



# **2024** **VOTER GUIDE**

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY** **SARPY COUNTY**

**Primary Election Day - May 14, 2024**

# 2024 DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTY VOTER GUIDE

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# 2024 DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTY VOTER GUIDE

## How to Get Started:

1. **Print off your sample ballot by visiting your county election commission website**  
Douglas: <https://www.votedouglascounty.com/>  
Sarpy: <https://www.sarpy.gov/691/Sample-Ballot>
2. **Fill out your sample ballot using the voter guide (not every race listed below will be on your ballot)**
3. **Take your completed sample ballot with you to vote on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## DOUGLAS COUNTY

### U.S. SENATE (2-YEAR TERM)

#### Pete Ricketts - Republican (Incumbent)

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

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

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

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

should be based on biological sex.

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

**Israel:** Believes Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East, and the U.S. should stand by our ally.

**Ukraine:** Has criticized Biden’s slow response to weapons requests from Ukraine

#### John Glen Weaver - Republican

22-year U.S. Air Force veteran and resident of Omaha.

**Top 3 Priorities if Elected:** Secure our southern border, election integrity, and reduce the debt of \$34T (Has stated that he will not vote to increase the debt).

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

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

**Border Security:** Supports closing and securing the southern border; supports deporting those who have

come to this country illegally; and does not support a path to citizenship for people who came to the U.S. illegally.

**Ukraine:** Does not support funding Ukraine.

**Israel:** Supports the U.S. helping Israel.

**Elections:** Believes we need to go back to one day for elections; wants common-sense measures for Voter ID, signature verification on absentee ballots, and end mail-in voting.

**Mandates:** Against mask and vaccination mandates.

### Mac Stevens - Republican

4<sup>th</sup> generation Nebraska agriculture producer, consulting nutritionist, and businessman.

**Top 3 Priorities if Elected:** More security to protect our schools, communities, cities, and nation; reduce inflationary government overspending and expand domestic fuel production; and expand less invasive, yet effective treatment options for diabetes and cancer.

**Abortion:** Believes in exceptions for abortion including medical emergencies.

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

**Border:** Believes we should finish the border wall.

**Ukraine:** We should meet our 2% of GDP funding obligation but insist all other NATO nations to do the same.

**Israel:** Believes that Gaza is an ongoing hostage situation and should focus on supporting the families involved.

**Elections:** Wants to restore election integrity with paper balloting, and proper identification on a voter's day holiday.

### Preston Love Jr. - Democrat

Long time civil rights and North Omaha community advocate. He is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha teaching political science.

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

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

**Border:** Supports a path to citizenship for those who want to contribute to our economy.

**Healthcare:** Supports universal healthcare coverage.

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

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

## **U.S. SENATE (6-YEAR TERM)**

### Deb Fischer - Republican (Incumbent)

Seeking a third 6-year term in the U.S. Senate. Born and raised in Lincoln, NE.

Currently lives in Valentine, NE where she operates her family ranch.

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

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

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

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

**Ukraine:** Voted against H.R. 2471 and H.R. 815 which sent \$13.6 billion and \$60 billion in aid for Ukraine.

**Israel:** Believes in the long-standing U.S.-Israel alliance; and wants to ensure that we proudly stand behind one of our best allies in their greatest time of need.

### Arron Kowalski - Republican

Nebraska farmer and rancher

**Top 3 Priorities if Re-elected:** Wants a new Homestead Act to build affordable housing in county seats nationwide to boost rural population; fund building large greenhouse facilities in communities so people can grow their food communally; and bundle up plant matter

after crops are harvested and submerge it in the Gulf of Mexico to sequester carbon underground and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

**Border:** Advocates for improving the country's visa program.

### Kenneth Peterson - Legalize Marijuana NOW Party

**No information found.**



### Kerry Eddy - Legalize Marijuana NOW Party

Nebraska Air National Guard veteran, artist, musician, licensed pilot, and cancer survivor.

**Top 3 Priorities if Elected:** Wants to update our healthcare systems to benefit the citizens; protections for our environment; education.

**Border:** Believes closing borders and deportation are neither useful or sustainable; believes we must research and understand all the factors driving this increase and seek meaningful solutions within those countries from which they are coming.

**Foreign Aid:** Believes sanctions against those countries which threaten democratic processes and the free exchange of goods, and ideas should be enforced; believes in sanctions against countries that appear neutral in the face of such ideologies or continue to engage with those countries should also be sanctioned.

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### District 2

#### Don Bacon - Republican (Incumbent)

U.S. Air Force veteran. Served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2017.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; believes there should be exceptions for abortions in the case of rape, incest, and the health of the mother.

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

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

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

**Ukraine:** Supports further funding for Ukraine; believes that it is in our national security interest that Ukraine remain independent.

**Israel:** Believes the United States needs to do whatever it can to support Israel.

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

#### Dan Frei - Republican

Omaha businessman. Former candidate for U.S. House of Representatives.

**Abortion:** Opposes abortion and opposes giving taxpayer dollars to organizations that perform or refer for abortion services; will defend the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

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

**Border:** Believes that illegal immigrants apprehended

at the border or in the interior of the country should be expelled to their home countries immediately.

**Ukraine:** Opposed to additional funds going to Ukraine; not interested in funding other countries' security before we secure our own country.

**Israel:** Believes U.S. should continue its unwavering support of Israel.

#### Tony Vargas - Democrat

Current Nebraska State Senator for District 7. Former Omaha Public School Board Member and science teacher.

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

**Gender Issues:** Supports gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors; supports biological boys competing in girls' sports.

# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

## Tim Schram - Republican

First elected to the Nebraska Public Service Commission in 2006.

Formerly served 12-years on the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners, 6-years on the Sarpy County Planning Commission, and 3-years on the Sarpy County Extension Board.

**911 System:** Supported statewide implementation of an improved 911 system to enhance service reliability.

**Broadband:** Supports continued development of and investment in broadband service across the state

**Natural Gas:** Worked to prevent rate increases from private natural gas providers; and committed to our nation's energy independence.

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

## District 5

### Flint Harkness - Democrat

A Resource and Special Education Teacher.

**School Funding:** Wants properly funded public schools; and opposes opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students

**Taxes:** Wants to lower property taxes.

**Independence:** Wants people to live their lives they were meant to live without bias or prejudice from others.

### Margo R. Juarez - Democrat

Current Omaha Public Schools Board member. Before her election to office, Margo worked with the Social Security Administration and IRS. Currently endorsed by the Planned Parenthood Advocates of Nebraska.

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

wants to explore options that allow for collecting more taxes from wealthy citizens in Nebraska.

**Long-Term Care for Seniors:** Feels there needs to be more options for seniors and more social workers.

**Unions:** A former union worker; would support expanding public sector collective bargaining to include legislative and judicial branch employees; and would oppose any legislation that sought to take away public sector collective bargaining rights.

**Taxes:** Believes that property taxes are too high; and

### Gilbert Ayala - Republican

Has run for the District 5 legislative seat against Senator Mike McDonnell two times. Former candidate for Omaha City Council in 2021. Feels that Republicans should not be afraid to defend their values.

**Abortion:** States that he is pro-life.

support border states.

**Gender Issues:** Opposes same-sex marriage.

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

**2nd Amendment:** Calls himself a second amendment candidate.

**Border:** Supports using some taxpayer money to

## District 7

### Christopher N. Geary - Democrat

U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Longtime karate teacher and published poet. Former candidate for governor, state senator, and Omaha mayor. Does not take campaign contributions and does not participate in debates.

**Law Enforcement:** Would like to see more police officers become active in schools and after-school programs.

### Dunixi Guereca - Democrat

Executive Director for Stand for Schools (a non-profit that works to support public schools and oppose opportunity scholarships and charter schools). Has served as the President of the Nebraska Young Democrats and is currently a national officer for the Young Democrats of America.

**Government Operation:** Opposes the privatization of state services.

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

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

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

### Ben Salazar - Independent

Vietnam Veteran from Western Nebraska. Advocate and supporter of different social justice movements.

**Abortion:** Supports abortion and believes that the Nebraska Constitution should be amended to create a right to abortion.

**Employment:** Feels the most important issue facing Nebraskans is the workforce shortage; and feels that working to incorporate the immigrant population into the workforce and helping them be successful could

address the shortages.

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

**Unions:** Would support a bill expanding public sector bargaining to include legislative and judicial branch employees.

## District 9

### John Cavanaugh Jr. - Democrat (Incumbent)

Assistant public defender for Douglas County. Formerly worked as an aide to U.S. Senator Ben Nelson and Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey. Has served on the Board of Directors of Mode Shift Omaha (a sustainable transportation advocacy group).

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

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

students.

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

### Julia K. Palzer - Republican

Managing partner at Kellogg & Palzer. Has served on the Board of Directors for Essential Pregnancy Services.

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

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

**Law Enforcement:** Wants to provide more support to law enforcement.

**Healthcare:** Wants to improve access to mental health treatment.

## District 11

### Terrell McKinney - Democrat (Incumbent)

Current law student at Creighton University. Also coaches wrestling at Omaha North Magnet High School. Serves on the Board of Directors for Black Men United and is a member of the Nebraska Democratic Party's Black Caucus.

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

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

**Criminal Justice Reform:** Advocates for geriatric parole, mandatory parole window at age 80, and establishment of a sentencing task force.

**Education:** Supported the Financial Literacy Act that required schools to teach financial literacy.



### Calandra Cooper - Independent

Currently works as a pharmacy technician and medical support agent. Studying to become a nurse. A Metro Community College instructor.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and opposes amending the Nebraska Constitution to create a right to abortion. **School Choice:** Supports school choice.

**Gender Issues:** Believes participation in athletic

activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex.

### Ernie Chambers – Independent

Nebraska's longest-serving state senator. He held the District 11 seat for 46 years. Civil rights activist and vocal atheist. During his time in the legislature, he worked to abolish the death penalty, establish learning communities, and require district elections for local boards.

No additional information available.

## District 13

### Tracy Hightower-Henne – Democrat

Currently the Executive Director of the Nebraska Innocence Project and co-founder of Hightower Reff Law. Also, the Chair of the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Nebraska. Committed to progressive leadership.

**Abortion:** Advocate for abortion rights. **School Choice:** Opposes education scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

**Gender Issues:** Advocated against LB574 and LB575 which banned gender mutilation surgeries for minors and

prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

### Nick Batter – Independent

8-year Army veteran. Currently works at Hawkins Construction and helped negotiate projects such as the Eppley Airfield renovations. Current member of the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**Tax Reform:** Supports property tax relief but only for those who bring value to Nebraska. **Criminal Justice:** Wants to decriminalize marijuana use by adults on private property.

**Education:** Provide competitive pay for educators

### Ashlei Spivey - Democrat

Founder and Executive Director of I Be Black Girl. Serves on the Board of Directors for Women's Funding Network. Co-founded Best Burger. Former president of the Board of Directors of the ACLU of Nebraska.

**Abortion:** Advocate for abortion rights; founder and current executive director of the only reproductive justice organization in Nebraska. **Public Health:** Wants to prioritize policy that supports clean energy and sustainable climate action for Nebraska.

**Gender Issues:** Advocated against LB575 which

prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

### Matthew Clough - Republican

Has served on the Board of the YMCA and been involved as a teacher at the Hope Center for Kids and the Abide Network. Formerly served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services during Governor Dave Heineman's administration.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and opposes amending the constitution to create a right to abortion. **Election Integrity:** Supports vote audits in every precinct.

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

gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors.

**School Choice:** Believes that money should follow the child so that school choice is actually a choice.

## District 15

### Dave Wordekemper - Republican

Former firefighter and paramedic for the Fremont Fire and Rescue. Current vice president of the Nebraska Association of Fire Fighters.

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

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

gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors.

**Criminal Justice Reform:** Supports increasing penalties for drug crimes.

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

### Anthony D. Hanson – Republican

Currently an engineer at Cargill. Wants to put Nebraska first and uphold conservative, Christian values.

**Abortion:** Pro-life and wants to bring an end to abortion in Nebraska; opposes amending the constitution to create a right to abortion; and wants to work to improve foster care and adoption services.

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

gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors.

**School Choice:** Supports school choice; and supports a parents' right to choose what education looks like for their child.

**Infrastructure:** Believes we cannot be reliant on China and other foreign adversaries for Nebraska's infrastructure needs.

### Roxie Kracl - Republican

Currently owns a bar and restaurant in Fremont and serves on the Board of Directors for the Fremont Chamber.

Former Chair of the Dodge County GOP and previous executive committee member for the Nebraska GOP.

Running as a champion of Nebraska values – hard work, individual liberty, and fiscal responsibility.

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

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

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

**Governance:** Wants to stop government control over small businesses.

### Scott Thomas – Republican

Currently the Regional Director for Nebraska's U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights, and co-founder of Village in Progress.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; wrote a letter of support for Nebraska's Heartbeat Bill; and opposes amending the Nebraska Constitution to create a right to abortion.

**Gender Issues:** Testified in support of LB574 which banned gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors; and wrote a letter of support for LB575 which prevented biological boys from competing in girls' sports

and accessing girls' restrooms/locker rooms.

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

**Criminal Justice Reform:** Supports legalizing recreational marijuana.

### Peter Mayberry – Democrat

Entrepreneur and owner of several laundromats. Past candidate for Nebraska Legislative District 31.

**Taxes:** Wants to focus on better tax policy affecting small businesses.

## District 31

### Kathleen Kauth - Republican (Incumbent)

Founder of a mediation and conflict coaching firm in Omaha. First appointed to the legislature in 2022.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and opposes amending the Nebraska Constitution to create a right to abortion. **Taxes:** Worked to cut income taxes and eliminate taxes on Social Security; and supported legislation to provide a childcare tax credit to families.

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

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

### Mary Ann Folchert - Democrat

Current stay-at-home mom and former schoolteacher.

**Abortion:** Supports abortion to purchase certain types of weapons.

**Education:** Believes public schools rely too heavily on property tax revenue and would like to explore other sustainable long-term funding options. **School Choice:** Advocated against legislation that would provide education scholarships allowing parents more choice in deciding where to send their children to school.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment:** Supports raising the minimum age

## District 39

### Tony Sorrentino - Republican

Currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Creighton University and is the Founder and President of Health Plan Fiduciary Compliance. He also serves as the chair of the Board of Directors for El Museo Latino and is a member of the Board of Trustees for Doane University.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and opposes amending the Nebraska Constitution to create a right to abortion. **School Choice:** Supports policies that enable parents to send their children to the school that best suits their child's needs.

**Gender Issues:** Believes participation in athletic activities and access to restrooms/locker rooms should be based on biological sex; and supports banning gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors. **Taxes:** Believes we need to find alternatives to the current taxing system to fund public education; and opposes the EPIC Option (consumption tax).

### Allison Heimes – Independent

Currently works as an immigration attorney and serves on the Loss Advisory Board for the Kim Foundation.

**Mental Health:** Plans to introduce legislation that would expand mental health wings in hospitals and create crisis intervention teams. **Veterans:** Advocated for LB261 which honors deceased National Guard service men and women.

**Taxes:** Wants to explore offering tax incentives to businesses that offer childcare options for employees. **School Funding:** Opposes opportunity scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

## NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## District 3

### Lisa Schonhoff - Republican

Former teacher and collegiate instructor of 20 years. Past English as a second language teacher.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and believes that students should be taught, at age-appropriate levels, that pre-born babies are individual human beings. **Parental Involvement:** Believes parents should have access to all books and learning materials used in instruction; and supports school choice and charter schools.

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

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

### Bill McAllister - Republican

Currently retired. Past superintendent at West Holt Public Schools with 37 years of education experience.

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

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

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

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

## District 4

### Stacy Matula - Republican

Has 30 years of experience in finance and administration. Held a leadership position in Nordam (an aerospace company). Current Lord of Hosts Church member

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and believes that students should be taught, at age-appropriate levels, about the value and dignity of every human life.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that participation in girls' sports and access to facilities should be based on biological sex.

**Curriculum:** Believes that sex education should focus on providing accurate information about human biology

and reproduction without including transgender ideologies; and believes that Critical Race Theory should not be taught in schools.

**Parental Involvement:** Believes that parents should have the freedom to choose the school that best meets their child's needs; and that parents are the primary educators of their children.

### Liz Renner - Democrat

Currently an independent writer and producer with a background in documentary filmmaking. She has experience as a communications professional in private businesses and public universities.

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

**School Libraries:** Advocated against LB441, which

would have helped remove sexually explicit material from school libraries.

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

### LeDonna White Griffin - Independent

Founder of Leaders to Legends Academy which supports students in private school or homeschool.

Previously worked in the Omaha Public School District for 26 years.

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

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

**Gender Issues:** Believes that participation in girls'

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

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

## **NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS**

## District 4

### Elizabeth R. O'Connor - Democrat (Incumbent)

Currently serves as the Deputy County Attorney in the Civil Division of the Douglas County Attorney's Office.

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

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

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

Jim Rogers - Republican

Former Chair of the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

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

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

District 8

Barbara Weitz - Democrat (Incumbent)

Former instructor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Grace Abbott School of Social Work. Previous board member for the Omaha Women’s Fund, Urban League of Nebraska, and Avenue Scholars. She also chaired the grants committee at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Is a frequent large donor to pro-abortion initiatives.

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

workforce.

**Programming:** Supports adding certificate programs that will retrain or provide advanced training for our

**Funding:** Concerned about finding a way to cover the potential \$54 million shortfall without raising tuition rates.

Zachary Mellender - Independent

Currently serves on the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.

**Student Retention:** Wants to find ways to retain college graduates in the state of Nebraska; and wants to work to place graduates in good jobs in Nebraska.

critical use of the 1st Amendment and free speech is on college campuses.

**Tuition:** Wants to work to reduce tuition for in-state students.

**Innovation:** Wants to revive the Nebraska University System as an innovation hub; and wants investment in cutting-edge programs and continued collaboration with local companies.

**1st Amendment Rights on Campus:** Believes the most

**DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

District 5

Kenneth L. Anderson - Republican

He has experience as a software developer, electronics developer, network administrator and radio broadcast engineer.

**Election Integrity:** Wants to use the County Board of Commissioners’ power of the purse to present evidence of fraud and stop corruption; wants to get rid of the election machines; and advocates for hand counting with observers present as the gold standard for vote counting.

**City/County Government Merger:** Opposes the consolidation and centralization of jurisdictions.

**Taxes:** Believes that taxes are “injurious”; and supports using the printing of money as a substitute for taxes.

Sean Kelly - Republican

Local investor and agricultural real estate professional.

**City/County Government Merger:** Willing to listen and study any proposal carefully.

and all county expenditures should be rigorously evaluated.

**Budget:** County government should endeavor to provide the best services available at the least cost at all times;

**Public Safety:** Juvenile justice should focus on prevention, support, and rehabilitation.



# LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

## Subdistrict 2

### Sharnelle Shelton - Democrat (Incumbent)

Current Vice Chair of the Learning Community of Douglas/Sarpy County. Appointed to the board in 2023.

**Parental Involvement:** Helped increase enrollment in Parent University (a program to support parents in their efforts to enhance their child's education).

**Early Childhood Education:** Advocates for more

comprehensive early childhood education programs.

**Accountability:** Advocates for the collection and analysis of relevant data to address the effectiveness of current programs.

### Carol Hahn - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the board in 2017.

No additional information available.

## District 4

### Brooktynn Blood - Republican

Currently a tribal court judge working with children and parents involved in the foster care system.

**Teacher Recruitment/Retention:** Advocates actively engaging with past participants of the Future Teacher Preparation program to understand deficiencies and

offer updates; and the board should look to expand partnerships with colleges and universities in the region.

### Raquel Dixon Rodriguez - Republican

Current CEO and past news reporter. Involved with The Autism Community in Action and No Labels.

She is also trained in Domestic Violence Advocacy.

**Parental Involvement:** Wants to empower parents to play an active role in their child's learning; and wants to unite families and schools to help combat student absenteeism.

**Early Childhood Education:** Advocate for early intervention before children start Kindergarten to help

ensure strong foundations for academic success.

**Teacher Recruitment/Retention:** Advocate to allow those who are studying to become teachers to gain hands-on experience in the classroom more quickly with more instructional support.

### Angie Miller - Democrat (Incumbent)

Former Chair of the Learning Community Coordinating Council. She is the executive director of an early childhood literacy nonprofit. *\*Miller resigned from her current term on the Learning Community Board in April due to a dispute about whether to keep the current interim CEO of the Learning Community*

**3rd Grade Reading Proficiency:** Focused on ensuring students are achieving reading proficiency in 3rd grade.

**Budget:** Believes every dollar should work towards improving educational outcomes; and has helped ensure that the Learning Community has not raised its levy.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Advocates for investing in training and professional development for teachers; and promotes programs that allow parents to earn a GED with opportunities to obtain further schooling and credentialing in early childhood instruction.

### Stephen Bloom - Democrat

Currently works as an IT professional in the public school system.

**Student Achievement:** Believes every student deserves an equal chance to succeed in a career; and believes offering supplementary learning can bridge language and opportunity gaps.

**Parental Involvement:** Believes that by serving the parents in our community, we can directly impact the lives of students.

# PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Subdistrict 1

### Rodney Storm - Democrat

12 years of experience as the General Manager of the Middle Missouri NRD (this has since merged with the Papio NRD). He has 36 years of experience in city management and 2 years of construction management experience.

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

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

### **Platte River Recreational Lake/Canal Zone**

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

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

### Dan Conway - Republican

No information available

### Shawn Mohr Melotz - Republican

Current Certified Public Accountant and the managing partner of a local CPA firm. Over 30 years of public accounting experience. He serves as the Chair of the Nebraska Society of CPA's Legislation Committee and is a member of the Political Education Committee.

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

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

### **Platte River Recreational Lake/Canal Zone**

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

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

### Van Harman - Republican

No information available

## METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT OF OMAHA

### Subdivision 1

### Jim Begley - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the board in 2013. Current Chair of the MUD Board of Directors.

**Infrastructure:** Targeting infrastructure rehabilitation efforts toward the areas with the highest failure rates rather than by age or material of the pipe; advocates shifting from cast iron main pipes to less expensive and

more flexible plastic pipe that won't corrode; and advocates utilizing new techniques and technology such as pipe bursting to make maintenance and repair less disruptive.

## Subdivision 2

### David Friend - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the board in 2000. Voted against creating a new paid position at MUD to oversee Diversity and Inclusion.

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

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

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

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

### Dennis J. Madsen - Republican

Has over 30 years of experience in MUD's Construction Department.

**Infrastructure:** Advocates for keeping infrastructure replacement/maintenance jobs in-house with local MUD crews instead of contracted labor.

**Natural and Cyber Security:** Believes that maintaining

a high level of security in all areas to protect MUD information and resident information is important; and believes that MUD already has multiple safeguards in place to protect services against natural disaster.

### Patrick M. Brennan - Democrat

Currently the Director of Internal Auditing for MUD. He has worked in the gas industry for 36 years in the areas of gas pipelines, gas marketing, and gas utility. He is also a Certified Public Accountant with 27 years of account management experience.

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

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

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

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

## OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

## Subdivision 8

### Mike Cavanaugh - Republican (Incumbent)

Currently self-employed in the private security field. He is also a retired police lieutenant for the city of Omaha. He has served as the treasurer, secretary, and twice as the board chair. He was first elected to the board in 1994.

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

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

### Tyler Sondag - Independent

Currently a professional civil engineer.

**Infrastructure:** Advocates for solving infrastructure problems as they occur instead of deferring maintenance until the problem becomes more costly and unmanageable.

**Zero Emissions by 2050 Initiative:** Believes that it is important to be a good steward of the environment, but we must also ensure that OPPD maintains reliable and

affordable power for all citizens; and many of the technologies required to hit this goal are still in development.

**Rolling Blackout Mitigation:** Believes that we need to have enough excess power generation capacity to handle both the base loads and the peak loads

### Morgan Rye-Craft - Independent

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

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

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

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

## REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT BOARD OF OMAHA

### District 1

#### Douglas Ignowski - Democrat

**Operator Shortage:** Believes the most important challenge facing our public transportation systems is the shortage of operators; and advocates for bargaining in good faith, and having a partnership with the operators and their representation.

**Public Transit Access:** Wants to address disparities in

access to mobility; wants to promote affordable and efficient public transportation options; and wants to prioritize sustainable transportation modes to reduce environmental impact.

**Ridership:** Wants to increase public transportation ridership by making it accessible and affordable for all.

#### Cornelius Williams - Democrat

Previous member of the Learning Community Coordination Council.

No additional information available

#### Antonio L. Bradshaw - Independent

No additional information available

### District 2

#### Rose Kohl - Republican

Currently works as a data scientist at Union Pacific Railroad.

**Ridership:** Believes that routes need to be extended to reach the airport and zoo; wants to focus on cleanliness, reliability, and safety to help increase riders; and wants to also consider event-specific routes and schedules.

**Routes:** Wants to expand services to key areas like connecting North and South Omaha to the rest of the

city; and wants to evaluate sidewalks along the existing lines to ensure they are wide enough to be safe and accessible so riders can reach the bus stops.

**Budget:** Need to budget for maintenance of the existing equipment; and need to recruit and retain quality drivers to avoid service interruptions.

#### William King - Democrat

**Ridership:** Wants to deploy a community survey initiative at bus stops and organize community forums to get input from actual riders.

**Routes:** Wants to look at strategies for linking the area suburbs and rural towns surrounding Omaha and

Council Bluffs.

**Support:** Believes the most important challenge facing public transportation is the lack of political leadership investing in the only public transportation infrastructure in Omaha.

### Clarice Dombeck - Independent

She is an urban planner, creative placemaker, community organizer, and urban farmer.

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

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

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

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

### David Levy - Independent

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

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

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

## District 3

### John G. Sullivan - Republican

Trustee at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church and School. Former Principal and Director at BCDM Architects.

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

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

### Andrew Adams - Democrat

Has 17 years of experience in rail transit.

**Ridership:** Wants to upgrade infrastructure to meet ADA standards; advocates for dedicated lanes and signal priority; wants to upgrade and maintain security systems on vehicles and at transit stations; and wants to include more micro transit options.

**Collaboration:** Wants to ensure a partnership with the new streetcar authority.

**Challenges to Public Transportation:** Advocates for improved safety, sustainability, accessibility, and funding mechanisms.

### Yanira Garcia - Democrat

She has 10 years of experience as a communication and public relations professional.

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

**Routes:** Believes that if adding other cities to the public

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

## District 4

### Mark V. Holst - Democrat

**Ridership:** Wants to ensure routes and services match the needs of students, workers, seniors, and underserved communities; and wants to promote the benefits of mass transit to the community to help increase ridership.

**Routes:** Wants to explore feasible ways to extend the

routes to western Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Sarpy County.

**Challenges to Public Transportation:** Believes that reliability is the most important challenge facing the public transportation system; and advocates for continued use of current and evolving technology to inform customers of delays or schedule changes.



### Daniel Padilla - Democrat

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

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

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

### Scott Dobbe - Independent

He has experience on the ORBT Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Transit Oriented Development Stakeholder Committee, Heartland 2050 Infrastructure Committee, and the ConnectGo Communications Committee.

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

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

throughout the city.

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

### Ben Cass - Democrat

Has experience as a software engineer

**Challenges to Public Transportation:** Believes Omaha is a car-centric city; and wants to move the city to a place where public transit is a viable, convenient, and affordable option.

**Routes:** Wants to focus on long-term stewardship and growth of the Metro Omaha system as they add new bus lines, a new streetcar, and expand the rapid transit network.

## District 5

### Josh Corrigan - Democrat

He has over 10 years of experience in transportation strategy for the Omaha Metro area. He has worked on Connect GO from the Greater Omaha Chamber and MetroNEXT from Metro, as well as initial planning for the Omaha Streetcar project.

**Ridership:** Wants to remove barriers for everyone including seniors and riders with disabilities to make a more accessible system.**Routes:** Wants to ensure that our existing system is capable of growing to serve the region; and wants to identify sustainable ways to make connections to important

areas before expanding services.

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

### John McCann - Republican

Currently works as a local nurse. He is a former candidate for Douglas County Commissioners District 6.

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

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

Plattsmouth, and even Lincoln.

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

## District 6

### Curt Simon - Independent

Former executive director of Metro Transit. He has spent his entire working career in the transportation industry including 33 years with Metro Transit. Board member for the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers.

**Ridership:** Wants to increase the frequency on most heavily traveled routes.

**Routes:** Advocates working with neighboring jurisdictions to communicate the benefits associated with joining the regional system.

**Challenges to Public Transportation:** Believes the

most important challenges to facing our public transportation system is assuring developments are completed with transit access; and wants to work with the development community and City of Omaha to communicate the types of infrastructure that is beneficial to transit riders.

## District 7

### Tim Lonergan - Republican

Served in the U.S. Coast Guard. For the past 20 years he has owned and operated Lonergan Lawns. He is also a former candidate for Douglas County Commissioners District 5 and Nebraska Legislature District 10.

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

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

budget and expand services.

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

## OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Subdistrict 5

#### Gini Magnuson - Democrat

She has 20 years of experience in finance ranging from securities trading to banking compliance, and now works in risk management. She is a musician hobbyist and values education in the arts.

**Staff Recruitment and Retention:** Believes that staff members should not be vilified or criminalized for the contents of the library; and wants to ensure staff members are satisfied with their compensation, enjoy a physically and psychologically safe environment at work, and see meaningful investment in their professional development.

**Parental Involvement:** Believes that parents and

caregivers should be involved in and support their children's education outside of the classroom and be responsive to their children's teachers and educators.

**College and Career Readiness:** Wants to seek out and strengthen partnerships with community colleges, trade schools, and state universities to help students find affordable, attainable education.

#### Spencer Head - Republican (Incumbent)

Currently serves as the President of the Omaha Public-School Board. He worked as the education and medical communities liaison for Congressman Lee Terry. He has also served as the Policy Advisor for Speaker of the Legislature, Jim Scheer. He also serves as a board member for the Victory Boxing Club and Community Center.

**School Libraries:** Believes that parents, teachers, and administrators should provide limitations on student access to sexually explicit materials; and supports the Omaha Public Schools policy that allows for challenges to materials that individuals may find offense with.

**School Funding:** Believes that the State should provide a greater percentage of school funding to reduce the amount of local property taxes the schools need to operate; and worked to help recalculate the way OPS

reports students to the state which resulted in OPS receiving nearly \$32 million in additional state funding.

**Parental Involvement:** Believes OPS needs to work with parents who come to them with ideas or concerns to address them and find the best ways to work with them and their students moving forward.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that bathrooms and locker rooms should be utilized according to gender at birth; and believes that we need to protect our female athletes.

### Andrew Finch - Democrat

He has served as a Pastor in the United Methodist Church for the past 12 years.

He is also the Lead Pastor of the Urban Ministry Cooperative Parish.

**School Libraries:** Believes that parents, teachers, and administrators should provide limitations on student access to sexually explicit materials.

**School Funding:** Believes that the State should provide a greater percentage of school funding to reduce the amount of local property taxes the schools need to operate.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that participation in school

sports and use of school restrooms should be based on gender identity; and supports biological boys competing in girls' sports and utilizing girls' restrooms and locker rooms.

**Parental Involvement:** Believes open communication is fundamental to the parent-school partnership; and believes that supporting learning at home is another area where parents and schools can collaborate for the benefit of all students.

## SARPY COUNTY

### U.S. SENATE (2-YEAR TERM)

#### Pete Ricketts - Republican (Incumbent)

Appointed to the seat in 2023 by Governor Jim Pillen to replace Ben Sasse.

Ricketts previously served as the Governor of Nebraska from 2015-2023.

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

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

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

be based on biological sex.

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

**Israel:** Believes Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East and the U.S. should stand by our ally.

**Ukraine:** Has criticized Biden's slow response to weapons requests from Ukraine.

#### John Glen Weaver - Republican

22-year U.S. Air Force veteran and resident of Omaha.

**Top 3 Priorities if Elected:** Secure our southern border, election integrity, and reduce the debt of \$34T (has stated that he will not vote to increase the debt.)

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

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

**Border Security:** Supports closing and securing the southern border; also supports deporting those who

have come to this country illegally; and does not support a path to citizenship for people who came to the U.S. illegally.

**Ukraine:** Does not support funding Ukraine.

**Israel:** Supports the U.S. helping Israel.

**Elections:** Believes we need to go back to one day for elections; and wants common-sense measures for Voter ID, signature verification on absentee ballots, and end mail-in voting.

**Mandates:** Against mask and vaccination mandates.

#### Mac Stevens - Republican

4<sup>th</sup> generation Nebraska agriculture producer, consulting nutritionist, and businessman.

**Top 3 Priorities if Elected:** More security to protect our schools, communities, cities, and nation; reduce inflationary government overspending and expand domestic fuel production; and expand less invasive yet effective treatment options for diabetes and cancer.

**Abortion:** Believes in exceptions for abortion including medical emergencies.

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

**Border:** Believes that we should finish the border wall.

**Ukraine:** Believes we should meet our 2% of GDP funding obligation but insist all other NATO nations to do the same.

**Israel:** Believes that Gaza is an ongoing hostage situation and should focus on supporting the families involved.

**Elections:** Wants to restore election integrity with paper balloting and proper identification on a voter's day holiday.

### Preston Love Jr. - Democrat

Long time civil rights and North Omaha community advocate. Currently an adjunct professor at UN of Omaha teaching political science. *He is the lone Democrat in the race and will advance to the General Election in November where he will face the winner of the Republican Primary*

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

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

**Border:** Supports a path to citizenship for those who want to contribute to our economy.

**Healthcare:** Supports universal healthcare coverage.

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

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

## U.S. SENATE (6-YEAR TERM)

### Deb Fischer - Republican (Incumbent)

Seeking a third 6-year term in the U.S. Senate. Born and raised in Lincoln, NE. Currently lives in Valentine, NE where she operates her family ranch

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

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

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

be based on biological sex.

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

**Ukraine:** Voted against H.R. 2471 and H.R. 815 which sent \$13.6 billion and \$60 billion in aid for Ukraine.

**Israel:** Believes in the long-standing U.S.-Israel alliance; and wants to ensure that we proudly stand behind one of our best allies in their greatest time of need.

### Arron Kowalski - Republican

Nebraska farmer and rancher.

**Top 3 Priorities if Re-elected:** Wants a new Homestead Act to build affordable housing in county seats nationwide to boost rural population; fund building large greenhouse facilities in communities so people can grow their food communally; and bundle up plant matter

after crops are harvested and submerge it in the Gulf of Mexico to sequester carbon underground and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

**Border:** Advocates for improving the country's visa program.

### Kenneth Peterson - Legal Marijuana NOW Party

No additional information available

### Kerry Eddy - Legal Marijuana NOW Party

Nebraska Air National Guard veteran, artist, musician, licensed pilot, and cancer survivor.

**Top 3 Priorities if Elected:** Wants to advocate for the legalization of marijuana; wants to update our healthcare systems to benefit the citizens; wants more protections for our environment.

**Border:** Believes closing borders, and deportation are neither useful or sustainable; and believes we must research and understand all the factors driving this increase and seek meaningful solutions within those

countries from which they are coming.

**Foreign Aid:** Believes sanctions against those countries which threaten democratic processes and the free exchange of goods, and ideas should be enforced; and believes in sanctions against countries that appear neutral in the face of such ideologies or continue to engage with those countries should also be sanctioned.

# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## District 1

### Mike Flood - Republican (Incumbent)

He is a businessman and radio entrepreneur. His company Flood Communications is a statewide network consisting of 15 radio stations and 5 TV stations. Former member and Speaker in the Nebraska Legislature. While in the legislature, he helped to pass a 20-week ban on abortion. First elected to the House of Representatives in 2022.

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

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

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

advocates for reinstating the "Remain in Mexico" policy.

**Ukraine:** Unapologetically supports Ukraine; and believes we must use all the tools available to us (including supplies, arms, or further sanctioning Russia) to ensure Ukraine wins the war.

**Israel:** Supports Israel; and believes they are our greatest ally in the Middle East.

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

### Michael Connelly - Republican

He is a U.S. Marines Corp. veteran. He has experience working in communication/navigation aviation electronics with the U.S. Department of Defense. He is a former candidate for Governor and Nebraska Legislature District 29.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and wants to provide more education and information for expectant mothers about services that can assist them.

**Top 3 Priorities if Elected:** Counter the Chinese threat; clean out the corrupt Justice Department; and make a real budget and use the power given to Congress.

**Israel:** Believes the U.S. should support Israel; and believes

that Marines should have been sent to assist the IDF.

**Border:** Believes that all funding of every federal government program needs to stop until there is a 100% deportation policy.

**Ukraine:** Supports sending well-regulated medical supplies for Ukrainian victims; and feels massive.

### Carol Blood - Democrat

Current member of the Nebraska Legislature representing District 3. She owns her own consulting business and previously worked as the executive director for the La Vista Chamber of Commerce. She is a former candidate for Governor and a former member of the Bellevue City Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## District 2

### Don Bacon - Republican (Incumbent)

U.S. Air Force veteran. Served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2017.

**Abortion:** Opposes abortion and opposes giving taxpayer dollars to organizations that perform or refer for abortion services.

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

**Border:** Believes that immigration is an essential part of our nation's history and our economic growth, but it has to be done legally; and supports legislation to secure the border and reform the broken immigration system.

**Ukraine:** Supports further funding for Ukraine; and believes that it is in our national security interest that Ukraine remains independent.

**Israel:** Believes the United States needs to do whatever it can to support Israel.

### Dan Frei - Republican

Omaha businessman

**Abortion:** Opposes abortion and opposes giving taxpayer dollars to organizations that perform or refer for abortion services; and will defend the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

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

**Border:** Believes that illegal immigrants apprehended at the border or in the interior of the country should be expelled to their home countries immediately.

**Ukraine:** Opposed to additional funds going to Ukraine; and is not interested in funding other countries' security before we secure our own country.

**Israel:** Believes the U.S. should continue unwavering support of Israel.

### Tony Vargas - Democrat

Current Nebraska State Senator for District 7. Also former Omaha Public School Board Member and science teacher.

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

**Gender Issues:** Supports gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors; and supports biological boys competing in girls' sports.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER**

### Tim Schram - Republican

First elected to the Nebraska Public Service Commission in 2006. Formerly served 12 years on the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners, 6 years on the Sarpy County Planning Commission, and 3 years on the Sarpy County Extension Board.

**911 System:** Supported statewide implementation of an improved 911 system to enhance service reliability.

**Broadband:** Supports continued development of and investment in broadband service across the state.

**Natural Gas:** Worked to prevent rate increases from private natural gas providers; and committed to our nation's energy independence.

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

## District 3

### Felix Ungerman - Republican

25-year U.S. Air Force veteran. Currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Don Bacon. Board member of the Bellevue Public Schools Foundation, Offutt Advisory Council, and Sarpy Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee.

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

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

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

creators, and invest in workforce development.

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

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

### Victor Rountree - Democrat

30-year U.S. Air Force veteran. For the past 12 years, he has been a senior pastor. He has also served as an elementary school substitute teacher. He is endorsed by the Campaign for a Healthy Nebraska PAC, which works to expand abortion access in Nebraska.

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

**Workforce:** Supports expanding workforce development

and skill training programs.

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

## District 45

### Rita Sanders - Republican (Incumbent)

She was first elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2020. She is the former Mayor of Bellevue. She also works with her husband as a commercial real estate developer.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; opposes amending the Nebraska Constitution to create a right to abortion; and voted "yes" on LB 574 which created a 12-week abortion ban.

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

**School Choice:** Supports policies that would enable more parents to send their children to the school that best suits their child's needs; and voted to support LB1402 which provided education scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

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

### Sarah F. Centineo - Democrat

She currently works as a nurse and attorney. She worked for 15 years at Children's Hospital. She is a former member of the Bellevue Public School Board. She is endorsed by the Campaign for a Healthy Nebraska PAC which works to expand abortion access in Nebraska.

**Gender Issues:** Testified against LB575, which prohibits biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

**School Choice:** Advocated against education

scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

**Workforce:** Wants to address the workforce shortage by advocating for affordable childcare and housing.

## District 49

### Jen Day - Democrat (Incumbent)

First elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2020. She is a fitness coach and on the Nebraska Local Weightlifting Committee. She previously owned a gym alongside her husband. She also is the former Vice President of the Friends of Planned Parenthood Board.

**Abortion:** Voted against LB574, which created a 12-week abortion ban.

**Gender Issues:** Voted against LB574 and LB575, which bans gender mutilation surgeries and procedures for minors

and prohibits biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

**School Choice:** Voted against LB1402, which provided education scholarships that help provide school choice for students.

### Bob Andersen - Republican

He is a 20-year U.S. Air Force veteran. He and his wife own an early childhood education business. He also works as a defense contractor and formed the Defense Scientific and Technical Services non-profit research organization.

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

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

**Taxes:** Wants to find a way to cap the amount of

property tax payments increase annually when their valuations go up; and opposes the EPIC option Consumption Tax.

**Election Integrity:** Believes that the timeline for mail-in voting should be scaled back; believes ballot harvesting should be outlawed; and would like to see more hand audits of election results.

### Caleb Muhs - Republican

He has previously worked for the FBI as an analyst in counterterrorism and as a Chief Financial Officer of a subsidiary of an insurance company.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and believes that life begins at conception.

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

**Taxes:** Opposes the EPIC Option Consumption Tax; and believes to address high property taxes we must address spending first.

**School Choice:** Strongly supports school choice; and believes a competitive education sector will not only benefit all schools involved but will ensure children receive the best education we can provide.

**Election Integrity:** Believes that elections should be able to be audited with paper ballots which should be done randomly to ensure transparency; and believes that investigations into election integrity are important and should be allowed.

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### District 2

#### Linda Vermooten - Republican

Born and raised in South Africa. She holds a PsyD in Psychology and is a registered nurse and midwife. She has served as the Department Chair and Professor of the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health program at Grace University. She also established and successfully ran a private counseling practice for a decade. She is a current member of Lord of Hosts Church.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and believes teaching students about the value of human life from an early age instills empathy and respect for all individuals.

**Parental Involvement:** Believes that parents play a crucial role in their child's education and should have a significant say in what is taught in the classroom.

**School Choice:** Supports school choice; and believes that school choice empowers parents to select the

educational environment that best meets their child's needs and preferences.

**Curriculum:** Opposes the teaching of Critical Race Theory; and wants to uphold the principle of unbiased education within public schools to establish an environment that champions intellectual freedom and nurtures the growth of independent thinkers.

Maggie Douglas - Democrat

Currently works as a substitute teacher, supervisor of student teachers at UNO, and instructor of basic arithmetic at Metro Community College. She is also a provisional mental health professional

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

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

Karen Morgan - Democrat

She is a retired teacher and nurse.

**Abortion:** Pro-choice; and believes that up until 24 weeks of gestation babies are just zygotes or fetal.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that biological boys should be allowed to utilize girls' bathrooms and locker rooms and

should be allowed to compete in girls' sports.

**Parental Involvement:** Believes that parents are not teachers unless they are trained as teachers.

**Curriculum:** Supports Critical Race Theory being taught.

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**District 5**

Rob Schafer - Republican (Incumbent)

He was first appointed to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents by Governor Heineman in 2013. He has served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Board. He works as a managing partner at a law firm and is a livestock owner and operator

**Curriculum:** Opposes Critical Race Theory being taught on campus; and wants to ensure students receive a well-rounded, unbiased education.

**Budget:** Wants to continue working towards eliminating

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

Gary L. Rogge - Democrat

He was a member of the Army National Guard for 6 years. Currently works on his family farm.

**Tuition:** Advocates for giving out more scholarships.

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

**Student Enrollment:** Would like to implement two week

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

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

Jerome Wohleb - Democrat

He has been a faculty member for 9 universities, participated on several non-profit boards, has attended all 4 Nebraska universities, and has served over a decade as a director in healthcare.

**Budget:** Believes the Board needs to work with businesses and other partners in the communities or external funding sources to find a solution for budget cuts; and feels tuition could be reduced by reprioritizing expenditures.

**Student Enrollment:** Wants to collaborate with school boards and university programs to establish better opportunities for families; and wants to work with high

school guidance counselors to generate support, ideas, and improvements for academic options.

**University Staffing:** Feels there needs to be more effective collaboration and alignment of strategies, a listening ear, and a culture change; and believes ineffective communications and collaboration between the regents and the universities.

**PAPILLION LAVISTA SCHOOL BOARD**

Dean Arthur Ackles - Republican

No information available

### Skip Bailey - Republican (Incumbent)

He has served as the Vice President and President of the school board. He is a 25-year U.S. Air Force veteran. He is currently a Flight Training Coordinator and Lecturer for the University of Nebraska at Omaha Aviation Institute.

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

**School Funding:** Open to the idea of increasing sales tax

to help fund school districts and reduce property taxes.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex.

### Elizabeth Butler - Independent

Currently works as the Omaha City Clerk. She is also the current president of the Nebraska Municipal Clerk Association and past president of the Omaha Unit of Parliamentarians.

**Top 3 Priorities:** wants to expand early childhood education, hire more mental health counselors and

behavior specialists and protect teachers' plan time.

### Loan Eby - Republican

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and believes that life begins at conception.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be

based on biological sex.

**School Choice:** Believes the state should fund education by allowing dollars to follow the child through a program, which allows parents the freedom to choose their child's school.

### Valerie L. Fisher - Republican (Incumbent)

She is a current member of the school board. She has also served on the Papillion-LaVista Community School Foundation Board.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and believes that there are exceptions where abortion is OK in the instances of rape, incest, or medical necessity.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex.

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

**School Funding:** Believes that the State should provide a greater percentage of school funding to reduce the amount of local property taxes the schools need to operate.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Believes that the district should create and support active, ongoing, aggressive efforts to recruit teachers and student teachers.

### Amy Forss - Democrat

Currently in her 24th year of teaching at Metro Community College. She has also served as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar, teaching for a semester in Hungary. She has been a guest professor, teaching assistant, and long-term substitute.

**School Funding:** Believes that no levy changes are needed; and city/county growth should determine the support of school growth.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Wants to reprioritize funds in the district budget to all for increased

teacher pay; and wants to guarantee teacher-to-student ratios and adequately trained paraprofessionals.

**Curriculum:** Believes that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion curriculum is beneficial to students.

### Carla Kloeckner - Republican

Currently serves on the Methodist Hospital Volunteers in Partnership Board. She has also served on the Friends of OneWorld Board.

**School Libraries:** Believes that parents, teachers, and administrators should provide limitations on student access to sexually explicit materials.

**School Funding:** Believes that no levy changes are needed; and city/county growth should determine the support of school growth.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Wants to reprioritize funds in the district budget to all for increased teacher pay; wants to guarantee teacher-to-student

ratios and adequately trained paraprofessionals; and wants greater disciplined atmosphere involvement by administration in supporting teacher safety from unruly students.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex.

### Marcus Madler - Republican (Incumbent)

First elected to the school board in 2020. Has been involved with the Planning Committee and board of the Papillion-LaVista Community Schools Foundation and served as a board member for the Sarpy County Historical Society.

**School Libraries:** Advocated against removing sexually explicit books from libraries.

**School Funding:** Believes that no levy changes are needed; city/county growth should determine the support of school growth; and also wants the State to provide a greater percentage of school funding.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Wants to reprioritize funds in the district budget to all for increased teacher pay.

**Gender Issues:** Supports biological boys utilizing girls' bathrooms.

### Ralph Tate - Republican

He is a retired U.S. Air Force officer.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and believes that life begins at conception.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex.

**Library Materials:** Advocates for removing sexually explicit books from the libraries; suggests a process by which the school district releases the list of proposed book purchases for the coming year, and to be posted

on the district's website for a reasonable period of time to allow for public comment and discussion.

**School Funding:** Wants to focus on ensuring the budget is reasonable and defensible rather than where the money is coming from.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Advocates for allowing subject-qualified individuals without teaching credentials to hold teaching positions; and wants to create and support ongoing, aggressive efforts to recruit teachers and student teachers.

### Edward Weniger - Republican

He is an active volunteer with InCommon Community Development, Team Sarpy, and Humble + Kind.

**Abortion:** Pro-life; and believes that life begins at conception.

**Gender Issues:** Believes that bathrooms and locker room usage should be based on biological sex; and believes that participation in sports activities should be based on biological sex.

**School Funding:** Would support reductions in expenses

that were required to support a levy reduction.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Advocates for allowing subject-qualified individuals without teaching credentials to hold teaching positions; and wants great disciplined atmosphere involvement by administration in supporting teacher safety from unruly students.