

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Dan Quick– LD 35

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?

Education decisions are usually best made at the school board level because it provides more local control. There is a need for some basic statewide standards, but school boards should have the authority to ensure their school's policies and funding decisions are meeting the needs of the local community. Frankly I've been disappointed by the lack of respect for school boards shown by many in our legislature.

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 that we should be funding public education as a state. Our public schools need to be fully funded and that funding needs to be consistent, not in jeopardy every session. This would allow school boards to be more comfortable with lowering the property tax levy, which I support when done responsibly.

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?

PK-12 education plays a fundamental role in the future success of our state. We need strong public schools to provide every child with the tools they will need to succeed in the future, to prepare them to get a job, and to build them into our future leaders. We also need to be looking at ways to attract more families into our state to solve our workforce issues. Ensuring we have a strong PK-12 education system goes a long way to attracting and retaining families in Nebraska.

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?

Solving the staffing crisis facing our public schools is a crucial step to ensuring we have strong public schools. The challenge as you well know is money, which is affected by revenue dollars coming in and the cost associated with giving children a quality

education. I believe that our local school boards are good stewards of the tax dollars used to operate our schools. The legislature needs to work with school districts to come up with solutions to address teacher and staffing shortages. Attracting and retaining teachers is an issue many of our school districts face. Wages and benefits play a role, finding qualified teachers is another, and the cost of education for teachers can also be a barrier. Attracting teachers and operating staff may include competitive pay and benefits, tuition assistance, ensuring that our teachers have the resources and respect to do their work, and allowing teachers from other states to teach in Nebraska.

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?

While these mandates are often passed attempting to achieve laudable goals, it forces local government entities to raise their budgets to achieve these goals without giving these entities any say in the matter. Overall if the state wants to mandate something, the state should also fund the implementation of that mandate. One of my top priorities is to provide property tax relief. We cannot achieve property tax relief if we continue to saddle school boards with unfunded mandates.

Final Thoughts

I am proud of the work of our public schools and our school boards. We have some of the best schools in the country because of this hard work. While we face a number of challenges, I am positive that we can rise to the occasion to solve these problems when we work together. Importantly we should not be taking steps backwards, such as defunding our schools through voucher schemes, which have devastated schools in states like Iowa. During my last term in the legislature I strongly opposed sending state tax dollars to private schools and I have not changed my opinion. I hope we can stay in communication regarding any issues which impact the school boards and will always be open to listening to your point of view on issues.

How can voters contact you?

Voters can email me at dan@quickfornebraska.com or send me a message on Facebook at Dan Quick for Legislature. They can also visit my website, www.quickfornebraska.com to learn more about my campaign.