

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

School Choice option included in Big Beautiful Bill passed by Congress. Donations to qualifying scholarship charitable organizations will now be available for a tax credit of up to \$1,700. Funds may be used for tuition or learning materials. A state “op-in” provision is included in the bill. At this time, it hasn’t been announced whether this could be done under the authority of the Governor or whether state legislation is required. The law takes effect for the 2027 tax year. As we receive more information, it will be included in this newsletter. This is a great victory for private as well as all schools in Nebraska, as it is not limited to only private schools.

2026 Election stirring up candidates in state races. Candidates are already surfacing for the 2026 Legislative races. Of the 49 state senators, one-half will be up for election in the even numbered districts. Term limits prevent nine of them from running again and one senator has elected not to re- run after her four-year term. Those not able to run are Senators John Arch, LaVista; Tom Brandt, Plymouth; Robert Clements, Elmwood; Wendy DeBoer, Bennington; Myron Dorn, Adams; Ben Hansen, Blair; Megan Hunt, Omaha; Mike Moser, Columbus; and Dave Murman, Glenvil. Senator Jane Raybould, Lincoln, has opted not to seek re-election. All state constitutional offices and Nebraska’s three Congressional Districts will be on the ballot. These include the Governor/Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and State Auditor. With Congressman Don Bacon stepping down in the Omaha area Congressional District, several candidates have already surfaced. Governor Pillen has announced he will seek re-election. Be watching as advertising has already begun.

State Budget Issues to headline 2026 Legislative Session. As of this writing, the current state budget revenue shortfall is predicted at around \$95 million based on state revenue forecasts. Coupled with that, Governor Pillen has announced his priority of cutting ten percent spending out the current budget which could amount to about \$500 million. The shortfall could change as the year progresses.

How to find your Senator. When issues surface and you would like to contact your state senator, there’s an easy way to find their contact information. Simply go the Nebraska Legislature home page, click on “Senators” on the left side of the page, click on “Find your Senator,” and enter your address (street, city, state and zip). Your senators photo and name will pop up. Then click on the “landing page,” and you will have their full information.

Till next newsletter,
Alice Licht-Anderson
alicelicht88@gmail.com