

Nebraskans United for Property Tax Reform & Education

Founding Principles – Winter 2017

PRINCIPLE #1

Adequate and sustainable funding of high quality K-12 education is imperative for the future of Nebraska.

- A well-educated workforce is essential for economic development and a high quality of life.¹
- Education reduces poverty, boosts economic growth and increases income. In sum, education is one of the most important investments a state can make in its people and its future.²
- Low levels of state funding for education is at the heart of Nebraska's property tax issues, not school spending.³

PRINCIPLE #2

Tax reform which reduces the over-reliance on local property taxes is necessary to ensure our tax system is fair to all Nebraska taxpayers.

- Nebraska must reduce property taxes to ensure a fair and balanced tax system.
 - Nebraska ranks 49th in the country in the percentage of K-12 funding that comes from the state.⁴
 - Nebraskans pay the 7th highest effective property tax rate in the nation.⁵
- To fund the state budget, we need a tax system that is fair and balanced for all Nebraska taxpayers. Nebraska's taxpayers need a significant reduction in property taxes.
 - Nebraska K-12 schools receive 33% of their funding from state sources while the national average is 47%.⁶
 - Nebraska K-12 schools receive 49% of their funding from local property taxes while the national average is 29%.⁶

Nebraska Farm Bureau
Nebraska Council of School Administrators
Nebraska State Education Association
Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association
Women Involved in Farm Economics
Gage County Property Tax Group
Nebraska Wheat Growers
Schools Taking Action for Nebraska Children's Education

Nebraska GRANGE
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Reform for Nebraska's Future
Nebraska Farmers Union
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nebraska Pork Producers
Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska
Greater Nebraska Schools Association

¹*Educational Attainment as an Economic Driver for States, Regions and Communities*; Larry Good and Jeannine La Prad - Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, Michigan State University, 2013.

²*The economic case for education*, Ludger Woessmann, University of Munich, *Journal of Education Economics*, 2016.

³*Property Tax Truth*, NSEA Voice Magazine, February, 2017. *Property Taxes, State Aid and School Spending*, NSEA Research, January, 2017; Data Source: Nebraska Department of Education Annual Finance Reports of School Districts, 1995-96 to 2015-16.

⁴<https://www2.census.gov/qovs/school/14f33pub.pdf> U.S. Census Bureau, *Public Education Finance Report*, June, 2016.

⁵*How High Are Property Taxes in Your State?* Tax Foundation, July, 2016; Data Source - 2014 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau data.

⁶U.S. Census Bureau, *Public Education Finance*, 2016 – Based on 2014 Survey Data.

**A Resolution of the Centura Public School Board of Education
Supporting the Principles of *Nebraskans United for Property Tax Reform
and Education* and Urging the Nebraska Legislature and the Governor to Reduce
Nebraska's Reliance on Property Taxes for Funding K-12 Education**

Duly approved on January 8, 2018

WHEREAS, education reduces poverty, boosts economic growth, increases income, and is one of the most important investments a state can make in its citizens and future and;

WHEREAS, Nebraska ranks 49th among all states in the percentage of K-12 funding that comes from state resources (Nebraska K-12 schools receive only 33 percent of their funding from state sources while the national average is 47 percent) and;

WHEREAS, more than 60 percent of all property taxes collected in the state of Nebraska are utilized for the funding of K-12 education and;

WHEREAS, Nebraska's reliance on property taxes for funding K-12 schools is considerably higher than that of the national average (49 percent of Nebraska K-12 funding comes from local property taxes while the national average is 29 percent) and;

WHEREAS, Nebraskans pay the seventh highest property tax rate in the nation and;

WHEREAS, Nebraska has become far too reliant on property taxes to fund government services, including K-12 education and;

WHEREAS, Nebraska's three-legged tax stool is woefully out of balance, with property taxes accounting for 48 percent of the total combined collections of property, state sales, and state income taxes, used for the funding of education and government services and;

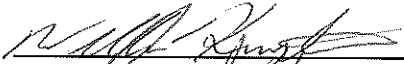
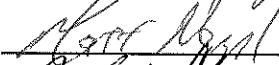
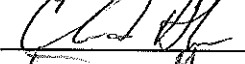

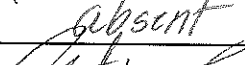
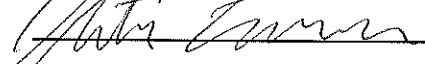
WHEREAS, Nebraskans deserve a tax system that is fair and balanced and one which reduces the overall property tax burden on its citizens, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Centura Public School Board of Education supports the principles of *Nebraskans United for Property Tax Reform and Education* stating that

1. Adequate and sustainable funding of high quality education is imperative for the future of Nebraska.
2. Tax reform which reduces the over-reliance on local property taxes is necessary to ensure our tax system is fair to all Nebraska taxpayers.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Nebraska Legislature and the Governor take action during the 2018 legislative session to reduce property taxes and better balance Nebraska's tax system.

It is hereby certified by the undersigned that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Centura School Board of Education.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
	William Kempfar	1-08-18
	Matt Nepl	1-8-18
	Chad Adams	1-8-18
	Teresa Grabowski	08JAN18
	Ryan Marr	
	Justin Caspersen	1-8-18