

## NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Nick Batter – LD 13

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 believe in local government. I am opposed to recent misadventures by our legislature meant to antagonize and politicize local school boards and attempts at micromanagement.

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?

At the time of completing this survey, the Governor has not yet published his proposal for the special session, so I cannot speak authoritatively on the current (or future) state of things. As a general statement, I support seeing an increase in unrestricted state funding to our public schools, do not like money being appropriated toward private (largely religious) education, and believe we need to be more aggressive as a state at drawing down federal funds available to us.

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?

There is no greater value-for-money investment we can make as a society than the education of our children.

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?

Increased pay. This includes paras and support staff who often get forgotten about in this discourse. Increased support. Educational staff need to be protected from assault, and also from insult. That includes open hostility of elected officials against our education professionals which is absolutely unacceptable.

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?

As stated above, I am opposed to the state government leaving its lane and trying to micromanage local school boards. If a state senator wants to control the books in a middle school library, they should resign from the unicameral and get a librarian certification. I cannot control federal mandates, but I am opposed to legislature micro-management in any form.

### **Final Thoughts**

The ultimate metric for our education system is the success of our children. I am not an expert in pedagogy. Our classroom teachers and administrators are. My job as a legislator is to remove hurdles and provide funding for those experts to do what they do best, and ensure our children succeed. I have three children, all of whom will attend public school in my neighborhood.

### **How can voters contact you?**

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