

THE DONKEY

INCLUDE ENGAGE INFORM

Senator Heath Mello

Webster's Dictionary defines 'responsibility' as "a duty or task that you are required or expected to do."

Taking 'responsibility' to actually put forth bold proposals to help solve the serious problems we face is one of the motivating factors of why I entered public service.

That's why this past legislative session working closely with Senator Jim Smith and Governor Ricketts, we created the state's first infrastructure bank to begin a 20-year approach to address long-delayed and critical infrastructure upgrades to roads, bridges, and expressways across Nebraska. It wasn't easy and finding consensus took time and patience.

Why does this matter?

Because at some point, residents of Omaha will demand our Mayor and Public Works Department take "responsibility" for the condition of the city infrastructure and no longer let them take the "it's not my fault" approach to fixing the problem.

The bigger question exists if whether we really can fix our 'crumbling infrastructure' or are we doomed to band-aid approaches to help us limp from election to election.

We can solve this problem, but more importantly we must solve this problem because Omaha families and businesses deserve better.

**Needed Articles for the
Douglas County Democrats
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2 Winnebago Tribe Members Ready To Represent Nebraska at Democratic Convention

BY Jon Kipper | July 19, 2016

WINNEBAGO – Out of the 38 Nebraska delegates heading to Philadelphia next week for the Democratic National Convention, only two are from Northeast Nebraska. And in fact, both are Winnebago tribe members and have the same last name.

Frank and Michelle La Mere, who are related by marriage, were both chosen as delegates at the Nebraska State Democratic Convention in June and will now have the chance to be a part of the process that officially picks the Democratic nominee for the presidential election in November.

This upcoming convention in the City of Brotherly Love could be an interesting one to follow, as there will be a great deal of support for Bernie Sanders to take the nomination over likely winner Hilary Clinton. "I expect the convention to be spirited, I would be disappointed if it was not, we have a lot of newer people we have a lot of younger people," says Frank La Mere.

National Conventions are nothing new for Frank La Mere, who will be attending his 8th straight Democratic National Convention. While La Mere is a Hilary Clinton delegate, he is excited about the prospect of Sanders bringing his progressive ideas to the DNC agenda and draws parallels to his first convention 28 years ago. "I was a Jesse Jackson supporter in 1988 a lot of us knew that he was not going to win but he was going to set the agenda," says La Mere.

Michelle La Mere is somebody less familiar with the convention process. She has never been a delegate and really became involved with the Democratic Party this election year, throwing her support behind Senator Sanders. "It's kind of a miracle because I had never been involved in politics at all so this is my first time doing everything."

While she is still holding out hope that the super delegates will vote Sanders instead of Clinton, she can already take satisfaction in knowing that some of Sanders far-left agenda has been adopted by Hilary Clinton. "Most if of it is his platform now. What she started out with doesn't look anything like what we ended up with. So we're excited because it's the most progressive platform in history."

While the nominee's speeches may be the thing that sticks out most to the public at conventions, the delegates that attend have the chance to sit in on caucus meetings that ultimately decide where the Democratic Party is going in the future. Frank La Mere says he is treating the convention as a business trip. I want to be the first one there and the last one to leave. That's what makes for a good convention. There's nothing fun, nothing frivolous about it, I go there to work, I go there to learn."

One person missing from this year's convention is Frank's daughter Lexie. Lexie Wakan La Mere was ready to attend her senior year at Creighton University before she passed away from Leukemia in early 2014