

Nebraska (NE-02) 2026

US House of Representatives

THE ISSUES

**BRINKER
HARDING**

REPUBLICAN



**DENISE
POWELL**

DEMOCRAT



Learn how to vote in Nebraska at vote411.org/nebraska/!

See guides.vote for online guides with links and sources.	brinkerharding.com	deniseforcongress.org
ABORTION Ban or legal?	Ban. Supports “legal protection for the life of every preborn child from the moment of conception, unless the mother’s life is at risk.” Is “ proud to be pro-life, pro-mother, and pro-family.” Supports “requiring life-saving care for babies after a failed abortion attempt.”	Legal. Supports protecting “all aspects of reproductive healthcare,” including abortion, contraception, and IVF. Would fight to “restore Roe v. Wade into law nationwide.” Would support the Right to Contraception Act. Would “ work to pass...the Right to IVF Act.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Likely no. On the Omaha City Council, voted against a climate action plan to reduce Omaha’s greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050. Wanted to delay the vote on the plan, questioning the timeline and budget. Would “expand American energy production.”	Likely yes. Would “expand clean energy production to bring down costs in the short term while protecting our environment in the long run.”
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Would “hold criminals accountable, and stand with law enforcement.” In 2020, voted to raise wages for police and create a reprimand committee. Supports “implementing body cameras and expanding training.” Would continue to prioritize public safety.	Would “fully fund our police departments, providing access to training and mental health support.” Would “ reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act to protect survivors of domestic violence and ensure perpetrators are held accountable.”
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Mostly cut. “Out of control spending is bankrupting America’s future.” Would “fight to grow our economy and eliminate wasteful spending.” Would “reduce...needless regulations” to lower housing costs. Supports “public private partnerships” such as “ Avenue One ” in 2019, a mixed-use hub, to “ foster economic growth.”	Increase. “ Increase funding and support of small businesses.” Would “protect Social Security” and “responsibly manage our deficits.” Supports “expanding job training and apprenticeship programs” and increasing “guardrails and regulation of artificial intelligence.” Would “build more high-quality, affordable housing.” “ Expand access to loans and capital for small farmers.”
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	No position found.	No. Assisted in organizing a ballot initiative to repeal Nebraska’s school voucher program, which supported private K-12 education with public funding. Would fight “dismantling education — from the University of Nebraska to our public schools.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental rules?	Unclear. Supports a state ban on unauthorized street camping because “the pollution associated with the encampments contaminates waterways and creates significant environmental harm.” In 2019 voted against a proposed Omaha city ban on plastic bags.	Likely tighten. Is “honored to be endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters.... Fighting for a cleaner planet to leave for our children is so important to me.”

ISSUES	HARDING (R)	POWELL (D)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Mixed. Voted against banning ghost gun components. Voted to repeal some Omaha city firearm regulations after a state law allowing concealed carry nullified many of those regulations. Voted to ban bump stocks and trigger activator devices in the city of Omaha.	Tighten. Supports “universal background checks to prevent convicted felons and gang members from obtaining guns” and “red flag laws to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.”
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Mostly decrease. Would maintain “private insurance as a core component of American healthcare.” Would “protect Medicare, Medicaid, and other critical safety nets for those who need them,” while “ expanding access and reducing costs through market-based solutions, not government mandates.” Supported federal legislation that included significant Medicaid cuts.	Increase. Would require “Medicare to negotiate prices for more prescription drugs” and cap insulin costs at \$35. Supports “a Medicare-like public option...while protecting private insurance for those who want it.” Would extend Affordable Care Act premium tax credits. Would “fight to keep healthcare premiums down.”
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Would “ fight to keep our border secure, deport criminal illegal immigrants.” Supports “ICE’s efforts to deport criminal illegal immigrants.” Would pass “common-sense measures requiring ICE agents to wear body cameras and uniforms, just as we do in Omaha.”	Supports “secure borders” and “deporting violent criminals.” Opposes “Trump’s massive expansion of immigration raids and arrests without scrutiny.” Calls for “ICE...to be completely overhauled.” Would “create a fair path to citizenship for long term immigrants who have worked and paid taxes...and [DACA] Dreamers.”
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	Yes. “I hope the Iranian people can experience the freedom they deserve, and peace will finally come to the Middle East. Only the radical left would think killing America’s number one enemy is a bad thing.” “I continue to pray for our brave servicemen and women in harm’s way.”	No. “[The war in Iran] has to stop , and the president cannot be given a blank checkbook to wreak havoc on the American people.” “The Iranian regime has committed atrocities...I hope it is overthrown by the Iranian people. But our sons and daughters should not die for another Middle East war.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	No position found.	Easier. “ No one has done more to protect working folks than our unions. I’ll always stand alongside them.” Joined a Teamsters picket line and supported striking workers.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Limit. Opposes “transgender surgery for minors.” Supports “legislation prohibiting men from playing in girls’ sports.”	Expand. “Happy Pride! I’m proud to stand with our LGBTQIA+ community because EVERY Nebraskan deserves a shot to live the good life!”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	No position found.	Likely yes. Has worked “to advocate for things like minimum wage and paid sick leave.” Supports “minimum wage expansion.”
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Lower. Supports the One Big Beautiful Bill, says it’s “cutting taxes for working families.” The bill included an extension of the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which included the largest corporate tax cut in U.S. history and a tax cut for the very wealthy.	Raise. Says the Trump administration has been “passing massive tax breaks for billionaires.” Says the administration “would rather bail out corporations and billionaires than create a fair economy that works for everyone.”
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Harder. Supports requiring “Voter ID,” says “in Nebraska, it’s common sense.” “Voter ID helps protect our elections, ensure accountability, and promote transparency.”	Easier. Opposes the SAVE America Act, which requires proof of U.S. citizenship from anyone registering to vote in federal elections. “Our democracy is based on the foundational principle of free and fair elections.”

[guides.vote](#) is a nonpartisan effort to show where candidates stand. We do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We have space for candidates polling 15% or more; use the QR code on the right for online versions, including links to credible sources and other candidates. [Vote411.org](#) offers guides to local races and how to vote. For campuses, see Campus Vote Project’s [state-specific guides](#) to student voting rules.

