

During the 1972 election campaigns, the Daily Nebraskan has editorially supported the following candidates:

President/Vice President: George McGovern and Sargent Shriver.

U. S. Senate: Neither candidate is satisfactory.

First District House of Representatives: Charles Thone.

Second District Board of Regents: Kermit Hansen.

Legislature, 27th District: Steve Fowler.

Legislature, 29th District: Fern Hubbard Orme.

County Judge: Ralph Slocum, Jeffre Chevront.

The Daily Nebraskan has editorially supported all amendments to the State Constitution except amendments one, five and 15.

Jim Gray
Tom Lansworth
Randy Beam

to legislators. The amount of per diem compensation would be set by law.

A vote **AGAINST** this amendment would retain the current constitutional maximum salary of \$400 a month, with no per diem pay for other legislative services. (Senators now receive actual expenses for one trip to and from each regular or special session of the Legislature and, as members of the Legislative Council, draw travel and other expenses but no per diem pay for attendance at legislative study committee meetings.)

Legislative vote: 30-14.

Education article Amendment 10

Constitutional amendments to recodify, revise and clarify provisions of Article VII of the Constitution of Nebraska.

A vote **FOR** this proposal would primarily rearrange the constitutional article relating to education in a more logical sequence. It would also clarify language prohibiting the distribution of funds to inoperative school districts. A vote **FOR** the amendment would also add to the article permissive wording allowing the Legislature to provide for the education of persons under five years of age and over 21 years of age in "educational institutions owned and controlled by the state or a political subdivision thereof."

A vote **AGAINST** this proposal would not rearrange the article, would not clarify language prohibiting the distribution of funds to inoperative school districts, and would not add the permissive language allowing the Legislature to provide for the education of persons of other than ages five through 21.

Special tax for off-street parking Amendment 11

Constitutional amendment providing authority for cities and villages to provide and maintain off-street parking by special assessments or taxation.

A vote **FOR** this amendment would enable the Legislature to enact laws giving cities and villages power to provide off-street parking facilities by special assessments or special

taxation; to levy special assessments for the maintenance, repair and reconstruction of off-street parking facilities; and to periodically redetermine and reallocate benefits arising from acquisition of off-street parking facilities. Municipalities have only those powers granted to them by the states, and adoption of this amendment would make it clear that those in Nebraska could provide for and finance off-street parking facilities if the Legislature agreed.

A vote **AGAINST** this amendment would withhold from the Legislature authority to enact laws giving cities and villages such off-street parking facility powers. Legislative vote: 37-6.

Judicial commission Amendment 12

Constitutional amendment increasing the size of judicial nominating commissions, inserting partisan limitations, eliminating the chairman (a Supreme Court judge) as a voting member, requiring disclosure of judicial applicant names prior to public hearing and requiring majority commission roll call vote for recommendation.

A vote **FOR** this amendment would increase the size of judicial nominating commissions from seven to nine. But the Supreme Court judge assigned chairman of the commission would no longer be permitted to vote on recommending judicial nominees to the governor. Nomination would be accomplished by a majority roll call decision of the eight voting commission members—four citizens appointed by the governor and four attorneys, elected by lawyers in the geographic area each commission services. No more than four voting members could be of the same political party. Names of candidates for judicial appointment would be made public prior to a commission's public hearing on the candidates.

A vote **AGAINST** would maintain commissions as seven-member units—three laymen named by the governor, three attorneys elected by fellow lawyers and the Supreme Court judge as chairman with voting power. There is no constitutional requirement for political balance in commission memberships, nor for public disclosure of names of judicial candidates. The

Constitution now makes no statement how many commission votes are necessary for a candidate's name to be recommended to the governor for possible appointment, and no provision is made for roll call vote.

Legislative vote: 45-0.

Public employes retirement benefits Amendment 13

Constitutional amendment to allow for adjustments in retirement benefits of retired public employes to reflect increases in cost of living and wage levels since their retirement.

A vote **FOR** this proposal would allow the Legislature to increase the retirement benefits of public employes who have previously retired. The change would allow for pension adjustments for teachers, firemen, policemen and other public employes to reflect changes in the cost of living.

A vote **AGAINST** this would retain the present system whereby no changes in compensation can be rendered to a public employe subsequent to retirement. The pension level received at the time of retirement would remain the same throughout the period of retirement despite changes in the pensions of other public employes who retired later.

Legislative vote: 42-1.

Tax commissioner Amendment 14

Constitutional amendment to remove state tax commissioner from State Board of Equalization and Assessment and replace him as the Legislature directs.

A vote **FOR** this amendment would eliminate the state tax commissioner as one of the five members of the State Board of Equalization. His responsibility would then be to officially advise the board and the Legislature would then determine how the fifth member of the board would be selected. The amendment also directs that the board "shall review and equalize assessments of property for taxation within the state."

A vote **AGAINST** the amendment would keep the board's membership as it presently exists—the popularly-elected governor, state

treasurer, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts and the gubernatorially-appointed tax commissioner. A vote **AGAINST** would retain the present system whereby the board may or may not review property tax assessments at its discretion.

Legislative vote: 37-3.

Conflict of interest Amendment 15

Constitutional amendment eliminating present conflict of interest restrictions on state officials and legislators and granting the Legislature flexibility to define what shall constitute impermissible conflicts of interest in the future.

A vote **FOR** this proposal would remove from the Constitution existing language which the attorney general has interpreted as preventing state officials from accepting another civil appointment to a state office. It would allow the Legislature to prescribe what constitutes a conflict of interest by individual senators. And it would require the Legislature to set standards and definitions for determining the existence of conflicts of interest in contracts as well as sanctions for enforcing those standards.

A vote **AGAINST** would maintain the injunctions of the Constitution against conflicts of interest, both direct and indirect, by members of the Legislature and individual state officials.

Legislative vote: 39-3.

Name change Amendment 16

Constitutional amendment to change the name of the State Railway Commission to the Public Service Commission.

A vote **FOR** this proposal would change the name of the constitutional body which has authority to regulate rates and services of common carriers within Nebraska borders. The present Railway Commission regulates not only railroads but many other public services. No change would be made either in the commission's powers or the members' election to six-year terms.

A vote **AGAINST** this proposal would keep the commission's present name.

Legislative vote: 44-1.