



## NESCOPA Advocacy Priorities & Public Policy Committee Responsibilities

As the leading voice for the CPA profession in Nebraska, the Nebraska Society of CPAs (NESCOPA) advocates for policies that advance the CPA profession, protect the public interest, and contribute to Nebraska's long-term economic well-being.

The Society works with state senators, the Nebraska congressional delegation, and state and federal regulatory agencies on issues affecting the profession. To enhance our advocacy efforts, the Society partners with other business-related organizations and strategic allies that share a commitment to our policy priorities.

### Advocacy Priorities

Our advocacy activities should fulfill at least one of the following priorities:

- **Protect the CPA Designation and Services.**

Laws and regulations governing CPAs and their services should protect the value and integrity of the CPA license. We support the minimum standards for licensure and mobility as outlined in the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA) and believe services traditionally reserved for CPAs should remain so. We oppose licensing reforms or changes that dilute the CPA credential or impose undue burdens on the profession. NESCOPA also supports the consistent application of statutes and rules under the Nebraska Public Accountancy Act, mandatory continuing professional education and peer review as essential for quality assurance, and the independence of the Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy. We work with the governor's office to recommend qualified candidates for State Board appointments that reflect the diversity and expertise of Nebraska's CPA profession.

- **Advance the Profession and Strengthen the Pipeline.**

We champion accounting education and workforce development, raising awareness of the CPA designation and its value to the public, and engaging students and educators in the accounting pipeline. NESCOPA also supports policies that maintain personal finance education as a high school graduation requirement, ensuring future generations of Nebraskans have essential financial skills.

- **Promote Sound Fiscal Public Policy.**

We advocate for fiscal policy and tax legislation that enhance Nebraska's competitiveness and economic stability, while ensuring transparency in government. Nebraska's tax code should align with federal law where possible, remain clear and equitable, safeguard taxpayer data, and foster a strong business climate. Tax reform should be comprehensive rather than a shift from one base to another, and sales tax exemptions common in economically competitive states should be preserved to avoid disruption. We further support responsible stewardship of public funds and policies that encourage ethical business practices, innovation, investment, and long-term growth across Nebraska.

# Public Policy Committee Responsibilities

## ROLE AND GOVERNANCE

The Public Policy Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Nebraska Society of CPAs Board of Directors. The committee evaluates legislation, identifies issues of importance to the profession, and provides recommendations for consideration. All committee recommendations are subject to approval by the Society Board of Directors. The Board determines the Society's position on proposed legislation, with final decisions on whether to support or oppose specific bills made by the Society's Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis. The committee is not designed to take the lead in creating tax policy or strategy; rather, it plays a vital role in analyzing proposals that emerge and recommending whether the Society should support, oppose, or monitor them.

## VISION

Champion legislative and regulatory initiatives that strengthen the CPA profession and Nebraska, while ensuring alignment with the advocacy priorities approved by the Society Board of Directors.

## MISSION

The mission of the Public Policy Committee is to advance the CPA profession and the state through proactive engagement with state and federal legislators. By providing expert guidance, the committee educates lawmakers, collaborates with key stakeholders, and identifies legislative and regulatory issues affecting CPAs and the public. The committee assists with the Society's lobbying activities and evaluates legislation to achieve advocacy priorities. The committee submits legislative recommendations to the Society Board of Directors for approval, with final positions determined by the Society's Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis.

## KEY FUNCTIONS

1. **Recommend Legislative Positions** – Representing a broad cross-section of the membership, the committee develops and submits legislative and regulatory recommendations to the Society Board of Directors. The Society Board reviews the Public Policy Committee's recommendations, with the Executive Committee providing final approval.
2. **Provide a Forum for Emerging Issues** – The committee offers a platform for open discussion and debate on critical policy issues and new challenges facing the CPA profession, ensuring members' perspectives are heard and shared with the Society Board of Directors.
3. **Advocate, Educate, and Communicate** – Committee members advance Society policy positions with lawmakers, educate legislators on public policy issues related to the profession, collaborate with regulators on matters impacting the profession, and gather feedback from CPAs across Nebraska to ensure two-way communication.
4. **Engage in Grassroots Efforts** – Committee members actively support the Society's grassroots advocacy, including participation in calls to action and events such as the annual State Senators' Reception & Dinner.
5. **Support the Political Education Committee (PEC)** – Committee members are encouraged to contribute to the PEC, attend candidate fundraisers in their districts, and assist in recruiting candidates who support the CPA profession.