



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?

My priority is the city's budget. Wages and benefits take over 80% of the city's budget. People in the private sector have not seen a wage increase in five years. This is going to take meaningful reform of the CIR to put the tools in the hands of Lincoln's City Council to manage the city's budget. A recent poll showed that 80% of people would rather leave budget decisions in the hands of their elected officials rather than collective bargaining agreements. The people have spoken and we need to listen.

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 will prioritize road projects by trying to protect extra dollars that come in so they go toward infrastructure and roads, as well as protecting our current funds for roads so dollars aren't taken out or used for other purposes.

[AND]

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

It is always important for us, as a city, to work with the County and State when it comes to funding roads. The city's portion of motor vehicle tax is not being used for

roads. This is unknown to the taxpayers. This is a revenue source that can more appropriately be used for roads. Senator Fischer has a bill LB84, the Build Nebraska Act, would create a Highway Capitol Improvements Fund. One half percent of the General Fund sales tax would go into this fund to help pay for road projects such as the South and East Beltways in Lincoln. Supporting legislation such as this is one way, as a city council member, that I can address the need for funding road construction. I also think that this legislation allows more of our current roads fund to be utilized for our local roads like Holdrege that are riddled with pot holes.

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?

Public-private partnerships are necessary for sustained economic development.

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 the levy is where it should be given our economic environment. It is unfortunate that such a small amount of our levy goes toward the city. When the economy turns around and valuations go up, then it may be a good time to start talking about lowering the levy. I believe things such as impact fees need to be addressed to help growth in our city. Businesses are not attracted to our high property tax and impact fees they are subject to when starting a business in Lincoln. Housing goes down due to impact fees, as well, which also plays a large role in choking economic development. Also, investing in our infrastructure is a critical component of economic development.

[AND]

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

Our levy needs to be adjusted with valuations, so as values increase the levy should drop. This would put less extra money in the city's coffer, but it will give the people more ability to build and grow.

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?

We need to plan for growth and development, but not forget to focus on the here and now, as well. To ensure the ability to grow, we must focus on economic opportunity and exercising fiscal restraint in near term.

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 am in favor of protecting the Fast Forward Fund; however, the Mayor put these monies into the budget with criteria that he developed behind closed doors without any say from the people through the public hearing process. Our city council passed that budget so it will be harder to protect those monies but I am not afraid to fight to protect it for the purpose which it was created. The mayor has already come out and stated that he is planning to use the Fast Forward Fund dollars to help fill the budget gap, but if I get elected and they have not been utilized for the budget gap, I may request a public hearing for those monies so the mayor cannot use the Fast Forward Funds just to fill the budget gap. That is a one-time solution to a reoccurring problem.

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 Arena and I think it can be great for Lincoln. I do think we need to be extremely careful and completely open with the entire process. As I talk with people, they fear that this could be another Antelope Valley times a hundred, or that no one, who is looking out for the people, is in charge. There appears to be a lot of shipmates but no captains. As their representatives, it is critical to inform the citizens and assure them that we are proceeding with caution. The people have a right to know and vote on all things, not just some things, and I trust that the people of Lincoln can make good choices when it comes to how we are going to spend our money and/or tax them, as long as they are given the proper information. This is an exciting venture that our city is taking, and it can do great things for our city as long as we are careful and do it right.

[AND]

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

My vision for the arena is for it to serve the people of Lincoln well, and to be a destination for those outside of Lincoln and Nebraska, bringing growth, development, and jobs.

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

Members of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce should support my bid for elected office because as a young female, I bring a different perspective to the table. I am passionate about serving the people of Lincoln and helping to make a difference in my community. I stand for job creation through growth, holding the line on taxes, and reigning in on wasteful spending. I will hold true to these principles and govern accordingly. I am not afraid to disagree with my colleagues, nor am I afraid to agree with them if we find common ground. Having served four years as Legislative Council in the Nebraska Legislature, I have experience with coming to the table with all sides and talking through the issues to determine what is best for the people. I can do so cordially and candidly and I would be honored to have the support of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.