

Senators Debate Death Penalty at UNL

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"There aren't really any bigger issues than the issue of life or death in public policy," State Senator Beau McCoy of Omaha said.

Last year the Nebraska State Legislature passed a bill repealing the death penalty and changing the maximum sentence to life in prison.

State senator Colby Coash voted to abolish it. Senator Beau McCoy voted to keep it.

"Number one, it's a broken system. We haven't used this system in 20 years, Number 2 this system can put innocent people to death, it happens, we have around 200 people walking around the country right now who were on death row previous to this, number 3 I think about the Beatrice 6, I think about the mistake that was made that they almost paid for with their life and now it's costing us a lot of money, and money is a huge issue on this, to have the death penalty is costly and we're not getting anything for that." State Senator Colby Coash, of Lincoln, said.

"I do think that there is a deterrent nature of the death penalty, no question about it but I also do think that there are crimes that are so monstrous and so evil that the death penalty when someone has been properly convicted is the only punishment that they should receive," Senator McCoy said.

Now that they've had their say they want to make sure Nebraskans are educated on both sides before they head to the ballot box.

The University of Nebraska Lincoln held a debate Tuesday between the two senators to share their viewpoints on the issue, just two weeks before the vote.

Students came to learn more about the process. They say this may influence their decisions.

"Since I'm a political science major it's been like, this election is something I'm interested in and it's on the ballot this year so I just wanted to kind of see the views of the different senators here and get some different opinions on the matter," Alyssa Ehler, a Political Science major, said.

Again you're going to have a chance to vote on this issue November 8th. Vote repeal and the death penalty comes back. To keep it out of Nebraska vote retain.

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