



Government Affairs Update

12/13/22

Tim O'Brien, Director – Economic Development & External Relations



State Legislative Update





2022 NE Legislature Elections

- Jim Pillen won the open Governor's seat with Lt. Governor candidate Jim Kelly. Governor-elect Pillen has begun announcing cabinet appointments.
- 25 Legislative seats were up for election, including one special election for a 2-year term in LD-31. 13 seats were open in which the current Senator was either term-limited, or chose not to seek another term. 11 Senators were seeking a second term. No incumbent lost reelection.
 - In OPPD's service territory 12 seats were up for election with seven incumbents winning reelection, and five new members elected in open seats.
 - Partisan makeup of the 2023 NE Legislature will be 32 Republicans and 17 Democrats.
 - Speaker Hilgers will resign January 3rd to become NE Attorney General, with replacement to be named by Gov. Pillen.



2023 Legislative Leadership Races (CAO 11/30/22)

The Legislature's 14 standing committees will begin to piece together the composition of their members for the upcoming sessions. Elections for chair positions are decided via secret ballot on the first day of session. Senators can announce their candidacy at any time leading up to the vote by the legislature.

Speaker of the Legislature

- Senator John Arch

Agriculture

- Senator Steve Halloran*

Appropriations

- Senator Rob Clements

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

- Senator Julie Slama

Business and Labor

- Senator Carol Blood

Education

- Senator Lynn Walz*
- Senator Dave Murman

Executive Board

- Senator Tom Briese

General Affairs

- Senator John Lowe

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- Senator Tom Brewer*

Health and Human Services

- Senator Ben Hansen

Judiciary

- Senator Justin Wayne

Natural Resources

- Senator Bruce Bostelman*

NE Retirement Systems

- Senator Mike McDonnell

Revenue

- Senator Lou Ann Linehan*

Transportation and Telecommunications

- Senator Tom Brandt
- Senator Suzanne Geist
- Senator Mike Moser

Urban Affairs

- Senator Terrell McKinney

* = current committee chair

2023 Nebraska Legislative Calendar

Nebraska's 108th Legislature, First Session

- 90-day session
- January 4th – First day of session
- January 18th – Last day of bill introduction
- Other key items TBD based on Speaker & Committee Appointments
- June 9th – Sine Die
 - The calendar is subject to revision by the Speaker of the 108th Legislature, but will be finalized and distributed before January 4th.

Interim Study Hearings

- LR 295 – study to monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by the political subdivisions as required by 13-2402. Hearing held 11/22/22.
- LR 330 – study to determine what percentage should be used to forecast revenue when preparing fiscal notes and determine if state agencies or political subdivisions should use the same percentage. Hearing held 11/4/22.
- LR 401 – study to review the administration of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act. Hearing scheduled 12/13/22.
- LR 418 – study to examine the sales tax system in Nebraska with respect to exemptions provided to various industries. Tim O'Brien was invited to testify. Tim represented the Nebraska Economic Developers Association and OPPD. Hearing held 10/28/22.

2023 OPPD Legislative Bills

These issues have been brought to the forefront to have OPPD take a leading role to champion. We view this process as a 2-year journey.

- **Broadband** – Seek to repeal the dark fiber statutes to help expand broadband coverage across the state. This could also incorporate a repeal of the challenge of safe harbor rates under LB992.
- **Critical/essential utility workers** - seek to have defined as emergency personnel in declared emergencies in order to protect our communities while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety.
- **Weatherization funding** – seek state funding for weatherization efforts to upgrade more homes in order to lower utility bills permanently.

Next Steps

- Continue Senator and stakeholder meetings
- NPA legislative subcommittee meetings and retreat
- Continue interim hearings



Local Update





Federal Legislative Update





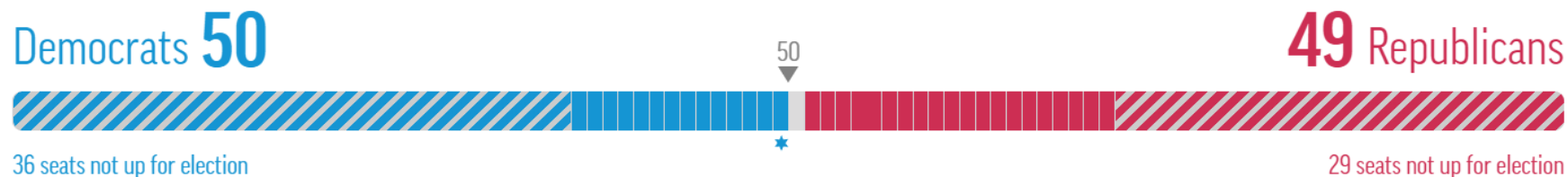
Federal Update

- Congress seeks to address several issues during the lame duck session including hurricane relief, government funding past December 16th, and the National Defense Authorization Act.
- Significant federal legislation passed in 2022.
 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R.3684).
 - CHIPS and Science Act (H.R.4346).
 - Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act (H.R.5440).
 - Inflation Reduction Act (H.R.5376).
- 14,498 bills introduced in the 117th Congress as of November 30th.

Federal Election Update

- House will flip to Republican control in the 118th Congress, Senate will remain in Democratic control.
- Georgia Senate runoff scheduled for December 6th will determine final makeup of Senate.
- 118th Congress begins January 3rd, 2023.

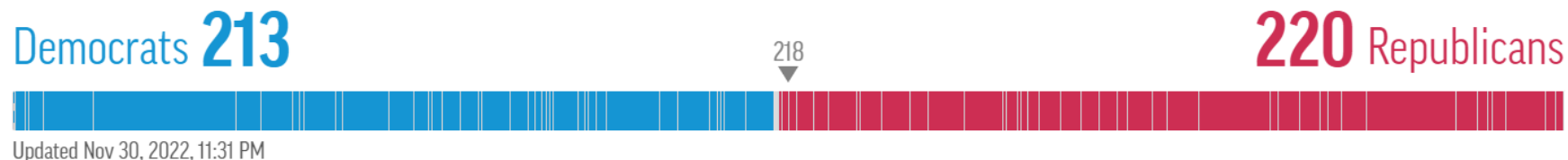
Senate Results



★ *Seat flipped* Updated Nov 30, 2022, 9:48 PM

Should an equal number of senators caucus with each party, Democrats will control the chamber due to Vice President Kamala Harris' tie breaking vote.

House Results



Updated Nov 30, 2022, 11:31 PM