

Gap narrows in presidential, senate races

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 01 November 2012 14:10 -

Airport Authority seats contested on local level

Pollsters say the race for U.S. president is too close to call.

Throw in super storm Sandy that slammed into the East Coast Monday and folks could be dealing with storm aftermath rather than voting at the ballot box.

Closer to home, former U.S. senator and past governor Bob Kerrey is said to be closing the gap in a race against State Sen. Deb Fischer to recapture his old senate seat.

When the polls open next Tuesday, Nov. 6, voters—in local races—have only one that's contested. Four people are vying for two seats on the Gothenburg Airport Authority.

Dave Collins is serving the last two years of a six-year term on the airport authority and has filed as has incumbent Kent Kline.

Challengers include Richard Fiese, Sr., and Ken Christensen.

For city council, Gary Fritch is stepping down and Duane Oliver has filed to claim the east ward.

West-ward incumbent Jeff Kennedy has no opposition.

Three seats are open on the District 20 school board.

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Long-time District 20 board member and secretary Bruce Clark will retire at the end of the year and two incumbents are running for re-election—Amber Burge and Lisa A. Geiken.

Newcomer Jeremy Sitorius has filed for election to the board.

Within Dawson County, Butch Hagan of Lexington, wants to be re-elected to the District 5 county commissioner seat.

Dean Kugler of Gothenburg, who represents District 1, and District 4 commissioner P.J. Jacobsen of Cozad, are also running unopposed.

All are Republicans.

Four constitutional amendments will greet voters at the ballot box.

Nebraskans will decide whether to give state senators a pay raise and whether the right to hunt and fish be included in the state constitution.

Extending term limits for state senators is another issue voters will decide. A proposal would increase the time a senator can serve from two consecutive to three consecutive four-year terms.

Another proposed measure would authorize the impeachment of civil officers for acts that occur while running for office.

Dawson County election commissioner Rosie Casanoba said Tuesday she's not sure how many voters to expect on election day but her office has collected 1,205 early ballots so far.

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Registered voters wanting to vote early can do so in the election commissioner's office until 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5

Early voting ballots must be returned to county election offices by the close of polls on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Registered voters can request ballots until 4 p.m. Wednesday (today), for early ballots to be mailed. Nov. 5 is the deadline for in-person early voting at county election offices for registered voters.

Gothenburg voters from the east ward will cast their ballots at the American Lutheran Church, a change from voting in the Community Building. West-ward voters go to city hall.

Other Gothenburg voting places are:

Fairview and Gillan precincts, Chipper Hall in Cozad.

Farnam precinct, fire hall community room.

German precinct, Zion Lutheran Church.

Precincts are open Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

During the May primary, there were 13,615 registered voters in the county.

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