

**Dan Osborn says he “loves” radical socialist Bernie Sanders and has pledged to support both the Green New Deal, which would eviscerate farming and ranching in Nebraska, and Medicare For All, a socialist government takeover of healthcare that could force Nebraska’s 62 rural hospitals to close.**

**In September 2024, Osborn said “I love Bernie” and conceded that there is “evidence of me, online, retweeting Bernie Sanders.”**

- **HEADLINE:** “Nebraska independent vying for Fischer’s Senate seat privately praises Bernie Sanders” (Ramsey Touchberry, “Nebraska independent vying for Fischer’s Senate seat privately praises Bernie Sanders,” [Washington Examiner](#), 9/18/24)

## Nebraska independent vying for Fischer’s Senate seat privately praises Bernie Sanders

By Ramsey Touchberry

September 18, 2024 6:00 am

(Ramsey Touchberry, “Nebraska independent vying for Fischer’s Senate seat privately praises Bernie Sanders,” [Washington Examiner](#), 9/18/24)

- “Dan Osborn, the independent running a long-shot bid to unseat Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE), has praised Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) to supporters despite trying to distance himself from Democrats and far-left figures in a Trump-dominated state.” (Ramsey Touchberry, “Nebraska independent vying for Fischer’s Senate seat privately praises Bernie Sanders,” [Washington Examiner](#), 9/18/24)
- “‘I love Bernie,’ Osborn said. ‘But the bottom line is we do have to peel off some conservatives.’” (Ramsey Touchberry, “Nebraska independent vying for Fischer’s Senate seat privately praises Bernie Sanders,” [Washington Examiner](#), 9/18/24)
  - **AUDIO:** In September 2024, Osborn stated “I love Bernie, but the bottom line is, we do have to peel off some conservatives.” “MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: ‘It was full, and everybody loves Bernie.’ OSBORN: ‘I love Bernie, I love Bernie. But the bottom line is, we do have to peel off some conservatives.’” (Dan Osborn Tracking Footage, [Osborn Event in Omaha, Nebraska](#), 9/14/24)
- “In another exchange, Osborn recounted why voters may find old retweets of Sanders on his Twitter account.” “In another exchange, Osborn recounted why voters may find old retweets of Sanders on his Twitter account. As a mechanic at the Kellogg’s plant in Omaha in 2021, he led a 2 1/2-month strike that put financial strain on more than 1,400 workers across several plants. Osborn explained that Sanders’s campaign donated money to strikers. ‘When we were on strike, Friends of Bernie Sanders gave the striking members

\$25,000 to help us pay our bills and get groceries,' he said. 'He had mentioned some things about how he supported the strike. And so, I retweeted that. So that's why I'm a Bernie Sanders [inaudible]. There is evidence of me online retweeting Bernie Sanders.'" (Ramsey Touchberry, "Nebraska independent vying for Fischer's Senate seat privately praises Bernie Sanders," [Washington Examiner](#), 9/18/24)

- **VIDEO: In September 2024, Osborn conceded that there is "evidence of me, online, retweeting Bernie Sanders."** "OSBORN: 'There is evidence of me, online, retweeting Bernie Sanders.'" (Dan Osborn Tracking Footage, [Osborn Event in Omaha, Nebraska](#), 9/14/24)

**Osborn's campaign has been endorsed by BlueAmerica, a group that only endorses candidates who support far-left policies like Medicare-for-all and the Green New Deal.**

- **BlueAmerica has endorsed Osborn's campaign.** (Howie Klein "Meet Nebraska's Populist Independent, Dan Osborn," [BlueAmerica](#), 9/1/24)
- **In September 2024, BlueAmerica referred to Osborn as a "progressive independent."** "The Democratic Party decided not to field a candidate in Nebraska's Senate race this cycle. Maybe they thought the state was just so damn red that they couldn't even beat as weak an incumbent as Deb Fischer, who had pledged to not make a career out of the Senate— and then changed her mind. In 2020, Trump won the state by a lot: 556,846 (58.2%) to 374,583 (39.2%). So what do those 374,583 people who voted for Biden— plus the people who were disgusted by Trump's J-6 insurrection— do now? Fortunately, a progressive independent is running... Dan Osborn, in many ways even better than the kind of neo-liberal, corporate, GOP-lite candidate Democrats often run in red states. Roll your eyes all you want about Nebraska but FOUR polls now show Osborn either ahead or neck-and-neck with Fischer!" (Howie Klein "Meet Nebraska's Populist Independent, Dan Osborn," [BlueAmerica](#), 9/1/24)
- **Osborn is the second non-Democrat Senate Candidate BlueAmerica Has Endorsed. The other was socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders.** "Like I said, the first time Blue America ever endorsed a Senate candidate not running as a Democrat... other than Bernie." (Howie Klein "Meet Nebraska's Populist Independent, Dan Osborn," [BlueAmerica](#), 9/1/24)



(Howie Klein "Meet Nebraska's Populist Independent, Dan Osborn," [BlueAmerica](#), 9/1/24)

- BlueAmerica's goal is to "replace the bipartisan conservative consensus in Congress with a strong and activated progressive movement." (About BlueAmerica, [BlueAmerica](#), Accessed 9/4/24)
- For a candidate to qualify for BlueAmerica's endorsement, he or she is "thoroughly vetted" and must be Pro-Medicare For All and pro #GreenNewDeal. (About BlueAmerica, [BlueAmerica](#), Accessed 9/4/24)

**The Green New Deal would be detrimental to farming and ranching in Nebraska, and could "lead to mass closures of small farms."**

- According to the Nebraska Farm Bureau, the Green New Deal is "totally unrealistic" and "a blatant and unscientific attack on livestock production." "Nebraska Farm Bureau is criticizing the 'Green New Deal' proposal unveiled last week by Congressional Democrats. Farm Bureau president Steve Nelson calls it 'totally unrealistic' and "a blatant and unscientific attack on livestock production'. Nelson says when the House of Representatives 'attacked' agriculture in 2009 with 'Cap and Trade', Nebraska's farmers and ranchers fought back. He says they will do the same with the Green New Deal." (Brownfield, "[Nebraska Farm Bureau Criticizes 'Green New Deal'](#)," 2/11/19)
- The Green New Deal poses a threat to agriculture and "farmers are likely to incur substantial new costs." "The Green New Deal represents as important a threat to agriculture as it does to other parts of the economy. With its goal of zero emissions and promotion of organic farming methods, farmers are likely to incur substantial new costs, which will be passed on to consumers. This addendum explores two areas in which the GND could impact farming—by reducing crop productivity and by requiring a curtailment of emissions from dairy." (Kent Lassman, Daniel Turner, "What the Green New Deal Could Cost a Typical Household," [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#), 2/26/20)
- "In all agriculture-reliant states, the move toward organic farming would undermine both farmers' bottom lines and state revenue." "The Green New Deal's harms are not

limited to heavy industry, but would represent a tremendous shock to all sectors of Wisconsin’s economy. In all agriculture-reliant states, the move toward organic farming would undermine both farmers’ bottom lines and state revenue. Policy makers must consider the full implications of such a proposal before moving toward such a dramatic upheaval of the American economy.” (Kent Lassman, Daniel Turner, “What the Green New Deal Could Cost a Typical Household,” [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#), 2/26/20)

- According to economist William Nordhaus, polluters would have to pay \$230 per metric ton of carbon dioxide, which is about \$2,000 per cow. “Fortunately, environmentalists have provided us with an estimate of just what it should cost polluters to prevent global warming. Economist William Nordhaus estimated that polluters should have to pay \$230 per metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) emissions in order to remain below 2.5 degrees Celsius of warming. This works out to about \$2,000 per year per cow.” (Kent Lassman, Daniel Turner, “What the Green New Deal Could Cost a Typical Household,” [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#), 2/26/20)
  - “This could lead to mass closures of small farms in an industry that is already struggling.” (Kent Lassman, Daniel Turner, “What the Green New Deal Could Cost a Typical Household,” [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#), 2/26/20)
- All calves and cattle in Nebraska as of January 1, 2024 totaled 6,250,000 head. (USDA, “Nebraska Rank in U.S. Agriculture,” [News Release](#), accessed 9/25/24)

### Nebraska Rank in U.S. Agriculture

U.S. Rank	Commodity and Date	Number	Unit	Percent of U.S. Total
1	Beans, Dry Edible, Great Northern, production, 2023.....	664,000	cwt	75.2
2	Cattle on Feed, inventory, January 1, 2024.....	2,750,000	head	19.1
2	Cropland, irrigated, acres, Census of Agriculture, 2022.....	7,965,938	acres	14.5
2	Popcorn, production, Census of Agriculture, 2022.....	333,276,821	pounds	32.9
2	Beans, Dry Edible, Pinto, production, 2023.....	986,000	cwt	11.5
2	Bison, inventory, Census of Agriculture, 2022.....	32,206	head	16.7
2	<b>Cattle and Calves, All, inventory, January 1, 2024.....</b>	<b>6,250,000</b>	<b>head</b>	<b>7.2</b>
2	Millet, Proso, production, 2023.....	5,037,000	bushels	25.7
2	Red Meat Production, Commercial, 2023.....	7,637,200,000	pounds	14.0

(USDA, “Nebraska Rank in U.S. Agriculture,” [News Release](#), accessed 9/25/24)

### Medicare for All, which has been described as “a socialist’s dream,” is government-run healthcare.

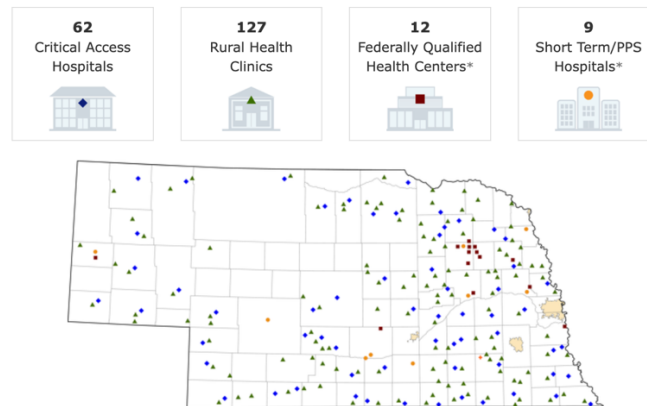
- Medicare for All has been described as “a socialist’s dream.” “Medicare for all is a socialist’s dream – and an American nightmare.” (Dr. Deane Waldman, “Medicare for all is a socialist’s dream – and an American nightmare,” [The Hill](#), 7/28/18)
- Medicare for All is single-payer government-run healthcare “The Trump campaign on Wednesday attacked Harris over her past support for a move to the single-payer, government-run health care system long championed by Vermont Sen. Bernie

Sanders. Medicare for All gained broad support among progressive Democrats, especially those with eyes on the White House, before and during the early stages of the party's 2020 presidential primary.” (Gregory Krieg and Tami Luhby, “Kamala Harris’ complicated history with Medicare for All becomes a Trump campaign attack line,” [CNN](#), 8/14/24)

### Medicare For All could force rural hospitals – like the 62 in Nebraska – to close their doors.

- **There are 62 Critical Access Hospitals in Nebraska.**

#### Nebraska Rural Healthcare Facilities



\*Sites according to [data.HRSA.gov](#) (April 2024), showing only locations outside of [U.S. Census Bureau](#) Urban Areas with a population of 50,000 or more

(Nebraska, [Rural Health Information Hub](#), Accessed 9/25/24)

- **Critical Access Hospitals are rural hospitals.** “Critical Access Hospital is a designation given to eligible rural hospitals by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).” (Critical Access Hospitals, [Rural Health Information Hub](#), Accessed 02/13/24)
- **The typical rural hospital employs 300 people and serves a community of about 60,000; when the sole hospital in the community closes, it decreases per capita income in the county by \$1,400.** “The typical rural hospital employs about 300 people, serves a community of about 60,000. When the only hospital in a county closes, there is a decrease of about \$1,400 (2018 dollars) in per capita income in the county.[6]” (“Rural Hospital Closures: More Information - Closure Search for Maine,” [University of North Carolina Center for Health Services Research](#), Accessed 01/22/20)
- **Patients in affected communities travel 5 – 30 miles to access care.** “Patients in affected communities are traveling 5 to 30 miles to access inpatient care (12.5 miles on average); however, 43% of the closed hospitals are more than 15 miles to the nearest hospital, and 15% are more than 20 miles.[5]” (“Rural Hospital Closures: More Information - Closure Search for Maine,” [University of North Carolina Center for Health Services Research](#), Accessed 01/22/20)
- **According to hospital administrators nationwide, a single payer government health care program would force rural hospitals to close.** “Adopting a single-payer government health care program that covers all Americans would force more rural hospitals to close, according to hospital administrators from Texas to Maine.” (Peter O’Dowd, “Rural Hospitals Say ‘Medicare For All’ Would End Up ‘Closing Our Doors,’” [WBUR](#), 08/16/19)

- **One hospital CFO said that Medicare For All would force their hospital to close within a year.** “The only hospital in Estes Park would be forced to close in less than a year if a single payer government healthcare program like “Medicare for All” was to be adopted, according to an official with Estes Park Hospital. ‘If this were to become a reality, most of your rural hospitals will disappear because by definition, if you lose money for everything you do, then it won’t take long to run out of money, and you’ll be closed,” said Tim Cashman, chief financial officer of Estes Park Hospital. “All of our commercial patients will go away, everybody will be on Medicare and I won’t be able to keep the doors open because I won’t be bringing in enough money to pay for my staff.” (Tyler Piolet, “Universal healthcare may have negative impacts on Estes Park Health,” [Estes Park Trail Gazette](#), 08/21/19)
  
- **Tim Nickels, Executive Vice President of the American Hospital Association said Medicare For All would have a “devastating effect on hospitals and the system overall with rural hospitals hit hard because they lack the financial cushion of the larger systems.** “The American Hospital Association, an industry trade group, is starting to lobby against the Medicare for all proposals. Unlike the doctors’ groups, hospitals are not divided. There is total unanimity,’ said Tom Nickels, an executive vice president for the association. ‘We agree with their intent to expand coverage to more people,’ he said. ‘We don’t think this is the way to do it. It would have a devastating effect on hospitals and on the system over all.’ Rural hospitals, which have been closing around the country as patient numbers dwindle, would be hit hard, he said, because they lack the financial cushion of larger systems.” (Reed Abelson, “Hospitals Stand to Lose Billions Under ‘Medicare For All,” [The New York Times](#), 04/21/19)
  
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(Peter O’Dowd, “Rural Hospitals Say ‘Medicare For All’ Would End Up ‘Closing Our Doors,’” [WBUR](#), 08/16/19)