

DECODING THE BALLOT 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

Your County, Nebraska	General Election	November 6, 2018	
<p>Thank you for visiting our decoding the ballot page! This is a nonpartisan resource created by Civic Nebraska to help explain what elected offices are on your ballot and what they actually do. State and local government has a real impact on our day-to-day lives, and voting in those races couldn't be more important.</p> <p>There are hundreds of different ballots used in each Nebraska election (they're all different based on where you live), so we've included some of the most common. Each entry includes a brief description of the office's responsibilities, term limits, and salary (if applicable).</p> <p>As always, if you have questions or need more information, you can always contact our office at 402-904-5191, or email me at john.cartier@civicnebraska.org.</p> <p>Thank you for being an informed participant in your democracy!</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> John Cartier Director of Voting Rights Civic Nebraska </p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>	Federal Ticket	State Ticket	
	<p>For U.S. Senate</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Senate is the upper chamber of the two houses of the United States Congress. Each state elects two senators. Alongside the House of Representatives, the Senate is responsible for creating and passing the country's laws.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Additional powers granted to the Senate include advice and consent -- meaning ratification of treaties and confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court justices, cabinet secretaries, ambassadors and other important federal seats. It also has the responsibility of conducting trials after the House begins impeachment procedures. Senators serve 6-year terms and are paid \$174,000 per year.</p>	<p>For State Treasurer</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The state treasurer handles the state's budget. The treasurer focuses on investing the state's funds and keeping accurate records of financial transactions. This department is also responsible for keeping track of unclaimed property.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Additionally, the treasurer maintains NebraskaSpending.gov, which discloses how the State of Nebraska spends and receives funds. The state treasurer serves 4-year terms, and is paid \$85,000 per year.</p>	
	<p>For U.S. House of Representatives District 1/2/3</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The U.S. House of Representatives is composed of 435 representatives allocated to districts given to a state based on their population. Nebraska has 3 representatives.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The House has the sole power to draft and introduce bills related to revenue and impeachment cases sent to the Senate. Members of the House of Representatives serve 2-year terms and are paid \$174,000 per year.</p>	State Ticket	<p>For Attorney General</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The attorney general provides legal representation on behalf of the state and actively prosecutes crimes in the state. These can range from consumer fraud cases to prosecuting murderers.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The attorney general's office is separated into five bureaus: criminal; consumer protection; agriculture, environment and natural resources; legal services; and civil litigation. The attorney general serves 4-year terms and is paid \$95,000 per year.</p>
	<p>For Governor and Lt. Governor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The governor is the seat of executive power in Nebraska. He or she is responsible for appointing various positions as called for by Nebraska's constitution, serves as the chairperson of the Board of Pardons and a member of numerous other commissions. The governor submits an annual budget proposal for operating the state to the Legislature. The lieutenant governor is selected by each candidate for governor for the general election.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The lieutenant governor is considered the president of the Legislature and can cast a tie-breaking vote. Both of these offices serve 4-year terms. The Governor is paid \$105,000 per year, and the lieutenant governor is paid \$75,000 per year.</p>	<p>For Auditor of Public Accounts</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The auditor of public accounts provides independent audits, reviews and investigations into the financial operations of Nebraska state agencies and local governments.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> As the state's auditor, this position has constitutional authority to audit all state fiscal activity and is statutorily required to conduct annual audits of certain subdivisions such as any that receives more than \$25,000 from the state during the year. The state auditor services 4-year terms and is paid \$85,000 per year.</p>	
	<p>For Secretary of State</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The secretary of state has numerous duties including running the state's elections, overseeing licensing over select occupations, filing and certifying various state agency rules and regulations, and record management for local government agencies and businesses.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The secretary of state is also Nebraska's chief protocol officer for international relations, acting as a goodwill ambassador between Nebraska and the world. The secretary of state serves 4-year terms, and is paid \$85,000 per year.</p>	<p>For Public Service Commissioner</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Public Service Commission is comprised of five members. The commission is responsible for regulating telecommunications carriers, natural gas jurisdictional utilities, major oil pipelines, railroad safety, household goods movers and passenger carriers, grain warehouses and dealers, construction of manufactured and modular homes and recreational vehicles, high-voltage electric transmission lines, and private water company rates.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Commissioners serve 6-year terms and are paid \$75,000 per year.</p>	

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<p>There will also be a number of county-wide races on your ballot. These include elections like county commissioner, county treasurer, and sheriff. For more information on these races, visit your county's website!</p>	<p>For Legislature</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Members of the country's only unicameral legislative body create laws and make the rules for Nebraskans under certain constitutional limitations.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> This body also oversees many health care services and decides how much money public schools receive each year. Members of the Legislature serve 4-year terms and are paid \$12,000 per year.</p>	<p>For Board of Regents University of Nebraska</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Board of Regents - the governing body for the University of Nebraska - consists of eight voting members. The Board also includes four non-voting students Regents, one from each NU campus, that serve during their tenure as student body president.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Board supervises the general operations of the university, as well as controls and directs all expenditures. Regents serve 6-year terms.</p>
	<p>For Board of Directors Public Power District</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nebraska is the only state where electrical needs are provided by publicly owned utilities, which are largely known as public power districts. Depending on where you live, you may have a race to fill a seat on a board that serves one of the 166 community-owned utilities in Nebraska.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Individuals elected to serve on a Board of Directors for a public power district will set the rates for residents and make decisions about investments in future energy sources. Members of the board of directors serve 6-year terms.</p>	<p>For Board of Governors Metropolitan Community College</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Depending on where you live, you may have a Community College Board of Governors race. The board manages a community college's staff and professors.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> It also develops its education programs based on its community's needs. This includes setting tuition prices, setting the college's budget and deciding the amount that may be collected from your property tax bill. Members of the Board of Governors serve 4-year terms.</p>
	<p>For Board Member Educational Service Unit</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Educational Service Units (ESUs) are political subdivisions that serve schools within their county-defined area by creating programs to support teachers and students.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Core services provided by ESUs (in order of priority) are: staff development related to helping students achieve success who are impoverished and/or who come from diverse backgrounds; technology that helps assist distance education services; and providing instructional material services. ESUs may receive funds from local property taxes. Board members serve 4-year terms.</p>	<p>For Coordinating Council Learning Community</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Learning Community works in Douglas and Sarpy counties to help develop school programs that reverse the impact of poverty on learning.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Learning Community used to be funded by a common levy but is now funded by property taxes. Council members serve 4-year terms.</p>
	<p>For State Board of Education</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The State Board of Education is composed of eight voting members that represent one of Nebraska's eight educational districts. This board is responsible for creating educational standards, and directing state dollars and federal programs for Nebraska's classrooms.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Board of Education also appoints the commissioner for the Department of Education, and carries out federal education programs. Board members serve 4-year terms.</p>	<p>For Board of Directors Natural Resources District</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The Nebraska Association of Resource Districts is governed by a 23-member Board of Directors, each representing a natural resource district. The NRD Board of Directors decides how much is collected from your property tax bill for the NRD and uses that money for projects such as building dams, drainage ditches, flood control, and recreation trails.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NRDs are also responsible for preserving and protecting groundwater and other natural resources for future generations. Board members serve 4-year terms.</p>