



2017 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

1). As a member of the Lincoln City Council it will be your responsibility to prioritize spending tax dollars between departments, programs, and services.

➤ **What is your top priority for Lincoln?**

Public safety. I believe public servants should approach public budgets like we do our own personal budgets, which means prioritization, and putting needs before wants. We NEED to increase our police force, our firefighting and rescue personnel force, and all those public safety workers need the right equipment in the right place to do their job, making Lincoln a safe place to live and work.

2.) Residential property owners in the City of Lincoln are faced this year with a total re-valuation of property by the Lancaster County Assessor's office. Early indications point to a potential double-digit increase in overall property values and subsequently, higher property tax revenue for all taxing authorities.

- **Should the City of Lincoln adjust its levy to match previously budgeted revenues?**
- **If the City of Lincoln were to leave the current levy rate in place, what should it do with the excess dollars?**

Yes the levy should be adjusted to match the current budget that is in place.

We have three needs to be met with any excess dollars: 1) Increased police force; 2) Increases for personnel and equipment for our firefighters and rescue personnel; and 3) saving for beltway(s)

3.) Road, water, storm water, waste water, and technological infrastructure are the building blocks for business and residential growth in Lincoln. The State of Nebraska allows cities the authority to expand their local option sales tax by an additional one-half-percent – so long as the dollars are earmarked for "infrastructure projects"

- **What is your position regarding expanding the local option sales tax rate in an effort to fund infrastructure projects?**

Infrastructure should be one of our main priorities. I am in favor of finding additional funding sources for expansion of infrastructure projects.

4). The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development operates as a public/private partnership between the City of Lincoln and the business community. The Partnership has been directly responsible for the growing national attention regarding the positive business climate in Lincoln.

- **Do you support the continuation of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development and its public/private efforts to grow Lincoln's economy?**

Yes.

5.) Talent attraction and retention are a key component in determining Lincoln's success over the next decade as employers look to fill positions in a rapidly expanding workforce.

- **How can the City of Lincoln help attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?**

I have a plan for this. Of course, public safety is my first priority. My research on millennials shows that cities need a variety of amenities to attract them. With a variety of different funding sources, i.e. tax receipts, user fees we need: 1) Improved public transportation. 2) Continued expansion and maintenance of our trails, parks and rec facilities; 3) Continue improving the downtown/Haymarket areas, making them inviting places to live/work; 4) Design a multi-use community center that might include spaces for activities like a library, makerspace, senior center, indoor aquatic center, etc. — a vibrant space that would bring people together, but not compete with local businesses.

Career/technical amenities that can be encouraged but do not need tax dollar support include: 1) There appears to be a need for more coders, welders, automobile techs, etc. We might work with LPS, or SCC on this. 2) Lincoln has vibrant live music and theatre communities, and those should be encouraged. 3) Craft beverages have become a hot button, so local breweries, wineries, etc. should be encouraged.

6). Why should Lincoln Chamber of Commerce members support your bid for elected office?

I love Lincoln. My business is taking off and going global, but I am fully committed to keeping our headquarters here because I think it is THE best place in the world to live. I am hoping that the candidate who demonstrates that kind of commitment is the one you want to support.