

51st STATE PROFILE

Boys State is an island state, approximately the size of Indiana. According to the most recent census estimate, it had a population of 4,702,000.00. The demographics of the state are reflective of the nation as a whole. The closest contact with the mainland is through the seaport located in the city of Monroe. The mainland is approximately 150 miles away. The geographic location of the 51st State is off the coast of California and Oregon. It was first settled in 1830, when citizens from Michigan left for prosperity in the West.

The climate and topography vary from swamps and wetlands of Blair County to the rich timberland of Wisner County. The state's highest point is Mt. Stapleton, home of a world renowned sky resort in Harrison. The beautiful beaches of Madison can be found on the east coast of the state. The average temperatures range from 32 degrees in the winter to 90 degrees in the summer, to 50 degrees in the winter to 90 degrees in the summer along the coastal areas. The 51st State's only Interstate freeway runs from Blair to Bingham Counties, I-BS1.

Per capita income ranges from a high of \$41,000 a year in Washington to a low of \$15,000 a year in Polk.

Revenue in Boys State comes from a 6.0% sales tax on all items except food. And prescription drugs, as well as a 4.7% personal income tax across the state. Other state income comes from Corporate, Lottery, Sin, and Transportation taxes. Lottery tickets generate \$0.75 in come from each ticket sold. State Sin Tax is \$0.50 of income on one pack of cigarettes; also, the State has a \$0.40 per gallon tax on gas.

Citizens 65 years of age and older pay no income taxes. Each locality has its own local tax support including property taxes, local income taxes and utility taxes. Boys State University is located inside the City of Taylor. Tuition to Boys State University is currently at \$15,200.00 a year for in state students and \$27,582.00 for out of state students.

Starr International Airport is located in the City of Fillmore. The current economic climate has slowed any growth to the manufacturing sector of the Boys State economy.