

2008 EDITION
NEBRASKANFIB
The Voice of Small Business®

VOTING

RECORD

YOUR LEGISLATORS' VOTING RECORD ON SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES

2007–2008: Votes cast by members of the Nebraska Legislature on bills of particular interest to small business owners during the past two legislative sessions are listed below. Although this *Voting Record* cannot reflect every consideration that legislators take into account when casting votes, it can serve as a guide to evaluating lawmakers' understanding of the issues important to small business. Please thank those legislators who helped maintain a good business climate in our state.

1. Union Service Fees (Legislative Bill 57): A vote on a General File amendment to strike a key provision of LB 57, a bill that would have required all non-union employees in a unionized workplace to pay "fair share" representation fees to labor organizations. A **"Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The amendment was adopted on a vote of 25–14. (2007)

2. Paid Leave Benefits for Employees (LB 255): This bill addresses an adverse 2006 Nebraska Supreme Court ruling regarding payment for employee leave benefits. LB 255 provides that paid leave, other than earned vacation leave, need not be included in the wages due and payable at the time of separation from employment. A **"Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The bill was given final approval on a vote of 47–0. (2007)

3. Repeal of Estate Tax (LB 367): The Legislature voted on an amendment that repealed the state estate tax. A **"Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The amendment was adopted on a vote of 37–7. (2007)

4. Tax Relief Measure (LB 367): The Legislature voted on final passage of the governor's tax relief measure that reduced taxes in the aggregate by more than \$400 million over a two-year period. The bill included provisions for property tax relief, elimination of the marriage penalty on income taxes, repeal of the estate tax and elimination of the sales tax on commercial construction labor services. A **"Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The bill was approved on a vote of 46–2. (2007)

5. Workers' Compensation/Hospital Reimbursement (LB 588): The Legislature voted on final passage of a bill designed to reduce hospital fees related to workers' compensation cases by establishing a new hospital fee schedule based on a factor of 150 percent of Medicare. A **"Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The bill was given final approval on a vote of 43–0. (2007)

6. Gift Cards/Unclaimed Property Reporting (LB 668): The Legislature voted on final passage of a bill that eliminates the unclaimed property reporting

requirements for gift cards that are not assessed any fees and do not contain an expiration date. A **"Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The bill passed on a vote of 46–0. (2008)

7. Corporate Income Taxes (LB 888): The Legislature voted on final passage of a bill that increases the lowest corporate income tax bracket threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000, effective Jan. 1, 2008. A **"Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The bill passed on a vote of 48–0. (2008)

8. Job Training Funds (LB 956): The Legislature voted on final passage of a bill to establish a sub account within the Job Training Cash Fund to provide job training grants targeted to businesses that employ 25 or fewer employees or are located in rural areas of Nebraska. A **"Yes" vote supports the NFIB position.** The bill passed on a vote of 46–0. (2008)

9. Workers' Compensation—Mental Claims (LB 1082): The Legislature voted on an amendment that would have allowed employees who witness a violent criminal act to recover workers'

Voting Key

Y	=	Vote in support of proposed legislation
N	=	Vote in opposition of proposed legislation
-	=	Absent for vote
%	=	Percentage of votes favorable to NFIB position

compensation benefits for mental conditions or illnesses without requiring the employee to have suffered a physical injury. A **“No” vote supports the NFIB position.** The amendment was defeated on a vote of 22–26. (2008)

10. Workers’ Compensation—Mental Claims (LB 819): The Legislature voted on an amendment that attached the provisions of LB 1082 (a bill allowing recovery for workers’ compensation mental claims that had previously failed to advance) to an unrelated unemployment compensation bill. The bill

would have allowed recovery of benefits for mental conditions or illnesses without requiring the employee to have suffered a physical injury. A **“No” vote supports the NFIB position.** The amendment was adopted on a vote of 26–18. The bill was passed, but was vetoed by the governor. (2008)

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

ISSUE NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	%
NFIB POSITION	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Adams, Greg (York)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	90%
Aguilar, Ray (Grand Island)	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	N	N	100%
Ashford, Brad (Omaha)	N	Y	N	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	56%
Avery, Bill (Lincoln)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
Burling, Carroll (Kenesaw)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Carlson, Tom (Holdrege)	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	89%
Chambers, Ernie (Omaha)	-	Y	-	N	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	-	67%
Christensen, Mark (Imperial)	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Cornett, Abbie (Bellevue)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
Dierks, M.L. “Cap” (Ewing)	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	78%
Dubas, Annette (Fullerton)	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	78%
Engel, Patrick (South Sioux City)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	N	-	100%
Erdman, Philip (Bayard)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Fischer, Deb (Valentine)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Flood, Mike (Norfolk)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	90%
Friend, Mike (Omaha)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	90%
Fulton, Tony (Lincoln)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Gay, Tim (Papillion)	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Hansen, Tom (North Platte)	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Harms, John (Scottsbluff)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Heidemann, Lavon (Elk Creek)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Howard, Gwen (Omaha)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
Hudkins, Carol (Malcolm)	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	88%
Janssen, Ray (Nickerson)	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	78%
Johnson, Joel (Kearney)	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	89%
Karpisek, Russ (Wilber)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	80%
Kopplin, Gail (Gretna)	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	60%
Kruse, Lowen (Omaha)	-	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Langemeier, Chris (Schuyler)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Lathrop, Steve (Omaha)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
*Lautenbaugh, Scott (Omaha)	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Louden, LeRoy (Ellsworth)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
McDonald, Vickie (St. Paul)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
McGill, Amanda (Lincoln)	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	75%
Nantkes, Danielle (Lincoln)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
Nelson, John (Omaha)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	90%
Pahls, Rich (Omaha)	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	89%
Pankonin, Dave (Louisville)	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	89%
Pedersen, Dwite (Elkhorn)	N	Y	-	-	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	57%
Pirsch, Pete (Omaha)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	-	100%
Preister, Don (Omaha)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
Raikes, Ron (Lincoln)	-	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	-	-	N	-	83%
Rogert, Kent (Tekamah)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
Schimek, DiAnna (Lincoln)	N	-	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	44%
Stuthman, Arnie (Platte Center)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	100%
Synowiecki, John (Omaha)	N	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	67%
Wallman, Norm (Cortland)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
White, Tom (Omaha)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	70%
Wightman, John (Lexington)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	-	100%

* Appointed by Gov. Heineman to replace Sen. Mick Mines who resigned from the Legislature.