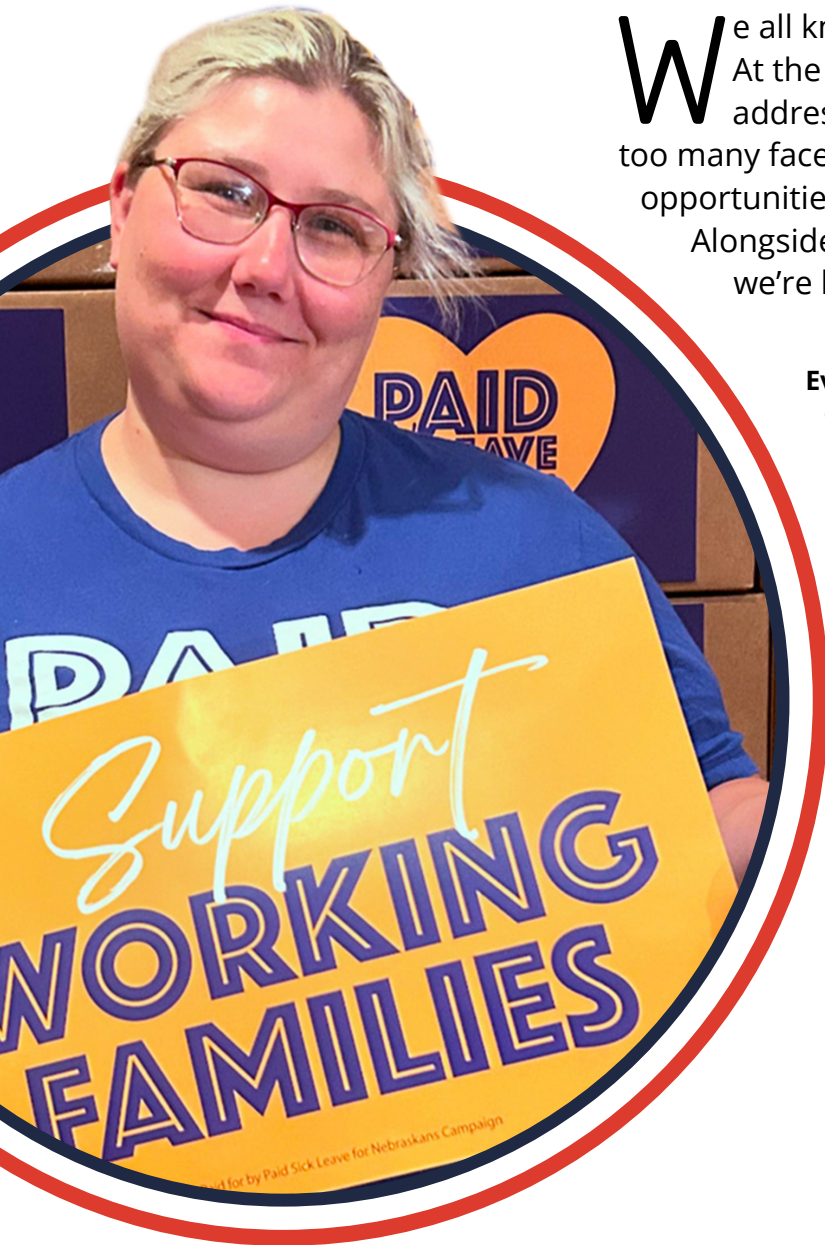


Nebraska Table

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

We're building community power alongside nonprofits.



We all knew 2024 was going to be a critical year. At the Nebraska Table, we're committed to addressing the barriers to engagement that too many face in our state and building the path to opportunities for everyday Nebraskans to thrive. Alongside our network of dedicated nonprofits, we're building for the future.

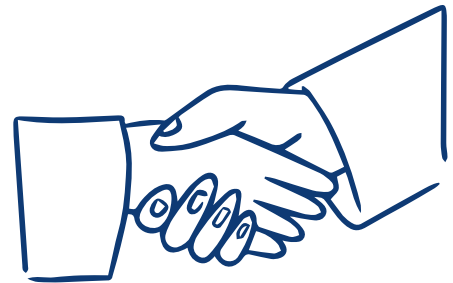
Every single Nebraskan has the power to make change. When our collective power strategically comes together, we have the ability to create a state that truly meets our needs. What were we able to accomplish together this year?

- We saw the passage of legislation to restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated Nebraskans, removing an arbitrary waiting period
- Our network made over 100,000 total contacts to voters across the state
- We partnered on five ballot measures aimed at improving the lives of Nebraskans; four of these passed
- We were involved in gathering the highest number of signatures collected on a ballot initiative petition in the state's history, showing Nebraska's resolve in protecting reproductive rights
- We collaboratively navigated the implementation of voter ID requirements in our state's elections to ensure no voter was left behind

Letter from our executive director



2024 was a long year, filled with focus, grit, dreaming, scheming, and executing our plans. And, those things we worked on together collectively - Paid Sick Leave, Winner Take All, the schools referendum, engagement and turnout in specific precincts, building and using shared narratives, building our bench of leaders - were overwhelmingly successful. Even when the odds are stacked against us, when our network stands its ground and does so collectively, we win.



We are powerful.

I'm not going to pretend that the 2024 election was all rainbows and unicorns. I am still heartbroken, for example, that because of loopholes, trickery, and confusion our reproductive rights in Nebraska are more restricted than ever. I am clear eyed about the massive responsibility we owe to our communities for the next four years, as Federal Executive Orders are issued at an unrelenting and unprecedented pace and with ridiculous scope and scale. I am not letting their chaos distract me or our team from advancing the future, vision, and values we want for ourselves and communities.



To that end, I am more committed than ever to ensuring this network and our people have the tools, resources, and support they need to stand their ground, fight back, and build our power to make progress towards the future we all want and deserve. I am always a phone call or a coffee away. The Table will always be here for you.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meg".

Voter power



Our network scaled up efforts to meet the challenges of the 2024 elections head on, with Nebraska seeing a nearly record breaking voter turnout second only to 2020. 965,236 Nebraskans cast their ballots in the 2024 general election, a 76.39% turnout. Nonprofits have been proven to be trusted messengers in their communities, reaching voters in culturally competent and accessible ways. This proved true again in 2024.

Our network's contacts had the most salient impact on lower-propensity voters, that is, voters who were less likely to vote, compared to their peers, showing how much of a difference communication from nonprofits makes in the communities we serve and the importance of conversations with our low vote-propensity neighbors.

100,304

Total voter contacts

17

Total number of members participating

VOTER REGISTRATION

12 members participating

1,287

voter registrations



CANVASS

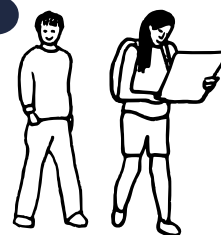
8 members participating

35,195

attempts

6,363

contacts



PHONES

6 members participating

102,898

attempts

21,474

contacts



TEXT

8 members participating

302,969

attempts

2,040

contacts



MAIL

103,851

attempts



Uplifting Nebraska's second house

In Nebraska's unique unicameral, we the people are the second house. To demystify the legislative process and increase access to the systems that represent us, Nebraska Table policy programs have expanded to include a heightened focus on nonprofit compliance support and a legal fund.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CALLS

To strengthen nonprofit presence in public policy spaces, we facilitate a weekly Legislative Advocacy Call in partnership with the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands and the Coalition for a Strong Nebraska. Here, nonprofits and community advocates work together to educate on key bills and strategize on moving forward public policy that serves our communities, focusing on four main areas: elections, housing, behavioral health, and childcare. Over 170 organizations participate, representing a wide range of interests.



LOBBY SCHOOL

2024 cohort graduates: 13

Our Lobby School program takes a holistic approach to movement building by connecting elections and grassroots efforts to policy work. It is designed as a collaborative space to expand existing advocacy infrastructure and build power within Nebraska's nonprofit advocacy organizations by developing participants' essential skills to advocate for their community interests which are traditionally absent from the interests of professional lobbyists, particularly those of rural and BIPOC Nebraskans. This is done through experiential learning, lecture, mentorship, and collaboration.

Precinct plans

Our new Adopt-a-Precinct plan organized voter mobilization efforts in selected precincts across the state to test community contact strategies and increase Member collaboration. Efforts focused on contacting underserved voters and tailoring methods to each community's unique needs based on Member input.

HASTINGS

59% of voters contacted turned out to vote, compared to 62.48% of non-contacted voters (*precinct 12 1-B*)

LINCOLN

43% of voters contacted turned out to vote, compared to 53% of non-contacted voters (*precinct 03D00*)

GRAND ISLAND

64% of voters contacted turned out to vote, compared to 51% of non-contacted voters (*precinct 02 002*)

OMAHA

60% of voters contacted turned out to vote, compared to 53% of non-contacted voters (*precinct 02-14*)

SOUTH SIOUX CITY

34% of voters contacted turned out to vote, compared to 50% of non-contacted voters (*ward 1*)

SCOTTSBLUFF

65% of voters contacted turned out to vote, compared to 47% of non-contacted voters (*precinct 3*)

54% of voters contacted turned out to vote, compared to 49% of non-contacted voters (*ward 2*)

61% of voters contacted turned out to vote, compared to 38% of non-contacted voters (*precinct 4*)

Future efforts on the Adopt-A-Precinct Plan across the state will need to account for the lack of a true "control" precinct for turnout comparison, differences in nonprofit efforts, and the nature of some selected precincts contributing to difficulties in contact, to be addressed in future elections.

SCOTTSBLUFF

Work in two Scottsbluff precincts brought a 17.77% and 23.31% difference in voter turnout between contacted and non contacted voters. Led by Empowering Families (Empoderando Familias), efforts included door-to-door canvassing, tabling conversations, youth-centered civic programming, text banking, bilingual voter guides, a candidate forum, and a focus on New American Voters.

"Empowering Families' civic participation work in 2024, and beyond, works to ensure community members have a meaningful voice and the opportunity to participate in the design of political, social, and cultural structures that shape their lives. In 2024, we impacted this by building trust and relationships with voters and providing our community with resources to be informed voters because of this we were successful in precincts 3 and 4 in increasing voter participation. We couldn't do this work without our amazing volunteers, from youth to retirees, who believe in our work!"

Valeria Rodriguez, Executive Director, Empowering Families

Rights restoration

Nebraska is the only state to expand voting rights in 2024 after a long fought battle to eliminate the arbitrary two-year waiting period to vote for Nebraskans with past felony convictions. The passage and implementation of LB 20 opened the door for over 7,000 newly eligible voters. Despite legal battles that delayed justice until mere days before the voter registration deadline, the Nebraska Voting Rights Restoration Coalition was steadfast in its commitment to educating voters on the new law and reaching newly eligible Nebraskans.



"Under LB20, so many incredible leaders became eligible to vote, some for the first time ever. They got on the voting rolls and then got on the phone, because there's power in the credible messenger. Our coalition worked from the rotunda to the streets to pass the law, to register folks, and keep them engaged. The work doesn't stop, and we need all of us."

Olivia Larson, 2024 Policy Fellow with the Nebraska Table and RISE

Coalitions make us stronger



Movements are made up of a richly diverse tapestry of perspectives, talents, and experiences. By working in coalition, we amplify our impacts more effectively and strengthen our efforts. The Nebraska Table is proud to be in coalition with community leaders, nonprofits, and experts across the state to protect the freedoms of everyday Nebraskans.

Ballot measure coalitions

Nebraska's powerful direct democracy movements of communities organizing to meet their needs rose to new heights in 2024. Among six measures that appeared on the ballot, the Nebraska Table is proud to support and be in coalition on five of those measures.



Initiative 436 ensured that working Nebraskans can earn and use paid sick leave without fear of retaliation, emphasizing the importance of workers' rights and the ability to care for our health. This initiative passed with an overwhelming 74% of the vote.



Initiatives 437 and 438 provided access to medical cannabis to patients suffering from health conditions and created the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission to regulate the private medical cannabis industry. 71% and 67% of voters, respectively, fought hard to protect patients in our state.



Initiative 439 would have put Nebraskans and their doctors in charge of their own personal medical decisions, not the government, when it came to abortion. Though the initiative did not pass, community support for protecting abortion rights is clear. This effort broke records with the highest amount of petition signatures in the state's history, over 207,000 signatures.



Referendum 435 repealed a private school voucher tax scheme that gave public tax dollars to private schools. Despite lawmakers failing to honor an original successful petition campaign, Nebraskans protected public school funding with 57% of the vote.



The Nebraska Table is proud to be in coalition with community leaders, nonprofits, and experts across the state to protect the freedoms of everyday Nebraskans. One of our key partners in amplifying our communities' ability to make their voices heard in the direct democracy process is the Second House Collaborative, a 501(c)4 organization that works in coalition with campaigns to protect the freedoms of Nebraskans and create a future where Nebraskans from all walks of life can thrive.



The Nebraska Table facilitates Get-Out-The-Vote coalitions in Omaha, Lincoln, Scottsbluff, Columbus, South Sioux City, and the Tri-Cities area to build long-lasting, sustainable voter power in our communities. Through nonpartisan GOTV work, collaborative strategy, and resource sharing on essential tools and training, we're engaging voters on the key issues affecting their lives.

Strengthening the nonprofit community

The Nebraska Table is proud to provide capacity-building resources to 501(c)3 nonprofits committed to sustaining year-round civic engagement. We serve 54 Member organizations through data sharing, tools, trainings, coalition spaces, and more support that drives capacity for civic engagement efforts.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FUND

Nebraska's nonprofits have built deep, trusted relationships with local communities, making them particularly effective at building power and encouraging civic participation. Our Civic Engagement Fund (CEF) provides grants to Members to support cultivation of civic engagement in the communities they serve.

UNIQUE GRANTEES:

- ACLU of Nebraska
- Asian Community & Cultural Center
- The Bay
- Civic Nebraska
- Culxr House
- Elevate Omaha
- Empowering Families
- Habitat for Humanity Omaha
- Heartland Workers Center
- I Be Black Girl
- inCOMMON
- Karen Society
- Latino Center of the Midlands
- League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha
- Malcolm X Memorial Foundation
- NeighborWorks Lincoln
- North Omaha Community Partnership
- OpenSky Policy Institute
- OutNebraska
- RISE
- Somali Community Services Inc.

Total: \$90,916

Community Connect: \$28,890

GOTV/VR: \$43,370

Grassroots Advocacy: \$18,656

Featured CEF recipients



North Omaha Community Partnership's GOTV/VR

project educated voters at their community event on the state's new voter ID law through literature distribution, speakers, and booths to register new voters, provide postage for mail-in applications, and accommodate voters who did not possess qualifying IDs, helping voters acquire free birth certificates for voting purposes or making copies of alternate proofs of ID.



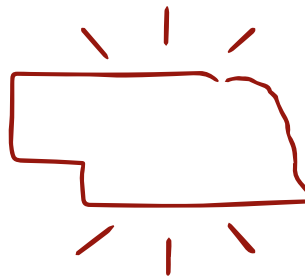
OpenSky Policy Institute's Grassroots Lobbying project focused on preventing harmful tax increases from being passed that would have hit BIPOC and low income Nebraskans the hardest. OpenSky strategically coordinated a coalition to oppose tax increases using patch through calls and digital advertising, building lists for future outreach, expanding on previous grassroots efforts around education funding and other key initiatives of the organization.



ORGANIZER SCHOOL

Our flagship program, Organizer School, underwent a redesign to better serve our nonprofit network's needs in the 2024 election cycle. Organizer School brought together staff and volunteers from Nebraska Table Member organizations for all day training in different cities to cover organizing fundamentals. Ranging from field planning to safety & security, this training series aimed to scale up our network's collective organizing efforts and build long-term capacity across the state.

About us



Our mission is to build transformative community power across Nebraska in partnership with our Member organizations. Our priority is to fundamentally transform the ways communities engage year-round with and in systems that should represent them. We do this by strengthening power in communities, making sure that voices can be and are heard, and by building for the future.

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At the end of 2024, we said goodbye to a founding member of our team, our Director of Strategy and Development Angie Remington. We thank Angie for nearly nine years at the Table and for her deep commitment to building a stronger Nebraska.

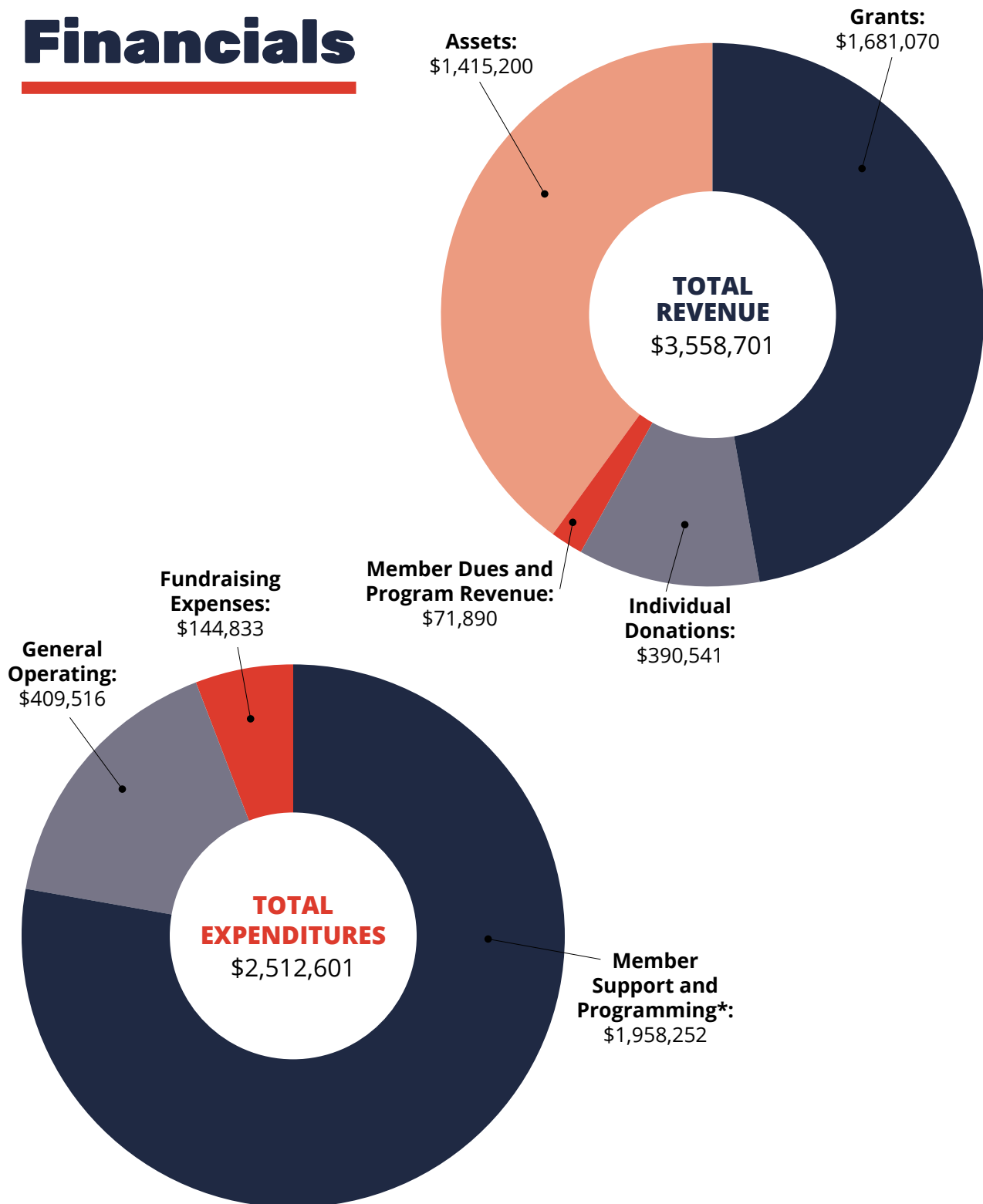


Donors

Since 2016, the Nebraska Civic Engagement Table has worked to build transformative community power in communities across the state. Created by nonprofit leaders and funders who recognized the deep, trusted relationships Nebraska nonprofits have with the communities they serve, the Nebraska Table exists to support nonprofits as they build collective power in communities historically excluded from voting, policy-making, and leadership development. Today, the Nebraska Table is honored to support the work of dozens of nonprofits, helping them to do their good work even better. None of our work would be possible without the generosity of all of our supporters. The Nebraska Table is incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported our vision of a truly engaged and representative Nebraska, including the following organizations and individuals who provided funding or made contributions of \$5000 or more.

Annette and Paul Smith Charitable Fund
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Cooper Foundation
Dr. Katie Weitz
Fred and Eve Simon Foundation
Jo Adams (Adams RGB Empowerment Fund)
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Financials



** this includes Organizer School, Lobby School, Policy Fellows, Precinct Plans, Legal Fund, and Civic Engagement Fund*



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