



2021

**VOTING  
RIGHTS**

**ADVOCACY**

Guide

**LEARN & SHARE**



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**DEAR**

**VRA**

[ **V**(oting)+**R**(ights)+  
(**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”**

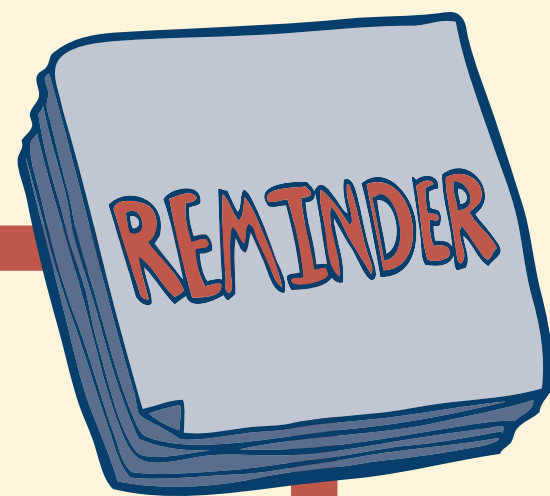
and it's up to us to make that  
true.

**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**

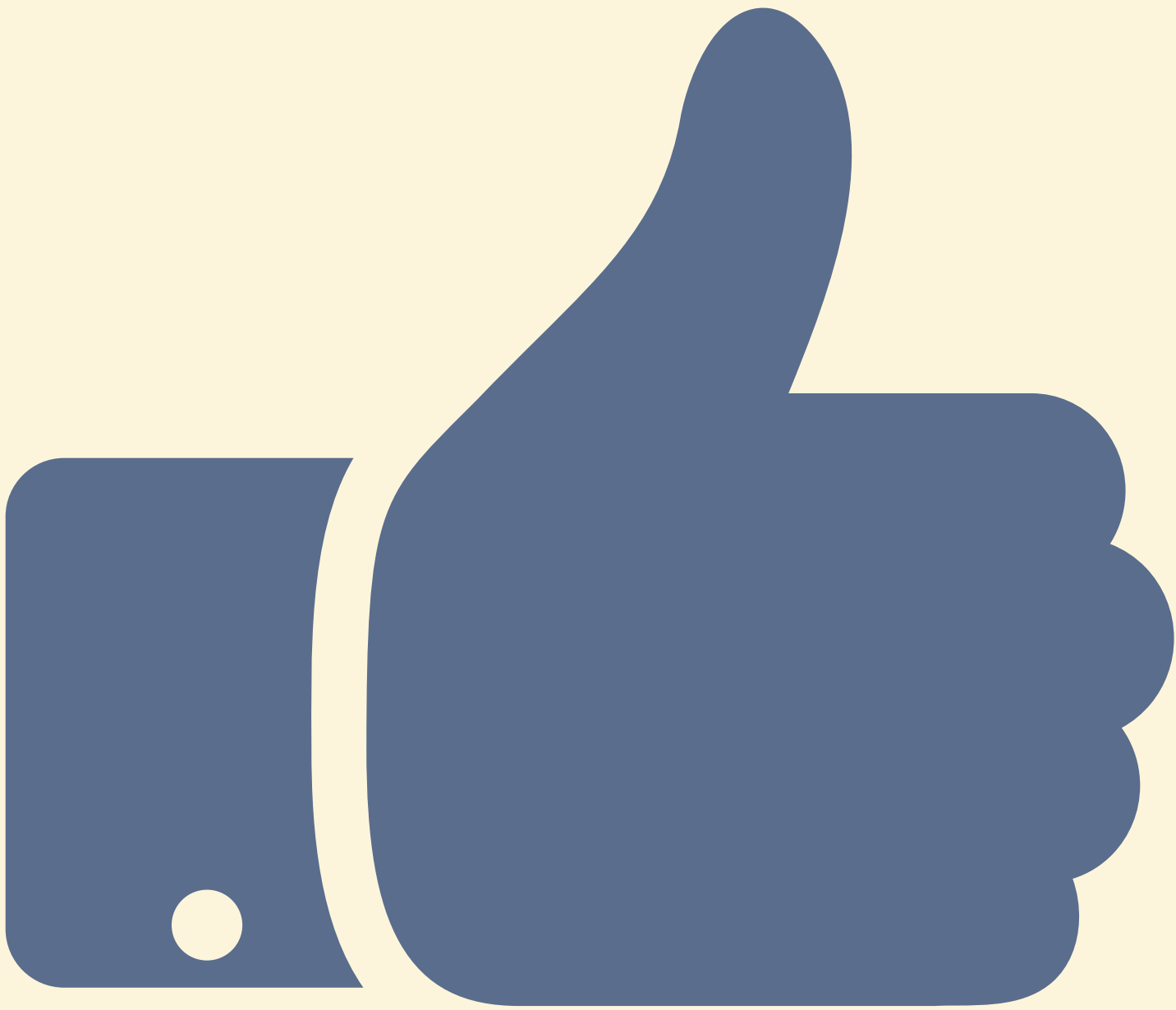


**THE GOOD AND BAD**



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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.



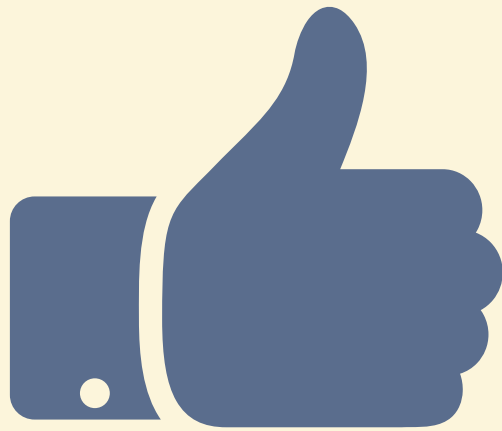
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# FAIR REDISTRICTING



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**

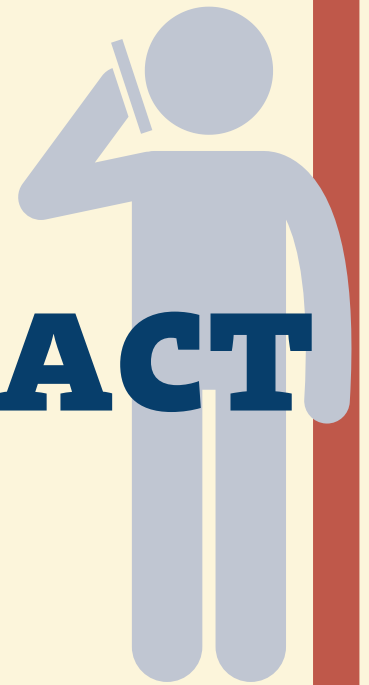
**WRITE A LETTER**

**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?**



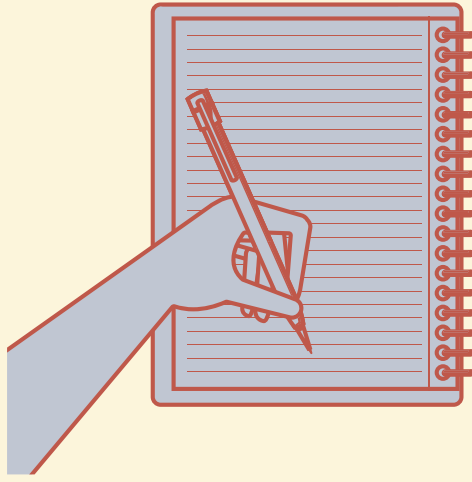
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# TALKING TO OFFICIALS



## 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 unable to testify 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](https://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](http://civicnebraska.org)  
& sign up for action  
updates at  
[bit.ly/civicnevol](http://bit.ly/civicnevol)

*Thanks,*

*Team Voting Rights*

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