

Legislature – District 2

Bill Kintner (Republican)	Mel Luetchens (Democrat)	Ron Nolte (Republican)
Website: http://www.kintnercutstaxes.com/	Website: http://melluetchens.com/	Website: www.Nolte2014.com

Questions List:

Other Biographical Motivation Qualifications Sustainable Development	Revenue/spending Tax Legislative Focus Immigration Voter ID	Urban/Rural Gambling Education purpose Healthcare Justice system Decency	Jobs Creation (Legislature) Children's Laws Conflict of Views Parental Rights Amendment	Personal Story Constitution Family Personal/Political Abortion/capital punishment/etc.	Homosexuality Past President Anything else?
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Other - Information about making contact with the candidate.

Bill Kintner	Contacted by resident of the district. 3/15 @6:56PM Left message about the questionnaire. Emailed questionnaire. 3/20 @9:05AM Left message reminding him to turn in the questionnaire on Friday. 4/6, 6:56pm, candidate requested questionnaire. Legislature still in session. Answers copied from email response received Mon, 14 Apr 2014, 12:50am. Website: http://www.kintnercutstaxes.com/
Mel Luetchens	Contacted by resident of the district. Fri, 21 Mar 2014 08:54 am, candidate emailed, "I decline the invitation to respond to your questionnaire. Thank you." Website: http://melluetchens.com/
Ron Nolte	Contacted by resident of the district. 3/15 @7:05PM Candidate gave e-mail and website. RonWNolte@yahoo.com, Nolte2014.com. 3/20 @9:06AM Has decided not to return the questionnaire. People should visit his website.

[Since both Mr. Luetchens and Mr. Nolte declined to participate, we only list Mr. Kintner's responses.]

Biographical - Please include biographical information you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.

Websites: <https://www.facebook.com/kintnercutstaxes>,
<https://www.facebook.com/senatorkintner>

Motivation - What has motivated you to seek this office? What do you hope to accomplish?

I am seeking re-election after having served as the State Senator for Legislative District 2 for two years. Our state has too many legislators that claim they support smaller government and lower taxes and then, when they get to the State Capitol, they vote to support bigger government and higher spending. I am a principled conservative and I will stand with the taxpayers against the special interests that want to spend our money. In my two years, I have followed through on my promise to introduce legislation to reduce income taxes on retirement income, Social Security income, and military retirement pay (LB 227, LB 708, LB 709). I have also introduced legislation to repeal or reform the failed Learning Community (LB 178, 179). I have co-sponsored legislation to eliminate the alternative minimum tax, and repeal sales taxes on agriculture equipment repair parts and labor (LB 308, LB 96).

Qualifications - What three qualifications do you bring to this office?

I live in Legislative District 2. My beginnings in political life were inspired as a college student during President Reagan's term and I hold his value of having faith in the power of the individual rather than in the government. I have a 30 year track record of fighting for limited government, lower taxes, and individual liberty. I have been a vocal advocate for limited government and spending restraint during my term in the Legislature. I am willing to engage in spirited debates with my colleagues on issues of importance. I listen to the concerns of my constituents; in fact, I have knocked on over 13,000 doors in LD 2 and try to help them navigate the bureaucracy of state government to get problems solved.

Sustainable Development - In some venues, the term "sustainable development" is tied to the UN Agenda 21 thinking. Others consider conservation of natural resources to be tantamount. Where would you place yourself on environmental issues and why?

Truly sustainable development is development that takes into account balances between preservation of natural resources and economic expansion. To the extent that government is a participant in developments with tax incentives, it can incent balanced development; however, I do not believe that government should mandate costly "green policies." I introduced LB 482 to prohibit state agencies and local political subdivisions from adopting Agenda 21 policies in Nebraska.

Revenue/spending - By comparison to many other states, Nebraska is in good financial condition. What will you do to maintain that? What revenue sources would you pursue? How would you define your philosophy on spending?

Personal income and general tax revenues are increasing in Nebraska. The 2014 legislative session was a classic example of how a Legislature will react when it is presented with additional tax receipts: either give the money back (tax cuts), spend the money (new, expanded programs), or save the money for difficult economic times (save the money in a cash reserve fund). My preference will always be to protect essential state-funded services like education, public safety, and infrastructure. Then, if additional tax receipts are available, I would vote to return the money to the people. I want limited government with competitive tax policies that will keep Nebraska in its good economic condition. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have tried to live out my principles. In the 2013 budget, we achieved necessary spending for a two-year budget and kept spending growth at around 5%. In the 2014 budget, I supported key investments in game and parks funding, prison space funding, and new spending for long-term water projects; however, I opposed the entire budget because over 13 separate new bills or programs were also included and the spending percentage of the budget and other legislative bills put the state's spending near 7%. I do not believe that level of spending is sustainable.

Mel Luetchens (Democrat)

Both declined

Ron Nolte (Republican)

Bill Kintner (Republican)

Questions

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Tax - *What taxing policies do you recommend? For example, should property tax issues be left up to the counties or should the legislature develop "formulas" that work in both urban and rural areas? Should military retirees be exempt from income tax? Why?*

Nebraska is the 16th highest taxed state, making it a high tax state. I want to contain state spending so that our taxes can be reduced. Every time major tax restructuring has been attempted, it is labeled as "too expensive" and nothing gets enacted. I want to control spending and focus efforts on reducing our taxes so that we are competitive with other states in order to grow jobs, grow the number of people in our state, and grow our economy. Property taxes are one of the largest complaints I hear from constituents. Since state government cannot levy property taxes, these are a local responsibility. I do support property tax relief efforts at the state level to help reduce the property tax burden. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I voted to fund the current "Property Tax Credit" fund at \$115 million per year. I also supported adding \$25 million more for the next fiscal year. I also co-sponsored legislation to reduce property tax values on agricultural land from 75% to 65%. I support exempting military retirement pay from state income taxation. I introduced two bills, LB 227 and LB 709 that would do that. I also believe social security income should be exempt from tax and I introduced LB 708 to achieve that purpose. While my bills were not enacted, in 2014, the Legislature did enact 2 bills to 1) partially exempt military retirement pay; and 2) exempt more social security income from taxation. I will continue to pursue tax reform legislative bills.

Legislative Focus - *In what issue areas do you see yourself introducing legislation?*

I have kept my promise to introduce legislation that reduces our tax burden, expands gun rights, and enhances our culture for life. I also introduced legislation to reform or repeal the Learning Community (LB 178, LB 179). I would continue to prioritize these areas and fight for enactment of laws to achieve these purposes.

Immigration - *What role should each level of government have in the immigration issue? From city, to county, to state, to federal?*

It is the federal government's role to enact and enforce a national immigration policy. The federal government's failure to carry out its responsibility in this area has created pressure on state governments to develop laws in a variety of areas. The State of Nebraska has enacted a law that prohibits any state or local governmental agency from providing any public benefits to illegal aliens and I fully support that law

Voter ID - *Should photo ID be required for voting? Why or why not?*

I support enactment of a Voter ID law because I believe we need to protect the integrity of elections.

Urban/Rural - *What philosophy drives how you view the diverse needs of urban versus rural residents? An example situation would be the amount of money allocated to road repairs in low population areas where it takes lots more miles of road for fewer people than in the city.*

Nebraska's diverse urban and rural areas do present competing pressures on public spending. I believe, however, that priorities for funding need to be examined by each issue area. For example, having a strong road system is vital for commerce and industry so spending for roads cannot just be done in urban, high traffic areas. Another example occurs in state aid to schools. Each child is guaranteed an appropriate public education in Nebraska, regardless of location.

Gambling - *Discuss the pros and cons of government having more revenue from gambling.*

Expanded gambling could potentially allow Nebraska to reduce the tax burden on the citizens, but the Legislature has shown it will spend new dollars that are collected. With the Legislature's track record of spending every dollar it can wrangle away from taxpayers, expanding gambling will almost certainly make government larger, make it more involved in our lives and increase government regulation. States that have relied on large gambling dollars did not fare any better in the recent national recession than states without large gambling receipts so I don't believe that gambling dollars provide any special protections for state financing. It is not a reliable ongoing source of funding.

Education purpose - *What do you consider the purpose of public education to be, and do you think Nebraska schools are fulfilling this purpose? What is the state's responsibility concerning "No Child Left Behind"? At what level should the federal government's "Common Core" issue be decided for Nebraska schools and why? Would you support (e.g with vouchers or tax credits) alternative schools (whether charter, home school, private school)? Why or why not?*

Nebraska has a vibrant public, private, and home-school system which I support. I voted for LB 438 that will increase the State Board of Education's role in address low-performing schools so that all children receive a good public education. I am opposed to the Common Core agenda being placed into our schools. I am happy that the State of Nebraska is not, so far, one of the states adopting the Common Core. I am monitoring the State Board of Education's consideration of this issue. I am concerned that Common Core is still finding its way into our local schools even though Nebraska has not adopted it. I support providing tax credits to those who place their children in private or home schools to help those families with some of the costs they incur while they are also providing property tax support to the public schools which their children do not attend.

Mel Luetchens (Democrat)

Both declined

Ron Nolte (Republican)

Bill Kintner (Republican)

Questions

Healthcare - *What responsibility do you see the state government having with regard to health care for the needy?*

I oppose Obamacare's Medicaid expansion and I vigorously fought bills introduced in 2013 and 2014 to mandate this coverage in Nebraska. Already, the State of Nebraska invests hundreds of millions of dollars annually from the state budget to support the existing Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program.

Justice system - *What improvements would you recommend to the justice system? For example, what should be done about the so-called "good time" laws, if anything? Would you approve or disapprove of faith-based solutions being offered? Would you consider certainty versus severity of sentencing? (Click here for information)*

I support reforming the "good time" law. I do not believe it is fair or transparent to have one-half of a criminal sentence effectively reduced immediately upon entering prison. I would rather have a prison inmate earn his good time. I would also support sentencing reforms. I believe the sentence issued should be served. I support faith based solutions being offered and I support the many current programs that the Nebraska prison system already authorizes. I supported the adult criminal legislation enacted during the 2014 session (LB 907).

Decency - *Should decency laws, including things like sex trafficking, be written at the national, state, county, or local level? What should they include? Who should enforce them?*

The federal government should take the lead on sex trafficking because it is a national problem that is interstate and international in nature. Nebraska has recently adopted stronger human trafficking laws - and I have voted in favor of those. Nebraska does have state criminal laws prohibiting prostitution, pandering, and other sexual misconduct.

Jobs Creation (Legislature) - *How can the legislature help in job creation? What would you do to make the state more business friendly? What specific ideas do you have for jobs?*

Job creation and a vibrant business climate are strong priorities for me. I have voted to enact a variety of economic vitality incentives in order to grow our state's economy and to incent high paying jobs. Nebraska has to do more to reduce our collective tax burden in order to make our state more business friendly. I support reducing individual income taxes, corporate taxes, and phasing out the inheritance tax and car taxes.

Children's Laws - *When writing laws that affect children, what plan do you have to prevent damage to good home situations from rules designed to protect children from bad home situations?*

Nebraska's child welfare system continues to need reform. Recent changes over the past three years have helped but I remain concerned about statistics that demonstrate that Nebraska places twice the national average number of children into its foster care system. I support the Legislature's focus on why that is occurring and what rules or procedures are causing this problem. I supported the 2014 legislation that will allow the Department of Health and Human Services to use "alternative response" mechanisms to address families in distress. That method is expected to reduce the amount of out of home placements.

Conflict of Views - *When you run into a conflict where your personal views don't agree with your political party, your constituents, a lobbyist and/or some group that has previously generously funded your campaign, how will you decide what to do?*

My principles come first. I have clearly represented those to the residents of my legislative district and I believe my views reflect a majority of my constituents.

Parental Rights Amendment - *Do you oppose or support a Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution? Why? (See www.parentalrights.org for proposed language.)*

The PRA certainly has merit but my focus is on Nebraska state issues.

Personal Story - *Please briefly describe a situation where you had to stand alone for what you thought was right when the momentum was pushing the other way. What was the result?*

In 2013, the Legislature enacted a new child care licensing mandate program. It created a new \$3 million per year state program that required licensed child care facilities and early childhood education programs to meet additional "quality" mandates. I was the only member of the Legislature to vote against the bill as it is an example of a new mandated state program that cost approximately \$3- \$4 million per year in state taxpayer funds and required the hiring of 7 new state employees to run the program.

Constitution - *Please briefly describe a situation where you had to stand alone for what you thought was right when the momentum was pushing the other way. What was the result?*

The Nebraska Constitution, a document created by the people, governs the limits of legislative power. I have read our state's Constitution. No law can be enacted that is in conflict with the limits of the Constitution.

Family - *What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?*

My family supports my campaign and the office has not had a major impact on my family. My schedule has changed in order to attend official events.

Everyone questions - (Regardless of what office is being sought, we ask the following questions so voters can better predict how you will handle tough issues.)

Personal/Political - *To what degree should an office holder's personal principles be reflected in political decision making? To whom/what will you go for counsel in decision making?*

I believe that office holders with strong personal principles succeed in public office. I seek the counsel of my family, friends, those with expertise in an issue area, and my fellow colleagues for additional guidance on specific issues.

Abortion/capital punishment/etc. - *What definition do you give for each of these terms: pro-life, pro-choice? How do you define yourself and how did you arrive at that view? How does your position relate to the death penalty, embryonic stem cell research, and physician-assisted suicide?*

I am pro-life and I believe life starts at conception. Pro-choice supports a woman's right to abort her baby. Pro-life is the view that the baby's life if of paramount importance and deserving of legal protection. I do not support embryonic stem cell research or physician-assisted suicide. I do support the death penalty.

Mel Luetchens (Democrat)

Both declined

Ron Nolte (Republican)

Bill Kintner (Republican)

Questions

Homosexuality - *Some consider same-sex relationships should carry the same rights and privileges as traditional marriage. Some view homosexuality as an issue of potential discrimination on the level with race or ethnicity. Some consider it a matter of personal privacy. Some say marriage, for numerous reasons, should remain defined by government as between one man and one woman. Some say children should be raised by a mother and a father and that they are being forgotten in today's discussions on the subject. With which group's philosophy do you most closely agree, and why?*

Nebraska has a constitutional provision that states marriage is defined as being between a man and a woman. I support this provision. I oppose attempts to change the law to allow same sex marriage or civil unions. In the 2014 session, I opposed LB 485 which attempted to prohibit employment discrimination against "gender identity" or "sexual orientation." I viewed the bill as giving special status to individuals based upon their private sexual activity.

Past President - *What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?*

In 2012, I always seek a Presidential candidate with a limited government, free-market approach to our national government and to restore our national economy. In the end, I will vote for the most electable conservative candidate.

Anything else? - *Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.*

Websites: <https://www.facebook.com/kintnercutstaxes>
<https://www.facebook.com/senatorkintner>