



JCRC Omaha 2026 Jewish Voter Guide on State and Local Races

Candidate Positions on Issues of Importance to Nebraska's Jewish Community and Our Neighbors

NEBRASKA STATE SENATOR

Cally Ideus – Candidate for LD 30

Antisemitism and leadership

1. Antisemitism can come from across the political and ideological spectrum. What responsibility do elected officials have to recognize and speak out against antisemitism, including when it comes from members of their own party, political allies, or supporters?

As a military veteran, I have zero tolerance for antisemitism or any form of discrimination. As a senator, I will hold people accountable wherever necessary.

2. How do you define antisemitism, and how would you distinguish it from legitimate political speech or criticism?

Antisemitism is rooted in bias and unethical behavior, distinct from political speech grounded in facts and constructive criticism.

3. Community harmony in a polarized environment: Political rhetoric can contribute either to division or to mutual respect. What responsibility do elected officials have to avoid language that stereotypes or scapegoats religious, racial, ethnic, immigrant, or other communities, particularly during campaigns?

A state senator has a responsibility to represent their constituents respectfully.

There is zero excuse for language that causes separation and disrespect.

Hate and bias

4. Should Nebraska codify IHRA legislatively so its applicability extends beyond what a governor can accomplish through executive action. How would you respond to acts of hate or bias affecting any community in your district or across Nebraska, and what legislative action, if any, do you believe is appropriate?

I need to study this and hope your organization will identify the legal parameters for disciplinary measures against violators. We should be vigilant to ensure rights and responsibilities are applied equally.

Community security

5. Jewish institutions and other houses of worship have faced increased security concerns in recent years. What role do you believe elected officials should play in helping communities feel safe while preserving an open and welcoming civic environment?

Officials should ensure adequate resources for safe communities and use risk assessments. People may perceive overreach when adding extra security, such as cameras or other logistical tools. Safety protections and protocols can be welcoming while enhancing safety and security.

Church and State

6. Religious liberty includes both the right to practice one's faith and protection against government establishment of religion. As a state senator, how would you balance these principles when considering legislation affecting public schools and other government institutions, particularly when the religious beliefs of the majority differ from those of religious minorities?

Our Constitution creates rights that remain the foundation of our country. Public and private educational institutions differ significantly and may inhibit the expression of one's religious practices. I am a firm believer in academic excellence and equality to academic excellence.

Education

7. What role should the Legislature play in addressing antisemitism and other forms of religious discrimination in Nebraska's K-12 schools and public colleges and universities?

I again believe there should be a statewide zero tolerance for unethical behavior and speech. Academic institutions should have strict disciplinary measures to mitigate these challenges.

Budget

8. Nebraska faces a significant projected budget shortfall. What two specific actions would you support to restore structural balance, and what area of the state budget would you prioritize for protection?

I have the knowledge, skills, and abilities, with a specialty in analytics and policy. First, we need to audit our spending and then re-evaluate our tax calculations. Then we need hard, honest conversations about Nebraska priorities to maintain and grow our state with sustainable solutions. Nebraska has incredible trades, unions, and businesses that are subject matter experts in each industry and have made Nebraska prosperous. From agriculture to technology advancements, we have a

responsibility to make sure they are at the table when defining the future of Nebraska.

Reserves

9. Nebraska entered 2023 with historically strong General Fund balances and nearly \$1 billion in its Cash Reserve Fund. What lessons should the Legislature draw from the fiscal decisions of recent years, and what spending, revenue, or tax-policy changes would you support to restore long-term fiscal stability?

Nebraska cannot afford to live in the past, and we definitely can not keep doing business as we have. With vastly changing economic conditions, we need to be quick and agile to protect the reserves and disciplined in spending.

Food insecurity & Affordability

10. Food insecurity is growing and profoundly impacting families across Nebraska.

What role should state government play in addressing hunger, and how would your administration approach Nebraska's participation in and administration of federal nutrition programs?

I can personally understand what it takes to raise a family and do it with intention to healthy living. When junk food is cheaper than fresh produce, the economic driver basically leans toward what is cheapest. But healthy living is an individual choice; food security, by contrast, is not. Several programs support the backpack program and food drives. Community gardens and farmers' markets have supported the community during the growing season. We must look at the root cause of food insecurity and address it at the source to truly solve the problem and mitigate it proactively.

11. With rising home prices and property taxes, homeownership is becoming increasingly difficult for many families. What would you do to make homeownership more affordable while ensuring local governments have the resources they need?

I want to support efforts like Six Regions and economic developers as they focus on safe, structured, growing communities. I believe many efforts are happening in silos, which often take longer and require more resources. More effort is needed on collaboration and cost sharing to support feasible, expedited projects.

Workforce

12. What policies would you support to address Nebraska's workforce shortages, including attracting and retaining legal immigrants and refugees who can contribute to Nebraska's economy?

Pending the trade, workforce shortages may or may not be the issue. We need to evaluate each trade, identify opportunities, build an educational support system, and assist with career placement and succession planning. I believe Nebraska is proud of its legal immigrants, who provide a wealth of knowledge and innovation. The legalization processes need to be resourceful and fluent to provide support.

Diverse representation

13. Relationships across differences: How would you build relationships with Jewish and other faith and minority communities—including communities whose members may disagree with you politically—and ensure they have meaningful access to you if you are elected?

I bring a level of professionalism that focuses on issues, not differing political ideologies. I was raised a nondenominational Christian and nannied for a Jewish family after high school. It was an honor to learn customs and build respectful relationships, both personally and professionally.

14. How do you approach policymaking in a culturally and religiously diverse legislative district, and how will you engage with faith-based and minority communities if elected?

As stated earlier, it's a personal and professional policy to respect each community's cultural and religious diversity. I hope to communicate fluently with anyone who wants to build that relationship.

Israel and the Jewish community

15. Israel is an important part of the organized religious, cultural, and communal identity of most Jewish Nebraskans even while holding a wide range of views about Israeli government policies. How do you approach conversations about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a way that respects both legitimate political disagreement and the concerns of Jewish constituents about antisemitism?

I am not a philosopher; I am not a federal representative; I will be a state senator who provides safe, secure, ethical state policy with appropriate regulation in accordance with the intent of the law. That stated when challenges exist that effect Nebraska's it is my job to facilitate the challenge with whatever entity is involved at the local, state, or federal level. Again, as stated, I have zero tolerance for any unethical or illegal behavior that threatens an American's safety and security.