

2022 Candidate Questionnaires

Nebraska State Senators

Candidate Name: Jane Raybould

District 28

Question 1:

Nebraska's state highways function as local streets within municipal boundaries while remaining under the purview of the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

What safety concerns are you seeing on these streets in your district's communities? (Are these streets safe for all ages and abilities to cross?) What should the state be doing to make these state highway segments within local areas safer?

Candidate Response:

As an avid cyclist, I have witnessed near collisions. Safety is a two way street (no pun intended). The state needs to step up the "Share the Road" campaign with additional sign markers, road markings and messaging. Cyclists and walkers need to always be on the defensive by wearing bright colored clothing for greater visibility, helmets and heightened awareness when crossing streets and/or riding a bike. Increased education, PSAs and signage are needed. In Lincoln, we are using some of the ARPA funds to further improve school crossings and any other future infrastructure dollars to make our streets and crossings safer. The state needs to direct more ARPA and infrastructure funding in matching grants to support our safer street campaign and for all communities as well. I'd also like to step up penalties for distracted drivers and prohibit hand held cell phone usage while driving like so many other municipalities and communities have done.

Question 2:

Too many Nebraska children have died or been seriously injured in crashes involving people running red lights or speeding. Automated enforcement measures such as red light or speed detection cameras placed at intersections with demonstrated safety concerns could reduce law enforcement burden and eliminate potential biases.

Would you support a change in state law to allow automated enforcement in Nebraska? If so, under what conditions?

Candidate Response:

I would like to study this issue more and see some of the statistics, best practices (from other states) and costs to the state. As important as this issue is, I want to make sure that the state provides the necessary funding to the cities and counties for implementing this without becoming another unfunded mandate.

Question 3:

Workforce issues in Nebraska have been described as "the most pressing economic issue in the state" and "very quiet and...happening at record speed."

Knowing that young professionals increasingly prefer walking, biking and taking transit over driving, what should the state be doing to invest in or encourage active transportation options that will help stem the tide?

Candidate Response:

It is no surprise that workforce is the #1 concern of all businesses and has been a pressing issue even before the COVID pandemic. Blueprint Nebraska study noted that Nebraska ranks 39th among all the states with the lowest growth rate of the 25-29 years old in our ability to retain and attract young professionals. One of the stated goals is to expand Nebraska's connectivity thru broadband and transportation. I'm confident with the infrastructure bill we can make improvements to support both broadband and enhancements to communities that promote multi-modal options. I'm proud to say that Lincoln and Lancaster are the best role model of providing great trails and connectivity!