

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER: DOUGLAS COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN, GOOD AND BAD.

BACKGROUND. On a regular basis, Douglas County Commissioners meet to develop and update county strategic plans. Commissioners met in several sessions in 2022 to propose a 3-year plan and objectives on how the county can creatively and efficiently utilize resources and offer the most effective services and programs to county residents. They assessed current problems and suggested solutions. They evaluated which programs and services are working well and which require improvement or cancellation. Examining the current strategic plan, NTF found initiatives and solutions that would benefit the taxpayer and others that would negatively affect county taxpayers.

POSITIVE ELEMENTS. Analyzing and possibly reducing non-mandated services not required by the state or federal governments would save tax dollars. The plan suggests actively soliciting public input to county decisions, specifically its participation in decisions about utilizing county space. Consolidating county office locations would reduce county reliance on expensive leases by 10%. An inventory done of dept. space. Making long-term master plans for use of all county excess space and optimizing it. Examining work at home and flexible work schedules would optimize use of work space. Considering a new use for the old juvenile detention center, if not still needed to handle the new detention center overflow, would help consolidate services along the 42nd Street midtown campus corridor. A system of prevention/early intervention for juvenile services created. Increasing mental health capacity would alleviate the number of mentally ill in the county jail and offer needed services to the county community. Building mental health community partnerships with UNMC, the VA, and community advisory committees would spread around the cost. Decreasing the county jail population by utilizing alternatives would cut expenses. Increased use of community-based supervision and services for pre-trial for adults. These alternatives would decrease recidivism, length of stays, and overall decrease the daily jail population, especially as incarceration is expensive. Determining cost/benefit analyses for county services would save \$\$\$. Working around union restraints on operations and management. Examining ways to increase retention of star employees and implementing a skill-based pay schedule. Conducting a study to determine if county DOTComm data services are competitive with private services.

NEGATIVE ELEMENTS. The plan appeared to emphasize diversity in management capacities and at all employment levels, particularly high-level and leadership positions. The repeated use of the terms diversity, equity, and inclusion appeared to clamp an atmosphere of Critical Race Theory (CRT) on the county workforce, which will inevitably lead to reverse discrimination against Whites in hiring and promotion. Pledges to reduce the county carbon footprint and promote use of electric vehicle charging systems seems to steer the county towards more expensive environmental options.

TAKE ACTION NOW. Although county commissioners did not invite the public to comment at their strategic plan meetings, taxpayers still can lobby their commissioners to actively pursue and implement the positive elements of the plan and to curtail or eliminate the negative elements that embody the leftist agenda. Using the information above, lobby your county commissioner today to pursue a taxpayer-friendly course in this and future strategic plans. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for county commissioner contact information and join our NTF *County Watch Project*.

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