



The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce will continue its critical role as the primary business advocate for Lincoln's growth. We will be focused, issue-based and non-partisan while asserting the positive and essential role business plays to improve our community and expand opportunities for all citizens.

The Lincoln Chamber's key Local policy objectives for 2024:

CHAMBER LEADERSHIP – The Lincoln Chamber values the relationship it has established with our Mayor, City Council, Airport Authority Board, County Board and School Board members. We will continue developing positive and mutually beneficial working relationships.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY – The Lincoln Chamber recognizes that housing affordability is one of the most important components to attracting and retaining a diverse workforce. A lack of housing is a significant barrier to increased entrepreneurship and economic development in our community. We will support community collaboration and public-private projects that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing development tools and stimulate needed growth. This includes reducing unnecessary government policies and regulations that contribute to the problem, as well as supporting policies and incentives that increase the diversity of housing types across housing sub-markets. We will support appropriate and reasonable valuation for all properties, including needed clarification for rent-restricted affordable housing properties.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE – The Lincoln Chamber believes infrastructure funding should be the top priority for Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln. The Chamber will advocate for not only road, water, sewer, energy, and airport infrastructure, but also technological upgrades that allow our community to remain globally competitive. We will continue working with the mayor's advisors gathering information about past sustainability work, climate hazards, demographics, emergency preparedness, and key indicators for Lincoln. This includes continued dialogue about stormwater mitigation and securing a secondary water source for the Lincoln region. With the completion of the South Beltway, we will prioritize efforts on last-mile infrastructure connectivity. The chamber's East Beltway Pathway Forward working group and the Lincoln Airport runway project will be additional high priority efforts.

SALES TAX FUNDING FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS – The Lincoln Chamber will work to lessen the gap between the current revenues available for infrastructure and the current list of needs. We will also continue working to provide oversight, collaboration, and advocacy regarding street infrastructure investments funded by the local quarter-cent sales tax. The Chamber will prioritize efforts by our Growth is Good coalition to develop strategies for continued sales tax supported street improvements. Looking forward to 2025 when the current local sales tax expires, the Chamber and our coalition partners believe it will be vitally important to continue the successful local sales tax funding dedicated to streets.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TALENT ATTRACTION – The Lincoln Chamber actively supports local initiatives designed to facilitate the economic vitality plan approved in 2023. Job growth and business expansion are critical components of a vibrant community. We are committed to supporting Lincoln's continued success as a place of business expansion, growing talent and economic vitality. We will ensure Lincoln is a top destination for business development, pursuing a career and entrepreneurship. We will ensure Lincoln is future-focused and globally competitive in workforce retention and attraction. We will continue to be a welcoming economy that highly values inclusion, diversity, and supports equal opportunity. We support public policy that supports a diverse workforce and community. There should be no room for discrimination of any kind in the workplace.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT – The Chamber recognizes that energy is a catalyst for economic growth and job creation in southeast Nebraska. Demand for renewable energy is increasing, especially among Fortune 100 companies, and we are confident they will continue to drive demand. As we work to attract investments from many of these businesses to our community, we will continue engaging industry leaders across the energy spectrum to drive an advanced, reliable, affordable, diversified, and “all-of-the-above” energy economy.

TAX ALLOCATION & GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY – The Lincoln Chamber encourages all local government entities to work collaboratively and efficiently. In this process, we encourage them to pursue varied sources of funding while not increasing the tax burden. As local elected officials develop effective and efficient budgets, we will advocate they limit property tax increases to inflation plus growth and reduce mill levies to offset the excess revenue windfall created by any significant increase in property valuations. We will also continue monitoring the implementation of American Rescue Plan Act initiatives adopted by the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

VISIT LINCOLN MISSION SUPPORT – Increasing the number of visitors to Lincoln will have a positive effect on Lincoln’s economy. More visitors translate into additional sales tax dollars that help off-set the community’s reliance on property tax dollars. These efforts will include developing high-end destination facilities and amenities to attract visitors and events such as the Sandhills Global Youth Complex project and creating a network of dynamic, connected mixed-use activity hubs across Lincoln.

SUSTAINING LINCOLN’S MOMENTUM – The Lincoln Chamber is committed to growing Lincoln. To that end, the Lincoln Chamber will continue to advocate for the completion of a Lincoln beltway transportation loop, the expansion of air service at the Lincoln Airport, the continued development of the West Haymarket area, and the development of the Air Park Rail Center/Industrial Park, South Haymarket, South of Downtown, East Downtown, and the development of the University of Nebraska’s Innovation Campus. We will also be actively engaged in community conversations involving the possible relocation of the downtown library and post office. Through Visit Lincoln’s direct involvement in Assemble Lincoln, the Chamber will remain active in community conversation and actions building toward the construction of the Lincoln Convention Center. We will continue working on improvements to the City’s development review system. All these initiatives represent the future of both Lincoln and the State of Nebraska.

Adopted: February 15, 2024