

CROW WING COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER ROSEMARY FRANZEN (R)

Rosemary Franzen is the sitting Crow Wing County Commissioner for District 4, seeking a sixth term after 20 years on the County Board. First elected to the County Board in 2006, Franzen has held local elected office for over two decades and currently chairs the County Board. She advanced through the August 2026 primary with nearly 59% of the vote and faces challenger Dawn Espe in the November general election. The race is nonpartisan. The county is [strongly Republican](#).

Key Findings:

Franzen introduced a resolution requesting a state audit of Crow Wing County's already-certified 2020 election results. Franzen personally introduced and amended the resolution requesting a state audit of Crow Wing County's already-certified 2020 election results, after months of local pressure from activists citing debunked fraud claims. The resolution itself stated the board “continues to have faith in the 2020 election results as valid and reliable but it is equally troubling that there are citizens who still have a sincerely held belief that it was not.”

Despite saying in 2014 that she wants to “retire at some point,” Franzen is 76 years old and running for her sixth term on the County Board. Franzen has explicitly rejected term limits after 24 years in local elected office, a position in tension with her own 2014 statement that she wanted to “retire at some point.” In 2022 she said: “I've never, ever thought that term limits were a good idea. Your term is up when the people don't want you there anymore.” Eight years earlier, discussing her tenure, she had said: “I want to retire at some point... I feel right now that I'm still too young, I still have too much energy.” Franzen is currently running for her sixth term in office.

Franzen's 2022 opponent sued her for defamation over campaign-trail conduct; the case remains active and unresolved four years later. Troy Scheffler's suit alleges Franzen told others he tore down her campaign signs and falsely told people he had endorsements from sheriff candidate Eric Klang and state Rep. Josh Heintzeman. Scheffler also alleges that during a confrontation at a voter's home, Franzen “boxed in his car with her vehicle 'in an act of rage'” The case was dismissed by the district court and then revived on appeal in April 2026, with the Minnesota Court of Appeals finding the complaint adequately pled defamation under the “actual malice” standard. Separately, a three-judge panel found Franzen committed two inadvertent campaign law violations in that same race, fining her \$150.

<u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE LEFT</u>	<u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE RIGHT</u>
<u>CAREER POLITICIAN</u> <u>ADVANCED AGE</u> <u>CATERED TO ELECTION DENIERS</u> <u>ETHICAL ISSUES</u>	<u>NA</u>

BACKGROUND & BIO

August 2026: Franzen finished first in the nonpartisan primary for reelection. “Incumbent Rosemary Franzen and challenger Dawn Espe are advancing to the Nov. 3, 2026, general election, based on unofficial results from Minnesota's primary election. Incumbent Crow Wing County District 4 Commissioner Rosemary Franzen received a commanding 58.85% of the primary vote Tuesday, Aug. 11. The Sowing Room Executive Director Dawn Espe finished second with 23.54% of the vote and will advance with Franzen to the November election. County Commissioner District 4 includes part of the city of Baxter and the First Assessment District, which is the third largest population center in the county, located between Baxter and Nisswa. Franzen, the current board chair, has served as the commissioner there for 20 years. In announcing her campaign for reelection, Franzen pointed to her efforts to keep the county property tax levy increases below the state average.” [KAXE, [8/12/26](#)]

2022: Franzen was elected to her fifth term on the County Board. “Incumbent Rosemary Franzen was out picking up campaign signs at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, when she learned she would return to the Crow Wing County Board to represent District 4. Franzen received 4,082 votes to send her back to the boardroom for another four years, gaining 65.34% of the vote. Her opponent, Troy Scheffler, received 2,134 votes or 34.16%. There were 31 write-in votes. ‘I’m very happy I’ve won this and I want to thank the voters of District 4,’ Franzen said. ‘It will be a privilege to represent them as their commissioner.’ Franzen will represent District 4 for a fifth term on the County Board after a particularly contentious race.” [Brainerd Dispatch, [11/9/22](#)]

2022: Franzen received a service award for 15 years on the Region Five Development Commission. “Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) announced their 2022 Annual Award Winners and honored awardees at an event held at Roundhouse Brewery Union Station in Nisswa on Dec. 9. [...] R5DC recognizes the amazing work of all these organizations and strongly applauds them for their positive community impact. Commissioners David A. Anderson (10 years) and Rosemary Franzen (15 years) received R5DC service awards, along with Cory Pettit (5 years) with NCEDA.” [Walker Pilot-Independent, 12/24/22]

2006: Franzen was first elected to the County Board. “In 2006, she defeated Gary Walters by 110 votes to join the Crow Wing County Board. Four years later, she topped Gene Goedker by 989 votes to win reelection, and in 2014, Franzen bested Beth Pfingsten by 705 votes. Franzen ran unopposed in 2018.” [Brainerd Dispatch, [11/9/22](#)]

2002: Franzen was elected to the Baxter City Council. “This year marks the sixth campaign for public office by Franzen since 2002, when she was elected to the Baxter City Council as the top vote-getter in a field of five.” [Brainerd Dispatch, [11/9/22](#)]

Franzen worked for the Brainerd School District for 37 years but is now a full time County Commissioner. “When 64-year-old Franzen won the election to county board, she decided to leave her job with the Brainerd School District after nearly 37 years. While with the district, she started out part-time as an aide in the library before moving to a full-time position working with

developmentally delayed students. She went on to work with students with behavioral problems, eventually filling one of three school staff positions at the juvenile detention center, where she spent the last 15 years of her career. Franzen continues to sell tickets for Warriors athletics events, but in leaving the school district, she felt it important to do one job well instead of two jobs not as well as she would like. ‘Not everybody (on county board) gets as involved as I do,’ she said. ‘I just really think it's important. This is my job. This is what I do. This is how I represent the people. I have high standards for myself. I need to do these things well or I won't be happy with myself.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/28/14](#)]

Franzen lives in Baxter and is a lifelong Crow Wing County resident. “Franzen and her husband, Mike, are lifelong residents of Crow Wing County, and she credited her deep roots in the community to her drive to serve the residents. Franzen and her husband raised their three boys in Crow Wing County and all still reside in the county with their families. Franzen also noted her 103-year-old mother, Irene Jensen, still lives in Crow Wing County.” [Brainerd Dispatch, [6/6/26](#)]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Total Receipts (May 19 2026 –July 31, 2026)	Total Expenditures (May 19 2026 –July 31, 2026)	Cash On Hand (July 31, 2026)
\$505	\$1,279.03	\$0

[Crow Wing County, [filed 7/31/26](#)]

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

No findings identified.

AFFORDABILITY

No findings identified.

BUDGETS & TAXES

2026: Franzen is an advocate for ensuring county levies remain low. “Franzen said she is an advocate for ensuring county levies remain low and notes that during her tenure on the County Board, Crow Wing County consistently kept levies well below the state average while taking steps to improve county services. ‘I was part of the county board that kept the tax levy at zero or below for eight straight years, and we redesigned county services to be more customer-friendly with better outcomes during that same time period,’ Franzen said. ‘Over the past five years, even with increasing pressures from state and federal mandates, the county’s levy has had an average increase of 3.7% per year which reflects our efforts to be good stewards of the taxpayer’s resources. This contrasts with the statewide average of over 7% annually showing that we don’t settle for just doing business the same as everyone else. I am proud that the Crow Wing County way results in keeping taxes lower and providing the best services we can.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [6/6/26](#)]

2022: Franzen: “I just want to make sure that I try to keep taxes as low as possible.” “For accomplishments, Franzen pointed to moving the county out of debt. Looking forward, Franzen said her goal is to continue to spend the people’s money wisely and not to squander those dollars on things she doesn’t think are important and department heads don’t think are important. ‘I just want to make sure that I try to keep taxes as low as possible and yet make sure that the county has enough money to do the job that it needs to do,’ she said.” [Brainerd Dispatch, [11/9/22](#)]

2022: Franzen: “I like to run the county the way I try to run my house. If we don't have the money, we don't spend.” “Franzen pointed to a number of financial successes during her time on the County Board, including an eight-year run of a flat or reduced property tax levy, elimination of the county’s debt and implementation of a sales tax for use toward highway improvement projects. ‘I like to run the county the way I try to run my house. If we don't have the money, we don't spend,’ Franzen said. ‘... When I go door to door, I have never heard anybody say, ‘Raise my taxes.’ So, I think if it's at all possible, the lower the levy, the better.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/19/22](#)]

2022: Franzen: “I think I spend money wisely. I’m not a frivolous spender.” “Franzen cited as accomplishments the allocation of COVID-19 relief dollars to support the expansion of broadband internet and day care services in several locations throughout the county. Recent moves by the board to set new road standards in Unorganized Territory and a moratorium on boardwalk construction along shorelines to further study the potential impact on water quality were also good decisions, she said. Continuing to be a good steward for taxpayer dollars while finding ways to improve broadband access and alleviate the day care shortage would be some of her priorities should she be reelected, Franzen said. Progress made in addressing the mental health needs of some jail inmates should continue, she said, noting the strain of the alternative on public safety and community services personnel. She said she also wants to ensure the five-year transportation plan is delivered as promised to county residents. ‘We need to make sure we do things that are necessary, but we need ... to be sure to balance our wants against our needs,’ Franzen said. ‘I think I spend money wisely. I’m not a frivolous spender.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/19/22](#)]

2014: Franzen said reducing the budget was her top priority. “Franzen is proud of what the county board has accomplished during her tenure. She cites the reorganization of the land services department, property tax levy reductions in each of the past five years and the refinancing of the county's debt from new buildings approved by a previous county board. ‘Our board has a vision,’ she said. ‘Even though we don't all see getting to it the same way, we all know we want to end up in the same place.’ That vision, according to Franzen, is to continue to spend fewer dollars while improving upon the service provided to the county's residents. And she wants to be there to assure that vision is carried out. Her top priority if she is re-elected is to further decrease the budget, and she said there are still areas with room for sensible cuts. A recent assessment of the community services department revealed areas where technology and cross-training could lead to reduced costs, she said.” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/28/14](#)]

- **Franzen said she would only support raising levies if it can be “proven to me that it’s a necessity” or “very necessary.”** “Still, Franzen admits she cannot promise the

downward trend will continue indefinitely and there are circumstances in which she would consider raising the levy. ‘I’m not naïve enough to believe that this is a forever thing, but I try to run the county like I run my house: if we don’t have the money, we shouldn’t be spending it,’ she said. To raise the levy again, she said, the additional costs would also have to meet her criteria of helping the people of Crow Wing County, who just like the rest of the country, are still recovering from the recession. ‘It would have to be proven to me that it’s a necessity,’ she said. ‘I wouldn’t do it without a lot of thought. It would need to be very necessary, there would have to be something that we weren’t providing that we needed to provide.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/28/14](#)]

CONTROVERSIES

November 2022: Franzen was ordered to pay \$150 in penalties for inadvertently violating the Fair Campaign Practices Act. “A three-judge panel ordered Crow Wing County Commissioner Rosemary Franzen to pay \$150 in penalties after concluding her violations of campaign law were inadvertent with little to no impact on voters. The Nov. 16 order affirmed Franzen violated two separate provisions of the Fair Campaign Practices Act — Chapter 211A concerning campaign financial reports and Chapter 211B concerning fair campaign practices. Franzen filed an initial campaign finance report late, failing to within 14 days of spending more than \$750 on her campaign. She also failed to disclose on her campaign door hangers a mailing address, or a website at which a mailing address could be found, for the committee that prepared and paid for the material. [...] The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings’ decision comes as part of an Oct. 3 complaint filed by Troy Scheffler, Franzen’s opponent in the Crow Wing County Board race to represent District 4. Franzen defeated Scheffler in the Nov. 8 general election with 65.34% of the vote. An administrative law judge found probable cause for two of three alleged violations after an Oct. 18 hearing. The judge determined there was no probable cause for a third violation, in which Scheffler argued Franzen did not prominently display on her campaign signs the disclosure of who prepared and paid for the signs. That claim was dismissed.” [Brainerd Dispatch, [11/25/22](#)]

October 2022: Franzen was sued for defamation by her 2022 opponent. “The story of the District 4 race for Crow Wing County commissioner now includes a defamation lawsuit, alleged campaign law violations and a trespass notice issued by the Baxter Police Department. Troy Scheffler — a first-time candidate with a lengthy history as a lawsuit plaintiff in state and federal court — started a suit against his opponent, four-term Commissioner Rosemary Franzen, earlier this month. In the suit, Scheffler alleges Franzen made false statements about him to multiple people, causing property owners to remove his campaign signs and undermining hundreds of hours of work. Scheffler claims Franzen told others he tore down her signs and told people he was endorsed by Crow Wing County sheriff candidate Eric Klang and state Rep. Josh Heintzeman, neither of whom gave Scheffler their endorsements, according to the civil complaint. Scheffler relays in detail a situation when he said Franzen arrived at a voter’s home — outside of which both of their signs had been displayed at separate times — while Scheffler was there. He said Franzen boxed in his car with her vehicle ‘in an act of rage’ and yelled at the voter that she wanted to speak to him. After Scheffler left, he said Franzen bullied the voter into placing her sign in the yard instead of Scheffler’s sign, according to the complaint. Scheffler said he confirmed this in a conversation with the voter later that day when stopping to pick up his

sign, which leaned against a tree. [...] Franzen, meanwhile, denied each of Scheffler's allegations. She said there wasn't much truth to how Scheffler described the situation outside the voter's home in his lawsuit, adding the voter is someone she's known since high school and is a close neighbor. She said she'd stopped to pick up her own sign from leaning against a tree without knowing Scheffler was there at first. She stayed for coffee with the neighbor after Scheffler left and learned he thought the County Board needed someone new. She encouraged the neighbor to search Scheffler's name online, and she said the neighbor later sent Franzen messages in disbelief of the search results and told her she could put her sign back up. Franzen said she's flabbergasted by Scheffler's actions and many of the claims he's publicly made about her. For example, Scheffler has described a hospital stay by Franzen causing her to miss a meeting as incredibly dubious and he's accused her of feigning feebleness because of her 'advanced age' to gain public sympathy. Scheffler included both of these claims in the text of his defamation suit. Franzen said she was hospitalized, but it wasn't a dire situation, despite Scheffler accusing her of telling people she almost died." [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/15/22](#)]

- **Scheffler's case against Franzen was still active in 2026.** "But the indefatigable pro se litigant in those two cases came out better in a defamation case a short while later in *Scheffler v. Franzen*, 2026 WL 1130266 (Minn. App. April 27, 2026)(nonprecedential). This case also had an election flavor to it as he sued four other individuals for defamation and conspiracy for allegedly subverting by his run for Crow Wing County Commissioner by spreading false statements that he had erroneously claimed that they endorsed him. The Crow Wing County District Court dismissed the case on a Rule 12 motion on grounds that the motion was not pled adequately. However, the court of appeals reversed, holding that the complaint satisfied all pleading requirements. Sufficiently pled the defamatory statements, which were not deemed opinions and, as a public figure, he sufficiently pled "actual malice", meaning knowing falsity or reckless disregard of the truth under the doctrine of *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 264 (1964). Those allegations need not be pled with specificity, like most defamation allegations, but can be asserted by "general" averments, pursuant to Rule 9.02 of the Rules of General Procedure. The pleadings also adequately set forth 'with enough specificity' to give notice to the defendants the basis for the defamatory accusations. Thus, his lawsuit was maintainable and the case was remanded for further proceedings." [Minnesota Lawyer, [6/1/26](#)]

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2026: Franzen voted to cut funds for regional economic development organizations. "The majority of the Crow Wing County Board spoke in favor of funding cuts to area economic development organizations and reiterated support for no money to a housing trust fund. Commissioners are still going over budget details and plan to meet in a budget committee session at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, with the next regular board meeting after that set on Sept. 22. Budget discussions in looking at the 2027 property tax levy and spending budget have been ongoing. On Aug. 25, commissioners met in a budget session and looked at requests for appropriations or funding, focusing discussions with the voting majority on the board in favor of removing funding from the Initiative Foundation, Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corp. and Cuyuna Range Economic Development Inc. The majority of commissioners with

Commissioner Jamie Lee, Rosemary Franzen and Paul Koering were also opposed to returning the Crow Wing County Housing Trust Fund dollars.” [Brainerd Dispatch, 9/4/26]

ELECTIONS & BALLOT ACCESS

2021: Franzen introduced a resolution calling on the state to audit Crow Wing County’s election results. “One by one, the activists claimed to have evidence of ‘fraud on a massive scale,’ repeating discredited claims about election machines championed a year earlier by conspiracists such as My Pillow CEO Mike Lindell. Although ex-President Donald Trump won nearly two-thirds of the vote in central Minnesota’s Crow Wing County in 2020, a group of county residents appeared in droves to urge their government to follow other states in opening up the previous election’s ballots in search of malfeasance. ‘My heart is telling me that there is something drastically wrong with this election,’ said Rick Felt, a U.S. Army veteran living in the county. ‘And I urge all of you to follow your heart.’ Felt joined a chorus that, starting in October, mounted a vocal monthslong campaign that led to a vote last week by Crow Wing County’s governing body to formally ask for a new audit of the 2020 election. [...] After months of discussion, Crow Wing County Attorney Don Ryan concluded late last month that commissioners had no legal authority to audit an already certified election. The board, in response, voted last week to ask Simon’s office to conduct another review in their county. [...] Commissioner Rosemary Franzen introduced the resolution asking Simon’s office to audit the 2020 election in the county after Ryan’s conclusion that the county lacked the authority to do so. ‘I think restoring people’s faith in our elections is an important thing and I think we need to support that,’ Franzen said last month. The resolution states that the board ‘continues to have faith in the 2020 election results as valid and reliable but it is equally troubling that there are citizens who still have a sincerely held belief that it was not.’” [Minneapolis Star-Tribune, 1/9/22]

2022: Franzen: “I’m very comfortable with what we do in Crow Wing County, but our citizens aren’t. And it’s important that our citizens feel that our elections are held with integrity.” “After Tuesday’s meeting adjourned, Franzen, who made the unanimously approved motion during the Dec. 28 meeting asking for a resolution to be drafted, said when citizens come forward with a request, it’s the board’s job to listen. ‘I want to make sure that there was integrity, which I believe there was, but I want to make sure that everything was done right in this process,’ Franzen said. Asked to clarify whether she had concerns over the county’s process or measures already in place to prevent election tampering and ensure integrity, Franzen replied, ‘I’m very comfortable with what we do in Crow Wing County, but our citizens aren’t. And it’s important that our citizens feel that our elections are held with integrity.’ Franzen said if election judges and staff members know the board at all, they won’t have a problem with the resolution, noting it was drafted by County Administrator Tim Houle. And the general public would likely agree as well, she said. ‘I don’t think there’s anyone, probably, who doesn’t want to make sure that our elections are held with integrity,’ Franzen said. Asked to explain why this citizen request was honored among a litany of requests regularly made of the board, Franzen said people don’t usually come forward in groups, and when they do, commissioners always listen. ‘We always listen, and usually get to resolve it and this is — all we’re trying to do is resolve an issue that a big group of people believe is an issue,’ she said.” [Pine and Lakes Echo Bulletin, [1/7/22](#)]

2022: Franzen voted to hand count results in twice as many precincts as required by state law. “The post-election review process in Crow Wing County this November will include hand counting results in twice as many precincts as required by state law. In a 4-1 vote, county commissioners Tuesday, Aug. 23, agreed to increase the number of randomly selected precincts in which state and federal races are reviewed after the general election from the state law-required two to four. The resolution also compelled cast vote records — or records of votes cast for candidates on each paper ballot fed through optical scanner voting machines on Election Day — to be produced as public record. [...] Commissioner Rosemary Franzen reiterated the resolution does not reflect commissioners’ own concerns about the integrity of the election system but instead is an attempt to assuage the skepticism of constituents. ‘As county commissioners, we’ve all stated that we don’t have any concerns about election integrity,’ Franzen said. ‘But we have a lot of concerned citizens and I want to make sure that everybody’s concerns are met.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [8/23/22](#)]

EDUCATION

No findings identified.

ENVIRONMENT

No findings identified.

ETHICS & GOOD GOVERNMENT

2022: Franzen does not believe in term limits. “Franzen said she’s proud of what’s been accomplished during her tenure, but there’s work left to do and she wants to be there to continue that work. ‘I don’t think that just because you’ve been there means that you shouldn’t stay. Sometimes you need the experience. You don’t come into the job knowing what you can and can’t do or how you should do things. It’s a learning experience,’ Franzen said during an Oct. 19 interview at the Brainerd Dispatch. ‘And as long as you’re capable of doing the job — I’ve never, ever thought that term limits were a good idea. Your term is up when the people don’t want you there anymore.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/29/22](#)]

- **2014: Franzen: “I want to retire at some point.”** “Despite her emphasis on experience, Franzen said there comes a point when people should recognize they should no longer be there. ‘I want to retire at some point,’ she said. ‘I feel right now that I’m still too young, I still have too much energy, and I need to be doing something.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/28/14](#)]

HEALTHCARE

2026: Franzen: “Mental health is a key issue facing all areas of our communities and I’m really proud of the work we do to help connect resources to the folks who need them.” “As county commissioner she represents Crow Wing County on regional committees such as Minnesota Inter-county Association, Region Five, and serves as the policy delegate for the statewide Association of Minnesota Counties Transportation Committee. She also serves on the

Northern Pines Mental Health board. ‘Mental health is a key issue facing all areas of our communities and I’m really proud of the work we do to help connect resources to the folks who need them,’ Franzen said. ‘My passion is being able to help my constituents, and I feel it is so important that we are able to advocate for them. Crow Wing County has a mission to serve well, deliver value and drive results, and I’m very proud to be a part of that mission.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [6/6/26](#)]

HOUSING

No findings identified.

INFRASTRUCTURE

2002: Franzen first ran for office because of a sewer and water project in Baxter that threatened her with a \$49,000 bill. “Her journey in public life began with a sewer and water project in the city of Baxter that she and other residents found problematic. The city was installing sewer and water hook-ups every 100 feet and assessing property owners for the costs. If one owned more than 100 feet of property, their assessment included each hook-up. For Franzen, this meant a bill of \$49,000 for three hook-ups at her and husband Mike's Baxter home. ‘That was enough to spur me on ... I just thought it was excessive and something should be done,’ she said. ‘A group of us kept meeting in garages and planning a strategy of what should be done.’ The strategy ultimately included Franzen running for city council, to which she was elected in 2002. After spending nearly her entire term working on the issue, she is pleased with the results. Now, property owners will not be assessed for more than one hook-up until they either divide their property or sell it. ‘That was really a saving grace for people,’ she said. ‘One assessment is a lot less than three.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/28/14](#)]

PHILOSOPHY & IDEOLOGY

2022: Franzen denied being out of touch or ignoring her constituents. “One of the criticisms forwarded by Franzen’s opponent centers on her being out of touch with or not listening to constituents, while not having much of a presence in the district. Franzen said she totally disagrees with that characterization, noting she attends many meetings and ensures she’s responding to questions or feedback she receives. ‘I don't think you’d find one constituent, probably, who has ever called me who will say that I didn't call back. I can't always solve the problems and sometimes that doesn't make people happy,’ Franzen said. ‘But I'm always there. I've always been there.’ As for how she decides to advocate for a particular issue on behalf of county residents — especially ones generating controversy — Franzen said she keeps a tally of how many people she’s heard from support each stance and goes with the majority. She said this isn’t a perfect solution, because some constituents will never let their positions be known, but overall, she wants people to know she’s working for them. ‘If you say the squeaky wheel gets the grease, that’s kind of the way it is. ... If you’re against an issue, you think everybody’s against it. If you’re for an issue, you think everybody’s for it. But I hear from both sides,’ Franzen said. ‘... I just try to make sure that my constituents know that I'm working for them. If working for them means that I'm asking the hard questions, I’ll keep asking them. I know that not everybody has the same opinion.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/29/22](#)]

- **Franzen: “I take this job seriously. I listen and treat everybody with dignity.”**
“Franzen said some of the things being said about her are baffling and sound like they’re describing a different person. The biggest and most important difference between Franzen and her opponent, she said, ultimately comes down to her experience. I take this job seriously. I listen and treat everybody with dignity. I know how to make tough decisions without offending people,” Franzen said. ‘ ... I just want people to know that if they have any questions, please call me. There are so many things that have been said that I don't even know where to start. I just need people not to believe everything and give me a call. Ask for my perspective. It’s probably 100% opposite of my opponent’s on many, many, many things.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [10/29/22](#)]

PUBLIC SAFETY

2026: Franzen supported the sheriff’s cooperation with ICE: “I’m fine with what’s going on.” “Tim Quincer, Baxter, recently told Crow Wing County commissioners he was very concerned with the county’s cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and whether ICE was following the Constitution and taking people without reason to do so. ‘I think we should take a look at the legality of this,’ Quincer said during an open forum session at the Jan. 27 board meeting, a day after four men were taken into custody at El Potro Mexican restaurant in Brainerd. [...] What do Crow Wing County commissioners think of their role in terms Immigration and Customs Enforcement involvement in the county? ‘I think the sheriff made a decision,’ Chair Rosemary Franzen said. ‘The Attorney General gave an opinion, and until we get further clarification, I'm fine with what's going on. The sheriff needs to answer all these questions.’ [...] Asked about any issue with the county taking in detainees as a way to cover lost jail revenue, Franzen said it was about having the space. ‘When ICE picks someone up, they need a place to house those people. I don't see that that's a conflict,’ Franzen said. ‘... I'm not thinking about it as a money maker, but if, if they need someone, and there isn't any place between here and the Cities, I guess we're the next stop, OK, but you know, like I say, ask the sheriff.’” [Brainerd Dispatch, [2/8/26](#)]

LINKS

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PUBLIC RECORDS

No findings identified.