

Sarpy County Register of Deeds – Republican

Doug Cook

Lloyd Dowding

Other	People Skills	Personal Story	punishment/etc.
Biographical	Office Effectiveness	Constitution	Homosexuality
Motivation	Change of Views	Family	Past President
Qualifications	County Business Connection	Personal/Political	Anything else?
Sustainable Development	Partisan position	Everyone questions	
Activities	Bureaucratic office	Abortion/capital	

Other - Information about making contact with the candidate.

Doug Cook 3/20 , 6:40pm, Ring only. 3/21, 12:58pm , Left message with family member. 3/24 , 12:23pm, Ring only. 3/24, Snail mailed questionnaire.

Lloyd Dowding Incument. 3/20, 6:41pm , Left message. 3/21, 8:45pm , Incoming call - returned message. 3/21 , 12:26pm, Emailed questionnaire. 3/24 , Incoming email - said questionnaire received. Answers copied from email response received 3/26/14, 9:24am

Biographical - Please include biographical information you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I am a lifelong resident of Sarpy County; I am married, have 2 children, 2 step daughters, 5 grand children. I graduated from the Bellevue Public Schools and attended Cornell College and UNL. I am a Member and Elder of First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue; Member of Masonic Lodge #325 of Bellevue; Member & past president of Bellevue/Offutt Kiwanis Club; Member and past president of the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce; member of Bellevue Eagles, Aerie #3912; Boy Scouts of America sponsor and past chair of the Wagon Wheel District Fund Drive; served on the Bellevue Public Schools Parents Advisory Committee; member and past President of the Nebraska Association of Clerks & Register of Deeds; and have served on many commissions, boards and committees in Sarpy County.

Motivation - What has motivated you to seek this office? What do you hope to accomplish?

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I have served Sarpy County taxpayers as their Register of Deeds for some time. When I first was elected I had specific issues as to the way the office was being managed and wanted to make changes in the way the public was being served, that was my motivation. Since that time I have installed a thought process in the staff's minds, so that they not only excel in their job knowledge, but they cheerfully assist the citizens when they call or come into our office. In the time I have served, I have also made many physical changes, such as computerizing, scanning, electronic recording and our document processing system. These improvements have not only speeded up the recording process, but have actually reduced the county operation costs.

Qualifications - What three qualifications do you bring to this office?

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding Experience, knowledge and integrity.

Sustainable Development - In some venues, the term "sustainable development" is tied to the UN Agenda 21 thinking. Others consider conservation of natural resources to be tantamount. Where would you place yourself on environmental issues and why?

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding On the surface "sustainable development" really sounds good, but the thinking and actions of the extreme liberal activists who want to use this idea of being environmentally friendly goes beyond wanting to take care of our grassland, mountains, rivers and lakes. I believe they are using this thought process to control our businesses and our lives. They actually infringe on our property rights and as the Register of Deeds I really become agitated on this issue. I was raised in a family were my father taught me to hunt and fish. That involved the proper method of taking care of the land, lakes and rivers we used. As a Boy Scout I learned to love the environment and to take care of it. I have always believed that the United States of America is as free and strong as it is today, is because we have a great system of property rights. These groups and this UN Agenda 21 undermines these beliefs. If you are not familiar with this "sustainable development" action please read up on it.

People Skills - Describe the people management skills and/or training you possess.

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I spent 20 years as an Insurance Agency Vice-President, dealing with management, services and sales of Commercial and Personal Insurance programs and Agencies. I owned a Century 21 Real Estate company, served as am now Past President of various local and state professional and service organizations. Being the Sarpy County Register of Deeds for many years I have also developed my management and training skills to fit the needs of county government.

Activities - Describe the various activities of the position.

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding There are ----- pages of Nebraska Statute (law) that detail procedures the Register of Deeds must follow. In addition there are regulations given by the Nebraska Department of Revenue and the Nebraska Secretary of State. These laws and regulations control most activities I perform, what they don't do is tell you how to do them. I have to rely on my knowledge and assistance from the County Attorney. The tax payer sees us as, recording documents, collecting fees, and providing copies of documents. Other duties are developing an annual budget, of approximately \$500,000.00, recording as much as 75,000 documents in a year, collecting and be responsible for between \$2,000,000.00 and \$3,000,000.00 in revenue annually and dispersing this revenue between Sarpy County and the State of Nebraska. We scan and microfilm approximately 600,000 pages of documents annually and maintain an archive of approximately 3,000 recorded plats or subdivisions, along with our archive of somewhere in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 documents. I manage a staff of 8 people and work with the Nebraska Legislature, take an active part in the Nebraska Association of County Officials, the Nebraska Association of Clerks and Register of Deeds, and the National Association of Property Records Industry, along with various Sarpy County and City and community associations.

Office Effectiveness - Predict how any of the following would hinder or improve your effectiveness in this office: expanded gambling, welfare reform, changes in unemployment, indebtedness of personnel, employee drug use, etc.

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I'm not sure I understand this question so I will take it literally and answer as such. These activities would have no direct correlation to the office of the Register of Deeds, and would not hinder or improve my effectiveness in the management of the office. I have personal thoughts and feeling about the legal and moral implications and how they affect people and our communities. My Christian faith and political beliefs drive those personal thoughts and feelings.

Change of Views - If, once you're in office, you have access to information that changes your previously held viewpoint, how will you inform your constituents?

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding As to the operation of the office of Register of Deeds, my duties are stated statutorily and I follow those statutes, regardless of my personal thoughts or feelings, or those of the general public, however I have and will work with the legislature and the general public to change or improve those rules. If the legislature makes changes in the rules, I do my best to inform constituents in a businesslike manner.

County Business Connection - Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationship serving the county? Please describe.

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding None what so ever, except of course I work for Sarpy County as the Register of Deeds. I guess that develops a business relationship.

Partisan position - What advantage or disadvantage do you see in this being a "partisan" position?

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding WOW! This is a tough question to answer because this is a political "partisan" position. The demands of the job are the ability to be a good manager, to like and want to help people and know, though experience what you're doing. Let me use a quote from the great Will Rogers to possibly give a better answer: "Republicans want a man that can lend dignity, to the office; Democrats want a man that can lend some money."

Bureaucratic office - In a bureaucratic office where public policies are implemented, not decided, how will you faithfully represent the interests of the citizens?

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I think I have already answered this in question #8 [change of views], but to reiterate, I have to uphold the laws and regulations that govern the operation of the Register of Deeds. However if a citizen is having a problem I can give advice as to possible solutions and directions to get the necessary assistance they made need to get their documents properly recorded.

Personal Story - Please briefly describe a situation where you had to stand alone for what you thought was right when the momentum was pushing the other way. What was the result?

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I will not give specific information, however I have had many times when confronted by lawyers that want me or my office to record a document that clearly violates the laws under which I must operate. Even though great pressure was applied I had to politely refuse and explain why. There have a few times I have been wrong and I promptly admitted it and did what was requested. I remember one instance where an angry party went to the County Board with a grievance and after I explained to the Board and the County Attorney, who backed my actions, I was vindicated and the grieved party corrected their documents and we recorded them.

Constitution - Please briefly describe a situation where you had to stand alone for what you thought was right when the momentum was pushing the other way. What was the result?

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding

The oath is very specific and I believe in it, and would not violate that oath.

Family - *What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?*

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding My family has always promoted me and backed me in my previous campaigns for office. They continue to do so in this campaign. If I were to be unsuccessful they would continue to be my family and their love would endure.

Everyone questions - (Regardless of what office is being sought, we ask the following questions so voters can better predict how you will handle tough issues.)

Personal/Political - *To what degree should an office holder's personal principles be reflected in political decision making? To whom/what will you go for counsel in decision making?*

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I believe if an office holder is well based in his personal principles, through religion and ethical training and political beliefs, his actions will be reflected in his decision making, therefore it is important that the voters get to know the person as best as possible and put the person in office that best reflects their principles. I go to various parties for counsel, other Register of Deeds, County Attorney, and trusted mentors.

Abortion/capital punishment/etc. - *What definition do you give for each of these terms: pro-life, pro-choice? How do you define yourself and how did you arrive at that view? How does your position relate to the death penalty, embryonic stem cell research, and physician-assisted suicide?*

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I sometimes wish there was a third group that fit somewhere in-between these two groups. Unfortunately there seems to me to be radical groups in both pro-life and pro-choice. If the world said you could only belong to one or the other my leaning would put me in the pro-life group. I arrived at this by how I feel about the issues and find there are less crazies and radical thoughts in the pro-life camp. As to the death penalty, I look at this in two ways, I'm against the taking of life unless that life is completely detrimental to society, but because of the lengthy time frame to make that decision and the absolutely horrendous costs involved, I am against the death penalty. I have no statement pertaining to embryonic stem cell research because I don't really know the facts about it. As to physician-assisted suicide, my personal feeling is against it, because of my faith and personal beliefs. However, because of the many non-Christian beliefs in our country, I'm not sure it should be up to the government to decide a person's fate as to when and how they die. If I was in an office that would have to make that decision, it's possible I could be swayed to hold a different thought process through education.

Homosexuality - *Some consider same-sex relationships should carry the same rights and privileges as traditional marriage. Some view homosexuality as an issue of potential discrimination on the level with race or ethnicity. Some consider it a matter of personal privacy. Some say marriage, for numerous reasons, should remain defined by government as between one man and one woman. Some say children should be raised by a mother and a father and that they are being forgotten in today's discussions on the subject. With which group's philosophy do you most closely agree, and why?*

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I have read this question over and over and it seems you are asking me about (5) five different groups. Wow! I will try to answer but probably not in the same order you asked. Let's see, I don't seem to see anything wrong with non-heterosexuals having the same rights and privileges as those who are united in traditional marriage, but it would seem that since the union between a man and a woman have for centuries and in religious doctrine, is referred to as a marriage, there could be a similar union for those and simply be called something else. We could insert that into our laws. I think children want to be loved, fed and taught. I don't think they really care who does it. I have personal beliefs that say a woman gives certain benefits and fathers give another. However if a child has no mother or father is that child better off being raised in an institution? I don't really know what group's philosophy I agree with maybe a little of all of them.

Past President - *What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?*

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I am a Republican, and I hold the majority of beliefs of the Republican Party. I do not believe in big intrusive government or extreme large monetary government hand outs, or government control of my life. I do not believe the government should be involved in private business. Those were the considerations I gave when I voted against the man who now holds the office of Presidency, and those were the reasons I voted against him the first time he ran.

Anything else? - *Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.*

Doug Cook waiting for response

Lloyd Dowding I think that if you have read all this you are probably tired of hearing from me so I'll quit here. I'll end by asking you to vote for me in the Primary Election. Thank you. Lloyd J Dowding