

NASB Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2022



NAME: Megan Hunt – District 8

How can voters contact you? email - mhunt@leg.ne.gov or on social media @nebraskamegan

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?

- *Decisions should be made as closely to the people/groups affected as possible. In the Legislature I have a great record on supporting local control.*

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 believe that early childhood education and high-quality early childhood care is integral to building a foundation for a successful future for all children. Research shows that when lawmakers prioritize early childhood education, allowing children to realize their potential and develop a love of learning, the advantages for the children who benefit from these programs can be tracked into adulthood. Keeping our promises to fund these programs and finding ways to increase the value of these programs without diminishing the value to taxpayers is important to me. It's also important to me that the NASB understand that I am against the use of public funds for private education, full-stop, period. In the Nebraska Legislature I have been an active and vocal check against bills that siphon much-needed funding away from our public schools. I envision a public education system in Nebraska where every parent feels proud to enroll their children, because parents know that our schools are well-funded and well-staffed and can fulfill the diverse needs of the children in each community. Public funds from taxpayers should only be used to further improve our excellent Nebraska public schools.*

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?

- *The state of Nebraska can build a strong foundation for economic success and shared prosperity^[1] by investing in public education. Providing access to high quality education will not only expand economic opportunity for residents, but also do more to strengthen the overall state economy than anything else a state government can do.*

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?

- *My plan is to listen to the people affected and put educators and school staff at the forefront of the discussion about what their needs are. I'm not the expert, they are.*

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 have always (I think!) opposed unfunded mandates on local governments.*

Final Thoughts

- *When our already underpaid teachers have to pay out-of-pocket for basic school supplies, when they leave education, the field they first entered with great passion, because they cannot pay their bills, when they are unsupported by their school administrations, it's students who suffer. And when students suffer because teachers are unable to work at their greatest potential, our entire communities suffer. Schools need support because we know teachers need support, and we know that great teachers get great outcomes for students. Our state lawmakers have an obligation to take a sober look at the sustainability of our school funding policies and consider the long-term outcomes of failing to adequately support our schools, where the foundation of success is built for all Nebraskans.*

NASB does not endorse candidates and does not make recommendations to members, or anyone, on whom to support for election. NASB may, from time to time, provide opportunities for candidates for elected office to meet with or communicate with its membership. Any NASB event allowing candidates for office to meet or communicate with its membership should not be considered a direct or passive endorsement of any candidate.