### THE NEBRASKA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

# BLOCK CAPTAIN CHIDE

## **2023 Lincoln Elections Edition**

Our 2024 Edition will include the new Voter ID information

#### **Table of Contents**

BLOCK CAPTAIN GUIDE	2
BLOCK CAPTAINS ARE HOW WE WIN ELECTIONS.	3
KEY VOTING DATES	6
UNDERSTANDING VOTE BY MAIL AND VOTING EARLY	7
THREE WAYS TO VOTE	8
VOTING BY MAIL ROCKS	9
CANVASSING: YOUR CHECKLIST - BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT THE DOOR	10
DO THESE THINGS AT THE DOOR:	11
DON'T DO THESE THINGS AT THE DOOR:	12
PHONE BANKS: CALLING FOR CHANGE	13
PRINCIPLES OF A SUCCESSFUL PHONE BANK	13
RESOURCES FOR BLOCK CAPTAINS	15
RELIABLE POLITICAL NEWS—NO FAKE NEWS HERE	16
TOWN HALLS	16
NEBRASKA'S CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS	17
U.S. SENATE	18
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	19
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	20
STAY IN TOUCH: WE ARE YOUR PARTY	22

#### **Block Captain Schedule for 2023**

#### ★ Contact 1 for 2023: All Hands on Deck for LNK

- o Training: LNK: Apr 1, 2023
- o Contact: LNK: All Hands on Deck for Lincoln
- Action: LNK: Block Captains will be tasked with making calls and/or sending texts for the Lincoln elections. Our goal is 10,000 calls and 20,000 texts.

#### ★ Contact 2 for 2023: County Choice (new!)

- o Training: Determined by County Parties
- o Contact 2: July 1- September 1, 2023
- Action: These are determined by counties. Suggestions include service projects, invitations to events, walk in a county parade, or distribution of a summer schedule or county newsletter.

#### ★ Contact 3 for 2023: Dems Deliver

- o Training: Sept 15, 2023
- o Contact 3: September 20- Nov. 1, 2023
- Action: Distribute NDP Newspaper-Dems Deliver!

#### **BLOCK CAPTAIN GUIDE**

For the last six years of the Block Captain program, Democrats have stood together at doors, voting booths, in the streets, and even on Zoom. We have worked together to stop hateful and harmful policies, never stopping our fight even during a global pandemic. Nebraska played an integral role in ushering new leadership into the White House in 2020, yet our work is far from over. These past two years have shown us that now more than ever, it is important to elect leaders who are willing to stand up for what is right.

The Nebraska Democratic Party (NDP) stands with you as we continue along this path of progress. Grassroots organization is the *only* way to build a Democratic future for Nebraska from the ground up.

Over 900 Democrats are currently serving statewide, from school boards to the state legislature. This number grew from 508 in 2018 and the upward trajectory hinges on the work of Block Captains like you.

Moving into 2023 and 2024, we set our eyes on winning the crucial city elections in Lincoln, and building momentum so that we can bring some much-needed Democratic representation to Nebraska's Congressional Delegation. The only way to bring an end to the one-party rule of this state is to build a grassroots movement, organizing block by block and building meaningful connections with our friends, family members, and neighbors.

Let's get back to the basics and talk about kitchen table issues at our neighbors' kitchen tables. Block Captains are on the front lines of ensuring that voters have access to the information that they need, and are vital in the success of Democrats locally and statewide.

As a Block Captain, you are creating change at the local, state, and national levels. So let's grab our clipboards, go into our communities, and knock on some doors as proud Block Captains. Together, we are growing the Good Life for **all** Nebraskans, not just a few at the top.

#### **BLOCK CAPTAINS ARE HOW WE WIN ELECTIONS.**

As a Block Captain, you are a leader in your community. Each Block Captain is assigned 50 households, consisting of Democrats and Independents in your neighborhood. You have a *direct* impact on local, statewide, and national elections.

You are responsible for canvassing your neighborhood, going door to door to the 50 residences that you have been assigned. There are three rounds of canvasses

throughout the year, each one serving a different purpose than the last, ensuring that your relationship with members of your neighborhood will be constantly growing. One round might be an issue survey, another might be gathering vote-by-mail applications, or another might be a simple introduction and invitation to a local event.

**Any** Democrat can be a Block Captain with the NDP. The time blocks are flexible, and as long as you are willing to talk to your neighbors, you can serve as a key leader within your community.

If you need any accommodations in order to guarantee that you can participate as a block captain, we would love to work with you in order to find a more accessible way for you to volunteer. Please contact Gina at <a href="mailto:gina@nebraskademocrats.org">gina@nebraskademocrats.org</a> if you have any questions or requests.

- ★ Like NDP on Facebook: / NebraskaDemocraticParty
- ★ Follow NDP on Twitter: @NebraskaDems
- **★** Find us on TikTok: @nebdems
- ★ Donate to NDP: tinyurl.com/nebdemdonor
- ★ Get all the election details: nebraskademocrats.org/voting-center

## We must build up the Nebraska Democratic Party at the grassroots level if we are going to win elections.

Nebraska's voter registration numbers are not favorable for Democrats, and sometimes, it can feel like we are pushing a heavy boulder up a steep hill. However, our great state is not a lost cause as many want us to think, and it is your responsibility and privilege as a Block Captain to revitalize and reinvigorate the Democratic and Independent voter bases in Nebraska.

Building a sustainable coalition takes a stable foundation, a foundation consisting of diverse perspectives and backgrounds. From rural to urban, wealthy to working class, and Omaha to Scotts Bluff, Block Captains are the key to building a Nebraska that works for everyone.

## BUILDING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TAKES ALL OF US AND YOU ARE TAKING THE FIRST STEP.

#### **KEY VOTING DATES**

#### Lincoln has city elections in 2023

Primary Election: Apr 4, 2023

General Election: May 2, 2023

Polls on General Election Day are open

8 am-8 pm CT.

city-elections/

You can find our information for Lincoln Elections on our website in the top banner or go to: nebraskademocrats.org/2023-lincoln-

#### We have statewide elections in 2024

Primary Election: May 14, 2024

General Election: November 5, 2024

Polls on General Election Day are open

8 am-8 pm CT.

If you live in Omaha, the grassroots group Black Votes Matter provides rides to the polls: 402-575-0144

All of this information and voting links are also the Nebraska Democratic Party's Vote Center so you can copy and paste the info for Facebook or other social media platforms: <a href="http://nebraskademocrats.org/voting-center/">http://nebraskademocrats.org/voting-center/</a>

#### **★** Online Voter Registration:

https://www.nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration/

- The deadline for online voter registration is March 17, 2023 for the Primary, and April 21 2023 for the General.
- \* Register to Vote By Mail: http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/ele\_forms.html
  - The deadline to request a ballot by mail is March 24, 2023 for the Primary, and April 21, 2023 for the General
  - Ballots, for those who applied to vote by mail, start to be mailed on March 20, 2023, and April 17, 2023.
    - Ballots are then sent on a rolling basis as applications come into the County Election Office.

#### **VOTING INFORMATION**

Find Your Polling Location: https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov

Check to See if You are Registered: https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov

Check the status of your ballot (if you are voting by mail):

https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov

**Served Time?** Nebraska does ensure your right to vote is restored after a two-year waiting period once time is served, including probation. You can read all the background on voting rights for formerly incarcerated people here:

http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/felon-voting-rights.html

**Who are the Democrats?** We post all the Democrats running for office on our NDP website so you can stay educated on who is running for office:

https://nebraskademocrats.org/2023-candidates/

Can Independents vote in the Democratic primary? YES, this is true. You can tell Independents (called Nonpartisans in our state) that the Democratic Party adopted a party rule that allows them to request a Democratic ballot in the mail or at the polling location when they vote in the Primary. The Republican Party does not welcome Independents.

Get all the forms you need to vote:

nebraskademocrats.org/voting-center

#### **UNDERSTANDING VOTE BY MAIL AND VOTING EARLY**

You can actually vote from your house while you drink coffee and look up all the candidates. Pretty awesome!

Voting by mail starts 35 days prior to an election (Primary and General). You must request to vote by mail by completing a form.

Complete the vote-by-mail form and return it to your County Election office: <a href="http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/ele\_forms.html">http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/ele\_forms.html</a>

#### THREE WAYS TO VOTE

As a voter, you can decide on how you vote in each election.

#### **CHOOSE THE OPTION BEST FOR YOU.**

- 1. Walk into your county election office and vote early. You can start voting early 35 days before each election. Find your local county election office: sos.ne.gov/elec/clerks.html
- 2. Vote by mail from your house, dorm or overseas! Submit the Vote By Mail application by "the 2nd Friday before an election" (so at least 11 days before the election, the sooner you submit the form the better!): sos.ne.gov/elec/ele\_forms.html. A ballot then gets sent to you.
- 3. Be old-school and vote at your polling location. You get the cool "I Voted" sticker and you get to take a selfie in the ballot box. Parents often bring their kids to start teaching the habit and duty of voting. Polling locations are open from 8 am-8 pm CT. Find your polling location: votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/VoterView.

No matter which option you choose, you must first be registered to vote! Register to vote, change your party or change your address: nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration.

#### **VOTING BY MAIL ROCKS**

We understand voting by mail is new for many voters. More and more of us choose to vote by mail because it is secure, quick, and convenient. Here are some other reasons we vote by mail:

- You do not have to worry about bad weather on Election Day or long lines.
- You can look up the various candidates to see who is a Democrat (we have many non-partisan races, so the party does not appear on the ballot for all candidates).
- If you are overseas or at college, you can still have your vote count.
- Some Nebraskans love getting together with their ballots and voting together—make it a party, Democracy is fun!
- We know when someone votes for a party 3 times in a row, they become a

party voter for life. This is our goal. The habit of voting does not come automatically, but once you vote three times in a row, you won't miss another election.

**Reminder:** If you live in Arthur, Banner, Cuming, Dawes, Douglas, Gage, Gosper, Hall, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Nemaha, or Scotts Bluff counties, you can request to be placed on a Permanent Early Vote list, and be sent a vote by mail application for every election!

The following counties already conduct ALL Vote-By-Mail (you don't have to apply, they automatically send you a ballot): Boone, Cedar, Cherry, Clay, Dawes, Dixon, Garden, Knox, Merrick, Morrill, Stanton, and rural precincts of Wayne County.

**Independent Voter Reminder:** The Nebraska Democratic Party allows Independents to vote in our Primary Elections (Republicans do not welcome Independents). Just write "Democratic" on the party line on the vote-by-mail form or **ask for a Democratic Ballot when you go to the polling location**.

#### **BLOCK CAPTAIN TO-DO LIST**

- ★ Sign up to be a Block Captain at nebraskademocrats.org.
- ★ A staff member from the NDP calls you to check in and answer any questions. If you do not get a call, email info@nebrasksdemocrats.org.
- ★ Our Block Captain materials are emailed and mailed to you:
  - o Block Captain Guide (you are reading it now!)
  - o Your list of 50 households
  - o Any necessary paper materials
  - Voter registration forms (you can photocopy these if you need more)
  - Vote by Mail forms
  - o Flyers to leave at the door if applicable
- ★ Block Captain Trainings—all of the trainings are on Facebook live. You can watch them on the day of the training and ask questions in real-time or watch the recorded training when you have time.
- ★ Watch the previous trainings here: facebook.com/NebraskaDemocraticParty
- ★ Find upcoming trainings: www.mobilize.us/nebdems/
- ★ Block Captain Canvasses—you have around 30 days for each canvass, for

each canvass round, you talk to the same 50 households. You can do them all in one day or break it up into a schedule that works for you.

★ Get Your Canvass Results Back to the NDP When you canvass with Outreach Circle, the data is automatically available to us. You don't have to take any extra steps. If you have taken notes on paper, don't forget to enter the data into Outreach Circle so it can be synced with VAN (our state data system that candidates use).

NOTE: If you need a paper list to take to the doors or if you cannot use an app please contact Gina for other options.

#### CANVASSING: YOUR CHECKLIST - BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT THE DOOR

As a Block Captain, you need a few things to get started as you canvass your neighbors. Grab a good clipboard and tote bag to hold these critical items:

- ★ Make sure your phone is fully charged or that you have a battery pack
- ★ Open Outreach Circle and preview the list of your 50 households
- ★ Review the canvass tips and reminders
- ★ Any Paper forms you may need for your contact
  - Vote by Mail forms
  - Voter Registration forms
  - o Any material or flyers the NDP sends you to hand out to voters
  - Post-it notes (great way to leave a handwritten note to someone not home, which we strongly recommend)
- ★ Water bottle, stay hydrated!
- ★ Comfortable shoes
- ★ NDP button on your jacket or shirt- you want people to know you are with the Democratic Party.

If you do not have one of these things please let us know!

#### **CANVASSING: DOOR-TO-DOOR CONVERSATIONS WIN ELECTIONS**

Face-to-face conversations are the most effective way to turn out voters for Democrats. This is how we win elections at the grassroots level.

Talking with voters is a skill you will practice and develop over time.

Most of all try to remember how you would want to be approached. This often helps when going to the door.

#### Here are a few key principles to keep in mind:

- 1. Be yourself.
- 2. Listen attentively and with care.
- 3. If you don't know the answer, be honest and say you can find out and get back to them.
- 4. Stay positive.

**Block Captain Tip:** On average, you can knock 20 doors per hour.
Usually, you talk to about 6 people in that hour because not everyone will be home.

#### DO THESE THINGS AT THE DOOR:

**Talk to all 50 households in your neighborhood**. Knock on all the doors on your walk list. These are the voters and neighbors you are now responsible for registering, educating and getting to the polls.

**Look around before you knock**. See if there is anything relatable you can use in the door conversation. A bumper sticker of a group you know, a great garden, nice yard, kid's toys, etc. People are proud of their homes, and saying something nice opens up the conversation.

**Be friendly, but get firm commitments.** If someone tells you they support Democrats, be sure to ask them to commit to voting. If they commit to vote, ask them to volunteer. And if someone is argumentative, politely end the conversation.

**Use the script, but put it in your voice.** The canvass script we email to you is a basic guide for your conversations. But be sure to use your personal story to explain why you're volunteering to serve as a Block Captain and why you are supporting Democrats up and down the ballot. That's the best way to build a meaningful connection with voters.

Smile and have fun! Voters will respond to your enthusiasm and your energy.

**Shake the fence before you enter the gate.** If you shake it and there is no dog warning sign this will usually wake a dog up so you know if it's safe to enter. Some experienced canvassers carry a few dog treats in their pocket for the dog lover vote

**Write legibly.** Remember, we have to be able to read your writing to enter all of the data you're collecting which helps us make sure voters get follow-up information in the mail from candidates and our Democratic Party.

**Leave a note behind.** If the voter is not home, write a quick note with your name signed. Leave the literature with your note somewhere the voter can see it—but <u>never</u> put it in or on their mailbox.

### **NEVER PUT LITERATURE IN MAILBOXES**

**Follow up.** If you don't know the answer to a question DON'T MAKE UP THE ANSWER, instead tell the voter "that is a good question, I will get back to you." Then either send them a note in the mail, drop by the house, or leave them a voicemail with the answer.

Email info@nebraskademocrats.org for any questions.

#### DON'T DO THESE THINGS AT THE DOOR:

**Don't give people an 'out' from talking with you**. Steer clear from using language like, "Do you have a minute to talk or "Are you busy?". These make it easy for someone to tell you 'no' and shut down the conversation.

Don't go inside a house. Safety first. If you're invited into a home, politely decline.

**Don't go inside a gate that has "Warning: Dog."** This is a good sign to simply leave a note rolled up in the fence and call this voter instead!

**Don't put literature in the mailbox.** Leave literature in the door or under the mat. It is illegal to insert material in someone's mailbox.

**Don't be rude to anyone.** Remember, you represent the Nebraska Democratic Party. If a voter does not agree with us, that is ok. We move on.

**Don't get into an argument.** Never ever ever ever ever ever get in an argument. If someone disagrees with you, or the Democratic Party or a candidate, offer to take their information and share it with the candidate.

**Don't speak negatively of other points of view or people.** This includes other candidates, Republicans and Trump. We can and do stand up, but we are not rude. As Michelle Obama says, "When they go low, we go high."

**Don't place anything in the mailbox!** (flyers, voter reg forms, vote-by-mail applications, etc.)

## DO NOT CANVASS DURING ANY NEBRASKA (UNL) FOOTBALL GAMES.

#### PHONE BANKS: CALLING FOR CHANGE

Sometimes the weather is awful, you can reach a voter at the door or you want to give an extra boost of information to your 50 households. Phone banks can be done just with you or you can have volunteers help you.

Block Captain Tip: On average, you can make 30 phone calls per hour. Usually, you talk to about 10 people out of the 30 attempts.

#### PRINCIPLES OF A SUCCESSFUL PHONE BANK

#### Before you call:

- Get water and set up your calling station with things that make you happy (for Senator Wishart, that means a kitten in her lap... seriously).
- Read through your script three times, at least once out loud, and if you have any questions contact your Block Captain director.
- Make sure you understand the ask. Are you asking for support, yard signs, or donations?
- Read about the candidate or cause and make sure you have some material provided by them to reference.
- Create goals for yourself. How many yard signs or volunteers do you want to recruit?
- Smile like you mean it. No really. Smile even though you will be calling. People on the other side of the line will feel it.

#### On the call:

- **Stay positive.** Try standing up, so you have more energy and smile when you speak.
- Listen 80% of the time. Ask people about their lives and take time to get to know them.
- Slow down. Phone conversations require you to speak slower.
- **Take good notes.** Candidates and causes use your notes when making future connections. Every detail matters.

Always make the ask to vote!

#### After the call:

- If someone is rude, brush it off. Think positively about the next call.
- **Reward yourself** (Senator Wishart likes to eat M&M's and Senator Morfeld cracks open a beer).
- Turn in your notes to the NDP.
- \*Thank you Sen. Morfeld, Sen. Wishart, and Sarpy County Chair Charlene Ligon for these tips.

#### **RESOURCES FOR BLOCK CAPTAINS**

As a Block Captain, you are seen as a leader in your community. Because of that, we have included some extra information and resources. We included ways that people can get trained to help with campaigns or run as candidates themselves.

Your neighbors will also be interested in how they can get involved and make a difference. We included information about trainings, good sources of political information, how to write a letter to the editor, how to call your elected officials, how to attend town halls, and more!

#### **Block Captain Trainings**

All of the NDP Block Captains' trainings are held on Facebook live. You can watch them on the day of the training and ask questions in real-time or watch the recorded training when you have time. Just go to the NDP Facebook page to watch the trainings live or go to nebraskademocrats.org and click on the Block Captain page to see archived trainings.

#### Find our next training event here:

#### Mobilize.us/nebdems

#### **Training and Candidate Resources**

In addition to the trainings we offer to you as Block Captains, here are some great resources for you as a volunteer. Some of us create change by serving as Block Captains, helping candidates, or becoming candidates ourselves. Everyone has a role in building the Democratic Party.

#### **National Democratic Training Committee**

Sign up for a free training account to access many "how tos" and training presentations: <a href="https://www.traindemocrats.org">www.traindemocrats.org</a>

#### **Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee**

The DCCC has a great social media toolbox available for volunteers: dccc.org/together

#### **Indivisible Guide**

The grassroots group Indivisible is always a great resource to learn more about becoming an effective advocate at the local level: indivisible guide.com

#### Trainings at the NDP Meetings

The Nebraska Democratic Party holds four meetings a year where you may attend trainings on various topics and participate in Caucus groups and party operations:

nebraskademocrats.org/events/

#### RELIABLE POLITICAL NEWS-NO FAKE NEWS HERE

Crooked Media has a great podcasts. The company was started by several leaders from the Obama Administration. They also have a new nightly email called "What a Day" which we highly encourage everyone to sign up for because it will help you stay informed. Crooked.com and The Message Box messagebox.substack.com

**Political Wire** is an old-school email you can sign up for that sends information all day long on politics. politicalwire.com

**Project Vote Smart and League of Women Voters** are two places you can go to look up key issues and candidates. While neither site is "perfect" (meaning sometimes there is missing information, etc), they are a good starting place to see where candidates stand.

**Project Vote Smart: votesmart.org** 

League of Women Voters: lwv.org

Find all the local Democratic candidates running across the state on NebraskaDemocrats.org.

#### **TOWN HALLS**

Members of Congress come back every couple of months for work periods in the state. Showing up at Town Halls is a critical way to have your voice heard. You can find when your Members of Congress will be home at the calendar links below.

- House Calendar: www.majorityleader.gov/calend ar
- Senate Calendar: www.senate.gov/legislative/2021 \_schedule.htm

If your Congressperson doesn't seem to have townhalls, call their office and ask when the next one is.

#### **NEBRASKA'S CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS**

We know as a Block Captain you will often be asked for contact information on key elected officials, you will find all of that information on the next few pages.

Call and write Members of Nebraska's Congressional delegation often about issues you care about, bills and Executive Orders.

#### Congressional Switchboard—

Save this number in your phone: 202-224-3121

Just tell the operator your zip code and they patch right thru to your Members of Congress!

Always give the Member of Congress' staff member your name and address, and tell them you want an answer to your question in writing.

#### **About Our Members of Congress:**

Nebraska's Congressional Delegation is made up of two United States Senators who represent the entire state and three House of Representatives members who cover the various districts across our state. All five of Nebraska's Members of Congress are Republicans (for now!).

Senators have terms of 6 years – Fischer is up for re-election in 2024 and Ricketts (because Sasse resigned) is up for replacement in a Special Election ALSO in 2024. House Members have terms of 2 years – so Flood, Bacon, and Smith are all up for re-election every two years.

## This means all FIVE members of our federal delegation are up for replacement in the same year.

#### **Writing Your Member of Congress:**

- First describe who you are and why you are writing.
- Then describe why the issue you are writing about matters to you.
- Make it personal.
- Ask a question at the end of the letter so you do not get a basic form letter back (or at least it's a good try to not get a form letter!).

**Example:** Can you please write me back letting me know if you will encourage other Senators to join your call for more support of family farmers in the Farm Bill?

Include your contact information (name, address, email, and phone) on the actual letter because the return envelope often gets misplaced.

#### U.S. SENATE

#### Sen. Pete Rickkets (R) Up in 2024 and 2026

<u>Washington DC</u> - 202-224-4224 40D Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Scottsbluff- 308-632-6032 115 Railway Street, Suite C102 Scottsbluff, NE 69361

#### https://www.ricketts.senate.gov/

@Ricketts4Senate & @SenatorRicketts (twitter)

#### Sen. Deb Fischer (R) Up in 2024

<u>Washington DC</u> 202-224-6551 454 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

<u>Kearney</u> 308-234-2361 20 West 23rd Street Kearney, Nebraska 68847

<u>Lincoln</u> 402-441-4600 440 North 8th Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 11819 Miracle Hills Drive Suite 205 Omaha, Nebraska 68154

<u>Scottsbluff</u> 308-630-2329 1110 Circle Drive, Suite F2, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

Omaha 402-391-3411

senator\_fischer@fischer.senate.gov/SenatorDebFischer

@SenatorFischer & @DebFischerNE

#### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### **All Up in 2022**

#### Rep. Mike Flood (R-NE1)

Washington DC 202-225-4806 1314 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 <u>Lincoln</u> 402-438-1598 301 South 13th Street, Suite100 Lincoln, NE 68508

#### @USRepMikeFlood (Twitter)

#### Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE2)

Washington DC 202-225-4155, 888-221-7452 2104 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 Omaha, (402) 938-0300 13906 Gold Circle, Suite 101, Omaha, NE 68144

#### bacon.house.gov/contact/email/Don.Bacon.39

#### @DonJBacon & @RepDonBacon

#### Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE3)

Washington DC 202-225-6435 502 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515

Scottsbluff 308-633-6333 416 Valley View Drive, Suite 600, Scottsbluff, NE 69361 Grand Island 308-384-3900 1811 West Second Street, Suite 275, Grand Island, NE 68803

### adriansmith.house.gov/contact-me/email-me /AdrianSmithNE

#### @RepAdrianSmith

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters do not have to be long or poetic; just write from your heart. Elected officials read the letters to the editors, so this is a critical way to get messages out. Students can help increase awareness by sharing their ideas and opinions in their school papers.

The NDP has some of the newspapers' links to submit a letter to the editor on our website: http://nebraskademocrats.org/letter-to-the-editor

Basic information to include in your letter to the editor (often called LTEs):

- Start with a catchy opening and make your point clear in the first paragraph. Oftentimes readers don't go beyond that first paragraph.
- Papers have different guidelines for the number of words allowed, which are all posted on their websites. Usually, the word count is between 200-250 words.
- State your facts but do not overuse numbers. Letters that explain why you personally care about an issue will help connect the reader with you more than numbers.
- Do not use form LTEs. Editors will not publish them.

#### STAY IN TOUCH: WE ARE YOUR PARTY

The Democratic Party is a coalition of organizations working to elect Democrats and support grassroots voters. The organizations include:

- Nebraska Democratic Party (NDP)
  - o State Organization nebraskademocrats.org
  - o info@nebraskademocrats.org 402-434-2180
- The Democratic National Committee (DNC)
  - o National Organization www.democrats.org
- Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC)
  - Senatorial Organization www.dscc.org
- Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC)
  - Congressional Organization www.dccc.org

#### **OUR NEBRASKA PARTY LEADERS AND STAFF**

You can join the NDP as a Party leader. Serve on NDP's State Central Committee and learn all about our NDP structure:

http://nebraskademocrats.org/be-a-party-leader/

#### **Statewide Party Officers**

Chair: Jane Kleeb, jane@nebraskademocrats.org

Vice Chair: Ron Kaminski, ron@nebraskademocrats.org

DNC Committeewoman: Charlene Ligon, charlene.ligon@nebraskademocrats.org

**DNC Committeeman: VACANT** 

**Treasurer:** Ted Kessler, treasurer@nebraskademocrats.org

Secretary: Stephanie Matejka, secretary@nebraskademocrats.org

**Vice Chair of County Parties: VACANT** 

**Congressional District Chairs** 

CD1: Marthaellen Florence, cd1chair@nebraskademocrats.org

CD2: Ben Cass, cd2chair@nebrasakdemocrats.org CD3: Randy Fair, cd3chair@nebraskademocrats.org

#### Staff

The NDP staff work every single day to help elect Democrats and build the party infrastructure. Our staff, under the current leadership team, formed a union with IBEW. Staff positions are protected under a union contract and are no longer tied to a particular elected party officer.

**Executive Director:** Precious McKesson, precious@nebraskademocrats.org

Communications Director: Jose Flores, jose@nebraskademocrats.org

**Data Director:** Ron Rivera, ronr@nebraskademocrats.org

Outreach Director: Gina Frank, gina@nebraskademocrats.org

Party Affairs Coordinator: Jack Schiewe, jack@nebraskademocrats.org

Like NDP on Facebook Facebook.com/NebraskaDemocraticParty

Follow NDP on Twitter Twitter.com/NebraskaDems

Follow us on TikTok www.tiktok.com/@nebdems

Follow Chair Jane Kleeb on Twitter Twitter.com/janekleeb

Stay involved with the NDP NebraskaDemocrats.org

Donate to the NDP tinyurl.com/nebdemdonor

**Learn About Our Platform** nebraskademocrats.org/party-platform

**Serve on NDP Central Committee** nebraskademocrats.org/be-a-party-leader/

Come See Us, Volunteer NDP Office, 3701 O Street, #200, Lincoln, NE 68510

HashTags #NebDems

IN THE STREETS IN THE VOTING BOOTH

#### **#NEBDEMS** NebraskaDemocrats.org **#NEBDEMS**

Paid for by the Nebraska Democratic Party. This communication is not authorized by any federal candidate or candidate's committee.