

**MINUTES**  
**TRI-COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**  
**ZOOM MEETING**  
**COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10th STREET, ROOM 112**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021**  
**8:00 A.M.**

*Advanced public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, website and emailed to media on January 22, 2021 and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on January 22, 2021.*

Vest noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:02 a.m.

Sarpy County: Angi Burmeister, County Commissioner; Dan Hoins, Sarpy County Administrator; Tim Gay and Kaitlin Reece, Catalyst Public Affairs (Sarpy County Lobbyists)

Douglas County: James Cavanaugh, Chris Rodgers, Mary Ann Borgeson, Maureen Boyle, Mike Friend, Mike Boyle, P.J. Morgan, County Commissioners; Marcos San Martin, Intergovernmental and Labor Relations Specialist; Daniel Esch, County Clerk; and Sean Kelley, Kelley Plucker LLC (Douglas County Lobbyist)

Lancaster County: Rick Vest, Deb Schorr, Roma Amundson, Christa Yoakum, Sean Flowerday, County Commissioners; Dave Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Leslie Brestel, County Clerk's Office; Joe Kohout and Brennen Miller, Kissel Kohout ES Associates (Lancaster County Lobbyists)

Senators: John Arch, Rita Sanders, Tom Brandt, Lou Ann Linehan, Suzanne Geist, Myron Dorn, Terrell McKinney, John Cavanaugh, Adam Morfeld, Wendy DeBoer, Eliot Bostar

**1. Welcome & Introductions of County Commissioners & Attending Leadership Staff – Joe Kohout, Lobbyist, Lancaster County Board of Commissioners**

Miller opened the meeting at 8:02 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Vest introduced the Lancaster County Commissioners.

- A. Lancaster
- B. Sarpy
- C. Douglas

**2. Lancaster County Priorities for 2021 Session (Lancaster County Commissioners)**

Derbin presented Lancaster County's priorities, which include preserving the inheritance tax, opposing LB310 (Change inheritance tax rates and exemption amounts), and supporting LB271 (Adopt the 24/7 Sobriety Program Act), LB663 (Require the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice to create a mental health indicator in a criminal justice information system to alert emergency dispatch operators), and LB242 (Provide for county bridges under the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act). He noted Lancaster County would be willing to pay the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) implementation fees associated with LB271.

**A. Questions**

Senator Brandt said the last section of LB242 is expected to be removed from the bill which will not affect the integrity of it.

**3. Douglas County Priorities for 2021 Session** (Douglas County Commissioners)

Marcos San Martin reviewed Douglas County's priorities (Exhibit 1) and high concerns (Exhibit 2). He noted LB215 (Change 911 service surcharge provisions) only effects Douglas County. It allows the 911 surcharges in Douglas County to be equal to all the other counties in the state.

Regarding LB613 (Change provisions relating to hearings and decisions on appeals under the Tax Equalization and Review Commission Act), San Martin stated the short timeframe for a decision from the Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) could result in lost revenue for the counties.

**A. Questions**

There were no questions.

**4. Sarpy County Priorities for 2021 Session** (Sarpy County Commissioners)

Reece and Gay presented Sarpy County's priorities as support for LB313 (Change provisions relating to late applications for homestead exemptions), LB242, LB178 (Adopt the Infrastructure Improvement and Replacement Assistance Act and provide for a turnback of state sales tax revenue) and LB414 (Change provisions of the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act). Legislation of high concern are LR22CA (Constitutional amendment to limit the total amount of property tax revenue that may be raised by political subdivisions) and LB310.

Regarding LB313, Burmeister said the bill would extend the ability for individuals to file a homestead exemption application if the individual has medical reasons supported by a doctor's note or due to the death of a spouse in the year the taxes are due. The county boards currently have limited options due to the statutory timeline. She stated the bill should not affect many people, but it would impact those who qualify. Gay added the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) is supportive of the bill.

**A. Questions**

There were no questions.

Miller thanked the senators for their time.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

  
Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk



**\*PENDING BOARD CONSIDERATION 1/26/21\***

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

***RESOLVED***

**WHEREAS**, the following legislative bills have been introduced in the Nebraska Unicameral: LB 83, LB 201, LB 215, LB 313, LB 462 and LB 585; and,

**WHEREAS**, as filed, the following bills are consistent with the November 24, 2020 legislative priorities supported by this Board, and/or these bills will result in a positive impact to Douglas County and should be *SUPPORTED* by this Board:

- LB 83, Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing;
- LB 201, Change provisions relating to jurisdiction over juveniles;
- LB 215, Change 911 service surcharge provisions;
- LB 313, Change provisions relating to late applications for homestead exemptions;
- LB 462, Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services;
- LB 585, Appropriate funds for local public health departments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA**, that this Board does hereby support and urges the approval of the bills stated above, and/or related legislation, and directs the County's lobbyists to pursue the success of this legislation throughout the 2021 107<sup>th</sup> Nebraska Unicameral, 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

**RESOLVED**

**WHEREAS**, each year, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners prepares a set of legislative priorities; and,

**WHEREAS**, in addition to these priorities, the County Board considers formally supporting, opposing or watching bills throughout each legislative session consistent with the County's legislative priorities, and/or based on the potential public policy impact of any filed bill or amendment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the following priorities shall be the County's initial priorities in anticipation of Nebraska's 107<sup>th</sup> Unicameral's 1<sup>st</sup> Session, scheduled to commence in January 2021, in no specific order:

1. SUPPORT legislation that provides counties with greater authority and/or more local control in matters of juvenile justice and public health.
2. SUPPORT legislation re-appropriating funds for the County Justice Reinvestment Program, to continue to financially assist in offsetting increased correctional costs due to the impact of LB605 [104<sup>th</sup>], which revised the classification of penalties, punishments, probation, parole and restitution provisions within the state's criminal justice statutes.
3. SUPPORT legislation to revise Neb. Rev. Stat. §§86-435, §86-457, and §86-903 et seq., to provide uniformity in the collection of 911 surcharges, allowing counties containing a city of the metropolitan class the ability to collect the same surcharge amount per active telephone number as all other counties; current collected surcharges are expended for the improvement, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications equipment and related services as required for local 911 facilities.
4. SUPPORT efforts to preserve Neb. Rev. Stat. §§77-2004, 2005, 2006, and 77-2040, inheritance tax rates and exemption amounts; the loss or reduction in the proceeds will impact county budgets. Douglas County primarily uses inheritance tax proceeds to fund essential and mandated services to our community.
5. SUPPORT legislation revising the Nebraska Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§84-1407 through 1414) to allow members of public bodies, such as a County Board, to appear and vote 'virtually' via video-telephony (example, *Zoom*, *Google Meet*) during periods of health and/or public emergency crises.
6. SUPPORT legislation requiring a racial impact statement for any legislative bill that significantly affects criminal or juvenile justice and/or allow a committee chair or bill sponsor to request such statement regardless of the bill's subject matter.
7. SUPPORT legislation to revise the current motor vehicle licensing statutes to provide for highly visible temporary license plates/tags affixed to the exterior rear of a vehicle where permanent license plates/tags will be affixed. Regional states issue weather-resistant temporary plates with holographic decals; adopt similar statutory provisions as the states of Kansas, Wyoming and/or Arkansas.

Resolution No: 0690  
ADOPTED: November 24, 2020

8. SUPPORT legislation to appropriate funds to support county health departments specifically for community public health protection, disease prevention and mitigation.

**WHEREAS**, this legislation will result in a beneficial impact on Douglas County and is in the best interest of our residents to support these priorities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA**, that this Board hereby supports the legislative priorities stated above, or related legislation, and directs the County's lobbyists to pursue the advancement of these priorities during the 2021 107<sup>th</sup> Nebraska Unicameral, 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

DATED this 24th day of November, 2020

Motion by Borgeson, second by Boyle to approve. I move the adoption of the resolution.

Adopted: November 24, 2020

Yeas: Boyle, Borgeson, Cavanaugh, Morgan, Rodgers, Duda

Absent: Kraft

(CERTIFIED COPY)



Daniel A. Esch

Douglas County Clerk

Resolution No: 0690  
ADOPTED: November 24, 2020

**BILLS OF HIGH CONCERN**

- **LB310 Change inheritance tax rates and exemption amounts;** (Revenue; Sen. Clements)

This bill will significantly reduce the inheritance tax proceeds to Counties.

- **LB408 Adopt the Property Tax Request Act;** (Revenue; Sen. Briese)

This bill will limit a political subdivision's yearly property tax request not to exceed its property tax request in the prior year by more than three percent unless approved by voters.

- **LB613 Change provisions relating to hearings and decisions on appeals under the Tax Equalization and Review Commission Act;** (Revenue; Sen. Erdman)

This bill adds a 'speedy hearing right' to TERC appeals; if no decision by TERC has been reached within nine months after the filing date of the appeal, the appeal shall be decided in favor of the property owner.

- **LB622 Limit the growth of real property valuations and provide for adjustments to assessed values;** (Revenue; Sen. Friesen)

This bill will create an annual limit on real property value increases.

**OTHER BILLS OF CONCERN**

- **LB54 and LB71 Change provisions relating to intentional tort claims under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act and State Tort Claims Act;** (Judiciary; Sen. Lathrop, Sen. Wayne)
- **LB133 Adopt the Nebraska EPIC Consumption Tax Act and eliminate certain other taxes;** (Revenue; Sen. Erdman)
- **LB151 Adopt the Prosecutorial Transparency Act;** (Judiciary; Sen. Morfeld)
- **LB189 Change provisions relating to property tax refunds;** (Revenue; Sen. Halloran)
- **LB207 Change provisions relating to the date when compensation begins under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act;** (Business; Sen. McDonnell)
- **LB407 Include certain county correctional officers in provisions governing mental injuries and mental illnesses under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act;** (Business; Sen. McDonnell)
- **LB419 Require appointment of counsel in eviction proceedings and provide for a filing fee;** (Judiciary; Sen. J. Cavanaugh)
- **LB679 Require the Tax Commissioner to collect lodging taxes as prescribed;** (Revenue; Sen. Linehan)