

Nebraska Legislature 2018 General Election

It was a long night for candidates and spectators, with many races changing leaders until the early morning hours. The Nebraska Unicameral Legislature will have 11 new faces when they convene on January 9, 2019. There will be two additional newcomers once Governor Ricketts appoints replacements for Senators Murante and Watermeier who both ran for other offices and won. It will be a slightly different and more moderate Unicameral in Nebraska.

There were a couple of upsets: Senator Merv Riepe was beat by former senator Steve Lathrop (this was expected). Michaela Cavanaugh defeated Ricketts appointment Theresa Thibodeau. There is one race that appears to be headed for a recount. Wendy DeBoer (D) currently has a 37-vote lead over Matt Deaver (R) in District 10 which was last held by Senator Bob Krist. If the outcome remains the same, it will be a win for the Democrats.

If the recount and appointments go as expected, the overall makeup of the officially non-partisan Legislature will shift from 31(R), 15(D), 2(I), 1(L) to 30(R), 18(D), 1(I). This will make deadlocks more likely and require true cross aisle negotiation for any contentious issues.

In state-wide races, Governor Ricketts and Lt. Governor Foley won handily over Senators Bob Krist and Lynne Walz. Senator John Murante will be the next State Treasurer. Charlie Janssen remains the State Auditor. Bob Evnen will replace John Gale as Secretary of State. The Nebraska congressional delegation remains unchanged as Senator Deb Fischer, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Congressman Adrian Smith, and Congressman Don Bacon all won their reelection bids.

The state-wide initiative for Medicaid expansion passed by just over 42,000 votes. This issue will undoubtedly add to the already tense budget and tax reform discussions.

I have attached a word document including vote counts for the legislative races. Feel free to use that document and its information as you wish. If you have any questions about these results or other races, please let me know.

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Nebraska Legislature

2018 General Election Results

District 2 (Cass County and parts of Sarpy and Otoe Counties)

- **Sen. Robert Clements**, Elmwood (7943 votes)
 - 66, Republican. Appointed by Governor Ricketts to replace Senator Kintner. Exec. Vice Pres. American Exchange Bank. UNL graduate. President of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, member of the Sons of the American Legion, and former Cass County GOP chairman. Serves on the Appropriations Committee.
- **Susan Lorence**, Plattsmouth (6007 votes)
 - 62, Democrat. University of Denver graduate. Is a lead Process Analyst for the telecom industry. Serves as Treasurer on Plattsmouth Community Foundation Fund Board.

District 4 (Central Omaha)

- **Sen. Robert "Bob" Hilkemann**, (Incumbent) (8471 votes)
 - 69, Republican. Retired Omaha podiatrist. Practiced in Omaha for 37 years and founded the Foot and Ankle Center of Nebraska in 1984. Was on the State Board of Health from 1983 to 1988, serving as chairman for two years. Serves on the Appropriations Committee.
- **Shannon Coryell** (5378 votes)
 - 41, Democrat. Single mother with disabilities. Active proponent of legalized marijuana and Medicaid expansion.

District 6 (Central & West Omaha) (Incumbent Senator Joni Craighead resigned & Theresa Thibodeau was appointed in October)

- **Machaela Cavanaugh** (7230 votes)
 - 38, Democrat. Daughter of former US Rep. John Cavanaugh. Earned an MA from the University of Nebraska in Public Administration. Works for the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University. Previously worked as director of development for Opera Omaha, American Province of the Servants of Mary, and staff assistant for US Sen. Ben Nelson.
- **Sen. Theresa Thibodeau** (7028 votes)
 - 42, Republican. Earned a bachelor's in psychology from the University of Nebraska. Owns a childcare and pre-school. Formerly worked as an account manager at Lockton Benefit Co. Has served as her sister, Amy Melton's political campaign manager since 2012. Mayor Stothert appointed Thibodeau to the Omaha Personnel Board in 2016, and she also serves on the boards of the La Vista Community Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands. She is a member of St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church.

District 8 (Dundee & Benson areas in Omaha) (Incumbent Senator Burke Harr is term-limited)

- **Megan Hunt** (7130 votes)
 - 31, Democrat. Co-founder of Hello Holiday, a clothing store in Dundee. From Blair, but has lived in Dundee for 13 years. Founded the nonprofit Safe Space Nebraska. Serves as a trustee of the Business Ethics Alliance, and has served on the boards of Friends of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Friends of the Nebraska AIDS project, and Omaha area youth orchestras.
- **Marianella (Mina) Davis** (3992 votes)
 - 24, Democrat. Graduate of Creighton University. Is a merchandise planning analyst at Oriental trading Company and owns an online clothing business. Worked on President Obama's reelection campaign; served as a national delegate for US Senator Bernie Sanders presidential campaign; and worked on the campaign of former State Senator Heath Mello during his Omaha Mayoral campaign.

District 10 (Bennington and North Central Douglas County) (Incumbent Senator Bob Krist is term limited)

- **Wendy DeBoer**, Omaha **** Projected Winner**** (7752 votes)
 - 43, Democrat. Former university educator and attorney. Currently working on a doctorate in Christian theology. Earned her BA in Economics and English from Hastings college, and JD from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1999. Has a MA in British literature from the University of Nebraska Omaha, and a Masters from the Lutheran School of Theology.
- **Matt Deaver**, Bennington (7715 votes)
 - 42, Republican. Earned BS in Business Administration from University of Nebraska. MA in Business administration and JD from Creighton. Former legislative staff for Senator Adrian Smith, staff for NE State Treasurer, and NE Republican Party. Attorney with Omaha Law Firm of Legacy Design Strategies, focusing on estate and business planning, and wills and trusts.

District 12 (Ralston and south-central Omaha)

- **Steve Lathrop** (6577 votes)
 - 61, Democrat. Earned his BS degree in 1979 and a law degree in 1981 from Creighton University. An attorney focusing on Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, Product Liability and Workers' Compensation cases. He served as a board member of the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys and was President of NATA in 2000. Lathrop represented district 12 in the Unicameral from 2007 to 2014, where he served as Chair of Business and Labor Committee and Vice-Chair of Judiciary Committee.
- **Sen. Merv Riepe**, Ralston (Incumbent) (5339 votes)
 - 75, Republican. Former COO and CEO at Bergan Mercy Medical Center and formerly managed a physicians group at Children's Hospital & Medical Center. Navy veteran. Received a BS in finance from the University of Nebraska Omaha, and a MA in health policy and management from the University of Iowa. Serves as the Chairman of the Health and Human Services committee and a member of the Urban Affairs, General Affairs, and Legislative Planning Committees.

District 14 (Sarpy County, Papillion and LaVista) (Incumbent Senator Jim Smith is term-limited)

- **John Arch**, LaVista (7568 votes)
 - 61, Republican. Serves as the executive vice president of healthcare and director of Boys Town National Research Hospital and clinics. Endorsed by Senator Smith.
- **Jeff Parris**, LaVista (5980 votes)
 - 47, Democrat. Retired Air Force airborne cryptologic language analyst and defense analyst. Originally from Las Vegas but stayed in LaVista after serving at Offutt Air Force Base.

District 16 (Washington, Bert and Cuming counties) (Incumbent Senator Lydia Brasch is term-limited)

- **Ben Hansen**, Blair (9080 votes)
 - 36, Republican. Chiropractor, owns Hansen Chiropractic Wellness Center, Blair Rent-It Center, and Heritage Barnwood Company. Elected to Blair City Council in 2015. Active with the Blair Area Chamber of Commerce
- **Chuck Hassebrook**, Lyons (5662 votes)
 - 62, Democrat. Vice-president of project development with Sandhills Energy in Valentine. Former University of Nebraska Regent, former executive director of the Center for Rural Affairs, and 2014 gubernatorial candidate.

District 18 (North Central Omaha)

- **Sen. Brett Lindstrom** (Incumbent) (6510 votes)
 - 37, Republican. Received his BA from the University of Nebraska. Was a member of NU football team from 2000 to 2003. Serves as senior wealth strategy associate at the Lindstrom Group. Unsuccessfully challenged U.S. Rep. Lee Terry for the GOP nomination for the House race in 2012. Serves as chairman of the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee and a member of the Revenue Committee.

- **Scott Winkler** (5565 votes)
 - 61, Democrat. Former accounting manager for City of Omaha Finance Dept. Originally from Loomis, Nebraska. Graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor's degree in accounting and Master's degree in Management. Has lived in Omaha for 25 years, and served on the board of Inclusive Communities, Citizens for Equal Protection, and was appointed to the Omaha Police Department committee with responsibility to administer a federal grant for hate crimes education.

District 20 (Pacific Street to Q and 72nd St. to 144th St.)

- **Sen. John S. McCollister** (Incumbent) (8260 votes)
 - 71, Republican. Former executive director of The Platte Institute. Former president of McCollister & Co., a family manufacturing company, as well as director of Metropolitan Utilities District. Son of former Nebraska Congressman John Y. McCollister.
- **Jackie Colette** (5693 votes)
 - 37, Democrat. Earned an MA in public administration from UNO, and is currently an IT project manager at CLS investments. Member of the ACLU, League of Women Voters, Loveland neighborhood association and a teammates mentor.

District 22 (Platte, Northwest Colfax and most of Stanton County) (Incumbent Senator Paul Schumacher is term limited)

- **Mike Moser**, Columbus (7850 votes)
 - 66, Republican. Owns Columbus Music. Former Columbus Mayor (2004-2016)
- **Doug Oertwich**, Pilger (4353 votes)
 - 54, Republican. Farmer. Serves on the Stanton County planning commission, the Thunder by the River Tractor Pull Board, and Stanton County Public Power District Board of Directors. Served on the grower advisory board for the Fremont Costco/Lincoln premium poultry project.

District 24 (Seward, York and Polk County)

- **Sen. Mark Kolterman**, Seward (Incumbent) (9443 votes)
 - 62, Republican. Former owner and president of Kolterman Insurance Agency in Seward, which he recently sold. Has held leadership roles in both the Nebraska Association of Health Underwriters and the Nebraska Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. A lifelong resident of Seward County, he has served on the Seward County Economic Development Board, Seward Area Development Corporation, Seward Chamber, and the Southeast Nebraska Development District Board. Currently a Diplomat with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Serves as the Chairman of the Retirement Committee, and member of the Banking Commerce and Insurance, and Health and Human Services Committees.
- **Stephanie Nantkes**, Seward (3403 votes)
 - 68, Democrat. UNL graduate. Teacher at Lincoln Public Schools. Served on the Seward Board of Education. Mother of former Senator Danielle Conrad.

District 26 (Northeast Lincoln)

- **Sen. Matt Hansen**, (Incumbent) (8891 votes)
 - 29, Democrat. Earned a BA in psychology and political science and a JD from UNL. Currently teaches gifted students in math and social studies as a mentor for LPS. Served on the board of the University Place Community Organization and on the City of Lincoln's Cable Advisory Board. He serves on the Judiciary, Urban Affairs, and Business and Labor committees.
- **Bob Van Valkenburg** (3257 votes)
 - 82, Republican. Retired Army Lt. Colonel. Business consultant. Has run for a myriad of elected positions but has never won.

District 28 (Central Lincoln)

- **Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks** (Incumbent) (11466 votes)
 - 59, Democrat. Earned BA in political science from Colorado College, and JD from the University of Nebraska College of Law. Vice president and co-founder of Brooks, Pansing Brooks law firm. In 2009, she was senior policy counsel and mayoral aide to Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler. Has co-chaired a number of fund-raising campaigns, including the Centennial Mall project, Union Plaza, and LPS bond initiative. She is a member of the Judiciary and Education committees.

District 30 (Gage and Southwest Lancaster County) (Incumbent Senator Roy Baker is not seeking reelection)

- **Myron Dorn**, Adams (7864 votes)
 - 63, Republican. Farmer. Current Chair of Gage County Board. Elected in 2010, re-elected in 2014.
- **Don Schuller**, Wymore (6971 votes)
 - 62, Democrat. Worked for 30 years with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Farms between Wymore and Barneston, and designs private land conservation projects. Member of the Wymore Fire Department Board. Active with the Gage County Democrats.

District 32 (Thayer, Jefferson, Fillmore and Saline Counties and a portion of Lancaster County)

- **Tom Brandt**, Plymouth (8050 votes)
 - 58, Republican. Farmer, President of the Plymouth Improvement Association, Farmers Union
- **Sen. Laura Ebke**, Crete (Incumbent) (6243 votes)
 - 55, Libertarian. Earned a BA and MA in political science from the University of Memphis. Holds a Ph.D. in political science from UNL. Adjunct professor at Doane College. Served on the Crete School, and taught part-time at several colleges. Former Chair of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Nebraska. Serves as Chairwoman of the Judiciary committee and is a member of the Education committee.

District 34 (Hamilton, Nance, Merrick and Northwest Hall Counties)

- **Sen. Curt Friesen**, Henderson (10739 votes)
 - 62, Republican. Former mayor of Henderson and a farmer leader who has been active in water issues. He ran for the Legislature in 2006, narrowly losing to Greg Adams. Currently serves as president of Hamilton County Corn Growers, vice chair of the Nebraska Corn Board, and vice chair of the National Corn Growers Public Policy Action Team. Past board chair of the Upper Big Blue NRD. Serves as the Chairman of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee and is a member of the Revenue Committee

District 36 (Dawson, Custer, and Northern Buffalo Counties)

- **Sen. Matt Williams**, Gothenburg (Incumbent) (9720 votes)
 - 68, Republican. Attorney, Chairman and president of Gothenburg State Bank. 2013 Chairman of the American Bankers Association. Former board member and vice chair of the Nebraska Chamber. Trustee for the NU Foundation and member of the board of directors for UNL's Innovation Campus. Serves on the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, Health and Human Services Committee, and Legislative Planning Committee.

District 38 (Kearny, Phelps, Franklin, Webster, Clay, Nuckolls, and Southwest Buffalo Counties)

- **Dave Murman**, Glenvil (9072 votes)
 - 66, Republican. Third-Generation Dairy Farmer, Former President NE State Dairy Association. Former School Board member.
- **Marsha Fangmeyer**, Gibbon (5036 votes)
 - 65, Democrat. Attorney, former president of the NE State Bar Assn.

District 40 (Boyd, Cedar, Dixon, Holt, Knox and Rock Counties) (Incumbent Senator Tyson Larson is term limited)

- **Timothy Gragert**, Creighton (7181 votes)
 - 58, Republican. U of N graduate with natural resources degree. Retired after 31 years with US Natural Resources Conservation Services. Served in US armed forces for 40 years. Was a helicopter pilot and deployed four times to the Middle East. Current member of the Creighton School Board.
- **Keith Kubbe**, Crofton (6738 votes)
 - 67, Republican. Earned bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from University of Nebraska. A retired business consultant, held real estate broker license in WI, MN, and CA. Ran against Senator Larson in 2014.

District 42 (Lincoln County)

- **Sen. Mike Groene**, North Platte (Incumbent) (8130 votes)
 - 62, Republican. Employed as an ag equipment sales manager. Served on the board of the Platte Institute. In the late 1990s, organized the Western Nebraska Taxpayers Association (WNTA). Serves as chairman of the Education Committee and as a member of the Revenue and Retirement Committees.
- **Judy Pederson**, North Platte (3964 votes)
 - 57, Republican. Small business owner. A write-in candidate because she currently serves on Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board. Daughter-in-law of former Senator Don Pederson.

District 44 (Harlan, Furnace, Red Willow, Hitchcock, Gosper, Frontier, Chase, Dundy, Hayes, and Perkins Counties)

- **Sen. Dan Hughes**, Venango (Incumbent) (9936 votes)
 - 61, Republican. Graduate of Northeastern Junior College in Sterling Colorado. Farmer and small business owner. Former president of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association and Chairman of US Wheat Associates. Has also served on the Nebraska Ethanol Board, Chase County FFA, and Grant/Perkins County School Board. Serves as the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and a member of the Executive Board, and Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.
- **Stephanie Malcolm**, Palisade (2912 votes)
 - Independent. Owns and operates Sometown Sundries, a grocery store in Palisade. She is also the third-grade teacher for Wauneta-Palisade Schools. Attended Chadron State College where she earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in education.

District 46 (North Central Lincoln)

- **Sen. Adam Morfeld**, Lincoln (Incumbent) (5630 votes)
 - 32, Democrat. Earned a BA in political science from UNL and JD from the University of Nebraska College of Law. Attorney and Executive Director of Nebraskans for Civic Reform. Served on the boards of the Daily Nebraskan student newspaper, a veterans advocacy group (Boot Straps and Beyond), and the NU College of Law Young Alumni Council. Serves as a member of the Education and Judiciary committees

District 48 (Scotts Bluff County)

- **Sen. John Stinner, Sr.**, Gering (Incumbent) (8958 votes)
 - 67, Republican. Originally from Pittsburg, PA. Earned his BS in Business Administration and his MA in Economics from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. President of Valley Bank and Trust Company. 2013 chairman of the Nebraska Bankers Association. Drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team but chose instead to play football for NU where he was a member of the 1970 and 1971 national championship teams. He has served on the Gering Public School board and president of the Gering School Board. Serves as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee.