



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 is growing Lincoln. Economic growth is important. We need to continue to attract & bring in new industries.

I do not support raising the sales tax. Raising taxes disproportionately impacts those of lower income.

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?

No. We need to adjust the levy for growth & inflation. I'm not opposed to reducing the mill levy as long as we meet our current & future obligations - Essential services & maintaining quality of life in our community.

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

It's important that we first meet our current obligations, such as pension & benefits for firefighters & police. I am not opposed to returning the money to tax payers. However I

do believe that it is important that we continue our outreach & services to venerable communities to facilitate job growth, which expands the tax base & helps keep taxes low for everyone. I believe that improving transportation options - small shuttle services (rather than unneeded large buses), rails to trails, parks & rec - increase flow to commerce & reduces costs in industries.

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?

Again, working class families cannot afford a rise in sales tax. We need to look at shifting the hotel/restaurant tax to fund infrastructure projects. "Want vs. Need" - for example, at this point Railyard improvements are a "want" while infrastructure projects, which create good paying jobs, are a "need".

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?

Yes. We need discussion & cooperation between private & public entities. But, I believe separation should be maintained. These partnerships enable reputable businesses & the city to work together for the benefits of the community. It's important that we keep it local & community oriented by partnering with small family businesses, worker's organizations, franchises, & small mom & pop shops, instead of big businesses like banks, insurance, etc.

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?

We need to keep pace with progressive cities who capture young talent & contribute to Lincoln's Brain Drain. Progressive policies must be put fourth. Lincoln must introduce & welcome new industries who will become new Chamber members. Vibrant & growing cities are introducing cannabis & renewable energy opportunities which create good paying jobs & contribute to expanding the tax base, which helps keep taxes & energy costs low for working families. I wonder how many new Chamber members are in technology & small business? I believe this is a huge opportunity & it brings people to Lincoln & keeps them here.

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

I will always do what is in the best interest of the community. I am not beholden to a party or big money interests. I am an independent voice & a fiscal conservative. I am not afraid to have difficult conversations. I do not tell selective truths & I am not a career politician. I am a small business owner who wants to see other businesses succeed. I believe when a community thrives, so do local businesses.