

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Candidate Questionnaire



Megan Stock – District 2

1. The Citizen’s Transportation Coalition recommended an increase in the local option sales tax to help finance Lincoln’s streets infrastructure needs. Are you supportive of the proposed quarter-cent sales tax increase?

I’m against it. I recognize our city needs more money for roads but I’m against this sales tax increase because it freezes real estate developers’ “impact fees” for five years. Asking citizens to step up and pay more while not asking businesses to do the same is an example of the unhealthy influence of special interest money plays in Lincoln politics.

2. The City receives approximately \$.16 of every dollar a city property owner pays in property taxes. What action would you take given the double-digit increase in proposed residential property valuations?

I would do everything in my power to make sure tax revenues are spent in ways that help build a better

Lincoln (roads, parks and trails, libraries, public transportation, schools, etc.).

3. What strategies would you pursue to keep the city affordable to live in?

We have a housing supply problem. Low supply is driving up home prices (and property tax valuations) along with rental prices. Tax Increment-Financing (TIF) subsidies to developers have been used liberally in Lincoln but they’re not providing the benefits promised. As councilwoman, I will take a careful look at the role city government is playing in the housing supply problem and I will promote common sense solutions to spur smart growth.

4. Lincoln is expected to receive additional revenue from internet sales tax collections. What should the City of Lincoln do with the additional revenues?

The revenues will help offset the shortfalls from local sales tax revenues--which have suffered as more Lincolniters make more of their purchases online.

5. What do you see as the City’s role in retaining incumbent businesses and attracting new businesses and employees?

There are two main schools of thought on retaining and attracting new businesses. Camp One: Go crazy cutting taxes and fees and shrink government to nothing and offer businesses huge handouts funded by what little revenue the community has left. This sometimes works in attracting businesses, but the damage to the community is great. Camp Two: Build a great place to live by investing in schools, wonderful parks and trails, pleasant and efficient public transportation, libraries, etc., and businesses will want to relocate to Lincoln. I am firmly in this second camp. Build a thriving Lincoln, businesses will come.

6. What will you do to drive innovation in the Lincoln community?

There are many ways government can help drive innovation. In fact, sometimes the answer is just making sure government gets out of the way. That said, one active and specific way I want to drive innovation in Lincoln is by improving education in Lincoln. An educated community is an innovative community. Lincoln needs to start moving toward universal pre-K education. Studies show that every dollar invested in pre-K education comes back to a community sevenfold--through increased worker productivity (in part, due to the stress taken off of parents), lower crime rates, and even improved health