



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce to host City Council candidate forums ahead of general election

HASTINGS, Neb. — Two general election candidate forums, titled **“An Evening with the Candidates,”** will be held Sept. 29 and Sept. 30 at the Adams County Fairgrounds Community Service Building, 947 S. Baltimore Ave. Both events will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The free event will allow community members to hear directly from candidates seeking seats on the Hastings City Council ahead of the Nov. 3 general election. The forums are intended to allow voters to learn more about the candidates, hear their priorities, and gain insight into issues affecting Hastings and its residents.

Hastings is divided into four City Council wards, with two council members representing each ward. Council members are elected to four-year terms by voters within their respective wards, according to the City of Hastings. Candidates for City Council Wards 1 and 2 will participate Tuesday, Sept. 29. Candidates for Wards 3 and 4 will participate Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Each forum will begin with candidate introductions and opening statements. Candidates will have three minutes for an introductory statement and two minutes for closing remarks. Candidates who cannot attend in person may submit a two-minute statement for the moderator to read.

The question-and-answer portion will include 30 minutes of questions prepared by the Chamber’s Legislative Committee, followed by 15 minutes for audience questions. Audience members can submit written questions on cards, which the moderator will review and select.

Candidates will generally have two minutes to answer each question, with the order of first responses rotating among candidates. If a candidate mentions another candidate negatively or makes a claim about another candidate, that candidate will be given one minute for a rebuttal.

To uphold a respectful and informative environment, candidates are expected to follow established forum rules and remain respectful toward other candidates, the moderator, timers, and audience members. Campaign signs and materials will not be permitted inside the forum room. Campaign materials may be placed outside the room but cannot be displayed where they are visible from inside.

Audience members will also be asked to remain seated and quiet during the forum, silence their phones, and refrain from applause or positive or negative comments. Signs and campaign materials will not be allowed inside the forum.