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(Neb)-Think Tank Poll Offers Guarded Optimism On Finding Property Tax Solution

By: John Axtell Posted at: 01/30/2019 08:02 PM

The Platte Institute for Economic Research, a conservative-learning free market think tank headquartered in Omaha, says a new phone poll shows Nebraska taxpayers are open to a variety of policies that could help reduce local property taxes.

Platte Institute CEO Jim Vokal says the automated poll included 2,977 active likely voters in the districts of the 8 members of the Legislature's Revenue Committee, some largely urban and some largely rural.

Vokal says a majority of the voters polled favored additional limits on local property taxing authority, and a plurality supported ending sales tax exemptions to reduce property taxes, but they remain closely divided on using unspecified taxes to reduce property taxes or cutting government spending to achieve property tax reduction.

Vokal says some of the results varied along the urban and rural lines, but became more unified when the subject turned to the Legislature placing more limits on the ability of local governments to levy property taxes.

He says the results show that "many undecided taxpayers are looking for leaders to show them a vision for property tax reform," with the result that "the Revenue Committee must communicate to voters how their solutions can get Nebraskans closer to what most of them say they want in this poll, which is a lower property tax bill without neglecting core government services."