Primary Election - May 10, 2016

ANDY SHAMBAUGH: No response received.

JEFFREY LYNN STEIN: No response received.

DO YOU FEEL INCOME DISPARITY IS AN ISSUE IN AMERICA? IF SO, WHAT STEPS CAN CONGRESS TAKE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE?

DON BACON: Yes, it is a major issue. Overly intrusive government regulations (3,500 per year) and a complicated tax code (78,000 pages) have made it very difficult for small businesses and innovators to open their doors and to expand, which has hurt upward mobility in our country. Small business is the engine of our economy and its regulations (3,500 per year) and a complicated tax code (78,000 pages) have made it very difficult for small businesses and innovators to open their doors and to expand, which has hurt upward mobility in our country. Small business is the engine of our economy and its construction quality and efficiency. Our corporate tax rates are highest in the free world. We need to do away with the regulations (3,500 per year) and a complicated tax code (78,000 pages) have made it very difficult for small businesses and innovators to open their doors and to expand, which has hurt upward mobility in our country. Small business is the engine of our economy and its construction quality and efficiency. Our corporate tax rates are highest in the free world. We need to do away with the regulations (3,500 per year) and a complicated tax code (78,000 pages) have made it very difficult for small businesses and innovators to open their doors and to expand, which has hurt upward mobility in our country. Small business is the engine of our economy and its construction quality and efficiency. Our corporate tax rates are highest in the free world. We need to do away with the regulations (3,500 per year) and a complicated tax code (78,000 pages) have made it very difficult for small businesses and innovators to open their doors and to expand, which has hurt upward mobility in our country. Small business is the engine of our economy and its construction quality and efficiency. Our corporate tax rates are highest in the free world. We need to do away with the regulations (3,500 per year) and a complicated tax code (78,000 pages) have made it very difficult for small businesses and innovators to open their doors and to expand, which has hurt upward mobility in our country. Small business is the engine of our economy and its construction quality and efficiency. Our corporate tax rates are highest in the free world. We need to do away with the

STEVEN LAIRD: No response received.

CHIP MAXWELL: No response received.

We need to ensure our intelligence agencies and the military are working closely together to thwart terrorism threats from abroad. There needs to be information sharing with the FBI and other domestic law enforcement agencies if international threats are trying to infiltrate the United States. We should always respect the Constitutional rights of our citizens while doing our absolute best to protect our nation from attacks.

STEVEN LAIRD: No response received.

CHIP MAXWELL: No response received.

ANDY SHAMBAUGH: No response received.

JEFFREY LYNN STEIN: No response received.

HOW SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT BALANCE NATIONAL SECURITY WITH PERSONAL PRIVACY?

DON BACON: No response received.

STEVEN LAIRD: No response received.

CHIP MAXWELL: No response received.

ANDY SHAMBAUGH: No response received.

JEFFREY LYNN STEIN: No response received.
WHAT ARE SOME STEPS CONGRESS CAN TAKE TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH?

DISTRICT 2

BRAD ASHFORD: No response received.

DON BACON: I’ve commanded five organizations in the Air Force to include one with nearly 8,000 personnel and another at nearly 7,000. I know we get more done when we act with civility towards each other. James Madison designed our Federal government with three equal branches and checks and balances to prevent any one branch from dominating. This requires our elected leaders to seek common ground on important issues. I’ll work with the Executive Branch to tackle fundamental threats that are undermining the strength of our nation, and I know solving them will involve difficult choices. We must stop adding to the huge national debt or suffer one day a financial catastrophe. We need to rein in a bureaucracy that is harming small businesses and crippling our economy. We have a growing terrorist threat that we must defeat. These issues are extraordinarily difficult and require the Executive and Legislative Branches working together. I will do so in a manner that will make Nebraskans proud.

STEVEN LAIRD: No response received.

CHIP MAXWELL: No response received.

ANDY SHAMBAUGH: No response received.

JEFFREY LYNN STEIN: No response received.

IF ELECTED, WHAT TWO THINGS DO YOU HOPE TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE END OF YOUR TERM?

DISTRICT 2

BRAD ASHFORD: No response received.

DON BACON: 1. I want to get our nation on an improved economic footing by creating a better environment for our small businesses and farming communities to expand and hire more people. Strengthening our nation’s financial health will also involve making difficult budgetary decisions to reduce deficit spending. I want to have us on a trajectory that balances our federal budget. 2. I want to ensure we have peace through strength. Our military needs improved modernization and training, but also needs reforms that reduce the oversized headquarters’ staffs and fixes the outdated and expensive acquisition processes. We need a strategy that defeats ISIS, and a deterrence strategy that reduces the likelihood for war with Russia, Iran and North Korea. These three nations respect strength and a firmness that reflects our values, and they are tempted to act recklessly when they perceive weakness. We should treat our best and a firmness that reflects our values, and they are tempted to act recklessly when they perceive weakness. We should treat our best and a firmness that reflects our values, and they are tempted to act recklessly when they perceive weakness. We should treat our best

STEVEN LAIRD: No response received.

CHIP MAXWELL: No response received.

ANDY SHAMBAUGH: No response received.

JEFFREY LYNN STEIN: No response received.

STATE LEGISLATURE

DISTRICT 5

GILBERT AYALA (R)

No response received.

MIKE MCDONNELL (D)
Address: 5401 A Street

DISTRICT 7

NICOLE FOX (R)
Address: 105 South 9th Street #405, Omaha 68102

JOHN SYNOWIECKI (D)
Address: 2451 South 27th Ave. Omaha, NE 68105

TONY VARGAS (D)
Address: 713 Caniglia Plaza, Omaha, NE 68108
Website: http://www.vargasfornebraska.com. Current public office, dates held: Omaha Public Schools Board of Education, Subdistrict 9 (October 2013 - present). Occupation: Education Consultant. Age: 31. Engaged to Lauren Micek. Education: Bachelor of Arts, University of New York - Rochester; Masters of Education, Pace University. Volunteer experience: -Founding Board Member, New Leaders Council - Omaha; Douglas County Democratic Party Executive Board; Member, Dahlam Neighborhood Association; Member, GI Forum; Parishioner, St. Francis Cabrini Church.

TONYA WARD ()
NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

DISTRICT 9

VAN ARGYRAKIS (R)
Address: Omaha, NE

SARA HOWARD (D)
Address: 132 North 40th Street, Omaha, NE 68131
Website: http://www.sarafornbraska.com. Current public office, dates held: State Senator from District 9, elected in 2012. Past public office, dates held: NA. Occupation: Grant writer and consultant. Age: 34. Married to Doug Schroder, no children. Education: Graduated from Dueschne Academy. Undergraduate degree from Smith College and law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Military: NA. Volunteer experience: Board Member, Omaha Schools Foundation; Board member, Live Well Omaha; Member, League of Women Voters; current or former volunteer for Friends of the Omaha Public Library and Film Streams Ruth Sokolof Theatre.

LARRY ROLAND (R)
No response received.

DISTRICT 11

ERNIE CHAMBERS (NP)
No response received.

FONTE HAMILTON (D)
No response received.

JOHN SCIARA (R)
Address: 4038 Seward Street Apt 1 Omaha, NE 68111

DISTRICT 13

JILL BROWN (D)
Address: 6322 Girard St Omaha, NE 68152

MARK G. ELWORTH JR (R)
Address: 2864 Whittmore St Omaha NE 68106

JAKE SEEMAN (D)
Address: 5719 Henninger Drive, Omaha NE 68104

JUSTIN WAYNE (D)
Address: 8937 North 56 Ave. Cir. Omaha, NE 68152

THE READER | APRIL 2016
member of Omaha Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and mentor to over ten children in District 13.

DISTRICT 31
RICK KOLOWSKI (D)
No response received.

PETER H. MAYBERRY (R)
No response received.

IAN M. SWANSON (R)
No response received.

DISTRICT 39
BILL ARMBRUST (D)
Address: 8606 N 216th street Elkhorn, NE 68022
Website: http://BillArmbrust.com. Current public office, dates held: President Elkhorn Suburban Fire District. Past public office, dates held: State Committee Farm Service Agency from 2011 to 2015. Occupation: Cattlemen/Farmer. He is a Cap- 

ton in Special Forces currently Deployed Central Command Qatar, Stationed at Fort Bragg NC. Volunteer experience: Locally:Bethany Lutheran Church- various committees and functions. Elkhorn elementary middle school and High School activities, Douglas County Fair, Elkhorn youth sports, Kingswood youth baseball, continuously in many community functions for 50 years.

PAT BORCHERS (R)
Address: 19264 Shirley St., Omaha NE 68130

LOU ANN LINEHAN (R)
No response received.

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON VOTER ID LAWS AS IT PERTAINS TO VOTING?

DISTRICT 5
GILBERT AYALA: No response received.

MIKE MCDONNELL: I do not believe that there should be undue barriers to the democratic process and voting; voter ID laws pose such barriers. The senior citizen that does not have an ID card beyond their neighborhood social organization should not be turned away at the polls because of not having a driver’s license. The student at UNL from Kearney should not be turned away at the polls because their drivers license address does not match their polling location on campus. We should be encouraging people to partake in the democratic process, not discouraging them.

DISTRICT 7
NICOLE FOX: I strongly believe that it is every U.S. citizen’s right and responsibility to vote. We must assure that all votes are cast by only eligible citizens and thus I support requiring a valid form of identification when voting. We must make sure citizens have easy access to acquire a form of valid ID for this purpose.

JOHN SYNOWIECKI: As a former State Senator I have not, and if re-elected, I will not support voter ID initiatives. Nothing is more fundamental to our democracy than the right to vote and I am not aware of any credible evidence that in-person voting fraud is prob- lematic in Nebraska. These laws tend to disproportionately impact low-income and minority voters. I will not support creating any bar-

riers to full participation in our democracy.

TONY VARGAS: I do not support Voter ID legislation or any mea-
sures that would make it more difficult for Nebraskans to vote.

TONYA WARD: No response received.

DISTRICT 9
VAN ARGYRAKIS: Not a bad idea. It would encourage people to comply with the Real ID Act.

SARA HOWARD: I oppose any efforts that would make it more difficult for Nebraskans to exercise their fundamental right to vote. There is no credible evidence of voter fraud, particularly in Nebras- ka. Requiring voters to obtain an ID to vote leads to increased gov-
ernment costs and undue expenses for those voters without a driver’s license. This is particularly unfair to low-income and elderly voters.

LARRY ROLAND: No response received.

DISTRICT 11
ERNIE CHAMBERS: No response received.

FONTE HAMILTON: No response received.

JOHN SCIARA: I support voter ID but I would also support using Voter ID to allow for same day registration on election day.

DISTRICT 13
JILL BROWN: Broadly, I support efforts to minimize the impact of our elections being fraudulent. However, I remain unconvinced that this is a widespread phenomenon. Most voter ID laws will be dis-proportionately restrictive to the people who do not readily have access to documentation (people living in poverty, immigrants, elderly, young voters, recent name changes). Strict voter laws can reduce voter turn out among these groups that most need representation in government. I believe that encouraging as much participation in the democratic process as possible is crucial. Providing some form of documentation at the time of registration should be adequate. I am aware that Nebraska is one of the remaining states without a voter id law. I would oppose the use of photo id’s but would give consider- 
ation to arguments to enact non strict measures such as post elec- tion verification by the election commission in issues where fraud is suspected.

MARK G. ELWORTH JR: 100% Against Voter ID Laws.

JAKE SEEMAN: Voter ID Laws are prohibitive to voting. I’ve previ-ously worked on campaigns and seen that even in Nebraska where an ID is not required to vote that people will still try to restrict people from voting if they don’t have an ID. Voter ID laws discriminate against the young, the elderly, and disadvantaged communities.

JUSTIN WAYNE: I am against restricting voting rights. There is no evidence of widespread abuse or voter fraud in Nebraska or across the country. These kinds of procedures are being put in place to slow the process down and make it likely that fewer poor people, Hispanics, and/or African Americans might vote. That is flat out wrong, and I oppose it. We should be focusing on increasing voter turnout; not decreasing it.

DISTRICT 31
RICK KOLOWSKI: No response received.

PETER H. MAYBERRY: No response received.

IAN M. SWANSON: No response received.

DISTRICT 39
BILL ARMBRUST: I believe we should eliminate all barriers for citizens to participation in democracy. Until it has proven to be a problem, I oppose photo ID and documentary proof of citizen’s register-
ation. PAT BORCHERS: I believe that identification should be shown in order to vote, as it is in renting a hotel room, picking up prescription drugs, and hundreds of other activities. I would make voter identifi-
cation cards free to those who do not have a government ID such as a driving license or a passport. I would also allow a person to vote without identification if a poll worker recognizes the person to whom he or she claims to be and signs a form affidavit to that effect.

LOU ANN LINEHAN: No response received.

HOW WOULD YOU ASSURE ALL NEBRASKANS HAVE AC-
CESS TO HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE?

DISTRICT 5
GILBERT AYALA: No response received.

MIKE MCDONNELL: I believe that community-based health care should continue to receive more funding. It is important that people are able to access high quality, affordable health care in their own communities. Lack of transportation or accessibility to clinics should not prevent citizens from receiving quality health care.

DISTRICT 7
NICOLE FOX: I am a health care professional, not a career politi-
cian. In my work, I have had access to many different approaches from across the country. I will continue to work to find innovative new ways to increase access to healthcare. I believe in transparency and a patient’s right to shop. I support the Direct Primary Care model. The Federal Government is already breaking promises made with the passage of the Affordable Care Act. It would be irresponsible to add to the State’s burden knowing this. I am not willing to risk dramatic cuts to education and infrastructure funding based on a Washington D.C. promise.

JOHN SYNOWIECKI: As a past member of the Appropriations Committee, to help insure access to care, I consistently advocated for competitive rate increases within the Medicaid and Regional Behav-
ioral Health systems. I also introduced legislation (LB 517) amend-
ing the Employment Investment Growth Act (LB775) to require, as a condition to receiving tax credits, health care benefits for new employees. In the current session, I support the Transitional Health Insurance Program Act. This important initiative seeks to establish eligibility for individuals that fall in a coverage gap in which they are ineligible for traditional Medicaid coverage but have incomes below 100% FPL, making them ineligible for Health Insurance Marketplace subsidies to make insurance affordable.
TONY VARGAS: Nebraska can and should be doing more to increase access to quality, affordable health care. As the school board member representing the neighborhoods of downtown and South Omaha, and the son of Peruvian immigrants that worked multiple jobs to take care of our family, this is an issue that hits close to home. More than 4,300 Omahans in my district alone (downtown and South Omaha) -- the highest number of any district in the state -- do not have health insurance because they cannot afford private insurance and do not currently qualify for Medicaid. People who work hard every day should never have to choose between putting healthy food on the table for their kids and making sure they have access to quality, affordable health care. I strongly support expanding Medicaid to cover the working Nebraskans that still fall in a health insurance coverage gap. It's a common sense solution that will keep our workers healthy, our communities and families strong, and will keep our economy growing.

TONY WARD: No response received.

DISTRICT 9

VAN ARGYRAKIS: Recruit foreign physicians to enter practice in Nebraska. When I was a student at UNMC, many students stated in their interviews that they’d go back to their hometowns to practice just so they’d be accepted. Student Loan Forgiveness for Medical Professionals who come and serve in Nebraska.

SARA HOWARD: We need to pass a bi-partisan initiative represented in LB 1032 to expand Medicaid coverage. This will access funds available to all states and inject $1 billion into Nebraska’s economy. This ripple effect on the economy has been the universal experience of 31 states which have already expanded Medicaid. This action will begin solving the challenges of more than 97,000 uninsured Nebraskans.

LARRY ROLAND: No response received.

DISTRICT 11

ERNIE CHAMBERS: No response received.

FONTE HAMILTON: No response received.

JOHN SCIARA: The best method of providing Nebraskans access to health care is to improve job opportunities for those who do not currently have jobs that provide for healthcare.

DISTRICT 13

JILL BROWN: First and foremost, I support the current bill in the Legislature (LB1032) as a step towards increasing the number of Nebraskans who have access to high quality affordable health care. I believe access to health care is a right and should not be left to a roll of the economic dice. Further, I would work collaboratively with other Legislators and interest groups to find ways to assure care. I would look at requirements for wellness programs that would reduce costs by providing primary care and preventative care that will reduce utilization of emergency rooms. On a personal note, this issue is close to my heart. Last year through the ACA my brother, who has worked for 27 years at minimum wage jobs has been able to access health care for the first time. In his case it has reduced his reliance on more expensive urgent care and given him an opportunity to pro-actively treat chronic medical conditions and avoiding disability and live with some security and dignity.

MARK G. ELWORTH JR: I can't. It's to big of a problem for me to fix. The government's job isn't to provide healthcare. They tried to fix it, but messed it all up. But I'll work on the legalization of medical marijuana so people can have access to natural medicine and not be forced to take all the dangerous drugs the drug companies are pushing.

20 people die every week in Nebraska from prescription drugs. I also promote healthy living and healthy eating. I will also fight to keep chemicals out of our environment and water supplies by pushing for organic farming. Get at the cause of the sickness, and we're getting sick from eating and drinking all this bad stuff. We're basically making ourselves sick. Change our habits and we'll be healthier.

JAKE SEEMAN: A central tenant of my campaign is expanding Medicaid. Medicaid expansion needs to happen. There are 70,000 people who need access. It's already paid for by our tax dollars the federal government is trying to give us our money back. I say we take it.

JUSTIN WAYNE: I will push for legislation that will ensure that all Nebraskans have access to low-cost high-quality health care. During my time on the OPS board, I helped launch healthcare clinics inside of our schools. We partnered with Charles Drew and One World to make sure more students and their families had access to high quality healthcare. As a State Senator, I will increase the number of insured Nebraskans, fully fund mental health services, and integrate mental health care with physical health care. It's time to put action behind the great sense of hope the people of District 13 have. I will build a bipartisan coalition of elected officials to forge solutions that will grow the economy and eliminate waste. I will fight to provide resources in a responsible way to those who need it the most. We can implement Medicaid expansion, while increasing funding for education.

RICK KOLOWSKI: No response received.

PETER H. MAYBERRY: No response received.

IAN M. SWANSON: No response received.

DISTRICT 31

BILL ARMBRUST: First, let’s expand Medicaid across Nebraska. To not accept federal money to expand Medicaid is reckless. It is time that we stop paying taxes so that other state’s can expand Medicaid. Let’s take care of those in need in Nebraska with those dollars instead of through are insurance premiums, understaffed health care centers, and personal bankruptcies. Other healthcare priorities would be improving rural, disability and mental healthcare.

PAT BORCHERS: I support Sen. Riepe’s LB 817, which would allow patients to enter into Direct Primary Care contracts with general practice physicians and nurse practitioners for routine, preventative services. In exchange for a modest monthly charge -- akin to a utility bill -- patients would be able to obtain services such as annual physicals, care of earaches, and innumerable other basic services. Such an agreement, coupled with a catastrophic insurance policy, would allow Nebraskans not covered by an employer or government-sponsored insurance policy access to health services. In general, I believe that transparent pricing and market mechanisms hold much greater promise for better health outcomes than does increased government regulation of the health care industry.

LOU ANN LINEHAN: No response received.

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON FUNDING THE MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADE OF NEBRASKA ROADS BY EARMARKING CASH RESERVE FUNDS TO BUILD AND REPAIR ROADS?

GILBERT AYALA: No response received.

DISTRICT 5

MIKE MCDONNELL: While campaigning and talking to the people in my district, the number one issue that is brought up is the condition of our roads. I have roads in my district that have never been paved. Currently, there is a $2.25 gas tax that is to be allocated for maintaining and upgrading our roads but that money isn’t being tracked in a way that citizens can find out how much of their tax is being spent in their own neighborhoods. I would like to see a percentage of that tax stay within the neighborhood in which it was collected.

DISTRICT 7

NICOLE FOX: I support a sensible approach toward the funding of our roads and infrastructure. The infrastructure bank is an interesting idea with much potential. I must be assured that we will not deplete our cash reserve beyond a prudent level. At this time our cash reserve is much greater than what we actually need. I would like to see this money used wisely to fund roads, healthcare needs and to provide Nebraskans with some much needed tax relief.

JOHN SYNOWIECKI: As a past member of the Appropriations Committee, I consistently voted to support increased funding for roads and infrastructure. However, I do not support the earmarking of the cash reserve to any particular purpose. Wisely, the Appropriations Committee did not earmark the cash reserve this year for any long-term funding request.

TONY VARGAS: We have seen a downturn in federal aid for roads and bridges -- over 5% in the last few years -- while seeing an increase of requests from cities and counties for funds for financing new projects. The Department of Roads estimates that $10.2 billion in projects will be needed for projects over the next 20 years. Aside from federal funding, traditional financing from the state has come from motor vehicle fees and fuel tax revenue, which has stopped growing due to the increasing fuel efficiency of cars and trucks. I recognize that well maintained roads and bridges are critical for both public safety and economic reasons, but would be cautious about our usage of cash reserve funds to finance these projects.

TONYA WARD: No response received.

DISTRICT 9

VAN ARGYRAKIS: Nebraska roads are in horrible shape... We need a major public works project to correct this problem.

SARA HOWARD: I support maintaining the integrity of existing road maintenance funds that are accrued for that purpose. Maintaining our transportation infrastructure is an important function at all levels of government, and contributes to the health of our economy. We must address the backlog of closed, obsolete and structurally deficient bridges in Nebraska. We must also maintain financially sound cash reserve practices.

LARRY ROLAND: No response received.

DISTRICT 11

ERNIE CHAMBERS: No response received.

FONTE HAMILTON: No response received.

JOHN SCIARA: Would have to review what funds are being used for Nebraska roads and bridges.

DISTRICT 13

JILL BROWN: Roads and good infrastructure are critical to the economy for growth and future prosperity. I support the use of it with the caveat that it doesn’t reduce our cash reserve below recommended levels.
MARK G. ELWORTH JR: I think the people who have cars and drive cars pay for the roads. They just raised the tax gas, they have the money. I do not support earmarking reserves for repairs.

JAKE SEEMAN: Infrastructure is another vital issue for my campaign. Omaha’s roads far too frequently aren’t properly cared for.

JUSTIN WAYNE: We have to improve our roads and bridges; however, I am not sure if earmarking cash reserves is the best option. Cash reserves are there to protect tax payers against tax increases. That is why I will work to make the tax climate in Nebraska more competitive on a regional and national basis. By reducing our tax burden we will attract more businesses, create more jobs, and grow our population base, and in turn, add revenue. I will work to eliminate taxes on military and social security retirement benefits, reduce income taxes, and reduce the extreme burden on Nebraska families caused by our high property taxes. I will work with cities, counties, and school districts to find meaningful and sustainable ways to reduce the reliance on property tax revenues. We must invest in education because education saves tax money by reducing crime, incarceration, and dependence on government programs and can aid in solving many of the complex problems we face right now in this state.

DISTRICT 31

RICK KOLOWSKI: No response received.

PETER H. MAYBERRY: No response received.

IAN M. SWANSON: No response received.

DISTRICT 39

BILL ARMBRUST: I am in favor of the State of Nebraska setting money aside for infrastructure work particularly completing the expressway system, and primary and secondary road bridges and we must continue to maintain and modernize our infrastructure. Like any well run business, we should not delay upgrading and maintaining as delay will only create a heavier burden later, and a less effective infrastructure for our states business’s and citizens to use. If we invest taxpayer money, it had better be money well spent. In Nebraska improvement on roads infrastructure would create jobs, help get product to market and help get citizens safely to work. Improving road infrastructure is needed and is also a good investment.

PAT BORCHERS: I favor prudent use of our reserves to deal with our deteriorating travel infrastructure.

LOU ANN LINEHAN: No response received.

IF ELECTED, WHAT TWO THINGS DO YOU HOPE TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE END OF YOUR TERM?

DISTRICT 5

GILBERT AYALA: No response received.

MIKE MCDONNELL: I believe that good neighborhoods create good cities; good cities create a good state. A central part of the foundation for good neighborhoods is having good public safety and good public education.

DISTRICT 7

NICOLE FOX: 1. I would like to see our state’s economy grow and create quality jobs by providing our families and businesses with meaningful tax relief. By making Nebraska more competitive on a national and international level we can help our citizens lift themselves up and become more prosperous. 2. I would like to be known as the state senator who stands up and fights for our consumers and citizens. During my first session I co-sponsored or successfully introduced several bills that protect consumers from delays in insurance decisions, prescription drug abuse and doctor shopping, and I eliminated burdensome regulations that hurt small businesses. I would like to continue this important work.

JOHN SYNOWIECKI: As a former State Senator, my office focused on advocating for working families, seniors and small businesses. We passed legislation that strengthened worker rights, promoted a fair and equitable environment for all contractors doing business in Nebraska, diversified housing options for low-income individuals, and enhanced financing opportunities for entrepreneurs in South Omaha. I also worked to pass the largest tax-cut in Nebraska history targeting property and income tax cuts for middle class families. If re-elected, I will continue to advocate on the real issues impacting middle class families in South Omaha and across the state. My goal is to see more property tax relief for working families and make our neighborhoods safer through investments in violence prevention/intervention and early childhood education programs.

TONY VARGAS: I will have championed common sense policy that respects the many cultures and diversity that makes up our great state. This also includes ensuring that those families and individuals from low-income backgrounds and historically marginalized communities have a real voice and are sought out to be engaged and a part of the political and policy making process. I also hope to contribute to greatly improving our education system (from K - 20) to ensure that every child, no matter their circumstances, receives an excellent education. We can do this together by building strong partnerships, collaborating, and raising expectations for the entire continuum of our education system.

TONYA WARD: No response received.

DISTRICT 9

VAN ARGYRAKIS: 1.) Strengthening our current laws, to include longer prison sentences, to protect children, women and men who are victims of domestic assault. Protecting the genital integrity of newborn infants. 2.) Establish a Nebraska Department of Immigration.

SARA HOWARD: One great challenge and opportunity is finding a sustainable solution that results in providing access to health insurance for all Nebraskans. Our economy and the overall health of our population will both improve as a result of our progress. I also want to continue doing my part to ensure students attending schools in my district and across the state have access to quality educational opportunities.

LARRY ROLAND: No response received.

DISTRICT 11

ERNIE CHAMBERS: No response received.

FONTÉ HAMILTON: No response received.

JOHN SCIARA: I would like to use my position as a State Senator to encourage private development money within North Omaha to create new jobs and business. I would like to pass a voter ID law within Nebraska based upon the findings of the Building Confidence in US Elections of 2005 headed by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker. With enacting a voter ID law, it should allow for providing for same day voter registration at the polling location.

JILL BROWN: 1. I hope to make affordable health care available to all Nebraskans. I would work tirelessly on this and would include improving comprehensive mental health services in the state. 2. I hope to have a comprehensive wage equality law. Currently, it is estimated that Nebraska women make 79 cents to every dollar Nebraska men make. Women should be compensated equally for comparable work and recognition should be given to the disproportionate demands women carry in family life. Comprehensive legislation would include safeguards for family emergencies and illness, maternity and paternity leave, child care, flexible work environments. Opponents talk about the short term cost of this, I believe the long term impact would be a dramatic reduction in poverty rates in Nebraska, especially in the African American community where wage inequality is closer to 58 cents to the dollar.

MARK G. ELWORTH JR: Legalize Hemp Farming, Legalize Midwives at Homebirths

JAKE SEEMAN: My top two issues are Medicaid Expansion and Ending Mandatory Minimums. I’ve already discussed Medicaid Expansion. Mandatory minimums allow judges no flexibility. Mandatory minimums tend to lead to higher sentences for young people, minorities, and poor people. Mandatory minimums lead to overcrowding of prisons with nonviolent offenders. According to the ACLU we are 149% over capacity in Nebraska prisons. I want to spend more money on schools, hospitals, and roads. I want to spend less money on bars guards and prisons.

JUSTIN WAYNE: I have a proven record of building bipartisan relationships and getting the job done while on the OPS Board. During my first term, I will continue to do so in the Legislature by focusing on what we can agree on and proposing solutions. I will introduce and, because of my bipartisan relationships, pass legislation that will improve roads, lower property taxes, increase funding for education, provide access to high quality affordable health care, and create jobs. I will work to restore public confidence in government by creating a stronger culture of leadership, integrity, results, accountability, transparency, and fiscally responsible Second, I will keep my word and fight for my constituents every day to make sure District 13 is a place where all families have a roof over their head and a strong foundation under their feet.

DISTRICT 13

RICK KOLOWSKI: No response received.

PETER H. MAYBERRY: No response received.

IAN M. SWANSON: No response received.

DISTRICT 39

BILL ARMBRUST: I want to help Nebraska achieve a fair and balanced tax system. I support cutting taxes and wasteful spending every opportunity that I can. We must prioritize necessity versus nicety. I also support a more balanced tax approach that includes immediate property tax cuts, and also income tax cuts for the middle class and new local businesses. 2. I believe that taxpayers deserve to know that their tax money is being spent on needs and not just wants. Through local elected boards we have the opportunity to hold the decision makers more directly accountable. There needs to be easily understood standards that are not based on the valuation wealthy school districts ability to spend money, but rather on the basic needs of all students across the state. Spending on teachers and study materials should be supported to attract and keep the best teachers in our schools.
CAMERON J. GALES: Mental health courts are needed and have been created in numerous jurisdictions across the United States to improve outcomes for people in mental health crisis, largely as a response to the increasing number of defendants with serious mental illness. Mental health treatment is one of the most important pieces to rehabilitation. Lincoln Regional Hospital has trained staff to handle patients with mental health diagnosis. However, Douglas County Corrections is not and has more treatment cases.

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NON-CRIMINAL JUVENILES WHO ARE HELD AT THE COUNTY YOUTH DETENTION CENTER AND BROUGHT TO COURT IN SHACKLES AND HANDCUFFS?

DISTRICT 3

CHRIS RODGERS: I was a leader in Douglas County’s effort to become a JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative) and introduce the effort in the State of Nebraska. I am a leader in the county’s latest comprehensive Operation Youth Success Initiative. The County’s current population at the Douglas County Detention Center is its lowest in years. As a result of a law passed in 2015, juveniles are no longer allowed to enter court shackled.

MARQUE A. SNOW: Currently, the Douglas County Board is merely responsive to juvenile issues. I believe the board needs to invest in preventive programs and measures that identify non-criminal juveniles and treats them with the respect and care they deserve. This will require our county detention centers to implement in-take standards that allow them to divert non-criminal juveniles into facilities that are directed towards care, rather than punishment instead of wasteful spending without a strategy.

DISTRICT 7

NIC CHESNUT: No response received.

CLARE DUDA: We (the Douglas County Board) have already reduced it greatly. The JAC (Juvenile Assessment Center) better classifies the incoming offenders. We now offer non secure detention for many status offenders. Eventually, a juvenile courtroom at or near the Youth Center would also help.

CAMERON J. GALES: I will work to support community-based day and evening reporting for non-violent youth. Though funding sources differ by the agency, we have to find common sense ways for Health and Human Services, State Probation and community-based programs to work seamlessly.

Go to Vote411.org, enter your home address & get info for only the candidates that will be on your ballot! The site also contains information on upcoming debates and candidate forums.
TRACY A. DAVIS (NP)
Address: 12115 n. 156th street
Current public office, dates held: N/A. Past public office, dates held: N/a. Married, Teresa Davis for 18 year’s, 4 children.

CHRIS FOLTZ (R)
Address: 16011 Lindenwood Circle Bennington, NE 68007

JOANN BAUMERT (R)
No response received.

WARD 2
BRIAN E. FITZGERALD (R)
Address: 12106 Elmwood Drive Bennington, NE 68007

ZACHARY JOHNS (R)
Address: 104 S. Stark St., Bennington, NE, 68007
General Manager and Franchisee of Runza in Bennington. Age: 29. Address: 104 S. Stark St., Bennington, NE, 68007

WHAT SHOULD BE THE CITY COUNCIL’S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MAYOR?

WARD 1
TRACY A. DAVIS: They need to work together

CHRIS FOLTZ: The council and the mayor should have an open and collaborative relationship. I realize that there are few issues in life that garner unanimous approval from everyone so it’s obvious that disagreements will happen. Keeping discussions rational and concisely explaining positions and viewpoints should help keep things on a professional level. We all have common ground in that we believe Bennington is a great place to live and raise a family. That’s something that can be built upon.

WARD 2
JOANN BAUMERT: No response received.

BRIAN E. FITZGERALD: City Streets need a lot of work. Some streets need to be widened while others need to have sidewalks at least on on side of the streets. Traffic Safety - a lot of people are moving to the area along with a lot of children. Hopefully we can reallocate monies to address this issue.

ZACHARY JOHNS: Property Taxes are an issue that quickly comes to mind. Bennington is an area with high property taxes that keep going up. I believe we can offset the need for increasing property tax by stimulating and expanding our local economy, which in turn will increase the sales tax dollars collected by the city. I would like to work along side organizations like the Community Business Foundation and Bennington Chamber of Commerce to help accomplish this stimulation.

JEFF RYCHLY: I believe the biggest challenge will be ensuring Bennington has the resources to support the growth it has experienced over the last number of years. I will take a close look at the budget and work to prioritize the needs of the city.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE?

WARD 1
TRACY A. DAVIS: I have lived in Bennington Nebraska for 11 years. I have lived in Bennington for 7 years and both of my kids attend Bennington Elementary. For the past 19 years I have worked for a local bank in the fields of Finance and Information Technology. The skills I learned in those positions would be easily applied to city council work. Most of all, though, I see Bennington at a crossroads. How do we deal with the development occurring around us while retaining the great small town feel that we have? I’d love the opportunity to help decide that.

BRIAN E. JENSEN: No response received.
WHAT DO YOU FEEL SHOULD BE THE PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE?

DISTRICT 2

GLEN A. FLINT: Local school boards and parents select appropriate curriculum, guided by state standards. The State Board and Department of Education should build a repository of best practices, on-line lectures, and digital resources. High quality courses whether developed commercially, by Nebraska educators, or the University of Nebraska High School should be made available to all of Nebraska’s teachers and students. http://highschool.nebraska.edu/-/media/UNHS/Files/PDF/Course-List.aspx?la=en

LISA FRICKE: School districts should have a comprehensible and balanced curriculum that aligns with state standards. The curriculum plan needs to include “team time” to plan and develop a rigorous curriculum (what students need to know) that includes best practice instruction (how students learn) that engage students through developing critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, active learning, and communication skills. Curriculum is a “work in progress” that needs to be reviewed periodically.

DISTRICT 4

JOHN WITZEL: I firmly believe local school boards are accountable and responsible for determining courses and curriculum taught within their schools. The State Board provides the standards, the minimum requirements for K-12 educational instructional programs, with the local boards determining the detail of the instructional courses offered. In addition, the local boards decide educational resources utilized to include books, computer software, and lesson plans. State statute empowers local boards.

WHAT POLICY DO YOU FEEL THE STATE SHOULD ADOPT REGARDING TRANSGENDER STUDENTS?

DISTRICT 2


LISA FRICKE: According to the Nebraska Constitution, Article VII-1 "The Legislature shall provide for free instruction in common schools of this state of all persons ages 5-21 years.” All students who enroll in our public schools should be taught in a safe, enriching, and welcoming environment.

DISTRICT 4

JOHN WITZEL: Currently, the State Board of Education does not have a policy regarding transgender students and I do not believe there is a current need for such a policy at the State level. However, locally elected school boards do have the authority to create and implement their own policies regarding transgender issues depending on the districts own particular needs and circumstances.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WILL BE YOUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES WHILE IN OFFICE?

DISTRICT 2


LISA FRICKE: My two top priorities right now are early childhood education and sensible accountability.

DISTRICT 4

JOHN WITZEL: CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP. Afford ALL Nebraska young people endless opportunities for their future and participate in the Nebraska workforce and quality of life. Great strides are being made by Early Childhood Development, Parental Involvement, Mentoring, After School Programs, and equally important, the leaders of our communities providing the economic engines combating poverty. CONTINUALLY IMPROVE THE CURRENT ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM. Serving the needs of students, parents and schools alike.

WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN STANDARDIZED TESTING IN SCHOOLS?

DISTRICT 2

GLEN A. FLINT: LB 930 allows students to take the SAT or ACT test instead of the 11th grade NeSA. These test prepares students to take the next steps after high school into a 2 or 4 year college as well as an individualized study plan to fill gaps and avoid time consuming remediation in college. Elementary school students are already required to take a nationally normed test in addition to NeSA. Let’s eliminate the need for NeSA by mapping scores on those nationally normed tests to Nebraska State Standards.

LISA FRICKE: Reasonable accountability must be a part of any public school. With the reauthorization of NCLB on December 10, 2015, now called ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) the state and local districts will be developing the assessments for our public schools using the guidelines outlined in ESSA. We need someone on the NE State School Board who sees the importance of reasonable accountability, not excessive testing that takes away from authentic teaching and learning.

DISTRICT 4

JOHN WITZEL: To improve education, our teachers, parents and administrators, it is imperative they know how well our students are doing in the classroom by use of standardized tests. I will support current legislative and board efforts to change the 11th grade standardized test to a college entrance exam such as the ACT or SAT. 2.

Learning Community COORDINATING COUNCIL

DISTRICT 2

KEITH BIGSBY (D)
Address: 3822 California Street Omaha, NE 68131
Current public office, dates held: None. Past public office, dates held: None. Past public office, dates held: None. Occupation: Retired Principal of Omaha Central High School and McMillan Magnet Center. Age: 59. Married to Michele Mongahan Bigsby, 3 children. Education: Ed.D. Educational Administration, UNO; M.S. Educational Administration, UNO; M.S. Vocational Education, UNL; Teaching Certificate, UNL; B.S. Business Administration, UNL. Military: None. Volunteer experience: Omaha Public Schools Citizens Bond Oversight Committee member; Omaha Central High School Foundation Board member; Nebraska Loves Public Schools Board Member; Hohensee Foundation Board member.

R. JUSTICE BRAIMA (D)
Address: 4904 Curtis Avenue Omaha Nebraska 68104

CAROL L. HAHN (D)
Address: 1403 Farnam Street Suite 1200 Omaha, NE 68102

ROGER R. HOLTHAUS (R)
Address: 2205 South 10th Street

CORNELIUS F. WILLIAMS (D)
No response received.

DISTRICT 4

ALLEN HAGER (R)
Address: 16408 Riggs Street Omaha, NE 68135

DISTRICT 6

MIKE AVERY (R)
No response received.
DO YOU THINK THE LEARNING COMMUNITY IS WORKING AS INTENDED? WHY OR WHY NOT?

DISTRICT 2

KEITH BIGSBY: The Learning Community was a compromise between the Omaha Public Schools and the other public school districts in Douglas and Sarpy counties over whom was fiscally responsible for educating the metro's low-socioeconomic and non-English speaking students. The Learning Community allows metro school districts to share the costs of educating the areas' most fragile students, in return OPS dropped its legal claim to a one-city-one school district. The Learning Community is working as intended!

R. JUSTICE BRAIMAH: The intent of the Learning Community has evolved. Today the learning community should continue to work closely with the 11 school districts and community partners to demonstrate, share and implement effective models to improve early childhood education and educational outcomes for families in poverty. Early childhood programs provide a strong foundation for children and has been proven to close the achievement gap. We must continue to create new avenues that will ensure a robust programming.

CAROL L. HAHN: I believe that the Learning Community is beginning to work as it was intended. Although it has been in existence for only 6 years, it has a clear mission of improving the educational opportunities of children in poverty and is striving through its pilot programs to achieve that goal. I feel that stronger community education and information about what the Learning Community is doing will enhance enthusiasm and further community engagement.

ROGER R. HOLTHAUS: Yes, it focuses on children and their needs.

CORNELIUS F. WILLIAMS: No response received.

DO YOU SUPPORT THE COMMON LEVY ACROSS THE LEARNING COMMUNITY? WHY OR WHY NOT?

DISTRICT 2

KEITH BIGSBY: I support the common levy. The common levy has allowed those metro school districts with the highest amounts of poverty and non-English speaking students to gain access to the requisite dollars needed to educate the Omaha area's most fragile young people—those living in poverty and non-English speaking students. To lose the common levy component of the Learning Community is to lose the original purpose and spirit of the law's creation.

R. JUSTICE BRAIMAH: The common levy recognizes that our, the COMMUNITY'S collective interest as a single economic region and the importance of enabling all children to succeed regardless of the zip code they reside. I do believe that the taxpayers will not support more money into the system unless they are convinced that the money will produce measurable results. If elected, I will make sure we provide to the public those measurable results.

CAROL L. HAHN: I support the common levy across the Learning Community. The 1.5 cent levy across the board creates a Learning Community which is not affected by current or future politics and allows the Learning Community to operate independently and without bias. Trying to equalize educational opportunity throughout the county is extremely worthwhile. Education is the key to decreasing poverty. Everyone is helped no matter their economic position is impacted by poverty. I know, first hand, the impact poverty has on young people and their educational success.
when poverty is decreased.

ROGER R. HOLTHAUS: Yes for equality.

CORNELIUS F. WILLIAMS: No response received.

DISTRIBUTION 4

ALLEN HAGER: Over the last 4 years, we have seen the common levy being the most divisive issue that faces the Learning Community. First, the Council has nea

DISTRIBUTION 6

MIKE AVERY: No response received.

SHERRI SHACKELFORD: The common levy across the Learning Community is often misunderstood and never produced the results intended. It is my understanding the school districts are in support of eliminating this levy if additional poverty dollars are available. I support Bill 1067 which would allow for the removal of the common levy, but would allow the most impactful pieces of the Learning Community to remain including the Elementary Learning Center levy, pilot programming and Superintendents’ Early Childhood Plan.

JILL WOODWARD: No response received.

Millard BOARD OF EDUCATION #17

MARIS BENTLEY (R)
Address: 2515 S. 148 St., Omaha, NE 68144

TERRY DALE (R)
No response received.

AMANDA MCGILL JOHNSON (D)
No response received.

AMBER DEE PARKER (R)

MIKE PATE (R)
Address: 15706 Westchester Circle Omaha, NE 68118
Current public office, dates held: Millard Board of Education 1997-Current, Learning Community Coordinating Council 2012-Current. Occupation: Bank President & CEO. Age: 60. Married, 1 child. Education: Attended University of Nebraska, Graduate of Burke High School, Graduate School of Banking - University of Colorado, Commercial Lending School - University of Oklahoma. Military: NA. Volunteer experience: St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Millard Public Schools Foundation Board, Chairman - Nebraska Bankers Association Board of Directors.

LINDA POOLE (R)
Address: 5054 South 171st Avenue Omaha, NE 68135
Current public office, dates held: Millard Board of Education January 1997-present, Director on the Nebraska School Boards Association for 17 years, Executive Committee member of the National Federation of Urban and Suburban School. Past public office, dates held: Director on the National School Boards Association. Occupation: Third grade teacher at Prairie Queen Elementary in the Papillion LaVista Community schools. Age: 52. Married, 3 children. Education: Elementary Education degree from UNO, Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College, K-3 Math specialist degree from UNL, currently working on an Educational Leadership degree from Doane.

KARA TERI (D)
Address: 16524 Pine Street, Omaha, Ne 68130
Website: http://votekaraformillard.info. Occupation: Human Resources, Accounting. Age: 34. I have been married for 10 years to my husband, Aaron, 2 children. Education: I have obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Management of Human Resources from Bellevue University. Volunteer experience: Our family actively volunteers at the Open Door Mission, and assists with the Morton Elementary School PTA.

WHO DO YOU FEEL SHOULD SET THE CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

MARIS BENTLEY: I believe the curriculum should be set by the stakeholders who are involved, including parents, administrators, teachers, the school board, and the local community of taxpayers. Curriculum should not be decided only by “experts,” neither should it be dictated by the federal government or wealthy individuals and foundations which try to influence educational content through grant funding.

TERRY DALE: No response received.

AMANDA MCGILL JOHNSON: No response received.

AMBER DEE PARKER: I believe it should be a decision for each school.

MIKE PATE: The educational professionals who are trained and have the professional experience should develop the curriculum. Board members should ensure that the curriculum is aligned with assessments. I also think that it is important for school districts to perform independent curriculum audits and use the results from district-designed or adopted assessments to adjust, improve, or terminate ineffective practices of programs.

LINDA POOLE: I believe in local control. Decisions regarding curriculum should be left to local school board members who are elected by their community to represent them.

KARA TERI: A public school curriculum should be implemented by a district Superintendent, chosen by a board of elected officials representing the school district. Of critical importance in curriculum development is ensuring that the front line educators play a major role. An appropriate set of educational standards can be maintained by a board and Superintendent which actively engages educator input regarding the curriculum successes and areas of improvement.

WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE TO RETAIN EXCELLENT TEACHERS?

MARIS BENTLEY: Excellent teachers, those who are knowledgeable about their subject areas, and who have the skills and enthusiasm to teach students, must be provided with administrative support and feedback, along with the resources they need to teach. The most important responsibility of the administration and the school board is to find, hire, support, mentor, monitor, and evaluate the teaching staff, because teachers are the definitive element in every classroom.

TERRY DALE: No response received.

AMANDA MCGILL JOHNSON: No response received.

AMBER DEE PARKER: Continuing communication that our Millard School Teachers are important to us. In listening to teachers’ share their expertise of their teaching experience and creating a welcoming environment to listen to them.

MIKE PATE: Culture is everything. Millard Public Schools has always maintained an excellent teacher retention rate. Teachers feel valued and appreciated and we operate with open communications and within the boundaries of our strategic plan. The strategic plan is our guiding document and ensures all schools, each teacher, each administrator, the public, our students and our board are all following the same objectives as defined in the strategic plan.

LINDA POOLE: Being a teacher myself, I feel as if it is important to take time to recognize our staff for the outstanding job that they do each and every day. Recognition for a job well done goes a long way in any profession. When one feels valued and appreciated for their work, they are normally satisfied with their job and want to work even harder. Ensuring the culture of our schools is positive for not only our students but also our staff is another thing that can help us retain our outstanding staff.

KARA TERI: I believe that teaching professionals make career choices which are often guided by a level of altruism that is unique to those passionate about education. A district which fosters that passion, along with professional development, is a surefire way to retain excellence. Strategically speaking, having clear and regularly performed professional assessments along with mentoring resources have been shown to improve the retention of quality teaching staff.

HOW CAN A SCHOOL BOARD ASSURE EVERY STUDENT HAS EQUAL ACCESS TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY?

MARIS BENTLEY: I do not believe that technology is the “be all and end all” of education. Technology is merely a tool which has become an expensive sacred cow in many school systems. It is more important that students become critical thinkers and lifelong learners, and that is best done, not with an emphasis on technology, but under the guidance, example, and tutelage of a good teacher. I am more concerned that students have equal access to master teachers at all levels and across all subject areas.

TERRY DALE: No response received.

AMANDA MCGILL JOHNSON: No response received.

AMBER DEE PARKER: Each school district has a different budget. I believe the school board should help in their districts needs with a focus on what will further each students education.

MIKE PATE: Technology is a moving target. Millard has recently introduced iPads into the elementary schools and we are making every attempt to migrate to a one on one initiative whereby EVERY student would have their own digital device. We are living in a digital world, and kids today are growing up with, and embraced these digital tools. We will continue to pursue this initiative, and make sure that whatever technology we use, will be used to drive student learning and improve academic achievement.

LINDA POOLE: A good public education is the best opportunity a child from a struggling family has for equality, and Millard provides not only a good education, but a world-class education. The Board’s support of iPads in all elementary classrooms was our first step. The next step is one-to-one laptops for all high school students. Our goal is to give students 24/7 access to their work where ever they may
be. This initiative is cost neutral as we replace older technology and textbooks with laptops.

KARA TERI: With technology growing leaps and bounds an a near-daily basis (and becoming more requirement than luxury) student access to it is critical. Our libraries/media centers are a tremendous resource for us in offering access. While the board can assist in curating and allocating these resources, it is important for our schools to self-monitor in order to offer ample opportunity for students to utilize the technological resources that may not be available to them at home.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE?

MARIS BENTLEY: As a mother, grandmother, and retired teacher, the education of children has been my life’s work. But perhaps more importantly, I understand the importance of education in the life of every individual in this country, and I recognize the need to provide a quality, fiscally responsible public education system that prepares future generations with the knowledge, skills, work ethic, and virtues they need to be successful, not only in the workplace, but in a life well-lived.

TERRY DALE: No response received.

AMANDA MCGILL JOHNSON: No response received.

AMBER DEE PARKER: As a former student in public school, I saw first hand how parents working together with good teachers brought about success in my education. I believe that this experience would be a great asset to the Millard School Board.

MIKE PATE: I have been on the Millard Board of Education for 20 years and am proud of the achievements we’ve seen over those 20 years. Millard is widely recognized as a top performing school district and our students continually perform above all state and national averages and all three high schools have been recognized nationally as amongst the best high schools in the country. It is my objective to ensure this tradition of educational excellence continues for our students and our community.

LINDA POOLE I have been involved with education my entire adult life. When my children were young, I served as PTO President for two years. I have also served on the Millard school board for the past 20 years, as well as on both the state and national school board associations. Currently, I am a third grade teacher at Prairie Queen Elementary in the Papillion LaVista school district. I feel as if these experiences enable me to see the needs in the “education world” from a variety of perspectives.

KARA TERI: As the parent of two children beginning their academic careers, I am personally invested in the success of the offerings- academic and otherwise- of the Millard school district. For my family and so many others, the programs and academic practices offered by MPS will help to guide our students into their roles as responsible, successful adults. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the district in upholding our mission to engage and challenge all students.

Omaha Public Schools

SUBDISTRICT 1

KRYSITEL GABEL (NP)
Address: 2864 Whitmore St, Omaha, NE 68112
Website: http://www.facebook.com/VoteKrystal

MARILOU ROTH (R)
No response received.

RICKY SMITH (D)
Address: 4824 Manderson Street Omaha, NE 68104
Occupation: UNO Admissions Counselor Diversity & Community Outreach. Age: 41. Marital status: Shawnta SMITH JD, 2 children. Education: Midland Univ BS Sociology Concentration Counseling Creighton Unv Community Counseling In- Progress Bellevue Univ. MS Leadership & Coaching In-Progress UNO Certification Youth Worker College of Public Affairs UNO Certification Career Advis.. Volunteer experience: Mentor, Boys & Girls Club, Heartland Hope Ministries, Mason Omaha Lodge #9 Theta Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. 360 Empowerment Network, TRIO Program, Nebraska Warrior Youth Assoc. Inclusive Communities, Center for Holistic Development, Urban League of Neb.

YOLANDA R. WILLIAMS (D)
Address: P.O. Box 11533 Omaha, Nebraska 68111

SUBDISTRICT 7

CAROL KREJCI (D)
Address: 4420 Oak St Omaha, Ne

MARIO A. POLITI (NP)
Address: 6019 Pine Street Omaha, NE. 68106

AMANDA RYAN (D)
Address: 4839 Pine Street

WHO DO YOU FEEL SHOULD SET THE CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

SUBDISTRICT 1

KRYSITEL GABEL: Students, teachers, and parents should set the curriculum. OPS must re-focus curriculum to create relevant, digital, and collaborative content. Arizona implemented a program called Beyond Textbooks (https://www.beyondtextbooks.org/) that is saving districts thousands of dollars in textbook costs and encouraging better parent-teacher-student relationships. OPS must take ownership in what we are teaching our youth. Relying on corporate textbooks with white, male-centric content is irresponsible.

AMANDA RYAN: The OPS school board, administration, and teachers should have a central role in setting curriculum. We must listen to all of the voices of the individuals that have a stake in what our students are learning. As a school board member, it is essential that we listen to the parents, students and teachers that we are representing. Ensuring that we have up-to-date, culturally responsive curricula that sets our students up for success is fundamental for our students and community.
WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE TO RETAIN EXCELLENT TEACHERS?

SUBDISTRICT 1

KRISTAL GABEL: We need to respect teachers by giving them the freedom to explore content with students. If student populations increase, we need to address that gap and have more teaching resources in the district - that is, think quality over quantity.

MARILOU ROTH: No response received.

RICKY SMITH: Acknowledge their efforts publicly via the OPS district web page as well as recognition at school board meetings. Excellent teachers should also be celebrated at graduation commencements & their schools. I would put these teachers in a cohort train & prepare them for accelerated leadership roles in their schools & throughout the district. I would revise policy that would include excellent teacher rankings in the pay scale schedule in an attempt to offer incentive compensation. Fire bad teachers!

YOLANDA R. WILLIAMS: To retain excellent teachers, you must provide comparable salaries and benefits, on-going professional development opportunities, autonomy to be a part of the solution by engaging them not only in their perspective buildings but in the growth and change of the district. Our teachers are professionals and needed to be treated as such with respect, support and a voice where it matters most, everywhere.

SUBDISTRICT 7

CAROL KREJCI: To retain excellent teachers we must first give them and their ideas respect. Secondly, teachers should be given the autonomy to carry out their good ideas. They should also be offered opportunities to share their expertise with others, and be allowed and encouraged to be creative in their classroom, school and community.

MARIO A. POLITIE: Offer long term service incentives. Provide better support for teachers who deal with behavior problems in the classroom. Ensure that teachers are properly compensated for additional duties and increased workload. Create advancement and special assignment opportunities. Provide incentives for teachers who work in the schools with the highest turnover rates.

AMANDA RYAN: We should continue to provide teachers opportunities for career growth and leadership, solicit and listen to teacher input on matter concerning their classroom and students, create an environment conducive to their teaching that allows for creativity and ownership of teaching, and continually look at teacher salary and benefit options. These are all examples of ways we can help retain the wonderful, talented teachers we have in OPS.

HOW CAN A SCHOOL BOARD ASSURE EVERY STUDENT HAS EQUAL ACCESS TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY?

SUBDISTRICT 1

KRISTAL GABEL: Equal access to advanced technology is difficult to assure when some families cannot afford a computer or the Internet at home. We need to allocate funds (or seek out other funding through grants etc) to ensure all students are given equal opportunities during school hours.

MARILOU ROTH: No response received.

RICKY SMITH: By continuing to support efforts in place to improve student to computer ratios(3:1) throughout the district. Upgrades have been implemented to improve the access to technology this includes the purchase of necessary hardware & upgrades to soft-ware. As a board we must stay aligned with our strategic plan & continue to move toward technological upgrades that will have a positive impact on not just student achievement but help educators provide top learning environments for our students.

YOLANDA R. WILLIAMS: Technology is an area that I advocate and look for areas of growth and advancement to support student learning and staff development/support. As buildings are updated with proper technological infrastructure and access, building budgets are reflective of devices that are getting into student’s hands during the school day. The school board can assure equal access by setting policy supporting technology, staying informed on trends and strategy through committee work to ensure cutting edge access.

SUBDISTRICT 7

CAROL KREJCI: This is largely a budgetary issue. The school board cannot control a student’s opportunities with technology in the home, but they can promote equal access in all schools. Also, teachers can be trained to promote technology skills within their individual classrooms. Students must also be taught where and how to access technology with minimal or no cost in their community, and with friends and family.

MARIO A. POLITIE: Ensure that the district technology budget is distributed equitably. Ensure that each child has access according to the technology department vision.

AMANDA RYAN: Technology plays a vital role in most people’s everyday lives; however, there are still students and families that do not have access to advanced technology. I would want to discuss how we can ensure equal access for all of our students with the current Information Management Services employees and administration to discuss the best ways to ensure we get technology to all of our students within our budget.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE?

SUBDISTRICT 1

KRISTAL GABEL: I’m a young person who is interested in improving the lives of other young people. I have empathy for our youth and have many of the same social, political, and pop culture experiences as them. Furthermore, I’ve had to fill in the gaps a lot, and I wish I was told the truth more as a student about these things. I’m willing to have these conversations and this is what makes me qualified for this position.

MARILOU ROTH: No response received.

RICKY SMITH: Working in the Youth services & education for over 21 years I’m dedicated to community, educators, parents, but most importantly an advocate for kids. I have served on several boards & committees within OPS. I have collaborated with a network of over 40 teachers to provide programs & educational enrichment for at risk youth including founding my own summer school. I will impact education by introducing policy based on high expectations & achievement while working collaboratively with the Board.

YOLANDA R. WILLIAMS: As the incumbent candidate my qualifications are the time currently invested, my proven dedication to have deeper understanding of the complex nature of our large urban district and the data that drives the work. It continues to be my priority to serve for the massive amount of hours required to be present, committed, engaged and a thoughtful leader. Staying current to trends with ongoing professional development, serving for OPS on 2 additional boards, 9 committees and a national CUBE delegate.

CAROL KREJCI: I have spent 35+ years as a professional educator. My career has included a semi-rural school, suburban and urban schools, as well as students from 5th through 8th grades, and several years of substitute teaching. I have been active in my professional association at the local, state and national levels, and have long considered myself to be an advocate for both students and teachers. Education, especially public education has truly been the passion of my life.

MARIO A. POLITIE: 14 years prior law enforcement experience. Assistant Professor of Military Science. (Kansas State University/ Western Illinois University) Served in multiple military leadership positions with responsibility of hundreds of personnel and millions in equipment. Able to collaborate with the parents and teachers of OPS to find solutions and increase student achievement.

AMANDA RYAN: As a first generation college student now working towards a master's degree, I am qualified for this office for several reasons. Education has been fundamental my entire life. My studies in both Religious Studies and Sociology give me the ability to critically assess different issues that happen within our community and data surrounding those issues, as well as, being responsive to the cultural differences and needs our community faces as we continue to grow and become even more diverse.

Go Vote, Omaha!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF GREATER OMAHA

omahalwv.org

Westside BOARD OF EDUCATION #66

KIRK KARNES (R)

ADAM YALE (D)

WHO DO YOU FEEL SHOULD SET THE CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

KIRK KARNES: I believe it is critical that we keep curriculum de-
cisions at the local level. The school board is tasked with formally voting on and setting the curriculum, but it is ideally drafted by local school administrators, staff, and teachers who are well-situated to ensure that the curriculum reflects the values, needs and achievement goals of the community, students, parents and school district as a whole.

BEN WALLACE: No response received.

ADAM YALE: Federal and State regulations help set curriculum, followed by public school administration. Board members and the community at large should have a dialogue with administrations over curriculum, but school district administrations should make the ultimate decisions.

WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE TO RETAIN EXCELLENT TEACHERS?

KRIS KARNES: Westside is lucky to have some of the best, brightest and most committed teachers in the state, and it is critical to our future success that we retain them. Clearly a competitive compensation and benefits package is important, but we cannot overlook the importance of culture, academic freedom, mentoring, development and advancement opportunities, leadership, and even adequate planning time. Teachers must feel they are valued and that their input is welcomed.

BEN WALLACE: No response received.

ADAM YALE: Teachers need reasonable compensation, a welcoming working environment and the ability to pursue teaching methods and policies that they believe will best allow them to educate learners. Meaningful, useful personnel development and a supportive district administration can help support these ends.

HOW CAN A SCHOOL BOARD ASSURE EVERY STUDENT HAS EQUAL ACCESS TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY?

KRIS KARNES: We are fortunate at Westside to have a 1-to-1 technology initiative, but in these times of financial uncertainty we may be challenged to explore alternatives to assure equal access to technology. Regardless, the most critical component is ensuring that students are appropriately taught how to use the technology to an educational advantage. This includes having a technology-integrated curriculum and adequately training teachers on how to incorporate technology into their classrooms.

BEN WALLACE: No response received.

ADAM YALE: All school board members should be conscious of how their policies and decisions contribute to excellence, equality and efficiency. Technology is a useful tool, and in the right hands and with the right support, should be available to all students.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE?

KRIS KARNES: As an attorney I am trained to analyze difficult issues, gather input, find consensus, and make key decisions. As a former educator, I know what the world will demand of our graduates, and the qualities and skills we should be instilling in them. And as a leader on several community boards, I have experience overseeing budgets and fulfilling organizational missions. All of this experience would be an asset to the Westside Board of Education.

BEN WALLACE: No response received.

ADAM YALE: I have business knowledge, a deep accounting and finance background, and broad for- and non-profit organizational and governance experience, particularly in the area of education. I believe that my training, professional experience and current and former positions of leadership can assist our District in confronting our challenges, solving problems and upholding our rich tradition of talented, committed people doing the best for our kids and community members.

Metropolitan Utilities District Board

JACK FROST (R)
Address: 917 No 131 Plaza Omaha, Nebraska 68154

KRISTAL GABEL (NP)
Address: 2864 Whitmore St., Omaha NE 68112

TODD HEYNE (R)
No response received.

JIM KUSEK (R)
Address: 6406 South 102 Street Omaha, Nebraska 68127-5410
Current public office, dates held: Vice-Chair, City of Omaha Parks & Recreation Board (February, 2015 - Present). Past public office, dates held: None. Occupation: Retired - Omaha Power District. Age: 68. Married (Linda) for forty-two years, 3 children. Education: Masters Degree in Public Administration from UNL (1983) and Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from UNO (1971.) Adjunct Professor for over twenty-five years at various local colleges and universities. Military: N/A. Volunteer experience: United Way of the Midlands, Child Saving Institute, YMCA of Omaha and Creighton Prep.

MIKE MCGOWAN (R)

PATRICK J. MCPHERSON (R)
Address: 10731 O Street, #36, Omaha, NE 68127

BERT MEHRER (D)
Address: Post Office Box 642266 Omaha, NE 68164
Website: http://www.bertmehrer.com. Current public office, dates held: None. Past public office, dates held: None. Occupation: Attorney at law (retired). Age: 69. Married, 2 children. Education: Bachelor of General Studies, Bachelor of Science (summa cum laude), Master of Science (Business), Juris Doctor. Military: Field Artillery Officer. Five years active duty including two years with the 82nd Airborne Division and three combat deployments (Vietnam, Dominican Republic and Kosovo). Also, served 25 years in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. Volunteer experience: Six years as an unpaid member of the board of directors of a federal credit union.

TOM WURTZ (D)
Address: 19815 Logan Street Omaha, NE 68130

THE WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN FLINT, MICHIGAN AND OTHER ISSUES HAVE BEEN IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT RECENTLY. HOW WILL YOU ASSURE THE RATEPAYERS THAT MUD MAINTAINS THE HIGH STANDARDS IN WATER QUALITY?

JACK FROST: The water is treated to be stable and non corrosive. To see the annual water quality report, visit the website at mudomaha.com.

KRISTAL GABEL: It’s difficult to assure safe water in Omaha when: 1) The working class and working poor live in housing that has decades-old infrastructure. 2) Our water sources are being polluted with farm runoff - inorganic materials like pesticides, herbicides, and radioactive contaminants from agriculture and other industry-related waste. Safer housing could be achieved with appropriately distributed TIFs and safer agriculture by planting hemp in fields to clean the soil and subsequently our water tables.

TODD HEYNE: No response received.

JIM KUSEK: Water as well as natural gas safety should be the “top” priority of both the MUD Board and it’s management. To insure MUD continues the high standards in water quality my program would entail that finished reservoirs should be cleaned and inspected in an exemplary and timely manner well above industry approved standards. Also pertaining to the Florence Plant we need to insist that the mechanical and control system improvements be implemented, activated and monitored in a timely matter.

MIKE MCGOWAN: MUD currently provides excellent water quality and meets or exceeds all regulated standards. When elected, I would actively coordinate regularly with management to ensure MUD continues its water tests and maintains its quality water service. I consider water a very precious resource and would take active steps to ensure MUD develops and executes a comprehensive strategy to assure water availability and supplies well into the future.

PATRICK J. MCPHERSON: By solid oversight. What happened in Flint is unconscionable. It was a failure by local, state and federal governments. The Board must review Consumer Confidence Reports (Water Quality) to assure water quality. It must maintain the current 3 water sources such that contamination of one doesn’t create such a problem. It must continue monthly tests. Board members should religiously review results and continue use of minerals to protect water from picking up metals in pipes and faucets.

BERT MEHRER: I will first request current reports from MUD and the EPA on Omaha’s water quality. I will become an expert on the
systems and procedures MUD uses to monitor and measure water quality. I will compare local water quality with comparable data from other municipalities and with the EPA’s national water quality standards. If there is any hint of substandard performance by MUD, I will move aggressively to correct the problem and hold responsible officials accountable, up to and including termination.

TOM WURTZ: The MUD Board needs to retain competent managers, who have an understanding of the complex regulatory issues involved in the delivery of water to the public, in compliance with EPA standards. The Board also needs to remain engaged in understanding the complexity of these issues. As a practical matter, the district’s present water treatment process is sufficient in preventing a disaster similar to Flint, MI. The Board also must remain vigilant if water treatment methods change.

HOW WILL YOU ASSURE THE PUBLIC IS INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT MUD?

JACK FROST: Our customer owners may attend monthly board meetings and documents are posted on our website for review.

KRYS TAL GABEL: MUD does a great job being available to the public - the newsletter, emergency numbers, customer service numbers, Twitter, and Facebook. To encourage more public involvement, however, MUD needs to focus on initiatives that are relevant to its customers (that is, projects that noticeably improve customer lives and still keep services affordable). Customers are looking for green alternatives, and hemp is a safe and cheap way to clean soil and improve the water we provide to the public.

TODD HEYNE: No response received.

JIM KUSEK: My guiding philosophy on this Board is my constituents. I would work at their pleasure. My strategy proposal to establish a Citizens Review and Advisory Board is so imperative. If this becomes a stumbling block for the Board, I will establish a quasi-board that will be utilized to get the voice of my constituents heard. This board will be made of utility personnel and random individuals who have an understanding of the complex regulatory issues involved in the delivery of water to the public, in compliance with EPA standards. The Board also needs to remain engaged in understanding the complexity of these issues. The public feels excluded. I would require that all MUD committee meetings be noticed to the public and that all meetings be held at the downtown headquarters.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE?

JACK FROST: Twenty nine years in office

KRYS TAL GABEL: I understand that we need a change in thinking in Nebraska in order to compete with other states. Our current farming practices poison the water tables that provide drinking water to our residents. Hemp can improve our soils and, subsequently, our water sources. To improve dated infrastructure in unsafe housing in Omaha, we often see gentrification happen - that is, property updates are made but lower-income families are displaced because of higher rent and neighborhood prices. We need change.

TODD HEYNE: No response received.

JIM KUSEK: I am the unique candidate who has been employed by four of the major regional utilities in our area. My duties involved increased responsibility and were divided between natural gas and public power. I serve on the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation Board currently serving as Vice Chair. I have a Masters Degree in Public Administration from UNL and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from UNO. I was an adjunct professor for various colleges and universities for over twenty-five years.

MIKE MCGOWAN: I have 2 college degrees (BS in Math & MBA) I have 36 years experience working at Northern Natural Gas Company I served on the MUD Board 2010-2012 I was Chairman of the MUD Board in 2012 I am retired, so I have the time to commit to this job No other candidate has the COMBINED knowledge, experience, commitment and time to do this job the way it should be done!

PATRICK J. MCPHERSON: I’ve spent my entire life in Omaha I worked in the banking industry for nearly 30 years and was president of a local bank. As Administrative Services Director during Mayor Daub’s administration I managed a multi-million dollar budget and five divisions of city government. My background will allow me to ask the appropriate questions of management and exercise my fiduciary responsibility to the utility and the ratepayer while listening and responding to citizens.

BERT MEHRER: I am an attorney and a CPA. During 8 years in public accounting my largest clients included Northern Natural Gas, a gas and electric co and a telephone co; all were billion dollar enterprises at the time. I am an expert in the rate-making processes common to all regulated public utilities. In law school I concentrated on corporation finance and corporate governance. I served as an unpaid chairman of the board of a $50 million federal credit union for 3 years. I know how boards should function.

TOM WURTZ: I would advocate broadcasting all MUD Board meetings on the local public access channel. We also need to make monthly MUD Board meetings more user friendly to the public by allowing the general public to sit in the first two rows of the Board room. Presently, this space is occupied by management staff and the public feels excluded. I would require that all MUD committee meetings be noticed to the public and that all meetings be held at the downtown headquarters.

системы и процедуры MUD использует для мониторинга и измерения качества воды. Я сравниваю местные характеристики качества воды с аналогичными данными других городов и с национальными стандартами EPA. Если у MUD есть подозрения на недопустимый уровень качества, я быстро реакция в этом вопросе. Менеджеры MUD также должны быть вовлечены в понимание сложности этих вопросов. В практическом отношении, текущий процесс очистки воды достаточен. Наши жители заслуживают более активного участия в процессе принятия решений, а не только в информировании. Я предлагал создать Совет наблюдателей, который бы представлял интересы жителей.

Какие у Вас квалификации для этой должности?

ЖЕК ФРОСТ: У меня 29 лет опыта. Я являюсь активным администратором и управляющим, который работает на местных электрических и газовых сетях. Я обладаю уникальной компетенцией, включая опыт работы на уровне полномочий в Мюнхене и Омске. Я также имел опыт работы в различных регуляторах, включая SEC и COMMIT.

ТОДД ХИНИ: Я не отвечал.

ДЖИМ КУСК: Моя философия на этом поприще основана на том, что следует стремиться к участию жителей. Моя стратегия - создание Совета наблюдателей и консультативной группы. Если это станет барьером, я создам временную организацию для выражения мнений жителей.

МЕЙК МКГОУН: Я имею два степени (BS в Math & MBA) я работал 36 лет в компании Northern Natural Gas. Я был председателем MUD Board в 2012 году, а затем ушел на пенсию, поэтому у меня есть время уделить внимание этой должности. Никоторые кандидаты не обладают всеми необходимыми знаниями, опытом и временем для выполнения своей работы.

ПАТРИК КИФФЕРСОН: Я провел всю свою жизнь в Омaha. Я работал в банковской отрасли около 30 лет и был президентом местной банка. Как директор по административным вопросам я управлял бюджетом в $30 млн и пятью отделами правительства города. Мой опыт позволит мне задавать правильные вопросы и быть ответственным за интересы клиентов.

БЕРТ МЕХЕР: Я адвокат и CPА. За 8 лет в области бухгалтерского учета я занимался крупными клиентами, включая Northern Natural Gas, газовую и электрическую энергетику. Я также был участником безвозмездной работы на уровне совета директоров $50 млн кредитного союза.

ТОМ УРТц: Я бы рекомендовал трансляцию заседаний MUD Board на местном канале доступа. Также необходимо проводить более доступные ежемесячные заседания, где жители могут участвовать в качестве публичных зрителей.

Омaha Public Pow- er DISTRICT BOARD

ПОЛУСАНДЕРСОН (Р)

Адрес: 6626 Cummg St, 68132

Веб-сайт: http://pganderson6626@cox.net. Государственная должность, даты: None. Должность: Retired US Navy Reserve (20 years), BNSF Railroad (35 years). Возраст: 62. Муж, 1 дитя.


БРЭД АШБАЙ (Р)

Адрес: 6038 Lafayette Omaha

Должность: Investigator. Возраст: 65. Сингл, 2 дити.

Приобретенный опыт: BS Computer Science University of Nebraska at Omaha. Воинская служба (20 лет) в National Air National Guard.

КОЛЛИН КАВАНАУ (D)

Адрес: 6038 Lafayette Omaha

Должность: Investigator. Возраст: 65. Сингл, 2 дити.

Приобретенный опыт: BS Computer Science University of Nebraska at Omaha. Воинская служба (20 лет) в National Air National Guard.

ДОН КРЮПА (R)

Адрес: 12865 Deauville Drive Omaha, NE 68137


вOLT (D)

Адрес: 510 S 57th St, Omaha, NE 68106


Приобретенный опыт: Masters in Business Administration, August 2000 University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota. Воинская служба: President of the City Council - Finance, May 1999 University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota. Воинская служба: None. Должность: None. Воинская служба: None. Воинская служба: None. Воинская служба: None.

ТОМ МУЛЛИГАН (R)

Адрес: 12311 Charles Street Omaha, NE 68154

Приобретенный опыт: None. Должность: None. Должность: None. Должность: None. Должность: None.
WHAT MEASURES WILL YOU TAKE TO ENCOURAGE A REDUCTION IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION WHILE MAINTAINING OPPD'S SOLVENCY?

PAUL ANDERSON: My first motion at the January 2017 meeting will be to redress the residential and commercial fixed-service rates. My motivation for this motion is I believe that OPPD rate payers (stock holders) who reduce their energy consumption, should be rewarded by what they pay in their monthly bill.

BRAD ASHBY: I would continue the current campaigns and programs to encourage consumers to reduce energy consumption. I would look at incentives to encourage consumers to purchase LED lighting and more energy efficient appliances. Making sure OPPD continues solvency is of utmost importance to me and its customers. I would look to improve inefficiencies and cuts costs before voting for any rate hikes.

COLLIN CAVAUGH: Encouraging a balanced load factor or in other words a more equal usage of energy across all seasons will benefit the customer owners as well as OPPD. The costs to generate, transmit and distribute electricity are in a large part fixed based upon the significant capital investment necessary to provide the energy to customers homes and businesses. Rates that allow customers to take advantages of variability within the energy market will provide a win win situation for the ratepayers

DON KROUPA: Reduction in energy consumption could be achieved by keeping residential monthly costs basic services from increasing and have rate restructuring for higher usage customers. Also expanding renewable energy production such as wind turbines.

CRAIG MOODY: OPPD should enhance its programs that help customers reduce energy, especially those focused on times when electricity is most expensive for OPPD to deliver (peak energy demand). Doing so reduces the need for OPPD to build additional generation capacity, which is extremely costly. Renewable energy, battery technology, and distributed generation will decrease demand on OPPD to centrally generate power, which offers an opportunity to reduce costs as well. Also seek administrative cost reductions.

TOM MULLIGAN: Making smart business decisions is based on managing with data. We, as a community as well as a country, must do and encourage decreasing the carbon footprint that goes along with some major processes in the production of electricity. To reduce the amount of energy we consume while maintaining OPPD's solvency is a balancing challenge that must include renewable energy sources, some already identified and others that may present themselves in the future. Our thought process must remain open.

HOW WILL YOU ENSURE THE PUBLIC IS INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT OPPD?

PAUL ANDERSON: My second motion at the January 2017 meeting will be to hold the OPPD board meetings in the evening. This will allow and encourage the opportunity for the (working people), to attend the meeting and be involved in the decision-making process at OPPD. Also, everyone who attends the meeting, will be allowed to park in the OPPD garage free of charge, remember, the PUBLIC owns this company!

BRAD ASHBY: I would look at expanding OPPD's social media presents to keep the public better informed of the issue facing the board and give the public a greater chance to provide their opinions on the issues.

COLLIN CAVAUGH: I would first expand the allotted time given to ratepayers who take the time to attend OPPD board meetings. Ratepayers have often taken off work or otherwise given up their valuable time to attend an OPPD board meeting. Limiting the ratepayers to 3 minutes is not sufficient time for ratepayers to express their concerns, opinions and feelings on issues that are important to them. I would also advocate for meetings in the evening to encourage more participation of ratepayers.

DON KROUPA: Continue open board meetings to allow public opinions and to be available for personal discussions of importance.

CRAIG MOODY: Board meetings should occur in the evenings and rotate throughout the OPPD territory. Board materials should include more and clearer information and be shared in multiple mediums, including social media. OPPD should re-evaluate and modernize its public input processes and also create and consistently share a “dashboard” that publicly articulates its progress on key performance indicators. Improved corporate governance should be a priority, as should improved proceedings on rate increases.

TOM MULLIGAN: I believe in transparency in government. I encourage all to contact their elected officials, attend public meetings, and become involved in all facets of our government. I am (and have been in the past) readily available and accessible via personal meetings, telephone or email. As the board member for subdistrict 5 I will be an active participant in the local homeowner associations, or other public groups as necessary to be available and to share information on decisions and issues on OPPD.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE?

PAUL ANDERSON: My life experiences Born in Plainview Ne. Lived and worked in Axtell, Broken Bow, Alliance, Scottsbluff, Sidney, Lincoln and Omaha. US Navy Reserve (Retired 20 years) Mobilized in Operation Iraqi Freedom Mobilized in 2005 Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort. I have a background in business, skills will be helpful to OPPD ratepayers.

CRAIG MOODY: I co-own and lead a small business, Verdis Group (the Chamber's 2015 Small Business of the Year) that consults to large institutions on how to be more energy efficient. I have a deep knowledge of the energy industry and have a background in business (finance MBA). I also have several years of community leadership experience with involvement on many nonprofit boards, regional planning committees, and City of Omaha boards. I tactfully ask tough questions and lead orgs to bigger and better things.

TOM MULLIGAN: I have over 40 years of business experience, mostly in management. I am a retired executive from Union Pacific Railroad. I have also served on the Omaha City Council as a member and president from 2010 to 2013. I also served as an elected Trustee on SID #236 (Candlewood) for three two-year terms from 1994 to 1999. While on the City Council I was an active participant in completing the successful labor agreement negotiations with Omaha's Fire and Police Unions.

POLLING PLACES
will be open on
May 10th,
8:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.

Papio-Missouri RIVER NRD

Scott Japp (R)
Address: 4752 County Road 15, Arlington, NE 68002
Current public office, dates held: Director of the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District 2009 to present. Past public office, dates held: Director of the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District 2009 to present. Occupation: Construction Supervisor. Age: 60. Not married, no children. Education: Arlington High School, BS from the University of Nebraska in the College of Agriculture. Military: None. Volunteer experience: Past 4-H Leader, Built youth sport fields in the county and world wide. Currently working on a project with the local legions and the National Veterans Cemetery.

Bill Rhea Jr. (R)
No response received.

Chad R. Scebold (R)
No response received.

Bill Pospichal (D)
Address: 20915 West Center Road, Elkhorn NE 68022

Gene Siadek (L)
Address: 1629 N. 160th St, Omaha, NE 68118

Rich Tesar (R)
Address: 28700 Platte River Plaza, Waterloo, NE
Website: http://RichTesar.com; FB Rich Tesar NRD Director. Current public office, dates held: Director, Papio-Missouri River NRD, 2000 – Present. Past public office, dates held: Director, Papio-Mis-

BRYON UECKERT (R) No response received.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS AN APPROPRIATE DIVISION OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE ACCESS IN AND AROUND WATERTWAYS DEVELOPED AS NRD PROJECTS?

SUBDISTRICT 1

SCOTT JAPP: The public shall have access to all NRD projects where they acquired that land to build such project. Private developments should financial assist in the cost of the project in which they receive benefits. Fees may be assigned to the developers for the benefits they receive from the project. This defrays the cost of the public to reduce their local property taxes.

BILL RHEA JR.: No response received.

CHAD R. SCEBOLD: No response received.

SUBDISTRICT 5

BILL POSPICHAL: This was one focus of the Watershed by Design Board. Greater access is required by the P-MRN RD to service existing waterways and impoundments than what is typically granted by developers and planning boards. This access must be adequate for trucks and heavy equipment beyond simply foot and vehicle traffic. The Board pressed to expand existing and future right-of-ways and easements.

GENE SIADEK: I believe all NRD projects should have full public access. I am not a fan of the public/private arrangements. They appear to be much more advantageous to the private partner then the taxpayers.

RICH TESAR: I believe there should be full public access around all NRD developed multi-use flood control reservoir projects. We also try to incorporate public trails around our projects whenever economically feasible as they have become so very popular with the public. I also support the construction of these trails on publicly owned levees if a trail would be sufficiently utilized, is safe, and is economically feasible. Public access should only be limited if there are safety concerns in a given area.

BRYON UECKERT: No response received.

IN ADDITION TO FLOOD CONTROL, WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY FOR THE NRD?

SUBDISTRICT 1

SCOTT JAPP: Dams do not provide a cost effective means of flood control. My other top priorities are erosion control to preserve top soil for future agriculture activities and reduces the cost associated with the cost of removal and cleanup of damage caused by erosion. Allowing proper ground water management for the economic development of the rural communities. Ground water shouldn't be denied to land owners use to be diverted for special interests groups at the expense of land owners.

BILL RHEA JR.: No response received.

SUBDISTRICT 5

BILL POSPICHAL: Long term involvement with the P-MRN RD on volunteer boards, as a program enrollee in various programs and as a conservation advocate has kept me in step with the aims of the District. I would like to lend my skills to keep their the current programs moving ahead as well as adding more ideas to protect what is in place. My 30-year background in construction practices and management support this.

GENE SIADEK: For 10 years I was the Water Supply Engineer for MUD where I became an expert in statewide water issues. I am currently Director of Water Distribution at MUD giving me expertise in public water supply issues. I supervise 35 union and management staff. I have a high level of knowledge in regards to water resources. I am a frequent, year-round, user of the trail system. I am a lifelong resident of Omaha.

RICH TESAR: I am experienced with 24 years on the NRD Board and 12 years as Board Secretary. Have chaired the NRD Finance Committee for 8 years and kept tax rates low. I have served on the board of the NE Association of Resources Districts for 12 years. Appointed in 2013 as the NRD’s representative on the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition working on water quantity issues. I was appointed by the Governor in 2007 and again in 2013 to the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force protecting Nebraska’s rivers.

BRYON UECKERT: No response received.

President OF THE UNITED STATES

Please see Vote411.org for information on the presidential candidates.