



## 2017 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

**1). As a member of the Lincoln City Council it will be your responsibility to prioritize spending tax dollars between departments, programs, and services.**

➤ **What is your top priority for Lincoln?**

My top priority for Lincoln is to continue working to attract good paying jobs and to improve Lincoln's quality of life. This starts at city hall where I have and will continue to fight for greater transparency and more efficient delivery of city services while cutting property taxes and setting spending priorities. The top priority for city spending must be public safety including police and fire protection, followed by infrastructure including road construction and repair. Lincoln is a great place to live, work and raise a family and I want to continue to build on the strength of our community.

**2.) Residential property owners in the City of Lincoln are faced this year with a total re-valuation of property by the Lancaster County Assessor's office. Early indications point to a potential double-digit increase in overall property values and subsequently, higher property tax revenue for all taxing authorities.**

➤ **Should the City of Lincoln adjust its levy to match previously budgeted revenues?**

Just a few weeks ago I introduced a resolution the City Council adopted which endorsed cutting the property tax rate later this year and not taking advantage of the tax windfall from the increase in property valuations. The resolution puts the council on the record in support of maintaining the two-year budget adopted last summer and against using new revenue from valuation increases to increase city spending unless an emergency need arises.

➤ **If the City of Lincoln were to leave the current levy rate in place, what should it do with the excess dollars?**

I strongly disagree with leaving the current levy in place and would not support utilizing any resulting tax revenue except in an emergency.

**3.) Road, water, storm water, waste water, and technological infrastructure are the building blocks for business and residential growth in Lincoln. The State of Nebraska allows cities the authority to**

**expand their local option sales tax by an additional one-half-percent – so long as the dollars are earmarked for “infrastructure projects”**

- **What is your position regarding expanding the local option sales tax rate in an effort to fund infrastructure projects?**

Having appropriate infrastructure is critical to continuing the commercial and residential growth Lincoln has experienced in recent years. When the current voter-approved quarter cent sales tax that is funding four new fire stations and a new 911 center expires, I would be open to letting voters decide whether to extend the sales tax to fund additional infrastructure projects such as road construction and maintenance.

**4). The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development operates as a public/private partnership between the City of Lincoln and the business community. The Partnership has been directly responsible for the growing national attention regarding the positive business climate in Lincoln.**

- **Do you support the continuation of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development and its public/private efforts to grow Lincoln’s economy?**

As a member of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development through my city council committee assignment I’ve seen firsthand the positive work of the partnership. The recent relocation of Ink Labs from Silicon Valley and the location of the Monolith Materials carbon black manufacturing plant south of Lincoln, along with the success of local startups such as Hudl, Spreetail and Bulu Box show the impact of the LPED’s work to increase economic prosperity and the global competitiveness of Lincoln. I firmly support the continuation of the LPED and its efforts.

**5.) Talent attraction and retention are a key component in determining Lincoln’s success over the next decade as employers look to fill positions in a rapidly expanding workforce.**

- **How can the City of Lincoln help attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?**

Continuing to create good paying jobs and working to improve Lincoln’s quality of life is key to attracting and retaining a vibrant and talented workforce. The continued redevelopment in and around downtown including projects such as the Telegraph District, the South Haymarket development and the completed development of the West Haymarket help make Lincoln an attractive place to work and live for young professionals and projects such as the Children’s Zoo expansion improve the quality of life for Lincoln’s families. Lincoln’s thriving start-up community and our positive business climate continue to create good paying jobs throughout the city and we should continue to support the current momentum the city has in any way we can.

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

The past four years I have led the effort to add more police, clean energy buses, and fast track approval of the Zoo expansion while fighting to cut taxes and set spending priorities. I know that we can continue attract good-paying jobs while maintaining Lincoln’s quality of life and sense of community and I look forward to continuing this work if re-elected.