

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Bob Andersen – LD 49

1. **Local Control** - With so many decisions from the legislature impacting local boards, NASB is interested in your view of local control. Regarding education, what decisions do you feel are best made at the school board level vs. the State level?

I support allowing for as much local control as possible. The state should be responsible for setting guidelines to assure all Nebraska students receive a high quality education.

Implementation falls on the local schools and it is important they are open to input from both parents and teachers when implementing policy.

2. **School Funding** - Every year the legislature makes decisions about the way schools are funded, making predictability of funding a challenge. What changes and/or adjustments, if any, do you think the Legislature should address?

I believe the Legislature must find a way to provide a stable funding source for all school districts. This must be mindful and fair to the taxpayers. Our current property tax situation is unsustainable.

3. **Role of Education in the State** - What role do you think PK-12 Education plays in the future success of the State and your community?

Education plays the most important role in the future of our state. We must make sure every student has access to the best education possible. This includes preparing both students seeking higher education and those looking to go right into the workforce. Our education system should not be used for social engineering or any social agenda promotion.

4. **Educational Workforce** - Educational workforce continues to be a challenge across the State from teachers to bus drivers. What would be your plan to address this challenge?

Across the board, we must make it easier to be employed in Nebraska. We need to remove barriers to occupational licensing for qualified candidates who have moved to Nebraska or who are willing to move here. This includes candidates for teaching positions, drivers, the trades and other occupations.

Addressing our tax climate will also help attract new citizens and retain our current workforce. As a retired member of the Air Force, I often hear my colleagues say they would love to stay in Nebraska, but it is cheaper elsewhere. We miss out on a lot of potential workers and taxpayers because our taxes are too high.

5. **Mandates** - School districts continue to be challenged by the increasing unfunded mandates put upon them by the State and Federal government. What is your response to mandates and the State's role in them?

I have personally met with all five county commissioners and the five mayors of Sarpy County to help understand their needs and how action by the Legislature affects their governments. We need to do a better job working with our local elected officials so we can avoid placing undue burdens on local governments. I would take the same approach with our local school boards.

Final Thoughts

One of our greatest responsibility is educating the younger generations. Regardless of what profession they choose, we need to ensure they are trained, prepared to enter the workforce and provide for themselves.

How can voters contact you?

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