

# Options for a Water Conservation and Protection Ballot Initiative

## Option #1 – 1/8 of 1% Dedicated Sales Tax\*

Revenue Generated = \$21.25 Million\*\*

### Uses

- \$15,500,000 to fund LB 962 related needs.
  - \$10,000,000 to retire irrigated acres in over-appropriated basins
  - \$4,000,000 for fully-appropriated basins
  - \$1,500,000 for research and administration
- \$2,500,000 to provide state matching funds for the Central Basins Conservation Enhancement Reserve program (CBCREP), to install buffer strips for water quality and restore wetlands in 37 south central Nebraska counties.
- \$2,250,000 for Watershed Planning and Protection, to be administered by the NDEQ in a similar manner to 319 Funds.
- \$1,000,000 for competitive grants that fund innovative water conservation and protection projects, to be administered by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund.

\* A 1/8 of a percent increase would require a change in state statute, which currently requires increases to be taken in 1/4 increments.

\*\* Figure provided by the Department of Revenue.

## **Option #2 – ¼ of 1% Dedicated Sales Tax**

**Revenue Generated = \$42.5 Million**

### Uses

- \$15,500,000 to fund LB 962 related needs (same breakdown as above).
- \$3,000,000 to provide state matching funds for the CBCREP.
- \$4,000,000 for NGPC to lease water in irrigation reservoirs to maintain minimum pools for recreation, fish, and wildlife.
- \$5,000,000 for Watershed Planning and Protection.
- \$2,000,000 for competitive grants for innovative water conservation and protection projects, administered by the NETF.
- \$13,000,000 for Other?