

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek – LD 4

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 support local control. I trust locally elected officials to make the best decisions for their districts or to be held accountable through elections. Most day to day decisions, budgeting decisions, school policies, hiring decisions, and tax requests should be left to these officials in coordination with state board of education policies. There are matters which impact boards that are of statewide concern, but when these issues come up, I will want to consult with my local school board members to ensure their voices are reflected.

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?

My goal is to increase the level of state aid to schools and to ensure funding is consistent. That will allow local boards to budget in a more predictable manner. I will evaluate all decisions regarding TEEOSA with this goal in mind and will seek feedback from school board members in my district.

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 strength of our education system is critical to the future success of our state and community. We cannot prepare the next generation for life and a career if we do not have a strong education system. Nebraska's PK-12 Education excellence has also been a strong reason for many talented professionals and their families to consider relocating to our state.

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?

I welcome feedback from local school districts who are making these hiring decisions on what they think would have the most impact. Many lawmakers talk a big game

about addressing these shortages, but have not voted to deliver the funding needed to tackle these issues. I think we need to put our money where our mouth is. Outside of that, we need to recognize that many of these jobs are difficult and have high rates of burn out, so I want to be a representative who listens to the pain points of those doing these jobs and working as a state to ensure we are offering the right benefits or support to help retain those doing this work.

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 know many mandates are well-intentioned, but the state has historically provided inconsistent levels of state aid with increased mandates. That forces school districts to increase their levies before accounting for inflation or growth. I want to increase state aid to local school districts and work to eliminate mandates. Local school districts should have the authority then to decide if they want to continue to invest in what is currently mandated. If a currently unfunded mandate is critical for our schools, the state should be funding it.

Final Thoughts

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your questionnaire process. Please do not hesitate to reach out with further questions. All Nebraskans deserve a high quality education and I hope to work with you to deliver it.

How can voters contact you?

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