

State Treasurer – Republican

Christopher Costello

Don Stenberg

Website:

www.nebraskachris.com

Questions List

Other	Development	State Service	Constitution	Homosexuality
Biographical	Activities	Change of Views	Family	Past President
Motivation	People Skills	Office	Personal/Political	Anything else?
Qualifications	Office spending	Effectiveness	Abortion/capital	
Sustainable	Communications	Personal Story	punishment/etc.	

Other - Information about making contact with the candidate.

Christopher Costello	Answers copied from email response received March 25, 2014 11:38 PM. Recommended edits sent 4/6/14
Don Stenberg	Incumbent. Contacted by resident of the district. 3/20, 6:42pm, Left message. 3/24, 12:16pm, Left message. 3/25, Emailed from ne treasurer website. 3/26, 9:07am, Incoming call - returned message, 3/26, Emailed questionnaire.

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

Christopher Costello	Christopher C. Costello 4530 A Street Omaha, Nebraska 68106 402-509-9119 www.nebraskachris.com
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

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

Christopher Costello	Provoked is more like it. When I first came on board for Douglas County as a tax collector, I was instantly faced with accepting corruption as a way of doing government in allowing elected and pretty much anyone with a title to do as they please. Objecting to this code made me a target for removal, and since I was still under a probation period as a new hire, I felt I had no ground to counter such an attack so I elected to run in 2004 for the Register of Deeds Office to ensure a civic eye of the people was kept on me. A pretty selfish endeavor to maintain ones employment and maybe even a little overboard some might try and say as when held against the typical guise under which politicians claim for the betterment of society!?
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

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

Christopher Costello	I put my pants on like everyone else one leg at a time. I make mistakes and I really try to learn from them and try to make less as I go along! I value truth and try to get to the heart of the matter as much as one can in every situation. I will not be intimidated by folk's titles and presumption to entitlement if the law does not warrant it.
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

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?

Christopher Costello	Great question and this is where we as Nebraskans from the State level all the way down to the local level must learn to waltz with the devil. What I am saying is conservation is tantamount yet agreeing with the UN agendas which also ignores ones sovereignty as a Country, State, County, and or right as an individual for something no one fully understands must when the time come leave room to turn away from. The other main concern in this equation is the unstable dollar and our preparedness as Nebraskans for the worst is creating a natural reserve. It makes no sense in storing dollars in coffers if the dollar bust and until we get a more guarantee of it's backing with something other than our own appeal we as Nebraskans need a real natural reserve through conservation. The funding with our tax dollars will ensure us it is ours and ours alone worth a fight at least! Thus, this holds value on both ends first as an effort to restore wildlife to the plains which will bring tourism and worse an actual commodity for Nebraskans to utilize in a worst case scenario.
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

Activities - Describe the various activities of the position.

Christopher Costello	Maintain a strong economy and create economic and job opportunities by promoting the conditions that enable economic growth and stability within Nebraska, while ensuring to strengthen security by combating threats and protecting the integrity of the financial system, and manage the Nebraska Government's finances and resources effectively.
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

People Skills - Describe the people management skills and/or training you possess.

Christopher Costello	I have earned a psychology degree which I used within that field for 6 years at Saint Joseph's Center for Mental Health. I feel it gave me the basic foundation for utilizing effective people skills from all walks of life with all kinds of issues. I spent the last 10 years as a tax collector for Douglas County Treasurer's Office and worked and enjoyed the difficult task asked of me to call a fair rule of thumb for both conservatives and liberals as they came in to pay their taxes. I guess if we had to boil it down I love knowing even in the worst of times I can still get people to smile for a moment if for no other reason than there is no good reason!?
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

Office spending - What specific plan do you have for making the best use of taxpayer dollars in this office?

Christopher Costello	Use my time in office working to find unwarranted spending of other governmental department's use of tax dollars through tougher parameters in budget reporting and a willingness to settle any and all disputes of the said within a Court of law. Second, find that all tax dollars assigned to be collected are done so across the board. I identify and call business for what they are and not how they like to be seen. One point in example is it is high time we identify drug dealers and drug money as such and not allow folks to pull the wool over our eyes and tax it accordingly to laws regarding cash crops! I am a tax collector I am not in office to play good cop bad cop only to collect the tax revenues from such ventures that we as a people feel it ought to be collected at and not allowed to be turned or deemed less than its true worth.
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

Communications - What communication systems would you employ with the other constitutional officers?

Christopher Costello	I am sure this has been said before but I will say it in how it has been taught to me being born and raised a native Nebraskan with all the lore of Indian names and a personal young addiction for Westerns on T.V. growing up number fifth boy of four older brothers. First one might want to know what being the fifth boy was like and I can explain that in one sentence. "It was a sentence." Added to this was being a fifth wheel on any major project under taken by the family with the final direction being mine to "stand clear." I heard that so much growing up I swore it was an Indian name given to me and as I wonder from place to place entering I would see this name posted "stand clear." It paled in comparison of course to Crazy Horse or Standing Bear yet it was a start and always opens to what was inside unless one tried to come around non business hours and for no reason or begging could one get in without committing a crime first and that is pretty much how I function with other governmental offices. They like the public are free to come in and see whatever they want during business hours but try to pull me when the door is closed and one will run right into me!?
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

State Service - How can the position help state government better serve the residents of the state?

Christopher Costello	Well, it all starts and ends with a buck! A treasurer is the primary go to person once an intuitive has been determined and or approved from a law abiding body of government. A treasurer cuts the daily checks so what folks desire to happen is accomplished at least monetarily in government!?
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

Change of Views - If, once you're in office, you have access to information that changes your previously held viewpoint, how will you inform your constituents?

Christopher Costello	This is the toughest question because you are asking a theological question to be answered in a political statement! First off I believe there is good and bad in all viewpoints and like a pendulum we ideally seek through our beliefs an even flow back and forth as juxtaposed to major swings back and forth forcing the other side to tell the other it exists and how it feels to the challenge. It is that transfer of power we all seek from one another and how under certain conditions society picks different leaders to address the ebb and flow and a favorite topic of mine. I fashioned during some of the toughest times a word phrase the Soppo-Agape-Apache which I derived that element so true of human nature to love to hate and hate to love for why one tear is used to live to love and to hate! I guess is how I intend to come into to this office with no campaign funds and if for some reason I find information that I need a war chest to inform my constituents then I have become wrongly informed! This will be the dragon I must deal with in exchange for the old dragon I am tired of battling with now and wonder if I will miss that old dragon when it is gone!?
Don Stenberg	waiting for response

Office Effectiveness - *Predict how any of the following would hinder or improve your effectiveness in this office: expanded gambling, welfare reform, changes in unemployment, indebtedness of personnel, employee drug use, etc.*

Christopher Costello We are human and these are real human problems and government somehow in trying to fix all these for society tends to make the best breeding grounds for all these weakness to flourish. Been or being affected by all these circumstances and potentially faced with them again is in the acknowledgment of them as real obstacles. I have always tried to be as open as possible with all decisions good, bad, or ugly with those around me and allow them to decide my fate as much as I try to get through the course of daily life. Like I mentioned earlier it is high time we start going back to calling a spade a spade for all these guises in life only tend to back fire and slow us down from better dealing with the real problem so I do care that people have these issues and as long as they are willing to be honest there is always an answer to a problem.

Don Stenberg waiting for response

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?*

Christopher Costello Like every day in government since the first day I walked into the County Clerk's Office I was meet with those in power who felt the laws of this land were meant for other people. Then, getting moved to the Douglas County Treasurer's Office and dealing with just blatant ridiculous forms of outright crime as law and refusing to accept it as a way of government pushed me into a life subject of harassment, bullying, intimidation, invasion of privacy, denial of rights as a free human being within society, as a father, subject to unfair indebtedness, wrongful termination from employment.

Don Stenberg waiting for response

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?*

Christopher Costello Fulfilling a promise to everyone who fought and died trying to make sure that true democracy and freedom was worth them dying for or losing some form of their previous self while enduring the horrors of war for a belief in a just and free society.

Don Stenberg waiting for response

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

Christopher Costello I have lost my family, end of story. I live in constant debate from where I came from Costello no Costello, either through betrayal or the Courts the life I chose to walk has made me walk away from all family time.

Don Stenberg waiting for response

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?*

Christopher Costello I agree with the wisdom of John Rawlings who stated. "Tax collection and payment comes with an undeniable form of uneasiness for all involved." Thus, collecting taxes from a major conservative who has worked hard to get his own elected and has to fork out way more at tax time even still makes no difference juxtaposed to the liberal who has worked hard to save the earth through regulations and comes in trying to avoid being taxed and is denied makes to be about the degree of uneasiness and fortitude when it is all said and done. I am really going to be in contact with every member Treasurer on the State website for I know they have just if not better potential for coming to a correct decision as I as I seek advice in need of counseling.

Don Stenberg waiting for response

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.)*

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?*

Christopher Costello	I am pro-life. I think the hour has come from pro-choice advocates to give up some ground. Science has been able to show a hearty life more pervasive now and the issues sought out or used have been missed used by the pro-choice torch bearers. I feel anything outside of instant freedom from a capture with potential impregnation discussed with a doctor to the issue at hand in private is entirely a woman's right. A woman becoming pregnant and acknowledging that with proof to the Father and or the world and then choosing to abort is not an expression of choice. Death Penalty should there again be used on those who have abused society with their will of fear and control. I feel embryonic stem cell research goes beyond where science needs to focus its attention and or society. Physician-assisted suicide is way too much power for one person to wield.
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Don Stenberg	waiting for response
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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?*

Christopher Costello	Why do folks go down to the river!?! Because, stopping it will never happen!?! So, no matter how I feel or you feel folks are going to make decisions and run with them. Promoting it by stopping or allowing it has been the biggest waste of mortal time like having to watch Philadelphia movie over and over again wondering now how come it seems every other nurse is a little off kilter where were they in this movie to let him into the room for one last visit and we would be talking about something else right now!?! I am certain about the family unit though because you only get one mother and one mother means one mother bar none. Fair is fair.
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Don Stenberg	waiting for response
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Past President - *What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?*

Christopher Costello	Even though the Democrats were eating crow with the Wall Street bail out and holding their breath with a promise of Obamacare I wasn't buying no way no how yet the Republican Party was just out of touch with reality and instead of letting its members select its candidate it fell victim to controlled media to pick as a challenger so I burned my vote on a Libertarian.
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Don Stenberg	waiting for response
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Anything else? - *Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.*

Christopher Costello	[nothing further noted]
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Don Stenberg	waiting for response
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