

Legislative Report - September 1, 2025
by Alice Licht-Anderson

Who has the crystal ball for 2026 Legislation and Issues? It's pretty much watching the current events and problems arising between now and the January Session. There are several things occurring that will most likely mold the actions in Lincoln. Events happening nationally will surely affect Congress and the Executive branches of government as well.

Property Tax Petition Drive launched for citizen-driven reduction in taxes. Two ballot measures are being prepared for citizen signatures to appear on the 2026 November ballot. Promoted by "Advocates For All Nebraskan" (AFAN), the first initiative proposes to amend state law to cut property valuations for homes from 100 to 50 percent and for ag and horticultural land from 75 to 37.5 percent. Petition two would cap property value increases at three percent or the growth rate of general fund tax receipts annually, whichever is lower. If the petitions achieve the total signatures required and they are passed by a vote of the people, these requirements will fall back to the Legislature to resolve funding resulting from reductions in revenue. The Nebraska County Officials Association and entities who rely on property tax revenue are already lining up in opposition to the proposals.

Will the Property Tax initiatives have an effect on the 2026 Legislature? As senators convene in Lincoln in January, it is possible the on-going initiatives may have an effect on legislation to address property taxes prior to the 2026 November election where the initiatives would appear.

Looking into other Legislative issues that may surface due to past and current news headlines.

- *Going forward from the 2025 session - boy's and girl's bathroom and locker room separation.
- *Current projections of tax revenue shortfalls and affect on re-looking at the current two-year budget passed in 2025.
- *University of Nebraska current proposed budget cuts and the affect on programs and divisions within the University.
- *Impact of federal proposals on Medicaid and how it relates to state programs.
- *Federal mandates and how they relate to education, health and human service programs and other federally funded initiatives.
- *Immigration policies and their effect on the state.
- *Carry-over legislation from the 2025 session.
- *2026 Elections - potential grandstanding by both sides of the aisle on all issues, both state and federal.
- *There is always legislation affecting citizen, business and other entities that is brought forward to correct problems.
- *Changes in abortion laws - no concrete legislation is surfacing at this point, but there is plenty of time before January for ideas.
- *School safety issues due to recent school shooting in Minneapolis.
- *Nothing surfacing so far on redistricting Congressional Districts as is occurring in Texas and California.

Such sadness and prayers offered for the parents, parishioners and students affected by the Minneapolis school shooting. Such a tragic event for all of the country. It has been too bad some in the media have taken a position that prayers are not useful in this situation. Most certainly prayers are so needed for all of those involved. Keep praying.

Till next newsletter,

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