

# On-line Survey Summary Lincoln Vital Signs

**June 2014**

## **Executive Summary**

From April – May, 2014, an on-line survey of persons receiving Lincoln Vital Signs updates ([lincolnvitalsigns.org](http://lincolnvitalsigns.org)) was launched to gain perspectives from Lincoln residents' about their community. Recipients were encouraged to forward the survey invitation to others. 97 persons completed the survey. Respondents appreciate many things about Lincoln: high quality of life, great people, and being a growing "right sized" community. Lincoln has a variety of assets that help children and adults succeed, such as good educational opportunities and human services programs. Many respondents pointed to their involvement in projects that have made Lincoln an extraordinary place. Effective efforts are those with broad involvement, strong leadership, a solid rationale, good planning, and financial backing. Respondents had wishes for Lincoln, primarily around an improved transportation system and more support for persons in poverty or who are vulnerable.

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## **Introduction**

In January 2014, a collaborative of funders released the first Lincoln Vital Signs report ([www.lincolnvitalsigns.org](http://www.lincolnvitalsigns.org)). The report documented Lincoln's characteristics in seven key areas: Community Profile, Economy and Workforce, Basic Needs, Education, Health, Safety, and Community Involvement and Culture. Three cross-cutting themes emerged from data in these areas:

- Lincoln does many things exceptionally well and these successes should be nurtured.
- A growing proportion of Lincoln's population faces real need.
- Lincoln's children fare poorly on many measures.

During 2014, the report's sponsors have been raising awareness within the community about the report's findings and exploring potential actions to respond. In mid-April (2014), an on-line survey was launched to gather the opinions of Lincoln residents. Residents were asked to respond to five questions:

1. What do you value most about Lincoln?
2. Think of a time when you felt most involved in making Lincoln an extraordinary place. What made you feel that way?
3. Give an example of the most effective community effort where you were a participant. What made it effective?
4. What does Lincoln do well to ensure that our children and adults have an opportunity to succeed?
5. If you could have up to three wishes granted to improve Lincoln, what would they be?

All persons who requested updates about the Lincoln Vital Signs project received at least two invitations to complete the survey. Recipients were encouraged to invite others to complete the survey, as well. The survey was open for approximately one month (mid-April to mid-May). During that time, there were 196 visits to the survey. Of those visits, 97 individuals completed the survey.

Results from the survey indicate that:

- **People value a wide variety of things about Lincoln**, including high quality of life, amenities and activities, friendly people, a "right sized" community that is growing and evolving, educational opportunities, safety, strong neighborhoods, good leadership, low cost of living, employment opportunities, and a strong workforce.
- Lincoln has numerous assets to build upon to help **children and adults succeed** including: good educational opportunities, human services, activities and amenities, a strong employment climate, a willingness to collaborate, strong neighborhoods, and civic leadership.
- **Effective community efforts** characterized by broad involvement, strong leadership, a solid rationale, good planning, and financial backing. Some of the gratifying aspects of respondents' involvement included being a valued part of a well-organized, collaborative process. Examples of effective community efforts respondents participated in were: Haymarket developments, school bonds, expanding bike trails, Community Learning Centers, Antelope/Salt Valley projects, food distribution, the Mayor's "Taking Charge" activities, volunteering for special

events, fund raising for non-profits, involvement in political campaigns and policymaking, serving on local boards; and others.

- **Wishes** for Lincoln include improved transportation systems and more support for persons in poverty. Among the supports mentioned were more free amenities and activities, stronger support for and collaboration within human services, greater economic opportunities, more education and training opportunities, broader collaboration and participation, personal growth and change for residents, improvements to neighborhoods, continued growth, targeted police activities, greater awareness of needs of the population, and responsiveness to specific issues by city government.

Verbatim (unedited, except for removing identifying information) responses to each question are included in the Appendix.

## Summary of Responses to Survey Questions

### People Love Lincoln

The first question asked “What do you value most about Lincoln?” Respondents wrote enthusiastically about Lincoln’s many positive attributes, including an overall **high quality of life**:

Lincoln provides opportunities for a high quality of life, hence making it a great place to live and raise a family.

Many cited **activities and amenities** offered in Lincoln, such as bike paths, parks, arts and cultural opportunities, restaurants, and a vibrant downtown. One person noted:

It is an exciting place to live; there is always something to do.

Lincoln is a great place to live because of its **friendly people** who are willing to help:

Our citizens are friendly, responsive and focused on tackling challenges and achieving real solutions.

For many people, Lincoln is the **right size**:

[Lincoln] is a large enough city that there are many educational and entertainment opportunities, but small enough to feel like a solid community with the opportunity to know your neighbors.

Others noted that Lincoln is **evolving and growing** in ways that are positive:

[Lincoln] is trying to grow in thoughtful ways and is mindful of trying to avoid creating areas of the city that get left behind.

People also value Lincoln's **educational** opportunities, **safety**, strong **neighborhoods**, civic **leadership**, low **cost of living**, **employment** opportunities and strong **workforce**.

### **Involvement in Making Lincoln Extraordinary**

The second question asked respondents to "Think of a time when you felt most involved in making Lincoln an extraordinary place. What made you feel that way?"

Many respondents cited **broad involvement** being important to making positive change:

The effort was effective because there was involvement from all aspects of the community - young and old, business and labor, public and private sector, etc.

Others pointed to strong **leadership**:

Someone...had to be the force behind it to fund the actual collaboration work, pull people together, and keep it moving forward--or else the collaboration eventually falls apart.

Involvement, for some, meant participation in an effort that had a solid **rationale** for achieving positive outcomes that was effectively communicated to the community:

Helping people see "the need" early and then continued follow up and timely communication

Some respondents noted that success often requires good **planning and financial backing**:

It was also effective because there was an underlying very solid business and financial plan.

There were many examples of positive involvement, including the **Haymarket** developments, **school bonds**, expanding **bike trails**, **Community Learning Centers**, **Antelope/Salt Valley** projects, **food** distribution, the Mayor's "**Taking Charge**" activities, and others.

### **Characteristics of Effective Community Efforts**

The third question asked "Give an example of the most effective community effort where you were a participant. What made it effective?"

Many people cited that being part of a **collaborative effort** and seeing positive results was gratifying:

I am excited whenever I see a large group of people with common interests working together to accomplish something larger than themselves.

Some also pointed to the importance of being **valued** in well-organized processes:

I felt like my time was not wasted, that the agenda was worth it and would make our lives better and our community stronger.

Many gave examples of efforts in which they had been involved. Activities that were most frequently mentioned were: **Haymarket** developments, **school bonds**, **volunteering** for the Lincoln Marathon and national Special Olympics (along with many other special events), **fund raising** for non-profits, **political campaigns** and involvement in local policymaking, serving on local **boards**, and many others activities.

### **Lincoln Helps Children and Adults Succeed**

The fourth question asked “What does Lincoln do well to ensure that our children and adults have an opportunity to succeed?”

Most respondents pointed to **good educational opportunities**, particularly school through post-secondary:

[Lincoln has] fantastic public schools and community college/university systems.

Many people cited the **human services** organizations that help persons in need:

We have a large number of very good non-profit organizations that provide excellent support to children and adults and enhance their opportunities for success.

Some feel that Lincoln’s **amenities** are key to success:

[Lincoln has] a variety of things to do for entertainment/culture for all ages.

Others pointed to Lincoln’s **employment** climate:

A strong business community provides employment opportunities that keep our unemployment figures among the lowest in the country.

Respondents cited a number of other ways Lincoln helps children and adults succeed including willingness to **collaborate** to find solutions, strong **neighborhoods**, and civic **leadership**.

## Opportunities for the Future

The fifth, and final, question asked “If you could have up to three wishes granted to improve Lincoln, what would they be?”

Many respondents wished for an improved **transportation** system (e.g., improved roadways, a light rail to Omaha, more bike trails):

Improve roads, including more efficient ways to drive in and around town.

Others suggested that Lincoln needs more **amenities and activities**, particularly having more free activities for families:

More neighborhood communal creativity development and events.

Other activities and amenities mentioned included: a new, central **library**; increased investments in city **parks**; improved **technological infrastructure** (higher speed internet, cable); increased **performing and visual arts** opportunities; more **science and technology** opportunities; continued **downtown development** (e.g., shopping, Antelope Valley development); a **convention center**; improvements to the **zoo**; and improvements to the **airport**.

Respondents wished for stronger support and collaboration around **human services**, particularly to help those in poverty, stronger programming and services, improved child care options:

Reduction of the socioeconomic gap between rich and poor. The poor in Lincoln tend to live in neighborhoods where the schools aren't as strong. They tend to have to rely on nonprofits for basic needs, and the community's nonprofits are stretched for money and time. We need to do more to level this gap.

Respondents wished for stronger **economic opportunities**:

A local economy that has far more higher paying jobs so that we can solve the underemployment problem, along with an effective effort to educate and train people for those jobs and to match them with the jobs available. This would require a far more intense collaboration of government, Chamber of Commerce, and educational interests.

A number of respondents suggested greater **education and training opportunities** for those of all ages (e.g., preschool, care for children outside school hours, post-secondary education, adult continuing education/retraining):

Improved access to quality early care programs across all systems offering early care and education along with CLC's in every school in the city. A focus on the non-school hours for all our children birth through high school.

Some people wished for more opportunities for **broad collaboration and participation**, formally and informally, in addressing the needs of Lincoln's residents:

Build a mechanism to include all community tiers into a trusting and knowledgeable community....immigrants, entrepreneurs, low income, large financial interests, small business, "power brokers," philanthropy, small and large investors, higher education, the rest of the education [sector] and other segregated sectors.

Others wished for **personal growth and change** among city residents:

More progressive and open minded attitude.

Some wished for improvements in Lincoln's **neighborhoods**, particularly for greater diversity, improved housing stock:

More racial/ethnic diversity - these communities are gradually becoming more and more ghettoized with little representation in formal or informal city and civic leadership

Respondents also wished for: **growth**, with some notion of sustainable growth; targeted **police** presence; growing **awareness** of community needs; and city government responsiveness to specific **interests**.

## Appendix

### **Question 1: What do you value most about Lincoln?**

So many activities to do.

The fact that Lincoln is continuing to evolve and move forward in a positive way - rather than staying static as many communities do.

That it is a city that is trying to grow in thoughtful ways and is mindful of trying to avoid creating areas of the city that get left behind.

low unemployment, strong education institutions, low crime rate compared to other cities our size, wide range of activities for individuals to participate, growing number of employment opportunities for those desiring to have Lincoln as home.

Feeling safe in this friendly "small" town.

The people

The people and the relationships I have with them

Safety. Good public schools. Low overall cost of living.

Quality of life, good schools, bike paths, improving downtown.

It's a bigger city that feels a little small town at the same time.

County club neighborhood. I love my neighborhood.

Family friendly atmosphere. The lincoln children's zoo, parks and trails, great schools and trails.

It is a large city that doesn't feel like a large urban area. The quality of life is high by most measures and national surveys.

Good schools and a generally caring community.

quality of life

The friendliness of the people. The work ethic. The attitude of chipping in to help whenever and wherever there is a need.

1. Lincoln is the right size, population wise, not too big, but not too small. 2. The University provides some many opportunities, culturally, socially, educationally, and athletically. 3. Trail and Parks. 4. Strong and solid neighborhoods 5. Low cost of living 6. Parks and bike trails 7. Responsive government.

That is appears to be populated by people that come from all over the state of Nebraska. People that value life, and helping others help themselves, not just relying on government for the care of citizens.

The fact that this is a great place to raise a family (good education, safety, resources).

Its basic "live-ability." There are great services like parks, trails, and libraries. The cost of living is reasonable. People are sane and friendly.

The small town 'feel'-- there is a vibrant downtown, services and amenities are conveniently located, people can work together.

The people here are wonderful. Friendly, safe community.

The small town feel of a city filled with friendly people. The bike paths The entertainment

It feels like home...its a city growing in size but yet still gives off a hometown feel that brings peace and a sense of community

Lincoln provides opportunities for a high quality of life, hence making it a great place to live and raise a family. Its citizens work effectively and give generously of their time and resources to solve community problems, improve education, provide public amenities, and enhance the commercial environment. It enjoys a very high level of health care and excellent government services.

The coordination of systems that make Lincoln a great place to live, work, raise a family, and get a wonderful education.

It is an exciting place to live, there is always something to do, and people in the community support each other.

Its overall safety for residents; and caring safety net it offers for those who need it. Its beauty (no smog, drunks along the street panhandling, sleeping in doorways; clean streets, beautiful parks, buildings, etc.)

A spirit that good things are possible--that we can work together to create a good environment for children, for families, for businesses, for houses of worship and recreation and the arts.

good schools, low crime, community support, highly educated workforce

It is a small city with all of the cultural and experience aspects of a larger city.

What I value about our community is that we are a small town accomplishing great things! We have excellent educational institutions from elementary schools to colleges and trade schools. We are a safe community. We respect leadership to make the right decision for us.

Recently we have been innovative in expanding our city limits, adding schools and public parks and arenas to keep our citizens engaged. Our citizens are friendly, responsive and focused on tackling challenges and achieving real solutions

I like the neighborhood I live in. My neighbors have become family. It is safe and quiet.

The quality of life. Excellent schools. Ease of transportation. Strong religious institutions. Vibrant participation with the arts. The size of this city has not yet overwhelmed the services.

There are so many things I value about Lincoln. I think I value most the active participation of neighborhoods as a voice in what is important to the growth of Lincoln. The core neighborhoods help ensure that growth and development continues in the core of the city. There is also a network of concerned citizens and organizations who partner together to ensure that Lincoln's most vulnerable citizens are not forgotten.

Feels like home. Near family. Fond memories - I lived away from Lincoln for several years after undergrad but always felt a calling to come back. My family finally moved back last year and we feel "home."

Family value and size.

The quality of life. I like that Lincoln is well placed and not too big. It still has a community attitude for the entire city. I like that it is a safe community and that we have a Mayor and city officials who THINK about the quality of life for the citizens.

Public safety. Its a safe community with low crime (relative to other communities of similar size).

I live and work downtown and am plugged into the university, international, and artistic communities. Thus, I have a pretty distinct Lincoln experience, and wanted to say this first before I proceed. I actually really value Lincoln's diversity and I do kind it to be quite diverse. This is probably because I don't hang out in the suburbs and am a part of the particularly diverse communities mentioned above. I also really value the warm of Lincoln residents.

The people and our values!

Active community feeling by most of its citizens

The schools and the fact that it is the right size

Tribal integrity - we know who we are as a community and there is a commitment to build, grow slowly, take small risks within context. This also is overvalued. Tribe has problems adding "outsiders" and their ideas. I value the continuing clash.

The people.

The resources available for those trying to learn.

The many things to do: the Lied, the Ross, restaurants, safe neighborhoods, manageable to get around, the people, the community

I value the authenticity of the community members of Lincoln the most among its other valuable attributes.

wonderful, pleasant people

The people, a feeling of support from all of the community to solve any issue that comes our way.

Safe small town feeling

That it has a small town feel, neighbor caring about neighbor.

THE STATE CAPITAL and the University of Nebraska

Low crime rate, excellent schools, friendly people, no slums, generous volunteers

I like the amount of things we have for kids in town. Things such as parks, the zoo, Children's Museum, great schools. All of that is wonderful. I also love my neighborhood and the fact that we know all of our neighbors and are able to rely on them for things or just hang out with them for fun.

I value many things about Lincoln, here are a few that I value most. Lincoln is a small city with many resources, but the neighborhoods still feel like small town Nebraska. There are many different faith communities that work together to provide opportunities for families. Lincoln Public Schools does an amazing job of providing quality education for our youth.

Small town feel and safety

Sense of community. It's small enough so I can make a difference. My family lives here and that's what keeps me here.

Easy lifestyle. Ease of movement around the city.

Safety, security and good schools

Sense of community, cultural and recreational options.

Safety and cost of living.

Good medical care Daily newspaper but it could be improved

I most value that Lincoln is a vibrant mid-sized city. The combination of having the state capitol and the University in our city means that there is a greater diversity of thought than is common in Western Nebraska but we are still small enough you can drive all the way across town in 30mins or less and there are some neighborhoods that struggle a bit with poverty. But, we don't seem to have the great divide that say Omaha has between North Omaha and the rest of the city.

The people....great people, organizations and city leaders dedicated to making it a good place to live.

Oppertunities for adult education and cultural stimulation.

Accessibility of all kinds—the ability to talk to a CEO, senator, professor, student, stay-at-home mom. Lincoln is a great mixture of government, nonprofits, education, and businesses. It's safe and it's at an exciting time to grow thoughtfully.

low crime incidents

The safety I feel living here. I think Lincoln is a mostly safe community, though recently I see that changing a bit due to a resurgence of gang presence locally.

Family oriented, excellent schools, and excellent ethical standard set by government and businesses.

Size of community. Most places I go I know somebody. Large enough community to have all amenities but small enough to make a difference

There are so many good things about Lincoln. Good schools and learning opportunities for adults beyond the colleges and universities, like OLLi and Bryan 55+. Diverse faith communities and opportunities to experience other cultures. For the most part it feels safe here. Interagency communication seems good (until different utilities tear up a street 3 times, when if they talked to each other it could have been once).

I appreciate the bicycles friendly attitude of the community. I also like the emphasis on the arts and the cultural events that come to this city. I love the farmers market.

The generosity of Lincoln Constituents willing to help there neighbor.

It is a large enough city that there are many educational & entertainment oppotunities, but small enough to feel like a solid community with the oppotunity to know your neighbors.

It's diversity, with many oppotunities to pursue personal and public interests.

It's a great place to raise a family! The quality of life is extraordinary and costs are moderate.

good people, can get involved, good schools

Family and faith orientation

Good neighbors -- empathetic, kind, respectful

Great schools, Husker Sports, many places to go (Lied Center, Community Playhouse, etc), many restaurants, low crime rate, reasonable cost of living, friendly people.

The entrepreneurial community. Lincoln has an interconnected-ness that breeds creativity and new ideas. Everyone wants to help others develop!

**Question 2: Think of a time when you felt most involved in making Lincoln an extraordinary place. What made you feel that way?**

Involvement, participation, and people there to watch.

The vote that authorized the city to move forward to build the arena. The effort was effective because there was involvement from all aspects of the community - young and old, business and labor, public and private sector, etc. It was also effective because there was an underlying very solid business and financial plan.

Broad based coalitions with a strong anchor organization or staff person to help facilitate collaboration. Adequate funding to make the effort successful. Willingness of city leaders and decision makers to listen to a broad array of stakeholders when making important decisions for the city.

Recent school bond issue including a career center for those individuals desiring hand or similar skills to become employed after completion of an associate degree. This also provides educational opportunities while remaining in high school thus saving tuition and related costs while remaining in high school. This also provides students with another opportunity to complete core classes before high school graduation. This is significant when companies are considering to local in Lincoln or expand their businesses.

People willing to work together.

Effective economic growth

A can-do, let's get together and do this attitude

Neighbors working together to create intentional community (I am thinking of a community garden one of my friend's neighborhoods has created). Working together toward a common goal, to get people out and talking to each other.

Expanding bike paths throughout Lincoln, there was a committed core group of people that made their mission to make it happen.

Lincoln marathon is filled w/ amazing people...racers, crowd, volunteers, organizers. Every part is top notch

I think an effective community effort in Lincoln is neighborhood associations. The reason I find neighborhood associations effective is because it brings everyone together in your neighborhood to create a family-like atmosphere. One specific example would be the Facebook pages dedicated to the neighborhood associations, because it allows people to discuss issues they see in their neighborhood and resolve those issues in a nice and friendly manor.

Arena. Community leaders got behind a vision and made it happen

The building of the new baseball park and arena were effective efforts due to the cooperation of the city, the University of Nebraska and the private sector.

The CLC's - they are a collaborative effort to provide before and after school support to students and families.

west haymarket / arena. political will + private investment + community vision

Everyone worked together for success without concern for turf or ownership.

The recent school bond issues in Lincoln. They involved strong community participation and involvement. Initially there was a Committee set up by the Superintendent. Then there were hundreds of community meetings where LPS officials answered questions in a non-biased manner. This was an effective way of gathering community input, involving residents in the process, and recruiting hundreds of ambassadors for the project. In my mind, LPS Officials and other members of the community answering questions and meeting community members, resulted in strong approval of the measure.

Collaboration among government, private sector and non profits. Sharing knowledge and addressing the cause of the problem, not just a bandaid fix.

The building of the Pinnacle Bank Arena was, and continues to be, an impressive community collaboration. It is the one time in recent history that the vast majority of individuals, regardless of political affiliation and income level, came together and believed in something that could improve the community as a whole. The building of the arena and the continued improvement to the West Haymarket has brought temporary and permanent jobs for individuals of many income levels. Many people living in poverty are able to supplement their income because of work found at the Arena and surrounding businesses. Additionally, Lincoln is again becoming a destination where out-of-town visitors spend money and stimulate the Lincoln economy.

People "went the extra mile" to ensure that something happened, and they drew their friends and associates in as well.

I thought the Mayor's "Taking Charge" effort was effective and gave people a chance to give input. The Antelope Valley and Arena projects were a big investment and showed forward thinking/planning on the city's part.

There have been numerous collaborative efforts through the years in Lincoln around Juvenile Justice, CLC's, New American Task Force, Child Advocacy Center, Respite Care Collaborative, Children's Consortium, CSI planning when led by United Way, starting the People's Health Center. The Salt Valley development. Each initiative moved the community forward in addressing the needs of the population that needed support. People are willing to collaborate in our community., someone entity or organization had to be the force behind it to fund the actual collaboration work, pull people together, and keep it moving forward--or else the collaboration eventually falls apart.

The bike sculpture project because the art is still making an impact on our community.

Pinnacle Bank Arena - Collaboration of many partners to get the vision/dream and need out there as well as voter approval and construction.

The development of the Arena and West Haymarket was the result of a well organized, collaborative and transparent effort to inform the voting public and allow widespread involvement and input.

Community Learning Centers: Collaboration among dozens of community organizations focused on a central mission of supporting at risk youth and their families.

The backpack program. The need is easy to understand and the need is large. People know how to meet that need, and all different kinds of groups (churches, social organizations, employees) can volunteer in a group to stuff backpacks. It's a tangible way to directly help a child, through a large concerted effort.

Lincoln Public School's resurrection. The fire was devastating and the recovery nothing short of remarkable. The City wrapped its arms around the staff and the students. The corporate community came to the table immediately. The press was all over it. And stayed all over it. The number of records lost; personal belongings destroyed; and the loss of a structure down to the ground was awful. To walk into the LPS building today is beyond belief. It can never replace the personal articles of people but the structure is clean, open, and welcoming. Without THIS community effort it would not have happened.

I think the school bond election in 2006 made a huge statement about the willingness of Lincoln citizens to invest in infrastructure, in children and young people, and in the community's future. A process that involved people from all demographic segments of the

community and from all economic bases of the community contributed to the proposal itself and to the effort to have a successful ballot. I think the same things could be said about the work that led to the arena project.

everyone getting behind the arena project. leadership by applicable stakeholders and community leaders

Collaboration

I am passionate about feeding the hungry. Through the work of the Food Bank of Lincoln, there are now food pantries in most of the Lincoln high schools. This is a place when kids can go and source food that they can have at home when often times there are no meals for them. The need is great, and these kids are responding to this service.

Public Art Project - Tour de Lincoln. It was successful because of the hard work and social standing of the leadership.

The major initiative of private and governmental organizations in establishing a network of trails.

The Community Learning Centers to me embody the most effective community effort in Lincoln. Through the partnership of the schools, city, and community-based organizations, the CLC's provide a structure and system that is meeting the needs of our high-risk populations. This structure will be vital to improving outcomes for those living in poverty.

Revitalization/updating of the Haymarket. Interest in real estate to have the old warehouse buildings renovated and made into lofts.

Pinnacle Bank Arena and Haymarket. Because a lot of people believed in it and the government put effort behind it.

Just look at the new Arena and all of the development that has happened around it. Everyone is happy we have it and it is making a difference in the community. The bike trails... largely spearheaded by the GPBC - but supported by the city.

Having knowledgeable people involved at doing the little things.

I impressed with the Mayor's public engagement activities. I think they are effective because he actually cares, and so makes real efforts!

I think the Arena project is a perfect example of reaching consensus, completing a project, from which the entire community and state benefits.

good media support

Girls on the Run. Volunteers and donors.

Group of innovative, outside the normal scope thinkers. Strong entrepreneurial skills and focus, personal commitment and little regard for traditional government and business. Willingness to challenge the old establishment and its norms.

The trails of Lincoln are an effective effort. There were many visionaries and partners.

The passion of the people behind it, networking with people who come from a variety of walks of life.

Community Learning Centers: deeply collaborative-open table-evaluated-redesigned when needed-clear goals established by all and good on-going communication and engagement

The moral and ethical compass, or core values, of those involved.

helping people see "the need" early and then continued follow up and timely communication.

Bike trail development, it was effective because people cared and understood the need. People were willing to step forward and work to achieve a goal.

Food distribution: Community partnerships

Building of the new Arena...was effective because so many UNlike minded groups agreed it was important, seeing them come together and agree made it effective.

The East Bypass movement is effective in not affecting growth and change. Frustrating - but is strong. I would like to see the growth of Lincoln heading eastward toward Omaha. Septic system and bypass needs to be addressed.

Support of art projects such as the bicycles. Community support for development of the Haymarket and Pinnacle Bank Arena. I think it was effective due to the information presented to the community in several different ways--reached lots of voters.

Partnerships.

Communication and Teamwork would be reasons that efforts are effective. When groups are able to work together and coordinate their efforts, great things can happen. These collaborative efforts normally mean enhanced communication as well, that way the effort has better support behind it to increase awareness.

The people at the grassroots level.

Passing the bond issue to build the arena. I still wish, however, that the Vision 2015 people who got so excited about a big building could get excited about things like education, health care, etc.

The Haymarket expansion was done after considerable community input and was done with as much local labor as possible.

the various entities with power worked together for a common good and goal

Antelope Valley Project. It was jointly approached by several entities, and the outcome has made an enormous positive difference in land availability, safety, beauty and recreation.

Engaging people on a neighborhood scale.

Antelope Valley Project Ability to work with UNL and federal government

Building the arena and the Railyard Development - the effort had terrific support from elected city officials, from the business community, and especially from younger professionals. It involved a lot of different people sharing the same message of growth and prosperity. The only thing that I think is a black mark on the effort was the failure of the Lincoln 2015 business leaders to pay what they promised. That was wrong. However, despite that I think it's been a success.

I like Tom Cassidy...Major Beutler...in terms of community people I know...they make their organizations effective

The hard work of a few dedicated individuals.

The arena or school bond. Both took collaboration from all types of people and organizations to become reality. When Lincolniters are invested emotionally in a project, they will fight hard to make it happen.

Neighbors helping each other in time of need

People and organizations working in the spirit of collaboration toward a common mission. Clear, effective communication is at the core of such collaboration.

Private and business sectors working together.

The people who made the goal to get it accomplished.

The growth of bike trails throughout the city is amazing. People coming together to promote a passion and some engaged leadership from citizens made it happen.

I think the environmental and sustainability efforts have been successful. I feel that this is due to the persistent efforts of a lot of like-minded individuals who are passionate about these issues.

Special Olympics in 2011. It was driven by leaders in the community to lead by example to say this is important and we need to get all involved.

The arena & Rail yard. City & community involvement made it effective.

Downtown and Hay Market developments. Made possible by effective citizen and city government efforts.

I believe that it starts with people who truly care about their community and neighbors.

Arena push. Well financed and good leadership. Have not displayed ability to do this with social issues.

Collaboration across agencies

Passionate leaders

Pinnacle Bank Arena and Haymarket expansion. Effort was effective because community leaders came together to make it happen.

Something that I see potential for but saw in another community, creating more community in neighborhoods. This was done by whole neighborhoods (city blocks) designing murals in street intersections, festivals in the round-a-bouts, and constructing sidewalk community gardens.

### **Question 3: Give an example of the most effective community effort where you were a participant. What made it effective?**

Making Lincoln look better and helping.

Achieving a positive goal on behalf of the community.

An open, transparent, and thoughtful process that allows for effective community input. A vision that is exciting and compelling that demonstrates how everyone in the city can move forward together.

Establishing a relationship with my college advisors which has lasted after graduation to establish a Certified Public Accounting firm. The relationship enabled me to hire excellent professional individuals to build a successful business and pass our success on to future employees who have been involved in the community.

See the change we made as a team.

Creating jobs for families

Through TEDxLincoln, I feel I'm helping make this an extraordinary community. I'm excited because so many others are excited and supportive of the effort.

I don't feel very involved in Lincoln. I have felt quite isolated since moving here four years ago and would like to be more actively involved but have had a difficult time making connections. I guess I feel most excited about my involvement through my work, making change there, supporting my colleagues.

When we started reversing the child obesity problem in Lincoln. We're one of a few communities to make this happen and its because of a broad group of folks collaborating on the project.

Meeting new people & seeing their individual talents to meet a goal is best about being involved.

I was excited to be involved because I felt like I could make a difference in our community even though I was only one person out of many.

Anytime I participate in a big event in lincoln, marathon, spring game, day at the Zoo or concert in the park.

Whenever I volunteer for an event, I am always encouraged by the number of other residents who are also involved, eg. the Heart Walk, the Air Shows, Lincoln Marathon, etc.

The fact that many in the community rallied around the "cause" - whether it was the arena or a bond issue. The fact that others actually cared and got up off the sofa to do something.

being full informed and having an active leadership and/or consulting role in the effort

Seeing the end result of the accomplishment and learning later that the intended goals were being met and even exceeded.

I was a member of the recent Superintendent's Committee on the Bond Issue. I felt my opinions mattered and factored into the how the bond issue would be explained to the public.

that I was part of process that truly improved someone's life because we helped them make changes in their life.

On a daily basis, I work with nonprofits who are addressing the issues that most people don't want to see or talk about. My job is to raise awareness and funds for these organizations doing this important work. One of my favorite stories is of a man named Randy who was homeless in Lincoln for decades. When he finally completed treatment for his alcohol addiction and had his medical needs addressed, he was able to get a job, car and home. His proudest day was when he received his first paycheck and taxes had been taken out. He felt like a productive, contributing member of the Lincoln community. My job was simply to tell his story. He did the real work.

Meeting new people, hearing positive conversations, seeing that people were growing AND our community was stronger as a result.

If citizens want to be involved in Lincoln projects, they only have to step forward. I am currently involved with the 11th St. Project which I feel can help the area tremendously. I would like to see the city more involved in a vision to improve those areas surrounding the downtown. So much has been focused downtown, now we need to give some focus to the housing stock in the areas surrounding downtown to protect our investment.

I felt like my time was not wasted, that the agenda was worth it and would make our lives better and our community stronger--(ALL of us). When we could see both small wins and bigger changes happening it kept us engaged.

Assisting the Boy Scouts collecting change (\$) for the Safe Quarters drive to support the Battered Women's Home. It is a need that is easy to overlook and there are folks in Lincoln who are making a difference to women and children right here in our community. Pretty cool!

just attending Chamber meetings whereby you may asks questions...I enjoyed the whole Lincoln re-branding and how the public got behind that...from posting comments to website or texting Clint R regarding creative ideas!

During the decades of the 80's and 90's I was involved with the Downtown Lincoln Association and a number of city projects such as Antelope Valley that have transformed Lincoln's downtown following the collapse of the once strong retail element. It was exciting to be involved because of the commitment and dedication of so many to solving the problem. Government, education, business, and citizen interests worked collaboratively and effectively.

How eager people are to contribute either their time or other resources to collaborate on projects that benefit our community.

Learning about the Canopy Street process and bringing friends to the new restaurants. It was fun to explore a part of town that I have worked near for the past 15 years.

I have that opportunity every day. In my job I hear nothing but kudos for this community. It doesnt matter if its coming from business, education or the social sector; the young folks who are excited about technology and the social settings of the Pinnacle Bank arena/railyard or even those who struggle to have ends meet. Lincoln is THE place to live.

I'm excited about efforts that are a match for my mission, that involve other people with similar enthusiasm, and that make likves better for persons in our community.

Lincoln has the opportunity to take a big step forward at being a truly outstanding community. We are at the fork in the road. It is exciting to be in a community that is transitioning from big small town to a vibrant city.

The opportunity to better this already great community. Who wouldn't want to make their home a better place for all living there?

Most recently, I held the 1st annual Hunger Rally at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. More than 250 volunteers packed 40,000 meals to be distributed in Southeast Nebraska. This volunteer opportunity was filled within 2 days. Our community wants to serve. They want to support those in need. These meals will be distributed within 30 days. I was excited to bring this event to Lincoln at this scale and am planning for next year's event and plan to pack 100,000 meals for those who are hungry in our communities.

I felt most involved when my organization had a performance space in the Haymarket area. The small multi-use space was ahead of its time and was a testament to the power of collaboration among arts groups.

The involvement in political campaigns has been rewarding and interesting. This City permits a wide spectrum of involvement in campaigns. City government is responsive to the concerns of the people.

Through my work with a strong neighborhood network, I am excited about the vision for a better Lincoln that is shared among the group, particularly making a specific neighborhood a desirable place to live and work. We are showing how neighborhood assets come together to make great things happen!

Knowing I was bettering my community - the community in which I will be raising my children.

IDK

NA

I like getting to know other people involved in activities.

The ARena project. This has changed the landscape of this community and has provided huge changes that are enabling this community to grow and prosper.

Making a difference in the lives of individuals

Participating as Habitat volunteer and board member

Let's not get emotional in a survey! Extraordinary we don't need just alive and engaged and supporting our young innovators. This gives me purpose and is the future of our survival economically maybe even socially.

The synergistic effect of collaboration.

How welcoming the regular volunteers were and the effort they put in to help me get further involved.

I think it was called 1st night--New Year's Eve alcohol free family event--I loved the planning that involved all sectors of the community- a common goal and objectives- a great event and an evaluation of what worked and what didn't My belief matched an opportunity to serve

Seeing it grow on the national and international level.

Seeing the look on peoples faces and the pride in their eyes about what they were involved in and how much it mattered.

Lincoln hosted the Special Olympics. You had a goal, tasks and you were impacting something specific.

Coordinating activities of Kiwanis

When I worked as a factory laborer (in my 20's) the United Way Board of Directors wanted me to join them, as I had served on their funding allocation team, they truly listened and cared what a blue collar worker perspective was and the community education that I received from them has impacted my adult life

Working on the board of the Commission on the Status of Women and conducting research based surveys on women's health care. I was excited working with others wanting to make positive growth.

The Haymarket development--showing guests and visitors our downtown project.

Helping others, working together with others who have the same goals.

Working side by side with others in the community to achieve a common goal. I am excited whenever I see a large group of people with common interests working together to accomplish something larger than themselves.

I have never felt involved in making Lincoln an extraordinary place.

When Updowntowners was still active. It was exciting because thousands of people turned out for the events and we were able to contribute proceeds to making Downtown a better place. I was excited to be part of a well-oiled volunteer effort -- everyone did it because they loved it.

I'm part of a large number of volunteers willing to contribute time to help the community. development of Haymarket Park

The sense of accomplishment by a cross-sectional team.

The relationships.

2004 Democratic caucus getting together with like minded citizens

Helping to organize the City Council vote to support employment, housing and public accommodation protection for gay and transgender people (Fairness Ordinance). I enjoyed the opportunity to work with Council members, with business and faith leaders, and with members of the LGBT community. Although the effort was ultimately thwarted by a religiously conservative organization and the Catholic Church, I felt very invested in making Lincoln more extraordinary.

I am involved with Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue...it is a great organization and we do great work for dogs and the people who have to give them up and the people who help us by fostering or adopting dogs.

I had a vision and wanted to see it succeed.

The arena or school bond. Both took collaboration from all types of people and organizations to become reality. When Lincolniters are invested emotionally in a project, they will fight hard to make it happen.

working together with people having a common bond

Knowing that the outcome would result in change.

The project would make a difference in people's lives.

the activity of working to the goal.

The Celebrate Lincoln festival that highlighted Lincoln's diversity and the gifts that people from all over the world bring to Lincoln. It is easy to not see Lincoln's diversity and stay in our own subgroups. Presenting the good side of diversity is important to Lincoln.

I have taken part in two spring citizen forums where they have discussed priorities for the city budget. I get a lot of perspective during these events and I appreciate the opportunity to provide input into this decision making process.

Special Olympics, West Haymarket, Mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sisters, Raising money for the community for those in need.

The dreams that were becoming realities & the camaraderie among community members.

Participation in a two-part session on city planning. I was part of the crime-problem group planning process.

It was the feeling that I was helping others who are less fortunate than I; that I was making a difference.

better the community

The vision of what Lincoln can become

Knowing that I was making a difference that mattered to people

I am very proud of our city and felt good when we reached our goal and saw the results.

It felt great putting on and hosting an entrepreneurship event recently in the Railyard for the students and business owners of the community.

#### **Question 4: What does Lincoln do well to ensure that our children and adults have an opportunity to succeed?**

Community involvement by many - not just those with children

Excellent medical services!

We have a good school system that works to engage parents and provide high quality education to children and youth.

Lincoln has residents who have remained in the community for years after completion of their education that take an interest in young individuals

Provide good schools.

Find jobs

We're an involved community

Good public schools...for the most part. There are a few that struggle. But overall I think the public schools are there to help kids succeed. I think there are solid nonprofit organizations available to help people in need (but there are still many more needs to meet).

Focus on schools.

A variety of things to do for entertainment/culture for all ages.

One thing that I think Lincoln does exceptionally well to ensure that its children and adults have an opportunity to succeed is maintain its public schools and libraries. Other than educational values, I think another factor that is equally important to ensure people

succeed, is the quality of life Lincoln offers. Specifically I think Lincoln is very well at maintaining bike trails and public parks, which is a great added benefit to it's residents.

It has recently thought about a vision for the future.

Lincoln has excellent public and private schools that provide many opportunities for children and adults to succeed, eg. the Bright Lights summer programs.

The collaboration by non-profits sometimes along with local government to solve issues or make things better. The spirit of collaboration (less "turf") in Lincoln sets us apart from other large communities.

we build a good safety net system for those most vulnerable and seem to do a good job of avoiding competition, duplication and turf warfare.

A generally good educational system, which is central to success. If we do not support and enhance public and private education in our community - from Pre-K through college - children will lack the necessary foundation to grow into successful adulthood.

We have strong schools which will be even be stronger and will better prepare our kids to compete in the 21st Century with the addition of the Career Academy. We have a strong CLC system which again provides quality programming for our kids which accentuates what happens during the school day. Our schools should be one of the focale points in our neighborhoods and should be used as much as possible. We need to work on the adult aspect of this question. There is plenty room for improvement in that area. I am not sure what the answer is. However, we are fully aware of the underemployment problem, and the need for better paying jobs. We need to attract businesses, but at the same time make sure we have the work force capable to do those jobs. We are not doing either very effectively and in a systematic manner at this time in my opinion.

Our schools are a treasure! Every student, from the gifted to the struggling, from the fortunate to the homeless, LPS works daily to make the most of each and every student.

Good school systems for children. Good other resources for children such as the Lincoln Children's Museum and Lincoln Children's Zoo. We need to replicate places like EduCare in other parts of Lincoln. For adults, there's work to ensure good jobs even while we have low unemployment, we have great hospitals and rehabilitation care centers, and the West Haymarket project is energizing the whole city.

LPS works hard to provide opportunities for children and adults, as well as SCC. Lincoln needs better integration of income levels. There are plenty of studies showing low income students do better when there is a good mix with middle income students-- (NPR--higher graduation rates, better career planning..) Encouraging integration of income in our neighborhoods would also provide for better stewards of neighborhoods and provide role

models for stewardship in current lower income areas. We are fortunate to have neighborhoods of choice, if we don't do something to help stabilize those areas surrounding downtown, they may not continue to be neighborhoods of choice.

Safety, Housing, Infrastructure, Jobs, a great educational system, access to higher education and options there, recreation programs for youth, a STRONG after school network and partnerships, social services, health care.

Excellent YMCA programs, after school programs, SEC,

i am certainly glad to see graduation rates increasing - priority of LPS Lincoln offers a number of colleges that offer education for a broad range of folks One item i feel is worth mentioning is the fact NELNET is working with SCC with respects to offering a customer service class and if any student who receives a grade B or higher is guaranteed a job at NELNET. THIS IS REALLY COOL.

Our very strong public school district and strong private schools provides a very solid base for our children and youth to succeed as they enter adulthood. A strong business community provides employment opportunities that keep our unemployment figures among the lowest in the country. We have a large number of very good non-profit organizations that provide excellent support to children and adults and enhance their opportunities for success.

Through Vital Signs, members of the community have made a committment to learn about the strenghts and deficits in the community. Knowledge is power. Focusing resources to make our community stronger, healthier, and more secure is the foundation necessary to move toward success for all.

We value personal development. Children's museum, zoo, library, Agency on Aging, community centers. We reach out into schools and other government programs to offer these community resources to the population that benefits most from affordable or free opportunities.

1. Provide a technology park and the resources to make it successful. 2. Voting in a Career Campus for students with varying skills.

Quality public education. Increasing community-based programs for children and young people before and after school and during the summer. Low unemployment rate. Diverse opportunities for continuing education for adults.

great K-12 schools, community colleges and universities. lots of employment opportunities/low unemployment. solid safety net for those less fortunate.

There are many amazing organizations (including our religious and public schools) in our community doing truly great things to provide for our children and adults.

Our education system is strong. We have a safe, reliable and healthy school system. We MUST continue to focus on the success of this system. We must take care of our children, so they have the best opportunities to succeed.

Lincoln takes care of its parks and green spaces

An excellent school system which continually strives to excel. The Community College offers all sorts of opportunities for adults.

Lincoln has a strong commitment to its public school system which is one of the best in the country. The CLCs in Title I schools, specifically those with Family Literacy Programs, are giving students and their families the best opportunities to succeed as they are prepared to contribute and give back to the success of Lincoln.

Has a reasonable public education system.

I feel like we have a great school system.

I think we rely on non profits to do this for the underserved... and funding to them. the arts make a big impact on this community for children and adults Library improvements are a great boon, and building state of the art schools is good.

Its safe.

City spending priorities seem good to me.

Fairly good school system

It provides ample opportunities for recreation.

Not much. Good social services, reasonable education but overbuilt facilities and little real innovation within systems. We are multi tiered and connect only to the economic and social tier we know.

Great collaboration and excellent visionaries.

federal grants targeting students who needed additional supports CLCs human service programs like the Lighthouse-Boys and Girls Club that provide support and guidance to children and families

Embrace diversity.

fantastic public schools and community college/university systems as well as a very involved group of non-profits that work well with the community.

Community Learning Centers, strong schools, good college system, non-profits and churches that look at the needs.

Support education

Lincoln has exceptional nonprofits that assist children and adults, services that meet multi-faceted issues, therefore effectively treating an individual as a whole.

I appreciate Mayor Buetler's desire to involve the community. Lincoln Public Schools has a great school system; but it has limitations too.

Dedicated school professionals. However, we work our administrative personnel way too many hours. They need assistance. We have many agencies to assist people but as the report pointed out, there is no systematic approach to linking these 'silos'. Wonderful community and church support for so many non-profits and opportunities to get involved.

Great schools, lots of services, many learning opportunities for the whole family. Family literacy in the schools is a great example of how we help our adults have an opportunity to succeed. CLCs are a good example of how we help our kids succeed.

Lincoln has an exceptional education system for our children, and with organizations like the YMCA, Boy Scouts and others there are supporting activities that further enhance our youth. For adults there are a number of benefits, easy access to post secondary education, good number of jobs and companies that offer family friendly employment. Strong faith based communities to serve the needs of families as well.

Decent--not outstanding--education system.

Good schools for kids. Not sure what we do well for adults. I guess the University helps.

I believe that we have good schools and opportunities for young people.

low crime and education options

Great schools.

Not sure. Seems like there are good educational opportunities.

good libraries, good street system

We have a good public school system. That said we MUST continue to invest in public schools and in school activities that enrich creative thinking like music, drama, and art. We have an active and collaborative non-profit community that works together to provide safety-net services and quality of life enhancements.

I can only hope that the school system is as good as they think they are. Community colleges and universities in the area help to make it possible for those who want education can get it without much effort...all kinds of possibilities for children and families in the town....arts, entertainment, zoo, sports etc all available and for the most part accessible.

The University, Pennical Arena, sports venues and Leid all contribute to opportunity for cultural and personal growth. I think the annual summer games in August are the best sports encourager for amaturers but I don't see much of non-musical artistic encouragement for youth in other artistic venues. I am not including Nebraska Football in this assessment. That is fanatasism and counter productive to growth!

Lincoln really cares about its schools.

I think our community offers a lot of opportunities to low-income individuals and families to find support for their particular need. Given federal, state and local funding constraints, I think Lincoln does a lot to prioritize the needs of vulnerable people, which is really at the core of giving people the opportunity to succeed.

Outstanding public and private schools. Offer educational opportunities for all ages, offer business incentives and programs for entrepreneurs and the programs offered are for all regardless of ethnicity and age.

good school system

Lincoln has numerous educational opportunities for people of all ages. We have created the model that learning is a lifelong process.

Lincoln place a a lot of emphasis on early childhood and general public education.

Human service agencies work very well together but as stewards of this community we always like to do better can we join more forces and do even more good things for our children.

Educational opportunities, connections with schools and families, and strong partnership with non-profits.

Excellent education opportuniies on all levels, good libfrary resources, and many cultural offerings.

I think that we have great public schools and a vibrant business community.

not sure. Think there is much work to be done in this area.

Many programs offered at various agencies

no slum area -- good schools. Many activities for families.

Great schools. Places like Friendship Home and Peoples City Mission to help those who are struggling. Backpack program so there is food in the house over the weekend. English Learning Program and Lincoln Public Schools. Emphasis on improving the graduation rate.

I think Lincoln really does a great job supporting organizations and clubs that build up our community.

### **Question 5: If you could have up to three wishes granted to improve Lincoln, what would they be?**

More library staffing, more maintenance for parks, even more activities like Pinewood Bowl/Farmer's Market/Jazz in June, etc.

1. Additional investment in economic development - always targeted toward creating well paid jobs (with benefits). 2. Lincoln needs a convention center - operated by the private sector rather than a branch of government - that can compete with the LaVista conference center. 3. South beltway.

More access to supported education and training programs for adults who either didn't complete high school or who need to be retrained to successfully reenter the workforce. Ensure quality jobs for all residents; one that pay a family sustaining wage, provide good benefits and paths for advancement.

Being smart enough to instill family values that continue to be passed on to future generations. Assist young individuals to establish goals while in middle and high schools Encourage youth to save for the future to become financial safe to survive through the tough times and be an example for others.

People to put more action behind the talk of wanting to continue to improve Lincoln. Be willing to move out of our comfort zone of conservative ways Put others needs before ours.

Jobs. Growth that is not supported with Gov't funds

1. Get the caucasian community involved with the refugees in the central part of our city 2. Activate story tellers in our community to seek and publish good stories on various social media 3. A better airport

1) More intentional communities. People who have lived here a long time (which seems like most people) are well-connected. Newcomers often feel shut out. People are friendly but don't "invite you in." I have experienced this personally, and I know many other newcomers who feel similar to myself. It is very hard to feel part of the community of Lincoln as a newcomer, in my opinion. 2) Greater acceptance of diversity and difference. People in Lincoln seem to think ignoring differences is the same thing as accepting them, and it's not. I wish people were more open to talking about cultural and gender differences. My family is multi-racial, and I don't always feel supported or accepted. 3) Reduction of the socioeconomic gap between rich and poor. The poor in Lincoln tend to live in neighborhoods where the schools aren't as strong. They tend to have to rely on nonprofits for basic needs,

and the community's nonprofits are stretched for money and time. We need to do more to level this gap. People in Lincoln may not face high unemployment, but the underemployment rate is high - how can we make jobs available to people who are trained to do them?

Better cooperation between the city, foundations, schools, and non profits. Improving downtown and Antelope development. The more we get folks moving closer to downtown rather than sprawl, the better. Universal preschool.

Continue to rebrand itself as a hip, up. & coming city Recruit quality businesses for start up or relocation Create better roadways to get from one end of town to another in a timely manner.

1. Make strict rules on housing appearance to avoid dumpy looking neighborhoods.
2. Create a forum that would allow all residents of Lincoln to voice their opinion on matters they find concerning.
3. Build a new zoo, or improve the zoo we currently have.

1. Expand the lincoln children's zoo
2. Build a hands on science museum
3. Improve wilderness park

The problems that affect Lincoln are the same problems that are our entire American culture is experiencing. My wish would be for every child to grow up in a home with two loving parents (married and committed to each other), who would learn to be accountable for themselves and supportive of each other.

More funds to repair streets and sidewalks; more funding for human services, especially children's programs; and more representative (by gender and race) government (city counsel, county board, legislature).

1. greater support for, involvement in and access to arts and culture opportunities for low income and new immigrant populations
2. expanded science & technology opportunities for families (e.g. science museum; quality planetarium shows, traveling exhibitions)
3. a signature downtown library paired with other family-oriented civic spaces that bring a diverse audience into the building, possibly on the Pershing site or Antelope Valley Parkway. Partners could be Sheldon Annex (gallery and event space), LCP or LSO Annex (small performance space), NE State Museum/Morrill Hall Annex (science exhibits/interactive space), etc.

Merge the tiny nonprofits into larger, related entities. The profusion of nonprofits tends to result in diffusion of philanthropic dollars and multiple administrative costs. Completion of the south beltway. More attention paid to other parts of the city now that downtown and the Haymarket/Arena area are well developed.

1. Stronger economic development efforts. Government should lead this effort. The Partnership is a good idea, but when it comes, to making the deal move forward, you need a strong Economic Development Component in City government. Not just one person, but a staff of people who recruit, sell and market our community. It is a 24-7 job. This is a government responsibility. The Chamber can help and support, but City Government should lead. 2. A commitment by City Government to have more FREE activities for our kids. I grew up in an time where there were organized activities for kids that was paid for by our tax dollars. This was especially true in the summer. Many families can not afford the cost to send their kids to all the summer camps and activities that are available. We have these fantastic parks, which are great places for kids to have fun in an organized manner, yet everything costs. To me, keeping our kids occupied, having good clean fun, is worth the cost. Government should strongly support CLC with words and funding. 3. Bring back the STAR CITY PARADE. That made Lincoln unique. It was a great wintertime activity, which was open to everyone and was such a wonderful family event. Building roads, completing the beltway, paving the streets, filling potholes, economic development, etc. etc are all important, but lost in the jumble of things is the need to make our community more family friendly for all, not just the economically secure. It is the fabric of our community, our people, that gets lost in the shuffle.

1. A collaboration on systemic change to help people out of poverty 2. Educate the youth on chastity and self worth. The importance of living by a moral value system. It is good citizenship to be a contributing member of society. Service to others is the highest calling. 3. Close the abortion mill/Planned Parenthood facility

1. A living wage paid to all so parents wouldn't have to work three jobs to survive. 2. Greater support and understanding for the issue of substance use disorders and mental health - because they play a huge role in whether individuals are able to break the cycle of poverty. 3. Political Cooperation. Fewer decisions based on party lines, personal interest or interest of campaign donors and more decisions based on what is right and for the good of the community.

Replication of EduCare-type facilities throughout Lincoln, a more effective mass transportation and commuter biking system, a better downtown library.

1. Address dilapidated housing. 2. Income equity--there's no reason why Lincoln should have lower-paid, better educated employees compared to Omaha. 3. Mass transit--long term dream. I like where Lincoln has gone with bike trails. We could start with smaller busses running in the higher density areas.

More jobs and opportunities that pay living wages especially for those in poverty or near poverty. Additional supports and services for vulnerable populations, poverty, mental health challenges, children to prevent the need for deeper end and more expensive interventions. Improved access to quality early care programs across all systems offering

early care and education along with CLC's in every school in the city. A focus on the non-school hours for all our children birth through high school.

Lower taxes!!! More bike trails!!! Better roads!!!

1. hopefully someday have a easier/faster route to drive between north & south Lincoln 2. More shopping downtown and someday a new grocery store to be located downtown 3.

1. The creation of a major trust fund that would be able to put massive resources toward problems of poverty and other critical social services. 2. A collaborative organization of Lincoln's faith community to address our most critical problems, especially children in poverty, providing leadership, volunteers, and major funding (perhaps to the fund in wish number 1). 3. A local economy that has far more higher paying jobs so that we can solve the underemployment problem, along with an effective effort to educate and train people for those jobs and to match them with the jobs available. This would require a far more intense collaboration of government, Chamber of Commerce, and educational interests.

More opportunities for preschool children. Easy access to mental health services for at risk teens. Increase the minimum wage.

Better bus system. Awareness of our growing poverty population. Stronger mentoring programs in schools, partnering with business community.

1. That every time a sector in Lincoln needs to make a decision it is asking the question: How does this affect our kids? 2. That money is not the only driving force in making the decisions in no. 1 3. That we remember ALL generations make up Lincoln so we have as much vision and energy for serving our aging population as we do our newest infants.

Increased access to quality pre-school programs for all children, regardless of income. I recognize this will likely take state and/or federal funding, but it would make a huge impact on children's lives. A no-cracks safety net for housing, food, medical care, safety from domestic violence. Stronger community support for local arts.

1. better roads. our road infrastructure is inadequate to support growth, and the condition of many roads is very poor. better roads lead to more economic development and growth. 2. a more universal acceptance and understanding that growth is good. a community that is not growing is dying. many in lincoln do not embrace or want to foster growth. 3. create more opportunities to engage young people to come and stay in lincoln. lincoln lacks a "fun" culture for some young people.

Alleviate poverty Improve access to quality, affordable childcare Increase the local, sustainable food supply

Educate those living in poverty on how they can create change in their lives to reduce this pattern within their families. (Bridges Out of Poverty) We need to educate our community

on what the true state is for many of our citizens. If you are not down in the "trenches" doing the work, you don't see the conditions in which so many people live. Stories... stories... stories... Our nonprofits need funding and legislative support and volunteers. We MUST do something about our airport.

I wish for a professional regional theatre company I wish for a light rail system between Lincoln and Omaha

Find an effective means of bringing young children into an intellectually stimulating environment before they become discouraged. Reduce energy and water consumption so effectively that the City becomes a national model. Maintain and expand green space accessible to all.

1. More out of school educational and recreational opportunities for low-income youth, especially those in middle and high school. 2. Improve the condition of some of the streets around Lincoln....some of them are really bad!! 3. A city budget that reflects care and concern for the city's most vulnerable citizens.

Make it much easier to get from mid and south part of town to I-80. It is a nightmare right now. General improvement in traffic flow - more overpasses rather than SO MANY stoplights all the time, at every single grid intersection (and there are so many grid intersections...) Get "smart" stoplights for antelope valley parkway. The stoplight heading south on the parkway at intersection with M street is HORRIBLE- it literally takes 5 minutes to turn green.

Stronger programming for pregnant and parenting teens. Stronger value for strong, healthy, ongoing marriages / families. An understanding that Faith is an important and valueable asset... not one to be hidden or discarded.

\*END HOMELESSNESS IN LINCOLN - Follow a model that provides additional community resources for homeless youth and adults - to really make sure they have safe and secure housing like many other communities have done - not just temporary fixes like patching funds to agencies that limp along with "blended funding" always just making the smallest of progress. \*Less traffic congestion \* Improve the job market by bringing in industry

1. New central public library with a large green space to replace the current downtown library 2. More racial/ethnic diversity - these communities are gradually becoming more and more ghettoized with little representation in formal or informal city and civic leadership 3. A non-profit sector composed of strong leaders who work together well, are ethical, and professional. That's difficult to find with a lot of non-profits unfortunately.

Develop the Haymarket even more! Finish all the damn construction projects everywhere! Pressure business owners with empty buildings to do something with them!

Build a new library. Build the south beltway. Continue the redevelopment of the downtown area to Antelope Valley.

greater public involvement in solving poverty improved technology for higher speed internet access more high paying jobs

Get rid of substandard housing. Stop recruiting more industry. Attract cable tv competition.

No more funding and supporting large projects that add nothing to our community/communal lives like the arena and the Lancaster Cty Event Center. Like the ED though if we keep the money not the dregs. Build a mechanism to include all community tiers into a trust,ing and knowledgable community....immigrants, entrepreneurs, low income, large financial interests, small business, "power brokers", philanthropy, small and large investors, higher ed, the rest of the Ed and other segregated sectors. Race falls into them all, not a separate category. Nongovernmental mechanisms to pool resources for growth of skills, risk taking, innovation.

More leveraged resources Address disparities Integration of health, economics and youth development

1. More publicity about resource opportunities, from food bank/backpack program information to Maker's Space publicity. 2. Reduced cost or free coding schools 3. More funding and training for startups

living wages meaningful employment for all a caring adult for each child

1. Grow in size/population. 2. Increase free/affordable cultural learning events and activities. 3. Increase interfaith/tri-faith initiatives.

more police presence in needed areas improved traffic routes and visually attractive roadways into the city stronger system identifying crisis/problem familys and support system for them

Streamline the process to get help to those in need. Give hope to those in need and help them create a vision to improve themselves. Take pride in all neighborhoods.

Involve the university students and staff in the community Decrease poverty with more good paying jobs Integrate minorities and recent immigrants into community volunteer organizations

#1 Create jobs that pay more than minimum wage, so working families have a chance to get out of poverty! #2 Utilize the results from Vital Signs to, as community, address the areas which we are lacking. #3 Build relationships with ALL community groups & age groups, educate them on the issues in Lincoln and allow them to be a part of our solutions.

1. Lincoln Public Schools being able to freely discuss with parents the limitations the school can provide (this would help parents so very much) 2. Growth of the City to the East 3. Opportunity for artists and more creativity - loved the bike statues.

Fix our roads--deplorable. Medicaid expansion for people who do not have access to health care. More free activities for families to attend. Check out cities like Rapid City SD--wonderful family activities without charge.

There would be enough well paying jobs for every adult who is able to work. Children wouldn't be living in poverty. All children would have the ability to take advantage of the many opportunities that Lincoln offers to enrich their lives beyond the academics they get in school.

1. More businesses choosing Lincoln as a place for major operations, leading higher paying jobs for the middle class population, there seems to be a lot of "Under-Employment" in Lincoln. 2. Additional Child Care options for families that are affordable and easy to access for families who both work. 3. Expanded, and affordable, After-School programming for families with children in school, ensuring youth are not at home alone while parents are at work.

Loosen up on the downtown area having to be the center of everything "Lincoln." Work for tolerance across all spectrums of living in Lincoln. Too much bullying, racial prejudice. A green belt around the south bypass. It would be nicer to drive through and stop development right up to the road.

1) More attention to older neighborhoods - Clinton, Malone, Hartley, especially. It seems that so much of the violent crime that happens in this town happens there. Maybe I just notice because I live there now but south Lincoln seems comfortable with sayin "those people" can deal with their own problems. Have housing developing in the center of the city that isn't Neighborworks. Not everyone who wants to live in the center qualifies for Neighborworks programs. 2) Better public transportation. Shouldn't have to spend 2 hours on the bus to get from one point in north or south Lincoln to another point on the same side of town. 3) More fun! And I don't mean more \$100/ticket concerts. More community-wide fun - it's an attitude not an event.

good roads, continued strong support for schools, honest public officials.

improve broadband speed and capacity across the entire community create higher paying jobs invest in infrastructure to improve the quality of life and facilitate business success

Grow more good jobs Raise the high school graduation rate Elevate math and science education

Even bigger biking community and bike friendly streets. More progressive and open minded attitude. Less chains and box stores more locally owned businesses.

Improved daily newspaper fewer empty, abandoned houses Less expensive community centers

1) City-wide employment, housing and public accommodation protection for gay and transgender community members. 2) A community engagement center similar to the one just opened in Omaha - perhaps in conjunction with a new downtown library 3) Greater representation from diverse community members - gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation - on boards of directors, city council, and other leadership positions.

Ability to get rid of gangs and people who mean others harm. higher wages for people/families so more people could become stable more jobs with high pay for families in Lincoln

1 a more liberal attitude toward minorities, ie, gays, non-whites (especially non-whites) and less self centered conservatism. 2 continuing cultural diversity events which are accesable to low income and youth. 3 inter-cooperation between business and educational institutuions to encourage youth involvement and development.

1. Great restaurants 2. New downtown public library that suits 21st century needs 3. More investment in our Lincoln parks.

police monitor drivers "running" yellow lights (I am afraid to stop for fear of being rear-ended); repairing crumbling streets;

1. More funding for a more integrated mental health service delivery system--particularly for children. 2. Stronger support (financial and human resources) for after-school activities for children, particularly middle school-age children. 3. Better coordination between the public school system and community-based organizations.

1. A consortium for adult programs and one for children programs so people would know where to turn when they needed help. 2. Infrastructure updated and expanded. 3. Entrances to Lincoln from North, East, and West updated so the first impression of Lincoln would be more positive.

An additional 5,000 new jobs paying above median income Discontinuation of U of N Omaha and Kearney

Greater acceptance of the LGBT community. Supporting people in transition out of corrections so they don't fall back into old patterns, keeping neighborhoods safer. Health care for everyone.

More emphasis on use of sustainable energy for production of public power City-wide recycling included in city garbage service. Expansion of city public transportation.

More Awareness to many in our community that there are people in our community that need help. Raise more money in Lincoln See the community rally around many collaborative efforts that are being effected by people in our neighborhood.

1. Investment and improvement in the neighborhoods surrounding the core of the city. 2. Better mass transit system. 3. Build upon recreational activities & opportunities.

1) Address juvenile behavior problems at early intervention. 2) Bring diverse language populations together with more emphasis on foreign-language training. 3) Offer more instruction in Latin and Ancient Greek. Establish a "Lincoln Latin School."

1. More high-tech companies, as this will help drive growth in high-wage jobs for our future. 2. Better public transportation and planning to support communities without cars at the center. 3. Even more volunteering to help the needy amongst us.

fully fund parks and rec more public events improve roads

Reduce hunger Reduce homelessness Increased job opportunities

Minimum living wage of \$15.00 per hour. Fast rail to Omaha. Free installation of solar energy on every building during next ten years; Substantive harnessing of wind energy.

Improve roads, including more efficient ways to drive in and around town. Reduce the number of working poor families.

More neighborhood communal creativity development and events. More music, everywhere all day, music generate positive moods. Place speakers along the city streets and pump out great energy. Keep striving to get greener