



**Nebraska  
Civic  
Engagement  
Table**

The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table works with nonprofits to increase voting and build an engaged Nebraska.

**[nebraskatable.org](http://nebraskatable.org)**

**SPEAK  
YOUR  
PEACE.  
VOTE.**



# DONORS

The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table grew from an idea into a reality with the vision and trust of local and national donors and foundations. Their support has helped historically underrepresented communities build collective power through voting, public policy advocacy, and leadership development. We owe our thanks to:



**Voices from  
the Field**

**HOLLAND**  
foundation

Fred and Eve  
**Simon Foundation**

Dr. Katie  
**Weitz**

**LOZIER**<sup>®</sup>  
FOUNDATION

Todd and Betiana  
**Simon**

**Weitz** | FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

 **Mutual of Omaha**

Annette and Paul  
**Smith**

Woods  
Charitable  
Fund 

**NSEA**  
150+  
Nebraska State Education Association

 **THE Sherwood**  
FOUNDATION<sup>®</sup>

 **STATE VOICES**

# Dear Friends,

2019 was a transformative year for the Nebraska Civic Engagement Table, our network, and state. Inside you will see the final pieces coming together to prepare us for what lies ahead in 2020 and beyond. Heading into 2019, we worked with our members to build a work plan that prioritized three key areas: deepening understanding and use of Table resources; strengthening our internal capacity to support our members; and preparing our members for significant opportunities awaiting us in 2020, including the census, general election, and ballot initiatives.

## Some of our top highlights from that work include:

- **Kicking off the year with the largest nonpartisan Get-Out-The-Vote effort for the Lincoln municipal elections our state has ever seen, which was followed by the highest turnout rate for a Lincoln municipal race in the city's history**
- **Doubling the size of our team to better meet the needs of our growing membership**
- **Elevating Nebraska's national presence by strengthening our relationship with the State Voices affiliated network**
- **Connecting our members with more than 60,000 Nebraska voters through phone calls, door knocking, texts, and mail**
- **Laying the foundation for a fully coordinated nonprofit "Complete Count" committee, dedicated to ensuring ALL Nebraskans are fairly represented in the 2020 Census**



After four years of putting our theory of change to the test, we are ready to see it fully realized in 2020. We are here because of your strong belief that a healthy democracy is one in which everyone is engaged and listened to regardless of race, gender, immigration status, class, ability, sexuality, or religion. The foundation YOU have built will allow us to mobilize more communities than ever before. It couldn't have come at a more pivotal time for our state.

Thank you,

Zack Burgin



# We are the Nebraska Table



**Melissa Breazile**  
*Communications Director*  
She/Her  
melissa@nebraskatable.org  
Team member since January 2020

Melissa oversees the Table's communications, including our statewide Census communications campaign, our weekly email and member communications, in addition to providing comprehensive support and training around strategic digital outreach, media relations, and messaging guidance. She is also an expert at dropping witty comments into the team's group chat.



**Emma Craig**  
*Data Director*  
She/Her  
emma@nebraskatable.org  
Team member since December 2018

Emma provides comprehensive training and support to our members, helping them integrate data targeting and collection into their field programs. She sure knows her way around a spreadsheet (and can show you some cool tricks)!



**Zack Burgin**  
*Executive Director*  
He/Him  
zack@nebraskatable.org  
Team member since February 2016

Zack has led the Table since we launched in 2016. In addition to growing the team to a staff of 15 and building our national partnerships, he has given many a Table program their start as a "shower idea."



**Guadalupe Esquivel**  
*Social Media Manager*  
She/Her  
guadalupe@nebraskatable.org  
Team member since January 2019

Also known as our resident Meme Queen, Guadalupe completed field and communications internships at the Table in 2019. Now she manages our social media and weekly member emails. Her spot-on sense of humor reminds us of all that is good in the world.



# We are the Nebraska Table



## **Sandy Griffin**

*Field Manager*

She/Her

sandy@nebraskatable.org

Team member since August 2017

Sandy works closely with our members to create and implement successful grassroots organizing campaigns, and has been an integral part of the Table's 2020 Census efforts. Sandy's quick to offer a helping hand, and we literally do not know what we would do without her.



## **Kinzie Mabon**

*Field Director*

She/Her/They/Them

kinzie@nebraskatable.org

Team member since August 2017

Kinzie leads our field department, helping member organizations create robust civic engagement programs that build long-term power in historically underrepresented communities. She is also building the next generation of community organizers through our nationally known Organizer School. Kinzie also manages our official Table mascot, her dog Lu.



## **Karina Hernandez**

*Voter Registration Manager*

She/Her

karina@nebraskatable.org

Team member since August 2018

Karina is our voter registration expert, helping build long-term power in our members' communities by engaging all Nebraskans in the electoral process. Members count on her to help them create new voter registration programs, or incorporate them into existing initiatives and events. Karina's passion for making sure every voice is heard gets our vote!



## **J. Petersen**

*Administrative Assistant*

He/Him

jonathan@nebraskatable.org

Team member since May 2018

J. helps our team with a little bit of everything from event planning to communications, grant management, and member support. He is incredibly patient about all of his "other duties as assigned" and can always be counted on for a perfectly timed gif.



# We are the Nebraska Table



## **Angie Remington**

*Deputy Director*

She/Her

angie@nebraskatable.org

Team member since April 2016

As Deputy Director, Angie supervises our team of Directors, and she ensures Table programs and work plan goals embody our mission of increasing representation and centering racial equity. Angie also owns her role as the hopelessly unhip Table “mom” (but we actually think she’s pretty cool).



## **Aracely Rodriguez**

*Operations Director*

She/Her

aracely@nebraskatable.org

Team member since September 2017

What can’t Aracely do? Taking on everything from accounting to “light” construction projects, Aracely dedicates herself to constantly improving our internal processes and making sure our team and our members have what they need to be successful. Her secret superpower is asking you to do something and making you laugh at the same time.



## **Kimara Snipe**

*Community Partnership Manager*

She/Her

kimara@nebraskatable.org

Team member since January 2019

Kimara works with our members and community partners to provide training and to help connect organizations with collaborative opportunities. Kimara is an integral part of the social justice community, and if you’ve ever been to a nonprofit event in Omaha, there’s a good chance you met Kimara there!

# 2019 Interns

## **Guadalupe Esquivel** | She/Her

NCET Field Intern Spring 2019,  
Communications Intern Fall 2019

Guadalupe is now the Table's Social Media Manager!



## **Mar Lee**

They/Them  
NCET Field Intern Fall 2019

Mar is currently interning with two Table Members: they are a policy intern with Disability Rights Nebraska and a communications intern with the ACLU of Nebraska.

"The Table internship for me was an experience that guided me gently into the professional world, which is incredibly new and different for someone like me who comes from a blue collar background. Through working with the Table staff, I was able to grow incredibly by cultivating and nurturing the skills I already had and learning how to apply them in a more strategic practice that is far more effective for community organizing. Another thing I appreciate is the hands-on experience: by the end of my internship, I had led a voter registration volunteer training and rally on my own campus of UNL!"

# Our Board

We would like to thank our Board of Directors for their inspiring leadership and dedication to empowering the rising electorate in Nebraska. We are grateful for your active leadership and guidance.

## **2020 Board of Directors**

*President*, Dr. Katie Weitz, Weitz Family Foundation

*Treasurer*, Nic Swiercek, Nebraska Appleseed

*Secretary*, Jasmine Harris, RISE

Rachel Fox, You Go Girl

Kimberly Goins,  
Boys & Girls Club of Lincoln/Lancaster County

Sarah Ann Kotchian,  
Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

Meg Mikolajczyk,  
Planned Parenthood North Central States

Raul Muñoz, Heartland Workers Center

Kathy Steinauer Smith, Woods Charitable Fund

Additional gratitude to Lucia Pedroza, formerly of Heartland Workers Center, and Jordan Rasmussen, formerly of Center for Rural Affairs, for their board service in 2019.



# Table Members

\* Founding Member  
+ Table Partner as of 2020

## Joined 2016

ACLU Nebraska  
 Black Men United\*+  
 Bold Alliance\*  
 Center for Rural Affairs\*  
 Centro Hispano  
 Civic Nebraska\*  
 Coalition for a Strong  
 Nebraska+  
 Common Cause\*  
 Community Action  
 of Nebraska+  
 Disability Rights of Nebraska  
 Habitat for Humanity Omaha  
 Health Center Association  
 of Nebraska+  
 Heartland Workers Center\*  
 Holland Children's Institute\*  
 Immigrant Legal Center  
 Inclusive Communities+  
 inCOMMON  
 Institute for Public  
 Leadership  
 League of Women Voters of  
 Greater Omaha  
 Malcolm X Memorial  
 Foundation\*  
 Nebraska AIDS Project\*  
 Nebraska Appleseed\*  
 Nebraska Coalition for  
 Lifesaving Cures+  
 Nebraska Conservation  
 Education Fund  
 Neighborworks Lincoln

Nonprofit Association  
 of the Midlands\*  
 OutNebraska (formerly  
 Outlinc)\*  
 Planned Parenthood North  
 Central States  
 Rebuild Nebraska+  
 Together Omaha  
 Voices for Children\*  
 Women's Fund of Omaha\*  
 Young Nonprofit  
 Professionals Network  
 Greater Omaha+

## Joined 2018

Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska  
 Collective for Youth  
 Community Justice Center  
 East African Community of  
 Nebraska  
 Eastern Nebraska Community  
 Action Partnership  
 Education Rights Counsel  
 Empowerment Network  
 League of Women Voters of  
 Nebraska  
 Malone Center  
 Nebraskans for the Arts

New Life Family Alliance  
 No More Empty Pots  
 Nonprofit Hub+  
 Omaha Community  
 Broadcasting  
 Omega Psi Phi  
 Panhandle Partnership+  
 Rabble Mill  
 Somali American Heritage  
 Society of Nebraska  
 Tri-Faith Initiative  
 YWCA Lincoln

## Joined 2017

Arc of Nebraska  
 Compassion in Action Omaha  
 GLSEN - Omaha Chapter  
 Latino Center of the Midlands  
 National Coalition of 100 Black  
 Women - Omaha Chapter  
 South of Downtown  
 Community Development  
 Union for Contemporary Art  
 Unity in Action  
 Wellbeing Partners

## Joined 2019

Asian Cultural Community Center  
 Black Votes Matter Institute for Community Engagement  
 CASA for Douglas County+  
 Comunidad Maya: Pixan Ixim  
 El Centro de las Americas Cultural Center  
 Empowering Families  
 Nebraskans Against Gun Violence  
 North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance  
 RISE  
 South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance  
 Women's Foundation of Lincoln/Lancaster County  
 You Go Girl  
 YWCA Grand Island

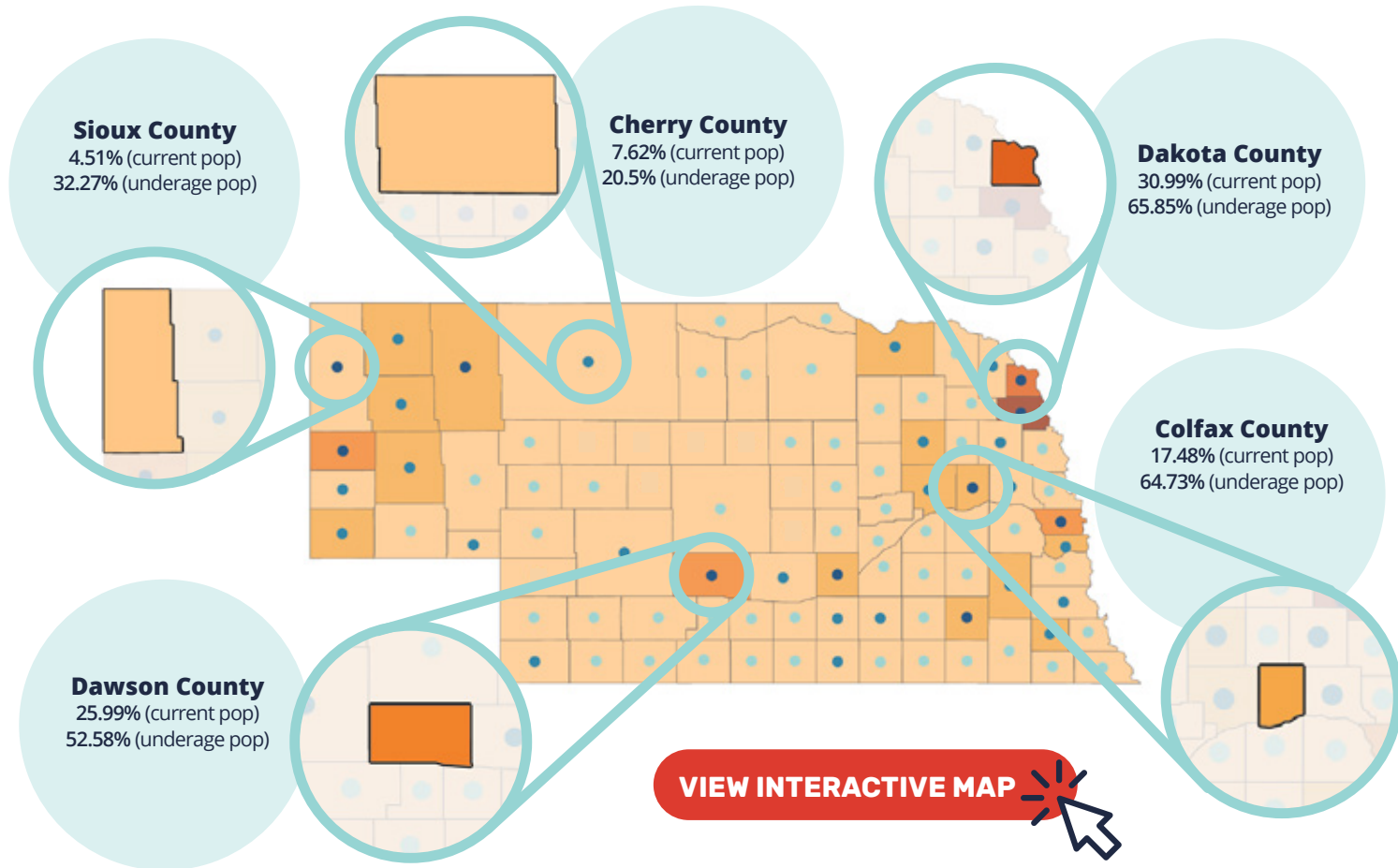
# TOTAL

# Members: 74



# Increasing Representation

Counties marked below have a growing population of non-white youth who will make up a larger portion, or in some cases majority share, of eligible voters in the coming years. The map highlights 5 counties where the electorate will shift to majority non-white over the next 18 years. For a county-by-county breakdown, click on the interactive map link below





# Civic Engagement Fund

## Community Organizing



### **inCOMMON Community Development**

**Amount funded: \$7,500**

**Project:** Workforce development activities, Local Leader School, planning, and resident-led community betterment projects with 450+ residents of Omaha's Park Avenue neighborhood



### **Brain Injury Alliance**

**Amount funded: \$7,000**

**Project:** Advocacy and support for Brain Injury Trust Fund legislation, which was passed into law in 2019



### **National Coalition of 100 Black Women Greater Omaha Chapter**

**Amount funded: \$7,300**

**Project:** Series of 11 public events connecting 885 primarily Black women and youth with their state senators, education about legislative bills to NCBW100's network of sororities, churches, and partner organizations



### **Education Rights Counsel & Disability Rights Nebraska**

**Amount funded: \$5,000**

**Grassroots lobbying to oppose the Restraint Bill LB 147. Collaborative education on the rights of persons with disabilities and how to effectuate them, presented to public defenders, judges, attorneys, community advocates, and organizations serving children with disabilities**



# Civic Engagement Fund



## **Nebraska Appleseed**

**Amount funded: \$7,075**

**Project:** Train-the-trainer event with 23 immigrant, refugee, Latinx, and African American leaders from rural and urban communities across the state, focused on civic engagement, census, and the power of traditionally excluded voices

## **Together Inc.**

**Amount funded: \$10,000**

**Project:** In-depth surveys of people accessing the all-choice food pantry at Together

## **Somali American Heritage Society of Nebraska**

**Amount funded: \$5,000**

**Project:** Civic engagement workshop to educate Omaha's Somali community about city government, voter registration, and the 2020 Census



## **GRASSROOTS LOBBYING**

### **Habitat for Humanity of Omaha**

**Amount funded: \$1,500**

**Project:** Attendees at the lobby day included Habitat staff from multiple affiliates/cities, current and future homeowners, and Legislators representing traditionally excluded voices



# Civic Engagement Fund

## Get Out the Vote/Voter Registration

### Civic Nebraska

Amount funded: \$2,330

Project: GOTV canvassing, mailing, phonebanking, and voter registration events with VOTE! UNO student group coalition partners and volunteers

### East African Community of Nebraska

Amount funded: \$8,310

Project: Community workshops for South Sioux City's East African population (including native Somali, Oromo, Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Congolese peoples) on issues they can impact by voting and engaging in civic life.

**320** East African refugees and immigrants attended **5** community events. **70+** new voters registered

### National Coalition of 100 Black Women

Amount funded: \$4,200

Project: Voter registration initiatives and voter engagement with 300 voters

### Unity in Action

Amount funded: \$7,000

Project: Voter registration, engagement, and GOTV outreach targeted to Latinx and East African residents at 15 community events; presentations to seniors at South Sioux High School

### Nonprofit Hub

Amount funded: \$540

Project: Voter registration events for college students and new voters

# Voter Registration

The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table works to create, grow, and enhance the civic engagement efforts of more than 70 nonprofit organizations across the state. Our nonprofit members have strong relationships in Nebraska's most underserved and underrepresented communities. Historically, these communities have depressed voter participation, leading to a lack of representation by the policymakers who directly impact their lives and families.

**We believe nonprofits are best suited to build long-term power in their communities through year-round civic engagement programs, including nonpartisan voter registration. Nonprofits have deep roots and established trust they have built over years of serving individuals who are disenfranchised and often ignored by political institutions.**

To put our theory of change in action, in 2019 we launched our Voter Registration core support program with the addition of Karina Hernandez, Voter Registration Program Manager, to the Table team. With only Lincoln municipal and tribal elections being held, we knew 2019 would be a slow year for traditional civic engagement efforts (such as GOTV). Still, it was a **crucial year for preparing nonprofits with the data tools and best practices they would need to build strong voter engagement for the 2020 election cycle and beyond.**

**In 2019**, a total of 43,255 voters were registered in the 26 counties where our members worked.

**In comparison**, the total number of new registered voters in Nebraska's remaining 65 counties was only 6,260.

**1,334**



average number of new voters registered in counties where our nonprofit members conducted concentrated efforts

**96**



average number of new voters registered in counties where our members did NOT work



# Voter Registration

“I love working with folks who are doing this work for the first time. It’s so rewarding to collaborate with each member to see what efforts work best with their communities and to support them as they implement their plans.”

**Karina Hernandez** (she/her)  
*Nebraska Civic Engagement  
Voter Registration Manager*

“Getting out the vote and engaging our friends and neighbors requires partnership. I’m grateful for the opportunity to utilize my network and knowledge of people power to make sure we are all represented, all the time.”

**Kimara Snipe** (she/her)  
*Nebraska Civic Engagement Table  
Community Partnership Manager*

The member organizations below registered voters in their communities in 2019. Many organizations did this work for the *first time*(\*).

## **National Coalition of 100 Black Women\***

NCBW100 knew quality conversation and a welcoming environment would be the best way to build engagement. They used neighborhood events, community services, and trusted messengers to talk to potential new voters in areas with historically low voter turnout.  
*Program:* Door-to-door and event canvassing focused on new voters in North Omaha and Sarpy County. They also plan to run voter registration and GOTV in 2020.

## **Civic Nebraska\***

By tapping into the passion of student leaders, Civic Nebraska created a self-sustaining model for student-led civic engagement. This is especially effective because studies have shown that social pressure is the most effective motivator for voter participation.  
*Program:* Connecting with student organizations on college and university campuses to build sustainable peer-based voter registration programs.

## **Latino Center of the Midlands\***

Known as the “911 of South Omaha,” the Latino Center is an example of an organization that has built deep trust within Omaha’s Latinx immigrant community. The education they provide, such as know-your-rights workshops and citizenship classes, goes hand-in-hand with building civic strength.  
*Program:* Engage Latinx, low-income, new citizens, and youth in voter registration and GOTV initiatives through existing programming. →



# Voter Registration

## **Nebraska AIDS Project\***

As an advocacy organization and a direct service provider, NAP has built relationships as both a trusted source of accurate information and a provider of essential testing and counseling.

*Program:* Run voter registration through TurboVote (online) and paper applications at their testing locations.

## **Unity in Action\***

Collaboration superstars Unity in Action and East African Community of Nebraska modeled the power of collective effort to reach immigrant communities in South Sioux City, Nebraska.

*Program:* 13 community events (600 attendees) targeting Latinx and East African immigrants; single women.

## **South of Downtown**

### **Community Development\***

SODCD has been building grassroots relationships in the Near-South neighborhood in Lincoln for several years, providing educational workshops and building social capital through small community events.

*Program:* Run voter registration through existing events with a goal of creating eight voter registration events in 2020.

### **inCOMMON Community Development\***

For decades, inCOMMON has been building social capital through one-on-one conversations with neighbors in Omaha's Park Avenue neighborhood, a low-income area with an increasingly non-white population.

*Program:* Incorporate voter registration into ongoing community events; annual Block Party.

## **OutNebraska**

In 2019, OutNebraska expanded its programming to reach TLGBQIA+ Nebraskans statewide - and with a full-time community organizer on staff for the first time, expanded voter registration efforts from Omaha to the Panhandle and in communities between.

*Program:* In addition to existing "Drag Your Butts to the Polls" events, register new voters at Pride and other community events.

### **East African Community of Nebraska\***

South Sioux City, Nebraska, has been a hub for refugee communities for many years, including a growing population of Somali, Ethiopian, and Eritrean immigrants.

*Program:* Register eligible voters and new citizens through community workshops and events.

# Voter Registration

## **Planned Parenthood North Central States**

The Planned Parenthood name is synonymous with trust, having stood as a provider of affordable and confidential healthcare for more than 100 years, and with political action as advocates for accessible care, particularly for low-income and TLGBQIA+ communities.

*Program:* Use TurboVote and QR codes to register eligible voters in their clinics, which serve thousands of Nebraskans each year.

## **Nonprofit Hub\***

The Nonprofit Hub is situated close to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, with accessible workspaces and a new coffee shop, and has built a reputation not only as a studying hotspot, but as an employer for students as well.

*Program:* Social media advertising for a two-day voter registration event.

## **YWCA of Grand Island\***

Since 1912, the YWCA of Grand Island has served Hall County as advocates for accessible community education, empowering women/womyn, and fighting racism in their community.

*Program:* Lead a coalition of community partners in Grand Island and Hastings to register new voters in the tri-city area.







# 2019 by the Numbers

In 2019 our data department temporarily doubled in size with the addition of Data Manager Emma Craig. Emma's position was created to address an increased demand for access to the Table's data tools and technology, and also as part of our succession plan for our previous director, Brett Andres, who hoped to secure a position on a national campaign in 2020. Emma was promoted to Data Director as planned in October 2019. Together, Emma and Brett expanded the Table's data visualization tools and rolled out a new texting tool to our members in preparation for 2020.

## 4 Table members

conducted GOTV activities for the Lincoln Municipal election, including OutNebraska, South of Downtown Community Development Organization, Civic Nebraska, and Nebraska Appleseed

**20 trainings** provided to individual members by our data team

**10 Table members** registered voters in **26** counties



**715** doors knocked



**19,092** calls made

**8 representatives** from **4 member organizations** attended the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center conference in Las Vegas, NV

# 2019 by the Numbers

**61,886** individuals were engaged directly by Table members

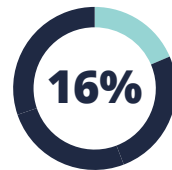


**42,523** texts sent

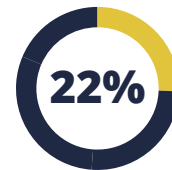
**43,255** voters were registered in **26 counties** where our members worked

## 2019 Lincoln Municipal Election

**2015** (before the Table was founded)

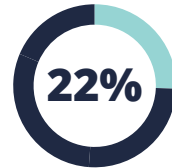


Primary

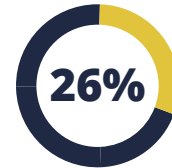


General

**2018**



Primary



General

After three years of a collaborative nonprofit effort to turn out voters - with the Table's data tools, field support, and communications guidance - **this is the highest turnout in a municipal election in Lincoln's history.**

"I love helping organizations further their missions and improve lives in the communities they serve through the use of data skills, analysis, and practice."

- Emma Craig (she/her) | Nebraska Civic Engagement Table, Data Director



# Organizer School

2019 was our second year of Organizer School, a program through which we hire, train, and place community organizers with member organizations while providing salary and benefits for one year.

The program's purpose is 1) to help nonprofits realize the benefit of having a full-time organizer on staff, 2) to gather data to support their programs and secure future funding, and 3) to create a leadership pipeline for talented advocates in underserved and underrepresented communities. We're thrilled to report that both of our 2019 organizers stayed on with their organizations and are continuing to build strong community support for their missions through 2020.

Even though this flagship program is still relatively new, it is picking up steam across the country! To date 4 states have reached out directly to our Field Director for assistance in setting up a beta program for their table!





# Organizer School

## Meet the Organizers



**Eric Reiter**  
OutNebraska  
They/Them

47 voters registered  
16 events with 328 attendees  
26 new volunteers engaged

In 2019 Eric focused on registering new LGBTQ+ voters and on gaining support for LB 627, a statewide workplace anti-discrimination bill.

“This program gave me the opportunity to work for the only statewide nonprofit doing LGBTQ+ public policy and grassroots advocacy in Nebraska - a personal passion I thought I would have to leave the state to fulfill. I came into Organizer School with very raw skills and some understanding, and the training I received through this program sharpened my skill set, provided me with foundational and institutional knowledge, and set me up on a trajectory to accomplish revolutionary change for my organization and my community.”



**Claudia Granillo**  
Wellbeing Partners  
She/Her

17 events with 297 attendees  
6 Highlander Advisory Council members

Claudia worked to establish collaborative community relationships that ultimately advanced new safety protocols for school children along North Omaha’s busy 30th Street corridor.

“At The Highlander [community center] on 30th St. in North Omaha, we extended the crossing light at Lake St., painted two missing sidewalks at Patrick Ave and Blondo St., and added ‘yield to pedestrian’ signs. The Omaha Police Department’s Northeast precinct held a special event on 30th St. during back to school week, and the Omaha Public Schools transportation department is working with Wellbeing Partners and OPS bus drivers to make sure children are getting dropped off and picked up without having to cross 30th St.”



# Grassroots Advocacy

**DOWNLOAD**  
full legislative  
breakdown



In 2019, the Table partnered again with Coalition for a Strong Nebraska to provide comprehensive support for our members' public policy efforts. With the Table's support, more members engaged with other nonprofits and with their communities to advance their public policy priorities, or to block legislation that would harm their communities.

## LEGISLATIVE SUPERSTARS



### OutNebraska

In 2019 OutNebraska testified in committee hearings for all 10 pro-TLGBQIA+ bill introduced. OutNebraska used the Table's peer-to-peer texting software to contact 11,000 constituents in 12 districts across Nebraska about LB 627, a bill that would prohibit discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Finally, they hosted a grassroots letter writing event for 20 community members.

### Women's Fund of Omaha & Voices for Children

The Women's Fund of Omaha and Voices for Children partnered this session to push for Paid Medical Leave. Together with the Table, they coordinated a joint text campaign, where they targeted voters in a handful of districts to contact their senators about supporting LB 311, the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act.



25

members worked to support socially responsible legislation

33

bills supported in 2019 (up from 8 in 2018)

7

members worked in collaboration with at least one other member to advance or oppose a bill

# Legislative Superstars



## Tri-Faith Initiative

Following a race-based attack on a young Muslim woman in Lincoln, Tri-Faith Initiative worked with the Table to create a text campaign to constituents in the districts of 10 senators who had not signed LR118, urging them to ask their senators to condemn racist violence. Their efforts resulted in one additional sign-on and provided the family of the victim the opportunity to share a letter that was read on the floor of the Unicameral.

## Brain Injury Alliance

Brain Injury Alliance hosted a lobby day, where supporters were invited to come and speak with their legislators about issues facing the Brain Injury community. Before their lobby day, the Brain Injury Alliance collected stories from Nebraskans affected by brain injuries for inclusion in a book, distributed to Senators. LB 642, Create the Brain Injury Trust Fund, was amended into LB481 and was approved by the governor!



## Planned Parenthood, Women's Fund of Omaha & ACLU Nebraska

After a string of anti-abortion legislation had been introduced and passed in states like Alabama, Georgia, and Missouri, Planned Parenthood partnered with the ACLU to hold a rally in the rotunda of the Nebraska Unicameral where senators, supporters, and Planned Parenthood and ACLU staff spoke about the dangerous legislation being passed across the country. Planned Parenthood also coordinated with the Table to have tablets available to get attendees to call their senators and urge them to oppose LB 209 after the rally.

**DOWNLOAD** full legislative breakdown





# Working Together to Count all Nebraskans in 2020

The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table has been preparing our nonprofit member organizations for Census 2020 since early 2018, as part of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and State Voices national cohort of nonprofits (S-CAN) working in historically undercounted communities. NCET, along with partners at the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM) and Civic Nebraska have led the creation of a statewide coalition of nonprofit organizations working to ensure that every Nebraskan is counted in the 2020 Census.



**-\$461M**

In 2020, Nebraska is at risk of undercounting at least 22,000 people in hard-to-count populations. Undercounting results in a loss of an estimated \$21,000 of federal funding per person over a 10-year period.



# Path to a Complete Count

## FEBRUARY 2018

The Table attends the first S-CAN convening, a national cohort of 501c3 organizations working to ensure a complete and accurate count for historically undercounted communities in the 2020 Census. The meeting was hosted by The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and State Voices.

## JUNE 2018

We host the first "Census Workgroup" meeting as part of our Q2 member meeting.

## SEPTEMBER 2018

As part of our Q3 member meeting, we host a census Q&A with State Voices regarding the threat of a potential citizenship question.

## FEBRUARY 2019

Representatives from the Table, NAM, and Civic Nebraska attend the S-CAN meeting in Washington, D.C., and visit with Nebraska's congressional representatives to lobby for adequate census funding and the exclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census questionnaire.

## JUNE 2019

The Nebraska Legislature approves a bill to form a statewide CCC, led by the State Data Center at the University of Nebraska Omaha. The bill is vetoed by Governor Pete Ricketts, citing a lack of state oversight.

U.S. Supreme Court blocks inclusion of the question "Is this person a U.S. Citizen?" on the 2020 Census, citing "contrived reasons."

## JULY 2019

The Table hosts 11 member organizations to discuss a coordinated nonpartisan GOTC effort. The group votes to officially form a Complete Count Committee, "Nebraska Counts," composed of 501c3 nonprofit organizations.

## DECEMBER 2019

The Table hires a Communications Director to manage the statewide media campaign.

Civic Nebraska hires canvassers and begins phone banking efforts in hard-to-count census tracts.

## SEPTEMBER 2019

Nebraska Counts officially announces its formation in the media.

Plans to create an English/Spanish statewide TV, print, radio, and digital media campaign begin to take form, with the Table, Civic Nebraska, and NAM working together to coordinate field and communications efforts.

## OCTOBER 2019

Civic Nebraska hires a Census Director to oversee coordination of field outreach in 30 census tracts statewide that are at high risk for being undercounted.

## AUGUST 2019

Nebraska Counts members receive CCC training. Representatives from the Table and NAM attend Regional S-CAN meeting in Dallas.

## 2020

As of April 2020, Nebraska Counts has provided \$62,333 to 12 nonprofit organizations working statewide. We have direct outreach efforts (door-to-door and telephone) in 22 urban and rural census tracts. These census tracts are home to Latinx, AAPI, Sudanese, Somali, and Indigenous communities, among other historically undercounted groups. Up to 97% of residents in our neighborhoods are Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).



# Organizer Retreat

In November 2019 our field team and 18 organizers from eleven nonprofits attended the Table's first Organizer Retreat, hosted by Centro Hispano in Columbus. Together we created a collaborative strategy for 2020 Census, GOTV, Voter Registration, and ballot measures. Attendees learned about writing field plans for voter outreach efforts, shared challenges and hopes for their work, and strengthened their relationships.

## Organizations that attended:

Center for Rural Affairs  
Civic Nebraska  
Heartland Workers Center  
Immigrant Legal Center  
inCOMMON  
League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha  
League of Women Voters of Nebraska  
Nebraska Appleseed  
OutNebraska  
Planned Parenthood  
Unity in Action



"One of my favorite memories from last year was convening organizers across the state to talk about the work they do to empower all Nebraskans at the Organizer Retreat.

It can be easy to feel alone doing this work. There's strength in numbers, and Nebraska is fortunate enough to have so many talented and passionate people working to make the state representative of everyone."

**Sandy Griffin** (she/her)  
*Nebraska Civic Engagement  
Voter Field Manager*

# National Footprint

**Building a  
National  
Network**



2019 was our first full year as members of State Voices - the national network of nonpartisan state coalitions - and Table staff had several opportunities to learn from our colleagues working to build voter power across the country!

# National Footprint

## North Star Committee

Our Executive Director, Zack Burgin, was selected to State Voices' national leadership committee to advance the work of state tables like ours, building civic engagement in underrepresented communities and using data to inform the network's strategic direction.

## Census 2020

In February 2019 our Deputy Director, Angie Remington, along with Hannah Young (Nonprofit Association of the Midlands) and John Cartier (Civic Nebraska), traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with State Voices, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and nonprofit organizations from around the country working to ensure a complete census count. They met with congressional representatives to lobby for the exclusion of a citizenship question and adequate funding for Census work in our state.

## BISC Conference

To prepare for the 2020 election cycle, we connected members to training and resources needed to run successful ballot initiative campaigns. The Table took representatives from Voices for Children, Planned Parenthood of the North Central States, Civic Nebraska, and Nebraska Appleseed to BISC's Road Ahead conference in Las Vegas.

The Road Ahead conference is the progressive community's only conference solely dedicated to ballot measures.



"The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table consistently models the kind of world we're trying to see. From investing in youth changemakers through the NCET Organizing School, to engaging in innovative outreach and community building through Nebraska Courts, NCET is a leader in the progressive movement that we should all be grateful for."

**Alexis Anderson-Reed**  
*Chief Executive Officer  
State Voices (she/her)*

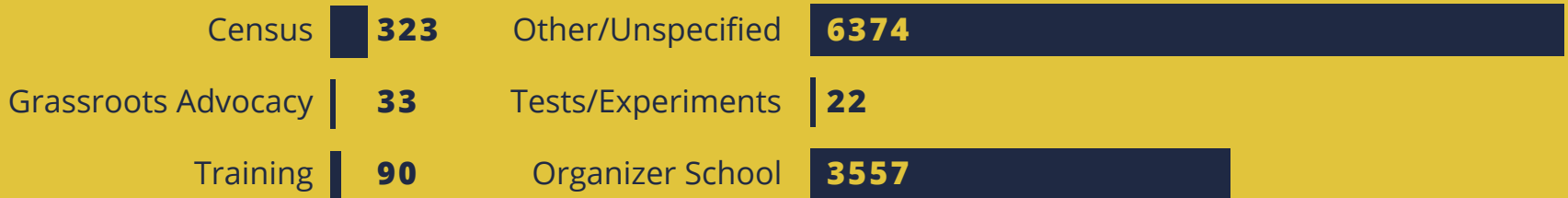
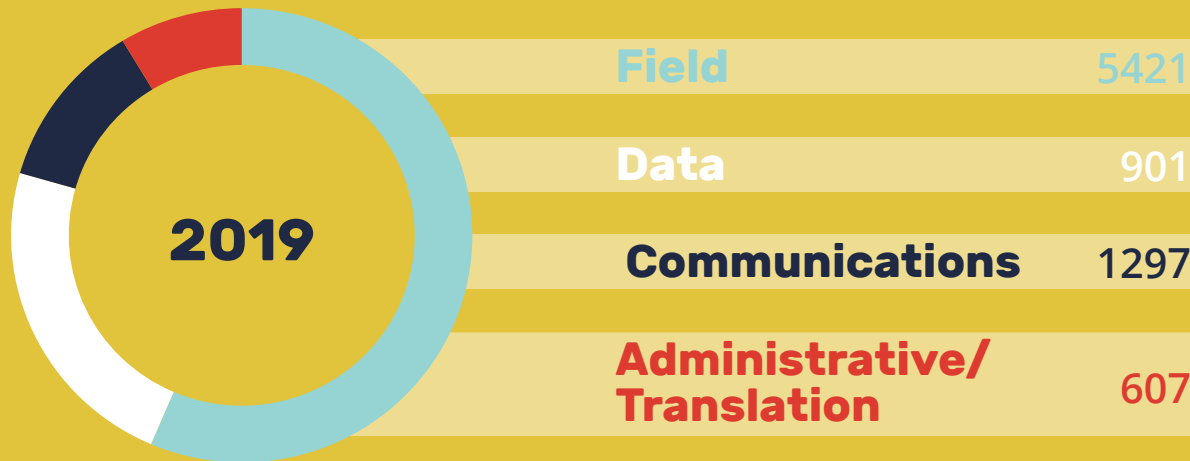
"It makes me so proud to see that Nebraska is finally being recognized on a national level. Our State Voices connection has deepened the impact of our work, as has the honor to be connected with so many changemakers and power builders. We're a part of something bigger - four years in the dark, and now here we are."

**Zack Burgin** (he/him)  
*Nebraska Civic Engagement  
Executive Director*



# CORE SUPPORT

Table staff provided nonprofit member organizations with **over 10,000 hours** of support to conduct civic engagement activities in their communities.



## 10,399 hours TOTAL CORE SUPPORT HOURS

This is equivalent to 5 full-time staff providing support at no cost to our members



# What's Next for the Table?

In June 2019, we kicked off our 5-Year Strategic Plan process with a member visioning session. During the visioning, members highlighted areas where they felt the Table was critical to helping them achieve their goals. Ultimately our members and board of directors asked us to focus on these key areas over the next 5 years:

- Redefining & Strengthening the Network
- Expanding Internal Capacity
- Living Our Values

For our 2020 Work Plan, we created data-driven goals based on opportunities for wins that demonstrate the power of the Table's collective impact.

- Substantially increase Rising American Electorate (RAE) voter turnout
- Ensure an accurate count in Nebraska for the 2020 Census
- Build long-term power in RAE communities (beyond 2020)

Then, we used the framework from our strategic plan to help us focus our work. For instance, how will we strengthen our network to support increased RAE turnout? To ensure an accurate census count?

## Highlights from the 2020 Work Plan are below

- We will increase the measurable impact nonprofits have on voter engagement and census participation.
- We will promote effective use of data tools and shared knowledge.
- We will provide unified comprehensive communications support for GOTV/voter registration, the 2020 Census, and grassroots advocacy.
- We will commit to intentional investment in rural communities of color.
- We will codify our commitment to racial equity as a network.
- We will prioritize development of an equitable leadership pipeline.

You can read our full 2020 Work Plan by contacting Zack Burgin at [zack@nebraskatable.org](mailto:zack@nebraskatable.org)

# What's Next for the Table?

## What's New?

- Sliding scale for yearly membership dues based on budget size
- Renewed commitment to racial equity
- Commitment to running or participating in direct voter contact programs reaching the Rising American Electorate within 3 years of signing the MOU

Organizations that are unable to meet the requirements of the new MOU can continue to participate in the Table network through our new community partnership structure.

Through the 2019 member visioning process, our members asked us to help create a strong identity for the network and hold members accountable for participation and work toward collective impact. In response, we are rolling out a new Member MOU in 2020.



“My favorite part of 2019 was the Strategic Planning session during the Quarter 2 Member Meeting. It was so exciting to hear everyone’s big dreams for the state and to see all the energy and excitement in the room around the work we are doing.”

**J. Petersen** (he/him)

*Nebraska Civic Engagement | Administrative Assistant*



“Zack and NCET are clutch players in the fight for BIPOC political power. I’m so grateful for their partnership and commitment to creating a liberated world, and I can’t wait to see how NCET continues to build a democracy where everyone is represented and all people can live in their full dignity and thrive.”

**Alexis Anderson-Reed** (she/hers)

*State Voices | Chief Executive Officer*

 **THANK YOU**