

## NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



### Terrell McKinney – LD 11

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 decisions are generally best made at the school board level in most cases. However, there are times when school boards may not be performing effectively, and certain issues need to be addressed at the state level. Ideally, school boards would fulfill their roles properly, eliminating the need for state intervention. Nevertheless, there are instances where state-level involvement is necessary, especially for issues that disproportionately affect certain demographics of students.

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 think we should find a way to simplify how our schools are funded. TEEOSA is very complicated and has been changed too many times since its implementation. We need to find a balance between property taxes funding our schools and the state taking on more responsibility, if not all. My concern is how an economic downturn might affect schools in my community that already need more resources, especially with term limits.

We should determine the correct base level of funding for our schools and then have an honest conversation about equity and the allocation of funding each school district receives. The reality is that our schools are either not equitably funded, resources are not being properly allocated, or both. Once we address these issues, the predictability of funding should not be a challenge.

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 plays a crucial role in the future success of our state. It should prepare students for the future by focusing on how they need to be educated today, forecasting future job market demands, and creating environments where students feel welcomed, heard, and comfortable in our schools.

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?

First, I would determine the underlying reasons. Through conversations with teachers, I've learned that it's not just about money, although increasing teacher pay is necessary. After understanding the reasons, I would develop a plan centered around the educational workforce that addresses their concerns. This plan could focus on improving the environment inside our schools, raising pay, enhancing benefits, and ensuring that administrators make decisions in collaboration with the workforce. Additionally, I would focus on improving our pipeline of Nebraska students into the educational workforce, especially from minority communities.

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?

Ideally, I believe that if anything is mandated, the state or federal government should fund it. While some mandates may arise because school districts refuse to change and are needed to address pressing issues, overall, if the state requires something and resources are needed, we should find a way to fund it.

**Final Thoughts**

I believe our education system needs to be modernized to improve our educational outcomes. We must also acknowledge that multiple demographics within the educational ecosystem have been historically undereducated. Just because the majority has been adequately served does not mean that change is unnecessary.

**How can voters contact you?**

[mckinneyforld11@gmail.com](mailto:mckinneyforld11@gmail.com)