February 26, 2020

Senator Tom Brewer, Chair,
and Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln NE

Re: LR 292 CA

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska opposes Senator La Grone’s LR 292 CA “Constitutional amendment to require verification of identity prior to voting.” Please include this written testimony in the official record as an exhibit.

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska opposes barriers to voting including the requirement for photo ID and documentary proof of citizenship. The wording of LR 292CA is excessively vague regarding what will appear on the ballot: at some point, the legislature is to determine how poll workers are to check photos. It is unclear how much of the burden of confirming the match to a digital image falls on the poll worker. Who will determine the degree of matching the digital image to the person presenting to vote? What if the voter has grown or shaved a beard or lost or gained weight or simply aged? Further, neither the cost of placing this proposal on the ballot nor the cost of implementation if the proposal passes have been addressed.

Voter ID bills have been introduced and failed to advance in previous sessions of the legislature. Unchanged from previous proposals are the anticipated cost to the election boards and commissioners in each county, the difficulty some of our citizens will experience in trying to obtain photo IDs, and the absence of evidence of voter fraud in Nebraska. The proposed amendment will turn voters otherwise eligible to cast ballots away from exercising their right to vote while not solving the purported issue of people trying to vote under a different person’s name.

Sincerely,

Sheri St. Clair
Government Director, LWVNE
Linda Duckworth, Co-President, LWVNE
Dianne Bystrom, Co-President, LWVNE