

New Senator Profiles: Charlie Janssen and Dennis Utter

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This is the sixth in a series of eight profiles on Nebraska's newly elected senators. Sixteen senators will begin their first term January 7, 2009.

Charlie Janssen, Fremont (District 15), defeated Richard Register to take the District 15 seat vacated by Mr. Janssen's uncle, Sen. Ray Janssen, who was term-limited. Sen. Janssen also defeated Mr. Register in 1992. District 15 consists of Dodge County.

Janssen helped found a business that provides temporary health care staffing in 2000. The business remains headquartered in Fremont, but places health care staff in all 50 states. He is a graduate of Wayne State College, where he received his Bachelors of Science degree in communications. Janssen is a Navy veteran of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, and has been active on numerous boards and foundations in Fremont. Janssen has two children.

A Republican, Janssen was endorsed by the *Omaha World-Herald* and by Governor Heineman. Janssen has served on the Fremont City Council.

Dennis Utter, Hastings (District 33), defeated Hastings lawyer Chuck Shoemaker to succeed Sen. Carroll Burling, who was ineligible from seeking office again due to term limits. The district encompasses Adams County, including the city of Hastings, and much of rural Hall County. It does not include the city of Grand Island. Utter carried both counties.

Utter is a retired banker. He is a graduate of the Colorado School of Banking and holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Wyoming. He has served on a number of civic boards, and previously served on the McCook City Council and as Mayor of McCook. Utter and his wife have three children.

Utter, a Republican, was endorsed by Gov. Dave Heineman. His opponent, an Independent, was endorsed by the *Omaha World-Herald*.

For more information on the Nebraska Legislature, please contact Andy Pollock at apollock@remboltludtke.com. Andy is a registered lobbyist at the Nebraska Legislature.

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