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February 12, 2021

Senator Dan Hughes, Chair  
and Members of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council  
State Capitol, Lincoln NE

Re: LB 107 (McCollister) Adopt the Redistricting Act

*Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 107.*

### **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hughes and Members of the Executive Board:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska believes that responsibility for redistricting should be vested in an independent special commission with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups and members of minority groups. Although LB 107 retains legislative control of the redistricting process, it provides a framework that, in conjunction with the Rules of the Legislature, will produce district maps that are drawn by a bipartisan committee. Therefore, the League supports LB 107, the Adopt the Redistricting Act. The League agrees with the requirements for preparation of boundary lines detailed in the act including:

- Use of politically neutral criteria;
- Use only data and demographic information provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census;
- Maintain county and municipal and boundary lines when appropriate; and
- Districts contiguous and with equality of population with a deviation of  $\pm 1\%$ .

We appreciate that the committee is required to distribute census data and make the draft maps available to the public. We support the opportunity to provide public comment during a public hearing.

As specified in the Rules of the Legislature, the Redistricting Committee is comprised of members of two political parties. Since more than 20% of Nebraska's registered voters have no party affiliation, we urge the committee to conduct and complete the redistricting process in a nonpartisan, transparent fashion.

Please advance LB 107 to General File for full floor debate.

Sincerely,

  
Sheri St. Clair

Government Director, LWVNE



Dianne Bystrom  
Co-President LWVNE



Linda Duckworth  
Co-President LWVNE