



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2025

Metro Omaha Builders Association Raises Alarm as Omaha City Council Moves to Reintroduce Electrical Code Mandates That Will Drive Up Housing Costs

OMAHA, Neb. — As the Omaha City Council prepares to vote Tuesday on reintroducing controversial additions to the residential electrical code, the Metro Omaha Builders Association (MOBA) is alerting residents and media to the affordability risks.

The proposed ordinance includes provisions that go beyond Nebraska's adopted electrical code. The state code includes amendments to the 2023 National Electrical Code, eliminating expanded mandates for whole-home surge protection, expanded AFCI/GFCI coverage, and exterior disconnects. Though the City Council narrowly adopted the stricter code in 2024, Mayor Jean Stothert vetoed it, arguing the measure would create unjustified cost increases for new home construction.

"This package of unnecessary code regulations directly raises the price of every new home," said MOBA's Builders & Remodeling Council. "Every time excessive regulations are added, families get priced out of the dream of homeownership. The trend nationwide is for these mandates to be questioned, for the sake of affordability. Nebraska state senators are beginning to realize this, as with many other states. Omaha cannot claim to support affordability while simultaneously pushing costly requirements that the state and neighboring communities have already rejected."

Background & Public Concern

- In November 2024, the Omaha City Council passed the expanded code by a narrow margin.
- Mayor Stothert vetoed the ordinance, stating its added provisions were "counter to affordable housing" and not justified by safety or data.
- The measure has been revived despite the State of Nebraska adopting the carved-out, more reasonable amendments.
- Neighboring jurisdictions—including those in the metro region—have already adopted the carved-out version, not the expanded list Omaha is attempting to re-enact.
- Builders estimated the impact at \$700–\$1,300+ per home, depending on lot conditions and home design.
- Industry leaders warn that these costs ultimately fall on first-time buyers, workforce families, and seniors—the exact groups Omaha claims it aims to help.

MOBA's Position

MOBA supports safe, modern, and practical building standards that match state law and proven best practices. The association opposes local mandates that:

- are not required by Nebraska's adopted electrical code
- are not supported by data or safety outcomes in comparable cities
- will raise the cost of every new home without providing meaningful benefit
- create inconsistency with surrounding jurisdictions, complicating inspections and increasing delays
- place avoidable financial burden on working families

"Omaha is already struggling with workforce housing shortages," MOBA's Builders & Remodeling Council added. "Reintroducing these requirements that the previous mayor, the state, and surrounding communities all rejected makes no sense. We urge the Council to vote with the public interest—not political pressure."

Call to Action

MOBA encourages residents, homeowners, and industry partners to contact Omaha's City Council members and Mayor Ewing and voice concerns about the affordability consequences of the proposed ordinance.

Meeting Date: December 9, 2025

Location: Omaha City Council Chambers

Time: 2:00 pm

About MOBA

The Metro Omaha Builders Association (MOBA) represents builders, remodelers, and housing professionals committed to advancing safe, affordable, and high-quality residential development across the Omaha metro area. Chartered in 1946, MOBA advocates for balanced policies that promote homeownership, workforce housing, and economic growth.

Media Contact

Jaylene Eilenstine

Executive Director, Metro Omaha Builders Association

402.669.8533 • jaylene@moba.com • www.MOBA.com