



## NE 2021 Property Tax Issue Survey – Script

Field Dates: Monday, January 25 – Saturday, January 30

### Survey Script

Hello, you're being called to participate in a seven minute survey on important tax matters in Nebraska. If you would like to give your opinion, which is collected anonymously and will not be shared with any outside parties, please stay on the line for all twenty-two questions.

<b>Question 1:</b>	<b>With which political party do you most identify?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
	PRESS 1 if you are a Republican.	1
	PRESS 2 if you are a Democrat.	2
	PRESS 3 if you are an Independent.	3
<b>Question 2:</b>	<b>What is your age?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
	PRESS 1 if you are 44 or younger.	1
	PRESS 2 if you are between 45 and 64.	2
	PRESS 3 if you are 65 or older.	3
<b>Question 3:</b>	<b>What is your gender?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
	PRESS 1 if you are male.	1
	PRESS 2 if you are female.	2
<b>Question 4:</b>	<b>Do you currently pay property taxes in Nebraska?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
	PRESS 1 for yes.	1
	PRESS 2 for no, but you have in the past.	2

PRESS 3 for no. 3

**Question 5:** The next two questions ask which tax issues you believe are most important. CODE  
Many Nebraskans believe they are overtaxed and wish to see tax relief. If you could pick one tax that you would like to see reduced of the following six options, which would it be? *[rotate responses]*

---

PRESS # for property taxes. #

PRESS # for state income taxes. #

PRESS # for sales and use taxes. #

PRESS # for retirement taxes. #

PRESS # for business taxes. #

PRESS # for inheritance taxes. #

PRESS 7 if you are unsure. 7

**Question 6:** Nebraskans who inherit property from relatives or friends other than their spouses may have to pay county inheritance tax. Nebraska is one of only six states that collects an inheritance tax. Based on this information, how important do you think it would be for Nebraska to reduce or eliminate its inheritance tax? CODE

---

PRESS 1 for very important. 1

PRESS 2 for somewhat important. 2

PRESS 3 for somewhat unimportant. 3

PRESS 4 for very unimportant. 4

PRESS 5 if you are unsure. 5

**Question 7:** The next eight questions are regarding property taxes. CODE  
How concerned are you about being able to afford paying your property taxes, either now or at some time in the future?

---

PRESS 1 for very concerned. 1

PRESS 2 for somewhat concerned. 2

PRESS 3 for not at all concerned. 3

PRESS 4 if you are unsure. 4

**Question 8:** Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, have local property taxes become a greater or lesser concern for you and your family? CODE

---

	PRESS 1 for greater concern.	1
	PRESS 2 for the same level of concern.	2
	PRESS 3 for lesser concern.	3
	PRESS 4 if you are unsure.	4
<b>Question 9:</b>	<b>If you were given the choice, would you say is it more important for lawmakers to reduce the amount of property taxes you pay right now or prevent your property taxes from rising too much in the future?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
	PRESS 1 for reduce your current property taxes.	1
	PRESS 2 for prevent future property tax increases.	2
	PRESS 3 if you are unsure.	3
<b>Question 10:</b>	<b>Last year, the Nebraska legislature adopted a tax plan that could eventually provide \$700 million a year in local property tax relief. Given the many priorities the state faces, do you believe the legislature has focused too much or not enough on property taxes?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
	PRESS 1 for too much.	1
	PRESS 2 for the right amount.	2
	PRESS 3 for not enough.	3
	PRESS 3 if you are unsure.	4
<b>Question 11:</b>	<b>In previous years, the Nebraska legislature has considered a proposal for a constitutional amendment that would limit the growth of local property tax revenue to no more than 3% each year. School districts and local governments oppose this limitation, arguing it would prevent them from being able to fully fund local services over time. Knowing this, would you support or oppose a constitutional amendment limiting the annual growth of property tax revenue to 3% a year?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
	PRESS 1 for strongly support.	1
	PRESS 2 for somewhat support.	2
	PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.	3
	PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.	4
	PRESS 5 if you are unsure.	5
<b>Question 12:</b>	<b>Are you aware that Nebraska law requires local governments to hold a public hearing before property taxes can be increased due to rising property valuations?</b>	<b>CODE</b>

PRESS 1 for yes.	1
PRESS 2 for no.	2
PRESS 3 if you are unsure.	3
<b>Question 13:</b> <b>Would you support or oppose requiring local governments to inform taxpayers by mail about their opportunity to participate in a public hearing before property taxes can be increased due to rising property valuation?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 for strongly support.	1
PRESS 2 for somewhat support.	2
PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.	3
PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure.	5
<b>Question 14:</b> <b>Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us became more familiar with using virtual conferencing programs like Zoom or Google Hangout. Would you support or oppose a state law requiring that Nebraskans be allowed to provide public comment at local or state government meetings through virtual conferencing programs?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 for strongly support.	1
PRESS 2 for somewhat support.	2
Press 3 for somewhat oppose.	
Press 4 for strongly oppose	
PRESS 3 if you are unsure.	3
<b>Question 15:</b> <b>The next three questions are regarding property tax reforms.</b>	<b>CODE</b>
<b>In addition to property taxes on homes, land, and business equipment, Nebraska collects an annual tax on motor vehicles, like cars, trucks, and motorcycles. A bill in the Nebraska Legislature proposes to reduce the tax by around 10%, however, this change may reduce funds available to school districts or cities and counties for road funding. Knowing this, would you support or oppose a 10% reduction in Nebraska's motor vehicle tax?</b>	
PRESS 1 for strongly support.	1
PRESS 2 for somewhat support.	2
PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.	3
PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure.	5

**Question 16:** Nebraska businesses must also pay property taxes on equipment and machinery, including farm equipment, computers, and furniture. Would you support or oppose reducing or eliminating Nebraska's property tax on business equipment? CODE

- 
- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| PRESS 1 for strongly support. | 1 |
| PRESS 2 for somewhat support. | 2 |
| PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.  | 3 |
| PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.  | 4 |
| PRESS 5 if you are unsure.    | 5 |

**Question 17:** Nebraska farmers, ranchers, and agricultural landowners pay much higher local property taxes than people in most other states. Would you support or oppose additional property tax relief specifically for owners of agricultural land? CODE

- 
- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| PRESS 1 for strongly support. | 1 |
| PRESS 2 for somewhat support. | 2 |
| PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.  | 3 |
| PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.  | 4 |
| PRESS 5 if you are unsure.    | 5 |

**Question 18:** The final five questions are regarding potential options for property tax relief. CODE

Currently, Nebraska's main property tax relief programs are delivered as a tax credit either on your property or state income tax bill. Would you support or oppose replacing these tax credits with a reduction in your actual property tax rates or valuations?

- 
- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| PRESS 1 for strongly support. | 1 |
| PRESS 2 for somewhat support. | 2 |
| PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.  | 3 |
| PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.  | 4 |
| PRESS 5 if you are unsure.    | 5 |

**Question 19:** This year, Nebraska legislators will consider giving voters the chance to decide on a constitutional amendment to end local property taxes and state income taxes, replacing them with a sales tax, also called a consumption tax. The tax would be more than 10% and would be collected on purchases like new consumer goods, groceries, and personal services. If given the chance to vote on this constitutional amendment, would you support or oppose the amendment? CODE

---

PRESS 1 for strongly support.	1
PRESS 2 for somewhat support.	2
PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.	3
PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure.	5
<b>Question 20:</b> One alternative to the plan to fully eliminate property and income taxes would be to collect sales taxes on more goods and services without raising the sales tax rate, then use the new revenue to reduce Nebraska's property and income taxes. Assuming this change did not cut support for programs like education and health care, would you support or oppose this proposal?	CODE
PRESS 1 for strongly support.	1
PRESS 2 for somewhat support.	2
PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.	3
PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure.	5
<b>Question 21:</b> Another option for significantly reducing local property taxes would be for the State of Nebraska to take a greater role in funding public schools. However, opponents say this would reduce the amount of local control school districts have over spending and other priorities. Would you support or oppose the state taking over most funding decisions for public schools if it meant your local property taxes would be reduced?	CODE
PRESS 1 for strongly support.	1
PRESS 2 for somewhat support.	2
PRESS 3 for somewhat oppose.	3
PRESS 4 for strongly oppose.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure.	5
<b>Question 22:</b> One potential way to reduce property taxes in Nebraska would be to fund local government functions with a different type of tax. Assuming it would lower property taxes, which kind of tax would you be willing to pay more of to achieve this property tax relief? <i>[rotate responses]</i>	CODE
PRESS # for state income taxes.	#
PRESS # for sales and use taxes.	#
PRESS # for retirement taxes.	#
PRESS # for business taxes.	#

PRESS 5 to keep things the way they are now.

5

PRESS 6 if you are unsure.

6

That concludes our survey. Thank you for your time and opinions, goodbye.