



2020 General Election Nebraska

www.vote411.org



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2020 Nebraska General Election Table of Contents

General 2020 Notes

Nebraska Voters Urged to Vote by Mail

Presidential Race

Federal Races (Nebraska)

U.S. Senator

[U. S. House of Representatives, District 1](#)

[U. S. House of Representatives, District 2](#)

[U. S. House of Representatives, District 3](#)

Nebraska State Legislature

[State Legislature, District 1](#)

[State Legislature, District 3](#)

[State Legislature, District 15](#)

[State Legislature, District 17](#)

[State Legislature, District 21](#)

[State Legislature, District 23](#)

[State Legislature, District 25](#)

[State Legislature, District 27](#)

[State Legislature, District 29](#)

[State Legislature, District 35](#)

[State Legislature, District 37](#)

[State Legislature, District 43](#)

[State Legislature, District 45](#)

[State Legislature, District 49](#)

Natural Resource Districts

[Central Platte District 4](#)

[Lower Big Blue District 1](#)

[Lower Elkhorn District 1](#)

[Lower Elkhorn District 2](#)

[Lower Elkhorn District 4](#)

[Lower Platte North District 3](#)

[Lower Platte North District 5](#)

[Lower Platte North District 7](#)

[Lower Platte North District 9](#)
[Lower Platte South District 2](#)
[Lower Platte South District 2](#)
[Lower Platte South District 9](#)
[Lower Platte South District 10](#)
[Middle Republican District 3](#)
[Nemaha District 4](#)
[Papio Missouri River Subdistrict 1](#)
[Papio Missouri River Subdistrict 3](#)
[Papio Missouri River Subdistrict 5](#)
[Papio Missouri River Subdistrict 7](#)
[Papio Missouri River Subdistrict 9](#)
[South Platte District 7](#)
[Upper Big Blue District 4](#)
[Upper Big Blue District 5](#)

State Board of Education

[State Board of Education, District 3](#)

Public Power Districts

[KBR Rural PPD, Keya Paha](#)
[NPPD, District 1](#)
[NPPD, District 2](#)
[NPPD, District 7](#)
[NPPD, District 9](#)
[Omaha PPD, Subdivision 1](#)
[Omaha PPD, Subdivision 2](#)
[Omaha PPD, Subdivision 3](#)
[Southwest PPD, District 1](#)

College Board of Governors

[Central Community College - District 1](#)
[Metropolitan Community College – District 1](#)
[Metropolitan Community College – District 2](#)
[Metropolitan Community College – District 3](#)
[Metropolitan Community College – District 4](#)
[Southeast Community College - District 1](#)
[Southeast Community College - District 2](#)
[Southeast Community College - At Large](#)
[Western Community College - District 1](#)
[Western Community College - District 1](#)

County Races

Adams County

Adams County Supervisor District 4
Hasting School Board District 18
City of Hastings City Council Ward 3
City of Hastings City Council Ward 4
Village of Juniata

Antelope County

Arthur County

Banner County

Banner County School Board District 1

Blaine County

Blaine County

Box Butte County

Alliance School Board District 6
City of Alliance City Council

Boyd County

Brown County

Brown County Commissioner
City of Ainsworth City Council

Buffalo County

City of Gibbon – Mayor
Buffalo County Commissioner District 4
Kearney Public School Board District 7

Burt County

Burt County

Cass County

Cass County Commissioner District 4
Louisville School Board District 32

Cedar County

Hartington Airport Authority

Chase County

Chase County Commissioner District 1

Chase County Commissioner District 1

Cherry County Commissioner

Cheyenne County

Leyton School Board District 3

Clay County

City of Harvard City Council Ward 2
Harvard School Board

Colfax County

Cuming County

Custer County

Custer County Supervisor District 4
Anselmo Merna School Board District 15

Dakota County

South Sioux City School Board District 11

City of South Sioux City – City Council

Village of Emerson

Dawes County

Dawes County Commissioner District 3

Dawson County

Deuel County

Dixon County

Village of Emerson

Dodge County

Dodge County Supervisor District 4

Freeman School Board District 33-1

North Bend Central School Board District 595

Fremont Public School Board District 1

City of Fremont – Mayor

City of Fremont City Council First Ward

City of Fremont City Council Fourth Ward

Douglas County

Douglas County Commissioner District 1

Douglas County Commissioner District 3

Douglas County Commissioner District 5

Douglas County Commissioner District 7

Douglas County Public Defender

Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha – Subdivision 3

Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha – Subdivision 4

Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha – Subdivision 5

Public Service Commission – District 2

Learning Community Coordinating Council – District 02

Learning Community Coordinating Council – District 04

Learning Community Coordinating Council – District 06

Omaha Public School Board District 1

Omaha Public School Board District 3

Omaha Public School Board District 5

Omaha Public School Board District 7

Omaha Public School Board District 9

Bennington Mayor

Bennington City Council – Ward 1

Bennington City Council – Ward 2

Bennington Board of Education District 59

Boys Town Village Board of Trustees

Elkhorn Public School Board District 10

Millard Public School Board District 17

Millard Public School Board District 17

Ralston City Council Ward 1

Ralston City Council Ward 2

[Ralston City Council Ward 6](#)
[Ralston Public School Board District 54](#)
[Valley Mayor](#)
[Valley City Council](#)

[Dundy County](#)

[Fillmore County](#)

[City of Geneva City Council Ward 1](#)

[City of Geneva City Council Ward 1](#)

[Franklin County](#)

[Frontier County](#)

[Furnas County](#)

[Furnas County Commissioner District 3](#)

[Gage County](#)

[Gage County Supervisor District 2](#)

[Beatrice School Board District 15](#)

[Bertrand School Board District 54](#)

[Diller-Odell School Board Ward 2](#)

[Freeman School Board District 33-1](#)

[Lewiston School Board District 69](#)

[Wilber Clatonia School Board District 82](#)

[Village of Filley](#)

[Garden County](#)

[Garden County](#)

[Gosper County](#)

[Gosper County Commissioner District 3](#)

[Grant County](#)

[Greeley County](#)

[Hall County](#)

[City of Grand Island City Council Ward 1](#)

[City of Grand Island City Council Ward 5](#)

[Hall County Commissioner District 2](#)

[Hall County Commissioner District 6](#)

[Grand Island School Board District 2 Ward A](#)

[Grand Island School Board District 2 Ward B](#)

[Village of Alda](#)

[Doniphan Trumbull School Board District 126](#)

[City of Wood River – Mayor](#)

[City of Wood River City Council Ward 1](#)

[Wood River School Board District 83](#)

[Hamilton County](#)

[Harlan County](#)

[Harlan County Supervisor District 2](#)

[Harlan County Supervisor District 4](#)

[Alma Public School Board](#)

[Hayes County](#)

[Hitchcock County](#)

Holt County

Holt County Supervisor District 2

Village of Stuart

Hooker County

Howard County

Howard County Commissioner District 2

Jefferson County

Johnson County

Johnson County Commissioner District 2

Kearney County

Minden School Board

Kearney Public School Board District 7

Keith County

Keith County Commissioner District 1

Keya Paha County

KBR Rural PPD, Keya Paha

Kimball County

Kimball County Commissioner

Kimball School Board District 1

City of Kimball – City Council

Village of Bushnell

Village of Dix

Knox County

Knox County Supervisor District 4

Crofton Community School Board District 96

Lancaster County

Lancaster County Commissioner District 2

Palmyra School Board District OR-1

Waverly School Board Ward 2

Lincoln County

City of North Platte – Mayor

Lincoln County Commissioner District 1

Lincoln County Commissioner District 4

City of North Platte City Council Ward 1

City of North Platte City Council Ward 2

City of North Platte City Council Ward 3

City of North Platte City Council Ward 4

Logan County

Loup County

Madison County

Madison County Commissioner District 2

Elkhorn Valley Public School Board District 80

City of Norfolk City Council Ward 1

City of Norfolk City Council Ward 2

City of Battle Creek City Council

McPherson County

[Merrick County](#)

[Morrill County](#)

[Morrill County Commissioner At Large](#)

[Nance County](#)

[Nance County Supervisor](#)

[Nemaha County](#)

[City of Peru City Council West Ward](#)

[Nuckolls County](#)

[Nuckolls County](#)

[Otoe County Commissioner District 5](#)

[Pawnee County](#)

[Pawnee County Commissioner District 1](#)

[Lewiston School Board District 69](#)

[Perkins County](#)

[Phelps County](#)

[Bertrand School Board District 54](#)

[Holdrege School Board District 44](#)

[City of Holdrege City Council – Ward 3](#)

[City of Holdrege City Council – Ward 4](#)

[Pierce County](#)

[City of Pierce City Council](#)

[Platte County](#)

[Columbus Public School Board](#)

[Lakeview Community School Board](#)

[City of Columbus City Council – Ward 3](#)

[City of Columbus City Council – Ward 4](#)

[Polk County](#)

[Red Willow County](#)

[Red Willow County Commissioner District 2](#)

[Richardson County](#)

[Richardson County Commissioner District 3](#)

[Humboldt School Board District 70](#)

[Rock County](#)

[Saline County](#)

[Friend Public School Board](#)

[City of Friend City Council District 1](#)

[City of Friend City Council District 2](#)

[Saline County Commissioner District 3](#)

[Saline County Commissioner District 5](#)

[Wilber Clatonia School Board District 82](#)

[Sarpy County](#)

[City of Bellevue City Council – Ward 3](#)

[City of Bellevue City Council – At Large](#)

[City of Gretna – Mayor](#)

[City of Greta City Council – Ward 2](#)

[City of LaVista City Council – Ward 4](#)

[City of Papillion City Council – Ward 3](#)
[Bellevue Public School Board](#)
[Papillion-LaVista School Board](#)
[Saunders County](#)
[Saunders County Supervisor District 2](#)
[Saunders County Supervisor District 4](#)
[Village of Valparaiso](#)
[Village of Prague](#)
[Scotts Bluff County](#)
[City of Scottsbluff City Council](#)
[Seward County](#)
[Seward County Commissioner District 2](#)
[City of Milford – Mayor](#)
[City of Milford City Council – Ward 2](#)
[Village of Pleasant Dale](#)
[Village of Pleasant Dale](#)
[Sheridan County](#)
[Sherman County](#)
[Loup City School Board District 1](#)
[Sioux County](#)
[Sioux County Commissioner](#)
[Stanton County](#)
[Thayer County](#)
[Thomas County](#)
[Thurston County](#)
[Village of Emerson](#)
[Valley County](#)
[Washington County](#)
[Washington County Board of Supervisors District 5](#)
[Washington County Board of Supervisors District 7](#)
[Wayne County](#)
[Webster County](#)
[Wheeler County](#)
[York County](#)
[City of Henderson – Mayor](#)
[City of York City Council](#)
[York School Board](#)

Understanding Your Right to Vote

[Overseas Voters](#)
[Homeless Voters](#)
[Former Felons and Formerly Incarcerated](#)
[Individuals with Disabilities](#)
[Voter Registration](#)
[Provisional Ballots](#)
[Resource Links](#)

GENERAL 2020 NOTES

1. Candidate information has not been edited, corrected or modified and is presented exactly as submitted by the candidate.
2. Candidates who submitted their content **prior to** September 29 are included in this document.
3. Candidate information that was submitted **after** September 29 may be accessed via the Vote411.org portal.
4. Candidates may reach out to LWV of Nebraska for inclusion in Vote411's online portal anytime up to the November 3rd election via #5 below.
5. Candidates who are interested in participating in the Vote411.org online portal may email their name, county, and race to LWVNE Voter Services at NebraskaVotersGuideLWV@gmail.com
6. Candidates were notified of the character limits for biographical and open-ended answers. If the limit was exceeded, that answer will be truncated – possibly even mid-sentence.
7. Candidates who did not respond to LWVNE's Invitation to Participate are noted with 'No response received'.
8. Candidates in uncontested races were not contacted. **Only candidates who have OPTED IN to participating in Vote411 will appear in this document and on the online Vote411 portal.**
9. **Judges:** Information on judges up for retention can be found at: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nebar.com/resource/resmgr/for_the_public/2020_judicial-poll_complete.pdf
10. **Ballot Initiatives:** Visit Vote411.org to view ballot initiatives.

NEBRASKA VOTERS URGED TO VOTE BY MAIL

Early Voting by Mail (formerly known as Absentee Voting)

No excuse is needed to vote by mail in Nebraska. All voters are encouraged to request a vote-by-mail ballot by completing and signing an early voting application form. Return the application to your local election official. You can take a picture or scan your application and email it to your local county election official. You can also mail or fax your application to your local county election official. We encourage you to request a mail-in ballot.

Ballots will begin to be mailed to voters starting September 28. October 23 is the last day to request a mail ballot. Once a ballot is received, **all ballots must be signed and returned to the county election office or a county drop box.**

Ballots must be received by your local county election office by 8 pm CT (7pm MT) on election day, November 3. **Do not return your ballot to a polling place.** You can track your ballot's status at the [Nebraska Voter Information Center](http://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/voterview/) at www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/voterview/

Early Voting in Person

Beginning October 5, you may go to your local county election to vote early in person. The last day to vote early in local county election offices is November 2.

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Joe Biden (D):

<http://www.joebiden.com>

Donald Trump (R): No response received

Jo Jorgensen (L): This candidate qualified for the Nebraska state ballot according to the Secretary of State of Nebraska, but did not meet the LWVEF criteria for inclusion in the Voters' Guide

WHAT ACTIONS WOULD YOU TAKE TO BALANCE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE US, BOTH IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 AND FOR THE LONG TERM?

Joe Biden: It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March –surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING OUR COUNTRY AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO ADDRESS IT DURING YOUR FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE?

Joe Biden: Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS RACIAL INJUSTICE IN OUR COUNTRY ON DAY ONE OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION?

Joe Biden: America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities

that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color –building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

WHAT ASPECTS OF OUR CURRENT IMMIGRATION POLICY WILL YOUR ADMINISTRATION ADDRESS FIRST?

Joe Biden: My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

WHAT WILL YOU DO OVER THE LONG TERM TO ENSURE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR ALL?

Joe Biden: This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

Note: All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria during the primary season:

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President.
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes

Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter. If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not yet responded." is printed.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

U. S. SENATE

Chris Janicek (Dem):

<http://chrisforsenate2020.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Mary Our Queen Catholic -Archbishop Ryan High School -University of NE - Omaha*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Youth Emergency Services -Nebraska Aids Project -Big Brothers/Sisters -Stephen Center -Open Door Mission*

Ben Sasse (Rep):

No response received

Gene Siadek (L):

No response received

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD CONGRESS DO TO PROTECT THE U.S. VOTING SYSTEM FROM FOREIGN INFLUENCE?

Chris Janicek: We must invest in our election infrastructure to protect the integrity of our elections. Congress' primary focus needs to be securing our elections from foreign influence. 17 U.S. intelligence agencies found Russia interfered and attempted to influence the 2016 elections with most agreeing that they did influence the outcome. Russia itself announced it plans to do it again in 2020. Robert Muller's report stated "they are doing it as we speak." The federal government must act with the urgency, force and funding that this threat to our democracy deserves. The threats of cyber attacks on paperless voting machines has to be addressed immediately. Congress must put a plan together to protect back-end election management systems with paper audit trails. A national law requiring all votes to be recorded on paper would be the easiest fix. States then will be required to conduct statistically sound, risk-limiting audits after every election so the results of our votes are accurate.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Chris Janicek: Science backed evidence establishes that climate change is real. Under this current administration we can forecast more attacks on the environment right now and in the future. I will work tirelessly in challenging the lawlessness of environmental protections being lifted and work towards reducing carbon emissions and clean water legislation. I will advocate relentlessly for solutions that will protect people, farms, animals and the planet, now and for the future. The United States must re-enter the Paris climate agreement and work with other countries on a global scale. We must invest in wind energy, solar, geo-thermal, nuclear, hydro and all other forms of green energy. We must stop new fossil fuel exploration and phase out leaking and polluting pipelines. Our environment is suffering, wildlife is struggling with a loss of habitat and starving. We cannot wait, we must take action now. We must elect better representatives. I want a democracy to live in and a planet to live on.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION POLICY?

Chris Janicek: Our current immigration policy is not working and is a violation of human rights and current immigration law. Immigrants crossing the border through legal ports of entry seeking asylum should be documented and within 48 hours have a legal decision on residency. It is costing the U.S. taxpayer hundreds of \$millions and destroying families and lives in detaining immigrants that could be integrated into our workforce and economy. They are coming here in search of a better life. Immigrants who cross the border illegally should be exposed to our legal system to determine eligibility for documentation and/or returned to their country. Those that break and violate our laws should be deported. The United States has close to 900,00 DACA (deferred action for early childhood arrivals) protected immigrants. This protection could be revoked at any time under the current administration. I advocate putting all DACA members on a path to citizenship. The U.S. is the only home they have known.

WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR "SENSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION"?

Chris Janicek: The 2nd Amendment protects the right of gun ownership. I respect this amendment. Over 90% of Americans, including gun owners, support common sense gun laws. I am for enforcing the laws we currently have and recommend the following: 1) Root out the problems that make guns too easy to obtain, regulating easy, unrestricted access. 2) Background checks on all purchases. 3) Registration on all owned firearms. 4) Gun training and a certificate or license to own and operate. Compare to driver's education and license. 5) Insurance on guns in case of an accident. 6) National assault weapon registry and off premise "assault weapon library" storage with check out accessibility.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 1

Kate Bolz (Dem):

<http://katebolz.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nebraska State Senator, 2013-present*

EDUCATION: *University of Michigan, MSW Nebraska Wesleyan University, BS/BA*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Meals on Wheels Volunteer Board Member, Lincoln Public Schools Foundation Governor's Board of Advisors, Nebraska Wesleyan University Board Member, Nebraska Association of Social Workers*

Jeff Fortenberry (Rep):

No response received

Dennis B Grace (L):

<http://electdennisgrace.com>

EDUCATION: *Omaha South High School-1988; Metro Community College-1996, associates in Criminal Justice; Bellevue University- 2003, Bachelor's Degree, Criminal Justice*

Administration; Bellevue University, 2004-2005, no degree, Master's levels course work in Sec
MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *US Navy, USS Forrestal, Aviation Boatswains Mate (Aircraft Handler), Honorable Discharge 1990*

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD CONGRESS DO TO PROTECT THE U.S. VOTING SYSTEM FROM FOREIGN INFLUENCE?

Kate Bolz: I support provisions in H.R. 1 to protect our American democracy, including clarifications on the the prohibition of participation of foreign nationals in election-related activities, auditing and reporting of illicit foreign money in Federal elections, and prohibitions on contributions and donations by foreign nationals in connection with ballot initiatives and referenda.

Dennis B Grace: Congress has tried to pass bills to combat that issue, but cant move past their budgetary chess board. Their idea is simply to throw money at cyber security, to the tune of tens of billions of dollars each year, just to watch as an average of 78 reported cyber attacks on government systems happen each year. And at the end of it all, they place the responsibility at the feet of the states. Which is where it belongs, of course. Congress can provide funding and IT assistance to the states. In at least one Congressional advisory statement, it is suggested that the Department of Homeland Security and the intelligence apparatus be the arbiter of security, as well as accuracy, in elections. It is suggested we allow the Department of Homeland Security even more access to personal information and complete control of YOUR voter registration. I'm

sure most people would see the risk potential there. Leave the process to the states, where they can quickly and locally address problems.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Kate Bolz: I would prioritize a transition to a clean energy economy to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels, including incentives for innovation and re-training programs for workers. In the Nebraska Legislature, I have supported the University of Nebraska Water for Food Institute, which uses training and technology to increase water sustainability, and as a Member of Congress would develop additional similar institutes nationwide.

Dennis B Grace: The problem with addressing real issues like climate change, is that we are quick to immediately label it a crisis and activate emotional response systems. Rather than stating that some of human industrialization may be causing unforeseen damage to our ecosystems, we show videos of polar bears. In order to have an immediate impact on climate change, we must be truthful with the facts and understand that much of what we see is cyclical. We know that nuclear energy is not only the cleanest form of energy, but also among the safest and most regulated industries. Nuclear power is the best way forward, and an important aspect to combat climate change. Funding conservation efforts, promoting sustainable urban farming, fishing and outdoor education, and getting people out of the house will provide a lifetime of benefits. Imagine the difference we can make by simply spending more time without devices, talking to our neighbors, and teaching our children about the world around them.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION POLICY?

Kate Bolz: I believe in comprehensive immigration reform and a humane response to families at the border. In my service in the Nebraska Legislature, I have voted for driver's licenses and professional licensure for Dreamers.

Dennis B Grace: Immigration policy is such a politicized issue that it literally tears apart families. Ironic, when we think about it. The immigration issue is a political hand grenade. Just mentioning it can spell the end of a new politician's dreams of public service. But I've made it a central issue in my campaign. Our current issues regarding immigration policy are repairable by addressing three primary facets: border security, current illegal immigrants, and relations with our neighbor states. No conversation can be complete without addressing our porous border. But we can do it without hostilities. We can address the role all immigrants have played in our country and the benefits of their presence. We can do this while maintaining our principles and their dignity. We can help our neighbors rectify their emigration issues while maintaining their sovereignty.

WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR "SENSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION"?

Kate Bolz: First and foremost, I believe in violence prevention strategies, including job training programs, after school programs, and family counseling services. Like the majority of Americans, I also support universal background checks.

Dennis B Grace: Sensible gun legislation has already been passed and is used, in the form of background checks and restrictions on fully automatic weapons. I would revisit discussions on suppressors, which are not as they are depicted in the movies.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 2

Don Bacon (Rep):

<http://donjbacon.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Representative, Nebraska's Second District 2017 - current*

EDUCATION: *Masters, National War College; MBA, University of Phoenix; BA, Northern Illinois University*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *29.5 years in United States Air Force; Retired as Brigadier General; Five time commander, including Ramstein and Offutt; Four deployments; Former Director of ISR Strategy, Plans, Doctrine and Force Development, AF/A2, Headquarters of USAF, Pentagon*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *My volunteerism has included the following: - USAF Academy Advisory Board - VP, Air Force Association, Aksarben Chapter - Chaplain, Nebraska Military Officers Association of America - Boy Scout Merit Badge University Instructor - Life member VFW*

Kara Eastman (Dem): <http://www.eastmanforcongress.com>

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors 2015-2019*

EDUCATION: *MSW Loyola U; BA Pitzer College*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *She has been a board member of the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands and has served as an appointed member of the Mayor of Omaha's Fair Housing Advisory Board.*

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD CONGRESS DO TO PROTECT THE U.S. VOTING SYSTEM FROM FOREIGN INFLUENCE?

Don Bacon: As a retired USAF intelligence general officer who oversaw cyber intelligence training for the Air Force, this is an area of concern that I take seriously and have taken actions in our defense. There are three areas of concern with election security and foreign influence: election ballot hacking, social media influence operations, and hacking into candidate emails with intent to undermine those candidates. Congress has a role to defend our voting process from foreign influence, but that does not include taking control of elections away from the states,

staying in compliance with our Constitution. I've cosponsored bills to strengthen cyber-security, which gave over \$800 million to states to shore up their election systems. I cosponsored the Honest Ads Act which increases transparency into social media ads and reduces foreign intelligence capabilities in this area. My three decades of experience in cybersecurity and intelligence makes me a key voice in Congress on national security.

Kara Eastman: We need to invest in our Democracy, which means investing in election security. I support a government which is efficient and transparent. The current administration has too many ties to large corporations, not to mention business arrangements with some of our foreign adversaries. Similarly, my Republican opponent accepts a great deal of corporate PAC money from special interests. This is wrong, and I will not accept corporate PAC dollars. I also think "dark" money should not be allowed to corrupt our elections. Therefore, I stand against the 2010 Supreme Court decision Citizens United. Gerrymandering must be ended, and citizen commissions should draw fair, non-partisan districts. Participation in our electoral democracy must be increased through automatic voter registration and by ending voter suppression tactics. Finally, I have seen how difficult it is for candidates who do not come from wealth to raise funds and want to move toward public funding of federal election campaigns.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Don Bacon: I believe climate change is real and happening. I am a strong supporter of renewable energy and I led the efforts in the U.S. House to reinstate tax credits for its producers. In fact, I was called the "Champion of Wind Energy" by leaders of renewable energy in Omaha. I believe in incentivizing behavior we want, not using punishments. I believe in the "all of the above" approach so that our nation expands in renewable energy, but also so that we become energy independent. With these incentives, our free market system and innovation have enabled America to reduce carbon emissions more than the next 12 countries combined, while becoming the largest energy producer in the world. American natural gas has been part of this success and it burns 40% cleaner than Europe's. I also support battery storage and carbon capture research to expand our renewable energy capabilities. I oppose carbon taxes that will raise gas prices, utilities costs and air fares, and that falls unfairly on the poor.

Kara Eastman: Climate change is the number one moral and security threat our nation faces. We must reorient our environmental and economic policies to meet this incredible challenge and once again become a global leader in innovation and sustainability. Following the 2020 elections, we must get back into international agreements like the Paris Agreement and then aggressively update them to bring down carbon emissions. In the meantime, wind and solar must be harnessed as clean energy options, especially here in Nebraska. I will fight for a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, getting to net-zero by 2040, and a 100% clean energy plan for America.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION POLICY?

Don Bacon: When I first ran for Congress I supported a pathway for DACA recipients when many in my party did not. I was one of seven GOP representatives who asked the President to reconsider his policy on DACA, and he subsequently modified his views. I support allowing

those with TPS protections to stay in the country legally while they pursue citizenship, because they have contributed to society and proven to be good neighbors. I was also one of the GOP representatives to ask the President to stop the policy of family separations (which was started in previous Administration) and he subsequently shifted to a more humane policy, while still protecting children who are being trafficked or in custody of adults wanted for previous crimes. I support E-Verify and better border controls, including a targeted border wall, to reduce illegal immigration and human/drug trafficking. Evidence exists that walls work. In the end, we must support legal immigration and respect those who naturalize the legal way.

Kara Eastman: NE-CD2 has over 100,000 immigrants who contribute to key sectors of our economy and help build the fabric of our diverse community. The current administration's policies of separating families, imprisoning babies without access to basic needs, and rounding up hard-working immigrants is immoral and un-American. They are more concerned with scoring political points with their base than they are with border security. Now is the time for us to make significant investments in smart technology, work-force development, and foreign aid. Other solutions that transform our immigration system include hiring more immigration judges and fully staffing ports of entry. We must make law-abiding Dreamers citizens and ensure that immigrants who follow the law can earn a lawful presence in our country.

WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR "SENSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION"?

Don Bacon: The best thing we can do to reduce senseless gun violence is to enforce laws already on the books. Criminals don't follow laws, so creating new ones won't have an impact. Instead, we should focus on enforcement of existing laws. I've worked closely with the law enforcement community on legislation they say will be of the greatest benefit in reducing gun violence, like straw purchases (when someone buys a gun for an individual who is not allowed to have one) and stronger information fusion centers, which allow law enforcement agencies to better communicate with each other regarding threats. Our own Omaha Chief of Police says the most important action we can take to reduce gun violence in Omaha is enforce the Straw Purchase Laws, which are not being enforced now and leads to dangerous felons getting firearms illegally. I supported the Stop School Violence Act that passed, and led efforts to fund these needed programs.

Kara Eastman: As a mom, I am outraged by the lack of movement we have seen in the country on this issue. Groups like the NRA have commandeered the discussion. This is a public health menace, and common-sense solutions are supported by 85 to 90% of Americans. Universal background checks, mandatory waiting periods, smart technology, age requirements, and a ban on the sale of weapons of war would help ensure our children are not gunned down in their schools or playgrounds. Priorities: The vast majority of private sales (including gun shows and online) must fall under the existing background check umbrella. We must end the gun show loophole. All gun purchases should be subject to the same background check standards. I support raising the minimum age to buy a firearm to 21 years old. We need to keep guns out of the hands of young people, and this is a good way to do it.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 3

Mark Elworth Jr (Dem):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Acting State Chairperson Legal Marijuana Now Party of Nebraska and Iowa from 2015 to present*

EDUCATION: *College Diploma in Real Estate from Van Ed Educational Center, Boulder, Colorado*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Owner and operator of the Peace Garden of South Omaha, a free food bank in Omaha Nebraska*

Dustin C Hobbs (L):

No response received

Adrian Smith (Rep):

No response received

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD CONGRESS DO TO PROTECT THE U.S. VOTING SYSTEM FROM FOREIGN INFLUENCE?

Mark Elworth Jr: Right now voting is ran by the states. So the federal government needs to make sure each state has what it needs to secure voting. It's a states right issue that a state runs it's own elections. I do support states rights to keep running our elections.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Mark Elworth Jr: I support the green new deal. I support building a new economy based on sustainability. I support green energy and recycling programs. I want to get our electric vehicle grid built, so that it's convenient to start driving electric cars nationwide. We should start growing earth friendly crops like hemp and cannabis and produce products and jobs from them. .

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION POLICY?

Mark Elworth Jr: I'm for more legal immigration. Lots of our farming and labor are done with the help of immigration. I want a road for good people who are here illegal now to become legal in the future.

WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR "SENSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION"?

Mark Elworth Jr: I'm for the second amendment. I think marijuana should be legalized and that it should no longer be considered a federal crime to possess both guns and marijuana at the same time. You shouldn't lose gun rights because you use marijuana.

***** VOTE EARLY! *****

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 1

Janet Palmtag (NP):

<http://PalmtagForNebraska.com>

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Univ of Nebraska Presidents Advisory 2009-2019, NE Dept of Economic Development Commissioner 2002-2010, NE Equal Opportunity Commissioner 2012-2018, Nebr City Airport Auth 2002-2008*

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska B.S. University of Phoenix M.B.A. Peru State College Lourdes Central Catholic Highschool*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: St. Marys hospital foundation, Veterans memorial bldg renovation, India-women entr. training, Kenya-dental/medical clinic, NYC hurricane recovery, CASA, student tutor, Habitat for Humanity, Nat'l organization flood response, Brownville Concert Series

Julie Slama (NP):

No response received

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Janet Palmtag: No. Redistricting is handled by the state legislature, whom we elected. They should ensure that it is done fairly and for valid purposes, without partisan political intentions. We must demand this of our representatives in the Nebraska Unicameral.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Janet Palmtag: Yes. I support Secretary of State Evnen's effort to ensure a voter is who they claim to be, without creating an unfair burden on voters. Fair elections are paramount to democracy.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Janet Palmtag: The prison systems are in a critical state and the problems must be addressed urgently. There are under-utilized solutions that show significant promise, like increasing funding for mental health and drug treatment programs, and using problem-solving courts like "Drug Court" and "Veterans Court" to address populations that have special needs within the justice system, and building additional prison space. Allocating funds for services to reduce prisoner bottlenecks -- like drug testing when coming into the system and required drug

treatment programming for getting out -- will reduce the prison population and "warehousing" citizens. I'll work tirelessly to help resolve this urgent crisis.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Janet Palmtag: Paid family leave is important for strengthening our families and the development of children- also for keeping quality employees at our Nebraska companies. Small business owners are hit hardest, however, when trying to finance and manage their businesses of just a few employees in leave situations. Voluntary paid programs are used to attract and maintain quality workforce but with smaller companies, the employer cannot afford the duplication of payroll costs, nor can the employee afford to take needed time off- it's a problem. I support a voluntary plan because a mandatory plan without help to protect small businesses could close small businesses and cost the very jobs we are trying to improve for women. I'm a mother of three and a small business owner. I know first-hand the struggles faced here. Our company has been a supporter of family-first management policies for my entire career, but it's not enough. We need to find a solution.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Janet Palmtag: The Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission does a good job of monitoring campaign contributions and expenditures with full transparency so we can see how candidates are being funded and by whom. Nebraska is one of the most transparent governments in the nation.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Janet Palmtag: We must help our businesses and workforce survive during this pandemic and after by simplifying processes for unemployment , loans for business and mortgage loan suspensions, and extending filing deadlines as needed. Nebraska and our Federal Government have been very responsive thus far but when this is over, already fragile situations will be dire. Rural broadband Internet has become as important as utilities. School online, telemedicine and work from home during this pandemic has taught us that access to high-speed Internet is critical to every Nebraskan. We need accurate coverage maps to be awarded grants and we must work with Internet service providers quickly to build high-speed Internet infrastructure in rural Nebraska. Going forward, Nebraska needs its own reserve supply of medical respirators, facemasks, and virus-testing equipment plus other supplies to help address non-viral health crises.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 3

Carol Blood (NP):

<http://www.carolblood.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *2016 to 2020 Nebraska Legislature-District 3 Senator*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *2008 to 2016 Bellevue City Council At-Large Council Representative*

EDUCATION: *Metropolitan Community College*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Bellevue Public Safety Foundation, Nebraska Farmers Market, Sarpy County Nursing Homes, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Sarpy County Museum, Nebraska Veteran's Day Parade, Riverfest, Worldfest, Bellevue Police Citizens Advisory Council*

Rick Holdcroft (NP):

No response received

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Carol Blood: Yes it does. It is paramount that we have a process that is fair, non-partisan and information based. The location of district lines decide which voters will vote for which representative. Changing these lines changes the relevant voters, and it can also change the identity, allegiance, and political priorities of a district's representative, and of the body of the legislature as a whole. We must have a process that does not dilute minority votes, divide communities, or increase partisanship here in Nebraska.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Carol Blood: I believe that it is our job to make it easier for people to vote and not harder. There is zero evidence of voter fraud in Nebraska. We have many more important problems to address such as property taxes, school funding and public health. We should not be trying to find a solution to a problem that does not exist where there are many more important issues to be handled.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Carol Blood: There's no one fix for the overcrowding issue. The most obvious and easily addressed issue that must be kept in the forefront is making sure those who are eligible for parole have easy access to the rehabilitation programs that are required in order for them to be released by the State Board of Parole. However, there is a component that must be fixed and that is making sure the parole board offers release reconsideration should someone be denied and also makes it a priority to get those ready for parole in front of them to move them through the system. I think we are moving in the right direction by looking at our laws and deciding if the punishments truly fit the crimes when they are victimless crimes. We strive to keep people out at the judicial level and work with special demographics such as we do in Veteran's Court. It's not

one answer, it's many answers. Additionally, if we lift up those who live in cycles of poverty and provide good resources, we sent a foundation for the future

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Carol Blood: The reasons for paid family medical leave are endless. If you look at the current research on this benefit, it clearly shows that businesses who offer paid family and medical leave have increased employee loyalty and reduced turnover, resulting in a cost-saving for businesses. It allows employees the flexibility to devote more time to family demands, which boosts efficiency, productivity and engagement while on the job. In a state where we have more jobs than we do people, it would serve us well to be more enticing to young families who may be considering which states offer them a competitive advantage where they may want to live and raise their families.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Carol Blood: Yes. I believe it will reduce the political shenanigans and partisanship that we see in today's political arena. It's nauseating to see how many people are elected based on how much they spent. I believe in Nebraska that all races should be kept at \$5,000. Then it won't be a competition as to how much money can be raised/spent but it becomes more about how many doors can be knocked. I also believe that outside organizations that get involved should be clearly transparent and MUST give clear information about who they are, where they come from (state located) and the bias they are pushing.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Carol Blood: We protect our infrastructure and economy during the pandemic by doing everything we can to flatten the curve and move Nebraska forward. We have the ability to slow down the progress if EVERYONE follows the rules and stays home whenever possible. As a member of the legislature, I and other senators made it a priority to come and vote for emergency funding to make sure our frontline pandemic workers have the tools they need. Providing unemployment benefits, resources and funding in tandem with the federal government helps to keep our citizens and businesses above water until we are on the downslide of this pandemic. Then, as things improve we must continue to be cautious while helping get Nebraska residents back into the workforce and the storefronts open as soon as we can. Meanwhile, as individuals, we can provide resources, outreach and lead by example. My office has been making thousands of outreach calls to our residents for wellness checks and to provide resources.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 15

David Rogers (NP):

No response received

Lynne M Walz (NP): <http://www.lynnnewalz.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nebraska Legislature, District 15 since 2017*

EDUCATION: *Arlington High School, 1981; Midland Lutheran College (B.A. in Elementary Educations), 1994.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Salem Lutheran Church Children's Ministry, Fremont Kiwanis, Low Income Ministry.*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Lynne M Walz: Nebraska should look at new ways to redistrict. It is not fair for politicians to draw lines for themselves or their friends. No matter what political party you belong to, free and fair elections are key to our democracy. District lines should be drawn in a nonpartisan way that excludes current and former elected officials, lobbyists, and party leaders to give the power back to the people.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Lynne M Walz: There is no evidence that voter fraud is an issue in Nebraska or in the United States. It's an unnecessary regulation to fix a problem that doesn't exist. Voter ID makes it harder for people to vote, especially minorities, low income families, young people who move around a lot, and elderly people. We should be encouraging more people to participate in the democratic process.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Lynne M Walz: This is a complex issue with no easy solution. Our number one priority is public safety. Violent offenders that have high risk of recidivism should remain in prison. However, we need to look at ways to help non-violent offenders receive rehabilitation and training through drug courts, job programs, or other means instead of throwing them in jail. This could help us lower our prison population and expand our workforce and tax base.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Lynne M Walz: I've supported family medical leave and will do so again. Right now, we are seeing the perfect example of why it's needed. Workers should be able to take care of themselves or an immediate family member without having to worry about losing their job or pay check.

Businesses will profit more in the long-run by having a healthy and productive workforce. We need to work with businesses and workers to come up with the best model for everyone.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Lynne M Walz: Until Citizens United is overturned or there is a constitutional amendment, there isn't a lot we can do. Our first priority should be to restrict dark money groups that don't disclose their donors. Elections should be based on merit, not money. That would be a good first step toward making our elections more honest and transparent for voters.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Lynne M Walz: Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, I've been talking with businesses and workers about what is needed to keep our economy afloat. I think most people agree, the health and safety of our community is the number one priority right now. We will have a lot to deal with over the next year or more in helping people get back to work. We will also have to deal with the challenge of keeping our schools strong for kids, rebuilding our needed infrastructure, keeping our healthcare system strong, and much more on a lower budget. I'll be a nonpartisan leader who will work to get things done for people in these trying times.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 17

Joni Albrecht (NP):

No response received

Sheryl Lindau (NP):

<http://www.lindauforlegislature.com>

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NE State College Board of Trustees 1994 - 2004 Mayor of Wayne 1994-2004 City of Wayne Councilmember 1986 – 1994*

EDUCATION: *BA Political Science UNL MPA UNO*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Big Sister volunteer 2007 – 2015*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Sheryl Lindau: Yes To remove political gerrymandering from the process of redrawing district lines after a new census. I would support the current ballot initiative which would take that authority away from the legislature and give it to an independent commission.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Sheryl Lindau: No

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Sheryl Lindau: Cut prison sentences for drug crimes/offer treatment for more minor drug offenses as an option. Give judges greater discretion in sentencing. Allow more prisoners to reduce their sentences through credit for good behavior. Send more foreign inmates back to their home country.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Sheryl Lindau: Yes. Paid family leave offers security to employees during significant life events and gives them the peace of mind that they are not in jeopardy of losing their jobs. It can also have a positive effect on infant and maternal health, reducing rate of infant mortality and stress and depression in mothers. It also helps employers because it can increase employee morale, productivity, and labor force attachment once the employee returns to work.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Sheryl Lindau: Yes. The Citizens United decision has resulted in unprecedented campaign spending and introduced dark money into our elections. I support disclosure to identify donors to Super PACs and to limit the amount of individual donations. I support the LWV's efforts to establish a public finance system of elections.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Sheryl Lindau: The federal government has identified 16 critical infrastructure industries in response to the COVID-19 emergency necessary for public health and safety and community well-being. State and local level decision-making to combat this crisis must include a plan to ensure their continued operation. The workers needed to maintain these critical infrastructures must be prioritized and given the support they need to continue to work during periods of community restriction, social distancing or closure orders. The health and safety of the public must be the overriding concern of public officials during this crisis. Public/private partnerships to address shortages and provide a safety net for those hit hardest by the crisis will be key until the economy can begin a return to normalcy. State and local government must continue to press the federal government for the support they need to help individuals and families pay their bills and give businesses a path survival.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 21

Brodey Weber (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 23

Bruce Bostelman (NP):

No response received

Helen Raikes (NP):

<http://raikes2020.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NA*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NA*

EDUCATION: *BS Journalism MS Human Development PhD Child Development*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *NA*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Boards of Directors: Nebraska Children and Families Foundation; Sixpence Early Learning Fund; Buffett Early Childhood Fund; Nebraska Historical Foundation; Lincoln Community Foundation; Omaha Early Learning Centers; Nebraska Jazz Orchestra*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Helen Raikes: We are upon another decade with need/opportunity to redistrict. I witnessed the redistricting that occurred following the 2000 Census and it was not admirable. Despite efforts such as those of my late husband, who was in the Legislature at that time, there was some gerrymandering to meet the aims of dominant political powers. Political power should not be driving the redistricting process. As someone who is running to powerfully represent a rural district, I, of course, do not want to see the rural portions of Nebraska lose representation, though I know recent population shifts lead in that direction. Currently, rural landholders are paying more than their share of taxpayer costs and they need representation. There needs to be a check/balance (e.g., the Nebraska Supreme Court) to ensure fairness and lack of partiality to political parties for the redistricting process.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Helen Raikes: Unnecessary ID procedures have been used to block persons from voting, especially low-income, minority and elderly voters. Not everyone has a drivers' license. The goal is to make voting accessible and easy, but also legal. I am not opposed to Voter ID, if it is reasonable to ensure you are the person on the voter list, and there is opportunity for a provisional ballot. No legal resident should be prevented from voting.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Helen Raikes: I promote more efforts on the "front end" of incarceration. Two "front end" action steps that have the potential to reduce overcrowding are sentencing reform and faster trajectories towards work or education release. Sentencing reform involves a more varied sentencing approach when it comes to minor offenses as opposed to flat sentencing. Moving more quickly towards work or education release involves identifying early on the prisoners' potential for work or education release. Next, we need to complete remediation programs early after evaluation is completed not waiting until near final release date. Then, when the remediation program is successfully completed, more speedily allow the inmate to transfer to work or education programs. Housing inmates in work or education release facilities earlier together with sentencing reform can move inmates, as appropriate, through the system more quickly, reducing overcrowding. Some new prison facilities probably will still need to be built.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Helen Raikes: There are many reasons for paid family medical leave, including childbirth (with leave for both mothers and fathers) and family illness. Our medical policies need to be humane and to lend themselves to practices that lead to the best outcomes for all. During the post partum period, trajectories for children's development and relationships are established. There is nothing more important for the parent/s than to form a relationship with their newborn, as this early period sets the stage for the child's life to come. It is also important to spend time with ill family members. It is impossible to undervalue these supports, and the tensile strength the family brings to our society.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Helen Raikes: Absolutely. Currently, outside interests dominate Nebraska politics. Two opponents for the Legislature may be authentically battling it out, when an outside interest dumps \$100,000s to a single Legislative race. The amount is insurmountable to local political aspirants and the tactics are unfair. Moreover, the simple \$25 - \$100 donations of Nebraskans in support of their candidates are totally eclipsed by the tsunami of outside funding, frequently referred to as "Dark Money." I support caps and absolute restriction of outside PAC funds in Nebraska races.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Helen Raikes: This is an important question. I do not think any of us know at this point what the specific challenges of a (hopefully) post-COVID 19 world will be. The leading industry of the state, agriculture, was already reeling before COVID and even more so today. Many of our ag economy issues could be solved by trade—removal of tariffs, new markets for our products, re-energizing the ethanol market. Perhaps we develop our own international policies and pursue them vigorously. On the other hand, the food we produce is a key commodity; we need to get out

in front of the demand. We will need more funds to support the small business and ag economy (e.g., we still have crippling local property taxes). Infrastructure, including schools and their functioning, needs to be assured, and we are still rebuilding after floods, so, bridges will require additional state funding. We will probably need to tap into reserve funds for the rebuilding period, but a leading edge will be to reestablish markets.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 25

Suzanne Geist (NP):

No response received

Stephany Pleasant (NP):

<http://PleasantforNE.com>

EDUCATION: *Nebraska College of Law, J.D., 2017 University of Nebraska - Lincoln, B.A., 2013*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Stephany Pleasant: Nebraska should review its method of redistricting and ensure that it is implemented fairly and not for the benefit of a political party.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Stephany Pleasant: "A restriction on a right, is never created to be more inclusive." Those were the wise words of my late professor, Dr. Combs. Dr. Combs taught me a long time ago, that rights should not have qualifications, and if they do, it is not a sign that the person creating the qualification wants everyone to participate. Voting is a right in this country. Voter ID laws put a qualification on this right, that prevents some from exercising that right. As such, I do not believe there is a need for them.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Stephany Pleasant: Nebraska is facing one of the worst prison overcrowding issues in the nation. This issue did not form at the end of the line. Instead, Nebraska could reduce its prison population by diverting more low-level crimes out of the penal system, giving more funding to mental health initiatives, and creating more community-based correction programs.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Stephany Pleasant: Yes. Nebraska needs to implement a paid family medical leave program. Only a few U.S. states have taken responsibility for caring for its workers and providing paid

leave for employees. Evidence shows that paid family leave creates more productive and healthier employees. It also closes the wage gap between women and men. Nebraska can provide protection for both its workers and its businesses.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Stephany Pleasant: Campaign finance reform is necessary to create a more transparent government. Constituents have the right to know who is bankrolling their candidates so they can make informed decisions on who to vote for. I support any regulation that would increase transparency.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Stephany Pleasant: To ensure Nebraska's infrastructure during and after the pandemic, we must continue to support families while they are unable to work. In addition, we cannot put more barriers on an already struggling family. That is why the state should push to block evictions and utility cut-offs during this time. Putting families out on the street will make the recovery harder and will increase the chance of the virus spreading.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 27

Brenda Bickford (NP):

No response received

Anna Wishart (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 29

Eliot Bostar (NP): <http://eliotbostar.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *This is the first time I would serve in elected office.*

EDUCATION: *BS, Business, Embry-Riddle University*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Lincoln Electric System, Board of Directors City of Lincoln Climate Resilience Task Force, Member*

Jacob Campbell (NP):

No response received

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Eliot Bostar: Voters should choose their representatives; politicians shouldn't choose their voters. To protect Nebraskans from partisan gerrymandering, Nebraska needs a nonpartisan redistricting process that ensures boundaries are drawn fairly so everyone's voice is represented in our democratic system.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Eliot Bostar: There is no need for increased voter ID requirements. This is a solution in search of a problem. Numerous studies have concluded that the occurrence of voter impersonation in this country is exceedingly rare; in fact, there have been zero documented cases of it occurring in Nebraska. The negative impacts of implementing voter ID laws, however, are wide-ranging and have been demonstrated to prevent eligible U.S. citizens from exercising their right to vote. Let's focus on making it easier to vote, not stopping eligible voters from participating.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Eliot Bostar: Nebraska has the second most overcrowded prisons in the country, which requires immediate action by the State Legislature. Comprehensive legislation that addresses overcrowding, staffing issues, and rehabilitative programming is needed to create a long-term solution to the problems facing our criminal justice system. We need to address why people are ending up in our prisons in the first place and improve services for mental health and drug addiction. For those who are already in our prison system, there needs to be robust rehabilitation programs to reduce the recidivism rate and ensure the safety of our communities. These solutions require taking a comprehensive approach and pulling many different stakeholders together. I've done this kind of work for years to address environmental and economic challenges, and will bring this same long-term, collaborative approach to addressing the problems facing our criminal justice system.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Eliot Bostar: Nebraska should have a paid family medical leave program. The current pandemic makes clear the impact of having a family member fall sick and the importance of providing flexibility for workers to care for their loved ones. Businesses and workers need to be brought together to design a common-sense approach -- that ensures workers can prioritize their wellbeing without fear of losing their job or missing a paycheck and that our small businesses can thrive.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Eliot Bostar: Yes. Nebraska is one of the only states in the country with no contribution limits for individuals, corporations, or PACs. Nebraska needs to increase transparency and reduce the influence of special interests by setting a limit on campaign donations and passing other common sense reforms.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Eliot Bostar: The health and safety of Nebraskans is the most important thing for us to focus on as we look at how to stabilize the economy and rebuild in the wake of COVID-19. Most immediately, we need to ensure our critical infrastructure - medical facilities, utilities, and supply chains - is secure and reliable as the pandemic spreads. We also need to be compassionate towards those who have been impacted by illness or job-loss. As a member of the LES Board, I advocated to suspend disconnections. Our utilities must continue to provide this relief to those in our community who need help. Once this public health crisis is over we need to get Nebraskans back to work. We must support our small, local businesses - those places that form the identity of our community and create thousands of jobs. We need to invest in our roads, bridges, dams and levees. We also have to invest in our human infrastructure, by supporting quality schools, paid family medical leave, and access to affordable healthcare.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 35

Raymond M Aguilar (NP):

No response received

Dan Quick (NP):

<http://www.votedanquick.com/>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *State Senator, District 35, 2017-Current*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *High School Graduate, Hordville High School*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Knights of Columbus events, Church Events - Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Grand Island Central Catholic Events*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Dan Quick: Yes. Fair elections are fundamental to our democratic process. Politicians should not choose their own constituents, the people should choose who represents them. The only fair

way to do this is to have an independent committee draw district lines without the influence of elected officials, lobbyists, special interest groups, and party leaders.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Dan Quick: After the 2016 election, President Trump launched a commission to investigate voter fraud. The commission found no evidence that voter fraud was a problem. Requiring an ID to vote is trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist and in the process, it disenfranchises low-income families, minorities, and other groups who don't have IDs or up-to-date IDs. We should be encouraging more people to vote and be engaged in the process.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Dan Quick: We need corrections reformed to address prison overcrowding for the safety of the inmates and the corrections officers. The public safety of our citizens should always be our top concern. We need to work to keep non-violent offenders that don't pose a risk to the public out of jail and give them rehabilitation and assistance that they need rather than throwing them behind bars. We also need to examine why our numbers are so high and invest in education, mental health services, and other programs that are proven to help keep people out of the system.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Dan Quick: We need a plan that works for businesses and workers. Studies show that businesses are most productive when their workforce is happy and healthy. Workers need time to take care of themselves and immediate family when they are sick so they don't spread it to other people. A paid family leave program allows families to receive the care they need without worrying about losing their job or seeing a decreased paycheck.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Dan Quick: This is a difficult question to answer as I have run for election before and needed campaign contributions to run a successful campaign. I do believe that elections should be fair, transparent, and based on merit and ideas and as much as some would like to see money out of politics, funding is a critical part of getting your message out to voters. However, voters should make choices based on who would best represent them, not who could afford the most advertising. From my experience hard work, honesty, and meeting people face to face are big factors in getting elected. Common-sense restrictions that put certain limits on campaign fundraising might be beneficial, but because of Supreme Court rulings like *Citizens United v. FEC*, we are limited in what we can do right now. One of the biggest issues facing politics is dark money. The ability for groups to receive and spend unlimited funds without having to disclose the donors creates distrust between the voters and candidates.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Dan Quick: Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, I've been talking with businesses, workers, and health leaders about how to keep our community safe, while keeping our economy intact as much as possible. Over the next couple years we will have a lot to consider, including getting working families back to their jobs and ensuring assistance for local businesses. We also need to ensure we work with medical professionals to improve our healthcare system for future events, rebuilding our infrastructure, and keeping our school system strong for our kids. We need nonpartisan leaders right now who will do what is best for our community and for Nebraska, not their party. I am committed to putting the people's needs first.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 37

Mercadies Damratowski (NP):

No response received

John S Lowe Sr (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 43

Tom Brewer (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 45

Susan Hester (NP):

<http://votesusanhester.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Bachelors Degree in Secondary Social Studies Education earned at The Ohio State*

University. Masters Degree in Special Education with an emphasis in High Ability Learners from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Bellevue Public Schools Foundation Executive Board, ENCAP Board, CDBG Committee for the City of Bellevue, Bellevue Together, Kiwanis, Bellevue Women's Club, Bellevue Fraternal Order of the Eagles*

Rita Sanders (NP):

No response received

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Susan Hester: Nebraska, like much of the United States, needs to change its method of redistricting. Leaving this entire process to partisan participants will not and has not resulted in fair redistricting. We need a process where the people choose their elected officials, not politicians choosing who they represent. The only way to do that is a nonpartisan commission that is transparent and accountable to the people, not a political party or special interest group.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Susan Hester: No, there is no need for voter ID to vote. There is no evidence that voter fraud is a problem either in Nebraska or the other states. If fraud were to be discovered, it can be handled on a case-by-case basis. I do think that offering government identification to people who want it is a good idea. But requiring an ID to vote disenfranchises low income families, minorities, students who move around a lot, and elderly people. We should encourage more people to be engaged in our democratic process, not less.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Susan Hester: Prison overcrowding in Nebraska is a real crisis. First and foremost, we need to protect the public and keep violent offenders in jail. However, we need to explore ways to rehabilitate non violent offenders through programs such as drug courts, rather than incarceration.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Susan Hester: This is an interesting question in the days of COVID-19. Yes, we need paid family medical leave programs. People need to be able to take care of a sick person in the family or be able to stay home from work themselves when ill. Businesses will be more successful in the long run if their employees are safe, healthy and productive. There probably will need to be various ways this is handled based on the size of the business, but some way for workers to accrue leave needs to be put in place.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Susan Hester: There should be more restrictions on money in politics. Elections should be based on merit, rather than special interest groups spending large amounts of money through dark money groups to buy elections. Unfortunately, the Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court limits the types of restrictions can be put in place. However, I would look at ways to make elections fair so that the people choose their representatives.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Susan Hester: Right now, business and workers are hurting. It is easy to understand why some want to return to normal, but we need to take care of the safety and health of the people first. I applaud efforts done at the state and federal level to help workers who have been laid off and for businesses who were forced to close or scale back during the pandemic. However, if this drags out for months, we will need to do more. The most important thing we can do is to listen and do whatever we can to support workers and local businesses. We also need to ensure that our schools, long-term care facilities, and others impacted by this remain strong. This won't be an easy fix. It will take a bi-partisan effort at all levels of government to get things back on track, and I'm willing to listen to any idea, regardless of who presents it.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 49

Jen Day (NP):

<http://jendayfornebraska.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *BS Political Science, University of Nebraska at Omaha*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Member of community boards. Hosted multiple fundraisers, food drives, blood drives, and clothing drives as owner of Artis Strength and Fitness. Volunteer for multiple community picnics, food banks, etc.*

DOES NEBRASKA NEED TO CHANGE ITS METHOD OF REDISTRICTING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Jen Day: Yes, Nebraska needs to change its method of redistricting. The current method allows for partisan gerrymandering, which waters down the strength of our democracy and directly inhibits the will of the people. Voters should choose their representatives; representatives shouldn't choose their voters. We need a method that allows for voters to be represented in a fair

and unbiased way, such as independent redistricting commissions or the tech-based solutions we are seeing in other states.

DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED FOR VOTER ID? IF SO, WHY AND HOW SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Jen Day: No, Nebraska does not need voter ID, at least not in the form it is currently being introduced. The current legislation is not only an incredibly expensive waste of taxpayer dollars, but if implemented, it would disenfranchise thousands of Nebraska voters. There is absolutely zero evidence of voter impersonation or voter fraud in Nebraska; this is a “solution” begging for a problem. We need to stop wasting Nebraskans time and money with useless bills that don’t solve real problems Nebraskans are facing.

HOW SHOULD THE PROBLEM OF PRISON OVERCROWDING BE HANDLED?

Jen Day: The problem of prison overcrowding is a serious one in Nebraska and has led to problems for both incarcerated individuals and corrections officers. It is a complex issue with many layers, but I believe the starting point to solving the issue in a timely manner resides in a combination of sentencing reform; implementing a pay structure for staff that emphasizes retention, protection, and attracts new staff members; and reducing recidivism rates by making sure that individuals who are incarcerated have the proper environment to keep them from coming back to prison.

DOES NEBRASKA NEED A PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Jen Day: Yes, Nebraska needs a paid family medical leave program. We have to the contributions our Nebraska families make to our state by making sure that, when they need it, we provide them with the framework necessary to foster healthy relationships and economic prosperity. Whether that is a new mother or father spending time with their newborn without fear of losing their income or job, a son being able to provide care for his elderly mother, or an emergency situation that requires intensive care from family, we should provide Nebraskans with the peace of mind that comes with paid family medical leave. This protects families from economic ruin in times of need.

SHOULD THERE BE INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON MONEY IN POLITICS? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Jen Day: Yes there needs to be increased restrictions on money in politics. Elections should not be bought, they should be earned. Many politicians, including those here in Nebraska, have learned that they no longer have to do the hard work of campaigning if they have enough money to do paid advertising via mailers, TV, and radio ads. so much time is spent as a candidate on fundraising, when I believe that time could be better spent reaching voters. I would be in favor of capping donations for state level races, just like they are capped for federal level races. You should earn the votes of your constituents through door knocking, phone calls, community

events, and quality, responsive representation, not by out-fundraising and out-slandering your opponent.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO ENSURE NEBRASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY ARE STABLE DURING AND POST PANDEMIC, SUCH AS COVID-19?

Jen Day: An emergency relief package was passed by the legislature to bolster Nebraska's infrastructure and I believe this was an excellent first step. However, I believe more relief is needed for individuals and businesses. Nebraska small businesses, like mine, are the backbone of our economy and we need to be sure that we are mitigating the risk of too many of these businesses closing their doors. Additionally, our agriculture sector, which feeds Nebraskans and much of the country and the world, needs to be supported in their efforts to continue producing so that the food supply chain is not interrupted. We can rebuild our economy, but we can not rebuild from nothing. We need to be sure that individuals and businesses are surviving this storm, so that when it is all over, we have a foundation from which to start.

NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICTS

CENTRAL PLATTE DISTRICT 4

Eric Davis (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *I studied Broadcasting at Central Community College*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Eric Davis: I would like to see an expansion of cover cropping in the district to prevent soil erosion and overall better soil health. I hope to introduce more protection from ag runoff entering our waterways. I think we could implement better practices then we currently are doing.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Eric Davis: This is something I am doing everyday. I would like to have our NRD work with the local FFA chapters and help create a program with them to commit and develop plans to use in their operations that are regenerative and progressive practices.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Eric Davis: We have to look at everything as an individual basis and we need to make sure any project is safe for our water supply and our native species.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Eric Davis: They have tested I would like to see an expansion in testing across the district so we can get a more accurate reading on the levels.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

ERIC DAVIS: My first priority is to learn and listen to the concerns of everyone. The first year overall priorities would be to increase the use of cover cropping across the district and reduce standing water after floods in fields so we don't lose more crops to flooding in the future.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER BIG BLUE DISTRICT 1

Ryan Birkett (NP):

No response received

Anne DeVries (NP):

EDUCATION: *BS Mechanical Engineer*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Long time member of Wachiska Audubon Society and founding member of Bluebirds Across Nebraska. Volunteer for Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Planned Parenthood, NE Environmental Trust, Civic Nebraska, NE Appleseed, Citizen's Climate Lobby*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Anne DeVries: Have programs that will reduce water use in growing crops for food and support crops that can withstand wide changes expected.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Anne DeVries: Local area educational meetings to provide the facts about what the changes will impact in their lives.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Anne DeVries: The projects need to be focused on saving the water resources for future generations. Exploiting our water resources and not conserving them will not be supported.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Anne DeVries: I was part of a citizen science testing from a UNL research project. This area has been pretty fortunate to not have high levels of nitrates. Education to farmers on when and how much to put fertilizer on fields will be a top priority to get implemented to keep the levels low.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Anne DeVries: Keep our attention on the science that is showing us how we need to address climate change. Preserving our water resources for future generations.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER ELKHORN DISTRICT 1

Jay Reikofski (NP):

No response received

AARON J ZIMMERMAN (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER ELKHORN DISTRICT 2

Mark Hall (NP):

<http://Vote4MarkHall.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District, Sub district #2, since July 2016.*

EDUCATION: *B.S., Computer Science, UNL; M.S., System Management, University Southern California; military professional development courses; Courses and workshops in desktop applications, turf management, beef production, remotely piloted vehicle workshop*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *USAF, 23 1/2 years, commander and supervisor, information and communications technology, acquisition project management. While serving I maintained my Madison County residency for voting and personal income tax purposes.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Church service sacristan, Norfolk Public Library Foundation. Member Norfolk Morning Kiwanis Club, 20 years, past club president, board member, Lt Governor Division 18, current Partnership Coordinator NE-IA District; Norfolk Riverfront Develop Project*

Lee Klein (NP):

No response received

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Mark Hall: Weather patterns have increased in intensity and shorter durations. This has caused increased flooding risks thus more emphasis on flood protection projects. I will continue previous producer practices have reduced runoff from severe rain events. The District has developed a drought management plan and will continue with implementation details. In season draw down for irrigation users and neighbors is a concern. District investment in a ground water

modeling will hopefully help provide additional technical information for further irrigation development thus supporting further economic development and broadening the tax basis.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Mark Hall: I will continue to support funding for producer workshops and demonstration projects that increase no-till, cover crop, and nitrate reduction applications. Current water quality sampling projects by area schools will be supported, as well as additional school participation. I will support water quality testing for domestic well users to help identify nitrate pollution issues, especially the depth of the pollution, and subsequent funding for cost share for new wells or purification equipment.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Mark Hall: Any inquiries from citizens are quickly responded to, answering their questions or directing them to LENRD staff members for support. I will continue to advocate for cost share programs to improve water quality and soil health. As a past user of the tree planting and NRCS EQIP programs and the associated cost share opportunities I can provide first hand experience on the process and outcomes.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Mark Hall: Nitrate pollution has been on the rise, especially in the northwest part of the district. Rules have been established and implemented to reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer used in any single application. Water sampling of irrigation systems is also required so that producers can take credit for the nitrates being pumped thus reducing the amount during applications. When rates continue to increase, additional restrictions are implemented. Also deep soil sampling is required on Phase 3 areas where producers are planting corn on corn.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Mark Hall: I'm committed to stay engaged. I've only missed one board and one subcommittee meeting in the past 4 years. I've taken advantage of educational opportunities by attending workshops and demonstration plots as well as Nebraska NRD basin tours. I've been a member of the finance, budget, and irrigation variance subcommittees for the past 4 years and a two year member of the executive subcommittee while serving as board secretary. I believe in the carrot versus stick philosophy, for example, supporting cost share and educational versus regulations which can lead to litigation. While I support using federal and state funds versus local property taxes for studies I consider the cost impacts to the district when it comes to implementation of projects.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER ELKHORN DISTRICT 4

Michael Fleer (NP):

No response received

Rod Zohner (NP): <http://razohner@conpoint.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Director Elkhorn Rural Public Power District*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Director Battle Creek Farmers Coop*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of Battle Creek High School*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *U S Army Reserves*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Rod Zohner: Will take steps necessary as any conservative and common sense would dictate.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Rod Zohner: I would take a common sense approach to any educational programs put forward by the District.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Rod Zohner: I would be very open to all taxpayers of the District on any projects.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Rod Zohner: Yes and they have several programs to try to help the problem.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Rod Zohner: I would try to acquaint myself with fellow directors and work to spend the taxpayers money wisely.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER PLATTE NORTH DISTRICT 3

Mike McGinn (NP):

No response received

Andrew Tonnies (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *High School diploma from Cedar Rapids High School, Cedar Rapids Nebraska; 2000 Bachelor of Science in Social Science from Wayne State College, Wayne Nebraska; 2004 Master of International Relations from Macquarie University, Sydney Australia; 2008*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *I serve as an Elder for the United Presbyterian Church of North Bend*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Andrew Tonnies: As extreme weather events become more common it is imperative that we encourage farmers to adopt practices that will help the landscape be more resilient to erosion. This includes utilizing cover crops on production fields during the off season and buffer strips on streams. These practices will increase organic matter (carbon) in crop fields, will slow down flood waters, and they will also serve to protect the soil during extreme drought.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Andrew Tonnies: I will advocate that during NRD education events we address that our climate is becoming more volatile and that we need to protect the soil from extreme weather events, which will in turn create positive benefits like keeping crop nutrients out of groundwater.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Andrew Tonnies: I am an advocate of open and transparent government, therefore, I will take special care to ensure that all voices are heard during any decision making process. Many people are not aware of all of the services and programs offered by NRDs and so I believe improving outreach to the public will yield greater interest in NRD programs.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Andrew Tonnies: Yes, the Lower Platte North NRD routinely tests for nitrate levels. There are some areas within the district that consistently test higher than 10 ppm. Farmers in these areas are restricted in their nitrogen applications. I would recommend that cover crops be utilized to

keep crop nutrients available to crops rather than infiltrating the water table and causing water quality issues for people living in rural communities.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE
DETAIL.**

Andrew Tonnies: Water quality and quantity are big parts of what NRDs do. If these two goals are being well managed, then other big issues can also be addressed. These include soil erosion, nutrient contamination, flood control (there are already several dam projects underway in the district), and even restoring carbon to the soil from the atmosphere. My first year priorities will be to get more acres of crop ground enrolled into cover cropping programs that will help farmers find what works best for them while also finding what works best for our shared groundwater resources.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER PLATTE NORTH DISTRICT 5

John Hannah (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER PLATTE NORTH DISTRICT 7

JEFF BURLING (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER PLATTE NORTH DISTRICT 9

Robert J Meduna (NP):
No response received

Nicholas Oviatt (NP): <http://nickfornebraska.wixsite.com/mysite>
CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*
PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *MS Economics, University of St. Andrews; BA Economics, DePaul University; Certificate of Business and Economics, Sciences Po Paris; Certificate of International Affairs and Strategy, Sciences Po Paris*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *The Knights of Columbus; Illinois Republican Party*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Nicholas Oviatt: The effects from climate change are expected to have an indeterminate impact on much of Nebraska. This is because our State will be situated between a drier and hotter American South and a warmer and wetter Canada. Consequently, more studies are needed in order to better understand how climate change could affect Nebraska. I would be supportive of serious studies that are backed by reputable institutions of higher learning. I would also encourage NRD staff to strengthen existing channels of communication with our farmers and ranchers, in order to keep up to date on current weather-related and economic-related conditions.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Nicholas Oviatt: Climate change is in many ways both a broad and vague subject. Environmental scientists are not necessarily good statisticians, and nor are either economists. Climate change is an interdisciplinary topic of discussion – one that affects a wide variety of people and places. It is important that the NRD's educational outreach realizes this. Climate change is a scientific issue, yes, but it is also an economic issue, among many others. Academics and professionals from all backgrounds should be included in any discussion regarding climate change.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Nicholas Oviatt: I would encourage all residents and developers of the Lower Platte North NRD to reach out to me directly, via email or telephone. It is best to work with these types of requests on an individual basis.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Nicholas Oviatt: The Lower Platte North NRD is proactively engaged and ready with regards to the management of ground water. If nitrate concentration is found higher than the federal limit of 10 ppm, I would recommend instituting regulations that further limit and restrict the use of nitrate fertilizers. These regulations would be best executed under the coordination and cooperation of other NRD's and state government officials. Provided our agricultural producers are not able to further reduce their surface runoff, then there really is no other alternative.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE
DETAIL.**

Nicholas Oviatt: My first year priorities include expanding the NRD's public engagement, increasing operational efficiencies, and promoting honest solutions for real problems. These priorities will only be possible, however, with the support of a majority of the board of directors, and so my absolute number one priority is to build lasting relationships with the other board members, even ones whom I may strongly disagree with on a number of issues. I am not necessarily looking for unanimous board votes, but I am looking for a simple majority.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH DISTRICT 2

Ron Nolte (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH DISTRICT 8

Christy Eichorn (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *Master of Community and Regional Planning from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Nebraska Community Blood Bank; Lincoln Public Schools; Future City; YMCA*

Christine Lamberty (Dem):

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska Medical Center, Southeast Community College*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *PTO President and Vice President. Community Event Organizer. GIRLPweR. Eastridge Pool Board. Volunteer caterer for multiple organizations and events. Neighborhood cleanups.*

**WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE
TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?**

Christy Eichorn: First, we need data collection at the local level. It is key to identifying and predicting future change. We also have to listen and collect antidotal stories from Nebraskans

who are seeing the landscape altered due to climate change. Finally, we need to take the data and the stories and produce a comprehensive, longterm, community support based plan for the entire Lower Platte South Natural Resource District.

Christine Lamberty: The NRD should actively support a statewide effort, such as proposed in Legislative Bill 283, to create a state action plan for coordinated action to address climate change. We must plan appropriately and develop strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change and related extreme weather events on our water supplies and resources. I will support the Lower Platte South NRD's investment in data gathering, planning and education, and push for actions to be taken in coordination with the state and other NRDs.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Christy Eichorn: As a Board Member, I will advocate for hands-on learning opportunities that provide students and adults with tools to recognize and relate to climate issues such as flooding and droughts. I am a mentor for a program called Future City that provides middle school kids opportunities to help solve these very issues. Education has the most significant, long-lasting impact when individuals participate in identifying problems and developing solutions.

Christine Lamberty: Students benefit at an early age from hands-on learning opportunities about nature and the outdoors, particularly the importance of our wetlands, prairies and water resources. The NRD education efforts should continue to excel in this area to provide a grounding of knowledge that allows us as adults to grapple with the effects of climate change. In Lincoln, the NRD has a unique opportunity to expand its partnership with LPS to incorporate outdoor learning classrooms at the two new high schools.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Christy Eichorn: The NRD is a public agency that has a responsibility to be transparent and fiscally responsible while planning for the long-term sustainability of our natural environment. As a professional planner, I believe in solutions born from education, communication, open access to information, and collaboration with all stakeholders.

Christine Lamberty: As an elected official, I have a duty to be responsive to citizen concerns. I will ensure that we are an open and accessible organization. The Lower Platte South NRD manages a number of outstanding recreational resources and we must continue to inform the public of those opportunities. The NRD has a critical mission of protecting our water quality, preserving critical habitat, and maintaining flood control. I will review any developer proposal with those needs in mind.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Christy Eichorn: Nitrates are a concern in both rural and urban areas. Although I don't currently know of any nitrate issues in Subdistrict 8, I will work with stakeholders and form alliances to find solutions that will work regionally and not just at a district level. One person, one organization, cannot solve district-wide problems. We must all work together to find equitable solutions to keep our land, water, and air clean.

Christine Lamberty: Groundwater is one of Nebraska's most precious resources, and the management of groundwater quality and quantity is one of the Lower Platte South NRD's primary responsibilities. The LPSNRD has developed a thorough groundwater management plan that includes routine testing for nitrate levels in each of its five groundwater reservoirs and phased responses to potential hazards. As a representative for Lincoln, I will pay particular attention to the testing of water quality in the Lower Salt Creek Groundwater Reservoir, which contains the wells for the City of Lincoln's drinking water.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Christy Eichorn: My first priority will be to get a clear understating of the issues that are important to my constituents as well as the LPSNRD staff and other Board members. Then I will advocate for and participate in education for solutions to those issues. Finally, I will be a strong voice for sound urban planning principles in long term sustainable solutions.

Christine Lamberty: Flood control and water quality will always be a priority for the NRD. We need to complete a series of Salt Creek levee repairs. The Lied Platte River Bridge still needs to be repaired and re-opened following last year's flooding. With the changes in the school operations due to Covid-19, we have lost a great deal of hands-on learning opportunities. We must ensure that we jump start those education programs as soon as it is safe and make adjustments based on what we have learned.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH DISTRICT 9

Lisa Lewis (NP):

EDUCATION: *Lincoln Southeast High School (1993); Colgate University (1997) Bachelors; University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1999) MBA.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Current Board Member, ESHOA and Board Member, HLA Swim Club.*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Lisa Lewis: The key to preparing successfully for changes in our climate is education. I will always strive to educate myself and those living within the resource district as much as possible, in order to make informed decisions. This includes identifying and categorizing priorities and their urgency levels, to create regulations as part of the planning process.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Lisa Lewis: The Lower Platte South NRD does an excellent job of working to educate the general public regarding natural resources in our area. As our climate and environment changes, it is essential to continue to provide educational opportunities for both students and adults. I am a big proponent of hands-on learning that provides field trips for our students and opportunities to be in the great outdoors. I would also encourage continued educational opportunities that promote fun and participation within the community for all ages.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Lisa Lewis: As a public office, we work for the citizens of Nebraska. This land and its resources belong to all of us. It is our duty to be as transparent as possible and to address any concerns, and respond to them individually, as appropriate.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Lisa Lewis: There are several locations in the Lower Platte South NRD that nitrate levels have tested higher than 10 ppm. While the research I have performed shows that reducing these nitrate levels is difficult, prevention is always the best course of action. I would promote education of local farmers to encourage fertilizer modifications. It has been shown that with less fertilizer, the crops may still be as productive as those produced under heavily fertilized soils due to a healthier environment for beneficial microbes. If the farmer adds large amounts of fertilizer in the beginning then he is forced to use more and more each year. Using only moderate to low amounts at the outset allows the farmer to avoid the entrapment into this vicious cycle.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Lisa Lewis: My main priority and reason for running for this office is to help keep the state of Nebraska a beautiful, healthy place to live and raise our families. To accomplish this priority, I would focus my efforts on clean ground water and managing the ever increasing risk of flooding within the state.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH DISTRICT 10

Bastienne Salners (NP):

No response received

Ray A Stevens Jr (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Director, Lower Platte South NRD. 2012 to present.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Lancaster County Commissioner 2001-2011.*

EDUCATION: *BS in Bus. Admin. from UNL*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Peoples City Mission, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, United Way, GPTN, Lincoln Parks Foundation, Prairie Corridor Cabinet, LIBA, Westminster Pres. Church, FarmHouse Assoc., Lincoln Track Club.*

Eric Lee Wimer (NP):

No response received

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Ray A Stevens Jr: The NRD Board held a retreat in February of this year to hear representatives from Nebraska Extension and the State Climatologist and to discuss climate change and how best to prepare local landowners, residents and the NRD for changes to come. These changes include higher temperatures, an increased growing season, drier summers, wetter springs, falls and winters. Precipitation will increase and there will be more days with greater than 1 inch of rainfall. The NRD's role will be to education our constituents and to insure our levies and flood control structures meet and exceed the Army Corps of Engineer standards. An active education plan is ongoing.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Ray A Stevens Jr: The NRD should continue our educational efforts with district schools through field trips to demonstrate maintenance and preservation of wildlife and wetland areas. Student and adult education can be enhanced by conducting climate change seminars at local schools and community centers. These seminars can be facilitated by the NRD and include experts from UNL to discuss how the climate is changing and the best management practices to mitigate and adjust to the changes. This includes how to cope in our daily lives but especially changes required in production agriculture.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Ray A Stevens Jr: The NRDs operate under guidelines of the Army Corps of Engineers and Nebraska State Statutes. Consequently, citizens and developers must largely adhere to the same guidelines. The NRDs allow access to properties owned and managed by the NRDs for

noninvasive recreational activities. We encourage citizen use! We also cooperate and cost share with developers and landowners who wish to enhance their land or production that has an ancillary benefit to the NRD.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Ray A Stevens Jr: Yes. Remedial action for nitrate levels above federal limits starts with identifying point sources of the excess nitrates and attempting to stop them. This may involving reductions in nitrogen application in agricultural areas, moving animals and removing animal waste. Nitrate levels above federal limits must be noted and restricted from human and animal use. If remediation is not possible, new sources of water much be acquired. This could involve new wells, development of a community water source or access to a district water source.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Ray A Stevens Jr: 1). Continuing support for the development of the Prairie Corridor from Pioneers Park to Spring Creek Prairie. This involves a collaboration with the City of Lincoln and 21 other community organizations to acquire land or easements and develop a 7 mile trail corridor that provides recreational opportunities and preservation of prairie land. 2). Implementation of the Dead Man's Run project to enhance stream flow and reduce flood potential along Dead Man's Run from 33rd street to 48th street along the north edge of the UNL East Campus. This will remove approximately 500 structures from the 100 year flood plain and lower or eliminate the requirement for flood insurance. It should also enhance the north entry to the East Campus. 3). Reopen the Lied Bridge over the Platte River to facilitate recreational use on both sides of the river. 4). Work to create a user friendly solution to complete the MoPac Trail between Lincoln and Omaha.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

MIDDLE REPUBLICAN DISTRICT 3

William M Barger (NP):

No response received

Travis Rousselle (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEMAHA DISTRICT 4

Jessica Donnelly (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nemaha NRD April 2019- Current incumbent.*

EDUCATION: *Hesston College, Doane University*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Nebraska City Youth Soccer Program and USFWS*

Daniel Gittinger (NP): <http://none>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Two Terms- Otoe County Commissioner 2nd District 2000-2008*

EDUCATION: *Nebraska City Lourdes Central Catholic SECC Milford Assoc. 'Degree- Civil Engineering* Military Experience: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Choir Director Church Adult Choir President Nebraska City Apple Corp. Barber Shop Singers*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Jessica Donnelly: With my experience in environmental policy and floodplain mapping, I bring some NEMA and state agency background to help better equip the board in preparation and regulations regarding the flood risk management within community assessments.

Daniel Gittinger: The biggest needs as I see them for the NRD's are storm water issues and related clean water issues. Controlling water release from construction sites and developments is the key to keeping our streams and rivers will ultimately lead to a better life for all future generations.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Jessica Donnelly: Public Education is something I work hand and hand with in my current position with the State of Nebraska. I've seen first hand what school districts can accomplish~ I've managed composting grants with Lincoln Public Schools. We need to get students and the community active in methods to extend the life of landfills and neighborhoods.

Daniel Gittinger: Students and adults need to understand that the actions taken today prevent scour, degradation of streams, and clean water that creates an environment for plant life and fish in Nebraska streams and rivers. I would recommend education materials and be a strong advocate for hands on training for anyone with interest in how to implement best practices to control runoff of silt from construction sites and farmland.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Jessica Donnelly: They are always welcome to public meetings that are hosted the second Thursday of every month at 8pm.

Daniel Gittinger: Access for NRD projects needs to be limited to the better good not to developers. These projects should only consider developments if a part of a private public partnership, which can be employed to build projects that the NRD alone can not afford and which the NRD determines would be a benefit to the communities as a whole.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Jessica Donnelly: Yes, there is constant monitoring as directed by DHHS Drinking Water Department, per state regulation. We would comply and work with State Agencies in order to comply.

Daniel Gittinger: The area has nitrate issues due to the many years of crop production. Smarter technology of application of fertilizers and protection of runoff from fields to streams and ditches by buffer strips and general best practices should be promoted and recommended to the farming community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Jessica Donnelly: Bringing diversity and a fresher set of eyes on an ever evolving board. During my short half year, so far, I've helped with public education projects and brought some of my expertise of floodplaining mapping to discuss in meetings.

Daniel Gittinger: Although not a requirement at this time the MS4 regulations will eventually be implemented for smaller communities and education and understanding to these concepts should be started as soon as possible. I would advocate for education of all involved and promote said practices.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER SUBDISTRICT 1

Ted Japp (R): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER SUBDISTRICT 3

Larry Bradley (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Papio-Missouri River NRD, District #3. 2017-Current*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Papio-Missouri River NRD, District #3. 2009-2012.*

EDUCATION: *Technical High School. '81' B.S. Biology, UNO, '97' M.A. Biology, UNO, '01' Ph.D. Geography, UNL, '10'*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *U.S. Army. 1982-1986. Honorable Discharge.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Ancient Order of Hibernians-Father Flanagan Division. President Emeritus. 10 years. G. I. Forum-Omaha Chapter. Local Veterans Post. Former Commander. 12 years. Knights of Columbus- Council #3019. 3 years.*

Christian Mirch (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None. I am a political outsider.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None. I am a political outsider.*

EDUCATION: *Creighton University, BS Creighton University School of Law, JD*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteered at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Food Pantry Previous P.A.C.E. Coach while working as an Omaha Police Officer*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Larry Bradley: I will continue on with what I have been doing for the past eight years that I have served on the local NRD Board. During the Great Flood of 2019, much of the inner-city of the Omaha Metropolitan area did not have the flooding issues as seen in Bellevue, Elkhorn, and Valley. Why? Because I have a voting record for flood protection measures. I have also voted for digital mapping of groundwater sources, studies for future increased rainfall events, and drought monitoring projects.

Christian Mirch: I believe that we need to focus on repairing our crumbling infrastructure and preparing our fire, police, and emergency medical personnel to respond to flooding events. Therefore, my first priority will be to focus on building a coalition of local, state, and federal partners to begin rebuilding and repairing our dilapidated infrastructure. Additionally, I will work to ensure that our first responders are provided swift-water rescue training and equipment, which most agencies currently lack.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Larry Bradley: Many times I have said that Omaha is the next Kansas City. As I have a Ph.D. in Geography from UNL, I have the educational background to understand how the NRD must stay ahead of the rapid pace of development. Every week we lose another cornfield to housing

expansion. It is vitally important the NRD strike a balance between, conservation, development, and recreation. I have voted for recreational projects both rural and urban.

Christian Mirch: As a member of the NRD Board I will be a voice for every citizen. I will work to ensure that I am able to speak with every citizen living in the Papio-Missouri NRD, and every developer who has ideas of how to best develop areas within the NRD. I will give consideration to all ideas, especially those that promote responsible development, focused on respect for the environment, private property rights, and lower taxes.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Larry Bradley: Job creation! Right now the United States is in another recession. The state of Nebraska is not immune to the economic downturn. When I served my first term on the NRD Board starting in 2008, we were in the midst of a recession then as well. I voted for shovel ready projects that in turn created jobs and expanded our tax base. Jobs can be created with measures for flood protection, as well as recreational projects. Experience is the best reason to re-elect Larry Bradley to the NRD.

Christian Mirch: I will first build a coalition of local, state, and federal partners to begin rebuilding and repairing our dilapidated and crumbling infrastructure. By joining forces, we can ensure that Nebraska taxpayers are not the only ones left with the bill. Next, I will ensure that our first responders have the training and equipment necessary to conduct swift-water rescues, should areas of our NRD begin to flood again. I will also focus on cutting wasteful spending in order to reduce our property taxes.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER SUBDISTRICT 5

Rich Tesar (R): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER SUBDISTRICT 7

Danny Begley (D): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER SUBDISTRICT 9

Tyler Berzina (D):

EDUCATION: *Millard South High School (1993); University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bachelors (1998) and Masters (2004) in Secondary Science Education; UNL Assessment Endorsement (2006); UNL Graduate Science Courses (2008+)*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *American Legion Post 216; Assistance League of Omaha*

Patrick Bonnett (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *I do not currently serve in public office. However, I am the current Vice-President for the Walnut Grove Condominium Association Regime I formerly an S.I.D.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *I have previously served on the Papio-Missouri Natural Resource District Board in Millard from 2012 - 2016. My main priority was getting Dam Site 15A done which is now Fr. Flannigan Lake.*

EDUCATION: *I attended the Univ. of Nebraska and graduated with a BGSGA - Real Estate Finance & Land Use Economics. My Minors were in Sociology and Military Science. I hold multiple professional licenses and have several post-graduate professional designations.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *I served as a Multiple Rocket and Deep Attack Missile Systems Specialist in the US Army Field Artillery from 1993 to 1996. Then as a Unit Legal NCO in the US Army Reserve from 1996 to 2003.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *I volunteer from time to time for the Red Cross, for my Catholic church St. John Vianney, and for youth sports programs. I have also served on the Millard Business Assoc Board, Future Omaha's Board and co-founded the Millard Alumni Association.*

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Tyler Berzina: We must prepare for a new normal with an ever-changing climate. Prevention is much cheaper and prudent than cleanup and rebuilding, and we still have far to go from our current vulnerable position. As a NRD board member, I will support the building of flood mitigation measures which will create robust protections against climate change as long as each best course of action is supported by evidence and is fiscally responsible within our limited taxpayer resources.

Patrick Bonnett: To prepare for potential changes in climate and specifically Drought, I would investigate opportunities for Water Banking in Nebraska where needed and where it might make sense. Certain climate trends also appear to have impact on our Nebraska managed pollinator colonies and I would advocate for the restoration of the Honey Bee population which has seen a 50% decline in recent years. I also support the President's advocacy to plant 1 Trillion trees and intend to expand the NRD's tree program.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Tyler Berzina: As a forward-thinking physics teacher, I encourage, listen to, and support my students to be creative, objective, and innovative while making decisions based on evidence. I want to bring this same spirit to the NRD table when listening to the concerns of citizens and developers as they pertain to NRD projects. I look forward to hearing the pros and cons for specific projects, how developers can enhance project development, and am open to innovative efficiencies which can save taxpayer dollars.

Patrick Bonnett: I support the practice of allowing all NRD projects to be generally open to the public unless there is a potential health hazard as may be the case with certain marsh or water quality basins. Developers or other Municipalities sometimes target the acquisition of adjacent land and in those cases there may be certain opportunities for the taxpayer to realize a much greater return on their tax dollar. I would seek out those opportunities. I also intend to audit all Inter-Local Agreements.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Tyler Berzina: Our community is in need of rebuilding damaged levees, enhancing and expanding flood control measures that were strategized many decades ago and have yet to be developed. Furthermore, urbanization, costs increased by waiting, current flood risks, and our need for recreation all necessitate completion of these projects sooner than later. I look forward to supporting flood mitigation and other needed projects that support the goals of the NRD, as these are well spent investments in our community.

PATRICK BONNETT: Once elected, I will focus my efforts on the following 7 priorities: Flood Control; Air & Water Quality; Reduction of Soil Erosion and Stream-bed Sedimentation; Storm Water Runoff Control; Provide for High Quality Rural Water Supply; Improve Forrest, Fish & Wildlife Habitat; Provide Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Participation in Solid Waste Management and Recycling Efforts to help extend the Lifespan of our County Landfills which are an expensive burden to taxpayers.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SOUTH PLATTE DISTRICT 7

LARRY L RUTT (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

UPPER BIG BLUE DISTRICT 4

Stan Boehr (NP):

No response received

***** VOTE EARLY! *****

UPPER BIG BLUE DISTRICT 5

Kendall J Siebert (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Have a bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis on ecology*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Multiple church related activities cleaning up after flooded areas and tornado impacted areas. Have assisted in yard clean up for people who have trouble doing it themselves. Volunteer at county Fair and spring shows to help line up classes.*

Merlin Volkmer (NP):

No response received

WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES IN CLIMATE TRENDS THAT AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT?

Kendall J Siebert: Weather along with resource availability can vary greatly in our area so I think the best course of action to dealing with those changes is paying attention to how they are impacting our residents and listening to the problems people are having in their local area. Whether it is water shortages in low water areas or a demand for more public Access areas for residents usually there are people being impacted by those things so keeping in touch with your residents and being aware of changes as they are happening will give us time to make decisions to help decrease the impacts of those changes. This will also allow us to prepare as best as possible for the uncertain future.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS WILL YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S STUDENTS AND ADULTS REGARDING THE CHANGING CLIMATE?

Kendall J Siebert: Many of the challenges we face managing resources come from climate change whether globally or locally and certainly locally can impact us dramatically from one year to the next. I think the NRD should get students more involved in research opportunities getting them out into nature or on a farm or ranch this will allow them to see how much weather impacts what people can and cannot do from one year to the next as well as providing good science learning opportunities and a good work force for accomplishing goals. If you want to

understand the impacts of weather on natural resources it is best to see it first hand. We need to be connected to each other to understand why certain things are significant.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF CITIZENS AND DEVELOPERS WHO WANT ACCESS TO NRD PROJECTS?

Kendall J Siebert: There are a lot of stakeholders involved in NRD projects and I think communication will be the most important attribute to keeping up with everyone's concerns and ideas. The public has a right to know what is going on and the developers need to understand the goals of the project and how much they need to be involved or not involved. The NRD also needs to keep up with what development is taking place and what impacts it might have on our people as well as resources. Public meetings are important for keeping in touch with citizens but communicating with individuals in your daily life is important as well to get input from people who are not as comfortable in a public setting.

HAS YOUR DISTRICT TESTED ITS WATER FOR NITRATE LEVELS? IF ITS CONCENTRATION IS FOUND HIGHER THAN THE FEDERAL LIMIT OF 10 PPM, HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMENDED REMEDYING THE SITUATION?

Kendall J Siebert: Yes our district has tested it's water for nitrates and there are communities who are currently dealing with the nitrates being above 10ppm and as of now there are certain limits to what the NRD can do since they are not allowed to provide financial assistance on a homeowner by homeowner basis. As for now helping communities with the paperwork process for getting grants and getting good trackable data of nitrate movements in the groundwater will be some of the best practices. Large scale water treatment plant a and new well drilling and different well packing techniques are all tools to produce safe drinking water in a reasonable amount of time and whatever cost share, contact information, and knowledge that the NRD has to offer should be provided as best as possible. Also need to find areas of continued nitrate leaching and work with land owners through education, research and cooperation to help solve their problem.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kendall J Siebert: The majority of my focus for my first year would be getting to know all the board members personally and figuring out where they are coming from with their beliefs on certain issues and trying to connect with as many people involved in the NRD as possible. Also try to get a greater involvement from the public in the NRD and their activities, projects, and meetings. If I do not understand the people and problems I am going to be dealing with I will be of no use to the people I am representing. So trying to get a better understanding of the people I represent as well as the board members I will be working with will be my main focus.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 3

Mike Goos (NP): <http://discoverycounselingne.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Columbus Public Schools Board of Education (2008 - 2020)*

EDUCATION: *Ed.S., University of Nebraska - Kearney*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *TeamMates, Centro Hispano De Comunitario, Citizen's Advocacy*

Patti S Gubbels (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Norfolk Public Schools Board of Education Member 2015-Present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Ph.D. University of Nebraska, Lincoln Program: Educational Psychology-Cognition and Learning M.S.E. Wayne State College Program: Counseling B.S. Wayne State College Program: Sociology, Psychology*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Team Mates Mentor, Red Cross Pillowcase Project Presenter, Norfolk Arts Center Board Member and Officer*

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Mike Goos: I believe most schools have dealt responsibly with school safety in terms of physical preparedness with the presence of SRO's or improved police relationships. In addition, schools have improved their safety through technical measures (i.e., cameras and limited access to building during the school day). In my opinion, schools can provide better safety measure for students and staff through increased knowledge and awareness of mental health issues as well as easier access to mental health services.

Patti S Gubbels: There are a number of important measures that can be taken to help students and teachers be as safe as possible. First, schools need to have a comprehensive safety plan and procedures. Second, teachers and staff members benefit from being trained on safety procedures and learning how to use available safety tools that might prevent or mitigate crisis situations. It is beneficial for students to participate in safety drills. Third, there needs to be consistent communication and coordination with community agencies involved in crisis situations. Fourth, secure entrances for school facilities are an important safety/security measure. Finally, school resources officers provide an additional layer of school security through the positive relationships they develop with individual students and the expertise they have as law enforcement officers.

**DO YOU SEE THIS BOARD AS BEING AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED BODY?
PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR REASONING.**

Mike Goos: The State Board of Education should be an elected body. The State BOE must be allowed to function as a nonpartisan entity. The main function of the State BOE should be an equitable and quality education for all Nebraska children.

Patti S Gubbels: I believe members of the Nebraska State Board of Education need to be non-partisan officials elected by the voters in their districts. The state board provides oversight of education in Nebraska so it is important that the board represents the diverse educational systems found across our state. Elected state school board members are likely to reflect the educational values of the communities they serve. When state school board members are elected, they are accountable to the citizens who elect them. The citizens who elect them maintain some sense of local control of education. If state school board members are appointed by the governor, the sense of local control is minimized. The potential exists for all of the appointed members to share the same political beliefs and educational perspectives. Appointed officials are not accountable to citizens, they are accountable to the politician who appointed them.

HOW CAN THE CONTINUING EDUCATION OF TEACHERS BE SUPPORTED?

Mike Goos: Teachers are the backbone of a strong and viable learning experience for our children. I believe teachers should be in control of their professional learning experience. Personally, I strongly believe that well designed Professional Learning Communities with administrative support can lead to meaningful learning experiences for educators which improve student performance in the classroom.

Patti S Gubbels: Continuing education of teachers can be supported in a variety of ways. The most important way to support continuing education of teachers is to promote a mindset that "teaching is learning". School districts promote that mindset by providing appropriate ongoing learning experiences for teachers and by expressing appreciation for continued learning. The State Board of Education can support continuing education of teachers by establishing policies that enable, encourage, and expect teachers to grow professionally. Professional development experiences such as mentoring programs for novice teachers, teacher-to-teacher collaborations with peer assessments, and teacher supervision that focuses on improvement are a few examples of ways continuing learning can be supported.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICTS

KBR RURAL PPD KEYA PAHA

Patty Andersen (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Currently I do not hold a public office. I have been attending KBR Board meetings since July when I filed for office.*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor's degree from Chadron State College. My majors are Business Administration with emphasis in Management, Psychology, and Guidance Associate Completed in 4 years on Board of Trustees Scholarship.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *County Fair Superintendent for past 19 years. Additionally in the past I have served on the following boards: Ainsworth Chamber of Commerce Board, Regional Governor's Mental Health, North Central Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention*

IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Patty Andersen: While renewable energy is important, a reliable consistent supply of energy is also vital.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

Patty Andersen: Currently all board meeting are open to the public and I am willing and available to answer any questions from constituents that I can. I have made my contact information public here and by direct contact with voters.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Patty Andersen: My priorities would be to learn all I can and represent my county in the best possible manner. I would also do what I can to ensure fiscally responsible, environmentally sensitive, reliable power to our rural community.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NPPD DISTRICT 1

Todd R Calfee (NP):

No response received

Mary A Harding (NP):

<http://maryharding.net>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Subdivision 1, Nebraska Public Power District Board of Directors since 2003*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Board of Governors, Southeast Community College 1989 - 1995. Member of the Plattsmouth Planning Commission, 2016 to present.*

EDUCATION: *B.S., University of Nebraska Masters work in sociolinguistics*

IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Mary A Harding: Yes. In order to remain relevant to our constituents and to promote economic growth, we must continue to increase our reliance on carbon-free generation resources. Early this year I proposed that NPPD undertake a decarbonization study, and we look to receive the reports from this effort by the end of the year. From this, we will set goals for the District to reduce our carbon footprint over the next two-three decades. Nebraskans deserve an all-of-the above strategy: low-cost, reliable AND clean electricity. Those who focus on the price and reliability of electricity without considering the larger impacts to our community are selling Nebraskans short. This industry has proven that we can move forward with modern technology without creating disruptions in reliability.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

Mary A Harding: I fought for, and achieved, live webcasting of NPPD board meetings. Serving a territory that spans the state, I believe it was essential to make observation of our proceedings easy for consumers who might otherwise need to travel hours to be present.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Mary A Harding: The adoption of a decarbonization plan is my first priority for the year ahead. Following that, I believe it is time to revisit the founding principles of public power in Nebraska and improve public accountability. There is no central office where a citizen can find maps of utilities and their board districts, or see easily who the representatives of those districts are. It is time to change that.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NPPD DISTRICT 2

Barry DeKay (NP):

<http://barrydekay.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NPPD Board 2015-2021 2nd Vice Chair 2016-2017 1st Vice Chair 2018-2019 Chair 2020 Nuclear Chair 2017-2018-2019 Chair Niobrara Valley Hospital Foundation Board Treasurer Raymond Township*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NVEMC Board 1999-2014 Chairman 2006-2014 NREA State Director 2002-2014 NREA Treasurer 2007-2008 NREA Vice Chair 2009-2010 NREA Chair 2011-2012*

EDUCATION: *Attended Wayne State College*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Help when asked Have officiated Basketball from High School and Women's College for 36 years*

Aaron Troester (NP):

No response received

IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Barry DeKay: My priority is to continue to reduce NPPD's carbon footprint in a manner that doesn't compromise reliability or affordability. NPPD produces approximately 50% of its electricity with carbon free resources from wind, hydro, solar and nuclear power. We are also pursuing an innovating project using Hydrogen as a fuel and we are exploring ways to reduce or offset carbon emissions from fossil fuels.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

Barry DeKay: The public is invited to our board meetings or to engage through Livestreaming. In addition to meetings with the board as a whole, members meet with small groups of wholesale and retail customers on a regular basis. As a board member, I have periodic discussions with constituents and other stakeholders. We usually have one board meeting away from the Columbus General Office, and that usually occurs in July. During this recent pandemic we had a meeting, via Zoom, instead of our usual board room meeting to insure social distancing. Using Zoom format, customers could listen and ask questions. We are prepared to have more meetings like this in the future if the need arises. I encourage management to provide important information to our customers and other stakeholders, on a regular basis and to update regularly. I also promote transparency another way by supporting NPPD's efforts to provide timely information through NPPD's website.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE
DETAIL.**

Barry DeKay: My priorities are to keep our electricity as reliable and cost efficient as possible. During my first 6 years on the board, there have been no retail rate increases, and wholesale rates have increased less than 2 percent, mainly due to transmission projects. I am focused on affordable and reliable electricity for the citizens and businesses we serve. I have over 20 years of experience serving on utility boards and I understand it is a complicated business and that the issues will get more complex and demanding as time goes on. I understand the business from generation to transmission to distribution. I am a 4th generation farmer/rancher in the Ag sector and I understand the issues that come with being in business in Rural Nebraska. I am from rural Nebraska and for rural Nebraska. Lastly, I am a proponent for public power in the State of Nebraska and will continue to work very hard to keep public power in Nebraska for years to come.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NPPD DISTRICT 7

Sheila A Hubbard (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *City of York City Council December 2014 to present.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NA*

EDUCATION: *MA in Guidance and Counseling; 32 Additional graduate hours in Social Services, Counseling, and Fine Arts; BFA in Visual Art*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *NA*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Voices of Hope Crisis Line & Advocate; Camp Kindle Psycho/Social Director, a camp for youth impacted by HIV/AIDS; People's City Mission Thanksgiving Meal Coordinator; York County 4-H; My Church: SS teacher & Leadership committees*

Wayne Williams (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NONE*

EDUCATION: *Trade School*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *NONE*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Local Community Serves on Nebraska Christian Foundation Board Serves as Chair for Nebraska Christian Executive Building Committee*

**IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF
SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?**

Sheila A Hubbard: Increasing the use of renewable energy is a personal priority. I am running for the NPPD Board to ensure we keep bills low and provide reliable electricity to Nebraskans. Investing in clean energy is a smart business decision that is good for our health, our safety, and our economy. According to a recent Rural Poll on Energy conducted by the University of

Nebraska, 80% of Nebraskans want to see increased investment in clean energy. Beyond the potential for a reduction in environmental impacts, renewable and clean energy options present the opportunity for economic gains. As a member of the York City Council, I understand how important it is to bring economic development into our rural communities - it's how we retain young people, reduce the property tax burden, and maintain a vibrant community. Right now, many companies are looking for places where they can get their electricity from clean sources - being able to provide that means bringing good paying jobs to our communities.

Wayne Williams: I currently own the largest solar installation company in Nebraska. We span over 11 states from Massachusetts to Colorado. I do it because I believe in renewable energy. However, it cannot be deducted from that statement through conjecture that in today's market I am against the use of fossil fuels in order to maintain spinning reserve or spinning inertia on the grid. Today, fossil fuels are very important to maintain grid resiliency. Potentially is the answer. Newer technologies are being developed that are forecasting the possibility - but it is not completely here yet. I keep my finger on the pulse of all advanced technology. New innovative approaches are being proposed every day. Eventually, the power industry and its approach to energy production will evolve. It always has and it will continue. It's important that we have knowledgeable and experienced individuals at the helm of the decision-making process in order to keep capital costs under control which in turn keeps rates low.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

Sheila A Hubbard: Transparency is paramount in any government agency and it would be a personal priority and a professional obligation. I would be available to the constituents in District 7 through a variety of technology formats and face to face interactions. It would be a goal of mine to regularly share a recap of ideas, public discussions gleaned from board meeting attendance, study, and research about what is happening with NPPD to the people in District 7. While the agendas and minutes of all board meetings are available through the NE Open Meetings Act, I will provide additional context for my constituents by frequently engaging with them. This 360 feedback system would provide opportunities for me to hear ideas and concerns they want shared with the board. My experience as a counselor, and more recently as a mediator, has shown me how important the honest exchange of information is and I bring a diverse skill set to provide many approaches and forums to ensure transparency.

Wayne Williams: Kenneth Blanchard once said, "None of us is as smart as all of us". It's also been said, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice". I've lived by those philosophies. In order to do that you cannot operate in a vacuum. You have to share your ideas and ask for input. In doing so, you have to be very transparent and willing to dialog with many different opinions. Through that process, you need to be vulnerable and willing to listen to opposing viewpoints. Problem-solving is a direct derivative of critical thinking. Critical thinking can happen in isolation, however, it is vetted through collaboration with like peers that understand the issues. Running a \$1 Billion company from a Board level requires having experienced individuals that have lived in the space of the core business. If you expect sound fiscal decisions from your elected leaders, you need to elect people that understand the issue and are not spending their first term learning the business.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE
DETAIL.**

Sheila A Hubbard: If elected, I will prioritize safe, affordable, reliable electricity. As a member of the York City Council I advocated for a business-friendly environment, and as a director on the NPPD Board, I will fight for low electricity bills and good paying jobs. It will be exciting to learn both the global outreach and organizational details of this outstanding NE Public Utility. Being a professional mediator, I know how to ask the right questions and come up with agreements that work for everyone. Community involvement is important to me from being an educator at York Public Schools, working with 4-H, my church, and youth camps. This backs up my promise to be a voice for District 7 as their NPPD Board Director. I want to ensure you are heard and wasteful spending is eliminated.

Wayne Williams: Projected load growth within our network would be an area that I would want to look at in unison with the cybersecurity of our grid and plants. The world of energy is ever-changing and the challenges are just as predominant. How real are the terroristic threats to our livelihood. Many questions are at hand with the introduction of the electric vehicle. What impact will it have on our current grid infrastructure and how quickly do we need to respond to it. Questions such as how fast will the change happen and what the impact is will need researched and assessed by competent experts that understand power generation, transmission, and distribution. What role will renewable energy play in the answer? NPPD upper management needs a Board of directors that they don't have to teach many of the fundamentals of the power generation business. Leadership needs experienced Board directors when trying to address critical needs through strategic planning and large capital projects. That's who I am.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEBRASKA PPD DISTRICT 9

Jerry Chlopek (NP):

<http://jlchlopek@gmail.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nebraska Public Power Dist. Jan. 2009-Present*

EDUCATION: *High School - College*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *United States Marine Corps 1964 - 1967 U.S. Army Reserve 1976 - 2002*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *VFW, American Legion Honor Guard*

**IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF
SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?**

Jerry Chlopek: Yes, as long as it is affordable and reliable.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

Jerry Chlopek: Everything we do now is very transparent.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Jerry Chlopek: To continue to have affordable and reliable electric rates to all our customers.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OMAHA PPD - SUBDIVISION 1

Amanda Bogner (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *OPPD Board of Directors, 2019 - 2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *B.S. Architectural Engineering, University of Kansas (2002)*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *UNL Architectural Engineering Industry Mentor Corp; The Big Garden; Lindenwood Homeowners Association; USGBC Flatwater Chapter; USGBC Energy and Atmosphere Technical Advisory Group; St. Vincent de Paul; Leadership Omaha Class #39*

Mark E. Treinen (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *OPPD director from November, 2017 through December, 2018*

EDUCATION: *BSBA in accounting from Creighton University CPA*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *served on boards of Catholic Charities (12 years), Marian High School (6 years), Youth Emergency Services (20 years), Sheltering Tree (1 year)*

IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Amanda Bogner: Yes. As a current board member, I have been an advocate for increasing the use of renewable energy. I supported the Power with Purpose proposal which included 600 megawatts of solar. I also supported the revision of Strategic Directive 7 which set a goal for OPPD to achieve zero-carbon in all its operations by 2050. If I am re-elected, I will continue to support this transition and ensure that OPPD continues to provide affordable, reliable electricity.

Mark E. Treinen: Until significant advances are made in renewable technologies to reduce the impact of their intermittency issue, and significant developments are made in battery and other storage technologies (both from a cost and capacity standpoint) some use of fossil fuels will be

necessary. OPPD is a very responsible utility from an environmental standpoint and takes it very seriously. They are constantly monitoring new and developing technologies for future generation needs and grid management.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AT OPPD?

Amanda Bogner: I support the work done by the LWV to get OPPD Board meetings live-streamed and believe that we need to continue to strive for greater public engagement in everything we do. OPPD will need public engagement as it seeks to adjust rate structures, implement the zero-carbon goal, and encourage more electrified transportation. The Board needs to ensure that the public is heard. This means that we need to hold public stakeholder meetings and gather input from customers before creating policy.

Mark E. Treinen: I believe in transparency vis-à-vis the public so long as it does not cause the release of sensitive proprietary and/or competitive data, or information subject to non-disclosure agreements. OPPD conducts business in a competitive national marketplace, and certain information has the potential to harm their position.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Amanda Bogner: I will continue to prioritize safe, affordable, reliable electricity. I am currently working on a plan that would reduce bills for 85% of customers. As a mechanical engineer and small business owner, I have spent my career helping companies make smart energy decisions that lower costs and improve business efficiency. As an OPPD Board Member, I will continue to advocate for increasing energy efficiency throughout the district to help people and businesses lower their electricity bills.

Mark E. Treinen: Top 3 priorities are: 1. Safety of the employees and the public. 2. Reliable power delivery 3. Electric rates below the Midwest average by at least 20% I will define success as a SAIDI measurement of 90 and no general rate increases until that 20% cheaper rate is achieved.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OMAHA PPD - SUBDIVISION 2

Krystle Craig (D): No response received

Sara Howard (D): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OMAHA PPD - SUBDIVISION 3

Mary Spurgeon (NP): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SOUTHWEST PPD DISTRICT 1

Brent Evans (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Southwest Public Power District Board 2008 to 2020. Dundy County Farm Bureau Board 1989 - present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Southwest Four County Extension Board*

EDUCATION: *I have an Agri-Business degree from Colorado Mesa University Grand junction Colorado. I have continuing education in Agricultural production and several courses of study in electric power service and business*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *retired Emergency medical technician for 15 years. Past 4H shooting sports instructor*

IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Brent Evans: I consider the use of Renewable Energy a tool in the toolbox, which should be used when it is viable and affordable to the end user. Environmental reasons are important to consider and when technology can justify its use, we can rely more on those renewable energy sources. Right now, total reliance on renewable energy is not economically feasible or reliable as a constant steady source of electricity. In the future, I believe we will be able to utilize alternate sources of energy production.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

Brent Evans: I am always open to the community for questions. I would be happy to visit in person, via phone or email. I have and will continue to make sure that the board and the district's business is always open and accessible to the public for which we work.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Brent Evans: My priorities are to maintain affordable and reliable power to our customers, to continue education to support better decision making and understanding by our board. I will continue to encourage the construction and maintenance of our infrastructure that will make our district both more profitable and reliable to our customers. I will also make sure that the

profitability is used responsibly by the administrators to keep our business financially sound and our rates affordable.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DISTRICT 1

Michelle Broekemier (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DISTRICT 1

Brock Bean (R): No response received

Linda L. McDermitt (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Board of Governors at Metro Community College represents Dist.1 2016 to 2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Board Governors @MCC 2010 to 2021*

EDUCATION: *Associates Degree*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Youth groups Democrate Party in Nebraska*

HOW SHOULD COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIFFERENTIATE THEMSELVES FROM FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES?

Linda L. McDermitt: Community Colleges have ability to be flexible In students ability with smaller classes and more one to one to fit Students needs. We also have ability to teach skill trades . MCC has community partnerships to create classes To train and teach welding, construction, 3D imagery, auto repair, Manufacturing training to name a few.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS AT METRO?

Linda L. McDermitt: Master degree 10-18 years of field experience for social Services training. Auto repair requires teachers with work experience. In the field We have several instructors with job experience.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Linda L. McDermitt: Develop master plan for Sarpy County campus Development.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DISTRICT 2

Brad Ashby (R):

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Metro Community College Board of Governors*

EDUCATION: *BS Computer Science*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *USAF Retired*

Alex Garrison (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor's of Science in Journalism, University of Kansas; Associate's in Computer Programming, Metropolitan Community College*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Director At-Large and Website Admin, League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha (16-20); Curriculum Director, New Leaders Council Omaha (18-20); Field Canvasser, Kara Eastman for Congress (18); Lead Organizer, WordCamp Omaha 2015 (15-16)*

HOW SHOULD COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIFFERENTIATE THEMSELVES FROM FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES?

Brad Ashby: I see MCC serving two separate purposes. First as always MCC should continue to offer courses in the trades to help people to into the workforce as quickly as possible. Second MCC is a great low cost option for student that plan to attend a 4 year University to obtain prerequisite classes that will transfer to the University.

Alex Garrison: We need to ensure that our community college continues to serve our communities by providing a wide range of different kinds of classes, courses, degree programs and avenues to success. Community colleges can also shift programming to innovate and adapt to changing community needs and can help build job skills faster and in a more focused way. Metro can support many different types of learners and, while that provides some challenges, it's also the institution's greatest strength.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS AT METRO?

Brad Ashby: MCC instructors should have a Masters degree in the discipline in which they are instructing or any equivalent amount of experience in the trades in which they are teaching.

Alex Garrison: We have an obligation to maintain accreditation and the highest standards of instruction quality. I'm proud of the quality and qualifications of Metro's faculty and staff, and will work to continue to support them. While maintaining accreditation standards, I believe we should also have instructors with hands-on experience, particularly in areas such as the trades and I.T. This further improves student job readiness by helping to connect with industry and the latest innovations in the field.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Brad Ashby: 1. To keep MCC as a low cost option and look for ways to trim costs to reduce the burden on the tax payers. 2. Make sure that everyone who wants to attend MCC has that opportunity. 3. The current MCC President is planning to retire, I want to make sure MCC hires someone with similar traits that will be able to work with the Unicameral as well as be able to help fund raise for the College. 4. Promote the High School dual enrollment program.

Alex Garrison: Maintain tuition affordability. Form an accessibility committee to research educational programs to support students in “outside of the classroom” challenges such as mental and physical healthcare, childcare, transit, food scarcity, housing and criminal justice system and re-entry issues. Continue to evaluate COVID response. Determine a pathway to reducing the college’s carbon footprint to net zero by 2050.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DISTRICT 3

Adam Gotschall (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *AA-criminal justice*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *6 years Iowa army national guard. Deployed from October 2005-July 2007 in support of operation Iraqi freedom. Flood duty in June of 2008. 2009 Presidential inauguration security detail.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Nebraska Veteran's Coalition, various tasks. American Legion Veteran's of Foreign Wars Hurricane Harvey relief, drove to Huffman, then Beaumont to deliver supplies. Iowa/Nebraska flood cleanup, including a 100 animal rescue. Other various jobs.*

Dave Pantos (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Vice Chairperson, Metropolitan Community College, January 2020-present; Board Member, Metropolitan Community College, 2017-Present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Metropolitan Community College, Secretary, January 2019-January 2020. Board of Governors Rutgers University (1990-91).*

EDUCATION: *JD - Indiana University Maurer School of Law (Bloomington, IN) MSES - O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs (Bloomington, IN) BA - Rutgers College*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Omaha Northwest Rotary Nonprofit Association of the Midlands Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children Legal Services Corporation Pro Bono Commission*

HOW SHOULD COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIFFERENTIATE THEMSELVES FROM FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES?

Adam Gotschall: Community colleges are traditionally trade schools, with other options for education. Mostly, the community colleges need to focus on trades, which is something that universities don't generally do. Additionally, community colleges need to focus on being affordable, and stop trying to compete with universities. Most people seek out community colleges because they either don't want to spend the money on a university, or don't have the money to spend. College is already expensive.

Dave Pantos: Especially in the time of this pandemic, Community Colleges need to provide high quality education to a diverse set of learners. The traditional community college student is by definition "non-traditional." Therefore, community colleges need to ensure that there are no barriers to entry. Community College should aim to be low or no tuition. Community colleges should continue to expand dual enrollment at high schools. The relationship between 2 and 4 year schools should be a partnership.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS AT METRO?

Adam Gotschall: My biggest qualification would be, to be politically neutral. Otherwise, it would have to come down to the areas of expertise. For instance: you don't want welders teaching nursing classes (despite the fact they've likely had a few emergency room visits). Otherwise, I'd like to see instructors who are happy, trusting, and have attainable goals for their students.

Dave Pantos: In addition to being excellent instructors/professors, Metro's college professors must be prepared to meet students where they are. Many Metro students are first generation students. Many are food-insecure and struggling during COVID-19. Also, for those professors/instructors who are teaching in the trade or certificate programs, they must be up-to-date in terms of the business/economic needs of the community to ensure their instruction provides a quick gateway to high-paying jobs.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Adam Gotschall: To build better partnerships with business owners. Identify what the community needs from the school. Lower the property tax levy. Get businesses and labor unions involved with recruiting students. I.E. offer the students contracts /agreements. Offer the students competitive pay/benefits, etc....

Dave Pantos: We must continue to effectively respond to COVID-19 and its challenges. I am proud that MCC is now offering COVID-19 testing at its South Campus. Finances are crucial for our students. I will prioritize the following: expansion of Pell grants to all students; keeping no tuition increases or at the very least limiting any increase to the rate of inflation; expanding education options in Washington Co. & in West Omaha; and keeping the tax levy flat for our district's taxpayers.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DISTRICT 4

Christopher C. Costello (R):

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska-Lincoln Jan 1987 - Dec 1990 Metropolitan Community College Jan 1991 - Dec 2005 University of Nebraska at Omaha Jan 1991-Dec 1997 ITT Technical Institute-Omaha Jan 2012-Dec 2014 Iowa Western Community College Aug 2015-Aug 2016*

Zach Reinhardt (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, Real Estate and Land Use Economics, University of Nebraska at Omaha 2014*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *MAPA Heartland 2050 Housing and Development Committee Co-Chair, 2018-Present; Citylight Arts Project Board, 2018-Present; Greater Omaha Chamber Young Professionals Council, 2019-Present; UNO Real Estate Program Advisory Board, 2016-Present*

HOW SHOULD COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIFFERENTIATE THEMSELVES FROM FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES?

Christopher C. Costello: They shouldn't and that's the phrase attitude that four-year universities advertise their students are "special" by a magical wand called the "differentiator" because the one teaching them is the same one teaching the same class down the road at a community college!? The facts be as they may, a person in this State cannot achieves success unless one has the backing of UNL or Creighton, bar none!? Why, because they have Law Schools & Medical School that will rule you off of the top!?

Zach Reinhardt: Community colleges should differentiate themselves from four-year (often actually five-year) universities by focusing on providing affordable, real-world education that prepares students for good jobs without the crushing weight of student loan debt. By focusing on trade, technical, and job training education, and in doing so, community colleges can set themselves apart by providing instructors with real-world experience that students can learn from.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS AT METRO?

Christopher C. Costello: Shouldn't have any of the qualifications as the "feminist" running this League of Women Voters online questionnaires!? Nebraska has some serious issues that need to be addressed in an open society so we can get to the truth & not make it ten times more difficult for activist to speak out against fascist!? How can a lady call herself a feminist and cow tow to a wealthy man's every desire to hide his crimes of passions from the public eye!? Isn't that the heart of feminism speaking up "me to!?"

Zach Reinhardt: Because of its focus on real-world education, the qualifications of instructors at Metro should include real-world experience in the topic at hand, whenever possible. Industry involvement at Metro is key to providing students with real-world knowledge. An ability to translate the actual experience in each industry into the classroom should be a priority for any instructor at Metro. While an instructor's educational background should be considered; actual industry experience is equally important.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Christopher C. Costello: Create a student government that can effectively petition the people until elected officials learn to serve the public, first!? Nothing says "public" than Metro Community College!? Collecting the signatures needed to exact change can only be done in a very short period of time (30 days) juxtaposed to mail in voting which requires no signature & runs longer!? When the disenfranchised work together to recall officials & exact change will be the highest form of education a person can obtain!?

Zach Reinhardt: My first-year priorities will focus on supporting the important work Metro is already doing. Metro doesn't need someone to come in and fix it. I will be a board member that works to promote all the good that Metro is doing in our community and more ways for the college to make a positive impact. I will be a champion for the students, providing guidance to ensure that Metro continues to fulfill its mission of delivering relevant, student-centered education to a diverse community of leaders.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DISTRICT 1

Chuck Byers (NP):

<http://www.chuckbyerscanidatesecc.com/>

EDUCATION: *BS from Kansas State University in Management Information Systems*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *20 Year Veteran United States Navy, Submarine Service*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *American Legion County Commander York County Veteran Service Committee*

Jeanne H. Stec (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NA*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *President of the Nebraska Counseling Association (2000-2001)*

EDUCATION: *My education ranged from one-room schools to graduate classes at on of the highest ranked counseling programs in the US. I earned a Bachelor's degree in education and a Master's degree in counseling and school psychology from Kearney State College.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *NA*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *DHHS Technical Review Licensure Committee; "Sixpence" Advisory Council; TeamMates; Saline County LB1184 Treatment Team; UNC-TV Fund Raising Drive; Buffalo County Community Health Partners Suicide Prevention Task Force; Crisis Counselor-Red Cross*

HOW SHOULD COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIFFERENTIATE THEMSELVES FROM FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES?

Chuck Byers: Community colleges need to teach skills. Our country is suffering from a loss of those entering into the skilled trades. It is important that we have a source to teach the skills used in those trades; electricians, welders, diesel repair, nursing ect. and our community colleges have the ability to meet his need much better than any four-year university and at less cost to the student.

Jeanne H. Stec: With an affordable cost of attendance, community colleges provide streamlined, focused opportunities for students, which are not available from many four-year schools. The fast turn around from high school (or working) allows students to find employment and begin contributing to their family and community, or to complete classes and transfer to a four-year institution. Since many students must work while attending college, community colleges provide flexibility with scheduling that might lengthen a student's enrollment in a four-year setting. Additionally, community colleges provide different levels of course work to suit students' needs; anywhere from a certificate to an Associate's Degree. Attending a community college is a "win-win" for the student, the student's family, for four-year institutions, and for employers who are eager to hire well-qualified candidates prepared to begin work immediately in jobs with competitive salaries.

WHAT INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS WOULD YOU CHANGE AT YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE? WHY, OR WHY NOT?

Chuck Byers: I do not see a need to change the instructor qualifications. Many instructors have needed experience in the field they teach before they entire the classroom. I was an instructor in the Navy and like many of our community college instructors heavily relied on my own experiences to assist in my instruction.

Jeanne H. Stec: It is critical that the community college employ a highly qualified, diverse staff, ranging from those who hold advanced academic degrees in their fields to those who have significant "real world experience" in their fields. This blend of academia and practical, experiential skills provides students with a well-rounded college experience. At this time, Southeast Community College has this diverse faculty available for students. This diversity of qualifications must be kept in mind each time a new faculty member is hired.

WHAT SAFETY MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE TO KEEP STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF SAFE?

Chuck Byers: We have to be careful not to make schools feel like prisons. We can use smart ID cards to allow access if needed.

Jeanne H. Stec: More than ever before in our lifetimes, safety must be a priority. Safety is ensured through the implementation and enforcement of well-written policies, and it is critical to share this information with all who are involved with the college. As always, basic safety for SCC's technical programs, including learning to use equipment (saws, electrical tools, etc.) must

continue to be observed. Colleges must adhere to all the health initiatives and mandates such as masks, social distancing, and smaller class size. Data and intellectual property must be protected with appropriate security measures. All students, faculty, and staff must feel safe while on campus from physical dangers, as well as from any bias, discrimination, and bullying based on age, gender, race, skin color, perceived sexual orientation, political and religious affiliation, disabilities, or any other factor. If a safe environment is not provided, learning opportunities can be lost and lives can be destroyed.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST-YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Chuck Byers: Understand the facility upgrades that are needed for instance fire and safety issues in many of the buildings. Work hard to get schools to understand that not all students need to go to a four-year school to succeed.

Jeanne H. Stec: 1) Keep the cost of attendance affordable. One of the primary benefits of a community college is its affordability. Many students earn degrees because they can afford to attend a community college. 2) Increase enrollment. Many continue to view a community college education as “lesser” than a four-year degree. Data examining student success, completion/graduation data, salaries, employment in chosen fields, and the need for many skilled employees in the future, demonstrate that a community college education is, in fact, incredibly valuable. To counter this, we must provide ways for all stakeholders to learn what SCC offers. Dual credit classes (SENCAP and others) have made major contributions to enrollment increases. 3) Continue to work to reach 100% job employment in all programs. Demand for SCC graduates is high. Working with the high schools, college advisors, and community and business leaders is important.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DISTRICT 2

Kathy Boellstorff (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Southeast Community College Board of Governors District 2 member 1/2009-12/2020. Currently Vice Chairman, past Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer. Currently, Finance & Facilities Team Chairman.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nebraska Grain Sorghum Development, Utilization, & Marketing Board 1990-2008. Board of Education Johnson-Brock Public Schools 1995-2002.*

EDUCATION: *Currently, Culinary Arts student Southeast Community College. Continuing Ed Metro Community College, Peru State College. Master Beekeeper UNL. Fashion Merchandising degree Patricia Stevens. Dubuque Senior High School graduate, Dubuque, IA*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Personally none. However my husband, father and uncle served in the Armed Forces. I'm very supportive of the military & our veterans.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Women Involved in Farm Economics, Auburn Memorial Library Foundation, Brownville Village Theatre Board, NE LEAD Fellow, NE Ag Leadership Council, NE Ag Builders, Charter Oak Christian Church*

HOW SHOULD COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIFFERENTIATE THEMSELVES FROM FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES?

Kathy Boellstorff: Community colleges such as Southeast Community College (SCC) are in a unique position to provide affordable, accessible education to traditional and non-traditional students in career/technical & academic transfer programs plus dual credit and continuing education. (SCC) tuition/fees for a Nebraska resident is \$108 per credit hour.,considerably lower than 4-year universities. SCC trains workers in 6 of the 10 H3 (i.e., high demand, high skill, high wage) most sought occupations in the state. 94% of our graduates are employed or continuing their education. 90% work in their field of study. 87% work in Nebraska. Community colleges continue to align their programs with employer/workforce needs while meeting student, employer and community demands with only a small proportion, 5.5%, of Nebraska property taxes.

WHAT INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS WOULD YOU CHANGE AT YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE? WHY, OR WHY NOT?

Kathy Boellstorff: The board members role is to hire the President, in Southeast Community College's case, Dr. Paul Illich. The Vice-President of Human Resources is responsible to hire the most qualified instructors for the positions available. Most faculty member positions require a master's degree in a relevant subject matter. Work related experience is critical in staying up to date in their field.

WHAT SAFETY MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE TO KEEP STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF SAFE?

Kathy Boellstorff: At Southeast Community College, safety and security is a number one priority that we take very seriously. The most pressing safety measures at this time are adhering to Governor Ricketts Coronavirus 19 health & safety school closure restrictions by conducting strictly on-line learning until further notice. We are updating our facilities through physical renovations and building improvements. SCC has hired more security personnel, a division of the Human Resource Department, which conducts safety training sessions both personally and virtually on all types of safety measures to keep students, faculty and staff safe.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST-YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kathy Boellstorff: As the incumbent, my priorities remain the same and align with Southeast Community Colleges core values. I'm committed to providing excellent programs, services and operations. I'm committed to innovation, integrity and inclusion of students, faculty/staff and community population. I'm committed to stewardship and accountability through fiscal responsibility of the resources we're given. I would appreciate your vote in November.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE - AT LARGE

Timothy R Cerveny (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *SCC Board of Governors*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Chairman - Nebraska/Iowa Society of Maintenance and Reliability Professionals | President - Wilber-Clatonia Athletic Booster Club*

EDUCATION: *Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools - Graduate | SCC, Milford, NE - Associate of Applied Science Degree / Electromechanical Technology | Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE - Bachelor of Science Degree / Management*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *n/a*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Youth sports coach | 4-H volunteer | FFA Alumni Chapter | Wilber Czech Festival Volunteer | Church Council Groups*

Neal Stenberg (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Not Applicable*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Not Applicable*

EDUCATION: *UNL, BA, 1972; UNL, Juris Doctor, 1975*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Not Applicable*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Pinewood Bowl, Inc. Board for twenty years including service as president; Choir Member St. Mark's UMC; Choir Member St. Paul UMC; St. Paul UMC Foundation Board; TADA Board of Directors; Lincoln Choral Artists*

HOW SHOULD COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIFFERENTIATE THEMSELVES FROM FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES?

Timothy R Cerveny: Community colleges offer an alternative to four-year universities. They provide many students with the education required to contribute in technical fields. The demand for this type of employee continues to grow as baby boomers move closer to retirement. I work in the utility industry and the need for skilled employees has never been greater. Community colleges also offer the opportunity to complete coursework in preparation for pursuing a degree from a university. In these times of high tuition rates, this alternative is very attractive and makes higher learning more attainable.

Neal Stenberg: Provide Affordable Education. The role of the Southeast Community College should be to provide high quality instruction to students at very affordable rates of tuition. Emphasize Career/Technical Instruction. Unlike four-year institutions, the main area of emphasis at SCC should be in career/technical fields. Meet the Needs of Business and Industry. More so than is the case with respect to four-year institutions, career/technical programs must be carefully tailored to the specific needs of business and industry in the SCC Area. Meet the Needs of Working Students. Many of SCC's students work their way through school while attending on a part-time basis. In the fall of 2019, 64% of students were enrolled on a part-time basis. The College must work with such students to accommodate their work schedules. Provide Quality

Transfer Program. SCC should provide a quality transfer program using faculty with advanced degrees, having smaller class sizes, and lower rates of tuition.

WHAT INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS WOULD YOU CHANGE AT YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE? WHY, OR WHY NOT?

Timothy R Cervený: The instructors at Southeast Community College are excellent. They are well versed in their field of study, are committed to their students and take a genuine interest in improving the college and providing more opportunities for students. I don't know that I would change any qualifications for the instructors.

Neal Stenberg: I believe that instructors at SCC are already well-qualified to teach in their assigned areas. In the career and technical areas, the College is looking for persons who, in addition to having good teaching skills, have succeeded and distinguished themselves in a real work environment. A really good welding instructor must first be a really good welder. In the transfer program, the College typically hires only those persons having a master's or PhD degree.

WHAT SAFETY MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE TO KEEP STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF SAFE?

Timothy R Cervený: My two children are currently college students at separate institutions. Safety can take many forms. Physical safety is the most important. There needs to be security in place to ensure that a student feels safe while on campus. Another element of safety is the ability to be comfortable expressing your opinion. Students should be able to share their thoughts without fear of retribution from administration, educators or student groups. Opinions should be welcomed and considered rather than stifled.

Neal Stenberg: The College should employ public safety officers charged with the duty to provide safety and security on all Southeast Community College campuses; inspect security systems, equipment, buildings, and property; provide educational training programs to the campuses which cultivate safety and security awareness; engage in proactive appraisal of crime risks and take the action needed to remove or reduce that risk. The College should provide training to students and staff in how to deal with an active shooter situation. The College should have a method of reliably and quickly communicating with all students in the event of an active shooter situation. Maintain facilities and equipment in good condition. Equip all buildings with automatic sprinklers in case of fire. Regularly inspect and replace power tools. Students using power tools must be carefully monitored by trained staff and students and must be instructed in proper safety procedures.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST-YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Timothy R Cervený: Southeast Community College is currently in the process of major facility upgrades. My first priority would be to ensure that these projects are completed on time and on budget. These facilities will provide great opportunities for students to receive a world class education. SCC's administration is committed to student success. They have been very proactive

in monitoring the metrics related to this and I would like to become more involved in finding ways to promote the success of all students whether traditional or non-traditional.

Neal Stenberg: I would encourage the use of employer surveys to help the College better understand the hiring needs of local businesses and to evaluate whether the training offered by the College matches the needs of local businesses. I would support the creation of additional trade programs whenever necessary to support the needs of business and industry in Nebraska. In order to serve the 15-county service area better, Southeast Community College opened six Learning Centers in Falls City, Hebron, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, Wahoo and York. I very enthusiastically support the creation and maintenance of these learning centers because they make SCC's educational programs accessible to all persons residing in the SCC Area. One of my priorities would be to determine whether the programming offered at each center is meeting industry and community needs in that specific location. Programming at each center should be determined by local industry and community needs.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DISTRICT 1

Sandra C Elliott (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

COUNTY RACES

ADAMS COUNTY

ADAMS COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 4

Harold Johnson (Rep):

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Kearney County Rural Fire Board 1988 - 1998, Production Credit Association Board 1980 - 1988, May Township Roads Board 1975 - 1985, ACS Board 1975 - 1983*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of Minden High School in 1965*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Vietnam Veteran 1968-1969 Army Reserves*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Helped with the Crossroad's Thanksgiving meal and helped with assembly of animal cages at Start Over Rover, helped disabled friends with their needs.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Harold Johnson: 1. The need for a new jail 2. Make sure our roads and bridges are safe to be driven on 3. Keep taxes down. " As a former farmer most of my life I understand the hardships they are facing."

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Harold Johnson: 1. Keeping the residents of our county safe. "Safety should be our absolute primary concern." 2. Making sure our roads are always open so emergencies can be dealt with. 3. Working with employees so they are ready for any extreme weather. Equipment needs to be up and running for any type of extreme weather event.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Harold Johnson: 1. Uniting the County Board so we all work together as one Board. 2. Keeping the price of a new jail down so our taxes don't become more of a hardship on everyone. 3. Being available to listen to the concerns of the Adams County Residents.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Harold Johnson: I have always enjoyed working around people. As the former Adams County Maintenance Supervisor for 16 1/2 years I made sure the building was a clean safe place for employees to work in and the public to be in. I have worked on budgets and am eager to listen to people's concerns.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HASTINGS SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 18

Sharon Behl Brooks (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Member of the Board of Education, Hastings, 2016-present*

EDUCATION: *B.A Hastings College, M.A. University of Leicester, Great Britain, M.A. University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry, YWCA, Hastings Public Access Corporation, Hastings Public Library Foundation, Community for Kids, Hastings Public Schools Foundation Board, Child Development Council*

Laura Schneider (NP): <http://lauraschneideragency.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hastings Public School board of education January 6, 2009 to present*

EDUCATION: *BS in Entomology, Ag finance and general agriculture-UNL MS in agronomy-UNL*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Secretary Hastings Habitat for Humanity Treasurer Grace United Methodist Church Sunrise Rotary member and past president LWV Hastings member, past state and local president 4-H leader 20 years Past BBBS board member Member Chamber of commerce*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Sharon Behl Brooks: Our district works with local broadband providers to assure access to young people in our educational programs. We have been offering e-learning for those who request it during this first quarter and are surveying families about their plans for the second quarter. The district purchased additional computers for children this summer in order to make this possible. Teachers and administrators have been busy helping adults and young people navigate the protocols of use. Indeed, technology provides an array of teaching tools for today's educators. Supporting our educators with technological tools in their efforts to interact with students during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and weather-related events is a constant. Coding clubs have formed in some of our schools. Summer activities in past years have included opportunities to engage with robotics. Audio systems continue to be implemented as needed. Educators, through their Professional Learning Communities share strategies.

Laura Schneider: Equal access to internet has been a struggle in rural areas. Recent events have highlighted this weakness. Our district has met most access challenges through use of hot spots and arranging printed lessons.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Sharon Behl Brooks: Constantly coordinating with community agencies has been invaluable to assessing threats and implementing policies to address them. At one time we might have been focused primarily on physical threats to our students and teachers. Now we acknowledge that we are in a position to help protect our students and teachers from viruses. By maintaining good relationships with law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, and health professionals, we support our administrators and teachers in assessing potential problems and working together to prevent harm.

Laura Schneider: The health and safety of all our students and staff is a top priority. Recent school updates to all buildings have included limited locked entries and storm sheltering systems. Current challenge of COVID-19 has been beyond this physical safety change. Copious hours and meetings with staff, District health, and patrons have established the basis for stating back to school in person with e-learning options available to all students. This is a very fluid situation that will change as the year progresses.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Sharon Behl Brooks: Regular visits with teachers and administrators working in the Professional Learning Communities have been invaluable. We hope to continue some sort of shared communication this semester and next, even when social distancing is a challenge. The teachers see us in the schools. Parents and students know we attend school activities. We make ourselves available before, during, and after meetings. Yes, “we.” Our Board Norms are guidelines for our work as active board members. I fully embrace the collective effort to work on behalf of our teachers and students. Over time, this collaboration has identified a number of opportunities: for more attention to social and emotional learning; to curriculum that acknowledges research in how children learn, etc. Currently, I am working with the Hastings Public Schools Foundation on projects such as teacher grants and the Middle School Garden and the Community For Kids program to assess and address the needs for early childhood options.

Laura Schneider: Our district has focused on life and career ready students for the entire time I have been on the board. We have established cooperative programs in construction, auto mechanics and tool/die design with Central Community College. Most recent collaboration has been in the field of Health care.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF HASTINGS CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3

Paul C Hamelink (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hastings City Council 2016 – Present Hastings City Council President 2018 – Present Nebraska Commission on Housing & Homelessness 2014-Present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hastings City Planning Commission 2012-2016*

EDUCATION: *BA – Macalester College MM – Northwestern U PhD studies (ABD) – U of South Florida Six Sigma Green Belt – Villanova U Graduate studies – Bethel Sem. Numerous certifications from National Cen. for Housing Management*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Numerous boards including Community Theater, Chamber of Commerce (Past Chair), Police Retirement, Board of Health, Community Redevelopment Auth., Noon Rotary (Past Chair) Member Cham. of Commerce, Downtown Center Association, St Mark's Pro-Cathedral*

Joy Huffaker (NP): <http://eldonsautomotiverepair.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None at this time*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *I have by BSN.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

Willis Hunt (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hastings Planning Commission September 2018 – April 2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hastings City Engineer 1970 – 1977 Hastings City Council 1980 – 1984 Hastings Board of Public Works 2006 – 2018*

EDUCATION: *B.S. Kearney State (UNK) Masters Degree Program Nebraska Licensed Civil Engineer*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *U.S. Army – Veteran*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *4-H Youth Leader 1985 – 2014 Board Member of Adams County Agricultural Society 1985 – 1994 Rodeo Volunteer/Fair Volunteer 1995-2019 Hastings Chamber of Commerce 1985 – 2020*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Paul C Hamelink: Considerable development has been a direct result of economic assistance such as TIF funds, façade grants, LIHTC funds and other incentives supported through the efforts of HEDC, the CRA and BID. Hastings should continue to pursue grant funding, such as CBDG funds, to continue to attract private investment. These funds have been key to projects like the Brewery Lofts and North Park Commons. New projects add to our economic base and address important needs such as housing. The city must address infrastructure issues as we continue to grow. The 42nd St. improvement and Hwy 6 projects are good examples of

addressing needs in growing areas. Updating our aging systems must become a priority before it becomes an emergency. Hastings Utilities is a key component for future growth. HU is successfully addressing the nitrate problem assuring a good water supply. The new solar farm moved us toward the future with clean energy and keeps us competitive with other communities.

Joy Huffaker: I would like to see the City of Hastings grow from within. If the small business's within our community grow they will have more job openings thus attracting more individuals and or families to our community. Hastings is already doing a great job of adding on and growing towards the north, I would like to also see development on all sides of the city. Hastings has a lot of small communities that come here for shopping, vehicle repair, ect and we want to continue to grow and provide more choices.

Willis Hunt: My priorities for economic development in Hastings is to support the continuation of the activities of the Economic Development Corporation as I did while a member of the Hastings Board of Public Works. One of the projects I worked on included the expansion of Thermo-King through a grant. This grant provided high paying jobs for Hastings and the surrounding area.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Paul C Hamelink: First, ensure public safety. Mobilize staff to clear roads for first responders, repair/restore utility services and activate emergency plans and personnel. The COVID-19 crisis has helped refine our emergency procedures. Clear lines of communication must be established. Emergencies require cooperation between numerous city, county, state and sometime federal agencies. Hastings is currently upgrading IT functions so key staff can perform essential job functions and communicate outside of their workspace. The public must be kept informed. The recent addition of a Public Information Director has proven to be an invaluable addition during the Corona Virus outbreak. This will also position Hastings to utilize communication paths such as social media. Relief efforts must be launched, especially for our vulnerable populations. The Red Cross, Salvation Army, along with other community resources must be enlisted to assist in providing shelter, food and basic needs to those most effected.

Joy Huffaker: I would like to see procedures in place so if or when there are extreme weather events that all departments know their part and exactly what to do and when. Also these procedures need to be available for the public to access so the citizens know what to expect during those times.

Willis Hunt: In the event of an extreme weather emergency, one of the top priorities for the city is the planning and preparation required before this weather event occurs. The establishment of a command center, under the direction of the Mayor, along with the support of all City Departments, and with other Government agencies, including the County Emergency Management and the State and Federal governments should have a plan in place. This combined group would establish what would be the top priority to the weather event negate. As a councilman from the Third Ward, I would offer my services, if needed, in support of whatever priority or action this group would decide to take on.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES?
PLEASE DETAIL.**

Paul C Hamelink: 1. Economic Development, Hastings needs to enable, not inhibit, private investment in our community. A strong business community will make for a strong Hastings. The Council must continue to support the efforts of HEDC, CRA and the BID as well as our existing manufacturers, retailers, businesses large and small, non-profits and schools. 2. Keep Hastings Affordable. Hastings enjoys some of the lowest utility rates in Nebraska. Those rates must stay low. We must also maintain Hastings strong financial position by not encumbering taxpayers with further city debt, looking for efficiencies and avoid unnecessary spending of tax dollars. Economic development will increase our tax base and help keep taxes in check. 3. Make Hastings User Friendly. Working with the city should be easy and approachable. Our quality of life will thrive as we invest in our parks & rec, expand our trails and increase accessibility/walkability. City government needs to be quick to serve and slow to restrict.

Joy Huffaker: 1. Community growth, as I touched on above I believe that Hastings is a great community and that if we support our local businesses and they are able to grow they will attract individuals and their families to our community for job opportunities. 2. Open communication and the concerns of the citizens being heard. This is a great community because of all the citizens that live here. The city council members are the voice for the citizens and the majority of the citizens want their concerns or ideas validated. The more open communication is between the council and the citizens the less misunderstanding there will be. 3. Positive Culture change. We have a lot of great people working for the City as well as some individuals that have recently started and changes are being made and new ideas and ways of doing things are happening. We want to attract great individuals and families to our community, this will happen as we are seen as a welcoming community with positive City employees.

Willis Hunt: One of the top priorities that became apparent to the citizens of the Third Ward is the lack of open discussion or decision which affect major changes in the transportation system of the City of Hastings. A street was closed and direct access to some businesses was greatly affected, causing them to close. This action was taken with no public hearing on this matter. Only after a petition was circulated, which had more than twenty-seven hundred signatures, did the City Council take action to stop the process of removal of an elevated railroad crossing that had been utilized by the traveling public for more than eight decades. A study to determine the cost of repairs has now been undertaken. This was done only after the petition was filed. It took a major public response to bring this about. As elected officials, you openly represent the public in all matters. This needs to be a high priority. Petitioning the government to respond should be the public's last resort.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Paul C Hamelink: Hastings needs to be prepared to move into a rapidly changing future. We face a number of issues such as: workforce shortages, lack of quality affordable housing, the need for additional well-paying jobs, affordable daycare and the loss of our young people. In early 2020 I began to identify and address these and other future concerns by gathering

community leaders with the goal of crafting an achievable plan for the future of our city. In February I invited Mike Flood, former Speaker of the NE Legislature, to present at the annual meeting of the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce. His work in NE Nebraska brought us examples of how communities like Hastings can successfully address future concerns. He was very well received. While this group is currently on hold due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we will reconvene as soon as possible. I expect this group will be able to set concrete goals which will directly address the needs of our community in the years to come.

Joy Huffaker: I feel that there is a lot of negativity regarding the growth of our community. One of the biggest problems is lack of knowledge by the citizens as to why things are done the way they are. More public knowledge and ease of access to obtain this information would help with a lot of misconceptions.

Willis Hunt: The biggest and greatest challenge we face today is the Covid-19. This is a challenge to our community and to the world! How will local governments survive the large economic loss and continue to provide service to its citizens. It will take strong, dedicated, knowledgeable public servants willing to make the hard decisions and be ready to detail their actions to the citizens they represent. There will be some hard decisions that will need to be taken and I stand ready to do that. I believe my public service in difficult economic times has prepared me for the very decisions which are ahead for all public officials.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF HASTINGS CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4

Robin Vodehnal (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF JUNIATA

KATHY JENSEN (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Jan. 2017 to present: Juniata Board of Trustees*
EDUCATION: *Masters Special Education Life Skills, Learning Disabilities, Reading Interventions.*

Volunteer Experience: *I volunteered at schools until I received my teaching degree and proceeded to teach special education for 25 years. I was a Girl Scout Leader. I have worked on community projects such as relocating playground equipment and cleaning up the village.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kathy Jensen: My priorities are to provide more affordable housing to families that need a single family residence. Also to bring businesses to our community and to keep the village growing. I am concerned with the infrastructure of our community. Keeping the roads, bridges, buildings and parks in good repair is important to be inviting to interested business or home owners.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kathy Jensen: To keep on working with the information provided from the Federal Government to protect our village from flooding issues. To make sure all equipment owned by the village is repaired and ready for issues such as snow removal. To have emergency plans ready in case of a need to relocate people.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kathy Jensen: 1. Find ways to keep young families in our community and to attract others to Juniata. 2. Attract businesses to Juniata. 3. Have Juniata be a safe and clean place to live.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kathy Jensen: Helping people, especially the elderly, keep up their properties. Consider recruiting people to help others clean up areas of debris. Help Juniata to feel like a big family and for all of us to look after each other.

***** VOTE EARLY! *****

ANTELOPE COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

***** VOTE EARLY! *****

ARTHUR COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BANNER COUNTY

BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1

Laura Baker (NP):

No response received

Lacy Krakow (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *Master of Science in Education Bachelor of Science in Education Master coursework in Secondary Administration and Business*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *President of Banner County Foundations Committee*

Larry R Pahl (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *School Board member Jan. 2019 to present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

EDUCATION: *BS Chadron State College Graduate work at UNL and CSC*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *First English Lutheran in Kimball, Ne board member. Calvary Memorial Church in , NE board member. Math tutoring in Kimball. Track coaching in Kimball, NE. Team Mates mentor in Kimball, NE.*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Lacy Krakow: As an online instructor, I understand the value of technology in the classroom, however, I also believe that education can be equitable and rigorous with limited technology, especially in a rural system such as Banner County. I feel that providing students with curiosity and research abilities will allow them to move forward in any career field that they desire, including a technological field, without utilizing technology in every aspect of their education.

Larry R Pahl: Not all students in our district have access to internet. I am not sure how the district, being as rural as it is, can address that concern. We can continue to work with the NWC to offer more dual credit classes and to continue to work with other districts to offer on line classes and distant learning opportunities .

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Lacy Krakow: I believe that it is important to teach awareness among all patrons of the community, in and out of the school building. If we are aware of our surroundings, we are able to see potential issues while functioning without fear. Our school has a number of safety measures in place that I believe are working well, however, I will continue to learn about other safety measures that may be implemented and will bring them forth to the school board as I see fit.

Larry R Pahl: Our doors are locked, all people must check in to enter the building through one entrance and must indicate where in the building they are going, I feel the building is secure. A play ground improvement would be the addition of rubber mulch to the play ground area, especially under the play ground equipment area. We should possibly consider making sure our buses parked on the school grounds during the day are secure.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Lacy Krakow: Working with members of the community and surrounding communities will help to understand the expectations of area colleges, trade schools, and places of employment. I feel it is important to prepare students to be able to choose any career path that suits them while helping them to understand what jobs are available in the area they want to live. Teaching students to care about their work, to work through issues to find a resolution, and to be able to research to find information they don't yet know will help them function in any career they choose, including careers that have not yet been created.

Larry R Pahl: As a board member I must keep watch on the balance of (1) post education, 4 year, 2 year and (2) opportunities for entry into the work force on graduation. We must (1) inform students and (2) encourage students to enter the trades. We need electricians, plumbers, builders, farm workers, truck drivers, railroaders, medical service personal, and service industry personal. I also believe we need to educated our students that they can get a good job, get a good post secondary education with out incurring these insane students loans. I believe that we must educate our students, not only how to make money, but how to spend it with out incurring huge credit card debits.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BLAINE COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BOONE COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BOX BUTTE COUNTY

ALLIANCE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6

Shana Brown (NP):

No response received

Tim Richey (NP):

No response received

Dave Rischling (NP):

No response received

Jake Sylvester (NP):

No response received

Karen Trussell (NP):

No response received

Wes Whitwer (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

Mara Andersen (NP):

No response received

Gary A Goodell (NP): <http://gary.goodell@yahoo.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Previously elected to the Alliance City Council in 2002.*

Served from 2002-2006. Served as Vice-Mayor from 2004-2006.

EDUCATION: *Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Comprehensive Business*

Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and Entrepreneurship (BBA), Associate of Arts in

Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Proudly served active duty United States Air Force from May 1980 to December 1990 as a Security Policeman. Honorably Discharged December, 1990.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Actively civic minded. Served on various Boards and committees such as the Alliance Planning Commission, Northwest Community Action Partnership, Alliance Veterans Cemetery Board, Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor, youth baseball coach.*

John S McGhehey (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *BS in Business Administration, University of Kansas.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Box Butte Development Corporation United Way - Box Butte County St. Agnes Academy Foundation Box Butte Health Foundation*

Brian Mischnick (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Gary A Goodell: To bring aboard immediate community involvement to the process such as asking folks from the entire community in volunteering to become members of an Economic Development Task Force would be paramount in my opinion. In working with them as well as the established boards such as the Citizen Advisory Economic Development Board and Box Butte Development Corporation (BBDC) in bringing about immediate economic change and betterment to our community. Talk is cheap. Action is IMPERATIVE. To employ any and all economic tools at my disposal to include any city sales tax revenue that may be set aside for economic development, LB840 funding, community development grant funds, crowdfunding, etc., in order to better our community economically post haste now, and for years to come.

John S McGhehey: 1) I would encourage and support any efforts to have good relationships with our key employers and local business owners. 2) We have lost two key retail businesses (K-Mart, Shopko) which provided basic products. We need to continue to try to fill that void, particularly for those who aren't able to travel - or use the internet - to obtain those products. 3) Maintain funding for Box Butte Development Corporation because of their efforts in promoting new and existing businesses 4) Develop funding for the Community Redevelopment Authority so they can assist with revitalization in key areas to promote outside investment in existing and/or new business.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Gary A Goodell: To insure that action plans are in place well before an extreme weather event would ever take place. That "exercises" designed to enhance first responders, emergency

personnel such as fire and police, business owners, schools, medical staff and hospital/clinic preparedness, and the general public are routinely conducted to ensure our capability to handle such extreme events. These exercises can be actual or "tabletop", however, they will be conducted routinely with as many departments and with as much citizen participation as possible. More importantly, I would ensure that the City of Alliance budgets for such activity and for such events each year to help calm the residents of our fine community in knowing that there is such a plan and that such a plan routinely is exercised to the best potential possible to properly maintain a high level of vigilance and preparedness for such an event at all times.

John S McGhehey: 1) Ensuring citizen safety through communication; emergency response personnel 2) Coordination with healthcare services 3) Maintaining (or restoring) access to essential services (e.g., electricity, water)

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Gary A Goodell: First: Fiscal budget accountability, priority, responsibility, and full transparency. This should be a given. However, in our community, the City budget should be explained in far better detail to the general public so that all hands are on deck and are on the same page moving forward. Second: Economic Development. Economic development should always remain a high priority in any community. With the City of Alliance, that priority has faltered greatly. I would raise that flag to the highest standard! I would gather the best economic minds in our community along with members of the general public, inside and outside influencers, any tools necessary to bring about true economic development change within the community now. Third: I would be an extremely strong advocate in bringing about effective mentoring programs and opportunities for our youth in such areas as business, medical, automotive, plumbing, carpentry, electrical, etc. This effort would keep our youth here and productive.

John S McGhehey: 1) The City of Alliance is in a strong financial condition and I will support policies that would help maintain that strength. 2) I would seek to work with outside partners (e.g., Box Butte Development Corporation, Alliance Chamber of Commerce, etc.) to develop action plans to promote local entrepreneurship and other new business through the use of LB840 funds and other economic development incentives. 3) I think it is important to make sure basic infrastructure needs (e.g., roads; electric, water and sewer services) are maintained on a regular basis.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Gary A Goodell: Our biggest challenge in our community, I believe, would be its divisive culture. The City of Alliance is a historically rich community but fails in addressing its current culture. I would change that by inviting community involvement in the development of a Cultural Task Force that would address such issues as community diversity, income impairment, race, gender, education, etc., and one that would take ACTION. This task force would be headed by a member of the Alliance City Council and would represent the various factions of the

community and the issues that remain paramount to so many within our community. Having such a task force will address such issues immediately and decisively. This effort would effectively engage members of the community who may have felt left out of the process so many times before and, more importantly, would greatly enhance community relations, helping to greatly reduce the recidivism of future community outbreaks and foster a far better culture.

John S McGhehey: The biggest challenge for Alliance will be adapting to a constantly changing economic environment. Our major employer, BNSF, is confronted with a declining demand for coal. This has ramifications for Alliance. With the rise of internet shopping we will likely continue to see a decline of store fronts - particularly in rural areas. There are no easy answers to these trends. The City of Alliance has been pro-active in creating incentives (e.g., LB840 funds) and entities (Community Redevelopment Authority), to encourage economic development. Continued emphasis on these - and any new tools - should be encouraged.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BOYD COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BROWN COUNTY

BROWN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Raymond Buddy Small (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Brown county Commissioner January 2008 to present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *School Board North Brookfield MA Board of Selectmen North Brookfield MA 1970 to 1986 Conservation Commission*

EDUCATION: *Attended Clark University and Worcester State University in Worcester MA*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *United States Air Force*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Boy Scout Committee, Boy Scout Webelos Leader, various church groups, driving patients to medical services e.g. chemotherapy, dialysis.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Raymond Buddy Small: I am pro business. As a commissioner I support economic growth in virtually all areas.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Raymond Buddy Small: The safety of the residents, the opening of roads and public buildings as soon as possible, rendering aid to assist folks with getting back to normal, routine lives.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Raymond Buddy Small: Maintaining a reasonable budget and conducting the affairs of the county within the budget, maintaining the county roads and all county properties in the best state of conditions as possible, and supporting the economic growth of the county.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Raymond Buddy Small: I have served the county faithfully and honorably for 11 years. I have formed relationships with people within the county and across the state of Nebraska that can benefit our county as I have the contacts necessary to perform my duties as a commissioner by achieving results with projects and programs. I treat everyone respectfully and with equal concern to their needs. I am available full time to assist the residents of Brown County. I am open with my ideas and my actions and have no hidden agenda. My sole desire is to serve my friends and neighbors with kindness, fairness, consideration of their needs and a solid future for the younger generations that will build their lives here in Brown County.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF AINSWORTH CITY COUNCIL

Anissa Julius (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BUFFALO COUNTY

CITY OF GIBBON - MAYOR

Johnathon Pearson (NP):

EDUCATION: *High school Graduate*

Deborah VanMatre (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Mayor, City of Gibbon, December 2012-present;
Director, Central Platte Natural Resources District, February 2015-present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Gibbon Public School Board, January 1999-December 2010*

EDUCATION: *Gibbon Public School Kearney State College*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Currently or formerly involved with numerous professional, civic, philanthropic, and church organizations on local, state and national levels for entire adult life.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Johnathon Pearson: The first thing I'd like to change is our landfill layout. It doesn't make any sense having our town dump the grass and tree limbs in one spot then make the city employees transport it a quarter mile into another spot. There is no reason we can't have our town dump grass or limbs directly on where they will be burned. Then all we do is shut the landfill down like on a Friday and Saturday once a month and burn it and let it simmer through the weekend. Obviously a city employee or myself checking on it and making sure it's not out of control. The other thing is our Hwy30 through Gibbon is absolutely horrible and falling apart especially from the east side of Casey's all the way east of the Packing House. It's time to do something about this. There are also a few spots needing attention on court street and also a few cul-de-sacs that have absolutely no storm sewers or help the volunteer fire dept get the supplies they actually need or new welcome to gibbon signs or do a new time capsule

Deborah VanMatre: If re-elected, I plan to continue moving the city forward on the positive trajectory we have been on for the last seven years under my leadership. My immediate personal goals include planning for a renovated fire hall/city hall/community room, working on potential housing developments, continued improvement with our wastewater treatment plant operations and compliance, successful application as a Leadership Certified Community with Nebraska Department of Economic Development, and completion of the update of the Municipal Code. I look forward to continuing to work with the city council on our mutually established goals as identified in our strategic action plan.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Johnathon Pearson: One thing about Gibbon is the town has been great at growth and development on it's own and new businesses have come to gibbon because of that. I think gibbon will continue to grow without issues because it's such a great small community and if new Ideas come about then we should have a discussion about them and the future ideas or plans.

Deborah VanMatre: During my tenure as mayor, we have had numerous new businesses open, in addition to commercial entities moving their operations to our community. We have identified areas for redevelopment, and will continue to work with the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County in attracting businesses, as well as working with developers on affordable housing opportunities.

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

Johnathon Pearson: I am a big Believer in the second amendment and it doesn't need to be infringed upon any more than it has been. The United States already has thousands of gun laws and making another new gun law or ordinance will not accomplish anything. Honestly I'm more for our town citizens to be more prepared by owning and understanding a firearm vs being put in a situation where a firearm could have saved your life and someone else's life. Maybe we can possibly create a (Community Preparedness Class) that way we can appease some people.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Johnathon Pearson: The big reason I'm running is we need a good mayor for our town and one that doesn't buckle under the pressure. I want the town to know they can come up to me and talk to me about issues or ideas or whatever they want and know they can trust me and I'll do my best to help or work with an individual or business or family on any situation and if I can't I will let them know why instead of leaving them in suspense or with no answers. I know people are going to ask themselves how can I be mayor if I work the railroad? Yes I do work a week away from town but, then I'm home for a week and my answer is what is the difference between a mayor that's here in Gibbon 24-7 and doesn't do much or anything for the city vs me and I most likely and hopefully can get more done when I'm home every other week.

Deborah VanMatre: My experience and my leadership. We have had many successes and seen many improvements during my tenure. We have identified a number of goals and projects with our strategic plan, and I am in the best position to see them accomplished.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BUFFALO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4

Daniel L Lynch (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *College level*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Boy Scouts of America, United Way, Police Officer's Association of Nebraska Past President, Police Chief's Association Past President, recently assisted Two Rivers Health Department in organizing Covid19 testing for Emergency Responders in 7 counties*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Daniel L Lynch: Initially, my priorities have been to address concerns regarding roads, road conditions and maintenance. I was also contacted by citizens regarding property taxes. After all that we have had over the last few months, I believe that we will need to address how we can help the citizens recover from the pandemic which I feel will be a monumental challenge for all government bodies but most assuredly for those closest to the people.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Daniel L Lynch: Public Safety. We are rural and as such, being able to reach citizens, to communicate and to assist is the most urgent issue in severe weather. The health and safety must be top priorities. Maintenance of public thoroughfares. The ability to travel and to supply are always paramount. Plan and respond to any necessary repairs to infrastructure.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Daniel L Lynch: Pandemic issues regarding health/ safety and economic stability. Road conditions, maintenance and improvement. Economic development and sustenance issues.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Daniel L Lynch: I am very well versed in government operations, functions and budgeting. I have an excellent working relationship with County Officials and many Officials in several of the communities in the county. I bring a track record of cooperation and collaboration that is well documented. As a 40 plus year resident of the area I understand many of the pressures and concerns of the public. I think I can help all of us to improve our quality of life and address necessary and needed changes and growth. I have sufficient time, energy and experience to do an excellent job.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

KEARNEY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 7

Steve Gaasch (NP):

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska Kearney*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Youth soccer coach for Kearney Soccer Club Youth soccer and basketball coach for Kearney YMCA*

Justin Simmons (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Steve Gaasch: It is important that each student have a computer and broadband access outside of the school environment, no matter what their social and economical status is. It is equally important that the students know how to utilize these tools, the teachers have clear and understandable instructions that not only the students can follow, but also the parents are able to understand and assist with at home, and it's important that there is some uniformity between teachers so that there is a common method for the students and parents to follow. The sudden shutdown for the pandemic this last spring pointed out a shortcoming in the preparations. There was a wide disparity in how well each class/teacher was able to provide remote learning for the students. Remote learning is a very real possibility for us again at any time. Computers, broadband access, and proper preparations need to be a key focus in order for our students to be successful.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Steve Gaasch: It's important to have a safe and secure environment for our staff and students within their building(s). I think we do a pretty good job of that now, but it is something that continually needs to be monitored and updated. Emergency planning needs to be thorough and up to date, with continual training. Again, I think we do a good job with that. We emphasize "be kind" to our students, and that's a critical point, with bullying always a potential problem. One thing that I do really think we need to take a look at improving upon is the traffic patterns around our schools. There are literally hundreds of cars moving around each of our school buildings every day, especially at drop off and pick up times. It's amazing that we have not had some major accidents, with the "organized chaos" that is typical during these times. Before we do have some serious incidents, we need to see what we can do to simplify, and better organize this traffic.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Steve Gaasch: As a school board member, I need to do my best to make sure that we have the resources needed to maximize our educational opportunities. This involves several things. We need to have facilities that meet today's needs, but are also ready for tomorrow. We need the highest quality staff and curriculum available. We need to protect our financial resources and make the most out of the money that we spend. We need to make our education as practical and up to date as possible, partner with resources in the community (people and business), and give our students every opportunity they can get to be a part of the society outside of our school environment (band trips, sporting events, internships, tour outings, volunteering, etc.). In short, being successful as a board member means to have a great staff, give them the direction and resources they need, stay out of their way so that they can get their job done well, and cheer them all on throughout the process.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BURT COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BUTLER COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CASS COUNTY

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4

Daniel Dean Henry (Rep): <http://practicalgov.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Cass County Commissioner December 2012 to current*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Mayor Louisville Nebraska December 2000 to February 2003*

EDUCATION: *High school*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Daniel Dean Henry: My main priority will be to maintain and help our current businesses to thrive, to make sure our farmers have every tool we have available to make them successful and finally work with Cass County Economic Development to encourage new business to locate here.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Daniel Dean Henry: Constituent safety, help any victims and preserve infrastructure.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Daniel Dean Henry: Making sure County government operates as efficiently and effectively as possible, continue to work on the Budget process and finally work with the Legislature to come up with a more equitable process for needed revenue instead of relying so heavily on property tax.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Daniel Dean Henry: My career with the City of Louisville gave me extensive experience with budgets and operations of government, it also helped me understand the need for long term planning. During my time as Commissioner I have been on the Budget Committee every year, also during this time we have increased both building facilities and Roads Department equipment. I believe if you talk to anyone that knows me they will tell you I am a very good steward of taxpayer money.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOUISVILLE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 32

John Winkler (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Louisville Board of Education 2016-2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Village Board of Trustees Cedar Creek, Nebraska*

EDUCATION: *Bachelors Degree in Political Science Masters Degree in Public Administration*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Member of the Offutt Advisory Council. Co-Commander of the 38th Reconnaissance Squadron. Volunteer at Open Door Mission, Sienna Francis House, Habitat for Humanity, Heathland of America Food bank. Coach youth athletics.*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

John Winkler: One thing the COVID-19 Pandemic has taught everyone in education is the value of technology to the education of our students in the classroom and more importantly outside of the classroom. One of the lessons learned was that not every student has equal access to broadband internet access in our District, especially in rural areas. The District did take steps to ensure that all students did have access to technology and the internet, however, broadband access is a systemic issue that needs to be addressed across the state and country and not just for education but for business development, access to health care and general quality of life. Without broadband access rural areas and economically depressed areas of our state and communities will fall behind in education and overall development. Simply, we need 21st century technology across the country.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

John Winkler: At LPS school safety is our number one concern. LPS has invested a tremendous amount of resources in school safety equipment, procedures, and protocols. We purchased a new security system with camera's, keyless entry systems, teacher training in stop the bleed and first aid triage techniques, each classroom is equipped with a first aid medical kit, active shooter training, tornado, fire and active shooter drills conducted in school. LPS communicates and coordinates with the Cass County Sheriff's office, the Nebraska State Patrol and federal agencies to ensure the District is doing everything we can to ensure student and teacher safety. The District has a very active and proactive safety committee which provides recommendations regularly to the Board and Administration. Furthermore, teacher and student safety is stressed outside of the school building and school day. Just like education doesn't begin or end at the front doors of the school, neither does safety or health.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

John Winkler: At LPS we try to offer a wide range of academic, athletic, artistic and vocational training, activities and curriculum. Not all students are interested in pursuing a 4 year degree in college. I am a huge supporter of vocational and job training at LPS. As has been widely reported there exists a shortage of qualified trades people like welders, plumbers, electricians, HV/AC, machinist, mechanics, transportation workers etc. LPS conducts job shadowing programs, class offerings etc. and has begun to explore establishing a program with the communities largest employer to train students on the equipment they utilize and the many opportunities for careers they offer. The District participates in local and regional internships or jobs programs to encourage students to explore careers that they are interested in. There exists and equal demand and shortage of engineers, chemists, health care professionals, information technology and coding professionals in today's 21st century job market.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CEDAR COUNTY

HARTINGTON AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Karma Schulte (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CHASE COUNTY

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

Duane Dinnel (Rep):
CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*
PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Chase County Zoning Board ~2005-2008*
EDUCATION: *Three semesters college at University of Nebraska*
MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Two years U.S. Army, including one year Vietnam/Cambodia infantry*
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Eight months staff member with Mexico Caravan Ministries, Tijuana, Mexico*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Duane Dinnel: Chase County is predominately an agriculture based economy. As such, I will support efforts that will increase production and efficiency of existing farms and businesses. I will also support new enterprises that will add value to the products that are already being produced. I believe that a multi-faceted economy is important to the overall economic health of a community. I will support any new enterprise that can contribute in a positive manner to the county. Such enterprises must be self-sustaining and not rely upon tax dollar support for their success.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Duane Dinnel: 1. Safety of all residents, including county employees responding to the event. 2. Preservation of livestock and other assets. 3. Maintaining infrastructure.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Duane Dinnel: 1. Fiscal Responsibility. I believe that I am accountable for each tax dollar that is spent. I will scrutinize the budgets of every department to eliminate any unnecessary spending. This may include not funding some requests that have been made in the past. I believe that every dollar spent should have a benefit that exceeds the cost. 2. County roads represent the single largest budget item for the county. I will work to see that we have the best roads that we can reasonably afford. By allocating labor and equipment more efficiently, we can have better roads for the same dollars spent. I have several ideas on how to accomplish this. 3. Work with other local, state and federal agencies to eliminate overlap of services. This may involve eliminating or curtailing some non-essential services. I am not in favor of unfunded mandates from state and federal agencies. My underlying philosophy is, if you alone benefit from a service, then you, not the taxpayer, should bear the cost.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Duane Dinnel: I am retired, therefore I have the time available to do the job. I am fiscally conservative as I believe most of my constituents are. I will endeavor to make sure that every dollar spent is to the taxpayers' benefit. I am willing to listen to any concerns in regard to county functions or operations. I would appreciate hearing suggestions for improvement along with the concern, rather than it just being a complaint. In this way, we can work together to accomplish a better result.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CHERRY COUNTY

CHERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Martin K DeNaeyer (Rep):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CHEYENNE COUNTY

LEYTON SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 3

Susan M Ernest (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *I do not currently hold any public office.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *I was elected to the Leyton Board of Education in 1999 and served from 2000-2008. I served as Secretary for many years.*

EDUCATION: *I have a B.S. in Education and a Minor in Vocational Special Needs from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. I taught Special Education from 1990-1994 in Lodgepole, NE. I was a substitute at Lodgepole, Sidney and Leyton for 6 years.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *I have volunteered in many ways in my communities. I was a volunteer coach for 10 years for various sports. Soccer, T-Ball and coach pitch for boys and girls teams. I served on the Cheyenne County Community Center's Board of Directors for 6 years.*

Roland Rushman (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Susan M Ernest: I do believe the Leyton District to be very up to date on this technology. Being in a rural area, it is a challenge to have adequate access, but that has improved over the years.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Susan M Ernest: Our district takes the safety of students and teachers/staff very seriously. The buildings are all closed to the public and you must be allowed in via a security camera. There are also cameras in all hallways and the gyms.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Susan M Ernest: I believe that there needs to be an emphasis put on the trades. Students need to be given wider choices and experiences that will help them make a decision for what path they choose in life. For many years, emphasis has been put too heavily on the 4 year college route and we have ignored a large part of the students who never felt that a 4 year college education was for them. By allowing some experience in multiple career areas, we better prepare students to make the choice that is best for them.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CLAY COUNTY

CITY OF HARVARD CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2

Dean Winchell (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HARVARD SCHOOL BOARD

Michael B Nierman (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

COLFAX COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CUMING COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CUSTER COUNTY

CUSTER COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 4

Dwain Bryner (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Custer County Supervisor District 4 - Lexington Landfill board member - Central Nebraska Community Action Partners board member*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Lincoln County Fair Board Member - NestBuilders*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of Broken Bow Public Schools*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Chamber of Commerce*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Dwain Bryner: Continue to encourage local trade, and expansion of our local enterprises as well as developing relationships with other companies that could be encouraged to expand into our area.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Dwain Bryner: Safety of all our citizens, communication with emergency management, and law enforcement.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Dwain Bryner: Continue to work on developing a long term plan for roads and infrastructure. Being financially responsible with tax payers dollars. Continue to develop the county employees to best serve our citizens in the most efficient manner.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Dwain Bryner: I bring over 40 years of business experience, having experience in bidding jobs and employee relationships as well as budgeting. I have served 4 years on the Custer County Board representing district 4, learning the operations of the county from the inside.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

ANSELMO MERNA SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 15

Tom Griffith (NP):

No response received

Brandon Miller (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Anselmo-Merna High School/ Kansas State University*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Youth Coach in Basketball, Baseball, and Football/ St. Anselm's Catholic Church CCD Teacher*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Brandon Miller: Although we need to be cognizant to create balance between technology and human interaction, an increase in distance learning courses should be considered to diversify learning opportunities and steer students' education in a direction that fits their interests and skillset. I believe that students who are interested in what they are learning and are challenged, will be engaged and will experience a rewarding outcome. This currently happens to a degree at the high school level, but it should be even more diversified, and be implemented earlier in school. Technology offers a wide variety of resources that teachers should utilize to expand their students' minds. From leveraging different perspectives from other scholars around the globe to creative, alternative ways of learning that are engaging to students; we are just beginning to realize the power that technology can offer the education system, and I would like to see my school district be on the leading edge of that movement.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Brandon Miller: Harm can be emotional, sexual, social, or physical. Creating a safe environment begins with culture. Educators should create a culture where everyone can feel support, friendship, and security within the school. That culture should be led by example from the top down. Students need to be taught that there are consequences for actions. Expectations must be clear and corrective measures should look deeper than punishment and into guidance and support, where educators are empathetic towards the drivers behind the action. It's important for educators to attempt to recognize warning signs of risk in its early stages and take a proactive approach. Troubled young people need to feel support, friendship, guidance, and in a sense, therapy from their educational leaders. I believe that early warning signs of evil can be steered in the direction of good if educators can identify the root cause of the evil drivers and provide necessary support early on. This ties back to culture.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Brandon Miller: Several concerns that I have with young people entering the job market from the education system, including my school district, must be addressed. Academically, I think that my school district sets very high standards and excels in this category. With that said, areas that could be improved for young individuals to better prepare for the next chapter in their lives include diversified life skills, willpower, confidence, passion, problem solving, free and revolutionary thinking, effort, attitude, and embracing challenge. Academics are important; however, high exam scores will only take them so far in their career without the aforementioned characteristics and skillsets. They must be diversified people with the ability to think freely and confidently influence members in their organization in order to positively advance throughout their professional careers.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DAKOTA COUNTY

SOUTH SIOUX CITY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 11

Marla Grier (NP):

No response received

Chris Krueger (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY - CITY COUNCIL

Rick Bousquet (NP):

No response received

Carol Schuldt (NP):

No response received

Ben Schultz (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *ESU #1 Board of Directors*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *B.S. Degree from Minnesota State M.S. Degree from University of Nebraska Omaha*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *United Way Open Door Mission Kindness Siouxland YMCA Coach*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Ben Schultz: I believe that our City is in need of more affordable housing so that we can draw more families here. This could also bring in more business to our community. We also could use more activities and facilities for our youth. They need safe places to go and safe places to learn new things. We have an abundance of restaurants here to choose from, but the entertainment available is lacking so I would like to see some more attractions available to our city patrons.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Ben Schultz: In my work with the school district as Safety coordinator, this is something I think about and practice throughout the year. I would want to take a look at our current practices and see what can be added to make our city safer in all events and in particular, a weather event. I would want to hear from the public to see what they need in regard to this. That is one thing I feel is so important; to hear from the people who live here.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Ben Schultz: 1. The Youth of our city. This would include providing more activities to participate in. Also, places for them to do the activities. Safety is a big key in our youth including home safety. I would like to include more programs to our youth that help train them in case of an emergency of any type. 2. Economic Growth. South Sioux City is such a beautiful city with it's people and feel. We need to do a better job of promoting that and bringing in businesses and families. I hope to help be part of that recruitment. 3. Listening to our people. I think too often people running for office have agendas without listening to what the community wants and needs. I plan to listen and help do something from what I hear people asking for.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Ben Schultz: Our community is a strong one who have overcome many things since I have been here. Flooding, Big Ox smell, and most recently Covid-19. I think through all of this, we have shown that we are resilient. What I would like to see is a stronger sense of togetherness. That comes through Kindness, it comes through listening. It also comes from being transparent with the community with changes and why they are occurring. I hope to challenge this and make South Sioux feel like a place no one ever wants to leave.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF EMERSON

Mark Graf (NP):

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *City Council, City of Arapahoe 1998 – 2001 Mayor, City of Arapahoe 2002 – 2006*

EDUCATION: *Arapahoe High School 1976 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bachelor of Science in Agriculture 1980*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *20 years with Arapahoe Fire and Rescue 8 years Asst. Fire Chief 9 years Fire Chief 7 years with South Central Rope Rescue 7 years as Chief 10 years with Critical Incident Debriefing team 5 years Emerson Fire and Rescue*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Mark Graf: I would work on the town's infrastructure to have sites ready for businesses to move to our town. I would work with existing businesses to help find ways to upgrade, promote, improve, or expand their business to bring more customers or employees to Emerson. I would work with the Planning Board to identify areas for growth in Emerson.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Mark Graf: Extreme weather covers a lot of things. The first priority would be life safety and emergency care of our residents. My next top priorities would be to restore utilities (water, electricity & sewer) to all residents and businesses, have streets cleared to provide safe movement, and work with Emergency Management to provide shelter if needed, as well as providing a designated location for downed trees. If major damage to homes and businesses were to occur, another top priority would be to work with Emergency Management and the State to provide a site to safely store and process debris.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Mark Graf: To recruit and encourage businesses to locate in Emerson. I'd re-examine our economic development program, work with both area economic development programs and with State programs. Other ways of helping attract businesses are Tax Increment Financing and block grant programs. The Village needs an inventory of available places for rent or purchase to expand our business district. I'd work on increasing the housing available in Emerson by identifying areas where housing could be built and by obtaining Block grants to improve housing in Emerson to make homes more energy efficient. I'd also work on cleaning up lots and areas that are a health hazard, by assessing the Village a couple of times a year and working with the property owner to decide on a plan to remove the hazards. I'd explore opportunities to have services the Village contracts out to be provided by local or regional providers. Area providers have a better understanding of our village's issues.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Mark Graf: Our biggest challenge is to draw more people to Emerson. Improving Main Street and attracting more businesses will draw more people to our town. Adding more housing will also attract more people. These two things go hand and hand, and by utilizing Planning and Zoning, areas can be created to be ready for businesses and homes to move in or be built quickly and efficiently.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DAWES COUNTY

DAWES COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Levi Grant (Rep):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DAWSON COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DEUEL COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DIXON COUNTY

VILLAGE OF EMERSON

Mark Graf (NP):

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *City Council, City of Arapahoe 1998 – 2001 Mayor, City of Arapahoe 2002 – 2006*

EDUCATION: *Arapahoe High School 1976 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bachelor of Science in Agriculture 1980*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *20 years with Arapahoe Fire and Rescue 8 years Asst. Fire Chief 9 years Fire Chief 7 years with South Central Rope Rescue 7 years as Chief 10 years with Critical Incident Debriefing team 5 years Emerson Fire and Rescue*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Mark Graf: I would work on the town's infrastructure to have sites ready for businesses to move to our town. I would work with existing businesses to help find ways to upgrade, promote, improve, or expand their business to bring more customers or employees to Emerson. I would work with the Planning Board to identify areas for growth in Emerson.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

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WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Mark Graf: Our biggest challenge is to draw more people to Emerson. Improving Main Street and attracting more businesses will draw more people to our town. Adding more housing will also attract more people. These two things go hand and hand, and by utilizing Planning and Zoning, areas can be created to be ready for businesses and homes to move in or be built quickly and efficiently.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DODGE COUNTY

DODGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 4

Pat Tawney (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *President of the North Bend Rural Fire District. 2018-Current*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of North Bend Central High School. Bachelor of Science from Bellevue University*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteer Firefighter on North Bend and Lincoln Southeast Fire Departments for 4 1/2 years.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Pat Tawney: Lincoln Premium Poultry has been a tremendous endeavor by both the county and the city. We have to continue to support them and businesses like Wholstone foods. But I do not feel that the county can stop there. We need to continue to strive for more local business. I think we are going to see some closures with the situation the country is facing and we need to do our best in keeping those types of businesses open. Along the lines of business, we have to keep an eye on housing. With the increase of jobs in the county, I feel there is going to be a great demand for housing. That issue will be closely monitored. Dodge County is blessed to have people that know how to work, and solve problems. If someone wants to make this their home, we are glad to have them and want to have enough jobs for everyone.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Pat Tawney: This is easy. With what we all just went through one year ago, this should be on the minds of every citizen of Dodge County. #1 is always life safety. Communicating to the

public, and being able to keep lines of communication open as the event unfolds. #2 Having enough help to fix the problem. I feel it is extremely important to have staff and equipment at the ready. It is also important to get that equipment into place as soon as it is needed. #3 Which is as important as anything. After the event you need to be there for the citizens you have been elected to help and protect. They are going to want to be heard and you need to be the person willing to listen to those concerns. And with that comes prioritizing. You are going to have to make tough decisions on what needs attention first. But with time I think those things float to the top and you start putting the pieces back together.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Pat Tawney: One of the most important things I feel the county needs is to make sure the last phase of the hi-way 30 by-pass gets completed. Once completed we need to monitor it and make sure it opens and opens sa Also, I think the citizens of Dodge County are very fortunate to have an excellent Sheriffs Department. We need to make sure their needs are met. Also, the county is extremely close to getting their new radio system up and running. This will be a huge improvement for the officers on the road. Last but not least, the county infrastructure. We have to continue to maintain and improve on the structures we have in place. We have to make sure the dikes in our county are fixed and are able to withstand another flood.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Pat Tawney: I have lived or worked in Dodge County for most of my life. I have served on the Fremont Fire Department as a Fire Captain/Paramedic for the past 28 years. I am currently the President of the North Bend Rural Fire District. I have followed county government for several years, and I feel I have the ability to communicate with people, as well as represent the people of District 4. My career has helped me become a problem solver. I look forward to the possibility of serving the citizens of Dodge County. I grew up in North Bend and feel that I have a good grasp of what the county wants and more importantly needs are. I will listen to the people of District 4 and be the voice for them at the county level.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

FREEMAN SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 33-1

Chad Harms (NP):
No response received

Anthony Meints (NP):
No response received

Chelsea Schaaf (NP):
EDUCATION: *2006 Graduate from Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Majoring as a*

Veterinarian Technician and Minor in Animal Science

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Military Spouse for 16 years*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteer and Co organizer of the Elderly assistance program, Volunteer to help school in classrooms, TeamMate Mentor, and Freeman Strengths Team*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Chelsea Schaaf: Technology is something we can always continue to grow in. Through the use of technology we would be able to better prepare our students through prerequisite courses. Continuing to provide chrome books to students to use at school and while at home. Our school does an excellent job of providing what our students need, but continuing to be able to make upgrades and new ways to adhere to school standards and being leaders in the matter requires broadband access that is not interrupted. As our world continues to evolve, its important for our school to be able to evolve along with it. To be able to continue communication with students, parents and the community is a key component in assuring our students success rate.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Chelsea Schaaf: As a parent to two children who currently attend Freeman Public Schools, safety of students and teachers is important. Making sure we have an overall understanding what is expected of students and teachers and adhering to those standards through education. We learn through how we are led and I believe that it is the School Boards responsibility to lead as an example. Being a leader of a current team of over 750 team members, I believe I have those skills and knowledge to set that into motion.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Chelsea Schaaf: I would best advocate for the district's teachers and students by being an active listener and doer. One thing I have learned because of Freeman is how to use my Strengths to help better others. One of those strengths is Achiever. When given a task, I see it through 100% and take the matter at hand serious. Students and teachers at Freeman Public Schools needs that voice. The school has done a great job in many areas of already ensuring myself, as a mother, that they have our children's best interests at heart. The world is always changing and with that is the way the job market changes. Being a Licensed Veterinary Technician for 8 years, Dental Assistant for 6 years, and now a successful Entrepreneur for the last 4 years, I have seen how the industry changes and what it takes to adapt and over come what our children today will face.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NORTH BEND CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 595

Bob Feurer (NP):

<http://wordpress.com/view/bfheartfriendofeducation.wordpress.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *North Bend Central Board of Ed, 2016 to present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none to note*

EDUCATION: *BS/E and MS/E both from Kearney State College, 1978 and 1984, respectively*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Curator of Franklin-Cotterell Greens arboretum, 1991 to present, Dodge County Long Term Recovery Committee, volunteer tree work North Bend City Park, North Bend Economic Development Committee,*

R Douglas Hoops (NP):

No response received

Andy Swanson (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of NBC ('99), BS in Agricultural Science from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *I volunteer my time for Knights of Columbus fundraisers. I am also a 7th grade Parish Religious Education teacher.*

Karrie Van Nortwick (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Bob Feurer: Using technology to replicate what is already being done is a misuse of the resource. It should be used to make students producers rather than consumers; photo albums, movies of phenomena or performance, digital portfolios, data analysis, music, ad campaigns, web pages, blogposts and podcasts can all be accomplished. Students are currently finding Zoom as a tool to gather at a distance with their teachers and classmates as well as a tool to gather information. Not certain how to address the broadband access situation as there are so many carriers out there and our district hosts students from 13 zip codes. This may be more a state legislature issue than a local one. We are currently providing wifi "hot spots" as our district has undertaken an elearning platform during the Covid outbreak but don't know if that will be sustainable in the future.

Andy Swanson: During this current Corona virus crisis, I feel that our district has done a great job of utilizing technology to continue the children's education. There are those homes, however,

who do not have access to reliable internet connections, whether it is because of household income, or due to geography (when you live in the country, you know where the 'good' spots are for reception). I believe that our school and other schools in rural Nebraska can amplify the call for better coverage and more widespread internet access. This will benefit all of us in rural areas, not just our schools.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Bob Feurer: Honestly, there is not a way to ensure safety 100%. We have approximately 150 closed circuit cameras around campus; both elementary and secondary as well as on all of our route buses. We have buzz in access only during the school day. We have also hired a school resource officer who is shared with a neighboring district. Our campus is extremely well lit including the back parking areas of the building. Access is granted to faculty and staff by key card. A lot of problems can be prevented by taking care of the mental health aspects of all persons in the buildings. We have recently hired a full time counsellor instead of contracting with the ESU. Bullying education also has a key role in preventing safety situations.

Andy Swanson: While we will never be able to eliminate all risk from our daily lives, I do believe that when it comes to safety in our schools, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In the next decade, North Bend Central will be one of three public high schools in this county. We will continue to grow with new students as the geography of our community grows. We need to make sure that we maintain a small enough class size so that our teachers are able to know their students and be able to pick up on cues that things may be changing in a student's life, and have the time to ask a few questions or offer some guidance. I also believe that being involved in activities with their peers is a great way for students to stay engaged. While athletics is a great way to do this, going out for a sport is not for everyone, and often these are the kids who get lost. I'd like to see an equal amount of emphasis placed on activities outside of sports to keep kids involved and included.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Bob Feurer: I've found that aspect more of a challenge than I thought it would be when I was first elected. I participated in an international group called Modern Learners and took an eight week experience called Change School which drastically changed my perspectives on the difference between "school" and "learning"; they are not the same thing! Testing drives too much of education with little to no gains shown from millions and millions of dollars spent. Students need to become producers of content rather than consumers. They have more information gathering power in their pockets than in 1,000s of city libraries. We need to break down the study by subject, study by age group and come to understand that seat time is not the same as learning! Why do we assume that achievement on standardized tests is the best way to measure the success of students and schools? Why do we do what we do? How can we make it better? I have a pretty experienced and progressive group of friends who keep me fresh!

Andy Swanson: Sometimes we can all get trapped in our own echo chambers and not realize that the world has continued on. I believe that the education system has been slow to change in the past. I am very proud of the continuing change that I have seen in our school district in the 20 years since I graduated. I think that NBC grads are some of the most prepared to enter the work force or continue with their education. We need to seek out entrepreneurs and industry leaders to ask their opinions on how we can adapt for the next ten years rather than react to what has happened in the last ten. Opportunity abounds in this age of rapid change if we can give our students the skills to meet the challenges that inevitably come along with those opportunities.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1

Pamela Murphy (NP):

No response received

Terry Sorensen (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Board of Education since 2012*

EDUCATION: *BS in Education from UNL MA in Curriculum and Instruction University of Scranton*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Various church and local organizations*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Terry Sorensen: As a veteran educator, I have always been a proponent of ensuring equity of access to up to date technology for ALL of our students. Without this, we intentionally leave our most vulnerable students behind. During my time on the board we have achieved 1-to-1 by putting Chromebooks in the hands of every student. The challenges presented by the pandemic have shown we still have work to do related to ensuring broadband access. Under the board's direction, access has been enhanced in the areas surrounding neighborhood schools. However, I think we can do better. Future technology purchases that support our 1-to-1 initiative should include devices with cellular data.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Terry Sorensen: This is another area in which the district has certainly improved during my tenure on the board. We have hired a full time security consultant, who is a retired law enforcement officer. We also employ a School Resource Officer through an agreement with Fremont Police Department. The use of security cards and controlled access have also furthered the goal of ensuring student and staff safety. Along with a continued effort to expand access to quality mental health services, I think we are on the right path!

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Terry Sorensen: This is another area the board has continued to provide an education that prepares our students for their future. One path is through an agreement with Metro Community College; we have added a state of the art welding lab. Additionally, we continue to enhance other programs that prepare students for employment in various areas within the medical field. Through these efforts our students leave FPS with job ready skills. Also, through partnerships with Midland University and MCC, students are able to take classes and earn college credits at a significantly reduced rate.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF FREMONT - MAYOR

Glen Ellis (NP):

<http://www.voteplenellis.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Fremont City Council member, Ward 2 - Elected Nov 2018*

EDUCATION: *Raytown High School Lee Summit Community College Grace Bible College*

Joey Spellerberg (NP): <http://www.joeyspellerberg.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Graduate from Archbishop Bergan High School, Fremont, NE, Bachelors degree in Marketing and Sales, University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB)*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *No Military Experience*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Chairman of the Fremont Area Leadership Prayer Breakfast, Rotarian - Fremont Rotary Club, Board Member of the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, Graduate of Leadership Fremont, Member of Fremont Alliance Church*

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Glen Ellis: Here is what I'd like to do when I become Fremont's Mayor: Focus on the people of Fremont - together let's determine what matters most to the citizens of Fremont. Let the people of our town have a say in the direction we move. Whether it's beautifying our city, addressing drainage issues or igniting smart economic development... this is the people's town. Restore trust through transparency - town hall meetings, improving video capabilities of council meetings, create a local TV channel for important city information, keep Fremont citizens at the forefront when negotiating with corporations and developers, and do so in a judicious manner. Prepare Fremont for the future - seek smart economic development that attracts companies

outside the parameters of ag and manufacturing to make Fremont a city of choice for technology and the arts.

Joey Spellerberg: 1. Establish a Core Identity – In my business, I work with hundreds of destinations trying to promote themselves and drive tourism. I know the value of strong messaging and a clear vision. If you elect me as your next Mayor, my family and I will represent the future of Fremont. We are the best place in the USA to live, work, and raise a family! 2. Focus on our Strengths – Our world class YMCA, State Lakes Recreation Area, Midland University, and many other strengths make Fremont the great community it is. We need this positive message out there and in the forefront. 3. Communication and Collaboration - Growing Fremont Together involves being in constant communication with everyone. Unity of purpose only happens when we work together striving for the same goal. My mission will be to Grow Fremont Together by listening intently, committing to the greater good, and leading our community into the future.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Glen Ellis: As a small business owner, I think that our city should be seeking out entrepreneurs to start small businesses, instead of 'Chasing Smokestacks'. I would rather have an entrepreneur eco-system that would generate 10 jobs in 100 small businesses then one company generate 1000 jobs. I know this goes against the norm that has been followed in the past, but I believe that if we want to position Fremont to be competitive in the world economy, we must be looking at other viable ways into the future. Please don't think that I don't value our heritage of agriculture and manufacturing. That must be part of our future. What I am saying is that we need to add more diversity to our local economy by pursuing technology as another value-added industry.

Joey Spellerberg: Just like many towns in Nebraska, Fremont relies on its Ag economy to grow and provide good paying, primary job growth. My vision for growth is to take our strengths and attract ancillary businesses in these industries. Fremont can become one of the most innovative and attractive towns for Ag related business. Our location, quality of life, and access to work force are extremely attractive and competitive. Having high quality, primary job growth is the #1 factor in attracting people of all backgrounds to work, live, and raise a family in Fremont. I want to help the people of Fremont to have better opportunities for themselves and their families.

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

Glen Ellis: Gun violence is not a major issue with the citizens of Fremont. I believe our Federal and State laws are sufficient in protecting our citizens.

Joey Spellerberg: Respect and honor all authorities and laws regarding guns. Go through personal protection training and gain new skills and knowledge to take control of your own safety.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Glen Ellis: I am the candidate for change. If the citizens of Fremont want to change, I am your candidate. I have a track record of voting for the people of Fremont. I know what it is going to take to make lasting change and I am willing to make the hard decisions to get it done. Imagine a city government that keeps you informed about issues that concern you Imagine a city government that cares about what you think and listens to you Imagine a city government that is concerned about keeping taxes as low as possible Imagine a city government that spends your tax dollars wisely Imagine small businesses throughout town growing and thriving Imagine a city with walking trails throughout town Imagine a downtown full of nightlife with eateries, arts, and entertainment This is all possible but will require a lot of work and effort. Join me in making these images become a reality.

Joey Spellerberg: In the end, this election for Mayor is not about Joey Spellerberg. This is about you. The people of Fremont. You are the true heroes. To the single mom, working multiple jobs to support her children, to the small business owner who forgoes his paycheck to make payroll for his employees, to the women's groups throughout our community dedicated to praying for all of us. When we face challenges, they become opportunities to show the the world who we truly are. And we saw that in the flooding last March, all of us coming together, unified. What was our hardest challenge became our finest hour. We will always be much better together than we are a part. As your next Mayor, I will represent your spirit, toughness, and resiliency. May God Bless the great city of Fremont, NE! Join me in Growing Fremont Together! I ask for your vote!

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF FREMONT CITY COUNCIL FIRST WARD

Vern Gibson (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None at this time*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Chairman, Business Council, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, 1999 to 2018. Chairman, leadership fremont, 2001*

EDUCATION: *Santa Ana Senior High - Santa Ana, Calif. Bachelor of Busness, Cal. State Long Beach, Calif., Mortuary Science Degree, Kansas City Community College, Professional Leadership Degree, Fremont, Nebraska*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *United States Army, 1963 - 1966. Three years stationed in Berlin Germany.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Chairman Fremont Chapter American Red Cross, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, Educational Service Unit #2, (29 Years), American Legion Post #20, Crime Stoppers, Fremont, Masonic/Shrine Lodge, Cosmopolitan Club, Fremont, Kiwanis Club, Fremont,*

Steven Ray (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Vern Gibson: Since I would be representing ward #1, which is the developing part of Fremont, I hope to continue the communication with residents as to population increase, because of the affordable housing shortage. Fremont is moving East, and there are a lot of areas to build. Since we just had the Lincoln Premium Poultry, (Costco) build, the need for housing is already behind.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Vern Gibson: Safety of our citizens. We had flooding last year and the volunteers were amazing.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Vern Gibson: Less negativity, both on the council and the citizens. Transparency both council and city government, economic growth.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Vern Gibson: Communication between the city and citizens. We have very few people show up at meetings because nobody wants to express themselves in front of a microphone. I would be in contact with my people in my ward as much as possible and let them know they are welcome to address the council at any time. We need to shorten our council meetings, (last 5 were over 4 hours). Council members need to either have sub-committees or other means to discuss council matters, prior to the meetings.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF FREMONT CITY COUNCIL FOURTH WARD

Donald Cunningham (NP):

EDUCATION: *Educational Specialist, UNL Masters, Educational Administration UNK Masters, History UNK*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *KIwanis member since 1993 John C Fremont Days Board 11 years*

Sally Ganem (NP):

No response received

James Hartkorn (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Graduated from Drake University with a degree in Public Relation*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *I have volunteered many hours to our businesses industry partners over the years.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Donald Cunningham: Fremont recently added a major meat packing plant to the list of prominent town operations. Lincoln Premium Poultry brought in a massive chicken processing plant, offering, potentially, over 1000 employment opportunities. As a result, providing housing for these workers and their families sits on the front burner of the economic activity stove. When this current health crisis subsides, Fremont needs to return to its efforts to add housing options to the community. While progress has been made improving city streets, Military Avenue could use an upgrade. The flooding issue around the power plant needs attention.

James Hartkorn: Fremont is a vibrant town and is currently growing. I plan to work the Greater Fremont Development Council to continue to grow our community and attract new business to our current developments along with championing revitalization efforts to keep Fremont historic and beautiful.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Donald Cunningham: When the worst occurs, the top priority is safety for the population. Working from the most vulnerable to the most capable, aid must be offered to provide for the basic needs for survival. Our town experienced this type of situation during the floods of 2019. City resources, combined with private vendors, staved off what could have been a more devastating event that it was. This spring, the two entities joined up again as the levee broke west of town. This type of teamwork ought to continue. Effective collaboration of agencies is the key.

James Hartkorn: 1) Ensure our city administrator is well equipped with up to date processes and equipment to handle the event 2) Make sure the department of utilities, public services and other essential services can continue to provide service to the public 3) Reach out to neighboring communities leadership and Help Organize volunteer efforts to assist those in urgent need if cities emergency services is overwhelmed

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Donald Cunningham: Our Council is in need of some basic training in the role of an elected board. Any elected committee, council or board serves in a policy making role. There are current members who speak for long periods of time about their personal issues. Seeking to embarrass, some members attack city personnel, one another, the mayor and others with whom they have

disagreements. This is all done in public...defended by a perverted notion of transparency. Until this is fixed, the Council will struggle. Extending a fire and police presence to the south and east will be on the docket. We are growing that direction quickly. Consolidation of services could reduce costs while maintaining the necessary city functions we have come to expect.

James Hartkorn: I want to maintain a safe and clean city and ensure our streets, parks and neighborhoods remain safe for our current citizens and attract new families to our community. I want to keep Fremont moving forward to a brighter future with economic development and revitalization efforts to the current infrastructure, including housing and commercial properties to keep Fremont historic and beautiful. Finally, I'd hope to help streamline our current city government to be as effective and efficient as possible through a priority first focused city administration.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Donald Cunningham: Merging new populations into our town will be a challenge for years to come. Our employment force appears to be expanding. Intergration of those new people has to be accomplished with a welcoming eye. Churches, schools and informal associations all need to focus on acceptance and assimilation. A lofty goal would be to instill pride in being a Fremont resident to all who work and live here. Recognition gives birth to personal pride; aligns the newly arrived with the culture of the town. WE all need to go out of our way to greet one another at every opportunity.

James Hartkorn: We seem to have a lack of trust within our current political sphere and our current city administration. We need to come together to best serve our community and keep Fremont moving forward. I have help build a business over the past 10 year and building the right team to carry out a unified mission is not an easy task. Fremont need bold leaders and a solid leadership team. I plan to bring my current leadership experience along with continuing to develop my leadership ability and get Fremont moving forward to a bright prosperous future for all.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DOUGLAS COUNTY

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 1

Mike Boyle (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *County Commissioner*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Mayor of Omaha*

EDUCATION: *St. Cecilia's Cathedral High School U.N.O.1963 -1964 Creighton University 1962 - 1973 Creighton University Law School 1974 - 1977*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Sole Surviving Son, Gold Star Brother*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *American Red Cross, Combined Health Agency Drive, Urban League 1963, Holy Name Housing Board 1980 - 2006, Citizens for Educational Freedom, Co-Founder, Omaha 100*

WHAT ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY'S GOVERNMENT IS MOST EFFECTIVE, AND WHY?

Mike Boyle: There are many effective operations of County Government. The Douglas County Health Department under the leadership of Adi Pour, Ph.D. stands out. She and her staff are performing so well. They are disseminating solid, accurate information and coordinating their work with all branches of our Government. Elected Officials, and Department leaders are serving us well. Our dedicated employees make us proud. We serve the Citizens of Douglas County. We are proud to serve.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF? ARE THERE ANY SERVICES YOU THINK SHOULD BE CUT, AND IF SO, WHY?

Mike Boyle: No smoke and mirrors to this answer. WE NEED GAMBLING! Let's start with Sports Gaming. I heard Iowa pulled in \$76,000,000,000 the first month of Sports Betting. Gambling is legal in almost every State near Nebraska. I serve as co-chair of the Budget Committee with Commissioner P.J. Morgan, Douglas County Finance Director, Joe Lorenz, helps us look for spending cuts wherever possible. But, County Government is an arm of the State. We need to add GAMBLING REVENUE so we can cut property taxes.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE THREE MOST COMPELLING PROBLEMS FACING YOUR OFFICE?

Mike Boyle: Prison crowding, Mental Health treatment and saving our young people from lives of crime are several important problems facing us. (High property taxes are a BIG PROBLEM, too). We need to enact fair bail relief so persons charged with misdemeanors can get back to work and back to their families. Mental Health care needs to be available to so many suffering neighbors and friends. The terrible crimes our young people are committing is alarming! We must let young people know they matter.

WHAT SHOULD THE COUNTY DO TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES?

Mike Boyle: Our Director of Environmental Services is a leader in his field. Douglas County has adopted a Model, Low Impact Development Plan that conserves water and is cost effective. It calls for an end for dams that DO NOT stop flooding. DAMS FAIL. OPPD is offering options such as solar and wind generation. These renewable sources are needed. Thank you, OPPD Directors! I represented Douglas County in a Resilient Counties program sponsored by the National Association of Counties. Important lessons.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 3

Chris Rodgers (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Douglas County Commissioner (2005 - Present)*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Member of Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors (1999 - 2004)*

EDUCATION: *Creighton University BA 92; MBA 99 and University of Nebraska at Omaha MPA 2002*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Salem Baptist Church, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.*

WHAT ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY'S GOVERNMENT IS MOST EFFECTIVE, AND WHY?

Chris Rodgers: The Health Department is one of our most effective elements. I think we see it now through our response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF? ARE THERE ANY SERVICES YOU THINK SHOULD BE CUT, AND IF SO, WHY?

Chris Rodgers: County Government runs very lean. Ending unfunded mandates from the state can help reduce property taxes.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE THREE MOST COMPELLING PROBLEMS FACING YOUR OFFICE?

Chris Rodgers: Mentally Ill in adult corrections, reforming juvenile justice and preparing public health for its future in Douglas County.

WHAT SHOULD THE COUNTY DO TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES?

Chris Rodgers: We should take opportunities to use renewable energy. I think this is the most immediate manner we can address climate change.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 5

Maureen Boyle (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

EDUCATION: *Marian High School; University of Nebraska at Omaha, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, major in finance; University of Nebraska Medical Center, Medical Doctor*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

Tim Lonergan (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Metro Community College 9/06-12/10*

EDUCATION: *Omaha Central HS 1980 University of Omaha, NE BA History 1990 University of Omaha, NE BA, Education, 1995 University of Omaha,, NE BA Spec Ed 2000*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *US Coast Guard active duty Aug 1980-Jan 1985 USNR April 1985-June 1990 US Coast Guard Reserve June 1990 Sept 2000 Retired 21 years service.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Knights of Columbus St. Pius X, St. Leo School St. Leo Church St. Elizabeth Ann Church Boys Scouts Ancient Order of Hibernians Am. Red Cross EPS*

WHAT ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY'S GOVERNMENT IS MOST EFFECTIVE, AND WHY?

Maureen Boyle: The 911 Center has a critical task. Not only does the call center work within the county to send help, but it also coordinates with other counties and cities when they may be closer. More recently, the Election Office showed us that county government can truly serve when needed. During the May primary, mail-in voting skyrocketed. The Election Commissioner was allocated money by the County Board, and in my opinion, his leadership helped the election in Douglas County run without a hitch.

Tim Lonergan: The Countys most effective element is collecting the taxes owed to them. The County employess are hard working and the County gets a good value for there hard work.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF? ARE THERE ANY SERVICES YOU THINK SHOULD BE CUT, AND IF SO, WHY?

Maureen Boyle: Most importantly, look at spending. Minimize turnover for valuable front-line employees like CNAs, nurses, and corrections officers. It's more economical to keep these workers satisfied than to replace them. Seek out related or duplicate city and county services and determine if economies of scale could be applied. Due to COVID, the county has expanded availability of services online. Some employees may be able to work remotely.

Tim Lonergan: Look at Technology to reduce the tax burden on the county tax payer. Look at all budgets to find ways to reduce the tax levee, Also the reduction in the County Commissioner Salary that was voted on to increase 100%

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE THREE MOST COMPELLING PROBLEMS FACING YOUR OFFICE?

Maureen Boyle: 1. COVID. This has caused a hit on several fronts. We now understand how a public health issue can impact every aspect of our lives - physical and mental health, jobs, housing, nutrition, education, and even relationships. 2. Criminal justice. The new juvenile justice center should be delayed until all needs are understood, and data is consistent, analyzed, and validated. For adults, cash bail should be eliminated and bail decisions made by judges. 3. Property taxes. A perennial issue.

Tim Lonergan: Transparency with the County Board, The 120 Million Dollar Bond issue, Public Safety

WHAT SHOULD THE COUNTY DO TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES?

Maureen Boyle: Everything possible. We should transition to electric vehicles for the county fleet. Convening with OPPD board members to brainstorm joint projects should be considered. When bidding on projects, preference should be given to contractors proficient in renewable energy. Renovations and repairs of current buildings should be undertaken with energy efficiency in mind. This is a big deal.

Tim Lonergan: The county could do more with Re-duce, re-use and Re-cycle.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 7

Mike Friend (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nebraska Legislature, District 10 2003 through 2009*

EDUCATION: *Creighton University, BA, Mass Communications*

Jo Giles (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *B.A., Washington University in St. Louis, Psychology & African American Studies, 1995; M.A., University of Missouri-Columbia, Journalism, 1998; Certificate of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2016*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Board Member, Omaha Public Library Foundation, 2016-present; Board Member, Fontenelle Forest, 2019-present; Board Member, InCOMMON Community*

Development, 2013-2017; Conceive Nebraska, founding board member, 2012-2015; Church hosting team volunteer

WHAT ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY'S GOVERNMENT IS MOST EFFECTIVE, AND WHY?

Mike Friend: The administrative function in all areas. County administration is a ministerial responsibility, which requires great attention to detail and sound fiduciary responsibility. Efficient appropriation of funding with the taxpayer in mind is paramount.

Jo Giles: As a candidate with public health training, I think the Douglas County Health Department is demonstrating exceptional and thoughtful leadership during our COVID-19 pandemic. Public health is about prevention and the health department, in partnership with the Emergency Management Department, quickly created a dashboard to report cases and provide data-driven, academic best practices to test, track and slow community spread.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF? ARE THERE ANY SERVICES YOU THINK SHOULD BE CUT, AND IF SO, WHY?

Mike Friend: Internal auditing of processes and programs are important. Possible redundancy in law enforcement services could be addressed, as well as redundancy in other services between the city and county governments. Interlocal agreements are also a good way to potentially relieve certain redundancies.

Jo Giles: While structural solutions to property tax relief are the responsibility of state government, I believe the county board should examine ways to implement an annual percentage cap on property tax valuations. This would prevent the large increases property owners face each year. Of course, we must balance property tax relief and efficient use of taxpayer dollars for county services.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE THREE MOST COMPELLING PROBLEMS FACING YOUR OFFICE?

Mike Friend: Fiduciary/financial responsibility The need for property tax relief Understanding and implementing appropriate taxing authority (utilizing a vote of the people is one example)

Jo Giles: 1) The budget, due to economic challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We must look for cost-cutting solutions while meeting community needs. 2) Mental health was a huge need pre-pandemic and is exacerbated now. It also must be addressed in our prison system where mental health challenges often contribute to overcrowding in the facility. 3) Juvenile justice reform should focus on prevention and trauma-informed programming to change the trajectory of the lives of youth.

WHAT SHOULD THE COUNTY DO TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES?

Mike Friend: Always implement best practices to seriously deal with our responsibility to be a good steward of the environment.

Jo Giles: The County should implement best practices for environmental sustainability in all building renovations and new facilities. It also should look for opportunities to use renewable energy and reducing the carbon footprint of buildings and vehicles. As a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), the County should push for a regional and efficient transit system.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DOUGLAS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Tom Riley (D): Mr. Riley is running unopposed for this office.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT OF OMAHA - SUBDIVISION 3

Gwen Howard (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *MUD Board of Directors, Current Board Chairperson*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nebraska State Senator, 2005-2013*

EDUCATION: *Omaha Benson High School; Midland University, BA; University of Nebraska, MSW, Social Work.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Friends of the Library; Member, Dundee Neighborhood Association*

WHAT FACTORS WOULD YOU CONSIDER WHEN DETERMINING RATES AND RATE CHANGES?

Gwen Howard: We continually address our critical infrastructure integrity, while minimizing the financial impact on ratepayers.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY FOR MUD?

Gwen Howard: We have an efficient dedicated workforce intent on delivering clean water and reliable gas services. The more we get ahead of the aging infrastructure, we can reduce breaks that call for emergency repairs and overtime at all hours. MUD does an excellent job maintaining facilities. Fortunately, our pumping stations are mostly elevated and built at a distance that has helped us avoid more severe flood damage.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Gwen Howard: Continuing to provide open meetings with transparency and an opportunity for public participation. Also, continue to facilitate open communication between the Board, MUD management and our utility employees. Pushing forward on the necessary infrastructure priorities. In times of stress, such as the Coronavirus pandemic, ensuring essential utility services are not shut off.

WHAT EFFORT WOULD YOU MAKE TO MEET THE GOAL OF INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY? (ONLINE ONLY)

Gwen Howard: MUD is switching more of our fleet vehicles to a CNG (compressed natural gas) fuel source, and we are partnering with Metro Area Transit to bring more buses online to this alternative fuel. MUD continues to be forward thinking when it comes to preservation of the environment and use of renewable energy.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT OF OMAHA - SUBDIVISION 4

Tim Cavanaugh (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *MUD Board of Directors, 1999-now. Three-time Chairman.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *above*

EDUCATION: *Ryan High School UNO, C.J./Business Administration Creighton Law School, 1979-80 University of Nebraska Graduate School, MS, C.J./Public Admin Graduate, FBI National Academy*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Regretfully, none.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Rotary Club of Omaha, 17 years, past president and Rotary Foundation Board. Paul Harris Fellow, 3 times.*

Tom Wurtz (NP):

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *BA UNL 1971. Juris Doctorate UNL 1974.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Knights of Columbus St. Wenceslaus Church. Challenger Alumni Softball (coach) President's Advisory Council UNL. Catholic Charities Board of Directors. Urban League Board of Directors. Governor's Water Policy Council. State Energy Policy Council.*

WHAT FACTORS WOULD YOU CONSIDER WHEN DETERMINING RATES AND RATE CHANGES?

Tim Cavanaugh: Number 1 is the ability for our ratepayer-owners to afford our services. Safety is a major concern, as well as the delivery of clean water and safe gas transmission.

Tom Wurtz: The first duty of a board member is to ensure the district has sufficient revenues to deliver water and natural gas safely to our customers with reasonable rates. I would consider all customer classifications (residential, commercial and manufacturing) to determine if all are treated fairly. We need to retain competent managers and employees, who have an understanding of the complexities involved in the delivery of gas and water to the public. I would also consider the level of customer service.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY FOR MUD?

Tim Cavanaugh: I challenged the staff to work toward a two-hour appointment window for service when we implemented GPS on service trucks which allowed for more efficient deployment of service trucks. Also, I pressed for the implementation of online payments. I am very proud of our high bond rating and the high level of funding of the employee's pension fund.

Tom Wurtz: The most important opportunity for efficiency is to ensure that the district remains a public utility with local control and ownership by our customers. Privatization would result in an immediate 25% increase in rates. More of our construction and field service personnel should report directly to job sites rather than district facilities in order to increase efficiency. Also the district should conduct a study to search for duplication of functions and continue discounted natural gas purchases.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Tim Cavanaugh: Ramp up the progress toward water infrastructure replacement within an affordable rate structure.

Tom Wurtz: I will make all committee meetings open to the public. I will solve the water pressure problems in west Omaha, particularly in sub district 4. We need to provide better customer service for our customer owners. We need a comprehensive study of our rate structure to make sure we have an appropriate balance between monthly service charges and commodity costs. We need to conduct a comprehensive study of safety and security programs with emphasis on cyber security.

WHAT EFFORT WOULD YOU MAKE TO MEET THE GOAL OF INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY? (ONLINE ONLY)

Tim Cavanaugh: MUD delivers natural gas and water. The exploration of methane gas sources (garbage dumpsites) may be worthwhile.

Tom Wurtz: Although natural gas is not technically a renewable fuel source, it is 98% clean burning and better for the environment than other fuels. I will continue to encourage the utilization of natural gas and CNG in cars and trucks. This will reduce our carbon footprint. As past president of MUD, I instituted a program to convert the electrical power source for our

regulator stations to solar energy. I would explore the possibilities of converting as much of the electrical usage to solar power.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

METROPOLITAN UTILITIES DISTRICT OF OMAHA - SUBDIVISION 5

Tanya Cook (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Metropolitan Utilities District Board of Directors, Subdistrict #5*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nebraska State Senator, Legislative District #13 2009-2017*

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Master of Arts Georgetown University, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Omaha Central High School, College Prep*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Current Board Leadership: Film Streams, Director Coalition for a Strong Nebraska, Leadership Team US Global Leadership Coalition, Nebraska Advisory Committee Previous Boards: United Way of the Midlands Girls, Inc.*

WHAT FACTORS WOULD YOU CONSIDER WHEN DETERMINING RATES AND RATE CHANGES?

Tanya Cook: When determining rates and rate changes, I consider whether or not the increase to customer cost is truly necessary to the responsible management of MUD. I voted "no" to an increase to customer bills at the December 2019 Board meeting.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY FOR MUD?

Tanya Cook: in my short time as the MUD Director representing Subdistrict #5, I have found that the organization operates with a high level of efficiency and integrity. As I continue to serve, I plan to seek out opportunities for even better communication among divisions along with increased options for customer-owners.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Tanya Cook: If elected, my priorities would be to identify ways to improve service to customer-owners.

WHAT EFFORT WOULD YOU MAKE TO MEET THE GOAL OF INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY? (ONLINE ONLY)

Tanya Cook: I support MUD's current comprehensive sustainability plan and look forward to viable renewable energy options as they emerge.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - DISTRICT 2

Tim Davis (R):

EDUCATION: *Two diplomas in Construction and Entrepreneurship. These were received from Southeast Community College and Western Iowa Tech.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteered on the Don Bacon Campaign in 2018 One of the Douglas County Republican Volunteer of the Year in 2019.*

Crystal Rhoades (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Commissioner Nebraska Public Service Commission 2015 - present.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Metropolitan Community College Board 2006-2014.*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, University of Nebraska, Omaha.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Chairwoman Douglas County Democratic Party 2016 - 2020, National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, Vice Chair of Telecommunications Committee and the Rural Broadband Expansion Task Force.*

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Tim Davis: When I get elected, I will work to get the most up to date broadband service to the voters ahead of schedule. I will make sure the life-saving 911 system is in place allowing for fast response times. I will work to make sure we have the best rates available for all ride sharing options on the market.

Crystal Rhoades: This position requires a detailed knowledge of telecommunications infrastructure, consumer protection law, transportation law, and the ability to understand complex technical topics. I have a proven track record of working with state and federal law and policy makers to produce results for constituents. During my tenure I've worked with the legislature to pass laws that legalized ride sharing, legislation to reduce robocalls, and improved accountability for companies receiving public grants.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Tim Davis: I plan to sit down and discuss with the various cellular providers in the market to discuss what issues they are having when it comes to implementing the updated broadband services. I will also look into the Next Gen 911 system to make sure we are getting the best services possible.

Crystal Rhoades: I'll continue to improve oversight of government funds such as 911 and universal service to ensure customers are getting high quality services at the lowest cost. When I

started at the Commission the audits for 911 were running 3-5 years behind. I advocated to get those completed so taxpayers would have confidence their money was being spent appropriately. I've also been an advocate at the state and local level to expand access to high speed internet for low income customers.

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES YOUR COMMUNITY/COUNTY IS FACING AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Tim Davis: District 2 has a number of issues they deal with. First of which is the 911 response time. There have been a number of instances where services took longer than it should have. When I get elected I will review what is needed to make sure Next Gen 911 is up and running to minimize future response time. I will work closely with the telcom providers in the state to make sure that the voters are getting the most up to date broadband services at the best possible prices.

Crystal Rhoades: 1. Funding and improving 911 call center reliability is critical in Douglas County. Currently our community has the highest call volume and contributes more to the 911 fund than any other county but we receive a fraction of the funding back to support our call center, I will work to increase funding. 2. There are frequent telephone outages in Douglas County, I will work to reduce those outages. 3. Increase funding to low income families so they can access broadband and telephone service.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

Carol L. Hahn (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Learning Community Member-2016-present*

EDUCATION: *BS Special Education and Elementary Education- Southern Connecticut State College Masters in education- Guidance and Counseling- Northeast Illinois University*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Board Member Planned Parenthood of the Heartland Board Member JCC of Omaha*

Nathan S. Zingg (D): No response received

HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE FUTURE OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY?

Carol L. Hahn: The Learning Community will continue to expand its programming and meet the needs of the community always committed to reaching its goal of closing the opportunity gaps within the 11 school districts it serves. It will continue its partnerships with other organizations such as The Buffet Early Childhood Institute, Project Harmony and One World to accomplish common goals. Through its newly formed Foundation the Learning Community will be an innovator in the community.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY?

Carol L. Hahn: The mission of The Learning Community is to close the opportunity gap between the wealthy areas of the city and the more challenged areas. Through innovative programming and collaborative efforts the research is showing that there have been quantitative gains.

HOW CAN THE LEARNING COMMUNITY IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS?

Carol L. Hahn: The Learning community can improve outcomes for all students by listening to the needs of each of the 11 districts, partnering with local districts to create programs that are tailored to the needs of the individual schools and constantly adjusting to the changing needs

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL - DISTRICT 04

Allen Hager (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Learning Community Coordinating Council 2012-current*

EDUCATION: *B.A, Louisiana State University M.B.A., Tiffin University*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Air Force*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Former Treasurer, Youth Emergence Services Former Vice-Chair, Omaha Metro Medical Response System (OMMRS) Medical Board*

Lisa M. Schoenberger (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Bachelor of Journalism in Advertising*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

Josh Wigginton (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *High School Diploma - Millard South Class of 1980*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Not really a volunteer, but I am a Foster parent.*

HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE FUTURE OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY?

Allen Hager: I believe the Learning Community will continue to provide Early Childhood Education learning opportunities for families in poverty. The collaboration of school districts is vital to the Learning Community success. It's a partnership that has changed since the origins of the body for the better. School Districts see the need for parental engagement and early childhood success that given children a chance to succeed.

Lisa M. Schoenberger: I think this is a really exciting time for the Learning Community. I am inspired by the possibilities that the formation of a foundation opens up to continue to deliver programs that are proven successful at a much larger scale. I think the Learning Community has really stepped up to the plate to respond to issues caused by COVID-19 for families in our community and I think that will go a long way in continuing to build positive public relations and showcase its important role.

Josh Wigginton: To me the future is always evolving especially now with COVID and remote learning so we need to adjust to the families needs. As we as a community go through COVID together I think each school district can learn from each other and help our parents and children continue to excel together as one.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY?

Allen Hager: The Learning Community empowers children and families to eliminate the achievement gap through early childhood education, family programs and programs that can help a family both in education and career.

Lisa M. Schoenberger: The Learning Community helps support our outstanding public education system by providing resources for programs that enhance the educational experience for students in Douglas and Sarpy counties. It enables districts to tap into and share resources to better address needs in early childhood education, staff enrichment and family involvement, which are all major contributors to the overall education achievement of all of our students.

Josh Wigginton: To me the mission of the Learning Community is to help each and every parent and child in a way shape or form that we can. We need to give our kiddos the best chance at success and to whatever we can to make the lives of the kiddos and parents better no matter what. Give each student the opportunity to success and bring out the best in each person.

HOW CAN THE LEARNING COMMUNITY IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS?

Allen Hager: Continue to offer high-quality programs that balance taxpayer resources with the needs of the at-risk community that we serve. The Learning Community is looking at a 3rd Center that would be located in an area where multiple districts could benefit. I look forward to hopefully work on that and continue to be a steward of our finite resources. I am currently working with community organizations and our leadership to see how we can create a vocational focus school using current legislation.

Lisa M. Schoenberger: The Learning Community has a connection with all 11 school districts, which gives it the unique opportunity to have a very broad impact. By helping connect a local philanthropic community with a single touchpoint that can impact all districts, with the formation of a non-profit, the Learning Community can now help level up educational opportunities at scale without an increased taxpayer burden. The Learning Community will continue to understand and adapt to the unique needs of each district.

Josh Wigginton: To continue to offer the best quality of programs for all students and learn how we can continue to support each student in any way we can. We can do this by continuing to be responsible with the tax payers money and make sure we spend the money on the programs that can show a results. We need to listen to our districts as I am sure that our community has great ideas that we could take into consideration I mean after we are here to serve our community.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL - DISTRICT 06

Andrew Brock (R):

EDUCATION: *Ralston High School, 1997; B.S., UNLV, 2008; MBA, Midland University, 2017*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *United States Navy 1997-2004*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Boys and Girls Club Stock Market Challenge, Habitat for Humanity Home Builders Blitz*

Tim Hall (R): No response received

HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE FUTURE OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY?

Andrew Brock: I envision the future of the Learning Community to ensure that all kids across the two counties have access to a free, and equitable early childhood education regardless of their socioeconomic status. I also envision the board to be respectful of tax payers dollars to make sure they are spent in the most efficient and effective ways.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY?

Andrew Brock: The mission of the Learning Community is to partner with the school districts of Douglas and Sarpy County to implement more effective practices to measurably improve education outcomes and achieve academic success without regard to social or economic circumstance. It is also to enhance communications to effectively advocate for our mission. With increasing community awareness we will build support for the Learning Community and early childhood education.

HOW CAN THE LEARNING COMMUNITY IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS?

Andrew Brock: The Learning Community can improve outcomes for all students by impacting three areas: classroom quality, family engagement and early childhood education. I believe the greatest impact is from birth to Grade 3.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1

Ricky Smith (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Omaha Public School Board Sub-District 1 2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Omaha Public School Board Sub-District 1 2017, 2018, 2019,*

EDUCATION: *Midland Lutheran College Creighton University Bellevue University University of Nebraska at Omaha*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Empowerment Network Urban League of Nebraska Black Men United Project Manhood Black Police Officers Association Nelson Mandela Elementary School Black Men United United Way of the Midlands Circle of Stars Omaha United for Youth*

Mort Sullivan (NP): No response received

HOW CAN SCHOOLS USE TECHNOLOGY TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Ricky Smith: We have to prepare our students for the jobs and careers of the future, first by exposing them to the things that are out there and push their limits and expectations of what they can become. I have fought for equity within the district for 4 years helping to push our Magnet programs, approving the purchase of 54,000 I-pads to erase the technology gap for our students in OPS creating opportunities in equity. I helped write an Equity, and Inclusion Policy that was approved by the Board in 2020.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Ricky Smith: Since I got on the board we adopted district wide safety measures, provided professional development on mandatory reporting, worked closely with Police, and hired our own Director for Safety and Security. We were able to make budget cuts and reinvest in new security equipment throughout the district. My driving force is always to protect kids and I have no problem when it comes to fighting for our students safety, well-being, and mental health. This includes fighting for our educators as well.

WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, SHOULD CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IN THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

Ricky Smith: To stay out of Omaha. They have no role or use. We serve our children with care, compassion and empathy, all of them. Taking tax payer money to provide education to a targeted population is the exact opposite of equity. Charter schools have zero accountability to the communities they are planted in and intended to serve. We have a rich curriculum and school based supports that help our families and students in most need. Funds needed within our district should never go to Charter Schools.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 3

Alex P. Gates (D):

EDUCATION: *B.A., University of Northern Iowa, 2005*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Secretary, VP, & President Edison Elementary PTA & Wilson Focus School PTO 2012-current. Board Member and Advisor, Iowa Business Horizons 2010-current. "Introduction to Computer Programming" enrichment teacher, Wilson Focus 2014-current.*

Nick Thielen (D):

EDUCATION: *Colgate University, B.A. Economics and Theater, University of Nebraska, J.D.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (Board), Friends of Nebraska Children (President), Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (Board), Foster Care Review Organization, Project Harmony (Service League Board), CSI, Nebraska Mock Trial, Dundee Elementary PTO*

HOW CAN SCHOOLS USE TECHNOLOGY TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Alex P. Gates: 1:1 technology initiatives, when implemented correctly, can help close the Digital Learning Gap and improve educational outcomes. Paired with onboard unlimited data during remote learning, technology can be an equalizer by bringing high-speed internet to all students. Additionally, technology allows for better teacher / parent communication. More than 109 languages are spoken in the homes of OPS families. Modern translation technologies allow new opportunities for dialogue parents and teachers.

Nick Thielen: The right technology can help teachers connect with students, expand learning opportunities, and teach digital skills some students may not otherwise obtain. Remote learning has shown that over-reliance on even moderately complicated technology can also exacerbate inequality, leaving behind those who don't have the resources to make the technology work. In the end, technology is a tool for amplifying good teaching and curriculum - every proposed technology should be tested against that standard.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Alex P. Gates: Congress can adopt common-sense gun reform legislation by banning assault weapons and expanding background checks and reporting. School districts can adopt trauma-informed practices in schools and equip adults in schools to recognize and respond to traumatic stress in their buildings. Restorative practices can also be implemented to repair relationships and foster better learning-centered classrooms, thereby reducing suspensions and helping to end the school-to-prison pipeline.

Nick Thielen: We need a learning environment where everyone can focus on the common goal of helping students grow. That starts with reasonable workloads and class sizes that allow a true connection between teachers and students. We need trauma-informed practices that seek to understand catalysts for behaviors instead of simply dispensing punishment. As a community, we must support families, especially affordable housing, health care, and mental health. We have to treat root causes, not just the symptoms.

WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, SHOULD CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IN THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

Alex P. Gates: None. I don't support charter school legislation for our state. I'm opposed to siphoning tax dollars away from public school for charter schools that can pick-and-choose students without public oversight. Instead, we should continue to support publicly-accountable schools that serve ALL children in our state. We're fortunate to have flexibility to be innovative in Nebraska public schools. Instead of charter schools, we should continue to support and expand our existing innovative programs.

Nick Thielen: Public funds should stay in public school districts, especially in OPS. Omaha has schools with exceptional educational opportunities and significant school choice, including what is arguably a public-run charter (Wilson Focus). Publicly-funded private schools often drain resources from the district while drawing only the students that cost the least to educate. In addition, public funds and public education should come with the public oversight and accountability that the school board provides.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 5

Spencer Head (R): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 7

Jane Erdenberger (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska - Lincoln BA {1975}; George Washington Law School JD [1978]; University of Nebraska - Omaha BS [2000]*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Nebraska Education Finance Authority Board [two terms]; Omaha Education Association Board [three terms]; OPS One City One School District Task Force; CASA; Belle Ryan PTO; Summer 2020 OPS and YMCA food programs; Empowerment Network*

Keegan Korf (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science in Communications – Journalism; PR/Advertising – University of Nebraska at Omaha Master of Arts in Teaching – College of Saint Mary Master of Education in Teacher Leadership and Learning - Midland University*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Mayoral Appoint Board Trustee (Secretary/Treasurer) for the Omaha Public Library Founding Board Member (Vice President) of Felius Cat Café Mentor with Girls Inc. of Omaha Member of the Hanscom Park Neighborhood Association*

HOW CAN SCHOOLS USE TECHNOLOGY TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Jane Erdenberger: Better equity and educational outcomes require curriculum meeting each student's abilities and goals. Computers and a list of websites are insufficient. Certified teachers create lesson plans reflecting state standards, assess individual needs and identify websites for lab demonstrations, research projects, unique lectures, virtual field trips, graphic design and current events individualized to stimulate each student and prepare him/her for today's workforce and to responsibly use technology.

Keegan Korf: Technology resources should be an embedded part of any school budget and we should be shifting to digital resources and away from expensive and antiquated textbooks. We do know that not every student has access to take-home devices or in-home Internet, but while they are in school, the technology resources need to be available to them. Effective technology use means supporting students in growing their critical thinking and collaboration skills using new tools for learning.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Jane Erdenberger: A healthy environment requires data-driven decisions about contact and sanitation to create and preserve a healthy community and education workforce. Physical safety requires that policies about building access are regularly updated and consistently applied and that interactions of students and staff are based on mutual respect modeled by staff members, discussed in the classroom and expected at all times, to create a positive environment and address the needs of at-risk students.

Keegan Korf: School boards who work broadly with state and federal legislation to impact gun laws in addition to using funds to increase support staff for mental health services in schools as opposed to additional police officers are ways to start. Tackling student trauma and mental health is critical. Finally, the most direct impact to school safety is a positive culture through strong administrative leadership which enables teachers to thrive and to build trusting relationships with their students

WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, SHOULD CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IN THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

Jane Erdenberger: Nebraska's public schools are among the best in the nation. Research shows that charter schools usually do not perform better than public schools with comparable student populations and testing requirements and may increase segregation. Charter schools that receive public funds create a resource shortfall for public schools that are required to meet applicable educational mandates. Problems theoretically addressed by charter schools can be best solved with innovative public education.

Keegan Korf: Charter schools and vouchers don't belong in Nebraska. Period. Our public schools are the lifeblood of our state and we intend to keep it that way.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 9

Tracy Casady (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Omaha Public Schools Board of Education, Subdistrict 9*

EDUCATION: *Master of Arts, Communication - University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2012; Bachelor of Arts, Journalism/Public Relations, Creighton University 1997*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Relay for Life of Greater Omaha, volunteer Girls on the Run, Run Buddy*

Erik Servellon (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None - I hope this will be my first office served!*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None - all previous service has been military and volunteer work.*

EDUCATION: *Masters of Public Administration - UNO Bachelor of Art, UNO Omaha Central, Class of 2005 Lewis and Clark Middle School Yates Elementary.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Sergeant, Nebraska Army National Guard, 2008 - Present; Deployment to Afghanistan as a Flight Medic, 2016-2017.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Board Member, OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc Board Vice President, Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership President, Metro Young Latino Professionals Association Board Vice Chair, Learning Community Foundation.*

HOW CAN SCHOOLS USE TECHNOLOGY TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Tracy Casady: Technology is key in our schools for so many reasons and is an area that is constantly changing. Having the right technology and continuing to keep the technology up-to-date is critical. Our schools use technology each day to teach students and prepare them for the future and any career they may choose - technology is everywhere. Technology is for everyone, it has no bias and it does not discriminate. Technology is key to providing ALL students the best possible educational outcome.

Erik Servellon: Remote learning has made technology even more important. At the same time, COVID has shown us that technology is another gap that affects students that come from lower socio-economic status. Investment in technology is needed to provide students with uninterrupted access to the internet and the tech support needed to keep their iPad or computers running. This investment must be spread equitably across ALL schools with special attention to North and South Omaha.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Tracy Casady: Safety has become an issue that is much larger than it once was with regard to our schools. Now, we face safety concerns in every facet of our schools, from the front door to our playgrounds. Many positive steps have been taken to increase the safety of our students and staff. Ensuring that our budgets allow for funding for new technology that supports safety, such as video security devices for our entrances, SRO's in our most vulnerable schools and building security personnel, to name a few.

Erik Servellon: Safety is the most important thing when it comes to student and teachers. Safety requires a comprehensive approach that starts with investing in mental & physical health resources, getting away from punitive forms of punishment for students, and stronger training for staff members to identify and respond to a myriad of situations. It is not enough to hire more safety officers or to invest in physical security equipment, we have to tackle the causes that create danger at school.

WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, SHOULD CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IN THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

Tracy Casady: I am in favor of school choice and parents making the best choice for their family. Charter schools are a viable choice for many, but they are at a cost. Public schools are free, they are available to all and are a wonderful education choice! I believe that state and local taxes must continue to support our state's public schools. Our public schools are vital and necessary for so many who would otherwise not be able to afford an education. Public schools need continued financial support.

Erik Servellon: None. I unequivocally oppose charter schools. I am a product of OPS and the Nebraska educational system and will always fight to generate stronger investment into public schools.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BENNINGTON MAYOR

Zac Johns (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Bennington City Council Representative 2016-current.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None.*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of Archbishop Bergan High School 2005 Studied Business Management at MCC.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *President of Bennington Chamber of Commerce 2015-2020.*

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Johns: My Wife and I have been residents of Bennington for more than 10 years. I am a business owner in the community. My experience in leading the Bennington Chamber of Commerce for the last 5 years along with serving on the City Council since 2016 have positioned me with the knowledge, resources, and skillset to lead our community

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITY?

Johns: Finish construction on the 156th st. Project. Also evaluate the need for more accessible pedestrian traffic in our community. I believe we can incorporate expanding our paths and sidewalks with other future improvement projects.

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES YOUR COMMUNITY/COUNTY IS FACING AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Johns: High tax rates- Reduced by continued expansion in both housing and commercial development to reduce the tax burden on each household.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BENNINGTON CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1

Joshua L. Dowding (R): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BENNINGTON CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2

Clint Adams (NP):

EDUCATION: *Bellevue University May 2013 Bachelor of Science: Business Administration and Management*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *February 2005 - August 2014 Air National Guard - Intelligence Analyst*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Ridgewood HOA Board Member - Sept 2019 to present*

Jeff Ryan (R): No response received

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Clint Adams: I am a logical thinker, conservative with our family's budget, communicate well with others and listen to both sides of an argument before taking action. My degree in management and my military experience of having to make decisions for the greater good has allowed me to be a successful manager of our team at work and has prepared me to have level-headed thinking as a board member on our HOA. My wife and I own a business in Bennington, we are involved in youth sports and volunteer where we can.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Clint Adams: Develop and execute a communication plan with my ward to keep everyone informed and dive into the budget to make sure our taxpayer dollars are being used wisely; looking for any possible inefficiencies we can correct.

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES YOUR COMMUNITY/COUNTY IS FACING AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Clint Adams: 1. Revenue struggles: we need more commercial growth in order to have a more robust tax base. 2. Dealing with an influx of SIDs outside of our city limits and those residents looking to our city for amenities: Parks, food, shopping and other entertainment. 3. Commercial growth needing to keep up with rapid residential growth: I believe in working with the Chamber in finding ways to attract more retail to town and then once we do start seeing those business open up, how we can help sustain them.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BENNINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION - DISTRICT 59

Terri Calabro (R): No response received.

Tim Dreessen (R): No response received.

Kara Neuverth (R): No response received.

Chris Reiner (R): No response received.

Darren Sieknan (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *2002 to Present, Bennington Public School Board District #59.*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science, Agriculture; University of Nebraska, Lincoln.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Maplewood Methodist Preschool Board; Bennington Public Schools Foundation Board; YMCA Coach, Bennington Athletic League Coach*

Allyson Crossman Slobotski (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None.*

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska - Lincoln - Juris Doctorate; Texas Christian University - Master of Accounting; Texas Christian University - BBA Accounting & Finance; Omaha Central High School.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Women's Center for Advancement - first Guild President; Midlands Mentoring Partnership - Treasurer; Bennington Elementary PTO Board Member; Newport Landing Homeowner's Association - Treasurer; University of Nebraska - Omaha Sorority Academic Advisor.*

HOW CAN SCHOOLS USE TECHNOLOGY TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Darren Siekman: During my time on the board, we have invested to become a "1 to 1" school system. In grades 7-12 students are issued a chromebook and in the elementary schools we have

combinations of computer labs and iPads which provide a device for every student. Distance learning last spring made us better at technology, but we will never be "done". Discovering and utilizing best practices will be a focus for me.

Allyson Crossman Slobotski: Technology should be used to ensure students receive individualized education that meets their needs and evaluates their successes. Using technology to provide training for our teachers and administrators enhances the educational experience for all. As technology becomes more and more critical to life after high school, we need to make sure all students have the tools to be successful and starts in the district.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Darren Siekman: Common sense and vigilance are the best tools we have. We are very fortunate in Bennington to have a highly engaged community of parents and community members who "watch out" for each other. The addition of a school resource officer has already proven effective in key situations, Deputy Baker is awesome. Last but not least, getting advice from local, yet nationally recognized medical professionals and experts has shaped our plan for dealing with COVID now and in the future.

Allyson Crossman Slobotski: Ensuring the safety of students, teachers, and all staff employed by the School District begins with leadership from the Board of Education. I would commit to working together, collaboratively, to ensure proper planning and adequate training is in place. I would emphasize the importance of communication, technology, and employing best practices in the area to do what is necessary to ensure safety for all. It is important everyone believes in the plan and truly feels safe at work everyday.

WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, SHOULD CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IN THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

Darren Siekman: While I have not done much research on charter schools, I would ask which students are we trying to serve and what is the desired educational outcome from a charter? The strength of public schools is the ability of local constituents to make decisions which are best for their kids and community. Would a charter school still allow that input? School funding and property taxes are always a challenge in Nebraska, could a charter school be funded in a way that is not detrimental?

Allyson Crossman Slobotski: As a graduate of Omaha Public Schools and with children in Bennington Public Schools, I'm a huge public school supporter. Nebraska is very lucky to have a fantastic public educational system well known for its diversity and quality education. While Charter Schools may be a helpful tool in other states with struggling public school systems, I do not believe adding charter schools in Nebraska will enhance the existing system in such a way that it warrants a role.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BOYS TOWN VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christopher Haack (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *I am currently on the Boys Town Village Board.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None.*

EDUCATION: *Bachelors in Psychology with a minor in Business from the University of Northern Iowa.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Was on the American Red Cross board of directors in Iowa, board of directors for Veridian Credit Union, Participated in the CROP walk and Honey Sunday for many years. Many other volunteer activities at Boys Town.*

Jeff D. Lindley (R): No response received.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Christopher Haack: I have been a resident of Boys Town for 17 years and really care about the direction we are going. I also want the best for Boys Town.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Christopher Haack: If elected, I would like to continue to keep Boys Town in the direction we are headed. I want to make sure that Boys Town is a safe place for the family teachers and youth who live here.

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES YOUR COMMUNITY IS FACING AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Christopher Haack: 1. Safety - I am trying to keep Boys Town one of the safest communities to live in. We have recently added speed bumps and we are continuing to work with the police to make sure they continue to do their jobs well. 2. Campus Beautification - When COVID is under control, I want to make sure that Boys Town continues to be a great place to come and visit. 3. Pride - I want the people of Boys Town to be proud of where they live and what they do here.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 10

Scot M. Ringenberg (R): No response received

Reagan Rosenberg (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *B.S., Nebraska Wesleyan M.S., Survey Research and Methodology, University of Nebraska Lincoln Ed.S School Psychology*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Girl Scout Leader, Volunteer coach - YMCA, Destination Imagination Team Manager, Spring Ridge PTO, Nebraska Wesleyan Alumni*

Jennifer Shatel (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *UNL graduate - Journalism. Valley High School*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Celebration of Giving - Mitten Tree coordinator 3 years and Family Fun Night planner - 2 years for Spring Ridge. Concession stand chair and honor roll display assistant at ERMS. Team mom and photog - girls BB at ESHS. Chair of my church council.*

Renee Vokt (R): No response received

HOW CAN SCHOOLS USE TECHNOLOGY TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Reagan Rosenberg: This year has taught us more than ever before the importance of technology in schools. When all students have access to devices and the internet, we start with an equal playing field. Beyond equipment and access, we need to continue developing dynamic ways that teachers can work through technology to meet each student's needs. Positive educational outcomes happen when teachers are able to meet a child's individual needs. Technology is a tool for our teachers.

Jennifer Shatel: Today's technology is one of the tools schools can use to educate our students, along with face to face teaching, textbooks, group projects and experiments/labs. Access to technology can help keep education moving forward when in-person classes are not possible, and keep students who opt for distance learning connected with their teachers and classmates. Ensuring all students have access to this technology is a top priority. Today's students need to know how best to use the current technology.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Reagan Rosenberg: Safety always has to be a top priority. Physical safety needs to be maintained and practiced by students and staff, through drills and instruction. Students also need to be safe from bullying and discrimination. The social emotional needs of our students must continue to be addressed through curriculum that our teachers and counselors teach.

Jennifer Shatel: Locked doors, security cameras, and safety plans are great tools to help keep our schools safe. The anonymous reporting system EPS unveiled recently is also a great tool -

allowing students to report possible threats they may overhear or see. The motto - see something, say something - should be taught and encouraged. The presence of uniformed school resource officers may also be a deterrent to school violence.

WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, SHOULD CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IN THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

Reagan Rosenberg: Charter schools are not good for Nebraska. Charter schools, unlike private schools, take public education funds away from public schools. Charter schools do not have the proper oversight to ensure that the tax dollars being given to them are being used wisely to educate their students.

Jennifer Shatel: I believe Nebraska public and private schools offer excellent educational opportunities for our students. I believe parental involvement within the current schools is key and should be encouraged within schools that are struggling.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 17

Amanda McGill Johnson (D): No response received

Mike Pate (R): No response received

Linda Poole (R): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

RALSTON MAYOR

Donald A. Groesser (R): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

RALSTON CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1

Tim Brousek (R): No response received

Maureen Konwinski (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Ralston City Council Ward 1 1992-present*

EDUCATION: *BA Creighton University MA University of Nebraska at Omaha 36 additional graduate hours 51 hours International Baccalaureate*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *RABA helper*

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Maureen Konwinski: I am very familiar with the city and its functions. I have worked hard to keep Ralston independent and growing, and dedicated many years to Ralston's people and workers. The new Hinge Project will add housing and businesses to the downtown. As a member of the council and Historical Architectural committee, I want to make sure the new development preserves the old. As a finance committee member, my concerns are insurance, providing services, jobs, and updates related to Covid 19.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Maureen Konwinski: My priorities are: Continued progress on the Hinge Project Getting the Arena back open with Covid protection in place Continued work on streets and other infrastructure Paying off bonds and other debts

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES YOUR COMMUNITY/COUNTY IS FACING AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Maureen Konwinski: Covid 19 has temporarily closed the Ralston Arena, businesses, etc. We need to get them back in operation as well as getting the parks and playing fields safely opened. We are working with the Arena, businesses, Ralston high school, and the sports committee to achieve this. Paying off debt. We have applied for CARES act help, and are budgeting. Infrastructure. Our One and Six Year plan addresses the street repair needs.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

RALSTON CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2

Lee Fideline (R): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

RALSTON CITY COUNCIL - WARD 6

Ben Preis (D): No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

RALSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 54

Heather R. Johnson (NP): No response received

Patrick McPherson (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *No current public offices held.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Papio Natural Resources District, 1978-82; Nebraska State Board of Education, 2014-18*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor's degree, Creighton University*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *U.S. Army Reserves*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Nebraska CHIP Board, Nebraska Game and Parks Youth Fishing Instructor Heartland React, Cloisters on the Platte, CHAD, American Diabetes Association, United Way, Omaha Charter Review Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, Foster Child Review Board*

Jodi Norton (NP): No response received

Catherine N. Payne (NP): No response received

Robin Richards (D):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Ralston Public School Board District 54 11/20-present. I filled a vacancy.*

EDUCATION: *Ralston High Graduated 1999 University of Nebraska at Omaha Graduated 2015 Current Grad Student at Colorado State University.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Board Service: Omaha Children's Choir, Bellevue Choral Arts Society, Vesper Concert Series.*

Merv Riepe (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Nebraska State Legislator. State Senator, LD12, Ralston and Millard, 2014-2018.*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor's degree, Business Finance, University of Nebraska at Omaha Master degree, Health Policy and Management, The University of Iowa.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Scoutmaster, Ralston Post, Boy Scouts of America. Board, Mid-America Council of Boy Scouts Sub-chair, United Way of the Midlands Board, Children's Square President's Advisory Board, Nebr. Wesleyan Univ. Board, CHAD Advisory Board, Omaha Symphony*

HOW CAN SCHOOLS USE TECHNOLOGY TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Patrick McPherson: The increase in 'free lunch' program numbers cries out for greater equity. The recent decision of OPS to purchase I-Pads for all and provide 'hotspot' connectivity not only deals with the pandemic but ensures equity for those who most need it. It prepares teachers and students for the future using Zoom-type programs and learning activities as well as potential teacher shortages. Using technology to provide books and additional learning material, particularly for K-3, provides great opportunity.

Robin Richards: When implementing Ralston's Return to Learning Plan, it became very clear that technology was the core of the conversation. Every day we are learning just how important access to technology is to the success of our students whether they are at home or in the classroom. By ensuring vital internet access to every child and a 1 to 1 technology plan throughout our schools, we are giving every child equal opportunity to access the technology they need as they navigate this Covid era of education.

Merv Riepe: Software and hardware training and support to students, parents, guardians, teachers and administrators. Identify best-practices in other school systems. We must evaluate and assume risks, working to avoid false starts and the highest and best use of time and financial resources. Technology is a high priority means to guarantee equal opportunity for each child.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Patrick McPherson: The 'open classroom' concept in several Ralston schools is outdated and puts multiple numbers of classes in potential danger from intruders. Students need to be in individual lockable classrooms. Buildings need to be upgraded so there is only one lockable, monitored entrance. Schools must have emergency procedures that are written and frequently reviewed and each school should have regular contact with law enforcement so that any emergencies can be handled quickly, capably and knowledgeably.

Robin Richards: A well developed and widely communicated safety plan is fundamental to ensuring safety in schools and at school events for both our staff and students. Schools must have trained staff and administrators that help to monitor and deescalate tough situations and find the proper after care needed for each situation. The ability to intercede and redirect should be at the forefront of the schools policies in this area.

Merv Riepe: Must have an engaged student body, faculty, support staff and administration to be observant of events, comments, social media, rumors and interactions among students. Must have and respond to mental health needs. Buildings and parking lots need modern camera along with secure and limited entrances. Emergency drills essential. Health protocols and PPE supplies must exist and ensured a clean environment based on scientific best-practices. Communication to stakeholders must be ongoing two-way

WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, SHOULD CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IN THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

Patrick McPherson: Nebraska offers school choice allowing children to find educational opportunities in other districts and provides for private and parochial schools and home schooling. These choices exist in the Ralston District. The Nebraska Legislature has not authorized charter schools although they exist in more than 40 states. Results for them vary and most are in very large communities. I favor school choice for all parents but the question is moot until parents and the Legislature act to permit them.

Robin Richards: I do not think Charter schools should have a place in Nebraska. They should not have access to the same funds as public schools until they follow state and federal guidelines. The lack of oversight in this institutions leaves vulnerable student populations at risk of abuse and higher rates of expulsion. Their lack of inclusion policies and practices should keep them from accessing government funding.

Merv Riepe: Education, health and judiciary must always place the welfare of the child first. Because no two children are the same, we need an education plan for each child constructed in concert with parents or guardians. Ralston is a small school system, hence, charter schools would distract from and public schools. I believe a place exists for home schooling and private/parochial schools.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VALLEY MAYOR

Cindy Grove (R):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Valley City Council December 2016 - Present.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A.*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science, Business Administration Bellevue University 2007.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *President and founder of the Valley Days Foundation which organizes and funds community events and community betterment including flood / disaster relief. President of the Valley Waterloo Business Association. ENCAP Board Member.*

Steve Peoples (NP): No response received.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Cindy Grove: I am extremely passionate about the community of Valley and it's residents. I have demonstrated this numerous times through community projects including organizing events, flood relief efforts and serving on several other non-profit boards and the City Council. In addition, I have the experience and skill set needed to help the City of Valley navigate the growth spurt that began several years ago to ensure we are making the most practical decisions for our city and residents long term

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Cindy Grove: To continue to upgrade the City's technology platforms to better serve our residents and employees and evaluate employee wages and benefits. Upgrading outdated technology will create easier access to City services and efficiencies for City employees in their day to day jobs. These efficiencies and investments for City employees will allow them more time to take a proactive approach in assisting residents.

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES YOUR COMMUNITY IS FACING AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Cindy Grove: 1) Growth: We need to take a more proactive role in the population growth spurt we are experiencing to ensure we are positioning ourselves the best for our residents and for the future. 2) Economic development: The growth of economic development and small businesses is lagging. We need to do a better job of encouraging and enticing small business growth within our community. 3) Technology: We need to invest in technology and our current employees to more resourceful and proactive.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VALLEY CITY COUNCIL

Alan Badour (NP): No response received.

Elizabeth Lizzy Lowndes (R): No response received.

Chris TenEyck (R):

Douglas County West High School Metropolitan Community College

Bryon Ueckert (R): No response received.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Chris TenEyck: I was born and raised in Valley, and I feel strongly that what Valley needs right now is someone that has spent their life here to do what is right for the community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES?

Chris TenEyck: If elected my first priority would be to start cleaning up the town itself. Valley is growing quickly with the numerous lake communities that have been built within the last few years, but we need to focus more time repairing streets and fixing homes here in town.

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES YOUR COMMUNITY/COUNTY IS FACING AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Chris TenEyck: 1. Keeping taxes lower- With Valley having four major companies within city limits taxes for the citizens should be lower. 2. 5 year plan- Valley needs to work on a 5 year plan on repairing/ maintaining roads. 3. Communication with the citizens- Multiple projects have been done here in Valley without the citizens knowing until the project had either began or was finished.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DUNDY COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

FILLMORE COUNTY

CITY OF GENEVA CITY COUNCIL WARD 1

Norman H. Marks (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF GENEVA CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

Apryl Schwarz (NP):

EDUCATION: *Liberal Arts BA in Political Science and History*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Four years as a leader for Geneva Cub Scout Pack 175; Active member of Geneva United Methodist Church participating in the Social Justice Committee; Six years as a volunteer summer camp coordinator at Camp Moses Merrill in Linwood NE*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Apryl Schwarz: We are so lucky to have many small, locally owned and operated businesses in Geneva. Many cities of our size struggle to keep historic downtown storefronts filled. My goal is to support our existing businesses as much as possible and to take steps that encourage innovation and new business ideas to take root in our town.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Apryl Schwarz: The highest priority would be making sure that the basic needs of all our citizens, especially those that are most vulnerable, are being met. Tight-knit communities fare better when facing disasters, and my family has experienced first-hand how supportive our neighbors in Geneva are in challenging times. I would make sure that we foster that sense of community and have an up to date Disaster Preparedness plan in place with multiple planned safe shelters and networks of community members that can be organized quickly.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Apryl Schwarz: I will advocate for our services that attract and keep young families. This includes supporting our local hospital, Fillmore Central Public Schools, affordable housing options, and our quality childcare/early education facilities. I will advocate for infrastructure projects such as improvements to our streets and public spaces, improving Geneva's walkability, as well as supporting our phenomenal Public Library and its various programming. Last, I will bring a common-sense and informed approach to every decision that I make as a City Councilwoman. Everything government does can affect the lives of its citizens; I will make sure that I am approaching the job with an appropriate understanding of what that responsibility means.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Apryl Schwarz: I think that a challenge we face in Geneva is the ability for all our citizens to know how to connect with their elected officials in a meaningful way and to know how they can affect positive change. I am a strong believer in the value of transparency, public discourse, and decency in government, and I believe that can and should start at the local level. I will make sure that my constituents know how to get ahold of me with questions and concerns, and I will make sure that information about public meetings are readily available on multiple platforms. I know that my neighbors and I share a common goal in wanting what is best for our community, and I want all of our citizens to have a say in how we best accomplish our goals as a city.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

FRANKLIN COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

FRONTIER COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

FURNAS COUNTY

FURNAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Allan McCoy (Rep):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

GAGE COUNTY

GAGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2

Emily Rohe Haxby (Rep):

EDUCATION: *Bachelor's in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska Lincoln*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Emily Rohe Haxby: I think economic growth is important for the county with the current financial situation. We need to make sure Gage County stays competitive. One way to do this is to keep developing and maintaining our highway system because the economy grows around good infrastructure. We have been doing great at that in the past and need to continue to develop in the future. I support what NGage is currently doing to further drive economic development. I think we need to look at zoning requirements and make sure we are doing all we can to ensure that Gage County continues to grow.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Emily Rohe Haxby: I am a proponent of setbacks because it gives residents the opportunity to educate themselves and the choice of whether or not they want the impacts of wind turbines on their property. I want to give our communities the right to choose what is right for them. I would also like to make sure and look at rock/gravel options across the county to see if there is a way to keep/make the roads we have in better conditions. Finally, reducing spending. I'd like to look

continuously at ways that will save the county dollars and help relieve the impact of Beatrice 6. Sometimes cheaper isn't always the best option and I understand that. Cutting costs is good but not at expense of quality outcome to the taxpayer.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Emily Rohe Haxby: I grew up on a farm outside of Clatonia. As a Gage County native, I cherish our community ties and values. After getting my Bachelor's in Animal Science from UNL, I moved back to where I grew up and started a family with my husband, Justin. My family is committed to a life of farming and livestock where financial management is key to success. Along with farming, we own and operate Haxby Welding and Fabrication. I feel that I have good roots in the community, I understand the challenges faced by Gage County, and I'm invested in creating a better future by representing you as District 2 County Supervisor with bringing fresh, new ideas to the board.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BEATRICE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 15

GENE FIESTER (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *High School graduate*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *US Army-Sergeant-Honorable Discharge. Served from May 1992 to February 1999. Part of the 3 Infantry Division for service in Kuwait.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *None*

Neal Trantham (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *I hold a 4 year degree from Kansas State University.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *My wife and I are actively engaged in volunteering through BPS activities to include Parent Teacher Organization, fund raisers, and have been sponsors for field trips and other activities.*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Gene Fiester: Well, during this pandemic, I think every school district has had to think outside of the box for the protection of the students and staff. I believe this could be a turn for better educational opportunities. I believe that the next step should be eliminating textbooks and going to e-books. Additionally, having every student equip with chrome books. Homework will be

turned in through the chrome book and the faculty shall review and send the student homework or test in a faster time period.

Neal Trantham: In this uncertain time of Covid-19, technology is more important than ever. I believe that the district must lead in distance learning opportunities, and have contingency plans in place. Our future workers (who are our children) must graduate with more than basic computer skills, so that they are primed for success in college and in the work force. As a district, we must invest in learning opportunities for students that encourage this to happen.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Gene Fiester: Well, unfortunately the first thing that was not performed was a Covid test for all faculty before the plan was in motion. This would create a baseline for the health of all faculty. Additionally, the 6 foot space should be enforced from the beginning to the end of a school day. We should not see clumps of students together waiting to see if they have to get a temperature check or not. Also, buses should be staggered and schools should be open to students thirty (30) minutes prior to school starting.

Neal Trantham: School districts have many safety needs. The first need is physical safety of students and staff from violence. I support the use of School Resource Officers from the Beatrice Police Department, and feel that the two officers (Lauenstein and Price) have been a great addition to the staff. In addition, I believe that we need to increase our video monitoring, and door entry security. Other needs include overall health concerns. Covid-19 has changed the world forever. I support the current school administration's decisions in following the advice of local and state health care professionals (social distancing, use of masks, cleaning of surfaces, etc.). I believe that the goal should be to keep schools open as long as the infection rate is under control.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Gene Fiester: This question is the embodiment of my campaign. First, is the start of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) infused classes. Second, is the start of the Life Skills classes as a requirement for Seniors in High School. This class will be about checkbook accounting, legal- reading a contract for renting a residence and/or vehicle. sewing a button, and other items that community leaders see as a weakness in young adults to better prepare them for life in the 21st Century. Revised the students handbook to be the same throughout their elementary, middle, and high school life. Any changes will be started by their student council, because school is their students micro government. This will make the students more responsible and aware of their own student government and give them something they have not received, a voice.

Neal Trantham: I believe strongly in recruiting and retaining the best teachers and staff. Having the best educators ensures that our students will be served and ready for success. Before anything

else, we must make good hiring and staffing decisions. From there, the role of the school board is to listen to those educators and support their goals and objectives. The staff knows best what students need. When possible (and within the budget), it is then the role of the school board to find ways to finance new technologies/programs/opportunities to ensure that our students are ready for the 21st century job market. While I went to college and obtained a 4 year degree, I realize that this may not be the path for all students. I believe in vocational training, and would support making additions to agricultural and vocational programs.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BERTRAND SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 54

Brent Samuelson (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hi-Line Golf course board of directors-current VP, past President 2015-2019*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Bertrand School Board 2006-2010 Immanuel Lutheran Church council, Treasurer/VP*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering-UNL 1992 MBA-Colorado State University 2000*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Bertrand Parade CoChair 2017-present Chamber golf tournament director 2018-present Youth football and baseball referee/umpire 2003-present*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Brent Samuelson: Technology is key to providing our students with the skills needed to succeed in the world today. We can't forget that the personal touch from a caring teacher or para is just as important. We are blessed to have a great educational service unit in the area and we need to continue to work with them to continually improve on the use of technology in our school. Fortunately we are blessed to have good broadband access in our community at this time. Our children are our future and we need to provide them with the tools to succeed in the most economically way possible.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Brent Samuelson: We are blessed to live in a great rural community. I truly believe almost all of our students and teachers feel very safe as the current administration and board have done a good job of addressing any safety concerns as they arise. I would propose that we continue to work with the local law enforcement agencies to make sure we are doing all we can to keep our children and staff safe. Open communication and cooperation between the school and local law

enforcement will help to strengthen the bond between them and improve everyone's safety going forward.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Brent Samuelson: The students in our district are our future and we need to make sure they have access to the programs and information to prepare them for the 21st century job market. Whether it is preparing them for tech school, a trade school, the military, a two or four year college or the working world we need to make sure they are properly educated to give them the best chance for success. Balancing these needs versus the costs to our patrons is the challenge to all school boards. I hope to use my financial background with cash flows and budgeting to help the district provide what is needed for our students and staff in the most financially responsible way.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DILLER-ODELL SCHOOL BOARD WARD 2

Dusty Duis (NP):

EDUCATION: *Diploma in Practical Nursing, Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing, and Master of Science in Nursing with an Emphasis in Nursing Education*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *President, St. John's Ladies Aid (2020), Vice President (2019), President Elect (2020) of the Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, Team Captain for the Gage County Relay for Life (2018-current), Past youth t-ball and volleyball coach/assistant*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Dusty Duis: We have a very forward thinking and active technology department; in my opinion, in our school. I don't believe broadband access or equity is an issue for us in our district. I would like to see our district remain at the forefront of technology so as to prepare our students for the ever changing job market.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Dusty Duis: I feel our school has taken appropriate measures to keep our children, teachers, and staff physically safe in school. What I question is the mental safety of our students. According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, one in five youth have a mental health condition and half of many conditions develop prior to the age of 14. (<https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Policy->

Priorities/Intervene-Early/Mental-Health-in-Schools). Regarding bullying, data shows that in 2018 there were over 830,000 victimizations of school aged children; aged 12 - 18 (<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2020/2020063.pdf>). These are alarming statistics. I feel this is an area worth exploring to see if our school is doing all we can to intervene with these statistics.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Dusty Duis: As I contemplate this question four words come to mind; listen, know, change, and grow. To effectively advocate one must be willing to listen to the teachers as they are the ones with their boots on the ground. They must be heard and understood when considering what tools are needed to prepare our students for the job market. Know reflects knowledge. The school board member must be knowledgeable of the job market demands of the 21st century as well as where the school is positioned to meet those demands. The board member must be able to identify areas for improvement and be knowledgeable of the options for improvement. This requires a spirit of inquiry to listen, ask questions and research. Additionally, the board member must be open to change in order to help the teachers, students, and our school progress in meeting the demands of the 21st century job market.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

FREEMAN SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 33-1

Chad Harms (NP):

No response received

Anthony Meints (NP):

No response received

Chelsea Schaaf (NP):

EDUCATION: *2006 Graduate from Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Majoring as a Veterinarian Technician and Minor in Animal Science*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Military Spouse for 16 years*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteer and Co organizer of the Elderly assistance program, Volunteer to help school in classrooms, TeamMate Mentor, and Freeman Strengths Team*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Chelsea Schaaf: Technology is something we can always continue to grow in. Through the use of technology we would be able to better prepare our students through prerequisite courses.

Continuing to provide chrome books to students to use at school and while at home. Our school does an excellent job of providing what our students need, but continuing to be able to make upgrades and new ways to adhere to school standards and being leaders in the matter requires broadband access that is not interrupted. As our world continues to evolve, its important for our school to be able to evolve along with it. To be able to continue communication with students, parents and the community is a key component in assuring our students success rate.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Chelsea Schaaf: As a parent to two children who currently attend Freeman Public Schools, safety of students and teachers is important. Making sure we have an overall understanding what is expected of students and teachers and adhering to those standards through education. We learn through how we are led and I believe that it is the School Boards responsibility to lead as an example. Being a leader of a current team of over 750 team members, I believe I have those skills and knowledge to set that into motion.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Chelsea Schaaf: I would best advocate for the district's teachers and students by being an active listener and doer. One thing I have learned because of Freeman is how to use my Strengths to help better others. One of those strengths is Achiever. When given a task, I see it through 100% and take the matter at hand serious. Students and teachers at Freeman Public Schools needs that voice. The school has done a great job in many areas of already ensuring myself, as a mother, that they have our children's best interests at heart. The world is always changing and with that is the way the job market changes. Being a Licensed Veterinary Technician for 8 years, Dental Assistant for 6 years, and now a successful Entrepreneur for the last 4 years, I have seen how the industry changes and what it takes to adapt and over come what our children today will face.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LEWISTON SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 69

Rae Lynne Bredemeier (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WILBER-CLATONIA SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 82

Chris Cerveny (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Wilber-Clatonia Board of education Jan 2000-current*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Wilber-Clatonia High School Southeast Community College Associates degree
Peru State College Bachelors degree*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Wilber Volunteer Fire Department Wilber Methodist Church, council*

Bradley T Kalkwarf (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *Oxford High School, Oxford NE, B.S. Business Administration - University of
Nebraska, Lincoln, Juris Doctorate - University of Nebraska College of Law*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Wilber Area Chamber of Commerce, Teammates, St. Wenceslaus
Catholic Church, Friends of Music, Wilber-Clatonia Booster Club, Nebraska State Bar
Association, Crete Area Healthcare Foundation, Wilber Community Foundation, Wilber
Clatonia Post Prom*

Russell D Schuerman (NP):

No response received

Cory Skleba (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Chris Cerveny: A challenge for rural schools is that many remote locations do not have access to quality internet service if any at all. So while we can provide technology for students to take home where appropriate, that does not guarantee that they will have the access to use it. We will continue to look for opportunities on the local level such as providing hot-spots, extended wireless outside of the building, and promote the use of local resources (library etc.) while also working with our state senators in promoting the need for quality internet service to rural Nebraska. I also support the continued use of technology in the classroom in particular with the high school teachers using similar or the same platforms as are used at the college level. This has helped students with a smoother transition from high school to advanced education or the work environment, and was also a step up when students were moved to on-line learning the last school year.

Bradley T Kalkwarf: Many schools have had to deal with this issue and I feel that some deficiencies were exposed when schools had to go to distance learning. Wilber-Clatonia has been proactive in looking for solutions and has implemented a one to one chrome book availability for

students in grades 3-12 at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. That helps to solve one piece of the problem. Internet access is the more difficult piece. Resources are available to assist in funding of hot-spots for students who do not have broadband access and they should be utilized. Although this seems to mostly be a socioeconomic issue, they are not the only ones being affected. Rural access to internet continues to be a problem across the country and I know many of our federal elected officials continue to address it. School board members should continue to advocate also so that every student, no matter who they are or where they live, are given the same educational opportunities as their classmates.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Chris Cerveny: Over the last few years we have worked to improve security of the buildings through the use of technology, secured and centralized entrances, as well as classroom safety procedures and drills. During non-pandemic situations we promote the interaction of parents in the school and classroom, but that also has to be balanced with safety and student achievement in mind. Student safety is a focus not only in the school but also in the home environment. We will continue to engage in student learning such that they are aware of their surroundings, and have a good understanding of what is appropriate and acceptable in society. We are fortunate that our law enforcement is located very near our facility, and go out of their way to be visible and active in our building and at activities. I would support a full time officer on site if needed, but at this time I believe our students, staff, and community are in alignment with the expectations of a safe and quality learning environment.

Bradley T Kalkwarf: I believe there are two main safety issues that face our students and staff today. The first is the health risk posed to them from COVID-19. Wilber-Clatonia has done an excellent job of taking a proactive approach by involving administration, staff, students and community members to develop a four phase plan based upon risk levels. All of this was done for the specific purpose of ensuring the safety of students and staff. I would applaud the administration for the well rounded approach. The second is the safety issues to students and staff due to the behavioral and mental health needs of some students. Priority should be placed on making sure that the mental health needs of the students are being addressed and that the appropriate training is being provided to staff to recognize and deal with these needs to better protect all.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Chris Cerveny: As for teachers I support the continued use of peer learning, as well as external courses and personal development. By having a mix of new as well as seasoned staff, and providing them scheduled times to exchange ideas and attend workshops, allows them to continue with their development in order to bring new techniques and ideas into the classroom. For students I am an advocate of continued expansion into the trades and non four-year degree curriculum. I myself worked up through the trades and understand the need for students whom are qualified to move into the agricultural, and blue collar/trade areas. The district is fortunate to

have had the opportunity to expand its course offering in the agricultural area through the generous gift of a local patron, and I am hopeful that additional opportunities can be developed either through the use of technology or partnerships with other local manufacturing and commercial businesses.

Bradley T Kalkwarf: After having my first child graduate from Wilber-Clatonia Schools this year, I feel that I could provide some insight into what is working well and where there may be some room for improvement. As with anything in the world today, technology and interpersonal skills are two of the most important criteria that need to be addressed as part of our students' educational process. As part of the curriculum development, we should not only look at how our students perform on testing, but how they interact with peers, teachers, staff, administration and the community and also how they are able to navigate technology needs should be just as important. Pulling from every student's strengths no matter what they may be and developing leadership opportunities based upon those strengths will help to ensure our student's success and not just that of those who are successful academically.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF FILLEY

Nicole Bursovsky (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Currently I am the Public Policy and Legislation chair on the Executive Board for the Nebraska Counseling Association, as well as secretary for the NE Association of Behavioral Health Organizations.*

EDUCATION: *I graduated from Alma High School in Alma, NE, in 2005, received my bachelors degree in Psychology from NWU in 2009, and my Masters Degree in Counseling from Doane in 2012.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteering is something my mom taught me at a young age, starting with scooping snow for the elderly in our neighborhood. I've donated blood, helped with Stuff the Bus, and various other organizations. I am on two volunteer lead executive boards.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Nicole Bursovsky: I believe that Filley has a strong downtown for a small village, and I would support the continued health and growth of our local businesses, as well as working to continue to attract new business to Filley.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Nicole Bursovsky: In the event that Filley suffered a traumatic weather event, my first priority would be its people. Small villages can be left out of funding and resources for natural events, and I would do what I needed to secure resources to protect and help our village. As a mental

health professional, I would also support the emotional needs of the community in the event of a disaster.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES?
PLEASE DETAIL.**

Nicole Bursovsky: There has been an effort to update and repair the streets in Filley for some time, and work has now begun on grants to make this possible. Continuing this work, and seeing it through, would be my first priority. Secondly, maintaining village funds through a large project like this and balancing the budget would be key. Lastly, I believe in creating a long term continuation of a healthy village. Strong leadership is imperative for any organization, and interest from the younger generation is key. I would work to grow the younger leadership in our village, to ensure the long lasting health and growth of Filley.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Nicole Bursovsky: Strong leadership is imperative for any organization, including small villages. Interest from the younger generation is key, and I would work to grow the next generation of leadership in our village, to ensure the long lasting health and growth of Filley.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

GARDEN COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

GARFIELD COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

GOSPER COUNTY

GOSPER COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Todd P Anderson (Rep):

EDUCATION: *High School Diploma*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Acolyte at my Church AND Knights of Columbus: District Deputy [1993 - 1998] & Family Director [1998 - 2002] & District Deputy [2009 - 2012]*

Glenn L Hofman (Rep):

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *School Board member*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science plus 60 hours*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Vietnam Veteran*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Lions Club VFW American Legion*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Glenn L Hofman: I am a fiscal conservative and plan on monitoring and upgrade county roads and bridges as needed. I would investigate becoming a more livestock friendly county. Spend tax money wisely.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Todd P Anderson: Drought Floods Ice Storm

Glenn L Hofman: Safety of the roads and bridges for people to travel on Tornado designated shelters in place Access to down lines for Electrical Power Suppliers, Twin Valley, Dawson County public power

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Todd P Anderson: Well Maintained Roads for the Safety of the Public Budget - Taxes
Promotion of New Business Opportunities and Jobs

Glenn L Hofman: Taxes and Roads and law enforcement support.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Todd P Anderson: ** I have lived in the District all of my Life ** Raised my daughter for several years in Gosper County School Districts ** I know a lot of the Roads

Glenn L Hofman: I feel like I am approachable, conservative and will strive to be informed

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

GRANT COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

GREELEY COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HALL COUNTY

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND CITY COUNCIL WARD 1

Michelle Fitzke (NP):

No response received

Jack Sheard (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor's Degree from UNK, 2000, in Journalism/Mass Communications; Waverly High School graduate, 1996*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Leadership Tomorrow Board of Directors, past board chair GISH Band Boosters Junior Achievement board of directors Downtown Grand Island BID Gates Elementary PTA Grand Island Can-Do Committees, Community Clean-Up Committee Mr. Habitat contestant*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Jack Sheard: I'm excited to be working with organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation to partner on innovative ideas for growing new and existing businesses. Innovation is the key. It is more than simply giving money as an incentive, though some financial support programs can be useful at times. Developing workforce growth and education can be just as important. Listening to people who do this for a living and helping them put solutions in action is also very wise. I strongly believe it is important for Grand Island to

consider an investment or partnership to promote young and diverse entrepreneurs who have typically been passed on for support. We need to be a place where all of our citizens have an open opportunity to create jobs and add to the value of the community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Jack Sheard: 1. Safety: Ensuring safety for everyone, including making sure our city workers have what they need to get essential workers working and roads ready. 2. Communication: Making sure a plan is in place for internal and external communication so everyone knows what we're doing, why we're doing it and when we'll be doing it. 3. Budget: Keeping an eye on the budget to make sure we are able to maintain and recover quickly financially.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Jack Sheard: Public safety: The community's ability to grow and thrive is dependent upon its ability to feel safe and secure. It is time to broaden the traditional definition and investigate ways to diversify the knowledge base of public officials to include mental health support as well as police, fire and medical. Fiscal responsibility and transparency: We must consider long-term growth and vitality of the community. Major investments need to be made, but they need to be made openly and with a big picture in mind. Spending cuts may be beneficial today but cause undue headaches tomorrow. Similarly, once we spend money, we may not be able to get it back. Communication: People fear what they don't understand, and typically they don't understand what they are not informed about directly. My philosophy is simple: If you are ashamed to communicate about it, you shouldn't be doing it. I truly believe through proactive, open communication you can avoid unnecessary confusion.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Jack Sheard: Smart growth. As we grow, we need to think about how we can continue to do so without sacrificing quality of life, public safety and infrastructure now - and city revenues in the future. Whether through tax increment financing or other incentives or programs, we need to analyze the long term sustainability of our growth plans. As we grow, we need to figure education into the equation. We also need to keep our sights on diversity and the makeup of our great community. Whether cultural, socio economical or however else we see diversity, we need to understand our community looks differently than it did 20 years ago, and will look differently in 10 years than it looks now. We need to plan for that.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND CITY COUNCIL WARD 5

Aly Alexander (NP):

No response received

Chuck Haase (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *City Council 2008 thru 2020*

EDUCATION: *MBA Masters Degree in Business Administration*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *1972 to 1994 - Retired Nebraska Army National Guard with 22 Years Experience.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation Board, Heartland Event Center Board, Nebraska Military Retiree Council member, American Legion member for 42 years.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Chuck Haase: Housing is a priority for our community. We need to support developers in a financially prudent way. We need affordable housing to be included as well. Jobs are an important part of Grand Island's future. Using our voter approved LB 840 funds, through our GIAEDC, we are continually looking to recruit new employers, and assist with existing employers expand. Families need public support with Libraries, Parks and recreational opportunities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Chuck Haase: Our City investment in the Wood River Flood Control project has protected Grand island from the repeated flooding in the late 1960's. We need to continue to support our State partnership with flood control projects with the NRD. We need to continue to support our public safety team, along with maintaining excellent communication with our neighbors.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Chuck Haase: Financial Responsibility is my top priority for the City Taxpayers and Ratepayers. Making sure that we have sound policies in place that provide the needed City services in an efficient manner. Being able to continue services through a Pandemic such as today. Family and Military support for municipal services. We need to continue to provide opportunities for our citizens so they can enjoy what Grand Island offers. Infrastructure is the backbone of our community. We need to invest in long term solutions for Water, Sewer, Electricity, Roads, and Solid Waste facilities.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Chuck Haase: The biggest challenge for Grand Island is having leadership that serves the community. Government Organizations have a tendency to become complacent in their service levels. We need leaders who see a changing future, and discusses all of the opportunities that we have as a municipality. So I believe our biggest challenge is to have Leaders who continually strive to do better in their service to citizens. We have a dedicated staff that has a willingness to accept these challenges if we can only provide the framework of policies that support that mission.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HALL COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Karen Bredthauer (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Elected to Hall County Board Commissioners 2016*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Grand Island-Hall County Regional Planning 2007, Grand Island - Hall Co. Zoning Board Adjustments 2006 and Hall Co. Interjurisdictional Planning Commission Board 2008*

EDUCATION: *Graduated Ord High School 1985, Graduated with a Technical Trade Certificate 1987, Institute of Excellence Leadership Development Program 2019.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Habitat for Humanity Builders Committee, United Way Chairperson for Hall County Employees - 2018 and Red Cross Volunteer*

Bill Mowinkel (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Karen Bredthauer: Knowing that economic development is the key to broadening the tax base and therefore keeping the tax levy in check, I would support the following: 1. Continue to improve our roads and bridges insuring that the infrastructure is solid when a new or expanding business seeks land for development. With little undeveloped land available within the city, larger tracts of land would more likely be available in rural areas. 2. Continue to promote policies which support business rather than policies that could make business development more difficult. For instance, promoting conditional use permits like the recent "Smart Soil, LLC". 3. Continue to financially support Economic Development's day to day operational expenses.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Karen Bredthauer: In an extreme weather situation I would continue to support the following: 1. Measure to keep our employees safe, such as allowing employees to come to work when they

feel safe to travel, using their accumulated paid time off. 2. Encourage the road department to clear roads, as soon as they can safely, using overtime if necessary to support safe travel on rural roads, particularly for emergencies. 3. Encourage all down town sidewalks and parking lots near County buildings be cleared and safe from slips and falls.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Karen Bredthauer: My top priorities during the last 4 years on the board, have been and will continue to be the following: 1. Maintain or lower the present tax levy so that people can afford to remain in their homes, and so that business can flourish. 2. Encourage Hall County to look for ways to work more efficiently and effectively so that during these economic times the County can maintain their workforce and therefore the services our Taxpayers deserve. 3. Work to improve our County roads and bridges to insure safe travel for all.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Karen Bredthauer: I'm committed to Hall County and want to continue as a Public Servant to serve the residents of Grand Island - Hall County. My voting record 'Has Proven' I am a fiscal conservative, with NO increases in taxes (mill levy), putting the cap on spending, watching out for issues that are important to the taxpayer of Grand Island - Hall County. I have gone up against some tough opponents to fight for issues that are important to Grand Island - Hall County. Because I Have Listened to the concerns of the taxpayer, my 12 years experience serving in Hall County Government has me successful serving for four years on the Hall County Board of Commissioners focusing on No tax levy increases, revitalizing the economy and creating an atmosphere in which both large and small business can thrive.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HALL COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 6

Gary Quandt (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hall County Commissioner --Elected in 1986 – Re-Elected in 1990, 1994, 2008, 2012, 2016.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hall County Airport Authority --- 6 years*

EDUCATION: *Northwest High School*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *I did not have the honor to serve my Country, but I worked my life to honor those who served. My family has a moto to live by “Take care of your Elderly and your Veterans because they have taken care of US!”*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Hall County Hero Flight Committee – Chair of Scrap Iron Drive. Hall County Crime Stoppers Board – Chairman Co-Chair of Hall Co. Communications and Civil Defense Committee United Way Board of Directors Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee Husker Har*

Brian Whitecalf (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Gary Quandt: When elected to the County Board of Commissioners I will continue to support Large and Small business alleviating all obstacles possible in County Government. Broadening the base of valuation is the only way to keep property taxes and the levy in check. Through my 24 years as County Commissioner I have consistently voted to keep the property tax levy at a level equal to that of the previous year, 10 years standing. Check your County Property Tax. It is lower than any other major taxing entities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Gary Quandt: When elected, I will continue to: 1. Support policies which insure the safety of Hall County employees and our community. Hall County employees will be encouraged to use their own judgement regarding safe travel to work with no adverse effect. 2. I will encourage the road department, at their earliest yet safest time to clear emergency routes to ensure rural constituents access to emergency health care. 3. Encourage and support all rural routes be cleared to ensure safe travel for all essential needs. All three of these priorities will be in conjunction with the City of Grand Island when working together provide safer travel for all of our constituents.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Gary Quandt: When elected: 1. I will continue to consider Hall County as my primary job! I will work to ensure that the Tax Payer is always a top priority and every dollar spent matters. 2. I will work with Law Enforcement to make our community a safe place to live, work, and raise a family. 3. I will promote economic development and support recruiting new industry to Hall County in order to create new and prosperous jobs and broaden the tax base.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Gary Quandt: I have dedicated a major part of my life to serving the people of Grand Island and had the opportunity to thoroughly learn how the government really works, which is important in getting government business accomplished cost-effectively and efficiently for the residents of our county. I see being a Hall County Commissioner as a very important job, not as a stepping stone to higher office. I simply want to continue to honestly and diligently serve the people of Grand Island to the best of my ability. I have worked hard for more jobs, lower taxes, quality education and better care for our Senior Citizens and for our Veterans, who have honorably served our country. I have an exceptional attendance record at board meetings and have served the board and the citizenry well on my conservative voting record. I would challenge anyone say

that they have more experience or have been more dedicated than I when it comes to public service.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

GRAND ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2 WARD A

Terry A Brown (NP):

No response received

Lindsey Jurgens (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

GRAND ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2 WARD B

Lisa Albers (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Grand Island Public Schools Board of Education*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Jan 2017 to present*

EDUCATION: *BS from UNL MS from UNO*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *GIPS Foundation Board, YMCA Board, United Way, PTA,*

David Hulinsky (NP):

No response received

Tim Mayfield (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Lisa Albers: GIPS surveyed families and discovered which families needed hotspots for their homes so that all children can use their school issued computer. GIPS is also working to create internet towers for GIPS students to use if they do not have internet in their homes. These towers would be first placed in the parts of the city with the highest number of students needing internet.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Lisa Albers: GIPS has a mask mandate. Students and teachers are being very compliant with wearing masks. We are also limiting the number of large gatherings at school sponsored events. Washing hands and using hand sanitizer are a big part of a usual day. GIPS also has SROs (student resource officers) that are available if trouble should arise.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Lisa Albers: Grand Island Public Schools is dedicated to making students college and career ready. Grand Island Senior High recently moved to an academy model. Kids have opportunities to research and shadow possible career choices. Some students in the Medical Pathway are able to earn their CNA (certified nursing assistant) certificate to start working in the health care profession immediately. Grand Island Public Schools is dedicated to preparing kids for high demand and high paying professions. All kids are prepared whether they are going into the work force after graduation, going to a technical school, or a 4-year university. A student's path is individual. It is not a one size fits all. Grand Island Public Schools realizes that fact. We work to make individualized plans for all students.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF ALDA

Verna Rae Clampitt (NP):

No response received

Bob Curfman (NP):

No response received

Dan Garlick (NP):

No response received

Zach Mayhew (NP):

No response received.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

DONIPHAN-TRUMBULL SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 126

Cristi Engel (NP):

No response received

Amanda Groff (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF WOOD RIVER - MAYOR

Gregory Cramer (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF WOOD RIVER CITY COUNCIL WARD 1

Cary Voss (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WOOD RIVER SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 83

Dylan Gill (NP):

No response received

Jodi Rauert (NP):

No response received

Ann Bohan Woitaszewski (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HAMILTON COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HARLAN COUNTY

HARLAN COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2

Max O Schultz (Rep):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HARLAN COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 4

Cynthia M Boehler (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Harlan County Supervisor, District #4 since December 3, 2018.*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of Axtell Community Schools and Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Church organizations, Team Mates, Beta Sigma Phi Service Sororities, Nursing Home Music Volunteer, Meals On Wheels. I volunteer weekly.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Cynthia M Boehler: In light of the current COVID19 Crisis, I will put all of my energies towards saving and renewing our current businesses first and then continue efforts to attract new businesses that would enhance our local and tourist experience in Harlan County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Cynthia M Boehler: Through training and simulated events, I feel we have a good grip on most weather conditions the might arise in our area. Our highest priority in any extreme weather related event is the safety of our citizens, visitors and travelers. We work in conjunction with several law enforcement agencies to ensure that we are communicating quickly and efficiently to keep everyone safe. We have experienced Disaster Management officials who are willing and able to coordinate on sight response, triage and evacuation. After our citizens, it would be a priority to then implement crisis management for livestock and property, in that order. We were

proactive in the flooding crisis last spring and summer and are continuing our effort to finish up the damage repairs to some of our remaining bridges and roads...it has been a very long process. I am very confident in our Crisis Management teams and our Emergency coordinators in our Law Enforcement and Health Care facilities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Cynthia M Boehler: 1. To ensure that our Hospital and Clinic are healthy and a thriving, comfortable place for all who receive care and who are employed there. 2. To sustain our current businesses and population through the COVID19 Crisis. 3. To continue to provide transparent leadership to all citizens of Harlan County.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Cynthia M Boehler: I believe I am the best candidate for this position as I have been trained in Communications. Being able to communicate, whether listening or speaking is vital to a good relationship in all facets of life. I also believe that it is very important to be accessible to the general public and not have an agenda that is fueled or driven by special interest groups or individuals. I do my best to listen to anyone who would like to talk to me, investigate the evidence that is before me and then make a decision based on those facts, no matter how hard it may be.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Kate Hopkins (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HAYES COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HITCHCOCK COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HOLT COUNTY

HOLT COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2

Steve Boshart (Rep):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF STUART

Brenda Vochatzer (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HOOKER COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HOWARD COUNTY

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Gary A Rasmussen (Rep):
No response received.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

JEFFERSON COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

JOHNSON COUNTY

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Theodore Evans (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Johnson county, district 2, commissioner. 2013-2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Tecumseh school board – 1972 -1992 NE state Board of health NE State Veterinary Assoc. president 1991 NE delegate to AVMA*

EDUCATION: *DVM-Kansas State*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *United States Air Force – 1966-1968*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Little League/legion baseball coach Church board SE NE bd of health Extension board SENCA board American Legion Extension board Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association officer American veterinary medical Association delegate*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Theodore Evans: Improve infrastructure. Improve living standards. Work with health department to increase health standards. Maintain county buildings, roads, bridges and equipment Improve law-enforcement.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Theodore Evans: Emergency management readiness. Have all county resources available to aid. (road maintenance) Personal help and resources

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Theodore Evans: Infrastructure (maintenance of roads/bridges) Economic development (Promoting our county's potential) Efficient budget (Making the most of our budget requirements & constraints)

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Theodore Evans: Experience in public office, budgeting, running my own businesses, & farming background. I have a record of fairness, honesty, integrity, and fiscal conservatism. As a lifetime resident of Johnson County, I have an understanding of the needs and issues of my constituents.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

KEARNEY COUNTY

MINDEN SCHOOL BOARD

Kenneth Carpenter (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Minden Board of Education 2013-present (secretary 2014-present)*

EDUCATION: *Diploma from Lincoln East High School*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Cub Scout and Boy Scout Volunteer, adult sponsor on church youth mission and 4-H trips, have coached children in t-ball, baseball, and soccer, Certified hunter safety instructor, Church Board of Trustees.*

Cody E Krull (NP):

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science Degree - University of Nebraska Kearney - Business Administration*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Teammates Board Member/Mentor, Optimist Club, Minden Opera House Board Member, Two Rivers Public Health Department Board Member, Kearney area Chamber Young Professional Board Member, Kearney County Health Services Family Advocacy Board member*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Kenneth Carpenter: Our district is always working to improve its use of technology in and away from the classroom. This has been critical during this time of off-site learning for our students and teachers in order to continue learning away from the school building due to COVID-19. We have added wi-fi access areas around our school and in other towns in our district to make sure that all students have broadband access.

Cody E Krull: Our school is currently overwhelmed with technology because of the current pandemic that has swept our nation. Technology is truly the only thing that is saving our children from not getting any form of education. Prior to the pandemic I would have said that we are utilizing the right amount of technology throughout our schools. There needs to be a good balance between technology and pen and paper teaching. The struggle that some faculty have is the supervision of the technology and how do we enforce it properly. If I'm elected to the school board I will make sure to survey teachers after the pandemic and see what their feedback will be.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Kenneth Carpenter: We have time-lock doors and cameras in place. We have regular emergency drills for students and teachers. We work along with school administrators, teachers,

and the local first responders to regularly review and update the safety plans that we have in place.

Cody E Krull: I think one issue that gets overlooked that can lead to safer schools would be the increase funding and awareness of mental health throughout our school. I truly believe that most people that are going to cause harm to someone or something probably has some form of underlying health issue that's not getting addressed that could possibly help solve a lot of problems. This issue doesn't start at the school level though, this issue needs to start at the top and have more funding supported within the schools and communities.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Kenneth Carpenter: I think that it is important to make sure the school is offering class subject matter, curriculum, and activities that will prepare our students to succeed. Getting our agricultural program up and running in the right way, and adding a FFA program along with business partnerships for students is a priority.

Cody E Krull: We need to make sure we're continually evaluating what higher education is expecting out of Freshman through Senior when they join their respective schools. I think this needs to be an open dialogue with school districts and higher education facility. There are a lot of job fairs and career opportunities to include internships from higher education. I firmly believe in the internship programs within higher education and in the last couple years we have had an intern within our office and it's been great for both parties. This is how we open up our students to new opportunities. The experience of hands on learning is far better than what a classroom setting could teach and prepare you for the next stage in life.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

KEARNEY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 7

Steve Gaasch (NP):

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska Kearney*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Youth soccer coach for Kearney Soccer Club Youth soccer and basketball coach for Kearney YMCA*

Justin Simmons (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Steve Gaasch: It is important that each student have a computer and broadband access outside of the school environment, no matter what their social and economical status is. It is equally important that the students know how to utilize these tools, the teachers have clear and understandable instructions that not only the students can follow, but also the parents are able to understand and assist with at home, and it's important that there is some uniformity between teachers so that there is a common method for the students and parents to follow. The sudden shutdown for the pandemic this last spring pointed out a shortcoming in the preparations. There was a wide disparity in how well each class/teacher was able to provide remote learning for the students. Remote learning is a very real possibility for us again at any time. Computers, broadband access, and proper preparations need to be a key focus in order for our students to be successful.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Steve Gaasch: It's important to have a safe and secure environment for our staff and students within their building(s). I think we do a pretty good job of that now, but it is something that continually needs to be monitored and updated. Emergency planning needs to be thorough and up to date, with continual training. Again, I think we do a good job with that. We emphasize "be kind" to our students, and that's a critical point, with bullying always a potential problem. One thing that I do really think we need to take a look at improving upon is the traffic patterns around our schools. There are literally hundreds of cars moving around each of our school buildings every day, especially at drop off and pick up times. It's amazing that we have not had some major accidents, with the "organized chaos" that is typical during these times. Before we do have some serious incidents, we need to see what we can do to simplify, and better organize this traffic.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Steve Gaasch: As a school board member, I need to do my best to make sure that we have the resources needed to maximize our educational opportunities. This involves several things. We need to have facilities that meet today's needs, but are also ready for tomorrow. We need the highest quality staff and curriculum available. We need to protect our financial resources and make the most out of the money that we spend. We need to make our education as practical and up to date as possible, partner with resources in the community (people and business), and give our students every opportunity they can get to be a part of the society outside of our school environment (band trips, sporting events, internships, tour outings, volunteering, etc.). In short, being successful as a board member means to have a great staff, give them the direction and resources they need, stay out of their way so that they can get their job done well, and cheer them all on throughout the process.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

KEITH COUNTY

KEITH COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

Dale L Schroeder (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *2018- Midwest Electric Board of Directors, 2012- Paxton Rural Fire Board, 2010- Paxton Farmers Elevator Board,*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Keith County Planning and Zoning Commission*

EDUCATION: *BA in Secondary Education*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Paxton New Life Lutheran Church Council, Keith County Community Emergency Response Team, FCA Huddle leader,*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Dale L Schroeder: The questions posed here are coming at a time of severe economic crisis for our county and country. We are all being affected by the COVID-19 crisis. I believe our county to be most resilient and able to overcome the issues associated with our national and world wide situation. When elected, I intend to make it a top priority of the Commissioners to construct plans to do our best to save the businesses we have that are being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ability to preserve the businesses we currently have will ultimately determine how we will be able to prioritize our needs for future economic development in District #1 and the rest of Keith County. When we are able to move past the economic circumstances at hand, there will be a need for more pinpointed economic development plans that must include the following: Agriculture/Ag Tech. industries, Housing, Manufacturing and Tourism.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Dale L Schroeder: This is something that I have spent some time learning about and working on while serving as a current member of the Keith County Community Emergency Response Team. My priorities include but are not limited to the following: 1. Provide for the immediate safety of the resident of District #1 and the whole of Keith County. 2. Ensure that our first responders and health care providers are well equipped and trained in every way possible to safely manage such an event as extreme weather. This would involve county and region wide preparedness plans, which need to have shelter and transport allowances as priorities. 3. Make certain that our area wide supply chain is prepared for disasters such as weather events and guarantee that all measures are taken to keep supplies available to those who need them.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Dale L Schroeder: The priorities that I list below are some that I have discussed with fellow residents over the course of the past 27 years of being a resident of Keith County's District # 1. Priority 1: Help to ensure that all of my constituents and their businesses are supported the best that they can be during this world wide crisis we are facing. When the COVID-19 crisis is lessened, we must work to increase the overall value of the people and resources our county has available. This would ultimately help ease the per person tax burden in District #1 Priority 2: It is my charge to be financially responsible with tax dollars to make certain that we are able to support unforeseen events that will arise in District #1. Priority 3: Provide for a greater engagement with state offices and officials such as, Nebraska Game and Parks, NDOT, NEMA, in order to better support District #1 financially.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Dale L Schroeder: If we can run our local government under the COVID-19 restrictions, we can learn new normalcies to run a more efficient and effective local government. This will take changes at all levels, including the representation of District #1. I am the best candidate for District #1 Commissioner for a variety of reasons. I have served and currently serve on multiple local and regional governing boards, most of which are listed above. These appointments, as well as my occupation, have given me opportunity to work in a wide variety of unique situations. They have allowed me to network with multiple and resourceful contacts. I was an educator for 20 years and have a great deal of experience working in a public setting. I have the ability to work under stress and produce success. Having been an educator, I understand the importance of being frugal with other people's money. Having run my own tax paying business, I understand the importance of county officials being frugal with my money.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

KEYA PAHA COUNTY

KBR RURAL PPD, KEYA PAHA

Patty Andersen (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Currently I do not hold a public office. I have been attending KBR Board meetings since July when I filed for office.*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor's degree from Chadron State College. My majors are Business Administration with emphasis in Management, Psychology, and Guidance Associate Completed in 4 years on Board of Trustees Scholarship.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *County Fair Superintendent for past 19 years. Additionally in the past I have served on the following boards: Ainsworth Chamber of Commerce Board, Regional Governor's Mental Health, North Central Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention*

IS INCREASING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY A PRIORITY FOR YOU? IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR THIS INCREASE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Patty Andersen: While renewable energy is important, a reliable consistent supply of energy is also vital.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

Patty Andersen: Currently all board meeting are open to the public and I am willing and available to answer any questions from constituents that I can. I have made my contact information public here and by direct contact with voters.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST YEAR PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Patty Andersen: My priorities would be to learn all I can and represent my county in the best possible manner. I would also do what I can to ensure fiscally responsible, environmentally sensitive, reliable power to our rural community.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

KIMBALL COUNTY

KIMBALL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Carl Stander (Rep):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

KIMBALL SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1

Jennifer Griebel (NP):

EDUCATION: *Master of Science and Nursing*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteer firefighter and EMT in Colorado*

Albert Hargreaves (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *K-12 - Kimball High school - graduated 1989 Southeast Community College - Milford - John Deere Ag Tech - Associate Degree - graduated 1992*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

Lanny Little (NP):

No response received

Heather Norberg (NP):

No response received

Tom O'Brien (NP):

No response received

Chauncey G. Pedersen (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Jennifer Griebel: Considering the recent pandemic, it is evident that technology is important education. I am aware that the technology is being used in the classroom. Recently, we have needed to incorporate the technology from school and home combined to finish up the remainder of the current school year. I believe this was an easier transition for the older elementary children and highschooler to have been using their computers regularly in class. I'm certain the transition was more difficult for the staff, students, and parents of the younger children as there was no familiarity with the program. I believe that it would be important to try to build on this for future experience. If this was considered a routine back up plan then maybe snow days, heat days, and odd closures would be easier to manage with more consistency.

Albert Hargreaves: I feel our school system utilizes current technology well. I feel we need to still maintain the student/teacher interaction. I don't feel we should be using teachers online when we have well qualified teachers in the classrooms.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Jennifer Griebel: I believe the current measures to manage the safety of the students and staff at the school have been addressed well. Our schools have recently had their security measures increased. Safety of the staff and student should always be a primary priority. It is important to continuously evaluate the risk and be prepared for as much as possible to avoid casualties. Part of preparation also includes being resourceful and the ability to improvise should the need arise.

Albert Hargreaves: Kimball schools uses a card lock system to keep unauthorized people out of the schools. I feel this is a good system. A resource officer on school grounds would help ensure no illegal activities or unauthorized people are getting into the school.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Jennifer Griebel: As a school board member and professional I believe that it is important to support the school staff so the students are well prepared to enter the job market of current days.

It is important to build a strong foundation at the elementary level. This will prepare them as they enter middle school and high school. This will better prepare them for the real world. As part of the high school it is important to include life skills and prepare everyone for their life after school today unique situation as best as possible. Part of this could be including general budget managing with the work-study program. Some kids may not attend schooling and enter the workforce immediately, others will enroll in college or a trade program. All these choices need to be supported and can be prepared for at the high school level.

Albert Hargreaves: I support the career day that our school currently does. I feel this gives students ideas of what careers are out there and learn about them from the people that are doing those jobs currently. Making sure we keep the necessary classes that will help our students be better prepared for their future. Examples would be FFA, civics, ag, auto mechanics, etc.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF KIMBALL - CITY COUNCIL

Kim Baliman (NP):

No response received

Kathy Porter (NP):

<http://www.ptifirearms.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Board of Trustees Kimball Health Services; including Office of Secretary; August 2014 - Present*

EDUCATION: *Associates degree in Commercial Art, Casper College; paralegal and banking, real estate, oil and gas industry royalty auditor*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Member and active fundraising activities in and for Plains Historical Society, Kimball Rotary Club (President 2016-18), Kimball Lions Club (Secretary 2015-Present), Frontier Navy-Support Operations, Marine Corps League*

Joette E. Wells (NP): <http://joforkimball.com>

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science; Master of Science*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *When I returned to this area, I became involved in the community—from being in the hand chime choir, to educating children, to working collaboratively with artists to begin a Western Nebraska Community Arts Guild, to attending city council meetings.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kathy Porter: As a small business owner in Kimball, I would use my experience to actively promote the economic benefits of the community, both to new and existing businesses, while also sharing the family values and safety our town affords. Kimball enjoys a great economic climate for all types of business, especially those in the manufacturing sector. We have low

housing costs and enjoy low overhead business costs. We have many grant and loan programs available. Manufacturing, tech companies, marketing firms, light and heavy industrial types of businesses and the like are well suited to Kimball and should be actively pursued. Bringing in new businesses involves the assistance of city government offices and existing enterprises in the community, which are vital resources for business owners looking to start-up a new venture, and for established ones to expand or move from other locations. As I business owner, I understand the ever-changing needs and challenges faced by small business owners.

Joette E. Wells: Community growth in small rural areas can be a challenge. Traditional businesses may need help to rebuild in the wake of Coronavirus (COVID-19). This is a critical time for the City of Kimball to take a good look at what the future holds and develop an action plan that includes supporting traditional businesses post COVID-19. For example, businesses may need assistance with assessing the financial damage and revamping their budget. They may need help developing a second business plan while creating a contingency plan for the next crisis. At the same time, the US is witnessing the rise of entrepreneurs. Carefully considering the needs of self-employed entrepreneurs, Kimball could provide an amazing place for these entrepreneurs to launch their businesses. To encourage business growth in Kimball, we have to be ready to partner with large and small companies, think about how to translate entrepreneurship, and put the right measures in place to gauge our success.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kathy Porter: The top priority in any extreme weather event is the safety of the residents. Our weather alert systems must be maintained to adequately communicate conditions that pose a threat and then give direction on providing effective safety measures. Our first responders must be supported sufficiently to provide emergency services necessary, our linemen need adequate equipment to keep electricity flowing, and our street department must be given the resources needed to keep the streets cleared. City council needs to recognize and anticipate the needs of these departments and budget appropriately. I will actively participate in the budget process and work with department heads and the Board of Public Works to assure these departments have adequate funding and necessary equipment, while also being a good steward of the City finances and working to keep our cash reserves growing for the future.

Joette E. Wells: Kimball county's Nebraska Local Emergency Operations Plan dated November 7, 2017, establishes the standardized policies, plans, guidelines and procedures that will allow all our emergency resources, governmental and non-governmental, to collectively manage and coordinate the preparation, prevention, response, recovery and mitigation functions. Most important is taking care of our vulnerable citizens and each other.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kathy Porter: 1. Economic development: This is key to the survival of Kimball. I will use my experience as a business owner to encourage and promote new and existing businesses, which in turn will stimulate growth, add revenue to the City budget, and spread the tax base, allowing

business owners to lower their overhead and families to enjoy a lower cost of living. 2. Transparency and governmental accessibility: I will be accessible to the public and promote transparency from within along with communication between the Council and the public. I will encourage public participation in the governmental processes, listen to ideas and needs of the residents, and assist in implementation as warranted. 3. Financial stability: I will be an active participant in the budget process and work with all departments to understand the needs of each. I will work to maintain the financial stability of the City and will listen and advocate for decisions that affect the welfare of its residents.

Joette E. Wells: TRANSPARENCY I believe it is important that Kimball invests your taxes wisely. Kimball City Council is responsible for making smart and informed choices with your tax dollars, and it should be easy to see where your money is being spent. More transparency means more accountability. RESULTS Like many rural towns, Kimball has complex problems to solve— from infrastructure to housing. But if we stay focused on needed outcomes and find better ways to work together, leveraging our unique experiences and skills, we can deliver results for the entire community. Delivering results means staying focused on the process and the outcomes. It means being relentless on forward movement. GROWTH To ensure Kimball's growth, we must honor what has come before and then build on those successes. This means new services and initiatives for both residents and for businesses. We forge ahead, together, with new ideas and programs that develop, sustain, and revitalize our community.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kathy Porter: The biggest challenge in our community is growth and the ability to encourage and sustain change. For our town to survive, we must grow and prosper. To grow we must have economic development. We need new business. Wal-Mart and Target are not coming to Kimball, but small manufacturers can and they will bring families and employees. They will buy homes and buildings for their businesses. They will patronize our retail businesses and spend their money here. They will do as many other businesses have done and bring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the economy. I will use my personal and business experience to encourage and promote economic development working with other members of the Council and our Economic Development director to bring in those businesses. We will need a strong council to work with these businesses to ensure their success and I stand ready and willing to tackle the job.

Joette E. Wells: No city can go it alone. The Mayor and council members have to work effectively with a number of people and groups to successfully help Kimball thrive. These groups include citizens/voters, community organizations, the press, county government, other governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and many more. Part of working together is identifying how we can do more by leveraging each group's unique ideas and skills. There are numerous opportunities to work collaboratively with businesses, the healthcare system, and the educational institutes. Leveraging each group's skills and working collaboratively stretches the dollar, expands and improves services. For example, we need to work together to nurture our schools for our community needs. Although challenging, collaboration is worth the effort. Imagine how much more we can achieve in 2021 if we plan together, work together, and

celebrate together.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF BUSHNELL

Gail Luehr (NP):

No response received

Jessica Rocha (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF DIX

Kimberly Gotfrey (NP):

No response received

Dave Parshall (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

KNOX COUNTY

KNOX COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 4

James Sokol Jr (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Knox County District 4 Supervisor January, 2012 to present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Verdigre Public School Board January 1999 to December, 2008*

EDUCATION: *Associates of Applied Science Residential and Commercial Wiring*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Verdigre Fire Department, Verdigre Improvement Club, Knox County Fair Board*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

James Sokol Jr: To promote small business's through the County's reuse loans and more livestock facilities since Knox County is a livestock friendly County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

James Sokol Jr: The safety of our Knox County residence. Keeping the tax levy low in times of low commodity prices. Making sure roads and bridges are passable in the fastest and safest way possible.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

James Sokol Jr: Taxes - lowering the mill levy Infrastructure - maintaining roads and bridges Law Enforcement - making sure everyone is safe

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

James Sokol Jr: I have held the District 4 supervisor position for 8 years, this makes me the most experience candidate. I also serve on other organizations that deal with the public, through this, I feel I am passionate about helping and serving people.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CROFTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 96

Lisa Van Heek (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LANCASTER COUNTY

LANCASTER COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Christa Yoakum (Dem): <http://www.christaforne.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Lancaster County Commissioner, June 2019 to Present.*

EDUCATION: *Attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earned a certificate in Assisted Living Administration from Southeast Community College. I'm also a proud graduate of Lincoln High.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Past Board President of the YWCA of Lincoln. Currently serving on the board of El Centro. Past trustee of the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln. Numerous Lincoln Public School boards and task forces.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Christa Yoakum: I strongly believe in expanding rural broadband. As the COVID-19 situation has shown us, students and teachers need access to reliable, high-quality internet. Broadband also means economic opportunity for our small businesses and farmers, giving them access to markets across the country and around the world. We should also expand renewable energy, including solar and wind energy. These help us be a more sustainable community, and bring in good union jobs. Affordable housing is an issue in our community, both in terms of quantity and quality. Rural and urban areas need more development and support for affordable housing. Last, we need to keep growing in a strategic, smart way that prioritizes livability and sustainability. Building community as we go is important.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Christa Yoakum: Preparation for an extreme weather event starts years in advance. Our county has a responsibility to maintain quality infrastructure, including roads and bridges, that are up to date and can withstand these extreme weather events. We also need to make sure our rural volunteer first responders have the resources they need to coordinate with city and state incident command. Radio and other communications equipment must be up to date. Last, we should build with an eye towards resiliency. Partnering with Natural Resource Districts and federal agencies as we grow is essential to prepare our community for the next extreme weather event.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Christa Yoakum: First, I'm running for another term on the County Board so I can keep fighting for working families. John and I chose to raise our children here because a working family like ours could have a great quality of life. We need to keep our community growing, attract good-paying jobs, and make sure young workers have economic opportunity right here at home as we do our strategic planning. Expanding rural broadband is also a key priority for me.

Rural communities deserve reliable, high-quality internet. Students need access to online learning, and local businesses need speed and reliability to stay competitive. Last, I want to defend our air and water. For years, I fought against the Keystone XL pipeline. In 2019, I sat down with families from Raymond Central Schools when they worried about a new industrial chicken operation being built near their school's water wells. I worked with those families as we protected their community. I'll keep working to defend the environment.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Christa Yoakum: Elected officials should be deeply rooted in the communities they serve. I grew up in rural Lancaster County, and now live in Lincoln. I have extensive experience with community agencies, public schools, and public **POLICY**. I currently serve or have served on the Board of Directors of El Centro De Las Americas and the YWCA, and have served on the Lincoln Public Schools Strategic Planning Committee and the LPS high school task force. My work at Nebraska Appleseed keeps me connected to immigrant and refugee communities trying to put down roots and work towards a better life for their children. My roots in this community also afford me the knowledge needed to make connections between agencies, cut red tape, and get things done for real people without duplicated efforts. I'm the best candidate because of my roots in the community and my track record of public service.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PALMYRA SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT OR-1

Brandon Desh (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *District OR-1 Board of Education (Palmyra-Bennet), 2017-2020*

EDUCATION: *BS in Engineering-Civil Specialty and MS in Engineering & Technology Management from Colorado School of Mines*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Lincoln Berean Church, Camp Solaris*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Brandon Desh: We have invested significantly in this area so we have really good broadband access in our buildings and at our facilities, but we are looking at adding hot spots to our bus transportation and identify those in our district that may need additional bandwidth and provide a mobile hotspot.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Brandon Desh: Once again we have invested in our buildings to provide a safer environment through our last capital project completed in the past few years but we can continue to do more training and be more aware of the potential risks that are changing.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Brandon Desh: We need to encourage the teachers to pursue more continuing education to allow them to stay up to date with the ever changing technology. We can continue to expand how we take advantage of the opportunities we have through our partnership with SENCAP and at Southeast Community College and the programs they offer to students. I will continue to advocate for us to review the programs we have to determine their effectiveness and look to add new programs that may be needed to address the needs to of the 21st century jobs.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WAVERLY SCHOOL BOARD WARD 2

Robin Kappler (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *I was appointed to the District 145 Board of Education to represent Ward 2 in 2018.*

EDUCATION: *Diploma of Nursing-Bryan School of Nursing, Bachelor's Degree in Nursing-Nebraska Wesleyan, Masters of Science in Nursing-College of St. Mary, Doctor of Education-College of St. Mary*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Lancaster County LOSS Team (Local outreach to suicide survivors), Volunteer at Christ Lincoln Church youth ministries, Volunteer with Waverly Heat Softball, Volunteer with Alvo-Eagle Rec*

Nora Lenz (NP):

EDUCATION: *Chadron State College Bachelor of Science - Elementary Education - Middle School Endorsement University of Nebraska - Spanish endorsement Doane College (University) Master of Education - Educational Leadership*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Girls Scouts Youth Sports Youth after school activities*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Robin Kappler: In March, we started Strategic Planning as a District. One of the goals that was identified by that group was the continued use of technology including access. Opportunities such as streamlining the District 145 website, consistent communication strategies, and student use of technology were identified as opportunities for growth. I am excited for the strategic

planning process to continue to really specify not only needs, but how we can operationalize a plan to meet the short and long term goals that will be identified as part of this process. District 145 did purchase Chromebooks prior to the start of the school year to allow for each student to have 1:1 device availability. This allows for expansion of interaction between teachers and students to take place. I recognize that there might not be equal broadband access, but the leadership of District 145, including the Board of Education remains dedicated to identifying options to make access equitable.

Nora Lenz: Technology is an ever-changing factor, daily it has issues, yet to improve use of technology a school district must improve its availabilities to internet access. These factors must be considered if a school district plans to provide a meaningful on-line base Education: is the newest broadband in place. Be proactive with how the Broadband is affected in different ways, how close to your devices does the service provider bring the fiber and how the service provider configures the service, including the amount of bandwidth used. Equity is a problem for school districts, in the area of having enough devices for each student, can students access the work once they are home. A district must know their population. The educational outcome of a student is up to all stakeholder

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Robin Kappler: Security and safety is an ongoing discussion and priority for District 145. Recently, upgrades were made to the security system at the middle school. Security features such as locked entry, cameras, lighting and a School Resource Officer are all currently in place throughout the District and evaluated regularly. Students and teachers are asked to routinely practice fire drills, and other emergency action plans that address other potential security issues such as armed intruder and weather disasters. Safety in terms of students arriving and leaving school is also an ongoing priority. Crosstown bussing, crosswalk safety, and promoting a culture of safety inside and outside of the buildings is constantly being assessed and evaluated by building administration, the Board of Education, and community members of District 145. I will continue to advocate for district wide safety measures to ensure that we are aligned with current best practices to keep our Viking community safe.

Nora Lenz: To ensure the safety of students and teachers, schools must be aware of who enters the building and who leaves the building. This can be done with secure doors, identification badges for students and teachers. All must be vigilant to ensure the success of these practices. Again, know the students and the community.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Robin Kappler: This is a great question! Providing strategies that accommodate students' needs of today while addressing skills for jobs that may not even exist is a definite challenge. We must ensure that we are innovative and intentional in our approach to developing and maintaining "21st century skills". We can benefit from using our past to plan our future by evaluating what

has worked as well as opportunities for continued growth. Offering a curriculum that is diverse and expansive to accommodate the college bound student and/or student entering the workforce is essential. I feel that the current District leadership has done an outstanding job with this. Current freshman have a different graduation plan this year, with the goal of maximum college and/or career readiness. I will continue to work with and listen to all stakeholders, including but not limited to, teachers, administrative, students, family support systems, and staff. We truly are only as strong as the team that we are on.

Nora Lenz: Education is the most valuable gift you can give a child. The best teachers are needed for this miracle to happen. I call it a miracle because it happens so quickly with the right before our eyes. Without the best teachers and resources so much can be lost for the student. So, we have to ask ourselves. How do we want this child to finish their education? Keeping that end goal can help guide to the right education for all students. All educators know that they are preparing students for jobs that are not yet created. Hence education must be broad and it must be practical.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LINCOLN COUNTY

CITY OF NORTH PLATTE - MAYOR

John Hales (NP):

No response received

Brandon Kelliher (NP): <http://www.bkmayor.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *BA from University of Nebraska MBA from University of Phoenix*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Rotary, Toastmasters, Platte River Fitness series, several statewide tele-health organizations.*

Lonnie C Parsons (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Brandon Kelliher: First, improve North Platte's online Internet reviews and social media presence. We need positive reviews of our community to be the first results on Google and other Internet searches for North Platte. Second, revise the City of North Platte's project approval system by streamlining the requirements for new projects into a simultaneous approval process. Including a weekly meeting with project/business developers and city department heads to

resolve development issues to facilitate development applications entering the approval process. Third, convert City of North Platte budget documents to a more user friendly document that makes understanding city revenues and expenses easy for the average citizen. When community members have a better understanding of the city revenues and expenditures they can provide more informed input to the budget.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Brandon Kelliher: My priorities are to help the Chamber of Commerce and Development Corporation to recruit small manufacturing jobs by working with local businesses to expand or new firms willing to locate in North Platte. I will focus on businesses able to use existing expertise available in North Platte including agriculture and transportation. In the long-term, I hope to work with North Platte Community College to create training programs for jobs available in the future. North Platte must capitalize on the skillsets and knowledge our community members have today. High end agriculture development and transportation are two opportunities we may not have previously considered because the UPRR provided many jobs in our community. Recent UPRR layoffs could provide opportunities for existing local businesses to expand by adding expertise to create new product lines and taking advantage of low interest rates.

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

Brandon Kelliher: As a nation our Mental Health resources have decreased significantly in the last decade. Sadly, the lack of mental health treatment has likely contributed to increased gun violence. Many communities do not have sufficient mental health caregivers to meet treatment needs. As a mayor, I will work with school, healthcare, city and county officials to improve mental health issue detection programs designed to help those in need of mental health care. Our community can improve security in our schools by introducing security measures we do not use today. New security measures will require capital improvements to school buildings. Keeping guns safe at home, by placing weapons under lock and key, will decrease gun violence by preventing access.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Brandon Kelliher: I want a North Platte where our kids and grandkids find good jobs and raise families. North Platte has always been my home. Community involvement is important to me I have been involved as a founding member of the Flatrock Toastmaster Club, served as President of the noon Rotary Club, helped with the Platte River Fitness series and belonged to statewide advisory committees over the past 20 years. I believe in North Platte. I have the time and passion to do what's right for North Platte. My experience operating a large organization, my ability to bring people together around complex issues, my experience delivering results, and my willingness to openly show results on a public scorecard separates me from other candidates.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

Joe Hewgley (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Lincoln County Commissioner June 1985-Current*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NA*

EDUCATION: *Professional Architectural Degree (equivalent to Masters Degree in Architecture)*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *NA*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteer youth sports coach (baseball, basketball, soccer, football)
Past and present member of several civic organizations including Jaycees, Shriners, Masons,
Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Joe Hewgley: I have been on the Board of Directors for the North Platte/Lincoln County Development Corporation for over 30 years. Economic development has always been one of my top priorities. . I would my main areas of focus are supporting and empowering the businesses that are already a part of our community through retention and expansion of local merchants. A second top priority is the recruitment of new business and industry to Lincoln County. As a member of the Development Corporation, we have been successful in helping recruit such businesses as Menards and Walmart Distribution Center #7018, which currently employs over 550 hourly workers alone here in Lincoln County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Joe Hewgley: 1. Public safety and response coordination. 2. Seeing that adequate local resources are in place to respond to the event: a. Emergency Management personnel b. Current "LEOP" - Local Emergency Operations Plan c. Mobile Command Center properly manned and dispatched in a timely manner. 3. Coordination of all public information and local resources to help mitigate the event after it has subsided. This would include filing of a local emergency declaration and submitting necessary documentation to FEMA and NEMA to assist in funding recovery efforts if applicable.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Joe Hewgley: 1. Maintaining current essential services without raises taxes. I have voted each year to reduce the proposed Lincoln County budget requests, resulting in a savings to the taxpayer in excess of a million dollars. Also, as a board, we have strived to share resources, including personnel, with the City of North Platte, passing this savings on to the taxpayer. 2. The reconstruction and re-opening of South River Road (from S. Buffalo Bill west) to the public. 3. Completion of the jail expansion and maintaining strong public safety/law enforcement.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Joe Hewgley: The biggest asset I feel I bring is my experience and overall understanding of the operations of this county. As an elected official, I look at both sides of each and every issue presented, based upon the information available at the time, and proceed with what I feel would be in the best overall interest of the county. In all of my years in office I have never told someone I would agree to any one specific project that they might personally benefit from, but to represent what, in my opinion, is in the best interest of all citizens of Lincoln County. I have worked very hard over the years, not only as your representative here at home, but also in seeing that your concerns are heard by elected officials in both Lincoln and Washington, D.C.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4

Chris Bruns (Rep):

No response received

Walter W Johnson (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Lincoln County Commissioner-District 4 December 2018 to current*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *District 5 School Board 1981-1994*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *US Army 1965-1967*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *4-H Council, Food Pantry, Blood Donor*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Chris Bruns: The County really needs to take the lead and provide a strategic vision for short and long-term growth that all of our communities can coalesce behind. This is something that other counties across the state are doing with tremendous success in growth. Implementing that vision will require strengthened partnerships with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and all Lincoln County cities, towns, and villages, as well as our local development corporations. We need to aggressively market Lincoln County and champion new industry and business development with a concerted emphasis on creation of high-wage earning jobs. What is going to be extremely important is the encouragement and support that we provide existing local businesses so they can grow and expand. Likewise, with new industry comes the need to foster public-private partnership programs for skills training of the workforce in our communities.

Walter W Johnson: Unfortunately the county does not have any infrastructure, so the only thing we can do to create economic development is to control taxes and work with the city and villages to attract new industries.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Chris Bruns: In an extreme weather event, I would work to ensure that county first responders, emergency personnel, and various departments have the resources they need and ability to perform their essential job functions to serve impacted citizens. Next, is ensuring that roads and infrastructure are accessible, and if not, working quickly to get them open. After that, and depending on the type of event, is ensuring that commodities distribution points, shelter locations, and communications are up and running using county resources or partnering with applicable public/private partners. Effective planning, preparation, and training are needed prior to an event ever occurring. My years of military experience responding to natural disasters, major weather events, and other situations that can impact a large populations' ability to function normally, provide me a unique ability to coordinate, command, control and communicate with the various departments, local governments, or state resources that ma

Walter W Johnson: Safety of the residents Stabilizing the situation Reestablishment after the event

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Chris Bruns: There are three big areas where I truly believe that significant work needs to be done and where I will focus a lot of my efforts as a County Commissioner. First, is a multifaceted approach toward growing Lincoln County. Over the past several decades our county's population and tax base has stagnated. We've lost several retail stores and other commercial businesses, and our largest employer is on a trajectory to cut more jobs. We must find ways to attract new industry and business to our communities. Second, is finding ways to reduce our property taxes through smaller and smarter government. In order to attract new industry, we need to have a competitive position with regard to taxes—and frankly, our existing taxpayers deserve it too. Third, is finding ways to improve our roads and infrastructure. These things will take a lot of work and partnership to achieve, but are vital for our future and what I will work tirelessly toward.

Walter W Johnson: Controlling taxes through expenditures Road maintenance Work with the constituents of the county to expand the tax base

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Chris Bruns: I will bring a fresh set of ideas to the County Board that are influenced by unique and diverse experiences that I've had in my life thus far. My time spent all over the world in my decade of military service has taught me precisely what great things can be accomplished with limited resources and a can-do attitude. This was my classroom for learning the leadership skills that I utilize every day helping businesses grow across western Nebraska. I work in the financial services and insurance industry—a background that will serve the county citizens well from a budgetary standpoint. I'm also a rancher, so I have a good understanding of what impacts many of our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. As a Constitutional Conservative, I promise to

provide trusted leadership and a business-minded approach of governing for all Lincoln County citizens that protects individual rights. I believe these reasons set me apart and make me the right candidate to help lead Lincoln County into t

Walter W Johnson: I feel I have the time and ability to represent district 4 and the entire county, which I have been a resident of my entire life. I am always willing to listen to and help any resident of our county.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF NORTH PLATTE CITY COUNCIL WARD 1

Jim Backenstose (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF NORTH PLATTE CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

James C Agler (NP):
CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*
PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*
EDUCATION: *B.S. in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University. Graduate of Police Staff and Command from Northwestern University.*
MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corps. Served from 1972-1976*
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Past President of Noon Rotary Club*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

James C Agler: Continue to help attract large employers and expand the tax base. Continue to help attract shopping and dining venues to the community. Continue to help develop the I-80 corridor. Work on improvement of the infrastructure, roads and utilities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

James C Agler: Continue to build cash reserves in the utility department and the city general fund.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES?
PLEASE DETAIL.**

James C Agler: Improve and upgrade city infrastructure (roads and utilities). Wise use of Taxpayers dollars. Work on streamlining some city services looking for efficiencies.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

James C Agler: Paying for street and other infrastructure improvements. In the past a ballot proposal was advanced to use a one-half city sales tax to pay exclusively for those improvements. If failed I think because the city leaders failed to explain the tax and how it would be used. If elected this proposal could be brought up again. I think it would be the fairest way to pay for these improvements, because out of town people would help pay for it when they visit the community. Visitors use city services while here, streets, water, sewer and public safety services on occasion. It would take the burden off local taxpayers and "spread" the revenue stream to out of town visitors.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF NORTH PLATTE CITY COUNCIL WARD 3

Brad Garrick (NP): <http://www.bradgarrick.com>

EDUCATION: *1998 North Platte High School Graduate*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Martial Arts Instructor Women's Self Defense Advocate & Instructor North Platte Noon Rotary Club*

Don Kurre (NP):

<http://donkurre.com>

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *North Platte City Council Ward 3 2006 - 2010*

EDUCATION: *Master of Arts in Religious Studies, BA in Philosophy*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Immediate Past President North Platte Noon Rotary Club, Co-Chair Music on the Bricks, Member of Flat Rock Irregulars North Platte's Playing for Prime Rib Feed, North Platte Historical Museum Corn Feed, DTA Christmas Committee and Chair Kids Fest.*

**IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?**

Brad Garrick: My top priority for economic development is not only supporting and streamlining processes to help existing local businesses thrive, but also working to attract other businesses and industries to our community (such is information technology, logistics, and

manufacturing.) This will help our town with a diversified job market, which will increase quality of life, attract new people, and impact our housing.

Don Kurre: My priorities for economic development include supporting the businesses we already have in North Platte. I'm committed to address the role property tax plays in recruitment and retention of business. It is important to work jointly with the North Platte Development Corporation to recruit businesses. Finally, I'm committed to tell the stories about North Platte and our wonderful community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Brad Garrick: Safety first, security second, and third, keeping all municipalities running.

Don Kurre: The role of the City Council would be to ensure the necessary policies, ordinances and funding are in place to lessen the impact of extreme weather events. I will support the work of the Lincoln County Emergency Management agency to educate the community for extreme weather readiness.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Brad Garrick: Jobs - We need to diversify our job market. Attracting new industries is key. Growth - The population of North Platte has been stagnant for three decades. It's time to grow our community. Fiscal Responsibility - Just like you have to balance your checkbook, your government should also be wise with the money it spends. Spending less could allow us to lower taxes in the future.

Don Kurre: If elected my top three priorities would be: property taxes, city's infrastructure and quality of life. I pledge to do what I can to hold the line on property taxes by watching the City's budget and setting priorities. I will work as a member of the council to set priorities and plan for preserving and improving the city's infrastructure. We moved to North Platte in 1985 and I enjoy living in North Platte. I enjoy living here because of our parks, rec center, tourist venues, library, museums, educational opportunities, nonprofits and the friendly nature of the members of this community. I pledge to foster the environment that encourages and supports our quality of life. It is also important to make room for people to take initiatives to enrich our community.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Brad Garrick: Job diversification is the biggest challenge in our community. We have one major employer. What if that employer decides to leave North Platte? We need to grow our local businesses and attract new businesses to the area.

Don Kurre: The biggest challenge for North Platte is uncertainty. This uncertainty results from the impact of Covid-19 on our economy and life and the Union Pacific Railroad's changing

approach to railroading. It is a time for listening, transparency, taking initiatives and being open to change. This is a time when we, as Rotarians pledge, to place service above self.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF NORTH PLATTE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

Lawrence Ostendorf (NP):

No response received

Mark Woods (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOGAN COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LOUP COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

MADISON COUNTY

MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Zak Hookstra (L):

No response received

Eric Stinson (Rep):

EDUCATION: *Associate of Applied Science/Mortuary Science Arapahoe Community College, Littleton, CO. Norfolk Catholic High School*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *President Norfolk Catholic School Board, President Norfolk Catholic*

Booster Club, President Norfolk Catholic Academic Excellence. City of Norfolk Budget Review Committee. Several other Church and school committees and activities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Eric Stinson: The growth and development of Norfolk and Madison County brings with it a need for more housing. I will work diligently with the City of Norfolk, Madison County, and other agencies to provide more housing for the city of Norfolk and the surrounding areas. I have a very good relationship with Mike Flood who will be our next state senator and potentially the next speaker of the legislature. With this relationship we can work to make Madison County, more attractive for businesses and individuals to locate here. Madison County has shown tremendous growth and I believe with this elected office I will provide knowledge and assets to allow further economic and demographic expansion. I will work with 4 Lanes 4 Nebraska to finish 275 from Stanton to Scribner along with other agencies on the continuation of the Industrial Highway west and south to highway 275. These improvements would provide tremendous corridors for business and industrial growth to Norfolk and Madison County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Eric Stinson: In the event of an extreme weather event public safety would be my number 1 priority. This could be keeping residents in their homes or providing shelter locations in each community, depending on the circumstances. The next priority would be making sure that roads are clear for emergency services, ie. fire, rescue, law enforcement etc. can get where needed. Finally I would work with the public utilities to restore or maintain services to our residents. Each event will pose it's own set of circumstances, so we would need to adapt to that specific event. The three priorities I listed could apply to several different weather events, not necessarily everyone, so we would need to be flexible, prepared and adapt.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Eric Stinson: Economic development as mentioned in the first question would be one of my top priorities and some of the methods I would pursue it, along with working the the Norfolk area Chamber and promoting Madison County. Another priority would be keeping taxes as low as possible. When you are spending someone else's money, you need to account for every dollar spent. This doesn't mean eliminating necessary services, it means I will watch the budget process closely. I am like every other citizen in Madison County, I don't want to pay any more taxes than are absolutely needed. Roads would be another priority. Maintaining and improving our roads are a constant concern. The county is in the process of reconstructing Benjamin Avenue from Victory Road to Highway 35. This is one example, we also need to maintain and improve our county roads and bridges, but we need to utilize outside funds as much as possible (FEMA, State and other government programs).

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Eric Stinson: I am a lifelong resident of Norfolk; I spent 17 years as a funeral director and 20 years in investments and insurance. Throughout my life I have gained a tremendous understanding of Norfolk, Madison County, and the surrounding area. I will use this understanding and knowledge to further the growth and development of Madison County. Over the past 17 years, I have worked with the county attorney's office, the sheriff's office and the county clerk's office closely and have a very good relationship with them. This will be very beneficial in ensuring a smooth transition to a new commissioner. I understand that this position will require time and preparation and I am prepared and in the position to commit to both. I would ask for your vote on May 12, 2020 if you are in district 2, and if not please encourage your friends and family to vote for me.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

ELKHORN VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 80

Lucas Negus (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF NORFOLK CITY COUNCIL WARD 1

Kory Hildebrand (NP):
EDUCATION: *Northeast Community College Mitchell Technical Institute*

Juan E Sandoval (NP):
EDUCATION: *Business Administration and Marketing*
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Norfolk Area United Way (Board Member), Norfolk Public Transportation (Board Member), University of Nebraska Extension - Madison County, Norfolk Habitat for Humanity (Ex-Board Member), Sacred Heart Church (Pastoral Council), Knights of Columbus.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kory Hildebrand: We need to continue working to grow our community. We need to work with Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce to aid in getting new jobs here and help with our existing business to strive for the next generation. We can do this in so many different ways,

we can help by coming together for one another and act as one community to benefit everyone and all generations.

Juan E Sandoval: Small Business - It's extremely important to see how we can continue to provide support to the retail and restaurant industries so they can stay open after the COVID19. Workforce - This has been an issue for a long time and as each year passes it becomes even more of an issue. We need to continue to support our local employers, especially if they are looking to expand or to invest in our community; when they succeed, we succeed so we need to pay attention to their needs. I support finding creative solutions in addressing this. City Infrastructure - It's important to evaluate the City's approach to attract small and mid-size companies to Norfolk. We need to ensure we have the current infrastructure in place to support their needs—including shovel ready industrial sites, efficient transportation systems, economic incentives, etc. We live in an extremely competitive world where businesses can be established anywhere and if we are not able to offer it, another community will.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kory Hildebrand: Public Safety is always a top priority of mine. I also have the working staff of the City in mind by providing the knowledge and training they need to do their jobs safely and efficient when crisis happens. The staff of the city also needs the Personal Protective Equipment they need to carry out their duties safely. No single force can mend what's been done by a major weather event, so we need to build a bond with other agencies to have the best available outcome. We can all rely on each other's expertise in a catastrophic event.

Juan E Sandoval: Reviewing Existing Plan. Many cities and states in the country have developed a Severe Weather Emergency Plan. It's our responsibility as part of the city government to review those plans frequently to make sure it follows current guidelines. Safety. In a scenario of extreme weather, city officials and city council members have to coordinate efforts through the Police Department and Fire Department to make sure no one is at risk. This is especially vital during tornadoes, blizzards, extreme cold weather, or floods. Access to Services: Identify ways to evaluate if there are areas in the community without access to services before, during, and after the event. Also, we need to coordinate efforts with the companies that provide those services to bring it back as fast as we are able. Streets and Highways: Make sure streets and highways are available to provide services to our current residents and/or additional outside resources if necessary.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kory Hildebrand: 1) Growing Norfolk. We need to continue working to grow our community. We need to work with Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce to aid in getting new jobs here and help with our existing business to strive for the next generation. We can do this in so many different ways, we can help by coming together for one another and act as one community to benefit everyone and all generations. 2) Updating Our Infrastructure. Come up with a solution to maintain the infrastructure we need. Being financially responsible, replace what is

in disrepair or soon will be. Please look at the 6-year road plan. 3)Industry and Technical Jobs. I think if we can attract the right Industries and Technical companies to move to Norfolk or existing Norfolk companies to move in this direction, we can prosper Norfolk and the surrounding area with good paying jobs.

Juan E Sandoval: Updating Current Infrastructure. The City is under great leadership and some projects will be developed within the next year or two. However, as with many other communities, it is important to keep a proactive approach to continue working on streets, parks, sidewalks, and water/sewer as we develop plans for future growth. Improving Quality of Life. Living in a small town has a lot to offer. As the City continues to grow, it is important to invest in projects that improve quality of life. To this end, the city should invest in business retention/attraction, reducing commuting time, improving housing inventory, offering opportunities for entertainment, maintaining the current workforce (including young adults), and exploring new ways to attract additional income through tourism. Economic Development: It is important to continue relationships with our current manufacturing companies and employers to ensure they can find the workforce they need.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kory Hildebrand: More good and better paying jobs. I think if we can attract the right Industries and Technical companies to move to Norfolk or existing Norfolk companies to move in this direction, we can prosper Norfolk and the surrounding area with good paying jobs. If we have more good paying jobs in Norfolk, we will attract more people to move here and raise a family. This is part of what it is going to take to Grow Norfolk and leave it better for the next generation.

Juan E Sandoval: Norfolk is a rural community fighting between its own opportunities to survive, provide a better quality of life, and be attractive to new industries and investors. This is the main reason why running for City Council was attractive to me since I would like to see the city grow but at the same time, you have to evaluate all the pieces to make it effective. For example, it was hard to attract manufacturing companies or have a conversation with our own employers to expand when housing wasn't available. Fortunately, some investors have seen our potential and great developments are happening right now Another component that was attractive to me was the existing leadership in place. We need to continue the momentum our community has seen in the last few years. I'm excited to have the opportunity to play a larger role in many of the projects being developed or that are soon to be **COMPLETED**.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF NORFOLK CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2

Frank C Arens (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Norfolk City Planning Commissioner Appointed 2016-current Vice-Chair since 2019*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

EDUCATION: *High School: Hartington Cedar Catholic College: Kearney State College B.A. Human Resource Management*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Elkhorn Valley Pheasants Forever member and past president, Youth mentor volunteer Salvation Army christmas gift delivery*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Frank C Arens: Encourage economic diversity to keep Norfolk attractive to people of all ages. Use the tax increment financing appropriately as developments and businesses look to expand into the future. Continue with the downtown redevelopment projects as this brings housing and employment opportunities to the community. Enable the housing developments to offer affordable housing options.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Frank C Arens: Immediately be in contact with the local, state and federal authorities to establish a plan of action. Be available at all times to assist with the operation. Last year we had a scare with the massive flooding surrounding and including parts of our city, the emergency first responders and safety director did an excellent job in maintaining the citizen's safety.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Frank C Arens: Promote economic development for continued job growth: increase additional housing to increase revenue and broaden the tax base. Generate employment opportunities and attract capital investment. Keep Norfolk attractive to business and people of all ages: stay innovative in our thought process for employment opportunities. Norfolk's downtown redevelopment has been very a positive change to this community and the image the last few years has been noticed statewide. Skyline renovation project significantly improved the living conditions and safety of the 92 units available to the disabled and senior residents. This is something I approved as a member of the Norfolk Planning Commission and will continue to fight for this type of improvement for our community. Maintain our fiscal budget and support the safety of our community: Establish a firm financial standing and review the spending in the budget. Support the people who are in a position of leadership, especially our first responders.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Frank C Arens: The retention of our population, specifically the younger people in our community. This requires Norfolk to remain attractive to people not only already living here but to others looking to move here. We need to make sure amenities such as parks, trails, shopping etc...are available. We need to look for ways to use our city's assets to their fullest and expand toward the future needs requested by our citizens.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF BATTLE CREEK CITY COUNCIL

Brent Nygren (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *City Council from 2013 to present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Madison County Planning and Zoning 2008-2013*

EDUCATION: *Northeast Community College (Electrical)*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Battle Creek Betterment Club*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Brent Nygren: I would like to establish flood control for housing growth and more businesses to come to the community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Brent Nygren: Maintaining electrical to the community and water. Also need to keep people informed about what is happening in the community during those times of disasters. Get the people to listen to radio stations and the city's face book page.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Brent Nygren: #1 Flood control, we need to establish it to keep from having a majority of the town from being placed in a flood zone. That would cause houses to have flood insurance that would likely to keep people from building here. That would also save property damage. #2 Housing developments, we need future places for people to build new houses that would bring more people into our community and school system. #3 Business developments, we need to get more businesses back in the community. That is a hard one with everything on-line but there are service orientated businesses that could work in the community. Would like to find some

manufacturing business also. It would be nice to come up with a plan that the city can help with some kind of available aid.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Brent Nygren: Keeping people informed about what the city is doing and what the people expect the city to do. That is a hard one to accomplish but need to get the public to come to City Council meetings to listen and ask more questions of what is going on. Possibly put more information on the cities' website.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

McPHERSON COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

MERRICK COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

MORRILL COUNTY

MORRILL COUNTY COMMISSIONER AT LARGE

Josh Schmidt (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Bridgeport Board of Adjustment 2008-2012*

EDUCATION: *1996 Bridgeport HIGH School Graduate Attended WNCC as a Criminal Justice Major*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department Court House and Jail Rock Golf Foundation Past member of the Eagles Auxiliary*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Josh Schmidt: We are an Ag-based community, so at the County level I would advocate for common-sense based zoning rules and regulations that enhance existing Ag-based and other operations within the County. I will not hinder the establishment of new businesses, Ag or otherwise. Additionally, we need to maintain our arterial roadways so our Ag based businesses can effectively and efficiently move their goods to market.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Josh Schmidt: Work along side the Region 21 Emergency Management team to provide aid in any way possible to insure the safety of the members of our community. Continue to support the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Departments to make sure they have everything they need to support a complete recovery before, during and after each event. Provide all the necessary support to be prepared and ready to respond as soon as any event takes place. Timely support will be a priority in insuring the safety for everyone in the county. Plan for the unexpected and we will be prepared for the event as soon as they occur.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Josh Schmidt: A) Keeping property tax asking as **LOW** as possible. I'll ask the tough questions about how we can do more with less. B) Our roads are vital to the continued successful operation of our Ag community. We need to find creative solutions to meet the challenges brought on by ever-increasing costs associated with road maintenance, management and repair. C) Local economic effects of Covid-19. Help prepare the county for a changing economy.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Josh Schmidt: I'm the best candidate for Morrill County Commissioner because I will make the right decisions. As a christian I value honesty and integrity which I will display in our County government. I'll keep the county tax levy as low as possible. I support our law enforcement, roads department and County Public Transportation. My family and I have our roots here in Morrill County and I'm excited to be a part of the next generation of leadership and find creative solutions for the challenges that our County may face in the next four years. Thank you

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NANCE COUNTY

NANCE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Andrew Ditter (Rep):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NEMAHA COUNTY

CITY OF PERU CITY COUNCIL WEST WARD

Marty Peregoy (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Peru City Council Member - West Ward January 2020-Present*

EDUCATION: *B.S. Education: Secondary Language Arts, M.A. Education: Curriculum & Instruction, M.Education: Secondary Educational Administration*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Member of Northeast Nemaha County Long Term Recovery Group*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Marty Peregoy: Peru's long-term viability must be increased by supporting current businesses; providing opportunities for increased area recreational activities; and attracting new businesses, including new owners for the grocery store or a multi-purpose store, a breakfast/coffee shop in which community members can gather throughout the day, and a consignment store for local entrepreneurs. Having a thriving community with basic businesses will attract new members to the community – another priority. The town of Peru lost revenue and community members who relocated due to the flood of 2019. We must maximize opportunities to build on Peru's empty lots , prioritize repair and re-sale of current housing through grant programs, and support the work of the Peru Community Impact Group.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Marty Peregoy: My number one priority will always be protecting the community members. The college and town must work cooperatively to face our most frequent adversary – flooding. We must be proactive as well as reactive. Communication and cooperation are key as we work with our state senator, the corps of engineers, land-owners, NEMA and other state and federal agencies to repair damaged infrastructure and to secure funding for prevention, restoration and improvement.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Marty Peregoy: My number one priority is to secure clean water for Peru on a permanent basis, so that the community never again faces hardship due to poor water quality, rising flood waters and limited supply. My second priority is to make the workings of the Peru City Council more transparent and responsive through increased communication with the community. My third

priority is to increase the appeal of Peru as both a hometown and a tourist destination by increasing economic opportunities, supporting beautification efforts, and by increasing a sense of community among its citizens.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Marty Peregoy: Peru's biggest challenge at this time is recovery from the 2019 flood and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a member of the Northeast Nemaha County Long Term Recovery Group, I meet weekly with representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Senator Slama, Peru State College and other community members to pursue funding, rebuild critical infrastructure and to strengthen the city of Peru in **DISASTER** recovery.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

NUCKOLLS COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

OTOE COUNTY

OTOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

Dan Crownover (Rep): <http://danny.crownover49@gmail.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Village board of unadilla chairman for 16 years 2004-2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Village of unadilla planning commission from 2000-2004*

EDUCATION: *Graduated from syracuse high school*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Air force national guard from 1968-1974*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Previous unadilla fire dept. currently on board of directors for american legion vets club and american legion baseball*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Dan Crownover: By keeping roads and bridges in good shape for safe travel for family's and movement of farm equipment having county employees keep in close contact with people of the communities so they can work together in getting any problems in our dist. Solved. of course working with the help and leadership of the commissioner

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Dan Crownover: Make sure all employees are aware of possible weather event and able to be located. Make sure all equipment is in proper working order communication between commissioner, shop foreman and maintenance personal is essential

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Dan Crownover: Having all employees including supervisors working on the same page to make our county safe and in good condition in all ways necessary. Keep the budget as low as possible while still maintaining the amount of revenue to keep our county in good operating condition Have the correct personel in place to write the grant applications so we are getting all the state,,federal and open grant financial that we are qualified to apply

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Dan Crownover: Knowledge,experience in working with county,state and federal agencies acquiring money to create park equipment, bike-walk path park shelter and numerous other projects 15 years working for the nebr. dept. of transportation taking care of roads and snow removal. Dealing with fema and nema when high winds caused considerable damage in town. Working and helping to create a working budget for our town without raising taxes. I have knowledge,experience and work for economic government

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PAWNEE COUNTY

PAWNEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

Lavon L Heidemann (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Board of Directors for Nebraska Cattlemen, Fire Board for the Elk Creek Fire District, Elder at St. Peter's Lutheran Church*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *I have served our state as a Nebraska State Senator 2003-2012, University of Nebraska Board of Regents 2012-2013,and Lt. Governor 2013-2014*

EDUCATION: *I graduated from Elk Creek Public School. Life experiences and reading have furthered my education*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *I volunteer as a firefighter for the Elk Creek Fire District.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Lavon L Heidemann: My priorities for economic development in our county are the use of property taxes and the upkeep of infrastructure. It is important to run our county as efficiently as possible by using our property taxes wisely. It is also vital to keep the quality of our infrastructure up to keep the businesses we have and attract new economic activity to our county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Lavon L Heidemann: My first priority is to keep the infrastructure operating especially our county roads. This gives our emergency response teams the ability to access those in need. Another priority is to make sure everyone is safe and healthy. Finally, it is important to assist businesses as needed.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Lavon L Heidemann: My top three priorities would be to use property taxes wisely, run our county efficiently, and help businesses grow and prosper in Pawnee County.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Lavon L Heidemann: Due to years of Public Service, I have the connections to people, groups, and agencies in this state that would help address problems as they arise. These contacts would help guide us through decisions and the legality of situations. As former chair of appropriations committee in the legislature, I will be able to contribute to the budgeting process. I am a proven leader that leads by example and works well with others to successfully achieve goals. I will listen to your concerns and do what I can to best serve you and meet the needs of our county. I believe I have the desire, determination, hard-work ethic, and common sense to be a great commissioner for Pawnee County.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LEWISTON SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 69

Rae Lynne Bredemeier (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PERKINS COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PHELPS COUNTY

BERTRAND SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 54

Brent Samuelson (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Hi-Line Golf course board of directors-current VP, past President 2015-2019*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Bertrand School Board 2006-2010 Immanuel Lutheran Church council, Treasurer/VP*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering-UNL 1992 MBA-Colorado State University 2000*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Bertrand Parade CoChair 2017-present Chamber golf tournament director 2018-present Youth football and baseball referee/umpire 2003-present*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Brent Samuelson: Technology is key to providing our students with the skills needed to succeed in the world today. We can't forget that the personal touch from a caring teacher or para is just as important. We are blessed to have a great educational service unit in the area and we need to continue to work with them to continually improve on the use of technology in our school. Fortunately we are blessed to have good broadband access in our community at this time. Our children are our future and we need to provide them with the tools to succeed in the most economically way possible.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Brent Samuelson: We are blessed to live in a great rural community. I truly believe almost all of our students and teachers feel very safe as the current administration and board have done a good job of addressing any safety concerns as they arise. I would propose that we continue to work

with the local law enforcement agencies to make sure we are doing all we can to keep our children and staff safe. Open communication and cooperation between the school and local law enforcement will help to strengthen the bond between them and improve everyone's safety going forward.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Brent Samuelson: The students in our district are our future and we need to make sure they have access to the programs and information to prepare them for the 21st century job market. Whether it is preparing them for tech school, a trade school, the military, a two or four year college or the working world we need to make sure they are properly educated to give them the best chance for success. Balancing these needs versus the costs to our patrons is the challenge to all school boards. I hope to use my financial background with cash flows and budgeting to help the district provide what is needed for our students and staff in the most financially responsible way.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HOLDREGE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 44

Elena Olson King (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *Class of 1997 from Elm Creek Public School. Graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelors Degree in English Education from Union College, post-graduate studies in Educational Technology at Peru State College.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Feed My Starving Children volunteer, Bible study teacher, fostered four teenagers in our home.*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Elena Olson King: COVID-19 has laid bare existing inequities in broadband access. In order to ensure we can reach students who do not have internet access at home, we could follow the lead of other districts around the US by creating wireless hot spots in school busses. Wi-Fi could also be expanded outside of schools to allow students to download information needed in a drive-up manner from parking lots. Further, the Chromebook rental fee should be eliminated because there are families on the edge of poverty who do not qualify for the waived fee. It is arguable whether the Chromebook usage fee violates the Nebraska State Constitution's requirement for a

free public education. Technology can be a tool to help learning, however, it's also important not to eliminate traditional textbooks and written work. According to the Journal of American Medical Assn, excessive screen time is linked to lower cognitive and language outcomes.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Elena Olson King: As a substitute teacher in another district, I have led a classroom of students in an active shooter drill. It was one of the most humbling moments in my life and made clear to me that most of us don't understand the grave duty teachers are responsible for on a daily basis. It is crucial to use every tool at our disposal to keep both students and staff safe. Locked doors are not enough. Schools need to ensure all staff are certified in mental health first aid. It is a free, day-long training available from the local behavioral service region. Next, identifying students who are at risk of violence needs to be a constant, on-going effort. Every teacher needs to be on this team and have the support of administration and mental health professionals. Students need to formally practice kindness and empathy through teacher-led projects. They can't be taught a negative: "not to bully." A culture of support and acceptance needs to be modeled by both staff and student leaders.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Elena Olson King: As a former GED instructor, I have coached students as they navigated their career options and provided guidance on their best educational path. While I'm grateful that I chose a 4-year degree, my experience as the center manager for Central Community College Holdrege has developed my understanding of college advising. College and post-secondary education shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all. Students should be counseled to find what they love to do, then figure a way to earn a living doing that. Some students excel at hands-on work and should be encouraged to earn an associates degree or a certificate program. Early College classes are one way to help students get a head start toward their career. The earlier they start college classes, the sooner they can enter the job market, helping to avoid a heavy student debt load. As a board member, advocating for Early College and other career training courses would benefit both students and our community as a whole.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF HOLDREGE CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3

Russell Carlston (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NA*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NA*

EDUCATION: *University of Colorado at Colorado Springs - Barry University - St. Joseph*

Medical Center

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *NA*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Mission Medical Clinic - TPMF Medical Mission - Catania Italy Mission - Special Olympics - Heal to Stride - JDRF Walk - Helping Hands Hurricane Harvey*

Nicholas Smith (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Russell Carlston: To help further the economy within Holdrege, we need to create business-friendly policies to attract employers and make use of currently vacated buildings. We can also engage with current businesses to find ways to support them, their workforce, the potential to create new jobs, and contribute to residents quality of life. Discussion with residents to learn their needs or desires for new services and amenities as well as any policies or ordinances which may be negatively affecting their quality of life is essential moving forward.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Russell Carlston: A top priority in an extreme weather event would be the creation or review of an emergency preparedness plan regarding appropriate shelter and access to needed items when sheltering in place or in situations involving evacuations. Likewise, another top priority would be the maintaining of utility services and roadway access for essential workers as well as emergency services.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Russell Carlston: Economic development would be my top priority with a focus on encouraging business growth, reviewing regulatory hurdles and carefully scrutinizing the sale of land/buildings for local projects to ensure they properly serve our community. Second, fiscal responsibility is an important aspect of any healthy city. Budgets should be balanced, debts paid and a reserve fund maintained. Lastly, the city of Holdrege needs an increase in affordable housing. We should seek and support partnerships to improve neighborhoods and rentals. Deregulation of unnecessary housing ordinances should also be considered so people have more control over their personal property.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Russell Carlston: A large number of Holdrege business employees presently do not reside within Holdrege and an increase in affordable housing is necessary to recruit and retain that workforce. There are a number of homes in a state of ruin and a plan should be made so that those lots may have functional and safe housing as both a way of providing housing to residents

but also to help beautify Holdrege. Quality housing is essential and Holdrege needs to encourage efficient, practical residential construction with high standards.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF HOLDREGE CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4

Trent Fuecker (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PIERCE COUNTY

CITY OF PIERCE CITY COUNCIL

Kyle Gerard Stuchlik (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor's degree in Legal Studies from CHADRON State College. Made the Dean's list. I've continued my education in chemistry and biology at Wayne State College. I am currently taking environmental ethics.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *The 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years I assisted/helped teach 6th graders religious education. I thoroughly enjoyed giving my time and talents to help youths.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kyle Gerard Stuchlik: The priorities of maintaining the currents businesses and promoting new businesses.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kyle Gerard Stuchlik: Everyone's safety and well-being. Then work towards restoring the community back to normalcy.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kyle Gerard Stuchlik: 1. Wise spending/not having debt. Spending money wisely on commodities that will benefit the community, while working to keep debt at an absolute minimum. 2. Maintaining infrastructure. When something needs to be maintained or fixed conduct the maintenance in a timely manner so that the problem does not get worse and so that the quality of life of the members of the community does not decrease. 3. Preservation of the peacefulness, safety, and prosperity of the community. Pierce is such a great and peaceful place to live, this can be preserved by making sure noise ordinances are enforced. The safety can be preserved by the continued enforcement of speed limits. Preserving the prosperity will be upheld by the ability for citizens to receive due process at city council meetings.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kyle Gerard Stuchlik: Maintaining infrastructure while at the same time keeping debt at a minimum. By the continuous supervision of the infrastructure and by employing wise spending.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PLATTE COUNTY

COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Candace Becher (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

LAKEVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD

Eric Stuthman (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3

Scott Ackman (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *Scotus Central Catholic - Class of 2007 Univ. of Nebraska (Lincoln) - Class of 2011*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Knights of Columbus Columbus Softball Association Board*

Ron Schilling (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Scott Ackman: I believe that our city needs to focus more on saving money during these troubling times. We have recently taken on some great public projects such as a new fire station and a new police station. I would like to see us pay those down a little more before embarking on any more large projects.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Scott Ackman: Since we have just recently experienced some major weather events I think we are better prepared for what nature can throw at us. Improvements have been made to the levy along the South edge of town. With that taken care of I think our top priority needs to be building some sort of rainy day fund to help take care of citizens should another event occur.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Scott Ackman: 1. Affordable Housing 2. Balancing our Spending 3. Continuing to bring talented young people into our community

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Scott Ackman: Affordable Housing is definitely the biggest concern of our community. I think we need to address it one housing project at a time, but I believe a big first step is taking a harder look at the qualifications for using TIF Funding for housing projects. Recently we have seen housing projects utilize TIF Funding only to have prices of the homes fall outside of what most would consider affordable. More needs to be done up front to make sure that projects that are undertaken will indeed fall within a certain affordable price range when it comes time for a family to move in. Building upper class **HOMES** with government funding is unacceptable.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4

John Lohr (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Columbus City Council 2004 to the present.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Columbus Parks and Recreation Board 1975 to 1980*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science in Political Science/ Master of Science in Economics/ University of Utah*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Volunteered for U. S. Army/ Volunteered for Officer Candidate School/ Volunteered for Vietnam. Served one year in Northern I Corps in Vietnam and received The Bronze Star Medal.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Columbus Hospital Board (Chair) Northeast NE Econ. Development Dist. Board (Chair)/ Exec. Board of the League of NE Municipalities/ Federated Church Governing Council/ Columbus Chamber Volunteer of the Year/ Columbus Library Foundation Board (Chair).*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

John Lohr: The city of Columbus has used an LB 840 fund to collect part of the sales taxes paid locally and allocate those dollars in grants and loans to local and new business for expansion. The fund has been renewed by voters and housing has been added to the list of uses for the “840” funds. We have also utilized LB 518 housing funds to enhance our inventory of workforce housing. We must continue to incent developers to build workforce housing in order to attract permanent labor for our employers. We have been very accommodating to existing business as far as zoning, permits, and other requests. We need to continue this relationship with our existing corporate citizens. Our Chamber is constantly looking for prospects for locating in Columbus. With our low utility rates, an abundance of water, a state of the art sewage treatment plant, and other attractions, we feel that Columbus is the right place to be especially with the prospect of four lanes of travel to and from Omaha in the works.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

John Lohr: Columbus is the County Seat of Platte County with all of the County services generated by the County Board of Supervisors when they meet in Columbus. Platte County has an internal Civil Defense unit that monitors weather data, flood data etc. and issues watches and warnings accordingly. Essentially, the Civil Defense calls the shots and if they need help from the city police department (for instance) it is rapidly provided. This situation came into focus during the floods of 2019. Columbus proper was untouched by the 2019 floods. Some ice and water poured around the end of our levee damaging seven holes on our municipal golf course, but that was the only damage in the city. The levee held as it was supposed to do. Personally, I have studied meteorology in college, worked for the National Weather Service during some summers and had a lifelong hobby of studying meteorological events. I believe this gives me a slight advantage when bad conditions are imminent.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES?
PLEASE DETAIL.**

John Lohr: I have worked with housing providers for years to provide workforce housing in the community. Now that we have numerous projects in the works, developers must be encouraged to complete their work for that part of the development puzzle. This is my top priority. A new library is under consideration. I have been on the “Library Steering Committee” for the city for several years. The funds have been approved, but the people must vote to issue the bonds for the project. I feel that a new library in the downtown area would enhance the quality of life in the community and be one more draw for our existing and prospective employers and their employees. Many of the large employers in town are divisions of national companies. They have managers here and though those managers are community oriented, we need to do more to enhance their involvement in the community. We need to enhance our access to corporate largess and we have determined that closer ties with the local managers helps.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

John Lohr: We need to do more to train people for jobs in the community. There are hundreds of jobs available in our community with very few prospective employees to fill those jobs. I believe we need to work more with the High School and Community College to provide the training to people so that they have the skills needed in the community. Enhanced training should provide more earning power for local employees, they should be able to consider enhanced housing options, and their quality of life should improve. We as a community need to encourage people to go to school and learn a new trade if it means an improved quality of life. It can be done; it just takes a dogged determination on the part of the city administration and the corporations. A great example is the local hospital **PROVIDING** nursing scholarships to high school students if they will come back to work at the hospital. Our STEM program in our high school is a great example of sowing the seeds for future employees.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

POLK COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

RED WILLOW COUNTY

RED WILLOW COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Randy Dean (Rep):

EDUCATION: *Republican Valley High School, McCook Community College*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Indianola Rural Fire Board, Indianola Economic Development Corp., Southwest Community Builders, Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency-911 Committee, REWARD committee, Little League baseball coach, Hillcrest Board of Trustees, Hillcrest Foundation*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Randy Dean: Lower property taxes, Road maintenance, Insurance premiums and Health Care costs, Availability of childcare, Affordable housing, Recruiting new business, Encouraging expansion of existing businesses, and Citizen Involvement

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Randy Dean: Insure that our county roads are maintained to the highest degree possible not only for everyday accessibility but also for emergency personal and vehicles. Availability of competent emergency systems of communications in order to be able to respond to any emergency Emergency dispatching system and accessibility to vehicles that can respond under any circumstances.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Randy Dean: I consider myself as a fiscal conservative that believes we can control ever increasing tax levels. We need to look at all discretionary spending and accomplish our due diligence of receiving competitive prices for all county necessities. We also need to investigate all possible funding sources from outside of the county. Expand the tax base by promoting the recruitment of new business to expand in our area but it is more imperative we support and encourage our existing businesses. Guaranteeing continued access to high quality health care for our young as well as our senior population.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Randy Dean: I want Red Willow County voters to know that I spent the better part of my adult life volunteering for causes that I believe in and that improves the quality of life for my fellow residents. I have and continue to serve on many volunteer boards in Red Willow County. During my better than 44 years of community involvement I have gained a beyond measurable amount of experience in how this county operates. I pride myself in my ability to listen to all opinions (both pro and con) and then not only make a decision but be held accountable for that decision.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

RICHARDSON COUNTY

RICHARDSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Rick Karas (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

HUMBOLDT SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 70

Grant Reynolds (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *BS Mechanical Engineering*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Church board member*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Grant Reynolds: I believe the COVID-19 pandemic has forced school districts to embrace distance learning due to not being able to assemble in classrooms, but nothing can take the place of in-classroom instruction. It would be good for teachers to use websites for class schedules and maybe even homework submittals. Learning has expanded rapidly to include more websites and technology us, and I would advocate for keeping the school advancing in technology use for the benefit of the students.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Grant Reynolds: I believe that teachers should be trained on looking for aberrant behavior and at risk behavior from students. Students should also know and receive reinforcement that if a fellow student is behaving more odd than normal or posting violent things on social media, they should feel free to report this to school administration. I also believe that legislation should be changed so that teachers and administrators that have been trained properly can carry a handgun concealed on their person. Gun-free zones are a target for shooters, and we should work to ensure safety of all in the school.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Grant Reynolds: I believe that it would be beneficial for students to have presentations from guidance counselors regarding outlook for job markets. It would also be good to have college representatives come speak at the school to give an overview of top programs. Students need to know what the outlook for employment is once they graduate high school, so they can know how to further their education. As a board member, I would advocate to give them the best available options for finding this information.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

ROCK COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SALINE COUNTY

FRIEND PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Scott E Vyhnales (NP):

No response received

Megan Weber (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF FRIEND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

Kristen Milton (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *High School: Exeter-Milligan 2008 College: AAS Office Professional-Medical Focus Southeast Community College-2011*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Friend Pool Committee 2018-Present American Legion Auxiliary*

Unit 183 Member since 1991 Trunk or Treat 2019 Easter egg fundraiser 2017-present Friend Country Club Fundraising & Flower bed maintenance Friend 4th of July-Free Family event 2018-present

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kristen Milton: It is important that we look to the future when setting priorities. To grow our community, we need to appeal to new businesses and families. We need to offer things that they want in their community. In turn, our community and school system would likely see an increase in census. Let's work to identify what these wants and needs are, then set goals. I believe there is strong community interest for indoor community recreation, a dog park, and additional downtown businesses. Additionally, we can look into working with local groups to put together incentives to attract new businesses to establish in Friend. Let's work to get the storefronts in our downtown to be exactly that, storefronts. We can improve our quality of life and be more self-sufficient with some of these ideas. Having healthy and happy citizens is vital to a progressive community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kristen Milton: My top priority would be to make sure the City has an up-to-date extreme weather event plan and a contingency plan before severe weather happens. I have reached out to the City to see what our current plan is and if necessary, I would work with them to improve it. It is vital to have trusted, key people identified and prepared to lead our citizens. Having citizens aware of the set plan, contingency plan, and the form of communication ahead of time is the best way to be prepared. An extreme weather event would be scary and being clear and organized is essential.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kristen Milton: 1. I think Friend needs clear direction and goals for our community. I would very much want to work on a 5 and 10 year strategic plan for our community. While the Community Redevelopment Authority already provides some of this planning, I would like to increase public awareness about any strategic plan and encourage public involvement and support of these goals. 2. Communication and relationship building with the citizens of Friend to help regain trust. More collaboration and transparency along with encouraging citizens to be informed in the city's process of decision making will help achieve this. I will work to encourage an open and honest working relationship with city employees, leadership, and the public. 3. Consistent with the above-identified strategic plan, I would want to provide motivation to clean-up some of the abandoned homes in town and identify support for decent affordable housing in our community.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kristen Milton: The biggest challenge in our community is the rebuilding of public trust. This past year it was revealed that taxpayer funds had been misused for many years. That has caused a lot of mistrust within the community. I would like to help our citizens regain confidence and trust in our City Government. We need to continue to **WORK** together, transparently and honestly to move forward.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF FRIEND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

Harlan L Schrock (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SALINE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Marvin A Kohout (Dem): <http://NA>
CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Saline County Commissioner--January 2005-present*
PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Dorchester Board of Education--January 1993-2005*
EDUCATION: *Graduated from Dorchester Public School; Graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University with a BS in Business Administration*
MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *NA*
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Saline Center Lodge #389; Dorchester Little Kids Wrestling*

Gary Veprovsky (Rep):
CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*
PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*
EDUCATION: *Graduate of Dorchester High School*
MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Marvin A Kohout: Saline County needs to have a wider cross section of businesses located within the county. We need to increase the number and unique types of agricultural diversity in

business opportunities (farming, livestock, organic opportunities, etc.) We need to encourage industrial and commercial businesses to move to Saline County. We could use more small businesses located within the county. The more diversity we have within the county, the better we will be able to withstand economic downturns, the corona virus pandemic, and other disasters including weather related.

Gary Veprovsky: In a small county there are not many local funds available for economic development. For small business development, my best answer at this time, is to apply with Department of Economic Development, or other government grants. My personal opinion is an ag based county, such as Saline, needs to develop ag based industry to utilize the products we currently produce here.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Marvin A Kohout: One of my biggest concerns would be making sure the residents of the county are safe where they are at and that the county has the necessary equipment available locally to react to the weather event. We also have drones available to assist emergency rescue personnel to do their jobs in extreme weather events if necessary.

Gary Veprovsky: 1. I think it is extremely important we are maintaining our 911 systems before an extreme weather event so that all services are fully functional during the event, meaning equipment must be kept up-to-date and upgrades are being done routinely. 2. Keep citizens informed through coordination between emergency management officials and the general public. 3. Necessary maintenance and quick repair of county roadways so emergency and power company personnel can reach effected areas and bring in necessary assistance.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Marvin A Kohout: One of top priorities would be to make sure we have a good road infrastructure. In order to have farmers farm, they need to have good roads to market their grain and livestock. The rural road structure would also need to allow for school buses, mail carriers, delivery trucks, personal vehicles and others to traverse the roads in a safe manner. Another priority would be to recruit a wide variety of businesses to locate within the county (see economic question answer above). Lastly, with property taxes paying the brunt of the load for schools, city, village and county activities, we need to lobby our legislature to get that 3 legged stool more in balance. We need to continue the fiscal restraint in determining which requests are "needs" and which are "wants" when balancing the county budget.

Gary Veprovsky: 1. Listen fairly to citizens comments and suggestions - each citizen deserves unbiased representation. 2. Property tax relief for all citizens - by common sense spending to try and hold the county levy to a minimum. 3. Commissioner meetings need to be conducted in a manner that follows state statutes and regulations.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Marvin A Kohout: As county decisions are getting harder and harder to make considering all of the circumstances before voting, you need someone with experience in budgeting, personnel, understanding the function of each county office, having a thick skin, working with the other elected and appointed officials and communicating with the county employees. I have successfully experienced all of the above and I would be most appreciative of continuing my efforts to better Saline County for everyone.

Gary Veprovsky: “If you aren’t part of the solution, you may be part of the problem,” is what a well respected educator once told me. After attending many board meetings in the past year, it is clear to me we need new energy channeled towards seeking focused solutions for our county, people, and businesses. I strongly believe that any proposed projects need to be in the citizen's best interest, not just financially, but also in terms of health, well-being, and also be considerate of our future generations. All county projects need reviewed to appropriately determine impact on ALL citizens instead of just the “here and now” or instant gratification. Moving forward, I think it is important that leadership must constantly look to the bigger picture and greater good of our counties current and future circumstances to avoid such injustices. My candidacy for commissioner is based on the idea of how to better our county for now and in the future based on the foundations created by generations before us.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SALINE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

Brian K Pribyl (Rep):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WILBER CLATONIA SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 82

Chris Cerveny (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Wilber-Clatonia Board of education Jan 2000-current*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Wilber-Clatonia High School Southeast Community College Associates degree
Peru State College Bachelors degree*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Wilber Volunteer Fire Department Wilber Methodist Church, council*

Bradley T Kalkwarf (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *Oxford High School, Oxford NE, B.S. Business Administration - University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Juris Doctorate - University of Nebraska College of Law*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Wilber Area Chamber of Commerce, Teammates, St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Friends of Music, Wilber-Clatonia Booster Club, Nebraska State Bar Association, Crete Area Healthcare Foundation, Wilber Community Foundation, Wilber Clatonia Post Prom*

Russell D Schuerman (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *1.5 Terms, W-C District 82 Board of Education to present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *1 Term, W-C District 82 Board of Education, early to mid 90's. 19 years, Clatonia Township retiring in 2010.*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of W-C High School Associates Degree SCC, Welding Tech*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Long-time member Gage County Board of Variance. Long-time member Gage County Township Association, Retired. Clatonia Rural Fire Board. Clatonia Rescue Squad, Retired. Clatonia Volunteer Fire Dept. Retired Clatonia Cardinal Club member.*

Cory Skleba (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Chris Cervený: A challenge for rural schools is that many remote locations do not have access to quality internet service if any at all. So while we can provide technology for students to take home where appropriate, that does not guarantee that they will have the access to use it. We will continue to look for opportunities on the local level such as providing hot-spots, extended wireless outside of the building, and promote the use of local resources (library etc.) while also working with our state senators in promoting the need for quality internet service to rural Nebraska. I also support the continued use of technology in the classroom in particular with the high school teachers using similar or the same platforms as are used at the college level. This has helped students with a smoother transition from high school to advanced education or the work environment, and was also a step up when students were moved to on-line learning the last school year.

Bradley T Kalkwarf: Many schools have had to deal with this issue and I feel that some deficiencies were exposed when schools had to go to distance learning. Wilber-Clatonia has been proactive in looking for solutions and has implemented a one to one chrome book availability for students in grades 3-12 at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. That helps to solve one piece of the problem. Internet access is the more difficult piece. Resources are available to assist in funding of hot-spots for students who do not have broadband access and they should be utilized. Although this seems to mostly be a socioeconomic issue, they are not the only ones being

affected. Rural access to internet continues to be a problem across the country and I know many of our federal elected officials continue to address it. School board members should continue to advocate also so that every student, no matter who they are or where they live, are given the same educational opportunities as their classmates.

Russell D Schuerman: Our district is quite spread out east to west with substantial areas not having adequate broadband access. That said, I believe that our district needs to advocate to our legislative representatives or anyone else in a position to push for increased coverage, to make it their priority. Covid 19 has served to heighten our awareness to the importance of adequate broadband access throughout the entire district, because distance learning options must be available to all of our students.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Chris Cerveny: Over the last few years we have worked to improve security of the buildings through the use of technology, secured and centralized entrances, as well as classroom safety procedures and drills. During non-pandemic situations we promote the interaction of parents in the school and classroom, but that also has to be balanced with safety and student achievement in mind. Student safety is a focus not only in the school but also in the home environment. We will continue to engage in student learning such that they are aware of their surroundings, and have a good understanding of what is appropriate and acceptable in society. We are fortunate that our law enforcement is located very near our facility, and go out of their way to be visible and active in our building and at activities. I would support a full time officer on site if needed, but at this time I believe our students, staff, and community are in alignment with the expectations of a safe and quality learning environment.

Bradley T Kalkwarf: I believe there are two main safety issues that face our students and staff today. The first is the health risk posed to them from COVID-19. Wilber-Clatonia has done an excellent job of taking a proactive approach by involving administration, staff, students and community members to develop a four phase plan based upon risk levels. All of this was done for the specific purpose of ensuring the safety of students and staff. I would applaud the administration for the well rounded approach. The second is the safety issues to students and staff due to the behavioral and mental health needs of some students. Priority should be placed on making sure that the mental health needs of the students are being addressed and that the appropriate training is being provided to staff to recognize and deal with these needs to better protect all.

Russell D Schuerman: In our Covid 19 Pandemic era, student and teacher safety has taken on another facet, that being medical health safety. I have complete confidence that our administration is doing everything possible to keep students, teachers and patrons as safe as possible. We must remember that we are dealing with very precious cargo here, and that the guidelines and rules keep changing for our administrative team, sometimes daily. That said, we need to remind ourselves to keep our expectations high, but add a heavy dose of patience because as yet, no playbook has been written for this pandemic era. With regards to student and teacher safety, our administrative team does an excellent job of implementing new, and

reviewing existing policies and procedures meant to be proactive rather than reactive. The district also maintains a close relationship with the Saline County Sheriff's Department.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Chris Cerveny: As for teachers I support the continued use of peer learning, as well as external courses and personal development. By having a mix of new as well as seasoned staff, and providing them scheduled times to exchange ideas and attend workshops, allows them to continue with their development in order to bring new techniques and ideas into the classroom. For students I am an advocate of continued expansion into the trades and non four-year degree curriculum. I myself worked up through the trades and understand the need for students whom are qualified to move into the agricultural, and blue collar/trade areas. The district is fortunate to have had the opportunity to expand its course offering in the agricultural area through the generous gift of a local patron, and I am hopeful that additional opportunities can be developed either through the use of technology or partnerships with other local manufacturing and commercial businesses.

Bradley T Kalkwarf: After having my first child graduate from Wilber-Clatonia Schools this year, I feel that I could provide some insight into what is working well and where there may be some room for improvement. As with anything in the world today, technology and interpersonal skills are two of the most important criteria that need to be addressed as part of our students' educational process. As part of the curriculum development, we should not only look at how our students perform on testing, but how they interact with peers, teachers, staff, administration and the community and also how they are able to navigate technology needs should be just as important. Pulling from every student's strengths no matter what they may be and developing leadership opportunities based upon those strengths will help to ensure our student's success and not just that of those who are successful academically.

Russell D Schuerman: First of all, I recognize that the cost to educate our students is significant and am quite aware where the majority of the money to pay for this education must come from. i.e. property taxes. Therefore, I feel that my main job as a board member is to put students first, and teachers, administration and support staff right behind them while being as fiscally responsible as possible. My best tools to do that are to keep abreast of 21st century job market needs and district needs by keeping myself as informed as possible. Techniques to keep myself informed include being openminded and approachable, using my listening skills, reading relevant periodicals, attending seminars and again, putting the kids first. I know that I have stated the "kids first" mindset a couple of times, and I will always stand by that, but fully supporting our top notch administrators, teachers and support staff in whatever capacity I can as a board member is my preferred method to advocate for our district.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SARPY COUNTY

CITY OF BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3

Michael Knebel (NP):

EDUCATION: *University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Studied Political Science and History*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Leonard Lawrence PTA Good News Church - camera man Habitat for Humanity Leadership team with international group Dad Edge Alliance Former State Chair of Libertarian Party of Nebraska*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Michael Knebel: Covid has drastically changed the way businesses of all sizes operate. I would want to review and eliminate barriers in the city codes for local businesses. We can allow people to be freer to operate a home or online business. Bellevue can be competitive with the surrounding areas if we keep local taxes low, and streamline code enforcement to make sure the rules and regulations we do have promote a healthy environment of growth. Large scale commercial real estate may not be as big of a draw now that some corporations have gone to a work from home setting. So we as a city must be willing to adapt and try new things. Ultimately, the government doesn't create jobs, we just have to provide an environment for them to thrive. And finally, I would not vote for any project that required Tax Increment Financing (TIF) because these projects do not financially benefit the city in the long run.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Michael Knebel: One of the things the city is tasked with is making sure the roads are clear and safe. Bellevue does a great job of clearing and prepping the roads before and during a snow storm. Top priority is always safety of those that must be out in weather, and ensuring resources are available to deal with the clean up and repair after a major storm. When the tornadoes came through a few years back, the communities banded together to clean, offer support, and offer services. We all were able to do that because the city provided us with the basic tools. But I would like to hold a town hall and ask how can we be at our best as a city during these weather events? With our shared knowledge and shared vision for the city, I believe these town halls could help us find the tasks that the citizens feel are most important to maintain as well.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Michael Knebel: 1. Infrastructure - I would review what is working well, what could be improved, and what should be cut. I've never complained about our snow plow crew, they have been fantastic. But I do think we should sell or change Haworth Park. The campgrounds have been continually flooded, and we are not utilizing our riverfront as well as other communities. It's time to find a new use for this area that fits with Bellevue's heritage. We should also review

the abortion clinic on Mission, and figure out if this truly fits with our town and our shared vision. 2. Bellevue PD - We risk losing good officers to other areas if we don't pay them more. At the same time, we need to make sure that they have a set up which produces the best police work. 3. Regular town halls - Utilizing the process Appreciative Inquiry, I would like to work with small groups of citizens to find new solutions and create plans for growth and success

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Michael Knebel: This past year has shown us that a good police force must be supported by their community. I was fortunate enough to ride along with one of our officers this summer and see the variety of calls he responded to. Police are asked to do a lot in this community, and some things are better handled by other organizations or departments. How do we create a balance so that we have maximum individual freedoms in a city, while maintaining a level of comfort and safety? We pay the good cops well, and remove some of the tasks that are not specific to their scope of work. This can look like having mental health calls handled by professionals in that area. We can create simpler city laws around CBD so that these businesses are freer to operate. I would not vote to defund the police. They would be supported in their goal to maintain a safe and free Bellevue.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL - AT LARGE

Todd A Santoro (NP):

<http://santoro4council.com>

EDUCATION: *BA, History University of Iowa*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *1985-2001 - Army National Guard/Reserve Basic Training Fire Direction Control AIT Officer Candidate School Field Artillery Office Basic Course*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *European Special Olympics Coordinator Johnson County Iowa Historical Commision Goal Buddies Mentoring P4K Mentoring Bellevue Public Safety Foundation*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Todd A Santoro: My first priority is to work with the city government to prioritize the redevelopment of the Fort Crook Corridor and Downtown Bellevue. Both of these areas have economically degraded significantly and the current pandemic is only going to accelerate that. We need to review the development plan proposed 12 years ago for Ft Crook and get it started and at the same time bring residents and businesses to the downtown area. Next we need to energize our industrial and tech focus to bring those companies to Bellevue. Part of that is going to be looking at the border plan decided decades ago with Papillion. We need to expand our borders.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Todd A Santoro: Listen to Jeff Roberts, Bellevue's Public Works Director.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Todd A Santoro: 1. Civility and respect between our residents, elected officials, and City Employees. 2. Transparency to our residents from our City Government. Right now our City doesn't have metrics that our residents can hold our government accountable to. Many cities have defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with chart driven online dashboards providing regular updates to their citizens. There's no reason for us not to. 3. Returning the Voice of the Voters. Over the last few years there have been several instances of restricting the voters voice. From usurping the voters right of recall to removing the voter feedback at the end of the City Council meetings we disenfranchised our cities residents. While the speaking time at the end of the City Council meetings has some additional influences that must be addressed we should immediately rescind the ordinance providing the City Council with the ability to remove a City Councillor. The ordinance should go to voters at the next election

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Todd A Santoro: The cities surrounding us have taken substantial steps to grow their tax base, improve their demographics (businesses follow demographics), and improve their perception to potential residents and businesses. We have not only not improved, we have slipped back from our strengths from decades ago. Omaha's improvements to the thirteenth st corridor threaten to push Fort Crook past the point of no return. Papillion and La Vista, while significantly smaller than Bellevue, have made huge strides in improving their business environments and mid to higher end residential real estate. Our biggest long term challenge is to reinvigorate our cities business areas and our residential demographics so that Bellevue can be the jewel it is capable of. All of that while not losing the character that comes from being Nebraska's first city. We need to be Nebraska's First City again.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF GRETNA - MAYOR

Angie Lauritsen (NP): <http://angieforgretna.com>

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Gretna City Council Member - 2016 - Present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *NA*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Professional Communication Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *NA*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Board Member for Lift Up Sarpy County and Concord Mediation Center, Past Board Member for Survivors Rising and Gretna Chamber of Commerce, President – Greater Omaha Area Marine Parents, Organizer – Gretna HomeTown Heroes, Gretna Citizens Committee*

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Angie Lauritsen: Leading through growth. Gretna is about to face some major growth decisions. In 2021, the Nebraska Supreme Court will rule on our annexation. Their judgement means we'll either double in size or need to reevaluate what a future annexation looks like. Additionally, the census will be finalized and Gretna will move from a city of the second class to a city of the first class. This will bring administrative changes and additional staff needs for inspections and permitting. Employee management and workplace culture. We are losing institutional knowledge to neighboring communities due to culture and pay. Our employees need to know that they are valued and respected. Community participation and engagement. I will create new ways for citizens to get involved with our community and provide additional opportunities for residents to engage with what happens in and around Gretna.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Angie Lauritsen: Gretna's next mayor will need to have vast knowledge of our business and residential community, and a vision for the future that encompasses the next 20-plus years. I understand the challenges of bringing a business to Gretna—I've experienced them first-hand while looking for a storefront for my own business. Since being elected, the city council and I have worked to improve the processes, procedures, and fees that once served as roadblocks to aspiring Gretna developments. While these changes have brought us closer in line with neighboring communities, there's still work to be done to make us truly competitive. To look at the full picture for economic development, we must also talk about housing. It's increasingly hard to entice corporations, restaurants, and manufacturing companies to move to Gretna when we don't have housing for their employees. An increase in high-density housing would give families and young professionals the opportunity to plant roots in the greater Gretna area

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

Angie Lauritsen: Gretna has been fortunate to have few incidents of gun violence in the past, and I believe this has to do with our strong community structure and the strength of our relationship with the Sarpy County Sheriff's Department. My plan will build on those two strengths. I would ensure we have a positive, open relationship with our local sheriff's department and build on our history of working together for the common goal of a safe Gretna for all.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Angie Lauritsen: Gretna's next mayor has to be ready to hit the ground running with a deep knowledge of our local and regional issues, connections to the citizens, and relationships with stakeholders to get the work done. I have the experience, relationships, and knowledge to do the job. For the past nine years I've been actively involved in the community, connecting with residents and learning about what they care about most. I pride myself on being accessible. I broadly publish my email and phone number, regularly speak with citizens about their concerns, and work hard to provide solutions. The residents know me. They know that I will show up for them. They know that I will get the work done for them. They know that I will be a strong advocate for our community. And they know that because I've already demonstrated it over the last four years. I am the best candidate for mayor because I'll continue doing what I've done since moving to Gretna—advocating for our community and listening to our residents

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF GRETNA CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2

Kara Alexander (NP):

EDUCATION: *Currently finishing a degree in Nonprofit Administration and Fundraising*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *I am a Gold Star widow.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *13 year Board President of Matt's Music Memorial. 2 year Board Member for the Lincoln Continentals Chorus. Past Board Member of 17 other small nonprofits. Volunteer for many other organizations.*

John A Ellis (NP):

No response received

Lauren L Liebentritt (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kara Alexander: Gretna is a fast growing town. We need to support businesses opening here and encourage growth while considering the long term plan for our community. I believe the city has made some good strides in this in the last few years, but there is still plenty of work to be done. I would focus on having a strong working relationship with Sarpy County, Sarpy County Economic Development Corporation (a subsidiary of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce), and the State. The best advice I received when I started working at the Gretna Area Chamber of Commerce was just to show up. We can't advocate for our community if we aren't in the room. I would be in the room.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kara Alexander: In general, I don't think a lot of City wide changes are needed here. City crews work day and night during snow to make our city streets as safe as possible. Community wide my top priority would be 1) Hwy 6/31 & Hwy 370 followed by 2) access in and out of neighborhoods, paying extra attention to intersections that connect to the highway (Angus and Hwy 6/31 is a good example of a challenging intersection.) Many of the roads in our community are under County jurisdiction for plowing, or have an HOA or SID that hires independently. Communication with those organizations would also be a priority.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kara Alexander: 1) Community wide support. Because much of our community is not annexed or is caught up in the annexation currently in the courts, many of those families don't have direct representation. Yet, because they are a part of the cities ETJ, the city, city council, and mayor make many decisions that affect them. We should be communicating with, to, and on be half of them as well. They are a big part of Gretna's future. 2) Consideration of ideas. Several ideas have been proposed for our community in recent years and they are rarely considered by current leadership. I'd like to see proposed ideas have more research done and I'm willing to be the one who asks the tough questions. 3) Security at our city parks. I live next to a city park. I have a 1 year old who will play at our parks this summer. City parks should be safe places for our kids. Neither city staff nor parents should be picking up tobacco, drug, or liquor remnants from our parks. Let's set the rules and enforce them.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kara Alexander: Communication. Like it or not, Gretna is no longer a small town. School district numbers show that we are currently a community of 25,000+, and Heartland 2050 believes we will be a community of 50k by 2050. The small town word of mouth no longer works effectively. I want to see people and processes put in place to help city staff communicate with the community. Sarpy County just took on this initiative and discovered quickly they needed more than one person to handle it. The city needs staff hours dedicated to communication, not secondary to other important positions. And they need effective systems in place to back that staff up. We also need the whole community to have easier access to elected officials, more than just emails. And easier access for freedom of information requests. In today's world of technology, there is no reason to operate in a vacuum.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

John Pluta (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications Management*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, Open Door Mission, Bethlehem House, and St. John Vianney Church.*

Kevin Wetuski (NP):

No response received

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

John Pluta: My priorities for economic development would be to keep the momentum moving with the 84th Street project. Making sure that sustainable, long term partnerships are further developed and investigating what aspects need to be leveraged to fully utilize and enjoy the urbanization of the area. All while not losing sight on opportunities in other parts of the city as well. Especially Ward 4 where there is plenty to continue to build on and grow economically.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

John Pluta: My top priorities in an extreme weather event would be resources for emergency services and first responders. I would review or help develop a plan for specific events or scenarios. I would make sure all parties involved know their parts and the needed resources were in place to act on those plans. I would also work to make sure trials or simulations were run to confirm the plans work and that everyone knows their parts including communications to the citizens.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

John Pluta: My top priority would always be to do what I feel is best for future generations. Above all else I would make decisions that would benefit generations to come. My next priority would be make sure that city finances are held in check and that all expenses are bringing the most value. I would vigorously pursue any opportunity to lower expenses and taxes for citizens. My third priority would be transportation flow and safety. I would work to help improve the transportation system. Developing an infrastructure that allows for efficient travel to all parts of the city in an as environmentally friendly manner as possible is a key component to the future of our community.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

John Pluta: The biggest challenge I see at the moment is the 84th Street redevelopment. While this is one of the biggest opportunities for the city that I can remember it is also one filled with many moving parts. Constant vigilance will need to be payed so the citizens of the city can take full advantage of this opportunity. That challenge needs to be meet while not overlooking opportunities in other parts of the city. I would make sure to provide that vigilance and attention needed to take full advantage of this opportunity.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF PAPILLION CITY COUNCIL WARD 3

LuAnn Kluch (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Sarah Centineo (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *School Board Bellevue Public Schools 2016-current*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

EDUCATION: *BSN University of Iowa 1997 J.D. Creighton University 2011*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Executive Committee, Board Member, Legislative Committee- Nebraska Association for School Boards: Board of Governors- Iowa Association for Justice*

Jim Moudry (NP):

No response received

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Sarah Centineo: We have implemented one on one devices, a process that was in place before the pandemic, in order to do our best to make sure all our students have access to tablets and electronic learning tools. Broadband availability was studied by our district and that issue is being addressed on a student by student basis. It is important to recognize if the lack of availability was to due to service deficiencies or economic issues. To my knowledge we have not experienced significant gaps in coverage in our area, which I know we are grateful for.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Sarah Centineo: There is no magical answer to this problem, unfortunately. What we are doing and will continue to do is address the socio emotional issues our students have and provide resources to staff to handle these issues. Trauma in children is one of the biggest barriers to learning. We have to identify and address these issues with our students and their families. Safety of our teachers in the classroom is of the utmost importance. Communication with building and district administration is critical, we need the teachers to be able to talk honestly about what they are seeing so that it can be addressed.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Sarah Centineo: For Teachers: as a member of the NASB, I work with a statewide coalition to address the issues of teacher shortages. We have to work with higher education in order to ensure the training and education are available for future teachers. We also partner with higher education for student teacher internships and we implemented the Cadre program which has been successful in Bellevue. For Students: we have increased the accessibility of our AP courses to students, making these courses and the subsequent AP exams more accessible has encouraged students who were "on the bubble" to try something they might not have. We have also done away with traditional class ranking systems which was really an artificial and oft manipulated system that did not benefit students. We have added a new automotive lab and partnered with a local community college to offer real on the job training to those interested students. Showing and offering students different pathways to success will help more students.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

PAPILLION LAVISTA SCHOOL BOARD

Skip Bailey (NP):

No response received

Marcus Madler (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *N/A*

EDUCATION: *MBA from UNO in 2013 Bachelors Degree in Finance from UNL in 2008*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *N/A*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Board Member of Papillion-La Vista Schools Foundation since 2015 - Treasurer of the Papillion-La Vista Schools Foundation Board since 2019 - Treasurer and Board Member of Sarpy County Historical Society from 2013-2015*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Marcus Madler: With the current pandemic, there's at least a chance that the district will need to go full remote again before we're completely in the clear. Knowing that, the district should be prioritizing now how to make sure we can get a device in the hands of all the students that need one so we're ready if it happens. If we do need to go full remote and some students don't have the proper devices, they'll fall behind their peers and the longer that continues, the harder it'll be for those students to catch back up.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Marcus Madler: For the pandemic, the district needs to make sure the students and staff in the buildings continue to wear masks and practice social distancing where they can. I know the schools weren't designed to keep everyone 6 feet apart but the schools should look into all the classroom setups to accomplish this as best as possible. And where they can't keep people 6 feet apart, that's where the mask wearing is essential. I also think the district should be offering and setting up COVID testing for teachers that want to participate to give them better peace of mind being back in the classroom. This also would allow the district to catch some cases sooner and potentially stop a larger outbreak.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Marcus Madler: As a board member, I would make sure we have the right policies and people in place to open up more 21st century opportunities to students. This would include working with local Omaha area businesses to open up more high school internships or even have days for workshops where these businesses can come in to dive into the work that is being done in each to potentially spark interest in a student to pursue a previously unknown career path. For the teachers, the district needs to continue providing relevant and engaging continuing education courses so teachers stay up to date on the latest technology and trends to better help their students.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SAUNDERS COUNTY

SAUNDERS COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2

Doris M Karloff (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Saunders County Supervisor Chair of the Board of Supervisors current time from 2016 - 2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Saunders County Supervisor for nine terms. Yutan Public School Board for 2 terms.*

EDUCATION: *Business School graduate and additional education in Insurance, both life and liability and Government educational opportunities and leadership and character growth.*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None - Member American Legion Auxiliary, Yutan*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Stephen Ministry with Lutheran Church of the Master, Omaha*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Doris M Karloff: Economic Development for Saunders County is protecting our valuable farmland and recognizing growth in areas around the communities. We are a Livestock Friendly County and recognize the value of integrating through well managed Planning and Zoning Regulations.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Doris M Karloff: My priorities for extreme weather events is first of all protecting individuals and keeping them safe. Maintaining roads for travel whether it be for emergency vehicles or families moving themselves or livestock. Having a good Emergency Manager and Plan and volunteers with our Local Fire and Rescue. In this Pandemic of Covid 19, it is our Health Departments and medical staff and facilities that are on the front lines. And always our volunteers

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Doris M Karloff: Taxes are the highest priority. Valuations limits are set by state but the County tries to keep them at a level that is equalized. We have lowered our tax asking dollar for at least the last 6 years. Maintaining budgets so county dollars are spent wisely. Providing adequate dollars for our employees to continue the services offered to our citizens. Services are what we offer our citizens and we want to do our best.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Doris M Karloff: I am the best candidate for County Supervisor in District 2 because of my experience and leadership ability. I am dedicated. I am Chair of the County Board and also Chair of the NIRMA Board of Directors. NIRMA is our Risk Management Insurance Pool for all counties in Nebraska for Liability and Workers Compensation. My involvement on both the county and state level provides me with the opportunity to reach out to others for networking and valuable information. I am on the Region V Board, a 16 county organization which is for

Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Substance Abuse. I have been Chair for this Board for 14 years and continue on the Executive Board. I have been President of the Nebraska Association of Counties and served on the National Association of Counties Board. I have worked tirelessly for Saunders County whether for our new Hospital or Law Enforcement Center or our Senior Citizens or Youth and I am ready to continue serving the citizens of our County.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SAUNDERS COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 4

Scott Sukstorf (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Saunders County Supervisor 2016-2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Saunders County Supervisor for 4 terms*

EDUCATION: *High School Insurance License/Training Real Estate License/Training*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None A Member of the Sons of American Legion in Cedar Bluffs*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Auctioneer for numerous charity auctions*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Scott Sukstorf: To continue to maintain our agricultural farmland along with blending in commercial and residential development in the areas that work best for our county.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Scott Sukstorf: My priorities for an extreme weather event would be to put together a plan by working with our highway superintendent, our emergency manager, our county sheriff and local fire departments to ensure the safety for all residents of Saunders County and then to maintain all of our roads and utilities and all other infrastructure. Also work with FEMA and any other agencies to provided funding to rebuild our infrastructure.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Scott Sukstorf: One of my top priorities is to maintain and improve the quality of our roads. With the increased traffic and heavier loads we need to ensure the safety of everyone utilizing our road system. Another priority is to look for ways to lower our tax burden by working with all county departments to ensure that we manage our tax dollars wisely and effectively for the benefit of all county residents. I would like to continue to preserve agriculture in our county as well as adding new commercial and residential developments.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Scott Sukstorf: I feel I am the best candidate for county supervisor of district 4 because of my years of experience on the county board as well as my experiences of managing my farming operation and crop insurance business as well as working with the public with real estate and auctioneering. These diverse dealings have made me a problem solver and a well rounded individual who understands the challenges of multiple aspects of the county. Since I have lived here my entire 60 years of life I am very familiar with all the roads and infrastructure within my entire district as well as most of the entire county. Thank you for the support you have given me over the past years and I look forward to your continued support. Thanks, Scott

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF VALPARAISO

Cindy Elliott (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *None*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Current Treasurer Red Hats - Valparaiso. Active Volunteer with Nebraska Make a Wish Foundation. Past President of the American Legion - Millard South Baseball.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Cindy Elliott: First, understand all assets and expenses that the Village faces. Take an active role in reviewing the annual Audits and Budgets and curb unnecessary spending as applicable. Look at ways to promote Village Growth with Community Events.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Cindy Elliott: Develop a contingency plan on how to best address these type of events. Test the effectiveness with annual "mock" events and determine what worked well as identify areas that need improvement.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Cindy Elliott: 1.) Budget oversight - Understand how the Village spends their money and look at ways to improve their financial standing. 2.) Community growth - look at ways to entice people to want to move to the community with Clean up days and Community events for Village residents of all ages. 3.) Update and review existing Village Ordinances. The Village Ordinances have been dormant for many years with no new updates and no involvement from the existing

Board for enforcement. Work with Village Residents on how to best abide by these ordinances and make changes as applicable, most importantly encourage that all residents take pride in our community. With the ultimate goal of improving the Village of Valparaiso appeal to potential new residents and current residents alike.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Cindy Elliott: Encourage community involvement within the Village of Valparaiso. I would look at having community events that would encourage the community to be more active with attending the Monthly Town Board Meetings. The board is in place to be an advocate for all Village residents. Look at ways to encourage town residents to take pride in their community and look at new ideas to improve Valparaiso in hopes of encouraging new families to move to Valparaiso, as it is the Valley of Paradise.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF PRAGUE

Jeremy Stanislav (NP):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF CITY COUNCIL

Jordan Colwell (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *No public office held at this time.*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Scottsbluff City Councilman-2014-2018*

EDUCATION: *Doctorate in Business Administration, Master of Health Care Administration, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *United States Air Force Reserve Captain and Flight Nurse 2010-2016*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Riverside Discovery Center Zoo Board of Directors President, Nebraska Nurses Association-Legislative Advocacy Committee Member, Scottsbluff Family YMCA Board of Directors, Nebraska Foster Care Review Board, Member*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Jordan Colwell: If elected, I would work with citizens and businessmen on "growing our own" businesses and future employees. We can continue to try to promote our area to recruit new

companies but in the end, we need to make sure our local businesses are thriving and have the tools in place to continue to be successful. We need to make sure local businesses have access to the community college for workforce educational trainings, have relationships with other businesses in town, and make sure that every business owner that wants an online presence has the support they need. As a City, we need to make sure we are working cooperatively with others and are continuing to provide the following: 1. Public Transportation 2. Reliable utilities 3. Site locator 4. Facade Grant Programs 5. Promoting "shop local" opportunities 6. Ambassadors to potential industries and able to demonstrate what we have to offer.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Jordan Colwell: The Scotts Bluff County Entities have Region 22 Emergency Management that would be in charge of all extreme weather events. As a city Councilman, my top priority would be to make sure that all citizens are safe and have the resources they need by supporting Region 22.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Jordan Colwell: 1. Safety for our Citizens-continue to make sure that our city agencies have the tools they need to make sure our citizens are safe. For example, safe equipment at our parks, appropriate bike and pedestrian lanes, handicap accessible roads and sidewalks, adequate equipment for Police and Fire departments, and safe drinking water. 2. Landfill-The City's landfill will be reaching its life expectancy soon. A plan needs to be in place to determine where the future landfill will reside. 3. I want to see the city continue to invest in our current infrastructure with the possibility of having an overpass in town, an indoor swimming pool, and enhancements to Riverside Discovery Center Zoo.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Jordan Colwell: 1. Aging population-make sure that this population has what they need to live a long and prosperous life. For example, adequate health care resources, vast options for living arrangements, public transportation, and social activities. 2. Decline in population-continue to work with businesses to retain employees and recruit when necessary. Provide citizens with bike/walking trails, clean parks, and a social network to make sure that folks feel welcome to town. 3. Limited resources from the State of NE and the Federal Government-continue to lobby for more resources and work with the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and the League of municipalities to make sure our voices are heard in the Unicameral and Congress.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SEWARD COUNTY

SEWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Darrell J Zabrocki (Rep):

EDUCATION: *Bachelors degree in Personnel Management with a minor in Criminal Justice*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Seward County Habitat for Humanity Board for 5 years, church board member for 2 terms, and a reserve police officer for the Seward Police Department for 10 years.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Darrell J Zabrocki: There is an economic plan in place. The Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership works with the county and the other municipalities in the county around economic development. There has been good progress and the growth is accomplished with purpose. New growth is welcome as long as it compliments our existing industry. Seward County is largely agricultural in nature and we need a focus in this area. There have been some recent agricultural industries locate here and we need to encourage this type of growth. Any growth needs to take into account the local labor pool along with the available number of housing units in the county. We also need to have a clear idea as to the impact on the tax base. Any new industry needs to have a positive impact to the taxpayer in Seward County.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Darrell J Zabrocki: Communication with the public is very important. This can be accomplished using several means to include social media. People need to hear from local officials and be assured that all that can be done is being done. The emergency preparedness plan needs to be implemented and adjusted if necessary to meet the circumstances of the current event. Things often need to happen in the moment and those in charge need to be empowered to adjust planning to meet the current needs of our residents. First responders are key. Police, fire and rescue all need to be coordinated. There must be a central command to coordinate the event. Most of this should be included in a preparedness plan to include who makes the call for mutual aid from other jurisdictions, and when we need to involve the state and federal government to aid in search, rescue, and the rebuilding of the community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Darrell J Zabrocki: Address the inter-local agreement situation. These are necessary and provide some valuable services to area residents across a couple of counties. There seems to be issues between some county officials as well as issues between some officials and the Board. The turf wars need to cease and an equitable solution needs to be found. I have questions around the command structure at the Sheriff's Office. Seven command positions for a department of less than 20 appears excessive. I have met with the Sheriff and he assures me that there has not been an impact to the taxpayer with these changes. Maybe not for this year, I am more concerned with

the impact going forward. There needs to be a resolution around the Drug Task Force Commander at the Sheriff's Office. Currently he has a six-month term as the newly created Civilian Task Force Commander. If he is unable to certify with the Law Enforcement Training Center, then he needs to resign. This is a law enforcement position, not civilian.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Darrell J Zabrocki: My working career spans 50 years. During that time as a law enforcement officer and an insurance claims adjuster and manager I worked through legal and regulatory issues and problems on a regular basis. I have managed teams of various sizes and disciplines. I have been responsible for budgets (my last team budget was \$2.5 million dollars). I am familiar with expense control, fiscal responsibility, and efficiently achieving goals and objectives. I was active in the community as a board member for Seward County Habitat for Humanity for five years. I served two terms as a church board member for my church. I was a volunteer reserve police officer for the Seward Police Department **FOR** 10 years. I have now retired and have no other outside commitments and have no conflicts of interest. I will be a full-time commissioner and a full-time voice for the constituents of District 2 (Wards 3 and 4). I feel my experience and community involvement make me an excellent candidate for Commissioner.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF MILFORD - MAYOR

Scott Bashore (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Milford City Council Ward 1 11/2016 - Present*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Milford Fire and Rescue 23 years*

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Scott Bashore: Maintain existing growth and continue to **DEVELOP** future growth in the city of Milford.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Scott Bashore: Continue to work with local and county agencies to improve and expand economic growth in Milford.

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Scott Bashore: Longtime resident of Milford and longtime public service to the community with Milford Fire and Rescue provide me with the experience to maintain and help improve the characteristics and traditions that make Milford such a great city to live. My established trust and honesty with citizens of Ward 1 and the city as a whole make for an approachable and familiar face to count on for leadership and dependability. The city of Milford has had to handle many changes in city

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF MILFORD CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

Dean A. Bruha (NP):

No response received

Kelli Keib (NP):

EDUCATION: *High School Diploma*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Run Milford's Little Free Library*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Kelli Keib: Housing- Milford's population has had little growth in the last 30 years. We need to increase housing because people want to live here. Bringing in business to serve the growth in population. Keep more of the money spent by residents here in Milford.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Kelli Keib: Mobilization of Emergency Services and City Road Crews to aid in safety of residents.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Kelli Keib: Transparency in upcoming changes for the city and its residents. Involvement by the community needs to be encouraged. Housing development to encourage growth in population and tax base. That way our city has more financial resources to maintain itself. Preserving the integrity of the 'small town' feel while growing responsibly.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Kelli Keib: Growth and development. I plan to be a part of a Council that seeks more housing and business growth to serve the residents and maintain financial security looking towards the future.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF PLEASANT DALE

Leroy E. Trease (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VILLAGE OF UTICA

Gregory Ohlsen (NP):
CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Trustee, Utica Village Board, June, 2017-December, 2020*
PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Utica Planning Commission Chairman 1998-2013*
EDUCATION: *Bachelor of Arts, Hastings College, 1970*
MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *None*
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *I have served in many roles and on committees at Utica United Methodist Church.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Gregory Ohlsen: Economic development depends on the quality of the product, and Utica clearly has much to offer. I support the continued use of LB840 funds for new and existing businesses. The LB840 funds are generated by the sales tax increase of several years ago and have been used during my tenure to bring a new business to our downtown area.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Gregory Ohlsen: Extreme weather has been making the headlines this summer and early fall. It is important that the Village Board assists residents any way possible. We are committed to maintaining streets and public spaces, and to assuring continuation of public utilities and water supply. Residents also can be assured streets will be cleared of fallen trees and branches after storms and that snow removal is a priority.

**IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES?
PLEASE DETAIL.**

Gregory Ohlsen: From my perspective, the first of my top three priorities is to provide for all the various needs of the Village and stay within the adopted budget. That might seem simplistic, but the costs of governing a village are rising every year. Secondly, it is also of maximum importance to maintain a potable water supply. Thirdly, we must help solve the predicted Seward County housing shortage so that homes for rent or for sale are available in Utica.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Gregory Ohlsen: As is true in most communities, a major challenge for Utica is managing our budget to include funds for big ticket improvements and mandates. Currently, we are doing a major repair of our swimming pool and our water tower, and in the near future we will need to buy a new rescue unit. These challenges are addressed by frugal expenditure in every area of the budget and by applying for all available grants and extra funding available to our community.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SHERIDAN COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SHERMAN COUNTY

LOUP CITY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1

Scott Friesen (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Have been on the Loup City Public School Board for four years.*

EDUCATION: *Graduate of Loup City Public Schools in 1997, attended NCTA for two years, and finished in Lincoln at UNL.*

Michael D Kaminski (NP):

No response received

Kyle Kowalski (NP):

No response received

Janelle Krzycki (NP):

No response received

Kelli Loos (NP):

EDUCATION: *BS Agricultural Honors 1988, University of Nebraska - Lincoln MS Animal Science Reproduction 1990, University of Kentucky*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *4-H Leader 25+ years UMC Youth Group Leader UMC VBS Coordinator Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator Life on the Farm Educator 15+ years*

Loraine Panowicz (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Loup City School Board 2016-2020*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Loup City School Board 1998-2014*

EDUCATION: *College*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *FCE, 4-H, St. Josaphat's Catholic Church*

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVE ITS USE OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BROADBAND ACCESS, TO FOSTER BETTER EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES?

Scott Friesen: We have stayed up to date with our current technology efforts, the best way we can improve here is to become more proficient with our resources.

Kelli Loos: Our school has quickly adapted to the covid-19 pandemic with the roll out of home based learning using our existing laptops. In order to enhance the opportunities for technology in the long-term, we need to analyze what is available for programming, what can best be utilized by our teachers and what can most benefit our students. Once that is determined, we need to give the best possible training and support to our teachers, paras, and IT staff so that they can truly make the most of the technology and help our students achieve the greatest success. Throughout all of this pandemic, the greatest realization is that teachers and students want to be in the same room. However, we can supplement that interaction with proper and appropriate use of technology to enhance the learning experience.

Loraine Panowicz: Technology is always changing and having faster broadband access in rural Nebraska is much needed for both school and business. I believe we need reliable broadband at a reasonable price for our staff and students. Due to the current situation with Covid 19. I believe we've discovered that going one on one with I pads has helped LCPS to transition to at home education easier than we would have in the past. Parents from other school districts that have relatives attending LCPS have complemented us on our proactive use of technology.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Scott Friesen: We have plans in place and just keep practicing them so everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of an incident.

Kelli Loos: Our school has a strong locked-door policy and offers one main entrance at each building. In order to ensure continued safety, we need to make sure the surveillance cameras are properly positioned, adequately monitored and also properly connected to law-enforcement officials and school administrators. We also need to consider training for teachers, coaches and staff that are responsible for supervising students at off-campus activities to ensure that the safety standards practiced in our school are continued at all school functions.

Loraine Panowicz: We at LCPS are always looking at new ways to keep our students and staff safe. Over the years I have served on the school board we have went from being an open door institution to a locked down campus. We have installed cameras in our buildings and on our grounds. We have had our staff and students doing lockdown drills. The board is always looking ways not only to keep our students physically safe but also cyber safe, by offering trainings and have conversations with both parents and students.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, HOW DO YOU BEST ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY JOB MARKET?

Scott Friesen: I would like to see a better partnership with the community to make sure we are meeting the needs of it. Also never stop exploring more options to bring business back to rural Nebraska. We have a wonderful community and would like to see it grow.

Kelli Loos: Successful students need to learn not only academics but also life skills, people skills, relationship skills, communication skills, career skills, technology skills, professional skills, leadership skills, teamwork and integrity among other things. I will advocate for this by encouraging the hiring of passionate, professional teachers of the highest integrity that will not only model great ideals but will also use their talent and training to meet each student at their level and help them reach their full potential. I will also encourage input from teachers, staff, parents and students so that the atmosphere is continually positive and everyone feels like their voice and their opinion is important. This buy-in is essential to building a strong school that helps to build mutual support for a strong community. By being inclusive, everyone is willing to give their all and their best for the benefit of the students the school, the community and ultimately the future of the world.

Loraine Panowicz: I believe we need to build our curriculum from the standpoint of what do we want our students to learn. Then look at the resources need to accomplish that goal. I believe we need to offer our teachers professional development to ensure that our students have the best teachers possible. I believe that the ESUs help us to accomplish this goal.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

SIoux COUNTY

SIoux COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Joshua T Skavdahl (Rep):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Sioux County Commissioner 2009-present. Vice President, Board of Directors, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Panhandle District Representative NACO Board of Directors 2017-April 2019. 2nd Vice President NACO Board April 2019-December 2019*

EDUCATION: *Graduated from Sioux County High School and then the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a finance degree. Also studied finance at Oxford University and completed 2 internships in Washington DC (working for the Secretary of Ag and a Congressman)*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *2 years ROTC in college*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Member of the Harrison Memorial Methodist Church and serve as a trustee; serves with the Harrison Volunteer Fire Department and as secretary of the VFW Auxiliary.*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COUNTY?

Joshua T Skavdahl: Sioux County is largely a farming and ranching county. My priorities include maintaining a good infrastructure to get our products to market, and also to maintain good access to the state and federal parks in our area. I would also continue to support and work with the Northwestern Tourism Board to promote Sioux County as a tourist destination which would result in bringing revenue into our community.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Joshua T Skavdahl: In the case of an extreme weather event I would first assess the situation and decide whether or not it was necessary to declare an emergency. Then we would focus on making sure roads were open for the people with health issues or concerns to ensure they had access to proper health care. My next priority would be to ensure that the mail routes were open and running effectively to ensure vital prescription medicines could be delivered through the United States Postal Service, and finally, to ensure the rest of the roads be in a safe condition to allow for community members to go about their business and normal activities.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Joshua T Skavdahl: My top three priorities are keeping property taxes reasonably low, providing essential services to the constituents of Sioux County, and improving and maintaining our road systems.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION?

Joshua T Skavdahl: I have served as Sioux County Commissioner for the past 12 years. I have leadership experience and training at the local and State levels. I have been active in the Nebraska Association of County Officials, first at Panhandle District meetings and then as the

Panhandle District Representative for NACO since 2017. I am currently serving as NACO Vice President and slated to be President of the Board of Directors in 2021. I plan to continue making a voice for the Panhandle and Western Nebraska. I first became involved in politics because I wanted to make a difference. As a commissioner I have tried to keep property taxes reasonable but still provide essential county services. Property owners in Sioux County have paid two-thirds to half the property taxes of citizens of neighboring counties over the past ten years. I am committed to keeping property taxes low and continue serving the constituents of Sioux County to the best of my abilities.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

STANTON COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

THAYER COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

THOMAS COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

THURSTON COUNTY

VILLAGE OF EMERSON

Mark Graf (NP):

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *City Council, City of Arapahoe 1998 – 2001 Mayor, City of Arapahoe 2002 – 2006*

EDUCATION: *Arapahoe High School 1976 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bachelor of Science in Agriculture 1980*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *20 years with Arapahoe Fire and Rescue 8 years Asst. Fire Chief 9 years Fire Chief 7 years with South Central Rope Rescue 7 years as Chief 10 years with Critical Incident Debriefing team 5 years Emerson Fire and Rescue*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Mark Graf: I would work on the town's infrastructure to have sites ready for businesses to move to our town. I would work with existing businesses to help find ways to upgrade, promote, improve, or expand their business to bring more customers or employees to Emerson. I would work with the Planning Board to identify areas for growth in Emerson.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Mark Graf: Extreme weather covers a lot of things. The first priority would be life safety and emergency care of our residents. My next top priorities would be to restore utilities (water, electricity & sewer) to all residents and businesses, have streets cleared to provide safe movement, and work with Emergency Management to provide shelter if needed, as well as providing a designated location for downed trees. If major damage to homes and businesses were to occur, another top priority would be to work with Emergency Management and the State to provide a site to safely store and process debris.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Mark Graf: To recruit and encourage businesses to locate in Emerson. I'd re-examine our economic development program, work with both area economic development programs and with State programs. Other ways of helping attract businesses are Tax Increment Financing and block grant programs. The Village needs an inventory of available places for rent or purchase to expand our business district. I'd work on increasing the housing available in Emerson by identifying areas where housing could be built and by obtaining Block grants to improve housing in Emerson to make homes more energy efficient. I'd also work on cleaning up lots and areas that are a health hazard, by assessing the Village a couple of times a year and working with the property owner to decide on a plan to remove the hazards. I'd explore opportunities to have services the Village contracts out to be provided by local or regional providers. Area providers have a better understanding of our village's issues.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Mark Graf: Our biggest challenge is to draw more people to Emerson. Improving Main Street and attracting more businesses will draw more people to our town. Adding more housing will also attract more people. These two things go hand and hand, and by utilizing Planning and Zoning, areas can be created to be ready for businesses and homes to move in or be built quickly and efficiently.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

VALLEY COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WASHINGTON COUNTY

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT 5

Jay P Anderson (Rep):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT 7

Kevin Barnhill (Rep):

No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WAYNE COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WEBSTER COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

WHEELER COUNTY

No contested races and/or no candidates opted in.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

YORK COUNTY

CITY OF HENDERSON - MAYOR

Wesley Peters (NP):

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Henderson Fire & Rescue 1991-1994*

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE? PLEASE DETAIL.

Wesley Peters: 1. Completion of street paving projects 2. Community Center advancement 3. Housing increase

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?

Wesley Peters: Economic development is a priority to continue the growth of Henderson. Attracting new businesses to town is a priority. That in itself can help grow a community.

WHAT MEASURES DO YOU ADVOCATE FOR KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE?

Wesley Peters: Eliminate "Gun Free" zones. Allow legal/trained citizens to carry firearms everywhere. Mass murder events occur where easy victims are located.

WHY ARE YOU THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Wesley Peters: I am a fair and level headed candidate. I have no agenda coming into this election. I am not a candidate that will be swayed by special interests if it isn't for the betterment of the community.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

CITY OF YORK CITY COUNCIL

Karen Harris (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *none*

EDUCATION: *UNL bachelor of science in journalism and home economics*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *none*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *York General Hospital Auxillary UNMC Board of Counselors Friends of Lied Lied Statewide Advisory Ak-Sar-Ben local representative*

Vicki Northrop (NP):

No response received

Stephen R Postier (NP):

No response received

Mathew Wagner (NP):

CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *City Council Member 2016 to Present*

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *Not Applicable*

EDUCATION: *B.S. Multidisciplinary Studies,*

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: *Retired from the United States Army as a First Sergeant. Occupation Specialties were Infantry, Recruiter, and Career Counselor. 27 years of military leadership and associated courses for career progression*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *York Veteran's Avenue of Flags, York Junior Chamber of Commerce. Team Mates. American Legion. Veteran's of Foreign Wars.*

Diane Wolfe (NP):

PAST PUBLIC OFFICE, DATES HELD: *City Council 2007-2018*

EDUCATION: *High School Graduation*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: *Local Animal Shelter, City Functions, Past Youth Group Leader, Dog Obedience Training Assistant and photographer*

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE?

Karen Harris: Continue to fund York County Development Corporation to provide safe affordable housing to attract potential employees for new and existing York businesses. Promote approval of LB840 to provide sustainable funding for business development.

Mathew Wagner: I have always been a proponent to see York grow. I support our current commitment to our Development Corporation of \$80,000 a year. If in the future additional funds are available I would like to see additional support if feasible.

Diane Wolfe: The city has a great partnership with YCDC. Housing for middle income families is becoming available. We need to make jobs with a higher pay scale a priority along with keeping our downtown businesses open. This would include jobs for both women and men and include both trades school type jobs and professional.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES IN AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Karen Harris: The two most probable extreme events, in my opinion would be tornadoes and blizzards. My priority would be to work with and review with York County Emergency manager to have protocols in place to provide emergency services for citizens impacted by these weather events.

Mathew Wagner: The people are always the most important part of any problem that affects a community. Because Nebraska weather is so unpredictable and the type of event is not defined, this question is not easy to answer. Based on the event, the scope and impact would have to be evaluated before action is taken after we ensure the safety of our citizens. People cannot be replaced, everything else can be replaced.

Diane Wolfe: Being an insurance agent and married to a police officer, I have attended yearly weather training classes for many years. Safety is of course the top priority. Working with law enforcement and first responders in setting up a plan to do whatever is necessary. This would include a base camp to organizing meals, clean up, and other types of help needed.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES? PLEASE DETAIL.

Karen Harris: 1. Continued improvement in transparency of city government 2. Maintaining and improving city infrastructure by reviewing and updating the comprehensive plan on a regular basis 3. Continue to provide for public safety of our residents by supporting and adequately funding our police & fire departments

Mathew Wagner: In our community it is important to me that we limit the waste of our resources. We need to manage our budgets and not spend them. The monies we spend belong to the taxpayer and they deserve to have the best return on their tax dollar. Maintaining our existing facilities is very important. Why continue to add capital assets if we are not maintaining our existing assets? Before adding to our communities, we need to maintain what we already have before adding additional burdens to our budgets. Streets and utilities within a community require attention. We must always be mindful of what our community needs to keep our infrastructure in a serviceable state and avoid large projects that need to be bonded because of neglect.

Diane Wolfe: Maintaining a balanced budget while making sure we purchase what is needed for each department so that we do not fall behind and maintain what we have as far as buildings. Working with York Community Development Corporation in conjunction with bringing businesses to York which would create jobs, and also the development of housing. Funding for maintaining our current buildings. We need to come up with a plan that would cover the cost of big expenditure items for all of the city buildings instead of letting them go and not fixing them. Items such as a new roof, heating/air, even windows can all be costly as we are finding out. Make sure we apply for and use any grants and funding that is available for these types of items.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT?

Karen Harris: Safe affordable housing which is needed to attract an adequate workforce to support new and existing businesses in York. Accomplishing this through continued support of Y.C.D.C, encouraging LB 840 support and actively participating in all State of Nebraska business incentives.

Mathew Wagner: Our community has added multiple positions that required the addition of salaries, benefits, vehicles, and assets. We have also added several big ticket items that have added hundreds of thousands of dollars to our annual budget, and millions in bond debt. Unfortunately it was not realized that as the expenses were greatly increased, revenues did not increase to meet the new debt and cash reserves were depleted. We are in a recovery phase to build our reserves and rebuild. I feel that we need to continue to reduce wasteful spending, limit unneeded positions, cut expenses, and build back our reserves.

Diane Wolfe: Jobs and shopping locally. Overall our community does a great job at trying to shop local, but there are too many times that either because of price or because it is not offered here, people go out of town. Once people go out of town for one item, it is too easy to get everything out of town. There are also people that have jobs in Lincoln, so will shop in Lincoln. We are not bringing in the revenue that we could be because of this. We don't have the type of jobs for people to make a living off of. It is too easy to drive 50 miles for the higher pay wage.

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

YORK SCHOOL BOARD

Nancy Davidson (NP):
No response received

******* VOTE EARLY! *******

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

OVERSEAS VOTERS

Voters maintain their right to vote when they are serving in the military or are temporarily living outside the United States through the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. Nebraska participates in the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) process, which simultaneously registers applicants to vote, as well as mails them an Early Voting ballot. It is important to note that the MOVE Act requires that overseas voters send an early voting request EACH calendar year (see Resource Links).

*******VOTE TODAY! *******

HOMELESS VOTERS

Homeless citizens, who are otherwise eligible to vote, have the right to cast their ballots. The address of a homeless shelter or a day center can serve as their address of record. Also acceptable is the address of the local Election Commissioner or County Clerk's office.

*******VOTE TODAY! *******

FORMER FELONS & INCARCERATED PERSONS AWAITING TRIAL

In 2005, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB53, which automatically restores the right to vote to the former felon TWO YEARS AFTER they have:

- completed their prison sentence, AND
- finished parole.

To verify that you are eligible, visit with your local County Clerk or Election Commissioner, or complete a voter registration form.

*******VOTE TODAY! *******

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

By law, each precinct must provide at least one device for persons with disabilities to vote unassisted and in private. If you cannot read, are blind, or have a physical disability, you can request assistance when completing your ballot on election day. A friend or relative can assist you or you can request the assistance of two election board members – each from a different party.

Technology makes exercising your right to vote more inclusive and is utilized by Nebraska with both optical scan and direct recording electronic machines at precincts.

*******VOTE TODAY! *******

VOTER REGISTRATION

Registering to vote is your civic responsibility and allows you to have a voice. If you plan to vote for the first time – congratulations!

Nebraska allows those who are 17, but turn 18 by the general election on Nov. 3, to vote in the 2020 primary election.

If you have registered in the past but haven't voted regularly, it is important to VERIFY your registration. Your voter registration is required to be updated when moving, changing names, or changing parties (see Resource Links).

*******VOTE TODAY! *******

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Provisional ballots are used to record your votes when there is a question about your voter eligibility. This discrepancy must be resolved before your votes are counted.

To avoid this situation, verify your voter registration no later than October 16.

If you receive a provisional ballot at your precinct, verify that it was validated and counted (see Resource Links).

*******VOTE TODAY! *******

RESOURCE LINKS

Early Voting (Vote-by-Mail) Application – English: <https://bit.ly/2RZtq39>

Early Voting (Vote-by-Mail) Application – Spanish: <https://bit.ly/3eCl37r>

Drop Box Locations : <https://bit.ly/3k7aYC9>

Election Commission/County Clerk offices: <https://bit.ly/2S1kbj3>

Voter Registration/Provisional Ballot check: <https://bit.ly/2x0duX3>

Overseas Voters: <https://bit.ly/2Vxx2vD>