

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



Jess Goldoni – LD 18

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?

Local school boards should make most operational decisions because they are directly accountable to the families and communities they serve. That includes staffing, curriculum implementation, local programming, facilities, and how district resources are used. The state should establish clear academic, civil-rights, safety, transparency, and fiscal standards, then give districts the resources and flexibility to meet them. State government should not impose one-size-fits-all solutions when local needs differ.

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?

Nebraska needs a more predictable and equitable school-funding system that reduces reliance on property taxes without shifting costs back to local districts. I support reviewing TEEOSA so funding reflects actual student needs, including special education, poverty, transportation, and growing enrollment. The Legislature should understand the local impact before changing formulas, caps, or revenue authority and should not promise property-tax relief by simply cutting school resources.

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?

Strong public schools are the foundation of Nebraska's workforce, economy, and quality of life. Students need strong reading, math, science, and civic foundations, along with clear pathways into college, skilled trades, technology, agriculture, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and public service. Nebraska's future depends on preparing students for good jobs and giving them reasons to build their lives here.

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?

Nebraska needs to retain the people already serving our schools while building a stronger pipeline for the future. That means competitive compensation, better support for classroom safety and working conditions, teacher apprenticeships, expanded grow-your-own programs, and stronger partnerships with colleges, community colleges, employers, and the trades. We should also reduce unnecessary paperwork and make it easier for qualified professionals to enter education without lowering standards.

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 Legislature should not require schools to create new programs, reports, positions, or procedures without identifying the cost and how they will be funded. Every proposed mandate should include a realistic fiscal analysis, input from local districts, and enough flexibility for different communities to comply effectively. When the state requires something, it should accept responsibility for helping schools pay for it.

Final Thoughts

Nebraska should expect strong outcomes, transparency, and accountability from its schools, but those expectations must be matched with stable funding and respect for local leadership. I will support safe classrooms, strong teachers, responsible use of tax dollars, and multiple pathways for students to succeed. Property-tax relief and strong public schools should not be treated as competing goals. We need leaders willing to listen, use data, and work together on a long-term funding system that delivers both.

How can voters contact you?

Voters can reach me at jess@jessgoldoni.com, through JessGoldoni.com, or on Facebook and Instagram at [@jessgoldoni](https://www.instagram.com/jessgoldoni)