



DISTRICT 45

WHAT THE CANDIDATES SAID ABOUT THE BUDGETS THEY BUILT

	Abbie Cornett	Jerry Ryan
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	I would look at reducing, but not through reducing schools. By looking at redundancy of administrations. The consolidation wouldn't just be pushed out on the western part of the state and why it would benefit the state in the whole is you would increase teacher salaries and the amount actually going to the students, where the money should be going.	I have a great desire to see our kids in our state aid to school get as much money for effective ways of administering that money. Since it's a large amount, make sure we don't have what you termed bureaucracy and such. And that gets back to the K-8 (grade) districts. We've merged even during my time as a principal so many school districts and they've worked well.
UNIVERSITY & STATE COLLEGES	The University system has already been cut severely under the last budget. You need to have a well-educated populace to attract business and to maintain the level that Nebraska has now. I would not cut the University budget any further.	We look at the University system and they're in the hole. Truly in the hole. They're looking for more money. My philosophy would be that we put our education, we put our old people, we put our state aid to school at the forefront. These are the people that are going to come out of school and they're going to come back hopefully to our state and be the business leaders and so forth. So that's been a priority.
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	I'd like to see is an increase in Health & Human Services. This state needs quite a bit of reform in the foster care system and in child welfare for social work. I'm not a social worker, but the social workers caseload for children is overwhelming. Children are repeatedly replaced back in a situation that is not safe for them.	My answer would be in any organization be it military, education, or what, you could see some of the fat. It never goes away. We have to create a bureaucracy to administer to them the programs that they so badly need.
STATE PATROL, COURTS, & PRISONS	The first area that I'm going to look at is reducing the amount of money that go to the police, courts, and corrections. There is federal money available in the way of 911 funds. (The state should) look at how we can allocate that federal money to supplement this budget ...for training and equipment in case of emergency.	I do not think we do a great job with corrections. I think we could save money. You know, when you incarcerate somebody and it costs more to incarcerate them than it does to send them to Hawaii on a daily base, I think something's wrong there. If a person is not a threat to society, I think we ought to find ways to put that person on the street where he or she can be working and still under a confinement. We save by getting them back. And we also save by not having to pay the cost of incarceration.
MEDICAID	That would be an area we need to look at probably putting money into because of the aging population. They projected a growth (rate for seniors) of approximately 6 per cent and it's been growing quite a bit faster than that. I'd like to move money ... into Medicaid.	I've seen statistics that say one out of five will be over 65 in 2010. And we are a particularly aging population here in the city of Bellevue and the eastern parts Sarpy County and we cannot deny our citizens health care.

AID TO POOR & DISABLED	I feel that public welfare needs to be revised and we need to look at our system, but at the same time it goes back to the children and whose really being helped by this. Without reform, we cannot reduce the budget. What we need to do is look at doing reform on public assistance and look at weaning people off of the system. I'd actually leave that the same.	Public assistance and aid. How can you deny people who are in need? There are people out there who have this need. Having said that, I think it's our responsibility to weed out those who can take care of themselves. If there's a need to weed those folks out, does that correspond with you know, we don't need that much money.
AID TO CITIES, COUNTIES & COMM. COLLEGES	I'd feel it was time to reexamine that. The community colleges are very important in the city and county ones. If you look at the tuition, the community college's is very low and that's what it's supposed to be there for. At the same time they need to look at generating funds from places other than the state.	When I was growing up and when I first came here, community colleges were pretty much technical (schools). I think we've drifted a little away from that and I would suggest with my educational background that we do have some things that are happening that are being duplicated in other systems. I think we can take money out of here through consolidation perhaps through looking at duplication and put that money back into the University system.
41 SMALLER STATE AGENCIES	I'd like to look at eliminating some of the agencies that the state can do without at this time and transferring that money over to new construction. New construction provides jobs for people and we do need new buildings in certain areas but I think we can probably wait on that until we have more revenue.	I have absolutely no problems with these, these sub-agencies if you will.
PROPERTY, SALES & INCOME TAXES	I do not see raising taxes any further. The area that does concern me and that I feel that we might have to do a sales tax increase because of the low level nuclear waste site (lawsuit settlement). We're going have to bite the bullet and pay for it.	I think politically what the correct answer would be no. I'm not prepared at this time to say yes to a tax or not. I am saying and I'm unconvinced that all these programs are functioning as well as they can, but if I were in the future ... if I were convinced the need were out there then I'd take a hard look at it.
WHAT WOULD MY PRIORITY BILL BE?	Setting up an agency or a new legislation (giving guidance to the) way our foster care system is set up and the removal of children from an unsafe environment. That's going be my priority.	I'm still putting my money on education and I'm going to toss a dollar into state aid to education. I feel that strongly about it. I know it's not a perfect system. And I'm sure you're not surprised where this one's going. I'm going back to the university system. That is where we need to keep our young folks in Nebraska.