



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEBRASKA

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LB 1066
GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

I am here to speak against LB 1066. Many decades of research and action by the League to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive can be summed up in our position that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

The fact that LB 1066 would require a photo identification with an address that must match that on an elector's name on the polling place records could very well nullify the right to vote. There are two groups of electors who could be impacted more seriously than others, the elderly and young voters.

Senior citizens who have voted consistently and proudly all their lives, are part of a mobile population. Life's changes require them to give up a long held address to move to a facility, ranging from independent to nursing care. Depending on the facility this may involve two or three moves as they age, even in the same facility, as apartment or room numbers change. If the address requires strict adherence, even to room number, will the poll worker who knows the elector be in non-compliance with the law if that worker allows the elector to vote anyway, although the address requirements do not match? Then there's the issue of getting new state I.D. cards for rural inhabitants whose DMV office may be open only a few days a month. And does the offer of providing funds from the General Fund include the cost of acquiring a birth certificate for that elderly person who may never have needed one before?

Young adults are another mobile population, whether they be college students, military recruits or having newly entered the work force. College ID cards have the student's name, picture and a college ID number which is unique to that student. But no address. Even staffers' ID cards here in the Capitol have no address on them. Military cards also have a name, picture, and unique ID number but no address. Having an address violates privacy for the student and the staffer and security for the soldier. My own military dependent's card has no address. Why should it, it's a portable piece of identify for my use for dependent's services, not for voting.

High school students can register to vote even before they turn 18; not all have driver's licenses and their school IDs do not have an address.

Please respect Article I, Section 22 of our state constitution and reject LB 1066 for its hindrances or impediments on all voters, from teenagers to ninety-somethings.

Sherry Miller
President, League of Women Voters of Nebraska