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February 14, 2024

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

RE: LB1211 (Hansen) – Change provisions of the Election Act relating to early voting

OPPOSE – *Please include this testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB1211.*

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

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska has consistently testified in opposition to decreasing the amount of time allowed for early voting. LB1211, as proposed, would decrease the amount of time allowed to vote by mail from 35 days to 22 days and decrease the time to vote in person before the Election Commissioner or County Clerk from 30 days to 22 days.

The League works to promote proactive election reforms, including the expansion of early voting. LB1211 would decrease accessibility to the electoral process, hindering the right of citizens to vote.

As shown in the November 2020 elections – and supported by Secretary of State Evnen – early ballots, either mailed or dropped off, were cast securely. Nebraska voters are increasingly supportive of voting by mail. LB1211 adds an unnecessary limitation in the time that has historically been allotted to early voters and those who choose to vote by mail.

Additionally, the recently enacted requirements associated with photographic voter identification will increase the amount of time required at the Election Commission and County Clerk offices to process ballots.

The League of Women Voters works to remove barriers to voting and is, therefore, opposed to the shortening of timelines for early voting. LB1211 should not advance from the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Sincerely,
Sheri St Clair, Government Co-Director, LWWNE
Rachel Gibson, Vice President-Action, LWWNE
MaryLee Moulton and Janelle Stevenson, Co-Presidents, LWWNE