



State Central Committee Meeting November 7-8, 2025 Day of Agenda Packet

The Nebraska Democratic Party looks forward to seeing you at our next SCC meeting on Nov. 8, 2025. All times are posted in **Central Time (CT)**. The Big Blue Weekend events — including the SCC meetings, candidate training, and the Ben Nelson Gala — all take place at the **Hilton in Omaha, Nebraska (1001 Cass St, Omaha, NE 68102)**.

If you have questions or can not attend the SCC meeting, please email scc@nebraskademocrats.org.

Special Notes:

- **Dems Care:** Our Dems Care event this meeting will focus on nonperishable food items to donate to NONA and SONA. Suggested items may include, but are not limited to: fruit cups, snacks for kids, pasta, rice, beans, shelf-stable milk, cereal, cake/frosting/candles, just-add-water meals, coffee, tea, or dry food products.
 - **Please bring at least one item to drop off at the Nelson Gala near the Photo Booth, Registration Desk, or at the SCC! Look for the boxes!**
- **Accommodation Request:** Please contact us at scc@nebraskademocrats.org to request reasonable accommodations for accessible participation.
- **Agenda Time:** Each respective Chair decides the agenda items for their meeting. The deadline for agenda time during the SCC meeting has now passed.
- **Tickets:** [Purchase Nelson Gala and SCC meal tickets here](#). Please scroll all the way to the bottom of the Ben Nelson Gala page to see the SCC meal ticket option.
- **Hotel:** All events will take place at the Hilton Omaha.
 - Secure your [Hotel Room](#) online (Room Rate starting at \$132 per night)
 - **The cut-off date was 10/01/25. You can still book a room, but the special rate may no longer be available.**

Thursday, November 6th – NDP Black Caucus Fundraiser

Join the Nebraska Democratic Party Black Caucus for a fundraiser celebrating our elected officials and 2026 candidates, featuring special guests: Jan. 6th Capitol Police Officer Harry, and Omaha Mayor John Ewing, Jr. The fundraiser will take place at NOMA (2406 N 24th St, Omaha, NE) from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. [Purchase tickets here.](#)



Friday, November 7th – Ben Nelson Gala

The Ben Nelson Gala will be held at the Hilton Omaha (same venue as SCC) on the evening of Friday, November 7th. Doors will open at 5 pm due to security. Ballroom doors will open at 6 pm, and the program will begin at 7 pm.

- ***Ben Nelson Gala Tickets: As of Nov. 4th, we only have about 7 overflow room tickets left. The speakers will come into that room to say hello.***
- **Clear Bag Policy:** We will enforce a small clutch-sized or clear bag policy at this year's Gala. A small bag, approximately the size of a hand, with or without a strap, can be taken into the ballroom. These clutch bags must not be larger than 4.5" x 6.5", and clear bags must not exceed 12" x 6". **No book bags, no large purses. No signs will be allowed.**



Saturday, November 8th – VendorFest Candidate Training, Caucus, Council, Committee, and SCC Meetings

Note: On Nov. 8, we are holding a VendorFest Candidate and Campaign Staff Training. Many of these training sessions are also relevant to you as an SCC Delegate and County Party leader. We strongly encourage you to attend and inform your volunteers about these critical training opportunities.

Training Registration Link: <https://www.mobilize.us/nebdems/event/778101/>

- Everyone MUST register if they plan on attending the training.

SCC Meal Ticket Link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/nelsongala25>

- Scroll to the bottom of the Ben Nelson Gala ticket page to see the SCC meal ticket for \$30, which gives you breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack on Nov. 8.
 - **The deadline to purchase meal tickets is 11/06/25.**

Schedule (yes, it is PACKED):

8:00 a.m. - Noon CT
Registration
Grand Central Foyer

VendorFest
St Nicholas Foyer + Ballroom

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
Show Me the \$\$\$: Fundraising Best Practices & Tools (Mandatory for SCC Members)
Ballroom C, D & E (A/V)
Breakfast Provided

- *Trainers: ActBlue + Kate Wolfe*
- *Sponsor: ActBlue*
 - Best practices of online fundraising
 - Overview of how the **NEW** ActBlue down-ballot tool, called [RAISE](#), which helps with disclosure/compliance reports and other resources
 - Basic functions of a Finance Plan and tips
 - Components of a Finance Plan, beating the slumps (summer, holidays), call time, targeting donors in VAN

9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m

Candidate Training: Communications and Messaging

St. Nicholas (A/V)

- *Trainers: Brent Comstock, BCom*
 - Finding your “why”
 - Crafting your 2-minute pitch
 - Overall campaign message, issues, and values
 - Key components to deliver your message:
 - Doors
 - Events
 - Social Media (videos, share graphics)
 - Website
 - Email Program
 - Digital Ads
 - Palm Card
 - Mail Program (more details on mail in the later session!)

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Various Caucus/Council/Committee Meetings

- Finance Committee, **Murray**
 - Chair Matt Hansen
 - Join the Finance Committee meeting if you are interested in providing feedback or have questions about the NDP Finance and Field Plans.
Closed Session: Only open to SCC delegates and alternates.
- Platform & Resolutions Committee, **Ballroom A**
 - Co-Chairs Shannon Graves & Quinton Corwin
- Technology Committee, **Washington City**
 - Chair Marci Docekal
- Nebraska Young Democrats, **Ballroom B**
 - President Chloe Fowler
- Working Families Council, **Cozzens**
 - Chair CJ King
- Veterans & Military Families Council, **Paxton**
 - Chair Jerry Johnson

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Candidate Training: Writing a Campaign Plan and Getting Started

St. Nicholas (A/V)

- *Trainers: Brandon Bayer, One House Strategies, Brian Mikkelsen, NSEA, and Mike Lee, Campaign Manager*
- What is in a Campaign Plan
 - Win Number, staff structure, mail schedule, budget, etc.
 - Field plan (doors, calls, texts)
- Getting Started
 - Headshot/action photos
 - Website
 - ActBlue page
 - Palm card
 - Campaign checklist (in NDP Candidate Manual)

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Various Caucus/Council/Committee Meetings

- County Chairs Caucus, **Ballroom B**
 - Vice Chair of Chairs Ryan Griffin
- Audit & Review Committee, **Murray**
 - Chair Brian Murray
- Rules Committee, **Washington City**
 - Chair Ben Cass
- Climate Council, **Cozzens**
 - Chair April Thompson
- Secular Council, **Merchants**
 - Chair Evan Christensen
- Latino Caucus, **Paxton**
 - Chair Jennifer Reyna
- Native Caucus, **Herndon**
 - Chair Cynthia LaMere

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Candidate Training: Snail Mail: It Still Works

St. Nicholas (A/V)

- *Trainer: Patrick Shami, TJP Strategies*
 - Crafting a Mail Plan
 - Budget, getting a list, targets, dates, quantity of pieces, etc.
 - Nuts and bolts of design and printing
 - Finding designers vs working with a full-service firm
 - Coordinated mail permit
 - Union printers/mail houses
 - Tips and best practices of a strong mail program

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Various Caucus/Council/Committee Meetings

- **State Convention Committee, Washington City**
 - Chair Anna Hernandez-Valencia
- **Women's Caucus, Ballroom A**
 - Chair Kris Kinzie
- **Nebraskans Experiencing Disabilities Council, Paxton**
 - Chair Shaun Baker
- **Black Caucus, Merchants**
 - Chair Mike Lee
- **Rural & Agricultural Council, Murray**
 - Chair Larissa Schultz
- **Nebraska Stonewall Democrats, Cozzens**
 - Interim Chair Jessie McGrath

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Candidate Training: Compliance with FEC, NADC, and Ballot Initiatives

St. Nicholas (A/V)

- *Trainers: Ted Kessler, NDP Treasurer, Daniel Gutman*
 - Where do you file—FEC or NADC?
 - Steps: EIN, Bank Account, Filing Paperwork of your Campaign Committee with FEC or NADC
 - Basics of filing deadlines, fees, and where you pull your list of donors from
 - Legal guidance on working with ballot initiatives, a critical tool to engage voters on issues beyond party lines

12:40 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

Online Media Buying Platform (Mandatory for SCC Members)

Ballroom C, D & E (A/V)

Lunch Provided

- *Trainers: Bailey Bibb, TargetSmart*
- *Sponsor: TargetSmart*
 - Basics of running digital ads
 - Targeting voters
 - Creative for ads
 - Where you buy/place ads
 - [TargetSmart Online Media Buying Platform](#)
 - Premier system endorsed by the ASDC
 - Data & Reports
 - Differences between platforms

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

CD Caucus Meetings

During CD Caucus meetings, we will elect members to fill any vacancies on the SCC or Committees.

- CD1 Caucus, **Ballroom A**
 - Chair, Tom Hanson
- CD2 Caucus, **Ballroom C, D, & E (A/V)**
 - Chair, Sarah Hanify
- CD3 Caucus, **Ballroom B** (Will be holding an election for CD3 Chair)
 - Vice Chair, Ann Trullinger

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

**Candidate Training: Fun & Critical: Swag, Parades, Postcards, and Block Captains
St. Nicholas (A/V)**

- *Trainers: Ben Steffy, BrightBlue Ink, NDP Secretary Stephanie Matejka, NDP Executive Director Precious McKesson, NDP Outreach Director Gina Frank*
- *Sponsor: BrightBlue Ink*
 - Swag
 - T-shirts, totes, rally signs, bumper stickers, buttons
 - Design, printing, costs
 - Online store
 - Parades
 - Tips and best practices for visibility at parades, handing out items, volunteers, etc.
 - List of parades and county events
 - Postcards
 - Creating postcard packets
 - Finding volunteers
 - Block Captains
 - Finding your Block Captains
 - Tips to give them your lit, invite them to coffee, etc

2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**The Voter File: The Hub of Everything You Need (Mandatory for SCC Members)
Ballroom C, D, & E (A/V)**

Afternoon Snack Provided

- *Trainer: Frank Sokolowski, NGPVAN*
- *Sponsor: NGPVAN*
 - What is a voter file?
 - Getting access to VAN via NDP
 - Scores, Models, IDs
 - Cutting walk lists (and using MiniVan)
 - Creating survey questions
 - Phone banking from VAN
 - Texting from VAN
 - Mail list from VAN

Agenda for SCC Meeting, November 8th, 2025 at 3:45 pm CT

Meeting Location:
Ballroom C, D, & E (A/V)

- **Meeting Called to Order**
 - Land Acknowledgment
 - Pledge of Allegiance
- **Actions of the NDP Secretary, Stephanie Matejka**
 - Quorum
 - Seating of Delegates
 - CD Chairs report any actions from their caucus on the seating of delegates.
 - **VOTE:** Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes from the August virtual SCC meeting are online.
- **Chair Jane Kleeb**
 - Ben Nelson Gala Debrief
 - Updates from ASDC & DNC
 - Update on presidential primary process from DNC
 - State Convention Committee Report, Chair Anna Hernandez-Valencia
 - **VOTE:** 2026 SCC Schedule and Convention Schedule
 - Saturday, February 7, 2026: Virtual
 - April 24-26, 2026: State Convention in Norfolk
 - August 21-22, 2026: Big Blue Weekend in Omaha
 - Sunday, December 13, 2026: Virtual
- **NDP Officer Reports**
 - DNC Committeewoman Sharlette Schwenninger
 - Vice Chair of County Parties Ryan Griffin

- **CD Caucus Reports, Chairs Tom Hanson, Sarah Hanify, and Vice Chair Ann Trullinger**
 - Reports and updates
- **Staff Updates**
 - Precious McKesson, Executive Director
 - Ron Rivera, Political Director
 - Gina Frank, Outreach Director with Kris Kinzie, Kathy Jensen, Rural Organizers
 - José Flores Jr, Communications Director
 - Hannah Wroblewski, Party Affairs Director
- **Committee, Caucus, and Council Reports**
 - Rules Committee, Chair Ben Cass
 - The NDP Rules Committee recommends this proposal for adoption by the SCC.
 - [Clarify State Convention Site Rotation](#)
 - The NDP Rules Committee would like to report that these proposals were adopted under the authority granted to the committee by Article VII of the NDP Constitution, and the NDP Constitution and Bylaws are so amended:
 - [Fix Reference to Withholding Party Resources](#)
 - [Fix State Treasurer Functions](#)
 - [Fix Fundraising Typo](#)
 - [Consistent Use of State Chair](#)

- Platform & Resolutions Committee, Co-Chairs Shannon Graves & Quinton Corwin

- **Platform & Resolutions Committee Report**

- The Platform & Resolutions Committee recommended the following resolutions for approval, which are included in the [committee report](#).
 - Resolution Denouncing the Actions of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - Resolution Condemning and Rebuking Governor Pillen for his actions against the Trans Community
 - Resolution Honoring Don Wesely
 - Resolution Condemning Mass Workforce Reductions and Benefit Cuts at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Resolution in Support of Immigrants

- **Motion to change “LGBTQIA2S+” references to “Queer”**

- Technology Committee, Chair Marci Docekal
- Audit & Review Committee, Chair Brian Murray
- Announcements and Adjournment

CLOSED SESSION (end of FB Live)

- Treasurer’s Report, Ted Kessler
 - Summary of accounts.
 - Detailed P&L statement available from Ted.
 - Reports filed with the FEC and NADC.
 - Copies of the latest FEC and NADC reports are available from Ted.

Additional Information

SCC Governing Documents: All of our SCC meeting documents, agendas, bylaws, and the training manual for SCC Delegates are on the NDP website:

Statewide Officers, Standing and Special Committee Chairs: Party operations happen in our committees, caucuses, councils, and county parties. Thank you to the Chairs, SCC Members, County Officers, and Committee Members for serving.

SCC Agenda Packets

- Archived Agenda Packets are under “2017-2023 Archive Meetings.”

SCC Resolutions

SCC Governing Documents:

- Governing Documents can be found under “Key Party Documents.”

SCC Meeting Facebook Event:

- We stream our SCC meetings on Facebook, except for the closed session portion.

SCC Delegate Training Manual

County Chair Manual

Block Captain Program

NDP Candidate Manual + Trainings: We now have a Candidate Manual (thank you, Sen. Blood and staff!) and a monthly candidate training series. We do not publish these on the website. Candidates must first complete the MOU—please email ronr@nebraskademocrats.org.

- Please share this link if you or someone you know is interested in running for office. Once a person completes this form, staff hold a meeting with the candidate, and then they get added to a listserv and trainings:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6kCBwlpu5YNR7e4yIUra_776V5saFxCGMyIV9I_sblcCthw/viewform

Events: A reminder that we post our events and volunteer opportunities here:

<https://www.mobilize.us/nebdems/>

- Gina leads the outreach plan. Please email her if you need a mobile office (e.g., materials for use at county fairs, parades, etc.) or if you require materials to be sent to you for meetings and events.

Listserves: We send emails to the lists on key information, messaging memos, and updates. If you are not on one of the following listservs and need to be, please email hannah@nebraskademocrats.org

- SCC Members
- SEC Members
- County Chairs
- County Officers
- Block Captains
- Elected Officials
- State Senators
- 2026 Candidates

#NebDems Store: You can purchase t-shirts and sweatshirts to show your #NebDems pride!

Monthly Donor Program: Sign up (or increase your monthly donation) during the SCC meeting, and you can choose a T-shirt or other swag we have on-site!

At least \$10 a month:

- Exclusive Monthly Donor Sticker

\$25 a month:

- 1 ticket to the annual Salute to State Senators
- Exclusive Monthly Donor Sticker
- Exclusive Lapel Pin & Coin

\$50 a month:

- 1 ticket to the annual Ben Nelson Gala
- Invitation to Donor Briefings with Party Leaders and Elected Officials
- Exclusive Monthly Donor Sticker
- Exclusive Lapel Pin & Coin

\$100 a month:

- 1 ticket to the annual Salute to State Senators and Ben Nelson Gala with VIP Receptions
- Invitation to Donor Briefings with Party Leaders and Elected Officials
- First access and reserved seats to NDP special events and national events for which we receive tickets (e.g., special guest speakers).
- Exclusive Monthly Donor Sticker
- Exclusive Lapel Pin & Coin

Trainings: The NDP offers SCC, Block Captain, Blue Bench, and Candidate trainings, as well as access to other national training resources. We can also visit your county or caucus meetings to tailor training to your needs.

Blue Bench Training: We have a new training page that focuses on what we, officer candidates and staff, can do.

Block Captains: Gina Frank is our Block Captain Director. We currently have 700 Block Captains—email gina@nebraskademocrats.org for more information on the Block Captain program.

NDP and National Democratic Training Committee: The NDP partners with the DNC and the National Democratic Training Committee to provide training to all candidates and party leaders, helping to elect Democrats. You can access a free training account to support your local work.

DNC Trainings and Resources: The DNC offers an in-depth online training program for volunteers, party leaders, and elected officials!

NDP Contact Info:

Phone:

LNK: 402-434-2180

OMA: 531-867-4343

Email: info@nebraskademocrats.org

NDP Offices:

LNK: 3701 O Street, Suite 200,

Lincoln, NE 68510

OMA: 1102 S 76th Ave,

Omaha NE 68124

Socials

Facebook

Twitter: @NebDems

Instagram: @nebraskadems

TikTok: @NebDems

Hashtags: #NebDems, #NELeg

Party Members

Staff

Party Leaders

Elected Democrats