



# 2017



## NEBRASKA GROWTH REPORT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

GOVERNOR RICKETTS' NOTE .....	1
GETTING THE JOB DONE FOR OUR ECONOMY .....	2
PROMOTING TRADE.....	4
PROVIDING TAX RELIEF.....	6
CONTROLLING STATE SPENDING.....	7
SUPPORTING OUR FARM ECONOMY.....	8
PROMOTING NEBRASKA BEEF.....	10
BUILDING NEBRASKA.....	11
TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE.....	12
MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER.....	14
PROMOTING A CULTURE OF LIFE.....	15
SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS.....	16
GOVERNOR RICKETTS' TEAM.....	17



# 2017 NEBRASKA GROWTH REPORT

## GOVERNOR RICKETTS' NOTE

Fellow Nebraskans,

In 2017, our great state celebrated 150 years of the Good Life. Our celebration reminds us of the values that made Nebraska what it is today: hard work, ingenuity, and a pioneering spirit. These attributes carried our forefathers forward from Nebraska's earliest days, and they serve as our roadmap as this state enters the next chapter of its storied history.

As we work to grow Nebraska, these principles have guided my administration. With the Unicameral Legislature, we have worked to reduce the heavy burden of state and local taxes, cut the growth of government spending, and run state government more like a business. We've made it easier for job creators to invest and hire in Nebraska, and we've worked to promote Nebraska's agricultural products around the world. Our state has made great strides in pursuit of a brighter, more prosperous future for the next generation of Nebraskans – the Good Life.

Susanne and I are thankful for the privilege of serving you and helping to ensure Nebraska remains the best place in the world to live, work, and raise a family. There really is no place like it.

A blue, handwritten signature of Pete Ricketts.

Pete Ricketts  
Governor of Nebraska





## GETTING THE JOB DONE FOR OUR ECONOMY

### A RECORD OF RESULTS

Governor Ricketts has worked hard to eliminate the barriers to success state government imposes on Nebraska's job creators, including heavy tax burdens, unnecessary regulations, and red tape. The last three years hold proof of the power of Nebraska job creators unleashed to invest, hire, and grow our state's economy.

In June of 2016, Governor Ricketts announced a new milestone for job creation in Nebraska: over one million non-farm jobs for the first time in state history. As Nebraska has attracted millions of dollars in major business expansions and new jobs, the record proves we're on the right track.

In October of 2017, Nebraska's unemployment rate, the fourth-lowest

in the nation, reached its lowest point since 1999.

In both 2017 and 2018, Nebraska was awarded the *Site Selection Magazine* Governor's Cup for the most economic development projects per capita. In 2016 and 2017, the number of Nebraska economic development projects exceeded that of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Kansas combined. Nebraska job creators are doing what they do best: investing, innovating, and putting Nebraska's unparalleled workforce to work.

### DEVELOPING A 21ST-CENTURY WORKFORCE

Attracting new opportunities and next-generation jobs to Nebraska requires a workforce equipped

to fill new, high-skill positions.

The cutting-edge reemployment program developed by the Ricketts administration has been nationally recognized for getting unemployed Nebraskans back into the workforce while getting results for taxpayers. The reforms reduced the average number of weeks of benefits paid by over 20 percent, resulting in \$13.7 million in fewer benefits needed. The program's cost savings contributed to a 25 percent reduction in the unemployment tax rate in 2017, resulting in nearly \$20 million in taxpayer savings.

### INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF NEBRASKA WORKERS

To give future Nebraska workers



a head start in the increasingly competitive 21st-century economy, Governor Ricketts has championed the Developing Youth Talent Initiative (DYTI). The program fosters public-private partnerships that bring hands-on career exploration and workplace learning to Nebraska’s 7th and 8th graders. DYTI has proven successful in encouraging participating students to pursue interests in technology and manufacturing. Hastings High School, for example, experienced a 16 percent increase in enrollment in Skills and Technical Science classes among incoming freshmen who had participated in a year of 8th-grade DYTI programming.

## PROMOTING THE SILICON PRAIRIE

In the competition to attract new investment and job opportunities to Nebraska, the customer-friendly, pro-growth approach to economic development and regulatory reform advanced by the Ricketts administration has given Nebraska a competitive edge. This is especially true for technology firms that are providing Nebraskans with the jobs of the future. In 2017, Facebook announced the development of a

major data center in Papillion. This is Facebook’s sixth facility of its kind in the United States.

**“Everything here has been as advertised — from a committed set of community partners and strong pool of talent to the opportunity to power our facility with 100 percent renewable energy. The Cornhusker State is a great place to do business.”**

-Tim Furlong, VP of Infrastructure at Facebook

## SELECT 2017 INVESTMENTS IN NEBRASKA:

- Facebook data center, Papillion, \$300 million
- Costco poultry processing facility, Fremont, \$300 million
- Evonik plant, Blair, \$200 million
- Cargill cooked meats facility, Columbus, \$111 million
- Becton Dickinson facility expansion, Columbus, \$60 million
- Novozymes facility, Blair, \$36 million
- Kawasaki aerostructures production line, Lincoln, \$12.5 million
- Agri-Plastics, Sidney, \$4.5 million

## HOW NEBRASKA RANKS

Here are a few stats showing where Nebraska stands. To view more, visit [www.Governor.Nebraska.gov/statistics](http://www.Governor.Nebraska.gov/statistics).

### Overall

- 7th Best State (*U.S. News & World Report, 2018*)

### Jobs and Economic Development

- Unemployment rate: 4th lowest in the nation
- Labor force participation rate: 8th highest in the nation
- Population: 1.92 million Nebraskans, a record high

### Fiscal Strength & Business Climate

- Lowest State Tax-Supported Debt Per Capita (*Standard & Poor’s, 2017*)
- AAA Bond Rating (*Standard & Poor’s, 2017*)
- 4th Best State for Business (*Forbes, 2017*)
- 4th Best State for Regulatory Environment (*Forbes, 2017*)
- 6th Most Fiscally Sound State (*Mercatus Center, 2017*)
- 3rd among Fastest-Growing States for Tech Jobs (*Forbes, 2015*)
- Best States for Job Creation - Top 15 (*Gallup, 2016*)
- Top 10 State for Business Climate (*U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, 2017*)
- In 2017, Nebraska moved up by seven positions in *Chief Executive’s* “Best & Worst States For Business” rankings

### Health and Welfare

- Top 15 among states in Overall Health (*America’s Health Rankings, 2017*)
- Top 10 among states in Immunization Coverage (*CDC Vaccines, 2014*)
- 6th Top State for Volunteering (*Corporation for National and Community Service, 2015*)



Governor Ricketts addresses the annual joint meeting of the Japan-Midwest U.S. and Midwest U.S.-Japan Associations.

# PROMOTING TRADE

Nebraska’s workforce, and the high-quality agricultural products, goods, and services it produces, make the state an appealing destination for trade partnership and new investment. Governor Ricketts has tirelessly worked to develop new trade relationships and strengthen existing ties, both across the U.S. and around the world.

Trade can be described in dollars and cents, but its impact can be seen in the lives of Nebraskans across the state. For example, when Kawasaki announced its investment in

aerostructures production in Lincoln, longtime Kawasaki production worker Eric Jones was given the opportunity to become a supervisor, where he earns a good wage to support his wife and three children. When companies invest in Nebraska, they are also making an investment in our people.

### TRADE SUCCESSES

The Governor’s advocacy of Nebraska’s people and products has yielded real results: investment

dollars and new, good-paying jobs.

- In May of 2017, after Governor Ricketts’ 2015 meeting with Kawasaki leadership during his first trade mission to Asia, the Governor joined Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A. for the grand opening of the company’s new Aerospace Division in Lincoln, the first aerostructures production line for Kawasaki in the United States.
- The Governor’s trade delegation to Asia and the Nebraska Department of Economic



Development's Nebraska Center-Japan helped open the door to Geist Technologies' expansion into the Japanese market, helping fuel the development of the company's new \$12.5 million facility in Lincoln.

- Meeting with the corporate leadership of Denmark-based Novozymes, Governor Ricketts encouraged the bioscience company to take advantage of opportunities to expand its operations in Nebraska. This paved the way for the expansion of its state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing facility in Blair, injecting \$36 million in new

investment for the city and a major advance for Nebraska's biofuels industry.

- In August of 2017, Governor Ricketts conducted the first trade mission by a Nebraska governor to Canada. He met with Agri-Plastics to help recruit its first U.S. facility to Sidney. This investment created 20 new jobs.
- Letters of intent are an important tool to promote Nebraska's agricultural exports. In 2017, Nebraska Department of Agriculture officials signed letters of intent with nine Bulgarian soybean processing companies to use Nebraska-grown soybeans

and soybean products in their facilities.

### GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Building upon his administration's successes in developing global business relationships, Governor Ricketts formed the Governor's Council for International Relations. Combining leaders in business, agriculture, and education, the Council supports the development of partnerships to grow investment and strengthen trade relationships.

# PROVIDING TAX RELIEF



Providing property tax relief and advancing tax reform remain two of Governor Ricketts' top priorities.

**“Tax reform is key to growing Nebraska. It allows working families to keep more of what they earn. When companies review their options to expand, headquarter, or relocate, the tax climate is one of the first things they consider.”**

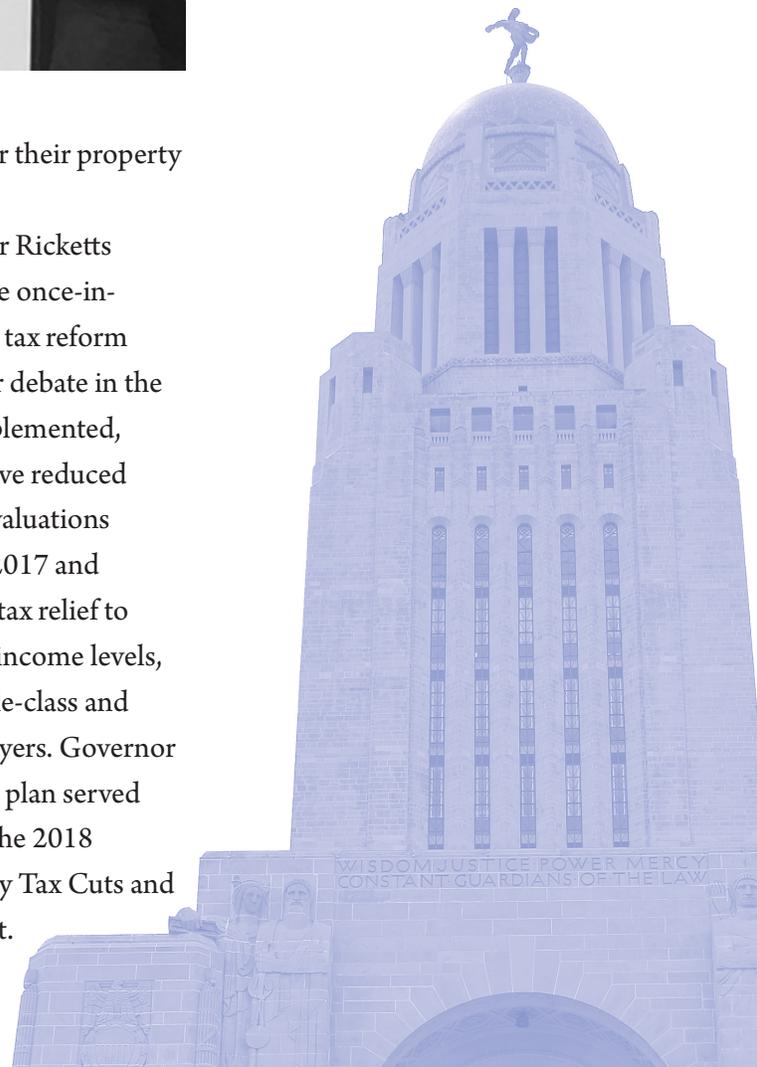
-Governor Pete Ricketts

Each year of his administration, Governor Ricketts has fought to provide Nebraskans with relief from high state and local taxes, especially property taxes.

- In 2015, Governor Ricketts and the Legislature provided Nebraskans with \$408 million in direct property tax relief, an increase of 45 percent.
- Governor Ricketts prioritized property tax relief in the 2016 legislative session, resulting in an additional \$20 million in direct property tax relief credits for agricultural land. Governor Ricketts also signed LB959, a bill removing penalties on school

districts that lower their property tax levies.

- In 2017, Governor Ricketts worked to advance once-in-a-generation state tax reform legislation to floor debate in the Legislature. If implemented, the plan would have reduced ag land property valuations by \$12 billion in 2017 and provided income tax relief to Nebraskans at all income levels, particularly middle-class and low-income taxpayers. Governor Ricketts' 2017 tax plan served as a precursor to the 2018 Nebraska Property Tax Cuts and Opportunities Act.



# CONTROLLING STATE SPENDING

## CONTROLLING SPENDING MEANS TAX RELIEF

The only path to a balanced state budget and tax relief for Nebraska families and job creators is careful control of state spending. Through a focus on efficiency and the elimination of waste, Governor Ricketts has prioritized property tax relief while also ensuring essential state services are properly funded.

## CUT THE RATE OF GROWTH IN SPENDING BY OVER 90 PERCENT

Governor Ricketts' first budget cut the rate of growth in state spending by nearly half, from 6.5 percent in the previous administration's budget to 3.6 percent. In 2017, Governor Ricketts worked with the

Legislature to cut the growth rate of state spending again, this time to 0.6 percent, a more than 90 percent reduction over the last three years.

## IMPLEMENTING STRONG SPENDING CONTROLS

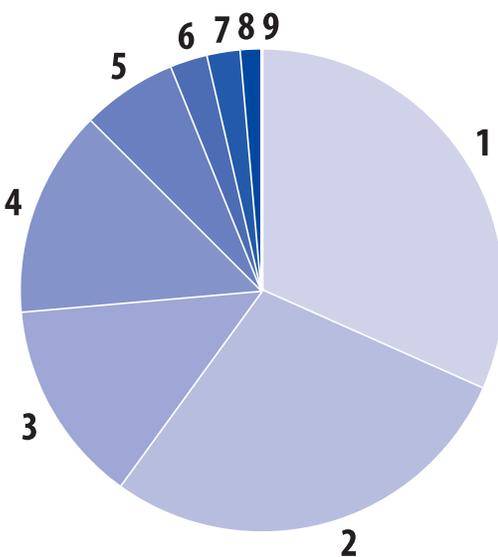
The Governor has held the line on spending, implementing a hiring freeze that reduced the state workforce by 500, or about four percent. Governor Ricketts has also eliminated 1,500 open positions. The Governor has directed state agencies to reduce discretionary expenditures and purchases of new equipment and trim operating costs to keep spending under control. Governor Ricketts has been unafraid to use his veto pen to restrict the growth of spending and balance Nebraska's budget without



raising taxes on our families and job creators.

**“As we manage our budgets, we will be ever mindful of taxpayers like you, who work to manage family budgets every day.”**

-Governor Pete Ricketts



## OVERVIEW OF NEBRASKA'S BUDGET

### GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS, FY 2016-2017

1. Medicaid & Other State Aid to Individuals	\$1,387,604,334	31.94%
2. State Aid to Schools	\$1,241,042,031	28.56%
3. Operations - Governor's Cabinet Agencies	\$595,971,531	13.72%
4. University of Nebraska	\$588,143,983	13.54%
5. Operations - Non-Code Agencies	\$274,207,351	6.31%
6. State Aid to Local Governments	\$106,854,927	2.46%
7. State Aid to Community Colleges	\$96,795,176	2.23%
8. State Colleges	\$53,649,078	1.23%
9. Agency Construction	\$480,000	0.01%

**\$4,344,748,411**

# SUPPORTING OUR FARM ECONOMY



Agriculture constitutes roughly 20 percent of our state's economy and provides one in every four Nebraska jobs. However, agriculture is more than Nebraska's number one industry; it is a heritage and a way of life for people across our state. Governor Ricketts has made advancing Nebraska agriculture a top priority. A strong agricultural sector is an essential element of a growing, prosperous Nebraska. Through initiatives like the Livestock Friendly Counties program, now 44 counties strong, our state continues to demonstrate its commitment to

strengthening agriculture for future generations.

## CUTTING RED TAPE

More time and money spent complying with regulations leaves less for running an ag operation and building it for future generations. When Governor Ricketts took office, a web of red tape and unnecessary regulation had made it difficult for farm families to even operate the vehicles required in their operations. Working with the Department of

Motor Vehicles, the State Patrol, and the Nebraska Cattlemen, Governor Ricketts supported a new designation for operators of vehicles being used in agricultural operations. By removing the requirement that ag producers obtain a Commercial Driver's License, this reform has lifted a burden on farm families' time and resources. Farmers and ranchers should be focused on feeding the world, not on unnecessary regulations from Lincoln.



The Coalition worked to prevent Washington lobbyists from tampering with point of obligation rules, preserving biofuel as a sustainable energy resource and an important Nebraska export.

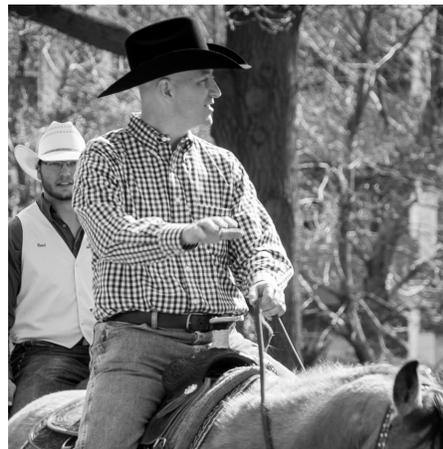
In June of 2017, Governor Ricketts shared Nebraska's story of energy innovation with President Donald J. Trump and industry leaders from across the country during a White House Energy Week policy roundtable.

## **A NATIONAL ADVOCATE FOR NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE**

As governor of a state with one of the nation's leading agriculture sectors, Pete Ricketts has used his platform to fight for Nebraska farmers on the national stage. From Day One, Governor Ricketts has opposed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) assault on farming operations through the Waters of the U.S.

(WOTUS) rule. Under the leadership of the Governor and Attorney General Doug Peterson, Nebraska has been at the forefront of legal fights to end damaging regulation that harms Nebraska ag producers.

In October of 2017, Governor Ricketts hosted EPA administrator and former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to discuss further reducing the burden of federal regulation on Nebraska's agriculture industry.



## **GROWING NEBRASKA THROUGH VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT**

New investments in value-added agriculture have strengthened Nebraska's ag sector over the last three years. From chick hatcheries and chicken processing plants to advanced ethanol production and bioscience facilities, Nebraska's success in attracting multimillion-dollar projects is a reflection of our state's competitive advantages and strengthening agribusiness climate.

## **ADVANCING NEBRASKA'S BIOFUELS INDUSTRY**

Biofuels play an important role in both Nebraska agriculture and our nation's energy security. As the Chairman of the Governors' Biofuels Coalition, Governor Ricketts has worked with the Trump administration to preserve the unique role of biofuels in America's energy mix. Under Governor Ricketts' leadership, the Coalition helped successfully persuade the EPA to maintain its commitment to the Renewable Fuel Standard.



# PROMOTING NEBRASKA BEEF



Governor Ricketts has promoted Nebraska beef, the finest in the world, across the United States and in countries all around the globe. The Governor has advanced beef promotion activities in markets as varied as Japan, Italy, and even New York City, advocating the world-leading quality, safety, and health of this quintessential Nebraska export.

## OPENING GLOBAL MARKETS FOR NEBRASKA BEEF

Opening foreign markets to Nebraska beef producers has been a major component of Governor Ricketts' Nebraska trade agenda. In the Ricketts administration's time in office,

Nebraska beef has gained or regained access to many new markets, bringing our products to consumers around the world.

## NEBRASKA BEEF PRODUCERS LEADING THE NATION

Nebraska beef producers are leading the industry in expanding the horizons of beef exports. In 2017, as China allowed the importation of U.S. beef for the first time in 14 years, Nebraska led the nation in beef exports to China. Through 2017, Nebraska beef accounted for over half of the beef exported to China. In 2016, Nebraska beef processor WR Reserve became the first U.S. firm to



Governor Ricketts ships the first Nebraska beef to China in 14 years.

send a significant shipment of beef from the U.S. to Israel since Israel banned the importation of U.S. beef in 2003.

# BUILDING NEBRASKA



Governor Ricketts launches the County Bridge Match Program in Broken Bow.

## INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE TO GROW NEBRASKA

Governor Ricketts’ mission to grow Nebraska extends across the state, to rural and urban communities alike. Infrastructure is a critical component of this mission. Well-functioning infrastructure facilitates the flow of people and goods across Nebraska, and enables Nebraska products and services to reach customers across the nation and around the world. The Ricketts administration has prioritized investment in Nebraska’s roads and bridges, an investment that will pay dividends in the years ahead.

## EXPANDING FUNDING FOR LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Local government plays a central role in the maintenance and improvement of Nebraska roadways. The Nebraska Department of Transportation increased efficiency and made millions in new road funding available to cities and counties by increasing the federal swap rate.



## BREAKING NEW GROUND

In June of 2017, Governor Ricketts joined Custer County officials to break ground on the first bridge project to be financed with matching funds from the County Bridge Match Program, one component of the Transportation Innovation Act. Governor Ricketts championed the Act, which dedicated \$450 million in new investment for Nebraska infrastructure. While promoting innovations in the funding of infrastructure projects, Governor Ricketts remains dedicated to the principle of Pay As You Go. This approach will ensure sustainable improvement for years to come.

# TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE



Governor Ricketts joins DHHS leaders to unveil Nebraska's "WIC Journey" program.

Governor Ricketts believes that the best way to provide a hand up to Nebraskans served by the state's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is through a customer-focused strategy of maximizing efficiency and effectiveness. DHHS continues to undergo a department-wide transformation into an agency better equipped to take care of Nebraska's most vulnerable citizens while delivering maximum value to the taxpayer.

## BETTER SERVING NEBRASKANS

DHHS has focused on improving performance where it matters most: everyday interactions with Nebraskans and stewardship of

taxpayer dollars. As a result of process improvement efforts within DHHS, Nebraskans interacting with the agency have seen major improvements, including:

- Call wait times at the agency's ACCESSNebraska call center have dropped from an average of almost 24 minutes in August 2014 to under five minutes in 25 out of the last 28 months.
- Previously, Nebraska's mismanagement of SNAP applications was so severe that the state was threatened with the loss of \$17 million in federal aid, a direct cost to Nebraska taxpayers. Now, processing is performing better than ever, and Nebraska's federal funding is secure.

## IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS FOR NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS

Governor Ricketts has demanded accountability and good stewardship in the use of DHHS tax dollars.

- A reemployment pilot program, a collaboration between DHHS and the Nebraska Department of Labor, seeks to transition Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to better-paying jobs where their need for public assistance is reduced or eliminated. The Grand Island pilot program yielded an average salary increase of \$6,900, and helped half of the participating families either completely eliminate or reduce their use of SNAP assistance.



- A new Medicaid administration model introduced last year adds new oversight for Nebraska’s Medicaid program, increasing accountability to taxpayers. Through the proactive efforts of DHHS and the Ricketts administration’s leadership to address emerging issues, the transition has been handled smoothly. A Managed Care model will deliver better outcomes at lower cost for program participants across the state.

### **BETTERING SERVICE TO NEBRASKA’S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

As Governor Ricketts says, “No matter how well we are serving the people of Nebraska today, we can

always do a better job tomorrow.” When an internal review of DHHS processes revealed poor performance in its nurse licensing process, the Ricketts administration implemented significant reforms to provide better service to Nebraska’s frontline health professionals. Reforms included simplified applications, improved instructions and outreach to nursing applicants, and significantly reduced processing times. In fact, processing times have declined from an average of 96 days in November of 2015 to just 30 days in December of 2017. It’s now easier for nurses to submit accurate, complete materials and receive licenses in a timely manner. This is just one example of the many process improvements made possible through Nebraska’s Center for Operational Excellence,

founded by Governor Ricketts to design and implement key process improvements across state agencies.

### **COMMITTED TO WOMEN’S HEALTH**

In 2017, Governor Ricketts signed LB195, “Cheri’s Law,” mandating that women receive information concerning breast density after a mammogram. This information equips women and their physicians to make better-informed decisions about their healthcare.

In December of 2016, the Ricketts administration introduced WIC Journey, a set of reforms making the Women, Infants, and Children program more efficient and user-friendly. Commonsense policies are helping all Nebraskans served by DHHS live better lives.

# MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER



Often, the best course government can take is to get out of the way of the ingenuity and industriousness of Nebraska job creators. While working to transform the culture of state government, Governor Ricketts has eliminated many obstacles the state imposed on job creators across industries.

## CUTTING RED TAPE

Nebraska's Administrative Code contains 7.5 million words, and, by a conservative estimate, would take more than 10 weeks to read in its entirety. Rules and regulations should be understandable, pose as little a burden as possible, and most importantly, be necessary. In July of 2017, Governor Ricketts issued an

executive order suspending all agency rulemaking and launching a review of existing state regulations. The review's goal is the repeal or revision of any rule or regulation deemed overly burdensome or restrictive on Nebraskans.

**“To grow in a global economy, we must always be looking for new ways to improve Nebraska’s business climate. This review will identify unnecessary red tape and eliminate harmful and wasteful regulations that are a hindrance to the job creators, ag producers, startups, and small businesses that are growing our state.”**

- Governor Pete Ricketts

## ELIMINATING REDUNDANCIES IN STATE DEPARTMENTS

“Bureaucracy expands to meet the needs of the expanding bureaucracy,” or so the saying goes. Governor Ricketts has fought this expansion in state government, and is working to implement reforms that streamline operations and eliminate wasteful redundancies. Governor Ricketts merged the Departments of Aeronautics and Roads into one Department of Transportation. The Ricketts administration also moved the Division of Veterans’ Homes from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. These reforms will generate long-term savings, ensure unity of mission, and improve the quality of services provided.

# PROMOTING A CULTURE OF LIFE

It's not hard to find reflections of the culture of life that defines our state's values. From small gestures of kindness to caring for the innocent and vulnerable, Nebraskans live out their values. Governor Ricketts has worked with the Legislature to advance policies that safeguard innocent life, preserve the dignity of people, and allow Nebraskans to express these values they hold most dear.

## A BUDGET THAT REFLECTS NEBRASKA'S VALUES

Using new authority granted by Congress and the Trump administration, Governor Ricketts has proposed ending the payment of Title X funding to abortion providers. This change is another step to ensuring taxpayer dollars do not support abortion providers in Nebraska.

## "CHOOSE LIFE" LICENSE PLATE

In 2017, Governor Ricketts signed LB46, the first pro-life legislation passed in the Legislature in years. This law created the "Choose Life" Nebraska license plate. Additional revenue from the plate's sale will supplement federal funds for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.



Governor Ricketts joins bill supporters at the signing ceremony for LB506.

## ENSURING COMPASSIONATE PREGNANCY CARE

Governor Ricketts signed LB506, the "Compassion and Care for Medically Challenging Pregnancies Act," in 2017, a continuation of his commitment to ensuring the dignity of innocent life. The bill makes Nebraska the first state in the nation to require that pregnant women, upon receiving the diagnosis of a lethal fetal abnormality, be provided with essential information about perinatal hospice services.

## IMPROVING THE PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

Through its focus on efficiency and customer service, the Ricketts

administration has streamlined state processes for providing developmental disability services and helping families access these important programs more easily. Previously, a family applying for state developmental disability services had to fill out 14 pages of paperwork. Now, this application has been shortened to only three pages.

Before Governor Ricketts was elected to office, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) took an average of 69 days to review a disability services eligibility application. Today, that review period has been cut down to only 16 days, a nearly 80 percent reduction in wait time.

# SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS



Governor Ricketts signs LB340e, merging the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs with the Division of Veterans' Homes.

## STREAMLINING VETERANS' SERVICES

Working with the Legislature, Governor Ricketts oversaw the merger of the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Veterans' Homes with the state Department of Veterans' Affairs. Bringing all state services to Nebraska's veterans under one leadership team has enabled greater coordination and focus in providing top-quality service, while also saving taxpayer dollars. The state's veteran-centered approach enables more effective and efficient service to our state's greatest heroes.



**"I know from personal experience how the Good Life that our state is blessed with would not be possible without the continued service of our veterans even after they have retired their military uniforms."**

-Governor Pete Ricketts

## SUPPORTING MILITARY SPOUSES

The men and women serving our country in uniform are joined in selfless service by their families, who also make great sacrifices in defense of our freedoms. Governor Ricketts has made it a priority for our state to be as welcoming and accommodating as possible to military families. With the Legislature, he worked to make military spouses' job transitions to Nebraska simpler and easier by removing certain occupational licensing requirements and expanding the state's veterans hiring preference to include military spouses.

# GOVERNOR RICKETTS' TEAM

WORKING TO MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU.



Lieutenant Governor  
**Mike Foley**



Administrative Services  
**Byron Diamond**



Administrative Services - Budget Division  
**Gerry Oligmueller**



Administrative Services - Chief Information Officer  
**Ed Toner**



Agriculture  
**Steve Wellman**



Banking  
**Mark Quandahl**



Correctional Services  
**Scott Frakes**



Crime Commission  
**Darrell Fisher**



Economic Development  
**David Rippe**



Energy  
**David Bracht**



Environmental Quality  
**Jim Macy**



Fire Marshal  
**Jim Heine**



Governor's Chief Human Resources Officer  
**Jason Jackson**



Governor's Chief of Staff  
**Matt Miltenberger**



Governor's Policy Research Director  
**Lauren Kintner**



Governor's Director of Strategic Communications  
**Taylor Gage**



Health and Human Services - CEO  
**Courtney Phillips**



Insurance  
**Bruce Ramge**



Labor  
**John Albin**



Military  
**Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac**



Motor Vehicles  
**Rhonda Lahm**



Natural Resources  
**Jeff Fassett**



Revenue  
**Tony Fulton**



Transportation  
**Kyle Schneweis**



Transportation - Aeronautics  
**Ronnie Mitchell**



State Patrol  
**Col. John Bolduc**



Veterans' Affairs  
**John Hilgert**



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