

Douglas County Voters' Guide Statewide Primary Election

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER OMAHA

Election Date: May 15, 2018

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U.S. SENATE

Deb Fischer (R): No response received.

Jack Heidel (R): <http://jackheidelforsenate.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, 2011-2018. Past Public Office, dates held: none. Education: BA University of Iowa, 1963 MA University of Iowa, 1965 PhD (Mathematics), University of Iowa, 1967. Military experience: US Naval Reserve, active duty 1959-1961. Volunteer experience: Gambling with the Good Life, 2006-present Wakonda Elementary School, tutor 2015-2017.

Chris Janicek (D) <http://janicekforsenate.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: none. Past Public Office, dates held: none. Education: University NE @ Omaha Creighton University. Military experience: no. Volunteer experience: Peace Corps., Nebraska Aids Project, Christian Children's Fund, Open Door Mission, Stephen Center, Big Brother/Sister.

Dennis Frank Macek (R) <http://dennisfrankmacekforsenate.com>. Past Public Office, dates held: Stood as Nonpartisan for the U. S. Senate in 2014. Ran for Board of Directors, Subdistrict 8, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District in 2016. Education: I have a BA (Marquette Univ.), MA (Univ. of Arizona), ABD (doctoral program, Univ. of Texas). Volunteer experience: The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks deem me a member. I belong to many environmental-protection organizations (Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, Nebraska League of Conservation Voters, et al).

Larry Marvin (D) Current Public Office, dates held: Not an incumbent. Past Public Office, dates held: Just civic and professional and Democratic Party offices. Education: B.S and MEd plus 18 credits from UN-L, plus Real Estate Broker license from Omaha schools, plus 5 business courses from Metro Community College. Military experience: U.S. AIR FORCE as foreign language translator, stationed in West Germany, Honorable Discharge. Volunteer experience: Volunteer Fireman and charter member of West Point Rescue Squad, Chairman to get a new swimming pool in West Point.

Jane Raybould (D) www.JaneRaybould.com. Current Public Office, dates held: Lincoln City Council 2015-present. Past Public Office, dates held: Lancaster County Commissioner 2011-2015. Education: Master's Degree, Georgetown University, 1985; Bachelor's Degree, Creighton University, 1981. Military experience: N/A. Volunteer experience: Malone Center Board of Directors, Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Mother Teresa House (shelter for mothers & their kids), Gym Mass (Mass for Families) Steering Committee Blessed Sacrament.

Jim Schultz (L) <http://jimschultz-lpne.nationbuilder.com/>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: BS in Computer Science & Engineering UNL. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Boy Scouts of America CommunityCROPS.

Jeffrey Stein (R) No response received.

Frank Svoboda (D) <http://FrankBSvobodaforSenate.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: Natural Resource District Director, District County Judge, County Attorney for Keith & Arthur County, and City Council member of Ogallala, NE. Education: Creighton Law, UNL Pre-Law, and Lincoln High. Military experience: Army Artillery, Staff Sargent, WWII, and made breakfast for 35 people. Volunteer experience: ARC, Knights of Columbus, plays Pitch well.

Todd Watson (R) <http://watson1776.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Masters in Professional Accounting (University of Texas - Austin) Bachelors in Business Administration (TCU). Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Board - Lincoln Independent Business Association Board - FCA (Southeast Nebraska) Finance Board - Lincoln Christian School.

What would make for a fair immigration system?

Deb Fischer: No response received.

Jack Heidel: A guest worker visa system so that employers can hire immigrants legally when there is not enough local labor to conduct their business. Such visas would be temporary and subject to renewal. Once such a system is in place, then border security should be enhanced and e Verify should be fully enforced. It makes more sense to find a sensible solution to a festering social issue than to worry about some illegal immigrants receiving temporary legal status.

Chris Janicek: I support an immediate path for legal status and future citizenship for DACA immigrants. They have contributed and integrated into our society and the United States is their home. Immigrants are in our military, in our schools learning, they are business owners, and a vital part of our economic and labor force. It is time to close this chapter on immigration and concentrate on moving forward to a secure border and border protections. New immigrants to the United States will be vetted and require sponsors to help acclimate them into our culture and civil requirements. Once established and educated in the US system, legal status and acquiring citizenship is granted following the outline we currently have for new citizens.

Dennis Frank Macek: The U. S. must impose annual limits on immigrants allowed to enter this country to seek a path to citizenship. The numbers would vary depending on economic and societal conditions. Preferences should be given to those who meet stipulated educational and skills criteria. However, we must leave room for potential immigrants who do not meet high education or skills standards, provided they are vetted properly. Those would include refugees (who get a special status). Immigration from the south can be modified and monitored by inducing the Mexican federal and state governments to do the job. We should invest in X-ray systems that scan all trucks crossing the border from the south. I must add that DACA should be restored. We don't want to lose so many people who are really "us."

Larry Marvin: I believe this will be accomplish with NAFTA and Central America agreements and is well underway.

Jane Raybould: A fair system begins with creating a transparent process to allow for the legal immigration that our economy depends upon. This is an issue in which there is a clear contrast between myself and Senator Fischer. For instance, Senator Fischer allows the deportation of DREAMers, kids who have been educated in our public schools and know Nebraska as their home. We have invested in these children and we need to see them join our workforce and continue to contribute to our economy.

Jim Schultz: A fair immigration system must first secure the border as a national security priority. Illegal immigration is at its lowest point in 20 years due to changes in the US temporary worker visa program. I propose removing quotas from other visa programs to encourage legal immigration. People do not want to come here illegally.

It is our policies that make illegal immigration attractive. It is costly, impractical and economically damaging to propose deporting all undocumented aliens. Our economic prosperity depends on the labor provided by both legal and illegal immigrants. Granting legal status to those already here is the common-sense solution. Eligibility for government assistance should be limited for non-citizens. Any non-citizen who is convicted of a felony should be deported and not eligible for re-entry. Any non-citizen who serves honorably in our military should be granted citizenship.

Jeffrey Stein: No response received.

Frank Svoboda: This country was greatly helped by foreign immigration in the past. Nebraska is not a border state but we are a destination for successful legal immigration. Immigration from Mexico has greatly decreased, we are now getting immigration from Central America and other countries around the world. It is my understanding that these immigrants are taking jobs that other americans would not take. The first thing to determine is how we in America would fill these jobs without Immigration. To a great extent, we need these people. However, we need to enforce the law or change the law.

Todd Watson: We need to be concerned about enforcing the current law before acting based on what is 'fair'. What is not legal (or fair) is the President setting immigration law. Article I Section 8 Clause 4 gives the power to Congress to set immigration law. I will stop funding Unconstitutional Executive Amnesty and Sanctuary Cities as our current Senator did. Step one calls for the Congress to step up and quit playing 'Kick the Can' on immigration. They must pass immigration law. Second, the border must be secured before status changes can be passed. We must be fair to American citizens first before we make a changes in legal status. Third, we need to reform the Visa program that accounts for almost half of our illegal immigration population. Fourth, once we have proven that America has dramatically slowed illegal immigration, we can address the status of those who are here.

What, if any, changes would you recommend for “sensible gun control”?

Deb Fischer: No response received.

Jack Heidel: I support tightening up on background checks and improving treatment of the mentally ill. I also support a ban on the purchase of assault weapons as the only effective way to substantially curtail mass shootings.

Chris Janicek: I respect the 2nd amendment. I respect peoples culture. But the "gun culture" promoted by gun advocates today is toxic. Gun training and certification, thirty day waiting period and complete background checks, registration at state and national levels. A minimum age to purchase, insurance required on all guns with renewals every two years- This is what true respect for the 2nd amendment looks like. Assault weapons made for war should be restricted from purchase. Young people are taking gun violence seriously, and they expect their elected officials to do the same.

Dennis Frank Macek: A ban should be imposed on all assault weaponry other than for military use. This would include bazookas, RPG launchers, hand grenades, and automatic and semi-automatic rifles. A fund should be established for states to buy and destroy such weapons now in private hands. An eighteen-year-old person should be able to purchase and register a rifle or pistol.

Larry Marvin: None. I would prosecute School Superintendents and law enforcement for failing to protect our students.

Jane Raybould: I believe strongly in the 2nd amendment, but when kids are dying in schools and Washington does nothing because career politicians fear losing their campaign contributors—that’s a broken system. We must close the background check loopholes, reinstate the assault weapons ban and follow President Trump’s lead in banning bump stocks, while also adding more school resource officers and counselors to approach the problem from all sides.

Jim Schultz: The current discussions over gun control are misguided. The underlying concern is violent crime which is both at historic lows and not limited to guns. No proposal being currently put forth can be assured to reduce violence. During the prior assault weapon ban, there was no reduction in violent crime. The right to self-defense is a natural right. It is not granted by government – every person is born with that right. I do support adding the Terrorist Watch List to background checks, but first, an efficient appeals process must be established for names appearing on the list. I also support the use of “Smart Gun” technology to create safer firearms. This market is being held up by a New Jersey law requiring all guns to have Smart Gun technology once it is publicly introduced. This law must be repealed and the market be allowed to develop naturally.

Jeffrey Stein: No response received.

Frank Svoboda: All automatic firing weapons should be eliminated from civilian population. Hunting guns should be monitored. Household weapons should be allowed with recreational guns, for hunting purposes.

Todd Watson: The Constitution IS the document the people created to govern the government before the government governs us. The people are clear. The government can create no laws that violate second amendment rights. The only valid legislation will come in the form of a Constitutional amendment. Until that day comes, I will not be involved in UnConstitutional lawmaking process that violates the Bill of Rights.

What, if anything, should congress do to protect the U.S. voting system from foreign influence?

Deb Fischer: No response received.

Jack Heidel: Require Face Book and other social media to do a much better job of monitoring their sites to detect foreign meddling in American elections.

Chris Janicek: The US Congress needs to establish stronger protections of our election system and take the necessary steps to prevent future foreign influence. Currently a bipartisan bill has been introduced and is awaiting review. SAVE - known as the Securing Americas Voting Equipment act, was created to provide increased security for our election systems across the state and country. I also recommend security clearances for all Secretaries of State and for all chief election officials in each state. The return to the use of paper ballots, and post election auditing, to compare the results of the paper ballots and vote counting machines would also protect the US voting system from outside influence.

Dennis Frank Macek: Congress must require all platforms that disseminate bots to verify the sources of bots and block those of foreign origin. Congress can also obligate posters of “fake news” (such as Facebook) to cull out likely false postings. States can ask Congress for financial incentives to remove their voting systems from the Internet, and Congress should comply if necessity warrants.

Larry Marvin: Keep the paper ballot and hire the poll workers from their own precincts where they are acquainted with their neighbors.

Jane Raybould: Having the right to vote is what makes American democracy succeed. It is imperative that we keep foreign influence out of our elections--period. This is not a partisan issues--a bipartisan Congressional committee should do everything in their power to first figure out what, if any, foreign influence has impacted our elections to date, so we can fix any holes which have allowed infiltration into our elections. From there, protections are needed to safeguard against outside influence. Special attention needs to be given to digital communications, as we've seen consumer behavior change to receive much more of their information digitally, and therefore, we need to set up special safeguards against interference in our elections through the online dissemination of misinformation.

Jim Schultz: Appropriate technology must be used to ensure that voting machines and vote counting systems are free from any outside access. To date, there have been no credible claims of any foreign agent gaining access to vote tabulation systems. Concerns over foreign influence through media manipulation and misinformation campaigns have always been a part of international politics. It is a tactic that the United States uses as well with both our friends and enemies. In a country that values free speech and free press, there is little that can be done to curb outside influence through the selective release of information both in support and opposition to a particular party or candidate. The only way to counter these attempts is to have a robust, independent and accountable press combined with a better educated electorate.

Jeffrey Stein: No response received.

Frank Svoboda: They need to use computer systems that are transparent and subject to review by independent examiners.

Todd Watson: First, a US government that is on the record to influence foreign elections should stop being hypocritical about this behavior from the outside. 'What goes around comes around' is the best parable ever told by our grandparents. Our own government needs to stop manipulating elections. Second, the safeguards over the tabulation machines are poor. Ballots should be hand counted and available for manual inspection even if we continue to employ machines in the short-term. Finally, Government influence and regulation over private global communication platforms is not the answer (nor Constitutionally advised).

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – DISTRICT 2

Brad Ashford (D) <http://bradashfordforcongress.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: 2nd District Congressman, 2015-2016. Past Public Office, dates held: State Legislator: 1987-1995 State Legislator: 2007-2015 US House of Representatives, 2015-2016. Education: Westside High School B.A. from Colgate University - 1971 Creighton University School of Law – 1974.

Don Bacon (R) <http://www.donjbacon.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Member of Congress, Nebraska's Second District - 01/17 to present. Past Public Office, dates held: Not a career politician. Education: Masters in National Security Strategy, Masters in Management, Bachelors in Political Science, and Navigator and Intelligence Schools in Air Force. Military experience: Nearly 30 years in USAF. Total of 16 assignments, 5 commands, and 4 deployments to Middle East. Commanded Offutt Air Force Base, which is NE's largest employer. Also commanded Ramstein Air Base. Helped Israel standup ballistic missile defense. Volunteer experience: Salvation Army, Youth for Christ, Gideons, Air Force Association, Military Officers Association of America, Boy Scout Merit Badge University Instructor, and Lifespring Church.

Kara Eastman (D) <http://www.eastmanforcongress.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: 2014, elected to the Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors. Education: BA in Sociology Pitzer College MSW, Loyola University Chicago. Volunteer experience: I've volunteered in many capacities. Most recently, I served as an appointed member of the Mayor's Fair Housing Advisory Board, the Board of the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, and as a volunteer consultant with the nonprofit Aqua-Africa.

What would make for a fair immigration system?

Brad Ashford: We need to have a pathway to earned citizenship and move forward with comprehensive immigration reform. With the changes by the Administration surrounding DACA, Congress needs to act swiftly to put a mechanism in place to enhance DACA and provide a pathway to citizenship for the individuals affected. Our broken immigration system requires fixes to come from the federal level. The current system is creating an undue burden on municipalities and States and they require guidance from Congress. We can absolutely accomplish this in a bipartisan manner that will address our immigration system and work with our business and labor communities to achieve a successful transition. Border security can be enhanced with systematic improvements working with the Department of Homeland Security and the border patrol that do not involve building a costly and ineffective border wall.

Don Bacon: I support keeping families together, but we also need to enforce the laws of our country. I support DACA recipients being allowed to stay in the United States on a conditional basis and work toward their citizenship. In other words, as long as a DACA recipient contributes to society and doesn't violate the law, they should be welcome to stay and go through the citizenship process like other applicants. However, we absolutely cannot do DACA again. Therefore, we need to strengthen our border security, update our immigration laws, and ensure our existing laws are followed. I support a merit-based immigration policy going forward with priority given to people who possess a specialized skillset, a high level of education, and fill needed positions that otherwise can't be filled.

Kara Eastman: A fair immigration system ensures fundamental human rights and protects our democracy. The administration's haphazard and unethical policies show that we need strong, clear immigration legislation, like the bipartisan Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013. I absolutely support maintaining Temporary Protected Status orders for immigrants. Dreamers should never be deported. We have to put an end to the DACA debate and allow Dreamers to become citizens.

What, if any, changes would you recommend for "sensible gun control"?

Brad Ashford: Changes are absolutely needed to address gun violence. We should create a Congressional Office on gun violence to research gun violence and make quarterly recommendations to Congress. Lifting the Congressional ban on gun violence research is critical. We also need to adopt Federal standards for protecting students in schools, ban sales of military style assault weapons and high capacity magazines, universal background checks, and revisit standards on reporting individuals with mental health issues to the federal NICS system. Courts should also have the power to issue temporary orders to collect firearms from individuals who pose a threat. Finally, we should immediately ban any bump stock devices or alteration that transforms a semi-automatic firearm in to a fully automatic firearm.

Don Bacon: I have spent almost my entire adult life defending the freedoms Americans enjoy and one of those freedoms is protected by our Second Amendment. I don't believe that we need more gun control; however, we do need to do a better job enforcing existing laws. We need to better defend our schools and do a better job keeping guns out of hands of dangerous individuals. I am currently leading a task force in Congress to look at ways to prevent school shootings and I co-sponsored the recently passed STOP School Violence Act (HR 4909) and the Secure our Schools Act (SOS). We can and should work together to prevent more tragedies like the Parkland school shooting without infringing on law abiding Americans' Constitutional rights, and that's exactly what I'm doing.

Kara Eastman: We must pass universal background check legislation (like Manchin-Toomey, 2013) in addition to banning the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Congress must pass honest gun legislation to prevent school shootings and an epidemic of violence in our country. The minimum purchase age must be raised to 21, mandatory waiting periods should be enacted, and background checks must be enforced, including at gun shows.

What, if anything, should congress do to protect the us voting system from foreign influence?

Brad Ashford: Congress has a responsibility to the American people to provide for elections that are free from foreign influence. Protecting our right to participate in free and fair elections should never be an afterthought. Congress is far behind where we should be to prevent interference in our 2018 election cycle. They should be actively working to seek solutions to keep our elections safe and work in conjunction with our intelligence community, Secretaries of States, and allies. Greater collaboration between the Federal government and States should be implemented with appropriations for funding provided to States, law enforcement and intelligence communities, to put mechanisms in place to provide secure voting procedures for citizens. We also have an obligation to work with our allies to address foreign influence of elections and collectively impose sanctions quickly and effectively to deter interference.

Don Bacon: Election integrity is foundational to our Constitutional Republic form of government. As such, politics should be removed from this entire issue; this shouldn't be an "us vs them" topic on either side of the political spectrum. I spent much of my military career in electronic warfare and intelligence, and I'm heavily involved in these discussions in Congress. We are working to ensure that election interference becomes more difficult for foreign powers. One of these steps is increasing funding to strengthen our cyber defense, which is one of the items in the NDAA that I helped write. The best tool to prevent foreign influence in our elections is the American citizen. The Russian goal has been to divide us and to widen our existing partisan divide. We don't have to give in to the anger, vitriol, and hate. Instead, we can remain civil and stop attacking one another. This helps ensure the division our adversaries are trying to achieve never happens. I support the sanctions against Russia.

Kara Eastman: Currently, we are all concerned about our voting system being hacked. We must focus on diplomatic efforts and cooperation with our allies to ensure hostile powers like Russia do not interfere with our elections. Congress must invest more in the technology and innovation already within our reach to secure our country and its election system.

NEBRASKA GOVERNOR

Tyler Davis (D): <http://www.unomaha.edu> Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: BS Political Science MS Security Management Executive MBA. military experience: None. Volunteer experience: iTema (Tribal Emergency Management Program), Douglas County Emergency Management, Douglas County Health Department, Siena Francis, and Mosaic International.

Krystal Gabel (R): <http://www.gabelforgovernor.com> Past Public Office, dates held: In November 2016, I missed election in the General for Omaha's Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) by 1% of the vote. In April 2017, I ran for Omaha City Council and lost the Primary by 143 votes. Education: BA in Writing from Briar Cliff University (Sioux City, 2005) Volunteer experience: I volunteer my time with Legal Marijuana Now, a third-party seeking fair ballot access in Nebraska. I am also building a free-food community garden in South Omaha, the only garden in Nebraska that gives away all its produce for free.

Bob Krist (D): <http://www.kristfornebraska.com> Current Public Office, dates held: Senator Krist was appointed to the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature by Governor Dave Heineman in 2009, elected to a four-year term in 2010, and reelected in 2014. Past Public Office, dates held: none. Education: Creighton Preparatory School, Omaha, with honors, 1975 University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, 1979 Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, Master of Arts, Business Administration/Human Relations, 1982. Military experience: United States Air Force, 1979 to 2000, retired as a Lieutenant Colonel 1997, appointed as Chief of Plans and Programs for

the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB. 1998, chosen as an Active Duty Air Force Advisor to the Governor and the Adjutant General in th. Volunteer experience: Krist is the former president of the Madonna School in Omaha, whose mission is to serve students and adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities to become as independent as possible. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Nati

Pete Ricketts (R): No response received.

Vanessa Ward (D): <http://wardforgov2018.com> Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: N/A. Education: Associate Degree. Military experience: AmeriCorp Vista Volunteer. Volunteer experience: Omaha Together One Community OTOC The Empowerment Network NeighborWorks Home Solution Central Park Neighborhood Assoc. NONA Greeter at Skinner Elementary School AmeriCorp Vista Volunteer Chaplain for the Local Residents Habitat Of Humanity.

How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

Tyler Davis: To release and rehabilitate low level offenders while minimizing risk to public safety. I firmly believe building more prisons is not the answer.

Krystal Gabel: Prison overcrowding is addressed through: 1) Sentencing Reform that prevents nonviolent cannabis, first-time, mentally ill, or juvenile offenders from ever seeing the inside of a Nebraska prison. 2) Good Time Credit Reform that maintains mandatory sentencing for violent and repeat offenders and keeps pedophiles, rapists, and murderers from returning to our communities. 3) Prison Reform that requires inmate rehabilitation, lessens dependence on pharmaceutical drug therapy, and re-evaluates which inmates are eligible for parole. 4) Parole Reform that continues prison therapy services, improves halfway house re-assimilation programs, and prevents nonsensical returns to prison for simple probation violations like crossing state borders into Iowa.

Bob Krist: Under current law, the governor must declare a prison emergency in 2020 if overcrowding has not been reduced to 40% above design capacity. Such a declaration would require the state to parole enough inmates to reduce the population to match full design capacity. If elected, I will declare a state of emergency immediately. My administration will take a new look at finding solutions and reducing the number of non-violent offenders in the system. Non violent inmates with behavioral, mental health, substance abuse, drugs or alcohol need access to more treatment options at the community-based level. We can make great strides going forward by re-engaging with behavioral health and the Department of Health and Human Services in establishing more of those programs. We must do a better job of insuring that non violent offenders can return to society and become productive and working as soon as possible.

Pete Ricketts: No response received.

Vanessa Ward: The problem of prison overcrowding should be handled firstly, by turning our attention to implementing plans to deter criminal behaviors. We are learning through proven research that most of the crime facing the justice system today is proverty related. Yes, stealing is stealing and there is no excuse for that crime, however it can't be overlooked that overcrowding of our prisons is a result of our social conditions. We should be giving this serious consideration. Secondly, there needs to be clearer guidelines as to what defines one as a repeated offender or a hardened criminal. With the clear definition, we can better access whether the person should be incarcerated or placed in a mental/drug institution in hope of total rehabilitation. Finally, with the growing acts of violence against anyone for any reason should be our highest concern for the safety of our citizens and whatever we need to do to insure that our prisons are staffed, equipped, and secure.

How should current and projected budget shortfalls be handled? What are your funding priorities?

Tyler Davis: The current and projected budget shortfalls should be handled in a non-partisan manner. It is time to focus on appropriate government in Nebraska instead of limited or big government like both parties usually promote. The most responsible thing the next governor should do is to see how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 impacts our state before cutting taxes and increasing services. After figuring out consumer behaviors we can formulate real strategies that add value to the lives of all Nebraskans. My funding priorities are education, mental health, corrections, higher education, and health & human services.

Krystal Gabel: Economic expansion in medical cannabis and industrial hemp will fix our budget. Thousands of Nebraska patients purchase their medicine from Colorado. Farmers are losing money on each acre of biotechnology corn and soybeans they harvested this past fall. Other states are improving their revenues and creating thousands of jobs from this industry. More than 77% of Nebraskans want legalization. I know, too, that 33% of farmers will rotate hemp into their fields as soon as it is legally possible. These commodities will build a workforce within Nebraska by

Nebraskans, heal our sick, clean our soil and water, and generate billions in new taxes - all at the same time. My funding priorities: Public PreK-12 and higher education; Roads, bridges, and infrastructure; Reduced prison populations and rehabilitation to prevent recidivism; Economic development in medical cannabis and industrial hemp; Assistance for struggling families, children, and those with disabilities and mental illnesses.

Bob Krist: My funding priorities begin with education; including K-12, our universities, community colleges, and job training institutions. Public safety is of paramount importance, including reform of our prison system to ensure the safety of our employees and the public, along with controlling costs. We must look for ways to fund our roads and bridges, maintain a pristine state park system, and provide the quality infrastructure that will attract new employers and keep current ones based in Nebraska. We must work to ensure access to health care in rural Nebraska, provide proper funding for our special needs community, and expand Medicaid to reduce uncompensated health care costs. Priorities for budget shortfalls: Protect rainy-day fund Reduce spending and function more efficiently Look for ways to expand the tax base through job creation Eliminate tax loopholes and special tax breaks

Pete Ricketts: No response received.

Vanessa Ward: Current and projected budget shortfalls can be expected, however as the candidate for the Governor of Nebraska, I see the need for a visionary like myself. Someone who is frugal and knows how to stretch a dollar avoiding the pitfalls of over spending. In the event that a shortfall current or projected budget should occur, I would be honest and get to work to balance the budget as quickly as possible. My funding priorities are: I Strengthening ALL the families of Nebraska. a. Education is the porthole to a more prosperous life. b. Great jobs and greater wages for ALL. c. Agriculture prosperity & protecting our natural resources. d. Affordable healthcare

How does Nebraska attract and retain young people?

Tyler Davis: We need to have a mechanism for public investment and to Nebraska's start-up community. We have to illustrate Nebraska's cost of living advantages and we have to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs. We need to have entrepreneurial centers, such as technology incubators, in central and western Nebraska. We need to incentivize young professionals to move into rural communities.

Krystal Gabel: Nebraska attracts and retains young people by: -Expanding our economy. Young people want new work options in Nebraska, including careers in cannabis and green industries. They are also looking for an Executive Leader that protects them as a workforce. -Supporting our public schools and universities. Fully funding education is how the state proves to its young people they are valuable. Students want less teaching to the test, more flexible classrooms, and affordable education that will encourage them to make a home in Nebraska. -Expanding internet and communication services across the state. Most people rely on technology (and their jobs typically do too). A key to workforce success for young people is access to fast broadband that is available everywhere. -Ensuring housing and taxes are affordable. Most young people have huge student debts and are facing an over-saturated job market. Our state needs to be more affordable so more people choose to live in Nebraska.

Bob Krist: The key to attracting and retaining young people is a combination of economic opportunity and quality of life. Nebraska must continue to provide quality education and job training to match the needs or demands of our 21st century economy. And, working with our current employers, we must anticipate future employment trends and continually update curriculum and job training programs. We must seek out new employers to build their businesses here in Nebraska, while working with current employees to continue their growth in our state. We cannot afford to lose more companies like ConAgra and Cabela's. We must offer a quality public education system for their children, stellar public safety, parks and outdoor activities that are attractive, music, arts, and entertainment that matches their expectations, and an open and inviting society that does discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or sexual orientation.

Pete Ricketts: No response received.

Vanessa Ward: Nebraska can attract and retain young people by building on the solid platform we have already established: NEBRASKA THE GOOD LIFE! People young and older want to have a place to call home where they feel valued. As we are showing ourselves to be open to new, creative, and innovative ideas. I'd like to see more emphasis on entrepreneurship and small businesses encouraged with our young people. Not to mention we have outstanding colleges and universities. I believe with this welcoming approach, mixed with Nebraska's reputation of being a great place to raise a family, we can do it. I'm excited. This is my home state, all my children and most of my grandchildren and great-grandchildren yet live here.

Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?

Tyler Davis: Most definitely.

Krystal Gabel: Economic conditions drive Medicaid spending and enrollment. During hard times, more people qualify and enroll. Instead of expanding Medicaid after federal incentives have passed, I plan to build legislation that generates reliable, long-term revenue. In 1986, Medicaid was 8.6% of Nebraska's general expenditures. Now nearly 18% (\$2B) of tax revenue goes to Medicaid. In 20 years, Medicaid grew by 10% while revenue lagged at 6.9%. If Nebraska's health and access to healthcare continues to decline, Medicaid will overtake our state budget. Medical cannabis will heal our people. Oregon's medical program has saved taxpayers \$13.7 million on Medicaid Part D and Medicaid fee-for-service prescription costs. Nebraska can balance its budget and decrease Medicaid costs with accessible medical cannabis. Medical cannabis and industrial hemp also offer jobs that will improve access to healthcare. Better jobs mean better insurance, pay, and benefits (and less reliance on Medicaid as a state).

Bob Krist: Yes, I support Medicaid expansion in a controlled capacity, utilizing CMS dollars through a waiver program.

Pete Ricketts: No response received.

Vanessa Ward: Of course I want to see everyone in Nebraska able to afford medical attention when needed. However, at this point I have not done enough research to best analyze how this would effect the overall outcome of ALL Nebraska Families.

NEBRASKA STATE AUDITOR

Charlie Janssen (R): No response received.

Jane Skinner (D): Website: <http://janeforauditor.com> Current Public Office, dates held: N/a. Past Public Office, dates held: N/a. Education: 3 years of college Attended Cottey Cllege (Nevada MO) 2003-2005 | Attended University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2005-2006. Military experience: N/a. Volunteer experience: Teach Sunday School at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (Omaha NE) 2017-present | Volunteer for Downtown Episcopal Outreach, 2013-2014 | Volunteer at Legal Aid of Nebraska, Native American Project, 2008-2010.

How can the auditor's office reduce public distrust in the practice of political funding?

Charlie Janssen: No response received.

Jane Skinner: Transparency is key. The auditor's office has not issued a press release since 2015, and makes no effort to publicize their work in either traditional or social nedia. Robust communication with the public in a variety for mediums is the most important way to insure that the office of auditor is serving the best interests of the people.

How will you work to insure integrity in the auditor's office?

Charlie Janssen: No response received.

Jane Skinner: Maintaining (or reclaiming) the nonpartisanship of the office is important to me. Currently, the office of auditor is unduly influenced by the office of governor. Regardless of political affiliation, the auditor should be an individual not subject to the whims of other officials in the executive branch.

If elected, what would be your first-year priorities?

Charlie Janssen: No response received.

Jane Skinner: -Reducing partisanship in the office -Upgrading the standards and practices of the office to ensure that current regulations are being followed -Prioritizing training or retraining of myself and the staff

NEBRASKA STATE TREASURER

John Murante (R): Website: <http://www.johnmurante.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Nebraska Legislature (1/2013-present). Education: University of Nebraska-Lincoln – BA. Volunteer experience: NRA, Nebraska Republican Party, Sarpy County Republican Party, Knights of Columbus, Optimists, Partnership 4 Kids.

Taylor Royal (R): Website: <http://TaylorJRoyal.com>. Education: Certified Public Accountant (CPA); Masters of Science in Accounting: Southern Methodist University; Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

What will you do to increase transparency and reduce corruption on issues related to political contributions and funding?

John Murante: The State Treasurer manages the Taxpayer Transparency website. I will work to update and modernize the website so that the people of Nebraska have a user friendly, one stop shop for analyzing all of state government's expenditures. Nebraskans deserve a State Treasurer with conservative values and respect for taxpayer dollars. I understand that tax dollars do not belong to politicians, they belong to the people. Too many politicians view tax dollars as their own private charity. That is wrong. As a State Senator, I have demonstrated a fundamental respect and appreciation for taxpayer dollars. They represent hard work and time spent away from families. If elected, I will continue fighting for conservative Republican values. That is why conservative leaders have united around my campaign. I am proud to be endorsed by Governor Pete Ricketts, Senator Ted Cruz, Lt. Gov. Mike Foley, fmr. Governor Kay Orr, Treasurer Don Stenberg and over 100 others.

Taylor Royal: The State Treasurer serves as the head of an administrative function in the State Capitol. The State Treasurer's position isn't about writing laws, but there is a great opportunity to advocate for Nebraskans in the State Capitol. As State Treasurer, state spending will be transparent and accessible online via an open checkbook. Similarly, I will advocate for transparency and reduced corruption in political contributions, funding, campaigning, and decision-making.

What qualifications and accomplishments make you the best candidate for this position?

John Murante: Nebraskans demand a State Treasurer with small business experience and a proven record of fighting for conservative values. Small business operators are well equipped to serve as State Treasurer. As fmr. President and CEO of Big Fred's Pizza, which was started by my grandfather Big Fred Bruning in 1965, I know how to manage money, develop a budget and lead a staff of employees. I also know that big government is an impediment to small business. As a State Senator and Chairman of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, I have a proven record of reliable conservative leadership. In Republican primaries, every candidate claims to be conservative. Nebraska needs a State Treasurer who has walked the walk with a history of standing up and fighting for conservative values. I have fought to cut property taxes, enact common sense Voter ID laws, and abolish the learning community. As Treasurer, I will work with the Legislature to enact these conservative ideas.

Taylor Royal: I believe a candidate for elected office should have direct experience related to the office he or she is seeking. I am running to be Nebraska's next State Treasurer to steward Nebraska taxpayer dollars, work hard to make our 529 plans some of the best in the country, and ensure that our next generation of Nebraskans are knowledgeable and financially prepared for the future through a youth financial literacy initiative. I have the education, training, and experience to achieve this vision. The State Treasurer's role is directly related to my education, training, and experience. My CPA designation and experience in investment management gives me a firm accounting and financial background to add value to Nebraskans. I hope to earn Nebraska's trust and vote May 15th.

If elected, what would be your first-year priorities?

John Murante: In my first year, I will expand the financial literacy program currently administered by the State Treasurer. As a person who has employed many 20-something millennials, I am profoundly concerned about young people's ability to accomplish basic financial tasks. From developing a budget, to balancing a checkbook to making change at a cash register, kids are woefully unprepared. I will partner with professional associations, like the Nebraska State Bankers Association, to reintroduce these important skills into classrooms. I will also work with Governor Ricketts and members of the Legislature to deliver serious and meaningful tax relief to Nebraska. Taxes in this state are outrageous because government spends too much money. In particular, Nebraska taxes make it far too difficult to retire in our state. Many Nebraskans are simply choosing to leave upon retirement. As State Treasurer, I will continue fighting for these vital reforms.

Taylor Royal: Manage Taxpayer Dollars Well – My highest responsibility as Nebraska State Treasurer is to manage taxpayer dollars well. Nebraskans work hard for their money and I commit to stewarding those resources. As State Treasurer, state spending will be transparent and accessible online via an open checkbook. I will ensure that taxpayer dollars are properly accounted for, effectively invested, and completely protected. Promote Youth Financial Literacy – Personal financial well-being is vital to future success. I will travel the State and speak to our high-school students to educate and teach good financial habits of budgeting, saving, investing in the stock market, applying for credit cards or loans, and other financial topics. I want to make sure that the next generation of Nebraskans is financially prepared for the future. Work hard to make our 529 College Savings Plans one of the best in the country... Please read more at TaylorJRoyal.com

NEBRASKA SECRETARY OF STATE

Spencer Danner (D): Website: <http://www.dannerfornebraska.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: N/A. Education: Bachelors Business Management. Military experience: United States Air Force. Volunteer experience: ACE Mentor Program Heartland Workforce Solutions.

Bob Evnen (R): Website: <http://www.BobEvnen2018.com>. Past Public Office, dates held: State Board of Education 2005-2012. Education: BA - Michigan State JD - University of Southern California. Volunteer experience: Cornhusker Council, Boy Scouts of America; Nebraska Art Association; Nebraska Continuing Legal Education; Nebraska State Bar Foundation; many school policy committees; speaker for many groups on public policy issues.

Debra Perrell (R): No response received.

What, if anything, needs to change in the way Nebraska conducts its elections?

Spencer Danner: As Secretary of State, I will preserve the integrity and security of our elections. Moving to 100% Mail in Balloting - 1st, is cost effective. 2nd, it has resulted in increased participation among voters. 3rd, it is easier for election officials to conduct. 4th, it allows for a more accurate picture of eligible voters, by keeping voting lists up-to-date. 5th, it gives voters a longer opportunity to study the ballot and find answers. Same Day Registration - Same-day registration would allow citizens to register by simply presenting a valid government-issued photo identification card and proof of residence at their polling place. This is the only instance where I believe Voter ID would be valid - not as an attempt to disenfranchise citizens. Election Day Fail Safe - voters should be able to fix errors and omissions on their registration the day of election. Replace antiquated machines and ensure the system is not susceptible or at least have a decreased risk of cyber-attack.

Bob Evnen: We must work to maintain the security of our elections statewide. I support voter ID, which is just common sense and can be implemented without disenfranchising properly registered voters. I also support checking voter registrations to independently confirm that registrants are U.S. citizens. Our vote counting infrastructure will need to be modernized soon, and we can do so in a cost effective way. I support maintaining paper ballots. I will not support the use of computerized balloting at the polls.

Debra Perrell: No response received.

What can the secretary of state's office do to civically engage young Nebraskans?

Spencer Danner: Allow 16-year old young people to pre-register to vote. Prepare and encourage 16 to 18 year old young people to vote in the next eligible elections by creating Student Campaign Staff/Candidate Educational Courses. Sponsor an Electoral College - for students looking to receive college credit for working on election campaigns, political issue campaigns, and lobby work. Partner with educational institutions to work to have discussion on federal, state, and local that effect Nebraskans. Create state wide youth service learning projects integrated in STEM, arts, cultural exchange, and public administration. Partner with after school programs to create supplemental programs for high school students and teachers.

Bob Evnen: The key to civic engagement is education. While sitting on the State Board of Education, I was the chair of our Subcommittee on Standards. In 2012 we adopted revised social studies standards, and with the standards the Board adopted a Statement of Purpose, which reads in part: "The purpose of the Nebraska Social Studies Standards is to teach our children to become young patriots, who have an intellectual understanding of the genius of our country's founding principles and who feel an emotional connection to our nation." The Board adopted this Statement of Purpose unanimously. The more effectively that we meet this purpose, the more civically engaged will be our young Nebraskans.

Debra Perrell: No response received.

In an ideal world, how would you envision the relationship of the secretary of state's office with the governor's office?

Spencer Danner: In an ideal world, the Governor of Nebraska would be an advocate for a fair, accessible, and inclusive government that works for all its citizens. Ideally, the Governor would champion the Secretary of State's work to bring validity to the issues of modernizing elections, election security, agricultural exchange, small business growth and cyber security. I believe the Secretary of State should partner with the Governor on issues that impact voters. I believe the Governor should use his/her political will to ensure agricultural exchange and trade is paramount for small business to export more goods to Nebraska than we import. In a perfect world the Governor and Secretary of State would assume the responsibility of ensuring all legal voters in the state are registered to vote, citizens exercise

their constitutional right to vote, and maintain a complete and accurate voter registration list, as well as taking responsibility to ensure the votes of Nebraskans are counted.

Bob Evnen: The Governor and the Secretary of State should work collaboratively in areas of overlapping interest and responsibility but always consistent with their respective duties. For example, the Secretary of State is the protocol officer of the state, which makes the Secretary of State much like Nebraska's ambassador to the world. If elected, I will use the status of the Secretary of State's office to work with the Governor in negotiating international trade agreements that will expand Nebraska's exports, particularly our ag export markets. I have had a long and positive relationship with our current Governor. I look forward to working together with him in expanding Nebraska's export markets and growing Nebraska's economy.

Debra Perrell: No response received.

NEBRASKA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Evangelos Argyrakis (D): Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Northwestern University, Creighton School of Law, University of Nebraska Medical Center. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Church Parish Council, Alzheimers Association, Filmstreams Theatre.

Doug Peterson (R): No response received.

Describe your stance on the death penalty. What, if any, changes should be made in nebraska's death penalty laws?

Evangelos Argyrakis: I'm Pro-Life.

Doug Peterson: No response received.

What can be done to protect juveniles against discriminatory practices within the justice system?

Evangelos Argyrakis: Pay public defenders a living wage.

Doug Peterson: No response received.

What should be done to alleviate overcrowding in our prisons?

Evangelos Argyrakis: Reduce the sentences of drug offenders.

Doug Peterson: No response received.

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

DISTRICT 4

Shannon Croyell: <http://www.coryell4legislature.com>. Education: Westside High School University of Nebraska Omaha Iowa Western Metropolitan Community College.

Bob Hilkeman: <http://hilkemannforlegislature.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Legislature District 4 - January 2015-present. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Randolph, Ne High School BS Nebraska Wesleyan University DPM Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Numerous positions in local church Volunteer medical missions.

Does Nebraska need to change its method of redistricting? Why or why not?

Shannon Croyell: Yes. It is not evenly distributed by population.

Bob Hilkeman: As Nebraska's demographics change and our population becomes more concentrated in several counties, we will need to change our boundaries to assure equal representation for all our citizens. This historically has been left to the legislature and I believe should remain with that body.

Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?

Shannon Croyell: Yes

Bob Hilkeman: No.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Shannon Croyell: They should not take money and resources away from public schools

Bob Hilkeman: I am a strong believer in our public schools. I want to use the limited resources we have to improve the educational opportunities for ALL Nebraskans. I do not support charter schools in Nebraska

How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

Shannon Croyell: Income based bonds. Decriminalize cannabis.

Bob Hilkeman: This is going to be a slow painful process. With our decades of "getting tough on crime" we have filled our prisons to overflowing. Our efforts to change sentences, etc with LB605 have been slow to occur. We have built additions on to our facilities but they are not going to reduce numbers quickly. We now have an aging population of prisoners which creates demands and challenges as well. I still believe we need to make every effort to improve our mental health facilities and our education system to prevent people from getting into prison in the first place. We need to assess the best way to correct and punish non-violent people for the crimes they have committed. Programs such as Defy Ventures, now in our prison system, need to be encouraged and expanded to stop recidivism and prepare our population for life after prison.

DISTRICT 6

Machaela Cavanaugh: <http://cavanaughforlegislature.org>. Current Public Office, dates held: NA. Past Public Office, dates held: NA. Education: Masters degree in Public Administration from UNO. Military experience: NA. Volunteer experience: Inclusive Communities, Child Savings Institute.

Ricky Fulton: <http://rickyfulton.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: none. Past Public Office, dates held: none. Education: Westside High School University of Nebraska at Omaha Bachelor of Arts Degree from Arizona State University in Tempe Arizona. Military experience: none. Volunteer experience: extensive.

Sara Sinclair: No response received.

Theresa Thibodeau: <http://www.votethibodeau.org>. Current Public Office, dates held: Nebraska state Senator Legislative District 6 October 19, 2017 - present. Past Public Office, dates held: City of Omaha Personal Board 2016 – 2017. Education: B.A. Psychology, University of Nebraska Omaha, 1998. Military experience: N/A. Volunteer experience: La Vista Community Foundation board, Big Brothers Big Sisters board, Sarpy Chamber Women of Wisdom, Leadership Sarpy, Leadership Omaha, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, St. Robert Bellarmine school, Christ Child Society, EPS, Rose Theater Guild.

Does Nebraska need to change its method of redistricting? Why or why not?

Machaela Cavanaugh: I would support the establishment of an independent bipartisan commission to conduct redistricting under well defined and articulated standards to assure districts are not drawn to advantage any political party or to discriminate on race, religion, gender, race or national origin.

Ricky Fulton: Yes we need to change the state's method of redistricting. Suggest we implement a bi-partisan committee of non-elected individuals to assign districts based on logic and not party affiliation.

Sara Sinclair: No response received.

Theresa Thibodeau: No. I do not agree with proposals to place an unelected group of people who are unaccountable to Nebraska voters in charge of something as important as redistricting. Maintaining public trust in our election system is too important. If elected in November, I will serve in the Legislature during the next redistricting in 2021. I am committed to ensuring the nonpartisan process that has been used successfully to redistrict for decades works effectively in 2021 without partisan influences. I will seek a seat on the redistricting committee to ensure the voices of all citizens are heard as decisions are made about the maps that will be considered by the entire Legislature

Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?

Machaela Cavanaugh: Nebraska needs to participate in the Affordable Care Act coverage offered to all Medicaid eligible individuals known as Medicaid Expansion. In Nebraska we have up to 120,000 people who meet the eligibility standards of the ACA but are not currently covered because the State of Nebraska has refused to participate in the

program for expanded Medicaid coverage. This denies coverage to eligible people and cost both healthcare providers compensation for the healthcare they provide and adds to the cost of every Nebraskan's healthcare.

Ricky Fulton: Yes I am in favor of a one-payer health system for the state and country. America should join the rest of the world and provide universal health care for the citizens and get away from the private, in-efficient costly and confusing method we now have .

Sara Sinclair: No response received.

Theresa Thibodeau: Unfortunately, Nebraska does not have a surplus of general fund tax dollars available to support an expansion of Medicaid without jeopardizing funding for existing state obligations. I am specifically concerned about the Legislature's ability to adequately fund K-12 public education, the University of Nebraska, public safety, including state prisons and the State Patrol, and, the state's existing Medicaid program, which serves our most vulnerable. If we expand Medicaid, we will imperil its stability for those who already rely on it and force painful funding cuts even deeper than those we worked to avoid this year. I believe the state can do more to encourage access to quality, affordable health care for lower-income adults and families. In the next Legislature, I will be a strong voice working to improve health care, mental health services, and public health across our state.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Machaela Cavanaugh: I support strengthening and improving public education over providing public funding to private charter schools. Issues such as expanded instruction time for students in need can be accomplished within the public education system and the needs of every student can and should be met by public education. We should take the best practices developed by charter schools and apply them in public schools.

Ricky Fulton: Charter schools are, and should remain, against the law in Nebraska. Charter schools have not proven to be more effective than public schools. Charter schools take resources away from public schools and are mainly serve as a profit motive for those that chose to make money of the public education of Nebraska's children. I am committed to see that all children in Nebraska have access to a well-funded, quality public school.

Sara Sinclair: No response received.

Theresa Thibodeau: I oppose private, for-profit charter schools and support making sure our children have every opportunity to succeed. Families should be able to choose schools that best meet the needs of their children – public, private, parochial, and home school. Parents, administrators, and teachers must be given the tools they need to ensure children succeed in the classroom. Regardless of setting, our state has an obligation to ensure every child receives a quality education that prepares them for the challenges and opportunities of our 21st-century economy. I will work to ensure our state keeps its commitments and properly resources excellence in public K-12 education.

How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

Machaela Cavanaugh: We have far to many people incarcerated and should work to reduce the numbers of people sentenced though mandatory minimum sentences and people incarcerated for non violent crimes. We must also work to reduce recidivism rates and prepare those incarcerated to successful re entry to society.

Ricky Fulton: The state should examine the concept of mandatory minimum sentencing. We should fund programs in our prisons to ensure that people incarcerated can learn skills to cope in society when they are released. The state should not incarcerate people long term for minor drug offenses. Upon the release of the inmates, the state should fund programs that help those assimilate themselves to the outside world. I would NOT be in favor of building another prison. I would greatly increase the pay and benefits for prison guards and prison administration to cope with the adverse conditions in our prisons.

Sara Sinclair: No response received.

Theresa Thibodeau: Nebraska's prison system has been in crisis for five or more years and that's not going to change quickly. However, the suggestion that Nebraska declare a state of emergency in Corrections is a bad idea. That would result in opening the doors and releasing offenders before they have served their term and finished their rehabilitation programs. We must continue to create more space for inmates, and we must make we have adequate programming so these individuals are ready for re-entry into society. I have voted to fund the construction of a new 100-bed dormitory within the Nebraska State Penitentiary and increase overall funding for the Department of Correctional Services, including additional resources for probation, community corrections, and vocational and life skills programming. In the long-term process of transforming our Corrections system, we must never forget that the safety of Nebraska families always comes first.

DISTRICT 8

Mina Davis: <http://www.minadavis2018.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Not applicable. Past Public Office, dates held: Not Applicable. Education: Bachelors of Business Administration - Business Intelligence and Analytics - IT Focus. Volunteer experience: I have volunteered with the Seven Oaks of Florence and Siena/Francis Homeless Shelter during my time as Service, Faith and Justice Coordinator at Creighton. I also volunteer from time to time helping refugees with volunteer ESL classes.

Josh Henningsen: <http://JoshHenningsen.com>. Education: J.D., University of Iowa College of Law; B.G.S., Political Science, University of Kansas. Volunteer experience: Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association, President/Board; St. Pius / St. Leo School Education Committee, Member.

Megan Hunt: <http://www.meganfornebraska.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: B.A. Dana College, Intercultural Communication and German, 2010. Military experience: n/a. Volunteer experience: Board service: Friends of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Friends of the Nebraska AIDS Project, Omaha Area Youth Orchestras. Trustee of the Business Ethics Alliance. Volunteer: Girls, Inc., Women's Center for Advancement, Girl Scouts.

Does Nebraska need to change its method of redistricting? Why or why not?

Mina Davis: Yes, we do. Redistricting needs to be unbiased and independent of the political will of current sitting senators and other interested parties. By doing this, we allow for the most fair way of dividing geographical areas for political representation.

Josh Henningsen: Yes. The current system is far too politicized and allows elected officials to choose their own voters. Creating an independent redistricting commission would result in a more transparent and equitable redistricting process.

Megan Hunt: Every legislator should agree that effective redistricting needs to be fair and equitable in order to make sure that everyone is represented. In the legislature, my priority will be to ensure that any basis for redistricting legislative districts, Supreme Court districts, and all political subdivisions be inclusive of the total population, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. Legislators should consider using an independent commission to give recommendations for redistricting in 2020 to safeguard against gerrymandering and protect against the biased influence of special interest groups in drawing voter maps. I believe that redistricting should be used to level the political playing field, not to give an advantage to any interest group or party.

Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?

Mina Davis: Yes, we should. There are too many Nebraskans that fall into the gap. Expanding Medicaid ensures that each person who qualifies can live and work with dignity.

Josh Henningsen: Yes. I served as legal counsel for the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee in 2016. One of my responsibilities was drafting a Medicaid expansion bill to be introduced in 2017. After extensive research and meetings with stakeholders, it was clear to me that Nebraska could expand Medicaid and provide health care coverage to 90,000 people without spending additional General Fund dollars. Expanding Medicaid would improve access to behavioral health services, encourage preventative care, reduce bankruptcies and other financial hardship due to medical costs, and benefit hospitals by reducing uncompensated care.

Megan Hunt: As an uninsured person in the Medicaid gap, I understand firsthand what a burden it is to have to make a decision between groceries and a doctor's appointment. I understand the anxiety of putting off appointments or delaying buying medication because there just isn't enough money to go around. I also know from speaking to thousands of voters that everyone from the children, to young professionals, to the elderly are struggling to receive access to healthcare, and that expanding Medicaid is an important first step toward keeping our communities healthy, productive, and economically secure. I have experience organizing support and testimony in the Nebraska Legislature on issues including Medicaid expansion, access to healthcare services, and funding for clinics, and I am proud of my long record of supporting healthcare for all Nebraskans.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Mina Davis: Charter schools should not have any role in the Nebraska educational system. They do not work for Nebraskan children. We should focus on fully funding our schools, raising teacher pay and taking care of the support staff.

Josh Henningsen: None.

Megan Hunt: I am against the use of public funds for private education, full-stop, period. That includes vouchers, tax credits for private education, and public funding for charter schools. Tax dollars should only be made available to schools that serve every child, regardless of who they are, what neighborhood they come from, or their parents ability to pay. While I support every parent's right to choose a private education for their children, as a state legislator I promise to fight for a public education system in Nebraska where every parent feels proud to enroll their children. Until that point, public funds from taxpayers should only be used to further improve our excellent Nebraska public schools.

How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

Mina Davis: We can start by investing more in veterans courts, drug courts, etc. and expanding the use of such courts. We need to review and reform the criminal justice process as a whole from arrest to release and invest in crime prevention and reduction. We should develop and implement constructive non-custodial measures and sentences. We also should develop opportunities for parole or other forms of early release and assist prisoners on release to prevent their return to prison. We also need to start from the beginning and work to eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline. We need to support community policing efforts as well. All of these efforts can help to reduce prison overcrowding in the short and long term.

Josh Henningsen: Nebraska's prison overcrowding crisis is the result of several different problems. I served as legal counsel for the Legislature's Judiciary Committee and the Department of Correctional Services Special Investigative Committee and worked extensively on prison overcrowding issues. The inability to properly prepare and supervise parolees has resulted in a significant increase in people readmitted to prison after parole revocations. Nebraska must continue to improve the use of assessment tools and the availability of appropriate programming in its prisons and modernize parole supervision practices in the community. One of the challenges in providing programming is understaffing. Our prison system has significant shortages of both security staff and behavioral health staff. The Legislature must also ensure the state's sentencing structure provides the appropriate balance of incarceration and community supervision to protect public safety and reduce recidivism.

Megan Hunt: Nebraska is fast approaching a prison overcrowding emergency, and lawmakers need to pragmatically consider how to keep members of our communities safe as inmates are released. But we have to understand that overcrowding doesn't begin and end with the Department of Corrections. The issue begins with the connections to community and foundations of support people have both before and after they become incarcerated. I would fight for opportunities for incarcerated people to maintain connections with their families, for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated to develop civic connections to their communities through the right to vote, and for developing avenues to education and employment after release, which helps prevent recidivism. It's also time for Nebraska to begin reconciling our failed war on drugs and its negative effects on communities of color by legalizing medical and recreational marijuana, and by allowing people with marijuana convictions to clear or modify their records.

DISTRICT 10

Matt Deaver: No response received.

Wendy DeBoer: <http://wendydeboer.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: B.A. Hastings College, J.D. Nebraska Law, M.A. U.N.O., M.A. Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Ph.D. in dissertation stage through Syracuse University. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Poll Observer 2016 General Election. Sunday School Teacher/Adult Education Teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran Church/other local churches. Volunteer/ speaker/organizer for many years for The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved families.

Does Nebraska need to change its method of redistricting? Why or why not?

Matt Deaver: No response received.

Wendy DeBoer: In order to uphold the freedom of our democratic system, we need to keep partisan politics out of our redistricting process. I believe Nebraska should move towards an independent non-partisan redistricting commission. Transparency and fairness are important to me and I would work towards these goals for our redistricting process.

Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?

Matt Deaver: No response received.

Wendy DeBoer: Since Medicaid is largely funded through federal dollars, not passing Medicaid expansion in Nebraska sends money from our Federal taxes to other states. Therefore, I support expanding Medicaid coverage for the most vulnerable among us, particularly because preventative healthcare can help avoid future financial liability to the state taxpayers. Nebraska can't afford to miss out on the millions of dollars that would go back into our economy and keep health insurance costs down for everyone.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Matt Deaver: No response received.

Wendy DeBoer: I believe in supporting and continuing to improve Nebraska's public education. I went through Omaha's public schools and am proud of how it prepared me for my academic life. Charter schools would pull funding from public education and they aren't always successful. Especially in a time when the budget is tight, we need to work together to make our existing public schools better, not fund a new system.

How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

Matt Deaver: No response received.

Wendy DeBoer: We must support our correctional system and provide the financial resources necessary to keep it strong and our communities safe. We might be able to keep some non-violent offenders out of jail through diversion programs and drug courts, but this won't solve the problem alone. We must strengthen our rehabilitation programs after prisoners are released to prevent repeat offenders.

DISTRICT 12

Steve Lathrop: <http://stevelathrop.com>. Past Public Office, dates held: State Senator District 12. 2007-2014. Education: High School: Roncalli Catholic. Creighton University B.S.B.A. 1979. Creighton University J.D. 1981. Volunteer experience: Previously coached youth sports in Ralston and Mary our Queen. St. Gerald Men's Club.

Merv Riepe: No response received.

Does Nebraska need to change its method of redistricting? Why or why not?

Steve Lathrop: Yes. Across the country redistricting has become an issue because legislative bodies inject partisan politics into the process. (Pennsylvania and Maryland are recent examples.) I believe that redistricting should be done by a nonpartisan panel of citizens from across the state. The panel should be given criteria for establishing districts that are free of party affiliation considerations. Criteria such as community of interests (keeping communities in a single district rather than splitting up towns or cities), convenience of elected officials' offices to the voters they represent (not having a congressional district which stretches across the entire state so that the voters can't practically meet with their representatives) and having the districts contiguous (no districts that snake around in an attempt to secure voters with certain party affiliations) should guide them in their efforts to draw maps that serve the interests of the voters and not the politicians and parties.

Merv Riepe: No response received.

Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?

Steve Lathrop: Nebraska should join the 33 states which have provided health care coverage to those who work but simply cannot afford health insurance. The high cost of health insurance has put this coverage beyond the reach of many working Nebraskans. The cost of care for those who cannot afford insurance is already shared by those who have insurance in an inefficient way. Those with no coverage typically get their care in the ER which is the most expensive place to get the care. The cost is then spread among those with private insurance which is one reason insurance is becoming so expensive. Nebraska taxpayers already pay for this program with their federal tax dollars yet our tax dollars are used to pay for coverage in 33 states which have adopted this program. Adoption of this

program for those who work will ensure that our neighbors have access to health care while slowing the increase in cost of insurance for those with privately purchased policies.

Merv Riepe: No response received.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Steve Lathrop: The idea of charter schools that set high academic standards is commendable and sounds appealing. Charter schools, if they came to Nebraska, would be funded with tax dollars that are currently used to fund public education and that is where the problem arises. Ralston and Millard school districts have been adversely effected by recent cuts in state aid which, in the case of Millard Public Schools, has led to a levy override and eventual property tax increase. Very simply put, the state is not adequately funding the "free and public education" the Nebraska Constitution guarantees every student right now. Financing a second school system with the same tax dollars will only lead to larger classroom sizes and lower achievement in our public schools. Residents in Ralston and Millard need and deserve one school system which maintains the highest academic standards.

Merv Riepe: No response received.

How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

Steve Lathrop: The problem of prison overcrowding is a public safety issue. Overcrowding in our prisons is primarily caused by repeat offenders. They do their time, get out, re-offend and are then sent back to prison to do more time. It is a cycle that must be addressed if we are to deal with overcrowding without building a new prison that would cost hundreds of millions of tax dollars to construct and many more millions to operate year after year. The solution to this public safety problem is in rehabilitating those who are incarcerated and supervising them for the first year after their release. Rehabilitation would address the underlying causes of criminal activity such as drug addiction, mental illness, domestic violence tendencies and so forth. Supervised release for the first year holds an offender accountable when they are at the highest risk to re-offend. Other states which have followed this approach have experienced lower crime rates, reduced prison populations and actually saved money.

Merv Riepe: No response received.

DISTRICT 18

Austin Heinrich: No response received.

Brett Lindstrom: <http://votelindstrom.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: State Senator, Legislative District 18 2015-current. Past Public Office, dates held: none. Education: Bachelor of Science, UNL. Military experience: none. Volunteer experience: co-chair 2017 Project Harmony Halfway to St. Patty's Day.

Scott Winkler: <http://winklerfornebraska.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: BS Business/Accounting MA Management from UNL. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Serving on the board of Inclusive Communities, Citizens for Equal Protection, OAYO, and was appointed to the Omaha Police Department committee with responsibility to administer a federal grant for hate crimes.

Does Nebraska need to change its method of redistricting? Why or why not?

Austin Heinrich: No response received.

Brett Lindstrom: No. The current system we have is not perfect, however it works well in making sure that every part of the state has representation. Many issues ultimately end up being divided among rural and urban interests. I believe we in the body do a good job of compromising on bills regardless of our geographic representation.

Scott Winkler: Yes, I believe that the current redistricting process allows for manipulation of district boundaries for the benefit of political gain. Redistricting needs to be a nonpartisan and apolitical process. I'd be open to considering the idea of hiring an independent commission to handle our state's redistricting process.

Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?

Austin Heinrich: No response received.

Brett Lindstrom: No. The issue with expanding Medicaid is the reliance on federal funding. There have been other instances in which the Federal Government has promised to pay, but ultimately the state ends up being on the hook to pay for the program. We cannot rely on the Federal Government to continue funding Medicaid Expansion at 90%

when they are 12 trillion dollars in debt. There needs to be compromise in figuring out how to create affordable health care for all Nebraskans, however Medicaid expansion is not the solution.

Scott Winkler: Yes, I believe Nebraska needs to expand Medicaid in order to provide adequate access to health care to thousands of Nebraskans. Failure to do so leaves over 90,000 people in Nebraska without access and leaves millions of federal dollars unused.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Austin Heinrich: No response received.

Brett Lindstrom: I am certainly an advocate for school choice, however I would be apprehensive about using taxpayer money to fund private charter schools. If charter schools can self-fund to operate I would have no issue with them. We need to do whatever we can to ensure Nebraska children are proficient in the core subjects. I believe we have excellent teachers doing the best job they can with the resources allocated to them.

Scott Winkler: Nebraska has a great public school system available to our families and students. We need to fully fund state aid to public education and I would strongly oppose allocating funds to charter schools. It is my firm belief that public dollars given to private schools are public dollars taken away from our public schools.

How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

Austin Heinrich: No response received.

Brett Lindstrom: I am not in favor of building a new prison which would be unduly burdensome on our taxpayers. We need to have training and services that lower the recidivism rate and help integrate prisoners back into society with the tools to become productive citizens. We also need to identify and address mental health issues in our corrections system.

Scott Winkler: We have a clear problem with prison overcrowding in our State and I would commit to working with the special investigative committee to find real solutions. We need to take a look at the way we sentence non violent offenders in order to reduce overcrowding.

DISTRICT 20

Jackie Collett: <http://www.jackiecollett.com>. Education: Bachelor's Degree in Psychology Master's Degree in Public Administration. Volunteer experience: Previous board member of Crime Victims First, member of the League of Women Voters, Loveland Neighborhood Association, ACLU, and the Omaha Metro Area Humanist Association, Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion, Austin Marathon, CFF, MiniDonations, AFP.

Chris Anne Dienstbier: Education: Omaha North High School, 1985-1987 Associate's in Electronics Technology, Metropolitan Community College, 2013. Volunteer experience: Nebraska Humane Society, Omaha Public Library.

John McCollister: <http://www.votemccollister.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: State Senator - 2015-2018. Past Public Office, dates held: Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) 1979 – 2008. Education: Bachelor of Science - Business Administration. Military experience: none. Volunteer experience: The Mid America Council - BSA, One World and the American Diabetes Assn..

Does Nebraska need to change its method of redistricting? Why or why not?

Jackie Collett: Nebraska needs to change its methods of restricting to promote a more transparent and accountable process. I support an independent citizens commission tasked with drawing the maps defining governing districts. Public hearings should be held in each district before redistricting plans are finalized. The State must comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act that blocks district lines that deny minority voters an equal opportunity "to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice." Technology must be utilized to make maps based on equal population size, and the legislature should no longer vote to approve districts.

Chris Anne Dienstbier: Absolutely. Redistricting is supposed to reflect changes in population and ensure that everyone is represented fairly. When politicians draw districts to give themselves or their party an advantage, that is unfair to the voters.

John McCollister: LB 216 from the 105th Nebraska Legislature provides an open, transparent and nonpartisan guide for redistricting in Nebraska. Much like Iowa's highly-regarded process, LB 216 would: 1. Establish a nonpartisan citizens' advisory committee, 2. Require the Legislative Research Office to create politically neutral maps using state-issued software, 3. Cause the legislature to consider and then adopt a map(s) subject to the governor's

veto, 4. Provide hearings throughout the state, and 5. Delegate oversight of the process to the Legislature's Executive Board. Nebraskans deserve a fair and nonpartisan mechanism for 2021 redistricting, and using the provisions of LB 216 would make that possible.

Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?

Jackie Collett: The 100,000 Nebraskans who still cannot get health insurance, would probably agree with my support of expanding Medicaid. More than 30 other states elected to expand Medicaid, and we should follow their direction. Expanding Medicaid would not only ensure coverage for our hard-working friends and families, but it would also allow us to use federal tax funds we are already paying into. Studies surrounding Medicaid expansion concluded that Nebraska would enjoy significant financial benefits, and expansion also passes a rigorous cost/benefit analysis. Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Let's stop legislating like it is.

Chris Anne Dienstbier: Without Medicaid, my mother would not have lived happily until her passing in 2015. I certainly could not have afforded 5000.00 per month for her assisted living. This issue is close to my heart. Everyone of every age should have access to free, quality medical care and medical living arrangements.

John McCollister: The American healthcare system is seriously flawed. In this country healthcare currently represents 18 percent of GNP vs. just 12 percent in the major developed countries with better health outcomes. Outmoded information systems, uncontrolled pharmaceutical costs, large price and quality variations among providers and a host of other factors make healthcare much more expensive than necessary. Nebraska needs to join the 32 other states that have expanded Medicaid. (Two more states, Virginia and Utah with Republican legislative bodies are on the verge of expanding Medicaid.) With the federal government paying 90 percent of the cost, over 90,000 hard-working Nebraskans could have health care coverage. Insured individuals can have a longer and improved quality of life. Expansion would also reduce insurance rates by reducing provider uncompensated care. Also, revenue to the state from expansion would be significant - \$175 million. It's time - Nebraska should expand Medicaid now.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Jackie Collett: Nebraska cannot afford to finance charter schools, and therefore, they do not have a place in our state. Tax dollars should be spent on investments in public schools, and the best way to help under-performing students is by addressing individual learning problems directly. Parents already have a number of choices within our public schools providing for all students. Our school systems must also operate by evidence-based practices, and charter schools have yet to provide significant data on their success. Voucher schools run the risk of creating even greater divisions between the poor and wealthy, and I have a vision for a more equal and inclusive state, which includes reducing inequity in our education system. The Nebraska Legislature should focus on making our public schools safer, stronger, effective, and accountable.

Chris Anne Dienstbier: I am not opposed to charter schools, but under no circumstances should money for public schools be used to fund them. Public schools need a budget increase to provide the education our teachers want and strive to offer.

John McCollister: Publicly funded charter schools can be found in 42 states and enroll about 3 million students. The record on charters is mixed. According to Change.org, "Charter schools get overwhelmingly positive press and make a lot of claims about their success. But, numerous studies actually confirm that their achievement is indistinguishable from that of traditional public schools." School choice, the primary allure of charter schools, is currently available for all students in the Omaha area. Students can transfer to any of the 11 school districts in the Learning Community. And the offerings are diverse – Core Knowledge, International Baccalaureate and Montessori. There is no question that Nebraska public and private schools are among the ten best in the country. I represent three fine public school districts – Omaha, Millard and Westside Community Schools. Without more valid reasons, I don't believe it's necessary to organize charters in Nebraska.

How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

Jackie Collett: • Reduce the number of non-violent offenders currently in and being sent to the prison system. • Reduce the amount of time non-violent offenders serve. • Give judges more discretion over sentencing and get rid of any mandatory sentencing. • Reduce sentences for prisoners who participate in drug or other rehabilitation programs. • Invest in programs that reduce recidivism rates through career training and reintroduction assistance. • Invest in long-term staffing solutions, including reduced staff pressure and stress support, continuing education and training, competitive wages, and better benefits. • Incorporate extended leave and house parole programs.

Chris Anne Dienstbier: I believe the decriminalization of marijuana would vastly help prison overcrowding. The unsuccessful war on drugs has added too many people who are non-violent and, in my opinion, non-criminal.

John McCollister: The prison situation in Nebraska is intolerable. A serious problem with dire consequences, Nebraska is second only to the state of Alabama in terms of overcrowding. At 155 percent of capacity, our state faces a 2020 court deadline to reduce the overcrowding to below 140 percent. Without more progress to reduce the prison population, Nebraska will be forced to release more inmates on parole before they complete important education and reentry programs. The overcrowding problem could be more easily resolved with increased efforts to make inmates eligible for release. The lack of timely programming availability means offenders languish in prison longer than necessary. Currently, Nebraska is housing 1,900 more inmates than the 140 percent capacity limit. To date, the progress has been inadequate. The legislative and executive branches in Nebraska's state government need to work together to resolve this major issue.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – DISTRICT 8

Pat McPherson: <http://www.votemcpherson.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Nebraska State Board of Education, 2014-2018. Past Public Office, dates held: Papio Natural Resources District 1978-82. Education: Central High School, Omaha, Nebraska Creighton University, B. A. Degree. Military experience: U. S. Army Reserves . Volunteer experience: Nebraska Comprehensive Health Insurance Board; National Association of State Boards of Education; Omaha Charter Review Commission; Community Health Charities of America and Nebraska; American Diabetes Ass; Foster Child Review Board, Red Cross

Bob Meyers: <http://www.facebook.com/MeyersforStateBoardofEducation/>. Current Public Office, dates held: No current office held. Past Public Office, dates held: City Council, Grand Island, NE 1977-1978. Education: Bachelor of Science in Education - University of Nebraska-Lincoln Master of Education - University of Nebraska-Lincoln Doctor of Education - University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Clean Community Association - Grand Island, NE Taxpayer Advocacy Panel - Vice Chair of National Organization.

Deborah Neary: <http://neary4stateeducation.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: No previous attempt to run for public office. Past Public Office, dates held: No previous attempt to run for public office. Education: Master's Degree in Public Administration and History. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: *Business Ethics Alliance, Trustee *West Omaha Rotary – Member & Former Club Officer *ServeNebraska Board –Appointed by Governor Ricketts *Madonna School Board Member *League of Women Voters - Former Board Member *Leadership Omaha, Class 31.

Do you see this board as being an elected or appointed body? Please explain your reasoning.

Pat McPherson: It should continue to be an elected body. Its current elected 8 member board represents diverse areas of our state which have unique demographics and needs and concerns. These range from small rural districts to large urban cities. Having district representatives assures all voices are heard and needs addressed while also providing respect for local control rather than top-down decisions made in allegiance to one who appoints.

Bob Meyers: I believe the State Board of Education should remain an elected position. Nebraska has a long tradition of local control of schools and having elected representatives ensuring that all schools are equally represented. An appointed board has the potential for changing membership with each election, which could result in disrupting continuity of program. The decision-making process of the State Board needs to be based on research and best practices rather than political ideology.

Deborah Neary: It is the responsibility of each board member to listen to the constituents they represent, and to parents, students, teachers, & administrators, to develop policies that guide high quality education. I believe the elective process is more democratic and can prompt citizens to take greater interest when they feel their voices are heard. Education policies deserve to be thoroughly researched and discussed, and conform to no political agenda.

What can be done to ensure safety of students and teachers in our schools?

Pat McPherson: The board has adopted school safety standards but that's not enough because of limited Department of Education personnel and funding. The board must insist on better compliance in all of Nebraska's 244 districts and 1100 schools. The board must work with the legislature to provide stronger safety requirements for new buildings and funds for implementing improvements in existing schools. Those schools that don't adopt necessary changes must be held accountable through accreditation process.

Bob Meyers: Planning and practicing for all emergencies is the first step in securing the safety of students and teachers. Resource officers in each school can also be very helpful and things like being able to lock classroom doors from the inside important. Maintaining counseling programs in all schools is also important. I oppose arming teachers. It is important to realize that there is no single "one size fits all" solution, boards of ed need to have plans best suited for their districts

Deborah Neary: I believe our Nebraska's schools need resources to continue planning for the possibility of violence, to coordinate with law enforcement, and to secure their buildings from potential intrusion. I also agree school districts need resources for increased numbers of mental health counselors, psychologists, and social workers able to identify and work with students whose behavior may include warning signs for potential violence.

How can the continuing education of teachers be supported?

Pat McPherson: Too many teachers get their teaching certificate and then choose to leave the classroom after only a short time because of lack of support or preparation. Ongoing education should better reflect the challenges they face daily in their classrooms. Providing continued education that helps recognize learning difficulties like dyslexia as well as mental and toxic stress issues would help them better cope with the challenges they face. Having the benefit of master teachers would also be beneficial

Bob Meyers: It is important that adequate resources be allocated for professional growth activities. Assistance in locating on-line sites available for nearly every area of the curriculum and time to interact with them is essential. Use of local experts or district-wide training can be useful for instructional innovations, while curriculum specific conferences can provide information about best practices in the field. Time for reflection is important, as is collegial collaboration.

Deborah Neary: Quality teaching is the most important factor for student success in the classroom and it is imperative teachers have access to the supports they need. Professional development and continuing education opportunities are crucial to improving teaching skills. However, I do believe it is time for an NDE review of current processes regarding continuing education credits and increased compensation for teachers. Successful models deployed in other states are available for consideration.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Pat McPherson: 1) I want to assure the board's strategic plan continues to be implemented and that as we complete the second year of it this December that we have an unbiased third party evaluate our performance; 2) I want to make sure that the upcoming revision of the state's social studies standards are rigorous, receive strong input from parents and business, reflect the uniqueness of our state and national governments and prepare students for civic life and community engagement.

Bob Meyers: By the end of my first year in office, my first goal is to have constituents of District 8 say I have represented them and their school districts in a fair and equitable manner, and have worked toward my pledge of "Great Schools for Every Child." I will use my experience and leadership skills to work with NDE staff in the development and approval of comprehensive curriculum standards.

Deborah Neary: The most urgent role of this board is to find ways to close achievement gaps and to provide teachers the supports they need to be successful in this goal. I will advocate for innovative measures that strengthen schools, uphold state standards, and continue the tradition of taxpayer oversight via elected board members. And, I will advocate for more behavioral supports. We can review new delivery models for services that minimize out-of-class-time and provide cost efficiencies for districts.

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

DISTRICT 2

James Cavanaugh (D): Web Site: <http://www.votecavanaugh.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Douglas County Commissioner, January 2015 to the present. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: St. Mary's Grade School; Creighton Preparatory School; Creighton University, B.A.; Creighton University School of Law, J.D. Military experience: Did not have the privilege of serving. Volunteer experience: Board member of: Douglas County Health Center Foundation; Justice for Our Neighbors; Omaha Irish Cultural Center. Nebraska Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. Member of: Sierra Club; Dundee Memorial Park Neighborhood Assoc.; Neighborhood Watch.

Pam Tusa (D): Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: Douglas County Commissioner - District 2 Held Office from January 2007 thru December 2014. Education: High School. Military experience: N/A. Volunteer experience: N/A

Larry Roland (R): Candidate will automatically advance to the General Election.

What do you see as the three most compelling problems facing your office?

James Cavanaugh: Tax reduction, service improvement, and transparency. I led modernization efforts to consolidate county operations that are saving the County millions of dollars while improving services. I led a broad community coalition that secured voter approval for funding the 2016 Public Safety Bond issue. It's paying for a new 9-1-1 center, Fire Station Alert System, renovations at the Corrections Center, and consolidating services. All without a tax increase.

Pam Tusa: Establishing strategic budgeting priorities to ensure we deliver government services better, faster and cheaper. This is urgent because we have crisis areas within the budget that warrant immediate attention, such as the critical shortage of officers at our county corrections center. That means making hard choices. One easy savings I will propose is rescinding the 34 percent pay raise for County Commissioners. That would have been extravagant in the best of times and the budget is tight now.

What element of the county's government is most effective and why?

James Cavanaugh: Public oversight, especially voter input on and control of county government spending, is one of American democracy's best features. I will continually strive to make county government open and transparent so that The People can exercise their control. My job as your elected representative is to always work for openness and transparency. We work for you.

Pam Tusa: I say from experience that when any of our departments are effective, much of the credit goes to the frontline workers and managers. There are so many departments where elected or appointed directors have empowered their managers and employees through training and the adaption of emerging technologies and practices. I believe county government can continue to be more responsive and transparent as we modernize operations.

What are some ways to provide property tax relief without cutting vital services? Are there any services you think should be cut and, if so, why?

James Cavanaugh: Cutting taxes always ought to be on the table. Most often, cutting services is not necessary to cut taxes. Common sense management often permits cost cuts while improving services and reducing taxes. The 2016 Public Safety Bond I shepherded to voter approval has supported investments that cut costs, improve services, and did so without requiring a single dollar of new taxes.

Pam Tusa: Repealing the 34 percent pay raise for County Commissioners is a small start. Using existing county buildings more effectively may eliminate the need for some expensive leased property. We need to be more pro-active in opposing unfunded mandates handed down to the counties by State officials. And we should have a budget process that begins at zero for each department each year rather than encourage departments to spend unused resources to establish a baseline for the following year.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

James Cavanaugh: In my first term I've demonstrated that it is possible to improve services while cutting costs. So far I've been able to hold down taxes. In my first year of my second term, I want to reduce taxes while improving services. Please help me do that. I ask for your vote and support.

Pam Tusa: When the vote on future board salaries is scheduled by statute, I will propose and urge my colleagues to support, rolling back the 34 percent pay raise for County Commissioners. After I am elected, I believe our first priority as a Board is to address a dangerous shortage of corrections officers at the County's jail. We need to make our corrections positions competitive and on par with those of neighboring counties or this issue will continue into the future.

DISTRICT 4

PJ Morgan (R): Candidate will automatically advance to the General Election.

DISTRICT 6

Mary Ann Borgeson (R): Candidate will automatically advance to the General Election.

DOUGLAS COUNTY ASSESSOR/REGISTER OF DEEDS

Diane L. Battiato (D): Candidate will automatically advance to the General Election.

Walt Peffer (R): <http://waltpefferforassessor.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Attended UNO, Nebraska Real Estate License, State of Nebraska County Assessor Certificate. Military experience: U.S. Army, Viet Nam veteran. Volunteer experience: United Way, American Legion, Ralston Chamber of Commerce, church activities. Served on Omaha Charter View Commission, Served on City of Omaha Efficiency Commission. Coach youth football, baseball and basketball.

Kris J. Pierce (R): www.krisjpiece.com. Past Public Office, dates held: Board of Trustees, SID 442 2012-2016. Education: BA - The Ohio State University Communications and Strategic Planning. Military experience: U.S. Army Service Connected Disabled Veteran.

What are the two most compelling issues to address within the assessor's office?

Walt Peffer: The current Assessor Office is in turmoil and requires someone with my 20 years of real estate and government background to set goals and objectives, and will be a advocate for the taxpayer. I will work to deliver fair, accurate and equalized valuations.

Kris J. Pierce: The most compelling issue is the need to earn the public's trust of this office and its ability to do the job. Valuations have been out of control and there is a lack of communication of what, how and why this turmoil is happening. The second issue is the destructive adversarial relationship between the public and the office. This office should be an advocate for property owners and its priority is getting values correct for taxpayers. Once done, all other pieces fall into place.

What, if any, changes need to be made regarding property valuations and the process of contesting those valuations?

Walt Peffer: Get valuations right the first time, that are fair, accurate and equalized. Once preliminary valuations have been established, I will hold town hall meetings throughout the county so that the taxpayer does not have to take time off of work to meet with their Assessor.

Kris J. Pierce: We will partner with the real estate community to better understand what is going on in the market. They are the experts at understanding market values and their partnership to get those numbers right for property owners. My office will welcome all protests and conversations with property owners. My office will act as an advocate for taxpayers to ensure the value we place on their property is right. No longer will taxpayers feel that we are against them and they must fight us for fair treatment.

If elected, what would be your first-year priorities?

Walt Peffer: Get valuations right the first time, that are fair, accurate and equalized. Develop an attitude in the Assessor Office that we work for and with the property taxpayer.

Kris J. Pierce: Firstly, no value increases for 2019. All 2018 values will rollover into 2019 in order to give us more time to work on 2020 values. Secondly, I will institute a Flat Assessment Rate. All homes will be valued at the low end of the statutory range at 93%, regardless of the value of your home. This creates fairness. Thirdly, we will begin the transformation of our market areas to match neighborhoods. This will ensure your home is compared to homes in YOUR neighborhood, not a home 10 miles away.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

DISTRICT 4

Larry Bradley (D): <http://www.bradleyforregent.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District, District 3. 2016-current. Past Public Office, dates held: Papio-Missouri NRD, District 3. 2008-2012. Education: B.S. Biology '97 (UNO), M.A. Biology '01 (UNO), Ph.D. Geography '10 (UNL), Minor in Geology, Minor in Native American Studies. Technical High School. Central Grade School, downtown Omaha. Military experience: United States Army. 1982-1986. Honorable Discharge. E-4. 91R. Army Achievement Medal. Good Conduct Medal. Norfolk, VA 1983-84. Frankfurt, West Germany 1985-86. Volunteer experience: Commander of Local Veterans Post, 2008-2015. President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians-Father Flanagan Division, 2015-2017. Immigration Chair for AOH, 2018. Youth sports coach for Catholic Youth League and YMCA (when my children were young).

Elizabeth O'Connor (D): <http://www.ElizabethForRegent.com>. Past Public Office, dates held: University of Nebraska Board of Regents, UNO student representative 2011-2012; University of Nebraska Board of Regents, Executive Committee member 2011-2012. Education: University of Nebraska Omaha, Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Summa Cum Laude 2012; University of Notre Dame Law School, Juris Doctor, 2015. Volunteer experience: Executive board member of the Friends of Nebraska Children; Mentor to the University of Nebraska at Omaha Underserved Law Opportunity Program (ULOP).

What role does the First Amendment have on college campuses?

Larry Bradley: Pro Academic Freedom and Pro Science is one of my platform issues. I have studied, researched, lectured, and taught at the collegiate level in Nebraska for three decades now. I have personally experienced barriers for my original contribution to science. As long as any person or group does not seek to incite hatred, riots, or violence on our beautiful and peaceful campuses, then it is our civic duty to allow civil discourse so that we may attain common ground on critical issues.

Elizabeth O'Connor: Freedom of speech should be a cherished and celebrated right on college campuses. Our universities must be a crossroads where people can meet in dialogue: a place where diverse ideas, cultures and perspectives can be exchanged freely and openly, where ideas are debated and where every sincere contributor is listened to and respected. Our universities should aspire to be places where the exchange of diverse ideas is welcomed in civil conversation and differences of opinion are not foreclosed.

How do you see the future of funding for Nebraska's public universities?

Larry Bradley: Currently, as I view the issue, funding for public education K-16 is under assault, not only in Nebraska, but the entire country. As a candidate who actually grew up and reside in District 4, I have a history of raising thousands of dollars for students who could not otherwise attend Nebraska public universities. As a veteran, I am the logical candidate choice to lobby for DOD research funding. I have the proven leadership and experience to work with all sides on funding issues.

Elizabeth O'Connor: Funding for the University should be viewed as an investment in Nebraska's future. The University should be funded fairly - it should not be asked to shoulder a higher burden of cuts than other state agencies. It should spend those funds prudently - every dollar it receives takes a dollar away from other state agencies. We must invest wisely in Nebraska's future - the solution to building Nebraska's economy is not through cuts but through growth. The University is an engine for that growth.

With the rising costs of higher education, how will you help to ensure that all young Nebraskans have access to a college education?

Larry Bradley: Affordable Education is one of my platform issues. As a father, I will fight for Nebraska's most important resource, which is the future of our children. I would investigate to see exactly who is profiting from Student loan providers such as NELNET, which is based in Lincoln, NE. I will be the most vocal about the current President of the U.S. cutting Pell Grants by \$3.9 billion and eliminating student loan debt forgiveness programs. I have been an advocate for low tuition for 30 years now.

Elizabeth O'Connor: There are ways to efficiently provide a high-quality education, such as: leveraging technology and continuing strategic educational partnerships. While the University is competitively priced, tuition increases weigh heavily on students. A typical family can expect to spend between 26-30% of its annual income on tuition.

Nebraska invests less than a third of the national average in need-based aid. I will focus on ensuring that need-based financial aid is available to all eligible students.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Larry Bradley: First and foremost, I will ensure the atrocious, exploitation of part-time labor at UNO, with respect to the high number of 500 adjunct professors, is brought to the center of debate. Especially, for those who have not had a raise in ten years or more, and those who had to sign away benefits. Second, I will ask legal counsel to investigate if the Anti-Affirmative Action petition circulated around Nebraska a half decade ago is still constitutional with respect to hiring diverse faculty.

Elizabeth O'Connor: As a woman and young professional, I will bring a valuable and diverse perspective to the Board as it deals with matters that affect all Nebraskans.

The issues regarding free speech and budget may highlight a growing rift between the University and Legislature which would be detrimental to our future. In my visits with business leaders, elected officials and University administration, it is clear we have a shared a goal: a better future for Nebraska. I will refocus us on that goal.

DISTRICT 8

Hal Daub (R): <http://haldaubforregent.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: University of Nebraska Board of Regents, District 8, 2013 to present. Past Public Office, dates held: Four elected terms, U.S. House of Representatives, 11981-89; twice elected Mayor of Omaha, 1994-2001. Education: Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Washington University, St. Louis, MO; Juris Doctor Degree, University of Nebraska College of Law. Military experience: 2nd and 1st Lieutent, Infantry Rifle Company, and then promoted to Captain, Company Commander, Second U.S. Army Infantry Division in Korea. Volunteer experience: Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, Autism, Wounded Warriors Family Support, Head Start and Fatherhood Initiative Boards presently; Rotary, Optimists Clubs; Chamber Business Hall of Fame; Distinguished Alumnus of University of Nebraska, Washington Univ.

Barbara Weitz (D): <http://barbaraweitzforregent.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Bachelor of Arts, Carleton College (1970). Master of Public Administration, New York University (1974). Master of Social Work, University of Nebraska at Omaha (1991). PhD candidate (all but dissertation), Case Western Reserve (1998). Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: University of Nebraska Foundation board, Urban League of Nebraska board, Avenue Scholars board, Building Bright Futures board, Nebraska Children & Families Foundation board, Women's Fund of Greater Omaha board

Ryan Wilkins (NP): <http://www.facebook.com/RyanForRegent/>. Education: B.S.B.A. (Economics), University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Juris Doctor (Law), Washington University in St. Louis. Volunteer experience: Board of Directors, Grief's Journey (formerly Ted E. Bear Hollow) - 2011-2017; University of Nebraska President's Advisory Council - 2013-Present; UNL College of Business Young Alumni Advisory Board - 2014 - Present.

What role does the First Amendment have on college campuses?

Hal Daub: The Four great freedoms of Press, Religion, Speech and Assembly must be the core policy commitments of our University of Nebraska environment, for students, teachers and our guests and visitors. Our policies reflect my strong commitment to these principles of open and transparent learning proscribed only by such limitations as may be reasonable to facilitate respectful, non-threatening conduct, non-disruptive activity or discourse that does not damage the reputation of the University.

Barbara Weitz: Freedom of speech on campus is of the utmost importance. Universities are the foundational institutions where ideas, theories and philosophies can be examined, tested and adopted based on each person's individual experience and personal values. The role of the university is to create an atmosphere where all perspectives can be expressed and challenged.

Ryan Wilkins: For public universities, the First Amendment's role on campus is paramount - not only because it's rooted in our Constitution, but also because free speech is a pillar of civic education.

It's tempting to quash opinions we find especially offensive or upsetting. But the right response isn't censure, but rather engagement and debate. NU's current administration has toed this line well: Making clear that targeted harassment and threats are impermissible, while refusing quick-fix restrictions.

How do you see the future of funding for Nebraska's public universities?

Hal Daub: In a state with limited population and limited taxpayer resources, funding a \$2.6 billion University Budget will become more and more of a challenge. I envision flat State taxpayer funding for a number of years into the future, tuition being maintained at about the rate of inflation or a bit higher, more reliance on private sector partnerships and funding, and the necessity for the Regents and Administration to maintain more fiscal restraint to insure affordable, accessible education.

Barbara Weitz: I am very concerned about continued cuts to the University of Nebraska's budget. As a former UNO professor, I agree that we must be fiscally responsible. However, the University of Nebraska is the number one employer for the state and brings in six dollars for every dollar spent. Continuing to cut the university's budget and eliminating programs will hurt our ability to recruit and retain faculty and students and provide an affordable education to all Nebraskans.

Ryan Wilkins: I'm cautiously optimistic, because I think our legislators recognize the key role robust public universities play in our state's future. When support for public schools dries up, colleges have two choices: cut programming (both quality and total offerings) and/or raise tuition (reducing access).

Cutting the University to reduce a state budget is like dropping a propeller to cut weight in an airplane: Irresponsible and counterproductive. We can and must remain invested in education and growth.

With the rising costs of higher education, how will you help to ensure that all young Nebraskans have access to a college education?

Hal Daub: We have trimmed \$30 Million dollars this year from administration with creative combinations of many functions, and still more can be done. Over 6,000 students receive their Nebraska University Education on full scholarship, and we have added \$5 Million more for Husker Scholarships for each of the next two years from our successful Athletic Department Programs for non-athletic department students. Managing costs, focusing on programs and coursework germane to the future workforce is critical.

Barbara Weitz: The burden of rising tuition and student loan debt prevents many Nebraskans from receiving an affordable education. As Regent, I will find innovative solutions and alternative revenue streams to offset budget cuts and reduce our reliance on tuition increases to balance the university's budget. These include public-private partnerships with companies and foundations to fund university programs and scholarships and university patents that bring in revenue - I am open to new, creative solutions.

Ryan Wilkins: If the rising cost of delivering higher education continues to outpace state funding, schools will be squeezed to do more with less. Tuition hikes alone cannot fill the gap; otherwise, a generation of our state's future leaders and taxpayers may be deprived of higher-education access. To balance the budget without undermining access, program cuts may be necessary. I prefer vertical cuts (targeted elimination of whole programs) to across-the-board "horizontal" cuts, which hinder overall quality.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Hal Daub: Having Chaired the Audit, Compliance and Risk Management Committee for the Board, my knowledge of the fiscal and academic programs learned as a member of the Academic Affairs Committee give me subject matter expertise to continue to aid keeping our budget balanced, tuition competitively affordable, room and board costs reasonable, so we can recruit and retain great teachers and give students a well-administrated environment to support great educational experiences, research and outcomes for Ne.

Barbara Weitz: First, I will work to make the Board of Regents more accessible to the public by increasing opportunities for communication with taxpayers who fund the university. I will hold regular town hall meetings and "office hours" across the district to share information and receive suggestions about what our priorities should be. Second, I will have meetings with private companies and foundations to discover possibilities for raising university revenue through public-private partnerships.

Ryan Wilkins: First, I must listen and learn. This is a six-year term; to be effective I must spend time building relationships and expertise to form a firm foundation from which I can draw and lead.

Second, I will challenge the Board to understand and face technological and generational shifts affecting higher education. Advancements like augmented reality and massive open online courses may soon dramatically change the way we teach. I'll work to ensure we're ready to not just survive, but thrive.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

AT LARGE

Paul Anderson (R): Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: High School Diploma 1971. Military experience: Retired US Navy Reserve. Volunteer experience: Salvation Army DAV.

Ron Hug (D): Current Public Office, dates held: Metropolitan Community College Board At-Large Seat 2014 to Date. Past Public Office, dates held: Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors, District 1, 1999 to 2014. Education: G.E.D. Metropolitan Community College 1974. Volunteer experience: Roxbury Neighborhood Asso. Cinnamon Creek Home Owners Asso. Carlson Employees Credit Union Board

Thom Sisson (R): <http://thomsisson.com>. Volunteer experience: Harvey Oaks Homeowners Association Board Member Sports Director with Nebraska Sports Council Volunteered at/with Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands, Special Olympics Nebraska, United Way of the Midlands.

How should the role of a community college differ from that of a four-year university?

Paul Anderson: Students in a community college have the opportunity to obtain the necessary professional skills for a good paying job in the trades. A community college can provide a gateway to begin work toward a four year degree.

Ron Hug: The roll of a Community college should be different and at the same time augment that of a four year institution. Providing Vocational education and training to help those enter the work force, And to help educate those that aspire to move on to a four year college including those that may need help to enhance their skills to ensure their success at the 4 year level.

Community colleges offer may programs that are not offered at the four year level such as in remedial education,

Thom Sisson: Community Colleges are the backbone of the community! Most high school graduates believe the only way to get a good career is to go to a four-year university, but that is wrong! For the graduate or any one else who just wants a new path, Community Colleges are the way to go. They are an easy way to get a start for the financial minded student who wants to save some money before moving to a four-year university or for anyone who just wants to get out of their job and focus on a career.

What should be the qualifications of instructors at Metro?

Paul Anderson: The qualifications of community college instructors should include a masters degree in their area of study. Those instructors in the professional trades, should have the highest certification for their trade.

Ron Hug: The State of Nebraska Dept. of Education requires that those instructors of academic courses hold at least a Master Degree. And those instructing in vocational classes required to be competent in their field, The credentials of all Metros Instructors are reviewed by the accreditation agency The Higher Learning Commission,

All other fields have particular accreditation organizations which review instructors credentials.

Thom Sisson: I don't see any issue with the current qualification that Metro has, a Master Degree with 18 months is a great start for any instructor at Metro.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Paul Anderson: To provide a study of the benefits to the students and college in providing the services of the current book store private contractor. Expand the presence of the college into Blair, Nebraska.

Ron Hug: I have the honor of currently serving on the Metro Board, I will utilize my experiences and knowledge from serving on the board to ensure the Students and the Taxpayers are afforded the highest quality Community College in every aspect. I will work with my fellow board members to form a cohesive team. Working towards common goals and objectives in the best interest of the Metropolitan Community College four county area.

Thom Sisson: Two things that I would want to accomplish is pretty simple and basic. I would want more promotion about Metro to citizens who don't quite understand what they pay for on their property taxes and more push for assistance to those who are in need for work to get the skills they need to get a career instead of just another job.

DISTRICT 1

Phillip Klein (R): Candidate will automatically advance to the General Election.

DISTRICT 2

Brad Ashby (R): Current Public Office, dates held: Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors 2015-2019. Education: Computer Science, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Military experience: USAF 1981-1986 NEANG 1986-1999.

Erin Feichtinger (D): <http://erinformetro.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: N/A. Education: B.S. Special Education, Loyola University Chicago Ph.D, Transnational Urban and Early Modern Social History, Loyola University Chicago. Military experience: N/A. Volunteer experience: Camp Munroe at the Munroe-Meyer Institute ('04 - '08) Respite Care Provider ('07-'10) A Just Harvest Community Kitchen ('11-'16).

Roger Humphries (D): <http://humphriesformetorboard.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: City of Omaha Civil Rights Hearing Board 2000-2007 City of Omaha Public Safety Advisory Commission 2000-2001. Education: Associate Degrees from Metro Community College: Commercial Photography Management, BS FROM University of NE at Omaha: Criminal Justice. Military experience: United States Air Force – four years Final Rank as Sgt. Honorable Discharge. Volunteer experience: Board Member (Present): Downtown Omaha, Inc – Currently President - served as Vice President as well Downtown YMCA Omaha Press Club Past Board Member: The FOOD BANK of the Heartlands Benson Neighborhood Association / served President and Vice Pres.

Nyok Kuoioli (D): <http://www.nk2018.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: 2009-2012 Students senator at Penn State University, President and founder of African Student Organization at Gannon University, 2013-2015. Education: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Masters in Public Administration and concentration in organizational leadership. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: I have two years of professional experience as an Americorps Vista service.

Jake Seeman (D): <http://jakeseeman.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: BA in History, Bellevue University. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Vice Chairman, Douglas County Democratic Party.

Dennis J. Womack (D): <http://dennisjwomack.com>. Past Public Office, dates held: Chief Deputy Election Commissioner, Douglas County Election Commission. 2004- 2006. Education: University of Nebraska -Omaha and Metropolitan Community College. Volunteer experience: Chairman- Northeast Precinct Police Advisory Council

How should the role of a community college differ from that of a four-year university?

Brad Ashby: Traditionally the Community College taught trades such as HVAC, Welding, Automotive, Dental Assistant, etc. Today the role of the Community College is not only to teach trades, but offers High School students an opportunity to dual enroll and get a jump on obtaining college credits while still in High School. The Community College is also a great place for students who are planning to obtain a 4 year degree to obtain general education credits at 50% of the cost of most 4 year institutions.

Erin Feichtinger: A community college is a bridge, a net, and a foundation. It must span those gaps between high school and a university, that impede advancing in a career, and skills desired for a fuller life. It must catch those who might struggle by providing support services that fit the needs and abilities of every learner. It is a stable foundation in students' lives and in our community, providing a practical education that builds our economy and creates equality through access and inclusion.

Roger Humphries: Community colleges provide students with a much better value proposition than four-year institutions. Not only are community colleges less expensive, in many cases, students are able to obtain a comparable, if not better, education at a lower cost. Also, those who do wish to go to college are able to prepare for a job in a trade which bodes well not only for our community, the state as well.

Nyok Kuoioli: The role of community college is essential to train work force, retrain, and prepare students for higher education. Community colleges are important engine of economic development both to students, their families, and society as a whole.

Jake Seeman: Community College is different than a traditional four-year university in that it provides students an opportunity to receive an education in trades and that it serves many non-traditional students. Many of the students MCC serves need opportunities to remedy educational deficiencies in math, science, and reading so they are able to attend four-year programs. MCC has a proven track record of helping non-traditional students enhance their skills and receive jobs in our community.

Dennis J. Womack: Community Colleges should have a variety of Educational Funding streams available it should have Workforce Funding available for Re-Training the Local workforce. It should also have a larger pool of dollars available for Displaced Workers as Companies and Business move or relocate. Community Colleges should always work to keep Tuition Rates low, the rates should reflect the Economic Levels of the surrounding area.

What should be the qualifications of instructors at Metro?

Brad Ashby: Most community colleges require a minimum of a Master's degree and 18 hours at graduate level in the subject being taught. It is also important for the instructor to have "real world" practical experience in the field that they are teaching.

Erin Feichtinger: Instructors must meet the qualifications necessary to maintain the highest levels of accreditation. They should hold either one level degree higher than those sought by their students or equivalent life experience. Instructors should be judged according to their ability to deliver quality instruction, and their willingness to learn and adopt best practices in course design and delivery. The mission of Metro to provide opportunity for all students must also equally apply to its faculty.

Roger Humphries: Master Degree or in the process of working toward a master's Degree. For trades, certificate or years of experience.

Nyok Kuoiloi: Institutions such as Metropolitan Community college ought to hired well qualify applicants based on experience and at least Masters degree, doctorate, and PH.D.

Jake Seeman: MCC currently requires all faculty to have a master's level degree plus 18 hours of related coursework. I believe this is sufficient to provide high-quality educational opportunities for students. That being said, there should be a solid path for adjunct faculty to become full-time employees of the college as needed.

Dennis J. Womack: All Instructors should have the Required Certifications, that are required by the State of Nebraska, for students who are seeking Degrees, I feel that classes that are in the area of Arts, Crafts could be facilitated by individuals who demonstrate a strong knowledge in the field.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Brad Ashby: I will continue to keep the tax payers interests in mind by making sure that tax dollars are spent in the best possible way. At the same time I will continue to make sure the students get the best possible education for their money.

Erin Feichtinger: I will maintain the current rate of tuition and work to increase the number of available scholarships and opportunities for financial assistance. Metro must remain financially accessible for all students or else we are closing the door to those who most need an education to find stability. I will expand public, private, and nonprofit partnerships to effectively leverage existing community resources so that Metro remains a relevant and useful institution for every student and lifelong learner.

Roger Humphries: Maintain affordable tuition with minimal increases as required to maintain instructors and to ensure they along with the students have what they need to be successful. Also, work to create viable partnerships with local businesses promoting economic development / job growth.

Nyok Kuoiloi: Increase public engagement with students, their families, and taxpayers. Maintain current tax levy in order to keep benefits afforded to students.

Jake Seeman: I think overall MCC is on a good path. I'd like to continue the good stewardship of the college, but I will work to find ways to save taxpayers money without sacrificing services. I'd also like to work with the administration to find ways to further lower cost of textbooks for students. MCC is incredibly affordable but students are still struggling with the cost of textbooks and I would like to find ways to reduce those expenses.

Dennis J. Womack: (1) I would like to access more Funding through the U.S. Department of Labor, (Workforce Investment Act) to assist Students who are in need of Financial assistance thru Non-Traditional means. (2) I would

work to increase enrollment of Males ages 19 thru 35 into the Technical and Construction Trades area and assist with the creation of Small Business Development.

DISTRICT 3

Maureen Monahan (D): http://www.facebook.com/MonahanforMetro/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. Education: St. Robert Bellarmine Grade School, Marian High School, Boston College, B.A., Loyola Chicago School of Law, J.D. Volunteer experience: Nebraska Bar Association, Juvenile Section, past chair, and family law section, Leadership Academy, Suburban Athletic Association, Parishioner, St. Robert Bellarmine.

Andrew Smith (D): <http://votesmith.info/>. Education: Bachelor's of Science from University of Nebraska Omaha.

Jim Trebbien (R): Education: BS Math, Minnesota State University. Military experience: 2 Years US Army. Volunteer experience: Countless hours in helping people that need assistance.

How should the role of a community college differ from that of a four-year university?

Maureen Monahan: Community colleges are more economical and more flexible in adapting to the needs of the community for work and skills. They help residents complete missing High School credits. They also provide much needed vocational training that Universities just don't offer. Community college tends to be more age diverse allowing a comfortable atmosphere for an adult returning to post high school education, a high school student seeking college classes or a retiree learning community skills.

Andrew Smith: A community college is a stepping stone. You can choose the path towards a four-year university getting your associate degree or the path towards a career. The goal of Metro Community College is to provide valuable members to the community. Number one community college must be affordable and number two it must be accessible. Metro is a great way to not have to take on the burden of debt before a university. Metro is also a way to start your path towards more income.

Jim Trebbien: People that wish to learn a trade, take General education classes, or personal development classes all should attend a Community College. Metropolitan Community College is a great place to attend college for most everyone that wants to learn

What should be the qualifications of instructors at Metro?

Maureen Monahan: Instructors should have a degree and 2 years of experience in his or her field and/or education experience. There may be exceptions for someone who has completed a technical training program and/or who has exceptional experience in a field for vocational classes. Maintaining instructor qualifications is paramount to meeting the requirements for classes to transfer to a 4 year University. Of course any instructor needs the ability to connect, teach and measure the progress of students.

Andrew Smith: For an adjunct professor, the current requirements are suitable. A bachelor's degree or related certifications plus two years of experience in the field is suitable. For faculty having a master's degree in the field of study is more than enough. The current qualification requirements are perfectly suitable for the college. There is no need to fix what is not broken in this situation. I would like to commend the current board and administration for their work on these requirements.

Jim Trebbien: To be experts in there field, stay current, and be able to teach people that learn in different styles

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Maureen Monahan: 1) An assessment of existing facilities use and by whom is needed. A gap exists in Washington County due to Dana College closing. The assessment should see if Metro can fill that gap and others for both facilities and programs. 2) Develop a strategic plan to reach out to national employers. Metro can train a workforce they need to establish new businesses here or use current businesses. Metro can be a workforce and economic engine in partnership with local governments and business.

Andrew Smith: My two main goals are to institute a project of having more awareness of Metro Community College. Our number one competition is Iowa Western when it comes to this type of college. Metro needs to make sure local students choose Nebraska. My second goal will help with the first one Metro needs to build strong partnerships with the universities in Nebraska. We need to make the transition from Metro Community College to a Nebraska University simple. The students must come first.

Jim Trebbien: 1, Keep taxes as low as possible, and 2. Make sure the best people are hired to be instructors

DISTRICT 4

Mark V. Holst (D): <http://facebook.com/MarkHolst2018>. Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: N/A. Education: Metropolitan Community College - Associates Degree , University of Nebraska - Bachelors Degree. Military experience: N/A. Volunteer experience: Young Adult Ministry , Young Professionals Group at my employer.

Angela Monegain (D): Education: Currently on hiatus, while in pursuit of an Associates for Paralegal Studies.

Scott J. Packer (D): <http://PackerForNebraska.com>. education: Creighton University School of Law; J.D., 2015 University of Nebraska at Omaha; B.S. Political Science, 2010. Volunteer experience: New Leaders Council; Omaha Chapter Finance Chair Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska: Volunteer Law Clerk Internal Revenue Service: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Tax Preparer.

How should the role of a community college differ from that of a four-year university?

Mark V. Holst: A community college offers an affordable option to address a broad variety of educational needs in the market. That includes students seeking accessible and affordable classes as they begin their post-secondary school with the intention of transitioning into a four-year degree program at another university. It also includes lifelong learners who look for specialized education to improve skills for home or the workplace. The college offers outstanding two-year programs for trades and careers.

Angela Monegain: The essential roles of the community college, begin with the community and the surrounding area. The community college provides a transition which makes the intellectual within more comfortable. The schedules and the college are geared for attendance with daily input. The classes are providing a basic need for the shortfalls of the community. The individual is not lost and may flourish more readily. The cost effectiveness provides a win-win for all involved.

Scott J. Packer: Community colleges cater not only to recent high school graduates, but also to non-traditional students who are oftentimes older and have been in the workforce for some time. These older students are often looking for job-training or certifications that they can use to take the next step in their careers, and don't need the additional course work and debt that a four-year institution provides.

What should be the qualifications of instructors at Metro?

Mark V. Holst: I would support the administration's efforts to attract and retain highly qualified instructors to serve the needs of students enrolled in the 11 academic areas of study at Metro. That workforce currently includes about 250 full-time faculty and more than 700 adjunct instructors. Certainly, experience and expertise in their fields should be a prime consideration for our instructors, as well as the ability teach and advance the academic achievements of students.

Angela Monegain: Certified credentials provide the initial qualifications for instructors at Metropolitan Community College. Background checks along with inoculation checks are highly respected. The ability to move effortlessly between the community with intellectual stamina provides a firm foundation for the community served. Instructors with life experience provide goals which open the minds of others to the coming millennia of new types of employment.

Scott J. Packer: The key to providing a quality, affordable education for students at MCC is ensuring that faculty have the experience, resources, and administrative support to give the students the education they need. Beyond having a Master's Degree in the area in which they are instructing, teachers at MCC should have extensive experience in the field in which they are teaching. That experience allows instructors to prepare students for real-world working conditions.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Mark V. Holst: I'll work to encourage input from the public, business and labor leaders in our community, and from students enrolled in academic programs at Metro. I see Metro as an economic engine that can help our region keep and attract new and better jobs in the private sector. I believe the College is on the right track and is much better and more responsive than it was 10 years ago. Together, we'll determine the fiscal growth opportunities for Metro to be an even stronger partner 10 years from now.

Angela Monegain: A year in after the election, I would like to accomplish a firm State of the Union. My growth will exhibit the strength in unity that a community college remains, for a bridge over troubled waters. Fairness should prevail in all decisions. My initial shyness of the camera and public speaking will be conquered.

Scott J. Packer: I want to remove the obstacles that prevent students from completing their degrees, so I will implement programs to better support students who are struggling to get by. I will establish a food pantry on campus to assist students with food insecurity so students don't have to choose between their education and a hot meal. I will also establish daycare assistance for students at Metro so that students can rest easy knowing that there is someone who can watch their child while they are in class.

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

DISTRICT 01

Linda Bowman (D): No biographical information received.

Bradley Ekwerekwu (D): No response received.

Brian Thommes (D): No response received.

How do you envision the future of the learning community?

Linda Bowman: The results show that Learning Community is making a difference. In the future, I see the Learning Community continuing to build on this progress, and expanding the programs for older students and for teachers.

Bradley Ekwerekwu (D): No response received.

Brian Thommes (D): No response received.

In your own words, what is the mission of the learning community?

Linda Bowman: The Learning Community's mission is to facilitate a quality education for all students by focusing on proven methods that help children, families and teachers work together to close the achievement gap.

Bradley Ekwerekwu: No response received.

Brian Thommes: No response received.

How can the learning community improve outcomes for all students?

Linda Bowman: While the focus of the Learning Community is underprivileged children, all students benefit when there is not an achievement gap. Also, the Superintendent's Early Childhood Plan provides customized assistance based on the needs of the particular school and the students.

Bradley Ekwerekwu (D): No response received.

Brian Thommes (D): No response received.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Linda Bowman: I would like the Learning Community to have a better communication plan. The Learning Community is doing good work and making progress, but I do not think the message is getting out to the public. I also want to find ways to engage the families that may not be utilizing the programs the Learning Community has to offer.

Bradley Ekwerekwu (D): No response received.

Brian Thommes (D): No response received.

DISTRICT 03

Mark Hoeger (D): No response received.

Melinda Kozel (D): <http://votekozel.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: n/a. Past Public Office, dates held: n/a. Education: BA-Art History, Univ of Nebraska at Omaha; MA-Ed-Arts Education, Univ of Nebraska at Kearney. Military experience: n/a. Volunteer experience: Dog Walker, Nebraska Humane Society; Visual Arts Chair, Omaha Entertainment & Arts Awards; The Shakespeare Collective

How do you envision the future of the learning community?

Mark Hoeger: No response received.

Melinda Kozel: The Learning Community is showing positive results of the work it is doing and proving the necessity of an outside entity to support schools and neighborhoods. I see this becoming more evident each year. I can also see it proving as a working model for the rest of the Nebraska. Tackling the gaps in access and achievement throughout the state is a growing concern and the ability to replicate this idea could greatly benefit us as a state.

In your own words, what is the mission of the learning community?

Mark Hoeger: No response received.

Melinda Kozel: I see the Learning Community as a support structure to all of our school districts. The Learning Community is able to generate funds, develop partnerships, and implement programs and staff in a way that is more efficient, cost-effective, and consistent than districts would be able to do on their own. Because of this, the effort to close gaps in educational access, well-being, and performance can be given the attention it deserves.

How can the learning community improve outcomes for all students?

Mark Hoeger: No response received.

Melinda Kozel: It is our responsibility to acknowledge barriers that prevent students from having a positive and productive experience and seek out resources or methods that can alleviate those disruptions. We need to make sure that schools are a place where every single student feels safe, acknowledged, supported and inspired no matter their race, religion, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender expression, economic experience or level of ability and uplift teachers & families to support them.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Mark Hoeger: No response received.

Melinda Kozel: I would like to explore ways of incorporating mental health related programs throughout the city. Students should have consistent access to counselors, their families to systems of support, and teachers to resources to better equip them as well as offer support. I would also like to explore the possibility of opening a center in or near Subcouncil 3 to benefit families and students that need safe and reliable access to programs and resources and facilitate collaboration with nearby schools.

DISTRICT 05

Anayeli Martinez Real (D): <http://AnayeliReal.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: N/A. Education: Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering. Military experience: N/A. Volunteer experience: Since 2016 I have been a Circle Program Career Coach for middle school girls through Civic Nebraska. Since 2015 I have worked with small business entrepreneurs as a Volunteer Instructor for the Business & Contractor Academy at Metropolitan Community

Erik O Servellon (D): No response received.

Tonya Ward (D): No response received.

How do you envision the future of the learning community?

Anayeli Martinez Real: The Learning Community is an organization with endless opportunities to help mold the future of the youth in our community. I envision the Learning Community becoming the organization that will help students not only improve education from K-12 but also make sure kids find successful and rewarding careers post k-12. This will not only change outcome of kids involved in Learning Community programs but also improve lifestyle of generations to come.

Erik O Servellon (D): No response received.

Tonya Ward (D): No response received.

In your own words, what is the mission of the learning community?

Anayeli Martinez Real: The Learning Communities mission is to be an organization that partners with existing community organizations and school districts to close the education gap for children and families in poverty. The

mission is specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely which is important to assure tax payers dollars are being spent wisely.

Erik O Servellon: No response received.

Tonya Ward: No response received.

How can the learning community improve outcomes for all students?

Anayeli Martinez Real: The Learning Community is spending their resources to help kids in poverty close the education gap. If elected I will promote an investment in low-performing students to help close the education gap. A big part of my focus will be to increase outreach to parents to involve them with the education of their youth. More engaged families mean more engaged students.

Erik O Servellon: No response received.

Tonya Ward: No response received.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Anayeli Martinez Real: I will help Learning Community expand their focus on higher education preparation and career education programs. This investment will help develop long term goals for teenagers and young adults that will help our community prosper. Another goal will be to help finalize the Community Achievement Plan, specifically the portion focused on preparing students for a successful career. I will help increase collaboration between residents, districts, and the learning community. I will encourage public

Erik O Servellon: No response received.

Tonya Ward: No response received.

**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUBDISTRICT 02**

Zachary H. Boiko (NP): <http://facebook.com/zachboikoforops/>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: Candidate for Mayor of LaVista 2016 - not elected. Education: Current student Kaplan University/Purdue University Global - Criminal Justice - Public Safety and Security. Military experience: 9.5 weeks (basic combat training) Entry level Separation. Volunteer experience: Anime Nebraskon 2011-14+2017 Security/Public Safety team. Omaha Mining Company - Security - 2010-2014. Independent community resource outlet for homeless veterans - 2013-2014.

Marlon Brewer (D): No response received.

Marque A. Snow (D): <http://snowforops.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Omaha Public Schools Board of Education 2013-Present President- Omaha Public Schools Board of Education January 2018 – Present. Past Public Office, dates held: Vice President- Omaha Public Schools Board of Education February 2017 - December 2017. Education: University of South Dakota -Political Science & History. Volunteer experience: The 100 Black Men of Omaha - Mentoring Reach & Rise Mentoring - Mentoring

If elected, what two things to you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Zachary H. Boiko: I would like to address safety concerns in the immediate capacity and expand Pre-K services in the district if budget will permit. These are tough goals and I set them that way because I have confidence that this board is capable of making difficult issues successfully pass through with valuable discussion.

Marlon Brewer: No response received.

Marque A. Snow: If re-elected, I will continue to work on our retirement pension plan to find a solution within the first year. I also plan to expand our dual language program in OPS to North Omaha and re-align the OPS Strategic Plan to help guide our new Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Logan.

How can schools use technology to create better equity and educational outcomes?

Zachary H. Boiko: There are a million possibilities when it comes to education and technology. How schools can use technology to create better equity and educational outcomes is very difficult because technology is always growing

and schools are always inventing new ways to successfully bring education to technology, therefore to discuss technology being used in schools now would be simple from the standpoint they are already using laptops for students.

Marlon Brewer: No response received.

Marque A. Snow: Schools are currently using technology to increase better equity as well as educating students on how to use these tools safely and efficiency to compete in the global society. Two years ago, my colleagues and I created our first K-12 virtual school to meet the needs of our students outside of the classroom.

What can be done to ensure the safety of students and teachers in our schools?

Zachary H. Boiko: There are several possibilities to this question. The biggest concern on our mind is always whether our children are safe or not at school. To give us a peace of mind, we need to allow our Educators to have additional training on prevention. We also need to consider arming Security Professionals within the buildings. The security professionals act as a first responder while law enforcement is on the way, who can and often will respond with professional integrity and reduce casualties.

Marlon Brewer: No response received.

Marque A. Snow: In 2014, my colleagues and I put up a \$421 million bond to increase the safety of our students and faculty. The community voted 2-1 for the 2014 bond to put in storm shelters, upgrade security measures, as well as fire and life safety mechanisms. In March of 2018, my colleagues and I voted to put another bond for \$410 million to reduce the number of portables and deal with our capacity issue at many of our schools. I continue to work with my colleagues from various districts on best practices.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Zachary H. Boiko: I'm not familiar or interested in learning about charter schools at this point in time. There are more important issues to address than what kind of private schools are available to students in the community. Public schools are equally important to student development than their private counter-parts and both have their place in our community. One system of education should not be thrown away because another exists. Working together may make both systems better.

Marlon Brewer: No response received.

Marque A. Snow: The success of public education depends upon the community. The diversity of our community, along with our standards of excellence, have helped Omaha Public Schools become a model for urban education. Charter schools will take resources from public education without representation. In closing, charter schools should have no role in the Nebraska educational system.

SUBDISTRICT 04

Shavonna Holman (D): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

SUBDISTRICT 06

Jeff Jezewski (R): <http://jeffforops.com>. Education: UNO, BSBA with major in Accounting. Volunteer experience: Sienna Francis House, YMCA youth sports.

Nancy Kratky (R): Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: Metro Area Boards of Education 1994-2008. Past president twice. Education: Bachelors and Masters from UNO. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Salvation Army Auxiliary Board, Phi Delta Kappa, Citizens Advisory Board-OPS 1959-2018, NE Mental Health Planning and Education Committee, Technical High Renovation Committee.

Mike Moody (D): http://www.facebook.com/pg/dr.moodyops/about/?ref=page_internal. Current Public Office, dates held: President: Eagle Run Drive Homeowners Association. January 2017 to present. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science in Education, Certificate of Specialization in Educational Administration, & Doctor of Education. Military experience: None.

If elected, what two things to you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Jeff Jezewski: My overall emphasis will be to help the Board focus on OPS's mission which states: OPS prepares all students to excel in college, career, and life. More specifically, I will use my 30 years of real world business experience and finance background to help OPS address its daunting unfunded pension liability.

Nancy Kratky: 1. Ability of others to easily reach TAC building staff and get satisfactory information in a shorter period of time. Cutting staff over and over does not necessarily produce good results. 2. We have a serious problem with language usage in our test scores, student papers and conversation. This problem continues to grow daily. I will address this at every opportunity. Textbooks are not doing an adequate job. Supplemental materials and greater focus is necessary.

Mike Moody: Education is a relational enterprise; therefore, my goal for the first year is to build positive, supportive relations within the school community (to include: students, parents, teachers, board members, the administrative team as well as the support staff). I will work to develop open lines of communications with the patrons of the district. Additionally, I plan to fully immerse myself into the challenges, and opportunities that face the teaching/learning process within Omaha Public Schools.

How can schools use technology to create better equity and educational outcomes?

Jeff Jezewski: There is no silver bullet when it comes to eliminating the achievement gap. Certainly, we should utilize all the tools available to address the issue. And technology is one of those tools. We do need to make certain that any 'new' approaches or techniques deployed are based on sound research and do not cause confusion or distraction for our teaching professionals. I will work tirelessly to eliminate the achievement gap.

Nancy Kratky: We have whiteboards vs. blackboards. 1-1 ratio of computers and grade level sharing. Instructors presentations can be seen by all. Student learning by access to apps, virtual learning, tablets and e-books. Websites provide the rapid-changing information vs. use of multiple, expensive textbooks for STEM, making the purchase cost effective. In many instances we allow computers to be used for homework assignments. Finally, familiarity of technology and the application of it is essential today.

Mike Moody: The essential elements of the teaching/learning process are 1). A willing student, 2). A safe and welcoming classroom, 3). A highly qualified teacher, and 4). Relevant & rigorous curriculum. Technology has the potential to constructively supplement these four core elements, but technology cannot supplant them. It is also vital that we all work tirelessly to ensure that all students have equivalent access to technology and technological applications.

What can be done to ensure the safety of students and teachers in our schools?

Jeff Jezewski: The safety of our kids is of utmost priority. OPS should plan, practice, and be prepared to execute its plans to protect our kids. However, I do not believe our teachers should be armed. Our teachers should teach. If additional security in our buildings is necessary then OPS will devote additional resources without impacting teaching in the classroom.

Nancy Kratky: Safety is always paramount in our ever-changing environment. Schools provide security entrances/exits and parking lot cameras and alarm systems. Disguised personnel, police officers and school resource officers are now the norm. Finally, management of student traffic flow within the building and at the exits is used. In addition to keyed entries, drug sniffing dogs may be used. We monitor the trimming of trees and shrubs and provide specific terrorism training and drills for students and staff.

Mike Moody: Schools are inherently safe places. However, when bad things happen at school, they get a lot of attention. Within that context, it is important that individual schools demonstrate more fidelity to the safety/security protocols currently in place. We also need to work to improve our safety/security practices. An example of this would be to improve our identification and assessment of potential threats to our students and staff. Identification must also be coupled with treatment and support.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the Nebraska educational system?

Jeff Jezewski: When I am elected I will be an advocate for OPS. Charter schools are an issue that should be debated in the Nebraska state legislature. I will work tirelessly to eliminate the achievement gap. I will work with the board and administration to ensure the curriculum is appropriate and rigorous. I will work with OPS partners to improve and expand early childhood development programs. I will work to ensure the safety of all our kids in OPS. I will make certain OPS taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

Nancy Kratky: Being a proponent of public school education, my position is that charter schools need to work under the auspices of the public schools where all students are served. We have allowed students to participate in classes, such as foreign language, math, swimming class, etc. and we have welcomed them. I do not want our dollars to provide tuition tax credits elsewhere. Please know I have much information on charters from conferences, various reports and visits to working sites in other states.

Mike Moody: The Charter Schools Movement is simply the latest iteration in the search for a miracle “cure” for what ails public education. While public school critics have been seeking a “cure” for well over 100 years, America has developed into the World’s most predominant country (primarily because of public education). Public funding for privatized schools is a recipe for disaster. Unfortunately, the “bottom-line” for market-based education is profit; while for public schools it is student learning.

SUBDISTRICT 08

Kimara Z. Snipe (D): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

WESTSIDE SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sean Conway (D): <http://www.conwayforwestside.com>. Past Public Office, dates held: Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, 2012-2017. Education: University of Nebraska at Kearney, B.A.; University of Nebraska College of Law, J.D. Volunteer experience: UNMC Chancellor's Board of Counselors; Executive Committee, Omaha Bar Association.

Doug Krenzer (NP): <http://www.krenzerforwestsideboe.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Westside Board of Education 2016-present. Education: B.A., Colorado College, 1993; J.D., University of Nebraska, 1996. Volunteer experience: Director, Together of Omaha, Inc., 2012-present; numerous volunteer activities with Westside Community Schools, youth sports coaching, Sunday school teaching, parent volunteering and professional and service organizations

Steven Taylor (D): Unable to reach candidate.

Meagan Van Gelder (D): <http://www.meaganvangelderforwestside.com/>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Ed.D. in Education Administration, Eastern Michigan University; Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction, University of Kansas; Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, University of Kansas. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Board of Directors, Westside Alumni Association; District-level committees; Oakdale Elementary; Executive Board, Kappa Alpha Theta Omaha Alumnae Chapter.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Sean Conway: As a parent of elementary-aged students, academics are particularly important to me. During my first year on the school board, I will be working to find ways to enhance students' educational experience through personalized learning and increased teacher support to ensure students are successful. Communication regarding district issues is also critically important. During my first year, I will seek to improve communication between the school district and parents, residents, and stakeholders.

Doug Krenzer: My governing philosophy is that all actions by the board of education should have the objective of giving all our students the resources they need to learn, grow and succeed. Based on that belief, my top priority in the coming year will be to ensure that we are doing all we can for measurable improvement in student learning district wide. I also want to help pass a fiscally responsible budget that prioritizes student learning and achievement and adequately funds the new agreement for teachers.

Steven Taylor: Unable to reach candidate.

Meagan Van Gelder: My top priority if elected is student achievement. District 66 must continue on its path of holding high academic standards with clearly defined goals and outcomes. Students deserve to have access to the best opportunities for learning with highly qualified educators who are innovative, passionate and greatly valued. My second priority is ensuring our guidance counselors have the time and the access to the best resources to work with our students as they determine their post-high school plans.

How can schools use technology to create better equity and educational outcomes?

Sean Conway: Westside is a Nebraska leader in using technology to help improve students' education. The 1-to-1 technology initiative has ensured every student has access to a computer across the K-12 level to better prepare students for life and work after graduation. At the same time, it is important the district carefully observe students' technology use, particularly among the younger students, to ensure technology is used as an aid in these educational goals and not a distraction from these goals.

Doug Krenzer: Westside Community Schools is an undisputed leader in the State of Nebraska when it comes to the use of technology in education. We have found that technology is best utilized as part of a system of personalized learning instruction. This means providing access to technology tools in an organized, age-appropriate manner. It also means integrating technology use with a robust curriculum to enable students learn in the way that best suits them.

Steven Taylor: Unable to reach candidate.

Meagan Van Gelder: Fortunately, all of Westside Community Schools students have access to a personal learning device. When students have been taught how to appropriately use technology as a learning tool, students from the wide spectrum of socio-economic levels can be engaged with their learning as well as create and apply their knowledge. The district must continue to support our teachers to continue to develop and enhance their pedagogy as technology is utilized in our classrooms.

What can be done to ensure the safety of students and teachers in our schools?

Sean Conway: Now more than ever, school safety is of paramount importance for Westside. Thanks to the 2015 bond issue, the district has taken important steps to improve school safety, including limiting access and improving security to our school buildings, as well as increased staff training for emergency situations. Going forward it is also necessary the community at large engage with and on behalf of the school district, alerting the schools or law enforcement if they hear or see something of concern.

Doug Krenzer: The safety of our students and staff has been a top priority of our board. In 2015, Westside embarked on a district-wide bond-financed building improvement project. All school buildings received security enhancements based on current best practices, including greater controlled access to buildings, increased visibility and better communications systems. In light of recent tragic events, we have reviewed our safety procedures to be sure we are making our schools as safe as they can possibly be.

Steven Taylor: Unable to reach candidate.

Meagan Van Gelder: Safety drills for evacuations, lockdowns and emergencies are important, In addition to our safety drills, our schools must have a culture of safety. Meaning, our struggling students need access to support agencies who work together with our schools and families. Our schools need to continue to create communication pathways for our students to tell an adult if they hear something or see something. This also means our schools' culture promotes kindness and tolerance for all of our students.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the nebraska educational system?

Sean Conway: We need to invest in the future of our public schools for all of our children. Among the states, Nebraska ranks 49th in state funding for K-12 education. Spending state funds on charter schools would take even more money from our public school system. Charter schools also lack the accountability and transparency we expect when spending tax dollars for our students' education. It is our duty to adequately fund our public schools for the future of our state and the future of all children.

Doug Krenzer: Our system of public education is vital to our social, economic and civic life, so only the most compelling reason justifies redirection of resources away from public education. Charter schools in the United States vary widely in their organization, oversight, accountability and results. Many have failed to live up to their promises to offer students a better alternative to traditional public schools. I am opposed to private, unregulated charter schools, which do not have a record of success.

Steven Taylor: Unable to reach candidate.

Meagan Van Gelder: I support soundly funding public schools since they are accountable to the public and accept all students.

ELKHORN SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chuck Burney (R): No response received.

Charles B. Garman (R): <http://www.GarmanForElkhorn.org>. Current Public Office, dates held: Trustee SID, third term. Just elected clerk. Education: Augustana University, BA 2002 Creighton University School of Law, JD 2005. Military experience: Army National Guard 1999-2011 Active duty in support of OIF 2003. Volunteer experience: Service as assistant minister at St. Timothy.

Amy Parks (D): No response received.

Nancy A. Rogic-Greufe (R): Unable to reach candidate.

Reagan Rosenberg (NP): Unable to reach candidate.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Chuck Burney: No response received.

Charles B. Garman: I will push for a comprehensive curriculum that sets high standards to give students a goal to shoot for. Specifically, our children should either be able to read to standard by grade three or have additional educational support in place to correct any deficiencies. This includes early diagnosis of learning disabilities.

I will work on a prioritized budget that takes loss of state funding into consideration. The budget needs to fund what the district needs but not everything desired.

Amy Parks: No response received.

Nancy A. Rogic-Greufe: Unable to reach candidate.

Reagan Rosenberg: Unable to reach candidate.

How can schools use technology to create better equity and educational outcomes?

Chuck Burney: No response received.

Charles B. Garman: Technology and its proper use is the future of education. However, it cannot take the place of properly trained and paid educators. technology is an education multiplier but does not replace best practices.

Amy Parks: No response received.

Nancy A. Rogic-Greufe: Unable to reach candidate.

Reagan Rosenberg: Unable to reach candidate.

What can be done to ensure the safety of students and teachers in our schools?

Chuck Burney: No response received.

Charles B. Garman: Unfortunately this is a matter for our State Legislature as currently not all options are on the table. EPS is currently a good job having School Resource Officers where our schools are soft targets and strictly controlling access where possible.

Amy Parks: No response received.

Nancy A. Rogic-Greufe: Unable to reach candidate.

Reagan Rosenberg: Unable to reach candidate.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the nebraska educational system?

Chuck Burney: No response received.

Charles B. Garman: My job as member of the Elkhorn school Board would be to ensure EPS offers the highest quality education so that parents have no interest in a charter school.

Amy Parks: No response received.

Nancy A. Rogic-Greufe: Unable to reach candidate.

Reagan Rosenberg: Unable to reach candidate.

GRETNA SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Bullington (R): <http://www.facebook.com/bullingtonforschoolboard>. Education: Bachelors Degree from Iowa State University, Masters Degree from Pacific Oaks College. Military experience: Spouse of Air Force Veteran. Volunteer experience: Board Member for the nonprofit Survivors Rising, Teaching Assistant for a Taekwondo kids class, Room Parent at Whitetail Creek Elementary School, Active Gretna Community Member

Jennifer Deitloff (NP): Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: N/A. Education: Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from University of Nebraska; Juris Doctorate from University of Nebraska College of Law. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Member -- Child Saving Institute Guild Board since 2012 and started Kids 4 Kids of CSI -- where kids plan a fundraising event supporting kids in foster care and the emergency shelter. Association of Corporate Counsel programs committee co-chair.

David Gulizia (R): No response received.

Mark Hauptman (R): No response received.

Carter G. McCann (R): <http://nttservices.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: none. Past Public Office, dates held: Bellevue City Council to 1980-1987 Bellevue Bridge Commission 1986-1992 Nebraska Telehealth Commission 2002-2007. Education: Univ of Nebraska at Omaha BSBA in Management, specialized in real estate. law, economics. Military experience: none. Volunteer experience: Nebraska Telehealth Commission 2002-2007, We connected all Nebraska hospitals, all NU offices and all State of Nebraska offices to a network for telehealth, distance learning and Nebraska homeland security

Carsten Ruff (NP): No response received.

Adam Thiessen (NP): Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Certified in Homeland Security Level V (ABCHS), Certified in Disaster Preparedness (ABCHS), Certified Cisco Network Associate, Emergency Medical Technician, Certified Hydroponicist. Military experience: I served in the United States Navy as a Helicopter Rescue Swimmer for 4 1/2 years. Volunteer experience: I have served as an EMT/Firefighter for the Gretna Volunteer Fire Department for the last three years.

Ann Sackett Wright (R): No response received.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Jennifer Bullington: First, I would love to be able to do my part in pursuing safety in school drop off and pick up procedures, including a street light at Hwy 370 & 186th St. As our district expands, we must continue to consider the safety of young and inexperienced drivers as well as the rush of traffic around those times. Second, I would love to gather as many members of the school district as possible to share their voices on our growing school district as we continue to learn the best way to expand.

Jennifer Deitloff: I would seek to understand both the work that the board has done to date and the individual perspectives of the other board members and the administration on strategic priorities for the district. Thereafter, I would work collaboratively to ensure that we have appropriate crisis plans in place that properly address the risks facing our students, teachers and staff. I would also take on a focused review of curriculum to identify areas to improve, enhance or modernize what we have today.

David Gulizia: No response received.

Mark Hauptman: No response received.

Carter G. McCann: Here are my goals for the Gretna School Board.

1. Help manage our explosive growth. Yes, we need more buildings but what kind, how many and where should they be built.

2. Get us out of the Learning Community. I was a candidate in 2008 and I had only one plank. It is a waste of tax money and we don't need it. Omaha wins and 10 other districts lose.

Carsten Ruff: No response received.

Adam Thiessen: If elected I hope that I can provide additional security measures for the Gretna Schools. I want to ensure the safety of every child attending school as well as the adults that work in the Gretna School system. In addition to security I would like to take additional steps to make Gretna Public Schools more sustainable. By sustainable I mean purchasing local food for school lunches, recycling, composting food waste, and promoting natural cleaners and organic herbicides and pesticides in schools.

Ann Sackett Wright: No response received.

How can schools use technology to create better equity and educational outcomes?

Jennifer Bullington: Technology has allowed our students to have a competitive edge and a head start on pre-engineering, pre-architecture, and pre-urban planning skills, just as a few examples, thusly better preparing them for higher education opportunities. The hands-on experience technology provides gives the kinesthetic and visual learners an opportunity to excel, making abstract concepts easier to understand & apply. We must use this opportunity to continue teaching internet safety as well.

Jennifer Deitloff: Not all of the technological tools that schools invest in actually promote learning and development for all students. Schools should be disciplined and ask themselves whether they are investing in a technology because it is a popular trend among other schools or whether the technology will actually support the learning, participation and comprehension of all student users or does it instead reinforce social inequalities. Schools need to be mindful of any barriers with the use of new technology

David Gulizia: No response received.

Mark Hauptman: No response received.

Carter G. McCann: Give an email to every student middle school and up.

Carsten Ruff: No response received.

Adam Thiessen: Technology has its place in our schools, but it should not overcome traditional proven teaching methods. Teaching computer coding at young ages can be very beneficial in today's technologically advanced society. We need to teach students learning, and if technology can help to achieve that goal then great.

Ann Sackett Wright: No response received.

What can be done to ensure the safety of students and teachers in our schools?

Jennifer Bullington: Being an educator myself means I've been a part of safety and lockdown drills. In addition to the regular drills and the officers present frequently in our schools, we need to bring the community's voice to the discussion. What more do parents and other invested parties want to see? I've been fascinated by Oklahoma's bulletproof shelters they've installed in classrooms. Additionally, I do believe we need to continue research on the prevalence of the Gretna area human trafficking.

Jennifer Deitloff: School safety has never been more prevalent in public discourse than it is today. Protecting safety of students, teachers and staff in our school systems is a complex problem that requires a comprehensive solution. Working to identify a mix between seeking to control access to guns, identifying and addressing mental and/or emotional health issues, investing in school security technology, identifying bullying and negative peer behavior and ensuring proactive crisis management plans are a start.

David Gulizia: No response received.

Mark Hauptman: No response received.

Carter G. McCann: When I was doing security consulting for the Gretna schools, I suggested cameras and door buzzer entries into every school.

All the new schools have this but not all schools do. They all need the system. There is only one door unlocked to enter the school

Carsten Ruff: No response received.

Adam Thiessen: There should be highly trained former military security contractors in every school. We must provide funding to pay a competitive wage to attract the very best. This wage should compete with overseas security contractor positions. Highly trained veterans who are former special operators are the prime candidates to ensure

Gretna Public Schools are safe 24/7. Sarpy County Sheriff's should then coordinate training with these security contractors and their Emergency Response Team.

Ann Sackett Wright: No response received.

What role, if any, should charter schools have in the nebraska educational system?

Jennifer Bullington: No response received.

Jennifer Deitloff: Nebraska's public schools consistently score rankings above the national average. While I recognize the importance of parental choice, it is important to consider the potential negative impact to students and society. Choice does not necessarily guarantee quality.

David Gulizia: No response received.

Mark Hauptman: No response received.

Carter G. McCann: Unfortunately, the Nebraska legislature failed to act on this issue this year. I am sure that will go to a study committee for the summer.

Quite honestly, I do not know if the Board has taken a position on this. That has to be step number one.

Carsten Ruff: No response received.

Adam Thiessen: No response received.

Ann Sackett Wright: No response received.

METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SUBDIVISION 1

Jim Begley (D): <http://begleyformudboard.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: MUD Board of Directors, Subdistrict 1 2013-current. Education: Master of Public Administration, UNO; Bachelor of Science, UNO; Cathedral High School. Volunteer experience: Past Chair, Heat the Streets Run and Walk for Warmth; Faith Formation Instructor, St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church; Past Vice President, Pepperwood Homeowners Association; YMCA Youth Coach for basketball, baseball, football, and volleyball.

Mike McGowan (R): Current Public Office, dates held: Director, MUD Board Jan, 2016 – current. Past Public Office, dates held: Director, MUD Board 2010-2012. Education: BS Mathematics, Creighton University MBA, Creighton University. Military experience: 2nd Lt, 1st Lt Army Reserves for 8 years. Volunteer experience: Red Cross Board of Directors College World Series Board of Directors.

What factors would you consider when determining rates and rate changes?

Jim Begley: Since I was elected to the MUD Board in 2012, the 5 year rate increase trend for both gas and water from 2014-2018 has been on a downward trajectory after a 35.2% water rate increase in 2011, the largest rate increase in MUD history. The most important factor I consider is the impact that rates have on customers with a fixed income. Others factors include customer growth, and operating/ personnel expenses. Keeping rates low and affordable will continue to be my highest priority.

Mike McGowan: MUD rates need to be set at the lowest possible level based on maintaining safe and reliable water and gas service for our owner/ratepayers. MUD must aggressively and continuously manage all costs and maximize revenues to keep rates at the absolute lowest level possible.

What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve for mud?

Jim Begley: Since I was elected in 2012, MUD operates more efficiently now than it ever has, with the total customer service cost per account nearly 10% less today than in 2012. One example is equipping field service technicians with iPads/Surface Pros to access customer information in real time. Going forward, SMART Technology must be a priority, which will allow customers to more effectively manage gas and water flow and make consumption more efficient, and will enhance safety to detect leaks.

Mike McGowan: MUD has made significant improvement in IT as it applies to meter reading, tracking construction projects, tracking vehicles and seeking overall efficiencies across the District. MUD Has outsourced a significant

amount of its servers and data storage in a new partnership with First National Bank - saving significant costs and capital investment. MUD's IT department is proactive in seeking out efficiencies and is well managed.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Jim Begley: The first would be for the board to adopt a plan to expedite the rate with which cast iron water mains are being replaced. While the rate of replacing cast iron water mains has more than doubled since I was elected in 2012, the district can and must do better. Too many water main breaks are occurring, which have a detrimental effect on the reliability of water services for homeowners and businesses. The second would be to complete a long-term water supply plan with the City of Lincoln.

Mike McGowan: The current President is retiring early summer. I hope to work with current Board members to ensure a smooth transition and continued focus on the District's core strategies. Continued focus on safety for the MUD employees and the public while providing safe and reliable natural gas and water service at the lowest rates possible.

What effort would you make to meet the goal of increasing the use of renewable energy by 2020?

Jim Begley: Natural gas and renewable fuels are naturally complementary. In the absence of wind or sunshine, natural gas is available on demand, and can provide support to more variable renewable resources. Natural gas is the cleanest-burning fossil fuel, and its increased use in power generation has helped the U.S. lower its carbon dioxide emissions. Reliance on natural gas will help renewables continue to gain traction in the energy market by providing the support they need.

Mike McGowan: No response received.

SUBDIVISION 2

David Friend (R): Current Public Office, dates held: MUD Board 2001 - present Elected 2000, 2006, and 2012. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Bachelor of Science - Criminal Justice Administration. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Past volunteer at VFW Post 2503.

Jason Valandra (D): Unable to reach candidate.

What factors would you consider when determining rates and rate changes?

David Friend: Safety, reliability and affordability. MUD has fixed costs for labor, chemicals and other overhead like electricity on the water side. Please remember sewer costs are set by the City, then collected by MUD and remitted to the City. Taxes are mandated by the State. The gas side includes the purchase cost of gas and transmission costs to the consumer. MUD participates in the Central Plains Energy Project to purchasing gas that has (or will) result in millions of dollars in customer savings.

Jason Valandra: Unable to reach candidate.

What recent technological developments provide opportunities to improve for mud?

David Friend: Updated software used by customer service agents as well as dispatchers in planning and scheduling service appointments have allowed MUD to reduce wait time of incoming customer calls. MUD answers incoming customer calls over 90% of the time by a little over 1 minute. MUD also now offers two hour appointment windows for service calls. 20% of MUD customers now pay their bills online. GPS enabled fleet vehicles and Electronic Reading Technology (ERT) meters both increase employee efficiency.

Jason Valandra: Unable to reach candidate.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

David Friend: The first item is to work to ensure an effective and smooth transition of leadership at MUD. Our CEO is retiring and finding a quality replacement is a top priority. Second, following through on our mission statement and values to achieve industry leading performance in: safety, reliability, customer service, efficiency, regulatory compliance and financial stability. These accomplishments will serve the customer owners of MUD and ensure competitive prices for water and gas into the future.

Jason Valandra: Unable to reach candidate.

What effort would you make to meet the goal of increasing the use of renewable energy by 2020?

David Friend: MUD currently uses solar power in the field as part of the gas pressure recording chart system. And, although not a strictly renewable energy item, the Infrastructure Replacement Program to replace aging natural gas cast iron pipes will save emissions equivalent to 88 million pounds per year of coal being burned. In addition to efficiencies mentioned in the technology question, MUD has taken other steps; at the data center, technology upgrades have reduced energy by 58% per server.

Jason Valandra: Unable to reach candidate.

**OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
SUBDIVISION 1 (TWO-YEAR TERM)**

Amanda Bogner (D): Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: B.S. in Architectural Engineering, University of Kansas. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: The Big Garden, Board of Directors US Green Building Council St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School.

Kristine Dungan (R): Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: MBA, Creighton University and BSBA - Finance, University of Nebraska-Omaha. Military experience: NA. Volunteer experience: Special Olympics and Kiwanis Club - reading with Miller Park students.

Dustin Jennings (D): <http://jennings4oppd.com>. Education: BGS - General Science, University of Nebraska – Omaha. Military experience: US Air Force, 2001-2007. Volunteer experience: Nebraska Democratic Party - Veterans Caucus.

Mark Treinen (R): Current Public Office, dates held: OPPD Board District 1 Appointed in November, 2017. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: BSBA in accounting from Creighton University in December, 1976. CPA. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Former member of Marian High School Board, Catholic Charities Board, Youth Emergency Services Board, Teens Finding Hope board.

What effort would you make to meet the goal of increasing the use of renewable energy by 2020?

Amanda Bogner: I would like OPPD to move toward renewable energy beyond the 50% goal, including working with larger users to generate more power closer to where it's needed. Continued advances in battery technology should address concerns about renewable sources of energy that don't consistently produce power.

Kristine Dungan: OPPD is on track to generate 50% of the energy sold to retail customers from renewable sources by the end of 2020. That number was less than 20% in 2016, so the District is making significant progress toward increased use of renewables. The greatest concern for most ratepayers is maintaining low cost electricity. It is important for OPPD to consider all options to maintain a balanced generation portfolio that is the most cost effective and reliable.

Dustin Jennings: Nebraska is one of a handful of states that does not have a Renewable Energy Portfolio that specifically lays out minimum renewable energy generation goals. I would make an effort to develop a portfolio that drastically increases the amount of renewable energy generated by 2020 and ending the policy of renewable energy as purely supplemental. This would require a significant increase in community outreach projects to include solar and wind generation coupled with a robust energy storage plan.

Mark Treinen: I will carefully study all such projects and make fiscally sound decisions.

How would you work to ensure transparency and would the adoption of term limits be a tool to ensure transparency?

Amanda Bogner: Public Power needs to truly belong to the public. As the only option Omahans have for electricity, it is critically important that we have transparency on the OPPD Board, and that the Board and Staff are held accountable to our community. Transparency is about process; I think that maintaining our status as a public utility and improving communication with families and businesses will be critical to ensuring that OPPD provides affordable and reliable electricity for years to come.

Kristine Dungan: OPPD has made great strides in improving transparency with the addition of live streaming of the monthly Committee and Board meetings. As a Director, I would ask probing questions to create an open discussion and ensure complete understanding of all issues brought before the board. Term limits would be useful to ensure greater transparency. New board members bring different ideas and perspectives, creating additional opportunities for more open dialogue.

Dustin Jennings: I support an effort similar to 2017's LB 657 which would have mandated unbundled bills for the power districts. Ratepayers deserve and have the right to know how they pay for power and where their power is coming from. This is a major step towards significant transparency that OPPD opposed on a statewide level. I also favor term limits for the board so that directors don't become entrenched in a singular mindset or way of thinking but are representative and reflective of their subdivisions.

Mark Treinen: I have no problem with term limits as I believe many qualified candidates exist. I do not believe that term limits have much of an impact on transparency. I'm an advocate of transparency as I believe that all stakeholders have a right to know. The list of confidential topics should be relatively limited.

If elected, what would be your first-year priorities?

Amanda Bogner: Our families and our community need affordable, reliable electricity. As a mechanical engineer and small business owner, I help companies make smart energy decisions that lower costs and improve business efficiency. If elected to the OPPD Board, I will cut through red tape and ensure that costs are minimized. I will work to implement efficiency programs and smart grid initiatives that will enable OPPD to remain a reliable and affordable power supplier now and in the future.

Kristine Dungan: The primary concern I'm hearing from friends and neighbors is maintaining affordable electricity. My top priority is to get into the details of how OPPD is managed. I want to provide my financial expertise on behalf of everyday wage earners and ratepayers. I will hold the District accountable to keep costs down and maintain their commitment to no general rate increase through 2021. I will be involved in neighborhood groups and meetings to discuss OPPD issues that concern everyone.

Dustin Jennings: A significant limiting factor to renewable energy in Nebraska is the 25 kW cap imposed upon homeowners, farmers and ranchers to sell excess energy they generate. This limitation reduces any incentive for community and individual construction of renewable sources forcing the power district to devote huge sums of money into large power generating stations that serve too few ratepayers. My first year priority would be to push the board to work with the legislature to greatly increase that cap.

Mark Treinen: Safety of employees and the public is paramount. Reliability of the system (including cyber-security), and Affordability in terms of no rate increases and growth through economic development.

SUBDIVISION 6

Tom Barrett (D): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

Eric Williams (D): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

SUBDIVISION 7

Mick Mines (R): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

Janece Mollhoff (NP): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

SUBDIVISION 8

Mike Cavanaugh (R): Current Public Office, dates held: OPPD Board of Director 1995-present. Education: Bachelor of Science Degree, UNO. Volunteer experience: Millard Rotary, Omaha JayCees, several city of Omaha committees dealing with underprivileged youth employment and housing code enforcement. Political campaigns including Daub for Mayor, Heineman for Governor, Dan Welch for Mayor, Bacon for Congress.

Jim Dinan (R): Current Public Office, dates held: SID 437 Board of Trustee September 2015 to Present. Education: MBA, University of Nebraska at Omaha BA Business Administration, Bellevue University. Military experience:

United States Air Force Sergeant 4 years. Volunteer experience: Hospice Volunteer , Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Hospice - Yankton SD.

Linda Duckworth (R): <http://www.duckworthforoppd.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: University of Central Missouri, B.S., Education. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: League of Women Voters of NE (President), League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha (President), Hospice, Boys Town, Big Brothers Big Sisters, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Sacred Heart Church, Jane Austen Society of North America.

Ron J. Griger II (D): Education: Central High school. Omaha Ibew apprenticeship. Omaha.

What effort would you make to meet the goal of increasing the use of renewable energy by 2020?

Mike Cavanaugh: During my time on the OPPD Board I have supported numerous wind and now solar solar projects. We will continue to seek cost effective options. We will soon approach 50% renewable energy.

Jim Dinan: For our OPPD customers I would put a great effort to exceed the 2020 of 50% goal of Wind, Hydro and Landfill gas as well as exploring the initiation of Solar power.

Linda Duckworth: Thanks to ongoing advances in technology, especially in the area of battery storage, OPPD should be able to increase renewable power generation by 2020. Because of leadership on renewables, Omaha has attracted businesses and good paying jobs to our community. As an OPPD Board Member, I would work to ensure that we continue to lead. OPPD is currently looking into a community solar project; that should be evaluated and expanded if customer-owners are satisfied.

Ron J. Griger II: As an electrician, I am a firm supporter of renewable energy. I would push to surpass the current goal for renewable energy. I would like to see more programs become available to all oppd customers including residential

How would you work to ensure transparency and would the adoption of term limits be a tool to ensure transparency?

Mike Cavanaugh: We have adopted a strong emphasis involving a community stakeholder process. The community has a much larger involvement during my board tenure. Our transparency is much stronger than since I was first elected. Term limits is totally up to the Nebraska Legislature. Generally speaking, I support term limits. However, I am not sure that would improve transparency

Jim Dinan: I would continue to support the ability for the public to view the Board Meetings on the web and to keep the meetings open to the public. I believe everyone should have the opportunity to participate in the governance process so term limits would be something I would support.

Linda Duckworth: Our families and community have a right to know how OPPD operates. As LWVNE president I worked to improve public power boards' transparency by getting meetings live-streamed so the public can watch their boards at work. It's unlikely that term limits would have much effect on transparency. Transparency is a matter of process, and I think the board should lead on increasing how much information is made public. If I am elected, I will continue my work to increase accountability and transparency.

Ron J. Griger II: With this being a none partisan position, I don't believe term limits would be necessary. I think as long as things are moving forward and becoming stagnant progress is made. As things change, we need to adapt to the changes as fluid as possible.

If elected, what would be your first-year priorities?

Mike Cavanaugh: If the voters allow me to continue to serve, I will continue to provide strong conservative leadership and emphasize safe, dependable and affordable electricity. We will also continue to use long term strategic planning. I realize selecting a strong leadership team is probably a boards most important duty. I am proud of, and very confident in our staff, both management and all of our dedicated employees.

Jim Dinan: If elected my first priorities would be to advance renewables we currently use of Wind, Hydro, and Landfill Gas along with the implementation of Solar Power. I am also a fan of the SD-7 Environmental Stewardship program. It should be noted I am for all types of efficient energy production to be part of the OPPD energy portfolio.

Linda Duckworth: My priority is making sure public power is always the best deal for the customer. That means clean, low-cost generation, energy efficiency, and grid resilience. As a retired teacher, I know what it means to work

many additional hours to get the job done; I value collaboration and innovation. Since OPPD is the only electric provider, the board must diligently research the best ways to provide cost-effective power, ensure we keep bills affordable and engage the public every step of the way.

Ron J. Griger II: To push for better solar and wind energy programs available to everyone on the grid. To hold everyone accountable for these actions. I'm the type of person who still believes that a hand shake actually means something. When I say I'm going to do something, you can count on me.

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

SUBDISTRICT 2

Fred Conley (D): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

SUBDISTRICT 4

Sean Fennessy (D): No response received.

Tim McCormick (R): Unable to reach candidate.

Barb Nichols (R): Past Public Office, dates held: Papio-Missouri River NRD, 2000-2004. Education: Tekamah High School; University of Nebraska-Omaha; BS Environmental Science-Planning; Political Science; MS Public Administration. Volunteer experience: Lifelong history of volunteer service in Education, Religion, Youth, Community. BSA Scoutmaster, Merit badge, Cub-Webelos; Brownell-Talbot Friends; Food Bank-Pantry; 7CanHelp; Family Service projects; Political campaigns-local; Fundraiser events.

Mark D. Raffety (R): Current Public Office, dates held: NA. Past Public Office, dates held: Deputy County Attorney Lincoln County 2008; Assistant Attorney General for Nebraska 1997-2003; Chief Deputy County Attorney Madison County 1994-1997; Chief Deputy County Attorney Dawson County 92/93. Education: JD University of NE College of Law BA University of Nebraska. Military experience: NA. Volunteer experience: Stephens Ministry; Board Member UNL Museum Foundation; Madison County Domestic Violence task force. Dawson County Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

What steps will you take to prepare for changes in climate trends that affect flood management?

Sean Fennessy: No response received.

Tim McCormick: Unable to reach candidate.

Barb Nichols: Preparation and planning is key. To prepare for changes in climate trends that may affect flood management I will study and monitor current research in the scientific community so I can be the most credible asset I can in contributing to those discussions with my fellow board members at the NRD, and to make the best informed decisions that will protect and grow our community. The NRD is fortunate to have and work with some of the best professionals in flood and natural resources management.

Mark D. Raffety: The most crucial impact will be an increase in the frequency and severity of drought across the State. Depending on how much snow pack is lost the amount of available groundwater will decrease over time for lack of recharge. Therefore, the most logical thing to do is to prepare for climate change in the same manner as one would for a drought. Flexibility in water use and capture will be the key to success as climate changes.

How do you address the concerns of citizens and developers who want access to NRD projects?

Sean Fennessy: No response received.

Tim McCormick: Unable to reach candidate.

Barb Nichols: As our District continues to become more urbanized, the NRD has earned a reputation for its willingness to work with area developers and also represent the wishes of the general public to maximize public access and offer recreational opportunities while providing much needed cost effective flood control. I will work with my fellow board members to continue to foster this cause by listening to all my constituents' concerns in a positive and knowledgeable manner to achieve these worthwhile goals.

Mark D. Raffety: I think that in addition to access during meetings a program of outreach must be maintained by the NRDs to the public. Educational seminars and a broader understanding of what NRDs do and the mechanisms

to deal with them should be emphasized. NRDs are a unique creation of Nebraska government and as such they may not be that familiar to the public in general.

If elected, what would be your first-year priorities?

Sean Fennessy: No response received.

Tim McCormick: Unable to reach candidate.

Barb Nichols: As the only woman on the NRD board my first priority would be to bring a fresh perspective to current and ongoing projects of the NRD. I would focus on being fiscally conservative with your tax dollars to keep the budget low and meet the goals of the NRD. I will work to make a positive difference helping our district be a better place to live, work, and play through support of progressive flood management, trail development, more river access, and cost sharing projects to make that happen.

Mark D. Raffety: My priorities the first year will be to work on the issues of drought preparation and alternatives for water capture and use. This will mean working closely with the UNL Water Center, Nebraska State Government and the Federal Government to prepare for the worst case climate scenarios over the next 25 to 50 years. We need to be encouraging young people in school now to begin seeking solutions for problems that will occur past that time. Water use and conservation is the key to survival.

SUBDISTRICT 6

Jim Thompson (D): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

SUBDISTRICT 8

Tim N. Fowler (R): Candidate will automatically advance to General Election.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — DISTRICT 3

Mike Forsythe (D): <http://friendsforforsythe.com>. Education: Omaha North High School, Class of 1978. Volunteer experience: Board of Deacons/Presbyterian Church of the Master 2014-18, Board of Directors/For Pete Force 2000-14, Gridiron Club 2007-15, Volunteer Coordinator World Refugee Day 2015-16, Youth Basketball, Softball, & Football Coach 2002-07.

Tim Schram (R): <http://NebraskansForSchram>. Current Public Office, dates held: Public Service Commissioner District 3 January 2007 to present. Past Public Office, dates held: Sarpy County Commissioner 1995-2006 Sarpy Planning Board, Nebraska Road Classification & Standards Board Sarpy Extension Board, Midlands Hospital Advisory, University Of Nebraska Advisory Council. Education: University Of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bachelor Of Science, College Of Agriculture, Ag Economics Major, Ashland-Greenwood High School, District 39 Elementary School. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Benefit Auctions for multiple charitable organizations, Volunteer at Sarpy County Fair and Rodeo, Member of Gretna Optimist.

Please explain your views on ending Net Neutrality.

Mike Forsythe: Net Neutrality should be preserved. It is critical to protect the public from abusive practices. Internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites. A pay to play system hurts people and harms the free market by making it impossible for new businesses to enter the market.

Tim Schram: States are currently pre-empted by federal law. Current and previous FCC chairmen both agreed that states be pre-empted. A regulator must follow Federal and State laws. Change must come from Congressional or FCC action. From a policy perspective, I believe all Nebraskans should have equal internet access that is affordable. Internet is a global service present in all States. Patchwork regulation by each State would be a convoluted approach.

What steps would you take to expand internet access through rural nebraska?

Mike Forsythe: The Public Service Commission has allocated almost two billion dollars to deploy internet access in rural Nebraska since 1999. The Nebraska Universal Service Fund is used to build and maintain the network. I support the efforts of the Commission and think deployment can be accelerated by developing stronger accountability for the carriers receiving the funding and developing a plan with a sensible timeline for deployment.

Tim Schram: Continue to work with Nebraska's Federal delegation congressional and senate to obtain Federal grant support similar to Connect American Fund (CAF 1&2). Along with Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM), legacy and Remote Area (RAF) Federal Funds. Use the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) to leverage Federal funds in unserved and underserved area to build out internet network in rural Nebraska. Continue NUSF broadband grants to carriers, 155 wireless towers have been built to date.

If elected, what would be your first-year priorities?

Mike Forsythe: One of my first year priorities would be improving 911 reliability and location services. There have been several outages in the last few years, so I would work to improve the system's overall effectiveness. I would also prioritize improving the oversight of the Nebraska Universal Service fund so that Nebraskans could have a reliable telecommunications network and broadband in rural areas.

Tim Schram: Next generation 911, current legacy copper wire system has served public well for many years and has reached technical limits. Need to migrate to Next Generation IP (internet Protocol) fiber network to allow flow of data from the caller to the Public Safety. Answering Point (PSAP) which will be relayed to first responders along with improved caller location information. Improve internet network. Ensure Nebraskan's have safe, reliable and affordable services. Promote competition for services.

BENNINGTON CITY COUNCIL — WARD 2

Jeff Rychly (R): Education: Bennington Public Schools. Volunteer experience: I coach both of my daughters softball teams thru the Bennington Athletic League.

Tom Schumacher (R): Education: B.S. in Mathematics from Nebraska Wesleyan University MS in Ed. Admin from UNO. Volunteer experience: Youth Basketball Board Member for 14 years Washington County Pheasants Forever Vice President.

If elected, what two things do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?

Jeff Rychly: During the first year i would like to accomplish a good working relationship with the mayor, council members and my constituents. With an aging infrastructure throughout the city I would like to start planning the finances needed to fix future problems.

Tom Schumacher: The two things I would like to see our city concentrate on is improving traffic safety and look at possible growth options.

What qualifications do you possess that make you the best person for this position?

Jeff Rychly: I've lived in the area about 40 years and have watched Bennington grow from a small town to a rising city. I've worked at the City of Omaha for over 23 years and have many years experience that will be helpful with some of the city's future issues like street repairs, sewer upgrades and park maintenance.

Tom Schumacher: My family and I have been members of the community for over 20 years. I have developed great relationship with the majority of the community.

What steps do you plan to take to ensure your community is engaged?

Jeff Rychly: A monthly newsletter emailed from the council would keep the town informed on the happenings in the local government and to inform the public about council meetings. I would also make myself available to meet with any community groups.

Tom Schumacher: Communication is the key to get them involved.

What do you see as the two greatest challenges for the position?

Jeff Rychly: The greatest challenge will be to keep a balanced budget and not overlook future expenses. Another challenge will be finding new taxable income without putting the city at risk of raising taxes.

Tom Schumacher: The two biggest challenges facing the city of Bennington are budget limitations and growth around the city.

CITY OF OMAHA SPECIAL ELECTION (BOND-ISSUE) QUESTIONS

\$11,475,000 Environment Sewer Bonds

Shall the City of Omaha be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds in the amount of eleven million four hundred seventy-five thousand and no/100 dollars (\$11,475,000) for the purpose of providing funds for payment of the cost of constructing, reconstructing, improving, extending and equipping of storm sewers, sanitary sewers, interceptor sewers, combined sewers, relief sewers, or a combination thereof, or any other related sewer construction, the approximate cost to the taxpayers of the City of Omaha if this proposal is approved to be eleven million four hundred seventy-five thousand and no/100 dollars (\$11,475,000) plus interest payable on said bonds to be paid from the fund for principal and interest payments on the indebtedness of the City of Omaha as proposed in the notice of election which also provides that the approval of this bond issue will not incur any increases in the property tax levy rate of the City of Omaha?

\$15,510,000 Park & Recreation Bonds

Shall the City of Omaha be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds in the amount of fifteen million five hundred ten thousand and no/100 dollars (\$15,510,000) for the purpose of providing funds for payment of the cost of various park and recreation improvement projects of City of Omaha, the approximate cost to the taxpayers of the City of Omaha if this proposal is approved to be fifteen million five hundred ten thousand and no/100 dollars (\$15,510,000) plus interest payable on said bonds to be paid from the fund for principal and interest payments on the indebtedness of the City of Omaha as proposed in the notice of election which also provides that the approval of this bond issue will not incur any increases in the property tax levy rate of the City of Omaha?

\$39,370,000 Public Facilities Bonds

Shall the City of Omaha be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds in the amount of thirty-nine million three hundred seventy thousand and no/100 dollars (\$39,370,000) for the purpose of providing funds for payment of the cost of acquiring, constructing, improving, equipping and rehabilitating police buildings and facilities, fire stations, branch libraries, park maintenance facilities, auditorium support facilities, public works storage facilities and city wide building renovations and replacements and other public facilities of the City of Omaha, the approximate cost to the taxpayers of the City of Omaha if this proposal is approved to be thirty-nine million three hundred seventy thousand and no/100 dollars (\$39,370,000) plus interest payable on said bonds to be paid from the fund for principal and interest payments on the indebtedness of the City of Omaha as proposed in the notice of election which also provides that the approval of this bond issue will not incur any increases in the property tax levy rate of the City of Omaha?

\$9,810,000 Public Safety Bonds

Shall the City of Omaha be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds in the amount of nine million eight hundred ten thousand and no/100 dollars (\$9,810,000) for the purpose of providing funds for payment of the cost of various capital expenditures of the city fire department, including fire vehicles and equipment, the approximate cost to the taxpayers of the City of Omaha if this proposal is approved to be nine million eight hundred ten thousand and no/100 dollars (\$9,810,000) plus interest payable on said bonds to be paid from the fund for principal and interest payments on the indebtedness of the City of Omaha as proposed in the notice of election which also provides that the approval of this bond issue will not incur any increases in the property tax levy rate of the City of Omaha?

\$151,300,000 Street And Highway Transportation Bonds

Shall the City of Omaha be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds in the amount of one hundred and fifty-one million, three hundred thousand and no/100 dollars (\$151,300,000) for the purpose of providing funds for payment of the cost of streets, highways and bridges, the approximate cost to the taxpayers of the City of Omaha if this proposal is approved to be one hundred and fifty-one million, three hundred thousand and no/100 dollars (\$151,300,000) plus interest payable on said bonds to be paid from the fund for principal and interest payments on the indebtedness of the City of Omaha as proposed in the notice of election which also provides that the approval of this bond issue will not incur any increases in the property tax levy rate of the City of Omaha?

Omaha Public Schools Bond Election

“Shall the Omaha Public Schools (Douglas County School District 0001, in the State of Nebraska) issue bonds in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$409,900,000 for the purpose of paying costs of the following projects: building two high schools, one middle school and two elementary schools and furnishing and

equipping the same; construction of capital improvements, additions, renovations, relocations and replacements of existing school buildings and furnishing and equipping the same; providing for air quality, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, life safety and energy improvements and upgrades for existing school buildings; and other capital projects, land acquisition, and furnishings and equipment relating to new and existing school buildings; with such bonds to be issued from time to time and to become due and bear interest as shall be determined by the Board of Education; and

“Shall such School District cause to be levied and collected annually taxes upon the taxable property within the District sufficient to pay the interest and principal of the bonds authorized by this proposition?”

The League of Women Voters contacts candidates during each election cycle and invites them to participate in the print and online editions of the Voters' Guide. Candidates provide their biographical information and their positions on selected issues. Candidates are aware in advance that the biographies and answers will be printed exactly as submitted without edits for content, spelling, punctuation or grammar.