

Heading Into the 2026 General Election ...



NEBRASKA

Right to Life

State affiliate to
National Right to Life

June 2026

Results of the May 12 primary election indicate that we have our work cut out for us! This is why the general election is critical to our cause. The possibility is there for us to have enough votes to support pro-life legislation next session, but everyone needs to step up and help our pro-life candidates get elected. We cannot afford to be complacent!

If we want a future in which all innocent life is protected by law, we need to vote, encourage our family members and neighbors to vote and, where possible, support in whatever way you can the campaigns of pro-life candidates. Below is a list of candidates who "Answered Pro-Life" on the Nebraska Right to Life survey, with pro-life incumbents marked as Endorsed, as per the NRL endorsement policy. Our Voter Guide is available on the NRL website. Contact our office if you have questions about specific candidates with respect to their pro-life stance.

Our 2026 Pro-Life Candidates

Endorsed Pro-Life Incumbent

Answered Pro-Life on Survey

U.S. SENATE		U.S. CONGRESS									
☒ Pete Ricketts		DIST. 1		DIST. 2		DIST. 3					
		☒ Mike Flood	Nik Sandman	Brinker Harding		☒ Adrian Smith					
GOVERNOR		SEC. OF STATE		STATE TREASURER		ATTORNEY GENERAL		STATE AUDITOR			
☒ Jim Pillen		Scott Petersen		Joey Spellerberg		☒ Mike Hilgers		☒ Mike Foley			
NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE											
DIST. 2		DIST. 12		DIST. 22		DIST. 32		DIST. 41			
Dean Helmick		No pro-life candidate		Dawson Brunswick		Mark Schoenrock		Joe Johnson			
DIST. 4		DIST. 14		DIST. 24		DIST. 34		DIST. 42			
☒ Brad von Gillern		Bill Bowes		☒ Jana Hughes		☒ Loren Lippincott		☒ Mike Jacobson			
DIST. 6		DIST. 16		DIST. 26		DIST. 36		DIST. 44			
No pro-life candidate		Ted Japp		No pro-life candidate		☒ Rick Holdcroft		☒ Teresa Ibach			
DIST. 8		DIST. 18		DIST. 28		DIST. 38		DIST. 46			
No pro-life candidate		Taylor Royal		No pro-life candidate		Janell Anderson Ehrke		No pro-life candidate			
DIST. 10		DIST. 20		DIST. 30		DIST. 40		DIST. 48			
Rebecca Rens		Chris Anderson		Cally Ideus		☒ Barry DeKay		☒ Brian Hardin			
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION		NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS		THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES ARE ENDORSED BY PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCATES OF NEBRASKA							
DIST. 5		DIST. 1		DIST. 4		DIST. 10		DIST. 14		DIST. 18	
Angie Eberspacher		No pro-life candidate		Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek		Cindy Johnson		SuAnn Witt		Jess Goldoni	
DIST. 7		DIST. 2		DIST. 20		DIST. 26		DIST. 28		DIST. 46	
☒ Elizabeth Tegtmeier		No pro-life candidate		John Fredrickson		George Dungan		Patty Pansing Brooks		Danielle Conrad	
DIST. 6		DIST. 4									
☒ Sherry Jones		Michael Skocz									
DIST. 8											
Lou Ann Goding											
This list is not inclusive of all candidates. To see a complete list of responses, go to our website: nebraskarighttolife.org .											
Vote pro-life in the Nebraska General Election!											
2026 NOVEMBER 3											

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Vote pro-life in
the Nebraska
General
Election!



Primary Results Show Need for Pro-lifers to Be Active!

"We have work to do. There are critical close races and issues that will be decided in the general election," said Nebraska Right to Life Executive Director Sandy Danek. "We need to educate the public about them."

Incumbent Pete Ricketts dominated the GOP Senate primary while Cindy Burbank secured the Democratic nomination. Burbank later announced she will withdraw unless she has a clear path to victory, describing her intent to endorse Independent Dan Osborn, who has yet to declare his candidacy. His campaign is seeking petition signatures for a position on the general election ballot.

Burbank, a retired pharmacy technician, has been accused of participating in a strategy where Democrats seek to consolidate opposition to incumbent Republicans. Since Nebraska has not had a Democratic senator in nearly 15 years, this strategy highlights the Independent philosophy while steering clear of toxic or out-of-touch views that conflict with red state values like those in Nebraska, such as liberal abortion policies. Some in the GOP have cried foul, claiming Burbank's race was an unfair attempt by Democrats to ensure an Osborn win. Osborn ran against incumbent Senator Deb Fischer in 2024, losing by only 7 points.

The primary also secured GOP control of two House seats, while making way for a Democrat to possibly win in the District 2 race due to the retirement of Republican Congressman Don Bacon. Denise Powell, endorsed by two national pro-abortion

organizations (Planned Parenthood Action Fund and EMILY's List) is poised to challenge Republican candidate Brinker Harding in what is referred to as a "purple district."

Jim Pillen, the state's pro-life Republican Governor, has secured the nomination, with former State Senator Lynne Walz chosen as the Democrat nominee (yes, she is related to Tim Walz of Minnesota).

Republican incumbent Congressman Mike Flood ran unopposed in District 1. While Speaker of the Unicameral, he sponsored the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which passed in 2010 as the first law of its kind in the U.S.

Nebraska is the only state in the country with a unicameral legislature (one house). Twenty-five of the 49 districts are on the ballot due to term limits (two four-year terms) or open seats. The primary outcome did little to shift the balance between 33 Republicans and 17 Democrats. While the body is nonpartisan, there is a definite distinction in the voting process: 33 votes are required to overcome a filibuster. Unfortunately, one current Republican state senator avoids pro-life votes, consistently voting "present, not voting." This has been his practice ever since he betrayed pro-lifers by not voting for the Nebraska Heartbeat Act in 2024, thereby killing the bill.

Looking ahead to the general election, pro-life Nebraskans will have to work hard to maintain the status quo, as counties in both Lincoln and Omaha move toward a more progressive, liberal stance.

Outreach Coordinator Helps Support New and Existing NRL Chapters

Last year the Nebraska Right to Life Board identified the need for someone to coordinate and support pro-life efforts of existing chapters and create new ones throughout the state. Early this year, Isabella Bernardel was hired to fill this new position.



Isabella grew up in a large family in Kansas City, KS, so she says being pro-life was a "no-brainer." She and her siblings volunteered for 40 Days for Life, witnessed on the sidewalk for the unborn, visited the sick and elderly in nursing homes, and helped care for their grandparents and special-needs siblings. "It was through these experiences that I saw firsthand that every tiny effort has an effect," she said.

Isabella points out that chapters are the "right to life voice" in their local communities. They can start with just a few

volunteers. NRL provides the structure and guidance to bring a community together under the pro-life banner with information on state and national developments, material for events, advice, and anything else that is needed.

"We need chapters to help educate local citizens on pro-life issues, to inform them on where candidates and elected officials stand on pro-life issues, and to encourage those in their communities to vote for candidates who will support pro-life legislation," Isabella said.

For those considering the possibility of starting an NRL chapter, Isabella says it's perfectly fine to start small. You can start with scheduling an initial meeting to talk about ideas. Then to get momentum, make your presence known in the community. Assess: What is the local climate of the pro-life cause in your area? Are there already community events where you can set up a booth and gather a list of names? Are there churches willing to display pro-life literature? What sort of things is your community interested in? Coffee fundraisers? Bake sales? Movie nights? NRL is happy to provide a Chapter

Guide containing ideas for outreach to those considering forming a chapter in their area.

Recently, Isabella has been working with pro-lifers in Omaha, Saunders County, Plattsburgh, and the existing chapter in Hastings.

"There is good movement in Omaha; people are coming together and I expect to see a chapter established there soon," she said. "While there was already good momentum in Saunders County, I was pleased to see nine people attend a meeting on May 19. Before the end of that week they had created a logo and a social media presence!"

If you would like to invite Isabella to come to your area to discuss possibilities, contact her at isabella@nebraskarighttolife.org, or call her at the NRL office.

As Isabella notes: "We know it doesn't take a majority to sway public opinion. With God's help, it only takes being the loudest voice for the truth — the truth that all people have a right to life, even the tiniest, most precious little ones in the womb."

When Elected Officials Allow Exceptions for Abortion, Are They Truly Pro-Life?

By Sandy Danek

A common belief is that political candidates discussing abortion must include exceptions to avoid alienating potential voters. In most cases, however, those running for office do not consider what it truly means to say they would vote to allow abortion in cases of rape, incest or life of the mother.

When someone experiences sexual assault, it is a truly invasive, violent, life-changing act. Those who commit such crimes should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. If a woman becomes pregnant through such a vile act, it is important to provide her care and compassion, protecting her from the risks of abortion while recognizing the child she is carrying is the other victim of the crime. She has already suffered a traumatizing event, and abortion can bring about another agonizing experience — one she has to recover from physically, mentally, and spiritually. It stays with her for a lifetime. Providing support and life-affirming options can significantly contribute to a long-term goal of good mental health.

In cases of conception resulting from incest, consider that the perpetrator can seek an abortion for the victim, thereby hiding the crime. The abortion industry is sometimes culpable in this by not reporting the sexual assault on a minor.

The life-of-the-mother exception can be complicated by a lack of medical understanding.

Many of these cases stem from an ectopic pregnancy, where conception implants outside the uterus, making fetal survival impossible. Pro-life physicians explain that in all other cases, they are caring for two patients: the mother and child. Their goal is to save both lives, although there may be times when the delivery must occur to protect the mother's

life. Unfortunately, there are times when the child is too young to survive; however, there should never be a direct intent to take the life of the baby. That action does not further the mother's well-being.

Many years ago, when I began volunteering for Nebraska Right to Life, our then executive director, Julie Schmit-Albin, asked me my position on abortion. I believed in the exceptions. Her response was to send me home with pamphlets, telling me to return the following week to discuss them. Once I read the rational points I've given here, I understood why all human life should be protected regardless of the circumstances that brought about conception of the child.

So why does NRL support legislation and candidates that allow for the above exceptions? While our position has always been that all life from conception to natural death should be protected under the law, we support incremental steps toward that goal. We have seen many failed attempts in other states to make abortion illegal at all stages of gestation, and based on past polling results and elections, the major pro-life organizations in this state have judged that, at least for now, the votes would not be there to pass such legislation here. Therefore, we support measures such as the 2024 Protect Women and Children amendment (now Article I-31 in the Nebraska Constitution), which protects children in the womb after the first trimester, while allowing for future protections to be enacted by the legislature. It is also why Nebraska Right to Life supports candidates who allow exceptions but otherwise complete our survey as pro-life. This gives us the opportunity to educate them and their constituents on these issues and hopefully bring them to the decision to protect all life.

Study Finds 64 Online Abortion Pill Vendors Ignore FDA Safety Recommendations

By Dan Hart, reprinted in part from *Lifenews.com*

A startling new study has revealed that the vast majority of online abortion drug vendors are shipping the pills to women whose unborn children are past the point of 10 weeks' gestation, in violation of the FDA's federal safety limit.

The report, released by the Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI), found that 81% of online abortion drug sellers are actively ignoring the federal safety guidelines, amounting to 64 vendors. The study further found that eight online-only organizations are violating state pro-life laws by shipping abortion

pills into those states. Moreover, 10 out of 28 websites that received warning letters from the FDA over their abuse of federal law in 2019 are still active, according to the research. In addition, 18 websites require no ID to be presented before ordering the pills.

The new study comes as the health dangers of the abortion drug mifepristone come under increasing scrutiny in the wake of the Trump administration's ongoing failure to reinstate safety regulations that the Biden administration rescinded in 2021 and 2023, which removed the in-person dispensing requirement and allowed retail pharmacies to dispense the drug. Pro-life and women's health advocates have decried the moves, pointing out that an in-person appointment with a health care professional is the only way to ensure that the woman seeking the abortion drug is not being coerced, does not have an ectopic pregnancy, and is not past the gestational limit of 10 weeks,

all of which pose grave health risks to the mother if she ingests the abortion pill, including death.

But even when the abortion drug is taken under manufacturer-recommended conditions, studies show that over one in 10 women "experience sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging, or another serious or life-threatening adverse event." Despite these dangers, and despite the fact that online abortion pill shipments are violating the laws of pro-life states as well as federal laws like the Comstock Act, the Trump administration has so far not acted to address the growing crisis. A recent shakeup of leadership at the FDA could signal that changes around the abortion drug may be forthcoming, however.

Mia Steupert, a research associate at CLI who authored the report, called the state of affairs surrounding the abortion pill the "Wild West," emphasizing that the study should serve as a "wake-up call to policymakers."



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Join Our Network

Nebraska pro-life news and updates
straight to your inbox

As you can see by the content of this newsletter, prayer is needed now more than ever to defeat the efforts of the pro-abortion lobby. If you would like to be added to our email list so you can stay updated on the ballot initiative as well as other pro-life issues, please send an email to nebraskartl@gmail.com with the subject line: Add me to NRL email list. And pray, pray, pray!



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Memorials

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Alex Albrecht, Martin Petska, Clarence, Mary & Fred Walters

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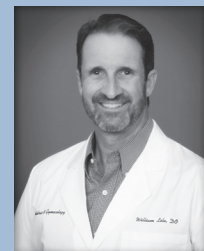
Pro-Life Doctor to Speak at 2027 NRL Gala/Walk

"A patient is a person, no matter how small." That's the first thing you'll see on the website of the founder of ProLife Doc ministry, Dr. William Lile. Known nationwide as "The ProLife Doc," he is a board-certified OB/GYN who in 1999 took over the largest abortion provider in Pensacola, FL, and on day one ended all abortion services and referrals. Since then, he's been on a mission to educate

and inspire, using his medical expertise and biblical convictions to defend the lives of the unborn. Dr. Lile specializes in diagnosing and treating complex conditions before birth. From performing fetal heart surgeries to administering blood transfusions to unborn babies, his work presents a powerful and undeniable truth that these unborn children are patients who deserve the same rights

and protections as anyone else.

Dr. Lile will speak at both the Nebraska Walk for Life Gala on Friday, Jan. 29 (ticketed event), and the Walk on Saturday, Jan. 30. Mark your calendars now and watch for further details this fall.



Beware of
Questionable
Organizations
Seeking Pro-Life
Donations

We occasionally receive questions about solicitation letters people receive from organizations claiming to be pro-life. Right to Life Action (righttolifeaction.org) is a recent example. It has no clear leadership, limited transparency, and a pattern we've seen nationally: mimicking trusted groups, aggressive fundraising and attacking pro-life efforts.

We suggest you exercise due diligence by researching any organization that asks for your support. If you have questions, please contact our office for assistance.