

Seward County Treasurer - Republican

Bob Dahms

Peggy Pankoke

Questions List:

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

Other - *Information about making contact with the candidate.*

Bob Dahms	Incumbent. Contacted by resident of the district. Answers copied from email response received Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 8:45 AM.
Peggy Pankoke	Contacted by resident of the district. Answers copied from email response received Mar 20, 2014 at 12:29pm.

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

Bob Dahms	Married to Vlasta for 44 years-daughters are Lisa and Jan-grand children are Miranda & Bobbie-graduate of UNL- Past small retail store owner-currently the County Treasurer for 27 years-current member of the Seward Library Board & treasurer for Walk Seward Club-have done fund raising for: Seward Memorial Library, Concordia University, Seward Memorial hospital-have taken several business courses, non credit, from UNL
Peggy Pankoke	My husband and I are livestock farmers near Beaver Crossing. I currently have a position at Farmers & Merchants Bank, Beaver Crossing. We have 5 children, 2 that are married and 5 beautiful grandchildren. I have 10 years banking experience and 5 years of business experience with account payables/receivable. I am a strong community and servant leader. I have lived my entire life in Seward County and am proud to call Seward County my home!

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

Bob Dahms	I am the current Seward County Treasurer and have been so for the past 27 years. I filed to run again because I love the work, and have an outstanding staff to work with. Seward County is a great county. Compared to other counties, the people of Seward County are easy to work with. Property owners keep their taxes current. This county has a very, very low delinquent rate. Customers do not, on the whole, complain about taxes, and are very understanding of the state rules and regulations along with the red tape. I plan to adapt the office to any changes forthcoming, and to maintain the number one function of a treasurer: keeping public funds protected and seeing all collections and disbursements are administered to the highest degree of accuracy.
Peggy Pankoke	I believe voters need a choice on the ballot and they deserve a choice on the ballot. We need more qualified, trustworthy people to step forward and run for office. I will use my experience to take excellent care of Taxpayer money and ensure quality customer service for our taxpayers.

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

Bob Dahms	27 years of experience. Strong county accounting ability along with good memory for vast array of numbers. Trying to be fair to office staff and to the public-the two most important components to any office or business.
Peggy Pankoke	Hard worker, dedication, 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?*

Bob Dahms	The environment is important, but possibly not the number one issue-not relevant to the office.
Peggy Pankoke	I believe we are to be good stewards of our environment.

Activities - *Describe the various activities of the position.*

Bob Dahms	All funds received are to be coded and disbursed timely & properly. Implementing and using a segregation of duties and a documentation system. Inter office and inter county documentation procedures. On line banking. Accepting and tracking credit and debit cards in cash balancing procedures. Using mathematical tabulations to set up computer district distributions on various state funds. Using sets of ratios for checking proper State AS400 computer down load to county system. Maintaining up to date accounting of pledge securities to make sure county funds are backed and protected. Tracking of all bankruptcies. Over seeing monthly tax collection reconciliation along with part pay reconciliation. Helping in title, motor vehicle, driver license, & tax receipt issuance. Doing and overseeing bank and investments monthly recons. Tracking of School treasurer bonds. Being part of a team that checks all tax rates for each sub fund, and tax district. Defining ACH payments coming into the office- state grants, federal grants, pass through grants,& federal forfeiture funds. Turning staff hours worked on a timely basis to the County Clerk office. Reviewing staff comp time, vacation time earned-used and unused.
Peggy Pankoke	I would work with the office staff, to have a friendly, competent team that assist the public and private sectors with RE taxes, titles, licensing, and secure taxpayer money. Work cooperatively with County Clerk and other elected officials.

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

Bob Dahms Have taken non credit courses and UNL-Naco & Nirma-also 27 years of on the job experience.

Peggy Pankoke I currently oversee 3 people at our branch. Effective communication, delegation of tasks, and team work are essential as we ensure accuracy and great customer service.

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.

Bob Dahms Employee drug use of the above choices would impact the office.

Peggy Pankoke Expanded gambling, indebtedness of personal, or employee drug abuse could cause an issue with the handling of money. There will be no tolerance for employee-abuse in handling taxpayer money.

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?

Bob Dahms When I am wrong on an issue the person affected is contacted either in person or by phone or in written form.

Peggy Pankoke I will not overlook practices that do not follow expected ethical procedures, but would present anything suspicious or questionable with knowledgeable superiors.

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

Bob Dahms I am the current County Treasurer.

Peggy Pankoke David Pankoke (brother-in-law) currently is Supervisor of the Seward County Roads Department. Marshal Pankoke (nephew) works within the Road Department. I am currently employed at Farmers & Merchants Bank; Seward County has funds deposited at Farmers & Merchants Bank. If I am elected I would resign my position at Farmers & Merchants Bank.

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

Bob Dahms Being in an elected position, I believe, makes you more accountable to the public. They are the ones who make your paycheck- all in all, I think it is a good thing.

Peggy Pankoke None

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

Bob Dahms Office policies are made and implemented to safe guard the funds coming in to the hands of a treasurer. This is called cash accountability. These policies are based upon advice from State and other auditors, federal information, national associations, and the federal Office of Budget and Management. Cash accountability of tax payers' dollars is the primary duty of a treasurer.

Peggy Pankoke High ethical standards in regards to being entrusted with taxpayer money and also provide friendly, helpful customer service.

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?

Bob Dahms I felt some of my staff were not being fairly compensated as compared to some other offices. I talked about this to my office liaison from the County Board, got some information from a firm specializing in comparative studies. This was presented to the board and the staff involved was brought up to a comparative compensation.

Peggy Pankoke The topic of same sex marriage, regarding the benefits, rights and privileges were discussed with a business associate. We were both able to state our opinions, and we agreed to disagree. I will not compromise my beliefs.

Constitution - Regardless of the position sought, "upholding the Constitution" is part of the oath of office. What does taking that oath mean to you?

Bob Dahms When I take the oath, I am confirming my loyalty to uphold the laws of our State and Federal Government. I will abide by these laws. The oath is an expression of one's loyalty. Current oaths are a product from the Civil War in the 1860's. At that time they administered the oath to weed out traitors.

Peggy Pankoke Our Forefathers were God- fearing men, they took this oath very seriously. Our Country needs to remember what values it was founded on. It would be a privilege and honor to commit and uphold the Constitution as I serve as Seward County Treasurer.

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

Bob Dahms My family strongly supports my candidacy. I have held the position for 27 years, so, my family has adjusted to any affects.

Peggy Pankoke My family supports my decision in running for County Treasurer. If elected, I can not see that it would change or affect my family.

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.)

Bob Dahms A treasurer's decision making is based upon the primary duty of safeguarding the public funds coming into the office. My personal principles have followed this primary duty. For advice I turn to Deputy Treasurer Susan Blomenberg, to office staff as we are all a team, to the State auditor, to the Seward County attorney, to our office liaison from the County Board, and to my family.

Peggy Pankoke In all honesty a person runs for office so they can make a decision on issues that reflect their beliefs. I would seek my husband for further counsel.

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?

Bob Dahms These are much discussed questions during these times, however, are not relevant to this office and to the primary duty of this office. This office is here to serve all the people who come into the office regardless of their views on these questions, or how they voted in previous elections.

Peggy Pankoke I define Pro-life as a loving, unselfish choice to carry a baby to term, and find a loving home for the infant. Pro-choice is the woman's ability to make a choice about her own body, despite the reality of stopping a heartbeat. I believe life is a gift, and I do not take that for granted. I am thankful that we are making new breakthrough in medicine, let's not pretend to be God.

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?

Bob Dahms These are much discussed questions during these times, however, are not relevant to this office and to the primary duty of this office. This office is here to serve all the people who come into the office regardless of their views on these questions, or how they voted in previous elections.

Peggy Pankoke It saddens my heart to see the direction our Country is going on this issue. I believe marriage was ordained by God between a man and a woman.

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

Bob Dahms These are much discussed questions during these times, however, are not relevant to this office and to the primary duty of this office. This office is here to serve all the people who come into the office regardless of their views on these questions, or how they voted in previous elections.

Peggy Pankoke I voted by what mostly agreed to my values.

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

Bob Dahms This office was the only county treasurer office not written up for lack of segregation of duties by the State Auditor. According to the State Auditors Office, to their knowledge, we are the only office implementing and using a detailed internal control documentation system. We were one of the first treasurer offices to be fully computerized in all areas. We were one of the first to accept credit and debit cards. Be sure to vote in the May primary election-your vote would be greatly appreciated.

Peggy Pankoke [nothing further noted]