



**Lancaster County Board of Commissioners Candidate  
Questionnaire – GREG BUTCHER  
(Please feel free to attach your answers on a separate piece of paper)**

**1). In our Six Statements of Core Policy, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce encourages fiscal responsibility and the pursuit of government efficiencies.**

**In what ways can Lancaster County become more efficient in its operations?**

Investing in community corrections programming to keep non-violent offenders out of jail will save taxpayers thousands in jail house costs and keep some offenders working and paying taxes. We must continue to find ways to consolidate City and County services, the easy and most obvious ones have been covered now we need to dig deeper. The county board has received an average salary increase of nearly \$1000 per year over the last 12 years as well as nearly \$750,000 in benefits; it's time to rein in salaries and benefits for part time elected officials. We may want to pursue the option of a biannual budget as well. This would give us more time to evaluate programs and challenge departments to hold to their budget requests.

**2). A new arena in the West Haymarket is the #1 short-term priority for the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. The new facility would greatly enhance the ability of the Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau to attract people, events, and tourism dollars to Lincoln.**

**(a)How can the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners partner with the City of Lincoln to see this project to completion?**

I supported the Arena but feel it is a project fronted by the City and the University. Those two bodies entered into the JPA and ultimately will have to bear the burden of seeing the project through.

**(b) Given the City's decision to build a new arena in the West Haymarket, what is your vision for the future of the Lancaster Events Center?**

The Event Center is an outstanding facility and is doing very well. We need to ensure that we do all that we can to assist in its continued success. I hope that a hotel and restaurant facility will be built in the coming years to better serve long term users of that facility. A majority of the programming put on at the event center will not compete with the Haymarket Arena to our community's benefit. I feel the County Super Fair is a wonderful event and we will continue to see its expansion and growth over the coming years. With the Stevens Creek flood plain opened up we have a great opportunity for further development in northeast Lancaster County which will only continue to benefit the Event Center.

**3). The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce has championed the effort to devote more money to road and infrastructure funding at all levels of government. The Chamber's Board of Directors has deemed it the #1 long-term priority for future of Lincoln.**

**(a) As a County Board member, are you willing to devote more money to expanding roads and infrastructure both inside and outside the City's limits?**

Until revenue projections change we must limit our ability to expand our current road and infrastructure system. Safety and maintenance on rural county roads must be our top priority. A well planned system for arterial road expansion where the proper amount of right of way is purchased to allow for easy 2 lane to 4 lane expansion with uninterrupted traffic service will save money and a lot of headaches with traffic issues in the years to come.

**(b) How would you fund this effort at the County level?**

Economic development and creation of new jobs in Lancaster County is the only way we are going to see increased revenue from rising property values. The County Board can implement policies to help with these economic issues but it's going to take a strong effort on the local, state, and federal level to make this happen. We need to work with our legislators to make sure Lancaster County has all the tools to be effective in driving economic development in Lancaster County.

**4). Lancaster County currently contributes \$10,000 to the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development.**

**(a) Do you feel this is the appropriate level of contribution towards economic development by the County Board?**

In today's economic climate I would be hard pressed to increase funding at this time. I would also ask that projects which funds are contributed to be followed up on to

measure the actual economic impact taxpayers got on their investment. This is a very small portion of our budget (about 0.0006 percent) and it may be possible if revenues begin to rebound to better fund projects which have real returns for taxpayers across the county.

**(b) If not, how will you work to either increase or decrease this level of funding?**

**5). What will be the biggest challenge facing the Lancaster County over the next 5 years?**

Until property values begin to increase we are going to be facing issues with budget shortfalls. We must be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars and find as many efficiencies and as much savings in each budget as we can. We cannot afford to put off tough budget choices by placing one time funds (such as the proceeds from the sale of Lancaster Manor) back into the general fund. Placing such onetime funds in to fill budget holes may make the decisions in future budgets that much harder and cuts that much deeper. We need to make tough choices and not put them off for another year.