

# Douglas County Voters' Guide Statewide General Election



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER OMAHA

Election Date: Nov. 6, 2018

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## U.S. SENATE

**Deb Fischer (R):** No response received.

**Jane Raybould (D):** [www.JaneRaybould.com](http://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.

### **What would make for a fair immigration system?**

**Deb Fischer:** No response received.

**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.

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

**Deb Fischer:** No response received.

**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.

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

**Deb Fischer:** No response received.

**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.

## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – DISTRICT 2**

**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?**

**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"?**

**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?

**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.

## GOVERNOR

**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.

## How should the problem of prison overcrowding be handled?

**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.

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

**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.

### **How does Nebraska attract and retain young people?**

**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 not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or sexual orientation.

**Pete Ricketts:** No response received.

### **Should Nebraska expand Medicaid?**

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

**Pete Ricketts:** No response received.

## **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 College (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 media. Robust communication with the public in a variety of 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.

## **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.

### **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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 - Sameday 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.

**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.

**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.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Doug Peterson (R):** No response received.

**STATE LEGISLATURE — DISTRICT 4**

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

**Bob Hilkeman (R):** <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.

## **STATE LEGISLATURE — DISTRICT 6**

**Machaela Cavanaugh (D):** <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.

**Theresa Thibodeau (R):** <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.

**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.

**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

**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 too many people incarcerated and should work to reduce the numbers of people sentenced through 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.

**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.

## **STATE LEGISLATURE — DISTRICT 8**

**Mina Davis (D):** <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.

**Megan Hunt (D):** <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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## **STATE LEGISLATURE — DISTRICT 10**

**Matt Deaver (R):** No response received.

**Wendy DeBoer (D):** <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.

**STATE LEGISLATURE — DISTRICT 12**

**Steve Lathrop (D):** <http://stevethathrop.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 (R):** 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.

## **STATE LEGISLATURE — DISTRICT 18**

**Brett Lindstrom (R):** <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 (D):** <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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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.

## **STATE LEGISLATURE — DISTRICT 20**

**Jackie Collett (D):** <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.

**John McCollister (R):** <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.

**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.

**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.

**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 longterm 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.

**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 (R):** <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

**Deborah Neary (D):** <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.

**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.

**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

**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.

**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-classtime and provide cost efficiencies for districts.

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY ASSESSOR/REGISTER OF DEEDS**

**Diane L. Battiato (D):** Web Site: <http://www.dianeattiato.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Douglas County Assessor/Register of Deeds, 2015-current. Past Public Office, dates held: Douglas County Register of Deeds, 2005-2015; Papillion City Councilwoman, 1997-2002. Education: Randall and Loday Schools of Real Estate - Nebraska Licensed Real Estate Broker 1986-current; Nebraska Assessor Certificate; International Assoc. of Assessing Officers courses 101, 102, 300 certificates; Nat'l Certified Public Official designation. Military experience: none. Volunteer experience: Omaha Area Board of Realtors and Nebraska Realtors Association; Women's Fund of Greater Omaha; League of Women Voters; NAACP; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; United Way of the Midlands; ENOA, Meals On Wheels and more.

**Walt Peffer (R):** Web Site: <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.

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

**Diane L. Battiato:** One—Researching and determining the best method that will ensure land records are maintained in pristine condition so that they will always be available for use, which is required per state statute; and Two—continuing to strive for the best, most reliable process to use to provide fair and equitable property valuations.

**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.

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

**Diane L. Battiato:** The valuation-protest process is dictated per state statute; no changes can be made at the local level. Regarding property valuations, a planned, ongoing effort must be made to educate the public about the process, i.e., the difference between mass appraisal, which we employ, and fee appraisal. Also, an effort must be made to educate property owners about the difference between valuations and taxing entities' (political subdivisions) tax rates. Understanding who actually controls tax rates.

**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.

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

**Diane L. Battiato:** A: First—Continue my 4-term success as a proven, positive leader; Second—Continue to strive to provide fair and equitable valuations by using proven methods such as better identifying sales trends in smaller, more similar neighborhoods; and Third—Increase and improve communications with property owners that will result in obtaining more accurate, thorough information about an owner's property.

**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.

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**Donald W. Kleine (D):** No response received.

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT**

**John Friend (R):** Web Site: <http://www.voteafriend.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Douglas County Clerk of the District Court Jan 07 to present. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: State Supreme Court Technology Committee.

Supreme Court Strategic Planning Committee. Douglas Omaha Technology commission (DotComm)- Oversight Committee - Chair. Police Federal Credit Union of Omaha - Board or Directors - Chair

**Jennifer Hernandez (D):** Web Site: <http://JenniferHernandezForClerk.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: N/A. Past Public Office, dates held: N/A. Education: Business & Communications. Military experience: N/A.

Volunteer experience: Domestic violence advocate, refugee integration, reading to kids at low-income elementary schools.

### **What will be your top two priorities while in office?**

**John Friend:** 1. My main goal has been and continues to be to enhance the capabilities of the courts by use of new technology and to bring the courts closer to the people it serves. 2. Continue to maintain great working relationships with internal and external stakeholders that work with the courts and other government offices. 3. There continues to be a real need for assisting self-represented litigants in being successful in their journey through the court system.

**Jennifer Hernandez:** I want to ensure low-income families, and self-represented litigants have more tools to meet their needs. We need to rewrite self-help instructions to make them easier to understand and make every single one available in both English and Spanish. I also want to address discrimination issues and provide better service to those with unique issues, such as LGBTQIA folks, and make our courts a more inclusive place. We serve all of Douglas County, and we should do so without bias.

### **What are your qualifications for this office?**

**John Friend:** I am a life long resident of Omaha. I hold a bachelor degree in Criminal Justice. I was an Omaha Police Officer for 25 years, retiring as a police captain. I have decades of successful experience at managing people and processes which is what managing the court clerks office entails. I have great relationships with judges, court staff and elected and appointed officials of all political parties. I stand ready to continue in your service as your court clerk. I ask for your support and your vote!

**Jennifer Hernandez:** I have worked as an office administrator and want to use my experience in data-driven process improvement to modernize the office and increase both the quantity and quality of services. I genuinely care about helping others and believe everyone who enters the court system should have an equal opportunity from the start. I have had personal experience with the courts for custody and stalking issues, and I have helped others with similar problems as a domestic violence advocate.

## **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.

**Larry Roland (R):** No response received.

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

**James Cavanaugh:** Tax reduction, eliminate waste, better mental health services. We must do the public's business in public. We work for you. Tax dollars are your dollars. I helped lead the voter approved 2016 Public Safety Bond which is saving millions in tax dollars, updating the 911 system, and Fire Station Alert System, with no tax increase.

I'll tell the truth, show the courage to involve the public in major projects, and use common sense to resist wasteful spending. Working together we can do better.

**Larry Roland:** No response received.

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

**James Cavanaugh:** Our Douglas County Health Center provides the highest quality long term health care. I work to meet our critical health care needs. I work to make county government open. My job as your public servant is to keep the public informed about how our tax dollars are used and have the courage to hold public hearings on important issues, like the juvenile justice proposals: and let the public vote. This will lead to better, less expensive, common sense solutions. Truth, courage, and common sense.

**Larry Roland:** No response received.

**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:** At the September County Board meeting I noted the County has a surplus and I proposed a property tax rate cut. Common sense decisions permit cutting costs and improving services. For example, the 2016 Public Safety Bond that the voters approved provides solutions that cut costs, improves services, and does so without requiring a tax increase. I work hard to bring these better, smarter, more affordable solutions to of the challenges Douglas County faces. Working together we have done better.

**Larry Roland:** No response received.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER — DISTRICT 4**

**PJ Morgan (R):** No response received.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER — DISTRICT 6**

**Mary Ann Borgeson (R):** Current Public Office, dates held: Douglas County Commissioner 1995 to Present. Education: Daniel J Gross High School University of Nebraska @ Omaha Immanuel School of Radiology. Volunteer experience: I love serving people and sit on the Board of Directors for a number of Community and State Organizations: Millard Business Community Foundation, Aksarben Future Trust, CWS, R.E.S.P.E.C.T., PromiseShip, Governors Human Trafficking Task Force.

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

**Mary Ann Borgeson:** The three most compelling problems facing Douglas County 1) Property tax relief, 2) Increase costs in the criminal justice systems and increasing mental health needs at our youth center and adult correction facility and 3) Managing the decrease in revenue (Medicaid) at our long term care and community mental health facility.

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

**Mary Ann Borgeson:** Community corrections are sanctions imposed on convicted adults or adjudicated juveniles that occur in a residential or community setting outside of jail or prison. The sanctions are enforced by agencies or courts with legal authority over the adult or juvenile offenders. Community based programs such as, drug/veteran courts, electronic monitoring, day reporting, intensive case management and probation reduce institutional overcrowding, provide rehabilitation and are less costly to the taxpayer.

**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?**

**Mary Ann Borgeson:** Property tax relief without cutting vital services can be accomplished by working in partnership with federal and state representatives to stop the tax shifts and passage of unfunded mandates. Working with other counties through interlocal agreements provide economy of scale and produce cost savings to the taxpayers. Also, having an open and thorough budgeting process from start to finish. Services that are not mandated by the federal or state government could be eliminated to produce savings.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY ENGINEER**

**Tom Doyle (D):** No response received.

## DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF

**Timothy F. Dunning (R):** <http://www.sheriffimdunning.com>. Current Public Office: Douglas County Sheriff since January 1995. Past Public Office: None. Education: BS UNO Criminal Justice, MPA UNO Public Administration. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Mid America Council Boy Scouts, Coalition on Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Red Cross Fight Crime Invest in Kids Major, County Sheriff's Association Foundation Board, Nebraska Sheriff's Associ Better Living INC., Explorer Scouts.

**Mike Hughes (D):** Web Site – <http://Hughesforsheriff.com>, Current Public Office, dates held – None, Past Public Office, dates held – None, Education – Bachelor's degree in criminal justice – University of Nebraska at Omaha Master's degree in public administration – Columbia Southern University, Military experience – U.S. Army – Corporal Awards Army Commendation Medal Army Achievement Medal (3 times) Good Conduct Medal National Defense Medal Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/ bronze star Global War on Terrorism Medal Army Service Medal Overseas Medal NATO Medal, Volunteer experience – 100 Black Men of Omaha (Mentor) Assistant High School Basketball Coach (Sophomore level) Various guest speaking ventures Multiple community events to include career fairs and homeless advocacy

### **How can law enforcement officers engage with the community in ways that will gain the community's trust?**

**Timothy F. Dunning:** Law Enforcement Officers need to be visible to the public and engage with them as frequently as possible to gain trust and familiarity. My agency is involved in the NETS (Neighborhood Engagement Thru Sports) and has proven to be very effective in interacting with youth in a positive manner. Our SRO's (School Resource Officers) take advantage of a great opportunity to interact with kids by being available to them throughout the day and in after school activities. Shop with a Sheriff, Coffee w/

**Mike Hughes:** I believe that community involvement from a law enforcement perspective plays a vital role in helping to combat crime. I would recommend that the Sheriff's Office in particular initiate community oriented policing. This would take the form of hosting back to school drives to provide young people with the essential tools necessary to be successful early on in the school year. Hosting bike rally's, baseball, football, and or basketball events that can bring all members of our community together.

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

**Timothy F. Dunning:** I have already had my first year so I would like to remain active in the community and on Boards that address community concerns such as: Opioid Crisis, Human Trafficking and Cyber Crimes.

**Mike Hughes:** I hope to focus a great deal of energy building relationships with other city and county leaders to bring a more collaborative effort to the Sheriff's Office in order to bring more effective and efficient public safety to our citizens. I would also like to create a culture that emphasizes community oriented policing that can help bridge the gap between community and law enforcement. There are many issues that our community faces from the Opioid crisis, to gang violence.

### **The problems of gun violence are in the news. What do you think can be done, if anything, to improve safety in Douglas County?**

**Timothy F. Dunning:** I think the key ingredients is to encourage people to report crimes directly to Law Enforcement or through Crime Stoppers. The better Law Enforcement increases it's dialogue with the Community the more apt people are to report. The stigma of being a SNITCH or a RAT needs to be translated into wanting to better your community and more safety for your family and neighbors.

**Mike Hughes:** Along with the enforcement of written laws and created tasks force to eradicate violent offenders law enforcement must work in conjunction with the community to provide opportunities for young people. Gun violence and socioeconomic status go hand and hand. With that if law enforcement officials can build rapport with the community I believe that this will assist in reducing gun violence (community-oriented policing). I would like to work with education agency to help promote higher education...

## DOUGLAS COUNTY TREASURER

**John W. Ewing, Jr. (D):** No response received.

## **BOARD OF REGENTS UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA — 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.

**BOARD OF REGENTS UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA — DISTRICT 8**

**Hal Daub (R):** Web Site: <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: Batchelors 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

**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. My strong commitment is 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.

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

**Hal Daub:** Given the State's limited population and taxpayer resources, funding our \$2,6 billion University budget will continue to be a real challenge. My past experience and efforts in working with Governor Heineman to freeze tuition and my background in managing large budgets at the City of Omaha and the University will provide the oversight necessary to meet these challenges. I am committed to maintaining the fiscal restraint to insure affordable, accessible education for Nebraska students.

**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.

**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:** Faced with trimming \$30 million from administration, I supported creative solutions which involved combining functions and cutting expenses. 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.

**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, (1)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 keep our budget balanced, tuition, board and room competitively affordable (2)work aggressively to help recruit and retain great teachers to assure all students will have a well-administered environment to support great learning experiences, research and outcomes

**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.

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS — AT-LARGE DISTRICT**

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

**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

**Mort Sullivan (NP):** Unable to reach candidate.

**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,

**Mort Sullivan:** Unable to reach candidate.

**What should be the qualifications of instructors at Metro?**

**Paul Anderson:** The qualifications of all Metro instructors should be, they possess a masters degree, or have the equivalent life skills to teach in their area of study. I will also add, they need to have the ability to teach, just because one may have the college degree or the life skills, doesn't guarantee, that they can and will be a good instructor!

**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.

**Mort Sullivan:** Unable to reach candidate.

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

**Paul Anderson:** Explore the possibility of decreasing the financial burden of the purchase of textbooks and other required class materials. Study the possibility of expanding 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.

**Mort Sullivan:** Unable to reach candidate.

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS —  
DISTRICT 1**

**Phillip Klein (R):** Unable to reach candidate.

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS —  
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)

**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.

**What should be the qualifications of instructors at Metro?**

**Brad Ashby:** Metro Community College requires a minimum of a Master's degree with 18 hours in the subject being taught. It is also important for the instructor to have "real with 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.

**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, and maintain support services for student, faculty, and staff so that money spent translates to a degree earned. 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.

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS —  
DISTRICT 3**

**Maureen Monahan (D):** [http://www.facebook.com/MonahanforMetro/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS —  
DISTRICT 4**

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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 1**

**Bradley Ekwerekwu (D):** No response received.

**Brian Thommes (D):** No response received.

**LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL – DISTRICT 3**

**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:** 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.

**In your own words, what is the mission 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.

**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.

**LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL – DISTRICT 5**

**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):** Web Site: <http://erikserver.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Bachelor of Art, Political Science, 2013, UNO; Master of Public Administration, 2016, UNO. Military experience: 10 Years Service Nebraska Army National Guard, 2016-2017 Deployment to Afghanistan as a Flight Medic Sergeant, 2017 Mobilization to Texas for Hurricane Harvey response. Volunteer experience: President, Metro Young Latino Professionals Association; Board Member, Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership; Board Member, UNO Military Alumni Group; 2018 Fellow, New Leaders Council Omaha; Board Member, Mayor's Millennial Advisory Committee

**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 k12. This will not only change outcome of kids involved in Learning Community programs but also improve lifestyle of generations to come.

**Erik O Servellon:** I envision the Learning Community as another pillar of the strong public education system in Nebraska. Exporting best practices for pedagogy, early childhood education, and family learning all the while being a go-to resource for area students, parents, and teachers. The Learning Community of the future will no longer be a political issue - but instead a testament to many sides coming together to solve the age-old issue of the educational achievement gap.

**Tonya Ward:** 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:** The mission of the Learning Community is to close the achievement gap in students throughout Douglas and Sarpy County school districts. Through early childhood education, family learning, and teacher development programs, the Learning Community uses a comprehensive, holistic approach to set parents, teachers, and most importantly, students, on the road to success.

**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:** The Learning Community can show school districts that core programs are producing measurable results. One such example is an early childhood program that has shown to close the achievement gap in K-3 students, as compared to students who are not in the program. The Learning Community is an organization that can try programs at a smaller scale (thus less risk), show that they work (or don't), and export best practices or lessons learned to area districts for implementation.

**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:** When elected, I hope to develop a stronger relationship between the Learning Community and local, state, and federal elected officials. The Learning Community is a hidden gem that is underappreciated - simply getting elected officials in the door of a Learning Community center would show them the immense public good that the L.C. is providing. Additionally, I hope to build stronger public-private relationships, leveraging Omaha's remarkable philanthropic community to elevate the L.C.

**Tonya Ward:** No response received.

**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION — SUBDISTRICT 2**

**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 do you hope to have accomplished by the end of your first year?**

**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?**

**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 safety of students and teachers in our schools?**

**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.

**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION — SUBDISTRICT 4**

**Shavonna Holman (D):** <http://holmanforops.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Omaha Public Schools Board of Education, Subdistrict 4 January 2018-current. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: BS in Education, University of Nebraska-Omaha MS in Education, University of Nebraska-Omaha MS in Educational Administration, University of Nebraska-Omaha Doctorate of Education, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Open Door Mission Salvation Army.

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

**Shavonna Holman:** 1. Recruitment and retention of teachers /administrators. 2. Increased efforts in providing alternative education programming/opportunities for the underachieving, high ability learner.

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

**Shavonna Holman:** When current, quality technology is available, all students are provided an equitable learning opportunity, as long as teachers have been properly trained to use and implement such technology. Technology can be the one thing which circumvents all barriers, shrinking equity and accessibility gaps, while transforming learning. It can be personalized to meet the needs of today's K-12 diverse learner. It can be used to reach and teach students virtually, who may not be physically able to attend class.

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

**Shavonna Holman:** A district safety/crisis plan should be followed and practiced consistently so that if an emergency were to arise, both students and staff are fully prepared to follow the protocols in place as is they were second nature. Moreover, all schools should either have a district security guard or SRO who are trained to handle such emergencies. All buildings should be secured with having only one entry access point for visitors, who can be seen by the secretary prior to buzzer entrance.

**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION — SUBDISTRICT 6**

**Jeff Jezewski (R):** <http://jeffjforops.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 19592018, NE Mental Health Planning and Education Committee, Technical High Renovation Committee.

**If elected, what two things do 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.

### **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.

### **What can be done to ensure 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.

## **OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION – SUBDISTRICT 8**

**Kimara Z. Snipe (D):** No response received.

## **BENNINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Mark A. Byars (R):** <http://markbyars.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Bennington Board of Education, 2015-present. Education: BS Business Administration, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; MBA, Northwestern University. Volunteer experience: Various church and school activities, Boy Scouts, Bennington Public Schools Strategic Planning Committee.

**Valerie J. Calderon (R):** No response received.

**Heather Goertz (NP):** No response received.

**Bob Tingelhoff (R):** No response received.

**Matthew E.D. Wickham (R):** No response received.

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

**Mark A. Byars:** Bennington's growth presents challenges in long-range planning, in budgeting, and in communicating through rapid change. First, I will work to ensure our strategic plan continues to deliver our students a high-quality education at good value to taxpayers, the first year – and every year – of my term. Second, I will work to promote open, constructive communication with all stakeholders in the district to implement our best ideas and improve the community in which we learn and live.

**Valerie J. Calderon:** No response received.

**Heather Goertz:** No response received.

**Bob Tingelhoff:** No response received.

**Matthew E.D. Wickham:** No response received.

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

**Mark A. Byars:** A school board plays an important leadership role in creating a culture of safety by implementing practical policies that can be followed and fairly administered. Threats can be prevented with a collaborative culture that encourages students to treat others with dignity and respect. The board should emphasize

preparedness planning and equip staff with quality training to expertly address threats in progress. Facility enhancements that fit an educational environment should also be implemented.

**Valerie J. Calderon:** No response received.

**Heather Goertz:** No response received.

**Bob Tingelhoff:** No response received.

**Matthew E.D. Wickham:** No response received.

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

**Mark A. Byars:** The key role of technology in education is to teach our kids how to critically evaluate the wealth of information at their fingertips and use it constructively to improve their lives and their community. Technology also offers a cost-efficient means to expand learning beyond the classroom and deliver continuing education to our topnotch teachers. Most importantly, students can use technology for personalized learning, exploring topics unique to their interests in support of their goals.

**Valerie J. Calderon:** No response received.

**Heather Goertz:** No response received.

**Bob Tingelhoff:** No response received.

**Matthew E.D. Wickham:** No response received.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Kelly Hinrichs (R):** No response received.

**Jamie Jorgensen (NP):** Unable to reach candidate.

**Bill Koile, Jr. (NP):** Education: BS -- Northwest Missouri State University (2000), MS -- Clarkson College (2008), MBA -- University of Colorado (2020). Volunteer experience: Board President -- DC West Youth Sports, Gretna Volunteer Fire Department -- Assistant Chief (past)

**Patrick McCarville (D):** Unable to reach candidate.

**Tristan C. Nelson (R):** No response received.

**Amanda Wright (D):** No response received.

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

**Kelly Hinrichs:** No response received.

**Jamie Jorgensen:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Bill Koile, Jr.:** I believe that the work the current board has undertaken in the past has laid ground work to further improve the community and the education our youth receive. They keep professional development opportunities for the staff at the forefront to assure the students of the best instruction possible. I would continue to strengthen both of these initiatives.

**Patrick McCarville:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Tristan C. Nelson:** No response received.

**Amanda Wright:** No response received.

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

**Kelly Hinrichs:** No response received.

**Jamie Jorgensen:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Bill Koile, Jr.:** DC West has already taken steps to be on the leading edge of technology for our students in the rapidly changing world of education and have received national attention for their success with robotics and the STEM programs offered to the youth. The district needs to maintain this momentum.

**Patrick McCarville:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Tristan C. Nelson:** No response received.

**Amanda Wright:** No response received.

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

**Kelly Hinrichs:** No response received.

**Jamie Jorgensen:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Bill Koile, Jr.:** Safety should be a priority, not only from an external perspective but also from an internal perspective. Every student, staff member and support personnel should feel safe coming to school. Programs to promote kindness/inclusiveness should continue and the relationship between DC West, the Valley Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriffs Office should be strengthened.

**Patrick McCarville:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Tristan C. Nelson:** No response received.

**Amanda Wright:** No response received.

**ELKHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Chuck Burney (R):** Current Public Office, dates held: Elkhorn School Board, 2011 to 2018. Education: Bachelor's Degree In Social Sciences Education (7-12) From Wayne State College Master's Degree in Secondary Education from The University Of Nebraska At Omaha. Military experience: N/A. Volunteer experience: Nebraska Realty Kindness Crew St. Patrick's Church Men's Club Elkhorn Girls' Softball Association Open Door Mission

**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:** My top priority is for the Elkhorn Public Schools to continue and build on our outstanding academic achievements that have been produced year in and year out, while at the same time passing fiscally responsible budgets that will give our staff the best resources to accomplish this. Another priority that I hope to accomplish by the end of the first year of my third term would be to help make our students aware of all of their opportunities as they determine their post-high school plans.

**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:** During the last couple of years the Elkhorn Public Schools has been phasing in 1-to-1 technology into grades 8-12. Technology should be used to enhance learning. Technology allows greater access to online resources. The proper use of technology creates greater student engagement and allows teachers to create tailored learning experiences. It is important to ensure teachers are properly trained to integrate technology into our curriculum, and for the district to oversee its proper usage.

**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 safety of students and teachers in our schools?**

**Chuck Burney:** I was a teacher at Millard South on 1-05-2011. It is vital that we ensure the safety of students. Through recently passed bond issues, we have improved safety by limiting access points to all of our older schools, while building new ones with an emphasis on safety. This year we have added school resource officers so all of our high and middle schools will have an SRO presence during the day. Staff policy and procedures regarding safety must be reviewed often to make our schools safe.

**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:** Speaking as a member of the school board for the highest achieving school district in the state, there is no role for charter schools within our district. My opinion is that the state would be better suited providing more funding for K-12 education rather than redirecting resources away from public education. The Elkhorn district, as well as many others in Nebraska have produced excellent results on a dwindling budget. It would be exciting to see what they can accomplish when properly funded.

**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 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.

**Carsten Ruff (NP):** No response received.

**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.

**Carsten Ruff:** No response received.

**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 preengineering, 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.

**Carsten Ruff:** No response received.

**Ann Sackett Wright:** No response received.

### **What can be done to ensure 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.

**Carsten Ruff:** No response received.

**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.

**Carsten Ruff:** No response received.

**Ann Sackett Wright:** No response received.

## **MILLARD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**David M. Anderson (R):** Web Site: [http://Facebook Page "Dave Anderson for Millard School Board"](http://Facebook Page 'Dave Anderson for Millard School Board'). Current Public Office, dates held: Millard Schools Board of Education 2007 – Current. Past Public Office, dates held: None.

Education: MBA - University of Arizona BSBA - University of Nebraska at Omaha. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Board of Directors service with: Millard Board of Education, Millard Schools Foundation, Nebraska Association of School Boards, Omaha Childrens Museum, Goodwill Industries, Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Omaha Chamber of Commerce Small Business

**Stacy Jolley (D):** Web Site: <http://www.stacyjolley.com/>. Current Public Office, dates held: Millard Public Schools

Board of Education, Feb 2018 – present. Past Public Office, dates held: n/a. Education: University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Marketing major; Communications and Psychology minors; Study abroad at Oxford University – Economics. Military experience: n/a. Volunteer experience: Weekly volunteer for MPS for 14 years. MPS Foundation Pres., classroom volunteer, PTO Pres., District Cmtes, etc., Girl Scout Leader, Asst Cubmaster, YMCA bball coach, Harvey Oaks HOA Membership chair, FRIENDS/Stuttering conference organizer, etc.

**Mike Kennedy (R):** Web Site: <http://parentsformikekenedy.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Millard School Board 2003 to Present, City of Omaha Library Board 2015 to Present, City of Omaha Omaha Naming Committee 2014 to Present. Past Public Office, dates held: Metro Community College Board, 1999 to 2002, Omaha Charter Review Committee 2014. Education: University of Nebraska at Omaha Bachelors of Science Political Science, Creighton University School of Law Juris Doctorate. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Boy Scouts of America, Millard Public Schools, Various local charities.

**Dulce Sherman (D):** <http://www.Sherman4MPSBoard.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Not currently. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Graduate Certificate Program, Organization Development, Fielding Graduate Institute, Master of Arts degree, Management, Bellevue University, Bachelor of Science degree, Human Resources Management, Bellevue University. Military experience: Not applicable. Volunteer experience: Latino Center of the Midlands Board, Women's Fund Circles, Millard Foundation Board, 2018 Women's Center for Advancement Honoree, Latinx Caucus Chair & Executive Board, NDP, Latino Rep & Executive Board, Douglas County, Healthcare Sector Board.

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

**David M. Anderson:** I have served for 12 years up to this point. I hope to utilize only a small portion of the levy override authority given to the board of education in the latest levy override election recently passed by Millard voters, while being able to maintain current diverse curriculum offerings. I also hope to continue to grow community collaborations with other organizations who are in-line and can help support the mission of Millard Schools. A example of this would be the opening of Boys/Girls Club.

**Stacy Jolley:** We need to maximize every dollar in our budget in light of another \$2M+ shortfall from the state. With this being a yearly event, we need to examine every program to make sure it passes a cost/benefit analysis. We have to preserve the amazing opportunities in our district while being mindful of our taxpayers' needs. I also want to work on getting more parents into our middle schools. Increased parent engagement at that level will translate into higher scores and student engagement.

**Mike Kennedy:** I have served on the Millard School Board for the past 16 years. If reelected, I would like to continue to work on the district's finances and improve our programs the make sure our children are college and/or

career ready. The Board of Education has been a good steward of the district's finances and we have improved our children's test scores. My experience on the Board of Education will help us in achieving these goals during the next 4 years.

**Dulce Sherman:** I will host "town hall" discussions with all stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, unions, board, PTO) to introduce myself, create two-way dialogue and listen to their feedback. I will discuss and begin building a new creative funding strategy. We have relied too much on our property taxes. With the changing demographics, it's time we come up with new ideas, build partnerships with our legislature, and community to keep all funding in our public schools.

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

**David M. Anderson:** Technology is a tool for instruction and not the end all. Technology allows for a cost efficient and effective way to teach curriculum and track educational outcomes. Technology is used in all aspects of running the Millard Public schools and our students have embraced it throughout the experience in Millard.

**Stacy Jolley:** Putting devices in kids' hands is not the end, it's the means. For kids w/o access to tech, this helps level the playing field and sends the learning home. Using district-provided devices, students take MAP tests 3x/year. With instant scores, teachers can address kids' knowledge gaps in real time. New software creates an individualized lesson based on MAP scores, which allows every kid to get exactly what they need. It keeps kids from slipping through the cracks with gaps in their learning.

**Mike Kennedy:** During my tenure on the Millard School Board we have dramatically improved our students access to technology and its use in our classrooms. Our "One to One" computer program has been successfully implemented at the Middle and High School level and we will now tackle the issue in the elementary schools. All of our children has access to current technology and our curriculum has been adapted to reap the benefits that technology offers our students. Our teachers really do a great job.

**Dulce Sherman:** Technology plays an important role in "access to education". However, we need to provide internet access to all students. Social media is playing a bigger role in ease of communication. We rely too much on social media at times by replacing the face to face communication. Some student households may not have access to the internet, social media or a cell phone. Therefore, we need to ensure all students are receiving the necessary communication.

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

**David M. Anderson:** Millard has focused and expended significant resources to address safety in our schools over the past 5 years. We have made significant improvements for safety thru physical and technology security measures. We have worked in conjunction with law enforcement on all school building plans and have been through a variety of audits and reviews around those plans. We have been commended and recognized as a leader around safety planning for schools.

**Stacy Jolley:** We must focus on the social/emotional needs of our students. Years ago, kids came to school with fewer worries, less stress, and fewer adverse life events. In today's world, many of our students struggle with anxiety, depression, and life upheaval. What used to be assumed, now must be taught. Teaching kindness, respect, and personal responsibility will go a long way toward making our schools safer, happier, and more productive. We have secure buildings; we must focus on reaching kids' hearts.

**Mike Kennedy:** Since the shooting at Millard South, our community and the Board of Education has made a strong commitment to school safety. As a member of the school board, I supported and campaigned for the upgrades at our buildings to make our schools safer. These included securing our entrances, adding cameras, adding doors to open classrooms and making sure our staff is properly trained in safety protocols. I will work to continue to review our safety plan and update it as necessary.

**Dulce Sherman:** Early adolescent assessment would help us understand what is happening in a child's life. It may help identify children at risk and the ability to "proactively" intervene with the necessary Community Resources if the School is unable to provide the necessary resources like counseling. However, keeping a pulse of student's morale is important. As a Human Resources leader, I am accustomed to holding organizational discussions to understand the pulse and creating remedies to address concerns.

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

**David M. Anderson:** I am not a proponent of Charter schools. We have great private schools in Nebraska already thru religious affiliations. I am a strong advocate for public education and do not want to see monies re-distributed away from public schools. We are lucky in Nebraska as we have great public schools districts. In Omaha, families can not make a bad decision as to where to send their children to a public school. The research is mixed as to the effect of charter schools. I do not believe we need them.

**Stacy Jolley:** No tax dollars should be spent on charter schools. It is the government's responsibility to educate ALL children. By extension, it is the taxpayer's responsibility to educate ALL children. Therefore, no tax dollars should be spent on any school that can turn children away due to ability. Charter schools siphon off money meant for all and channel it to the chosen few. No tax dollars should be spent enriching a for-profit school. Data shows they don't do better and they rob others of funding.

**Mike Kennedy:** I am not a supporter of independent charter schools. I believe school districts have the ability to create programs of excellence like we have in Millard. If there are issues with a school district's quality, it is up to the State of Nebraska and the community members to improve their schools. Using the word "charter" in a school does not guarantee that a school will provide a quality education.

**Dulce Sherman:** I believe we need to keep an open mind to new ideas. Charter schools is one idea that has had some success in other States. Nebraska doesn't have any laws in place to govern Charter Schools. Therefore, I do not support Charter schools. I believe in keeping all funding in our Public Schools.

### **RALSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Jay A. Irwin (D):** Unable to reach candidate.

**Elizabeth Kumru (NP):** Education: Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio; BS Journalism, 1974. Volunteer experience: Festival organizer, Moonshell Storytelling Festival. Band Boosters, Ralston High School. PTA President, Miller Park Elementary.

**Mary K. Roarty (D):** No response received.

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

**Jay A. Irwin:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Elizabeth Kumru:** I believe that communication and critical thinking are two of the most important skills students need to succeed in life. In my first year on the board, I would like to explore how these skills are taught in all grade levels and how they can be enhanced in the curriculum. I also would like to investigate new, exciting and inspiring learning opportunities for students, staff and teachers.

**Mary K. Roarty:** No response received.

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

**Jay A. Irwin:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Elizabeth Kumru:** Technology must be used to solve problems or achieve outcomes, not just because it's the newest gadget. It's a tool that can help improve learning outcomes that have been identified by teachers who first ask 'what can technology help to achieve?' I believe board of education members should consult with teachers on the best way to harness technology in the classroom.

**Mary K. Roarty:** No response received.

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

**Jay A. Irwin:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Elizabeth Kumru:** I love the #BeKind movement. For our society to evolve, we need to be compassionate and communicate clearly. Community schools are supposed to be safe zones for students, teachers, staff and families. The solution should never include more guns in the school, but instead provide progressive early identification and intervention programs that identify and treat troubled individuals to prevent tragedy.

**Mary K. Roarty:** No response received.

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

**Jay A. Irwin:** Unable to reach candidate.

**Elizabeth Kumru:** Public schools are the bedrock of our democracy. Nebraskans should be careful about expanding charter schools in the state. Charter schools siphon off valuable resources from public schools without providing the promises of improved academic performance. I do not see any future for charter schools in this state.

**Mary K. Roarty:** No response received.

## **METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT BOARD – 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.

**METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT BOARD — 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT – SUBDIVISION 6**

**Tom Barrett (D):** <http://votetombarrett.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Current OPPD Director for Subdivision 6 (Northeast Omaha) starting in January 2013. Past Public Office, dates held: OPPD is my only elected office. Education: Creighton University School of Law (Juris Doctor, J.D. 1995), University of Nebraska / Lincoln (B.A. History 1987), Omaha Creighton Prep (1983). Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Soccer coach for my three daughters' teams for 5 years, Lunch duty at St. Margaret Mary school. Fundraiser for "Team for Kids" to fight childhood obesity and getting kids into fitness programs. Drive my Mother-in-law to Dr. Appointments.

**Eric Williams (D):** <http://www.WilliamsForOPPD.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: none. Past Public Office, dates held: none. Education: BS Civil Engineering Rice University, Houston TX. Military experience: none. Volunteer experience: Engineers Club of Omaha, President Nebraskan for Solar, Past-President Earth Day Omaha, Past Chair Dundee Community Garden, Past Vice President Green Omaha Coalition, Past Board Member.

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

**Tom Barrett:** Since being elected to OPPD in 2012, my focus has always been to bring more renewable energy sources into OPPD's energy portfolio. OPPD is too dependent on coal, but in the last six years huge changes have occurred in the use of wind and solar power. Renewable energy has jumped by 10% in 2012 to 33% in 2018 and is projected to be 40% by 2019 and 50% by 2020. OPPD will complete its first community solar farm in June 2019 in Fort Calhoun. These are concrete results without raising your rates.

**Eric Williams:** I strongly support renewable energy, which represents an opportunity for local jobs, economic development, lower costs, and protection for air and water. I support more wind energy with appropriate environmental considerations. I also support implementation of utility scale solar, community solar programs incorporating public input, and distributed solar on homes and businesses. OPPD should consider and adopt strong policies around clean energy, which have been successful at other utilities.

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

**Tom Barrett:** Good Government doesn't happen behind closed doors. During my term, I voted to have all OPPD's meeting and records available to the public. I spearheaded a move to have the Board meetings moved from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. so more folks would be able to attend meetings or view them online. The management team holds several stakeholder meetings throughout the year so the customers-owners can voice their opinions. Right now, I'm not a fan of term-limits for OPPD, you lose too many independent voices.

**Eric Williams:** I am dedicated to improved public engagement with all members of our community. I will continue to host and attend public meetings to discuss OPPD policies and gather feedback. I will also continue to be available to my constituents by multiple communication methods. Term limits on their own do not ensure transparency. Instead, I support informed voting by as many people as possible, and programs to make sure everyone feels included in our elections so the most qualified candidates are elected.

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

**Tom Barrett:** My No. #1 priority is to keep electric rates low and stable. This is done by controlling costs, moving away from coal, especially in my North Omaha district. I will work for new, lower-cost renewable energy projects such as the community solar farm in Fort Calhoun, smart-grid innovations, and economic development projects such as the FaceBook data center. OPPD must be competitive with other utilities by running a lean operation and ALWAYS putting the customer-owner first.

**Eric Williams:** The rate restructure approved by the Board in 2015 increased fixed fees on electric bills, which was known to hurt low and moderate income homes, as well as people who conserve energy. More effort should have been taken to identify and reach out to those hurt by higher fees, and ensure that we have fair and affordable rates for everyone. I will work to invest in new energy market opportunities including energy efficiency, smart grid technology, and the tremendous potential of electric vehicles.

**OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT — SUBDIVISION 7**

**Mick Mines (R):** No response received.

**Janece Mollhoff (NP):** <http://janecemollhoff.com>. Current Public Office, dates held: Ashland City Council 2015-present. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Bachelors in Nursing; Masters in Social Work. Military experience: 4 years USAF; 28 years US Army Reserves. Volunteer experience: League of Women Voters of NE State Board 2015-present

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

**Mick Mines:** No response received.

**Janece Mollhoff:** Right now OPPD does not have a long-term strategic goal for energy production. The first step is to determine not just a short term goal (2020), but also to set a long term goal (2040 to 2050) and strategy to meet that goal. Increasing use of renewable energy has to be done in tandem with energy efficiency, peak load reduction and other measures that keep our bills low, provide reliable energy and create good-paying jobs in our communities.

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

**Mick Mines:** No response received.

**Janece Mollhoff:** I support the online streaming of board and committee meetings to the public, and more opportunities for public engagement on issues such as renewable energy goals, smart grids, and transmission lines. I agree that public utilities should be able to withhold proprietary information that would give an advantage to business competitors, but that exclusions should be strictly defined. Term limits do not necessarily increase transparency, and may serve to give more influence to staff and lobbyists.

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

**Mick Mines:** No response received.

**Janece Mollhoff:** My first priority would be to review energy production costs and work with other Board members and OPPD management to determine which additional strategies we can use lower our customer's bills through budgeting, energy efficiency, new technology and demand management measures. I would also review power outage data especially in rural areas to determine if more aggressive maintenance and upgrades on transmission could be done to protect families, businesses and ag operations.

**OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT – 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 working on a community/utility solar project; that should be evaluated and expanded if customer-owners are satisfied.

**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

**Linda Duckworth:** Our families and community have a right to know how OPPD operates. As LWWNE 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.

**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.

**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. I think we need more accountability and transparency on the Board, which is something I worked for as President of LWV. If I am elected to the OPPD Board, I believe my responsibility would be to diligently research the best ways to provide cost-effective power, ensure we keep bills affordable and engage the public every step of the way. S

### **PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD — SUBDISTRICT 2**

**Fred Conley (D):** No response received.

### **PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD — SUBDISTRICT 4**

**Tim McCormick (R):** No response received.

**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.

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

**Tim McCormick:** No response received.

**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.

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

**Tim McCormick:** No response received.

**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.

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

**Tim McCormick:** No response received.

**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.

### **PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD — SUBDISTRICT 6**

**Jim Thompson (D):** Unable to reach candidate.

### **PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD — SUBDISTRICT 8**

**Tim N. Fowler (R):** No response received.

**Jim Kusek (R):** No response received.

### **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.com>. 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 1**

**Shane Pekny (NP):** <http://www.shanepekny.com/>. Current Public Office, dates held: None. Past Public Office, dates held: None. Education: Bachelor of Journalism, University of Nebraska—Lincoln Master of Arts in English, University of Nebraska Omaha. Military experience: None. Volunteer experience: Bennington Soccer Club, youth soccer coach Lutheran Family Services, sponsor and mentor to a refugee family Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, former AmeriCorps member

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

**Shane Pekny:** My top priority is to listen to the concerns of Ward 1 residents and to learn how city government can advance their priorities. I am running by petition because no one else volunteered to run and because I believe my neighbors deserve strong representation. I don't come with a set agenda. My next priority is to ensure that the

Prairie Hollow development delivers maximum benefit and minimum disruption to neighboring residents. We need to manage pedestrian safety and other potential challenges.

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

**Shane Pekny:** My best qualification is that my family and I are committed to this town. We moved here five years ago because Bennington has it all: a small, tight-knit community, a welcoming church, great schools, lots of parks, and a house we could afford, all within walking and biking distance. We want more families to find these qualities in Bennington. I have worked at nonprofits in the Omaha area for 15 years, and I have lots of experience with publicprivate partnerships and public finances.

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

**Shane Pekny:** I plan to reach out to my constituents frequently by mail and e-mail. I will also be accessible. Whether on the phone, on Facebook or Twitter, on my front stoop on North Molley Street, at coffee hour at St. John's, on the soccer fields, or at Bennington Elementary when I'm picking up my kids, please come to me with your questions, suggestions, and concerns about our town's future.

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

**Shane Pekny:** I want Bennington to prosper from growth while preserving the character of a small town. This is a challenging balance to be sure, and I don't pretend to have all the answers. At the very least, we must be transparent about the costs and benefits of new opportunities. Bennington's schools bring hundreds of kids and families into town every day to learn and do business. That's fantastic, but managing the traffic is costly. To be a strong partner to the schools, we will need to be resourceful.

**BENNINGTON CITY COUNCIL — WARD 2**

**Kaye Bridgford (R):** Unable to reach candidate.

**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?**

**Kaye Bridgford:** Unable to reach candidate.

**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?**

**Kaye Bridgford:** Unable to reach candidate.

**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?**

**Kaye Bridgford:** Unable to reach candidate.

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

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

**Kaye Bridgford:** Unable to reach candidate.

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

**RALSTON CITY COUNCIL — WARD 3**

**Terri Alberhasky (D):** Education: J.D. Creighton University School of Law; B.S. Bellevue University; A.A.S. Metropolitan Community College. Volunteer experience: Bergan Mercy, EMHC; St. Gerald's, religious education & EMHC; Boys Town; LD12 caucus coordinator; Rides to the Polls; various political campaigns

**Brian Kavanaugh (D):** No response received.

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

**Terri Alberhasky:** Ralston must have a realistic plan of action for the arena in place as we owe \$4 million on debt service in the next year alone. We recently paid for a study on how to actually run an arena. The current thinking is not providing results and I will work toward actionable measures. Also, we must adhere to the budget for the entire fiscal year. Our two new professionals should be able to accurately project needs for maintenance, staffing, and capital equipment, etc.

**Brian Kavanaugh:** No response received.

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

**Terri Alberhasky:** As a lawyer, I am a professional, disciplined and analytical worker. I graduated from Creighton University School of Law and passed the bar exam while working full-time. My work experience includes positions at Boys Town Nat'l Research Hospital and First Data. Ralston needs a strong, independent voice to ensure transparency. We need to find new leadership and new voices to propel Ralston into the next decade and beyond. And there needs to be another woman at the table.

**Brian Kavanaugh:** No response received.

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

**Terri Alberhasky:** Nearly thirty years ago, I married Craig and we moved to Ralston. We raised our son, lived life and never seriously thought of moving because Ralston is that special. I welcome inclusive discussions and will seek common ground with those of diverse opinions. I will welcome constituent feedback and act on citizen concerns. We must preserve our public gathering places such as the library and parks and encourage attendance at local events to foster communication and the exchange of ideas.

**Brian Kavanaugh:** No response received.

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

**Terri Alberhasky:** The two greatest challenges for this position are 1) Engaging in real discussion of the issues in a civil manner and advocating for change, and 2) Looking toward the future and providing direction to ensure Ralston is a vibrant and solvent city for many years to come. What was sold to Ralston voters as a revenue stream to pay for increasing city expenses and reduce property taxes has emerged as a colossal money pit. Tough decisions need to be made and we can't kick the can very much farther.

**Brian Kavanaugh:** No response received.

**RALSTON CITY COUNCIL — WARD 4**

**Jerry Krause (R):** Unable to reach candidate.

**RALSTON CITY COUNCIL — WARD 5**

**Michael Sanchez (NP):** No response received.

**CONCLUSION**

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.

All citizens over the age of 16 are invited to membership in the League of Women Voters. Dues for first-time members are \$45. Please check our website for more information.

Please visit **OmahaLWV.org** or **Vote411.org** for responses to additional questions and printable content for your voting district.