

Holdrege Senator Announces Candidacy for Nebraska Governor

(KTNC) - State Senator Tom Carlson of Holdrege made it official Friday, when he announced he will be a candidate for Governor of Nebraska in 2014.

Carlson, a Republican, says he made the decision to throw his hat in the ring after former Speaker Mike Flood decided against entering the race. (play audio :15 “away we go.”)

Carlson has served two terms in the Unicameral. He currently is chairman of the legislature's Natural Resources Committee. He says he plans to focus on public safety, education and developing roads and bridges. He also says he would work to ensure services for residents who can't take care of themselves while pushing for policies that encourage able-bodied people to work.

Another Republican, State Senator Charlie Janssen is also officially seeking the Republican nomination. Carlson says he has one thing that Janssen lacks. (play audio :19 “leadership position.”)

Carlson says his qualifications include experience, leadership, common sense, integrity, and faith. (play audio :19 “believe I have.”)

Carlson pledged to campaign “not as a politician, but as a statesman.” He says he plans to visit all 93 counties in the state before the year ends.