



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
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
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
	Jeff Wirth			Republican			Y
Register of Deeds							
	Jen Schleusener	1114 12th Ave	Kearney NE	68845	Republican		jen.4.buffalocountyrod@gmail.com
Sheriff							
	Daniel J. Schleusener			Republican			Y
Surveyor							
	Trenton D. Snow	2290 Highway 40	Kearney, NE	68845	Republican		trentonsnow@hotmail.com
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 Harmoney	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	Paul Hazard	3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General		hazardfinancial@hotmail.com	Y
Pleasanton, District 105	Justin Epley Doug Geisler Nathan Phillips	3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			Y Y Y
Ravenna, District 69	Ryan Osten	3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			Y
Shelton, District 19	Dana D. Tompkin	3 Positions	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			Y
SEM, District 101		3 Positions Files in Dawson Co. Files in Dawson Co. Files in Dawson Co.	7 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			
CITY OFFICIALS	BALLOT	4 Year Term	Non-Partisan Race	Contact #	Email	Incumbent
Gibbon City Council Member						
Ward I Armando Hernandez Perez		1 Position	3 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			Y
Ward II Kevin Kraenow		1 Position	3 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			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	rbuschkoetter@gmail.com	N Y
Ravenna City Council Member						
Mayor Fred A. Matejka		1 Position	3 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			Y
City Council Tonya Dale		2 Positions	5 people must file for this race to appear on the Primary ballot, otherwise it auto advances to the General			Y
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES	BALLOT	4 Year Term	Non-Partisan Race	Contact #	Email	Incumbent
Amherst	GENERAL	2 Positions	Filing Deadlines: Incumbent - July 15th, 2026 by 5pm		Non-Incumbents - August 3rd, 2026 by 5pm	
Elm Creek	GENERAL	2 Positions				
Miller	GENERAL	3 Positions				
Pleasanton	GENERAL	2 Positions				
Riverdale	GENERAL	2 Positions				
Shelton	GENERAL	2 Positions				