

NEBRASKA

106TH LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY

NEBRASKA



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OUR MISSION

Through broad-based grassroots outreach, Americans for Prosperity is driving long-term solutions to the country’s biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another. AFP recruits and unites Nebraskans behind a common goal of advancing policies that will help people improve their lives.

SCORING METHODOLOGY

- ✓ = Voted with AFP-Nebraska’s position
- ✗ = Voted against AFP-Nebraska’s position
- PNV = Present Not Voting
- Excused = Excused Not Voting

DEAR NEBRASKA RESIDENT,

Americans For Prosperity-Nebraska (AFP-NE) is pleased to present our 106th Legislative Scorecard.

AFP-NE hopes that this Scorecard will aid you in your efforts to remain well informed regarding some of the key legislative activity that took place in Lincoln over the past two legislative sessions (2019-2020) and its impact in lowering or increasing barriers to success and enhancing society of mutual benefit, where people improve lives and find fulfillment by helping others do the same.

AFP-NE does not score every vote in the Legislature. Rather, the focus of this Scorecard is to consider the most important votes cast in priority issue areas that impact our society, such as taxes and spending, health care, educational opportunity, worker freedom, regulation, free speech, and property rights.

We are including “present not voting” votes in this Scorecard. Our elected officials were sent to Lincoln to represent Nebraskans and help make our state a better place to work and live. “Present not voting” has become an easy way to avoid taking a position on issues that impact the everyday life of Nebraskans. The Legislature had the opportunity to vote on important issues in these areas, which are laid out in the vote descriptions.

Within this Scorecard you will find that these votes are essential to removing barriers to opportunity. We hope this helps you see a clear picture of how legislators performed in these important areas.

Jessica Shelburn
State Director, Nebraska



LOOKING BACK

2019-2020 BILL DESCRIPTIONS

LB 103 | CHANGE PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX REQUESTS

Sponsor: Sen. Linehan

Outcome: Signed by Governor

AFP Position: Support

LB 103, would automatically reduce levies of taxing entities as valuations increase. In other words, if valuations increase 20%, the corresponding levies would decrease by 20%. The elected board of any taxing entity can vote to raise the levy, but they must vote. Consequently, they cannot take more money without voting to do so.

LB 103 represents a considerable improvement in the structure of our state's tax code. The bill provides that any increase in overall property tax valuations be offset by a corresponding reduction in the tax levy rate. For example, if overall property tax valuations were to increase 20 percent, there would be a corresponding 20 percent decrease in the tax levy rate. Such automatic rate reductions would prevent homeowners from being gouged by unreasonable increases in their property values.

LB 148 | CHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED BUDGET STATEMENTS AND NOTICES OF MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES

Sponsor: Sen. Groene

Outcome: Signed by Governor

AFP Position: Support

LB 148 would promote greater transparency of governing bodies by amending the Nebraska Budget Act and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. This bill adds to the definition of a governing body for purposes of the Nebraska Budget Act. Joint entities created following the Interlocal Cooperation Act that receive tax funds generated under section 2-3226.05 are added to this definition. This makes the provisions of the Nebraska Budget Act applicable to natural resource districts with integrated management plans involved in an interlocal agreement. Additionally, this bill provides that public entities required to hold a public hearing on a proposed budget statement must hold that hearing separately from any regularly scheduled meeting. The hearing shall not be limited by a set length of time.

LB 148 takes great strides in promoting greater transparency of our governing bodies with the proposed changes to the Nebraska Budget Act and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. This bill adds the definition of governing body to include those joint entities created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act. LB 148 also requires entities to hold a separate public hearing on proposed budgets. This bill would also require entities to have a detailed presentation on the budget and allow any member of the public wishing to speak on the budget a reasonable amount of time to do so, providing for greater taxpayer oversight of how our public entities are spending taxpayer dollars.



LOOKING BACK

2019-2020 BILL DESCRIPTIONS

LB 183 | CHANGE THE VALUATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND HORTICULTURAL LAND FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES

Sponsor: Sen. Bries
Outcome: Indefinitely postponed
AFP Position: Oppose

LB 183 would reduce the valuation of agricultural and horticultural land solely for the purposes of educational bonds. The intent of this bill is to bring the potential financial liability in the event of the issuance of a bond more closely into line with the proportional approval authority by means of a bond election.

This bill was opposed because of the amendments that were filed on the bill during Select File debate.

LB 304 | EXEMPT CERTAIN OPERATIONS FROM THE DEFINITION OF A FOOD ESTABLISHMENT UNDER THE NEBRASKA PURE FOOD ACT

Sponsor: Sen. Crawford
Outcome: Signed by Governor
AFP Position: Support

LB 304 amends the Nebraska Pure Food Act to allow individuals to sell the same non-potentially hazardous foods already authorized for sale at farmers’ markets directly to consumers at the producer’s home, a fair, festival, craft show, or other public event or for pick up or delivery. LB 304 requires that all products be properly labeled and that producers follow the food safety and handling guidelines for food sales at a farmer’s market required by the county where the food is sold.

LB 304 would offer consumers more food choices in the marketplace by expanding cottage food operations. Consumers should have more freedom to decide for themselves whether to purchase unregulated items.

LB 424 | CHANGE THE NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL LAND BANK ACT

Sponsor: Sen. Quick
Outcome: Signed by Governor
AFP Position: Oppose

LB 424 would allow any municipality to create or join a land bank pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act. Currently, only municipalities located in Douglas or Sarpy County are authorized to create a land bank. LB 424 would also make a series of changes to update the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act.

LB 424 would allow for the expansion of land banks to any community in Nebraska, encouraging risky big government ventures, putting taxpayers’ scarce resources at risk. Giving government an unfair advantage over the private sector is not in the best interest of taxpayers. The ability of a land bank to own property and to generate revenue off that property (rent, lease or sell it) without having to pay taxes won’t help the current tax situation in our state.



LB 492 | ADOPT THE REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY ACT

Sponsor: Sen. Wayne
Outcome: Passed notwithstanding the objections of the Governor
AFP Position: Oppose

LB 492 would adopt the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act. Under the Act, a municipality or group of municipalities within a metropolitan statistical area may create a regional metropolitan transit authority (RMTA). The Act also provides a process by which an existing transit authority created under the Transit Authority Law could convert into a RMTA. Each RMTA created under the Act would be governed by a seven-member elected board.

LB 492 would restructure the Omaha Transit Authority as the Regional Metropolitan (RMTA). The RMTA would gain the new authority to levy up to \$17 million in property taxes. Creating another new taxing authority will only further complicate the property tax code and make it more difficult for Nebraskans to ever have real property tax relief. This bill was vetoed by the Governor and the legislature’s motion to override was successful.

LB 1021 | PROVIDE FOR AN EXPEDITED REVIEW OF CERTAIN REDEVELOPMENT PLANS UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAW

Sponsor: Sen. Groene
Outcome: Signed by Governor
AFP Position: Support

LB 1021 modifies current tax-increment financing statutes to allow for use in counties with fewer than 100,000 residents by homeowners in blighted areas. If the homeowner commits to fix up or replace the property in two years, they would not pay increased property taxes for 10 years. For years, tax-increment financing has been misused to give tax breaks for dubious corporate welfare endeavors instead of accomplishing its stated goal of rehabilitating our communities.

While the ultimate aim should be to eliminate tax-increment financing altogether, LB 1021 is a much-needed step in the right direction toward returning tax-increment financing to its original purpose.

LEGISLATIVE VOTES

	Albrecht, Joni	Arch, John	Blood, Carol	Bolz, Kate	Bostelman, Bruce	Brandt, Tom	Brewer, Tom	Briese, Tom	Cavanaugh, Machaela	Chambers, Ernie	Clements, Robert	Crawford, Sue	DeBoer, Wendy	Dorn, Myron	Erdman, Steve	Friesen, Curt	Geist, Suzanne	Gragert, Tim
DISTRICT	17	14	3	29	23	32	43	41	6	11	2	45	10	30	47	34	25	40
PERCENTAGE	90%	89%	50%	40%	92%	46%	92%	58%	45%	55%	100%	46%	50%	46%	92%	56%	100%	46%
LB 103	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Excused	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 183	✗	✓	✗	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	PNV	✗	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
LB 304	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Excused	✓	✓	✓	Excused	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 424	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
LB 492	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
LB 1021	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 424	✓	PNV	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
LB 424	✓	PNV	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	PNV	✓	✗
LB 424	PNV	PNV	PNV	✗	✓	✗	✓	PNV	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	PNV	✓	✗
LB 1021	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 1021	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 424	✓	PNV	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	PNV	✓	✗	PNV	✗	✓	PNV	✓	✗
LB 148	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓

	Groene, Mike	Halloran, Steve	Hansen, Ben	Hansen, Matt	Hilgers, Mike	Hilkemann, Robert	Howard, Sara	Hughes, Dan	Hunt, Megan	Kolowski, Rick	Kolterman, Mark	La Grone, Andrew	Lathrop, Steve	Lindstrom, Brett	Linehan, Lou Ann	Lowe Sr., John	McCollister, John	McDonnell, Mike
DISTRICT	42	33	16	26	21	4	9	44	8	31	24	49	12	18	39	37	20	5
PERCENTAGE	88%	92%	100%	38%	100%	54%	55%	45%	54%	40%	36%	100%	50%	42%	78%	100%	46%	50%
LB 103	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Excused	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 183	Excused	✗	PNV	✓	PNV	✓	PNV	✗	✓	Excused	✗	PNV	PNV	✗	✗	PNV	✗	PNV
LB 304	✓	Excused	✓	Excused	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PNV	Excused	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 424	✓	✓	PNV	✗	✓	✗	Excused	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	PNV	✓	✗	✗
LB 492	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
LB 1021	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 424	Excused	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	PNV	✓	✗	✗
LB 424	Excused	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	PNV	✓	✗	✗
LB 424	Excused	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
LB 1021	PNV	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Excused	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 1021	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Excused	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 424	✗	✓	PNV	PNV	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	PNV	✗	PNV	✓	✗	✗
LB 148	✓	✓	Excused	PNV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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LEGISLATIVE VOTES

	Morfeld, Adam	Moser, Mike	Murman, Dave	Pansing Brooks, Patty	Quick, Dan	Scheer, Jim	Slama, Julie	Stinner, John	Vargas, Tony	Walz, Lynne	Wayne, Justin	Williams, Matt	Wishart, Anna
DISTRICT	46	22	38	28	35	19	1	48	7	15	13	36	27
PERCENTAGE	50%	46%	88%	56%	50%	50%	100%	36%	43%	46%	40%	46%	40%
LB 103	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 183	Excused	✗	✗	PNV	PNV	✗	PNV	✗	PNV	✗	PNV	✗	PNV
LB 304	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Excused	✓	Excused	✓	✓
LB 424	✗	✗	PNV	Excused	✗	✗	✓	✗	Excused	✗	✗	✗	✗
LB 492	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
LB 1021	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LB 424	✗	✗	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
LB 424	✗	✗	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
LB 424	✗	✗	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
LB 1021	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Excused	Excused	✓	PNV	✓	PNV
LB 1021	✓	✓	✓	PNV	✓	✓	✓	Excused	Excused	✓	✓	✓	PNV
LB 424	✗	✗	PNV	PNV	✗	PNV	✓	✗	PNV	✗	✗	✗	✗
LB 148	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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