



DISTRICT 43

WHAT THE CANDIDATES SAID ABOUT THE BUDGETS THEY BUILT:

	DEB FISCHER	KEVIN COOKSLEY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p>I would like to put more money into the state aid for schools... because I see that as some property tax relief for people here in Nebraska as a whole, but especially here in the 43rd district, people are facing a really heavy burden on property taxes, that's what I hear the most about and one way to ease that burden is with the state aid to schools. But since I also do not want to be raising taxes, you have to take it from someplace else.</p>	<p>I believe that the state has an obligation to provide state aid to schools somewhere akin to equal to 50 percent of what they're expenditures are. The public schools, regardless of the size of the district. A child in Brownlee, Nebraska, has every bit as much right to an education equitable and adequate education as a child does in downtown Omaha. And the property tax relief is going to take place hand in glove with that</p>
UNIVERSITY & STATE COLLEGES	<p>When you talk about the University you have to remember it's a number of campuses. We have a med center and a campus in Lincoln, in Omaha, and at Kearney. The research done at IANR (Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources) is very helpful in agriculture and for producers out here. But there again, I think the University should step forward a little more to help with economic development, to help with value-added products that we can have in agriculture and that's why I said I think there—they can be more of an engine for growth in this state. So I would hate to see more cuts to that system.</p>	<p>The University has been cut to the bone. I've got two daughters that have graduated from the University and I've got a son that's a third year student down there and I'm a graduate of the University and while I'm not happy with some of the management decisions that have been made down there, and their commitment to Nebraska students as a land grant college, at this point I have to say that I think they've been cut enough.</p>
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	<p>I have I visited with a number of people who work in that area whether they are foster parents, whether they're attorneys representing the children and from what I hear from them is there can be some savings in that area.</p>	<p>I'm not comfortable with promoting any major cuts in any of the departments right now, but as you asked, for me to identify targeted areas if I were to target any areas for more belt tightening, I know that one of the things that I have—I keep in mind in my discussions with people in state office have advised me about was that we've got runaway spending, runaway expenses in entitlement programs and health insurance programs.</p>

**STATE PATROL,
COURTS, &
PRISONS**

We just went through a period here where we didn't have a judge. He moved on to another judgeship and we have a backlog now and there are some cases I understand that maybe dismissed because the defendants did not have a speedy trial. Well that was the case where we didn't have a judge to have a speedy trial. People in this district don't like to see that.

Corrections on the other hand I know we're going to see more prisoners if the courts are doing their job and the cops are doing their job, but I also think that we could be charging those prisoners more for what we're providing for them and providing maybe less for them than what we're providing as heartless as that may sound.

MEDICAID

(No change) since many of the Medicaid programs we don't have much control over, I will probably need to put this back in there to pay for what the state's required to pay for.

Another part of my idea is the co-pay that I'd like to see implemented. The co-pay can be pumped back into that system and help offset some of these cuts I think. People that use it for instance if you're on a program where you've got free medical care and you're used to going up and getting a free X-ray. I pay a hundred dollars or whatever it is that I pay with my health insurance and I've got a five thousand dollar deductible. I don't think it's too much to ask folks that are public assistance to invest some in this system too. And it may not be very much but at the rate that it's growing at ten per cent plus a year, it amounts to a lot of dollars.

**AID TO POOR &
DISABLED**

I think we need to rethink some of the programs, how they're delivered, and it's true, the 43rd district has three of the poorest counties in the United States. There's people out here that need help and the state should provide that help. But what is the proper level it needs to be provided. That's what I would want to look at to see what that proper, that adequate level would be where the state steps in and provides help.

There are a lot of services out there that provide a lot of various forms of assistance. And there is some overlap. And because there's overlap, there is room for improvement and I see here in Custer County

**AID TO CITIES,
COUNTIES &
COMM. COLLEGES**

I've heard from a number of counties and their commissioners that they receive what they consider hardly anything from the state anymore. It's there again, it's property tax. So the state is not putting in a huge amount of money to city and counties. I believe that the state does have an obligation because of the mandates that they put on city and counties that they have—that these entities have to meet.

I'm not comfortable with cutting them any. I guess the bottom line. I'm not comfortable with cutting (the community colleges) any more. community colleges in fact are stepping up to the plate in providing more alternative education opportunities for high school students than ever before and you know, my own son took advantage of that down at Beatrice.

**41 SMALLER
STATE AGENCIES**

That's a difficult question. I guess I would say that I would have to look at those agencies. I'd have to listen to the people in this district to see what their needs are and what services they think need to be provided because if I'm elected, they're the stake-holders. They're the people that I'll be representing

**PROPERTY, SALES
& INCOME TAXES**

Property taxes are a major concern not just in this district, but across the state and in order for property taxes to go down, you'd have to put the money in for state aid to schools.

**WHAT WOULD MY
PRIORITY BILL
BE?**

I think I'll put a dollar away. I'm very conservative and it's nice to have money put away in case we look through these things later and decided that there were some cuts that were too deep so I'll put money away.

I'm not going to say that there aren't (any of the small agencies which could be eliminated). But without being privy to all of that information and knowing the background, I think it would be presumptive of me to say I think there's probably some out there we can get rid of. I think they looked at some of that stuff pretty hard already and I think there's some that have already been cut that shouldn't have been cut. The Rural Economic Development (Comm.) was one of them I think. I won't support an increase in income taxes at this point. Just sales tax. And I say that because I think it's not withstanding what some folks say, I think it's still the fairest tax out there and I won't support and increase in sales tax unless it is tied to property tax relief. That's my bottom line. Rural economic development...provide programs out there more than what we already have for business to come to rural Nebraska to get start-up costs and to make, create legislation targeted to small communities sparsely populated counties