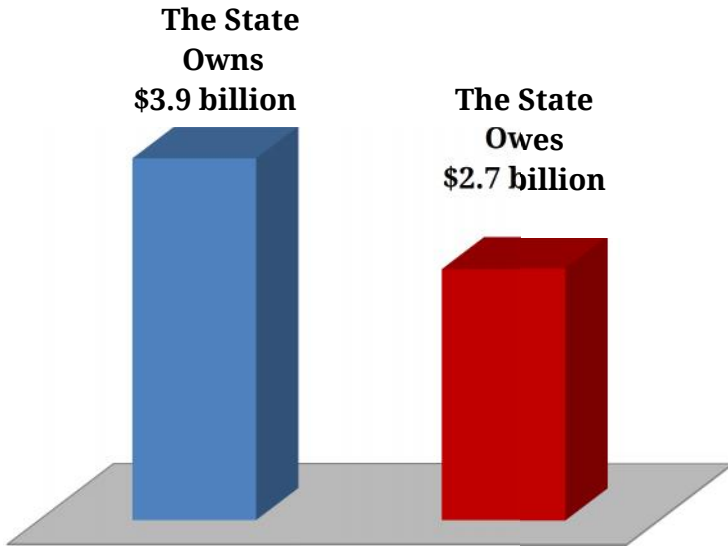


## THE 5th BEST STATE

### NEBRASKA IS A SUNSHINE STATE



### THE STATE'S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

The state of Nebraska is a sunshine state because it has assets above its outstanding bills. The State has a \$1.2 billion financial surplus.

### Each Taxpayer's Share of This Financial Surplus is \$2,000

Unlike most states, Nebraska has the money need to fund State employees' retirement benefits and other outstanding bills. Nebraska is in good financial shape because the legislators and governors have only promised citizens and employees what they can afford to deliver.

*Number of taxpayers based on the number of Nebraska federal tax filers with a tax liability.*



### RETIREMENT LIABILITIES ARE MASSIVELY UNDERSTATED

Reported Retirement Liabilities	\$1,170,000
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Actual Retirement Liabilities	\$700,387,000
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Truth in Accounting's detailed analysis discovered a total of \$700.4 million of retirement benefits have been promised but not funded. Because of the confusing way the State does its accounting, only \$1.2 million of these liabilities are reported on Nebraska's balance sheet.

- ☀ The Institute for Truth in Accounting is committed to compelling governments to provide citizens with truthful and transparent financial information.
- ☀ We call on governments to truthfully balance their budgets by including all real and certain expenses when incurred not when paid.
- ☀ A transparent budget process would provide citizens with the information they need to be knowledgeable participants in their state government.

**To be knowledgeable participants in their State government, citizens need to be provided with truthful and transparent financial information.**

*Data is derived from the state of Nebraska's June 30, 2012 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.*

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The Financial State of Nebraska  
As of June 30, 2012

**The State's Assets Exceed Its Bills**

Assets	\$18,694,700,000
Less: Capital Assets	\$10,094,374,000
Restricted Assets	\$4,748,805,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$3,851,521,000
Less: Bills	\$2,672,021,000
Money Available to Pay Bills	<b>\$1,179,500,000</b>
<b>Each Taxpayer's Surplus</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

The state of Nebraska has \$18.7 billion in assets, but most of these assets are not available to pay State bills.

The \$10.1 billion of capital assets, such as roads, buildings, and land should not be sold to pay bills. The use of \$4.7 billion of the assets is restricted by law or contract.

That leaves \$3.9 billion of State's assets available to pay \$2.7 billion of bills as they come due.

Nebraska's elected officials seem to promise only the amount of benefits they can afford to pay.

**Each Taxpayer's Share of the Financial Surplus is \$2,000**

*Number of taxpayers is based on the number of Nebraska federal tax filers with a tax liability.*

*Data is derived from the state of Nebraska's June 30, 2012 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.*



**The Bills the State Has Accumulated**

State Bonds	\$720,433,000
Other Liabilities	\$2,104,618,000
Less: Debt Related to Capital Assets	\$853,417,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$700,387,000
Unfunded Retirees' Health Care Benefits	\$0
<b>Bills</b>	<b>\$2,672,021,000</b>

The State has accumulated bonds of \$720.4 million and other liabilities of \$2.1 billion. The calculation of assets available to pay bills does not include capital assets, so \$853.4 million of related debt is removed from the calculation of State Bills.

Unfunded employees' retirement benefits represent 26% of State bills. These unfunded liabilities have accumulated because State employees have been promised \$700.4 million of pension benefits and \$0 of retirees' health care benefits. Unlike most states, Nebraska has the assets needed to pay these liabilities.

Nebraska elected officials seem to promise only what they can afford.

**All Retirement Liabilities Are Not Clearly Disclosed**

Reported Retirement Liabilities	\$1,170,000
Unreported Retirement Liabilities	\$699,217,000
<b>Total Retirement Liabilities</b>	<b>\$700,387,000</b>

A detailed study of Nebraska's actuaries' schedules found retirement benefits totaling \$700.4 million have been promised, but not funded. But a review of the State's balance sheet determined only \$1.2 million of these liabilities are reported. This means 26% of the State's liabilities are not reported on the State's balance sheet.