

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)**  
**LB21**

---

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday January 31, 2023  
**Committee On:** Urban Affairs  
**Introducer:** Wayne  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to the city council of a city of the metropolitan class

---

**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

---

**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	5	Senators Blood, Cavanaugh, J., Day, Hunt, McKinney
<b>Nay:</b>	2	Senators Hardin, Lowe
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

---

**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Justin Wayne  
Wes Dodge

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Omaha Rep &. Rank the Vote NE

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

---

**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 21 would change the number of city council members in each city of the metropolitan class from seven members to nine members starting in the May 2025 general city election.

**Legislative Background**

The Home Rule Charter of the City of Omaha was adopted by electors on November 6, 1956. The Charter established a Mayor-Council form of government, with an elected Mayor as chief executive and an elected legislative body known as the City Council.

The City Council is currently composed of seven members known as Council members who are elected on a non-partisan basis to four-year terms.

In 2006, the Legislature began deliberations on adding additional seats to the Omaha City Council. Due to the annexation of Elkhorn by Omaha, the City Council has proposed new boundaries for the districts that would split Elkhorn between two districts.



LB 405, introduced by Elkhorn State Senator Pedersen, would have increased the size of the Omaha City Council to 9 members. However, this bill was indefinitely tabled.

#### Section-by-Section Explanation

Section 1 amends 14-201 to eliminate reference to any certain number of city council members in cities of the metropolitan class.

Section 2 amends 14-201.03 to divide the metropolitan city into 9 city council districts of compact and contiguous territory. Council members elected before the May 2025 city general election will continue to serve until the new terms of office of the city council members elected to serve the districts commence.

Section 3 amends 32-536 to divide the metropolitan city into 9 city council districts. These terms shall be for four years.

Section 4 amends 32-537 to bring in reference to 14-201.03

Section 5 amends 32-539 to change the number of city council members from 7 to 9.

Section 6 amends 32-554 to clean up language.

Section 7 of the bill repeals the original sections.

Technical Comments:

N/A

---

Terrell McKinney, Chairperson

