



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

February 3, 2022

Speaker Mike Hilgers, Chair
and Members of the Executive Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: LR282CA (Slama) - Constitutional amendment to eliminate the requirement to nominate and elect members of the Legislature in a nonpartisan manner

OPPOSE

Dear Speaker Hilgers and Members of the Committee:

For the record, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska opposes LR282CA. The nonpartisan nature of the Nebraska Legislature has well served the Unicameral and the people of Nebraska for 85 years. While other institutions are paralyzed by partisan politics, the Nebraska Unicameral is able to operate in an atmosphere that prioritizes getting the people's business done. If you asked Nebraskans if they want more politics in their legislature, we are sure they would answer with a resounding NO!

Currently, in the nonpartisan primary all Nebraskans in a legislative district vote for all the candidates, and the two top vote getters advance to the general election. If legislative candidates ran under a party banner under closed primaries, voters registered as nonpartisan would be shut out of the primary process, leaving nearly 22% of voters (roughly 271,000) without a voice in Nebraska's legislative primaries.

The very nature of the nonpartisan, unicameral Nebraska legislature helps make our state unique, and this is a good thing. Here in Nebraska, we pride ourselves in working together for the benefit of the people of our state. Instead of injecting more partisan politics into our governing body, other states should follow our lead and adopt more nonpartisan elections. Our legislators don't simply follow the dictates of a national party, they think for themselves, talk to their constituents and neighbors, and make thoughtful decisions together.

We urge the Executive Committee not to advance LR282CA and keep the Nebraska Unicameral nonpartisan.

Linda Duckworth
League of Women Voters of Nebraska