



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	308-627-5207	timh7207@gmail.com	Y
Commissioner Dist. 5						
Sherry Morrow			Republican			Y
Mike Morgan		2011 W 50th St	Kearney		votemikemorgan@gmail.com	N
Commissioner Dist. 7						
Myron Kouba			Republican			Y
Assessor						
Roy Meusch			Republican			Y
Attorney						
Shawn R. Eatherton		Po Box 185	Kearney NE 68848		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	308-233-7007	dbbrinegar@yahoo.com	N
Jeff Wirth			Republican			Y
Register of Deeds						
Jen Schleusener		1114 12th Ave	Kearney NE 68845		jen.4.buffalocountyrod@gmail.com	N
Sheriff						
Daniel J. Schleusener			Republican			N
Surveyor						
Trenton D. Snow		2290 Highway 40	Kearney, NE 68845		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 K. Harmony		PO Box 82	Amherst, NE 68812			Y
Casey Mitchell						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			
Danielle Ostrand		Files in Custer Co.				Y
Christopher Varney		Files in Custer Co.				Y
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			
Mark Johnson		Files in Howard Co.				Y
Todd M. Nitsch		Files in Howard Co.				Y
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
Marvion Reichert Jr.				308-236-3493	rykrt@myctl.net	Y
Jennifer McDaniel		PO Box 374	Elm Creek, NE 68836	308-746-1792	jkohl.mnds@gmail.com	N
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
Drew Blessing	2224 Central Ave, Ste NS1-3		Kearney NE	68847		Y
Kyle McCartney					kmccart6@gmail.com	N
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
Abby Carman						N
Sarah Rolfsmeyer	11800 Shelton Rd		Shelton NE	68876	sliffetch99@gmail.com	N
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			
Laura M. Robbins	Files in Dawson Co.					Y
Kirby D. Burden	Files in Dawson Co.					Y
Yantsy Clafin	Files in Dawson Co.					N
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
Chase Middleswart						N
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
Kristin Ohri					kristinohri@gmail.com	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
Peggy Dethlefs						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
Josh Bauer						N
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				
Theodore Eichholz						Y
Riverdale	GENERAL	2 Positions				
Shelton	GENERAL	2 Positions				