

The top portion of the page features a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is draped and appears to be waving. The colors are vibrant, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right.

2024 **VOTER GUIDE**

DOUGLAS COUNTY **SARPY COUNTY**

General Election Day - November 5, 2024

2024 DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTY VOTER GUIDE

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2024 DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTY VOTER GUIDE

How to Get Started:

1. **Print off your sample ballot by visiting your county election commission website**
Douglas: <https://www.votedouglascounty.com/>
Sarpy: <https://www.sarpy.gov/691/Sample-Ballot>
2. **Fill out your sample ballot using the voter guide (not every race listed below will be on your ballot)**
3. **Take your completed sample ballot with you to vote on Tuesday, Nov 5th.**

DOUGLAS COUNTY

U.S. SENATE (2-YEAR TERM)

Pete Ricketts - Republican (Incumbent)

Top 3 Priorities if Re-elected: Securing the border, reducing federal spending, and making government more efficient and less bureaucratic.

Abortion: Does not support abortion and does not support giving taxpayer dollars to organizations that perform or refer for abortion services.

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should

be based on biological sex.

Border Security: Believes in restoring the “Remain in Mexico” policy, tightening the asylum process, and eliminating Biden’s abuse of parole.

Foreign Policy: Believes Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East, and the U.S. should stand by our ally; Has criticized Biden’s slow response to weapons requests from Ukraine.

Preston Love Jr. - Democrat

Top 3 Priorities if Elected: Affordable healthcare, reproductive rights, and the advancement of Nebraska’s rural and urban economies.

Abortion: Advocate for abortion and works toward eliminating barriers to abortion services.

Border: Supports a path to citizenship for those who

want to contribute to our economy.

Healthcare: Supports universal healthcare coverage.

Foreign Policy: Believes both conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza represent situations where we are called to intervene to protect human rights and advocate for humanitarian outcomes.

U.S. SENATE (6-YEAR TERM)

Deb Fischer - Republican (Incumbent)

Top 3 Priorities if Re-elected: Passing and adequately funding the annual National Defense Authorization Act, passing a Farm Bill, and expanding access to paid family leave.

Abortion: Does not support abortion and does not support giving taxpayer dollars to organizations that perform or refer for abortion services.

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should

be based on biological sex.

Border: Supports resuming construction on the border wall, ending Catch-And-Release, and reinstating President Trump's Remain in Mexico Policy.

Foreign Policy: Voted against H.R. 2471 and H.R. 815 which sent \$13.6 billion and \$60 billion in aid for Ukraine; Believes in the long-standing U.S.-Israel alliance; and wants to ensure that we proudly stand behind one of our best allies in their greatest time of need.

Dan Osborne - Independent

Abortion: Does not support a national ban on abortion.

Foreign Policy: Supports sending funding to Ukraine; believes that Israel has a right to defend itself and thinks the U.S. should be working to broker a peace deal.

Border: Believes that illegal immigration creates a pool of cheap labor with no rights and is detrimental to every American worker.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 2

Don Bacon - Republican (Incumbent)

Abortion: Believes there should be exceptions for abortions in the case of rape, incest, and the health of the mother.

Gender Issues: Believes that participation in girls' sports and access to women's restrooms and locker rooms should be based on biological sex; voted for the Respect for Marriage Act which provided protections for same-sex marriage (believes the government should not dictate who can marry whom).

Border: Believes that immigration is an essential part of our nation's history and our economic growth, but it has

to be done legally; supports legislation to secure the border and reform the broken immigration system.

Foreign Policy: Supports further funding for Ukraine; believes that it is in our national security interest that Ukraine remain independent; Believes the United States needs to do whatever it can to support Israel.

Election Integrity: Voted to create a congressional committee to investigate January 6th protestors; believes that Trump should have respected the results of the 2020 election.

Tony Vargas - Democrat

Abortion: Will work to pass legislation making the right to an abortion part of federal law.

Gender Issues: Supports gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors; supports biological boys

competing in girls' sports.

Border: Supports stopping fentanyl trafficking, boosting processing capacity for immigration cases, and creating a pathway to citizenship.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

District 5

Margo R. Juarez - Democrat

School Funding: Opposes opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students; and wants to pursue property tax relief with solutions that keep public schools strong.

Long-Term Care for Seniors: Feels there needs to be

more options for seniors and more social workers.

Taxes: Believes that property taxes are too high; and wants to explore options that allow for collecting more taxes from wealthy citizens in Nebraska.

Gilbert Ayala - Republican

Abortion: States that he is pro-life.

Gender Issues: Opposes same-sex marriage.

2nd Amendment: Calls himself a second amendment candidate.

Border: Supports using some taxpayer money to

support border states.

School Funding: Supports opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students; and supports charter schools.

District 7

Dunixi Guereca - Democrat

Government Operation: Opposes the privatization of state services.

Unions: Firmly believes that everyone deserves the right to unionize; believes unions are the pathway to the middle class and a dignified retirement; and would

support a bill expanding public sector bargaining to include legislative and judicial branch employees.

School Funding: Supports keeping our public schools strong; and opposes opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

Tim C. Pendrell - Democrat

Taxes: Concerned about the cuts in the budget that will have to be made to afford the proposed property tax relief.

Government Operations: Opposes the privatization or contracting of out-of-state services to private companies.

District 9

John Cavanaugh Jr. - Democrat (Incumbent)

Abortion: Supports abortion; and voted against LB574 which established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska.

School Funding: Strongly opposes efforts to fund private schools with public dollars; opposes opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for

students.

Gender Issues: Voted against LB574 and LB575 which banned gender mutilation surgeries for minors and prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

Julia K. Palzer - Republican

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex.

Law Enforcement: Wants to provide more support to

law enforcement.

Healthcare: Wants to improve access to mental health treatment.

District 13

Nick Batter – Independent.

Tax Reform: Supports property tax relief but only for those who bring value to Nebraska.

Education: Provide competitive pay for educators.

Criminal Justice: Wants to decriminalize marijuana use by adults on private property.

Ashlei Spivey - Democrat

Abortion: Advocate for abortion rights; founder and current executive director of the only reproductive justice organization in Nebraska

Gender Issues: Advocated against LB575 which

prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

Public Health: Wants to prioritize policy that supports clean energy and sustainable climate action for Nebraska.

District 15

Dave Wordekemper - Republican

Abortion: Pro-life; and opposes amending the constitution to create a right to abortion.

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex; and supports banning

gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors.

Criminal Justice Reform: Supports increasing penalties for drug crimes.

Taxes: Supports restricting valuation hikes due to foreign investors; and wants to stop unfunded mandates.

Roxie Kracl - Republican

Abortion: Pro-life; and opposes amending the Nebraska Constitution to create a right to abortion.

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex; and supports banning gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors.

School Choice: Supports policies that enable parents to send their children to the school that best suits their child's needs.

Governance: Wants to stop government control over small businesses.

District 31

Kathleen Kauth - Republican (Incumbent)

Abortion: Worked to amend LB 574 to provide for a ban on abortions after 12 weeks and allow for exceptions for the mother's life.

Gender Issues: Introduced LB574 and LB575 which banned gender mutilation surgeries for minors and prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

School Choice: Supports school choice and voted to pass education scholarships allowing parents more choice in deciding where to send their children to school.

Taxes: Worked to cut income taxes and eliminate taxes on Social Security; supported legislation to provide a child care tax credit to families.

Mary Ann Folchert - Democrat

Abortion: Supports abortion

Education: Believes public schools rely too heavily on property tax revenue and would like to explore other sustainable long-term funding options.

2nd Amendment: Supports raising the minimum age

Abortion: Supports abortion.

Education: Believes public schools rely too heavily on property tax revenue and would like to explore other

sustainable long-term funding options.

2nd Amendment: Supports raising the minimum age to purchase certain types of weapons.

School Choice: Advocated against legislation that would provide education scholarships allowing parents more choice in deciding where to send their children to school

District 39

Tony Sorrentino - Republican

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex; and supports banning gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors.

School Choice: Supports policies that enable parents to

send their children to the school that best suits their child's needs.

Taxes: Believes we need to find alternatives to the current taxing system to fund public education; and opposes the EPIC Option (consumption tax).

Allison Heimes – Independent

Mental Health: Plans to introduce legislation that would expand mental health wings in hospitals and create crisis intervention teams.

Taxes: Wants to explore offering tax incentives to businesses that offer childcare options for employees..

Veterans: Advocated for LB261 which honors deceased National Guard service men and women.

School Funding: Opposes opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

District 3

Lisa Schonhoff - Republican

Abortion: Pro-life; and believes that students should be taught, at age-appropriate levels, that pre-born babies are individual human beings.

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex.

Curriculum: Opposes implementing health curriculum

that promotes transgender ideology; and opposes the implementation of Critical Race Theory in schools.

Parental Involvement: Believes parents should have access to all books and learning materials used in instruction; and supports school choice and charter schools.

Bill McAllister - Republican

Abortion: Pro-life; and believes that students should be taught, at age-appropriate levels, that pre-born babies are individual human beings.

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex.

Curriculum: Opposes implementing health curriculum that promotes transgender ideology; and opposes the implementation of Critical Race Theory in school.

Parental Involvement: Believes that parents are the primary educators for their children; and supports school choice.

District 4

Liz Renner - Democrat

School Funding: Opposes opportunity scholarships allowing parents more choice in deciding where to send their children to school.

School Libraries: Advocated against LB441, which

would have helped remove sexually explicit material from school libraries.

Student Mental Health: Wants more effective counselor-to-student ratios in schools.

LeDonna White Griffin - Independent

Abortion: Pro-life; and believes that students should be taught, at age-appropriate levels, that pre-born babies are individual human beings.

School Choice: Wants to focus on parent choice to educate their children as they see best.

Gender Issues: Believes that participation in girls'

sports and access to girls' bathrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex.

Parent Involvement: Believes that parent choice empowers parents to know they are the first teachers; and supports allowing parents to easily access all books and learning materials used for student instruction.

NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

District 4

Elizabeth R. O'Connor - Democrat (Incumbent)

Tuition: Voted to implement the Nebraska Promise (free tuition for families making less than \$65,000 per year).

Research: Wants to continue to expand efforts to bring in research dollars; and wants to encourage aggressive and creative applications for federal grants.

1st Amendment Rights on Campus: Believes that a university must be a place where academic freedom and open dialogue are protected; and believes in balancing this need with prohibiting hate speech and threats of violence.

Jim Rogers - Republican

1st Amendment Rights on Campus: Believes in embracing the free and open study of ideas while abstaining from partisan advocacy of ideas; and believes that no campus speech should be banned.

University Mission: Believes that the Nebraska

University system currently lacks an operative mission statement; and wants to work to create a proper mission statement to define the proper role of the university and better direct decision-making.

District 8

Barbara Weitz - Democrat (Incumbent)

Tuition: Voted to implement the Nebraska Promise (free tuition for families making less than \$65,000 per year).
Programming: Supports adding certificate programs that will retrain or provide advanced training for our workforce.
Funding: Concerned about finding a way to cover the potential \$54 million shortfall without raising tuition rates.

Zachary Mellender - Independent

Student Retention: Wants to find ways to retain college graduates in the state of Nebraska; and wants to work to place graduates in good jobs in Nebraska.
Tuition: Wants to work to reduce tuition for in-state students.
1st Amendment Rights on Campus: Believes the most critical use of the 1st Amendment and free speech is on college campuses.
Innovation: Wants to revive the Nebraska University System as an innovation hub; and wants investment in cutting-edge programs and continued collaboration with local companies.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

District 2

Brad Ashby - Republican (Incumbent)

No additional information available.

Jessica Powell - Republican

Endorsed by Women Who Run Nebraska (a progressive political action committee) No additional information available.

District 3

Adam Gotschall - Republican (Incumbent)

Trades: Wants to work with high schools and middle schools to allow professionals with trade certifications and licenses to teach trades classes before graduation.
Graduation: Working to connect employers with students to help increase employment rates for graduates.

Lynae Tucker-Chellew - Republican

Endorsed by Women Who Run Nebraska (a progressive political action committee).
Trades: Would like to work directly with students and faculty to increase awareness and passion for the trades.
Curriculum: Increased access to dual enrollment opportunities.

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

District 5

Sean Kelly - Republican

Public Engagement: Believes that any issues discussed in a public forum on the board should provide the public an opportunity to comment.
Budget: County government should endeavor to provide the best services available at the least cost at all times; and all county expenditures should be rigorously evaluated.
Public Safety: Juvenile justice should focus on prevention, support, and rehabilitation; opposes the Juvenile Justice Center project.

Brian J. Fahey - Democrat

County Services: Wants to protect healthcare and mental health access, fund public safety, and improve roads and bridges.

Budget: Wants to promote affordable and responsible budgeting.

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subdistrict 1

Rodney Storm - Democrat

Water Quality and Quantity: Believes the board must work with all users of our resources to assist in developing or eliminating programs that will improve water quality; and there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

Budget: Believes the NRD should spend funds for planting trees, bike trails, and managing to preserve surface water in case of drought.

Platte River Recreational Lake/Canal Zone

Construction: Believes that there needs to be clear, unbiased studies showing the need and public support for this type of project.

Bonding Authority: Believes that the NRD should have the ability to issue bonds.

Shawn Mohr Melotz - Republican

Water Quality and Quantity: Advocates for a comprehensive plan utilizing practices such as lot level with Low Impact Development and Conservation Design; advocates for floodplain management practices that prohibit building in the floodplain; opposes the use of eminent domain; and opposes dams with permanent pools.

Budget: Believes that the NRD Board should spend funds on managing to preserve surface water in case of drought.

Platte River Recreational Lake/Canal Zone

Construction: Does not believe that there is a need for a recreational lake along the Platte River.

Bonding Authority: Opposes the bonding authority used by the Papio NRD; actively testified against the legislative bill that granted the bonding authority; and believes the bonding authority allows for excessive spending by the Papio NRD.

Subdistrict 3

Larry Bradley - Democrat (Incumbent)

No additional information available.

Grant Melotz - Republican

No additional information available.

Subdistrict 3

Brian Adams - Democrat

No additional information available.

Sheila Korth - Republican

No additional information available.

Subdistrict 9

Pat Bonnett - Republican (Incumbent)

Top Priorities: Completing the top 5 priority water projects (4,5, and 19 in Gretna, 12 at 180th and Forth, and Damsite 10 south of the Washington County line east of Bennington); these projects will help alleviate stormwater runoff and provide flood control.

Platte River Recreational Lake/Canal Zone

Construction: In favor of the proposal to build a recreational lake along the Platte River.

Bonding Authority: Believes the NRD should have restricted bonding for major pre-development capital improvement structures.

No additional information available.

METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT OF OMAHA

Subdivision 2

David Friend - Republican (Incumbent)

Natural and Cyber Security: Believes that MUD has a robust system to protect IT infrastructure; and was a member of a MUD committee selected to design and build a new construction and operations center to minimize disaster at the long-term operations center.

Streetcar: Opposed to MUD paying for any costs associated with moving gas and water infrastructure for

streetcar construction (unless those costs are already part of an established plan to upgrade infrastructure).

Infrastructure: Wants to continue replacing infrastructure as needed and according to established plans without saddling customers with costs not related to delivery of gas and water.

Patrick M. Brennan - Democrat

Infrastructure: Believes that the process of updating infrastructure should be based on where the repairs are needed the most, as well as when the capital expenditure would have an impact on lowering customers' rates in the future.

Budget: Advocates for maintaining MUD's peaking plants of LNG and propane air that enable MUD to avoid buying gas during frigid periods when the cost of gas increased substantially; and advocates in continuing to

participate in prepaid gas agreements that enable MUD to secure significant long-term fixed discounts on the cost of gas.

Climate Issues: Believes that every decision needs to be filtered through climate change thinking; and believes the natural gas industry needs to do a better job educating the public about natural gas being a transition fuel in clean energy

OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Subdivision 8

Mike Cavanaugh - Republican (Incumbent)

Budget: Believes that OPPD needs to get 100% carbon-free power by 2050 without sacrificing grid safety and dependability; and believes the zero-emission initiative also must be done without negative financial impact and without losing customer confidence.

Zero Emissions by 2050 Initiative: Will not sacrifice grid security, dependability, nor burden customers with unnecessary cost; and believes the commitment to zero emissions by 2050 is the most important challenge facing OPPD.

Morgan Rye-Craft - Independent

Grid Demand: Believes the most important challenge facing OPPD is increased demand for reliable electricity; and wants to push for sustainable growth that can meet demand while keeping rates low.

Zero Emissions by 2050 Initiative: Believes that this goal is both necessary and possible; and believes OPPD

needs to establish milestone goals to ensure progress while keeping the public informed.

Rolling Blackout Mitigation: Believes we need a diverse energy grid; and wants to pursue additional renewable energy projects that will ensure reliability and cost-effectiveness.

REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT BOARD OF OMAHA

District 1

Cornelius Williams - Democrat

Previous member of the Learning Community Coordination Council.

No additional information available

Antonio L. Bradshaw - Independent

No additional information available

District 2

Clarice Dombeck - Independent

Ridership: Advocates for more frequent bus arrivals, better bus stops, including passenger shelters, and more route information to help increase the number of riders.

Routes: Wants to achieve a multimodal system that supports equitable access and safe movement for everyone; wants easy transfers between buses, the streetcar, and bike share systems; and wants to focus

on underserved communities with routes and schedules designed to prioritize Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color.

Infrastructure: Wants greener vehicles to prioritize environmentally friendly options like electric buses, light rail, and expanded walking and biking infrastructure.

David Levy - Independent

Ridership: Wants to make availability and routes known; wants to offer reliable and frequent service; and wants to partner with large trip generators in the community to help increase the number of riders.

Routes: Believes that the board must look at land use and opportunities in the region and match the transit system to that.

Challenges to Public Transportation: Believes that reputation and reliability are the most important challenges to our public transportation system; wants to focus on strategic media and marketing to address the reputation; and wants to address reliability through strategic design, staff training, constant monitoring, and partnerships with other regional entities.

District 3

John G. Sullivan - Republican

Routes: As adjacent cities make their requests to join the Regional Metro Transit Authority, their requests should be carefully considered by the board, and where participation would be fruitful for all parties they should be strongly considered.

Challenges to Public Transportation: Believes that managing growth, workforce recruitment, and fiduciary duty to the public are the most important challenges facing our public transportation systems.

Yanira Garcia - Democrat

Ridership: Wants to focus on inclusivity and accessibility to help increase ridership.

Routes: Believes that if adding other cities to the public

transit system meets the needs of a vast majority of commuters in the area, then it is worth discussing the opportunities.

District 4

Daniel Padilla - Democrat

Ridership: wants to foster innovation and collaboration to ensure Metro Transit remains accessible, equitable, and integrated into the community.

Routes: wants to expand Metro Transit services to include Fremont, Lincoln, and Blair to help alleviate traffic

Challenges to Public Transportation: wants to implement urban design strategies that to reduce reliance on cars, enhance land use efficiency, and create a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly city.

Scott Dobbe - Independent

Ridership: Wants to focus on rider experience by extending service, enhancing frequency, earning trust with on-time reliability, and respecting riders as valued customers to help grow ridership.

Routes: Will study the data to support expansion where it makes the most sense, responsibly stewarding civic resources while ensuring high-quality connectivity

throughout the city.

Challenges to Public Transportation: Believes the driver shortage is the most important challenge facing the public transportation system; and wants to focus on personnel recruitment and retention to help improve on-time performance.

District 5

Josh Corrigan - Democrat

Ridership: Wants to remove barriers for everyone including seniors and riders with disabilities to make a more accessible system.

Routes: Wants to ensure that our existing system is capable of growing to serve the region; and wants to identify sustainable ways to make connections to important

areas before expanding services.

Challenges to Public Transportation: Believes limited funding for transit will make it impossible to grow; and wants to work toward a responsible funding level that can sustain our public transportation system into the future.

John McCann - Republican

Ridership: Wants to increase available stops to larger areas of communities with limited and expensive parking.

Routes: Wants to make public transit available to other small communities such as Fremont, Blair, Yutan,

Plattsmouth, and even Lincoln.

Challenges to Public Transportation: Believes the most important challenges facing public transportation are keeping it safe and affordable to ride.

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Subdistrict 3

Nick Thielen - Democrat (Incumbent)

Elected to the board in 2020. Focused on providing support for quality early childhood education. Wants to leverage partnerships that expand before and after

school learning opportunities. Abruptly resigned from the district's superintendent search committee during the superintendent transition.

Paul Anderson - Republican

No additional information available.

Subdistrict 5

Spencer Head - Republican (Incumbent)

Believes that parents, teachers, and administrators should provide limitations on student access to sexually explicit materials. Also supports the Omaha Public Schools policy that allows for challenges to materials that individuals may find offense with. Believes that the State should provide a greater percentage of school

funding to reduce the amount of local property taxes the schools need to operate. Thinks that bathrooms and locker rooms should be utilized according to gender at birth; and believes that we need to protect our female athletes.

Gini Magnuson - Democrat

Believes that staff members should not be vilified or criminalized for the contents of the library. Believes that parents and caregivers should be involved in and support their children's education outside of the classroom and be responsive to their children's teachers

and educators. Wants to seek out and strengthen partnerships with community colleges, trade schools, and state universities to help students find affordable, attainable education.

Subdistrict 9

Erik Servllon - Democrat

Currently the Development and Communications Director for OneWorld Community Health Centers. Also served on the Douglas-Sarpy Learning Community Coordinating Council and was part of the legislative staff for Sen. Tony Vargas.

Kimara Snipes - Democrat

Previously a member of the board. Current Executive Director for One Omaha. Extensive history of working with and mobilizing neighborhood associations.

ELKHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Renee Vokt - Republican (Incumbent)

Elected to the board in 2016. Sits on the American Civics and Curriculum Committee. Renee also serves on several Elkhorn High School booster clubs and the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation Board.

Scot Ringenberg - Republican (Incumbent)

Elected to the board in 2020. Chairperson of the Board Policy Committee and serves as a member of the Building and Grounds Committee and Finance and Insurance Committee. Currently involved in a controversy concerning a board policy decision involving a disabled student.

Brett Elliott - Republican

Elkhorn businessman. Focused on advocating for skilled trades, continued student achievement and excellence, partnership with parents and the Elkhorn community, transparency, accountability, and respect for taxpayers, and teacher retention and recruitment.

Jennifer Shatel - Republican (Incumbent)

Elected to the board in 2020. Chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Finance and Insurance Committee. Jennifer also serves on the Board Policy Committee.

MILLARD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Allison Kinney-Walker - Democrat

College professor and public school volunteer. Wants to provide support for current teachers and staff, find creative ways to recruit and retain the best teachers, and support students to ensure they have what they need to be successful. Does not support efforts to remove sexually explicit materials from school libraries. Endorsed by Women Who Run Nebraska (a progressive political action committee).

Linda Poole - Republican (Incumbent)

Elected to the board in 1997. Currently serves as secretary for the board. Supported the 2023 Millard Public Schools levy override initiative.

Amanda McGill Johnson - Democrat

Elected to the board in 2016. Currently serves as treasurer for the board. Wants to keep the budget in check while making targeted investments to schools and staff. Prioritizes recruiting and supporting teachers and staff. Supported the 2023 Millard Public Schools levy override initiative. Endorsed by Women Who Run Nebraska (a progressive political action committee).

Knut Haasch – Democrat

Longtime Millard Public Schools volunteer. Wants to promote a framework to recruit & retain educators of excellence and foster the best workplace for them to teach. Advocated against opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

Jennifer Meyer - Republican

Attorney who was raised in Millard. Supports continued support for advanced placement courses and vocational programs. Wants to provide a physically and emotionally safe learning

environment for students and staff. Committed to financial transparency, responsibility, and accountability

Justin Curtis – Republican

Former Millard Public Schools teacher. Believes that parents, teachers/administrators should provide limitations on student access to sexually explicit materials. Believes that bathrooms and locker rooms

should be utilized according to gender at birth and that sports program participation should be based on gender at birth.

GRETNA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Dawn M. Stock - Democrat (Incumbent)

*Named in 2022 recall petition effort due to a lack of board transparency, spending, and raising the property tax levy.

No additional information available.

Kyle Janssen - Independent (Incumbent)

*Named in 2022 recall petition effort due to a lack of board transparency, spending, and raising the property tax levy.

No additional information available.

Rick Hollendieck - Republican (Incumbent)

*Named in 2022 recall petition effort due to a lack of board transparency, spending, and raising the property tax levy.

No additional information available.

Spencer Lombardo - Republican

Believes that abortions should not be allowed, but that there are exceptions to every rule such as a fetus that isn't viable and/or could pose a health risk to the mother. Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that

participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex. Believes that school libraries should mirror standards already adopted by the movie industry like the MPAA rating system (i.e. G, PG, PG-13, R, X).

Kyle Johnson – Republican

Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex. Feels we should make no levy changes but let the city/county growth determine the support of

school growth. Would like to reprioritize funds in the district budget to allow for increased teacher pay; wants to create and/or support active, ongoing, aggressive efforts to recruit teachers and student teachers.

Christopher Conroy - Republican

No additional information available.

JUDGES

Workers Compensation Court

Julie A. Martin

Appointed to the bench in 2015 by Gov. Dave Heineman. Former private practice attorney. 91% of 1,000 lawyers feel that she should be retained.

Separate Juvenile Court

Amy N. Schuchman

Appointed to the bench in 2020 by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Former Deputy Douglas County Attorney. Past president of the Douglas County CASA board. Also formerly sat on the Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition. 92% of 1,000 lawyers feel that she should be retained.

Mary M.Z. Stevens

Appointed to the bench in 2019 by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Participated in the drafting of LB1184 to establish structure, responsibilities, and protocol for child abuse and neglect investigative and treatment teams. Former board member for Rejuvenating Women.

Candice J. Novak

Appointed to the bench in 2019 by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Participated in the drafting of LB1184 to establish structure, responsibilities, and protocol for child abuse and neglect investigative and treatment teams. Former board member for Rejuvenating Women.

Douglas County Court

District 4

Stephanie R. Hansen

Appointed by Gov. Pete Ricketts in 2015. Former Sarpy County prosecutor who worked in the Sarpy County Attorney's Office for 15 years. She has received the Outstanding Prosecutor Award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. 92% of lawyers feel that she should be retained.

Douglas County District Court

District 4

J. Russell Derr

Appointed to the bench in 2003. Former private practice lawyer. Presided over the 2018 Zachary Bearheels death case and the 2006 Jessica O'Grady murder case. 81% of 1,000 lawyers surveyed feel that he should be retained.

Jeffery J. Lux

Appointed to the bench in 2021 by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Former deputy Douglas County Attorney and founder of the Omaha Metro Veterans Treatment Court Foundation. Military veteran who served as a Captain in the Army Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps. 92% of 1,000 lawyers surveyed feel that he should be retained.

Horacio J. Wheelock

Appointed to the bench in 2015 by Gov. Pete Ricketts. He opened his own private practice in 2005. Believes that "the judiciary's role as the guardian of the Rule of Law is to ensure that the government does not abuse its power, and that the law applies equally and fairly to all people". 98% of 1,000 lawyers surveyed feel that he should be retained.

Tressa M. Alioth

Appointed to the bench in 2021 by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Former deputy Douglas County Attorney. She is the recipient of the YMCA Women Against Violence Award of Appreciation. Presided over the lawsuit against PACE

Omaha selling the Corrigan Multipurpose Senior Center. She was ticketed with a DUI in July of 2023. 85% of 1,000 lawyers surveyed feel that she should be retained.

Leigh Ann Retelsdorf

Appointed to the bench in 2009 by Gov. Dave Heineman. Formerly a deputy attorney in the Douglas County Attorney's Office. Supports allowing law

enforcement officers to carry firearms while testifying in the courtroom. 87% of 1,000 lawyers surveyed feel that she should be retained.

Todd O. Engleman

Appointed to the bench in 2021 by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Former managing attorney at the Nebraska Legal Group. Presided over Sen. Megan Hunt's defamation lawsuit

against the Nebraska Freedom Coalition. 93% of 1,000 lawyers surveyed feel that he should be retained.

SARPY COUNTY

U.S. SENATE (2-YEAR TERM)

Pete Ricketts - Republican (Incumbent)

Top 3 Priorities if Re-elected: Securing the border, reducing federal spending, and making government more efficient and less bureaucratic.

Abortion: Does not support abortion, and does not support giving taxpayer dollars to organizations that perform or refer for abortion services.

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should

be based on biological sex.

Border Security: Believes in restoring the "Remain in Mexico" policy, tightening the asylum process, and eliminating Biden's abuse of parole.

Foreign Policy: Believes Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East and the U.S. should stand by our ally; Has criticized Biden's slow response to weapons requests from Ukraine.

Preston Love Jr. - Democrat

Top 3 Priorities if Elected: Affordable healthcare, reproductive rights, and the advancement of Nebraska's rural and urban economies.

Abortion: Advocate for abortion and works toward eliminating barriers to abortion services.

Border: Supports a path to citizenship for those who

want to contribute to our economy.

Healthcare: Supports universal healthcare coverage.

Foreign Policy: Believes both conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza represent situations where we are called to intervene to protect human rights and advocate for humanitarian outcomes.

U.S. SENATE (6-YEAR TERM)

Deb Fischer - Republican (Incumbent)

Top 3 Priorities if Re-elected: Passing and adequately funding the annual National Defense Authorization Act; Passing a Farm Bill; and expanding access to paid family leave.

Abortion: Does not support abortion and does not support giving taxpayer dollars to organizations that perform or refer for abortion services.

Gender Issues: Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should

be based on biological sex.

Border: Supports resuming construction on the border wall, ending Catch-And-Release, and reinstating President Trump's Remain in Mexico Policy.

Foreign Policy: Voted against H.R. 2471 and H.R. 815 which sent \$13.6 billion and \$60 billion in aid for Ukraine; Believes in the long-standing U.S.-Israel alliance; and wants to ensure that we proudly stand behind one of our best allies in their greatest time of need.

Dan Osborne – Independent

Abortion: Does not support a national ban on abortion.

Foreign Policy: Supports sending funding to Ukraine; believes that Israel has a right to defend itself and thinks the U.S. should be working to broker a peace deal.

Border: Believes that illegal immigration creates a pool of cheap labor with no rights and is detrimental to every American worker.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 1

Mike Flood - Republican (Incumbent)

Abortion: Pro-life; and plans to work to ban abortions and expand prohibitions on taxpayer subsidies for abortions.

Top 3 Priorities if Re-elected: Stabilizing the economy by minimizing the regulations imposed on small businesses and local communities; supporting farmers and ranchers by cutting back the red tape and allowing them to reach their full potential; and securing the border by passing tough security measures required to get the crisis under control.

Border: Feels the biggest issue causing the border crisis is the shortage of Border Patrol agents; and

advocates for reinstating the "Remain in Mexico" policy.

Foreign Policy: Unapologetically supports Ukraine; and believes we must use all the tools available to us (including supplies, arms, or further sanctioning Russia) to ensure Ukraine wins the war; Supports Israel and believes they are our greatest ally in the Middle East.

Government Mandates: Opposes mask mandates, vaccine passports, COVID-19 vaccination mandates, and mandatory testing; and believes that shutdowns are disastrous and should never be allowed to happen again.

Carol Blood - Democrat

Abortion: Pro-choice; and believes that abortions are a basic human right.

Gender Issues: Voted against LB574 and LB575 which banned gender mutilation surgeries for minors and prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

Top 3 Priorities if Elected: Protecting Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security as we know it; adopt comprehensive immigration reform; and working for long-term budget avoiding the constant looming government shutdowns.

Border: Supports crafting a pathway to citizenship; wants more immigration judges to speed up case processing times; and wants more staff, resources, and infrastructure for Border Patrol officials.

Ukraine: Believes that Ukraine's stability and security directly impacts U.S. national security.

Israel: Believes that we must recognize the human impact on civilians stuck in the crossfire.

District 2

Don Bacon - Republican (Incumbent)

Abortion: Believes there should be exceptions for abortions in the case of rape, incest, and the health of the mother.

Gender Issues: Believes that participation in girls' sports and access to women's restrooms and locker rooms should be based on biological sex; and voted for the Respect for Marriage Act which provided protections for same-sex marriage (believes the government should not dictate who can marry whom).

Border: Believes that immigration is an essential part of our nation's history and our economic growth, but it has

to be done legally; and supports legislation to secure the border and reform the broken immigration system.

Foreign Policy: Supports further funding for Ukraine; and believes that it is in our national security interest that Ukraine remain independent; Believes the United States needs to do whatever it can to support Israel.

Election Integrity: Voted to create a congressional committee to investigate January 6th protestors; believes that Trump should have respected the results of the 2020 election.

Tony Vargas - Democrat

Abortion: Will work to pass legislation making the right to an abortion part of federal law.

Gender Issues: Supports gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors; and supports biological boys

competing in girls' sports.

Border: Supports stopping fentanyl trafficking, boosting processing capacity for immigration cases, and creating a pathway to citizenship.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

District 3

Felix Ungerman – Republican

Abortion: Pro-life; and believes that life at all stages should be cherished and protected.

Gender Issues: Supports bans on gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors; and believes that participation in girls' sports and use of girls' bathrooms and locker rooms should be based on biological sex.

Governance: Champions free market principles to drive economic growth and attract and retain talent; and wants to eliminate burdensome regulations, lower taxes for job

creators, and invest in workforce development.

Law Enforcement: Opposes any calls to defund the police; and opposes stripping away qualified immunity.

1st and 2nd Amendment Rights: Opposes any legislation that infringes upon a Nebraskan's rights to free speech, the free exercise of religion, the right to freely assemble or petition the government, or the right to arm and defend themselves.

Victor Rountree – Democrat

Education: Biggest concern is recruiting and retaining teachers; and wants to ensure that teachers are paid a quality raise and are given the trust and respect they deserve.

Workforce: Supports expanding workforce development

and skill training programs.

Taxes: Believes he has the expertise to fix the broken tax system, and work to keep more money in people's pockets.

District 45

Rita Sanders - Republican (Incumbent)

Abortion: Voted "yes" on LB 574 which created a 12-week abortion ban.

Gender Issues: Voted to support LB574 and LB575 which banned gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors and prohibited biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

School Choice: Supports policies that would enable

more parents to send their children to the school that best suits their child's needs; and voted to support LB1402 which provided education scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

Veterans: Voted in support of LB387, which exempts military retirement and social security from taxes.

Sarah F. Centineo – Democrat

Gender Issues: Testified against LB575, which prohibits biological boys from competing in girls’ sports.
School Choice: Advocated against education

scholarships that help provide school choice for students.
Workforce: Wants to address the workforce shortage by advocating for affordable childcare and housing.

District 49

Jen Day - Democrat (Incumbent)

Abortion: Voted against LB574, which created a 12-week abortion ban.
Gender Issues: Voted against LB574 and LB575, which bans gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors

and prohibits biological boys from competing in girls’ sports.
School Choice: Voted against LB1402, which provided education scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

Bob Andersen - Republican

Abortion: Pro-life; and opposes amending the Nebraska Constitution to create a right to abortion.
Gender Issues: Supports bans on gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors; and believes that participation in girls’ sports and use of girls’ bathrooms and locker rooms should be based on biological sex.
Taxes: Wants to find a way to cap the amount of

property tax payments increase annually when their valuations go up; and opposes the EPIC option Consumption Tax.
Election Integrity: Believes that the timeline for mail-in voting should be scaled back; believes ballot harvesting should be outlawed; and would like to see more hand audits of election results.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

District 2

Linda Vermooten - Republican

Abortion: Pro-life; and believes teaching students about the value of human life from an early age instills empathy and respect for all individuals.
Parental Involvement: Believes that parents play a crucial role in their child’s education and should have a significant say in what is taught in the classroom.
School Choice: Supports school choice; and believes that school choice empowers parents to select the

educational environment that best meets their child’s needs and preferences.
Curriculum: Opposes the teaching of Critical Race Theory; and wants to uphold the principle of unbiased education within public schools to establish an environment that champions intellectual freedom and nurtures the growth of independent thinkers.

Maggie Douglas - Democrat

Teacher Recruitment and Retention: Wants to continue removing barriers for soon-to-be teachers; and wants to ensure that we are adjusting our requirements of teacher licensure to meet the needs of our schools.

Student Achievement: Believes students deserve equitable access to quality education; supports initiatives to reduce achievement gaps and improve outcomes for all students; and advocates for inclusive education practices.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

District 5

Rob Schafer - Republican (Incumbent)

Curriculum: Opposes Critical Race Theory being taught on campus; and wants to ensure students receive a well-rounded, unbiased education.
Budget: Wants to continue working towards eliminating

wasteful spending, creating efficiencies, and ensuring that the University of Nebraska remains affordable for students and taxpayers.

Gary L. Rogge – Democrat

Tuition: Advocates for giving out more scholarships.

Budget: Believes that any budget cuts would be eaten up by inflation.

Student Enrollment: Would like to implement two week

stays on campuses for prospective students where they can be greeted by professors and city officials.

Memorial Stadium Renovation: Feels that stadium improvements should be put on hold.

PAPIO MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Pat Bonnett - Republican (Incumbent)

Top Priorities: Completing the top 5 priority water projects (4,5, and 19 in Gretna, 12 at 180th and Forth, and Damsite 10 south of the Washington County line east of Bennington); these projects will help alleviate stormwater runoff and provide flood control.

Platte River Recreational Lake/Canal Zone

Construction: In favor of the proposal to build a recreational lake along the Platte River.

Bonding Authority: Believes the NRD should have restricted bonding for major pre-development capital improvement structures.

Anne M. Hubbard - Republican

No additional information available.

PAPILLION LAVISTA SCHOOL BOARD

Skip Bailey - Republican (Incumbent)

Endorsed by PLV Ed Matters (a liberal political action committee). Opposes the idea of changing the policy and removing sexually explicit books from the libraries; and feels that current district policy concerning questionable material is sufficient. Open to the idea of

increasing sales tax to help fund school districts and reduce property taxes. Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex.

Elizabeth Butler – Independent

Endorsed by the Nebraska Democratic Party and PLV Ed Matters (a liberal political action committee). Top priorities are to expand early childhood education, hire

more mental health counselors and behavior specialists and protect teachers’ plan time.

Valerie L. Fisher - Republican (Incumbent)

Endorsed by PLV Ed Matters (a liberal political action committee). Believes that there are exceptions where abortion is OK in the instances of rape, incest, or medical necessity. Believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex. Opposes

the idea of changing the policy and removing sexually explicit books from the libraries; and feels that current district policy concerning questionable material is sufficient.

Carla Kloeckner – Republican

Endorsed by PLV Ed Matters (a liberal political action committee). Believes that parents, teachers, and administrators should provide limitations on student access to sexually explicit materials. Believes that no levy changes are needed, and city/county growth should

determine the support of school growth. Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex.

Marcus Madler - Republican (Incumbent)

Endorsed by PLV Ed Matters (a liberal political action committee). Advocated against removing sexually explicit books from libraries. Believes that no levy changes are needed, that city/county growth should

determine the support of school growth, and that the State should provide a greater percentage of school funding. Supports biological boys utilizing girls’ bathrooms.

Edward Weniger – Republican

Pro-life and believes that life begins at conception. Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on

biological sex. Would support reductions in expenses that were required to support a levy reduction. Advocates for allowing subject-qualified individuals without teaching credentials to hold teaching positions.

GRETNA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Dawn M. Stock - Democrat (Incumbent)

*Named in 2022 recall petition effort due to a lack of board transparency, spending, and raising the property tax levy.

No additional information available.

Kyle Janssen - Independent (Incumbent)

*Named in 2022 recall petition effort due to a lack of board transparency, spending, and raising the property tax levy.

No additional information available.

Rick Hollendieck - Republican (Incumbent)

*Named in 2022 recall petition effort due to a lack of board transparency, spending, and raising the property tax levy.

No additional information available.

Spencer Lombardo - Republican

Believes that abortions should not be allowed, but that there are exceptions to every rule such as a fetus that isn't viable and/or could pose a health risk to the mother. Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that

participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex. Believes that school libraries should mirror standards already adopted by the movie industry like the MPAA rating system (i.e. G, PG, PG-13, R, X).

Kyle Johnson – Republican

Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex. Feels we should make no levy changes but let the city/county growth determine the support of

school growth. Would like to reprioritize funds in the district budget to allow for increased teacher pay; wants to create and/or support active, ongoing, aggressive efforts to recruit teachers and student teachers.

Christopher Conroy - Republican

No additional information available.

JUDGES

Separate Juvenile Court

Jonathon D. Crosby

Appointed to the bench in 2021 by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Former private practice attorney and adjunct professor.

78% of 1,000 lawyers surveyed feel that he should be retained.

2024 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT MEASURES

Initiative Measure 434

A vote “FOR” will amend the Nebraska Constitution to provide that, except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from abortion in the second and third trimesters.

A vote “AGAINST” will not amend the Nebraska Constitution in such manner.

Shall the Nebraska Constitution be amended to include a new section which provides: “Except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from abortion in the second and third trimesters.”

Referendum Measure 435

A vote to “RETAIN” will keep in effect Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402 enacted in 2024 by the Nebraska Legislature. Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402 provides for \$10 million annually to fund education scholarships to pay all or part of the cost to educate eligible students attending nongovernmental, privately operated elementary and secondary schools in Nebraska.

A vote to “REPEAL” will eliminate the funding and scholarship provisions in Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402.

Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402, enacted by the Nebraska Legislature in 2024, provides for \$10 million annually to fund education scholarships to pay all or part of the cost to educate eligible students attending nongovernmental, privately operated elementary and secondary schools in Nebraska. Shall Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402 be repealed?

Initiative Measure 436

A vote “FOR” will enact a statute which: (1) provides eligible employees the right to earn paid sick time for personal or family health needs; (2) entitles employees of employers with fewer than 20 employees to accrue and use up to 40 hours of such time annually and those employed by employers with 20 or more employees to accrue and use up to 56 hours of such time annually; (3) specifies conditions regarding paid sick time; (4) prohibits retaliation against employees for exercising such rights; (5) adopts documentation requirements; and (6) establishes enforcement powers and a civil cause of action for violations.

A vote “AGAINST” means such a statute will not be enacted.

Shall a statute be enacted which: (1) provides eligible employees the right to earn paid sick time for personal or family health needs; (2) entitles employees of employers with fewer than 20 employees to accrue and use up to 40 hours of such time annually and those employed by employers with 20 or more employees to accrue and use up to 56 hours of such time annually; (3) specifies conditions regarding paid sick time; (4) prohibits retaliation against employees for exercising such rights; (5) adopts documentation requirements; and (6) establishes enforcement powers and a civil cause of action for violations?

Initiative Measure 437

A vote “FOR” will enact a statute that makes penalties inapplicable under state and local law for the use, possession, and acquisition of an allowable amount (up to five ounces) of cannabis for medical purposes by a qualified patient with a written recommendation from a health care practitioner, and for a caregiver to assist a qualified patient with these activities.

A vote “AGAINST” means such a statute will not be enacted.

Shall a statute be enacted that makes penalties inapplicable under state and local law for the use, possession, and acquisition of an allowable amount (up to five ounces) of cannabis for medical purposes by a qualified patient with a written recommendation from a health care practitioner, and for a caregiver to assist a qualified patient with these activities?

Initiative Measure 438

A vote “FOR” will enact a statute that makes penalties inapplicable under state law for the possession, manufacture, distribution, delivery, and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes by registered private entities, and that establishes a Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission to regulate such activities.

A vote “AGAINST” means such a statute will not be enacted.

Shall a statute be enacted that makes penalties inapplicable under state law for the possession, manufacture, distribution, delivery, and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes by registered private entities, and that establishes a Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission to regulate such activities?

Initiative Measure 439

A vote “FOR” will amend the Nebraska Constitution to provide that all persons shall have a fundamental right to abortion until fetal viability, or when needed to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient, without interference from the state or its political subdivisions. Fetal viability is defined as the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the patient’s treating healthcare practitioner, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus’ sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.

A vote “AGAINST” will not amend the Nebraska Constitution in such manner.

Shall the Nebraska Constitution be amended to include a new section which provides: “All persons shall have a fundamental right to abortion until fetal viability, or when needed to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient, without interference from the state or its political subdivisions. Fetal viability means the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the patient’s treating health care practitioner, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus’ sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.”