



2021

**VOTING
RIGHTS
ADVOCACY**

Guide

LEARN & SHARE



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DEAR

VRA

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(**A**)dvocate]

Never forget the Nebraska
Constitution states

**“All elections shall be
free; and there shall be
no hindrance or
impediment to the right
of a qualified voter to
exercise the elective
franchise”**

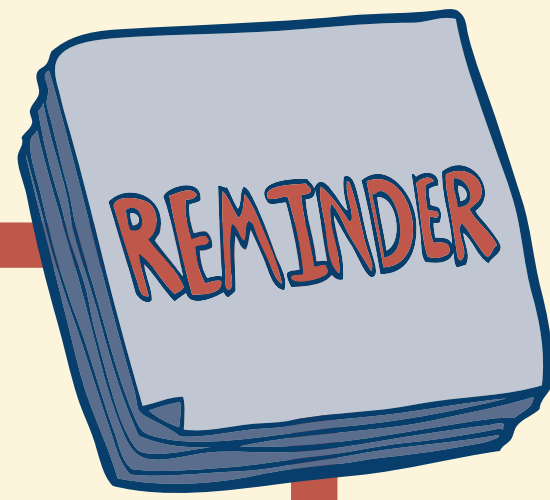
and it's up to us to make that
true.

SWIPE FOR A UNICAM RECAP



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KNOW THE UNICAMERAL

Nebraska is a unicameral
and has only one legislative
body.

- We have 49 senators and we the people are the second house of the Legislature.
- This means we have opportunities for input and advocacy that many states don't have so it is important to take advantage of them.



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BILL TO LAW

- Each bill goes to committee and gets a hearing.
- You can give testimony as support, oppose, or neutral.
- If the bill gets out of committee it gets 3 rounds of debate.
- In the last round senators vote on whether to send the bill to the governor.
- The governor can sign or veto the bill.
- A veto override needs 30 votes.



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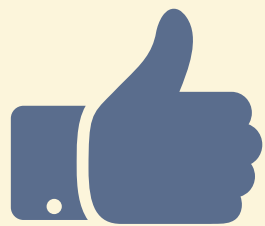


KEY LEGISLATION

684 bills and 31
resolutions were
introduced in the first
days of the 2021 session.

29

have something to do
with elections and
voting.



LEARN



THE GOOD AND BAD



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THE

GOOD



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BETTER ELECTIONS



LB577

Makes simple but powerful changes to improve voting.

- Makes Election Day a state holiday.
- Makes voter registration through DMV automatic with the option to opt-out.
- Adds prepaid postage to the return envelopes for vote by mail ballots.



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RESTORATION



LR10CA & LB158

Address the current practice of disenfranchising people with felony convictions.

- LB158 removes the additional two-year waiting period on voting.
- LR10CA ends the disenfranchisement of people with felony convictions altogether.



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FAIR REDISTRICTING



LB107

Redistricting affects what issues are handled and what issues are ignored.

- Requires districts be drawn politically neutral without consideration of political affiliation, previous voting data, and voter demographics.



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IMPROVED VOTE BY MAIL



LB11

**Makes voter-friendly
improvements to vote by
mail in Nebraska.**

- Allows voters to request to be added to a permanent vote by mail list.
- Allows voters to request their vote by mail online.



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THE BAD



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VOTER ID



LR3CA

Puts disenfranchisement at the heart of Nebraska's constitution.

- Suppresses votes of Black and Brown, differently abled, elderly, and rural voters
- Promotes the myth of voter fraud
- Wastes millions of taxpayer dollars.



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CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



LR14

**Resolution to Congress for
an Article V convention of
the states to propose
amendments to the United
States Constitution.**

- Could overturn voting rights, the right to privacy, and the court's role in protecting minority rights.



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WINNER-TAKE-ALL



Lb76

Changes Nebraska's Electoral College allocation to a winner-take-all system.

- More Nebraskans have a voice in our current system. The winner of the popular vote in each congressional district receives 1 elector and the state-wide popular vote winner receives 2.



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**TAKE
ACTION
TODAY**

MAKE A CALL

SEND AN EMAIL

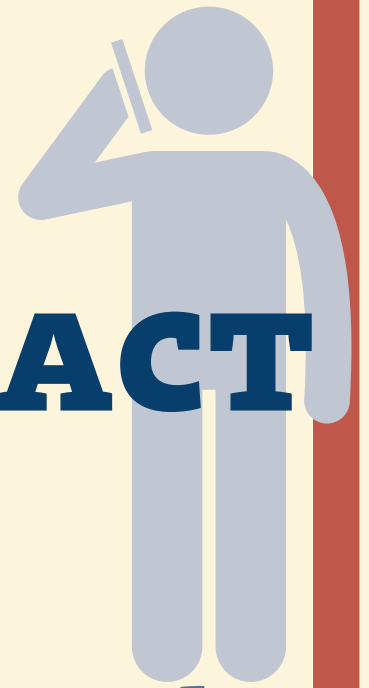
WRITE A LETTER

NEED AN EXAMPLE?



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EXAMPLE CONTACT

Hi,

My name is **(Your Name)** and
I wanted to **(call/write)** and
urge you to stand up for
Nebraskans and our voices by
**supporting/opposing (Bill
Name)** because

Pick 1 or 2 reasons personal
to you that explain your
support or opposition

Please know **(Bill Name)**
would be **(good/bad)** for your
constituents and the entire
state of Nebraska.

WANT MORE TIPS?

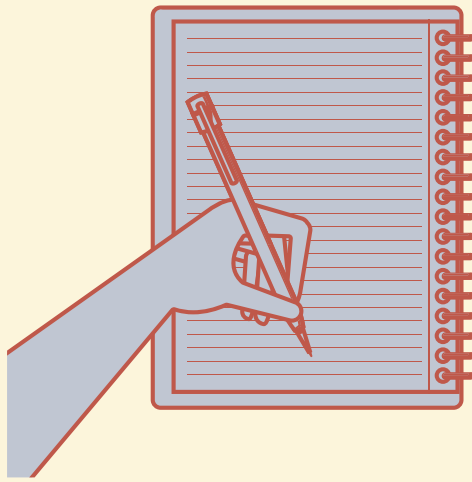


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TALKING TO OFFICIALS



Tips

- Be clear about what you want and ask for something concrete.
- Use the power of your personal story.
- Be polite to the official and their staff.
- Keep reaching out! It's their job to listen.



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IN PERSON TESTIMONY

You can come to the legislature in person.

- Testimony is generally limited to 5 minutes.
- At the beginning say and spell your name and whether you support or oppose the bill.
- Then explain why you are in opposition or in favor.
- Remember we are available to help you prepare your testimony.



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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

For anyone concerned about the safety of testifying in person you have the option to turn in written testimony.

- Your testimony will be included as if you had testified in person.
- YOU must bring 12 copies of your testimony to the committee room where the hearing is set to take place between 8:30 and 9:30 am CST.



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EMAILED POSITION LETTERS

If you can't be in person emailing a position letter is the most effective method to share your voice. To be part of the public record, your email must include:

- Your name and address
- Your position for or against the measure
- A sentence requesting that your letter be included in the record.

Please email your position letter to the committee's email no later than noon CT the business day before the hearing.



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ONLINE COMMENTS

NebraskaLegislature.gov
allows written comments.
While not considered
testimony or part of the
public record, the comments
can be accessed by senators
and staff.

- Use "Search Current Bills" in the top right corner to find the bill you want to comment on.
- Online comments should be no more than a few sentences long.



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**Not sure who your state
senator is? Find out at
bit.ly/findyoursen**

**LET US KNOW HOW IT GOES
[BIT.LY/SENRESPONSE](https://bit.ly/SENRESPONSE)**



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For additional
legislation affecting
elections and your
right to vote visit
civicnebraska.org
& sign up for action
updates at
bit.ly/civicnevol

Thanks.

Team Voting Rights

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