

2020 Legislative Candidates

May 12 Primary Election

District 1 Incumbent - Senator Julie Slama

Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee and Richardson Counties



Julie Slama (23) Republican – Peru

<https://www.facebook.com/senatorslama/>

Governor Ricketts appointed Senator Slama to the Legislature in 2019. She has a B.S. from Yale University, and is pursuing a law degree at the University of Nebraska College of Law. Slama serves on the Judiciary, Business and Labor, Agriculture, and chairs the Enrollment & Review Committee. She is also the youngest female to serve in the Nebraska Legislature, and was named the 2019 Legislator of the Year by the National Young Republicans.



Dennis Schardt (53) Republican – Table Rock

<https://www.facebook.com/Dennis-Schardt-for-Legislature>

Schardt is chairman of the Pawnee County Board of Commissioners. He has served in many civic roles, including chairman of the Village of Table Rock, fire chief of the Table Rock Volunteer Fire Department, and a member of both the Pawnee County Ag Society and Pawnee County 4H council. He operates Den's Country Meats in Table Rock.



Janet Palmtag (57) Republican – Nebraska City

<https://www.facebook.com/JanetPalmtag/>

A Nebraska City native, Palmtag received a B.A. from UNL. She is a licensed real estate broker who wants to “strengthen the quality of life in communities in southeast Nebraska.” Palmtag is a former president of the Nebraska REALTORS Association. She was also a commissioner on both the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Palmtag is endorsed by Governor Heineman and Congressman Fortenberry.

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District 3 Incumbent – Carol Blood

Bellevue

Carol Blood (58) Democrat – Bellevue

<http://www.carolblood.com>



Senator Blood is a former Bellevue City Council member and executive director of the LaVista Chamber of Commerce. Blood is also a former chair of the Bellevue Public Safety Foundation Board. She and her husband have three children and nine grandchildren. The Senator is a member of the Agriculture, General Affairs, and Government Military and Veterans Affairs Committees.

Rick Holdcroft (66) Republican – Bellevue

<https://www.facebook.com/HoldcroftforLegislature/>



Holdcroft is a retired Navy captain. He served in the U.S. Strategic Command and was a naval surface warfare officer. He supports cuts to property taxes and taxes on military retirement. He is pro-life. Holdcroft graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning his commission through the ROTC program. He formerly served on the USS Omaha Commissioning Committee, Bellevue Rotary Club, and the Ak-Sar-Ben chapter of the Air Force Association.

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District 5 Incumbent - Mike McDonnell

South Omaha



Mike McDonnell (53) Democrat – Omaha

<http://www.votemcdonnell.com>

Senator McDonnell earned a degree in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska – Omaha and a master’s in public administration from Bellevue University. A second-generation Omaha firefighter, his 24-year career included service as union president and chief of the Omaha Fire Department. He is currently president of the Omaha Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. McDonnell serves on the Appropriations and the Building and Maintenance Committees.



Gilbert Ayala (50) Republican – Omaha

Ayala earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Texas-El Paso. He was defeated by Senator McDonnell in the 2016 Legislative Election. He was also unsuccessful in a 2017 bid for Omaha City Council.

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District 7 Incumbent – Tony Vargas

Southeast Omaha



Tony Vargas (35) Democrat – Omaha

<https://www.vargasfornebraska.com>

Senator Vargas was born in New York City. A graduate of the University of Rochester, he earned an MS in education from Pace University. Tony taught in New York City before moving to Nebraska. He is a board member of New Leaders Council-Omaha. Vargas was appointed to the Omaha Public School Board in 2013. He is a member of the Appropriations Committee, vice chair of the Executive Board and chair of the Legislature's Planning Committee.



Jorge Sotolongo (31) Republican – Omaha

<https://www.gosotolongo.com>

Born in San Juan, Sotolongo is a vice president at NAI NP Dodge Real Estate. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and French from St. Louis University and a MBA from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Sotolongo worked as a graduate assistant for the Nebraska Business Development Center's Procurement Technical Assistance Program, helping small businesses seeking government contracts.

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District 9 Incumbent – Sara Howard (term-limited)

Aksarben, Elmwood Park and midtown Omaha

John Cavanaugh () Democrat – Omaha

<https://www.cavanaughfornebraska.com>



Cavanaugh is an assistant Douglas County Public Defender. His sister, Michaela is a state senator and his father, John, was a U.S. Congressman. He earned a bachelor's degree from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and a J.D. from Vermont Law School. Cavanaugh has a master's degree in environmental policy from the Vermont Law School. He was president of the Omaha Barrister's Association, and is on the board of Mode Shift Omaha.

Marque Snow (31) Democrat – Omaha

<https://votesnow.com>



Snow is president of the Omaha Public Schools board and currently program director at the Nebraska Center for Workforce Development. Born in a military family, he graduated from Seoul American High School in South Korea. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota. Snow moved to Omaha in 2011. He is a labor activist with union experience.

Mark Vondrasek (28) Democrat – Omaha

<https://twitter.com/MarkVondrasek>



Vondrasek is a Progressive Democrat and a self-described "queer socialist with a working-class attitude." He is a bicycle mechanic at Heartland BCycle. He is active in the tenants' rights group, Omaha Tenants United, and works with the Nebraska Democratic Socialists of America. His Platform focuses on Climate Change, the Struggle for Housing, and Public Transit.

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District 11 Incumbent – Ernie Chambers (term-limited)

North Omaha



Terrell McKinney (29) Democrat – Omaha

www.peopleforterrellmckinney.com

McKinney earned an MBA from Midland University and will be studying law at Creighton University. He is a community activist and formerly employed by Appleseed. Economic development and opportunity are his top priorities. McKinney cites criminal justice reform and education as key issues. He is on the board of Black Men United and co-hosts a weekly podcast .



Dennis Womack (82) Democrat – Omaha

www.dennisjwomack.com

Womack was deputy Douglas County Election Commissioner in 2004 and 2005 and worked for the U.S. Department of Labor. He ran unsuccessfully for the Metropolitan Community College Board of Directors and twice lost races for a seat on the Omaha City Council. He was runner-up in the 2004 Democratic primary race for Douglas County Board. In 2008 ran unsuccessfully for the District 11 legislative seat.



Teela Mickles (71) Democrat – Omaha

<https://teela4district11.godaddysites.com>

Mickles is a member of the Brian/Fisher Family, the largest registered Black family in the state. She is the Founder/CEO of Compassion In Action Inc. a faith-based, non-profit organization, serving individuals in Nebraska Correctional Facilities, and families affected by incarceration. She is a member of the mayor's Citizen Complaint Review Board, and a Pastor at Mission Church. Mickles has five children, 40 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

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Cornelius Williams (56) Democrat – Omaha

Williams is a professor at Metropolitan Community College. He earned his B.S. at Stanford University, M.S. in Physics at Texas A&M University, and a Ph.D. in Physics from Michigan State University. He is a member of the Coordinating Council of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.



Fred Conley (72) Democrat – Omaha

A former Omaha City Council member, Conley is currently a member of the Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District Board. He was chairman of the Omaha Housing Authority board, and board member of Metropolitan Community College when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development banned Conley from participating in federal contracts for failing to disclose a potential conflict of interest.



John Sciara () Republican – Omaha

Sciara earned his B.A. in political science from Creighton University. He served in both the United States Air Force and the United States Army Reserve. He ran unsuccessfully for the District 11 seat in 2017 after filing a petition claiming that Senator Chambers lives in Bellevue, not in District 11. The Legislature voted 42-0 that the senator indeed lives in District 11.

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Gwen Easter () Democrat – Omaha

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Political-Organization/Gwen-Easter-for-State-Senator-Legislature-District-11-107799767498646/>

Ms. Easter is the owner of the Safe Haven Early Childhood Preschool Education Academy and was appointed by Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts to the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council. In 2017, she ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the Omaha City Council.

District 13 Incumbent – Justin Wayne – Omaha

North Central Omaha

Justin Wayne (38) Democrat – Omaha

<https://www.facebook.com/SenatorJustinWayne/>



Senator Wayne has a J.D. from Creighton University. He was an assistant director of labor relations at UPRR and is now in private practice. Wayne is president of Midwest Trailblazers Youth Program and serves on the Goodwill Industries board. He chairs the Urban Affairs Committee, and is a member of the General Affairs, and Judiciary Committees. He also serves on the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Committee, LR87 Special Committee and the Economic Development Task Force.

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District 15 Incumbent – Lynn Walz

Dodge County

Lynn Walz (55) Democrat – Fremont

<https://www.facebook.com/lynnewalzforlegislature/>



Senator Walz is a real estate agent and former teacher. She was a candidate for lieutenant governor in 2019. Walz earned a B.A. from Midland Lutheran College. She was a board member of the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Fremont Bergan School, Fremont Board of Realtors (president), Salem Lutheran Church and Salem Lutheran Church Children’s Ministry. Walz is a member of the Health & Human Services, Education, and State-Tribal Committees.

David Rogers () Republican – Fremont

<https://www.rogersforlegislature.com>



A U.S. Air Force veteran, Rogers is the owner of Professional HPP Services, a high-pressure pasteurization company that repairs and services ultrahigh pressure equipment worldwide. He is also an adjunct professor of cybersecurity at Bellevue University. He received his B.S in electronics management from Southern Illinois University, and a master’s in computer systems management from Creighton University. He will run an anti-abortion, pro-Second Amendment campaign.

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District 17 Incumbent – Joni Albrecht

Dakota, Thurston and Wayne Counties



Joni Albrecht (61) Republican – Thurston

<https://www.facebook.com/lynnewalzforlegislature/>

Senator Albrecht and her husband farm in Thurston County. She is a former Papillion City Council member and Sarpy County Board member. She is a fiscal and social conservative. Albrecht is a former chair of the Business & Labor Committee, and currently serves on the Natural Resources, Transportation & Telecommunications, and State-Tribal Relations Committees.

Sheryl Lindau (65) Democrat – Wayne

<http://lindauforlegislature.com>



Lindau holds a degree in political science from UNL and a master's degree in public administration from UNO. She was mayor of Wayne (1994-2004) and served on the Nebraska State College Board of Trustees, and the Nebraska League of Municipalities Board (President). Lindau owned a retail clothing store in Wayne and worked for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands.

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District 19 Incumbent Jim Scheer (term-limited)
Madison & Stanton Counties



Mike Flood (44) Republican – Norfolk

<https://www.facebook.com/FloodforLegislature/>

Former state senator (2005-2012), and Speaker of the Legislature, Flood earned his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and J.D. from the University of Nebraska. He now runs News Channel Nebraska with radio stations in Norfolk, Columbus, Nebraska City and Beatrice. Flood Communications is also a news and sports-based television station that broadcasts via cable TV across the state. Flood was a strong advocate for pro-life issues and capital punishment.

District 21 Incumbent – Mike Hilgers
Northwest Lancaster County



Mike Hilgers (41) Republican – Lincoln

<https://www.mikehilgers.com>

Senator Hilgers graduated from Baylor University and received his J.D. from the University of Chicago. His law firm, Hilgers Graben, was named to Inc. Magazine's 2018 list of the fastest growing private companies in the country. He is chair of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. Hilgers is a member of the Transportation and Telecommunications, Government, Military & Veterans Affairs, and Performance Audit Committees.

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Joseph Couch () Democrat – Lincoln

www.Josephcouch.com

Couch graduated from Doane University in 2016 with a degree in mathematics. He currently serves in the Nebraska Army National Guard. He is a bisexual atheist and says it's his duty to be loud and proud to create safe environments for others to be honest about themselves. Couch believes climate change is a serious issue and voting day should be a national holiday. He also believes in incentivizing crop diversity and regenerative agriculture.



Brodey Weber (22) Democrat – Lincoln

www.brodyweber.com

Weber expects to graduate from UNL in May. He is an advisory board member of Lincoln's Keno/Human Services, and a board member of Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, and the Highlands Neighborhood Association. Weber is a member of Lincoln's Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Group. He was also a grassroots organizer opposing a large-scale poultry operation near Raymond.

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District 23 Incumbent – Bruce Bostelman

Saunders, Butler and Colfax Counties



Bruce Bostelman (57) Republican – Brainard

bostelmanfornebraska.com

Senator Bostelman earned his AA from Community College of the Air Force, and a B.S. from Bellevue University. He retired after 20 years in the US Air Force, and now farms. Bruce is adjutant for the American Legion Rejda Post 273 and advisory board president of the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center – UNL. His legislative committees include: Natural Resources, Transportation and Telecommunications. He serves on the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.



Helen Raikes (76) Independent – Ashland

<https://raikes2020.com>

Raikes earned a B.S. from Iowa State University, a M.S. from the University of California and a PH.D. from Iowa State University. She is retiring from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an early childhood education professor in the Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies. The Raikes family has been farming in Saunders County for 100 and operates Raikes Beef in downtown Ashland. She is a leader in Nebraska about how to save children.

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District 25 Incumbent – Suzanne Geist

Northeast Lincoln and Lancaster County

Suzanne Geist (58) Republican – Lincoln

<http://geistfornebraska.com>

Senator Geist was raised in Pine Bluff, AR. She attended the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and graduated with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. She is a small style consulting business owner. Geist is chair of the Legislative Audit Committee, a member of the Natural Resources Committee, and the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.



Stephany Pleasant (30) Democrat – Lincoln

Pleasant is an attorney at Disability Rights Nebraska, the state's federally designated Protection and Advocacy agency for people with disabilities. She is a former AmeriCorps service member. She is involved with Multicultural Legal Society at UNL Law, NSBA Young Lawyers, Equal Justice Society, Women's Law Caucus, Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, University of Nebraska-Lincoln German Club and Love Memorial Hall Co-Operation.

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District 27 Incumbent – Anna Wishart

Northeast Lincoln and Lancaster County



Anna Wishart (34) Democrat – Lincoln

<https://annawishart.com>

Senator Wishart is a graduate of Middlebury College, VT. She is a policy consultant for Beyond School Bells, a Nebraska Children and Families Foundation that advocates for afterschool and summer school programs. Wishart was Board Chair of the Lincoln Airport Authority. She is a member of NextGen Lincoln, Lancaster Rehabilitation Center. Wishart is a member of the Appropriations and State-Tribal Relations Committees.

Brenda Bickford () Republican – Lincoln

<https://www.brendabickford.com/>



Bickford attended Kearney State College and the University of Kansas. She spent 15 years as an Occupational Therapist, as well as the Director of Occupational Therapy at a large trauma hospital. She then spent six years as a Business Law Legal Assistant. She is now an IT Project Manager at Nebraska based Nelnet, Inc. Bickford supports property tax relief, affordable housing, 2nd Amendment rights and pro-life.

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District 29 Incumbent – Kate Bolz (term-limited)

South-Central Lincoln



Jennifer Carter () Democrat – Lincoln

<https://www.carterforlegislature.com>

Carter has a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and a law degree from Boston University. She is legal counsel for the Health and Human Services Committee, and a former consultant for the Food Bank for the Heartland and the Food Bank of Lincoln. Carter was director of public policy for Nebraska Appleseed. Carter serves on the boards for Friends of Lied and HopeSpoke.



Eliot Bostar () Democrat – Lincoln

<https://www.eliotbostar.com>

Raised in New York, Bostar's family farm is near McCool Junction. He is executive director of the Nebraska Conservation Voters and Conservation Nebraska. He earned a Business degree from Embry-Riddle University, and former special adviser to the New York Governor's Office. His supporters include Senator Morfeld, former Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler, and City Council members Bennie Shobe, Tammy Ward and James Michael Bowers.



Lisa Lee (57) Republican – Lincoln

<https://www.leeforlegislature.com>

Lee was an internal audit professional in Kansas City for 13 years. She worked as an Internal Audit Professional for an insurance company, and she is currently the lead programmer for the Lincoln Council for International Visitors. Property tax reform is her top issue, but that it must be aligned with adequate funding of education. Lee, a graduate of the University of Iowa, also believes greater investment in workforce development is needed.

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District 29 Incumbent – Kate Bolz (term-limited)

South-Central Lincoln

Jacob Campbell () Republican – Lincoln

<https://www.campbellforlegislature.com>



Campbell joined the Nebraska Army National Guard when he was 17 and served as a Military Policeman for 8 years. He attended UNL and received his Graduate Certificate in Public Management. Jacob worked at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as a child abuse investigator and in the Undergraduate Office of Admissions as a recruitment specialist. He is currently Legislative Counsel for Senator Ben Hansen.

Neal Clayburn () Democrat – Lincoln

<https://www.facebook.com/nealo52>



Clayburn was formerly the associate executive director of the Nebraska State Education Association, and the executive director of the Lincoln Education Association (1991-2006). Clayburn is a U.S. Navy veteran and former teacher at Gering and Grand Island. His priorities include property tax relief, job growth, quality education, investments in roads, and stewardship of the environment.

Michael Connelly – Lincoln

No Information Available.

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District 31 Incumbent – Rick Kolowski (term-limited)

Millard and Elkhorn

Tim Royers (33) Democrat – Millard

<https://www.royers2020.com>



Royers is a social studies teacher and debate coach at Millard West. He is also, chief negotiator for his 1,000-member Millard schoolteachers union. He graduated from Millard West and earned his bachelor's degree from Northwest Missouri State University. Education funding will be his chief issue. He's exploring other education-related jobs that might allow him to work around legislative sessions. Royers was 2016 Nebraska Teacher of the Year.

Alexander Martin () Democrat – Millard

Martin was raised in Millard. After serving in the US Navy and earning a BBA from Bangkok University, he returned to Millard. He wants to make Nebraska a better place for the working class. He is an avid cyclist and works for Trek Bicycle Company in Omaha.



Mark Gruenewald () Republican – Millard

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Mark-Gruenewald-Papio-Nrd/100014601552957>



Gruenewald is a licensed insurance adviser at beBERK, a Berkshire Hathaway Company. He currently serves on the board of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. He is also involved in sales and customer training for integrated satellite imagery, field-centric weather stations, machine operation telemetry and agronomy products enhancing precision ag options.

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Rich Pahls (76) Republican – Millard

<https://www.facebook.com/rich.pahls>



Pahls earned a B.S. and master's degree from Fort Hays State University. He, also received an ED.D in education from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. He was a Principal in the Millard School District and retired in 2003. He was elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2004 and served until 2012. Pahls was elected to the Omaha City Council in 2013 and will leave that post in 2020. As a legislator, he was chair of the Banking Commerce and Insurance Committee.

District 33 Incumbent – Steve Halloran

Adams and Hall Counties

Steve Halloran (71) Republican – Hastings

<https://www.vote4halloran.com>



Senator Halloran earned his B.S. from Creighton University College of Business. He is a restaurateur and a fifth-generation family farmer, currently managing the farm-tenant relationship. His priorities are lower property taxes; increased livestock production; eliminating regulatory burdens and creating career opportunities for young people in agriculture. He chair's the Agriculture Committee and serves on the Natural Resources and the Business & Labor Committees.

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District 35 Incumbent – Dan Quick Grand Island



Dan Quick (63) Democrat – Grand Island

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

Senator Quick is a retired power plant maintenance mechanic. Dan is a member of Knights of Columbus; eucharistic minister, IBEW 1597, Nebraska State Utility Workers Conference and president of the Central Nebraska Labor Council. Quick is a member of Banking Commerce and Insurance Committee, Natural Resources Committee, Nebraska Economic Development Task Force, and the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision.



Ray Aguilar (72) Republican – Grand Island

A retired businessman, former senator Aguilar was appointed to the Legislature in 1999 and served through 2008. He was the first Latino in the Legislature. While in the Legislature, he served as chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Aguilar helped create the Central Nebraska Drug Court and Child Advocacy Center while in office.

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District 37 Incumbent – John Lowe

Kearney



John Lowe Jr. (61) Republican – Kearney

<http://www.johnloweforlegislature.com>

Senator Lowe graduated from Kearney High School and Kearney State College. A real estate investor, Lowe is a former bar/restaurant owner; document imager and inventory auditor. He is a member of the Rob Morris Masonic Lodge; Tehama Shrine Potentate and was a Kearney Planning Commissioner. Lowe is a member of the Executive Board, as well as the Urban Affairs, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs, General Affairs, and Building Maintenance Committees.



Mercadies Damratowski () – Kearney

Damratowski is recently married and a Stay at Home Mom (SAHM). She went to Kearney Senior High School and studied at Northeast Community College. A former welder, Mrs. Damratowski is vice chair of the Tri Cities Nebraska Libertarian Party. She believes everyone deserves to be healthy.

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District 39 Incumbent – Lou Ann Linehan

Elkhorn, Valley, Waterloo and parts of Omaha and Millard



Lou Ann Linehan (64) Republican – Elkhorn

<http://linehanforlegislature.com>

Senator Linehan was born and raised on a dairy farm in rural Johnson County. She was chief of staff for US Senator, Chuck Hagel, and was later the deputy principal officer, pillar director, deputy team leader, and deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of State. Linehan is chair of the Revenue Committee and a member of the Education Committee and the Nebraska Economic Development Task Force.

Allison Heimes (29) Democrat – Elkhorn

<http://heimesforlegislature.com>



Heimes is an immigration and criminal defense attorney. She volunteers with the Kim Foundation, which raises awareness about mental illness and suicide prevention. Heimes, a married mother of two. She earned a political science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a law degree and a master's degree in governmental organization and leadership at Creighton University.

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District 41 Incumbent - Tom Briese

Garfield, Wheeler, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, Howard, Boone, Antelope and Pierce



Tom Briese (59) Republican – Albion

<http://www.tombriese.com>

Briese received his B.S. from UNL and J.D. from the Nebraska College of Law. He farms near Albion and is a member of Nebraska Cattlemen, Farm Bureau, Central Plains Corn Growers Assn, Nebraska Soybean Assn, Boone County Foundation Fund, and the Boone County Philanthropy Council. Tom was a member of Boone Central School Board and Boone County Farm Service Agency. The senator chairs the General Affairs Committee and serves on the Revenue and Urban Affairs Committees.

District 43 Incumbent – Tom Brewer

Cherry, Dawes, Sheridan Brown, Rock, Keya Paha, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, McPherson and Logan



Tom Brewer (61) Republican – Gordon

<http://tombrewerfornebraska.com>

Senator Brewer earned his B.A. from Doane College and graduated from the Army War College. He was a helicopter pilot and received the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom; Purple Heart (twice) and the Bronze Star. He is retired and a member of the American Legion; VFW and Military Order of the Purple Heart. He is a chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, and serves on the Education and the State-Tribal Relations Committees.

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Tanya Storer (50) Republican – Whitman

<http://tanyaforlegislature.com/about/>



Storer and her husband Eric share the day-to-day running of their cattle operation in Cherry County. She was elected as a Cherry County Commissioner in 2014 and re-elected in 2018. She currently serves on the Blueprint Nebraska Board, the Nebraska DOT Innovation Task Force, the UNMC Advisory Board, the Region 4 Behavioral Health Board, and the Niobrara Council Executive Board. Storer is supported by Kay Orr.

District 45 Incumbent – Sue Crawford (term-limited)

Bellevue, Offutt and eastern Sarpy County

Susan Hester () Democrat – Bellevue

<https://votesusanhester.com>



Hester received her bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and her masters at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. She is a retired Bellevue Public Schools middle school teacher and current director of the Nebraska Science Olympiad. Hester is a member of the League of Women Voters, Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Bellevue Public Schools Foundation, Bellevue Woman's Club and Bellevue Together. Her top priority is finding an alternative way to fund public schools.

Rita Sanders (61) Republican – Bellevue

<https://www.facebook.com/ritasandersforlegislature/>



Endorsed by Gov. Ricketts, U.S. Sen. Fischer, Rep. Fortenberry and Rep. Bacon, Sanders served two terms as mayor of Bellevue (2010–2018). She and her husband own an independent senior living community in Bellevue and were inducted into the Sarpy County Business Hall of Fame in 2016. Sanders received the Distinguished Service Award - Civilian by the Nebraska National Guard and is a member of Nebraska's Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs.

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Doug Cook () Republican – Bellevue

No Information Available.

District 47 Incumbent – Steve Erdman

Sioux, Box Butte, Morrill, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne, Duel, Garden, Keith and Arthur



Steve Erdman (70) Republican – Bayard

<https://www.steveerdman.com/positions>

Senator Erdman graduated from Nebraska Western Junior College. He retired from farming and is now a realtor. He is a member of Farm Bureau, and a former board member of Morrill County, Panhandle Co-op, Stateline Bean Co-op, Nebraska Co-op Council, Farmland Industries, Nebraska Association of County Officials (president/chairman); Bayard Public School Board, and the District 73 Rural Morrill County School. Erdman serves on the Appropriations Committee.

District 49 Incumbent – Andrew La Grone

Northwest Sarpy County



Andrew La Grone (29) Republican – Gretna

<https://www.facebook.com/LaGroneforLegislature/>

Senator La Grone was appointed to the Legislature by Governor Ricketts to fill the District 49 seat vacated by Senator Murante in 2019. He earned his B.A. from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and a J.D. from the Nebraska College of Law. He has a law practice in Gretna and is a member of Gretna Optimists, Nebraska Lawyers Chapter and the Federalist Society. La Grone serves on the Banking Commerce and Insurance, and the Government Military and Veterans Affairs Committees.

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Jen Day (29) Democrat – Gretna

<https://www.jendayfornebraska.com>

Day was raised in La Vista and she and her husband own a local gym - Artis Strength and Fitness. Day has a B.S. in political science from the University of Nebraska – Omaha. She is vice president of the Friends of Planned Parenthood Board and is also Co-Chair for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland’s annual fundraiser, Moxie.