

NASB Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2022



NAME: John Fredrickson – District 20

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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 that policy decisions in general should be made as close to the folks being most impacted, and therefore strongly support local control when it comes to education.*

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?

- *A strong education system is an essential component of a healthy, flourishing society. I am passionate about ensuring that our teachers and schools have the resources they need to ensure that our children graduate with the skill sets needed to be successful in today's world. School funding has long been debated in Nebraska, with a focus on the role of property taxes. The state has not adequately funded our public education and ranks near the bottom in the US for state aid to education. I believe that the state needs to increase its funding of our school system so that we are not overly reliant on property taxes. This will help alleviate the tax burden and ensure our school funding is reliable, stable, and equitable.*

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 strong public education system is the foundation of a strong, flourishing society. Not only does strong education benefit overall community well-being, it also ensures that we have a highly competitive workforce within our state once our students graduate. This is essential in ensuring our sustainability for years to come, and is an investment we should prioritize in Nebraska.*

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?

- *Workforce retention is a key issue on my campaign, and educational workforce is a major concern of mine. I would first and foremost be interested in speaking directly with those most impacted to better understand what issues are contributing to workforce retention issues and look to how the legislature can best support this moving forward. I am open to any and all conversations related to how to best improve this.*

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?

- *Unfunded mandates can strain a district's budget. While well-intended, these can have significant impact on the finances of local schools. For this reason, I would be opposed to future mandates that do not include a funding structure/plan from the state.*

Final Thoughts

- *I appreciate the opportunity to complete this survey and the work you do. If elected to office, I intend to be a strong advocate for public education statewide and remain open to conversations on how to best ensure that Nebraska continues to be an educational leader in our country.*

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