

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Jen Day – 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?

Generally, I believe in leaving most decisions to the local school board level, as these representatives are closest to the students and families affected by the decisions. School boards have the best perspective from which to decide how district funds are spent, specific curriculum decisions, salaries/pay, etc. Occasionally there are opportunities to make decisions at the state level about certain topics, such as general curriculum standards, but this is also often best informed by the state board of education and in combination with the approval of local school boards.

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?

In general, I believe the state needs to provide more substantial and consistent funding to education without the constant threat of cutting the local districts' budgets.

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?

Quality, accessible, free PK-12 education is the foundation for success in all aspects of the state and community. Access to knowledge is a basic requirement of a free thinking society and is instrumental in the success of individuals.

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?

First, better and more consistent funding from which to draw better pay for educators and staff. Second, tuition reimbursement to address the challenges of going into education and paying back student loans. Third, better safety guardrails for all staff to ensure they are working in a safe environment. And lastly, rolling back some of the unfunded mandates that I have learned burden staff and districts both financially and time-wise.

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 mentioned this in my last answer; if there is anything I've learned about education in my four years in the unicameral, it's that unfunded mandates are a significant contributor to stress and budget difficulties many districts face. Many of the unfunded mandates need to be eliminated.

Final Thoughts

I strongly believe in access to free quality education and the need to continue to work towards better outcomes for all children.

How can voters contact you?

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