



## **Candidate for Mayor of Lincoln**

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

**1). As Lincoln's Mayor, it will be up to you to present a budget for City Council approval. You will have to prioritize between departments, programs, and services.**

**What is your top priority for spending in Lincoln?**

*My top priority in Lincoln is to rein in spending, audit departments and find ways to manage our debt.*

**2.) Employee salaries and benefits and the negotiations that take place to determine those salaries and benefits takes place largely through the City's personnel department. As the Mayor, you have direct control over that department.**

**Outside of the complex rules and requirements set-forth by the State of Nebraska and its "comparability" requirements, can the City do a better job of negotiating employee contracts? YES**

[AND]

**If so, how?**

*Hopefully the State will make substantial and meaningful changes to the CIR. I look forward to finding ways to compensate the city workers that are on the "front line" who do an excellent job for this city. However, this city is being held hostage by the state statute.*

*If that cannot change so we can negotiate a realistic salary and benefit package for these public employees, we will be forced to lay people off. Usually this is done by laying off the last hired, not the seasoned employee. I don't want to lay anyone off if they are being productive in their job.*

*I would ask the city employees to help find efficiencies in each department so this would not have to happen. I do believe that a retirement match must be part of the responsibility of the employee just as it is in the private sector. The taxpayers of Lincoln need to be represented and assured that these contracts will NOT result in higher taxation to them.*

**3.) Road and Infrastructure funding is one of the key components to economic growth for Lincoln.**

**How can the City of Lincoln solve its long-term road and infrastructure funding problem?**

It is time to use the funds that have been designated for roads and infrastructure for their real purpose. We must work with the state and county to make our roads and infrastructure a priority. I support the work of Senator Deb Fisher in the Legislature with her bill to use a small portion of tax revenue for roads. This will make the South Beltway a priority. I will develop a plan that will put roads and infrastructure where they need to be; at the front of the city's priorities.

**4.) 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 think that this is appropriate for these economic times. It is important to recruit new businesses to our city as well as enhance the current business owners stock in this city.

We need to lessen fees and regulations that put up barriers to new business and adds burden to our existing companies. I will review the need for impact fees and possibly put a moratorium on them so that more building could happen in this city.

We need to encourage, not discourage businesses to come to our city. I would also look for other ways to bring businesses to Lincoln. We are located geographically in the center of this country; with good air, rail and Interstate connections. There is no reason that we can't attract more business to this community. I look forward to working with the Chamber in this regard.

**5.) 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?**

[AND]

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

I think that given the economic times in this state and nation, the taxpayers of Lincoln are not able to take a tax hike.

It is time to use the tax revenue that comes to the City of Lincoln very carefully. People pay taxes for necessary services. The mayor is elected to see that basic services are provided. I want to look at the budget very carefully to find ways to help. Just like the family budget must be reviewed in difficult times and adjusted, so does the city budget. Increasing taxes so the city can spend more money must stop. We need to get a handle on necessary priorities and I plan to work hard in this area.

**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?**

I want everything transparent with all parties working openly for the enhancement of the community. I am in favor of protecting these funds and as I have already indicated; the best way to do this is to find out exactly where the waste and excessive spending is happening. I would work directly with the City Council to avoid dipping into these funds as has been done by my opponent.

We must make sure that money put into a specific fund whether it is for roads, retirement or any other budgetary item be handled as such. Currently our money is handled like a "shell game". We are not sure where it is being spent and for what purpose.

**7.) The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce currently serves more than 1400 businesses in Lincoln.**

**Why should Lincoln Chamber of Commerce members support your bid to become Lincoln's Mayor?**

I would ask for your support as the Mayor of Lincoln because I am a business owner who would be on the front lines of this city working for the people of Lincoln just as I work hard to make sure my clients get what they want and need at the price that fits their budget. Personally, the last thing I want to do is go and ask anyone for more of their hard-earned income.

I believe in being an ACTIVE mayor who would work for a city that I was born, raised in and continue to call it my home. I would seek ways to keep connected to folks through regular monthly meetings with citizens and businesses. Also, I would use the many active agencies such as the Chamber of Commerce to hear the heart-beat of the needs for our city in terms of needs and priorities that every corner of our city has. We have grown to be a city that, if fostered, could be a trend-setting community with solutions and examples that other cities could model.

I would work to be a partner with the Chamber and incorporate your expertise and ideas for the furtherance of the growth of our city. I am a listener and not afraid of hard work. I will do my best to enable our city to be a model city for our state and our nation.