

# Nebraska (NE-02)

## US House of Representatives

### THE ISSUES

**DON  
BACON**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



**TONY  
VARGAS**

DEMOCRAT



See [guides.vote](https://guides.vote) for online guides with links and sources.

[donjbacon.com](https://donjbacon.com)

[vargasfornebraska.com](https://vargasfornebraska.com)

#### ABORTION

Ban or legal?

**Ban.** [Calls](#) “being pro-life” his “main thing.” In 2021 [sponsored](#) a proposed federal ban of abortion with no exceptions. In 2022 said the only [exception](#) should be saving the mother’s life. In 2024 signed a legal [brief](#) supporting the right of states to ban hospitals from providing emergency abortions.

**Legal.** [Voted](#) against bills limiting abortion access. [Will vote](#) “to codify the protections earned from Roe v. Wade into federal law.” “In Congress, I’ll [continue fighting](#) to keep reproductive health care safe, legal, and accessible.”

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Should climate change be a top priority?

**Mixed.** [Said](#) Donald Trump shouldn’t have withdrawn from Paris Climate Agreement. [Voted](#) against the Inflation Reduction Act’s climate initiatives as not “effective.” [Wants](#) “all of the above” options: fossil fuels, nuclear, geothermal, solar, and wind.

**Yes.** “Climate change is a [serious threat](#)”; calls replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources “an environmental and economic necessity.” [We must](#) “more aggressively address a changing climate.”

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?

[Voted](#) against the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. [Sponsored](#) a bill to support law enforcement and condemn defunding or dismantling local law enforcement.

“I’ve voted [to fund our police](#) every year since taking office— even when members of my party didn’t.” [Is also](#) “[inspired](#) by [those] who are fighting for equity, transparency, due process at every level.” [Will](#) “fight for” an end to police brutality and violence.

#### ECONOMY

Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?

**Decrease.** “[Free-market principles](#), not centralized government planning...drive economic growth, innovation and prosperity.” “[I am working](#) to ease the cost of living, cut taxes, and reduce our national debt.”

**Increase.** [Wants](#) better-paying jobs, a middle-class tax cut, an expanded child tax credit, lower costs for healthcare, drugs, and child care, and paid family leave. [Supported](#) bills to make housing more affordable.

#### EDUCATION

Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?

**Yes.** [Voted](#) for the Parents Bill of Rights, designed to let parents inspect teaching materials in public schools. [Opposes](#) “Congress... micromanaging our schools.”

**No.** [Voted](#) against a Nebraska bill to make K–12 teachers and librarians liable for obscenity charges related to materials in schools. [Says](#) teachers can talk with children about racism.

#### ENVIRONMENT

Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?

**Mixed.** [Supported repeal](#) of the Stream Protection Rule against dumping mining waste into waterways. [Voted](#) to [allow](#) oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. [Voted](#) to invest \$1.2 trillion in [infrastructure](#); [including](#) greenhouse gas emission reductions.

**Tighten.** “[I’m committed](#) to policies combatting climate change, protecting our natural resources, and growing our clean energy job sector.” [Crack down](#) on polluters leaching chemicals into soil and water. [Increase](#) penalties for environmental disasters from fracking and drilling.

ISSUES	BACON (R)	VARGAS (D)
<b>GUN RULES</b> Loosen or tighten gun regulation?	<b>Loosen.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> against the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act; did not support “the Red Flag portion.” <a href="#">Voted no</a> on raising the age for buying semiautomatic rifles. <a href="#">Sponsored</a> a <a href="#">bill</a> to let gun owners sue if they were wrongfully denied a gun purchase.	<b>Tighten.</b> “ <a href="#">Passing</a> common sense gun control laws is the most immediate step we can take to protecting our kids and communities. I’m ready to take on the gun lobby in Congress.” In 2022 <a href="#">wanted</a> expanded background checks and a federal ban on assault weapons.
<b>HEALTHCARE</b> Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	<b>Decrease.</b> Voted in 2017 to <a href="#">repeal</a> the Obamacare, the Affordable Care Act. “Medicare for All would be a <a href="#">disaster</a> .”	<b>Increase.</b> “Everyone <a href="#">deserves access</a> to quality, affordable health care.” <a href="#">Secured</a> \$6.5 million for Nebraska clinics and “fought to expand Medicaid.” Wants <a href="#">lower</a> costs for healthcare and medications.
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children?	In 2021: “ <a href="#">Create</a> a safer clear legal pathway to emigrate to our country, while maintaining law and order at the border.... Congress must provide a legal way forward for DACA and TPS recipients.”	<a href="#">DACA</a> recipients “need permanent protection. We need new leadership in D.C that cares about solving problems—not playing partisan, political games with people’s lives.”
<b>LABOR</b> Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	<b>Harder.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> against the PRO Act, which would <a href="#">strengthen</a> unions, protect workers’ right to unionize, and overturn “right to work” laws, which allow employees in a unionized workplace to not pay union dues.	<b>Easier.</b> <a href="#">Organized labor</a> “gave our family a slice of the American Dream.” “ <a href="#">I will continue</a> to honor workers and labor unions by fighting for better working conditions, better wages, and an America that works for working families.”
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	<b>Limit.</b> <a href="#">Voted</a> against the Equality Act. <a href="#">Equal protections</a> for LGBTQ citizens must also respect and protect “religious groups who hold traditional views of marriage.”	<b>Expand.</b> <a href="#">Ban</a> gay conversion therapy. Told trans community, “ <a href="#">I’m sorry</a> our legislature didn’t... stand up for you and your health care rights. This fight is not over.”
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Ban or legal?	<b>Mixed.</b> <a href="#">Says</a> recreational use should not be legal, but sponsored the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, to protect banks that serve cannabis sellers. In 2022 <a href="#">voted against</a> de-criminalizing <a href="#">marijuana</a> and erasing federal convictions.	<b>Legal.</b> <a href="#">Decriminalize</a> marijuana at the federal level. <a href="#">Promoted</a> a Nebraska medical marijuana initiative.
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	<b>No.</b> In 2019 <a href="#">voted</a> no on Raise the Wage Act. “It’s a <a href="#">state issue</a> ... Nebraska has a higher minimum wage [ <a href="#">now \$12</a> , will be \$15 in 2026] than the federal minimum wage.”	<b>No position found.</b>
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> Cut Social Security and/or raise the retirement age?	<b>Likely yes.</b> In 2018 said <a href="#">raise</a> retirement age. A <a href="#">member</a> of the Republican Study Committee, which proposes <a href="#">raising</a> the retirement age.	<b>Likely no.</b> <a href="#">Supported</a> a Nebraska bill to reduce taxes on Social Security income.
<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b> Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?	<b>No.</b> “Biden’s federal student loan cancelation plan is a ‘ <a href="#">robin-hood</a> ’ in reverse where the working man and woman is paying for the wealthiest in our society.”	<b>Yes.</b> “ <a href="#">I applaud</a> the Biden Administration for continuing to deliver badly needed debt relief to Americans with student loans.”
<b>TAXES</b> Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?	<b>Less.</b> In 2017 <a href="#">voted</a> for the Trump tax cuts, reducing taxes for the wealthy and including the <a href="#">largest</a> corporate cut in US history.	<b>More.</b> “Donald Trump engineered massive tax cuts <a href="#">for the wealthy</a> .... When I get to Congress, I’ll vote for a middle-class tax cut.”
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Make voting harder or easier? And should the district have separate electoral college vote?	<b>Harder.</b> In 2021 <a href="#">voted against</a> voting rights act. In 2024 <a href="#">voted</a> to require citizenship proof to vote. Would <a href="#">change</a> state law to merge this Congressional district with all of Nebraska into winner-take-all Electoral College votes.	<b>Easier.</b> <a href="#">Secure</a> the right to vote, eliminate barriers to voting. “ <a href="#">Strengthen</a> voting rights and improve ballot access.” Would <a href="#">preserve</a> state law so this Congressional district keeps its own Electoral College vote.

[guides.vote](#) is a nonpartisan effort to show where candidates stand. We do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We have space for candidates polling 15% or more; use the QR code on the right for online versions, including links to credible sources and other candidates. [Vote411.org](#) offers guides to local races and how to vote. For campuses, see Campus Vote Project’s [state-specific guides](#) to student voting rules.

