

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



Caitlin Knutson – LD 2

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?

Most decisions are best handled by a local board. The state's main role should revolve around funding, and how funding can support local school efforts.

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 state being an unreliable funding partner is a major problem. I know there are current talks about adjusting the TEEOSA formula and potentially shifting property tax to another tax revenue. I want to be a strong voice in these discussions advocating for stability and making sure our public schools are not in a position of making significant budget slashes if there is a shortfall in expected tax revenue.

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 extremely important. Access to a quality education provides economic opportunity and hope of advancement to our youth. Our community benefits from young people being capable, having critical thinking, and prepared for joining the workforce.

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 and foremost, as a former special education teacher, I understand the importance of properly funding our schools. I will also work to protect teacher/staff salaries and benefits. I also understand the behavior crisis we are seeing in our schools, and would thoughtfully work with teachers and school boards to provide support.

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?

The state should assist in funding mandates as much as possible, and be wary of creating legislation putting additional burdens on school budgets. I also would use my position to advocate for the Federal government to honor their share of funding, and support resolutions like LR422 to increase special education funding.

Final Thoughts

As a special education teacher for 15 years that worked in public schools as well as Health and Human Services, I understand how frustrating it can be to have legislation crafted by politicians who do not understand what it is like teaching in the classroom.

How can voters contact you?

I have a contact page on my website voters can submit questions to.