



# The Lancaster County Democrat

October 2014

## Candidates for Office - General Election November 4, 2014

						
<b>Dave Domina</b> Senate	<b>Dennis P. Crawford</b> Congress Dist. 1	<b>Chuck Hassebrook</b> Governor	<b>Jane Raybould</b> Lieutenant Governor	<b>Janet Stewart</b> Attorney General	<b>Amanda McGill</b> Auditor	<b>Michael J. O'Hara</b> State Treasurer
						
<b>Matt Hansen</b> Legislature, LD 26	<b>Patty Pansing Brooks</b> Legislature, LD 28	<b>Phil Hardenburger</b> Legislature, LD 32	<b>Adam Morfeld</b> Legislature, LD 46	<b>James Michael Bowers</b> Legislature, LD 46	<b>Mary A. Harding</b> Nebraska Public Power District	
<i>Photo Unavailable</i>						
<b>Donald Reiman</b> SCC Board of Governors	<b>James J. Garver</b> SCC Board of Governors	<b>Korey L. Reiman</b> SCC Board of Governors	<b>Bill Avery</b> County Commissioner District 1	<b>Patte Newman</b> County Commissioner District 5	<b>Dan Nolte</b> County Clerk	<b>Joe Nigro</b> Public Defender

### Nebraska Statewide General Election!

Vote by Mail: Beginning October 6th: <http://lancaster.ne.gov/election/AbsReq1114.pdf>  
 Or Vote In-Person at the Election Commissioner's office 601 N 46th St, beginning October 6th  
 Or Vote November 4th, at your polling place: <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/VoterView/PollingPlaceSearch.do>

**See complete list of Democratic candidates on page 13 of this newsletter.**

## Meet Our Candidates



### A Universal Civil Rights Declaration Is Necessary

America's stature and richness as a nation is a product of its diversity. Yet, the history of the United States is replete with accounts of difficulties at overcoming resistance to recognition that diversity is good.

Our nation started on the wrong footing. As originally written, our Constitution counted only white men. A black man counted for two-thirds. Native Americans and women still had no rights and were not recognized under any circumstances in our Constitution.

After 80 years and a civil war, we accomplished something. Black men were counted, no women were counted, and discrimination continued against persons of color and women; in general terms, all except white males with conventional orientations and lifestyles.

Progress came slowly. A constitutional amendment supported by Nebraska's fabled U.S. Senator, George Norris, finally came in 1920. The civil rights movement made progress, largely propelled along by a Nebraska native, Malcolm X, and supported by the critical role played by Nebraskan, Preston Love, Jr., in the presidential campaign of Jessie Jackson.

But, as our nation has evolved, so has the evolution of our history of finding more, new, and disappointing different ways to express hatred and to discriminate.

Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and persons with transgender orientations have long suffered abuse, bullying, disrespect, and discrimination. This must end!

Every human being, regardless of race, creed, gender, age, or orientation, is entitled to the same legal protections, civil rights, compensation for an equal day's work, and all other aspects of legal, social, and employment respect. No one is entitled to an advantage because of status.

### What Does This Mean?

A Universal Declaration of Equal Legal Protection means these basic things:

1. The United States Constitution's guarantees of civil rights apply equally to every human being. No distinctions are permitted based upon one's race, gender, orientation, age, creed, status, or national origin.
2. Discrimination in employment must be impermissible. So must harassment on the job.
3. All persons must be protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and federal law must prohibit such discrimination.
4. LGBT people must be protected, by federal law, from discrimination in employment, including the risk of termination, denial of promotions, or harassment.
5. Effective recourse for job discrimination and other infringements on civil rights must be provided and extended to members of the LGBT community, as to others.
6. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA") must be enacted. This would emulate basic fairness policies and nondiscrimination practices initiated by more than 100 major corporations holding membership in a group supporting ENDA.
7. All forms of discrimination against members of the LGBT community and others in the military must end. Sexual assault must end!
8. Religious-based discrimination against anyone must be prohibited.
9. Laws must be passed to criminalize bullying when essential elements of proof are established beyond a reasonable doubt. These must include criminal intent, actual bullying or taunting, or preparation of plans to taunt or bully.
10. Prohibitions against discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity must be incorporated into the Nebraska Administrative Code and mirror federal law prohibiting discrimination on these bases. Accordingly, access to appropriate mental health care must be assured for LGBT youth who face enhanced suicide risk, and other members of the LGBT community.
11. LGBT community members must be recognized as suffering special, identifiable, and quantifiable enhanced risks by bullies. Legal protections to impose significant penalties upon those who engage in bullying are essential.
12. The Marriage Equality Act introduced by members of Congress should be enacted to end current law which prevents some married same-sex couples from receiving inheritances. The proposed law makes enormous strides toward ensuring that same-sex couples are treated fairly under the law.
13. Nebraska's Constitution must be amended to eliminate the current prohibition against same-gender marriages. Same-gender marriage must be recognized universally and approved through legal process, uniformly and coextensively, across the United States.

14. The unprecedented and historic effort known as Project One America must succeed and be expanded beyond southern states to the nation. This effort must include education and training programs, including education at the earliest reasonable time, for all young people to help them understand gender differences.
15. Consistent human rights must be recognized and no group may be excluded for the enjoyment of those rights.

candidacy or my campaign, or my conduct. Plain and simple. I will not raise money in ways I consider “huckstering” and I have ended email by third party fundraisers to avoid doing so.

I continue to have faith in the people of Nebraska and I know elections can be won on the merits of the candidates themselves. This is the faith that got me into the Senate race, and will be rewarded by victory when the race has been run.

~~ Dave Domina

## Conclusion – Human Rights

I am committed to extending and assuring the uniform availability of every right guaranteed by the United States Constitution for each and all Americans. Distinctions, differences, and diversity are to be celebrated, honored, and respected, and those with different orientations must be protected, with the full force and effect of the law.

The United States is diminished when any person or any group is denied equal protection of the law. Our nation’s constant struggle at overcoming newly-learned expressions of hatred and denial toward individual groups of Americans must end. Until this does not happen to any group of any size any longer, the American ideal must be seen as evolving, and our responsibility must include the effort to assure its evolution reaches an eventual, permanent, universal, and articulated set of ideals and rights. No one must be left out.

## Comments: Campaigns and Campaign Finance

A few words about the race for the U.S. Senate are in order.

My communications of recent and future days will focus on completing the race competitively and intelligently, and in the way that makes the most sense to me.

This does not include spending my days dialing for dollars endlessly. It does not include sending more email declaring “The Sky is Falling,” to be followed by one saying “Hooray, we caught the sky!” to repeat the cycle.

The high office of United States Senator cannot be cheapened by being sold, and it cannot be cheapened by huckster-like fundraising to finance conventional electioneering. At least I won’t cheapen it by doing so.

Invitations to help finance a campaign are not manipulative; they are take it or leave it invitations. They enhance, rather than demean, the Office and the Candidate.

I will not allow myself to be demeaned, nor will I allow the office of U.S. Senator to be demeaned by my

## Meet Our Candidates

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### Adam Morfeld, Candidate for Legislative District 46



As Election Day approaches, we are all working hard to get out the vote! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at 402-450-0477 or by emailing us at [adam@adammorfeld.com](mailto:adam@adammorfeld.com). We need help with going door to door, mailers, and phone banking!

## Meet Our Candidates

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### Dennis Crawford, Candidate for U.S. Congress, District 1



On Friday August 29, I toured the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC) with Jane Raybould, the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor. The mismanagement of BSDC by the Heineman Administration has been deeply disturbing

and is already well known. Nevertheless, I believe the future of BSDC is an important issue in my Congressional race because we all have an obligation to take care of our most vulnerable citizens.

The residents living at BSDC are severely intellectually disabled. They need around the clock supervision and care. Their disabilities are so profound that BSDC is the best setting for them. They are not well suited to reside in a privately owned group home due to the overall lack of accountability and supervision in those facilities.

As a member of the House, Representative Jeff Fortenberry has voted four times for the Paul Ryan budget plan which would finance tax cuts for the wealthy by turning Medicare into a voucher program. Another thing that the Fortenberry/Ryan budget does is turn Medicaid into a block grant and turns that money over to the states. That is a problem because that would cut Medicaid funding for BSDC and give more control of the facility to the governor. The end result of the enactment of the Fortenberry/Ryan budget could very well be the privatization of BSDC. Obviously, that would be bad for the residents of that facility.

These proposed cuts to Medicaid and other programs that benefit the poor in the Fortenberry/Ryan budget is one of the reasons why the U.S. Catholic Bishops said in 2012 that this budget fails to meet the moral test. As a member of Congress, I pledge that I will oppose the privatization of BSDC and turning over Medicaid funding to the states. We must continue to take care of our most vulnerable citizens.

## Meet Our Candidates

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**My name is Tom Green and I am a candidate for the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.** I am running to protect our water, enhance our trails, reduce dependence on property taxes, and collaborate for streamlined services and solutions. I have uttered the prior two sentences over a thousand times as I've been walking and calling voters in the district. Running for a local board like the NRD means that I am doing most of the work myself. I don't have the budget for a large organization but I do have great friends and a supportive family who have allowed me to campaign for this position.

The response by the voters has been positive. My experiences have shown that Lincolniters know the importance of safe and adequate water, enjoy our great network of trails, and want their government to provide needed services in a cost effective way. Not all the people I've talked to know what the NRD does, and I hope I've helped spread the word about its good work, but all the people know the importance of good people leading our government at all levels.

The Lower Platte South NRD board is a nonpartisan position. I've talked to Republicans, Democrats, and Independents and from the conversations I've had, they all take their position as citizens and voters seriously. Running for this position has renewed my spirit in democracy.

So if you live in Subdistrict 8 of the LPS NRD, I ask for your vote. If you live in another Subdistrict, I encourage you to check out the candidates for NRD and all the offices up for election on your ballot. There is only one month to go until the final votes are in and there is a lot more work to do. I appreciate all who have helped out on my campaign and if you would like to help, check out my webpage at [www.greenforNRD.com](http://www.greenforNRD.com) or Green for NRD on Facebook.

## Meet Our Candidates

### JANET STEWART, Candidate for Attorney General



As I write this piece, Early Voting is starting and November 4 is rapidly approaching. As reflected on my Facebook page, I have visited several fairs and entered parades. My little car and little dogs are cute crowd pleasers. A trip to the Burwell rodeo with two grandsons was memorable. I am most proud to be part

of a strong slate of Democratic candidates up and down the ballot. Our State can do better and your candidates want to make this happen.

The really challenging work in my race begins now. This is not my first campaign so I know what I signed on for and why. My supporters throughout the State energize my efforts. The best way to recover when you hit a wall of exhaustion is to connect with Nebraska voters who want and deserve a change of direction.

Since the Primary I have learned some things. I attended the Legislative hearings on Nebraska Department of Corrections sentencing problems. The reality of a culture of noncompliance with the law was difficult to comprehend and impossible to accept. What went wrong? I believe it was much more than bureaucratic snafus and turf wars. I know that political leaders who dominated our state government for a dozen years have let us down. Political ambition and partisan agendas have detracted from doing the job right.

We know how to set a new course in government but do we have the will? A path to victory requires each of us to do more. There is an emerging electorate on the horizon. These future voters share our hopes for a more inclusive, cooperative and productive society. Getting more of these voters to the polls in 2014 is essential. Democratic candidates typically do not have stealthy political donors funding our campaigns. This reality can be a strength because it builds independence, courage and character. We will not be at the disposal of divisive political agendas. Our candidates can win if we all stay focused and make good use of the time remaining. Setting a good example is good, but persuasion is better. Please share why you are voting this year with others touching your life. Let's see where this path leads us.

I was surprised to see a Lieutenant Governor resign and the circumstances. He had a dispute with a sibling and used a physically aggressive act to make his point. A judge heard testimony and ruled against him with a Protection Order. Making a bad choice, he faced the consequences. This is a situation I understand well from my law practice and because I was a group facilitator in a non-profit center serving victims of violence. I have worked directly with perpetrators of family violence and understand how and why these mistakes are made. Placing another person in fear of bodily injury is not tolerated by Nebraska law and a Protection Order is intended to keep the parties apart to prevent injury. Our Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer of the State. Helping protect families from violence is a major duty of this office, and it will continue to be one of my top priorities. I believe my opponent just sent another message to Nebraska voters.

There are clear differences between the candidates running for Attorney General in 2014. You can learn more about my campaign and priorities by visiting my website: [janetstewart2014.com](http://janetstewart2014.com).

## Meet Our Candidates

### Mary Harding, Candidate for Nebraska Public Power District Board



Nebraska enjoys the only 100% public power system in America. When we review the accomplishments of that system, it is clear that we are standing on the shoulders of giants. It took vision and courage to make the investments that power Nebraska's economy and quality of life.

For the last 12 years, I have been privileged to serve as a member of your Nebraska Public Power District Board. I believe that Nebraska is once again standing at a crossroads, with the opportunity to modernize our power system and return great dividends to the people and businesses of the state.

#### **NOW IT IS TIME TO SEIZE NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Today we are called upon to see the possibilities of public power to meet the challenges of the future. *I, like most Nebraskans, believe that the economic growth from modernizing our power system will return great dividends to the people and businesses of this state.*

As I talk with voters all across the district, I hear one question again and again: "Why aren't we building more wind power?"

That's what Nebraskans want: to harness the natural resources we are blessed with, and to do so efficiently and with common sense. It's time to harvest the benefits of proven, modern, clean technology, to leave a better world for the next generation.

#### **OUR BEST YEARS ARE AHEAD OF US**

This state has the fourth largest wind resource in the nation, but is not ranked even in the top 20 states in wind power production. Nebraska lags as neighboring states reap the new jobs, farm income and tax revenues that wind and solar power could be providing here. And NPPD—serving the most rural areas of the state that can benefit the most—lags behind the other major utilities in the state. But we can create an export economy that will power the future, and help small communities attract young families with good jobs by leveraging the assets of public power.

- **Diversification is the single best strategy to manage future risk.** Fuel markets are volatile and fuel delivery systems constrained. Our cost of coal has risen by approximately 60% over the last ten years, and natural gas has swung wildly in cost. In the same period, the price of wind has dropped by about half and is competitive with our cheapest conventional sources.

The costs of new environmental regulations can be extreme. Only recently, NPPD faced a potential 25% rate increase due to one new emissions regulation alone, not to mention the hundreds of millions of dollars we have been required to invest to meet new security requirements at our nuclear plant.

- **Wind is the only power source with a known inflation rate, and no capital cost.** NPPD currently does not build and own wind farms, but signs long-term agreements to purchase the output at a *fixed price with a known rate of inflation*. We have no other opportunity to supply power without capital risk and with pricing certainty decades into the future.
- **Powering our local economies.** The golden rule of wealth management is, "Pay Yourself First." The construction of new wind farms across Nebraska has resulted in millions of dollars of new lease payments to farmers, property tax relief and new well-paying jobs for young families. This is real economic development, benefitting our own local communities.

I was proud to propose NPPD's current 10% renewable energy goal. There was stiff opposition at the time, but with the benefit of hindsight most people see that this was the right course for NPPD. I, like most Nebraskans, believe that now it is time to take the next step forward. Modernizing our power system will return great dividends to the people and businesses of this state. I would appreciate your support so that I can continue this work.

## Meet Our Candidates

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### **Patte Newman, Candidate for County Board of Commissioners District 5**



In my effort to reach out and find out what concerns District 5 voters have on county issues, I have been ringing doorbells for several months. As you might expect, city issues are nearer and dearer to the hearts of many voters; potholes and good planning seem to rule for residents of Lincoln neighborhoods. However, people have also expressed concerns over human service issues and county roads. Wheel tax was mentioned a lot. People are interested in saving money with problem solving courts although many are surprised to hear how successful drug court is. We need to make sure effective programs that are working successfully in Lancaster County are heralded as such.

I've met some absolutely wonderful people (see earlier article!). I hope to continue to get to know them as friends. Lincoln amazes me with its hospitality, friendliness and kindness to strangers. I have been offered water, sunblock, bug spray (the people are friendly in Waverly but the mosquitos are brutally aggressive!), home tours, garden plants including garlic, books, and overwhelming encouragement. When I miss living in places with other amenities (skiing, mountains, sandy beaches, mass transit between cities, or fill-in-the-blank) I have to say the people in Nebraska make living here, home.

I will continue my march in District 5 as election day nears. As of the end of September my trusty pedometer has tracked over 411,000 steps (206 miles) and I can account for knocking on nearly 5,000 doors all over Lincoln and Waverly. Shoes and feet (and husband) are holding up well. My supply of walk flyers is shrinking but should be sufficient to get me through. And I'm looking for a few good homes for yard signs. If you ask for one in the next week, as a bonus I'll give you one extra for a friend, relative or neighbor!

However this election works out, win or lose, I've been fortunate in being able to meet many wonderful people on their own doorstep. I've been honored with the financial, physical and moral support of my wonderful friends and neighbors.

And, as a final reminder, when Democrats get out to vote, we win. We are blessed with a full slate of intelligent, passionate and very capable candidates at all levels of government who are running for all the right reasons. Please vote in November!

## Meet Our Candidates

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### **Everything Is Connected by Karen Amen, Subdistrict 10 Board Member of Lower Platte South Natural Resources District**



**Flood control, Erosion prevention, Soil conservation, Groundwater development and management, Pollution control, Solid waste disposal, Drainage improvement, Management of fish and wildlife habitat, Management of recreational and park facilities, Forestry and range management.**

What a daunting list of activities for a single governmental agency! Yet those are the many different responsibilities stated in the original enabling legislation that created Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts in 1972. Clearly no single agency could (or even should?) easily develop and manage expertise in all those areas simultaneously. Evidently the Legislature realized this. In 1975 they passed the Groundwater Management and Protection Act, clarifying that groundwater management should be a major area of emphasis for the NRDs.

In my campaign this fall, I have used the slogan "Good people. Good science. Good resources policy." This reflects the learning process I've gone through over the past five years of being on the Board of Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. When I first joined the Board, I rather audaciously thought of myself as a quick study. I assumed that within a year or two, I'd have everything figured out.

Instead, I've been humbled by how much there is to learn and think about before making decisions. I've learned that complex decisions related to resource management need to be based on the best available science, and that it takes time to conduct and analyze basic research. I've learned that good people committed to the land and their communities have insights that I might never have thought of on my own. I've learned that creating the best possible resources policies includes detailed discussions at Subcommittee and Board meetings with our outstanding staff and my fellow knowledgeable Board members.

As Chair of the Water Resources Committee for the past two years, I've learned more about the science and philosophy and legal aspects of water management than I'd ever imagined was there. Here's where I come back to the role and mission and many responsibilities of the NRDs. Even though our emphasis since 1975 has been on water management, I also am continually

reminded of the interconnections of those many items in paragraph one. We and other agencies need to continually keep the big picture in mind as we move ahead with our many programs and projects.

It's been a great pleasure and great sense of satisfaction to participate with Nebraskans who are so committed to the health of the natural world and our place within it. I look forward to four more years of participating in this important public service.

## Memories and Observations

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### Why Chuck Will Win By Dave Fall

When Marlene Cupp asked me to write an article about my college roommate, Chuck Hassebrook, I thought, "What a kick!" Man, was I wrong.

Marlene wanted me to write specifically on "Why Chuck Will Win" and I have been struggling to narrow my response to just a few key things, not all the reasons anyone who knows Chuck well would want to express.

Chuck and I have been friends for forty years. We met as University of Nebraska students. Back then it seemed we would debate public policy every minute of every day. It was a constant challenge to keep up with Chuck as he was a voracious reader, with special interests in economics and Plains history. He read a lot about Populism and I think I see the influence of that Nebraska tradition in his life's work.

We had fun—most of the time. But you had to learn not to engage Chuck on certain topics late at night or if you were studying for a test. Even then, he could get going on property taxes and anything remotely connected to commodity markets. If you did not know in specific detail what you were talking about, you had to be ready for an explanation that could be lengthy. You might find him following you to finish a point, even if moved into another room.

Chuck and I worked on a Hess Dyas campaign in the 70's and both of us studied the campaign results exhaustively. That is how we both learned in depth how to organize and pull together campaign strategies. That is exactly how Chuck planned and won his seat as a University of Nebraska Regent. He also contributed those same skills to helping win the Proposition 300 campaign to keep Nebraska in the hands of Nebraskans.

Chuck's years as Director of the Center for Rural Affairs have been marked by his desire for research and defining information. Through all the years I have known him, I have been proud of him and the Center as they moved forward fearlessly on issues like sustainable farming, alternative energy and Chuck's old favorite: tax policy. It was always fun to listen to him on radio interviews or see him on television as he accomplished so much.

Now it is my pleasure to see his campaign grow to become one of the best organized I have seen in my many years of political involvement. I know he will win because of his deep and lifelong understanding of the issues that make a difference in Nebraska, his knowledge of campaigning, his love for the Great Plains and his unbelievable tenacity.

Chuck is about to become Governor. Now, that IS a kick!



*Cartoon courtesy of Steve Kemper*



*A Time – Harvest the Hope Concert*  
By Maggie Mae Squires



I had the pleasure of attending “Harvest the Hope” Concert north of Neligh, Nebraska, September 27, 2014. The benefit/fundraiser seemed to go off without a hitch. Willie Nelson and Neil Young rocked the beautiful Nebraska Sandhills, under which our precious aquifer sits.

**Thank you** to all the volunteers. Many of these people came on their own dime, slept in their cars and worked hard to make this happen.

“Harvest the Hope” took place in Art and Helen Tanderup’s cornfield. Planted from sacred seeds, from bird’s eye view, you see the head of a cowboy and the head of a Native American. Below that it reads, “Heartland # NoKXL.”

The land has belonged to the Tanderup’s family for around 100 years, according to Art, himself. But, before it belonged to the Tanderup family or any other family, the land belonged to no one.

According to [NebraskaStudies.org](http://NebraskaStudies.org), Neligh, Nebraska borders land that the Pawnee and Omaha tribes would have called home.

The Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, and Ponca tribes were represented at “Harvest the Hope.” Willie Nelson and Neil Young were honored for their outspoken activism and given hand-painted buffalo hides depicting the tribal prophecy of the death of the black snake, believed to be the KXL Pipeline.

Before the headliners played, we paid homage to some of our Native American brothers and sisters.

We heard heartbreaking stories of the Ponca Trail of Tears—families drug from their homes along the rivers and hills, chained, lined up, and led away from the great state we call Nebraska (“Ni” meaning water or river and “bthaska” meaning flat). We are reminded of our brutality.

Frank Waln, an award-winning hip hop artist, performed storytelling, which is his native culture, in a modern way. Frank is a Sicangu Lakota from the Rosebud Sioux reservation. The Hoop-dancing Sampson Brothers performed beautifully alongside.

(Hoop-dancing is something I’ve always enjoyed. Born in Valentine, Nebraska and raised on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations, I was often the only white girl in attendance at Sun Dances, pow-wows, sweat lodge ceremonies, and other rites.)

We are reminded why Willie and Neil would grace our great state with their presence. For our piece of land? Our state? Our country? For the earth. The debate on Climate Change is over.

On September 21, 2014 People’s Climate March took place as over 400,000 people took the streets of New York City demanding action on climate change.

The environmental equivalent to the civil rights march on Washington in 1963 must not have been newsworthy. None of the major media outlets covered the story.

Perhaps you heard a cute afterthought by CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN or FOX news. Even NPR downplayed the event.

Citizens from 150 countries attended. 1400 organizations participated. Students from hundreds of colleges, indigenous groups, communities of faith, scientists, mothers, sons . . .

(As a side-note, a little known rule of thumb: For every 1 person at a protest, 10 wanted to be there but couldn’t, and almost 100 others sympathize.)

This was an historic event. I am ashamed of mainstream media . . . again and again. Let’s not forget: The 1% screwing the other 99% economically, is also screwing us climatically.

(Is there any question as to where the money is coming from and who it is going to? Is our child’s future less important than money?)

If you would like genuine news, you might frequent *Common Dreams*, *The Guardian*, *Nation of Change*, or *Democracy Now!* (which covered People’s Climate March for three hours live).

Climate is changing, here in our state and everywhere. Notice the subtle differences. Remind me the last time it rained 8-10 inches for 24 hours in Lincoln, Nebraska?

Storms slow down as the earth’s temperatures heat up. Climatic events will get worse. Change is coming.

**Vote!**

Let’s work together and urge representatives to change. We need bravery and solidarity from our elected leaders. Encourage the next generation and show them the importance of voting. Their voice *does* make a difference and so does yours.

**Speak up and stand up.**

### The Supreme Court and the Frankenstein Principle By Bob Haller

If you have read Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, you know that, late in the story, Frankenstein climbs Mont Blanc to meet with his Creature, who demands of his Creator that he manufacture an equivalent female, so that the poor fellow can reproduce like his human near-relatives. Frankenstein is appalled at the idea that the Creature might multiply his kind, spreading terror throughout human civilization.

If only the Creature had lived in our day, and come with his plea before our Supreme Court as presently constituted, he would not have had rejection, but welcome, not disgust and fear, but recognition—the justice and the mate and the offspring he had failed to find from Victor Frankenstein.

Let me explain.

When “governments are instituted among men,” one of the first “creatures” is money. Shakespeare's King Lear notes his privilege (Act 4, scene 6), “They can't touch me for coining. I am the king himself.” Jesus asks his questioner to look at the face on the coin to see its owner. In our day of democracies, the government takes over this kingly or imperial prerogative, and our new country, when we formed it as a new nation, replaced Pounds with Dollars.

As we know, money is itself worthless; it can't be eaten; you can be clothed as an act of weirdness, but it doesn't protect you from the cold; you can't build a house out of it or drive it downtown; burning it does not provide heat for long; if you plant it in the ground, it will not grow anything—we learn early that “money does not grow on trees.”

We know from elementary economics that money is the “measure and repository of value and the medium of exchange.” Our work is valuable; our salary measures that value and allows us to exchange it for what we want for our comfort and happiness. We can buy and sell and make gifts and win lotteries and invest because there is money. We trust that our government, existing by our mutual alliance and allegiance, will assure the soundness of this very important product created by our joining together. We don't want inflation or depression or bubbles or high interest rates.

Despite the fact that money is our common possession, it is entirely human to think of it as “mine.” There were those who kept their Confederate money, believing “the South will rise again.” In our time, investors with Bernie Madoff looked lovingly at their monthly reports rejoicing in their ever-increasing wealth.

Our nation participates with others to regulate the exchange of dollars for euros or other currencies. The money we create is “legal tender” only within the sovereign nation that creates it. Money obtained through the selling of illegal drugs, or money sent to support your favorite terrorists needs “laundering” because, in fact, we fully agree that certain uses of the money we create are destructive. We did not create money to contribute to our own destruction.

By the same token (“ha ha”) many among us are so certain that money is theirs alone that they are willing to call taxes “punishment” or an illegitimate “taking” from what is “theirs” by right—by virtue of their having “earned” it or obtained it by a brilliant “investment.” That is why we have the fable of the goose who laid the golden eggs. We know that government, which carries out our common will, cannot simply print more money to pay bills. We have to return to the government our share of its expenses or lose our ability to measure and preserve our wealth and facilitate financial transactions. Tax protestors want to withdraw from the compact which creates and maintains the money they wish to keep as their own.

Furthermore, we know that money is not speech. The only way that “money talks” is in allowing a mutual recognition by two persons that one of them is willing to expend wealth in exchange for being “heard”—with the promise that a response to what is said in that hearing might release further money.

It is surprising to me the degree to which people believe that money is a thing of value rather than a token or a medium. But I see little evidence that people are convinced that “corporations are people,” despite what the Supreme Court has ruled. Most people know that corporations are products of a legal process whereby the government endows them with privileges and powers, and accords them the status of “persons.” But of course we know that they are legal persons, not human persons. They don't eat, make love, get sick, think about their place in the universe or become sad at the death of another person. They cannot run for office, vote, or be appointed to the cabinet. An actor can play the part of a corporation only if the play is allegorical. Insofar as we are people, we would reject the allegation that we are so only to the degree that we resemble a corporation. Darwin did not discover the “origin” of that “species.”

A government can grant incorporation, and within that government's legal system can say that the corporation is a person who can enter into contracts, own property, be sued and be made accountable for its crimes. It has been granted privileges not granted to human persons, such as a limit to its liability, or the fact that it can have a succession of members without dissolution.

So to get to the point: when we or our ancestors and predecessors joined together to form a government, we did not imagine that the creatures made possible thereby—money and corporations—would turn on us and bring corruption into elections, the very institution that sustains our endowed right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The “marriage” of money and corporations has produced repulsive and dangerous offspring that every day threaten us, their creators. But of course it is more accurate to say that those in our society who profit from this marriage—there are no such figures in the original Frankenstein—allied with their powerful legal supporters, want us to accept a world in which they can freely pollute the public discourse and make us believe that it is a fact of nature that our measure of value and medium of exchange should disproportionately come into the hands of a small number of us. It’s as if we issue money for a kind of lottery with a few big winners and a mass of others who barely get by, rather than for the mutual benefit of us all.

## Book Review

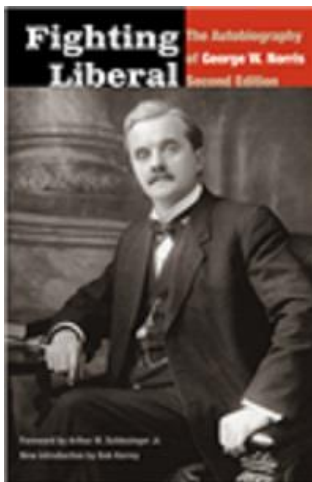
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### Review by Ken Snyder

***Fighting Liberal: The Autobiography of George W. Norris***, Second Edition, University of Nebraska Press, 2009

Foreword by Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.

New introduction by Bob Kerrey



During the spring primary I recall Dave Domina referring to George Norris. I sadly admit that I was not familiar with Mr. Norris. At about the same time someone gave me a box of books and one of the books was George Norris’s autobiography, *Fighting Liberal*—an interesting title for a Republican Senator’s auto-biography. In case I was not the only one unfamiliar with Mr. Norris,

I am including a short summary from his autobiography.

George Norris (1861-1944) was born just prior to the start of the Civil War. When he was three years old his father died from an illness, leaving his pregnant mother with seven children at home. His older brother was a casualty of the Civil War leaving George and six

sisters still at home. Living in a single parent household meant that George was soon expected to participate in the farm work, although his mother did not let that be an excuse for neglecting his education.

The Norris family lived in Ohio in a conservative farm community. It was a heavily Republican area and George at an early age participated in the local debate society sharpening his parliamentary procedure skills.

Upon completing school, George taught public school for a time and saved his money so he could attend college. He eventually received a law degree from Valparaiso University.

His mother had received a brochure promoting the Pacific Northwest and soon after he graduated she decided she wanted to relocate there. George took a two week train ride to eastern Washington where he became a teacher. However, he found the area unsuitable, felt that a lot of the residents were ruffians and that many were older men looking for adventure.

Meanwhile, his mother sold her farm in Ohio, remarried and relocated to eastern Nebraska. George returned to Ohio and took a teaching job. His mother had given him the deed to 80 acres of land near Tecumseh, Nebraska which he sold. He then moved to Beaver City in southwest Nebraska. He found the valley to his liking and was tempted to go into farming but opened a law office instead. He became involved in Republican politics and was a strong party faithful.

His first attempt for public office was running for county attorney. He was defeated by a Populist candidate. He was next nominated for district judge and ran a successful campaign.

He was married in 1890 and his wife gave birth to a son and three daughters. Their son was stillborn and his wife died in childbirth while giving birth to their third daughter. Sometime after his first wife’s death, Mr. Norris became depressed during an illness and nearly died. With the attention of his oldest daughter and medical care, he recovered.

In 1899 Mr. Norris moved to McCook, Nebraska which remained his home town until his death. In 1903 he married Ellie Leonard, a local school teacher and principal.

Mr. Norris continued his political career and was elected to the House of Representatives. He served five terms. He next ran for U.S Senate and served five terms from 1913 to 1943.

Although a Republican, Mr. Norris was not fond of party politics and supported many issues that the Republican Party did not support. The party once attempted to defeat him in the primary by having a grocer from Broken Bow, who was also named George Norris, run against Mr. Norris. This created a situation where the Secretary of State could not determine who

the votes were cast for, therefore disqualifying both candidates. The grocer made an error on the filing date and his candidacy was disqualified. Mr. Norris won the primary and was re-elected.

While in the Senate, George Norris is credited with formulating and getting the 20th Amendment to the Constitution passed, putting an end to the Lame Duck Congress. This prevented the practice of Senators and Congressmen who had lost re-election from passing legislation just as favorites or paybacks.

He thought that the country needed to do something to stop the loss of topsoil due to erosion from spring floods. He proposed legislation to create the building of dams to control the spring runoff. These dams also could be utilized for hydro-electric power. He fought to keep big business from getting control of the hydro-electric power feeling that it was a national resource belonging to the people. He had his legislation vetoed by two Republican presidents before Franklin Roosevelt signed the bill that created the Tennessee Valley Authority.

George Norris played a major role in getting legislation to allow workers to collective bargain. This liberated coal miners and other workers from being bound to labor contracts that trapped them into a never ending cycle of poverty.

George Norris is credited with being the driving force in the movement for Nebraska to have a single house legislation. Mr. Norris thought outside of the Federal government there was no reason to have a two house legislation. He felt that when the two houses have bills with differences, the processes of reconciling these differences gave lobbyists an unfair advantage in influencing legislation. He used some of his own money to pay petition circulators to obtain signatures to get the petition on the ballot, similar to the present effort to get the minimum wage petition on the ballot.

Mr. Norris was so disenchanted with party politics that when he made his sixth attempt for the U.S. Senate he ran as an Independent and was defeated.

In 1955 a Senate committee selected Mr. Norris as one of the five most outstanding senators to have their portraits put in the Senate Reception room.

I hope Nebraskans will give Dave Domina the opportunity to get his picture in the Senate Reception room.



*Cartoon courtesy of Steve Kemper*

## The Watchful Citizen

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In case you haven't discovered the County Party TV show on community access TV, check us out! The show airs on Time-Warner Cable Channel 13, at 10:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

As we go to press, our current scheduled guest is Adam Hintz (candidate for Natural Resources District), with Janet Stewart (candidate for Attorney General) and Deborah Eagan (candidate for Natural Resources District) coming soon.

Recent interviews have featured Patty Pansing Brooks (candidate for Legislature), Michael O'Hara (candidate for State Treasurer), and Joe Nigro (candidate for Public Defender).

Our schedule is filling up fast, but other candidates who will be on the fall ballot in Lancaster County are welcome to check out our signup page for an interview slot; see

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054cdaa2daaf49-anappearance/@z@z>.

And check our video archive on Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/LancasterCountyDems>.

**Democrats who will appear on the Lancaster County ballot (by race, alphabetical listing for contested races):**

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**US Senate**

- David Domina

**US Congress**

- Dennis P. Crawford

**Governor**

- Chuck Hassebrook

**Lieutenant Governor**

- Jane Raybould

**Attorney General**

- Janet Stewart

**Auditor of Public Accounts**

- Amanda McGill

**State Treasurer**

- Michael J. O'Hara

**Legislature, District 26**

- Matt Hansen

**Legislature, District 28**

- Patty Pansing Brooks

**Legislature, District 32**

- Phil Hardenburger

**Legislature, District 46**

- James Michael Bowers
- Adam Morfeld

**County Commissioner, Dist. 1**

- Bill Avery

**County Commissioner, Dist. 5**

- Patte Newman

**County Clerk**

- Dan Nolte

**Public Defender**

- Joe Nigro

**Southeast Community College, District 2**

- Donald Reiman

**Southeast Community College, District 4**

- James J. Garver

**Southeast Community College, District 5**

- Korey L. Reiman

**Nebraska Public Power District, Subdivision 1**

- Mary A. Harding

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 3 (2 yr term)**

- Michael DeKalb

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 3 (4 yr term)**

- Joel M. Wilson

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 4**

- Dick Hove
- Joe Skopp

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 6**

- Deborah Eagan

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 7**

- Richard Bolte

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 8**

- Tom Green

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 10**

- Karen Amen
- Adam Hintz

**Lower Platte South NRD, At-Large**

- David M. Landis

**Nemaha NRD, Subdistrict 2**

- J. Duane Sugden

**Nemaha NRD, At-Large**

- Charles Bausch

**Hickman Mayor**

- Doug Hanson

**Hickman City Council**

- Jack D. Scott

**Bennet Board of Trustees**

- Gregory Arp

**Denton Board of Trustees**

- Bill Edwards

**Malcolm Board of Trustees**

- Jeff Schweitzer

**Panama Board of Trustees**

- Jim B. Craig

**Roca Board of Trustees**

- Timothy Patras

**Sprague Board of Trustees**

- Karen Brandt

**Waverly Board of Education, Dist 145 Ward 3**

- Scott Claycomb
- Karen Morgan

**Norris Board of Education, Dist 160 Ward 2**

- Patty Bentzinger

**Norris Board of Education, Dist 160 Ward 4**

- Jim Craig

**Palmyra Board of Education, At-Large**

- Susan Steward

**Educational Service Unit 6, District 7**

- Sandra Blankenship

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