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11 February 2021

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

Re: LR 3CA (Slama) Constitutional amendment to require verification of identity prior to voting

Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LR 3CA.

OPPOSE

Dear Senator Brewer and Members of the Committee:


For the record, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska opposes LR 3CA which would require verification of identity prior to voting. Adoption of LR 3CA serves to further promote the myth of voter fraud. We note that this is the ninth time that such a proposal has been brought to the Legislature. There has never been a conviction on voter impersonation fraud in the state of Nebraska or a tangible problem of voter fraud. 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.

The proposal states that a poll worker shall "review a photograph or digital image of each voter to verify the identity of the voter in a manner determined by the Legislature prior to allowing the voter to vote" but does not indicate what types of identification documents are acceptable. It does not identify actions to be taken if the poll worker mistakenly identifies a voter. This proposal burdens the Legislature with creating the means of identity verification without providing any guidelines or requirements. It is difficult to see how this proposed amendment would "modernize the election infrastructure of the state," one of the stated goals, since it will result in increased time at the polling location which will serve to discourage many voters.

The League of Women Voters works to remove barriers to voting. The League is opposed to the implementation of voter photo identification requirements. Electors significantly impacted by this requirement include voters of color, differently-abled voters, elderly voters, rural voters and young adults.

We oppose further action on LR3 CA.

Sincerely,


Sheri St. Clair
Government Director, LWWNE

Toni Monette
Voter Services Director, LWWNE



Dianne Bystrom
Co-President LWWNE



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