

# **Early Childhood Policy and Systems Development**

Thriving Children Conference

Kearney, Nebraska

September 17, 2018

# Federal Government

- The federal government is made up of three branches:
  - Executive
  - Judicial
  - Legislative
- Central responsibilities – Preamble of the Constitution:
  - Establish justice
  - Ensure domestic tranquility
  - Provide for the common defense
  - Promote general welfare
  - Secure the blessings of liberty
- Funds derived from:
  - Individual income, payroll, corporate income taxes, etc.

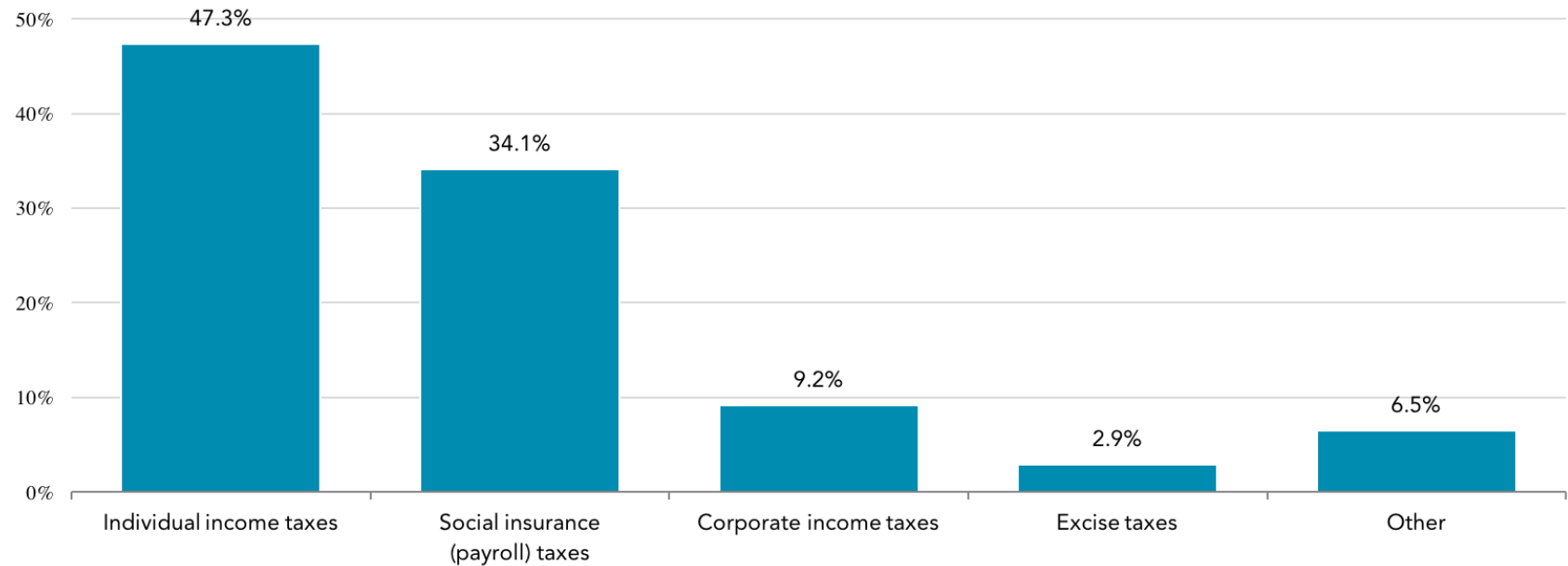
# Sources of Federal Funding

FIGURE 1

## Sources of Total Federal Tax Revenue FY2016



Share of federal revenue



Source: Office of Management and Budget, Fiscal Year 2018, Historical Tables, Table 2.1.

# Executive Branch

- Executive Branch (implements laws)
  - President and Vice President
  - Governmental Agencies/Departments
    1. Department of Health & Human Services
    2. Department of Education
- The President acts as both the head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces
- The independent federal agencies, although appointed by the President, are tasked with enforcing the laws enacted by Congress

# Judicial Branch

- Judicial Branch (interprets laws)
  - The Supreme Court of the United States
  - U.S. Federal Court of Appeals
  - U.S. Federal District Courts

# Legislative Branch

- Established by Article I of the Constitution
- U.S. Congress
  - Senate – 100 members
    - President of the Senate- Vice President
    - 2 representatives from each state
  - House of Representatives – 435 members
    - Speaker of the House, elected by the Representatives
    - State representation depends on population
    - Exclusive powers: bills that raise revenue, elect President during electoral college tie
- Responsibilities: Create new laws or change existing laws, establish an annual budget for government, etc.

# Nebraska State Government

- Tenth amendment - all powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for the state and local governments
  - Each state has their own constitution and government agencies
  - Executive, judicial, and legislative branches
- Non-partisan Unicameral legislature – only one in the nation
  - 49 Senators (4 yr. terms)
  - Term limits (8 yrs.)
- Responsibilities: Pass a state budget (biennial budget) and creating and passing state laws
- State funding - Income, property, sales taxes, federal allocations, state lottery dollars, money from licenses and fees, etc.

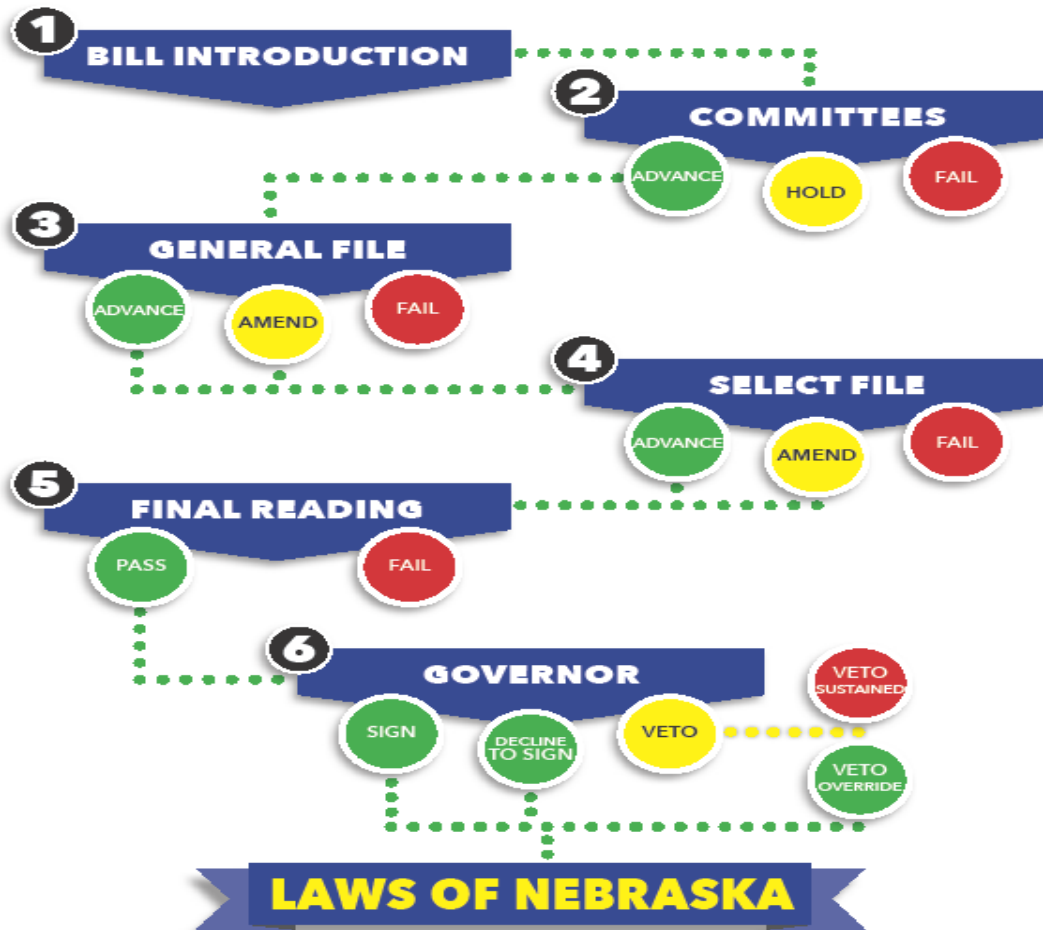
# State Legislative Policy

- Legislative (change or create law in statute)
  - Who?
    - State agencies who need to meet compliance
    - Governor has a policy agenda
    - Special interests
    - Concerned citizens
    - Senators enter with priorities



# State Legislative Policy

## HOW LAWS ARE MADE IN THE UNICAMERAL



# LB 803

- Let's use [this](#) as an example

# State Administrative Policy

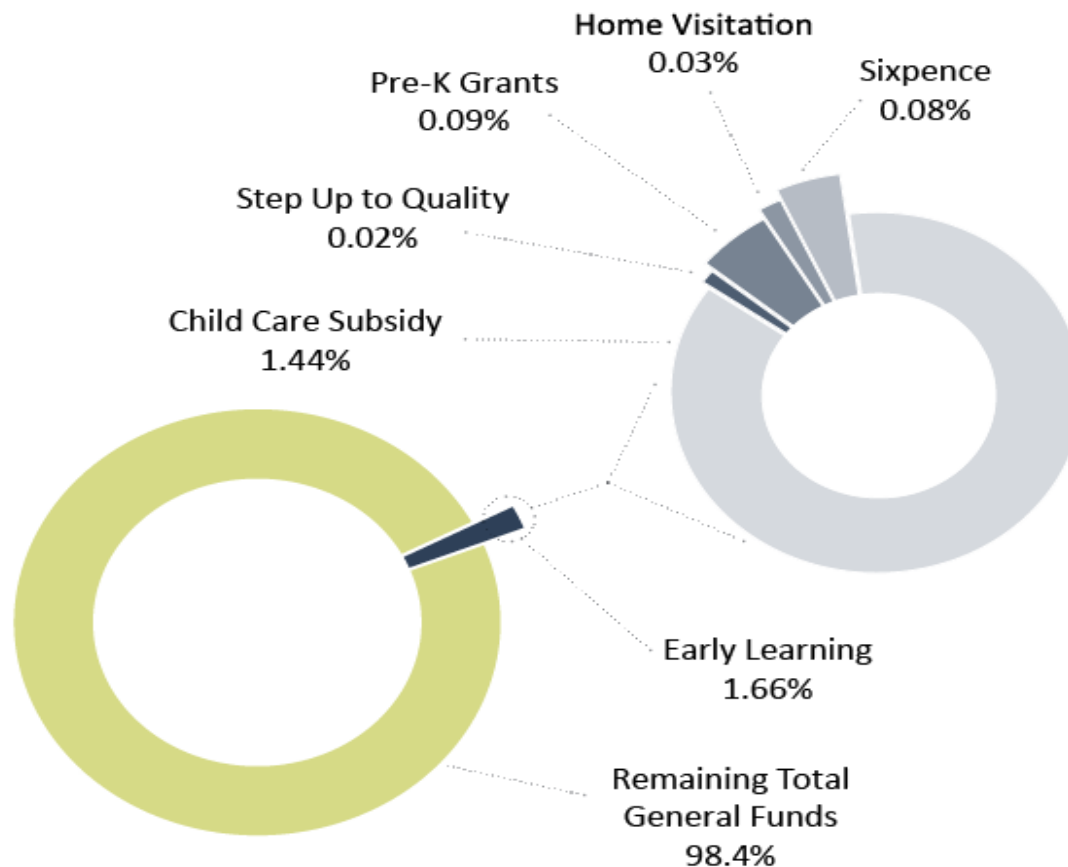
- Administrative Policy (Rules and Regulations)
  - State agencies implement laws through the rules and regulation process
  - Agencies: Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services
  - Drafting period, 30-day publication notice, public hearing, to the Attorney General to meet statutory and constitutional provisions, to the governor for policy review and final approval

# State Agencies

- Nebraska Department of Education – Office of Early Childhood
  - Preschool Grants to Schools
  - Sixpence Infant Toddler Grants to Schools
  - Step Up to Quality Rating System
    - Early Childhood Professional Record System
  - Early Childhood Training Center
  - Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
  - Child Care and Development Fund (Federal dollars)
  - Child care subsidy (Federal and state dollars)
  - Child care grants (Start-Up/Expansion, Emergency Mini, Quality Improvement)
  - Child care licensing

# Early Childhood Funding

In FY 2016, **only 1.66 percent** of state general funds were spent on early learning.



# 2018 Legislative Highlights

- LB768- Local economic development funds for EC infrastructure
- LB880- Early childhood assessment in comprehensive plans for cities
- LB803- Teacher certification requirements for early childhood programs
- LB1108- School Readiness Tax Credit clean-up bill
- LB1135- Alternative pathways for teacher certification
- LR270CA- Constitutional amendment for universal pre-k
- Across-the-board cuts to agency programs

# 2019 Legislative Issues

- Property tax relief
- Medicaid expansion
- Nebraska Advantage Act
- Changes to K-12 funding formula

# Questions??

Elizabeth Everett; [eeverett@firstfivebraska.org](mailto:eeverett@firstfivebraska.org)

Adam Feser; [afeser@firstfivebraska.org](mailto:afeser@firstfivebraska.org)

Policy Associates; First Five Nebraska