



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?

The public has made it clear that the number one priority is public safety. I agree the keeping Lincoln's citizens safe and Lincoln a relatively safe place to live should be our top priority. Secondly we should look at making sure that we streamline our departments to facilitate retention of existing businesses and to help attract new business.

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 believe it is pretty clear that growth and the ability to attract new business are dependent on a South Beltway and a viable way to get from NE to SW and from SE to NW without huge delays. I believe the Antelope Valley Roadway has made those diagonal passages easier but that we must still work to improve these routes. Additionally I believe that widening NW 48th will open up the area to the potential of major developments in distribution centers.

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

I think there should be a commons discussion about the LES Pilot money distribution. Currently it is based on the ratio of each tax entity on a tax dollar. This is a disincentive for those who work hard to keep their mill levy low. (Currently Lincoln gets 1.4 million compared to LES getting 6.3 million) I believe a different distribution label would be fairer and would more adequately reward efforts to keep taxes low. Any money derived from that change should be put in an untouchable infrastructure fund. Barring that I believe the mill levy should be adjusted to create the untouchable infrastructure fund. If we believe that infrastructure is important than business organizations and business leaders need to lead the drive for this increase.

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?

I have consistently supported the city's contribution to LPED. I will continue to do so as I believe that once again government and business leaders must understand you have to invest money to make money. Lincoln has 125 million dollars of private money that has been invested in projects that are either under construction or have been completed in the last 4 years and another 50 million of private money invested in approved projects not counting the Arena. All of these projects will create jobs and tax receipts.

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 think it is up to the pubic to decide by their vote and voice where they believe the levy should be. If they desire infrastructure maintenance, continued services and the level of level of those services then they will need to express that to their representatives.

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

The problem is not the levy rate but the fact that the city pays one half of their bills with money that is inconsistent (Sales Tax) and that one taxing entity gets two thirds

of the total levy. That leads the public to believe their tax levy is too high but the city and county with less revenue than they need to do all the things the public desires. These fundamental inequities will continue to lead to discussions like this at every budget cycle until they are addressed. The current levy is NOT sustainable if you want to address infrastructure maintenance.

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 think it is essential that we find a way to continue to support older neighborhoods at the same time we are growing the city. I believe growth should be a combination of new developments, in building and vertical building. I believe a revitalized downtown would lead to increased vertical development and that you are already seeing that with the Catalyst project. It is unrealistic however to think there is enough space to handle additional grow solely with something other than additional development on the edge of the city. That growth should be more concentric than previous growths that overwhelmed the infrastructure in South Lincoln.

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. I believe we made that commitment and that it is again is an investment in our future. We need to resist the temptation to utilize this as one time money and “raiding” this fund will make it much more difficult to convince the public that any “untouchable” fund should be created. A commitment is a commitment.

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?

I attended every community meeting held in NE Lincoln and many in other areas and was on the front lines in promoting this project. Additionally I held a community meeting in NE Lincoln to facilitate information sharing and discussion

of this project. NE Lincoln's voting results were far more positive than it was believed to be because of this information sharing.

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

On a basic level it will give Lincoln a venue to attract visitors to Lincoln, give visitors an even more positive experience, and lead to additional sales tax revenues. It will help attract and retain younger people to the city. On a secondary level it has and will attract other investors into projects in Lincoln by showing Lincoln is becoming a more visionary and progressive city

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

I believe that I have demonstrated the ability to facilitate a more congenial and far less partisan council and that I provide a voice of reason and common sense. I have attended nearly every Chamber coffee during my four years and that people in the Chambers recognize my honesty, candor and willingness to discuss any issue. Additionally I believe that my visibility and availability benefit Lincoln and the NE District. Finally I was the first candidate who said I would not take money from a city union or LIBA so that there would be total transparency in my votes.