



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?

Within the General Revenue budget, public safety is the top priority--making sure our police and fire departments are able to provide the services families and businesses count on. Beyond that, I believe our parks, pools, libraries and trails are critical to making our community strong. The next generation of workers will be looking for communities that have these amenities and we must provide them if we want to be competitive. Lincoln residents are proud of their neighborhoods. I will continue to stand up for the high quality of life that has given Lincoln national recognition as a top city in which to raise a family.

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?

[AND]

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

A good road system is critical for economic success. During my time on the council, we've issued road bonds and set aside wheel tax money for both new projects and maintenance of our existing infrastructure. My record shows that I have prioritized street projects like South Street in the business district between 9th and 17th Streets and Coddington Avenue near Coddington Market shopping center and Roper

Elementary School because they were critical to the safety and success of the businesses and families in those areas.

We've recently repaved 15 miles of streets and plan to do another 8 next year. We're doing a better job on our local streets and arterials. But we can't build important larger projects like the South Beltway without help from the state. We're ready to do our part, but the state has been unable to come up with a long-term road funding plan. However, we have secured some additional state road funding in recent years, and I appreciate the leadership of the Chamber in helping make that happen.

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?

I am pleased with the quality and productivity of the partnership we have created. Even in tight budget years, I have supported providing \$500,000 in funding for LPED because I believe in the long-term value of growing jobs and increasing our tax base. I think this has been an appropriate level of funding and our community has gotten a good return on the investment in LPED. In addition to the funds we provide to LPED, I have also supported using TIF as an incentive to businesses bringing new jobs to Lincoln, including Verizon and Cabela's, and numerous projects downtown.

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?

[AND]

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

I appreciate this question and the work LCOC has done to educate the public on this issue. Despite our efforts, some people remain unaware that the city portion of the property tax levy is only 14%. In addition, the property tax levy the council is responsible for is now considerably lower than when I came on the council. I have worked hard and will continue to work hard to ensure that taxpayers get maximum

value out of their dollars. Recent sales tax receipts are up, and that should improve our budget outlook.

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?

I have always been supportive of multi-directional growth. Investing in many different parts of the city creates growth that has long-term benefits and maximizes our existing resources. As the Southwest District representative, I am especially pleased with the growth in my district both south and west, and have worked to provide the necessary infrastructure to promote business and job opportunities as well as enhanced neighborhood and school safety.

I listen closely to the needs of constituents and businesses regarding what should go into our CIP and LRTP. Our plans should always have sufficient flexibility to account for market changes and new opportunities.

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 was involved in the creation of the Fast Forward Fund and continue to support making these funds available for economic development within the guidelines we have set up. We just used them recently for a great project involving Duncan Aviation. I've analyzed and crafted twelve City budgets during my time on the City Council. It requires careful balancing between new investment and supporting existing businesses and neighborhood services. Next year looks to be particularly challenging because of various proposals in the state legislature that would take away funding to local communities. I will be looking to work with the Chamber to analyze our options and craft the best plan for continuing to grow our local economy.

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?

[AND]

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

Yes, I was supportive of and voted for the arena. Now that it is moving forward, I want us to provide support for developing the surrounding area, and we are doing that, with redevelopment agreements to bring in new hotels and retail. We have an opportunity to create a new, special, safe and family-friendly environment that everyone in Lincoln can be proud of.

I disagree with some candidates who mistakenly say the arena takes resources away from other community needs like neighborhood services and street improvements. As the Chamber knows, the arena taps entirely new and different funding sources that do not compete with existing needs. The arena creates great new opportunities for the future of downtown and the university. Ultimately, a strong downtown supports strong neighborhoods and businesses and improves the whole community.

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

I am proud to have been a part of all the good work we have done in Lincoln over the last twelve years. We have crafted careful budgets that have reduced the property tax rate, while protecting important services and investing in infrastructure to support continued growth. This work continues to pay off for the community. I am excited about all the progress we are seeing in Lincoln.

We are building a new arena, Innovation Campus, and nearing completion of Antelope Valley. Crime is down 21% in the last four years. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. Magazines like Forbes and Fortune give high rankings to Lincoln as a great place to start or expand a business. At the same time, Parents magazine declared Lincoln a top community for raising a family. Our economic outlook is excellent, and I want to continue to be a part of that success.