

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM WORKSHEET: FINDING CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATURE.

BACKGROUND. Once again, the Nebraska Legislature has adjourned without giving homeowners, business owners, farmers, and ranchers substantial property tax relief. The reasons are several. Urban-rural state senator conflict. Too many Socialist Democrats and RINOs (Republicans in Name Only) in the Legislature. Pressure from powerful interest groups and unions that want high property taxation and increased state spending to continue. Overall, there are simply too few committed fiscal conservatives in the Legislature to pass comprehensive property tax relief. The only permanent solution is to elect additional conservatives to the state legislature.

PRELIMINARIES. First on the list of things to do is to determine which of the 49 Unicameral seats are open, because of term limits, because an incumbent is not running for re-election, or an incumbent appears very vulnerable because of a terrible voting record or masquerading as a conservative. The latter are vulnerable in primary elections. Examine the voter registration numbers in each district. For example, if a seat is open but heavily liberal Democrat in registration, a conservative candidate probably could not win in such district. However, if a seat is open or incumbent vulnerable and the district is preponderantly Republican, a conservative candidate could win. In 2022, 1/3 of 49 seats will become vacant because of term limits and more open because of re-election races. Additional conservative senators could help push through comprehensive tax relief.

FINDING CANDIDATES. It is truly difficult to recruit conservative candidates to run for legislative seats. The salary is only \$12,000 per year plus generous per diems. Many potential candidates cannot leave their regular employment or afford to serve. Also, the present state of engaging in dirty politics, investigating personal reputations, scares away potential candidates. Nevertheless, there are courageous conservatives willing to tackle a campaign for legislature. Look within existing political, civic, and religious groups for candidates. Contact 2nd Amendment, pro-life, and business organizations. Call on small business owners, because they understand well tax problems. Appeal to conservatives who previously have run for legislative seats but avoid perennial candidates. Prospective candidates may wish to run in the next election or the following one.

VETTING CANDIDATES. Vetting candidates is crucially important. NTF supported and campaigned for one individual years ago, only to discover shortly before election day that he had victimized people in a real estate investment scam. Remember that opponents will research your candidate also! Conduct an Internet search on a candidate. Ask for 3 character references or obtain them yourselves. With 2 or 3 others, conduct a comprehensive interview with a candidate to determine if he/she really holds conservative views on important issues. After the interview, you and other interviewers compare notes and reach a decision. Do not use long, detailed printed questionnaires, because questions are open to several differing interpretations, and prospective candidates may not have solid opinions on several issues.



SEALING THE DEAL. After you agree on a candidate, suggest to conservative and other organizations that they join you to support the candidate. Immediately offer help with volunteers and possibly financial support. Offer campaign tips, voter registration, online and social media assistance, and background information and materials on legislative issues. Arrange introductions and town hall meetings for them. Suggest that a candidate solicit the help of a national candidate training organization like American Majority and hire a credible campaign manager. With proper targeting and identification, we **can** find conservative candidates to increase conservative numbers in the Legislature.

TAKE ACTION NOW. Working with state senators is the only certain means to achieve comprehensive property tax relief. This relief again was not possible in the 2021 session. Relief may come only in increments next session and beyond. However, we will achieve NO property tax relief or reform, unless and until we recruit additional conservative candidates for legislature and help them win election. Please help our Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom **Candidate Search Project** by finding and referring possible candidates to us. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com or call 402-551-0921.

