

Nebraska Student Vote

Candidate Profiles

BRAD ASHFORD – U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES/District 2

Age: 64

Hometown: Omaha, NE

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years in Current Office: 8

Committees on which you serve:

Judiciary (Chair), Urban Affairs, Business and Labor

Education: Westside H.S., Gustavus Adolphus College, Colgate University (B.A.), Creighton University School of Law (J.D.)

Prior Public Offices Held: Elected to Nebraska Legislature 1986; re-elected 1990 & 2006; re-elected 2010

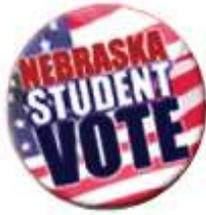
Political Heroes: George Norris, Abraham Lincoln, Lyndon Johnson

1. There's been a great deal of debate concerning the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Why is it, or is it not, a good program for Americans?

Ensuring we work towards everyone having health insurance coverage is a good thing. Elimination of pre-existing condition clauses, and allowing children to stay on their parent's policy until age 26 are steps in the right direction. We need to work, collaboratively, to make sure it works for consumers and business.

2. What would you say is a fair and reasonable policy toward illegal immigration in this country?

Our immigration system requires a comprehensive fix. I support the bill passed by the Senate. This bill ensures border security and a tough but fair pathway to citizenship for immigrants in the US. This pathway includes a criminal background check, payment of all delinquent taxes, and payment of a fine.



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3. Since September 11, 2001, our nation has made public safety from terrorism a high priority. Have we achieved a sustainable level of public safety or are more steps necessary to protect public safety?

We must always remain vigilant about possible terrorist threats. This starts by ensuring that our government always remains open as a beacon of freedom to the world. We must continue to work with our allies, across the globe, and ensure we have the resources domestically to provide safety for all Americans.

4. As we witness the current unrest in places like Syria, Iraq and the Ukraine, America must decide the nature and depth of our involvement in foreign affairs. What parameters should guide us in making those decisions?

We must always ensure the safety of Americans first. Then work with our allies to make sure they are prepared to handle conflicts as they arise. We must hold groups accountable for their actions that threaten us and our allies across the globe.

5. Many young people only have a general understanding of the dynamics of politics and elective government. What steps could and should be taken to help people appreciate their freedoms and encourage them to become civic-minded adults?

We must engage youth in the process by talking about issues that impact them such as student loans, job creation, and social justice issues. Having our elected officials speak with young adults and engage them about the process is a great start to ensuring their participation.