

**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SubDistrict 5**

Lou Ann Goding (Republican)	Question	Jennifer Tompkins Kirshenbaum (Democrat)
2-20-13	Date Filed	2-19-13
2/25/2013, 5:32pm, resident of district caller assigned, delayed until 3/7/13; 3/12/2013, 6:34pm, emailed questionnaire after candidate returned call; 3/12/2013, voice message left; 3/18/2013, 10:45am, asked for being able to have more time on the questionnaire; 3/18/2013, 12:08pm, ok'd to have it done 3/19. 3/30, 12:33am, final reminder for Primary. 4/10/13, 6:23pm, request for answers after winning Primary. Fri, 19 Apr 2013 12:46pm.ANSWERS RECEIVED Note: Candidate had opportunity to view opponent's answers before responding.	Contact Info	2/25/2013, 5:32pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/12/2013, voice message left; 3/14/2013, 6:23pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.
married, Spouse: Mike, #of children: 3, High School: Loup City, Nebraska, College: Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC, Degrees: BS Accounting - CPA, Church: Westside (Baptist), Organizations: PTA President of Fullerton Magnet (2 years), Fontenelle Nature Association (6 years, 2 years as Treasurer), leadership for MOPS, 4 years. Children's Hospital Friends Board, Employer: self-employed. www.louanngoding.com	01 Biographical	Jennifer Tompkins Kirshenbaum, Human Resources Professional, Substitute Teacher, MBA, University of Nebraska at Omaha, BA, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Nebraska Teaching Certificate. Facebook: Jennifer Tompkins Kirshenbaum for OPS School Board.
I was motivated to run based on various issues that have surfaced in the news in the past nine months. This information further confirmed what I have seen happen in the district related to financial accountability, transparency and professional communication. I hope to help the district address effective use of taxpayer funds, improvement of student achievement and development of effective and clear communication.	02 Motivation	I am motivated to increase student achievement.
Business Experience - I have 25 years experience in the business world, including passing the CPA exam, audit manager in a worldwide accounting firm and private industry experience in accounting, finance and management. OPS Parent - During the past 12 years I have been a classroom volunteer and have been involved in each of the four Omaha Public Schools that my children have attended, including being elected to two terms as PTA President at their elementary school with over 800 students. Community volunteer - I served on the Fontenelle Nature Association Guild for six years raising funds for OPS student education programs. I held officer roles on that board. I am currently serving on the Children's Hospital Friends Board. My background displays knowledge of the business world, ability to be an effective elected leader and a willingness to serve on various boards.	03 Qualifications	I have teaching experience, business experience, and leadership experience. My teaching experience is essential in addressing how to increase student achievement. My business experience is imperative for budget management. It is also crucial to ensure fiscal responsibility. My leadership experience is critical to ensure positive change for the school board, school district and to build trust within the community.
[not answered]	04 Sustainable Development	[not answered]
The superintendent and the school board each have a distinct role. The board is responsible for setting policy and the superintendent is responsible for implementation of the policy. There has to be mutual respect and open communication between the board and the superintendent. Each needs to have a clear understanding of the distinct role they are responsible. For. The board must also periodically (at least annually) assess the performance of the superintendent to ensure that the district's objectives are being advanced. I believe the key to solving differences is to ensure that fact-based information is presented, that all stakeholders are heard, and that the lines of communication are open.	05 Superintendent and School Board	The relationship between the school board and the superintendent is a relationship with checks and balances. The school board makes policy, and the superintendent follows those policies in his management of the district. The board's policies give direction to the superintendent. Many constituents will have views that differ from the superintendent. I listen to everyone. It's important to hear everyone's view and remember the key points of his/her concerns.
We need to ensure that the rigor of the teaching in our school district is competitive with that of districts across the nation. The State Board of Education has requested a study of the state standards as compared to those of the Common Core. I think it is imperative that we ensure our students are educationally prepared to compete at a national level. We need to review our district standards to ensure each child is given an opportunity reach their ceiling and is prepared to be competitive in their chosen field after high school.	06 Nationalized Standards	Nebraska is one of only four states that has not adopted the common core standards. The forty six states that have adopted the common core receive waivers to NCLB. Nebraska is at a disadvantage because other states have waivers and Nebraska does not.
Teaching to the test, which is an unfortunate by-product of standardized tests, is not going to ensure that students have developed the critical thinking skills necessary for processing information and for success after school. We need to teach students skills that will help them reason and persevere when learning new material. We are not doing the next generation justice if our goal is simply to ensure that everyone "passes" a standardized test.	07 State Standards	[not answered]
[not answered by either candidate]: 08 Abstinence, Contraceptives, 09 Scientifically Criticize Evolutionary Theory, 10 Global Warming, 11 Religious Freedom, 12 Lifestyles, 13 Education Support, 14 Education Business Connection, 15 Parental Rights Amendment, 16 Governing documents, 17 Constituents' concerns, 18 Family, 19 Personal/Political, 20 Political decisions, 21 Abortion/capital punishment, 22 Past President, 23 Anything else?		
See biographical above	Extra biographical	married, Spouse: Matt Kirshenbaum, #of children: 2, High School: Omaha Burke High School, College: University of Nebraska at Kearney; University of Nebraska at Omaha, Degrees: Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration; Masters in Business Administration; Nebraska Teaching Certificate, Church: Synagogue Name: Temple Israel, Employer: Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.