



Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE: HOW THEY VOTED 2018

June 2018

SUBJECT: Voting Record of State Senators on Key Business Issues
TO: Nebraska Chamber Members
FROM: Barry L. Kennedy, CAE, IOM, Past President

This document indicates how Nebraska's 49 state senators voted on key legislation during the Legislature's 2018 session.

These particular votes were related to measures that were important to the Nebraska business community.

Please note that this voting record does not indicate other legislative activities of interest to the business community, such as committee votes or bills introduced or cosponsored.

This document is not intended to serve as an evaluation of any lawmaker. Instead, it is a factual record of how votes were cast on selected issues of importance to the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

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2018 LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD

Senator (Term Limited)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	This Year
Joni Albrecht (2024)	?	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	86%
Roy Baker (Not seeking re-election)	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	+	71%
Carol Blood (2024)	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	100%
Kate Bolz (2020)	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	+	71%
Bruce Bostelman (2024)	+	?	+	+	+	?	-	?	80%
Lydia Brasch (2018)	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	63%
Tom Brewer (2024)	?	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	100%
Tom Briese (2024)	+	?	+	+	-	+	-	?	67%
Ernie Chambers (2020)	+	?	?	-	-	-	+	+	50%
Robert Clements (2026)	+	+	+	-	+	+	?	?	83%
Sue Crawford (2020)	+	-	+	+	?	?	+	+	83%
Laura Ebke (2022)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Steve Erdman (2024)	+	?	+	+	?	?	-	-	60%
Curt Friesen (2022)	+	+	+	+	?	+	-	-	71%
Suzanne Geist (2024)	+	+	+	-	+	?	?	+	83%
Mike Groene (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	71%
Steve Halloran (2024)	+	+	+	+	?	+	-	-	71%
Matt Hansen (2022)	+	-	+	+	-	?	+	+	71%
Burke Harr (2018)	+	?	+	+	?	-	+	+	83%
Mike Hilgers (2024)	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	100%
Robert Hilkemann (2022)	+	?	+	?	+	?	+	+	100%
Sara Howard (2020)	+	-	+	+	?	?	+	+	83%
Dan Hughes (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Rick Kolowski (2020)	+	-	?	+	?	-	+	+	67%
Mark Kolterman (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Bob Krist (2018)	+	-	?	-	?	-	+	+	50%
John Kuehn (Not seeking re-election)	+	?	+	-	+	+	-	-	57%
Tyson Larson (2018)	?	?	?	-	?	+	?	+	67%
Brett Lindstrom (2022)	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	100%
Lou Ann Linehan (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	100%
John Lowe (2024)	?	+	+	-	+	+	-	?	67%
John McCollister (2022)	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	100%
Mike McDonnell (2024)	+	?	+	+	+	-	+	+	86%
Adam Morfeld (2022)	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	63%
John Murante (2020)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	88%
Patty Pansing Brooks (2022)	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	+	71%
Dan Quick (2024)	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	+	71%
Marv Riepe (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	+	86%
Jim Scheer (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%
Paul Schumacher (2018)	+	+	+	-	-	?	-	-	43%
Jim Smith (2018)	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	100%
John Stinner (2022)	?	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%
Theresa Thibodeau (2026)	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	+	86%
Tony Vargas (2024)	+	?	+	+	-	?	+	+	83%
Lynne Walz (2024)	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	63%
Dan Watermeier (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	71%
Justin Wayne (2024)	+	-	?	?	-	-	+	+	50%
Matt Williams (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Anna Wishart (2024)	+	+	+	+	-	?	+	+	86%

KEY

- +** Supported State Chamber position
- Opposed State Chamber position
- ?** Did not vote

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE: 2018 VOTES

- 1. New Reporting Requirements for Business Incentive Programs: LB935** would have imposed additional burdensome reporting mandates on businesses that have already been approved for use of Nebraska's tax incentives, which encourage new job creation and investment. The Chamber opposed LB935 as originally introduced. During floor debate, an amendment (**FA111**) was offered to remove or modify provisions of concern. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. AMENDMENT ADOPTED, 43-0. (February 28)
- 2. Preventing \$226 Million Tax Increase (First Vote):** A major policy priority of the Nebraska Chamber, **LB1090** makes important changes to Nebraska's tax code to prevent a \$226 million tax increase that would have unintentionally occurred due to the federal tax overhaul enacted in late 2017. During floor debate, an amendment was offered by opponents (**AM2255**) that would have permitted LB1090's personal exemptions to apply only to single taxpayers making less than \$100,000 – thereby still raising taxes by \$66 million. The State Chamber opposed AM2255 and supported passage of LB1090 in the form offered by Revenue Committee Chairman Jim Smith. A 'NO' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. AMENDMENT FAILED, 12-24. (March 8)
- 3. Preventing \$226 Million Tax Increase (Second Vote): LB1090,** summarized above, was the session's most important tax-related legislation since its passage was necessary to prevent a \$226 million tax increase on Nebraskans. The Chamber supported LB1090 and its passage in the 2018 legislative session. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 44-0. (April 11)
- 4. Sales Tax Collection for Internet Purchases: LB44** would have required online retailers without a physical presence in Nebraska to collect and remit sales taxes if their gross revenue from Nebraska sales exceeded \$100,000 or they made 200 or more separate transactions in Nebraska. Nebraskans who make online purchases are already required by law to pay sales tax when the tax is not collected at the time of the transaction, but few residents are doing so. The Chamber supported LB44 to ensure a level playing field within the retail industry, while formalizing the collection of taxes owed. During floor debate, a motion (**MO272**) – supported by the Chamber – was offered to end a filibuster waged by LB44 opponents. While the motion failed, supporters of LB44 fell short of the 33 votes necessary to end the filibuster. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. MOTION FAILED, 31-13. (March 15)
- 5. Comprehensive Tax Relief: LB947** proposed a comprehensive tax relief plan endorsed by Governor Pete Ricketts. As amended, the bill would have retained the state's existing property tax credit fund, while phasing in a new income tax credit for owners of ag land and residential property. Moreover, it would have gradually reduced the state's top corporate income tax rate from 7.81% to 6.84%, while providing \$5 million a year (for 10 years) for workforce development and job training. Total tax relief under LB947 was estimated to be \$600 million to \$700 million by 2030. The State Chamber was supportive of the concepts in LB947 to lower the tax burden on businesses and enhance Nebraska's workforce. During floor debate, opponents offered **MO313**, a bracket motion to kill LB947. The motion failed, but supporters of LB947 could not garner the 33 votes needed to overcome a filibuster. A 'NO' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. MOTION FAILED, 9-25. (April 3)

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6. **Public Reports to Identify Injured Workers: [LB1015](#)** would have prevented trial lawyers from easily gaining access to first reports of injury. Currently, 37 other states have laws similar to the concepts contained in LB1015, which would have helped slow the flow of solicitations that often result in unnecessary conflicts and litigation. During floor debate, opponents of LB1015 offered a bracket motion ([MO316](#)) to kill the bill. The Chamber opposed MO316 and supported LB1015 as a tool to enhance Nebraska's pro-business climate. The motion failed, but supporters of LB1015 could not garner the 33 votes needed to overcome a filibuster. A 'NO' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. MOTION FAILED, 12-15. (April 3)

7. **Workforce Housing Incentive (First Vote):** A major policy priority of the State Chamber, [LB496](#) helps Nebraska communities address housing shortages by allowing qualified housing projects to be eligible for tax increment financing (TIF), a method of financing public costs associated with private development. Under the bill, Nebraska communities (in counties with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants) will be able to include the construction of single-family or multi-family housing as part of a TIF redevelopment project, thereby making new housing more economically feasible. Also, TIF will be able to be used for workforce housing in metro areas with high unemployment and poverty rates. The Chamber strongly supported LB496. During second-round consideration of the bill, a Chamber-supported motion ([MO350](#)) was offered to end a filibuster waged by opponents of LB496. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. MOTION ADOPTED, 33-11. (April 10)

8. **Workforce Housing Incentive (Second Vote): [LB496](#)** helps Nebraska communities address housing shortages by allowing qualified housing projects to be eligible for tax increment financing (TIF). With nearly 70% of State Chamber survey respondents recently indicating that their community was experiencing a housing shortage, the Chamber strongly supported LB496. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 35-8. (April 18)

THE STATE CHAMBER 

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

