



April 6, 2021

Dear Senators:

On behalf of our activists across Nebraska, I urge you to support LB 644 – Property Tax Request Act.

We strive to create an economy that works for all – empowering people to earn success and realize their potential. Excessive taxation at every level of government in Nebraska, is making it more difficult for individuals to get ahead. According to the American Legislative Exchange Council’s Rich States, Poor States publication, Nebraska is one of the worst states for property taxes, ranking in the bottom ten at 41. The extremely high number of local entities with the power to levy a property tax, such as school boards, cities, community colleges, sanitary improvement districts, natural resource districts, etc. are a driving force behind high taxation. High taxes drive high government spending especially without necessary transparency and accountability measures needed for residents to be informed and engaged on state and local taxation.

LB 644 takes steps towards a Utah-style Truth in Taxation, which has benefited Utah residents by keeping their property tax growth under control. Utah was the first state in the nation to enact Truth in Taxation in 1985, and it has been a success in terms of government transparency and accountability to residents. It has also proven successful keeping property taxes from the astronomical growth most of the United States has experienced.

It's time for political subdivisions to be truly transparent in the collecting and spending of taxpayer dollars. The burden should be on the political subdivision to justify the need for increased revenues – it should not be increasingly burdensome for the taxpayer. The cost to political subdivisions would be minimal compared to the windfall they reap annually from increased property taxes. While LB 644 doesn't directly lower our property taxes it does bring sunlight to the process.

With this in mind, I urge you to vote yes on LB 644.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shelburn
Nebraska State Director
Americans for Prosperity