

BUDGET SCHEDULE

The Mayor is scheduled to make his decisions on the 2008-2009 City budget in May, and the budget is released to the public in June. The City Council votes on tentative changes to the Mayor's budget in July. The public hearing is scheduled for August 11, and the Council is scheduled to adopt the budget August 25.

The City appreciates the partnerships that are making PRIORITY LINCOLN possible:

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska

- UNL Bureau of Sociological Research
- UNL Pesticide Education Office
- NU Public Policy Center



LINCOLN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

lincoln.ne.gov

**PRIORITY
LINCOLN**
We're listening.



"We're looking at a fundamental change in the way City finances operate, and we need to start the process with the people we are elected to serve."

Mayor Chris Beutler

Like many communities across the nation, Lincoln is struggling with budget challenges. Expenses have been rising faster than revenues. The City has responded much like a family would, making difficult cuts to balance the budget.

Other communities have found a process called "outcome-based budgeting" to be helpful. This is a process that ties programs to the goals that citizens want local government to accomplish. The first step is to solicit public opinion on how the City should spend your tax dollars. This brochure explains that effort.

The entire community is invited to participate in PRIORITY LINCOLN in two ways: an online survey and town hall meetings.

ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey is available at lincoln.ne.gov. The survey is designed to allow citizens to prioritize City services and provide comments on their decisions. This is not intended to be a scientifically valid survey (see next page), but it will provide valuable information for decision leaders. Printed copies of the online survey also will be available at all Lincoln libraries.



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The City is partnering with Leadership Lincoln, Inc. on a series of town hall meetings to allow residents another venue to express their opinions about budget priorities. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the meetings will be from 6 to 8 p.m. The schedule is:

April 22,
Lincoln Southwest High
7001 S. 14th Street

April 24
LPS District Offices
5901 "O" Street
(This town hall is hosted by the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, and young people are encouraged to attend.)

April 29
North Star High School
5801 North 33rd Street

May 6
Lincoln High School
2229 "J" Street

The City is borrowing an audience response technology system from UNL to allow for instant feedback from those attending the town hall meetings. Up to 150 citizens will be able to participate, using small remote devices to register their opinions. (The system is not available for May 6.)



SCIENTIFIC PHONE SURVEY

The scientifically valid portion of PRIORITY LINCOLN is a telephone survey of 600 people selected at random to participate. The purpose of the phone survey is to give the Mayor's Office and the City Council a strong sense of the public's priorities, not a precise count of how citizens would vote if they were the elected leaders. The sample size provides a confidence margin for the phone survey of plus or minus 4 percent. The results of this survey will be announced to the public in April.

About 50 of those selected for the phone survey also participated in a follow-up discussion. Portions were taped for viewing on 5 CITY-TV (cable channel 5) and through video-on-demand on the City Web site, lincoln.ne.gov.