

McCoy: Livelihoods make him different

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Friday, 13 December 2013 15:25 -



BEAU MCCOY

Ag, business experiences will help in governor's race, he says

For the first four years of his life, Sen. Beau McCoy lived in a sod house on a ranch near Benkelman.

Born into a fourth-generation ranching family, the Republican gubernatorial hopeful broke ponies, raised cattle and hay and earned degrees from Colby Community College in Colby, KS, and Bellevue University.

Thirteen years ago, McCoy moved a family construction business, which he owns, to Omaha.

All of these experiences, plus five years in the Nebraska Legislature, sets McCoy apart from the six other candidates in the governor's race, he said.

"I believe I'm the only the candidate in the race who grew up in agriculture and am a small business operator," said McCoy during a campaign stop in Gothenburg last Wednesday.

The top issues facing Nebraska are taxes and jobs, he said.

"They both feed off of each other," McCoy said, noting that taxes are too high, especially for farmers, ranchers and small business owners in a state where agriculture is the No. 1 industry.

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Because ag land carries a heavier share of property taxes levied across the state, he said it's more difficult for family operations and high income taxes makes it difficult to grow and be competitive.

A more competitive tax climate is needed by rewarding businesses for staying in Nebraska, McCoy said, which could be done through incentive programs.

To stem the flow of young people looking for jobs out of Nebraska, McCoy proposes doing better in matching training with job opportunities and encouraging more students to look at career and technical education.

"There's a stigma attached to blue-collar jobs but a four-year degree isn't for everyone," he said.

McCoy said his ability to build relationships and his strong work ethic are his greatest strengths, noting that the work ethic and resiliency he sees in Nebraskans are second to none.

McCoy said he's also proud of what he's accomplished as a state senator.

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