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Neb. Republicans Nominate Ricketts for Governor

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) --Omaha businessman Pete Ricketts has won the Republican nomination for Nebraska governor, beating five other candidates vying to replace Gov. Dave Heineman.

Ricketts beat his top rival, state Attorney General Jon Bruning, and now faces Democrat Chuck Hassebrook in November. Hassebrook, a former University of Nebraska regent, headed the Center for Rural Affairs before resigning to run for governor.

Ricketts, a former executive at the TD Ameritrade investment company, enters that race a big favorite. It's been 15 years since a Democrat has been Nebraska's governor.

In winning Tuesday's primary, Ricketts also beat State Auditor Mike Foley, state Sen. Beau McCoy, state Sen. Tom Carlson and Omaha tax attorney Bryan Slone.

Heineman is leaving office in January because of term limits. He has been governor since 2005.

Associated Press