



# TAKING CHARGE 2016

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

Final Report

July 2016

With Contributions from

*Lisa M. PytlikZillig, Ph.D.*

*& Addison Fairchild, B.A.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This report presents the results of the 2016 Taking Charge initiative sponsored by the City of Lincoln. This initiative included an online survey and a half-day, face-to-face, Community Conversation. Most previous Taking Charge activities have focused more narrowly on the immediate concerns of an impending budget proposal (e.g. which specific programs should be funded or discontinued to maintain a balanced budget). This year's efforts also focused on specific items relevant to the City's *future* budget policy priorities. As usual, residents were also given the opportunity to rate the City's performance and City officials on a variety of performance characteristics.

A number of important findings were identified from an examination of more than 2,300 survey responses and the input provided by 58 participants in the Community Conversation. These findings included the following:

### *Current Priorities*

- With regard to current priorities, the survey and the Community Conversation revealed consistent support for in-home services for seniors, neighborhood snow removal, and neighborhood swimming pools as participants' top three rated and ranked priorities.
- A total of 46% of those answering the question about how to pay for services that the budget would not cover indicated the City should raise taxes. An additional 10% of respondents indicated the City should both cut other programs and raise taxes. The remainder of respondents indicated a preference for balancing the budget. About 23% indicated that preference by stating they balanced the budget during the exercise; 22% indicated wishing to cut programs other than those listed in the exercise.
- The least prioritized program, and most recommended for cutting, was parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement. The programs next in line for potential cuts were non-injury traffic accident reporting, the health information and referral call center, and one day of library service. These priorities were consistently reflected in both the survey and Community Conversation results.
- Reasons for prioritizing some programs over others included consideration of the number of persons affected by a program; how the program was perceived as affecting quality of life, safety, and the economy; and the extent to which the program served vulnerable or underserved populations.

### *Future Priorities*

- Regarding future priorities, survey respondents rated and ranked parks and recreation capital replacement and repair as most important, followed by the construction of the south beltway, followed by StarTran service expansion.

- Community Conversation participants were less enthusiastic about parks and more supportive of StarTran and the South Beltway construction future priorities. This was not because the Community Conversation elicited new views undermining support for parks. Both before and after the Community Conversation, only 15% of attendees chose parks and recreation capital replacement and repair as their top priority. It seems that there were simply fewer parks supporters at the Community Conversation than there were among survey respondents.
- There was an increase in support for the StarTran expansion over the course of the Community Conversation. Prior to the small group conversations, 32% of attendees chose StarTran as their most important future priority. After the small group conversations, 43% chose StarTran as their top priority.
- Consistently, the lowest future priority was golf capital maintenance and repair. This sentiment was expressed by both survey respondents and Community Conversation participants. When given additional options for funding golf capital needs, the preference was for options that would not use City general fund dollars (e.g., fundraising or raising of golf fees).
- Reasons for prioritizing some programs over others reflected similar values as those used to evaluate current priorities. In addition, residents considered the overall costs and benefits of programs and whether they believed other funding sources could or could not cover a given program.

### *City Performance Ratings*

- The City had seen a measurable increase in its performance ratings between 2012 and 2015, according to volunteer (non-random) survey respondents. This increase continued between 2015-2016. This year's survey was not a random-sample survey and cannot be generalized to Lincoln as a whole. The observed increase in positive perceptions could be due to more persons with positive attitudes toward City government visiting the survey each year, or to improvements in public perceptions, or to some combination of both factors.
- Open-ended comments about City performance suggested that people have differing opinions about the Mayor's office, the City Council, and City employees. Comments also quite frequently mentioned roads and the need for specific improvements. While most of the comments mentioning taxes were made in order to express disapproval of raising taxes, some comments argued for taxes in order to cover valued services.
- The City has consistently been rated lowest with regards to fair treatment of all areas of town. Open-ended comments reflecting feelings about fairness indicated that a number of people feel that more wealthy neighborhoods are treated with favoritism and receive more or better services. Others commented that neighborhoods affected by certain decisions need to have say in those decisions.

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The success of the Taking Charge effort 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. This year, Leadership Lincoln partnered with the City to publicize and encourage participation in the Taking Charge activities. In addition to funding from the City of Lincoln, in-kind and service donations were provided by The Mediation Center ([www.themediationcenter.org](http://www.themediationcenter.org)), the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Communication Studies ([www.unl.edu/cs](http://www.unl.edu/cs)), and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (<http://ppc.nebraska.edu>).

Compiling the background documents for both the online survey and the Community Conversation would not have been possible without the aid of numerous City employees and department heads. Also, a big thank you goes to Nancy Shank of the Public Policy Center for moderating this year's Community Conversation. We also express our deep gratitude to the many individuals who offered their efforts to ensure the Community Conversation was a success by managing the event and moderating discussions: Kathryn Bellman, Kristen Blankley, Becky Carter, Kristen Everhart, Addison Fairchild, Stacey Hoffman, Marcia Little, Shannon Palmer, Angela Palmer-Wackerly, Kaitlin Phillips, Bryan Seck, Richard Sievers, Kate Speck, and the many members of the City staff who helped plan and set up the event. Special thanks also to those members of the City Government who served as experts and fielded participant questions at the Community Conversation.

The most important thanks go to the 2,300+ residents of Lincoln, Nebraska who took their time and put forth their effort to think through the difficult choices facing City administrators, including those 58 who also came to discuss priorities with their peers and City officials. Your willingness to learn more about the City's goals, priorities, programs and performance, and to give both your recommendations and reasons for your choices, is key to keeping democracy alive and Lincoln thriving.

## BACKGROUND

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### ♦ 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 2016 survey from May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The initiative also included a face-to-face Community Conversation concerning Current City programs and future potential investments, held on June 18<sup>th</sup>. 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, and the analyses applied to the data gathered. The intended audiences of the report are the Lincoln government officials who requested the information for consideration as they developed the 2016-18 budget, 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 services<sup>1</sup> can be directed to [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov). Feedback, questions and comments pertaining to the study design, procedures, and analyses in this report can be sent to Lisa PytlikZillig at [lpytlikz@nebraska.edu](mailto:lpytlikz@nebraska.edu).

### ♦ BUDGETING FOR OUTCOMES: FROM PRIORITY LINCOLN TO TAKING CHARGE 2016

Taking Charge 2016 is one of many public engagement initiatives 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, a nonrandom online survey, town hall meetings, a deliberative discussion involving over 50 residents and City officials, and a focus group.

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<sup>1</sup>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>.

Since the effort in 2008, the City has convened a series of additional surveys (using random and nonrandom sampling, depending on the year) and online and face-to-face discussions about the budget in order to stay in touch with Lincoln residents' interests and priorities (see reports linked to project pages at <http://ppc.unl.edu/projects/taking-charge-2016/>). These efforts have included measuring community attitudes toward various performance measures designed to guide City budget decisions (2009), assessing public satisfaction with services (2010, 2012, 2015), discussion of issues related specifically to the Safety and Security and Efficient Transportation outcome areas (2013, 2014), as well as continued discussion of budgeting priorities. Many of the reports of these activities are also available on the City's website (<http://lincoln.ne.gov/City/mayor/takingcharge/>).

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## TAKING CHARGE 2016

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### ♦ THE 2016 FISCAL ENVIRONMENT

The Beutler Administration is expected to be engaged in City budgeting processes through late August (Hicks, 2016b). This budget season, the City of Lincoln is facing a budget gap of around \$3.5 million, as tax revenues from a telecommunications tax have declined, and the cost of the police-fire pension plan has risen and is continuing to rise. Currently, property taxes remain the major source of funding and have stayed relatively stagnant, and sales taxes are behind forecasts for the year. The current budget has sparked some controversy, particularly over replacing the Bennett Martin Library and funding the City golf program (Hicks, 2016a). Additional controversy arose around the role of City Council in budgeting process, as Council members sought to have greater information and influence over the budget earlier in the process (Hicks, 2016b).

### ♦ PUBLIC PARTICIPATION METHODS

#### *Online and Paper Surveys*

As part of Taking Charge 2016, residents were given the opportunity to complete an online survey concerning the City's current and future budgeting priorities, as well as City performance overall. A shorter version of the online survey was also made available on paper and then included as a newspaper insert.<sup>2</sup> Paper versions were also distributed

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<sup>2</sup> There was an error in the short version of the survey printed as a newspaper insert in that it included a current priorities program that should not have been included. The error was fixed for the paper surveys distributed to libraries, affected less than .05% of the responses, and did not significantly impact the results or conclusions of this report.

to local libraries. Persons completing a paper version of the survey could mail their responses or drop them off at City Hall. Public Policy Center staff were responsible for data entry and analysis of paper (and online) surveys.

The online survey was open from May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, available via a link on the front page of the City's website and accompanied by downloadable information relevant to survey program choices. In addition, press releases and media publicity directed residents to the websites linking to the survey. The Taking Charge 2016 online survey was accessed 2,556 times, with 2,223 of those accesses resulting in responses to one or more of the survey sections.<sup>3</sup> In addition, 100 persons completed the shorter version of the survey on paper. Paper survey respondents were only presented with a subset of questions; these questions pertained to current and future City priorities and not City performance. All total, 2,180 respondents completed one or more questions about current City priorities, 1,637 about future City priorities, and 1,491 about City performance.

### ***Community Conversation***

Survey participants also were invited to attend a face-to-face Community Conversation at City Hall.<sup>4</sup> This event was held on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and featured a number of City administrators and community stakeholders discussing current and future priorities. A total of 58 Lincoln residents attended this event.<sup>5</sup> At the beginning of the event, participants were provided with printed information about the programs under discussion (the same information as was on the online survey) and a printed list of all City programs in priority order. In addition, the Mayor presented information about Lincoln's current fiscal situation, and Dr. Eric Thompson, an economics professor from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, discussed the effects of even small tax increases on the economy. After participants were given a chance to ask the Mayor and Dr. Thompson questions, participants split into small groups to discuss their views about current and future priorities with other residents. Each group was moderated by a facilitator from UNL's Department of Communication or The Mediation Center. City officials circulated to answer questions as they arose in the small groups. In a final large

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<sup>3</sup> As noted later, online survey participants could complete questions about current priorities and/or future priorities and/or City performance. Also, some respondents may have accessed the survey primarily out of interest or to obtain the informational materials, and did not complete any survey questions.

<sup>4</sup> A list of media coverage of the Taking Charge 2016 activities and events can be found at the Public Policy Center project page, <http://ppc.unl.edu/projects/taking-charge-2016/>. Shortly after the 2016 survey was opened, the Lincoln Journal Star also printed an insert that included a subset of the survey questions, and invited residents to either go online to complete the full survey, or to complete the paper questions and send them to the City. The responses submitted on paper have been included in the results presented here.

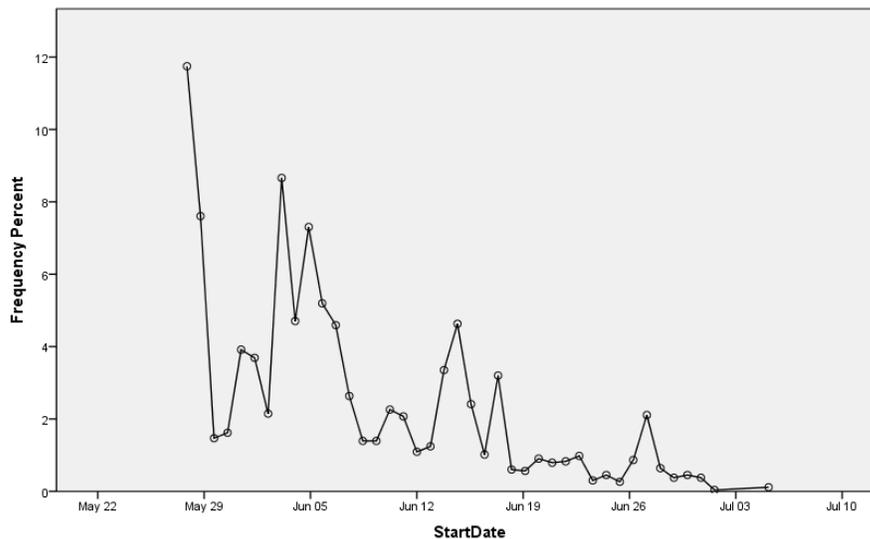
<sup>5</sup> Video from the Community Conversation events will be available at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/takingcharge/>.

group forum, groups reported their conclusions drawn from their discussions and the Mayor and City officials were given a chance to ask questions of the residents.

### ◆ SURVEY TIMELINE

A timeline of the number of survey responses received by day of the survey is shown in Figure 1. The peak of survey participation was during the first two days of the survey being open. Survey accesses showed a variable but decreasing trend thereafter, trailing off until the close of the survey.<sup>6</sup> The variable rises in participation that were seen throughout the time that the survey was open were likely due to publicity events, news coverage, or visits that City staff made to community and interest groups in order to tell them about the survey.

**Figure 1: Percent of Survey Accesses by Date of Survey**



### ◆ DEMOGRAPHICS & DATA REPRESENTATIVENESS

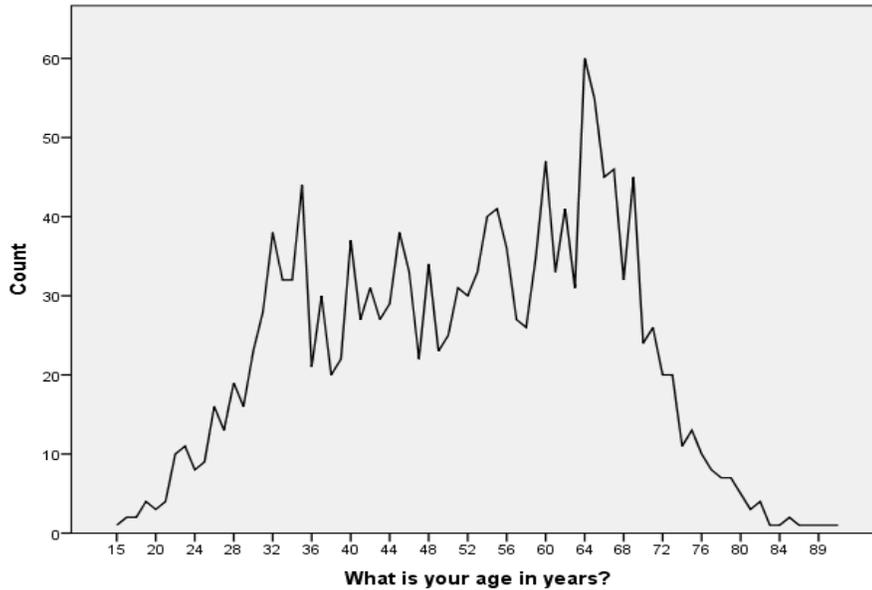
The last questions on the survey asked respondents to report a few demographics. The average age of the sample was 52 years old (with a standard deviation of 15 years). Figure 2 shows the age distribution of the sample reporting age. Table 1 summarizes other demographics obtained from the online survey, and compares survey distributions to the Lincoln Population (as recorded in the 2010 census) when possible. As shown, the

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<sup>6</sup> Note: Any surveys recorded as entered after June 30 were paper surveys that were received prior to June 30 but then hand entered during the week after the survey was closed.

sample of survey respondents tended to over-represent white, female, highly educated residents.

**Figure 2: Age Distribution of Survey Respondents Reporting their Age**



**Table 1: Sample Demographics**

Demographics	Survey %	Lincoln Pop. %	Demographics	Survey %
<b>Gender</b>			<b>Education</b>	
Male	47	50	Some high school	.1
Female	53	50	High school diploma	4.3
<b>Ethnicity/Race</b>			Some college, no degree	13.6
Hispanic	1.8	6.3	Two year or technical degree	9.8
White	95.4	86.0	Bachelor's degree	29.7
Black	0.7	3.8	Some graduate school	12.2
Asian	0.7	3.8	Advanced degree	30.3
Native American /Alaskan	0.9	0.8		
Other	3.3	3.1		

Notes. Survey n reporting demographics = 1,631-1,685. Participants were requested but not required to give their demographic information when participating in the survey. The percentages reported here are out of the total persons completing any given one of the demographics questions.

Examination of self-reported political ideology (n = 1477) suggested the sample leaned liberal in their views of social issues (55.7% liberal, 15.3% centrist, 35.5% conservative), but leaned conservative in the views of economic issues (33.5% liberal, 20.4% centrist, 46.1% conservative).

## CURRENT SPENDING PRIORITIES

### ◆ SURVEY RESULTS

***Ratings and Rankings.*** The current spending priorities of Taking Charge participants are listed in Table 2. Participants were asked two different types of questions about current funding priorities. First, they were asked to imagine they had \$500,000 that they could spend on programs while still balancing the City budget. Given that constraint, they were asked to indicate how strongly they felt the City should fund or not fund a given program.<sup>7</sup> After indicating their preferences, participants received feedback on the potential impacts of their choices. Specifically, they were told the total cost of all of the programs they felt “somewhat” or “strongly” should be funded, and how this cost could impact property taxes. After seeing this feedback, residents were able to go back to revisit their spending choices. They could revisit their choices and see new feedback as many times as they wanted until they were satisfied. Second, survey participants were asked to rank order each program in terms of their relative importance (with a ranking of 1 indicating “Most important” and a ranking of 8 indicating “Least important”).

**Table 2: Current Spending Priorities: Average Ratings and Rankings for Eight City Services**

Current Priority	N	Mean Rating	Rating Std. Deviation	Mean Ranking	Ranking Std. Deviation
Parking and Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement (\$250,000)	2105	1.36	1.29	5.93	1.96
One Day of Library Service (\$370,000)	2124	1.71	1.60	<b>4.82</b>	2.33
Health Information and Referral Call Center (\$250,000)	2100	1.76	1.44	5.00	2.15
Non-injury Traffic Accident Reporting (\$255,000)	2103	1.91	1.41	<b>5.14</b>	2.13
Pioneers Park Nature Center (\$220,000)	2127	2.55	1.48	4.22	2.26
Neighborhood Snow Removal (\$315,000)	2116	2.58	1.44	3.52	2.20
In-Home Services for Seniors (\$130,000)	2124	2.63	1.34	<b>3.68</b>	2.07
Neighborhood Swimming Pools (\$160,000)	2130	2.83	1.34	<b>3.70</b>	2.04

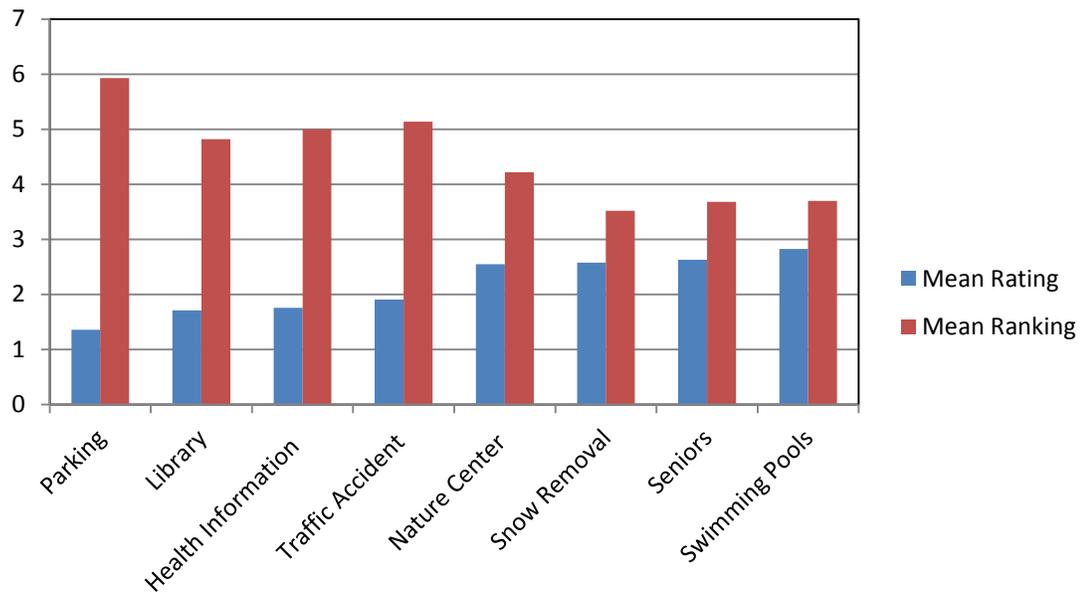
*Notes.* Ratings could vary from 0 (strongly feel do NOT fund) to 4 (strongly feel DO fund). Rankings are from 1 (most important to fund) to 8 (least important to fund). Listed n is for each rating question; n for ranking question = 1877. Bolded red text indicates rankings that differed in order determined by ratings.

Table 2 and Figure 3 report the final averaged recommendations of all participants. An examination of these recommendations reveals that respondents felt the most important programs were snow removal, in-home services for seniors, and

<sup>7</sup> Response options ranged from “Strongly feel: Do NOT fund” (coded as “0”) “Somewhat feel: Do NOT fund” (coded as “1”) “Neutral/unsure” (coded as “2”) “Somewhat feel: DO fund” (coded as “3”) to “Strongly feel: DO fund” (coded as “4”).

neighborhood swimming pools. Although the order of these programs differed somewhat dependent upon whether rankings or ratings were examined, in either case, these fell into the “top 3” programs. The program rated and ranked fourth in importance was Pioneers Park Nature Center. The programs rated and ranked fifth through seventh, again with precise order varying somewhat depending on whether one looks at ratings versus rankings, were library services, health information and referral call center, and non-injury traffic accident reporting. Finally, the least important program, according to ratings and rankings, was parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement.

**Figure 3: Visualization of Table 2 “Current Spending Priorities: Average Ratings and Rankings for Eight City Services”**



Notes. Ratings could vary from 0 (strongly feel do NOT fund) to 4 (strongly feel DO fund). Rankings are from 1 (most important to fund) to 8 (least important to fund).

**How to Pay for Programs.** A total of 2,177 persons chose to express funding preferences for one or more of the listed current City programs. The average cost of all programs chosen to fund across these 2,177 persons was \$882,485 (standard deviation = \$454,079). Because the exercise instructions had noted that the simulation budget would cover only \$500,000 worth of programs, respondents were asked to indicate how they felt programs should be paid for if they went over budget. Table 3 provides the distribution of responses for the options given. As shown, the respondents indicated a strong preference for raising taxes rather than cutting other City programs or cutting other programs and raising taxes.

**Table 3: Response to feedback about the cost of their program choices: “In light of the total costs of your choices above, what would you like to do?”**

Choices	Frequency	Percent
Nothing, I've balanced the budget!	449	22.7
Cut other City programs	434	22.0
Raise taxes	900	45.6
Cut some other City programs, AND raise taxes	192	9.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes.* Not all persons indicating that they had balanced the budget actually had done so. A total of 9.7% of those spending \$600,000 or more on programs within the exercise nonetheless indicated that they had balanced the budget.

*Open-ended Comments.* The survey also provided opportunities for respondents to offer open-ended explanations and opinions about current priorities. These comments are listed verbatim in Appendix A to allow City officials and the Public full and easy access, and to encourage further discussion and evaluation of the various viewpoints expressed.<sup>8</sup> These comments also help to illustrate some of the reasons people had for giving their ratings and rankings.

Respondents offered 345 comments about current program priorities. Comments about some of the programs, such as in-home services for seniors, neighborhood snow removal, and the Pioneers Park Nature Center, largely argued the programs should not lose funding. Related to in-home services for seniors, comments indicated the programs are of great value to seniors, particularly those with lower income. For example, one person wrote:

- *“It seems like many of the programs to support people in poverty or low-income are listed as low priority. Seniors (low-income) are already on a downward slide.”*

A number of comments expressed that snow removal was essential to safety and helping people get to work. Example comments included:

- *“Snow removal provides safety and less chance for injuries not to mention people have to get to work.”*
- *“If people can’t get to work, revenue falls and taxes suffer.”*

Such comments sometimes indicated that snow removal services were in need of improvement rather than suffering budget cuts. However, others felt that snow removal

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<sup>8</sup> Comments in Appendix A were read and edited only to remove personal identities from the public report (e.g., such as when someone signed their name or gave their exact address within their comment). Comments printed here, in the main body of the report, were sometimes edited to correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar in order to improve readability.

was so poor that cutting services wouldn't seem significant, or that options for improvement could be administered prior to snow storms:

- *“Snow removal in Lincoln is a joke. Why should citizens of Lincoln pay more for a terrible service?”*
- *“I wonder what difference in cost there is to do pre-salting (or the beet mixture) versus post-snow removal. Maybe there's a way to do my proposed changes if instead of focusing on snow removal, the neighborhood streets got more attention with the preventative measures.”*

Numerous comments indicated that the Pioneers Park Nature Center was an important asset to the City of Lincoln. For example, one comment stated:

- *“Pioneers Park and the Nature Centers are crowning jewels in Lincoln that provide wildlife and habitat education that many people receive nowhere else.”*

Some people did feel, however, that the Nature Center could potentially be funded privately:

- *“Why not hold more community fundraising for public places such as ... Pioneers Park?”*

Comments toward other programs, such as neighborhood swimming pools and one day of library service, reflected mixed opinions regarding continued funding. Some people felt that pools are important:

- *“Public swimming pools need to be kept. Kids need to learn to swim and it gives them something to do to keep them out of trouble.”*
- *“We need to keep neighborhood pools open so all children can have a safe place to play, meet other peers and strengthen neighborhood relationships.”*

Others were less positive or felt that pools should be privatized or that there were other options for providing pools or pools funding:

- *“Swimming pools at high schools could be utilized throughout the year. YMCA also has pools that could be offered to neighborhood kids at a summer fee-reduced.”*
- *“Charge a fee for the use of ... swimming [pools] or increase the fee.”*

Comments about cutting one day of library service included comments arguing against such cuts, with numerous people suggesting different ways to cut service without causing a service gap for an entire day:

- *“Cutting free library services that serve many in poverty is not a good idea. Many depend on the library for their family education, entertainment, and computer needs.”*
- *“It seems more sensible to close one third of the branches on Friday, one third on Wednesday and one-third on Monday.”*

However, others expressed feeling that libraries were less important:

- *“Stop spending our money on ... libraries. No one reads books. The digital age hit almost a decade ago. Libraries are like buggy whips, a great idea that has passed.”*

Finally, comments tended to lean towards not funding the health information and referral call center, the parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement program, and the non-injury traffic accident reports. People indicated believing that there were other ways to obtain the information the referral call center provides:

- *“Information on health insurance and referrals is available through the state insurance department. And medical information is available through state and federal programs.”*

Consistent with the quantitative survey results, people’s comments indicated they felt relatively okay with cutting funding to parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement:

- *“I would decrease funding for the parking/abandoned vehicle enforcement but would add the option that police deal with a vehicle in cases where vehicles block the street or pose a safety hazard OR when a complaint is filed by a local resident.”*

Relating to non-injury traffic accident reporting, people also posed a number of questions that they wished to be answered before making up their minds:

- *“If the police do not investigate them, then how would they know to write a DUI (if not present) or see that a driver has no valid driver’s license?”*
- *“Could we not build in a fee to access the LPD report?”*

Residents who felt the City should be cutting programs that were not listed on the survey were given an opportunity to list other programs that they would prefer to cut and why they would like to cut them, and given a link to the City’s full list of programs.<sup>9</sup> As shown in Appendix A, a total of 323 respondents listed programs that they felt could be cut. A total of 266 respondents offered reasons why their listed programs should be cut. These suggestions were widely ranging – from suggesting that the City cut its staff; to cutting funds for art, community activities (e.g., Lincoln’s Fourth of July celebration, Lincoln Marathon), police, StarTran; to suggesting wide-ranging cross program cuts. When offering reasons why various programs could or should be cut, respondents often indicated they were concerned about wasteful spending and inefficiencies, did not want the City to support programs that were unnecessary, and felt that some programs were outside of City responsibilities or were for things that individuals should be paying for themselves. Others indicated feeling that some of the other programs were less important than those listed on the survey.

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<sup>9</sup>Available at: [www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/takingcharge/program-prioritization.htm](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/takingcharge/program-prioritization.htm)

## ◆ COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

*PollEverywhere Voting.* Community Conversation participants were offered a variety of ways to give their input regarding the most and least important programs. First, they were given the opportunity to “vote” on their most and least important programs before and after they had conversations with other Community Conversation participants. Using the PollEverywhere platform (polleverywhere.com), participants could vote by phone (texting their choice to a number designated for that purpose) or from a web browser (e.g., on a tablet, laptop, or smartphone). Furthermore, data coming from the same device could be matched anonymously to examine if and how individuals changed their minds over the course of the conversation. Paper copies of the pre and post questions were provided to persons not wishing or able to use a device to vote. Paper copies were not matched by individual, but are included in the final summary in Table 4.

**Table 4: Choice of Most Important Current Priority Before and After the Community Conversation**

Current Priority	Pre-Conversations		Post-Conversations	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Parking and Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement	1	1.6	0	0
Non-injury Traffic Accident Reporting	4	6.3	0	0
Health Information and Referral Call Center	10	15.6	3	5.3
Pioneers Park Nature Center	8	12.5	5	8.8
One Day of Library Services	11	17.2	8	14.0
Neighborhood Swimming Pools*	9	14.1	9	15.8
Neighborhood Snow Removal*	9	14.1	13	22.8
In-home Services for Seniors*	12	18.8	19	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes.* \*Starred programs were those found to be most important during the larger-scale survey. Green shading indicates increases in the percentage of a given “most important” choice from pre to post based on overall counts.

As shown in Tables 4 and 5, participants tended to converge on the importance of the same three programs identified as important in the survey results (in-home services for seniors, snow removal, and neighborhood pools). Examination of the 35 cases in which we were able to match the pre-post data (i.e., because participants used PollEverywhere instead of paper) revealed somewhat greater numbers of people who did not change their minds on these three important programs from pre-to-post, compared to other programs. In addition, there were greater numbers of persons who changed their minds and chose these three important programs rather than sticking with their original other program choice made prior to the small group conversations. This suggests that additional conversations and information creates change *toward* support for those

programs identified as important in the survey, rather than away from support. This is important because it supports the likelihood of people still preferring these three programs, even when they are provided with more information and exposed to the alternative perspectives of their peers.

**Table 5: Individual Changes in Most Important Current Priority Before and After the Community Conversation**

Post-Conversation	Pre-Conversation							Post-Totals
	Health Information and Referral Call Center	In-home Services for Seniors	Neighbrhd Snow Removal	Neighbrhd Swimming Pools	Non-injury Traffic Accident Reporting	One Day of Library Services	Pioneers Park Nature Center	
Health Information and Referral Call Center	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
In-home Services for Seniors*	3	4	0	1	0	2	0	10
Neighborhood Snow Removal*	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	11
Neighborhood Swimming Pools*	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	5
Non-injury Traffic Accident Reporting	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
One Day of Library Services	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	4
Pioneers Park Nature Center	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Pre-Totals	6	6	5	5	2	6	5	35

Notes. \*Starred programs were those found to be most important during the larger-scale survey.

**Group Forms.** Participants in the Community Conversation also had two other means for providing their views to the City. Each small group completed a group report form regarding their group’s ranked importance of programs. Each individual could also complete an individual report form to express their own views, including potentially expressing dissent with their group’s decisions. Half of the groups started by discussing current priorities, and half of the groups started by discussing future priorities. This was to ensure that at least some groups focused on each topic, should time be too short to thoroughly discuss both topics.

Seven of the ten small groups completed part or all of the current priorities group form. As shown in Table 6 (left section of table), group results provide converging evidence that, at the group level too, parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement was ranked as the lowest priority. Meanwhile in-home services for seniors were ranked as the top priority on average, followed by neighborhood swimming pools.

**Table 6: Group-level and Individual-level Current Priorities Rankings and Choices During the Community Conversation**

Program	Groups			Individuals		
	Average Ranking	<i>n</i> explicitly ranking	<i>n</i> saying "YES fund"	Average Ranking	<i>n</i> explicitly ranking	<i>n</i> saying "YES fund"
Parking and Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement	7.7	6	0	7.0	36	3
Non-injury Traffic Accident Reporting	7.2	5	0	6.0	37	2
Health Information and Referral Call Center	4.3	4	1	4.5	37	13
Pioneers Park Nature Center	3.3	4	2	4.1	36	18
One Day of Library Services	4.6	5	1	4.2	37	12
Neighborhood Swimming Pools*	3.2	6	3	3.5	37	23
Neighborhood Snow Removal*	3.7	6	2	3.7	36	20
In-home Services for Seniors*	2.2	6	3	2.7	38	23

*Notes.* Number of groups is out of 10 total possible; number of individuals is out of 58 total possible.

**Individual Forms.** A second way that Community Conversation Participants could provide input was through individual forms. Individual group members were encouraged to complete an individual form whenever they felt the group forms were not fully reflecting their views. These forms allowed people to submit rankings and funding choices and reasons that may have differed from their group’s overall views and rankings.

A total of 42 persons turned in an individual form, although some had only completed the demographics portion. The average rating of agreement with one’s group report was 3.71 (Standard Deviation = .85; 1 = not at all, 2 = only slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very much but not completely, 5 = completely) across 28 persons reporting their agreement.

As shown in the right hand columns of Table 6, individual rankings of most and least important programs provided converging evidence of these programs. However, these results (from individuals and groups) provided evidence of a slight preference for prioritizing pools as more important than snow removal, and pioneers park funding as more important than one day of library services. Thus, although people’s opinions appeared to converge on the most and least important programs, there was more disagreement on the importance of mid-ranked programs.

**Open-Ended Responses.** Finally, as was the case for the online survey, participants (groups and individuals) in the Community Conversation were encouraged to write open-ended comments and explanations and to list the pros and cons of various funding decisions. These comments are listed in Appendix B. Regarding the pros and cons and reasons for various choices, respondents noted the importance of safety, quality of life, of keeping kids busy during the summer, the many benefits of removing snow and facilitating transportation, and considerations of numbers of people and geographical

locations impacted by different choices. Conversation participants also noted that some services seemed to duplicate other services – e.g., the health information call center program – and therefore seemed less necessary. Regarding how the City should pay for services not covered by the budget comments tended to refer to raising of taxes, making other program cuts, increasing fees, and other ideas, such as grant applications and fund raising.

## FUTURE SPENDING PRIORITIES

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### ◆ SURVEY RESULTS

**Ratings and Rankings.** Survey respondents’ average ratings and rankings of future priorities are listed in Table 7. Again, participants were asked to rate the extent to which they felt each priority should be funded, with options ranging from 0 (strongly feel: do NOT fund) to 4 (strongly feel: DO fund). Second, they were asked to rank order the future priorities from most important (1) to least important (5). As shown in Table 4, both the ratings and ranking information provided the same results about respondent preferences. Funding for golf capital replacement and repair was viewed as least important, and parks capital replacement and repair as most important followed by construction of a south beltway.

**Table 7: Future Spending Priorities: Average Ratings and Rankings for Five Potential Priorities**

Future Priority	n	Mean Rating	Rating Std. Deviation	Mean Ranking	Ranking Std. Deviation
Golf Capital Replacement & Repair, \$400,000 per year	1618	1.39	1.42	4.07	1.29
Bennett Martin Library Replacement and Branch Library Repair, \$3.8 million per year	1605	2.26	1.56	3.04	1.36
StarTran Service Expansion, \$1.4 million per year	1595	2.42	1.40	2.88	1.29
South Beltway Construction, \$1.5 million per year	1603	2.76	1.33	2.54	1.45
Parks and Recreation Capital Replacement & Repair, \$1.3 million per year	1594	2.90	1.14	2.47	1.04

Notes. Ratings could vary from 0 (strongly feel do NOT fund) to 4 (strongly feel DO fund). Rankings are from 1 (most important to fund) to 5 (least important to fund). Listed n is for each rating question; n for ranking question = 1449. No rankings differed in order from that determined by ratings.

**Golf.** Given current discussions around the state of the City’s golf program (e.g., Hambleton, 2015), the survey also asked respondents to indicate their preferences for different options for meeting golf program needs. As shown in Table 8, options that involved using City general funds received lower ratings than options that would not use City funds.

**Table 8: Preferences for Supporting Golf**

Golf Funding Option	n	Mean	Std. Deviation
Use the City's General Fund to support the Jim Ager Golf Course (\$400,000 per year)	1493	2.41	1.37
Use certain specific General Fund dollars (from keno) to support the golf fund (\$400,000 per year)	1503	2.70	1.52
Increase green fees (do not use money from the City's General Fund)	1602	3.74	1.35
Engage in fundraising (do not use money from the City's general fund)	1590	3.84	1.19

Note: Ratings varied from 1 (strongly dislike option) to 5 (strongly like option).

*Open-ended Comments.* Survey respondents offered 242 comments about the City's future priorities (see Appendix A). Comments tended to be mixed, with positive and negative opinions offered about each program.

With regard to funding golf, a number of comments indicated golf should be self-supporting, and should not be funded with public dollars. A number of people also noted that golf affects a relatively small population. Others felt that the City golf courses should be sold to private ownership or only funded when serving the youth. Examples of these comments include the following:

- *“Golf is for rich people. It's ok for the City to fund some golf for youths, but there should be a much higher emphasis placed on maintaining park spaces that everyone can use...”*
- *“While I am a golfer, we only represent about 10% of the US population age 5 and older. We should be paying for the courses. The exception would be Jim Ager, as it provides a recreation and sport for Lincoln's youth to participate.”*

Others felt that golf courses are a valuable asset in Lincoln that should be maintained by the City. For example, one person wrote:

- *“It is time that the City steps up and supports the Golf Program. This program has brought in millions of dollars to the City of Lincoln and businesses through the years.”*

For those who believed that the golf courses should continue to be funded, some commented on what they felt are the high costs of using the public course:

- *“The City's golf situation is sad. I've already stopped playing the City courses as often due to the high green fees.”*

Regarding libraries, many agreed that the libraries have value and it is important to keep a central downtown library. Examples of such comments include the following:

- *“The library is the single most important City function.”*

- *“The bus system and Bennett Martin are the most important areas to fund on this page because of their importance to low-income people...it's also an important place for people who are homeless to stay warm during the winter. If the library was in better condition [it would] encourage other people to also go downtown to the library.”*
- *“Lincoln should have very top quality library with all the advantages available. Also have plenty of space for the future. Don't skimp on our central and largest library!”*

Comments about renovating the current Bennett Martin Library, however, were more divided. Example comments include the following:

- *“Keep Bennett Martin where it is. Concentrate more on neighborhood libraries. People I know tend to go to neighborhood libraries and don't go to Bennett Martin.”*
- *“I would support funding for repairs that are needed on the library branches. I do not support building a new downtown library at Pershing Center. The Bennett Martin plan is still stuck in an old way of thinking about libraries, brick and mortar, vs. web and other electronic access. This should be the focus, while downsizing the actual physical size of the library.”*
- *“The library is so important to our community. I would rather see BM [Bennett Martin] move to a new place OR a ‘recycled’ building like Pershing.”*

Expansion of the StarTran bus system had support, but with some questions. Some stated that the expansion was a necessity, or were conditionally supportive:

- *“People need transportation, but don't need some of these other items.”*
- *“StarTran should only receive increased funding if the system is reinvented to meet the real needs of the new generation, not just focus on the urban poor. Late night service, more logical routing, intermodal nodes.”*

Some were unsure of the usefulness of the expansion, however, due to perceptions of current low use of StarTran. A number of people suggested StarTran have some smaller vehicles to use, at least for routes that fewer people ride:

- *“It seems like the buses are mostly empty whenever I see one. Would it be cheaper to have smaller units?”*
- *“Smaller buses serving more areas seem like a sensible plan to me. Use larger buses at peak times, send out smaller buses for the rest.”*
- *“...the only time I see a bus with more than six people on it is a home Saturday football game. I grow tired of funding huge buses that benefits so few.”*

Others noted that improving StarTran will also increase its use, as well as improving other aspects of Lincoln:

- *“If buses were kept clean and in good repair as well as more buses, routes, etc. you would save on downtown parking issues and emissions.”*
- *“Easier more extensive bus systems would also allow poor/middle income people to afford to travel to Lincoln's business centers.”*

Comments about the South Beltway were largely supportive, as the following exemplars illustrate:

- *“A Lincoln belt way is long overdue. Cities of similar size and layout (Wichita, KS) have beltways. Increased travel time and congestion result in lower realized profits for consumers and local business owners.”*
- *“South Beltway is critical to safety. We've had semi-trucks driving through the heart of Lincoln for way too long now. Get it done ASAP!”*
- *“The beltway is an overdue investment that will actually help pay for itself with income generated by new housing (taxes), and reduced wear on City streets from semis/heavy loaded vehicles, especially downtown Lincoln.”*

Others, however, questioned whether the beltway would meet Lincoln's needs:

- *“I would like to see options to get to south from north or to north from south in 10-15 minutes instead of the 20-35 minutes it takes depending on the day. The south beltway does not do that, only providing easy access and lower accidents to those who use highway.”*
- *“Beltways are always temporary fixes - a response to suburban development going unchecked; I don't want to live in a city where one beltway gives way in a few years to the need for another, and another. etc. Look to other cities & you see exactly this. Instead, make a commitment to lessening residents' need for commuting by car.”*
- *“I am unclear about the economic impact of routing traffic around Lincoln with the south beltway. Seems to me that adding a lane to Hwy 2 might be better because people would stop to use the restaurants, stores, etc.”*

Finally, some respondents offered suggestions of how to further fund a beltway:

- *“Create a toll at each entrance of beltway to help with costs reimbursement and future maintenance.”*

Those who supported funding Parks and Recreation funding noted that many of the parks are currently in poor condition, and need to be fixed because parks are important to tourism and bringing new citizens:

- *“The parks absolutely need to be brought back into repair.”*
- *“The looks of City parks, golf courses, and other public areas are essential in attracting tourism and keeping or brining new families and citizens.”*
- *“Our parks are a community gem and mean a lot to neighborhood families but many sit unused as the landscapes become more and more neglected while the City spends time and energy on fancy new projects - take care of what we have!!!!”*

However, like each of the other potential priorities, there were also those that felt that greater investment in the parks would waste money, or is not the purview of the City:

- *“Stop spending our tax money on frivolous niceties. Parks should be privately funded, or not exist.”*
- *“Do not pour any more money into Parks and Wreck until they get their act together. What a disgrace our parks are. You cannot whine about not having enough money when you make an outrageous salary and have plenty of money to rip out trees and bushes in our ‘parks.’”*
- *“I believe that Lincoln invests way too much in its parks...”*

#### ♦ COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

***PollEverywhere Voting.*** Community Conversation participants also were able to “vote” on the most and least important future priorities before and after they met in small groups with other participants. Again, we used the PollEverywhere (polleverywhere.com) platform for this purpose, but those wishing to could vote on paper instead. As shown in Table 9, at the beginning of the day, prior to the Community Conversations, there was a slight preference for respondents to prefer the South Beltway project over the StarTran expansion as their most favored future priority. By the end of the conversations, however, there was a stronger preference for the StarTran expansion among respondents. These results are a bit inconsistent with the results from the larger volunteer survey, which indicated a preference first for Parks and Recreation future priorities, second for the South Beltway, and third for StarTran. Because people at the Community Conversation showed a lower preference for funding Parks and Recreation needs even prior to the conversations, that result likely indicates that Community Conversation participants simply differed from the survey participants. However, the South Beltway and StarTran results could indicate that once people are offered the opportunity to discuss the issues with others and to gain more information, they tend to change their minds to value the StarTran expansion more than the South Beltway construction. Indeed, an examination of those pre/post answers that could be matched indicated that three persons favoring the South Beltway at pre, changed their mind to choose the StarTran priority at post. However, only one person preferring the StarTran priority at pre changed his/her mind to favor the South Beltway at post (see Table 10).

**Table 9: Choice of Most Important Future Priority Before and After the Community Conversation**

Future Priority	Pre-Conversations		Post-Conversations	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Golf Capital Replacement & Repair, \$400,000 per year	0	0	0	0
Bennett Martin Library Replacement and Branch Library Repair, \$3.8 million per year	12	18.2	8	14.8
StarTran Service Expansion, \$1.4 million per year	21	31.8	23	42.6
*South Beltway Construction, \$1.5 million per year	23	34.8	15	27.8
*Parks and Recreation Capital Replacement & Repair, \$1.3 million per year	10	15.2	8	14.8
Total	66	100	54	100

Notes. \*Starred programs were those found to be the two most important during the larger-scale survey. Green shading indicates increases in the percentage of a given “most important” choice from pre to post based on overall counts.

**Table 10: Individual Changes in Most Important Future Priority Before and After the Community Conversation**

Post-Conversation	Pre-Conversation				Post-totals
	Bennett Martin etc.	Parks and Recreation	South Beltway	StarTran Expansion	
Bennett Martin Library Replacement and Branch Library Repair	4	0	1	0	5
Parks and Recreation Capital Replacement and Repair*	1	4	0	0	5
South Beltway Construction*	1	0	9	1	11
StarTran Service Expansion	0	1	3	8	12
Pre-totals	6	5	13	9	33

Notes. Golf program is not listed because it was not chosen as most important by any participants at pre or at post. \*Starred programs were those found to be the two most important during the larger-scale survey.

**Group and Individual Forms.** Once again, Community Conversation small groups were asked to report on their group priorities using a specific form that asked for reasons (pros/cons) for different choices, and individuals were asked to complete similar forms if they did not fully agree with their group’s choices or report.

Eight groups completed a group form and rank ordered at least some of the five future priorities. Interestingly, across seven of the groups giving rankings, the South Beltway average ranking placed it as most important (ranked lowest on average, see Table 11).

In addition, 47 individuals chose to rank programs on individual forms (also reported in Table 11). The average rating of agreement with one’s group report was 3.88 (Standard Deviation = .71; 1 = not at all, 2 = only slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very much but not completely, 5 = completely) across 32 persons reporting their agreement. Respondents

offering rankings indicated, on average, a preference for StarTran service expansion as their most important priority, followed by the South Beltway. The Golf program was reliably ranked last.

**Table 11: Group-level and Individual-level Future Priorities Rankings and Choices During the Community Conversation**

Program	Groups		Individuals	
	Average Ranking	n explicitly ranking	Average Ranking	n explicitly ranking
Golf Capital Replacement & Repair, \$400,000 per year	5.0	7	4.8	47
Bennett Martin Library Replacement and Branch Library Repair, \$3.8 million per year	3.3	6	2.8	47
StarTran Service Expansion, \$1.4 million per year	2.3	7	2.2	47
*South Beltway Construction, \$1.5 million per year	2.1	7	2.5	47
*Parks and Recreation Capital Replacement & Repair, \$1.3 million per year	2.6	7	2.7	47

Notes. Number of groups is out of 10 total possible; number of individuals is out of 58 total possible.

**Open-Ended Responses.** When giving reasons for and offering pros and cons of group choices, the group reports indicated considerations related to growth and infrastructure support, the specific populations served by the future programs, other funding opportunities available, and the extent to which people felt the City could afford to wait on implementing some programs.. They also sometimes expressed opinions about whether residents currently were over versus under taxed.

A total of 48 persons turned in an individual form, although one person only completed the demographics portion and then indicated complete agreement with his/her group (resulting in the earlier-reported sample size of 47). The average rating of agreement with one’s group report was 3.88 (Standard Deviation = .71; 1 = not at all, 2 = only slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very much but not completely, 5 = completely) across 32 persons reporting their agreement.

Reasons for choices given by individuals are listed below. As shown, Community Conversation participants stressed the importance of StarTran for serving underserved populations, removing cars from roads, and enhancing the economy. No negatives were mentioned specific to StarTran expansion. Parks and Recreation were viewed as important to quality of life and as providing City spaces used by many or most of the population. Residents also mentioned that waiting to support Parks and Recreation repair would be more costly in the long-term and that there are no other appropriate funding sources for parks. Comments about the South Beltway indicated that residents want better access to downtown and to reduce traffic congestion as this can improve City growth, improving quality of life and reducing congestion. However, some felt that the

South Beltway would not help all parts of Lincoln or all Lincolniters. Comments about the building of a new main library and providing for branch libraries' repairs stressed the importance of education and information access for providing opportunities for underserved populations. Others opined that the main library should not be downtown, questioned whether the investment now would still be useful in 10-20 years, and suggested that hours reductions are a better way to fund repairs than using the City's general funds. Golf was primarily mentioned when people were considering "cons" of their choices. Golf courses were seen as providing attractive green spaces but as a not-widely used luxury that could be paid for without using general funds. At the Community Conversation, a number of people mentioned that they did weigh the importance of golf courses more, when they thought about the importance of green spaces. But they still rated funding of golf as least important.

In addition to comments made about specific programs, people made general comments about the need to invest in the future (under pros) even if this means taxes need to be raised, versus the problem of high costs (under cons) that perhaps should be dealt with in ways that do not involve raising taxes.

Finally, a number of participants commented on the Taking Charge process. On the positive side, people mentioned that their group discussions were positive and that they appreciated conversations with other residents and the chance to think more deeply about City priorities. Meanwhile, the negative comments indicated participants felt they did not have enough information and time to have a full discussion of the issues or to make fully informed choices. Others challenged the design of the task they were asked to complete. For example, they indicated that not enough alternatives were included for consideration in the discussion and that their group would have preferred to make incremental as opposed to total cuts (see Appendix B for lists of comments).

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## CITY PERFORMANCE

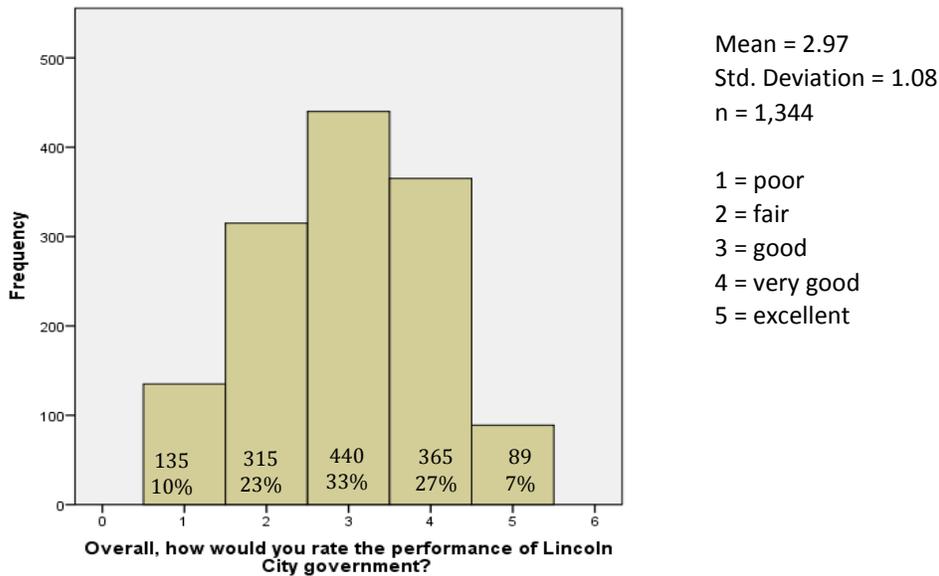
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### ◆ SURVEY RATINGS

The final section of the survey asked respondents to rate their satisfaction with City government on a number of scales. The first item asked people to rate the performance of City government, overall, on a five point scale (poor, fair, good, very good, excellent). As shown in Figure 4, the average and most frequent response fell at the midpoint of the scale (good), with 50% of the sample choosing one point above or below the midpoint, and 17% choosing the endpoints. The mean rating of 2.97 (SD = 1.08) is significantly higher than the mean rating of 2.76 (SD = 1.10) assessed in 2015, which was also higher

than the 2012 mean of 2.49 (SD = 1.10) on the same question.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, examination of items used to assess confidence in City government shows similar increases over time, as shown in Table 6 and illustrated in Figure 5.

**Figure 4: Distribution of City Government Performance Ratings**

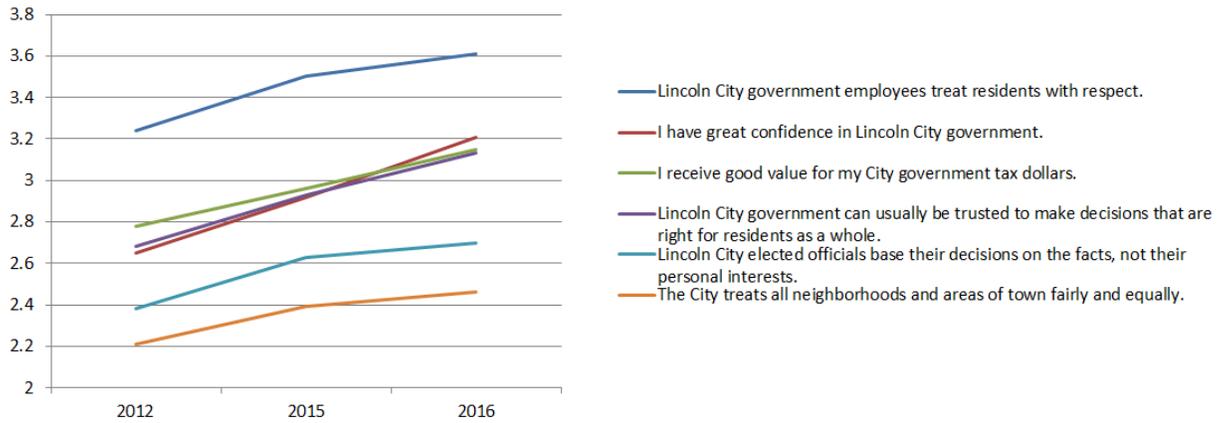


**Table 6: Mean Confidence and Satisfaction Responses to Volunteer Surveys over Time**

Confidence and Satisfaction	2016			2015		2012	
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation
I have great confidence in Lincoln City government.	1473	<b>3.21</b>	1.116	<b>2.92</b>	1.15	<b>2.65</b>	1.16
Lincoln City government can usually be trusted to make decisions that are right for residents as a whole.	1476	<b>3.13</b>	1.160	<b>2.93</b>	1.15	<b>2.68</b>	1.19
Lincoln City government employees treat residents with respect.	1469	<b>3.61</b>	.974	<b>3.50</b>	0.98	<b>3.24</b>	1.11
Lincoln City elected officials base their decisions on the facts, not their personal interests.	1477	<b>2.70</b>	1.132	<b>2.63</b>	1.11	<b>2.38</b>	1.10
The City treats all neighborhoods and areas of town fairly and equally.	1477	<b>2.46</b>	1.144	<b>2.39</b>	1.12	<b>2.21</b>	1.10
I receive good value for my City government tax dollars.	1471	<b>3.15</b>	1.247	<b>2.96</b>	1.21	<b>2.78</b>	1.22

<sup>10</sup> See <http://ppc.unl.edu/publications/taking-charge-2015-satisfaction-survey-final/> for these comparisons. Data from 2015 and 2012 in Table 6 is also from that report.

**Figure 5: Mean Confidence and Satisfaction Responses to Volunteer Surveys over Time**



**Table 7: Mean Respondent Perceptions of Specific Qualities of City Government**

Construct and Example Item	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
<b>Fairness:</b> Lincoln City government uses fair procedures to make decisions.	1481	2.73	0.98
<b>Agreement:</b> I usually agree with the budget decisions made by the City of Lincoln. (Single item)	485	3.01	1.18
<b>Shared values:</b> I believe that the Lincoln City government supports my values when it makes decisions.	1076	3.03	1.14
<b>Transparency:</b> Lincoln City government operates in a transparent manner.	1067	3.03	1.20
<b>Participation:</b> Lincoln City government gives people appropriate opportunities to participate in governance decisions.	1094	3.12	1.06
<b>Collaboration:</b> Lincoln government does a good job collaborating with Lincoln residents to get things done.	1223	3.18	1.09
<b>Benevolence:</b> Lincoln City government officials care about how the policies they make will affect Lincoln residents.	1046	3.31	1.13
<b>Competence:</b> Lincoln City government is made up of highly qualified individuals.	898	3.34	1.08
<b>Legitimacy:</b> The Lincoln City government is a legitimate governing body.	1419	3.52	1.03
<b>Integrity:</b> For the most part, Lincoln City government is made up of honest individuals.	868	3.69	1.08

*Notes.* Response scale for items ranged from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. Multiple items were used for each construct except for “Agreement.” Part of the variation in numbers of respondents is due to the fact that participants received a randomly assigned subset of items relating to a construct, and then items related to the construct were averaged.

To provide further information about resident views of the strengths and weaknesses of City government, each online survey respondent was also given a subset of additional items designed to measure different aspects of legitimacy and trustworthiness. Using prior research as a guide (e.g., PytlikZillig et al., 2016), averages were taken across similar items to assess relative perceptions among the survey takers. As shown in Table 7, respondents perceived Lincoln City Government as especially high in

integrity and legitimacy, followed by competence and benevolence. Consistent with the relatively low rating of the item from Table 6 relating to fairness (“The City treats all neighborhoods and areas of town fairly and equally”), the City was rated lowest on the construct of fairness.

#### ♦ SURVEY OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

Respondents were also invited to offer additional comments about their satisfaction with City performance. A total of 268 comments were offered. In these additional comments, it was common for respondents to note that, while the survey referred to “City government,” they did not see the City government as a monolithic entity. A number of people expressed different opinions when it comes to the Mayor’s office, City council, and City employees:

- *“It is difficult to answer questions about ‘Lincoln City government’ as this is an all-inclusive term for the City Council, Mayor, Mayor’s office, City administrators, City employees. I feel breaking it down would be more productive than generalities about everyone together.”*
- *“You didn’t define “government.” Is that the Mayor, the City Council, government employees, or some combination? I assumed you meant the Mayor and City employees. I have a somewhat less favorable view of the council.”*
- *“I have more faith in the City Council working together professionally than in the Mayor’s office.”*
- *“When referring to ‘Lincoln City government,’ I equate the City Council with that phrase, not the people who work within the City government in the various departments and agencies. I am satisfied with the work done by the departments and agencies.”*

This suggests that the ratings people gave may be focused on different entities of their choosing, or may reflect an average satisfaction across different entities, with that average not necessarily applicable to the individual groups comprising City government.

When it came to specific areas or programs, City streets and roads were frequently mentioned (130 times, combined) in the additional comments. Some comments were about streets generally, but many people mentioned specific streets or areas of town that they felt needed improvement:

- *“I feel currently City roads should be a higher priority. The City has grown so much and spread, and the type of roads have not kept up with this growth, causing traffic jams, extremely slow transit times across town and dangerous situations. Specifically, the intersection at 56th and Yankee Hill Road is becoming congested and dangerous. Yankee Hill Road, Pine Lake Road between Highway 2 and near 56th Street, and Saltillo road are especially dangerous as county-road style roads with ditches due to their high traffic levels.”*

- *“Complete lack of faith in the Public Works Department drives most of these answers. Random street closings with no regard for traffic flow, terrible signal timing...Perhaps the Public Works employees could spend some time around Lincoln observing traffic.”*
- *“Let's also look at the streets. We are one of two in the state who pays wheel taxes for roads. So why are they falling apart? And why are they so so bad in the poorer parts of Lincoln?”*

Taxes were also frequently mentioned in this section of the comments (tax, taxes, taxpayer, tax\*, mentioned a total of 81 times). For the most part, people expressed disapproval and distrust when they considered taxes:

- *“I am very concerned that i will not be able to afford to live in Lincoln...all the tax increases and so called services that I do not use (trails, art, libraries etc.) but get stuck paying for has me interested in moving out of the City/ county.”*
- *“Taxes keep going up far faster than my paycheck. Why don't you spend other people's money like mine like you only make 26,000 dollars a year. Maybe you wouldn't spend it so recklessly.”*
- *“Our goal should be to balance the budget not use property taxes to solve every problem.”*

However, a few people did write comments expressing approval of tax increases:

- *“Balancing the budget on the backs of the elderly, the young, the poor, the disadvantaged is neither ‘Nebraska nice,’ nor long term sustainable. Yes, raise taxes accordingly. The economic models are very clear. Those with more money can pay more, and the economy and society benefit. It is the civil contract we all agree to in order to build and maintain our society. Think Minnesota, not Kansas.”*

Comments on neighborhoods and fairness were examined through a text search procedure to better understand low ratings on these survey items. Some of these comments indicated people felt that more wealthy neighborhoods received more support than poorer neighborhoods:

- *“Older and poor neighborhoods are not treated like new and richer neighborhoods. As the new and richer neighborhoods get better services like road, sewer, sidewalk repairs and maintenance.”*
- *“It is clear that higher income neighborhoods receive superior support. Roads in low-income neighborhoods and not the same as in 84th and Old Cheney.”*
- *“It seems clear, driving around town, that some neighborhoods have a lot of services (big parks, repaved/ repaired roads, street lights, snow removal, etc.). And other neighborhoods (sometimes with more residents) are left behind/ considered to be less important.”*
- *“Money talks very loudly in this town. Being poor and disabled in Lincoln is very difficult.”*

- *The City sometimes unfairly favors certain companies, and areas of town (notably the southeast) when making decisions and ignores other parts of town’s needs.*

Others, however, contradicted these perceptions, stating that they felt certain of the more wealthy neighborhoods also were treated with less attention and services:

- *“In regards to treating neighborhoods the same, in southeast Lincoln we have no parks and no pools. Just because we are of a higher income doesn't mean our kids shouldn't have those services. Holmes Lake is the only thing over here. I shouldn't have to drive to Pioneers Park to take my kids to a park. And as far as pools -- I have to join a gym or build one to have my kids enjoy a pool.”*

Others also focused on how they felt their own neighborhood appeared to be treated less favorably than others in various ways:

- *“Some people and groups are definitely treated more favorably. N street bike lane was dictated. People in the neighborhoods and those affected should have a say.”*
- *I live in a neighborhood that feels forgotten about by the City as far as code enforcement (bad landlords neglect their properties with impunity) and sidewalk maintenance.*

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## CONCLUSIONS

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The present report does not claim to represent the opinions of all Lincoln residents. However, the report does reflect the voices of more than 2,300 survey respondents, as well as 58 residents who were willing to devote a Saturday morning to considering Lincoln’s future and discussing it with fellow residents and City officials. These community members weighed in with their perspectives after reading about, discussing, and considering a variety of policy, program and spending options.

Regarding these opinions, several conclusions can be drawn. The closed-ended ratings and rankings of various programs on the survey and during the Community Conversation clearly indicated that people especially valued in-home services for seniors, snow removal and pools. Discussion of these programs at the Community Conversation further increased support for in-home services for seniors and snow removal. Parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement was consistently the least-valued City service. Of the future priorities, funding the City golf program was viewed as the least important priority. Parks, the South Beltway, and the StarTran expansion were relatively more important future priorities.

While the City is not receiving the highest marks possible on its performance, over time, the average ratings of City performance are moving in a positive direction. This indicates that those who take the time to give their input are becoming more

satisfied – either because individual average satisfaction is increasing or because satisfied persons are increasingly motivated to give their input on the Taking Charge surveys. Nonetheless, the comments in the Appendices reflect the sentiments of both those who are satisfied, and those who are less or dissatisfied with City performance.

Despite the varied sentiments and people’s differing program choices, open-ended responses repeatedly drove home numerous values: The people of Lincoln value safety, the economy, and quality of life. They want the City to take care of what it has, to be efficient and careful with its funds, to attend to how Lincoln is growing and developing, and also to care for the underserved, low income, and vulnerable populations. A final conclusion also can be drawn: A large number of diverse Lincoln residents with diverse views share the common ground that they care enough about Lincoln and Lincoln’s future to express their opinions and to try and affect that future positively.

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the FGP for every day living support such as gas, groceries, etc. With the growing number of older adults age 65+ I think we need to be continuing to support all programs and looking for ways to expand, not cut. I also strongly support keeping the pools open for children especially when transportation may be limited to children and their families and the pool is a great way to keep a community feel in the neighborhoods.

2. There is much in this list that is duplicated by the state or federal government or local non-profits. The city needs to act fiscally responsible and empower these other entities to do their job (EX: Health and information referral center). LPS Should be responsible for the foster grandparent program if it is offered only to them. One entity should not be the beneficiary of public dollars for perpetuity.
3. Please enforce sidewalk clearance ordinances. Some sidewalks are so overgrown it is nearly impossible to walk on them. / / There is a sidewalk area on south 14th Street that is marked off to replace the small gaps and unevenness in concrete levels. Money would be much better spent clearing trees and shrubbery.
4. If we don't have the money we either need to increase admission fee's or close facilities.
5. These questions are worded poorly. The question asks how you would spend \$500K, but then you talk about the results of cutting funding. It's just confusing, and I fear you may get results that reflect the confusion rather than what you intended - perhaps feelings about cutting rather than funding, as I had to go back and review my answers to make sure they were consistent with my feelings.
6. Wish there were more choices of things to cut, like those regarding art exhibits. I believe the city spends too much on public art. / / Does the Pioneers Park Nature Center cut allow access to trails currently within the fenced-off center? If that was still allowed, the cut would be acceptable.
7. Stop spending our money on bullshit like LIBRARIES. . . . no one reads books. . . .the digital age hit almost a decade ago. . . . Libraries are like buggy whips. . . a great idea that has passed. ..
8. Charge a fee for the use of the nature center and the swimming or increase the fee. Charge a registration fee for the bicycle riders to pay for the "special" bike lane through downtown. Cut back on all of the "art" projects that only benefit downtown. The "art and bike lane" items seem to be the Mayor's pet projects. I do think the arts are important, but these things certainly should come before help for seniors or snow removal. Seems like the city has been living high off the hog for about 10 years or so, Time for the officials making the rules have a reality check about "unnecessary" things and don't commit us for more that we can afford. Also time to rethink all of the businesses using the TIF benefits, Put some of these thing on the tax roll again.
9. Surely there are more options than these....
10. Freeze the longevity pay for city workers (grandfather) them in and discontinue for new hires just as the county did
11. Maybe the mayor "can find another \$10 million" left from one of his projects like he did when he was trying to get re-elected or reduce the budget for the marathon like when he cut the Star City Parade or the 4th of July celebration. /
12. Use some of the occupation tax for the pension funds.
13. This survey severely limits budget options. It seems as though the Mayor asks the public's opinion but yet doesn't open the entire budgetary options. What a joke.
14. I am 53 years old & I had a massive stroke on March 17th, 1992. The only thing that improved for me is my brain function. I am not a senior yet but if this funding gets cut, I will have to be put in a nursing home because I can not walk. I have an electric wheelchair but I would I wouldn't be able to do my chores such as laundry, shopping, cooking & set up my medical transportation by myself.
15. What about cutting funding for the art sculptures around the city...those are not life threatening if they are not there. / What about cutting back on bike paths or the 4th of July fireworks or the Marathon? How about cutting tax increment financing...the businesses come, get their pockets full, and then pull out. (Think of all of the empty stores/buildings in Lincoln, and yet we build more!
16. In home health services for Seniors should never be put up for cut backs. Sometimes this is the only time the elderly have human interaction. People who stop in my notice something wrong and intervene before severe problems happen. Say you stopped by to cook and the elderly person has fallen. The care giver can call 911. If no one stop's by then how long will that person lay there? How about a heart attack or stroke. They could lay there until they pass just because of a few \$\$.

17. Why not hold more community fundraising for public places such as pools and Pioneers Park to lower the tax burden? More public awareness should be able to help generate funds just like other community places do like schools and the tree program.
18. I thought we already cut non-injury traffic accident reporting. Elderly should be a priority. Pioneers Park provides such an important service to the community.
19. 1. Swimming pools at high schools could be utilized throughout the year. YMCA also has pools that could be offered to neighborhood kids at a summer fee-reduced. / 2. Pioneers Park Nature Center Love this program; need to ask for funding through other entities, e.g. foundations, estate planning (it's part of ours!), etc. and w/ the current weather conditions, trails may be off limits for many weeks each season. / 3. Grand-parent program - For the past few years, I have not seen this program utilized in the school that I am work in - a high school. (We do have Team-mates galore - yeah!!) / 4. Libraries - core of neighborhoods -we really could offer more programming out of the library bldg if we thought outside the box - back pack program, health care checks, dental checks, personal/ family budget planning - use this space!!!! / 5. Had no idea we moved cars that are parked for long-extended periods...not our 'hood. Must be a regional concern and effort. Get rid of this non-emergency concern. / 6. Snow removal is a beast and no one appreciates the extensive time it really takes....another day to scoop out would be o.k. / 7. Thought this was current plan....just not possible for the police to take care of this. People need to increase their problem solving skills anyway! /
20. You need other options
21. Make a drag strip to cut down on illegal street racing and would make big profits for the city
22. PARKING AND ABANDONED VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT - why not pass some this cost onto those that have parked illegally by raising the fees?
23. We need to keep neighborhood pools open so all children can have a safe place to play, meet other peers and strength neighborhood relationships. Neighbors who know their neighbors watch out for each other which make neighborhoods safer and more unified! Kids deserve this serve. Children don't vote so us adults must speak for them.
24. Seniors and health is Important. Snow removal provides safety and less chance for injuries not to mention people have to get to work. Policing non-injury accidents are important to make sure people who should not be driving or are texting get some sort of penalty. A few less sculptures might just pay for some of these things. It's all about priorities.
25. The parking enforcement officers apparently make more than they are worth when I am told by the mayors staff that "only when the public calls in a complaint of vehicles parked in the front yards, will a parking enforcement officer make contact" why? I am in favor of the officers ticketing every case the DRIVE PAST! The ticket fee could go toward reducing the high taxes we already pay in the sinking town. Take a look at your own office, bet there are several in the office you could do without. Suggestion would be the rude people that answer request on the Lincoln Action website! / /
26. I'm glad to see that Star Tran is not on the list of services the City is considering cut for a change.
27. Quit giving money to bail out the Railyard and Pinnacle Bank Arena. NO city funds should go to developing that area for more hotels and high rent apartments.
28. Cut the stupid bike paths! Stop wasting money on consultant who think they know what is best for our city. Elected officials should have a better perspective then over paid consultants from out of state. Utterly disgusted, annoyed and disappointed in the mayor and city council. Incompetent and corrupt! Why was \$180,000 paid to have the tower/piece of art named.
29. These are services that greatly impact the quality of life in Lincoln. Abandoned vehicles create other issues. An abandoned pool also creates issues. One day of library services will only impact the public for a day, and while it takes away a place to be, there are other options for learning, and perhaps if that were done, there could also be "suggested alternatives" provided. Seniors need to help one another. We understand that we are dealing with issues of aging. Again, I am thinking you take care of the things that impact our cities future expenses, saving money in other ways. Continue to make our city insurance friendly. There are probably better ways to disburse information than a call center

30. most of these options would have greatest impact on residents who are low income, elderly, disabled, or are seniors. These groups are the very definition of those who need our protection the most. Cut NONE.
31. There is a need to look at Lincoln Fire and Rescues budget. There is no need to send a fire truck and ambulance on every medical call especially to nursing homes and medical clinics. Only four percent of the departments medical calls need six responders to show-up on the call. All of this equipment and personnel responding daily to medical calls is a waist of money, personnel and is disruptive to the noise quality of the city. Lincoln Fire and Rescue needs to implement priority dispatching also instead of building new fire stations. This propaganda about improving response times to fight fires is a farce because three major fires in the city were in the radius below required response times. (Mexican restaurant, Lutheran church and Ideal Grocery not to forget O Street building at 9th Street and the Lincoln Public Schools administration building.
32. Snow removal in Lincoln is a joke. Why should citizens of Lincoln pay more for a terrible service. What is the wheel tax for? For as much as I pay for that tax the streets should be in a lot better shape than they are. As far as the the other items on the above list let the people who use the service pay for it and not the tax payers. The nature center and the swimming pools should be paid for by the people who use them and not the taxpayers. I am sick of the government over stepping its bounds and having programs it has no business being involved in.
33. Even though the PPC designed the survey questions they might be confusing because the phrasing contains an implied double negative. Does do not fund mean don't fund/approve the program or don't fund/approve the cuts to the program? I picked the former.
34. I know I've overspent this hypothetical budget, but in regards to the snow removal services, I wonder what difference in cost there is to do pre-salting (or the beet mixture) versus post-snow removal. Maybe there's a way to do my proposed changes if instead of focusing on snow removal, the neighborhood streets got more attention with the preventative measures
35. The cost of everything goes up with time, and that includes government services. Therefore, I support tax increases to find the cost of these programs. In return, however, private businesses that support should receive some kind of incentive to participate .
36. This is one of the most poorly designed surveys I have ever taken, for multiple reasons, including confusing wording (question discusses cutting but responses are about funding), and A design that makes it difficult to take from my phone. Doesn't UNL have a survey research department? Next year the public policy department and survey department should partner.
37. I feel some amount could be cut from first and third listed items above and I would think that there is some income produced from the seventh item. Also I would see if the insurance companies would like the police to investigate the accidents they are presently and make the help fund it.
38. Government gives too much already. When did government become our family????
39. I would like to know where the 911 funds are being rerouted to. I saw that we are one of a few states doing this which is very inappropriate. Please address.
40. Where is the Services to Crime Victims and Witnesses option which was in the Lincoln Journal Star this morning?
41. Why don't you cut the salaries or freeze them for city employees? Didn't see where that was an option. It is in the private sector!
42. Cut the garaunteed retirement plans for furture employees . Let employees create their own 401K and give a smaller city contribution.
43. In-home services for seniors: keep In-home services-discontinue foster grandparent program at the schools
44. Even the thought of closing city pools would be stupid..where would all these kids go during ate afternoons in the summer. You have already cut the hours to a bare minimum. / I would hope that if you can save money in the snow removal budget that it could be saved for the real snow emergencies.
45. Spend on our bad road surfaces
46. You need to plow when we have 4 inches!!! The neighborhood streets are absolutely awful after 3 inches of snow....
47. why have library, pools and nature center and not use it.
48. Cut Police & Fire

49. My recommendations would be (1) to coordinate with local non-profit organizations to identify which of these services are currently provided by their agencies and (2) to focus the City's budget on items that improve the quality of life for our most challenged residents.
50. This was difficult - I value all these services for Lincoln citizens and would rather keep them all, but I also think we need to begin setting priorities and realistically assessing how services are used to determine if they are needed, or if service needs can be met differently.
51. LIBRARIES ARE USED LESS AND LESS DO NOT WASTE MONEY ON LONG HOURS FOR THEM . HAVE THEM OPEN EVERY DAY FOR SHORTER HOURS. MORNING HOURS ARE NOT NECESSARY
52. I find this first page confusing. I am not sure if I am answering correctly based upon the instructions at the beginning of the survey and how the questions are worded.
53. There should be alternative funding available for the Nature Center at Pioneers Park. Someone should explore options to partner with private sponsors and state entities in Education. Someone could also explore state resources on the referrals
54. I feel there was more information I needed. For In home service for seniors - does Medicare / Medicaid pay for these services. It seems the Grand Parent program could be run through the schools and the Parent Teachers Associations. Non Injury Traffic Accident Reporting - do police write up a report? and what do the insurance companies feel. Pioneers Park Nature Center - how much is it being used now. Services for Crime Victims-what do the Police do to help victims attend court. I kept thinking the police were doing these but there are many City health department agencies that are involved. We put a lot of money into Pioneers Park so why give up a great activity completely. I would like to see a break down of health and human service and what they do for prevention for everyone, providing health services for underserved and keep our community safe. I think Lincoln does an amazing job. thank you.
55. I am for privatizing those services in which government need not be involved: parking meter enforcement, city park administration and swimming pools could all be bid out and user fees implemented. However, budgeting is never this black or white as the above choices. Could I have juggled the figures with more discretion, I feel I could have struck a better deal.
56. Other cuts-brine factory
57. Overall this was a good survey and I appreciate the City for this opportunity to participate. Let's do more surveys and show public comments and vote results on screen so we all know where everybody stands.
58. Why not engage in "share the pain" Reduce funding 5-10% on all budget items to achieve balance,
59. I am extremely disappointed that these lists of services are on the chopping block. Reducing the access to public libraries should never ever even be a consideration! It is absolutely shameful that you are considering cutting any services to seniors or the health line since both obviously help low income and people at risk. I am sickened of the thought to lose the programs at Pioneers park. Pulling back snow removal services in neighborhoods is about the most idiotic suggestion I have ever heard of! Not everyone in this town has 4-wheel drive. I see people getting stuck all of the time when trying to get to work after a snow storm. I am also very disappointed about the thought of losing access to public pools. If people used these facilities instead of backyard pools it would be safer and water savings and not to mention less use of chemicals. It disgusts me to see this list when I see a lot of waste in "infrastructure" projects that are done wrong 2 plus times in many cases (11th street and P street and centennial mall). Also Lincoln is not focusing on maintaining what they have. I infuriates me that I try to use the onstreet bike routes and they are so rutted that my kids cry because it is so jarring and it is dangerous because I have to swerve so I don't pop a tire. Instead of spending money in new development areas focus on spending money in the core of Lincoln and making it more attractive to live there instead of catering to these new outlier housing developments. And by the way I love art but when I see money going toward that instead of these more important items it makes me disgusted by our current leaders. Create higher monetary penalties for people that break laws, make sure the things your are paying for get done right the first time, focus on improving what is in place, stop pumping so much money into developments and rehabbing of new possible business and housing and pay for worthwhile services. Lincoln residents deserve better. Think of the bottom 60% not the top 40%.

60. If you are going to fund snow removal / Please make sure plows have their blades down and are actually removing snow not just packing it down as they drive over it.
61. Why are we facing another shortfall again??! Why can't we just find a way to fund all of these things that are important to the residents of Lincoln - i.e. raise taxes???
62. Come on, be smart about library cuts, shorten the "open" hours of all branches and main library by / ONE hour per day! In June, July, & August, shorten the "open" times by 2 hours per day! Saves money and no one goes without service for a whole day! /
63. Much as I love the libraries, closing them on Sundays shouldn't inconvenience anyone seriously.
64. Here we go again, the libraries always are on the chopping block. They are essential for children and families, students, low-income residents who don't have access to a computer, people looking for a job, among others. Pioneer Park and the pools are also a favorite target. These too seem to be basic resources in a city this size. Snow removal in neighborhoods is not reliable now. I wonder how much of a change that would make. Perhaps this should be audited to see if they are claiming more than they are actually removing.
65. Why don't you put more money into mental health services?!
66. / / public swimming pool need to be kept kids need to learn to swim and it gives them something to do to keep them out of trouble
67. Raise taxes on alcohol purchases, both on and off sale, by 15% and you would have a windfall of money. Maybe, you would have less drunk drivers on the street. Also, bring in casinos for an additional windfall instead of us giving the money to surrounding states.
68. Like to see Foster Grandparents program remain but other senior services can be handled by existing agencies/non-profits.
69. Pioneers Park and the Library Foundations need to step up. Let them fundraise or start campings for naming the foundations in estate plans. Let the golfers pay for any golf course shortfalls. The internet makes the nurse call center unnecessary--WebMD anybody?
70. Quit spending money on items we don't need like the 4 new fountains being built for the 150th celebration and spending it on roads that cost citizen money on tires, suspension, and front end parts and repairs. Over the years we have increased fees on this or that with the promise of better roads, but it appears to me they are worse all the time. One of the biggest wastes is spending money on advisors to tell you how to do something government should already know how to do. . We need infrastructure, not frills. There are some things that are nice to have, but not if you can't afford them. If it is the police and fire dept. pensions that are causing the shortfall, maybe we should look at getting ride of some of the waste in those programs. Everybody needs to share in the pain.
71. It is critical for libraries to be open. If anything we should be increasing hours of access and not decrease.
72. Members of the fire and police unions should pay a higher portion of their salary towards the pension plan, similar to that required of LPS employees who contribute around 10% of their salary to the pension plan. In a similar manner, all city employees should pay a higher portion of their health insurance and the public contribution to their retirement fund should be more in line with private institutions.
73. 211 assistance service through The United Way is available for assistance on government services and other services, including health care, free of charge to all Nebraskans. Ask a Nurse lines are available with almost all health plans including Medicaid and Medicare. The Health information and referral systems is redundant and the money better used elsewhere.
74. Parking and Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement should be a revenue generator for the city. Perhaps the fines and fees for these offenders need to be raised if this service is costing the city.
75. I feel we need to raise taxes to cover these important community services.
76. As always with this survey you've done a nice job of spinning the budgeting process so it works the way you want. Congrats.
77. We absolutely must keep our libraries open, and access to our nature centers! This is kind of a heart-rending exercise. :(

78. There are several phone numbers/agencies that will provide information similar to 211. Would it be possible to partially fund this effort utilizing these agencies instead of city staff? Examples include Community Action, Volunteer Partners, and Center for People In Need.
79. If I had to cut at the Nature Center, I'd try to do what you're suggesting at the Libraries. Limit the hours of access.
80. I think that LIBA should partner with the Mayor's office, and not be a reactionary, inflammatory, barrier, to making Lincoln a better city. / I commend the Mayor and his staff for moving Lincoln forward! /
81. Budgets are tight. Spend dollars on getting a disabled or mentally challenged person to and from work or a grocery store than any "feel good" programs. Don't let there's not enough so everything gets a little trap because none of the programs function efficiently then.
82. Here are some recent articles from the Lincoln Journal Star: / 1. The city is considering spending almost \$890,000 to beautify and make permanent lane closures at the 14th and Superior streets roundabout. The proposed improvements include an estimated \$536,560 for landscaping and another \$126,550 for other amenities, including accent lighting, signs, wall painting and boulders. Does this improve traffic flow or help fix how this roundabout has caused more accidents instead of less? / 2. The three designs for the Warlick, Old Cheney and 14th Street roundabout emerged ranging in price from \$15 million to more than \$21 million. I heard the Mayor picked the highest cost option including art and benches for pedestrians which have nothing to do with improving traffic flow or stop accidents? / 3. Lincoln's mayor is apparently in the market for another magnificent piece of art — paid for with tax dollars. The two-year-old Pinnacle Bank Arena is about to get a nearly million-dollar piece of public art on its front doorstep. / Seriously, the Mayor is willing to cut all of these services in the survey helping tax payers because the city has no money but we have millions of dollars in the budget for art, trees, wall paintings and boulders? Where has the common sense gone? Eliminate snow service in neighborhoods until there is 6" of snow, really? There are times I can't get out of my neighborhood with the 4" of snow it's currently set at due to drifting. Let the taxpayers decide on which of the art projects should be cut in place of these public safety services listed in this survey. /
83. Closing the nature center and pools contradicts the healthy families play out doors. Kids would spend more time indoors on media. Closing the nature center would be like closing an elementary school. It is the only place in the city where nature can be explored, studied, enjoyed, and make a connection to the natural world. With all the improvements at the nature center and the continued increase in popularity, this should never close and be protected from future considerations of closing
84. I question whether snow is actually plowed from residential streets after 4" has fallen. / The issue regarding "Non-injury Traffic Accident Reporting" is an extremely poor idea. How would LPD know if a driver involved in a non-injury accident was intoxicated or without proper registration, insurance and license if they didn't respond? / Non-ticketing/towing of illegally parked or abandoned vehicles is another extremely poor idea. In certain parts of the city this would not be an issue, but in high-density areas such as the Near South, this is already a problem and failure to ticket or tow such vehicles would only make the problem worse. / Are we in a "race to the bottom" in Lincoln? Many of these cost-cutting proposals will most directly impact those Lincoln residents who are already living on the margins of society. Why not target cuts in wealthier areas of the city?
85. Cut the Mayor's staff. That would save a couple hundred thousand dollars.
86. I would like to see a stop to planting trees in the land of vision on roads. I think tree planting is an area we can cut back on
87. Keep the pools open!!!!
88. I think Bennet Martin library should be moved to the old Pershing building AND it should be open on Sundays as well.
89. I believe snow removal is the most essential thing on this list to continue funding. While 4 inches may not seem like a lot, I've had difficulty getting around in my car, especially going around corners in residential areas where the snow builds up. / / I also believe it is important to continue non-injury accident reporting as much as possible. While some accidents do not need police involvement, others are serious even though they may not involve injuries. And frankly, I just don't feel like you can really trust other people any more to be honest

- with insurance companies. / / I hate to see any of these programs go unfunded, but I do understand that tough decisions must be made. Thank you for giving the public a chance to weigh in!
90. Closing the neighborhood pools is an absolutely terrible idea.
  91. Choices offered presume lack of funding is good. Responsible government requires that taxes are so on all so that all needed services are provided.
  92. couldn't Bennett Martin be closed on Monday instead of Sunday, a day families are most likely to be off work and able to enjoy library time together?
  93. What about companies sponsoring some of these government services?
  94. Most of these programs could be covered by private business.
  95. Can our Governor stop promising tax cuts to the wealthy and properly fund our public service programs?
  96. it seems that all these programs are worthy and programs that are used by many citizens. / Library services are most important. next is elderly. why do you choose friday for all libraries to close and not another day not connected to the weekend? Do you have data on which days libraries are used least? if not get it.
  97. So you want us to take \$1950000 in existing services and reduce them to \$500000...OR LESS THAN 1/3? Then something is rotten in Lincoln. I get that costs tend to go up, but if we pull \$1450000 out of THESE things, where is it gonna go? Because I don't believe that you would cut taxes that much.
  98. If after winter is over funding is left in the neighborhood snow removal budget due to low snowfall, transfer those funds to the budget for street repair/maintenance.
  99. The mayor & Parks/Red have cut enough neighborhood pools, and decreased maintenance of parks. A new bike lane system may have added to the mayor's pursued legacy, but it is totally irrelevant to the well-being of the rest of the city.
  100. Love the programs and activities at the Nature Center, so many opportunities for outdoor adventure, exercise and education. It would be a tragedy to not fund such a great place for families to visit and enjoy themselves.
  101. Raise parking tickets and user fees.
  102. Traffic accident reporting...could we not build in a fee to access the LPD report? \$25-50 per report to offset the expense?
  103. Why don't you include mayor's staffing salaries? Always the city pools and libraries threat. / /
  104. I feel like Mayor Beutler did not tell the truth about the Police/Fire pension, he never mentioned that the reason they have to pay that for the pension is because they weren't paying into it for so many years, and they got behind, then started borrowing from it too! And by the way, the public works department takes the majority of the city's budget.
  105. the neighborhoods should have snow removal even if there is only 2 inches of snow. The people on these roads need to get their children to school, to their jobs and medical appointments, etc. If they can't leave their homes, why are the main arterials plowed??
  106. You have to provide basic necessities for people to live an function and carry on with their lives so the snow removal is a must because at 5 inches some people can't get anywhere with their poorly maintained cars. Also a must is police investigating accidents. Why should a persons rates go up when there is nothing they can do to avoid an accident and it isn't their fault. This is a basic necessity in the everyday living of peoples lives. Lastly, what programs affect a great number of people - especially children and families. Pools are a basic part of summer and there needs to be a lot of them in a growing city. These things must be provided even if taxes have to be raised a little!
  107. Taxes are already too high in Lincoln. Some programs need to be cut and the ones that survive need to have their budgets tasked. The program directors would have to establish priorities to meet the task be it 10% or whatever. Tasking often results in finding efficiencies that also benefit the organization.
  108. All of these are essential and/or quality of life services. Why is our solution to cut rather than explain that we need to increase taxes! And neighborhood snow removal, really? Never happens in our neighborhood, but I'm still willing to pay for the possibility, and so that other neighborhoods can get cleared.
  109. What about not paying city government executives for one week?

110. Snow plows do not come to my street for at least a few days & by then there are tracks made it it has melted. One day last year the plow came throw & was plowing a cleared street or they just push it in a big pile behind my driveway & I have to scoop it.
111. It seems the solution to these problems is always to raise taxes..why not try something different and cut back on some services.We do not need a library available every day of the week..we probably don't even need it more than a couple days a week..with everyone having on line access to information these days. We also do not need a new library.
112. There have to be better choices.
113. Neighborhood Snow Removal is of prime importance to the Citizens of Lincoln. Keeping the residential street clean are of prime importance for the Safety of the Citizens. The City of Lincoln already does a Very poor job cleaning the residential streets of snow and ice, doing less would be absolutely crazy and then comes to question what is tax money really used for OR the City Wheel Tax money. The City roads are in terrible shape and not getting much better, not clearing snow and ice from residential streets would just make the streets worse !!!
114. I feel very strongly about having street snow removal done. What do I pay taxes for? Why do so many of the choices have to do with senior care? They have paid their dues and that's the least that this city can do for them.
115. What about all the 'art' we spend money on that is not necessary? This is a typical survey to shame us in to wanting everything funded and leads to a tax increase. Everyone knows you aren't going to close pools and probably not Pioneers Nature Center. Why would you even consider snow removal? That is what the city is here for. If you aren't going to provide basic services....we don't need you.
116. Pioneers Park is a great resource and it is available to families from all incomes.We need places like the Nature Center and Neighborhood pools to give families and kids places to go. Kids need a pool they can walk to.
117. Why is cutting staff never a choice? That's what we have to do to balance our budget in the private sector! Give it a try for once, I'd have more respect!
118. If you have the money to create new high paying jobs out of the blue, as in the case of Cassidy, you have the money to provide these services. Stop with the fluff and take care of the basics.Fix the damned potholes!!
119. Some of these choices are "all or nothing". How about cutting a portion as you did for the library. For example,cut only one day of those pools or charge an entry fee that will make up the difference? the same for the Pioneers Park Nature Center.
120. I am a huge supporter of Mayor Beutler. That being said, I think the phrasing of these questions is misleading. They are stated with certainty what the result would be if the identified funding was not provided. This assumes there are no efficiencies to be found within the program itself or other areas of the budget. It assumes there are no other areas where budget reductions could be made. It also assumes that fee increases couldn't be implemented to continue certain programs/services, possibly pared down. /
121. Quit playing games Beutler and why dont yo and Rick Hope take a pay cut to 35000 a year. /
122. Interesting that you are looking at sources that involve young people especially during the summer. / Closing these programs or cutting funding to these programs is not a positive move as young people need resources to occupy their free time and ultimately help keep them busy in a positive manner. / Lack of creativity on funding sources is appalling....need to work on this.
123. How could a city this size that touts itself as wanting to grow have such an outdated downtown library? Look at cities this size. City seems concerned about commercial development only, but you hurt your plan and citizens in doing so.
124. As echoed in the Journal Star today (6/3/16) it seems like there could be more options then these "popular" programs in order to cut spending.
125. I'd like to know why there is a fucking shortfall
126. There are so MANY more areas you could cut rather than just these. Why are you singling these out? It seems like a game rather than a sincere attempt at making cuts. The mayor is being very insincere with the public and that comes across as something corrupt.
127. Fire the mayor

128. Cut police and school funding instead. They have plenty of money.
129. With all due respect, snow removal is of such poor quality now, if the city stopped entirely, I am not sure my neighbors would even notice at all. The pools in the summer, Pioneers Park, and the libraries are essential services for families and for education.
130. These services all seem to have a direct impact on the citizens of Lincoln, NE. I personally would be ok to paying more taxes in whatever form to keep most of these services in place. Assuming that there would be accountability in other areas of the budget as well (I don't endorse a blank check to city leaders to spend unlimited amounts). / Effects of cutting these services could run deeper than expected. For example, what would the effect be on Lincoln's youth of the closing of their neighborhood swimming pools? More crime? Higher youth obesity rates?
131. There are many other services we could not fund. How about the mayors staff? How about the ridiculous retirement fund the city employees have? How about all these art projects popping up all over the city. While art is nice, services to the needy should be a higher priority.
132. It seems like many of the programs to support people in poverty or low-income are listed as low priority. Seniors (low-income) are already on a down-ward slide. Cutting free library services that serve many in poverty is not a good idea. Many depend on the library for their family education, entertainment, and computer needs. It seems like wealthier people are anxious to have city services available for themselves including help with great streets, water system, etc . but they are sometimes reluctant to help out the people in poverty with needed services by raising their taxes or taking care of their community needs with their own funds. Pioneer Park is a gem that is already underfunded. Many of my parents who live in poverty from school talk about going there with their children because it is free and a chance to get away from their poor living conditions in trailers, etc. The money is here in Lincoln to fund what we need, people just need to want to help others and do their share to fund the services desired for all. I think we should consider having the sidewalk repair be the responsibility of the owner of the property rather than the city like it used to be. This is a crazy plan that allowed those that can afford homes to get out of taking care of their yard and property. / I also think we need more oversight of road repair. I drove 2- 3 times each day this year from Pioneers north to Havelock on 84th Street and observed all the repair work for the past 2 years. It seems like one section was finished finally and then later it was redone again. Why did this happen? The repaired side on the west heading South in the Holdrege, Vine part of 84th street is not smooth like you would expect. Traveling sometimes on 70th street north of Holdrege by Mahoney Park showed me the very poor condition of 70th Street in some parts of this road. It seems that 84th just keeps getting redone and other streets (in poverty areas) are being ignored. / Thank you for this opportunity to give my opinions despite what the group of City Council members say. It shows people just how hard it is to pick areas to drop or cut back in the city budget. /
133. Smaller local government puts more money back into the peoples pocket who intern can help others. This is a very caring community, but some people think the only option to providing their needs is government. The fact is, the larger the government presents in a community the more poverty stricken it becomes. The start of this survey feels like the idea of a Democratic strategy to tug at the heart of people so the budget can grow. Can't wait to finish out this survey
134. As a community, we need to provide safe and engaging opportunities for all families, especially when school is in session and especially activities that are accessible to all income levels. The Nature Center and community pools provide a great service to our city as well as a productive outlet for our youth. Those are worth the investment.
135. Stop trying to always cut funds for kids and help for the aged and or low income. Cut back on the funding of all the SUPER HIGHWAYS streets that keep going into south Lincoln. North Lincoln can't even get the intersection at 56th and Holdrege St re-done and add turn lights.
136. Where are the options to eliminate bike lanes, art projects and million dollar alleys??????
137. Please do not cut Pioneer's Park Nature Center's funding. The education provided by this place is absolutely essential to teaching the citizens of Lincoln about the importance of the natural world.
138. You may easily cut 1 or 2 mayoral aides, 1 lawyer from City Law and 2-3 from the Health Dept. You only gave me false choices on potential cuts. If you want valid responses, open up the whole budget for cuts and not just

- those that generate an emotional response. This survey will not provide valid results on how many in this community feel about wasteful spending in many city department!!!
139. These are false choices. There are many areas that could be cut. For example a two year moratorium on any new TIFF would provide millions.
140. Libraries are an essential part of the community. Libraries are about education and self-improvement. Thus they are the main source of tools for the betterment of the community. Every individual benefits and so does the community.
141. Swimming pools should pay for themselves and not be subsidized. Raise fees to cover costs or close the neighborhood pools. Same with the nature center.
142. I believe that the weed control department is a Lancaster County department, and i do not know where they are getting their funding. I would love, Love it if their budget was reduced to zero. It is beyond rediculous that i have been declared a nuisance house because i have golden rod growning along my driveway. If someone wants to turn their property into a jungle, all power to them.
143. i think snow programs is the best place to cut i do not have my street plowed it so pack down plow go over the top so this could be cut..
144. Keep all these programs FULLY funded. RAISE taxes to cover these extremely important programs. I am so tired of these politicians pandering to the lowest common denominator.
145. DO NOT CLOSE THE LIBRARIES \_ THEY HELP LOW INCOME PEOPLE IN SO MANY WAYS
146. I feel that all of these services are important to provide and am willing to pay more in taxes in order to fund these, and other city services, that are important to a growing and successful city.
147. Please please keep focus on the free services for children and parents. When my first child was born we were very poor. Visiting the nature center in the libraries gave my child robust educational experiences that I could afford to give him. It's so so important.
148. It seems to me when ever budget cuts come around, it is always the "hot button" issues that are going to be cut, the things that are needed for our city. To me this looks much like the last survey that was issued, is there anything in the administration that can be cut and why is it always the services that many people need. Have you heard of saving for a rainy day for things like snow removal, libraries and Senior care? How come there is "found" money setting in an account for things that influential people want and can make money on?
149. If you closed the libraries one day a week, perhaps people could be encouraged to visit Pioneers and Wilderness Parks?
150. KEEP THE NATURE CENTER!!!!
151. Even after reading the explanation linked below, I still resent the fact that these are the only options that were available.
152. The libraries are an important resource for middle school/high school students. I routinely see them in the library studying on week-ends. All of the libraries should be open on Fridays and week-ends for these students to study. / Modern cars are so low to the road that many of them can't get through more than four inches of snow. With more than that, they will start pushing snow and get stuck in the street. / Neighborhood pools are very important activity venues for neighborhood children when school is out in the summer.
153. Please look at this possible solution: take some of the tax monies for the new Arena raised by the added sales tax on eating out and redirect those funds toward the items above and others in the city budget
154. Please please keep funding to the nature center. It's vital to the future of our children. /
155. These are NOT "lower-priority programs" as they are described below. Please increase taxes instead and make a strong case to the public for why you are doing that.
156. I am not a resident of your city...but...I have been introduced to your Pioneers Park through a friend that visits there with his family and provides us with the most amazing photos highlighting the gem that you have there. The only way we will be able to turn this planet around is to teach the young how to take care of Mother Earth and your Nature Centers are the catalyst. May I mention this person is also reaching out to friends all over the country and outside the country as well enticing us to visit your area in real time to experience what he has been showing us in his photo essays. Please consider funding the treasure that you have.

157. Keep the pools open! I have kids but even if I did not have them I would still feel the same way. PLEASE PLEASE keep the pools open!
158. This is not an objective way to determine funding because it leaves off so many ways that programs could be funded, like cutting costs in other areas of city government that are not listed.
159. Cutting one day of library service should not be on this list. Reduce services when open, reduce library staff (half of them do not appear to be working)
160. Please, please do not close the Pioneers Park Nature Center.
161. Outdoor programs for our kids are urgently needed. The parks and the pools offer exercise and fresh air for our children and get them out of a chair and off of their electronic appliances.
162. DO NOT CLOSE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER!! IT'S IMPORTANT TO TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURE!!!
163. Why is this limited to \$500,000? This seems arbitrary with no explanation as to why this figure is used. Where is any reference to the art that has/will be purchased in the future with public funding?
164. If we are cutting back NOW on the funding of libraries, why in the world would we want to spend \$50,000,000+ to renovate Pershing? Sell Pershing and get it on the tax rolls to generate tax income. / / The future of libraries is in electronic down loading of books. SELL PERSHING! / / I do not accept the argument that it would only cost ANOTHER \$30.00 or whatever amount in property taxes to pay for the renovation of Pershing. I am nickel and dimed to death with that argument.
165. All of the things listed here are services that make Lincoln a good place to live. Please, raise my taxes so that all of these things continue to exist. I would rather pay more through taxes for these services than to see them cut.
166. Pioneer Park and the Nature Centers are crowning jewels in Lincoln, that provide wildlife and habitat education that many people receive nowhere else. I feel most adamant about continuing funding for these programs.
167. This is a ridiculous exercise. The Mayor needs to decrease spending across the board and not pick and choose from these selected areas. Tax increases are not acceptable. Cut spending and waste.
168. Funding should be prioritized to serve individuals who would lose access to necessary supports without city financing, i.e. in home support for aging, library services that provide shelter and internet access for job applications, and pools that provide positive activity for children and families. In Nebraska, snow removal is essential to allow us to get to school and work. Golfers should fund their "hobby."
169. Cut services to the liberals who elected Mayor Beutler and the liberal members of the City Council. Let's have a balanced budget instead of constantly raising taxes in Lincoln.
170. Where are all of the funds from the arena? There always seems to be funds available for sculptures, and for endless public paid projects, in the Haymarket. Go ahead and cut the things that the "poor" people use, like the pools, parks and libraries, are you kidding me? Perhaps Grand Island would provide these for us. Lincoln seems happy to send things out that way, maybe they can even become the state capital.
171. We need to keep the funding for places that help people do healthy activities. Being outside exercising in the parks and swimming pools. Capabilities to gather information in libraries and assistance navigating health care needs. Our seniors need to be taken care of course, what are we going to just let people die!? We also have wonderful medical schools in our state and more government funded jobs for nurses better for enrollment in those schools. / What we don't need is to waste police officer's time pushing paper for these non-injury accident reports. Really what lasting information do we possibly need? The insurance companies can conduct their own investigations. If you leave a abandoned car long enough, somebody will come along to take it for free! And everyone in nebraska should be able to drive through 6 inches of snow, which is usually melted off the street within a day. Who doesn't love snow days?!
172. Don't like any of the choices. Close down downtown library. Do away with Public Safety Director job. Quite handing out TIF money to rich developers.
173. Do NOT close Pioneer Park Nature Center!!!
174. It is unrealistic to fund all of these programs or to abandon a majority of them. This survey is skewed on purpose to demonstrate failure.
175. Everything listed here is integral to having the Lincoln we all know and love /

176. Cut the firemen & police pensions.
177. Nothing is black or white you can reduce some programs without cutting them completely this survey seems to take the view program or no program which will not give you a true view but of the public's opinion.
178. I have expressed my frustration with the lack of concern for public safety by Buetler's administration. Now, I see there are a couple items to reduce tasks completed by the Lincoln Police Department. Sadly, I see these are alternatives to hiring more officers and Buetler really needs to get on board with public safety. Look no further than our ratio of officers to population ration compared to other cities our size and communities across the state & country.
179. Snow removal is already poor at best within Lincoln - especially for a mid-western city - why would snow removal services even be on the list? It should be going the other direction with increased funding. There is more of an overall economic impact on businesses during 4" snow fall and the City not removing the snow on residential streets. Why does the fire department respond to incidental calls with so many trucks and large trucks? Cut them back to SUVs when no fire is involved, etc. you would close the funding gap by just doing that and not worry about the above referenced list. If the City Streets department could figure out how to schedule and coordinate road projects work properly and not let contractor's just run the jobs at will shutting down lanes and roads even when no work is being done, not working at night or incentive to complete early - especially in commercial areas, the sales tax number may actually increase and help close part of that gap. They also can cut back on road work project costs by not putting in medians every new street project. Does the Mayor's art projects for various areas come out from this budget? If so, that is what should be totally be cut first before cutting services to the people that need it or deserve it.
180. I think we have to fund programs that enforce laws. Otherwise why have the laws. For those social service type funding programs, I think the needs are legitimate, but we should turn to the non-profit community for as many of those as we can.
181. I would like to know if any of these services are provided by another agency within the community before submitting my answers.
182. Please DO NOT cut libraries, pools or nature centers. These are essential programs for low-income families and youth in Lincoln.
183. These are all important.
184. Cut more library services and/or shorten open times. Same with pools. Definitely do not add library budget or even consider building/maintaining more of them. The idea that police and road services is even comparable to library services is just wrong minded. Police and roads are fundamental priorities. Similar to art, libraries are great, but only if they don't impact priority budgets. I would hope if we are given these as choices, the idea of a new library downtown has been shelved/dismissed.
185. Not enough information to make an informed decision on most questions. Need more information
186. where does the funding for golf courses come from? seems that those beautiful greens are expensive. go the fees collected Really cover the cost? / /
187. Do not fund private with taxpayers \$\$!! Examples: neighborhood pools is a NO-brainer. Hospitals should fund "Ask a Nurse" programs, but NO public money. LPS can fund the grandparents if they choose, not the city. Cut public library services to computers and reading rooms. Checkout 1 or 2 days per week only. University library is open longer hours and free and available to all Nebraskans citizens, especially if they live close to one. Bennet Martin is so close to Love library, it should be closed and everyone downtown use Love library (press the EASY button). /
188. Why are limited to just a few choices for cuts? This creates a false dichotomy where we are asked to make a choice between small programs that benefit the elderly and the young. Why not offer citizens the choice of cutting 10% of budget for the Mayor's office or from the City Council budget? These would present meaningful choices. The intention of this survey is to make Lincoln citizens feel like they are giving input when in reality this input is essentially meaningless.
189. I hope I answered this correctly. When I answered "Do NOT Fund" it was my intention to have the cut not made. I think the wording on this survey was confusing.

190. People can go to different swimming pools; people can use library computers to seek reliable medical information, with librarian assistance. The nature center can still be enjoyed without programming.
191. A swimming pool on the southwest side of town is needed. The only options are memberships at the YMCA, (Cooper), joining a country club or Madonna Proactive. Zero entry pools are also perceived as more dangerous than dedicated "baby pools". In a baby pool, toddlers aren't in danger of wandering too deep or being run over by older kids. Many mothers in south Lincoln have discussed this as being a great benefit.
192. Do not sweep the streets.
193. In the Library closure, are you talking 1 day a year (which is how this is written) or 52 Sundays and 52 Fridays? In any event, I feel the Libraries should be a top priority.
194. Do not waist a dime of our tax money on any new library downtown, what a stupid idea!
195. Libraries should be the last to be cut. Indeed, I encourage you to expand library hours. I'm also puzzled as to why there is talk about building a new main library while you consider cutting library hours.
196. It seems like there may be other health information and referral services...?? / I am frustrated, because I believe we should pay more taxes and have quality of life. That choice isn't offered.
197. I would like to see the city replace more pools with spray parks. I do not feel that we receive good value from the library. The library appears to be poorly managed. We do not need to spend city funds to build a new downtown library.
198. How much revenue does the parking program bring in? You only told us have the story on that one.
199. It is not tenable to have a city that we feel belongs on the top 10 places for people to live that is cutting parks, libraries, and swimming pools.
200. Please keep 7 day library service.
201. I dislike the choices! Have you been to a library lately! How can you think about closing it for a day! I believe that most of them directly affect the disadvantaged children and senior citizens within our community. I am sure there are other funded items that are more esoteric or "dressing up" of Lincoln that could be put on hold until money's available.
202. Cutting the Pioneers Park Nature Center funding would, in my opinion, be one of the stupidest things our city could do. Thousands and thousands of families, of all socio-economic status utilize this AMAZING resource our community has. It allows families to do activities together, educates young people about the natural wonders of the state of Nebraska and educates adults as well. Decreasing or eliminating funding would be a great mistake. /
203. Nature Center expense seems excessive. I think homeowners can live with 6 inches of snow that often is melted soon. I do not think " Foster Grandparents" need to be payed for assisting in the classrooms. It would be good to do as a volunteer service or come from funding from LPS. Neighborhood pools are very, very important! I think numbers need to be looked at to see who is using the pools. I would need more information to accurately answer the referral call center.
204. Keep Irving pool open! / So why are there trucks going around for a tiny bit of snow now?
205. I feel that some programs -- like the Pioneers Park Nature Center, which is very valuable, could potentially be funded with private dollars. Swimming pools see a high rate of use, so I'd like to keep their hours and services available. This promotes strong neighborhoods, public safety, and health and wellness.
206. Why in the simulation do neighborhood pools cost \$160,000 of the general budget, while in the actual budget community pools only cost \$50,000 of the general budget? The simulation lists parking as \$250,000; but the actual budget lists these costs as \$330,000? This makes this survey instrument suspect.
207. Pioneers Park Nature Center is a highlight of Lincoln for all ages. Free outdoor activity center for ALL the community.
208. Instead of cutting an entire day out for Library (Sunday)...cut the hours by opening an hour later each day of the week or closing early.
209. How is it that Lincoln is facing a budget shortfall when we are known for our "high" taxes?? I would rather cut smaller amounts from several programs than the all-or-none approach given here. I would rather cut non-essential services. Health information is obviously essential, but so are public pools and the park are an essential component of Lincoln's quality of life. The snow removal program is unequally allocated -- it seems

- that O Street is plowed with far less than 4 inches of snow, and I have well over 6 inches in my neighborhoods by the time the plows get there. I hope that programs cut are reinstated once City income increases. By the way, I like all of these services and gladly pay my taxes to support them!
210. The people that control repair of streets need help! As of 6-10-16, going north and south in Lincoln from one end of town to the other, is nearly impossible. For Pete's sake, finish one project before starting another..finish 56th street, before you do major work on 40th street and Hwy. 2. It does not seem like common sense has been in the mix of street repair. Our streets are deplorable. I was just driving in Omaha and there is none of this major street repair & detours. Get a common sense plan established.
  211. Our public libraries provide far too much assistance in so many ways that more open hours should be added to each week.
  212. Why is cutting services always seen as the right answer? I think all of these should be funded. The amount of money saved is not worth it.
  213. I would decrease funding for the parking/abandoned vehicle enforcement but would add the option that police with deal with a vehicle in cases where vehicles block the street or pose a safety hazard OR when a complaint is filed by a local resident. This would allow residents to deal with vehicles that have become a problem in their neighborhood. / / KEEP neighborhood pools OPEN!!!!!!!
  214. There is no place for me to choose to cut city management
  215. If some reduction in funding is necessary, don't cut programs on which people in poorer neighborhoods or individual households depend, such as obtaining health information or services to seniors. / Similarly, let's not cut programs needed to avoid accidents, such as the neighborhood snow removal program. / The neighborhood swimming pool program is needed to provide healthy recreation for children of lower income households. /
  216. These services are very important to middle to lower class individuals and should not be cut or eliminated. How about cutting staffing in the Mayor's Office and streamlining job efficiency.
  217. I would encourage officials to raise taxes or find other funding sources and fund all of these.
  218. All of these programs contribute to making Lincoln a great community. However, I can now better grasp the decision process that City officials will need to make in order to decide on what things to cut from the budget. This will be very challenging comma as it was very difficult for me to choose what programs to keep and which ones to not fund.
  219. Would kind of hate to see any of these cut
  220. Raise wheel taxes to fund snow removal. A better solution would be to raise street portion of impact fees. Impact fees cannot be used for snow removal and Impact Fees can only be used new construction. However new street construction is funded by a combination of impact fees, gas taxes and WHEEL TAXES. Therefore raising impact fees would indirectly make wheel tax money available for snow removal.
  221. When people cut their budgets, they decrease spending on optional expenses & certainly do not "find" funds to decorate an alley or put in more bike lanes!! Our property taxes increase every year while we see little improvement in quality of streets, appearance of parks(overgrown grass,etc). Pay wheel tax and drive on poorly maintained streets. People find the cost of owning a home or car in Lincoln less and less desirable & in many cases unaffordable.
  222. The basic premise of this question and questions like these is faulty. It presumes a lack of resources usually due to overspending by bloated government agencies and worse than that it never proposes an alternative such as privatization of city services. Why is the presumption always that government has the solution, how about private industry with a bit of government oversight to ensure propriety?
  223. The Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement is not being enforced now so this will be "no change" to current operations. Maybe LPD can use this time, if any devoted to this enforcement to enforce the "Red Light" violations, because Lincoln is one of the worst for violators.
  224. I feel like this list is VERY limited. How about monitoring more of the overall costs for existing programs and CUTTING budget in areas where there is a surplus or overspending? Apparently giving us these choices lines up with the 'Core Mission' of the city, but the 'Core Mission' is not clearly stated anywhere. Tier 1, 2, and 3 services are explained, but the city overall goals are not explained. Where are we going and what is the longer

term plan? There seems to be many things behind the scenes that we spend money on (perhaps too much money), but in your survey there is no option to select an incremental reduction in spending for several programs

225. Before I can decide if any of these programs can be cut I need more information! How many people use these services? How essential are these programs to the people who use them? I think all of these programs are important to the people who use them and to the overall quality of life in Lincoln. I am willing to have my taxes raised to support programs like these.
226. I AM A SINGLE PARENT AND I NEED MY JOB TO SUPPORT 5 PEOPLE...ONLY INCOME,,NO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. I PAY FOR MY OWN HEALTH INSURANCE AND MY KIDS' INSURANCE.
227. Continuing to fund libraries, especially the Bennett Martin library, which is a magnet for transients and others looking to do illegal activities is counterproductive to the direction Lincoln needs to move. Libraries do need to exist, however building a new downtown library isn't something I would support.
228. Swimming pools are essential for children and their parents and they give teens summer jobs.
229. Keep senior citizens in their homes, take them out of classrooms; I would split the resources, limited as they might be, to keep citizens in their homes. I would keep pools open in lower economic areas and close pools in better-off sections in town.
230. Many of these services are provided by alternate avenues. ie: Tabitha offers home health care and Bryan Hospital (maybe St. E's not sure) have Ask a Nurse. Why would the city fund this? Closing libraries over weekends, not paying for non-injury traffic violations and neighborhood swimming pools when the city now has the swim park are unnecessary expenses if the budget is tight. Sbsnfon vhciles - seriously?! Snow removal is essential. Nature Park is unique. Fund both.
231. Highlighting these choices to be cut feels like emotional/political extortion. I wholeheartedly support our mayor and the city of Lincoln, but even this lifelong Democrat and fourth-generation Lincolnite feels a little jaded by this. Why isn't there more PR on why we have a shortfall? Pension funding and more citizens are opting out of TWC and choosing streaming instead. I will support an increase in my taxes to support these services, however, I was kind of surprised that we as a city are providing in-home elder care. I think there are other providers that should be providing that coverage and families/elders/human service agencies should be paying for it.
232. I don't see why you'd close ALL the library branches except B-M on Friday. It seems more sensible to close one third of the branches on Friday, one third on Wednesday and one-third on Monday. / / I am neutral on the neighborhood swimming pools only because the statistics for pool use were not included. Would closing those five pools mean that the four community pools would be overrun? And isn't the Airpark pool the only one in that part of town, where there is a lower income community? Seems like that one should stay open.
233. Library services should be cut prior to anything else on the list.
234. I strongly feel this is a ridiculous exercise in futility. Asking citizens to consider where to spend \$500,000 out of almost \$200,000,000? I have a better process: Take charge, be a leader, work with the city council, and as a team, determine city wide priorities that move lincoln into the future. For example, SOLVE the pension problem and you might find \$5,000,000 per year. going to defined contribution which is what insolvent cities have to do after their pension funds bankrupt them is a better plan than kicking that can down the road. Cost per city employee needs to be reduced as well as the cost of city gov't has moved from "admin" to professional for pay and benefits, greatly exceeding the average cost per employee in lincoln. /
235. The South Beltway ranks first on my list of priorities. Hwy. 2 during certain periods of the day is over capacity. As a long time, former member of the Nebraska State Highway Commission, I put South Beltway first on my list of priorities. / / In regard to reducing snow plowing, I believe it is something I would divert to the professional employees of the City of Lincoln. I believe the City can do without non injury traffic accident reporting. When I was a young lawyer I handled many cases and recovered substantial dollars for the insurance companies on fender benders. I realize the traffic accident reporting. Today I believe the city could do without non injury traffic accident reporting. / / Star Tran Services to the public is important. At the same time I am not sure we can afford more then the reasonable services that Star Tran gives presently. / / Bicycling is a growing sport as well as a method of commuting to school and work. I am not sure that

engineering on the present bicycle lanes are going to improve safety. Maybe we should look at what some of the other cities our size are doing. / / Thank you for allowing me to give my opinion. I appreciate Lincoln, a great city and community.

236. stop working on hay market and south pointe programs and instead work on air park and havelock programs.
237. It would be nice to see the usage of these before deciding to cut the programs.
238. Here's the deal. I like and appreciate the services I get from the city. Pretty much all of these, especially library and pools and senior citizens interacting with children are ESSENTIAL SERVICES. I would much rather that my taxes go up than to cut these services. However, I don't care about junk cars. :)
239. Funding these items insures that Lincoln is a city where people's needs and interests are met.
240. Pioneers Park Nature Center cannot close! Think of the children, the camps, the outdoor learning experiences! It would be a huge mistake to close the Nature Center and it's amazing camps.
241. There should be other city departments that should be on the cutting list instead of just these. I don't understand putting swimming pools on the cut list as there currently not enough pools in the city plus the hours that they are open is a joke - they need to be open until at least 8 p.m. every day!! You should look at cutting a position or two out of the Athletics section in the Parks & Recreation budget as the number of teams they handle have gone down each year and don't justify 2 + full-time employees. /
242. I feel that my responses seem to "slant" the survey. I prefer not to have my responses "slanted" by how the survey is designed.
243. I feel the pools are critical to keep open so that youth across the city have access to this affordable recreation during the summer. Without the ability to go to the pool, many youth may get into more trouble without the pool to structure their time with something positive.
244. Local government should be able to fund its existing resources (parks, pools, libraries) before building new ones. For example, local government should be able to maintain parks (mowing, etc...) before any new parks are built in new neighborhoods.
245. The citizens and visitors to Lincoln expect common sense local government support for the entire community. Always looking to "cut taxes" isn't what our local government should be doing. Applying for ALL state and federal community grants, public & private is worth the salaries in the executive branch for two full time staff. Also looking at our tax structure should target fixed & reliable sources. Is sales tax the source...no, it's too variable.
246. Health and safety for all citizens is of major importance, but of equal importance is providing activities and resources for youth.
247. I highly value Lincoln City Libraries and I'm at a library almost every week, but I could be okay with one day of not library service. I no longer use public swimming pools, but as a former lifeguard, (babysitter for the neighborhood) I think these neighborhood pools offer a sense of community that will be lost if only big city wide pools remain open, perhaps on reduced hours. I think some of these services could continue to be offered fewer hours, keeping them available to those who need them.
248. We do not need to be spending 42 million on a new library. The answer to that bond issue would be no. You need to cut before you try to raise taxes again. Lincoln is a great place to live but very high tax rate. / There are other services that could handle the Medical issues through the state and county that doesn't need to come from the city. Medicaid is a state run program.
249. I am in favor of keeping the current level of funding for all city programs. I am willing to increase my property tax payments in order to maintain each of these needed services.
250. This portion of the survey is somewhat unfair because there are other places where spending could be cut that would possibly be wiser than cutting some of these services. I don't believe that these are the only areas where cuts are possible.
251. I notice there is not even a choice of funding ROADS less. People will not want to move here or stay here if Lincoln becomes less livable.
252. The all-or-nothing format of these questions and the budget levels for each biases the answers.
253. I'm wondering about what conditions/influences lead to creative funding structures (like occupation taxes for things like the arena or the proposed 19 million dollar parking garage at SouthPointe) and what I as a resident

would need to do to advocate for capturing (and re-routing to public benefit programs) just a little bit more of benefit that developers and investors reap from their work in our communities.

254. People have camera phones in the car crashes
255. I believe without a doubt the neighborhood pools NEED to stay open. There are so many underprivileged kids in these neighborhoods that only have the pools to rely on in the summer. As an employee for 5 years at the pools, I can see the impact the pools have on each child that comes. We know almost everyone by name and this year we have had such high attendance rates. Please do not close the neighborhood pools! What would these kids do every day?
256. Pioneers Park nature center: cut the funding and ask for volunteers, cub scouts, sorority groups, fraternal groups, church groups, general public, like the sunken garden clean up. / / SNOW REMOVAL: I will be willing to pay more taxes to get the streets plowed. I have a small car so 6" would mean I could NOT get to work!! Just a few accidents would mean a lot of put of pocket for drivers! why can other communities in our country get the streets plowed but Lincoln cannot get it done???? / Libraries: cut some of the hours in some of the libraries and on Friday open 2-6 p.m. and Bennett Martin open 1:00-4:00 pm. Sundays.
257. This is one of the most inaccurate/invalid survey methodologies that I have ever seen.
258. Obama health care initiatives should take care of health information and health referral! Why are we paying more to support health when Obamacare is supposed to be the one-stop shop for health care. Government is supposed to take care of basics first. Libraries and Parks, if funding is not available should be handled by donations and user fees. Swimming pools keep kids busy and out of trouble adding to support of law enforcement. Law enforcement, fire protection and street repair and keeping streets clear of snow and ice is a priority for any city; one thing that this city seems to forget!
259. Regarding parking and abandoned vehicles, I think the fine for parking in handicapped parking spaces should be increased to \$300.00, or even \$500.00. The prospect of having to pay that hefty of a fine may deter people from parking in those places, because if I see someone parking there who isn't supposed to, I do call the police. The increase in revenue might be used for other programs.
260. Stop giving away TAX BREAKS like candy at a parade. It's time that EVERYONE, and that especially includes the Rich, pat their FAIR SHARE OF TAXES !!!! If you do that, you will have plenty of money to take care of our needs. TAXES should not be treated like an evil, without them, we don't have a civilized Democratic country.
261. The snow removal question is a bit confusing. I want Lincoln to spend more money and time on snow removal. It is sad that the State Capitol has the worst snow removal of any city, large or small in Nebraska.
262. I feel that over the years Lincoln has cut too much and now there is nothing left to cut that is a reasonable choice. My neighborhood has now been without a neighborhood pool for years, has a bike path running though it with weeds, not "prairie grass" as advertised, and a library that closes at 6 PM unlike the other branch libraries and isn't even open on Sunday. Last budget cycle there was a push to restore lost services, but now we are back to the cut this mantra. It has to stop. I feel that if property taxes need to be raised to cover this, then do it or find other tax revenue sources like a city gas tax, cigarette tax, or even a soda tax.
263. Snow removal is half assed anyways and has been for the years I have lived in Lincoln, so doubt many would notice if you stopped anyways.
264. Pioneer Park Nature center can be funded by a user fee if necessary. / The Foster Grandparent program should not be in the IN-HOME SERVICES FOR SENIORS budget, it does not cost very much to coordinate this and the grandparents should be volunteers. / The library days should be cut, libraries are, for the most part, obsolete due to internet. / The NON-INJURY REPORTING of accidents must be continued - this determines fault in most cases. Otherwise the courts would be flooded with disputes. / Swimming pool fees could be increased but these keep kids out of trouble in the summer. / Parking & Abandoned vehicle enforcement should not cost \$250,000. Any costs should be paid by the towing companies that profit from this work. The fees would be added to the tow fee.
265. What if the city funds less on some of the programs and the agencies do fund raisers to raise money themselves. The Pioneers Park Nature Center for example could set up a booth at the events or give ticket buyers the option to add .50 to \$1 to their ticket price for concerts. Continue holding concerts out there. They

- are great! Pioneers Park could have activities year-around that could make money. Examples are Lessons for Cross Country Skiing, walking, running or bike riding events that a fee is charged to attend. We have the option to add donations on our LES bill, why not other utility companies do the same thing?
266. Programs don't need to be cut. Raise taxes. The city should have an income tax. Income taxes are the most fair method of taxation.
267. Pioneers Park is a tribute to OUR city!!!!!! The nature center is a gift for the children - plus, the herb garden, plus all the day & PM walks, programs, etc. that are available at a charge. Pools are necessary to the low income & just for kids to keep them out of trouble in the heat!! Face it, if you did not have a/c at home wouldn't u go to the swimming pool???????
268. I strongly believe that the issue is not cutting services. We simply need to raise the income. Everything else in our lives costs more than before. We do not expect the companies that provide services to us, LIBA members among them, to reduce their fees to us, nor do we expect the stores from which we buy food, clothing, or other merchandise to reduce their prices. Why should we expect our City to continue to provide services without taking account of the decreased value of the dollar?
269. You want to keep kids active and out of trouble. Do not close pools, libraries and the nature center. You would be hurting our kids.
270. Look at the budgeted areas and see if there is justification for the actual cost or could some things be done more economically. Also could volunteers be used for some things?
271. Why are options of further increasing employee contributions to their health and retirement benefits, or reducing city contribution to retirement given as options? / / Cut bureaucracy? / / Eliminate services to Illegal Aliens? How much does the presence of the children of Illegal Immigrants add to the costs of education? How much do the crimes, accidents, calls to locations, gang activity, of Illegal Immigrants cost our city? / / Nah. Let's cut library hours and services to the elderly. ;) / /
272. Cherry picking to pressure public thinking they have input bs. Let's quit dumping money into antelope creek and art projects that have very limited appreciation in the real world. A art filled alley? July 4 celebration on July 3? No thanksgiving parade when we can piss away money on street repairs that will be repaired again next year or year after. Maybe we need to buy concrete from some one other tha abels.
273. Libraries, pools, bike paths, and parks are important. They have helped make Lincoln the vibrant city it is today. Show removal needs to be improved, especially in neighborhoods.
274. All are important for the City
275. Non-Injury accidents. If the police do not investigate them, then how would they know to write a DUI (if not present) or see that a driver has no valid DL?
276. I lived in Eden Prairie, MN for a couple of years. They do an amazing job removing snow and getting the streets open. Lincoln already does a poor job, I can't imagine it getting even worse.
277. Get politicians in office who aren't bought and paid for by unions
278. It is so sad that all of these programs could be potentially axed! Our economy is strong, what is happening to our city.
279. Cut the size of the over inflated police force in half. Fund everything else.
280. Lack of funds means somethings that would be nice to have would either have to wait of be private funds.
281. Off subject but the streets are horrible and way too many streets are torn up. It would be great if one project at a time was finished before a next one. South 56 street has been torn up forever.
282. I think there are other issues such as match retirement and union negotiated raises that should be put on hold. Why would we cut services when there are employees who get raises just because they have another year of employment. I think that the employees should work for raises. I would also like to see the city legal division looked at as well as the use of law enforcement in schools. LPS should pay for security and reduce wages from the upper management at LPS to pay for security as needed. I also think LE focuses on issues with teens that are not public safety and they should return to the activities where they diverted more youth with cite and lecture rather than pushing them into the system which in turn is supported by city legal staff. We are giving LPS way too much money for the higher administration. If the Superintendent of school didn't make 1,000 a day then the above could be funded. It is a joke that the Superintendent gets paid this amount when we have to

- pull from seniors and others who are in need. Rather than cutting city services, why not look at the entire tax base? I do think the health department has services that the private sector can provide. Lastly, I think the city and county should stand up to the state where unfunded mandates continue without doing something to make the state pay and we should look at what we do for the state because the state doesn't do it. This is just enabling the state to not do what is their responsibility and allows them to throw money at initiatives that are wasteful
283. Idiot, stop spending money on worthless crap like art and bike lanes!!!!
  284. The city should be concerned about budgeting city programs and not overlap with state and federal funded programs. The city should let state Medicaid fund medical programs.
  285. Maybe cut back on expensive art purchases and specific bike lanes that people don't seem to use.
  286. I regularly use the Pioneer's Park Nature Center with my daughter. I is a great learning experience for adults and children. It provides a healthy outlet for fitness, activity, and education.
  287. Snow removal at waiting for 4 inches is woefully inadequate!!!! Snow get packed into ice and creates many, many, many accidents. This places large costs on the individuals and insurance companies. Are the insurance companies willing to pitch in some more cost here to help snow removal before it is packed down to icy sheets?
  288. They aren't cleaning a lot of the streets till they get to 6 inches or more anyway. / / Might look at cutting the wages of some of the people involved (I wonder who?).
  289. Cut the Mayor's funds, Utilize city employees time more wisely.
  290. In general, I am happy with the quality of life in Lincoln and would willingly pay higher taxes so long as services are operated efficiently and held accountable for taxpayer dollars.
  291. Put all the options on the table. Including pension funds. Wake up
  292. This exercise makes me have a much greater appreciation for those who work on the budget! The other options that I would really hate to see go are Non-injury Traffic Reporting and Pioneers Park. If Pioneers Park was going to be cut, I would be happy to donate it to keep the centers open, if that's an option.
  293. Why are we facing another shortfall again??! Why can't we just find a way to fund all of these things that are important to the residents of Lincoln - i.e. raise taxes???
  294. These programs, pools, parks, and library's are essential to Lincoln. Having the discussion to cut these programs tells me that the State of Nebraska and the city of Lincoln are doing a poor job managing how are tax dollars are spent.
  295. get rid of cassidy
  296. Why is it that Libraries are always targeted Is it that the people / that read are more likely to see through some plans? / Swimming pools again to be cut? / Elderly services ? / Snow removal?
  297. Maybe instead of closing or ending theses services there should be a fee or increase in cost to those who use them instead of raising taxes.
  298. Do Not SELL Highlands golf course !!!! Sell a statue instead.
  299. I am amenable to paying higher taxes to keep programs at current levels; or provide higher levels of service in some areas such as bus service.
  300. Make the library a chargable membership/use fee like the golf courses and swimming pools. If a pool is not self-sufficient by the entry fees, adjust the number that are open, or open only Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.
  301. It would be helpful to see daily usage of libraries. I assume Friday & Sunday are low usage since those days are proposed as days to be closed. I know cuts have to come from some place.
  302. I'm OK with raising my taxes to keep most of these programs.
  303. A balance of savings can be achieved with targeted reductions and not a complete cut as described. Example: Is it justifiable to close Bennett Martin on Sundays and still consider renovation of Pershing for a new library. Now consider abandon vehicles - do we really want a city with this problem. / / Snow removal is an issue that to often is mentioned and creates a safety hazard in many perspectives. Maybe the heat could be lowered 3 degrees in the winter in all Lincoln municipal buildings. What would the savings be to offset snow renewal? / / It might be time to eliminate the fourth of July fireworks and those events that don't directly impact safety,

- health, and education. I would like to have city leadership provide a solution that presents a measured option without an all or none approach.
304. Did you just pick / K Friday to close branch libraries? I think Monday or Tuesday is a better day.
305. For the health information call center, I believe the most important item is to cover Medicaid and other federal programs such as the affordable care act; any service that talks about access to medical care should be funded. Do not feel the city needs a line for "general medical advice".
306. Please don't cut services from my children and don't cut neighborhood snow removal either as city of Lincoln does a poor job at cleaning streets after a snow storm in the residential areas. If you cut those services then don't ticket people for helping out to clean those areas as you do now.
307. You can save many \$\$\$ by getting rid of Tom Casady. Too much spent on this on camera mouth flapper!
308. Closing the pools in lower income neighborhoods like Belmont and Air Park would harm those communities at a time when so many good things are happening in both neighborhoods (Educare, NW 48th expansion, etc.) and families would otherwise want to move to the neighborhoods, but for the closing of amenities like public pools.
309. Much like a person would make changes in their personal budget if they did not have the funds to do something, I feel the City should also buckle down and make changes to the budget and STOP expecting the citizens of this city to continually come up with more and more funds when our income is only going up 2 to 3% annually. We just can not keep doing this!!
310. These choices are misleading - your budget has more options than the ones listed above.
311. These are definitely FALSE options. Where is the option to increase snow removal funding!?! Where are the ACTUAL choices?
312. Services for those in need should take priority; those of us who can will pay for our services.
313. Why did you select these programs in the survey? Why not show a category of cutback in Mayor's office staffing? What about showing a category where other city departments are wanting to increase staffing and seeing if those areas should receive funding.
314. yeah I think your paying Tom Casady way too much money. You created that job, and its a crock that he has to be paid that much who came up with that salary Buetler you!!!! let me guess is Tom a registered democrat too
315. This is the most screwed up town i have ever lived in. Everything from your manner of pet licensing, including obtaining information, collection and enforcement of fees from responsible pet owners who are forced to pay for irresponsible pet owners, to your threats of confiscation of the pet if the licensing fee is not paid, are totally Unamerican and fucked up. In addition, the first day I moved here, my minister who I was following turned into the wrong drive, Brewsky's instead of 72nd street, and told me when we got to the apartment three minutes later that as I turned out (he was then following me), that I had broken a tail light cover on the back of a car. It belonged to a waitress at Brewsky's, and I called down and said we were coming right back to give her my insurance information, but she had already called the police. Due to that, I have been paying an additional \$25 a month for car insurance, because he insisted on writing a report on a piece of plastic that cost less than a hundred dollars to fix. Plus I just got my licensing for my car, and this \$74 wheel tax for Lancaster County is the biggest joke of all. I have never seen worse streets in my life, and I have lived on both coasts in NYC and places in between. You obviously have no traffic engineering department, because you can drive up to six red lights in a row. Your streets are always under construction, but still always suck. Lincoln is a true POS city, and for a capitol city that should be an offense right there. I laughed today when I saw that you have a 3.3 million dollar short-fall. That so figures. I am out of this town at the earliest opportunity and hope I never even have to drive through it again. What a joke.
316. Sorry, but this is complete nonsense.
317. Why is the continued art focus not listed. Would need to see city investment on the current art campaign and the current investment focus on renovating South Pointe as an anchor tenant is hesitant about moving forward with the project.
318. The Mayor is using a typical scare tactic by threatening to cut services that many people rely on. / For instance, I live near the Irvingdale Recreation Center and Pool, that pool is always busy and used all Summer by families

in the neighborhood. To expect them to transport their kids to and from other pools such as Star City shores isn't realistic and for many working parents, not feasible. / The same goes for closing Libraries, has Mayor Beutler ever actually visited a Lincoln City Library? I visit the Lincoln Libraries frequently and many times with my Grand Children with me. The Libraries offer activities and services for citizens of all ages and their summer programs help keep kids engaged in reading and learning while school is out. Whenever I visit the Library there are people of all ages using the computers and on-line services. There are students working on homework and school projects, groups using the meeting rooms and parents bringing their children to reading and activity programs. There are reading groups for all ages and activities like Trivia Night that bring neighbors together. If the Mayor or his Majordomo Mouthpiece Rick Hoppe would actually go out and visit the City's Libraries at various times of the day and on weekends they would see how important the Libraries are to the community. The Lincoln City Libraries provide the citizens some of the best return on their tax dollars and the Mayor should be far more supportive of them rather than using them as hostages in a revenue dispute. / And speaking of Libraries, how about instead of wasting money on yet another unneeded and unwanted Round-About at 14th & Old Cheney we use that money for Libraries, Pools, Seniors etc. And why isn't the City of Lincoln selling the closed Pershing Auditorium and getting that property on the tax rolls, like they agreed to, which would bring in more tax revenue. / Also, the idea of using Pershing as a replacement for the aging Bennett Martin Library is a bad one. The cost of renovating Pershing, no doubt including asbestos abatement, and bringing it up to current codes including ADA would cost so much that a new Library could be constructed somewhere else near downtown for less. Additionally, the old Bennett Martin building could then also be sold, putting that property on the tax rolls as well. / The idea that you can reduce snow removal is another ridiculous scare tactic. I previously worked in the Lincoln 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center and I know first hand what just an inch or so of snow does to the City's traffic. On a typical morning commute even an inch of snow will result in over one hundred traffic accidents in an hour's time during the morning commute. Refuse to plow and sand those streets and you will have hundreds more accidents to deal with. / And, the Mayor wants to do away with non-injury traffic accident reporting so these drivers would be left with no accident report to aid them with their insurance claims, thanks for looking out for the citizens Mr. Mayor. / Not enforcing Parking and Abandoned Vehicles is counter-productive. Parking fines generate revenue. It also deals with vehicles that are left to become a blight in the cities neighborhoods. Mr. Mayor, try going for a ride or walk some evening or weekend in one of the older neighborhoods with narrow streets where cars block alleys and driveways and are illegally parked between the sidewalk and curb, usually blocking the sidewalk in the process. Without LPD's Parking Enforcement to manage these problems they will be even greater. Go on a ride-along with the Fire Department some evening and watch them have to navigate through these narrow, vehicle clogged streets. I've done it, it is a white knuckle ride and those Fire Fighters deserve praise for being able to get their vehicles where they are needed without causing property damage accidents. / Pioneers Park and the Nature Center allow Lincoln residents access to enjoy Nebraska's natural and scenic wonders without having to travel far. This is especially beneficial for those whose work and life schedules don't allow them to take their families out of town on longer trips. The more our citizens, adult and children, learn about the outside world of Nebraska the greater their understanding and desire to care for our natural resources will be. / And finally, threatening cut to Health Information and Referral services and in-Home Services For Seniors is a sad, sad ploy. Maybe the Mayor should try to navigate the very confusing and many times conflicting landscape of Medicaid and the Health Insurance Marketplace. Is it because the Mayor or Mr. Hoppe don't need to deal with Health Insurance or the Marketplace that they don't understand or care what those of us who have to use these services have to go through. Try calling the same insurance company every time you need a referral to a specialist or need a new prescription and every time you call you get a different person who after asking you a battery of question about who you are, gives different, confusing or conflicting information from the last time you had to call. Having someone to call to help navigate through this can make a very big difference in getting the care you need. / And to just throw Seniors under the bus, really? Another sad scare tactic Mr. Mayor. Our Seniors, more than any group, deserve to be cared for and taken care of. To help them with simple tasks lets them know someone cares about them and bolsters their dignity and quality of life. They are the one's who built our City, County and State into the place it is today. They've earned everything they get and deserve far

more respect from the Mayor and Mr. Hoppe than being used as a bargaining chip. / I do have some suggestions for the Mayor and Mr. Hoppe: / Instead of using the threat of cutting services that will draw an emotional response from citizens to try to get leverage on the City Council, how about presenting honest, practical budget suggestions and trying to work with the Council and not issuing ultimatums. / Has the Mayor and Majordomo Hoppe looked at the departments budgets and identified waste and excess? I worked for the City of Lincoln for seven years, I saw plenty. / How about instead of cutting services or employees at the service level why aren't we looking at how many employees are sitting in management jobs that are redundant or not needed at all? / Do we really need all of those managers? / Also, what about the money collected from vehicle registration fees and paid to the City by the Lancaster Treasurer? Where are those reported millions of dollars? What were they used for? They were supposed to go to building and maintaining the city's streets, to include I would guess snow removal as a maintenance item, but judging by the fact that you can't drive more than a couple blocks without encountering potholes, cracks and crumbling asphalt I don't believe that money was used for the intended purposes, so where did it go? Was three million of it used to buy fire apparatus? / Lastly, Mr. Hoppe, you asked why the City Council wouldn't want to hear from thousands of citizens about the budget? Perhaps as a long time appointed employee you perhaps forgot about how our system of government works? We elect the members of the City Council to represent us. We speak to them and they speak for us, thousands of us. / We also speak to the other elected officials, such as the Mayor. As such, the elected Mayor, not an appointed employee, should be the one speaking to us whether directly at meetings or through the media about important things like this. /

319. why does the mayor think he needs spend so much in hay market area and let the rest city go to pots
320. / request churches help with in home care for seniors staying in homes longer. Information on health insurance and referrals is available through the state insurance department. And medical information is available through state and federal programs. These (health information) seem to be duplication of services.
321. Are these really the only programs that can be cut from? Is this fixed to disfavor the the programs that the mayor is less partial to? These programs are important to families. They help to provide necessary education and skills. Education is more than what they teach in the school buildings.
322. With all the taxes even I pay in this city what do we spend the most money on? Living here feels like a social list country without the benefits. I know we have nice parks and awesome libraries but it seems like we are always short on cash.
323. How many people visit the nature center? Is it open every day or just week-ends? What about reduced hours or special hours for school trips?
324. Closing the nature center at Pioneers Park would be a HUGE disservice to the children and families in this community. It would not show a focus on early childhood (one of the Prosper Lincoln goal areas) and would be a huge mistake, in my opinion.
325. I don't think the tennis courts should be funded as they have a limited number of users.
326. Seems like all of these programs contribute to the quality of life that Lincoln is so proud of so seems crazy that we would even consider cutting them. Politics used to be about the good of the people--now it seems to be all about dollars and me, me, me. This survey is a sadness.
327. Why don't we take a look at what elected officials are being paid and what their budgets are for their expenses?! I also notice a lot of the programs that are looking to be cut effect the children of our community (pools, nature center, libraries). How about limiting some of the benefits of City Council? /
328. Pioneers park is so important to my family! We spend so many weekends on the trails and in the nature centers! This would be devastating to loose.
329. If our libraries are closed one day a week that will impact many services to children, adults, teens and the underprivileged in our community, story times may get cut, and other programs for teens, etc. Checking in materials off of customer accounts will take longer, getting holds out to the hold shelves for customers waiting for them will take longer, and folks will need to travel downtown to Bennett Martin on Fridays if all branches are closed. Some of our kids and seniors especially will be hurt by this, as some of them only walk to their nearest branch.
330. Please don't cut the park. This has always been a wonderful place for children to learn.

331. I think the neighborhood pools you are looking to close are the ones that are in neighborhoods where the kids have nothing else to do. I think the hours should change to 3-9 PM - so working families can still go to the pool on a weeknight. Close on Fridays except for private parties (paid for by fees).
332. Maybe we could cut down on spending money on roundabouts, so we could fund these items!
333. Libraries and swimming pools are some of the only worthwhile activities for youth in our city, and the Pioneer Park nature center is often the only place underprivileged children from Lincoln get to spend out in nature. Please continue to fund these services. People can deal with less parking enforcement and snow removal.
334. Cut the mayors staff by 500,000 for the year, overpaid and underworked causes the budget shortfalls. An intelligent mayors office would be able to adjust the budget without hurting Lincoln citizens.
335. Enterprise Street seems to get plowed last in the winter and is usually a washboard. / Why is always the pools like Air Park that services children from lower income that always get closed? / Seems you can always find the money for your pet projects downtown in the Haymarket but Pot holes (street maintenance) and maintenance don't seem priorities. /
336. CUT TAXES! As a new resident of Lincoln (I am from out of state) I find that taxes are my only real complaint about living here... Enough already!
337. This survey is ridiculous and focuses on programs that certain constituencies will object to. Let's be more prudent in prioritizing and not ask for such emotional programs. For the amounts involved, there are better ways to cut those costs. . .perhaps prune staff and positions that easily cost \$100,000 a year when salaries, benefits and other overhead is calculated. Your use of "Tiers" originates in previous surveys that were structured to achieve desired responses.
338. Of foremost concern: are these really our only options as a community? Perhaps we could spend less on art and more on people if we are in such a dire position. / / Regarding "One Day of Library Service," why is the administration asking citizens to potentially cut library hours at the same time it is asking them to fund a new, \$40-50 million location? I suggest dropping the proposed new location from planning and consideration. We have much greater needs as a community. / / Regarding "Health Information and Referral Call Center," how much use does it get? It seems there are County and State resources available to achieve the same goals. / / Regarding "Neighborhood Snow Removal," it is already a large task to clear neighborhoods after a significant snowfall. That has resulted in neighborhoods being plowed days after the snow has ended, in many cases. If it already takes that long, I'm inclined to wonder if it is worth the cost, though I'll remain "Neutral/Unsure." / / Regarding "In-Home Services for Seniors," it seems there are many options available through the private sector; Tabitha comes to the top of my mind, but there are many others that could fill that gap effectively, including our churches. / / Regarding the Parks and Recreation Department, its management appears to be lacking in quality, efficiency, and effectiveness. Serious consideration needs to be given to changing its leadership. Then, maybe some of its programs wouldn't need to be included in the above list. / / The City should use scarce tax resources to give a helping hand up, not a hand out.
339. The question about library services is unclear. Does it mean \$370,000 would be SAVED if libraries were closed one day a week? If so - how does a person answer from the choices given?
340. cut back on the mayors staff. reduce the number of vehicles dept. wide. stop hiring consultants all the time have a staff that can make the decisions...do a way with the director of safety.
341. All of the above are important; however, Pioneer Park Nature Center and the libraries benefit a large population (low income included) of Lincoln and visitors from beyond our city and state borders. If funding is cut the educational opportunity these entities provide for children through adults will be lost.
342. For the libraries, I would not close on Fridays----maybe Mondays after we've had a weekend to go or Wednesdays.
343. Our public social services are equally important and all need to be funded well and not subject to / budget cuts. Many of these social services have been cut over the last decade or more. For / example pool hours to 6pm when most families hope to go after work to their neighborhood pool / until 8 or 9 pm. / These social services may not show a bottom line, make a profit; they are the very social / services for which people move to Lincoln. Keeping our youth engaged with these social / services save our city money in the long run when they stay out of the judicial system. / They move here for parks, neighborhood pools, / libraries, trails, recreation



9. Budget preparation and financial administration
10. I have gone through the list and there are a lot of programs that could be cut i.e. programs in the Mayor's office, tobacco prevention, surveys, Lincoln Marathon, Fourth of July (what????), Body Art (what in the world).
11. Commuter / recreation trails & Library hours, Monday-Thursday
12. Bookmobile, Ombudsman, Reduce Senior Centers
13. ALL THE MONEY SPENT MAKING LINCOLNG "BEAUTIFUL" NO NEED FOR ALL THE ART PROJECTS
14. Civil litigation and legal services and legislation
15. Ager play center, Pershing center, Lincoln Marathon, 4th of July
16. Tom Cassidy position
17. Mayor's Office
18. Police overtime, Lower the pay rate for all City worker's, Cut health Benefits for all City worker's, cut matching retirement funding to .25 cents for every dollar.
19. Arborist, travel marketing.
20. bike paths, special bike lane downtown and charge a registration fee for bike just like cars that get their own lanes. The list that you have provided are not the only things that could be cut or changed, It;s hare to work with only a partial list.
21. Program Net General Fund Cost Other Sources Tier Outcome Goal Dept(s) Associated Performance Indicators
22. Parks and rec
23. Start Tran is over funded for the amount it is used. Cut the Omsbudsman position.
24. Cut city longevity pay
25. Star Tran, communicable disease education, and if our city leaders? Can't figure this out without raising taxes then it's time for new leadership!
26. Adding any more bicycle trails in downtown area.
27. EMT services
28. Employee discipline program
29. missing persons investigation, economic development spending (Lincoln has grown enough)
30. Public safety director and some of the Mayor's aides....another layer of unnecessary positions. This survey is a joke.
31. art sculptures...bike paths...tax increment financing marathon, fireworks, dept. salaries
32. Here are some that could be trimmed not cut. If you do this with many no one should be hurt to bad. First Home Buyers Loans, Gov Access TV, Tobacco Prevention, Long Range Transportation Prodget, Traffic Studies, Icon's of the City, BODY ART-really, Lincoln Arts Council
33. Across the board cuts to non essential programs (Healty & Prod. People). StarTran, don't just cut, Axe it until it pays for its self.
34. arena
35. Police Patrol
36. All of them but snow removal
37. Spread it out from all
38. Require more contribution for health benefits by city employees. Reduce funding of retirement benefits.
39. Police and fire unions need to restructure their retirement so we are not required to pay for it.
40. Animal control, icons of the city, pershing center
41. City libraries
42. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED)
43. First Time Home Buyers, animal control, dental program for pregnant women, sports field and concessions, body art, medians and, blvd, Lincoln Marathon,LPED, golf courses, design reviews
44. Cut the dental and health programs for free loaders, HR hiring process for city/state positions is inefficient
45. Funds expended on art - lped -bike lanes
46. Pershing center, tobbaoco prevention and cable access.

47. Bus services during mid-day
48. Lincoln Fire and Rescue, city administration, Public Safety position and staff we already have a police chief and fire chief,
49. Increase fares on the buses and make those who use the bus pay for the service!
50. City Comptroller and City Treasurer and Pershing and July 4th Celebration
51. LPD services, city employee benefits
52. StarTran
53. Support to neighborhood watch/business watch -- dog bites, Fourth of July Celebration, Lincoln marathon, Lincoln Arts Council
54. Golf Courses, Parking Meters, Non-violent Crime Policing
55. Anything - they can get by on less. Do not raise taxes. You produce money instead of spending our money!!!
56. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
57. Flood hazard community rating system
58. Fire prevention inspections
59. stripping sidewalks
60. developer applications for subdivisions/ROW vacations..Comp Plan review..why does that cost 230.000 anyway?
61. All dental programs (Obama care should take care of that), tobacco prevention not a city responsibility, Pershing center, Sunday hours at Bennet Martin, Arts Council, Book Mobile, cut city positions - We don't need a Public safety director and a police Chief,
62. Developer applications
63. The UNL Police
64. Every city budget has fat--cross the board cuts makes more sense.
65. Business retention, expansion and recruitment support.
66. Stronger Safer Neighborhoods, Employee Development, Dental Program for Pregnant Women along with several others that are not necessity
67. You don't have to cut these completely but you could cut a percentage from each of them. First, I would eliminate the Sustainability Dept. (It is just the implementation of UN Agenda 21). Medians and boulevards (too many medians being built) - Housing and employment discrimination investigation - (too much to spend in this area). Employee development training - (cut by 20%). Employee hiring - ( hire more within). Commuter and recreational trails -(too much spent on bike trails). Icons of the city (cut by 20%). Maint of street trees (cut by 10%). Police response to non criminal calls for service (cut by 5%). Community and regional parks - (cut by 10%). Pioneer park nature center (cut by 10%). Civil rights education - eliminate
68. ombudsman, the person that made this survey, tobacco prevention, and others
69. I dont know which city programs could be cut
70. Reduce Star Tran Services
71. Reductions in Bookmobile services and reductions in Sports fields and concessions;
72. Maintenance of street trees; Pershing Center; Civil litigation and legal services and legislation
73. why not a combination of the above--i would like to dot several
74. Spend less on street median beautification. We don't need as many plantings and"art" that require continued maintainance.d
75. City Libraries
76. An across the board reduction in all services
77. I would reduce the hours of libraries and pools, perhaps mornings only Tues/Thurs. Afternoons only on pools. Freeze city employees salaries and hiring, except for cause shown to the City Council.
78. The 500K should be allocated evenly across the services I designated earlier.
79. prenatal referral dental services for pregnant women
80. Cut 90% of the Mayors staff. Cut funding of complete streets and art projects.
81. ART in the city
82. Community Learning Center

83. Library Hours - Saturday
84. Mayor's office
85. startran,housepreservation,CDBG,tobaccoprevention
86. Fire & Safety, HDM, Communicable disease program and STD program
87. I prefer that all agencies be cut by 3%. Tighten their belts.
88. Tree planting
89. Communicable disease program and STD program; Immunization Clinic
90. social, health, basement savers (firemen)
91. I think anything involving educational programming could potentially be cut. (For example, communicable disease & STD program).
92. police
93. Any city funds spent on art.
94. Star Tran,Civil litigation,Budget preparation financial,City Comptroller,Employee Development training,Employee Discipline program,employee Hiring.
95. Cut the pensions for firemen or at least do not allow them to do things that inflate their pay their last few years of working. Reduce retirement match for other city workers.
96. Parks and rec public safety director
97. problem resolution
98. Mayor aides, city attorney
99. All should be subject to task.
100. Bookmobile county \$110K, Legal Services for Seniors \$75K and Housing preservation-Apartment Licensing 1/2 of \$400K
101. Maintainable and building bike trails + charge trail user a fee to maintain similar to wheel tax
102. I don't work for the city, mayor and city council need to figure it out.
103. reduce the mayors salary a typical democrat, spend , spend , spend and reduce pension benefits, they are ridiculously high
104. Don't need multiple police responding to calls from neighbor's about noisy teenagers. Saw this firsthand a few years ago. Plenty of actual crime to use these resources for. Also randomly having officers with radio guns hiding at the bottom of a hill that is not in residential or school zone. Akso a VERY obese officer ran a red light to follow my son all the way home& give him a ticket for no front license plate. No speeding or other driving violations. The officer was wheezing just from walking from his car to my sons. Not a good use of police resources.
105. Cut more city library hours and cut back on some neighborhood parks.
106. parks and rec, senior support, Administrative costs.
107. Communicable disease & STD program.
108. Pershing Center, Ombudsman, Maintenance of Street Trees
109. Fire response
110. This a a very small part of budget. I would have to study budget harder to make a reasonable and educated recommendation.
111. Sell Pershing Auditorium to private developer to begin receiving revenue not spending for the upkeep of an obsolete building
112. Mayor's office. Payroll.
113. Rick hoppe's salary
114. Parking ticket - enforcement.
115. City Attorney
116. Hire me and I'll find them.
117. Mayor Beutler needs to use Tax money to help our cities streets and business, not fund his projects to "make Lincoln beautiful"
118. Audit Urban Development spending and all contracts it awards. Rein in the excessive spending there.
119. Librarians, food delivery to elderly, city engineers

120. Cut the Public Safety Director Position, Tobacco Prevention, City Wellness Program, LPED Program, Food Safety Program, Insurance and Financial Counseling
121. Mayoral Staff
122. Lincoln Marathon (\$30k), Pershing Center (\$95k), Tobacco Prevention (\$65k), Low Income and Economic Development Reduction (\$80k), LPED (\$500k), Commuter/Recreation Trails (\$255k),
123. fire prevention
124. Business Retention and Recruitment Plan
125. Cut the staffing at public works and the city attorneys office. Quit wasting money on public art. Never plow the bike lane before the road. Also quit spending money on promoting the mayor's initiatives/political goals.
126. Police and school funding.
127. Fire fighter and police pensions
128. Close half of the Libraries in town, Maternal Health Programs, Dental Clinic, Neighborhood Parks
129. Metro Planning Organization Administration, Startran, Food Safety Program, Low Income and Economic Development Impact Reduction, Tobacco Prevention
130. all programs can take a 1% cut and see what the budget does.
131. Bike lanes, public art,
132. Housing Preservation & Apartment Licensing, Animal Control Enforcement, Project Safe Neighborhoods, Business Retention, Problem Resolution Team,
133. Mayor's office, law dept., health dept.
134. TIFF sucks money away from the city and schools. If the schools tax less the city can take more.
135. The Mayor's staff and the Law Department, and whoever developed this push poll
136. Golf courses
137. CIP, City Comptroller, and if i could the weed control people. The Emergency services radio seems way over priced.
138. Business retention, expansion, and recruitment support, Election expenses, Employment & housing discrimination investigations, Ombudsman, Tobacco prevention, Pershing Center, Lincoln Arts Council
139. Treasure and finance offices
140. "Fly Me to the Moon"
141. Pension funds
142. Administrative Staff
143. Police
144. Bicycle lanes in downtown Lincoln.
145. comprehensive plan, narcotic enforcement, immunization, Pershing center
146. comprehensive plan reviews
147. BOdy ART , Fourth of July, ALL THE ARTS ARE NOT NECESSARY THEY CAN GO TO UNL
148. city police fire and pension
149. This is not a fair question of ordinary citizens who do not have access to the details of the budget for each program.
150. budgeting for developer applications
151. See my other note regarding cutting library staff
152. money for arts, sculptures, etc. in city
153. Communicable Disease and STD Program
154. not sure
155. problem resolution team, non criminal child neglect, developer applications for subdivisions, library hours, tobacco prevention,
156. Immunizations, Reducing salaries over \$250,000 by \$50,000, Litigation costs for truancy cases
157. city comptroller, city treasurer, election expenses, city council prep, graffiti removal, star tran service Saturdays, public engagement info
158. animal control - maternal child health programs - civil litigation - budget preparation/city comptroller
159. Real estate acquisition/disposition

160. REDUCE TAXES!
161. I would like to see the City Council address the Police and Fire Department pension fund that is ridiculously out of control.
162. Enforcement of public order offenses; prosecution
163. Home delivered meals, Employees Discipline Programs, Sports fields and concessions,
164. Why are Election Expenses so high? Employee discipline programs? Sports fields and concessions - raise user fees
165. City Comptroller and City Treasurer
166. Tobacco prevention (10k) Lincoln Arts Council (25k)
167. Criminal and narcotics investigations..cut 1.5%. Fire response and extinguishment cut 1.5%. traffic law enforcement cut 1.5%.
168. Arson & bomb squad and prosecution
169. Public art and the alley project
170. Sell Pershing and put on tax roll. Close down downtown library and put on tax roll. Get rid of public safety director
171. Gov't access channels; public "art";
172. Hay Market, art, fancy allys, TIF, ice rinks, tennis courts, Pershing into a library and assorted other yuppie ideas.
173. Firemen & police pensions.
174. Mayor's salary.
175. Ombudsman
176. Cut from the legal defense to "protect city interests"
177. Maybe instead of cutting those programs completely you reduce hours for say the Nature Center or some of those pools?
178. Fire Department / Medical Emergency response and any Art type funding.
179. Traffic Law Enforcement , Enforcement of Public Order Offenses
180. Stop with the expansion of bike trails and roundabouts.
181. Could we sell the "Crossroads" building downtown, either outright or even in favor of a different location?
182. Star Tran Handi Van
183. The ones I did not choose as definitely fund.
184. TIF
185. Eliminate Bennet Martin Public Library completely.
186. Bookmobile, Government Access TV, Tobacco Prevention, Support to Neighborhood Watch, Body Art, Medians and Boulevards, City Wellness Program
187. Gov TV, spending on medians, shrubbery, etc.
188. Mayor's Office and City Council budget
189. Sacrifice 70k from snow removal budget
190. Public funding of private golf courses
191. not sure
192. Take the bottom 10% of employees (those who don't work much anyway - the ones who take smoke breaks 4 times a day) and fire them. Also, dont rebuild new fire stations for stations that already have buildings. Just have them renovate and add on to the current stations.
193. shut down more libraries, sell 2 public golf courses to developers
194. home delivery meals, redevelopment, sports field concessions, crime prevention, civil rights education, animal control, LPED
195. Fire department
196. Change the pension program to more closely mirror the private sector. This is one of the largest expenses of the city budget and yet it's not even an option
197. Comprehensive Plan, CIP, and plan conformance reviews, Budget preparation and financial administration
198. Cut the arborist a from parks

199. Icons of the city, commuter/recreation trails, Lincoln Marathon, Fourth of July Celebration,CLC's
200. trails cost and upkeep, public art, haymarket tax financing,, cut cost of pention
201. business expansion fund
202. Look at reducing employees
203. Fourth of July celebration, Pershing Center
204. Tobacco Prevention and Safe Kids/Injury Prevention Programs
205. Employee Benefit contracts need renegotiated.
206. Trim the Fat at City Hall, Director of Public Safety, Trim the Fat at LFR how many captains etc do we need.  
Cut Urban Development,
207. Fourth of July celebration, salaries of elected officials (mayor, city treasurer). Maybe also employee discipline programs, senior centers, Lincoln marathon,
208. make all city programs such that they pay for themselves.
209. non-criminal investigation of child abuse (let DHHS do it); Dental clinic (use UNL'sDental College)
210. I would cut fees for city empyee development, food handler safety, and I would increase the fees to use city ball fields. Also, why can't we reduce maintenance on city golf courses or sell the land for development?
211. Maternal Child Health Program
212. Business retention
213. Eployee Training, Employee Discipline, School Resource Officers - Hight School
214. Std program
215. Reduce Traffic Law Enforcement, City Comptroller, and City Treasurer budgets
216. Comprehensive Plan, only looked at page one, no doubt would find much more if I had time to look!
217. Lincoln Marathon or the Fourth of July Celebration
218. Welfare recipients on drugs, cut the free be attitude
219. Stop adding taxes and bonds to the lincoln residents tax load.
220. I cant see them. I attempted to open the sight, but after waiting for 45 minutes for the site to open, I gave up....
221. Information and referral services (Aging Partners)
222. without seeing details of each item, it's hard to say where \$45,000 could be cut, but I'm sure there's a few programs that are padded enough to find \$45K.
223. We cant be everything to everybody
224. Book mobile
225. Lincoln Arts Council,Support to neighborhood watch / business watch,Real estate acquisition and sales
226. Sports fields and concessions; Child Care: child care centers; child care health consultation; Food Safety Program; Liquid waste disposal program; Subdivision plan reviews; Public parking;Yard waste composting program;Municipal golf courses; air permits;Building projects oversight and technical support
227. StarTran
228. StarTran
229. Mayoral aides, Star Tran routes, Fire department fire inspections, Bookmobile, Library Hours and 4th of July celebration
230. Tobacco Prevention and Library access
231. Business retention, expansion and recruitment support \$50K Dental Program for pregnant women \$1,300 Human services funding \$25K Police patrol \$25K Police response to non-criminal call for service \$25K LPED \$25K
232. Sports fields and concessions; Business retention, expansion, and recruitment support; Insurance and financial counseling; Dislocated workers, youth and adult employment (Workforce Investment) Part of budget survey; Cornhusker State Games; Lincoln Marathon; Lincoln Arts Council
233. I would lower the investment in icons of the city.
234. Merge City Comptroller and City Treasurer; Merge all juvenile prosecution with the county
235. Tabacco Prevention, Lincoln Arts Council
236. libraries and star tran bus routes and services. Some lower priority fire department services

- 237. Pension and retirement funding.
- 238. less government employees and welfare services
- 239. None
- 240. Dental clinic
- 241. sports fields and concessions
- 242. Police and fire retirement pension plans
- 243. Immunization Clinic
- 244. Redevelopment, (2) Employment, housing, and Discrimination; (4) School Resource Officers; (5) developer apps for subdivisions
- 245. Services to crime victims and witnesses
- 246. reduce the school budget involving non-essential programs
- 247. fire response, cornhusker state games
- 248. Fire department overtime.
  - a. Criminal and narcotics investigations, crime analysis and intelligence; 2.) Employee discipline programs; 3.) Pershing Center
- 249. employee benefits....its,above the average. Perks such as meals parties and rewards most companies no longer fund events. Marketing department.
- 250. Civil litigation and legal services and developer application for subdivisions
- 251. Cut more Library hours at all branches
- 252. Mayor's staff
- 253. Pershing Center \$95,000; Problem Resolution Team \$80,000; Business Retention; Dental Program for Pregnant Women; Insurance & Financial Counseling; Dispute Resolution; City Wellness; Body Ar
- 254. police patrol or some other police related budget
- 255. Graffiti removal, comptroller, treasurer
- 256. Medians and boulevards, Tobacco prevention
- 257. City employee salaries and benefit plans
- 258. Cut the cost of all these committees
- 259. City Mowing Services
- 260. Lincoln Arts Coucil and Lincoln Marathon
- 261. Business Retention, Expansion, and Recruitment Support
- 262. Election expenses, Employee Discipline Programs, Sports Fields & Concessions
- 263. Director of Public Safety Position
- 264. Star Tran
- 265. Election Expenses
- 266. Bookmobile, Community pools, pershing center, tobacco prevention,
- 267. Business retention, expansion, and recruitment support; Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development
- 268. Pershing Center
- 269. Multiple City Libraries. Raise bus fee's.
- 270. Senior Centers, Dental Clinic, Graffiti Removal, Bookmobile, Dislocated worker pgm, Information Referral Call Center
- 271. Home Delivered Meals, LPED
- 272. public safety
- 273. i dont know which to cut but keep things like clc and other things that help kids. pay less for having a study done to see if we should build something.
- 274. Cut access by Illegal Aliens and their children to all government and educational services.
- 275. Limited funding for libraries
- 276. Administrator positions and salaries
- 277. Stop Police & Firefighter guaranteed retirement programs and replace with 401k programs.
- 278. civil legislation narcotics investigation
- 279. Safety

280. bikepaths, extra excessive snow removal downtown, Lincoln Arts council, downtown arts, Pershing
281. Maintenance of street trees
282. Cut the July 4th celebration (\$55,000) or Have a permit fee for anyone who uses their own fireworks in the city.
283. police
284. You'd have to give me some other choices. I'd cut benefits for city workers. Make them pay more for their insurance
285. Prosecution, Police reporting, citations,
286. I would increase the revenue from parking enforcement.
287. Star tran
288. Sell Pershing Auditorium do not make it a library!
289. Roundabouts. No new and no changes to existing.
290. Communicable disease program
291. city legal, hold tight and go back to negotiations and cut union raises or have them pay more for insurance or cut the match in insurance. Why would a union have more power to raise our taxes than we have to keep the money we earn
292. Community learning centers at public schools
293. Library hours mon-Thursday , star train core services
294. Responsible beverage server training
295. Recently added administrative costs for programs with poor returns.
296. Communicable Disease & STD program, Employee Discipline Program, Body Art
297. Show us all programs
298. Urban Design, financial assistance to the Arena, impose property tax or excise tax on University of Nebraska Lincoln to offset support costs.
299. civil litigation and legal services
300. cassidy
301. Parks
302. Libraries
303. Art
304. Cut NE State Gov. Employee salaries that are over \$70,000 per year
305. I am not certain. I have lived in Lincoln for just shy of two years.
306. Mayor pay
307. The arena
308. I don't know show me the whole budget!
309. STD/ disease program
310. stop handing out silly toys at fairs - that is not education, it is pollution
311. Libraries
312. cut mayor's office staff
313. cut down your law enforcement. they make calls on people unnecessarily and they take the side of minorities unfairly.if you can't do that, then close down the health program.
314. election process
315. benefits to crime victims
316. Mayors staff can be cut, they aren't earning their money.
317. Not sure but we need to look at all of them closer.
318. Street repairs made with City of Lincoln crews
319. mayors staff
320. Eliminate "school resource officers", also eliminate government involvement in drug/alcohol possession & use.
321. Book Mobile & Maintenance of Street Trees
322. Fire Department budget
323. immunization clinic



Lincoln Non-profit community. Why - O - Why would you compete against them with tax dollars? / / In summation, I "cut" these programs because I believe the city needs to get out of the business of service duplication, make LPS do what they already charge us for (EX: CLC programs), not be afraid to charge competitive rates for public transportation, and stop acting like they need to stand in for entities that already deal in the marketing and sales of the great product that is Lincoln. Simply put...get out of the way and let Lincolnites do what they do!

5. This mayor wastes too much money
6. Because they are grossly out of line with private sector workers.
7. Just listed a quick few. Some of these programs are ridiculously unnecessary. Snow removal in Lincoln is a joke; worst ever. Traffic light timing is horrible - whoever controls them is inept. For instance, a string of cars speeds away when a light turns green, only to be forced to stop for another light. All over town, it's the same.
8. Cost too high
9. I think we have too many programs that should be done by regular staff. The Mayor's office seems to be overloaded with additional programs. Look at the list, there are so many. / / Develop a spreadsheet where we can go in and check the ones we believe should be cut. You will see a lot of improvement in the budget, if, and ONLY IF, you take the survey seriously.
10. Do not use them
11. It is just a waste and it seems that it is only used for the haymarket area anyway. \$800,000 to make an alley pretty is insane.
12. Cuts have to be made. The tax burden in Lincoln is already extremely excessive, especially property tax.
  - i. Zoo would like to take control of the area. Perfect opportunity to not waste the space and reduce the tax burden. Win-win. / 2. Pershing center is no longer in use. Either free it up for redevelopment or reuse the space for other purposes. / 3. Explore opportunities for more sponsorship/private partnership for items such as the Lincoln Marathon and 4th of July.
13. Not necessary to have another level of management
14. Far too much is spent on executive salaries in this office.
15. City worker's get above average pay and benefits (compared to people employed in the real world) and they seldom get fired for making mistakes (compared to people in the real world), and no worker (in the real world) gets that type of retirement funding...Most get no retirement.
16. Stop planting trees, people can plant their own damn trees. If Lincoln can't sell itself without spending hundreds of thousands to tell people what is here, it has failed. Stop spending our tax money.
17. I am trying to pick things that are not needed (in my opinion) as much as other things from the list that you provided even those are not the only options available, use the ones that you have chosen for us to pick from.
18. Art projects need to be eliminated
19. Large buses running empty could be replaced with smaller vans. Replace bus maintenance people with outside contracting.
20. Did not choose any. Put them on a ballot every two years and let the people decide. Instead of the wealthy deciding everything now.
21. Star Tran as I'm should not have to fund transportation for the couple dozen people who use it. / / This money for communicable disease education? Another joke expense. Nice how you slant this survey! What a joke. Yeah most people would prefer to not have snow removed from their neighborhood so there can be money to fund communicable disease education! / / How in the world do you assign dollar amounts to specific police functions? The police budget is the police budget. This is just another manipulation of the numbers so you can get your desired result which is to raise taxes again!!!
22. They are hardly used and snow is cleared on these even before the streets are although they are hardly used. Give the few that use them a bus pass
23. EMT ambulances do not have to respond to every traffic accident that is reported. They should only respond to calls made by first responders to scenes. Cut fuel and manpower.
24. Develop internal ways to handle employee issues.

25. I don't understand how missing persons are not general investigative duties of the the police; as to economic development, I have great skepticism when public money gets spent for private gain. I think this also extends to overuse of tax increment financing.
26. Because this Mayor has more layers of mayor's aides than any other mayor in Lincoln's history.
27. Sculptures and bike paths...cuts do not threaten lives. Freebies for business...they get them and then pull out and take jobs. They get rich and Lincoln stays poor! You don't need a marathon or a bike path or an art sculpture to live. You do need to be able to get to work in the winter when it snows. It costs more for Seniors to be in residential care than to help them stay in their homes. /
28. Body Art are you kidding me, we pay for this stuff? With most of the others they are not something that has to be done now. Such as traffic studies and transportation we need to get this done, but they can wait for a bit. None of these harm people, takes away from children or the elderly. So in short if we trim a bit from many until the city receives more money then it won't take away from what we really have to have. Trim \$500.00 from a bunch and you will have your budget set without upsetting to many people. It also would not kill to raise taxes 88 cents either.
29. At every level of Government we spend more and more on "Healthy & Productive People" type of programs. Then we get give to Lincoln Days and pleas for sharing. Do we really need City funded / programs that are the same as what the State Health and Human Services provides?
30. only rich people can afford to live in lincoln with all the taxes that are temporary but never go away
31. I chose the police patrol because of the large amount of budget that they have to work with and the fact that often times there are numerous patrol units that can be seen not doing anything. With less money to work with the patrols will have more direction and less aimless wandering.
32. Drag strip
33. It is called balance the budget
34. We cannot continue to afford to provide these excessive benefits to city employees. I also feel overall staffing of city employees could be cut and more technology implemented.
35. Everyone else has to do 401K they need to do the same. Corrections workers jobs are just as dangerous and important for public safety. They do not get a guaranteed retirement package. Why should these two jobs be treated differently? ???
36. Animal control / Icons of the city - donation / Pershing center - sell or demolish
37. In this day and age with high tech hand held gadgets available to find what ever you are looking for why are we pouring 6 figures into a dead horse. I don't get it!
38. Lincoln is expanding too quickly and the crime rate is increasing. I think that development needs to slow down for a while so Lincoln doesn't bring in any more crime.
39. Most of these programs should be self funded. For instance people who play sports, golf or participate in the marathon should pay for it themselves or get sponsors.
40. As a tax payer I am tired of free loaders and people looking for hand outs. Limit the "help" some of these people apply for. They need to get jobs and become contributing members of society. / / I have personally applied for several positions with the city of Lincoln. It's a terrible process that takes 4 months. As a former manager who was responsible for hiring people, I never took four month to tell someone we were reviewing their application, then tell them their application has been moved to the next review to then tell them I would not be interviewing them.
41. Wants not needs & private sector is likely to pick up costs in these areas
42. The Pershing Center needs to be dealt with immediately. Label it a historical building or require the mural be preserved (perhaps inside somewhere). It should not be costing the city anything. Sell it, or create a new library downtown with it. Something. That is an incredible waste of funds. Tobacco prevention should not be local. Many options to quit. Cable access limits access to procedures only to cable. Not necessary. Online information services create opportunities for citizen activism. Most people, even those on welfare, have access to smartphones, referral and awareness can be made simple and easy via drop down menus. Engage volunteers to make sure that finding the information they need is quickly available.
43. Costly program likely wioth few mid-day riders

44. Please read previous comment reference this section.
45. Buses in this town go around empty most of the time. Maybe this is something Lincoln can do without!
46. I'm not sure how many people are in these offices, but if the listed budget is the salary package for these two positions (\$540,000 and \$375,000, respectively) their offices can take a serious pay cut; I also see the \$95,000 cost of Pershing--the city could be doing something besides sitting on this property; as to the 4th of July celebration, if we outlawed fireworks in this county or city I could understand a government-funded celebration, but until that day comes there are MORE than enough fireworks throughout the city (not only on the holiday but many days before and after in our neighborhood)
47. Because I think LPD resources can be allocated more efficiently and city employee benefits should reflect those of the private sector
48. In viewing the list I feel there are a number of these that could be reduced. Easily eliminating well over \$500,000.
49. I feel most of these programs would be supported by local businesses.
50. We do NOT need to raise taxes! Nebraska is currently #7 in the nation for high taxes. Responsibility and management are key factors for elected officials. Work with the money you have and not use the mentality that "we can get more". There is no more. Just say "no" to raising taxes!
51. Lincoln is full of good people. We do not need to waste tax dollars on speed traps, road blocks and harassing teens. Focus police dollars on real crime only.
52. Private insurance companies should already rate the flood hazard
53. These services should be covered by homeowners insurance, homeowners and business owners.
54. Its not a necessary task
55. I think the developer can pick up the cost for subdivision applications and ROW vacations, and I don't know why the Comp Plan review has to cost 230,000.
56. these programs are nice to have, but not the responsibility of the City government.
57. They can afford a higher fee to cover this cost.
58. They are too brainwashed by the college atmosphere. Planet college is not planet earth. On earth you will and should be assaulted for urinating around the opposite sex. Also feminists who lie about men and racial minorities who hate white people should be arrested on hate crimes.
59. I am opposed to corporate welfare as a matter of principle.
60. Non-necessity programs...if people can't pay for their needs, don't make the rest of us pay it!
61. Too much being spent in many areas. See above for amounts to be cut.
62. we are not a socialist society
63. I dont know what is available to cut.
64. Services provides to only a small number of people and my extremely high taxes are paying for services I don't use!!!
65. Lack of need in high tech environment .
66. Minimal impact on city quality of life
67. Personnel costs are the main drivers of the budget. Reducing staffing hours for libraries and pools, but not closing them altogether for certain days would allow more flexibility but would still offer access. Doing a survey to see what peak on times and off times for using libraries and pools would be a good way of determining. Maybe Mondays closed for all pools would not affect that many people, or don't open the pools until 1:00 p.m.
68. Pregnant women have Medicaid that where services are available from other resources
69. Mayor staff has way too much staff. Complete roads is a waste of money and art projects should be privately funded.
70. The internet provides an endless choice of books for reading and research. The library is not as necessary as it once was and is unnecessarily expensive.
71. Fire & safety should operate more efficiently as should building & safety. Nutrition can be obtained at a lesser expense through frozen meal programs. You can preach to the choir all you want but if someone is going to have unprotected sex, they will. There is much too much of our tax dollars being spent on statistic gathering.

Dollars that should be spent on direct services is eaten up by all the statistic gathering. Anyone who works in statistics will tell you dependent on what someone wants the outcome to be, the numbers can be "worked."  
This is old school!

72. Tree planting. Trees are being planted that obstruct vision of traffic and they are growing into power lines and then have to be trimmed and look awful. / / I would suggest that you offer contributing \$2 per city bill for the beltway to be constructed earlier instead of planting trees.... Or offer the choice!
73. While educational programming is important, there are other organizations that do similar programming, and people have access to this information elsewhere.
74. The art they choose sucks.
75. some of these things listed seems to be financially heavy and seems to me could be cut a little. Employee Hiring 210,000 should be cut and there should be a city county hiring freeze. Employee developing training is a waste I worked for the city for 11yrs before resigning for another job there is so much waste in each dept. I also wonder why I always see the fire engines driving around the city and also question why or seems to be a fire engine that goes to a medical and a ambulances that goes to fire? seems like you always see the pair? fire engines should be for a fire not a medical seems that could be stream lined a bit somehow but don't know full story either why it operates like that
76. Our tax money should not fund retirements that far exceed what most taxpayers get.
77. We don't need to landscape and care for medians and we don't need a created job that Tom Cassidy currently has
78. The City gets involved in too many cases that should be handled in civil system by neighbors/owners etc.
79. Not needed
80. Tasking establishes priorities and results in efficiencies.
81. The internet and other resources now provide reading for almost everyone. / There are other resources for legal services available. / If apartment inspections where done one half as often, say every 2 to 3 years or on a random basis conditions would be acceptable.
82. Bike should be required to licenced and bike paths / trails should pay for the self.
83. Poor use of police resources when there is plenty of real crime. Try apartments at 17th & L / Also cut planting of messy trees that drop fruit on sidewalks & driveways & block signage in front of businesses.
84. As explained earlier about the library hours...most people have internet access to the same material that is available in the libraries.Cut back on hours and no new library. Way too many city neighborhood parks that all require maintenance..people will drive a little farther if they want to go to a park that is not in their neighborhood..
85. Seems like a big budget number with likely minimum overall affect.
86. The Pershing Center is not being used. / Way too much money is being allocated for street tree maintenance. This could be reduced significantly.
87. \$24 million
88. StarTran core service core route services workday tier one and the handy an services could handle a large cut, as well as fire report and extinguishment.
89. Sell Pershing Auditorium to private developer to begin receiving revenue not spending for the upkeep of an obsolete building
90. Too many worthless jobs and outlandish pay!
91. Never says anything meaningful
92. Even though it brings revenue but is the revenue covering costs?
93. Why do we pay misdemeanor prosecutors upwards of \$120,000 +? These positions should be entry level. At no time should there be career misdemeanor prosecutors.
94. N/A
95. You have created a survey that has the citizen balance the budget? How is this useful, other than to assure that no one completes the survey and you assure that autocrats maintain their role in managing all aspects.

96. From what I understand we pay for 18 FULL TIME Librarians. Seems like we could cut an employee or two here. Also we have a large number of city engineers that we could reduce and start to use the private sector more.
97. The Public Safety Director is unnecessary. The city of Omaha doesn't have one, why do we need one? / The other programs are "nice", but when you are considering raising my taxes AGAIN. Let's get rid of the "wants" and just focus on what we "need". Most of these programs are unnecessary and create more dependency and burdens of businesses.
98. Obviously not helping this idiot make good choices
99. These appear to be programs that are not "necessary" for the community to grow and thrive. I also wouldn't necessarily cut "all" of these programs in their entirety, but it would appear that allocating more than a quarter million dollars for "trails" is excessive. Also, couldn't LPED still do a lot of work marketing our community and working with businesses at a lower price than \$500k per year? If we sold Pershing, we'd have the annual costs of maintenance and upkeep off the books too.
100. There are other agencies that can perform this function and the budget is much anyway for this effort..
101. They are both getting too much money already.
102. Majority of non-government organizations no longer have pensions but rather a 401k style of retirement savings. It is time to revisit the benefits to these agencies to align with the times.
103. There are many more that could be cut but the biggest problem with the city budget is the amount of money city employees make and the benefits that go with it. They should be paid 75% of a private employee with the same skills should be paid and the benefits should be minimal. You people work for us not the other way around. Why would I pay somebody more money to do the same job I do and with more benefits. Very few people in the private sector can retire before the age of 65 and yet their are teachers in the area I live in that retire much earlier. I sure hope there is something later on in this survey that lets me take a survey on the salaries and benefits of city employees.
104. I feel these programs could be reduced or eliminated with little affect to the community
105. 1% cut to ALL programs and a 5% increase in user fees would be fair to ALL programs an the city budget.
106. These should only be covered by private funding and not sneaky public contingency funding.
107. These programs are not necessary to the well-being of the community.
108. People heavy with insufficient results and performing non-mandated services that are better handled by NGOs.
109. TIF enriches developers while costing the citizens more. Why did the city need to spend \$1 mil to buy the land for a brewery?
110. not as usefull as other things.
111. They're the numbers crunchers, they can find \$10k. Use cheaper printer paper or cheaper toilet paper.
112. "Fly Me to the Moon"
113. No other employer uses this form of retirement funding. Pension is excessive and out of line with benefits most taxpayers get
114. They don't have enough to do as is evident in campaigns re closing garage doors, seat belts, speed traps etc
115. I have never seen a person biking on them, they confuse motorists, and they are a complete waste of money. / / Revisit retirement packages of politicians. Public servants are supposed to be temporary and were never meant to be a lifelong career. Some packages are way better than the average citizen's retirement.
116. the plan can wait a year, / immunization for who?, / legalize weed and don't waste money on that - it's a ridiculous waste. And it's over-zealous. I'm a professor and get pulled over for driving an old car - ridiculous! / Pershing center isn't in use so why is \$95k going to that? / Also, raise taxes on soda etc rather than always burdening homeowners. Property tax is ridiculously high here.
117. not needed so often
118. because they are not essential to our daily lives
119. Police and fire pension funds are the primary cause of the budget shortfall due to the rapid increase in obligation. Citizens are afraid to stand up to voice opinions about this for fear of retribution. The pension plans like these have already bankrupted several cities. We obviously appreciate their dedication and services

- but some reduction is necessary to survive. Unfortunately, in almost every situation, the citizens take the brunt of losses and very little is done to help a few.
120. A \$3.3 million budget adjustment is not a large amount compared to the total budget. To use a baseball term, the way to balance this budget is through a whole raft of "singles" Unfortunately, this survey takes the attitude that the budget has to be balanced with triples and home-runs.
  121. Do not replace any employee opening unless essential to public safety.
  122. because many of these are NOT the job of our government.
  123. Like some of the other choices first
  124. I note a complete lack of work ethic every time I enter the library.
  125. we cannot afford luxuries
  126. People can pay for their own medical care.
  127. Developers should pay their own fees, library hours can be cut less people using libraries, non criminal speaks for itself.
  128. Immunizations are funding Big Pharma and not as effective as they claim to be. / Government officials earning more than \$250,000 don't need salaries that big. / How much is spent litigating and separating children from perfectly good families because of trumped up truancy charges due to the new "excessive absenteeism" laws? How many court days and other costs could be saved by having the schools deal individually with these kids (many of whom are legitimately sick or have other reasons) and only referring the very worst cases to litigation and court dates? (Say, teenagers who refuse to go to school instead of punishing poor families who need the older kids to babysit and therefore miss school.)
  129. gotta cut somewhere
  130. reduce all across the board by X%
  131. I would place the value of these benefits far below the benefits of the initial programs that I selected not to be cut.
  132. Would not necessarily cut, but require that surplus lands be sold within 2 years of being declared available.
  133. REDUCE TAXES!
  134. The pension fund is killing our city. Something has to be done about it.
  135. If that's their salary, it is outrageous and should be cut to fund other programs. It is shameful. /
  136. Both programs are not a "requirement" by any means. Both programs could cut their budgets in half and 99% of the city would not know the difference.
  137. Cut a small percent of many. the space to include cuts is so small I can't include others I want to lust there.
  138. They have a lot of money allowed to them, so they can afford to be trimmed down. Also, we can better utilize the justice system on prosecution and not waste so much tax payer money.
  139. I don't give a crap about the mayors tower art, that's a waste of money
  140. Don't need downtown library. few people go there anymore. I thought the reason we were putting in fiber optics was to advance the city, and not go backwards. Don't need Public Safety Director. Lincoln did fine for years without one. Besides we were just told not to worry about a few murders in the city.
  141. Because the city is wasting money and trying on the other hand to cut essential programs.
  142. I believe these pensions do not reflect current economy. The majority of private sector pensions have been cut & are not coming back. Government pensions should follow suit. Also, cut the fire chiefs' drivers.
  143. He's not really doing his job anyway.
  144. The City Attorney and mayor's offices can, and often does, complete her workload. Also, how many aides does the mayor really need?? Lastly, money spent on the alley and the glass tower type projects needs to be reallocated towards public safety and swimming pools, as well as other youth programs.
  145. What the hell does "protect city interests" mean? And frankly, I'm sure we can scrape quite a few city employee positions where redundancy is fairly normal.
  146. The City needs to begin looking longer term and thinking outside of the box to help reduce costs in the future so this does not continue to reoccur. / Do large and multiple fire trucks need to response to every emergency call even when there is no fire, etc.? I am guessing that is a union problem the City needs to deal with - again

- doing it now will help reduce later. / Art; There is no reason to fund art when basic City services are potentially being cut.
147. We moved to Lincoln 2 years ago and taxes are twice as high here as they are in Sacramento. At one point the citizens of California rebelled via a proposition on the ballot to curb spending. If government can't or won't shift the approach to taxes, then I believe Nebraskans should start a comparable proposition initiative.
  148. The cost of property in the downtown area is at an all time high, and yet the citizens own and maintain low income non-taxable housing there. The sale as well as the ensuing/ongoing taxes collected could help fund many budget priorities.
  149. Large budget amount - think there is probably room for cuts
  150. It's a joke how it is used.
  151. Unnecessary when such close proximity to Love (public) library on 13th & R Streets in downtown Lincoln. Cut fire engines to fires only, not EM
  152. These are non-essential government expenditures. Many of these areas would even be better filled by private entities.
  153. Government access tv is pointless. Hardly anyone uses it. It is simply a money pit. The spending on medians is pointless as well. Privately maintained homes and businesses are what make our community attractive to visitors, not some trees on a concrete block.
  154. These two offices are where budgets are created and approved. Their needs are always covered before any other needs are considered. Therefore if there is "fat" in the budget this is where it will be found. The hurt "near home" is always felt the most and taken care of the quickest. In the budgetary process "near home" is the Mayor's office where the budget is generated and the City Council budget where it is approved.
  155. Because golf courses are an enormous waste of resources
  156. We all know that there are many government employees who just have worked for decades and they don't work hard or well, they are lazy, and could be cut without even noticing they are gone. It probably would make it easier for other staff to do their jobs better without them. Fire the bottom 10% of performers - like a business would do - and you have all sorts of savings for tax payers. Also - put the expectation out there that the government employees must also participate in customer service, not just using their power to cause citizens problems. / / Fire stations that currently have a station very near to where they propose a new station - that is excess expenditures that should not have to be used when the property is already owned by the city within a mile or so, and the building could be added to and updated to make it completely usable. Plus - the voting on this was worded wrongly because it didn't say that it would relocate current stations, so the vote was not fair or correct to begin with and will waste a great deal of taxpayer money needlessly.
  157. Comprehensive plan, CIP and performance reviews could be reduced and some of the bureaucracy could be reduced.
  158. golf is on the decline, know one has time for it. Only a small fraction of people access the pools, why do we all end up paying for it.
  159. Because they are unessential. Moreover, salaries of some government bureaucrats. Nobody should be making more than the mayor. Lastly, firetrucks should not respond to every 911 no-fire call.
  160. The fire department is wasteful. We cannot afford the contracted benefits. I would like to see this department privatized.
  161. I resent the biased way this survey is set up. You suggest cutting programs which you KNOW will get a rise out of people. It's an irresponsible scare tactic and PR stunt. How about showing major line items of the city budget and letting us pick from there? I suggest you cut the Mayor's salary to help balance the budget.
  162. Seems like some money can be taken from them not the whole amount.
  163. I think we have done plenty to pull businesses into Lincoln- now they can donate back to the community or sponsor these special events.
  164. trail cost and upkeep should be paid by users, some of it. public art is too costly and is mostly downtown, fire and police should have the same pension reducing cost
  165. private sector should cover this
  166. People are the biggest cost of the overall budget

167. These are areas where private funding could be used.
168. I believe they are non-essential.
169. They are out of control. They are way beyond what most anyone else has. People who have no benefits or at best reasonable benefits are expected to suffer to pay gold plated plans. Many are being paid a better wage than private and should be able to provide more towards their own care line most everyone else (spoiled). Retirement plans need overhauled. Why do people with no retirement plan or modest need to make up for these gold plated ones when they come up short, no one else is going to get that and we have to suffer double then. People are needing to work longer so others can retire early and double dip. It is beyond ridiculous. The unions are also creating corruption even in our own city where they contribute (as they can afford to) certain politicians that will continue to pass the goodies back. It is a sick system and is in contradiction to fair government and pits the employee/member against those that are paying the way. It is never enough as those that get the handouts always want more and have been getting it through corrupt unsustainable bigger government. Wages have grown enough to pay your own way like others have too. And get back to basics. We shouldn't be held hostage and be threatened with strikes either especially with pay scales that are out there these days.
170. They Mayor has hired his buddies and created jobs for them Public Safety Director, Urban Development, Dan Marvin gets booted from City Council and the Mayor creates a job for him. Trim the Fat and find the \$\$ Start with Rick Hoppe his is a waste of tax payers dollars,
171. Fireworks are an expensive waste of money. There are too many fireworks going on in neighborhoods anyway. I hear about how much elected officials make and it seems like they should be on the list, too.
172. See above
173. Although I don't like to cut any programs, I believe that some employee development could be handled by apprenticeship opportunities and on the job experience rather than seminars, etc. I also feel that the risk of getting hazardous materials into our food through handling is fairly low. With as many sports complexes as we now have in town, I believe we could raise the rates to use the city facilities and still cost less than the private developments. Finally, I feel that some of the city golf courses (especially the one on north 48th) could be better utilized by selling or renting part of it for residential/commercial development.
174. Health care providers can cover this.
175. Let chamber of commerce do it
176. Employee Training and Employee Discipline because employee programs are among the first items always cut in the private sector assuming you've already gone through the usual steps like cutting back use of consumables like paper, reducing employee travel, elimination of positions through attrition, etc. / / School resource officers - high school - I made it through high school in the Lincoln Public School System in the 80's without school resource officers and do not see a big need for them now. You may be able to eliminate just one officer or maybe none if cuts are made in the two employee programs.
177. Cost of living
178. This should start at home. It also said it is or smoking prevention. Again this should start at home. Schools are not parents nor should they be. Closing the nature center so kids don't smoke is ridiculous.
179. We have more traffic enforcement than most cities in the nation, we can stand to cut that back some. The City Comptroller and City Treasurer budgets are exceedingly high for individual salaries or budget for spending.
180. While there is value in having a Comprehensive Plan, in order to spend \$230,000 per year on it, you have to create costs. I serve on a board of non-profit and we engage in 10 year Comprehensive planning, cost \$0.
181. The Lincoln Marathon should be fairly self sufficient at this point. Entries are limited and sell out quickly which would indicate there is room to raise the entry fees and recoup the city funding. / / If the people of Lincoln want to support a Fourth of July Celebration then volunteers and donors will keep it going if the City is no longer sponsoring the event. I don't believe this event brings in the revenue to Lincoln to justify the City funding.
182. Quit feeding the birds and bears. Bad practice, make them earn what they get.
183. Why can't you utilize the 211 systems supported by United Way to accomplish this task?
184. Please focus on police, fire and roads.

185. Am not suggesting cutting the programs or public parking but recommending that fees be increased to cover the net general fund cost.
186. Heavily underutilized
187. need to look at the usage and find ways to increase ridership to offset costs.
188. These areas would effect the least amount of people and get the necessary funding to balance the budget. We have to do things that make the most sense for all of the citizens of Lincoln, not the least sense for a very small amount of benefits for a few.
189. The library could be open a half day, or closed on Monday...why close on Saturday when most people are off work? / / Tobacco prevention can be done in other ways that don't cost the city. Tobacco companies are looking for ways to invest - they can fund educational programs through the schools.
190. Tried to take a little from here and there to minimize impact. Could Dental program for pregnant women be moved into Maternal child health program? I think the Chamber of Commerce could provide business information.
191. Not as necessary as other items and/or could/should be paid with private funds
192. I think you can find enough volunteers to generate the \$40,000.
193. City Comptroller/Treasurer - I think they could merge and function more efficiently while still maintaining internal controls. / County Attorneys do the bulk of Juvenile Court filings - they could absorb the cost of the filings done by the City Attorney at less cost.
194. Cuts \$140,000 and does greatly affect our children. Tabacco rates are way down already compared to the past and the program has been effective and can be eliminated.
195. library services and bus routes serve a lower portion of the population and would have the least amount of impact on the community as a whole. Some lower priority fire department services could also be cut or start assessing a fee to services such as fire inspections. As we progress so do structures which include fire sprinklers which reduce the need for so many fire stations and apparatus. I support using the smaller vehicles for fire department calls that wouldn't necessarily require a truck or large vehicle.
196. Because these costs 1) are in excess with the city of lincoln private companies 2) are unfunded and unreasonable - that is guaranteeing a future benefit without having the ability to guarantee returns on investable funds means the cost of the benefit GROWS faster than expected today.
197. welfare services hire less non essential employees
198. When you can't see the usage of the programs you aren't able to correctly choose which programs to cut. Also, why do those with a house less than \$150,000 have their property taxes cut while those over are raised? If everyone's taxes were raised equally we could support all programs.
199. easier to find alternative funding for any sports related program
200. These plans are extremely generous, which is not bad. But to have a defined pension still in place is a huge burden on tax payers. What options are available to reduce this benefit, which other city employees don't have access to?
201. I think we over-immunize and should cut back.
202. redevelopment should be funded by TIF and other private development fees, not subsidized by the citizens; (4) Reduce school resource officers by half or find alternate funding; (5) Anything that has to do with business development or real estate needs to be paid for by the developers, e.g., everything under Goal 6; cut tobacco prevention; consolidate public access and education channels; halve everything/all costs under Goal 2 or form partnerships with associations and release more raw information to watchdog entities (LIBA, Open Sky, and Nancy Hicks are the only ones who attend meetings anyway). This form is impossible to scroll around in on a mobile phone, so I'm stopping here.
203. If there were information packets for referral services they could arrange own. The government needs to decrease the reinforcement of entitlement.
204. fire response - do not feel the changes of combining ambulance and fire have created any budget savings as originally proposed, but instead have added costs including wear and tear on the expense fire trucks / cornhusker state games - fund with user fees

205. Looking at the city employee pay chart released earlier. Why do so many fire department employees make upwards of 80k-130k/year and your other large departments (police) make so much less? LFR employees are a majority of the the highest paid employees for the city of Lincoln. Seems like with some overtime control on that end you could easily find more money for pension deficit, more police officer/capita increase, or funding for these other programs underfunded.
206. 1) It's insane how much money is spent on non-violent crimes. / 2.) Employee discount programs are pointless. / 3.) Why spend money on Pershing Center when it's not being used for anything?
207. developers should pay the full cost of application for subdivisions through user fees. This should not be city funded. The budget for civil litigation and legal services is too high, this can be cut.
208. Libraries can be open far less and we could have far less libraries overall and we'd be fine. By all means DO NOT make Pershing into a Library. We need more private businesses, not more government.
209. To many people on staff
210. Pershing Center is no longer used. There should be minimal cost. No utilities; no taxes. Sell IT!!! / / Problem Resolution Team - why is there a cost. Get your city leaders together and work out issues.
211. The largest share of the budget, by far, seems to be all of the police related categories. While necessary, surely there is a little room in the millions of dollars of police related budgets to squeeze out a few bucks to keep the libraries open all week.
212. Could another program or agency perform graffiti removal? Americorps workers, for example? / I know there are all sorts of reasons not to reduce salaries, but even a couple of thousand dollars would help. But perhaps this is not salaries, but operating for these offices? / Also, I am not sure what some of the other categories mean for sure. Does crisis intervention at the schools mean if there is a dangerous situation? Otherwise, could not the school social workers handle these situations?
213. Shrubs, perennials and sculptures in medians are a waste of money. They can too easily become eyesores and can distract drivers.
214. I prefer cuts to items dealing with aesthetics such as art in public places and non-essential services such as the Fourth of July celebration and the Lincoln Marathon. These types of programs should be funded by the private sector and not tax supported.
215. We elect our officials to make a decision. It seems everytime there is a decision to be made we have to form a committee. If you need help with the decision ask the people.
216. I only need to cut \$10,000 to balance the budget. If we let grass in the medians of the roads and such like that grow longer and mow fewer times we could save money.
217. Too much is spent of items like a glass sculpture and the marathon can find more donations or increase entry fees
218. Redundant, balance budget
219. I believe that people wanting an office need to earn & spend their own money. / I feel that the Employee Discipline Programs is un-needed, the boss should just take over that role. / I would like to keep the Sports Fields open but think that people could bring their own Concessions.
220. We already have a Fire Chief and a Police Chief; the Mayor can oversee these two positions. Or as the city of Lincoln has grown so much, merge the Lincoln City Police Department into the County Sheriff's Office and reduce costs through elimination of duplicate administration efforts!
221. Failure to increase ridership which would increase revenue
222. bookmobile is hardly utilized. Pershing center is obsolete now that PBA is here. tobacco prevention and pools are luxury items that are far less important than basic infrastructure needs.
223. Little research supporting efficacy.
224. Why is Pershing Center still in the budget? Tear it down and sell the property to a developer.
225. Multiple City Libraries. Maybe balance it out so some libraries are closed each day and others are open. Maybe even go to half days with some.
226. The City should not be paying for Dental Clinic. Graffiti Removal is a joke and does not work in any city. Bookmobile is not necessary with the number of libraries that exist. Dislocated worker program is a duplication

- of NE State services. The Information Referral Call center should not cost anywhere near the amount listed - if so it is too expensive!
227. Unnecessary
  228. iCrime and fires have declined dramatically, but we keep jacking up their budgets. / That is counterintuitive.
  229. What part of "Illegal Immigrant" confuses you?
  230. With emphasis on technology today the need for libraries as we have known them in the past, don't require the level of funding being suggested (using Pershing auditorium as a central library doesn't make a lot of sense to me)
  231. Many poor administrators and keep \$ closer to the key providers.
  232. 99% of the city of Lincoln workers do not have defined benefit retirement programs, why do police and firefighters have them? As personnel costs are the single most expensive item in city government, do something about them.
  233. They have big budgets, must be savings
  234. Homeowner can trim his own trees. /
  235. There are so many fireworks going off in Lincoln on the 3rd and 4th that I don't see the purpose of having a city fireworks display. I also think that the treasurer could take a cut in pay.
  236. There seems to be large amounts of money in several of these programs and it appears to me you could fine a few \$100,000 to take out of one or more of these programs.
  237. Parking enforcement should be self sufficient. The increase in parking enforcement would increase revenue enough to cover additional costs.
  238. Roundabouts are not needed not wanted.
  239. We have to make the mney somewhere
  240. Because I think the Unions really get a great deal, when a private business needs to hld ight, raises are not given
  241. Parents need to find childcare and stop depending on the public to raise their kids
  242. People will make changes in their schedules to make it work
  243. While I think it is beneficial to the public to have information on communicable diseases and STD's, I don't think it is essential. Snow removal, library services, pools, and programs for seniors impact many more people in the community. / / The employee discipline program seems unessential to me. I would like to know more about what it involves. (My mind goes to things like anger management classes.) Is this really necessary? / / I'm guessing the \$500 body art was for some sort of programming, but seriously...cut that. / / Whatever you do, please do NOT raise property taxes. Much of the burden for the city lies with those of us who own property; however, the services the city provides also affect renters. If needed, raise fees for sports teams for parks and rec or fees at pools (to take care of the pools) - things that are well and good, but are choices families make. If budgets are tight, kids can survive with a wading pool or running through a sprinkler.
  244. Urban urban design standards should be more clear and simplified with less dependence on circumstantial interpretation, employing the number of engineers and other high paid staff is overly burdensome for a town our size. The Arena was sold as a profitable venture for the City. Without accounting gimmickery, this is a sunk cost with no revenue offset. Furthermore, the University enjoys too many perks as a government operated for-profit operation. Leaving heavily on the City for infrastructure, emergency services, and other public services without paying property tax as other corporate campuses is problematic for the City.
  245. excessive costs
  246. why do we need him, we have a fire and police chief now
  247. Other items more pressing
  248. They didn't seem worthwhile
  249. We have way too many police officers for a city this size, and we put too many people in jail. Stop putting people in jail who can't pay fines. It's a waste of tax-payers' dollars to keep non-violent scofflaws in jail. We all lose when someone goes to jail for 60 or 90 days and loses his or her job because he or she can then no longer pay rent or afford to feed & clothe his/her children.
  250. Libraries are dead. Everybody and their brother has all the information in the world at their fingertips with the Internet

251. Like what we have but don't need more
252. If a teacher can live off of \$43,000- \$53,000 per year, so can government officials.
253. What I would like to say is that I have had a hard time adjusting to lack of services I already perceive. I grew up in Sioux Falls, SD and we had many of these services provided more thoroughly and fully. / / Are their non-profit entities who could fill voids for some of these programs? Or federal dollars for programs employing seniors?
254. Not the job of city government.
255. No value
256. The hours could be reduced, as well as the days they are open.
257. because it is too expensive for what value it delivers.
258. way to long of a process
259. Retirement programs for city employees, pensions, salary hikes are larger then corporate right now
260. It's not the responsibility of the state to pay for reparations for crimes its citizens have committed. /
261. You can not select other programs to cut simply by seeing their total budget. You need to see the breakdown of how the total is distributed within the individual program to truly see where there is wasteful spending. Which I am confident there is plenty of in areas that could be cut with little to no impact to Lincoln residents quality of life. I feel you always list ones that are important to people just to make it seem necessary to them to give approval for raising taxes.
262. Not efficient in the performance of the work. /
263. Honestly, I am surprised that many fee charging programs aren't self supporting (pools, buses etc.) The nature center could charge a fee instead of a free-will donation. Generally speaking I think the government's involvement in drug/alcohol related charges should be limited to "drug dealing," and to other crimes committed under the influence (DUI, violence, theft whatever). School resource officers are extraneous. I would be comfortable with a large rise in property taxes (in the order of several hundred dollars) provided the government used the money wisely. \$8 dollars is nothing.
264. How can we restructure book mobile concept into a program that does not cost \$110k a year (this seems like some innovative thinking can reduce the cost of this program). / \$1.5 billion for street trees? This city needs to reconsider how many trees they plant in neighborhoods and other locations where maintenance is going to be more costly (e.g., frequency, fallen branches, demand fast removal, etc.). The cost of this is too high when evaluating it against other items that impact city safety, economy, health and wellness. /
265. Feel they are overstaffed and inefficient
266. With obama care, everyone is required to have health insurance which would cover immunizations for those that want them.



- around the state, it's also an important place for people who are homeless to stay warm during the winter. If the library was in better condition encourage other people to also go downtown to library.
10. Stop spending our TAX money on frivolous niceties. Parks should be PRIVATELY funded, or NOT EXIST.
  11. Fund roads first. Anything else at this point is fluff. The roads are in drastic need of repairs, and they need to be \*smart\* repairs. Not like the past where the roads are patched and a year later they're just as bad as they were. Who is doing this and if they think it's saving money it's not. It's just wasting it. Fix them correctly the first time.
  12. I think Bennett Martin could be closed or downsized. Maintain the other buildings.
  13. The city is looking for \$500,000 but is planning on expanding Star Tran by \$1.5 million????
  14. Cut the Mayor and his staff funding. Eliminate consultants. They have department heads and their staff which should be making proposals for projects.
  15. People Need transportation but don't need some of these other items.
  16. With the Internet the library is not near as much in demand.
  17. Library repairs should be initiated at a minimum and prioritized on its relevance to public safety, tech updates and replacements and then public service accommodations.
  18. I think golf should aim to be self supporting through user fees - city course/courses should not be in competition with the glory of the private courses. If fees cannot support public golf, then maybe the private course members need to pay an occupation tax so they can be sure their members won't be bothered by the riffraff. Those fees can go to support public course and golf lovers pay for golf.
  19. Fund what most people will use. Keep Bennett Martin where it is. Concentrate more on neighborhood libraries. People I know tend to go to neighborhood libraries and don't go to Bennett Martin.
  20. You are talking about closing pools, taking away from the elderly and you are and have been funding a golf course. How many kids and the elderly can go out and buy a golf bag, clubs, gloves, balls, tee's and golf shoe's. Where I live kids do not have a \$1000.00 to go blow on this. Kids ware hand me downs here. / I've got to say I'm shocked to see some of the things the people of Lincoln are paying for.
  21. Need information re: % from Feds, State; timeline. This discussion has been going on for so long; politics and who benefits seems to be too hazy for us to have true numbers at this time.
  22. How does anything golf support the people who need gov't assistance the most i.e. the people living in poverty. I think we should focus on the services that will help people find jobs and be able to get to their jobs. Who cares about golfing. People who can afford to golf, can afford to pay the fees.
  23. The Pershing center should not be renovated into a library
  24. Make a drag strip to cut down on illegal street racing
  25. Proposed StarTran complex downtown is far too extreme of an expenditure. Lincoln does not need this complex to be a "Cadillac".
  26. Libraries are a thing of the past. Sell some Lincoln Parks property to raise tax revenue and decrease expense.
  27. A Lincoln belt way is long over due. Cities of similar size and layout (Wichita, KS) have beltways. Increased travel time and congestion result in lower realized profits for consumers and local business owners.
  28. It seems like the bus are mostly empty whenever I see one. Would it be cheaper to have smaller units? I have no idea what the passenger numbers are or what fees are. Would a slight fee increase cover this expense?
  29. Make them self sufficient or don't have them programs, like why so many parks if we can't now them turn them to public for more tax dollars.
  30. If buses were kept clean and in good repair as well as more buses, routes, etc. you would save on downtown parking issues and emissions. City government has no idea unless they ride the bus. Riding a bike is a good option but buses serve more people if the city does not keep changing the routes. Buses are to serve the citizens not the city council.
  31. What is the ratio of the city population that actually uses the library? The bus system? Consider going to smaller energy efficient buses. /
  32. MORE FUNDING FOR STAR TRAN!!!!!!!!!!
  33. I do not agree with replacement of Bennet Martin but support branch library repairs.

34. Lincoln should have very top quality library with all the advantages available. Also have plenty of space for the future. Don't skimp on our central and largest library!
35. Please please please mow the city parks! Our parks are a community gem and mean a lot to neighborhood families but many sit unused as the landscapes become more and more neglected while the city spends time and energy on fancy new projects - take care of what we have!!!! / Please do more to fix sidewalks- it feels like city government is ignoring the needs of core neighborhoods.
36. Beltway, while needed, takes away from other programs. We are one of the few cities of our size that still depends on (mostly) one level roads to get around. I would like to see options to get to south from north or to north from south in 10-15 minutes instead of the 20-35 minutes it takes depending on the day. The south beltway does not do that, only providing easy access and lower accidents to those who use highway 2. Consider a toll road. / Golf is not a sport for everyone. Set up alternative funding that the city does not do. Parks and rec fees should impact all who use the parks, and provide access programs to those who are unable to access parks. / Capital replacement in parks continues to keep our city's appearance and low cost excellent. / Lincoln needs a strong and beautiful Main Library. Partner with the county. / StarTran Service needs to get all patrons to the place they need to go. A strong and efficient transport system will create more use and safer streets. Continue to take advantage of changes in transportation.
37. An expanding city requires expanding services. OF COURSE the budget for Star tran should grow! Yes to maintaining existing publicly owned resources. / All of these are vital to maintaining quality of life. Golf- adopt the Woods Tennis Center model. Golfers should pay for golf.
38. Lincoln, Omaha and the State of Nebraska need to begin the process of working together to provide a mass transit system between the cities. Also Lincoln needs a better transportation center.
39. What the Parks Director has done to the Golf Program is a shame. Fund it! Also, we desperately need expanded bus service in terms of routes and hours. My wife works downtown and would love to use the bus for work if only the hours of operation began at 5 AM. We need big city solutions!
40. The city should be looking for innovative public transit options in addition to the bus system. Other cities effectively employ trolleys to run people from one downtown district to another- perhaps we have a short distance trolley that runs from the Railyard to around 15th and O, for example. I'm sure there are other routes that could be considered as well.
41. Sell Highlands Golf Course.
42. Why would the city need to fund this? Could the county, state or federal fund?
43. Golf is a luxury. Tax money is not appropriate for its use.
44. South Beltway is critical to safety. We've had semi-trucks driving through the heart of Lincoln for way too long now. Get it done ASAP!
45. Ton of money for libraries - really? Have a building with computers. Who needs a library these days - waste of money, which the government is very good at.
46. Because storage of most info. found in libraries is condensed on electronic media additional space is not necessary. Current building space is adequate but the interiors need updating to reflect the electronic information and technology age and easy access to information and pleasure reading.
47. I would like to see a multigenerational park (a play place for adults and seniors, similar to the several we have for children) in Lincoln. They have become very popular in Europe and China, and they are now also in several states, including Minnesota and Texas.
48. Might as well build it now before the traffic becomes a bigger issue
49. Create a toll at each entrance of beltway to help with costs reimbursement and future maintenance /
50. In the area of golf, there needs to be more affordable options. Part of the reason in drops of players is the cost. The other part is slow play. Courses need to be managed more efficiently in order for people to enjoy their experience,
51. If the golf courses can't make it with greens fees, then its time to cut them.
52. golf needs to pay its own way
53. It would be nice to have "state of the art technology", but sometimes it isn't possible. I realize it is an old building, but some how I think we have to make it work.

54. I've lived in Lincoln for 40 years, and the south beltway has been on the table, in one form or another, the entire time. It's time to git 'r done!
55. Stop spending \$600,000.00 for a new slide at star city shores that is only used 2 months a year, that is foolish spending which should have been put out for donations instead of tax dollars.
56. recycling program should not be funded by the users. It should be a service offered by the city. It could maximize reclaimed materials to sell for scrap. I resent that I have to pay to participate in curb side recycling. More people would do it if it did not cost them to set things out at the curb.
57. What is the current usage of the star tran and how can we encourage more usage. / How much is the library being used with everyone moving toward internet and electronic age.
58. Could we put into place a program for volunteers to take over some of the maintenance of the parks and rec areas? Perhaps give teens more opportunities to volunteer and do community service since it's so important for college admissions. We also have some very willing and able senior citizens who'd welcome the opportunity to be useful.
59. The library is so important to our community. I would rather see BM move to a new place OR a "recycled" building like Pershing.
60. Maintain the roads and keep us safe should be the priorities. All else is icing.
61. Parks foundation should pay for renovations. Downtown library is idiotic idea
62. Spend less money on privately owned jails
63. SOUTH BELTWAY NEEDS TO BE FUNDED. OUR STREETS CANNOT HANDLE ALL THE TRAFFIC WE HAVE NOW. THE BELTWAY WILL HELP RELIEVE OUR GROWING TRAFFIC CONGESTION. LINCOLN NEED TO DO MORE TO MOVE TRAFFIC ON 27TH, 48TH , 56TH, 70TH, AND 84TH NOW!!!
64. The parks absolutely need to be brought back into repair. I have visited parks with children play equipment that is damaged and I felt dangerous. I have attempted many times to call the parks department but the voicemail has always been full and I was unable to leave a message. Library branches should be maintained. I am less interested in updating Bennett Martin. I only use it to drop off or pick up materials. It is not comfortable to go into because of the transients and the mentally unstable people that camp out there. I don't think a new building will improve that situation. I will never bring my children or pick up books from the shelves of that location.
65. I'm confused why some of these should even be questions... we should just do them in order to improve the quality of life here in Lincoln.
66. The city is growing and a strong bus system is necessary. The needs of the more vulnerable citizens such as the elderly and children need to be considered.
67. I'm dubious that Bennett Martin needs to be replaced. Can it not be repaired or updated? Our family loves the court yard with the fountain next to the children's section. Yes, it's 50 years old but there are much older buildings that are still used. I'm all for repairs. South Branch gets flooded every time it rains which seems like a big problem for a library. We love our libraries and especially the children and summer programs. How about corporate sponsors?
68. Please eliminate the Sustainability Dept. We have too many medians ( I have to turn right before I can go left). Some medians are a waste.
69. Golf should be supported by the people who golf, which means raising green fees or supplying an income means. The same can be said for using tax dollars dollars to support swimming pools. Taxing people for services they do not use or benefit from is in many ways taxation without representation.
70. A city the size of Lincoln should find the means to provide public transportation in ways that allow the most use with routes that benefit the most folks. Right now the city bus system is a mismanaged joke and if funding in the amount shown above is expended, there better be more results than now offered.
71. We definitely do not need to fund anything to do with golf
72. I think that the city should start charging realistic water rates to the golf courses and allow the golf course pros to hire high school and college kids to mow and do general maintenance instead of current high cost city union employees. Not good management of our resources and unrealistically drives up golf expenses. / / /

73. Re: the Star tran Service Expansion: as it stands now, very few of the future bus routes have stops at UNL. Make sure UNL employees and students are not forgotten in the design of these new routes!
74. I am concerned about the changing routes that have been proposed taking the bus out of the neighborhoods. I ride the bus and take it with some elderly people who just wouldn't be able to walk as far. I'd like to keep it the same as much as possible, with adding the evening service on a few routes.
75. less median plantings equal less maintainance
76. No one goes to a library anymore everything is on line
77. I would support funding for repairs that are needed on the library branches. I do not support building a new downtown library at Pershing Center. The Bennett Martin plan is still stuck in an old way of thinking about libraries, brick and mortar, vs. web and other electronic access. This should be the focus, while downsizing the actual physical size of the library.
78. City has committed to South Beltway it should not be on this list.
79. Many people struggle to find jobs and do not have cars. Increased bus service is vital to help these families stay employed and economically stable. When families are economically stable, they do not need services from DHHS and other agencies that cost additional tax dollars. Help create sustainable families.
80. can you change south beltway construction to "super 2" highway to reduce cost
81. Who sets the priorities on these projects?
82. I think it's taken much too long to decide to do this. Yes, there is a need but by the time the dust settles, it's too late! If you do it, do it now and get it done quickly!
83. Again, we question using tax payer money for golf over the south beltway construction or other road repair/improvement issues (excluding art, trees and pretty things around the roads)? The current libraries are fine as they are but our roads are not. Pershing land should be sold for private business and future tax income.
84. Consideration should be given to selling one of the public 18-hole golf courses. The proceeds could be placed into a designated account to be used solely for the maintenance and improvements to the other three courses as well as the Ager Junior course.
85. The voters never approved building the beltway, so civic leaders are wrong to pursue this project.
86. I feel the east beltway needs to be done ASAP. I am considering moving from Lincon because I now work in Omaha and half my commute time is getting across Lincoln. There are no direct routes across town. I think you also need to emanate domain land along 48th to make that road wider. This is NOT a small town and we need roads!!
87. Building a new library at the Pershing site is a bad idea - would rather see that site go back on the taxrolls or be sold to the State so that they can put a building there instead of having so many satellite offices that they pay rent on. I can't believe there aren't better options for repairing or replacing Bennett Martin. I can't help but think that a brick and mortar library will more and more become a thing of the past with the internet and ebooks so please don't spend more than the minimum necessary. You say Bennett Martin has been in that building for 50 years, I don't see the same use 5 years from now much less 50 years from now. / / As for the parks I would be more supportive if you said which parks were going to be repaired. I truly feel that the parks in the lower-income part of Lincoln are ignored while the City works harder to maintain parks (and roads and pools and...) in the wealthier parts of Lincoln. If you assured me it would be at least fair I maybe could be more supportive. (BTW I live in a wealthier part of Lincoln but I hate to see the less fortunate do with less)
88. Easy access to information is needed if Lincoln is to have a workforce capable of providing the skills needed in a 'modern' labor market. While schools/colleges are important learning centers too many people can no longer afford to pay the costs associated with them. / / As for Star tran poverty levels ensure a population unable to be mobile enough to accept jobs requiring travel from one corner of the city to another. Easier more extensive bus systems would also allow poor/middle income people to afford to travel to Lincoln's business centers.
89. Downtown Lincoln needs a library for the 21st century. Bennett Martin just doesn't cut it anymore.
90. This may already exist, but could there be a separate golf fee scale for those of few means compared with those who can pay?
91. Government's duties is to do what citizenry alone cannot - and must be a collective effort. Golf is a luxury item, but bus service and park are essential for work and access to all, at little cost.

92. I am someone who is involved with the No Coast Derby Girls. Pershing was our home for nearly a decade and when it was closed down, I was crushed. I have also been a long time user of the public library system and I agree that Bennett Martin would be much better able to serve the needs of Lincoln's citizens - including many of our poorest - in the location of the Pershing with a modern floorplan and amenities. It would make me and many of my teammates glad to hear that the Pershing area was being used to help people again in the form of a library.
93. The city decided to fund nearly a million to the Woods Tennis facility. My guess is the number of citizens taking advantage of tennis facilities is less than those participating in golf. However the Mayor seems intent on selling a course. City golf should get a seat at the Keno table too. / StarTran, the only time I see a bus with more than six people on it is a home Saturday football game. I grow tired of funding huge buses that benefits so few.
94. The City's golf situation is sad. I've already stopped playing the city courses as often due to the high green fees. (\$26+ for 9 holes during the week - and over \$50 for 18 on weekends is too much). My situation is a bit unique at age 50 - I can play Crooked Creek at a senior discount and it is winning my business because of it. Crooked Creeks rate of \$32 w/ cart after 1PM on weekends also wins my business. Playing a city course with my adult son costs me over \$100 - I look elsewhere for a better deal. This hurts because I love the city courses and grew up playing Mahoney.
95. the bus service here in Lincoln seems to be the worst of any that I've seen in any city of our size. I used to ride the bus to work every day and it was the pits. I had to go downtown even when I lived and worked on the east side of town. I was never able to shop because by the time I got off work I had to catch my bus and then transfer. The later routes and Sunday service is WAY overdue. Some routes only had 1 time that the bus would travel inbound to downtown in the morning and not go outbound at all or only 1 time late in the day. Those people that had to work the 7-3 shift or the 3-11 shift were out of luck.
96. Downtown library is stupid
97. As with all park CIP programming needs, the City should give equal and fair consideration of Keno funds in support of its public golf program. By doing so, the city will invest in sorely needed golf CIP that it has neglected for decades. Moreover, the city will leverage efficiently and effectively leverage keno dollars with a \$3.2 million cash fund. The city also needs to be accountable for, and stop misusing golf enterprise funds for non-golf purposes -- as clearly defined by the Lincoln's municipal code. The recent golf debt accrued from FY2002-2011, was a "self-inflicted" wound by the city for its misuse of the golf fund.
98. We have to realized that to have a great city, we have to pay for it. As long as leaders are doing their best with out money as far as bonds, managing the money, stretching it as far as possible, then lets fund the programs that are needed to make our community strong. Yes our taxes will go up, but so incomes are also going up. We need to help those out who are not so well off with the basic services. One other thing. If good, valuable structures are in place, why would we not support them? We have parks in place, why would we not take care of them? We have nice golf courses built, why would we not take care of them? I don't see these as new projects. They should automatically be in the budget and they must be taken care of. These other projects don't yet exist so they would take priority over something that already exists!!!!
99. Parks, libraries, good roads and other recreation opportunities such as our golf courses are extremely important to making Lincoln a good place to live and to its future growth. It would be very short sighted to ignore the need for for these, recognizing demand will only grow as Lincoln continues to grow.
100. With the population growth in Lincoln and the resultant tax revenues, I'm puzzled as to why additional money is even needed to fund projects in the future.
101. A highway in south Lincoln and a public golf course are far from necessary when compared to bus services, libraries, and parks. The latter three are free services to all of Lincoln, many of whom live close to or below the poverty line. Let's get our priorities straight.
102. The looks of our city parks, golf courses and other public areas are essential in attracting tourism and keeping or bringing in new families and citizens. If we do not spend money in the public areas then the draw to other communities who do will draw people away from Lincoln. Lincoln needs to be strong public minded city. Safety also is important in this area of drawing in new and keeping longtime residence here.

103. I feel very strongly about selling Pershing to a private developer. It's been a good building but it's time to let go and move forward. This city has to keep current and not get bogged down in the past.
104. DO NOT pour any more money into Parks and Wreck until they get their act together. What a disgrace our parks are. You CANNOT whine about not having enough money when you make an outrageous salary and have plenty of money to rip out trees and bushes in our "parks".
105. Recent construction has encouraged more bicycle traffic and made it safer. This is great for those who can use a bike, but many more cannot. Bus transportation is essential and must be made more accessible. Continued efforts to purchase and use smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles would please this taxpayer.
106. Look, Mr. Mayor, the city of Lincoln does NOT care about your legacy. STOP with the fluff. We don't CARE! STOP threatening to cut police, firefighters, pools and libraries. Firefighter pensions are something that should have been prepared for. It's called PLANNING. / You PROMISED during the first 2 elections that you would not raise our taxes. Now there's a new tax or fee every time we turn around. / CUT the fluff, fix the potholes, lay off the overpaid idiots who do nothing all day. I happen to KNOW some of them and they are so proud of that fact. / So happy we FINALLY have a City Council that will attempt to keep you in line. It's long overdue. / Oh and you might TRY completing a couple of road projects before you start 10 new ones. Getting around town is a nightmare! / /
107. You need to think outside the box on funding sources...taxes are not the only options, cutting programs are not the only options.....
108. Fire the mayor
109. public transportation is extremely important to some members of community. If Lincoln is to / continue growing this transportation issue needs to be addressed. Unfortunately I do not have / any suggestions on how to accomplish this.
110. Bennett Martin is fine the way it is. I use it frequently and see nothing wrong with it, why waste more taxpayers money.
111. I strongly support providing adequate funding for the Libraries. They do so much for the community such as providing print and electronic resources, public computers, programming for children & adults for enjoyment & to improve literacy (such as Summer Reading, 1 Book 1 Lincoln, storytime for children, discussion groups), classes, answering reference questions (including resources for those searching for jobs), and much more! Helpful staff & good use of volunteers.
112. Libraries can be replace with technology. Next generation will never use them. Golf courses should never be a government funded item. The city courses are all worse than the private courses in the area anyway.
113. I believe that Lincoln invests way too much in its parks and way too little in the libraries. Despite what people think, libraries are vital to the community, especially for those of us in the poor areas of town and who are seeking jobs.
114. A gold plated library downtown is NOT needed. We have spent a fortune in downtown areas while other areas of Lincoln wastes away.
115. Our Mayor just waits problems out until they are a catastrophic to justify a Bond. What about North-South Beltway!? Only South side residents are placated.
116. The Pershing Block needs to be put back on the tax role and not used for a public building.
117. The golf program would be self supporting if the money was not drained off for other purposes.
118. Jim Ager should be self supporting or subsidized out of the general fund and not subsidized out of the golf fund. Raising fees at the Ager course would be appropriate to help make that happen.
119. i think it time for the parks dept to fund other items /have the golf fund them self pool person do not use them but use other place ,,
120. The golf program is the only program that brings in significant revenue. If the golf program and golf course were maintained correctly, there could be significant revenue gains.
121. I support the libraries and believe that new and updated facilities will benefit the city. As the city grows, more of an effort could be made to include county areas that are not served by a local library now. / / I do not think the south beltway should be so far south. Why not replace Saltillo Road with the beltway? No matter

- how far semis go around the city, some/many will have to come into the city to make deliveries. If the city is concerned about business, then we need to be concerned about businesses being able to get their supplies.
122. Fix existing roads before taking on new ones
  123. fundraise, keep the space solely for computer use
  124. I feel that services are important to provide and am willing to pay more in taxes in order to fund these, and other city services, that are important to a growing and successful city.
  125. I have wondered for years why the city runs large buses through the neighborhoods that do not have a large ridership? You have moved so many stops, that people with limited ability can not walk to there, making it very inconvenient to catch the bus. If you do not drive in this city, you are pretty much homebound if you rely on the bus service.
  126. Golf is essentially a private recreational activity for a relatively narrow group of residents, and generally residents with enough resources to pay their way. I also understand from what I read in the business press that public participation in golf is easing country-wide. My view is that the golf courses should be self-sustaining. / I am concerned about making a \$3.8 investment in a library building when the use of library resources is increasingly digital. That is likely to turn out to be a poor decision.
  127. Is the sale of the current Bennett Martin Library included in the estimated costs? / Why not use some of the Arena tax to help fund the new library and branch libraries?
  128. Hoping this lends support to the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Have been enjoying this city treasure for 50 years.
  129. This is not an objective format for determination of priorities to fund services in that only a limited number of cost centers are listed.
  130. Do not implement city council changes. Do implement cross town route
  131. StarTran should only receive increased funding if the system is reinvented to meet the real needs of the new generation, not just focus on the urban poor. Late night service, more logical routing, intermodal nodes.
  132. I think your contractors for the library repairs are charging you too much.
  133. Golfers should pay for improved facilities \*(i am an avid golfer)\* / Libraries and Parks/Rec are MORE IMPORTANT to the citizenry than most people give credit--our government cannot survive without an educated public, and libraries serve those who are not fortunate enough to have the means to learn in universities--it is a free and VALUABLE source of improving the education of our citizenry. / Parks/Rec opportunities and places are IMPERATIVE toward the end of a happy and content citizenry--that's why NYC put in Central Park, even in the earliest formation of the largest city in the US, they recognized the importance of rejuvenation through nature and outdoor activities!!!!
  134. As I discussed previously, SELL PERSHING to return it to the tax rolls. / / We MUST NOT spend \$50,000,00+ to renovate Pershing. The future of libraries is electronic down loading of books.
  135. We do need to provide parks for our residents and keep them clean and safe for the physical and mental health of our residents.
  136. Eventually the homeowners living on South 27th between South Street and Hwy 2 are going to have to give in to have the street widened. Even with the expressway, there will need to be access across Lincoln to the exploding neighborhoods south of Hwy 2. Old Cheney, Pine Lake, and Yankee Hill Roads are always busy, and traffic is quickly overwhelming Saltillo Road. Hwy 2 is heavily travelled; relying on it for commercial and by pass traffic is increasingly dangerous! It's wonderful to have 56th open (even if temporarily).
  137. The parks are one of the city's greatest assets for locals and visitors. The parks provide so many fun and educational opportunities for our children.
  138. Build the infrastructure, the city has outgrown the road networks. A library no longer relevant - horrible waste of money. Golfers... should pay to play the rich mans game. Parks need to be maintained and provide a public place for people to go and spend family time (use fundraisers if needed).
  139. Parks and Rec should maintain the parks they have, no new parks or park expansions should be planned until they maintain and now the current parks, golf should be self funding. If I maintained my yard like some of the parks I would get a weed notice.
  140. Jim Ager Golf course - should be funded by the City rather than the golf program.

141. Lincoln's parks are what makes Lincoln have a great quality of life! Funding to maintain our parks is very important! / The Beltways will ensure that our roads in town last longer and make them safe by removing some of the traffic. The sooner the better! / Golf is in direct competition with private enterprise, the city should not subsidize it. / StarTran ensures the disabled and low income are able to get around. By having service 24 hours a day we could reduce drunk driving.
142. Golf should either make money or be privatized. We have to keep up on parks/rec for quality of life. The library is important, but the price tag is too high & should be funded more out of fundraising. The south beltway is a no brainer and should already be done. We should be talking about transportation on the east side of Lincoln at this point.
143. I believe in providing good services to the citizens of the city.
144. The beltway is an overdue investment that will actually help pay for itself with income generated by new housing (taxes), and reduced wear on city streets from semis/heavy loaded vehicles, especially downtown Lincoln.
145. Do not think the funding of Bennett Martin and branch libraries should be lumped together. / See too many empty busses or few patrons using city bus service
146. Green fees (press the easy button); Parks should be fundraising only, needs to have more concerts, city on the grass fundraisers, etc.
147. Do not replace Bennett Martin with Pershing remodel. Sell Pershing for development.
148. Golfers should pay for golf courses! If expenses can't be covered, contract with a private corporation to operate one or more of public courses. This is asking citizens to fund rich men's play. / / Because the Park & Recreation Capital Replacement and Repair request is non-specific, I am neutral. I want to know specifically, which programs will be funded each year. This current request allows P&R to place the money wherever they want. How about using the nearly \$500,000 that was saved from abandoning over 800 acres of the current parks.
149. Maybe spend all the money that's wasted on upkeep for some private rich person zone and use it to maintain public parks that are free for everyone to visit and use and enjoy and that don't have a history of discrimination, and speaking of boondoggles that suck away public funds, maybe stop shovelling money at the Pinnacle Bank Arena which is a financial vacuum and hasn't come (and, based on projections, will never come) close to being financially viable in any sense.
150. The bus services are going to change, yet still not enough. The buses won't run long enough even with it going until 8 p.m. at night on some routes. For a lot of people they have two jobs and working an evening job at a business would not get me and many others home at 10 at night.
151. I would support paying for a master plan for our libraries. Thus should include projecting the effect of increased use of e-books.
152. The downtown library should be replaced
153. libraries are dinosaurs, no need to increase funding
154. the buses are empty every day, takes too long to all the way downtown to the switching station, what a ridiculous process
155. We like Bennett Martin, especially the court yard, but we are not informed enough to judge whether BM should be repaired or replaced. I lean more in favor of repair. And the South Branch library often floods when it rains and should be more of a priority.
156. I find the trails to be a waste of money for the 1% of the city that uses them.
157. We badly need a new downtown library.
158. I think it's important to somehow account or at least acknowledge potential savings for certain choices. For example, an efficient, well-used bus system should reduce road maintenance costs, and potentially reduce emergency response and medical costs from avoided accidents.
159. Great idea for cell towers. Is there a way for vendors to pay more for the use of pop machines, etc.?
160. I think parks should focus more on projects like this rather than high dollar employees. I think there is lots of potential in parks revenue if the rec centers could be more up to date as well. Fitness is huge right now and few of the facilities have accommodating up to date equipment that would bring people in on a regular basis.

Also I think that they should be open for government employees to use at a discounted rate. People forget rec centers are for adults and kids.

161. Libraries can serve as hubs for other activities, such as job applications sites, technology training and access. Bus and library service help equalize individual and family access to technology, internet, career options, etc. By holding these services steady or bettering them, we can move individuals from jobs to careers and help generate success for all families in Lincoln.
162. Capital replacement and repair funds are generally needed. However, I feel the Jim Ager course is unnecessary and non-essential. It should go away and other uses be found for that park land. City-sponsored golf is a low priority item for me. Bennet Martin Library replacement is desirable, but not as part of a redo of the Pershing property. I think Pershing should be demolished. A replacement library could be built on that land or another selected property. Branch Library repairs is a necessity. Parks are overbuilt in Lincoln, as a result we seem to spend excessively on parks and recreation. I like many of the initiatives coming from Parks and Rec... and I like those initiatives that focus on people. We need to preserve the best of our parks, but return some of the smaller/lesser used parks into other uses... keeping a balance of parks of interest in each area/region of the city.
163. Need to find more ways to decrease the annual number would like for the Parks and Rec. Once again by reducing the out of control employee benefits down to a real reasonable level ( not that tiny change in the pension done a short while back, but major overhaul is needed). This is where can make the most difference and still employees would have good jobs.
164. If the libraries are fully funded, the health information services program could possibly become a collaborative service between the library and the Health Department.
165. Improving Lincoln's public transportation should be one of the city's top priorities.
166. The beltway is vital to the continued growth of Lincoln.
167. Mayor, / It is time that the City steps up and supports the Golf Program. This program has brought in millions of dollars to the City of Lincoln and businesses through the year. .
168. I am a golfer and there are not enough courses as it is. A person can now play in Omaha or other towns for 10 to 15 dollars less than Lincoln. I just don't understand why you would even think of raising the green fees or not funding the program. / There are programs that cost a lot more and are funded by the people and those getting the good from it , don't put in anything at all.
169. It is time to move forward with a replacement for the outdated, outmoded Bennett Martin Library. The residents in this area of the City deserve excellent library service.
170. Everyone can benefit from the parks and recreation programs, but the poorer households are especially in need of such services. Also, Lincoln is well known for its good bike trails. I would hate to see that famous program decline to mediocre status. / We need to increase STARTRAN passenger usage. Many households should benefit who are not now using it. Also, it can be an important means to reduce air pollution caused by automobiles.
171. Support of branch libraries should be separated from the downtown library, and the branch system should be supported on an annual maintenance of services plan.
172. I VERY MUCH SUPPORT FUNDING FOR A NEW DOWNTOWN LIBRARY.....ENOUGH WITH THE SPORT ALREADY! LINCOLN IS A GREAT CITY AND THE MAYOR IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB, CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR THE COUNCIL
173. Spending any significant amount of money on library's in general is inane. Much better off funding wifi and cheap tablets for low-income folks to have access to what they need and that's only IF public resources are going to be used for those purposes. Brick and mortar is dead. Wake up Lincoln! /
174. Jim Ager should be funded to promote getting youth involved and interested in the lifelong game of golf, but the city courses should be self sufficient or they should not be run by the city. / / As far as green fees go, the day time rate should go way down to promote a higher volume of users during the day and the evening league fees should go up. It is nearly impossible to get a tee time on a weekday night because of the leagues. This would seem to indicate that the city is not charging enough for the league tee times.
175. Pay back what was taken out of the golf fund in the past, quit trying to sell Highlands! / One time sale would not solve the issue. Once it's gone it's gone. / If you are going to raise fees you better repair cart paths, etc. / I

- keep seeing fees going up but no repairs made! / Clubhouse at Holmes is a Joke! Looks like crap on the outside although nice on the inside. Kitchen poorly designed. / Pioneers clubhouse needs upgraded made bigger. / If you want to dump a course dump Mahoney! / Crappy cart paths all around, drive around them!
176. I believe other avenues of improving Bennett Martin Library should be addressed. Seems the Library Facilities Plan's only option is to move and rebuild on the Pershing location. I feel other options should be looked at with a high priority finding ways to remodel it's current location. Parking shouldn't be a huge deal, since it's 1 block from Pershing (therefore parking needs shouldn't be an issue).
177. Library is out of step with times. Do not fund. Focus funds on internet based systems.
178. Screw LIBA and their creepy designs on the Pershing land. Preserve the history, keep it public, and give this city the big modern library it deserves.
179. The south beltway has been studied and discussed to death, it should have been completed 20 years ago. Once complete it will reduce the traffic problems up and down HWY 2 and most likely reduce accidents and deaths on HWY 2, just by removing the high volumes of truck traffic. It will also reduce commute times for everyone on HWY 2, I drive down the HWY every day and it is the worse part of my commute and often times the shortest distance I drive, total mess.
180. WE NEED TO REPLACE THE OLD LIBRARY...PUTTING MORE MONEY INTO THE OLD BUILDING ISN'T COST EFFECTIVE IN THE LONG RUN.
181. I golf 18-27 holes per week, and have been avoiding the lincoln public courses for various reasons. Price--I can golf at Crooked Creek, Hi-Mark, and Hidden Valley for less money per round. Crooked Creek and Hi-Mark are very well maintained, beverage cart runs, new carts with ball/club washer on them. Something not found at Pioneers, Mahoney, or Holmes. Way too much money was spent on the new Holmes clubhouse for what we got, and an increase in golf rates. Looks like wasteful spending to me. Lincoln does not have many attractions, i feel that these courses need to be maintained and budget cuts should happen elsewhere. Public golf course rates should be less expensive than private owned open to public courses that actually pay taxes. I do not know anyone that goes to a public library anymore, most can find the information online with little effort, especially teenagers. What does a senior ( someone 50+ in age ) need with a library. The round count last year for golf was down, and probably down this year directly due to price. If the courses are open to everyone, than they should be affordable to everyone.
182. replacing the Bennett Martin library isn't something that will benefit the majority of people in the city of Lincoln. We can maintain a building, but replacing and building a new library isn't in the best interest of the vast majority of Lincoln.
183. Parks are important to the citizens of the city. Just not enough resources to maintain what we have. Green space helps keep people calm. I have always opposed the outer belt because there is no green belt in the consideration and I oppose taking family farms to compensate for poor planning about the directions that the city grows just because a developer wants to build houses. The city has grown around Hwy. 2 and that is not a great option for moving traffic anymore. Saltillo as 4 lanes? The city could have bought the business north of Bennett Martin years ago and didn't. Lack of foresight. I still don't see any mention of pensions in this list. Smaller buses serving more areas seem like a sensible plan to me. Use larger buses at peak times, send out smaller buses for the rest.
184. Beautiful parks and sound systems of transportation are some of what makes Lincoln attractive to outside business; national activities; etc. etc. We can not afford to lose those drawing cards.
185. Re-think Star tran routes and look at placing the hub/transfer stop in a more central location. It doesn't have to be downtown.
186. I am unclear about the economic impact of routing traffic around Lincoln with the south beltway. Seems to me that adding a lane to Hwy 2 might be better because people would stop to use the restaurants, stores, etc. / / If StarTran routes are changed for more efficiency with cross-town routes, I am in favor of keeping the bus system. I rode busses in every other city I lived in before moving here, where I \*\*\*had\*\*\* to buy a car because the bus routes are so inefficient. But Lincoln has had such a bad bus system for so many years, you have a big, huge marketing problem if you change the routes.
187. we need trucks a way around south Lincoln for better traffic flow and to help our trucking industry.

188. Jim Ager should be self supporting if at all possible (not funded through revenue from the 18 hole courses) I would recommend raising prices only at Jim Ager and not at the 18 hole courses since you have already raised them and it is getting expensive which will make it harder for people to afford to play. The city golf program is one of the few recreational programs in Lincoln that supports itself ( and has too through fees). Maybe some (or all) of the other recreational opportunities should also be self supporting.
189. Please expand the bus service and build a new downtown library! Both are imperative for a strong community for ALL our residents.
190. Golf is not an essential service. In my world, public transportation and libraries are.
191. This has been a proposal for several decades. Things have changed over that interval while the plan has not changed. The whole thng needs to be reevaluated before putting up funds for something that meets our current needs.
192. Stop using the revenues from Pinewood Bowl concerts to subsidize Pinnacle Bank Arena and use this where it should be -- support Parks and Recreation.
193. I would like to see the Bennett Martin Replacement be a private/public (city) joint funding.
194. Raise golf fees. It's not like low-income kids golf and we're always touting our affordable golf fees. If this was something that benefitted everyone equally, sure, promote golf; but, (and I say this without looking at city statistics) golfing in practice, rarely benefits all the citizens. It subsidizes those who least need subsidizing. Is income-based fee tiering inequitable?
195. I do not support transitioning Pershing auditorium to a new library. The cost is way too steep and it removes the property from potentially providing tax revenue.
196. Spending is out of control. Tax relief! Tax relief! Tax relief!
197. I could be see the benefit of expanding StarTran if people will actually use it more. Perhaps with more information on how much ridership would increase or evaluation of the potential benefits, I'd support funding the changes.
198. Keno funds are probably not a stable source of income and should be used only for one-time projects but not to fund an ongoing need.
199. Requests for funding should meet stringent needs based guidelines. Projects should be planned and designed to meet the minimum need with less emphasis placed on aesthetics and more on function.
200. Improving StarTran service is by far the most important.
201. Why are we not asking for help from donations or businesses that would benefit from thes projects to offset these costs. You could probably easily raise the money neede for ager for sure.
202. Another option on the golf course issue would be to close at least on of the courses and turn it into a city park with a broader public use.
203. Use more natural lighting in the libraries and other cost efficient tecniques such as grey water collection and use less grass as that costs money to mow instead plant more native plants and grasses. The construction use better material that last longer.
204. I would like to fund StarTran but not for 1.4 million. I think Lincoln isn't big enough to focus more on busses but some improvement for maybe \$750,000 would be beneficial. Getting another bus on more populated routes. Take care of parks and rec - fund!
205. A new library downtown is absolutely necessary. To provide services that enhance the education of our citizens and provide them with access to information is crucial for growth of our city. An investment in education through the resources the library offers people of all ages is an investment in Lincoln's future.
206. Some funding maybe ought to come from the city but the majority should come from the Federal Government and through the use of TOLL FEES to pay for and maintain the south beltway. It's time to get this done and stop pussyfooting around!
207. Like I said before, if everyone PAYS THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES, and we stop giving TAX BREAKS to big business, we will not have a shortfall.
208. StarTran needs more services and routes, which is possible through more funding for the first time in years.
209. Many people are using their smart phones for a lot of the things they use the library for.
210. Lincoln roads and traffic are terrible!

211. I am a golfer but I do not know the amount of usage for the Jim Ager course. Since it is primarily for youth use, using City funds to support not fully fund it is a good idea. The public golf courses get as much or more use than other City parks and should also get support from the City. The costs of the City courses could be better managed. Continuing to raise greens fees will just drive more golfers to the privately owned courses that are better managed and do control their costs.
212. Regarding issues of transportation, I am in favor of promoting public transportation usage. Beltways are always temporary fixes - a response to suburban development going unchecked; I don't want to live in a city where one beltway gives way in a few years to the need for another, and another. etc. Look to other cities & you see exactly this. Instead, make a commitment to lessening residents' need for commuting by car. Regarding libraries - public libraries are at the foundation of our democracy and commitment to education; perhaps they need not be open 24/7 but we should be shamed if we neglect our libraries. They are one of our most important public places. I see no need for city-run golf courses unless they can support themselves; city parks, on the other hand, serve the whole community, not just a tiny segment. I have been proud of Lincoln's neighborhood parks for many years. The green spaces of our city, our trails: they make Lincoln special and people-friendly. Create just a 'business-friendly' city, and the end result will be a poor, ugly place to live. Create a people-friendly city and the businesses will follow.
213. The questions particularly the golf budget questions are "loaded" and force one to make a choice of Ager GC vs. the general fund. / / These areas and golf overall are poorly managed. The Lincoln administrators should be changed. There poor leadership has largely resulted in the present, untenable budget decisions.
214. With the internet era and rapid advances in technology, I am somewhat conflicted about pumping a great deal of money into libraries. I'm not certain that we will need more. Perhaps less.
215. Redefine purpose of downtown library and spread functions with other libraries. Cheaper to build and staff a homeless shelter downtown.
216. The city public golf courses are a great asset to the city. We golfers should NOT have to suffer since people lost/misused millions of dollars in the past. The city should make a concerted effort to upgrade the courses to make the experience more enjoyable. A couple of suggestions I have are: More restrooms on the course- especially the front 9 at Mahoney and Pioneers; multiple toilet stalls at all the courses- only Holmes and Pioneers have two, while Highlands and Mahoney have only 1. Colder drinking fountains, or coolers with ice water on the courses, like Crooked Creek, Table Creek, and Wilderness Ridge presently have.
217. If we fund swimming.....we should fund golf.
218. All things on this Survey are important. The City golf courses have for many years supported Themselves. Many private public courses have been built in and around Lincoln that are competing with the City Courses. The City needs to improve the Courses in order for them to compete with the private public courses. Using money from Keno for a few years to make the necessary maintenance repairs of City Courses, will be able to compete and bring golfers back to the City Courses. Thus, in a few years the Golf Fund will then be making more money and enable the golf fund able to pay back the City. Lincoln has a great golf program, but not taking care of it will lose income for the City.
219. Econ 101 is the rule for golf. As the city has found, raising fees sends more tee times to outer golf courses which are generally \$3-\$5 cheaper. Secondly, I am retired and pay a shit load of money for schools in which I have no children and would rather see my tax \$\$\$\$ go to golf and recreation to keep me fit rather than to a failing school system. Don't get me started but having lawyer legislatures rule the school when they don't possess a K-12 cert is a recipe for tragedy in the school system. Leave the schools to the smart people not the lawyers.
220. I don't see where many parks are being properly maintained anymore. Maybe the city should contract this out, providing the private landscape companies hire current city park maintenance employees to do the work. Also, it seems like community service programs with non-violent offenders could be used to help maintain parks. / As for the golf, the city courses are not friendly for women (too long), which more women are golfing these days. Green fees should not be raised. (Look at Crooked Creek who has low green fees., they are always booked solid) Lottery money could be used for this purpose. / The library issue is a no brainer. Would a new one, which cost 3.8 mill., need that much in repairs per year? Probably not, so use 3.8 mill to build a new one

- and save some of the yearly cost of maintenance for years to come. / We need a beltway, but not a south beltway, so those funds should be used for other roads in order to best keep up with increasing traffic.
221. I think Lincoln needs a new main library. The number of people living down town is increasing and will continue to do so. Some other venues could also be incorporated in a redesign of Pershing. Senior meeting places for example could move to the new main library. I'm sure there are others. I think the majority of the cost of the new library should be through fund raising. Could there be a few retail shops or fast food restaurants located in the same building?? Is there enough parking near by for commuters to use the facility or should part of the lower level of the building be used for parking?
  222. privatize transportation. I am sure some company would want to come in and make some money for transportation. If you fund it, advertise it so it is normal to take buses like in D.C.
  223. We can use money for sculptures in front of the arena and bike trails down town. We even give 1 million dollars to a tennis facility, yet the golf courses have to be self funding. Other activities do not, like tennis, the pools, libraries etc. We can not afford this mayor's personal agenda.
  224. In the case of the Golf course funding issue, fund raising was considered an option. Why not investigate this possibility for at least a portion of of the solution. I assume any amount received would lessen the total impact.
  225. The city golf courses can not be competitive with courses like Crooked Creek and Hi Mark as long as they use full time and benefits personnel to do course maintenance. I suggest that the majority of these full time personnel be reassigned to other departments in Nov, Dec, Jan, Febr. and March or that the city pick up the cost of their benefits on a year around basis.
  226. Golf--as a golfer at the Municipal Golf courses for many, many years, I feel strongly that the city should support and maintain this enterprise, one of the most significant, high quality programs that have made the quality of life so attractive in this most livable city. For many years, we golfers supported the other programs of the city when our funds were diverted (through 'overhead' assessments) to other city services. (And I do NOT complain about that!) It is now time, however, to provide some of the same kind of financial support for the golf program that the city has long provided for other recreational opportunities for its resident--swimming, trails, baseball, football, soccer, etc., etc., etc. Golf should not be the ONLY activity expected to be completely self-supporting; although the evidence would suggest that it could be self-supporting if the City would stop charging the fund for other city services (which we golfers already support with our taxes) and accept responsibility for such things as employee benefits.
  227. The StarTran bus system works great the way it is.
  228. Consider raising impact fees to fund beltway and parks and rec capital replacement and repair.
  229. Libraries, like pools, are imperative to many of those in our community as internet access points, places for children after school and to learn, exchanging ideas, community meetings, ETC. Families want to live in Lincoln because of the wonderful community resources, like libraries, that should not be cut.
  230. Libraries can be upgraded in place...especially Bennett...do NOT buy or build a new building!
  231. Close Mahoney golf course and sell the land to developers
  232. Golf is the only recreation that is totally paid for by golfers. I don't mind paying for pools, tennis courts, trails, etc., which I don't use. In turn, others should help pay for golf courses. The green fees are already too high, compared with private courses, thus usage is down. There is need for more outhouses & women's tee boxes!
  233. Why was money spent on a new water slide at Star City Shores? Personally, I think that money should be spent to keep our parks, entrances into our city (north, south, east & west) be maintained & mowed. A lot of money was spent on those things with Lincoln on them as you come in from the airport. I can say I am pretty ashamed to have our relatives come to our city & nothing is mowed & the roads are a disaster. You can't even tell that anything was done to 9th St. It is still bad. Old Cheney (which we use every day), other than the little. Pieces of artstretch from 14h east, is still bad. Maybe we should pay a road crew from some state that also has lots of snow so the streets can be fixed properly only one time. Let's spend money on keeping up our city first & quit putting up nude statues & other so-called pieces of art. My money can be used more wisely! /
  234. Do not raise the golf fees. I have talked to many golfers who have left the city because of price. Crooked Creek, Ashland and Hi Mark have lower prices. It's all about economics and keeping the courses full. Where would the golf program be without the senior league?

235. Again, we've built all of these things over the years and poor management by the mayors office now has us in trouble. Cut the mayors office staff and all saleries and you can leave us without tax hikes, AGAIN, and all set its in place.
236. li
237. Libraries, parks & buses are essential city services. I will always support funding in these areas. My husband doesn't drive & uses the bus for his daily work commute as well as otherwise. My family (with several young children) makes frequent use of the libraries & parks. As far as the beltway is concerned, I have not experienced the congestion referenced and know little about the program. This funding is probably a good idea. I view golf as a luxury. I wouldn't bother to fund it, especially knowing golf is declining in popularity.
238. Public social services are what make Lincoln strong. I will not prioritize these items since they / are all equally important to keep our city vibrant for all. / Rather than cutting services, stop building, stop the sprawl. Mayor Beutler has stated publicly / that suburban expansion of this city is not cost effective. STOP BUILDING OUT!
239. Is there any option to close Bennett and one other central library (e.g., South 27th?) AND then build a replacement branch at the Pershing Center? Would the occupancy of the new branch accommodate the traffic from both Bennett and South 27th? This would save operating cost at 2 locations while Pershing Center is built, even if use temporarily increases at the other library branches demanding more personnel, overall cost would decrease.
240. Using union employees at large salaries and full benefits to mow at muni golf courses is an extreme expense and should not be tolerated. Hiring students (who should love this work) and retirees at minimum wage and no benefits would immediately put the golf program in the black and have plenty of funds to do all of the projects. Gold plated projects like the Holmes club house and the parking lot at Pioneers should never have been done. Both projects and others as well would have saved thousands of dollars.
241. Do not need a new downtown library. Keep funding for branches. / Let the golfers pay for their own programs.
242. Re: Bennett Martin Library Replacement: Complete the civic corridor from the State Capitol to the State Historical Society with the addition of the Lincoln Central Library at the Pershing site - a use in keeping with the historic designation for public education purposes. The "local view" of Kathleen Rutledge says it beautifully. (LSJ, 9/24/14) I spoke to a business person recently who loves libraries and told me that "technology was made for libraries." The internet and books stores are complimentary to, not a substitute for, public libraries. A high tech central library will be a core element of Lincoln being a "smart city".



going to increase. Also, let's get rid of all those stop lights that we are in excess of after that study that was done comparing us to other cities of a similar size.

6. Don't start telling me how to dispose of my trash.
  - i. Horrible traffic control usage (stop light timing). / 2. Terrible street conditions (such as pot holes). / 3. Worst snow removal ever. / 4. Unenforced sidewalk clearance ordinances (try to walk down 14th Street south of the Capitol).
7. I am very concerned that I will not be able to afford to live in Lincoln. With all the tax increases and so called services that I do not use (trails, art, libraries etc.) but get stuck paying for has me interested to move out of the City/County. Wake up Elected Officials the city is not yours to decide let's vote on tax increases.
8. When the city has town hall meetings to discuss plans, i.e. 14th Street roundabout, it was very obvious that the decision had already been made and they were gloating about the plans they showed to us. They didn't care one bit how it affected the residents or the traffic. They were SO PROUD of their lousy decision.
9. I feel currently city roads should be a higher priority. The city has grown so much and spread, and the type of roads have NOT kept up with this growth, causing traffic jams, extremely slow transit times across town and dangerous situations. Specifically, the intersection at 56th and Yankee Hill Road is becoming congested and dangerous. Yankee Hill Road, Pine Lake Road between Highway 2 and near 56th Street, and Saltillo Road are especially dangerous as county-road style roads with ditches due to their high traffic levels. That section of Pine Lake needs to be built up to a city-style road with better drainage to avoid flooding. Other streets through the middle of town need to be widened or made one way or have overpasses to improve access and safety.
10. The city wheel tax is ridiculous. All that money is collected to repair roads, and yet streets in this town are TERRIBLE!! Where does all that money go? The city needs to be more transparent as to where the wheel tax is being spent. N. 27th near I 80 has been horrible for years, and still nothing is being done about it. That's just one example of the poor quality of streets in this city. Shame, shame, shame.
11. It's astonishing that in 2016, the City's EEO statement does not clearly indicate a policy of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Even without a citywide ban on such discrimination, the city should clearly state this as part of their city employment page and ensure the policy is followed.
12. The first thing the mayor wants to do is raise taxes any time there is a fund shortage. How about not spending \$100K to redo an alley in the Haymarket? How about only matching 401K contributions of city employees instead of 1.5x? I don't know of any company that does more than a dollar for dollar match. Every time the city wants consumers to cut back on consumption, they end up having to raise fees or taxes because the income is less. Use less electricity, LES has to increase fees. Same for water.
13. The Lincoln city government is progressive and is increasing the size of government. STOP IT. It is time to cut programs, cut spending and stop controlling our lives.
14. The roads are in constant need of extensive work and yet, they are constantly under construction, Pot holes are a problem all year long now instead of just winter and spring. But if you need or want anything in the Haymarket area, money is not an issue. The university needs to contribute more money to the running of PBA, they are really getting a free ride on that.
15. I have no confidence in Public Works. I sometimes question the Parks division, but overall they're doing ok. I'm unsure about the council, but wish it was non-partisan as the bickering between parties is ridiculous. I agree sometimes with the Mayor's office, but sometimes not. I believe the downtown/Haymarket redevelopment has been an outstanding addition to Lincoln that has triggered an excellent growth result. Did I mention the Public Works needs a big overhaul? The roads and planning and construction/rehabilitation on them is terrible, absolutely terrible. The traffic flow in this city is unbelievable. Is Casady responsible for the red lights constantly occurring to prevent speeding? If so, it's not working as the only way to make the green lights is to speed. The improvements to the lights cannot come soon enough. Make it a priority.
16. Complete lack of faith in the public works department drives most of these answers. Random street closing with no regard for traffic flow, terrible signal timing (I know this, I am a traffic engineer) Perhaps the public works employees could spend some time around Lincoln observing traffic. No faith that decisions are made by an engineer, seem more political in nature, like the continued money wasted on changing downtown streets, the

bizarre lights and banners that are somehow supposed to magically transform poor neighborhoods. The lack of vision in planning sprawl. Also, certain groups get too much attention. If we are all equal why is there not an ombudsman for WASP, just LGBT?

17. Taxes keep going up far faster than my paycheck. Why don't you spend other people's money like mine like you only make 26,000 dollars a year. Maybe you wouldn't spend it so recklessly.
18. I think it is ridiculous that taxpayers are helping build a parking garage at southpointe so scheels would build a bigger store and that we have 20 yrs of extra taxes when we shop at southpointe. If scheels has the money to build a bigger store make them pay for the parking garage. I am sick of paying for big business to make more business.
19. sell the golf courses to private owners
20. I have reported disparate traffic monitoring twice and received minimal response one time and none the next.
21. With the wage and benefits the employees receive a lot of money could be saved by having the private sector do the work. Most street repairs by the city workers cost 5 times as much as if others did the work.
22. The taxes in Lincoln are outrageous. They must be lowered. Services must be reprioritized and spending must be better controlled and audited more regularly for accountability.
23. I think that I do benefit from City government but I am well educated and have financial resources. I think there is a lot of disconnect with those who are having a harder time with life. I doubt single mothers who work two jobs have time to sit down and do services like this. This is why I generally support libraries and pools and public parks and public transportation even though I hate paying for it. I think that the city spending money on the pinnacle bank arena in the long run only enriches those that are already doing well. City workers are overpaid when compared to state gov. salaries.
24. The City of Lincoln is in a financial mess because of Mayor Beutler's poor choices, not because of the police or fire pension. He created the Public Safety Director's job "to save money". He added yet another layer of management to create the highest paid employee of the City's payroll. He talks about the city being in a "financial mess", yet he continues to spend and it seems there is no end in sight. I have confidence in most of the city employees but not the mayor or the city council. They continue to spend money with no funds to pay for it. The city needs to take on a couple of projects then move to the next. The government needs to operate within a budget instead of incurring so much debt.
25. As a citizen of West Lincoln, I believe the city has ignored the area and constantly pushed back roads projects, in particular the West A Street project. This project has constantly been pushed back. City planning officials that came to our neighborhood association promised to follow up on the issues raised and never did. To me, this shows a lack of integrity and is indicative of why this project keeps getting pushed back.
26. In my opinion, Lincoln gov't. is much more interested in the wealthy business people and University people rather than the average, hard-working citizen.
27. If you are sharing information with us then where is it? This is the only thing I have ever seen from the gov. / One big thing is the Mayor like roundabouts. Well good for him. If you ask most of the people here they HATE them and all you do is cost us millions of dollars. Look at the wrecks. We were told that these things would lower MVA's but it increased them and you would not even tell us how many there were. Is that listening to us or doing as you please? Talk about blowing money. / You asked if we were treated with respect, hell no. Just go in and try to make an appointment with an official and see how you are treated. / Let's also look at the streets. We are one of two in the state who pays wheel taxes for roads. So why are they falling apart? And why are they so bad in the poorer parts of Lincoln? Where is the money going to because it's not the roads. Go to the rich part of town and you won't find massive amounts of pot holes and you won't destroy your front end of your car. Mine has been damaged two years in a row and now my little car is parked. Yes, I have called and called the pot hole line and they do nothing. I have called 6 times on several areas, but do they do anything? NO. Some of these you can see the metal rods under the concrete. There is a major difference how the city treats its people and it makes me sick. / I wish I could be here on June 18th as I would come to this meeting. Hopefully I'll be able to make it to another one if we know about it before it is over.
28. I feel like there are lots of opportunities to participate; life gets in the way sometimes, though!

29. Overall, I believe that the city's concerns should be infrastructure and safety oriented. Then, the city's next tier of interests should focus on good paying jobs, along with efficient means of travel, e.g. real bus routes with working person's hours, clean, safe bike and walking trails and traffic flow synchronization throughout the metro. / That being said, sometimes, it seems that recreational venues and immediate "feel good" components are what makes the city council "happy". If we had jobs that paid residents competitive wages and access to public transportation services, the rec/leisure components would then follow and be supported. As it appears now, we want to have people pay for fun that they cannot afford and live pay check-to pay check. The middle class is shrinking in Lincoln. Ask anyone who works in financial assistance programs. The number of families who need help is growing fast! Lincoln has a growing population of working poor that we will not be able to sustain w/o better jobs and access to public transportation.
30. Make a drag strip!!!!!!
31. Far too easy for government to spend tax money. Example is the new arena and costly "N" Street bike lane. Bike lane cost would close this budget gap. Why was this not seen? I work for the government and am not permitted to miss my budget, nor should I be!
32. Our goal should be to balance the budget not use property taxes to solve every problem.
33. A budget deficit is a big deal and will drive down trust in every area of local government.
34. Older and poor neighborhoods are not treated like new and richer neighborhoods. As the new and richer neighborhoods get better services like road, sewer, sidewalk repairs and maintenance.
35. If you have to fund city buses then why not use smaller buses most of the time we usually see 1 rider. How is this feasible.
36. There is too much money spent on sculptures and such. How beautiful is a city with budget issues. Priorities are misplaced. How many mouths could you feed with the money spent on sculptures. "Pretty" sad.
37. The city is always in a raise taxes first posture -arena, property taxes, fees, multiple bond issues- increased cops etc but at the same time primary city obligations like finding first responders current needs and retirement obligations are a mess. We are building all kinds of shiny new things but not taking care of neighborhood parks and sidewalks / I am so disappointed the city invested so much in woods tennis and abandoned the real maintenance needs of our other parks- that was supposed to be a private fundraising effort
38. City road construction is still poor. We need to move forward to better construction materials for the long term. I like the idea of the recent experiment using small electrically conductive particles to keep a concrete road warm and free of ice and snow in the winter. Street lights can provide this electricity. It will save the cost of Labor, wear and tear on vehicles, fuel, salt, police, and insurance!
39. Balancing the budget on the backs of the elderly, the young, the poor, the disadvantaged is neither Nebraska Nice, nor long term sustainable. Yes, raise taxes accordingly. The economic models are very clear. Those with more money can pay more, and the economy and society benefit. It is the civil contract we all agree to in order to build and maintain our society. Think Minnesota, not Kansas.
40. I am very concerned about the power and influence LIBA has over the city council
41. End the partisanship by the Republican Party
42. "City government" includes both employees and elected officials (including city council). I have mostly good feelings about the employees but guarded concern about elected officials and the money and influence the business class and affluent have with elected officials.
43. I lost all respect for the city government when it built the round-a-bout at 14th and Superior. They made the decision based on the fact that they knew better than the citizens they govern. They are a bunch of arrogant S.O.B.'s who should be fired or impeached!
44. Some people and groups are definitely treated more favorably. N Street bike lane was dictated. People in the neighborhoods and those affected should have a say.
45. I do feel certain members of the council are in it for their own benefit, mainly John Camp. / / I also feel like Lincoln pays a great deal to contractors for construction, maintenance, repairs, relative to other cities. This is just a feeling, but for the amount people in Lincoln and Nebraska pay in taxes, I generally feel like that money does not return the value it should. Contractors and service providers seem to overcharge th city because they feel like they can.

46. The governor makes decisions based on his own thoughts and opinions and does not seem to care too much about the citizens when making decisions.
47. I have mixed feelings. City priorities usually benefit me because I'm a middle class, car-driving, able-bodied, college educated, middle aged, white person who is eligible to vote. I am concerned about the residents who don't have those advantages. We need to improve libraries, public transportation, low-cost public recreation (golf isn't low cost) & law enforcement in order to maintain quality of life for everyone.
48. All the meetings and they always end up doing what they want. Why bother with it? Basically, I am tired of being bled by government when they, themselves, produce nothing. It's real easy to take our money.
49. Forestry needs a new Foerster at the top
50. Current Retirement Plans for employees are not sustainable. Past councils have over obligated the city for retirement plans. This must be curtailed or it will cause the city to go into bankruptcy in the future
51. I believe it is not right to ask about procedures and the integrity of individuals. Who knows if you're following correct procedures, or cutting through red tape. As far as honesty and integrity, only those people can judge themselves.
52. Expand our roads! Plan better for the future.
53. In some cases I don't feel as though you hire the right person for the job. For example, you hired an attorney to run our Public Works Department instead of an engineer and look at the mess our streets are in. Even when you repair pieces of the street, we still bounce around with all the bumps. Just my opinion
54. Highway 2 has turned into an interstate for 18-wheelers. It's ridiculous!!!! Get the beltway done. These 18-wheelers are going over 50 MPH and there is never a state trooper or police car from 14th st. to 84th street to pull them over. I think the truckers know by now they can go well over 50 MPH through Lincoln.
55. I would prefer we take "Party" out of the elections and be more like the Unicameral. I think the city's done a good job with the Haymarket. I would like to see more Public/Private collaboration and more focus on economic development.
56. it use to be the o street gang that called the shots now its the hay market gang. planing, zoning and code enforcement are used to advance the few.
57. THE MAYOR IS A CAREER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO DO WHAT HE WANTS WITH TAX PAYER MONEY TO FUND HIS PET PROJECTS. WOULDN'T IT OF BEEN WONDERFUL TO USE THE MONEY ON NEEDED PROJECTS INSTEAD OF FOR EXAMPLE AN ALLEY IN HAYMARKET THAT THE AVERAGE LINCOLN PERSON WILL NEVER SEE
58. When I think of "Lincoln City Government", I think of the Mayor's Office and the City Council. Reading news articles and listening to City Council Meetings is almost embarrassing. The lines are clearly drawn between the two parties. LIBA and the Lincoln Employers Coalition have too much influence in the decisions that are made for the City of Lincoln.
59. In the last 6 -8 years the city has accomplished more than it has in the past 20 years. I recognize this, and appreciate it.
60. I am very disappointed with the options given us in the survey. You have chosen to lessen the aid to parks, the elderly, the poor, and children. It is my opinion that Lincoln City Government should stop giving millions of dollars in tax breaks to businesses, construction companies and any TIF project that happens to come along. (see [reclaimdemocracy.org/tax\\_increment\\_financing](http://reclaimdemocracy.org/tax_increment_financing)) We've spent much too much money on things like roundabouts, our parks are an embarrassment because their upkeep is shoddy, and there seems to be an inequality between north and south lincoln streets.
61. The city sometimes unfairly favors certain companies, and areas of town (notably the southeast) when making decisions and ignores other parts of towns needs.
62. Too much taxes in Lincoln. Small businesses are taxed heavily making it difficult to survive.
63. Fix the damn streets correctly!!!!
64. I strongly dislike the imposition of additional sales taxes, temporary or not, for special projects or activities! The taxes for the arena, the emergency communications system and most recently, Southpointe Pavillions will

- cumulatively drive business away from the last. There's a threshold crossed here that some folks will come to regret. I can't believe the merchants there will thrive.
65. When the college campus communists complain about conservatives, Christians or libertarians ... The Lincoln Police back up the commies and violate the First Amendment on campus grounds and online.
  66. I fell we need better accounting of the various contingency and ending balances on projects. I was very concerned that the Mayor found \$10 million in balances in Antelope Valley. That money should have been known from the moment of completion or that there would be remaining money rather than discovering the money long after the project was completed. Thanks for using the money to beef up roads funds. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY SOUTH BELTWAY ANY LONGER. WILL I SEE IT IN MY LIFETIME?????
  67. If these questions are taking about the Lincoln city government as a whole - then yes, I am extremely satisfied. Now if you single out the city council... well, my opinion on the city council has soured pretty bad within the past couple of years. I still respect them though, but I now see them more as idealists and almost as puppets (to certain interests) other than having the interests of the people (as a whole) as their main focus & priority. Pretty astounding, really~.....
  68. I feel disrespected by the people who run the Sunken Gardens. They expanded the paths and put benches 10 feet from the property line. The walking paths would have been okay, but the benches attract groups who can be loud and obnoxious. They also toss trash over the fence. I questioned this plan before the benches were installed, but had no luck in preventing them. In my view they have no respect for the property owners around the park.
  69. I believe local government listens to the people when their ideas meet the agenda's of the elected officials. If not, then the people aren't heard. A great example is the many roundabouts that are being implemented in Lincoln. It is rare to find a person that supports them and it was even acknowledged that people don't like them, but we continue to build them.
  70. More Lincoln residents in the future will need public transportation. The population of the city is getting older. The government better be aware of the needs and wants of senior citizens.
  71. Some things seem a little strange like changing perfectly good tennis courts over to "pickleball" courts because a small group petitioned. I heard that some of the money from this came from the Lincoln Cares donations. I was under the impression that was for more like replacing trees.
  72. i think the government needs to pay for things that are needed and not for everything. We don't have the money.
  73. I am still trying to figure out the sidewalk repair system. I have called several times & each time I am told they will be back in 3 yrs. Yet they never repair my sidewalks. Just the neighbors. Who decides who gets repaired?
  74. Our City has done an absolutely horrible job of repairing streets. There seems to be money for other pet projects, while the street repairs suffer. The inevitable cost of vehicle repairs, replacement, and worse fuel efficiencies far outweigh the investment to better streets. Even the funding of basic maintenance like caulking of sidewalks and streets is not being done, which will save money overall. It's embarrassing for streets in the downtown or hay market area not to be maintained. Imagine being a visitor and walking over rough streets in those areas that have a lot of foot traffic. An example of a street that is in need of repair is 8th street by the Post Office. The City gets a grade of below an F on street repair and replacement; especially after previous City surveys have indicated streets are a top priority.
  75. Quit thinking about south Lincoln all the time and do something to help upgrade north Lincoln.
  76. Lincoln, like any small village, kowtows to the rich and famous at the expense of the little people. LIBA and big money names, but most especially the Republican Party, dictate what can really be done. Just like Washington D.C. the Republican council members waste time and money selecting ways to benefit themselves or their cronies with no thought of the working class.
  77. Repair of streets
  78. Lincoln city government needs to quit the political bickering and concentrate on what matters to the residents, like good roads. They need to quit wasting money on frills, like parties for the rich and realize that some people struggle to get by with stagnant wages and the price of essentials going up constantly. For some people, every dollar that wrangled away from them, is something else that they have to cut back on.

79. Some elite, appointed committees do too much of the decision making, as in the case of the arena. That was pushed through without a fair and open vote, but with a vote based on only one small part of the cost. / It is time to turn the focus from the 'flashier' projects to those refurbishing aging infrastructure, especially for utilities--not glamorous but essential to quality of life.
80. Why is the city government not looking at changing the police and fire department pension funding, they should be looking at switching them over to a 401K system just like the rest of us tax paying people.
81. It is difficult to answer questions about "Lincoln City Government" as this is an all inclusive term for the City Council, Mayor, Mayor's office, City Administrators, City employees. I feel breaking it down would be more productive than generalities about everyone together. I disagree with the Mayor and most of his policies. I feel the City Council members were misled and taken advantage of by City personnel on budget matters when they were asked to provide information on the budget to the council. These individuals work for the Mayor and should have been fired for providing false or misleading information to elected officials that they answer to. The Mayor has too much power and should be term limited to 2 terms as with other executive branches.
82. It seems like even though most citizens disagree with the upcoming, proposed Recycling requirement, the City of Lincoln is still trying to push it forward.
83. Quit wasting money on public art.
84. I think Jon Camp is a pretty scummy guy and is the single biggest threat to Lincoln City government transparency and accountability. He and his sex offender son really do a good job of skirting legality and enriching themselves at the cost of good taste and respectability - that building ownership fiasco does not sit well with me.
85. We have been having flooding in our area the past couple of years; prior to these years there has been no water issues. When i call Lincoln water, wastewater, watershed management it seems like i hear excuses after excuses (they will point fingers a different direction; nothing gets done) and the whole city is calling in its... just a storm. No one seems to take ownership as to why parts of the city is under water from a storm.
86. I missed adding a comment on the budget part. I think the city should negotiated a higher payment for health insurance from employees, so their costs would be more comparable to most Lincoln companies. I think moderate income Lincolnites would resent the very good deal city employees get on health insurance and other benefits.
87. It is clear that higher income neighborhoods receive superior support. Roads in low-income neighborhoods and not the same as in 84th and Old Cheney.
88. When it comes to certain actions that the administration will know are controversial there is little if any transparency or discussion.
89. I think that LIBA should be restrained when weighing in on decisions made by the Mayor and the City Council. I also think that some of the City Council members make decisions based on what would be best for their business. The best part here is that it is a council, that must find a consensus. / Having Dave Landis involved in planning, has been an unheralded godsend for Lincoln! /
90. Why are these the only options the public gets to decide on for the spending of tax payer dollars? Where do all our tax payer dollars go? How many more millions are spent on art, bike paths taking up driving lanes, etc?
91. Everything about the Haymarket / Arena development was to be "open and transparent". But the costs associated with bringing big name acts are clouded in secrecy. The city claims it is not it, but the management company that is not being transparent. Just a shell game.
92. please focus resources on fixing traffic flow in our wonderful city!
93. Though this remotely applies, I adamantly recommend the city update its website; it's so difficult to find information online.
94. We need a better system of road development & repair. The damage (pot holes, etc) & consistent road/lane closure/construction is unacceptable in this city.
95. I don't know much about the city government. I don't believe there is 100% transparency.
96. The question about collaboration with the public is a tricky one - you do this survey but I 'm not sure how much you actually listen to what the public says. I'm also not entirely sure that this survey reaches all people -

especially low-income people who may not have access to the internet. I hope someone is speaking up for them.

97. I think of Lincoln City government primarily as the mayor and city council, and I have the utmost respect and admiration for what they do to make Lincoln a better place.
98. Love Mayor Buetler, Council members, Fellers, Camp & Raybould. (I don't have an opinion regarding the other council members.. Almost all city employees are helpful and professional. Thank you to each.
99. Many decisions made by city government either do not involve input from the citizens, or that input is ignored. For example, I realize a lot of people want faster Internet service and competition with TimeWarnerCable; however, given the number who will not benefit from Allo coming to Lincoln, and the amount of property damage and disruption they are causing, I doubt it would get approval from the citizenry as a whole.
100. I am strongly unhappy with the way the city maintains its streets and sidewalks. The news reported the plan to redo the 14th and superior roundabout. Please save that money and reallocate it for streets and sidewalks. / I also believe from my own observations of the streets that there is a significant lack of oversight and quality control on paving projects. When seams between slabs show deterioration and large chunks fall down or off, and streets do not last very long, something is wrong.
101. You didn't define "government." Is that the mayor, the city council, government employees, or some combination. I assumed you meant the mayor and city employees. I have a somewhat less favorable view of the council.
102. There is no way senior citizens can catch a bus from some areas of Lincoln. I am 93 years old, and I cannot find transportation to my Doctor or the grocery store or pharmacy from my home. I do not drive, and use a walker or cane to get around. Why can rural transport pick up passengers in Lincoln, but will not transport them around Lincoln? They must go out of the city limits to use that service. We need buses that will take seniors to appointments and the grocery or pharmacy. We have no Senior services in South-East Lincoln ....We are too far for any of the Senior services....I live near 70th & Old Cheney....
103. Too much cronyism has taken place when making department appointments and creating unneeded department heads. Hiring people not qualified for positions such as the public works director.
104. I feel Lied to quite often by the city council, the mayor and the governer. The majority of the people that hold office use thier powers to benefit themselves.
105. people that work in customer service and answer the phone should give out the correct information. Many people do not want to go all the way downtown to find out that what they were told was not true and they wasted their time. Too many of the "projects" that our taxes are spent for are not what the average voter needs from the city government. If it were a regular business and not a monopoly it would be out of business.
106. I have respect for members of Lincoln's city council. Overall, I believe council members provide sound leadership and support for its neighborhoods and required public services. The council must commit to, and invest public funding with sustainable development goals, policies and strategies. / / The mayor and his administration must refocus its current development policies in support of sustainable development -- simply, "it's one thing to fund and build a community project/infrastructure and difficult task is sustaining it over-time."
107. In the question about treating all neighborhoods equally and fairly I have always heard the fair and equal are not the same thing. Not all neighborhoods need the same things. What is important to one might not be in another. Each situation has to be dealt with, when possible, on a case by case basis. Also the question about city officials making decisions that are not based on their personal interests strikes a chord with me. It seems like the Mayor doesn't like golf, and is against the golf program. Whether that is true or not I am not sure but that is my perception. It is important that what we have currently for golf in the city remains intact and is supported, and remains affordable - this is important on multiple levels and the Mayor should understand that. He should not get to make a decision that negatively impacts the community for decades in the future as it relates to golf. The question about finding out what the city government is doing and why is a good question. Efforts are being made with this like with this survey but more needs to be done. These types of surveys and questions need to be front and center to the entire population of Lincoln. Front page of paper, on the news, at libraries, etc. Small start - do lots more of this.

108. The business organization LIBA tends to intimidate our city officials a little too easily, always complaining about the cost of fair wages and benefits while asking for perks from the tax payers.
109. I think giving citizens more opportunities like this to help guide budget decisions is a great idea.
110. I would like to see the city strive for tougher bargaining with the unions involved. Some of the benefits, including pensions, far exceed those in the private sector.
111. This survey is a farce. There are many more places the budget could be cut.
112. City government, needs to manage funds better, rather than just want more every time a project needs done.
113. The only time I tried to correspond with city gov't was this week when I sent an e-mail to public works. Did not get a response.
114. Politicians look out for themselves. Mayor is a democrat & favors low income people rather than those who pay more taxes. I work hard & have a kid in college & support both of us include paying tuition. I am not in the highest tax bracket but taxes just keep going up. It makes it difficult sometimes.
115. Fix the streets. The Capital of Nebraska and it's embarrassing to have visitors drive our streets. The fella that hit the statue at 33/Pioneer did the citizens a big favor. Forget the art and fix the streets.
116. Get back to properly taking care of our parks, roads and sidewalks. Lincoln was once a beautiful city. Now it looks like eyesore. Quit wasting our tax money on useless "pet projects"....concentrate on the basic things that make growing up/living in Lincoln so wonderful. Lastly- stop spending more money than you take in. Our government is reckless and completely IRRESPONSIBLE!!!!!!! /
117. A person is a politician generally because of their specific interests. It's pretty sad to watch Roy and Cindy at work; neither has the City's best interest at heart. And what's worse, my 7 year-old is more qualified than Cindy to be on the City Council.
118. If you are not a part of the "Good Old Boys Club" like say, the Campbells, BEND OVER!!
119. You should not have lumped all City employees under the title of 'Lincoln City Government'. There are some true 'worker bees' who are excellent employees. It is the Mayor and his contingent who are not trust-worthy.
120. We live in a city that places us in good standing in national rankings (technology, good place to raise children and to retire, well regarded city amenities like parks and arena.) We need a new library. The beltway would be an economic boost. I would willingly pay more taxes for my city services and strongly prefer that avenue over the cuts suggested in this survey.
121. The arena would be one of the biggest disappointments I feel the city has made. This shows how much power the university and central government have. The higher ups get their pay raises while the average worker and citizen receive almost nothing. Take a pay cut Beutler and Hoppe. /
122. It is very hard for working people to express their opinions during meetings. Times are during daytime working hours and you have to take time off of work to attend.
123. Need to think outside the box and look at possibilities!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
124. City council decisions seem to be set in advance of any discussion. After streets are repaired they are soon chewed up because of the immensely heavy and tandem trucks, wider and longer and higher than the streets were ever made to bear. Thus streets are continually in disrepair, thus resuming the cycle. How will this city handle the growth when your street infrastructure is collapsing. Lack of vision, unless the disrepair and repair by contractors is assured. City council does not want input, as it marches on with its misguided established agenda.
125. The road system in our city is awful. What's more is the lack of road maintenance in Northeast Lincoln. It is evidently clear the city has no interest in Northeast Lincoln whatsoever.
126. I have more faith in the City Council working together professionally than in the Mayor's office.
127. Specifically I don't trust the City Council. I believe some are motivated by personal agendas and only consist the community when they happen to coincide.
128. Fire the mayor
129. Having participated in some of these surveys and committees I've seen first hand how the City lacks transparency and manipulates citizens to reach a decision that leaders have already decided is the best solution. It provides a false sense of participation and leads to distrust of our city leaders. One example: was told no money for funding public safety initiatives but almost immediately after a decision was made to increase sales

tax, the mayor and city council found roughly \$14million (\$10 M left over from Antelope Valley project and \$4 million for a bike lane). This money would have been almost have the cost of the public safety initiatives. This kind of duplicity makes citizens leary of trusting the information they are receiving. If you ask questions on budget priorities, it needs to be done while providing the big picture not just a tiny sliver. This again feels like manipulation disguised as "constituent input".

130. It seems clear, driving around town, that some neighborhoods have a lot of services (big parks, repaved/repared roads, street lights, snow removal, etc.) and other neighborhoods (sometimes with more residents) are left behind/considered to be less important.
131. Lincoln is fortunate to have had civic minded leaders in Mayor's Office and City Council. / I hope political division does not hamper the good work recent leaders have enacted.
132. City employees make more money than any other group, plus their retirement fund is ridiculous. They need to be more in line with the rest of the citizens.
133. My concern is the Mayor and City Council. We have a liberal mayor and majority of city council members that are progressive/liberal. Every city in the country that has that situation for several years is soon to be or already bankrupt. That is where we are headed with bigger government and more pay to those that work for our city without accountability, it is a recipe for disaster!
134. Money talks very loudly in this town. Being poor and disabled in Lincoln is very difficult.
135. I understand some of the expenditures for public art but sometimes it is at too high a priority when many other items are needed. Too much concentration on Hay Market area
136. Sad that partisan politics has gotten into City government. Just because you're a Republican doesn't mean you have to be against everything the Mayor wants.
137. The Mayor's office is an island of secrets and lies.
138. Lincoln Gov't. gives priority to business and business interests above the regular citizen. If a developer wants to build, suddenly the land is blighted and tax increment financing appears. There is going to be a large price to pay for the use of TIF and we all going to pay more.
139. Downtown is fully funded while the rest of the city has to hold a bake sale. The new bars and restaurants in the Haymarket cannibalize business for older restaurants in other parts of the city. Many of them are hurting and will be gone within a year or two. The arena was built without proper input from the citizens. BN was excused from cleaning up what could have been a superfund site. All at taxpayer expense.
140. Make more services and public documents available online. Streamline processes to make government more efficient.
141. Liberal minded social engineers
142. Fix the roads and the high property taxes...
143. When referring to "Lincoln City Government", I equate the City Council with that phrase, not the people who work within the city government in the various departments and agencies. I am satisfied with the work done by the departments and agencies.
144. some workers do not treat people with respect. You overburden homeowners with taxes. Tax cigarettes, soda, junk food, fast food. You want money for healthcare programs but don't tax unhealthy things. If junk and fast food tax is unfair to poor people let's teach them to cook and drink water. Personally, I don't get the midwest - you say you're conservative, yet taxes are astronomically high. You waste money on marijuana enforcement. You don't plow streets and plowing less is an option - what so we all need polluting, gas-gusseling SUV's and then we need more taxes for pollution abatement and illness? Values are backwards and people are rude.
145. I have a problem with Investigators in the police Dept jumping to conclusions about people & making life or death decisions that affect multiple people, regarding their guilt or innocence of each party to a lethal accident & decimating survivors' lives. For example a child dies on the streets of Lincoln & the mother of the deceased is expected to both mourn the loss of her child & investigate why the autopsy doesn't match the explanation of how the accident that killed the child happened. No judicial review occurs to overturn any faulty assumptions about basic physics, or mode of injuries. No insurance company does an independent investigation of how the child died nor who the actual driver of the car was. The cop, without securing the scene, while the child is bleeding out on the street, rifles through the child's pockets to find who has a driver's license & calls it for who

the driver is, just based on that. Never mind there is a tree now located between the driver's side of the car & the street next to the passenger door, where the child who died landed in the street. How do the physics of that work, does that child have a miraculous way to go through the tree to land in the street, if he was the driver or was it more likely that he was the passenger, who was thrown from the car, when the car at 75 miles an hour hit the curb, before the car ever split apart & hit the tree? My son's autopsy indicates he hit the tree independent of the car & before the car wrapped around the tree. But one cop, in 8 minutes got to make the call that dropped me into poverty. Why isn't there judicial oversight when child dies on the streets of Nebraska? Do tell?

146. The survey is tilted towards taxation by class, ie, if you have a more expensive home you should pay more taxes. On one hand, we want Lincoln to grow and be attractive to young professionals and businesses, and on the other hand, we want to tax at a fairly high rate compared to many states, and certainly the ones attracting population and business
147. The City's attitude is basically, "Either agree with us or we will force you to do whatever we want anyhow." The proposed recycling ordinance is a perfect example. / I do not share the City administration's devotion to being a leading "green city." We should let other cities to do the experimenting and learn from their mistakes. / I am convinced that the dedicated bicycle lane on M street was a complete waste of resources. / I am equally convinced that the proposed mandatory recycling ordinance is overreaching and unneeded. Reports are that Lincolniters already do a good job of recycling; and recycling much more than cardboard. If some businesses that are not recycling should be, the right approach is to use the city's influence to encourage them to do so. I am particularly opposed to the criminal misdemeanor penalties. Presumably, they could include jail time. We all know the fiasco that misdemeanor citations became during mandatory watering restrictions.
148. I felt the meetings regarding the new routes for the city bus system were very important and well-attended; however, even though suggestions and objections were made, the proposed routes remained the same. I felt like we weren't listened to and that our suggestions and needs were not taken seriously.
149. I really want the pools to stay open.
150. I feel the citizen on-line survey is the way to go as to prioritizing. This allows the general public more input than just showing up at a council meeting. I encourage the council to respect this survey and also have been very satisfied with Mayor Butler's decisions.
151. Forcing the construction of roundabouts despite community opposition is NOT listening to the concerns of the people. And street repair should be a much, MUCH higher priority.
152. Let's keep the focus on services provided by current levels of reasonable taxation and avoid the more popular criticism of taxes in general.
153. It sure would be nice if the well paid city engineers could figure out how to time the lights correctly. Sacramento could do it back in the 1970's. I should not be seeing the traffic light turn red just ahead of me when the one that I am stopped at turns green.
154. I have tried and tried to get someone to listen to me about closing Old Cheney west of Warlick out to Highway 77 - it truly needs to be done BEFORE construction starts on Warlick Blvd next year, but no one will respond to me!!!! Traffic flows so much faster when all traffic is using Warlick Blvd and not Old Cheney Road. / Also, time to get rid of metered parking downtown. Look at places like Fort Collins, Golden - they provide tons of free parking and have vibrant town centers - lets get more free parking downtown!!!
155. This is really unfair--I LOVE OUR MAYOR--HE IS AWESOME, but I am really frustrated with our city council, particularly the blockheads like Joe Camp. What a waste . . . / BEUTLER does a great job of interacting with public, asking for feedback (I went to his budget forum a few years ago), and makes the citizenry feel as if they have a voice. The city council, on the other hand, oftentimes acts more like potentates (Joe Camp) trying to outdo each other and control without listening to the public.
156. I would like to see the City aggressively try to solve the problem with the ballooning pension fund for the police and fire departments. We need to seek professional advice so that this pension doesn't bankrupt our city.
157. I wish trash and recycling were provided by the city and paid for through my taxes.

158. City government is putting private development costs on the backs of the citizenship. The SouthPointe sales tax was a joke approved by a majority of people who don't shop there. A heels should pay for the infrastructure if they want a larger store, not the citizens who will now be shopping online and elsewhere.
159. You say we have a budget short fall. How about doing away with the Public Safety Director position. Never had that position for years. Mayor created that position for a friend that helps him get re-elected. / / How about closing the downtown Library. You talk about moving the city forward with fiber but than go back to the old way for getting information.
160. Too much wasteful spending on items that are cosmetic and feel good vs essential and prudent.
161. There have been some projects that seem very vested in personal interests of the Mayor, or Counsel members, rather than public desire.
162. Questions such as government employees treat citizens with respect are too broad
163. Where are my wheel taxes going? Why are the same stretches of 70th & 84th streets under construction for the second summer in a row?
164. Chris Beutler has painfully wasted millions of tax dollars for art and aesthetics that truly do NOT serve the greater good. I cannot believe he prioritizes this over public safety and adding more police officers.
165. I believe that the citizens of Lincoln get what the elect. Certain areas have representation that promised to fight for them and they get more services, while other districts elected officials who promised to lower taxes and they get reduced services since they do not want to pay for them.
166. These questions should be better clarified and separated in regard to the Mayor's office, various City departments, etc.and the City Council. There is a big difference and the responses would be more revealing than just a general lump of City Government.
167. I don't really know what the values of the city government are. The mayor's office never comes out and says: I think we should do this and that. I agree that survey the community is a great idea. / Personally, I believe that we should pay a little more in property taxes to get the things we want: libraries/pools/fire stations. But threatening to close them isn't the answer. I feel like the mayor threatens this every year, so that people step up and says "don't close the library!!! save the pools! Keep services for the elderly!" Instead, I wish we had a mayor that would just step up and say that. The threats may appear to empty. / / I also had trouble answering these questions: does the government care about its people? Are the tax payer's the people? Then yes. Are the employees the people? Then no. I have seen way too many articles about the fraudulent leadership practices in several city departments. It's time the government was a better leader for their actual employees. / And to be clear, if there is not enough money to keep the libraries open every day of the week. DO NOT even consider building a new (more expensive) one downtown. Where is the survey that prioritizes that!
168. I do not feel I have enough information to qualitatively answer most of these questions. I feel that a majority of the information that comes from the Lincoln City government comes through channels that make a big deal out of programs and issues that they support, neglecting to provide all the information.
169. There are some members of city council that are self-serving and they don't listen to their constituents, nor do they base their off the wall ideas on fact.
170. I think the mayor has too much power -
171. I am not thrilled that we are raising taxes to shop at SouthPointe to pay for a parking garage so that Scheels can have a larger presence and we lose out on those other stores. I also do not agree with the rezoning of the downtown area to move our blue collar jobs out of the area. Nebraska is all for the hard working man/woman and to demolish their buildings and force relocation is a slap in the face to allow for more residences. We have apartments all over town that are vacant and yet we need to appeal to a richer demographic and forget about our skilled workers.
172. Really. City government benefits the University, not the citizens of Lincoln, NE. Stop using that chemical on the streets to prevent ice crashes. The city does what it wants. Stop bringing up dead issues like Bennet Martin. Close the library and work something out with Love library, since you give UNL all the sweet deals. Stop encouraging expansion of Bryan hospital. WE are St. E's people and Bryan is the WORST hospital ever - go there to die.
173. Define what Lincoln City government is.....employees, elected officials or both.

174. Decisions such as the development of the Haymarket have benefited City Council members and other city officials far more than the citizens of Lincoln. Decisions about the care and use of the city parks is made by a small closed group in a Department that thinks the parks are their and not the citizens of Lincoln.
175. The Pinnacle Bank Arena is a tax on the entire city so rich out-of-towners get a play pen. It hemorrhages money, is an eyesore, and should never have been built when there are still homeless people needing help downtown. I say tear it down and represent the interest of people who actually live here instead of the outside interests who drive our current blight of gentrification that threatens our city.
176. The government misuses our taxpayer money often - to build things that are not wanted by the general public. They also apply rules and regulations differently toward different people/businesses. Government employees are often very rude, throw their power around, and put their own personal interests above the actual rules and regulations they are meant to enforce and apply equally.
177. Give a Liquor License to open Harvest, like you did for all the other grocery stores, especially the new ones
178. The mayor and his cronies on the democratic city council spend money like there's no end to it, you need to stop spending money on frivolous projects like golf courses, new libraries, bike lanes, art work on streets and downtown in the Hay-market. We need more police and better roads, quit spending on non-valued services. Sell the golf courses, they are empty !!!!
179. The only people in Lincoln city government whom I suspect of not being fair to everyone are some of the Republicans on City Council. I believe the employees, administrators, department heads, the Mayor, and the Democrats on City Council are doing a great job. I especially appreciate our street repair crews. They do a great job.
180. Once again, I would like it if you would define terms, e.g., what do "city officials" and "city government" mean? I have different opinions about the city council from those I have about the Mayor's office. Does "city government" include all of those? It's difficult to answer these questions accurately because of this unknown.
181. The building and safety department is a nightmare. They are rude and not helpful and I work with them regularly. Especially Bill Fueling.
182. I've been involved on some topics with multiple city departments. My opinion is that some departments don't work in agreement or even know what the other is doing. In order to create a more adhesive and effective government, I feel there are some silos that need to be broken down.
183. Seems like any time something new is on the list of possibilities, such as the new library, most of the decisions have already been made -- location, what firm to use, etc.
184. Mayor you and Hoppe are slanting the questions to get what you want in the budget! If you really wanted to be fair you would have an outside source come up with questions and control this survey. You are way too partisan for me!
185. I am disappointed in the ongoing lack of funding for our parks department, especially concerning tree replacement and playgrounds. If we continue on the curve of the last few years, we will leave our children with a city barren of trees and with no playgrounds in the poorest areas of town. This is completely unacceptable!
186. I don't see good use of our tax dollars now let alone having the city raise our taxes
187. My mostly very positive evaluations are based on being a Planning Commissioner for seven years.
188. In regards to treating neighborhoods the same, in southeast Lincoln we have no parks and no pools. Just because we are of a higher income doesn't mean our kids shouldn't have those services. Holmes lake is the only thing over here. I shouldn't have to drive to pioneers park to take my kids to a park. And as far as pools is have to join a gym or build one to have my kids enjoy a pool.
189. Too much Art \$, could have been spent to save other programs!
190. South Lincoln and outlying areas seems to have considerably more voice than North Lincoln and the middle of town.
191. Several taxes have been setup in the past that are supposed to be earmarked for things like streets and then the city says they don't have the money. Example I am thinking about is wheel tax, way more than other cities pay

but yet our streets are in shambles. / / It's great to spend money on the art and bike lanes, which may pay off in the future with more youth staying in the city but those youth rarely pay as high of property tax than the long time residents.

192. THE BEST THING I'VE EVER PARTICIPATED IN IS THIS ONLINE SURVEY AND I REALLY APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS REGARDING MY CITY. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.
193. Spend more money on streets and parks instead of expensive art.
194. South 27th Street between Hwy 2 and South Street needs to be widened to 4 lanes. This is something that is long overdue. It is something that can and should be done to benefit most of Lincoln residents and not the few who reside there or don't want a golf course to change.
195. Would like to see more long-range planning: pension funds, landfill issues, water treatment plants. / / Making the city "look nice" is important. It is distressing, therefore, to see money spent on projects that are poorly implemented and or not maintained: nice intersections on "O" street, grass mistakenly planted in front of businesses on the "O" street revitalization project (17th to 20th), dead trees planted along roads because the city can't water them and the homeowners/business owners won't, tar to fill cracks put down at the wrong time of the year and it just comes off the road--the list goes on. It is very frustrating for me to see the small-scale waste that adds up over time.
196. I don't understand how we can continue to build and build. I somewhat get deferred costs but at some point they will need to be paid.
197. Our city council has really gotten partisan and I worry that they have hidden (or not so hidden) agendas backed by some fringe groups who want to vote NO on everything and generally do so without giving their constituents all the facts. The budget process is one case where it is no different than any other year but some of our city council members and members of other special interest groups are trying to make it look like the mayor is doing something secretive this year. As a citizen, I am smarter than that and also VERY irritated that that group feels the need to start partisan bickering when our city government is supposed to be non-partisan. Maybe I just need to stay off social media, but it is just ridiculous. I think the Mayor along with the chamber and other city leaders have done a TREMENDOUS job bringing Lincoln into the 21st century. If we are not busy living and growing, we are busy dying. It is not is not the Lincoln of my childhood, but it may be even better! We have to keep young people here. Also, will someone just say outloud every chance they get that the public art is being privately funded? I am super tired of members of the community thinking our city is spending money "foolishly" while discussing budget cuts. As someone who supports public art, I am growing weary of the naysayers. Thanks!
198. airpark is in another state as far as the city is concerned. No police or parking enforcement.
199. The city planner does not think ahead...Especially with road work.
200. Not even sure when the city council meetings are. But I do have different feelings about the mayor vs. the city council.
201. Street level employees do the best they can with the resources they have. Staff levels do not seem to be keeping up with growth in Lincoln. It seems like a lot of money goes to frivolous items for the benefit of a few, instead of being spent on infrastructure and staffing needs that would benefit the entire community.
202. When some city council members think budget cuts should be made, I believe they are cutting funds for needed entities for a city that has grown..population & business wise. Our streets are getting some much needed repair. Firefighters & police personnel need to be increased with the population also. Much needed are additional human services. And our parks are another of the exciting places (free!) for folks to enjoy!!
203. Generally, city officials and employees performance is satisfactory. There is always room for improvement.
204. I was not able to attend the meeting on Saturday so I appreciate the opportunity to take the survey. I am not sure how lower income and minority populations in our city are included in these types of discussions?
205. TIF decisions cost the taxpayer and arm and a leg, but they're handed out like candy to citizens who don't need them, displacing mostly voiceless citizens. Also, the way some of these bond issues are presented are just disingenuous (see, \$30M bond for a \$1B arena). Decisions in this city aren't made in the Council, they're made

- in Fallbrook, Piedmont, and Sheridan Blvd... and the treatment of those areas by city budget outlays (and recipients of city contracts) seem to reflect that unevenhandedness.
206. The City spends so much time on construction projects, but they can't even fix the water fountain that has been broken for two years in my neighborhood (Herbert Park). They even have this new water park at Trago Park, but I can't get a sip of water when I'm going for a run in my neighborhood.
207. I would love to see more transparency regarding what where our tax dollars are earmarked for use. / / I continue to be very disappointed with the quality of the city streets, roundabouts, island landscape maintenance, etc. primarily in Northwest Lincoln. From the roundabout at 14th and Superior to the islands and medians throughout the Highlands area - they are simply embarrassing. The 14th and Superior roundabout is nothing short of an eye sore - if that round about existed in South Lincoln - there would be an uproar and it would be beautified in no time. West Highlands Boulevard is absolutely an eye sore - weeds, overgrown trees and shrubs that haven't been trimmed in what seems like 2 years or more. / / On a side note, I've coached baseball in Lincoln for 10 years. I'm yet to see ANY capital improvements or upkeep to any of the fields. We are to the point of teams not wanting to come to Lincoln to play games because who wants to introduce them to fields that are atrocious. Lynn Johnson and Kent Stiles should be ashamed and embarrassed by the facilities they are responsible for. To make matters worse...every time we inform Kent Stiles of an issue at a field - the canned response is they are too busy and don't have time. I don't think that it should be too much to ask to mow our baseball fields a minimum of once per week during the April - July timeframe. / / In short - our priorities in Lincoln are and have been screwed up for a long time. We travel throughout the Midwest for baseball and hockey. We go to cities comparable to Lincoln and some that are smaller - Lincoln isn't even close to the qualify and number of facilities these other towns have. Which brings me back to my first comment - where are the tax dollars being used - or should I say wasted.
208. not all parts of city are equallying treated....money talks
209. At times the partisanship gets in the way of results. The governments job is to operate our city efficiently for all residents, and overall they do a good or better job. The fear of minor property tax increases, or other taxes and fees, needs to be buried as the programs voted in by the same rule makers enacted programs for the good of our citizens. Now if a programs has been completed it should have a sunset clause from when enacted. If it is still needed, fund it properly. Seems like that is common sense.
210. The primary focus of city government is spending, political correctness and special interests. City government considers citizens who actually work for a living nothing more than a source of more and more tax revenue.
211. Your survey will likely not produce a legitimate result since you jump from positive to negative statements.
212. My answers are based primarily on my responses to the Office of the Mayor, rather than our City Council. While I believe Lincoln has traditionally had an excellent Council, I support our strong mayoral system.
213. As a white middle class person, I see myself reflected in City government. I'm less sure how well people from other cultures and in poverty feel represented.
214. City government is too biased and leaves too much power to the mayor and his political allies without respect for other opinions-his way or the highway.
215. Decided to share my thoughts versus use the questionnaire above. Thanks / / I feel we have come to a point where may need to look at cutting some programs or closing a golf course instead of raising taxes. Lincoln is a great place to live but it is not sustainable with constant tax increases on property or sales.(The southpointe one hasn't even started yet--online shopping looks better all the time) As tough as it is, any organization at times has to look where services are duplicated or not being used. The easy answer is to persuade the public to say yes to a tax increase --sometimes a leader needs to make a tough call and cut something which is the right decision.
216. I have only lived in Lincoln for about 1 1/2 years. I came from a much smaller community. My observations so far regarding Lincoln city government is that some things are given more attention and funding than others to the point of neglect of some areas. One of the most glaring problems is the streets. Although it is not possible to change in established areas, they are very narrow. It should be mandated that new areas be designed with wider streets to accommodate the traffic flow more safely and conveniently. Existing streets are poorly maintained in many areas. Streets should be one of the city's highest priority items, definitely above bike

paths, public art displays, and support of sporting programs. As for the honesty, integrity and accessibility of city government officials and employees, I have no personal experience to draw from other than observations from where I have lived before. In general, government is often not as responsive to public opinion as they should be and too often honesty and integrity can be in short supply.

217. Somehow, people who use the woefully inadequate bus service are mostly ignored when it is time to consider improving public transit here. People who own cars are paid much more attention to.
218. I have a strongly favorable opinion of the City administration. Since the City Council is divided, it's not possible to have an unqualified opinion of its performance. For example, I think at least one Council member has voted when he had a conflict of interest. All the same, on the whole I respect the Council.
219. My lack of confidence in City government comes primarily from my belief that many or most people who work in and for City government are not fully aware of what life is like for a growing number of struggling people in Lincoln. I live in a neighborhood that feels forgotten about by the City as far as code enforcement (bad landlords neglect their properties with impunity) and sidewalk maintenance. I understand the City's limited ability to perform functions that improve the lives and communities of all citizens as a result of the erosion of public life and the power of civil society as business interests take over important functions that were formerly entrusted to publicly accountable institutions like City government.
220. We use too many committees to make decisions. We elect a mayor to make decisions. The city council is too political. Constantly voting along party lines. We need to put a limit on years served on the city council just like we do on the other city and state officials.
221. It seems every survey centers on cutting pools, libraries... and increasing pension for fire fighters and police. I have to save for my retirement, instead of a pension, should it be a 401K? Libraries and pools are a huge plus to the youth of our community. It seems like the police and fire are always feeling like they need something more. / We do seem to be having more crime and full jails prisons and ones that are not functioning well. We need to address the root of the problems for long term success. / The mayor has been talking recycling but the city needs to do a much better job. I have been recycling for over 25 years. The bins are often full (even with just a small portion of the public participating), the truck that picks up leaks hydraulic fluid - a lot of fluid - I have called on this (to the recycling office and the mayor's office) but it continues after more than a year, some bins are in poor condition. Recycling needs to be clean and easy and not expensive so the general population will willingly participate and protect our landfill space. / Street trees. Some of the street trees are under power lines and get the whole center cut out. Some are poorly planted. Can we offer to plant trees (giving them a choice of tree) in people's yards and then the maintenance would belong to the homeowner? When Old Cheney was going to be widened, they planted street trees all along between 70th and 84th just before construction - seemed like poor timing. / Street maintenance is in dire need. I'm not sure about the fix it method of cutting squares out of 70th street and replacing it square by square. It doesn't make for a smooth drive.
222. Too much is spent on items that do nothing to make Lincoln better. How does a glass sculpture make Lincoln better? Fixing streets, do a much, much, much, much better job of snow removal, and add more fire and police to the city.
223. It really does not seem to matter what the citizens want...the governing board and mayor do what they want any way!
224. Update the City Website.
225. The way it's been run for years has worked, but now the Republicans on the council want to change it to BENEFIT ONLY THEIR RICH BOSSES. The average person gets way too little attention the way it is.
226. Just make sure that we keep partisan politics out of our city government as much as possible.
227. The issue of the 2nd retirement fund is a perfect example that the City does not care about our retirees. They are one prioritizing themselves. Unfortunately, the City has been incredibly irresponsible on the financial side of funding their (main) retirement fund and now they find themselves desperate. They have no business making retirees suffer because of their lack of financial responsibility.

228. Often time I do not get a timely response from departments when making inquiries. Many times when making an inquiry I get no response at all, such as with StarTran. They say to email them but I have not gotten any responses. In person gets about the same amount of response.
229. The Republican held City Council seem to be focused on gaining power and control. They seem to only hold to their political ideology, and don't use critical thinking and judgment to solve problems. They don't listen to the public. Case in point, the Stormwater Bond passed 69% to 31%, yet City Council went to great lengths to critique and cut the Bond, cutting important project that would benefit the safety and well-being of the public.
230. Many City employees are paid higher than comparable non-city employees at the same task. The benefits granted to City employees exceed those in local commercial business. City officials do not take responsibility for their errors nor do they admit and correct them.
231. These responses may seem incongruent so let me explain that while I respect our city officials, I remain skeptical that they are too cozy with Lincoln's business community, and more eager to please businesses and developers than to consider ramifications of policy decisions on citizens and neighborhoods. Those of us who work and do not actively lobby, are in danger of not being heard.
232. Three city council members occasionally become obstructionists.
233. Gov. Pete Ricketts uses his private money to sway outcomes (for instance wanting to reinstate the death penalty, despite previous seriously problematic even illegal issues). The racism and classism in his rhetoric and some of the other government officials is an embarrassment to the citizens of Lincoln and Nebraska. Fund all neighborhoods, fund pools, fund the Nature Center, fund what makes this a community, not a business!
234. Overall I have confidence and respect for the city government. I have serious concerns with the direction the City Council has taken in the past year. Some members seem bent on emulating the US Congress in having more concern for a partisan ideological bias instead of seeking the well being of the city and its citizens.
235. Street repair is abysmal. I travel So. 70 every day and it seems that some portion between O and Van Dorn has been torn up for the last 3 years with very little improvement when finished (or maybe they're not finished who can tell). On other streets whatever is being done for pot holes is a joke.
236. The City Council members are supposed to be non-partisan and should not be referred to as a republican , democrat, or independent. They should speak and act and compromise as representatives of their areas.
237. The current council is becoming too political!
238. Poor transparency in the budget and administration. / / Very partisan politics on the city council particularly by Camp and Eskridge.
239. The city council is supposed to be non partisan. It is not there should be a way to challenge the party voting that is getting on the ridiculous side of what is best for the city not apolitical party
240. City manager does a poor job and is overly political, get rid of the position. / City does not follow through with priorities from one year to the next / Poor decisions like the Esperium building purchase continue to cost excessive spending such as upgrading heavy equipment parking
241. There is too much partisanship in our city government. This is especially apparent today with the 4 Republicans resisting most plans the mayor suggests. This resembles the national government too much, with all the gridlock in Congress. Republicans need to stop playing political games, and TRY to work with the mayor to make our city more progressive, and a great place to live.
242. This is a very corrupt city government. Incompetent and not transparent. So called art for the city is viewed as unattractive and unnecessary by most of the population. Too much money spent on "art" that could be re allocated to necessary tasks and obligations. The city doesn't even support local artists when they purchase art. Not even state based artists are supported. The road planning and construction / maintenance is so poor that grade school students could do a better job. City government is a joke!
243. I often wonder what the Street Dept was thinking when I see some of the designs on city streets - Cotner & Q, 56th & Q, the countless pot holes, etc.
244. I was born and raised in Lincoln. I love Nebraska - and I have a hard time seeing myself live anywhere else. With that being said, as I look to buy a home I am seriously considering buying a home in Omaha and commuting to Lincoln for work. I have a few reasons for this. First, the homes are significantly cheaper (I attribute this more to Lincoln's growing population and demand of housing, so I won't hold that as a primary

reason - just an aside). As a young professional, I don't necessarily see a discernable difference between Lincoln and Omaha in terms of "things to do" - there is an ample amount of nightlife, concert venues, and "fun" options in both cities. There are two striking differences though. The first one is infrastructure/roads. The time it takes me to get from the Highlands to Southpointe is typically 30 minutes. With the constant road closures and already congested traffic I have taken to almost exclusively using Highway 77 and I-80 to commute around Lincoln - I'm not alone in this either, I was actually shocked to find that many people are now taking my "shortcut". The last point, and point I feel strongly about is the constant feeling that I live in a college town of 280,000 people. This is a growing city - but if you looked downtown recently you would get the impression it's only the university that has grown. I would STRONGLY recommend a moratorium on all student housing development/projects outside of what's already erected. Having gone to the University I know first hand that these are not for every student - they are absurdly expensive considering the quality of the units, and the irony is that they are not even inclusive of the 27,000 students at UNL - only the lucky ones whose parents can foot the bill for private housing. Lincoln should be proud of the institution that is UNL and it's impact on the local economy - with that being said I don't see the real advantage of having sub par student-only housing occupying otherwise prime real estate downtown.

245. Animal control needs to do better when receiving complaints and act upon them. Needs to have pet owners take control and bring their dogs in when barking for hours. Need an ordinance for that at least that is what head of animal control told me
246. These are hard questions as there are just a couple of city departments that I think could cut costs with no harm to the community. I am not sure how much the actual elected officials really know about the programs each office has. I would like to see more diversity in public safety departments and I would like to see police removed from schools
247. THE SIDEWALKS IN SOME PARTS TOWN ARE TERRIBLE, ESPECALLY THE ONES ON SOUTH 48TH ST. WHERE PEOPLE FROM TABITHA , THAT ARE IN ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS HAVE TROUBLE GETTING TO 'O' ST. THANK YOU, JIM WILLIS , PAST PRES. LINCOLN CENTRAL LABOR UNION
248. It may seem like I am all over the board here. Let me explain my reasons for my responses. I have lived in Lincoln all of my life. I grew up 2 blocks away from the Lincoln Country Club. Just looking at what is allowed in that part of town compared to the North part of town is disgusting. I am a social worker and I drive all over the city daily. Lincoln can and should do better for residents in all parts of Lincoln and they do not. I really wish Lincoln would do a better job working with landlords and troubled properties. I wish that their wasn't such wasteful spending. And I wish that the Governor and Mayor were not able to appoint so many directors. Working in a city agency myself I see the "fruits" of that. How can we justify appointing people who have little to no experience or are given these jobs because of "who they know?" Oh, right no one has to justify it. 8 homicides already this year. The near south is coming together with the help of the city and developers because they see crime creeping closer and closer to South Street. I would like to see the entire city budget; not just bits and pieces. Usually waste is hidden in private contracts or services that are contracted out and the people of Lincoln are the ones paying for services they are not getting, again.
249. These surveys always come out after the decisions are made and seem like an effort to appease the population that are in need of "education". The bus schedule was cut and dried before any public discussions. Asking, after it is done and set, is very shallow and deceptive to all concerned. Why these shams?
250. The priorities are inappropriate in this city. We care more about art sculptures, foot ball and big screen tv's than providing basics such as road quality, and public transportation.
251. Some interest groups, ie the business community (LIBA for example) have more impact than they should.
252. Urban Development has abdicated its responsibility to provide quality buildings for our environment. While a lot has happened in the Haymarket redevelopment that has been positive some of the worst buildings that have ever been built in Lincoln have been allowed to get TIF money in the past 8 years or so. These buildings are the student suite buildings. The Latitude, The 50/50, The Aspen, and 8N Lofts are terrible. Stricter design guidelines are needed when providing TIF funds. We can't depend on out of town developers to care about

the long term investments in their projects. The use of inexpensive and poorly applied materials will not stand the test of time.

253. LIBA has way too much influence

254. I continue to find some loopholes in transparency re: city budget and issues before city government. I follow city government all day, vote and participate. Lincoln citizens need to participate in local government, yet it is frustrating when very few ever show up to a city budget hearing, council mtgs., or the voting booth.

Thousands of citizens complain all day long in private settings, yet never seem to "have the time" to participate in other ways. Thousands also have good things to say about Lincoln too. I know many city employees and elected officials who are out in the community and do hear and learn a great deal. I also know many employees and elected officials who are not out very much as well. It's not totally the fault of our leaders, as it can be difficult for them really know the pulse of the city, when so few citizens take part.

255. Losing the Council to Coby Mach's mouthpieces has cost the city big time.

256. Money needs to be redirected away from fixing up alleyways and toward the services people use: libraries, snow removal, streets, etc.

257. The members of the city council seem to be much more interested in making sure lots of money gets spent in the Haymarket area where they own property than spending MY money wisely!! / Some members are more concerned with seeing to it that a area of the city gets 'blight' designated where they might have a friend that owns property than spending my money wisely!! / Some members use there power on the city council to make sure that there privately owned business gets city contracts! / I feel our city council is very crooked!! - they are bribed wit football tickets and wined and dinned into making very poor decisions!!

258. I would be dishonest to say I know everything here

259. The Mayor has been here for almost 2 TERMS and things have gotten so out of control it is terrible!!!! I guess that is why you don't elect someone that is just in it for the politics!!!

260. This survey is not mobile friendly so it is hard to read / 2. I think this survey would be extremely difficult for a non-english speaker. I hope the city looks at making some translated versions or has an alternate way of reaching out to these communities. / / 3. I dont believe the way the city does their bid process, always lowest bid, is a responsible use of dollars. Lowest bid doesn't mean good work and working with the city in various projects I have seen a lot of wasted dollars.

261. I'm sorry to say I fill my tax dollars are not being used wisely. We can't even get the potholes fixed in our neighborhoods.

262. i think the mayor uses scare tactics to get what he wants i would like to know why counsel man carl never answers any of people concerns

263. Every year this mayor raises taxes somehow, how about cutting the mayors staff and stop raising property taxes, like his campaign promises. We have poor representation and very uncreative ways to raise money, always raising taxes. Is there nothing else they can come up with? Maybe a change is needed now.

264. The budget process needs to take into account that Fire and Police will take 50% of the budget, / and fund it separately. Those who work in Lincoln and use our streets, parks, trails, and libraries / need to pay for those services rather than living outside of Lincoln, pay no tax to Lincoln and / use their services. / / The continued urban sprawl that the builders in Lincoln are permitted to conduct is not cost / effective to this city. The city pays for the infrastructure (streets, street repair, fire, police, / schools, libraries, parks, trails and so on) and the builder pays little. Impact fees are not / functional or adequate. QUIT ALLOWING BUILDERS AND LIBA TO RUN THIS TOWN.

265. City government relies too much on consultants. I would rather have the elected officials or employees make decisions or come up with ideas.

266. We must have city employees that use the bidding process for projects that will cost over a few thousand dollars. These projects also must be common sense projects.

267. There has been a history of irrational spending with Mayor Buetler's administration. From spending millions on something that can't be used year round and by only a fraction of a percent of the population (hello bike lanes), to "artsy" items that overdone (hello alley lights), to ruining the public golf course budget, among others, there

are so many questionable decisions that no one in Lincoln has any legitimate reason to trust what the city is doing unless he or she somehow find themselves getting a perk by one of the standard Buetler secret deals.

268. Government decisions have been focusing more on downtown than on neighborhoods. / We need more large theaters in the out skirts of Lincoln for more convenience in parking.

## APPENDIX B

### OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

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The following are the full set of comments submitted by Lincoln residents at the Community Conversation. These are organized by topic area. Participants were given topic-relevant forms to complete and all comments on a given form were recorded as relevant to the form topic, even if there was some overlap with topics on a different form.

### CURRENT PRIORITIES

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#### Group Form Open-Ended Responses

The group forms asked groups to indicate how the City should pay for program costs that were outside of its budget. This was an open-ended question in order to allow groups more freedom of responding than was the case for the online survey. Six of the groups wrote something in response to this question. The groups wrote:<sup>11</sup>

- *There were no programs people wanted to cut; instead, they wanted to partially fund all programs in order of this rank.*
- *Across the board cuts and attrition.*
- *Discussion ensued - no clear consensus.*
- *Cutting other programs - from programs to which we have no information.*<sup>12</sup>
- *Not over taxed.*
- *Cut other programs or subsidize with something; eg. Tolls? Wheel tax alternative sources for neighborhood snow removal? Cost of insurance increases – non-injury traffic accident reporting. Cutting parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement contingent on [whether or not]*

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<sup>11</sup> Bulleted quotes were sometimes edited for readability, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Throughout, comments were divided into topics to create bullets that could be grouped by topic for easier interpretation and detection of common themes. Thus, comments listing more than one program were split into multiple bullets.

<sup>12</sup> Although groups were given a full list of existing City programs (also available at [Lincoln.ne.gov](http://Lincoln.ne.gov), keyword: Taking Charge), this list did not contain additional information about the programs and their features. Such information was only provided about the programs actually listed within the survey and the exercise. Conversation participants were invited to ask questions of City officials about various programs, but there was not enough time to discuss all programs thoroughly. To overcome these drawbacks of the exercise, some public engagement practitioners use “citizen juries” that meet over the course of numerous days. Such events are, however, much more intensive, demanding of participants, and expensive than shorter deliberative discussions such as used here.

*is there another agency?*

As shown, most of the comments suggested that groups did not stay within budget and that they preferred finding other programs to cut, across the board cuts, and/or other creative funding solutions. Only one group seemed to come to consensus on raising taxes by noting that residents are currently “not over taxed.”

Each group also was asked to list some of the pros and cons of their choices, in order to better understand the reasoning behind their suggestions. Four groups wrote out explicit pros and cons related to their current priorities choices, as follows:

**Pros (reasons to fund)**

***Neighborhood Pools***

- *Year round activities. Youth and activities. Quality activities.*
- *Pools - good for kids*
- *Pools - swimming -affects kids and poorer neighborhoods.*

***Libraries***

- *Library - one of the last places to go for free, can go every day, even over holidays.*

***Health Information***

- *Health - health info - for people who can't get out, only way to get info.*

***Pioneers Park***

- *Pioneers park - support but need creative funding.*
- *Pioneers park - family events, educational, affordable entertainment.*

***In-home Services for Seniors***

- *Senior services - perhaps could be combined with in-home services.*
- *In-home senior services - growing segment of population and prevents going to nursing homes.*

***Snow Removal***

- *Snow removal - important for quality of life, safety (first responder access).*
- *Snow removal - safety issues*

**Cons (reasons not to fund)**

***Neighborhood Pools***

- *Some view pools as luxury whereas others view as needs.*

***Libraries***

- *One person viewed library services as unnecessary.*
- *[Losing] one day of library [services] won't hurt*

### **Health Information**

- *We wondered if health info was utilized.*
- *Can activity be privately funded? Is it duplicative of seniors offered in sector?*
- *Other sources [are available] on line - aging parties*
- *Health info - available elsewhere*

### **Non-injury Accident Reporting**

- *Fender benders - non-injury reporting - not often enough to be a priority.*

## **Individual Form Open-Ended Responses**

As was the case with the groups, individuals were asked to give their opinions on how the City should pay for programs that do not fit into the current budget, and to indicate their perceptions of the pros and cons of their choices.

Regarding how the City should pay for services, and what other programs might be cut if needed, 26 written comments were offered, as listed below. These comments tended to refer to raising of taxes, making other program cuts, increasing fees, and other ideas, such as grant applications and fund raising.

### **Raise Taxes**

- *Raise property taxes and or sales taxes*
- *Raising taxes*
- *I'm way okay with more taxes for these programs, additional fees, and fundraising*
- *Raising taxes*
- *Raise taxes. Emergency v. long term needs. Will private or commercial push up any of these needs.*
- *Raising taxes*

### **Program Cuts**

#### **General program cuts**

- *Cutting/ trimming other programs, grant applications*
- *Cutting programs that are not as important or imperatively beneficial to a large population of people.*
- *No - cut costs on each program*
- *Would find different costs in each program through attrition and (?) and other metrics*
- *10% across the board - not fire or police though*
- *Cut smaller programs you won't let us see*
- *Cut some programs that do not affect community as a whole*
- *Would have to look at the budget as a whole and start making incremental cuts where needed*

### **Specific program cuts**

- *\$10,000 can be cut from pool & senior services*
- *Snow! 4-6 inches does not make that much difference. Commerce not going to be affected by 2" of snow; plus only makes a diff. for a couple weeks during the year when it does snow that much. Non-injury traffic reporting and abandoned vehicle enforcement - not as necessary for quality of life*
- *LPED*
- *Parking enforcement - group consensus not actively used. Non-injury reporting - already encouraged to not call.*
- *Pool - it's not a need. No one will die without swimming. It would be prevent other more important programs from being funded. Library - libraries don't need to be open every day*
- *Police*

### **Increase Fees**

- *Increase user fees*
- *Increase pool fees, add special tariff/tax to pioneer park events to support nature center, Implement specific funding fees and cut other program fees*

### **Other**

- *Try foundation for pioneers park nature center*
- *Are you NOT very glad..... Orlando\*\*\* paid up\*\*\*\* Their 1st responders PENSION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- *Work/study for neighborhood snow removal. Raising taxes and find other resources e.g. foundations, grants, for pioneers park nature center*
- *With leftover \$25,000 keep Bennett Martin open on Sundays*

Regarding the pros and cons and reasons for various choices, individual respondents noted the importance of safety, quality of life, of keeping kids busy during the summer, the many benefits of removing snow and facilitating transportation, and considerations of numbers of people and geographical locations impacted by different choices.

### **Pros (reasons to fund)**

#### **Libraries**

- *Libraries are one of the last places that people can attend for free. In the summer it is free AC, in the winter free heating. It also provides internet to the community. Snow removal is critical for the city's economy.*
- *We made our choices based on the number of people and geographies affected - so for instance - cutting pools affects fewer people, in an area of the city as compared to snow removal or library cuts which affect more people city wide.*

#### **Pools**

- *Swimming pools improve quality of life and help people love their cities...people need to love the city they live in*

- *People love their pools.*
- *Pools keep kids occupied*
- *Swimming - inexpensive (relatively) affects kids.*
- *Pools keep children active and helps neighborhoods*

#### **Snow Removal**

- *Snow removal opens the city and business provides tax revenue,*
- *Snow removal is near and dear to a lot of citizens*
- *Snow removal - safety, traffic, commerce*
- *Snow removal - needed.*
- *[Cutting] Snow removal seems to be a way for the city to sock itself in the eye - it adds to bad will and increases pot hole problems*

#### **In-home Services for Seniors**

- *Seniors require & deserve care*
- *Senior program - pass the foster grandparent program to LPS.*
- *in home service for seniors - large population increasing - support builder of the city*
- *In home services could be combined w/ health info*
- *Elderly will have the resources they need.*
- *[Cutting] Would increase expenses for fire, police, safety. Support the founding population - can't abandon them & ... their needs*

#### **Nature Center**

- *Nature center cuts ignore the significant infrastructure cost already put into it. However there may be ways to get private or giant funding for this.*
- *Pioneers - great program.*
- *Funding Pioneers Park Nature Center is important because there are few opportunities in the city for things to do for low income families. Also the education of future voters about the natural world works is essential.*

#### **Health Information**

- *Health info, in home - practical help where it's needed.*
- *Health care and services will be more accessible. Benefits the largest amount of people in terms of welfare.*

#### **Other**

- *Quality of life - seniors, parks/nature center, and pools. The 3 programs I picked strongly support a high quality of life for Lincoln*
- *I feel quality of life issues (nature center, library, pools, etc.) are major economic drivers in attracting employers as well as talent.*
- *You pre-set the scene to provide a path for your priorities.*
- *Swimming pools - close lowest attendance but not all four.*

#### **Cons (reasons to cut programs)**

##### **Libraries**

- *Hate to cut one day library service but...*
- *One day library service - still have 6 days.*
- *Library - close library one a day a week to pay for repairs for future library.*
- *Library management should [share] some of the burden*
- *I don't like the idea of cutting the library, but dollar for dollar, today saves Lincoln a lot of money.*

#### **Non-injury Accident Reporting**

- *Non-injury reporting - people can exchange insurance information.*
- *Non-injury accidents program is not necessary.*

#### **Parking**

- *Parking - really!*

#### **Health Information**

- *Call centers are offered by other organizations and doctor's offices*
- *Other resources avail for health info.*

#### **Other**

- *Enough with sports!*
- *Library will be closed one day a week.*
- *Affects contentment in people (selfish...)*

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## FUTURE PRIORITIES

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### **Group Form Open-Ended Responses**

When it came to giving reasons for and offering pros and cons of group choices, the group reports indicated concerns with supporting growth and infrastructure, consideration of populations served, of other funding opportunities available, and extent to which people felt the City could afford to wait or that residents were over versus under taxed currently.

#### **Pros**

- *Lid of taxes is 50 cents, we are at 32 cents. There is room to grow in tax.*
- *Beltway - infrastructure. StarTran - support city growth and infrastructure*
- *1. Bus - can be accomplished prior to beltway BUT needs to have updated routes -> higher revenue. 2. South beltway - traffic, safety and fewer accidents. 3. Parks - makes Lincoln attractive and increases new residents and keep those here. 4. Library - DT library not as useful as those in suburbs. 5. Golf - least imp.*
- *StarTran - Population changing - increase services to increase riders (time and routes). Library - focus of public pride and education, changing focus on computers, 3D printers, "Do" space, good timing with Pershing. Beltway - cost is better now than later. Parks & Rec - need to protect current investments used by many residents.*
- *Libraries - we need fewer locations if we have better transportation to get there. Parks for*

*some were #1 because they are city responsibility and have no way to fund themselves. StarTran expansion attracts more low income people, is affordable compared to owning a car, serves seniors and unemployed-low income which is high.*

### **Cons**

- *Fire and safety cannot be decreased - this fines social service etc. If social services not cut then there would be less need for fire and safety - so prioritization is a null point. People that come from out of town don't pay our taxes. False narrative of have to cut all vs. cut percentage of difficult programs. What happens to a closed golf course? Didn't make a consensus b/c group would not rank.*
- *Some wonder if StarTran is accessed fully to make it worth funding.*
- *Golf - not used by a large demographic, but nice, green space. Library - no parking downtown. Parks - need to maintain what we have.*
- *Golf - raise revenue elsewhere - least of our needs.*
- *Stigma of riding bus doesn't draw daily riders to fill seats. But can we close this gap a little to compensate cost (affordable compared to owning a car). Unsure how many people on assistance are riding buses versus paying full which would help pay and take pressure off taxpayers.*

### **Individual Form Open-Ended Responses**

A total of 48 persons turned in an individual form, although one person only completed the demographics portion and then indicated complete agreement with his/her group.

Reasons for choices given by individuals are listed below. As shown, Community Conversation participants stressed the importance of StarTran for serving underserved populations, removing cars from roads, and enhancing the economy. No negatives were mentioned specific to StarTran expansion. Parks and Recreation were viewed as important to quality of life and as providing City spaces used by many or most of the population. Residents also mentioned that waiting to support Parks and Recreation repair would be more costly in the long-term and that there are no other appropriate funding sources for parks. Comments about the South Beltway indicated that residents want better access to downtown and to reduce traffic congestion as this can improve City growth, improving quality of life and reducing congestion. However, some felt that the South Beltway would not help all parts of Lincoln or all Lincolniters. Comments about the building of a new main library and providing for branch libraries' repairs stressed the importance of education and information access for providing opportunities for underserved populations. Others opined that the main library should not be downtown, questioned whether the investment now would still be useful in 10-20 years, and suggested that hours reductions are a better way to fund repairs than using the City's general funds. Golf was primarily mentioned when people were considering "cons" of

their choices. Golf courses were seen as providing attractive green spaces but as a not-widely used luxury that could be paid for without using general funds.

In addition to comments made about specific programs, people made general comments about the need to invest in the future (under pros) even if taxes are raise, versus to problem of high costs (under cons) that perhaps should be dealt with in ways that do not involve raising taxes.

Finally, a number of participants commented on the Taking Charge process. On the positive side, people mentioned that their group discussions were positive and that they appreciated conversations with other residents and the chance to think more deeply about City priorities. Meanwhile, the negative comments indicated participants felt they did not have enough information and time to have a full discussion of the issues or to make fully informed choices. Others indicated that not enough alternatives were included for consideration in the discussion and that their group would have preferred to make incremental as opposed to total cuts.

### **Pros (reasons to fund)**

#### ***StarTran***

- *Transportation creates job opportunity and libraries are essential.*
- *#1 [StarTran] - needed for people with disabilities*
- *StarTran can benefit all of Lincoln*
- *Improved bus service is essential to moving our city forward in terms of economic development, full employment and quality of life*
- *Bus service is a great way for people to help minimize wear and tear on roads, help lower income and disabled people get jobs etc.*
- *Public transit is huge for a city of this size also with increased poverty*
- *Need to invest in StarTran to match the expected changing demographics and needs.*
- *StarTran: extreme convenience and income and personal vehicles and awareness means increase in use if more money is invested.*
- *Startran - reduce cars on roads.*
- *Star Tran is needed for additional economic growth. Car ownership is no longer a priority with younger generations. People need cost effective easy transportation to work, school, and shopping.*
- *Really need a great transportation system in Lincoln.*
- *1. Star Tran – if proper choices are made could be funded by those who ride i.e. provide services to more week night, weekend part-time or 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers who lack transportation. Used for handicapped and needy...perhaps improvements to system could be funded by part-time workers.*
- *StarTran provides the greatest benefit to employment for the poor/underemployed and the disabled. Making it more safe and less threatening to the young and females will increase the ridership and reduce traffic strain and accidents.*
- *City is growing 1%/yr. Buses need to have routes originating in neighborhoods of greatest*

usage.

### **Parks and Recreation**

- *Park/Rec - no other funding source*
- *Parks and rec - only source of funding is city, very visible, least powerful people (children) disproportionately affected - they need playgrounds. Library - again city is sole source whereas transportation has other sources. Integral with transportation b/c low-income need both info/computer access afforded by library and way to get there*
- *Parks/Rec: As industrial development increases, nature protection/preservation.*
- *1. Our parks and trails keep attract new people and are used by all ages. Costs will escalate if repairs and infrastructure are not dealt with when needed.*
- *2 - parks and rec - important to any community*
- *Parks and rec - green spaces/parks/nature/etc. important for quality of life and community.*
- *2. Used by most people [Parks]*
- *3. Parks supply those changes that have to do with safety – ask communities to increase participation in their own neighborhood park.*

### **South Beltway**

- *Beltway: impact entire city along with others b/c faster transportation and trucks do their job; inner city cars convenient and less repair cost*
- *South Beltway serves growth, which then I want to use to fund the other priorities. I want to fund them all now, while interest rates are at historic lows. We will do them all eventually, save \$, borrow now.*
- *Better access to downtown from where growth is coming from. Need to make services more accessible.*
- *1. Less truck traffic - less damage and congestion.*
- *Star Tran & South Beltway - also important for community infrastructure and increased quality of life for the community.*
- *South beltway - toll road - truckers - reduce road repairs cost.*
- *South Beltway helps traffic flow.*
- *1. Reduce congestion badly needed. [Beltway]*
- *4. South Beltway earlier is better*

### **Libraries**

- *2. The main library should be located at either Eisely or Walt Libraries not downtown. The current Bennett Martin Library should be removed and used as a "branch" library. The two new libraries - or either of them - can be added to be a better repository of materials and accommodate administrative offices and technology*
- *Library must shoulder costs of budget choices.*
- *2. An educated poor raises the bar for all of us.*
- *Libraries are no longer a place to just house books.*
- *Also we/I feel the library system is an important asset as it provides an educational opportunity and resources to an underserved community.*

### **Other**

- *Planning for future - investing in future. Helping the most amount of people (in my personal opinion)*
- *We need to maintain or enhance current infrastructure - not maintaining or adding to deferred maintenance just leads to more problems down the road. Taxes are not evil!*
- *I chose all 4 programs in first place, because I think they all are important. I think the Golf Program can be sustained with user fees and sponsorships.*
- *5. Golf – those who can drive to, do golf may be able to pay more to do it.*

### **Process Comments**

- *We ran out of time*
- *Positive discussion of citizens.*
- *You brought us together to have great conversation.*
- *Really gets a person thinking. The process is valuable for that reason, not the results.*

### **Cons (reasons not to fund)**

#### **South Beltway**

- *Some people may have to pay a toll to drive along South Beltway*
- *#4 [South Beltway] - benefits a small segment of population*
- *South Beltway does not benefit North Lincoln*
- *Beltway should have an "East" component not just South.*
- *Needs to be done earlier than later (south beltway) prefer to growth within the city.*

#### **Libraries**

- *Bennett Library - use hour reduction to fund repairs.*
- *Library: future impact in development of current libraries; useful in 10-20 years? Will libraries be unreliable or more inconvenient b/c of tech advances or awareness?*

#### **Golf**

- *Golf - raid votes*
- *Golf is luxury not necessity but we lose greenspace.*
- *Only one sport - golf - prefer to add to parks and recs which support more variety - love the green spaces.*
- *Golf courses can raise revenue elsewhere.*
- *Too many spaces to care for*
- *Golf: many people use but not enough to immediately expand or spend lots of money on*

#### **Other**

- *Cost of these projects is high and we will need to be creative about generating additional revenue without raising taxes too much.*
- *Cost - look at ways to provide the need without so much expense.*
- *Won't get population and revenue growth. Need to make access available to our underprivileged population.*

- *Neglecting some current investments. Costs are higher. Unpopular public opinion.*

**Process Comments**

- *I believe w/ various fund sources and an infinite of alternatives not identified in the question, the question is to invalidly asked to meaningfully answer*
- *Again, lack of information to make viable decisions.*
- *Improve this process*
- *Con is that process forces choices on group that are not fully detailed or the group would prefer to make incremental changes as opposed to total cuts.*
- *Issues with prioritization process. Lack of understanding and identifying the different pots that could fund each program. Livable neighborhoods is rated 2nd now. We need to reprioritize our programs. The Tiers do not (Tier 1,2,3) do not reflect the values of livable neighborhoods. The group agrees there are ways to improve this process.*
- *The process is not easy to navigate. Too little information and too little time to have a full discussion. However, I think it was worth having. We shouldn't be afraid of talking about taxes.*



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