

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Candidate Questionnaire



Taylor Wyatt – District 1

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?

Lincoln's streets need serious attention and a long-term plan to address issues. Raising the sales tax treats the symptoms of infrastructure neglect rather than addressing the underlying issues of lack of transparency and poor budget prioritization. I support the city taking steps to improve our roads, but would like to see a long-term plan implemented before committing more tax payer dollars.

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?

As I am talking to citizens in northeast Lincoln, a common theme I hear is that the city continues to increase taxes and fees without producing real results and better services for residents. The city must

first commit to being transparent with taxpayer dollars, then we can begin to look and debate "wants" against "needs". Doing this is especially important because of the proposed valuation increases. The frustration is in the raising taxes without the results in services.

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

You want people to be able to keep as much of their hard earned dollars as possible. Every budget increases dozens of fees on our citizens. We need to have serious talks about fees and not just taxes. All of these costs get passed down and result in higher costs of living.

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

New tax revenue should go to implementing a long-term plan to fund our essential services, including street maintenance. streets, police, ambulance, and fire services should be the top priorities of the city's spending. It goes back to needs and wants, we need to fund our needs. We also need to use it to our advantage and cut taxes where they are no longer needed as a result of rises or "windfalls" in other areas.

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

I have taken time to talk to investors and business owners. Many of them have expressed the importance of choosing the city that they settle and invest in. We need to be welcoming and work with them in their investment

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

I want to be welcoming to business owners and entrepreneurs. They will drive creativity and attractive jobs for our young professionals. Let's work with our city staff to ensure everything is in place to allow businesses to quickly react to a changing and challenging economy. When they want to grow and provide more jobs, we need to be ready to help them overcome obstacles.