

VII. GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

A. PRIVATE PROPERTY

MINERAL RIGHTS (2006). We resolve that parties retaining mineral rights on property should pay a portion of the property tax.

ORDINANCES (2006). We oppose giving counties the authority to pass ordinances.

PROPERTY RIGHTS (2007). We support private property rights. Government should provide due process and compensation to the exact degree that an owner's right to use his property has been diminished by government action. We believe that the only just basis for compensation in such cases is fair market value. Agencies should show just cause and cost for each regulation and these should be made public so the agencies can be held accountable.

We oppose the state relinquishing jurisdictional authority of any type that would allow Indian tribes (tribal governments) to govern or regulate lands owned in whole or in part by non-Indians or a non-member of the tribe.

B. ELECTIONS/ELECTIVE OFFICES

CAMPAIGN SPENDING ACCOUNTABILITY (2006). We support legislation that would require the reporting of any expenses by organizations in support of or against candidates or ballot issues.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT (2007). We recommend the Governor appoint District and County Judges.

PETITION PROCESS (2009). We support tightening the signature collection requirements of Nebraska's initiative petition process. We favor changes that would require a percentage of petition signatures be collected from every legislative district.

We believe candidates seeking to have their name placed on the ballot for county or local government offices by the petition process need to have signatures equal to at least 30% of the total votes cast for Governor or President of the United States at the immediately preceding general election within the county or political subdivision.

C. STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

FIRE MARSHALL (2006). We resolve that all officers of the State Fire Marshall's office interpret consistently and uniformly all regulations and codes. Public recourse should be available in case of a problem.

PUBLIC NOTICES (2006). In order to ensure proper notification in potentially affected counties, published notices regarding state or local agency actions in affected counties should be placed in local publications.

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS (2010). We believe rural areas should have access to affordable and reliable telecommunications services and support the Federal and Nebraska Universal Services' Funds. We oppose diverting dollars from these funds for other non-communication related purposes. We support ways to improve and expand local service options.

STATE FAIR (2008). We encourage the Legislature to increase its support of the State Fair as a way to promote and educate its citizens about the number one industry-agriculture. We oppose the relocation of the Nebraska State Fair unless the Nebraska State Fair Board, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Legislature reach a mutually agreeable solution that will enhance the mission of the State Fair by providing an equal or better venue for showcasing agriculture to the general public.

STATE PROCUREMENT (2009). We believe payment of state purchases should be made in a more prompt and timely fashion. We believe all maintenance projects that can minimize costs by using private contractors should do so.

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY (2006). We support action by the Governor, State Legislature or both to overturn and prohibit any and all Treatment Similar to States (TSTS) or Treatment Same as States (TSAS) for Indian Tribes at the state level. We oppose the State of Nebraska entering into any agreements with an Indian Tribal Government/Council without the approval of local state subdivisions affected by such agreements.

D. POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

GOVERNMENT SALARIES (2006). We believe salaries for appointed department heads should not exceed the Governor's salary.

We support a modest increase in state legislative salaries and we believe state senators should have access to state employee benefit programs. If a change is necessary, an inflationary or deflationary index is the most feasible. We oppose the use of a citizen commission to set senators' pay. The people should vote on any pay increase.

We recommend that automatic percentage raises for state employees be eliminated and salary levels and ability to pay be considered when giving raises.

We believe that an increase of state legislators' salaries to \$21,000 is modest and reasonable.

UNICAMERAL (2009). We support keeping state legislative positions non-partisan.

TERM LIMITS (2008). We favor a repeal of the term limit requirement on state senators.