



# Nebraska Student Vote

Candidate Profiles

## JIM JENKINS -- U.S. SENATE

**Age:** 57

**Hometown:** Callaway, NE

**Party Affiliation:** Independent

**Years in Current Office:** N/A

**Committees on which you serve:**

Callaway Economic Development & Ag Builders Society

**Education:** BA in Political Science from Principia College. Did graduate work in business at Northwestern University in Chicago

**Prior Public Offices Held:** Served three terms on the Custer County Planning Commission

**Political Heroes:** George Norris

**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?**

The economy has been undermined by skyrocketing health care costs for several decades. Therefore I was encouraged when Congress finally decided to address health care. I was, however, disappointed when the Affordable Care Act was passed into law without a single Republican vote. History has shown that the most effective legislation is done with bi-partisan support. The Affordable Care Act is badly flawed and needs to be fixed, with Republicans and Democrats working together.

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

Our nation's political leaders have neglected immigration reform for decades. I support a comprehensive immigration policy, which includes securing the border, overhauling and modernizing our worker visa program and outlining a pathway to legal status, if not citizenship for the approximately 12 million illegal aliens living in the shadows of our economy. These citizens must go through a thorough background check, pay a fine and be able to speak English. I also support allowing any foreign student who receives a four year degree to apply for citizenship.



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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?**

Public safety and national security is the foremost responsibility of our government. The terror threat is likely to exist for the foreseeable future and must continue to be one of our nation's highest priorities. Our political leaders must reshape our military to be smarter and more nimble as we move from an era of large scale land wars to dealing with a much more nefarious enemy operating outside of national boundaries.

**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?**

America should not engage in a significant military intervention unless there is a direct, eminent threat to our economy or our national security, or unless one of our major allies faces a similar threat. History shows us that nation building is expensive in terms of lives and treasure and is more often than not unsuccessful. By intervening in the wrong places, we undermine our nation's capability of intervening in the right instances.

**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?**

Our political system is turning young people and all citizens off to politics. Congress is bound up in gridlock caused by excessive partisanship. According to the Cook Political Report, 83% of Congressional districts are no longer competitive, principally because of the political parties drawing districts to favor either a Republican or a Democrat. One step to engage young people and all of our citizens in our political system, is to open up primary elections throughout the country to the growing number of independent voters, who in many instances excluding from participating in these tax payer funded elections.