



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			Y	
Public Defender							
D. Brandon Brinegar		Po Box 703	Kearney NE 68848	Republican	308-233-7007	dbbrinegar@yahoo.com	N
Jeff Wirth			Republican			Y	
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							
Trenton D. Snow		2290 Highway 40	Kearney, NE 68845	Republican		trentonsnow@hotmail.com	Y
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				
Karen Harmony		PO Box 82	Amherst, NE 68812			Y	
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				
Hannah J. Hild						Y	
Cole Brodine		PO Box 496	Elm Creek, NE 68836		cole@brodine.com	Y	
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			
Paul Hazard					hazardfinancial@hotmail.com	Y
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
Doug Geisler						Y
Nathan Phillips						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			
Dana D. Tompkin						Y
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			
Armando Hernandez Perez						Y
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			
Bryce Nelson				308-627-1088		N
Randy Buschkoetter					rbuschkoetter@gmail.com	Y
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			
Tonya Dale						Y
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES	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		
Amherst	GENERAL	2 Positions				
Elm Creek	GENERAL	2 Positions				
Miller	GENERAL	3 Positions				
Pleasanton	GENERAL	2 Positions				
Riverdale	GENERAL	2 Positions				
Shelton	GENERAL	2 Positions				