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January 12, 2021

Senator Robert Clements, Chair,
and Members of the Rules Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln NE

Re: Proposed Additions and Amendments to the Permanent Rules of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

For the record, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska submits the following position on proposed changes to the Rules of The Legislature.

The league is opposed with proposal #2, submitted by Senator Tom Brewer to replace secret ballot with roll call votes. The use of the secret ballot for leadership elections is supported in order to maintain the nonpartisan nature of the Legislature. The secret ballot has been used ever since the establishment of the unicameral in 1937 and its use should be maintained.

The League is opposed to proposal #6, submitted by Senator Dan Hughes to close Executive Sessions to the news media. The ability of news reporters to be present and report on executive sessions is key to maintaining the trust of citizens in the legislative process.

Sincerely,

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