



BOLD Voter Guide: April 4 Primary Election

The BOLD Voter Guide for the April Primary Election will focus on City Council At Large (Lincoln), City Council (Omaha) and Mayoral (Omaha) races. We handpicked other races that have rockstar Bold candidates for school board. The general election is May 2nd.

VOTE on April 4th: Polls open 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. CT

[Click here to find your polling place.](#)

A “Bold Candidate” means we are fully endorsing the candidate. These candidates not only deserve your vote, they also deserve your donations of time and money! Some candidates we list below are not the ideal Bold politician. However, in those cases we did our best to choose the person we thought is open to listening.

MAYORAL

Omaha

Heath Mello — *Bold Candidate*

Heath is a Bold Candidate. Heath has a demonstrated record of supporting environmental and sustainability issues as a former state senator. He has earned the endorsement of the Nebraska League of Conservation Voters, after also being named the group's 2016 Conservation Champion.

He worked on proposals to improve recycling, support local clean energy initiatives, address water conservation, and create new green jobs. He also worked with his colleagues in the Unicameral to establish the LR455 select committee that produced major policy recommendations to address climate change in Nebraska. As Omaha's next Mayor, he would continue this collaborative work in having our city create our own Climate Action Plan and take action on implementing our environmental element of the city's master plan.

In addition, Heath is committed to enhancing and implementing alternative transportation options that improve Omaha's physical and economic environment, including expanding bike lanes, light rail, and ride sharing.

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CITY COUNCIL

Omaha

District #1

Pete Festersen — *Bold Candidate*

Pete is a Bold Candidate. He is an incumbent running for City Council in District 1. He believes “there are many things we can do to combat climate change on the local level. Some examples include improving our approach to waste collection in our next re-bid of services so that we increase recycling rates, encourage composting, reduce volumes taken to the landfill, and capture the methane gas that is produced from the landfill for energy. We can also continue to convert traffic and streetlights to LED for better energy conservation and start to transition our fleet of vehicles to be more efficient and/or operate on CNG for better fuel conservation. Another area the city should continue pursuing is offering better alternative transportation options such as the bus rapid transit system to improve transit and reduce carbon emissions. I also support restoring the position of sustainability coordinator so that we have an advocate for improving our practices as a major employer as well as having a seat at the table for sustainable development practices. The city should be a leader in these areas.”

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District #4

Kimara Snipe — *Bold Candidate*

Kimara is a Bold Candidate. Kimara believes the primary objective of an individual on the City Council should be to be an advocate for the people of the district they represent and the city. She believes in the benefits of wind energy, smart grids, and solar. She states: “We can also utilize our neighborhood groups and non-profits - connecting

them with the city (even more) to assist in encouraging the community.”

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CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

Lincoln

Maggie Squires — *Bold Candidate*

Maggie is a Bold candidate. She is fourth generation Nebraskan from Valentine. She is a small business owner and Lincoln has been her home for fifteen years. She believes “solid long-term planning is essential to Lincoln’s future. Solar and wind development promise well-paying jobs, energy savings and sustained growth. Pinnacle Bank Arena should be covered in solar panels, as well as all new developments, city buildings and schools.”

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Leirion Gaylor Baird — *Bold Candidate*

Leirion is a Bold candidate. She is the daughter of two public school teachers. She worked her way through college at Yale University and

lives in Lincoln's Near South neighborhood with her husband, Scott, and their three children, ages 8, 12, and 14.

Leirion was elected to the Lincoln City Council in May, 2013 and currently serves as Council Chair. Prior to her election, Leirion was a Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commissioner. She states, "At the city level, we must be the best stewards we can of natural resources and keep the long-term in mind when making policy decisions."

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Bennie Shobe — *Bold Candidate*

Bennie is a Bold candidate. Bennie works as a program analyst at the Department of Labor, and teaches a criminal justice course as an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His career and experiences, Shobe says, are focused on employment and public safety, two issues he believes should be priorities for the Lincoln City Council. He believes in "continued city procurement practices which encourage the use of environmental sound and renewable energy sources." and would like to "find ways remove barriers for residents to engage in recycling program."

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Lou Braatz

Lou believes that "in Lincoln, we can first start by implementing the original RecycLincoln plan. Setting goals for all city buildings to be powered by renewable energy within a set time limit is also feasible with the right public pressure. We also must look at two ideas that will

reduce vehicle carbon emissions that have been touched on in the Long Term Transportation Plan, increasing bike paths thru out Lincoln and parking hubs for StarTran service in the same manner as NU game days.”

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LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lincoln Sub-district #3

Barbara Baier — *Bold Candidate*

Barbara is a Bold candidate. Barbara has continually been an advocate for clean energy in her role on the Lincoln Board of Education. She believes in “transitioning all public buildings to geothermal or an other renewable energy resource.”