

THE JUNCTION CITY UNION

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Friday, July 24, 2026



2026 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE



CONTESTED RACES IN THIS EXTRA EDITION

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Geary County Voting Polls

- 4-H Senior Center, 1025 S. Spring Valley Road, Junction City
- 12th Street Community Center, 1002 W. 12th St., Junction City
- Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 212 N. Eisenhower Drive, Junction City
- Grandview Plaza Community Center, 406 State Ave., Grandview Plaza
- Junction City Municipal Building, 700 N. Jefferson St., Junction City
- Milford City Building, 201 W. 12th St., Milford
- Zion United Church of Christ, 1811 McFarland Road, Junction City

Voting Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 4

Bring a photo ID to vote

The Geary County Republican Central Committee will host a coffee with the candidates 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 25, at Rio Rush, 118 W. 6th St., Junction City

KAN. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65TH DISTRICT RACE — GOP



Rep. Shawn Chauncey

Chauncey, first elected in 2024, has always believed in the power of community and service. Growing up on a ranch in South Dakota instilled in him the values of hard work, integrity and resilience—values that have guided him. For 27 years, he served as a builder in the area contributing to the community's growth and development. He's dedicated to making the area better for all who call it home.

"In addition to my professional work, I've been actively involved in supporting our youth through volunteering for sports and community events. I understand the importance of investing in our future generations and creating opportunities for them to thrive ... I'm committed to representing the interests of all Geary County/Junction City, fighting for policies that promote prosperity, fairness, and unity. Together, let's build a brighter future for our community."

Chauncey said his accomplishments in the last legislative session will alleviate your tax burden and lower property taxes, including a \$24 million BILD grant for Grant Avenue.

See shawnschaunceyforkansas.com



Tiffany Naccarato

In a Facebook post, Naccarato said 16 years ago, her mom was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's at the age of 56. As her primary caregiver, Naccarato spent years navigating the state's system and fighting through layers and layers of red tape to access the care she needed.

"I eventually took my fight to the Capitol — helping to write legislation, testifying before committees, and successfully advocating for policy changes so that other families would not have to face the same hurdles," she said. "The bottom line: government shouldn't make it more difficult for us to care for our families. Yet, every time we turn around, government is making it increasingly difficult to do just that with skyrocketing property taxes, the cost of healthcare, and the Legislature overspending our state into a budget hole that you and I will have to pay for through higher taxes. I decided to run for the Kansas House because I know we can do better than that."

More at tiffanyforkansas.com

KAN. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 68TH DISTRICT RACE — GOP



Rep. Nate Butler

Butler, first elected in 2022, has led a distinguished career as a realtor, an associational mission strategist, a pastor, an Army officer, and a civil servant. Currently, he is a realtor with RE/MAX Signature Properties, in Junction City. He also serves as a consultant for pastors in the Smoky Hill Baptist Association.

Listed as priorities:

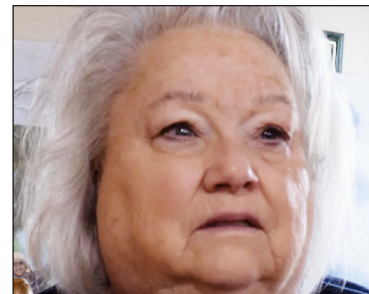
• **Military and veterans:** Butler's desire is to continue making Kansas a place where veterans want to live, work, and play.

• **Taxes:** Butler believes in transparency and accountability to ensure taxpayers see the benefits of their contributions.

• **Education:** Since 2022, the state has fully funded K-12 education, a practice that should be sustained to ensure educators have the necessary resources to prepare future generations.

• **Agriculture:** In addition to traditional farming, Kansas should be more engaged with encouraging opportunities for agritourism.

Read more at nate-butler.com



Desree Pettera

Pettera, a local rancher, moved to the Junction City/Geary County area 14 years ago.

"I will not stand 'politically correct' and I will do my best to share this areas values in Topeka," she said on her website.

Listed as her platform:

• **Property rights:** In Topeka, she worked on numerous bills to reform what state statutes have taken from property owners and has stood firmly against forced annexation, opposed the three-mile zone, and advocated for water rights.

• **Other issues:**

— She has championed honesty and transparency in local and state government.

— She truly believes that all property owners need more and stronger voices at the state level defending our constitutional rights.

— She is very pro-life and stands firmly for the Second Amendment.

— She stands against government growth and expansion of the bureaucracy.

More at desreepetteradistrict68.com

KAN. GOVERNOR — REPUBLICAN PARTY



Sen. Ty Masterson

Masterson, Andover, has represented the Kansas Senate 16th District since 2009 and was most recently Senate president.

HE was born in El Dorado and currently lives in Andover. He went to Kansas State University. He has worked as a realtor and a small business owner. He has served on the Andover City Council and as the District 99 representative for the Kansas House.

He is endorsed by President Donald J. Trump.

If elected, his priorities will be bringing back jobs to the state, cutting taxes, standing with the law, removing “woke” from Kansas schools and defending Kansas values.

He very against “woke” as a concept.

“I have led the charge to stop wokeness in Kansas. We’ve banned men from competing in women’s sports, ended transgender surgeries for minors, and stopped DEI policies in our higher education system – all while overriding vetoes from Laura Kelly. As the disease of wokeness spreads, as governor, Kansans know they can count on me to fight back and defend our Kansas values,” Masterson said.

Masterson is very against “woke” as a concept.

Masterson is pro life and against the legalization of marijuana, citing the cases of other states that have legalized the drug.

His campaign website says he supports law enforcement.

“I will stand with the men and women in law enforcement, back tough on crime policies, and ensure we fund our police,” his website says.

See mastersonforgovernor.com



Charlotte O'Hara

O'Hara formerly served in Kansas House of Representatives in District 27. She has been a Johnson County Commissioner, Republican chairwoman for the Third Congressional District and a Republican precinct committeewoman. She has worked as a general contractor.

She wants to “make Kansas a place to come home to” and “rein in spending, stop tax incentives, demand transparency, no more censorship, direct partisan election of judges,” eliminate DEI, woke and critical race theory in schools and “protect our environment and quality life.”

She is pro life. She is not in favor of legalizing marijuana, having told KCTV5 that she believes THC, which is the active ingredient in marijuana, is especially detrimental to young men and could cause psychosis in them.

O'Hara wants to implement DOGE-style cuts in Kansas.

“DOGE must come to Kansas,” she said “The era of fraud, waste and bloated bureaucracy is over!”

She wants to eliminate property taxes altogether and to eliminate Kansas’ Department of Education altogether to cut costs and because she believes it has proven a failure, according to KCTV5.

She is in favor of putting a stop to wind and solar energy as well as “lithium-ion battery manufacturing plants, battery energy storage facilities, massive transmission lines, and eminent domain taking your land from you.”

More at oharaforkansas.com



Nick Reinecker

Reinecker, Inman, has worked as an EMT, firefighter, police officer, CNA and manager of the Inman Harvest Café.

He want to deschedule marijuana and wants to eliminate criminal penalties for possession and planting. He supports tough consequences for dangerous synthetic substances like fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine. He wants to make possession of such drugs a level three felony.

“I believe this action will be a better deterrent to this type of criminal activity and will reduce taxpayer burden on an unsustainable ‘behavioral health system,’ reduce diagnostic inflation and pharmaceutical drug prescribing,” his campaign website reads.

If elected, he wants to make Kansas a sovereign state.

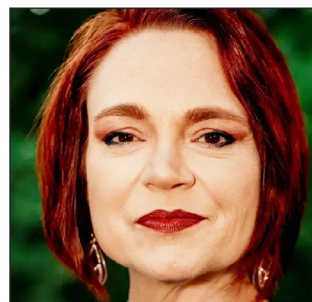
“As governor, I will defend Kansans’ natural, God-given rights and protect life and liberty from threats outside the state and from within. I will work from the founders’ perspective that recognizes that Kansas is a free, independent, and sovereign state,” he said.

He said the federal government should only have a say in Kansas where he believes the founding fathers say it should.

Reinecker is in favor of individual freedom, limited government, state’s rights and traditional values. According to information Reinecker provided to IVoterGuide, he is not in favor a woman’s right to choose an abortion and wants to repeal Obergefell, the Supreme Court ruling that allowed gay marriage.

According to iVoterGuide, he is also in favor of eliminating the United States Department of Education.

More at kansasunderdog.com



Stacy Rogers

Rogers is campaigning on the defense of all life, defending people’s natural and constitutional rights and freedoms and education.

On the subject of being pro life, Rogers says she is in favor of defending not just the unborn but all human life.

“The unborn, children, disabled and elderly - these parts of our society are the most taken advantage, ignored, manipulated, and harmed. They have a lesser to no voice and we have a responsibility to protect people who cannot protect themselves. All life is precious and valuable,” she said.

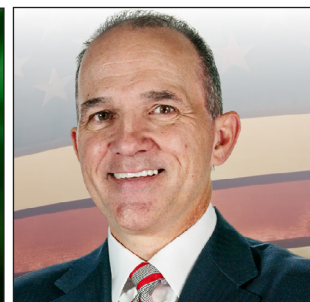
If elected, Rogers would like to overhaul Kansas’ education system.

“Money is not reaching our teachers, much less the students ... We need to get back to the basics vs teaching to a test, but instead meeting a child where they learn best. Adding value while not taking away from necessary programs will be key. I will be looking for inefficiencies in the system and working for successful outcomes for students,” she said.

Rogers said she is passionate about the handling of tax money. She intends to pass an executive order on her first day in office to go through all government departments with a fine toothed comb, looking for inefficiencies, mishandling of funds and fraud. She said she will seek to “reallocate funds to create more value for the citizens of this state who entrust their hard-earned money through paying of taxes.”

She has said she is not against legalizing marijuana for medical use, under certain constraints. She told KCTV5 that she believed the are more dangerous substances.

More at stacyrogersforks.com



Philip Sarnecki

Philip Sarnecki, Bucyrus, founded RPS Financial Group, Inc, owns a national quick lubes business with locations throughout the state including Andover, El Dorado, Derby, Pittsburg, Fort Scott, and Independence,. He is part owner of a faith-based movie production company 513 Films. He owns several companies in automotive, leadership, employee benefits, and real estate.

He calls himself “100% pro life.” According to his Ballotpedia profile, he wants to “stand with President Trump to fight for Kansas.”

If elected, he hopes to create jobs, lower taxes for businesses and families, “restore parental rights in education, end woke policies (and) put merit (and) fairness first,” create business opportunities, “bring business-style accountability to government” and cut through red tape for the sake of small businesses, according to Ballotpedia.

He is in favor of property tax relief and lowering income taxes in the state. Sarnecki has said he wants to audit the state’s budget to “eliminate waste, fraud and abuse.”

According to information gathered by the Kansas Reflector, Sarnecki is not in favor of legalizing marijuana, fearing that it causes mental health problems.

His politics align with Christian religious beliefs and conservative values..

On Ballotpedia, he says he “believes in hard work, strong families, and accountable leadership, not career politics. He is unafraid to take on entrenched interests and bring a business-minded, results-driven approach to government.”

More at philipsarnecki.org



Scott Schwab

Scott Schwab has been the Kansas Secretary of State since 2018. He formerly represented the 49th District in the Kansas House of Representatives. He is endorsed by Kansas For Life, the National Rifle Association and the Kansas State Rifle Association and he has a rating of 100% with the National Federation of Independent Business, which has also endorsed him.

If elected, Schwab will prioritize security, Christian values, jobs and tax cuts. He described himself as 100% pro life.

“As a Christian, my faith has guided me at home and in my work as secretary of state,” he said. “As governor, I will bring those values to the job every-day. I will protect women’s sports, strengthen Kansas families, and uphold the values that have made our state great.”

Schwab is in favor of voter ID.

“As Secretary of State, I fought to protect voter ID and secure elections here in Kansas. The most important job as Governor is the safety of all Kansans. I will fight to ban communist China from buying land near our military bases. We will make sure our public safety is fully funded, work with the Trump administration on enforcing our immigration laws, and we will protect our Second Amendment rights.”

He also wants to cut taxes.

“As Secretary of State, I worked hard to reduce regulations and make it easier to open a business here in Kansas. As Governor, I will fight to cut taxes and costs for Kansas families, cut regulations that burden our businesses, and make sure rural Kansas is no longer left behind by bringing more jobs to all corners our state.”

More at scottschwab.com

**KAN. GOV.
RACE — GOP****Vicki Schmidt**

Schmidt has served as Kansas Commissioner of Insurance since 2018 and Shawnee and Wabaunsee Counties in the Kansas Senate. She has worked as a pharmacist for over 40 years.

Schmidt will prioritize affordability and government efficiency, property taxes, jobs and the economy, AI and big tech, healthcare and prescription costs, keeping kids protected from social media, education and workforce and public safety if elected.

Schmidt said she wants to “ban social media companies from giving access to kids under 16 without their parents consent — putting parents, not algorithms, back in charge. They will rein in AI and Big Tech so Kansas values shape the future of our state.”

She is concerned how AI would impact Kansas’ environment and said she “will fight for more transparency in the local siting process, giving communities the time to assess the pros and cons, ensure water quality and water quantity laws are being followed and establish guardrails to protect ratepayers from the increased costs of these large loads.”

She is not in favor of marijuana legalization on the basis of concerns about how it would be distributed and regulated and she is against abortion on demand but believes there should be exceptions, according to KCTV5.

Schmidt believes Kansans are paying too much and wants to change that. Citing savings during her time as insurance commissioner, she said she will streamline state government operations “so Kansas families and small businesses can keep more of what they earn.”

More at vickifyorkansas.com

KAN. GOVERNOR — DEMOCRAT PARTY**Sen. Cindy Holscher**

Cindy Holscher, Overland Park, represents the Eighth District of the Kansas Senate. She has worked for R.H. Donnelley, the Add Sheet and Sprint. She has been endorsed by voter groups Let’s Free the Free State of Kansas and the Populist Voters Guide.

Holscher has come out as pro choice. She founded the Women’s Bipartisan Caucus.

On the issues:

• **Making government work:** she wants to fight for property tax relief for seniors and families in Kansas, raise the minimum wage, expand Medicaid, legalize marijuana, provide worker protections such as paid sick leave and repealing “right to work,” provide free school lunches for children, eliminate taxes on essential products for women and infants, fund education, provide housing security, support bipartisanship and “make government work for the people.”

• **Fund special education:** using money saved by expanding Medicaid and a new sales tax on medical marijuana. “While the state has made progress funding general education, special education has still been underfunded. Fully funding special education would ensure that all classrooms across the state have the resources they need and all Kansas kids get the opportunities they deserve,” she said.

• **Medicaid and Social Security:** Holscher will protect these critical programs to ensure that no matter who you are or where you come from, you have the support to live a good life, stay healthy, and retire with dignity. She’s also determined to make Medicaid available to more low- and moderate-income Kansans.”

More at cindyforkansas.com

**Sen. Ethan Corson**

Ethan Corson, Fairway, has served as Chief of Staff for the International Trade Administration, a lawyer with Blake & Uhlig, P.A., and director of the Office of Executive Secretariat for the US Department of Commerce. He has served as a state senator for the Seventh District since 2020.

Corson was endorsed by Gov. Laura Kelly, the Next 50 and Democrats Work for America. He is Pro-Choice.

He is campaigning on affordability, economic opportunity, public education, healthcare, public safety and government transparency. He is also in favor of legalizing marijuana, according to the Kansas Reflector.

On other issues:

• **Healthcare:** If elected, he hopes to expand Medicaid in Kansas. As governor, he will fight to expand access, lower costs, keep rural hospitals open, and bring more providers to underserved communities. Healthcare is not just a policy issue to him. It is about whether Kansas families can get the care they need, when they need it, in the communities they call home.

• **Affordability:** Corson is running for governor to build a Kansas where hard work is rewarded, families can get a fair shake, and opportunity is not reserved for the lucky few. That means access to affordable healthcare, housing, and childcare. Tax relief for working families, not the ultra wealthy. A government that is finally focused on the real financial pressures families face rather than wasting time on political sideshows.

More at ethanforkansas.com

**Mayor Curt Skoog**

Overland Park Mayor Curt Skoog uses the acronym THRIVE to describe his priorities. He lists his priorities as “thriving communities, healthy Kansans, rural roots, innovating the future, voices and votes and everyone is welcome.”

On abortion, Skoog said he prefers that decision be made with your doctor. He is in favor of strict regulations and a slow approach to legalizing medical marijuana state.

On other issues:

• **Healthcare:** Skoog wishes to “expand Medicaid to reduce the risk of hospital closures and cover more Kansans. Grow medical training and create incentives for providers to practice in every part of the state. Support biomedical innovation in our mid-size and major cities (and) preserve full-service hospitals and care in rural communities.”

• **Affordability:** Skoog intends to “expand attainable housing so teachers, nurses, and tradespeople can afford to live where they work. Deliver high-quality public schools in every district, not just the wealthiest ones. Improve access to healthcare across the state (and) grow opportunity for jobs and new businesses while tackling affordability and lowering property taxes.”

To achieve prosperity Kansans should “enact economic development, agri-business, and water policies that work in every region, stabilize family farms, encourage entrepreneurship, and support sustainable farming, help communities leverage their unique strengths to guide local investment (and) ensure a fair school-funding formula and real support for teachers.”

More at curtskoog.com

**HOUSE OF REP. RACE
SECOND DISTRICT — GOP****Rep. Derek Schmidt**

Elected to the Second District seat in 2024, Schmidt serves on the House committees for veterans, small businesses and judiciary. He previously served as Kansas Attorney General for 12 years and represented Liberal in the Kansas Legislature.

In Washington, he has championed:

• **Border Security:** Cosponsoring and passing the Laken Riley Act and Sarah’s Law to ensure the safety of our communities from the consequences of the Biden-era border crisis.

• **Economic Relief:** Fighting to curb runaway federal spending, lower inflation, and extend tax relief for Kansas families, small businesses, and farmers and ranchers through the Working Families Tax Cut.

• **Public Safety:** Leading legislation to support victims of violent crime and coordinate the federal response to scams targeting our seniors, and backing legislation to deport fraudsters who are not U.S. citizens.

He has been honored as the Kansas Hospital Association’s 2025 Distinguished Health Care Advocate, and awards from Growth Energy, the Kansas Sheriffs Association for exceptional service to Kansas law enforcement, by the Kansas Children’s Service League for distinguished service to Kansas children, by NFIB Kansas as Guardian of Small Business, by the National Association Of Attorneys General as the nation’s outstanding attorney general for 2019 and by Wichita Crime Commission’s as Criminal Justice Professional of the Year. He is endorsed by President Trump, Kansas Livestock Association and Kansas Farm Bureau.

More at derekschmidt.com

**Chad E. Young**

Young, who lives in Lawrence, is a “God First” candidate primarily interested in fighting tyrants and protecting Constitutional rights.

He has been the chief administrator of an unregistered non-profit, Life Skills Programs since 2018. He first ran for Congress in 2024 in a five-way Republican primary to replace former Rep. Jake LaTurner but only captured 5% of the vote.

Young has never held an elected office, which he says is a good thing.

“Politicians have destroyed our country,” he told KCUR. “Any time you spend 15, 25, 51 years in Congress, you’re paid off. You’re bought off. Lobbyists have bought you off.”

According to *The Lawrence Times*, the operative word in Young’s campaign is “no.”

No to big pharma, specifically “I swear to fight unto death to wipe them out.” No to big government — he wants to abolish multiple federal agencies and eliminate all taxes. No to lobbyists. A big no to data centers. He’s worried about the environmental and health impacts they could create.

He is particularly concerned with government surveillance. He’s against the widespread deployment of security cameras and license plate readers, and he says that digitizing ID cards is “another way to track you and take more freedom away.” He also worries that coming 6G cellular networks threaten human health. But he is a fan of raw milk, and said that “man created synthetic foods out of greed.”

He also told *The Kansas Reflector* he’d abolish all taxes and “anything big” the federal government does.

No website available

US SENATE RACE — DEMOCRAT PARTY



Adam Hamilton

Hamilton is running for Senate because he believes we need to stop the chaos and corruption in Washington by actually listening to people and working together to get things done for Kansas families.

At 25 years old in 1995 he started the Church of the Resurrection in Prairie Village, where he still serves as the founding pastor

Adam believes that Washington shouldn't be the world's bully or a place of gridlock, but a functional government that listens to the people it represents. He isn't a career politician; he's a Kansan who believes we are better when we work together.

His campaign is focused on:

- **Listening to Kansans:** Serving Kansans and listening to their concerns

- **Solving the Affordability and Opportunity Crisis:** Addressing the high costs of food, energy, and healthcare that are straining Kansas families.

- **Building Bridges:** Bringing common-sense back to Washington by working with Democrats, Republicans, and Independents to find solutions that put Kansans first.

- **Restoring Decency and Humanity in Government:** Rekindling faith in the American Dream by centering our politics on decency and our shared humanity.

Read more at hamiltonforkansas.com



Christy Davis

Davis is running because hard-working Kansans deserve a proven leader who shows up and works for them. As Kansas Director for USDA Rural Development, she oversaw major investments in projects in Kansas while also leading a nationwide effort to cut red tape.

"I believe Kansans are uniquely equipped to tackle seemingly impossible problems - because we don't quit," she said. "I won't squander the sacrifices of those who came before me. I will work to fulfill our nation's promise of government of the people, by the people and for the people. I'm ready to rebuild."

On the issues:

- **Healthcare:** Federal cuts are putting lives at risk and forcing hospitals to close. Christy will fight to fund care, not gut the programs all Kansans rely on.

- **Education:** The coordinated attack on our public schools is at odds with our basic values. Christy will stand firmly against any efforts to de-fund our public schools.

- **Immigration:** Christy will fight for immigration reform that provides a pathway to citizenship and ends inhumane policies that terrorize families and deprive Kansans of due process.

- **Agriculture:** Christy will work with farmers to protect our state's largest industry - and with rural leaders to ensure our communities have the infrastructure and support they need to thrive.

Read more at christydavisforkansas.com



Patrick Schmidt

Schmidt, a state senator from Topeka, is a former Naval Intelligence Officer, husband, and sixth generation Kansan. He comes from a long line of farmers, veterans, teachers, and coal miners.

Patrick will be guided by the family values he learned from his mother, his father, and the generations of Kansans who came before him as he works to restore common sense to Congress.

On the issues (taken from his Facebook posts):

- **Public safety starts with stability.**

"If we're serious about reducing homelessness, we need real investment in affordable housing and real support for law enforcement and community services."

- **On the environment:** "I will invest in clean energy, support our farmers, and build a more resilient Kansas, together."

- **On affordability:** "Knocking on doors, the number one thing I've heard about is how expensive gas and groceries have gotten, especially in the last couple of months ... If you elect me to the United Senate, I will fight for lower prices everyday."

- **On safety nets** "As state senator, I fought against cuts to Medicaid and workforce programs, as well as cuts to SNAP that would make it harder for families to put food on the table. These aren't just policy decisions. They're real decisions that impact real people across Kansas."

Read more at patrickforkansas.com



Noah Taylor

Taylor, a US Army veteran, grew up in El Dorado, the son of a pipefitter and a nurse. His wife is from Wichita and together they are raising their kids with the same Kansas values they were taught: hard work, independence, family. You do your job. You play by the rules. You look out for your neighbors. If you work hard, you're supposed to be able to build a good life.

"Now we're raising our two kids in Kechi — and our neighbors are scared. Because everyday costs like groceries and electricity are out of control, and you can't afford to go to the doctor when something hurts. Property taxes have exploded, and we don't get much of anything in return. The stuff that makes a good life feels farther out of reach every year."

Listed as his priorities:

- **Lower costs for Kansans:** It's time to make life more affordable for families who are already working hard, so we can feel a bit of security for once.

- **End forever wars:** "I've lived through a forever war — I know what they cost American service members and their families. And I've seen who pays the price, and it's not Washington politicians like Roger Marshall."

- **Clean up the corruption once and for all:** "I don't trade stocks or own crypto. I won't take corporate PAC money. And I'll listen to every Kansan, whether you voted for me or not. To unrig the system, we need to."

Read more at noahforkansas.com



Anne Parelkar

An experienced immigration lawyer licensed in three states and a mom of two children, Parelkar was at the town hall in Oakley where Roger Marshall proved he was not fit to serve the people of Kansas.

"It was there that I first decided to run for office because Kansans deserve a public servant who won't run away. Over a year later, I have met Kansans everywhere ... We are all facing the same challenges, the same struggles, created by the same self-serving sycophants who have run this country for too long."

On the issues:

- **Build a healthcare system that works for everyone, chart the path to universal care:** Access to healthcare is a human right. Healthcare must be dependable, available, and built step by step for the people.

- **Stand with farmers:** Family farmers should be able to make a living without being squeezed out by consolidation.

- **Respect teachers, improve education:** Teachers should be supported, trusted, and treated like professionals.

- **Responsible foreign policy, not more forever wars:** American foreign policy should lead with the head and the heart, not the fist.

- **Protect the land and safeguard the future:** Clean air, clean water, and safe land should be guaranteed for every community.

Read more at anneforkansas.com



Erik Murray

Murray, raised in Kansas City, Kan., was taught to face challenges head-on and keep going even when others give up. He started from scratch and worked his way up, building multimillion-dollar businesses and creating jobs that transform communities.

Top 5 of 13 commitments:

- **Universal Healthcare:** In a country this prosperous, every American should have access to healthcare. Start now: restore ACA cuts, protect and expand Medicaid. Build toward universal coverage, because healthier Americans cost less, work more, and live better.

- **Fully fund public education,** including special education, trades training, and college pathways. Every kid graduates ready to compete. Every adult has an affordable path to the next skill. Health and education are where American greatness starts, and where we've been shortchanging ourselves for a generation.

- **Build More Housing:** Cut the red tape that's gone too far. Incentivize new construction. Invest in the infrastructure that makes neighborhoods possible. A roof over your head is the foundation of safety, stability, and opportunity for American families.

- **Restore the American Dream:** Workers first. Higher wages, stronger infrastructure, more housing, more jobs, so the next generation does better than the last. This is a solvable problem, and solving it is a moral obligation.

Read more at erikforkansas.com

US SENATE RACE — DEMOCRAT PARTY

US SENATE
RACE — GOP
**Sandy Spidel
Nuemann**

Born in Topeka and raised in Johnson County, Spidel Nuemann is running to bring that same Kansas tenacity to lowering costs, defending freedoms, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and ensuring opportunity for every Kansan.

On the issues:

- **Agriculture:** Sandy strongly supports an immediate reversal of tariffs, reinstating food aid programs, reopening U.S. agricultural markets, and protecting farmers' pocketbooks by passing right-to-repair legislation.

- **Healthcare:** Sandy supports reinstating Medicaid funding, extending funding for ACA subsidies, keeping the government out of women's healthcare decisions, and fighting pharmaceutical companies to reduce arbitrary and escalating drug prices – so that no one needs to choose between medicine and paying for life essentials like food and mortgages or rent.

- **Education:** Sandy supports retaining the Department of Education as a cabinet-level agency to keep this as a top federal priority and restoring funding for special education to support children affected by disability, autism spectrum disorder, and other complex needs. She also supports enacting common-sense gun safety legislation to keep our kids and educators safe at school.

She is also committed to supporting veterans and enacting economic policies that benefit everyone.

Read more at sandyforkansas.com


Damon Anderson

Anderson is running to represent the great state of Kansas because we have yet to see any one focus on the systemic issue of legal money corrupting our policies. We have important and time-sensitive issues that face us but until we address the root-cause of why nothing is being done about them, we are not going to meaningfully solve problems.

On the issues:

- **Healthcare:** Anderson will support all policies that ensure every American has access to affordable healthcare and prescription drugs.
- **Protecting Education:** support policies that address our teacher shortages, teacher burnout, free school lunches, programs directed at high-risk kids and fully funding Head Start. I will work to ensure that the Arts and Civics are also a part of every school's core curriculum..

- **Immigration:** Anderson stands for a strong border, a properly funded and a modern / effective / efficient immigration system. Treating people with dignity and respect while also recognizing we have laws that must be enforced needs to be rallying point for all Americans..
- **Balanced Budget:** Anderson supports a balanced budget because it will force politicians to respond with policies that are best for their constituents and force them into an accountability that will reveal whether they deserve our votes for reelection.

Read more at andersonforkansas.com


Jason Hart

Hart has spent over 20 years serving Kansans, prosecuting child abuse, advocating for families, and mentoring the next generation, most recently as an assistant federal attorney. A lifelong Kansan, husband, and father, Jason understands the challenges facing our communities and the solutions needed to protect them. He is running to bring Kansans a candidate who understands their values, their challenges, and the work needed to strengthen communities across the state.

On the issues

- **Assert Congressional Authority:** Stop incoherent conflicts with allies and enemies, stop tariff and market destabilizing chaos and hold administration officials accountable.

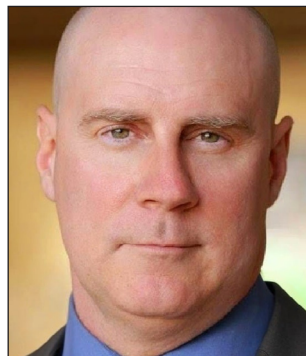
- **Provide for Kansans' Health:** Expand Medicare and Medicaid, break up vertically integrated markets and separate health insurance from employment.

- **Protect Public Education:** Ensure equal access, support students with disabilities and help low income districts.

- **Promote Rational Immigration Solutions:** Cruelty is not an American solution, stop moving the goalposts for the "right way," engage businesses and ngos in sponsorship.

- **Help Rural Kansas:** Incentivize and reward water conservation efforts, re-open foreign markets for farmers and ranchers and break up vertically integrated markets.

Read more at hartforkansas.com


Michael Soetaert

Soetaert, raised in Spring Hill, is billing himself as the "only true progressive" and openly gay candidate running for U.S. Senate. His campaign is also focused on affordability.

"It's time to wake up!" he said. Right now we need radical revolution to regain control over our government. Kansas is a very non-partisan state in many ways, an ideologically free state from it's earliest days as a territory before the Civil War! Political party is often dictated by where you are living and voting. I am a forward thinking, independent minded, Progressive Democrat!"

Listed as his top issue:

- **Protecting freedom:** "I believe, feel and think that traditional, old school, civil disobedience, resistance and protest are antiquated and obsolete! It's no longer enough to just bitch, complain, moan and whine about our political predicament. There is a true difference between political activity and authentic, genuine and real political accomplishment. We must pivot from civil action and criticism to goals like Democratic voter registration and candidate recruitment, "i.e.," candidacy.

Soetaert also supports universal healthcare, respects reproductive rights, protecting peace, overturning Citizens United, helping Kansas farmers and protecting peace.

Read more at mikeforkansas.my.canva.site


Kevin Latz

Latz, a surgeon,, relocated to Kansas in 1990. He and his wife have chosen to call Kansas home and have raised three children in Johnson County.

"Our country stands at a crossroads. This great experiment cannot fail. We need leaders who understand service, who value evidence and hard work, and who put the well-being of families above partisan gamesmanship. I have spent my career diagnosing problems and working collaboratively to find solutions. I intend to bring that same approach to Washington."

Listed as his issue:

- **Affordability:** There is a pressing need for policies and programs that support working families and restore economic opportunity. Tax policy should be reformed to reward labor rather than ownership, ensuring that those who work hard can build a stable future. Affordable childcare options and universal pre-kindergarten are essential to help parents balance work and family responsibilities. Increasing the availability of affordable housing is crucial so that more people can put down roots and build equity. Additionally, access to job training and education beyond high school must be both affordable and relevant, equipping individuals with the skills they need to succeed in today's economy.

Latz also supports universal healthcare, a path to legal immigration, overturning Citizens United, responsible gun ownership and reproductive rights.

Read more at latz4kansas.org


Pond Naramore

According to Kansas Public Radio, Naramore, from Lawrence is a lifelong Kansan and former construction worker, bookkeeper, small business operator, and house-cleaner. Naramore previously ran against Sam Brownback in the 2004 Republican senate primary and lost.

His campaign is focused on holding elected officials accountable and giving Kansans an independent voice in Washington jobs, so the next generation does better than the last. This is a solvable problem, and solving it is a moral obligation.

According to *The Kansas Reflector* he was irritated Marshall went along with Trump's reimagining of government, including Trump's idea that he was above laws applied to others. Naramore objected to GOP support for legislation undermining access to SNAP benefits that feed lower-income Kansas families. He questioned Marshall's endorsement of federal tax breaks designed primarily to benefit the wealthy. The president's tariff policies backfired in ways that harmed the financial standing of Kansas farmers, Naramore said.

He expressed frustration with weakening of national vaccination programs that had saved American lives. He worried about the undermining of federal support for public education. Attacks on academic subjects labeled as diversity, equity and inclusion didn't serve interests of Kansas higher education or K-12 schools, Naramore said.

No website available.

US SENATE RACE — GOP



Sen. Roger Marshall

Roger Marshall, seeking re-election was born in El Dorado and grew up on a fifth-generation Kansas farm. He raised four kids and ran a OB-GYN practice for 25 years in Great Bend, and represented the Big First in the U.S. House before he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2020.

Listed as What We Delivered:

• **Phosphate fertilizer relief for Kansas growers:** On April 28, Marshall introduced SB 4418 — the Lowering Input Costs for American Farmers Act — to eliminate the countervailing duties on phosphate fertilizer imports from Morocco. Removing them is projected to cut phosphate fertilizer costs by more than 20% — roughly \$150 per ton.

• **Rural Healthcare:** Marshall was the lead sponsor of Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act (SB 1816), which puts 24- and 72-hour decision deadlines on prior-authorization requests and mandates electronic standards; sponsored the Patients Deserve Price Tags Act and the Medicare Advantage Improvement Act, helped pass Working Families Tax Cuts which routed an additional \$1 billion in Medicaid funding to Kansas and cosponsored making COVID-era Telehealth services permanent in the CONNECT for Health Act (SB 1261).

• **Cost of living:** Marshall voted in favor of Working Families Tax Cuts, to make the 2017 tax cuts permanent, including the small business deduction, full expensing, R&D expensing, and the expanded child tax credit, cosponsored Methane-fee CRA (Joint Resolution 35) that voided the EPA rule that would have raised costs on natural gas operations and voted no on multiple stopgap continuing resolutions that piled on spending without offsets.

More at kansansformarshall.com

SCR 1611 Constitutional Amendment

A PROPOSITION to amend sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas; relating to the supreme court; providing for direct election of justices; abolishing the supreme court nominating commission; permitting justices to make contributions to and hold office in a political party or organization and take part in political campaigns.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: Sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas are hereby amended to read as follows:

“§ 5. Selection of justices of the supreme court. The citizens of Kansas who are qualified electors shall elect the justices of the supreme court. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Justice positions 1, 2 and 3 shall be elected at the general election in November of 2028, justice positions 4 and 5 in November of 2030 and justice positions 6 and 7 in November of 2032, and every six years thereafter, respectively. Any vacancy occurring on the supreme court for an unexpired term shall be filled by election as provided by law.

(a) Any vacancy occurring in the office of any justice of the supreme court and any position to be open thereon as a result of enlargement of the court, or the retirement or failure of an incumbent to file his declaration of candidacy to succeed himself as hereinafter required, or failure of a justice to be elected to succeed himself, shall be filled by appointment by the governor of one of three persons possessing the qualifications of office who shall be nominated and whose names shall be submitted to the governor by the supreme court nominating commission established as hereinafter provided. (b) In event of the failure of the governor to make the appointment within sixty days from the time the names of the nominees are submitted to him, the chief justice of the supreme court shall make the appointment from such nominees. (c) Each justice of the supreme court appointed pursuant to provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall hold office for an initial term ending on the second Monday in January following the first general election that occurs after the expiration of twelve months in office. Not less than sixty days prior to the holding of the general election next preceding the expiration of his term of office, any justice of the supreme court may file in the office of the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy for election to succeed himself. If a declaration is not so filed, the position held by such justice shall be open from the expiration of his term of office. If such declaration is filed, his name shall be submitted at the next general election to the electors of the state on a separate judicial ballot, without party designation, reading substantially as follows:

—“Shall
(Here insert name of justice.)

(Here insert the title of the court.)
—be retained in office?”

If a majority of those voting on the question vote against retaining him in office, the position or office which he holds shall be open upon the expiration of his term of office; otherwise he shall, unless removed for cause, remain in office for the regular term of six years from the second Monday in January following such election. At the expiration of each term he shall, unless by law he is compelled to retire, be eligible for retention in office by election in the manner prescribed in this section. (d) A nonpartisan nominating commission whose duty it shall be to nominate and submit to the governor the names of persons for appointment to fill vacancies in the office of any justice of the supreme court is hereby established, and shall be known as the “supreme court nominating commission.” Said commission shall be organized as hereinafter provided. (e) The

supreme court nominating commission shall be composed as follows: One member, who shall be chairman, chosen from among their number by the members of the bar who are residents of and licensed in Kansas; one member from each congressional district chosen from among their number by the resident members of the bar in each such district; and one member, who is not a lawyer, from each congressional district, appointed by the governor from among the residents of each such district. (f) The terms of office, the procedure for selection and certification of the members of the commission and provision for their compensation or expenses shall be as provided by the legislature. (g) No member of the supreme court nominating commission shall, while he is a member, hold any other public office by appointment or any official position in a political party or for six months thereafter be eligible for nomination for the office of justice of the supreme court. The commission may act only by the concurrence of a majority of its members.”

“§ 8. Prohibition of political activity by justices and certain judges. No justice of the supreme court who is appointed or retained under the procedure of section 5 of this article, nor any judge of the district court holding office under a nonpartisan method authorized in subsection (a) of section 6 of this article shall directly or indirectly make any contribution to or hold any office in a political party or organization or take part in any political campaign, except when such judge is a candidate for election to a position on an appellate court.”

“§ 15. Removal of justices and judges. Justices of the supreme court may be removed from office by impeachment and conviction as prescribed in article 2 of this constitution. In addition to removal by impeachment and conviction, justices may be retired after appropriate hearing, upon certification to the governor, by the supreme court nominating commission that such justice is so incapacitated as to be unable to perform adequately his duties. Other judges shall be subject to retirement for incapacity, and to discipline, suspension and removal for cause by the supreme court after appropriate hearing.”

Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with the amendment as a whole:

“Explanatory statement. This amendment gives the voters the right to elect the justices of the Kansas supreme court. The justices shall serve terms of six years, with the elections of justice positions 1, 2 and 3 to occur in 2028, positions 4 and 5 to occur in 2030 and positions 6 and 7 to occur in 2032, and every six years thereafter. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Any vacancy on the court for an unexpired term shall be filled at an election as provided by law.

“A vote for this proposition would give Kansas citizens the right to elect Kansas supreme court justices as provided by law. Justices will hold office for terms of six years. The Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, would be abolished.

“A vote against this proposition would continue the current system in which the Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, provides the governor a list of three individuals to choose from for vacancies on the Kansas supreme court. Justices hold office for a term of six years and retain their offices if they win a retention election in which they do not face an opponent.

Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives, shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted to the electors of the state at a special election, which is hereby called on August 4, 2026, pursuant to section 1 of article 14 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, to be held in conjunction with the primary election held on such date.

VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT**Restore democracy in the Kansas Supreme Court****By TJ Rose****Kansas
Senator,
District 35**

The Kansas Supreme Court is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court more than any other state. Embarrassingly, seven of the last eight Kansas cases have been reversed, including some with harsh rebukes. The reason for this unacceptable record is the broken Kansas model of selecting new justices. The current flawed system lacks democracy, accountability, and transparency. We the people have an opportunity to restore our voice in the Kansas Supreme Court by voting yes on the Right to Vote Amendment on Aug. 4.

Kansas is literally the only state in our great country in which the people have no say in who serves on the Supreme Court, either directly or through your representatives in the Legislature. Currently, a nominating commission consisting of five lawyers and four non-lawyers recommends three candidates to the governor who then appoints one to the Supreme Court. In other words, lawyers are choosing lawyers who will decide future cases in the highest court in the state. The Right to Vote Amendment would amend the Kansas Constitution to abolish the current method of appointing justices to the Kansas Supreme Court and replace it with direct election of justices.

To demonstrate the lack of transparency in the current model, you probably didn't know (and this is understandable) a new justice is currently being selected. One of the three options the governor has to choose from is a judge who recently blocked legislation protecting children from transgender surgeries by claiming the new law is unconstitutional. Under the current system, if this judge is appointed to the Supreme Court, he will be a justice for the rest of his life because retention elections have never succeeded in removing a justice from office, not once.

The Right to Vote Amendment is a return to democracy in which the will of the people determines who

will govern and exercise authority over them. Did you know Kansas elected justices for our first one hundred years? In 1958 the process changed amidst a knee-jerk reaction to a vacancy appointment disagreement. Twenty-two other states, including red, blue, and purple states, elect their Supreme Court justices. None of these states seek to adopt the Kansas model. Kansans already elect district court judges in fifty-five counties. Kansans are also capable of electing Supreme Court justices, which would create a transparent and accountable process.

Kansas Supreme Court justices serve as the gatekeepers of our constitutional rights, but what happens when these gatekeepers have their own political agenda unbeknownst to the people? Kansas currently has no gatekeeper for the gatekeepers. The Right to Vote amendment would affirm our commitment to self-government and reestablish the people as the ultimate gatekeepers.

The Supreme Court's decisions set binding legal precedent that lower courts must follow, but under the current model does the Kansas Supreme Court have the consent of the governed to exercise this authority? The Supreme Court should provide important checks and balances on both the legislature and the governor, but a majority of current justices prioritize their own agenda with no accountability to the people. The justices who interpret and apply the law should be vetted by the voters, and held accountable to the people just as the legislators who make the laws are accountable to you.

At present, your constitutional rights are not being protected nor is your safety. In the overturned cases, the Kansas Supreme Court sided with brutal murderers instead of their victims, illegal aliens who stole the identity of Kansans, and against law enforcement. Your opportunity for accountability of Supreme Court justices is voting YES on Aug. 4.

You have a chance to be given a voice regarding how your Kansas Supreme Court is selected. A super majority of your representatives in the Kansas Legislature considered these concerns worthy of a vote of the people. What is your verdict? Please vote yes for your right to select Supreme Court justices on Aug. 4.

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT**How does Kansas choose its Supreme Court justices? Through a rigorous process that ensures quality.****By Aimii Castle***The Kansas Reflector*

Can we agree it's important to have qualified justices sitting on the Kansas Supreme Court?

By "qualified," I mean justices who have experience practicing law, justices who cannot be financially compromised, justices who have earned the highest respect from their attorney and judge peers in the legal community, and justices who have not engaged in criminal activity.

If Kansas changes the way we select state Supreme Court justices — from a nonpartisan, merit-based selection process to a popular election — there would be no way to ensure that justices are qualified. Instead, we would select justices based on a candidate's political savvy and how well they connect with voters. But being a successful politician does not necessarily translate to being a qualified justice on our state's highest court.

For many decades, Kansas has used a merit-based process to select justices (as do 23 other states). When a judgeship becomes vacant, through a Supreme Court justice's retirement or death, a group of nine individuals — called the nominating commission — receives applications from candidates who apply to be a justice. The commission consists of five lawyers and four non-lawyers.

Only lawyers can apply to be a Supreme Court justice. In addition, they must be at least 30 years

old, admitted to practice in Kansas and engaged in the active, continuous practice of law for at least 10 years. That includes time spent as a licensed lawyer, a practicing judge or a full-time law professor. This way, the commission guarantees that only attorneys with meaningful legal experience get to the vetting stage.

During their process, commissioners review each candidate's application materials, which can be lengthy.

As part of the materials, judicial applicants must provide a copy of their credit report from all three credit-reporting agencies. This is to ensure that the applicant is not in dire financial straits, which is extremely important because a judge in debt is much more likely to solicit or accept a bribe. Debt creates a powerful motive for misconduct, so the commission makes sure the judicial candidate is not at risk of being financially compromised.

Applicants also provide a list of attorneys with whom the applicant has worked in the past, importantly including opposing counsels — attorneys on the other side of a case. The commissioners solicit feedback from those lawyers (and litigants who have appeared before judges) about the applicant's character and quality of legal work, with opposing counsels often providing the most honest assessments.

Applicants must also identify judges before whom the applicant has appeared, and the commission

contacts those judges. As such, the applicants must be respected by the legal community to make it through.

After reviewing the application materials, the commission conducts interviews of each applicant. Members put tough questions to the applicants, which the public can view in real time or later on YouTube. The interview process is completely transparent. When interviews conclude, the commission chooses the three most qualified applicants to send to the governor, who makes the final decision.

However, those three applicants must undergo a background check conducted by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to guarantee the applicant does not have a criminal background and has not engaged in criminal activity. This ensures our Supreme Court justices have led a life following the law.

If we change our system to popularly elect state Supreme Court justices, all we'll know about the candidates is what they tell us in their stump speeches, what they put on their yard signs, and what we can find on Google.

Legal experience, good character and professional respect are important qualities in a Supreme Court justice, and the current selection process has ensured the highest-quality candidates sit on our state's highest court.

Aimii Castle is a professor at the University of Kansas, where she teaches law and business.

KAN. SEC. OF STATE — DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Kansas Democrats have a contested race for Secretary of State between Jennifer Day and Sam Lane.

Day supports protecting election integrity and security through transparency, guarding your right to vote by ensuring every eligible Kansan has access to vote and removing barriers for business wanting to operate in Kansas, according to electjenday.com

**Jennifer Day****Samuel Lane**

Lane, a lifelong Independent, also supports protection elections by guarding against voter suppression, according to Samuellane.org. He also supports simplifying business taxes and registration.

Both oppose the SAVE Act and making the process the vote harder by requiring identification beyond a driver's license or state-issued photo ID.

**GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION
1ST DISTRICT — GOP**

David Schneider

The only Republican running for the Geary County Commission, Schneider David is deeply rooted in the community living in rural Milford, and has spent the last 13 years working on Term Limits for Congress and a Balanced Budget Amendment as a Regional Director for the non-profit, Convention of States.

“Coming up with a budget is tough work. It is time to hire a former banker and someone with a track record of success to the Geary County Commission,” he said on his campaign Facebook page. “I have 18 years of banking experience, 30 years of management experience, and I am ready to get to work on day 1 for the citizens of Geary County.

He also supports doing everything possible to lower property taxes.

“It is far and away the biggest issue I hear from voters in District 1,” he said. “As your next County Commissioner, I will never forget where the money comes from for the budget. When elected, it is my fiduciary responsibility to safeguard your tax contributions to the county with thoughtful oversight and prudent spending. That is where my banking and finance experience comes in.”



He also said he believes “Now, more than ever, we must defend the American Dream of self-reliance, limited government, and opportunity — not bigger government and endless handouts.

Read more at www.dave4GE.com

**GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION
1ST DISTRICT — INDEPENDENT**

Henry Petty



Henry Petty, who is seeking the First District Seat on the Geary County Commission as an independent, aims to build “a government that will listen.”

He is a U.S. Army veteran who owns

and operates MAS-Help on Grant Avenue and often photographs community events.

“I am running because I believe in the spirit of brotherhood, community, and shared responsibility,” he said on his campaign Facebook Page. “We need leadership that understands both service and stewardship.

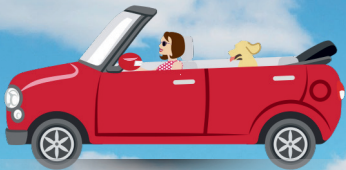
“As a veteran and nonprofit founder and community advocate, my life has been rooted in responsibility — to mission, community, and to results. I understand that government must work for the people who pay for it. “Geary County has a solid foundation, built by those who came before us. Now it is our responsibility to carry that work forward. We must make decisions based on facts, not politics.”

He is running on a slogan of “Together We Build Tomorrow.”

“This campaign is about community first — not politics first. It is about steady leadership, practical solutions, and a shared future built on responsibility and trust,” he said.

See henrypettyforcommissioner.com

Make your voice count!



821 E. Chestnut St

340 W. 6th St

1121 S. Washington St

1108 N. Washington

740 W. 6th St

U-Stop Liquor Shop - 744 W 6th St



America 250

Junction City, KS

YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE! OUR FUTURE!

Election Day is August 4th, 2026

In Person Advance Voting Schedule for the 2026 August Primary

**Geary County Office Building Located at:
200 E. 8th St. Junction City, KS 66441**

Friday, July 24

• 8:00am – Noon

Monday, July 27 – Thursday, July 30

• 8:00am – 5:00pm

Friday, July 31

• 8:00am – Noon

Saturday, August 1

• 9:00am – Noon

FINAL DAY: Monday, August 3

• 8:00am – Noon



Courtney P. Gilbert

Geary County Clerk & Certified Election Official