



Decoding the Ballot

What on earth does that person do?

Douglas County/Omaha Ballot

Federal	County	Nonpartisan
<p>President of the United States</p> <p>Head of the Executive Branch of the federal government.</p> <p>The President makes appointments to federal agencies and departments that run federal programs, like the Department of Health & Human Services or the Department of Education. The president nominates people to the Supreme Court of the United States. The President is also in charge of national security, serving as Commander in Chief of the US Armed Forces. The President works with members of Congress to introduce laws. The President has the power to prevent a law going into effect that Congress has passed with a veto.</p>	<p>County Clerk</p> <p>Documents, applications, licenses, and budgets.</p> <p>The County Clerk runs the county budget and personnel. The County Clerk manages vital records like marriage licenses, birth certificates, and liquor licenses for businesses. The County Clerk is elected to serve for four years.</p>	<p>Member of the Legislature</p> <p>They create the laws and make the rules for Nebraska.</p> <p>The Nebraska Legislature makes laws for the state, creates and oversees many health care services, and decides how much money public schools (from kindergartens to college) get each year. The Legislature decides who pays taxes to Nebraska, how much people and businesses pay in taxes, and how the tax money gets spent.</p>
<p>Member of the House of Representatives</p> <p>Where the country's taxes and programs are born</p> <p>Members of the United States House of Representatives make up one house of Congress. Your congressperson votes on laws including the federal budget and government programs, like food stamps and money for bridges and roads. What Congress does affects Nebraska. Changes to federal taxes must start in the House of Representatives.</p>	<p>County Commissioner</p> <p>They oversee county bridges, roads, health services, and law enforcement.</p> <p>The Board of County Commissioners decides the amount of your property tax bill. Those property taxes pay for most county programs including emergency management, veteran services, weed control, infrastructure, and elections. Commissioners decide on the county budget and how much county officials are paid.</p>	<p>State Board of Education</p> <p>Creates educational standards, and directs state dollars and federal programs for Nebraska's classrooms.</p> <p>The State Board of Education provides elementary and high school education across Nebraska. This includes setting standards for what is taught in the classroom and ensuring consistent, high quality education. The Board of Education appoints the Commissioner for the Department of Education, and carries out federal education programs.</p>
	<p>Public Defender</p> <p>If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided.</p> <p>After a court determines that someone charged with a felony or misdemeanor cannot afford to hire an attorney, the Public Defender or an attorney in the Public Defender's office represents that person in court. They can also represent someone before the Board of Mental Health, Juvenile Court, or in child support actions.</p>	<p>Information on both sides </p>

Board of Governors Metropolitan Community College

They decide what is taught and how much you pay.

The Board of Governors manages Southeast Community College's staff and professors and develops its education programs to meet the community's needs. This includes setting tuition prices, setting the college's budget, and deciding what amount may be collected from your property tax bill.

Coordinating Council Learning Community

An educational subdivision aimed at reversing the impact of poverty on learning.

The Learning Community works in Douglas and Sarpy counties to build programs to improve student achievement. The work of the Learning Community used to be funded by a common levy, but that levy will end in a year. Local property taxes will fund future programs.

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

Conservation, sustainability, and keeping water out of your basement

The NRD Board of Directors decides what amount will be collected from your property tax bill for the NRD and uses that money for projects in the community like building dams, drainage ditches, flood control, and recreation trails.

Board of Directors Omaha Public Power District

Policy makers, rate setters, and investors in energy.

OPPD is a publically owned business. The Board of Directors sets the rates for Omaha residents and makes decisions about investments in new energy sources and new services.

Educational Service Unit

Working across the state to innovate for Nebraska schools.

Your ESU works with other ESUs to create cooperative programs to support teachers and improve students' education. ESUs may receive funds from local property taxes.

Board of Directors Metropolitan Utilities District

Daily Living: Trash, Water, and Gas

A customer-owned public utility, the Metropolitan Utilities District provides natural gas, water, sewer use, and trash to Omaha and most of Douglas County. The MUD Board sets the rates for these services.

Board of Education Omaha Public Schools

Shaping education in Omaha.

Members of the Board of Education direct Omaha Public Schools. Members vote on curriculum taught in classes, hire the superintendent, and set the budget for OPS and its schools. OPS Board Members also set the amount collected from local property taxes for OPS schools.

Judicial Retention

Accountability for judges.

County, district, and state judges oversee all courts in Nebraska. Judges are initially appointed to the position of judgeship, but voters have the power to decide whether they stay there. A judicial retention on your ballot asks whether or not a judge should keep their job as judge.

Special Issues Ticket

Ballot Initiative

Laws proposed by voters.

A ballot initiative gives voters the power to propose state laws by collecting enough signatures from Nebraska voters to get their proposed law on the ballot. Review ballot on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ne.gov on the Elections Page.

Ballot Referendum

Voters determine whether existing laws should be kept.

A ballot referendum gives voters the power to propose state laws by collecting enough signatures from Nebraska voters to get their proposed law on the ballot. Review ballot on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ne.gov on the Elections Page.

Bond Election

Asking for your permission.

A local arm of the government, like a city council or school board, proposes creating a fund called a bond, which acts like a loan for a specific project. The bond is usually paid back through new or existing taxes. For example, a school board may hold a bond election to build new school buildings in your school district or make major upgrades to existing buildings.

Information on both sides

