

## Get the Facts

Claim	Backup
John Cavanaugh is jeopardizing the Blue Dot we fought so hard for... for his own political ambitions. If John Cavanaugh goes to Congress, the Governor gets to fill Cavanaugh's state senate seat with a MAGA Republican...	<p><a href="#"><u>"State Sen. John Cavanaugh defends U.S. House bid against risks to state filibuster," Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 11/19/2025</u></a></p> <p>But in an off-year election when Democrats might win the Omaha-area race for Congress, some worry about the risks of even temporarily narrowing the party's thin margin for those filibusters if State Sen. John Cavanaugh wins.</p> <p>Cavanaugh, who represents one of the state's most Democratic-leaning legislative districts, would have to resign if elected and be replaced by the governor, a seat of power in Nebraska that Republicans have occupied since 1999.</p>
giving Republicans the supermajority they need to complete Trump's redistricting power grab and eliminate the blue dot,	<p><a href="#"><u>"State Sen. John Cavanaugh defends U.S. House bid against risks to state filibuster," Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 11/19/2025</u></a></p> <p>Some local Democrats say Cavanaugh winning would allow a Republican majority to pass more controversial legislation that Democratic-aligned lawmakers and some Republican moderates have helped them stop.</p> <p>A handful argue his departure from the Legislature could spur the state to redraw the 2nd Congressional District mid-decade, putting a potential Democrat in Congress out of a job and cementing GOP power in Nebraska for another generation. Others have questioned whether the current governor, Jim Pillen, or a successor might push for a special session to further restrict abortion.</p>
ban abortion and gut voting rights.	<p><a href="#"><u>"State Sen. John Cavanaugh defends U.S. House bid against risks to state filibuster," Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 11/19/2025</u></a></p> <p>Some local Democrats say Cavanaugh winning would allow a Republican majority to pass more controversial legislation that Democratic-aligned lawmakers and some Republican moderates have helped them stop.</p> <p>A handful argue his departure from the Legislature could spur the state to redraw the 2nd Congressional District mid-decade, putting a potential Democrat in Congress out of a job and cementing GOP power in Nebraska for another generation. Others have questioned whether the current governor, Jim Pillen, or a successor might push for a special session to further restrict abortion.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>"Nebraska 6-week abortion ban fails to advance in Legislature." Associated Press, 4/27/23</u></a></p> <p>An effort to advance a bill that would ban abortion around the sixth week of pregnancy fell one vote short of breaking a filibuster in the Nebraska Legislature on Thursday.</p>

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The daughter of Cuban and Chilean immigrants,	<p><a href="#"><u>"Donor Spotlight: Denise," Denise Powell, Share Omaha, 4/7/2021</u></a></p> <p>My husband and I moved to Omaha 12 years ago. I'm originally from Miami, Florida and the daughter of Cuban and Chilean immigrants. My parents were (and continue to be) advocates for the Latino community...</p>

<p>Community leader</p>	<p><a href="#"><u><b>“Denise Powell launches bid in Nebraska’s 2nd Congressional District,” Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 5/1/2025</b></u></a></p> <p>Denise Powell, known for her role boosting new candidates with Women Who Run, is running for Congress in 2026 in Nebraska’s 2nd District.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Though Powell hasn’t held an elected office, she has played a role in Nebraska politics. She has helped with organizing recent ballot initiatives seeking to codify the right to an abortion, which failed, and to repeal a publicly funded voucher program for private K-12 schools, which succeeded.</p> <p>She said her experience running the Women Run Nebraska, a political action committee that aims to get more women in elected office, has shown her just how much people from all parties “care deeply about their communities.” She is a former architecture firm partner and small business owner.</p>
<p>And mom ...</p>	<p><a href="#"><u><b>@DeniseForCongress, Facebook, 6/10/2025</b></u></a></p> <p>As a daughter of immigrants and a mother, my heart aches for the children who will go to bed tonight not knowing where their parents are, wives who don’t know where their husbands are, mothers who don’t know where their children are. Raids in workplaces are not a replacement for immigration reform, which Congress has failed to act on for generations. We must send leaders to Washington who will finally work to fix our broken immigration system and stop playing games with people’s lives.</p> <p><a href="#"><u><b>@boldpac, Facebook, 11/11/2025</b></u></a></p> <p>Denise Powell is a mom, a healthcare advocate, and a fighter for Nebraska families. While Republicans hand billions to the wealthy, they’re threatening programs like WIC and SNAP that help parents feed their kids. Denise is calling it out because no child should go hungry. That’s the bold truth. #BOLDTruth #LatinasForFamilies</p>
<p>Denise Powell has taken on MAGA extremists, and won.</p>	<p><b><i>After attending a Women’s March in January 2017, Powell was inspired to co-found Women Who Run Nebraska, an organization to help elect progressive women in Nebraska that could fight back against MAGA and the Trump administration.</i></b></p> <p><a href="#"><u><b>“Our History,” Women Who Run Nebraska, accessed 2/10/2026</b></u></a></p> <p>Denise Blaya Powell and Leanne Prewitt attended the Women’s March in Washington D.C., in January of 2017, and returned to Omaha fired up and determined to do something positive to change things for women and families in Nebraska. Rather than focusing solely on #resisting the administration, we founded Women Who Run Nebraska to make it easier for women to get involved in politics in Nebraska.</p> <p>What started as letter writing quickly turned into candidate forums and meet and greets. That expanded to candidate training programs, voter outreach events, financial assistance, campaign publicity—basically any and everything we could to support our amazing candidates. Today, the organization provides all of this and more with the addition of She’s Electable Nebraska, LLC, providing</p> <p><b><i>Women Who Run Nebraska fought against the 2022 proposed total abortion ban</i></b></p> <p><a href="#"><u><b>Women Who Run Nebraska, Facebook, 1/13/2022</b></u></a></p> <p>The past week has been a busy one in the Nebraska State Legislature. If you haven’t been glued to the proceedings like we have, here are a few bills that have been introduced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A bill that would remove any permit requirements for carrying a concealed weapon in the state.</li> </ol>

	<p>2. A bill allowing doctors to deny care based on their personal beliefs.</p> <p>3. A bill that would shorten the window for early voting, and ban underfunded County Election departments from accepting private grants and contributions to run effective elections.</p> <p><b>4. A bill to adopt the (misleadingly named) Heartbeat Act and another bill to put a total ban on abortion (including emergency contraception) should the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade.</b></p> <p>5. A bill to prohibit changes to comprehensive health standards in public schools while also including information about preventing disabilities like cerebral palsy, autism and epilepsy through “proper nutrition and the avoidance of the consumption of drugs.” (Huh?!?)</p> <p>YES, what happens at the Federal level matters. But what we know is that the real power is here, at the state and local level. The power to stop progress. The power to create barriers that make it harder for women, historically marginalized folks, and low-income communities to get ahead. The power to create a more dangerous world for birthing women, and survivors of domestic violence, and school children.</p> <p>But we have power, too. The power to rise up and tell our elected officials that those ideas do NOT represent us. The power to elect the kind of folks who do. We cannot afford to get complacent. We cannot afford to lose hope and stop fighting.</p> <p>As we roll into this pivotal year, we are asking you to recommit to this work. To support great candidates with your time, talent and treasure. To show up, let your voice be heard, remind others that they’re not alone. There’s strength in numbers!</p> <p>And if you can, please consider a contribution to the PAC today (link in the comments below) so we can continue to support these candidates with the resources they need to win. Every dollar counts and every voter counts.</p> <p>We can do this. The time is now.</p> <p><b><i>On April 6, 2022, the Nebraska Legislature voted to defeat LB 933, the total abortion ban.</i></b></p> <p><b><u><a href="#">“Sen. Megan Hunt,” District 8, Nebraska Legislature, accessed 2/10/2026</a></u></b></p> <p>Yesterday April 6th, Nebraska Legislature took a historic vote to block LB 993, a total abortion ban. The bill failed in a 31 to 15 vote. Nebraska managed to defeat a bill that would have totally banned abortion in the state...</p> <p>How They Voted:</p> <p>Yes (31): Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Clements, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, B. Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McDonnell, Moser, Murman, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Williams</p> <p>No (15): Blood, Bostar, J. Cavanaugh, M. Cavanaugh, Day, DeBoer, M. Hansen, Hunt, McCollister, McKinney, Morfeld, Pansing-Brooks, Vargas, Walz, Wishart</p>
<p>After Trump was elected in 2016, she started an organization that has supported hundreds of</p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">“2016 Presidential Election Results,” The New York Times, 8/9/2017</a></u></b></p> <p>In 2016, Donald J. Trump won the Electoral College with 304 votes compared to 227 votes for Hillary Clinton.</p>

<p>women running for office and fought back against MAGA extremists,</p>	<p><a href="#"><u><b>“Democrat Denise Powell leads 2025 fundraising in crowded 2nd District race,” Jessica Wade, Nebraska Public Media, 2/3/2026</b></u></a> Democrat Denise Powell leads on fundraising in a crowded 2nd District House race.</p> <p>The co-founder of Women Who Run Nebraska, a political action committee supporting campaigns for progressive women, raised \$1.04 million in 2025, entering 2026 with \$624,760 cash on hand, according to the most recent filings from the Federal Election Commission.</p> <p><a href="#"><u><b>“Denise Powell launches bid in Nebraska’s 2nd Congressional District,” Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 5/1/2025</b></u></a> Denise Powell, known for her role boosting new candidates with Women Who Run, is running for Congress in 2026 in Nebraska’s 2nd District.</p> <p>...</p> <p>She said her experience running the Women Run Nebraska, a political action committee that aims to get more women in elected office, has shown her just how much people from all parties “care deeply about their communities.”</p> <p><a href="#"><u><b>“Meet Denise,” Denise Powell for Congress, accessed 2/10/2026</b></u></a> ...</p> <p>After Trump’s election in 2016, she founded an organization that has supported hundreds of Nebraskans running for local office...</p> <p><a href="#"><u><b>“Our History,” Women Who Run Nebraska, accessed 2/10/2026</b></u></a> Denise Blaya Powell and Leanne Prewitt attended the Women’s March in Washington D.C., in January of 2017, and returned to Omaha fired up and determined to do something positive to change things for women and families in Nebraska. Rather than focusing solely on #resisting the administration, we founded Women Who Run Nebraska to make it easier for women to get involved in politics in Nebraska.</p> <p>What started as letter writing quickly turned into candidate forums and meet and greets. That expanded to candidate training programs, voter outreach events, financial assistance, campaign publicity—basically any and everything we could to support our amazing candidates. Today, the organization provides all of this and more with the addition of She’s Electable Nebraska, LLC, providing</p>
<p>then brought together doctors and community leaders to stop the state legislature from passing a total abortion ban.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u><b>Women Who Run Nebraska fought against the 2022 proposed total abortion ban Women Who Run Nebraska, Facebook, 1/13/2022</b></u></a> The past week has been a busy one in the Nebraska State Legislature. If you haven’t been glued to the proceedings like we have, here are a few bills that have been introduced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A bill that would remove any permit requirements for carrying a concealed weapon in the state.</li> <li>2. A bill allowing doctors to deny care based on their personal beliefs.</li> <li>3. A bill that would shorten the window for early voting, and ban underfunded County Election departments from accepting private grants and contributions to run effective elections.</li> <li><b>4. A bill to adopt the (misleadingly named) Heartbeat Act and another bill to put a total ban on abortion (including emergency contraception) should the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade.</b></li> <li>5. A bill to prohibit changes to comprehensive health standards in public schools while also including information about preventing disabilities like cerebral palsy, autism and</li> </ol>

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<p>Now, Denise is running for Congress to stop Donald Trump’s attack on our Democracy.</p>	<p><a href="#"><b><u>@DeniseForCongress, Facebook, 1/20/2026</u></b></a>  It’s been a year since Trump was inaugurated and we are not safer, not stronger, and not more financially secure. It’s time for change in 2026.</p>
<p>The daughter of Cuban and Chilean immigrants,</p>	<p><a href="#"><b><u>“Donor Spotlight: Denise,” Denise Powell, Share Omaha, 4/7/2021</u></b></a>  My husband and I moved to Omaha 12 years ago. I’m originally from Miami, Florida and the daughter of Cuban and Chilean immigrants. My parents were (and continue to be) advocates for the Latino community...</p>
<p>Denise Powell has been on the front lines helping</p>	<p><b><i>From June 2017 to October 2023, Powell served as a Board Member for the Immigrant Legal Center.</i></b></p>

provide immigrants with legal aid.

[Denise Powell, LinkedIn, accessed 2/10/2026](#)



Denise Blaya Powell (She/Her)

Candidate for Nebraska's Second Congressional District | Working mom |



Board Member

Immigrant Legal Center

Jun 2017 - Oct 2023 · 6 yrs 5 mos

Civil Rights and Social Action

She was the first candidate to call for Kristi Noem's impeachment and in Congress, Denise will hold ICE agents accountable, put an end to ICE's lawlessness and stop Donald Trump's attacks on our Democracy.

***On January 10, 2026, Powell released a statement calling for the impeachment of Kristi Noem. She was the first candidate in the primary field to do so.***

[@DeniseForNE, Twitter, 1/27/2026](#)

We've seen enough. It's time for Kristi Noem to go.

***On January 7, 2026, Powell demanded accountability from ICE, DHS, and everyone involved, including Trump. She demanded due process and adherence to the U.S. Constitution.***

[@DeniseForNE, Twitter, 1/7/2026](#)

My statement on the horrific ICE shooting in Minnesota:

I am tired. Tired of watching people across this country get shot - with guns or pepper spray - by masked ICE agents. Tired of seeing pregnant women dragged through icy streets, and seeing children physically torn away from sobbing parents. I'm tired of neighborhood businesses shuttering their doors because their customers are too scared to leave their homes. I'm tired of hearing from American citizens about how they're driving around with their passports in hand in case they get pulled over and have to prove they belong here. I'm exhausted by the anger and the rage. This is not the America I believe we can be. Not the America I believe we SHOULD be.

**ENOUGH.** We have lost our way and it's time that we ALL take a stand and demand better.

Demand accountability from our leaders.

Demand empathy and fair treatment.

Demand due process.

Demand adherence to the United States Constitution and to the rule of law and democracy upon which this country was founded.

I know America is capable of more than this. My parents, proud immigrants themselves, taught me to believe in the American Dream and that fundamental belief - that we are a land of opportunity, and a beacon of hope in the world - is what I'm fighting for today. It's what we should ALL continue to fight for.

We must demand accountability from ICE, DHS and all of those involved, including President Trump. This tragedy must be fully investigated and this lawless behavior must end.

No one in this country is above the law.

**Denise  
POWELL**  
FOR CONGRESS

6:08 PM · Jan 7, 2026 · 2,317 Views

**["Denise Powell launches bid in Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District," Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 5/1/2025](#)**

Denise Powell, known for her role boosting new candidates with Women Who Run, is running for Congress in 2026 in Nebraska's 2nd District.

	<p>Powell told the Nebraska Examiner on Wednesday that she is running because many people in the Omaha area have lost a “voice in D.C.,” and the district needs more of an “everyday working” person to represent them.</p> <p>She said she would prioritize protecting Medicaid and Social Security, vote to ensure the federal government does its part to boost quality K-12 education and push back against the Trump administration.</p> <p>“I am not a politician,” said Powell, who is stepping away from her role with the group she helped found. “And quite frankly, I think at this moment that’s actually a good thing.”</p> <p><a href="#"><u>“ICYMI: Denise Powell Calls Out Trump’s Power Grab on Redistricting,” Press Release, Bold Democrats, 9/11/2025</u></a></p> <p>In case you missed it, as Trump and MAGA continue to push new schemes to redraw Nebraska’s congressional districts. Small business owner and Nebraska 2nd congressional candidate, Denise Powell, is voicing her thoughts on keeping a fair election and values for working families.</p> <p>Powell made it clear that attempting to change the rules in the middle of the game is an attack on honesty and representation that Nebraskans hold dear.</p> <p>...</p> <p>“This is truly changing the rules in the middle of the game, and I think Nebraskans, we really value honesty and integrity, and this feels like none of that,” Powell said on KMTV. “This feels like politicians serving the will of one person.”</p> <p>Trump and Republicans have created proposals that would redraw congressional boundaries for the Republican benefit. Powell is standing up to the Trump plan and is speaking for the Nebraskans.</p>
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<p>If John Cavanaugh goes to Congress, the Governor gets to fill Cavanaugh’s state senate seat with a MAGA Republican</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>“State Sen. John Cavanaugh defends U.S. House bid against risks to state filibuster,” Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 11/19/2025</u></a></p> <p>But in an off-year election when Democrats might win the Omaha-area race for Congress, some worry about the risks of even temporarily narrowing the party’s thin margin for those filibusters if State Sen. John Cavanaugh wins.</p> <p>Cavanaugh, who represents one of the state’s most Democratic-leaning legislative districts, would have to resign if elected and be replaced by the governor, a seat of power in Nebraska that Republicans have occupied since 1999.</p>
<p>expanding their supermajority and giving Republicans the votes they need to complete Trump’s redistricting power grab and eliminate the swing district</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>“State Sen. John Cavanaugh defends U.S. House bid against risks to state filibuster,” Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 11/19/2025</u></a></p> <p>Some local Democrats say Cavanaugh winning would allow a Republican majority to pass more controversial legislation that Democratic-aligned lawmakers and some Republican moderates have helped them stop.</p> <p>A handful argue his departure from the Legislature could spur the state to redraw the 2nd Congressional District mid-decade, putting a potential Democrat in Congress out of a job and cementing GOP power in Nebraska for another generation. Others have</p>

	<p>questioned whether the current governor, Jim Pillen, or a successor might push for a special session to further restrict abortion.</p>
<p>that has given Democrats an electoral vote in the last two presidential elections.</p>	<p><b>In 2024, Harris (D) won NE-2.</b>  <a href="#">“The Nebraska Board of State Canvassers Official Report,” Robert B. Evnen, NE SOS, 2024</a></p> <p><b>In 2020, Biden (D) won NE-2.</b>  <a href="#">“Official Report of The Nebraska Board of State Canvassers,” Robert B. Evnen, NE SOS, 2020</a></p>
<p>Republicans will have the votes to ban all abortions, gut voting rights and cripple public school funding.</p>	<p><a href="#">“State Sen. John Cavanaugh defends U.S. House bid against risks to state filibuster,” Juan Salinas II, Nebraska Examiner, 11/19/2025</a></p> <p>Some local Democrats say Cavanaugh winning would allow a Republican majority to pass more controversial legislation that Democratic-aligned lawmakers and some Republican moderates have helped them stop.</p> <p>A handful argue his departure from the Legislature could spur the state to redraw the 2nd Congressional District mid-decade, putting a potential Democrat in Congress out of a job and cementing GOP power in Nebraska for another generation. Others have questioned whether the current governor, Jim Pillen, or a successor might push for a special session to further restrict abortion.</p> <p><a href="#">“Nebraska 6-week abortion ban fails to advance in Legislature.” Associated Press, 4/27/23</a></p> <p>An effort to advance a bill that would ban abortion around the sixth week of pregnancy fell one vote short of breaking a filibuster in the Nebraska Legislature on Thursday.</p>