

NASB Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2022



NAME: Jana Hughes – District 24

How can voters contact you? janahughes89@gmail.com

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 as much as possible needs to be made at the local level. That's why we have elected officials on these boards. What is right for a Lincoln or Omaha may not be what is right for a Heartland or Osceola. At the local level we should determine policies, budgets, staffing and some standards. The state should provide standards for core curriculum.*

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 thing I hear the most across my district is complaints about property taxes. It is not a property tax issue but rather a school funding issue. It is not right that nearly 2/3 of our school districts receive minimal state funding. Our funding of our schools needs to be addressed. There should be some state funding to all students across the state. This is one issue I am very passionate about - I would like to be on the Education committee and help look for solutions for this issue that has been going on for decades.*

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?

- *The children are our future. Plain and simple. Our children are the future workers, leaders, parents, etc. They need to be as prepared for those future positions as possible and that comes from the education provided. I think the more we can do in schools to prepare kids for the next step the better - internships, apprenticeships, etc. There is not one model that works for each student. So, we need to be prepared to provide for each different type of student whether that be to go right into the workforce or go on to more schooling - associates degree or beyond.*

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?

- *This is not just a challenge to education - it is across the board in all industries. I don't have an immediate solution - but I think that one of the first things that can be done is to eliminate any barriers that are there. So, making sure licensing isn't creating difficult barriers - this can extend to driving licenses, etc. If someone is teaching in another state, they should be able to step into a teaching position here easily. We need to do a better job of "selling" education. We need more students heading into those fields. Teachers do have good and rewarding jobs and we need to make sure we share that. We also need to make our state attractive to keeping our own people here and encouraging people to move from other states here. Things needed: affordable and*

reliable internet (everywhere - not just in cities), affordable and available housing, attractive amenities for families, and reasonable taxation.

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?

- *Enough with the unfunded mandates from the State. If the State is going to require the schools to provide a service, etc then there should be the funds provided for that.*

Final Thoughts

- *We have a great education system in Nebraska. I am proud of how our state handled the pandemic. In general, our state did not sacrifice our kids. We did a great job keeping kids in school and minimizing the loss learning as compared to other states. That being said there is always room to improve, and the children are our future and we need to do all that we can to ensure their success.*

NASB does not endorse candidates and does not make recommendations to members, or anyone, on whom to support for election. NASB may, from time to time, provide opportunities for candidates for elected office to meet with or communicate with its membership. Any NASB event allowing candidates for office to meet or communicate with its membership should not be considered a direct or passive endorsement of any candidate.