

# NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM

P.O. Box 6452, Omaha, NE. 68106

#### WHAT WE BELIEVE

Conservative leadership starts in our local communities, not in Washington D.C. With the proper training and education, local citizens can become effective taxpayer watchdogs. Individual liberty will be safeguarded only through limited government and free markets championed by active citizens.

Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom is a non-partisan political educational organization whose mission is to train citizens to be effective watchdogs over government taxing authorities. We are a state affiliate of National Taxpayers Union in Washington, D.C.

Since 1976, NTF members have actively watchdogged school boards, state board of education, city councils, county boards, utilities, natural resource districts, Congress, and the Nebraska Legislature. NTF project team leaders have helped individual members express their opinions, monitor and lobby elected officials, and help win elections.

At our monthly meetings we invite as guest speakers elected officials and experts to speak on topics of current importance, including federal laws, taxes, property valuation and taxes, immigration, etc.

We invite federal, state, and local candidates, so that our members can ask questions about their positions and know for what principles they stand.

We host election campaign seminars for candidates, campaign managers, and campaign volunteers. We hold taxpayer rallies at local parks around April 15 Tax Day and July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our growing burden of federal, state, and local taxes and government debt -- what now is breaking European countries and is about to break us -- stems from the growth of government programs, enabled by liberal interpretations of the Constitution. We are granting more and more of our livelihood to the most unproductive, least efficient entity in our country: government.

If you are interested in fighting to preserve your savings and want to make a difference, please get involved by starting a local NTF chapter. We will help you by offering *free* education, training, and materials, so that your group can influence your state and local officials to be accountable.

Benjamin Franklin, in discussing our then fledgling nation, said that our Founding Fathers had given us a republic, if we could keep it! He was clear that this democratic republic required that its citizens take their citizenship seriously and keep their political leaders accountable.

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### LEADERS WANTED TO START AN NTF CHAPTER

Start your chapter by inviting us to help you organize and establish your agenda. Follow our solid method of organizing individuals with superior training and educational tools. Our system is tested, refined, and demonstrated to work.

### The benefits of starting a local NTF Chapter:

Greatly increased potential for success.

Ability to win on more fronts than a single person working alone.

Opportunities to add value to the overall strategy; more bodies means increased efficiency and streamlining of efforts.

Broader ability to develop leadership skills among members.

Increased group knowledge of a particular issue expands general awareness.

Sharing of resources fosters networking and knowledge for everyone involved.

Influx of resources and perspectives adds layers of valuable experience.

Stronger and more focused foundation for effective change and avoiding duplicative efforts

## Starting an NTF chapter in your community:

One of the best ways to organize people is around issues, especially ones that relate to fundamental concerns such as taxes, land use, regulations.

Step #1 Reach out to individuals with similar views and opinions.

Step #2 Plan events that communicate your issues.

Step #3 Identify potential supporters through petitions and surveys. Reach out not only to conservative friends and neighbors and the like-minded at political events but also to conservatives you know at church, work, and in social organizations.

### **How to Organize (After you assemble a group):**

Assemble a governing structure, e.g., executive committee, advisory board.

Plan regular meetings.

Prepare an agenda and a list of discussion topics.

Reserve time for socializing.

Make a list of short term goals and brainstorm with the group to create your roadmap and strategy.

Let everyone's commitment base on their own time and with what they are comfortable but hold them accountable. Ask them what they feel works best for them.

Have accurate contact information for people.

Listen to volunteers and include everyone in discussion at meetings. Continually recruit non-members to attend.

Keep people informed and have them update you on their activities; this helps them stay focused and motivated toward goals.

Present Citizenship Awards.

## **Make Things Happen:**

Plan an event. Identify the purpose of the event. Determine the size and scope of the event.

#### "The Ripple Effect" – Building your network:

You must be visible within your community and accessible. Reaching your community requires involvement and credibility by building your network; you learn more about your community and its people. For example, hold meetings in local restaurants and coffee shops, where others will notice your presence and can easily participate. By increasing your recognition in your community, you will increase your influence and motivate others to join.

### **HINTS ON EFFECTIVE OUTREACH**

- Meet and be friendly with everyone at an event.
- Keep a good record of names and contact information and stay in contact with those you meet.
- Follow up with people who contact you.
- Always thank someone who has been helpful or gracious with a note or a call.
- Build relationships with other community leaders and activists.

• Maintain emails and other forms of communication within a manageable amount. Do not send emails on a daily basis; instead, post comments on Facebook, Twitter, and blogs.

## LISTED BELOW: PROJECTS THAT WILL HELP YOU START YOUR GROUP.

# **Education Monitor**

- \*How to monitor and lobby your school board.
- \*How to monitor and lobby your state board of education.

#### **City Watch**

\*How to monitor and lobby your City Council and Mayor.

### **County Watch**

\*How to monitor and lobby your County Commissioners

# NRD Watch

\* How to lobby and monitor your NRD board members.

### **Legislative Watch**

- \*How to monitor and lobby your state senator and other senators.
- \* Keeping current on legislative bills and resolutions.

## **Congress Watch**

- \*How to monitor and lobby your Capitol Hill delegation.
- \*Keeping current on congressional bills and resolutions.

## **Utility Watch**

\* How to monitor and lobby your utility board members.

APPLICATION TO START A LOCAL NTF CHAPTER	
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	, or owned a
uestion #4 – What do you feel are your best assets that would help you start and	d maintain a chapter?
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Send application to Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom, P.O. Box 6452, Omaha, NE. 68106. netaxpayers@gmail.com. 402-551-0921.

#### **ORGANIZING YOUR CHAPTER:**

A governing body like an executive committee or round table.

Chapter will have one individual on our NTF Advisory Board.

State NTF will provide project materials free of charge to local chapter.

Local chapter may develop its own projects with accompanying issue papers, outlines, etc.

State NTF will send an email bulletin once a week to local chapter members.

Local chapter can reserve space on our website or establish its own website, e.g., Facebook, and/or a blog.

#### Recruitment:

- a. flyers door to door about meetings and rallies.
- b. newspaper news releases.
- c. clip guest editorials authored by conservative people.
- d. sign-in sheets at every event.
- e. referrals.
- \* keep secure your membership list.

### Meetings:

Meet on a regular basis at the same location and same time.

Invite a guest speaker on a crucial current topic.

Offer a seminar, e.g., How to Write a Good Editorial.

Show a video.

Social events like a picnic.

Special events like Tea Party rallies on April 15 Tax Day or 4th of July or fundraising dinners with key speaker(s).

Attend an elected official town hall meeting or help an official plan one.

\*Executive meetings should be held separately at another time, perhaps before or after a regular meeting.

#### Finances:

Each individual will pay \$10 annual dues to state NTF. Local chapter can retain all local additional dues and contributions of money and materials.

Chapter must have a treasurer who tracks all of the above for local chapter and state NTF.

Fund-raising events.