



www.afpnebraska.com

Kearney Tax Increase Proposal 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 Kearney taxpayers pay an even greater burden for local government.

- **The unemployment rate in Buffalo County has risen since April 2009 from 3.4% to 3.7%, which in total is 1,172 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.**
- **Kearney's 7% sales tax rate is a mixture of state (5.5%) and local (1.5%) taxes – City of Kearney**
- **Kearney's Property Tax rate is higher than the national average. Kearney taxpayers pay \$1,941.994/\$100, or \$1,941.994 for a \$100,000 home, when compared to the national average of \$1,838, Kearney taxpayers pay over \$100 more than the national average - Platte Institute for Economic Research.**
- **Kearney's young people are leaving. Nebraska is the 10th most heavily out-migrate 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 Kearney.**
- **Kearney's City Government grows much faster than the population warrants. In 2006-2007 the City spent just over \$60.4 million and had a population of 29,385. In 2009-2010, the proposed budget has grown to over \$74.9 million and the population hovers around 34,417 – City of Kearney, Nebraska State Auditor and U.S. Census Bureau.**
 - **While the population of Kearney has grown by only 3.5%, the budget has grown by a whopping 24%!**