



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?

First, we need to audit city agencies to ensure that they are spending money appropriately. My priorities for Lincoln include economic development and job creation, CIR reform, and roads funding. Of course, it's necessary to provide core services, but we must do so efficiently and with a transparent process.

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?

We have to strike a balance between maintaining the roads and streets we currently have (to avoid the pothole fiasco of two winters ago), but also recognize the importance of new development and growth.

[AND]

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

I support State Senator Deb Fisher's LB 84, which creates the State Highway Capital Improvement Fund and directs a half-cent of existing state sales tax to the Fund to be used for construction of high-priority highway projects. It is estimated that a half-cent of sales tax generates approximately \$125 million per year. The revenue would be split between the state (83%) and cities and counties (17%). Local governments would allot their portion as provided through the current Highway Allocation formula and would be required to use the revenue for road and street purposes.

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 believe this a step in the right direction. Lincoln is such a diverse community with so much opportunity. From Innovation Park to Airpark to the many businesses and service industries that call Lincoln home, it's no wonder that so many people want to live here. However, there is room to grow and improve. We need to ensure that businesses will locate here so people remain employed and provide for their families. We need to work to keep young people here by providing quality education and jobs. All facets of our economy need to expand – manufacturing, services, businesses and retail – so that we can provide jobs and maintain a high quality life for our citizens.

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 would like to see that rate lowered if at all possible. In order to be sure that we are providing core government services to the people of the city of Lincoln at the lowest rate possible, we must first ascertain that we are spending their tax dollars for those services in the most efficient manner regardless of the tax levy rate. In order for us to know if our levy rate is appropriate as currently set or has room to be reduced we must first seek to audit our spending to be sure we are getting a dollars worth of service for every dollar spent.

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

I will not consider increasing property taxes. City government has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. However, we need to continue to promote our Lincoln businesses to generate sales tax revenue and continue to find efficiencies in our budget, which includes much-needed CIR reform.

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?

The Comprehensive Plan gives us the big picture to help us to be able to gather together an overall picture for our City. It allows us to outline the growth of our community and proactively predict our needs for infrastructure. I believe it's critical we continue to pursue development of the South and East Beltways so Lincoln can continue to develop.

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, quality infrastructure is one of the key components to economic development. It makes it possible for us to more readily attract new businesses and industries to Lincoln and furthermore encourages our existing businesses to stay here in Lincoln and expand the scope of their firms.

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 was supportive of the idea of the arena; however I thought the way the City described the funding mechanism was less than transparent.

[AND]

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

The arena will hopefully be an economic driver for our community. As its construction continues over the following months and years, it will be the City Council's responsibility to ensure there is transparency and accountability in that process. My experience in the construction industry makes me well-suited to bring accountability and transparency to the process.

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

We, as a City, are on the cusp of a tremendous period of community and economic growth and development. I am uniquely qualified as a business owner in the construction industry to make certain that as a city, we embark into this time in the most fiscally responsible manner possible. I will work to ensure that we as taxpayers receive a dollars worth of service for every dollar spent. I believe the position of City Councilperson is a full-time commitment to the people of the City of Lincoln. I believe that requires a person who is willing to serve all the citizens of Lincoln and be an advocate for encouraging economic growth.