



## **Tim Walz, a Nebraska Hometown Hero**

Gov. Tim Walz is from Nebraska. He was born in West Point and then lived in Valentine, Butte, Chadron and Alliance. All small and rural towns in our state.

Governor Walz was our keynote speaker at our annual fundraiser (called the Ben Nelson Gala) in 2023. He shared the stage with Rep. Justin J. Pearson and David Hogg was also at the event which is where Hogg saw Walz speak for the first time and subsequently did a big push for Walz as VP online. Chair Jane Kleeb and other populist and progressives pushed a grassroots effort to highlight Walz during the VP selection process.

You can read more about Tim Walz bio from our [initial press release](#).

If you need assistance or want to arrange interviews with Chair Kleeb, please contact the Nebraska Democratic Party Communications Director, Jose Flores, Jr., [jose@nebraskademocrats.org](mailto:jose@nebraskademocrats.org), 402-215-1052.

If you want to interview other local contacts, you can reach out to them directly.

### **Places Walz Lived in Nebraska**

West Point, population: 3,459, Cuming County (born)

Valentine, population: 2,607, Cherry County (grew up when young)

Butte, population: 270, Boyd County (high school)

Chadron, population: 5,223, Dawes County (college, Chadron State College)

Alliance, population: 8,037, Box Butte County (teacher and NSEA union member)

### **State and Local Contacts**

**Jane Kleeb, Nebraska Democratic Party**

Email: [jane@nebraskademocrats.org](mailto:jane@nebraskademocrats.org)

Phone: 402-705-3622

- Jane first met Walz about 5 years ago and they hit it off with both very focused on growing state parties and our party getting back to lifting up rural towns. Jane was part of a grassroots group of folks who were pushing for Walz to be named VP.

### **Sen. Ben Nelson**

Email: [ebenjaminnelson@gmail.com](mailto:ebenjaminnelson@gmail.com)

Phone: 402-658-7300

- Senator Nelson was Governor and US Senator in our state and has known Tim Walz for decades.

### **Miles Bannan**

Email: [milesbannan@gmail.com](mailto:milesbannan@gmail.com)

Phone: 308-430-4762

- Miles is the former Mayor and city council member in Chadron. He knows the area very well. Miles is younger and Native American.

### **Sen. Lynne Walz**

Email: [lynne@donpeterson.com](mailto:lynne@donpeterson.com)

Phone: 402-459-9259

- Senator Lynne Walz married into the Walz family! Her husband is Tim Walz 3rd cousin. Lynne knows Gov. Walz very well. She was also a teacher.

### **Becky Potmesil, Sheridan County Chair**

Email: [roodeeranch@gmail.com](mailto:roodeeranch@gmail.com)

Phone:

- *“Everybody in Alliance is extremely excited about Tim Walz, even the Republicans! He taught and coached here at the middle and high school and there are so many people that say he was their favorite teacher. Some people are already scheduling a celebration for him at our town fountain on the 21st and Al Davis said he’d come. Sandy Dietrich is also Tim’s sister and lives here still and is good friends with my husband. I am trying to find colleagues that worked with him and possibly Sandy (his sister) to schedule to speak at the rally. We would love for the press to come.”*

### **Richard Gervais, Lives in Alliance**

Email: [kozad@outlook.com](mailto:kozad@outlook.com)

Phone: 308-760-2827

- Richard is helping plan an event in Alliance on the day Walz gives his convention speech.

## **Other Local Contacts**

### **Cuming County Chair - Jon Bailey**

Email: [jonmbailey1@gmail.com](mailto:jonmbailey1@gmail.com)

Phone: 402-308-6042

- *"Cuming County Democrats are bursting with pride on the selection and nomination of Governor Tim Walz, our native son, to be our vice presidential candidate for the 2024 election. Vice President Harris made an inspired choice in selecting Governor Walz as her running mate. This puts small town values, real rural policymaking, and attention to rural places and rural people at the forefront of the 2024 campaign and election."*

### **Former State Senator Al Davis**

Email: [oloranch@gmail.com](mailto:oloranch@gmail.com)

Phone: 308-458-9948

- *"I am so excited to have Governor Walz as the vice-presidential nominee. It has been decades since truly rural voices were heard in Washington--until now! Walz brings his rural Nebraska upbringing to a national audience where he can speak to the problems and struggles of middle America as well as the infrastructure needs of the Great Plains. In addition, his down-to-earth personality evokes compassion, trust, and hope. He will be an outstanding Vice-President and will make Nebraska proud."*

### **Dawes County Co-Chair Celeste Lee**

Email: [celestew.lee@gmail.com](mailto:celestew.lee@gmail.com)

Phone: 308-430-2192

- *"Tim Walz, being on the ticket, is important for Dawes County Nebraska because he has an understanding of rural areas, especially here, which is so close to Alliance where he taught for several years. Democrats from Dawes County are excited due to his record of caring about the basic needs of people, his willingness to take on tough situations, and that he is so progressive. With Dawes County so close to the Pine Ridge Reservation of SD, where Walz taught, our native population is delighted to have someone on the ticket who will represent them. Of course, as an alumnus of Chadron State College, I am thrilled that another alumnus is now a candidate for the Vice-President of the United States!"*

### **Dawes County Co-Chair Chris Vines**

Email: [sportsvine@msn.com](mailto:sportsvine@msn.com)

Phone: 308-207-5132

### **Dawes County Treasurer Cheryl Welch**

Email: [loswelchitos@gmail.com](mailto:loswelchitos@gmail.com)

Phone: 308-432-3519

### **Box Butte County Chair Larry Bollinger**

Email: [lb@larrybollinger.com](mailto:lb@larrybollinger.com)



















Tim Walz  
Social Studies



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Most Inspiring  
Mr. Walz





**Listen up**

Mr. Walz is waking up his first hour class with current event discussions. Students are asked to pay attention to the news and local happenings and report them to the class everyday.



Defensive coordinator Tim Walz, center, and head coach Rick Sutton, right, with the Mankato West football team before winning the state championship game in 1999.



Fans hang on the goal post in Memorial Stadium after Nebraska defeated Oklahoma, 21-7, Friday in Lincoln.

## Fans exult in victory

By BOB SCHALLER  
Sports Editor

LINCOLN — Tim Walz and Doug Hermesen looked a little out of place at Memorial Stadium Friday afternoon.

Walz, from Alliance, and Hermesen, who lives in Crawford, sat among the Sooner fans in Section 21.

"This is great — where else would you want to sit?" asked Walz, who teaches at Alliance High School.

Hermesen was using an excused absence from Crawford High School, where he teaches and coaches girls basketball.

"I had to sacrifice a day of coaching for this," Hermesen said as he moved around to work off the freeze of the minus-7 wind chill in the southwest corner of the stadium.

While most Panhandle Big Red fans enjoyed the Nebraska-Oklahoma game at home or on the radio, a sprinkling braved the bad weather to make the drive to Lincoln.

"The drive down wasn't bad — it could've been better, of course," said Scottsbluff resident Rob Mueller, who works for U.S. Supply in the Twin Cities.

Mueller didn't know if he could make it to the Orange Bowl, but said the Huskers should not be written off because of past failures on New Year's Day.

"It depends on who we play," Mueller said. "But you have to be positive going into it."

Hermesen and Walz considered themselves lucky even to be in the stands when the game kicked off.

"Doug got us lost and we ended up in Omaha," Walz said. "But we got a real break, sitting here in the Oklahoma section."

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# Nebraska rallies to defeat Oklahoma, 21-7