



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEBRASKA

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February 20, 2017

Chairman Murante and Committee Members,

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska opposes LB 644 because of the proposed language changes found on pages 13 through 21, regarding the makeup of judicial nomination commissions.

The Merit Plan has worked successfully for many decades, ensuring that the selection and retention of judges of the Supreme Court, the district courts, the juvenile courts, the county courts and the Worker's Compensation Courts will not become politicized.

The League objects to the intrusion of partisanship in the makeup of judicial nominating commissions by ceding control to the governor in appointing citizen members of the commissions. This is not a good idea, no matter which party controls the governor's office, especially if any action taken by the commission would be invalidated lacking a majority consensus of members appointed by the Governor.

The League does agree that all meetings of a judicial nominating commission shall be open to the public and with the rest of the changes to Section 24-810, (5), lines 23-28 in the interest of transparency.

However, the League urges you to reconsider why it should be necessary to change what has been successful bipartisanship to an overtly partisan power play.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Miller, President, LWVNE