

Nebraska US Senate 2026

THE ISSUES

DAN
OSBORN

INDEPENDENT

PETE
RICKETTS

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Legal. “I believe ...a woman’s decision on whether or not to have an abortion is between her and her doctor.” Would put Roe v. Wade into law. Without Roe, “women are dying, plain and simple.” “I am personally pro-life, but believe the government should not be making health decisions for people.”	Ban. Supports prohibiting abortion at 12 weeks. Would put a 13-week ban into the Nebraska constitution. Supports “the pro-life movement.” Sponsored bills to outlaw dispensing of abortion treatments by mail and “make it a federal crime for physicians to perform an abortion on a minor from another state without parental consent.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Likely yes. Supports a transition to “clean energy sources.” Supports landowners leasing their land for solar energy: “If you own a piece of land, you should be able to do whatever the hell you want on that land.”	No. Praised an EPA decision that removed the legal foundation for all US climate regulations. Voted for an end to clean energy tax credits. Voted against allowing pension plan managers to consider financial risks from climate change in making investment decisions.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	“I support the mission of law enforcement to protect and serve the communities where we live.” Hasn’t decided whether he supports the death penalty.	Is “against soft-on-crime policies.” Supports a felony murder charge for fentanyl dealers. Sponsored a bill “giving harsher penalties for criminals who target law enforcement officers.”
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Mixed. “We have to do a deep dive into corporate gouging” and go after “corporate greed.” Would “break up the agricultural monopolies” and ensure small farms have the same crop insurance subsidies as big farms. Opposes “billion dollar bailouts for the banks and corporations.” Would end “handouts” to drug companies and “ban data center giveaways.” Wants “ right to repair” laws.	Mixed. “By cutting red tape, we’re helping President Trump deliver on his campaign promises.” As governor, vetoed \$120 million in federal rental and utility aid for Nebraska. Supports federal assistance for farmers and ranchers. Helped to “cut nearly \$2 trillion in government spending.” Voted for \$150 billion to strengthen “America’s national security.”
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	No. “Voucher programs for private schools” allow “rich people to get tax credits and funding for their kids to go to private schools, while taking funding away from the public schools.” “Strong and well-funded public schools are the backbone of the American education system.”	Yes. As governor, proposed public-funded private school scholarships. Supports giving tax credits to donors of private school scholarships. Donated \$25,000 to keep a challenge to Nebraska’s new school voucher program off the ballot in 2024. Is “a vocal supporter of school choice.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	Likely tighten. “I will do everything I can in office to keep our air breathable and our water and land clean. Nebraska is too beautiful not to fight for.” Opposes data center expansion because “We must protect our water and land, not sell it to the highest bidder.”	Loosen. Introduced resolutions to overturn Biden expansion of Endangered Species Act protections. Voted to reverse expansion of stream and wetland protections under the Clean Water Act. Voted to end a 20-year protection against mining upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

ISSUES	OSBORN (I)	RICKETTS (R)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Mixed. “I am fundamentally in favor of the Second Amendment. While I support reasonable safety measures, including gun safety education in our schools, law-abiding citizens have, and must always have, the right to bear arms.” Supports “ red flag laws.”	Loosen. Opposes “efforts to infringe on our 2nd Amendment rights.” Blocked a bill banning bump stocks. Sponsored a bill allowing concealed carry of guns across state lines. In 2021 opposed “ red-flag laws.”
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for health care?	Increase. Would “break up healthcare monopolies ...that have the power to gouge us.” “I will fight to restore rural hospital funding.” Would “protect independent doctors and pharmacies.” “I support giving Medicaid the full authority to negotiate drug prices directly with manufacturers.”	Mostly decrease. Voted for a bill that included Medicaid cuts. As governor, opposed Medicaid expansion. Voted to subsidize some health savings accounts.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Congress needs “to pursue comprehensive immigration reform that works for everyone.” Regarding the Alex Petti shooting, “I am angry about what we saw happen in Minneapolis yesterday.” “I do believe that what [Trump’s] doing on the border specifically is the right thing to do.”	“ Helped President Trump bring illegal border crossings to a record low.” About the Alex Petti shooting, “ Enforcing our immigration laws makes our streets safer,” but we need “the right to protest.” Introduced bill to “stop sanctuary cities.” Voted against repealing \$75 billion in ICE funding. Sponsored a bill to restrict birthright citizenship.
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	No. “With the increasing prices of fertilizer and fuel” due to the war, “we’re going to see more bankruptcies .” “How is this gonna help people put groceries on American tables?” “With this war, I’m not seeing why we are in it.”	Yes. Voted against requiring Congressional authorization for US military action in Iran. “We have to destroy [Iran’s] ability to threaten us.” Said Trump is not being “fooled by the Iranians at the negotiating table.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Easier. Supports the PRO Act, which would make it easier for unions to organize workers. Opposes a national “ right to work” law. “Being in a union is...not always about wages and benefits.... It’s also about...having a voice in the workplace.”	Harder. Sponsored the National Right to Work Act , which would allow employees in a unionized workplace to not pay union dues. In 2015 testified before Congress in support of right to work laws.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Likely expand. Supports “gay marriage.” “I oppose discrimination for any reason.” “I do not believe the government should be involved in our private lives.”	Likely limit. “The Biden administration’s rewrite of Title IX to include gender identity is classic big government overreach .” Sponsored a bill banning transgender students from participating in female athletic programs.
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	Yes. Would raise the federal minimum to match Nebraska’s current minimum, \$15 per hour. “With Nebraska’s recent minimum wage increase, we risk being uncompetitive with neighboring states.”	Likely no. In 2022 opposed the voter-approved raise in Nebraska; said that markets should set employee wages. “Employers should pay what the market demands to hire people. The government should not be interfering with that.”
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Raise. “We cannot afford more tax cuts for the ultra-wealthy.” Would close “loopholes used by multi-nationals to avoid paying taxes.” Supports a wealth tax. Says Trump’s “big, beautiful bill” benefits the wealthy “off the backs of people.”	Lower. Voted to extend the Trump 2017 tax cuts, which included the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate. Sponsored a bill to repeal federal estate taxes. As governor, signed bills to cut corporate and top individual tax rates.
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	No position found.	Harder. Supports the SAVE America Act, requiring proof of US citizenship to register to vote. Supports requiring voter ID to vote. Led the 2022 campaign to get a voter ID constitutional amendment added to the Nebraska ballot.

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