



4600 Valley Road  
Suite 306  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-475-1411  
<https://lwnnebraska.org>

18 February 2021

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

Re: LB 125 (McCollister) Provide for ranked-choice voting for certain elections

*Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 125.*

### **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Brewer and Members of the Committee:

For the record, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports LB 125 to provide for ranked choice voting for certain elections. The LWVUS promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate
- Maximize effective votes / minimize wasted votes
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting
- Implement alternatives to plurality voting

Ranked-choice voting (RCV) is a proven voting method that has been used for major elections in the U.S. and other countries for over a century. As of 2020, one state (Maine) had implemented RCV at the state level, eight states contained jurisdictions that had implemented RCV at some level, and another five states contained jurisdictions that had adopted but not yet implemented RCV in local elections. In November 2020, Alaska approved a ballot initiative to establish ranked-choice voting and top-four primaries.

There are a number of reasons to implement RCV in Nebraska, including, importantly, that it will guarantee a majority in every election and that the winner, by virtue of their majority victory, will have a mandate to govern. In addition, we see how beneficial RCV will be for voters who can express themselves much more fully at election time by ranking their candidate choices. The LWVNE believes Nebraska voters will be more willing to vote when they know that their top choices *and* bottom choices will be noted, tabulated and used to choose an election winner.

We urge you to advance LB 125 to General File for full debate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheri St. Clair".

Sheri St. Clair  
Government Director, LWVNE

Linda Duckworth  
Co-President, LWVNE

Diane Bystrom  
Co-President, LWVNE