

## NASB Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2022



NAME: Jane Raybould– District 28

How can voters contact you?

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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'm certainly supportive of most, if not all, decisions being made at the local school board level primarily with budgeting and staffing. Uniformity in testing, fundamental curricula for promotion and teaching qualifications is usually done at the State level.*

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 will continue to be a staunch advocate and supporter for public education. I do not believe the State of Nebraska adequately funds public education as evidenced by being ranked 49th. The State has shifted the burden to communities to fund creating more and more pressure on property tax increases. Our communities have demonstrated how fiercely proud they are of their schools and continue to shoulder more financial responsibility as they recognize how essential great education is to their community.*

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?

- *Funding public education is not only the greatest equalizer in our society but an economic driver of retention, attraction and recruitment. As a business owner, funding public education and producing an educated workforce is essential to the economic well-being of our business and our State to not only grow and maintain our existing business but to attract more.*

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?

- *We have to be competitive in wages and benefits. I'd like to see what other states are doing with signing and commitment incentives, with tuition reimbursements for those pursuing an education degree, student loan repayment assistance and even state or local tax credits to attract and retain the best. Partnering with colleges and universities by offering internships and apprentice programs with educators and staff support positions as well.*

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?

- *As a former county commissioner, I felt strongly (and still do today) that the State needs to restore state aid to cities and counties along with jail reimbursements. I personally applaud Senator Carol Blood's efforts to enact legislation to halt all unfunded mandates. Actually, a few states have been successful in getting this passed. The State must and should appropriate funds for initiatives and thoughtfully consider the fiscal impact that they are now passing on the local political subdivisions.*

## **Final Thoughts**

- *I intend to use my government and leadership experiences to focus on the cost burden the State has shifted to our taxpayers by addressing the underfunding of public education, the overcrowding in our penitentiary, and the need for criminal justice reform. This past legislative session had an opportunity to use some of the surplus revenue as proposed by Senator Lynn Walz towards public education and then create a sustainable funding source such as % of the sales tax going forward. Funding public education is critical to our State's economic vitality.*

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