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Send a Letter to the Editor

The Platte Institute strongly believes in the importance of citizens participating in the public dialogue on issues important to Nebraska. Writing a letter to the editor is an outstanding way to partake in the discussion and have your voice heard by thousands of

PLATTE CHAT

Platte Institute Releases *Where Did the Money Go?*

The latest study released by the Platte Institute for Economic Research outlines 10 ways the State of Nebraska can streamline its spending in order to save taxpayers millions of dollars.

To download a PDF of the 68-page report, please CLICK HERE.

The study *Where Did the Money Go?* is authored by Adam Summers, Leonard Gilroy and Lisa Snell of the Reason Foundation. It examines spending and revenue in Nebraska compared to surrounding states from 2002-2008.

On a per-capita basis, Nebraska spends substantially more than its neighbors for police protection and is near the top in spending on state salaries. Notice:

Police Protection Spending Per-Capita:

Nebraska $48, South Dakota $39, Kansas $39, Missouri $36, Iowa $32, Wyoming $30, Colorado $28.

Salaries and Wages Spending Per-Capita:

Wyoming $1,188, Nebraska $1,165, Kansas $1,133, South

people. To make the process easier, the Platte Institute has assembled a list of links which allow you to submit a letter to the editor to nearly all Nebraska newspapers. Simply CLICK HERE for a listing of the newspapers and follow the appropriate link to submit your letter.

Contact Us

If you would like to contact someone at the Platte Institute, you are always welcome to give us a call, drop us an email or stop by the office. Our telephone number is 402.452.3737. We are located at 10050 Regency Circle – Suite 120 – in Omaha. Below is a list of staff email address:

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Dakota $1,049, Iowa $767, Colorado $720, Missouri $619.

The 10 suggestions for improvement include:

- Adopting an effective state spending/revenue limit,
- Employing a Budgeting for Outcomes budgeting process in order to increase efficiency and the transparency of budget priority trade-off decisions,
- Adopting a sunset review process for state agencies, boards, and commissions,
- Utilizing non-partisan revenue forecasts and an independent certification of the budget,
- Creating a statewide real property inventory and mining the balance sheet for asset sale and lease opportunities,
- Expanding the use of privatization and competitive contracting,
- Establishing a State Privatization and Efficiency Council to better manage privatization and government efficiency initiatives,
- Implementing public-private partnerships to finance transportation infrastructure,
- Enacting school empowerment and student-based budgeting reforms, and
- Reinventing Nebraska's higher education system by providing higher education grants directly to students and embracing privatization and public-private partnerships for the financing, construction, operation, and/or maintenance of university services and assets.

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