

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

I support the IHRA definition of antisemitism. As governor, I was proud to make Nebraska the 27th state to officially adopt the IHRA definition in 2022. In the Senate, I've co-sponsored the Antisemitism Awareness Act to give it the force of federal law.

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

When Jewish students are harassed on campuses, there must be accountability. Federal dollars should never go to institutions that look the other way. That's why I co-sponsored the Antisemitism Awareness Act. It gives federal agencies a clear, consistent standard. When UNL considered a BDS resolution, I spoke out directly. Safer streets and safer campuses start with clear standards.

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

Safer streets means safe streets for everyone. When a swastika was painted on a Lincoln synagogue when I was governor, I acted immediately. I made clear Nebraska would not tolerate it. When UNL considered a BDS resolution, I called it out. I apply that same standard to bias targeting any community.

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?

I stand with Israel. Israel is our strongest ally and democracy in the Middle East. Our relationship is built on shared values of freedom, democracy, and rule of law. I've visited Israel. I've met with President Herzog and Prime Minister Netanyahu. I've seen firsthand that this relationship is mutually beneficial. Just this year, American and Israeli pilots flew missions side by side. They worked together to dismantle Iran's terror infrastructure. I've co-sponsored the United States-Israel Defense Partnership Act to extend and expand our bilateral security commitments.

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

I've co-sponsored the Stand with Israel Act to cut off U.S. funding to UN agencies that target and delegitimize Israel. I've co-authored the Stop Support for Hamas Act to end U.S. funding for UNRWA. As governor, I was an outspoken opponent of the BDS movement. Attempts to delegitimize Israel's existence, whether through international institutions, boycott movements, or political rhetoric, are something I've opposed throughout my career.

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

Peace through strength. America must be a reliable partner. We have to follow through on our commitments. I led a letter backing full dismantlement of Iran's nuclear program. A nuclear Iran is a threat to Israel and to America. I've supported cutting off funding to anti-Israel UN agencies. I've been a consistent vote for Israel's right to defend itself. When America leads with strength, our allies are safer and our enemies are weaker.

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

Elected officials set the tone. That means calling out hatred immediately and clearly. It means doing so from any direction. As governor, I acted quickly when antisemitic incidents occurred in Nebraska. In the Senate, I've condemned antisemitism from all sides. It also means being honest with constituents. Say the same thing in Nebraska that you say in Washington.

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

I've supported the Antisemitism Awareness Act to give federal agencies a clear standard for acting on antisemitic conduct. I've supported NSGP funding so at-risk institutions have the physical resources to protect themselves. And when the UNL student government considered a BDS resolution, I spoke out publicly and directly.

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

First and foremost, we are all Americans. Hard work, community, and freedom unite us. Those values cross every background and faith tradition. I've made it a priority to show up for Nebraska's communities, not just at election time. Every year as governor, I joined Rabbi Katzman and the Chabad community to light the menorah at the Governor's Residence and at the State Capitol. In 2022, I hosted all eight of Nebraska's synagogues and the Jewish Federation of Omaha at the Capitol. Good policy comes from those kinds of relationships. I've carried that same approach to the Senate, staying engaged, showing up, and listening.

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?

I believe in competition and patient choice, not government mandates. Obamacare has been a complete failure. Republicans want to reform healthcare by giving money to people, not insurance companies. The Working Families Tax Cut put more money in families' pockets. It expanded childcare tax credits. It made it more affordable for businesses to offer childcare. We created a \$50 billion rural healthcare transformation fund. That strengthens access in communities across rural Nebraska. As governor, I expanded behavioral health services statewide. Mental health care matters as much as physical health care. Federal healthcare dollars must also be protected from fraud and abuse. Every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar that should be helping a Nebraska family.

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?

When families need food assistance, government has to work for them. When I became governor, SNAP applications took 40 days to process. We cut that to 10 days. Families in need can't wait 40 days. In 2016, I launched SNAP Next Step. It connected food assistance recipients with jobs, training, and coaching. Participants increased their monthly income by an average of \$2,100. About 60% of participants no longer needed SNAP at all. The average monthly benefit fell from approximately \$508 to \$179. I brought that proven Nebraska solution to Washington. I introduced the SNAP Next Step Act to expand it nationally. The Working Families Tax Cuts put \$3,275 back in the average Nebraska family's pocket. More money in people's pockets means

less dependency on government programs. These programs must also be protected from fraud. Every fraudulent dollar is stolen from someone who genuinely needs help.

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

These programs serve a real purpose for vulnerable Nebraskans. Seniors, working families, and children depend on them. They must work efficiently and reach the right people. Fraud and abuse undermine everything these programs are meant to do. Every fraudulent dollar is stolen from someone in genuine need. These programs work best when paired with a path forward. SNAP Next Step proves that. It meets immediate needs while building skills and self-sufficiency. More money in people's pockets through good jobs is the best nutrition program there is.

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

Faith-based and community organizations are the backbone of this country. They know their neighbors. They build trust and often do more good more efficiently than any government program. Federal policy should support that work. Programs like the Nonprofit Security Grant Program put real resources directly into the hands of synagogues, JCCs, churches, and nonprofits facing threats, so they can keep their doors open and keep serving their communities. Federal policy should protect faith-based organizations from being excluded from partnerships because of their religious character, and ensure a regulatory environment that lets them focus on their mission.

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

My top priority is making life more affordable for Nebraska families. Biden's policies caused 40-year high inflation. Prices rose 20% on his watch. I'm working every day to lower costs for Nebraska families. I voted to put more money in your pockets. I voted to unleash American energy production. I voted to pass bipartisan legislation to lower housing costs. I will continue my fight to make life more affordable.

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

I've spent my career growing Nebraska's economy. As governor, we won Site Selection's Governor's Cup three years in a row. Nebraska had the most economic development projects per capita in the nation. We cut taxes and reduced red tape. I also built a talent pipeline from the ground up. The Developing Youth Talent Initiative connected middle school students with Nebraska businesses in manufacturing, IT, and healthcare. High schoolers earned college credits and real workplace experience through career academies. Nebraska Talent Scholarships put \$4,000 in the hands of students pursuing high-demand fields. Registered apprenticeship programs gave young Nebraskans a running start in the workforce. In the Senate, the Working Families Tax Cuts put more money in workers' pockets. No tax on tips. No tax on overtime. Expanded childcare credits. I also voted to make Pell Grants available for certification and apprenticeship programs. Good jobs don't always require a four-year degree. People stay where they see opportunity and keep more of what they earn.

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

Nebraska's strength is its people and its work ethic. The Working Families Tax Cuts are already delivering. They encourage business investment and put more money in working families' pockets. Full expensing for equipment and machinery is now permanent. That means Nebraska businesses can invest and grow. We also restored full expensing for research and development. That keeps innovation happening right here in Nebraska instead of overseas. I'm cutting red tape that holds back innovation and job creation. I'm fighting to lower energy costs for Nebraska families and businesses. That includes making year-round E15 permanent. A competitive Nebraska is built on strong businesses, good jobs, and government that gets out of the way.

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

I stay engaged year-round. I'm back in Nebraska as often as I can be. My office holds mobile office hours in all 93 counties. Last month I was honored to speak at the Omaha Jewish Community Center. In 2022 I hosted all eight of Nebraska's synagogues and the Jewish Federation of Omaha at the Capitol. Last year alone, my Senate office helped nearly 900

Nebraskans recover \$16 million owed to them by the federal government from different agencies such as Social Security or the IRS. Every faith community and every Nebraskan deserves a senator who shows up and delivers. That's what I'm committed to.

What does accountability to constituents mean to you in practice?

Delivering results. As governor, I trained 30,000 state teammates in Lean Six Sigma. We saved 900,000 hours of work and \$115 million for taxpayers. I cut state spending growth by more than half. We delivered \$12.7 billion in tax relief. When DMV wait times were too long, we fixed it. Nebraska won the Governor's Cup three years in a row. Safer streets, more money in pockets, and a government that actually works. That's what accountability looks like to me.

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

You have a friend in me. That's not something that started with this campaign. It won't end with it either. I'm committed to staying engaged with the Jewish community. I'm honored to serve as your senator. I look forward to continuing to earn your trust.