

2022 Review

Nebraska Legislature

During the 2022 Nebraska legislative session, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska actively followed 55 bills and resolutions. Six action team leaders and members researched, wrote and submitted for the official record 30 position statements and testified in person at 11 hearings. On our Legislative Day, members engaged senators and their staff in-person regarding six League priority bills, four in support and two in opposition.

Overall, the 107th short session resulted in quite a few significant initiatives and programs, especially from a fiscal perspective. We were heartened to see federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act directed to both rural and urban areas of the state, with particular focus on North Omaha.

From a tax and holistic budget perspective, we were less pleased. In particular, we are concerned about the significant income tax cuts passed that will benefit out-of-state corporations and a few wealthy Nebraskans while providing minimal to no relief for middle and working residents. We were also disappointed to see the Legislature's failure to move forward on school funding reform. For the first time in many years, a coalition of school and business interest groups were open to reforming the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) formula that funds our schools. This was a missed opportunity. On social issues, we were disappointed to see the inability to pass meaningful justice system reform, especially in light of the recent bipartisan, executive branch-supported consulting effort. While final approval to build a new prison was not forthcoming, money was allocated for the project in the future.

On a positive note, several major bills were stopped, including bills for an abortion ban if *Roe v. Wade* is struck down by the Supreme Court, private school scholarships with public money, permitless handgun carry, and restrictions on K-12 curriculum. Two of the most significant bills we supported that passed and were signed by the governor improved the election process and enhanced environmental policy. With the passage of the first, some small improvements were made to the election process while also guarding against significant voter suppression tactics. The environmental bill set guidelines for soil and water quality and addressed the environmental disaster at Mead, helping Nebraska to continue to move forward as stewards of land and water.

LWVNE 2022 Priority Bills Stance & Legislative Outcome

Support

LB890 - Indefinitely postponed
LB920 - Indefinitely postponed
LB925 - Passed & signed by governor
LB1075 - Amended into LB1014, passed & signed by governor

Oppose

LB1181 - Indefinitely postponed
LB1086 - Indefinitely postponed

LWVNE Stance	Legislative Outcome	Bill	Bill Title
Support	Amended into LB843	LB 733	Requirements for contributions or expenditures by foreign nationals under Nebraska Political Accountability & Disclosure Act
Support	Indefinitely Postponed*	LB 734	Provide a contribution limit for candidate committees under Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act
Support	Amended into LB1014	LB1075	Appropriate federal funds to the DHHS for statewide pediatric mental health services tech
Oppose	Indefinitely Postponed	LB1077	Prohibit public schools, postsecondary institutions, & governmental entities teaching certain concepts relating to race and sex
Oppose	Indefinitely Postponed	LB1086	Adopt the Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol Act
Oppose	Indefinitely Postponed	LB1181	Change provisions relating to required identification documents for registering to vote & voting and procedures for early voting
Oppose	Indefinitely Postponed	LB1237	Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and the Nebraska Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act
Support	Amended into LB843	LB1263	Provide for secure ballot drop-boxes under the Election Act
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB183	Adopt the Sexual Assault Emergency Care Act and provide for discipline against a hospital's license
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB196	Prohibit discrimination based on lawful source of income under the Nebraska Fair Housing Act
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB205	Change provisions relating to unpaid periodic rent under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB230	Prohibit sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination in public accommodations and under Nebraska Fair Housing Act
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB266	Adopt the Renewable Energy Standards Act
Monitor	Indefinitely Postponed	LB281	Require child sexual abuse prevention instructional programs for school students and staff
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB298	Change provisions of the Employment Security Law relating to the disqualification of certain aliens
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB308	Provide grants for juvenile indigent legal defense
Monitor	Indefinitely Postponed	LB357	Create the Nebraska Youth in Care Bill of Rights
Support	Signed by Governor	LB376	Authorize services/supports for developmentally disabled children & provide for Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB445	Change requirements for peace officers interrogating or taking into custody & prohibit use of statements taken in violation
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB453	Require landlords to comply with certain ordinances & change provisions under Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
Support	Signed by Governor	LB483	Provide for a climate change study and action plan
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB694	Provide a statute of limitations for exposure to certain chemicals, prescription drugs, or medical devices
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB710	Change provisions relating to federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB716	Allow qualified practitioners to perform abortions
Support	Amended into LB792	LB721	Appropriate funds for the University of Nebraska Medical Center Rural Health Complex
Monitor	Signed by Governor	LB741	Provide for review of stillbirths under the Child and Maternal Death Review Act
Support	Signed by Governor	LB758	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Farm-to-School Program Act
Oppose	Cloture failed, IPP	LB773	Provide for carrying of concealed handgun without a permit & prohibit regulation of such carrying by cities, villages, & counties
Monitor	Indefinitely Postponed	LB781	Adopt the Heartbeat Act
Oppose	Indefinitely Postponed	LB785	Change provisions relating to early voting
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB814	Require the office of Legislative Research to prepare racial impact statements for legislative bills
Monitor	Indefinitely Postponed	LB816	Require collection of certain data upon commitment to the Department of Correctional Services
Monitor	Signed by Governor	LB843	Change provisions relating to elections
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB844	Provide requirements for filling a vacancy in the Legislature
Monitor	Amended into LB843	LB858	Restrict funding for elections under the Election Act
Support	Amended into LB843	LB861	Require an email address on candidate filing forms under the Election Act
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB890	Change the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
Support	Signed by Governor	LB905	Provide for perinatal mental health screenings
Monitor	Signed by Governor	LB906	Require employers to provide for vaccine exemptions and provide duties for the DHHS
Support	Cloture failed, IPP	LB920	Comprehensive criminal justice system reform
Support	Signed by Governor	LB925	Adopt the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act and state intent regarding appropriations
Monitor	Indefinitely Postponed	LB930	Authorize certain expenditures under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act
Oppose	Cloture Failed, IPP	LB933	Adopt the Nebraska Human Life Protection Act
Monitor	Amended into LB1218	LB945	Adopt the Teach in Nebraska Today Act for student loan repayment assistance
Support	Amended into LB921	LB952	Provide Medicaid enrollment assistance to inmates prior to release from incarceration
Monitor	Indefinitely Postponed	LB963	Adopt the Medical Ethics and Diversity Act
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LB976	Adopt the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Act
Oppose	Cloture failed, IPP	LB986	Adopt the School District Property Tax Limitation Act
Oppose	Indefinitely Postponed	LB987	Adopt the School District Property Tax Limitation Act
Oppose	Signed by Speaker	LR14	Resolution to Congress for convention of the states to propose amendments to the United States Constitution
Support	Hearing Held	LR102	Provide the Legislature take steps to combat the climate and ecological crisis
Support	Indefinitely Postponed	LR269CA	Constitutional amendment to create a Commission on Redistricting
Oppose	Indefinitely Postponed	LR278CA	Constitutional amendment to eliminate State Board of Education & provide for Governor appointed Commissioner of Education
Oppose	Indefinitely Postponed	LR282CA	Constitutional amendment to eliminate requirement to nominate & elect members of the Legislature in a nonpartisan manner

*Indefinitely postponed (IPP) is to suspend all further activity against a bill or resolution

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska is a nonpartisan, grassroots civic organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters does not endorse individual political candidates or political parties. The League does work to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to people 16 years and older of all gender identities. With 100 years of experience, the League is one of the oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations in the United States.