

VOTING RECORD

YOUR LEGISLATORS' VOTING RECORD ON SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES 2016 EDITION

Votes cast by members of the Nebraska Legislature on bills of interest to small business owners during the past two legislative sessions are listed below. While the 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 of importance to small business. Please thank those legislators who helped maintain a good business climate in our state.

1. **Personal Property Tax Relief (LB 259):** As amended, LB 259 exempts the first \$10,000 of value for depreciable tangible personal property assessed for taxation. While the exemption is less than the \$25,000 threshold proposed in the original version of the bill, LB 259 will still provide about \$20 million annually in personal property tax relief for businesses and agricultural producers. This will reduce the antiquated tax on depreciable personal property used in the trade or business, including manufacturing equipment, farm implements, computers, and other business equipment. NFIB supported LB 259. **A “YES” vote was in accord with NFIB’s position.** The bill passed on a vote of 47–0. (2015 Vote)
2. **Funding for Small Business (LB 226):** LB 226 authorizes “crowdfunding”—the practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. Under LB 226, small businesses can raise up to \$2 million a year from investors. NFIB supported LB 226. **A “YES” vote was in accord with NFIB’s position.** The bill passed on a vote of 48–0. (2015 Vote)
3. **Workers’ Compensation Reform (LB 480):** LB 480 makes the first comprehensive revision to Nebraska’s Workers’ Compensation Act since 1995. The bill includes employer-friendly revisions, including the denial of Workers’ Compensation benefits if an employee knowingly and willfully makes false statements when applying for a position. The bill also makes sensible changes regarding interest rates on Workers’ Compensation awards, while authorizing eligible self-insured trust funds under the Workers’ Compensation Act. NFIB supported LB 480. **A “YES” vote was in accord with NFIB’s position.** The bill passed on a vote of 46–0. (2015 Vote)
4. **Minimum Wage for Tipped Employees (LB 494):** LB 494 would have gradually increased the state minimum wage rate for “tipped” employees from the current rate of \$2.13 per hour until it is equal to 50 percent of the minimum wage rate—or \$4.50 per hour by 2017. NFIB opposed LB 494. **A “NO” vote was in accord with NFIB’s position.** A vote to advance the bill from General File to Select File failed on a vote of 18–27. (2015 Vote)
5. **Reduced Youth Minimum Wage (LB 599):** LB 599 would have authorized a lower minimum wage for most high-school age workers in Nebraska. As amended, the bill would have kept the minimum wage at \$8 per hour for student workers under the age of 19 when the state’s overall minimum wage increased to \$9 in 2016. NFIB supported LB 599. **A “YES” vote was in accord with NFIB’s position.** A vote on Final Reading failed on a vote of 29–17. (2015 Vote) (Required 30 votes to pass.)
6. **Direct Primary Care Agreements (LB 817):** LB 817 allows small businesses to contract with a primary care physician and pay a manageable monthly fee to provide primary care services to employees. Supplemented with a “wrap around” insurance policy for catastrophic coverage, these contacts are estimated to result in cost savings of 12 to 15 percent for small businesses. NFIB supported LB 817. **A “YES” vote was in accord with NFIB’s position.** The bill passed on a vote of 48–0. (2016 Vote)

VOTING KEY

| | | | | | |
|----------|---|--------------|------------|---|--|
| Y | = | Voted Yes | % | = | Percentage of Votes Favorable to NFIB Position |
| N | = | Voted No | N/A | = | Not Enough Votes to Score (5 required) |
| - | = | Did Not Vote | | | |

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| ISSUE NUMBER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | % |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| NFIB POSITION | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Baker, Roy (Lincoln) | Y | Y | - | N | N | Y | 80% |
| Bloomfield, Dave (Hoskins) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Bolz, Kate (Lincoln) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Brasch, Lydia (Bancroft) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Campbell, Kathy (Lincoln) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Chambers, Ernie (Omaha) | - | - | - | Y | N | Y | N/A |
| Coash, Colby (Lincoln) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Cook, Tanya (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Craighead, Joni (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Crawford, Sue (Bellevue) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Davis, Al (Hyannis) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Ebke, Laura (Crete) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| **Fox, Nicole (Omaha) | - | - | - | - | - | Y | N/A |
| Friesen, Curt (Henderson) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Garrett, Tommy (Bellevue) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Gloor, Mike (Grand Island) | Y | Y | Y | - | Y | Y | 100% |
| Groene, Mike (North Platte) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Haar, Ken (Malcolm) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Hadley, Galen (Kearney) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Hansen, Matt (Lincoln) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Harr, Burke (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Hilkemann, Robert (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | N | N | Y | 83% |
| Howard, Sara (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |

| ISSUE NUMBER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | % |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| NFIB POSITION | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Hughes, Dan (Venango) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Johnson, Jerry (Wahoo) | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 83% |
| Kintner, Bill (Papillion) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Kolowski, Rick (Omaha) | — | Y | Y | Y | N | — | N/A |
| Kolterman, Mark (Seward) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Krist, Bob (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | Y | — | Y | 80% |
| Kuehn, John (Heartwell) | Y | Y | Y | — | Y | Y | 100% |
| Larson, Tyson (O'Neill) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Lindstrom, Brett (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| McCollister, John (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 83% |
| McCoy, Beau (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Mello, Heath (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Morfeld, Adam (Lincoln) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Murante, John (Gretna) | Y | Y | Y | N | — | Y | 100% |
| **Nordquist, Jeremy (Omaha) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | — | 60% |
| Parsing Brooks, Patty (Lincoln) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Riepe, Merv (Ralston) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Scheer, Jim (Norfolk) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Schilz, Ken (Ogallala) | Y | Y | Y | — | Y | Y | 100% |
| Schnoor, David (Scribner) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Schumacher, Paul (Columbus) | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | 67% |
| Seiler, Les (Hastings) | Y | Y | Y | N | — | Y | 100% |
| Smith, Jim (Papillion) | Y | Y | Y | — | Y | Y | 100% |
| Stinner, John (Gering) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Sullivan, Kate (Cedar Rapids) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Watermeier, Dan (Syracuse) | Y | Y | — | N | Y | Y | 100% |
| Williams, Matt (Gothenburg) | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | 100% |

**Senator Nicole Fox was appointed by Governor Ricketts to replace Senator Jeremy Nordquist, who resigned from the Legislature at the end of the 2015 Legislative Session.