



## 2026 Primary Election Candidates

Filing deadline for **incumbents** is February 17th, 2026 by 5pm      Filing deadline for **non incumbents** is March 2nd, 2026 by 5pm.

Some races will not appear on the primary election as the number of candidates filing for office did not exceed twice the number of vacancies.

The Election Commissioner shall place the names of such automatically nominated candidates on the general election ballot as provided.

*The following is a list of all candidates and races for Buffalo County. Please note that **NOT** all candidates or races will appear on your specific ballot.*

**PRIMARY ELECTION DATE: MAY 12th, 2026**

| COUNTY OFFICES  | BALLOT         | 4 Year Term         | Partisan/Affiliation   | Contact #        | Email        | Incumbent  |   |
|---|----------------|---------------------|--|------------------|--------------|--|---|
| <b>Each County Office must have 2 candidates of the same party affiliation file for the race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General</b> |                |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| <b>Commissioner Dist. 1</b>   | <b>General</b> | <b>1 Position</b>   |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Ivan H. Klein   |                |                     | Republican   |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Commissioner Dist. 3</b>   | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Timothy John Higgins  |                | 5103 Parklane Dr    | Kearney NE 68847   | Republican       | 308-627-5207 | <a href="mailto:timh7207@gmail.com">timh7207@gmail.com</a>                               | Y |
| <b>Commissioner Dist. 5</b>   | <b>Primary</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Sherry Morrow   |                |                     | Republican   |                  |              | Y  |   |
| Mike Morgan   |                | 2011 W 50th St      | Kearney, NE 68845  | Republican       |              | <a href="mailto:votemikemorgan@gmail.com">votemikemorgan@gmail.com</a>                   | N |
| <b>Commissioner Dist. 7</b>   | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Myron Kouba   |                |                     | Republican   |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Assessor</b>   | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Roy Meusch  |                |                     | Republican   |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Attorney</b>   | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Shawn R. Eatherton  |                | Po Box 185          | Kearney NE 68848   | Republican       |              | <a href="mailto:eatherton@charter.net">eatherton@charter.net</a>                         | Y |
| <b>Clerk</b>  | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Heather A. Christensen  |                |                     | Republican   |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Clerk of District Court</b>  | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Cheryl S. Stabenow  |                |                     | Republican   |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Public Defender</b>  | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| D. Brandon Brinegar   |                | Po Box 703          | Kearney NE 68848   | Republican       | 308-233-7007 | <a href="mailto:dbbrinegar@yahoo.com">dbbrinegar@yahoo.com</a>                           | N |
| Jeff Wirth  |                | Withdrew            | Republican   |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Register of Deeds</b>  | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Jen Schleusener   |                | 1114 12th Ave       | Kearney NE 68845   | Republican       |              | <a href="mailto:jen.4.buffalocountyrod@gmail.com">jen.4.buffalocountyrod@gmail.com</a>   | N |
| Brandy R. Sorensen  |                |                     |  | Democratic       |              | N  |   |
| <b>Sheriff</b>  | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Daniel J. Schleusener   |                |                     | Republican   |                  |              | N  |   |
| <b>Surveyor</b>   | <b>Primary</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Trenton D. Snow   |                | 2290 Highway 40     | Kearney, NE 68845  | Republican       |              | <a href="mailto:trentonsnow@hotmail.com">trentonsnow@hotmail.com</a>                     | Y |
| Bryan A. Brown  |                | Po Box 116          | Shelton, NE 68876  | Republican       |              | <a href="mailto:bbrown@brownsurveyingservices.com">bbrown@brownsurveyingservices.com</a> | N |
| <b>Treasurer</b>  | <b>General</b> |                     |  |                  |              |  |   |
| Brenda R. Rohrich   |                |                     | Republican   |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS</b>   | <b>BALLOT</b>  | <b>4 Year Term</b>  | <b>Non-Partisan Race</b>   | <b>Contact #</b> | <b>Email</b> | <b>Incumbent</b>   |   |
| <b>Amherst, District 119</b>  | <b>General</b> | <b>3 Positions</b>  | <b>7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General</b> |                  |              |  |   |
| Karen K. Harmony  |                | PO Box 82           | Amherst, NE 68812  |                  |              | Y  |   |
| Casey Mitchell  |                |                     |  |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Ansley, District 44</b>  | <b>General</b> | <b>3 Positions</b>  | <b>7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General</b> |                  |              |  |   |
| Danielle Ostrand  |                | Files in Custer Co. |  |                  |              | Y  |   |
| Christopher Varney  |                | Files in Custer Co. |  |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Centura, District 100</b>  | <b>General</b> | <b>3 Positions</b>  | <b>7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General</b> |                  |              |  |   |
| Mark Johnson  |                | Files in Howard Co. |  |                  |              | Y  |   |
| Todd M. Nitsch  |                | Files in Howard Co. |  |                  |              | Y  |   |
| <b>Elm Creek, District 9</b>  | <b>General</b> | <b>3 Positions</b>  | <b>7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General</b> |                  |              |  |   |
| Hannah J. Hild  |                |                     |  |                  |              | Y  |   |
| Cole Brodine  |                | PO Box 496          | Elm Creek, NE 68836  |                  |              | <a href="mailto:cole@brodine.com">cole@brodine.com</a>                                   | Y |
| Marvion Reichert Jr.  |                |                     |  |                  | 308-236-3493 | <a href="mailto:rvkrt@myctl.net">rvkrt@myctl.net</a>                                     | Y |
| Jennifer McDaniel   |                | PO Box 374          | Elm Creek, NE 68836  |                  | 308-746-1792 | <a href="mailto:jkohl.mnds@gmail.com">jkohl.mnds@gmail.com</a>                           | N |

| SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS  |         | 4 Year Term                 | Non-Partisan Race   | Contact #    | Email  | Incumbent |
|---|---------|-----------------------------|---|--------------|--|-----------|
| <b>Gibbon, District 2</b>   |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 3 Positions                 | 7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Jodi Bendfeldt  |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| Jon Ewoldt  |         |                             |   | 308-380-7969 |  | N         |
| <b>Kearney, District 7</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 3 Positions                 | 7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Paul Hazard   |         |                             |   |              | <a href="mailto:hazardfinancial@hotmail.com">hazardfinancial@hotmail.com</a> | Y         |
| Drew Blessing   |         | 2224 Central Ave, Ste NS1-3 | Kearney NE  | 68847        |  | Y         |
| Kyle McCartney  |         |                             |   |              | <a href="mailto:kmccart6@gmail.com">kmccart6@gmail.com</a>                   | N         |
| Marty Albrecht  |         | 1610 Beall Dr               | Kearney NE  | 68845        | <a href="mailto:martyalbrecht3@gmail.com">martyalbrecht3@gmail.com</a>       | N         |
| Byron D. Hansen   |         |                             |   |              |  | N         |
| <b>Pleasanton, District 105</b>   |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 3 Positions                 | 7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Justin Epley  |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| Doug Geisler  |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| Nathan Phillips   |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| <b>Ravenna, District 69</b>   |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 3 Positions                 | 7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Ryan Osten  |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| <b>Shelton, District 19</b>   |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 3 Positions                 | 7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Dana D. Tompkin   |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| Abby Carman   |         |                             |   |              |  | N         |
| Sarah Rolfsmeyer  |         | 11800 Shelton Rd            | Shelton NE  | 68876        | <a href="mailto:slilfletch99@gmail.com">slilfletch99@gmail.com</a>           | N         |
| Patricia Wiehn  |         | 402 C St / PO Box 2         | Shelton NE  | 68876        | <a href="mailto:mamagilliland28@gmail.com">mamagilliland28@gmail.com</a>     | N         |
| Sonja Warren  |         |                             |   |              |  | N         |
| <b>SEM, District 101</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 3 Positions                 | 7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Laura M. Robbins  |         | Files in Dawson Co.         |   |              |  | Y         |
| Kirby D. Burden   |         | Files in Dawson Co.         |   |              |  | Y         |
| Yantsy Clafin   |         | Files in Dawson Co.         |   |              |  | N         |
| Chase J. Freeman  |         | Files in Dawson Co.         |   |              |  | N         |
| <b>CITY OFFICIALS</b>   |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | BALLOT  | 4 Year Term                 | Non-Partisan Race   | Contact #    | Email  | Incumbent |
| <b>Gibbon City Council Member</b>   |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
| <b>Ward I</b>   |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 1 Position                  | 3 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Armando Hernandez Perez   |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| Chase Middleswart   |         |                             |   |              |  | N         |
| <b>Ward II</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 1 Position                  | 3 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Kevin Kraenow   |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| <b>Kearney City Council Member</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | Primary | 2 Positions                 | 5 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Bryce Nelson  |         |                             |   | 308-627-1088 |  | N         |
| Randy Buschkoetter  |         |                             |   |              | <a href="mailto:rrbuschkoetter@gmail.com">rrbuschkoetter@gmail.com</a>       | Y         |
| Kristin Ohri  |         |                             |   |              | <a href="mailto:kristinohri@gmail.com">kristinohri@gmail.com</a>             | N         |
| Robert F. Fitzgerald  |         |                             |   |              | <a href="mailto:rkfitz4him@gmail.com">rkfitz4him@gmail.com</a>               | N         |
| Thomas Cross  |         |                             |   |              |  | N         |
| <b>Ravenna City Council Member</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
| <b>Mayor</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 1 Position                  | 3 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Fred A. Matejka   |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| Peggy Dethlefs  |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| <b>City Council</b>   |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | General | 2 Positions                 | 5 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General |              |  |           |
| Tonya Dale  |         |                             |   |              |  | Y         |
| Josh Bauer  |         |                             |   |              |  | N         |
| Michael Bauer   |         |                             |   |              |  | N         |
| <b>VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | BALLOT  | 4 Year Term                 | Non-Partisan Race   | Contact #    | Email  | Incumbent |
| Filing Deadlines: Incumbent - July 15th, 2026 by 5pm Non-Incumbents - August 3rd, 2026 by 5pm |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
| <b>Amherst</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | GENERAL | 2 Positions                 |   |              |  |           |
| <b>Elm Creek</b>  |         |                             |   |              |  |           |
|   | GENERAL | 2 Positions                 |   |              |  |           |

| VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES   | BALLOT         | 4 Year Term        | Non-Partisan Race | Contact # | Email | Incumbent |
|---|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| <b>Filing Deadlines: Incumbent - July 15th, 2026 by 5pm      Non-Incumbents - August 3rd, 2026 by 5pm</b> |                |                    |                   |           |       |           |
| <b>Miller</b>   | <b>GENERAL</b> | <b>3 Positions</b> |                   |           |       |           |
| <b>Pleasanton</b>   | <b>GENERAL</b> | <b>2 Positions</b> |                   |           |       |           |
| Theodore Eichholz   |                |                    |                   |           |       | Y         |
| <b>Riverdale</b>  | <b>GENERAL</b> | <b>2 Positions</b> |                   |           |       |           |
| Aaron C. Cudaback   |                |                    |                   |           |       | Y         |
| <b>Shelton</b>  | <b>GENERAL</b> | <b>2 Positions</b> |                   |           |       |           |