



## DISTRICT 1

### WHAT THE CANDIDATES SAID ABOUT THE BUDGETS THEY BUILT

	<b>Lavon Heidemann</b>	<b>Ron Zeiger</b>
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	The more state aid that we give our schools, it's a possibility we could cut back on property taxes and this is one of the reasons that I'm running is that I believe that we rely too heavily on property taxes to aid our schools and I really believe that the state should step in and maybe help a little bit more.	We're in real jeopardy of losing a lot of our small schools because we can't afford to keep them open. We've taken away from state aid instead of adding to it. I think making the kids suffer is not the way to do it. We need to educate these young people and keep them in Nebraska.
<b>UNIVERSITY &amp; STATE COLLEGES</b>	I know they've taken a lot of cuts lately. I think our University system's important to us. I think we need to have a strong University. And I think they need to be funded. I believe they need to be responsible with the money that we give em, but as far as like the smaller college systems, I do believe that they need to definitely be supported.	I'm kind of partial to the small rural colleges. If you're going to increase the rate two per cent to the University, increase the rate to the three state colleges at the rate of two per cent. (Peru State is) doing a lot down there that I don't think people understand that they're taking mainly rural students that maybe wouldn't even be in the University.
<b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES</b>	This would be one of the few things that I might try to look at and look at (the) need and the responsibility that we have to these people. This is a lot of administration though is the way I understand it.	I'm not saying that I couldn't or I couldn't eliminate some of the programs if I looked at them. We went through some pretty tight times here and we need to get our priorities straight. There's not a doubt in my mind if somebody looks at that hard enough, there's probably some waste going on even with all the budget cuts that's been made.
<b>STATE PATROL, COURTS, &amp; PRISONS</b>	This prison (in Tecumseh) has somewhat been struggling so and I know they come up with a lot of money within their budget last year to keep one of the prisons in Lincoln running, so I don't know exactly how much more we could cut there.	The prisons and corrections went up ten per cent. I think everybody's got to live by this budget. I know that up in Lincoln, you know, there was a proposal two years ago made to close one of the (correctional) institutions up there by the Legislature because ...they couldn't operate on any less money. I think there are ways when it comes time to parole the people that they've got house paroles where they can keep pretty good tabs through the electronics that we have these days. I think that would be a lot cheaper than housing a prisoner down in the prison but they have to demonstrate that in the prison that they're willing to reform themselves.
<b>MEDICAID</b>	I would look at just to try to find a little leeway. I know there's a lot of things that just have to be done, but we're going to leave everything except we're going to leave one again to see if we have a little bit of room to play with later on.	The way the budget's going now and especially Medicaid, there's not going to be a state budget down the line because it's going to eat it all up. It's rising at too rapid a rate. And these are tough decisions. I realize that.

<b>AID TO POOR &amp; DISABLED</b>	To those people that have that need, we need to help them out. I really believe that. As yeah, I believe that. You have to make sure that need is there and if that need is there, you need to help them out to get, you know, help them out and help them to get going onto something better. So I wouldn't want to you know, cut those people short.	The system is flawed in a way. If you go five dollars over this line, your assistance is gone. So some people are saying well you know I can make just as much staying home and not working. I think we've got to change that. I think we've got to let those people work and if they need a little more assistance, we've got to help them out. We got to encourage people to work if they can.
<b>AID TO CITIES, COUNTIES &amp; COMM. COLLEGES</b>	I do believe that the state needs to especially help fund the community colleges. We could get some—they are funded also by property taxes because I notice that on my property tax bill. I'm going to leave that unchanged.	Did not address
<b>41 SMALLER STATE AGENCIES</b>	I really thought over the last couple of years that the legislature really was starting to get down to their bare bones and in giving these agencies just what they needed to get by. And although I don't want to see taxes being raised especially maybe rates, I'm hoping that revenues start to come back in just because the economies doing better and we can get more money to get back into help funding things just a little bit better without raising the actual the tax rate.	I'm sure that no agency should feel real comfortable when it's a time of, you know, budget cuts and that and like I said, maybe all agencies should be cut evenly. I wouldn't say the name (of any one agency), but anybody could feel real comfortable that I wouldn't want to do some cutting if I looked at their agency and went in it in some depth and say 'wait a minute here, do we really need this?'
<b>PROPERTY, SALES &amp; INCOME TAXES</b>	The one thing that I would look at is maybe broadening the sales tax rate, maybe shifting a little bit more into income tax to get less reliance on property taxes. That'd be the only thing. I really don't think you want to raise the revenue that's coming in, just shift it from where it's coming from.	I'm not ready to raise the taxes. This state is getting a bad name for itself for being a high tax state. And we need to encourage more people to come and work here. I wouldn't say I would never raise taxes, but I think property tax is way too high now and it's not real fair especially to the farmer.
<b>WHAT WOULD MY PRIORITY BILL BE?</b>	I really believe if we give more state aid to schools...it would give them more money to spend, but my deal would be to cut property taxes. So the more money that you give me, it has to coincide with a cut in property tax at the same time and that's where I would use some of my excess money.	I'm trying to get the playing field back in order. We've had entitlements that have ate up the budget...and are growing so fast that the Legislature, with the revenue gone south, have had to cut into education. I'm not saying we should totally do away (with aid programs), but we've got to review these entitlements. They're laws now and the Legislature's the only people that can change it.