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

RE: LB675 (Day) Change provisions relating to elections and identification documents

SUPPORT – *Please include this testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB675.*

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

Since 2007, the League of Women Voters has opposed state legislation that requires a photo ID to either register to vote or vote. Nonetheless, two thirds of states now require that voter identification be presented in order to cast a ballot. Of these, 18 require that a photo ID be presented. Varying degrees of strictness associated with the identification documents have been deemed acceptable in these states.

In 2022, 55% of Nebraska's eligible voters participated in the general election. Of those, 65% voted for Initiative 432, requiring the Legislature to enact provisions for voters to present a photo ID to vote. Even though this figure represents just a third of Nebraska's eligible voters (432,000 of the 1.2 million registered), the League recognizes the support for Initiative 432.

Nebraska's elections have been historically well organized, well run, safe and secure. The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports LB675 because it serves to mitigate potential barriers that may arise as a result of the passage of Initiative 432. LB675 includes several criteria that must be met in adopted legislation including:

- Acceptance of a wide range of photo identification documents;
- Issuance of acceptable documents at no cost to the voter;
- Established mechanism to easily obtain acceptable documents throughout the state;
- Preservation of mail-in ballot accessibility by exempting mail-in ballots from the photo ID requirement;
- Protection of day of voting for individuals who do not have a photo ID on their person;
- Funding a public awareness and education campaign;
- Training of election officials and county clerks, including poll workers; and
- Ample time to allow for implementation.

We urge the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee to advance LB675 for full floor debate.

Sincerely,

Sheri St Clair, Government Co-Director, LWWNE
Rachel Gibson, Vice President-Action, LWWNE
MaryLee Moulton, Co-President, LWWNE