

Tony Vargas was criticized by local law enforcement for attending a radical defund the police protest which he called peaceful even though the rally turned destructive and violent. Vargas has even aligned himself with those who support anti-police legislation that would restrict funding for local police departments, aid accused criminals, and make it harder for police officers to crack down on crime and keep our communities safe.

On May 31, 2020, Vargas Posted A Video Of A Second Protest He Attended On May 30, Where His Group Was Allegedly Met With “Flash Grenades And Pepper Bullets” And Vargas Was Allegedly “Hit Multiple Times.” “I’m heartbroken. Last night a second protest happened in downtown Omaha -- my legislative district. I live nearby and went to join a group of peaceful protestors to see first hand. The group I joined was met with flash grenades and pepper bullets, and I was hit multiple times. We were standing on the sidewalk with our hands up, demonstrating peacefully. This infringement on our civil and constitutional rights is not okay. I also need and want to acknowledge that there was unwarranted violence from others in our downtown community and to police law enforcement, and there was destruction of property happening all over other parts in downtown Omaha by violent protesters. Unequivocally, none of this is right or ok either. The effects of all this violence -- violence against Black people, police brutality, violence against peaceful protestors, violent agitators throwing items at law enforcement, vandalizing and destroying buildings and businesses that are part of our community, my community -- are far reaching, complicated, intertwined, and heartbreaking for everyone in our community. But last night’s biggest tragedy was the life -- another precious, black life, #JamesScurlock-- that was taken by hate and racism. His life, like so many others, could have been saved. This is what we need to acknowledge.” (Tony Vargas, [Facebook](#), 5/31/20)

- **Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer Said That At The May 30 Protests, “Law Enforcement Were The Target Of Bottles, Rocks, A Squirt Gun Filled With Urine And There Were Reports Of Individuals With Firearms At The Protest.”** “At 9 p.m. Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer spoke with media about the protest. He said it began peacefully, but early on there were protesters who sought to agitate the situation and threw rocks at officers. A number of people were arrested Saturday, he said. As the night continued, more members of law enforcement were the target of bottles, rocks, a squirt gun filled with urine and there were reports of individuals with firearms at the protest, he said.” (“George Floyd Protest In Omaha: One Arrested After Shooting Downtown Saturday Night,” [6News WOWT](#), 5/30/20)

The Omaha Police Officers Association (OPOA) Called Vargas’ Remarks “False, Irresponsible And Dangerous.” “The Omaha Police Officer’s Association responded with its own Facebook post, calling Vargas’ comments ‘false, irresponsible and dangerous.’” (DaLaun Dillard, “Omaha Senator Calls Out Law Enforcement, Police Officer’s Association Responds,” [KETV](#), 6/2/20)

The OPOA President Noted That Protests Had Become Violent And That Vargas Should Have Left The Area Or Tried To Stop The Unlawful Protestors. “OPOA president Tony Connor said protests became violent and were no longer lawful over the weekend. ‘He [Vargas] should know better,’ said Connor. ‘He should have left the area one or he should have tried to make an attempt to stop these people. But he gets on a social media page and he wants to criticize the police officers that showed up down there [downtown] trying to save the small businesses.’” (DaLaun Dillard, “Omaha Senator Calls Out Law Enforcement, Police Officer’s Association Responds,” [KETV](#), 6/2/20)

The OPOA President Said That He Would “Absolutely Not Allow Some Two-Bit Politician To Stand On The Back Of All Police Officers To Try To Elevate Themselves” And Said That Vargas Owed The Omaha Police Officers An Apology. “Connor said his officers are working hard and dealing with a lot of emotional tool to keep the community safe. ‘I will absolutely not allow some two-bit politician to stand on the back of all police officers to try to elevate themselves,’ said Connor. ‘That’s unacceptable, he owes the Omaha police officers an apology for his comments on social media.’” (DaLaun Dillard, “Omaha Senator Calls Out Law Enforcement, Police Officer’s Association Responds,” [KETV](#), 6/2/20)

In The 2024 Election Cycle, Vargas Has Been Endorsed By Planned Parenthood

In The 2024 Election Cycle, Vargas Has Been Endorsed By Planned Parenthood. (“Planned Parenthood Action Fund 2024 House And Senate Endorsements,” [Planned Parenthood Action](#), Accessed 7/25/24)



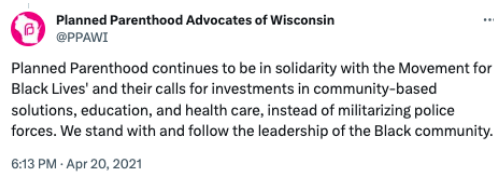
Nebraska

- Tony Vargas, NE-02

(“Planned Parenthood Action Fund 2024 House And Senate Endorsements,” [Planned Parenthood Action](#), Accessed 7/25/24)

Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Planned Parenthood Federation Of America, And Planned Parenthood Advocates Of Wisconsin Called For Defunding The Police

On April 20, 2021, Planned Parenthood Advocates Of Wisconsin Called For “Investments In Community-Based Solutions, Education, And Health Care, Instead Of Militarizing Police Forces.” “Planned Parenthood continues to be in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives' and their calls for investments in community-based solutions, education, and health care, instead of militarizing police forces. We stand with and follow the leadership of the Black community.” (Planned Parenthood Advocates Of Wisconsin, [Twitter](#), 4/20/21)



(Planned Parenthood Advocates Of Wisconsin, [Twitter](#), 4/20/21)

In July 2020, Planned Parenthood Action Fund Supported “The Movement For Black Lives’ Call To Defund The Police.” “Planned Parenthood Action Fund — in solidarity with patients, staff, and supporters — stands with the Movement for Black Lives’ call to defund the police. Defunding the police means investing less in militarizing police forces and investing more in community-based solutions, education, and health care.” (“Defunding The Police: What It Means And Why Planned Parenthood Supports It,” [Planned Parenthood Action Fund](#), 7/9/20)

“Planned Parenthood Stands With The Movement For Black Lives’ Call To Defund The Police” (“Planned Parenthood Stands With The Movement For Black Lives’ Call To Defund The Police,” [Planned Parenthood Action Fund](#), Accessed: 4/4/24)

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In June 2020, Planned Parenthood Action Fund Called For Defunding The Police And Investing In Black Communities. (Planned Parenthood Action, [Twitter](#), 6/21/20)



(Planned Parenthood Action, [Twitter](#), 6/21/20)

In July 2020, Planned Parenthood Action Fund Tweeted That They Stood With Black Lives Matter And Their Calls To Defund The Police. “We stand with @Mvmnt4BlkLives' call to defund the police. That means politicians must shift their priorities from investing in forces that brutalize Black people — toward infrastructure that strengthens and protects Black communities.”

(Planned Parenthood Action, [Twitter](#), 7/10/20)



(Planned Parenthood Action, [Twitter](#), 7/10/20)

Planned Parenthood Federation Of America Called For Defunding The Police. (Planned Parenthood, [Twitter](#), 6/21/20)



(Planned Parenthood, [Twitter](#), 6/21/20)

In The 2024 Election Cycle, Vargas Has Been Endorsed By Reproductive Freedom For All

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Tony Vargas
NE-02

(“Elections,” [Reproductive Freedom For all](#), Accessed 7/25/24)

Editor’s Note: In September 2023, “NARAL Pro-Choice America” [changed its name](#) to “Reproductive Freedom For All.”

NARAL Pro-Choice America Supported Defunding The Police

In June 2020, NARAL Pro-Choice America Said They Supported Defunding The Police. “NARAL stands with Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County’s statewide policy demands, especially the top priority to defund the police. These policy demands are critical steps towards ending systems of white supremacy and creating equity across communities. Budgets reflect our priorities. The call to defund the police is a call for investment in the urgent needs that disproportionately impact Black communities including healthcare access, education, social services, and more. Through investment, we can work to make sure every person, every parent, and every family is able to thrive.” ([NARAL Pro-Choice America](#), 6/25/20)

Vargas Has Worked With The Nebraska Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), Serving As A Co-Chair

Vargas Reported Serving As A Co-Chair Of The Nebraska Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) On The Financial Disclosure He Filed In 2023. (Anthony ‘Tony’ Vargas, Financial Disclosure Report, [United States House Of Representatives](#), 11/2/23)

Position	Name of Organization
Trustee	Nebraska Children’s Home Society
Co-Chair	Nebraska Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)
Board Member	Partnership for Kids

- **Vargas Previously Reported Serving As Co-Chair Of The Nebraska JDAI On The Financial Disclosure He Filed In 2021 And 2022.** (Anthony ‘Tony’ Vargas, Financial Disclosure Report, [United States House Of Representatives](#), 9/13/21; Anthony ‘Tony’ Vargas, Financial Disclosure Report, [United States House Of Representatives](#), 5/16/22)

JDAI Is A Juvenile Justice System Initiative Launched By The Annie E. Casey Foundation In 1992 And Adopted By The Nebraska Administrative Office Of Courts And Probation In 2010, With The Goal Of Reducing “The Unnecessary Use Of Detention.” “In 2010, the Administrative Office of Courts and Probation adopted the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, as a reform strategy to impact decision making, promote positive outcomes for youth, and safely reduce the unnecessary use of detention. Nebraska first launched the initiative in Douglas County and has since expanded to Sarpy County, Otoe County, Lancaster County and Hall County. ... JDAI is a nationally recognized, evidence-based detention reform and juvenile justice system improvement initiative launched in 1992 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.” (“Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI),” [State Of Nebraska Judicial Branch](#), Accessed 2/26/24)

The Initiative Has Been Implemented In Approximately 300 Counties Across 40 States, Three Tribes, And The District Of Colombia. “JDAI have been implemented in approximately 300 counties, spanning 40 states, three tribes and the District of Columbia.” (“Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI),” [State Of Nebraska Judicial Branch](#), Accessed 2/26/24)

JDAI Purportedly Seeks To Achieve “Systematic Reform Of Juvenile Justice Practices,” And Redirect “Resources To More Efficient And Effective Reform Strategies,” In Addition To A Host Of Other Objectives. “JDAI is based on eight core strategies that address the primary reasons why youth are unnecessarily detained. The mission of JDAI is to improve public safety and long-term outcomes for youth by: Safely reducing the number of youth in secure detention[;] Reducing racial and ethnic disparities[;] Achieving systematic reform of juvenile justice practices[;] Redirecting resources to more efficient and effective reform strategies[;] Improving conditions in secure detention facilities[;] Developing appropriate and effective alternatives to secure detention[.]” (“Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI),” [State Of Nebraska Judicial Branch](#), Accessed 2/26/24)

In The 2024 Election Cycle, Vargas Has Been Endorsed By The Congressional Black Caucus PAC

In The 2024 Election Cycle, Vargas Has Been Endorsed By The Congressional Black Caucus PAC. (“Endorsements,” [Tony Vargas For Congress](#), Accessed 8/9/24)

- **The Congressional Black Caucus PAC Supports The Passage Of The George Floyd Justice In Policing Act.** “The #CBCPAC shares the nations grief at another death due to a senseless act of police violence. It’s past time for extreme MAGA Republicans to stop blocking passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. We will not cease in working to ensure much needed police reform.” (CBCPAC, [Twitter](#), 1/28/23)

The George Floyd Justice In Policing Act Would Have Cost Hundreds Of Millions Each Year And Aimed To Eliminate Qualified Immunity For Law Enforcement, Which According To The International Association Of Chiefs Of Police, Would “Limit Their Ability And Willingness To Respond To Critical Incidents Without Hesitation”

According To The Congressional Budget Office, The George Floyd Justice In Policing Act Would Have Incurred Costs On “More Than 18,000 Law Enforcement Agencies” And Cost “Several Hundred Million Dollars Annually ...” “More than 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide would be affected by the bill’s requirements. All would incur costs for training and for data collection, management, and reporting. Using information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement associations nationwide, CBO expects that more than 6,000 agencies would either need to upgrade or to invest in new technology to comply with the new reporting requirements. Also using information from the FBI and law enforcement experts, CBO estimates that the costs across all intergovernmental entities would total several hundred million dollars annually to collect, manage, and transmit data to DOJ. Those costs would be higher the first year after the bill was enacted, as agencies made significant investments in technology.” (Phillip L. Swagel, “Re: H.R. 1280, The George Floyd Justice In Policing Act Of 2021,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 3/9/21)

- **The George Floyd Justice In Policing Act Would Have “Cost Local Departments Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars In Training, Data Collection And Equipment Costs ...”** “A House Democrats’ bill to revamp policing and end racial profiling would cost local departments hundreds of millions of dollars in training, data collection and equipment costs, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.” (Jonathan Nicholson, “Democratic Policing Bill Would Cost Departments Hundreds Of Millions To Comply With, Says CBO,” [MarketWatch](#), 3/11/21)

The George Floyd Justice In Policing Act Would Have Made It Easier “For The Federal Government To Successfully Prosecute Police Misconduct Cases, Ends Racial And Religious Profiling And Eliminates Qualified Immunity For Law Enforcement.” “The Justice in Policing Act is the first-ever bold, comprehensive approach to hold police accountable, change the culture of law enforcement and build trust between law enforcement and our communities. This legislation makes it easier for the federal government to successfully prosecute police misconduct cases, ends racial and religious profiling and eliminates qualified immunity for law enforcement. The legislation bans the use of chokeholds and no-knock warrants—which took the lives of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Eric Garner—at the federal level and encourages states to do the

same. This package will finally allow meaningful accountability in cases of police brutality.” (“Justice In Policing Act,” [House Committee On The Judiciary](#), Archived 7/1/20)

- **According To The International Association Of Chiefs Of Police, Qualified Immunity Protects Police Officers “From Civil Lawsuits So Long As Their Conduct Does Not Violate Clearly Established Law Or Constitutional Rights Of Which A Reasonable Officer Would Have Known.”** “What is qualified immunity? Qualified immunity provides police officers with protection from civil lawsuits so long as their conduct does not violate clearly established law or constitutional rights of which a reasonable officer would have known. Further, qualified immunity does not prevent individuals from recovering damages from police officers who knowingly violate an individual's constitutional rights.” (“IACP Statement On Qualified Immunity,” [International Association Of Chiefs Of Police](#), Accessed 3/9/23)
- **Ending Qualified Immunity Protections “Would Have A Profoundly Chilling Effect On Police Officers And Limit Their Ability And Willingness To Respond To Critical Incidents Without Hesitation.”** “Qualified immunity is an essential part of policing and American jurisprudence. It allows police officers to respond to incidents without pause, make split-second decisions, and rely on the current state of the law in making those decisions. This protection is essential because it ensures officers that good faith actions, based on their understanding of the law at the time of the action, will not later be found to be unconstitutional. The loss of this protection would have a profoundly chilling effect on police officers and limit their ability and willingness to respond to critical incidents without hesitation.” (“IACP Statement On Qualified Immunity,” [International Association Of Chiefs Of Police](#), Accessed 3/9/23)

Law Enforcement Groups Have Warned That Ending Qualified Immunity Is “Anti-Police” And That Attacks On Qualified Immunity Have “Caused Instability Throughout The Law Enforcement Profession”

The Fraternal Order Of Police Charged That Ending Qualified Immunity Was Anti-Police. “Don’t believe those pushing an anti-police agenda. Believe the #FACTS! ❌ Qualified Immunity does NOT protect officers who ‘knowingly violate the law’ from criminal liability. Officers CAN face: ✅ Criminal Charges ✅ Internal Investigations ✅ Discipline ✅ Termination ...” (National Fraternal Order Of Police, [Twitter](#), 4/8/21)



(National Fraternal Order Of Police, [Twitter](#), 4/8/21)

Fraternal Order Of Police Executive Director Jim Pasco Argued That Ending Qualified Immunity Would Result In Nobody Wanting To Become A Police Officer. “If qualified immunity or the ability to negotiate accountability protections for officers were taken away, there

would be consequences, says Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police. Under the judicial doctrine, qualified immunity also extends to corrections officers, university deans, and other state and local officials. ‘If it looked to me like it was inevitable that we were going to lose a vote on qualified immunity, we’d throw everybody in it,’ Pasco said. ... Abolishing qualified immunity for police, Pasco argued, would cause ‘consequences unforeseen.’ Pasco added that no one would want the job ‘if they were liable for everything they ever did’—a point other police advocates made to *POLITICO*.” (Laura Barron-Lopez, “Democrats’ Coming Civil War Over Police Unions,” [Politico](#), 10/14/20)

Fraternal Order Of Police: “The Attacks On Qualified Immunity Have Caused Instability Throughout The Law Enforcement Profession.” “The attacks on qualified immunity have caused instability throughout the law enforcement profession. Securing the future of policing and making a true change can only happen by having the ability to attract the best and brightest young, forward-thinking recruits. The possibility to face complete financial ruin even when reasonably believed to have acted under the color of law will not draw the much-needed young people to pursue a career in law enforcement. Recruitment numbers were suffering before the national debate began on qualified immunity, and they are even worse now. Officers are leaving the profession in droves – with no end on the horizon.” (Rob Pride, “Police Recruitment Was Already Tough. Attacks On Qualified Immunity Make Matters Worse.” [Fraternal Order Of Police](#), 11/30/21)