

FREMONT TRIBUNE

WEEKEND EDITION

Aggressive
Rory stays in
Open hunt

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Ricketts leads
in funds,
Osborn leads
in donors

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LET THERE BE LIGHT



DAVID GOLBITZ, FREMONT TRIBUNE

The restored stained glass window at First Baptist Church in Fremont on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. The vibrant colors were a surprise to some congregants. “I’ve come here my whole life and I don’t ever remember it looking that bright,” one said.

First Baptist Church restores 100-year-old stained glass windows

DAVID GOLBITZ
Fremont Tribune

As the restored stained glass window panes at First Baptist Church in Fremont were set back into place in the sanctuary above the pulpit, some parishioners told Pastor Richard Crooks that they had never realized the colors were so vibrant.

“I’ve had some people comment, ‘I didn’t realize that it had that much purple in it,’” Crooks said. “Somebody else said, ‘You know, I’ve come here

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my whole life and I don’t ever remember it looking that bright.”

The process to restore stained glass is a lengthy one, especially for pieces that, like the First Baptist Church window, are more than 100 years old.

“Apparently the lead starts to oxidize,” Crooks said. “And they say that the life tends to be about 100 years, and once it oxidizes it gets brittle and then things start shifting.”

As the lead support bars holding the

window in place deteriorated, the weight of the glass pushing against itself caused it to buckle and crack in some places, to say nothing of the decades of accumulated dust and grime.

“We had a guy come and do the evaluation and he kind of showed us a lot of the different pieces,” Crooks said. “He said, ‘You can just do the outside if you want a protective (covering),’ but as we looked at it, we go, ‘You know, if we’re going to do it, we better go and do it right.’”

The guy who did the evaluation was from Scottish Stained Glass, a Colorado-based

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Pillen sees path for Nebraska to tackle ‘property tax crisis’

JOSH REYES
Omaha World-Herald Bureau

LINCOLN — When Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen launched his reelection campaign last June, he said in a campaign video, “We signed the largest income tax cut in Nebraska history, and we reduced property taxes.”

While he and many of his fellow Republicans have celebrated the income tax reductions, Pillen knows he has made his work on property taxes a key measure of his legacy.

He’s now asking voters for another four years to work at it, saying at the close of this

year’s Legislative session, “I believe 2027 is the time to solve ... our property tax crisis.”

Nebraska has elected a GOP governor every four years since 1998. Pillen this year faces a rare set of circumstances — a potential race involving two other known political names, Democrat Lynne Walz of Fremont and registered nonpartisan Brett Lindstrom of Omaha, a former Republican.

Both are former lawmakers and can tout achievements in the Legislature. Both have appeared on statewide ballots. Walz was the running mate of 2018 Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bob Krist. Lindstrom

finished third in the Republican primary for governor that Pillen won in 2022.

As a nonpartisan, Lindstrom’s team is gathering the 4,000 signatures needed to petition onto the ballot. Pillen and Walz won their respective primaries.

Pillen also is among the least popular governors in the country, according to Morning Consult and other national polling. The February report measures his approval at 46%. His 41% disapproval rating is the nation’s eighth highest.

The governor says he focuses on what he hears from Nebraskans in person.

“I can’t go anywhere in public (without someone saying), ‘Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for never stopping and not giving up on property taxes and shrinking government,’” Pillen told The World-Herald Wednesday in a wide-ranging interview at the Governor’s Mansion in Lincoln.

Work in progress

Pillen said the work to transform property taxes is well underway.

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