LWVNE Redistricting Study
Exploratory Committee

Final Report
Redistricting

“The process of drawing United States electoral district boundaries, often in response to population changes determined by the results of the decennial census.”

Nebraska System

• Process controlled by state legislators.
• System is in line with the vast majority of US states.
• Legislative redistricting systems encounter allegations of corruption.
• Exploratory committee proposed by Bev Traub at 2013 annual meeting.

• LWVGO members Rebecca Armstrong, Helen Atwater, Rob Moore, and Bev Traub made up committee.

• Committee met from July through October to research and discuss recommendations on the study.

• Research drawn from League materials, public documents, and academic periodicals.
Relevance

• Iowa and California have independent commissions.
• While the independent commissions have resulted in improvements on many fronts, competitiveness is not one.
• There is limited public and League support for reform.
Timeliness

• 2011 irregularities and sufficient time before 2020 cycle makes present time ideal for study.
• Recent reform movements in California and Ohio and 2012 congressional outcome highlight national focus.
• League is qualified to push for reform and lead public education efforts.
Practicality

• Falls within League mission of “encourag[ing] informed and active participation in government” and “work[ing] to increase understanding of major public policy issues.”

• LWVNE is uniquely positioned to push for reform as the state’s leading good government organization.
Capacity

• League resource constraints is biggest limitation to doing a study.
  • Without sufficient volunteers, study cannot be done well.
  • LWVNE will need to drum up support and recruit volunteers to undertake a study.
Recommendations

• Salience of issue and LWVNE’s unique position suggests importance of LWVNE study.

• Should only be undertaken if LWVNE board is confident it can recruit sufficient volunteer support.
Recommendations

• Focus: A study on redistricting in the state of Nebraska.

• Scope: A study of the Nebraska legislature’s redistricting process for judicial, congressional, and state legislative districts.
Questions?