



PLATTE CHAT

Platte Institute Releases its Latest Study, "Nebraska's Spending Habits: Are We Frugal or Frivolous?"

The Platte Institute for Economic Research released its latest study today entitled, "Nebraska's Spending Habits: Are We Frugal or Frivolous?" To download a copy of the study, please visit our website at www.platteinstitute.org.

This study, authored by Dr. Ernie Goss, the MacAllister Chair and Professor of Economics at Creighton University's College of Business, provides compelling evidence of how we spend our money compared to bordering states and the country as a whole. It also offers suggestions as to where reductions are possible and recommendations as to how to accomplish those reductions.

One of the major findings by Dr. Goss, which left an impression on us, is the following:

* In 2007, if state and local governments in Nebraska had adjusted their spending to match that of its neighbors, overall savings would have been \$1.97 billion or \$1,110 per capita. If on the other hand, state and local governments in Nebraska had adjusted their spending to match the U.S. average, overall savings would have been \$932 million or \$525 per capita.

Is there a reason why Nebraska spends so much more than its neighbors or the U.S. average? What benefits do Nebraskans gain over citizens of neighboring states by funding this extra spending with their tax dollars?

This study by Dr. Goss continues our dialogue about how to make Nebraska a better place for those living here now and more attractive to those willing to move here.

Most importantly, this study also offers recommendations for reducing spending in five key areas in Nebraska:

- * Higher Education
- * K-12 Education
- * Public Welfare
- * Highways
- * Public Safety

By using this study in concert with “Nebraska’s Tax Competitiveness,” we believe meaningful tax relief can be brought to the state, which moved from having the seventeenth highest tax burden in the nation in 1992 to ninth in 2006.

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