



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nebraska Voters Outlook: Public Opinion Shows Strong Concern Among Nebraskans on Tax Policy, Affordability of Basic Needs, and Healthcare

OMAHA, NE – Holland Children's Institute, a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, [releases survey results](#) of its ongoing Nebraska Voters' Outlook (NVO) series, a statewide public opinion research initiative measuring Nebraskans' insights into policy impacting children and families. Nebraska Voters' Outlook, commissioned by the Institute and conducted in partnership with OpenSky Policy Institute and Patinkin Research Strategies LLC, from March 4 - 6, 2026, surveyed approximately 500 registered Nebraska voters across the state for a statewide representative sample.

Recent public opinion research indicates that an overwhelming majority of Nebraskans have deep concerns about the direction of the state, proposed tax policies, and the cost of living. Results showed 66 percent of Nebraskans believe the State is on the "wrong track," the highest level recorded since 2020 (58 percent). Another large majority said they are worried about being able to afford health care (66 percent), groceries and household goods (60 percent), utilities (56 percent), gas or other transportation costs (52 percent), and housing (51 percent). When asked about the state budget, a supermajority of Nebraskans said they would prefer the Legislature balance the budget by closing tax loopholes (81 percent), rather than cutting programs in health care, education, and workforce development.

The federal landscape is also a concern among voters, with the One Big Beautiful Act (OBBBA) receiving unfavorable opinions (48 percent). A majority believe the OBBBA will worsen food security (52 percent) and health care (58 percent). Ultimately, Nebraskans said the OBBBA will not be too helpful or not helpful at all to them and their families (55 percent).

"These overwhelming majorities offer a crystal clear view of Nebraskans' concerns and serious dissatisfaction with the state, while they are also in massive agreement the state should close tax loopholes instead of cutting services, as they are deeply worried about being unable to afford or access healthcare, food and other critical services and goods," said Holland Children's Institute CEO, Hadley Richters. "These huge majorities represent Nebraska voices, which should not be ignored by their elected representatives as the current state budget debate continues and decisions are being made."

"The public opinion poll expresses clearly that Nebraskans call for common sense approaches to taxation, strongly preferring their locally elected legislators to make decisions rather than inheriting them from Washington D.C.," said Dr. Rebecca Firestone, Executive Director of OpenSky Policy Institute. "We share the concern so many Nebraskans expressed about the affordability of the things they need most. We encourage lawmakers to exercise their authority to make budget and tax policy decisions that are forward-thinking and sustainable, rather than reactionary. OpenSky Policy Institute and Holland Children's Institute both know that you cannot cut your way to prosperity, and it's imperative that we make strategic investments that allow Nebraskans to continue to access the Good Life."

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Holland Children's Institute is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization serving as the trusted destination for research and analysis related to income disparities and equitable access to opportunities essential to prosperity for Nebraska children and families. For nearly a decade, the organization has released the Nebraska Voters' Outlook (NVO) series, a statewide public opinion research initiative measuring Nebraskans' insights into policy impacting children and families.

OpenSky Policy Institute is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to using research, strategic communications and coalition-building to advance evidence-based policies that improve economic opportunity for all Nebraskans. For 15 years, the organization has focused on empowering policymakers to make wise fiscal policy decisions, with expertise in taxation, budgeting, educational funding and social safety net policies.

