

Ricketts says his edge is business experience

Written by Austin Benson

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Omaha businessman trying for governor

As a kid growing up in Omaha, Pete Ricketts delivered the Omaha World-Herald newspaper and worked at Burger King through his high school days.

After graduation from Omaha Westside, Ricketts attended the University of Chicago and earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in finance and marketing.

He returned to Omaha after completing his education and worked as a customer service representative for Ameritrade. Ricketts had many titles until 2005, including chief operating officer.

Ricketts, a Republican candidate for governor, appeared at the Gothenburg Public Library Friday afternoon.

There, Ricketts said he believes his experience at Ameritrade allows him to understand the leveraging of technology and how to do a better job of delivering services and reducing costs of state government.

"The only way we're going to get real tax cuts is by reducing the costs of state government," Ricketts said.

That's why he believes he would make a better governor than the other candidates.

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Ricketts said he has experience running organizations and finding the right people in the business world to build a company, he said.

Ricketts said he has seen how high costs disrupt an industry. He said he wants to change how government is run in Nebraska, allowing for lower costs.

The main problems in Nebraska, he said, are that people need more education, the workforce needs to be better developed and workers need better pay. He added that he supports farmers and agriculture because agriculture is the largest part of the state's economy.

"One of our greatest strengths about proposing people to bring their jobs here is that a Nebraskan will be well educated, have a great work ethic and be loyal to the company," Ricketts said.

Issues like property taxes and a sustainable vision for handling water throughout the state also have to be addressed, he said.

He added that only the governor can bring people together to craft that policy, not people in the government from out of the state.

"Nebraska knows what is best for Nebraska. Not someone is Washington D.C.," Ricketts said.

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