

Rita Sanders



Rita Sanders is running for the Nebraska State Senate District 45 seat as a Republican. Her motto is, “if you’re going to complain, be part of the solution.”

Originally from Oahu, Hawaii, she has also lived in Germany and California, but ultimately ended up in Bellevue, Nebraska, in 1983. It was here where she has raised her two sons, built a career in commercial real estate development, and served as Mayor for the City of Bellevue for 8 years beginning when she was first elected in 2010. She was re-elected for a second term in 2014 and declined to run for a third term in 2018.

Sanders is very involved in the community, participating in everything from the Bellevue

Garden Club, the Offutt Advisory Council, and various nonprofit organization boards of directors. She has won a multitude of awards in recognition of her involvement including a Small Business of Excellence Award in 2005, Bellevue Ambassador of the Year Award in 2005, and the Nebraska National Guard’s Distinguished Service Award for Civilians in 2018. She and her husband developed and own a retirement home in Bellevue. Sanders also describes herself as an outdoor enthusiast and lifelong learner. She continues to take classes at Bellevue University as a way “to keep in touch with the next generation.”

Sanders has been outspoken about her desire to support veterans, our schools, bringing good-paying jobs to Nebraska, and to reduce what she believes to be a property tax burden on Nebraskans.