

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



Ted Japp – LD 16

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 in local control to the greatest extent possible. The people closest to the situation should be the primary decision makers. The State of Nebraska should provide general guidelines applicable to all districts.

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?

School districts need continuity of state funding in order to make intelligent short and long-term financial decisions. There should be strong assurances of ongoing consistent financial support.

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?

A well educated population is imperative for the prolonged future success of every Nebraska community and the state as a whole. Life is a challenging experience and it is even more difficult for those who lack the basic education skills needed to compete in today's job market. Mastery of the basics allows anyone to branch out and excel in any number of specialized fields.

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?

More competitive wages and salaries would be helpful. Identifying and actively recruiting potential teachers, beginning in high school may aid in alleviating shortages.

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?

Too often it seems like mandates are a form of red tape that do not necessarily improve the final product, only drive up the cost. More local control to accept or deny the unfunded mandates might be worth exploring.

Final Thoughts

My wife and I both had a great public school experience. I believe the vast majority of Nebraska's public schools are doing an excellent job of carrying out their mission.

How can voters contact you?

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