

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Margo Juarez – LD 5

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 think local control should be primary for allocating the budget and general operations. State guidance is good for laws and regulations passed by the legislature. State sharing curriculum guidance and learning strategies. I think the state needs to provide stronger leadership for underperforming schools. How can we achieve success for all our students? How can we improve the state and local school partnership to meet our educational challenges?

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 think the voters will send the message on the funding option of public dollars for private schools. Can future gambling revenue assist in funding schools? I understand the goal of lowering property taxes, but we need to find other stable sources of revenue. Does TEEOSA meet today's challenges? Complex issue to address.

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?

I think public schools are vital to the future of our communities. I am concerned about addressing the needs of underperforming schools. What changes need to be made? What will be the successful approach to tackle this issue? We must focus on meeting this challenge. We need to maintain strong public schools. Schools need to address a variety of skills including the trades.

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?

The workforce is certainly a challenge. I support immigration reform to help meet future workforce needs. What would attract more folks to move to our state and stay here? I think mass transportation needs such as light rail would be a great investment.

Do we have affordable housing throughout the state to attract and retain our workforce? Do we have a strong benefit package? Are the benefit packages consistent across the state? Are we working with our local colleges to support our human resource needs? Are we doing enough marketing to our own students to consider our school system as a future employer? Do we need more funding to assist students with college?

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?

The state needs a stronger partnership at the federal level. The federal government should not impose any mandate that is not supported with the necessary funding. The same would be true if coming down from the state level.

Final Thoughts

I think our public schools need more advocates at the state level. It was the driver to motivate me to run for legislature. All students deserve an education. Private schools do not accept ALL students. I want to be the advocate for students who need their public school.

How can voters contact you?

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