

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Victor Rountree – LD 3

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 supporting local control to allow school boards the ability to make decisions that best fit their students and community. While it is still important to have statewide standards, a balance is necessary. The increasing politicization of education negatively impacts our school boards and the ability of these members to effectively do their jobs.

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 believe that we must fund our schools at the state level to allow for reliable school funding. School boards must have predictable funding to plan for the school year and this funding should not be threatened. This would also give boards the confidence to lower 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?

This education plays an integral role in the future and success of our state. As a substitute teacher in our Bellevue Public Schools, I know the importance of PK-12 education. We need to properly prepare our students for the world post-graduation and provide them with the tools to succeed. An educated community is a successful one.

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?

We need to expand Nebraska's workforce and attract and retain workers here in our state. We can do this by offering competitive wages, health benefits, and providing further incentives to senior employees. I want to listen to teachers and those in education on how to address these challenges as well.

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?

While some mandates are necessary and beneficial, we must ensure that we not burdening our local school districts with unfunded overregulation. It is the state and district's role to implement proven mandates that will help our students and improve education. I want to listen to school districts and educators to find this balance and secure funding when needed.

Final Thoughts

As a substitute teacher in our Bellevue Public Schools, I am in the classroom seeing the challenges that our educators and students are facing. Our students are our future and we should aim for education in Nebraska to be a model for other states. I am a strong public school supporter and I believe in keeping our public dollars in our public schools. I plan to take my passion for education to the legislature and continue to listen to our educational community. Thank you.

How can voters contact you?

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