

## NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



### Michelle Smith – LD 33

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?

Budget decisions, school policies and procedures, and staff pay rates.

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?

Updating the TEEOSA formula. Make predictability of funding easier.

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?

PK-12 Education is vital to the success of the State and our community. Education is connected to our economy and addressing brain drain in rural Nebraska.

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?

Support education at all levels, ensure adequate funding for equitable wages, incentives, and funding for student teachers.

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?

We either need to reduce and/or eliminate the unfunded mandates put in place by the State, or provide the funding to support the mandate.

#### **Final Thoughts**

Nebraska has one of the best education systems in the nation and we need to ensure we keep it that way.

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

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