

Dawn Vogel ~ Buchanan County Board of Supervisors Incumbent Candidate

I graduated from East Buchanan Community School District in 1983 and now proudly call Winthrop home. With the exception of a brief period working out of state in the 1980s, Buchanan County has been my lifelong home. My Christian faith guides my daily life and is strengthened through New Covenant Bible Church.

Today, I am privileged to serve as a Buchanan County Supervisor. I represent our community on 16 county boards and commissions, as well as three state-level boards, and I remain active with the Jesup Lions Club, Otter Creek Animal Shelter, and Friends of the Independence Depot. When I'm not working on county business, I enjoy gardening, reading, volunteering, and exploring our rural roads—taking in the beauty of the farms and acreages that make Buchanan County such a special place to live.

Message To the Citizens

It has been an honor to serve the people of Buchanan County over the past 3 plus years. I am grateful for the trust placed in me, and I would be honored to continue representing you at the county level. To strengthen our county's voice, I have taken on several leadership roles with the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC). Counties like ours deserve to be heard on issues that shape our future, and I am committed to ensuring that our priorities are represented at the state level.

In my effort to serve you more effectively, I returned to school and completed a Master's in Public Administration with an emphasis on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. This education has deepened my understanding of the challenges counties face and the tools available to address them.

Qualifications:

I am a proven leader who accepts challenges and amplifies others' voices to deliver powerful outcomes.

- Current Board of Supervisors Chairperson.
- Three plus years of experience as Buchanan County Supervisor
- Understanding governmental accounting and the different functions of the county.
- Long-range, big picture conceptual thinker with common sense.
- Working knowledge of the Supervisor's role, Robert's Rules of Order, and my role when serving on various committees, boards, and commissions.
- Four years of experience as Jesup City Councilor/Mayor Pro Tem.
- To better serve Buchanan County, I returned to Upper Iowa University in 2024. I graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Homeland Security and Emergency Management in March 2026, earning a 4.0 GPA.
- In 2021, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Upper Iowa with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration.
- Associate's in Applied Sciences, Marketing and Management.

- Earned and was presented with the Certified Iowa County Supervisor certificate at the 2024 ISAC Conference.
- Achieved the Certified Elected Municipal Official (CEMO) Award in 2014 from the Iowa League of Cities.
- Previous small business owner as a licensed Realtor from 2020 through 2025.

Current Leadership Roles:

Chairperson of the Buchanan County Supervisors
 President of the Jesup Lions Club for the fiscal year 25/26
 Iowa State Association of Counties District 6 President
 Chairperson of Emergency Management Commission
 Council on Aging Vice President
 Friends of the Independence Depot Vice President

Boards and Commissions that I serve on as County Representative:

Buchanan County Council on Aging (Vice President)
 Buchanan County Economic Development Commission
 Buchanan County Housing, Inc., previously Housing for the Disabled
 Building Direction for Families
 Courthouse Security
 Disaster Recovery Coalition
 Emergency Management Commission/E911 Services Board (Commission Chair)
 Eastern Iowa Disability Alliance Governing Board
 First Judicial District, Iowa Department of Corrections
 Habitat for Humanity Board
 Heartland Acres Agribition Center
 Healthy Buchanan Coalition
 Independence Area Food Pantry
 Local Emergency Planning Committee
 Mental Health Institute Advisory Board
 ISAC District 6
 ISAC Board of Directors
 ISAC Legislative Committee
 RAGBRAI advisory board

Buchanan County major projects and accomplishments during my tenure:

- Courthouse restroom upgrades and accessibility improvements using American Rescue Plan Act funds.
- Basement drainage and moisture mitigation at the courthouse.
- Completed the Emergency Management Operations Center at the old dealership location, utilizing a Federal Grant from Ashley Hinson’s office.
- Replaced the roof at the Senior Center, in addition to concrete and drainage repairs.
- Replaced siding and rotten wall, windows, and doors at the Senior Center.

- The Food Pantry was relocated next to the Department of Human Services on First Street West. The old building was sold, with proceeds deposited into the general fund, and the former building was added to the tax rolls.
- Secondary Roads completed the Baxter Ave (V-62) concrete overlay from Fairbank south to C-57.
- The Secondary Roads Bridge Crew replaced the Lund Bridge using railcars.
- County Conservation's dream of a new, modern campground at Fontana Park and a trail project for the Bison exhibit came to fruition through grants and American Rescue Plan Act funds.
- Several base stabilization test projects were completed with Iowa State University on gravel roads in Buchanan County.
- The Jury room was fixed, with defunct paneling replaced by sheet rock and painted.
- The threadbare carpet was replaced in the Assessors' Office and Juvenile Court Services.
- Assessors' software has been upgraded to Beacon, enabling better fleet management and a feature that provides homeowners with a chart for tax information.
- The Rasmussen Bridge was replaced, in addition to straightening a curve, the Quasqueton Diagonal was refurbished with a concrete overlay under Secondary Roads and the Engineer's watchful eyes.
- Approved the EMS Association's plan for a County Ambulance Levy, which allowed levy language to be placed on the ballot, giving the people of the county a voice. Note: the service will be based at Buchanan County Health Center.
 - a) The ambulance director has been hired and is working on the required paperwork, and the ambulance purchase is required to license the service.
 - b) The Ambulance Director, with the assistance of North East Iowa RC&D, is working with Congresswoman Ashley Hinson's office to obtain a \$ 663,287 federal grant for equipment and a new ambulance.
 - c) Utilized Speer Financial to negotiate a bond for the upfront cost of equipment and an internal loan from the general assistance fund for staffing. The bond and the internal loan will be repaid from the EMS Levy fund.

Future Needs:

We have several much-needed updates coming to improve safety and preserve our public spaces. The courtroom's aging five-by-fourteen-foot windows will be replaced so they no longer leak during storms, and the plaster and paint damaged over the years will be restored. The carpeting—now a tripping concern—will also be replaced.

Our Public Health and EOC parking lot, along with the lots serving the Food Pantry and Senior Center, are due for new blacktop to ensure safer, smoother access for everyone.

Looking ahead, the Cutshaw Bridge is scheduled for replacement in summer/fall 2026. This project will be funded with Federal Grant dollars and overseen by our Secondary Roads Engineer and team.