

WHEEL TAX HISTORY

- The wheel tax was originally enacted as an ordinance in 1917 and is officially known as the City Motor Vehicle Registration Fee. The initial rate was \$1.00.
- In 1919, the rate increased to \$2.00 where it remained for the next 27 years, until 1946, when it was doubled to \$4.00 – per year.
- Fourteen years later, on January 1, 1960, the wheel tax was again doubled, to \$8.00 per year. After experiencing severe street damage during the winter of 1959-1960, an emergency one year increase of \$5.00 was added in order to repair the street damage. On January 1, 1961, the wheel tax reverted back to \$8.00 per year.
- Effective January 1, 1983, the wheel tax was increased to \$16.00 per year. That was the first permanent increase in 23 years. The tax was increased another \$2.00 in 1988 to \$18.00.
- The 1993 City of Omaha budget contained a \$1.75 increase in the wheel tax, bringing it to \$19.75 for an automobile effective January 1, 1993. The wheel tax has been raised since 1993 to partially offset the rising costs to repair streets. The current rate (2004) is \$35 for passenger cars.
-
- The wheel tax is restricted by State Statute to expenditures on street repairs and maintenance, or street construction. Snow removal is considered a street maintenance item. The expenditures are audited annually by State and independent auditors.