

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE: HOW THEY VOTED 2010

June 2010

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

This document indicates how Nebraska's 49 state senators voted on seven selected occasions during the 2010 session of the Legislature. All of the particular votes were important to the Nebraska business community.

Please note that this record is not all-inclusive. To provide a larger perspective of each senator's voting record on business issues, we have included a column with each senator's percentage of support on select business votes over his/her career in the Legislature. These voting records do not indicate other legislative activities of interest to business, such as committee actions or bill introduction.

This document is not intended as an evaluation of any senator, but is presented only as a factual record of how votes were cast on selected issues.

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2010 LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD

Senator (Year Term Limited)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2010 %	Career +	Career -	Cum. %
Greg Adams ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	26	3	90%
Brad Ashford ('14)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	20	6	77%
Bill Avery ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	22	7	76%
Kathy Campbell ('16)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	14	1	93%
Tom Carlson ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	28	2	93%
Mark Christensen ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	24	2	92%
Colby Coash ('16)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	12	2	86%
Danielle Conrad ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	86%	22	7	76%
Tanya Cook ('16)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	10	4	71%
Abbie Cornett ('12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	34	6	85%
Brenda Council ('16)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	9	2	82%
M.L. "Cap" Dierks ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	25	2	93%
Annette Dubas ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	21	7	75%
Deb Fischer ('12)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	43	5	90%
Mike Flood ('12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	50	1	98%
Tony Fulton ('12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	29	1	97%
Tim Gay ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	26	1	96%
Robert Giese ('16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	12	2	86%
Mike Gloor ('16)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	14	1	93%
Ken Haar ('16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	13	1	93%
Galen Hadley ('16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	14	0	100%
Tom Hansen ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	28	2	93%
John Harms ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	-	✓	83%	28	1	97%
Lavon Heidemann ('12)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	40	6	87%
Gwen Howard ('12)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	34	17	67%
Charlie Janssen ('16)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	12	1	92%
Russ Karpisek ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	23	6	79%
Bob Krist ('10)	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	100%	5	0	100%
Chris Langemeier ('12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	42	0	100%
Steve Lathrop ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	23	6	79%
Scott Lautenbaugh ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	20	1	95%
LeRoy Louden ('10)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	48	13	79%
Beau McCoy ('16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	14	0	100%
Amanda McGill ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	24	5	83%
Heath Mello ('16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	13	2	87%
John Nelson ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	26	4	87%
Jeremy Nordquist ('16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	100%	12	2	86%
Rich Pahls ('12)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	100%	39	5	89%
Dave Pankonin ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	27	3	90%
Pete Pirsch ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	29	1	97%
Scott Price ('16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	13	0	100%
Kent Rogert ('14)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	25	5	83%
Ken Schilz ('16)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	12	2	86%
Arnie Stuthman ('10)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	54	5	92%
Kate Sullivan ('16)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	11	2	85%
Dennis Utter ('16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	100%	12	1	92%
Norm Wallman ('14)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	23	6	79%
Tom White ('14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	23	5	82%
John Wightman ('14)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	29	1	97%

KEY

- ✓ Supported State Chamber position
- X Opposed State Chamber position
- Did not vote

NOTE: If a senator did not vote on an issue, the issue is not counted when tabulating the yearly or cumulative percentages. Returning senators (e.g., Senators Ashford and Dierks) who were absent for one full term or more begin new cumulative records.

2010 NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE VOTES

- 1. Nebraska Advantage Modernization: LB918** was a key economic development bill of the 2010 legislative session. It modernizes the Nebraska Advantage Act and the Super Advantage Act in three ways: 1.) allows tax incentives for businesses that make software, data and information available by Internet – not just on computer disc; 2.) adds data centers to the list of qualified activities and permits smaller data centers to qualify for incentives; and 3.) amends the Nebraska Super Advantage Act to ensure that “wages paid” includes employee benefits – a change experts say could help communities attract higher paying jobs. The State Chamber strongly supported LB918. A YES vote was in accord with the Chamber’s position. BILL PASSED, 49-0. (April 12)
- 2. Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund: LB1020** makes Nebraska eligible for \$43.6 million in federal unemployment insurance (UI) funds by increasing certain jobless benefits – including job training – while tightening specific eligibility requirements to offset the costs. The infusion of federal money, combined with the offsets, should stabilize the UI trust fund and help prevent steep UI tax increases on Nebraska employers, who experienced a 165% average increase in UI taxes in early 2010. The State Chamber supported LB1020 and worked to negotiate a cost-neutral plan that will not increase employer expenses. A YES vote was in accord with the Chamber’s position. BILL PASSED, 49-0. (April 13)
- 3. Property Valuation Disputes: LB1079** would have assisted taxpayers who protest property values by lowering the burden of proof needed when appealing to the state’s Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC). LB1079 proposed several changes, including a 90-day extension of the time in which a taxpayer could have filed an appeal. The State Chamber supported LB1079. A YES vote was in accord with the Chamber’s position. BILL FAILED TO ADVANCE, 23-18. (March 24)
- 4. Tourism and Redevelopment: LB1018** encourages the development of new tourism attractions and the redevelopment of deteriorating urban areas. Communities are now able to enter into agreements with the sponsors of major tourism and redevelopment projects, which could qualify for a refund of up to 1.5% of the local option sales tax for qualified purchases if approved by local residents in an election. The State Chamber supported LB1018. A YES vote was in accord with the Chamber’s position. BILL PASSED, 48-0. (March 30)
- 5. Wind Energy: LB1048** encourages the construction of privately-owned wind farms in Nebraska and the export of electricity to other states. It allows the Nebraska Power Review Board to permit “certified renewable export facilities” – including wind, solar, biomass and landfill gas generation – while protecting the state’s 100% public power structure and guarding against rate increases on Nebraskans. The State Chamber supported LB1048. A YES vote was in accord with the Chamber’s position. BILL PASSED, 48-0. (March 30)
- 6. Livestock/Animal Welfare: LB865** adds clarity when interpreting the state’s livestock cruelty laws by moving all the livestock welfare rules to a separate area of the law. The law does not add new rules or change existing penalties for cruelty to animals raised for food and fiber. Prior to LB865, Nebraska’s animal welfare laws for companion animals and livestock animals had been contained within the same section of the law, creating additional liability for livestock producers. The State Chamber supported LB865. A YES vote was in accord with the Chamber’s position. BILL PASSED, 47-0. (March 11)
- 7. Successor Liability: LB763** establishes a monetary limit on asbestos-related lawsuits brought against successor companies who were not involved in activities or production that caused the damage. The bill sets award limits for plaintiffs who were allegedly harmed by a predecessor corporation, while allowing the successor to receive credit for settlements or judgments it has paid or committed to pay since the merger. The State Chamber supported LB763 as a fair and reasonable solution that helps Nebraska retain well-paying jobs and vital industry. A YES vote was in accord with the Chamber’s position. BILL PASSED, 47-1. (March 26)

THE STATE CHAMBER 

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

