

Youth Voter Guide (Unfiltered) 2026

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Voting Information

General Deadlines:

- Last day to register to vote online → Oct 16, 2026
- Last day to register in-person at Election Office → Oct 23, 2026 6:00 PM
- Last day to request early ballots → Oct 23, 2026 6:00 PM
- Last day to return mail-in ballots through postal services → Oct 27, 2026
- Last day to vote early at Election Office → Nov 1, 2026 5:00 PM
- **GENERAL ELECTION DAY → Nov 3, 2026**

Important Links:

1. Register to vote online
2. Requesting early voting ballot and locating drop boxes
3. Look up your polling place or check your early ballot status
4. See what will be on your ballot
5. Look up your districts
6. Student Voters FAQs
7. League of Women Voter's Voter Guide
8. NE Examiner's Voter Guide
9. Flatwater Free Press Voter Guide

Tips for Voters:

- Make sure to take your ID with you to vote in-person. Nebraska now requires all voters to show some form of identification at your select polling place
- If you are registered as NONPARTISAN make sure to ask for a partisan ballot to be able to vote for those federal and state races! (ONLY IN MAY AKA PRIMARY)
- You CAN leave a section blank on your ballot
    - For instance, lets say the candidates running for NE Legislature aren't speaking to you, you can choose to leave that section blank
- You CAN use your phone while voting in person! If you need to look something up, definitely do that!
- If you mess up, you can ask for a new ballot
- If you have any accessibility needs make sure to ask a poll worker or report them directly to the Election Office!
- If you go to vote at your polling place and they can't find your info, 1st make sure that you registered to vote, 2nd, make sure that you are at the right polling place, and 3rd if you know that you are in the right place, you can ask for a provisional ballot. You will then be asked to verify your info in order for your ballot to be counted.

Federal Candidates:
Red = Republican; Blue = Democrat; Yellow = Independent; Green = Legal Maijuana Now; Orange = America First; Pink = NE Working People Purple=Nonpartisan;

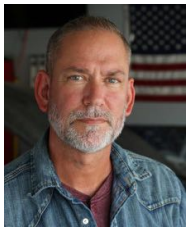
U.S. SENATE:

The duties of the U.S. Senators include representing the state's interests in Washington, D.C., which involves voting on federal legislation and treaties, overseeing national policy, and working on committees related to issues like agriculture, foreign relations, and spending. Serve 6-year terms. Salary = $174K



1. Pete Ricketts

Rich - Family business (Ameritrade) and founded Drakon LLC for startups. Was Governor from 2016-2023. Asked Pillen to appoint him to the U.S. Senate in 2023 to fill in for Ben Sasse who was offered a position at the University of Florida. SUPER REPUBLICAN and A NEPO. We hated him when he was governor and now imagine him as a U.S. Senator…
Website: https://petericketts.com/



2. Dan Osborn

U.S. Navy Veteran, Mechanic, and a Labor Union Leader. Led the Kellogg's strike in 2021. Running as an independent and started a PAC to support "working class" candidates. His dad was a commissioner growing up so politics runs in his family. Pro-gun, pro-border wall but for citizenship pathways, and semi pro-choice? DUDE IS CONFUSING AND NOT IN A GOOD WAY. Sad that this is our only choice. Website: https://www.osbornforsenate.com/



3. Mike Marvin

Was Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of Public Employees from 2013-2017. He endorsed Dan Osborn in 2024. Ricketts claims that Marvin is being planted by the Osborn campaign to get them to split the vote. Marvin denies allegations and says that he doesn't know Osborn like that. Do we believe him? SUSPENDED HIS CAMPAIGN ON AUGUST 21ST
Website: https://marvinforsenate.com/



4. Robin Richards

Born in David City, NE. She was the business manager for the NE Arts Council. In 2019 she joined the Ralston Public Schools Board. She was initially running for the NE Legislature seat for district 12 but lost in the primary to Merv and Knorr. A lot of people don't really get what she's trying to do but she's messy!!! Not only did she start her own political party but she got everyone thinking it was Pete Ricketts who initially started it. Honestly it's politics, are we Surprised? NEXT Website: https://www.richards4ne.com/



5. Chuck Conboy

Just like Ms. Keke Palmer once said - Sorry to this man.. We don't know him? Does anyone? Simple google search says he's 73 - Union leader - Manager at ProSource Wholesale. His stances are pretty basic - healthcare for all - immigration stance went from wanting stricter immigration laws to now being more supportive of providing different pathways. He didn't really answer any questions for most voter guides so that's a little sus… He was on the news for getting covid if anyone wants a fun read!

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Referred to usually as Congress - has the exclusive power to introduce all bills for raising revenue, initiate impeachment proceedings against federal officials, and elect the president if no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes. As part of the legislative branch, it also conducts investigations and oversees government operations. Serve 2-year terms. Salary = $174K

District 1:



1. Mike Flood

Rich - owns Flood Communications a telecommunication company (telemundo and others more). Grew up in Norfolk and became a lawyer. Was a state senator from 2004-2010. SUPER GROSS HE'S ANTI IMMIGRANT BUT SHOWS UP TO LATINO CENTER OF THE MIDLANDS LUNCHEON TO GET RECOGNIZED FOR HIS DONATIONS????? Watch his townhalls and you'll see how great he is..
Website: https://mikefloodfornebraska.com/



2. Chris Backenmeyer

Former U.S. Department diplomat. He was a senior State Department negotiator for Obama's Iran nuclear deal in 2015. Backemeyer was also a national security advisor to former Vice President Kamala Harris. A moderate focus on affordability, reasserting congressional authority over tariffs and addressing rising health care prices and the national debt. He sounds like a poster child for the dem party so why not? He's probably the only reasonable one in his race. Website: https://backnebraska.com/



3. Nik Sandman

A farmer and the President of the radio station KNNA 95.7 the cross. It's a religious radio that does bible teachings and religious talks in Lincoln. He's a true republican - pro-life, against transgender rights, wants to introduce the bill that prohibits transgender youth from participating in sports
Website: https://www.facebook.com/Confession.1580.radio/

District 2:



1. Denise Powell

Originally from Florida and has lived in NE for 15+ years. Co-Founded Women Who Run a PAC for women candidates. Comes from an immigrant Cuban family. Has used the phrases "pissed off mom" in her ads to describe her frustration with congress. She wants to prioritize protecting Medicaid and Social Security, and boost quality K-12 education. She's super personable and regular in the best way. She has a lot of the backing from rich philanthropists in Omaha.. And from Latino campaign fundraising groups across the US. If you want someone who fits that true democratic ideal and knows how to fundraise a great campaign, then she is your candidate! Plus she's really our only hope now.
Website: https://deniseforcongress.org/



2. Brinker Harding

In 1996-2000, he served as the chief of staff and Director of Economic Development to Mayor Hal Daub. In 2017 he was elected as a City Council for District 6. He wants to "restore, grow, secure, and renew America?" He introduced a housing encampment ordinance in the city council that tried to criminalize homelessness - HE IS EASILY PERSUADED BY MAGA AND TRUMP OVERALL. HE NEEDS A BACKBONE.
Website: https://www.brinkerharding.com/



3. Eric Michael Foreman

Experience in property management. That's all I really know about him. He answered the questions on the League of Women's voter guide if you want to reference that nothing really caught my attention. Can we ask candidates more fun questions? Who would he have dinner with, dead or alive? Anyways sorry back to him - he has a section about mental health which is pretty cool. Nobody else has added that as a platform! But TBH he's not giving Congress ready. Website: https://foremantakebackourhouse.com/

State Candidates:
Red = Republican; Blue = Democrat; Yellow = Independent; Green = Legal Maijuana Now;
Orange = America First; Pink = NE Working People Purple=Nonpartisan;

GOVERNOR & LT GOVERNOR:

Governors duties include signing or vetoing bills passed by the legislature, serving as commander-in-chief of the state's military forces, appointing state officials, and acting as a liaison between the state and federal government. Serves a 4-year term (limit of 2 year term Salary = $105K



1. Jim Pillen & Joe Kelly

Rich fam - A vet and hog producer/owner. From 2013-2023 he served on the Board of Regents. In 2023, he ran for Governor and won. He's wack - look at his resume - ICE Facility, multiple reports of mistreating his workers at his farm (a teenager died on his farm).. He knows we're in debt and still cuts some of the most important departments .. health and education..Trying to get turning point into public schools… BYE
Website: https://www.jimpillen.com/



2. Lynne Walz & Ben Steffen

A former 5th and 6th grade teacher, church girly, state senator (education committee), and realtor from Fremont. In 2020, Walz was one of just four registered Democrats at the time to pass a bill banning a second-trimester abortion method known medically as dilation and evacuation. In 2023, she was eyed as a swing vote on a bill seeking to ban abortions after six weeks post-fertilization. The bill ultimately passed to ban most abortions after 12 weeks gestational age. We have some of the worst candidates for governor this year and the fact that we have to settle for this SUCKS. But we all know the lesser of two evils thing - if we don't vote her in and we separate the vote and get stuck with the a-hole above. Think logistically guys. Website: https://lynnewalz.com



3. Rick Beard & Keenya Barn

Started the Omaha Wine Company. Moved to Cali and then Oklahoma to help people begin their own cannabis farms. Moved back to Omaha and was shocked that we haven't legalized mairjuana yet. His website is interesting lol has a comparison of death numbers in Nebraska. Everytime he speaks at candidate forums, i'm not too sure if he knows how

to introduce the ideas he has. It all sounds cool don't get me wrong but he just doesn't feel ready for this job. Anyone else feeling this vibe. Website: https://www.rickforgov.org/



4. Brett Lindstrom & Michael Picard

Another career politician but he actually loses lol. In 2012, he tried to run for congress but lost to Lee Terry. Then he tried to run for Governor against Pillen and Herbster but lost once again. He got his first W in 2024 for the District 18th State Legislature seat. DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE TO LET BRINKER GO THROUGH... WACK. And now he's back but this time with the America First Party. Man does this dude not quit!
Website: https://votelindstrom.com/

SECRETARY OF STATE:

The Nebraska Secretary of State's duties include overseeing elections, managing business registrations, and licensing certain professions. The office also handles the state's rules and regulations, maintains official records and the Great Seal, and promotes youth civics programs. 4 year term. Salary = $85K



1. Scott Petersen

He's retired now but is super active in the Republican Party. He worked for Congressman Don Bacon from 2016-2019 and campaigned for Dan Frei in 2022. He now serves as the Vice Chairman of NE's 2nd congressional district and is on the executive committee of the NE Republican Party. Exactly what you think of when you picture a Republican. Website: https://www.petersenfornebraska.com/



2. Sarah J. Slattery

From Plattsmouth, NE. Went to Creighton University and received a BA in Graphic Design. She went back to school but this time to become a Chef. She went to MCC and graduated with her AAS in Culinary Arts in 2011. Now owns Slattery Vintage Estates, an Agri-tourism destination. Ran for the NE Legislature in LD2 in 2022 and lost. She is now on the Plattsmouth Library Board and the Bridge Commission. Only person that doesn't feel like a robot
Website: https://www.slatteryfornebraska.com/



3. Paul Rumbaugh

Born and raised in Omaha. Works in the District Courts Office. Looks like he's wanting to introduce Rank Based Voting and make our elections safer. He left the Republican Party in 2009 - and is now anti parties. He has a lot of interesting policy ideas on his website like rank based voting. My thing is that it feels like he's running because he's mad at the Republican Party. You good bro? Or are we doing the whole revenge thing? The bus leaving him behind on his website GOLD. Website: https://www.rumbaughfornebraska.com/



4. Bob Krist

69 year old - was a state senator from 2009. He's a bit confusing because he was a republican, then he became democrat, now he's back to being right-winged with the America First Party? He's a true Trump supporter and believes we need to make our elections "safer." We know what that means..

STATE TREASURER:

The Nebraska State Treasurer's duties include managing state funds by receiving, disbursing, and investing them, maintaining accurate financial records, and reporting on the state's financial condition to the Legislature. The office is also responsible for administering unclaimed property, child support payments, and serving on several state boards. 4 year term. Salary = $85K



1. Joey Spellerberg

In 2025, got appointed treasurer to fill the vacancy of Tom Briese. He had to give up his role as Fremont Mayor. Became the Mayor of Fremont in 2020. He talks a lot about fiscal responsibility but he's been in his role for a year already? Has anyone heard anything he's done? Are we out of debt yet? I know it's only his first year but like cmon we heard all of his stances before and we're not really seeing anything change? Website: https://www.joeyspellerberg.com/



2. Daniel Ebers

Recognize him? Anyone? He ran for Congress in 2024 for district 3 and lost to Adrian Smith. He's 55 years old and works in hotel management. He has an associate degree and has held no prior political office. IDK he sucks at answering all the voter guides - such generic answers. Seems like a nice guy that wants to run to give us a candidate for the democratic party. Is that enough though to get our vote? We should consider his experience and what his main priorities are. No website but does have a FB - link

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

The duties of Nebraska's state attorney general include representing the state in legal matters, prosecuting criminals, protecting consumers from fraud, and providing legal advice to the state government. They handle both civil and criminal cases, defend the state from lawsuits, and oversee various specialized bureaus like Consumer Protection, Civil Litigation, and a Criminal Bureau. 4 year term. Salary = $95K



1. Mike Hilgers

Went to Law school in Chicago, once he graduated he served as a judicial clerk for Edith Brown Clements (US Court of Appeals). He came back to Lincoln and founded his own law firm Hilgers Graben. Moved to politics and has served in the NE Legislature and State Attorney. I'm going to be super honest dude files so many lawsuits but like it's just so RANDOM.. like he sued the people funding the ballot initiatives, he joined a coalition to stop Netflix from merging with Warner Bros, he sued the people trying to stop the coal power plants in north o, he sued the Omaha tribe of NE for passing medical maijuana in their tribes (they have the right to btw). All in all he's after the wrong people all the time - can we get someone better???? Website: https://www.mikehilgers.com/



2. Jocelyn Brasher

She comes from a military family, and was born on the Offutt Air Force Base. She went to Auburn University to get a degree in Philosophy and later attended Creighton University School of Law. She started practicing law in 2016 in Nebraska. She is a former Assistant Attorney General (2018-2023). Her whole thing is that we need to get back to protecting the law and stop mixing politics to it. She has a lot of her plans laid out and seems to be pretty accessible. Just the fact that she has clear examples of what makes her different from Mike is honestly impressive. She doesn't come off as approachable but like honestly when do men running for office ever feel like that? Someone to keep your eye on this race! Website: https://www.brasherforneag.com/

STATE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS:

The Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) is a constitutional officer responsible for auditing all state agencies, boards, commissions, and specific political subdivisions to ensure fiscal integrity. The office investigates waste, fraud, and mismanagement, sets uniform accounting standards for county officers, and reviews audits for local governments. 4 year term. Salary = $85K



1. Mike Foley

Got to be honest this guy is interesting! He was the reason we know about the alleged affair Governor Pillen is having with Julie Bushnell, the woman he gave a 2.5 million contract to. He also did an audit that uncovered 1.2 billion in lost revenue from TIF. But back to his career - So he's been an auditor since 2007. He was a state senator for District 29 for six years. Worked in D.C for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners? IDK he does his job and roast the Governor kinda fire no? He just gives calculated.
Website: https://auditors.nebraska.gov/About_Us/AboutAuditor.html



2. John Knight

He's an engineer and project manager. Not much is known about him right now. Just know that he is hoping to add more transparency to the office. There's nothing new or even interesting in my opinion of him. He claims that he will stay neutral and get answers from experts instead of political leaders. Do we trust that he will stay neutral?

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The Nebraska Public Service Commission is composed of five elected Commissioners serving six-year terms. The Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) is a constitutionally created, independent regulatory body that oversees telecommunications, natural gas utilities, major oil pipelines, railroad safety, intrastate motor carriers, and grain warehouses. It regulates rates, ensures service quality, and enforces safety standards for these industries while handling consumer complaints. 6 year term Salary = $75K

District 2:



1. Dennis McCann

So first of all he's retired.. Sorry if it's agist but go enjoy your time off sir why would you want to run?? But he did work for the Omaha/Douglas 911 system. He finally sent his responses to the NE examiner so we can get to know him but I had the wrong dude in our initial voter guide, sorry friends! He believes that because he has worked alongside the NE Public Service Commission that he's the best guy for the job. Aside from that, I'm not too sure what his plans are.



2. Wendy DeBoer

Is an attorney and practiced law in Kansas City before moving back to Omaha to get her master's in education. She was elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2018 and was re-elected in 2022. She's seen an "urgent need" for improved and modernized broadband, transportation and infrastructure. Also if she wins she'll be the only woman on the commission (REPRESENTATION PLS!) Website: https://deboerfornebraska.com

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

The Nebraska state legislature is the state's lawmaking body, responsible for creating laws, setting the state budget through appropriations, and overseeing the executive branch. 4 years (limited to 2 consecutive terms) Salary = $12K

Red = Republican; Blue = Democrat; Yellow = Independent; Green = Legal Maijuana Now; Purple=Nonpartisan;

District 4: (Village Point Area)



1. R. Brad von Gillern

Graduated from UNL with a Bachelors in Construction Management Engineering. He worked as a project manager with Lueder Construction in 1991 and worked his way through the company ultimately acquiring ownership in 2006. He ran and got elected to represent district 4 in the Nebraska Legislature in 2022, making him sell his business. Wants to continue to advocate for lowering taxes. Republican poster child
Website: https://vongillern4ne.com/biography/



2. Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek

A small business owner (Mortgage Protection Insurance Services Inc.) and organizer with Rank The Vote Nebraska. She's heavily involved in the community volunteering her time and holding various positions on nonprofit boards. This is her second time going against Brad - she lost by 800 votes last time. Website: https://www.cindyfornebraska.com/

District 6: (Westroads Area)



1. Nate Ostdiek

Got his Bachelors in Political Science and is currently working on his Masters in History and Government. Nate started his advocacy at UNO when he was elected as the Student Body President/Regent. He's one of the youngest candidates in the race! We love when young people take this leap! When he was deciding on running he went to ask for support from fundraising orgs/companies but he was told they were already representing Patrick.. IDK the game of politics is interesting and for some reason I love going for the under dogs especially the ones that are told they wouldn't win. Website:
https://www.natefornebraska.com/



2. Patrick Leathy

He is the CEO of First Star Recycling, the largest recycling provider in Nebraska. He worked with Senator Ben Nelson. He also served as the Director for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Board, Keep Omaha Beautiful, and a few other nonprofits. Goals include tackling workforce shortage, providing child care, and “lowering property taxes” (again another stereotype of why young people leave the state is by lowering property taxes it keeps us young people here…not true). Also got endorsed by the Democratic party. Also the guy is SUPER PRO-LIFE! Makes me wonder how he was given an endorsement from the dem party
Website: https://leahyfornebraska.com/

District 8: (Benson)



1. Erin Feichtinger

She started her political career as a MCC Board of Governors in . Then she worked as the Advocacy Director at Together Inc., working closely with Douglas County to assist residents of evictions and homelessness. In 2022, she joined the Women’s Fund as their Policy Director. Married to a Cavanaugh aka the politician family of Nebraska. She’s super personable and community-driven. If you ever want to know about anything related to local government she is the best person to reach out to! She knows it all! She’s also been a lobbyist for a long time so she knows how the legislature works! If the legislature did the normal job hiring process she would automatically get hired on the spot - that’s how well her resume is!
Website: https://erinfornebraska.com/



2. Josh Livingston

Went to Creighton Law and served as a Deputy County Attorney. He works in Family Law now. He coaches soccer and volunteers across the city. That’s all I got - haven’t really heard much about him. Has anyone seen him at candidate forums?
Website: https://www.livingstonfornebraska.com/

District 10: (North-west area)



1. Cindy Johnson

She is an audiologist at Active Hearing Health. She holds a Bachelors in Education from UNL, a Masters in Audiology from the University of Kansas, and a Doctorate in Audiology from the University of Florida.
Website: https://cindyjohnsonforne.com/



2. Rebecca Rens

She served as President and Owner of a concrete construction company. She's a strategist and consultant for various community organizations. She serves as an Assistant Professor of Business, Dissertation Chair, and Online Program Developer. Very basic priorities.
Website: https://www.rebeccaforne.com/

District 12: (Ralston)



1. Merv Riepe

Became a state senator in 2014 and lost his seat to Dem Steve Lathrop in 2018. He got re-elected in 2022 after Lathrop decided not to seek a second term. Dude is the reason we have abortion, winner-takes all, gender car, and sports, and various other controversial bills. He sucks.. Can he retire? He's looking older everyday too (agist comment sorry lol)
Website: https://voteriepe.com/



2. Christy Knorr

Is a hospice nurse and was a huge advocate for medical maijuana after the passing of her wife. Website: https://christyknorr4ne.com/

District 18: (Northwest Omaha and Bennington)



1. Taylor Royal

Lives in Bennington. Went to UNL and studied Accounting and Finance. He obtained his Masters in Accounting from Southern Methodist University as well as his CPA. He currently is a partner at Royal Wealth Partners, a local private client group within Northwestern Mutual. Very conservative…. He ran for Omaha Mayor and state treasurer in the past..
Website: https://www.royalforlegislature.com/



2. Jess Goldoni

Born and raised in Omaha. She attended UNO and got a degree in Journalism. Today she co-leads a Ne-based AI firm. She has done a number of jobs from legal, financial, health care, nonprofit, travel, agriculture, AI, water, and so forth.
Website: https://jessgoldoni.com/

District 20: (West Omaha)



1. John Fredrickson

He is seeking re-election to this position. He is a dad, licensed clinical social worker, and mental health/LGBTQ+ advocate. He's an adjunct professor at Columbia University. Super chill dude 🙂I feel like he's the type of teacher that is cool with all his students. Like people literally stay after class just to nerd out on things with him
Website: https://www.johnfornebraska.com/



2. Chris Anderson

Military background (Air force) and holds a degree in Economics and Business Admin. Currently he serves as a consultant for advising aerospace organizations. Priorities = meaningful tax reform, limited government regulation, and safer communities… (aka republican agenda)
Website: https://andersonforne.com/

District 36: (Sarpy area)



1. Darin Tompkins

From a rural northeast South Dakota. Moved to Omaha in the late 90s. He has degrees in Microbiology and Biology from South Dakota State University. He leads an animal health vaccine manufacturing plant. He volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, local food drives, and other orgs his kids are in. He's the only candidate that I've seen prioritize community engagement and list it on their website.
Website: https://tompkinsfornebraska.com/



2. Rick Holdcroft

Served 28 years in the military and his kids followed in his footsteps. He was a former aerospace executive and he's heavily involved in the community (NE Knights of Columbus, Military orgs, and University of Nebraska Alumni). He is the current senator in this seat and is seeking re-election.
Website: https://rickholdcroft.com/

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NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Nebraska State Board of Education's duties include setting policy for the state's school system, acting as the policy-forming, planning, and evaluative body for the state school program, and ensuring the Nebraska Department of Education functions effectively. 4 year term. $0 Salary

District 5:



1. Angie Eberspacher

A former member of the Education Service Unit 6. She has a degree in elementary education and early childhood education. If elected she wants to focus on how to improve literacy and proficiency scores, recruit and retain quality teachers and strengthen academics. She said she also wants to be “a voice for all parents” and promote spending restraint. She is known for testifying for conservative bills in the legislature like penalizing teachers and librarians if they show certain material to children, taking away healthcare from trans youth, outlawing drag shows for minors, and creating a “parent bill of rights.”
Website: https://www.angieforeducation.com/



2. Michaela Conway

Has worked in the information technology and service industry for over 10 years. She is currently on the Crete Public Schools Board. Ms. Frizzle is that you?
Website: https://www.mcforsboe.com/

District 8:



1. Lou Ann Goding

Was a Financial Consultant. Then joined the OPS board from 2013-2020. She’s involved with various community organizations - the Fullerton Elementary PTA, Children’s Hospital Friends Board, Educators Health Alliance, and as Trustee for the Omaha Schools Employee Retirement System. She has five priorities for her campaign — success, safety, skills, support and stewardship. Website: https://www.louanngoding.com/



2. Sherrye Hutcherson

Has been the Bellevue University Vice President since 2018. Has degrees in accounting, business admin, and is working towards a PHD in Interdisciplinary education leadership at Creighton. Her work history ranges from Union Pacific, Omaha Public Power District, and the Omaha Small Business Network. Goals if she wins - to improve student literacy, reduce chronic absenteeism and recruit and retain more Nebraska teachers.

Website: https://www.hutchersonforedu.com/

NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

The Nebraska Board of Regents' duties include providing strategic leadership for the University of Nebraska System, hiring the university president, approving the budget and tuition rates, and setting general operating policies for the university. 6 year term. $0 Salary

District 2:



1. Elizabeth Butler

Attended Creighton University and received a degree in Political Science and History. Then enrolled at Duke University and completed her Masters in Public Administration. In 2009, she was appointed Papillion City Clerk and transitioned to Omaha City Clerk in 2017. In 2022, the City Council proclaimed March 29th as Elizabeth Butler Day. In 2014 she was appointed to the Papillion School Board and in 2025 the Sanitary Improvement District 301 Board. So overall girl is in everything… If you've ever been to City Council Meetings she has been pretty rude to people testifying and makes up random rules on the spot. Also if you're ever curious what she's like she makes videos (@omahacityclerk) where she interviews department heads and breaks down the agenda for city council meetings. TBH these videos are not informative at all she uses big words and acts like the average person is too dumb for her. Gives Karen energy.. We need someone better pls Website: https://voteelizabethbutler.com/



2. Jill Wolfe

Went to UNL and became the first in her family to go to college. She worked as a dietitian at St. Luck's Hospital in Sioux City and then Columbus Community Hospital. In 1987, she founded Midwest Medical Transport Company (MMTC), alongside her husband. She served on the Columbus Planning and Zoning Board. Annually she hosts "home for the Holidays" a program that provides transportation to nursing home senior citizens to return home for the holidays.

Website: https://www.wolfeforregent.com/

District 4:



1. Justin Solomon

Did his undergrad and grad at UNL and was elected as Student Body President and Student Regent in 2010. Is the current COO and Financial Chief at Integrated Life Choices - a company that supports people with disabilities in NE, CO, and CA. Married to a teacher. Is pretty involved in the community - Dundee PTO, CASA, Research NE, and so forth. He's interesting. I can't read him well but he does speak to the current political climate we are in and how that has no place in our educational institutions.
Website: https://www.solomonforregent.com/



2. Susanne Shore

Married to Pete Ricketts. Says they have very different political stances but girl be FR (she donates to dem candidates and ricketts to rep - extra sus). Has degrees from Oklahoma State and Creighton University. Worked at the University of South Dakota with the Dean of Students in Residential Life. Did not answer the question about diversity and inclusion but says her main priority is to "make sure students of all backgrounds — rural and urban — get the academic and social support to stay in school and graduate." She comes off FAKE. MAJOR NO for me especially knowing that she is in powerful rooms and manages to do nothing with that.
Website: https://shoreforregent.com/

Douglas County Candidates:
Red = Republican; Blue = Democrat; Yellow = Nonpartisan Green= Legal Maijuana Now

The Douglas County Treasurer:

The Douglas County Treasurer's duties primarily involve managing county finances, which includes collecting various taxes, acting as the county's bank by receiving and disbursing funds, and overseeing the investment of county money. 4 year term. Salary of $61K

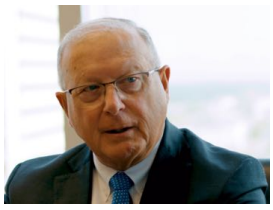


1. Tony Vargas

Turning into a career politician.. Originally from New York and moved to Nebraska to help get his wife through law school. Started out working for an education nonprofit and was appointed to the OPS Board in 2013. Then he ran for State Senator and did that from 2017-2025. He tried running for congress but lost twice to Don Bacon. He's endorsed by John Ewing. He does have a lot of support from very well known people in power so..Maybe this is the last office he runs for? Who knows? He's a family man and fits the molds of what a politician should be. Has anyone seen him lately?
Website: https://vargasfornebraska.com/

The Douglas County Attorney:

The Douglas County Attorney's duties include prosecuting felony and misdemeanor crimes, representing the county in civil cases, providing legal advice to county officials, and handling specific matters like inheritance tax review and child support enforcement. The office is divided into various divisions, such as criminal, civil, and juvenile. 4 year term. Salary of $250K!!



1. Donald "Don" Kleine

Is seeking re-election and has been treasurer since 2006…Was the worst during BLM - did not prosecute anyone that harmed protesters and refused to release info to the public. NOT MY FAV. He's been in this position for so LONG - we need someone else guys it's time.
Website: https://donkleine.com



2. Makayla Danner

Has been a City of Omaha prosecutor for the last 20 years. She also teaches a criminal justice course at UNO. Her campaign, she said, would prioritize prosecution of violent offenses while expanding programs aimed at addressing root causes of crime, collaboration with law enforcement and community, expanding diversion programs for non-violent juvenile offenders and comprehensive ethics training for staff. Don has thrown

multiple curb balls at her at candidate forums and she knows how to rebuttal! She's approachable - can't say the same about Don ..
Website: https://dannerfordouglas.com/

The Douglas County Sheriff:

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) provides 24-hour law enforcement, including patrol, criminal investigations, and civil process services. Key duties include traffic enforcement, serving warrants, court security, and community outreach, with specialized units for behavioral health, school resources, and community policing. 4 year term. Salary of $61K



1. Aaron Hanson

Hansan has served as Douglas County Sheriff since 2023 and has done nothing but further harm to the community, especially our North Omaha community members. Hansan is a known racist and has no issue displaying his viewpoints, and it has shown up in a multitude of incidents. In 2017, he was deemed by the department's safety review board to have used excessive force while arresting a Black man and kneeing him in the leg, after he was already handcuffed. He also has made his view on our immigrant neighbors & friends very clear. In a quote, Hanson said "ICE could bring in $5.5 million to $6.5 million per 100 beds in county revenue that could be used to fill Douglas County Sheriff's Office budget gaps." Is this who we want "protecting" our neighborhoods, families, and friends?
Website: https://aaronhansonforsheriff.com/



2. Mark Martinez

Mark Martinez is a former U.S. Marshall who's a current adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska- Omaha teaching in the School of Criminology & Criminal Justice. He served with the Omaha Police Department (OPD) for 25 years and was then appointed to be the U.S. Marshal in Nebraska by former President Barack Obama and served for 8 years. Martinez states some of his priorities include community policing (sound familiar? Our current mayor also stated this as a priority), create more cooperation with OPD and other law enforcement agencies to prevent violent crime and human trafficking, and provide officers more training & boost recruiting. His goals are to build relationships across various law enforcement organizations, increase transparent communication, & build community trust. At first he's not personable but once you get him talking - he shares a lot of great ideas that we haven't seen in this office in years!! Website: https://markforsheriff.com

The Douglas County Engineer:

The Douglas County Engineer is a licensed professional responsible for managing the county's infrastructure, including the planning, design, and construction of roads, bridges, and traffic systems. Key duties include directing the highway and maintenance divisions, issuing right-of-way permits, managing capital improvement projects, and preparing the Six-Year Highway Improvement Plan. 4 year term. Salary of $177K



1. Todd Pfitzer

Went to UNL and studied Civil Engineering. Has been working in the industry for over 14 years. He started out working for the City of Omaha in 2006 as a City Traffic Engineer and then getting promoted to City Engineer in 2010. Was first elected to Douglas County Engineer in 2022. Goals = GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE. REGIONAL GOALS. SYSTEM EFFICIENCY.
Website: https://toddpfitzer.com/

The Douglas County Assessor/Register of Deeds:

The Douglas County Assessor/Register of Deeds is an elected office responsible for determining the, fair market value of all taxable real estate and maintaining the official records of property ownership, liens, and, real estate transfers in Douglas County, Nebraska. Key duties include, appraising residential/commercial properties for tax purposes, recording deeds and mortgages, and providing public access to land records. 4 year term. Salary of $170K



1. Dakotah Smith

Has a real estate and public service background. Also teaches a variety of real estate courses at UNO. Before getting into real estate he advocated for development initiatives. Overall goes in office = TRANSPARENCY. VALUATIONS. MODERNIZATION. I've never seen this main before? But like he's the only one running so? Hope he got us?
Website: https://dakotahsmith.com/

The Douglas County Clerk of the District Court:

The Douglas County Clerk of the District Court manages essential administrative and operational functions for the District Court, including processing legal documents, maintaining court records, managing case files, and collecting fees. The office handles criminal, civil, and domestic relations cases, acting as a liaison between the public, attorneys, and judges. 4 year term. Salary of $148K



1. Justin T. Wayne

An attorney and CEO of Trailblazers Construction (well known for taking on the James Shurlock case). Started out his public career by running for Learning Community, then OPS board (won both). He was elected as a State Senator representing North O for 8 years. Responsible for getting a $40 million grant that would give funds directly to the North and South O communities. He's another career politician - he's run for the same amount of seats as Tony Vargas. Twins! He's great at his job ngl, he knows how to get things done and speak to it. (Only thing to note about his character - he went off on the super bowl performance aka Bad Bunny being the performer and wanted to see Chris Brown take his spot instead… when we told him his post was racist for how he spoke negatively about bad bunny he deleted the post). We will speak out when we feel like politicians are pinning black and brown people against each other. This is a hard one guys if we want a politician who does his job and we don't look at his personal baggage - he's decent Website: https://wayne4ne.com/

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners:

Douglas County Commissioners are the legislative body responsible for overseeing county operations, including adopting the budget, levying taxes, appointing officials, and passing ordinances. They manage lots of departments like the county jails, voting commission, DHHS, mental health facilities, 911 operations, DMV and so forth! 4 year term. Salary of $61K

District 2:



1. James Cavanaugh

Another nepo-child. Comes from the political cavanaugh family. Has his own law firm and has been a commissioner since 2015. He's on every board you can think of. I mean he's ok - not anything memorable - sorry dude. Website: https://votecavanaugh.com/



2. Whitney Hansen

She graduated from UNO and became a high school teacher at Millard Public Schools. She is a huge advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and she enjoys spreading the love of reading and writing to young people. Every year she hosts a pride prom and recently she started community coffee. She's also an artist. Terrible things have transpired during her campaign. I am not going to go into details but the fact that people of her own circle are leaking her personal things - makes it feel like they're intentionally wanting to see her fail. If people want to stoop that low and take the republican strategy - makes me want to advocate for her way more. Cavanaugh has been in office for YEARS - it's time for something new. We hope she wins her lawsuit and this position!
Website: https://www.hansenforomaha.com/

District 4:



1. P.J. Morgan

Started PJ Morgan real estate company in 1967. He ran for State Senator in 1970 and then Douglas County Commissioner in 1973. In 1989-1996, he served as the Mayor of Omaha. He ran again for County Commissioner and won in 2010 and owns TCB Real Estate. He feel like your old school republican. The bottom dude is your new school MAGA republican.
Website: https://votepjmorgan.com/



2. Chris Chappelear

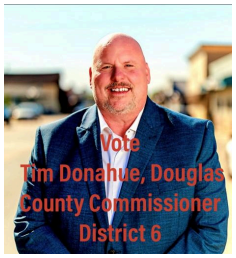
Born in Kansas, and came to UNO to do his undergrad. Super involved in republican party committees and holds positions within local government citizen boards. The boy doesn't say much tbh. Key issues = LOWER TAXES. MODERNIZE INFRASTRUCTURE. KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE. (aka fund the police). He's just not it.
Website: https://chrischappelear.com/

District 6:



1. Colleen Brennan

Claims to have roots in Omaha for over 150 years. Has 4 children and speaks a lot about her son who is autistic and has epilepsy. "When you go through the raw and difficult challenges of raising a profoundly disabled child, it changes you." Used her lived-experience to help pass LB254 (NE Insurance Reform Bill). She wrote a book to support moms who lose their children like she did. Talks a lot of shit on her husband in her new book ("while dealing with a narcissistic husband who blamed her for giving him defective children," she said). Website: https://colleenforcountyboard.com/



2. Tim Donahue

Went to Metro, and then became a cop. The fact that there's not enough info on him. DO BETTER SIR
Website: FB PAGE



3. John McCann

Has run for this position back in 2022. He lost to Mary Ann Borgeson (she's finally deciding not to run again after being in that position since 94' so this seat is very competitive!!) He also ran for the metro transit board for district 5 and lost to Josh Corrigan. McCann is a local nurse. Top priorities are to increase mental health services, work to maintain parks, and help keep youth in the metro. He's been trying to get voted into an office? Should we give him a shot this time?

Omaha Boards/Commissions:
Red = Republican; Blue = Democrat; Yellow = Nonpartisan Green= Legal Maijuana Now; Purple Nonpartisan

Board of Governors at MCC

The Metropolitan Community College (MCC) Board of Governors sets policy, approves budgets, sets tuition, hires the President, oversees finances, ensures curriculum compliance, and acts as a liaison to the community, governing the college's strategic direction, financial health, and educational mission for its four-county district. Composed of 11 elected members from specific districts, serving four-year terms, plus a student ex-officio member. 4 year term. $0 Salary

At-large:



1. Kristen DuPree

Currently serves as an at-large board member for MCC Board of Governors since 2023. She graduated from UNL with a degree in Actuarial Science and works as an actuary and considers herself to be very involved in her community. Some of her focuses included access to affordable higher ed which leads to a more diverse workforce, expanding early outreach programs that lead young people to careers in the trade industry, and would like to broaden the student services that MCC currently offers, such as mental health & transportation resources. When it comes to public policy, she is passionate about education, economic policy, sustainability & workforce development.
Website: https://www.facebook.com/KristenforMetro/



2. Paul Anderson

Retired U.S. Navy and Railcar Mechanic. He has run for 13 elective offices and has won none…He withdrew from the City Council race in 2017 due to his anti-muslim comments. He also ran for OPS board in 2022 and lost to Nick Thielen. RETIRED PEOPLE NEED TO STAY RETIRED. Sorry but he can be doing more with his time that is actually helpful to our community like becoming a poll worker or volunteering at his local library.

District 1:



1. Phillip Klein

Has been with the Metro Board since 2015. The only person who filed for district 1 MCC Board of Governors and will advance on with no opponents most likely.

District 2:



1. Tammy L. Wright

Has degrees in Healthcare and Public Administration from Bellevue University. Worked at Release Ministries which supported reunification of foster children and their biological parents. Currently works at Conifer Health Solutions as a Patient Advocate/Financial Counselor. Ran for MCC Board in 2022 and is seeking re-election. I haven't really seen this lady out in the community? But she's running unopposed - easy win for her!

Website: https://www.facebook.com/tammyformcc

District 3:



1. Maureen K. Monahan

Is currently on the MCC board of governors. Was elected in 2019 and re-elected in 2022. She actually took her dad's spot on the MCC board btw - so nepo for sure. She was the superdelegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention from NE. She is a lawyer and practices family law. Her firm was a part of a scandal that revealed that children within the system were not allowed to go back to their parents and forced into foster care even though their parents advocated for their return. Her firm claims the problem isn't with her firm but with the Department of Health for not having a better process in place…Her firm also received 90K but was not put through a bidding process… so aka another Pillen situation..

District 4:



1. Martha Bruckner

Retired as the Council Bluff Superintendent (2007-2017). She was making $225,000 annually as the superintendent!!! WILD!!! She joined the MCC Board of Governors in 2023 and is seeking re-election. Another easy race where she will win for being unopposed.

Learning Community Coordinating Council - Douglas-Sarpy:

The Learning Community Coordinating Council for Douglas and Sarpy Counties oversees the legal, financial, and strategic operations of the Learning Community, focusing on reducing poverty-related educational inequities. Key duties include managing the annual budget, appointing the CEO, developing diversity plans, and strengthening community-school partnerships. 4 year term. $0 Salary

Subdistrict 1:



1. Ken Waters

Ken is the owner of the McKinney Group. He is a retired Air Force veteran. He holds a MBA from Syracuse University.
Website: Ken4Nebraska.com



2. Jason Boyd

Is an ex fire fighter. Was the director of the high school program at Avenue Scholars. Has a Master's in Educational Leadership from Doane University. Serves as a safety and engagement specialist with Omaha Public Schools (OPS) and is the current dean of students at Blackburn.



3. David Preston, Jr.

Works for the Omaha Police Department in the Internal Affairs Division. Went to MCC and got an associate of Science and then attended UNO to get his Bachelor's in Criminology. Is currently in this seat (learning community) and is running for re-election. Never met this man has anyone? Curious how much work he's done in this position so far?



4. Roxanne Dockter

Owner of Pet Nation Omaha - A certified and insured pet sitter and CPR instructor and feline behavior consultant. She got her bachelors in Psychology, Master's in Industrial Organizational Psychology and Information System Management. Her website does a good job at explaining what the learning community does. It's a good thing because the learning community website has no info! It's so hard to access their meeting notes and know when they have meetings in general.
Website: www.roxanne4ne.com

Subdistrict 3:



1. Corwin Keller

Owner and Operator of Ideal Heating and Air Conditioning. Was born and raised in Scottsbluff/Gering, NE. His 3 priorities in office is fiscal responsibility, supporting children and families, and investing in community (uses safety when talking about investing in community)
Website: https://www.keller4nebraska.com/



2. Maggie Duffy

Is a 4th grade social studies teacher for OPS.
Website: https://voteforduffy.com/



3. Suzie Fogarty

Is the current Outreach Coordinator at SmartGen - a nonprofit that tries to educate youth about the dangers of social media. Saw an article where she had an assembly scheduled at Marian and no parent showed up.. She criticized parents for being a part of the problem.
Website: https://www.linkedin.com/in/suziefogarty/

Subdistrict 5:



1. Tonya Ward

Works at Energy Rescue a nonprofit that helps Nebraska residents receive fair and attainable payment arrangements instead of suffering a shut off or need to have utilities restored to keep families safe and warm/cool in their homes. Was first elected into the learning community in 2014 but has been criticized for not attending learning community meetings… we don't need someone to be absent on our behalf - what's the point of running if you're not actively showing up? Website:



2. Mayra Piedrahita Escobar

She was born in Cali, Colombia. She is a Real Estate agent, mother, and housing advocate with Healthy Housing. She spent a lot of time going into people's homes and seeing unsafe living conditions that families deal with because of bad landlords and residents not knowing their rights. She holds a Bachelor's in Metaphysics and a radon measurement license. She is running because "systems work best when the people shaping them understand the gaps from the inside. I am running for the next generation, and for families who are building futures within systems that must—and can—do better." If she wins she will be the youngest to ever hold this position. Also can we talk about her STYLE? The first candidate I've seen who has the best fashion ever and she is super confident about what she will bring to this role (accessibility, more awareness, and a deeper look at students' home lives). Might I say anything else? Let's get this gen-zer to office pls!
Website: https://www.mayraforlearning.com/



3. Sarah Dragon

Started her career teaching 1st grade in OPS. Then became a school counselor and advocate of public education. Her family is well known in the South O community for starting the Indian Chicano Center (One World). We've met her a few times and she's a true educator. She cares about her students and shows a deep passion for wanting to see them succeed. I think we need someone like her, who currently works in OPS, and knows what issues are impacting our students directly.
Website: FB PAGE



4. Linda Vermooten

OH GOD. Not this woman again. Yall please look at this post on reddit. She ran for State Board of Education in 2024 and lost to Maggie Douglas. Her election is just wild - parents from District 2 even made a website to get the word out to not vote for her because of the wild things she says and does… https://www.stoplinda.com/ SO please save yourself time by ignoring this gal.

Omaha Public School Board:

The Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Board of Education acts as the governing body, setting district policies, hiring and evaluating the Superintendent, managing the budget, and approving contracts for construction or services. They ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, adopt the academic curriculum, and establish school district goals. Serve 4-year terms but there is not a max for how many times they can run… Salary = $0

District 2:



1. Bri Full

Current OPS Board member for district 2. Omaha native who was raised in the foster care system. She went to UNO to study Public Health. She is well known in the community for organizing various events for Black and Brown youth and advocating for equitable policy at the NE legislature. Her lived-experience makes her a unique candidate who fights for teacher and student voices of color! She also ticked off Jane, the OPS Board President which is HILARIOUS. Bri is someone who never quits or backs down even when the odds are against her! Website: full4ops.wordpress.com



2. Dorothy Johnson

Went to Grambling State University on a volleyball scholarship and received a BA in Sociology. She's super involved in the community - from The Urban League of Nebraska, OPS, MPS, MCC, Omaha Chamber. And she's worked in Human Services for over 10 years. She also has a Master's degree in Human Services Administration from Bellevue University. Has run for the Metro Transit Board and has constantly brought up the fact that she did not get that seat at various community meetings.. Kinda weird. She also never filed to run for this position with the election commission but made a FB page declaring her candidacy? She's a write-in candidate I suppose.



3. Jamar Dorsey, Sr.

Current CEO of Imagine Omaha, which builds pathways to prosperity for Omaha's marginalized Black population and also the Director of High school Programs of Avenue Scholars Foundation. He went to Grambling State University on a full athletic scholarship (like another candidate above hmmm..) and earned a Masters in Sports Administration.



4. Peter Jessen

All you need to know from his substack "I am a felon: now I'm asking you to vote for me." Dude literally threw a rock at his principal's car (Central High) and got suspended. He claims to be a better person and wants to use his lived-experience as a juvenile to help students who go to Blackburn/transitional programs.

District 4:



1. Shavonna Holman

Dr. Shavonna Holman is an associate professor at UNL in the Educational Admin Department of the College of Education and Human Services. She was both a teacher and an assistant principal for OPS over the years. She first joined the OPS board in 2017. Holman has done a lot of research with the NE Department of Education Title 1 office and NE Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families, and School.

Website: https://www.ops.org/board/board-members

District 6:



1. Lisa Sterba

She has been in education for a while! Worked with students with disabilities and led the alternative middle school in OPS. Became the Principal at Lewis and Clark Middle School and won various awards for her leadership. Then became the Chief Operations Officer (COO) for OPS. She then became the Senior Director of Programs at Avenue Scholars in 2022. She's very involved in the community and is on various boards.

District 8:



1. Viridiana Almanza Zavala

From Grand Island and did her undergrad at UNK. She has degrees in History and Political Science and a Master's in Public Admin from UNO. Her goal on the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education is to advocate for all students, staff members and families, making decisions with fellow board members that build a stronger school district. Huge advocate for immigrant students. She doesn't have a website or is really active online. She's hosted town halls but that's all I've really seen.

Regional Metro Transit Board of Omaha:

The Regional Metropolitan Transit Board (RMTA) in Omaha oversees public transit by setting policy, managing the budget, determining routes and fares, approving contracts, and planning for future system growth, ensuring accessible and efficient transportation. There are 7-elected positions and they serve a 4 year term. $500 a month ($600 a month for chair)

District 1:



1. Cornelius F. Williams

Cornelius graduated from Central High School then went on to earn his bachelors in Physics from Stanford University, a masters in Physics from Texas A&M University, and a Doctorate of Philosophy & Physics from Michigan State University. He currently works as an adjunct professor at Metro Community College. He was previously elected to serve on the Learning Community for Douglas/Sarpy county from 2017-2020. He then ran for city council subcouncil 2 in 2021. Cornelius is passionate about housing in North Omaha, building new affordable homes, increasing and improving homeownership, and renovating older homes. He believes that Omaha is a growing city and needs secure jobs and will therefore improve the economy and income levels in North Omaha.
Source(s): LINKEDIN & OMAHA DAILY ARTICLE

District 3:



1. Yanira Garcia

Works in the communications/public relations field and is the current Metro Transit District 3 representative. She is running for re-election. Married to Roger Garcia (Douglas County Commissioner). Really passionate about transportation since she had to take the bus when she was younger. Yanira is super genuine, she doesn't feel like a regular politician. She tries to uplift young people and give recognition to people who are not as visible to the general public.
Website: https://garciafortransit.com/

District 5:



1. Josh Corrigan

From the Millard area. Has over 10 years of experience in transportation strategies, worked on ConnectGo and MetroNEXT and the initial development of the streetcar. Running for re-election.
Website: https://corriganfortransit.com/

District 7:



1. Tim Longergan

Veteran and owner and president of Lonerganlawns, a lawn care business. Ran in 2020 to represent district 5 of the Douglas County Board of Commission but lost to Maureen Boyle. In 2024 he ran for Transit Board and won unopposed. Running for re-election.

Metro Utilities District of Omaha:

The Metro Utilities District of Omaha (MUD) has an elected position on its 7-member Board of Directors The M.U.D. Board of Directors sets policy, oversees operations, and manages finances for Omaha's water and natural gas, with key roles including setting rates, approving budgets, and ensuring reliable service. They serve 6-year terms. Salary of $13K

Sub-division 3:



1. Gwen Howard

This woman has done it all lol! Served in the Nebraska Legislature from 2005-2013. Elected for MUD Board of Directors in 2014 and re-elected in 2020. Gwen is a retired social worker who went to Midland Lutheran College and earned her bachelor's in sociology and psychology as well as her master's in social work from UNO.
Website: https://www.facebook.com/gwen.howard.52



2. Andrew Adams

He's back! He ran for city council against Ron Hug and lost. He works at Union Pacific and has been there for over 20 years. Now he's running for the MUD position. His goals include a culture of accountability, investing in South O, and protecting the community.
Website: https://adamsforomaha.com/

Sub-division 4:



Tim Cavanaugh

Part of the Cavanaugh family of politicians. He was appointed to be the temporary Douglas County Treasurer when John Ewing won his Mayor seat in 2025. He served as the chair of the MUD board for 25+ years. He used to be a Captain of the Omaha police Department.

Sub-division 5:



1. Tanya Cook

She was born in Agana, Guam and moved to Omaha in the 60s-70s. In 2008, Tanya and Brenda Council, became the first Black women to be elected to the NE Legislature. She has degrees in International Business and Training and Development. She's also heavily involved in the community and holds various board positions. She was voted in 6-0 to the MUD board to replace Tom Dowd who passed away in 2019. Some recent news I saw was the street car mess. MUD vs. City of Omaha. Nobody wanted to pay for the cost of the water and gas infrastructure work. So they ended up compromising and splitting the bill. It's the reason why the streetcar is taking longer to complete. But if you look at it, her advocacy to not fund the whole project saved us taxpayers (our bills didn't increase) - who knows about the future though…

Omaha Public Power District:

OPPD is one of the largest publicly owned electric utilities in the U.S. There are 8-elected members and they set policies, approve budgets and rates, monitor performance, and ensure ethical conduct, working with the CEO to guide management. They serve 6-year terms. Salary of $1,120 per month (Chair makes $1,260 per month)

Sub-division 1:



1. Christian Mapes

Currently serves as the Director of Power Markets and has experience working across multiple energy markets SPP, MISO, ERCOT, and PJM??? He holds a degree in Systems and Design and Management from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). Wrote an op piece on the NE Examiner about federal red tape that prevents energy projects in NE. Website: https://www.mapesforoppd.com/



2. Sara Kohen

She's originally from Virginia. In her undergrad she studied Political Science and Spanish. She then went to UNL for law school. After graduating she became a judicial law clerk for the US Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit. She focused on real estate law, contract litigation, and insurance regulations. Now she works as a school administrator. She's active in the community and has been a part of committees and boards. She ran for City Council district 7 in 2021 and lost to Aimee Melton. Yes to a woman in OPPD!! Website: www.saraforoppd.com

Sub-division 2:



1. Jay Ignowski

Jay is a Licensed Journeyman Electrician and the President of IBEW Local 22 (UNION). He also coaches baseball at South High and is on the Board of the Heartland Workforce Solutions. “From the job site to the boardroom, I have the experience to balance budgets and keep the lights on.” Website: https://jayforoppd.com/



2. Mark Gudgel

Dr. Mark Gudgel grew up in Valentine, NE and became a high school English, World Religions, and Humanities teacher. He served six years as the Executive Director of the Educators Institute for Human Rights. In 2021, he ran for Mayor but lost to Stothert in the primary. As of now he is an associate professor of education at the College of Saint Mary. He’s really involved in the community - Omaha Performing Arts, vinNEBRASKA, Fulbright Association, and so forth! Website: https://mark4oppd.com/



3. Flint Harkness

Flint is from Pawnee City and Homer, NE. So he brings experience from both rural and urban communities. He went to UNO and earned a BS and MS in Secondary Education. He’s been a special ed teacher for over 14 years. He’s a really cool dude, always supports different meetings in the community! He also made a cute video with Mark showing their support for one another and getting people to the polls.
Website: https://voteflintharkness.com/



4. Joseph Giitter

Has 40 years of experience in the electric power industry. Was a part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for 14 years. He holds Engineering degrees from Iowa State University and The University of Tennessee. He’s running because of the coal mine in North Omaha that is set to continue operations. He grew up in the Miller Park Neighborhood and suffered asthma as a child. BELIEVES IN ACCOUNTABILITY and STATES THAT. Also has a photography and videography company in Downtown Omaha and is a photography teacher at Bellevue University. Website: https://www.giitterdoneforoppd.org/

Papio-Missouri River NRD:

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District (NRD) Board of Directors sets policy, oversees the budget, and guides programs for water quality/quantity, flood control, soil erosion, recreation, habitat, and waste management, acting as an elected local governing body to protect natural resources through projects like reservoirs, trails, and conservation efforts in the Omaha metro area. Serve 4-year terms.

Sub-district 2:



1. Fred Conley

Fred Conley has been a community activist for decades. He was born & raised on North 24th street, graduated from North High School, went to the U.S. Air Force & returned to earn his degree in sociology & psychology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He then went on to graduate from Creighton University's School of Law. In the 70's-80's, Conley worked in partnership with other advocates to change Omaha's "at large" voting system to a district- based voting system, the same one we use today. He was elected as the first Black city council-member in 1981 and later sat as the first Black acting mayor in 1988. Conley has served on several boards, including Metro Community College's (MCC) Board of Governors providing them legal guidance & the Omaha Housing Authority (OHA) Board. In 2016, there was a federal investigation into his role at OHA due to a conflict of interest that came to light. This led to him being debarred & forcing him to resign from his MCC Board of Governors position. He is currently serving on Papio-Missouri's NRD Board in subdistrict 2 and has been in this role since 1999.
Detailed bio: https://northomahahistory.com/2025/12/17/a-biography-of-omahas-fred-conley/

Sub-district 4:



1. Tim McCormick

Tim has been working in construction for 40 years with a focus on local bridges. He has his degree in civil engineering from University of Notre Dame, currently works for McC LLC, & has been serving on the Papio-Missouri NRD since 2019. This would be his third term. He's most interested in improving flood control, water quality, soil health & increasing recreational spaces. Here's an interview from 2018 of Tim discussing why you should vote for him! https://www.ketv.com/article/tim-mccormick/19849637
Website: https://www.facebook.com/timmccormicknrd/



2. Barbara Nichols

Comes from an agricultural background. Was first elected to the NRD in 2000. Ran for another term in 2014. Her and John Conley have been taking turns winning this seat since the early 2000s. She holds degrees in Political Science and Environmental Science and Planning. "My particular focus is on the urban landscape and particularly water, whether it's floodwater, storm water or drought conditions," Nichols said.
Video interview from 2017: KETV INTERVIEW

Sub-district 6:



1. Jim Thompson

Has been on the NRD since the 90s! Previously served on the board from 1997-1998 and then was elected again in 2002. Recognized the impact of Native Americans on Nebraska's natural resources when naming two reservoirs in 2025, which is more than we can say others have done! He previously had the roles of Chairperson & Board Director on the NRD Board but the roles have since been taken over by other members of the board. He is currently running for re-election for subdistrict 6! At one forum I went to he was asked about data centers (AI), and his response was that there are zoning laws in place that prevent him from getting involved. But he did mention that he himself is not in favor of them but that the board does make money off of these data centers…

Sub-district 8:



1. Tim N. Fowler

Tim served at Offutt AFB for 25 years and has a lot of support for our military. He's experienced in tech & has a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His priorities seem to include flood control & ensuring a balanced budget within the Board. Tim has been on the board since 2003!
Website: https://www.facebook.com/Tim.Fowler.4.NRD.Board/

Judges:

LINK to Approval rates from Bar Association
LINK to NE Examiner Breakdown

- So basically lawyers from NE rate the judges based on how fair they are and overall their experiences working with them
- If you are someone like me who thinks judges need to be rotated often, I usually vote NO on every single judge. But that's just me. If you go based on what their score is, that's cool too. Every strategy is good here.

Judges of the Court of Appeals:

The Court of Appeals consists of six judges appointed by the Governor. If you feel like you were robbed of a fair trial you are given the right to get your case reviewed by one of the judges of the Court of Appeals. You don't get another trial, these judges just look at the transcripts or the notes taken of your case and make a decision that way. They serve a 6 year term and can stay on the court as long as we the public vote "yes."

District 2:



1. Michael W. Pirtle

Was appointed in 2011 by governor Dave Heineman. In 2020 he was rated 68.7% and in 2026 he was rated 83.3% from the Bar Association. TBH that's average. We want someone who is passionate for this role - if you think about it he's the guy that looks through your case completely and decides whether your punishment and trial was fair enough. I would want someone to go above and beyond to find the errors, you know!

Judges of Workers' Compensation Court:

Workers Comp judges deal with cases involving injuries and illnesses in the workplace. They are nominated by the governor and serve 6 year terms.



1. Dirk V. Block

Appointed in 2016 by Governor Pete Ricketts. If you look at him from far away he looks like Tom Hanks! He was rated 75.7% in 2020 and 100% in 2026. He must be doing something right? Like let me get injured real quick to see what kind of money I can be making? Haha JK guys DONT DO THAT



2. Thomas E. Stine

Appointed in 2013 by governor Dave Heineman. He gives Harvard poster child? Was rated 75.6% in 2020 and 95.8% in 2026. I mean another fair number like he's almost at 100%. My only thing is do we think he served his time? He's been here since 2013? Up to y'all.

Judges of the Douglas County District Court:

Consists of 18 judges who work on civil, criminal, and domestic relation cases. They serve 6 year terms.



1. LeAnne M. Srb

Appointed by Pete Ricketts in 2021. She is a newer judge so she's served for about 3 years now. Her rating as of now is 88.9%. It's not a terrible grade for her first year of being on the chopping block.



2. Duane C. Dougherty

He was appointed in 2011 by Dave Heineman. In 2020 he was rated 70.6% and in 2026 he was rated 93.3%. Also not a bad rating. He's increased his score by a lot.



3. Molly B. Keane

She was appointed in 2021 by Pete Ricketts. She is a newer judge and has served for 3 years. Her rating is 91.7% which is pretty high for a new judge. She's doing her thing actually. They say women make the best kind of judges because we're tough and honest. Can we say that about her based on her ratings?



4. Marlon A. Polk

He was appointed in 2005 by Dave Heineman. His ratings are pretty low - it's shocking! In 2020 he was rated 67.1% and in 2026 he was rated 63.9%. We need representation but I'm curious what people have to say about him. Are we discriminating against his style of judging because it's different? Or are we actually acknowledging that he lets people off the hook?



5. Katie L. Benson

Was appointed in 2022 by Pete Ricketts. She's a newer judge so she has only been in her spot for 3 years. If people vote yes she will officially serve a 6 year term. Her rating in 2026 is 83.7%. So it's not a terrible number, we could let her go another 6 years and see if she can increase it?

Judges of the Douglas County Court

A lower court that handles civil cases that are up to $7,000, small claims, traffic violations, preliminary felony hearings, and things like guardianship and wills. There are 12 judges on this court and they serve 6 year terms.



1. Sherly L. Lohaus

Was appointed by Dave Heineman in 2011. In 2020 she got a rating of 72.7% and in 2026 she received 81.3%. I mean she's pretty average. Back to a point I made earlier, are we ok with average or do we want someone who is doing above average?



2. Marcela A. Keim

Was appointed by Dave Heineman in 2011. In 2020 she received 73% and in 2026 she was rated 78.5%. Not much of a jump if you look at the other judges. I think we need judges to stay within the 80s margin, right?



3. Craig Q. McDermott

Appointed in 2005 by Dave Heineman. He's like the 3rd longest standing judge in this court. He was rated 72% in 2020 and 93.9% in 2026. He improved significantly. I guess attorneys are liking his verdicts. Just keep in mind the amount of years he's been in this position.

4. John E. Huber (HAS NO PHOTOS WHY?? - another reason to BOOT HIM)

Appointed in 1998 by Ben Nelson. That's about 28 years on this court… In 2020 he was rated 67.6% and in 2026 he was rated 84.4%. Ok getting a 67% in 2020 is pretty LOW. Let's X him please. It's time for something new!



5. Stephanie Steigleder

Was appointed by Pete Ricketts in 2017. In 2020 she was rated 74.6% and in 2026 she was rated 95.7%. She's on the right path! Let's let her cook.



6. Marcena M. Hendrix

Appointed in 1998 by Ben Nelson.. GUYS THAT'S WHEN I WAS BORN LOL. Her rating in 2020 was 72.3% and in 2026 her rating is at 81.3%. Another average rating. Do we think she has potential? Or are we like F it time to change it up.

Judges of the Douglas County Juvenile Court

Consists of 6 judges that handle cases involving children. Think when a child gets in trouble, when they are neglected, or when someone is seeking custody of them. Judges serve 6 year terms.



1. Matthew R. Kahler

He was appointed by Pete Ricketts in 2017. He was rated 71.7% in 2020 and in 2026 he received a 91.9% rating. Hopefully that rating reflects him protecting our kids because yes pls do sir.

Special Issues:

$155,000,000 Public Facilities Bonds

- Fund a new public safety headquarters for the Omaha Police and Fire departments, built at the Crossroads development near 72nd and Dodge streets
    - Police says they need it bc their current building is old and has asbestos
    - The thing to consider is that it also covers a new training facility for the fire department. Maybe we can vote no but find a way to still help our favs at the fire department
- **NOT A NECESSITY GUYS VOTE NO**

$30,000,000 Park & Recreation Bonds

- The $30 million park and recreation bond represents the final piece of funding needed to complete Tranquility Park
    - 16 soccer fields
- Up to yall if you think you'll use it - vote for it. If you're not about our taxes paying for it then vote no

Constitutional Amendments:

Amendment 1: Changes term limits for our State Senators from 2 terms (8 years) to 3 terms (12 years) **VOTE NO** they don't need more time. They passed pro-life and trans bills in their current term structure so we know they're actively doing things with the terms they have. Now imagine how much 4 more years might feel - NOPEEE

Initiative Measure 440: Allows Nebraskans to place bets online - kinda up to yall! Gambling is one of those things that can be addictive but if people want to do it? Who are we to judge? It's a new way for our state to get some tax money, some people argue. So this one is up to you and what you value.

Initiative Measure 441: Creates laws around online betting because we can't introduce something without there being rules. Both 440 and 441 will need to be passed together. So you can't vote one yes or one no. It's either all in or nothing. Another one that's up to you if you're anti gambling That's ok - that's what voting is for - to make decisions based on what you care about!

Initiative Measure 442: Making sports political .. they're doing this to prohibit trans youth from participating in sports (in all honestly it's not that serious, let people play whatever they want - it shouldn't be a constitutional change) **JUST WILD VOTE NO**