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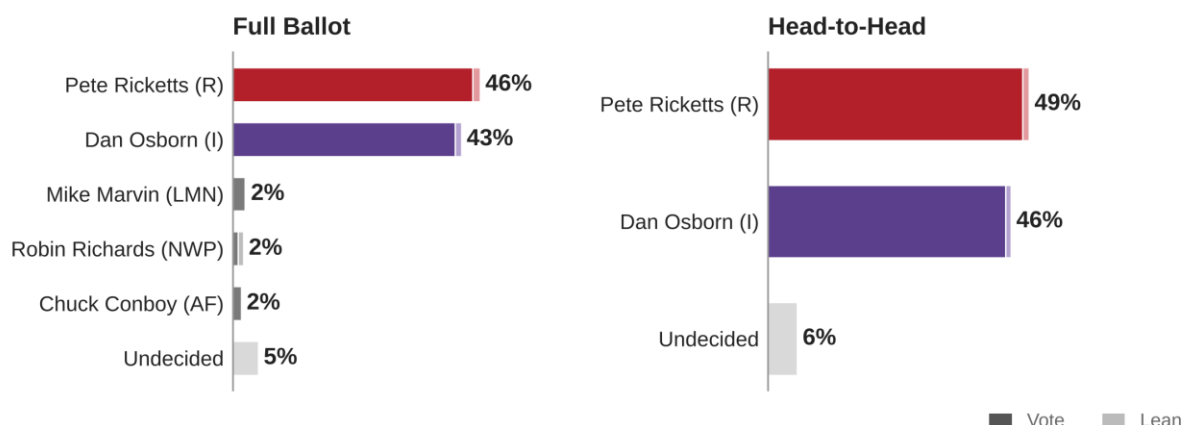
TO: Interested Parties
FROM: NPA Polling
DATE: October 12th, 2026
RE: Nebraska 2026 General Election Survey Results

BOTTOM LINE

Republican Pete Ricketts leads Independent Dan Osborn by 3 points for U.S. Senate, and Republican Jim Pillen leads Democrat Lynne Walz by 4 points for Governor; both races are close given the +/-4.0% statewide margin of error. In NE-02, Democrat Denise Powell leads Republican Brinker Harding 50% to 38%, in line with a district where President Trump's job approval is 18 points underwater.

U.S. SENATE: A MARGIN-OF-ERROR RACE

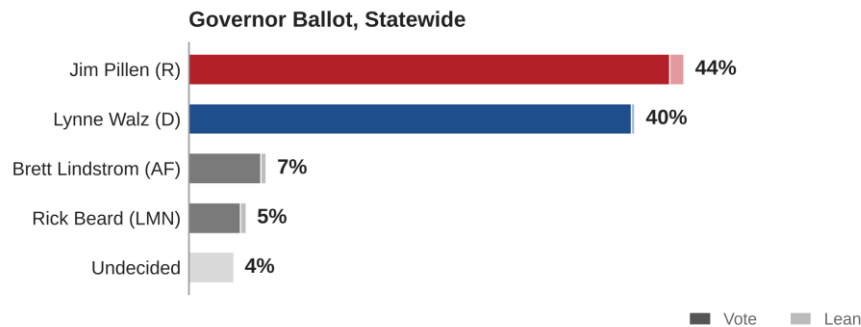
Statewide likely voters. Ballot totals include voters leaning toward a candidate. The analysis below is based on Full Ballot crosstabs.



- **Ricketts leads by 3 on both ballots.** Asked the full five-candidate ballot, voters favor Pete Ricketts (R) 46% to Dan Osborn (I) 43%. Head-to-head, it is 49% to 46%.
- **Osborn runs about 4 points ahead of the partisan baseline.** Republicans lead the generic congressional ballot 48% to 40% (R+8), against R+3 on the Senate ballot. Osborn's image is 44% favorable to 48% unfavorable (-4); Ricketts is 42% to 53% (-11).
- **Education and age divide the race.** Non-college voters back Ricketts 53% to 36%, and college graduates back Osborn 53% to 37%. Voters under 55 favor Osborn 49% to 36%, while voters 55 and older favor Ricketts 55% to 38%.
- **The most motivated voters favor Osborn.** Voters who rate their motivation a 10 out of 10 (77%) back Osborn 48% to 43%, while everyone else backs Ricketts 57% to 24%. Definite voters are tied at 46%, and registered Democrats are more likely than registered Republicans to rate their motivation a 10 (90% to 73%).

GOVERNOR: PILLEN HAS NOT CONSOLIDATED REPUBLICANS

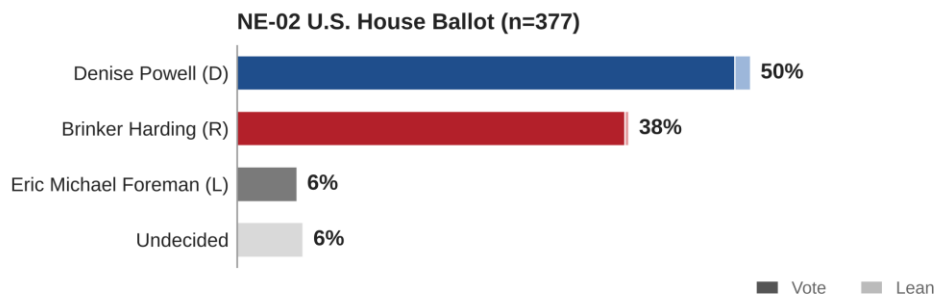
Statewide likely voters. Ballot totals include voters leaning toward a candidate.



- **Pillen leads by 4.** Asked the four-candidate ballot, voters favor Jim Pillen (R) 44% to Lynne Walz (D) 40%, with Brett Lindstrom (America First) at 7% and Rick Beard (Legal Marijuana NOW) at 5%.
- **Lindstrom is costing Pillen.** Pillen takes 73% of registered Republicans, against 77% for Ricketts, and Lindstrom takes 9% of them. Pillen has the weakest image tested at 41% favorable to 53% unfavorable, and Walz is even at 41% to 41%.
- **The same divides and the same motivation gap.** Pillen leads non-college voters 50% to 31%, and Walz leads college graduates 53% to 36%. The most motivated voters favor Walz 47% to 43%.

NE-02: POWELL LEADS OUTSIDE THE MARGIN

NE-02 likely voters. Ballot totals include voters leaning toward a candidate.



- **Powell leads by 12.** Asked the three-candidate House ballot, NE-02 voters favor Denise Powell (D) 50% to Brinker Harding (R) 38%, with Eric Michael Foreman (Libertarian) at 6%.
- **The district leans Democratic.** Trump job approval is 40% to 58%, and Democrats lead the generic ballot 49% to 40%. Osborn leads Ricketts 50% to 41%, and Walz leads Pillen 48% to 40%. Powell matches Osborn, while Harding runs 3 points behind Ricketts.
- **Powell has the better image and the firmer base.** She is 43% favorable to 39% unfavorable (+4), against 36% to 44% for Harding (-8). Powell takes 89% of registered Democrats, while Harding takes 72% of registered Republicans and loses 19% of them to Powell.
- **Harding leads only with older voters.** Powell leads women 53% to 35%, college graduates 55% to 35% and voters under 55 by 58% to 25%. Harding leads voters 55 and older, 50% to 42%.

DEMOGRAPHIC ROLLUP: STATEWIDE AND NE-02

Weighted percentages; may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Political	State	NE-02
Party Registration		
Republican	53%	41%
Democrat	26%	35%
Nonpartisan	15%	18%
Other party	3%	4%
Unsure	3%	2%
Ideology		
Conservative	49%	37%
Moderate	27%	30%
Liberal	22%	29%
Unsure	3%	4%
2024 Presidential Vote		
Trump	56%	43%
Harris	37%	49%
Someone else	3%	3%
Did not vote / DK	4%	5%

Demographic	State	NE-02
Age		
18-34	14%	15%
35-44	15%	17%
45-54	15%	17%
55-64	18%	18%
65+	38%	33%
Gender		
Male	49%	48%
Female	51%	52%
Race		
White	88%	83%
Black	3%	6%
Hispanic	3%	3%
Asian / Other	6%	8%
Education		
High school or less	24%	19%
Some college / tech	35%	32%
Bachelor's degree	24%	26%
Graduate degree	17%	23%

GEOGRAPHY

Statewide by Media Market	%
OMAHA DMA	52%
Douglas	28%
Sarpy	11%
Rest of Omaha DMA	14%
LINCOLN & HASTINGS-KRNY DMA	38%
Lancaster	17%
Rest of Lincoln DMA	20%
Rest of State	11%

NE-02 by County	%
Douglas	86%
Sarpy	10%
Saunders	4%

Methodology: NPA Polling surveyed 800 likely 2026 general election voters in Nebraska from October 2nd to 5th, 2026, via live calls and text-to-web from a voter-file-based sample. The sample consists of 600 statewide interviews plus a 200-interview oversample in NE-02. Statewide results are weighted on all 800 interviews, with the oversample weighted down to NE-02's share of the state. NE-02 results (n=377) are weighted separately to district targets. The margin of error is +/-4.0% statewide, based on the 600-interview statewide sample, and +/-5.0% for NE-02 (n=377), at a 95% confidence level. Margins of error for subgroups are larger. Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding, and totals may not equal the sum of their components.