

Tony Vargas has supported tax increases and fees on everything from sales and income taxes to court and nursing home fees. Vargas even voted to create a new agency with taxing authority that could further increase property taxes.

In April 2019, Vargas Voted For LB 472, The Qualified Judgment Payment Act, Authorizing A Sales And Use Tax, And Requiring A Property Tax Levy. (LB 472, Final Reading, [Nebraska Legislature](#), April 18, 2019)

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)

In April 2021, Tony Vargas Voted For LR 17, A Bill To Change Fees And Provide For Transfers To The Nebraska Retirement Fund For Judges And Change Actuarial Valuation And Amortization Provisions For Certain State Retirement Systems. (LR 17, Final Reading, [Nebraska Legislature](#), 4/29/21)

- **The Bill Would Double The Fee To Support The Nebraska Judges’ Retirement Plan.** “A fee charged to support the Nebraska judges’ retirement plan would double over four years under LB 17, passed 33-13. Sen. Mark Kolterman of Seward, the chairman of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee, introduced the bill to shore up the retirement plan. The bill would increase the judges’ retirement fee from \$6 to \$12 by July 1, 2025, and direct a larger portion of other court fees into the plan. It would also require the state to start putting tax dollars equal to 5% of judges’ compensation into the plan.” (Martha Stoddard, “Nebraska Legislature Passes Natural Hair Discrimination Ban,” [Star-Herald](#), 4/30/21)

In 2023, Tony Vargas Voted To Override Governor Pillen’s Line-Item Veto Of More Than \$45 Million In Government Spending, Including “Rate Increases For Hospitals And Nursing Homes.” “A divided legislative committee voted Thursday to challenge Gov. Jim Pillen's budget vetoes of rate increases for hospitals and nursing homes that provide Medicaid, a veto portrayed as threatening the state's health care system. The Legislature's Appropriations Committee, on a 5-4 vote, decided to pursue a veto override of Pillen's line-item veto of more than \$45 million in increases for the provider rates. On similar split votes, the committee, which crafts a state budget after getting proposals from the governor, also decided to seek overrides of vetoes for \$40 million for workforce housing projects in rural and urban Nebraska, pay raises for state legislative staff, and extra staffing for the State Auditor's Office. State Sens. Anna Wishart of Lincoln and Tony Vargas of Omaha pushed for overriding the veto of the provider rate hikes, arguing that hospitals and nursing home workers needed the increase.” (Paul Hammel, “Sens. Say 'No' To Gov. Vetoes,” [North Platte Post](#), 5/26/23)

In May 2019, Tony Vargas Voted In Favor Of The Final Passage Of LB492. ([LB492](#), Passed 32 – 11, 5/24/19, Vargas Voted Yes)

- **Governor Pete Ricketts Vetoed LB492, But Lawmakers Overrode The Veto.** “According to officials, Nebraska lawmakers have overrode Governor Pete Ricketts’ veto on the Transit Authority for Legislative Bill 492.” (KHGI Staff, “Gov. Ricketts’ Transit Authority Veto Gets An Override,” [ABC Nebraska TV](#), 5/31/19)
- **On May 31st, 2019, Tony Vargas Voted To Override The Governor’s Veto On LB492.** ([LB492](#), Passed 33 – 16, 5/31/19, Vargas Voted Yes)
- **LB492 Gave New Property Tax Authority To Omaha’s Newly Created “Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority,” Which Could “Charge Up To \$17 Million In Property Taxes Without A Vote From The People.”** “LB 492 would give new property tax authority to a new local unit of government known as the ‘Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority,’ to charge up to \$17 million in property taxes without a vote from the people.” (KHGI Staff, “Gov. Ricketts’ Transit Authority Veto Gets An Override,” [ABC Nebraska TV](#), 5/31/19)
- **Governor Ricketts Opposed The Legislation Because It “Amounts To An Incredible \$17 Million Property Tax Increase For All Residents Of Omaha And Douglas County.”** “Ricketts said, “The bill allows the Omaha Transit Authority to convert itself into a new political subdivision that will have broader taxing authority. LB 492 amounts to an incredible \$17 million property tax increase for all residents of Omaha and Douglas County because it moves the transit authority’s property tax levy authority outside of the city and county tax lids and authorizes the new authority to double its existing property tax levy amount. LB 492 exempts the newly created RMTA from all existing statutory limits on allowable tax asking and allows the possible extension of the property tax increase to Sarpy County. No other political subdivision in Nebraska is given this expansive property tax increase ability.” (“Gov. Ricketts’ Transit Authority Veto Gets An Override,” [KHGI](#), 5/31/19)