

Memorandum

Date: January 9, 2018
To: Interested Parties
From: Lauren Spangler

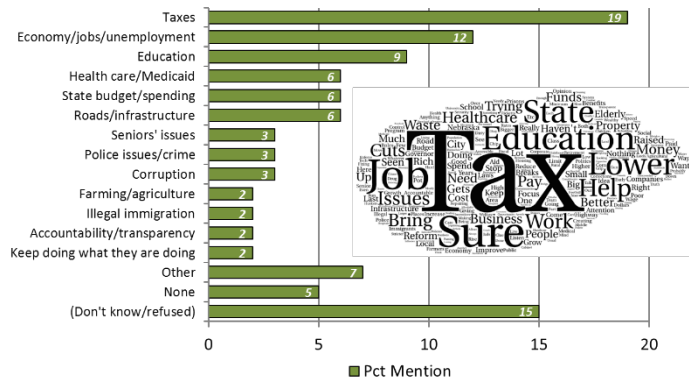
The Disconnect Between State Government and Average Nebraskans

According to the results of our survey¹, Nebraskans believe that the Governor and legislature have been focused on cutting taxes for corporations and the wealthy or doing little to help average families while at the same time, a near majority report that they do not have enough savings to cover their bills for at least six months in the case of emergency. Moreover, 14 percent say that they or someone in their household has gone without needed medical care in the past year or two, a problem that has greater impact among those with children under the age of 18 at home than those without minor children.

On the surface, when asked to name the issue or issues on which the Governor and legislature have been focused, taxes emerges as the top singular issue, followed by the economy and jobs and education which form a secondary tier, as seen in the graph. The graph also includes a word cloud of verbatim responses, and in the word cloud, the larger the word, the more often it is mentioned.

Across the partisan spectrum, among registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and those registered as nonpartisans, voters believe taxes have been the top issue of focus for state government. It is also notable that just as many say that the Governor and legislature are not focused on any issue or do not know which issues on which they have been focused, showing the disconnect we often see between voters and state government.

What Nebraskans Believe the Governor and Legislature Are Focused On



Q.8 (SPLIT B) Thinking back, what issue or issues have the Governor and Nebraska state legislature been focused on?

¹ These findings are based on a survey of 600 likely voters statewide in Nebraska. Calling took place from November 2-6, 2017, and interviews were conducted by professional interviewers supervised by Myers Research | Strategic Services staff. The data were stratified to reflect the projected geographical contribution to the total expected vote. The margin of error associated with these data at a 95 in 100 percent confidence level is +/- 4.0 percent. The margin of error for subgroups is greater and varies.

When examining the data in finer detail in this open-ended exercise in which respondents' verbatim responses are recorded, the specificity of taxes comes through more clearly. Make no mistake, Nebraskans do not believe their taxes are being cut; they believe the legislature has been focused on cutting taxes for corporations and the rich and helping big business. One respondent even indicated that he or she knew they were working on tax cuts but that they had not seen relief yet. A sampling of these quotes is provided below.

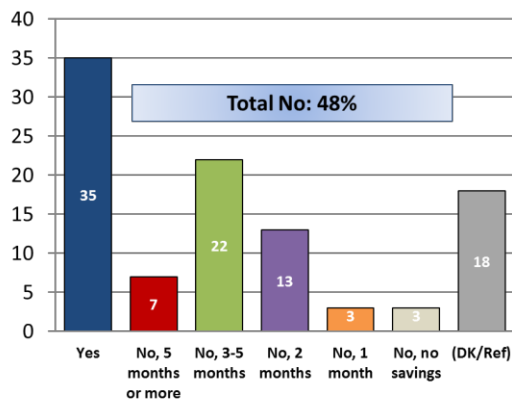
What Nebraskans Believe the Governor and Legislature Are Focused On



Q.8 (SPLIT 8) Thinking back, what issue or issues have the Governor and Nebraska state legislature been focused on?

While Nebraskans believe state government has been focused on tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy and helping big business, many of them continue to struggle. When asked if they had enough money saved to cover bills for six months in case of an emergency,

Older College Graduates Are Only Audience Able To Cover Six Months of Expenses in an Emergency



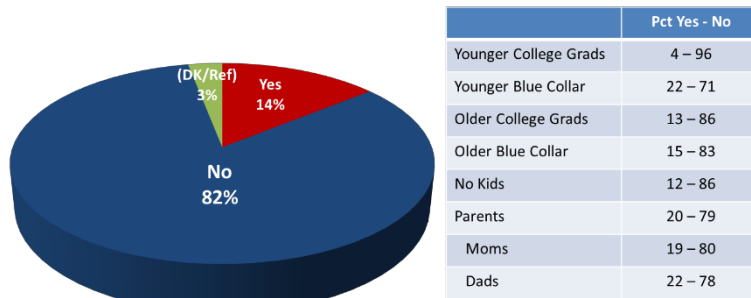
	Pct Yes - No
Younger College Grads	32 - 50
Younger Blue Collar	12 - 69
Older College Grads	56 - 34
Older Blue Collar	36 - 45
No Kids	46 - 38
Parents	14 - 67
Moms	7 - 76
Dads	20 - 59

Q.92 And please think about your personal financial situation. In case of emergency, do you have enough money saved to cover your bills for at least six months?

a near majority (48 percent) said they do not. In fact, the only blocs who reported that they have enough savings for at least six months are those over age 50 with a college degree and those who do not have children under age 18 at home, audiences that overlap. Just 7 percent of Moms with kids at home report having enough savings for a large-scale emergency.

Twenty-one percent of Nebraskans indicate that they have had trouble affording health care in the past few years, and 14 percent of voters say that they or someone in their household has actually had to go without medical care when they needed it. As the graph outlines, it is younger audiences, those under age 50, without a college degree who are the most likely to have gone without needed medical care. And, perhaps more troubling, it is a hardship that is more likely to have affected those with children under the age of 18 than those who do not have children at home.

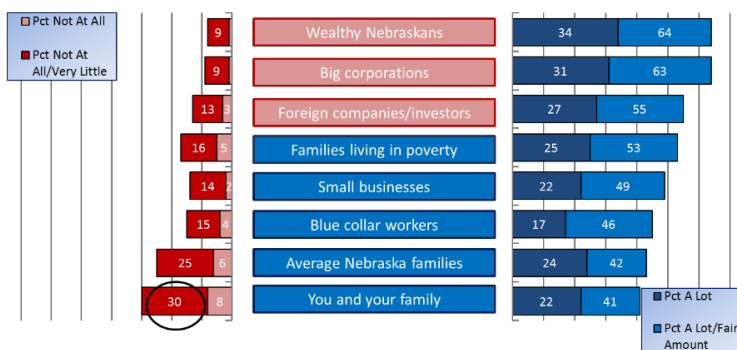
Younger Blue Collar Audiences and Those With Kids at Home Most Likely To Have Gone Without Needed Medical Care



Q.93 And in the past year or two, has there been any time that someone in your household needed medical care but did not get it?

Similar to trends we have observed in other states and reflective of their beliefs of state government’s focus, Nebraskans say that government’s economic policies are focused on helping big corporations, the wealthy, and foreign companies more than small businesses, blue collar workers, and average families. Indeed, as the graph outlines, 3-in-10 voters say that government’s economic policies have helped them and their family a little or not at all in the last year. Both men and women believe government’s economic policies are helping wealthy Nebraskans (79 percent help a lot/a fair amount/some), big corporations (77 percent help a lot/a fair amount/some), and foreign investors (60 percent help a lot/a fair amount/some) in

Real Sense That Government Is Helping Wealthy, Big Corporations, Foreign Companies, and Those in Poverty More Than Average Families



Qs.51-58 And, in the last year or so, have government’s economic policies helped _____ a lot, a fair amount, just some, very little, or not at all?

equal numbers.

The largest distinction comes along education lines. College-educated voters are more likely (70 percent help a lot/a fair amount) than blue collar audiences (62 percent help a lot/a fair amount) to say that government’s policies are helping the wealthy. Conversely, 9-in-10 blue collar voters (87 percent help a lot/a fair amount) say government’s policies are helping big corporations while 62 percent of college-educated voters say the same.