

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Jason Prokop – LD 27

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 view local control favorably. There may be a need for basic standards that are statewide, but local school boards should be able to adjust curriculum based on the unique needs of their students and districts.

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 would look for cost savings by providing additional funding to schools at the state level and consistent support without the constant threat of funding cuts, which prevents schools from comfortably lowering the levy.

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?

The classrooms of Nebraska public schools play a crucial role in shaping the future of the American workforce. When we have a strong school system, we have a strong economy.

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?

To boost teachers' salaries and stay competitive in the job market, the key lies in increasing state aid. Additional incentives include student loan forgiveness, provide ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers, with financial support, and having a comprehensive benefits package.

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 would have to know the specifics of the mandates, but overall my concern is how the state is going to fund these mandates. It's crucial to recognize that while some mandates are necessary, while others cause an undue burden.

Final Thoughts

I am a strong proponent that public dollars should only go to public schools, and I am the only candidate in this race that holds this view. Other states that have enacted school voucher schemes have seen the consequences as it has negatively impacted their schools. I want to keep Nebraska competitive and keep our schools strong.

How can voters contact you?

You can email me at info@jasonprokop.com or
Follow me on FB/Twitter(X): ProkopforLeg to connect