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## Omaha Tax Facts

Nebraskans already suffer the burden of exceedingly high property tax rates, at a time when average family incomes are not even keeping up with inflation, now is not the time to suggest Omaha taxpayers pay an even greater burden for local government.

- **The unemployment rate in Omaha has risen since April 2009 from 4.7% to 5.5%, which in total is 24,673 people and families – NE Department of Labor**
- **Nebraskans pay 12th highest rates of individual taxes in the country - Creighton University Economics Professor Ernie Goss.**
- **The State of Nebraska alone takes 10.47% of the average Nebraskans' income through Sales, Property and Individual Income taxes. This does not account for federal and local taxes - NE Department of Labor.**
- **Omaha's 7% sales tax rate is a mixture of state (5.5%) and local (1.5%) taxes, with \$123 million going to the City budget. – Nebraska Department of Revenue and City of Omaha Finance Department.**
- **Omaha's property tax rate is higher than the national average. The average Omaha property taxpayer pay \$2.1930/\$100, or \$2,193 for a \$100,000 home, when compared to the national average of \$1,838, Omaha taxpayers pay over \$300 more than the national average - Platte Institute for Economic Research and Nebraska Department of Revenue.**
- **Omaha's young people are leaving. Nebraska is the 10<sup>th</sup> most heavily out-migrated state for young, single, college-educated people. The reason is simple; from 1997 to 2005 the number of new jobs in Nebraska was 102,200 while the number of recent college graduates was 195,000. – U.S. Census Bureau and Platte Institute for Economic Research**
  - **Without enough jobs to go around, young people have created what we commonly refer to as the 'Brain Drain'. Raising taxes, which discourages business investment, will not lure new jobs to Omaha.**
- **Omaha City Government grows much faster than the population warrants. In 2004 the City spent just over \$223.7 million and had a population of 404,267. In 2010, the proposed budget has grown to over \$280.8 million and the population hovers around 438,640 – City of Omaha Finance Department, US Census Bureau.**
  - **While the population of Omaha has grown by only 8.5%, the budget has grown by a whopping 25.5%!**