

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



SuAnn Witt – LD 14

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 believe the State should have a support role that helps local boards make the best decisions they can for their community. School boards are elected locally for a reason; they know the needs of their community and what the best approach is to solving the problems their district faces. We should avoid the one-size-fits-all approach because the needs of a district in Gering will differ considerably from the needs of Papillion La Vista.

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 think the state should work to stabilize funding for school districts to help ease the burden of the budgeting process. This would allow local districts to lower the property tax levy if they have a more predictable funding structure.

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?

Our education system is one of Nebraska's biggest economic strengths. A well-educated, healthy workforce is pivotal to the long-term success of our communities. We need to support our schools so that they can continue to provide the best services to the next generation of Nebraskans.

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 think we can all agree that the people who dedicate their lives to educating our children are not compensated enough for their work. We should do what we can as a state to provide them with good quality healthcare, a competitive retirement plan, and just compensation for the work they put in every day to ensure our kids are safe, healthy, and well educated.

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 believe that if the state is imposing a mandate on local governments, they should provide funding as well. Otherwise, it is essentially adding a new tax on the local communities. This is poor fiscal management and we should do our best to rectify the situation going forward and provide support for past mandates.

Final Thoughts

I look forward to being elected as the next Senator for my Legislative District 14 so that I can use my experience to help make Nebraska a better place to live for my children and grandchildren. Having worked my entire career in educational support roles and being elected to the school board in my district, that has been my goal every step of the way. I have managed millions of dollars for a technology budget during my time working at OPS, and I hope to use that experience to get our state back on track and help make fiscally responsible decisions in the legislature to allow local communities the ability to make the decisions that are best for them.

How can voters contact you?

suann@wittfornebraska.com