



## **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? Getting back to the basics of fixing streets, sidewalks, bridges and other infrastructure that has deteriorated as the budget has tightened. We have a \$200 million backlog of street and sidewalk work to be done, with no hope in sight to begin to address it. Also, fixing the structurally imbalanced budget, which currently has a roughly \$8 to \$10 million shortfall.**

**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? I don't believe it's a councilwoman's job to prioritize road projects – that is the job of the city professionals – but I believe we should balance the needs of existing streets with the need for new streets.**

**[ AND ]**

**How will you address the need for stable general fund funding for road construction during your term? We need to look at possibly another roads bond issue proposal – either a big one or a series of small ones, as the mayor has suggested. We need to put wheel tax dollars back at work on streets other than Antelope Valley. And I've proposed that we dissolve the RTSD and shift the tax to the general levy, which would free up roughly \$4 million a year for city needs, including streets.**

**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? Well, let's put it this way: I previously lived in a city about one-fourth Lincoln's population, and they had a local option sales tax levy strictly for economic development, which I believe generated about \$2 million per year for economic development – which can be used in various ways. TIF is not always the answer, and Lincoln needs more tools to choose from at times. However, the city must focus on creating well-paying jobs, not just jobs.**

**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 pay more for cable TV than for city government, but of course nobody wants to see their taxes go up. Our levy was 52 cents in the 1990s, so certainly the city has been committed to keeping taxes down, which is appropriate.**

**[AND]**

**Do you believe the City's current levy rate is adequate to support Lincoln's future? No.... otherwise we wouldn't be facing an up to \$10 million budget gap right now, plus a \$200 million infrastructure backlog.**

**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? I believe Lincoln should continue to grow smartly and concentrically.**

**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?  
Yes.**

**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?**

**[ AND ]**

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

**8). Why should members of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce support your bid for elected office? Because Jonathan Cook has held the seat for 12 years and we now have a \$200 million backlog of street and sidewalk work to be done, and an up to \$10 million budget gap. He has not been willing to make the tough decisions to face up to these challenges and fix them, and if he hasn't done it in 12 years, he won't do it in 16. I will bring ideas to the table without fear of the next election.**