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February 2, 2023

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

RE: LR31CA (Halloran) – Resolution to rescind a prior resolution and apply to Congress for a convention of the states to propose amendments to the United States Constitution

OPPOSE – *Please include this position statement from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LR31CA.*

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

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska opposes LR31CA, the “Resolution to rescind a prior resolution and apply to Congress for a convention of the states to propose amendments to the United States Constitution.”

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League has identified a number of criteria that should be met prior to calling such a convention:

- The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.
- Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one-state, one-vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed.
- Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate.
- The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic.
- Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called.
- The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state.

As the criteria for calling an Article V Constitutional Convention are not in place, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska urges the Government Committee not to advance LR31CA. Further, participation in a Constitutional Convention is current for the next five years due to previously enacted legislation. After that point, if this body wishes to elongate the timeline, that is a question for a future Legislature.

Sincerely,

Sheri St. Clair, Government Co-Director, LWWNE
MaryLee Moulton, President, LWWNE