

LANCASTER COUNTY
DEMOCRATS

The Lancaster County Democrat

August 2022

Patty
PANSING BROOKS
CONGRESS



It has been a busy month for Patty Pansing Brooks' campaign! While Patty has been going door to door to hear the concerns from Nebraskans about the state of the Nation, Mike Flood has voted against the interests of Nebraskans while in Congress. During his first two weeks as CD1's representative, he voted against codifying same-sex and interracial marriage, voted no on ensuring reproductive health care and contraception access, and also voted against an Amber alert-like system to notify people during active shooter situations. Mike Flood has shown his true colors since going to Congress. We deserve better.

Back in Nebraska, Patty has been visiting communities all across CD1 to hear about their concerns for the country. Nebraskans are worried about the economy, being able to afford food for their families, the costs of health insurance, and the state of democracy. Patty has been canvassing, making calls and meeting with her many advisory boards. She wants what's best for Nebraskans, and she will continue to do that when she gets to Congress.

With less than 100 days until the election, we need your help! We have postcards to write, doors to knock, phones to call and many other volunteer opportunities! Visit our website, pattyforcongress.com, to sign up to volunteer and donate! Register to vote, know where your polling place is located, and get ready to vote on November 8th! Let's get Patty to Congress!

**Democracy is
based upon the
conviction that there
are extraordinary
possibilities in
ordinary people.**

✕

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

Rachel Garver for Re-Election for Lancaster County Treasurer

It has been an honor to serve in the office of Lancaster County Treasurer. With my first term nearing completion, I am running for re-election as I believe the people of Lancaster County deserve someone with experience, education, and integrity. I have brought positive change to the office and will work hard to build and bring more improvements.



Enjoyed time at the Lancaster County Fair. County Officials were invited to cut and serve watermelon.



The locally grown watermelon was delicious



Also visited and volunteered at the LCDP



Parade at Hickman Hay Days 2022

Please join me

Rachel for County Treasurer
General Election Kick-Off Party
The Happy Raven
122 N. 11th Street, Lincoln
Wednesday, August 24
5-7pm

Please consider supporting my reelection campaign. To volunteer or donate, I can be reached at:

Email: rachelfortreasurer@gmail.com
Web: rachelfortreasurer.com
Facebook: Rachel4Treasurer

“Why the Clerk of the District Court Matters for All of Us!”

By Lin Quenzer



Running for elective office opens a window on the lives of those our government touches. I have been out meeting and talking with the people of Lancaster County about how they feel government can and should serve them. My 23 years of experience as Lincoln City Ombudsman has focused on making Lincoln City government accessible and understandable to the public. This has informed my conversations with people who oftentimes do not have the tools to advocate for their needs. It's not that people don't want to participate in government, but when they are drawn into interacting unintentionally, unaware that their actions have put them in a position where they must access information, they do not know where to turn for help to inform them where to go and what to do next.

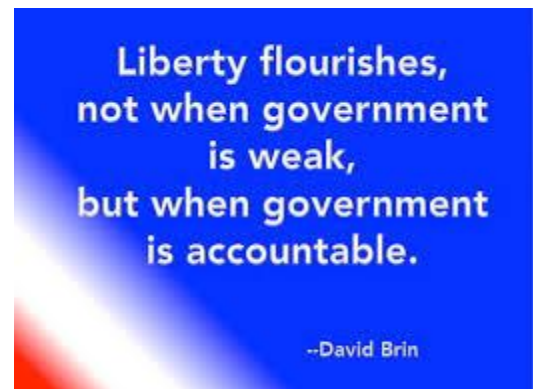
There is a great deal of need for public education about the services and functions of the Clerk of the District Court's office. The Court Modernization Rules, adopted by the Nebraska Supreme Court in January of this year, are intended to allow fairer access to the courts than previously has existed. Forms used for motions, pleadings and other documents related to matters before the courts are now available to the public online, **provided one has the technology at hand to interact with them.** Attorneys are required to submit all filings electronically and people who want to represent themselves now have access to file paperwork on their own behalf with only one requirement: They must have a valid email address. Unfortunately, the people who do not have money to hire attorneys often do not have money for tablet or desktop computers to open and read these documents or to print them so they can be filled out.

Conversations with people who want to be able to undertake a simple name change or to view or change a court appearance reveal to me the pressing need to make the Clerk of the District Office's services more transparent. One should not have to have a law degree to interact with their government. This is not a new need. All levels of government need to have some sunshine come through that window for the public's view onto their processes. At the City of Lincoln, I have found that making access to the Lincoln Municipal Code and

creating paths to get information or file concerns when people believe that our codes have been violated help make our community stronger. The cost-effectiveness of creating accessibility via apps like UPLNK is a side benefit. The self-empowerment this gains us makes government more accountable. The most important thing we need from our government right now is accountability.

The Clerk of the District Court must ensure everyone who needs it has access to all services and assure there is friendly, knowledgeable, and dedicated staff available to make sense of the halls of justice in Lancaster County. This is a position that is an elected office because it is absolutely critical that the public's trust in our process is upheld. I intend to carry out that public trust to the very best of my ability. My interests in doing so are motivated by my faith in God and my lived experiences in a marginalized community.

When I am elected Clerk of the District Court, I will ensure interacting with the courts is understandable and effective. Collaborating with officers of the court, the Clerk's office staff will prioritize operational efficiencies. Based on my previous experience, we will work together to develop a user-friendly website with in-person services available to make the Clerk of the District Court's office adaptable to future needs for the people of Lancaster County.



Melissa Baker for Lower Platte South Natural Resources District



Hello fellow Nebraskans! I am running to represent Subdistrict 3 for the Board of Directors, Lower Platte South NRD. Nebraska is incredibly fortunate to have 50 years of conservation with resolute Nebraskans sharing the mission of our Natural Resources District. I share the vision of conservation, preservation, regeneration, protecting the water, wildlife, and land. It is through our collective actions we will continue the mission and important work of Nebraska's NRD.

I have always had a passion for water, wildlife, and environmental conservation. I am endorsed by the Nebraska Sierra Club. Currently, I am the Chair for the local Bluestem group. I have enjoyed volunteering on the Board for Lincoln Earth Day collaborating on our capital city's Earth Day festivities. Environmental education and community building is incredibly important as we hope to inspire future generations to care for our planet. I am a mother of two, a Paraeducator, and I tell you this – their future is worth fighting for. We have a responsibility to get involved however we can. Please consider donating to my campaign and supporting me in 2022!
In Solidarity,
Melissa Baker

Links below to follow the campaign on Facebook, donate to my campaign on Act Blue online fundraising, and find your NRD subdistrict.

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/melissa-baker-for-lower-platte-south-nrd-1>

<https://www.facebook.com/MelissaBaker4LPSNRD/>

<https://www.lpsnrd.org/about/board-directors/subdistrict-precinct>

Republicans Want to Ban Gay Marriage and Birth Control

By Dennis Crawford



Rep. Don Beyer ✓
@RepDonBeyer

The past week:

- 209 House Republicans vote against abortion rights
- 205 House Republicans vote against protecting interstate travel for reproductive care
- 195 House Republicans vote against protecting contraception access
- 157 House Republicans vote against marriage equality

All Nebraska House Republicans voted to allow the red states to ban birth control.

The six radical Republicans on the Supreme Court have put your freedom in their crosshairs. Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that the GOP controlled Supreme Court might take out marriage equality and the right to birth control. In his concurring opinion in the *Dobbs* abortion case, Justice Thomas wrote that the Court “should reconsider” previous decisions related to same-sex relationships, and “correct the error” laid out in such precedents.

The D.C. Republicans like to point out that the majority opinion in *Dobbs* reassured us that the case was only about abortion. Nonetheless, Justice Samuel Alito, in contrast, in his majority opinion wrote that any rights have to be “deeply rooted in our nation’s history.” This important phrase directly attacked the right to privacy — which is the keystone to the right of marriage equality and right to obtain birth control.

Alito and his fellow Republicans on the Supreme Court told us that marriage equality and birth control are safe, but these same justices testified under oath that *Roe* was safe. Every one of them committed perjury to get confirmed. Why should we believe them now? The Republicans on the Supreme Court are outside of the mainstream and drunk with power.

The House Democrats have since moved swiftly to codify our rights under the Constitution for

a safe and legal abortion, marriage equality and birth control. On all three issues, a majority of the House voted to codify these rights. However, most Republicans voted against all these bills. (I discussed Flood’s vote against abortion rights in a previous post on his radical start as a member of the House. Bacon and Smith also voted no with Flood.)

After the vote to codify *Roe*, Nancy Pelosi held an up or down vote on the right to marriage equality. Only 22% of House Republicans voted to federally recognize same sex marriages. Mike Flood and Adrian Smith voted no. Don Bacon voted yes but it was a rare reasonable vote from the Nebraska CD02 incumbent. (Bacon likes to falsely claim he is a bi-partisan moderate due to these occasional sane votes.)

Mike Flood (and other House Republicans) rationalized their extreme no votes by falsely claiming that “nobody’s marriage is under threat.” Flood went so far as to claim that the House Democrats were undermining the legitimacy of the Supreme Court. What Flood fails to realize is that the Supreme Court has already forfeited any claim of legitimacy due to the partisanship and extremism of the six Republican justices.

Flood’s reassurances on marriage equality ring hollow in the face of statements from his fellow D.C. Republicans. In the wake of the *Dobbs* decision that challenged the right to privacy, Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) called the Supreme Court’s decision to legalize gay marriage “clearly wrong,” explaining that the Court was “overreaching” when it decided the landmark *Obergefell* case in 2015.

Flood and the overwhelming majority of House Republicans continued their descent into sheer radicalism by voting against legislation that would “protect a person’s ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception, and protect a health care provider’s ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.” Birth control methods protected under the bill include oral and emergency medications, IUDs and even condoms!

This bill was opposed by all three members of the Nebraska U.S. House delegation. Apparently, Flood, Bacon and Smith all believe that the federal government should not protect our fundamental constitutional right to even plan our families. Simply stated, Nebraska’s three U.S. House members would allow state governments to ban birth control.

“Like a broken record, Don Bacon, Mike Flood and Adrian Smith are taking their marching orders from far-right extremist Republican Party bosses, whose cruel agenda seems to know no bounds. This is about controlling women — obliterating rights. Once

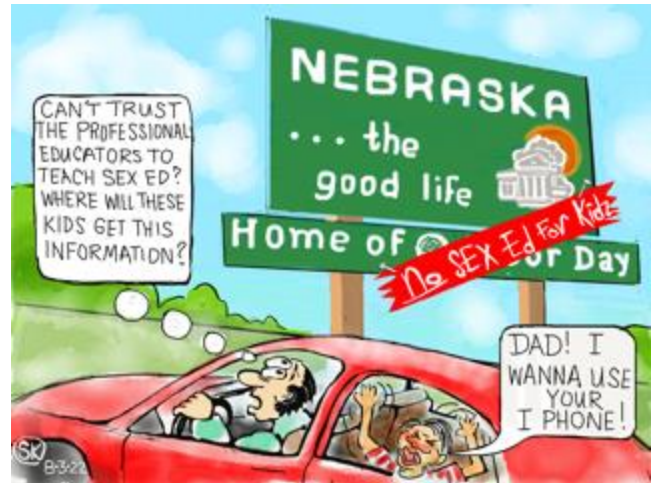
again, they have let the people of Nebraska down. It is shameful, despicable, and horrifying.” Nebraska Democratic Party Chair Jane Kleeb, in response to the House vote on the right to birth control.

“The House is doing a super important service to the nation — exposing how extreme the Republican Party has become. Republicans don’t just want to ban abortion. They want to ban birth control.” Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).

“MAGA Republicans want politicians involved in every element of your personal life other than whether or not you can buy an assault weapon.” Dan Pfeiffer, former senior adviser to President Barack Obama.

The GOP believes in big government for most Americans — they want to tell you who to marry, tell your doctor what to do, boss around women and ban contraception. In reality, the GOP believes they can tell us what to do but we can’t tell Republicans what to do. The GOP does believe in less government for the wealthy, corporations, and the owners of military weapons. Bizarre.

Freedom is on the ballot in 2022. Vote for Patty Pansing Brooks in Nebraska CD01! Vote for Tony Vargas in Nebraska CD02! Vote for David Elise Nebraska CD03!



thank you =
= volunteers!

Solidarity

By John Markey

Solidarity is critical to the labor movement; it is the source of the real power held by unions. It is the power Democrats need to prevail over the regressive events facing us. One is the *Dobbs* decision handed down by the Supreme Court, a ruling that strips away the right of women to control their own bodies and hands the decision to the states.

Justice Alito argues that abortion is not explicitly protected by the Constitution, not protected by an implied Constitutional right to privacy and not a long held right protected by the 9th Amendment.

Alito reaches as far back as the 13th Century to argue there is no deeply rooted right to abortion. He cites ancient jurists and their contributions to English Common Law. These jurists all describe abortion as a crime, after quickening, when a woman can first feel movement in the womb. They also believed women to be inferior and the possessions of their husbands. One of those cited, Matthew Hale, sentenced two women to hang for witchcraft and defended the right of men to rape their wives.

Alito misses the point that common law, the Constitution and much of American law were written by men, who were protecting the interests of men. Until sometime in the 20th Century, a woman's purpose was deemed to be having children and keeping the house, so of course abortion isn't explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.


A Right that expressly affects women must be examined with an eye from the present, not the past, when women were subjugated. Women finally got the vote 1920. The Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963. The Equal Opportunity Credit Act, allowing women to get credit without a male co-signer was passed in 1974. *Reed v. Reed*, decided by the Supreme Court in 1971, finally ruled the 14th Amendment struck down laws with differential treatment by sex. And of course, *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 gave women control over their own bodies. After years of forward progress and increasing involvement of women in the political process and the workplace, the Supreme Court delivers a blow that threatens to drive the movement backwards, with reasoning that threatens other recent advancements.

When examined with an eye from the present, when equality is the goal, how does the 4th Amendment's "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures" or the 14th Amendment's "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities

of citizens" or "equal protection of the laws" not protect the right of women to control their bodies?

And finally, Alito claims there is no reason to believe legislators are acting out of religious beliefs but of genuine concern for the unborn in passing laws outlawing or limiting abortion. Seeing that states passing such laws tend to lead the nation in infant mortality and children in poverty, with many lagging in education, concern for children does not appear to be the motive.

If Alito is truly concerned about heeding the Constitution, as he claims in the decision, he should revisit the Supreme Court created doctrine of qualified immunity or hear a case about civil asset forfeiture, both clear violations of the 4th and 5th Amendments.



Only where they are organized do women get equal pay for equal work.

Eleanor Roosevelt
Longest-serving First Lady of the United States 1933-1945

unions4workers LIVE BETTER. WORK UNION.

UNIONS 4 WORKERS
on FB & Twitter

The Need to Depolarize America

By Luke Nathan Phillips for Braver Angels.
Emphasis added by Suzanne Jouvenat

In depolarization work you're not jostling for power and wrestling with your fellow Americans—you're **wrestling with yourself**. You're wrestling with the dark angels inside you, you're striving to bring forth the better angels of your nature, no matter what other people do or what happens in politics. **We do that in deliberative groups, family-therapy style, because that's the best way to do it, through encounter; but the change is always personal.**

In a sense you're an **ultramarathoner of the spirit, a bodybuilder of the soul**; the end goal of depolarization work, is that you **become and act as the sort of citizen with the inner strength, the "malice toward none," "the charity for all," the confidence in compassion, the love of countrymen and country, to do the depolarizing thing, even when all the world's demanding you walk the other way.**

We all lived through 2020 and 2021. We were surrounded by our fellow Americans—good people, with all sorts of politics, of all sorts of backgrounds—succumbing to their **cruellest demons in fear, condemning each other as un-American, sometimes endorsing acts and attitudes of violence and contempt toward their fellow Americans, because so often it seemed to them to be the right thing to do; the temptations are always strong, and when the world's on fire, they're only stronger.**

We have to be ready. Whatever else Braver Angels (**or the LCDP!**) does in 2024, we have a firm and solemn obligation to hold the line—to practice what we preach—to live up to [the radicalism of our principles](#)—to build a house united—to be a beacon for our fellow Americans who suffer just as we suffer, to show them there's a better way to live as fellow-citizens. If we are **to remain a nation (a democratic Republic) we must stand by one another.**

It won't *just* be about civility, decency, kindness, niceness. It will be very difficult; it will take a lot not to lose our heads, and we'll have to hold each other to it. We will have to hold the line when the whole world is telling us not to hold the line, when our fellow Americans who we strive to serve, are screaming at us, demanding that we cease to hold the line; when even in our own hearts, we ourselves might want to give in to righteous hatred, anger, fear.

But that line is not between us and our fellow Americans, and it's not between us and any political enemies we might imagine we have. That line is **inside each and every one of us; we must hold**

that line against our own worst impulses, especially when it's most difficult. President Eisenhower is attributed to giving this quote, "To conquer oneself, is greater than to conquer great cities," **(16:32)**. We must exercise our better, our braver angels, for if we don't, it will be so easy to succumb to our worst, in the coming fury of 2024.

If we can hold the line in the imminent uncertain time, we will have won a great victory for American unity, nationhood, and redemption. We will have shown our fellow Americans and the world that unconditional **patriotic empathy**, the very **foundation of social trust in a pluralistic society**, is possible by reflection and choice, and hard work. Whatever happens in 2024, we will have lived as free, self-governing citizens, taking up the task of the union and defending it amid the swirling storms of politics and the most challenging storms of **our own passions.**

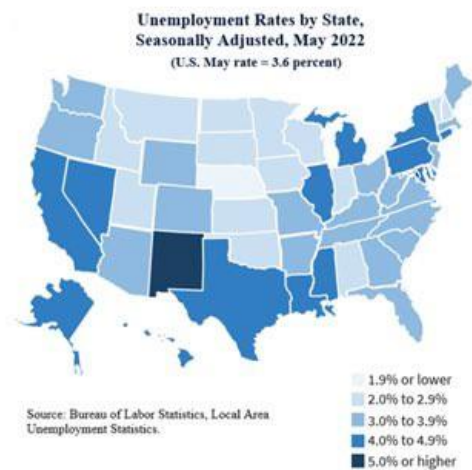
Yes, there *is* a vigorous and assertive virtue in depolarization work as it fans the flames of what the ancient Greeks called *thumos* and brings out our very best. It's the hardest virtue to practice because it demands we **conquer something in ourselves.** 2024 is barreling towards us; let's get down to work (for the Good of our *United States of America*).

Patty Pansing Brooks By Suzanne Jouvenat

In my opinion, this article appears to describe the viewpoint of Patty Pansing Brooks as she projects the concepts of an active, all-encompassing desire to embrace the Good for ALL people — even across the current *Divide*.

Joe Biden Has Done a Good Job

By Dennis Crawford



Unemployment state by state, when Biden took office vs. now. Dark blue is above 5%, and the lighter the better.

President Biden and the Democrats in Congress inherited a nation in crisis from Trump. The economy lost 140,000 jobs in December 2020 and the Trump Administration didn't have a plan to distribute the life-saving vaccines. The Democrats rolled up their sleeves and went immediately to work to clean up Trump's mess.

President Biden has been very successful in passing his legislative agenda, notwithstanding some recent setbacks. The American Rescue Plan included the largest middle class tax cut in history, money for vaccines, money for schools and funding for law enforcement. Every Republican voted no.

Subsequently, Biden passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Infrastructure Week had become

a running joke during the Trump Administration, but Biden got it done. It's the most significant piece of infrastructure legislation since the Interstate Highway Act of 1956.

Already we're seeing positive results from the passage of these two landmark bills.

The Biden administration's COVID vaccine distribution plan has lowered COVID deaths by over 90%. When Biden took office, there was no plan to distribute the vaccines.

Trump added \$7.8 trillion to the national debt and increased the annual deficit from \$585 billion to \$3.1 trillion. President Biden is on track to cut the federal deficit by \$1.7 trillion by the end of the year.

Under President Biden, 9 million jobs have been created and unemployment sits at 3.6%. America is back at work.

These aren't the only Biden accomplishments. Below the radar screen, President Biden has had many significant bi-partisan accomplishments.

The U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, which will create new technology hubs and invests more than \$100 billion in advanced technologies including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, and biotechnology.

A ban on companies using mandatory arbitration to defeat sexual-harassment claims.

The creation of the Juneteenth national holiday to commemorate the freeing of the slaves in 1865.

Reform of the U.S. Postal Service that ended its burdensome and unnecessary requirement to prefund employee pensions for 50 years. The pension requirement was passed in 2005 and was aimed at the eventual privatization of the U.S. Postal Service.

A renewal of the Violence Against Women Act.

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act. This law will reign in the container shipping industry in an effort to ease supply chain problems at ports and reduce costs of goods.

Last month, the Senate passed a bill to deliver comprehensive health care and increased benefits to approximately 3.5 million veterans of the Afghan and Iraq wars who were exposed to toxic burn pits. It was subsequently passed by the House on July 13.

On June 25, President Biden signed into law the most far-reaching gun safety bill since the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban. Every Nebraska member of Congress voted against this bi-partisan legislation.

On July 27, the Senate passed a \$280 billion package to lure more computer chip plants to the U.S., boost cutting-edge scientific research. As of the time of this writing, it is expected to pass in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a recent speech at the AFL-CIO convention, President Biden justifiably touted his accomplishments: "Jobs are back but prices are still too high. Covid is down but gas prices are up. Our work isn't done. But here's the deal: America still has a choice to make. A choice between a government by the few — for the few — or a government for all of us. Democracy for all of us. An economy where all of us have a fair shot and a chance to earn our place in the economy."

"Really ask yourself, how are they going to sleep at night knowing that every five years, Ted Cruz and the other ultra-MAGA Republicans are going to vote on whether you'll have Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid?" Biden said.

He said, "That's what this is about. They've always wanted to cut Social Security. They've always wanted to cut Medicare. They've always wanted to cut Medicaid."

Like President Biden, many voters are now noticing the radicalism of the GOP. The Senate GOP platform calls for shutting down the government and sunsetting Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act every five years. Republicans would demand cuts and privatization in order to renew these programs.

Recent polling data indicates that the GOP's extremism is turning off the voters. A new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll reveals if the election for Congress was held today, 44% of voters say they'd back the Democratic candidate, while 42% would support the Republican.

The most recent Senate polls reflect the same trend.

PA Fetterman 46–37 Oz
NC Beasley 44–40 Budd
GA Warnock 47–47 Walker
CO Bennett +13
UT Lee 41–37 McMullin
OH Ryan 44–41 Vance
WA Murray 51–40 Smiley
NV Cortez Masto 48–27 Laxalt

The Senate polls certainly show no signs of the GOP's promised red wave.

"These days, I think he's done a pretty good job, especially given the fact that he's dealing with a pandemic, revelations about an attempted American coup d'état, and an economic slowdown over which he had no control.

Oh, and by the way: He's also managed (so far) to head off World War III and a possible nuclear conflict. We seem to forget that this is Job One for every American president, but while we're griping about the gas prices (over which Biden also has no

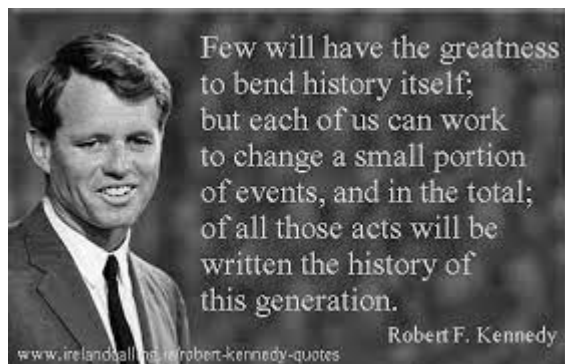
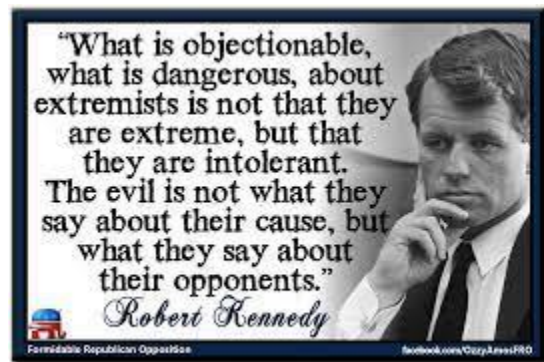
control), the Russians are replaying the Eastern Front against 40 million Ukrainians, and also threatening NATO. It's been reassuring to have a steady hand in charge of our foreign policy." Tom Nichols, *The Atlantic*. On November 8:

Vote for Patty Pansing Brooks in CD01!

Vote for Tony Vargas in CD02!

Vote for Dave Else in CD03!

Together we can save the country from the radical Republican Party! Let's do it! We can get it done!

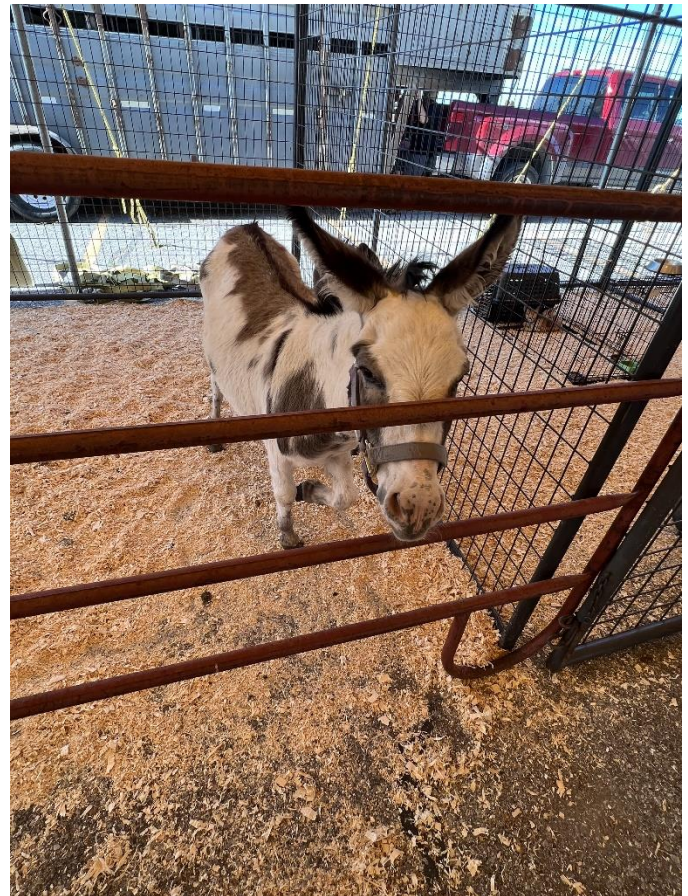


Lancaster County Fair

Pictures from the LCDP booth at the 2022 Lancaster County Fair.



Barrie Marchant and Roger Eschliman put the finishing touches on the County Party booth.



Donkey from the nearby Petting Zoo listens intently to what its fellow Democrats are saying.



Hannah Wroblewski and Patty Pansing Brooks.



Sarah Slattery, candidate for Legislature, District 2.



Elected officials Rachel Garver and Christa Yoakum helping other County officials serve free watermelon to hungry fairgoers.



Elected official Rick Vest helping other County officials serve free watermelon to hungry fairgoers.



Christa Yoakum, Rachel Garver, Lin Quenzer, and Barbara Baier.



Hannah Wroblewski, Rick Vest, and Jim Johnson.



Kristi Egger, candidate for Public Defender.



Senator Matt Hansen, candidate for County Clerk.



This dog has all the right stickers!



Barrie Marchant and Rachel Garver.



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candidate support services, political forums and the *Lancaster County Democrat*.

_____ **Sustaining Donor (Monthly Donation – credit card authorization)**

I hereby authorize the Lancaster County Democratic Party to charge the credit card below \$_____ each month.

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_____ **One-time Donation (credit card authorization)**

I hereby authorize the Lancaster County Democratic Party to charge the credit card below for a one-time donation of \$_____.

Signature _____

_____ **Electronic Donation via ActBlue**

I am sending a separate electronic donation via the County Party's ActBlue account:

<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/lancaster-county--ne--democrats-1>

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Make check or money order payable to Lancaster County Democratic Party or charge to:

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Please return this form to the Lancaster County Democratic Party, PO Box 83213, Lincoln NE 68501-3213.