



The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce will continue its critical role as the primary business advocate for Lincoln's growth. We will be focused, issue-based and non-partisan while asserting the positive and essential role business plays to improve our community and expand opportunities for all citizens.

The Lincoln Chamber's key Local policy objectives for 2022:

**COVID-19 RESPONSE** – The coronavirus pandemic has dramatically impacted our daily lives creating economic, social, and cultural challenges. The Lincoln Chamber is committed to continuing our collaborative efforts with government officials, leaders within the business community and other community members to combat the spread of the virus and get our economy back up and running. This includes implementation of American Rescue Plan Act initiatives proposed by the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and Lincoln Public Schools.

**CHAMBER LEADERSHIP** – The Lincoln Chamber values the relationship it has established with our Mayor, City Council, Airport Authority Board, County Board and School Board members. We will continue developing positive and mutually beneficial working relationships between them and our new Chamber President.

**HOUSING AFFORDABILITY** – The Lincoln Chamber recognizes that affordable housing is one of the most important components to attracting and retaining a diverse workforce. A lack of workforce housing is a significant barrier to increased entrepreneurship and economic development in our community. We will continue working to identify ways to eliminate these barriers and stimulate needed growth. This includes reducing unnecessary government policies and regulations that contribute to the problem, as well as supporting those policies and incentives that enable development and rehabilitation of workforce housing.

**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE** – The Lincoln Chamber believes infrastructure funding should be the top priority for Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln. As business needs evolve, issues such as high-speed broadband communications and other non-traditional assets are necessary for growth. The Chamber will advocate for not only road, water, sewer and airport infrastructure; but also, technological upgrades to Lincoln's infrastructure that allows our community to remain globally competitive. We will continue working with the Mayor's advisors gathering information about past sustainability work, climate hazards, demographics, emergency preparedness and key indicators for Lincoln. We will work to lessen the gap between the current revenues available for infrastructure and the current list of needs. We will also continue working to provide an additional level of oversight, collaboration and advocacy regarding infrastructure investments funded by the quarter-cent sales tax for each year it is in effect. Completing both the South AND the East Beltway will continue to be areas of focus. We will continue encouraging the Nebraska Department of Transportation to fully fund the East Beltway in the second 10 years of the Build Nebraska Act.

**TALENT ATTRACTION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – The Lincoln Chamber actively supports local initiatives designed to facilitate the LPED Strategic Economic Development Plan and fulfill Lincoln's Economic Development goals outlined in the 2015 Angelou Economics report. Job growth and business expansion are critical components of a vibrant community. We are committed to supporting Lincoln's continued success as a place of business expansion, growing talent and endless opportunities. We will ensure Lincoln is a top destination for business development, pursuing a career and entrepreneurship. We will ensure Lincoln is

future-focused and globally competitive in workforce retention and attraction. We welcome everyone to our community and support equal opportunity for all people. We oppose discrimination in the workplace, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. There should be no room for discrimination of any kind in the workplace.

**TAX ALLOCATION & GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY** – The Lincoln Chamber encourages all local government entities to work collaboratively and efficiently. In this process, we encourage them to pursue varied sources of funding while not increasing the tax burden.

**CVB MISSION SUPPORT** – Increasing the number of visitors to Lincoln will have a positive effect on Lincoln’s economy. More visitors translate into additional sales tax dollars that help off-set the community’s reliance on property tax dollars. These efforts will include advocating for shuttered venues and pursuing the Lincoln Youth Complex project associated with the Sports Triangle near Haymarket Park, the Breslow Ice Hockey Center and Memorial Stadium.

**SUSTAINING LINCOLN’S MOMENTUM** – The Lincoln Chamber is committed to growing Lincoln. To that end, the Lincoln Chamber will continue to advocate for the expansion of air service at the Lincoln Airport and the continued development of the West Haymarket area, the development of the Air Park Rail Center/Industrial Park, South Haymarket, South of Downtown, East Downtown and the development of the University of Nebraska’s Innovation Campus. We will also be actively engaged in community conversations involving possible relocation of the downtown library and construction of a downtown convention center. All these initiatives represent the future of both Lincoln and the State of Nebraska.

**Adopted: February 10, 2022.**