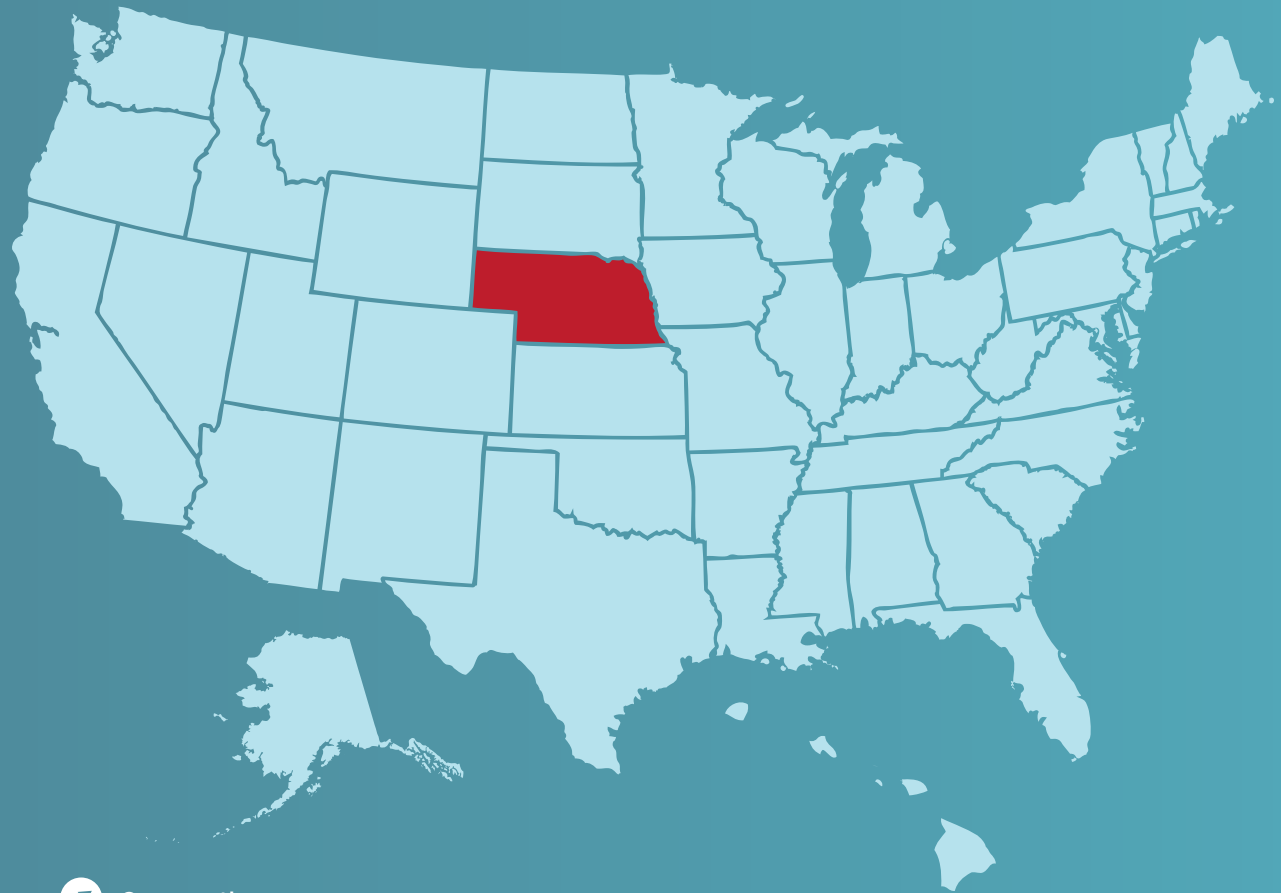




THE
AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION
FOUNDATION

2016 RATINGS *of* NEBRASKA



ACUConservative



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Conservatives,

We are pleased to present the American Conservative Union Foundation's ratings for the 2016 meeting of the Nebraska Legislature. Like our Congressional Ratings, our State Ratings reflect how elected officials view the role of government in an individual's life. The Nebraska legislators with the highest scores voted most consistently with the ideals articulated in the U.S. Constitution: limited and transparent government, individual rights, personal responsibility, and lasting cultural values.

In 2015, ACU Foundation was proud to make history by being the first organization to rate every single state legislature across the full spectrum of issues, helping each voter understand how his or her state ranks among the rest.

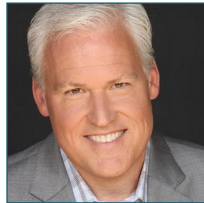
Ultimately, we are trying to help people understand what conservatism *is* and how it improves the lives of everyday Americans. Conservatism is the political philosophy that sovereignty resides in the person. We think that understanding this idea is essential if Americans are to successfully govern themselves again.

Working with our policy centers and fellows, the ACU Foundation engages in deep policy analysis to help create our annual state scorecards. We have enhanced the vote descriptions this year to show this effort more clearly.

By examining all 50 of our State Ratings, we can see which states have most effectively promoted conservative solutions and which have struggled. Our ratings also help identify legislators who have courageously fought against liberal majorities. We hope that this guide helps you learn how well, or poorly, your legislators work to preserve the values we share.

Sincerely,

Matt Schlapp
Chairman
American Conservative Union





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THE
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SELECTING THE VOTES

ACU researched and selected a range of bills before the Nebraska Legislature that determine a member's adherence to conservative principles. We selected bills that focus on Ronald Reagan's philosophy of the "three-legged stool": 1) *fiscal and economic*: taxes, budgets, regulation, spending, healthcare, and property; 2) *social and cultural*: 2nd amendment, religion, life, welfare, and education; and 3) *government integrity*: voting, individual liberty, privacy, and transparency. This wide range of issues are designed to give citizens an accurate assessment that conveys which of Nebraska's elected leaders best defend the principles of a free society: Life, Liberty and Property.



2016 WINNERS & LOSERS

90-100% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE EXCELLENCE 

SENATE

n/a

<= 10% COALITION OF THE RADICAL LEFT 

SENATE

n/a

80-89% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE ACHIEVEMENT 

SENATE

Friesen

Groene

Kintner



NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

1. **LB 18 Groene Amendment Parental Rights.** The Groene amendment to a bill requiring student vaccinations for bacterial meningitis provides for an exemption based on religious or philosophical beliefs. ACU supports strengthening parental rights and supported this amendment. The legislature defeated the amendment on January 20, 2016 by a vote of 13-24.

2. **LB 289 Local Gun Control.** This bill prevents local governments from passing gun control laws that infringe on the rights of gun owners under the state constitution. ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment and supported this bill. The legislature failed to invoke cloture (end debate) on the bill, killing it for this session, on January 27, 2016 by a vote of 32-10 (33 votes were required. A "Yes" vote supported the ACU position).

3. **LB 176 Hog Ownership Restrictions.** This bill eliminates the prohibition on meatpacking companies owning their own hogs. ACU supports regulatory reform that respects the principle of free competition and supported this bill. The legislature passed the bill on February 5, 2016 by a vote of 34-14.

4. **LB 53 License Plate Regulation.** This bill exempts cars that have only one license plate by design from the requirement that a license plate must be mounted on their front. It instead allows for a decal on the front windshield. ACU supports common sense regulatory reform and supported this bill. The legislature passed the bill on February 29, 2016 by a vote of 44-0.

5. **LB 898 Hair Braider Licenses.** This bill exempts those solely engaged in natural hair braiding from the requirements of the Cosmetology Board. Current regulations require attendance at a cosmetology university and 2,100 hours of training. Research based on the ACU Foundation's Family Prosperity Index shows that expanded entrepreneurship promotes economic growth, allowing families to prosper. ACU opposes the proliferation of license requirements for every occupation, opposes bills primarily designed to reduce competition, and supported this bill as a step in the right direction. The legislature passed the bill on March 3, 2016 by a vote of 42-0.

6. **LB 1022 Schumacher Amendment Extending Business Subsidy Programs.** The Schumacher amendment eliminates a provision that extends the life of the Nebraska Advantage Act for two years to 2020. The Advantage Act provides hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks – small tax breaks for small companies and large tax breaks for large companies – for companies that meet criteria set by the government, such as renewable energy companies and large data centers. ACU opposes these programs that favor one type of company over another and place a larger tax burden on companies not favored by the government and supported this amendment. The legislature defeated the amendment on March 10, 2016 by a vote of 14-20.

7. **LB 83 Equal Pay Act.** This bill extends enforcement of Nebraska's Equal Pay Act to any business with two or more employees. Currently the law only applies to businesses with 15 or more employees. ACU opposes this government overreach that leaves very small firms vulnerable to lawsuits and opposed this bill. The legislature passed the bill on March 24, 2016 by a vote of 32-11.

8. **LB 1032 Obamacare Implementation.** This bill expands Medicaid under Obamacare by using Medicaid funds to buy private insurance policies. Research based on the ACU Foundation's Family Prosperity Index shows that as government spending grows, private sector job growth, personal income, and family prosperity decline. ACU opposes expanding a program rife with waste and fraud with no reforms and a program Governor Ricketts called "a long term budget risk for Nebraska" and opposed this bill. The legislature voted to "bracket," or kill, the bill on March 29, 2016 by a vote of 28-20 (A "Yes" vote supported the ACU position).

9. **LB 1103 Medicaid Fraud.** This bill gives the state Department of Health and Human Services greater ability to recover Medicaid payments from those who attempt to hide assets in order to qualify for nursing home coverage. ACU supports efforts to reduce Medicaid fraud and supported this bill. The legislature failed to invoke cloture (end debate) on the bill, killing it for this session on April 1, 2016 by a vote of 29-19 (33 votes were required).

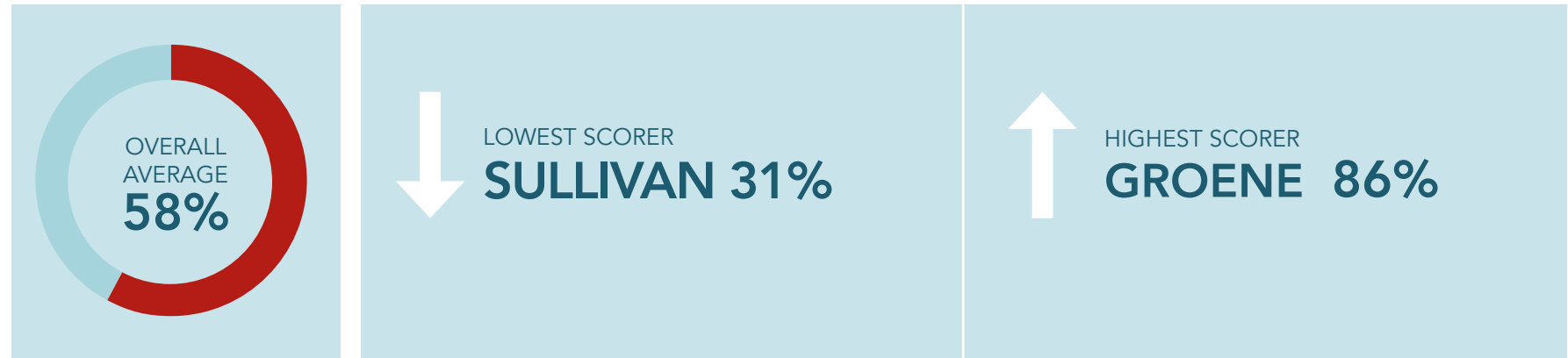


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10. **LB 935 State Employees Expense Reimbursement.** This bill allows state employees to use the federal government's per diem travel rates rather than the current system of documenting actual expenses. ACU supports taxpayer accountability and opposed this bill. The legislature passed the bill on April 12, 2016 by a vote of 37-8 but the bill was vetoed by the Governor.
-
11. **LB 958 Local Government Spending.** This bill is designed to limit property tax increases by tightening local government spending limits and permitting the ability to override levy limits. Research based on the ACU Foundation's Family Prosperity Index shows that reducing tax burdens and government spending increases economic growth, which increases family prosperity. ACU supports fiscal restraint in a state that has the 7th highest property tax rate in the country and supported this bill. The legislature passed the bill on April 13, 2016 by a vote of 47-1.
-
12. **LB 1106 Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform.** This bill reforms Nebraska's Civil Asset Forfeiture laws by requiring a criminal conviction before property can be seized. Those whose property is used by someone else for criminal activity would be provided counsel, but to recover their property they would still have to prove they did not know about the subject's crime. ACU Foundation's Center for 21st Century Property Rights engages heavily on this issue; therefore, ACU supports reform of laws that have caused violations of individual property rights and supported this bill. Also, research based on the ACU Foundation's Family Prosperity Index indicates that over-criminalization has a negative effect on the economy and the family dynamic. The legislature passed the bill on April 13, 2016 by a vote of 38-8.
-
13. **LB 884 Tax Increase.** This bill expands the special tax collected from businesses near sports arenas, known as the "turnback tax." Under the bill, the range of businesses subject to tax near arenas in Omaha, Lincoln, and Ralston is increased from 200 yards to 600 yards from the arena and extends the tax for another 4 years. Although 70 percent of the tax goes to pay for the stadium, 30 percent goes to special "community projects fund" for small town and rural areas. ACU opposes taxpayer subsidies for sports arenas unless taxpayers are the ones determining whether these types of projects are worthy of subsidies and opposed this bill. The legislature passed the bill on April 13, 2016 by a vote of 43-4.
-
14. **LB 947 Illegal Immigrant Professional Licenses.** This bill allows immigrants who were given temporary legal status by President Obama in 2012 to apply for licenses in 170 professions. ACU opposes special benefits for illegal immigrants and opposed this bill. The legislature overrode the Governor's veto of the bill on April 20, 2016 by a vote of 31-13 (30 votes were required. A "No" vote supported the ACU position).
-



NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE SCORES

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE STATISTICS



NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE VOTE DETAIL

	District	LB 18 Groene Am.	LB 289	LB 176	LB 53	LB 898	LB 1022 Schumacher Am.	LB 83	LB 1032	LB 1103	LB 935	LB 958	LB 1106	LB 884	LB 947	ACU Votes	Votes Cast	2016 %	2015 %	LIFETIME AVG
Baker	30	X	X	+	+	X	X	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	5	10	50%	20%	35%
Bloomfield	17	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	X	+	10	13	77%	79%	81%
Bolz	29	-	+	-	+	+	X	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	6	13	46%	8%	29%
Brasch	16	+	+	-	+	+	-	X	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	9	13	69%	79%	79%
Campbell	25	-	-	+	E	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	6	13	46%	8%	29%
Chambers	11	-	-	-	X	+	-	-	-	+	X	+	+	-	-	4	12	33%	13%	23%
Coash	27	-	E	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	X	+	-	-	6	12	50%	33%	50%
Cook	13	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	6	14	43%	7%	21%
Craighead	6	+	+	+	+	X	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	9	13	69%	57%	63%
Crawford	45	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	7	14	50%	13%	29%
Davis	43	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	10	14	71%	27%	40%
Ebke	32	+	+	+	+	X	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	9	13	69%	71%	70%
Fox	7	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	7	12	58%	n/a	58%
Friesen	34	X	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	-	X	+	+	-	X	8	10	80%	38%	59%
Garrett	3	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	10	14	71%	53%	69%



NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE VOTE DETAIL

	District	LB 18 Groene Amd.	LB 289	LB 176	LB 53	LB 898	LB 1022 Schumacher Amd.	LB 83	LB 1032	LB 1103	LB 935	LB 958	LB 1106	LB 884	LB 947	ACU Votes	Votes Cast	2016 %	2015 %	LIFETIME AVG
Gloor	35	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	8	14	57%	21%	41%
Groene*	42	(+)	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	12	14	86%	87%	86%
Haar	21	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	6	14	43%	0%	23%
Hadley	37	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	6	14	43%	20%	32%
Hansen	26	-	-	-	+	+	X	-	-	+	-	+	+	X	-	5	12	42%	0%	40%
Harr	8	-	-	+	+	X	E	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	5	12	42%	7%	24%
Hilkemann	4	+	+	+	+	+	X	-	+	+	-	+	X	-	-	8	12	67%	40%	53%
Howard	9	-	-	-	+	+	X	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	5	13	38%	9%	21%
Hughes	44	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	X	10	13	77%	54%	65%
Johnson	23	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	X	9	13	69%	20%	49%
Kintner	2	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	11	13	85%	87%	87%
Kolowski	31	-	X	+	+	+	-	E	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	6	12	50%	0%	21%
Kolterman	24	E	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	X	8	12	67%	42%	54%
Krist	10	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	7	14	50%	8%	32%
Kuehn	38	-	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	-	-	+	X	-	+	8	12	67%	23%	45%
Larson	40	E	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	X	6	12	50%	73%	69%
Lindstrom	18	+	+	+	+	X	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	7	13	54%	64%	59%
McCollister	20	-	+	+	+	+	X	-	-	+	X	+	+	-	-	7	12	58%	14%	36%
McCoy	39	E	+	X	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	7	12	58%	92%	76%
Mello	5	-	X	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	6	13	46%	0%	24%
Morfeld	46	-	X	-	E	+	X	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	4	11	36%	7%	22%
Murante	49	E	+	+	+	E	-	X	+	-	-	+	X	-	+	6	10	60%	75%	67%
Pansing Brooks	28	-	X	+	X	X	X	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	4	10	40%	0%	20%
Riepe	12	+	+	+	+	+	-	X	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	10	13	77%	64%	71%
Scheer	19	E	+	+	+	+	E	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	7	12	58%	29%	48%
Schilz	47	X	+	+	+	+	-	X	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	7	12	58%	45%	61%
Schnoor	15	+	+	-	+	+	E	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	10	13	77%	91%	84%
Schumacher	22	-	X	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	X	+	+	-	-	8	12	67%	20%	41%
Seiler	33	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	E	-	+	+	-	-	7	13	54%	21%	42%
Smith	14	X	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	8	13	62%	33%	52%



NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE VOTE DETAIL

	District	LB 18 Greene Amd.	LB 289	LB 176	LB 53	LB 898	LB 1022 Schumacher Amd.	LB 83	LB 1032	LB 1103	LB 935	LB 958	LB 1106	LB 884	LB 947	ACU Votes	Votes Cast	2016 %	2015 %	LIFETIME AVG
Stinner	48	X	+	+	+	+	-	-	E	+	-	+	+	-	-	7	12	58%	33%	46%
Sullivan	41	-	-	-	+	+	E	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	4	13	31%	27%	27%
Watermeier	1	+	+	+	+	+	-	X	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	9	13	69%	70%	71%
Williams	36	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	8	14	57%	43%	50%

*Bill authors are given credit for supporting their legislation.