sitting nor candidate commissioner has done as much as I have to alert the Board of the election fraud risk. Secret no longer since the March 14 SCOTUS evidence, is that election fraud is pervasive & MUST BE STOPPED! What DISqualifies sitting or candidate county commissioners is turning a deaf ear to the election fraud warnings that others & I presented to the Board of County Commissioners. Never in my 65 years have we needed a patriot on your county Board more than now

Sean Kelly: I am running for County Commissioner because I believe that our county board should be guided by principles of transparency, accountability, and strong leadership. These principles are not aspirational, they are essential for building trust, encouraging community involvement, and ensuring that our county's needs are met for all our residents. I am a
Kenneth L. Anderson: Per the county roads engineer, this project uses state funds, not county. Don’t interfere with his job unless constituent-driven. Other issues: #1 We MUST force election integrity to save our republic.
http://ESSstoleOur.Vote for details. #2 Fluoride (F-) & our intellect: Peer reviewed research published in JAMA Pediatrics Oct 2019 showed measurably lower IQs of Canadians aged 3-4 associated with F-exposure during pregnancy. Union County, NC in February banned forced F-in utility water. Smart! #3 Begin Board mtgs with prayer as in North Platte. #4 Push for Election Commissioners to be voter-owned, locally elected by hand count until everyone can be trusted. Resurrect this issue until accomplished & END ES&S DARK SOFTWARE VOTE COUNTING NOW!

Sean Kelly: Public Safety is a top priority for me. Whether the county’s road improvement plans should be changed or accelerated depends on various factors including the current state of infrastructure, projected population growth, traffic patterns, and the availability of resources. As your Commissioner, I would work to understand the details of these issues while considering any safety concerns associated with the current infrastructure and plans for future growth. Examining intersections with high accident rates and the inadequacy of pedestrian and cyclist access would also need to be explored.

What is the best plan, going forward, to provide the proper services for youths being detained for crimes in the county?

Kenneth L. Anderson: Public safety and protecting our valuables come first, before “serving” the little perps. Elected county attorney, public defender, sheriff, state legislators & appointed judges have more say than the Board, but even so, everyone knows that parents have even more influence than them. Still, we can’t ignore the fact that very high powers instigate a LOT of the crime. Think Soros, organized crime rings, cabals, even enemy nation states. I agree with prioritizing exposing and opposing those powerful people and groups, even those not located in our county, state, nor nation. Politically [in]correct group think & illegals are used by them to worsen things. These increase numbers of 1st time offenders, so an outcome-based plan should monitor that doing the best they can to serve our youth. That isn’t good enough. The saying “justice for all” should not be a platitude, but a real-life standard. Public Safety is my greatest priority, but that does not mean that this problem should just be solved with bars and beds. The problem broad and far-reaching. The best plan to serve and rehabilitate our youth is multifaceted, and should prioritize prevention, support, and rehabilitation. I would work in concert with community organizations, families, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to address the root cause issues that lead to the incarceration of too many youth.

Douglas County Public Defender

Tom Riley (D): This candidate is unopposed and will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

NONPARTISAN TICKET

State Legislature

4-year term, limited to two consecutive terms, $12,000 salary
Members of the country’s only unicameral legislative body create laws and make the rules for Nebraskans under certain constitutional limitations. This body also oversees many health care services and decides how much money public schools (from kindergartens to colleges) receive each year. If you are concerned about who pays how much in taxes and how those funds get spent, this is a very important election.

District 05

Gilbert Ayala: No response received.

Flint Harkness: Education: B.S. Secondary Education University of Nebraska-Omaha, M.S. Secondary Education University of Nebraska-Omaha; Website: https://flintfornebraska.com/; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/flintfornebraska

Margo R. Juarez: Education: University of Nebraska at Omaha MBA; Current Office held: Omaha Public Schools, board member, subdistrict 8, November 2022 – present; Past Office held: Omaha Public schools, board member, subdistrict 8, appointed December 13, 2021 - October 2022; Volunteer Experience: Currently: South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance (SONA), Assistance League Omaha, church groups Website: https://margojuareznelegislature.com/; Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551930955541
What is your top concern about K-12 education in Nebraska and what would be your solution?

**Flint Harkness:** The overall direction of the laws and regulations that have been proposed and passed in the last couple of years is concerning. Electing people who have worked in a school and who have expertise in education can help decision-makers have a different perspective when making decisions that impact our schools. If elected I will be a fierce advocate for our schools and students. Another area of concern is the shortage of teachers and support staff. Higher pay, and lower cost to enter the profession without lowering the bar to join.

**Margo R. Juarez:** I am concerned about funding K-12 education in the future. Lowering property taxes and school choice will impact funding. I am not against school choice, but we need to keep public schools strong. Special education needs are also a concern. I suggest offering tax credits for donations to public schools. If we want to keep property taxes lower, then let's review the funding formula. I firmly believe there will always be students who do not have any option except to attend their neighborhood school. In addition, special ed students must continue to be served. What about a comprehensive review of school expenses? I want to review the future use of casino revenue for school funding. Equity is important to me. Public schools must remain viable.

**What steps would you support to ensure access to clean water for all Nebraskans?**

**Flint Harkness:** Clean water should be viewed as a right. The issue of high nitrate levels in Nebraska is concerning. More testing and better oversight are needed to correct this issue and guarantee safe water for all.

**Margo R. Juarez:** Is there adequate oversight to monitor contamination sources? Are there sufficient reporting mechanisms in place to assist with quality control? What is the process to access private property when needed, such as farming operations? Do we need to review operations on a more frequent basis? When was the last time a comprehensive review took place to ensure clean water is maintained by a variety of industries? Are there sufficient penalties at both the federal and state level for violation? Are the needs of Indian reservations being met? Is climate change being considered for it's impact on our water needs? On a much smaller scale, how could we educate families to consider using rain barrels? Continued education for everyone on their role.

**What are the most important challenges facing our state, and how do you propose to address them?**

**Flint Harkness:** Perhaps the biggest issue our state is facing is the fact that young adults are choosing to leave the state. Steps that can be taken to help this are 1) safe, high-quality schools 2) communities that are secure and welcoming 3) allowing individuals to live their lives how they want, and 4) an economic environment that allows people to provide for themselves and loved ones.

**Margo R. Juarez:** We need other revenue sources. Is the Chamber reviewing product needs of our bordering neighbor countries? We need more transportation options such as the light rail. Automobiles and insurance costs are only getting higher. Let's have the Omaha to Lincoln commute happen by light-rail train. Let's get the train to our future enhanced Omaha airport. Are there access to federal funds to get these projects done? If not, let's start the discussion. I do support the governor in reducing property taxes but public education needs to remain strong. Sporting events can have great economic impact. Let's continue to support them. Can we make the internet available to everyone in the state? Better communication within our neighborhoods is needed.

**District 07**

**Christopher N. Geary:** Military Experience: US Marine Corps; Volunteer Experience: Teaching self-defense for those who could not afford classes and to the disabled. I have also mentored teenage boys who came from tough economic and social backgrounds.

**Dunixi Guererca:** Education: Studied Political Science at University of Nebraska; Volunteer Experience: I am an Eagle Scout and have volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America. I also serve as President of the Nebraska Young Democrats and currently is a national officer for the Young Democrats of America.

Website: https://dunixiguereca.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GuerecaforLeg

**Tim C. Pendrell:** Education: St. Bernadette, Gross Catholic High School, University of Nebraska - Lincoln (B.A, Political Science, minors in Asian Studies & Economics), New York University (Master of Urban Planning specialization in Economic Development and Housing Policy); Volunteer Experience: AmeriCorps/VISTA Alum with Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, current volunteer grant writer.

Website: https://www.pendrell.vote/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/People/Pendrell-for-Legislature/6155905964976/

**Ben Salazar:** Response received too late for print, but is available on VOTE411.org.

**What is your top concern about K-12 education in Nebraska and what would be your solution?**

**Christopher N. Geary:** The state not honoring parents rights and teaching material that we don’t want taught. School vouchers would provide choice and competition.

*Nebraska is one of just a handful of states without school choice options like charter schools, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), tax-credit scholarships, and school vouchers.*
**Dunixi Guererca:** Ensuring we direct appropriate public dollars to public schools is my top priority. Voucher schemes like those passed last year put our public education system at risk. We must focus our funding on making our public schools the best they can be for students no matter where they live - not finding ways to enrich private schools with public dollars. We must also work to solve the teacher shortage crisis by both recruiting more people into teaching and fixing the reasons that cause them to leave the profession.

**Tim C. Pendrell:** My foremost concern is the long-term sustainability of school finance. In Nebraska, our school finance model results in property tax disparities, with only 26% of districts receiving equalized state aid. This leads to divisions and an over-reliance on property taxes. Instead of the Governor’s proposal to allocate an additional $1 billion for tax relief, enhancing state funding for K-12 education would more effectively reduce property taxes. By boosting state aid to schools by $1 billion, we could lower the local effort rate to .32, enabling 99% of districts to qualify for aid. This would significantly cut property taxes for many—by up to 60%—and give schools greater flexibility to enhance teacher salaries and benefits.

**Christopher N. Geary:** Fund allocation for updating old piping and assistance with digging wells in rural areas.

**Dunixi Guererca:** Ensuring residents have clean water is a top priority for me. In the short term, we must incentivize best practices and provide programs for Nebraskans to ensure they can do things like replace lead pipes and filter out nitrates in their water. In the long run, we must work with our agricultural community to ensure that we are doing everything possible to keep our waterways clean, including soil erosion prevention and a reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers.

**Tim C. Pendrell:** I’ve played a pivotal role in setting up the Lead Service Line Cash Fund, aimed at replacing 16,000 lead pipes in Omaha to ensure homes have access to clean water. My focus has been on aligning state policies with federal funding to effectively tackle this issue. Furthermore, I am committed to enhancing water quality through advocating for natural solutions to reduce nitrate levels and have actively worked on legislation to safeguard our water resources.

**What steps would you support to ensure access to clean water for all Nebraskans?**

**Christopher N. Geary:** Property taxes causing retirees to leave the state and relocating to a more tax friendly state.

**Dunixi Guererca:** I see several challenges that we need to address, including funding for our public and higher education programs, a broken property tax system, and an affordable housing shortage. Schools and property taxes are tied together as the vast majority of property taxes go to funding our education system. To solve both problems, we must examine funding structures and make sure the state is paying its fair share to support students. For affordable housing, we must incentivize more construction housing at every price point and incentivize homeowners to move up a tier, when possible, to relieve pressure on the market.

**Tim C. Pendrell:** In confronting the pivotal challenges facing our state, it’s imperative to prioritize workforce development and pathways to employment, safeguarding against the risk of Nebraskans becoming our primary export. We must equip our youth with the skills and opportunities, particularly in STEM fields, essential for flourishing within Nebraska’s dynamic economy. Simultaneously, fostering a robust innovation ecosystem will drive economic growth and mitigate the outflow of talent. By attracting and retaining individuals, we ensure that Nebraska remains a destination for prosperous careers and vibrant communities. This proactive approach fortifies our state against the threat of losing its greatest asset: its people.

**District 09**

**John Cavanaugh Jr:** Education: B.A. Catholic University of America, JD The Vermont Law School; Current Office held: Nebraska Legislature 2021 – Present
Website: https://www.cavanaughfornebraska.com/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Cavanaugh4NE

**Julia K Palzer:** No response received.

**What is your top concern about K-12 education in Nebraska and what would be your solution?**

**John Cavanaugh Jr:** We need to focus on ensuring there are enough teachers in the classroom including Para's and aides. The first step to accomplishing this is by supporting our schools and educators and to stop attacking them. Without properly staffed classrooms our children in most need will not receive the help they need and the children set to excel with not get a chance to be challenged.

If we do not recognize the dedication and commitment of all of our educational staff those professionals will find another profession. So we need to pay them appropriately, give them time to prepare for class, support them in the classroom, and stop attacking educators for educating.
John Cavanaugh Jr: In Nebraska we are blessed to be on top of the world's largest underground fresh water reservoir, the Ogallala Aquifer. We have an obligation to act as stewards for that for future generations. We need to stop the flow of poisons into our ground water by holding polluters accountable, and we need to work with farmers to produce food in a way that does not continue to leach nitrogen into our ground water. In the mean time, we are working with communities to ensure their drinking water is safe through testing and water treatment. Ground water is not our only challenge, we also need to work on replacing lead services lines in our cities.

What are the most important challenges facing our state, and how do you propose to address them?

John Cavanaugh Jr: Affordable housing is the biggest challenge facing our state. If someone can not afford a home, it impacts every other aspect of their life. The current lack of affordable housing is leading to the increase in home valuations which is leading to the increase in property tax bills. The lack of affordable housing is preventing families from saving for the future, and it is affecting what jobs people can take. I have supported legislation to help developers build more homes and people purchase homes. I have also supported legislation to help people stay in their homes and not be priced out by factors outside of their control.

District 11

Ernie Chambers: No response received.


What steps would you support to ensure access to clean water for all Nebraskans?

Calandra Cooper: Because 4th-grade performance can indicate whether foundational skills have been adequately established, I'm most concerned about the significant academic disparities between certain groups of students, those critical gaps in foundational skills is troubling. Addressing academic disparities and planning for future success would involve a multi-faceted approach that targets the underlying causes and promotes equity in education could be one solution. As a legislator, I'd advocate for appropriate policies and studies, including allocating funding in a way that addresses the disparities in educational resources and in a way that provides more helpful opportunities in schools, particularly those serving high-need communities.

What is your top concern about K-12 education in Nebraska and what would be your solution?

Terrell McKinney: My primary concern regarding K-12 education in Nebraska revolves around the persistent underachievement of students within my district. I firmly believe that it's imperative to overhaul our approach to education comprehensively. Crucially, this overhaul should align with the needs of our modern society and focus on offering equitable opportunities to students and communities that have historically been underserved.

What are the most important challenges facing our state, and how do you propose to address them?

Calandra Cooper: Nebraska is an ag state, as such runoff, industrial pollution and aging infrastructure probably contribute to our water systems and our ability to have clean water. These issues are compounded by regulatory and funding constraints, making comprehensive solutions difficult; starting with infrastructure updating, stricter environmental regulations and using sustainable farming practices might be good starting places in ensuring clean, safe water.

Terrell McKinney: I support legislation aimed at eradicating all lead pipes throughout the state, with particular emphasis on my district. Extensive research has demonstrated the detrimental effects of lead on brain development and overall health. I am open to exploring alternative solutions that can yield positive impacts in addressing this issue.
regulations and using sustainable farming practices might be good starting places in ensuring clean, safe water.

**Terrell McKinney:** The paramount challenge confronting our state is the imperative to define our identity and aspirations. It's crucial to determine who we are and what we envision for our state's future. Additionally, we must focus on fostering balanced growth that extends beyond eastern Nebraska, ensuring equitable development across all areas of our state.

**District 13**

**Nick Batter:** Education: Harvard University, BA; Nebraska College of Law, JD; Army Engineer School, BOLC; Military Experience: Humanitarian and civil works construction engineer, United States Army; Volunteer Experience: Board of Directors, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce; Humanitarian Relief Director, Sri Lankan Aid; Board of Directors, Florence Historical Foundation; volunteer with RISE Reentry Program, Metro Community College 180 Reentry Program, Florence Futures.

Website: [https://nickbatter.com/](https://nickbatter.com/); Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nickbatterforlegislature](www.facebook.com/nickbatterforlegislature)

**Matthew Clough:** Education: William Jewell College, Harlaxton College, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Past Public Office: Chief Operating Officer Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services 2010-2015, Commissioner for Serve Nebraska; Volunteer Experience: Miller Park and NW YMCA Board, Distinguished President of NW Kiwanis, Hope Center for Kids, Abide Network. Morning Star Development in Afghanistan, Freshstart for all Nations in Omaha, Serbia, Botswana, and Burundi.

Website: [https://voteclough.com/](https://voteclough.com/)

**Tracy Hightower-Henne:** Education: Juris Doctor, LLM (Master of Law) in Taxation, BS Business Management; Volunteer Experience: Nebraska Innocence Project, Nebraska Legal Aid, Nebraska Volunteer Lawyers Project, various legal clinics;

Website [https://www.tracyfornebraska.com/](https://www.tracyfornebraska.com/); Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/tracyforne](https://www.facebook.com/tracyforne)

**Ashlei Spivey:** Education: Jackson State University-undergraduate program; University of Texas Arlington-master's program; Volunteer Experience: Board Member, Women’s Funding Network Former Board President, ACLU of Nebraska MIT REAP Participant (2022) Member, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.


### What is your top concern about K-12 education in Nebraska and what would be your solution?

**Nick Batter:** Bottom line, we can’t teach students without teachers. OPS is losing 500 teachers a year. I know, personally, what a good teacher can do. In 7th grade, my mom and I lived in a rundown RV we rented by the week. Like many kids from tough backgrounds, I was often absent or spent my day in detention. Somehow, my math teacher noticed me. He came to detention on his break to help with my homework, lent me a college textbook, and enrolled me in summer courses at a community college. I wouldn’t have made it far in life without the many public teachers like him going above and beyond to keep me afloat. Teaching is one of the most important professions in society and teacher pay should reflect that. It is the only way to recruit and retain the best.

**Matthew Clough:** Attracting and retaining teachers and para-professionals. Refine the scope of curriculums. Create partnerships with Nebraska employers to share education responsibilities. Newly created or perfected shared teaching curriculums that include opportunities to learn the trades in order for students to have good paying, prompt employment after graduation.

**Tracy Hightower-Henne:** My top concern regarding K-12 education is ensuring a high quality education for every child in our state, regardless of where they live or their background. Public schools are the backbone of our education system, and it's imperative that we allocate resources to strengthen them and provide equitable results for students.

My solution revolves around directing public dollars exclusively to public schools, and increasing state aid. Nebraska is 47th in state aid to public schools. We must prioritize the well being of schools and students and prioritize our schools, rather than give large tax cuts to large corporations, many of whom aren’t headquartered in Nebraska, as the Legislature has done in recent years.

**Ashlei Spivey:** Public education and quality school choice is a top priority in our state. There is an opportunity to address the funding formula, resources, staffing and family/student experience in our K-12 educational system, which are all complex opportunities. We know that our public school system is under funded, there are barriers to attracting and retaining quality teachers and staff, as well as addressing school cultures that don't allow for students and families to be successful. I believe we have to prioritize the funding formula for our public education system and need to explore other creative structures like legalizing and taxing marijuana, that can help produce income to fully fund one of our most important assets as a state.
**What steps would you support to ensure access to clean water for all Nebraskans?**

**Nick Batter:** I work in water infrastructure and am proud to have played a central role in projects to modernize the Florence Water Treatment Plant that serves my district, and treatment projects that prevent pollution of the Missouri River where a million Nebraskans get their drinking water. In my district, the worst contaminants (eg, lead, mercury, bacteria), are coming from neglected service lines in homes owned by serial slumlords who prey on the poor. These same lines are also prone to bursting, causing damage and stopping the supply of water altogether. For some reason, these slumlords who damage our neighborhoods and harm our children’s health are still on the property tax relief list, which should be going to improve quality affordable housing.

**Matthew Clough:** Nebraska's underground water and waterways are Nebraska's greatest natural resource. Creating policy and programming to safeguard the transport, storage, disposal and use of pesticides is a critical step in protecting our clean water.

**Tracy Hightower-Henne:** Ensuring access to clean water in Nebraska is not just a priority but a fundamental human right. To ensure access to clean water, I would prioritize providing appropriate filtration systems to households lacking safe drinking water, particularly addressing issues like high nitrate levels and homes with lead pipes. I would focus on incentivizing conservation measures such as preventing erosion control and reducing chemical fertilizer application to prevent further contamination of water sources. By combining efforts to address immediate filtration needs with proactive measures to safeguard water quality, we can work towards ensuring a sustainable supply of clean water. No Nebraskan should be left without safe and reliable water supplies.

**Ashlei Spivey:** Nebraskans deserve environments that are healthy and add to our wellbeing. Nebraska is home to the largest aquifer and access to clean water is vital component to ensure vibrant communities and corridors. There are lots of state-based environmental justice organizations and leaders that are actively working to ensure we have access to clean water. I would work with these partners and folks that are most impacted by access to clean water to ensure the state legislature is aligning to access of clean water to all Nebraskans and if there are any policy recommendations and steps that can be taken if there are gaps in that. It is important to bring in the leadership of those that have been active in this space to lead and advise.

**What are the most important challenges facing our state, and how do you propose to address them?**

**Nick Batter:** In my district: 1) Housing. We need to shift tax relief to increase the supply of quality affordable housing. Bill Gates and Ted Turner don’t need the rebate regardless of how much of our state land they own. 2) Roads. My district has the deadliest roads in Nebraska. We need to redirect freight traffic and design modern roads in our neighborhoods to encourage local commerce and provide clear access to first responders. 3) Health care. We are dangerously low on options for senior and emergency care, due to a staffing crisis. Nebraska is losing billions in federal funds and our tax dollars are instead being spent in other states. My community’s priorities are my priorities, and I will introduce legislation on day one to address these issues.

**Matthew Clough:** Keeping young and old Nebraskans in Nebraska. For the young it means education that leads to economic opportunity. Good paying jobs, lower cost of living, affordable housing are critical. For retirees it means reducing the Nebraska property tax burden so they can afford to stay and contribute to our state.

**Tracy Hightower-Henne:** The number one thing I hear at the doors is housing and property taxes. Affordable housing is not easy to solve. You cannot build your way out of the affordable housing crisis. Instead we need to be thinking of creative solutions, such as incentivizing people in starter homes to move to the next tier, freeing up more housing options at every level. In addition, the rise in property valuations and property taxes is leaving many people, especially low-income people and seniors on fixed incomes, with the challenge of being taxed out of their homes. We must fund our schools at the state-level and find equitable ways to lower these taxes, especially for those who need the relief the most, without sacrificing the vital services people rely on.

**Ashlei Spivey:** Our democracy is at a crossroads and Nebraska is no different. There are major opportunities in front of us that we have to tackle in new and different ways. This includes managing our state budget including revenue opportunities, addressing the impact of our state managed systems like corrections, child welfare and health and human services, and the economic potential of Nebraska. We have to approach policy making by centering people with lived experience and expertise to help co-create effective policy versus trying to legislate community change. I have specific thoughts on how to address these issues and would want to convene the right partners first to develop the levers of change that would include but are not limited legislation.
District 15

Anthony D. Hanson: Education: Bachelor's of Science - Mechanical Engineering; Website: https://hansonforne.com/

Roxie Kracl: Education: Fremont Sr. High; Volunteer Experience: I have served with the Fremont Area Chamber as a Chamber Diplomat for over 20 years along with serving on the Board of Directors. Low Income Ministry Board, Business Improvement District Board, and John C Fremont Board; Website: https://roxiefornebraska.com/

Peter Mayberry: Education: UNK

Scott Thomas: Education: HS Diploma (William Jennings Bryan, Omaha), Child Protections (Harvard), Psychotherapy (CBT) (Udemy); Volunteer Experience: American Red Cross, Village In Progress (Founder), US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights, ELCA, LCMS; Website: https://www.dadsavesamerica.us/

Dave Wordekemper: Volunteer Experience: Knights of Columbus Council 1497; Website https://www.woodyfornebraska.com/

What is your top concern about K-12 education in Nebraska and what would be your solution?

Anthony D. Hanson: We need to educate the next generation of Nebraskans on what it means to be an American. How to create their own businesses, how to serve in the community, how to run for public office, how to live a healthy life, and how to make their own decisions. Parents have a right to know what’s being taught to their children and children have the right to an authentic American education, without woke agendas and gender programming.

Roxie Kracl: I believe families have a choice in which school their children should be able to attend. I will support measures that will make the ability to "Opt In" an easier process.

Peter Mayberry: My biggest concern is wasteful spending. I believe schools should be adequately funded while maintaining a budget. I do not believe and will not be convinced that just throwing money at schools will solve any problems. I also believe that Nebraska schools for the most part are doing a good job for our children but that they can also improve.

My solution is what any good businessman’s solution would be. Put the right people in place that understand what is needed and how to navigate the issues and then get out of the way and let them do their job.

Scott Thomas: My main concern is that the legitimate social mobility of a whole generation has been compromised by lack of civic education. As a senator, it would be a priority of mine to incorporate more civic education into public school curriculum beginning as early as kindergarten. American children should be learning the US Constitution in American schools. The federalist papers should be required reading for high-school students in America, to prepare them for adulthood as a citizen, in ways that enable them to truly realize their full potential and live out the American Dream. When people are able to realize their full potential through a proper understanding and mapping of their landscape, the collective society benefits as a result.

Dave Wordekemper: In order to ensure the highest quality education for all our youth, it is important that we prioritize the recruitment and retention of qualified teachers within our community schools. By supporting legislation that values and promotes the teaching profession, we can inspire individuals to pursue careers in education. The Legislature should invest in the future of our communities by funding and incentivizing the importance of teaching and learning.

What steps would you support to ensure access to clean water for all Nebraskans?

Anthony D. Hanson: We need to start with understanding what the issues are - staffing, influent quality, equipment reliability, cost per gallon for treatment, etc. City municipalities need to be transparent about the quality of water that it supplies to the public. Independent well owners need access to affordable treatment for their household water needs.

Roxie Kracl: Being a farm family our land and water are resources that we must protect. I will work with the care takers of our land to ensure our future.

Peter Mayberry: I would do anything in my power that is needed. Clean water is vital to human life and health. Access to water should never be an issue for anyone living in this state.

Scott Thomas: I would call for a resolution to commission a study between area NGOs and the (WHP) of the (NDEE) to ensure proactive measures are being taken to protect Nebraska's water supply for many generations to come.

Dave Wordekemper: In order to safeguard our precious water resources from potential contamination, it is imperative that we remain persistent against gross negligence. It is important to balance advancing our local industries and infrastructure responsibly, while minimizing any risks to our water quality. The Legislature should collaborate and be proactive to preserve and protect this vital resource for generations to come.
What are the most important challenges facing our state, and how do you propose to address them?

Anthony D. Hanson: We must end abortion in this State. If the only thing I get done in my 4 years is offer a winning vote to end abortion, it will all have been worth it. Of course the issues go beyond abortion - we can’t allow doctors to continue to mutilate our children and we can’t allow men to compete in women’s sports, forcing them to share locker-rooms with a man.

We need to protect Nebraska Ag, Nebraska Business, and Nebraska Infrastructure. Farmers know what needs to be done, they don’t need the government looking over their shoulder and businesses need a competitive tax plan to stay in the state. Finally, Nebraska needs to be willing to stand up the Federal government, which has been eroding states rights year after year.

Roxie Kracl: I will work towards removing barriers that have been holding Nebraska businesses back from growth. With focus on workforce development, affordable housing, and child care.

Peter Mayberry: The biggest problem is money feeding the political machine. Decisions should not be made based on what someone gives to a campaign. It is also my belief that we should not have to go into debt as a state. If our elected officials had any common sense, they would be looking 10 years down the road and budgeting for what is needed today as well as tomorrow. I feel like there is zero accountability in government spending. How has this been acceptable for so long?

Scott Thomas: The threat to equality under the law posed by DEI programming and other special interests' groups. We must reinforce the meritocratic foundation of our society by creating effective checks and balances within the system to prevent abuse.

Fiscal responsibility - government should be out of sight, and out of mind. Our government is meant to provide for the common good, the building of roads and other basic necessities of daily life.

Provide congruence in the law. Ex: most Nebraskans are not trained in child protections, however 28-717, requires them to report child abuse, nonetheless. This discrepancy was nicely showcased on a national level last session by the robust debate surrounding LB574, The Let Them Grow Act.

Dave Wordekemper: Property taxes are burdening our residents. I will collaborate with fellow Senators to craft a balanced budget that prioritizes fairness while ensuring essential services for the hardworking citizens of Nebraska. I will do things in Lincoln the way we do them here in Fremont; use open and honest communication where ideas are free to be expressed while using fiscal restraint in managing our financial resources.

District 31

Mary Ann Folchert: Education: B.S. in Education from Miami University (Ohio) 1997, M.S. Resource Teaching and Learning Disabilities from University of Nebraska-Omaha, 2001.; Volunteer Experience: Classroom volunteer (Millard Public Schools), Girl Scouts, Countryside Community Church Board of Women’s Fellowship, Board of Christian Education, and Parents of Young Children facilitator, Nebraska Diaper Bank;
Website: https://electmaryannfolchert.com/;
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/folchertforlegislature

Kathleen Kauth: Education: Masters in Public Policy, BA in Criminology; Current Office held: State Legislator - LD31 June, 2022 – current; Volunteer Experience: Omaha City Charter Commission Aging Advisory Committee, State of Nebraska Volunteer Judge and Coach, UNL Law School Vice President, Omaha Senior Resources Group 2017 ENOA Foster Grandparents Advisory Board Member 2017 - current Concord Mediation Cent; Website: https://kathleenkauth.com/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/electkathleenkauth

What is your top concern about K-12 education in Nebraska and what would be your solution?

Mary Ann Folchert: My top concern about K-12 education in Nebraska is the current teacher shortage. Teachers are the most important assets in the school. The state needs to find creative ways to recruit and retain teachers through partnerships with local school districts and teacher preparation programs. Incentives might include loan forgiveness, signing bonuses, retention bonuses, student teaching stipends, and childcare credits. Strong, competitive wages and access to healthcare and affordable housing are also critical.

Kathleen Kauth: Our test scores continue to fall, and our kids seem to be very fragile. I would like to have a wider variety of offerings for kids so they can be in the environment the best serves them.

What steps would you support to ensure access to clean water for all Nebraskans?

Mary Ann Folchert: Nebraska has some of the best water resources in the country and the vast majority of Nebraskans use groundwater as their drinking water. We must protect this resource. Funding is needed for continual water quality testing, research, remediation, and education about natural solutions such as using indigenous plants to filter waterways. Better oversight and enforcement from the NDEE is needed to prevent future incidents such as what happened at the AltEn...
plant in Mead. Farmers help by planting field buffers, cover crops, and utilizing strategic water and nutrient management.

**Kathleen Kauth:** Continue to support legislation that helps pursue lower nitrates.

**Mary Ann Folchert:** The workforce shortage in combination with a net migration loss of young people is a continuing challenge for our state. Keeping our university system strong, competitive, and dynamic will attract young students to the state. Paid family leave, fair and competitive wages, and access to healthcare are critical for attracting and retaining workers and families. Public-private partnerships which expand access to affordable housing and quality, affordable childcare can also be part of the solution.

**Kathleen Kauth:** Pushing back on federal overreach. We as a state need to be willing to address difficult issues, and not allow the federal government to go beyond its' boundaries.

**Allison Heimes:** My top priorities include increasing people's access to mental health resources, ensuring public schools are fully funded, providing families with resources when having and raising children, and addressing the worker shortage in Nebraska. We must create more mental health wings in hospitals and invest in crisis intervention teams. We must improve upon the TEEOSA formula and diversify funding for public education, so that there is never a budget shortfall. We must make childcare more affordable and we must allow women and men to take time from work after having a child to bond with and raise them. All of these policies will serve to bring people back into the workforce, particularly increasing the availability of childcare, as well as others.

**Tony Sorrentino:** Property tax: We need to find alternatives to the current taxing system that funds public education. The current system bars entry into the housing market for young Nebraskans and drives away older Nebraskans to less punitive taxed States. The solution is NOT a consumption tax as proposed under the EPIC tax, as that will drive foreign investment into our State and leave the infrastructure costs to Nebraska residents. An increase in Sales tax will have similar results and penalize middle income Nebraskans.

**Tony Sorrentino:** Property tax: We need to find alternatives to the current taxing system that funds public education. The current system bars entry into the housing market for young Nebraskans and drives away older Nebraskans to less punitive taxed States. The solution is NOT a consumption tax as proposed under the EPIC tax, as that will drive foreign investment into our State and leave the infrastructure costs to Nebraska residents. An increase in Sales tax will have similar results and penalize middle income Nebraskans.

Workforce: Nebraska cannot grow without a strong workforce, and we need to place an emphasis on having a workforce to match the increase in job opportunities created by businesses and industries.

**Peter Oceguera:** Education: JD & MS in Government Organization and Leadership; Volunteer Experience: Kim Foundation Loss Team Board Advisor - current, Honor and Remember Omaha Liaison - former, Center for Holistic Development Board Member - former; Website: [https://www.heimesfornebraska.com/](https://www.heimesfornebraska.com/)

**Tony Sorrentino:** Education: Creighton University (BSBA 1976) (Juris Doctor 1981); Past Office held: Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors (elected to 4 year term 2009); Volunteer Experience: Doane University Board of Trustees (2016-Present); El Museo Latino (Board Chair, 2016-Present); Leukemia/Lymphoma of Nebraska Board Member (1993-2020); Creighton University Men's and Women's Cross Country Volunteer Coach Website: [https://sorrentinoforne.com/](https://sorrentinoforne.com/)

**Allison Heimes:** What steps would you support to ensure access to clean water for all Nebraskans?

**Allison Heimes:** Create regulations on the local level that emulate those of the Clean Air Act, such as establishing cap-and-trade programs and permit systems. Conduct regular studies of soil and chemical drainage into streams and rivers and follow up on sources of pollution. Additionally, remove residential restrictions to collecting and using rain water to help conserve water.

**Tony Sorrentino:** I would strongly support any measures that were financially feasible to support access to clean water for all Nebraskans. All choices would need to be the result of a thorough investigation among alternatives presented, along with a plan for long-term financial sustainability.

**What are the most important challenges facing our state, and how do you propose to address them?**

**Allison Heimes:** What are the most important challenges facing our state, and how do you propose to address them?

**Allison Heimes:** My top priorities include increasing people's access to mental health resources, ensuring public schools are fully funded, providing families with resources when having and raising children, and addressing the worker shortage in Nebraska. We must create more mental health wings in hospitals and invest in crisis intervention teams. We must improve upon the TEEOSA formula and diversify funding for public education, so that there is never a budget shortfall. We must make childcare more affordable and we must allow women and men to take time from work after having a child to bond with and raise them. All of these policies will serve to bring people back into the workforce, particularly increasing the availability of childcare, as well as others.
by State tax incentives to businesses to locate or stay in
Nebraska.

State Board of Education

4-year term, $0 salary

The State Board of Education is composed of eight voting
members that represent one of Nebraska’s eight
educational districts. This board is responsible for creating
educational standards and directing state dollars and
federal programs for Nebraska’s classrooms. The Board of
Education also appoints the commissioner for the
Department of Education and carries out federal education
programs.

District 3

Bill McAllister: Education: BA, MA, Specialist Degree (30
plus hours toward PHD); Volunteer Experience: Locally -
coaching little league, Vice chair of St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Mission trips to: Nairobi, Kenya, Guatemala, Rolling Forks
MS, Okmulgee OK, and Idaho.; Website:
https://www.billforschools.com/

Lisa Schonhoff: No response received.

Why are you running for the Board of Education? If
elected, what will be your priorities?

Bill McAllister
1. To restore trust from our local school districts in the NDE.
2. Address the teacher shortage through the certification
process.
3. Support Local Control, to the point that NDE is balanced
with service and compliance.
4. Address school district issues, and not create distractions
from our core purpose.

What are the most important challenges facing our
school districts, and how do you propose to address
them?

Bill McAllister: The top priority is the teachers' shortage. I
visit with seven superintendents today. All of which are
concerned about filling their open positions. There is no easy
fix, but it begins with certification and ensuring teachers are
being processed in an expedient manner. Furthermore, is to
address our reciprocity with our boarding states. Lastly, is to
create an accountability system that is useful to districts, so
that the results are return to the schools in a timely manner so
that the results can be used to make academic decisions.

What do you see as the role of the State Board of
Education?

Bill McAllister: The Boards role is to provide policy and
procedures, that will enhance our school systems to excel.

District 4

Stacy Matula: No response received.

Lisa Renner: Education: Bachelor's Degree; Master's Degree
(American History); Volunteer Experience: Various volunteer
activities for my daughter's schools (school library assistant,
room parent, chair of school yearbook committee)
Website: https://www.rennerfornebraska.com/;
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rennerfornebraska

LeDonna White Griffin: Education: Bachelor's in
Elementary Education, Masters of Educational
Administration, Doctorate of Educational Administration and
Supervision with Superintendent's Endorsement; Current
Office held: Commissioner for Post Secondary Education;
Volunteer Experience: First Tee Hogan's Heroes Board,
Mildred D. Brown Study Center Board
Website: https://sites.google.com/view/drgriffin4stateboard/home

Why are you running for the Board of Education? If
elected, what will be your priorities?

Liz Renner: As the parent of a school-age daughter, I’m
invested in her education and have a fresh perspective to add
to the makeup of the Board.

Through my professional experience I’ve worked on
documentaries featuring our national and state public school
systems. My desire to advocate for educators and students was
ignited while I worked on the Nebraska Loves Public Schools
campaign — I saw firsthand how strong our schools are across
the state.

I also feel a civic duty to support our schools. This year’s
election is particularly important because in the next term the
Board will set the vision which will impact our schools
through 2036.

If elected I will prioritize student mental health, teacher
recruitment and retention, and literacy skills.

LeDonna White Griffin: Dr. Griffin will prioritize the
following:
The development of strong and competent readers Birth - 2nd
grade, empowering parent choice, and ingraining a growth
mindset into our educational economies.
Liz Renner: The top challenge facing our school districts is the teacher shortage which impacts much of how our schools function. The Board must work with universities, leaders, and teachers to advocate for sustainable strategies such as programs like OPS’ Educators Rising.

Institutions that offer competitive compensation, positive work climates, and supportive leadership have less trouble recruiting and retaining employees, even in times of labor shortages. I would advocate for policies that address these areas.

Schools in high-poverty neighborhoods bear a larger share of the teacher shortage burden. These students deserve the best of our educators and I would like to see Nebraska prioritize recruitment efforts with an eye toward these schools.

LeDonna White Griffin: When it comes to a quality education, marginalized communities are suffering:

Students are continuing to be suspended and expelled from school, single parent households are struggling to keep the bare essentials in the home, test scores continue to prove academic and social gaps, parents believe that they are no longer able to discipline and teach their children, and this is what I reference as an educational crisis.

Parents have to be provided a space to lead the educational process. Educators must be responsible for the academic, physical and emotional well being of children. The solution is the success of teachers and parents sharing power.

Board of Regents University of Nebraska

6-year term, $0 salary

The duties of the Board of Regents include providing strategic leadership to the four-institution university system, promoting and advocating for the advancement of the system’s mission of education, research, and outreach. Among its duties is the selection of the system president and approving budgets, and tuition rates.

District 4

Elizabeth R. O’Connor: Education: 2004-2008 Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart; 2008-2012 University of Nebraska at Omaha; 2012-2015 University of Notre Dame Law School; Current Office held: 2018-2024 University of Nebraska Board of Regents; Volunteer Experience: Board of Friends of Nebraska Children
Website: https://www.elizabethforregent.com/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/regentelizabethoconnor

Jim Rogers: No response received.

How would you balance achieving the highest level of innovation and academic achievement for the NU System while also keeping tuition affordable?

Elizabeth R. O’Connor: The Board is charged with providing strategic leadership, advocating for the advancement of education, research and outreach.

Jim Rogers: First, by recognizing that a balance between excellence and low cost exists! Often the regents, influenced by overly ambitious administrators, have the mindset of excelling at everything while also promising low costs. My experience in NU teaching, research, and administration uniquely qualifies me to recognize overambition and determine when goals are unrealistic. This is central to creating an NU mission statement that is operative—something currently lacking and badly needed. Only after an operative mission statement is agreed upon can the appropriate “excellence/cost” balance be decided. This rational approach to decision making will be an improvement over the “always be on offense!” sloganeering currently being used by the board.
What role does the First Amendment have on college campuses?

Elizabeth R. O’Connor: Academic freedom is critical to the ongoing success of the University. A university must be a place where academic freedom and open dialogue are protected and nurtured. A university which does not meet this standard will fail to attract and retain talent within the state. Additionally, the University is charged with complying with all laws and constitutional protections including the First Amendment rights of students, faculty and administration.

Jim Rogers: Freedom of speech is foundational to the university mission, but speech policy is critical as university statements of advocacy do not always age well. So, it’s important that administration fosters (and practices) cultural norms that embrace the free and open study of ideas while abstaining from the partisan advocacy of ideas. Academic inquiry is an open-ended process designed to further understanding, while advocacy is more invested in an outcome. While no campus speech should be banned, regrettable statements can be minimized if policies foster a culture where speech based on academic inquiry is the cultural benchmark and speech that is advocacy based on personal passion is considered less persuasive and therefore not commonly used.

What are the most important challenges facing our university system, and how do you propose to address them?

Elizabeth R. O’Connor: The challenges facing the University mirror that of the state - drain of population to other states, competition for talent, and reduced resources. The Board can address this by expanding the pool of in- and out-of-state students with competitive tuition, raising graduation completion rates, keeping faculty salaries competitive, continuing to seek private and public partners including donors, and encouraging the aggressive and creative application for federal grants.

The University must also review expenses and make prudent use of funds. This will allow it to maintain focus on its key role as an educator, employer, generator of revenue, health care provider and innovative researcher supporting the business, health care and agriculture.

Jim Rogers: The lack of an operative mission statement. The Coordinating Commission says the NU mission is teaching, research, and service, and the campus statements are similar. This translates to “the mission of NU is to be a university!” which is pointless and nonoperative. As the world changes with ever-increasing speed, the NU system must understand its purpose for existing. Crank out low-cost degrees as efficiently as possible? Be a leader in research? Adjust standards to admit more students regardless of college readiness, or admit fewer to stronger programs? There is no one right answer to these questions—it depends on the regents developing a mission statement that is more than generic platitudes. As a regent, I will be leading that charge.

How would you balance achieving the highest level of innovation and academic achievement for the NU System while also keeping tuition affordable?

Zachary Mellender: We are struggling in retaining college graduates. According to a UNO study, our "brain drain" has quadrupled in the last decade and is still climbing.

The NU system has a long history in innovation that needs to be revived. Through my experience on the Nebraska Information Technology Commission, I am deeply familiar with our strengths in education, such as AI and its use in agriculture and medicine.

If elected, I intend to reduce tuition for in-state students so we can increase retention of our next generation. In order to attract these students, continued investment in cutting edge programs such as medicine and technology is key. We have some of the greatest Fortune 500 companies in Nebraska—continued collaboration feeds innovation.

Barbara Weitz: I am committed to keeping tuition as low as possible. The shortfall of the state budget revenue cannot be covered through tuition increases.

We are proud of new programs that were started during COVID such as Nebraska Promise scholarships which eliminated tuition for students from households with less than
$65,000 in income. That has allowed us to reach at least 1,000 students who otherwise would not be attending college.

We joined a national program that cuts the costs of textbooks, saving students more than $3 million. The Chronicle of Education ranked Nebraska third for students graduating with the least amount of debt. Through public and private partnerships we can do more.

What role does the First Amendment have on college campuses?

Zachary Mellender: College is meant to challenge us and introduce us to new concepts. The most critical use of the First Amendment and free speech is on college campuses—there is no platform that must be more protected.

Each of us are challenged by concepts and people that differ from our own. If students do not have the opportunity to be presented with differing thoughts and opinions, we are setting them up for failure in life. At the very least, contrasting opinions force students to consider and rationalize their own stances.

Dialogue should be respectful and students must be afforded a safe environment. None of these ideals are exclusive.

Barbara Weitz: The Constitution protects the right to free speech. Any restriction, particularly on public campuses, would deprive students of the opportunity to hear diverse points of view, to argue their position, to hear opposing points of view, or to practice the art of civil discourse.

The role of higher education is to support the development of student’s critical thinking abilities. Free speech allows students and faculty alike to examine ideas to allow the ability to truly test their current frameworks with new perspectives and new language and create new theories as they push and examine collaboratively new knowledge.

I do not support, behavior on campus that is harassment or threats, or that creates a hostile environment.

What are the most important challenges facing our university system, and how do you propose to address them?

Zachary Mellender: The most critical challenge is our "brain drain" and its continued growth. We have a net loss of college graduates every year, despite our strong economy and world-class companies and hospitals.

Nebraska students must be given affordable education and the best way to achieve this is to make in-state tuition as low as possible. In addition, we need to work to place graduates in good jobs in Nebraska.

As we all know, the world is advancing at a rapid rate. Nebraska must be a hub for innovation and cutting-edge fields of study. This is how we attract students from both inside and outside of the State. This is how we leave our mark on our country and the world.

Barbara Weitz: The world has changed Higher education is changing along with it. Partisan politics have been inserted into our governing bodies despite the fact the Board of Regents and other institutions are nonpartisan. Securing a leader of the University of Nebraska is the most important responsibility for any member of the board. We are facing a $54-million operating budget shortage that will impact all our campuses. Our state faces a shortage of people to fill 10,000 vacant jobs which, by the year 2026, 65 percent will require at least a bachelor’s degree.

People must value education and understand the upward social mobility it brings to individuals and their families. Nebraska receives $9 for every $1 in tuition. We must increase the ROI as we grow.

Board of Governors Metropolitan Community College

Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

Learning Community Coordinating Council

4-year term, $0 salary

The Learning Community works in Douglas and Sarpy counties to help develop school programs that reverse the impact of poverty on learning. This used to be funded by a common levy but is now funded by property taxes.

Vote for up to TWO

District 2

Carol Hahn: Candidate chose not to respond.

Sharnelle Shelton: Current Office held: Learning Community

Douglas Sarpy County, District 2 January 2022 – Current

Website: https://www.sheltonforlearningcommunity.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SHELTONFOROPS/
How can the Learning Community help partners overcome ongoing student learning and well-being deficits?

**Sharnelle Shelton:** The Learning Community can help partners overcome ongoing learning and well-being deficits by continuing to foster collaboration and sharing resources, implementing evidence based interventions, providing professional development opportunities, promoting parental involvement, and continuously monitoring progress and adjusting strategies as needed.

How can the LCC use its Future Teacher Preparation programming to increase teacher retention?

**Sharnelle Shelton:** The Learning Community uses its Future Teacher Prep programming to grow a pipeline of teachers who are highly-skilled. We ensure that the student teachers have a positive experiences early in their careers because survey says that if they have positive impact early that will ensure that they will have longevity in their careers.

**District 4**

**Brooktyn Blood:** Education: Juris Doctorate; Volunteer Experience: BYU Alumni Chapter Chair; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/bloodforlearningcommunity/

**Stephen Bloom:** No response received.

**Raquel Dixon Rodriguez:** Education: Bachelor of Science-Spanish & Bachelor of Journalism-Broadcast; Current Office held: Learning Community Coordinating Council Achievement Subcouncil 4 (2024-Current); Past Office held: Chair of CAC for Tustin Unified School Board (2018-2022); Volunteer Experience: TACA-Talk About Caring Autism, YMCA Basketball Coach, Russell Middle School Parent Pack, No Labels Elector & Delegate, American Marketing Association, Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy

Website: https://raquelforlearning.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557922520028

**Angie Miller:** Education: BA - Creighton University, 2003; MA - University of Nebraska - Omaha, 2005; JD - Creighton University, 2008; Current Office held: Learning Community Coordinating Council - October 2022 through present (Secretary - Jan 2023 - Oct 2023; Chair - Oct 2023 - Present);

Website: https://angieforlccc.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556673010441

How can the Learning Community help partners overcome ongoing student learning and well-being deficits?

**Brooktyn Blood:** My experience as a tribal court judge and working with children and parents involved in the foster care system gives me a unique perspective into the lives of families in need of extra care and support. I will work tirelessly to advocate for the needs of all members of the Learning Community, but especially those that are under-represented. Resources should be used to find and implement the best available programming for those that need additional support. As a member of the Learning Community Council I will work with the state legislature to advocate for laws that provide needed support and services to families and educators in our community.

**Raquel Dixon Rodriguez:** As a mom to a child with autism, I know first hand how important early intervention is. Research shows that supporting young children’s development even before they start Kindergarten ensures a strong foundation for academic success. The Learning Community's commitment to our Intensive Early Childhood Partnership is an example of overcoming learning and social-emotional deficits. The several hundred Pre-K students who attended this program improved in school readiness as well as emotional areas like attachment and self-control. Nearly 40% of those students were identified as special education services with IEPs. By using our 2-GEN approach and involving parents in our programs, we ensure these gains are reinforced at home.

**Angie Miller:** The Learning Community's ongoing investments are designed to not only help but to succeed in reducing the achievement gaps and lift up students and families. The Learning Community’s partnerships with school districts, nonprofit partners, and most importantly families demonstrate improvements in student learning and well-being. The Learning Community’s investment in those programs, such as literacy instructional coaching, Jump Start to Kindergarten, after-school programs, targeted math instruction, and early childhood programming centered at schools, have positive and demonstrable impact on academic and well-being outcomes.

How can the LCC use its Future Teacher Preparation programming to increase teacher retention?

**Brooktyn Blood:** The Future Teacher Preparation already boasts successful results in teacher preparation and retention. The LCC should be actively engaging with past participants of the program to understand any deficiencies and offer updates to the programming to build on previous success. The partnership between MCC and Creighton is an asset to our
community, and the LCC should explore opportunities to expand its reach with other colleges and universities in the region.

**Raquel Dixon Rodriguez:** Retaining our most talented educators is key to our children's academic success. Our Future Teacher Preparation program allows those who are studying to become teachers to gain hands-on experience in the classroom more quickly and with more instructional support. These students have the benefit of working with a team of education experts so they are better prepared to do their job. Research shows teachers are more likely to stay in the profession if their early classroom experiences are positive. Those who have graduated from our program reported feeling more confident and prepared to work with young children. This confidence translates directly into higher job satisfaction and more retention.

**Angie Miller:** Teacher retention is related to the depth, quality, and ongoing opportunities for teacher training and professional development, in which the Learning Community continues to invest. The Learning Community’s investments in that training and professional development, such as the Gretna Public Schools instructional coaching program for new teachers, are vital for long-term teacher retention. Further, because of the Learning Community’s investments in family learning, children are enrolled in early learning to prepare for elementary school while their parents earn a GED, with opportunities to obtain further schooling and credentialing in early childhood instruction to increase the number of early childhood educators in our community.

**Board of Directors Papio-Missouri River NRD**

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<th>Subdistrict 1</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dan Conway:</strong> No response received.</td>
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<td><strong>Van Harman:</strong> No response received.</td>
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**Shawn Mohr Melotz:** Education: *Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, UNL*; Certified Public Accountant; Volunteer Experience: *4-H Youth Volunteer; Chair of Nebraska Society of CPAs Legislative Committee; Member of Nebraska Society of CPAs Political Action Committee; President of the Papio Valley Preservation Association*; Facebook: [www.facebook.com/people/Shawn-Melotz-for-Papio-NRD/61557479403117/](http://www.facebook.com/people/Shawn-Melotz-for-Papio-NRD/61557479403117/)

**Rodney Storm:** Volunteer Experience: *Youth Sports, church,*

**What specific solutions will help improve water quality and quantity, and reduce soil erosion in the NRD?**

**Shawn Mohr Melotz:** I believe a comprehensive plan to improve water quality and quantity should be embraced by NRDs. This plan would include a wide range of stormwater Best Management Practices that begin at the lot level with Low Impact Development, Conservation Design, and other techniques that mimic and/or utilize natural hydrology. I was appointed to a Committee that, over an eighteen month period, developed the existing Douglas County-Washington County Stormwater Management Plan. This Plan opposes dams with permanent pools, supports full implementation of proven Low Impact Development and Conservation Design, advocates floodplain management practices that prohibit building in the floodplain, and opposes the use of eminent domain.

**Rodney Storm:** There are no specific solutions to improving water quality and quantity. The district must work with all users, farmers, ranchers, developers, other governmental agencies, of our resources to assist in developing or eliminating programs that will improve water quality in the district. There is no “one fits all” solution. Each area must be addressed to its own unique needs. Agricultural solutions will continue to vary greatly from the needs of business, industry, and developers in working to improve water quality.

**What measures can the NRD take to manage watersheds for both drought and excess rainfall events?**

**Shawn Mohr Melotz:** I believe in a Comprehensive Development Plan that embraces a land development approach whereby stormwater runoff is managed primarily by using predevelopment natural features. These natural features promote infiltration, filtration, storage, evaporation, and temporary detention close to its source. This approach can be viewed as fitting the development to the land rather than shaping the land to fit the development. Low Impact Development should be used to supplement Conservation Designs.
Rodney Storm: Continue to work with landowners and developers to develop appropriate conservation measures and practices that will help enhance the value of all lands and keep the rainwater where it falls. Reduced runoff will enhance capturing the moisture where it’s needed. Reduced runoff will lessen the need for large structures to prevent flooding. The district should continue to work with individuals and developers to build structures in locations that will maximize keeping runoff out of our major streams. Each basin has its own needs and property ownership must be respected. Flood plain management is a key responsibility and can replace the need for some physical structures.

Shawn Mohr Melotz: I am a strong supporter of requiring public access to recreation areas surrounding Papio NRD dams. Over the years as a member of the Papio Valley Preservation, we have been very adamant in protecting the public’s rights/access to projects that involve public funding. In fact, when I was the President of the Papio Valley Preservation Association, we lobbied to require language in Legislative Bills to require public access on Papio NRD water retention projects. As a Papio NRD Board Member, I will continue to fight for public rights.

Rodney Storm: The NRD has to collaborate with all partners to ensure that the public’s interests are protected. That does not mean every project will be open to the public. Structures including flood plain management may provide tremendous public benefits without providing direct access. The NRD is charged providing public benefit, and public benefit comes in different ways. I fully support the current district of providing public access to all structures to provide maximum public benefit.

How can the NRD assure public access to recreation where flood control projects have attracted developers?

Subdistricts 6 and 7

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

Subdivision 8

Mike Cavanaugh: Education: Bachelor's Degree U.N.O.; Current Office held: Omaha Public Power District (1995-present); Volunteer Experience: Rotary and Eagles clubs. City of Omaha committees dealing with housing code enforcement and employment for underprivileged youth.

Morgan Rye-Craft: Education: BA - History, University of Nebraska at Omaha | MA - Critical & Creative Thinking, University of Nebraska at Omaha (Summer 2024); Volunteer Experience: I volunteer with many local organizations focused on making Omaha a clean and beautiful place to live. I enjoy working with groups like Keep Omaha Beautiful on storm drain labeling, and Grasslands Unlimited on planting prairies in public green; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556738699081&sk=about

Tyler Sondag: Education: BS Civil Engineering University of Nebraska-Lincoln, MS Architectural Engineering University of Nebraska-Lincoln, MBA University of Nebraska-Lincoln Website: https://electtylersondag.wordpress.com/; Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556684623378&mbextid=ZbWKwL

What are the most important challenges facing our public utilities, and how do you propose to address them?

Mike Cavanaugh: The Board has committed to zero emissions by 2050. It will be a huge challenge to get there, while facing unprecedented industrial, commercial and residential growth demand. We can't sacrifice cost, grid reliability and customer (as well as potential customer) confidence in the process.

Morgan Rye-Craft: Omaha is growing rapidly, which is increasing demand for reliable electricity. I intend to join the board as a voice for our community, and push for sustainable growth that can meet demand while keeping rates low.

Tyler Sondag: One of the most important challenges facing our public utilities is our aging infrastructure. As a professional civil engineer I know firsthand about the importance of maintaining our infrastructure, and how regular maintenance can lead to long term OPPD customer savings. I would address this issue by advocating for solving infrastructure problems as they occur and not deferring maintenance until the problem becomes more costly and unmanageable.
Mike Cavanaugh: As I indicated above, this is a huge challenge for OPPD. Since making this commitment, our forecasted load growth has increased significantly. We are also facing resistance from various county officials who don't want solar farms in their counties. As we move forward, advances in technology, including battery storage and nuclear modules would certainly help reach our goals. I will not sacrifice grid security, dependability, nor burden our customers with unnecessary cost.

Morgan Rye-Craft: I believe OPPD's decarbonization goal is both necessary and possible. Establishing milestone goals would be a valuable strategy for the board to ensure progress while also keeping the public informed.

Tyler Sondag: I believe that it is important to be a good steward of the environment. However, I want to make sure that OPPD maintains reliable and affordable power for all citizens. It is important to recognize that many of the technologies required to hit a zero emissions goal by 2050 or earlier are still in development, but as energy technologies continue to develop it will be important that the OPPD board has an engineer, like me, on the board to assess the viability of these technologies and create a plan for responsible implementation.

Mike Cavanaugh: Continue to maintain a strong, stable, dependable, diverse power production portfolio. Also, continue to maintain regional energy partnerships.

Morgan Rye-Craft: A diverse energy grid is a strong grid. The pursuit of additional renewable energy projects will ensure reliability and cost-effectiveness for our publicly owned power.

Tyler Sondag: Candidate One of the most effective ways to mitigate the need for rolling blackouts is to make sure that we have enough excess power generation capacity to handle both the base loads and the peak loads required of our energy grid. Making sure that we have the ability to generate the power that we need is critical for making sure that our community can continue to expand and grow, while not putting too much stress on our energy grid.

What do you think are the most effective ways to mitigate the need for rolling blackouts?

Mike Cavanaugh: Continue to maintain a strong, stable, dependable, diverse power production portfolio. Also, continue to maintain regional energy partnerships.

Morgan Rye-Craft: A diverse energy grid is a strong grid. The pursuit of additional renewable energy projects will ensure reliability and cost-effectiveness for our publicly owned power.

Tyler Sondag: Candidate One of the most effective ways to mitigate the need for rolling blackouts is to make sure that we have enough excess power generation capacity to handle both the base loads and the peak loads required of our energy grid. Making sure that we have the ability to generate the power that we need is critical for making sure that our community can continue to expand and grow, while not putting too much stress on our energy grid.

What is your opinion of achieving a zero emissions goal by 2050 or earlier?

Board of Directors
Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha

6-year term, $13,440 salary
The Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha is a public utility that is customer-owned. The district provides public gas and drinking water to Omaha and the surrounding area. The Board of Directors sets rates & ensures water meets or exceeds all state and federal standards for drinking water.

Subdivision 1

Jim Begley: Education: University of Nebraska at Omaha-Master of Public Administration; Bachelor's degree in Political Science; Current Office held: Metropolitan Utilities District Board of Directors-January 2013 to present Facebook: www.facebook.com/JimBegleyformudboard

How will you assess and prioritize updating infrastructure?

Jim Begley: Aging infrastructure will continue to be a challenge at MUD for years to come. The work to replace natural gas infrastructure should be completed in 2027. On the water side, the goal is to rehabilitate 25 miles in 2025 going forward. MUD is targeting its rehabilitation efforts toward the areas with the highest failure rates, rather than targeting by the age or material of the pipe. Right now, MUD's water main makeup is roughly 37 percent cast iron and 58 percent ductile iron pipe, with a smattering of plastic, steel, concrete and transite (cement pipe mixed with asbestos fibers) making up the difference between the two. Because the rehabilitation is being done based on risk assessment, the replacement work will be done in stages.

How will you assure the public is involved in the decision-making process at MUD?

Jim Begley: MUD operates with transparency for its customer owners for every operational aspect. All of the monthly committee and regular board meetings are livestreamed and saved on the MUD website at mudomaha.com. In addition, the contact information for each board member is available on the website. I have been contacted numerous times throughout my years on the MUD board, and have always taken the views of the MUD customer-owners into account when casting my votes. The greatest value of having public utilities in Nebraska, and the biggest difference with privately-owned utility companies are 1) MUD provides quality services at a lower cost; 2) the accountability for the MUD Board of...
Directors is to its customer-owners, not shareholders.

**What are the most important challenges facing our public utilities, and how do you propose to address them?**

**Jim Begley:** The most important challenge will be to continue to be deal with the cost and work dealing with aging infrastructure. With aging infrastructure, the likelihood of main breaks increase. Two ways to address this challenge include 1) shifting from cast iron mains to less expensive and more flexible plastic pipe that won’t corrode; 2) Utilizing new techniques/technology such as pipe-bursting, which does not require the concrete to be torn up and disrupt a street and its traffic flow. During pipe bursting, an expansion head is pulled through an existing line, causing the line to break apart. As the expansion head is pulled through the existing line, it also pulls the new pipeline behind it, filling the space left by the previous pipeline.

**Patrick M Brennan:** Education: BSBA, Accounting Major, Creighton University 1976; Volunteer Experience: Habitat for Humanity - building houses - since 1996

**David Friend:** No response received.

**Dennis J. Madsen:** No biographical information submitted.

**How will you assess and prioritize updating infrastructure?**

**Patrick M. Brennan:** MUD has had a Gas and Water Infrastructure Plan in place since 2008 to replace gas and water mains. MUD started about 110 years ago from the Missouri and moved west from there with the city, so its oldest infrastructure is all on the east side of town. I would make sure that that they continue with their plan, targeting water and gas mains east of 72nd St first, as well as acting on what their technology and analyses disclose. I would spend the money where the repairs are needed the most, as well as when the capital expenditure would have the impact of lowering customers’ costs in the future, e.g., the capital improvement of the LNG plant. The LNG plant and propane air plants saved the customers $100 million during the Polar Vortex of 2021.

**Dennis J. Madsen:** I feel it is important to review the information available from MUD and use that data to determine the best maintenance plan for our existing infrastructure. I would also use all knowledge I gained throughout my 30+ years of experience working in MUD’s construction department to help make informed decisions on how to prioritize future improvements for the betterment of the community.

**How will you assure the public is involved in the decision-making process at MUD?**

**Patrick M Brennan:** Board members should be accessible to their constituents at all times. Their constituents are MUD’s customer-owners, and the Board represents everyone. The monthly Board meetings are open to the public so if anyone has a concern regarding any issue related to the company or to that person’s personal or neighborhood situation, they can take it up with the Board at the monthly meeting, or call their subdivision’s Board member. The best tools for dealing with any issue are communication and collaboration.

**Dennis J. Madsen:** I will strive to maintain open lines of communication with the public and be available to discuss current issues as they arise. Being approachable and honest, regardless of the matter on hand, will always be one of my top priorities.

**Subdivision 2**

**Patrick M Brennan:** First, aging infrastructure, which I addressed in the first question. Second, keeping costs down. MUD does an excellent job on the gas side of the business by entering into long-term gas supply contracts, prepaid gas agreements, and long-term transportation and pipeline storage agreements with its natural gas pipeline. Also, you need to use competitive bidding on all purchases and construction projects. Additionally, you need to hire and retain good, dedicated employees, and establish a business continuity plan for when people retire. Lastly, you need to remain vigilant to keep being operated as a public utility. This is the only way to keep prices down for the customer-owners.

**Dennis J. Madsen:** Currently one of the biggest challenges our community faces is the ongoing process of replacing outdated infrastructure throughout our district. Currently some of this work is completed by contracted labor instead of our local MUD crews. My goal would be to advocate for keeping those jobs in-house in order to invest in our local workforce and build our community.
Board of Directors
Regional Metropolitan Transit Board of Omaha

New Elected Office in 2024
(formerly Metro Transit Authority, an appointed office)

2- and 4-year terms starting in 2024; eventually all 4-year terms, $500/month; except Chair receives $600/month

The Transit Authority owns and operates public transportation system excluding taxicabs and railroad system. The Board of Directors sets agency policy, oversees the budget, reviews procurement contracts and more.

District 1 (2-year term)

Antonio L. Bradshaw: No response received.

Douglas Ignowski: Education: High school, trade school; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556521755558&mibextid=LQQJ4d

Cornelius Williams: No response received

How do you plan to increase ridership?

Douglas Ignowski: I plan to make it accessible and affordable for all.

Describe your vision for making this a truly regional transit system.

Douglas Ignowski: To provide the public with affordable transportation for all community needs.

What are the most important challenges facing our public transportation systems, and how do you propose to address them?

Douglas Ignowski: A shortage of operators impacts the consistency of routes and operator working conditions.

I propose to bargain in good faith and have a partnership with the operators and their representation.

District 2

Clarice Dombeck: Education: Bachelors of Arts, Black studies and Sociology, Master of Science and Urban Studies (2025); Volunteer Experience: Lead organizer of Healing Roots African Diaspora Garden
Website: https://clarice4rmta.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/clarice.dombeck/

William King: Education: BA Behavioral Science; Volunteer Experience: Omaha Community Broadcasting
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/957thebossonoma

Rose Kohl: Education: BS Chemistry, BS Computer Science; Volunteer Experience: Past service on the Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association board, currently on the Nebraska Monarchs board. Neighborhood organizer for Keep Omaha Beautiful park cleanups; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556911556162&mibextid=ZbWKwL

David Levy: Education: Bachelor's and Masters in City Planning from the University California, Berkeley. Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.; Volunteer Experience: President Omaha by Design Board of Directors, Chairman Douglas County Planning Commission, Chairman Omaha Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Chairman Omaha Administrative Board of Appeals

How do you plan to increase ridership?

Clarice Dombeck: As a board member, I would support the vision, goals, and strategies identified in MetroNEXT to increase ridership. MetroNEXT is the strategic plan for the Metro Transit Authority. Considerations for the plan include:

More frequent bus arrivals. Better bus stops, including passenger shelters and route information. Future ORBT lines and transit network. New service types to connect the region and potential service expansion.

I would also encourage Metro’s continued collaboration with its partners, such as MAPA, ConnectGO, and Heartland Bicycle, to promote a holistic public transit and mobility system.

William King: I will use my own bus experiences since the 70’s, deploy a community survey initiative at bus stops and organize a community forums to get input from the Actual Riders!

Rose Kohl: The city is growing, and the apartments, employment sites and amenities that are currently being built downtown will increase ridership if the busses can be operated effectively with reliable service and routes in effective areas. I think we need to expand the bus service to reach the airport and the zoo. Cleanliness, reliability and safety are top issues. We should also consider event specific routes and schedules for things like sporting events, as well as promoting our existing services to those who are visiting from out of town.

David Levy: Make transit user friendly and available. Make availability and routes known. Offer reliable and frequent service. Connect service to events and needs in the community. Funding is always critical. Partnerships with
Describe your vision for making this a truly regional transit system.

Clarice Dombeck: My vision is to achieve a multimodal system that supports equitable access and safe movement for everyone.

This looks like:

- Easy transfers between buses, the street car, and bike share systems
- Multimodal connectivity options to suburbs, rural areas, and employment and educational hubs
- Focus on underserved communities with routes and schedules designed to prioritize Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color, ensuring everyone can access essential services and opportunities.
- More greener vehicles prioritize environmentally friendly options like electric buses, light rail, and expanded walking and biking infrastructure.
- Investments in creating safe, well-maintained, and aesthetically pleasing bus stops to encourage ridership.

William King: I would include strategies that will link are suburbs, rural towns surrounding Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa for specific strategic transportation routing.

Rose Kohl: We need to expand service in key areas, like connecting North and South Omaha to the rest of the city. The different densely populated pockets of the city should be connected to each other. We have a pretty amazing service in the Dodge corridor already. Other parts of the city would benefit from getting connected. We should also evaluate the sidewalks along the existing lines to ensure they are wide enough to be safe and accessible for all, so that riders have a way to reach the bus stops.

David Levy: A great region needs a great transportation system. A great transportation system needs a great transit system. Making this a truly regional transit system means looking at land use and opportunities in the region and matching the transit system to that. Land uses draw trips. Thus, the system must serve the land use and transportation needs throughout and among the region.

What are the most important challenges facing our public transportation systems, and how do you propose to address them?

Clarice Dombeck: The most critical challenge facing our public transportation systems is equity in mobility and transportation. Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color suffer from higher fatalities when walking, biking, or driving than their White counterparts. The root of the issue is where investments haven’t been made. Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color need mobility and transportation infrastructure investments to increase safety for those walking, biking, using public transportation, and driving within their communities. MetroNEXT, Vision Zero, ConnectGo, and Heartland 2050 all have solutions to address equity in mobility and transportation. As a board member, I will work to promote the solutions described in those plans.

William King: The lack of political leadership vision to invest in the only public transportation infrastructure that we have in Omaha. Addressing the issue with other leaders is the only way to come up with solutions.

Rose Kohl: Rising costs are always a challenge and we need a budget for maintenance of the existing equipment. The busses are pretty nice when they are new, but if they are not cleaned and maintained properly, many people will not feel comfortable riding them. We also need to recruit and retain quality, cheerful drivers for the busses.

David Levy: Reputation and reliability are everything. Reputation can be addressed through strategic media and marketing. Reliability can be addressed through strategic design, staff training, constant monitoring and review and partnerships with other regional entities.

District 3 (2-year term)

Andrew Adams: Education: Master's Degree – Leadership; Current Office held: Nebraska Foster Care Review Board; Volunteer Experience: Holy Name St. Vincent DePaul Society Website: https://adamsforomaha.com/

Yanira Garcia: No response received.

John G. Sullivan: Education: M.B.A., University of Nebraska at Omaha; B.A., Temple University; Volunteer Experience: Past-President of Midtown Crossing HOA 120 (2022-2023), Downtown Rotary (2020-2021) & Foundation and Past Chair of Armbrust YMCA; Leadership Nebraska (Class VII); Leadership Omaha (Class IX); Trustee, St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church & School
**How do you plan to increase ridership?**

**Andrew Adams:** The following ideas (some of which are already in place) will allow public transportation to sell itself.

1. Ensure affordability through fare subsidies, discounted fares by application, and integrated ticketing systems like UMO.
2. Upgrade infrastructure to meet ADA standards.
3. Implement dedicated lanes and signal priority.
4. Develop park-and-ride facilities at transit hubs to facilitate seamless connections.
5. GPS and sensors on vehicles that allow real-time tracking of their location and traffic conditions.
6. Upgrade and maintain security systems on vehicles and at transit stations.
7. Include more microtransit options such as, ebike/scooter kiosks, ride hailing services, trails, etc. to assist with first stop to last stop.

**John G. Sullivan:** How far can we go, together?

Communication is foremost.

I have built a coalition of support for my campaign from all sectors, and, if elected, will never cease these efforts. My outreach includes endorsements from Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert, City Councilman Don Rowe, State Senator Brad von Gillern, Former Omaha Mayor Hal Daub, Former Douglas County Commissioner Steve McCollister, City Planning Board Member Jorge Sotolongo, Canopy South Executive Director Cesar Garcia, Latino Economic Development Council CEO Itzel Lopez. Casa de la Cultura CEO Marcos Mora, Former MAPA Director Greg Youell, Goodwill CEO Tobi Mathouser. Ollie the Trolley Owners George Davis & Deb Skinner, Hayes & Associates CPAs President Frank Hayes and many more.

**Describe your vision for making this a truly regional transit system.**

**Andrew Adams:** The Regional Metropolitan Transit Board (RMTB) should consider a vote to form a Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority (RMTA). This will require a 2/3rd vote of the RMTB. I think it should be given consideration and discussion on day 1. I have a master’s degree in leadership and I am ready to lead on the establishment of the RMTA.

If the RMTB votes to affirm RMTA, it will have full and exclusive jurisdiction and control over all public passenger transportation facilities and systems. It will be important to me that this includes working with the newly formed streetcar authority. I know steel wheels and steel rails very well as I have been a rail transit professional for more than 17 years.

**John G. Sullivan:** How far can we go, together?

Your vote is a vote FOR economic development, opportunity for all, fiscal responsibility and increased federal funding, the urban core and modern streetcar, and on-time transit.

I believe the best days for public transit in Omaha are ahead of us and, if elected, will work to make that happen. I support public transit as an option in Douglas County and will work with citizens, board members and the Metro team to promote an integrated system of transportation to school, healthcare, jobs and entertainment in the metro.

By law, cities outside of Douglas County must request membership in the regional authority. As adjacent cities make these requests, they should be carefully considered by the board.

**What are the most important challenges facing our public transportation systems, and how do you propose to address them?**

**Andrew Adams:** The RMTB needs to improve safety, sustainability, accessibility and funding mechanisms. Safety is always a relentless pursuit, and our transit programs must never stop improving in this department. The RMTB needs to be vigilant and make appropriate risk assessments. Sustainability programs are a cost benefit and environmentally responsible. Accessibility is important because not all current infrastructure is ADA compliant, and we still have underserved areas in the Omaha metro including D3. Finally, funding sources need to be diversified to include public-private partnerships, and other innovative mechanisms such as congestion pricing, HOT lanes, zone based pricing, etc.

**John G. Sullivan:** How far can we go, together?

Managing growth, workforce recruitment and fiduciary duty to the public present challenges, and opportunities. I have 40 years of experience in business, civic and board activity, including 20 years of experience in the architecture / engineering and construction industry and commercial real estate ownership which provide me with a broad base of experience and networks to learn more, collaborate and get things done.

I have been a fiduciary professional responsible to shareholders in business, colleagues in industry, civic organizations and not-for-profit organizations, as well as my church. Some of these positions have been appointments upon merit and others have been elected positions.
**District 4**

**Ben Cass:** No response received.

**Scott Dobbe:** Education: *Bachelor of Science in Design, University of Nebraska-Lincoln| Master of Architecture, Ohio State University;* Volunteer Experience: ORBT Stakeholder Advisory Committee; Transit Oriented Development Stakeholder Committee, City of Omaha Landmarks Commission, Heartland 2050 Infrastructure Committee, Omaha by Design Advisory Council, ConnectGO Communications Committee
Website: [https://www.scottforomaha.com/](https://www.scottforomaha.com/)

**Mark V. Holst:** Education: *Bachelor’s Degree;* Volunteer Experience: Septemberfest, SONA treasurer
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MarkHolst2020](http://www.facebook.com/MarkHolst2020)

**Daniel Padilla:** No response received.

### How do you plan to increase ridership?

**Scott Dobbe:** Transit is about connecting people, places, and opportunity. However, serving the community requires more than simply connecting riders with where they need to go, when they want to go there.

Whether we’re talking about someone who relies on the system today – or someone who might do so in the future – focusing on the rider experience is key to growth. This means extending service and enhancing frequency so that riders don’t need to consult a schedule, earning trust with on-time reliability, and respecting riders as valued customers with appropriate standards of comfort, courtesy, and convenience.

**Mark V. Holst:** I want to ensure our routes and services match the needs of students, workers, seniors, and underserved communities. I also want to promote the benefits of mass transit to our community, including reduced energy consumption, savings for riders in fuel and accident costs, and relief of stress from limited parking availability in business and entertainment districts throughout our community.

### What are the most important challenges facing our public transportation systems, and how do you propose to address them?

**Scott Dobbe:** Achieving goals such as increasing ridership and expanding regionally are only possible with the support of a dedicated team of drivers, mechanics, and staff. Metro Transit is not immune to the industry-wide challenge of recruiting and retaining skilled operations and maintenance personnel. I am aware that, in recent months, an acute shortage of drivers has caused on-time performance to slip.

As your representative, I would emphasize the importance of building a workplace culture of respect, appreciation, and teamwork. With robust support for training and career advancement, plus the technology, equipment, and facilities needed to do the job, I have every expectation that Metro’s hardworking team will tackle this challenge successfully.

**Mark V. Holst:** Mass transit addresses one of commuters’ most serious challenges: congestion on our roads and transportation infrastructure. When construction, road conditions, accidents, or other factors cause bus schedule delays, riders may lose a sense of reliability. We must continue to use current and evolving technology to inform customers of delays or schedule changes. A smart city approach will keep traffic moving optimally during peak demand. If the City could once again require signage at all road construction projects to identify the entity in charge, all citizens could know what is responsible for extended traffic delays and plan accordingly.

As your elected representative, I will apply my depth of experience to enhance Metro Transit’s network in service of current riders, future riders, and the community as a whole. I will study the data to support expansion where it makes most sense, responsibly stewarding our civic resources while ensuring high-quality connectivity throughout the city.

**Mark V. Holst:** We should explore feasible ways to extend the routes to western Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Sarpy County. Addressing sustainable demand can help increase revenues without putting an additional burden on taxpayers. It is crucial to be wary of politicians who make promises that sound too good to be true; such promises often fail and cost more taxes. A successful transit system will contribute to the diverse and mobile workforce required to grow our local economy.
District 5 (2-year term)

Josh Corrigan: Education: B.S. Geography - University of Nebraska at Omaha; Website: www.corriganfortransit.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556796532709

John McCann: Education: Bachelor’s in Nursing

How do you plan to increase ridership?

Josh Corrigan: By increasing access to the system. I ride the bus regularly and I've noticed many barriers that might stop someone who wants to ride transit.

Maybe it isn't safe to travel to their stop or maybe their bus isn't reliable or frequent enough. Maybe the system doesn't take them where they want to go. Maybe they don't even know where to start.

I want to work within the Transit Authority and with local partners to help alleviate these barriers for everyone, including our seniors and riders with disabilities. I believe that a more accessible system will bring with it more ridership.

John McCann: Increase available stops to larger areas of communities with limited and expensive parking. Airport, Old Market area, College World Series, to name a few. Keeping it affordable to ride verses other available ride shares is also a goal.

Describe your vision for making this a truly regional transit system.

Josh Corrigan: We need to make an effort to ensure our existing system is capable of growing to serve the region. Transit works best when it connects people to the things they need, things like employment, education, healthcare, community, and entertainment.

We need to identify sustainable ways to make these connections before we can expand our service. We need to ensure that Metro can attract and retain the hardworking drivers, mechanics and other staff that serve our region.

Thanks to recent legislation we now also have the opportunity to invite other communities in the region to join the Transit Authority. I look forward to working with any regional community that wants to explore this opportunity.

John McCann: Making it available to other area small communities such as Fremont, Blair, Yutan, Plattsmouth, and even Lincoln are long term goals.

What are the most important challenges facing our public transportation systems, and how do you propose to address them?

Josh Corrigan: Our world has changed considerably in the last few years and with it so has the way we travel. I want to work to find innovative ways to address these changing patterns. Every day might not be a commute day but that doesn’t mean it can’t be a transit day.

Limited funding for transit will make it impossible to grow. Per capita the Omaha region currently spends significantly less on transit than our peer cities. I want to work towards a responsible funding level that can sustain our public transportation system into the future.

More than anything I believe that a system that provides more access will benefit everyone. I want to get transit to more people and I want to get those people where they need to go.

John McCann: Keeping our public transportation safe and affordable to ride.

District 6

Curt Simon: Education: UNO - Bellevue College; Volunteer Experience: Restore the Glory - Holy Name Field House Renovation

How do you plan to increase ridership?

Curt Simon: Increases in frequency on most heavily traveled routes.

Describe your vision for making this a truly regional transit system.

Curt Simon: Work with neighboring jurisdictions to communicate the benefits associated with joining the regional system.

What are the most important challenges facing our public transportation systems, and how do you propose to address them?

Curt Simon: Assuring developments are completed with transit access. Work with development community and City of Omaha to communicate types of infrastructure that is beneficial to transit riders.
Tim Lonergan: Education: University of Ne., Omaha, B.S. History, Education and Special Education; Past Office held: Metropolitan Community College Board 9/08-12/12; Military Experience: US Coast Guard Active duty 5 years USN-R 7 years US Coast Guard reserves 7 years Retired; Volunteer Experience: Maple Village Country Club, St Elizabeth Ann Parish Council, Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus, Ancient Order of Hibernians.

**How do you plan to increase ridership?**

Tim Lonergan: Currently, I feel the metro staff has done a good job. I will work with the administration on ideas to increase ridership.

**Describe your vision for making this a truly regional transit system.**

Tim Lonergan: This is a newly elected position. The new board will have to work together to promote the transit system. Learning from each other strengths.

**What are the most important challenges facing our public transportation systems, and how do you propose to address them?**

Tim Lonergan: Providing a safe and effective transportation experience.

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**Bennington Mayor**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

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**Bennington City Council**

**Wards 1 and 2**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

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**Ralston City Council**

**Wards 1, 2 and 6**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

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**Valley Mayor**

Jim Boucher: Education: Bachelor of Science General Engineering OU/UNO, Master of Science Mechanical Engineering UNL; Military Experience: None (except 1 year Air Force ROTC, Omaha University); Volunteer Experience: Valley Park Board, Valley Community Improvement Committee, Valley Soccer Club (founder, coach, referee,) Valley Girls Softball (coach, umpire) Habitat for Humanity home builder, Brush Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon, Teammates Mentoring


Jim Thiessen Jr: Education: Valley Jr.-Sr. High School Southeast Community College Milford Campus A.A. Degree HVAC; Past Office held: Valley City Council 1990-1998; Volunteer Experience: 35 year member local fire department Emt for 35 years. Valley Youth Board. Coached softball and baseball and Jr. high football

**Why are you running for Mayor, and what qualifies you for the position?**

Jim Boucher: Carolyn and I raised 5 kids, two born in the house across from the biggest church in town. We didn’t have much except for family and kindness of new friends in Valley. We working folks lived in safety, peace and respect. After over half a century I’m still here, but my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all moved away.

Valley’s record property tax increases and spending, and failed State Audit first in history, are bad. City won’t tell us who’s chief of police and who’s on duty to come when we call. When City water turns brown again, we don’t know why or who to call.
City Hall just stopped respecting us for who we are, what we did, and what we can offer; don’t care what we want. I’ve got the experience to change that.

**Cindy Grove:** I am deeply passionate about our community and committed to making positive changes that benefit all residents. I also have a strong dedication to serving the people of Valley and will continue to work diligently on your behalf. I have demonstrated my passion and dedication numerous times through community projects including reviving community events, leading flood relief efforts and serving on several other non-profit boards. With years of experience in leadership roles and nearly eight years serving in city government, I am well-equipped to navigate through challenges and proactively lead Valley through the changes that accompany the rapid growth we are experiencing.

**Jim Thiessen Jr:** There are currently issues that need to be addressed and the only way to fix them is becoming part of the solution there has been six generations of my family that have lived in Valley and we have all had a commitment to the city. The citizens of Valley have been voicing many concern to the present administrations and go unheard. I served eight year on the city council before I positive I have the ability to govern the City of Valley.

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**What is the most important challenge facing your city, and how do you propose to address it?**

**Jim Boucher:** Four years ago Mayor Smith handed off a sensible budget that provided for major improvements in City water systems to handle future growth. City Engineer’s Report said start right away on water plant improvements to be ready.

But, something else happened; taxes got collected but weren’t spent on water systems, delaying this work for three years while banking the $ millions for something else.

To get back to running our City like a business we’ll hold up on the new City Bldg and City Park. We’ll build on our existing City staff, getting and keeping more good employees to do their jobs right like they want. We’ll get that full time City Administrator, reorganize the police department, and do it all in plain sight for a change.

**Cindy Grove:** The City of Valley has been experiencing rapid population growth since 2010 however the growth and enhancement of city services, technology and economic development has not kept pace with the population growth. To ensure the City of Valley continues its vision of maintaining its small-town identity while realizing growth and economic opportunity, I will continue to take a proactive role in the development and future planning to ensure we are positioning ourselves the best for our residents and the future. As the current Mayor, I have also made transparency and enhanced city services a top priority, ensuring residents are involved, informed, and have easier access to city services and I will continue to enhance services in those areas.

**Jim Thiessen Jr:** Number one is public safety our police department is having real issues our drug dog it's not available because his handler is currently suspended it appears to be undermanned. We need to start paying our officers a more competitive wage. Second our infrastructure has to be addressed we are lucky to be growing at a tremendous rate but we to make sure everything is in place to handle this.

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**Valley City Council**

Vote for up to TWO

**Linda Bogatz:** Education: *Holy Name High, La James International Cosmetology*

**Wendy Deane:** Education: *High School; Volunteer Experience: Past President for 10yrs Valley Library Foundation, Current Vice President of the Valley Community Historical Society, Co-Founder of the Valley Business Association, Volunteer at many local community events; Website: [https://gallery-valley.com/](https://gallery-valley.com/)

**Randy Egbarts:** No response received.

**Megan Fellner:** No response received.

**Jason Foster:** No response received.

**Melanie Hayden:** No response received.

**Jake Lewis:** No response received.

**Chris TenEyck:** No response received.

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**Why are you running for City Council, and what qualifies you for the position?**

**Linda Bogatz:** Candidate did not respond.

**Wendy Deane:** I have been a resident and business owner for 25yrs and I have the best interests of all Valley Residents. Valley is growing quickly and I want to continue to keep it's small town charm in it's Business District and also to guide it's growth in the needs of our Lake Communities as well. To be transparent in the decision making. I feel including all of our community in decisions being made is important. Having a more diverse City Council with members from every area of our boundaries will help unite us in decision making. Also, allowing residents more time to express their opinions at City Council meetings would let people express concerns about misinformation and how Council members are coming to their decisions.
**What is the most important challenge facing your city, and how do you propose to address it?**

**Linda Bogatz:** Candidate did not respond.

**Wendy Deane:** Our most important challenge is communication. All residents don’t use email, Facebook, or the internet, especially our Valley Proper residents, which are mostly senior citizens. That is why there is so much miscommunication. I think a monthly newsletter and an electronic billboard at the entrance by the High School would help. All residents need to be thankful that Lake communities are here because of the Valley Proper area and the Valley Proper people can be thankful for the lake communities that provide the tax revenue to make improvements to our community. We need to understand each others needs and work together to make our community the best it can be for everyone.

**Board of Education Arlington Public Schools #24**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

**Board of Education Bennington Public Schools #59**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

**Board of Education Douglas County West Community Schools #15**

Vote for up to THREE

**Cole Groteluschen:** No response received.

**Luke Janke:** No response received.

**Bill Koile Jr:** Education: BS, Northwest Missouri State University; MS, Clarkson College; MBA, University of Colorado; Current Office held: DC West Community Schools (2020-2024)-- Board president, 2023,2024; SID 547 Member at Large 2020-2028

**Marjorie Lochmiller:** No response received.

**Liz Mayer:** No response received.

**Ryan Moss:** No response received.

**James Wurtz:** No response received.

**Why are you running for the school board? If elected, what will be your priorities?**

**Bill Koile Jr:** To make a positive impact on education and to represent the community while fostering collaboration. If elected, I will continue to align DC West schools for the best future possible.

**What is a school board member’s role and responsibility? How does that role differ from the role of the superintendent or administration?**

**Bill Koile Jr:** Setting vision and policy; Selecting and overseeing leadership; Community engagement and advocacy.

The superintendent is the district CEO and a leader of operations.

**How can parents and schools work together for the benefit of all students?**

**Bill Koile Jr:** Be an advocate for education and play a role in student success. Support volunteerism in the community.

**Board of Education Elkhorn Public Schools #10**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

**Board of Education Fremont Public Schools #1**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

**Board of Education Gretna Public Schools #37**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

**Board of Education Millard Public Schools #17**

These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.
Board of Education Omaha Public Schools
Subdistricts 1, 3, 7 and 9

This candidate will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

Subdistrict 5

Andrew Finch: Education: Pacific School of Religion, Iliff School of Theology, and University of Nebraska at Omaha; Website: https://www.finchorfops.com/; Facebook: www.facebook.com/finchorfops

Spencer Head: Education: Masters; Current Office held: Omaha Public Schools Board of Education, Subdistrict 5 (2021 - present); Volunteer Experience: I serve as a board member for the Victory Boxing Club and Community Center in South Omaha. I have also served in various roles on my church’s missions team, am a member of a local Rotary club, and volunteer for school events across the district. Website: https://spencerhead.com/; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SpencerHeadforOPS/;

Gini Magnuson: Education: Bachelor’s of Science in Investigations - Bellevue University; Volunteer Experience: Women’s Fund of Omaha; Nebraska Wildlife Rehab; Website: https://magnusonforops.com/; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/people/Gini-Magnuson-for-OPS/6155226850997/

Why are you running for the school board? If elected, what will be your priorities?

Andrew Finch: I am running for the school board because I have a passion for education. Without a solid education system, our society suffers tremendously. We need a school board that focuses on our students, is teacher centered, and data driven. As a professional and community leader, community representatives must play a crucial role in shaping education policy and decision-making. In our school district, we have many students that are marginalized or underserved that are being left behind and we must work to bring equity to all our students so they are prepared for Post-Secondary success. If elected, my priorities is to address the teacher shortage, address Post-Secondary Prepardness, and Community Involvement in the School Board governance.

Spencer Head: I am running for re-election to the board because I am passionate and personally invested in our community and our schools. As a father to two young children, I understand the importance of a high-quality education. As a board member I have worked hard to improve curriculum across the district at all levels, including what will be seven full scale curriculum adoptions this year alone. I have worked to completely reform the way OPS addresses turnaround schools by rebuilding the way we evaluate low performing schools and assign resources, I have been a staunch advocate of increasing standards and pushing the district to new heights, and supported our amazing teachers. I will continue to make these issues my priorities moving forward.

Gini-Magnuson: Before the United States even had a Constitution, our founding fathers were advocating for the creation of public education systems. I am running for the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education to improve and protect this system on which so many of us rely. In office, I will prioritize addressing the underlying causes to our critical staffing shortage, including finding ways to attract and retain quality educators and staff; ensuring educational material is updated, robust, and meaningful; and maintaining our fiscal soundness responsibly while also investing in ways to increase our value to the public, such as bolstering our special education programs.

What is a school board member’s role and responsibility? How does that role differ from the role of the superintendent or administration?

Andrew Finch: A School Board Member's role is Policy Making, Fiscal Oversight, Hiring and Evaluation, Community Representation, and Accountability. While school board members set policy and provide oversight, the superintendent and administration are responsible for executing those policies and managing the day-to-day operations of the school district. Together, they collaborate to ensure the effective governance, leadership, and management of the district, ultimately working towards the common goal of providing high-quality education and support for all students.

Spencer Head: The role of a school board member takes many forms. In law, the role is simple, a board member hires a superintendent, passes a budget, and approves curriculum. In reality, the role is much more complex. A good board member knows when they need to step in and but also when to step back and trust that the superintendent and experts we have hired are doing their jobs. A good board member can’t be afraid to say no or push the district to make changes where necessary. They listen more than they talk, visiting our schools, talking with teachers, principals, and families about their experiences in order to better formulate opinions and policies.

Gini Magnuson: The role of a board member is to represent our community in establishing vision and goals for their school district. Some of the attendant responsibilities would be determining appropriate policies; managing the district's budget and expenditures; engaging in good-faith collective
How can parents and schools work together for the benefit of all students?

Andrew Finch: Open communication is fundamental to the parent-school partnership. Schools should establish regular channels of communication to keep parents informed about their child's academic progress, school events, and opportunities for involvement. Parent involvement is another critical component of the partnership between parents and schools. When parents actively participate in their child's education by volunteering in the classroom, attending school events, and joining parent-teacher organizations, they create a strong sense of community within the school. Supporting learning at home is another area where parents and schools can collaborate for the benefit of all students.

Spencer Head: Families and schools must work together for our children to receive the education they truly deserve. To succeed, the district must have the trust of families. We can’t do that without listening. We need to be actively pushing information out to families, but also actively listening to any ideas, concerns, or feedback. We just finished a superintendent search, and the board did it really well and we did it right. We solicited and acted up family feedback. We engaged with more families than the last two searches combined, we held townhalls and meetings across the district, and we listened. As the Board President, OPS isn’t my district alone, this is our district as a community. We need to have a district we can support and be proud of.

Gini Magnuson: The number one factor for student success is parental involvement. Finding ways to involve parents and families effectively has always been challenging, but I believe OPS has made great strides with the many different modes of communication used for family outreach, not to mention family-friendly events that enable students to show off their schools, classrooms, and teachers. Effective progress in moving the needle on student achievement also relies partially on remembering that we are all in the room as a team, for the shared goal of supporting our students’ learning and growth.

Board of Education Ralston Public Schools #54
These candidates will auto-advance to the General Election and will not appear on Primary ballots.

Board of Education Westside Public Schools #66
Vote for up to TWO:

Sarah Rider: Education: Master's Degree, Creighton University; Bachelor's Degree, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Current Office held: Westside Community Schools Board of Education, 1 yr. special appointed term, July 2023-present
Website: https://riderforwestside.com/;
Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094050080438

Meagan Van Gelder: Education: Ed.D. Educational Leadership, Eastern Michigan University, MS in Curriculum & Instruction, University of Kansas, Elementary Education, Minor in Spanish, Graduated with Honors, University of Kansas; Current Office held: Westside Board of Education, 2018-current; Volunteer Experience: Westside Community Schools, YMCA, Kappa Alpha Theta Alumni Chapter, Omaha Races; Website: https://vangelderforwestside.com/

Why are you running for the school board? If elected, what will be your priorities?

Sara Rider: I am running for the school board because I am deeply passionate about our community's education and committed to its success. With almost a decade of active involvement in various volunteer roles across the Westside district, I bring extensive experience to the table. My transition onto the board has been shaped by diverse leadership roles, providing me with the skills needed to address issues openly and collaboratively. If elected, my priorities include advancing Phase 2 of the bond plan, promoting academic excellence, and preparing students for future success. I am dedicated to serving with competence, compassion, and a shared vision for our community's future.

Meagan Van Gelder: As a parent of two children and a Westside graduate myself, I know firsthand the importance of a high-quality education. I want every student to have the best education possible. That is why I am seeking re-election for District 66’s Board of Education. If elected my priorities would be to ensure academic excellence at all grade levels, continue our efforts for teacher recruitment and retention, and maintain high quality budget management.
Sarah Rider: Running for the school board is about embracing responsibility to guide and nurture our community's education. It involves crafting policies, ensuring transparency, and holding the superintendent accountable. As a candidate, I'm committed to managing taxpayer expectations and overseeing the completion of our master plan. Accountability is crucial; we must collaborate with the superintendent to ensure efficient operations. I am eager to continue my contribution to our board's consensus-building culture and prioritize responsible financial management to support student learning.

Meagan Van Gelder: A school board member's role is oversee for the district and to represent the taxpayers of the district in which I serve. This differs from the day-to-day responsibilities of the superintendent.

How can parents and schools work together for the benefit of all students?

Sarah Rider: Parents and schools can collaborate effectively by fostering open communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to student success. Schools should regularly engage parents through avenues like parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and school events, providing insights into academic progress and addressing concerns. Conversely, parents can support schools by attending meetings, volunteering, and participating in decision-making processes. Together, they can create a supportive environment that nurtures each student's academic, social, and emotional development, ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience for all.

Meagan Van Gelder: Parents and schools can work together by learning from each other and listening to each other. Engagement and communication are important pieces to this partnership.

Special Issues Ticket

Special City Of Omaha Election

All Charter Amendment issues are answered Yes or No.

Charter Amendment 1

Shall Section 2.1 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Omaha, which describes the process for granting, extending, changing or modifying the terms of franchises within the City of Omaha be removed, all as provided in the Notice of Election?

Charter Amendment 2

Shall Section 3.12 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Omaha be amended to add Stormwater Management to the list of functions and programs assigned to the Public Works Department, all as provided in the Notice of Election?

Charter Amendment 3

Shall Article V. Finance of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Omaha be amended to change language in Section 5.21 concerning the disposal of personal property from the Purchasing Division and Purchasing Agent to the Finance Department and Finance Director and to change language in Section 5.23 to provide that the City Treasurer is a classified employee hired through the competitive testing process, all as provided in the Notice of Election?

Charter Amendment 4

Shall Section 8.13 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Omaha be amended to establish the process to provide for an Acting Mayor in the event that a public disaster results in the death or disability of the Mayor and the entire City Council, all as provided in the Notice of Election?

Charter Amendment 5

Shall Section 8.15 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Omaha be amended to make clear that the members of a Charter Study Convention must be at least 18 years old and a resident of the City for six months at the time of their appointment, all as provided in the Notice of Election?

Charter Amendment 6

Shall Section 5.17 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Omaha be amended to increase the monetary amount for contracts which require City Council action from $20,000 to $50,000, all as provided in the Notice of Election?
10 Tips for Voting by Mail*

① Follow the instructions enclosed with your ballot.
② Use a blue or black ballpoint pen to mark your ballot.
③ Use the return envelope provided for your ballot only.

④ → Sign the back of your ballot return envelope.
⑤ You cannot change your vote after you return your ballot.
⑥ Return your ballot via U.S. Postal Mail (voter must provide postage)

- OR -

at an Official Ballot Drop Box - 13 locations throughout the county. Secure drop boxes are available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week - no postage needed.

⑦ All ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day, whether by mail or by drop box.
⑧ Do not return your early voting ballot at a polling place.
⑨ All accepted early voting ballots are counted and reported.
⑩ More information at www.votedouglascounty.com. Contact the Election Commission at earlyvoting@votedouglascounty.com or (402) 444-VOTE [8683] if you have questions.

* Tips courtesy of the Douglas County Election Commission.
If You Live in Douglas County

Return your ballot to the
Douglas County
Election Commission
by USPS mail, or use
Drop Boxes at these locations:

Douglas County Election Commission
west of main entrance in parking lot
12220 W Center, Omaha

Omaha City/County Building
Between 18th & 19th on Farnam, near sidewalk
1819 Farnam Street, Omaha

South Omaha Library
Relocated: East Side Parking Lot
2808 Q Street, Omaha

Charles B. Washington Branch Library
Southwest corner of building
2858 Ames Avenue, Omaha

Clarkson College Parking Lot 8
42nd & Farnam Sts, Omaha

Goodwill
4805 N 72 Street, Omaha

Ralston Police Department
Southwest corner of building
7400 Main Street, Ralston

Asian Market
321 N 76 Street, Omaha

Milton R. Abrahms Branch Library
South of main entrance
5111 N 90th Street, Omaha

Douglas County Engineer’s Office
Near sidewalk by parking stalls
15505 W Maple Road, Omaha

Millard Public Schools Foundation
Northwest corner of building
5225 South 159th Avenue, Omaha

Spring Ridge Shopping Center
178 & Pacific Sts., Omaha

Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library
Northeast corner of building
2100 Reading Plaza, Elkhorn

YOUR VOTERS’ GUIDE

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please consider a donation to the
League of Women Voters Greater Omaha.

www.lwvgo.org/donate/

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY!
Making Democracy Work

VOTE411. All contributions to the League of Women Voters Greater Omaha are completely tax-deductible.
MAKE A VOTING PLAN

1. KNOW YOUR 2024 ELECTION DATES
   May 14th is the Primary and Nov. 5th is the General. The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2. CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION AND/OR REGISTER TO VOTE
   It takes 2 minutes! Get started using VOTE411’s easy online tool. Moved? You’ll need to update your registration.

3. HAVE YOUR NEBRASKA VOTER ID READY
   Most voters use a NE driver’s license. For other options, see Page 2 of this Guide. You will need ID when voting early or when voting in-person.

4. LEARN ABOUT EARLY VOTING OPTIONS
   Any eligible voter can apply to vote absentee. Early in-person voting at the Douglas County Election Commission starts April 15th, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
   May 3rd, 7th & 9th: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
   Saturday, May 11th: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

5. EXPLORE YOUR DAY-OF VOTING OPTIONS
   Find out where you can vote at votedouglastown.com and make sure you bring your ID with you to the polls.

6. RESEARCH CANDIDATES
   Learn more about ballot measures and where candidates stand on the issues on VOTE411.org.