

Seward County Commissioner – District 3 - Democrat

Linda Luebbe

Bob Vrbka

Questions List:

Other	County Priorities	Decency	Personal Story	Homosexuality
Biographical	State to County	Property Tax	Constitution	Past President
Motivation	Revenue	Eminent Domain	Family	Anything else?
Qualifications	Job Creation (County)	County Business	Personal/Political	
Sustainable Development	Gambling	Connection	Abortion/capital punishment/etc.	
	Immigration	Governing documents		

Other - Information about making contact with the candidate.

Linda Luebbe	Contacted by resident of the district. Answers copied from email response forwarded on Tue, 1 Apr 2014 09:33am
Bob Vrbka	Contacted by resident of the district. Questionnaire emailed 3/25/14

All the following answers from **Linda Luebbe**

<u>Biographical</u> - Please include biographical information you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.	I grew up in District 3 in Seward County and have lived here continuously for the past 30 years. Married with 2 children. Current or previous occupational experience: Career in nursing, currently a school nurse at Seward Public Schools Manager of Utica Senior Center Farmed and ran a spraying business during the 1980's Coordinator of Adult Ed through SECC Current or previous organizations: Director, Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District. President of GMDA (Groundwater Management Districts Association) Member Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Goehner President, Central Nebraska School Nurse Association President, Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association LEAD VIII Fellow Transition Coordinator for ESU#6 Med-Aide teacher for Region V (medical coordinator) Participant in medical mission to Honduras and People to People Mission to Russia President, York Area Children's' Choir FFA & 4-H Superintendent of horticulture and floriculture 4-H Leader, Goehner Guys and Gals Seward County 4-H Council Seward County Extension Board President, Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards Member, Women In Farm Economics (WIFE) organization.
<u>Motivation</u> - What has motivated you to seek this office? What do you hope to accomplish?	I believe community service is a way of life. The issues dealt with in this county are important to everyone. I want to see this county's resources used efficiently and with openness and accountability.
<u>Qualifications</u> - What three qualifications do you bring to this office?	Experience, leadership, willingness to ask tough questions
<u>Sustainable Development</u> - 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?	Natural resources are very important to the agricultural base of Nebraska. Those resources should be used for the betterment of our communities but used wisely to also preserve them for the future generations.
<u>County Priorities</u> - What order of priority would you place on dealing with which issues facing the county?	1st, funding and prioritization of basic county services 2nd, maintenance and improvement of roads 3rd, upgrading jails and county facilities.
<u>State to County Revenue</u> - What actions have you/would you take to ensure that the county receives its proportionate share of tax dollars from the State of Nebraska? What actions have you/would you take to ensure that the county receives its proportionate representation on boards and commissions, which allocate state tax dollars which fund counties and county services?	Make certain all deadlines for grants and revenue sharing programs are met and that new revenue sharing opportunities are explored. Commissioners should also be willing to serve on advisory state boards or seek out other people willing to invest time in them.
<u>Job Creation (County)</u> - How can the county board help in job creation? What would you do to make the county more business friendly? What specific ideas do you have for jobs?	Job creation is mainly a private function not a state one. We make our county more desirable to new businesses by providing infrastructure and basic government services at a reasonable level of cost.
<u>Gambling</u> - Discuss the pros and cons of government having more revenue from gambling.	There are no pros. The social costs of gambling far outweigh short term benefits of easy revenues.
<u>Immigration</u> - What role should each level of government have in the immigration issue? From city, to county, to state, to federal?	The role of county government with immigration is to help integrate the immigrants we have into our communities. It is the job of higher levels of government to decide how much to limit or allow immigration.

<u>Decency</u> - Should decency laws, including things like sex trafficking, be written at the national, state, county, or local level? What should they include? Who should enforce them?	Decency laws are federal and state responsibilities so that their far greater law enforcement powers and resources can be used to uphold them.
<u>Property Tax</u> - Discuss what authorization/control you see the board having with regard to the County Assessor's assessments and resulting taxation.	The state sets valuation standards for all counties. The commissioners should expect and require those standards to be fairly implemented.
<u>Eminent Domain</u> - Describe your thinking on eminent domain and private property rights.	Eminent domain should be used sparingly for projects that are absolutely needed for the good of everyone. In some parts of the country private property has been d=condemned to be taken for other private uses and that is taking eminent domain too far.
<u>County Business Connection</u> - Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationship serving the county? Please describe.	No.
<u>Governing documents</u> - What do you see as the major governing documents for this position?	State statutes and state agency guidelines, written county governance policies.
<u>Personal Story</u> - 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?	On the NRD Board I opposed a rural trails project for Aurora which was remote and presented liability and maintenance problems. I was not uncomfortable speaking out against it although the other board members disagreed with me.
<u>Constitution</u> - Regardless of the position sought, "upholding the Constitution" is part of the oath of office. What does taking that oath mean to you?	We are a nation of laws and those laws apply equally to everyone. There should be no exceptions and no bending the laws as a favor to someone.
<u>Family</u> - What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?	My great grandfather was a Nebraska State Legislator and I grew up hearing about him as a role model. Both of my parents always emphasized the value of giving back to the community. My husband and children often volunteer in many organizations.

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.) [This statement preceded the following questions on the candidate's questionnaire.]

<u>Personal/Political</u> - 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?	One would expect office holders to make decisions openly and honestly after listening to all the facts and then trying to do what is best for the whole community. In the process of making a decision there should be thorough discussion among the board with plenty of questions asked of everyone involved.
<u>Abortion/capital punishment/etc.</u> - 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?	None of these questions relate to a Board of Commissioners and the decisions they make.
<u>Homosexuality</u> - 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?	Constitutional rights relating to discrimination are decided by the federal government and our court systems. Marriage rights are determined by state and federal governments. None of these apply to the decisions of the Board of Commissioners.
<u>Past President</u> - What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?	I vote for the person who seems willing to work hard at making a difference if they are given the opportunity to fill an elected office, for the person who is willing to listen to differing points of view, and who will offer real solutions for the problems on which they can have an impact.
<u>Anything else?</u> - Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.	[nothing further noted]