

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



Mike Jacobson – LD 42

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?

Local school boards must make decisions impacting hiring and local spending.

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 legislature should provide a greater portion of school funding based on enrollment, geographic, and special needs. Local districts should be allowed to generate funding sources other than taxes without losing state aid.

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?

Education is the foundation for future success in life.

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?

Entry level salaries for teachers have always been low. This negatively impacts teacher recruitment. The local unions need to work with local school boards to change this. This will likely need to be done in conjunction with greater funding.

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 have consistently opposed mandates, both funded and unfunded. Too many law makers want to see schools teaching new subjects without knowing what is already in place. The legislature needs to stay out of this area and defer to the State Board of Education.

Final Thoughts

We need to be more collaborative in solving the educational challenges with funding and educational efforts.

How can voters contact you?

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