



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

Christy Knorr – Candidate for District 12

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?

A: Elected officials have a moral obligation to call out antisemitism wherever it appears—including within their own political circles—and to model the courage and clarity needed to keep Nebraskans safe. As the questionnaire states, “Antisemitism can come from across the political and ideological spectrum.” I agree—and that means accountability must be universal.

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

A: Antisemitism is hatred directed at Jewish people as a religious, cultural, or ethnic group. It includes conspiracy theories, Holocaust denial, dehumanizing stereotypes, and violence or threats against Jewish individuals or institutions.

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: Legitimate political speech includes criticism of government policy, including Israeli policy. Anti-Semitism is when that criticism becomes an attack on Jewish people themselves. As a state senator, I will speak out clearly when rhetoric crosses that line, even if it comes from allies or supporters. Silence is complicity. I will champion clear public condemnation, community education, and bipartisan standards for addressing hate.

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?

A: I support codifying the IHRA definition of antisemitism legislatively so it cannot be undone by future executive action. When any community in Nebraska experiences hate or bias, my response will be immediate: public condemnation, coordination with law enforcement, and support for the affected community. Legislatively, I support bias-motivated crime enhancements, funding for community education, and statewide reporting systems.

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?

A: Safety and openness must coexist. Jewish institutions and other houses of worship deserve to feel safe without becoming fortresses. Elected officials should help secure funding for physical security upgrades, emergency preparedness, and threat-response training—while also protecting the welcoming nature of faith spaces. I support nonprofit security grants, interfaith safety coalitions, and civil liberties protections.

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?

Religious liberty means protecting everyone—not privileging anyone. Government must never impose religion, nor restrict its practice. When legislation affects public schools or government institutions, I will ensure that minority faiths—including Jewish Nebraskans—are protected from coercion or exclusion. I will evaluate each bill through the lens of constitutional neutrality and minority rights protection.

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?

A: Schools must be safe places for every child. The Legislature should require clear reporting systems for antisemitic incidents, support curriculum that teaches about the Holocaust and religious diversity, and ensure colleges have tools to address hate speech without infringing on free expression. I support K-12 anti-bias standards and campus climate accountability.

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?

A: We must stabilize the budget without harming vulnerable Nebraskans. Nebraska faces a significant shortfall. I support two actions: Modernizing revenue sources—closing loopholes and ensuring large corporations pay their fair share. Targeted spending reviews—focusing on efficiency, not across-the-board cuts. My top priority for protection is public education, which is foundational to workforce development and community stability.

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?

A: Nebraska must use reserves wisely and plan for long-term stability. The nearly \$1 billion Cash Reserve Fund showed the value of saving during strong years. The lesson: don't over-commit to permanent tax cuts during temporary revenue spikes. I support balanced tax policy, multi-year budgeting, and reserve protection.

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?

A: Hunger is a policy choice—and we can choose differently. State government must strengthen SNAP access, remove administrative barriers, and fully participate in federal nutrition programs. As someone who once relied on these programs, I know how life-changing they are. I support expanded SNAP eligibility, summer EBT participation, and school meal access.

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?

A: Nebraska must address rising home prices and property taxes by expanding affordable housing development, offering first-time homebuyer assistance, and reforming property tax structures without starving local governments. I support down-payment assistance and zoning modernization.

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?

A: Nebraska needs workers—and immigrants are part of the solution. I support policies that attract and retain legal immigrants and refugees, including streamlined licensing, English-language support, and workforce training partnerships. I will champion immigrant workforce pathways and refugee integration programs.

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?

A: Representation means access, not just presence. I will build relationships with Jewish and other minority communities through regular listening sessions, open office hours, and direct outreach. Even when we disagree politically, access and respect remain non-negotiable. I will use community advisory councils and faith-based engagement.

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? I will use community advisory councils and faith-based engagement.

Israel and the Jewish community

14. 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?

Conversations about Israel must be grounded in respect, nuance, and awareness of antisemitism. Nebraska's Jewish community holds diverse views on Israel. My role is to create space for disagreement without allowing criticism of Israeli policy to become hostility toward Jewish Nebraskans. I will approach these conversations with humility, clarity, and a commitment to distinguishing policy debate from prejudice.