



Candidate Survey

The Jewish community of Nebraska values civic engagement, pluralism, democratic norms, and constructive dialogue. This questionnaire is intended to help Jewish voters better understand each candidate's positions and priorities. Responses may be shared publicly and should reflect the candidate's own views. Please limit type-written responses to *150 words per question* if possible.

For a deeper understanding of our values and public policy concerns, visit our [JCRC Omaha website](https://www.jewishomaha.org).

Antisemitism, Civil Rights, and Pluralism

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

Antisemitism is hatred, prejudice, or discrimination directed at Jewish people — whether expressed through rhetoric, intimidation, vandalism, or violence. It includes Holocaust denial, conspiracy theories about Jewish people, and the targeting of Jewish institutions. I believe the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism provides a sound framework for identifying it.

Legitimate criticism of any government's policies is part of free political discourse. The line is crossed when criticism relies on age-old antisemitic tropes, singles out Israel with a double standard not applied to other nations, or seeks to delegitimize Israel's right to exist altogether — as the BDS movement does. I've been clear: the BDS movement's goals are rooted in hate and have no place in American institutions. That is not political criticism. That is antisemitism.

2. Do you support enforcement of federal civil rights laws, including Title VI? Please explain.

Yes. Title VI is essential, and I support robust enforcement — particularly on college campuses where antisemitic harassment has surged. I also support increased federal funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to protect synagogues, Jewish schools, and faith-based institutions. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure every American (regardless of religion, background, or ethnicity) can participate fully in civic life free from fear.

3. How would you respond to acts of hate or bias affecting any community in NE-02?

I would, and have spoken out immediately and unequivocally to acts of hate or bias in NE-02 or to the Jewish community as whole. Hate directed at any community in NE-02 is unacceptable, and elected officials have a responsibility to say so clearly. As someone who has spent decades building coalitions

across Omaha, I know that communities are stronger when leaders show up for one another. I expect federal law enforcement to investigate and prosecute hate crimes to the fullest extent of the law.

Israel and Foreign Policy

4. What is your understanding of the U.S.–Israel relationship, and why do you believe it is (or is not) important to the United States?

The U.S.–Israel relationship is one of America's most important alliances — grounded not only in strategic interest but in shared values: democracy, freedom, innovation, and a commitment to human dignity. Israel is a beacon of stability in a volatile region and a hub of technological innovation that benefits Nebraska farmers, manufacturers, and consumers. The alliance strengthens American security and reflects America's moral commitment to defend its allies.

5. Do you support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state? Why or why not?

Unequivocally yes. Israel is a democratic state with deep historical, religious, and cultural roots. The October 7th Hamas attacks reaffirmed that Israel's survival is not a given; it must be actively defended. I will be a steadfast voice for Israel's right to exist, defend itself, and thrive in peace and prosperity. I also support the continued delivery of security assistance, including Iron Dome and Iron Beam missile defense systems, and renewal of the U.S.–Israel Memorandum of Understanding providing \$3.8 billion annually in military aid.

6. What principles guide your approach to U.S.–Israel relations and Middle East policy?

Peace through strength, not appeasement. I oppose any revival of the failed Iran Nuclear Deal. I support building on the Abraham Accords to expand normalization between Israel and Arab nations. I also support the Taylor Force Act and oppose any U.S. funding to the Palestinian Authority until it ends its "pay-to-slay" program. The BDS movement's goals are rooted in antisemitism and have no place in American institutions.

Democracy and Civic Norms

7. What responsibilities do elected officials have in promoting civil discourse and protecting democratic institutions?

Elected officials set the tone. When leaders use their platforms to inflame division, dehumanize opponents, or spread misinformation, they erode the trust that makes self-governance possible. I believe in winning arguments with evidence and persuasion — not fear or falsehood. I've worked across the aisle on Omaha's City Council because the job requires it, and I'll bring that same commitment to Washington.

8. What steps would you take to ensure that misinformation and extremist rhetoric do not undermine public trust or target minority communities?

Extremist rhetoric and misinformation thrive when leaders stay quiet. I believe elected officials have an obligation to speak plainly when hate targets any community. Federal law enforcement must investigate and prosecute hate crimes and material support for terrorism aggressively. Beyond

enforcement, I believe the strongest defense against extremism is the kind of trust built between communities over time — and that starts with leaders who take those relationships seriously.

9. How do you approach policymaking in a culturally and religiously diverse district?

NE-02 is one of the most competitive and diverse districts in the country, and I think that's a strength. Earning the trust of a broad coalition of Nebraskans — not just those who already agree with me — makes for better representation. I've spent my career in public service doing exactly that, working across party lines and across communities because the job demands it. That won't change in Washington.

Healthcare and Well-Being

10. Access to affordable, high-quality healthcare remains a concern for many Nebraskans. What role should Congress play in improving healthcare access and affordability, including prevention, treatment, and access for children, families, and seniors?

America's healthcare system works best when it prioritizes lowering costs, increasing competition, and improving price transparency. I support maintaining private insurance as a core component of American healthcare — it drives innovation, competition, and patient choice. Federal policy should focus on expanding access and reducing costs through market-based solutions, not government mandates. I also believe we must protect Medicare, Medicaid, and other critical safety nets for those who need them — seniors, veterans, struggling families, not able-bodied adults trying to game the system.

Food Insecurity and Basic Needs

11. Food insecurity affects families, seniors, students, and working households across Nebraska. How should Congress address food insecurity, and what is your view of federal nutrition programs?

Food insecurity is a real problem in Nebraska. Federal nutrition programs and school meal programs play an important role in ensuring families don't fall through the cracks. I support protecting these programs for the people who genuinely need them — children, seniors, veterans, the disabled and working families facing hardship. At the same time, Congress has a responsibility to ensure these programs are efficiently run and free from fraud and waste. The goal should be a bridge to self-sufficiency, not a permanent substitute for it.

12. What is your perspective on federal nutrition programs, such as SNAP and school meal programs?

I support nutrition programs that serve the people who truly need them — children, seniors, veterans, the disabled and working families. Congress's job is to protect those programs and make sure they work as intended.

13. How can federal policy better support community-based and faith-based organizations working to meet basic needs.

Faith-based and community organizations are often more effective and efficient than federal agencies at delivering services because they know their neighbors. Congress should reduce the bureaucratic

barriers that prevent these organizations from accessing federal partnership funding and expand initiatives like the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. Congress should empower these organizations, not compete with them.

Economy and Cost of Living

14. What are your top economic priorities for NE-02, particularly regarding cost-of-living pressures?

Since 2020, consumer prices are up nearly 26%, rent has jumped 33%, and home prices have spiked 55%. My priorities are straightforward: make the pro-growth tax cuts permanent, cut the regulatory red tape that drives up housing costs, and take on big pharma so Nebraskans aren't subsidizing the rest of the world's drug prices. Research shows government regulation accounts for nearly a third of the cost of a new home in Omaha — that's a policy failure Congress can address.

Workforce and Nebraska's Future

15. Nebraska faces workforce shortages and brain drain. What federal policies would you support to attract and retain talent?

Nebraska has real workforce shortages in manufacturing, healthcare, and the skilled trades. I support strengthening career and technical education, expanding apprenticeship programs, and empowering businesses and workers to build the partnerships that meet those needs. I also support updating employment-based visa pathways so Nebraska employers can access the talent they need while prioritizing opportunities for American workers.

16. What federal investments or policy changes would help make Nebraska more competitive and innovative over the next decade?

Nebraska's competitiveness over the next decade depends on getting the fundamentals right. That means modernizing federal permitting laws to reduce unnecessary delays on infrastructure and energy projects, promoting more pro-growth tax policies so businesses can plan and invest with confidence, and expanding U.S.–Israel cooperation on ag-tech, water management, and energy innovation — areas where Nebraska stands to benefit directly. Congress should also establish a clear national framework for AI governance that promotes innovation and maintains American leadership in emerging technologies, rather than allowing a patchwork of conflicting state regulations to slow progress.

Engagement and Accountability

17. How will you engage with faith-based and minority communities if elected?

Consistently and genuinely. I've spent my career building coalitions across Omaha — across party lines, faiths, and backgrounds — because I believe relationships are the foundation of good governance. The people of NE-02 deserve a representative who knows their communities, understands their concerns, and remains accessible long after Election Day.

18. What does accountability to constituents mean to you in practice?

A good representative remembers that the job isn't about them. Too many people arrive in Washington and start optimizing for their own re-election or their own career. The people who sent them there become an afterthought. On the Omaha City Council, I show up, do the work, and remain accountable to the people I represent. I don't always get it right, but I never lose sight of whose interests I am here to serve. That means making decisions based on what's right for Nebraska — even when it's not the easiest path — and supporting real reforms like banning Congressional stock trading, ending Congressional pay during government shutdowns, and passing realistic term limits.

Optional

19. Is there anything else you would like voters in the Jewish community to know? (*Optional; 100 words*)

In Congress, I will be a proud friend of the Jewish people around the globe and our 8,800 Jewish neighbors in Omaha. I will condemn antisemitism and hate wherever or whenever or from whoever it occurs.



The Jewish Community Relations Council is dedicated to working in common cause to enhance cooperation with other religious, racial, ethnic, and civic groups to foster a just, democratic and pluralistic society as well as promote the security of Israel and Jews everywhere. Guided by Jewish values, the JCRC is a nonpartisan agency that advocates, educates, collaborates, and mobilizes action on issues important to the Jewish Community and the greater community. That work requires fostering and strengthening relationships across groups from different communities as well as our own, and often, communities with different beliefs, perspectives, and priorities.

Our policy priorities are driven by Jewish values and input from our Jewish community:

- Addressing and combating antisemitism
- Advocating and mobilizing to protect the Constitutional guarantee separating religion and government as well as freedom of religious expression
- Advocating on behalf of the democratic State of Israel
- Healthcare and Human Services and the advancement of access, innovations, and inclusion to care and services that honor the dignity and needs of all people, each according to their own needs and beliefs.
- Advocating for a democratic and pluralistic society through unfettered access to civic engagement
- Mobilizing and advocating with community partners and allies to address:
 - Food insecurity
 - Racial justice
 - Immigration and refugee resettlement
 - LGBTQ+ rights
 - Criminal justice reform
 - Disability discrimination
 - Environmental justice



Tikkun Olam

Repair the world. Making the world a better place for children, the aged, the sick and hungry, Jews and non-Jews.



B'Tselem Elohim

All created in G-d's image. Ensuring respect for individuals regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability.



Darchei Shalom

Paths of peace. Keeping peace through ongoing and effective inter-group relations, and continuing to promote mutual respect and foster understanding within our community.



Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh La Zeh

All in the House of Israel are responsible for one another. Continuously working to support and aid Jews at home, in Israel and around the world.



Lo Ta'amod Al Dam Rey'echa

Do not stand idly by. Demonstrating our commitments through activism and mobilization to ensure that our voice is heard on issues of vital importance to the Jewish community.



Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof

Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue. Actively advocating for Jewish community interests while working in concert with other faith and ethnic communities to simultaneously pursue issues of universal concern.



Shalom Bayit

Peace in the home. Committing to engaging in all our activities in a peaceful and respectful manner.



Elu v'Elu

(Both) these and those. Recognizing that there are multiple sides of an issue and being open to hearing views that are not your own.



Brit

Partnership. Meaningfully connecting ourselves to others by agreeing to shared commitments.



Hineini

We are present. Dedicating ourselves to act.



Ger Hayiti B'Eretz Nachriyah

I was a stranger in a strange land. Caring for the immigrant and the stranger and welcoming those who seek refuge in our community.



Torah

Teaching. Pursuing knowledge and lifelong learning.