



Step #1 Find your Nebraska State Senator <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/>

## 1. Continue Your Research

- VOTE411.org
- League of Women Voters <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-nebraska>
- Common cause <https://www.commoncause.org/nebraska/>
- Civic Nebraska <https://www.civicnebraska.org/>
- ACLU <https://www.aclunebraska.org/>
- Brennan Center for Justice <https://www.brennancenter.org/>
- Ballotpedia [https://ballotpedia.org/Main\\_Page](https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page)
- Coalition for a Strong Nebraska “How a Bill Becomes a Law in Nebraska” <https://www.facebook.com/1509801472579394/videos/2398475757045290>
- Unicameral Information Office, Office of the Clerk of the Legislature 402-471-2788 or [UFO@leg.ne.gov](mailto:UFO@leg.ne.gov) for information on any bills you are concerned about

## 2. Share Your Voice

- Public Hearings:
  - [In Person Testimony](#)
  - Submit [written testimony](#) for the public record (on the Legislature's website under the "Position Letter" dropdown: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/committees/public-input.php>)
- Write [your senator](#) or meet with them at all stages of policy making
- Join marches, demonstrations
- Join with your community, First United Methodist Church Omaha: Shalom in Action

## How an "idea" becomes a law in Nebraska:



**Anybody can have an idea.** The idea then must be introduced as a bill by a senator or a committee in order to be considered by the Unicameral.



Step 1: **The senator or committee files** the proposal with the Clerk of the Legislature in the first 10 days of the session.



Step 2: **Every bill receives a public hearing** by a legislative committee. The committee may vote to Advance the Bill; Hold the Bill; or take no action. If the vote is to advance it goes to general file.



Step 3: **General file is the first time the full legislature considers the bill.** They can Advance; Amend; or Fail the bill. If the vote is to advance, the bill goes to select file.



Step 4: **Select file is the second debate and voting stage.** Again the vote may be advance; amend; or fail. If the vote is to advance, the bill goes to the final reading stage.



Step 5: **Final Reading is the last vote** before a bill goes to the Governor for his/her consideration.



Step 6: **After the Legislature passes a bill on final reading, it goes to the governor.** The governor may sign, decline to sign, or veto. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the legislature can then override the veto or let the veto stand.

An effective letter:

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Room \_\_\_\_\_

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I

live at \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Then state your concern...  
and only one concern per letter)*

Be specific.

Explain your support or disagreement.

Limit your concern to one or two paragraphs, say thank you and sign off.

**Send!**

Resources from Our Speakers:

Handouts and resources from [Mental Health Session, Brad Meurrens](#)

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Toll-Free in Nebraska: [1-800-422-6691](tel:1-800-422-6691)

Fax: [402-474-3274](tel:402-474-3274)

[brad@drne.org](mailto:brad@drne.org)

[www.disabilityrightsnebraska.org](http://www.disabilityrightsnebraska.org)

Medical [Marijuana Legislation: Kevin Wycoff, MD Family Medicine Doctor PowerPoint](#)

[Closing Session Slides](#)

Nebraska League of Women Voters' Legislative Lobby Day is next Tuesday, February 15. This is an opportunity to go with a small group to visit Senators' offices. Great opportunity to practice advocacy!

First-Plymouth Bread for the World advocacy workshop on Legislative Bills introduced to address hunger in Nebraska. Sunday, February 20 at 1:00 PM on Zoom. Sign up at:

[www.facebook.com/FirstPlymouthBreadfortheWorld](http://www.facebook.com/FirstPlymouthBreadfortheWorld)