



Sarpy Clerk of the District Court

Paul Cook

Party: Republican

Information about making contact with the candidate:

Volunteer lives in Sarpy County.
 3/10/18, 7:13pm, left phone message
 3/11/18, 3:20pm, candidate returned call, gave access code verbally
 3/15/18, 3:10pm, reminder call – had not looked at site yet.
 Candidate stated he had experienced some unpleasantness from VIP in the past and probably not going to be answering.

Dori Heath

Party: Republican

Website: <https://www.votedoriheath.com/>

Information about making contact with the candidate:

Volunteer lives in Sarpy County.
 3/10/18, 7:13pm, left phone message
 3/13/18, 5:40pm, texted to connect
 3/13/18, 6:21pm, candidate gave permission in text to send code
 3/13/18, 8:12pm, code texted, asked for 3/17 deadline
 3/19/18, 11:24am, reminder text
 3/19/18, 12:23pm, candidate responded to text
 3/22/18, evening, reminder call – hoped maybe do tonight.
 3/24/18, 2:33pm, reminder text
 4/17/18, 8:22pm, campaign manager reported they were working on the questionnaire
 ANSWERS SUBMITTED BY EMAIL April 19, 2018, 7:07 a.m.

Angelica Morones-Harris

Party: Republican

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Angie4Clerk/>

Information about making contact with the candidate:

Volunteer lives in Sarpy County.
 3/10/18, 7:29pm, aiming for Wednesday deadline
 3/10/18, 7:49pm, emailed access code
 3/13/18, 4:08pm, candidate emailed asking for extension of deadline
 3/13/18, 4:17pm, deadline extended to Saturday

ANSWERS SUBMITTED ONLINE March 15, 2018, 8:31 p.m.

Barbara Pousson

Party: Republican

Information about making contact with the candidate:

Volunteer lives in Sarpy County.
 3/10/18, 7:15pm, gave access code on the phone.
 3/10/18, 7:25pm, emailed instructions and access code
 ANSWERS SUBMITTED ONLINE March 12, 2018, 3:29 p.m.

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[BIOGRAPHICAL] Please share biographical information, e.g. family members, affiliations such as church, and/or professional groups, employment, etc. that you consider important for voters to know. You may also reference your website.

Paul Cook	Candidate has not submitted an answer.
Dori Heath	At a young age, I overcame health-related hurdles that have helped to make me the strong person that I am today. I am extremely proud of my upbringing, my family, my education and my professional work history, which makes me the most qualified candidate in this election. To show voters that I have nothing to hide, I have created my own website to share my biography for all to see and read. The details will show exactly why I am the candidate out front breaking away from the pack. Please take a moment to visit www.VoteDoriHeath.com/meet-dori [See above for live link] to read my biography. I am the only candidate to offer such transparency and comprehensive information to voters.
Angelica Morones-Harris	I was born & raised in Roswell, New Mexico. My legal name is Angelica Morones-Harris but most people know me as Angie. I moved to Sarpy County 21 years ago. I am the daughter of Lorenzo & Elena Morones. My husband, Randy Morones-Harris and I have been married for 9 years. I have worked at the Sarpy County Clerk of District Court office for 19 years. In those 19 years I have learned many of the positions so that I could help out whenever and wherever needed. I graduated high school from Robert H. Goddard High School. I also have an Associates Degree as a Litigation-Paralegal from Metropolitan Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Communications from Bellevue University. I am a member of St. Columbkille Catholic Church, Sarpy County Republic Woman, Sarpy County GOP Central Committee, Republican Business & Professional Woman, Previous Vice President of the Sarpy County Employee Association (now just a member). I volunteer my time whenever I can around our community and also at the Open Door Mission. You can find current information on my Facebook page at "Angie4Clerk".
Barbara Pousson	I am a Certified Court Manager and current Sarpy County Court Clerk. I am the only candidate with the proven experience and strong Sarpy county professional and community relationships to efficiently aid and promote the judicial process. My experience is, 16 years as the Sarpy County Court Clerk, proven supervisory experience, supervising a staff of 18 clerks, I implemented cutting edge technology as the Court Clerk. 25 years total as a Court Manager. My education is a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Wayne State College and also a Certified Court Manager with the National Center for State Courts. Affiliated with the following memberships: National Center for Court

Management, Nebraska County Court Association, Criminal Justice Coordination committee with Sarpy County. Community involvements include, 16 years as a resident of Sarpy County, member of St. Columbkille Catholic Church ,

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[MOTIVATION/QUALIFICATIONS] List three (3) needs/goals you want to address in this office. What makes you the right person to address these needs and goals?

Paul Cook	Candidate has not submitted an answer.
Dori Heath	1. Fairness and great customer service to all constituents and various county officials, judges and their staff. 2. Manage the budget and operation of the office in the best interest of taxpayers. 3. Institute new technology that moves us forward and protects and secures our data infrastructure.
Angelica Morones-Harris	With my 19 years of experience in the office I have seen some areas that I think could use some improvement. First, Cross train all the office staff so that we can better serve the public’s needs. Our documents are important and should not be delayed because the responsible person is out sick, on vacation or dealing with family needs. Second, improve payment options to improve collections. When the court isn’t collecting payments, it has lost revenue and the county must track down payments. This costs taxpayers money. Currently our office only accepts cash & checks at our office so if someone comes in to pay by credit card we have to send them home to go pay online. Third, I will work to better collaborate with the Judges and other county offices for improved processes and communication. How we process between our judges and other county offices must be more efficient. Employees should not have to work to track down documents or information they need. Judges and county offices face the same challenges from time to time. By improving the process and communication we can make everyone more productive and this saves taxpayers money.
Barbara Pousson	My three goals: Technology: Maximize the use of all available technology, e-filing, scanning, docket and being paperless. As clerk of the County Court we use everything that we can to the fullest to help with the office workflow. In using all this technology, I have been able to cut 1 full time position in my office. In County Court I am paperless in the Civil division, I have been e-filing in the Civil division since 2006, we were the pilot for the state of Nebraska. Customer Service: With the increase in Pro Se “Self represented Litigants” more customer service is required. More care is given when dealing with these cases, more phone time and guidance. Also customer service to other court users like the County Attorney’s, Sheriff’s office, and Public Defenders. I must make the court experience as easy as possible and that is for all users. Positive Interaction with all county offices: It is my experience the District Court Clerk and her office have a very guarded and stand offish interactions with the other offices and Judges in the courthouse. It is my goal to reverse this conflict and

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[PERSONAL STORY] Please briefly describe a situation where you had to stand alone for what you thought was right when the momentum was pushing the other way. For example you may want to discuss when your personal views didn't agree with your peers, an authority in your life, a donor, a lobbyist, etc. What was the result?

Paul Cook	Candidate has not submitted an answer.
Dori Heath	Quite a few years ago, I attended a meeting where an employee was being, in my opinion, railroaded. I decided to go and give my support and opinion if need be. He was hired as a contracted employee, but was changed to an hourly employee. He hit the ground running and though he was not being paid what he was worth, he loved what he was doing and it was obvious. His two bosses were unreasonable, unprofessional and lacked a mediator to facilitate this meeting. His boss, Steve, did not use any of the basic interventions. The meeting got heated and accusatory. They also addressed his pay rate and decided to reduce his salary, again, There was no reason given and by that time the meeting was out of control. Steve interrupted our statements and talked over us to get his point made. Steve refused to ask questions, thus failing to determine why we had a different opinion and why I felt compelled to support the employee. Steve didn’t like to be questioned and became angry. Sharon (the other boss) should have defused the situation by asking, paraphrasing or
Angelica Morones-Harris	There have been instances when conflict arose over procedural changes within the office. In this particular case, management sternly believed that paperwork should have been processed one way, but I thought differently. Over the

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course of time I developed continuity books for a majority of the procedure and updates to them. I always note anytime the procedure was updated, who changed it and the date it changed. I was able to show the boss my procedure notes and any changes that happened.

Barbara Pousson

As Judicial Administrator of the Sarpy County Court I and my staff are State of Nebraska employees. I have a hard time when in the winter and the County Offices are closed due to weather. My office cannot close unless it is a major weather emergency. I do not believe that the county offices should follow Offutt Air Force bases closure or last start policies. I believe we should be open along with every other business, we are here for the people and to serve the people. This is an ongoing discussion I have with many in the County Administration and it has not been resolved as of yet.

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[CONSTITUENTS ISSUES] If elected to this office, what will be your guiding philosophy in dealing with conflict between your thinking and your constituents' views? A. Will you vote your conscience even when a majority of your constituents disagree with you? B. How will you measure the voice of your constituents? C. When you can't make up your mind, to whom will you go for advice? D. Describe your intended methods of availability to constituents.

Paul Cook

Candidate has not submitted an answer.

Dori Heath

If elected to this office I (and my staff) will faithfully uphold our duty to uphold the law of the land every single day. Every constituent will be treated fairly and equally and when constituents do not understand some aspect of their interaction with the office, we will always go out of our way to help them understand the steps required for them to navigate their way through District Court. Our customer service is so extensive that we actually help constituents who come to our office asking for help from County Court next door when no help is offered. We go so far as to look up related information so the constituent can take that info back to county court, so they know the case number and can easily access the customer's case.

Angelica Morones-Harris

The position of Clerk of the District Court is guided by established guidelines and procedures. I would update these policies and procedures to make the office more efficient for both the taxpayers and the court/legal system. My goal for each budget would be to return money back to the county. Each year, I will start with a zero-sum budget approach, and only request what I believe we need to efficiently run the office.

Barbara Pousson

I will be doing the work for the people. I will take my clues from the feed back received about the work being done in my office.

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[GOVERNMENT ROLE] In a general sense, what role should government play in individual and community lives?

Paul Cook

Candidate has not submitted an answer.

Dori Heath

I believe that government should not infringe heavily on its citizens. The basic functions of the United States government are listed in the Constitution. They are: 'To form a more perfect Union'; 'To establish Justice'; 'To insure domestic Tranquility'; 'To provide for the common defense'; 'To promote the general Welfare'; and 'To secure the Blessings of Liberty.' I am obviously heavily involved with 'To establish justice' portion of government and passionate about this aspect. Without justice and the rule of law, the rights we cherish as individuals would be considerably diminished.

Angelica Morones-Harris

I believe in limited government, and individual rights and freedoms.

Barbara Pousson

I believe that one of the most powerful things we can do as citizens of Sarpy County is to vote. By having our vote counted we are acting out our right to have the best life possible.

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[ACTIVITIES] Describe the various activities/responsibilities of the position.

Paul Cook	Candidate has not submitted an answer.
Dori Heath	The Clerk of the District Court administers and maintains all official court records, files, and records of proceedings for the district and juvenile courts, as well as records for the Mental Health Board. The cases consist of felony criminal cases, domestic cases (dissolution of marriage and paternity/support cases), civil cases over \$53,000, construction liens, appeals from county court and protection orders. The District Court is responsible for the selection of both civil and criminal juries in addition of appeals to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. The District Court Clerk is tasked with compiling and computing the IV-D reimbursement funds on a quarterly basis, managing the passport acceptance staff and the yearly submission of the budget for the office. The District Court Clerk's office is responsible for collecting and disbursing court funds for spousal support, monetary judgments, bail, foreclosures, fines and other court costs. In a typical year the office processes over \$5 million.
Angelica Morones-Harris	The Clerk of the District Court performs administrative duties for the court. Some of those duties are being a record keeper for all the District Court files and also of the Juvenile Court files. Managing a staff of 13 people. Keeping track of the budget for the office. Manages time cards to submit to payroll department. Helps with the jury when there is a jury case in District Court. Manager of all the passport agents in the office. Helps get the process started for judicial bypass paperwork. Manages and processes the mental health cases.
Barbara Pousson	The District Court hears all felony criminal cases, equity cases, domestic relations cases, and civil cases involving more than \$52,000. It also functions as an appellate court in deciding appeals from county courts and various administrative agencies. The Clerk of the District Court, besides being the administrative officer of the court, is responsible for the record keeping and collection of child support payments, the record keeping of criminal and civil cases, maintenance of the court's dockets, processing judgments, and verifying passport applications. The District Court clerk has a staff of 14 clerks, the Clerk is responsible maintaining the management of this staff. Also creating and maintain a yearly budget.

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Paul Cook	Candidate has not submitted an answer.
Dori Heath	No one in my family has any business relationship with city, county or state government. I currently serve the taxpayers in the District Court, as the Chief Deputy Clerk (2nd in command).
Angelica Morones-Harris	Only that I currently work in the Clerk of District Court office.
Barbara Pousson	I am now the Judicial Administrator for County Court, I have my office and court rooms in the Sarpy County Courthouse. I have a county budget that I have to submit and maintain.

[Back to top](#)**[ELECTED OR APPOINTED] What value do local citizens receive from this being an elected instead of appointed position?**

Paul Cook	Candidate has not submitted an answer.
Dori Heath	Customer service is a premium standard in our office, because as an elected office we never forget that we are here to serve the taxpayers, our constituents. I believe in transparency and accountability and I will work to maintain efficient use of tax dollars. I believe our professional standard is enhanced by holding this office accountable to voters in elections, an advantage over appointed offices where there are limited repercussions as customer service falls by the wayside.
Angelica Morones-Harris	The citizens would have more control as to who gets in office because of their votes. The citizens should hold elected

officials accountable, including Clerk of the District Court.

Barbara Pousson

I believe there is no extra value in having the Clerk of the District Court be an elected position. I believe that you need the most qualified person in a position and going through the hiring process instead of an election would make a stronger Clerk. I believe that an appointed person would save tax payer money in not having to run a campaign every four years. I also believe that a position like this needs more accountability and being an appointed office head they would be working for the County Administrator and the Judges that would be able to hold them accountable for their actions.

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[PEOPLE SKILLS] Describe the people management skills and/or training you possess.

Paul Cook

Candidate has not submitted an answer.

Dori Heath

Of my 34 years working in Nebraska's court systems, I have nearly 16 years managing people and operations in District Court. No other candidate can make that claim. Furthermore, I don't solely manage so much as I provide "leadership" and "empowerment" to my team. This is a big distinction in my candidacy and is why I historically have no turnover in District Court as the Clerk. Additionally, my education has also been a factor in developing my skills. I am a lifelong learner and I recently completed my Master's of Science in Negotiation & Dispute Resolution from Creighton University in 2016. This was a natural fit for my demeanor, my ability to work with others and to see the other person's perspective. The lessons learned in that program not only helps in the field of mediation & conflict resolution, but also as a supervisor and leader. It gives a perspective that helps one understand the importance of the other's position and interests; allowing me to create a framework for dialogue and more openness, in and out of the District Court.

Angelica Morones-Harris

When I was 18 years old and just about to graduate high school, I worked at a retirement home in Roswell, New Mexico as a dietitian assistant. While working there almost 2 years I was asked to be the supervisor of the kitchen staff because the current management was moving over to the new building and they needed a new management staff at the current building. I accepted the supervisory position but after graduation came to visit my sister who lived in Bellevue at the time and ended up falling in love with Nebraska and have lived here ever since. In September of 1996 I began working at the Offutt Air Force Base Exchange (BX). I first began working there as a cashier and then I moved to the outdoor living/toy department. Then about a year or so later I became the night cashier supervisor. On February 22, 1999 I began working at the Sarpy County Clerk of District Court office. I first started out as a Clerical Support Specialist. While in this position I liked helping others when they needed it so I would jump in and learn other people's jobs to help them out when I could. I [Read More](#)

Barbara Pousson

I am a Certified Court Manager with the National Center for State Courts, I supervise a staff of 18 court clerks for the last 16 years. No one else running for this office has that kind of experience in court management.

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[BUREAUCRATIC] In a bureaucratic office where public policies are implemented, not decided, how will you faithfully represent the interests of the citizens?

Paul Cook

Candidate has not submitted an answer.

Dori Heath

The District Court is an integral part of our judicial system and much more complex than county court, which deals with speeding tickets, misdemeanor and small claims cases. The cases in District Court are serious in nature and it is imperative for the plaintiff, defendant, judge and taxpayers, that records are organized and managed for accurate storage and retrieval as cases are opened, closed and reopened, potentially many times. Running an error-free District Court requires establishing and maintaining processes that insure the office executes its duties efficiently and fairly to all citizens alike. The only partisan aspect of District Court is this election. Otherwise, it is the duty of this office and the court to check partisanship at the door and simply follow and execute the responsibilities of this office using established processes, state statutes and reasoning based on law. I have extensive experience managing District Court on all levels as a former Clerk of the District Court where I was elected 4 terms. Here in Sarpy I have been the Chief Deputy (2nd in command) for over 14 months.

Angelica Morones-Harris

My goal will be to do a complete review of policies to ensure they are performed in both the best interests of the citizens and the court system we administer. I believe there are many procedures that can be updated to better serve

these interests. I also believe there can be many administrative changes that can be made to make the office more efficient and effective.

Barbara Pousson I will do my best to serve everyone that has a need to come and do business with the courts, also to be a good leader that the County can be proud of. I will serve the Judges and staff to the best that I can. I will follow the law and policies set out for me.

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[PERSONAL VIEWS] Though in this position you will not likely make any decisions on these topics, voters would like to know how you handle controversial social issues. For example, please provide your personal positions on abortion, same sex relationships, transgender restrooms, etc.

Paul Cook Candidate has not submitted an answer.

Dori Heath I am pro-life and have a CCW.

Angelica Morones-Harris I am a Pro Life, Pro-Family candidate. I am a strong supporter of 2nd Amendment Rights.

Barbara Pousson I chose not to answer this question. I believe everyone should be treated fairly and without fear of being discriminated against.

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[ANYTHING ELSE?] Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.

Paul Cook Candidate has not submitted an answer.

Dori Heath As the most qualified candidate, I am the only candidate who brings actual District Court Managerial and Leadership experience to this office. I am unique in that I bring both new blood and extensive experience to this office. While I am currently the Chief Deputy (2nd in command) to the Sarpy County Clerk of the District Court, Carol Kremer, I was previously a 4-term Clerk of the District Court in Colfax County before moving to Sarpy to marry my husband. I am honored to be endorsed by Carol Kremer (current Clerk of the District Court), Deb Houghtaling (Sarpy County Clerk), Rita Sanders (Mayor of Bellevue) and 29 Clerks of the District Court from all over our great state. These are solid leaders who strongly believe in public service and recognize strong competent leadership when they see it.

Angelica Morones-Harris On November 2, 2017 I completed chemo treatments for stage 3 ovarian cancer. Cancer is not going to define me or hold me back. It has instilled a drive in me. It is the same type of drive I want to take to serve as your next Clerk of the District Court. Also, one more goal I have if you choose me as your next Clerk of District Court is to return unspent allocated dollars back to the county each year. My goal will not be to hit the allocated budget, but to come in under that budget.

Barbara Pousson I am proud to say that I am endorsed by the Sarpy County Sherriff, Jeff Davis, and the Sarpy County Public Defender, Tom Strigenz. These division heads have worked with me for 16 years and know that I have the most experience to become the next Clerk of the District Court. And again I have lived in the county for 16 years, I am vested in the community, I am life long conservative and I am trusted by all that work and know me. Thank you and I would love to have your support on May 15th.

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