



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?
 1. There is a clear distinction that is spelled out in the First Amendment that enshrines a person's right to criticize a government and its policies that are not rooted in hate. Antisemitism is a specific kind of hatred focused on a group of people who have been persecuted for their religious beliefs for thousands of years. There is no place in society for hatred and bigotry. What I see in our daily lives is that politicians are intentionally blurring the line between political speech or criticism with what is obviously blatant hatred or bigotry. That messaging disgusts me and is why I have run a campaign about bringing people together across ideological divides with issues we can agree on like ending the two-party doom loop and leveling the playing field economically.
2. Do you support enforcement of federal civil rights laws, including Title VI? Please explain.
 1. I believe that we are a country of laws and that everyone is protected by them under the Constitution. As a U.S. Senator, I would be outspoken in my commitment to civil rights laws, including Title VI, because there is nothing more American than protecting everyone's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
3. How would you respond to acts of hate or bias affecting any community in NE-02?
 1. As a U.S. Senator, I would use my bully pulpit to condemn acts of hatred or bias in any of Nebraska's three congressional districts. When you hold public office, the public expects that you will stand on the values you were elected to represent. It has become commonplace for politicians to shy away from standing up for what they believe in because of special interest groups, etc. That is why I am running to take big money out of politics, so we do not have politicians bought and paid for, and so they represent the

people. I believe that Nebraskans categorically oppose hatred of any kind and I would publicly stand against acts of hatred as a Senator.

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?
 1. The U.S.–Israel relationship is a cornerstone of our national security. My time in the Navy and National Guard taught me that you don't turn your back on your allies. This isn't just about strategy; it's about a deep, historical connection. After the U.S. helped defeat the forces of genocide in WWII, we forged a bond with the Jewish people and the State of Israel that cannot be broken. I believe our two nations are linked by a shared commitment to democracy and security, and I will always be a proud supporter of that partnership.
5. Do you support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state? Why or why not?
 1. Yes, I fully support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state. From my time in the service, I learned that every nation has a right to defend its people and its sovereignty. The Jewish people deserve a state of their own where they can live in peace and security. Achieving stability in the Middle East is one of the greatest challenges we face, but that stability must be built on the bedrock of Israel's right to exist. I will bring that conviction with me to the U.S. Senate.
6. What principles guide your approach to U.S.–Israel relations and Middle East policy?
 1. When I signed the dotted line to serve, I did it because I believe in freedom. Those same values—democracy and individual liberty—guide my view of the Middle East. But my service also taught me a hard lesson: Washington's attempts to 'export democracy' through nation-building have often failed. I will be a Senator who leads with empathy and a commitment to our allies, but I will also be the first to call out government overreach. We must support Israel as a stable, democratic partner without falling back into the trap of policing the world at the expense of our own people.

Democracy and Civic Norms

7. What responsibilities do elected officials have in promoting civil discourse and protecting democratic institutions?
 1. Elected officials have an outsized role in upholding and promoting civil discourse and protecting democratic institutions. In recent years, our elected officials have fallen far short of the mark in those responsibilities and have regularly incited hostility against those pillars. If we are going to move forward as a country, we need our politicians to lower the temperature and work together to solve our country's biggest problems. On the face of it, that sounds impossible, right? That is why it is so essential to break the

partisan divide by electing an independent candidate to the U.S. Senate, who can bring people together and find compromise. That is the only path forward.

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

1. I would work to place guardrails on social media and AI companies to reign-in the misinformation and extremist rhetoric their algorithms fan.

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

1. I enjoy and pride myself on seeking out a wide variety of opinions when I look to take a position on an issue. That includes perspectives across race, gender, religion, and socio-economic status. The job of a U.S. Senator is to make yourself available to hear every perspective and then make a decision on how to uplift what your constituents want. How you get that information is by meeting people where they are. When I ran for U.S. Senate in 2024, I had over 200 public events. I'm going to do even more this time around. When I get to the Senate, those events will not stop – those events are going to be how I absorb the perspectives of all Nebraskans across the state.

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?

1. There are two glaring issues concerning healthcare in Nebraska that I would focus on as U.S. Senator. For one, there are 29 counties with no access to mental health services at all. 88 of Nebraska's 93 counties are considered mental health profession shortage areas. This comes at a time when farmer suicides are on the rise and the industry continues to have the highest suicide rates. As a U.S. Senator, I will work to grapple with this issue by securing federal funding to ensure rural communities have access to mental healthcare and work to pass a new Farm Bill to ensure our farmers stay profitable. Secondly, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act is going to devastate rural healthcare – an ecosystem that was already struggling. Nebraska needs a U.S. Senator that will stand up for rural healthcare and ensure its hospitals are adequately funded. That's what I'll fight for when I get to Washington.

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?

1. Like many states in our region, Nebraska has massive food deserts. One of our biggest grocers is Dollar General, which sells cheap processed foods. If it weren't for federal nutrition programs, many of these communities would suffer serious health-related conditions. Even before SNAP was cut in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, there was a vacuum that needed to be filled in Nebraska. Now, rural communities are going to suffer

from reduced funding. As Nebraska's U.S. Senator, I will work to restore previous funding levels for SNAP and ensure our state's most vulnerable communities are being supported by this important program.

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

1. I think SNAP is an essential federal program and I will vote to support adequate funding as a U.S. Senator.

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

1. To better address community and faith-based organizations, elected officials need to do more listening and less preaching. As Nebraska's next U.S. Senator, I am excited for the prospect of hearing about the issues from an array of perspectives from constituents across the Cornhusker State. My focus would be to intentionally seek out the time and space to meet with community and faith-based organizations to understand their needs and collaborate with them to find solutions.

Economy and Cost of Living

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

1. My top economic priorities for NE-02 focus on 'bread-and-butter' issues that help working families keep more of what they earn. This includes cutting taxes for the middle class and small businesses—specifically by eliminating the tax on overtime pay—and lowering the cost of essentials by taking on corporate monopolies in the pharmaceutical and meatpacking industries. I am also committed to Right to Repair legislation to reduce costs for farmers and car owners, and ensuring Social Security remains strong so our seniors aren't forced to choose between groceries and medicine. Finally, I will be outspoken in my beliefs that tariffs should be issued by Congress—not the Executive Branch—to reduce costs for working families.

Workforce and Nebraska's Future

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

1. Nebraska is uniquely positioned to rapidly expand the workforce in education and medicine given the concentration of major research institutions such as the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Creighton University. Paired with those academic institutions are the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine, which have become major institutions in the region. In securing federal funding for these institutions, the Omaha/Lincoln area could see significant investment in the private sector as young people are increasingly drawn to the region. A concurrent issue that would need to be addressed in order to foster this growth is ensuring that housing is affordable. One way to do that is to reduce property taxes at the state level, but we also need to address the systemic issue of private equity companies

driving up housing prices by purchasing as much as a third of all single-family residential properties. As U.S. Senator, I would work to grapple with this issue to ensure that our youth are able to one day own a home, just like previous generations were able to achieve. Additionally, Congress needs to eliminate predatory lending in higher education, which is something I would be eager to co-sponsor as a member of the U.S. Senate.

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

1. To make Nebraska more competitive, we need federal policies that prioritize the 'human capital' of our state. This means cutting taxes for small businesses to honor our city's entrepreneurial spirit and investing in vocational and tech training so our youth have a future here. I also believe innovation is stifled by corporate monopolies; by passing Right to Repair and enforcing Antitrust laws, we can lower costs for everyone. Finally, we must ensure our communities are safe to innovate by fully funding security and infrastructure grants for our local nonprofits and schools.

Engagement and Accountability

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

1. Like I said previously, I am committed to doing regular, open door town halls once I get to the Senate. In addition to targeting geographic areas in planning those town halls, I would be interested in working with faith-based and minority communities to uplift their thoughts and issues in an intentional way.

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

1. Accountability as an elected official means that the only people you answer to are Nebraskans. Not party bosses, not donors, just the people you are elected to represent. That only works if you make yourself available to feedback and criticism, which I would embrace in the form of regular and accessible town halls.

Optional

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

1. As an Independent, I answer to Nebraskans, not party bosses. I want the Jewish community to know that I am a fierce advocate for religious freedom and a zero-tolerance policy toward antisemitism. Whether it's securing federal Nonprofit Security Grants for our synagogues or fighting the normalization of hate in our politics, I will always stand up for the safety and dignity of my neighbors. My door is always open to the Omaha Jewish community because a stronger, safer NE-02 is only possible when we protect the pluralism that makes our district great.



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.