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1 February 2021

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

Re: LB 435 (B. Hansen) Require an official watermark on certain ballots under the Election

Neutral

Dear Senator Brewer:

For the record, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska has a neutral position on LB 435 which would require an official watermark on certain ballots under the Election Act. The rationale for this requirement is unclear as there are already identifying marks on ballots in Nebraska. Further, Nebraskans turned out in record fashion for the November 3, 2020 election and there were no allegations of fraud brought to the Secretary of State's office. Secretary Evnen has also indicated that early ballots, that were either mailed or dropped off, were also cast securely.

The League supports voting systems which are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent. As there are systems already in place to secure the integrity of elections in Nebraska, (barcodes and official signatures) the League maintains a neutral position on the topic of official watermarks on ballots. The benefit of creating and including an official watermark on ballots is unclear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheri St. Clair".

Sheri St. Clair
Government Director, LWVNE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne Bystrom".

Dianne Bystrom
Co-President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Duckworth".

Linda Duckworth
Co-President