

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Nicki Behmer Popp – LD 25

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 that the best decisions are made at the local level. Board members and administrators know the needs of their community and students best.

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?

The school funding formula is an intricate and complicated system. I hope that the recent changes to the Future Fund positively impact funding and will allow for more predictability. I don't claim to have expertise in TEEOSA and would rely on organizations and leaders such as the NASB to assist me in understanding the needs of schools as it relates to future legislation.

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?

It plays the biggest role in the future success of the State and all communities.

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?

I don't believe that there is one solution. We should be open to exploring a multitude of pathways to improve the education workforce pipeline. Two specific thoughts: Prioritizing and protecting school funding so salaries can be competitive; and salaries for high-needs areas being outside the budget lid similar to allowances for cities and counties.

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 believe unfunded mandates are unreasonable. If the state passes legislation to place a requirement on schools, there should always be sufficient accompanying funding.

Final Thoughts

Our schools are a significant source of pride for Nebraskans across the state. There is no greater investment than in our children.

How can voters contact you?

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