

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 positioned in the upper left and right corners, with the rest of the page being white.

2026 **VOTER GUIDE**

DOUGLAS COUNTY **SARPY COUNTY**

Primary Election Day - May 12, 2026

2026 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**
Remember:
 - 1) Not every race listed below will be on your ballot.
 - 2) If a race allows you to select multiple candidates but only one is a strong choice, select only that candidate.
3. **Take your completed sample ballot with you to vote on Tuesday, May 12th. (early voting starts on April 13th)**

All information in this document is derived from publicly available Internet research. We make no representation or warranty of any kind, regarding the accuracy, validity, reliability, or completeness of any information.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

U.S. SENATE (2-YEAR TERM)

Pete Ricketts - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Omaha, NE. Appointed to the seat in 2023 by Governor Jim Pillen to replace Ben Sasse. Ricketts previously served as the governor of Nebraska from 2015 - 2023.

Abortion: Cosponsor of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act; supported Ballot Initiative 434 in 2024, which prohibited abortion in Nebraska after the first trimester with exceptions for medical emergency and pregnancies as a result of sexual assault or incest.
Gender Issues: Supports The Fairness for Girls ballot initiative to keep boys out of girls' sports.

Immigration: Cosponsor of the SAVE Act which would require photo ID in elections; Cosponsor the Equal Representation Act to stop counting illegal immigrants in the census.
Foreign Policy: Supports current operations in Iran; Supported the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

Eric Mortimore - Republican

Resident of Kearney, NE. Ran for Kearney City Council in 2018.

No additional information available.

Todd Knobel - Republican

Resident of Lincoln, NE. An entrepreneur who has started businesses around the world.

Foreign Policy: Does not support tariffs.

Mac Stevens. - Republican

Resident of Bushnell, NE. 4th-generation Nebraska agriculture producer, consulting animal nutritionist, and businessman

Abortion: Believes in exceptions for abortion including medical emergencies.

Gender Issues: Wants to protect traditional values on life, marriage, and human sexuality.

Deb Axtell Schulz - Republican

Resident of Grand Island, NE. Former business owner. Previously a candidate for Grand Island Mayor. She also ran for Senate as a write-in candidate in 2020

No additional information available.

Cindy Burbank - Democrat

Resident of Omaha, NE. She is running for the seat because she feels that William Forbes is working with Pete Ricketts to take votes away from Dan Osborn.

William Forbes - Democrat

Resident of Paxton, NE.

Abortion: Opposes abortion; believes children in the womb should be treated as full human beings.

Earl Starkey – Legalize Marijuana Now

Resident of Scotts Bluff County, NE.

Criminal Justice: Wants full decriminalization of marijuana and expanded industrial hemp production.

Mike Marvin – Legalize Marijuana Now

Resident of Omaha, NE. Former Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of Public Employees.

No additional information available.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 2

Brinker Harding - Republican

First elected to City Council in 2017. He is the former Chief of Staff for former Omaha Mayor Hal Daub. Currently works as a commercial real estate broker.

Abortion: Pro-life.

ICE's efforts to deport criminal illegal immigrants.

Gender Issues: Supports keeping boys out of girls' sports.

Foreign Policy: Supported U.S. actions in Venezuela to capture Nicolas Maduro; Supported U.S. actions in Iran to remove Ali Khamenei.

Immigration: Supports finishing the border wall; Supports

Kishla Askins - Democrat

30-year Navy veteran and former Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Veterans Affairs under Joe Biden. She also served as a Physician's Assistant with the Marines.

Gender Issues: Supports same-sex marriage.

Foreign Policy: Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro; Advocates having the U.S. rejoin the Paris Climate Accords.

Immigration: Opposed the illegal immigration deportation efforts of ICE in Minneapolis.

John Cavanaugh Jr. - Democrat

Assistant public defender for Douglas County. Current member of the Nebraska Legislature representing District 9. Formerly worked as an aide to U.S. Senator Ben Nelson and Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey

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

Immigration: Opposed the illegal immigration deportation efforts of ICE in Minneapolis.

JOHN CAVANAUGH, JR – DEMOCRAT, CONT.

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

Foreign Policy: Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

Denise Powell - Democrat

Business owner and Co-Founder of the Omaha-based PAC, Women Who Run Nebraska (supports campaigns for progressive women).

Abortion: Supports expanding access to abortions; received endorsement from EMILYs List (abortion rights group).

Immigration: Opposed the illegal immigration deportation efforts of ICE in Minneapolis; Called for the

impeachment of Kristi Noem; Opposes the SAVE Act which would require photo ID in elections.

Foreign Policy: Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

James Leuschen - Democrat (Suspended Campaign)

20-year congressional staffer working for several House members including former Democratic Majority Leader Steny Hoyer as his Policy Director.

Immigration: Opposed the illegal immigration deportation efforts of ICE in Minneapolis.

Foreign Policy: Wants to support Ukraine and NATO

allies against Russia; Supports working toward a two-state solution in Israel; Opposes U.S. actions in Iran.

Crystal Rhoades - Democrat

Current Douglas County District Court Clerk and Democratic political consultant (helped John Ewing Jr. win the Omaha mayoral election). Former member of the Nebraska Public Service Commission and the Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors.

Abortion: Supports abortion.

Foreign Policy: Opposed the U.S. operation to capture

Nicolas Maduro; Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran.

Van Argyrakis - Democrat (Suspended Campaign)

Previous candidate for several Nebraska offices. Former immigration attorney.

No additional information available.

Melanie Williams - Democrat

Running as a Democratic Socialist. Peace, justice, and human rights organizer as well as founder of the Family Advocacy Movement

Abortion: Supports putting a right to abortion into federal law.

Gender Issues: Supports the Equality Act that prevents the passage of anti-transgender legislation.

Immigration: Advocates for the abolition of ICE;

Supports a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Foreign Policy: Advocates for Palestinian sovereignty; Supports ending military aid to Israel; Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

GOVERNOR

Jim Pillen - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Columbus, NE. Elected Governor in 2022. Business owner, rancher, and veterinarian. Former University of Nebraska Regent.

Abortion: Signed LB574 into law which established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska.

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

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

Taxes: Advocates for increasing state aid to schools and implementing spending caps on local governments to help reduce property taxes.

Sheila J. Korth-Focken - Republican

Resident of Long Pine, NE. Former city administrator, city treasurer, and city clerk.
Former D.C. staff member for former Congressman Jeff Fortenberry.

Abortion: Wants to reduce abortions in Nebraska. their income, sales, and property taxes in her first year in
Taxes: Promises voters will see at least 25% decline in office.

Gary L Rogge - Republican

Resident of Auburn, NE.

No additional information available.

Sal Holquin - Republican

Resident of Omaha, NE.

No additional information available.

John Walz - Republican

Resident of Hastings, NE. Former Engineering Project Manager. Running to ensure that there is a viable Republican on the ballot in the case that Gov. Jim Pillen is forced to withdraw from the race due to ongoing investigations regarding an emergency no-bid contract issued by the Governor's office.

Abortion: Pro-life; Petition circulator for Choose Life **Gender Issues:** Advocates for keeping boys out of girls'
Now initiative (would legally recognize children in the sports and for keeping boys out of girls' locker rooms
womb as people). and bathrooms.

Jacy Todd - Republican

Resident of York, NE. Business owner, Army veteran and former Notary.

School Funding: Opposes opportunity scholarships that **Taxes:** Supports a line-by-line audit of the state
help provide school choice for students. government.

Lynne Walz - Democrat

Resident of Fremont, NE. Former teacher and Nebraska State Senator for District 15.

Abortion: Voted against LB574 in 2024 which minors and prevented biological boys from competing in
established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska. girls' sports.
Gender Issues: Voted against LB574 and LB575 in **School Funding:** Opposes opportunity scholarships that
2024 which banned gender mutilation surgeries for help provide school choice for students.

Larry Marvin - Democrat

Resident of Fremont, NE. Air Force veteran. Former candidate for U.S. Senate

No additional information available.

Rick Beard - Legalize Marijuana Now

Resident of Omaha, NE. Business owner

School Funding: Proposes lowering the levies by **Taxes:** Proposes lowering the levies by legalizing
legalizing marijuana and taxing sales to help fill the gaps marijuana and taxing sales.
in the budget to fund schools.

James Charvat - Legalize Marijuana Now

Resident of Valley, NE. Current entrepreneur and franchise owner.

Taxes: Advocates for eliminating individual and
corporate state income tax.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mike Hilgers - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Lincoln, NE. Elected Attorney General in 2022. Former State Senator for District 21. Founded his own litigation law firm.

Abortion: Defended Nebraska's 12-week limit on abortion.

Gender Issues: Defended Nebraska's ban on gender mutilation surgeries for minors against the ACLU and Planned Parenthood.

Immigration: Sued the Biden Administration to stop them from giving taxpayer benefits to illegal immigrants.

Elections: Sued to hold ballot initiative organizers accountable when fraud was uncovered; Filed a lawsuit against dark-money groups funneling money from foreign nationals seeking to pass liberal ballot initiatives.

Jocelyn Brasher - Democrat

Resident of Omaha, NE. Former Assistant Attorney General. Current Deputy Dodge County attorney.

Immigration: Committed to ensuring immigration enforcement in Nebraska complies with constitutional requirements and due process.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mike Foley - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Lincoln, NE. First elected Nebraska State Auditor in 2006. Former State Senator and Lieutenant Governor. Recently uncovered a suspicious \$2.5 million no-bid contract between Governor Pillen's office and a consultant, questioned the use of Tax Increment Financing for the Omaha Streetcar project, and alleged Bellevue officials tampered with the public property auction process. (Running unopposed)

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bob Evnen - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Lincoln, NE. First elected to the Secretary of State's office in 2018.

Former member of the Nebraska State Board of Education

Election Integrity: Denies the occurrence of significant election fraud in the 2020 election; Opposes same day and automatic voter registration; supported Nebraska's voter ID law.

Scott Petersen - Republican

Resident of Omaha, NE. Business owner.

Election Integrity: Wants to restore trust in election systems; advocates for bringing control of elections back to the county level.

Sarah Slattery - Democrat

Resident of Plattsmouth, NE. Chef and small business owner. Filed the petition paperwork that resulted in the recall of Terri Cunningham-Swanson from the Plattsmouth School Board for trying to remove sexually explicit books from the school libraries.

Election Integrity: Advocates for same-day voter registration. processes and the adoption of cloud-based licensing software.

Business Growth: Advocates for standardized licensing

Lee L. Cimfel - Democrat

Resident of Lincoln, NE.

No additional information available.

STATE TREASURER

Joey Spellerberg - Republican (Incumbent)

Appointed to the Treasurer's office in November 2025. Resident of Fremont, NE. Former Mayor of Fremont. Current business owner. Wants to focus on improving financial literacy across the state, returning unclaimed property, and growing Nebraska.

Daniel Ebers - Democrat

Resident of Lincoln, NE. Former candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in District 3. No additional information available.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

District 8

Lou Ann Goding - Republican

Former president of the Omaha Public School Board.

Curriculum: Wants to ensure proficiency in math and reading; wants to prioritize apprenticeships; Advocates for financial literacy programs.

Parental Involvement: Wants to protect parental rights in their child's education; Advocates for public access to budgets and reporting.

Sherrye Hutcherson - Independent

Current Executive Vice President of Bellevue University

Parental Involvement: Believes families must be able to provide input on how their children are educated.

STATE LEGISLATURE

District 4

Brad von Gillern - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the Legislature in 2022. Former President and CEO of Lueder Construction.

Taxes: Advocates for capping local government spending.

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

Abortion: Supported LB574 which established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska.

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

Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek - Independent

Current small business owner. President of Better Ballots Nebraska which advocates for free state IDs for voter registration, protecting voting by mail, implementing ranked choice voting, and open primary elections.

School Funding: Supported the 435 ballot measure in 2024 that repealed opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

Abortion: Supported the 439 ballot measure in 2024

that would have created a fundamental right to abortion in the state constitution; Endorsed by Campaign for a Healthy Nebraska, which works to protect abortion access in Nebraska.

District 6

Patrick Leahy - Democrat

CEO of First Star Recycling. Previously worked for former U.S. Senator Ben Nelson.
Major in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Economy: Wants to address the state workforce shortage and find better solutions for the large number of young workers leaving Nebraska; Advocates for more affordable childcare options.

Environment: Advocates promoting good practices that help protect finite resources.

School Funding: Wants to keep public dollars going to public schools, not private entities.

Nate Ostdiek - Democrat

Master's student at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Taxes: Advocates for public reporting requirements for companies receiving tax incentives in the state.

Abortion: Believes the government should not interfere with a person's choice to have an abortion.

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

District 8

Erin Feichtinger - Democrat

Policy Director for the Women's Fund of Omaha. Former member of the Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors for District 2.

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

Gender Issues: Advocated against LB575 which prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports and prevented boys from using girls' bathrooms.

Abortion: Believes the government should not interfere with a person's choice to have an abortion.

Joshua M Livingston - Democrat

Family law attorney. Former Deputy County Attorney

Taxes: Advocates alleviating budget constraints by enacting revenue resources like medical marijuana and gambling.

Abortion: Advocated for the 439 ballot measure in 2024 that would have created a fundamental right to abortion in the state constitution.

School Funding: Advocated against opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students

Gender Issues: Advocates for the right to same-sex marriage.

Terry Brewer - Independent

Founding pastor of New Covenant Church of God in Christ in North Omaha and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.
Direct support professional for Duet. Former candidate for Omaha Mayor.

DEI: Promises to support legislation and community efforts to promote racial, economic, and social equality; Advocates for creating inclusive economic opportunities; wants DEI initiatives to be practiced among all businesses.

Economic Growth: Wants to create more job opportunities through public services; wants more career days for all schools.

District 10

Rebecca Rens - Republican

Former President and Co-Owner of a concrete construction company. Former professor of Business, Dissertation Chair, and Online Program Developer for multiple universities.

Taxes: Wants to modernize Nebraska's tax system to reduce burdens.

for foster and adoptive families.

Abortion: Pro-life and believes in the inherent value and right to life for the unborn; wants to bring more support

Gender Issues: Advocates for keeping boys out of girls' sports and for keeping boys out of girls' locker rooms and bathrooms.

Cindy Johnson - Democrat

Member of the Douglas/Sarpy County Learning Community Coordinating Council representing District 1. Owned and operated her own audiology practice. Spent 15 years evaluating and treating the hearing patients at Children's Nebraska Hospital. Teaches Hearing Science to Speech Language Pathology students at UNO.

Abortion: Endorsed by Campaign for a Healthy Nebraska, which works to protect abortion access in Nebraska.

District 12

Merv Riepe - Republican (Incumbent)

Elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2022 (served a previous term from 2014-2018).
Former senior administrator at Bergan Mercy Hospital, Children's Hospital, and Lutheran Medical Center.
Former member of the Ralston Board of Education.

Taxes: Supports property tax reform that does not shift the burden to higher sales taxes.

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

Abortion: Refused to vote for LB626 (2023) which would have prevented abortions in Nebraska if there is a fetal heartbeat.

Gender Issues: Refused to vote for LB575 (2024) which prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports and prevented boys from using girls' bathrooms; Supported LB 574 (2023) which banned gender mutilation procedures for minors.

Thomas Kastrup - Democrat

Works for the Better Business Bureau. Former employee at the Omaha World-Herald and BH Media Group.
No additional information available.

Christy Knorr - Democrat

Hospice nurse and Community Advocate.

Taxes: Advocates for cutting the property tax burden without sacrificing public schools or essential services; Advocates for legalizing marijuana to generate new tax revenue.

School Funding: Advocated against opportunity

scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

Abortion: Advocated for the 439 ballot measure in 2024 that would have created a fundamental right to abortion in the state constitution.

District 18

Taylor Royal - Republican

Partner at Royal Wealth Partners. Former candidate for Omaha mayor and Nebraska State Treasurer.

Taxes: Wants to modernize Nebraska's tax code; Advocates for looking internally at state and local operations to raise revenue and reduce spending.

Abortion: Believes that the value, dignity, and protection of life begins at conception.

Gender Issues: Believes that men do not belong in girls' bathrooms or competitive sports.

Derek Schwartz - Republican

La Vista police officer. DARE instructor, police academy instructor, Field Training Officer, and member of the Community Services Bureau. Former live-event franchise owner. Started his own trucking company.

Taxes: Will analyze bills as to whether each one truly benefits Nebraskans and whether we can afford it without raising taxes or increasing unnecessary spending.

Abortion: Pro-life; Believes that life begins at conception.

Gender Issues: Advocates for keeping boys out of girls' sports and for keeping boys out of girls' locker rooms and bathrooms.

Jess Goldoni - Democrat

Businesswoman and artificial intelligence strategist. Co-founder of Nebrask.ai.

Taxes: Advocates for lowering property taxes and funding schools by finding new revenue streams; wants to modernize how Nebraska grows its tax base.

School Funding: Supports the new state commission to review school finance.

Abortion: Pro-life; Believes that life begins at conception.

Gender Issues: Advocates for keeping boys out of girls' sports and for keeping boys out of girls' locker rooms and bathrooms.

District 20

John Fredrickson - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the State Legislature in 2022. Mental health professional.

Teaches social work for students at Columbia University.

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

Abortion: Voted against LB574 which established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska.

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

Chris Anderson - Republican

Consultant advising aerospace organizations. Air Force veteran.

Taxes: Believes government should treat revenue from tax collection as an obligation to support those who paid it and deliver a product (schools, basic government services, police, etc.) to them at the best value.

School Funding: Advocates for school choice; Supports

the new state commission to review school finance.

Abortion: Pro-life.

Gender Issues: Advocates for keeping boys out of girls' sports and for keeping boys out of girls' locker rooms and bathrooms.

Dan Witt - Republican

Adjunct Mathematics Instructor at Metropolitan Community College.

Spent 38 years at Omaha Public Power District. Army veteran.

Abortion: Pro-life advocate who believes in the dignity and sanctity of every human life from conception.

Gender Issues: Strongly opposes gender ideology being imposed on minors in schools; Opposes biological boys competing in girls' sports.

District 36

Rick Holdcroft - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the State Legislature in 2022. U.S. Navy Veteran. Former aerospace executive.

Elections: Introduced legislation to strengthen election integrity by expanding the number of ballots that are hand-counted and setting parameters for the approval of vote tabulating machines.

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

Abortion: Voted for LB574 which established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska.

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

Darin Tompkins - Democrat

Leader at a Nebraska animal health vaccine manufacturing plant.

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

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

District 2

Dennis McCann - Republican

No additional information available.

Wendy DeBoer - Democrat

Former State Senator for District 10. Former professor at several colleges and universities.

911 System: Introduced and passed requirements for 911 outages to be reported to the Public Service Commission and investigated more quickly.

Broadband: Prevented cuts to broadband programs after identifying an error in the budget and discovering unspent funding could not be repurposed.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

District 2

Jill Wolfe - Republican

Former dietitian at St. Luke's Hospital and Columbus Community Hospital. Founded Midwest Medical Transport Company with her husband.

Curriculum: Wants to defend academic freedom, students' rights, and stop political agendas from taking over the classroom.

Elizabeth Butler - Independent

Member of the Papillion-La Vista School Board. Current City Clerk for Omaha. Endorsed by the Nebraska Democratic Party.

Budget: Wants to carefully budget for projects while curbing unnecessary spending.

District 4

Larry Bradley - Democrat

Member of the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources representing District 4. Veteran and professor at UNO.

Curriculum: Opposes removing sexually explicit books from school libraries.

Budget: Opposes eliminating programs and cutting budgets.

Jim Rogers – Party Affiliation Unknown

Former Chair of the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Former Republican candidate for Nebraska Board of Regents in 2024. Currently listed on both the Nebraska Democratic Party and Nebraska Republican Party candidate websites.

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.

Susanne Shore - Democrat

Wife of Senator Pete Ricketts. Former Dean of Students in Residential Life at the University of South Dakota. Registered nurse.

Curriculum: Opposes removing sexually explicit books from school libraries.

Budget: Opposes eliminating programs and cutting budgets.

Michael Skocz - Democrat

Employee at UNO.

No additional information available.

Justin Solomon - Democrat

Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Integrated Life Choices.
Former UNL Student Regent. Former employee at UNMC. Former campaign manager for
Bob Whitehouse, Former Nebraska Board of Regents member for District 4.

Curriculum: Advocates for a Rapid Response curriculum framework that enables the University to partner with statewide employers to launch certificate

programs and specialized training.

Budget: Promises to oppose unnecessary tuition hikes and champion frictionless transfer pathways.

DOUGLAS COUNTY ATTORNEY

Don Kleine - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected as County Attorney in 2006. Former Chief of the Criminal Bureau for the
Nebraska Attorney General's Office. Former Chief Deputy Douglas County Attorney.

Alternative Sentencing: Helped pioneer Nebraska's first problem-solving courts (like Veteran's Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, Adult Drug and DUI Court,

Reentry Court, etc.).

Detention: Worked with state senators to lower the age a juvenile can be charged as an adult to 11.

Makayla Danner - Democrat

City of Omaha prosecutor and adjunct professor at UNO.

Community Engagement: Wants to hold town halls to promote transparency and explain how the justice system works.

programs for non-violent juvenile offenders.

Prosecution: Wants to prioritize prosecution of violent offenses while expanding programs aimed at addressing root causes of crime.

Detention: Opposed lowering the age juveniles can be charged as an adult to 11; wants to expand diversion

Amy Jacobsen - Democrat

Former Deputy Douglas County Attorney. Former Deputy Lancaster County Attorney.
Adjunct professor teaching trial practice at UNL.

Prosecution: Advocates for creating a team of prosecutors who are dedicated to handling gang and

violent crime cases; Will work to find prevention solutions and address root causes of juvenile crime.

DOUGLAS COUNTY CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Tom Barrett - Democrat

Omaha attorney and small business owner. Former member of the OPPD Board of Directors for Subdistrict 6.

Justin Wayne - Democrat

Former State Senator for District 13. Former Omaha Public School Board
Member for Subdistrict 4. Owns his own law practice.

DOUGLAS COUNTY TREASURER

Christian Espinosa Torres - Democrat

Assistant Director of Omaha's Human Rights and Relations Department.
Former Constituent Services Representative for former U.S. Congressman Brad Ashford.

Tax Distribution: Prioritizes transparency and responsible distribution of taxpayer money. has a stake in the decision-making process; wants the mission of the Treasurer's office to be more understood and accessible to the public.

Community Engagement: Wants to ensure everyone

Tony Vargas - Democrat

Executive Director of Square One. Former Nebraska State Senator for District 7. Former Omaha Public School Board Member and science teacher. Former candidate for U.S. House of Representatives District 2.

Tax Distribution: Introduced and passed LB713 (2019) which improves fiscal planning by helping lawmakers better forecast revenue.

Modernization: Supports finishing technology infrastructure updates for the Treasurer's office.

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 2

James Cavanaugh - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the County Commissioners in 2014. Practicing attorney and independent historian.

Budget: Voted against the 2025/26 budget for lack of public input; Favors allowing Nebraska DHHS to lease the old juvenile detention center and turn it into a youth rehabilitation treatment center.

Public Safety: Opposed the building of the new juvenile detention center.

Whitney Hansen - Democrat

Public school teacher. LGBTQ advocate.

Budget: Wants to ensure that youth services programs get the vital funding they need.

Public Safety: Wants to focus on honing county mental health services; Opposes ICE operations in Nebraska.

District 4

PJ Morgan - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the County Commissioners in 2010 (previously served on the County Commissioners in 1973). Founder of the P.J. Morgan Company. Former State Senator and Mayor of Omaha. Has supported Democrat candidates like John Ewing, Mike Fahey, and Ashlei Spivey.

Public Safety: Supported building the new juvenile detention center.

Chris Chappellear - Republican

Author and small business owner. Former Chairman of the Nebraska Federation of Young Republicans

Budget: Advocates for making the budget process more transparent; Believes Douglas County needs to hold annual public budget hearings on all departments.

District 6

Colleen Brennan - Republican

Author and employee at Unison. Former Omaha City Council member for District 5.

Budget: Advocates for looking for ways to cut spending to help lower property taxes (notes that the county budget has almost doubled in the last 10 years); Advocates for allowing ICE to lease the currently empty Juvenile detention center

to help recoup millions of dollars in rental fees.

Public Safety: Opposed the construction of the new Juvenile detention center; Opposed the board's decisions to reduce the Sheriff's office budget.

Tim Donahue - Republican

Former Waterloo Police Chief

Budget: Believes county government must clearly demonstrate where funds are going while ensuring essential services are properly maintained.

John McCann - Democrat

Nurse. Former candidate for County Commissioner.

No additional information available.

BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Kara Neuverth - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the school board in 2022. Director of Media Relations at Boys Town. Supported the passage of the 2025 bond issue to provide funding for a new high school.

Timothy L Clark - Republican

Chief Financial Officer at Bank of Bennington. President of the Bennington Community Foundation. Supported the passage of the 2025 bond issue to provide funding for a new high school.

Trent Fredericksen - Independent

Assistant Dean of Students at UNO.

Chris Faucher - Independent

No additional information available.

Diana Hettenbaugh - Independent

Supported the passage of the 2025 bond issue to provide funding for a new high school.

DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD

Kelly Hinrichs - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the school board in 2018. Current school board president. Founder of Hinrichs Chiropractic.

James J Tomanek Jr. - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the school board in 2022. Current school board treasurer. Wants to offer educational and life skills opportunities to students while maintaining the small-town school values. Advocates for safe and secure school facilities for students and staff where all access points are secure.

Jennifer Mayotte - Republican

No additional information available

Alison Johnson - Republican

Occupational Therapist. Current Secretary of the DC West Parent-Teacher-Student-Association.

James Wurtz - Republican

Cattle Production Manager for Imperial Wagu Beef. 2024 candidate for DC West Board of Education.

MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Mike Kennedy - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the school board in 2003. Attorney and founder of Kennedy Law Firm. President of the Omaha Public Library Board. Supported the Millard Public School Bond Issue in 2025 to fund facility improvements and educational programs. Helped establish the Early College Program at Millard South High School. Supports resource officers and strong safety measures.

Lisa Schoenberger - Independent

First elected to the school board in 2022. Current Vice President of the school board. Communications Director for OpenSky Policy Institute (worked against Nebraska establishing opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students). Supported the Millard Public School Bond Issue in 2025 to fund facility improvements and educational programs. Wants to leverage programs and community partnerships to scale career academies to help students find gainful employment.

Brandon Michael Diederich - Republican

No additional information available.

Stacy Jolley - Democrat

First elected to the school board in 2018. Current Treasurer of the school board. President of the Nebraska Association of School Boards. Accounting Assistant at Suiter Swantz IP. Supported the Millard Public School Bond Issue in 2025 to fund facility improvements and educational programs.

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Bri Full - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the school board in 2022. She has a background as a policy advisor and community advocate/organizer. She advocates for equitable student achievement. Supports the goal to get every student reading on grade level by 2030. Advocates for addressing disproportionate student discipline for students of color and Special Education students. Supported student walkouts protesting ICE.

Jamar Dorsey, Sr. - Democrat

Current Director of High School Programs for Avenue Scholars Foundation. Board President for 100 Black Men Omaha. Chief Operating Officer for Capture Developmental and Community Services.

Peter Jessen - Legal Marijuana NOW

Wants to create a student-led board parallel to the districts. Wants to encourage alternative, constructive discipline strategies. Advocates for greater flexibility in student studies and introduce experimental learning opportunities. Opposes Gov. Pillen's partnership with Turning Point USA.

OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subdivision 2

Mark Gudgel - Democrat

Former Executive Director of the Educators Institute for Human Rights and high school teacher. Former candidate for Omaha Mayor. Current associate professor of education at the College of Saint Mary. Dedicated to advancing clean energy solutions and working toward carbon neutrality. Champions policies and new ideas that will rapidly transition the city to sustainable and renewable energy sources.

Flint Harkness - Democrat

A Resource and Special Education Teacher. Former candidate for Nebraska Legislature. Advocates for clearer communication during outages and service issues, safe infrastructure that protects workers and communities, and fair energy pricing.

Jay Ignowski - Democrat

Licensed Journeyman Electrician. President of the IBEW 22. Worked with Omaha Public Schools to support their Electrical Pathway Program.

Joseph Giitter - Independent

40 years of experience in the electric power industry. Former Senior Executive Service at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Former Director of Risk Assessment, Director of Operating Reactor Licensing, and Deputy Director for Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards. Current Adjunct Professor at Bellevue University. Advocates for ensuring OPPD management provides reliable and affordable power while working to achieve net zero before 2050.

METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT OF OMAHA

District 3

Gwen Howard - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the board in 2014. Current board Chairperson. Retired social worker and former Nebraska State Senator for District 9.

Andrew Adams - Democrat

He is a member of the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance. He also has professional connections to the Omaha Foster Care Review Board. Former candidate for Omaha City Council and the Regional Metropolitan Transit Board. He wants to expedite the replacement of lead distribution lines in South Omaha. Advocates for the use of federal funding to modernize aging distribution systems and treatment facilities.

District 4

Tim Cavanaugh - Republican (Incumbent)

First appointed to the board in 1999 and won election in 2002. No additional information available

District 5

Tanya Cook - Democrat (Incumbent)

First appointed to the board in 2019 and won election in 2020. Current board Vice-Chairperson. Former Nebraska State Senator for District 13. Former staff member for Ben Nelson, Mike Johanns, and Brenda Council. President of City Girl Communications.

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Subcouncil 1

David Preston Jr. - Independent (Incumbent)

Appointed to the council in 2025. Current Sergeant for the Omaha Police Department Internal Affairs.

Ken Waters - Republican

Director of Human Resources for Educare of Omaha.

Roxanne Dockter - Independent

Knowledge Management Deputy Project Manager. Promises to advocate for equitable access to programs. Wants to ensure that District 1 voices are represented consistently and thoughtfully. Wants to bring thoughtful leadership rooted in both strategic systems experience and community focus.

Jason Boyd - Independent

Dean of Students at Blackburn High School. Retired Omaha Firefighter.

Subcouncil 3

Corwin Keller - Republican

Owner of Ideal Heating and Air Conditioning. Believes that programs must be accessible, effective, coordinated, and accountable to truly serve families.

Suzie Fogarty - Democrat

Community Outreach Coordinator for Lutheran Family Services' Smart Gen Society who focuses on facilitating workshops that promote responsible digital citizenship and inclusivity.

Maggie Duffy - Independent

Omaha Public School teacher.

Subcouncil 5

Tonya Ward - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the council in 2014. President and Founder of Energy Rescue.

Sarah Dragon - Democrat

School Counselor for Omaha Public Schools. Opposes opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

Mayra Piedrahita - Democrat

Veteran. Advocates for building trust and partnership with families. Wants to build a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging and shared responsibility.

Linda Vermooten - Republican

Former Department Chair and Professor of the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health program at Grace University. Former Counselor and small business owner. Supports programs that help children enter school ready to learn. Advocates for helping parents stay engaged and involved in their children's education. Wants to ensure taxpayer resources are used wisely and transparently. Current member of Lord of Hosts Church.

REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT BOARD OF OMAHA

District 1

Cornelius Williams - Democrat

Previous member of the Learning Community Coordination Council.

No additional information available.

District 3

Yanira Garcia - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the board in 2024. 10 years of experience as a communication and public relations professional.

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

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

Routes: Believes that if adding other cities to the public

opportunities.

District 5

Josh Corrigan - Democrat

First elected to the board in 2024. 10 years of experience in transportation strategy for the Omaha Metro area.

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

areas before expanding services.

Routes: Wants to ensure that our existing system is capable of growing to serve the region; and wants to

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.

identify sustainable ways to make connections to important

District 7

Tim Lonergan - Republican

First elected to the board in 2024. Served in the U.S. Coast Guard. Owns and operates Lonergan Lawns.

Ridership: Plans to work with the administration on ideas on ways to increase ridership; and feels that the Metro Transit staff has done a good job.

budget and expand services.

Routes: Feels the board will have to work together to promote the transit system; and wants to stay under

Challenges to Public Transportation: Believes the most important challenge facing our public transportation system is providing a safe and effective transportation experience.

SARPY COUNTY

U.S. SENATE (2-YEAR TERM)

Pete Ricketts - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Omaha, NE. Appointed to the seat in 2023 by Governor Jim Pillen to replace Ben Sasse. Ricketts previously served as the governor of Nebraska from 2015 - 2023.

Abortion: Cosponsor of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act; supported Ballot Initiative 434 in 2024, which prohibited abortion in Nebraska after the first trimester with exceptions for medical emergency and pregnancies as a result of sexual assault or incest.
Gender Issues: Supports The Fairness for Girls ballot initiative to keep boys out of girls' sports.

Immigration: Cosponsor of the SAVE Act which would require photo ID in elections; Cosponsor of the Equal Representation Act to stop counting illegal immigrants in the census.

Foreign Policy: Supports current operations in Iran; Supported the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

Eric Mortimore - Republican

Resident of Kearney, NE. Ran for Kearney City Council in 2018.

No additional information available.

Todd Knobel - Republican

Resident of Lincoln, NE. An entrepreneur who has started businesses around the world.

Foreign Policy: Does not support tariffs.

Mac Stevens. - Republican

Resident of Bushnell, NE. 4th-generation Nebraska agriculture producer, consulting animal nutritionist, and businessman

Abortion: Believes in exceptions for abortion including medical emergencies.

Gender Issues: Wants to protect traditional values on life, marriage, and human sexuality..

Deb Axtell Schulz - Republican

Resident of Grand Island, NE. Former business owner. Previously a candidate for Grand Island Mayor. She also ran for Senate as a write-in candidate in 2020

No additional information available.

Cindy Burbank - Democrat

Resident of Omaha, NE. She is running for the seat because she feels that William Forbes is working with Pete Ricketts to take votes away from Dan Osborn.

William Forbes - Democrat

Resident of Paxton, NE.

Abortion: Opposes abortion; believes children in the womb should be treated as full human beings.

Earl Starkey – Legalize Marijuana Now

Resident of Scotts Bluff County, NE.

Criminal Justice: Wants full decriminalization of marijuana and expanded industrial hemp production.

Mike Marvin – Legalize Marijuana Now

Resident of Omaha, NE. Former Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of Public Employees.

No additional information available.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 1

Mike Flood - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the House of Representatives in 2022. His company Flood Communications is a statewide network consisting of 15 radio stations and 5 TV stations. Former member and Speaker in the Nebraska Legislature for District 19.

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

Gender Issues: Voted against the Respect for Marriage Act 2022, which mandated recognition of same sex

marriages; Supports keeping boys out of girls' sports.

Foreign Policy: Supported U.S. actions in Venezuela to capture Nicolas Maduro; Supported U.S. actions in Iran to remove Ali Khamenei.

Eric Moyer - Democrat

He spent nearly a decade building renewable energy projects throughout the Midwest.

Former actor, marketer, event manager, ranch hand, and Sunday School Teacher.

Gender Issues: Endorsed by the Nebraska Stonewall Democrats (the LGBTQ caucus of the Nebraska Democratic Party).

Immigration: Advocates withholding funding for ICE

enforcement until the Dignity Act or the 2024 Bipartisan Board Bill has passed.

Foreign Policy: Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

Chris Backemeyer - Democrat

Former U.S. State Department employee who focused on counterterrorism, economic policy, and the Middle East. Former Senior State Department negotiator for Obama's Iran nuclear deal in 2015. Former national security advisor to Kamala Harris.

Gender Issues: Supports same-sex marriage.

Immigration: Advocates removing \$75 billion in funding from ICE; Advocates for passing comprehensive immigration reform that creates a pathway to citizenship.

Foreign Policy: Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

Nik Sandman - Libertarian

Former farmer and rural mail carrier. Former Wauneta-Palisade School Board member.

Started KNNA 97.5FM The Cross radio station.

Abortion: Pro-life.

Healthcare: Advocates for healthcare for all; Believes that government should provide healthcare the same

way that it provides roads.

Agriculture: Feels that the \$12 billion farm aid package was not enough to help farmers.

District 2

Brinker Harding - Republican

First elected to City Council in 2017. He is the former Chief of Staff for former Omaha Mayor Hal Daub.

Currently works as a commercial real estate broker.

Abortion: Pro-life.

Gender Issues: Supports keeping boys out of girls' sports

Immigration: Supports finishing the border wall; Supports ICE's efforts to deport criminal illegal immigrants.

Foreign Policy: Supported U.S. actions in Venezuela to capture Nicolas Maduro; Supported U.S. actions in Iran to remove Ali Khamenei.

Kishla Askins - Democrat

30-year Navy veteran and former Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Veterans Affairs under Joe Biden. She also served as a Physician's Assistant with the Marines.

Gender Issues: Supports same-sex marriage.

Immigration: Opposed the illegal immigration deportation efforts of ICE in Minneapolis.

Foreign Policy: Opposes current U.S. operations in

Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro; Advocates having the U.S. rejoin the Paris Climate Accords.

John Cavanaugh Jr. - Democrat

Assistant public defender for Douglas County. Current member of the Nebraska Legislature representing District 9. Formerly worked as an aide to U.S. Senator Ben Nelson and Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey.

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

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

Immigration: Opposed the illegal immigration deportation efforts of ICE in Minneapolis.

Foreign Policy: Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

Denise Powell - Democrat

Business owner and Co-Founder of the Omaha-based PAC, Women Who Run Nebraska (supports campaigns for progressive women).

Abortion: Supports expanding access to abortions; received endorsement from EMILYs List (abortion rights group).

Immigration: Opposed the illegal immigration deportation efforts of ICE in Minneapolis; Called for the

impeachment of Kristi Noem; Opposes the SAVE Act which would require photo ID in elections.

Foreign Policy: Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

James Leuschen - Democrat (Suspended Campaign)

20-year congressional staffer working for several House members including former Democratic Majority Leader Steny Hoyer as his Policy Director.

Immigration: Opposed the illegal immigration deportation efforts of ICE in Minneapolis.

Foreign Policy: Wants to support Ukraine and NATO allies against Russia; Supports working toward a two-state solution in Israel; Opposes U.S. actions in Iran.

Crystal Rhoades - Democrat

Current Douglas County District Court Clerk and Democratic political consultant (helped John Ewing Jr. win the Omaha mayoral election). Former member of the Nebraska Public Service Commission and the Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors.

Abortion: Supports abortion.

Foreign Policy: Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro; Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran.

Van Argyrakis - Democrat (Suspended Campaign)

Previous candidate for several Nebraska offices. Former immigration attorney.

No additional information available.

Melanie Williams - Democrat

Running as a Democratic Socialist. Peace, justice, and human rights organizer as well as founder of the Family Advocacy Movement

Abortion: Supports putting a right to abortion into federal law.

Gender Issues: Supports the Equality Act that prevents the passage of anti-transgender legislation

Immigration: Advocates for the abolition of ICE;

Supports a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Foreign Policy: Advocates for Palestinian sovereignty; Supports ending military aid to Israel; Opposes current U.S. operations in Iran; Opposed the U.S. operation to capture Nicolas Maduro.

GOVERNOR

Jim Pillen - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Columbus, NE. Elected Governor in 2022. Business owner, rancher, and veterinarian. Former University of Nebraska Regent.

Abortion: Signed LB574 into law which established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska.

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

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

Taxes: Advocates for increasing state aid to schools and implementing spending caps on local governments to help reduce property taxes.

Sheila J. Korth-Focken - Republican

Resident of Long Pine, NE. Former city administrator, city treasurer, and city clerk. Former D.C. staff member for former Congressman Jeff Fortenberry.

Abortion: Wants to reduce abortions in Nebraska.

Taxes: Promises voters will see at least 25% decline in their income, sales, and property taxes in her first year in office.

Gary L Rogge - Republican

Resident of Auburn, NE.

No additional information available.

Sal Holquin - Republican

Resident of Omaha, NE.

No additional information available.

John Walz - Republican

Resident of Hastings, NE. Former Engineering Project Manager. Running to ensure that there is a viable Republican on the ballot in the case that Gov. Jim Pillen is forced to withdraw from the race due to ongoing investigations regarding an emergency no-bid contract issued by the Governor's office.

Abortion: Pro-life; Petition circulator for Choose Life Now initiative (would legally recognize children in the womb as people).

Gender Issues: Advocates for keeping boys out of girls' sports and for keeping boys out of girls' locker rooms and bathrooms.

Jacy Todd - Republican

Resident of York, NE. Business owner, Army veteran and former Notary.

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

Taxes: Supports a line-by-line audit of the state government.

Lynne Walz - Democrat

Resident of Fremont, NE. Former teacher and Nebraska State Senator for District 15.

Abortion: Voted against LB574 in 2024 which established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska.

Gender Issues: Voted against LB574 and LB575 in 2024 which banned gender mutilation surgeries for minors and prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

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

Larry Marvin - Democrat

Resident of Fremont, NE. Air Force veteran. Former candidate for U.S. Senate

No additional information available.

Rick Beard - Legalize Marijuana Now

Resident of Omaha, NE. Business owner

School Funding: Proposes lowering the levies by legalizing marijuana and taxing sales to help fill the gaps in the budget to fund schools.

Taxes: Proposes lowering the levies by legalizing marijuana and taxing sales.

James Charvat - Legalize Marijuana Now

Resident of Valley, NE. Current entrepreneur and franchise owner.

Taxes: Advocates for eliminating individual and corporate state income tax

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mike Hilgers - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Lincoln, NE. Elected Attorney General in 2022. Former State Senator for District 21. Founded his own litigation law firm.

Abortion: Defended Nebraska's 12-week limit on abortion.

Gender Issues: Defended Nebraska's ban on gender mutilation surgeries for minors against the ACLU and Planned Parenthood.

Immigration: Sued the Biden Administration to stop them from giving taxpayer benefits to illegal immigrants.

Elections: Sued to hold ballot initiative organizers accountable when fraud was uncovered; Filed a lawsuit against dark-money groups funneling money from foreign nationals seeking to pass liberal ballot initiatives.

Jocelyn Brasher - Democrat

Resident of Omaha, NE. Former Assistant Attorney General. Current Deputy Dodge County attorney.

Immigration: Committed to ensuring immigration enforcement in Nebraska complies with constitutional requirements and due process.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mike Foley - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Lincoln, NE. First elected Nebraska State Auditor in 2006. Former State Senator and Lieutenant Governor. Recently uncovered a suspicious \$2.5 million no-bid contract between Governor Pillen's office and a consultant, questioned the use of Tax Increment Financing for the Omaha Streetcar project, and alleged Bellevue officials tampered with the public property auction process. (Running unopposed)

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bob Evnen - Republican (Incumbent)

Resident of Lincoln, NE. First elected to the Secretary of State's office in 2018.
Former member of the Nebraska State Board of Education

Election Integrity: Denies the occurrence of significant election fraud in the 2020 election; Opposes same-day and automatic voter registration; supported Nebraska's voter ID law.

Scott Petersen - Republican

Resident of Omaha, NE. Business owner.

Election Integrity: Wants to restore trust in election systems; advocates for bringing control of elections back to the county level.

Sarah Slattery - Democrat

Resident of Plattsmouth, NE. Chef and small business owner. Filed the petition paperwork that resulted in the recall of Terri Cunningham-Swanson from the Plattsmouth School Board for trying to remove sexually explicit books from the school libraries.

Election Integrity: Advocates for same-day voter registration.

Business Growth: Advocates for standardized licensing processes and the adoption of cloud-based licensing software.

Lee L. Cimfel - Democrat

Resident of Lincoln, NE.

No additional information available.

STATE TREASURER

Joey Spellerberg - Republican (Incumbent)

Appointed to the Treasurer’s office in November 2025. Resident of Fremont, NE. Former Mayor of Fremont. Current business owner. Wants to focus on improving financial literacy across the state, returning unclaimed property, and growing Nebraska.

Daniel Ebers - Democrat

Resident of Lincoln, NE. Former candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in District 3.

No additional information available.

STATE LEGISLATURE

District 14

Jay Jackson - Republican

Attorney, author, and Air Force Veteran. Serves as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Taxes: Wants to continue to invest in first responders; Advocates investing in workforce development and cutting burdensome regulations.

foster an environment for families and children to succeed.

School Funding: Wants to expand opportunities for excellence in education.

Gender Issues: Advocates for keeping boys out of girls’ sports and for keeping boys out of girls’ locker rooms and bathrooms.

Abortion: Pro-life; wants to protect the unborn and

Bill Bowes - Republican

Former Fire Chief for the Papillion-La Vista Fire Department. Former math and science teacher at Bellevue Christian Academy. Former Civil Air Patrol, EMS Instructor.

Taxes: Believes that your property valuation for taxes should be based on what you paid for your home, not based on what others pay for their homes; Wants to change how land is valued for tax purposes to help lower property taxes.

education; supports providing families with options for their students.

Abortion: Pro-life.

School funding: Wants to ensure public schools have

Gender Issues: Advocates for keeping boys out of girls’ sports and for keeping boys out of girls’ locker rooms and bathrooms.

the tools they need to give our children a world-class

SuAnn Witt - Democrat

Member of the Papillion La Vista School Board (first elected in 2018). Voted to keep sexually explicit books in the school libraries. Former support staff for Omaha Public Schools. Former State E-rate Coordinator and Rule 89 Program Manager for the Nebraska Department of Education.

Taxes: Believes the state is too reliant on property taxes; wants to create a system that lowers costs and works for the middle-class.

School funding: Believes local schools know what works best for them and opposes overreaching mandates.

District 36

Rick Holdcroft - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the State Legislature in 2022. U.S. Navy Veteran. Former aerospace executive

Elections: Introduced legislation to strengthen election integrity by expanding the number of ballots that are hand-counted and setting parameters for the approval of vote tabulating machines.

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

Abortion: Voted for LB574 which established a 12-week abortion ban in Nebraska.

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

Darin Tompkins - Democrat

Leader at a Nebraska animal health vaccine manufacturing plant

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

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

District 2

Jill Wolfe - Republican

Former dietitian at St. Luke's Hospital and Columbus Community Hospital.

Founded Midwest Medical Transport Company with her husband.

Curriculum: Wants to defend academic freedom, students' rights, and stop political agendas from taking over the classroom.

Elizabeth Butler - Independent

Member of the Papillion-La Vista School Board. Current City Clerk for Omaha.

Endorsed by the Nebraska Democratic Party.

Budget: Wants to carefully budget for projects while curbing unnecessary spending.

SARPY COUNTY ASSESSOR

Dan Wilder - Republican

Associate Broker at NP Dodge Real Estate. Certified Residential Appraiser with 48 years of real estate experience.

Wants to continue the fair valuation of property in Sarpy County and will advocate for property tax reform.

Dana Long II - Republican

Current Cass County Deputy Assessor. Navy Veteran. Certified Assessor and Home Inspector. Promises to prioritize clear communication and accessible data for every homeowner in the county. Wants to modernize engagement through digital platforms and community outreach. Advocates utilizing advanced market analysis and rigorous mass appraisal techniques to ensure that assessments reflect the true market.

SARPY COUNTY CLERK REGISTER OF DEEDS

Amber K Houghtaling - Republican (Incumbent)

Appointed to the office in 2025. Former Chief Deputy in the Clerk and Register of Deeds office. She helped launch a passport appointment system, streamlined vendor management, and transitioned to cashless payment to improve balancing accuracy and reduce risk. Currently working to develop a consumer notification system to help protect residents from deed fraud.

Steven J. Stastny - Republican

Former Chief Deputy in the Clerk and Register of Deeds office.
No additional information available

METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT OF OMAHA

District 4

Tim Cavanaugh - Republican (Incumbent)

First appointed to the board in 1999 and won election in 2002. No additional information available.

OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subdivision 3

Mary Spurgeon - Independent (Incumbent)

First elected to the board of directors in 2020. Current board Vice Chairperson. Former Bellevue Public Schools Music teacher. Member of the Omaha Together One Community. Defended the Board's decision to delay the transition away from coal at the North Omaha Power Station.

Jim Smith - Republican

A Resource and Special Education Teacher. Former candidate for Nebraska Legislature. Advocates for clearer communication during outages and service issues, safe infrastructure that protects workers and communities, and fair energy pricing.

David D. Begley - Republican

Attorney. Promises to work to repeal OPPD's Net Zero Carbon policy. Currently working to stop three different solar and wind projects in Nebraska. Wants to prioritize cost-effective generation and maintain a diverse and reliable energy mix. Advocates for eliminating DEI initiatives and programs at OPPD.

Carol Blood - Democrat

Former Nebraska State Senator for District 3. Former Bellevue City Council At-Large Member. Former candidate for Nebraska Governor and U.S. Congress District 1. Owns Blood Business Consulting. Advocates for transparent decision making, fair rates, and smart planning of energy policy that balances affordability, reliability, and sustainability.

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Subcouncil 5

Tonya Ward - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the council in 2014. President and Founder of Energy Rescue.

Sarah Dragon - Democrat

School Counselor for Omaha Public Schools. Opposes opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

Mayra Piedrahita - Democrat

Veteran. Advocates for building trust and partnership with families. Wants to build a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging and shared responsibility.

Linda Vermooten - Republican

Former Department Chair and Professor of the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health program at Grace University. Former Counselor and small business owner. Supports programs that help children enter school ready to learn. Advocates for helping parents stay engaged and involved in their children's education. Wants to ensure taxpayer resources are used wisely and transparently. Current member of Lord of Hosts Church.