



Elimination of 2-year Waiting Period

Introducer: Senator Justin Wayne Bill Number: LB 75

Talking Point #1 – Disenfranchised Citizens

Statement: A significant number of Nebraskans disenfranchised under current law are tax-paying neighbors, contributing to our communities, who have successfully completed their sentence and paid their debt to society.

Supporting Statements:

- Of the 17,564 Nebraskans currently disenfranchised, over 40%, about 7,069, are individuals that have already completed their sentence
- A disproportionate number of disenfranchised under current law are minorities, diminishing the voting strength of their communities

Talking Point #2 – Public Safety Issue

Statement: Voting is a pro-social behavior linked to reducing crime

Supporting Statements:

- Encouraging civic engagement of returning citizens through re-enfranchisement could reduce the rate of recidivism in Nebraska

Talking Point #3 – No policy reason for wait

Statement: The two-year waiting period was an arbitrary number reached through political compromise, it serves no significant public policy purpose.

Supporting Statements:

- The original bill introduced by Senator DiAnna Schimek in 2005 re-enfranchised individuals when they successfully completed their sentence. The 2-year was the amendment needed to get it out of committee.