

Nebraska Legislature

2022 Primary Election Candidates

District 2

- **Sen. Robert Clements**, Elmwood – Appointed to Nebraska Legislature: Feb. 2017, to replace Bill Kintner, who resigned; first elected 2018
 - 70, Republican. Appointed by Governor Ricketts to replace Senator Kintner. Exec. Vice Pres. American Exchange Bank. UNL graduate. President of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, member of the Sons of the American Legion, and former Cass County GOP chair. Serves on the Appropriations Committee.
- **Sara J. Slattery**, Plattsmouth
 - 39, Democrat. Head of St. John’s hot lunch program. Manager and head chef at Slattery Vintage Estates Vineyard & Tasting Room – opened with her parents in 2008. Parents are very active in community; Father is public defender in Cass County and serves on Cass County Economic Development Board.
- **Janet Chung**, Lincoln
 - 60, Democrat. Originally from Iowa. Graduated from Lincoln Southeast, received a Bachelor of Journalism at UNL. Marketing and Management professional who has worked in nonprofit and public power industries. Former chair of the Lancaster County Democrats. Married to Pat Raybould – Russ’s & Super Saver Markets.
- **Schuyler Windham**, Lincoln
 - 29, Libertarian. Graduate of Lincoln Southwest High School. Executive Director of the Nebraska Libertarian Party. An attorney and entrepreneur employed as a sales representative by US Law Shied. Received BA in Global Studies and Religious Studies from UNL and her JD from UNL Law.

District 4 Incumbent Sen. Robert “Bob” Hilkemann is term-limited

- **Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek**, Omaha
 - 54, Independent. Grew up in Iowa but has lived in Omaha for 30 years. Owns and operates a small business offering financial and insurance services for banks and credit unions. Serves as President of **Rank the Vote Nebraska**, on the Advisory Board for **Nonpartisan Nebraska**, and has volunteered as a Nonpartisan Election Observer through **Civic Nebraska**.
- **R. Brad von Gillern**, Elkhorn
 - 61, Republican. Graduated from Burke High School in 1978. Earned BS in Construction Management Engineering from UNL. Began working for Lueder Construction in 1991 and acquired majority ownership in 2006. He served as President, and then CEO until 2021 when he sold his remaining interest. He currently serves as Director of Business Development. Elder board member of Lifegate Church, involved in Salvation Army and Boy Scouts. Wife, Mary, is retired from residential real estate business.

District 6

- **Senator Machaela Cavanaugh**, first elected in 2018
 - 42, Democrat. Daughter of former US Rep. John Cavanaugh. Earned an MA from the University of Nebraska in Public Administration. Works for the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University. Previously worked as director of development for Opera Omaha, American Province of the Servants of Mary, and staff assistant for US Sen. Ben Nelson. Serves on the Health & Human Services and Transportation & Telecommunications committees.
- **Christian Mirch**
 - 35, Republican. Attended Creighton for both undergraduate and law degrees. Former Omaha police officer, left in 2018 to clerk for the Honorable Michael G. Heavican. Now practices law and is a part-time police officer in Yutan. Former chair of the Douglas County
 -

Republican Party. Sits on the Set Me Free Project Board of Directors, which is focused on human trafficking.

- **Elizabeth Hallgren**
 - 50, Republican. Moved to Omaha in 2009 when her husband was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base. Briefly moved to Colorado and then back to Nebraska. currently a business adviser for Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Small Businesses program and an instructor for the University of Iowa Venture School. She and her husband, a physician, co-founded an independent family medicine clinic that closed in 2020 due to the pandemic. She is a member of the Omaha West Rotary Club and the Swanson Park Neighborhood Association.

District 8

- **Senator Megan Hunt**, First elected in 2018
 - 41, Democrat. Owner of Shop Five Nine in Dundee. From Blair but has lived in Dundee for 17 years. Founded the nonprofit Safe Space Nebraska. Serves as a trustee of the Business Ethics Alliance and has served on the boards of Friends of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Friends of the Nebraska AIDS project, and Omaha area youth orchestras. Serves on Business & Labor, Government, Military & Veterans Affairs, and Urban Affairs committees.
- **Katie Opitz**
 - Campaign website states that Katies is a wife, a mother, and an educator “running for State Legislator to stand up against the rapid spread of extreme agendas threatening Nebraska.” Has a Facebook page with 4 friends and two pictures.
- **Marilyn Arant Asher**
 - 70, Republican. Graduate of Burke High School. She holds bachelor's degrees from Grace Bible Institute and St. Paul Bible College, and a Master of Arts in organizational leadership from Crown College. Worked for an engineering firm for 25 years and then the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility in Omaha until 2017 working as a religious and volunteer coordinator. Member of Nebraskans for Founders Values (Minutemen).

District 10

- **Senator Wendy DeBoer**, First elected in 2018
 - 47, Democrat. Former university educator and attorney. Currently working on a doctorate in Christian theology. Earned her BA in Economics and English from Hastings college, and JD from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1999. Has a MA in British literature from the University of Nebraska Omaha, and a Masters from the Lutheran School of Theology. Serves on the Judiciary, and Transportation & Telecommunications committees.
- **Lou Ann Goding**
 - 58, Republican. Non-practicing CPA. Received accounting degree from Bob Jones University. She worked for Arthur Anderson as an audit manager and in finance for Tender Heart Treasures. Has endorsements from Gov. Pete Ricketts, U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer, and U.S. Rep. Don Bacon.

District 12 Incumbent Senator Steve Lathrop is not seeking reelection

- **Merv Riepe**, Ralston
 - 79, Republican. Former senator who was beat by Lathrop in 2018. Former COO and CEO at Bergan Mercy Medical Center and formerly managed a physician's group at Children's Hospital & Medical Center. Navy veteran. Received a BS in finance from the University of Nebraska Omaha, and a MA in health policy and management from the University of Iowa. Previously served as the Chairman of the Health and Human Services committee and a member of the Urban Affairs, General Affairs, and Legislative Planning Committees.
- **Haile Kucera**, Omaha
 - Republican. Graduated from Millard South High School. Has an associate degree in business administration and management from Metropolitan Community College. Is a certified

- personal trainer and owns 402 Fit CO., and My HK Fitness. She is former Miss Nebraska Continents. Her husband is in the Navy.
- **Robin Richards, Ralston**
 - 41, Democrat. Attended Ralston Public Schools. UNO graduate with degrees in Education, English and music. Holds Master's Certificates in working with disabled populations from Colorado State and in diversity, equity, and inclusion from Cornell University. Currently completing graduate school through Colorado State University Leadership in Arts and Culture Management program. Formerly served as VP of the Board of Education for Ralston Public Schools and as regional director for the Nebraska Association of School Boards. Robin is the business manager for the Nebraska Arts Council. She also serves on the board of the Omaha Children's Choir and the Bellevue Choral Society.
 - **Bob Borgeson, Millard**
 - 71, Republican. Retired from Burlington Northern Railroad. Served as labor liaison and safety coordinator. Current State Director of SMART-TD which represents more than a thousand Nebraska railroaders. Married to Mary Ann who is a Douglas County Commissioner.

District 14

- **Senator John Arch, LaVista - First elected in 2018**
 - 65, Republican. Served as the executive vice president of healthcare and director of Boys Town National Research Hospital and clinics. Chairs the Health and Human Services Committee and serves on General Affairs and Urban Affairs Committees
- **Cori Villegas, Papillion**
 - 26, Democrat. Came to Nebraska to attend Creighton University. Grew up in Hawaii as part of an Air Force family. Volunteer at OPS after school programs and works at UNMC's Munroe Meyer Institute.
- **Rob Plugge, LaVista**
 - 29, Democrat. Graduated from LaVista High School. Attended Omaha Code School and is a software developer. Currently attends UNO for philosophy and pre-law.

District 16

- **Senator Ben Hansen, Blair - First elected in 2018**
 - 40, Republican. Chiropractor. Owns Hansen Chiropractic Wellness Center, Blair Rent-It Center, and Heritage Barnwood Company. Elected to Blair City Council in 2015. Active with the Blair Area Chamber of Commerce. Chairs the Business & Labor Committee and serves on Health & Human Services and Agriculture committees
- **Connie L. Petersen, Hoskins**
 - 45, Republican. Graduated from Arlington High School. Earned BS in Psychology and Sociology from Wayne State College, Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology and PhD from Wichita State University, and a Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology from New Mexico State University. Peterson is a Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Director at Behavioral Health Specialists in Norfolk. Family owns a pawn and gun store in Norfolk. She is a member of the Nebraska Psychological Association and American Psychological Association. Active with Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

District 18 Incumbent Senator Brett Lindstrom is term-limited

- **Clarice Jackson, Omaha**
 - 47, Republican. Born and raised in Omaha. Attended OPS and Bellevue College. Founder and Executive Director of the Voice Advocacy Center, a dyslexia tutoring and advocacy organization. Her daughter was killed in crossfire of a gang related shooting. Her son is in college. Clarice serves on the Phoenix Academy School board, Nelson Mandela Academic

Advisory Committee, the Nebraska African American Commission, Learning Community Council, and is an active proponent of school choice. Endorsed by Senator Lou Ann Linehan.

- **Christy Armendariz, Omaha**
 - 55, Republican. Life-long Omaha resident. Earned bachelor's in business administration from UNL, and Master of business administration from Nebraska Methodist College. Armendariz works as a strategic sourcing specialist for Methodist Health System. Previously worked in pharmaceutical sales, and in telecommunications for Great Plains Communications.
- **Michael Young, Omaha**
 - 39, Democrat. Originally from Omaha, attended Metro Community College and UNO where he earned a degree in business administration. Owns Technology consulting Services where he manages websites and provides IT support. Young served on the Metro Community College Board and the Omaha Transit Authority Board

District 20 Incumbent Senator John McCollister is term-limited

- **Julie Fredrickson, Omaha**
 - Republican. Graduated from Millard West High School. Realtor and owner of Heavenly Home Sales. Founder of the Omaha Tea Party Patriots. Endorsed by Nebraskans Against Government Overreach
- **Stu Dornan, Omaha**
 - 64, Republican. Attorney and former FBI Agent. Earned BA in English from University of Florida and JD from LSU Law Center. Served on Westside School Board from 200 – 2003 and as Douglas County Attorney from 2003 – 2006. Has served on ESU #3 Board since 2010.
- **John A. Fredrickson, Omaha**
 - 34, Democrat. Graduate of Skutt Catholic High School. Received a BS in social work from New York University and a master's from Columbia University. Moved back to Omaha two years ago, where he now works as a mental health professional.

District 22

- **Senator Mike Moser, Columbus- First elected in 2018**
 - 71, Republican. Owns Columbus Music. Former Columbus Mayor (2004-2016) Serves on the Natural Resources and Transportation & Telecommunications committees.
- **Mike Goos, Columbus**
 - 65, Democrat. Graduate of Columbus High School and UNK. Retired School Psychologist and owner of Discovery Counseling. Involved in Teammates Mentoring and the Columbus Education Association.
- **Roy Zach, Genoa**
 - 44, Independent. Graduate of Lindsay Holy Family High School. Earned a BS in geography from Wayne State College and a MA in geography from UNO. Owns art business, Trinity Works. Also, a published author of a photography and prayer book titled "God's Glorious Creation."

District 24 Incumbent Senator Mark Kolterman is term-limited

- **Jana Hughes, Seward**
 - 50, Republican. Grew up in Goehner and graduated from Seward High School. Received a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M. Worked as an engineer for Kurt Salmon Associates and at family-owned Hughes Brothers Manufacturing (100-year-old company in Seward producing electric transmission equipment). Is a fitness instructor at the Fallbrook YMCA and Chairwoman of the Legacy Fund of Seward County Covid Relief Fund, and President of the Seward Junior Women's Club. Has served on Seward Board of Education since 2018.

- **Dr. Patrick Hotovy, MD, York**
 - 59, Republican. Grew up in Bee. Received MD from UNMC. Has been a family physician at York Medical Clinic since 1992. Was named 2018 NE Family Physician of the Year. Previously served on the York School Board and is past President of the York Public Schools Foundation.

District 26 Incumbent Senator Matt Hansen is Term-limited

- **George C. Dungan III**
 - 33, Democrat. Lincoln native. Earned JD from American University. Serves as a Lancaster County Public Defender. Is a mentor with TeamMates, and was inducted into their hall of fame in 2017. Dungan serves on the Lincoln Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Lincoln Bar Association.
- **Russ Barger**
 - 50, Republican. Graduated from Wauneta-Palisade High School. Earned BS in Mechanized Systems Management and JD from UNL. Is currently an attorney with the Nebraska Department of Labor. Formerly an assistant AG, and senior claims manager at Old Mutual Financial Network. Barger clerked for the National Right to Life Committee in Washington DC and is a lifetime member of the Lincoln Right to Life Board. Has also served on Lower Platte South NRD.
- **Larry Weixelman**
 - 65, Independent. Received a BS in Marketing and Economics from UNL. Retired from UNL as an administrator for academic technologies. Previously ran for Legislature in 2014.
- **Bob Van Valkenburg**
 - 86, Republican. Retired Army Lt. Colonel. Business consultant. Has run for a myriad of elected positions but has never won.

District 28 Incumbent Senator Patty Pansing Brooks is Term-Limited

- **Jane Raybould**
 - 60. Democrat. Vice President and Director of Buildings and Equipment for B&R Stores (grocery business her parents started more than 54 years ago). Business has 20 locations of Super Saver and Russ's Markets across the state and employs more than 2,000 people. Currently serves on the Lincoln City Council. Previously served as Lancaster County Commissioner, on boards of several local nonprofits as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.
- **Roy Christensen**
 - 62, Republican. Born in Washington, DC and grew up living in several different states. After High School, Christensen spent two years in South America on a mission for his church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Earned a BS in Speech Pathology from Northern Arizona University, and a MS in Audiology from Idaho State University. Served in the Army medical corps in Germany. Moved to Lincoln in 1997 where he currently owns and operates Christensen Audiology. Christensen served on the Lincoln City Council from 2013-2021. Active member of LIBA.

District 30

- **Senator Myron Dorn, Adams.** Elected in 2018
 - 67, Republican. Farmer. Served on Gage County Board from 2010-2018. Serves on the Appropriations Committee

District 32

- **Senator Tom Brandt**, Plymouth. Elected in 2018
 - 62, Republican. Farmer, President of the Plymouth Improvement Association, Farmers Union. Serves on the Agriculture, General Affairs, and Judiciary committees

District 34 (Hamilton, Nance, Merrick, and Northwest Hall Counties) Incumbent Senator Curt Friesen is term limited.

- **Loren Lippincott**, Central City
 - 66, Republican. Graduated from Central City High School. Received a degree in broadcast journalism from UNL. Served in the US Air Force for 10 years and was stationed at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Lippincott lived in Atlanta where he worked as a commercial airline pilot for Delta for 30 years. He now lives on family farmstead between Fullerton and Central City.
- **Michael Reimers**, Central City
 - Republican. Graduate of Centura High School, Central Community College and UNL. Works in the automotive support equipment business as a technician and sales representative. Reimers served in the National Air Guard for 26 years and has held district and state offices for the American Legion.

District 36 (New District) Incumbent Senator Matt Williams is term-limited

- **Angie Lauritsen**, Gretna
 - 47, Democrat. Grew up a military kid, born at Offutt AFB, and lived at Fort Sill (OK), Fort Riley (KS) and Fort Omaha. She earned her degree from Bellevue University and spent 13 years in corporate banking before becoming an entrepreneur. Moved to Gretna 10 years ago. Has served on numerous boards including: PromiseShip, Gretna Chamber of Commerce. Gretna KIDS Committee and Citizen's Committee. Was part of Leadership Nebraska Class XII.
- **Rick Holdcroft**, Bellevue
 - 68, Republican. Received an electrical engineering degree from UNL through the ROTC program. Retired Navy Captain. During 28-year career in the Navy he had two assignments at US Strategic Command and was in command of a Spruance class-destroyer. After his military career, Holdcroft was an executive in the aerospace industry. He is endorsed by Governor Ricketts.

District 38

- **Senator Dave Murman**, Glenvil
 - 70, Republican. Third-Generation Dairy Farmer, Former President NE State Dairy Association. Former School Board member. Serves on the Education, Health & Human Services committees
- **Tyler Cappel**, Arapahoe
 - 36, Libertarian. Grew up in Holdrege. Attended Southeast Community College and received a degree in kinesiology and exercise science from Vatterot College. Cappel and his wife own Cappel Chiropractic and Personal Training where he is a personal trainer. He has served on the local library board and is a member of Nebraskans Against Government Overreach and the Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce.

District 40 Incumbent Senator **Tim Gragert** is not seeking reelection

- **Barry DeKay**, Niobrara
 - 62, Republican. Rancher and high school basketball referee. Former member and Chair of Nebraska Public Power District and NPPD Nuclear Committee, President of the Niobrara Valley Electric Corporation, Farm Bureau, Knox County Cattlemen, and Niobrara Valley Hospital Foundation.

- **Keith Kube, Crofton**
 - Republican. Graduated from Crofton High School. Received BS in civil engineering from UNL. CFO for Manufacturer's Network Group and is a licensed Real Estate Broker. Published author.
- **Mark Patefield, Laurel**
 - 43, Republican. Attended UNL and Creighton university where he received pharmacy degree. Together with his wife, owns Main Street Apothecary in Laurel and the U-Save Pharmacy in Wayne where both are practicing pharmacists. Patefield is the former mayor of Laurel and member of the Laurel-Concord School Board. Has been a vocal opponent of medical marijuana and school sex ed standards.
- **Robert Johnston, Orchard**
 - 65, Republican. Graduated from Orchard High School. Fifth-generation farmer and owner of Johnston Farms. Former director of the Nebraska Soybean Association, member of the Nebraska Ag Leaders Working Group, Orchard Rural Fire District, Orchard School Board, and Night Owls Motorcycle Club.

District 42 Senator Mike Groene resigned in February 2022.

- **Senator Mike Jacobson** (appointed to fill the remaining term after Senator Groene resigned)
 - 68, Republican Born and raised on family farm near Sutton. Earned a BA in Agricultural Economics from UNL and is a graduate of the University of Colorado-Boulder School of Banking. Founder and CEO of NebraskaLand Bank. Jacobson has served on the North Platte Public Schools Foundation Board (past President), Great Plains Health Board, North Platte Development Corporation, Community Redevelopment Authority, and the North Platte Airport Authority.
- **Chris Burns**
 - 36, Republican. Received bachelor's degree in business administration from Creighton University. Served in the US Marines Corps. Formerly worked for Prudential and Farm Bureau Financial Services. Currently ranches and serves as a Lincoln County Commissioner. Was originally endorsed by Senator Groene.
- **Brenda Fournier**
 - Graduated from North Platte High School. Earning an associates degree in business management from Mid-Plains Community College. Fournier is an independent care provider working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Formerly worked as a cosmetologist and welder. She is vocal opponent of vaccine mandates, critical race theory, sex education standards, and the validity of the 2020 election.

District 44 Incumbent Senator Dan Hughes is term-limited

- **Edward Dunn, Grant**
 - Graduated from Ogallala High School. Received an associate degree in medical billing and coding from Phoenix College. Grant City Superintendent, Airport Manager, and Economic development director. Served in the US Army and Army Reserves, including two tours in Iraq. Former ranch manager at Wine Glass Ranch.
- **Teresa Ibach, Sumner**
 - 60, Graduated from Sumner-Eddyville-Miller High School. Received a BS from UNL in Human Resources and Family Science. Ibach, and her husband Greg, have a cow-calf operation and grow corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. She is a Junior Achievement teacher in Kearney Public Schools and currently serves on the Nebraska FFA Board, Farm Bureau Foundation Board, Nebraskaland Foundation Board. Her husband, Greg, is the former director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and undersecretary of marketing and regulatory programs for the US Department of Agriculture under President Trump and is the current Under Secretary for the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

District 46 Incumbent Senator Adam Morfeld is term-limited

- **James Michael Bowers**
 - 33, Democrat. Graduated from Northeast High School. Received his bachelor's degree in social work from UNO and a master's degree in social work from Florida State University. Bowers is a social worker at Dawes Middle School and owns his own therapy practice in Havelock. He is the current president of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health and a member of the Lincoln City Council.
- **James A. Herrold**
 - 36, Libertarian. Graduated from Seward High School. Earned a BS in political science from UNL and an MBA from Concordia University. Herrold is a real estate agent and serves on the PTO at his children's school (Kooser Elementary). He is a former LIBA board member. Herrold is a vocal opponent of mask mandates. He unsuccessfully ran for City Council in 2019.
- **Danielle Conrad**
 - 38, Democrat. Graduated from Seward High School. Earned a BA in political science and a JD from UNL. Conrad was executive director of the Nebraska ACLU until she had to resign to run for the Legislature. Formerly served in the Unicameral from 2007-2015 where she was a member of the Appropriations Committee. Prior to the Legislature, Conrad worked as a staff attorney for Appleseed. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Legal Aid Nebraska and Research Nebraska. Conrad's husband Tom, a fellow UNL Law graduate, owns Heartland Optical with locations in Lincoln and Grand Island.

District 48 Incumbent Senator John Stinner is term-limited

- **Don L. Lease II, Bridgeport**
 - 62, Republican. Graduated from Banner County High School. Attended the University of Wyoming to study Agriculture but did not obtain a degree. Banner County farmer and rancher. Formerly served on the Scottsbluff School Board.
- **Brian Hardin, Gering**
 - 56, Republican. Graduated from Gering High School. Received a bachelor's degree from Chadron State and a master's from Denver Seminary. Formerly worked as a police and prison chaplain and as a minister in PA. Now owns Safety Wing, a consulting firm that does strategic planning, training insurance brokers and advising state and local officials about changes caused by the Affordable Care Act and providing insurance products for the "digital nomad" sector.
- **Talon Cordle, Scottsbluff**
 - 44, Republican. Grew up in Idaho and Alaska. Has lived in Texas and Louisiana while working for the oil industry. Moved to Nebraska in 2015. Cordle considers himself a Constitutional Conservative, and his primary interests are "state sovereignty, the 10th Amendment, the 2nd Amendment, including the adoption of the castle doctrine, and illegal immigration."
- **Scott Shaver, Scottsbluff**
 - 53, Republican. Graduated from Scottsbluff High School and received an associate degree from Western Nebraska Community College. Shaver owns a gun shop in Scottsbluff. Previously served on the Scottsbluff City Council. He believes Nebraska needs to stop the "social educational crap," and is interested in a consumption tax but does not believe services should be taxed. Has been endorsed by Nebraskans Against Government Overreach and has signed Term Limits Convention pledge.
- **Jeremiah Jake Teeple, Gering**
 - No social media or news reports regarding candidacy. Teeple has numerous "Stand with Rand" tweets from 2013 and has signed the Term Limits Convention pledge.