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***Voting Rights Group Announces Introduction of Bills to Modernize, Improve Elections***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

This morning Nebraskans for Civic Reform announced the introduction of four bills to modernize and maintain the integrity of Nebraska elections. The bills include: LB 76 introduced by Senator Justin Wayne, LB 112 introduced by Senator Matt Hansen, LB 290 introduced by Senator Tony Vargas, and LB 197 introduced by Senator Rick Kolowski. Nebraskans for Civic Reform is a nonpartisan nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to creating a more modern and robust democracy for all Nebraskans

“We are grateful for the leadership being shown by these senators,” states Bri McLarty Huppert, Director of Voting Rights with Nebraskans for Civic Reform. “They understand that changes to how we conduct elections need to balance accessibility for the voter and assistance to election officials. These bills do just that.”

Three of the bills focus on improving data available to county election officials.

- LB 76 provides county election officials with a notice and date of completion of sentence for an individual convicted of a felony, easing determination of eligibility for the purposes of voter registration.
- LB 112 allows individuals already registered in Nebraska, but moved to a new county, to fill out a provisional ballot on Election Day, updating their voter registration in the process.
- LB 290 moves current Motor Voter from an opt-in program to an opt-out, as well as providing the option of expanding the program to other state agencies, like DHHS and Department of Education, agencies that collect an individual’s information on a yearly basis

The fourth bill, LB 197, allows for voters to request a ballot online using a similar portal already available for voter registration. Proponents of the bill claim the online process will be more efficient and reduce error.

Following an election plagued with reports of hacking and interference, Nebraskans for Civic Reform claims focusing on the security and accuracy of data is the solution for keeping public confidence high.

“Nebraska voters have a high trust in their public institutions and the integrity of our elections rank higher compared to other states with laws that restrict voter accessibility” McLarty Huppert continues. “The bills introduced today provide new avenues for county election officials to collect data, update our voter rolls, and ensure accuracy – all without jeopardizing a voter’s access to the ballot.”

The Election Integrity Project recently released a report evaluating the perceptions of election integrity of all 50 States and Washington DC. Nebraska ranked 22 overall, scoring high in vote count and electoral procedures. Of the states scoring in the bottom 10, eight states have photo voter ID laws.

“Technology, when applied prudently, has the capacity to improve the efficiency of government and lower the cost of election administration. As the Legislature looks to appropriating funds for election technology, we want to give them options for modernizing our systems and improving the accuracy and security of data stored,” McLarty Huppert concludes.

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*Nebraskans for Civic Reform is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to increasing K-12 civic engagement and community engagement, veterans job readiness, and protecting voting rights for all Nebraskans. NCR works to create a more modern and robust democracy for all Nebraskans. More information on NCR’s programs is available at [www.nereform.org](http://www.nereform.org)*