

GOVERNMENT

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Current status of the LWV-NE designated priority bills is shown in the following table. Activity of the Government, Military and Veterans affairs committee has been monitored and LWV-NE was represented at several meetings.

LB/CA	Title of Bill	Senator	Status	Comment
LB1005	Change provisions regarding nomination and election of certain partisan candidates: <i>"open primaries"</i>	McCollister	Gov't Comm Hearing 2-26-20	<i>Written/verbal testimony provided in support. Currently held in committee.</i>
LB1157	Provide for counting Nebraska residents in NE prisons for redistricting purposes: <i>to count inmates at address prior to confinement</i>	Wayne	Ex Board Hearing 2-12-20 Floor debate 3-5-20	<i>Recommend support. Currently held by Executive Board.</i>
LB1207	Adopt the Redistricting Act	McCollister	Ex Board Hearing 2-12-20 General file 3-9-20	<i>Written/verbal testimony provided in support. Board voted 5-4 to move to General File, however, now under review by Attorney General. No action expected.</i>
279CA	Constitutional amendment to authorize an increase in the number of members of the Legislature: <i>to 55</i>	Scheer	On General File; bracketed to 4-22-20	<i>Recommend oppose. Priority designation.</i>
280CA	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to 3 consecutive terms	Wayne	Ex Board Hearing 2-18-20	<i>Provided written support. Currently held by Executive Board.</i>
292CA	Constitutional amendment to require verification of identity prior to voting	La Grone	Gov't Comm Hearing 2-27-20	<i>Provided verbal and written testimony in opposition. Currently held in committee.</i>

On March 22 a press release issued announcing that the LWV-NE had joined ranks with Nebraskans for Independent Redistricting. The League supported 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.

On 4 June the Fair Maps Committee sent (using the new state league Google account) an announcement regarding education and redistricting to over 330 recipients from our partners' list, Lincoln area social studies teachers, and all Nebraska libraries that have an email address. The announcement was also shared with over 400 League members via MailChimp as well as a posting to the state League's Facebook page. Recipients were directed to the fairmapsne.org website.

Distribution the announcement was an especially effective team effort which included the FairMaps Committee, Co-presidents Bystrom and Duckworth, Toni Monette, Geri Simon and Annette Conser. Thanks to all who helped!

Harris Payne, Director of Social Studies with the Nebraska Department of Education helped us to include in an e-mail to social studies curriculum staff through Nebraska our announcement about redistricting

and the fair maps website together with appropriate social studies core objectives as a resource for teaching those skills.

In mid-June, we learned that the effort to deploy signature gatherers was being abandoned due to restrictions associated with COVID-19. Additionally, no legal or administrative routes to approval were identified. On 24 June, NIR formally announced cessation of all efforts associated with the petition drive.

As it is clear that redistricting efforts will not end soon, the Fairmapsne.org website has been updated to include Google Monster Insights, a tool which will allow tracking of metrics (e.g., number of site visits, number of unique visitors). Additionally, we have been contacted regarding formation of a new coalition around redistricting reform and policing of the redistricting process. This coalition is seeking to include a number of diverse groups, including LWV-NE.