

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



Mark Schoenrock – LD 32

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 will stand strong for local control. I have met with each of the 14 superintendents in LD32 and each school district best knows their own district better than someone in Lincoln or Washington.

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?

We need to review the TEEOSA formula. I will review the School Financing commission report. There are other proposals out there also such as the Simple Plan which have merit. Of the 14 school districts in LD 32, only one is equalized. That is not fair to the property tax payers of LD 32. I will work hard to ensure we have optimum school financing options that are more fair to all taxpayers and ensure the best education for our rising generation.

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?

Ensuring the best education for our rising generation and keep them in Nebraska is one of my top priorities when elected to the Legislature. It is absolutely vital to the future of Nebraska. As a Jefferson County Commissioner, I led the effort to institute a school attendance program in our county budget that serves all Jefferson County schools and keeps our rising generation in school, which leads to many long term benefits for the individual and society as a whole. I have served as a TeamMate mentor as well for ten years and have learned much from that experience!

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 will work hard to ensure that we are doing all we can in the Legislature to ensure the recruitment and retention of a top quality educational work force. There are many

tools available such as education incentives, tax credits and direct targeted financial assistance, among others.

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 will stand strong to ensure we do not create unfunded mandates coming to our school districts from the Legislature. I have served as a Jefferson County commissioner for eleven years and am very familiar with unfunded mandates coming from Lincoln to Nebraska local government. My elected experience will be a huge asset for our Nebraska educational system.

Final Thoughts

Having served as an elected Jefferson County commissioner for eleven years and numerous regional board leadership responsibilities (Public Health Solutions district health board chairman, Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging Chairman, Blue Valley Community Action Vice President and NACO Southeast District Director serving 17 counties of southeast Nebraska) I have been integrally involved with a number of issues directly affecting the education of our rising generation in Nebraska. I will work hard as a state senator to ensure we are doing all we can in Lincoln to ensure a great education for our rising generation of Nebraskans and keep them in Nebraska. I have met one on one with each of our 14 school district superintendents, know many school board members, and will stay close with them when elected. Each school district best knows their own district and I will work hard to ensure I know the specific needs and challenges of each district and that the Legislature is best addressing those needs and challenges, while not taking away local control.

How can voters contact you?

mark@schoenrockforlegislature.com
facebook.com/schoenrockforlegislature