

United States Senator – Republican

Sid Dinsdale

Website:

<http://www.sidforsenate.com/>

Clifton Johnson

Website:

<http://cliftonjohnson.vpweb.com/>

Bart McLeay

Website:

<http://www.bartmcleay.com/>

Shane Osborn

Website:

<http://www.shaneosborn.com/>

Ben Sasse

Website:

<https://www.sassefornebraska.com/>

Questions List: (in order asked, some reported out of order for space saving purpose)

Other	Agencies/Departments	Energy	Presidential Appointees	Abortion/capital punishment/etc.
Biographical	Sustainable Development	Religious Freedom	Constitution	Homosexuality
Motivation	Indian Affairs	Gun Control	Family	Past President
Qualifications	Federal finances	Jobs	Personal Story	Anything else?
Federal Government Purpose	Taxes	Reform	Everyone questions	
Balance of powers	Military/foreign policy	Conflict of Views	Personal/Political	
	Healthcare	Parental Rights Amendment		

Other - Information about making contact with the candidate.

Sid Dinsdale	Contacted by resident of the district. 3/12, 6:10pm, told to send to Beth. 3/12, 6:24pm, questionnaire emailed. 3/18, 11:07am, reminder email. 3/25, 8:14pm, left phone message. 3/27, 2:45pm, candidate's office called to verify way to send answers. Answers copied from email response received Thu, 27 Mar 2014 2:49pm
Clifton Johnson	Contacted by resident of the district. Thu, Mar 13, 2014 4:54 pm. Emailed questionnaire, Answers copied from email response received 3/23/14, 5:27pm. 3/23/14, 11:56pm said would send answers to missed questions.
Bart McLeay	Contacted by resident of the district. 3/26/14 11:15am, call from campaign saying questionnaire will be done by Thursday night. Answers copied from email response received 3/27/14, 11:17pm.
Shane Osborn	Contacted by resident of the district. 3/12, 4:30pm, spoke to volunteers in office. 3/12, 7:46pm, questionnaire emailed. 3/18, 10:43am, left message. 3/18, 11:07am, reminder email. 3/25, 8:04pm, phone reminder - asked for 27th deadline. 4/4, 11:35am, left message - campaign manager in meeting, 4/8, 4:48pm, left message - campaign manager in meeting.
Ben Sasse	Contacted by resident of the district. 3/13, 7:30am, spoke to candidate's team at event. 3/13, 12:20pm, emailed questionnaire. 3/13, 3:18pm, campaign responded. 3/13, 5:08pm, sent questionnaire to new email address. 3/18, 11:07am, reminder email. 3/25, 8:17pm, left message with Eric - aim for Thursday. 4/4, 11:35am, left message for campaign manager. 4/8, 4:46pm, left message. 4/12, 12:54pm email reminder.

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

Sid Dinsdale	I grew up in Palmer, NE, 30 miles north of Grand Island, working on my family farm. I attended Hastings College then transferred to University of Nebraska and graduated with a degree in Finance. I also graduated from the Graduate School of Banking in Colorado and participated in the President's Program at Harvard Business School. I have been married to my wife Dawn for 37 years and have three children and four grandchildren. For the last 37 years, I have been serving as a community banker at Pinnacle Bank, the company my family founded in the late 50s. I continue to be very involved in numerous agri-businesses across Nebraska. My wife Dawn and I sit on the boards of many non-profit and community organizations across Nebraska. I currently serve as a Director on the Boards of the University of Nebraska Foundation, Nebraska Methodist Health System and Ameritas Life. I am also Director Emeritus of Bellevue University and a USSTRATCOM Consultation Committee member. My website is www.sidforsenate.com .
Clifton Johnson	Clifton R Johnson, a fellow conservative Nebraska resident for over 40 years in the Fort Calhoun, Blair area. Age 51. I've been with my wife 33 years since high school, I have a 9 year old son Preston and a 12 year old daughter named America, you think I love this country. Web; cliftonjohnsonforsenate.com
Bart McLeay	My family's history in Nebraska extends back more than 150 years. My grandfather on my father's side settled in Stapleton, Nebraska (near North Platte) in 1900 and worked as a physician. My grandfather on my mother's side settled in Nebraska City and was a district court judge. My mother's family lineage extends back even further to a settlement in South Omaha before Nebraska was a state. I was born and raised in Omaha. My wife, Jane, is from the Porter family of Nebraska City, which has the unique tradition of three generations of Nebraska football players and Jane was a Husker cheerleader. I am proud of my deep Nebraska roots. Jane and I have four children. Two of our children are now grown and out of school. Our third child is enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Our youngest child is a junior at Creighton Prep in Omaha. I joined the Omaha law firm, Kutak Rock LLP, in 1985 and became a partner and have proudly been recognized as one of the firm's leading business attorneys. Since 2006, I served as Chair of the Litigation Department, responsible for coordinating approximately 140 attorneys across a dozen offices of the firm.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

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

Sid Dinsdale	I am fed up with the overreach of the federal government in all aspects of our lives. It is threatening our economy, our jobs and our chance at the American dream. The government is making it harder for people to start a business, grow a business or buy a home. Regulatory agencies are no longer limited to enforcing the law; they are now starting to create laws through excessive regulations. As Chairman of Pinnacle Bancorp, I have dealt with regulators and bureaucrats on a daily basis and seen first-hand the consequences of their overreach on my business as well as the hundreds of businesses across the state that we serve. The most egregious example of government overreach is Obamacare. Obamacare was not an important first step to health care. It needs to be repealed. I want to take more Nebraska values to Washington and have less Washington in Nebraska. Once elected I will work to reduce government regulations and cut through the red tape that is stifling the greatest economic engine the world has ever known - small business.
Clifton Johnson	Government has lost its way, and forgotten its place. Government is overbearing in the lives of the people, addicted to keeping its power and expanding it whenever possible. The hundreds of thousands of regulations and entitlements are driving and forcing a socialist society. I will bring back common sense.
Bart McLeay	I was motivated to seek the U.S. Senate office because I am concerned about the direction of our nation and the type of country we were leaving behind for our children and grandchildren. I also was motivated by the fact I have the skill set necessary to address the complex financial, legal and constitutional issues our country faces. I hope to accomplish three primary goals: (1) achieve a long term financial "fix"; (2) restore freedom through significant reduction in federal government power; and (3) ensure America "leads from the front" abroad in matters of foreign policy.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

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

Sid Dinsdale	I strongly believe that my experience in community banking and agriculture would allow me to serve Nebraska, as its US Senator very well. I've seen firsthand how government intrusion into the lives of my customers and my business is making everyone's life harder, hurting small businesses and family farms and hurting every Nebraskan's chance at the American dream. I've run my business the Nebraska way, balancing our budget and taking care of our employees by creating opportunities for them. I understand what it takes to create jobs as well as the negative impact of government regulations enacted by those in Washington. I have worked with numerous non-profit organizations and understand the needs of those they serve better than a bureaucrat in Washington.
Clifton Johnson	The qualification of communication. To finally communicate the great conservative message of pride and self responsibility. Common sense, confident leadership. Steady, calm intelligence. 51 years a patriot. Extensive small business experience, starting 10 successful businesses. I have studied and followed state, national and world affairs closely for over 20 years. We need a statesman and fearless communicator for the conservative people, a delegate and guardian of our sovereign state of Nebraska. Patriots from all political parties must join forces now, and renew the American families pride to save our nation. I can promote respectful, responsible, productive citizenship. With a message for all citizens to aspire and work hard to better their position in life. I will bring back common sense into our daily lives.
Bart McLeay	Three qualifications, among others, I will bring to the U.S. Senate are: (1) Unrivaled skill and experience as a business attorney for nearly three decades capable of solving the financial and constitutional crisis now facing our country. (2) Passion, energy, integrity and competency to represent Nebraska's interests in the U.S. Senate; and (3) Effective communication and negotiation skills for navigating through gridlock to bring conservative change to our federal government.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Federal Government Purpose - In your opinion, what is the purpose of federal government in society? What should be done if the federal government steps outside that purpose either by neglect or over-reach.

Sid Dinsdale	Our founders believed that government should protect the rights of individuals and not trample them. The powers and limits outlined by our founders in the Constitution were designed to guarantee those rights. Unfortunately, our present government and its leader, President Obama, have chosen to more often than not, trample them. President Obama has created a massive takeover of our healthcare system and infringes on individual rights and the rights of the states. He regularly rewrites this law without the consent of the legislative branch. He has said that he has a pen to write laws and he intends to use it. That is not what our founders intended and it is why I am running for the United States Senate--to stop the government from overreaching its power and intruding into the lives of Nebraskans.
Clifton Johnson	Create an atmosphere of freedom, national security, then get out of the way. Judicial branch is supposed to protect us from over reach, but appointed judges will ruin that too. We need new people in congress, patriot leaders.
Bart McLeay	The purpose of federal government in society is to provide a common defense and undertake a few other limited functions specifically delegated by the U.S. Constitution. If the government steps outside that purpose (which it has, see below) we need to take immediate action to reign in such activity through remedial legislation or seeking relief in court. The federal government has stepped outside its purpose by intentional overreach and neglect in violation of the Constitution and the Tenth Amendment in particular. Our federal government misled the people regarding the attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, directed the IRS to unlawfully target certain political groups, improperly authorized wiretapping of respected journalist organizations such as the Associated Press and Fox News, conducted unjustified and invasive surveillance flyovers of Nebraska farms and ranches and permitted the NSA to violate the law through misrepresentation - as found by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court - in the course of sweeping up millions upon millions of records of innocent Americans. I will take affirmative steps to stop such improper government action.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Balance of powers - Discuss your thinking on the balance of powers perspective for executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. What would you keep the same or change?

Sid Dinsdale	Our founders wisely recognized the temptation inherent with each of us to overreach our powers and so they defined and limited powers within each branch of the government and between the federal and state governments. They had personally witnessed the abuse of a strong centralized government that overtaxed and controlled their lives in every way from how they worshipped to their pursuit of personal opportunity and their dreams. They knew when left to their own desires an individual ruler with unchecked power could limit freedom and liberty. They also knew that every person yearns for liberty and freedom and that each of us is endowed by our Creator with "certain unalienable rights--life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." We have the greatest country on Earth because of the Constitution adopted by our founding fathers. I would not change the balance of power.
Clifton Johnson	Hold them to their defined roles as set out in the constitution. Judges should be elected.
Bart McLeay	I want to restore the balance of power between the executive, legislative and judicial branches envisioned by the founders in the Constitution, Bill of Rights and Constitutional Amendments adopted by the people. I would change the balance of power to restrict overreach and eliminate unconstitutional actions by the federal government. I would be a vigilant promoter of the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and seek to restore power to the states and people.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Agencies/Departments - Are there any federal agencies/departments that should be created or abolished?

Sid Dinsdale	We do not need any more government agencies or departments. I would be against the creation of any new agencies/departments. We should seriously reduce the size and scope of the EPA, OSHA, the Departments of Education and Energy to name a few.
Clifton Johnson	I will lead the fight to derail the socialist express, and take on the monumental tasks of drastically reducing the size and scope of all government to reasonable and accountable levels. Time is of the essence to save our freedom and liberty. Every single program and department must be gone through with a fine tooth comb, then made more efficient, cleaned, downsized or done away with.
Bart McLeay	Yes. Our federal government is grossly oversized and many departments and agencies, including but not limited to the Departments of Education and Energy and the EPA, need to be overhauled and significantly reduced if not entirely eliminated. I would also support shrinking the size of the federal government through attrition of federal civilian employees.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	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?

Sid Dinsdale	As a man who has spent most of his life working in and closely with the agriculture industry, I believe that there are no greater environmentalists than our farmers and ranchers. They care for the land not because they are forced to by government but rather because their livelihood depends upon it. They know that if they abuse the land today they won't be able to make a living. I believe that the government has gone overboard on the issue of the environment. We are over-regulated and limited in the development of our natural resources because one group or another wanted to protect something. For example, the Endangered Species Act is dictating policies in the Platte River Basin in Nebraska, protecting non-native species. Technological advancements have made it easier for us to use our natural resources in a way that protects the planet for future generations. We should take full advantage of all of the resources at our disposal.
Clifton Johnson	No un-scientific EPA studies to govern policy. All should use common sense policy for real dangers, the earth will be fine, it's tougher than you think.
Bart McLeay	I would place myself as a conservative on environmental issues. I do so because the federal government has been abusive in its excess of advocacy relating to numerous environmental matters including but not limited to EPA's assertion of jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. I support more judicial and legislative oversight of the EPA and other federal regulatory agencies. America needs to ensure the environment and workers are protected, but not at the unnecessary expense of damaging business interests and destroying economic opportunity and jobs.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Indian Affairs - What do you see as the solution for socio-economic, educational, and employment difficulties on Indian reservations in Nebraska?

Sid Dinsdale	I believe jobs are the solution for the difficulties for socio-economic, educational and employment difficulties on Indian reservations in Nebraska. My wife Dawn and I have been involved with many non-profit and volunteer organizations over the years such as the Hope Center and Habitat for Humanity. I believe that helping the less fortunate is very important. However, I am a firm believer that a hand up is better than a hand out and a job is the best hand up you can offer an individual. Having a job allows for stability in your daily life as well as making you a responsible member of society.
Clifton Johnson	They deserve a new education plan, teaching self pride and aspiring to improve one's life and community.
Bart McLeay	I want to help those on Indian Reservations in Nebraska to stop relying on the government. The socio-economic, educational and employment difficulties on Indian Reservations are complex but appear to be related. The absence of property rights - more than communal property - has been recognized as a serious impediment to development, causing restricted borrowing, failure to utilize available minerals and environmental degradation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs should be substantially reduced.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Federal finances - Under what circumstances should government be allowed to spend more than revenues? What is your view on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution?

Sid Dinsdale	Government should never be allowed to spend more than revenues. The federal government brings in approximately \$200 billion per month in tax revenue. Balancing the budget would be one of my top legislative priorities. Congress needs a real, enforceable limit on what they can spend. A constitutional requirement to balance the budget is good enough for Nebraska and more than 40 other states. It should be good enough for Washington.
Clifton Johnson	Only at time of war should spending exceed revenue. We should have a balanced budget amendment.
Bart McLeay	The federal government should not spend more than revenues - at least not without a clear threat to our nation's viability and existence. I fully and strongly support a Balanced Budget Amendment to end deficit spending and reduce our country's growing and unsustainable federal debt.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Taxes - Briefly describe your philosophy of taxes. What is your view of the Fair Tax, Flat Tax, national sales tax, or current progressive income tax?

Sid Dinsdale	We need a simplified tax code that the average Nebraskan can understand without consulting a CPA. There is no justification for a tax code that is 72,000 pages long. Our focus should be on job creation not increasing or creating new taxes. New taxes take money out of the hands of the job creators. Economists estimate that nearly half of all small businesses would see their taxes increase under President Obama's plans. The complicated tax code disproportionately affects small businesses who can't hire an army of lawyers and lobbyists to carve exemptions for them. We should look at decreasing the tax on businesses and simplifying the tax code by making it fairer and flatter for every American. Small business is the driver of the US economy and we are forcing them out of business. The US has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. We need to be looking at cutting the fat out of government agencies.
Clifton Johnson	The criminal activity of the IRS targeting conservative groups during a heated political campaign should be used as standing to abolish the IRS, its 9,100 page tax bill. And put the fair consumption tax in place, so everyone helps pull the wagon instead of so many getting a free ride.
Bart McLeay	My philosophy of taxes is simple: they should be limited and easy to compute. I support tax relief through tax reform. I support enacting a form of flat tax or, alternatively, a fair tax. The current tax code is far too complicated and unfair and results in people at the same income level paying widely different amounts of tax. I would accept a proposed plan, identified by Heritage Foundation, for a New Flat Tax at 28-percent with two credits (Earned Income Credit and a Health Insurance Credit - \$3,000 for family) and three deductions (charitable, education and home mortgage). Alternatively, I would consider supporting 10 and 25 percent tax rates for individuals, along with a 25 percent maximum tax rate for corporations and accelerated depreciation and repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax. Finally, I would support the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2013.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Military/foreign policy - What would you support or not support in U.S. foreign policy? What is your view concerning U.S. support of Israel? How would you balance the transparency and national security issues concerning foreign policy? What percentage of the federal budget should be designated for the military?

Sid Dinsdale	I believe the most important factor guiding U.S. foreign policy should be protecting our national security. Sometimes we may be better off protecting our national security on foreign soil rather than at home. In those instances, I believe that we need a clear and limited mission, a strategy for success, and an exit plan. As the only democracy within the Middle East, the security of Israel is in the vital national security interest of the United States. We affirm our unequivocal commitment to Israel's security. We must ensure that it maintains a qualitative edge in military technology over any potential adversaries. Our country was founded on several fundamental principles among them the right to be free from government intrusion. No freedom has suffered greater erosion these past 6 years. I acknowledge that there is a delicate balance to be struck between protecting our citizenry and respecting our rights. However, I believe that the government should not be permitted to listen in to our phone conversations, view our email, or engage in general surveillance of its citizenry without court approval and without probable cause to believe that a crime might be committed. I also believe there should be an expeditious appeal process and oversight so that our courts do not become a rubber stamp for overzealous government intruders. I don't believe we can artificially designate a specific percentage of the federal budget for the military. We should spend what it takes to responsibly, efficiently and effectively protect our citizenry. The Defense Department is the one department that is crucial to our country. However the military is ready and willing to have less resources; just give them resource certainty and authority.
Clifton Johnson	The world is not the all the same, nor equal, nor is it fair. There are different cultures, different intelligence, different abilities, different interests, wants and needs. My allegiance lies with the United States of America. It is time to put our nation's people at the forefront of our concerns, also we shall deal with all nations, as needed, friend or foe, as deserved. Our military personnel shall not be put in harm's way without absolute cause.
Bart McLeay	I support a United States foreign policy that calls for the United States "to lead from the front." Conversely, I do not support the current United States policy of "leading from behind". I will stand with Israel. Our national security is threatened by instability in the Middle East and we should support Israel, the strongest democracy and our country's most trusted ally in the important geopolitical center of the world. I also favor recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and relocating the American embassy there. I would balance transparency and national security issues by aggressively opposing any actions by the federal government that violates its citizens rights such as sweeps of so-called "business records" under the Patriot Act without showing relevance or having an advocate representing rights of citizens. The percentage of the federal budget designated for the military cannot be precisely determined alone without consideration to other factors but should be a primary budget expenditure since it is the most important function to be performed by the federal government.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Healthcare - *What do you see as the ideal healthcare system? What action, and why, do you plan to take to achieve that?*

Sid Dinsdale	Government run health care is a failure. I believe the high cost of health care needs to be addressed, but smaller, measurable reforms would be wiser than trying to re-engineer the entire healthcare system all at once. We need to introduce market forces into the health care system to bring down cost. We need to empower small business and individuals with more choice. Health Savings Accounts give individuals more responsibility for their health care choices. We should look to enlarging the insurance pools by allowing health insurers to sell across state lines and address one of the biggest causes of skyrocketing health care costs 0- defensive medicine. Tort reform would give doctors relief from frivolous lawsuits that drive up the cost of malpractice insurance and encourage doctors to order unnecessary medical tests. Finally, we need to encourage the use of technological innovations like telemedicine that are particularly effective in rural states like Nebraska.
Clifton Johnson	Not all people should expect the same care, everyone doesn't get to drive corvette unless you achieve it. We need community clinics with reasonable prices and payment plans for all that need them. Prices for current services are way too high at all care facilities.
Bart McLeay	The ideal healthcare system is based on the free market to the fullest extent possible. The first step to improving healthcare is to immediately stop of Obamacare. I plan to take this action because Obamacare is a failed policy and is an unworkable program for achieving healthcare reform. I have a plan to replace it. My plan modeled after an existing Republican proposal- replaces Obamacare with free-market solutions that allow people to keep their doctor and current healthcare plan if they choose. It also addresses access to care, pre-existing conditions, portability of health plans, provides opportunities for cost reduction for small businesses and individuals and creates "best practices defense" as a type of tort reform for doctor.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Energy - *You may say something about the Keystone XL Pipeline if you wish, but the real question is, "What do you consider to be appropriate federal policy with regard to energy and why?"*

Sid Dinsdale	America's energy policy must begin with energy independence as our primary goal. Dependence on foreign oil is a threat to both our national security and our economic security. We need a comprehensive energy policy that we have lacked for the last four years. America is one of the most energy rich countries in the world, yet our own government and democrats are keeping us from reaching our full potential, creating millions of jobs and growing the US economy. We need to complete the Keystone pipeline, which will increase oil and jobs. We need to expand nuclear and coal production. Finally, we need to continue to continue to develop alternative sources of energy, including wind, solar and nuclear energy.
Clifton Johnson	We could have gas under 1.00 per gallon for hundreds of years from the reserves we have if the unreasonable environmentalists with bought power had a clue. Until a realistic alternative to gas and oil is feasible.
Bart McLeay	Appropriate federal policy with regard to energy should employ free market model- to the extent possible- to provide low cost, accessible and reliable energy sources while creating energy independence. Energy independence has been a goal of the United States since the energy shock of the 1970s. Technological developments show this goal is within reach. The best example is hydraulic fracturing or fracking. I support building the Keystone XL pipeline. Building the pipeline will help create energy independence, bring 9,000 new jobs, provide new access to refineries for Nebraska oil producers and will be built with high strength steel and corrosive resistant coating with 100% weld inspections. When the pipeline nears the Ogallala Aquifer it will have extra valves and be observed by satellite technology. The pipeline covers only 275 square miles of the 174,000 square miles of the Ogallala Aquifer. The pipeline will also help ease transportation shortages faced by ethanol producers. Ethanol remains an important element of North American energy independence and I am a strong supporter of continued support of extending the renewable fuel standard, particularly because ethanol does not exist in a barrier free market environment.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Religious Freedom - *Describe any difference you see between freedom of religion and freedom of worship. What role should government agencies have in monitoring those freedoms?*

Sid Dinsdale	I believe that the concept of freedom of worship is an effort to erode the broader principle of freedom of religion. Our Constitution actually has two components related to religion. The first is a prohibition on the establishment of religion. The second is a prohibition on enacting laws that prohibit the free exercise of religion. Free exercise of religion is significantly broader than "freedom of worship." As a man who is strong in my faith, I firmly believe in the right to exercise our religious freedom. Any encroachment on this right by the federal government would be intolerable. Unfortunately, the federal government is encroaching on this freedom daily, particularly with Obamacare and its mandates. Government agencies should not "monitor" this freedom. They should be obligated to protect and respect it.
Clifton Johnson	Religious freedoms are paramount, but government should not allow the establishment, or forced promotion on society of any one group.
Bart McLeay	Freedom of religion involves the full panoply of rights relating to religious beliefs- they may involve the right to preach in the public square, wear certain clothing and other similar activities. Freedom of worship is much more limiting. Government agencies should have no role in monitoring freedoms of religion unless a religion is a pretext to harm people. The biggest violation of these principles in recent date has been the Obamacare mandate forcing religious entities, among other things, to pay for abortions against the religious beliefs of their owners. I support full repeal of Obamacare and until that can be accomplished I support measures to ensure that anti-religious provisions of the law are halted.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Gun Control - Discuss your views on gun control both as a potential federal legislator and as a private citizen.

Sid Dinsdale	I fully support the Constitutional right of individuals to bear arms. I support the Concealed Handgun Permit Act, which gives Nebraskans the right to carry concealed weapons. I will vote to confirm justices who believe that the second amendment protects an individual's rights to bear arms.
Clifton Johnson	The right shall not be infringed. "From my cold dead hands."
Bart McLeay	I fully support the Second Amendment as both a potential federal legislator and a public citizen. I do not support restrictions to the sale of handguns, shotguns or rifles, nor do I support restrictions to the size of ammunition magazines.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Jobs - What connection, if any, do you see between Immigration Policy and the creation of jobs? What is the responsibility of the Congress in creating jobs? What specific ideas do you have for jobs?

Sid Dinsdale	First and foremost, Congress doesn't create jobs, businesses and entrepreneurs do. Fundamentally, I think that Congress should get out of the way when it comes to creating jobs. Many laws and regulations actually end up costing jobs because of the cost of compliance. I don't believe that the current, broken immigration policy creates jobs. Instead it provides cheap labor for existing jobs.
Clifton Johnson	I have comprehensive plans for immigration issues, see you tube speech. Corporate income taxes are not competitive. Investment capital follows low taxes. An immediate 10% corporate tax would spur so many new companies and manufacturing we would not have a job problem. Free internet college is coming, it will revolutionize education.
Bart McLeay	The free market creates jobs, not Congress or other agencies of federal government through immigration policy or otherwise. I have a five point jobs plan. The plan is based on removing the government and allowing the free market to succeed. My plan includes tax reform to allow businesses the resources to expand and create jobs, reigning in regulation (including the EPA, OSHA and repealing Obamacare and Dodd-Frank), promoting North American energy independence expanding trade through renewing Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). The Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership are under discussion. I support both. Expanding trade in Asia is especially important due to the rapid growth of the middle class in the region. And easing trade restrictions between the United States and the European Union is likewise economically beneficial for Nebraska agriculture. Those trade agreements will create jobs in Nebraska and throughout the United States.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Reform - If you see a need for reform, describe what changes you would want to see happen to reform Immigration policies, Welfare policies, Education policies, or anything else.

Sid Dinsdale	Before we can even talk about immigration reform, we need to secure our borders in order to protect ourselves. Once we have accomplished securing our borders, we can have a conversation about immigration policy. We need a national dialogue about what our goals are with immigration. There has been no broad-based frank discussion about our goals and objectives.
Clifton Johnson	1. We first need to know who is here and close the border. This can be accomplished by; Give 180 days (or 6 months) for all illegals to come in and get a picture ID with name (doesn't matter if they make up a name, at least we'll have an Identification document), state who they are, where they live, and why they're here. They will be given a conditional, temporary visa with the requirement that they have one year to learn the English language and prove they are a productive citizen with good intentions to stay. Illegals with good intentions will jump at this offer. Logistics can be handled through the DMV with a few temporary extra hires. All who do not sign up are deported with any law enforcement contact. Close the most dangerous 1000 miles of the southern border with logistics through state and national guard. A soldier every 1/8th mile, is 8,000, x 2 twelve hour shifts = 16,000 with night vision and no one is crossing. Use technology to replace their presence as soon as possible. 2. Welfare and entitlement fraud is rampant, leaving less money for the elderly and truly needy and disabled. Government has lost its way, and forgotten its place. Government is overbearing in the lives of the people, addicted to keeping its power and expanding it whenever possible. The hundreds of thousands of regulations and entitlements are driving and forcing a socialist society. They know that with the entitlement, socialist voting-block, (if a person can vote themselves money, they always will), they can fundamentally transform our once free country. 3. Our children should be educated about patriotism and the price many hundreds of thousands have paid with their lives for all of us to have our freedom and liberty. Instead they are now creeping in a socialist leaning agenda into our public school system, even vilifying success and hard work.
Bart McLeay	Reform is needed in each of immigration, welfare, education and other areas. Immigration: Our first priority on immigration reform must be to secure the border as a matter of national security. In some locations, a triple-layered fence similar to the one used in San Diego may be appropriate. In other areas, the diverse terrain requires a mixture of fencing infrastructure and technology sensors and unmanned non-military aircraft. The efficacy of these alternatives can be sample tested and the results measured. America should implement the tested alternative that works. I am willing to consider a proposal for certifying border security that requires approval of border state governors. I do not support a pathway to citizenship for those who immigrated to the United States in violation of our criminal laws. Instead, I will consider supporting a pathway for qualified persons (individuals who pass background checks and meet other minimal standards) to become permanent residents, which will allow them to "come out of the shadows" and become productive members of our society while paying taxes, but such residents would not be able to vote or receive federal benefits. I also seek to ease volume limitations and requirements for legal immigration for specific industries in which additional workers are strongly needed by American businesses or those who have already been trained in the United States (e.g. high tech specialists or agricultural labor). Welfare: Welfare policies need reform. Welfare dependency created by our federal government hurts those seeking to remove themselves from poverty. The United States should continue to inspire and require welfare recipients, much in the same way the Netherlands has done recently to prove time spent (e.g. Four weeks) looking for a job and further treating a family as one "unit" rather than multiple parts. Education: I support eliminating the Department of Education and turning control to the local and state government. I am opposed to Common Core. At most, I envision a limited role of federal government in education in which it serves as a type of an information booth, where education alternatives of each state can be reviewed at a central location, but without authority for the federal government to take action against a state.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

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?*

Sid Dinsdale	I have pledged to my constituents that I will always do what I believe is in the best interests of our nation and our state. I will not be beholden to special interest groups, political party or donors. I will only be beholden to Nebraskans, as they will have elected me to represent them in Washington. I will always look toward my faith in God to guide me to make the right decisions.
Clifton Johnson	Nobody but myself funded my campaign. I didn't want connected money. I am a leader, nobody burns our flag in front of me.
Bart McLeay	If I run into a conflict with my personal views, I will remind myself of my allegiance to Nebraska voters and their preferences. I've been a 29 year business attorney and have spent my entire career representing the interest of others, some but not all of whom have shared my views. The majority view of Nebraskans acting in the best interests of the United States will be my guide.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

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.)*

Sid Dinsdale	Parents have the right to raise their children. I wholeheartedly agree that the rights of parents to oversee the education, medical care, and general welfare of their children are being trampled by government agencies. Since I announced my candidacy, one of my top priorities when elected to the US Senate will be to fight government overreach just like this. The Department of Education is one of the worst culprits -- No Child Left Behind and Common Core are threatening our liberty. Parents and local school districts know our children best. We do not need the US Government or the UN to tell us what is the future of our children. I am also against the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child that removes parental rights and threatens home schooling in the United States.
Clifton Johnson	The effected parties should be the decision makers.
Bart McLeay	I strongly support the idea of" the liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, education and care of their children is a fundamental right." But I oppose a specific amendment to the United States Constitution because I do not trust the federal government to define "parents" and have further concerns over the definition of "their children" in the proposed language because it may bring undue complications to families.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

Presidential Appointees - *By which criteria will you vote on confirming presidential nominees, specifically judges, but also ambassadors, military commanders, cabinet members.*

Sid Dinsdale	I will consider each nominee and their qualifications to hold the job for which they are nominated. I also believe that having a comfort level with the temperament of the person being nominated is critically important given the nature of the jobs nominees will hold. I will also consider personal constitution discipline.
Clifton Johnson	True patriotism. Respect for freedom and liberty.
Bart McLeay	The criteria upon which I will vote to confirm presidential nominees, specifically judges but also others are integrity, competence, judgment, patriotism and courage.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	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?*

Sid Dinsdale	The phrase "upholding the Constitution" is clear and unambiguous in my mind. When elected, I will always ensure that my votes are consistent with the Constitution and that the actions we take as a body, indeed as a nation, are in keeping with the fundamental principles set forth in the Constitution. In addition, I believe that the oath requires us to hold others, including the President of the United States if necessary, to the same standard. As I have said above, I don't believe that our government today always upholds the Constitution.
Clifton Johnson	Just what it says. It's our duty to uphold and continue and save our freedom and liberty.
Bart McLeay	The oath to uphold the Constitution is the fundamental pledge and a commitment I will make to the people who voted me into office.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	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?

Sid Dinsdale	My family has played a central role throughout my entire life. My parents and their generation molded me into the man I am today. I have been married for 37 years and I would not be where I am today without the support and love of my wife Dawn. I know that my service in the United States Senate will require great sacrifice on my part and on that of my family. We will no longer have the freedom and flexibility we have enjoyed in the past. However, I would not be in this race if I didn't have the commitment and support of my entire family. I can't do this alone.
Clifton Johnson	It's my project to offer my service to the nation. I would not part from my family, they would live where I live.
Bart McLeay	My family has played a substantial role in my decision to seek the office of United States Senator. I am proud of my deep Nebraska roots. My wife and I have four children. I am gravely concerned about the country we may be leaving our children. Two of our children are now grown and out of school. Our third child is enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Our youngest child is a junior at Creighton Prep in Omaha. Fortunately, I do not foresee my decision to run for office as an action that will substantially affect my family life. My youngest son will be a second semester senior in high school if I am elected to the United States Senate. My wife and I would be "empty nesters" and would be able to devote our full time, effort and energy to this job if elected.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	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?

Sid Dinsdale	Although in my community banking company we usually agree, there have been times when I have vetoed decisions. Before the recent downturn, there were those in our company that wanted us to participate in large development loans. I vetoed this strategy which was proven to be the right decision. Through my board service on a nonprofit board, a financial advisor recommended a very complex hedging strategy. On a special board conference call of about 20 individuals, I was the only no vote. I voted no because it was too complex and in my mind inappropriate to invest the funds in this vehicle. The economic crisis happened and the institution lost a very large amount of money.
Clifton Johnson	Confidence. Entrepreneurship demands standing alone, I've made my own way successfully.
Bart McLeay	I have stood alone for what I thought was right when momentum was pushing the other way on several occasions. One case of note was when I represented a landowner in a property rights dispute in the Niobrara, Nebraska area. The National Park Service and U.S. Department of Interior and their officials claimed they were entitled to restrict land rights of owners and fought hard for their position. A federal trial judge agreed. I recommended to my client that he pursue the case on appeal for the benefit of his own land and the other ranchers in the area. My client did so and we won on a unanimous panel ruling in favor of my client and other land owners.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	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.)

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?

Sid Dinsdale	I believe that my personal principles will play a central role in my political decision-making. How could they not? We live in a representative democracy where lawmakers are elected. Our job is to represent our constituents who elect us. I have spent a great deal of time trying to share with Nebraskans what my personal principles are so that they can get a feel for how I would work in Washington. I have 37 years of business experience and many contacts not only in Nebraska but also across the United States. I would turn to those with experience in the areas we are debating to seek their advice and counsel. I will educate myself on issues with which I am not familiar and make the best decision I can based on what is best for our nation and our state.
Clifton Johnson	1. It's good to win, you can use your personal principles. 2. The expert on the subject at hand, and my wife.
Bart McLeay	An officer holder is a representative of the people and is obliged to represent the principles of those he or she represents. An office holder's individual principles, presumably aligned with voters who elected him or her, are important and will help ensure the voice and beliefs of the people are truly heard. I will look to Nebraska voters, civic leaders and fellow elected officials for input and guidance.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

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

Sid Dinsdale	I am for adherence to our Constitution, smaller central government and celebrating and encouraging Americans when we achieve great things. I am for minimal government interference in our lives and businesses. The greatness of America is our limited government that doesn't get in the way of Americans as they pursue their dreams. The ultimate inappropriate government overreach is Obamacare. It is so poorly executed that it has awakened Americans and given new leaders an opportunity to limit the government's takeover and growth.
Clifton Johnson	I voted against socialism.
Bart McLeay	My key considerations were to identify and support the person who believed in fiscal responsibility, pro-life and other conservative values.
Shane Osborn	waiting for response
Ben Sasse	waiting for response

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?

Sid Dinsdale Pro-Choice means pro-abortion. Pro-life means that you don't believe in abortion. I am unabashedly pro-life and believe that life begins at conception. The death penalty should be used rarely and timely. I am against stem cell research but in favor of adult stem cell research. I am opposed to physician-assisted suicide.

Clifton Johnson [not answered]

Bart McLeay Pro-life means opposing abortion and euthanasia. Pro-choice is the opposite. I define myself as unqualifiedly pro-life. I arrived at the view because I was born and raised and remain today a practicing Catholic who regularly attends mass and subscribes to the pro life views of the church. I oppose taxpayer-funded abortions including partial birth abortions. I support a human life constitutional amendment that renders abortion illegal. I support the death penalty and believe it should be administered when non-lethal means are not sufficient to defend the innocent against an aggressor and protect public order and the safety of persons. I oppose embryonic stem cell research and physician-assisted suicide.

Shane Osborn waiting for response

Ben Sasse

waiting for response

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?

Sid Dinsdale Marriage is between a man and a woman. The government should honor, strengthen and defend traditional marriage.

Clifton Johnson As much as I wish all people lived by the common sense laws of nature, they do not and we cannot force them to. I do not agree with the gay by choice agenda, and never will, it's an obvious perversion issue. If it is a XY chromosome issue from birth, it is sad for those effected and should be sympathized.

Bart McLeay I believe in traditional marriage between one man and one woman. The United States Supreme Court has declared the decision is for states to determine and the state of Nebraska has determined marriage is between one man and one woman. This is a philosophy with which I agree.

Shane Osborn waiting for response

Ben Sasse

waiting for response

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

Sid Dinsdale I am a Pro-Life, Pro-Family Conservative who passionately supports policies that promote the family. I believe that human life is a sacred gift and that life begins at conception. As a father and grandfather, I will fight for the issues that matter most to Nebraskans in Washington D.C. The economy is making it harder on families as well. I am fed up with the overreach of the federal government in all aspects of our lives. It is threatening our economy, our jobs and our chance at the American dream. The government is making it harder for people to start a business, grow a business or buy a home. Regulatory agencies are no longer limited to enforcing the law; they are now starting to create laws through excessive regulations. As Chairman of Pinnacle Bancorp, I have dealt with regulators and bureaucrats on a daily basis and seen first-hand the consequences of their overreach on my business as well as the hundreds of businesses across the state that we serve. Once elected I will work to reduce government regulations and cut through the red tape that is stifling the greatest economic engine the world has ever known – small business. I am proud that 86% of my financial support comes from Nebraskans. I will not be beholden to Washington special interests, but will look to the good people of Nebraska for guidance on how best to represent them.

Clifton Johnson I'm very concerned that a lot of people do not truly understand what's happening to our country. Now those of you that are staying informed, and making others aware, you should be commended for your patriotism. There are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of thousands, of American citizens who have fought to the death, to protect and guarantee our freedoms and liberties, our constitution, our system of government, a constitutional republic built on free enterprise and capitalism, that has allowed the greatest and most prosperous nation ever to be on the face of the earth, benefiting all people. Now we have a radical socialist executive branch and a number of likeminded senators and congressmen who have vowed to fundamentally transform the United States of America. Nobody burns our flag in front of me. Socialism has proven throughout the ages to be a failure. **The time for political correctness is over.** The United States was not an experiment, it is an opportunity of freedom and personal choices, and those choices must have consequences. If one chooses not to be a responsible, respectful, productive citizen, this country was not founded for you. Now is the time for all good patriots, of all political parties, who love liberty and freedom, who just have that feeling, and know in their heart, their cherished liberties are racing down a dangerous road, to get up, speak up, contact your elected representatives and be sure to vote for people that are going to do something about it. Vote for candidates that don't want to control you, but wish to expand your liberty and freedom. Federalist paper #62, states, senators should be of an advanced age and citizenship, with period of life advantages. I'll pledge to listen to your interests, your concerns, and proudly represent Nebraska's interests in Washington. Clifton R. Johnson (The new George Washington) (web; CliftonJohnsonforSenate.com,)

Bart McLeay My wife, Jane, and I are excited about the opportunity and privilege to represent the state of Nebraska in the United States Senate.

Shane Osborn waiting for response

Ben Sasse waiting for response