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Nebraska Legislative Races - 2020

In 2020, there are 25 State Legislative seats up for election.

Here are some facts about the Nebraska Legislature:

- One house legislature called a Unicameral (only one in the U.S.)
- ♦ 49 State Senators
- ♦ 4-year terms
- Term-limits two, four-year consecutive terms
- Non-partisan elections
- ◆ 1/2 of the seats are up for election every second year
- Filing fee to become a candidate is \$120
- Salary \$12,000 annually (unchanged since 1988) plus per diem
- ◆ Legislative session lasts 60 days in even-numbered years and 90 days in odd-numbered years (convenes on the first Wednesday following the first Monday in January each year)

Seilan Strategy Group is providing this Legislative Candidate Overview.

Did you know?

- ◆ General Election: Nov. 3, 2020
- Early Voting by Mail has already begun
- In-Person Early Voting began October 5
- Each legislative district serves around 37,000 citizens
- State Senators must be a registered voter, at least 21 years of age, and live within the district for at least one year prior to being elected.





District 1 - Opposed Incumbent

Southeast Nebraska: Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson Counties

State Senator Julie Slama - WINNER—68%

IncumbentRepublican

Residence: PeruBorn: May 2, 1996

♦ Occupation: Law School Student

Appointed to Nebraska Legislature: 2018



2016 General Election

Dan Watermeier - 100%

Unopposed

2020 Primary Election

Julie Slama - 61%

Janet Palmtag - 21%

Dennis Schaardt - 18%

Committees

◆ Agriculture

Business and Labor

♦ Enrollment and Review

Judiciary

Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$101,998 Total Expenditures

♦ \$97,759 Cash On Hand

Janet Palmtag - DEFEATED—32%

◆ Republican

♦ Residence: Nebraska City

♦ Born: 1962

Occupation: Real Estate Broker Owner

Spouse: JohnChildren: 3

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$196,208 Total Expenditures

♦ \$24,305 Cash On Hand







District 3 - Opposed Incumbent

East Central Sarpy County including portions of Bellevue, Offutt Air Force Base, and Papillion

State Senator Carol Blood - WINNER 51%

Incumbent

◆ Democrat

Residence: BellevueBorn: March 5, 1961

Occupation: Business Consultant

Spouse: JoeChildren: 3



Committees

- Agriculture
- ♦ General Affairs
- ♦ Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$96,963 Total Expenditures
- ♦ \$39,588 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Carol Blood - 52%

Tommy Garrett - 48%

2020 Primary Election

Carol Blood - 57%

Rick Holdcroft - 43%

Rick Holdcroft - DEFEATED—49%

Republican

Residence: BellevueBorn: January 8, 1954

Occupation: Retired Navy Captain

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$62,544 Total Expenditures
- ♦ \$46,732 Cash On Hand





2020 Legislative Races

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District 5 - Opposed Incumbent

Southeast Omaha (I-80 north; Hwy 75 east; Douglas County line south; 72nd Street west)

State Senator Mike McDonnell - WINNER—63%

Incumbent

◆ Democrat

• Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: January 15, 1966

Occupation: President, Omaha Federation

of Labor, AFL-CIO Spouse: Amy

♦ Children: 1



2016 General Election

Mike McDonnell - 70%

Gilbert Ayala - 30%

2020 Primary Election

Mike McDonnell - 70%

Gilbert Ayala - 30%

Committees

Appropriations

Building Maintenance

♦ Homeland Security Policy Group

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$18,878 Total Expenditures

♦ \$195,353 Cash On Hand

Gilbert Ayala - DEFEATED—37%

Republican

Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: 1970

As of September 29, 2020

♦ Committee Formed March 2020







District 7 - Opposed Incumbent

Southeast Omaha

State Senator Tony Vargas - WINNER—78%

Incumbent

Democrat

Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: September 2, 1984

♦ Occupation: Consultant

♦ Spouse: Lauren

♦ Children: 1



John Synowiecki - 38%

2020 Primary Election

2016 General Election

Tony Vargas - 81%

Tony Vargas - 62%

Jorge Sotolongo - 19%

Committees

Appropriations

Committee On Committees

Executive Board

Legislature's Planning Committee

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$78,197 Total Expenditures

♦ \$151,504 Cash On Hand

Jorge Sotolongo - DEFEATED—22%

◆ Republican

Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: 1989

Occupation: REALTOR®

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$10,884 Total Expenditures

\$9,535 Cash On Hand





2020 Legislative Races





District 9 - Open Seat (Currently Sara Howard - Term Limited)Central to South Central Omaha

Marque Snow - DEFEATED—46%

◆ Democrat

Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: 1988

Occupation: Program Director for

Nebraska Center for Workforce Development



2020 Primary Election

2016 General Election

Sara Howard - 79%

Larry Roland - 21%

John Cavanaugh - 47%

Marque Snow - 39%

Mark Vondrasek - 14%

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$56,585 Total Expenditures

♦ \$15,956 Cash On Hand

John Cavanaugh - WINNER—54%

Democrat

Residence: Omaha

♦ Occupation: Douglas County Public Defender

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$49,517 Total Expenditures

\$58,704 Cash On Hand







District 11 - Open Seat (Currently Ernie Chambers - Term Limited)Northeast Omaha near Carter Lake

Terrell McKinney - WINNER-64%

♦ Democrat

Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: 1990

♦ Occupation: Creighton University Law Student

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$45,641 Total Expenditures

♦ \$10,618 Cash On Hand

Fred Conley - DEFEATED—36%

Democrat

Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: 1948

Occupation: Retired

As of September 29, 2020

\$xxx Total Expenditures

\$xxx Cash On Hand



2016 General Election

Ernie Chambers - 82%

John Sciara - 18%

2020 Primary Election

Fred Conley - 35%

Terrell McKinney - 18%

Dennis Womack - 15%

Teela Mickles - 12%

Gwen Easter - 9%

Cornelius Williams - 7%





District 13 - Unopposed Incumbent

Northeast corner of Douglas County including north Omaha and the area east of Carter Lake

State Senator Justin Wayne - WINNER—100%

♦ Incumbent

♦ Democrat

Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: August 27, 1979

Occupation: Attorney

Spouse: Katie

♦ Children: 1



Committees

- General Affairs
- ♦ Judiciary
- ◆ Justice Reinvestment Oversight (LB605)
- Nebraska Economic Development Task Force
- ♦ Urban Affairs, Chair

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$10,079 Total Expenditures
- \$42,642 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Justin Wayne - 51%

Jill Brown - 49%

2020 Primary Election Results

Justin Wayne - Unopposed





District 15 - Opposed Incumbent

Dodge County

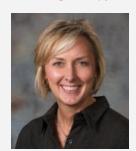
State Senator Lynne Walz - WINNER-60%

Incumbent

Democrat

Residence: Fremont
 Born: June 18, 1963
 Occupation: REALTOR®

Spouse: ChrisChildren: 3



Committees

- ♦ Education
- ♦ Health and Human Services
- ♦ State-Tribal Relations

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$131,594 Total Expenditures
- ♦ \$22,118 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Lynne Walz - 51%

David Schnoor - 49%

2020 Primary Election

Lynne Walz - 69%

David Rogers - 31%

David Rogers - DEFEATED—40%

♦ Republican

Residence: Fremont

• Occupation: Owner of Professional HPP Services

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$19,763 Total Expenditures
- ♦ \$9,039 Cash On Hand







District 17 - Opposed Incumbent

Dakota, Wayne and Thurston Counties

State Senator Joni Albrecht - WINNER—67%

♦ Incumbent

◆ Republican

• Residence: Thurston

♦ Born: July 28, 1958

Occupation: FarmerSpouse: Mike

• Children: 6



Committees

- Natural Resources
- ♦ State-Tribal Relations
- ◆ Transportation and Telecommunications

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$63,125 Total Expenditures
- \$58,234 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Joni Albrecht - 61%

Ardel Bengston - 39%

2020 Primary Election

Joni Albrecht - 72%

Sheryl Lindau - 28%

Sheryl Lindau - DEFEATED—33%

Democrat

♦ Residence: Wayne

Occupation: Retired

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$24,790 Total Expenditures
- \$10,463 Cash On Hand







District 19 - Open Seat (Currently Jim Scheer - Term Limited)

Madison County and Northwest Stanton County

Mike Flood - WINNER—100%

◆ Republican

♦ Residence: Norfolk

♦ Born: 1975

 Occupation: Attorney, Radio and TV Station Owner, Former State Senator (2005-2013;

Speaker 2007-2013) Spouse: Mandy

♦ Children: 2

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$171,004 Total Expenditures

• \$32,006 Cash On Hand



2016 General Election

Jim Scheer - 100%

Unopposed

2020 Primary Election

Mike Flood - 100%

Unopposed





District 21 - Opposed Incumbent

Northwest portions of Lancaster County including northwest Lincoln and the towns of Malcolm and Raymond

State Senator Mike Hilgers - WINNER—55%

Incumbent

♦ Republican

♦ Residence: Lincoln

• Born: October 25, 1978

Occupation: Attorney

♦ Spouse: Heather

Children: 4

Committees

- ♦ Committee On Committees
- ♦ Executive Board (Chair)
- ♦ Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
- ♦ Legislative Performance Audit
- Legislature's Planning Committee
- ♦ Reference
- Transportation and Telecommunications

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$150,886 Total Expenditures
- \$120,786 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Mike Hilgers - 57%

Larry Scherer - 43%

2020 Primary Election

Mike Hilgers - 59%

Brodey Weber - 27%

Joseph Couch - 13%

Brodey Weber - DEFEATED—45%

♦ Democrat

♦ Residence: Lincoln

 Occupation: UNL Student and Vice President of Client Relations for Mid America Casing Supply

Date of Birth: 1998

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$29,916 Total Expenditures
- \$26,070 Cash On Hand







District 23 - Opposed Incumbent

Butler and Saunders Counties; majority of Colfax County (except the northwest corner)

State Senator Bruce Bostelman - WINNER-62%

Incumbent

◆ Republican

Residence: BrainardBorn: July 20, 1962Occupation: Farmer

Spouse: JanChildren: 2



Committees

- Building Maintenance
- Committee On Committees
- Natural Resources
- ♦ Nebraska Information Technology Commission
- Transportation and Telecommunications

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$49,955 Total Expenditures
- \$94,130 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Bruce Bostelman - 56%

Jerry Johnson - 44%

2020 Primary Election

Bruce Bostelman - 63%

Helen Raikes - 37%

Helen Raikes - DEFEATED—38%

Independent

Residence: Ashland

♦ Born: 1944

• Occupation: Farmer and Professor at Univ. of Neb. Lincoln

As of September 29, 2020

- \$105,899 Total Expenditures
- ♦ \$35,184 Cash On Hand







District 25 - Opposed Incumbent

East Lincoln, Waverly, Walton, and northern Lancaster County

State Senator Suzanne Geist - WINNER—67%

♦ Incumbent

Republican

♦ Residence: Lincoln

• Born: November 21, 1961

Occupation: Clothing Store Owner

Spouse: MarkChildren: 3



Committees

- Legislative Performance Audit
- Natural Resources
- Transportation and Telecommunications

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$94,740 Total Expenditures
- ♦ \$74,699 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Suzanne Geist - 56%

Jim Gordon - 44%

2020 Primary Election

Suzanne Geist - 72%

Stephany Pleasant - 28%

Stephany Pleasant - DEFEATED—33%

◆ Democrat

Residence: LincolnOccupation: Attorney

As of September 29, 2020

♦ Committee Formed March 2020







District 27 - Opposed Incumbent

West and southwest area of Lincoln

State Senator Anna Wishart - WINNER—65%

♦ Incumbent

◆ Democrat

• Residence: Lincoln

♦ Born: January 2, 1985

Occupation: Consultant

♦ Spouse: Joe



Committees

Appropriations

♦ State-Tribal Relations

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$125,341 Total Expenditures

\$46,351 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Anna Wishart - 73%

Dick Clark - 27%

2020 Primary Election

Anna Wishart - 71%

Brenda Bickford - 29%

Brenda Bickford - DEFEATED—35%

♦ Republican

Residence: Lincoln

Occupation: IT Manager at Nelnet

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$21,199 Total Expenditures

♦ \$4,112 Cash On Hand







District 29 - Open Seat (Currently Kate Bolz - Term Limited)South and southeast area of Lincoln

Jacob Campbell - DEFEATED—47%

• Republican

Residence: Lincoln

 Occupation: State Legislative Staff and Rental Property Business Owner

Spouse: LauraChildren: 1



\$159,619 Total Expenditures

♦ \$29,657 Cash On Hand



2016 General Election

Kate Bolz - 83%

Melody Vaccaro - 17%

2020 Primary Election

Jacob Campbell - 33%

Eliot Bostar - 27%

Jennifer Carter - 22%

Neal Clayburn - 8%

Lisa Lee - 7%

Eliot Bostar - WINNER—53%

Democrat

♦ Residence: Lincoln

♦ Born: 1987

 Occupation: Executive Director of Nebraska Conservation Voters and Conservation Nebraska

Spouse: CarrieChildren: 1

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$260,592 Total Expenditures

\$30,144 Cash On Hand







District 31 - Open Seat (Currently Rick Kolowski - Term Limited)Southwest Omaha

Tim Royers - DEFEATED—47%

♦ Democrat

Residence: Omaha

♦ Born: 1987

• Occupation: Teacher



As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$50,841 Total Expenditures

• \$31,439 Cash On Hand

Rich Pahls - WINNER—53%

◆ Republican

Residence: OmahaBorn: August 7, 1943

Occupation: Retired
 (Former State Senator of

District 31 2005-2013)

Spouse: LynChildren: 2



As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$85,334 Total Expenditures

• \$54,623 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Rick Kolowski - 52%

Ian Swanson - 48%

2020 Primary Election

Rich Pahls - 39%

Tim Royers - 35%

Melanie Williams - 14%

Mark Gruenewald - 10%

Alexander Martin - 3%





District 33 - Unopposed Incumbent

Adams County and the west and southeast portion of Hall County (does not include the city of Grand Island)

State Senator Steve Halloran - WINNER—100%

Incumbent

◆ Republican

Residence: HastingsBorn: June 29, 1948

• Occupation: Retired Farmer, Restaurateur

Spouse: AnnChildren: 2

Committees

- Agriculture, Chair
- Business and Labor
- Natural Resources

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$3,731 Total Expenditures
- \$28,571 Cash On Hand



2016 General Election

Steve Halloran - 60%

Les Seiler - 40%

2020 Primary Election

Steve Halloran - 100%

Unopposed





District 35 - Opposed Incumbent

City of Grand Island and small portion of Hall County to the east of the city

State Senator Dan Quick - DEFEATED—46%

Incumbent

◆ Democrat

♦ Residence: Grand Island

• Born: December 29, 1957

• Occupation: Retired Power Plant

Maintenance Mechanic

Spouse: AliceChildren: 3

Committees

♦ Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Natural Resources

Nebraska Economic Development Task Force

◆ State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$174,790 Total Expenditures

\$52,693 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Dan Quick - 50.3%

Gregg Neuhaus - 49.7%

2020 Primary Election

Dan Quick - 63%

Ray Aguilar - 37%

Ray Aguilar - WINNER—54%

◆ Republican

Residence: Grand IslandBorn: October 24, 1947

Occupation: Owner Janitorial Service,
 Former State Senator of District 35 - 1999-2008

Spouse: SusanChildren: 9

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$56,811 Total Expenditures

♦ \$10,135 Cash On Hand







District 37 - Opposed Incumbent

Southeast Buffalo County including the cities of Kearney, Gibbon and Shelton

State Senator John Lowe - WINNER—76%

Incumbent

Republican

♦ Residence: Kearney

♦ Born: September 16, 1959

♦ Occupation: Real Estate Investor

Spouse: KimChildren: 3



Committees

- Building Maintenance
- Executive Board
- General Affairs
- Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
- ♦ Homeland Security Policy Group
- ♦ Reference
- Urban Affairs

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$31,194 Total Expenditures
- ♦ \$95,198 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

John Lowe - 53%

Bob Lammers - 47%

2020 Primary Election

John Lowe - 77%

Mercadies Damratowski - 23%

Mercadies Damratowski - DEFEATED—24%

♦ Libertarian

♦ Residence: Kearney

♦ Occupation: Stay-At-Home-Mom

As of September 29, 2020

No Committee Formed







District 39 - Opposed Incumbent

Western Douglas County including west Omaha and the towns of Waterloo and Valley

State Senator Lou Ann Linehan - WINNER—56%

Incumbent

Republican

♦ Residence: Elkhorn

♦ Born: September 16, 1955

Occupation: Retired former Chief of Staff

for U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel

♦ Children: 4

2016 General Election

Lou Ann Linehan - 55%

Bill Armbrust - 45%

2020 Primary Election

Lou Ann Linehan - 63%

Allison Heimes - 37%

Committees

♦ Education

♦ Nebraska Economic Development Task Force

Revenue, Chair

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$164,086 Total Expenditures

♦ \$59,137 Cash On Hand

Allison Heimes - DEFEATED—44%

Democrat

♦ Residence: Elkhorn

♦ Occupation: Immigration Attorney

Spouse: BenChildren: 2

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$36,645 Total Expenditures

\$11,382 Cash On Hand







District 41 - Unopposed Incumbent

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

State Senator Tom Briese - WINNER—100%

♦ Incumbent

• Republican

Residence: AlbionBorn: April 12, 1959

Occupation: Farmer

Spouse: JoanChildren: 2



Committees

General Affairs, Chair

♦ Revenue

Urban Affairs

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$7,879 Total Expenditures

• \$8,028 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Tom Briese - 1005

Unopposed

2020 Primary Election

Tom Briese - 100%

Unopposed





District 43 - Opposed Incumbent

North Central to northwest Nebraska: Blaine, Brown, Cherry, Dawes, Grant, Hooker, Keya Paha, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Sheridan, and Thomas Counties; and the east portion of Box Butte County including the city of Alliance

State Senator Tom Brewer - WINNER—58%

Incumbent

• Republican

Residence: GordonBorn: August 6, 1958

Occupation: Retired Military

Spouse: KelliChildren: 2



Committees

- Education
- Government, Military and Veterans Affairs, Chair
- ♦ State-Tribal Relations

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$123,092 Total Expenditures
- \$51,834 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Tom Brewer - 52%

Al Davis - 48%

2020 Primary Election

Tom Brewer - 61%

Tanya Storer - 39%

Tanya Storer - DEFEATED—42%

◆ Republican

Residence: WhitmanOccupation: Rancher

Spouse: EricChildren: 3

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$51,882Total Expenditures

♦ \$17,315 Cash On Hand







District 45 - Open Seat (Currently Sue Crawford - Term Limited)

East Sarpy County including Bellevue, Offutt AFB, and small portion of south Papillion

Susan Hester - DEFEATED—46%

Democrat

• Residence: Bellevue

Occupation: Director of Nebraska
 Science Olympiad, Retired
 Bellevue Public Schools
 Teacher

Spouse: KirkChildren: 6



2016 General Election

Sue Crawford - 56%

Michael Cook - 44%

2020 Primary Election

Susan Hester - 51%

Rita Sanders - 49%

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$83,538 Total Expenditures

♦ \$33,590 Cash On Hand

Rita Sanders - WINNER—54%

Republican

• Residence: Bellevue

Occupation: Owner of Richmont Village

♦ Born: June 30, 1958

Spouse: Rick

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$47,272 Total Expenditures

\$102,499 Cash On Hand





District 47 - Unopposed Incumbent

Western Nebraska except Scotts Bluff County: Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, and Sioux Counties

State Senator Steve Erdman - WINNER—100%

♦ Incumbent

♦ Republican

♦ Residence: Bayard

Born: November 21, 1949
Occupation: REALTOR®

• Spouse: Cathy

Children: 3

Committees

- Appropriations
- Building Maintenance
- ♦ Committee On Committees
- ♦ Rules

As of September 29, 2020

- ♦ \$4,610 Total Expenditures
- \$18,131 Cash On Hand

2016 General Election

Steve Erdman - 67%

Karl Elmshaeuser - 33%

2020 Primary Election

Steve Erdman - 100%

Unopposed





District 49 - Opposed Incumbent

Northwest Sarpy County including the cities of Gretna and La Vista; small portion of northwest Papillion

State Senator Andrew La Grone - DEFEATED—49%

Incumbent

Republican

• Residence: Omaha

• Born: November 4, 1990

Occupation: Attorney

Appointed to Nebraska Legislature: 2018

Committees

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

♦ Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$179,549 Total Expenditures

♦ \$75,914 Cash On Hand



2016 General Election

John Murante - 100%

Unopposed

2020 Primary Election

Jen Day - 53%

Andrew La Grone - 47%

Jen Day - WINNER—51%

♦ Democrat

Residence: Omaha

Occupation: Gym Business Owner

Spouse: JonChildren: 2

As of September 29, 2020

♦ \$53,534 Total Expenditures

♦ \$29,814 Cash On Hand

