



Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE: HOW THEY VOTED 2014

June 2014

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

This document indicates how Nebraska's 49 state senators voted on select occasions during the 2014 session of the Legislature. All of these particular votes were related to legislative measures important to the Nebraska business community.

To provide a more comprehensive voting history, we have included a column with each senator's percentage of support on selected business votes throughout his/her career in the Legislature.

Please keep in mind that these voting records do not indicate other legislative activities of interest to Nebraska's business community, such as committee votes or bills introduced.

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

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2014 LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD

Senator (Term Limited)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2014 %	Career +	Career -	Cum. %
Greg Adams (2014)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	-	+	88%	57	7	89%
Brad Ashford (2014)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	78%	50	8	86%
Bill Avery (2014)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	-	-	+	78%	53	10	84%
Dave Bloomfield (2016)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	100%	32	1	97%
Kate Bolz (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	14	2	88%
Lydia Brasch (2018)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	34	1	97%
Kathy Campbell (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	47	3	94%
Tom Carlson (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	62	2	97%
Ernie Chambers (2020)	+	?	?	?	?	?	+	-	-	+	60%	9	3	75%
Mark Christensen (2014)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	100%	56	3	95%
Colby Coash (2016)	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	100%	41	3	93%
Danielle Conrad (2014)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	-	-	+	78%	46	15	75%
Tanya Cook (2016)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	78%	39	9	81%
Sue Crawford (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	15	3	83%
Al Davis (2020)	+	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	100%	11	2	85%
Annette Dubas (2014)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	78%	50	12	81%
Tommy Garrett (2020)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	100%	8	0	100%
Mike Gloor (2016)	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	50	1	98%
Ken Haar (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	42	5	89%
Galen Hadley (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	100%	49	1	98%
Tom Hansen (2014)	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	100%	59	4	94%
John Harms (2014)	?	+	?	?	+	?	+	-	-	+	67%	56	4	93%
Burke Harr (2018)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	-	-	+	78%	28	2	93%
Sara Howard (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	100%	14	0	100%
Charlie Janssen (2016)	+	?	?	?	+	?	+	?	?	+	100%	39	3	93%
Jerry Johnson (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	100%	16	0	100%
Russ Karpisek (2014)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	-	-	+	78%	53	12	82%
Bill Kintner (2020)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	16	1	94%
Rick Kolowski (2020)	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	75%	13	3	81%
Bob Krist (2018)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	+	88%	35	2	95%
Tyson Larson (2018)	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	100%	30	1	97%
Steve Lathrop (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	57	8	88%
Scott Lautenbaugh (2014)	+	?	?	?	+	?	+	+	?	+	100%	44	2	96%
Beau McCoy (2016)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	47	1	98%
Amanda McGill (2014)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	-	-	+	78%	52	10	84%
Heath Mello (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	43	5	90%
John Murante (2020)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	15	1	94%
John Nelson (2014)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	59	5	92%
Jeremy Nordquist (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	44	5	90%
Pete Pirsch (2014)	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	100%	62	2	97%
Jim Scheer (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	100%	16	1	94%
Ken Schilz (2016)	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	100%	43	3	94%
Paul Schumacher (2018)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	90%	33	2	94%
Les Seiler (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	100%	20	0	100%
Jim Smith (2018)	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	100%	31	1	97%
Kate Sullivan (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	43	5	90%
Norm Wallman (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%	54	11	83%
Dan Watermeier (2020)	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	100%	14	0	100%
John Wightman (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	+	89%	59	2	97%

KEY

- +** Supported State Chamber position
- 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 who were absent for one full term or more begin new cumulative records.

2014 NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE VOTES

- 1. In-State Tuition for Vets: LB740** allows recently separated military veterans and their direct family members to be eligible for in-state tuition at Nebraska's state colleges and the University of Nebraska. This bill was part of a package of legislation supported by the State Chamber to help recruit and retain veterans to enhance Nebraska's workforce. The State Chamber supported LB740. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 48-0. (March 24)
- 2. Tax Relief for Real Estate Developments:** During consideration of LB191, an amendment (**AM2602**) was offered to help ensure more reasonable taxation of real estate developments. During the Legislature's debate, it was noted that vacant lots in housing developments were often assessed at 100% of value, even though several years could pass before an empty lot was sold. This excessive taxation discouraged new housing and other real estate development. As amended, LB191 requires the county assessor to utilize the income approach when determining the value of vacant or unimproved lots. A 'YES' vote on AM2602 was in accord with the Chamber's position. AMENDMENT PASSED, 26-0. (March 25)
- 3. Ag Equipment Parts & Repairs: LB96** exempts repairs and replacement parts for agricultural machinery from state sales tax. Prior to the bill's approval, Nebraska was one of only eight states that still charged sales tax on these purchases. It is estimated that LB96 will provide nearly \$50 million of tax relief for ag producers over five years. The State Chamber supported LB96. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 40-0. (March 27)
- 4. Indexing of Income Tax Brackets: LB987** is comprehensive tax legislation that accomplishes a long-time priority of the Nebraska Chamber: indexing income tax brackets for inflation. In addition, the bill allows military veterans to keep more of their retirement benefits, while exempting more Social Security income from taxation. The indexing provision – which protects taxpayers from "bracket creep" – is expected to save Nebraskans around \$100 million over the next 10 years, while the overall bill will reduce the tax burden by nearly \$200 million over five years. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 44-0. (March 27)
- 5. Military Retirement Pay:** During consideration of LB987 (above), the Legislature approved an amendment (**AM2458**) to lower the tax burden on the retirement pay of recently retired military veterans. The State Chamber supported the amendment as a modest first step to help attract and retain veterans. The State Chamber is helping lead efforts to recruit more veterans to address Nebraska's workforce challenges. Prior to the passage of LB987, 39 states had already offered either no income tax or some form of tax benefits for military retirees. AMENDMENT ADOPTED, 36-0. (March 19)
- 6. Business Innovation Act Extension: LB1114** provides a seven-year extension of the Business Innovation Act, which supports technology transfer in Nebraska and programs for entrepreneurs who want to move their product to market. The 2011 law was enacted to encourage more research and development in Nebraska's small businesses and in its colleges and universities. LB1114 also provides a study to search for ways to increase venture capital in Nebraska. The State Chamber supported LB1114. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 44-0. (March 27)
- 7. Nebraska Advantage Remittances & Postage Tax Exemption: LB867** is comprehensive tax legislation that, among other things, clarifies the authority of city governments to examine both sales and use tax information and remittances by non-retail businesses within the city limits. Confidentiality provisions that had been in statute remain in the new law. The State Chamber worked with the League of Nebraska Municipalities on this compromise affecting the Nebraska Advantage Act. LB867 also exempts separately stated postage charges from sales and use taxes on all direct mail. The

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State Chamber supported LB867. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 49-0. (March 30)

8. **Minimum Wage Hike: LB943** would have increased Nebraska's minimum wage to \$9. The State Chamber opposes any expansion of the state minimum wage that exceeds federal law. Instead, the Chamber supports more targeted efforts to increase take-home pay for working Nebraskans – including income tax relief and expanding the earned income credit. According to labor statistics, around 3% of Nebraskans in the workforce receive the minimum wage, with the majority of minimum-wage earners being trainees and/or under the age of 25. More than two-thirds who start at the minimum wage are earning a higher wage one year later. A 'NO' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL FAILED, 20-20, requiring 25 votes for advancement. (March 31)
9. **Minimum Wage Hike for Tipped Employees:** During the Legislature's debate on LB943 (above), lawmakers considered an amendment (**AM1922**) that would have increased the state minimum wage for the employees who receive tips. This amendment mirrored language of another bill (LB947) opposed by the State Chamber. A 'NO' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. AMENDMENT FAILED, 24-11, one vote short of the number needed for adoption. (March 31)
10. **Nebraska Advantage Extension: LB1067** extends the state's primary economic development tool – the Nebraska Advantage Act – for another two years, providing more certainty for businesses that use these job-creation and investment incentives. Included in the package are extensions of the angel investment credit, the microenterprise credit, and the R&D Act. Since its implementation in 2006, the Nebraska Advantage has led to private-sector commitments of nearly \$11 billion in investments and more than 28,000 jobs. BILL PASSED, 49-0. (April 3)

THE STATE CHAMBER 

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

