

Makayla Danner for Douglas County Attorney

2026 Jewish Omaha Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Antisemitism and Leadership

Antisemitism can come from across the political and ideological spectrum. What responsibility do elected officials have to recognize and speak out against antisemitism, including when it comes from members of their own party, political allies, or supporters?

As an elected official, leadership requires the moral courage to speak out against hate wherever it originates. I believe accountability is not optional, and it must be applied consistently, even—and especially—within one's own political circles. My campaign is built on the pillar of creating an office that serves with integrity and accountability which means prioritizing justice and ethical standards over political considerations. In my 20+ years as a prosecutor, I have learned that silence in the face of bigotry undermines the credibility of our entire justice system. It is my responsibility to ensure that Douglas County remains a place where everyone feels protected and where hate speech and antisemitism are met with firm, unwavering opposition.

2. Israel and the Jewish Community

Israel is an important part of the organized religious, cultural, and communal identity of most Jewish Nebraskans even while holding a wide range of views about Israeli government policies. How do you approach conversations about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a way that respects both legitimate political disagreement and the concerns of Jewish constituents about antisemitism?

I approach these conversations with a commitment to a partnership with the community. I recognize that members of the Jewish community hold diverse views, and I value a transparent, responsive process that respects those insights. As County

Attorney, my role is to ensure that legitimate political disagreement never crosses the line into antisemitic harassment or criminal intimidation. I am committed to working hand-in-hand with community leaders and citizens to ensure all voices are heard while maintaining a clear boundary against rhetoric that targets individuals or groups based on their identity. Active listening and mutual respect are the foundations of building a coalition that works for everyone.

3. Community Security

Jewish institutions and other houses of worship have faced increased security concerns in recent years. What role do you believe elected officials should play in helping communities feel safe while preserving an open and welcoming civic environment?

Public safety is my first priority, and every resident deserves to feel protected in their places of worship. I will prioritize the firm prosecution of violent offenses and hate crimes to hold offenders accountable. My "Crime Fighting Through Community" initiative is specifically designed to partner with local organizations to address the root causes of crime and provide proactive safety solutions. I believe we can have real public safety and a welcoming environment by integrating enforcement with strong community partnerships. This includes collaborating closely with faith leaders and service providers to ensure the County Attorney's Office is engaged, accessible, and responsive to specific security concerns without sacrificing the openness of our civic spaces.

4. Community Harmony in a Polarized Environment

Political rhetoric can contribute either to division or to mutual respect. What responsibility do elected officials have to avoid language that stereotypes or scapegoats religious, racial, ethnic, immigrant, or other communities, particularly during campaigns?

Elected officials have a profound responsibility to lead with dignity and avoid language that fractures our community. I am running to bring "New Energy" and a "Fresh Perspective" that moves away from performative justice and toward real results. Scapegoating any community is not only disrespectful—it undermines the public trust that is essential for a functioning legal system. I have dedicated my career to a justice system that is fair and effective for everyone, and as County Attorney, I will continue to demand the highest ethical standards, ensuring our office operates with total honesty and respect for all Douglas County neighbors.

5. Relationships Across Differences

How would you build relationships with Jewish and other faith and minority communities—including communities whose members may disagree with you politically—and ensure they have meaningful access to you if you are elected?

I will build these relationships through deliberate transparency and active engagement. My administration will hold regular public forums to ensure the County Attorney's Office remains accessible and accountable to the residents it serves, regardless of their political affiliation. I am committed to a partnership approach that leverages the expertise of diverse community stakeholders. Whether through mentoring initiatives, advisory boards, or open-door policies, I will ensure that minority and faith communities have a seat at the table. Justice cannot exist in isolation, and I will work tirelessly to earn the trust of every segment of our community through consistent, principled leadership.