



National Association of Social Workers  
Political Action for Candidate Election

Nebraska Chapter

650 "J" St, Ste 208 Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 477-7344 Fax: 402-477-0374 nasw-ne@naswne.org

**2008 Candidate Questionnaire**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Sought: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers is part of a national organization consisting of nearly 150,000 members. In Nebraska we have around 650 members and are in every legislative district. What happens in the legislature directly impacts our membership and the people we serve.

Please answer the following questions and attach any additional comments to this questionnaire. We understand the political process often involves compromise and that budget constraints and other factors may sway your vote on any given topic. Your answers to the following questions will be used as a guide towards helping our membership to understand your position in a number of areas. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 402-477-7344 or by e-mail [nasw-ne@naswne.org](mailto:nasw-ne@naswne.org)

**Please return this form no later July 1, 2008:** NASW/PACE-NE  
650 'J' St, Suite 208  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
or email to [nasw-ne@naswne.org](mailto:nasw-ne@naswne.org) or by fax at #402-477-0374

**HEALTH and MENTAL HEALTH**

1. 45,000 Nebraska children have no health insurance. Would you support an increase in the eligibility for Nebraska children qualifying for Kids' Connection from 185% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level?  
Yes  No  Undecided
2. DHHS – Nebraska is limiting Medicaid coverage of dental, chiropractic, rehabilitation, speech/language and occupational therapy services as well as eye glasses and hearing aids, even when medically necessary. Services are often denied to many, including where medical necessity has been established, such as in cases of autism. In the long run a financial savings is sacrificed for short-term gain. Would you support legislation to reinstate these Medicaid services?  
Yes  No  Undecided
3. Nebraska is underserved by trained, degreed mental health professionals, especially in the rural areas. Currently, there is an interim study to address this critical need. Would you support a funding mechanism to address this issue now and into the future?  
Yes  No  Undecided
4. Would you support legislation for mental health workforce development through student loan forgiveness for social workers?  
Yes  No  Undecided
5. Would you support financing legislation for mental health workforce development through the use of so called 'sin' taxes?  
Yes  No  Undecided

6. Since 2003, CPI = Consumer Price Index - Medical Care Services have increased 25.92%, while rates to providers have only increased by 4.49% Would you support an increase in Medicaid rates for Nebraska providers?  
 Yes  No  Undecided
7. Should insurance companies doing business in Nebraska cover mental health services equally to other medical services?  
 Yes  No  Undecided

What do you see as the most important issue in the area of Health and Mental Health?

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How would you address this issue through legislation?

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**CIVIL RIGHTS**

8. Do you support legislation that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation?  
 Yes  No  Undecided
9. Would you support /not support legislation that would abolish the death penalty in the state of Nebraska in place of life without any possibility of parole?  
 Support  Not Support  Undecided
10. Would you support /not support the use of lethal injection as capitol punishment in Nebraska?  
 Support  Not Support  Undecided
11. Would you support/not support legislation that erodes a woman's right to choose as outlined in the principles of Roe vs. Wade (1973)?  
 Support  Not Support  Undecided

What do you see as the most important issue in the area of Civil Rights?

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How would you address this issue through legislation? \_\_\_\_\_

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**EDUCATION**

12. Many Nebraska children lack access to quality early childhood experiences that lay the foundation for success in school and later in life. Do you support funding quality early childhood programs for at-risk children?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
13. School Social Workers provide valuable services to youth and families, ranging from helping to address truancy to guiding academic programs. Would you support an effort to provide for school social workers in all Nebraska schools?  
 Yes  No  Undecided
14. Do you support protection of current legislation know as the 'Dream Act' which allows all Nebraska high school graduates to attend state colleges and universities at instate tuition costs, regardless of immigration status?  
 Yes  No  Undecided

What do you see as the most important issue in the area of Education?

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**EDUCATION Continued**

How would you address this issue through legislation? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Children and Families**

15. In 2006, DHHS- Nebraska received over 24,000 calls alleging neglect and abuse. What are your plans to keep children safe from violence in their homes, schools and communities?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. What is your position on how to keep children safe and supervised in the late afternoon and early evening hours?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

17. Would you support an increase in the Nebraska Earned Income Tax Credit, which currently is 10% of the federal EITC for working families?  
Yes  No  Undecided

18. If yes, what percent of the federal EITC would you support? \_\_\_\_\_%

19. In Buffalo County, Kearney, a family of four requires over \$37,000 a year to meet basic needs without public assistance. This is just to meet basic needs. At minimum wage, with both parents working, a family's annual income would be \$27,248 (effective July 24, 2008). Would you support an increase in the minimum wage above the federal level for all Nebraskans?  
Yes  No  Undecided

20. Would you support indexing Nebraska's minimum wage to inflation or the Consumer Price Index?  
Yes  No  Undecided

21. Would you support a living wage for all Nebraskans who are paid with state or local tax dollars, directly or indirectly via contracts?  
Yes  No  Undecided

22. The Child Welfare League of America recommends caseloads of between 12 and 15 children per child welfare worker. Do you agree with the position that there should be mandatory caseload limits for child welfare workers, in line with research and recommendations by the Child Welfare League of America?  
Yes  No  Undecided

23. Currently, DHHS does not require applicants for child welfare jobs to have an academic background in human services or child welfare. DHHS gives new child-protection workers 16 weeks of training (mostly involving state policies and procedures). Do you favor legislation that would require DHHS to implement a policy over time that would require a social work degree when working with families and children in crisis?  
Yes  No  Undecided

What would you do to help families with children become economically self-sufficient and able to provide for their family's needs?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you address this issue through legislation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC SAFETY/ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS**

24. In general, would you support legislation to protect Nebraskans from environmental hazards?

Yes  No  Undecided

25. Would you support legislation that would hold manufacturers responsible for their liability costs?

Yes  No  Undecided

What do you see as the most important issue in the area of public safety?

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How would you address this issue through legislation? \_\_\_\_\_

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**REVENUE**

Under what circumstances would you consider utilizing a portion of the state's cash reserve?

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As a state senator, what is your philosophy on the role of government in Nebraska?

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To what degree do you agree with the following statement?

The role of government should be to provide for the public safety and to strive to help ensure that every individual living within Nebraska's borders has adequate food, shelter, clothing, health care, education (all levels) and employment opportunities to maintain a high standard of living.

Strongly Agree       Agree With Reservations       Disagree

How would you address revenue issues through legislation?

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What will be the first bill that you plan to introduce in 2009?

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What will be your top three priorities as a senator?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.**

I understand that my answers will be used, along with other factors, to help determine which candidate will be endorsed by PACE-NE and that they may be made public to NASW-NE members and others.

Candidate's Acceptance of the above statement: I agree  I Disagree

Date: \_\_\_\_\_