

Hire Me for the House-3rd District

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(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) I have a great deal of experience around the state. I've traveled the state for the last 40, 45 years. There's hardly any place in the state that I have not visited. And I have continued to do that as a Congressional candidate. The other thing is that I have quite a bit of experience in terms of organizing a staff, motivating people to move in the same direction and so I think that I do have some organizational skills and a good work ethic.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) Osborne came alone to our interview at the NETV building in Lincoln.

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) I feel Nebraska needs a middle class, working person to represent them, not that our current representative doesn't care, but I don't believe he has lived out here and built his life, has raised his kids, and understands maybe the challenges of raising a family, worrying about your next paycheck. Trying to keep land in a family, as some of these farmers are trying to hold on to.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) Anderson brought a few pages of notes and her husband to our interview, conducted on porch of her rural Columbus house, with her husband observing.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) Describe your personal strengths and weaknesses.

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) Okay, my strengths are that I've been a Nebraskan and had this experience of a Nebraska childhood. I was-my early childhood was on a farm and my-you learned a lot of things from a farm childhood in you worked with your parents and did the chores and did things. I think that brought an aspect to life. Then I've worked for many years from grade school on doing various jobs and you accept responsibility when you baby-sit and you learn the business world when you work out like I did during high school and my tech school years. I've always worked with people. Every job I've had has been involving close relationships working with people and I really enjoyed trying to meet their needs.

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) Well, as I mentioned in the opening segment, I've generally been one who works pretty long hours. I think that I do have some organizational ability. I was able to put together a very effective coaching staff at the University that hung together for a long time. Was able to get players generally to move in the same direction. And I think we've been able to transfer some of that to the political arena. And I think that I have a pretty good understanding now of what's going on in agriculture, Ag Committee. I'm on the Agricultural Committee. Education. Again, I serve on the Education Committee. And resources, which has to do with oh parks, water issues, and some of those issues that are very important in the third district.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) And weaknesses?

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) Well, I'm sure I have some. I've-some people would look at this as a weakness. I've certainly not been a long time politician.

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) Weaknesses. I'm not a politician. I don't think we need politicians. Probably public speaking cause I don't do this a lot. But I can speak up.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) Tell me about a time when you had to work with people who disagreed with you, and how you worked towards consensus.

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) I worked in a factory and that sometimes has a different atmosphere. And there would be a lot of competition I guess would be the word. And people unhappy with each other over something that was going on down the line that day and you just try being calm and I tried to listen to both sides of it and try putting the truth out and not, you know, embellishing the problem. Try to just keep it as its base level so that you can handle it and manage it.

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) Well, every Monday morning when you went into the football coaching staff there were always different ideas out there. And I was never a "my way or the highway" type of person. I always felt it was important to get input from everybody and then try to work toward some agreement. At some point, I might have to make a decision and say well this is what we're gonna do. But this was only done after we'd gone through the process. And I found that generally the end product which you put on the field on Saturday was better if you heard from all of your people.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) Describe your ideal work process. How do you like to work?

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) In terms of my personal organization, I start the day, you know, with a time of personal prayer and meditation. And sometimes that kind of focused-focuses me on what I think's really important, high priority. And it helps me get through the day I think in a logical sequential way. Also, I have a very good scheduler, both in Washington and one out here in the district and they keep me pretty much on task in terms of we try to look at what the priorities are, you know, is it a parade in Scottsbluff? Is it a water meeting in Ogallala? Is it a hearing in Washington?

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) Just to get up and go do it. With me, why I order my supplies enough in advance so I have, you know, enough of what I need to work with. And try to come to work as prepared as I can. And when I get as I do in the facility, I work a lot of on the spot or impulse requests, I try to handle them that day and cause if they want it that day, you know, I try to provide that for them.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) Is there a certain process or strategy that you might have for handling interruptions?

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) To handle them as they come. You know, if it's something that you can take care of in a hurry, fine.

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) Basically, it's through scheduling, trying to stay with the schedule, but also being wise enough to know that if something is an emergency or if

something has come up that really warrants your deviating from the schedule, then you certainly have to do that and you can't be totally organized all the time.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) It's 6 p.m. on Friday and you're about to leave. Close family members have come in from out of town and you've made plans to meet them for dinner. An associate comes in and says a project is about to fall apart and a meeting is needed right away to work on it. What do you do?

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) First of all, I'd assess how important that project really is. Because sometimes projects that are of great importance really are something that are not under that much of a time deadline and could be solved the next day or the day after that. But if it really is something pressing and it's really something important to the district, then obviously we do what we have to do and delay the dinner with the family.

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) Well, my family knows this that I love them dearly, but there are times that you know, there's other things I have to do and they have been very understanding of it.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) Tell me about a past situation where you've had to delegate a task and how you processed or reintegrated the work done by others.

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) I was a very strong delegator in coaching. It was my belief that if a guy was there to coach the defensive ends, he coached the defensive ends. That way you'd have a meeting in the morning and we would set the practice schedule and we would know generally what drills he was gonna use and we would know what defense we were gonna play, but how he got that translated, how he made sure everybody knew their assignments and it was pretty much up to that individual.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) How did you evaluate the quality and accuracy of the work that you had delegated?

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) Of course, it was both players and coach, but if a larger than acceptable number of errors was occurring in one part of your football team, then obviously they you had to have some type of a meeting of the minds with the coach. And sometimes we would talk a little bit about maybe a different approach as to how he was teaching his players.

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) I can't think of a specific cause you know, I do all my own services myself.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) If you were to delegate, how would you evaluate the quality and accuracy of the work that had come back to you from the person that you had say assigned something to.

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) If their intent and nature is sincere and if they're you know trying hard for the same purposes, you know, you aren't critical of that. But if you

think they're off course, why you know, perhaps you would try to rectify that situation and get back on course so that everyone's working towards the same goal.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) You're dealing with a controversial piece of legislation. You personally support it, but you have strong evidence that a majority of your constituents are against it. How do you vote, and how do you explain that vote?

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) If it would be for the constituents' good because what I feel isn't that important if you're representing people. You really need to represent their needs and concerns.

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) You know, I always listen to my constituents, but whether a very strong personal conviction's involved, then you're certainly not gonna violate your personal code of ethics.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) In your discussions with people, how do you evaluate the validity of what they're saying compared with their interests and agendas?

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) Well, you know, in visiting with people I had experience with that over the years for sure and you usually find I feel like I have good judgment in deciding whether they're telling the truth or not. And if it's something I'm concerned about, why I do look further and ask more questions and see how informed they are on it.

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) What you try to do is to research independently. And of course, I have staff members who are responsible for certain areas. Somebody works on military, somebody agriculture, somebody on health care and so on. And so I certainly have to rely somewhat on their expertise and their information, but I do an awful lot of reading myself. You know, we can always go to the Congressional Research Agency and they have briefings and they have information which is certainly non-partisan on almost every issue you might want to look at so try to gather the evidence, try to make an informed decision.

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) How do you balance the information you may get from that one person that comes in with a point of view and a certain background with information you may get from differing points of view?

(Tom Osborne/Republican, 3rd District Candidate) Well if the person comes in and our research or independent analysis simply doesn't square with what that person's saying, then we have to go pretty much with whatever unbiased, what we feel is unbiased information we have. And obviously, we filter this somewhat through the needs of the district.

(Donna Anderson/Democrat, 3rd District Candidate) Well that agenda may be valid. And if it is valid, you know, you keep seeking out more information. You talk to others. See if they have the similar point of view.

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