

## POSTVILLE

STVILLE  
*Herald*



**Remember to**  
**VOTE!**

An illustration showing three hands (one brown, two light-skinned) placing a white ballot into a blue ballot box. The box features the American flag design with three white stars on a blue background and three red and white stripes. To the right, a red banner contains the text 'Local Polls Start Nov 6' in white.

POSTAL CUSTOMER

**Local Candidate Profiles**  
**Polling Locations**  
**Sample Ballot**  
**Voting FAQs and More Inside!**



***Polling locations are listed on page 2-3***

# MEET THE CANDIDATES: *QUESTION AND ANSWER*

*Candidates who returned questionnaires are listed below in alphabetical order. Answers are printed in their entirety as written by candidates with editing only for newspaper style.*



## Teresa Berg

**Is there any other topic you wish to address?** I was the president of the Postville Booster Club for many years and worked very closely with our activities departments while employed at the district, so I am familiar with our extra curricular activities, which I feel is important part of our district and making it successful. It's great to see our students in a different atmosphere besides the classroom. I have always enjoyed following and watching all extra curricular activities. I see former PHS graduates moving back or wanting to move back to the area, but are concerned about the school system. I truly encourage them that our district is doing great things and would like to see our district come complete circle to when these former graduates attended themselves and I think that can happen if we encourage people to try our district and support each other.



Travis W. Koenig

**How should the Postville Community School District handle a student population that ebbs and flows, with many students coming and going each year? I continue to believe that every student attending the Postville Community School for 6 months to 13 years deserve the access to high quality education that they are receiving.**



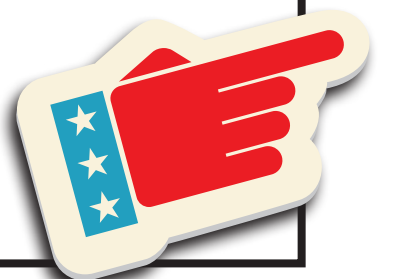
**Eric Meyer**

**Is there any other topic you wish to address?** In closing, it takes a major commitment to be a school board member but what a better positively impact the lives of the kids of the Postville School District.

# Look inside!

# Meet the Candidates

## Postville City Council









# Candidates stress transparency, revenue

**By Michael Hohenbrink**  
*Mid-America Publishing*

POSTVILLE – The election is fast approaching with the community getting a chance to see firsthand who is running for open city seats.

With three at-large city council seats up this time around, candidates include Devora Klein-Mahr, Laurie Moody, Nechama Yehuda, Rachel Sugar, Jennifer Valdez, Larry Moore, James Johnson and Giora Bass.

A candidate forum at the Wellness and Recreation Center Oct. 24 drew a crowd of roughly 70 people to check out those seeking office.

In just under an hour, the candidates gave snapshots of their experiences, from being raised right here in Allamakee County to coming to America from Israel.

After introductions, the first question was on conflict resolution.

“What steps would you take to see that this concern is addressed?”

For Bass, teamwork was stressed.

“I can tell you that listening is the key,” said Bass.

Moore said he wanted to avoid rumor mills and go right to the source.

“I think that the best point is listen to the source,” said Moore.

Valdez said it was key to follow the proper channels.

“You got to listen to everybody,” said Valdez.

Hearing every problem was key for Sugar.

“And I strongly believe in respecting everyone’s



**Dean Ohloff leads discussion at the Oct. 24 City Council forum. (Michael Hohenbrink / Mid-America Publishing photo)**

opinion, everyone’s side,” said Sugar.

Yehuda stressed teamwork.

“Like everybody said, working as a team is really, really important,” said Yehuda. “Postville is a team.”

Moody pointed to being able to change your mind.

“You may go into a situation with your opinion already formed,” said Moody.

Additional data can be key in changing that opinion.

For Klein-Mahr, transparency is important.

“And I think it’s very important to be open and to be available,” said Klein-Mahr.

Next up was city finances.

Bass said when you get a parking ticket, you aren’t happy, but there is a value for paying your share.

“You want something from the city?” said Bass.

“That’s revenue.”

Moore pointed to the realities of how money can be spent.

“The city has several funding sources,” said Moore.

Yet, these sources have designations for just how they can be used.

Discretion isn’t completely free for city officials faced with choices.

Moore said a few years ago the city had been in 800,000 in debt. Now, the city is out of debt.

Valdez agreed with Moore but said her own experience would preclude her from going into as much detail as had Moore.

“To be honest, I don’t know a lot of specifics,” said Valdez.

Sugar said similarly her experience was limited.

“I’ve only lived here three years,” said Sugar. “But I’ve learned a little bit here tonight.”

Yehuda echoed this.

“I’ve really learned a lot here tonight,” said Yehuda.

For Moody, experience with county government translates for her experience. Securing grants helps.

She also pointed to a novel approach to raise additional funds. She wants to see more visitors to Postville.

“If we increase our tourism base...they like to leave some money,” said Moody.

Klein-Mahr pointed to learning as you go.

“We are making incredible progress,” said Klein-Mahr.

# Protective and cyber security measures ensure Iowa elections are safe and secure

**By Secretary of State Paul Pate and Former U.S. Election Assistance Commission Chairman Matt Masterson**

Voting is one of the most important duties a citizen can undertake. Protecting the integrity of the vote across Iowa is of the utmost importance, and the state’s holistic approach to election security is a critical component to that. Iowa is ranked in the Top 3 nationally for Election Administration, in huge part thanks to the state’s layered approach to protective and cyber security.

While each single layer of security is vital, the integration of each layer is crucial in ensuring security and integrity of Iowa’s elections.

In each of Iowa’s 99 counties, elections are conducted independently with ample safeguards in place. Partnerships between the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office, federal security agencies, private sector companies, and local election officials allow for collaboration and innovation and further strengthen election security and the varied layers of protection required.

Protection goes beyond the days leading up to an election and those following. When not in use, voting equipment is stored in a facility accessible only to authorized election personnel.

Before voting starts in every Iowa county, rigorous pre-testing for logic

and accuracy of election equipment allows officials to attend to any challenges well before Iowans head to the polls. Every ballot tabulator is tested in view of the public ahead of the election. Sample ballots are tested on voting machines to ensure tabulators are working properly and recording votes correctly. Every tabulator produces a paper receipt of the vote totals that can be matched to the paper ballot totals to ensure accuracy.

Another layer of protection requires all 99 counties to conduct a hand count audit after every election. One randomly selected precinct in each county must conduct a hand count of votes, which is compared to the machine count to ensure its accuracy. Last election, post-election audits in all 99 counties verified the accuracy of the machine count.

Further protective and cyber security measures are instituted at all levels of an election. This includes an extensive chain of custody of records for ballots and all voting equipment. Election equipment and ballots are transported to and from polling places securely with tamper evident packaging, and each transfer is documented. Every person involved in transfers has taken an oath to uphold state election laws and

protect the security of the election.

Threats to Iowa’s election security are always evolving, including cyber threats. Every election in our state uses paper ballots. While paper ballots cannot be hacked, bad actors continue to spread false or misleading information online and use cyberattacks to further sow doubt in our elections process. Firewalls, intrusion detection, and end point protections provide 24/7 monitoring that allow us to proactively stop bad actors from getting through.

We are proud of Iowa’s holistic approach to election protective and cyber security enacted by state and local election officials. We recognize that collaboration is key in protecting the integrity of the vote, and we’re constantly adapting processes and enhancing security measures to keep up with evolving threats. Each and every election, Iowans can head to the polls knowing that their vote is safe, secure, and importantly, heard.

*Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate is the Chief Commissioner of Election for the State of Iowa. Matt Masterson is the former Chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and a previous Election Security Official with the Department of Homeland Security.*

## FAQs about voting

**Q. I lost my absentee ballot; can I just go vote on Election Day?**

**A.** Yes. When you go to vote, a poll worker will verify with the auditor’s office that your absentee ballot has not been returned. If it is confirmed that the auditor’s office has not received a ballot from you then you will be given a new ballot to vote there.

**Q. What if I lost my ID or forgot to take one with me to the polls?**

**A.** Starting in 2019, if you do not have your ID with you, you may either cast a provisional ballot or have another registered voter attest to your identity.

**Q. Can I get help marking my ballot?**

**A.** Yes. If you need assistance filling out your ballot ask a poll worker for help. A team of one republican and one democrat will come over and help you mark your ballot. Also available in each polling location is a ballot marking device that will read you all of the choices and then print out your marked ballot.

**Q. Can I register to vote on Election Day?**

**A.** Yes. Iowa law allows for Election Day registration if you are able to provide proof of identification (i.e. valid photo ID) and proof of residency (i.e. utility bill with your name on it) if your ID has an outdated address on it). If you are unable to provide one or both of these you are allowed to bring someone with you to attest that you have the right to vote.

**Q. Can I take my absentee ballot to the polls on Election Day and vote there?**

**A.** Yes. If you have not returned your absentee ballot you may go to your polling place on Election Day and vote a regular ballot.

**Q. Do I need to show ID to vote?**

**A.** Beginning January 1, 2019, Iowa voters will be required to show a driver’s license, non-driver’s ID, passport, military ID, veterans ID, Tribal ID or Voter ID Card at the polls before they vote. Voters, starting in 2019, without an ID may cast a provisional ballot or have another registered voter attest to their identity.

**Q. I am already registered but my information needs updated; can I do that on Election Day?**

**A.** Yes. While it is

recommended that you update your information prior to Election Day to speed things up at the polls, you may wait and do so on Election Day. If you are updating your address just make sure you are going to the polling place for your new address. When updating your address you will now need to provide proof of identity and proof of residency.

**Q. I can’t get out of my car; can someone bring me a ballot to vote from there?**

**A.** Yes. If you are unable to go inside the polling place a team of election workers will be sent out to your car to help you vote.

**Q. What do I need to bring with me to vote?**

**A.** Starting in January of 2019 you will be required to show identification. If you need to register to vote on Election Day, you must bring proof of identification and proof of residency.

**Q. What if I lost my ID or forgot to take one with me to the polls?**

**A.** Starting in 2019, if you do not have your ID with you, you may either cast a provisional ballot or have another registered voter attest to your identity. Learn more about provisional ballots and attesting on our Voter ID page.

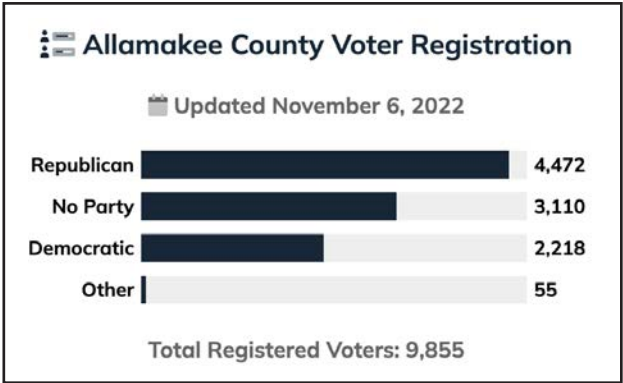
**Q. What if I’m still waiting in line when the polls close?**

**A.** So long as you are in line to vote at the time the polls close you will be allowed to vote.

**Q. What is a provisional ballot?**

**A.** If a voter’s eligibility is in

question on Election Day they are allowed to cast a provisional ballot. After the voter marks their ballot and returns it to the poll worker, the voter is required to provide the necessary identification or documentation at the polling place before it closes or provide it at the Auditor’s Office by noon on the following Monday. If the canvass will be held earlier than the following Monday, the identification must be provided before the canvass. If it is determined that you do have the right to vote in the precinct in which you voted, your ballot will then be counted and included in the final vote total.



OFFICIAL BALLOT  
City / School Election  
Allamakee County, Iowa  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

6

Postville Community School District  
For Director District At-Large

Vote for no more than Three

☐ Teresa Berg  
☐ Eric Meyer  
☐ Maria Vazquez  
☐ Travis Koenig  
☐ (Write-in vote, if any)

☐ (Write-in vote, if any)

☐ (Write-in vote, if any)

City of Postville  
For City Council At-Large

Vote for no more than Three

☐ Devora Klein-Mahr  
☐ Laurie Moody  
☐ Nechama Yehuda  
☐ Rachel Sugar  
☐ Jennifer Valdez  
☐ Larry A. Moore  
☐ James Johnson  
☐ Giora Bass  
☐ (Write-in vote, if any)  
☐ (Write-in vote, if any)  
☐ (Write-in vote, if any)

## CLEARING THE CONFUSION HOW DO I VOTE?

**Photo ID Requirements**

The State of Iowa now requires voters to show an acceptable form of ID when voting. Acceptable forms of ID are:

- Iowa Driver’s License
- Iowa Non-Operator ID
- US Passport
- US Military ID
- US Veteran’s ID
- Tribal ID
- Voter ID PIN Card

Registered voters who do not have an Iowa driver’s license or non-operator’s ID were issued a voter ID card. Voter ID cards must be signed before going to the polls. The new voter ID cards contain a four-digit PIN number that will be used for voting purposes. If you should have a voter ID card and do not, please contact our office to have one sent to you.

Voters who do not have an acceptable form of ID will be allowed to either cast a provisional ballot or have another registered voter attest to their identification. Attesters must provide proper identification for themselves in order to attest to another voter’s identification.

For a provisional ballot to be counted, the voter must provide an acceptable form of identification at the polling place before it closes or provide it at the Auditor’s Office by noon on the following Monday. If the canvass will be held earlier than the following Monday, the identification must be provided before the canvass.

**How to Mark Your Ballot**

**Paper Ballot**

**1. Read and mark your**

**ballot carefully.**

Fill in the oval completely next to your choice. Each office title lists the number of candidates you may vote for. Do not mark more ovals than that number. You may choose to vote for fewer candidates, or you may skip any race.

If you mark too many ovals in a race, the votes for that race cannot be counted. The other correctly marked races will be counted. Do not erase, cross out mistakes, or make any mark that would identify your ballot later. If you make a mistake, ask a Precinct Election Official for a new ballot.

To cast a write-in vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write the name on the write-in line below the candidates’ names and fill in the oval in front of the name you wrote.

**2. Review Your Ballot**

**3. Cast your Ballot**

Insert your ballot into the tabulating machine in any orientation. Wait until the machine says your vote has counted. If you have overvoted or undervoted any race on the ballot, the machine will ask you if you would like the ballot returned to you or to cast the ballot. If you made a mistake on the ballot you may get a new one from a Precinct Election Official.

**Assistance in Voting**

Any voter who requires assistance in voting may bring someone with them to assist, or two poll workers from different political parties will be glad to assist you as needed.