



TAKING CHARGE 2014

A Study of the Strategic Budgeting Priorities
of the Residents of Lincoln, Nebraska

With Contributions from

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the 2014 Taking Charge initiative sponsored by the City of Lincoln. This year's Taking Charge activities included an online discussion forum and online survey. The survey and discussion both emphasized two public safety priorities: Upgrading the public safety radio system and implementing a fire station relocation plan. In addition, residents were asked to rate and rank the importance of several programs identified by City officials as possible areas for future investments.

A number of important findings were identified from an examination of the responses of more than 950 participants in the online activities. These findings included:

- A majority of the respondents rated upgrading the **public safety radio system** (82%) and implementing the **fire station relocation plan** (77%) as important goals or very important goals.
- A plurality of respondents (45%) preferred to **increase sales taxes** to fund these two public safety priorities, while substantially fewer favored increasing property taxes (30%) or using budget cuts (17%) to fund these programs.
- Eight additional programs were included on the survey as possible future investments by the City government, and each of these was also identified as an important goal by the majority of survey respondents. Overall, respondents rated **closing the gap on funding for roads construction and maintenance** highest (average importance rating of 4.3, with 5 representing "very important" and 1 representing "very unimportant"), followed by **increased investment in public parks** (average importance rating of 3.9). Increasing support for the Problem Property Fund was rated lowest of the eight programs (average importance rating of 3.3). The ratings converged with results from a similar ranking task: When asked to rank the eight programs by their level of relative importance, roads were again on average ranked highest and the Problem Property Fund was ranked lowest.
- Participants who completed the knowledge questions embedded in the survey appeared to be most knowledgeable about factors contributing to the need for these public safety priorities, such as the age of Lincoln's public safety radio system or the percentage of emergency calls that result in a travel time of four minutes or less. They were generally less familiar with the cost to individual taxpayers of funding these improvements.

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The success of the Taking Charge efforts over the years has been primarily due to the vision of Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler. However, as has been the case each of the years that Taking Charge has been in place, the final success depended on the efforts of many. In addition to funding from the City of Lincoln, in-kind and service donations were provided by MindMixer of Kansas City, Missouri (www.mindmixer.com); Qualtrics Survey Software Company of Provo, Utah (www.qualtrics.com); and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (<http://ppc.nebraska.edu>).

The most important thanks go to the 950+ residents of Lincoln, Nebraska who took their time and put forth their effort to think through the difficult choices facing City administrators. Their willingness to learn more about the City's goals, priorities, programs, and performance, and to give both their recommendations and reasons for their choices, is key to keeping democracy alive and Lincoln thriving.

BACKGROUND

♦ PURPOSE

As part of its commitment to transparency and the inclusion of public input into its decision making, the City of Lincoln held its Taking Charge 2014 survey from October 14th to November 21st, 2014. The initiative included a citywide online survey concerning several programs identified by City officials as possible future investments, with a particular emphasis on two public safety priorities: upgrading the public safety radio system and implementing a fire station relocation plan. Lincoln residents were also invited to participate in an online forum that offered them an opportunity to discuss these and related issues with other Lincoln residents. This report presents the key findings from these activities.

In addition to key findings, this report provides an overview of the activities and procedures used to gather public input. The intended audiences of the report are the Lincoln government officials who requested the information for consideration as they develop their strategic plan, and the City of Lincoln residents and interest groups who provided input or otherwise have an interest in the results.

Feedback pertaining to the findings of this report and how they might relate to prioritizing City services¹ can be directed to mayor@lincoln.ne.gov. Feedback, questions and comments pertaining to the study design, survey procedures, and analyses in this report can be sent to Lisa PytlikZillig at lpytlikz@nebraska.edu.

♦ BUDGETING FOR OUTCOMES: FROM PRIORITY LINCOLN TO TAKING CHARGE

The Taking Charge 2014 project is the seventh public engagement initiative the City of Lincoln has convened about its budget and public services. In 2008, the City of Lincoln began its long-term commitment to moving away from incremental budgeting and toward outcome-based budgeting. In outcome-based budgeting, City priorities and performance criteria are identified and assessed with active input from residents. Thus, the City launched *Priority Lincoln*, which consisted of a random sample telephone survey,

¹ For more information about the current prioritization of services, and to view the Mayor's Community Prioritization, including the ranking of the City's programs in light of citizen and staff input, see <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/takingcharge/program-prioritization.htm>.

a nonrandom online survey, town hall meetings, a deliberative discussion involving over 50 residents and City officials, and a focus group.

Since the effort in 2008, the City has convened a series of additional surveys (using random and nonrandom sampling, depending on the year), as well as online and face-to-face discussions about the budget in order to stay in touch with Lincoln residents' interests and priorities. Specifically:

- In 2009, in conjunction with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the City offered residents a chance to give input via an online survey that was responded to by over 1,800 residents (nonrandom sample) and convened an all-day discussion with more than 100 Lincolnites to measure community attitudes toward various performance measures and to guide City budget decisions.
- In 2010, the City focused on incorporating a public satisfaction with services element into its budgeting process. From November 2009 to January 2010, a phone survey of 605 residents (random sample) was conducted along with an online survey (nonrandom sample) to which about 1,000 residents responded. Another discussion, this time involving 83 residents and City officials, was also held to focus on budgetary issues and City services.
- In 2011, during a particularly challenging budgeting situation, more than 2,700 residents took the online survey (nonrandom sample) and approximately 60 residents attended the community conversation to discuss the budget with City officials.
- Early in 2012, a mail survey reassessed satisfaction with City services using many of the same questions used in 2010, and surveying 657 residents (random sample). The random sample mail survey was followed by an online survey with the same questions which drew responses from more than 700 residents (nonrandom sample).
- In the summer of 2012, more than 1,400 Lincoln residents participated in an online survey (nonrandom sample) concerning potential budget cuts being contemplated for the City's first biennial budget. Following the online survey, 46 Lincoln residents engaged in a more in-depth face-to-face discussion with City officials about their budgeting priorities.
- Finally, in the summer of 2013, more than 1,100 Lincoln residents participated in an online survey (nonrandom sample) requesting input on the entire breadth of City programs and priorities. Following this online survey, 92 Lincoln residents participated in a face-to-face discussion with City officials focused on issues related to the Safety and Security and Efficient Transportation outcome areas.

Reports of these activities are available on the City's website (<http://lincoln.ne.gov>) as well as at <http://ppc.unl.edu/priority/publicparticipation> on the Public Policy Center's website.

TAKING CHARGE 2014

♦ THE 2014 FISCAL ENVIRONMENT

Whereas previous public engagements had focused on the difficult issues of raising taxes or reducing spending during times of significant fiscal stress (Lincoln Journal Star, 2010), 2014 represented a period of relative fiscal calm for Lincoln. This allowed City leaders to focus on the question of how to fund important priorities that had been neglected during more difficult budget cycles. Among these priorities were the needs to upgrade the public safety radio system and implement a fire station relocation plan. Such priorities have traditionally been funded either by cutting spending on other programs or raising local property taxes. A third option had recently been introduced when the State Legislature passed a law allowing cities to raise local sales taxes by one-half or one-quarter of a cent (Hicks, 2013). Using any of these three funding options required City leaders to confront a number of other questions, such as how remaining additional funds from a sales tax increase (if chosen as a funding mechanism) should be spent after paying for the two public safety priorities.

♦ PUBLIC PARTICIPATION METHODS

As part of the Taking Charge 2014, residents were given the opportunity to engage in an online discussion and complete an online survey (nonrandom sampling) concerning the two public safety investments designated as priorities by City officials, and the associated issues arising from an increase in sales tax.

Online Discussion Forum

For the first time in the Taking Charge process, an online discussion forum called OPEN Lincoln (<http://www.lincoln.mindmixer.com>) hosted by Mindmixer allowed residents to discuss their recommendations regarding the public safety investments and other priorities. On this forum, which was open during the entire duration of the online survey (from October 14th to November 21st, 2014), residents could access individual pages related to the specific issues that interested them most and see the responses and comments of other forum users. Between 58 and 92 residents answered each of the individual questions posted on this online forum.

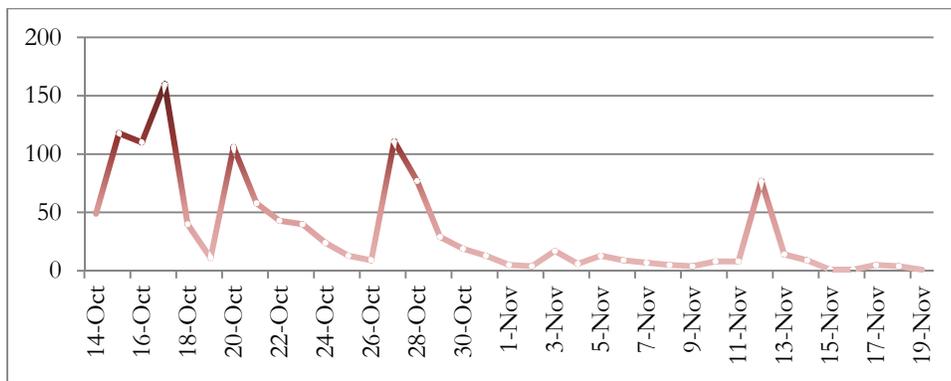
Online Survey

The online survey was open from October 14th to November 21st, 2014, available via a link on the front page of the City’s website. In addition, press releases and media publicity directed residents to the websites linking to the survey. The Taking Charge 2014 survey was accessed 1,281 times, with 872 of those accesses resulting in responses to one or more of the questions.² As part of the survey, respondents could explain their choices and pose questions in open-ended text boxes. On October 27th, 2014, City officials hosted a press conference to answer some of the initial questions asked of them by survey participants (Hicks, 2014). Questions included: “What will happen to the two fire stations that would be closed under the fire station relocation plan?” (Answer: They would likely be sold for private use.) “Why can’t the police and firefighters just use cell phones to communicate?” (Answer: Public safety radios are built to withstand heavy use and extreme conditions, whereas cell phones are less reliable under these conditions).

◆ SURVEY TIMELINE

A timeline of the number of survey responses received by date is shown in Figure 1. During previous Taking Charge surveys, the highest levels of participation occurred during the first two days and were followed by a steep decline. This year, participation peaked multiple times throughout the first two weeks the survey was open, mostly corresponding with stories about the survey appearing in the local media.

Figure 1: Survey Completions over Time



² The online survey automatically tracked IP addresses. Of the 1,281 times the survey was accessed, 99 of those times represented multiple uses of the same computer (54 of these 99 cases represented computers that were used only twice). Because many of the instances of multiple computer uses are expected to come from family members or distinct users of public access computers (such as those at the library), repeat uses were not excluded from the analysis presented below. However, separate analyses were conducted using only the first instance that each IP address was used, and these results were compared to the original findings to ensure that multiple uses did not bias survey findings. No evidence of bias was detected from these analyses.

◆ DEMOGRAPHICS & SAMPLE REPRESENTATIVENESS

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked to report basic demographic information and 84% reported at least some demographic information. The average age reported was 51.7 years old (with a standard deviation of 14.5 years). Table 1 summarizes other demographics obtained from the online survey, and compares survey distributions to the Lincoln population (as recorded in the 2010 census) when possible. As shown, the sample of survey respondents tended to over-represent white, male, residents and was largely comprised of highly educated residents.

Table 1: Sample Demographics

Demographics	Online Survey %	Lincoln Pop. %	Demographics	Online Survey %
Gender			Education	
Male	56.5	50	Less than high school	0
Female	43.5	50	Some high school	0.1
			High school diploma	2.5
Ethnicity/Race			Some college, no degree	15.2
Hispanic	2.0	6.3	Two year or technical degree	12.0
White	95.9	86.0	Bachelor's degree	30.3
Black	1.0	3.8	Some graduate school	8.4
Asian	0.2	3.8	Advanced degree	31.4
Native American /Alaskan	1.0	0.8		
Other	2.6	3.1		

Notes: Number of responses varies by question and ranges from 687 to 729.

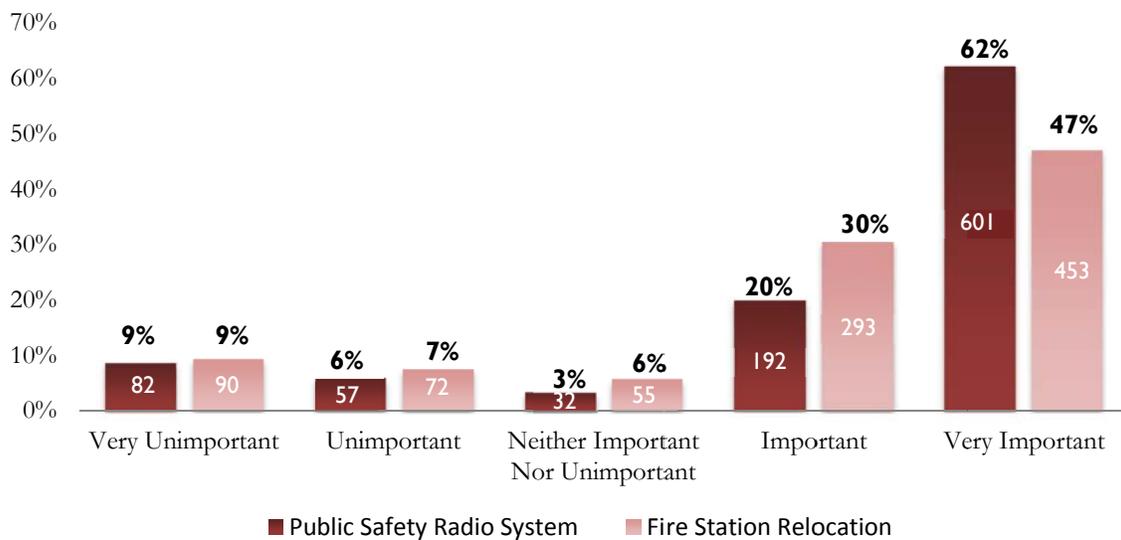
Only partial demographic information was available for participants in the online discussion board. Among registered users on OPEN Lincoln, 51% were male, 24.8% were 24 years old or younger, 50.3% were 25-54 years old, and 24.8% were 55 years or older. Thus, it appeared that the discussion sample, although much smaller than the online survey sample, was somewhat more well-balanced by gender and age.

KEY FINDINGS

◆ IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITIES

Respondents were first asked to assess the importance of the two public safety priorities. As illustrated in Figure 2, the majority of respondents rated both programs as either “important” or “very important,” with 62% of respondents stating that upgrading the public safety radio system in particular is “very important.”

Figure 2: The Importance of Public Safety Priorities



Notes: Numbers inside the columns represent survey participants. In total, 964 participants rated the importance of the public safety radio system (872 through the online survey and 92 through the online forum), and 963 rated the importance of the fire station relocation plan (871 through the survey and 92 through the forum). Excluding multiple computer uses from the sample produced nearly identical findings.

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain or make comments on their importance ratings in both the forum and the online survey (via an open-ended text box). The comments they submitted reflected a diversity of opinions, as shown by the complete responses included in the Appendix of this report. Although a formal qualitative analysis was not conducted, among the common themes were the following:

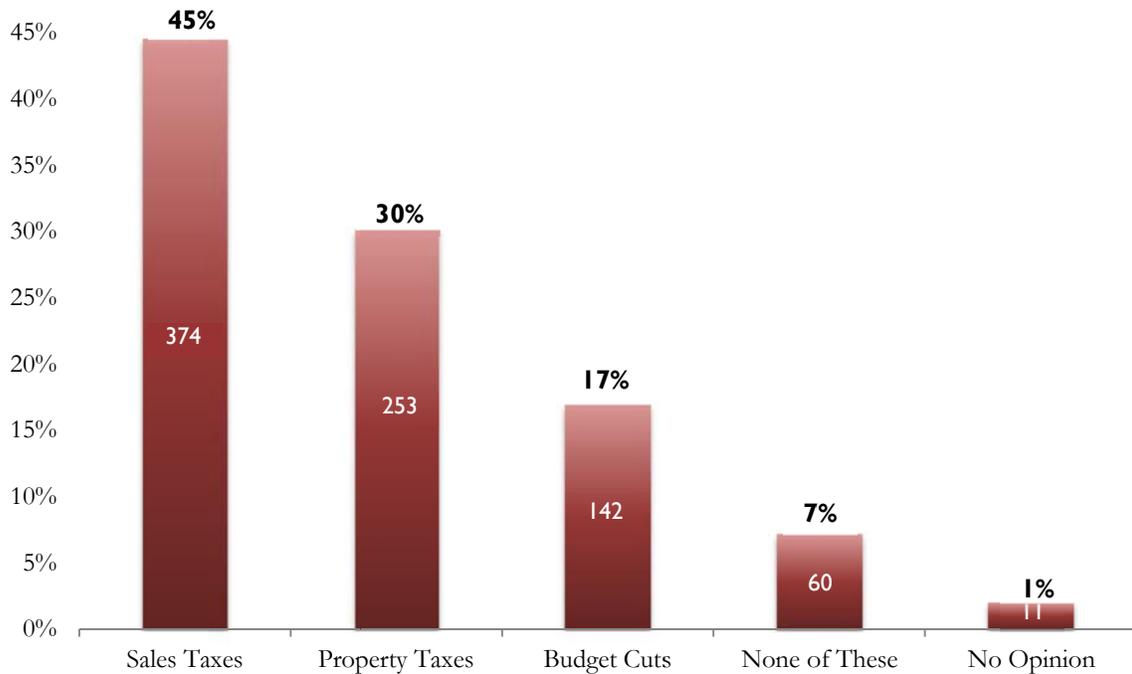
- Belief that effective communication and short emergency travel times are essential
- A desire to share costs with other emergency services

- Concern with the cost of the fire station relocation plan, and a desire for developers to pay a special tax for building in locations far away from existing stations

♦ **HOW TO FUND PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITIES**

Respondents were also presented with information on three options for funding these public safety priorities: sales taxes, property taxes, and budget cuts. They were then asked which, if any, of these options they would prefer to fund the two public safety priorities. They also had the option to choose “none of these” or “no opinion.” As illustrated in Figure 3, a plurality of respondents (45%) indicated a preference for a sales tax increase, followed by property taxes (30%) and then budget cuts (17%). Very few respondents chose “none of these” or “no opinion.”

Figure 3: How to Fund Public Safety Priorities



Notes: Numbers inside the columns represent survey participants. In total, 840 participants responded to the question of how to fund the public safety priorities, including 748 participants on the survey and 92 on the forum. Excluding multiple computer uses from the sample produced nearly identical findings.

Again, respondents were given an opportunity to explain or comment on their preferences. Among the common themes presented (see the Appendix for a full list of comments) were the following:

- A desire to use some combination of the three funding options
- Among those who selected sales taxes, a preference to share the burden of paying for these priorities among all residents rather than homeowners alone
- Among those who selected property taxes, concern that low-income workers pay a disproportionate share of their income on sales taxes
- A desire to eliminate services or positions other than those recommended on the survey as potential budget cuts

♦ **IMPORTANCE OF OTHER PRIORITIES**

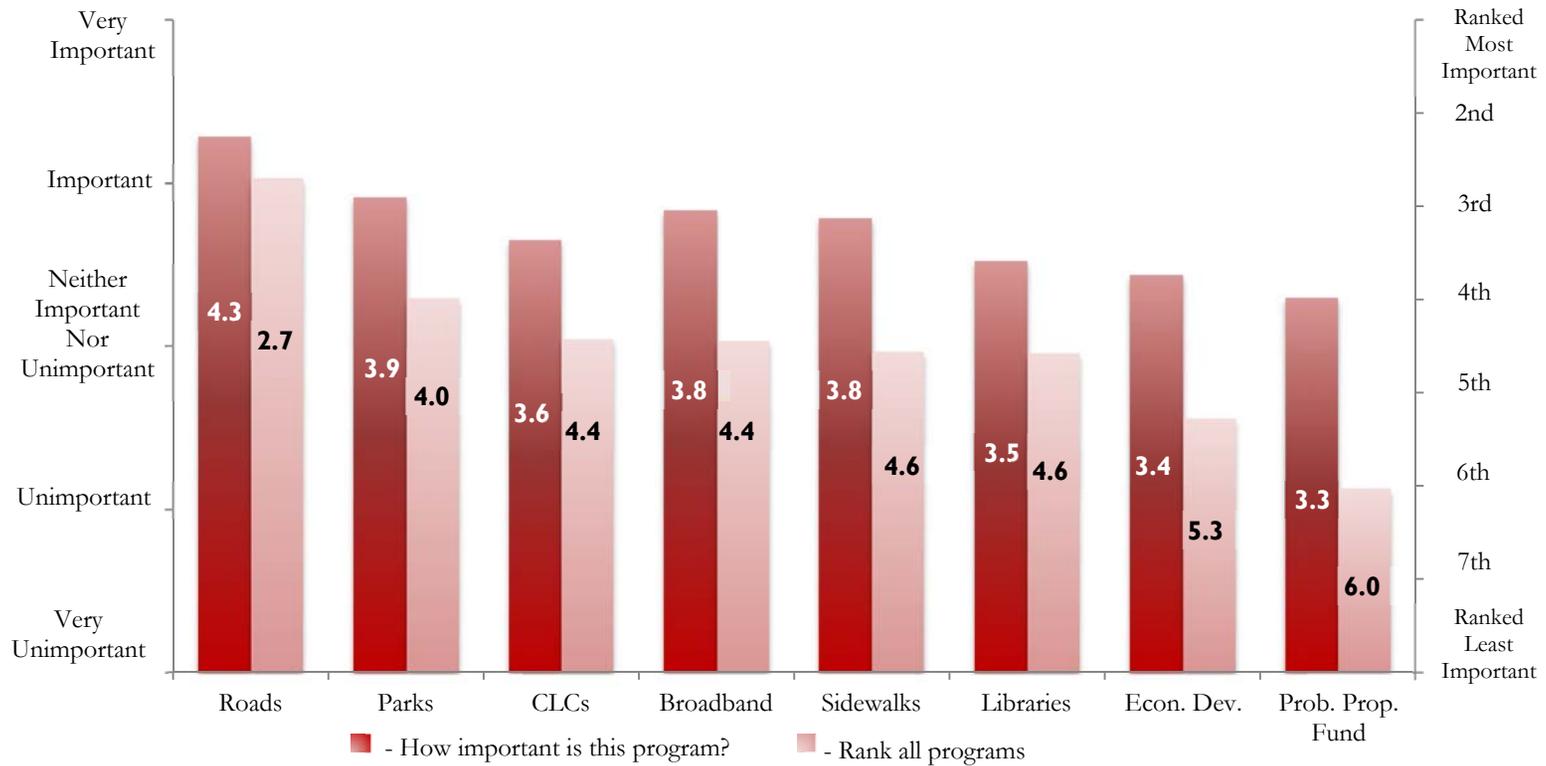
Respondents were also asked to assess the importance of eight other proposed investments that may be included or increased in future City budgets. These priorities included:

- Additional funding for **road maintenance and construction**
- Additional funding for **sidewalk repair**
- New improvements and improved maintenance for **Lincoln’s public parks**
- Expansion of Lincoln’s **broadband infrastructure**
- Increased incentives for **economic development**
- New improvements for **Lincoln’s public libraries**
- Enhanced support for the **Problem Property Fund**
- Continued financial support for **Community Learning Centers (CLCs)**

These priorities were assessed in two ways. First, respondents were asked about the overall importance of each priority. Next, they were asked to rank all eight priorities in the order of their relative importance.³ Figure 4 illustrates the responses to these exercises. Overall, respondents indicated that increased funding for roads and parks were most important, while enhanced support for the Problem Property Fund was least important.

³ The use of the online survey made it easy to present these options in random order, so that, overall, answers would not be influenced by primacy or order effects.

Figure 4: Importance of Other Priorities



Notes: Numbers inside the columns represent the average of responses to each question. For the “how important” question, responses ranged from a value of 5 for “Very Important” to a value of 1 for “Very Unimportant.” For the ranking exercise, responses ranged from a value of 1 for “Most Important” to a value of 8 for “Least Important.” Number of responses to the importance questions varies by priority and ranges from 480 to 523. A total of 396 participants completed the ranking exercise. Excluding multiple computer uses from the sample produced nearly identical findings.

Once more, respondents were given an opportunity to explain or comment on their preferences. Among the common themes presented (see the Appendix for a full list of comments) were the following:

- A belief that quality infrastructure is essential for a thriving community
- A belief that private developers should take more responsibility for maintaining Lincoln's infrastructure
- Concern about current spending priorities, and why existing revenues are insufficient to pay for these priorities

◆ **RESIDENT KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUES**

Twice during the survey, participants were given the option of taking a brief quiz to test their existing knowledge of City priorities and funding options prior to being given additional information. The intention of these quizzes was (1) to provide a more engaging experience for participants, and (2) to determine which specific issues are already well understood by Lincoln residents, and which may need to be communicated more effectively by City leaders going forward. In total, these two quizzes included seven multiple-choice questions, each with a choice of five responses. Table 2 summarizes the results of these quizzes. Correct responses are represented in bold font. While all but one question was answered incorrectly by the majority of survey respondents, a plurality of respondents did give correct answers for five of the seven questions, and more than two-thirds correctly answered that Lincoln's public radio system was first installed more than 25 years ago.⁴ The question with the smallest percent of correct answers asked how much a family of three earning \$65,000 a year would have to pay in additional sales taxes each year if these taxes were raised by a quarter cent. The majority of participants answered that the family would pay less than the actual estimated \$45 per year.

⁴ The high number of correct responses for this question may be because the information was provided in the background introduction to the survey, prior to the quizzes.

Table 2: Knowledge Question Responses

Question (<i>Number of Responses</i>)	Possible Answers (Percent of Respondents)				
Approximately how old is Lincoln’s public safety radio system? (<i>n=642</i>)	<u>5 years</u> (0.6%)	<u>10 years</u> (1.4%)	<u>15 years</u> (5.3%)	<u>20 years</u> (24.8%)	<u>>25 years</u> (67.9%)
What percentage of emergency calls to Lincoln Fire & Rescue result in a travel time of four minutes or less? (<i>n=626</i>)	<u>≤65%</u> (21.1%)	<u>66-75%</u> (24.3%)	<u>76-85%</u> (31.8%)	<u>86-95%</u> (20.6%)	<u>≥95%</u> (2.2%)
Approximately how much of the City’s tax-funded budget goes to Safety and Security? (<i>n=429</i>)	<u>10%</u> (17.9%)	<u>25%</u> (35.4%)	<u>50%</u> (28.9%)	<u>75%</u> (16.6%)	<u>90%</u> (1.2%)
How much of your property tax bill goes to the City of Lincoln? (<i>n=427</i>)	<u>≤10%</u> (10.1%)	<u>10-20%</u> (48.7%)	<u>21-50%</u> (31.1%)	<u>51-90%</u> (9.8%)	<u>≥90%</u> (0.2%)
If sales taxes were increased a quarter cent, about how much extra would a household of three making \$65,000/year pay in sales tax each year? (<i>n=418</i>)	<u>\$25</u> (30.1%)	<u>\$35</u> (27.3%)	<u>\$45</u> (23.7%)	<u>\$55</u> (10.3%)	<u>\$65</u> (8.6%)
If property taxes were raised by just enough to fund the two public safety priorities, about how much extra would residents pay every year on a \$150,000 house? (<i>n=408</i>)	<u>\$25</u> (26.5%)	<u>\$35</u> (21.1%)	<u>\$45</u> (17.9%)	<u>\$55</u> (20.1%)	<u>\$65</u> (14.5%)
How much money would a quarter-cent increase in the sales tax raise for the City of Lincoln each year? (<i>n=398</i>)	<u>\$5 million</u> (12.1%)	<u>\$8 million</u> (27.1%)	<u>\$11 million</u> (34.9%)	<u>\$15 million</u> (18.8%)	<u>\$22 million</u> (7.0%)

Notes: Bolded numbers represent correct responses. The first two questions comprised Quiz 1 and the remaining questions comprised Quiz 2. Excluding multiple computer uses from the sample produced nearly identical findings.

CONCLUSIONS

While the present report does not represent the opinions of all Lincoln residents, the report does reflect the voices of approximately 950 respondents. These community members weighed in with their perspectives after having the opportunity to read about, discuss, and consider a variety of policy, program, and spending options.

The Lincoln residents who responded to the Taking Charge questions were highly engaged. Most respondents were willing to take the embedded survey “quizzes” to test their prior knowledge of the issues. Many also were willing to comment on or explain their opinions in greater depth, either in the OPEN Lincoln discussion, or within the open-ended text boxes within the survey.

The respondents who visited the survey and discussion forum expressed strong support for the two public safety priorities. They also tended to favor increasing sales taxes as opposed to increasing property taxes or cutting spending on other areas, in order to fund these improvements. In addition, respondents indicated that many of the other priorities included on the survey were important to them. Among the programs listed, respondents especially valued improvement of roads and funding of parks, but felt it was less important to invest in the Problem Property Fund and economic development.

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APPENDIX

COMMENTS FROM THE ONLINE ACTIVITIES

The following are the full set of comments submitted by Lincoln residents. These are organized by topic area as defined by the text box into which they were entered. For example, after the funding options question, participants were given the opportunity to explain or comment. Comments typed in response to that prompted opportunity are listed in that category, even if they pertained to other areas. Only minor edits have been made to correct grammar, spelling, and so on. Line breaks are indicated by “/”. Visualizations were created using wordle.com.

some point and put money away for it. Yes it has to be operational no question. As a lifelong Lincoln resident I can no longer afford to live in Lincoln because of the current state of affairs with the recession/depression and declining pay not fixed pay we have to live on. My pay goes down every year and everything else cost more. You're going to have to cut services period to pay for your misjudgment. Just as my family has cut all non-essential needs to pay for our emergency needs. Emergency as in food, shelter only... / The fire stations is not a problem put the old ones not needed back into private ownership and collect taxes as normal and build the two needed ones... This happens with population growth...

- As a taxpayer I want to know why the City waits on updating everything. They suddenly get pinched by software makers that won't support the systems and then the City is at the mercy of the highest priced update. This goes on in more than one department
- As stated earlier, the City has grown in terms of geographical size and population. While the short-term cost may be higher, the best, long-term action would be to relocate stations to provide greater efficiencies.
- As technology is no longer supported, it makes it necessary to upgrade. Our current system has lasted a quarter of a century. We need a system that will continue to serve us well into the future.
- Both are equally important.
- Both are important and we should strive to fund both options in an equitable and agreeable manner. I would like to see a yearly amount set aside in future budgets as well for maintenance so that Lincoln won't be in this same situation 25 - 30 years from now
- Both are important but the radio system is critically important. /
- Both are important!
- City's portion seems out of proportion to other users of the system, but it is imperative to have a secure working system. The need for the fire stations is based on a matrix number determined by the City (i.e. public safety). Question what other cities across the country use as a measurement. Also, question amount if still does not bring 34% of public into the 4 minute response range.
- Communication is a prime concern and also having a positive response time from the fire department is a main concern.
- Communication is the first three things that fail in any emergency. With an outdated communication system and limping on its last leg is not acceptable. We need LFR and LPD to respond in emergencies all over the City in a timely manner to meet all types of emergencies. I am residing in Eastridge and am happily blessed with Station 7 and Station 9 so close in case we should need them. I understand LPD responds as quick as LFR calls in our neighborhood. We cannot slight timely calls to those newer neighborhoods as they will continue to grow as we are the "welcoming City". We need to continue to provide excellent service to the newer established community developments without fear of "I wonder if they will make it in time".
- Communication tool is an absolute. / Fire stations - we need to look at partnerships with other governmental agencies: police, sheriff, schools, maintenance, etc. /
- Coms system cost is too high. Need to look for alternative systems. It looks like it will cost ~ \$1 million a year just to install even if it last 20 years. Doesn't seem to make economic sense. Especially since there has been NO description of what type system is wanted. Sounds like a gold plated model. Since it sounds like you will be financing it,

has that cost been included? Kind of like the arena \$300 million to build and \$600 million to finance. No thanks. Been there did that one.

- Could the radio system be added on to the statewide radio system that was recently implemented for the State Patrol and other agencies for a reduced cost?
- Director tom has stated more than 80% of 911 calls are for medical as opposed to fire. When was Lincoln's last fire fatality? Some thought must be given to expanding medical response & not necessarily tied to fire response. Fire normally arrives before medical, WHY ?,not enough medical. Not knocking EMT'S,WHAT is the difference in training? How many ambulances / can be equipped for \$1,000,000? Safer, faster, cheaper, less personel, smaller facilities, etc. Fire can still respond when needed / in same response time as now, even faster if some wisely relocated. Are Kelly days some Sacred Cow never to be questioned ? / Why does it take 14 FF to man a one truck house 24/7? Just some thoughts I would like to see discussed.
- Due to the age of the radio system and the inability of the manufacturer to provide support, replacing it is critical to public safety.
- Every person that LFD and LPD serves should get a quick response time. Fire is so devastating!
- Feel both of these items should have been part of the yearly budget and funds accumulated over a period of years. It's no surprise that equipment wears out and the City grows.
- Fire stations and response time are going to become more important for home buyers in deciding where they want to live as well as possible insurance rate changes for home owners
- First my concern is that each issue should stand on its own and be voted on separately, not lumped together with one big cost. This is being sold as public safety without regard for any other expense this City may face. After the money is spent, new problems will be raised that will be equally important. Maybe we don't need unlimited perfection in a new radio system. With technology changing daily, more effort should be put forth to find out how vendors could meet the needs for less money. Taxpayers shouldn't give the City fire and police carte blanc to have every whim. Taxpayers have to make decisions on what they can afford and not afford and what they have to do without. So should the City police and fire. I need new electronics in my home, but I will surely have to settle for the budget electronics instead of what the wealthy might purchase. It's what I can afford, not necessarily what I want. The City has lots of problems to finance today and tomorrow. I am in favor of updating our radio system, but the cost proposed is very high and I think it could be done for a lot less money if that was required. / The building costs of the proposed fire stations are way over the top. This too needs serious discussion on wants and needs versus realistic ability to finance. Sounds like we are building palaces and replacing all of the current equipment at the same time. If we don't need to hire new firemen to staff these stations, then we are surely overstaffed now. Why is this happening?? / Enough of the mindless spend, spend, spend when we can't afford to provide all of the basic services now. Maybe it's time to increase productivity or we may have to be satisfied with a 5 minute wait for service. That's how it works in the taxpayers lives.
- For example are we really gaining anything by closing the station at 14th and Adams and building another on Superior street a few blocks away. I vote save the money and

keep the old station. The big question is this something we need or something we want. With money as it is it's time to be happy with needs not wants.

- For the stations outside the desired response time of 4 minutes, I'm curious how far outside. 5 or 6 minutes for a couple stations is good enough. Much over that and it becomes a problem. /
- Has there been any consideration to utilizing the statewide radio network that NSP and OPPD are currently implementing?
- Have all vendors been explored for the radio system? Have existing buildings been considered for new fire stations? It doesn't always have to be state-of-the-art.
- honestly this is a no brainer.....I have lived here my whole life and the City has grown along with the crime. Let's give the police department and Fire department the tools for our safety.
- How many houses within the 4 minute standard, when they call in a fire actually receive help within 4 minutes? I think we have plenty of fire departments for the amount of fires we get and for the size of the City. This is just a way for more people to make money off the government. Have you seen how much a fire fighter gets paid, I have, and it is much better than the public sector These people don't do much 95% of the time as it is, so we definitely don't need 4 more stations. / / Public safety radio system, is important but is it super important to have the newest and top of the line system? I'm not sure. If you could provide some recent examples of what this service does for the average public, it might be clearer but I can't think of anytime it has affected me personally, so the cost outweighs the benefits to the general public, in my opinion.
- I agree that it is important to bring those residences that are currently outside of the 4-minute response goal into alignment with the rest of Lincoln; however, it is imperative that the closure/move decisions do not take away from residents currently being served by those stations.
- I agree that updating the communication tool for the safety is important. I cannot agree that I would spend \$20M to do it. There has to be a better technology.
- I am a volunteer with storm spotting, ham radio and disaster education for Lincoln/Lancaster. The radio system is so old. As far as the fire department, I called 911 last September. The station is one mile from me. With response time of 4 minutes average, why did it take them almost 9 to arrive?
- I am concerned about the potential slant or bias toward a particular position when words like "only" 80% and "well below" the 90% standard are used. Simply state the facts. Speaking of facts, who sets the 90% standard on fire & rescue response within 4 minutes? when asked to spend \$24M in one-time costs to meet a standard, it would be good to know more about the standard. Maybe the standard is unreasonable?
- I am in the center of town within minutes of a fire station, but this proximity/response time should be consistent for everyone in Lincoln City limits.
- I am sure the City council keeps up with their computers, if there house was on fire and the system went down I think there would have second thoughts.
- I believe both of the above mentioned systems are instrumental for the safety and continued growth of our City and county.
- I can't believe anyone actually would think that either of these issues is unimportant!
- I cannot believe that we are operating on a 25 or 27 year old radio system. That needs to be fixed yesterday. / / The radio system is so urgent that I would separate it from

the fire stations. I have talked with a few Lincoln banks, and the feedback which I received is that they would be happy to put together a syndicated financing lease of the new radio system to the City funded by several Lincoln banks. This could be done much quicker than a bond issue; would be a much less expensive transaction to close than a bond issue; to my knowledge would not require a vote, and we could have the radio system installed and working about as quickly as the vender could do so. / / I think that we need to be more cautious with the fire station construction. I continue to believe that we need to explore every avenue of integrating the rural fire stations into the Lincoln fire department and then reconsider our options.

- I feel it is important to have reliable communication in emergency situation and I believe that we need to have fire stations in the right location for response time.
- I had a heart attack, and my life may have depended on the rapid response by the fire department's EMT's.
- I have had family members lives saved by a timely response by the fire department and would want this for all of our citizens.
- I hope this relocation plan takes into account future growth if the City and us not only designed for what the City is now. Also, by spreading the fire department out more is this going to reduce services in other parts of the City?
- I know it's expensive for both of these items. If the radio system can't get manufacturer support this is a disaster waiting to happen.. Bad coordination with other entities that need efficient communication with the City is another accident waiting to happen. Long term it's cheaper to spend the money now & protect ourselves for the future.
- I need more data. / What is the average response time? / How many instances exceed the 4 minute response time? / When over 4 minutes, does the City have a root cause for failure determined? / Please share the pre-dominant causes for delays? / How many delays will actually be eliminated by moving locations? / How much time will be lost from the response time back to the central part of the City? Traffic can be tougher downtown or in some new neighborhoods with meandering streets. / Why is 4 minutes the goal?
- I question why we have firefighters on the type of schedules we have that result in having to pay for living quarters etc. Why not just have 3 9 hour shifts per day which would allow some overlap between shifts. Or some other creative scheduling.
- I really believe when you lump 2 major things together, you're going to get more negative support versus positive. Our family for example, we live in a 60+ year old neighborhood, why should we have to pay for the City to expand services miles outside of where we live? The developers, builders & home owners should have to bear the brunt of that cost. As far as updating the public radio system, that is something that anyone in the City will access at some point and that cost should be shared between everyone.
- I think any builder who builds outside the 90% zone for fire response should pay a special fee or tax.
- I think back to the snowstorm of October 1997. What would have happened then if our outdated radio system failed during that crisis? / / My family has also been on the receiving end of using 911 for emergency medical help and a longer response time might have been the difference between life and death at the time for my daughter. This

is an expense of a very high priority.

- I think Mr. Casity should have said something about this a few years ago or did he just figure this out this year? We could have budgeted for this or had a special tax so that it would not be that much coming out at one time.
- I think that developers that build on the fringes of the City should have to pay more towards infrastructure costs including the cost for emergency response.
- I think the other agencies who use the radio system should chip in more to finance its renewal.
- I think we need to upgrade both departments and like the Cable let's get it done now before it costs double to get these projects done the trouble with this City we sit on our hands and not do the things that need to be done. I think these should move forward and we need to get the south belt way built as well.
- I understand the need for updating the public radio system what I have a hard time with is the fact that what initially was 2 stations has now grown to 4 and the comment by one of the City council that it will only cost an extra \$25 per month. Both my wife and myself have neither one of us received a pay raise in the past 8 years and when factoring in the cost of health insurance we are in the negative. Many public employees receive yearly raises and benefit increases that many in the private sector do not see. Just remember that we all pay taxes and when the public entities will not do business with the private sector and still expect us to jump on board and support the projects that they support, it is a 2 way street. Our taxes pay for your salaries and benefits.
- I would like to know more about how the radio system helps the mentioned groups. With today's cellular technology and a greatly "connected" general public I would like to learn more about how important the existence of a system is. Do all other cities have a similar system?
- I would like to see the City of Lincoln work with Southeast Rural to utilize the existing locations/equipment to efficiently utilize the resources. The Southeast Rural Fire Dept. only handles a couple hundred calls per year and has excellent facilities/equipment. This has been discussed and would like to see the City make this a reality.
- I would prefer to get the radio system replaced now than in the future with a much larger cost. I think the fire station relocation can wait, but the new one should be built now instead at an increased cost in the future.
- I'm unclear whether there are alternatives to the technology used to replace the radio system that might be more affordable. \$24 million seems like a very high cost, but mostly because of my ignorance of what's needed.
- I've witnessed accidents at 14th and Yankee Hill and the LFR unit that responded came from 48th and Hwy 2. I was informed at the time, 14th and Yankee Hill was this particular stations area. Another example was a car fire at NW 48th and West O. The LFR unit that responded came from Coddington and West A when the closest fire station was Air Park. Again, I was informed the Coddington and West A station has the intersection of NW 48th and West O. It is time to increase the number of fire stations!
- If I can't afford my wants I don't buy.
- If Lincoln is to maintain high standards for all residents, then it's a no-brainer that these two items need to be upgraded as soon as possible.
- If our current system goes down, we have nothing to back it up with. Time to replace the antiquated system to protect citizen and police officer alike.

- If safety is the top priority of Lincoln residents, let's get on with implementing this priority.
- If the fire station relocation were dire, why wouldn't it have been presented at the time of/prior to voting on the Arena and all the funding being allocated to the development in that area? / / The public radio system and the fire station relocation should be separately funded and discussed issues, not packaged together for consideration at the same time.
- In recent months (and information shared on this survey) I have heard some discussion that the plan proposes no increases in fire personnel. I believe this was an attempt at compromise to try and keep costs down. I would strongly urge the mayor and council to re-think that proposal. I would argue that stretching our current forces even thinner is as much of a threat as having an outdated communications system. It seems as though we need to fully fund/staff the new stations rather than trying to limp by. If we are going to have a discussion about increasing our response capabilities, let's have at least an alternative that fully meets the goal rather than only getting part of the way there.
- Instead of allowing the firefighters to sleep "work" 24 hours at a time, change their schedules to work 40 hour work weeks. I realize this will take changes in policy, union negotiations; however, this needs to be done. The fire station would not need sleeping quarters, full kitchens, and would cost the City of Lincoln less money.
- Instead of tearing down 2 fire stations and building 3 more, why not leave the 2 so they can continue to serve the commercial and residential that they now serve. Then, onto the fire station by South Street, a police station could be added. This would protect Lincoln's water tower and Lincoln's water supply. Homeland Security was worried enough about Lincoln's water supply that they built a fence around the water tower. This fence is not tall enough that someone could not crawl over or someone could cut through the wire. With a police station and fire station beside it, it would be continued to be protected 24/7. This way only 1 new fire station would have to be built. One (1) new station and the updated 911 system would now be at a much more reasonable cost. Funds for these 2 things could come from personnel costs. The private sector doesn't have all the wonderful benefits. Remodeling the two existing stations would be a much lesser cost than demolishing them and building new. The fire station on S.84th has room for adding a police station on already owned City land.
- Instead of tearing down 2 fire stations and building 3 more, why not leave the 2 so they can continue to serve the commercial and residential that they now serve. Then, onto the fire station by South Street, a police station could be added. This would protect Lincoln's water tower and Lincoln's water supply. Homeland Security was worried enough about Lincoln's water supply that they built a fence around the water tower. This fence is not tall enough that someone could not crawl over or someone could cut through the wire. With a police station and fire station beside it, it would be continued to be protected 24/7. This way only 1 new fire station would have to be built. One (1) new station and the updated 911 system would now be at a much more reasonable cost. Funds for these 2 things could come from personnel costs. The private sector doesn't have all the wonderful benefits that the City union and non-union employees enjoy!!!!
- It seems like a no-brainer- pay now or pay even more later when systems fail and public safety is dramatically, negatively impacted.

- It seems the new fire station for south east should be much farther south. Maybe Yankee hill and 84th as that is where the most new growth. I am also unclear why the southeast rural fire department is so uncooperative but from my experiences with other rural departments that is sort of its nature. And it would seem the station should be I. The country not I. Lincoln. Additionally one must remember to get out of the way when the members are driving their own vehicles as they drive too fast and dangerous. They are a traffic hazard on 84th St.
- It seems to me that the burden of fire station relocation should be more greatly allocated to those who benefit from our suburban sprawl, i.e. the commercial and residential developers who continue to focus on the fringe of the City, as well as those who choose to live and work there.
- It should not cost 34 million dollars for this. How can we have such high taxes and still have less than other places. Rethink your spending first.
- It would be good to accomplish better interaction and sharing with RFD's.
- Keeping City's emergency procedures and abilities up-to-date is a no-brainer. If citizens want to be safe; we need to update services as needed.
- keeping the citizens safe is a majority of what a City/town/village does. Equipment and facilities are necessary to meet this endeavor. Investment requires planning for a positive outcome for all citizens.
- Leave the existing 2 where they are and build 2 new one with the proper equipment and staff in place as we'll.
- Let the rich people who live way out there pay for it themselves!
- Lincoln has many good qualities and it is easy to "sell" to people who are thinking to moving to Lincoln. We need to continue to be seen as a progressive City as well as ensuring Public Safety is a top priority. These two initiatives are imperative to ensuring this need is met.
- Maybe the money can come from decreasing spending somewhere else.
- Moving a fire station will not solve the issues. You will still have the same issues just a different direction
- My property taxes are already high enough.
- No doubt that the radio system must be updated. It is vital to have clear communication and dependable radio equipment in emergency situations. Not sure about the station relocation(s) response times are important but at what cost (unless it's my emergency). Taxes seem to always increase and rarely (if never) decrease. The population that funds these services must be able to afford them. I surprised that with all the growth the City has seen that there isn't any added revenue (generated by new property) to provided funding for the new stations.
- Of course it is critically important to update the communication system! The rapid advancements in communications, the growth of the City, the additional use of the system tell us this is needed. / / Likewise, the breadth of Lincoln boundaries now being occupied. New roads, traffic patterns - the previous station locations served then, now is different.
- Once a company stops supporting a product it is only a matter of time before essential replacement parts become unavailable. This is not a situation that our City can tolerate, as the 911/Radio system is essential to ALL emergency responders in Lincoln/Lancaster County. Any big-time emergency event makes telephone/cell phone

use almost unusable (remember Von Maur's). We must have a stand-alone radio communications system.

- Our public safety officials need to communicate, to me that is top priority.
- people count on protection all the time without realizing what is
- Public safety and keeping services reliable is paramount.
- Public safety is one of the critical things government can provide. Many people choose to live in the City because of these services. I have a chronic progressive medical condition and live alone. While would enjoy the setting and can afford to live outside of town I don't because I feel safer knowing help is close by.
- Public safety should absolutely be one of the highest priorities of our City government.
- Radio system needs to be updated the fire stations need to be in the most needed areas
- Radio system very important. It is absolutely too bad that county and City gov't entities cannot work together to make use of the already existing stations by the rural fire dept. and add on to make better stations and include both City and rural depts. This idea of guarding and being possessive of territories is not good and is not good for City/county taxpayers. Better minds need to prevail on this idea. Duplicating services at the taxpayer expense is not acceptable.
- Radio update
- Relocation of fire stations have not been shown to be an actual need. A study is needed to determine City growth patterns, street development patterns and demand for fire calls based upon type of zoning. Just to do a Casady is the wrong approach.
- Safety before vanity
- Scary to think our public safety radio system is 25 years old. Who has a computer (or TV) that is 25 years old??
- Seems that aging of the radio system and eventual need for its replacement is something that would have been quite predictable. I don't know why it makes more sense to borrow/levy funds at this time, rather than build saving for future needs into budgets from the start.
- Services should be focused on existing communities. We should not be raising taxes to provide services for suburban sprawl.
- Tax rates should INCLUDE a sinking fund for the expenditures listed above. If that money was spent on something else, then perhaps the City should explain 1) why this money was spent, and if the money was spent, is this really such an important topic?
- The City has spent millions on beautification projects, helping preserve the tiger beetle habitat as well as using City tax dollars y to assist the Arena, which has its own source of revenue. It put the public safety on the back burner as an expense and now the solution is to raise taxes. This is a ploy to reach voters through an emotional plea for more money. The administration is not following the wishes of the public if the other nonessential budget items were placed above the public safety priority. It is a desecration of the democratic process for elected leaders to use manipulation and hidden agendas as a means to get its way in spending taxpayers' dollars.
- The City needs to establish a fund to continuously upgrade the radio network. This fund should be made so that the funds contained in it are not accessed in the future for some other need, unless the fund has more than the amount to replace the entire radio system at once. The same should be done within the fire department as well. So that fire

stations can be replaced or updated on a rotating schedule, say every 10 to 15 years without having to seek voter approval. But would need a majority City council approval to use the funds.

- The City needs to study and implement other EMS, NOT Fire, response systems. 49% percent of the City voted against having a department that is better, faster and cheaper as was claimed 10 yrs. ago. It may be somewhat better, but it is definitely not faster or cheaper. Government based public safety systems especially EMS and secondarily fire are not cheaper. We are rapidly expanding government. If LFR had not won the popular vote 10 years ago the fire and EMS sides of LFR could have been privatized and millions of dollars saved. Now it is an ever growing bureaucracy.
- The City of Lincoln needs to become partners with the state of Nebraska/NPPD regarding the Statewide Radio System. This would help reduce costs.
- The current 911 system is an antique. I do not think the current system is capable in case of let's say a tornado or major health / situation such as a major disease outbreak. In a major situation, will the current system stay up under heavy traffic, this is questionable. Being retired military it is proven that a superior communications system is your first line of defense. I suggest / property tax or bond for a new system and this could also include new fire stations. We the citizens of Lincoln need these / upgrades and in my opinion this subject is not up for debate.
- The current radio system is fine considering the cell phone tower system we have in place also. Granted a natural disaster might tax the cell phone system, but the radio system could be used. / / There is nothing wrong with the fire station placement if 80% of our citizens are within 4 minutes.
- The data suggests that people living in the extremities of the City have a disproportionate amount of demand on the services. Based on the numbers shared they are nearly 4 times more likely to have an emergency call. With this in mind, we should consider more restrictions on those living inside the City limits. I also think the criteria we have is somewhat chaotic when we indicate that new construction in light of the economy cannot contribute to the impact fees for infrastructure, this is part of that cost. We should slow new construction in the outlying parts of the City until we get the budget in balance and the economy is healthy again.
- The distance traveled is a product of urban sprawl. We need to be in better control of new growth and which areas of the City are cheaper in the long run and more expensive. Also what areas would be more efficient to grow in which state/federal dollars can be used for infrastructure rather than purely City. All in all... the City needs to progress northward and use the interstate as its main corridor for growth and speedy travel for both emergency services and general population uses. Moving south continues the status quo of problems in infrastructure funding.
- The growth area of the City serviced by the fire department is phenomenal, but the ability to service this area has fallen behind. I am pleased to have a fire station about one mile from my home, but wonder about others who are not only further away from a station than I am, but whose homes are in areas which are difficult to get to because of the way the streets are built.
- The public safety radio system, and to a lesser extent, the fire station relocation plan are exactly the types of things City government should be spending tax dollars on. Unfortunately, the City spends too much money on things outside of the City's core

mission. Cut those items and fund this.

- The radio system is needed. The cost is outrageous, staggering
- The radio system takes priority in my opinion because it affects the entire City and county as a whole, not just a limited number of people.
- The radio system would seem to be the heart of serving the City and protecting the police and fire personnel
- The station relocation idea in my opinion is the last viable option the City has to ensuring expedient and efficient responses of emergency services to those in need. Having said that, I believe it is a band aid at best. I feel the City needs to not only take advantage of the fire station relocation, but should also INVEST in the safety and security of its citizens by acting in a proactive manner rather than a reactive one. Based on what I have read in the media on the subject of both the fire station relocation and the City's radio system, this topic has been “back burnered” for way too long. I am a tax paying citizen in this community, and I am confident I share some of the same opinions and ideas as many of my neighbors. There is no doubt that taxes can be burdensome. However, when it comes to my personal safety and that of my family and loved ones, I am more than willing to help foot the bill to make sure lives and property are protected with adequate or better coverage of emergency services. Now, if we are talking sidewalks or parks or similar wants (not needs) then I would be all about surveys, meetings and such. A sidewalk that needs repair or a park that needs mowing are all things I wish to see for this community. But, a cracked sidewalk will not extinguish the fire in my house, or provide life saving measures if my heart stops beating, or stop the drug trafficking and other crime in the community. Emergency services will do those things. Please Mayor, pull the trigger (pardon the pun) on this much needed system wide improvement and help make this community even better than it is now.
- The voters had to option to approve of two new stations being built to address the over four minute response time...they voted no! And most of those that vote no resided in the areas that are over a four minutes response time.
- There is nothing more important than the safety of our fellow citizens. Including fire and police personnel. I don't know if everyone understands that it won't just protect us but fire and police personal too. / / If you have ever waited for help you will appreciate how well our City fire and police do their job. This will only get better by strategically placing the resources where they are needed.
- There needs to be a priority put on safety
- These are items of public safety. I would consider this a lot higher budget priority than new bike trails and cosmetic spending on the appearance of the medians and roadsides from the airport to the UNL.
- These things are vital for the City. Shame on the City council on voting down this. This is not why we elected all of you.
- They're both important. The question is how do we pay for it? The generated revenue with growth of the City should have helped with the dilemma if all of our elected State to Local Officials and Administrators were true leaders in communication, fund allocation and expense management. Although separate entities, they should all work together on important issues and challenges as a team for the hard working tax payer - the customers of the City and state. Property taxes are outlandish and the DMV is just

another place to remind us of out of control spending issues.

- This should have passed through the City council when the public safety director asked them to let it go to a vote of the people. Jon Camp doesn't speak for me I speak for me and my vote speaks. It was a slap in the face to not let the issue go to a vote. All this did was delay a very important need for the City.
- Though I consider both important, upgrading the radio system seems, to me, more important. / If it takes a few more minutes to make the call, so be it. / We live 1.5 miles outside the City limit. Our response time is going to be 15 minutes - best case
- Three million dollars for each fire house is far too expensive. Excessive. If you can't build a fire house for under 1 million dollars, someone doesn't know what they're doing. In that case, live with what you have until you can figure out how to get the cost per unit down--way down.
- Update the public safety radio system.
- Updating the public safety radio system is the most necessary but City leadership should have NEVER allowed things get to this point. The radio system should have been replaced BEFORE it was at a crisis point.
- upgrade 911 system its OLD>
- We are spreading out our fire stations to far. We need to rebuild the ones we have and add more. Been way to long since the last time we added a new fire station. Yet the City has grown extensively.
- We do not need more fire stations, we need better deployment of resources - including peak-load staffing and better utilization of on-duty crews.
- we had a medical emergency and it was a 7minute response time, if the goal is 4 minutes then it's a no brainer. thankfully the medical issue was addressed but it could've been a very different outcome. people may not think this is a good idea UNTIL they need it and a loved one is lost due to a high response time when it could've been avoided by extra fire stations, in my opinion this SHOULD NOT be a voting issue, it should be a public safety issue and just raise taxes a bit to take care of it, it would be so minimal that it wouldn't even be noticeable anyway.
- We have a 911 operator in our family in another state and know how taxing the job is for the operators. We know how important the 911 operator link is for the safety of the public. / / To expect 911 operators to cope with the many types of emergencies and life-threatening situations with anything but the very best equipment is extremely unwise.
- We need to act now while the economy in Lincoln is relatively strong and before sprawl becomes a major problem. Not doing anything is akin to putting used batteries in your home's smoke detector and wondering why it didn't work properly.
- We should only get what we can pay for. I find it insulting that so much of my income goes to taxes and still our ERS system (and other City responsibilities) remains to be a problem and continue to go unfunded. People choosing to build further and further outside of City limits know that it will take time for the City to catch up. It is their choice to live so far from services.
- We should take advantage of the state radio system already in place. / / Fire stations should be a totally separate issue.
- Well thought out plan to maximize resource ROI

- What happens to the old fire stations? Can they be used as neighborhood centers?
- What the City needs to do to fund the radio system is FIRE Casady which should pay much of this cost. Lincoln doesn't need a safety director and never has. The mayor could a
- what will happen to the abandoned Fire Stations?
- when in Omaha during recent flood their 911system went down and there was a backup number to call does Lincoln have that or will they have
- where is the Adams Street fire station moving? It is less than a mile from me now, so how does moving it improve rescue times in my neighborhood?
- Where were you folks 10 years ago when DHS, Firefighter, AFG, and many other Federal grants? Afraid of the strings attached like many communities? / / What make anyone think that current E911, PSAP and other systems will be supported 25 years from now from the vendors if and when those folks merge, get bought out, etc. and those "critical components" wear out? Anyone in Lincoln other than many professional emergency management practitioners saw this coming 30+ yrs. ago? / / Anyone here heard of the words SUSTAINABILITY and now want to come to the taxpayers to support newer systems the will probably be outmoded? / / How about the problems with some portions of the Statewide Radio System that cost the State of NE \$55 to 70 million dollars and has had its \$\$\$share of growing pains... / / Let see a PLAN on sustainability, replacement on an annual basis, 5, 10, 15, 20 year training and replacement plan for all taxpayer supported PS radio system / / just crying wolf while the City of Lincoln sat idly by while not listening to other professionals in this industry the last 25 years when folks other than law enforcement were probably stating the aging equipment, no one seemed to be listening and then hurrying up the process to be on a ballot with NO plan and to expect citizenry of Lincoln to vote because it is a smart move seems a little disingenuous. Sustainability and planning for this equipment to include all the changes should be exactly like everyone keeping up with the latest in computer, gaming, and HDTV and moving incrementally....then quite possibly could have been headed off at a better and cheaper route then all of a sudden "the sky is falling" syndrome of crying for more taxpayer support / / you guys every build a building like the Army National Guard where the build a community center as well as an armory? / / Most of the time when FD's infrastructure is built , it is only for FD and LE and their equipment....well it is about time Lincoln FD and PD start building infrastructure in mind such as community centers are open to all volunteer groups with NO charge as long as the taxpayer is paying for it. Volunteer groups such as CERT, MRC, BSA, CAP etc. get to use the facilities for no charge other than a nominal 10.00 per month because it is already supported by taxpaying citizen doing dual duty as volunteers
- While both are important to me, they should be funded in budget, NOT as annual debt service payments (bond issues). If you want the funds be open enough with the public and your City council during the budget process, not in a backhanded way like you are doing now.
- Why do we continue to spend so much of our tax dollars on the school system when, we have far greater needs than the frivolous items that do not promote the greater ideas of true education. We waste so much it is a shame!
- With all the advances in technology I don't see how certain devices already in service

can't be used instead of a new radio system? Two way radios, cell phones, CB's, internet, etc.? Also what happened with working with the rural fire stations?

- Without knowing more specifics radio is becoming more and more out dated. Change the model with some with more of today's technology via internet or cellular service. Lincoln should start installing their own fiber network and get rid of the monopoly in Lincoln. / / If the City is expanding shouldn't the amount of fire stations be expanding as well. The math doesn't add up.
- Without the proper means to communicate about emergencies, the City would have more trouble properly responding to emergencies. It also seems vital for this piece because it serves so many agencies, including the university, airport and more.
- You simply HAVE to maintain critical infrastructure at ALL levels. Streets & roads included!
- We don't need more taxes the city has enough in the slush fund to pull from and if they would have left the fire stations where they were to begin with and instead of shutting them down to save money, I myself am sick of the city council and this mayor spending money like it is candy being given out at parades. If the city has a million dollars to donate to the university every year they have enough for these to cover the fees. I've lived in Lincoln 51 years and these last 10 years have been the biggest waste of money and raising of taxes and enough is enough. They can use the cable services for their emergencies and reopen the closed down fire stations. If they need to put in new areas of town then they can charge the developers who built them and charge the new landowners.
- To me, Director Casady's remarks about the importance of the fire station relocation place really hit home:/ "It's important because the amount of time from the onset of an emergency to the arrival by Lincoln Fire & Rescue equipment and personnel makes a big difference in the outcome. A few minutes delay in the event of a stroke, fire, traumatic injury, cardiac or respiratory arrest can literally be the difference between life and death. Right now, only about 89% of the addresses in Lincoln are within four minutes of a fire station. We'd like to get that up above 95%."/ I'd like to see widespread community support for Lincoln Fire & Rescue in their efforts to provide excellent emergency services for our community.
- A quarter cent sales tax increase is the most efficient and fair way to finance the current funding shortfall for these and only these critical needs; roads, sidewalks, radio system, and fire houses.

Lincoln. Seems more fair.

- with wages stagnant and prices increasing, now is not the time to reach into the taxpayers pocket
- with the thousands of apartments in Lincoln - the residents of apartments need to help out by paying sales tax. if you live and shop in Lincoln then you should help out.
- with the sales tax...a COMPLETE yearly accounting of how the money is spent towards radio equipment and fire station relocates / / NO personnel costs. / / Since the PS Director is not on this, then 10 percent of his pay should be directed towards this project for the next 5 years as a token of seriousness and commitment to the taxpayer who is footing the bill. Consider this idea goodwill gesture for a guy who is getting two retirements
- Why not in the future set aside fund when the items are purchased, not allowing them to ever be robbed by future Govt. Personnel too fund maintenance and technology improvements. / Same should be done with infrastructure, (roads/bridges-etc.)
- why do we have the 4th of July celebration ? Honestly only went to one because the locations are too small for the City. Please do away with this expense. Besides everyone still buys their own fireworks anyway. What a waste of resources.
- Why are the questions above on this page not answered or dead link? Quit asking for money. Lincoln and NE already have high enough taxes
- While both are regressive, property taxes are less regressive then sales taxes.
- What would be the savings in real dollars if every City employee who was a part of the retirement/pension system had their "employer" match reduced to a 50-percent match? Currently, many employees have a 200-percent match. / / I bet the savings right there would be quite substantial. I know, I know, the union weenies will crap their drawers and cry like little girls, but I don't give a damn.
- What would be gained by property owners into the future would far off set a small rise in property tax. This tax is also a tax which / can be deducted on the our annual IRS tax filling.
- What is happening with the funds collected on phone bills - the 911 Surcharge? Wasn't that surcharge implemented in order to pay for the City/county emergency systems, including fire stations? How is that money being used?
- What about the option of collecting sales taxes from internet sales? Is that too difficult or just don't know how to proceed.
- We would get the cash we need without borrowing.
- We should also fund the south bypass while we're doing this with sale tax.
- We need tax cuts period.
- We have citizens with some wealth and their property reflects this. Sales taxes affect the poor disproportionately. They spend all their money on basic needs.
- Using debt (bonds) would be my preference.
- Use taxes to pay for government services. That's what they are for. Raise taxes if you have to. Cutting specific services doesn't generate additional revenue.
- Use money that the state/City generates. These costs are for things that are of importance to the City but not necessarily the citizens in the City. The very few fires

Lincoln has, get taken care of in reasonable time. The emergency system is needed but I don't believe it needs an upgrade yet as I can't even think of one instance where it has affected me in the last couple years. Lincoln has so many cruisers being paid just to have speed traps to generate money. Use this money for the City upgrades. If the people of the City propose spending, then the cost should go to the people but this is clearly a City request and it must be taken care of by the City.

- Use lottery proceeds or grants
- Trim the fat out of City Government, How many Fire Captains, Chiefs, does one department Need? We have been caught with our pants down. We should have been anticipating upgrades in systems, new fire stations, etc. But instead we spend tax dollars on fancy art the Mayor wants in downtown Lincoln. Ask yourself what is more important an art piece or the safety of the citizens of Lincoln.
- This makes the most sense, as far as tailoring the tax to the need. In this State, everybody goes nuts whenever property taxes are mentioned, but this also is a good fit since property owners are the most direct beneficiaries of these two programs. Budget cuts are absolutely unacceptable--our Lincoln economy is growing, and cutting those programs have social costs that we do not want to bear.
- This is a very poorly laid out survey. I'm not spending any more time on it.
- These services benefit ALL the citizens of Lincoln & the cost should be borne by all citizens not just property owners.
- These resources get used by people who commute and don't live in Lincoln so spreading it more widely and for a shorter duration is more desirable. We have been living on the cheap far too long and let so much stuff go in this City. I am amazed at what the mayor has been able to get done over the past few years after a decade of neglect.
- There is a trade-off between taxes and services. I prefer to pay higher taxes to have better services because I think what is good for the City ought to be a higher priority than what seems to be personal best interest.
- There are other programs that can be cut; this does NOT have to be the only items up for cut and you know that.
- The sales tax spreads the burden over the entire population as well as non-residents. Everyone at some point will need these services so everyone should participate in funding them.
- The quiz on the last page - there was not enough information provided in questions 3-5 to be able to deduce the answer - frustrating. / / Prioritize sales tax as the LAST option, as it unfairly distributes tax burden. The poorest of the poor have to pay the same amount as the rich. Property taxes make the distribution of the burden a little more fair.
- The quarter cent increase in sales tax in combination with budget cuts. I am NOT in favor of putting on ALL of these other items mentioned in the newspaper article with the over and above sales tax revenue raised to be used for. It should be for infrastructure ONLY. NOT "other City projects, economic development, broadband , park maintenance, etc... When all of these other items are mentioned...it makes the taxpayer feel that the money is just falling from the sky...rather than just the need that it

was deemed necessary. That is always the problem with tax increases...when there is "extra revenue" the City administration just goes crazy with all kinds of extra uses! How about what the law intended....property tax relief!!!

- The difference between what a business or individual does to balance their budgets and a government does is what really needs to be explored. I can't go to my customer or my employer and tell them I'm going to cut my services or require more income to buy my new TV or home. I would be out of a job or business in a heartbeat. But governments and politicians only know the easy way, higher taxes and more spending. Color it anyway you want, that's what you are doing in the name of public safety a scare tactic.
- The county needs to do a better job of collecting the taxes owed it. If the county would collect the personal property tax and inheritance tax due it could kick in more for public safety issues. The only businesses who pay personal property tax are the ones who do so voluntarily. The county used to mail out the forms but no longer does. Send every business in the county a form and follow up if the return is not filed. / / The death of a taxpayer and the conveyance of real property are public record. Why can't the county send the inheritance tax forms out when a person dies? As it is now they only collect when the house is sold. If the deceased owned no real property the bank accounts are never touched.
- The City officials have overspent on many non-essential items which could have been financed in other ways than using money from the General Fund. They need to go back and look at how to delete some of that financing of the nonessentials and pool / the money for the public safety issues. There is too much money spent unwisely by the administration and it has to stop.
- The City had \$8 million for the P Street project, including \$3 million for the pavilion (\$1.5 million for the glass tower - good grief). If these projects were so important, why weren't these funds applied to these two projects? / / Also, as I stated previously, tax rates should include a sinking fund for replacement of existing or new infrastructure. As the City has grown, the City should have been setting aside funds for both of these projects. Since the City decided to spend all it could instead of saving for a rainy day, the City should cut its budget to fund these projects. / / Perhaps the City should have prioritized its spending needs before spending \$8 million on the P Street project; funds that could have been used for the safety and security projects that are more important than "aesthetics".
- The City currently takes a very low portion of the property tax levy. Most of it goes to the schools. I like the idea of raising EXACTLY the amount of funds needed for these two projects. I'm also jaded enough to believe that, once a sales tax is raised, reasons will be found to never lower it to previous levels.
- the City council and mayor need to be energized to engage citizens to select what their priorities are, not special interest in particular UNL.
- The citizens of the City of Lincoln are taxed enough. The Mayor and the City Council should consider cutting a few jobs, such as Tom Casady. The position of Public Safety Director was created to "save" the City money. While in fact, the City now pays his high salary. His idea of blending the LPD Service Desk with the 911 center has completely failed. Unless of course you consider losing long standing Service Desk

employees as saving the citizens' money.

- Taxes here in Lincoln are already some of the highest in the country. I have lived in several other states and property taxes were less than half of what they are here. I work downtown and see such waste in what is being done there. We tear up what we just fixed as we seem to not be able to do something right the first time. There is too much waste with our tax dollars already. I guess our mayor thinks money grows on trees. some of us actually work for our money. If we cannot find the money with budget cuts then wait until we can. / / /
- Take the money from the arena and associated boondoggles it created and use it for something the City really needs. Eliminated the safety director position and let the police chief and fire chief run their departments.
- Take care of all the strong arm robberies and assaults first. Safe streets are my priorities.
- Since this is largely a "property protection" activity, a property tax for this is most appropriate since those who derive the greatest benefit (property owners) would pay in proportion to their property ownership.
- Since people who live outside of Lincoln but come here for sporting events, etc. would help pay a sales tax that is the method I prefer. It spreads out the base.
- Since anyone primarily living in Lincoln and the City area may benefit from these upgrades, I feel ALL people should be responsible for funding these measures. If a college student is here and needs an ambulance for an emergency, they should help fund that benefit through a sales tax approach to this. Simply being a property owner does not make an individual responsible for others. These benefits will provide service to EVERYONE in the City so all should help support/fund it.
- Sidewalk repairs should also be on the list of potential budget cuts. I do not think the City should be paying for these repairs and I also think the City should be aggressive in requiring homeowners to do the repairs.
- Should be two separate issues
- Senior citizen volunteer programs (\$43,000) No Idea what this is. / Sunday hours at Bennett Martin Library and Friday hours at all other libraries (\$345,000) Never cut educational programs. / Neighborhood/business watch programs (\$104,000) Never seen this actually do anything. / Lower priority snow removal (\$430,000) No don't get rid of this. If anything they should change the way the remove snow. / 911 evidence processing / audio and records request (\$240,000) If you can cut budget and still have the same service that is fine. / Services to victims and witness of crime (\$393,000) This just seems callous and heartless. / Protective custody of intoxicated persons (\$203,000) Is this detox? Seems like a lot of money to spend on drunk people. / Alarm response (\$168,000) Shouldn't there be a fine for a false alarm?
- Sales taxes should be increased if additional revenue is needed. Property taxes are simply too high.
- Sales taxes are the fairest taxation because everyone pays this tax. We do not need budget cuts because services provided have a value for our community. Increasing property taxes is unfair to property owners. / / An increase to 7.5% should be used to just for communication and fire station improvements, plus road and sidewalk improvements. Communication technology changes to fast to purchase systems and

keep them for extended equipment life. We need to lease that equipment so it can establish a set budget for ongoing replacement. Had we done that we would not be in this situation today.

- Sales taxes are extremely regressive--fall on the poorest people among the citizens, and take a much higher percentage of their income.
- Sales taxes apply to all the people who shop in Lincoln from all over the state. Seems fairer to tax the people who benefit from the radio system and the fire station.
- Sales taxes also seem a viable option, and not overly onerous; however, the touted benefit of more even distribution across demographics paying seems as though it may lead to a disproportionate burden at the lower end of the income spectrum. Still, with an estimated burden of less than \$0.30 a day, I would hope that wouldn't be unsustainable.
- Sales taxes affect all residents in Lincoln as well as visitors to the City that make purchases. Safety of all residents and visitors would be improved. A fair and equitable way to increase safety for all.
- Sales tax should be raise because then everyone is contributing to raising the funds as opposed to just people who own property.
- Sales tax seems to provide the best stream of revenue long term. I believe that provisions in the authorization could be made to not only fund (one-time) the upgrade of the system but also to continue to fund improvements in the long term. Bonding and budget cuts are short term/one time sources. In addition, sales tax could be spread to a larger segment of the population including visitors to Lincoln who also see the benefit of having adequate emergency response.
- Sales tax puts a greater burden on low income people, whereas property taxes puts the greater burden on the people who benefit most from these improvements.
- Sales tax needs to be a sun set date. Needs specificCity on amounts allocated to each area. Not the language above of "could" be used for
- Sales tax makes a lot more sense because everyone pays it, not just property owners. This is especially true with the number of people who come to Lincoln and spend money and don't even live here. I imagine a million or more in sales tax revenue would be generated by every home football game!
- Sales tax is very regressive tax and the lowest income people suffer the most.
- Sales tax is unfair to out of town shoppers.
- Sales tax is regressive. / Reducing spending on other initiatives would degrade the quality of life in our City.
- Sales tax is more equitable to all who receive services i.e. renters.
- Sales tax is hardest on the poor.
- Sales tax is a consumer tax for all. If you don't purchase anything, you don't pay. We all purchase goods therefore the cost is spread more equally. If you cut the budget for swimming pools, I don't care because I don't swim, but those who do swim at those pools will care. We ALL purchase goods. Tax us all on what we buy.
- Sales tax increase would "hurt" the least and hardly be noticeable by consumers. And it generates more money than needed, allowing us to do other improvements OR start

saving for infrastructure investments as they're needed.

- Sales tax gives a more even collection of funds to pay for services that are used by people who not only live in the City but live elsewhere and come here for other reasons.
- Sales tax covers everyone who uses Lincoln facilities and probably would be collected from a wider range of people than property taxes.
- Sales tax along with some budget cuts.....reduce hrs. at branch libraries and close the main branch...in this digital age the library does not need the day time hours...cut back the day hours add some evening hours. Expand branch libraries and eliminate the main branch.
- Sales tax -- NOT bonded by property tax
- Review the wasteful black hole more commonly known as Public Works. I hear they are so overfunded that they have their own I.T. group outside the normal City I.T. staff. How does duplication of municipal staffing really save the City money?
- reduce a day at the local libraries or sales tax. Do not raise property taxes again.
- Raise the sales tax so everybody pays for not like the wheel the City people pay for the streets etc. while country people do not have to pay wheel tax but we have to pay for them. So sales tax pay for what you get everybody.
- Radio systems are technology based. So they will always have a finite lifespan that probably isn't all that long. So in many ways we will always be paying for this service in the community (given the short life span). For that reason a property tax increase makes sense than a sales tax bump which would seem to apply to more one off type of projects.
- Property taxes put the burden on those most able to pay, in ways that are more equitable than sales taxes. Budget cuts would include some vital City services, which should be avoided
- Property taxes have skyrocketed to the absurd. when we retire, we won't be able to stay here due to the high property taxes. That means another family moving out of state.
- Property taxes generally impact households with more resources. Sales taxes are a greater burden on the poor & do not guarantee that property taxes will not be used. Sales tax use causes the Xmas tree effect with items added that probably weren't needed.
- Property taxes are too high as it is. Increasing the sales tax .25 or .5% with dedicated usage requirements of the proceeds and a sunset limitation is the correct way to proceed with acquiring the emergency radio system and the fire station relocation plan.
- Property taxes are too high already
- Property taxes are the most fair way to do it. Sales tax is regressive. I also think that you should consider cutting some of the roads projects. Why do you just present the most popular items for the chopping block. Impact fee increases should also be considered. Why isn't this an option. Clearly growth is not paying for itself. We would be better off with corn fields rather than more growth, therefore by increasing impact fees, growth would possibly (probably not) be slowed and more money to pay for these projects, largely due to growth, would be raised.
- Property taxes are a more progressive form of taxation as compared to sales taxes. We

should be asking those who can most afford it to contribute more to the future of our City. Budget cuts in the recent years have already made our City government quite lean, so I don't see how to get the needed funds without cutting needed services.

- Property tax impact on citizens would be so small that it would be easy to do.
- Programs are important. But they have to be efficient in achieving their outcomes. If we could cut dollars from programs but achieve the same outcome, we would be saving money. I would support (through tax increase) an overhaul of many of our programs through evaluation and intervention. I think more efficient and more impactful programs will save more money over time. Plus this makes it much easier to decide which programs to cut based on their performance on a specific outcome (and the priority of that outcome). This might not be an answer in this particular case but if we're playing catch-up, then we're not pushing forward.
- Privatize the following departments: / Fire / EMS / Parking Enforcement / 911 evidence processing and records management /
- Privatize the ambulance service and eliminate 50-60 firefighters/EMTs and save \$70,000 per person and use that money to pay off the bonds for the new fire stations and the new emergency radio system.
- Possible combination of using a raise in Sales tax and possible budget cuts.
- People should vote on a bond issue for both the updating of emergency system equipment and a new fire station for southeast Lincoln
- Our school taxes are out-of-control and now they want to pass more obligation bonds. That would be the first place I think people should look; not to cut the quality of education, but to address the waste and duplication's
- or half sales tax, half property, I don't want budget cuts
- Only until the items were paid for. Then the tax goes back down.
- One of Lincoln's jewels is its amenities: pools, neighborhoods, public activities such as the Lincoln Band concerts in Antelope Park...etc. Budget cuts would have an impact on these and without these attractions, why move to Lincoln; why not move elsewhere. Therefore, would be against budget cuts. The safety measures benefit everyone; not just residents, but visitors as well. With this in mind, a sales tax would be the fairest means to include all those who benefit can also provide support.
- Once again we are only allowed only one choice or another. A combination of property taxes and budget cuts such as July Jam. There also other alternative funding sources such as re-directing traffic fines from the school system to the general fund to pay for the new radio system.
- NO MORE TAXES. 7% is already high enough. Plan what you need for the future and set aside funds to cover planned expenses. All Nebraska taxes are high enough.
- No more sales tax for damn sure. It is to the point of being business and growth negative 7% City ~ 5% state, 20% fed, 2% occupation tax. Reduce LPS budget share.
- NA
- My preference is income tax, but that is not possible now.
- My opinion is the sales tax option with a sunset provision that would eliminate the increase at an estimated date. If not paid for by the end of the date, then City services

would have to be adjusted to make up the shortfall. I would also look at limited budget cuts to either have the City provide a portion of the funding through general funds or to shorten the estimated time the sales tax increase would apply. Personally I would appreciate knowing the City is tightening their belt just like anyone who is making a large purchase to help pay the cost.

- My first choice is budget cuts, then sales tax then property taxes. We are taxed to death in this town. Every year more and more taxes. It is pretty sad when you license a vehicle and the wheel tax is more than half the cost to license it. I know budget cuts are not easy but we have to start somewhere.
- My actual preference is None of these. But the answer leading up to the dilemma should have been Budget cuts with stricter fund allocation measures on entities and bond approval. Then preference Sales taxes. No to Property taxes. We're still waiting for tax relief remember?
- Mayor Beutler always uses "funny math" to get what he wants. Some streets are being resurfaced that are in good shape while others that are in very poor shape are not. (i.e. Garland vs So. 70th Street). We do not trust him, he has no integrity, no real concern for most of Lincoln's residents... only cares about the precious Hay Market area. Shame on him.
- Low income people who rent do pay some of the property tax since landlords figure that in their fixed costs when setting rents. If a sales tax increase would have a definite end date then that's ok. Or a combination of both types of taxes.
- Lincoln has a AAA bond rating... we should take advantage of it and use a sales tax increase for other priorities.
- Lincoln City Government is to top heavy. Start by getting rid of a few in middle management. Put more feet on the ground pay for services for citizens such as radio and fire buildings
- Let's start at the top instead at the bottom. Let's get them out of the office and other places and in the streets.
- It's doubtful there is much fat to trim, but I believe every conversation about new spending in government should be offset with a hard look current services. What can we privatize? Could we lease the pools to a private operator? Could we hold a fundraiser to cover the cost of the fireworks? Can neighborhood associations hire their snow removed?
- Instead of tearing down 2 fire stations and building 3 more, why not leave the 2 so they can continue to serve the commercial and residential that they now serve. Then, onto the fire station by South Street, a police station could be added. This would protect Lincoln's water tower and Lincoln's water supply. Homeland Security was worried enough about Lincoln's water supply that they built a fence around the water tower. This fence is not tall enough that someone could not crawl over or someone could cut through the wire. With a police station and fire station beside it, it would be continued to be protected 24/7. This way only 1 new fire station would have to be built. One (1) new station and the updated 911 system would now be at a much more reasonable cost. Funds for these 2 things could come from personnel costs. The private sector doesn't have all the wonderful benefits. /

- increasing sales taxes would create a situation much like that of airfares. citizens would take their money elsewhere for major purchases etc., much the same way that travelers go to Omaha or Kansas City when flying. The big complaint is that home owners would be shouldering the burden with property taxes, but everyone even renting would have to pitch in. Apartment owners would no doubt pass the increases on to their renters etc.
- Increasing sales tax is a regressive tax policy while increasing property taxes is progressive.
- Increased sales taxes and/or property taxes are permanent tax increases which will NEVER go away whereas budget cuts will eventually be reinstated.
- If we are to approve these new additions to the City - something will have to be cut!!! NO MORE TAXES!!!! There are many things we do not need in this City - Recreation projects are nice, but definitely NOT a necessity -- We are always told "your property taxes would only go up \$65 a year" well that is crap -- they are always much more than that... cut the fireworks for \$47,000?? really??? how about cut most of the administrative jobs in the City and their EXPENSIVE retirement plan !!!! Salaries take most of the budget and everyone knows it... there are way too many employees on the City staff - mostly in the upper tier -- that is where we need to cut!!!
- If the minimum raise on the sales tax generates money to cover the radio/fire station cost and allows a surplus to be used in the City this seems great - fix more roads and sidewalks, parks, pools, libraries, and other things which benefit a large portion of the community population.
- If the City is increasing in size and population, then why does this mayor seek to cut City jobs all the time. Considering he is totally allowing staff to run the City most people don't know his health issues are affecting sound judge mental decisions regarding this City
- If my knowledge of the current property tax issue is correct, isn't there some sort of property tax reduction question? I seem to remember hearing/reading Lincoln Public Schools and property taxes in the same sentence. Should that be true, the sales tax gets paid on all of the everyday purchases we all make, and many of us will find a way to spend any reduction on property taxes. / / Personally, I would welcome any property tax overages to go to the City of Lincoln anyhow. There are enough programs I find truly needed in our community to spend every tax dollar I can afford. My household is not rich, but we believe in the necessity of social places like parks, libraries, and pools. / / Just my two cents.
- I'm sure that other areas could be found that we could skim some money off. Raise the minimum wage and maybe the mentioned would be more affordable. Everything goes up but our wages!
- I would vote for Budget Cuts, like eliminating the \$47,000 for the fireworks. However, since the policing of cyclists on sidewalks in the downtown no-cycle-zone (which occur daily) are not regulated/ticketed and the rate at which snow is removed from streets in downtown is ridiculously slow I'd hate to see the existing inefficiencies become even more inefficient.
- I would suggest a mix of property tax and sales tax increases.

- I would prefer a combination of sales and property taxes. While sales taxes are regressive, They do capture some non-Lincoln funds from those who spend in Lincoln.
- I would not like to see sales taxes put on food and other items that it is not collected on now. Lower income families need to spend a higher percentage of their income on necessities like food and therefore it would be very regressive to tax these necessary items. I would not be opposed to an increase of sales taxes to 7.25% if a small portion of the \$11 million raised could go to the arts, parks, libraries, finishing the Jamaica North bike trail to the Haymarket and other things that make life special in Lincoln. Give us bread but give us roses too!
- I would like to see an increase in sales tax and property tax. But I would prefer to reduce the time we take to pay the bond if possible. Let's do it right and consider future growth and perhaps add one more firehouse. / / Have we considered a new house in a more rural neighborhood starting as a volunteer house? We would cover building and equipment and staff with volunteers.
- I would like to see a combination of cuts and property tax increase.
- I would like to see a 20 year plan of City costs which fall outside of normal operations. Specifically, I believe over 75% of the water mains are beyond expected lifespan and our sewers are in a similar condition. When are these major requirements going to be addressed and what is the expected cost?
- I would I am somewhere between Sales Tax and Property. I do not like the choices of things that would be cut under budget cuts.
- I would believe a combination of funding options would make the most sense.
- I wish the City Council had the guts to approve the sales tax increase so the populace could have voted on it
- I very hesitantly answered property taxes to this question. The stipulation on my answer is that they be increased ONLY to fund the radio/fire station project - and when it is fully funded, the levy goes back down! It seems that there are always "adds" to the property tax bill, but it never goes down once a bond, etc., is paid off - there's just something else that's found to spend that money on!
- I think we should use both options, with the goal of reducing the sales tax hike once the two projects are paid for. We should still not tax food and not tax services. We should not make it harder for those with lower incomes to go to the vet, get a haircut, massage or go to health care providers. I think heaters, fans and air conditioners should also not be taxes.
- I think there are budget cuts which could reduce the amount needed to be used from a Sales tax increase.
- I think sales tax unfairly burdens the poor, and the budget cuts would harm the very things that make Lincoln a great place to live.
- I think it's best to spread the cost to all citizens of Lancaster county, including the college students. Sales tax option does that. I also think that instead of spending all this money on the "P" street project this issue should have been dealt with sooner.
- I recommend budget cuts with the exception of cutting funding to providing protective custody to intoxicated persons. This is an important and currently underfunded service.

- I really dislike the use of property tax system all together. In a perfect world I would get rid of all property taxes and shift to sales/income tax for collecting taxes. I realize this response is somewhat unrelated to the question but wanted to share anyway.
- I prefer a combination of sales and property tax increase along with other changes. ALL individuals working full-time within the City of Lincoln should be required to pay wheel tax on their vehicle they drive on our streets, regardless of where they live . Developers should also pay more for infrastructure costs of new developments.
- I need to understand why the costs are so high for these projects before making a decision. Sales taxes are already high. Taxes on hotel rooms are already ridiculous in the City. Property taxes are also way too high.
- I like the sales tax option best but would support the property tax option too.
- I know sales tax is not a popular tax and it may impact the poor disproportionately - but it seems like the best option.
- I have to live within a budget and my company, why should the City be any different? Maybe should have been saving up over the years.
- I feel that the majority that USES the services should PAY for the services.
- I feel that the 4th pf July celebration should be cut
- I feel like if you used a raise in sales taxes, this would cover more in the City of Lincoln vs just taxing property owners or cutting funds from important programs or services. If you tax only property owners, not everyone is affected by this. But with sales tax, you're going to target a larger group and possibly raise the funds faster and likely more evenly.
- I feel a combination of the above options would be the best solution.
- I don't feel property taxes would be fair to the whole population of the City. but sales tax option would affect almost every single person and I feel that would be a well-rounded option since it is a public safety issue that could affect far more people than those such as myself that own a house and pay property tax.
- I don't think \$65k is a useful number. I think you are intentionally misleading people by using a low household income value. Otherwise I probably would have voted for this option.
- I don't believe the moving of stations is a reasonable idea. If you want to add 2 more stations then I would be more likely to have my property taxes raised. What is planned now is a waste of money when you will still have the same issues
- I don't agree with the "lowest priority programs" for possible budget cuts. I would like to see some examination of the "Urban Development Department," for possible cuts and cuts to Star Tran busing. For example, is it more important to build a fire station or make sure there is TIF money available for stores at the Piedmont Shopping Center? Also I would like to see studies on how much demand there is for Star Tran buses. I rarely see them carry more than 2-3 passengers at a time. We could cut some of this (or in my dream world - all of it) and provide taxicab credit vouchers for the poor/elderly.
- I do not like more taxes. / But I do not want budget cuts to hurt low income citizens. / Increased sales taxes on alcohol should be targeted to cover protective custody of intoxicated persons to lessen the property tax burden. /
- I disagree that there are only three options for funding the one-time costs of these two

projects. Over the years the City and Count has received one- time money, e.g. the recent seizure of "drug" money by LSO, of which the Federal Gov't received part and Lancaster County received part. Where do these funds go and why can't they be used for one of these projects or at least placed in a reserve for use on the next big project. A number of years ago the City received funds and used it to build the water park at 33rd & Hwy 2. Why can't we first earmark or reserve such funds for Police and Fire projects which often are at the top of the priority list for a community? Rather than listing ten or twenty items that generate a lot of mixed responses, why not prioritize categories of projects, and if the category is at the top of public opinion it gets funded first.

- I consider this okay only because groceries are not taxed at this time. If they again are taxed at some point in the future I would oppose using sales tax to fund the radio system replacement and fire station relocations.
- I chose property taxes for one fundamental reason. I do not believe that vital services like police and fire protection should be funded through sales tax. Sales tax money can increase or decrease with little or no notice. Even in a slower economy, there remains the need for police and fire protection.
- I believe half of the funding should come from sales tax, and the other half from property taxes
- I am torn between sales and property taxes. I like the idea of the cost being spread out over a larger population, even though it will likely mean a larger cost to me personally. The increase in property taxes is about half of the estimated cost of sales tax increase and would likely be less noticeable to me, though it puts the burden on those who own property here, while the services it funds are used by visitors and renters, as well.
- I am sorry but this such an inaccurate polling system. Really a push poll
- I am in favor paying for the above options with a 6 year sales tax. The first 3 years going to the fire stations and a new 911 system. and the last 3 yrs. going to fund roads, the south beltway and sidewalks.
- I am a strong supporter of the 1/4 cent sales tax increase proposal that was not advanced to the November ballot.
- I also think that the City could do away with the Fourth of July celebration, and I am most interested to see why parking enforcement is so costly.
- How about spending what's currently available with a little bit more common sense? How about not blowing \$5500 on idiotic items, like removable speed bumps in low traffic areas, just to have them end up stolen anyway?
- How about a combination of sales and property taxes - spread the obligation around a little
- High income people with greater assets (property) and more to lose from fires, etc. should pay more than low and middle income people who have fewer assets (property). If sales taxes were to be used, the state and City should first start collecting sales taxes on all online sales.
- Good management requires forward looking to prepare budgets to meet the expected needs in the future. I just do not understand why this has not happened to prepare for this anticipated expenditure. The choices you have presented are tubular thinking and

are not acceptable, as there are other funding methods available and that should be utilized. Some of these include selling Pershing and put it back on the tax rolls, elimination of personnel that cause the City additional expenses (i.e.-the "P" Street project/delays), elimination of subsidizing private home repairs, along with many other more progressive and innovative budget applications. /

- get a grant from federal gov. They misuse so much money that they should be able to skip one banquet and cover this.
- For the radio system ONLY. The fire station relocation should be done after some of the TIF funding is being repaid. Some of that money should have been prioritized for these two issues initially!!!!
- For public safety issues such as this property taxes should be levied on ALL property holders, including religious institutions and other traditionally "tax-exempt" entities.
- find a cheaper more cost effective solution. Who has reviewed the quotes and the proposed solutions? You have to look at new technology, not just replacing.
- Everyone contributes, whereas property taxes puts more of a burden on a few.
- Everyone benefits, not just the property owners.
- Everybody benefits from an improved emergency radio system so everyone should contribute to the benefit. In fact, tourists will also benefit in times of emergency so they can help cover those costs like the Lincoln residents.
- Every citizen of the community, and visitors to the community, benefit from radio and fire station projects. Sales tax spreads the burden among all these people.
- Even though the sales tax impact on an individual seems small, the fact is lower income people pay more of their income for it. Also, lower income people must allow for the increased cost of major purchases - like cars and furniture, This leads to either purchasing lower priced used goods, or finding ways to avoid paying the tax. / / Even though the City's share of property tax is lower, the total property tax bill makes homes unaffordable for many people. My below median value home costs me \$300 per month just in tax. This may be less than a rental would cost - but housing assistance funding is not available to homeowners.
- Even though sales taxes are paid by people outside the City, it is still a flat tax and will always hurt the poor more than the rich.
- Eliminate Tom Casady's job as Safety Director and use that money to fund a portion that is required. His position is not needed and was a mistake when it was created
- Don't cut snow removal! It is already lacking as it is!
- Do not cut library or human services. They have a construe cry and will never be cut. Cut City employees including fire and police.
- Do bond issue.
- Do a bond issue. We CAN'T afford an increase in sales tax or property taxes, and where the hell can you cut?!?
- Do a bond issue and it does not pass, use property tax.
- Costs would be shared with those who utilize or who could potentially utilize the services. Everyone would have "œskin in the game" not just property owners.
- Combination of sales tax (say, 50%) and budget cuts (the remaining 50%)...

- Closing of pools and services to the elderly, cancelling the 4th of July activities should never be on a list for reductions. These are services/activities that I believe are critical.
- City government needs to prioritize their needs and cut the lower priorities. The answer is not always to raise taxes. Taxes in Lincoln are already sky high and the people are struggling. If the City wants a new radio system or new fire stations then cut something else.
- City Government has continued to grow under Democrat Mayors. Let's take the overhead out of the departments and examine how City government operates. Let's see how many staff works "inside" and are not directly providing services to Lincoln's citizens.
- Budget cuts that I would pick: / Parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement (\$314,000) / Neighborhood/business watch programs (\$104,000) / Lower priority snow removal (\$430,000) / / Do not attempt to cut libraries, pools, or crime-related budget items.
- Bonding is the most fair and sensible means of paying for the needed public safety projects.
- BONDING
- Bond or lease. no big deal. gee guys lighten up a little. It is what cities do as they grow.
- Bond issue for the whole thing. Cut nothing from the budget in response.
- As I said before, the mayor needs to FIRE Casady to fund the new radio system. Getting rid of a few ads in the mayor's would be nice, too--starting with Hoppe.
- All the rest of us have to live within a budget.
- All residents and visitors, will benefit from the improvements, not just property owners. I feel it is fair therefore, for all residents to share in the expense. The sales tax seems to be the fairest way to accomplish this.
- All property owners should contribute to this tax and to addressing these public safety needs. This includes properties currently off the tax rolls but which benefit from the safety services, including churches. The City could choose to tax these groups at a lower rate. Or, if these groups choose to exempt themselves from paying property taxes, they could elect to have no service (which would be foolish), or to be charged per response (e.g., police, fire, medical).
- All people will own this with sales tax
- Add the south beltway to this tax also & sunset in 6 yrs. /
- A sales tax increase would assure everyone is paying into the fund and not just property owners.
- A onetime bond might work for this?
- A number of the items listed as possible budget cuts should be looked at as 'wants' and not 'needs'. In addition, if City impact fees were at the level they should be instead having been frozen for so many years there would be more revenue available from these fees. These fees would also apply primarily to construction and development projects in outlying parts of the City where the need exists for new fire stations. The people building in these areas should be obligated to pay more for the City to provide them with the new stations needed.

- A combination of Sales tax and budget cuts would be best. / / relevant points which should have been included in the important information listed above is the number of years the additional \$47 or \$25 would be paid and the useful life of the improvements under consideration.
- A City budget is no different than a family's budget in that when expensive purchases need to be made for the good of the family, unnecessary spending and luxuries must be cut.
- A 25 cent increase in sales tax sounds like more than enough to fund these projects and spreads the burden around to the most people. Budget cuts could be done in relation to parking and abandoned cars and alarm response. Those who need alarm response should pay for the service, not the City. Please leave the City pools alone...kids need that in the summer and many cannot travel outside neighborhoods, especially the poorer ones that are listed.
- 1st of all the Lincoln Public schools are going to kill this City. I had a brother who worked for the public schools and could not believe the waste there is. We spend money like you could not believe. If my family didn't live here I'd move. They need to find out how the private schools are so much more educated than the public schools at only a fraction of the cost. /
/ Another place to cut is the police dept. Just how many captains and lieutenants does the police dept. have? If it wasn't for the union which rules the police dept. The City could do away with half the captains and have lieutenants instead and wouldn't have to pay the outrageous pay these captains get and that includes retirements also. I see a lot of overweight officers that will only fit into SUV's so I understand the need for SUV's on the police dept. They need to have PT tests at least twice a year to weed out the fat ones. I use to be a military policeman and never did see an overweight officer. A lot of the Lincoln police officers couldn't catch anyone if their life depended on it. / / Until the City gets some balls and quite bending over for unions you better keep taxing the good people of Lincoln. / / /
- \$94 can seem like a lot to a family earning \$65,000 annually. On the other hand, increasing my homeowner property tax by \$25 seems almost negligible.
- I think sales tax for now, but fort future updates I think the City should put back money for this and don't spend it for anything else. I we as people want something big or small we have to save for it and the City government shouldn't be any different.
- I think if we can do it with sales taxes do it for radio gas tax,
- Politicians make too much of high property taxes. If you want a big fancy house, you should be taxed for it. we need disincentives to building personal castles1 / Sales taxes are a burden to poor!!! / Cuts in City budget and the programs listed are not a good idea. / Taxes are part of life -- as is death!!!
- 100%
- I agree with [the previous comment] about not using the sales tax for the reasons he's noted. I think the property tax should be used for funding.
- I agree with [the previous comment]; why the City Council decided not to allow the voters to decide about the Fire Houses and the 911 system is strange. The information and needed data was obtained and all that should be required is do we want to approve

a bond issue or not.

- I don't suppose there's any way we could consider a local income tax? In general I'd prefer income tax over property tax, and property tax over sales tax.
- A quarter cent sales tax increase would hurt the people who have the least. While a few cents/extra dollars (for example) on a purchase wouldn't come close to touching those with a higher income, it just takes more money out of the pocket of those with a lower income. Funding big-ticket needs on the backs of the unfortunate is not the way to go.
- A quarter sales tax is the fair way to fund the critical needs; roads, sidewalks, radio system, and fire stations. All other needs in this survey should not be included, they are not critical!
- The city council should have voted for the ballot issue in the first place and let the people decide. It's not one of those "need more information" situations... either you need it or you don't - that simple.

become aware of future business plans of these major businesses rather than waiting until the "door has slammed shut", leaving NO room for the future. The roads issue is a primary point that the City of Lincoln must deal with (??wheel tax). Parks & Rec has outgrown the realistic needs of Lincoln. Too many "small" neighborhood parks make this too expensive. The Tiger beetle funding is unaffordable. CLC's are nice but unaffordable.....this is the individual's responsibility, not the tax dollars of the citizens of Lincoln. The entire library issue is one that must be revamped. Since the days of Dale Carnegie who put forth his money to provide a very worthwhile service, times have changed and the library system must be updated and treated in a responsible manner.....not having additional "Band-Aids" put on an outdated system.

- All of these areas are important and cannot be neglected. Many of these services determine what a City is. If you don't have parks, libraries and decent streets and sidewalks, what good is economic development? Actually, can you achieve true economic development if the area is dingy, dangerous and dull.
- All of these issues are important, and I'm likely in the majority as a Lincoln resident and taxpayer willing to pay a little more in sales and property taxes to see these areas addressed. I also would like to see the business sector and LIBA carry a bit more of their weight and be willing to pay a bit more, rather than taking, to make these happen, and quit pushing their weight around to stop efforts to solve these problems.
- All the programs listed have a varying degree of importance. The state only has 1.8 M people to support operations. Lincoln only has 268K. We need to be different in this state. We have to be different and different now. Different doesn't have to have a negative implication but rather a positive connotation. It simply means smarter and better at expense control, fund allocation and entitlement including bonds.
- All these areas are important to the quality of life in Lincoln. These items all contribute to Lincoln being a place where people want to stay and others would want to relocate. Decisions have to be made and priorities set. Items that benefit the most citizens and those citizens who need assistance should have priority. The condition of the streets and sidewalks in Lincoln are subpar. Lincoln prides itself on Parks and Recreation but what about just walking or driving there or anywhere else around town? As for the Broadband and Libraries--those must be upgraded to keep pace with the speed of technology and the need for information and access to it.
- Allow Econ DEVEL in private sector. Too much government operational involvement. City should provide oversight and support long term planning not develop when there is money or a demand. Recent developments have been poorly planned and have eaten business resources from other areas plus pushing too much to the burbs!
- At least, the end caps on all of the islands the City thinks are so important need to be painted Yellow so you can see them at night and particularly during periods of rain. All of the tire marks on the end caps is evidence that people can see them and bang into them. I180 coming into Lincoln's downtown is a prime example of one the gets both hit and run over frequently. The fact that they had to put cones up along the long slender island should have been a clue. Paint them!
- Basically, I think too much emphasis is paid to cutting the things that make life livable such as libraries, parks and recreation, community learning.... programs that affect the quality of one's life. Politicians are always more interested in what 'looks good' like roads. All the elements are important and conducive to a community. I liked Lincoln

best when it was 90,000 and I was a kid, but those days are gone. Somewhere all the way, we've got it in our heads that we shouldn't have to pay taxes... only 'other people' should pay taxes. We do not need two and three cars a household; a computer or television in every room. People and healthy, safe living...not elegant living... can be very pleasant. We need to get back to doing things for the common good, rather than our selfish greedy selves.

- Bumpy roads keep traffic slow - and many of the road repairs I witnessed in my neighborhood this Summer were unnecessary and overdone. This can be scaled back. / / At a time when brick and mortar bookstores are closing, we should not be expanding library space - but be more focused on digital offerings. Shared space with community centers and parks should be explored also. / / Economic development should be undertaken by the chamber of commerce and related civic organizations.
- Businesses that need broadband should be paying for it, and if they do pay for it now then increase what they pay
- Can some of the sidewalk repairs become homeowner association responsibilities through dues?
- CLC's are great programs but I don't think the City needs to be funding even more of them / / Libraries need upgrades and to be up kept but I am not convinced Lincoln needs to spend \$40 million on a new downtown library. Especially as the role of libraries as a whole is in a state of flux.
- CLCs are the most important of those.
- Economic Development shouldn't be necessary if we had a proper and low taxing structure to attract good businesses.
- Economic Development/Broad Band Upgrade: businesses and property owners in areas considered for development need to take greater responsibility in financing these activities since they are the direct beneficiaries of these dollars. As H.W. Bush said a long time ago, "trickle down" is voodoo economics.
- Fix infrastructure for the future
- Focus on the core, continuing to grow a vibrant, technology-rich downtown. Use our economic development money on technology infrastructure and training programs to capitalize on jobs available at companies that are already here and growing. We have 3% unemployment, for the next 15 years we need talent, not imported tax-incented, talent-stealing companies. The competition over brilliant minds is the key to the future of Lincoln's economy. /
- Here's my priority rating: 1. Libraries 2. Parks (and Bike Trails) 3. Community Learning Centers 4. Sidewalks 5. Broadband 6. Streets 7. Problem Properties 8. Economic Development (I believe this is important but I also believe that so many of the infrastructure issues are more important toward attracting new (and the right kinds of) businesses than putting more money towards the economic development process. Have a good, healthy City and businesses will really want to be here no matter if we do promotion or not.
- I am impressed with the quality of maintenance of properties in most of our City. But a problem home site can be the beginning of a "cancer" that spreads far enough to ruin whole blocks or groups of blocks.
- I believe all of these areas are important and see that we may need to consider a bond issue or sales tax increases to address them.

- I believe economic development IS important. I checked "very unimportant" above because I am leery of certain types of incentives. In many municipalities in Michigan, from where I moved four years ago, it was common to give businesses major tax breaks or waive taxes to encourage them to come, and when the economy got bad (as it did in Michigan) or those tax breaks expired, the businesses would pull out or hold the cities hostage with the threat of pulling out.
- I don't think parks need expensive playground equipment or shelters. Maintaining an open space for people to gather or enjoy the outdoors is more important than providing expensive play equipment.
- I had to pay for my own sidewalk repair, why doesn't everyone.
- I think funding some of these programs needs to come from within the specific department. For example, parks and rec could make better decisions regarding which playground equipment to replace, and what to replace it with. Many of their programs are target specific populations- like adult day programs, which could be funded from other sources, or provided by other entities. / / Road improvements are a big joke. So much money wasted streets that do not need widened, traffic circles, U-turn cut outs. The great new antelope valley parkway - useless.
- I think the duplication in staffing positions in Public Works would help find some of the needed funding for roads and sidewalks.
- I think the items that I marked as very unimportant are not the responsibility of City government. Lincoln's economy is fine. We don't need government money to line the pockets of rich developers. Internet service is not a government role. Private companies should pay for internet upgrades in response to consumer demand.
- I think the roads are better in Lincoln than anywhere in Iowa or Missouri.
- I wonder why the City is so far behind / falling short when these items should be part of the yearly budgets.
- I would have rated the funds for parks higher, but \$3 million a year sounds pretty hefty to me. Put a more reasonable number there, and I would be for it. / I would change how I rated funds for roads to very important if there was a guarantee that 56th Street south of Highway 2 to just north of Pine Lake Road would get redone! That is the worst road ever!
- I would like to see Lincoln Wi-Fi restored to the Haymarket area or downtown as a priority on par with installing broadband cable for businesses.
- I'm not for rehabilitation of sidewalks, especially if there are areas of town that do not have sidewalks or adequate drainage. Get sidewalks in the areas that need them (i.e. Folsom Street between Pioneers and South Street) before working on rehabilitating the old ones.
- If Lincoln wants to be as great a City as the current public relations efforts purport it to be, then a significant increase in public funding is required. The private sector needs to also step up to the plate. They promised funding for the West Haymarket development then renege on their promise. / / If taxes in Nebraska are so high, then why do various surveys rate us as good business climate and good place for entrepreneurs, etc.?
- Infra-structure is important, libraries are important gateways to possibilities and are important for the lower income families
- Infrastructure creates economic development which leads to quality of life. Let's get with it.

- Infrastructure like roads and sidewalks are important uses of revenue. These other items need to be funded through budget cuts. A thorough audit of ALL City departments needs to be done. We read in the paper when \$100,000 is found here and an extra \$300,000 is found there. How about redirecting the \$800,000 to beautify the alley in the Haymarket toward some of these other more important items. How about using the Kenosha money, or wherever it came from, for the candy treats for the parking garages going toward some of these other items??? I just believe there is so much money hidden in City departments that is not being used, that if an audit was done in a proper way, we would be surprised how much money we could come up with!
- Instead of giving the wheel tax money to the schools. Let's use it for what it was meant for. ROADS. Like I said the public schools are going to be the death of us. I just hope when Ricketts gets to be governor he starts cutting the schools but then you have to deal with the teachers union so until Lincoln gets a backbone the City will bleed the taxpayers dry. There are a lot of millions that could be saved with the right leadership to pay for the things above but until we get it, god help this City.
- Instead of the property tax always taking the hit for LPS we need to find a better way to fund our schools. With all the individuals that don't have children why should my property tax keep going up so I can fund LPS. At some point folks who have children and choose to should fund LPS. Parents that send children to private school take care of their funding. I am not totally unwilling as a childless person to help, but the renters with children should pay something!
- It seems that taxes need to be increased in order to cover the City's operation and maintenance. In addition, it seems that these rehab projects have the potential to create jobs for both the private and public sector. / / This is a really well done survey. / / thanks for offering it.
- It's not the City's job to install fiber. LES installed miles and miles and miles several years ago, but lobbying by Windstream/Time Warner prevents it from being used. / / If a company wants fiber, they can pay for it. Is it expensive? Yes, my business pays for fiber. But it's worth what we pay. / / Broadband is indeed important, but it's not something the government should do.
- Let's put up many of the City owned properties for SALE. That will bring in some money since some areas are not maintained and are not necessary for the well-being of our citizens. Stop making excuses. Quit having City council meetings when those who work cannot possibly attend. Too many meetings, agendas and outcomes are carefully orchestrated to produce the outcome that the mayor wants. Do you really want input from the citizens. No way.
- Libraries and parks are the heart of our City. CLCs do amazing work every day and must be protected. / The sidewalks around town are in terrible shape, at least in the core of the City. / Neighborhoods and individuals are effective at making noise about problem property owners. This is something to cut or at least not necessarily increase as a budget item.
- Libraries should be available to our children through LPS, in the schools, paid for by property tax. With the internet, information is much more available to people than it was in 1962. Don't see the need in putting \$40 million into the library system. Problem properties should be auctioned, sold or even given to private developers and they can absorb the clean-up/demolition costs.

- Lincoln is a good example for running thing like they should be run (unlike the county). Please keep things funded... the things that make Lincoln a great model City!
- LPED does a so-so job attracting big employers to Lincoln. Their efforts would be better placed to grow entrepreneurs here, which are less likely to relocate & take jobs elsewhere & studies indicate create more jobs than large corporations.
- Make owners of rundown property pay - file liens - take over by eminent domain -sell for profit. Don't need learning centers - we have schools. Why not cut budget to the arena? That was supposed to be the big money maker to fund the City's projects, but we're subsidizing \$1million a year. Use Pershing auditorium for bigger library - renovating is cheaper than building new. Every year during budget talks, the City offers only select categories to cut from. The whole system should be open for cuts, including the mayor's salary and staff.
- Most the libraries are an expense that gives very little resolve to the community in a whole. With the internet of today it would be interesting to see how many people use these libraries and if we couldn't close a few. I will bet if they do use them it's to use their computers. So just open public computer places. Just a thought.
- My neighborhood PAID for our own sidewalk repair in the beginning. It's time for the City to step up and take care of the rest of the bad sidewalks. / / Re CLCs: How about we get a better graduation rate at the regular schools before we try "new" and "exciting" education options?
- Neighborhood parks and sidewalks could be maintained by the neighborhood homeowners association. Broadband should be provided by the private sector.
- Once again, you skew the survey by offering up only your preferred cuts. Lincoln is a great City, keeping it that way means great neighborhoods, childcare, parks, libraries and good infrastructure. Businesses benefit by more and better roads, then let them pay for it. Why don't you do a Citywide business improvement district and let them raise the road funds? Raise the impact fees and let new growth pay for itself, including LES and LPS?
- Only those sidewalks that present safety issues should be replaced. Economic development, upgrading technology and assuring programs for after school care and other community activities should be at the top of the list. In order to improve life for all citizens we must bring in good jobs and to do so we must provide top of line technological services. Maintaining our CLCs and taking care of our children and communities help to assure our citizens are cared for. I also believe that until we are able to maintain the parks we already have there should be no new parks added. Parks provide recreation activities for all no matter your income. Problem properties should be sold as is and let the developer be responsible for removal or include the removal costs as part of the purchase of the lot. The City should also recoup cost through wage garnishment, claiming tax returns, etc. also, no more funds should be spent on Antelope Valley or the Haymarket for now. Let's develop other areas of the community where the arena tax is being collected but not necessarily benefiting from the extra traffic in downtown. The Antelope Valley project has been wonderful for flood prevention however, the greatest beneficiary has been the university in my opinion. University improvement is not the City's responsibility.
- Parents need to be responsible for before and after school care. / / Instead of building new library buildings use the broadband infrastructure to build a first class fully

accessible virtual library.

- Parks - reduce the number of parks. Broadband - private biz issue unless the City is going to provide access to this system to the general public. If the public will get access to it, then use tax dollars, otherwise not. Sidewalk issue is poor planning, funding issue with the City from years ago that has gotten worse. Economic development for the City not needed (pet slush fund). This is already served on the state level. Problem properties - condemn and auction them like other cities. Road construction - another issue that was overlooked for several years now and has become a major issue. However first you need to have a City department public works that is competent (i.e. staffed with people who are trained, educated, skilled in that field) AND supported. Making the right decision from an engineering perspective and not from a political . Needs to be a long term planning. Not whimsical like the superior roundabout or the cluster that is the P street. Just like the old AMMCO commercial, "I always wanted to be a contractor, boss." Embarrassment it is. Just look at the concrete finishes on every curb and sidewalk, exposed wires, clipped and abandoned conduits sticking out. That project finish quality, schedule, contract enforcement and expense really says it all about the state of the cities capabilities with regards to construction at this time. See above sidewalks / broadband / . Really? Why should we give the City a dime to build a damn thing? YOU DON'T HAVE THE SKILL SET FOR IT! Your current consultants don't have the skill set for it.
- Parks - We have too many small parks through the City. / Libraries - Over time I would think less space would be needed for libraries since a lot of stuff is now online. / Sidewalks - Should be the responsibility of the owners.
- Plant trees for a beautiful City!
- Poor condition of existing sidewalks is the direct result of past and current City administrations basically ignoring the problem! Minimal amounts of money set aside to do very little each year-(to keep the citizens / somewhat pacified)-does not constitute a real sidewalk maintenance program! / / Street repair/new roads-a touchy subject with taxpayers! Huge amounts of wheel tax money collected / Year in and year out, but the City is always coming up way short on street funds! Something is not right here!
- Poverty is a huge social and educational problem. We need to support our community through things like libraries, parks, CLCs to address these issues. It is also very important to make structural improvements, such as sideways and roads.
- Prioritizing items is difficult indeed. It really boils down to what touches me personally. If I were living next to a run-down property or if my sidewalks were un-walkable, these issues would be more important. Widest impact and surety of outcome are the biggest weights. For example, the Econ Dev proposal sounds good (attract more good-paying jobs), but how does one measure an outcome such as that? The rising poverty rates in the City would indicate that more good-paying jobs are needed. But the "how to" is not clear to me.
- Problem properties should be taken over by eminent domain and sold to private developers who then can tear them down at their cost
- Problem Property Fund.....the City should get out of the way...once the property is condemned sell it to someone with an agreement that they will remove it within 30 days.... / Parks.....stop all the mowing...plant prairie grass and let it go.....add fees for the ball parks and fields. / Library...get rid of the main branch idea...in this day we need

branch...local small libraries with inter library loans.....use less money and invest in smaller neighborhood model....make better use of existing ones in LPS locations..... / Economic Development....tax existing business for this money. Just as you did with the arena.... / Road construction and maintenance.....we need a City gas tax...! Increase the user fees....wheel tax...etc. / Community Learning Centers....use the moved fire stations...good reuse....grant money...? / / / / / / /

- Providing for a great infrastructure makes the community more livable and a more desirable place to do business - a two for one deal.
- Safety first. Kids second (includes parks and pools). Roads third. You have to keep up the safety issue before expanding economic development any further.
- See my previous comments about the it not being appropriate for the City to finance sidewalk repairs
- sidewalk repair is the responsibility of home/property owner, City oversees the work with minimal staff, and bills the appropriate party for the work done. / / CLC's are wonderful, but an unreasonable burden to the City, find grant funding or close. Parents need affordable childcare, invest the funds in a child care incubator project and involve Economic Development, SCORE, Small Business Admin and SCC. / / Library access is a requirement to help all citizens obtain jobs and advance. More effort in endowments? NE television and radio seems to be good at endowment development, mentor with them. Library and school combos seem to be a good idea? / / Let business bid for dangerous or rundown properties to create opportunities to build new homes and businesses, increasing property values, don't force tax payers to pay for a business failure and other's mistakes. Make rental property owners responsible for the upkeep of their property and fine the slackers. / / Raise wheel tax, the people that use the roads can pay for the roads... /
- Sidewalks should be paid for by the property owner, I had to pay to put my sidewalk in when I built my house. The broadband should be funded by the companies that would use it. Problem properties should be the responsibility of the owner or the person who wants to develop it. The roads in Lincoln are in terrible condition, where does all the money go that we pay in wheel tax, we pay way more in taxes in this town than anywhere else that I have ever been able find. So far as the CLC'S the public schools get way more than their share of money, pull the rains back on their budget. The impact fee TAX should take care of the economic development. Our City government is Broken and needs to be revamped completely.
- Since much of this is a function of the City expanding its geographic footprint, it seems a portion of the impact fee could be used to offset those costs attributable to expanded development.
- Since this is a survey about increasing funding for fire and radio the questions on this page should have been couched in that context. They should have asked should increase funding go to these items. These question slant the answers so that they fit with the administration's desire to fund additional projects. This is wrong but normal for City surveys. Only, only radio, fire, sidewalks and roads should be funded!
- Take some tax money away from LPS. They have a blank check. Reel in LPS spending.
- Taking care of existing infrastructure is more important than attracting development that we cannot maintain as well. That should be secondary. Libraries are especially important for those that do not have home access to stay connected, do their studies,

and as a source of entertainment and education for all age groups. They are also social meeting sites.

- taxpayers are not able to give more and still maintain their current lifestyle. give govt. more and get poor
- The backbone of any first class City is it's road system. I believe the roadways must be kept in good condition to continue to attract new business to Lincoln. We need those new businesses and the jobs that they will bring to Lincoln to expand the tax base.
- The City continues to be in competition with the private sector in too many areas and at the same time misses opportunities. A great example is the misuse of land purchases and holding land for too long. If the City was proactive, they would get rid of all surplus properties and utilize this new revenue for needed budgets. For instance, some excess park land that legally can be sold should be put on the market for sale. Parks need to be right sized to match use. / / All City properties currently on the market need to be discounted as much as the State legally allows. The costs to maintain surplus land is counterproductive. The City should not get involved in purchasing blighted properties, but let supply and demand naturally make the improvements. / / Roads need to be improved or the extended costs will be much higher for vehicle repairs and fuel consumption. Few take this into consideration. / / Libraries need to be the right size for the needs of the communities today. Computers will dramatically change library needs and sizes soon. Get rid of the pipe dream of using Pershing Auditorium for a new library. / / Consider putting libraries, police stations, fire stations, and public schools on the same property. That's an interesting concept that could be designed to work. A central power plant could supply the entire campus. / / Community Learning Centers should be a function of LPS. Evidently the current methods of teaching are not working properly. The real problem is the failure to allow teachers to properly discipline and teach. Their hands are tied. The proof is to go back to the days society followed the rules and didn't have the problems we have today. The Community Learning Centers may have value temporarily, but it's the wrong direction. / / The Fast Forward program is not needed if businesses are allowed to function properly. Let supply and demand take its course. / /
- The City of Lincoln needs to take a hard look at its parks and libraries and make some hard decisions. Having parks and facilities that are used is great but having parks just to have parks that we cannot afford to maintain does not make sense. / This is a situation at more is not necessarily better. Let's look at eliminating some park areas and enhancing others. / / I was recently on the UNL campus where they are changing Love Library social space. No one is using the books. Do we need a new library or do we need to define what a library is? Are we just providing a social space if so we should be able to do that for less money.
- The City should not be the entity paying for broadband infrastructure. That should be done by the private companies that would be charging for the service.
- The CLC programs are another example of government attempting to assume the responsibility of parents. Parents are responsible for their children and should be the ones to engage and monitor them outside of school.
- The downtown library is mostly used as a warming station for the homeless. That's what the mission is for. Don't encourage the homeless to hang out downtown. As it is I avoid the area except for a specific purpose.

- The Problem Property Fund - the property owners should be paying for the costs.
- There are several roads that have not been repaired in several years yet you continue to repair roads that have been either installed or repaved in the last 10 yrs. Quit wasting our money. Fix the roads that are in severe need before doing minor work. Take Saunders Ave for example. That street is horrible. Yet you manage to work on antelope park way. Why?
- There should be NO problem property fund at all, and City should drive outfits like Neighbor Works out of town.
- To look ahead and make differences that will impact the future more than now, I think focusing on Education, economic development, and community revitalization will be the most important factors. This will attract more business and retain homegrown professionals that will stay to live and play in Lincoln
- Until the last few years we have had too little vision on making our City better and now we have such a large backlog it is overwhelming. This is why I have said very important to almost everything in this survey as now it is just going to cost us more due to the short-sighted and selfish interest of the conservative members in the City Council. The people voted several years ago that they didn't want to pay to fix their own sidewalks and we have let this go for a long time by doing nothing until recently and they up to 45 million now. I have seen more changes in the last 5 years than in my previous 25 years in the older parts of town that have been neglected for far too long.
- Upgrading the 911 call center is a no-brainer. How many Lincoln residents are using a computer that is 25 years old??
- We enjoy an outstanding City! It is worth our investment to keep it that way!
- We must promote a more dense growth rather than expansive suburban sprawl. Also growth to the SW due to existing infrastructure and parks (pioneers) is an untapped spot for Lincoln to grow. The roads system there must be addressed to promote growth to the SW to use parks, highways and infrastructure to its highest potential.
- We must stay on top of all these items in order to be a City people want to live in or move into
- What happens to the millions of dollars from wheel tax? If this was spent on road repairs and improvements you would not need additional funds. Again look at the staff and inefficient operations of the public works department. They always have 2 to 3 times the staff at projects than private contractors.
- When the wheel tax was first put into place, It WAS supposed to be used for road construction and maintenance. Since then, we have had many increases in the wheel tax. WHY isn't this money being used for WHAT WAS PROMISED IT TO BE USED? Don't you think the taxpayers get tired of the CONSTANT lying?
- While much has been done in the last decade to facilitate economic development, it is now time for the private sector to lead the way. / / Programs like problem properties, sidewalks and CLCs, especially in those areas which border our new improved downtown projects needs to be emphasized in order to support the success of the downtown investment we've made. We have a great downtown now--we shouldn't look south and west across the border of Antelope Valley, or down Goodhue Blvd, and see slums and blight.
- While these all are important issues but the City needs to maintain a budget like any family must.

- Why not use the fiber LES has? Problem properties need to be paid for by the owners. We have to get our infrastructure back to working order. we have neglected it way to long and need to make significant investment.
- Why not utilize incarcerated people to help tear down abandoned properties & to do some sidewalk repairs?
- Why would the City need to spend money on broadband when LES has unused fiber optic cables throughout the City that the City has refused to allow LES to light?
- You gouge us with the wheel tax and you still need money for road repairs?
- not at the cost of the people of Lincoln and their taxes, If the businesses want this then they can pay for it
- Not only for business but for the consumer. We need affordable access to the web for freedom and for knowledge.
- Connectivity is important for business and their customers. We need to be somewhat aggressive on this front.
- Economic development is what Lincoln needs to continue to focus on to change it's perception of being just a "college town" in the eyes of outsiders.
- This sounds like a good idea, because Lincoln needs more good-paying jobs, but I'm not totally convinced. I would be interested in seeing how this has worked in other towns.
- Have the private sector get together with the city set up a fund just for that and work hand-in-hand.
- Not a critical need. Only critical needs should be funded with the sales tax increase. Critical needs are; roads, sidewalks, radio system and fire stations.
- I support CLCs but both LPS and the City are crying wolf. They have been claiming that federal funding is going away for years but they are still getting funds. The City would like to use the CLCs as an excuse to form an interlocal with LPS which then allows the sales tax increase to become permanent rather than limited to a specific time frame. The sales tax increase should not be used to fund CLCs.
- The parks and trail system should be seen as a critical asset of the city of Lincoln. We need to invest more in them.
- Not a critical need. Should not be funded with sales tax increase. Parks needs to adjust their outlook. They can't support the current system yet they want to expand significantly. The parks budget needs to live within its budget and stop looking for ways to expand it responsibilities and funding.
- The city parks are turning into somewhat of an eyesore now-a-days. Improvements needed! Noxious weeds, not needed!
- The sales tax should only fund critical needs and this is not one. I support libraries and the new downtown library should be funded with a bond not sales tax. Also it should not be at the Pershing site.
- Keeping our kids busy after school and during the summer is key to keeping them out of trouble. More and more kids are reading now-a-days... we need to keep this positive momentum going - especially since resource officers were taken out of middle schools years ago.
- Maintaining and improving our roadway network is critical to a successful City. Current roadway conditions are getting worse because of deferred maintenance. At some point

roads will fail because of lack of maintenance and then the cost will be much higher to replace them. I would support additional plate fees or a sales tax approach.

- This should not be part of the funding being discussed. As is typical of City surveys they present false choices or no choices or do not allow you to answer the question in a way that isn't being manipulated by the desires of the administration.
- Dilapidated houses are an eyesore, especially with owners or landlords who do not care. We need to keep our neighborhoods in good shape in order to keep them vibrant.
- A virtual library with full access for all citizens is critical.
- Again, only a small, limited number of categories to choose from.
- As a taxpayer and property owner who does not utilize the parks or libraries, I would like to see my taxes be used for something that benefits me instead of always paying for nothing. I have had several broken sidewalk squares for years. Because I live in an old neighborhood no one cares. If I lived out south where the more wealthy folks live it would have been replaced. I am bitter and am stuck in this city where money is spent on things that are not necessary and only benefit folks who have big pockets. I can't wait to leave this place if I can ever afford to live in a town with a mayor that cares about all citizens not just the ones that can afford the new arena.
- As I previously stated this is a misleading question is asking for general ranking when the ranking should be based on whether increased funding should be used to fund these items.. There should be an option to not rank an item. Only roads and sidewalks should be considered for funding via the increase funding this survey is based on.
- Blighted homes have been neglected too long?
- City sidewalks not meeting Federal standards for ADA? Where have you folks been the last 25 years? Many metro areas with 240,000 plus cities have already complied with alot of this and and are probably repairing the last bunch of sidewalks / / Lincoln seem to support ALOT of downtown development but FORGOT about the basics and Fed requirements for ADA and why have the sidewalks not met ADA requirements...maybe the City of LIncoln needs a little learn on in the way of daily / yearly fines to finally convince them that they are 25 years behind in a number of things
- Dealing with problem properties do need to be dealt with; however, I think the \$500 registration fees are staggering. The owners who have simply deserted their property and choose not to sell, particularly those who live outside the city who have simply bought the property as a tax write off, those are the ones who need to be dealt with. Those who are elderly and do not have the money available to deal with it or has been locked in due to government programs, such as Social Security, etc.
- Delete broadband unless its fee for service. Road construction focuses on key business areas so fee for service and the same for sidewalks. /
- Don't take away the parks or pools for the kids. Only thing that is keeping them off the streets and actually giving them some exercise.
- Eliminate the economic development plan entirely, homeowners should pay for their own sidewalk repairs and city owned should be repaired, broadband infrastructure should be a partnership with private business especially Time

Warner and Windstream.

- Fire and public safety need to be first.....main library is and has been poorly managed.....do not expand.....improve the neighborhood and branches..... / Economic development and problem properties need to be linked together for funding..... / Parks green areas and city property mowing is a waste of money...this is the prairie let it grow.....
- How many local businesses are asking for increased bandwidth? Due to its role in the early days of the public Internet and the University's involvement in research, Lincoln should already have decent infrastructure. Not every business will have the same needs and distribution of internet video will remain an issue for the foreseeable future for those companies involved in that market.
- I believe road construction and maintenance needs to include traffic control as in my view Lincoln is very behind the curve on this issue. I sometimes wonder if anyone in City Government ever navigate the street system in Lincoln.
- I believe the order I put these items is how they affect most Lincolnites.
- I personally believe each property owner should be responsible for maintaining their own sidewalk. If the city wants to update them to meet ADA compliance and assist the resident through a grant that would be gone but homeowners need to pay for repairs and replacement of broken down sidewalks.
- I put the Library near the top of the list. We need a new Central Library to replace the deteriorating facility we have. Growing cities have great libraries that offer vibrant programs and attractive and welcoming facilities. I would like to see the new central library on the Pershing site, sharing that site with other public or private spaces. With a location on Centennial Mall, the Library would benefit from this new location.
- I see CLCs as important tool to reduce crime and increase the education level of the city of Lincoln. I feel that all the other priorities contribute to economic development more effectively in the long run than money in the City's Fast Forward Fund (which I still support).
- I wonder if the city's cost-sharing program for sidewalk rehabilitation is sufficiently advertised among the public. I should think that many homeowners would be willing to take advantage of the city's sharing of the costs of sidewalk repair or replacement in front of their homes.
- I would choose other priorities above most of these. Problem properties are in the eye of the realtor. Libraries are just trying to keep themselves relevant in the electronic age. Parks and rec is serving the community based on which programs the feds are giving grants for - and have lost sight of what the community wants or needs regarding parks. Smaller parks with large playgrounds - one for every neighborhood - what a novel idea. / Community Learning Center - AKA English as a second language, learn how to be American, learn how to not be poor - Based on someone's theory of poverty. No middle income citizens invited.
- I'm very supportive of the CLCs but wonder if other community partners who run other CLCs could take on the ones run by park & rec? / For problem properties - can that be a self-funding program, funded by proceeds from the sale of the property? / / All of the above are important priorities to me - very hard to rank one above the other.

- In the digital age, I am not seeing the need for additional library space. If anything, space needs should decrease. I would prefer to put funding for libraries into the technology piece not space.
- In theory, economic development should provide tax money to help with these priorities. However, that depends on what kind of deal the incoming businesses get. / / Roads, sidewalks and parks are equally important in my opinion. They are basic infrastructure for mobility and recreation. I would have included trails here. / / I believe all CLC sites should be supported and prefer this approach to that of the programs provided by social services. Libraries are equal in importance to CLCs, in my opinion. So is broadband infrastructure, because it keeps us up to date. / Problem properties are an annoyance, and they should have a budget large enough to gradually diminish them.
- Invest in technology infrastructure and you'll add quality, high-paying jobs. The added incomes will buy land, houses, goods and services, thereby increasing our tax income.
- It wouldn't let me drag and drop any of these.
- Items 1 and 2 are the most important. This is truly infrastructure that is in bad need of funding... or BETTER use of the current funding. \$74 wheel tax is way too high. Sales tax revenue directed exactly for streets only. Auditing the street fund might help. / Sales tax collects from EVERYONE that uses streets...even those who commute into this city for work, shopping and entertainment. / And it just doesn't fall to the people who legally register their vehicles in the city!
- Just for the record ...I appreciate these surveys..... I think you are listening to the community.
- Libraries are great but if we have city-wide broadband, a great deal of people will have access to a wealth of information outside of libraries...and often times most of the books housed in libraries are on the web anyways. If someone could make a way to "Borrow" books digitally, we could really downsize our libraries. (sounds like a mortal sin... but times are changing)
- Libraries are old fashioned and people use the internet now. I have not gone to a library for over 15 years and I'm only 32. / Road construction is a problem. If things got fixed correctly the first time, we wouldn't spend so much on it or have so much inconvenience of road construction. How many times have we seen small upgrades to the 14 and Old Cheney area? Every year, but if they would have fixed the entire intersection, correctly, thinking of the future, we wouldn't have to spend money every year making small changes. This happens all the time, small upgrades to the interstate instead of making it 3 lanes to Omaha, from the get go, so you see construction over the same areas over and over instead of a permanent fix right away. I agree that road construction/maintenance is very important but it needs to be done correctly and right now it is a joke. Everyone talks about how we waste money on fixing roads for years in a row without implementing the proper changes. / Problem properties should only be taken care of if they are in an economic part of town, when you have businesses and people traveling to shop in Lincoln, it should be nice, but if it is in a neighborhood, it should not be the city's obligation to fix up.
- Libraries will look much different in the future. Electronic media is changing so

fast that putting up a \$40 million dollar building to store paper is not a good use of funding. / Parents, families and the educational system in place need to be where raising and educating children should take place. Using the city/county funds as a crutch will merely increase the problems instead of solving them in this area.

- Maintain current infrastructure first. Library and CLC's impact type of services for all ages -- whether educational, allowing work for adults. Although for development, not at the expense of maintaining what we have currently. How is adding more worthwhile if it becomes part of the future problem of more to maintain.
- My only comment is that run down properties that are removed should then be used for parks or for developers who are willing to pay for them. We have designated so much money to TIF funding that will not be recouped for years. In the meantime, the developers' profits are sky-high. Let's Fund the new fire stations with the money that will be "pouring in" once the promised tax increases start actually "pouring in".
- My top three choices are for planning for the future and our children. These touch many people and have been neglected for far too long. Parks have been neglected for too long also, but would like to see less parks in the newer areas to cut the costs for future maintenance. I would like to see the pools continued, but LPS with its poor scheduling compared to everywhere else in the state is eating into too much of the summer for swimming. If they go to year round school then you might as well as close them. No matter what we never have enough money for roads so maintaining the smaller expense and the one time large investment in a library seem more prudent for our children and future quality of life.
- None of the above are really priority programs for the City. They could all go away and the sun would still rise tomorrow.
- Not very user friendly. / Education, kids, and libraries are important to me.
- Other than maintaining the roads, I don't see any of the above as important or even somewhat important. I'd like to see funding of all the others discontinued.
- Parks should use their funds more effectively. They did not need a new building behind waterworks. They said they would go to Experian. And they say they are short funds. / / But it should be roads, roads, roads.
- Please have north 48th street on the list of sidewalk repairs. Most of it north of Leighton is in poor shape.
- Presently, Lincoln is a nice city with many attractions and improvements in recent years. We need to thank previous city administrations, the previous UNL president, the business community and our own citizens with forward-looking agendas. This administration certainly doesn't deserve all the recognition. In recent years Lincoln has turned a corner on major growth and with that comes some extremely serious "side effects." Some difficult decisions will need to be made and I know it will be hard on the Mayor, and city officials. Many older citizens look back fondly to a Lincoln of yesteryear and many would like to keep things the way they were. Cities the size of Lincoln and larger have been through these same difficult decisions and are no better off with higher taxes. Lots of cities have had to stop hundreds of social programs, and the citizens are having to bite the built and deal with it. It's terribly sad, but a reality. The Mayor and staff know

this by traveling to Mayor's conferences throughout the country. It's very shocking and disheartening. Someday, sooner than later, there will be no money for anything at all and then what will the masses do? It's a very uncertain world in which we reside. / My husband is from Atlanta and I am from Lincoln. We've lived in several other cities through the years. We currently live here to oversee my elderly parents. / There are so many other categories in Lincoln besides those listed that could easily be eliminated or cut. / / Omahans complain to the city about their terrible streets all day long. No one is moving out of Omaha.../ / Hiring personnel who knows anything about Economic Development would not need to spend \$500,000. / / My husband and I visit the Sunken Gardens, because we help with the planting. We've taken young nieces and nephews to Pioneers Park a couple of times. OK but not as great as pretty as it used to be. Other parks in town we find unattractive. No matter how much money goes to the Parks, the city will never have the staff to keep them up. Just not a priority whatsoever. / / The curb cuts for ADA regulations can be done in a matter of days. Explain to me and our citizens why this project is taking months to complete. Plus the rest of the entire block of sidewalk is being repaired and there is no need for it. / Other cities we've lived in complete street/sidewalk repair in days, not years. The citizens of larger cities just don't put up with closed streets for very long. We just don't understand why these projects seem to take forever here. / / Calls to the city regarding buildings and homes in disrepair are rarely looked into. Northeast Lincoln is ignored all the time by the city on this matter. We also have friends in the Witherbee neighborhood who call the health dept. all the time to report rats and other animals running in and out of a home and the calls are never returned or the city never inspects this property. No matter how much money the city would have for this project, it will never be a priority. / / Lincoln has had a history of wonderful Libraries. I visit Anderson Library once in a while. Glad to see students studying or visiting there after school. None of my peers, working or retired, have been to a library in the past 10 years. Right, a new and larger Library is needed downtown for more drunks and homeless people to throw up and urinate all over the indoor floors and outside shrubs--- great idea. /

- Problem Property Fund- why is the city responsible for this? Why not improve the process so that these properties can be legally taken over by the city and resold to interested developers and buyers who would be responsible for demolition etc? / / The more investment we make on infrastructure the more businesses will be attracted to Lincoln and that means we are developing NEW TAX REVENUE.
- Roads are always problem, especially in a city of 250,000+. Economic development is always a priority for any city. We need expanded broadband throughout the city in order to compete and attract additional businesses to the city. The parks are currently a disgrace. Libraries are important because they keep kids out of trouble. The sidewalks throughout the city are a mishmash of everything and in-between. CLC's also keep kids out of trouble... it probably should be rated a little higher if it was possible. Problem properties are blight in what should be decent neighborhood. My thoughts as I go from most important to least important.
- See previous comment. Problem property is a zoning / condemnation enforcement issue. Just do it. How much money does parks and rec already get? I

know it is allot. Quit asking loaded questions in these surveys with out providing the numbers. Prioritize and stop begging for more money every year. What a popularity contest. I can do without the park getting mowed. I can't get to work (to pay these emerald city taxes) if the street is broken.

- Sidewalk rehab is important, but not at city expense. Increased library funding needs to be considered very carefully because of changing reading habits and future possible reduced physical traffic to libraries - in other words, size increases may not be required.
- So much can be done from within a library or remotely. People can do research on their own economic plans, children can be involved in projects and safe
- Support for Lincoln's libraries is critical, but I am concerned about plans for historic buildings no longer used as libraries. What is Lincoln's plan for repurposing historic buildings (e.g., Pershing Auditorium)? This should be incorporated into Lincoln's economic development plans.
- The entire list includes some important points. The problem property fund would be the one to cut or not increase in my view; neighborhoods and individuals are effective at "encouraging" these property owners to get their act together. Econ. dev. and broadband upgrades are "would be nice" items that should not rank as highly in priority as libraries, parks, & CLCs. Roads/sidewalks always need work around town.
- The order chosen are with the comments from the preceding page.
- The private sector should stop taking handouts from governments.
- They all have a degree of importance. Although concrete is expensive, it's amazing what we pay at the DMV and I think there is an additional road tax at the gas pump to help cover repairs, etc. One wonders how we can still be short on funds. Fund allocation and expense control... / / It is dumbfounding to even think that another tax increase or bond is even being considered and on any table for discussion regarding the 911 Call Center and Fire Station Facilities. You've known this for some time now... / / The major portion of our tax demand - approximately 63% goes toward the schools. 60% of the DMV's motor vehicle tax goes toward the schools. It's where most of our money is going and this is the entity that should be scrutinized very closely. What a sensitive subject. It's worth repeating. What a sensitive subject. It appears nobody wants to touch it for fear of being an education basher. Our youth is our future. But who's monitoring this entity? It's also time to leave all the politics out of the equation. It's a runaway team of horses and no one is pulling back on the reins. Even salaries of all the riders from teachers to administrators should be reviewed. / / A bond was just put into place for LPS for 153 million earlier this year with no increase in taxes since bonds were coming to term and refinance of others? Finally some tax relief. No. But what a way to recapture more funds. A bond is going to be on the Nov. ballot for District 145 for 15.3 million - emotions of voters will likely pass the bond for another tax increase for some that simply cannot afford another increase. The LPS 153 M bond should have never been approved solely for LPS to spend, spend, and spend. Sure they can use the funds. They could have found a way to spend 200 M. They could have also budgeted for 125 M if we were smarter and better. It was extremely negligent for all of our State and Local Officials, Board of Ed Members and School Administrators to allow this knowing the necessity and

foresight of the 911 Call System and Fire Station dilemma. 28 M bond should have been set aside for this funding and placed on the same ballot with the LPS bond. You should all get an F for a grade on this subject and yes that includes Board of Education Members and School Administrators. It's shameful. How did it happen? Where's our leadership in the good life state of Nebraska? We're supposed to all work together smarter and better. They are separate entities but all the bills are paid by one customer - the tax payer...or over taxed payer. We've got a very serious tax issue and blunder that is only going to get worse if we don't get our act together. So when will you demand a wheel tax and a pedal tax on bicycles, tricycles and unicycles? Fix it. / /

- This drag and drop is inaccessible to users with disabilities. Ranking: Sidewalks, Economic development, broadband, roads, CLCs, Libraries, parks, bad property fund
- This section is too hard for the ordinary citizen to deal with which any competent researcher would know.
- We don't trust these glorified descriptions -- Economic development. Just a way to help friends of the mayor. None have produced "good paying jobs."
- While I put roads last, I think Lincoln needs to consider funding for what we have first, then look at expansion. If people want to live on acreages, outside of town (and pay lower property rates), they can live with gravel roads. Although there is a lot of road improvements going on, the inner city has been neglected for decades while the road rehab/resurfacing money has gone to the outskirts of town during our heavy growth periods. Not fair!
- You are building sidewalks that will never be used and lead nowhere. as on N 33rd. / / The library could be divided into two sites, one for books, at current location and a second site for additional services.



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