



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
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							
Commissioner Dist. 1		1 Position					
Ivan H. Klein				Republican			Y
Commissioner Dist. 3							
Timothy John Higgins	5103 Parklane Dr	Kearney NE	68847	Republican	308-627-5207	timh7207@gmail.com	Y
Commissioner Dist. 5							
Sherry Morrow				Republican			Y
Commissioner Dist. 7							
Myron Kouba				Republican			Y
Assessor							
Roy Meusch				Republican			Y
Attorney							
Shawn R. Eatherton	Po Box 185	Kearney NE	68848	Republican		eatherton@charter.net	Y
Clerk							
Heather A. Christensen				Republican			Y
Clerk of District Court							
Cheryl S. Stabenow				Republican	308-233-4405		Y
Public Defender							
D. Brandon Brinegar	Po Box 703	Kearney NE	68848	Republican	308-233-7007	dbbrinegar@yahoo.com	N
Register of Deeds							
Jen Schleusener	1114 12th Ave	Kearney NE	68845	Republican		jen.4.buffalocountyrod@gmail.com	N
Sheriff							
Daniel J. Schleusener				Republican			N
Surveyor							
Treasurer							
Brenda R. Rohrich				Republican			Y
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS	BALLOT	4 Year Term	Non-Partisan Race	Contact #	Email	Incumbent	
Amherst, District 119-		3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General				
Ansley, District 44		3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General				
		Files in Custer Co.					
		Files in Custer Co.					
		Files in Custer Co.					
Centura, District 100		3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General				
		Files in Howard Co.					
		Files in Howard Co.					
		Files in Howard Co.					
Elm Creek, District 9		3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General				
Gibbon, District 2		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

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS	4 Year Term	Non-Partisan Race	Contact #	Email	Incumbent
Kearney, District 7	3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			

Pleasanton, District 105	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

Ravenna, District 69	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

Shelton, District 19	3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General	
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SEM, District 101	3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General	
	Files in Dawson Co.		
	Files in Dawson Co.		
	Files in Dawson Co.		

CITY OFFICIALS	BALLOT	4 Year Term	Non-Partisan Race	Contact #	Email	Incumbent
Gibbon City Council Member						
Ward I		1 Position	3 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			
Ward II		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
Kearney City Council Member		2 Positions	5 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General	308-627-1088		
Bryce Nelson						N

Ravenna City Council Member						
Mayor		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
City Council		2 Positions	5 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES	BALLOT	4 Year Term	Non-Partisan Race	Contact #	Email	Incumbent
		Filing Deadlines: Incumbent - July 15th, 2026 by 5pm	Non-Partisan Race	Non-Incumbents - August 3rd, 2026 by 5pm		
Amherst	GENERAL	2 Positions				

Elm Creek	GENERAL	2 Positions				
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Miller	GENERAL	3 Positions				
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Pleasanton	GENERAL	2 Positions				
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Riverdale	GENERAL	2 Positions				
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Shelton	GENERAL	2 Positions				
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