

Nebraska
Civic
Engagement
Table

2021 Annual Report

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Our Gratitude

The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table (Nebraska 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. The Nebraska Table extends its gratitude to the following charitable foundations and donors, along with many other supporters who have contributed to this movement:

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

We will build a more just, inclusive, and engaged Nebraska by increasing the year-round civic participation of our nonprofit members' supporters and underrepresented communities, including: African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), new citizens, low-income families, women, LGBT Nebraskans, and young voters.

Our goal is to increase their share of voter turnout, ensure their voices are represented in the policy decisions that affect their lives, and build leadership among community members and our nonprofit partners.



Holland Foundation

Lincoln Community Foundation

Lozier Foundation

NEO Philanthropy State Leadership Project

Sherwood Foundation

Fred and Eve Simon Foundation

State Voices

Weitz Family Foundation

Woods Charitable Fund

WRAPS Project/Movement Voter Project

John and Dianne Scott

Todd and Betiana Simon

Katie Weitz



Impact Highlights

In 2019, the Nebraska Table and its members embarked on a 5-year strategic planning process. Together they identified three strategic directions: Building Equitable Institutions, Cultivating People Power, and Seizing “Of the Moment” Opportunities. Below are highlights from 2021 that reflect progress on the strategic directions.

309,773

Contacts to voters around GOTV, policy advocacy, voter registration, minimum wage, and other campaigns

\$85,000

Amount regranted to 10 member organizations for lobbying, community connectedness, GOTV, and voter registration programs

\$40,000

Amount regranted for grassroots advocacy around fair redistricting maps

10

Participants admitted into inaugural Lobby School cohort

22.9%

Increase in Lancaster County voter turnout for municipal elections

2

Community organizers from our 2020 Organizer School program who received extended contracts into 2021, to continue their work through the pandemic

\$15/hour

The minimum wage Raise the Wage coalition members are petitioning to get on the ballot, in an effort led by Nebraska Appleseed and the Nebraska Table

2022 NEBRASKA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TABLE GOALS

Redefining and Strengthening the Network

Define our advocacy role

Expand scope of civic engagement work

Expanding Internal Capacity

Reinvigorate member relationships

Amplify community voices

Living Our Values

Expand network capacity

Exhibit equitable practices

[View Our Full Member List](#)

The Stories of 2021



Nebraska Table staff, as part of the Decline to Sign coalition, say no to Voter IDs.



Civic engagement starts early.



Organizers share election information.



Art is a powerful tool for reaching communities.

Lincoln City Elections: Harnessing Creativity for Community Action

Local elections are our chance to make big changes right in our communities. For community organizers Kat Wiese and Chueqa Yang, the question of how to engage voters can be tricky - but creativity led to solutions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Omaha City Elections: “We cannot let a single person have their voice unheard.”

In the middle of a pandemic, organizers at Heartland Workers Center found innovative ways to safely engage with voters, build leadership, and strengthen community.

[LEARN MORE](#)





Sandy Griffin testifies on redistricting.

Redistricting: A Bedrock for Fair and Free Elections

Every 10 years, redistricting lays the groundwork for political representation. Because of strong coalition work by members like Common Cause, communities showed up for fair maps.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Preston Love

Fighting Voter Restrictions: “It’s personal.”

Our votes have real power to create change. Preston Love shares how education and mobilization are key to fighting voting restrictions that aim to silence communities of color.

[LEARN MORE](#)





Members of LWVGO
prepare for a VoterCade.

Fighting for Voting Reform: "You have a voice and your voice is your vote."

Volunteers with the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha know that expanding voting access is central to a healthy democracy.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Sofia Gavia helps register voters.

Internship Experience: Putting Organizing Skills into Practice

The Nebraska Table invests in the next generation of leaders, like Sofia Gavia, who are committed to building a just future. The internship program is one such priority.

[LEARN MORE](#)





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Who We Are

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Our Board

The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table's Board of Directors is dedicated to empowering the rising electorate in Nebraska. Thank you to the current board members for their inspiring leadership and vision.

Additional gratitude to Sarah Ann Kotchian of Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative; Odochi Akwani of Rabble Mill; and Meg Mikolajczyk, JD, formerly of Planned Parenthood North Central States, for their board service in 2021.

President Rachel Fox, You Go Girl

Treasurer Kathy Steinauer Smith, Woods Charitable Fund

Secretary Valeria Rodriguez, Empowering Families

Immediate Past President Katie Weitz, PhD, Weitz Family Foundation

Karen Bell-Dancy, YWCA of Lincoln

Yolanda Chavez Nuncio, Retired Administrator

Shannon Gilroy, Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School

Claudia Granillo, The Wellbeing Partners

Inonge Kasaji, League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County

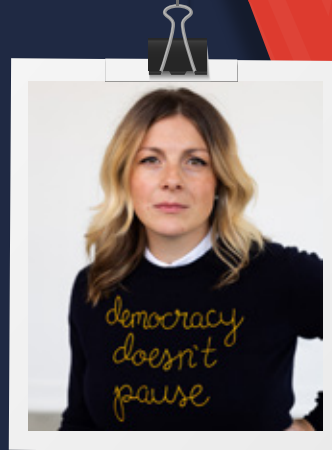
Robia Qasimyar, Weitz Family Foundation

Nic Swiercek, Nebraska Appleseed



Staff Updates

The Nebraska Table named Meg Mikolajczyk, JD, its new executive director in 2021, following the departure of former executive director Zack Burgin. Meg is a former Nebraska Table Board Member and was a Nebraska Table member through her previous organization, Planned Parenthood North Central States. Angie Remington served as interim executive director and returned to her deputy director position upon Meg's hiring.



*Meg Mikolajczyk, JD
Executive Director*

[SEE OUR FULL STAFF LIST](#)

Our Members and Partners

Members of the Nebraska Table are nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations committed to engaging with voters and members of their communities; growing grassroots mobilization efforts; and collaborating with nonprofits doing similar work in other communities throughout the state. The Nebraska Table comprised 76 member organizations in 2021, including four new members: East African Development Association of Nebraska, March of Dimes - Nebraska Chapter, Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, and Stand for Schools.

[SEE OUR FULL MEMBER LIST](#)

Partners of the Nebraska Table are nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations that don't conduct direct voter engagement activities but wish to be part of the network.

[SEE OUR FULL PARTNER LIST](#)



2021 Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues

Revenue Type	Amount
Individual Donations	\$50,518
Member Dues	\$17,725
Grants	\$1,797,074
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,865,317



Individual Donations
2.7%

Member Dues
1.0%

Grants
96.3%

Expenditures

Expenditure Type	Amount
General Operating Expenses	\$631,979.08
Civic Engagement Fund	\$85,000
Member Core Support	\$478,693.84
Fundraising Expenses	\$18,322.41
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,213,995



Civic Engagement Fund
7.0%

Member Core Support
39.4%

Fundraising Expenses
1.5%

General Operating Expenses
52.1%

What we're working on in 2022

Voter registration and Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV)

Voter education town halls

Lobby School

Rural Organizer School program

Rural Fellows program

Storytelling program and podcast launch

Ballot initiative petition collection and decline-to-sign coalition work

Grassroots legislative activities

**Reach out
to learn
more about
our work!**

Contact Information



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Thank You