

MEMO

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: NPA Polling
DATE: October 22nd, 2026
RE: Nebraska 2026 General Election Tracker, Round 2: Statewide Results

BOTTOM LINE

An NPA Polling survey of likely Nebraska voters conducted October 15th to 18th, 2026, finds Republican Pete Ricketts leading Independent Dan Osborn 46% to 43% for U.S. Senate, unchanged from an NPA Polling survey conducted two weeks earlier and within the +/-4.0% margin of error. Republican Jim Pillen leads Democrat Lynne Walz 47% to 41% for Governor, up from 44% to 40% two weeks earlier.

U.S. SENATE: RICKETTS HOLDS A 3-POINT LEAD

Statewide likely voters. Ballot totals include voters leaning toward a candidate. The analysis below is based on Full Ballot crosstabs.

Candidate	Round 1 Oct 2 nd -5 th	Round 2 Oct 15 th -18 th
Full ballot		
Pete Ricketts (R)	46%	46%
Dan Osborn (I)	43%	43%
Mike Marvin (LMN)	2%	2%
Robin Richards (NWP)	2%	1%
Chuck Conboy (AF)	2%	2%
Undecided	5%	5%
Head-to-head		
Pete Ricketts (R)	49%	50%
Dan Osborn (I)	46%	47%
Undecided	6%	3%

- **Ricketts leads by 3, unchanged from two weeks earlier.** Asked the full five-candidate ballot, voters favor Pete Ricketts (R) 46% to Dan Osborn (I) 43%, the same as two weeks earlier. Head-to-head, Ricketts leads 50% to 47%, compared with 49% to 46% two weeks earlier.
- **Both candidates are underwater.** Osborn is 44% favorable to 50% unfavorable (-6), and Ricketts is 43% to 52% (-10).

GOVERNOR: PILLEN'S LEAD GROWS TO 6

Statewide likely voters. Ballot totals include voters leaning toward a candidate.

Candidate	Round 1 Oct 2 nd -5 th	Round 2 Oct 15 th -18 th
Jim Pillen (R)	44%	47%
Lynne Walz (D)	40%	41%
Brett Lindstrom (AF)	7%	5%
Rick Beard (LMN)	5%	3%
Undecided	4%	4%

- **Pillen leads by 6, up from 4 two weeks earlier.** Asked the four-candidate ballot, voters favor Jim Pillen (R) 47% to Lynne Walz (D) 41%, with Brett Lindstrom (America First) at 5% and Rick Beard (Legal Marijuana NOW) at 3%. Two weeks earlier, Pillen led 44% to 40%, with Lindstrom at 7% and Beard at 5%.

WHO IS IN THE SAMPLE

Round 2 statewide likely voters (October 15th to 18th, 2026). Weighted percentages; may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Political	%	Demographic	%
Party Registration		Age	
Republican	55%	18–34	15%
Democrat	28%	35–44	15%
Nonpartisan / other party	16%	45–54	15%
Unsure / refused	1%	55–64	18%
Ideology		65+	37%
Conservative	48%	Sex	
Moderate	26%	Male	49%
Liberal	23%	Female	51%
Unsure	3%	Race	
2024 Presidential Vote		White	88%
Trump	56%	Black	3%
Harris	36%	Hispanic	5%
Someone else	4%	Asian	2%
Did not vote	3%	Other	2%
Don't know / Do not recall	1%	Refused	<1%
		Education	
		High school or less	20%
		Some college / tech	39%
		Bachelor's degree	23%
		Graduate degree	18%

GEOGRAPHY

Statewide by Media Market	%
OMAHA DMA	53%
Douglas	29%
Sarpy	11%
Rest of Omaha DMA	13%
LINCOLN & HASTINGS-KRNY DMA	36%
Lancaster	15%
Rest of Lincoln DMA	21%
Rest of State	11%

Methodology: NPA Polling surveyed likely 2026 general election voters in Nebraska via live calls and text-to-web from a voter-file-based sample. Round 1 was conducted October 2nd to 5th, 2026, with a statewide sample of 600 interviews, and Round 2 was conducted October 15th to 18th, 2026, with a statewide sample of 598 interviews. Each round also includes an oversample weighted down to its share of the electorate. Results are weighted to match the expected statewide electorate on key demographics and geography. The margin of error for each round is +/-4.0% at a 95% confidence level; margins of error for subgroups are larger. Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding, and net scores are calculated before rounding.