This brief examines two pressing concerns of the Planning Committee of the 105th Nebraska Legislature: 1. Rainy day fund balance and 2. Changing demographics of Nebraska

**Rainy Day Fund Balance**

Over the past several years, Nebraska has had lower than expected revenues. One response to budgeting during periods of fiscal distress is to draw down fiscal reserves, or “rainy-day” funds. Such a draw down of funds can be seen in the balance of Nebraska’s rainy day fund in fiscal year 2018.

**Nebraska rainy day fund balance**

_Millions of $s_

In **Fiscal Year 2018**, the rainy day fund balance as a percent of general fund expenditures is close to the U.S. median. However, the rainy day fund balance is critical for Nebraska because of constitutional limitations on debt.

![Rainy Day Fund Balance Chart](chart1.png)

**The Changing Demographics of Nebraska**

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Population projections by Center for Public Affairs Research

The ratio of working age to aging adults was 6:1 in 1950, **5:1 in 2010** and is expected to be **3:1 by 2050**

**Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations in Nebraska**

% of total Nebraska population, 2017 break down

21% [2017]

8% [1990]

- Latino 11.0%
- Black 4.8%
- Asian/Pacific Islander 2.6%
- Two or more races 1.2%
- American Indian .8%

Source: Pew Research Center “Fiscal 50: State Trends and Analysis, Reserves and Balances”
64% of Nebraskans have some higher education which results in higher salaries. The 3rd through highest quintiles are below the U.S. means. The 2nd quintile is above the U.S. mean. The 1st quintile is below the U.S. mean.

Nebraska's mean household income is below the U.S. mean. The highest quintiles are above the U.S. mean. The 3rd through highest quintiles are below the U.S. means. The 1st quintile is below the U.S. mean.

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Nebraska is losing about 2,000 people a year to other states.

About 4,000 persons from international locations come to Nebraska each year.

11.1 million Nebraskans work. 7 million work full-time.

700,000 work part-time.

1.2 million live in 12 metro counties.

1.1 million live in 5 - Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster, Hall, and Dakota counties.

The Changning Demographic of Nebrask

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Projections by County for Public Affairs Department.

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