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League of Women Voters of Nebraska Partners with Nebraskans for Independent Redistricting
League Turns to Ballot Initiative as a Route to Fair Redistricting

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska (LWV-NE) has joined ranks with Nebraskans for Independent Redistricting (NIR) to prevent the manipulation of voting districts known as gerrymandering. The League supports NIR's initiative to create a constitutional amendment intended to appear on the ballot in November's general election that will put the responsibility of drawing district lines on a nine-member independent commission instead of state legislators.

Initially, the LWV-NE, along with many civic organizations, backed LB 1207 during the 2020 legislative session. Senator John McCollister's bill would have created more safeguards to prevent partisan distortions while promoting more citizen review of district maps, at the same time keeping the process in the hands of state legislators.

On March 18 when LB 1207 seemed unlikely to make it to the floor for debate, the LWV-NE recognized that getting citizens' input through a petition drive would be another route to determine fair district boundaries through an independent commission. To accomplish a fair redrawing of the voting districts following the 2020 census, the LWV-NE has agreed to partner with Nebraskans for Independent Redistricting.

The LWV-NE plans to support this ballot initiative for an independent commission through voter education and related advocacy. Through their special-purpose website, <https://fairmapsne.org/>, the LWV-NE provides resources for citizens, educators, students and community groups to understand the ballot initiative, redistricting, gerrymandering and situations in Nebraska's legislative history that have resulted in gerrymandered districts. In 2019, the League of Women Voters-U.S. launched *People Powered Fair Maps*[™], a campaign focusing on the creation of fair political maps nationwide, and lends its support to the LWV-NE's redistricting efforts. See <http://fairmapsne.org> for more information.

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About: The *League of Women Voters*, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Nebraskans for Independent Redistricting partners include ACLU Nebraska, Civic Nebraska, Common Cause Nebraska, Nebraska Appleseed and the Holland Children's Movement.