

# Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Candidate Questionnaire



## Richard Meginnis – 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?**

Yes, I am supportive of raising the necessary funds for street maintenance and expansion. As our City continues to grow, we need to ensure that we have the necessary infrastructure so that our transportation network can sustain growth and expansion.

**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 don’t believe it is right for the City to take unnecessary advantage of the increase in property valuations. I would evaluate the Council’s and Mayor’s already approved budget for next year to see if there is any area where we could save funds on. Then adjust the mil levy down to match what is currently budgeted for accordingly.

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

I believe that it is important to create a business environment that creates jobs with livable wages and to do this the City needs to create a receptive environment for economic growth. The City also has a responsibility for managing the costs of the services that it provides so as to keep taxes manageable. The City should be a partner in making the City affordable, not a roadblock or an obstructionist to individuals who are growing the City.

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

This revenue should not be earmarked for one specific cause but should be included with the rest of the revenue received from other sources. Then the City council and mayor should work together to create a reasonable budget that will take care of the needs of our City and that will minimize the taxes that citizens will pay.

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

The City needs to work with the Lincoln Chamber, LPED, Lincoln Community Foundation and other community groups to create a city that will entice a talented workforce. New and existing organizations are dependent on the quality of their employees, to keep businesses here we need to do what is necessary to keep and attract a quality workforce in Lincoln

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

We need to think big to make sure Lincoln does not fall behind on its technology, 5g small cell will be a priority for me. Partnering with the private sector in being a leader in sustainable, affordable energy sources. The City needs to recognize that the best ideas are done organically and have the most momentum when they are championed by the individuals or private sector.