

*Tony Vargas led the fight in the State Senate to increase income taxes by nearly half a billion dollars and make Nebraska's the fifth highest income tax state in the country.*

**In January 2019, Vargas Introduced LB50 To Hike Individual Income Tax Brackets And Rates.** (LB50, [Nebraska Legislature](#), Introduced 1/10/19)

- **LB50 Would Increase State Income Taxes On Individual Nebraska Taxpayers Who Earn More Than \$100,000 A Year And Couples Who Jointly Earn More Than \$200,000 A Year.** “The comments came as Omaha Sen. Tony Vargas presented his proposal, Legislative Bill 50, to increase state income taxes on the wealthy. The marginal tax rate for single taxpayers who earn more than \$100,000 a year, and married couples earning \$200,000-plus, would rise by 1 percentage point, to 7.84 percent. An additional 1 percent tax would be applied to income in excess of \$1 million. And an extra 2 percent tax would be paid on income over \$2 million.” (Paul Hammel, “Income Tax Hike For Millionaires Gets Lukewarm Reception From Some Nebraska Lawmakers,” [Omaha World-Herald](#), 1/24/19)
- **LB50 Was Estimated As Being A \$478 Million Tax Increase Over Five Years.** “Vargas’ proposal would also adjust state income brackets for low- and middle-income families, delivering a tax reduction for many. The bill, he said, is estimated to generate \$478 million in new revenue over the next five years, providing fiscal stability for the state, which has seen budget trims in higher education and other programs in recent years.” (Paul Hammel, “Income Tax Hike For Millionaires Gets Lukewarm Reception From Some Nebraska Lawmakers,” [Omaha World-Herald](#), 1/24/19)
- **According To The Platte Institute, LB50 Would Have Caused Nebraska’s Income Taxes To Jump From The 16th Highest In The Nation To The Fifth Highest.** “Sarah Curry of the Platte Institute said that if LB 50 were passed, Nebraska’s income taxes would jump from 16th highest in the nation to No. 5.” (Paul Hammel, “Income Tax Hike For Millionaires Gets Lukewarm Reception From Some Nebraska Lawmakers,” [Omaha World-Herald](#), 1/24/19)