



The Lancaster County Democrat

April 2015

Candidates for Office – General Election May 5, 2015

					
Chris Beutler Mayor	Meg Mikolajczyk City Council District 1	Mitch Paine City Council District 1	Patte Newman City Council District 2	Jane Raybould City Council District 3	Carl Eskridge City Council District 4
					
John Cartier Lincoln Board of Education Subdistrict 4	Annie Mumgaard Lincoln Board of Education Subdistrict 4	Katie McLeese Stephenson Lincoln Board of Education Subdistrict 6	Tai Pleasant Airport Authority		

Lincoln City General Election!

Vote by Mail: Beginning April 20: <http://lancaster.ne.gov/election/Abs2015.pdf>.
 Or Vote In-Person at the Election Commissioner's office 601 N 46th St, between April 20 and May 4.
 Or Vote May 5, at your polling place: <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/VoterView/PollingPlaceSearch.do>

Meet Our Candidates

John Kennedy, the Economy, and What We have Learned in Lincoln By Chris Beutler



Speaking to a crowd of 10,000 at a campaign rally in downtown Aurora, Illinois in October 1960 John F. Kennedy spoke of the importance of U.S. manufacturing jobs, to economic growth, and to national security. He spoke of the need to raise the minimum wage, and of the importance of organized labor to the health of middle class families.

"This is only one of the issues which separate our two parties. Agriculture, full employment, education, development of our resources, care for the aged, a higher minimum wage, an economy that is moving, a country that is moving, a country which stands for vitality and energy and strength. Those are the issues which separate the two parties."

Over 50 years later, your City of Lincoln Democratic team would say, "A City economy that is moving, a City that is moving, a City which stands for vitality, energy and strength, a City that employs more people than ever before, and a City with the wisdom to hire high quality, union labor to build our future. These are the issues which separate us from our opponents in the election to govern Lincoln."

We don't have to settle for less. That's the message your Democratic City of Lincoln team is giving across the community.

As President Kennedy astutely observed, we can have an economy that promotes both investment in business and their workers. It is not a choice, but rather a common interest, where public private partnerships succeed because business, labor, and City Hall are all working together to make a great economy that works for all.

We don't have to settle for crumbling infrastructure, the inevitable outcome of our opposition's idea to cut street spending and then offer *no* plan for filling the financial gap.

We don't have to settle for a vision that doesn't include our Community Learning Centers. CLCs are improving our kids' educational opportunities, keeping them out of trouble, and keeping them in a school setting.

We don't have to settle for a bid system where poor performers can underbid firms with high performing union workforces that are well trained and

committed to quality. As the Pinnacle Bank Arena has demonstrated, if you want a building to last a lifetime, you hire the workers whose passion for excellence will make it last a lifetime.

We don't have to settle for an unsafe community. Our crime rate is at a 40-year low and the overall, violent, and gang crime rates have all fallen dramatically since my Administration took office. We are moving to fix our 911 system and improve emergency response for the 6,500 households who are more than 4 minutes from a fire station, while our opponents say, "It can wait."

We don't have to settle for cuts to parks, pools, trails, and libraries, another inevitable outcome when promises of millions of dollars of spending are made with no plan to actually pay for it.

Our opposition is asking us to hang our heads in shame for building the strongest economy in many generations and a safe and affordable community that values education, neighborhoods, the environment, and entrepreneurship. Unlike our opponents, we do not view these ends as mutually exclusive, but rather reinforcing of one another.

- We can't have a prosperous economy without a strong commitment to education.
- We cannot have a safe community without strong neighborhoods.
- We cannot have a complete community without working to bring business, labor, and neighborhoods together.

We have done that and more over the last 8 years. It is so visible that we all know the refrain:

- a top 5 city for business and careers and one of the best places nationally to raise a family;
- one of the best places in the country for entrepreneurs and recreational trails;
- one of the most affordable places nationally and one of the best managed cities in the country.

It isn't 1960 anymore. It's 2015. A lot has changed over that time. But the principles espoused by President Kennedy are still a winning formula for a nation and a community. That's why Lincoln is on the right track for a bright future.

Meet Our Candidates

Patte Newman, Candidate for Lincoln City Council, District 2



I have been asked why I am running for the District 2, SE Lincoln City Council seat against a four time incumbent. It was not on my radar until I received multiple phone calls three days before the deadline for filing. I agreed, if we could get signatures in time, I'd agree to run.

Why?

#1 I believe in representative democracy; every vote should mean something and voting should be about choices. I abhor voting when there is only one oval to fill in for a position.

#2 We want quality for the money we spend, whether for products we are purchasing or government services for which we are paying. Lincoln provides a great quality of life and that hasn't happened by accident. Long term planning with orderly and sustainable growth, careful stewardship of resources and a commitment to progress resulted from the efforts of many in the private and public sector. Mayor Beutler's eight years at the helm put Lincoln on many top ten city lists: most desirable, best business climate, most affordable, happiest citizens.

#3 We all want to feel safe in our homes and neighborhoods. We've fallen behind in keeping up with some long term investments that are necessary to keep us on these lists. In my term (2003-2007) as the NE City Council representative I researched and developed policies on things that I knew would be problems in the future for a growing community. I pushed for online reporting of nuisance complaints to save city staff time and, ultimately, taxpayer money. I worked hard to find a way to address the growing problem of gang graffiti, to track and deal with neglected properties, and pushed for a charter amendment to address conflict of interest

policies for elected officials. Lincoln is better for all of those policies and initiatives.

Now is the time to push for more. Now-retired NE quadrant Captain Doug Srb of LPD, Urban Development staff and I worked to fund the Northeast Police Substation to improve response times. The commercial area along North 48th Street has thrived with reinvestment. My opponent wanted to delay that decision. I was on the last council that invested in multiple fire apparatus to keep the fleet modernized to deal with the expansion of the city. Southeast Lincoln's growth has created serious life threatening delays in response time for fire and police services. My opponent has paid more attention to Haymarket development than his own district's safety needs.

#4 I believe actions speak louder than words and respect for others is important. Government representation should not be about wearing silly hats, carrying around props for months before elections for theatrical effect, repetitious rambling "OPM" (other people's money) speeches and "no" votes on the city budget, throwing out motions that do not even muster "seconds" from colleagues for discussion purposes, or continually asking the same question over and over of people testifying. Good government should be about respect, working with everyone and, yes, sometimes compromising on issues to reflect the wishes of your constituents. Good government representation means being there for constituents when they are upset with a road widening or a development and trying to work out the best possible options for everyone. Good government is about looking at long term solutions and implementing policies that are good for the community as a whole and not throwing colleagues under the bus by pulling your vote.

#5 I am for good, transparent, conflict free, communicative bipartisan government that represents all of the residents of Lincoln. I am not Jon Camp. I am Patte Newman and that is why I'm running for SE Lincoln City Council.

Meet Our Candidates

Carl Eskridge, Candidate for Lincoln City Council, District 4, Central and NW Lincoln



On March 29th I accompanied both of our daughters, Class of 1995 and 1997, and all four of our grandchildren, Class of 2027 and 2030, to the Open House celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the current Lincoln High School. But did you know that for its first 45 years Lincoln High was located on what is now the

Pershing site? After Lincoln High moved to its current location, the old Lincoln High buildings were used by Lincoln schools for various purposes until sold to the city in 1940 for \$46,750. Pershing Auditorium was built for \$2.5 million and opened its doors in March 1957. When I asked Ed Zimmer, our city's Historical Preservation Officer, he indicated that, as this site belonged to the Lincoln Schools for over 70 years and to the City for the last 75 years, this land was never on the tax rolls.

I hear candidates for city offices talking a lot about "putting Pershing back on the tax rolls." Thanks to Mr. Zimmer we know that this land has never been on the tax rolls. That is not to say that it could not go on the tax rolls. While it is certainly desirable to have property on the tax rolls, Lincoln's elected leaders will soon be looking at the future of this historically important location in the heart of downtown to determine the best and highest use. In fact, as we approach the 150th anniversary of both our city and our state, we should give attention to this site that has served the city for so many years.

Here are a few questions to ponder.

1. Should the Pershing Building be kept?
The estimated cost of demolishing Pershing is \$2 million, with the additional cost of hundreds of tons of rubble filling the city's landfill. So, it would be a good thing to keep the building, but is it the "best" thing?
2. What are some of the options for the Pershing site?
 - a. The Lincoln City Library Board has advocated for Pershing to be the site for a new Central Library and has offered alternatives, one using the existing building, and another with a new building. The Library Board is clear that the current Bennett Martin Library has significant issues and needs to be replaced. The Board also advocates for the Pershing site as the best location for a new central library.
 - b. Cecil Steward, Dean Emeritus of the University of Nebraska College of Architecture, and President of the Joslyn Institute of Sustainable Communities, is advocating the repurposing of Pershing as a local food hub, something like the Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia. He also proposes adding housing to the site. Mr. Steward's proposal would provide new energy and markets for local and sustainable agriculture.
 - c. Some have suggested a joint project on the Pershing site and the location of the Federal Parking facility, not only giving new life to the Pershing site but also to the concrete fortress on O Street.
 - d. Other ideas include a corporate office building, a large retail center, a student housing project, a mixed use facility that would include housing, retail and the library, a competitive swimming venue with a water park, and a new Central YMCA.

Pershing has been vacant for one year and it is time to move forward, bringing new life to this historically important location in the heart of the city. Whether it is put on the tax rolls is not the major issue. The most important decision is answering this question: How can this location best serve the people of Lincoln? I look forward to working with Mayor Beutler, members of the City Council, and the community to do the next great thing for Lincoln.

Meet Our Candidates

Meg Mikolajczyk , Candidate for Lincoln City Council, District 1



Innovating Opportunity

We live in exciting times, and we need to make sure our entire community moves forward together. I believe the opportunities of the next decade will be important to Lincoln. The Maker Movement is a good example.

What is the Maker Movement? It is a movement of people who are interested in making things and innovating ideas. It has grown out of a newer publication called *Make Magazine*.

Dr. Shane Farritor is putting together the Maker Space at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where students will have access to 3D printers, woodshop and metal crafting tools, CNC machines, and laser cutters. Putting these kinds of technologies in the hands of college students is a great first step in growing individual ingenuity.

During the past couple of weeks, a YouTube video started circulating of actor Robert Downey Jr, presenting a prosthetic arm to a seven-year-old boy. It is an amazing and touching scene. You can check it out here:

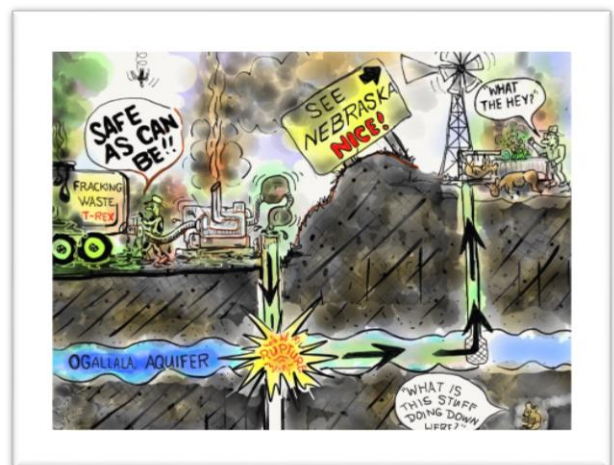
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEx5lmbCKtY>

The idea to produce bionic arms for children in need started with an engineer at the University of Florida, Albert Moreno. He is the founder of a non-profit called Limbitless, which pursues its mission of providing 3D printed robotic arms for kids in need at no cost to the family. They have changed the way that children think about disability and are putting out these technologies for other people to use, modify, and generate amazing ideas and make the products on their own.

We need to pioneer public, private, and non-profit partnerships in Lincoln to foster and collaborate on these kinds of ideas in our community starting at a much younger age. Northeast Lincoln is Lincoln's manufacturing hub; imagine the ideas and creativity that might come from job retraining programs, or elementary and middle school children growing up in a culture truly embracing technology and innovation.

Lincoln, NE is a unique place. We are a thoughtful, hardworking community brimming with ingenuity. We are a community that is not afraid of doing what it takes to get the job done and done well. These qualities are not common in other cities. Let's harness these strengths and see where they can take us as a city in the next 20 years!

We have the people. We have the knowledge. Now, let's figure out how to provide the tools and the culture to grow jobs and opportunity in Lincoln. The Career Academy and the coding program at Riley Elementary are two education centers in my district taking the lead. I am excited to work with them and watch them continue to blaze the trail for our next Makers!



Cartoon Courtesy of Steve Kemper

Meet Our Candidates

John Cartier, Candidate for Lincoln Board of Education, Subdistrict 4



With the general election just around the corner I would like to thank everyone who has supported me during this campaign. I am especially honored and humbled by Lincoln Education Association and Planned Parenthood's endorsements. Because I am a young candidate, it speaks volumes that these two phenomenal organizations would recognize that our community is in need of young, innovative leaders to help solve the problems of today.

Since I filed the papers to run just a short time ago I have learned from parents, teachers and members of my community. What I have learned is that we can be proud of our school district; however, there is still work that needs to be done. Students need greater access to mental health services and schools that struggle with poverty need invaluable social aid workers.

Furthermore, Lincoln public schools must be a warm, inclusive environment for all students, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identification, race or religion. Without students feeling comfortable, proper education becomes almost impossible. I support educating teachers on the diversity of their students, but I also support maintaining a transparent board of education. Educating students is done in cooperation with both parents and teachers.

While these are things we must work on to continue on the road of excellence, we can also celebrate the successes we have as a district. With our graduation rate getting closer to our district's goal of 90% we can be proud of not only that, but our dedication to supporting new innovative technologies in the classroom. Also, in preparation of a new workforce, our partnership with Southeast Community College enhances our students' education with the new Career Academy. These types of programs highlight Lincoln's dedication in looking towards the future and having the best interests of the students in mind.

Now in these final days before the ballots are cast, I ask for your support. In my life education has been everything. Help me help my fellow students and those of my generation continue to have excellent access to knowledge so they might achieve everything in life that they so desire.

Thank you,

John Cartier

**The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character —that is the goal of true education.
- Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Opinion

Big Challenges Need Educated Leadership By Connie Duncan



In the 3/24/15 issue of the *Journal Star*, my opponent is quoted as calling for an “independent investigation” of Irving Middle School. This seems to demonstrate her lack of understanding of both personnel laws and also the larger issue of the importance of socializing children to live in the world.

Regarding personnel issues, how many of us would want our job performance discussed in the media. And yet that is exactly what my opponent is suggesting. I believe that most people know that personnel matters are never discussed in public because it is the law. What my opponent is suggesting is a public witch-hunt that runs counter to all personnel policies and laws.

I think it is fair to assume that whenever anything occurs or is reported to have occurred such as the recent events at Irving, there is always an internal investigation and review. Until that process is complete, it is **inappropriate** and possibly unlawful to discuss and speculate about it publicly.

Needless to say, I too am distressed and troubled by the recently reported events surrounding Irving. As a former teacher I can say that the screening I underwent to get a job at Lincoln Public Schools was rigorous, intensive and comprehensive. As acquaintances of the accused have observed, nowhere in this young man’s background was it predictable that he would take such a horrible action, if in fact he did.

Regarding the issue of living in the world, Irving Middle School is a community of more than 900 people, comprised of students, teachers, administrators and other

staff. That is a bigger population than many of Nebraska’s small towns. In such a microcosm of the world, shocking news is not to be totally unexpected.

An important part of education is helping to teach our children how to navigate the world, including bumps in the road like this recent news. Home schooling will protect a child from some problems for a while. But children cannot be protected from the world forever. Long-term, it is far better to be able to discuss these matters with children along the way, than for them to be suddenly confronted with it in their late teens and be socially unprepared to live the rest of their lives.

As a candidate for the LPS School Board I believe you first “do your homework” before you go to the newspaper or community. I have just spent the morning talking with LPS district offices as to our exact hiring policy, what materials we use for screening, file review, building interview process and background checks used. I also talked with attorneys about policy 8130 and legally what it means. I also talked with parents and teachers at Irving Middle School to see what their view was on my opponent’s blog. I spent 4 hours this morning doing “MY homework.”

It is the business of public schools to make Americans, to teach children how to get along and be successful in the world. Children must be given the tools they need for that success. Contrary to what my opponent believes, ignorance never helped anyone make a better decision, nor protected a child from harm.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela

Tribute

Jared F. Teichmeier 1934 – 2015: A Personal Remembrance By Gerry Finnegan



Last month, we all lost an irreplaceable friend. Jared Teichmeier meant so much to so many of us that it becomes difficult to summarize his impact, but I think being described as “best friend” of the working middle class would please him.

I had known him since the mid-1980s but many enjoyed his friendship

decades longer. Talking with these friends, words and phrases like “generous, reliable, responsible, honest, commitment, strength, rock-solid, quiet integrity, role model” flowed as they struggled to capture the essence of that intangible quality that made him so admirable. Maybe our language just needs a new word. I’m sure he would reject “teichmeieresque” if we tried to coin it, so in deference to his blue-collar sensibility we will leave such terminology for others.

One minute he would take a phone call from a seated governor or U.S. Senator seeking his counsel. The next minute he would gently be persuading you to buy a raffle ticket for the Northeast Family Center.

Members of the School Board, City Council, Nebraska Legislature and host of other candidates for office regularly sought his approval for their candidacy.

I don’t think he ever fully grasped why others were so willing to have him lead but he never shirked that responsibility. He served in a leadership capacity for numerous organizations but first among these was when he was selected by his peers to lead URW Local 286 in the 1980s. Last year he wrote a piece remembering the battle to save Goodyear from corporate raider Sir James Goldsmith. It read like a war-story. Jared was the guy you wanted next to you in the foxhole, in the huddle or on the picket line.

He served two years active duty in the Army

sandwiched between the Korean Era and the Viet Nam Era, a time he once referred to as the “Elvis Era.”

More than once he had hinted to me of his “bad boy” youth, an image I had difficulty conjuring. He also told me he felt disproportionately lucky—that life had treated him better than he felt he deserved. By his own account, the luckiest stroke of all was Doris agreeing to marry him. He tried hard to prove worthy of her and together they raised and educated four great children. He was never able to fill the void when he lost Doris two years ago.

Last summer he called me, two nights before the County Party Central Committee was to hold a very important meeting filling the vacancy for the Democratic nominee for County Commission that was left when Jane Raybould accepted the nomination for Lt. Governor. He explained to me that he would be leaving Lincoln the next morning to attend his granddaughter’s out-of-state graduation and would not be there to vote. Now there was no question that his family would take priority but he wanted to be sure I let the Committee know that he was aware of the serious topic at hand and that his absence stemmed from a decision not made lightly. When I rose to explain his absence that night, everyone in the room smiled and nodded knowing how seriously Jared treated all his commitments. I recall feeling pleased that he had let me be the one to convey his message.

Marian Price reminisced about his truck full of yard signs zipping all over northeast Lincoln during multiple campaigns. His chosen role was toiling behind the scenes, out of the limelight, making sure the job got done. If things went wrong he would never point the finger and when things went well he would let others step forward to accept the praise. He was the ultimate team player. He will be missed.

Our lives are a little better because of Jared and I am far better a man for having known him.

Opinion

Words to Vote By By Catherine Lohmeier

In politics, few battles are won for eternity. Most are won and positions held or advanced through the blood, sweat and tears of those who continue to fight and hold the line. Who were those people who held the line in this country for so long?

I'm thinking they were my generation's mothers, fathers and maybe grandparents too. They were the people who lived through the Depression and WWII and the Korean War. They fought to unionize and knew what it looked like when the corporate kings were getting too powerful. They faced the line of scabs or police armed with billy clubs and they didn't flinch. Some were educated well by the GI Bill and they understood when a line of bull was being passed on as truth. Others were educated by the chaos and savagery of war and had vowed to never allow that to happen again.

They did what they could to hold our country to a higher standard. They *voted*, even though they didn't always agree with how politics and politicians worked. They didn't abdicate their responsibility to participate in government. They put people in office and they worked to hold them accountable. They weren't perfect, and the system wasn't either. But they did their best with what they had to work with, and I felt pretty safe and secure as a child growing up. I felt as a young adult that the state and the country were progressing in a favorable direction.

Well, those folks are dead and dying and soon their memories and experiences will only exist in history books. It appears the line is no longer holding and we are receding into a new era of bigotry, hatred and injustice towards those who do not belong to a country club, toward those who are less able to defend themselves, toward those who are deemed "different" and therefore unworthy of the Constitution's promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Winning will mean the creation of a new line to hold back and put pressure on the politics of the ultra-conservative right. This will require direct involvement—heated political discussions in public places, letters to the editor, rallies, demonstrations, boycotts, picket lines and training in non-violent activism. It's going to take courage to lose some battles and yet keep fighting. In short, it is going to take real people of every age, shape and size with a relentless energy in the face of insurmountable odds.

To me the facts are clear. It's up to us and our children to fill the gaps in the line where our parents have fallen. Did you, did we learn enough from our elders to know how to win? Are we mentally, physically and emotionally up for the fight? Do we have the guts, the nerve to make the needed sacrifices? The line can't be rebuilt by signing internet petitions, or ranting on Facebook, that much I know.

Much of the negative messaging and negative advertising during election cycles are purposely designed to depress voter turnout, to make people feel like resistance is futile so they shouldn't get involved. When hope evaporates, the pressure to change or improve disappears too. Passive resignation and acceptance is exactly what the ultra-conservative right wants. Are we going to give them what they want? I say no. We have a legacy to uphold—the legacy of our parents. We have a legacy to create—the promise of the 21st century.



Cartoon Courtesy of Steve Kemper

James E. Boyd (1834-1906) Nebraska's First Democratic Governor By Jean Sanders

James E. Boyd was born September 9, 1834 in County Tyrone, Ireland to Joseph and Margaret Boyd. In 1844, the family emigrated to a farm in Belmont County, Ohio. Three years later the family moved to Zanesville, Ohio.

As a youth, James attended common school—a term for public school at the time—until he was thirteen. He also learned carpentry and worked part-time in a grocery store.

On August 14, 1856, James and his brother John moved to Omaha, Nebraska Territory. (Nebraska Territory had become official in 1854.) For three weeks they worked for the carpentry firm, Root & Vischer, earning \$3.75 a day. Then the brothers formed their own contracting and building business.

Sources differ as to the extent of their involvement with the first Douglas County courthouse but agree that at the least they worked as carpenters and painters. The building was completed in 1858.

The Boyd brothers also built the Congregational Church, one of the early churches in Omaha.

Meanwhile, James, a Democrat, entered the political arena in 1857 when he became Douglas County Clerk, but he resigned before his term expired due to his move from Omaha.

James married Anna Henry, with whom he ultimately had five children (three daughters and two sons), on August 22, 1858. Anna's father, Dr. Anan Henry, was a doctor at Fort Kearny, so when the young couple moved to Buffalo County in December 1858 they already had ties there.

At that time there was still an air of territorial pioneering so it was not unusual for residents to serve their community in more than one capacity. For instance, Dr. Anan Henry also served as postmaster of Buffalo County's first post office when it opened July 29, 1859. James Boyd succeeded his father-in-law as postmaster on September 15, 1860 and remained in office until October 30, 1866. That post office was closed two years later.

However, the Boyd family's main business was farming and ranching on Wood River near Gibbon. The site of the Boyd Ranch, aka the current Nebraska Centre, was one of the first landmarks west of the Missouri River on the California-Mormon Trail. It was a popular place for trail travelers to purchase supplies and exchange animals. The Boyd Ranch was also an



important stop on the Western Stage Lines, established from Iowa to Fort Kearny in 1860 and serving until the coming of the railroad.

Although the ranch had existed for several years, prior to 1857, all Buffalo County land except the Military Reservation was Indian land. It was not surveyed and opened to settlement until 1867. James Boyd's brother, Joseph, then bought the ranch from the U.S. Government, December 10, 1867 making it the first land in Buffalo County to be owned by an individual. At some point Joseph sold the ranch to James but sources differ about the date.

Another Boyd brother, Samuel, also lived at the Boyd Ranch and served as a commissioner at the first Buffalo County Board of County Commissioners.

Also politically active, James was elected Justice of the Peace in November 1860.

Ever the entrepreneur, James became involved with a number of business projects. On the ranch he had about 100 head of cattle. In the early 1860s James had cultivated more than one hundred acres, much of it planted to corn and barley. With the barley he started a small brewery. Connected to that was an ice house which he filled from the Wood River during the winter.

He obtained government contracts to sell hay and grain to the U.S. Army at Fort Kearny. He was also involved with general merchandise stores in Gibbon and Kearney.

In 1864 James was sworn into the Army reciting an oath "to defend the frontier. . .".

James had gone to Missouri in 1864 where he bought 24 mule teams, new harnesses and new wagons in order to start a freighting business which he began in 1865. Among the first freight brought to the ranch was lumber for a new frame house—the first frame house in the county. James and Anna's eldest daughter, Eleanora, was the first white child known to be born in Buffalo County.

In 1866 James was awarded a contract for grading on the Union Pacific Railroad. During the next four years his firm graded more than 300 miles and that provided James with a considerable fortune.

That same year James was elected as a representative to the Nebraska territorial legislature for the district of Platte, Merrick, Hall and Buffalo Counties where he served for one session. Nebraska became a state on March 1, 1867.

In 1868 James E. Boyd and his family moved back to Omaha. On November 30, 1869 James founded and became President of the Omaha & Northwestern Railroad Company. He built the road from Omaha to Blair, Nebraska.

In 1870 he helped organize the Central National Bank of Omaha and was for some time President of the Omaha Savings Bank.

As usual, politics was part of his psyche. He was a delegate to Nebraska's constitutional conventions in 1871 and 1875.

On the business side, James E. Boyd was Omaha's pioneer pork packer. Starting the business in 1879, it was considered the best packing plant in the west. Although destroyed by fire in 1880, it was soon rebuilt. In 1887 James sold the plant and retired from the packing business.

James was a member of the Omaha Board of Trade and served as its president in 1880, 1881 and 1898. During the latter year, for the first time in its history, the corporation paid a dividend on its stock.

For many years he ran a successful commission firm, James E. Boyd & Company.

In 1881 he built Boyd's Opera House in downtown Omaha. The building burned down in 1891 but, as James was no stranger to rebuilding, a new five story, 2,000 seat theater and opera house was erected a couple of blocks away. It opened September 3, 1891 and was torn down in 1920.

Meanwhile, in 1880 James served on the City Council and was elected its president. From 1881-1883 and 1885-1887 he was Mayor of Omaha. Under his leadership an extensive system of paving, curbing, guttering and sewage was instituted.

James was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention of 1884 and 1888. He was also a member of the Democratic National Committee. In 1889 he was again a member of the Omaha City Council.

During these years his business interests extended beyond Omaha as he headed the Chicago commission firm James E. Boyd & Brother—a member of the Chicago board of trade and of the New York stock exchange.

Then in 1890 James E. Boyd was nominated to become Nebraska's eighth Governor, which, when he won, touched off a lengthy, contentious contest.

Upon concluding the campaign in 1890, Democrat James E. Boyd received 71,331 votes; Populist and Farmers' Alliance candidate John H. Powers received 70,187 votes; and Republican L. D. Richards received 68,878 votes. Republicans elected all the state officers except Governor.

Challenging a political rival's citizenship status as a political ploy for political gain is not new.

Powers contested the election of Democrat Boyd, and all the other Populist candidates for state offices began challenging their Republican opponents.

Initially, the losers charged that the election returns were incorrect, and soon thereafter, Governor-Elect James E. Boyd was accused of not being a citizen, rendering him ineligible to serve. The basis for this argument was that Boyd's father, an Irish immigrant living in Ohio, had declared his intention to become a

citizen, but had never followed through by filing the proper papers.

Incumbent Governor, Republican John M. Thayer, refused to relinquish the office. He locked himself in the capitol's executive rooms, surrounded them with armed state militia and, aided and abetted by the now former Populist and Farmers' Alliance candidate, John H. Powers, contested Boyd's election.

Nevertheless, James E. Boyd went to the capitol, was sworn in and was recognized by the other state officers as the rightful Governor. A canvass of the votes by the legislature ratified Boyd's election. Ordered by the Board of Public Lands and Buildings, ex-Governor Thayer left the executive apartments eight days after the end of his regular term.

However, Thayer did not give up easily. He instituted a suit to oust Boyd. In the following May the Nebraska State Supreme Court decided in Thayer's favor, forcing Boyd to return the office to Thayer.

Undaunted, Boyd appealed to the United States Supreme Court arguing that his parents emigrated to Ohio in 1844 and lived there for the remainder their lives. In 1849, James' father declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, but although there was no record to prove his naturalization he had exercised the rights and privileges of all citizens.

Therefore, when James reached legal age, he claimed the same privileges, believing his father had become a legal citizen.

Boyd also asserted that his father "was in all respects and to all intents and purposes a citizen of the United States and of the State of Ohio." He also stated that prior to October, 1854, his father did complete his naturalization.

The Court ruled in Boyd's favor. It stated that, ". . . even if the father did not complete his naturalization before the son attained majority, the son did not lose the inchoate [incipient] status which he had acquired through his father's declaration of intention to become a citizen, and that he occupied in Nebraska the same position which his father would have occupied had he emigrated to that state."

Governor Boyd again took possession of the executive offices February 3, 1892.

Due to both his business acumen and political activism, James E. Boyd had attained national recognition. While embroiled in the Governor's race and subsequent lawsuits, people outside Nebraska paid attention. When the U.S. Supreme Court's decision was announced, *The New York Times* trumpeted, in a banner headline, "BOYD THE TRUE GOVERNOR; THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IS FINALLY ANNOUNCED."

James E. Boyd left office January 13, 1893.

He ran twice for U.S. Congress but lost. He retired from politics in 1894.

Upon leaving office, Boyd returned to business in Omaha, St. Louis, and Chicago. He also purchased a controlling interest in the Omaha Gas Works and managed it for two years.

Throughout his adult life, James E. Boyd often appeared to pursue parallel lives in business and politics achieving success in both.

He died in Omaha, April 30, 1906 and was buried in Omaha's Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Nebraska's Boyd County is named for him as are Boyd Elementary School and Boyd Street in Omaha.

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The Watchful Citizen

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.

And check our video archive on Youtube:

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



Salt Water with a Kick

Cartoon courtesy of Steve Kemper

One Democratic Phone Banker's Story By Roger W. Eschliman

Devoted Democrats are spending time at the Lancaster County Democratic Party Office making telephone calls. The City of Lincoln's Spring Election is just around the corner and phone bankers are letting voters know about our outstanding Democratic candidates. I made one call this morning that I won't soon forget.

Me: Bob, can we count on your vote for the reelection of Mayor Chris Beutler?

Bob: Sure you can, I always vote for Democrats.

Me: That's great, and we have other great Democratic candidates who will be on your ballot. (I named those who would appear on Bob's ballot.) Can we count on your vote for these candidates too?

Bob: If they're Democrats I'll vote for them.

Me: Yes, they're all Democrats.

Bob: You know, I'm getting up in years and I just don't remember things very well at all. Something's going crazy with my mind. I don't think I'll remember those names until my ballot comes in the mail. Could you maybe mail me the names so I can have them when I mark my ballot? Just mail me the names!

Me: Tell you what, Bob, your apartment isn't very far from our office. When I finish up here, I'll stop by with a list of those names along with some campaign materials.

Bob: Boy, that'd be great. Sure, come on over.

Later, I drove over to Bob's apartment on South Eighteenth Street. It was a small, dark, and disheveled place. In the back corner, at the end of a grey shadow, sitting in the only available chair, was an old guy; his brown face adorned with a heavy white beard. Here was my new friend.

Me: Hi Bob, I'm Roger from the Democratic Party.

Bob: I'm so happy to have these names.

Me: Oh sure, glad to bring them over. Bob, do you have family close by?

Bob: Nope, not at all. My wife died in 1990 and I have no children. I'm really all alone. The guy who manages this place kind of looks after me. I get along.

Me: Well Bob, you now have one new friend.

Bob chuckled and we continued our visit. We talked about Democratic candidates, current stories in the news, and the job that caused Bob to move from South Dakota to Lincoln. As I left, I took with me three outdated telephone directories for recycling.

I also left with my thoughts. There are a million "Bobs" living out their lives in little apartments all over this country. Suddenly I felt very proud of this party that continually battles in defense of Social Security, Medicare, food stamps and other critical safety net programs. No wonder so many of us are making phone calls in support of Democratic candidates. We're doing it for Bob.



**Senators Making Iranian Leaders Honorary
Cornhuskers**

Cartoon courtesy of Steve Kemper

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