

Nebraska's 2018 gubernatorial election

Details on candidates, polling and more

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Overview of the 2018 Nebraska gubernatorial election

Primary election:

May 15, 2018

General election:

November 6, 2018

The governor and lieutenant governor run
on the same ticket



Pete Ricketts (R)

- Current Nebraska governor
- Originally elected in 2014
- Previously the vice chairman and COO of Ameritrade Holding Corporation
- Ricketts succeeded 10-year incumbent Dave Heineman (R), who was term-limited from seeking reelection

The Cook Political Report:

Solid Republican

rating for Nebraska's gubernatorial election

Krist has left the GOP to run as an independent candidate



Bob Krist (I)

- Currently: member of the Nebraska legislature representing the 10th district
- Originally appointed to the legislature by former Governor Heineman in 2009, Krist was elected and re-elected in 2010 and 2014
- Announced candidacy July 2017

Key policy issues



Krist has stated he plans to restore a nonpartisan attitude in state government. He argues that the legislature has taken “more of the ‘party highway’ or no way at all.”



Krist has prioritized reducing property taxes across Nebraska. He plans to tackle the property tax issue by “restoring the balance between property tax, income tax, and sales tax.”



Prison reform is another important issue for Krist. He argues that the governor “needs to act now and declare an emergency” due to issues with overtime and overcrowding in the Nebraska prison system.

Gabel is one of two independent candidates challenging incumbent Pete Ricketts



Krystal Gabel (I)

- Currently: technical writer for ACI Worldwide, volunteer for Legal Marijuana Now
- Unsuccessfully ran for an Omaha City Council seat in April 2017 as an independent, where she missed moving on to the general election by 143 votes
- Announced candidacy July 2017

Key policy issues



Gabel focuses much of her platform on the cultivation and production of hemp products in Nebraska. Her campaign website states she wants to make “Nebraska the primary producer and manufacturer of hemp biofuel and biodiesel.”



Gabel also supports a sustainable economy with stable taxes that support families, farmers, ranchers and small business owners.