

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



George Dungan – LD 26

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?

School boards are locally elected bodies and should have their local authority respected. When it comes to setting budgets, property tax request authority, district policies, etc., school boards should have their authority respected. There are times when statewide standards are necessary, which is why we have the state board of education in place.

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 want the legislature to provide a consistent, predictable, and high level of state aid to local school districts so that they can plan for the long-term, meet the needs of their districts, and steadily reduce their levies.

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?

All levels of education play a critical role in the future success of our state. PK-12 is foundational and absolutely critical.

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 have brought legislation on these issues and will continue to advocate for policies which seek to fill our shortage of educational workers. Whether it is my previously proposed solutions or someone else's idea, I want to work to get these policies across the finish line and welcome your feedback in that process.

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 would like to see the state take on an increased role in funding our local school districts and provide funding for many of these mandates. If the state decides something is important enough to mandate, they should help fund it. I do believe, however, that some funding should come from localities in order to maintain local control. The last thing I would like to see is the state take over 100% of funding only to see the state cut funding to schools when we are in lean times. We need to ensure that schools remain funded across the entire state. Otherwise, it should be the decision of local school board members. Of course, many of these changes may not be politically feasible, so I welcome a conversation about specific mandates NASB thinks need to be reviewed.

Final Thoughts

I appreciate the work of your association to improve public education in our state and hope to work together again if I am fortunate enough to be reelected. In my estimation, ensuring the next generation of Nebraskans receives a strong and robust education that prepares them for success in life is one of the most important roles of government and I hope to be a partner in delivering on that responsibility.

How can voters contact you?

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