



City Council Candidate Questionnaire

(Please feel free to attach your answers on a separate piece of paper)

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

What is your top priority for Lincoln?

With a budget of nearly \$100 million, Public Works and Utilities accounts for approximately 40% of the total city revenue. As a vibrant and expanding city, and as a city aging at its core, my top priority is to address infrastructure needs. Economic development is closely tied to addressing the city's infrastructure needs.

2.) The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors believes Road and Infrastructure funding is one of the key components to economic growth for Lincoln. Road and Infrastructure projects must be prioritized for a return on that investment and our community must devise a plan for long-term, general fund commitments toward infrastructure building.

How will you prioritize road projects?

The construction of new roads is an absolute necessity to the economic growth of Lincoln. Tight funding for such costly projects demands careful prioritization of each roads project.

a). Prioritization of roads projects begins with determining an economic value for each project. Those projects that promote significant economic benefit to the city will, over time, pay for themselves and should receive the highest priority.

b). A second criterion to determine priority is use. How many vehicles are projected to actually use the road? Those roads projects that will ultimately receive the greatest use shall be prioritized on that basis.

c). Timing is the third factor in prioritization of roads projects. When a roads project is absolutely necessary to a major industrial or commercial project, the project should be given a higher priority. On the other hand, other projects that are not so time sensitive may not be as immediate a priority.

d). Finally, carefully exploring alternatives is a fourth factor in establishing priorities. For example, are there nearby roads that could possibly meet the transportation need? If so, by providing links and improvements to the existing road, the much higher cost of an entirely new road is avoided.

[AND]

How will you address the need for stable general fund funding for road construction during your term?

Since 2003, the city's impact fees have helped to provide a stable funding source for road construction and other infrastructure needs. However, these fees alone are not enough to fund major new projects, and their use is limited to particular geographical areas. We must look elsewhere to fund major projects. The Legislature is currently considering bills to increase state funding for roads projects. Additionally, with relatively low interest rates, bond issues for major roads projects may be a reasonable option.

3). The City of Lincoln partners with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce to operate the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. As of today, the City's contribution for marketing Lincoln, retaining and expanding our current businesses and actively recruiting new businesses to our area is \$500,000. This money leverages a matching contribution of \$500,000 from private businesses and individuals.

Do you believe this is an appropriate level of economic development effort for the city of Lincoln?

Yes, the current level of support from the City of Lincoln is appropriate. The structure and funding of the Partnership for Economic Development demonstrates very clearly that the City is in partnership with community leaders to actively promote economic development. Such collaborative efforts are absolutely vital to Lincoln's growth

4). Lancaster County property owners currently face a tax levy of \$1.99-per-\$100 of valuation. Of that, approx. 28-cents or 14% goes into the city.

Do you believe the current overall levy is too high, too low, or where it should be?

I believe that the current tax levy is at an appropriate level and will work hard to avoid any property tax increases.

[AND]

Do you believe the City's current levy rate is adequate to support Lincoln's future?

The current tax levy is appropriate and as the economy continues to improve, sales tax revenue will increase. Increasing the levy rate is NOT the solution to the city's budget needs.

5). Lincoln is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan. The latest update projects growth to the year 2040 and develops a Long Range Transportation Plan to deal with that growth.

How should Lincoln grow to the year 2040?

L2040, the Lincoln-Lancaster Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan, presents three different scenarios for city growth. Under Scenario A, the future growth in the city would be multi-directional. Growth of the city in all directions is the current growth policy and has important advantages; however, such a pattern of growth also creates certain challenges and may be the most costly option. Under Scenario B, the growth of the city is emphasized to the east, in the Stephens' Creek area. Focusing new development in one direction presents challenges to certain economies, as well as major costs to provide services to an area that currently has very few services in place. Scenario C is a model emphasizing compact growth and represents the most cost effective alternative. However, I am concerned about meeting the increasing demand for residential housing as the city's population increases, and question whether those needs can be met under Scenario C. Each of the alternatives presents relative advantages and disadvantages that must be carefully weighed before making a determination. Once a determination is made, the city must immediately begin to put plans in place to accomplish its goals.

6). Previous Mayoral administrations and City Councils have set aside monies for job creation in the Fast Forward Fund. The current guidelines limit that funding to be used for infrastructure directly related to job projects.

Are you committed to protecting these funds for use for economic development?

ABSOLUTELY! It is critical that these funds are available for important job creation projects that will help our city grow.

7). Citizens of Lincoln approved the West Haymarket Arena and Development in May of 2010. The project has the potential to be the catalyst for major economic gains and recruiting or retaining businesses and jobs to Lincoln.

Were you supportive of the Arena?

Yes, as a member of the 2015 group, I was a strong supporter of the Arena. I participated in numerous meetings throughout the various stages of this critical project and campaigned in my neighborhood and elsewhere to encourage support.

[AND]

Now that the project is moving forward, what is your vision for the area?

Approval of the Arena physically expands the most vibrant part of downtown Lincoln. Not only will the Arena offer a much-needed venue for sports and entertainment, its presence is serving as a catalyst for related development in and around the Haymarket. Other sports venues will locate in the area so that driving into Downtown Lincoln one will not only see Memorial Stadium and Haymarket Park, but the Arena, an Ice Facility, athletic fields, and other facilities, making a loud statement about the vitality of the city just outside our front door. The Arena project is not just about a facility; it will bring accompanying commercial, retail, and residential developments. New hotels are already in the works and an expansion of the existing arts district will also occur. I expect the West Haymarket to be a strong magnet attracting young adults to our community.

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

As a representative of the 4th District of the Lincoln I will be a strong advocate for growth in the economic center of our community. With over 30 years of professional experience and community involvement in Lincoln, I possess the skills and knowledge of our community that it takes to be a leader on the City Council. I will be a positive force in city government, working to continue the strong momentum the city currently enjoys. I will work closely with the Mayor, with all members of the Council, as well as with community and business leaders to keep Lincoln moving forward. Lastly, while in many respects the city is thriving, it also faces certain challenges. I have a proven track record as a problem solver and will utilize those skills to address whatever challenges the city encounters.