



## February 2021

President:	Mary Boschult
President-Elect:	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary:	Jane Witte
Treasurer:	Susan Scott
Lunch & Learn Chair:	Karen Dienstbier
<i>Voter</i> Editor:	Jim Johnson

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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## Calendar of Events

**Feb. 4 (Thursday): Noon**  
**LWVLL Lunch & Learn**  
**via Zoom:**

*The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

Anna Shavers, Associate Dean,  
UNL College of Law; Prof. Eric  
Berger, UNL College of Law

*See article at right, and check out  
the winter/spring schedule on  
page 4.*

**Feb. 20 (Saturday): 10am-12pm and**  
**Feb. 24 (Wednesday): 12 - 1:15 pm**  
**LWVNE Legislative Day**  
**via Zoom**

See article on page 3, and watch  
for more details on the [LWVNE  
website](#) as the dates approach.

## **February 4 Lunch & Learn topic focuses on the Life of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

The February Lunch and Learn, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County, will be held on February 4 at noon. Meeting will be via Zoom, beginning at noon. Speakers will be Anna Shavers, Associate Dean of NU College of Law and Eric Berger, Professor, NU College of Law, discussing the life of former Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

If you are a member of the Lincoln Chapter of the League, OR if you had registered for a previous Lunch and Learn this fall, you should have received a Zoom link earlier this week (sent on Thursday 1/28), and you should also receive a reminder notice the evening before the meeting. You will also receive Zoom links prior to the future meetings. There is no need to register again.

Other guests are welcome and the event is free; however guests who are not League members and did not register for previous meetings will need to pre-register at <https://lincolnleague.org/lunch-and-learn-schedule/> (registration deadline is Monday, February 1, for the February 4 meeting.)

The Lunch and Learn committee has announced the schedule for the spring meetings; see page 2 for information about the winter/spring series.

**AND THE NOMINEES ARE.....**

Please suggest nominees for the following LWVLL Board positions. Current office holders may be suggested; LWV does not support term limits. After a decade of service as LWVLL President, Mary Boschult announced at the 2020 Annual Meeting that she will not continue in that position, so nominee suggestions for that office are especially needed. Please keep in mind that these are *suggestions*, not automatic commitments. The Nominating Committee is responsible for determining who is nominated. We are seeking individuals who have the skill, interest, and ability to serve in selected positions as well as being willing to maintain the League’s nonpartisan reputation.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Suggested Name(s)</b> (use separate sheet if needed)	<b>Comments</b> (use separate sheet if needed)
President	2021-2023		
Vice President	2021–2023		
*Director (Lunch and Learn)	2021–2023		
*Director (Webmaster)	2021–2023		
*Director	2021–2023		
*Director	2021–2023		
Ed Fund Trustee	2021–2023		
Ed Fund Trustee	2021–2023		
Nominating Committee Chair	2021–2022		
Nominating Committee Member	2021–2022		
Nominating Committee Member	2021–2022		

\*Bylaws require a minimum of 4 elected directors and no more than 8; there are currently 4 elected directors whose terms continue to 2022.

Members whose terms continue through 2022 and therefore **should not** be suggested unless a suggestion for replacement is included: Susan Scott (Treasurer); Jane Witte (Secretary); Kristen Anderson (Director–Facebook); Sandy Blankenship (Director–Membership); Jim Johnson (Director–VOTER Editor); Peggy Weber (Director); Pat Cole (Ed Fund Trustee); Marcia Kushner (Ed Fund Trustee); Judy Koepke (Ed Fund Trustee).

Mail your suggestions to Sharon Nemeth, LWVLL Nominating Committee Chair, 720 West Broadview Drive, Lincoln, NE 68505. Or email them to her at [wayova@msn.com](mailto:wayova@msn.com). You may also send your suggestions to Nominating Committee members Jackie Egan ([egan@neb.rr.com](mailto:egan@neb.rr.com)), Tari Hendrickson ([tarihendrickson@gmail.com](mailto:tarihendrickson@gmail.com)), Karen Dienstbier ([kdien@allophone.com](mailto:kdien@allophone.com)), or Sandy Blankenship ([sandy.blankenship@windstream.net](mailto:sandy.blankenship@windstream.net)).

You may continue to send suggestions through February. The committee will review them confidentially and then contact those deemed to be most appropriate for the various positions.



**SAVE THE DATE FOR LWVNE LEGISLATIVE DAY**

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska invites you to join us for our Covid19 (Virtual) Legislative Day!

We will host two Zoom meetings:

On Saturday, Feb. 20, the LWVNE's priority bills will be presented, followed by training on lobbying during Covid19 restrictions. Sign-on will begin at 9:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. to noon meeting. You will receive the Zoom link after you register from:

**Registration link for Legislative Day Training**, Feb 20, 10 a.m. to noon.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, join us for a Zoom hour of lobbying power between noon and 1:15 p.m. Participants will contact their senators and/or legislative staff via email or phone during this time. Sign-on will begin at 11:30 a.m. You will receive the Zoom link after you register from:

**Registration link for Legislative Action Day**, Feb. 24, noon - 1:15 p.m.

A graphic with a blue background and a photograph of the Nebraska State Capitol building. The text is arranged in two columns. The left column reads: "Save the Date", "Legislative Day Training", "Zoom, Sat.", "Feb. 20", "10am - 12pm". The right column reads: "Legislative Action Day", "Zoom, Wed.", "Feb. 24", "12pm - 1:15pm". At the bottom of the graphic is the LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEBRASKA logo.

Additional details, including our legislative priority bills, will be published in the Spring 2021 *The Nebraska Voter* to be distributed via MailChimp and the LWVNE website the week of Feb. 8.

We look forward to seeing you at our Legislative Day Zoom meetings!

Linda Duckworth & Dianne Bystrom  
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Nebraska

**League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County moved to Zoom for Lunch and Learn programming.**

**Title: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

**Speakers: Anna Shavers, Associate Dean of NU College of Law and Eric Berger, Professor, NU College of Law**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021, on Zoom at noon**

Members of the public interested in participating in this free Zoom programming can send their name and email address to: [lwvlunchandlearn@gmail.com](mailto:lwvlunchandlearn@gmail.com) or they can go to <https://lincolnleague.org/lunch-and-learn-schedule/>. Please put the word registration in the subject line. Programs begin at noon unless otherwise specified. No phone messages will be accepted. Registrations should be received by Monday, February 1, for the February 4 program.

**Remaining Winter/Spring 2021 Lunch and Learn Topics and Speakers**

February 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Anna Shavers, Associate Dean of NU College of Law; Eric Berger, Professor, NU College of Law
March 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 12:30 p.m.	Can't Trust it: Race, Policing, the Prison Industrial Complex	Dr. Jeanette Jones, Associate Professor of History and Ethnic Studies, UNL
April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Holding Cops Accountable What is Happening Locally?	Ishma Valenti, Director, Community Engagement, Clyde Malone Community Center
May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Together One Lincoln	Sandra Washington, Lincoln City Councilwoman

# January LWVLL Lunch & Learn

Pictures from the January Lunch & Learn. Guests were Craig Beck and Alex Serrurier from OpenSky Policy Institute, discussing the upcoming session of the Nebraska Legislature.

### Budget Deep Dive

- Spending growth in upcoming biennium: 2.4%
- Following biennium (FYs 24 & 25) showing projected surplus
  - Revenue growth for those years averages 6.8%
  - Realistic? High to bring 5-year average to 4.5%
  - If unrealistic, projected surplus becomes precarious
- Cash Reserve Fund deposit expected, but...

### Tax Threat – Lofty Goals

- Cut top personal income tax (PIT) rate
- Cut corporate income tax (CIT)
- Broaden the sales tax base, likely including groceries
- Reduce the property tax burden
  - I.e., cap local spending growth for schools, cities, counties, etc.
  - This would limit spending for education and other local services like community health care

### Cash Reserve Fund Remains Below Healthy Balance

Cash Reserve Fund Balance as Share of General Fund Receipts, FY04 to FY23

Source: Legislative Fiscal Office, Tax Rate Review Committee Report (November 2020)

### Tax Threat

- PIT is most progressive source of state revenue
- Wealthy Nebraskans pay the most
- Sales tax is most regressive
- Low-income earners pay the most
- Cutting income taxes and broadening the sales tax base will raise taxes on low- and middle-income families while cutting taxes for the wealthiest Nebraskans
- If it's not revenue neutral, will require budget cuts

### Think about the alternatives!!!

- Paid leave
- Quality pre-K
- Worker's rights
- Child Care Credits
- EITC
- Unemployment benefits
- Affordable college
- Health care access
- Mental health
- Affordable Housing
- SNAP benefits
- After school programs
- AND MORE!!!

### Example of what this might look like

LB 405 Raises Taxes on 80% of Nebraskans

Income Group	Current Tax	Proposed Tax Increase
Lowest 20% (1-27%)	\$631	\$1,006
Second 20% (27-42%)	\$722	\$1,006
Middle 20% (42-60%)	\$98	\$98
Fourth 20% (60-81%)	\$0	\$0
Highest 20% (81-100%)	\$4,851	\$4,851

Source: LB 405 and Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy

### 2021 ANOTHER Tax Threat

- Blueprint Nebraska commissioned report from Tax Foundation
- Leaders from around the state committed their time and energy to put forth policy recommendations to grow the state
- First push out of the gate: tax cuts
- Not Tax Foundation's first Nebraska report
- Recommendations very similar to reports from 2013 & 2016

### Nebraska's Three-Legged Stool

State and Local Taxes by Type, 2018

Tax Type	Amount	Percentage
Property	3,878	38.2%
Personal Income	2,348	23.31%
Corporate Income	2,468	24.10%
General Sales	2,328	22.95%
Selective Sales	692M	6.83%
Other	565M	5.58%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2018 Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*  
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Time Dated Material  
Please Do Not Delay