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March 2, 2022

Senator Tom Brewer, Chair  
and Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
State Capitol  
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: LB1181 (Lowe) – Change provisions relating to required identification documents for registering to vote and voting and procedures for early voting

### **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Brewer and Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee:

For the record, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska opposes LB1181, which requires Nebraska county clerks and election offices to provide a stamped vote-by-mail envelope with a separate sealable compartment. The voter would be required to make a copy of their state ID (valid and current) or provide proof of a government document with an address that is no more than 60 days old.

The League believes voter photo ID requirements are onerous and restrictive. As late as 2008, some 21 million Americans did not have government issued photo identification, with communities of color and individuals with limited income disproportionately less likely to have a photo ID showing a current address (see [LWVUS Impact on Issues, 2022, p. 20](#)).

LB1181 increases barriers to voting rather than preventing fraud and is unnecessary for these reasons:

- This bill has different standards requiring an ID for voting by mail but not for voting early or at the polling place.
- Nebraska Secretary of State Robert Eeven has developed a presentation for Nebraska state Senators that emphasizes voter fraud and voting by mail is not a problem in our state (see his slide show at the end of this article: <https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2022/02/06/nebraska-secretary-of-state-pushes-back-against-claims-that-2020-vote-was-amiss/>).
- Many counties have successfully voted by mail for several elections without fraud concerns. The number of vote-by-mail returns was at a record high in 2020.
- It is an unfunded mandate with lots of unnecessary work and postage expense for the election offices and county clerks in Nebraska.
- Voters without a valid ID or government letter issued in the last 60 days are less likely to vote.

We urge the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee not to advance LB1181 and prevent barriers to voting.

Respectfully,

Joanna Lindberg  
Government Director, LWVNE