



Economic Development and Growth

Early childhood education which involves parents “reach out and read” where parents are taught to talk about what pictures in a book mean – as early as 6 months and continuing on.

Having children from minorities and poverty families identified for special education programs more – especially gifted children!

Would like information about what is working & possibilities – are there programs where volunteers can help with reading, etc.? Would like info on the breakfast please.

Ensure people in poverty, single moms, the unemployed and underemployed are well represented in your leadership and decision making. Use their insights and your data to develop one cutting edge and innovative strategy in helping families at risk get a leg up and succeed--something that will make a huge impact on the people who need help, and will capture the attention of cities throughout the nation.

Can we develop a new downtown Lincoln library that can serve all of Lincoln. It can be a hub for learning and civic engagement.

Lincoln (and Nebraska) desperately a return of government funding for adolescent addiction treatment. The early addiction is caught and overcome, the better chances these youths have for staying out of the criminal justice and foster care systems, staying in school, finding and holding good jobs, and breaking the cycle of addiction and poverty for future generations. We need prevention, but we also need treatment options that are funded for those most in need. Thank you for all you are doing to make Lincoln a better place for ALL to live!

get rid of the stupid rule that prevents buildings from being taller than the capital, the city needs it. build highways and interstates that are actually useful to the city. Currently it takes nearly an hour to travel from southwest to northeast lincoln.

In order to foster economic prosperity we need to retain our STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) graduates within the state. My husband and I had to leave Nebraska for better opportunity in Texas but always wanted to raise our family here. We came back to forge a path for STEM graduates but have been met with barriers because noone knows or understands the impact that these integration and technology services could have on businesses' productivity. We need to lift these barriers for tech start ups. Idea #1: Create a database of small tech businesses that includes what types of services they offer, contact information, and example products. This database could then be shared with larger companies all across Lincoln (and the state) who could benefit from these services, but may not know that they exist. Idea #2: Small business/tech fair at PBA that showcases Lincoln tech companies and small businesses' services. A large scale example is SXSW in Austin. Small companies don't have the "people power" to promote themselves or the ad budgets to get the word out. It is difficult for them to



know where to start. The visibility of a fair/event sponsored by the City of Lincoln for the day could be enough to finance a small business for a year. Our STEM graduates think that they have to leave, but by showing them that there are jobs available, that there are systems/events in place that encourage them to stay and grow, they in turn will be retained.

We need to be more supportive of programs like City Impact's reading program. The Impact Reading Center focuses on helping grade school children catch up. This program works in our schools that have the poorest kids and a lot of them have English as a second language. By helping them catch up to their grade level, they are more likely to be successful in middle school and beyond. We have these great programs who are in need of volunteers and support. We have opportunities already in Lincoln and we need to help get the word out and help by volunteering.

We should invest more in early childhood development to ensure kids are ready to succeed in kindergarten. We should offer higher pay to our best teachers to work in our schools with the most at risk children. Affluent parents should help sponsor birthday parties for kids in at risk schools. Ensure that all children in Lincoln are food secure. Develop programs to get books into at risk homes.

I think the closed SunMart at 16th & South should be a location for a community health clinic (sponsored/run by BryanWest). That neighborhood uses the emergency room like a clinic, raising the cost of health care for everyone. I've heard Bryan is just turning it into a parking lot! It needs to be a low-income health clinic.

Just as was discussed this morning, you need to invest in the youth of our community cradle to career. You must engage children in early childhood education opportunities and provide safe and stimulating activities both afterschool and during the summer months. You need to instill hope in our youth, especially those who don't see beyond their everyday world, that the future will be better than today. You need to educate them to make safe and healthy choices, empowering young people to break the cycle of teenage parenthood. Mentoring programs are also vital - every young person needs at least one person who believes in them and their potential. Beyond the school years, you need to have a prosperous community where young adults can find challenging and well paying career opportunities. As a millennial born, raised and educated in this community, I can attest to the lack of diverse career opportunities for UNL graduates. If we want Lincoln to continue to be at the top of city lists, we need to encourage young professionals to stay and relocate here, even if they don't have a young family. Lincoln needs to be a great place to live for everyone, meaning families as well as single professionals. Lastly, we need to embrace the changing demographics of Lincoln and have a higher level of cultural proficiency and diversity within our local leadership structures. I grew up in central Lincoln (the Piedmont area) with a sister. We were far from sheltered but I had no idea until I was 26 and working at a local middle school the challenges right here in Lincoln. I had no idea the magnitude of the challenges so many families face until I experienced it on a daily basis and witnessed the impact it made on these kids. It was wonderful to see the 400+ people gathered at the Vital Signs Lincoln breakfast, unfortunately I didn't see much diversity in the room. It is an amazing thing to see such prominent business leaders step up and serve on



the steering and engagement committees, I just hope that they have the opportunity to truly experience what it means to struggle with poverty and cultural differences.

Look to Council Bluffs for a model for increasing graduation rates. See:

http://www.nonpareilonline.com/news/local/council-bluffs-sees-ninth-consecutive-graduation-rate-increase/article_81e09cc0-d88b-11e4-ab63-5f83ef1702a7.html

Spotlight strategies to cultivate emotional wellbeing as a goal for its own sake, and also for the effect that developing emotional wellbeing has on preventing and treating depression. This could save millions of dollars in health care costs and lost productivity. When developing strategies to alleviate suffering add a focus on developing the wellbeing of those involved in the planning process to diminish the risk of burnout. I would like to see a personal statement of purpose by each member of the engagement team and steering committee like how the leadership of Popeyes Chicken has their bios set up. I would also like to know the character strengths of all engagement team and steering committee members. The Values in Action Institute has a free strengthsfinder at www.viacharacter.org. I think that seeing the strengths of purpose of these community leaders would give the youth in Lincoln a greater sense of hope by seeing how community leaders are using their strengths to make a difference for Lincoln. The youth could take the strengthsfinder as well and create their own statements of purpose.

I was glad to hear Mayor Beutler mention that the city plans to have a closer relationship with LPS and CLCs in the future. In order to fully support our youth, we need to ensure that Lincoln's CLCs are inclusive and available for all students, including those with special needs. This means finding ways to provide them with additional support so that they can have the necessary staff. The benefits of CLCs are well known, and they extend to entire families. When a student's needs are too great for a CLC, the family has to choose between working and finding and paying someone to help their child before and after school. It is a great burden on the family and robs the student of the same opportunities for growth their peers without disabilities enjoy. Inclusion improves life for students with and without disabilities.

Have the next OneBook OneLincoln book be *Our Kids* by Dr. Robert Putnam to help more community members become aware of the increasing opportunity gap for children and to start the conversation about purple solutions that can be embraced by Rs and Ds alike.

Children from Birth-5: Create a Child Development Center that does free screenings and provides early intervention programs with children who have been identified and have developmental needs. See: www.CDCCASPER.org Middle School/High Schools: Create specialized campuses that focus on specialized skills, not just general classes. For instance a Math & Science High School or a High School that focuses on Technology or Liberal Arts. Expand teaching to more than a book curriculum. Expand JA (Junior Achievement) in the school system and offer job shadowing programs more extensively.

The city needs to put a focus on the next generation of Lincoln residents. While, the University is responsible for providing the resources to attract and educate a diverse, talented, and innovative class



of eligible young people, the city is responsible for retaining them. Right now, the city is not doing that the right way. While things like the Railyard and arena are fantastic tools in this pursuit, we need to stop "TIFing" away the city's future with student living complexes and Innovation Campus investment. As it is, the current student living complexes are struggling to fill their existing rooms, why would we continue to finance their development that seems unlikely to meet investment? If we are going to fully maximize the use of TIF and the city's numerous monetary resources, the focus should be on building projects and amenities that are desirable to recent graduates. This is a demographic that is attractive and necessary for both old and new business and is the group that could potentially set roots in Lincoln, raise a family here, and give back to Lincoln via human and economic capital. Simply put, we always talk about building an environment ripe for economic prosperity. The University provides the resources necessary to bring an educated population to Lincoln, the city does not do enough to provide the jobs and resources necessary to keep them here. Work together with the University to curb the expense of Lincoln tax dollars going to campus and place those dollars toward the idea of keeping those graduates here in Lincoln. Over time, this will create the strong and vibrant community we all desire.

The housing stock in Lincoln's older neighborhoods is deteriorating. Grand old homes in the near south have been chopped into tiny apartments. Old houses are neglected either because the owners can't afford to fix them or they are rentals with landlords who simply do not care. We need to revitalize our core neighborhoods which are walkable, interesting and close to schools.

Invest in language services for our immigrants and refugees. Lincoln is fortunate to have many "basic needs" resources, but they're oftentimes unavailable to those who don't know English. A basic understanding of American/Lincoln culture and the ability to understand, speak, read, & write English will go a LONG way in improving quality of life for some our city's most vulnerable residents. English skills allow us to navigate the city via bus or car, better communicate with law enforcement & health professionals. It leads to higher education, better jobs. English literacy leads to health literacy & financial literacy. It allows Lincolnites to help themselves. It's the biggest return on an investment I can think of. The rewards are permanent/sustainable. And the need in Lincoln definitely exists.

Provide the tools necessary, in the form of a focused education, for youth to achieve self-sustainment. The idea is to break the cycle of poverty not continue to enable this low-income population which only leads to perpetual dependence. Prosper Lincoln could aggregate community members willing to collaborate on developing these tools but some suggestions may include courses on household finances, budgeting, and setting goals, in addition to providing resources for youth to continue their education. Community members could help students navigate paperwork and research the financial resources available for continued education whether that is trade school or college. These tools would also need to be applied in a very targeted manner -- i.e. not through Junior Achievement but more on an individual basis.



We need to offer more STEM programs. Our young are getting lost in the public school systems. New ways to boost their minds and potentials can be found in bolstering our local STEM programs in and out of our school systems.

For young people - Promote an initiative among employers to start "mini mentor" reading programs within their employees to read to children, and have employees children read to other children, through school programs, after school programs, community centers, faith based organizations, and NPO's serving the underprivileged. Economy - Reduce taxes and regulatory fees

More funding to our schools. Ban K2.

For one thing Nebraska wages are very low. With the state itself setting a bad example. As a single person living alone it is impossible for an individual to afford rent and utilities on a wage of around \$12 p3r hour after taxes and poor insurance coverage are taken out. Take home on unemployment is higher than state wages. I am educated and work for my living so have chosen the lesser pay. But how are people to support a family on those wages. Take home from state was around 1000 per month. Finding a decent place to live for under 600 is very trick. And leaves 0 chance for getting ahead to purchase

Engage and empower the youth of our community, beginning with preschool aged children. We need to reach out to the families and children who are at or below poverty levels. Good paying jobs are needed in Lincoln, those that pay a living wage. Encourage skilled labor education in our schools beginning in high school. Support health clinics where people in poverty receive the medical attention that they need.

Idea: Create a "Prosper Corp" to embrace 100 adults and their families on a journey to growth. The Corp would help people have a vision for the future and help an entire family on moving towards that vision. Here is how the prosper corp would work:

- Each year 100 adults would be selected for the program.
- There would be a competitive application process.
- The 100 selected will be broken into 10 communities or cohorts with a case manager to help guide people to services that can help them. The cohorts also create a support network for the individuals involved.
- The adults primary focus is employment but towards that journey they would receive a physical (Clinic with a Heart) and an assessment of their other needs (literacy, food, shelter, etc). The case manager would help them access services.
- Each week participants would attend job skill training courses to start the week. Then they would be placed with employers around the community to work full-time to learn new skills. Each agency that accepts a prosper corp member would agree to give that individual a mentor who would work with the individual one-on-one on applying job skills.
- Free childcare would be provided for those who participate in the program. The child care would be high-end also focused on created skills and learning in children.
- Several social events would be held throughout the year to honor and uphold participants.
- A job fair would be held at the end of the session to recruit participants.
- Graduation would be a big deal celebration.



Promote grant monies for non-profits that already have a focus on youth and strengths (assets). Especially, organizations that work in the lower income neighborhoods.

Household incomes go down because taxes keep going up. Dont waste money on expensive road construction projects that offer no benefits over the existing roads. stop taxing fast food to pay for the arena. poor people eat more fast food than anyone else. you are forcing low income families to pay for an arena they will never use.

Create programs for middle school age kids to gather and do productive projects or training near or at their schools, after school hours until 5:30, or 6:30 pm. Allow day care centers to operate on school property, and be funded by the city. I would think this would help cut the crime rate, and prep kids for being on their own. Create or support funding for more jobs for people with minimal mental handicaps. Many need training wheels to get through life, not SSI. Better bus routes with parking available so the citizens around the outskirts of town could drive to the bus stop, park, and then bus commute to work, events, and shopping around town. Less parking needed in valuable areas, citizens still have convenience and safety when traveling. Wild wish- special roads (like the bike trails) only used for buses that could cut the commute around town.

Lincoln needs a program that helps keeps children off the streets on the weekends. We have great programs that help kids stay out of trouble after school such as the Boys and Girls Club and other organizations, but I feel like we could do more for kids who have single parents that work on the weekends. These are times that kids could be reading and we could get children reading by third grade. Communities do not do this, and this could really help us out as a community in the long term.

I think everything starts with being healthy. Not only the absence of sickness, but an overall mental, physical and spiritual well being. First off, we need to make sure that every neighborhood in Lincoln has nice parks, safe places where children can play sports and ride their bikes, we need to make sure people have access to good nutritious food, such as fresh fruits and vegetables at walking distance. Limit the amount of tobacco, liquor and lottery retailers in low income neighborhoods. Hold farmer's markets at low income neighborhoods, such as the Near South, Belmont, T Street and 27th, instead of only holding it at places such as the Haymarket. We need to make sure that all the children in Lincoln and parents know that the sky is the limit, and their children can achieve way more than only a high school education. Some parents dont know about the great resources this city has to offer, as well as private scholarships for youth. We also need to make sure that the school system offers financial education. Money is always a stress and sometimes young adults dont use credit wisely because they were not offered education in school on how to use credit in a way that is beneficial for them. Encourage the liberal arts in school and after school programs. Kids need outlets for the tremendous amounts of energy they possess. We need cool community champions that can show kids that smoking or drinking is NOT cool and we need to "denormalize" this habits. Being healthy, physically active and an active community member is way cooler!



I think that the public school calendar should be adjusted to provide "year-round" school. Having school throughout the year would allow students to continually progress rather than experiencing the lack of learning in the summer and it's resulting loss of progress. Year round school would also allow our social agencies to help our young people on a continual basis, whether that be providing meals or structure. Of course, there would need to be breaks several times each year of 2-3 weeks, but families could more easily find child care or enriching experiences for that length of time and social agencies could more easily afford and/or provide care and experiences for that shorter time. I understand that many traditions and mind-sets would need to change, but I think this is an idea that could truly benefit the community.

I feel we need to invest in even more time and talent and monetary resources into early childhood education and intervention.

I think we need to find a way to keep kids focused on the future starting when they go into middle school. I have found that elementary age kids do not take a lot of interest in what the future holds and what they do need to do to fulfill those dreams that they have as youngsters. In my experiences with all age groups of children I find that kids start to explore and find themselves when they enter 6th grade at a new middle school. This is when our community needs to step in and help them and give them all the information and resources needed to mold themselves into success. I have found that when youth enter into high school they are focused on what their future plans are already. There are some that have no doubts about going to college in 4 years and others that know already college is not where they will be in 4 years. If we give these middle schooled youth more of a route before they enter high school I think there will be more of a positive focus and plan for them to follow when then enter 9th grade in high school.

Thank you for hosting the event, it was really inspiring! As I travel to work going two different routes, I see mothers walking with their small children to the school and then walking home to apartments or homes near by. While was on a business trip in Chicago, there was a news op piece focused on an elementary school in a district with high rate of poverty and graduation rates in high school low as well. Teachers reached out to the mothers of young children to become involved as helpers. Most of them were hispanic that were interviewed, and they described how they feel empowered by helping at the school rather than going home and waiting for the children to end their school day and then return to the school return home. This does occur to a certain level in Lincoln, however I do not know how strong it is. They were able to receive some outside funding. As a side benefit, some indicated their english a second lanaguage at the school became better as a result of their involvement. For women who are not working, this would be a way for them to increase skills, and see there is a pathway through education that provides empowerment for a lifetime.

Lincoln needs a whole new comprehensive vision for public transportation. We cannot be a progressive city until the many problems with the current Startran service are corrected. It should be possible to have working hours that include evenings and/or Sundays and still use Startran. It should be possible to



attend an 8 p.m. function downtown or in the Haymarket and go both ways by bus. It should be possible to conveniently and rapidly reach a destination. A colleague attempted to use Startran to get to our workplace and found that while she can drive from home in 18 minutes, it would take her 2 hours and 10 minutes to use buses. There is constant pressure on city leaders to improve roads and build additional parking for those who drive cars. What I have seen when riding Startran are riders who are mostly young, poor, and/or handicapped. They lack the resources to demand better service. I have seen the drawbacks of current service justified by the fact that Startran loses money. City libraries and parks are also not self-supporting but are considered worthy of financial support to provide an excellent quality of life in Lincoln. Excellent public transportation needs to be added to the list of amenities that we cannot do without if we are to call Lincoln a modern city.

Early childhood nutrition has been found to be a predictor of success in school and in adulthood. A small upfront investment potentially pays big dividends in the future. It is in the City's enlightened self-interest to work with existing institutions, such as the Food Bank of Lincoln, to better assure that each child enters school with appropriate nutrition.

The biggest things I would like to see are a continued expansion of bike lanes downtown (either protected or unprotected, I would just like more dedicated bike space) as well as relatively affordable downtown housing aimed at working people, and not just students. Having Lyft and Uber available has completely changed the way I approach traveling to and from downtown. They are wonderful services that keep people from drunk driving after leaving the bars. Encouraging more modern technology such as Lyft and Uber will do a lot in helping make Lincoln a place that people want to start their careers. Another thing that would go a long way is having a solid grocery store downtown. The near south and south downtown have very few options for getting affordable groceries, especially when it comes to fresh produce. Lastly, I think more relaxed rules and regulations for food trucks would provide a more diverse dining scene downtown, particularly during the work week. I am a 23 year old recent UNL grad who found full time work in Downtown Lincoln, and I would like to be here for a while.

The connections are often missed by the masses, as well as the leaders, but a vibrant community forest contributes on many levels to Lincoln's quality of life AND economic prosperity. Unfortunately, Lincoln's community forest is in decline with roughly one tree being replaced for every three removed. And it likely will get worse as it faces great threats in the approaching emerald ash borer (EAB) and climate change. There are many known and simple steps that can be taken to improve the community forest with species selection, proper planting and care, plus more frequent and proper pruning. The payoff for this relatively small investment is widespread and significant, even though often hard to accurately measure. It is my hope that awareness of the benefits and investment in improvements grow dramatically.

Instead of "reinventing the wheel," let me recycle a commentary circa 2007 that I think has relevance and currency in 2015 20/20 Vision – A Commentary on Lincoln's Future Concerns have been expressed publicly and privately regarding Vision 2015. A small group of influential residents meeting behind



closed doors, purporting to create a vision of the future for the entire community, should beget concern, trepidation and suspicion. Granted, their efforts are well-intended, thought-provoking and generally welcomed. They fall short, however, of being the broad-based and encompassing effort that focuses on the totality of what Lincoln should be for everyone. The broader needs of the community cannot be subservient to the wishes of a few, which advance the interests of fewer, at the expense of the community at large. Lincoln is described as “a great place to live and raise a family,” “safe,” “clean,” “good schools,” “friendly,” “a big small town.” That’s what makes Lincoln special. Vision 2015 seems to model Lincoln’s future on building like in Omaha, or Indianapolis, or Kansas City. We believe that a vision for the future should build on Lincoln’s strengths and make it a great city for all residents. Lincoln’s future does not reside solely in the realms of entertainment, college youth and downtown. These are important, but there are activities, populations, and areas in Lincoln that are sorely in need of concerted attention and investment of resources from the same concerned government, civic and business leaders promoting Vision 2015. Moving ahead on Vision 2015 without addressing extant social needs is like ladling on the gravy before serving the potatoes. The “quality of life” in Lincoln extends far beyond 2015’s “10 Pillars.” Thus, we humbly offer a parallel “10 Pillars for Lincoln’s Future” we think are needed to substantively support, enhance and sustain a higher quality of life in Lincoln. These goals do not financially benefit any one group but could make the great city of Lincoln a benchmark of what a city should be. Education: Our future is integrally tied to the educational attainment of our youth. Let’s make the necessary investment to ensure a 100 percent graduation rate from high school. Not only must we commit to not leaving them behind, we must promise to take and integrate every child into the future of this community. Childcare: Every parent, guardian and friend of youth in this community deserves access to safe, nurturing, quality, appropriate, affordable child care alternatives that are neighborhood-based, family-oriented, and which promote inter-generational contact. Transportation: Lincoln needs to develop reliable, convenient and affordable public transportation. The benefits are many: reduced traffic and environmental impact, and increased economic opportunities and accessibility for Lincoln’s residents. Serving the underserved — Various places in Lincoln are promoted as “community” resources when in fact they are not readily accessible to many residents. They are too far, too expensive, or too uninviting socially or culturally. Let’s stop to assess the availability, accessibility, affordability and quality of recreational, social and community resources throughout the community. Teen Community Center: A public/private initiative needs to direct attention to the social, cultural, recreational and entertainment needs of 15- to 19-year-olds in Lincoln. The broad goal would be to establish a center as a teen-governed, teen-operated entity with adult guidance. Long-range street planning: The planning for existing and new main streets and arterials in Lincoln must focus on the best interests of the entire city, not the narrower interests of neighborhoods or small groups of residents. Parks and trails: Points of pride are Lincoln’s public parks and extensive trail system that residents can use, many for free. Tight budgets and private interests cannot continue to reduce the public’s accessibility to green space in Lincoln. Citywide wireless: Anyone with access to a computer or wireless device should be able to surf the Web anywhere in the city limits. Additionally, public/private efforts should focus on ensuring “digital inclusion” and move swiftly to help residents who are not online gain access with affordable hardware, software, tech support and wireless high-speed internet service. Access to technology can improve lives.



Interactive/inclusive government: We envision a city government that is truly interactive, accessible and inclusive. The technology and avenues of communication exist to ensure that every interested resident is informed about and can provide input to the development of public policy, projects and decision making by our civic leadership. Instant polls, online forums and improved direct access to our decision makers will go far to ensure “that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from (Lincoln).” Your ideas: This 10th pillar, purposefully undefined, represents an open-ended, ongoing, unscripted and welcoming process to solicit input, incorporate new ideas and engage the community in creating the future. Residents impacted by the decisions of government, business and civic leaders should be the ones dictating Lincoln’s future, a privilege that should not be abdicated to, nor usurped by, a handful of residents. A community vision, demands community input. Yes, we also want to improve the quality of life in Lincoln. We want Lincoln to evolve toward greatness. However, we also want that migration to reflect the character that makes Lincoln unique. Integral to achieving that greatness is ensuring equal attention to, and advancing development of, the ten pillars outlined above. We must all participate in creating the 20/20 Vision of our future, and we cannot allow a “them” vs. “us” mentality to jeopardize an enhanced quality of life for everyone

In other countries it is common to have specialized youth programs for students focused on academic preparedness and leadership. They are offered through NGOs led by caring people who introduce students to concepts in academic subjects but also arrange regional leadership conferences often in other countries. Maybe that seems far fetched but other countries manage to do it. These regional leadership conferences focus on recognizing and accepting cultural differences and working through vignettes and case studies about conflict and how to reconcile differences. These youth seem to have tons of opportunities. They are like neighborhood clubs and operate year around. We need something sustained that reaches out to youth and offers opportunity for growth and learning about citizenship (in the broad sense) and the importance of giving back.

Quality of life: We need to look at what more progressive cities like Minneapolis are doing--things like the NiceRide system of bicycle sharing, more bike-friendly roads/paths throughout town (not just trails), carpool registration, ridematching, more community events like parades, arts and music festivals, a holiday fair, etc. City-wide wi-fi.

Accept diversity. where all people, gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are ensured of their basic equal rights.

I think the community needs to do all it can to encourage startups and small business growth. But the emphasis should be on ALL startups and small businesses--not just high tech concerns. The community also needs to start taking its infrastructure issues seriously. The bypass should have been built years ago. And why does the city pave a two lane street on major arterials when it is obvious that in a few years, four lanes will be necessary (Pine Lake, Yankee Hill, etc.)?



Ensure the business environment allows for growth of local businesses. I.e. technology bandwidth, educated workforce. Kids – affordable daycare that allows for early education. Community – safe. I.e. proper amount of police.

Some neighborhoods in Lincoln have limited transportation access. I would like us to create feed Lincoln vans. These would be colorful vans where you drive through neighborhoods & give a hot meal to anyone who wants it. Sorta like an ice cream truck. This will help feed our kids, adults who don't have the means to get meals or to the food bank or whatever.

Better wages. Early childhood education. Daycare – affordable.

Good nutrition for kids/ families

Ask the youth and those in poverty to identify what would help them. Diversify the leadership team to include those with experience they have overcome. Early childhood education for ALL children 18 mo-5 years.

Support for those students aging out of foster care. Revitalization of neighborhoods suffering in poverty. Creative and innovative resources to schools that serve the highest population of students below the poverty line.

Revitalize housing

Maintain & expand Lincoln's Community Learning Centers

We need to make significant efforts to find key factors to keep our "graduates" in our community

Keep them (young people) in Lincoln & employed.

1. Assure that every child is reading @ grade level by the 4th grade. 2. Integrate services such as health, mental health, food, housing etc. to recognize the needs of the whole person. 3. Recognize the tremendous impact of "toxic stress," or adverse childhood experiences (poverty, food insecurity, drug using parents, etc). Toxic stress will be a driving force in shortening the life expectancy of future generations.

Engage those impacted not just the usual business's and non profit leaders. Can we find ways to bring stories to the statistics? Data can be intellectualized but may not lead to actual understanding of the reality of living in crisis & poverty.

Ensure that children live in print-rich environments – a strong downtown library would really support that, for everybody.

Create learning standards for all early childhood centers (including in home childcare). Help to promote centers who meet them so parents know quality care from ones who are lacking.



Encourage & emphasize to our youth the importance of skilled trade workers to our community. TCA is a great start, but we have lost the high school programs to share “hands-on” classes. The shortage of instructors for these classes must be addressed. How can experienced career industry people be “certified” to instruct our youth?

The Steering Committee & Engagement Committee lack diversity: economic, ethnic, language, etc. If the same who’s who of Lincoln are the only ones at the decision-making will things change?

Invest in our community learning centers and youth engagement programs.

Invest in CLC’s with a more physical presences from older generations. As well as money to create more resources.

Families in poverty what doing to help family?

Families – what about them

Funding for before and after school programs – partner w/ LPS. Smaller class sizes. Schools need to be equipped (rooms) for the amount of students.

Jobs & education is a need not an aspiration. We need more living wage jobs to help families and communities thrive. Grow this work force. Support families and neighborhoods. –Citizen of Lincoln.

Improve public transportation – providing transportation to jobs will help bring individuals out of poverty and will help improve the overall quality of life for all Lincoln citizens. Children will also benefit when parent(s) have good access to jobs.

Through LPS, community based programs, and other venues, provide all children the opportunity to participate in early learning & educational enhancement programs to close the achievement gap earlier. Institute year-round schools to address the drop in learning for low-income & impoverished children. Provide adequate funding to foster care system. Institute policy change as advised by former youth and current youth in foster care.

What could we do to get middle-school aged kids prepared for their future? Learning and practicing the habits that will help them succeed in high school, college, or post-secondary school, and careers? How can we better expose them to a variety of jobs and careers that might ignite an interest in the next 6-8 years?

Increase wages at lower (pay) levels jobs. Encourage employees to do this – by all means available.

Continue to support and improve the parks and trails in and around the city, to attract new residents, to keep current residents, and to provide exercise and nature experiences for those of all ages, with a particular focus on inner city and the areas that are economically disadvantaged



We must address poverty issues. Vital signs focus should be on poverty for cannot help children if you don't address family issues.

Must address poverty & the family

Add young people to your steering committee.

CLCs at every school. Mandatory preschool. Provide decent housing to the homeless. Significantly improve StarTran so it is a viable transportation system. More community & youth gardens.

1. Provide free educational/literacy opportunities for single Moms. 2. Incentivize single moms to achieve through bonuses or housing.

Families in poverty are not the only ones in economic trouble. Families who make \$50,000 per year still must juggle rent/mortgage, day care, utility bills, phone, transportation, and groceries. These families often must decide between paying a bill or putting food on the table. What assistance is available for them, especially since they don't qualify as low-income? They often don't have enough money left over to enroll children in summer programs.

Be sure to give community organizations and neighborhoods the resources to build identity and community for strong neighborhoods.

Find a way to heavily subsidize the cost of quality child care and PreK education for all, or for all families under a set income threshold. (Not the federal poverty line, but a much higher threshold that encompasses working families up to middle income who still struggle to shoulder the extremely high costs of quality early education.)

Grow OPS ITPP and starter programs to help H.S. students gain TOB experience in technology. Offer code.org-style class work in k-12. Develop further internship opportunities for H.S. students at local businesses – help the businesses w/ legal framework & help connect students.

Revitalize inner-city neighborhoods, park space, bike lanes, renewable energy, foster regional 'food hub', reduce sprawl/increase density, support schools and particularly after school and mentoring programs.

Work more with organizations that can help strengthen our community by working with different populations. Also, support the groups, like Junior League, working to make a difference.

Job training

Wealthy families are spending \$50-100,000 for a month of inpatient treatment in Pacifarnia, while our less well off families have no alternative but to hop their child lives through the night. We need an inpatient treatment center for suicidal teens (and adults)



A. Differentiate H.S. curriculum to provide job-ready skills to all students (not just those in the Career Academy) B. Career that Career Academy curriculum is "need driven". C. Packing downtown for "residents"

Invest in Southeast Community College. Expand trail system (see Woodlands, Texas as an example). Encourage migration into Lincoln via lower taxes/ reduced regulations. Encourage SCC & UNL partnership (see Blinn College & Texas A&M Univ. as an example)

A faster, easily accessible cross-city transportation system

That we find inclusive and empowering ways to build strength in families & communities. Safe & stable adults = thriving and achieving children. But all voices need to be included in solution search. Communities now how to solve their own challenges when supported.

We need some sort of collaborative initiative to address the education and/or career development of immigrant adults in Lincoln. There are some services, but they seem disparate and inadequate.

If we have seen such a huge increase in population below the poverty line, it is probably, due in part, because we have encouraged immigration of the same. Importing people without work skills, in the name of diversity, yields obvious consequences. An honest discussion without fear of politically correct reprecussion is needed. Further, Lincoln's resources have continually been funneled downtown at perimeter growth expense. This same pattern is obvious across the country in most "University" cities. Again, a frank discussion of priorities should be forth coming. Centermost, as an example, has been the South Beltway project delay. We should have already diverted truck traffic and have established growth along the beltway several years ago. Instead we have invested funds (far exceeding stated budgets) into the Antelope Creek project and the Pinnacle Bank Arena. That's wonderful for UNL and downtown, but at what expense and shifted prosperity for the rest of the community?

1. Success starts at home for nurturing 2. Schools are to ensure education in the classroom and outside the classroom. 3. Community Centers are building blocks for youth to become successful in their social and educational skills. Not only educating youth but adults as well. It is from adults that they form their opinions regarding cultural awareness and equal opportunities.

I think the career academy being built by SCC and LPS is a good start. There should be programs that help create paths out of poverty by means of education and these programs need to start earlier than high school. Job shadowing or having local companies come in and show off what they do can go along way in shaping middle school children for the future. I know I was one of them.

Provide free preschool for ALL 3 and 4 year old children in our community. Provide safe and developmentally appropriate programs before and after school. Provide free breakfast for ALL children.

Our community has a lot of really great things going for it and copious amounts of resources. However, there is still an extremely high number of children and families who are living in poverty and are living



day to day just as a means of survival. We must do something to help bridge the gap and pull these families out of poverty. It won't be easy but if any group of individuals can do it, it is the ones listed below! Thanks for all that you do!

Bring nutritionist in to grade schools. At least teach kids how to read a nutrition label, and what the nutrients on the label do in your body.

Lincoln is a fine city to live in. Crime is low, and there has never been a twister (tornado) in this city. I can only speak for 'continuing education,' and I must say that this city is lacking in quantity and variety of classes that one can take. After all, it is the capital Nebraska. A good acting workshop 'the method,' as it is thought in NY & Hollywood. A 'fine art' painting class. A musical comedy workshop. A stand up comic workshop. A singing class. A class where I can study my native language, Italian. Just to name a few. All of these are lacking in Lincoln. Perhaps, as the years go by, the continuing education class schedule will provide all of these wonderful classes (workshops) and more.

For a prosperous college city Lincoln doesn't offer much for our youth. Those who play soccer have to go to Omaha, especially if they want to play indoor soccer; those who ice skate, share the rink with the Lincoln Stars; and those who don't do sports there are the theatres, but what if you are not talented. During the summer there is Bright Lights, but the cost is prohibitive if you have more than one child or are of a low income family. These are a few areas in which we fail our youth. Shop owners in the Malls dislike it when school is out because kids "hang out" at the mall. Our local libraries become baby sitters when school is out for those who have parents who work late. I notice that youth who are not popular, or fit the mold, of the model student fall through the cracks and our places that help pick them up, like The Lighthouse, are bursting at the seams, or are inaccessible. Adults need to become more positively involved in the lives of our youth and start working with them. Graduation rate is not where it should be and not everyone is college material. I support Pete Ricketts in ramping up our Technological schools, we need plumbers, electrical apprentices, etc.; Robots just don't cut it. Lincoln is so focused on the development of Technology Park and the increased enrollment at the University that they over look those who are not four-six year college material.

To improve the health and well-being of the community, I would like to see more people voting for officials who believe in a GMO free society, or at the very least, fight for food labels that show foods with GMO's in them. Organic foods are all supposed to be GMO free, and thus we should keep up the farmer's markets and maybe even spread them about town more. I would also like to see more opportunities for kids and teens to stay active, particularly free or low cost events spread out the community. Too much video gaming and television are keeping kids from communicating face to face. More employment opportunities for the disabled would be greatly appreciated. Not sure how this can be done, but would be great to see. I do know that a huge percentage of people with disabilities are unemployed.



Youth Success - Having young children myself, I feel that youth need to be challenged more. They need to learn responsibility and accountability. My son (2nd grade) was so proud of himself for finishing the school year in the "homework club" (remembering his homework every day and having his name on his paper, 3 strikes and you're out), now he gets to eat with the teachers. My older girls aren't given as much incentive to do homework. It counts for 20% of the grade. They aren't really "punished" for not doing it either, they're good students so if they don't do the work, it doesn't necessarily affect their grade. I don't feel like this approach gives them all the tools needed to prepare them for college or the workforce. I've spoken to the teachers and high school counselors, and although I do understand the thought process, I still feel like the message being delivered is either being misinterpreted by students, or is not being properly delivered by the teachers. This is just one example that I see in my schools, in my experiences. There are a lot of important programs that I would like to see continue, such as The Backpack Program and Teammates, programs that support low-income families or children needing a positive mentor. Our youth need strong role models, smart, knowledgeable, and caring teachers, they need to know they can still grow up to be whatever they want. Economic Prosperity - Continuing to support, recognize, and reward small, local businesses is a must. Lincoln has done a better job over the past few years of doing this on a broader scale, which has been made easier due to social media. Businesses such as BuluBox, with an overall young employee base, has taken full advantage of social media, and has been heavily involved in community projects, thus cultivating and furthering relationships. Quality of Life - I've lived in Lincoln my entire 37 years. I love Lincoln. There are so many positives, so much growth. I've truly enjoyed seeing the growth, the rebirth of the Haymarket, and the continuous boom of small business, along with the community involvement of business members/owners. Something I'd personally like to see more of: arts & cultural opportunities for youth. Cooking and art classes that are more easily accessible. Basic cooking classes for youth, something offered by the schools or the YMCA possibly. As far as the health and well-being...although I'm not personally a bicyclist, I do think Lincoln could do a much better job of giving our community a place for people to feel safe riding to work or getting exercise. Ranking 47th isn't unusual as we (Nebraska) always seems to be behind the times...Lincoln is better than that, we need to find a way to keep people safe. If we can spend millions on an arena and find money to fund so many different projects, we should be able to find money to keep the members of our community safe, while keeping Lincoln beautiful as ever.

Lincoln has a great Boy Scout Organization that touches many families. With just a bit more investment, the organization can expand it's reach to more families. Giving youth a sense of achievement and appreciation for the outdoors.

the thing that i've noticed about Lincoln is its random planning - there is not uniformity to the landscape, as if one business is simply put up next to another without regard to style. in winnetka, illinois, for example, all merchants in a mall or strip mall have a common facade, and signage is kept small - this prevents the visual chaos and clamor seen in most suburbs - it has a calming influence and makes the consumer feel special - i realize this is an enormous feat for lincoln - but it works. i would like to see more support for the ethnic eateries and stores along 27th - lincoln is fortunate to have this



diversity and should support and celebrate it. the city council as well as any city-wide functions should reflect the city's diversity.

Not only do we need to support youth who live in challenging situations but we also must hold all student to a higher standard. If we set the bar low that is the goal students will strive for. Let's create more vibrant, diverse and intellectually challenging opportunities for youth. The community will grow and prosper if we create new and exciting opportunities. Also youth that are taught to give back to their communities become invested and are more likely to stay. Keep up the pace of public art projects. Everyone is talking about Illuminating Lincoln, and they are really loving it!

I think the success in our community starts in the home. We need to build stronger families based around Jesus as our center. Without Him, we are merely man working as hard as we can. God can and will do miracles if we look to him.

I believe that there should be a lot more introduction to ALL of the diverse careers that Lincoln has to offer.

We have three great strengths to utilize - very high quality public school system, our identity as a Midwest university town and a thriving downtown. These should not be taken for granted. Building on our high quality public schools, create innovative partnerships that support and expand the Expanded Learning programs providing all youth with high quality afterschool and summer learning experiences they need to be successful and contribute to our growing city. This should especially target the 12,000 youth that live in poverty across our community. Support stronger linkages between the Universities and colleges in Lincoln and the job creation opportunities. The time when the weird town / gown divide was acceptable has passed. New leadership at the NU / UNL needs to embrace their responsibility to the city's vitality - use Lincoln as an extension of the college / University experience. The city needs to embrace the reality that without a vibrant University / college sector, we are a one dimensional Government town. Continue to invest and support our thriving downtown. Downtown is the amenity that sets Lincoln apart from cities of similar size. Continue to support the recent key investments in Antelope Creek and West Haymarket. Continue to concentrate key investments in up-to-date public amenities in downtown. Give young creative people (and older worldly types) a reason to stay here and they will.

I think high schools have to make it priority to graduate students when they lack the basic writing, reading and math education to get into university or even a community college. I also think life skills should be instilled into children when they are at least in the 2-4 grade levels. Project Tool Box is a wonderful way to give young students the tools to gain confidence, calm themselves down when needed and to learn empathy towards themselves and others. The website is projecttoolbox.com

All the research supports addressing the issues of the achievement/teaching gaps early will have a greater impact on successfully closing the gaps. Therefore the most important thing that the community should do is, find ways to fund Pre-School for those that need it! Lincoln Public Schools has a waiting list.



Safety and Security are baseline needs for all youth (and adults for that matter) for any chance of success, especially those living in poverty. There have been two innovative solutions recently in the national news to consider for Lincoln. 1) Solving homelessness by housing the homeless. Do a Google search for lots of articles related to Utah's Housing First program and other scholarly research. 2) Creating solutions for drug addiction by not criminalizing it but rather have the police be partners with addicts that seek rehabilitation. Do a Google search on the innovative solution employed by Gloucester, Massachusetts, Police Department. The Atlantic Magazine article is called "Any Addict that Asks for Help Will Not Be Charged."

I recently went to a neighborhood meeting and found that the area of SoDo (South Downtown) is 93% renters! Renters are fine but that is too much for one area, especially for an area that really needs more of a "neighborhood family" focus. It is hard to have a neighborhood when you really don't have neighbors. There are a lot of beautiful houses that have been converted into apartments and after many years of neglect or lack of upkeep they have become more than an eyesore. I assume they are owned by well off people who do not live in this area collecting their money from a distance from people that need a helping hand. So what to do? Suggestion...Make the owners of those rental HOME (not as much for the apartments) get those home up to par and beyond! Make sure they are inspected yearly and have all that is required for actual apartment and then some. If they don't meet the criteria then fine them until they do. If they complain then offer them choice to sell the home/land to the city for a fair price. City can then sell it to a family at a reduced price with the understanding they need to get it repaired, or sell it to UNL for sororities/fraternities (who have done a good job with the few down here). Depending on the area and the condition of the home tear it down and build a business, low cost housing (like the ones over by 17th and south) or parks. Of course stop letting these houses keep getting converted into more apartments! In short...people who own a home will take care of their home and watch out for their neighbors. There are not enough home owners in the area to watch out for each other. We need to change that 93%.

Invest in education. Invest in teachers. Invest in public schools and community programs.

Help pre-school through high school students to see police officers as a resource for safety and trust. Add a greater presence of police officers in elementary schools to serve to create a positive and respectful presence for police and to help students carry the positive experiences they have with police officers in elementary school into high school and to their adult lives. Revitalize neighborhoods struggling with poverty with updated housing, additional police presence with a cleaned up neighborhood with nice landscaping and trees and street lights so the streets feel safe and open and a source of pride for the residents living in that area. Good public transportation for residents to get to places of work, grocery stores and convenience stores. Public garden areas for residents to plant and share produce with the neighborhood.

#1 My experience (high school & post-secondary) working with youth and adults of lower-income backgrounds suggest that law enforcement in schools should be scrutinized much more closely. Too



many young people are getting put in the legal system from within our schools, students who have no criminal backgrounds outside of school. Once this happens to a kid, their options to get into 4-year schools is curtailed. There are other negative side effects too. The school-to-prison pipeline, as it's called by some, is real. #2 Mental health opportunities for folks needs to be studied and services need to be advocated and supported. Again, people who are unhealthy are often either put in the legal system where their health is worsened or released on the street to continue to do harm to themselves and others. #3 More aggressive opportunities for youth of disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in neighborhood activities, i.e. taking YMCA to them (no transportation needed), afterschool/summer bright lights-type programming.

Provide free childcare/ preschool for all working families in Lincoln. Could offer tax credits to businesses who do this for their own employees – or businesses who contribute to a free childcare/ preschool.

1. Invest in programs to: a. create “success by six” years old b. further success by sixteen (& graduation).
2. Health & wellness programs: a. family planning programs (start w/ youth – adults) b. access to wellness programs – phys. & mental health c. easy access to treatment: mental health (depression) and physical health.
3. Vibrant business community (people are attracted to success)

Enhance commitment to and integration among Lincoln’s many excellent entrepreneurship resources, e.g. SCC incubator, FUSE Coworking, Nonprofit Hub, The Pilgrimer, Nebraska Global, NMotion, Turbine Flats. Entrepreneur-focused economic development, involving nurturing Lincoln’s existing and prospective entrepreneurs, continues to be the best way to go. I’d also like to see greater business sector investment in Lincoln’s Young Professionals Group – investment on the order of, or even exceeding, Omaha’s investment in its YPG.

1) Youth – Learn the virtues... Love, kindness, patience, passion. We have all sources of different faiths... but all teach these virtues. And they are free! Free for any family with poverty or not. 2) Economy – look to Lincoln 1st. WE have all these varieties of businesses... yet Amazon grows & it does not benefit Lincoln. This is a personal mindset that has to begin with the leaders of our organizations.

Improve community wifi infrastructure. Address housing zoning polices toward integration: intergenerational & intercultural. Improve website for this event – it wouldn’t allow me to register. Encourage ways to sponsor tables. HISTORY, TRENDS: What’s working – how, who, why. What needs improvement. Visual aids of major sectors & connectivity! (ed, arts, health, gov, recreation, business, faith, housing) Budget links. Imagineering exercise: Invite attendees to draw vision of their future in symbols of org’s to help create that future. *Love your visual bringing committee to center, getting sector groups up – if sectors had leaders & visual of programs to invite “sign on” & ways to support: # volunteers. I’ll check the website to learn more.

Help provide financial coverage for basic needs. Churches & non-profits cannot do it alone. Better salaries for low paying jobs including health inc. Keep giving guidance and funding to youth org. esp for disadvantaged youth - Guidance to Services, -Light House, -Cedars -JS,BS, -Bridge



More wrap around services @ LPS level –Teacher education on DHHS system and how to offer more support to families in need. *Proactive on teens aging out of system by providing more services for youth aging out system... more opportunities

Do not forget that the City of Lincoln operates the American Job Center & the Youth Employment & Support Services program. Every day we partner & collaborate with other youth service providers in Lincoln to give youth the opportunity to improve their lives. In June we will host the Youth Community Capacity Building Event. I will share the outcomes of this event with Prosper Lincoln.

Make this information more available to the community so others can join in the change not just the people here today.

Find ways to provide assistance and opportunity for Lincoln's poor in the core of the city rather than move them out to the periphery where they are unable to access their basic needs – health, child care, fresh food, etc. Stop pushing out poverty to develop, but develop core to incorporate & embrace all incomes.

Invest in our young people by forming a closer partnership among the City, LPS and nonprofits to strengthen and sustain our Community Learning Centers.

Downtown-Haymarkets 10cent trolley.

"The Living Bus" Parent organized group "walking to school" program: -exercise, -fresh air, -meet your neighbors

We have developed the downtown & Haymarket – Pinnacle Arena & hotel/business sectors – what needs attention & substantial INVESTMENT are the → poor neighborhoods in the "regular folks", the neighborhood organizations – with min wage – better jobs for middle class & lower classes (attention to special populations former inmates, mentally ill, homeless, drug & alcohol addicts, mentally challenged, & poor elderly), sidewalks, streets, & greater opportunities for common person! Enough is already done for elite!

City-wide drive for items like socks and other items to be distributed to the homeless through local organizations. I see tubs for Toys 4 Tots or Souls 4 Shoes. How about a drive for local organizations.

Build a new central library @ Pershing site – an epicenter of several areas of poverty. Build teen space Bennett Martin Public Library – give teens a vibrant space to go after school – add teen spaces to branches. Have city fund evening hours at downtown library – put a librarian on steering committee.

I couldn't read thoroughly the lists of Prosper Lincoln "leaders." However, I'm concerned about a balanced representation in race. Lots of white men (one Hispanic?), and women, names I see often. Not a "token" representative. But there should be 25% of the committees' make up people color, low socio-economic citizens. People who live in high risk areas know what is needed the best.



1. Encourage UNL to give credits to students serving as Teammates or Big Brother Big Sister. 2. Create a Merger & Acq (?) program for small non-profits to combine with larger non-profits creating scale and bringing more \$'s to serve. 3. Increase enrollment of career academy. 4. Programs to have affluent & non-affluent share resources in early years (books, computer, sports teams, churches, etc.)

Continue to have positive role models & make sure we involved in all aspects of the growth. Bring in more of a variety of restaurants & night life.

Build walking/biking overpasses over 9/10 streets and 16/17 streets to connect center of SoDo to parks and other amenities. (**Picture drawn on card)

1) Tabitha is positioned to grow, stalled only by our inability to find sufficient employees. Most are entry level positions. Developing work force is critical: beyond just college bound are college graduates. Entry level "blue collar" (to use an antiquated term) are CRITICAL and vital to the community. 2) Tabitha employs a large number of single white parents, we want to find ways to help!

Build collaboration among schools and non-profit, plus public agencies to support families dealing with mental illness. Too often mental health is relegated to be considered "behavioral health." Children who deal with mental illness are not only dealing with behavioral issues, but cognitive physical challenges.

Revitalizing family owned houses in Lincoln

Have every 5th grade class "recycle" their excess children's books for redistribution to younger school classes. Build a plant conservatory and botanical garden in Van Dorn Park. Like "Teammates" arrange "Readmates"

Overcoming poverty starts with teaching basic skills to meet basic needs. The biggest difference in being poor in a small town vs. being poor in a city is that we always had food from our garden, harvested/frozen/preserved to be consumed year round. A community or school program to teach children to grow food will only be a benefit.

-Program aimed at keeping older youth from entering the justice system – job training, job placement internships or apprentice programs. –We need more services for juveniles needing mental health/substance abuse services. We lack treatment level group homes for state wards – especially those needing mental health help.

Form a business group to brainstorm about how to lift those at the bottom of the economic ladder to a position where they can make a living wage.

Affordable housing. Transportation services during non-traditional hours. Competitive wages. Increased capacity for early childhood education for children in poverty. Affordable childcare with non-traditional hours.



Bring the individual (all good programs) organizations together – cooperation, collaboration – not silo's- each with own rules, etc.

Great breakfast meeting, yet attendees still not representative of the Lincoln Community. How do reach more of our minority members, those living in poverty, those underpaid? Must get all involved.

Communities in poverty which are comprised of people of color need additional investment and attention. Just a few ideas: 1. Recognize and promote successes in these communities – there are many! 2. Require landlords to provide quality housing. 3. Engage in partnerships to support schools to be the hub of the community. 4. Be present in our communities. Show up, walk the neighborhood and dig in.

Support community-funded day care center, paying for quality care at a low cost to those in poverty

Find ways to focus more attention and funding on mental health issues.

There are many select sports for youth to participate in, in Lincoln. Many are cost prohibitive for youth in Lincoln. I would propose a foundation fund to develop such teams and allow for participation in those teams & sports.

Living wage adjusted beyond federal poverty but instead takes into account “real” community cost of living. Improve access to healthcare, early education, financial asset building for working poor. Showcase our diversity to improve new business relocation & improved conditions for New Americans.

Coordinated human service intervention systems between: agencies, lps, & government. Improved partnerships between government & agencies to increase \$ available. Understand that basic living & survival for our poorest residents is just as important for the success of our community is just as important as roads and sidewalks. Quit allowing the loudest & anti-tax voices to control the debate regarding spending. Continued & improved \$ for parks & the arts. More concentrated \$ into human services.

Our youth need more consistent & positive role models. My husband has taught in 2 different Title I schools & has fostered so many relationships with so many students. So many kids want so badly for someone to talk to & share with, but lack any positive role models who are consistently in their lives.

Better align community college with UNL and LPS –early credit models, -early compass testing. Increase college access and success programming supports. Build capacity of community leaders in distressed communities and better connect to mainstream power structures and decision-making bodies.

Workforce development or career-focused education programs for underemployed/working poor.

1. Develop East & South Bypass ASAP. Both are needed for both quality of life & economic development.
2. Develop a unique financing plan to extend trunk line sewer all the way to Highway 2 from east Holdrege area. A city grows only where sewer is available. This coupled with Bypass (East & South) will open a lot of available area for future growth. Lots of economic development will result from this. Could we use some sort of unique city-SID to finance?



Build pride and stability through a partnership between the City & LPS. –Cleaning up playgrounds, building community gardens, and improving housing adjacent to schools. –Developing programs that involve children, and families prior to the start of elementary school and long after kids have moved on to middle school. –Utilize the infrastructure of school buildings & grounds for community purposes & services.

-Fund after school programs and organizations and community centers to keep our kids safe and engaged and on the right path to success. –Re-visit funding for early childhood education and pre-school education programs so all children have a great start.

Identify, nurture and provide funding support for entrepreneurship education both in the schools and in extended learning settings (after school & summer programs). Center efforts around educating, engaging and empowering future entrepreneurs.

Use all possible procedures to raise the normal pay rate for jobs – not only in the city contracts but also in eligibility for TIF or other benefits; encourage other government and private institutions & NGO's to do the same. Publicize pay scales to shame businesses into higher wages.

Considering that low-income single mothers are over-represented in poverty rates, particularly child poverty, we as a community need to focus on the income disparities between men & women. We need to know the reasons why & address them. #1 IDEA: Greatly expand entrepreneurial opportunities for women. Women need to be better represented as business owners, as well as serving on corporate boards.

Required kindergarten – readiness assessment. Free developmental preschool for all children.

Advocate for extension of Medicaid benefits, which is essential for the well-being of children in need. That well-being is a necessary foundation for a successful education, which in turn makes academic success possible. Medicaid is an investment in prospering communities everywhere!

Family reading programs for low-income families (ex: teammates, Nebraska PrimeTime Family Reading Time). More mentoring programs like Teammates (or grow existing ones). Access to high quality preschool programs for everyone. Invest in LPS: before, during, after school hours. Connect non-profits, corporate, & government sectors to work together. Connect professional leaders, leadership groups with youth and with concrete projects related to Lincoln's needs. Break it down to specific groups of people working on specific problems; achieving tangible results step by step.

Continue providing a dynamic community that includes the arts. Public art, performance, theatre. Open the opportunities to youth through scholarship and transportation.

Support LES, OPPD, NPPD, Black Hills Energy, and Southeast Community College in creating a NE Energy Consortium including creating a "Get into Energy" track in LPS Career Academy.



Convene leadership of youth development organization (i.e. Boy & Girl Scouts, 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.) to determine specific audiences being served and to identify a joining plan of action to engage the children & youth who are currently not involved in any out of school/after school program.

Widely accessible quality early childhood education. Strengthening of Community Learning Centers. Increased resources/services for “middle years” (9-15). Accessible/affordable mental & behavioral health services. Strong prevention programs building protective factors for families.

Encourage fathers to be involved in children’s lives – work w/ father’s groups? Encourage parenting classes in schools, colleges & prisons & juv. Det. Centers. Work w/ Christian heritage. Encourage all groups & organizations to work together regardless of 1 or 2 differing opinions – all churches? Address legal issues – legal Aid Access 2 Justice Center which empowers people to help themselves. More awareness in schools so young people care about the poor & homeless – real stories. Empower and encourage people struggling or who have overcome some of the worst case scenarios. We need to get real #’s out – ex. People who have used benefits while working or to get back on feet & speak in Juv. Det. Centers, prisons, etc. More affordable realistic housing – smaller more efficient so single parents can afford – less importance on consumerism/ “Stuff”

Make Lincoln a place where everyone can prosper, EVEN the poorest of the poor. Peoples City Mission is our shining example! Share an example for our youth of loving one another – even others we may not like or want to care about. “Caring for the least will best feed the many.” Yes, yes, yes – pres. Hank Bounds.

I am particularly interested in helping and nurturing youth. Of those children in poverty, at least 20% have primary dyslexia (actual brain difference) and at least 50% have secondary dyslexia caused by lack of stimulation through reading stories, expanding experiences and lack of general participation in community activities. We can make a difference with early and appropriate education.

Address family poverty. Start with the kids support group. Business support – job provided after training.

Maintain & strengthen community learning centers. Organize community & all Lincoln charitable foundations in coalition to adopt, promote, & fund P-L interactives

We need more funding and growth opportunities for our CLC programs. I do not think people understand how influential this program is to younger children. Especially those in poverty.

*Community support – strong after school programs for all grades & schools, to ensure the academic as well as social success for our youth → because of the high costs of such programs, many of these kids are being denied the opportunity to succeed. *Free education – or reduced – no more tuition hikes → or free associates education, etc. *Parenting classes – more accessible for all family types. *Reconsider how we test our children.



Accessible training for leaders & community members on how to be active & successful communities. More accessible transportation. Provide more opportunities for communities to come together. More free tutoring services for students. Connect the University community with the surrounding communities that are in poverty – they are next door to each other.

Collaboration between all organizations & businesses & schools/ community learning centers to provide programming for youth in order to build assets & get them thinking about their future. Increase CIC budgets – budgets would help: provide scholarships for youth, bring in educated staff, increase field trip/ guest speaker opportunities

Population growth of 19% might be viewed as a positive however I notice 68% growth in non-white and also 89% increase in children in poverty. Children in poverty is a huge concern which may affect vital signs years down the road. Are those in poverty in Lincoln experiencing unintended pregnancy at a disproportionate rate? I would think so. I'm not sure how our city can address this but prevention is always cheaper & better in the long run than treatment (can you tell I'm a women's health/ family health professional?). Children in poverty impact our public schools. Whatever we can do to support families and impact children at the earliest ages will pay off year after year.

Limit the obsession with standardized test taking in the public schools in favor of more emphasis on enrichment activities, career exploration, community service and mentoring. Starting in elementary school, offer children an opportunity to learn what it's like to start a business. Encourage training for emerging neighborhood and community leaders and coach younger leaders for organizational and elected leadership positions.

Every person on the steering committee should find a replacement of another person who is at least 20 years younger – then the older person should serve by supporting their mentee in whatever way necessary. Old leaders moving out of the way is a hallmark of successful communities – Time for Lincoln to add this in the "success" column. Fully fund all pre-school programs necessary to include every eligible child.

Community centers for youth to interact. Educate Lincoln community on outreach options to help, volunteer, understand ways to help. Daycare/preschool program education for youth in poverty.

Help increase city budget to help w/ increase of minimum wage & increase licensing requirements. Make private and public services that provide help for poverty families.

Make it simple! Easy! To send a contribution! In weekly (Mondays?) "mail" or "paper" have sheet of peel off addresses for envelopes (charities could pay for the msg "labels"??

1. CLC's across the city 2. Job training w/ industry and where people are. 3. Improving public transportation – allowing kids to get to programs across city 4. Addressing safe & affordable housing needs 5. Encouraging development of core neighborhoods as vibrant places to live & work



Ensure access to affordable health services for women & families such as contraception & other preventive healthcare (cancer screenings, well woman exams). Reproductive healthcare is essential to ensuring economic security & lowering the number of unplanned pregnancies.

Continued focus on youth initiative and keeping graduates in Lincoln and state. Providing resources to people living at or below poverty is important, but focus needs to be on breaking the cycle through education and how to fully use the resources given (ex. Food distribution – provide nutrition & cooking classes). As the state capitol, Lincoln needs to be the “ambassador” for all Nebraska communities.

Help Lincoln work on poverty issues. Support education (public). Help with prison programming. Help with mental health programming. Kids in poverty are important but must remember the ADULTS in poverty as well (help kids but they go home to a mess!). Generational poverty.

“Paid Maternity leave” “Paid sick leave” Provide support for working families. –families affected by state “cliff effect” caused by state & federal rules. “Move free health clinic” “group insurance for Lincolnites” “Assistance w/child care” by employers” People want to work. But are forced to turn down pay raises & increase in hours because lose all benefits. If state won’t help – how can we help them get off assistance and out of poverty?

Use Bridges Out of Poverty resources more extensively to educate people of all economic classes and provide strategies for healthcare, business, social services and education. Fledgling initiative currently resides at Lincoln Food Bank.

Parenting classes – parents are so easy to neglect their children because of lack of skills, lack of knowing what their rights are when disciplining their children. > Special education could be enabling students to put more effort than what they are required.

There needs to be more community collaboration on developing programming, services & opportunities for young adults coming out of the child welfare system & low income families. More opportunities for those youth will help to break the cycle of generational poverty & reliance on the system.

1. Encourage youth to get involved in their community, their schools, churches, and organizations. 2. UNL and City of Lincoln have done a good job in a partnership for more jobs. Continue to match the strengths of UNL students to the needs of Lincoln. Attract more professional job opportunities. 3. Provide more economical housing opportunities.

Replace and grow blue collar jobs in Lincoln and increase wages for employees in all jobs. Reduce poverty for families by strengthening CLCs, school funding and reduce education costs for higher education and post-secondary edu. (Community colleges). Support neighborhood development in Lincoln (reclaim failing/declining neighborhoods). Make hunger a back-burner issue in Lincoln by reducing the number of hungry children and families.



How is Lincoln addressing the predictable effects of climate change, for example, intense rain events of the kind experienced recently, reduced water available from the Platte because of loss of snow melt in the Rocky Mountains, and increase in pests like the Emerald Ash Borer, new in Iowa, threatening a substantial part of our tree cover.

How do we provide more jobs with living wage for uneducated workers? Can we provide incentives for employers of uneducated workers for the workers to complete their education? Can our higher education institutions provide programs to incentivize elementary school students AND their parents to both receive a higher education? How can we be more intentional to bridge the racial divide?

Increase financial & management support of community learning centers (CLC's). In addition to Title I funding, philanthropic & private funding should flow thru this pipeline as an outreach to identify with the Vital Signs.

Target the 1 in 5 Lincoln kids in poverty AND their families. Provide comprehensive support to them that includes social services, mentorship, tutoring/literacy support, financial literacy, and job readiness programming. To me, it's about wrap-around supports to the most vulnerable families, and getting them able to fully participate in the workforce. This requires business, nonprofits, neighborhood/community groups, and philanthropy.

Consider contacting an organization like Excelby5 – this org. knows how to connect issues to resources.

More programs for Families that would like to learn that are not from here.

Problem #1. This one is the easiest of the three to achieve. Preschool for all children as well as after school programs the children will attend. Problem #2. Growing the local economy needs an educated population, state of the art infrastructure and a fair tax code for employees and employers. Problem #3. Listen to residents and Neighborhood associations to find out what needs to be done. Make sure all ideas that would improve the quality of life be implemented. Please feel free to share these ideas. Thank you.

One policy change I believe could be very beneficial is for Lancaster County to actually expunge police contacts when individuals successfully complete Diversion. Individuals are told that if they complete Diversion they won't have a conviction record (which is true-they were never convicted) BUT the County Attorney's Office (or whoever has the power) refuses to take these CONTACTS off the records. Therefore when individuals go to get jobs, these show up on background checks and even though they were never convicted, the contact alone keeps them from securing jobs due to employer policies. I am aware of one such situation where a young man had completed diversion, substance abuse treatment, received a higher ed degree and could still not get a job at Jiffy Lube because of this policy. It does not give individuals opportunity to move beyond bad choices made and start fresh and certainly isn't much incentive to stay clean and law abiding! Other counties do not follow this same policy and do remove contacts from records. This policy of Lancaster County is extremely harmful. Contacts follow people



forever and it does not matter that they may have totally turned their life around or made an incredibly unfortunate choice as a young person and not reoffended , it holds them back from being successful and able to secure employment and be a contributing member of our community.

Create/bring in more family friendly activities. Other than a zoo for smaller kids, a children's museum for smaller kids, parks and an arena that will cost you and arm an a leg to take your entire family to a show there is not much to do with your family. I know that's not easy trying to find family entertainment that not only makes the parents happy but also the kids, but I feel like we could do a little better as a community.

Youth - more access/transportation/resources for Head Start and Early Head Start; More support for Family Literacy programs; More options for affordable child care so that families can work or go to school - pilot program for free or very inexpensive child care; keep Food Bank backpack program strong - grow it; LPS district-wide policies for medically accurate age-appropriate sex education; targeted efforts to help minority students graduate; building business support and partnerships for LPS Career Center; Harlem-model project to support parents and kids from birth to graduation; more options for affordable housing - lots of housing projects but very few will serve moderate or low-income families Economic - protection for LGBT citizens in workplace, housing and public accommodations; scholarships for low-income adults to get 2yr degrees or professional certifications; building business support and partnerships for LPS Career Center; update broadband infrastructure Quality of Life - promote open workplace giving campaigns so that Community Services Fund is an option for more employees because this workplace giving option supports a broader more diverse group of non-profits; major support for new Downtown Library; keep Streets Alive strong; solar power for city buildings/schools so that energy needs are met with renewable sources and energy costs are lessened which would allow those funds to maintain quality of life projects/services

I think that we should make Lincoln a better and safer place. I think that Lincoln can become a better place by having more job Opportunities, and that would reduce the risk of proverty, we can make Lincoln a better place

Establish a 24/7 hotline where anyone in Lincoln can call or email a request for help or information about available resources. No limit to the types of questions allowed. The hotline staff (very few paid, mainly trained volunteers) would refer the person to the appropriate public or private resoures and, if necessary, help make the connection. The hotline would have volunteers available in more than one language. This is not an expensive proposal as the cost of phonelines, website (email address), space and supplies are minimal as is the mostly volunteer staff. Though it may sound very broad and therefore not practical, I refer you to the national literacy hotline and national runaway hotline operated in Lincoln many years ago and the Reader's Digest article on the Lincoln-based national human service hotline (similar to what is being proposed here but only for Lincoln). If this idea is of any interest, information on the previous hotlines, including operational details are available.



Tap into the immigrant/refugee population. One of their biggest barriers to gainful employment is lack of English speaking ability. My suggestion is for private foundations in Lincoln (such as LCF) to provide grant funding for English classes for this specific population. The graduates of this program should then be linked with area employers. The graduates of the program could also be required to "pay back" the grant via community service.

We might take a look at ihaveadreamfoundation.org and its affiliates across the country to see how they are making a positive impact on helping children of poverty seek higher education. The affiliate in Des Moines, Iowa (desmoinesdreams.org) has adopted Findley Elementary as a Dreamer Academy. Each student at Findley has a college savings account set up by the foundation. They receive money in their account for completing specific milestones each year (parent attends conferences, child completes a book log, etc.) The foundation also connects students with Big Brothers-Big Sisters, free tax filing service, high school diploma equivalent course for parents, health care, housing access, and partnerships with universities in the area.

Include more voices from underrepresented communities in your planning committees - especially from Lincoln's older and newer refugee communities.

My comment is about recycling. I'm not sure where the council and the mayor want to go with the comments I read in the paper, but want to know how it affects those of us that already recycle and have been for decades, and have been good stewards. Just on our block alone, we must use 4 or 5 independent recycle groups. And, to make it mandatory for trash haulers to add recycling, makes me wonder what will happen to those already in action. Decades ago the city did a survey to find out what we wanted to do for recycling, and I remember putting through my desire to have what Oregon and Washington State had been doing. If you don't recycle, you pay more. You pay for the weight and number of waste cans you use. The more you recycled, the less you paid. It really isn't fair to ask someone who recycles already to pay more. I'm tired of driving around the neighborhood and seeing the amount of waste, cardboard boxes, etc, that is on the way to the dump. And, Christmas trees! The city makes it easy to recycle those, (unless of course you have no truck, etc. for hauling it away.) If they had to pay more, the incentive would be to recycle. My recycle bin has a chip in it that calculates weight and keeps my account; it would seem easy for other companies to do that same. Anyway, just would like to see whatever new legislation comes to be, should be fair to those of us already on board, and have been doing the right thing for a long time.

Greater focus on health disparities e.g., type 2 diabetes. Lincoln is an ever-growing community with a diverse population. We need to increase the understanding of these challenges throughout our community. Differences in access to health care and health education across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups should be of interest.



We need to come up with solutions to food deserts in Lincoln. Incentives, ties of a new big box to keeping a smaller one, a provision for owners to break the "no compete" clause when they find a new tenant. Study the Lincoln trends then find solutions.

We have been pleasantly pleased that our neighbor Omaha gives free parking spaces to people who have handicapped parking permits. We would like to see Lincoln treat that very special group who has a tougher time attending community functions, this little thing might make it easier for that group to venture out more often - knowing they are cared about and given just a small token for their daily obstacles they endure daily. Majority of this group will be your retirees that need some break to be enticed to continue to live in Lincoln. The southern city have already taken an activity attitude to give them little breaks to make you feel wanted and welcomed to be a part of them. Is it not time, Lincoln learn and try to maintain a rich group of people who have time to spend their money around Lincoln; with giving small token to feel important.

Toward a "Prairie Boulevard" and Making Lincoln the Nation's "Prairie Capital" City planners have made a good decision to widen NW 48th street but to move it somewhat eastward, away from residential housing, between West Adams and West Cuming Streets. The reasons for the eastward move are to lessen traffic noise, reduce right-of-way impacts, and provide traffic benefits at Arnold Elementary School. One good idea should lead to others. By routing the corridor through a mostly vacant area of Air Park, this part of the street could become a scenic boulevard. It already has admirable landscaping, although the loss of Scots pines in recent years has diminished the original vision. A revised landscape plan featuring native prairie flora could be combined with an effort to make this Lincoln's "Prairie Boulevard." It would be the route Lincolnites take to nearby Nine-Mile Prairie, a tallgrass prairie on the National Register of Historic Places. Future developers of businesses along this corridor could encourage enterprises compatible with environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and horticulture, recycling, and outdoor recreation, as well as production, distribution, and consumption of healthy food to fight Nebraska's obesity epidemic. Non-profits and indigenous businesses could also be encouraged. No chain stores. Walkable paths would connect businesses; parking areas would demonstrate the feasibility of integrating pervious surfaces into an overall landscape plan. In other words, this would be a big departure from North 27th Street and its ilk. Lincoln has enough such places; it's time for something different. The NW 48th corridor area is also overdue for re-naming. "Air Park" calls forth the old Lincoln Air Base, which has long since come and gone. Before there was an air base there were prairie hills sloping down gently to an unusual salt basin. Orchards dotted the area around the corridor, which was home to many of Lincoln's pioneer families and early leaders, like the Hartleys, the Mearses, the Fladers, and the Cheneys (not those Cheneys; the other ones who came from New York, loved Nebraska, and gave their name to the rural school that educated the children along the corridor). A Farmer's Club brought area families together socially. Orchardist Ellis Hartley became Lincoln's first superintendent of schools. Later, NU ecologist John Ernst Weaver and his protégé Theodor Steiger took a scientific interest in the remaining tallgrass prairies on the nearby heights. In 1929, Weaver wrote the definitive book on prairie plant science, and in so doing established himself as the nation's foremost authority on North



American prairies. These citizens are as worthy, or more so, of commemoration than is General Henry Arnold, after whom much is named but who apparently never set foot in Lincoln. Why not Weaver Heights rather than Arnold Heights? And why do we have a school, of all places, named after the man who advocated fire-storming civilians in WWII? Lincoln should take the opportunity to make itself into the Prairie Capital of the United States. Lincoln has no mountains or seashores, but it has remarkable prairies. Three prairies around Lincoln have much potential for greater visitor draw: Spring Creek Prairie near Denton, the newly-expanded prairie at Pioneers Park, and Nine-Mile Prairie. Fortunately for the latter, most of the surrounding landowners are committed to creating the necessary buffer zone around this jewel of nature to protect it from the type of adjacent development that would destroy it. The University of Nebraska and the Lincoln Airport Authority are major landowners in the area. The city and the county should take the lead to protect and enhance the Nine-Mile Prairie environs, as has been done for the saline wetlands to the north of the city, another worthy prairie attraction. No other city with surviving prairies can claim such an illustrious scientific heritage that attaches to them. It was Lincoln that produced three of the world's greatest botanists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries: Charles Bessey, Frederic Clements, and John Weaver. Clements was not only world-class, his theory of dynamic ecology and plant succession dominated botany throughout the world for decades, and still serves as a practical approach to grassland and range management. It does not reflect well on Lincoln that until recently, Clements' ashes lay unmarked for years in Wyuka Cemetery. That oversight should now be corrected, and one way to do it would be to brand (that's the vogue word) Lincoln as the the nation's Prairie Capital. From one good idea, many others can spring. Opportunity awaits.

Affordable housing for families. Good paying jobs for parents. A strong stable middle class is necessary to provide kids a stable and nurturing home environment. Lincoln has too many low paying jobs with not much in the way of benefits. Parents can't spend time with their kids if they have to work 60+ hours per week just to pay the bills.

We need to focus on our youth graduation rates and our young children's education, but if we don't address the real concerns of poverty, unsafe housing and substance abuse, the greatest education in the world won't be able to make a difference. When our children are living in chaotic and traumatic home situations, they are unable to focus during a school day. We need to have more community resources to address these issues so our children are ABLE to learn and focus at school. It would be beneficial for anyone in a public position of power - board members, senators, city representatives, etc. - to actually go and spend time in the homes of individuals I'm talking about. Actually EXPERIENCE this rather than talk and make decisions about something they literally have no idea about. Example: Have individuals in these positions take the Lincoln bus system everywhere for at least 6 months. That alone is a very eye opening experience that so many of our families depend on.

Youth services beyond sports are very limited. Back in the day 60's there was KeenTime dance for all in high school at the antelope pavilion. Representative from each high school meet at the city council room to plan events, select the bands etc. much fun.. Music is a big part of the youth culture so music events are important. dances and bring in musicians. Art events where art is displayed but also materials are



provided so groups can participate in painting, clay, photograph etc. Book clubs would be interesting and thought provoking. Pool terminamates, card games, chess, bowling, darts, Cooking classes for a small group in a restaurant and serving teens...like teen night. Partnering with private sector would be interesting and provide new opportunities for the youth.

I love the fact that you are focusing on the youth and economy of the community. However, please make sure that we don't lose track of the folks that have lived their entire lives here -never left and continue to stay even if the costs to live here are higher than other locations in the country. The elderly population of Lincoln deserve to be safe, remembered and enjoy the city that they helped mold into what it is today too. Living on a fixed income today is such a challenge, we all need to keep these folks in our hearts and minds.

Organizations in Lincoln who provide federal, state, and local grant dollars to social programs that support individuals families, and children, whether that be through housing assistance, food/nutrition assistance, childcare, etc., should be reviewed. After having worked with many of these organizations, there's an overwhelming theme to all: They all give out a lot of financial and other support without requiring a great deal of accountability from the recipients. Social programs for families, individuals, and children in need should be meant for temporary assistance. The same families should not be receiving the same level of support for 5-10 years running, which tends to happen with a lot of social programming. If that's the case, then the recipients aren't trying to help themselves and/or are not making adequate attempts to improve their situation. Unfortunately, the City has a growing population of social program recipients who aren't following through with plans to improve their lives or the lives of their children. One example might be to require all food/nutrition assistance recipients to submit a health plan. This might mean they have to show a plan for purchasing food, preparing food, or feeding their children. Organizations who provide the assistance would then monitor that plan to ensure the recipient is following it. If the plan isn't followed and the recipient is violating terms of the program, then no additional assistance should be offered. Another example would be to randomly drug test all individuals who receive housing assistance. If taxpayers and/or donors are paying for housing assistance, they should be able to monitor the appropriate use of that housing, and that means ensuring the recipient is being a good steward of their resources. Social programs need equal measures of grace and truth. Unfortunately, too many organizations in Lincoln have too much grace and not enough truth, so they're continuously taken advantage of, at the expense of taxpayers, donors, and the reputation of the stakeholders. Rebuilding these organizations' foundations with accountability would be a huge step in improving the lives and wellbeing of the most needy individuals in our community.

I am a downtown resident, and I walk regularly on "P" Street and throughout the downtown area. What strikes me most forcefully is how poorly we have maintained what we have built. I'm not talking about streets and sidewalks (although they could use repair as well); I'm talking about simple maintenance of planted areas. The trees and shrubs are in need of trimming; wood chips are allowed to spill out onto the walking surface, whole areas are filled with weeds. Even the recently completed "P" Street areas are neglected (the large urns lack plantings. for example). I realize that regular upkeep is labor-intensive and



expensive. But then why were so many "planted" areas designed in the downtown if we don't have the funds to insure that they continue to look good? Try walking on the west side of 12th street between Sartor-Hamann and the Grand Theatre and notice the condition of the planted areas; or the west side of 14th Street between Wendy's and the University. Frankly, there is hardly a full block in downtown Lincoln that looks properly maintained. A general clean-up would enhance the area; or what about inviting residents and businesses to share in the upkeep? I happened to chat with some visitors to Lincoln two weeks ago (they were here for the UNL Commencement and were staying at the Embassy Suites). I asked them about their impressions of Lincoln. Their response was discouraging to me: "Nice city, impressive downtown. But really neglected. Don't you guys care about how it looks?" I think we can do much better.

Look at Paycheck advance and short-term loan entities to make it more difficult to operate. Living wages need to be encouraged.

Educate women – provide quality affordable childcare. Employers providing childcare costs or partial costs. Have mentor program for children. Educate and make education more affordable.

Work towards making sure private businesses understand the impact that wages has on the community. Wages for low income individuals have been stagnant for far too long.

Raise pay. Focus on UNDEREMPLOYMENT. Mentor program w/ business members and current college/university students juniors and up.

Strengthen and build on the established out of school time efforts – CLC and all the other organizations providing these services. Support the move of these programs to middle school. Use this time – after school & summer – to provide expanded and differentiated learning around skill and career development. Do not do this without a strong network and support from the business community. Business must be engaged.

We need workers – trained ones. The elimination of out-of-state tuition at the University would attract future employees and future families to our state. Prospective companies wanting to open a facility in our region, see good education k-12, they see a good workforce, a low cost of living and a good quality of life. But, no available labor for their needs. The University would be a good incubator for fulfilling the future needs of our growing economy – not by itself, but it could be one component.

Partnerships between schools, healthcare providers, nonprofits to identify & support expecting families & early intervention to promote whole family literacy as part of pre & post natal care for before early headstart. Benefit for low education & foreign born parents & their children.

Invest in community organizations that support youth and work to shrink the number of youth in poverty.



1. Redesign StarTran – move central hub out of downtown & resettle it in central Lincoln. Create a hub and then move routes to a quadrant system. It is essential to have a usable bus system. Making most buses go downtown is wasteful & makes most routes unavailable to citizens. This important for low income people. 2. Provide childcare for workers! 3. Provide reading & vocabulary enrichment for 3 year olds.

1. Resource & community-wide volunteer income assistance program ensuring free tax preparation services for every low-income family/individual in the community. 2. Provide financial literacy services to each VITA site ensuring each recipient has access to sophisticated expertise. 3. Expand America Reads ensuring that each student reading below grade level has one-on-one mentor to help improve reading skills.

1. Get LIBA more involved. 2. Get Rank & File of Lincoln Chamber more involved. 3. Get service clubs more involved (i.e. Rotary-Sertoma). 4. Get major businesses to do Vital Signs special projects.

1. Take steps to make “Prosper Lincoln” personal with John Q Public 2. Can PTOs/ PTAs be a connector to ave citizen 3. Can employers be enlisted to “inform-educated EEs about Prosper Lincoln. 4. Somehow need to engage ave citizen in mid class affluent neighborhoods to engage.

Provide a dance “hall” on a regular basis showcase dancers, bands

Continue to find ways to support CLCs & partner with LPS

Youth: form a coalition between LPS, parochial schools, universities to be supportive of before school, after school and summer programs to show children they can aspire to higher standards.

Ensure success of community hope low-income federal credit union.

I have so many ideas that I will provide them on-line

I serve on the Family Services board. We have a “going” free school that loses money. If the building would sell, the free school would be gone. I think support for this program should be found. We want to keep low-income children. This program exists, running, and has a long history! We don’t have to create it but maintain it.

1) Invest in young children (before age 5). 2) Invest in mental health for “parents” and/or caregivers of young children – if adult caregivers are not “mentally” healthy -> children they care for will not be ready to learn in school. Thank you! This is exciting!

Higher ed coordination for programs, resources, & faculty.

Be more involved in our schools – more visits to schools by the community leaders –less testing in schools and more learning



Grow workforce to support economic expansion – find ways to import talent while nurturing our youth – especially those at risk.

Lincoln needs to focus on the root causes of some of the foundational & underlying problems in our community. This means we need to systematically address mental health & illness in our community. This issue & its prevalence in all aspects of our community is a root cause that needs to be attacked.

Youth: increase physical activity requirement, decrease testing area requirement and focus on teaching, and commit & encourage volunteer & civic participation.

Education is the great equalizing element in society. Providing high-quality, free or reduced childcare and preschool programs start children off on the right foot. It also allows parents freedom to seek high quality employment to improve their family's lives. Programs like this work three-fold to improve poverty, employment, household incomes, and childhood education. An investment in our youngest population would improve the entire community.

Important to make learning “cool,” fun, and relevant to young children to encourage studying and learning. To promote these objectives: 1) Establish “dream teams” in schools... starting in elementary schools. These teams would involve local workers who could describe the exciting features of a career in their field and hope important learning is to being successful in other fields. Encourage kids to dream! 2) Start “Academic Games” in schools as an addition to sports. We had these for or kids in the Stuart, FL school systems. Areas were math, word games, Presidents of U.S., etc. It made extracurricular learning fun.

Involve neighborhood groups, organization's boards & committees in filling the gaps. Identify gaps & communicate with these groups how or what they can focus on. Minority cultures/leaders need to be involved in city wide leadership. Identify specific leaders to be involved.

1. Collaborative low income housing communities that include quality child development opportunities as well as adult education opportunities. 2. More intentional connections between UNL and CLCs.

Investigate possibilities for broadening the property tax base, which helps maintain city infrastructure & education. Example: does the (downtown, especially) post office pay any property tax, or in lieu of tax payment, for its land & building at 8th and R? They are now renting space to private business and professional offices. Other tax-exempt property being used for for-profit it purposes?

Set up endowment from the contributions of the wealthiest corporate owners to subsidize child care for single mothers & fathers. Research policies that impact low income, single parent households & advocate changes. Hold weekly readings for low income areas for low income kids where they are likely to go – grocery stores & req. stores while mom/dad is shopping fire depts., police stations, corporations

Support our non-profit financially so that they can do their jobs. Engage with our youths at an early stage. Have the city rally behind all these ideas.



Develop/ formalize internship (summer) opportunities for Lincoln youth. Partner with local businesses to develop apprenticeship type programs that teach skills. Offer tax incentive to the businesses to encourage participation. Criteria for selection should in part be based on income level to ensure target youth are given priority. Ensure infrastructure for success by providing transportation, etc.

The construction of a new central library on the Pershing Block addresses and fosters each of the 3 areas that Vital Signs 2014 identifies as a need for our city. Libraries of the 21st century provide every citizen an opportunity for learning and addresses literacy and is a community gathering space.

There currently exists a shortage of construction trade skilled workers in this City & Region.

First – provide every person in Lincoln with the TAB we received at this breakfast – distribute thru every dept store, grocery store, every drug store. Second – seek legislation that would be Nebraskans an extra tax deduction for specific contributions to youth organizations of record in this state.

1. Develop strategies for businesses and their employees to become invested in and involved with children and youth. This facilitates awareness on the part of those who are privileged and this would create hopefulness (created by perceived opportunities) on the part of the children. 2. Invest in single mothers. Strong mothers more effectively rear capable children. Women who enjoy privilege (by virtue of education and income) are well positioned to support other women.

The inclusion of parochial schools (Catholic, Lutheran and Seventh Day Adventist) and their important contributions to the Lincoln Community is very necessary. We are blessed to have two excellent educational systems in our City Public & Parochial. We need to include both in our plan to move forward. Thank you.

Invest more in early childhood education. Welcome and encourage more international immigration to Lincoln. Encourage housing development, including at the edge of the city. Limit growth in city and county spending on operations, devote a larger portion of general revenue for infrastructure.

Transition services for high school graduates to career opportunities. Many graduate, especially low income, without any clear plan or next step. They don't know about TMCO, Verizon, Duncan, or other positions. Transition services for the many economic migrants that come to us from other states. Folks come here for jobs, something goes wrong, & they become homeless as they don't have a support network & are not aware of community resources & job placement services such as CAP or Center for People in Need.

Universal high quality preschool for all children. Early childhood literacy.

I'm interested in the possibility of a new central library. The Library Foundation has a proposal for sue of Pershing that is very interesting. Seems like that would meet your goals of making sure youth are successful, the community is strong & vibrant, and (in the long term) our economy grows. A library like



they describe is more than books – it's childhood education & activities, a gathering place, and lifelong reading.

Job creation and workforce development, a stronger workforce and better educated workforce is key to a better community!

Strengthen children/ family mental health services in Lincoln by merging separate entities to help reduce administrative cost related to fundraising, HR, accounting and other shared cost. This would allow additional funding for needed services. This is a vital need that is a solution to homelessness, prison overcrowding. We need direct intervention not just making changes to help future generations.

Just as organizations can adopt a stretch of road to collect litter why not put together six teams comprised of businesses, churches, non-profits, and others to adopt the six neighborhoods in extreme poverty. As a team, work with the neighborhoods to build a sense of community, caring for one another – conducting activities – community gardens, summer enrichment, activities for children & families, neighborhood cleanups, family events. Build a strong vibrant, caring community. Build stronger families. Also focus on building job skills. Important to have interface with community to set goals – build from the bottom up – community to be served needs to be a part of planning and buy into the project.

Prenatal care programs for low income parents. Additional pre-school programs for low income families.

With the number of refugees in the world reaching an all-time high, according to the UNHCR, Lincoln needs to establish a “welcoming center” to streamline and facilitate refugee re-settlement support services to help new refugees adjust to a life in the U.S.A. Keep Lincoln a “welcoming” city for refugees.

Encourage our business owners to provide their employees several hours every month to volunteer for community efforts – tutoring, serving, mentoring, physical labor, etc. “Parent Life” was just begun to meet with, training, mentor, educate, and hold accountable the young men in this community who are unequipped or uncommitted fathers. Efforts of this sort should be supported.

Each Lincoln elementary school should include preschool classes with trained teachers. In addition, bilingual classes should be added in neighborhoods with high minority/ ethnic diversity rate.

Provide learning/education toolkits for in-home daycares to help create a learning environment early for low income children. Create a partnership w/ LPS and Cedars or the Lincoln Libraries to bring education to low income families

Expand community corrections – especially Drug Court and other alternatives to incarceration. Paid family leave as a community wide value/policy. Pass Medicaid expansion. Continue to increase the minimum wage.



Transportation for youth to activity centers. Continue to build our fiber optic infrastructure. Further develop UNL East Campus. More development of education in trades. Continue the wonderful development and improvement of our park system – encourage even more public-private partnerships.

Add more Lincoln Learning sites to new schools (ask help from Kiwanis club of Lincoln) Build on existing organizations.

1. Focus on early childhood education. Work not only with the child, but the whole family. 2. Value physical education in the school systems to help address childhood obesity and overall wellness.

Develop a shared database of youth mentoring organizations (Teammates, BB-BS, etc.) and compare this to youth/children at risk identified by LPS. This will help ensure every child that needs a mentor may have one.

Teach children to read well after the first few months of formal schooling using phonics and only phonics first.

1. Pass expanded Medicaid coverage to Nebraska's less fortunate (statewide). 2. Allow "dreamers" to have drivers licenses so they can contribute fully to the community (statewide). 3. Do not allow discrimination on the basis of race, sexual orientation, etc. for employment, adoption, etc. (local)

Family planning – free contraceptives for all who want them – is it too political to include? Shame!
Work to achieve jobs with a living wage – share the wealth Tax Policy. Quality childcare needs addressed. Universal early childhood education.

Invite OLLI retirees to help put retired volunteers into every elementary school in Lincoln to work with children in low income homes that need a boost in to raise their grades. Utilize the League of Women Voters as you see the need. Raise the wages of low income people! Full time pre-school for those living in poverty. Read, read, read!

Get involved with after school programs. Offer more resources, time, and knowledge. Of course non-profits need money but more important for the kids that living in poverty that we serve at the Boys & Girls Club our kids need to see people in our community care about them, want them to succeed and believe they can.

Invest in CLC infrastructure in LPS schools by: -increase pay & benefits for direct line CLC staff -invest in parent advocates/mentors -increase home visits by school teachers or parent advocates lured through the CLCs -increase access for children in poverty to high quality preschool.

1. Community & youth – idea: create a coalition of agencies to address getting "working poor" parents/family out of poverty (low wage job): 1. Job counseling training –identify area & sponsor with jobs if "right" qualified –healthcare – nursing – tech-programs 2. Childcare – for working moms while training



3. Family counseling – parenting/drugs etc. 4. Funders – support to fund the above private foundation coalition

1. Engage children from low-income families to educate them in various community opportunities. 2. Open this endeavor up to everyone & work to keep it from becoming exclusive – that kills an organization from the inside out.

Families struggle to find quality childcare. A resource to help families find quality care. Quality analysis of those childcares is essential. LPS should move to year around school – then the community agencies can help fill in the break periods between seasonal breaks. The summer leads to learning gaps. Summer is difficult for families to find child care. Mentorship programs for women as they grow into all stages of life. Research the group that encourages vocab -> uses technology to vocab. Talk about equity and not just equality. Meeting people where they are and helping overcome barriers to success. Must break down data by ethnic/racial background b/c needs and root cause are different. Engaging families to help prepare their children for careers -> in a fun, engaging way! No nagging, boring talks. Engage people from all ethnic economic background in this process & every initiative

1. Strengthen & grow CLC's (LPS/City/nonprofits). 2. Strengthen & grow high quality early childhood education between LPS & the private sector. 3. Provide mentorships/ partnerships for first time or young parents. 4. Increased focus on addressing mental health & substance abuse issues across the age continuum. 5. Address the creation of an inclusive

We (all of us) not just the usual nominees/suspects should work to ensure that all children – racially, ethnically, religiously and authentically – are provided with a appropriated effective personal and institutional support at all ages and stages of their individual needs. This means that Lincoln, Lancaster County, NE and UNSA bipartisan leadership will have to abandon the failed Laffer Curve (tea bagger's chief economic basis for idiotic philosophical assumption) and personally those in elected office to do 180 degree turn in this post-Reagan gap. YOU WILL HAVE TO ADVOCATE FOR increased taxation I highest income &or stocks even though it will hurt me

Keep our Nebraska college graduates (UNL, NWU, Union College, SCC) in Lincoln upon graduation. We need more, new businesses. Those businesses need to provide Internship opportunities to these students to begin to build these relationships.

Support/expand neighborhood community centers in low income areas to support youth. Construction of all types (infrastructure, buildings...) has a huge economic impact.

As a Realtor, the number one request I hear from incoming newcomers is for more land. If our future city lots were plotted with deeper backyards, it would reduce our call for acreage sprawl. I like the trend for shared facilities – combining public schools w/ YMCA or public libraries. Expansion of Community Learning Centers across the city would have a huge impact.



1. Continue supporting access to health care for everyone. 2. Develop affordable and healthy housing developments for low and medium income families. 3. Encourage and push government to allow DACA children to get a driver's license, which will allow them to drive legally and safely with car insurance. 4. Develop opportunities for youth access to sports and physical activity. 5. Stress the importance and access to PE classes, sports, and physical activity from K-12 in the school. Academic standards are important but exercise prevents depression and mental health disorders in minority and people of color. 6. Huge need for mental health providers in Lincoln for low income and diverse populations.

Get mental health care & jobs for the homeless – Those that want to help themselves. Especially downtown. Work to ensure the underemployed have opportunities for advancement.

I would hope that Prosper Lincoln would support a new and vital SoDo. Now that we have Antelope Valley on one side and Haymarket on the other, the SoDo neighborhood is ripe for a new vibe similar to Omaha's Dundee. We need to examine housing stock to ensure high quality and economic diversity that meets both affordability, as well as the demands of persons who want higher-end properties near the vibrant, new downtown. All design should be architecturally appropriate and respectful of historic structures. A focus on Goodhue as a signature residential address is highly attractive. It's a pity to look south from our state house and the governor's residence and see the quality of residential property which presently prevails on Goodhue Blvd. and its environs. That area is, no doubt, less than impressive to persons and interests who visit our government, looking to invest in Lincoln and Nebraska. The slip-ins ruined the character of the neighborhood and simply have to go. It's hard to imagine how design standards could be enforced to fix that mistake. They should be replaced with well-planned, good design residences that serve as homes, not a means to drain value from property under the guise of providing affordable shelter. Bringing SoDo into the fold of success, like we have the area to the northeast and northwest, would reverberate through the City and benefit all three of the goals Prosper Lincoln has identified.

Keep investing in the Lincoln Public Schools! Education is the difference maker for everyone. Make sure all children have access to an adult, through better state social service programs.

Neighborhood Share Centers - Let's turn our public libraries into community hubs that loan out more than just books. They could loan out everything from puppets and games, to musical instruments and bikes, or even popular devices you can plug into your outlets to measure the electric usage of your appliances. The Lincoln public library would be a great place for a community to share more things, since libraries already have a record system set up for cataloging and lending.

Art in the Park - Our public art initiatives are always fun and beautiful (like the recent lightbulbs that have rolled out http://journalstar.com/news/local/giant-lightbulbs-illuminate-lighthouse-after-school-program/article_60178e99-c9d3-56c9-8e18-5f391a8b6db5.html). Once the 'bulbs' have run their course, it would be so cool to have all of these gathered and put into one location (like Pioneers Park).



How interesting and what a great photo opp if you had a hidden field of painted bikes (from the past public art initiative) or a collection of the beautiful bulbs.

There is a simple and effective way that has been proven to significantly improve all of these things; higher wages. Australia has a \$16 an hour minimum wage, and never experienced the economic downturn and recession that the rest of the world did during the past decade. A high tide floats all boats. Middle class workers spend the majority of their money. The upper class spends significantly less, proportionally. A strong middle class will increase sales of all products, requiring businesses to grow and hire additional staff. It's really common sense. Seattle Washington is an example of a city in the U.S. that has seen significant growth since increasing the minimum wage to \$14 an hour.

Provide access to quality and free pre-school for all children, good after school programs, affordable trade schools and college. Support ex-prisoners, with housing assistance, living wage employment, access to education, expand medicare, access to health and mental health care. Food stamps, and transportation.

broaden the outreach for pre-k cognitive and social skill acquisition for families receiving TANF reinstitute the Work Incentive Program from the 70's allowing families who are working to keep their benefits as they increase their income from employment. Eventually moving off assistance as their wages increase to a liveable wage.

I attended the breakfast and learned that children in poverty are behind a lot in vocabulary. Is there a way to make a huge movement with the libraries to partner with the schools to promote literacy??

More interns, apprentices and mentors means more jobs. Increased funding for mental health programs ie community support, supported housing, peer programs. More funding of the arts, ie gallery interns, resident artists, more churches becoming performance venues Bridge programs to ease and insure successful integration back to the community from jail or prison. Permanent housing for homeless. Train unemployed/underemployed in needed public works projects. Enable more owner occupied housing for lower income individuals/families. Let's build a stellar downtown library/community resource center - find an angel or large donor to stimulate this needed public building, make it an attractive jewel downtown. More public art, walking tours from one installation to another. Speed up the construction of the ice arena with consideration for a center for winter sports and activities for families.

I don't know exactly what would get this started, but it would be so nice to get a food truck culture to flourish in Lincoln. Not only would it help put Lincoln on the map for great cuisine - food trucks are a great entrepreneurship opportunity for all walks of life and could really help foster a more cohesive intercultural community. All of the successful food truck cities seem to allow them to congregate in a central location near a business district and it would be really fun for O Street or Haymarket night life to allow them to operate until the bars close.



I think Lincoln for the first time ever already has everything it needs to be successful/grow/strong/vibrant. The biggest problem holding Lincoln back is marketing all of Lincoln's great things to people inside and outside of the community. Between the parks/trails, Railyard/nightlife, sporting events, shopping, restaurants, etc. there is something awesome about Lincoln for everyone. I would like to see more effort spent on marketing and advertising Lincoln's strengths. That would ensure the success of the city.

Investment in growing ideas. The most significant statement and investment that Lincoln can make at this juncture is the development of an innovative City/Central Library, that reimagines the idea and execution of "libraries" in the 21st Century. We have the people, the talent, the ideas, and the innovation WITHIN our community to set the bar on how community investment in ideas can help grow opportunity, vision, and innovation to the people that live in Lincoln and the next generation. Throw the doors off whatever it is that you think about libraries, and consider that libraries existed before books. They are repositories of, and engines of, IDEAS, POTENTIAL, and GROWTH. Maybe we need to throw the library name out the window? I don't know. I do know this. We have invested in our recreations, NOW is the time to invest in creation of ideas. That starts with a place that embraces knowledge, learning, and the expansion of opportunity. Maybe this Idea Place has "Maker Spaces", or Recording Studios, or access to Audio Visual editing suites. Maybe it is the first step of the entrepreneurship narrative. Growing from the civic Idea Space, to co-working, to incubators, to fully fledged businesses. Maybe it is place with meeting rooms, and recital halls, that allow our arts to have a space to grow, and our artists a place to create. Maybe it is a place where people can go to participate in online learning and gain the next IDEA and skillset that they need to provide the kind of innovative employees our businesses need. Maybe it is the space where our community can come and learn to code, and create ideas in virtual space. Lincoln needs a statement on the value of innovation and ideas. These are the economic drivers of the next generation. The communities that have these spaces for ideas will be the winners in the next set of economic competition that is coming.

There is one key ingredient that Lincoln is missing, that would propel all three themes above. BIKING. And not just bike trails for weekend recreation, although those are lovely and certainly coming along. I mean bike lanes. On busy streets like O St., and 48th St. and 84th. And by lane, I mean six inches higher than traffic, and even better - with a parking lane for cars in between. SAFE bike lanes. You want to attract educated talented people to Lincoln, and more importantly, keep them here? Give them the opportunity to bike to work and incorporate movement into their everyday lives. The results, conducted by cities that are leaders in the biking movement are measured - happier people, less congestion, less obesity, and less money spent on road infrastructure by the state. Nebraska wants to grow the UNL student population. Imagine if it was a car-free campus, and the majority of students were on bikes? Imagine the marketing potential of being a biking leader in the United States for a movement that is inevitable and gaining momentum? Lincoln's growth is unsustainable without providing a strong biking infrastructure. I promise you: If you build it, the bikers will come.



What can we do to enhance the look of our center islands on all of our major artillery roadways? Right now, we mostly have wild grass and weeds that are over grown and simply mowed down with all the residue just laying there. If I was visiting from out of town for events / deciding my kids college future or a prospective business owner.....this is not a positive look. It's too much of an industrial look. There's nothing classy and it's certainly embarrassing for all our out of town guests to see. Can't we lightly landscape them with drought tolerant plants, decorative rock and small ornamental trees to help take Lincoln to the next level?

Expand affordable educational & recreational options for families. Expand “non-food” supports to families living in poverty; shoes, clothes, services

Increased and affordable mental health services for children & families.

Continue to help families – affordable quality childcare before/after/summer. Beginning w/ Early Childhood & continuing through middle school (so kids stay engaged) CLC's, YMCA, private, LPS (EC)

1. Need to improve mental health care for students & families. It needs to also be more accessible and affordable. 2. Affordable childcare is needed for all. 3. More businesses need to be attracted to Lincoln

So many of our families struggle to find affordable care in order to move into the workforce.

Look for ways to engage youth and senior citizens in community projects together. Creating community and understanding amongst these groups could be mutually beneficial. –teaching skills, values, life experience –open possible door for work opportunities –pride in community and vibrancy & history

Neighborhood based sports & recreation programs available to all areas of the city. Some students lack access due to financial constraints of access to transportation.

Neighborhoods need quality, affordable day care for pre-Kdg and school age children.

Support a strong education for all kids with continued diversity of options for kids. Example (Career Academy w/ SECC)

Community Learning Centers realizing their full potential – wrapping around each child – PreK-> coming back as adults to give back –mental health –child care –enrichment, reteaching –nutrition –sports –parenting classes

Mental health services more available for young children & families. Feed the hungry -> increase community partnerships in programs like Backpack.

To increase the success of students in poverty or families dealing with hardships, we need pre-k opportunities for all families. How do we raise the money or use community resources for this? Parents need training & kids need access.



Universal preschool education – all preschool-aged students should have access to early childhood education in Lincoln

Our community needs to assist high school grads navigate post secondary schools & choose careers that best fit their strengths

Enhance early childhood programs

More mentoring for youth who are living in poverty. Giving children tools to help them be successful in school – after school clubs, learning or education help/support at school after hours when children are alone at home without parental support/ help with homework

We need more quality early childhood care centers. These need to be free or very affordable to low income families.

Active Backpack Program. How do we feed children in June, July, August when school is not in session?

Recruit more volunteers for the teammate mentoring group or Big Brother/Big Sister programs. Recruit more volunteers to help those in need – such as clinic with a heart. Provide family mentoring sessions when families mentor each other.

Early childhood for all students. Affordable and quality day care.

Increase # of businesses in Lincoln – to provide a greater source of quality jobs/ employment. Increase # of daycares – quality and affordable.

Continued emphasis and growth in mentoring & support for youth who need this. Key supports for them when they may not have this support in their current family situation.

Identify problem properties and act quickly to eliminate issues. This improves the quality of a neighborhood and the perception in turn impacts safety, etc.

Create Family Literacy hubs throughout the city. The hubs would follow the same components of Family Literacy. Businesses & colleges can align both education and support to our families. Also think about adding a GED program as a part of Family Literacy.

Affordable daycares. CLCs more affordable.

More & better affordable day care & pre-schools. Use more churches for starting day cares & pre-schools.

Keep improving LPS to ensure inclusiveness & high academic achievement. Make K-16 education a full partner in combatting poverty & its effects on children. Make state & local governments a full partner in combatting poverty. Demand better from our policymakers on every level.



Engage more people from all diversity groups | this conversation.

1. We need to find ways to bring meaningful jobs to the areas of Lincoln that are underdeveloped. 2. Not everyone needs a college education but everyone needs skills, career academy is an excellent way to activate skills that college may not often. 3. Continue to nurture our public private partnerships that have worked out well in the past several years.

First of all – thank you for a great event! I was most struck by Dr. Hank Bounds statistic that a person's 3rd grade reading level could determine whether a person would end up in the prison system. Also, how a child in poverty has a much smaller vocabulary than a child who isn't – by thousands of words! My idea: develop a program for K-3rd grade partnering with Lincoln Public & Parochial schools & volunteers to mentor with vocabulary & reading. It could be during the school year but also in the summer. This would help enrich the lives of young kids & maybe give them the boost they need to be successful with their reading.

Fly Lincoln – need good air service for economic growth. Do double duty in marketing the Lincoln airport, and encourage people to fly from that city.

I think the community needs more programs like Boy Scouts to support at risk youth. This would teach at risk kids strong ethical life skills.

1. Help Lincolniters help protect our environment and resources by encouraging the City to provide low-cost curbside (no sort) recycling. 2. Begin volunteer efforts to tutor 3rd graders to become strong readers (like the Mayor's program in KC) (Turn the Page KC)

As a community, we need to advocate to the unicameral the need for strong fiscal support for providers of mental health services to our most vulnerable citizens, as: there is a strong correlation between poverty and mental health issues & there is a strong connection between mental health and physical health.

I confess I don't have any innovative ideas. Creativity is not a strong suit for me. What I do have is ambition & energy & a desire to get involved where I can be of help. I am a young retiree with a background in commercial food service. I love Lincoln & would like to have some small part of what I am sure is a bright & prosperous future. Thank you.

Heartbreaking info: young single mothers, third grade academics as a predictor of prison bed needs... Seems to me a divide & organize concept/ strategy needed to embrace a small segment of this population and support with specific resources (corporate, non-profit, neighborhood). Somehow people need to gain an understanding that it is an abundant world.

Preparing the currently unprepared child for school. –age 3-5, reading – family mentoring at Everett and McPhee year-round. –community, volunteers to read, prepare a meal, work with mom, open school.



Have two police people walk a beat somewhere between 1st & cornhusker to 27th & Van Dorn. Random beats.

I would be interest in knowing how we have worked with the Parochial School System. What education is given to the different culturals in our community so they know what is appropriate in our culture.

1. Look @ West Virginia Promise Scholarship & possibly more towards adopting something similar. 2. VIP relationship w/ local community center/ day care programs similar to that w/ LPS.

Hire more elementary school teachers. Those early years of learning to read & write are essential in many ways to improve numbers of less poverty. Higher education. Better employable (down the torch) etc. etc.

Teammates-type mentoring for young, vulnerable families. More collaborative community support of immigrant families – i.e. literacy program at west Lincoln. Focus on fixing things at home instead of all solutions at school. Universal pre-K to enhance school readiness.

Tax breaks for trade jobs/ apprenticeship. –welders (shortage) Bison example –coding/ computer programming –electrician –plumbing

Increasing home ownership. Encouraging pedestrian & bike transportation to core neighborhoods. Continue to encourage growth of bike trails and public transportation –bus loops? Looking at other cities.

More community/ school partnerships so that all children have an opportunity to participate in summer programming for extended learning, health, meals, positive relationships, and safe/nurturing environments. Scholarships for adults to earn admission to SECC.

Partnerships with our schools – especially elementary – to keep gyms and playgrounds open and safe for our children – 7 days per wee, 12 months of the year.

Provide educational/ safe activity (?) programs – outdoor activities – teach social skills. Job training programs. Volunteer opportunities. Lincoln has a large # of homeless people – job training – mental health assistance/medications filled if needed – job skills training – jobs – work with companies to hire this population to end(?) the repetitive cycle of homelessness.

Create ways for business, Chamber of Commerce, government & social services to collaborate around common goals & interests. Round tables, facilitated discussions, synthesis of related research, etc. Include people of poverty in the conversation.

Could we have conversations to find better ways to make decisions that “are in the best interest of the child” as it related to where a child lives... with blood family, group home, foster parents, etc...

*City-wide Free wifi. Beofre/after school/ summer programming for kids 6-18 yrs. old.



1. Training for adults & youth for jobs that require specific skills that can increase income (free cost). 2. Support for families for social emotional issues. 3. CLC during the school year and summer programming.

Mental health services more readily available to more people.

1. More support & opportunities for individuals 18-24. –mentorship & skill building for people entering the workforce by employers –increase in higher wage employment opportunities –increase in leadership opportunities for diverse individuals. Recruitment, growing our own. Ultimately – we have to embrace & address diversity & equity as a community. 2. Increase collaboration between schools – city gov – business – nonprofits – more transparent – invite everyone to the talk. CLCS!

Invest in & provide for more opportunities for underemployed people to get training in skills that align with areas of job growth.

Create a community support focus on the poorest neighborhoods. Community leadership is needed since those neighborhoods are vastly mobile. How can these associations increase participation and focus beyond the basics.

Mental health support for students. Affordable childcare for families. Providing leadership for mobile communities – to build community – provide investors to help with this from stronger neighborhoods

More mental health services for youth (free and reduced cost)

Free mental health services for youth (similar to Clinic with a Heart). Support for neighborhoods in extreme poverty –consist of leadership for assoc. mtgs. –Clean up/update houses and school areas for kids.

Program for low/under employed people for free/affordable daycare – so their efforts to work & provide worth while.

There is a need to continue to explore more resources for mental health services. Part of this is to make these resources more easily accessible to students and parents.

Schools: Continue to offer classes in middle school that lead to a Career Academy Pathway to produce H.S. grads. w/ skills needed in the community workplace. City: provide education/ training opportunities for adults that are free to them. Employers fund workers to get further education.

I would recommend we focus on the 6 extreme poverty neighborhoods and focus resources in those areas for an extended amount of time. I would be interested on the reasons those neighborhoods because in such dire straits. How could we reclaim these neighborhoods.

Youth Success Provide linkages from high school to technical programs/community colleges, introduce businesses that hire these technical professionals to students. Less focus on four-year degrees that



aren't suitable for every person and/or every budget. It would be cool to see world class technical programs here in Lincoln. Build on what SECC is doing and make it better. A lot of their programs (like John Deere) have wait lists to get in. Economic Prosperity invest in infrastructure to support businesses – business parks, transportation improvements, water/sewer. Foster communities within a related field. Similar to entrepreneurship, start-ups or maker grounds. What if as a community we focused on bringing coders together or engineers, or nurses, or teachers, scientists, writers, actuaries... WITHOUT a political agenda? Many groups do this successfully (AMA, local non profits to name a few). What are we missing and what core segment could we engage to to help us attract and retain talent? How could it help people in those segments be more successful, expand their personal network and feel part of the momentum happening in Lincoln? Quality of Life As much as I curse bike lanes and singularly motivated bike enthusiasts, it's necessary to have the infrastructure, even in Nebraska. Strengthen and support our unique neighborhoods. Many communities wish they had strong neighborhoods. We have them, but tend to bitch about how entitled we think they can be. Bottom line, we all care about Lincoln. Find a way to harness that energy. Embrace our environment in ALL seasons. It's cold. It snows. No we can't ski here, but you can't ski in Minnesota and they have figured out how to embrace the cold and the beauty of winter.

Employment protection for gltbq. Ability to marry for gay and lesbian couples.

I believe you need to identify and nurture projects, people and passion that work to connect your three main areas. One way to do that is by connecting people to this place that unites us and using action to strengthen those connections. Building unity in the community is very much needed. We need to look for ways to continue to bridge the gap between UNL and the community between south and north Lincoln and between Lincoln's many different populations – youth, seniors, ethnic minorities, etc. How about connecting seniors with youth through a master-apprentice system? This could happen in many different areas – working trades, athletics, community organizing and more. What about creating a materials/service exchange between neighbors, neighborhoods, etc. This could be facilitated through schools, churches and neighborhood associations. More public and private partnerships are needed. How about a Prosper Lincoln fund that organizations, youth groups, and individuals can tap for innovative projects and initiatives? I can go on and on and look forward to getting involved. Thanks for the opportunity.

My son who is in kindergarten this year participated in the Lincoln Public School Preschool (formerly Excite) program last year for his Pre-K year. It is a wonderful program. The program teaches kids how to brush their teeth, provides breakfast and lunch and completely prepares them for their kindergarten year. It is my understanding that half the students are what the school considers "special needs" and the rest are "normal" students preferable at poverty levels. I applied to the Preschool program last year thinking that I would not get in because of our income level. I assumed the less fortunate would be breaking down the doors, trying to get in. Fortunately, for my family that was not the case and my son was accepted to the program. So, this leads to my questions, 1. Are the lower income families aware of the Lincoln public school programs? Our family entered Maxey school when my oldest son was going



into 3rd grade. I went on a tour of the school beforehand and nothing was mentioned on that tour of the preschool program. 2. The program provides to/from school. My son's class wasn't even full, could they bus lower income people from other schools that aren't too full? 3. There are monthly meetings with the child's teacher to help pull the parents into the education system. 4. Maxey, Kloefcorn and Pyrtle all offer Preschool. Is there really poverty or a need for this preschool in Southeast Lincoln? Is preschool available in the schools where poverty is an issue in Lincoln. (I am really ignorant when it comes to knowing the poverty areas of Lincoln.) 5. When I was looking into the program, I had a hard time finding the requirements and am still not sure the requirements to date, but the LPS website was not helpful on providing information on Preschool. I took the attitude of "apply, the worst thing they can do is tell you no". There was a lot of discussion of poverty not getting the education at the breakfast meeting last week. I believe this is a perfect step to begin the education process and it is not being used the right way or to its full potential. I feel bad that my child took a spot of a child that doesn't go to preschool at all because they didn't even know about the program.

Youth education and safety: incentivize good behavior. Penalize bad. Not so much on the kids, but on the parents. Try to put the consequences of failure on the people whose behavior you want to change, rather than on yourself. The government should regulate the readability of textbooks. They're all horrible. Even good textbooks are not readable by the standards of leisure reading or ad copy. Also, there shouldn't be one textbook for everybody. They should have different textbooks of the same material for different learning styles, different vocab levels, different educational background, etc. The reason that people try to do well in school and don't succeed every time is that the lessons are not broken down into a thorough list of logical and conceptual steps. There should be people who break things down into all the steps for a living. Our society is horrible at that, but we could improve if we made any focus on it. Plus, it would create jobs. The economy: You're not going to fix it. But what you really want is to take better care of the people who can't take care of themselves. The problem is conservatives. They don't trust liberals to be smart about providing social services. They also don't trust recipients of those services. You need to find ways to provide the services without giving the recipients so many ways to abuse or misuse the system. The waste isn't actually a big deal from a normative or moral standpoint. It is a big deal politically. You could get conservatives to go along with so much more of this if you could alleviate their concerns on this. How do you provide arts and cultural opportunities in Lincoln? More library funding, for one. But I would find the young kids who are good at art and performing, and I would reward them with cash prizes, vacations, prominent stuff that their classmates would see. That way other kids who have artistic abilities would see a reason to put the time into developing their craft. Tax breaks, competitions, free publicity, VIP access to visiting performers at the Arena, etc. Athletics has all those features built into it already. That's why it does so well.

Have 'visit business' days. Set it up so businesses can give a tour or explain what they do. Open eyes to new careers, new businesses, etc. This can be both trades [auto repair, mechanics, roofing, constructions] and professionals [architects, accountants, CPAs, politicians, interior decorators, police]. Y issue years ago was I didn't know or understand at 17 all the careers out there. I was older before I



was introduced to the world of finance and I loved my years as an associate stock brokerage.. Visiting more than one of the same type of business opens your eyes that there are difference between careers...example different types of architects; lawyers etc...

Prairie and food gardens at every school. Each subject area can use the space, and students can create practical plans to improve the Lincoln community based on the research they learn there. For biology and science, maybe student do field work at school then out at Spring Creek Prairie or Nine Mile, and they use the knowledge to propose new green infrastructure or management for Lincoln parks and road edges and construction. I think they same could be done in other subject areas from art to history, especially if we can get mroe paid mentors into the schools. Such a program would create love for place, Lincoln, instead of the typical "gotta move away for better things" mentality (just a product of being young, I know). As we improve how we understand natural ecosystems and process through every angle and lens possible, Lincoln will become a healthier, more sustinable, more welcoming place for all of us in the web of life.

One reason I became involved with City Impact is their programs provide a direct benefit to inner city youth. City Impact's goal is to help youth and families overcome poverty, homelessness, hunger, substance abuse, illiteracy, crime and hopelessness. I have to admit that living on the south side of Lincoln in the neighborhood I'm in, I started to become isolated from neighborhoods who struggle with poverty. Children raised in these situations many times do not have an adult in their life who can provide educational guidance. Young adults who lack educational and emotional support are more likely to end up with substance abuse addictions or criminal behavior. I love the community of Lincoln, but I want to see it improve. Improving the possibility of success of our youth is vital. City Impact's Impact Reading Center seeks to ensure every student in LPS is reading at or above grade level. This volunteer-driven program is developed in coordination with LPS, and is vital in providing support to LPS' goals. City Impact also has Impact Leadership Academy, Youth Leadership Development, and Impact Coaching where young people are empowered to become leaders and make a difference in their lives and communities. There are also programs to help young people make healthy choices and believe in themselves. The quality of young people are vital to Lincoln. We can't become isolated and forget about those who are less fortunate, or have struggles. Those children will become adults in our community someday, and we need to provide programs that will enable them to become valuable citizens of the community.

We should give some kind of awards out to people who volunteer many hours. Often the people who do donate time and talents are not wealthy!

Great breakfast. Please add me to mailing list.

To make all areas prosper, I believe a higher minimum wage - one a small family can live on - is the very best answer. I realize there are many opponents to, say, a \$15 minimum wage. Some of my responses to them: It's morally wrong that persons should work full-time or more and not be able to support



themselves. And, how much do those opponents pay out in taxes of all kinds to support folks who can't make enough to support their families? And their children?

I am taking this from a small brainstorming session. 1. Make good things better, 2. Huge launch event. 3. Modernize, 4. Sleek designs 5. Mobile lifestyles, 6. Always improve what we have 7. Enhance technology 8. Innovate 9. target millennials 10. have something new all the time. 11. provide numerous interships. 11. Create and cultivate family friendly places. 12. Affordable housing. 13. More recreational places available. 14. Quality education is key 15. Variety of entertainment 16. Monetary incentives 17. Housing that is kept up 18. Live interviews nationally 19. Promote national exposure 20. Use true testimonials, people. stories to invite growth outside of our area 21. Make sure we add airlines and keep the airport viable 22. Recruit youth from other markets 23. Brand ourselves and market it (koozies, hats,etc) 24. Lots of trade shows, show Lincoln as the place to be. 25. ADVERTISE 26. consistent recruitment outside of our area...folks who are thinking "outside the box"

I think adding a grocery store in the downtown/haymarket area would help everyone out! Less people (who live downtown) would need cars, and could then work downtown too if they had better access to some necessities like groceries.

I forgot a few more I just found... Keep potholes fixed. 2. Reduce taxes to incentive folks to stay (sales, income and property in particular) 3. Have the youth and "seasoned" interact or form a coalition. 4. make sure our pay is comparable to similar sized communities. 5. Kick backs of some kind to Nebraska college graduates to keep them here or bring them back. 6. Resolve our traffic issues especially "across" town. Build the beltway!

Access to reliable, affordable, convenient public transportation is a huge issue in Lincoln. For those who are not allowed a driver's license we are adding burden to their ability to have a job. To be remotely successful in Lincoln you must own a car (\$) and to own a car you have to have insurance (\$) and a license (age, ability, citizenship). Where is the incentive for those who cannot take the time to travel via public transportation because of child/family needs, physical disabilities, expense, and so on, to actually get a job that would provide stability? Transportation is a fundamental need for success yet it's a huge obstacle in Lincoln. It may look good on paper, but it is painful in practice. Bus service may be low but think of cause and effect - if the service isn't helpful there is no incentive to use it. The cause of low use is its impracticality to most families. Transfers may not be completely avoidable, but I would imagine there is some way to make a commute more direct and less time consuming.

Universal early childhood education. There is a bunch of research that show that \$ for \$ spent in early childhood is one of the best things a community can do to increase graduation rate and reduce crime and or keep youth out of jail.

There seem to be several 'cultural' events and happenings in the downtown Lincoln area, however, there is minimal parking available to attend these events. Especially when considering offering events to



youth from limited resource families, attention to the amount and cost of parking needs to be addressed to allow for more participation in these events.

sustainable energy (solar, wind)

Good Afternoon, I always enjoyed community gardens. This would provide knowledge of growing healthy foods, interaction with other individuals, and it is a way to give back to the community. Yes, I know we have some now, but in our local parks, churches, rec centers could use more. This would also create jobs, increase awareness with the needs of others and combine generations to learn from. Food could be donated to families in need and during the winter the planning months are great experience. This could include visiting farmers and helping them with what needs they could use.

We need to address homelessness and poverty in our community to make sure that youth are successful and our economy grows. A model like housing first currently in use in Utah would be a good way to strengthen our community. This housing should be city-based and independent of the Mission.

It is not an easy problem. Many people with special needs cannot go to college and want to have a job. Programs like Voice through LPS are good. But we need to have more opportunities for work after they are done with the work training programs where they can get paid even though they may not have the top skills that other people have. We have a gap for those who don't qualify for developmental disabilities and get those services and yet still can't compete in today's work environment. Even kids with developmental disability services want to have a job where they can get paid and want to be productive, but end up doing nothing or "volunteering" and doing work for free just to have something to do. We need to have a place for those people. Could they create art that is marketable? Could they stuff envelopes and get paid for the job and not by the hour. More opportunities need to be found.

It would be great to have businesses provide internships/summer jobs for youth in high school so they could get a look into the workforce and if they were interested in specific jobs as well as learn what it would take to get there. Another idea is to have community colleges partner with high schools so that college credit could be earned and by the time a high school student graduated they would have an associates degree (child development, auto mechanics, etc.)

Increase the amount of physical education the kids receive to ensure that we have a healthy and motivated community.

More and more parents are both working and there is little supervision at home. Older children need places to go that are safe, build positive character traits, and are "cool" places to hang out!

I believe there is a large disconnect between what activities children who live in poverty are able to do and those whose parents have more resources, especially in regards to sports. Sports can be a lifeline for children who are at risk of delinquency and their access to competitive sports is very limited. Our



community would benefit if there were more scholarship opportunities available for the at risk population.

We need to pay our teachers a more liveable wage so we keep the top people in our schools. Relationships are everything for most kids and we need quality teachers. Many great teachers leave the profession so they can better support their family. We need more and better access to mental health professionals in our schools as so many kids are arriving at school with mental health issues. Family and Morality needs to make a comeback in our society. There are so many things working against these two things in our schools and our community. We need funding for students that are struggling but not special education. I have seen many students fall through the cracks because they are not low enough to qualify for services yet desperately need our help to succeed. Required parenting classes for students that are frequently in trouble in our schools.

Build systems within the community to not only alleviate poverty but it's affects. This involves education of everyone so people can understand each other and live together and support everyone. This also involves doing things that enable community resources to be responsive to the brain development of children who grow up in poverty. We don't usually approach the issue from this standpoint but until we are better able to retrain the brains of these youth we are only putting a band aid on the symptoms and not truly going to cause a change in their ability to achieve and be successful. You should look at the work of Eric Jensen. He provides very powerful information that has more application than just in the field of education.

Make sure all children have access to early childhood education.

We need more supports for adults and children who are suffering from mental illness. Although teachers were not trained to deal with these issues, they have to because there is no where else for the community to turn. It's not fair to the suffering child. It's not fair to the other students, if the ill child disrupts the learning classroom. It's not fair to school employees if the challenged child becomes violent.

Lincoln should become a member of the Charter for Compassion's Compassionate Communities campaign. We've been named a Playful City and a Welcoming City. Let's be a Compassionate Community, too. If we all lived as members of a Compassionate Community and worked to take care of one another, many other issues would disappear. More information is available here:

<http://charterforcompassion.org/cities>. "A compassionate city is an uncomfortable city! A city that is uncomfortable when anyone is homeless or hungry. Uncomfortable if every child isn't loved and given rich opportunities to grow and thrive. Uncomfortable when as a community we don't treat our neighbors as we would wish to be treated." --Karen Armstrong, Founder of the global movement, The Charter for Compassion

I think all students should start school at 3 years of age so that all children have an opportunity to start at the same place in kindergarten. Some children start school knowing how to read while others do not know their alphabet. We need to even the playing field to close the gap.



The overwhelming problem in our city is poverty. As a teacher I see it's effects everyday. And the community has done many things to try to help children of poverty (backpack program, free lunches in summers, etc) but they are just band aids. We need to get to the root of the problem and make state wide changes as well. We need to expand medicare to the poor. We need to raise the minimum wage even further. We need to make college affordable. We need additional programs them help immigrants and refugees learn English, get jobs, learn to drive, learn to become citizens if they desire. AND we desperately need more people to vote in this town!

More mentorships, more opportunities for youth to build strong, positive and lasting relationships with adults. More opportunities for church and community members to "sponsor" families in need. Through weekly meetings, mentors (community/church members) can help families learn to navigate the education system and increase family learning.

Ensure that there are organizations in place to help families who are struggling with mental illness and lack of parenting skills. Ensure that counselors are in place, even in primary grades, to identify students who are suffering due to issues such as these at an early stage of their lives, when intervention could make a bigger impact. Continue to fund and focus on organizations which help youth in poverty to escape and reach their potential.

Please make a PSA teaching people how to turn CORRECTLY when driving on 4-lane streets. I see so many people turning into the wrong lane. It turns every intersection into a potential for disaster. It's so bad that even those of us who know the correct way sometimes are hesitant to turn because we know the odds are that the driver coming toward us, signaling a turn, will cross the correct lane and turn into the wrong one ... the lane that's correct for me instead of the lane that's correct for him. I've seen that happen too many times to count and it slows down traffic. If everyone did it correctly traffic would flow smoothly and safely. Thank you!

Special education services in Lincoln Pubic Schools is failing at the primary level. Adequate funding is not being supplied from the district to support building level staff, which in turn does not support the classroom teacher and students are suffering. ALL students deserve to have the support they need each and every day. No student should lack services because another student. Teachers are tired of being dumped on, and students deserve so much more than what they are given. When administration is asked about the lack of support they say two things 1. funding-there is no more money at the building to hire additional support 2. district-the district has already given us our allotment for the year-even if new incoming students have significant needs- there is no more. Quality of Life~ The ENTIRE welfare system needs to be overhauled.

I feel that creating an environment of inclusiveness, regardless of race, economic status, religion or sexual orientation, is the key to ensuring that Lincoln's economy continues to grow. How to make this happen is a good question. Protective laws could help, and I am certainly not opposed to that, but making that happen on the local level will be difficult as long as state laws do not recognize same-sex



marriage and allowing Dreamers to get a driver's license. I believe Lincoln, in general, will respond quickly and mostly positively if state laws are changed to allow equal status and rights to all individuals. The anti-discrimination laws for LGBT individuals at the local level is something that would also be helpful. But beyond building equal rights into statutes - after all, doesn't the US constitution supposedly do this already? - we need leaders in the community who speak boldly on behalf of all citizens. Business leaders embedded in the community would be most effective at sharing this message because they have built their lives here in this community so they would be speaking from the "inside." I realize there are some risks in taking this kind of stand, as backlash from customers and business partners is possible. But business leaders, especially the larger employers, have so much to gain by advocating for potential workers and the opportunity to attract talent to Lincoln. Inclusiveness will also help to ensure youth are successful and that the community is strong and vibrant, but tying it to economic growth may be the best way for citizens to see how it could be good for all. Unfortunately, it seems that often times people will only consider what's good for them personally and if they don't have kids or don't want money spent on something they feel is intangible then they speak out against anything that feels like change.

We need adult options for individuals to achieve their high school diplomas. An "Adult" High School would assist individuals over the age of 21 to achieve their diploma. Often the GDE program is too difficult for some students to complete. An "Adult" High School would serve students who dropped out or perhaps are immigrants and did not have the opportunity to attend high school. This option would look different than regular high school. It would have childcare options, vocational options, vocational counseling, apprenticeship options, co-op's, basic literacy and academic offerings, ESL, Special Education options and more. See this web site for further ideas: Burnhamthorpe.org

Lincoln, Nebraska is a City of approximately 270,000 people. Why do we have children who are hungry? We are a small enough city that we should be able to address this problem. Lincoln is a wonderful place to live. People care. What can we do to meet the needs of these children. Children who look in the garbage can at school for more food. The schools do a great job at meeting the needs of the children but they can only do so much. What can we as a community do, to make sure NO child goes to bed hungry? I love Lincoln and I want to contribute and do my part to meet these needs. We need a community plan!

The community of Lincoln needs to continue to provide great formal and informal learning experiences for its youth. Lincoln can be proud of the opportunities available to youth in the community. Lincoln must continue work to improve access to these activities for youth at risk in the city. The early development of reading and writing skills is essential for our youths future success in school and then after. There are still too many at risk students that are slipping through and are falling behind in school and in life due to the poor development of these skills. For these students school can become a difficult place to be. We must support poor, immigrant and other at risk families to provide the best start possible for their children so that they may have the skills to learn the skills needed to avoid living their own life of poverty. Programs that exist and that are effective need to be supported and resources so that they can reach more youth and new creative solutions must be developed in order to reach all youth and allow them to take advantage of our fine community's offerings.



As a first grade teacher, I think it's important to make sure to remember children only get one childhood, so fight for outdoor nature programs, arts/music programs, field trips to provide experiences and increase creativity. To foster imaginative, dynamic, creative thinking we must remember that our kids need more than testing and only indoor classroom experiences. The best lessons inspire kids to think beyond themselves and we can do this by nurturing the whole child and engaging them in our community through creative play and learning experiences that are already happening in our community.

A youth who is transitioning from being a state ward into adulthood face many challenges. Even though foster homes do the best they can, many young adults do not know or have the basic needs to prosper in Lincoln. Working with this population I have found it difficult to locate housing that is safe, secure and affordable. Many of the young adults do not have credit or their identification has been misused. Without a credit score of 640 or better the young adult cannot rent an apartment that is safe and secure. They don't have anyone to co-sign for them as many family ties have been damaged. The young adults are forced to live in areas of high crime rates due to these areas not having credit checks or background checks. It is my proposal for area rental properties to form an application that reflects these young adults who have been in the care and custody of the state. There needs to be guidelines to follow but this would give a brighter future to these young adults and a new beginning. The wait is long on housing assistance. Young adults who are in independent living are often placed in run down apartments with landlords who try to take advantage of their situation. Being with the Bridge to Independence these young adults at least have someone to help them but housing is a huge issue they face. If young adults felt safe and wanted in their community they would prosper, stay in Lincoln and add revenue to the city.

Work with the teacher's union to remove testing and standardized test prep from elementary grades. Let the teachers decide what their students need for enrichment and re-teaching with all of those extra minutes. Since we use tax dollars to purchase and run standardized testing, use the saved revenue for afterschool and before school enrichment - such as group piano lessons, art lessons, computer programming, etc. in schools where families don't have access to them. Families can't stay in neighborhoods to make them clean and safe if they don't have the economic resources to do so. We need job training, and rent to own training programs to be expanded significantly. Landlords need to be made accountable for maintaining apartments and lawns, and for reaching out to homeowners in those neighborhoods. In some ways, for a family that lives in Lincoln, the railyard and haymarket are complete failures. Locally owned businesses can't compete (with the price per square foot) with huge corporate/franchises. We don't really need more places to eat. If we want Lincoln to be a truly vibrant, individual community, we need to shelter and encourage local shops, groceries, and businesses. Otherwise it's just like everywhere else. I love biking in Lincoln. Expand and make safer the bike trails and lanes. What about turning Pershing auditorium into an indoor aquatics center, a city pool that can be open year round? Or how about updating Bennet Martin?



We need programs to support students grades 5-9 that will keep these students engaged from 3:00-6:00. Students at this age need to be supervised by adults. There are too many students that go home to empty houses. This allows them to do what they want and most of the time they are making poor decisions. Supervised activities would benefit these kids.

Lincoln needs to believe and support that if from the cradle to college and beyond is going to be successful. Then it needs to begin at Prenatal stages and continue on, birth to pre school is very important. PreSchool education for all children needs to be a reality that all can afford or have a choice to. Quality child care and medical care are very important and getting to see the same doctor when they are seen is also very important. No child should be 5 and then be verified special needs, when had a doctor been familiar with the child when seen it was obvious that they needed special services. Lincoln seems to be doing a bit better in becoming a city. The "small town" feel is a joke and needs to be pitched to the curb. It is not a small town and needs to act like a city and plan ahead for success in development and growth. The future growth should be looking at how the streets are/should be developed and turn lanes put in at time of making new streets. The community will be strong and vibrant if it is welcoming and easy to get around. Focus on the basics and make it an enjoyable place to get around in and it will continue to grow.

Increase the number of elected and appointed officials who reflect the growing diversity of the community.

1. Establish job training at the Community Centers. This would make it more accessible than only at the Community College.
2. Establish more neighborhood community gardens that youth could get involved in.
3. Establish more summer music programs that youth could get involved in at a nearby Community Center rather than to have to go across town. Going across town is prohibitive for many youth.

Extend Wilderness Park south along Salt Creek before more development goes in thereby protecting an expanding Lincoln from flooding. More development will mean more run off and more flooding.

Provide all elementary schools with additional staff funds so students with limited social contacts can participate in frequent adult supervised lunch time groups. This social skill building would translate to a population of people better prepared to interact in the real world. Also additional adults could provide one and one reading opportunities. The American Reading Council says 30 min a day with an English proficient reader would insure reading skills are developed in all students. Well learned students insure a population of able future employees. Another idea, Provide incentives for families to be involved in education, a punch card that earns families free or discounted passes by merely participating in such school activities as conferences, curriculum night, or rewards students for a percentage of grades that exceed the minimal 3 grades. This last one could increase student participation in class thereby increasing their learning and the reward of activities in the community would Increase the awareness of the things available in the community. Require community service for any minor found guilty of or



caught in the commission of crimes. Offer an incentive for those receiving public assistance to give back to the community, providing a minor advantage to those who give back.

Improving Teacher Instruction: I believe teachers should be hired and study under a master teacher for at least 2-4 years before entering the classroom full time. This should be a paid position. This is similar to a doctor in residency. Considering the importance of teaching on our community, the least we can do is fully prepare these future teachers to step into a classroom with the capabilities to handle all the tasks required of them from day one. They will be able to build the resources and materials as well as the knowledge to be successful early in their career. The idea that a teacher will learn as they gain experience is hindering the growth of students, since they are not receiving the best education we can provide. We would be setting a standard for the rest of the country. We need to be lobbying for a much greater increase in funding for public schools. I think if we propose this idea, we may be able to try this idea and see the impacts and see if it truly is worth the investment, which I believe it will be. To attract more highly talented teachers we must incentivise them on the front end (higher wages) and not on the back end (loan forgiveness, etc.). Teachers should be recognized more often for their hard work. Many do not know the struggles a teacher must endure and by simply recognizing this and spreading the word about it, will change perceptions of teachers and how vital they are to the success of the citizens of Lincoln.

Improving student engagement and self beliefs: I believe the public school system is also a great vessel for parenting-guidance programs. The assumption that because we are simply human being means we are inherently ready to raise high-quality citizens is obviously a flaud belief. The public school system should provide parenting advice to those whose students are stuggling in school either in academics or behavior. I believe those students who are chronically in trouble or falling behing in academics would be most helped by parenting changes at home more so than teaching practices in school. It is easy to teach to a group of students who want to learn, it's the ones who struggle with failure, the negative self-talk, the negative perceptions of themselves, those who lack perserverance or grit, a fixed mindset, etc. These are the students that would benefit more from personal development than from better academic instruction. There are many people, groups, and organizations who specialize in personal development, but many are solely focused on adults, we can utilize these ideas and apply them to our students. We must also include local business and colleges in the planning of curricula such that we are preparing students to be successful employees and citizens. We should also be implementing the ideas behind personal development for all students. We currently are focused on the behaviors of a successful student not the behaviors of successful human being. In the 21st century, people must be able to understand their taxes, the stock market, business, and how to handle their money through budgeting and financial planning. This cannot be something left up to students to figure out on their own after they graduate from high school.

In-school interventions for students: I think we should focus on student's abilities to self-regulate their emotions and corresponding actions through methods such as meditation, deep breathing, etc. There is too much research backing the use of these methods to ignore. We have a violent, self-centered society and the incorporation of meditation into the curricula will improve students abilities to be more aware of their emotions and handle them in a proper manner. We should begin to build a sense of gratitude in our students so that they are seeing the



positives that surround them instead of focusing on the negatives, research shows this can have a huge impact on a person's outlook toward life. We need to cultivate empathy and compassion, reduce the competition amongst students, not only in terms of grades and answering the most questions but also the comparing one's life to that of other people. The sooner a person can lose the worry of what others think, the sooner they can be on a path of happiness. We need to move students away from the ideas that the collection of material things are what create happiness, the drive and process of attaining goals is where lies the true happiness. Again, there is too much research and too many resources out there that by ignoring these we are doing a disservice to our students. I have been cultivating ideas along these lines for a long time now. I know that I am relatively new teacher, no doctorate under my belt, no educational leadership on my resume, but I have the ability to combine many different subjects, ideas, sources, etc. and apply them to problems that built upon logic and practicality. I would like to be involved in this process. Teaching is something that I am good at, but this is my calling and where my passions lie, please contact me if I may be able to join the discussions and implementation of ideas put forth by Prosper Lincoln. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts, I would love to hear those of others.

We need more activities for children and youth that are of low to no cost for low income families. Children and youth from low income families many times are not able to participate in sports, gymnastics, dance, etc due to the cost of these activities.

We need more adult help in the classrooms. First of all, the classrooms have more students than one teacher can successfully help during any given day, especially the lower grades, where students need to receive help to gain knowledge in order to have good learning skills and understanding of the subject.. There needs to be more help in the classrooms to help these students, so ALL students can be successful to make a strong and vibrant community.

Provide mental health services for families Offer free after school and summer programs in the arts Perhaps through the University? Engage community organizations in participating in infrastructure development.

We must work to make families strong and healthy. More children are being identified with severely disruptive behaviors than ever before at a young age. Children's mental health begins at birth; somehow we must educate and support new parents in understanding this and develop the skills to put children on a better path. Whether it be billboards, public service announcements, direct instruction and teaching during medical office visits, or a combination of these, waiting until a child starts kindergarten for mental health problems to be a school response, is not timely. Mental health needs of youth is not only a community problem, but that of our state and nation.

Youth are successful if they have hope and meaning. There is a broad socio-economic divide in Lincoln that is represented in the percentage of students who qualify for free/reduced lunch at each school. When that number is too high, the education of all students in that school becomes more challenging.



Students attend less, their behaviors are worse, and as time goes on they drop further behind their non-free/reduced lunch peers, and therefore have less hope for their futures. If we could reduce each school to around 40% or less free/reduced lunch population at every school, I think it would help by changing the culture of schools that struggle and raise the expectations in that building. One way to do this would be to desegregate our schools by socio-economic class. The challenge in doing this would be convincing the middle and upper class families of Lincoln that this is what is best for the entire community, and also paying for the busing. I don't think that the people of Lincoln have the foresight to do this or the understanding of how bad it really is on a day to day basis in a school that has 90% or more free/reduced lunch population. We have to do more to support our schools so that they are properly staffed with low student to teacher ratios. We also should throw more support behind the broadest of social peer supports for our youth like athletics and music. Research is easily available to support the funding of activities like these. (Fitzpatrick, Kate R. The Effect of Instrumental Music Participation and Socioeconomic Status on Ohio Fourth-, Sixth-, and Ninth-Grade Proficiency Test Performance. *Journal of Research in Music Education*. Vol. 54, No. 1 (Spring, 2006), 73-84.) We also need to get rid of the stigma surrounding community college and trade school educations. There are plenty of good paying jobs that which we lack the skilled workforce for. Yes, we want to push the best of the best on to four year universities, but we need plumbers and electricians too.

As a small community, improving the public education system is a huge step in the right direction. Making it easy for young people and anyone looking to better themselves is the best thing a community can do for the good of all.

Due to an increased use of technology, there has been a lessening of social skills, empathy, and appropriate human interaction. Lincoln would do well to provide some type of social training along with / or as an integral part of academic training. Many students, while academically proficient, have poor social skills which would prevent them from being successful in the workplace. Providing this added dimension will help to insure a stable workplace and in turn a strong and vibrant community.

I think Lincoln should do its best to promote 20 minute neighborhoods. This would mean investing in small businesses and re-zoning some places to make them commercial. See this graphic for more information or google "20 minute neighborhoods" <http://www.worldchanging.com/EarthlyIdeas-20%20min.jpg> Having lived in a city with 20 minute neighborhoods, I can confirm that 20 minutes neighborhoods are sustainable and lead to a happier and healthier lifestyle. Less cars and driving! More public transportation! More walking!

Connect local businesses with students in high schools and provide incentives for them to get certain skills and training to align the students to jobs and a career start after secondary and post secondary schooling is completed.

1. Front end leadership from extreme poverty neighborhood leaders who live in the neighborhoods.
2. Living wage jobs and retraining programs for middle aged low income Lincolniters and resources to reach



them and provide child care needs for retraining in particular. 3. Programs and opportunities to "rebrand" neighborhoods and have ongoing projects that build neighborhood leadership and pride. 4. CLC's and schools need more wrap around social services resources 5. The lack of affordable health care was consistently a major factor in many working families financial troubles.

Create "re-entry" program for county jail releases to give people a better chance (we teach FPU, etc.). More user friendly (bike lanes, pedestrians – Portland OR requires motorists to give pedestrians right of way) etc. Better public transportation including light rail across the city & more frequent bus service for people of all ages. Granting faith communities who desire to participate some latitude in zoning laws to accomplish efforts (not treat as business level zoning) – contact Christ Lutheran. Stop people from running red lights and killing each other! Enact interjection laws like other cities!

A plant conservatory – year round destination offering education for all ages and research of rare collections of plants – attracting people from all over the state – even other countries!

Support, encourage, & reinforce the family unit.

Increase police officers in the schools K-9.

Free childcare, 0-5.

Businesses should encourage employee mentoring to youth.

I believe in Sweden – Each community is required to provide language courses. ? Can we on a "neighborhood" level provide cultural & language training creatively? – library programming, mentor provision, after school programming.

Quality of Life can be improved through ecological planning & attitude. – more influence than education ideas – serious recycling program, assist services in being responsible (Bryan café's switched to Styrofoam!!)

In some countries receiving large numbers of refugees, they work hard to integrate by finding ways to avoid development neighborhoods that culturally isolate! This is an important task for brainstorming.

Mentoring for LGBTQ youth in Lincoln. Improve public transportation. Affordable daycare. Job protection for LGBTQ workers.

More friendly environment toward unions.

Raise minimum wage

Preschoolers. We need to figure out a way to feed young hungry children. We need to figure out a way to provide transportation to people who have needs and children who have needs – for essential



services. We need to figure out a way to provide opportunities to read to preschoolers who have no one to read to them.

1. Mentors/ teammates for low-income, isolated single parents – a strong, stable, steady neighbor – god parent- friend to support a parent & child at a very vulnerable time in the life of the child and the family.
2. Invest in families, particularly young, isolated, low-income families, as we have invested in infrastructure and business re-development.
3. Increase access to mental health services for children and adults.
4. Increase public transportation – hours, days, modes, routes

Teach children simple life values. Rather than receiving support free provide opportunities to give back to their community.

Better mental health – services for children & adults. Quality childcare at a reasonable price for all children. Better public transportation. Pass the expand Medicaid bill.

Implement a plan to develop & invest in Lincoln's infrastructure, especially major streets & by-passes. Secure commitments from Lincoln's largest employers (top 50) to increase wages for workers without increasing costs of each respective companies products. Put into place programs to aid single parents.

Enhance early childhood education and activity. Enhance the involvement of teammates program, it is a successful program but there remains a significant waiting list. The corporate (business) and public leaders could come together to enhance life for youth of all ages (birth to college).

Work at keeping our highly educated people to remain in our community.

I believe keeping youth active is vital to health and growth. Local businesses drive the local economy. Encouraging them is key. Taking part in the Day of Action is a wonderful experience.

Institute FAST & FLIP of all Title I schools. Also, ensure that all schools in poverty and those on the edge have thriving after school programs by supporting community learning Centers. Focus resources on helping those students who may suffer from "the summer slide". Ensure all Title I schools have adequate support of Jump Start to K & family education about its importance.

I have had the great opportunity to be on the United Way Emerging Leader Council where are already focusing on youth, families, and engaging the community. We have started funding programs through the CLC at McPhee, for example Jump Start to Kindergarten, providing additional counselors, FAST and Family Literacy and a summer enrichment program. Providing a summer bus program because transportation is always hard for low income. Being part of the United Way ELC you have opportunities to volunteer to see where \$'s are going.

United Way supports an initiative called Engage, Empower, Graduate that supports youth development and family engagement! Due to funding constraints, this effort has been limited to providing funding



and volunteer support to McPhee Elementary School/ family members further coordination and support could easily grow this effort throughout LPS and have a significant impact.

I feel that direct involvement with youth at an early age is very important to their long term success in school. As a member of the United Way Emerging Leaders grows we focus on Jump Start to Kindergarten, summer programs, volunteer reading programs, as well as programs to help parent become more involved.

More social workers and school psychologists in title one schools. Keep the fruit/vegetable programs in schools. More loan forgiveness for ALL teachers in title one schools. More teacher supports to keep good teachers from leaving the profession.

change the education system

Continue community arts projects. I have heard so much buzz from all neighborhoods in Lincoln. We need accountability for delays in road construction.....2 years now on one mile of Old Cheney.....it demonstrates an attitude of why hold me accountable...nothing ever happens.... Love the new vibe with the downtown. All add to livability which leads to economy..... Smaller class sizes. Ease of access for mental health services and addiction treatment for children and adults. Employment opportunities for people in rehab, post prison and who receive mental health treatment. Have to get a handle on traffic and get better public transportation in and out of downtown. Ride shares and many more park and rides.

Youth--Like the rest of the nation, LPS and NE Dept of Ed have confused testing with learning, discipline for nurture, "accountability" with professionalism, measurement for education. LPS has left its past behind, at its own peril, and is on a new course: the career center, the mechanization of teachers through PLC's, TAS, and DCA's, and the ever-more centralized mandates, serving no educational purpose. LPS looks at its struggling students, and, staring down the barrel of the gun of NCLB, grips tighter and tighter on principals, teachers, budgets, and ultimately, the students. I focus on LPS because, after the family, schools are central to the upbringing of our youth. Prosper Lincoln is right to identify "access to basic needs and opportunities" as key to youth health in any community. While the "reformers" have only hammers and therefore see only nails, all of the research, ALL OF IT, points directly at poverty as the genesis of why students struggle (while middle and upper-income students do not). So, while I have few solutions, you have correctly identified the problem: access to resources. Parents of struggling students need help parenting however we define that. And the students themselves need access to books, routine, good food, medical care, adults that will read to them, and spaces conducive to curiosity and exploration, the very same things that middle and above-income students have in their lives every day. Economics--Recent collaborations between business and the city have done fine work in and around the new arena. It is a great new area and, while I expect it to struggle economically once the new has worn off, it has already played a key role in creating a vibrant downtown area. However, I have not read of a single large arena that actually turns a profit, that actually pays its



own way (please see the research on areas built around the country). Still, I support the collaboration for what it has already brought to Lincoln, but LIBA and the Chamber should never be allowed to forget that TAX PAYER MONEY made this all possible and only through continued TAXPAYER SUPPORT will the area remain vital and vibrant. Indeed, all prosperity is only made possible in a community made coherent by well-run government systems: economic incentives for businesses, safety nets for the less fortunate, and well-funded schools. All of these create stability and growth. And all of these cost money. Quality of Life--Again, partnerships between private and public seems to be working quite well. I am deeply gratified by what I see going on in the music and arts scenes in Lincoln. Keep building bridges!

There needs to be more opportunities for students from a non affluent background.

The city of Lincoln needs to provide more opportunities for positive afterschool environments/activities. Programs similar to the Light House, The Salvation Army (The Shield), and the Malone Community Center after school program are beneficial for children. It helps to keep them "off the streets" and doing something more productive. Although many of the elementary schools offer after school care, such as Cedars/YMCA's Child Learning Centers, from my experience (at more than one school), these are understaffed and somewhat unorganized. Creating more community based afterschool programs could potentially create jobs for young adults who enjoy helping children, it could be a place that high school seniors can get volunteer hours, it could keep a multitude of children in a safe, stable, environment. Additionally, if these programs provide meals, it would help to ensure that our city's youth are getting nutritional meals outside of school lunches.

1. More resource assistance and training for our immigrant and refugee populations. 2. Continue to enhance prevention and intervention efforts for our youth so that youth do not enter the juvenile justice system and have mentors. 3. Ensure sufficient resources and assistance to domestic violence victims.

We need more resources for immigrant families to help them navigate our community systems. They have to rely heavily on nonprofits with limited resources and funding. Providing more support for them would help their children be more successful, help grow our economy, and strengthen our community.

We need to provide educational services in a different way to those students with mental illness'. We need to collaborate with other professions to ensure these students success, sometimes away from the mainstream. We need to encourage small business growth in Lincoln by making Lincoln the place to start a business. Provide young entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn from owners of older, well established business'. Provide the public reasons or incentives to shop local.

After school services are limited and do not meet needs in many areas of the city so we have a number of very young "latch key kids". In addition, many of the recent tax and fee increases hit those with limited incomes especially hard. Sales taxes, gasoline taxes and licensing fees are all more difficult for the poor and those on limited incomes. Many of my friends have left Lincoln and Nebraska as soon as



they have retired. With them, we have lost many people who could be serving in our community in volunteer positions. Everyone of them has told me that taxes were the major reason for their move.

Utah created and is implementing a very successful program of ending homelessness by giving homeless people homes (who knew!). Given how successful this has been, I feel like Lincoln should implement a similar program. I believe that high school and colleges should create robust classes that help young people thrive in the transitions between high school and college, and college and the working world. The guys at Men with Dreams and I are teaching a pilot program of this idea at Concordia University this fall and I would like to see UNL and LPS implementing similar programs. Career readiness is more than just having speakers come in - it's about giving young people the tools they need to thrive in the journey after education ends. I would love to see the coworking community and space increase in Lincoln. It's a great way of bringing people together, sharing insights, and creating community. Moreover, I think it would be neat to see Nonprofit Hub and Fuse Coworking work together.

The community is better when people are invested in the place they live. For many finding affordable housing is impossible. Create a tiny house community of affordable housing. People would purchase the home for with special low interest financing and learn how to become a home owner. As part of the community offer classes on home maintenance -- how to care for a lawn, how to maintain your furnace/air, cleaning, etc. Hopefully these would be starter homes as people move into greater prosperity and build equity.

Offer alternative means of transportation. For example a bike sharing service like https://www.niceridemn.org/how_it_works/. Or zipcars.com. Also evaluate the hub and spoke model of star tran (or add more hubs). More people would ride if it wasn't so inconvenient. Also do we need to use big buses on all the routes. Downsize to shuttles.

I believe one big goal should be to keep our Community Learning Centers in our schools up and running. These centers are such an important aspect of our children's education. A lot of families depend on the CLC at their school to provide safe, educational child care for their families. Another goal should be to continue to support the local food bank. The food backpack program is reaching many families, but there are a lot more that could benefit from this resource. One thing that makes Lincoln a great community to live in is all of the free family activities. It is important to advertise these events so that all families are aware of what is happening.

Invest in our schools and other public areas for youth to spend their time in beneficial ways. The more we focus on our youth, the less we will have to spend in the future on correctional programs and facilities.

Keep schools strong, investing additional resources into schools & neighborhoods where there are greater needs. Partner with churches & employers in neighborhoods to support schools / children.



To ensure our youth are successful, I feel there needs to be further support (in terms of resources) for organizations, institutions, and individuals who support youth development. There should be an in-depth look into the time that coaches and sponsors put into sports and clubs at elementary, middle school, and high school levels and make sure there are a sufficient number of staff being fairly compensated for their unique contribution to supporting and developing the youth of Lincoln. To ensure our economy grows, Lincoln community shareholders (business owners, government officials, and school leaders) should make the "green-ing" of Lincoln a priority: installing solar panels on downtown rooftops and new construction to maximize energy efficiency in our city. Easy-to-navigate bike lanes with direct routes to-and-from major centers of business, education, and recreation (including Downtown, University Place, Havelock, SouthPointe, College View, East Campus, etc) would attract active young professionals to Lincoln and reduce traffic congestion across the city. A focus on green industries would create job growth in and of itself as well. To ensure our community is strong and vibrant, Lincoln should further its support of our finest arts institutions through encouraging financial support- encourage local business to offer incentives for employees who support organizations such as the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, the Sheldon Art Museum, and Abendmusik through employer-matched gifts. Employers should also make an effort to find a balance between hiring dedicated local talent and finding incentive to draw in some excellent people from outside the Cornhusker state. While it is important to continue doing and supporting the things Lincoln does well and defines Lincoln as the city it is, some of the best changes come from individuals bringing new and fresh ideas from outside our borders.

Career success and life success...teach them the real world, what it will be like when you are out of school and you are on your own. Do you get three choices, does everyone win? No...do you get to pick and choose when you do your job? Will you be able to keep your job if you do that as an adult? I just don't think that we are preparing them for real life. Everything has to be fair and sugar coated...life isn't like that! We need to teach these children to be strong, to take care of themselves, to learn in school and at home, how to become honest hard working citizens of our community. I know we are working very hard at that but sometimes the things that we do in schools makes me think that we are covering up and always trying to make life better or easier for them. They need to know responsibility and I know it is very difficult for so many of them because this is a cycle and their parents haven't been taught and those parents, parents weren't taught. I hope our future generation of children don't expect everything like I am seeing now. I hope they are taught and learn what it means to work for something and the good feeling it gives you when you do that. If this could happen it would help our communities in the future and our economy with young people that have values and goals!

Have high expectations for students. Teach them how to find and to use the tools they need to be successful. Share the message with students that they can be successful, they are valuable, it is hard, they need to struggle and figure things out vs open and app and the answer is there.

we need to address several weaknesses , first the overall infrastructure in Lincoln in is need of significant improvement , i.e. streets, sewer plants, bridges, and sidewalks and alleys. these are safety issues as



well as economic issues and need to be addressed. second, the career academy is a great idea, it may need to be expanded if initially successful. third, growing our educated work force is important and one way is keeping our best and brightest in Lincoln after high school and after college. I would like to see a mentoring program initiated that included high school juniors and seniors in business, engineering and computer technology.

I think a key thing that will help Lincoln stay strong is always to improve the inside of Lincoln, whether that is roads or business, or infrastructure I think that the focus to always build on the outside of Lincoln will end up being a problem in the future if we don't continue to support the middle of Lincoln.

I am a recent re-plant to Lincoln. Until recently I was a dance and movement artist and choreographer. The non-profit community I worked for provided classes around the community in all kinds of underserved populations. Most specifically, we led classes in rougher neighborhoods where kids need activities and arts enrichment, and for people with developmental disabilities of all degrees and of all ages. In addition to those classes, we ran a hospital Healing Arts program where we went room to room to share arts with patients. It is important that everyone, no matter what their circumstance, can experience the benefits of the arts. Movement and dance can be helpful and therapeutic in so many ways. For one, it helps people develop basic life skills of determination, responsibility, and respect. It gives someone something to work toward and to be proud of. In this day and age of childhood obesity ravaging millions, it also physically helps someone become healthier. I have seen the arts change lives first hand. Being able to give dance and movement classes to the community in areas where it is most needed would give that population something to do, something that they could be proud of, and something that could change their better their lives.

Thoughts: 1. Recruit and train volunteers to be trainers and advocates for families with children, helping them maximize the money and time they do have to provide healthy nutrition for their children: learn how to shop for the best food for the buck, how to prepare it to make it go the farthest for best nutrition, build lifetime healthy eating habits for young children and the whole family. 2. Analyze transportation needs for the un- and under-employed in the community. With the relatively sparse coverage (geographically as well as timing) of mass transit in our community it seems that getting to a job, training for a new job, getting to school or to a grocery store could be quite a challenge for anyone without a car. AND expensive for those who do have autos. Is there a way to extend the STAR system or create shuttle services for people? 3. Just thinking about the logistics of being poor, having small children and trying to keep a job and a house can be overwhelming. Are there small support groups available to men and women where they can meet with peers but also have some moral support and networking to help make it through those tough years with young kids? Do employers ever offer such groups during lunch hours so that workers could get a lift without having to carve another hour or another location out of their weeks? 4. Day/night care....ALWAYS the biggest issue when trying to work while raising children. Where? Who? Cost? How do we know it is safe, nurturing? How many local employers are part of the solution to this problem? How can we help make childcare a standard element of employment?



I think there need to be programs available to the youth to get them outside and experiencing nature. In an age replete with digital and virtual distractions, it seems many youth today have lost a personal connection and association with nature - which in some respects is ironic given the activism many express towards environmental causes. In a sense, they seek to protect that which they understand from books, t.v. and the internet, rather than direct experience.

One venue I see for addressing all of these priorities -- youth success, leading to economic prosperity and quality of life -- is through the current CLC structure. Providing a safe, structured and educational place for kids before and after school -- and in summers when possible -- offers basic needs for families and gives especially needy children a boost to improve academic, social skills, etc. This helps them be better students and citizens, leading to their own individual economic prosperity and quality of life down the road. It also benefits neighborhoods and businesses now by providing a safety net for families who need this structure for their day-to-day life. Done correctly, CLCs can offer arts and cultural activities for these kids beyond what they're exposed to at school, and also when done correctly, keep nonprofits engaged and could expand to more arts and cultural nonprofits as lead organizations. I don't know how to invest more in these -- both from a dollars standpoint and from the public view to better understand what CLCs do and how important they can and should be to a community. But I think they can serve as an already formed structure or setup to provide better services to our children and neighborhoods, perhaps as a venue for other ideas that come from Prosper Lincoln work. They already have so many important players involved -- schools, neighborhoods, families, nonprofits and other community organizations. Can we find more money and infrastructure to better develop them and take them to the next level?

Work with employers to assure a livable wage is paid to all full-time employees Focus on assuring that the "working poor" and their dependents have strong opportunities to advance and are not penalized by reduced benefits or other hardships when they are promoted or offered other opportunities on the path to success Reduce "pay-to-play" opportunities as the principle means of youth involvement in sports and the creative performing arts outside of school settings

There is a strong need for affordable housing and landlord/property manager/property developer relations that will help to ensure at-risk youth/young adults are kept out of homelessness. I would like to see LVS and Prosper Lincoln focus on this problem and the consequences and costs to the city as community agencies are trying to serve this population and keep them safe. According to the 2014 NE Expanded Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Point in Time Count from UNL-CCFL done in June of 2014; 39% of homeless unaccompanied youth in Lincoln are 18-19 years of age; 63% are ages 18-24; and 13% are young people who are in or have been in foster care. We at Project Everlast along with our community partners are working on this problem from a many faceted approach; realizing that employment/low wages, education, and the effects of trauma are crucial pieces of why system-involved youth end up in unsafe or unstable living situations. However, all of that effort is bogged down by the fact that landlords are not willing to work with certain populations, housing availability/vacancy in Lincoln is limited for those on a low-income, and property developers are catering their new projects to



students or higher income populations. We are blessed in Lincoln to have outstanding post-secondary education institutions however we need to be sure to understand that there is a large population of young people that are not college bound and efforts to support this age range need to include youth who do not enter the college world. It is my opinion that for many years, youth who do not follow the traditional college path have been forgotten and neglected in our college town.

The first step is to secure the economic independence of families by bolstering efforts to increase wages paid. Although our community has done a wonderful job in redeveloping the Haymarket area, the long term jobs associated are largely in the hospitality industry. Improving education for youth is no doubt an underpinning, but, the cost and accessibility of secondary education is climbing. Increasing subsidies for higher education for low-income students is a key to provide upward mobility into the professional work force. Strengthening of the Community College system and access to vocational training is also key. While these longer term solutions are bolstered, there must be ongoing work to wholistically support the basic needs of low-income families. A wrap around approach with needs based individualized case work is essential to deliver these services effectively. The Health and Human Services safety net needs to be incentivized to collaboratively provide these services in a more integrated and effective way. For that, support of the infrastructure of these organizations needs to be sustained.

We need to bring families together. Welfare has made it possible and more probable for men to leave their families. Each organization needs to adopt policies and programs to help our families remain together. It is difficult today for two parents, with each working, to cover the cost of living and almost impossible for one parent families. We need to value marriage and encourage it for the benefit of children. Any awards or benefits that can promote long time marriage commitments should be welcomed and established.

Build relationships between business and education stakeholders. Create pipelines to career and post-education for at-risk populations. Support community groups who already do great things.

Expand Community Learning Centers & Family Literacy Programs Recruit Mentors Expand the United Ways Engage Empower and Graduate program to more schools. Jump Start to Kindergarten add all schools with a high percentage of free lunch, in addition those schools need to have programs for summer enrichment activities to reduce summer slide. Expand Career Academy & job skills to train parents.

1. Invest in youth activities and academics, and 2. Foster an expectation of citizen-centric accountability within public institutions Extracurricular activities - clubs and youth sports - not only provide our children with outlets for creative and physical energies, but they serve to teach and reinforce critical social skills, and instill in them a sense of accomplishment and inclusion. The availability of low-cost facilities for such activities is very inconsistent; we have a strong public library system, but are woefully lacking in youth sports facilities - what we have is outdated and undersized for a growing suburban community. Additionally, we need to become much more assertive in educating youth. LPS, like most school districts,



is forced to comply with the federal requirements that do not encourage the individual student to achieve his or her full potential, (rather, the focus is on getting all students to a bare minimum, with no collateral resources to exceed). Lincoln needs significantly stronger, financial support from the private sector, for primary and secondary education. As noted below, this burden falls to the entire community, not just LPS or Parks and Rec. The City of Lincoln needs to partner with the county and other public institutions (e.g. LPS) to actively drive a culture of accountability, with a predominantly citizen-centric focus. Too often the communication and collaboration between city departments is insufficient. This culture must be mandated and actively practiced by the office of the mayor and every department head, as well as the head of every public institution. When we have leaders strong enough to command citizen-centric accountability, then we will have the necessary culture to sustain Economic Prosperity, and support Youth Success. Thereby greatly improving the Quality of Life for all citizens. When our public officials only respond to political influences and personal interests, we all suffer.

We need a good community/public transportation system. The need is not just for the poor and disabled, the need is also there is for the for non-driving, working adults, senior citizens, children and those who want to be less dependent on the auto. This article from the Atlantic captures another concern I have. What can Lincoln do to help the community be one where the community is attractive to all ages, not just the young? We need to foster more intergenerational collaboration and be a city where we can age with dignity and self-respect in our community and in our homes.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/05/living-and-dying-at-home/391871/>

The most obvious thing: raise the pay of the lowest paid workers. Probably raising the minimum to \$15 won't happen, but there might be a way to identify (but not completely) Lincoln businesses with lots of low-paid employees and to set some kind of goal for a business to have, say, its lowest paid half compared to its highest paid half. Apparently Walmark and McDonal's have raised their lowest paid persons, so making this information available does shame some businesses into making improvement. When you have 74% of the potential workforce employed, you should not have so many people in poverty. Some campaign based on the notion that every job should make possible the good life ought to work somehow.

As a community, the first thing we must do is to let our youth know that we value what they have to offer. Young people today are so creative when given the chance. They are also willing to give themselves to things that they really believe in and that produce a immediate benefit. Youth today don't have a lot of time for lectures, they want information in short, but substantive bursts. Like everyone else, our young people like things, so entrepreneurship and leadership training would help them. They also need consistent mentors and patient coaches.

Most people I know think of Lincoln as an event city rather than a destination. These people visit Lincoln for specific events such as Husker football games, high school state events and Pinnacle concerts. They stay a night or two at the most rather than planning to stay for a vacation of more than three days. Lincoln needs to develop a larger constant "destination" type attraction that would not only draw a



greater number of tourist to Lincoln but would also have them stay a few days longer to take in another event or check out some of the smaller attractions. Has anyone conducted any research on the feasibility of an amusement park comparable to Des Moines AdventureLand or Kansas City's Worlds of Fun being built in the Lincoln area?

Take a look at what Omaha is doing because they are #3 for best college to attend and city to live in on the national survey.

Let's create pride in our city. How about figuring out a way to fix all our streets that can become a model for our nation. Our infrastructure is crumbling around us and the funds required to bring them back to health is quickly growing out of reach. I drive our streets and wonder what is going to become of a country that can not manage to maintain and improve our transportation infrastructure. Maintaining and building streets and other infrastructure can provide jobs for our youth. Expanding and maintaining our parks and trails can provide jobs. Companies would be drawn to Lincoln by our healthy infrastructure. Maybe we need to come up with someway to pay for streets that avoids using Federal funds and the accompanying red tape and regulations. How about creating a mechanism for citizens to donate to road improvement projects, donations that could be tax deductible similar to charitable giving. Maybe the City of Lincoln could contract with private companies to do all repair and maintenance for defined areas or districts through a bidding process every two years or so.

Let's make Lincoln a "Blue Zone"!!!! I'll help you!

I think you should have bikes to rent downtown, and create a creative trail that takes you through town to see the highlights (museums, stadiums, etc.).

I think as a way to improve the quality of life in Lincoln that an effort should be made to build one or more Bocce courts in town. University Place Park already has the horseshoe pits, and I think a nice complement at the park would be Bocce courts. A number of years ago we were vacationing in Duluth, Minnesota and came across some Bocce courts in a city park. There was a billboard with information and there were apparently mens, women, children and mixed leagues. The courts were fairly simple with brick dust as the playing surface, and edged with wood to keep the balls on the playing surface. I think that brick dust might be acquired from Yankee Hill Brick company and lumber donated by some local companies like Menards, Home Depot or Lowes. This game would provide a fun, simple way for residents of Lincoln to participate in another recreational activity.

Identify holes in the services and programs offered to those in need. Then develop and fund programs to fill those gaps. In addition to youth focused programs, reach out to the parents of the targeted youth. Find ways to engage them in their children's success, help them with their own financial pressure and professional development. Communication is key for community involvement and pride. Continue to find and create a wide variety of communication networks to engage people in community events.



I think that Lincoln should become a "Blue Zone". A Blue Zone is a community well-being improvement initiative designed to make healthy choices easier through permanent changes to environment, policy, and social networks. It invokes community involvement, economic prosperity and improves the quality of life.

We need to always think about how we make programs and opportunities available to our children in all parts of Lincoln. One way we do this is through our public schools. However, some of the ways we meet the academic needs of our students could also be delivered in places apart from our school buildings if community partners are willing to look at new and creative ways to utilize some spaces. Things like drop-out prevention, early childhood classrooms, and summer enrichment programs could be held in places that are close to neighborhood hubs or locations that tend to attract families. Where could we add hubs of learning for young and old throughout our city?

1. Have the faith community organize and fund a major initiative that provides assistance to families to help them get out of poverty, ensures successful education of their children, and helps their youth complete schooling and get training that allows them jobs that keeps them out of poverty and hence breaks the endless and growing cycle of poverty. Incorporate a mentoring, hands on, component to the assistance. 2. Strengthen and add significant funding to current public/private economic development efforts, with a strong focus on increasing employment at higher wage and salary levels, both by helping existing businesses grow and attracting new businesses. 3. Identify and increase funding to those current organizations (such as Neighborworks) that do the best job of rebuilding communities that have become economically distressed, and providing quality of life amenities such as the arts.

I would like to see increased funding for child and adult mental health services. Untreated mental health concerns lead to life long struggles to fit in, have friends, support a family and be successful in a job. It would be great if Lincoln could conduct the ACES (Adverse Childhood Events) survey to see how many of our adults had histories of abuse or neglect in their backgrounds. We know that scoring 4 or more on the 10 point survey is associated with increased health issues such as cardiovascular disease, depression, substance abuse etc. Other cities have published the survey in their paper and gathered significant data that supported human services planning and funding. It also started a dialogue about the importance of addressing abuse and mental health in the community. Other cities have been able to identify zip codes in their community with high ACES scores and have been able to direct programming and services to those communities with the goal of making a difference.

I have recently learned that our foster care youth "age out" when they turn 19 years old. From what I have been led to believe, some are virtually on their own with no further assistance from anyone. Many of these young people find themselves without the most basic resources and I understand too, there are cases where some find themselves homeless and living on the street. How may we address the issue of integrating these challenged young people into our community, so they may become stable, productive and positive members of our city?



Local banks need to loosen their own restrictions, without fear of another market crash like 2008, and fund the development of the next neighborhoods development, in all directions of our city, otherwise we become landlocked, without growth. If there are no lots to build new homes on, prices will rise for existing homes, and poorly designed urban infill will occur. Open financial opportunities for urban development in the core of the city, and continue to have an dialogue regarding, and to use generously TIF financing, encouraging private enterprise to invest in the core of our city. Begin building and designing the next manufacturing / industrial region to our city, including roadway corridors, access to transportation hubs and current major roads. Use eminent domain to set aside lands for re-development. Grow neighborhood hubs as nodes for business and civic opportunities and make direct tie-ins to residential areas. Stapleton, Denver does this very well with its new urbanism design structure. Piedmont shopping center and its re-development has turned around a dead zone, and made it vibrant again. Private sector opportunities need to be encouraged. Encourage, and work to grow the tech sector, including bringing a fiber based internet to expand services and provide appropriate competition to the local market.

Create a group insurance pool here in Lincoln that uninsured, working adults could "buy into". or pool non-profit funds to assist clients in paying for premiums at healthcare.gov when they are working but under 100% FPL. no one should have to chose between work and health care.

Our youth programing in the city of Lincoln is strong. There are many opportunities to donate time in support of our youth. Programing such as Junior Achievement, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Teammates, Engage Empower Graduate via United Way, and the Community Learning Centers are great examples. If there was a way to blend the efforts of these various organizations/programs in a more efficient manner I think the impact to our youth would more than double. For example, if I'm signed up as a Junior Achievement volunteer at Calvert, give me the opportunity to easily sign up to be a teammate to a student who may be in the JA class who is looking for a match or volunteer for 30 minutes after the JA session in the Community Learning Center. If these organizations could work together to make the process more seamless, I think you'd find volunteers more willing to donate more of their time. The key is getting it in efficiently and increasing the impact without the hassle of signing up for multiple programs and having to make multiple trips to different schools, etc.

Ensure that there is an ample amount of low income housing and affordable housing for those on the lower end of the economic spectrum. Continuing to build and beautification is good, but we need to make sure we do not commit gentrification to the point where our lower income families cannot find housing within our city.

1. How do help we Neighborworks get more funds/personnel to support the work they do? The houses and neighborhoods that have improved dramatically due to this organization is great feather in Lincoln's cap. 2. Is there a way to support more pre-schools, perhaps in our elementary schools. Most schools in countries like Australia start kids at age 3 or 4. Why not us? 3. Without question, we should pay close



attention to the scientific findings on well being coming out of the positive education movement, and apply them to our schools.

1. Students should learn more about finances in high school or earlier, such as how to: budget; not accrue and get out of debt; see the difference between a true asset and liability (one produces money, one loses money); grow money (or ideally have money grow itself) and build assets, beyond buying a house; see opportunities for creating and building a business desired by a community). Perhaps build a required class around the book, 'Rich Dad, Poor Dad' by Robert Kiyosaki. This would begin to provide the information necessary to break the cycle of generations relying on the government for so many things. Teach them how to manage and grow finances. 2. Personal reflection should be a component of every lesson in every class. Imagine if history didn't have to repeat itself because every current generation not only read about history but also developed an awareness of how it is or recently was related to current events and especially elements of their own lives and communities. Ideally this could entrench the idea of a direct connection between daily choices made by everyday people and the resulting shape of history and each society. Bringing it down a level, raising self-awareness is another way of beginning to break the destructive cycles that recur in too many families from the uber-urban to the super-rural.

1. Better mental health services for children and families that are easily accessible when in crisis. 2. More programs to mentor/support students, such as TeamMates. Having organizations sponsor clubs in schools outside of the school day.

It may be time for Lincoln to begin looking into wide-area networks for certain portions of the city. We know that connectivity/access can be a barrier to the vast educational opportunities that the internet can provide for youth and adults. Many progressive cities have built hot spot networks in high poverty and high traffic zones.

What comes to mind first and foremost is that Lincoln needs to have better public transportation. We have one family member and many acquaintances that are very limited in where/when they can be employed because they do not have timely transportation and/or cannot afford to own a vehicle. Public transportation hours and routes (especially north/south) are too limited for Lincoln's population. I appreciate all that you are doing to better our beautiful city. I was very encouraged by the program and speakers at the breakfast on May 12.

In the suggestion I provided at the breakfast meeting I recommended that the youth development organizations have regular meetings to coordinate efforts and make every effort possible to involve more youth in out-of-school time programs. Now, looking at the three foci I think the youth success is very critical to the other two. Successful youth are more likely to become successful youth who will earn enough have sufficient financial assets for their families and support of the community. The successful adult engaged in the community should result in a higher quality of life for all concerned. I would be willing to share ideas if there are small groups getting together to discuss Prosper Lincoln.



Assure families have basic needs met -- nutritious food, a home, education, a job, financial literacy and a support system that they can count on. A youth needs to feel secure in a home, have food on the table and a support system first. It is important to teach financial literacy -- budgeting, what is on a credit report, etc. is very important to start as soon as possible. Even a young child with a piggy bank/s -- one for needs, wants and giving -- is a good place to start. Community services and government services need to cooperate so there is a single place to apply for services. Create a centralized database where basic biodemographic and financial household information can be entered once, and then "shared" privately and securely with the necessary service providers. Similarly, centralizing a referral database for service providers so the individuals don't have to remember phone numbers, locations, etc. with alerts sent to the agency/ies would help streamline paperwork and give more focus on helping people to get their needs met.

Address the poverty in the community. Poverty begets poverty because the children in poverty do not have the role models nor the resources available that will enable them to be more likely to contribute effectively to society. Develop public-private programs that address ways to improve the skills of the adults in poverty so we do not produce another generation of those struggling to survive. This will address the problem instead of the symptoms. A rising tide DOES NOT raise the level of all boats otherwise we would not be experiencing increases in the number of both children and adults in poverty. If you have only a dingy or life vest, the wake of the big boats and the rising tide may only swamp your boat or drown you. I do not have a specific plan to offer but there are surely those who can be assembled to begin to address this issue.

Youth Success: Not meaning to sound cold but it is time we focus on teaching them to fish instead of just feeding them fish. We have to give the kids reading/writing/math skills and forget about the rest. Face it if they can't read they can't do anything else. Dollars and manpower need to be para education based providing hands on mentoring before, during, and after school. This can't be a Lincoln Public Schools program because their money and hands are tied. If someone could put a program together to help mentor the kids one on one in the schools it may give them the help they really need. Economic Prosperity: How bout working with City Hall to stream line the process? Codes, permits, rules, regulations. If you really want to foster entrepreneurial activity make it easier for them to get through the red tape. How bout a committee that actually reviews, evaluates, and makes recommendations as to how working through city hall might be easier. Quality of Life: I think Lincoln has a good quality of life already. Maybe we just need to get the word out more and encourage Lincoln to take advantage of the quality of life we already have. Maybe if there was a better web based site that was a clearing house for everything to do in Lincoln

We should create a Dolly Pardon book club. The program will assist with sending books to children age newborn to 5. This would help with the learn needs for the under priviledged.

Always ensure community opportunities for youth in the areas of arts, sciences and physical activity (including physical activity beyond the realm of sports). And that includes, providing opportunities to



those children/families most in need of services (most at risk of slipping through the cracks). Children who are curious about the world, will find answers they are looking for. Children who are creative, will become the idea pioneers for the next generation. Children who are active physically, will lead a healthy lifestyle. Kids who are curious, creative and/or healthy, will ALWAYS have the better prospect to succeed in the classroom. Awareness of existing programming, scholarships/bussing for families who can't otherwise afford existing programming, and more funding to keep these programs at the forefront are all "high demand/big ticket" items. THANK YOU.

We are in desperate need of an affordable cab service. What about Uber?? I think it could drastically cut down on drunk driving.

I would like to volunteer to help with this. I am not an executive or important person. I am a newly retired person who wants to help make Lincoln a better place. Would you put me on a volunteer list?
Thanks

Youth – more community learning centers, more head start programs, multiple locations for lighthouse to serve more youth. Young adults – need more vocational training programs. Economy and vibrant community – have to pay everyone working a living wage. Social programs professionals staff need to make more than \$11 /hour to allow them to stay and provide service continuity to participants served. Requires higher reimbursements rates especially to men's programs.

Love the library campaign. Higher those folks to do a campaign on how people use Lincoln.

For H.S. volunteer hours, an opportunity to work in a community garden.

Pay a living wage.

We should be a "blue zone"

Get Nelnet, Hudl, etc. to put on tech camps for kids (k-12)

Better promotion of existing services and coordination of those services for families in need. More development in center of town (not downtown/Haymarket) – currently, grocery stores closing, churches moving to outskirts, etc.

If prison capacity estimates can be done based on 3rd grade reading levels (as was suggested at the Prosper Lincoln event) invest in resources/capacity/other to increase those 3rd grade reading levels. Or perhaps more generally put: stop advancing children if and when, at the point of advancement, you know the probability of incarceration is high.

Improve public transportation. Find the funding to assure that each child in Lincoln schools can go to college/post school training. Draw youth into this discussion. Head start for everyone... child care assistance.



Education. Higher education. Cultural land like football & __. Public parks. Make sure all the student going to college. Bus are should go with the bikes. Helping to learn language to get the better job.

Focus on educational employment beyond simply vocational education.

Expand our libraries to become learning and communication centers where people of all incomes can go to learn needed skills and have access to technology.

Identify food deserts in Lincoln and find way to establish markets/grocery stores for neighborhoods where healthy foods could be purchased at reasonable rates.

I would like to see the development of social enterprises to accomplish our community goal. One element of these enterprises might be "Impact Investing." It would be advantageous to leverage our post-secondary students and educate on the many ways they can make a difference socially via their entrepreneurial interests.

Expand access to quality Early Childhood Education. Support Family Literacy Programs. Support the expansion and sustainability of Community Learning Centers. Look at options to level the playing field by providing Wi-Fi to families who can't afford it.

I believe there are several areas of the city that are being neglected due to a lack of access via trails, roads, sidewalks, etc. Those areas are Air Park, Fallbrook, and Southwest Lincoln. If someone wanted to get to those areas without a personal vehicle, they would be challenged. There are limited sidewalks and trails leading to these areas, and the busing system doesn't extend to some of those areas frequent enough to fulfill the needs. I also believe an effort needs to be made to develop these features as the new diverging diamond interchange is constructed where NW 48th St. and I-80 meet. With this interchange will come a wealth of new stores and plans, we had better be ahead of the game and have the proper means of transportation in place to serve the community. There are some great parks, lakes, and activities that could lead to a much more strong, healthy, and vibrant community where the economy would grow by leaps and bounds if these areas become connected to the rest of Lincoln with the same means the rest of Lincoln has access.;

I would recommend working with Lincoln Public Libraries, especially those in low-income or high-refugee/immigrant areas; Lincoln Literacy, which serves all of those communities, plus prisoners who are functionally illiterate, and the homeless who are also illiterate in some essential capacity, as well as providing Citizenship Test, ESL testing prep, etc. based on family income; schools in the afore mentioned neighborhoods, both public and private; Humanities Nebraska for its Prime Time program and its new Veteran writing program; and other organizations like Food Bank, Lincoln Action Program, Goodwill, etc. that don't promote a particular religious faith in our increasingly multi-cultural, multi-faith community and state to develop family literacy programs that will enable adults as well as children to learn English and appreciate the tremendous value of being able to read and write in any language, but especially English in these hard, challenging times that the poor and newest to Lincoln/Lancaster County face .



I would like to see Lincoln research and implement a state-of-the-art Day Care system, similar to what France has for it's children. We need multiple locations of top quality day care for preschool children. Youth and elderly could do volunteer and paid hours of work in day care throughout the city.

Early intervention is critical for children. The opportunity for EVERY child to attend a quality preschool to ensure their learning will begin a successful chain of events -- leading to success in school, careers, and becoming part of their community.

Involve our business community in teaching the importance of financial literacy. There are many sectors that could benefit from learning about saving to purchase a home, attend college, etc. or about balancing a checkbook or budgeting.

Support, with financing, quality child care for women/families who are struggling to stay above the poverty level. Raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour by supporting all legislation designed to bring about this result. Create opportunity for honest, non-threatening conversation to bridge racial divides. Reestablish an organization similar to Citizens Against Racism and Discrimination (CARD), alive in our community 10+ years ago. It provided a platform to engage in conversations, leading to understanding and communication among cultures and races in our community.

Continue to develop trails system throughout the community. The newer neighborhoods in the NE & SE feel disconnected from the system. Financially support economic development efforts at a high level from both public and private sources.

Since daycare cost are as much as 30% of income for some families and the importance of a good early start for children, I would recommend developing some form of daycare that is quality and affordable. It needs to include sick care as well. Perhaps partnering with a few of the senior living centers to combine efforts might be one idea. Churches may have good access points as they are all over town.

Expanded industry/community partnerships to train entry level people for jobs right out of high school. We need to focus both on higher income jobs as well as entry level as these are also critical positions.

Lincoln as a community should provide activities that are nurturing for our youth, such as more opportunities in proximity to their home for the arts, an active play facility. Kaneko has an exhibition call PLAY, which demonstrates creative minds, playful minds, etc. Keeping the youth active in productive thinking will help assist the youth of our community and the adults to create a better Lincoln. We have many well known artists and creative people in our state.... lets use them to create more success for our youth.

Quality of Life: improved bus service. Let's find better ways to move people around town. We need StarTran to run more routes and run later in the day. I would love to avoid the ten mile round trip commute to work every day - eastern suburbs to downtown - but can NOT afford to spend nearly an hour waiting for bus each way! (Wife COMMUTES TO OMAHA in the time it takes for many StarTran



buses to arrive at a given stop.) You also need foul weather gear at many bus stops - nothing but a sign on a light pole. The main 11th Street terminal has been a problem for decades; perhaps security guards need to be present during operating hours, and on any routes with known issues. Surely with all the computer power available these days, StarTran can find innovative routes and create terminals in outlying areas, both to relieve the load on 11th Street and to encourage greater use of the bus service. Economic Prosperity: improved bus service would promote economic prosperity by freeing less prosperous Lincolniters - there are many - from tyranny of the automobile. Less driving = less gasoline to buy, fewer repairs on car, and fewer dollars spent on parking, all of which should mean MORE DOLLARS in ordinary Lincolniters' pockets. A study to verify the costs would help, and publicity to promote this concept - using StarTran saves you money - should generate more riders. Youth Success: Better bus service would let young Lincolniters postpone or avoid car ownership, leaving more money in their pockets (or their parents' pockets). It would also provide better access to school and other educational activities, city amenities like parks and pools, as well as better access to jobs. Plus young people who grow up using mass transit like StarTran - and enjoying it - are much more likely to use and support StarTran in the future.

I think Lincoln must look at ways to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We must figure out ways to better cope with the effects of climate changes, such as the semi-annual 100 year floods. I do not want the poverty-stricken people in Lincoln to get dumped on. We must deal with the inadequacies of the Theresa Street Pumping Station. Either that, or buy up those houses to make way for our "poop corridor". We need to have a well thought-out plan for who to dump on if we have to break the Salt Creek dike to save the "Down Town" area. We need to educate people that the new (\$1000) water heaters get ruined if they get wet. Perhaps we educate everyone to install their water heaters on concrete blocks to gain a few inches. Did we collect the stories of water damage during the May flood? I think a large number of people in Lincoln suffered, not just those in poverty, but I do not know. Where can we archive those stories, so they can inform us to make better possible decisions.

Other cities have a public bicycle system available. People can buy weekly, monthly or yearly passes or just one-time passes, take a bicycle, ride it to another docking station and either dock or trade it. This has been successful. It's great for City revenue, great for people who may not own a bicycle but want the advantages of riding one and for a city trying to be "greener" it's a no-brainer. Bring a public bicycle system to our city.

Encourage physical activity and healthy weight, improve school lunches, support community gardens, make Lincoln a Blue Zone!

Lincoln needs to create an endowment fund to foster grow items such as sunken garden, Jazz in June, farmers markets, interests free loans or grants for small local businesses.

More dog parks would mean more family time and exercise, and would encourage people to get to know each other and make bonds in the community.



Quality affordable--free if necessary--child day care from infant to school age. Same for after school programs.--summer programs. Incentives for parents to attend parenting classes. The investment in getting children off to a good start will pay for itself long term through reduction in crime, increase in employment, etc. -it has been proven over and over--but the positive results are long term--too often people view it as an expense with no return. No hungry children. Encourage education and employment for parents without financial/benefit reductions.

Team with non-profits to provide child abuse & neglect prevention strategies to youth, parents, and professionals in our community. When a child is being abused, they cannot focus in school and learn because they are thinking about survival and protecting themselves at night. 1,129 child victims of abuse were seen at the Child Advocacy Center in 2014 and these numbers continue to climb. Seventy-three percent (73%) of children seen are suspected of having been sexually abused. Seventy-three percent (73%) of the children seen are under the age of 12. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the child victims of sexual abuse. know their alleged abuser, and 73% of the time it is a family member.

Lincoln needs a much improved public transit system. It needs to run many more hours and cover more of the city. Not everyone needs to go downtown, so buses need to run routes that will take them where they actually work. It would be very helpful if every bus could carry bikes so that people would be able to bike to the bus, take the bus to their stop and bike to their destination. Also, all buses need to be accessible for those in wheelchairs.

Lincoln has need for expanded before and after school care for children. Parents who work often have difficulty finding care for their children. Our school schedules are also very choppy making it difficult for parents. When there are so many "early out days" or extra days off for grade school it makes working difficult. Add to this the days that certain high schools are out because of events being held there such as music or sport competitions, it is enough to drive any parent crazy.

I have been reading with City Impact IRC reading program for 2 yrs. I feel that it is a very valuable program for children that are not up to their level of reading. If these children don't learn to read their chances of ending up in our prison system is very high. There isn't another program that I am aware of that works in this way. The teachers feel that it is very very helpful. These children will want to be successful but if they can't read it makes it so much more difficult for them. I love Lincoln and I want it to be the best city it can be. We need to keep working to strengthen our inner city to make it better. The poverty level we have is truly unacceptable and will only get worse if children can't read. I have also involved with TeamMates for the last 15 yrs. This is also a very needed program to help these young people. Lets make Lincoln STRONG.

For the past year and a half, since relocating to Lincoln from Indianapolis, I have been a reading tutor at Clinton School one day a week with fourth graders, under the auspices of City Impact. The youth are all minorities from several racial and cultural groups. I have found them to be bright, pleasant, curious, anxious to learn, and eager to be involved in a wider world than just their home environment. Previously



I had volunteered with the resettlement of Eritrean refugees for a number of years. The development of language skills is a crucial element in their adjustment, and productivity. Whatever Lincoln can do to support, and expand, the implementation of this vital resource is an investment in the future which will just keep on giving and multiplying.

Free internet access to all households in Lincoln, NE. City-wide wifi.

1) We need to support collaboration in this community aimed at assisting "at risk" populations. We need the funds to support the actual collaborative work. 2) We also need a neutral organization to be the lead to assist with ongoing access to services for families such as Community Response/Alternative Response efforts to keep families out of deeper end services when this can be safely avoided. 3) Sustain the work of Project Everlast in Lincoln. 4) Support the work of CLC's in Lincoln, every school should have a CLC for safe expanded learning opportunities after school. 5) Grow the full-service community schools model especially in higher risk neighborhoods. Tie this effort to Community Response/Alternative Response city wide work so that neighborhood strengths are maximized in the efforts.

Create a non-profit, non-bureaucratic business incubator that develops opportunities for low income youth to get a foot on the rungs of the career ladder.

Keep adding green to the downtown area, and the art sculptures. How about a Lincoln Chalk Arts Festival in June in the downtown, Haymarket area? It could feature artists transforming a certain area into a museum of chalk art. Artists could complete an application and submit an overview of what they intend to create, and no cost to the artist.

1 - I would say that youth needs more support regarding safety, mental health, healthy fun activities, and substance abuse treatment and care. Prevention to young kids regarding safety at home and community, substance abuse prevention programs, and mental health treatment available for those in need. Ask the youth what would be helpful to them. Identify the problems and solutions with their participations and suggestions. 2- Promote compatible wages, entertainments (besides the same restaurants and football) such as festivals, adventure sports, etc. Open minded professionals. Have we asked the potential professionals, graduate students, and so on what they are looking for? 3- Promote recycling throughout the city (campaign) , green eating (green restaurants NOT only markets), exercises/work out at the parks, more outdoors activities, use of the lakes with water sports competitions, etc.

Enhance public transportation routes, hours and stops, so that young people can more easily access services, engagement opportunities and employment.

Provide proactive grief support, education and resources to bereaved families in order to prevent long-term mental/behavioral health concerns. This support should be provided across the spectrum of our community.



We must invest in girls' education -- specifically, helping girls and young women understand that the most important decision they can make to determine their future success and quality of life is when -- or whether -- to have children. The cycle of poverty continues to churn and churn when very young women have children and don't -- or more likely can't afford to -- control their own fertility. Generally Lincoln, I think, has been open to comprehensive sex education and understanding the importance of providing real, grounded and fact-based sexual information to young people, through schools and through partners such as Planned Parenthood, despite any potential accompanying baggage. It is imperative that this continue. It is vital that our young women understand that the most predictable and logical path to having a satisfying career, a satisfying relationship and becoming good mothers to their future children is to stay in school or stay with an education that interests them until they can start a road to self-sufficiency, then take on motherhood. This means education, access to safe and informative health care, and most importantly, all legal options available to them to control their fertility, including many types of contraception and safe and legal abortion. We should demand nothing less for the future of all of our children, not just girls and young women. I hope that Prosper Lincoln can take a look at how health and education organizations can work together to provide children (especially girls) the information and the access they need to understand how important this control and decision-making about fertility is to their future earnings, their success, their prosperity and their quality of life. It's vital for young women and families now in poverty, but it's also important for breaking the cycle of poverty in future

Let's make Lincoln a Blue Zone. Here is a link with information on Blue Zones.
<https://www.bluezonesproject.com/originals>

I have volunteered at City Impact reading program for a year. I am exciting to say how welcomed I have been into the school ...teachers and staff. What a joy it has been to relate to the students each week. I walk out with my spirits uplifted. I also have observed how married couples who volunteer together enhance the program by being an example of marriage and of grandparents if you will to the children they have worked with. It appears that Prosper Lincoln has a great advantage by supporting this great program that is established and has been ongoing for many years. Thank you for your support of Lincoln.

Youth Success- Public schooling should start before kindergarten. Early childhood education is so important. It shouldn't cost parents over half of their monthly salary to get their children quality care and education before kindergarten. Quality after school programs and year-round schooling. Teach them real life skills like how to manage money, how to cook healthy meals, how to conduct themselves in interviews, the importance of practicing safe sex, etc. Economic Prosperity- As a young adult looking to start a family, I look at the potential risk factors for my (future) children in each community. I think that if you want to attract professionals in the community then you should provide a safe and inviting place for people to raise their family. In addition to that, a variety of job opportunity and growth. Support more local businesses and less Wal-marts. Quality of Life- Their needs to be a larger awareness about the obesity epidemic and children and adults need to be given better opportunities to learn how to improve their health. In addition to that, having parks, gyms, and farmers markets are a great source for people to be more active and healthy.



I would like to see Lincoln commit to a truly effective mass transit system that would allow lower income workers to access their employment without reliance upon the high cost of maintaining a car. If the system were truly extensive and reliant, the greater public would access it also, thus saving on pollution in the future and less congestion on the streets.

1) Work with the College of Education at UNL to encourage its students to volunteer as tutors at elementary school CLC locations. The college students could perhaps use this valuable experience to complete course requirements. It might be that they could receive practicum credit as well. Under any circumstance, this engagement by the college students would enhance their training as prospective teachers and will help children learn more. 2) Work with the Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education and the LPS system to create a summer experience for ELL students. Use LPS teachers as cooperating teachers for those college students who need practicum hours or even a student teaching experience as part of their work on an endorsement in English Language Learning. 3) Seek individuals from the rank of retired educators in Lincoln to serve as volunteers at after-school programs. The volunteers could work with children on basic skills or assist other agencies, such as scouting or 4-H, to provide character building programs. 4) With the beginning of the LPS and SCC Career Academy, explore ways that on a space available basis, individuals who are not LPS students but who are interested in various "trades" could have an opportunity to benefit from the instruction and activities that are offered.

I am a "drop in the bucket" of working to ensure success for our elementary school students. I work for less than one hour, one day per week, reviewing sight words, reading words and phrases while being timed, and reading books, with three elementary students. The reason I say I am a "drop in the bucket," is that up to four other volunteers work with the same children each week, doing the same thing I do. I have done this before, and seen amazing improvement in less than nine months time. This year I started in March and didn't see quite the improvement by the end of the school year, but I saw enough to inspire me to make room for this activity for the next school year.

I would like to see police in the schools. There they could become acquainted and learn to see police in a different light and it could help them avoid crime and drugs. We need more after school activities for youth, fun things, and help with home work, and continue providing meals. To reduce poverty and all the problems it leads to we need to do several things: 1. better pay for service jobs. the minimum wage does not provide a living for families or individuals. Changes in the ADC and medicaid, and food stamp requirements so people do not suddenly lose benefits. 2. Health coverage for all workers, in both government and private work places 3. Time off without loss of job or wages for medical appointments for themselves and their families. 4. Access to pools in the summer, libraries all year, parks with all facilities (includes bathrooms and mowed areas, and ways to arrive at these places by free transportation. 5. Upkeep of sidewalks, roads, and all infrastructure in all of the city. 6. Possibly a way to keep everything clean by hiring people to eliminate the trash , graffiti etc. in the city



Medicaid expansion would assist individuals in Lincoln and across NE. I am not sure what this effort can do to advocate for this legislation. The ability to obtain affordable health care is foundational to creation of a prospering community. While we have a low unemployment rate in Lincoln and NE overall, this does not ensure that individuals are thriving, in fact many are working multiple jobs for low pay with no benefits. Working with our local employers to provide paid benefits and maternity/paternity leave is very important to ensure children are supported early in life to create strong attachments and sound social emotional health that research tells us starts them on a positive life trajectory.

Each Title One Elementary School should be partnered with 5-6 businesses, that assist with funds and volunteer hours - that role would be filled in other schools, by a PTA. Although LPS tries to make staffing equal - it is those "extras" that some schools have that are not available to lower income children and it is even more important for those children to have that adult interaction and role modeling.

Encourage neighborhood organizations to form, if not already in place. Use these groups to communicate needs, potential dangers, activities, etc. I would be happy to provide plant material to residents that do not have extra funds to purchase plants I have many perennials I divide and bushes and trees that seed themselves. I now throw excess away, but if there was a way to give them to needy individuals, organizations or the city I would be happy to do so. An on-line plant exchange might be a way to accomplish this, or through neighborhood organizations. I have heard some schools have student involvement in the landscaping around their schools. Nurturing growing things establishes a sense of pride and beautifies the city, as well as providing a sense of accomplishment.

There are statistics that show 91% of the people in domestic violence situations would leave sooner, but their pets are being abused. The Capital Humane Society will house the pets for a short period of time, but that actually does not really help the situation a whole lot. It is a tragedy that the people and children need to leave their home, but then even though their pets are being taken care of, the pets are also being taken away from them. There needs to be a location that people in those situations can take their pets with them. I spoke with someone from the Josie's Fund and she said there is only one location in Florida that allows domestic violence victims to take their pets, so it is being done. We need to have a location for people here!!

Focusing on Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is a way to move the Vital Signs of Lincoln from data collection to making an impact on the community. ABCD utilizes community assets as building blocks rather than focusing on needs and deficiencies. More information can be found at <http://www.abcdinstitute.org/> For a story about ABCD at work, go to: <https://www.faithandleadership.com/death-and-resurrection-urban-church> This example happens to be church-based, but asset-based work does not have to be church-related.

To improve the health and well being of Lincoln residents I propose the following idea. In our emergency rooms every day, actual thousands of Lincoln residents go and have a dental emergency. At the er they get drugs, no treatment. They leave and are like a ticking time bomb. They are better for a while and



even then are they a person that is well, probably not maybe miss work, affect them interacting with their children. This population only has a routine dentists 20% of the time so they do not know where to go. Also, they are in a situation that missing work may affect their livelihood. So, if we had a referral system that had vouchers, where they could go and have the tooth removed on their time schedule would not Lincoln have a more vibrant and strong resident. This is a problem that will not be solved with our present or future health system. It is a forgotten segment and one that is in pain and not a contributing citizen because at that time they need help and help promptly. We are in position that we can offer assistance with contacts to appropriate dental health places to take care of these citizens. We need a central non profit directional person or organization to help with this issue. Thanks for your efforts, really like the breakfast meeting.

We need to figure out the early childhood education issue - how to ensure our citizens that live at or near the poverty can find quality childcare and provide a mechanism for their children to grow and thrive. I know it seems both daunting and expensive, but it will pay huge dividends if we can find a way to deliver these essential services to our families in need.

I believe reaching students at the youngest age possible will foster the most change in the trajectory of their lives. Support from caring adults is critical. Children may or may not have supportive families. Either way, every child can benefit from an objective, listening and interested person with the goal of mentoring the child in life skills and encouraging them to value their education and become the best they can be within or regardless of their current circumstances. Individual guidance and positive input from a mentor gives the child many advantages as they are encouraged to complete their high school education and beyond, to become productive adults who can support their families with a career that uses their strengths. I believe that this need is increasing dramatically. Lincoln needs to support mentoring programs that provide long term, consistent adult mentors. Nothing replaces one on one personal conversation, guidance and the joy of being cared about unconditionally. Well adjusted children, secure in their strengths, educated acknowledged for their unique achievements and assisted through the hard parts of life will become our most stable leaders. Lincoln will benefit in every way.

Provide city-wide recycling through including it in our taxes and providing regular pick-up at every home and business. Can use the many competing companies to carry it out. Would cut down on the dump disposal system.

While Lincoln emerges as a national example of low unemployment and high standard of living, there is another side to the story: our children are hungry. Starving, actually. The free and reduced lunch rates for LPS students is staggering, so while platitudes and praise abound in Lincoln, there is a serious element that is not being discussed. If Lincoln is to truly prosper, the reality of poverty and hunger should be our charge. I believe one of Lincoln's greatest assets is our proximity to all socio-economic elements: we are not a suburban, segregated community (see Omaha) and we are able to maintain strong support of our schools and neighborhoods in spite of the struggles people face. If we are to continue this distinction, we must recognize that our vibrance and our strength comes in the value of all



of our citizens and our ability to recognize need and develop creative steps towards addressing needs and promoting efficacy and team work.

I think we need to build a new central library! A strong central library is vital to a strong system that serves all the branches and keeps all areas of our city growing with equal access to books, computers, programs, and services which all enhance our educational system and especially help our youth to prosper. A new central library is a vital component to our city's economic development plan and will serve the growing downtown area, from the Haymarket to Antelope Valley, from the University to the SODO area. It will serve the business core of Lincoln and the soon to be developed area around 21st and N. Libraries are catalysts for change and tools in economic development plans to attract new businesses and employees to Lincoln. A new library on the Pershing site will also provide services to the center core of Lincoln, as it sits in the most economically challenged portion of our city with the most dense population base which will help ensure equal access for all in our technology world.

A living wage Sustaining General Operating Funds for Non-Profits Increased funds for youth programs for low income kids Support of Alternative Dispute Resolution for conflicts within our community Support for the Arts

To ensure a consistent and growing economy, we need to pay very close attention to the current level of taxation that occurs locally. While the most recent increases in sales tax for the LFR bond and the construction of the arena are admirable, any further taxation can stagnate us from further growth. Salaries in general are not keeping up with the inflation rate and the rate of taxation. Specifically, the growth in spending and current levy by Lincoln Public Schools needs to be addressed. Their expenses are 80% of local taxation and it continues to climb faster than their student enrollment growth. While schools are an important component to our communities success, the growth in spending and burden placed on the property tax will further erode our growth ability, and will drive potential employers away. When you compare our per student spending annually compared to other public schools and compare their lower cost with the same academic achievement levels, we have a Cadillac system this is putting out just average students.

A new central/main library is the answer to all of the above. Libraries provide a safe place for our youth to gather, especially those who don't have access to computers and other technology at home. There are several proposals on the table regarding how a central library can partner with business, which is a win/win for everyone from an economic perspective. A library can provide the avenue for arts and cultural opportunities plus enhance the quality of life in many other ways. The library board has examples of how other communities our size and larger have tackled the above issues with a new library -- with great success.

New central library, public/private partnership, ideally located at Pershing site.

I needed to add one more thing-- put Montessori back in Everett School. The program provided a nice mix of students AND parents. There was a strong PTA (mostly Montessori parents), now there is none.



Taking out the Montessori program was a big mistake on the part of LPSDO. This area needs more advocacy. With 96% rental and lack of voters in the area, advocacy doesn't happen except by the neighborhood association and we are not big enough.

We need more transportation in the evenings for all ages.

I strongly believe a new downtown library on the Pershing site (Block 63) can enhance and contribute to all three areas - Youth Success, Economic Prosperity, and Quality of Life. Studies have supported the notion that libraries can better the over-all quality of life in a city. As a parent and former educator, nothing is more important than igniting the love of learning in our youth. LPL does a wonderful job offering and encouraging participation in events and programs at our libraries. LPL is keeping up with technology offering opportunities for youth, workforce, entrepreneurs, professionals, neighborhoods, and cultural understanding. Our libraries have resources for parents, children, teens, immigrants, retirees, job seekers - and virtually everyone in our wonderful community. Good libraries are essential to the continued growth and prosperity of any 21st century city. We have an opportunity to build a state-of-the-art library on land already owned by the city which is downtown close to both the Capitol and the University. I envision students coming in from out-state NE to tour the our Capitol also including our state-of-the-art library on their visit to Lincoln. What a compliment! We are so fortunate to live in a city that listens to its citizens. I appreciate the many opportunities and advantages Lincoln already has. Thanks for the plans to make it even better!

We need to think of ways to bring together our refugees and immigrants with our current Lincoln residents. A planning group? This might involve neighborhood associations, social services, churches, and other groups

We should have a (or several) community gardens. Gardens plan, let and maintained by the community w/ seasonal fruits & vegetables and plants year round.

A 3rd skate park for kids! Maybe in the Havelock area.. but definitely north side of Lincoln.

Better parks in the northeast area. For Big kids & toddlers.

More dog parks!

To become a better community, Lincoln should start growing more of its own food, start trapping rain water and turn the Pinnacle into a green house. Just becoming an eco-friendly place makes a huge difference. Every minute of the sun light could fuel the earth for a year.... Solar power!

We need to have transportation on Saturdays and Sundays . Many are without transportation on the weekend. Could our bus service be improved? Bring back bus holiday light tours. Local happening better advertised in the paper. Theater holdings be broken up. One group decides what's to be shown. A cheaper theater for second run movies for students and seniors especially. Theaters located in the north?



The neighborhoods to the south of downtown between 8th and 22nd from the Capitol to South Street have some challenging neighborhoods. I know that there is a focus on this area but parties involved are searching for ideas. Awareness is important so hopefully we can get the word out. I would hope that something can be done about some of the tenants in certain areas as well as the crime. This could be a decent start to the thought process. In addition, more focus on dealing with the transient population downtown. Improvement in our Library location and quality would certainly assist with some of the lower income areas and single parent families if they had an updated downtown library with good access. Youth, economic benefit of improving the educational opportunities to youth and quality of life all appear to be tied to a decent library destination.

I have thought for years that Child Protective Service workers do not get enough support. We all recognize and thank police officers and fire department personnel for the important contributions they make to our community safety. Child Protective Service workers are also on the front line ensuring that children have safe and thriving homes to grow up in. And yet, they are often viewed negatively and get little recognition for the work they do. The turn over rate is alarming. I think we need to have a group called "Friends of Child Protective Services" to bring donuts to the office once a month, to give them an opportunity to celebrate their success, have a raffle for a free parking spot for a month etc. The real benefit will be for the workers to know that they are not isolated, that Lincoln understands that they are champions for our children and are appreciated. It wouldn't cost much and could help improve morale tremendously.

One aspect of economic vitality is to continue to develop a vibrant eco system to encourage entrepreneurs. Provide opportunities for them to exchange ideas, a place to grow their company and people to help grow those ideas.

Our economy depends on innovation, and the exchange of ideas helps spark innovation. TEDxLincoln is focused on the exchange of ideas. Help support this nonprofit operation and encourage people to participate.

Provide intern opportunities for our youth in all companies to give them an idea of the jobs available and the education they need to fill those jobs.

Give people things to do that are free or inexpensive. Jazz in June, evening concerts in parks, the community playhouse, and art projects such as the current Lighthouse light bulb project deserve support to get people in the community engaged.

Quality of life involves physical activity. Grow our hiking and biking trails to give people a great way to be active and in many cases, a way to travel to and from work without driving a car.

Give the young people ways to engage intellectually as well as through sports. TEDxYouth@Lincoln is a great example.



Fan the flame of co-creators. In his book "For The Love of Cities" Peter Kageyama describes these people. Here's what he says: Those ordinary citizens who somehow go above and beyond typical levels of citizenship and do extraordinary things for their places. Not because they paid to, but because of their desire to make things happen in their hometown. We have many in and around Lincoln, we could use more. Find them, encourage them, celebrate their involvement and it will spread.

The number 1 priority for Lincoln to grow should be an expressway or beltway system around the southern and eastern parts of town. Without that, Lincoln will continue to be handcuffed and looked down as an overgrown small town.

The same community leaders tend to be involved in all of these kinds of initiatives. Unless groups like this truly reach out and target very specific underserved populations and get input from a wide range of individuals instead of targeting willing peers to provide feedback, the ideas generated won't be beneficial to all. Instead of starting with successful business leaders - find some people whose businesses struggled and/or closed in the past year or two. Look for individuals who left Lincoln - both for other Nebraska communities and other states and find out why they left and what might have kept them here. Reach out specifically to families who may need a little help but don't qualify for public assistance and talk to them about their situation. Lincoln has no real identity. If you look to other model cities like Austin, TX or Portland, OR they have a theme that the whole community seems to get behind. Lincoln has the Huskers and that is what they use to get people to rally around. Community art projects such as the recent Lighthouse project seems to be something that is enjoyed, but it is a temporary thing that fades away (i.e. the bicycles and "star city" artwork from the past). Now that the Haymarket area is built up, it seems like resources are pushed there at the extent of other areas of the city. Why be so focused about making sure there are certain amenities such as a grocery store in the Haymarket but when a grocery store leaves the University Place neighborhood action isn't taken to help bring something new in. Why not build up little neighborhood centers around the old areas of town (College View, Havelock, Belmont, etc) and make sure the walkability scores in those neighborhoods are higher instead of spending so much assisting private development in other areas? I am proud to have grown up in Lincoln and think it is a good place to raise kids, but I don't know that I would stay here if I didn't have family ties. More and more, it seems like there are a select few making big decisions that don't benefit the city as a whole but rather those with money and influence. Having many of those individuals serve as the leaders of groups such as this don't help the cause.

Build a new central library. This builds successful youth reading programs and builds literacy and education. The economy will grow by freeing up the old building, obviously a library is the heart of every strong and vibrant community - look at cities like Denver and Minneapolis where their libraries are the heart of their downtown areas.

I can see a correlation among all three focus areas and how access to and participation in the arts can make an effective difference across the board. Using information presented in Vital Sign stats, I would like to see a broad effort to mobilize the many arts organizations in Lincoln to address the needs of



disadvantaged young people through the long-term (4 years) commitment of placing local teaching artists in classroom, after school and workshop environments through schools, CLCs and community centers. I believe that the Lincoln Arts Council would be a natural "clearing house" for such an effort in concert with funders who are willing to make a long-term commitment to particular host locations.

Economy & youth. We need specific outreach to middle school & high school youth that are not achieving & give these youth some vision of jobs that are possible that they haven't ever heard of – coding, robotics, transportation, logistics, etc.! Some kind of initiative that business leaders support staff doing 1 club of (8 wks) per yr. in some school.

Youth success – support collaboration such as – community response, Project Everlast, CLC network, alternative response, Homeless Coalition, Prosper Lincoln. Funding is needed for backbone support of the collaboration.

Free healthcare.

Lower the cost of name changes, and transitional healthcare for transgender people in general.

Make it so a letter from a doctor is no longer required to change the gender marker on one's birth certificate, driver's license, and other identifying documents.

Have buses run later, if not all night/into the wee hours of the morning. There needs to be more "huss" (like the one on 11 & N) scattered around the city, and the buses need to go more places.

We need to hire more police so all of them aren't stuck directing traffic on game days. Also, police need rigorous training on diversity issues – especially racial issues, transgender issues, sexism, etc. etc.

Require police and other public safety officers to wear front-facing cameras that must be on and recording at all times.

Increase funding to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and to other public educational institutions. Ideally, tuition should be lower and community college should be totally free.

Comprehension, inclusive sex education. Growing children need to know how their bodies work and how to protect themselves sexually. They need to recognize abusive relationships, what consent is, etc. Sex ed need to include LGBTQA identities and issues, as well as intersex conditions. Make some sort of sex ed mandatory to graduate with no exceptions. Make it so students who are LGBTQA can safely take a class without being outed to their family.

Policy @ public schools for preferred restroom use. –don't single trans kids out to ask what restroom they will use. –new schools being built should have uni-sex restrooms available

Specific group-club that cuts across socio-economic boundaries and reaches our LGBTQA youth of ALL AGES not just teens. A safe space.



Free child care – available hours – before and after school programs.

LGBTQ youth-education included in curriculum after school programs. Mentors who are gay/lesbian/bisexual. Counselors-safe-educated. Emergency housing for LGBTQ youth/adult.

Free community college. Youth, displaced workers, parents, physically/mentally challenged. Increase minimum wage again.

Public transportation – affordable, subsidized, extended hours, weekend hours, encourage bikes, core area served – don't change it

Instead of ADC payments, state pays child support if absent parent doesn't. State collects from absent parent.

Community policing substations. Police walk beats. Body cameras on police. Police in schools.

Tax businesses more. Non-discrimination laws. Greater support for the arts.

Increase education & skills for all youth – young adults – adults.

Several groups do not feel safe in Lincoln especially @ nite – women, LGBTQ people, people of color

Sex poverty areas need enhanced access to public transportation.

Many of our children are growing up in homes where they are not safe and they are routinely subjected to abuse and neglect, sexual assault and exposed to family violence and substance abuse. There are plenty of programs as a community we can invest in to enrich childhood learning, but we have to start at square one. If children are not safe in their own beds at night, how can we expect them to thrive and learn? How can we expect them to focus on anything other than daily survival? The long term impact of untreated childhood trauma is overwhelming. The cost to our community is significant. We need to invest in fundamental safety first and foremost.

My primary goal for the city in the next few years is to build the south and east bypass systems. For too long the city has come up with excuses for not building these roads. In the meantime, highway 2 from 84th street to 10th street is at overcapacity, there have been multiple fatalities and countless accidents on this stretch of road. The city needs to show some leadership to solve this problem, be innovative on paying for it (tolls, taxes, fees etc.) Not only is this a safety issue, it will promote economic development for the entire city. The time is now to get this going, the current plan is too far in the future and who knows how many lives it will cost.

I believe safe, clean and attractive neighborhoods are one key to healthy families and helping children succeed. One important way to help keep neighborhoods healthy is for the city's Building and Safety Dept. to take a more pro-active role in insuring that Lincoln's housing stock is kept up to code and not allowed to fall into disrepair and/or unsafe conditions. A renewed emphasis on rehabilitation and



upgrading of existing housing throughout all neighborhoods--especially those with high poverty levels--would do much to help make Lincoln a better city for all its residents, not just those in the more affluent categories. There also should be an effort to be sure all rental properties are in good condition, and that landlords are kept accountable.

Teach persons to "learn how to learn" as opposed to "learning a trade". Trades and vocations will always be changing or becoming obsolete so it is important that each person is not afraid to learn something new

Support of Lincoln's budding start-up ecosystem is critical to meeting the goals above. From a city's perspective that means supporting and fostering the infrastructure that startups need to succeed. That means traditional infrastructure, like space (preferably with clusters of shared resources) and Internet, but it's also talent recruitment, access to customers, specialized service providers and access to capital. The city may not be able to provide all of these things directly, but it can structure its policies and prioritize its activities to encourage these things to develop.

It would be beneficial to our community if we found a way to help people who can not afford their medicine. Especially, the mentally ill. Maybe we could contact pharmaceutical companies, or outlets such as Walgreens and CVS to establish a program. I just know that when my friends who need these meds, don't get their meds, they become poorer and less productive. Sometimes, I pay for the meds for my friends and then I am poorer.

More Community Gathering Spaces Lincoln in general and the downtown area in particular need more public green spaces. In the downtown area, there aren't many places to spend time outside or be with friends and neighbors that aren't privately owned. A park within the downtown area would help build community and make it a better place to live and work. This is honestly a big factor in conversations my husband and I are having about starting a family in Lincoln. We want to live in an urban area, but as it is, Downtown Lincoln doesn't provide everything we want when we have kids. The two issues at the top of our lists are not having a grocery store within walking distance and the lack of nice outdoor areas. Being a new mother can be a very isolating experience, and having easy access to nice parks is a great way to get out of the house, relax and get some vitamin D, and just be with other people. ----- Better Public Transportation Lincoln should invest in better public transportation. I work at a company that has a lot of remote employees who will come into town for 1-2 week visits on a regular basis. By far the most common complaint is transportation. Planning simple trips to go to the mall or the grocery store are really difficult for people without cars. A better bus system that people want to use would help reduce overall traffic and is good for the environment. Even if the service is adequate, the bus system has a really bad reputation. At the very least, it could use a rebrand and an awareness campaign. ----- Reward Good Childcare with Necessities Here's my crazy idea. In Finland, every expectant mother is entitled to a "Baby Box" as long as she gets prenatal child care within the first 4 months of pregnancy. The box contains child care necessities for the first few years of the baby's life, and the box itself can be used as a crib. This was started as a way to decrease infant mortality rates. It was initially just for low



income families but now is available to everyone. <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22751415> What if Lincoln did something similar for school-age kids? Every kid enrolled in elementary school gets a backpack full of school necessities. I think a key component of the Finnish box is that it is available to everyone. It's a right of passage and a helping hand for everyone. It builds community and makes sure kids are set up for happy and health beginnings.

There is not equal opportunity and accessibility to the arts in Lincoln. Students who live in poverty face many barriers to accessing the arts, such as tuition costs for classes and lessons, transportation, etc.. And yet there is lots of research out there that demonstrates a direct correlation between brain development in youth and exposure to the arts. Children and youth may get brief exposure to the arts in their schools or afterschool programs. However, the students who live in poverty know that going to the next level in that area of art that interests them is not an option, so they do not have the opportunity to deeply explore and develop their talent. Other communities have found ways to address this issue, and I think if Lincoln is going to "Prosper", then we need to ensure that all youth have access to the arts, recreation, and other enriching experiences throughout their youth. Below is an example of the inequality I speak of: I attended a children's dance recital in Lincoln recently...it was extremely well done, with high quality dancing, costumes, and choreography. About halfway through, I started to feel a little sick as I realized that while there were plenty of songs that reflected different ethnicities, such as "We No Speak Americano", the dancers performing were very WHITE. As each number came on stage, it became more and more evident that there just was not much cultural or socio-economic diversity among the dancers....mostly rich white kids. I started to obsess about it, telling myself that maybe the next dance will have more diversity among the dancers....but NOPE! I have heard dance moms talk about the hundreds and even thousands of dollars they spend each year on costumes, dance competitions, travels to competitions, etc. And then it all started to come together for me as I sat in the dark auditorium...like so many other things in this country, we have made the arts inaccessible to lower income families. And yet I refuse to believe that all of the talent in the arts is held by predominantly rich white kids. And so I believe that we Lincolniters have a challenge before us....we live in a community that has consistently scored high in national rankings of "best cities to live in...", and yet we have failed to make something like the arts accessible to all children, regardless of race, religion, or socio-economic status. We can do better than that....We have a city full of people with big hearts and strong minds....surely we can figure out how to give all children equal opportunities to enjoy and master the arts...opportunities to dream big and to know that they CAN achieve their dreams and develop their talents. Some people will say that we ARE doing things to make the arts accessible to all. And my response is, "Have we done ENOUGH?"

Mentoring makes a huge difference in a child's life. TeamMates provides a caring adult to meet with a student during the school day. There are statistics that proves this program does make a difference.

I think we should do more as a community and companies to keep our talent in Lincoln. We have a program at the Chamber but it is not touching enough interns/students. A community can only grow at the level of its talent growth. In today's on-line world it is harder to match talent and opportunities. We



have done some public projects that have increased the vibrancy of the community but we need to get more "connected" in our goal of keeping talent in Lincoln. I think we should look at what avenues we have and enhance them and then figure out the gap.

As a long time resident of Lincoln (26 years), we have many companies that give back to this city and state, volunteering their time and helping make a difference in our community. As a volunteer myself, I see many organizations helping those in need with shelter, food and care. Unfortunately, I also see a much larger issue for the state tied to our ability to retain all age groups within the state. The prosper Lincoln message seems to be, as it has been for many years, all about education, assisting, developing and growing our children, improving graduation rates, and hopefully keeping them employed and living in Lincoln after graduation. What about their parents? grandparents? I believe that one of our major retention issues is our retirement folks. They are leaving and taking their knowledge, volunteerism, and income with them. As we study the millennials and the soon to be "Z" generation we will see that they will go to great lengths to stay close to those they love. So while we have great educational programs, lower than most states college education costs, and average starting salaries, we will continue to see them leave our state to be closer to their parents and grandparents. Why? TAXES everywhere. It does not take much to change Nebraska from one of the worst (Top 10 worst retirement and least tax-friendly states - Kiplinger's Summer 2015 Retirement Planning Magazine). Matter of fact, if you look on page 86 of that magazine, we are the only Midwest state, other than Minnesota, who makes that list. We only need to modify how we treat social security income, once retired, to make a real retention difference. By retaining these talents we increase our ability to improve volunteerism, charitable support, and at the very least visits back to this great state by children and grandchildren. The car usage tax is also past its usefulness, and needs to be replaced with a normal state system. Finally, the values we present in Nebraska don't seem to match the other top ten "least tax-friendly states" on the list, but we want to operate our state like them? The second idea that would improve the long-term vitality of our state, would be an old idea to have several businesses take on more apprentice and intern folks to teach them a vocation, give them a career and/or a way to support their own lifestyle. Make this a tax favored initiative for those businesses that demonstrate that transition from a welfare to a self-supporting individual state. This would work in nearly all employment environments. Time to teach "how to fish". Keeping the families in Nebraska should be our goal.

I'm a big proponent of having a strong centrally located/downtown library and I find that Bennett Martin is lacking in many respects. I've heard talk of the potential for a new library in the downtown area and would support that initiative. Libraries are excellent resources for kids from all socioeconomic levels and should remain a strong focus of our community.

I would like to see us do a better job of teaching the arts to at risk youth.

Support mentoring programs of all kinds. Subsidize family leave and child care. Promote local food. Vastly improve public transportation and bike safety. Invest in renewable energy sources. Support



cooperative ventures among all types of educational institutions. Try establishing time banks. Eliminate food waste.

I think moving Bennett Martin Library to the Pershing property would be a progressive move forward.

There isn't a grocery store within walking distance of downtown Lincoln or the Haymarket area. Even a small market would have a huge impact on the quality of life of people living in that area.

* We should do more advertising of bike trails focused on mediums that low income people will see (buses, bus stops, billboards, etc.). Bike trails are a great alternative to cars or public transit for someone without reliable transportation. It would be awesome to show different neighborhoods all of the parks/pools they can get to solely by bike trail, which could increase safe opportunities for kids to have fun. * We should reach out to local businesses to sponsor a sports team within the local Rec or YMCA leagues. Looking at gradeschool-hs basketball at the YMCA, it is \$50 per person (\$40 for members). For \$1,500 (plus providing a coach?), we could sponsor not only the team but public transportation to 1/week practice and 2/week games (\$50 x 3 nights, no idea what a bus actually costs) for the 6 week season. Each sponsor would sponsor a neighborhood, getting the community to come together while also making logistics of transportation easy. Public transportation could be used by players and also families to attend the games. Hudl is an obvious sponsor for at least one team. * Expanding on the idea above, we could partner with schools to provide the "scholarship" for any student with a B average.

Lincoln (the city and the businesses) could use a lot more recycle bins. Also I know Rochester has a pretty cool Makerspace (<http://www.rochestermakerspace.org/>), so maybe Lincoln could look into getting one of them.

Supporting early childhood education programs for all children aged 2 to 5 should be a community priority. Allowing all students to enter kindergarten on a level playing field, no matter what their socioeconomic status will increase the chances of Lincoln having a quality workforce in the future. Continue and increase the support for our parks and recreation areas. Families need free and safe places to play outdoors. By starting with our youth we are committing to the growth of our economy and therefore a strong community. We need to continue to expand our trails, parks, dog runs, plazas, and events to keep community members engaged.

I've had the privilege of working on Lincoln ATD's Knowledge Management Council and the Make it Work for Lincoln Project. I've also followed Vital Signs reports closely during that time. What's become apparent to me during my work on this project is there are many research projects going on. Each sponsored by different organizations and agencies passionate about their work, generating quality data, that also often overlap to create confusing statistics. What Lincoln doesn't currently have is a central hub for all of that data to look for correlations and causation. If we had that hub, organizations and agencies conducting studies, could focus their efforts in specific areas, removing duplication and improving effectiveness. That would help us focus on specific areas to address concerns in the latest



vital signs reports, as well as help us recruit and retain individuals and businesses to increase economic vitality.

You should look at the skills gap report that was completed by ASTD Lincoln. [Www.astdlincoln.org/kmc](http://www.astdlincoln.org/kmc).

For youth to be successful they need strong and healthy family environments. We must focus on building skills in adults who have had limited access to parenting, good role models, life and job skills training. While it is important to focus our efforts on youth and be future oriented, we must not forget the impoverished adult population who struggle to make ends meet for their children. They need supports to obtain and sustain a living wage, further their education, and build their self-esteem. Healthy and prosperous adults is key to ensuring youth are successful and that our economy grows. I think it would be great to offer more affordable/free cultural activities and community wide events for all to participate. We have great venues in Lincoln but I'm concerned that not all Lincolniters feel comfortable enjoying the railyard and other areas. Admission prices for some annual events are too high for all to enjoy. We also need more affordable housing with landlords and businesses willing to work with working poor and homeless individuals who struggle to come up with a deposit and first months rent. We have to get people housed in order to decrease homelessness, it's that simple. Once housed they can work on all the other reasons that lead to homelessness but it has to start with a safe place to reside.

Encourage "COWORKING" type small business startups whenever possible and in nontraditional disciplines like construction, service industries, lawncare, staffing, etc. Fund nonprofits, arts, humanities, music programs, etc. Arts matter! Support robotics and IT type clubs in schools, similar to the career academy being built at 84th and O st.

I feel that our youth need more "free" activities so that they can get away from family issues and socialize with others so they can learn new things and skills.

Partner with the ASTD Lincoln Knowledge Management Council to analyze existing and future survey data regarding skill gaps within the Lincoln workforce.

Here is just another idea...I think we need a "nick name" for the Pinnacle Bank Arena...to me, the most logical would be "the round house", obviously since it is in the railyard...and of course it's ROUND....

Resources should be devoted to early childhood development and reading. Lincoln should aim at having the highest literacy rate in the country along with the highest high school graduation rate.

Lincoln's infrastructure must be improved and then maintained better. In its current state, it does not convey the image of a successful and growing community when the streets are in their current condition. Granted, the high level of street construction activity shows that it *is* being taken seriously, and improvements are on the way, but there is a ways to go. In addition to streets -- which seems most obvious -- this also applies to trails, sidewalks and bike lanes used by walkers / bikers to commute, to



water lines which are aging, and also bridges and interchanges. Beyond that, ensuring that funding and commitment is in place to maintain infrastructure is just as critical.

I think that we need to rebuild and revitalize the downtown branch of the Library. I feel that if we update the structure and the resources that it is meant to house, the youth of the community will feel more inclined to use it. I don't think that the one that we currently have fully supports the downtown community.

I have lived in Nebraska, off and on, my entire life and the last several years have been living in Lincoln. When I first moved to this town I truly enjoyed the bicycle paths and various areas to walk where it is safe. I propose a special effort into making Lincoln a truly Bicycle Friendly city! Omaha, NE is #42 on the top #50 bicycle friendly cities! Lincoln has both a smaller population and less traffic than Omaha. Denver is ranked in the top #15. How does this fit into our goals of building Youth Success, Economic Prosperity and Quality of life? 1. Youth Success a. The first childhood memory of absolute freedom was going off on a bike ride. Whether that bike ride be with peers, parents or just riding solo- it was a way for me to get around. A bicycle is the commuter vehicle of choice for individuals under the age of 16. Biking promotes cardiovascular and muscular health benefits, eliminates fossil fuel emissions and promotes independence. b. I personally grew up in a single parent's household with 3 siblings. I rode my bike to school, work and moved to college and only used a bike for transportation until I could afford my own car at age 20. 2. Economic a. This will indirectly attract and keep professionals in our area. 3. Quality of Life a. Bike paths easily enhance neighborhoods and promote opportunity to connect with other neighborhoods. This will increase health and well-being.

Support the United Way Engage, Empower, Graduate initiatives

We need to get the community involved in the schools around it. As a teacher in a Title I school, not only would financial support be helpful, but volunteer support would be equally welcomed. I would love to let surrounding businesses know what is happening within our school and how they can help!

I am very interested in the findings of the Lincoln Vital Signs report and hope to participate in the initiatives of Prosper Lincoln. I am concerned that the effects of climate change on our community, and particularly on the poverty areas of our community have not been mentioned. The necessity of addressing both the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the projected effects on our community has been illustrated by the flooding issues we have experienced several times in the past year. 100 year floods are projected to come far more often, with periodic heat waves and droughts that will put particularly the poorest among us at risk.. I don't see how we can ensure our youth have a bright future, that our economy grows and that our community is strong without addressing climate change. I encourage leaders of Prosper Lincoln to seriously consider, for example, developing a climate action plan; building on the notable LES efforts to move toward renewable sources of energy by encouraging even more investment in such sources as well as encouraging a switch to more fuel efficient and



alternative fuel vehicles, encouraging energy efficiency in our buildings and homes, and advocating serious consideration of environmental justice in all city planning.

Create and support Cohousing: Cohousing is a form of collaborative housing that offers residents an old-fashioned sense of neighborhood. In cohousing, residents know their neighbors well and there is a strong sense of community that is absent in contemporary cities and suburbs. Cohousing communities consist of private, fully equipped dwellings and a common house and recreation areas. People feel more isolated than ever in today's society. Cohousing offers the opportunity for interaction with your neighbors through the design and layout of the neighborhood. The design of cohousing developments supports opportunities for spontaneous and planned interaction between neighbors, while maintaining the privacy of one's own home. Living in community has many social benefits for individual, families, and older adults. Through shared activities, which may include shared meals, laundry, child care facilities, offices, internet access, guest rooms, gardens, and recreational features, everyone works together to maintain and manage the community. Cohousing can ensure youth are successful by offering a stable supportive environment to grow up in. Our economy grows through bringing other housing options for people considering making Lincoln their home. It makes our community stronger and more vibrant through people working together to build and maintain where they live.

The environmental impact of climate disruption will play an important role in the quality of our lives in Lincoln, in Nebraska, and across the globe. As UNL's 2014 report on the impact of climate change on our state indicated, the changes are already impacting us and show no signs of stopping without prioritization of this significant issue by our business and political leaders. UNL's Dr. Don Wilhite one of the report's authors is recognized throughout the world as an expert on climate. I encourage you to contact him and his colleagues who co-authored the Climate Report. Did you know, for example, Nebraska has shifted nearly an entire plant hardiness zone over the past 20 years. (UNL Extension Office) We will shift another zone in the next 20. By 2050, our winters will feel more like Kansas winters and our summers will be more like New Mexico. Check these facts on NOAA websites and other reputable science-based sites. The city Chicago has a climate change plan in place which, among other things, calls for planting trees that will thrive in their new climate. How will Prosper Lincoln address the coming environmental impacts and preserve our quality of life? I trust your team will address this critical issue. Thank you.

Climate change will profoundly effect everything in the future. Our community needs to be doing as much as it can now to both prevent and prepare, as some of that change is already underway. Continued leadership for energy conservation, renewable energy use, water conservation, prairie and natural space protection, alternative transportation, and recycling will have a major impact on the children of our future community. Climate models show that the Rocky Mountain snowpack may decline dramatically, profoundly impacting the Platte River, our main water source. Affecting all of this in a positive way is completely within our grasp if we just do it. Continuing to build a culture of preparing for the future in the ways mentioned above will help us now and then. Without this, it won't be possible to



have youth success, it won't be possible to have economic prosperity, and it won't be possible to have a great quality of life. I thank the mayor's office for all of the efforts that have taken place to date.

We need a pedestrian walk way in the haymarket. Close off part of 8th street to traffic and parking to help increase foot traffic. Cost could be minimal by simply putting up some form of artsy barriers. Ensure alleys and roadways going east west for delivery trucks. Adding any type of ped mall to the hay market will only increase the vitality of the area.

Invest in our volunteer organization (Volunteer Partners) to help our communities see and feel the impact of giving back. Whether intrinsically or extrinsically motivated, volunteering provides much needed help to non-profits and service organizations that need a helping hand while also fulfilling the personal and sometimes professional needs of the volunteer as well. People want to feel they are making a difference in their own communities. Helping an organization such as Volunteer Partners connect those volunteers with non-profits is a much needed service that has largely gone unnoticed.

Make Lincoln more walkable, bikable, and livable

Groundwater is our state's most precious natural resource. In order to have a growing economy, vibrant community, and the ability to nurture successful youth we need a clean and abundant source of groundwater. To do this we need informed decisions at all levels (personal, business and policy) we need to educate youth and foster the next generation of scientists, engineers and administrators, and we need to generate community awareness about the role groundwater plays in sustaining life and our livelihood. We need everyone to be a part of the solution to ensure a sustainable, clean supply of groundwater is available for a Prospering Lincoln!

I believe that we need to have safe, secure and well paying jobs for every person in Lincoln. Everyone deserves to have health insurance, a good education, the ability to pay for basic needs, save for the future and the opportunity to own property among other things some take for granted. As of now, the "American Dream" or "The Good Life" is not a possibility for everyone. Some will always fall short, because of the structure of our economy. Until we have a systemic change, not only the structure of our economy, but in the hearts and minds of people, some will always be left behind and their children will follow. I don't know how to change people's understanding of the suffering of others. God forbid they have to learn by suffering the same fate as those they ignore, to fully understand. I hope people come to the understanding that people are more important than money and things -always. I do think it would help to have more community events that are open and welcoming to all classes, cultures, races and all other forms of separation of people by differences. When we know someone's story and are able to meet them and talk to them on a human level, we can create an avenue of understanding, compassion and spark positive action. Our youth deserve a chance to further their education beyond High School without a huge debt. And there is no guarantee of making any more money with a degree in hand. We need to nurture our children's interests and curiosity with supplemental community activities. However, a lot of parents don't know where to or how to find, or pay for these activities. I would suggest making



an online tool that has free community events to connect people and their interests so they can contribute to society through participating in volunteer activities in a variety of ways. Even our youth could learn from mentors in the community. Linking people together forms strong community bonds and makes all lives better. Everyone has a gift or talent to share and if we nurture and value those things, we will all be more enriched. When we work with each other, we can always do better and more things that will set an example of the power of collaborations for future generations.

1) Lengthen the school year - or, at least, schedule the year differently to include shorter, more frequent breaks...eliminating the long summer break. 2) Pay attention to the research and start middle and high school classes later (say, 9:00 a.m.) and keep them in school later in the afternoon - attending to their need for sleep and the community's and parents' need to keep children of that life stage productively occupied during mid-afternoon hours while their parents are at work. 3) Invest heavily in our Community Learning Centers and more completely involve neighborhoods in the leadership and shaping of individual CLC's. 4) Invest in young people - with a strong focus on girls (who are often overlooked because they don't act out as much as boys do) - and encourage them to set goals and believe they can go far. Spend time in school dreaming about the future and imagining what their lives will look like after they graduate. Help them aim high. (Girls who have goals and plans, research tells us, are less likely to become pregnant at an early age.) 5) Change the public aid system to reward the behaviors and accomplishments we hope people will move toward. Instead of increasing aid payments when new babies are born, give bonuses/rewards when people go through a six-month or one-year period without becoming pregnant; Instead of removing benefits when recipients get and keep a job, give them a bonus/reward when they keep a job for six months/one year/two years. Allow them to amass assets so that they can one day buy a car and then a house. Stop punishing and start rewarding.

I think Lincoln should focus on 2 things. 1) Get the city library to increase its hours after school until 9pm at all locations so that kids have better after-school access. 2) Lets focus on adapting to the global warming that is creeping up on us. My specific vote is to improve insulation (and the efficiency of heaters) in all of Lincoln's low income housing. However there are other ways Lincoln could respond: more renewable energy; climate adaption of the trees appropriate for Lincoln in parks etc;

I think it is extra important that some of our economic development comes from clean energy and slowing the pace of climate change. I would like to see Lincoln become known for sustainable practices: in building, city planning, energy production, etc.

explore cross generational programs that encourage people to work together. have retired folks act as bus monitors to create a safe environment for those trips to and from school, also acts as a bullying deterrent. For older students have them work in the neighborhood with home visitations and general assistance around the house. At the same time retired people could prepare after school snacks or even a periodic menu that could be shared at the school promoting closeness in the neighborhood. If you share experiences with people in your neighborhood there is a stronger sense of community.



Recreation centers with youth programs must continue to be available to all youth throughout the community. Give these kids something to do -- perhaps more community gardens, scooping snow for the elderly in the winter -- and they will feel wanted and needed. Let these opportunities somehow provide rewards through the school system and it will encourage them to explore more opportunities. Provide the high school-aged kids with technical schools through LPS. Look at our work force -- what areas have shortages. This will help the kids and help employers find the skilled workers. This should provide a higher quality of life for all involved. We need secondary technical schools for mechanics, plumbers, painters, welders, LPNs, equipment operators, etc. Not all kids are cut out for college. We need to provide them with opportunities as skilled workers.

Support families with children who have issues with mental health/autism--even with insurance, the medical bills are hard to handle for some. Pay more attention to the individual interests and learning styles of students and their growth.. Focus on problem solving skills and staying with a problem until it is solved--bringing in help from others if needed...the idea here being life skills that are needed in the workforce. Have more opportunities for people to interact with social problems and to be a part of the solution in their community. Educate and support the idea of respect towards all people.

Lincoln has so many generous individuals and organizations doing their part to support the greater good. A lack of coordination in those efforts can be as damaging as not making the effort at all. My recommendation is for an organized effort on coordination of service and support - perhaps community wide focus group style planning bodies in the areas of "X". For example, in the area of literacy...all organizations implementing programs or supporting literacy on some level should coordinate to make sure the literacy support is happening across the lifespan and across all barriers. Those organizations could hone in on what part of the lifespan or barrier breaking they fit most naturally into. As it is, there are multiple organizations focusing on literacy for elementary students, some involve the families too. This is especially good for non-English speaking families. But what happens to those families when the kids move on to middle school? The children continue to receive literacy training from their schools, but if the family members are not literate, or not particularly resourceful, they may fall through the cracks after their kids pass from elementary school. I would like to see another organization, maybe SCC Continuing Ed or Lincoln Literacy, reach out to these families before the kids finish 5th grade so there is scaffolding set in place for the family members to move on to another literacy program after the elementary program ends. I'd like to ensure that the good work is being put to best use.

* Light rail between Omaha and Lincoln. * Improved mass transit in Lincoln * Improve wages. I often hear people say the cost of living is lower in Nebraska. I think employers use this as an excuse to pay lower wages. * Improve access to education after high school. * Taste of Lincoln event

New Shores T.I.P.S. is a program designed to help low income families and individuals through a qualifying program to pursue their GED, Pre-Vocation training, Community Resources, and Counseling. Objectives: 1. To design and encourage pathways and practices whereby members can improve their work history and address issues on background which will enhance chances of employment. 2. To help



low-income adults transition from government assistance and into the work force. 3. To network and connect with businesses in the community to create opportunities for training, apprenticeship, and employment for certificate members (program completion). 4. To provide mental health counseling for members and their children. 5. To create a structure learning environment for both member and their children.

What is cohousing? Cohousing is a form of collaborative housing that offers residents an old-fashioned sense of neighborhood. In cohousing, residents know their neighbors well and there is a strong sense of community that is absent in contemporary cities and suburbs. Cohousing communities consist of private, fully equipped dwellings and a common house and recreation areas. Participatory process.

Future residents participate in the design and development of the community so that it meets their needs. Some cohousing communities are initiated or driven by a developer, which may actually make it easier for residents to participate. However, a well-designed, pedestrian-oriented community without resident participation in the planning may be "cohousing inspired," but it is not a cohousing community.

1. Cohousing Association of the U.S. 2015 Cohousing Solutions. <http://cohousing-solutions.com/faq/> . People feel more isolated than ever in today's society. Cohousing offers the opportunity for interaction with your neighbors through the design and layout of the neighborhood. The design of cohousing developments supports opportunities for spontaneous and planned interaction between neighbors, while maintain the privacy of one's own home. Living in community has many social benefits for individual, families, and older adults. Through shared activities, which may include shared meals, laundry, child care facilities, offices, internet access, guest rooms, gardens, and recreational features, everyone works together to maintain and manage the community. Cohousing can ensure youth are successful by offering a stable supportive environment to grow up in. Our economy grows through bringing other housing options for people considering making Lincoln their home. It makes our community stronger and more vibrant through people working together to build and maintain where they

Lincoln needs a new downtown library. Pershing Auditorium is empty. It could be replaced by a new energy efficient structure. There's space for more -- Our downtown YMCA is high maintenance, maybe move to the new space. Add living units above for young seniors who would love to live downtown near a library, a swimming pool and yoga rooms.

school vouchers and charter schools eliminate impact fees and rework the funding fo rnew development infrastructure hire more police officers more community festivals

bike trails in our community assistance to keep small grocery stores in neighborhoods neighborhood association support

promote local businesses provide a safe neighborhood for children to play have neighborhood watches



More funding for Urban Development to support neighborhoods. For example, Urban Development has helped the University Place and North Bottom neighborhoods in the past with neighborhood plans. These planning tools should be available for all neighborhoods who want to participate.

Talk to neighborhood kids, engage them with activities. Invite them to walk the dog with you. Let them know that you care about them. Ensure that you are at least partly purchasing from local businesses as much as possible and utilize farmer's markets too. Get involved in your community. Neighborhood associations and community centers need your help. It doesn't take much time.

I think you'd better start from the ground up. Workers are hurting, \$8/hour, 20 hours a week. If there is a plan which does not include a buffer for what are referred to as "soft skill" jobs, i.e. fast food, retail; you will surely drain the area of the "funky" qualities as well by proxy of eliminating the bare bones opportunities non-college grads, single-parent families, and down-on-luck-but-not-incompetent individuals count on to survive. Where are we supposed to go, and with what money will we relocate? Your reports in no small way allude to creating a strong business sector in this area for outside opportunists. Tell them they can start by building a mid-sized grocery store (regional, national, who cares) somewhere accessible in the planned revitalization area, and making a point of hiring bilingual employees, full time. This area is densely and diversely populated, please treat it and nurture it as such.

To attract companies to Lincoln, we need more and reliable flights in and out of Lincoln. Too few flights and canceled flights does not promote our city nor create confidence in flying in and out of Lincoln. In addition, neighborhood associations are key to developing a sense of community. Providing resources, connections, partnerships, and ideas for the associations is an important part of the vitality of our city.

Create an LGBT resource center, and increase LGBT awareness and education in schools.

Economic Development- I think Lincoln should offer more incentives to appeal to young professionals finishing up college. These incentives may include tuition re-imbusement if they continue on with their education, student-loan forgiveness programs, housing for young professionals that is cheaper (nice area of Lincoln), better public transportation options, incentive programs to help young professionals buy houses to start families, etc. I think in this day and age, young adults are finding it more and more difficult to get out from under student loan debt so they aren't buying cars, houses, having children, etc. I think there needs to be more support to help these individuals who are working hard to get an education so they can be a positive asset to the workforce, but its hard to do this with the constant stress of paying for expensive rent, living in a not-so-good neighborhood because rent is cheap and it may not be safe, public transportation is minimal and confusing, and there isn't a lot of room for advancement in some positions. Lincoln should make their salaries more competitive with other states. For example, my husband is a Registered Dietitian with a Masters Degree and he isn't making nearly as much as he could in many other states. Lincoln should do some enviromental scanning to see what positions with what education level are being paid and raise the salaries to match that. Nebraska in



general tends to pay most positions less than other states and this contributes to young professionals going elsewhere for employment.

I am a county employee and I believe it is time to raise taxes. Departments have been squeezed enough due to the budget demands of the County Board. I know tax is a bad word, but residents of the city and county need to start realizing that in order to maintain our infrastructure, schools, parks, etc. the money has to come from somewhere. Citizens complain of pot holes in our roads, but then turn around and complain when we have to spend money to repair them. Same goes for snow removal. When is the East and South Beltway going to be built? How large do classrooms have to get before we hire more teachers? Departments have had to lay off employees or hold off on replacing employees. Our benefits packages are not as great as they were just a few years ago. I understand healthcare costs are always on the rise, but employee contributions are getting to the point of eating our entire cost of living raise. Assuming we get a cost of living raise. If we take home less money than the previous year, then we can't spend more money in the community. It's a vicious cycle. These obviously aren't new ideas to the people who read these submitted suggestions, but I feel like they are important ones. Thank you.

Investments in 21st century infrastructure like Public Wi-Fi and Fiber to the Home will bring the largest benefit to our youth. A public Wi-Fi system located in the heart of downtown will show UNL students that Lincoln knows what kind of infrastructure is important to them. Public Wi-Fi systems are being deployed in major markets around the country. Lincoln has the "chops" to build one for our community. A municipal or public/private Fiber to the Home investment will ensure every student, regardless of income level, will have access to one of the greatest education and opportunity engines ever created, the World Wide Web. In a 2015 study released by the Boston Consulting Group, the Internet made up over 5.3% of GDP or over \$4 Trillion dollars in economic impact. With all the new technology start-ups in our community, it only makes sense to invest in the infrastructure needed to access this market. Ensuring our youth have access to education, business and innovation engine of our time is my proposal to help Lincoln Prosper.

There is a great need in our community for an aquatic center. Woods pool fulfills the long course season need and a high school pool fulfills the short course season need. Star City Shores is a non factor. There are over 5 swimming clubs that are constantly searching for pool space during the school year and during the summer they crowd in together at Woods. Each club has the potential to raise money for center. One to look at is in Derby, KS. Their center lap pool and a water park. We just went there two weekends ago for a meet. This facility was wonderful.

Continue to develop and improve services designed to support and appeal to people of all ages.

Make sure roads are maintained and kept in good working order.

The employees that work for the County and the City of Lincoln should reflect the population diversity. I believe an effort must be made let all residents know the opportunities that exist in working for the



County and City. Possibly through advertising and showcasing some of the positions to attract a diversity of applicants.

It would be great to have a place to park cars in the east, west, north and south parts of town and from there, catch a shuttle that goes directly from those parking areas to downtown/haymarket. Some people avoid the downtown area due to excessive traffic and/or difficulty finding convenient parking. This has worked well in other cities.

Recent improvements being made at 27th and O st has brought to light how busy each intersection along South 27th is. And how in need of repairs it is, along with the necessity of widening South 27th street between South St and Hiway 2 to at least 4 lanes of traffic. (2 in each direction) This has long been a "hands off" area for whatever reason, but it can no longer be viewed as that. For the good of the city growth, please make 27th street the major st it should be across this city. It is the only street that crosses our city to the Interstate, outside of 84th st. The city infrastructure is still the same it was in the 1970's when we moved here. The other long neglected idea is the south beltway. Many cities our size in America have beltway roads around and going through them so that traffic can flow smoothly. What a mess our city has become, considering the population growth from the 1970's to now.

Provide a school bus system to all residents.

A Facebook site (a closed group) should be set up to post items no longer needed (like printer cartridges) at one city or county agency which could possibly be used at another agency. Even if this is done before the public auction of items, resources could be redistributed and reused more efficiently.

Re: Quality of Life would be enhanced for residents and potential residents if the parks and other city property would be mowed and maintained. Tall weeds/grass does not motivate homeowners to take good care of their property, nor does it give a good impression to potential residents who are visiting our city. Lowering University tuition rates, rather than raising them, would help our youth get good educations providing for economic prosperity.

Lincoln should enhance the local downtown bus riding convenience. Develop a route for UNL students with scheduled stops near major downtown off campus housing units, with a drop off location near campus, and with a convenient time between buses. The buses should be equipped with card readers that note passenger entrance and exit and deduct a fare accordingly . Reloadable cards could be obtained at UNL and various places downtown. A separate but similar route for downtown workers, residents, and tourists should be developed with scheduled stops near the State Capitol Building, government buildings, museums, the West Haymarket and other desirable places. This route should include a stop at the UNL drop off. UNL buses could be painted red and the others white. A card reading system is used on the trams in Amsterdam and is very convenient and efficient.

Provide Educare Daycare(1 to 3 ratio) for all children cradle through 6th grade, allow those unable to pay, to pay it forward with volunteer time equal to pay for this service. Those unable to pay do



volunteer work for the City/County 20 hours per week at minimum wage equivalent. CONTINUE to provide daycare(educare) and foodstamps on a reduction basis when someone receiving full benefits secures work...DO NOT completely stop everything immediately...allow a year reduction so they can transition successfully. IE: receive employment allow 60 days full benefits, then 75% benefits for 3 months, 50% benefits for 3 months and 25% benefits for 3 months finally no benefits. Provide health insurance reduction benefits for improved health risk markers on a one on one and/or group basis. INSURE dental for all residents. PROVIDE FREE Community Picnics with health/wellness activities for points to receive healthy grocery coupons, etc. Be sure all children can access after school programs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lincoln should enhance the local downtown bus riding convenience. Develop a route for UNL students with scheduled stops near major downtown off campus housing units, with a drop off location near campus, and with a convenient time between buses. The buses should be equipped with card readers that note passenger entrance and exit and deduct a fare accordingly . Reloadable cards could be obtained at UNL and various places downtown. A separate but similar route for downtown workers, residents, and tourists should be developed with scheduled stops near the State Capitol Building, government buildings, museums, the West Haymarket and other desirable places. This route should include a stop at the UNL drop off. UNL buses could be painted red and the others white. A card reading system is used on the trams in Amsterdam and is very convenient and efficient.

I have some thoughts regarding the Quality of Life issue: The neighborhood associations in Lincoln vary greatly in their ability to navigate the system. There are opportunities for grant monies to improve our neighborhoods, but someone needs to have the ability to write the grant. That ability is often more prevalent in the higher socio-economic neighborhoods, while the neighborhoods that would most benefit from grant monies sometimes lack individuals with the self-confidence/ability to write the grant to apply for the funds. Even when the process seems relatively easy to the organization providing the funds, the thought of "applying for a grant" can be intimidating to some. It would be helpful if there were someone available to provide step by step support and assistance to representatives of neighborhoods interested in grants to facilitate improving their immediate environment or providing neighborhood activities/events. When an organization does sponsor an event in one of our local parks, it is necessary for them to purchase liability insurance. This additional expense and hurdle, may be enough to deter neighborhood associations from proceeding with their plans. Perhaps an organization, like the Lincoln Foundation, could take out a liability insurance policy that could include neighborhood associations.

Youth Success: We first need to make sure the basic needs of children are met: year-round food programs to ensure no child goes hungry, clothes are sufficient, etc. Once basic needs are met the kids need to know they matter and they are capable of doing anything they want, but they need to be motivated to do so. I think kids that have a solid family structure, food and shelter readily provided, and more economic prosperity already have a base expectation of this. After-school programs to keep kids on the right track will also help keeping them "out of trouble" and teach them the difference between



right and wrong. Economic prosperity: In order to keep and attract professionals, there needs to be areas where these adults can enjoy themselves. The West Haymarket is a great start. It's a fun place to hang out and enjoy many different types of activities. Lincoln seems to be kid-focused on a lot of private businesses. Quality of Life: Bike lanes and trail system are great ways to attract people to a community. Professionals like to unwind on the trails and families also enjoy the trails. Another dog park in southwest Lincoln would be nice also. I would also like to see outdoor festivals at Pioneers Park instead of the downtown area. We used to live in Kansas City and it was nice going to music events, bringing blankets to lay on the ground and hang out in a park-type setting instead of the downtown area where the sound isn't as good and it seems more "hardened" because of the concrete and streetscape.

I believe that we should continue to promote education at all levels in our community. We should continue to foster a sense of community in venues that bring us together such as the Pinnacle Bank Arena, Haymarket Park, UNL sponsored events, Uncle Sam Jam, etc. Maintaining our infrastructure is also critical in terms of streets, parks and water/sewer services. We should also continue aggressive marketing of the Lincoln Brand and why it is a great city to learn, grow, live and prosper in.

I think Lincoln needs to focus on improving traffic flows on major streets. The South bypass is extremely important to alleviate traffic flow and large trucks on highway 2. South Lincoln continues to grow and traffic flow will cause Lincoln problems in the years to come. Construction is improving some pothole areas but potholes continue to be a big problem along with streets deteriorating in general. There is more focus on youth learning budgeting in schools but this is critical to help lower income youth break the cycle by having opportunities and the knowledge to improve their standard of living. Personal finance in K-12 needs to assist students on how to manage money and how savings over time can provide a different lifestyle.

Many of us in the competitive and recreational swimming world believe that Lincoln should have a comprehensive aquatic facility for club and recreational swimming that would include indoor and outdoor pools with the possibility of a small waterpark attached. We were recently in Derby, KS and that small town of 20,000 people has an 8 lane, 50 meter pool with a great little waterpark attached (slides, lazy river, and small children's play area). A community member told me they had it paid off in two years. Everyone needs to know how to swim. It's one of the most heart-healthy activities and provides a good outlet for youth who may be at risk. With our more than 10 competitive swim clubs in Lincoln, we could bring large meets to town that would promote revenue for the city in many ways. I would love to steer a committee to get this project done!

1. Lincoln public school should offer year-around-schooling with two weeks of summer vacation so that it does not become a burden on parents during summer.
2. Lincoln City should have an aquarium in downtown so that youth can have summer camps along with employment.
3. It would be nice to have a theme park in between Lincoln and Omaha.
4. Lincoln Muslim people would love to have a Halal meat market that serves fresh Halal meat like other supermarkets.



Require the University to provide a service to the youth in exchange for the tax break they get for not paying property tax. This could include hours to be donated by professors and use of facilities. The recent changes in retirement benefits for New City employees was not helpful in recruitment. Prevent further cuts. Encourage the private sector to match what the city offers and encourage other local government agencies to do the same. Enforce quality of life ordinances and abandon alleys that are not maintained so that property owners can beautify the city.

I am sorry but this in itself is part of the problem. Until we let everyone figure things out on their own we are guaranteeing failure or worse yet reliance on the Gov't. Now on a positive note the idea and intent is good. First trial and error is still the best teacher. Let exploration take place. The best employees are the ones who have actually done physical labor. There is so much work in this town for those that will do it. I suggest take the money from this program and work with Aging, or LHA and buy push mowers and set up small yard maintenance teams. Minimal or no cost to the homeowner. The most important skills learned are customer service, attention to detail, responsibility and dependability. These are the 4 things that every employer desires but has a very hard time finding. Not rocket science just good old fashioned work ethics. After a couple seasons see how many start their own business. Landscaping, cement work and general handyman all fall into the same category. Neighborhoods Hammer slum lords and make whoever lives in the house keep the outside cleaned up.

06/15/2015 Prosper Lincoln, This may not be the type of idea that specifically makes the community stronger but maybe more to do with safety and ensuring our youth is around to grow Lincoln and make it more successful, a safer place and grow the economy for future and present residents. I have recently moved back to Nebraska from out west, specifically California and Nevada and one thing I notice when driving around Lincoln 16 years later is there are many people on their phones while driving. I understand that there are laws about specifically texting while driving but none in place about the distraction of any type of phone use while driving include talking, emails and of course texting. I have read a few articles and watched several news stories on local television shows about the rise of vehicle related bicycles accidents; pedestrians being hit by drivers and single driving accidents, my guess is that cell phone use has much to do with most of these incidents. Cell phone use while driving should not be permitted except with hands free devices only, this is a law in many other States and the numbers and data collected indicates these types of laws save lives and protect the community from careless distracted drives. Thank you

If I pick only one, it would be number 1, below. 1. A well-researched improved mass transit system. 2. Free city-wide internet access/wi-fi 3. A public salt sanitized swimming pool 5. Repair the damage to the city's trail system

Lincoln's greatest need is for a much improved public transit system. A new vision is needed, so that service is available evenings and Sundays and enables fast transportation between sites. An excellent bus system would help with all 3 goals above.



Youth Success/Quality of Life - Make resources that are already available more accessible to the many families in need will be an important step. No need to duplicate work if we can better utilize the great work already being done. Expanding the constituent base of these organizations will also make a great case for expanding their funding. When we elevate those in need among us, we elevate all of us as a result. Econ Dev. - Continue to make Lincoln more walkable, bikeable, and accessible via public transportation. Especially from neighborhoods and their hubs to business and entertainment districts.

The opportunities for student internships have dropped dramatically in many City and County departments over the past ten years. As a former intern (Health, Public Works & Utilities and Aging Services) who became a longtime City employee (Planning and Parks & Recreation), I can vouch for their value. Departments struggle to make budget and often these positions are cut first. I propose that the County and City budget for these positions from the general fund and then have the departments "bid" for the interns by submitting the types of projects they would like to have intern assistance with. Then interns from various programs could be matched to the positions. The Mayor or County Board would always have control over the number of intern slots that were available and there could be a central intern coordinator who could manage the interns and make sure there are good relationships with the University, SCC, Wesleyan, or Union College campuses, and maybe even some of the high schools. An intern experience can be the first step toward developing successful public employees. OR Go even bigger - make this a city wide, public/private effort and work with the Chamber, LIBA, and other business associations to have a central internship pool and central coordination. Afternoon and summer internships help to get students in the door, give employers a taste of what an individual can do before hiring, and bring fresh, youthful perspectives to business and government. Its a Win- Win- Win situation.

There should be a massive, deliberate, and engaging movement focused on youth involvement for historically disengaged youth. Non-profits and government agencies should take the lead in engaging youth as planners, researchers, teachers, evaluators, and decision-makers. Strong training, city-wide strategies and deliberate co-learning opportunities will strengthen and sustain these efforts. Research shows these activities will foster the goals you seek, and practice shows it will transform the community at large. ENGAGE HISTORICALLY DISENGAGED YOUTH!

Adults who work with youth need strong support and opportunities in order sustain themselves and their work. In order to achieve Lincoln's goals, the city should provide a substantial effort to facilitate professional development, cross-agency collaboration and more. This could also include a facebook group and other online activities, too.

Transportation – buses need more (5:00 am – 8:00 pm or more). 2nd chances for all-to get jobs. Opportunities for youth helping youth. More mentoring programs. Nutrition programs for kids – health applepie, making vegetables taste good, baked corn on the cob, lower calorie, less sugar, salads, gardening-composting. After school programs where kids could learn & have fun, activities with free tuition & no cost/low cost events.



My idea may already be done, but I'll suggest it anyway. This concerns something that the hospital could do. A list of 5 things that a mother should do when taking care of her newborn such as: 1. Hold your baby close when feeding, 2. Feed every two to three hours, 3. Change baby's diaper before feeding, 4. Read and talk to your baby, 5. Enjoy your baby. These are just ideas – having a short list to refer to, may give the mother a simple guide after taking the baby home.

Not sure what you mean. How can our community be successful when many are left behind. Hope those – poverty

Offer community run youth groups to introduce the youth's into the basic fundamentals of things that they could be faced with without getting the proper education. Teach the youths what the economics of the community would be like without everyone committing a little of their time to help the community grow and become stronger and more vibrant. Take some of the youths around or show videos to see what happens to communities without proper structure in the community.

You need to ENFORCE single line up to show your # called and no crowding or pushing. Closer watch & control over children. Have the people from other ethnic groups practice speaking the English language.

Our community is strong and vibrant? No! Our community is in poverty! Children are going without food, parents have to pick to pay the light bill or put food on the table! Can you pick what one you can live without? Or even want to live without?

Ensure there are opportunities for families in poverty.

In the realm of environmental issues: Use a "focus group" of data collection/criteria definition experts to help design the research needed to track the natural resources health of the city and county (cf. sustainametrics). Emphasize that economic development and environmental health are mutually beneficial, not in conflict with each other.

Focus Lincoln's next major infrastructure investments on: water (flood and portable), solid waste, energy, local foods.

Encourage more environmental education in all grade levels, including college. See children & Nature Network information on value & importance of connecting children & all ages to nature & the out-of-doors. Fund more field trips @ all schools, esp. low income schools. Encourage installation of more solar panels notably on public & private business, but individual houses. Work toward putting solar panels on all libraries & other public buildings, public schools, offer LES incentive. Encourage all conference facilities & Chamber of Commerce to promote recycling at all events.

More inexpensive youth programs from YMCA youth sports teams to City Parks and Recreation day camps (especially summer programs). Help businesses, especially small ones to be more sustainable,



save energy/recycle/etc. Work closely with the Mayor's office on future policies to promote ideas for the city's future.

Consider a community program to help low-income homeowners floodproof/elevate homes in the floodplain. This will make them safer from flooding, carry cheaper flood insurances, and improve the values of their homes.

Strengthen the GIS, geospatial analysis courses at UNL. Environmental students and engineers need this skill to further the analysis of environmental data. We need the next generation to use data wisely and make good decision based on this analysis.

We need to embrace sustainability as a guiding principle. This includes helping the young and old understand what they can do, together, to move Lincoln forward. Prosper Lincoln should be about connecting people to this place we call home. You have to engage youth where they're at – schools, churches, clubs, etc. You have to engage older citizens where they're at – home, church, etc.

Make every effort to support "in migration" to Lincoln to increase our population both in quality and in quantity. Efforts resembling appropriate immigration reform, Medicaid expansion, aggressive family recruitment etc. Strengthen CLC support in the community adding a reading and "take a book home" component.

Establish & promote a Lincoln-based senior corps – a comprehensive program of volunteer thrusts by 60+ year-olds w/ energy & desire to "give back" to their community – activities such as mentoring in schools, ESL, business dev., leadership ed., etc.

Support parents.

Build unity in this community 2015 vision was big Lincoln money pushing for change and large developments. This did not involve sustainability, youth or dig deep into the issues of Lincoln's quality of life. Prosper Lincoln could easily go that way. I say come to the neighborhoods, to the churches and schools to broaden the discussion.

Programs focused on youth and families living in poverty.

As our community grows we need to ensure that poverty is addressed.

Vital Signs said the big problem in Lincoln is poverty. Lets address that.

Positive influences on me: Brother's friends through UNL, Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters (on me & my cousin), before & after school program, FYI (Family Youth Involvement), Lincoln High Food Mart, Lincoln High Peer/college tutor, Lincoln High Bridge Program, Spanish summer program

Commitment to youth, low case loads to work w/ youth, never give up on your youth



More funding for rec. centers. More free activities for “tween” a age youth. Low cost activities.

Bus system changes. Volunteering youth/adults free bus passes.

In order to support a growth mindset in youth people you need positive relationships, mentors, training in “growth mindsets”. Mentors have to be ongoing relationships. Put funding w/ mentorships.

Personal invitation to get involved and be part of solution for Prosper Lincoln.

Continue to provide programs to help youth transition to different schools, situations, etc. (LHS Bridge program, Boys & Girls club, summers programs). Need an organized way to introduce available services & programs to youth most just “get lucky” and have some introduced, all the others don’t know what is available.

“Skilled trade” programs & training. Outside of 2& 4 year degree programs.

Putting programs in place that can help people (youth) be successful. Information problem à need Lincoln [youth] outreach people. Reaching out peer to peer. NET. Facebook.

Start early program of education, life skills to avoid poverty.

Create jobs, educate to avoid falling below poverty levels.

Continue to support families as individuals who suffer or endure the need to survive in poverty.

Poverty is the biggest issue.

I think one very important change would be expansion of Medicaid in the state. If Lincoln leaders were to back this strongly, Kathy Campbell may have support needed in legislature to get this done. Enclosed is executive summary of full report [0616_0757] available from Nebraska AARP on Neb. Hospital Assn. or online. It would alleviate poverty and enhance health of many low-income kids.

Through the expansion of Medicaid, Nebraska’s economy will conservatively avoid more than \$1 billion in silent taxes, medical-related bankruptcies, unnecessary state spending, reduced consumer spending power during the next five years. The state will also receive nearly \$2.1 billion during that time, drawing in \$992,000 in federal expansion funding every day and generating \$5 billion in increased economic activity...

Poverty is our community’s biggest barrier to growth.

I believe that Lincoln should have a serious community conversation about "taxes"- What do taxes pay for (public safety, public infrastructure, public health, etc.) so that there is a greater understanding of what taxpayers are actually paying for. I also see a need for greater understanding of what it means to "be a community" in this context: The concept of public taxation means that the burden of paying for



public safety, infrastructure, health, etc, is distributed across a wide spectrum of participants -- even if not everyone is using every service at every given moment.

It's really important to preserve the historic buildings and areas of Lincoln. While it is beneficial in some regards to update and renew these areas from an economic stand point, to completely revitalize and gentrify these areas (I am referring mostly to the near south, which to my knowledge has never been referred to by any of the residents by the overly-cutesy and almost demeaning nickname of "sodo") is to lose a lot of the city's beautiful and colorful history. We should celebrate the architecture and artwork created in Lincoln's earlier years rather than trying to replace it with over-priced and unnecessary "student housing". These areas as they are are currently affordable for working college students as well as the those with lower incomes living in the city. The vast majority living in these areas would not be able to afford to keep living there if the prices were to rise with the inevitable cost of area gentrification. Thank you for your time.

Dear Commissioner Amundson & Mayor Beutler, I want to commend you for the astounding success of the "Streets Alive!" program last fall, 2014. I witnessed people walking with their children in strollers, people using wheelchairs and white canes, and people who bicycled and roller bladed their way around a circle of blocked-off streets near the Capitol Building. It was truly inspiring, and I wondered if we could make it a permanent thing by creating a "People's Run" in the Near South neighborhood of Lincoln? I realize that these streets are used daily by people who commute to various destinations in their cars. Couldn't we designate a portion of those streets for "pedestrian/bicycle only" lanes? Of course, there are sidewalks that people could use, but if we had a large number of people coming down to the Near South neighborhood to exercise, those sidewalks would then become inadequate. Once this "People's Run" was set up, we could advertise it so that people would feel free to come to the Near South neighborhood to walk/run/bicycle/stroll/wheelchair their way to greater exercise and freedom. Lincoln has lately become one of the top small cities in the nation in which to live. Why not add this new way to exercise to the list of reasons why Lincoln is such a great city?

Build a grocery store in Downtown Lincoln to encourage more people to live in the city's core.

we have plenty of programs for youth maybe make them bigger my concern are the elderly

We'll find ways to fund projects like street repairs and other things for other means than increasing taxes! It's said as soon as gas comes down in cost that Lincoln plants a new gas tax that will increase the cost back to \$3 bucks a gallon! in 3 yrs!

I love my Lincoln-- great University city, PBA a wonderful edition, Breslow long overdue, etc. Successful youth, strong community does not happen without education and career opportunities. So, foster a continued strong educational system. However, can we please please find a way to bring additional airlines to the Lincoln airport!!



Need to get development going at the Denton Rd. / Hwy 77 location. Its a travesty what happened with previous administration out there...how about a Costco as anchor there? ...since we seem to have Walmart saturation. A Menards/Costco would draw SW Lincoln, Denton, Crete, Beatrice, Hwy 77 commuters, etc.

Children need an education system that helps them find and maximize their particular strengths & interests, while creating well-rounded individuals with socially useful knowledge who know how to interact with each other in productive ways. Then retain them. It's about the least original thing that anyone's ever thought, but equally true that the only way of ensuring a vibrant and strong community is to do the best job we can of preparing our youth for personal and collective success. This is harder than ever to do with an increasingly complex, competitive, and multi-faceted economy along with growing demands on all our time, but it's also more important than ever and the dividends from having a well-trained workforce that mixes easily and exchanges knowledge. This activity creates wealth and prosperity and vibrance.

Conduct an aggressive campaign to recruit young entrepreneurs and other educated individuals (perhaps in the tech sector) that are currently living in Kansas. Their state has made drastic cuts to education and this is Lincoln's opportunity to recruit a whole wave of people that are skilled/educated, value education for their children, and more than likely hold jobs that pay well or have the vision or ability to start up a new business. We need to consider housing incentives, moving/relocation incentives, low-cost business incubators, small business assistance etc.--not necessary limited to Kansans, but that is the greatest opportunity for recruitment at this time.

Insure that early childhood education is a priority for our City which should include fully funding our Community Learning Centers through local and state legislative efforts and expanded public/private partnerships. This effort alone will go a long way in helping our economy grow and strengthen our community.

Financial Literacy for those most in need of these services---this actually will hit on all three of the goals.

1) Youth success lies in investing in education, that's obvious. Education that will lead youth forward, really prepare them from cradle to career though, that's much more about developing critical thinking and real-world skills. Experiential learning, service learning, and civic action all need to be prioritized in our education system to truly prepare our students. This can happen in classrooms or in CLCs, but ensuring quality programming during and outside the school day that fosters civic action, critical thinking, and skill development will prepare our youth and our communities for success into the future. 2) In order to attract and keep more employees, businesses can prioritize collaboration and community connection. The 2013 Millennial Impact Report shows that more and more young people want to dedicate themselves to causes, not necessarily organizations. Incorporating social justice into business will attract more of these folks. 3) By investing in modern ways of communicating and engaging our communities will improve. Online clearinghouses for neighborhood associations and community events



will help more individuals and families connect and will facilitate attendance and contributions in person.

1. Free Head Start and/or pre-school programs to low income qualifying students especially those with special needs. Start at 2 or 3 years old to give these students the basic foundation they require to build an academic career. Ask the parents to participate to understand the importance of reading/writing and math skills. A love of school from the start is key along with parental encouragement to stay the course.
2. Ensure the Career Academy is providing a wide range of training in vocational technical to high tech jobs. Ensure the Community Colleges provide this same type of affordable training for adult learners that are non-degree seekers. Create a small business fund that supports viable business plans with adequate start up capital to create new businesses and new jobs.
3. Lower taxes in Lincoln and Nebraska to ensure it is not cost prohibitive to live here. The wheel and property taxes are overwhelming to new arrivals and seniors! Make sure there is a focus on youth and seniors not just exclusively youth. Our neighborhoods need to be safe and the police need proper resources and staffing to do their jobs. Lincoln tends to promote sports over everything else. Ensure our children are exposed to the arts and that Lincoln maintains strong Arts Organizations and Museums. Bring more adult condo housing to downtown and the haymarket rather than student housing.

This is the second iteration of this idea but here goes... Lincoln youth could benefit from leadership camps that focus on 1) being good critical thinkers (taking in information from multiple sources and reflecting on it), 2) being good stewards of the environment, 3) being engaged in communities, 4) developing a sense of internal locus of control (the idea that one is not a drift in life and can be proactive, 5) developing the idea that community matters (it takes a village) and 6) being global citizens. Europe has many such camps. A number of them involve participation of people from different countries learning about each other and their countries and working on global initiatives together. I am pretty involved in Rotary (District Rotary Youth Leadership Camps) that involved both domestic and international kids. We challenge HS Juniors to think like adults and they rise to the occasion and appreciate it. We should make this more widely available. Rotary seeks out not only proven leaders but many with leadership potential. Of course there are many ways to lead. We could do something in partnership with LPS and other interested parties. It would help us grow new expansive thinkers/problem solvers! It would also be a way to engage adults in passing along wisdom to younger people.

Organize drop-in volunteer cleanup and beautification opportunities either biweekly or monthly, where families can help plant trees, remove graffiti, clean bike trails, etc.

Increasing community support for existing non-profits. There are many small non-profits that work on all three of the goals listed that the community aren't aware of. For the past three years I have been a volunteer mechanic and board member for the Lincoln Bike Kitchen. The bikes and bike repairs we supply to the community are have helped individuals gain a reliable mode of transportation that has helped them find jobs and stable housing. We have also helped many of the refugee populations in



Lincoln achieve reliable transportation. In addition to providing bikes for adults many children that would not have bikes that are the correct size and in safe working order have received bikes from us. I cannot speak for the financial state of other small non-profits, but the Bike Kitchen is in desperate need of financial support and it would surprise me greatly if other small non-profits in Lincoln are not in need of the same. We are currently located at 1st and Garfield which is far away from bus routes and bike trails making our location less than ideal. However at the moment it is the best space that we can afford. We are also working to provide helmets, lights, and locks free of charge to the community. We are already running out of helmets for smaller children and unfortunately once they are gone we do not have the finances to repurchase these items. One of the largest problems that non-profits like the Bike Kitchen faces is that most grants do not cover overhead expenses. While these grants can be used to start new programs, those new programs can never be fully implemented if the overhead expenses are not covered. I would like to see Lincoln offer grant money to smaller non-profits that is specifically targeted to covering overhead. I think that this would allow non-profits like the Bike Kitchen to focus less on constantly fundraising and more on providing much needed services to the community. For more information on the Bike Kitchen please visit www.lincolnbikekitchen.org or call 402-915-BIKE

I believe there needs to be more reasons for new graduates to stay or young people to relocate. After watching two grads not have anything to join to meet singles or young business people, I've now watched Portland and Denver grab them into their workforce. Bars shouldn't be the meeting place. I also struggle with the same issue being divorced since 1997. There are few if any gatherings to meet others....friendship or dating. Very difficult if you're not married with a family.

We need a much stronger bus system. One that goes later into the evenings, e.g., to 9 pm during the weekdays, later on Friday/Saturday and Sunday bus service, at least during the day. We also need a second terminal area rather than routing everything through downtown.

To Whom, The infrastrucuter for good, let along excellent roads, in Lincoln is pathetic. The "pot holes" and rough paving is plentiful. It is good for the tire repair business. To be sure our youth are successful, the education system must relate to our youth the idea that very soon they will need to learn a trade so the youth can provide for themselves. Lighthouse does this and has done this for many hundreds of youth.

I feel that we dont have enough resources for the low-income children rather our children of low income families. We need to have more places for our cities youth to thrive wen school is not in session. Such as day camps that can provide tools n skills as well as fun activities. Children need to be able to get away from their families and house hold issues so that they can socialize, learn and relax some! Thanx for allowing me to have a voice in this.

This may be a repeat-- I think I deleted my previous entry before sending. Paint bike lanes on many streets! Biking is healthy for all ages and supports a number of small, local businesses. Having



designated bike lanes is also much safer for both drivers and cyclists. Other communities across the country established bike lanes 20-30 years ago, and Lincoln is far behind.

I think over all Lincoln does a pretty good job of taking care of our youth....if they get involved. And some of the need in sports is starting to be met through more soccer and baseball/softball fields. But we still need more in door courts for basketball, volleyball, etc. And one area Lincoln (and Omaha for that matter) are both lacking is pools. Lincoln could use an aquatic center. We are missing out on all the money that swim meets bring in. We are constantly going to other cities for meets that have great facilities. We are growing in the swimming sport and need something. With the Olympic Swim trials being just up the road so often we should be promoting the life long sport of swimming. The aquatic center could be used for birthday parties, swim lessons and water aerobics, etc. LINCOLN is missing out! It can be a money maker. Swimming is a year around sport so an aquatic center would be used ALL THE TIME!

Turn CLCs over to the non profit sector and let them run them instead of LPS and the city getting involved. Lincoln Family Services seems to be making a great deal of profit running the CLCs so let's get the government entities and taxpayers out of it.

Prosper Lincoln may want to consider the information assembled by Make It Work for Lincoln. This information contains business skill gaps, needs of the underemployed as well as bridge programs available. These items can all be viewed on the ASTD-Lincoln website.

Access to cheaper, quality, higher education. Encourage more businesses to create apprenticeship programs that hire students out of community colleges and four year colleges. Maybe by educating and providing approtunities for a good paying job will keep more youth around and involved in the city. Better paying jobs means more free money to be spent in the city.

We need to lower property taxes so rents and mortgages can be more affordable for families. We need programs in our schools that remind kids that they need to graduate from high school/career academy/college and be EMPLOYABLE. This is how we make life better for all people in Lincoln. It is not ok to sit at home and collect unemployment/welfare when you are able to work. School reading materials should include descriptions of careers for kids to read about. Johnny might be new in town and one of his parent's is a physicians assistant and the other is a welder and this is what they do during the day. We have enough public art and parks already. Take care of what we have. What purpose does the Parks Foundation play in the upkeep and maintenance of the parks and art? The exception would be a nice waterpark like Star City Shores on the north side of town for families to enjoy. Cutting swimming pool hours in the summer is not the place to make budget cuts. Plus the family pass needs to be affordable. Don't assume everyone is wanting a low income waiver. Some people like to pay their own way but need it to be affordable.

Improve traffic infrastructure



Successful youth - Bring creativity back into the classroom. Encourage students to take classes in the arts. Currently, many middle school students are prevented from taking arts classes because they are forced to get instruction on how to take standardized tests. Ask LPS about this. Make sure the existing arts opportunities for youth are funded: Lincoln's Symphony's "Young Peoples' Concerts" at the Lied Center, Nebraska Jazz Orchestra's "Jazz Goes to School" concerts, Nebraska Chamber Players' "Music in Your Space" workshops and concerts. Keep the Lincoln Municipal Band solvent. The LMB used to perform concerts in schools, but stopped due to lack of funds. The Nebraska Brass performs many in-school concerts in Lincoln and other cities - make sure that program is funded. Some local theater companies offer performances for students. Many arts organizations in Lincoln are doing great things. They need to be adequately funded. Ticket sales only cover about 30% of most costs to present arts events. If businesses want to keep Lincoln an attractive community, they must raise the level of their giving to arts organizations. Some local businesses have been bought by large conglomerates that don't contribute to local arts organizations. Lincoln's green spaces need to be maintained better. Where is the money going to come from to make this happen?

Include more bike paths in the city. Every new or rebuilt road should include safe cycling and pedestrian avenues. More people are inclined to use these areas if they are safe and somewhat convenient. Would be less cars on the road and would probably also increase the use of public transportation. Would also lead to more business downtown if people could get there in a easy manner that did not involve a car. Studies have shown

Make affordable grocery available to low income pockets in Lincoln. Parts of Northeast Lincoln and Near South Lincoln, for example, do not have grocery in walking distance. Those stores that are most accessible to these neighborhoods are the highest priced stores in the city, and have less selection of healthy foods than those located in more affluent pockets of town.

Get body cameras installed on every officer to protect the public. Officer Cody is a prime example. Get connections from the Lincoln airport to more cities on the East and West Coasts. Fix the parking problem downtown. Yeah, business are being added left and right, but parking is a huge issue, and everytime a change downtown is made it removes even more parking spots or replaces them with high price paid parking.

App or Website for youth activities My husband and I are raising two foster sons that we have adopted and both have special needs. I would love to see more opportunities for community networking with parents of like needs and situations. Our oldest son has some pretty intense mental health issues and he is constantly feeling left out of sync with other kids because he just doesn't clue into some social cues that the majority of kids do. I would love to have more opportunities for intelligent, but emotionally unique kids. We are very active in seeking out opportunities for him, but there is always room for improvement. This son is 13 years old. Our 6 year old has a mild form of CP, but is socially outgoing. He would love to have a chance to be with other kids like him. If we could go to one central spot and click on an area of need when looking for activities that would be Amazing. I would love to have a spot for



"one stop shopping" when seeking out quality opportunities for our boys. Could there be an app for that? I would subscribe to it if that helped with cost.

Provide free access to Pioneer Park Nature Center and continue to set up family activities in places like Jayne Synder Trail center and Union Plaza as well as Lincoln libraries. Support the creation of a modern downtown library with interactive options and digital resources for all ages. To me it's worth an increase in taxes. Support measures to keep folks active and avoid obesity which causes additional community costs

I think that the 'farmers markets' in Lincoln could bring a huge boon to the town if not too politicized. We, as a community, and as simple Nebraskans, need to appreciate what each of us has to offer so as not to give up our individual talents to the world markets lest we end up with nothing in the event of a crisis. We should make our marketplaces more accessible to the public so that our children begin to realize where our talents lie and what makes our communities thrive. These markets do not need to revolve around big money events, but can raise awareness to such areas that are otherwise overlooked. The city should not demand a steep price to set up shop, but rather a reasonable fee for the benefit of all.

Youth Success: We should provide earlier access to school/pre-school for underprivileged youth, as well as provide opportunities for youth to volunteer in the community. What about connecting youth with nature, and enhancing their ability to have healthy meals, but combining efforts with volunteering to assist with school gardens or community crops-esque entities? I'd love to see more opportunities for youth (after school or on weekends) to have "enrichment" activities that are affordable. Whether learning to code, writers workshops, music lessons - things that are high quality, perhaps charged on a sliding scale, and help kids to express, relate and explore areas of interest in safe environments. (this also long-term promotes the "skilled work force" and economic entrepreneurship pillar). Quality of Life: We enhance neighborhoods on the grass roots level by engaging people in their places, helping to empower them to feel they can make a difference, and providing tools to assist in those areas they identify as "needs". This is a larger challenge in high mobility areas, but a good first step would be to figure out how to get people to meet one another and form relationships - knowing our neighbors is a fundamental piece. Engaging people in projects (such as Hawley Hamlet) creates a sense of purpose, allows people to learn about one another and also helps with overall health as we focus on how to grow food and eat more healthily. Neighborhood parks, neighborhood projects, neighborhood gatherings. All of these can enhance quality of life. Also, helping to create shared expectations of what it means to be a "good citizen" of your place and providing mechanisms for people to address "bad neighbor" concerns would be an interesting and hopefully unifying concept.

Lincoln deserves a proper 50 meter pool. One has not been built since Woods Pool and we have a vibrant and growing swimming population here in Lincoln. We have well over 500 children who swim on "club teams" and hundreds more adult swimmers who swim for exercise or for competition in triathlons



and other events. There are cost effective options for construction available that would make such a facility worthwhile. It would be a draw for the community and the region.

QUALITY OF LIFE Lincolnites must think beyond themselves and acknowledge that the planet is our one and only "home," so we must do more to preserve the earth. While in Seattle, I was impressed to see the effective recycling project evident in our hotel, on the streets, in malls and in restaurants. Three receptacles were available: 1. Recycling, 2. Food + Compostables and 3. Garbage with posters illustrating what should go in each container. Children didn't have to think twice about appropriate disposal of products. This was a part of their culture. Seattle has safe, creative lanes for bicycles on their streets, which encourages a healthy lifestyle and reduces traffic congestion.

Universal home visits for parents of new babies. Every birth in Lincoln should include an offer of 1 year of home visits to ensure developmental milestones are being met, parenting techniques can be taught, and questions can be answered. Home visiting WORKS to prevent abuse and give kids the best possible start in life -- especially kids with risk factors like poverty, single parents, teenage parents, etc.

I think the best things about Lincoln, NE is the community and the people. I wish that there were more community gatherings or events that would encourage young people to participate. The Ribfest is always popular, the farmer's markets are popular...what about some other events as such that encourage young businesses to participate, yet tailored to the family experience. I would also love to see some form of a waterpark that has areas for under 5. We have Star City Shores, but the management and up keep on that facility is really lacking. I would encourage you to pursue areas where the college students can give back to the community as well. Whether for class credit or maybe allowing students the opportunities for start up businesses. Young adults are very smart and can be so creative. Sometimes causing the older generation to step outside of their box.

In order to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, we need to develop a more effective and functional public transportation system. Bus routes should be more comprehensive; stops should be more frequent and more reliable. Each bus stop should be improved, and provide -- at the very least -- overhead shelter from the elements. Extended hours on the weekends would also help to reduce drunk driving in the city. Lincoln should also look at the prospect of developing additional modes of public transport, such as trams or underground trains.

The highest unemployment rate across the nation is within the disability population. Working with advocates in the disability field (physical, developmental, deaf & blind), we can help local businesses learn of a great, yet underutilized, workforce. They have skills and a deep desire to be employed. The biggest obstacle they face is a business environment that doesn't understand their potential.

Support the SoDo effort spearheaded by the Lincoln Community Foundation. A thriving central/downtown area is a key characteristic of healthy cities. Lincoln needs to make sure that energy is put into the core of the city, rather than growing on the edges, like so many American cities. The final



plans for the SoDo effort should be presented by the end of the year. Making as much of that plan as possible a reality will take the efforts of many groups in Lincoln.

*More and well kept small public parks inside city limits. *More well kept public fishing locations: ponds, rivers, lakes, etc. *Bigger water park *Add an amusement park *Add more activities/places to go/see on the East side of town to balance things to do on both sides of town. *IMax theater *More Skyscrapers or taller buildings downtown *Comedy club

I think it is important to maintain our park system attractive. It seems that money is found for "project" that have special interest, but we don't have money for basics such as maintaining our parks. I'm glad the city is repairing sidewalks. It was long overdue. Additional moneys found in the joint actions should be used to pay down debt.

Enhance Quality of Life and (possibly) Nurture Youth Success: While I know that it will cost money, I believe a significantly more extensive school bus system would be beneficial for families with youth in LPS and specifically for the working poor. I know of people who work two part-time jobs (possibly lower paying and with less opportunity to advance) in order to be available to drop off and pick up their children from school. While I know Star Tran does offer limited extra after-school busing in select instances (Lincoln North Star is one), even at the high school level I believe busing support would be beneficial. When I was looking to purchase a house, one home I looked at was 4.2 miles from the house to the school and considered by LPS to be "within walking distance" for my 13-year old daughter. That's not something I can agree with for more than one reason, but especially when temperatures dip below zero. Additionally, I witness people dropping off their kids 45 minutes before elementary school starts, and the kids have to wait outside on the sidewalk, because they have to be at work by 8 and again, it's too far (or the child is too little) to walk. Not everyone has the means or ability to work their schedules around school drop off/pick up times and cannot necessarily afford before & after school care. I see it as a problem for people who are struggling to make ends meet that could be alleviated. It would also potentially create jobs, which could also benefit Lincoln residents. Enhance Quality of Life: Again, I realize this could cost money, but I also strongly believe a city-wide mandatory recycling initiative would encourage responsible stewardship, support the environment, and keep Lincoln nice. I know other cities (Denver, for instance) have implemented systems like this so I know it has been done. I believe it might at least be worth looking into to see if Lincoln could break even by implementing such a program. Thank you for the opportunity to share ideas. Your work is very appreciated!

I am finding that it is very difficult to find a good trades person. With the LPS Career Center, this is a start. Not every youth/person wants to be a school teacher, doctor, attorney etc. We need good trades people who can build cabinets, wire, plumb buildings etc. It seems such a strong emphasis is put on middle to high school students to attend college and that is just not for everyone.

To ensure that youth are successful and to make our community stronger, we need to invest in violence prevention efforts. National statistics estimate that 1 in 4 teens report verbal, physical, sexual, or



emotional abuse each year. But relationship violence and sexual assault are occurring here in our own community of Lincoln, NE. Voices of Hope, a local crisis center that works to empower those who have experienced sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking, saw 1,893 unduplicated clients face to face last year. We answered almost 8,000 crisis line calls on our 24/7 hotline. Voices of Hope assisted with 265 protection orders and responded to 153 medical advocacies in Lincoln emergency rooms. Many of these services extend to young adults and youth in our community. The only way to decrease the need for intervention services is to invest in prevention services and actually stop the violence for occurring in the first place. This begins with having conversations about healthy relationships, respectful conflict resolution, bystander intervention, and consent. The more we make primary prevention a priority in our community, the safer and more vibrant it will become.

Affordable housing, reliable and responsive mass transportation, more varied workout opportunities including rock climbing, and legal protection for all inhabitants.

Ensure that every student can get the food they need at school by accepting the Community Eligibility Provision. This will narrow the achievement gap by ensuring no child is hungry and unable to learn.

The best path to successful youth is education. Young minds need to be stimulated from early childhood through high school and beyond. When youth reach high school and begin to find difficulty staying engaged, as a community, we need to provide additional support and alternative opportunities to allow the youth to be successful in a place that fits their needs. Our high schools are doing a great job, but they are very large and that can be a very challenging environment for youth to be productive in. Lincoln has a low unemployment rate, but people are severely under-employed. There is very little focus on the trade jobs that could be very interesting to young people. The drive has been to push everyone into four year schools, but jobs like HVAC, plumbers and electricians are not being explored by youth.

Hello! I would suggest having a "no sales tax day" on clothing and school supplies right before school starts. I run a detasseling business and hire about 650 to 700 teens every summer, and I know a lot of them use their money to buy school things for the school year. I'd like to see the city give back to these hardworking teens and families by giving them a little break on clothing and school items.

Stress greater safety in local neighborhoods. A greater community policing presence in certain neighborhoods - especially those on the edges that are at risk, or in transition.

We need to change our transportation grid to conform to the way people want to use it. An express bus east and west on O street and other e/w arterial and n/s. Service that runs til events are over so people don't all have to drive there. Yes it will cost more, provide more jobs, but people will use them more if they don't have to be home by 6 pm! People coming to Lincoln by bus are shocked and totally dismayed! The Chamber of commerce and visitor's bureau ought to come to Lincoln via that transportation and see how grand we look. It costs more by taxi to get to downtown or UN-L campus than it does to get here from Omaha! Many elderly women travel this way and heaven forbid they not have a relative waiting to pick them up. No maps of where you are in town, no bus stop, you have to walk down Superior to



Casey's to even find a human to ask when some buses arrive! We as a city can do better! The bus stop is private property yes, but more of the visitor bureau info could be made available. Running a public bus by there when the main buses come into town with a protected bus waiting area would at least make a "public" transportation system more seamless. Whenever anyone mentions a tram or train between Lincoln and Omaha, I wonder what they are supposed to do when they get to Lincoln? Omaha does have a real public transport system that real people can get around on, we don't, yet...

One of the wonderful things about living in the Woods Park neighborhood is its walkable accessibility to downtown and neighborhood amenities. It's main business district on 27th Street, however, is VERY uninviting to pedestrians. Other business districts downtown (South Street, North 27th and 17th & Garfield) have been spruced up in recent years with new pavers, planters, vintage-looking signage and lighting, making them much more welcoming to those on foot and giving a sense of place to those driving through the area. So I'd like to see the business district on 27th St. between Capitol Parkway and Randolph get similar attention (Ace, Ideal, etc). This could even go as far south as the zoo to tie it in to the walkable area. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input!

For our youth. I think we need to teach them that no work is menial and that all work has value. I think a societal problem is a sense of entitlement and one way to stem that is to cultivate a sense of willingness to work, service and stewardship. The best place to begin to express that value is with the young. Character education is also needed: honesty, stewardship, service, integrity, respect, trustworthiness, fairness, caring. If youth know those things, Lincoln will become a good place to live.

In the quality of life arena, I'd like to put forward the idea that all public and private surface parking lots be required to plant shade trees to provide cooling benefits to parked cars, which would help to reduce carbon emissions associated with high energy consumption by vehicles running air conditioning. I've noted that surface lots in France and Italy, for instance, often are landscaped with plane trees to provide a canopy for cars in the hottest months of the year. It makes sense in a region like ours with very high summer temps.

Even though it would be a massive undertaking, the foster care system seems to struggle mightily in our city and state. I have contact with many people everyday and I continue to hear about the difficulties that successful young couples have with the adoption process. This is occurring while many families are accepting or even, actively seeking, children in the foster care system just to receive state money. (In other words, the more children in foster care that I can have in my household, the more money I can make from the state!). Decreasing the difficulties and seemingly unnecessary red-tape that the successful young married couples face when attempting to adopt a child would benefit all involved. However, it also seems that many foster children are sent back to live with the biological parents no matter how dysfunctional that home situation might be. This would be a good start for young children to know what a stable family and household consists of and would be the first step for them to become a productive member of our city/state. I feel that identifying children's interests early in school is important for counselors and teachers to help guide them towards a career that works in their favor in



regards to the children's strong attributes. Having a community college in Lincoln is a huge benefit to those students that struggle in identifying a career choice but want to get started on a general education program without the cost of a four year university. More students should be encouraged to follow this route to SCC and be exposed to more trade professions which provide stable and excellent paying employment. I strongly feel that the degradation of the family unit is a big problem, not only in our community, but in our state/country as well. Our want/need to have a two-income family, our need to work long hours to make ends meet for our wants/needs, and our unsatiable need to keep up with the Jones's continue to take the focus off our children and our value system. I am unsure how to remedy this problem but an emphasis on what is "really important" could be a start. I think Lincoln is doing a tremendous job in keeping good talent in Lincoln. The development of the Railyard and Haymarket area along with the development of Innovation Campus have been wonderful for keeping young entrepreneurs here. Improving the speed of our broadband will be the next step in developing more growth for the economy. I love these happenings!

Bilingual/multilingual (immersion) education starting in elementary school to give Anglophone children the cognitive and professional advantages of multilingualism and to recognize the value that our non-Anglophone residents bring to our diverse community. Ensure access to high quality, civic-funded preschool for all children. Seed grants to arts/professional partnerships to make Lincoln an attractive market for creative-industry professionals. Increase civic support for all higher education institutions in our community, public and private. The five universities in Lincoln are not only major employers in our community but they ensure a highly-educated workforce. Increase funding for public lifestyle/fitness amenities: parks, pools, youth activities. Increase funding for public education/civic amenities: libraries, teen programming, museums/arts organizations.

We need to ensure better medical care to everyone in our community. Currently most of the medical facilities and dental facilities are outside of the communities were transportation and other barriers limit access. Released information indicates that the issues are actually reducing life expectancy by decades. If we are to have a vibrant city, people need to have medical needs addressed.

I believe we need more ag and natural resources education. Our students need to understand the big picture how conservation is important. They need opportunities to visit an actual farm. They need to see that there are a variety of careers out there in the city and out of it. I also would love to see a bilingual school (public or private) in Lincoln. I believe there are families in Lincoln (including myself) who would pay a lot of money to take my child to a school that speaks both English and Spanish. I see the future benefits as endless here for those students who will eventually become our young adults. I believe Lincoln is in desperate need of beautification. I have seen some progress in the downtown and West Haymarket area but other streets like 14th, south of Highway 2 and Highway 2 all across town and 27th Street North of Cornhusker would truly benefit from trees, flowers and shrubs in medians that could be developed, etc. Fort Collins, CO requires beautification on every street and has been listed as a top place to live for MANY years. Lincoln should learn from this and follow suite. I also believe the city of Lincoln would benefit from a fireworks show in a different part of Lincoln than Oak Park. I almost wish we had a



brand new park near the West Haymarket that we could go to. Or at least a water feature for the kids like they have in Omaha by the pedestrian bridge. This would also help low income families stay cool for free in the hot summer months.

Encourage fathers to be involved - even if they are not married to the mother of their children. Children are growing up with no male influence. We are losing men and fathers because they have no sense of responsibility. Children from low economic climate do not have the same resources available to them as do middle/upper income children. Bright Lights, Chet Agar golf course, pool passes, dance lessons, music lessons - these things are not readily available to low income children. Public transportation is horrible in Lincoln. To someone trying to feed a family, working at McDonald's or Target and there is no bus service on Sunday's is ridiculous. We need public transportation until at least 11:00pm Mon-Sat and at least until 10:00pm on Sunday.

When so many people are struggling to make ends meet, it is shocking that property values have exploded in the current year. Many of my dear friends have left Lincoln upon retirement due to the high taxes in Nebraska. My children are encouraging me to do likewise. I love my hometown, but the tax load is very heavy. We have just increased the sales tax again and many wonder when the "arena tax" will go away. I have been told that the added arena tax is the reason many lovely restaurants outside of downtown have decided to close. This does not add to the vibrancy of our community.

There are many middle income renters in Lincoln. They make too much to be helped with down payment assistance to buy a home from Neighborworks but not enough to come up with a down payment on their own. Please develop some kind of assistance program to help them find the money to put a down payment on a home in the neighborhoods they live in. This increased home ownership will decrease them leaving the areas and increase home ownership, responsibility to one's neighborhood and better upkeep of homes in the areas they buy in. If you know of any programs like this for people making middle range incomes please send me info on them or who to contact about them. Thanks.

I wish we could do more to invest in helping young people grow into civically minded adults who positively contribute to their communities and help others around them. This starts in early childhood and should evolve as children grow into young adults. Some key elements vital to the growth of all children and worth fostering in children and young people include character traits, developmental competencies (emotion regulation, effective decision-making) and supportive environments (family, school, peer groups, and beyond into other community settings frequently touching the lives of young people).

I think that youth needs a stable home without violence. I would hope that there are more services for families who are struggling with violence in their homes so the youth have a safe and nurturing household to grow up and develop their talents.

One possible way to grow the economy is to create a series of internal/elevated walkways that will link the downtown area with the hay-market area.



After recently vacationing in Europe, I feel there are aspects of their culture, specifically that of London, that could be adopted by our community. Chief among those things is a strong emphasis on healthy living. I was impressed by availability of ongoing, open air (farmers) markets throughout the week, in areas that were easy to find and accessible. Walking and bicycling was strongly encouraged. Most streets had bike lanes. Several bike rental kiosks were available, where people could rent a bike for a short amount of time up to several hours. Lincoln does have a few limited options for bike rentals, but this involves going to a shop. Having bikes out, parked near automated kiosks, guarantees greater availability and usage. To contrast, in Lincoln few individuals walk, open air markets are open for limited times, and those who bike are those who own bikes. Lincoln has great trails that are underutilized. Having affordable bike rentals would be a good start. Sponsoring city-wide efforts to carpool, walk, bike, etc. would also contribute to healthier lifestyle choices. Each of these items, the open air markets and bike rentals, can contribute to the local economy and add needed vibrancy. Instead of pushing new events, I feel it would be best to promote ongoing lifestyle choices.

To attract and keep bright young professionals I think there should be more singles type groups for these professionals who are out of college and grad schools and who don't want to meet their future spouse at a bar. If people are establishing relationships here they will be more likely to stay here and raise their families here. There are so many wonderful City events that could be tied to get togethers of this type. A more personal internet dating model....we could become the best city in America to meet your spouse!

English Language Learners could be better supported by a comprehensive literacy program that bridged gaps in services between schools and the greater community. Currently there are programs being delivered by multiple agencies each with a slightly different approach and outcome. This is all important, but it would be helpful to agree on a broader vision of quality and service delivery so we can provide these services to vulnerable children and empower their parents to be active, contributing members of their families success. We have LPS Family Literacy, Lincoln Literacy, SCC has a program, City Impact is working on literacy and this is just the beginning. Additionally there is a Family Learning program that helps engage parents to be more active in their children's education. I wonder how we can look at these from a broader perspective and ensure that we aren't competing for funding or program resources between groups. Can literacy be woven into the Full Service Community School model and have a city wide delivery mindset with coordinated funding, quality and measurement?

I would love to see a full service community school in every neighborhood regardless of income. Out of school opportunities are valuable to all kids and their families and to the greater neighborhood. If services were provided on a sliding fee scale, city wide we could offset costs to provide services to those who couldn't afford it. We also need a quality standard and shared definition of what CLC's are and what they are not. An aspirational vision of what they can mean to all neighborhoods and to our community as a whole is needed, and expansion of the notion that they are before and after school programs for children only needs to be explored and embraced. I envision community festivals, exercise classes, tax help, mental health services, after school clubs, academic enrichment and social services.



1. I believe our families need to be strengthened. The break down of our families has led to many troubles. I think our inner city women need a friend or a mentor to invest in them and believe in them. I have invested in 3 single moms since 2013. I encourage them, support them, offer cleaning, cooking and parenting advice. I meet with them weekly. Two of these women are now married to wonderful men, they have planted gardens, rented houses and have joined a neighborhood church. The women are doing a wonderful job parenting and investing in their children. They are cooking, cleaning and reading with their kids daily. One says she has found peace, joy and freedom because someone cared and shared the Bible with her. When I minister to 1 single mom it seems to ripple to their children, their siblings, their parents and friends. I know a little kindness goes a long way to offer a family hope. 2. Have a job opportunity for homeless people to sell newspapers or game day booklets downtown.

We need, as a city, a stronger focus on vocabulary for Kindergarten-bound children. Research has shown that vocabulary level for incoming Kindergarteners has a direct bearing on later literacy and vocabulary skills, and is also directly tied to familial income level/poverty status. We should improve existing literacy programs and introduce pre-k workshops for low-income children focused on vocabulary building and the early introduction of literacy skills to make sure children start on a more even keel as they enter Kindergarten. Also, once those children are in school, we need to focus on speaking and literacy in all children regardless of income level, both to build confidence and to improve vocabulary across the board. We are failing our children, too often and too early.

Children that are raised by their parents are the best contributions to society that we can get. Therefore I believe we as a community really need to encourage our law makers and employers to consider mandatory paid maternity and paternity leave for at least the first 18 months of a new baby's life or during the course of adoption. I'm sure if more moms were financially able to stay home with their children they would. Unfortunately, just living and surviving requires at least 2 incomes. If the stress of not getting paid for maternity or paternity leave was not there things would be so much easier and better for these new families and our community would reap the benefits. Employers who offer these benefits would also have an edge when recruiting quality employees.

I would encourage fewer restrictions on the "Clean Up After Your Pet....Fines of \$500 Imposed" signs. Currently the city allows these signs only on the back of Neighborhood Watch signs. This is very limiting. I would not mind paying for it myself as long as I could post it on one of our telephone poles. I believe those signs DO something in that people are less inclined to let their pets take dumps while in view of such a sign.

We need more parks, splash parks that are toddler friendly. Most of the parks have equipment that is (all but for a swing or single small slide) meant for older children. The little ones get trampled by the big kids.

70th, 27th and 48th should be two lanes each way throughout the city.



Thank you for asking! My concern is the garbage in our communities. I fear for the beautiful work that is being done on 301 Centennial Mall South/North. When the beautification project is done, I am afraid that someone will pull up the native grasses and destroy the water feature. I feel it is important that the community keep Lincoln clean.

Youth success could be improved if the schools and the libraries worked together. There could be field trips to the library so that children could get library cards and have access to a different collection of books than the school has. It would also be nice if public library books could be returned to school libraries. This way the kid's whose parents can't come to the library due to work hours or transportation issues could still use the public library.

There is a great entrepreneurial environment in Lincoln right now. We need to ensure that is nurtured and continues. New companies and growing businesses are the best way to recruit and retain a young workforce. Being an innovative and progressive city is important. Doing things like city wide Wifi, encouraging disruptive innovation (opposite of how we treated Uber), and continuing to think about the city we want to be in 20 years is really important. Our 2015 vision group that started in early 2000's was an incredible example that transformed this city into the best it has ever been. How can we make that progressive thinking the norm? I'd also challenge us to lead the way on some educational initiatives and be a bit more progressive there with our next generation. I'd like to see us bring more coding and computer science courses into basic curriculum, incorporate financial literacy training early, and start business and professional based education much as soon as 9th grade. My first business course was in college, that should not have been the case. Let's never be comfortable with where we are at, and keep raising the bar with how we want the city to be. This seems like a good step!

To cultivate a skilled workforce the school system should consider more intensive classes to compete with international standards for k-12 education - including having shorter summer vacations. In the UK for example, the schools only have one and half months off, not three. Over the 13 years kids are in school, that is a big difference in how much time is spent in school. Giving them this stronger educational base would create a better foundation level for the Lincoln workforce and help prepare them for college, if they chose to. Lincoln is already an international city so being at a global standard education level would benefit us. It would also help to keep professionals in our city if the schools had higher standards, because parents who are professionals value education.

City of Lincoln Parking Services has 3,509 garage parking stalls in the Historic Haymarket. Because of 1,000 Haymarket employees, 15,000 Pinnacle Bank Arena attendees, 90,000 UNL football fans, 3 Haymarket hotels, four Haymarket apartment/condo complexes and a flood plain which extends eastward from Salt Creek to 8th Street, as of June 16, 2015, the City needs to use Imminent Domain authority to add additional parking stalls above and below ground, east of 8th Street. As present vacant lots used for tailgating are converted into buildings, eventually over 50,000 additional stalls will be needed. Tourism and economic development advocates should be presenting this opportunity to public sector developers. Elderly folks who can't walk several blocks are already unable to attend Arena events.



The City's parking prices are already discouraging some citizens from coming Downtown and to the Haymarket.

I think Lincoln should become known as an accessible city! - The university still has inaccessible buildings and some of the older buildings in town are sadly inaccessible for people who use wheelchairs or other devices and who would like to enter and be able to use various facilities. Also recruit an accessible taxi service to help people get around. As the great ideas pour in for Prosper Lincoln make sure to adapt them so they apply to people of all abilities!

Honor all different types of diversity and differences of opinion. Teach our children and remind ourselves it is important to "judge not lest ye be judged." It's okay to be different. Continue high quality programming for people of all ages. Plan for the upcoming increase in the number of 65+ residents in our community by providing more opportunities for employment and health promotion activities. Try to reduce unnecessary red tape currently found in some parts of city government. Hours of manpower are sometimes spent to save a few dollars. It is poor use of the residents tax dollars and does not provide good service to the community.

Have free recycle service pickup at every house because not everyone can go to a recycle center. A lot of people refuse to pay to have recycling picked up at the house because they are already paying for trash pickup.

The idea that is prominent in my mind is that Lincoln NEEDS and MUST HAVE a large, up-to-date, state-of-the-art beautiful PUBLIC LIBRARY to replace Bennett Martin at 14th & N. How can Lincoln put forth a public growth emphasis with Haymarket when nothing is being done about building a new PUBLIC LIBRARY downtown. This touches each of the focus areas listed above. Even Kearney has a state of the art new public library that puts Lincoln to shame! It is a puzzle to me why getting the private sector to do something with Pershing Auditorium is the only direction the current Lincoln leadership wants to go when that property should have a new PUBLIC LIBRARY as the focal point on that downtown block. We don't need a private entity to put that block on the tax rolls - they would probably use tax increment financing and benefit from public dollars anyway. Instead do something that benefits us all - build a new, state of art PUBLIC LIBRARY on that block.

We need to provide services for children and youth with emotional disorders and mental health issues. More and more of our students are coming with significant behaviors and issues and we have very little to offer in the way of services.

The first six months of a child's life are a vital time period and set the stage for life long success. Our community can focus on services that surround new parents with knowledge and support to breastfeed and interact positively, thus creating an environment in which infants develop a sense of trust, and brain synapses are allowed to flourish. This is a time period that we can never recover in a child's life. Instead, we work to compensate, which is less effective and more costly. We need to utilize all kinds of neighborhood organizations to provide extended support to young families, create peer mentoring



programs for new parents, and make sure that our health care system focuses on all kinds of physical and emotional wellness. Extended family leave in the first six months of a child's life is vital, coupled with quality day care and respite programs. Mothers need support from their employers to breastfeed if they are back in the work force, children need to be cared for close to their parents and fathers need to be nurtured and included as part of the family dynamics. When we provide support right from the start, we avoid trying to fix what often cannot be fixed, it can only be patched together. Young children and their parents are the building blocks of our community. They deserve our investment.

We need to support new mothers and infants better. New mothers need a visit in the home the day after discharge from the hospital to assess and assist with breastfeeding and infant care. If mom is referred for specialist care (via an IBCLC), this service must be provided for the mother and infant. Breastfeeding improves mother.-infant bonding, decreases sudden infant death, decreases life-long illness in mother and baby, and optimizes IQ for baby.

Hello Prosper Lincoln Team, Let's enhance our quality of life and show folks what fun it is to live in Lincoln. Let's do something leading edge that brands our city in a unique way as we approach our State's sesquicentennial. Let's make Lincoln the 1st Community Treehouse City in the nation! Ten well placed, educational, recreational, and commercial treehouses could be built with tons of community input and with their emotional and financial investment both online and face-to-face. Let's draw on the wealth of research that tells us we are enriched in numerous ways when we engage in the natural environment. And, as Richard Louv tells us, we suffer from "nature deficit disorder" when we don't. This lack of contact with our living environment leads to anxiety, depression, obesity and more. These treehouses for adults and children, will reflect Nebraska's pioneering spirit, our lifestyle, history, our Native heritage and culture. We are working right now with the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities to build the first one in the Lincoln Zoo and we have ideas for many more. This is a financially feasible, feel good, green endeavor will grow environmental stewardship for our wonderful city. PS. It is impossible to be grumpy in a treehouse!

We need to get people in the community moving, be more active, rather than just spectators. While it's great to have so many in-town trails, why can't we pave the trail around Holmes Lake, which is used heavily and washes out or needs new limestone every year. And pave the MoPac and Homestead trails. Other states, such as Minnesota and Wisconsin that have harsher winters, have wonderful paved trails throughout the state. We've had several years now when these trails have been closed due to drought that caused big, dangerous gaps and are now closed for the entire summer due to washout from the heavy rains. Many people are effected by not being able to go for long distance rides and runs. You will notice more people riding on highways, which is dangerous. Let's get moving and pave our trails!

Continue to explore how Lincoln Public Schools can partner with local agencies to provide supports to families in need and in crisis (poverty, mental health, etc.)



Continue to maintain and build up our trails and parks systems. Recommit - maybe mobilize a volunteer network - or advertise the volunteer network that helps maintain the trails.

I believe top notch public schools and companies with well-paying jobs are key to the continued success of Lincoln. I know there is concern among companies about not being able to recruit enough talent. I think providing internships to college students (maybe even high school students?) is key to introducing them to the kinds of careers that they could have in Lincoln. Here are some other thoughts I have on careers: 1. There are so many jobs that could be filled if companies would hire for the person, and then provide them the training they need to be successful in that role. Companies need to recruit by going out and getting to know people and selling the benefits of working for their organization. The "click here to apply for this job" website is not effective in many cases. Career paths are no longer linear. 2. Companies need to consider flexible work schedules and opportunities to work remotely as more GenXers and Millennials dominate the workforce. This can't just be something that the tech industry and start-ups do. Mainstream companies need to consider this. Arts and cultural opportunities are plentiful, and there are ample activities for families to recreate. We are very fortunate in that regard. It would be great if we had a large youth sports complex where regional tournaments could be hosted. Adding onto and upgrading Abbott Sports Complex (field turf, larger facilities) would enhance the quality of life for Lincoln families and provide the opportunity to bring in more revenue for the city and for local clubs. Property taxes are high, and for that reason (and weather), we would consider leaving Lincoln when we retire. Otherwise, we love it here.

Promote family values. Attend church. Teach them success instead of cultural diversity. Teach them to work together as a team. Require volunteering their time and talent through out their Junior and Senior High school.

I think we need to rethink our bus system. So that it is more efficient. I don't understand why you need to go down town to get from N.E. Lincoln to S.E Lincoln. It needs to be set up on six big squares. Bus running around the squares and you can transfer at 84th and O to go North and South... N.E. Lincoln the Bus would go from 84th and O to 84th and Havelock to 48th and Superior to 48th and O back to 84th and O. S.E. Lincoln 84th and O to 84th and Pine Lake, Pine Lake to 48th St. 40 48th and O. Likewise so that you would have hubs at 48th and O, 48th and Superior, 48th and Pine Lake, Pine Lake at 14th and Pine Lake at 84th. so that you can get off and get on another bus so that you can get across the city without hubbing down town. Take a look at larger cities.

O' Lincoln – We Love You - I wish someone would create an "I Love Lincoln" Statue that could be used for photo opportunities. the photos taken there would spread the good name of our city across the world. Perhaps - with a conceptual image, we can crowd source the project. Who do we have in Lincoln - or Nebraska - that has this skill and drive? And Where should we place it? Maybe Prosper Lincoln can help? <http://www.prosperlincoln.org/> Posted online at - <http://lincoln55plus.org/2015/06/17/o-lincoln-we-love-you/>



We need to encourage quality and affordable childcare options through employers, as well as mandatory maternity and paternity leave. Short-term disability insurance and/or accrued vacation/sick time is NOT maternity/paternity leave.

Education is KEY. Align schools with what is proven to stimulate the brain, like play time for young children. Continue the trend of wonderful trails, parks, and summer programming. Downtown is awesome, keep an eye on local business and be wary of national brands coming to take over. We have a voting problem, as in people aren't voting. What can the city do to ensure that people can easily register, get candidate information, and then are able to vote.

I think that we need to push to have more mentoring programs available to youth.

I think that youth should be provided with after school/before school structured activities. These activities should help them learn useful skills in various areas. There could be activities at the beginning of the year that teaches youth about the legislative process and the importance of voting. Our population of youth in poverty is too high. If we can somehow provide meals during these activities and support their pursuit of education, it is what I feel is best for our community. Education is key to get our youth to overcome poverty and if we can start with young children to provide with the extra help they may need (reading, writing, math, etc.) and continue this as they get older and add the legislative piece so they know how they can improve their communities and neighborhoods at a systemic level.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY I visited with our 23-year-old son, who is currently in optometry school in Bloomington, Indiana; about changes which could take place in Lincoln which would encourage him and other young professionals to return to Lincoln. His first comment was, "improve public transportation." Although Bloomington is 1/3 the size of Lincoln, many of the students at IU do not have cars because public transportation (buses, shuttles, Uber, taxi, etc.) is easily accessible. While in Seattle, we had 7 options for public transportation (buses, monorail, shuttles, Uber, light rail, taxi, town car--available to the airport and inexpensive compared to the taxi service, and Lyft). Because these transportation methods made it possible to arrive close to your destination, many more people were walking (health benefits). Biking is also a very common mode of transportation because the Department of Roads has considered safety and efficiency for bikers when designing streets. For years a light rail between Omaha and Lincoln has been discussed. Individuals who attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln love this city and would like to stay, but positions in Omaha pull them away. Keeping young professionals here would be just one benefit of a light rail. When I-80 expanded to 6 lanes, I understood space was created between the lanes for a light rail. Another benefit--think of the parking congestion which could be relieved on game days! It would be great if the light rail could also go to Grand Island. With our low unemployment, employers are constantly needing employees; perhaps this would answer some of those problems. **YOUTH SUCCESS** I have had the opportunity to work with the Backpack Program. It is a wonderful program; however, I wish there could be an incentive for recipients to "give back" by volunteering or doing something for the school/city. Are we teaching children to stand in line for handouts? My father operated a grain elevator in Winnebago, Nebraska. Each month the Native



Americans would receive a government check. Native Americans who worked with Dad said this did not encourage anyone to improve their life situation. It did not instill a sense of pride which is achieved with a job well done. With creative thinking, I believe we can give people "a hand" rather than a "handOUT."

First Christian Church (16th & K) has underutilized building space, as well as an overall commitment to serve the near south Lincoln neighborhood. Partnerships with other organizations/companies/individuals/artists could be a great way to bridge a gap in this area. The non-worship portion of the building could be re-purposed as an office building.

Work with legislative leaders to reduce taxes on both individuals and businesses, thus putting more money in the pockets of citizens and giving new and existing businesses incentives to set up shop in Lincoln.

Get books in the hands of k-12 children. If it takes volunteers from the community walking the neighborhoods, especially the targeted 6-8 in extreme poverty. An incentive for the neighborhood if a certain percentage participate or similar incentive. Summer STEM camps for k-12. As minimal of cost as possible to students, scholarships or grants where needed. Look to Millard Public Schools for model. Work transportation program tested by larger employees. Bus / shuttle or similar from targeted neighborhoods. Look to Pay Pal in Omaha for model.

There are great things going on in Lincoln—we are above national average in work force participation, lower dropout rates, building permits have almost doubled, unemployment is almost half of national average, population growth up 19% in past 10 years, etc. Continue the great things we are doing! Suggestions to add/modify/or change-- 1--Bussing system. We want to draw people to our downtown life but near impossible to get cabs at night. Run bus routes in the evening and at night. Back up the promoted theory of NOT drinking and driving. Provide more transportation options! 2--We have had some unemployment issues and businesses that cannot find skilled applicants. We have to EDUCATE our patrons. Work with CCC on affordable 2 year degrees to educate our poverty families. 3--Trend of kids entering kindergarten behind the eight ball. We have to offer affordable early childhood education for the kids AND their parents. With this... we need to adopt a policy state-wide for kindergarten readiness exams. Kids are starting off at too big of a disadvantage and cannot get caught up. 4--Cost of childcare is astronomical for the average family, yet alone, low income families. Have to work with a foundation or grant rich companies to provide cost effective child care for low income families. With this would include early childhood education programs. :) Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Best of luck!!!

Find more ways to help them get physical activity breaks in school and additional education about living a physically healthy lifestyle (exercise plus good nutrition). Getting physical activity during the day at different periods helps people focus better and improves brain function.

I believe there is a particular need within LPS schools to coordinate a place for students to go for help when they need things at home. My husband teaches at North Star and it seems that many times



students get a need met only because they have mentioned it to teacher or coach. We've provided a lot for students through the years and will continue to do so, but I worry about those kids that don't let a teacher or coach know that they have a need. Items we have provided through the years have been food, clothing, shoes, furniture, linens and transportation, just to name a few. I feel that if a message was repeatedly put out there in the schools, students would be able get their particular needs met so they can come to school and learn and not be worried about what they are going without.

-Provide safe and reliable public transportation with more options and times. -Address diversity issues in the workplace, schools and local government by requiring everyone to be measured on their intercultural literacy. Dr. Helen Fagan with UNL can assist with this. -Provide parent assistance for those in poverty that they can be present in the lives of their students. This could be a program that relieves some of their responsibilities so that they are available for their kids.

1. A central library on the Pershing site would preserve the Pershing building and at the same time create a new, safe environment for youth, students, and families. Many of the Lincoln city libraries, and Bennett Martin in particular, could use a face lift and a fresh new approach that would bring in new readers and learners of all ages. 2. Better advertising for local events and happenings (arts and crafts festivals, music events, farmers markets, fundraisers, etc.). Maybe there already is a place for this and I just don't know about it. There doesn't seem to be a central place where you can look up activities in Lincoln, so a website or something where people could post links or activities would be helpful. The only way to find activities is if you already know they're happening and can search for that specific event. The Prosper Lincoln campaign is a fabulous idea. Thanks for organizing this!

First I would like to see optional early childhood education to anyone that resides with in Lincoln. The benefits are numerous. I would propose researching funding it with an excise tax on sugary drinks and diet soda. Depending on legalities I would propose it be charged to and paid by the wholesalers much like alcohol. Next find away to maintain and improve the Park space we already have. It is embarrassing to take out of town guest to what should be jems of our city. Last I propose a public/private venture for a large and I mean HUGE indoor water park in Downtown. I would think the Pershing cite would be great. This project would be something that would attract tourist from around the Midwest. I invision a park that would cater to those that visit the Zoo and children's museum but also have college nights and private parties.

Adding one more idea :) Expanding downtown-at times overwhelming as old businesses and some new are closing due to over population of bars/restaurants. Key is to get more PEOPLE to live downtown-not students. Building more student housing is not solving the problem. Most new housing downtown is student housing and half of those condos are vacant due to the cost per room. Non-students will not pay price per bedroom or live in these buildings. College students do not have the means to support downtown businesses-need condos for average residents that eat out and shop/support the downtown. Students/kids in their early 20's are and cannot do this.



I suggest the city install recycling receptacles, at least for cans and plastic bottles like those found on the UNL campus. Such receptacles should initially be placed downtown and in the Haymarket area. Perhaps volunteers like those collecting trash by the mile or prisoners could be used to collect and deliver to recycling centers. Money from recycling centers for aluminum could be put back into expanding program.

The Lincoln downtown (where I work) needs more greenery. There are many studies that suggest trees, grass, and the color green actually affects our health and outlook. When I go for a walk over lunch, the only place I can get a substantial amount of green is campus, and even they are pulling up grass to maximize the number of buildings. A few well-placed downtown gardens would do wonders for us downtown workers.

If Lincoln is to really help the youth of the community it needs to be better organized - I have had occasion to talk with a mother who is trying to get help for her teenage runaway dropout 16 year old son -- she is getting lots of advice but no real help - the high school counselor told her son he would never graduate from high school so he ran away - should the counselor not of talked to the mother first? the police found the boy and brought him home - counselling was arranged - but the boy had to agree - he didn't feel it would do any good he still wound not graduate - he left home again - the police person working the boy's case kept in touch with the mother - giving her places to call for help where she got information - sometimes confusing - but little to really do to solve the situation - then when another youth was arrested while her son was in the house the police did not arrest or pick up the boy so he is still on the streets -- this is not the only family - the mother tells me of other parents she has talked with who are in the same situation - this mother and soon need an advocate - one person to go to - one person to help find and arrange services for counseling - tutoring - support - someone who already knows the system - our schools need to identify troubled youth much sooner than high school and put services in place to help and support - which again sounds like needed coordination between school and social services with one advocate in charge of assisting the family through all the hoops -- the second family I have listened to these past weeks is well off and can afford tutoring to help their child - who is also failing in school and finds little reason to change - what determination was made when to give this young man help in being successful in school? There are many many good services for families in Lincoln; however, when a family is in crisis they do not have the energy to make all the calls, set appointments, and fill out all the paperwork - they need an advocate - one person to guide them through the process and help them make the right connections with the needed services - not one advocate or case worker per agency - one overall advocate that will work with school, police, social service, finance - whatever is needed to help the child succeed.

Have a small "health patrol" team of city employees (pick me! pick me!) who "secret shop" direct service city employees to ensure polite, prompt, professional treatment towards Lincoln citizens. This Health Patrol could perform enriching, supportive, random acts of kindness to those same employees, maybe on their birthdays, work start date anniversaries, etc. to acknowledge their importance. As a city employee, I experience some of the discouragement and unappreciation that the general public can



direct towards us. Knowing that there is some recognition of our importance to the city and community at large would validate and confirm our value.

Continue to partner with LPS and CLC's in any way possible to seize the opportunity to help youth to see beyond the classroom, into the larger world. Educated workforce wants a safe community, a good education system for their children, and access to affordable air travel. Continued efforts to fund our police and fire departments, competitive air fare from LNK are important. The many free neighborhood and city-wide events that encourage community and a small-town flavor are vital to a healthy community.

1. Every fifth grade teacher should ask a student what they do when they are not in school. If the answer is nothing - or just hang out - etc. the teacher should make a very strong effort of engage that student in music/art/sports/theater. If they are not engaged by the sixth or seventh grade you have potentially lost them to an activity that will not add quality to his life growing up. This could be in school or out of school. This could be repeated in sixth and seventh grade as needed. 2. Economic Prosperity: Schools and or cities could conduct SHARK TANK experiences for the young and the restless :). Awards do not have to be large - \$100/person for teams of 3 for example. It begins high school students thinking about finances, priorities, and the future. 3. Quality of Life: Ensure that there are at least four handicap parking places for every arts/music/theater/sports venue - regardless of what the ADA says. Persons with disabilities cannot get out of their homes to enjoy these things if there is no place to park - so they stay home.

As our minority population and income diversity grows, we need to find ways to get the youth involved within the community & I am not only talking sport activities, which may be cost prohibitive to many families, but in arts & other areas. We are becoming diverse & need to think outside the box for solutions. The city fathers are no longer as relevant in the ever changing landscape & the population as a whole needs much more representation in open discussions, making decisions & implementing programs.

I will attempt to illustrate a few ideas, but keep in mind that it is almost impossible to take these 3 topics on separately; they are too interconnected. Youth Success Their needs to be more variety in educational opportunities. Not every "youth" should have to go to college to live a reasonable adult life. I also think that variety in educational opportunities should start much earlier than when they get to college. I understand how this may be politically difficult due to state and fed funding and the standardization strings that come with it. But, if you want to really address education you must at some point deal with that truth. The alternative would be to take the easy route, in which case there is no need for community input - simply copy what others have done and be done with it. LPS has taken steps to get more creative in how we are going to provide educational opportunities to youth with the new career center at SCC. Will it work out well? I don't know. That's why I recommend we continue the bold creativity that they are demonstrating, but instead of large money-intensive initiatives, we try smaller (not such a big deal if it fails) initiatives...and many of them at once. Creativity requires trial, error,



feedback, failures, adjustments, and adaptations. It is incredibly difficult to do this with large (all eggs in one basket) initiatives. The main takeaways from this comment is variety of opportunities and initiatives will put us on a better and more creative path to address education. By the end of this comment, it is probably starting to sound more like a rant than anything useful. I will stop here, recollect my thoughts, and hopefully comment again later on the other topics if time permits. Thanks for reading (if anybody actually reads through all of these).

All themes would be greatly enhanced by building a new central library for Lincoln. Modern Libraries are community hubs and add incredible staying power to the social and intellectual matrix that holds us together. Bennett Martin does not cut the mustard, and every year that we delay replacing it puts us farther behind in our goal to become a great city.

To help our youth you need to help their families. Make the cost of living affordable so that parents aren't working multiple jobs just to pay the rent. If parents are not so worried about money they would have more time for their children. Don't stigmatize children that qualify for certain programs. Make the school schedule one that parents and their employers can live with.

There has to be a way to find AFFORDABLE childcare that is educational, loving, and safe. Why should it cost a small fortune every month to have my child in an environment that provides learning and fun? If we want to invest in our future, we need to invest in our children. But we can't do that at the expense of a parent's full salary. Think of the things people would do with the money spent on daycare - give to charity, save for college, tithe to a church, etc. The community benefits from families not having to spend thousands of dollars every month on childcare. At the same time, we cannot skimp on the quality of childcare available. We need early (and I mean EARLY) childhood care available to help children become successful students and adults. I'm not sure what the right avenue is - tax breaks for those paying exorbitant daycare costs? Subsidized childcare? Regulations on childcare costs? None of those seem to be a great or realistic fit. But it is a problem that needs addressed.

1. Find a way to make childcare/preschool affordable - is this through tax subsidies/credits? Who does this well - Cedars? Who has a good model? If people, especially single parents, can't work because of the prohibitive cost of child care, how do we make this more doable for them so they can work and better their families? How do we make sure these facilities are preparing children for school? 2. Mandate kindergarten readiness at the state level 3. Educate young women on how to prevent unwanted pregnancies - good sex education coupled with programs that inspire them to find careers, find mentors, decide what they want to do with their lives on their time table, before having children. We have to work towards helping the children who are in our community who have needs but we also have to focus on preventing more children from being born into that situation.

Youth success - youth seem to be haphazardly connected with one or more agencies, support groups, clubs, etc. but what assistance they do get connected with is not reaching out to other appropriate supports and/or communicating with other groups if the youth is connected with more than one at a



time. Frequently, the supports are providing the same types of services, but are not working together and other times, they are working towards opposite goals. Ex. a youth with a learning disability working with Nebraska VR on options for vocational training and also working with HHSS caseworker who has enrolled the student in a college program, which may not be appropriate based on their academic abilities. HHSS has not made any effort to communicate with VR, although the caseworker signed permission forms for VR so should know that they are working with the student in the school.

One of the best things about Lincoln is the many city parks, trails and fun play options for children. Unfortunately, with the weather extremes in our part of the Great Plains, these are not all useable every day. Unless parents can afford gym memberships or play venues such as Lost in Fun, Champions, etc., school-age kids have almost no safe, free-or-low-cost places to play. With today's emphasis on movement, exercise and healthy weight management, it would seem that some in-door play places such as the family play area at Gateway Mall, (but for older children) would be good places for children to play, move and enjoy time with other kids. These places could be incorporated into other in-door places, such as malls, big-box stores, churches, hospitals, schools, etc. I see this as a great need for younger school-age (or even pre-school age) children.

Neighborhood Time Banks throughout the community. (see TimeBanks USA) Together We Can: Block co-ops or single-family co-ops: Help Mom—with yard care, housekeeping, shopping, transportation. Childcare/babysitting co-op: Families in the neighborhood set up such a co-op; could comprise families in one block, two blocks, or more. Meal co-op: If three family members: each family prepares one meal a month for two other families; twice a month, each family doesn't have to prepare a meal. Meals can be eaten together, rotate location among homes. Neat Street: Kids/youth volunteer to be on a Neat Street team to help keep sidewalks clear of mud, debris, ice, snow. Recognized in some way each fall or spring. Grocery store: Small-scale store with lower prices and more local produce/products than Russ's—which is *too expensive* for neighbors. Green learning space for Everett Elementary—needs more neighborhood support to build and maintain. Safety teams: Neighbors form teams to walk kids from home to school and from school to home Monday through Friday.

To improve "youth success," we must address poverty, domestic violence, bullying, and other negative conditions which impair our children's ability to learn and to progress. Private agencies are doing a great deal of this work, but I do not see that many initiatives being undertaken by the City. Ask the Duncan Aviations, the Kawasaki's, and the other long-standing major employers in this City how they are doing it. And then ask the Hudls, and other brand-new start-ups how they are doing it. Read it. Learn it. Live it. To raise the overall quality of life, we need to help those neighborhoods which are in decline. We need to act to eliminate slumlords, landlords who would not live in their own properties, and entire neighborhoods to lift up the worst of what is there and help to sustain and expand the best of what is there.

As a visionary and founder in the Lincoln community, to be honest Lincoln lacks the infrastructure which would enable our community to address complex and longstanding issues such as child poverty. Teach a



Kid to Fish is launching the creation of an Impact Plan for Child Health. The typical funding paradigm must be rethought in order to create innovative and sustainable change. To launch collective impact models, the backbone organization must not be self declared. The community will be better served with more impactful outcomes, if the visionaries who are often the experts on the subjects as well as implementation are leading the charge. I would suggest alignment in these areas: Health, Economics and Youth Development. I would also suggest looking at models such as Gates Foundation First 1,000 Days. Teach a Kid to Fish is a very social entrepreneurial organization. More thinking along these lines allows for leverage of resources and the development of innovative mission and vision oriented revenue generating streams. A think tank of Lincoln visionaries from many sectors creating public private partnerships could help develop the infrastructure to address complex social and economic issues.

Make sure support systems readily available both inside and outside of the school system for: mental health counseling and treatment, low cost meals, physical/medical needs.

Kid Career Day: Conduct tours of local businesses/industries for kids. Have hands-on activities while they are there. Host-a-Youth Day: Businesses have open house for older youth who want to explore possible careers. Kid on the Job: Children/youth (contest, interview, drawing, or sign-up) to “work a day on the job” at a small business of their choice. Why I Work for Myself: On-site talk/demo that youth/young adults can attend at the small business itself. What I Do All Day: Skilled professionals talk about their day-to-day work for youth/young adults—on-site at their business/company/plant. Presentations would include as many “real-world” demonstrations of tasks as would be feasible, whether welding or editing books or selling cars or helping people get loans.

Establish Neighborhood Time Banks (see TimeBanks USA) throughout the community. Art on the Block: artistic neighbors form teams and provide drop-in space in the neighborhood for art expression for kids, or mom and kids, or moms—or all of the above. A Stitch in Time: Older neighbors with embroidery, crochet, knitting, or quilting skills set up time/place and offer lessons/conversation to kids. Sidewalk Art competition; could be theme-based or not.

Related to Quality of Life, I think Lincoln should offer a "coupon book" of sorts that sells for \$5 - \$10 and contains a free cab ride; a meal; free basic essentials (toothbrush, toothpaste, deoderant, soap, etc.) coupon; contact information and locations for all of the community service programs the homeless could access (shelter, food pantry, etc.); etc. Citizens and visitors alike could purchase these from stores throughout the community (or maybe even advertise them at sporting events, concerts, within businesses in the community). Then when they happen to come upon a homeless person who is asking for help, they could provide them with this coupon book. This would ensure that the person is getting services needed, but not just cash to spend on drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, etc.

Provide travel resources for youth wanting to attend conferences. Provide technology access for youth on the poverty line so they are able to succeed. A skilled workforce can be achieved by offering options for low-income people who are non-traditional students to learn new skills and gain worthwhile



experience, as well as make business connections. Give the tools to the people who cannot achieve them. Create a culture that is willing to enable people to pursue their passions for community returns. I feel Lincoln already does very well with quality of life. I love living here because of the emphasis on the arts and cultural opportunities in this city. Perhaps more emphasis on local artists collaborating with national artists in all mediums, music, sculpture, painting, etc, to put together events that pique interest and have local ties.

All single parents should have a mentor of the opposite sex assigned as a part of case management to foster opposite sex input. Many angry young males out there. Also, there should be more free programming out there of you to participate in sports, academic clubs and extracurricular activities. Small business locations should be made readily available along with small business loans. Even at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Maybe even a location sharing program to introduce a variety of vendors, that promotes their businesses after the fact, include start-ups.. Or a downtown location, or both! Do something about the taxes, I am always amazed by the price of beef! we live in a beef state and pay extreme prices. It should be easier for folk to have small livestock like goats and chickens. Friendly competition is always a motivator, if you publicize the good happening one community it would reflect in all communities.

Make sure our libraries, headstart, preschools and schools are well funded, so children learn to break the cycle of poverty.

I think that we need to invest time, talent and treasure into organizations best suited to provide Youth Programs that will lead to success. There are so many different programs that serve youth in our area, we need to focus in on those programs that have the best ability to provide program and encourage collaboration with other groups to spread the best practices and best programs to all areas of our community. We need to find ways to encourage communication and teamwork so that we are not duplicating efforts and wasting funding. Programs that give parents and other adults the tools and training to work directly with our youth should be emphasized to ensure a multi-generational approach to building our youth into productive citizens and leaders of our community. The Boy Scouts want to continue being a part of moving Lincoln forward and are willing and able to serve in a Leadership role in helping grow Youth Success. The Scout Oath and Law have helped to shape leaders for more than 100 years and our programs have seen proven success in Lincoln for generations.

It seems as if there aren't a ton of well-paying jobs in Lincoln unless someone wants to work at a call center. It'd be nice for college students to have more first-time job opportunities (post graduation), other than call center jobs, that ALSO have a decent starting wage. How you open those opportunities, I'm not sure but it'd keep our educated students from moving to Omaha right away. As for quality of life, my stress level would go down immensely if the city of Lincoln's road planners came up with better ways to get around the city of Lincoln. There aren't any quick expressways, and it seems like road construction is poorly planned. Right now, part of O is closed, several many spots downtown have lane closures, Sheridan boulevard is closed (in one area), South street has lane closures. Yikes! It seems like the city's



planners could become more efficient at planning construction on roads and better, quicker ways to get across Lincoln. If they could do that, my blood pressure would go down!

keep the government out of our lives. stop trying to controll everything! Lincoln is already a great place stop trying to fix something that isnt broken!

Promote fatherhood and intact families. Couples with children need to explain how a divorce will help the children before a divorce is granted. Laws are needed to make it more difficult to get a divorce. Broken families result in lower grades, increased poverty, mental health problems, stress, suicide, increased pregnancies, etc., etc., etc.

Provide children with schools that focus on different learning structures. Provide work study jobs. Provide a wide range of after school or summer programs that provide different education and work skills.

A program to help folks get the medicine they need, when they can't afford it. Maybe we could work with the pharmaceutical companies.

More could be done to support and mobilize retirees to help them become a resource to our community. Retirees in their sixties through mid-eighties and beyond generally are in good health and have a wealth of experience. We could be doing more to help them realize what a wonderful resource they are to the community and acknowledge the skills they have that can address the challenges in Lincoln. The emphasis in Lincoln is on children and young professionals. The talents and needs of the older population need to be considered. Perhaps Leadership Lincoln could partner with others in the community to do a fellows class for new retirees.

The biggest problem in Lincoln for the elderly is transportation. Some of the people fall through the cracks, as they are denied help (for instance, income too high) and yet they are too low income to take a taxi and they have a problem waiting for a city bus. I work with the elderly and have for many years, and this is one problem that stays a problem. Thank you for listening to what I have to say. I hope this is an issue that can someday be resolved.

Family security is important...growing up in poverty absolutely sets up too many barriers for children. If Mom and Dad aren't making ends meet due to jobs that don't pay a living wage...then this is something that Lincoln needs to do better. Need to attract businesses that pay more than minimum wage.

Provide a full-time RN School Nurse for every 750 students in all schools.

We need to expand home visitation programs like the research based Healthy Family America Program at LLCHD which can start prenatally and go through 3-5 yrs.. The program goals are: To reach out to all parents and caretakers in the community to offer resources and support based on their strengths and individual circumstances. To cultivate the growth of nurturing, responsive parent child relationships. To promote healthy childhood growth and development To build foundations for strong family functioning.



We need to PREVENT so many of society's ills which will ensure youth are successful, save money on future jails, medical/counseling costs, and nourish strong families in our community!

Provide more before and after school events that don't cost a ton of money so the average person can afford them keeping the kids off the streets and during these before and after school courses offer skilled (Day in the life of a Veterinarian, Welders, Construction Workers, Office Management, Law Enforcement) courses so children have an opportunity to figure out what they want to be when they grow up . Invest more money into our parks making them a place children want to play. Playing gets the creative in the kid to come out. Provide more money to all the arts and music departments for the school system giving the children that want to be a creative a productive outlet. Get the kids involved with the colleges (UNL, SCC, DOANE) that are in the area at a young age making them appeal to them later. The community that invests in the children, is a community where the children don't want to leave.

Youth Success: Groups like the Chamber should collaborate with universities and colleges to reach out to high school students to talk through things that aren't being taught in high school or college. How/when to dress professionally, resume review, inspirational stories of how people overcame something to be successful. Programs are offered like this, but at a high cost. Make it affordable for all income levels and send students to them! Economic Prosperity: Publicize our successes! I think we are doing a better job of showcasing companies doing great things, but we don't hear about the startup community, unless you are around it. Lincoln should work to tell the story of our entrepreneurs and support their ideas. Quality of Life: Lincoln is such a wonderful city! Looking for more community building programs and events that brings the community together on non-game days! Whether in neighborhoods or in areas downtown, people are wanting to be out of the house and away from the television and computer screens.

See to fruition the opportunity for job skills training via the building of programs that enhance the Lincoln Public Schools system so that young adults are equipped with skills that make them marketable right out of highschool. Perhaps these programs could provide opportunity for past/present and future GED individuals to tap into for training vs. incurring the cost of community college but affording them the opportunity and encouragement to work in productive areas that will contribute to the city instead of burden the system. The arts and cultural enhancements have been increasing over the recent years and that is a bonus for Lincoln. Can we continue to think about programs that provide group activities at large as well as offering more intimate opportunities or self-guided (via foot/bicycle etc.) tours of the past and present installments of art, gardens and the like. I know it seems rather redundant, however, there are only a handful of certain individuals who belong to the 'clubs' and cultural scenes compared to the population at large. Attract more folks who are outside those circles with opportunities and activities that might feel less clickish. Unsure how to accomplish this -- perhaps an advertising campaign of sorts. Transportation that is more user friendly within the city and provides more direct location transport on smaller scales that is not monopolized by the cab company. The bullet train between



Lincoln and Omaha with 'rental' smart cars for 1-4 people that can be driven once into either city via the train.

Our community should help professionals from other countries be able to practice their profession in Lincoln, without taking years of waiting just to be able to take an exam to practice here. As a professional nurse from outside the US I am giving options to either practice here in Lincoln and take a CGPNS exam before I could take an NCLX or move to different state where they only require credentials evaluation before being able to take the test. I would love to be able to practice my profession here in Lincoln soon, since I don't want to leave my family here just to be a nurse. Lincoln is a very nice place where I prefer living here than leaving just to practice in another state. I'm hoping.

I work with federal non-profit grants across the United States aimed at getting low-income, first generation college students to graduate both high school and college. Nebraska is one of the only states that does not participate in the GEAR UP grant. This grant provides approximately \$40M in resources over 7 years for students and has been a success indicator for many communities. This program provides college readiness skills, credit recovery, non-cognitive skill development and scholarships for students who would not otherwise go to college.

Lincoln needs an indoor public swimming pool.

24/7 bus service so people can get to work and home. 7 day church services not just Sunday. 24/7 Clinic with a Heart 24/7 Clinic with a Heart for pets. Thank you Jesus.

1. Make Lincoln a safer place. Crime rate is the number one thing a person checks into before deciding where to raise their family. Actually punish the people who commit crimes- making them less desirable.
2. Clean up the city!! Fix the riding/ biking trails. There are several homes around town that have trash piled high everywhere around the house. Make the home owner clean it up. This makes our city look nasty including the rats and others things that come with that. I can list off several houses located on busy streets that fall into this category. What a disgrace to our city.
3. Create more family fun attractions. Do we have a nice water park? People want to raise their children where they can be entertained without leaving the city for fun. I know of several families that drive all the way to Mahoney for use of the water park. I'm not talking about Star City (Star City is worn down, old, has no new attractions, no lazy river, not appealing at all.) Building nicer facilities will also employ more people.
4. The schools need to offer basic life classes or career classes at a young age so children have dreams and hopes. And get a taste for what they want to be when they grow up.
5. Did I mention clean up the city? We have homeless men and women everywhere. Standing at all the street corners begging for money instead of working for it. Why are they allowed to do this, we have plenty of opportunities and organizations that will help them that they don't need to be standing on street corners making it uncomfortable for visitors and travelers to our city. Who would want to raise a family here with so many homeless people invading our spaces. Can't we do something about this or make it illegal that they do this? Clean up the city.

I think there should be more clinics.



Lincoln needs to create opportunities and partnerships in the community to attract, and entice more businesses, large and small, to make Lincoln their home. From the cutting edge research at the University of Nebraska to the supportive business community, we should be enriching these relationships in order to maximize our resources. Hudl has been an amazing success, but there should be dozens of other business stories like this to tell. #riselincoln

It seems like many jobs postings require a college degree when in fact the duties of the job do not seem to require the extra education. It would be great if employers would really look at their job postings and rethink if a college degree is really necessary for an entry level job.

As an advocate for companion animals and as someone who is made a better person because of the pets in my life, I would like to see Lincoln take on a "trap-neuter-release" program for the community's feral cats. These cats cause many community members much distress when seeing them because of lack of education on the life of feral cats and how to work toward stabilizing the feral cat population. I propose the removal of the ordinance which states that if you vaccinate a cat for rabies, you automatically must license that cat. Having to pay for licenses for a feral cat colony is cost prohibitive. There are cities in the United States who do have such programs and Lincoln could model their program after those cities.

Have a city clean up day. Everyone can take as much junk and trash as they need to the city dump no questions asked and no charge. This city is really dirty. Go door to door with flyers to make sure everyone hears it and sees it.

Create a micro-lending program in conjunction with local banks for small, short-term loans. This replaces the need to go to a payday lending agency that charges outrageous fees and interest and only feeds into the cycle of poverty. Build more affordable housing options in the area. Attract more mental health professionals to the area. Create funding sources for low-income/homeless people to obtain items such as vital records or a driver's license/state ID. Currently, no such fund exists for people to get these without paying the mandatory fees. Often, they are unable to apply for assistance without proof of identification.

Salaries in Lincoln are comparatively low. While we have low unemployment rates and offer a positive family life, salaries remain low, while housing inventories and costs are on the rise. If Lincoln intends to attract and keep talented individuals, it must attract businesses that will raise salaries so that the quality of life can continue to be high here. Otherwise, people will leave so they can make \$25,000+ more each year in Omaha, where they can find a less expensive home and work in a mid-level management job that is a stepping stone for their career (these are relatively scarce in Lincoln compared to other towns of our size throughout America). As an outsider who recently moved to Lincoln, it seems the schools are still riding on their good reputation from many years ago but are failing to keep up with school systems outside of Lincoln and Nebraska. We fail to offer ways to encourage all students to excel; students who are ahead should not be forced to sit still while their peers learn or to teach their peers but should also



be challenged, even if they don't test to a genius IQ. All schools need to teach students to aim for excellence. Many people in Lincoln are very wary of the changes that are occurring in Lincoln, and they assume that they can continue to operate as they have for the past 20 years. Lincoln and its residents need to realize that Lincoln is no longer a small town, and we need to face our problems and strive for excellence in everything, not just in athletics.

Better paying jobs and lower cost of housing. Rent and sale prices on housing in Lincoln is ridiculously high for the average wage. It is getting harder to raise a family on 2 persons income, let alone allowing for stronger families by having the opportunity for the mother or father to stay home to care for the children.

Recruit someone to open a Jazz restaurant/bar. This town obviously loves Jazz, according to the crowds "Jazz in June" gets. There is a great establishment in KC call The Phoenix. Good food and good music! I think it would be a huge success!

Encourage employers to pay better wages, particularly to lower paid staff.

Some brainstorming ideas - Have each resident "adopt" a student/classroom and pay extra support for their education (like we do for someone in a foreign country). Have a city-wide "Get in Shape Challenge" with prizes. Have an awards banquet recognizing those companies who hire/educate certain workers that are in high demand, give money/support to help entrepreneurs start their businesses, companies with longevity of employees, etc.

Youth Success: Reintroduce school resource officers to middle schools and eventually elementary schools. The more trust there is at a young age with law and society, the better off youth are in the future. Economic Prosperity: Continue to create services and infrastructure that appeals to young people graduating from high school and entering/leaving college. They are our future and will sustain out city if they choose to stay. Create city incentives to help start-ups and tech jobs. Build healthy & clean infrastructure that appeals to young people, like additional trails, bicycle lanes, additional mass transportation opportunities and well-developed parks. Places and activities that young people can go to to take part in is also a plus. Better, faster and cheaper access to telecommunication services (the internet) is also preferable (a problem throughout the whole country, in fact)... create a public-private partnership, maybe? Quality of Life: Put further emphasis on refugees, migrant communities and immigrants to relocate to Lincoln. In recent years, they have been a vita component in inhabiting/revitalizing parts of the city that were dilapidated. Also, smart and infill development should be utilized even further. Build planned development with activity clusters at their centers might be something to look at along with connecting these developments with ease-of-use alternative modes of transportation.

Put trash catchers at all of the storm drain outflows. There is so much unsightly and unhealthy trash washing into our wetlands, lakes and streams during rain events. Allow for more advanced science and math courses in elementary and middle schools for children that are identified as being strong in those



subjects. Regulations that apply to citizens should apply to local agencies as well. One good example is fugitive dust emissions from public property (such as from roads and sidewalk construction and rehab).

Lower my taxes!!! That lets me spend more of my hard-earned money in the community, thereby growing the economy. Adding more government bureaucrats to the city payroll will do absolutely nothing to grow this city. On the contrary, adding to the bureaucracy harms the city by encouraging our citizens to be more dependent on the government for various aspects of their lives.

more activities for youth that are supervised and inside for winter and during the heat. Pools like the one on Hwy2 should be increased as this gets too packed the trampoline park is great but way too expensive to do frequently. There is the bay but that draws in a "certian" type of youth. for kids over 16, in the evenings they go to mcdonalds and other restruants as there is NOTHING for them to do. There are school sports, but not all kids go to these and this is too dependent on schools. The city REALLY needs to find activities for kids and young adults. If they did, I bet delinquency and drinking by college kids would go down

Youth success: early education programs, affordable pre-school, before and after school care that enriches youth's lives, mentoring, continue investing in education (which we do well) and continued investment in preparing youth for the workforce. Make sure families and youth are able to access services where they are- school/community/non-profit partnerships. Economic Prosperity: Not just focus on professionals, but the trades. There is a significant need in our community for skilled tradespeople. As Lincoln grows, we need these individuals. Quality of Life: Public safety- continue to invest in our police and fire departments, continue investment in cultural, community and arts events, address the health disparities by making sure to "go where the people are", and addressing the needs of our seniors and how prepared our community is for the exit of baby boomers from the workforce and as they age and need housing, health care and other services. I guess the big idea for me is keep doing what we are doing. Lincoln is filled with passionate and committed community members that are advocating each day to make Lincoln better.

Youth need more exposure to careers. They have all these requirements in school, but yet have no idea what career they may be interested in, or what that career even entails. The best place to start would be in our high schools exposing kids to different careers based on their interests. Maybe we could have some internships for youth. It would be great if more companies could hold a career day like Bryan Health that the kids could be exposed to jobs and ask questions. Encourage youth in the skilled trades. In grade school and middle school perhaps more affordable creative and career opportunites similar to Bright Lights, but less expensive and with better timing so parents do not have to interrupt their work day to take the kids back and forth. Small neighborhood parks in addition to the larger parks in Lincoln. A place for the kids to play and adults to gather. A walking / bike riding destination.

The community should help the immigrant who have a degree find a job they are qualified instead of sending them back to school for 4 years. Going back to school is possible as long as they have a job to



provide the daily needs of the family. Not giving them a chance to work will result in living with government assistance. Give the immigrant a job help them find a job instead of food and medicaid. Immigrants are hard workers. If there is a job available give them a chance to work. Teach them how to fish don't give them fish. It is sad that a lot of immigrants with a degree don't have a job because of the system in place. Get a degree first before you can practice your profession. It should be working/job first before registering for a course so the immigrant can stand on their own feet and support their refresher course. Provide a job to immigrant in their field of interest will lesson government finance aid, food stamps and medicaid. Provide and employment program for immigrants.

I think we repair/install sidewalks in poor neighborhoods so families are encouraged to be outside. Children can ride bikes safely. Families can walk in the evenings. This encourages healthy activities and getting to know your neighbors which fosters care of neighborhood and hopefully lowers crime. Find some way to encourage/fund care of trees on private property in these neighborhoods to let the sun shine in, grass grow rather than dirt patches. Again, this gives outside areas for children to play and families to gather. Brighter areas discourage crime. Safer areas are better for children -- less stress, more sleep, better learning, etc. Obviously basic needs should be met first, but a healthy environment helps children thrive.

I think the city council or whatever government branch in charge of it needs to repeal two 'ordinances' 1) that no buildings be taller than the State Capital. Seriously. This is very outdated and needs to be abolished. Let the big builders come and make our city look like it fits in today's world. Not be known by the large, erect phallic building that dominates our skyline.... and 2) no large multiplex movie theaters outside of downtown. Also totally outdated. People will go to whatever theater is closest. We need a good source of entertainment for everyone to easily access. I will still go to the downtown theaters, but I know there are plenty of people on the Northside that detest having to drive halfway across town when the other side of town has a theater within a few minutes drive. Change it, let competition into this town. and a bonus one 3) break the TWC monopoly on cable. Kinetic is already awesome, but again, more competition, better services and costs for consumers.

It's time to get a handle on wants vs. needs. We need to find a way to lower the taxes in Lincoln. We have a wonderful city, but it's become very difficult to afford living here. LPS is at the very top of its taxing authority, the city, county and others are not. LPS should work to lower their tax so people can have more disposable income. We should consider going to a .25 cent fare on StarTran. I think more people would use it and we could save the expense of having to pay someone to issue all the bus passes and handle the mail for passes. Just make it a .25 cent ride for everyone. You would also save credit card fees.

Summer school lunch Well maintained and numerous parks and pools

Our youth should learn about science, creativity, and entrepreneurship



Pave all the dirt roads in Lincoln and take care of the weeds on the 7 million /billion dollar Cornhusker Hwy, put sidewalks down NW 12 (cornhusker hwy). We have somewhat nice bike trails on the north side however you have to get on the death trap of Cornhusker/nw 12 th to get to them. Not worth it! Stop trying to impress visitors and start listening to LONG TIME residents who live and work here!! Make the owners of the terrible motels back by Caseys clean it up, the city spent all that money to "pretty up" cornhusker but they let that stuff continue, makes no sense. The city also needs to enforce weed control to lot owners and businesses on Cornhusker, again how the city can let that happen after spending all that money to pretty it up is beyond me.

1) Lincoln needs better housing choices with 5-15 acreage possibilities. I am moving from out of town and do not want to live in or near Lincoln because there are no good housing with acreage choices. As a result, my family and I are moving back to NE from out-of-state and have chosen the Omaha area instead of Lincoln. 2) There needs to be a faster way to commute across Lincoln. I propose that 96th street be converted into a ring route. Such a project should be completed while interest rates are low. 3) Lincoln needs to grow to the North, not to the South. Why would Lincoln not want to utilize the already-existing interstate rather than install expensive infrastructure to the South? 4) Poor school choices North of "O" street prevent growth to the North of the city by high earning families.

We need better roads and lower taxes

Education is the key to all three questions. I don't know how to provide better education since I grew up in a time when you were supposed to learn, not to be amused. Much was expected of the student, not of the parents. Not everybody is suited for a career writing papers in academic journals. I fully support the joint venture between LPS and SCC. It's long overdue. The old neighborhoods need help to look good. The new regulation addressing neglected properties is a start, but it is too weak and results will take too long. How about TIF for people who are not rich? It could do wonders for old neighborhoods. I don't think we need to provide more art and cultural opportunities in Lincoln. There are plenty. If only people filled halls other than the arena!

I would love to see summer camps (with need-based tuition scholarships) for ages 7-14 that focus on technology sectors, alternative fuel vehicles (and alternative fuel generation) and finally, a course on positive self-esteem & healthy lifestyles for people of all cultures. Perhaps local business could sponsor kids' tuition and provide tours of any facilities which might fall under the aforementioned camp focuses. Maybe some of the employees could even donate time to provide instruction at camps. I work for Hexagon Lincoln and I would love for kids to be more aware of what we do at our facility.

- Lots of parks - Bike trails/exercise trails - Strong schools - After school programs - City libraries with hours that include weekends and evenings (especially as more homework is required to be completed online) - Continue bus commuting options for middle school and high schoolers - Consider offering bus commuting options for middle schoolers in after school activities (that last until 4:30 usually) - Continue services of summer public pools - fun, healthy exercise for all ages



The success of our youth has to be centered around the ability to keep them in school on a path to graduate from high school with an education and study habits that prepare them for a post-high school education. Economic prosperity can be driven by lowering property taxes, and providing tax incentives to businesses that want to grow within Lincoln, or relocate to Lincoln. We also need to keep utility rates as low as possible to compete with our neighbors. The quality of life in Lincoln can benefit from hiring additional police officers. The police force in Lincoln is extremely under staffed. More police officers could provide more patrols in troubled neighborhoods, reduce gang activity, and improve response time to trouble calls.

Lincoln needs to invest more in their parks programs -especially swimming. Outdoor pools are fun for summer, however, indoor pools can be used year round and provide a great family fun opportunity. Competitive swimming participants have increased year over year and swimming programs are battling for pool time. An indoor aquatics facility that caters to competitive swimming, recreation, youth activities, senior exercise, and fun is desperately needed in this town.

I personally think outdoor events of all kinds help, from farmers markets to outdoor concerts (Celebrate Lincoln) and the Lincoln marathon. Events like this keep the younger generation in Lincoln. Making them want to be apart of the city.

Encourage the entrepreneurial spirit from day one of school by focusing on community projects where children can learn about topics while completing a fun activity. Partnering schools with local businesses to solve a problem is a great way to hit all 3 areas of focus. If children and adolescents see the great homegrown businesses Lincoln has to offer before they hit college, they are more likely to want to stay here and contribute.

Youth Success: Outdoor Education Opportunities Economic Prosperity: Build the Southeast By-Pass to allow the City to attract larger employers and allow for development to continue its growth to the Southeast. Quality of Life: Build more public indoor facilities to accommodate year round needs/activities.

Medical marijuana

1. Fix S 8th St. - The intersections between A st and the Haymarket along 8th street are tragedies waiting to happen. It's impossible to see oncoming traffic without pulling all the way into an intersection, and the potholes were i guess some of the not 10k that were recently filled. 2. Regulate growth- as in, don't let sprawl happen as we let developers decide what our city and it's homes and roads will look like. (thinking south lincoln)

We should ensure that the South Downtown Lincoln Revitalization Project is stopped. This is a plan that will displace many families that live in the neighborhood because of it's affordability. It will rip apart the fabric of the unique culture of the neighborhood. This is a plan developed by developers mainly from St. Louis. They do not know the culture of Lincoln like people from Lincoln do. Therefore, we need a



committee of individuals from Lincoln to decide how to revitalize the neighborhood without tearing down its historic buildings and replacing them with new condos. There are smart, educated, determined people living in this community that are passionate about finding different, organic ways to revitalize this area of town.

Continue and expand school sites as Community resource centers for recreation and meetings: strengthen the connection between the City's libraries and the public schools: hold the non profit programs for youth in the community to a routine presence and presentations in the schools: require community service of all high school students: develop programs that bring the police into the schools that present the police as allies of the public: sex education at levels that acknowledge the earlier and pervasive reality of sexual exposure to our youth: school uniforms or at least dress codes that enforce proper dress for students (no tube tops or short shorts): requiring professional dress for staff and faculty (dress shirts and slacks for males and proper neckline depths for females. Teachers need to dress as if they want respect from the students and accept that they influence through how they present themselves.

Youth need good parents. I don't know how to fix that. Good mentors outside the family when parenting is lacking. Teammates and programs like that might help at risk kids. A variety of programs that create opportunities for kids to network with other kids that might be available to the poor kids that may not have family support or resources for soccer, choir, baseball or whatever that all the wealthier families with supportive parents provide the kids. Vibrant community keep supporting parks, trails including smaller neighborhood ones. I often think some of the poorly kept school grounds could double duty as a nice community park after school and on weekends with a small investment in facilities. For the economy we have UNL, Wesleyan, Doane, SCC and Union college. Promoting our excellent educated workforce nationally so that national firms think about Lincoln as a place to grow is critical. We have a competitive cost of living that allows family to prosper even with less family income and thus can save a company money.

Invest in City Impact. They have a wonderful relationship with LPS through their Impact Reading Center, and their new building (and long-standing presence) is in the heart of a few of the 6 neighborhoods cited to have "extreme poverty".

This will be a response unlike others you will receive, for this pertains to youth who have stumbled along the way--some seriously--but who have not realized how severely their futures may change if they are not held accountable for their actions. For many, many years I have advocated for youth and young adults, who have had run-ins with law enforcement (with few consequences for their actions) to have exposure to our system of corrections to be able to see for themselves just how bad imprisonment can be. While I was a counselor for the State I took a number of youth groups through the State Penitentiary in Lincoln and in Tecumseh. It's a sobering experience at impressionable ages to see the results of living behind bars for years at a time. At any age it makes one aware of just how fortunate living free to come and go in life can be. Most folks have no idea what life is like at 14th and Hwy 2, or at Tecumseh.



Arranged tours are learning experiences unlike any other--for kids in trouble or for the general public. Food for thought. Thanks for asking.

Bring Manufacturing to Lincoln, by current companies or new firms. We need jobs and not fast food jobs but real paying with benefits jobs. Get back to basic ideas. We need quality streets without pot holes, not roundabouts, diamonds, beet juice creating more pot holes, expensive bypasses, roads to nowhere, light bulbs all over the city to go with bicycles all over the city, \$800,000.00 alleys in the haymarket, this is all just waste. There is not a street in Lincoln that does not need repaired. Do not close the pools and programs that give kids something to do to turn around and spend 800,000.00 on a alley. We have spent enough on the haymarket and facilities for the UNL to put their hands on the money. Stop wasting tax money on all the yuppieism. We need a conservative approach. Police, discipline in schools, no nonsense when dealing with thugs. Get a harder stance on welfare. Change the system. Do background checks, land lord checks to find out who is actually living at an address vs who is claimed to live at an address. If there are two adults then one goes to work if you want aid. Change the SNAP to you buy so much to get that much more. Guarantee you if these two changes were done all of a sudden there would be a lot less on welfare because they would rather move than work. We don't need the free loaders. Enforce getting the beggars off the corners and shopping malls. Most are living better than I am but pose as poor people. It's a con-get them out of here. What visitor to Lincoln wants to deal with this?

Good paying Union jobs that include benefits for the young, whether just out of high school or college. We need to keep the youth in Lincoln to vitalize and stimulate our economy.

eliminate gangs

How about paving the odd streets in old neighborhoods that only have one house or whatever because of chance in neighborhood layout. Seem if the area has been in the city for fifty years with everone paying taxes we could as a community cave and complete the grid.

Youth will not be successful until they have safe and loving homes. That means mental health issues have to be addressed and treated, grocery stores need to be available and affordable in all neighborhoods, social welfare issues need to be addressed. Infrastructure must be maintained in all parts of the city. Parks should be maintained in the city core. Do not expand the zoo or remove any other green space. Employers need to pay a living wage. Enforce building codes so slumlords cannot exist. Houses in the core should be preserved and expansion should be discouraged. Outdoor activities should be promoted. That said, Lincoln is off to a great start with the bike trails, Antelope Valley and the arena (even though it is really ugly).

We need roads without pot holes and an infrastructure that can handle motorists more effectively north-south and east-west across the city.



Supporting Education Through Community Engagement: <http://youtu.be/4d5pRBNC7lo> How can we best utilize our communities to support the education of our children while also encouraging community participation? Feeling Connected To Where You Live, Matters...

Literacy, libraries, and skill training. The Lincoln city libraries already have so many wonderful programs for youth and adults: from reading clubs, to tax preparation, to computer time to help people apply for jobs, those librarians are also social workers and therapists. My family goes to preschool and infant Storytime so we visit Gere and Easley every week. Those facilities are always busy and always in use! I think personnel who could be stationed there specifically to help people with computer use, be it for school and job applications, would be remarkable. Their summer programming for children is amazing but lacking in evening options for working parents. I would love to see that grow!

Families - do a series of programs and PSAs to encourage healthy families. Single parenthood is one of the key indicators of poverty and student success.

I believe that a large soccer complex would be a great addition to the Lincoln community. We have been to several in Des Moines and in Overland Park that have done tremendous things for their communities. Being able to host large soccer tournaments draws teams from neighboring states to spend their money on food, hotels, shopping, etc... It is a huge benefit for business owners. Having soccer fields close by would enable more soccer clubs space to practice and have seasonal games and to eliminate the need to travel to Omaha, Gretna and York as much as we need to now. Soccer is a popular sport with the youth--as early as 3 years old. It's a game that all can play and afford. Soccer builds teamwork yet allows the individual to work hard and excel in their skills.

Jobs. Youth must have good jobs to hope to get after school. Associate degrees or higher education will be needed for a good job.

More robust public transportation. City sidewalks in all neighborhoods. Parking availability for student population at landlocked high schools. Expanded health care access in north areas of Lincoln.

Lincoln needs a stronger and better coordinated system of mental health care, services, and housing for people with mental illness. Since the demise of the Lancaster County Mental Health Center, the system has become piecemeal and it's hard for people to have their mental health needs met. Youth suicide has become a greater problem in the community and needs more attention. Lincoln ought to develop a light rail system - O Street, 27th St., to the airport, to the UNL campuses. We have a manufacturer right here! How great would it be for Kawasaki to build rail cars to use in this city!

Give families more emotional support with one-one counseling if needed and requested. Single mothers get help with housing, food and child care but don't have a true advocate for their emotional needs and coordination of services. Encourage single moms to continue working to encourage self esteem by paying them a fair wage without the threat of reduced services. Lincoln's best strength is it's strong



educational system. Continued partnership with schools and Lincoln businesses builds a better introduction for a child to the world's window of opportunity.

It probably starts with economic success - so they can provide for their family, put food on the table. It's not good when kids don't have enough food to sustain them. Fair wage, good benefits and opportunity to afford a home. Appropriate representation of minorities and women in State and local government. More bike trails and better streets - it takes too long to get through town, the streets are pocked full of chuck holes, some streets are so narrow and dangerous I can't ride my bike down them. I am concerned about road rage and impatient drivers who have lost their sense of decency and civility because of road construction or congestion especially during busy times of the day. Our infrastructure is old and dilapidated in some parts of the city and the pace of improvement is too slow.

Technology is a rapidly developing sector of the economy in recent times and is spreading very quickly across the country. Lincoln is home to some of the start up businesses in the technology sector and is part of an initiative to bring more technology-based companies to the region. Unlike many other businesses, technology companies do not have to be located in a particular locations to serve their customers. If Lincoln wants to ensure the growth of the technology sector and attract more people and jobs to the city, we need to further the development of our technology infrastructure to provide the ground for these companies to build from. The Internet is the foundation of this infrastructure, but across the country, telecom companies that are in charge of creating this infrastructure are repeatedly failing to do so. If Lincoln intends to see the growth of the technology sector, it must take upon itself the responsibility to create this Internet infrastructure. Therefore, I propose the city develop a public fiber optic network to connect both commercial and residential properties across the entire city, in a similar way that has been done in Kansas City and other major cities across the country. Creating this network has already shown to attract businesses who can take advantage of the offered infrastructure, residents who are able to use the network to communicate internationally, and tourists who may visit the city specifically for using the Internet there. This network would be mutually beneficial for all residents and businesses in Lincoln and would ensure the city is ahead of the curve in developing the infrastructure needed to support a local technology sector. With the continuing rise of the Internet as an important tool in many aspects, this issue is of major importance to the continued development of Lincoln.

I love Lincoln but one thing I miss since I moved here are bypasses. It takes forever to get from one side of town to the other. The businesses on the other side of town rarely get my business because of the travel time. It takes a half hour to get from the north side of Lincoln to the south. So for any given errand that is one hour added on to your errand time. Many times I just go without because I don't have that time especially during the week. This of course is a very common complaint among Lincoln citizens. Another is our roads during the winter. I've lived in several different cities, and I'm amazed at our lack of de-icing and snow removal. Wheel taxes???? Where's that money going to, not our roads. Iowa's taxes are much lower and they seem to go farther. That aside I love living here. My favorite place to live so far.



All youth need to understand that they are capable of achievement and that their hard work will pay off for a successful future. Too often young people think that talent is doled out at birth; that their circumstances are not changable. If we can teach them that a strong work ethic pays off and that they can shape their own future, that is an optimistic message that needs to be conveyed. Develop a 'can do' attitude at all ages. Support young people in developing that attitude through communications with 'elders'. This underlying attitude will feed into young people learning to read, right on through young adults developing entrepreneurial endeavors that make Lincoln's economy stronger.

Lets start a non-profit or co-opperative lawn mowing corportation that employees young people (high-school aged) in the city's core neighborhoods during the summer. The idea is to give high-school aged kids employment and leadership opportunities, etc. while providing neighborhoods and the city with a low-cost way to deal with the tall grass and weeds that sometimes exist where lawns are neglected. It could also provide a low-cost lawn mowing service for elderly and low income homeowners and renters that are responsible for yard-care.

I believe to achieve the goal of a strong and vibrant community, the focus needs to be on the family. The family is the basic and most important unit of society. Children are entitled to be born within the bonds of matrimony and to be reared by a father and mother who honor their marital vows with complete fidelity, and who are devoted to the wellbeing of their family members. Mothers and Fathers have an obligation to teach their children to love one another as well as others, and to raise them to be law-abiding citizens. Extended family should provide support when needed. Whatever society can do to promote those measures designed to maintain, strengthen, and support families will be the most beneficial for the community.

I have noticed that most of the steady volunteering opportunities are more of an 8-4 position. I realize that the main people working should not be expected to work all kinds of hours, but I think more people would volunteer if they could do it in the evenings or on a saturday/sunday. This is mainly for the soup kitchen types of volunteer work.

Since StarTran eliminated the "downtown loop" for their bus schedules I now need to walk more than a mile once arriving downtown in order to get to work. I work on the north side of UNL city campus and it takes too long to get from the bus stop at 11th & N to my work. Also, if you build a new bus building where the "Q" was you need to include restrooms in the building so patrons can use the facilities. It's shameful to have the Gold's Building housing state government offices & there are no restrooms for the public to use. I'm concerned about the growing number of children in poverty. During the summer are there adequate measures in place to feed children & their families (ie. backpack programs, school lunches)? Are there educational programs in the summer for children in poverty to attend? If not, we need to look into that. The public art (especially the lighbulbs) is wonderful.

As a clinical research organization, we are regularly in search of experienced, highly-educated scientists and leaders to join our organization. This often means recruiting candidates from outside of the state. It



is sometimes difficult to attract candidates from more urban areas, such as the upper East coast, due to their perceptions of Lincoln Nebraska. Once we are able to get those candidates to visit, their perceptions dramatically change. It would be helpful to have some means of conveying the spirit of Lincoln to potential candidates, to better influence their perception and better ensure that they will pursue a visit to Lincoln to see our city for themselves. Perhaps a packet could be developed that highlights the great things about our city including information on neighborhoods and potential for housing, quality of schools, activities that are available, and relevant financial information (taxes, cost of living, etc.) could be created and made available to employers so that we could provide the packet to potential candidates. Thank you for the opportunity to make a suggestion.

Youth must be nurtured, well-fed, educated and mentored to be successful, which translates into a growing economy and a strong, vibrant community. Currently, it seems there are hungry children in Lincoln who wonder if they will get another meal today. Addressing hunger and poverty issues may be one of the most fundamental tasks this community faces. This week, I had occasion to visit with the owner of a small business who has volunteered at the Matt Talbot Kitchen for many years. He said that the last time he was there, several people he knew were in the line of guests. Lincoln is a community of layers--the wealthy, the middle-class and a large lower socioeconomic class. There also is a layer of young entrepreneurs who will do anything to support one another and the community. Drawing upon this layer of individuals for their observations and expertise would be a very smart thing for Prosper Lincoln to do.

Tool Libraries: At F St Community center, other community centers, at libraries, and/or among clusters of neighbors, set up tool libraries that residents can "check out" tools from—gardening tools, shovels, snow blowers, rakes, bike repair tools, etc. Vital Gardens: Like former Victory Gardens, encouraged throughout the community. Residents can each establish their own, individual vegetable gardens or groups of neighbors can work on a shared garden. CommunityCROPS, garden centers, UNL Extension staff might advise. Alley Allies: Neighbors can keep an eye on alleys and, beyond City plowing of the alleys, keep them free of overhanging branches, garbage, loose gravel/stones/brick, snow, and ice. Seed Catalogs: These catalogs are conventional wooden library card catalogs filled with seed packets, rather than cards, placed in public libraries. Seeds in packets would be donated by local gardeners and stored alphabetically in drawers of the catalog; all would be available free of charge. Seed exchanges will be encouraged—pick up cucumber seed packets, donate tomato seed packets (Beatrice Public Library could be an information source, as they did this in 2014.)

Advocating for my own interests here -- reduce zoning regulations to facilitate redevelopment and startup incubation, and reduce the burden on vulnerable households. 1. Facilitate redevelopment Height limits in the downtown area are arbitrary and represent out dating urban design principles. Variances have recently been granted for two buildings surrounding the Haymarket. 100' tall buildings will not distract from the historic district. If anything, they reinforce that one is in a special and distinct place because the height difference differentiates the Haymarket from the rest of downtown. While this will never change under the Capitol Environs Commission, I strongly believe that the 57' height limit on



Centennial Mall does more harm than good. Nebraska has the nation's best state capitol building and the vista of that ought to be impressive and assert Lincoln's economic health and ambition. Instead, one has a view of an outdated and dis-invested street. Having taller buildings on Centennial Mall will frame the view, not distract from it. For an example of this, visit Congress Avenue in Austin, TX. I believe that the Pershing redevelopment may be hindered by the current height limitations because all four proposals to date have been right up to the 57' limit.

2. Facilitate startup incubation Ease zoning regulations to allow businesses to be run from homes. The best urban neighborhoods in the world are ones in which shops and businesses are mixed among residences on leafy streets. This could be achieved in Lincoln's Everett, Near South, Hawley, and North Bottoms neighborhoods. Proximity to UNL's campus could make this a huge marketing tool for the city. Lincoln would become a place where businesses can be started with greater ease than any other place in the midwest where one would have to purchase or lease a second property to run a shop or business. Lincoln is also a city with many immigrants. Allowing live-work units anywhere in the city could potentially create neighborhoods known for great shops offering products and services that may not otherwise exist. This would provide a great urban amenity and marketing tool.

3. Make housing more affordable Allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and eliminating parking requirements are two ways to make housing more affordable and simultaneously improve Lincoln's urban fabric. ADUs along alleyways or in side yards would give property owners the ability to generate income--improving neighborhood wealth and allowing the possibility to reinvest in their own properties. ADUs provide more housing, usually cheaper, as well as create charming and unexpected additions to neighborhoods. Imagine a narrow street in the northeast lined with small houses and row homes separated by lush vegetation. Lincoln could begin transforming its alleyways into that. This would be another huge marketing tool for the city. Parking requirements limit the land developers can devote to residential units, needlessly constraining supply. The cost of a parking structure or the cost of the land used for parking is almost always past on to occupants whether they need the parking or not. Parking lots also diminish the pedestrian experience. Allow developers to decide how much parking they need to supply.

Students should be taught and encouraged to be self- and community advocates as well as problem-solvers. Thus, I believe that they should be engaged in science projects that address social and environmental issues within Lincoln. They should be taught about power and privilege and social injustices and how science can be complicit and a solution to some of these injustices.

More lights or lighted flowers at night. More flowers, fashion shops.

DRAG STRIP

Lincoln would benefit from a stronger and more visible youth development support system. One that teaches character, accountability, respect for others and one's self. One existing organization that can help with that is the Boy Scouts. For over 100 years, Scouting has taught and instilled these characteristics and many other positive ones into youth (boys and girls). The Boy Scouts have also become more involved in various ethnic communities in the city.



Do some different life skills in schools and stop all the state and federal testing. Kids are not ready to work when they get out of school. If you are going to college it is great and you have work with teachers and counselor but not counselors don't even talk to kids if they are not going to college. There needs to be more free stuff all year round for different ages to keep people here in Lincoln and not just in one area of town like the railyard/haymarket area. I deal with 65 to 85 year olds and most of them will not drive to the railyard/haymarket area. Well most of Lincoln is in the middle income level I feel. I would say Lincoln has more people that are over weight. Well most middle income people live paycheck to paycheck and they and low income can not go to gyms to work out. Start up some free gym programs. I have heard that Fire departments and bus drivers have gyms at their buildings, I am sure their equipment was bought with tax payers dollars, can the general public go there and workout?

I see a large disparity in the preschools across Lincoln. My kids went to an outstanding preschool for 2 years - but we spent ALOT of money on it, because we saw it as a priority. When I look at the difference in readiness in my son's kindergarten class it is astounding - I don't know how a teacher can get so much accomplished in a year, with such a range of students. I would like to see some standardization of kindergarten readiness across the city. Most importantly: make it affordable for everyone. I don't understand how many of the daycare centers in town pay their employees minimum wage, yet parents are paying a large part of their take home pay for the child care. I think this is an issue that needs to be addressed across the community.

We need affordable, quality child care. This is a challenge nationwide, and just as apparent here in Lincoln as anywhere else (take a look at Nebraska's ChildCare Aware 2014 Fact Sheet at http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/nebraska_fact_sheet_.pdf). Title XX Daycare Assistance is available for those who need assistance and fall below certain income limits (Child Care Subsidy Income Limits are available at http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/chs_chc_ccsubsypa03.aspx), but there is a deep need for affordable child care for middle-income families who are two self-sufficient to qualify for any assistance (or have more than one kid!) but are still being intensely impacted by child care costs, both infant and toddler care and before and after school care. Take a look at the 2014 Slate.com article Congratulations, America! Only the Rich Can Afford to Have Kids in You! (http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2013/08/19/childcare_in_america_so_expensive_that_only_the_rich_can_afford_to_have.html) - notable points are: 1) In 28 states, yearly child care for two kids costs more than a parent earns from a 40-hour per week job at minimum wage. - Theoretically, if a single parent was working for minimum wage, he or she would qualify for a subsidy from the state. But what if it's a two-parent household, and one (or both) work for minimum wage, which brings their cumulative income above subsidy level? Then one income is completely swallowed by daycare costs. I suppose they could just stay at home with the kids, but aside from the fact that that income is needed, 2) For every two years a woman is out of the workforce, her earnings fall 10 percent. - If a mom puts her career on hold just because child care is too much of a financial obstacle, she's not just taking the pay cut for the first few years; it's going to negatively impact future earning potential. So what's the solution? I don't know. Some nonprofits in Lincoln are already doing great work - the YMCA offers its sliding scale fee



scholarships to families through its Open Doors application. That's an immense help to some families. Maybe Lincoln can do more of that, and nonprofits can increase their reach. But affordable child care needs to be addressed, because if affordable, quality childcare is keeping Lincoln from prospering, then we'll be failing at all 3 points that Prosper Lincoln hopes to address. Thanks. And I don't need my ideas kept confidential. I'd love to hear what happens as a result of my suggestion.

I think our current number one asset for our youth in Lincoln is City Impact. We need to support their new facilities completion and their programs. For economic prosperity, I believe Lincoln's most attractive benefit is being a safe community for children and families. We need to ensure that our Police and Fire Departments are well taken care of. For quality of life, I believe our most threat to our community is Substance Use Disorders. I would like to see the men's program for the Salvation Army come back to Lincoln. I also believe that Lincoln would benefit from a wet-shelter aside from The People's City Mission.

Businesses and those who have wealth should invest in individual students. Rather than making large donations to the University or building large structures, setting up a scholarship program for students to attend college is a better investment in Lincoln's future. Following the President's advice, any student who graduates from a high school could apply for funds to attend the Southeast Community College. Those who qualify for free and/or reduced-price lunches could attend for a year free of charge. Those with limited resources could pay on a sliding scale, depending on the family income. This would be only for those who would otherwise not be able to attend higher education. Students would then have to qualify to continue for the following year(s) by maintaining a certain grade-point average.

Youth Success-The single most effective tool devised to promote citizenship and leadership in youth, is the Boy Scouts. Period.

In the 60's a Youth Employment Service (YES) was run out of the Lincoln Foundation to link youth up to people who wanted to hire someone, usually for odd jobs. I remember raking leaves, cleaning out garages, handing out circulars for a cleaners. Youth need jobs, something that will teach work ethic and give them some spending money. I know there are many more restrictions on employing youth than in the 60's, but it would sure keep youth off the streets etc.

The community needs to invest in quality, affordable child care throughout the city. If we say that children are our most important resource, and if we herald low employment records, why do we not help families with child care? Surely, all the roads and infrastructure efforts mean little if we continually disregard the staggering statistics of high-cost of caring for children while parents work and the fact that many families, especially those headed by single parents, cannot afford quality child care. Instead of still more branch offices, if every bank built and operated a day care (at little or no cost), wouldn't that better serve their clients? What if every major office building had to incorporate into their plans a day care facility? What if existing spaces that are unoccupied were turned into day cares that, again, would operate for little or no cost?



The shelter at 30th and D, Neighbors Park needs to be removed. There is such an element of crime that hang out in there. It would be great to see the roof and the wall removed and only 4 corner pillars attached with a tin roof. The lights have been removed from the building and there are no lights in the park. As a leader in the area Neighborhood Watch it is frustrating because we have been trying to take care of this for years! We want to be safe. We call the police when we see suspicious activities but at times we can't see what is happening. Some females worry when coming home late because of the poor lighting. Children have been seen starting fires in the fire pit. The fire pit has been used as a bathroom. The shelter has been used as a bedroom, for anything and everything. It will be easier to keep the park clean without this obstruction and much safer for the youth in the area that want to go there to play.

Create an affordable housing development bank and loan fund that nonprofits can access to produce more housing for first time homebuyers or affordable rental housing (including special needs tenants). The fund could be professionally managed through bank partners, but would specifically encourage nonprofits or foundations to make deposits/investments from their reserve or surplus funds. The funds could be lent out or otherwise used to generate fees and income for the nonprofits that invest in the fund. The entity should consider becoming a Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

I believe that the access of libraries is vitally impotent to our community and that through this access everyone in Lincoln can continue to have the resources they need. A new main library would be an excellent way in which all the categories represented in Prosper Lincoln could be reached. Programming for children and information availability would allow children to grow as people and learn skills needed for their future success. Additionally, programming could also help meet the needs of those looking to enter the workforce and a new main library would provide a welcoming meeting space for professionals. A new main library could also greatly enhance the city of Lincoln and could showcase a great deal of cultural and artistic appreciation and become a wonderful place for the residents of Lincoln. In addition to a new library, I think that more programs to reach other residents in the community should be put in place. Technology programs and maker spaces would be a fantastic way to encourage learning and participation for youth. In addition, resume and career classes could help serve some of the low income residents of Lincoln. It is my opinion that it is actions that will make Lincoln a better place and programs to help promote future success in people will help Lincoln to continue to prosper.

Keep more police officers downtown late at night around 11PM – 2:00 AM in case fights break out and don't be afraid to arrest people even if he is a big red football player.

Make bus service safe for handicapped & elderly by not allowing drunks on the bus or in the bus stops. Have prisoners about to be released on foot picking up litter – thru out the day & early, a specific # of lbs to meet a daily quota to be recycled, wearing a vest any volunteers who pick up for recycle can wear also – no one need know they are about to be released. Please have someone teach how to use computers, telephone down at sr center Aging Partners 10th Sts. Not in evening at library – not safe to walk home



Welcome food trucks to the city by setting aside a space and helping them succeed. Encourage new food trucks. Offer discounts for food trucks to attend events. Northside Farmer's Market – 48th & Cornhusker
=) Teach area restaurants the benefits of having unique eating opportunities.

I have an ongoing concern for the quality of food provided in our public school system. As I gain knowledge in the area of nutrition, it becomes more evident that we are providing meals with unacceptable low amounts of nutrients for the children in our community.

Youth success and economic prosperity both would improve with good local jobs, many of our local jobs such as utilities (Black Hills Energy, LES, and the City of Lincoln) use out of state contractors to work in Lincoln. These could be good steady jobs for our youth entering the job market that pay well and keep them here. Good paying local jobs enhance our neighborhoods and improve over all general health and wellness. Out of state contractors spend money while their here, but soon move on to the next opportunity and don't usually do as good of a job as career seeking employee's.

I moved out of Nebraska in 1988 because I am lesbian and I wanted to live in a more accepting community. I lived in Minneapolis, MN for 13 years and met numerous other Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered people who had moved there from Nebraska. Solution for this brain drain and talent? Lincoln and/or the State of Nebraska could pass non-discrimination laws regarding employment, housing, etc., and recognizing same-sex marriages. Nebraska is one 13 states in the U.S. which doesn't recognize same-sex marriage. Lancaster County Commissioners has chosen not to extend health insurances to same-sex partners of Lancaster County employees.

If you want economic prosperity, might I suggest an amusement park. Nebraska currently has none (Worlds of Fun and Adventure Land are the closest to Nebraska) and this would bring in business from areas around the Lincoln community and other areas such as the surrounding communities of Omaha, Grand Island, and other nearby states. Quality of Life could be improved if Lincoln had a monorail system. My idea is that it could start in Haymarket (in between Memorial Stadium, Hawks Field and Pinnacle Bank Arena) and would go to the busier parts of Lincoln and up to Omaha in places such as TD Ameritrade Park and Epply Airfield.

My son became a cub scout. I dreaded the popcorn sales. However once he had figured out how to do it, it was the best experience ever. Knocking on strangers doors, making a sales pitch, figuring out sales amount, change, and everything. Wow did he mature a lot.

Get kids involved in renewable energy projects at every level. They need to be informed to compete for the jobs that will come, and they need to be excited about how renewables can help their community. Get kids involved in community cleanup days to help them build pride in their community. Get kids involved in programs to understand the importance of voting and learning all about how to vote and how it affects them. Get kids involved in learning where food comes from and how important it is not to waste food, water and energy resources. All these things would make our youth successful, grow the economy and keep the community strong and vibrant.



After briefly reviewing the "vital signs 2015" a few concerns come to mind. First, how was this information collected and who did the analyses? Secondly, have we gone into the property stricken neighborhoods (interviewing residence or working with focus groups) to determine what needs they are lacking and how we as a community can help them improve the quality of their lives? Also, why is a higher number of children in foster care a concern? Being familiar with scientific research, I'm not sure how the figures were generated (probably sample selected), but I think Lincoln's obesity rate is a bit higher than indicated by these percentages. And lastly, with my field of study being nutrition, I have an ongoing concern for the quality of food provided in our public school system. As I gain knowledge in the area of nutrition, it becomes more evident that we are providing meals with unacceptable low amounts of nutrients for the children in our community. Thank you and good luck!

Support Boy Scouts. At least they are reisting the cultural slide in the USA.

Encourage and support the Boy Scout program in our area. It is strong and needed by our youth.

We need resources for people in mental health crisis mode! People shouldn't be locked up in jail or in a psych ward at the hospital, that just makes an already unstable situation worse. But when someone is caught in a spiral, where to turn?

I am very concerned about our children as are so many in our community. We as individual community members often know much about specific nonprofit programs, opportunities and activities possible for those parents and children affected by the detrimental factors Vital Signs reveals. I am thinking, for example, of "low levels of education," "foster care" and "poverty." Those caring community members involved in the many organizations such as Family Service, Friendship Home, Center for People in Need, Mourning Hope, Lincoln Public Schools Foundation and many, many more, could join forces to learn about each other and collaborate on ways to make our services available to those who need them. We would learn from each other as we all have a common goal of improving the lives of children. We can employ the power of dedicated people who work together to improve the lives of others. Do people who access the Center for People in Need know that their children who are grieving could receive free support from Mourning Hope? Do those who live in shelter provided by Friendship Home know about the many programs Family Service could provide for them and their children when they leave the Shelter? Do board members and executive directors of non-profits know about other nonprofits who are working toward similar goals? Do they learn from each other's successes and disappointments? Do they offer support and encouragement to each other which results in a stronger community because each organization respects and shares with the others? I believe we are greatly blessed by the amazing nonprofits in Lincoln. Are we utilizing the amazing power of those organizations which results when we work together? We are a caring community and that is what makes us vital. Can we be more so by working more closely?



1. Emphasize the importance of fatherhood and the intact family. This is the best way in the long run to combat poverty. Look at the relationship between the broken family and increased poverty. 2. Concentrate on fixing the streets.

I believe to ensure Lincoln's productive future, we have to invest in the foundation of our youth. I firmly believe that if you instill and develop a talent in a child, they will never be bored again and will be productive leaders. (Along the theory of "Give a man a fish, they'll eat today, Teach a man to fish and He will eat forever") Somehow, through the grapevine, I have kids from all walks of life gravitate to our art studio. Many times these are lost kids, who are introverted, or have difficulty making friends in social settings. I teach, and develop their art skills, talking along the way about how art relates to everyday life and life lessons I've learned. (Art therapy without the big price tag!). I encourage them to find the art medium that they flourish in. Soon, the child receives compliments from school mates, friends, and family. They start to see themselves in a higher light. (Many times these are the kids that are not drawn to team sports or group activities,.) The young artists also meet other young artists with similar minds and realize...they are not alone. Friendships develop in our studio. We move on to art contests and more positive feedback from public shows. The love of self then grows. And isn't that what all of us just want. To be basically accepted and loved for ourselves, among our peer groups. If you develop the foundation of a child, develop a talent....the rest will build upon the groundwork. Then, folks, we have a community leader who cares...and will pass it forward, to Lincoln's fabulous future. Let me know how I can help. Stay Colorful!,

We need better road services on the north end of Lincoln. We need a better Interstate 80 interfacing road system via the Waverly interchange. Make a cloverleaf and connect to 112th at Hiway 6. Pave 112th and 98th st to at least "O" Street, plus the connecting roads of Havelock, Adams, and Leighton. Eventually pave all the east-west roads connecting 98th, 112th to 84th St. south of "O" as well. Maybe even have just 1 lane each direction plus a shared turning center lane to begin with to save initial money. Make these roads out of durable concrete so they last awhile under truck traffic. If we could keep truck off 84th street, it would stay much smoother for a much longer time. Also, fix 70th street southbound from Hiway 6 as an alternate traffic route. Nobody wants to cross those rough tracks to get into town coming in from I-80. Perhaps we could even build an overpass across those tracks on 70th Street? Eventually do all this improvement (east-west paving roads connecting 112th, 98th and 84th Street) to Hiway 2 at the south edge of the city. Traffic snarl at N. 84th and Hiway 6 is ridiculous. No one wants to pay taxes for this, so it won't loikely happen soon, but we really need it since the other I -80 exits of 56th and 27th are all so far north. It has to happen someday anyway; why not now? Create some jobs! We also need a good sit-down style coffee shop somewhere north of "O" Street on 84th St.

There needs to be more arts. Things like the Symphony playing concerts by the new light tower, Antelope creek, or at the remodeled city mall.

So the Boy Scouts get 500 people to go to Mahoney City Park, spent 2000 volunteer hours back in April. Boys had a great time, the park received flower and tree planting, mulching and clean up. Estimated



\$70,000 in impact to the City. Had severe weather program, and brought in Reed Timmer and the Dominator car. Got zero coverage in the press. All that effort and impact, and nobody knows. Well, besides the scouts, the City Parks and Rec people know because that was about the third or fourth time in as many years there has been something like that done.

You should support the humane society. They handle overpopulation. You should take maney away from the cat house.

I believe there need to be bridges built between lower income and higher income communities -- especially youth. The public schools used to do this, but with school choice, these bridges hardly exist anymore. Kids who have money and want to participate in successful extra-curricular activities leave lower-income schools, and those bridges are gone. In affect, our school district has allowed segregation to happen again - and it's mainly based on income (and sports). That's ridiculous, unjust and counter to the way I want my hometown to treat it's youth.

Youth success is fostered by education, which is supported by taxes. We must support LPS and UNL with our taxes. UNL grads will leave if Lincoln salaries are less than, say, KC or Omaha. We need to create an environment in which companies can be successful enough to provide both adequate salaries and interesting work (Hudl is an example). We need to support start-ups and venture capitalists so that more Hudls can happen. Without a flourishing arts and cultural scene, highly gifted software engineers will gravitate to other places. Thus maintaining and improving arts/culture is important to Lincoln's success. I regret to say that taxes will be crucial in many of these proposals. It is unlikely that the required funding will "trickle down" from wealthy businesspeople.

I think just cleaning up the city in general would make it more appealing to others and families that are currently here. When talking to others the thing I hear the most is that Lincoln is not a family same place to raise a family. What can we do to change that? I also hear that Lincoln is not geared toward raising a family- it's mostly bars and nightclubs to attract the younger crowd. Come here to college and leave to a city that is family friendly and safer to raise a family.

I suggest a mentoring program and support system for middle and high school age students that would help them to plan and pursue projects, political action, or business goals. Offering students this type of program would help students: build support systems; gain confidence and experience in pursuit of their goals, and in being active and engaged members of the community. This type of program would be beneficial to both the students and the community, and would be well in line with the Prosper Lincoln themes of 'Youth Success', 'Economic Prosperity', and 'Quality of Life'. Program would include: 1. Adult facilitator: n --Meets regularly (2-4 times/month) with student to help them plan/pursue projects that they are interested in. n --Not necessarily an expert in student' area of interest; but has willingness and ability to help facilitate the student's pursuit of the project. 2. Subject matter experts (SME): n --A pool of individuals with expertise in various sectors of business, politics, non-profit, etc. n --SME mentor/role model would be available to answer occasional questions via phone or email, and would meet with



student and facilitator periodically (monthly/quarterly) to discuss progress, provide encouragement, determine next steps. 3. Peer support: n --Groups of students, facilitators, and SMEs meet periodically to exchange ideas and provide support and encouragement to each other. n --This type of support would be especially important for students who may not receive encouragement, or who receive negative feedback, at home or in their neighborhood, school, or community peer groups.

I heard a presentation today at Westminster Presb. church today (6/21): I think the technical high school being jointly sponsored by LPS and Southeast CC is a terrific idea to be nurtured and grown. It's not a quick fix solution for the under-skilled single mothers living in poverty, but making a path out of poverty and service sector, minimum wage work is part of the solution to help pull people out of poverty. When all one has to offer an employer is his time and unskilled labor, he will always remain unemployed or under-employed state. Just raising the minimum wage isn't enough to raise a person out of working poverty. New job skills, a new work ethic and work mentoring are tools that must be learned and practiced. They aren't inherent. Everyone will be in or leave high school and go into the workforce. Someone will end up having babies they're ill-prepared to raise. Some will still choose to by-pass any form of higher education. If those who aren't on the "college prep" path had an alternative path, such as a job training technical school teaching real world skills, that is interesting, fulfilling and that could lead to real career type work starting in high school, this could be part of the way out of the spiral so many working poor find themselves in. Is this an immediate solution for everyone? No. But I believe it could be part of a new path for so many.

Support Cub Scouting

Strengthen and support our ethnic community centers -- they are vital to ensuring diverse voices withing the city of Lincoln.

Keep encouraging our community to grow their own food.

<http://tedxinovations.ted.com/2015/06/19/playlist-7-talks-explore-urban-farming-across-the-globe/>

Lincoln has a block downtown that needs to be an amazing Community Center. That is the old Pershing Auditorium. We need facilities in the right places in town to provide active activities such as basketball, exercise possibilities, places to study, maybe the main library. This major space needs to be used to provide all kinds of opportunity to people in many areas of town. It will require that the YMCA, City of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation, Lincoln City Library, Lincoln public schools, churches, retail opportunity such as The Mill, maybe even a Subway. It must have parking for people, but be on a bus route. There must be parking for Vans who come from Parks & Recreation, YMCA's as well as individuals. We need after school programs, evening programs, all year around. I would think there is some space under that building which could be use for parking, but I do not know. THIS NEEDS TO BE A COMMITMENT FROM MANY GROUPS AND THE PEOPLE OF LINCOLN TO MAKE IT SUCCEED. It would provide a goal from many groups to make it happen, but everyone could be a part of the effort.



My family and I have made a Lincoln Passport to Pools for the last two years. At the end, we have a pizza and soda picnic after we stamp every pool that the city has. I thought I would notify you because this would be a great way to encourage patrons to the city pools and make some extra money for Parks and Rec. I'd be happy to send you the Microsoft Word document I made. Just a suggestion for the summertime. We also participate in the Be A Tourist Passport from the Lincoln City of Commerce. Great fun!

Every neighborhood in Lincoln needs safe and convenient bicycle access to downtown, the Haymarket/Arena, UNL and Children's Zoo. There are many Lincoln neighborhoods that are cut off from these destinations. For these neighborhoods there is no way to safely reach these destinations unless you're one of the few fearless bicycle riders that are willing to ride in heavy traffic. Safe and convenient bicycle access means either separated trails or protected bicycle lanes. Painted bicycle lanes or sharrows are not enough to help entice folks that they can safely bicycle to these destinations. Whether it's concern over our rising obesity rates or air quality issues or general quality of life, having a network of trails and protected bike lanes that reach all of our Lincoln neighborhoods is vital to Lincoln's continued growth and well-being.

The whole approach of Prosper Lincoln sound very exciting. I envisioned a paired pilot program for Lincoln and Hamilton . An infection prevention initiative would address all three categories of Proper Lincoln in these ways: Infections in general are the number one cause of absenteeism in schools and workplaces (with colds , flu, vomiting, diarrhea, UTI's, just to name a few). Obesity and diabetes increase the risk of infection in children and adults. Sexually-transmitted infections are not going away and affect all segments of the population. Additionally, an article published in SCIENCE magazine identified the relationship of infections and reduction in IQ () Since grandparents are providing a majority of the childcare especially before and after school, and seniors are generally more susceptible to infection, the transmission of infections from children to their grandparents creates more hardship for families. If infections can be prevented (most of which can be) then the need and expenses related to treating infections with antibiotics, office and clinic visits and hospitalization will be reduced and the economy will benefit. A family approach to infection prevention can be fun and will empower all individuals to take responsibility for their own health. I know we have an effective local health department and capable health care delivery systems to treat infections, but if we can stimulate behavioral change within families and PREVENT infections, we won't need to treat them. This would obviously improve the quality of life (and longevity) of everyone in our community. I would love the opportunity to explore this dream of more infection-free families in Lincoln.

Direct mentoring by successful employees will help but businesses must offer paid time off for contact. School gardens have worked to keep kids in school. Friendly police in school also helps.

Expand educational opportunities, outdoor activities and community service to inspire, promote good stewardship and encourage curiosity and involvement in community. Bring the young and old together, would benefit both. Combining daycare for the young and elder care would be one way to accomplish



this. I believe the interactions would benefit the young and provide many opportunities for mentoring. It would help keep the old young as well. I would like to see Lincoln take action to reduce light pollution at night by installing lights that direct beams downward. The night sky deserves this consideration and the people of Lincoln would benefit.

I read about how some of the schools are starting to compost their food scraps. It would be awesome if we could start a city-wide program, perhaps providing collection locations for compostible materials, similar to the recycle drop off locations.

Friendship Home has just closed one of their houses to shelter - (so they can move their admin offices there as a cost cutter). They have NEVER provided short-term emergency shelter, except in hotel rooms. They prioritize working with long-term placements in their shelter, because it is easier on turnover and staff. This means that women in crisis with children have to stay in a hotel room - exposed to the public, without access to the programs and amenities that emergency shelter can offer face-to-face. PLEASE renegotiate the Friendship Home agreements so that they set aside some of their beds for emergency (immediate and short term) shelter for women (with or without children). They could even do this in their big old administrative building and have their administrators work face-to-face with actual victims. Their "preferred" model does not work for the women who are in immediate and critical danger ----- access to Friendship Home's "call line" has not kept women from being killed in our city. Most communities provide emergency shelter FIRST - and then long term programs as a secondary priority –

We need to create a climate that encourages business to want to move to Lincoln so that we can create high paying careers. This will help keep our talented young people in Lincoln, and will also encourage our youth to attend college in Nebraska.

Promote walking to school with the "WALKING SCHOOL BUS". Parents sign up to be the "walking bus driver." The driver is given a sign on a stick that identifies them as a bus. When other parents see this sign they know it is safe to have their child walk to school with this adult. Kids just come out their door and walk with the "Walking School Bus". This activity will grow in popularity as the word gets out.

Invest in scouting. I came to it skeptical and came away a true believer. Resist the urge to single issue an organization that has so much to offer. In reality, sexual orientation is not an issue in the vast majority of troops. It's not a thing that comes up. In my years in scouting, no one has ever been asked about orientation, no one has been disciplined, no one asked to leave. My son is gay. He went through scouting from cub to scout with the same bunch of boys. This Fathers' Day, he was reminiscing about those experiences and the great times we had together. My memories are the same - he and I in a tent, a canoe, in the woods, in the Boundary Waters, at scout camp. He is not scarred by scouting's struggle with the gay issue - like most people facing challenges from preconceptions, he is hardy, thick-skinned, good-natured and gets that natural, evolved change is far better and less likely to be an imposed thing than is sudden, revolutionary change. Scouting will come along with society, as it always has, especially with alums like my son and others in his generation who see orientation as a so-what. Meanwhile, and



in the process, it will continue to provide children of all ages, classes, sexes and abilities with a framework for living (do good), a deep appreciation for the outdoors, life skills, and comrades forever.

Teach kids to code. Get computer/web coding languages to be included as "languages" in LPS. Teaches logic and empowers for entrepreneurial success.

I think we need to find a way to take interest in the youth of the community and focus on opportunities beyond college bound careers. We have so many job opportunities for your youth to consider that don't focus on college educations...but they don't know what they are. Not every child is meant for higher education and when they feel they aren't college bound they give up. Even children that excel in the arts can find themselves feeling removed from our community. We need to find a way to make the community inclusive to all and I believe that starts with our youth. Everyone in our community has a role and we need to make them feel worthwhile and needed no matter what their socioeconomic role or education level completed. They have a voice in this community and deserve to feel like they are being heard so they can make a difference. Let's educate them on their options so they don't "drop out" of the community and stay active!

Dear Prosper Lincoln Team, Thank you immensely for the very important work that you are doing for our community! In working closely with vulnerable families in the Lincoln community for the last 3 years, a need that I have seen is having more support for women and their children that are in homes where domestic violence is occurring. When a woman is ready to leave a violent home situation with her children, there is a limited amount of places she can go. The places that are available in Lincoln do amazing work, but their resources are limited, and their programs usually have long waiting lists. When there are children in these situations, the necessity to get these families to a safe residence is even more important, as the stress these circumstances puts on children impedes greatly on their development. I believe that putting more resources towards supporting the women and children fleeing violent homes would ultimately help our community to become a more connected, safer, and supportive place to live. Thanks again for all you are doing for Lincoln, I look forward to seeing the great places our community goes!

Youth - Being middle-aged and with no children, I don't have anything to offer on this topic. Economics - It seems as if you are saying professionals are more important than anyone else, so there's your first problem. Next, stop inflating the real property tax you demand from the average joes to unreasonable levels. I just got an assessment which is \$8000 above the last one from 2 years ago, and my mother-in-law's was raised by \$16000. That is absolutely ridiculous and based on NOTHING that is actually happening with our immediate properties or neighborhoods. We are middle-class employed/retired people and not made of money to support everyone else in the community. In addition to that, I work for the city and have not been "fairly" compensated for promotions and merit raises for the past 14 years because of the flawed and therefore unfair position/pay step structure in place. So, I am not convinced that city administrators and private movers & shakers know what "Economic Prosperity" is supposed to mean. Quality - There are PLENTY of arts and cultural opportunities, both free and paid. A



better transportation system might allow more people to attend all these activities, especially free events. Here are some ways to enhance neighborhoods: repair streets & sidewalks in a more timely way; ticket people who intentionally dump their grass and snow onto the street -- it's pretty easy to locate them from the evidence!; campaign harder for people to keep their (defecating) pets on their own property; stop the GODDAMN motorcycle racers on city streets from doing whatever, wherever, whenever they want with no consequences. For example, they zoom up and down North 84th street all night long, practically year-round. To promote good health for all people you need to ban smoking in ALL public spaces, not just inside offices/restaurants/public buildings/etc -- one of the most offensive things to me is having to suck the cigarette smoke from the car or truck in front of me when I'm driving. If I want to have my windows open to the air, why should someone else be allowed to consciously pollute that air? Or if I'm going into a bar or a business or a government building, why should I be expected to go through a smoke-filled gauntlet?

I think Lincoln should lower cost of college especially for the non traditional student. I would also like to see more of the holistic medicine approach in Lincoln.

I believe that better roads, especially the Beltway that has been proposed, would allow better transportation around the city and encourage more young professionals to come work here. Allowing more sharing of LPS's resources with the smaller, private schools would ensure more youth success. Quality of Life could improve with a larger variety of activities such as festivals in various parks throughout town, not just in the downtown and Haymarket area. Allowing different groups to use public facilities, such as school buildings after hours, for health and wellness activities would foster healthier neighborhoods. Reach out to the physicians in town, such as through The Physician Network, to find volunteers to run these classes or health fairs.

Encourage youth to participate in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. More importantly, educate the parents on the benefit of these programs and the merits of working hard and having fun and in the process, producing well rounded individuals who will be functioning members of this community. I cannot stress enough the importance of youth finding a community within their community, through programs like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Provide more programs for after-school kids like the Boy Scouts do in select schools. They are helping many youth, even if they can't afford to join on their own, the Scouts are involved in trying to better our youth.

The several reasons why I think there is a need for a new aquatic facility in Lincoln: Our city has not had a major pool built since the 1960s with Woods Park Pool. At the current time, it is the only 50 meter (Olympic Length) pool in the city and is desperate need of repair. The other heavily used 50m pools in the state are Hitchcock Pool in Omaha and UNO which is an outdated 6 lane facility. Currently, there are plans to build an aquatic center in LaVista with one of the past Olympic Trials pool. All other pools are managed by LPS, the YMCA or Univ of Nebraska here in Lincoln. These pools are anywhere from two lane



to 8 lane indoor facility that have restrictions on them in terms of general use or high rental rates. A facility, with the right aquatic program could impact 1000s of Lincoln Citizens annually. It could put our city on the map for not only future upper level swimming competitions, but a city that is geared towards an every growing national epidemic in low SES child drownings. Between swim lessons, renting to swim clubs for practices and meets, therapy programs and general use, the limits on usage are only the imagination of the aquatic programmer. There are currently 4 swimmers from ages 15-18 that have qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials that live and train in Lincoln. In 2012, that number was 1 and they training in Omaha. We are a city that is growing in swimming prowess and there is a desire for more opportunities for quality lessons and competition. As a member of the local aquatic community, my biggest concern for such a facility is the charges that come with it to those that want to rent. Pool space can be costly and pricing groups out will only make the project of such a facility impractical. Serious study and communication with the local competitive swimming community (Midwestern Swimming at mwsim.org) is paramount to making something like this work for the city rather than against it because of our extensive background in renting and visiting pool nation wide.

1. New central library. 5. Beltway highway. Raise my taxes – if you need to!

Continue to promote a healthy environment = parks, green space, access to local food. Recreation – provide opportunities for families to play together in non-competitive activities. Strong pre-school areas, affordable childcare

We need to encourage and support youth programs as much as possible. When opportunities present themselves we ought to develop partnership. (Gov't & private). Encourage community participation into revitalizing neighborhoods. This brings about more of a sense of ownership of ensuring efforts, become more long lasting. Strong police presence in struggling neighbors can greatly effect the quality of life. Everyone deserves to live in a safe & crime free neighborhood.

Put street lamps in dark alleyways to encourage legal interactions (not drug dealing)

Add enabling legislation to our community Deu law that would explicitly allow us to use our TIF tools/revenue (collection) on social programs within areas it's collected.

If we can regulate parking in the public row through parking meters/ legislation, I think we could regulate panhandling in a similar way. By placing a meter on select corners. If a meter is active no loitering or panhandling would be permitted. Funds from the meters would go towards services that support the homeless or the local continuum of care.

Our grantors (i.e. Woods, Abel, United Way, LCF) need to move away from giving grants and towards loans that they pay back over time. Urban dev does this well. Many funders giving isn't keeping pace with Lincoln current & projected growth of the low-mod income population. The gap is growing... we can't/won't keep up.



Provide on-call translators to assist agencies working with people who speak Arabic, Kurdish, Spanish. Involve low-income people for their input – it may be necessary to pay for time. Reduce or eliminate punitive fees for re-start of electricity. When these have been shut off for non-payment. Provide incentives for construction of low-income housing – we have a severe shortage of affordable housing for low-income families.

A radial highway that goes around the city – not 13TH st. Transitional housing for low income people. Keep doing what is so right! Near South Neighborhood Assn. Farmers markets, jazz in June.

Railroad (tax) levy needs to be given back to the Transportation District, so they can finally build that overpass at 33rd & Cornhusker.

We need to support neighborhoods & invest in housing, streets, parks, infrastructure! We have done wonders with Arena, hotels, restaurants in Haymarket, now to common people. Also work on interracial/ group communication and interaction.

Develop dual generation pathways for success: 1. Youth & 2. Parent using the CLC. Capacity needed to do this. 1. Develop a seamless coordination from birth to career for children: youth in poverty. 2. Work with families of above children to retool or develop skills. Part of this will be coordinating jobs needed in Lincoln with individuals that need jobs or better jobs.

More concerts not in the arena. I can't afford to go there but I paid taxes to fund it. More community group meetings & drama at the playhouse.

Collective process for using schools as neighborhood centers – more adult education, address needs related to poverty.

Strengthen and expand Community Learning Centers.

More equaled rights for low income alternative homes (group or family)

Parent/family advisory groups to help promote educational and healthy opportunities. Public Park funding to continue to have useful public spaces for kids, adults & families to safely explore and recreate.

Turn Pershing Arena into community grocery store, specializing in affordable Nebraska provided products.

A more organized system of growing, harvesting, & ensuring healthy food access for all – could help economy and strengthen neighborhoods. Greater access to more gardening spaces & gardening skills are needed.

Make Lincoln a Blue Zone.



More bus routes. More community art projects. Programs to feed people. Exercise programs. More programs/events that connect UNL w/ the surrounding communities. There is too much disconnect. Create more city maintenance jobs.

Improve public transportation! Reliable buses help folks get to work without cars, allowing low income households find and keep jobs, relieving traffic, and easing parking. Invest in renewable energy! Locally produced renewable energy keeps our energy source secure so youth can count on a successful future. It's also attractive to the companies who may locate in Lincoln and bring jobs.

At risk youth. Income disparity. 1. Jobs between poverty level & upper middle class tech need to be created. I'm interested in starting scholarships for women in the trades: starting more women-owned companies in male traditional HVAC, electrical, construction. 2. Renovate more housing – what's the overarching plan for revitalizing housing? What about lots too small to rebuild?

The community should participate in and actively support school programs and recreational activities for schools and/or state organized. Education with moral values at home is important for children to become responsible and honest.

They should encourage more outdoor activities and have it available to all families. Communities should also be more supportive all of the time towards families! Let kids be free (free play outside). More community involvement for cultural families.

Community art projects. So that are neighborhood or whatever doesn't look boring I guess.

Trash cans. We should have more trash cans so when people have trash they can throw it in the trash not on the floor/ground.

We can put trash cans every 10 feet.

More trash cans

Less money to pay the taxi.

Another zoo

Cut less trees down

Don't pick flowers

Don't leave things on the ground

More parks

More public pools



Community art projects

Public yoga

Public work out area

Plant more flowers, food, anything you want

Don't litter the environment

Friends w/ in walking distance

Don't have drugs it can kill the plant

Cross walks and parking lot free don't have to pay

Clean the house before you move out so the next family don't have to redo the house

More stop signs

More schools and collage near Lincoln

More team work

More bathrooms

I think we should have a grand trash pick up for Lincoln then you can put signs up and people could call and sign up every year any time any day our environment can grow better.

I think you should put more lights out so people can be outside at night.

No smoking in apartment

More public pools. More trash cans. Community. More cross walks. Public yoga for people who work. Posters "friendly reminder". More stop lights

Bring back the state fair

It would be nice to have more public pools. I would like to swim a lot during the summer.

It would be more easy to have cross walks around the Belmont Neighborhood.

More trash cans so there isn't so much trash on the ground

More lights so its not as dark at night time

A robot that if it sees someone litter it call the cops



More cross walks so we don't have to walk as far and for are safety

More cops so there is less people out in the world so people aren't getting into trouble

Amusement park. Voleenters to clean. Trash cans. Cross walks. Stop lights.

More trash cans around the Belmont.

Pick up TRASH.

More public pool

Cross walks

I think we should have more cross walks in the Belmont neiboorhood because people can get hit or: people, dogs, animals & elders.

I think we should have more swimming pools in the Belmont Neiboorhood because maybe people want to go swimming everyday in an indoor pool or a outdoor pool.

We also need posters or friendly reminders so that people know not to throw trash on the floor or ground & not throw cigarettes on the floor when there litt because it can start a fire.

I hope my ideas can change the world please use some of my ideas I hope this helps.

Put more posters in the commtion to help the environment because people will know. TRASH.

More trash cans. Friendly reminders. Less buildings.

Trash cans, more trash cans. Cross walks, more corsr walks. More lights. More community art prajcets. More public pools. More posters "friendly raminders"

I want more publice pools.

I want more trash cans fore the environment.

I want more trash cans.

We could improve the environment by putting more trash cans. Because peole litter, so it would be good to have them around. TRASH! =(

We can make sure youth are successful, by making the environment safer for kids. SAFE! =)

Continue to grow/build opportunities for all students (CLCs, after school clubs, business partnerships, etc.)



2 Different Ideas both from YMCAs - but could be integrated at any level in the community. 1. Togetherhood - community members come together at Y's, community centers, etc. and decide on service projects to complete. <http://www.ymca.net/togetherhood> 2. Play in the Parks - essentially providing families and youth to participate in safe playtime. <http://county.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/cntySupervisors/jursik/community/PlayintheParkFlier.pdf>

After having some time to think after our lunch meetings and I spoke with a few other people, here are the ideas that I have come up with and would keep me, as a college student, in Lincoln after college. There are several things that I think would benefit Lincoln, and most of the inspiration comes from the Jordan Creek Mall area in Iowa. I love spending time there, especially for family vacations. The mall is large and inviting, which I believe is something that Lincoln lacks. If there was a way to improve upon the Gateway Mall area, I believe that it would really improve the atmosphere of Lincoln. It would give people a destination. Several times I have spoke with people who are very disappointed with the Lincoln mall when they first come to the city. They make remarks such as "Well I thought you would have a bigger mall for a town this size..." The second aspect of the Jordan Creek area that I love is the Valley Junction Farmers Market/Music. This event takes place Thursday evenings in the summer and fall. Many vendors fill the streets, the quaint shops open, and music groups perform for the crowds as they meander through the booths. This part of the town comes alive when this event takes place, and benefits the small businesses there. The shops in this area would also make Lincoln a better place in my opinion. People, especially in Nebraska, love and appreciate small business owners. If we had more small independent shops or boutiques, I believe that many people would enjoy them. When we spoke in our Prosper Lincoln lunch meetings last week, a statistic about contribution to the arts came up. I think that the reason Lincoln contributions to the arts is lower than other cities is because many of the places we consider "the arts" require a larger amount of money than what families are able to spend. For instance, the Lied Center is a wonderful addition to the community, but many people are not able to attend because of the ticket price. If we had more options in Lincoln to contribute to the arts that were not as expensive, I believe that more people would be willing to support these places.

Quality of Life idea: Red light cameras at all traffic lights in Lincoln. It is getting pretty damn dangerous with all of the red light runners I've seen in the past 2 to 3 years. Time to get these installed and stop this nonsense.

1. Safer school crossing over Superior street 2. Speed bumps in Bicentennial estates (especially Independence curve onto N25th) many people speed through as "shortcut" around 27th & Superior stoplight. 3. Red light cameras. They've helped reduce accidents in many other cities where they are employed. And it generates some revenue. 4. A bypass from north Lincoln to the highway 2 on the southeast side. Cities our size needs to have quicker access to the other side of city.

To ensure our youth are successful and to help our economy grow we first need to clean Lincoln up and make it more attractive. Have you driven down 10th street? 13th? Just to name a few for example.



Houses on those streets have trash everywhere and the "lawn" is more knee high weeds than anything. Lincoln has a lot of crime. Not sure what can be do about that? Crime is Crime. Lincoln has a lot of nice bike trails which is extremely nice and covenant but they are not safe criminal wise.

Thank you. I would love to see safer school crossing over Superior street for Campbell Elementary. Every year we have a student hit by a car while going to or from school. They have no crossing guards for Superior St and the school administration is apathetic to solving this problem. I would like to see speed bumps in Bicentennial estates (especially Independence curve onto N25th) many people speed through as "shortcut" around 27th & Superior stoplight. I would be happy with a dead end put in as well and so would all the neighbors I've talked to. When I called the department of roads I was told they won't put speed bumps in residential because of the liability. So a child getting hit is not considered a liability????? Also Gretna Nebraska has speed bumps in residential areas so this is a city policy which should be changed. I would love to see more stop signs put in. We have too many unprotected intersections. More than any community I've been in. My coworkers not from around here are amazed at the number. Sorry, this mostly has to do with traffic issues but these would go a long way to improving our community.

Economic Prosperity Provide funding for ongoing skills-gap survey of our community. This data is needed to help identify gaps between workforce and employer needs. This will be a valuable tool for business site selectors, educational institutions, policy makers, local governments and community organizations who are working to strengthen economic and workforce development efforts in our communities.

An investment in scouting is an investment in the future of our city. The scouting program in Lincoln and the surrounding counties is developing leaders for our future and training young men and women who may not have the opportunity at home to have leadership examples. I would recommend investing time and funds in the scouting program in Lincoln.

As a business owner trying to survive in such a low unemployment situation Lincoln really needs more employees, and not necessarily the skilled laborer. The need for dishwashers, cooks, wait staff, cashiers, janitorial, some of the lower paid employees is critical to growth. We do our best to hire quality employees, but when there are only a few to choose from, you take what you get. There are times that when an applicant comes in, if they can fog a mirror, they are alive and kicking, we will hire them, drug free or not. I'm just saying it is hard to give good quality service, which the people of Lincoln expect and deserve. The best of luck.

I think that Lincoln really needs to focus on developing youth for the future, whatever that may hold. Setting kids up for success in whatever career path they choose is critical. I think this can be done through getting local businesses involved in career mentoring, maybe for middle and high schoolers. Give students the chance to shadow people at work and see what career options they may want.

Too many students are going through school but they have not learned the basics of a real education. They have not learned to comprehend what they read, even if they have learned to read. Some have not



learned basic math without using a calculator, and even then some have difficulty understanding it. Students could be observed, and have tutoring or whatever they need to get an education that will give them the self esteem they need to function in the real work world. Everyone needs a purpose in their life. If kids have a purpose and goals in their life, they will be more inclined to succeed. Too many people are trying to keep the Bible out of the public places. When the principles from the Bible were used, kids had a better understanding of the expectations they were expected to live up to. Basically, kids really want to succeed, and if given the tools, they will do well.

Increase the number of police officers so we can keep the youth out of the gang life and be able to have a specific police unit to address the youth problems. We would be able to place police officers in all of the schools in the community. Increasing the number of police officers would help the entire community feel safer and gain a higher morale within in the community.

Provide public support for the homeless in our community. The City Mission has its place, but it just does some of what needs doing. Create jobs for this group, and provide drug rehab and mental health services for individuals, and counseling for families afflicted by violence. Make acceptance of services dependent on a clean criminal record and a two-year local residency, but not on anything else. Look at all the pan handlers in Lincoln. This is ruining being downtown. If they're not criminals, these guys need a job, a place to live, to get off the street. I met a young girl at my kids' school, a girl born in Lincoln, who was homeless with her mom. They had to sleep on someone's couch together. We can do better for families and individuals in those circumstances. I am willing to put tax money into this sort of thing. We have to pitch in together as a society financially, or we lose the benefits of living in a city. It can become a big, unpleasant city if these issues are not addressed comprehensively and assertively, and if they're not funded well. With the public funding, give nice tax breaks to start ups and established businesses that provide truly worthwhile services and create good jobs for this community. We have the wonderful Nebraska Environmental Trust in the state which is funded by the lottery--a brilliant use of funds. Akin to that, in Lincoln, we should create the Lincoln Human Capital Investment Trust that is publicly funded and gives incentives to nonprofits and private ventures via funding based on a competitive process for 1 to 3 year periods, renewable when the applicant proves sustainability. A very small tax on one item, like pop, could possibly pay for this kind of thing. If marketed to the community in an alternatively fun and sober way, it could fly.

I would like to Lincoln Public schools implement Middle School athletics. Football, Basketball, Track, Volleyball, golf, swimming, Cheer, and play.....Compete against other school and cities just like our high schools do. Children are a lot less likely to get into trouble with when involved in activities. Children will be healthier with sports. If weight/obesity of our youth is so important this is one thing our community can do to get kids involved instead of talk about it. Opportunities. Some of our youth are not as fortunate as others to join a club sports. This will give kids an opportunity to get involved and know what it's like to be apart of something. Sports teaches teamwork, leadership, sportsmanship and builds confidence and leads to friendship. Lincoln would benefit from Middle school organized athletics.



Less students per teacher! Low student:teacher ratio is a sign of quality education as it allows teachers to have more time/energy to invest in students. Plus, a teacher that enjoys his job will automatically be a better teacher. That said, teachers should also be free to kick disruptive students out of class.

Our community should sponsor parenting classes that would be available to people of all socio-economic, racial, ethnic, and cultural groups. I feel that often the problems of our society stem from children not having safe, responsible, and respectful behaviors modeled to them from the time that they're born and it's challenging for our schools and social organizations to instill these values in children, later in their lives. In order for children to grow into mature, responsible, contributing adults, they need to have a strong foundation. In order to break the perpetual cycle that leads to dependence on public assistance, dysfunctional home lives and possible incarceration, early intervention must be provided.

Having a family oriented class to teach about credit and how to stay out of the welfare system. Possibly free family daycare and dinner that night. Some parents know so little about credit because ours suffers badly. Most below poverty people have student loans and other bills in default and don't know how to get it ahead. Huntington Elementary had a great class on child behavior and how to handle those kids that are harder to handle which I think should be offered all over Lincoln. It was such a great course.

Nutritional workshops and not only for adults but kids as well.

Encourage state senators to legalize charter schools to increase competition within the public school system. Charter schools also help to improve test scores and provide more invigorating work environments for educators to work in. Parents have more options for their children's educations, so more kids will find just the right fit. Perhaps most importantly, economically disadvantaged and minority students thrive in charter schools, and our current public school system in Lincoln is not addressing their needs or helping them to thrive, according to NeSa scores.

We need to distribute funding more fairly. Children who go to school in wealthy neighborhoods get far more academic advantages than those in low income schools because we fund them based off property taxes. If we were to fund each school proportionately based off the number of students rather than the value of the homes around them, we can ensure each student, no matter their family's net worth, is given the most equal chance at success we possibly can.

Our children deserve to have every opportunity available for success. One such opportunity is not having to worry about hunger. A hungry child is unable to focus, especially at school. Therefore, our children should never fear lunchtime. The wonder if there will be funds available on their accounts. The fear of embarrassment if there is not. They should be entitled to the same lunch regardless of ability to pay. Many children do not fall into the category of free lunch and even reduced lunches can be difficult for parents to provide. We should provide lunch as part of a child's education. We should also provide supplies, regardless of age. We do so in elementary school, but the need does not dissipate in middle or



high school. Children should be able to enjoy their learning environment. It should never be a place of despair.

Strong schools, recreational sports and activities at affordable prices!

Work closer with special Olympics and bringing special needs kids into your sports and activities. So many of your special needs kids need more body strength and just more activities with other kids their age. You need to continue to work on ways so make these kids a part of the school. Art and music therapy is important and should also not be left out of the lives of these kids. Art could even lead to jobs for these kids but so many times only those skilled enough have opportunities to work with different art mediums in higher grades. My son felt a great loss when art was no longer available at Lps. Special needs kids need health and wellness and social activities within each school

I think that LPS should provide free lunch to every child in every school.

End the wheel tax and let people keep more of their money. Lincoln knows only how to tax, tax, tax, fee, fee, fee,get your hands out of my pockets and let me have MY money to spend on goods and services. Everyone I talk to says, Lincoln is a good City BUT the taxes and fees for living here aren't worth it and they either move out of town or have plans to, like me. It's ridiculous how much the wheel tax is and then to have some of the poorest quality of streets in the State!! is just a sham.

offer summer experiences - *investing/banking/buying stocks (Warren Buffet-style) *culinary experience increase spending for SPED in schools to properly support students with needs support students with mental health needs from perfectionism to anxiety to depression to PTSD offer students opportunities to volunteer and be philanthropic which makes them more invested/engaged in our community support parents that struggle getting basic needs for kids...glasses, medicine, etc full-time counselors in every single school in LPS and go back to teaching character/community/habits of successful people/communication skills offer support in youth business start-up opportunities (trash to treasure/junkin, selling art, mowing, dog sitting service, etc) offer travel opportunities at decreased rates for all help lower tuition for middle class families that get minimal support at local universities make a push for businesses to support employees using work time to get more Teammates Mentors...there's never enough for kids (esp male mentors) youth rallies annually to bring kids together for the sake of building community (offer free stuff) showcasing what's to offer here in Lincoln WE NEED A NEW WATER PARK! Small communities in NE have amazing water parks and ours is aging and underwhelming!!! I think the city and surrounding communities could help support this. Offer make-and-take sessions of woodworking, pottery, welding, etc at Southeast Community College to get kids on campus and interested in higher education Advertise what higher education does for youth...advertise the advantages that come with degrees Advertise what can be offered to skilled laborers; most schools have a message board or TV's to get their attention Technology experiences are critical. We know their future careers will be influenced as such. ASK YOUTH WHAT THEY WANT AND NEED! Thank you for asking for community input.



More sections of pre-school, especially in Title 1 areas.

We should reinstall swings on our elementary school playgrounds. This generation of students needs to experience vestibular-based movement more than any other generation before. Linear movements increase attention and alertness which has a direct effect on classroom performance. :)

Our community should continue to invest in education from pre K -12th and to support families that are living in poverty to be able to take care of their families. We need to continue to find ways to reach out to at risk children and their families to help them meet their basic needs. Neighborhoods need to be strengthened through schools, churches, and community organizations to help families be able to keep their families healthy and safe.

Lincoln would benefit from being a "center" for progressive infrastructure. Something that puts Lincoln on the national map. A reason for people across the country (and graduating here) to stay, contribute, and prosper. Large-scale ideas, such as being one of the only US major cities to strive for 100% renewable energy sourcing. Or, one of the top-ten cities in the US for bicycling. Perhaps one of the best cities in the US for public transit. With such forward-thinking, civic-minded, and dare i say attainable goals - Lincoln would achieve widespread recognition and act as a beacon for young, professional achievers.

The programs offered at clinton elementary school like free family pictures are not offered at other schools or even letting the kids have tablets like at Irving middle need to be offered to city wide schools. Busing some kids and not others even tho they live in same neighborhood. By offering certain privileges to some and not others does not make our community strong.

Make all parks and playgrounds wheel chair accessible and inclusive for all.

Homework is an essential part of the learning process. Teaches organization and responsibilities and reinforces the learning process. Homework should be graded. Writing and spelling need to have more importance. We are raising kids that can only type, their writing is close to the look of preschool and without spell check they are completely unfunctional.

I think at LPS should include as a part of their regular curriculum several languages, not now available to younger students, including: Spanish, Chinese, Russian, French, German, Arabic.

Have more programs like Educare. It's so hard to find affordable care for small children. I would like to see toddler programs at more of the elementary schools, for me specifically at Campbell Elementary.

1. The public art projects are such a great idea. Keep them rolling. Some should be smaller projects and some bigger more permanent projects. Some of the bicycle statues could use a little sprucing up. I think that also needs to be a part of the public art project. 2. Organizing more planned events where the community comes together to help each other out. Perhaps once a quarter or so, and have schools and colleges participate. (Perhaps an early out, or a competition between various groups.) 3. Engaging in



projects that will help people of all races feel a part of the community and a celebration of the various cultures as well. Not just once or twice a year, but various times throughout the year.

We need an indoor 50 M long/25 yard wide pool to accommodate the huge swim community. Lawrence Kansas did this and uses the pool for clubs, rehab ,and high school teams and meets. Devaney is quickly not allowing the non-college swimmers to use the facilities. Woods tennis center's campaign to enclose the courts is huge. We have to go to Grand Island, Kearney , and Fremont to compete as a community.

Well where do I start. I moved to Lincoln in 2005. I was told this is a independent state to where people get there children to school or maybe car pool. But what about the parents that can't. Or what about the child that has too walk far to get home when it's freezing out. Also teachers are very leinent. Where if a child can make up tests if they fail them. My daughter personally took advantage of this. She just wouldn't study because she knew she could make it up. Lincoln Nebraska is a boring and depressing state if you come from a big city or have been other places. There is very little for children to do as well as adults. They need to have more african american businesses here. They need more radio stations that will cater to the African American s also. Maybe have carnivals not just the fair they have every year. Build more malls have something for these teenagers to do. Maybe the pregnancy and teen drug use rate will go down. My daughter stated to me that she feels like living in lincoln is like living in a shoe box. Cater to the citizens like you all do for the college kids. Also the Southside houses needs to be knocked down and rebuild newer houses. And screen these houses that private landlords rent with black mold and carbononoxide leaks. Build up lincoln like Southpoint. it's beautiful out there and by highway 2. Also the winter time put salt on the roads. They are already messed up in some places so a little salt won't hurt. The beet juice is not working.

1) Build a second high school football field. 2) Build a high school baseball complex that would be suitable for a state tournament baseball AND girls softball. 3) Allow senior citizens to attend high school athletics and even plays, musicals, and band/choir/orch concerts free of charge as long as they register with a high school in their district.

Children and young adults need to all learn to grow and harvest foods, for future food security which would help with economic security. There should be vegetable and herb gardens at every Lincoln public school, with a rotating schedule of student/ parent volunteers tending and harvesting the crops.

Let's get back to the basics and allow God back in our schools and I guarantee you will see a huge difference in every aspect of our schools and our society. One of the fundamental freedoms our country was based on is freedom of religion. We get this one right, the rest will follow.

As a high school educator in the dept. of Family & Consumer Sciences, I am appreciative of programs that help support our families. Especially the importance of early childhood education and the importance of health & wellness. When students take classes in child development, teacher education, nutrition and wellness, food science, human development and families & crisis it sets them up to be successful individuals and positive parenting skills for their future families. I feel all students should have



the opportunity to take classes that enhance their well-being. I am excited about The Career Academy as it gives credit to these very career pathways and classes. Students that have a passion for a certain career and can learn more about careers & will be able to make our economy grow. I invite professionals in the community to visit my high school classes and it is always positive when students hear about their careers and how they are contributing to our city. I hope we can continue to have this great relationship as it helps students make connection from school to career.

Conquer the "O" Street divide.

All the public schools in Lincoln need to have resources that are more equally distributed - students need to be able to have access to field trips based on what the kids need, not what the PTO can fund. They need to have equal media and access to technology. We need better solutions to the challenges students bring to school - anger, depression, below poverty living conditions (access to food and clothing appropriate for the season). Students need to have the basic needs met and feel safe before they can achieve anything higher on Maslow's hierarchy.

Education is key to making sure our community is strong and vibrant. One way to ensure that is to make sure our schools have smaller class sizes and counselors on staff full time at each building. Mental health continues to be an area that we need to provide resources in order to help our students and community. By providing these two simple items, our community will grow and prosper.

Money management skills. It is important for each person to know the value of having their own checking account. I work with college students and it is surprising how many of them have never had an account and will graduate without an account. It's also important to teach the value of money management - how to earn money, set a budget (even if they only have 1-3 bills) and how to save.

Minimum wage needs to be a living wage, as the lowest paid workers are valuable and deserve to be able to pay for their basics without needing charity. People need to realize that charity cannot cover all of people's needs and if people constantly rely on it to get by, there is a fundamental problem with low-paying jobs. The children of today will not, and cannot ALL be successful, because some will be the ones with the low-paying jobs. Someone has to have these jobs for things to function and we cannot just expect that they will all be teenagers or retirees working them. We need to educate people to have better paying jobs -YES, but some will always have the low paying ones and when will we say "-that's not right"? What if you had to survive for just one year on minimum wage? What if you were a single parent? How would your children be affected? When will we value the work of everyone's contribution to the workforce?

To help our youth succeed in Lincoln, it starts in the schools. We are very fortunate to have such great academic facilities with teachers and staff that genuinely care about our success. Helping children find their interest whether that be sports, arts, or academics is a step in the right direction. I do also believe that we need to have more curriculum instilled that prepares students for college. That can include, but is not limited to: choosing a college, setting goals for the future, exploring different career paths, and



discovering classes to help them get into that college or career. If a student has a plan ahead of time as to college and career, that makes achieving the goal of success much easier. Economic prosperity is already among us. Lincoln has exceptional opportunities for work among adults and teenagers alike. The organization, FBLA, Future Business Leaders of America, has a day in October that a chosen group of individuals from each school's chapter in Lincoln and surrounding cities come together on UNL's campus. The day consists of a multitude of seminars regarding leadership, business skills, and information on the Nebraska Universities. This should be an example of what we should do with all of the kids in a Lincoln school. One or two days a year, these "seminars" should be brought to the Lincoln schools. Seminars would be held around the school and students would be able to sign up for them. It creates excitement within the students to get out in the world and be a thriving leader in the entrepreneurial world. The quality of life in Lincoln is already incredible and much better than other cities around the United States. Banning all use of tobacco in public places of Lincoln would be good for everyone. Second hand smoke is a serious problem that can cause lung cancer and other undesirable diseases. One can't even ride in their car without inhaling a puff of smoke from the individual on the sidewalk enjoying a cigarette. A free clinic medical facility would help less fortunate youth stay healthy so they can focus on what's important to them. A program where youth would be able to design sculptures and art pieces around the community would be great. Those sculptures could be placed in community parks around Lincoln. They could represent things that they enjoyed about Lincoln growing up. Lincoln is a great place to be and be raised and with some changes and growth, it will be an exceptional place to be.

"More recess would help us to have a better attitude during the time we have to sit still for class." -Elliot Gordon, 5th grader, Prescott elementary As the parent of a bright but active boy, we have struggled with the 20 minutes of recess out of a 6.5 hour day. More exercise (and real exercise, like at Prescott where kids must run a lap or two before playing) would release endorphins, increase attentiveness, improve moods, and massively help boys through a day which includes a whole lot of sitting.

I would like to see additional natural surface pedestrian trails such as those around Holmes Lake. Affordable, efficient taxi service. Available parking closer to events. More attention paid to run-down and/or vacated properties in neighborhoods. Not always focused on the Haymarket area. Making O Street between 17th and 27th Streets more attractive. Sidewalk repairs in neighborhoods. Clearing of downtown sidewalks of snow and ice in the winter.

Creating activities for schools to be able to interact with other schools; to create relationships, learn from each other, prepare students for interactions in college and beyond, etc.

Issues: 1. Poverty. A comprehensive approach to addressing issues related to poverty is very important. Too many families live in poverty - without adequate healthcare, housing, food, quality childcare, and little hope for a better future. The vast majority of these people work long hours just to survive - and because they work they aren't eligible for many aid programs. Financial supports that help stabilize these families are critical. 2. Immigrant/Refugee Families. We are also fortunate to have immigrants and refugees from many parts of the world who contribute to a rich cultural dynamic here in Lincoln but



unfortunately the lack of real opportunity for these adults to make a livable wage and fully participate in our community creates great barriers for them and their children. These families are often more isolated than integrated into the community. A more complete system of supportive services - including realistic educational and career options for young people who "age out" before completing a diploma and for adults who also have had an interrupted education, mental health services, healthcare, housing - is important for our refugee families. 3. Quality healthcare (physical and behavioral). People with serious mental health and substance abuse challenges often are unable to access treatment. There aren't enough beds in long-term treatment facilities like the Lincoln Regional Center and Bryan Health is an emergency stabilization facility rather than a treatment center. We are in need of high-quality, easily accessible behavioral and mental health care in order to insure our community is strong and vibrant. To address these issues it is important to engage members who are impacted for their input and expertise. Some ideas might be to expand programs like the Community Learning Centers and the family literacy programs, create health clinics in schools to provide basic services, partner with businesses to create training programs that lead to real jobs, expand bus services/transportation options so people can go to school or work jobs outside of the current limited schedule.

Public events that are free or low-cost help to bridge many Lincoln communities together. I think we should continue to recruit businesses to work closely with LPS, whether it's to inform the students about certain career paths or perhaps businesses could do more work more in the schools. I think it is a very good cause to invest in art and aesthetics in our community. We want those things to visually represent our city so that when defamation or graffiti happen, it is the exception not the ordinary. I think it's a good thing when the city of Lincoln makes surveys available to the public on how/what their opinions are on various topics. People want the ability to be heard and when they know that their representatives are listening to them, they are more likely to support them. I worry about gang violence and the prevalence that has occurred in the past few years. I personally do not know how to mitigate that topic but I would hope that we are putting great resources into catching criminals, sending a message or strict punishment, and reaching out to those at risk of joining gangs or headed down the wrong path. I think we need to continue to support non-profits such as City Mission, Lighthouse, St. Monica's, The Friendship Home etc.... Those organizations represent people whose voices may not be heard. I appreciate the mayor and think he has done an amazing job of helping Lincoln to prosper. The city is a great place; Prosper Lincoln is an example of that.

Local colleges need to work with Lincoln High Schools to form a team.

Find ways of engaging youth by interacting with community leaders in business, non-profit, education, and government. To make this happen, these leaders need to see a clear path for the engagement opportunity they bring to youth and how that will benefit Lincoln and their own particular interests. Programs like Teammates and Junior Achievement are good. However, they are only two programs. We need more informal interactions. We need avenues created where volunteers and youth can foster these important relationships. More, smaller, informal, less planning, allow all involved to explore the relationship.



We need more bike paths that are not just roads designated as such but bike only roads. Especially in north Lincoln. A path system that was as connected as the spokes of the Parisian boulevards would ensure more bike/pedestrian mobility and safety.

Less buses, more routes. I think that the bus system does not work in this town, it is clunky; big buses showing up hours apart with very few riders. What about shuttle buses or tran cars that constantly transverse major lines-27th, 84th, vine, south? If we had a constant, reliable system that was easy to use, cheap and available at nearly any time of the day there would be more riders and less traffic.

Teach children coping skills intentionally and early so that they are not derailed by trauma.

I think that many youth could be successful in public schools if a Montessori alternative was available to them.

- Provide jobs - Provide different opportunities that will allow them to grow in all aspects (physically, mentally, socially, spiritually) - Strong education background - Safe environment - Diversity acceptance

Have kids set academic goals for the year/semester. Provide an academic mentor (like in college) for kids to help them stay on track with their goals. Have each child meet with their mentor (school counselor or specialist) at least once a year. Survey parents to see what kind of arts and cultural activities they would be interested in and how those could become more accessible to them. Schools and Lincoln Libraries could coordinate cultural and arts events throughout the school year (similar to the Summer Reading Program special events). Encourage One Book, One School reading (Example, Lux Middle School staff and students read "Wonder" last year).. Start at an earlier age to help children identify possible career paths. Have more community members come in and share about their professions.

Spend more time at LPS on Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Stop spending so much time worrying about being "all inclusive" and actually live that out instead, and spend resources preparing kids for work and life. Having a rich background in Green Living, Race Relations or Social Injustice does NOTHING to prepare them for the work environment they will face. I am hiring kids who cannot spend 5 minutes focused on something without referring to their phone or computer. Kids who think that after a WHOLE YEAR of working somewhere they should be moving up in the company or getting a raise. Kids who's feelings are hurt if I chew them out for continually missing deadlines. Teach them hard work, effort, the three R's and responsibility or they will fail. The quality of life in Lincoln can be improved by getting better traffic flow. The city coddles development without planning. Look at traffic flow getting out of the inner city, it is an embarrassment. Street improvements may require sacrifice on the part of those on 27th street, 40th street, 48th street etc. Trail system is awesome, need to get people outside and exercising more to maintain healthy living. Cultural opportunities are fine.

Working with Lincoln Public Schools, create a network of mentors that are parents of special needs children, to mentor the parents of newly identified special needs children. When your child is identified



as special needs, it can be very overwhelming to figure out where to go for help in our community, to secure the resources your child needs, to navigate the processes at school. It can be isolating, because your family's needs are now different than what is "typical", and you might not have friends or family that understand what you are going through. Having a peer mentor, that has gone through what you are going through, would be a connection to help eliminate the feelings of isolation. Working with someone that has "been there" to help point you to resources for your child could make things less overwhelming. Helping these parents makes them better advocates for their children. Peer support for parents who are learning to become special needs advocates would help ensure better, more successful outcomes for our most vulnerable children.

Better assistance to autistic children and their families.

Teach the value of paying it forward... Sharing with them that REAL self-confidence and TRUE joy are found when helping and selflessly giving to others. Parents, optimally, should be teaching this to their kiddos, but children could also have a GREAT impact on their PARENTS when expressing how to be 'selfless'.

Probably the biggest indicator of poverty and crime is whether or not a child grows up in an intact, 2-parent home. We need more brave, counter-culture voices to dialogue very honestly and frankly with us about the true public cost of single parenthood and divorce. Things like arts, quality of life, etc. can be handled by the non-profit sector, and public officials have the perfect pulpit to champion volunteerism. Business is really pretty simple. It's an organic thing that will naturally happen as long as there aren't a lot of impediments, so to the extent the government is able to provide smooth sailing, there will always be businesses looking for opportunity.

School year-round!

We know that Mentoring works. The focus should be to start as soon as they enter school and follow them through graduation. One on One mentoring is very important when it comes to building self esteem and a sense of future. More money needs to be placed in prevention programs such as Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters.

I think that any financial planning course like this <http://www.daveramsey.com/store/kids-teens/cYOUTH-p1.html> would be great to offer at the schools. Taking his class as an adult changed my life financially. I can only imagine how beneficial it would have been to take it as a child! Thanks!!

Lincoln needs more splash pads.

Children should be taught a foreign language as early as possible. It's been proven that children that speak at least two languages have higher IQ's. Also if there were more things for families to do in Lincoln (water park or amusement park) This would also create professional jobs along with great summer jobs for high schoolers. Any Nebraskan who wants to take their families to these places have to travel out of



state, giving that state just that much income, which would be great to just have it here in our capital city area, maybe this might even help with our high tax problem. It's also been proven that families that do things together are more likely to stay together. In our middle schools I think that sexual education should be taught sooner, because some girls have already been through the change by eighth grade and unfortunately some are already having sex, which is sad. There has to be a way to teach kids that it's okay to be a kid and to enjoy it. Maybe even announcing all clubs and sports available at school and keeping the cost down that way even the lowest incomes can afford for their child to take some activity, other than doing activities that are getting them in trouble. I know from my six year old son that kids do bad things because they are bored, alleviating this problem is giving kids things to do. Maybe even going as far as making it part of our curriculum that every student has to be in a club or a sport, no exceptions.

Use time during summer break to meet the needs of educationally fragile children- This could be an abbreviated version of Teammates (who work with students grade 3 and up) which is conducted in public places. Some of these connections could lead to future Teammate pairings. Use schools and or public libraries, the city mission, salvation army, or churches as venues to read to and with children, especially 1st and 2nd grade ages- help them learn math facts. Due to the fast pace of LPS curriculum schools do not have time to help in the drill and practice of math facts. Couple these efforts with meals served to students who receive. Some of the children with the most need do not have the ability to get to summer school. Often a child's academic career is decided by 2nd or 3rd grade- children who struggle at these grades are more likely to drop out of school and have behavior problems inside and outside the school setting.

Growing our community will create opportunity for youth to stay here and invest more in the economy and our community. To do this, we need to make sure technology connectivity is top of the line, tax incentives create reasons to bring new business here, and educational excellence increases. This makes new businesses look at our community and know we have the resources, infrastructure and talent to assist them in meeting their strategic goals. Physical and technical infrastructure, cultural opportunities and workers who are ready to innovate are a must. We know when people experience the genuine friendliness, work ethic and beauty of this community they stay. Drawing them here and focusing on a future that keeps more of our young talent from leaving are essential for growth that does not adversely change the beauty of who we are.

To help combat childhood obesity, create a program like Junior Achievement for food education in our classrooms. Work with local chefs, nutritionists, and food educators to bring fun, hands-on lessons to kids in the classroom about healthy eating. Ideally, the program would include nutrition ideas that low-income children could benefit from.

Bring the world to Lincoln by hosting an international high school exchange student! By acting as a host family for an international student, your own children and their classmates are exposed to cultures and languages from far beyond this great city's borders, and they learn that there is a whole world out there



to be explored. Our community is enriched by talented and ambitious youngsters who are seeing America for the first time. We can help make the world a smaller place one student at a time!

Teach our kids about work ethic and how to succeed in life. Too many kids want everything handed to them. Our schools need to better job of getting kids to work toward a goal.

Bring back "church/faith/family" Wednesday night. It used to be that families could count on at least Wednesday night marked off the calendar for events which included just faith or family. It was a little chunk of sacred time carved out of a busy week. No one would schedule meetings, practices or other events on this night. Slowly, for most, it has turned into just another night of the week for any activity. If an entire city said "let's really make an effort to prioritize this night for just family/faith" I think it would benefit our youth, families, and in turn our community to make all strong and vibrant.

We need more after school youth programs like Scouting.

It appears to many of my constituents, that you're gathering insight, information and direction from the same group of people year over year over year. Even though you allow for thoughts to be shared be all, it's the same group/demographic/leaders that have always led the conversation. Our group would appreciate you reaching out to a younger demographic and of strong community leaders to take our thoughts and recommendations seriously. We need to think differently and diversify who's at the table actually influencing change. Real change can't occur with the same thought leaders making the decisions. We have seen some exceptional work being done by so many in our community to help support our young people. There has always been significant support for this group, even with the growing numbers of those in poverty. Have we dug any further into their home-life and what the actual challenges might be? Are they in single-parent homes, working families, no direct parental guidance? How can we help support the hard-working parents so they can provide for their children? We can't continue to put a Band-Aid on the problem without any long-term solutions. We also believe a major gap in our community is within our aging population. For whatever reason, this has yet to be part of any public discussion or highlights as a major need. If we've not identified this as part of our focus in the next 3-5 years, we're going to be blindsided by the number of Baby Boomers relying on us for support. This may be an easy group to turn our heads to, but it's going to take significant investment and resources to help this demographic. This will impact every single tax payer, citizen and organization in our community. It's our obligation to be proactive and find solutions to the problem before they're too big to overcome.

As an educator I have a couple of suggestions: 1. To make the community stronger students should be encouraged to not just volunteer to help in the community, but to also understand the forces that converge to create the need for the volunteering in the first place. Misunderstandings and the act of "othering" that which we do not understand makes for hostile work environments. 2. Looking at youth success in the Information Age, it seems that a new literacy will be required, one that values reading as a



means to write, and writing as a means to understand. Our students should have writing as their main focus since that will most likely be the major unifying skill all adults will need moving forward.

We need a better understanding of how trauma affects our health, such as witnessing abuse or being a victim of abuse/neglect or war.

Engage more people of color.

Businesses must support the type of innovations that address social problems, not just those that result in profit to the business.

Public planning and policymaking needs more representation from minority communities and those living in poverty.

Insurance companies have to change their determination of "reasonable and customary." Doctors and dentists are leaving areas that need them most.

Do not push poverty to the fringes.

We need to educate policymakers about poverty.

Establish strong ties between lending institutions and those living in poverty. Also between lending institutions and low-income health care providers.

Decrease barriers for growing food and having markets in city parks.

Address suicide rates among youth in the LGBT community.

Support job creation for the impoverished.

Create walkable neighborhoods by maintaining and improving sidewalks and parks.

Put a warning label on sugar-added beverages (like San Francisco) in order to reduce obesity and other health problems.

Involve the State of Nebraska to achieve collective impact.

Support a living wage and health insurance for all Americans regardless of employment status.

Help people understand poverty and that it exists in Lincoln.

Prioritize health needs based on maps.

We MUST address life expectancy barriers.

Focus less on the arena, hotels, and business and more on poor neighborhoods and people.



Stop providing band-aids to system change.

Increase the minimum wage.

Address our community's food deserts. (deserts?)

Increase the minimum wage.

Implement smoke-free policies in all multi-unit housing to reduce incidence of asthma and improve overall health of children and adults. All people who smoke in multi-units should be at least 15 feet from doors, windows, and balconies.

Develop a Neighborhood Association in the West O area east of Hwy 77.

Involve leaders from all minority organizations, churches and neighborhoods with each step.

Increase the accountability of landlords of unhealthy buildings/houses.

Combat pay-day lenders.

Increase community representation in decision-making.

Implement a living wage. There are families working multiple jobs and not able to pay rent or feed their children.

Increase social bonding. When it comes to health, view "The whole neighborhood as a patient."

Engage large employers of low-wage workers in community planning- not just in planning wellness activities related to healthy eating and exercise, but in stress management, personal finance skills, positive parenting, and healthy relationships.

Invest in prevention.

There must be a cross-sectional approach to community transformation.

Close the wage gap between genders to affect childhood poverty.

Invest in children but don't give up on the potential of their parents and other adults in need.

Be ready for new cases of "dust pneumonia" that is caused by the New Dust Bowl in coming decades
www.bit.ly/UNLcclmplications2014

We should address climate change. It is a hardship for persons in poverty.

Quality of life – mental health care & elder care need to be accessible & affordable for all.



In light of concerns regarding quality work force, develop collaborative partnership & create a training center for under or unemployed adults. The new career academy could be a possible location for evening sessions.

Connect with City Impact to tutor children younger than those eligible for Teammates. Get people to work with Lincoln Literacy to help adults acculturate.

Help all youth to learn to speak a 2nd language fluently.

Look for all ways to help African Americans & Native Americans to be more truly a part of our community – especially make extra efforts to prepare minority youth for good, available jobs. See that jobs offer a living wage (not supplemented by gov't programs).

Youth conversations (at coffee shops or someplace that all young people can go to, to just talk). Group book talks [people sharing all perspectives about a common subject (a book)]. Free classes about potential careers for youth. Opening up opportunities to become more educated about topics people are interested in.

Recycling, activities in parks and access for everyone including organized transportation. Greater volunteerism of time & talents. Access to the arts. Business and institutional support. Greater interconnectedness between groups.

Compost & recycling bins everywhere (e.g. airport, parks) to promote habits that are environmentally responsible – youth (&adults) will benefit from an awareness of what becomes of our trash. The presence of bins give people options and a chance to stop & think (e.g. Should this go to the landfill?)

We need to expand opportunities for youth to participate in meaningful work and recreational activities & service. For youth with behavior and mental health and addiction challenges, there needs to be greatly expanded resources and programs that are effective and based on proven research. We need to promote locally owned business instead of being run over by every corporate entity that sucks money out of the local economy and often have little interest in the welfare of the whole community. We need to ensure the welfare and education of all our diverse populations.

1. Invest every penny in education – every child must graduate. 2. Improve the school lunches and breakfasts. – kids have no idea how to eat healthy, they need vegetables, some fruit, and a lot less of everything else (especially processed food.) 3. Never eliminate music from the school. It's so important.

1. Give students healthier options for school lunches, get rid of unhealthy foods so they can focus & learn better. 2. Provide more resources about bike/walking trails in Lincoln and improve public transportation. 3. Encourage participation in the arts for all ages. 4. Allow longer lunch time for students so they have time to eat, relax and/or exercise to reduce stress. 5. Reduce focus on standardized testing and encourage different ways of thinking.



Provide opportunities for youth to keep them occupied after school and on weekends. Free recreational opportunities such as movies, sports, social clubs. Secular opportunities for singles of all ages to gather. Day trips, etc...

Make it easier for families (especially families in poverty) to live healthy lives: Ensure easy access to safe, nurturing outdoor spaces. Make Lincoln a city where walkability, public transit and bike paths limit the need for a car. Increase affordable access to healthy food. Encourage & support community crops and other garden programs. Create/promote wellness programs.

Youth are protected and safe in our schools and in our community at all times. Everyone is given a chance to work in community. The street lights are reprogrammed to keep traffic flowing so people can get to their destinations in a timely manner. People put more effort into cleaning up the trash in our community to be non judgmental and always be hopeful that love will see us through our hardships and struggles in life. More professionalism.

We need to clean up the streets and fix the sidewalks. I know this because I am a youth. And starting up more volunteer organizations to help the homeless.

We could guide our youth toward to service of volunteering in their spare time @ the People's City Mission. There are summer camps where help is needed. Also volunteer at parks or animal shelter – all great places that can guide our youth toward future careers as well.

Be sure that all children and young people have access to art, drama, and music. Public schools are the best place for this – keep them strong. Lincoln currently has inadequate facilities for troubled youth – particularly for those with suicidal thoughts. I hope this can be changed.

Get Lincoln's children out of poverty. Put money into the city mission and build more low-income housing. Have classes on home ownership. The upper class can take care of itself. Help the middle and lower classes.

Always make education & acceptance key components of all community activities.

I love that the Lincoln Community Foundation is asking questions! This shows & reflects just how much the Lincoln community is about care and community and is exactly why this city will grow and be strong & vibrant. Our youth will be successful when we take time to hear their voices and don't rush them to grow up by surrounding them with anger, graphic images, etc. They will be successful when we see their emotional development as important as academic.

Teammates is an awesome program, but it requires commitment that many are not willing to take on. We have so many talented but busy people who could give some time. Maybe it would be a good supplement to start a database of adults willing to just do lunch with young people based on their interests. So an Accountant could have lunch with a kid interested in a career w/ math. A potter could have lunch with a kid interested in art. Maybe a lunch would lead to an organic mentoring relationship.



Education: School should start at preschool for all kids, along with year round school. More after school programs (CLC) for children for help with math, reading & writing skills. Sponsorship: A family/person sponsoring a family/person w/o enablement. Just someone to talk to and let them know that someone cares to help monetarily if need.

Make recycling mandatory. Ordinance against using plastic shopping bags & Styrofoam to go food/ beverage containers. Promote more composting services.

Adding programs & opportunities for our youth & their families free of charge. The arts & education. A major challenge is getting the word out to these people & encouraging participation. Transportation also. Encouragement for the involvement & good of Lincoln, NE.

Less standardized testing, bring in more projects that relate to the real world. Start more personalized & specialized classes in high school, like in Switzerland w/ people as accomplices, choosing a career, starting it.

Revisit new LPS common core math & McGraw Hill reading programs – they aren't helping. Watch out for obvious favoritism for businesses – it is very hard for small businesses owners to succeed when the city is against them. Get new management for PBA. Put the Univ. in check – they are taking over the city in ways that are only beneficial to them.

Ban plastic shopping bags.

Younger support groups & services for hearing impaired – niece is 25, would like a group her age. Strong singles ministry.

Give youth more place to go after school, evenings & summers (Light House extensions?) Coordinate projects across school boundaries to soften rivalries – yard cleanups, volunteering to put on cookout/picnics in other areas, build sheds to sell, etc. Buy local as much as possible. Promote this in new ways.

Provide enough money for education, before, after and during school. Music, arts, and sports clubs and support these community wide. Students work harder when they have a place they feel welcomed and have to earn or have some "skin in the game." All should be welcomed, should have transportation to get there, and opportunity to try.

Inculcate personal responsibility from the very beginning – cradle to adulthood & senior years – by empowering parents to be the role models for their children/ neighborhoods – community members, etc. Schools, public service systems and day to day dealings focus on human similarities than differences based on looks, religions, the way people dress, etc.

Provide low income families help with supportive services during the summer to help them keep their jobs or continue with their education. This should include activities at local YMCA for teens, daycare for



younger children. Summer is a critical time for families in need of these services when school is out. This program has been piloted with AFDC recipients in the Beatrice area was very successful. It was called "Parents of All Ages"

Continue to develop parks & green spaces – like the proposed Prairie Corridor. Free opportunities outdoors for all ages.

1. Community mental health. 2. Year round back packs. 3. Public transportation to serve working people's needs.

Look to examples in other urban communities, specifically Mueller Austin – a sustainable, transit oriented community with places to shop, joy, dine, etc. – with 25% of the housing accessible through an "affordable homes" program. (muelleraustin.com if you'd like to check it out). Seems a good attempt at stimulating the economy while addressing transport needs, housing needs, etc.

Streamline the process to access social services – eliminate the red tape & give people an access point that they can receive same-day assistance with housing, TANF, medical care, etc. Look to the model of veteran's benefits, who receive say day service whenever possible.

A free ride the bus day to get people excited.

Program to take condemnable houses over for community gardens.

More neighborhood community centers to support after-school programming w/ art, nutrition, and play time – first Christian Church at 16th & K would love to partner in that!

Have a department of the LPD that focuses on youth & community development & have officers designated to specific neighborhood as mentors & community leaders.

Create an interfaith group that opens up houses of worship for overnight homeless needs during the winter – based on Nashville's "Room in the Inn" model.

Make Lincoln carbon-neutral

Change the bus culture – not just odd routes but make public transportation an essential part of community

Create affordable/free childcare for single working parents.

Public/private neighborhood health centers aimed at preventative and pro-active health care, especially for kids. Have this on a sliding scale payments.

Nurture youth success – put together after school opportunities where there are activities provided, but the primary focus being a "hands on" teaching about the proper ways to study. Then have sessions



following that session that have tutors able to help in the various core subject at all the various educational levels.

Mentoring program as a means to teach children and youth about the world and opportunities there in, including how to avail one's self of these, beyond what they may have learned in their community. The program would also support children to set goals for themselves and the achievement thereof.

Many people support children throughout the world with monthly financial contributions to registered charities. How about a program to financially support children in Lincoln in this way?

Have we asked the children and youth themselves what they need?

Offer free, fun, parenting education and support services, continuously year round, in the public schools.

During open house, have a group of students that new students can talk to or ask questions. Allow the student(s) to speak briefly to the parents and other students. Include children that represents the student body (one honors student, one child with a 3.00 GPA and one child that may struggle in school). Have the students talk about good behavior in the lunch room. Have them give an example of when they got in trouble etc. Allow a child that has participated in one of the programs to be present when the counselor or teacher is recruiting. Also, I see more AA women in jobs in Lincoln that pay well. It is rare to see an AA man in Lincoln with a "good" job

Every school should have a garden and should be taught how to grow their own healthy vegetables. This idea not only teaches children about healthy eating, it also encompasses science subjects such as environment, plant health, soil health. Enough salad could be raised at every school each fall and spring, they would not have to eat the iceberg lettuce the school has to buy.

Ensure high school graduation. Take a strong stance against truancy and hold parents accountable for youth who are truant. Strengthen penalties and close loop holes that allow parents to wiggle their way out of responsibility for truant youth.

As the father of 3 children, one soon to be 22, another soon to be 18, and the last but no least, 13. We should bring them back to the early 1980's to mid 1990's. Show them that social media didn't exist and how we dealt with life. Also somehow show them that if you wanted something "you" the child had to work for it! Not only that but some how teach them accountability..... seems like every time I turn around, the kids find away to place the blame on or lack of what they have done onto someone else, unless what they have accomplished they have actually done. I am not saying all of the youth out there are irresponsible, I know many that are, and have achieved great things not only by themselves, but with the aid of teachers, parents and friends. How about setting up a a career day that the youths attend a week at work with a parent or mentor (if allowed), and show them how money is made, and how it is spent. Along with trying to save for things wanted and how to save for retirement. Maybe set up some type of work shop that the youths work for a week, earn a paycheck and be responsible for all of the



bills and savings and " I want or need this NOW" and see how far it goes. (i know this is not real practical, but maybe some youths would benefit, OPEN the YOUTHS eyes to REALITY)! The career I have does not allow me to bring a child to work, but there are many out there that do. I believe we as a community need to start holding the youth, of not only our community accountable, but society as whole. These are our future leaders, bosses, caretakers....etc. I am truly worried about the whole idea. I understand society today relies on social media and technology, but it does not need to be in all everyones face 24/7. I have found that there are absolutely no communication skills when it comes to face to face conversation. (as an example, I was at the gas station the other day, the clerk told me to "hang on a minute, she had to respond" as she was holding on to her smart phone, to a text or a Facebook message....doesn't matter. The company lost my business, I will go else where.

Youth Success: -Focus on teaching consumerism to middle and high school students. It is critical that we teach our next generation the value of a dollar and how this applies to everything they do. From understanding how to comparison shop, to how to live within their means will help make for a prosperous future for our kids in a world of parents who have varying levels of success of doing this. - Teaching kids and young families how to make healthy meals at home and stretch their food dollars or making "hybrid" meals combining "on the run" purchases with healthy sides. -Expand the school days for elementary students to have more time for physical activity and lunch. -Build in snacks of real fruits and vegetables to the daily calendar for students to increase their nutrition and decrease kid hunger issues.

Provide more chances for youth to be involved in sports in high school. Still lots of talented kids who have played their whole lives who do not know what to do in a school of 2000 kids when 15 kids make a team and then all of a sudden they have nothing. It would keep a lot more kids busy and healthy and it is proven that involved kids stay in school and do better in school. It is a win win for the student and community. We need more opportunities for these youth especially in the super competitive schools where 200 try out for 10 spots.

Having two kids grow up in Lincoln, it is disheartening to see the lack of attention that is paid to youth sports facilities. The Parks and Recreation department needs to be paid attention to and given an overhaul. Traveling to baseball/softball tournaments to close locations such as Des Moines, Kansas City and Sioux Falls just shows how far behind the curve Lincoln is with our facilities. These cities attract hundreds and hundreds of teams each spring, summer and fall to their communities. Families end up making it a summer vacation of sorts and spend a lot of money in food, lodging and entertainment. I know...I have spent a lot of money in these communities only wishing Lincoln offered our youth the same opportunity. Which in turn grows the economy and ensures it stays strong and vibrant. An example: <http://sfsportsauthority.org/2012/05/harmonon-baseball-fields/>

There are great non-profits in Lincoln that can provide support to schools. Do both non-profits and schools feel these partnerships are being utilized well? I know the after-school programs have a partnering organization, but how is that work being evaluated? And just b/c the Y or Malone Center is



the main partner, is there value in more organizations or businesses partnering? Toastmasters, Girl & Boy Scouts, UNL 4-H Extension, churches/religious orgs, and more - are there more connections that could be made? Partner with the business community! B/c of the lack of financial resources in schools, students (especially those most in need of support - coming from single family homes, or low-income, or other challenges) don't have the opportunity to experience a field trip or connect with adults. Get local business to approach and partner with schools (during the school day and after school) and non-profits to provide experiences for students. Youth must have a vision for what they want in the future in order to be motivated to achieve in school now. I love the many family events here. From the current Summer Movies in the Railyard to yoga at Antelope Park to community gardens, there is a lot of great stuff going on. I learn about it all via social media. Continue to use that and get more people connected to seeing these events on social media. And low-cost or free admission are key. Decision makers related to these topics should really read Tim Elmore's Generation iY book, or at least read some of his blog articles. He does a great job of providing tangible questions and activities to help adults nurture young people into responsible, engaged adults. I'm very happy and excited about the three themes you've identified you want to focus on. These are essential to prospering Lincoln! Nice work!

I would like to see a more robust sports league for kids who can't afford it or parents cannot get them to practice. A program that could help get kids to practice and games would do wonders in teaching kids valuable lessons about teamwork, rules, hard work etc.

The following suggestions were compiled from a discussion amongst men in treatment for addiction here in Lincoln. Most have lived in Lincoln most of their lives or for many years. Our addictions all started during our teenage years. Ways that could prevent this include:

- More after school/summer/weekend programs for teens.
- More parent/teacher involvement and communication at the high school level
- Smaller classrooms/more individualized attention (like Bryan Community)
- More programs that teach job skills
- More outside time and other accommodations for students who don't learn in a traditional setting
- More drug/alcohol awareness and education on a consistent and ongoing basis – not just one semester of health class or one speaker before prom
- Consider closed campuses for high school. When you leave the structure of the school, more opportunity to experiment with substances.
- More mentoring
- More education on personal finance and business
- More education on social skills, speaking in public, interviews

Regarding economic success, most of us have struggled to make ends meet. Ideas for improvement:

- The city is built for those with a car. We must improve public transportation. Our bus system has too few stops, not enough near the good job sites, doesn't come often enough. We can't take a 2nd or 3rd shift if we can't drive. Many neighborhoods still don't have sidewalks on main streets. The big employers who are willing to hire those with no education or experience do not have bike routes near them.
- Employers must improve wages. The current wages are not enough to pay for our cost of living when you account for housing, daycare and transportation. If employers pay more and are more flexible, they will have less turnover.
- Regarding wages, if a person has a job building houses, he should make enough money to eventually be able to buy a house.
- Employers should consider hiring felons. There are tax credits and bonds available to employers willing



to hire individuals with a felony background. • Daycare is outrageous. Considering lightening restrictions on in-home day cares so more options are available. Even with Title XX, parents pay an exorbitant amount for daycare, so much so that it makes it not worth working. • There has to be more educational opportunities for those who are low-income. It used to be that having hands-on experience was valued but now that is overlooked for someone with a degree. Perhaps the university could provide discounted tuition to individuals in Lincoln who are low income. • Consider looking into a program like CETA – Comprehensive Employee Training Act – active in the 70's or 80's that helped individuals pay for college to learn a trade. Regarding a strong community, we need strong neighborhoods: • Housing is difficult to find at a rate we can afford. Students can often afford higher rent because their parents are paying for it but this leaves little housing available for those working poor. Perhaps there is some housing specifically designated for non-students at a more affordable rate. • Consider adding in pay phones again. For those in poverty who cannot afford a cell phone, pay phones would be helpful. • Abandoned properties must be dealt with more quickly. There is no reason a house should sit empty for more than a year, which is often the case now. Perhaps they could be sold for \$1 to a construction company that fixes it up and sells at a low cost to an employee. Or, could be used as temporary homeless shelters to do away with the tent cities. • The People's City Mission has become a problem for those trying to recover from addiction. They need a tighter structure and should not allow those who are continuing to use to get temporary housing. • We need more grocery stores within walking distance for poorer neighborhoods. If someone does not have a car, they cannot go buy groceries. • Fewer bars. For those who are struggling with addiction or have a tendency to overconsume, the prevalence of drinking establishments isn't helping.

I have visions of more community service projects/opportunities especially those that are inter-generational and family supported. Beyond what local churches do and more like the Paint-A-Thons that Bryan Health has conducted in the past. I think it is important to help others in the community improve and maintain their properties - so they don't deteriorate and lose value and create "eyesore" neighborhoods. I am thinking about hauling away junk, helping people organize their own garage sale, pull weeds, paint houses and garages, trim bushes that hide could hide thieves, etc. - like the snow angels snow scooping in the winter. These projects could be used for "credit" with the high school class that requires community service participation. And we would be teaching children what it takes to be a property owner and how to take pride in your living space regardless if you rent or own the space.

The community needs more social programming and activities for special needs youth. As a parent of a child with special needs (including intellectual disability) there is simply not enough for her to do. The Special Olympics activities offered through Easter Day are fantastic, and free (or low cost). However, almost all of the activities are on the North end of town, nothing on the South end. Also, Homer's Heroes baseball is fantastic, again at no cost. But, it is for those under the age of 17. Many of my daughter's friends have "aged out" of this program, and now have no summer sports to play. The community of special-needs parents are very active for our children, and are very quick to volunteer. I think it would be a win-win to have more activities, and to provide more volunteer experiences. This



would allow others to help out, demonstrate empathy and leadership, and open their eyes (and hearts) to those that are differently able.

Here are my ideas for Lincoln. I own a very small business and I drive all over Lincoln daily. I work with a lot of small business people. In all three of the areas listed above, the problem is that there is no free market. A free market is the answer to all the above problems. The opposite is what we have here in Lincoln of which are high taxes and too much government. We are one of the highest taxed and regulated cities in the country. This is why we have so many who are in poverty, jobless and homeless. You want there to be YOUTH SUCCESS but they are not allowed to work. At age 14 I was working in the meat department of a grocery store washing pots, pans and cleaning all the meat cutting equipment. Youth cannot do that today because we have too much government regulating business. The City Council needs to review laws and push the State Legislature to do the same. Minimum wage and business regulations concerning youth need major changes to encourage youth employment. You want ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND FOSTER ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY? Nothing spurs economic activity like a free market. But can John Citizen buy a used car paint it and attach a John's Taxi sign on it and start his own taxi service? Currently the city of Lincoln controls this. The city of Lincoln owns far too many enterprises from Golf Courses, Swimming pools to Animal Control, that ought to be privatized. The QUALITY OF LIFE will automatically improve as you allow people to keep more of what they earn. Let's look at some examples: Hong Kong and Singapore have the freest markets in the world and the highest standard of living in the world. I had just talked to a couple who went to Singapore this year and they were so impressed by how clean and organized the city is. Lincoln on the other hand has half of the parks and medians not mowed or kept up, and the city is wasting millions on building more parks, medians and roundabouts, while our cars are being ruined by pot holes. On the other hand, the bankrupt city of Detroit, Michigan is an example of out of control government spending and regulation. It is currently the one of the worst places in America to live. Lincoln needs to not to emulate other big cities like Detroit, but look to the best cities in the world to emulate, like Hong Kong and Singapore.

Get more Companies within the Community to sponsor Explorer Posts. An Explorer post is ran through the Boy Scouts but is a group for boy and girls 6th grade - 21 years old to get first hand knowledge learning about that company and get a better understanding on if they would like to go to school or start a career in that field.

I want to suggest maybe a better way of managing fallen leaves in Lincoln. I had a neighbor tell me that when he was growing up in Minnesota (?) the city would have the residents collect their leaves in the street. The city would come through the neighborhoods on a schedule and collect the leaves. This eliminated the need for all the bags and containers and the expense of having them hauled away by local vendors who charge ALOT for that service. ON my street many home owners or renters just leave the leaves and they end up in the street gutters (and are still there from last October) - the street sweepers can't get them all. There would have to be a parking ban on the designated pick-up days but could be more effective way to manage this.



The Street Maintenance Department should have repair crews assigned to specific areas of the city and it becomes their direct responsibility to know the streets and problem areas that need consistent attention. This would begin with a map of their area and removing the arterial streets that have been resurfaced in the past 5-7 years. This will highlight the streets that need their attention and they proactively work those streets (particularly after rain or snow, but also on a consistent basis) rather than waiting for potholes to be reported. When streets are closed for repairs, the Public Works Department should review posted detour routes as well as brainstorm to determine where drivers will create their own detours and adjust traffic lights (especially left turn lights on detour routes) to accommodate the additional traffic on the alternate routes and keep traffic moving.

Hire more music therapists to work with kids in schools! Music reaches kids in a special way and can help them advance in many areas. See MusicTherapy.org for more information!

1. Taxes for homes (for middle class) should be lower, so parents would worry less, have less anger and frustration, and maybe work less hours and have more time to spend with their children. 2 Lincoln needs better city-bus system ,so teen age children would able get to their activities independantly, that will teach them to be responsible and confident. But safety should be guaranteed. For now Lincolns' streets are empty, this is very strange for the capital city. 3 we need more jobs for people with college education.

Ban smoking in public

Have your team pick 3 residential city blocks. The bad blocks that your online survey doesn't reach, in the school districts with the struggling graduation rates, where kids don't have food when they go home. Then take your team DOOR TO DOOR and ask them this question. 20-30 houses per block, 1/2 of the people won't answer; a team of 6 (always travel in pairs) could be done in 1/2 day. The people who need help the most, can benefit our city the most. you don't need to improve my school district.

Lincoln needs a large baseball/softball complex - like Council Bluffs. I find it incredible we loss State playoffs to Iowa, because we do not have the fields. Right off Interstate near Airpark would be great place. Youth baseball suffers from lack of quality fields

Cornhusker Council tried for some time to create a tie to the immigrant community through El Centro. Although the program made some success, it slowly fizzled out. Part of the reason was lack of funds. The community didn't have a lot of discretionary funds to spend on their youth in scouting. The Council could only spend so much, in all fairness to others. Sad part is, the youth would gain so much in accelerating their assimilation into American life and culture. They had, and still have, a willing partner. And it really would not take that much to make it happen.

Make it stupid easy to go to the chamber of commerce website and get all the information and docs I need to start a small business. If we want to encourage businesses to start/move here, we need to take down as many hurdles as we can to prevent prospects from giving up.



Lincoln could use a grocery store or market downtown. There was an article in the LJS several months (maybe a year) ago that quoted a representative from a grocer chain saying, at that time, downtown Lincoln did not have enough residents to warrant a grocery store. I think we do now. Along with all the employees that work downtown that might need to just pick up one or two things before they head home for the night.

Support, promote and advertise current opportunities for youth such as Boy Scouts, Bright Lights, etc. Perhaps a comprehensive list of opportunities with contact information published in the LJS monthly

I think we need to have more summer school options for kids offered through the school district, especially for the kids that are considered to be at grade level but are still struggling. This would benefit them by not getting behind over the summer when they get to the next level. I know there is a few programs for kids that are behind, but not for ones that still just need to keep going.

Kids need to learn to think critically. It is paramount for intelligent voting and making good decisions as adults. But it is difficult to develop this skill when most of their classroom learning is just regurgitation of facts. One thing that does support critical thinking is good science fair projects. They need to be original not copied from the Internet, they need to be graded against a district wide rubric that rewards creative and critical thinking, and they need to be required of all students.. Science fair projects also have the benefit of introducing students to science as a creative and exciting activity rather than just rote memorization. They also open the possibility for collaboration with UNL and local junior colleges. We, as a country, need more scientists and engineers. Science fair projects would encourage students to consider those fields. Participation in any of the national science fairs makes students eligible for scholarships of up to \$150,000. To be most effective these projects should start in grade school. We would need to have a good introductory presentation. And we would need a strong mentoring process as teachers do not have the time to work with each student individually. It can be done and done well. If you want more information, please email me.

<https://www.juniorachievement.org/web/ja-georgia>

Youth Success: There should be subsidized extra-curricular activities for children both in the summer and after school during the school year. In high school, students have access to a host of athletic activities, arts activities, and clubs. These are excellent resources that help students develop intellectually, physically, and socially, and prepare them for the world of work. However, in grades K-8 (and especially in K-5), the school-sponsored activities are far less prominent. There are a small number of clubs available to some children, but they vary by school and are inconsistent. For elementary-aged kids to be in organized sports or organized theater or arts programs, they must do so through for-fee providers such as the YMCA, YAAL, private music vendors, or club sports teams. For students with multiple interests throughout the year, the cost of participating in activities such as these can easily be hundreds if not thousands of dollars. This means that at an early age, only those children from privileged backgrounds have full access to extra-curricular activities. The city needs better options for students of



all economic levels to have access to sports and the arts. One idea for this would be to have a much more robust elementary and middle school intramural offering, and for the schools to support these offerings with busing and facilities. Another idea would be for the city to partner with local businesses to fund and market an easy-to-access extra-curricular scholarship program so that citizens with financial burden have access to these programs. The city could also support these programs by providing transit options for those students whose parents cannot drive them to pre-scheduled meetings, practices, and rehearsals.

Support community service organizations like libraries and summer activities. Structured groups can provide a sense of belonging while educating students for the future.

Expand Lincoln Repair Cafe. What is Lincoln Repair Cafe (LRC)? A member of the Repair Cafe Foundation, LRC is one of 20 cafes in the U.S. and of 750 worldwide--a free meeting place that's all about repairing things (together). Currently, LRC provides clothing, small appliance, and furniture repairs. If LRC grows and finds a permanent, centrally located place, on site we will have the tools and materials to help make any repairs you need--clothes, furniture, electronics, small appliances, bicycles, dishes, jewelry/accessories, toys, etc. You will also find repair specialists such as electricians, seamstresses, carpenters, and bicycle mechanics. Visitors bring broken items from home. Together with the specialists they start making repairs at Lincoln Repair Café or chat and watch while repairs are made. It's an ongoing learning process. If you have nothing to repair, enjoy conversations with friends you've just met and have a cup of tea or coffee. Or lend a hand with someone else's repair job. Why Repair Cafe? We throw away vast amounts of stuff--even things with very little wrong, things that get a new lease on life with a simple repair. The trouble is, lots of people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves or they no longer know how. Knowing how is a skill quickly lost. We don't always show appreciation for people who still have this practical knowledge, and often they are left standing on the sidelines--their experience and skills never, or hardly ever, used. The Repair Café changes all that! People with skills are getting involved again; valuable practical knowledge is getting passed on; things are being used for longer and not thrown away. Less goes to the land fill, the volume of raw materials and energy to make new products is reduced; CO2 emissions, are reduced. Repair Cafe teaches people to see their possessions in a new light, to once again appreciate their value; it helps change people's mindset--essential to kindle people's enthusiasm for a sustainable society. Competition with Businesses? The Repair Café Foundation is sometimes asked whether access to free repair get-togethers is competing with professional repair specialists. The answer is, quite the opposite: Organizers' goal is to focus attention on the possibility of repair; if a repair isn't possible, visitors are then advised to go to professionals. Also, people who visit Repair Cafés are not usually customers of repair specialists--they normally throw away broken items because paying to have them repaired is, in general, too expensive. At the Repair Café they realize you don't have to throw things away; there is an alternative. Demand Grows Five years ago there was one Repair Café in Amsterdam. Now there are 750, spread across 18 countries. And together the volunteers of all these Repair Cafés repair more than 13,000 products each month!



Provide the most nutritional meals to the kids while they are at school. Eliminate the fast food from the cafeteria. For example, french fries should not ever be considered a vegetable. Every school should have a creditable and knowledgeable person behind the food that is being fed to our future. Baby steps in this direction will not only enhance the health of the community, but will enhance every child's ability to learn while at school. Better food makes for a brighter, more alert child. First, let's figure out how much added crap is in the food being served, then figure out an affordable way to slowly pick it out, all while still keeping the food delicious. It can be done, it can be affordable, and the impact it would have on the community would be priceless.

2012 by hosting inclusive, free community events, skillshares, support circles, DIY demonstrations, offering free resources & providing activities meant to engage and connect participants. We focus on providing all this free of charge to allow anyone and everyone access to these resources. We work to cultivate our shared values in unity: peaceful coexistence and compassion, cooperation and direct democracy, social and ecological responsibility, economic justice and solidarity; and investment in community spaces. Being a part of this community has enriched my life and provided local support I didn't realize existed. We are a grassroots startup nonprofit and the more we can expand our network and community, the more resources and connection we can provide to others. Funding organizations like this is vital and making meaningful connections with those around us helps us all prosper.

Offering more activities to pre-teen and teen children during the summer at little to no cost would be a good start. Keeping teens busy keeps them out of trouble. Right now there are no programs that don't cost upwards of \$100 or more. And most families can't afford that. Continue to put money into the bike and walk trails. A lot of children and families use that as a way to get around the city. They need to install a bike trail on the Old Cheney near Culvers as that is VERY dangerous for bikers and kids to cross. They need a safe way to cross the street if using the trail.

We need to be considering the disparity in educational experience for children and families from low-income backgrounds and children of color. To not acknowledge that this is true in our community, serves to additionally minimize, marginalize, and disempower valuable, and vital members of our community. As Nebraskans, we pride ourselves on providing "The Good Life", but we must start by realizing this is not true for all Nebraskans and Lincolnites equally. As an educator, I believe strongly in the need for high-quality pre-K options for ALL students and services for families and students that meet the additional needs that contribute to the challenges of living in poverty and a system that minimizes, marginalizes, and disempowers wide swaths of people. I also believe that we need to know how our students are doing on a consistent basis--and talk about that as a community. Let's start an honest conversation about the reality in our community for so many who don't feel heard or even asked about their experience.

As a recent college graduate, I have noticed an issue with finding proper employment in Lincoln. I know many people who, while they have a college degree and the qualifications, have not been able to find salaried employment in the city. As a result, they have been forced to take on multiple part-time jobs or



move elsewhere in order to make a proper living. It should not be this difficult for college graduates to find salaried jobs that they can make a decent living off of. I would recommend greater collaboration between all the colleges and universities in Lincoln and the businesses in Lincoln and surrounding communities. While the University of Nebraska at Lincoln does have a career day each semester, it is not enough. Many of the businesses that come in are not from our community. Additionally, many students may not be able to attend the career day due to classes or other commitments. Specific businesses should collaborate with the corresponding departments (English, criminal justice, history, psychology, etcetera) in order to help students find employment in Lincoln. Businesses can work directly with the departments in order to make connections with juniors and seniors to help them find employment upon graduation and to encourage them to stay in the city. Additionally, while STEM courses and jobs are important to our community, we must not forget about the many other areas that help make our community thrive. The humanities and the fine arts are important areas to encourage. We need to make sure that we are continuing to find employment for graduates in these other areas AND we need to make sure that these important areas of study are not cut from elementary, middle, and high schools. A well rounded education provides the healthiest and most productive members of society. Lastly, I have also noticed that many people, when first living on their own (be that in college because they have to pay their way through or after they graduate), have an incredibly difficult time budgeting their money. A class should be offered of all high school students that will help them to prepare for this time in their life. It can teach them how to budget their money, balance a checkbook, and many other important life skills. If people are better able to handle their money, the poverty rate in Lincoln will decrease.

We need more full-time, benefit eligible jobs that pay over \$50,000 annually. I have three children who have graduated from UNL. Two of them left the State for job opportunities. The third child is under employed and working in Lincoln.

I think we need to have more trauma informed care in the school systems where we show the kids that people really care and are there to stick up for them and support them. We have no clue what might have happened to them or what is going on in their home. I have had 2 separate incidents with the schools telling me that my son has done something and him getting suspended, only for the schools to call me back and tell me that it was all a mistake. What are we teaching our kids because I didn't believe him when I should have. Not only that, these kids are going through so many emotions when they get into their teen years, struggling with fitting in, bullying, low self worth, not getting good enough grades, not making the team and so on. Kids need to know that people are there for them and care and will be there to protect them when they can't do that for themselves or have family to do that for them. Just think if we spent a little bit of extra money to make sure all staff were trauma informed the effects that it would have on our economy in the long run like in the judicial system or foster care.

I think we need a bigger YMCA in the northeast part of town. The one we have is so small compared to the rest of the facilities in Lincoln. A bigger YMCA would allow more classes and hopefully draw more people to take care of their health.



I would like to see more mental health care provided for our youth, especially those suffering from severe issues. It seems funding for this is lacking. Also more jobs in areas that don't require a college degree, since it is hard for someone with one to get a good job. More skilled labor jobs that will train you on site. More parks. Get rid of the median strips with just grass on them. It costs to mow them and they don't look nice. Trees, native plants and grasses, things that are hardy in Nebraska and will require less care would look beautiful than the poorly maintained grass we have now in the median strips.

We have been blessed with a low unemployment rate, but many parents are both working and/or working two jobs. if there was a way to extend the day at school - not necessarily to be in school time, but out of school time that was valuable to also increasing other factors such as building healthy behaviors/ a wide continuum of physical activity options (everything from yoga to dance to hard core competitive teams) that would be available to all regardless of income, then the engagement of youth and older youth would be increased while allowing the need to maintain certain levels of employment.

Encourage businesses to allow employees to do more volunteer work Offer more volunteer opportunities for young children and their parents Provide more better paying jobs for the community. Lots of jobs available, but they are low pay creating more working poor. Provide longer recess and lunch for elementary students. Including a longer school day if necessary. Provide more smaller public transportation options. Vans vs busses? More activities for kids that are affordable

Jobs that pay a living wage. Safety net for those who need one. More African American medical professionals, doctors, nurses, dietitians. Improve public transportation services. Are smaller buses an option?

An indoor/outdoor aquatics center that supports the vastly expanding youth aquatics community in Lincoln.

Indoor 50meter 10 lane competition pool. Could be rented to the various clubs as well as used for public year round leisure.

An indoor meter pool with seating is much needed. And the University certainly needs one compared to the other Big 10 schools. There has to be a way for LPS, University of Nebraska and the City of Lincoln to come up solution for something like this.

Quality of Life: I would love to see an indoor community pool for both competitive and leisure swimming. I'd also love to see another community pool for the SE part of Lincoln. Most of the other area's of town have one with in a few miles. There's great spot at 93rd and Old Cheney.

Lincoln NEEDS either a 10 lane 25 yard pool with room for dryland activities. Or another 50 meter pool. Lincoln has several great competition swim program's that are fighting for pool space. Here are some facts: -Woods Pool was built in the 60s and is in desperate need of overhaul. -A new natatorium is being built in LaVista and is currently asking people for their opinions on the subject of facility needs. -The



other 9 months of the year, the only water truly available is through LPS HS, for anyone interested in aquatic programming. -Lincoln had 1 Trials qualifier in 2012 and he trained in Omaha. There are 4 swimmers who are now qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials that live and train here in Lincoln. -YMCAs will not rent out lane space to clubs and most of their pools are underutilized or too warm to train in. Let's keep athlete's in Lincoln...

The city of Lincoln needs an indoor 50 meter swimming pool to accommodate the growing number of competitive swimmers within the city. The facility could not only provide a practice facility for current swimmers, it could provide a place for swimming lessons, adult swimming classes, as well as host regional and national meets to generate income. In addition: -Woods Pool was built in the 60s and is in desperate need of overhaul. This is the only pool in which students from five club teams can practice throughout the summer. -A new natatorium is being built in LaVista and is currently asking people for their opinions on the subject of facility needs. -During the school year, the only water available is through LPS HS for anyone interested in aquatic programming. My children spent an hour a day driving to and from practice during the school year because of limited pool space. This greatly affected their study and sleep habits. -Lincoln had 1 Trials qualifier in 2012 and he trained in Omaha. There are 4 swimmers who are now qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials that live and train here in Lincoln. -YMCAs will not rent out lane space to clubs and most of their pools are underutilized or too warm in which to train.

Establish a youth drop-in center for homeless and at-risk youth. This center would provide urgent resources for young people, such as food, clothing, counseling and shelter. Also, do not enforce strict regulations on age at this drop-in center so as to provide resources for all young people and reach the widest range of youth possible.

It would be fantastic to see another pool in Lincoln. Woods pool is the only outdoor facility in Lincoln that can host outdoor meets. However, it was built sometime in the 60s and is requiring maintenance. Showers, at least the womens, do not work, heating elements were stolen making it very chilly for early spring swim meets, the towers appear to be boarded up, either for safety concerns or because of maintenance issues. As for indoor pools, swim meets and practice facilities for the aquatic community have been limited to the 4 Lincoln Public high schools. Pools time is in high demand. Ideally, a facility that could be of use to the ever growing swimming community but also used for recreation would be a great addition to Lincoln. One that could provide lessons and aquatic therapy would be a bonus.

Every elementary school in Lincoln should have a CLC along with it. This would encourage learning in a fun way and give kids something to do after school. Many are going home and needing to find their own entertainment and that may not be positive.

We need an indoor public aquatic facility for both competition and leisure swimming. Swimming is a great way to stay physically fit. An indoor facility is long overdue!

There should be no smoking in public park space.



Youth: Let none remain in poverty as children. Following the lead of Senator Patty Pansing Brooks and Beatty Brasch, pass the EITC – earned income tax credit bill provide universal free preschool and paid family leave. Economy: Reinstate the Campaign Finance Limitations Act setting \$92K as the cap on election spending, so elections are open to citizens who are not wealthy or corporately funded. Listen to Roger Holmes of Common Cause Nebraska. Community: Teach Ponca and Omaha Native American (Native economics are the poorest of the poor, to our great shame, and their children have least hope (they commit suicide). So, community ide touches on economy and youth as well) history in schools, as suggested at the successful Standing Bear Symposium. Build the proposed trail. Acknowledge human rights abuse by saving the Omaha language from dying.

More local internships for college aged kids. Good jobs/learning experience during college years should lead to local jobs here after college. Need more in NW Lincoln for trails to run on and a shopping mall would be so awesome – more jobs!

#1 Be proactive for our children's health – ADD/ IMPLEMENT STAND UP DESKS FOR LPS SCHOOLS. 85% of kids waking hours are spent sitting (8-18 year olds) – www.standupkids.org. Share what geographical areas are in greatest need for food; see who in Lincoln is a part of the Backpack program. Partner w/ local grocers to donate food items where perishables can be distributed in these areas, possibly food to order at cost for fruits & vegetables. 6 food truck types or use

Expand career experiential opportunities. Find ways to expose young people (even middle school) to what certain careers actually entail. See it, touch it, etc. Provide educational tracks to start preparing for specific-careers if the interest is there. Find resources for additional tutoring/mentoring, perhaps in conjunction with after school programs. More camps/workshops (with scholarship opportunities) like Brightlights and post-secondary science and arts opportunities. More support and funding for LPED & LADP

Better access to grocery stores downtown and in near south. More designated bike lanes. Any steps to encourage safe bicycling throughout town (off sidewalks, safe from cars). Rent control in the near south, to prevent forcing out current residents.

After school programming – sports (non league), enrichment, etc. is extremely important but there is a challenge in getting volunteer leadership. I live in an outlying community and it's a challenge to get and retain troop leaders, etc. they don't have time and are wary of being "out there" on their own. Have you looked at the number of people working 2 jobs or more? Anecdotally it seems like more people are doing 2nd jobs.

Create a campaign to help people quit smoking and overconsumption of alcohol which will save them money to use for more productive purposes. Community events outdoors during summer to attract families which will have fun mixed with educational and life skills building for both parents and children; for example: helping parents budget income and spending; & children – to expose them to careers that they may not have knowledge of to set future goals and interest.



Invest in education, specifically early childhood (0-8). Research & closing the achievement goal. Leverage university – invest in affordability for all higher ed. Invest in making sure children are fed w/ proper nutrition when out of school.

More drug prevention and policing. More affordable quality childcare options. Build more tennis courts that are real courts, not just cement. I grew up in a town of 30,000 that had more public courts than Lincoln. Post commitment days at Lancaster County Crisis is not a good statistic.

LPS Schools should require for graduation, education/participation in the arts, either visual or performing, each year until graduation, every student! It builds character, work habits, respect for the rigors of discipline, all of which are essential for people to be successful.

Don't let "government" get too involved – get too layered and bureaucratic. It also increases peoples' dependence and reliance and does not foster entrepreneurship.

Encourage food stamp program to be more like wic (fruits, vegetables, dairy, etc. only) program in the sense that junk food, soda and candy are not allowed to be purchased with the benefits so that it focuses more on nutrition than empty calories which set the children up for failure in many ways down the road.

Extend school year for low-income youth to assist w/ knowledge gap as well as reducing day-care expense burden for low income families. Make program voluntary, but ensure that it's well publicized and give parents advance notice of programs so they can plan and participate. Engage high school kids to help run programs on a volunteer basis at elementary & middle schools

B-PreK \$ > undergraduate tuition # of accreditation in B-PreK. How does underemployment play into these statistics? Housing costs – childcare costs. Waitlist. State subsidy accept. How to get more minorities here? My suggestions: *follow up on variables in underemployment

Student discounts for transportation/ taxi services. Pair with Husker Hire Link to reach out to graduating college students to make an interactive comparison chart/diagram with various facts including quality of life, children, education, jobs, etc.

Pot holes – curbs more handicap accessible

Extended hours into eve for buses. More 50+ housing

More low cost activities for young kids. When you beautify Lincoln with the light bulbs & rusty towers they look weird. I like green grass.

Fix potholes. Need more handicap sidewalks.

Need to have better traffic control when there is ball games in town. See a lot of out-of-towner going wrong on 1 way streets.



1. Expand role & programming of CLC's. 2. Roads – south Beltway is important to quality of life & econ. Devel. (also need more public transportation options). 3. Better engagement of faith communities to collaborate.

Develop a summer reading program targeted for low income elementary students to help with the problem of “summer learning loss.” Work with the Nebraska Dyslexia Association to recruit tutors and to help the Lincoln Public Schools deliver the program.

1. Lower dropout rate. 2. Lower property tax rate. 3. Better weather. Better marketing of Lincoln to present residents and possible residents.

It is my understanding that LPS is providing “Chrome Books” to all grades in the next year. However, low income students may not have the capability to use the chrome books provided. Attention needs to be given to low income families so they can have wireless access to use the computers the children bring home.

Develop summer reading programs in conjunction with Nebraska Dyslexic Association & LPS. In addition to reading incorporate physical activity to help w lowering obesity rate of children.

Ensure that all students in LPS have access to high-speed wireless to be able to use computers that will be deployed by LPS. This access to internet must be affordable or free, especially for families on free/reduced lunch.

Provide high-quality reading intervention programs through all comm. Learning centers. Especially for most vulnerable and for students who are in K thru 2nd grade. The non-profit Nebraska Dyslexia Association may be able to provide programs & training for LCLC staff.

Provide free reading intervention programs during summer @ LPS facilities to give students a “jump start” for the fall. Some elementary schools provide only 1 week of summer school for reading & math, and only for select number of students. The funding & staffing for this needs to be expanded.

The aging are outliving their resources as average age of death gets higher, healthcare costs get higher and housing costs that are affordable are insufficient &/or substandard. The business community needs to work collaborative with the non-profit housing & healthcare providers to ensure TOGETHER we find solutions that help the aging preserve their resources in a way that keeps them out of poverty, avoiding the need for Medicaid (gov't & taxpayer spend.) We also need to ensure we are not duplicating efforts in our community 0 there are not sufficient resources, private or otherwise so collaboration will be key. Who does what best, do more of that? Then, what gaps remain and what can best fill that gap.

LPS seems to address the possibilities related to higher education in and around Lincoln but perhaps SCC & UNL should be more visible in elementary schools and help to let children know from a young age that the opportunity to get a post-secondary degree is possible. Don't wait until it's too late.



We have a lot of old infrastructure in older neighborhoods that should be repaired/replaced - sidewalks, water mains, sewer pipes, etc. Older neighborhoods need to be revitalized and businesses encouraged to move in and owners encouraged to fix up their properties. Save the mural on the side of Pershing Aud.- turn the building into a combination city library and public transit hub. Then people could both literally and figuratively travel places by bus and books! Bike/walking trails and parks are important, and should be maintained/expanded as the city grows. Budget cuts can't be made that would harm these wonderful community resources. Our bus service needs revamped. Why route everything through downtown?? It takes forever to get anywhere, and is very inconvenient as the city grows. Why not some loops within town that don't take you back downtown? Not everyone wants to go there!! the mural on the side of Pershing - turn the building into a combination city library and public transit hub. Then people could both literally and figuratively travel places by bus and books!

This community should seriously consider a public or private/public partnership venture to construct a new natatorium with 50m and 25y capacity. Did you know that Lincoln is home to five active and successful USA Swimming swim clubs, involving more than 500 of Lincoln's youth? This does not include the many other wonderful non-club swim experiences offered in Lincoln that are becoming more and more populated. Indeed, in 2014, Lincoln was ranked No. 22 in the "Top 50 Swim Cities in America," only reinforcing the unparalleled popularity of this sport in a city this size. There is great pride in our young swimmers and the many great things these kids are accomplishing in and out of the pool. Swimming is a sport that fosters excellence in youth; not just in the pool but in school and in the community. Good citizenry and academic excellence go hand in hand with young competitive swimmers. The NCAA's academic measurement (called an "Academic Progress Rate Score," or APRS) quantifies this success among Division I institutions. The results of the APRS data show that swimmers are among the top performing students when it comes to academic eligibility, retention and graduation. The foundation for these great students and young adults begins in their hometown, with dedication and many, many hours in the facilities provided to them by their city. Pool time is at a premium and is no easy task to distribute. The only 50m pool in the area is Woods, which was built in the 1960's and is expensive to maintain given its many shortcomings due to its age. Indoor swim facilities experience the greatest stretch--the only water truly available is through LPS high schools. During high school swim season, the person in charge of the LPS pool reservation process is asked to work miracles to accommodate the high school students (not all of which have a facility pool), along with the hundreds of club swimmers training on a daily basis, as well as the YMCA swim clubs whose own facilities do not rent out lane space to such swimmers. A city this size with such demand and popularity in this sport is woefully behind in this opportunity. The increased popularity of the sport in general, the fact that Omaha is now host to the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials, and the great success of our own Lincoln youth are proof of this sport's growth and are testament to the need of the city to match this acceleration. In 2012, Lincoln had 1 Olympic trials qualifier and he trained in Omaha. This very day (6/24/15) we have 4 young swimmers in Lincoln who are now qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials that live and train here in Lincoln, and a couple "on deck" so-to-speak who are on pace to add themselves to that elite group. We have Olympic caliber athletes in Lincoln without the benefit of first-class facilities--imagine what is possible as the sport



continues to increase if the city can meet the demand. There are private/public ventures that serve as good examples in this area -- look at the Elkhorn "Common Ground" facility; a very successful partnership with that city that derives revenue for the City of Elkhorn. Fremont is also seeking to construct a natatorium to capitalize on the current opportunities, as is LaVista from what I understand. There is money to be made for the city with this venture; for example, just last weekend a local club hosted a swim meet with over 750 swimmers from neighboring states and beyond (Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri etc.), but which was likely limited given the facility capacity--lane rentals, meet hosting opportunities and serving the additional needs of our cities' hundreds of recreational swimmers easily bring a great return on this potential investment. There are many interested families in this city willing to work on this project. Reaching out to the club swimmers is a great start but the love of this sport goes way beyond that group alone. Thank you for considering this suggestion.

An indoor aquatics facility, for leisure and competition use, would benefit many children here in our city. Not only would it provide an opportunity for hosting major swim events, which would bring in needed revenue, but it would also provide excellent health benefits and necessary life skills to all children.

A closer look at the widening wage gap needs attention. There are many businesses in Lincoln, both large and small and for-profit and not-for-profit, where a few top executives are earning many times more than their lowest paid or even their median paid employee. I would challenge the owners/executives/Boards of Directors of ALL companies to conduct a serious self analysis to determine what their wage ratio is and decide if a better balance in compensation can be implemented. A great example can be seen in the Seattle company, Gravity, where the CEO took a 90% pay cut to give his employees raises. See <http://money.cnn.com/2015/04/14/news/companies/ceo-pay-cuts-pay-increases/>

Cub Scouting at Elliott brings children, parents and other caring adults (from Kiwanis) together for several hours a week to explore science (including the environment) and life skills like cooking, following directions (pinewood car derby) working (popcorn fundraiser) and financial literacy. Please support cub scouting in Lincoln.

We live in a beautiful city that has made tremendous strides in several exciting areas, establishing ourselves as a positive example of progress and forward thinking in many ways. I'd love to see us continue along that path by banning plastic bags. It's time. It makes sense. It's the right thing to do. And it's been done in other cities in the US before, and people (and businesses) get on just fine. If somehow banning plastic bags seems too progressive (I really don't think it's that big of a stretch, as it's not like there isn't alternatives like paper and reusables), perhaps we could at the very least, tax them (heavily) to raise revenue for other needed services. On a related side-note, how is there a way to more strongly encourage (incentivize?) local events to make recycling a standard practice? (Lincoln Marathon, various festivals, events, etc.)



We do not have an indoor public aquatics facility for both competition and leisure swimming. With the growth of the community, lack of indoor pool space and the commitment to physical fitness, an indoor community pool is way overdue.

We need an indoor aquatic facility that is 50 meters. We travel to Omaha and OKC several times a year along with hundreds of other swim families, and we always spend a generous amount of money at these events.

I believe that our community should support a new downtown library as well as funding to improve services, staffing, and collections at other library locations in our city's system. Lincoln City Libraries provides information, educational resources, programming, and many other tools that enable community members of all ages to learn, grow, and improve their lives. Storytimes, computer access and instruction, meeting rooms, literacy training, job search resources, outreach to schools and partnerships with other organizations are just some of the resources provided free of charge to ALL Lincoln residents. The libraries also provide arts and cultural opportunities and celebrate diversity in our community. With a modern downtown library and the ability to offer extended service hours and more staff to serve customers, Lincoln City Libraries could be the single best organization to empower people in our city - such as youth, new immigrants, and small businesses - to succeed. A strong library system has the potential to positively impact all three priorities identified by Prosper Lincoln: youth success, economic prosperity, and quality of life.

This could be a great opportunity to get public interest in an indoor aquatics facility. Please go to the below link and specifically say that we do not have an indoor public aquatics facility for both competition and leisure swimming. With the growth of the community, lack of indoor pool space and the commitment to physical fitness, an indoor community pool is way overdue. Swimming is a huge sport in Lincoln and with Omaha holding the trials it is an opportunity to show off our great city to many visiting swimmers. Currently a huge regional swim meet runs along side the trials in Lincoln at Woods pool, but woods is run down and weather is a problem. What a great opportunity to help further our cities growth and youth interest in having an indoor facility that would allow the growth of the sport for our youth!

We need a 50 meter indoor facility.

1. I think that the schools need to have smaller class sizes so that teachers can really connect with students and give them quality one on one time when needed. Anything over 20 is too many for a teacher and many elementary teachers are dealing with 25-28 kids. Kids who are strugglers or have any other needs do not get what they need in a class of that size. 2. I also feel like schools need to have a longer day with 3 built in recesses. Kids go to school and sit for most of the day and get a 15 min recess. That just isn't enough moving for a kid. Teachers complain that they don't have time to have recess because there is so much curriculum to cover. A longer day, would give kids the time for more breaks and time to get the curriculum in. 3. I feel like school should not be starting til after labor day and



finishing in June. It is so hot in August and kids could still be enjoying the pools and getting good exercise. Instead they get out in May now and it is too cold to go to a pool til the middle of June. 4. More affordable team sports opportunities for lower income families would be helpful too. Club sports are a great way for kids to get involved and it teaches them to work together and lose and win with respect, but many families can't afford the fees or don't have transportation to get them there. Catch the kids while they are young and then there won't be as many problems later when they are adults.

We lack a good indoor competitive and leisure pool. There is a large number of kids who swim at all different levels and we lack community/non member pool access.

Healthcare costs are a major drag on our economy and a huge burden to lower income families who make too much to qualify for Medicaid, but still can't afford health insurance. We need a Lincoln wide working group composed of the hospitals, the medical society, employers and government officials to create a plan to lower healthcare costs and find a way for all Lincolniters to afford health insurance.

Please keep the after school programs. They have a proven track record. Please spend money on education and encourage the legislature to do so. Class sizes need to be kept low so kids can learn. Teachers need the tech support and para support to succeed. Keep the parks in better shape. It's where kids play. Keep strong parks and recs programs and strengthen them. Thank you.

With regard to growth, we need an infrastructure, including roads, which promotes growth. We need greater waste capacity so areas of Lincoln aren't again flooded by sewage. Given our weather patterns, another rain event is likely. We want people to want to live here. Well kept streets, parks, and development of O Street helps that image. Please spend the money to see that these things happen rather than giving it back to us. We want Lincoln to spend the money to develop. Thank you.

We need a competition-size pool for meets and for leisure. Most towns of this size (and many smaller) have a 50-meter indoor pool. With the number of kids involved in swimming, which is a lot more than golf or tennis, for example, our swimming facilities are far short of where they need to be. Fitness and safety are key components to a successful community. Kids being fit, knowing how to swim, and also to have the ability to compete at a high level, are all things that we as a community need to consider. There is private funding out there for a swimming facility. We really need to take a look at this and pursue it.

Lincoln needs more swimming pools. We also need pools assessing year round to all. Swimming is a beneficial to adtdcsnd youth in the community. High schools must share pool space and club swimming teams must practice later at night during the school year after high schools are find with the pools. The YMCA will not rent pool time for groups and the YMCA swim team even uses the high school pools for practice. As an adult pool user, it challenging to do lap swimming at the YMCA as the water is too warm and there are minimal lanes available. Aquatic therapy is also great for kids with disabilities and our aging population that has joints and ligaments wearing out and cannot do impact sports any more. There are no aquatic classes at night due to lack of pool space. Woods Pool was built in the 60s and is in



desperate need of overhaul. It the only public pool that is competition legal size. The swim community is growing in Lincoln. With the Olympic trials coming to Nenraska, there will be a surge of more interested in swimming. Lincoln had 1 Trials qualifier in 2012 and he trained in Omaha. There are 4 swimmers who are now qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials that live and train here in Lincoln.

Please consider building an aquatic center that has a pool that can accommodate short course meets (25 yard pool) and long course meets (50 meter pool). If you look at UNO, their pool has a movable bulkhead that can meet both purposes in one pool. The pool can be rented out to swim teams for practice times during all months of the year. Pius still does not have a home pool so they would have a need for a long term rental until they can build their own facility. The pool could host swim meets year round and return revenue back to the city. The pool would pay for itself very quickly. In 2012, Lincoln had 1 Olympic Trials qualifier and he trained in Omaha. For 2016, there are 4 that all live and train in Lincoln! Lincoln swimmers are on the rise and the city needs to pay attention. The Olympic Trials in Omaha always gives the local clubs a bump in interest and membership. Space for club swimming in Lincoln is getting tight. It's time to do something about it.

My only suggestion involves a lifetime passion of mine-- competitive swimming. Lincoln can support and perpetuate a thriving indoor, Olympic-sized pool and aquatics center. My two boys both swim for a local club team. We have been frustrated with the lack of pool space in Lincoln and the difficulty distributing and sharing this limited space. The YMCA doesn't have adequate aquatics facilities yet they request to share in the limited LPS facilities. An 8 or 10-lane, 50 meter pool would provide ample opportunity for the hundreds of aspiring local swimming athletes including dozens of collegiate-level swimmers and now several Lincolniters who are Olympic-Trials qualifiers. Other opportunities the facility could offer in addition to club swimming include swim lessons for children and adults, physical and occupational therapy, Masters (over 18) training and meets, high school training and meets, and lifeguard/water safety training. If a diving well is incorporated into the plans, the potential uses of the pool nearly double. Lincoln could host regional and national meets year-round at this facility. 740 swimmers attended a meet at the outdoor (weather-dependent) and outdated (built 50 years ago) Woods Memorial Pool the weekend of June 19-21, 2015. With Lincoln's centralized location, the opportunities for hosting competitions are endless. Here is a short list of regional cities with exceptional (permanent) swimming facilities where hundreds of Lincoln families drive every year: Columbia, MO; Lee's Summit, MO; Iowa City, IA; Topeka, KS; Jenks, OK. An 8-lane Olympic-sized (50 meters) pool would serve to host any competition desired. It can be modified to host competitions for "short course" (25 yards) for high school and any other winter competitions and training, with 16+ lanes by utilizing bulkheads to split the pool into two 25-yard pools. The facility would need an additional adjacent pool in order to be considered for hosting larger meets. This second pool could double as the diving facility. Please consider incorporating a quality, indoor natatorium into the plans for our city. I would be more than happy to discuss details. Thanks for your time!



We don't have a decent pool south of A street. Star city is a absolute joke. Small towns around Lincoln have way better aquatic centers. Look at little Seward huge pool. 12 foot deep end that you can swim in 2 towers . Think about it Seward ? Crete, Wilbur and Beatrice. Better then our pools.

Invest in the Boy Scouts of America - Cornhusker Council. This will be an investment that our community can grow economically, and will be able to ensure strong successful young adults. I have been involved in Scouting for at least 20 yrs. As a parent of a youth that went through the Scouting program and as a Volunteer, who worked with our youth. The BSA Cornhusker Council does make a very positive influence on our youth. The Scouting program promotes physical, mental and healthy options for the youth of Nebraska. The program helps young people learn to make choices that will benefit our community for many years. INVEST in SCOUTING !!!! You will not regret your choice.

Provide youth with alternatives to a traditional education and classroom setting. The career academy is a great start, but it's too early to tell if it will have the desired impact. Invest in education and training opportunities for the parents of the youth. When parents are successful and able to meet the basic needs of their families the children will prosper. Lincoln is a wonderful community, but as a community we have to address issues of racial and gender inequality as well as overall poverty. They are complex issues with no simple answers. But again providing opporunities for individuals to be successful (this can include job training, education, mentoring, mental and physical health care....), is a needed start. When individuals can take care of their basic needs, other successes begin to happen. As a social worker my non-human services friends are often shocked when I tell them about the extreme poverty and lack of resources facing most of the families I work with. They simply are now aware of what some families deal with day in and day out. I think providing an inside look at the core concerns facing our city can open the eyes of those who are otherwise not exposed. Keeping in mind that the information needs to be delivered to them in a convenient format, such as a lunch and learn at their job or an online format.

I would recommend the construction of an indoor Olympic sized aquatics facility. The number of youth, families, and adults that could be served at such a facility is enormous. Between Learn-to-Swim, recreational swim, competitive youth programs, adult competitive programs, float-and-flick programming, scuba lessons, diving teams, and high school participation opportunities, such a facility could be programmed for virtually every hour of the day. In addition, hosting competitions (swim meets, water polo tournaments, diving meets, underwater hockey events) offers the possibility of bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars into the community on a given weekend. I have worked in aquatics for over a decade, and know the economic impact of these events in terms of restaurants, hotels, and other related entertainment options benefit enormously from these events.

We need an indoor aquatic center that has a 50 meter pool. If you look at the facility they have in Iowa City for public use, it puts Lincoln to shame. Iowa City is smaller than Lincoln. We need something that people do not need a membership in order to use! When I go to Iowa City in the winter, I can pay to use the facility as a visitor. It is wonderful.



An indoor swimming facility would be an excellent addition to Lincoln's amenities. Swimming is clearly becoming a more popular activity for youth and clearly supports a healthy lifestyle.

Get the Boy Scouts more involved in community projects. The ancillary youth groups are all well and good, but no other group does as much for youth and for the community in general as do the Scouts, plus - adding their name recognition gives a ring of 'authenticity' to any project in the minds of community leaders.

Get them involved in Scouting! It gets them outdoors and away from the living room - involved in 'doing' for others - teaches them about their responsibility to Nature, about 'community', about their place in a larger world and about obligation, responsibility and service in ways that nothing else does. When they join a Troop, over time, they become responsible young men who are better citizens for the effort. They're guided by dedicated, trained adult leaders who allow them to develop their own leadership skill sets, and no other group can boast of the success rate.

I have noticed that very few public bathrooms have sinks that accommodate children. Proper hand washing is the #1 way to prevent infection..... So shouldn't we be encouraging this habit in our children???? That is very difficult to do when kids can't even reach the water or soap. As a mother of 2 it is very challenging to hold my 3 year old and 1 year old so they can wash their hands. My vision is that every public restroom is required to provide a way for kids to properly wash their hands.

Tabitha recommends a high level of attention be paid to the growing degree of income inequality and downward social movement that has the potential to rapidly erode Lincoln's senior middle-class. This combined with the growing rate of health costs predicted between 2015-2023, dwindling number of caregivers and growing number of chronic health conditions in our aging population will create significant strain on Lincoln's capacity to maintain the social and healthcare standards that are enjoyed today. Innovative and effective senior housing and healthcare solutions are needed to keep our community strong and vibrant.

Indoor aquatic facility Continue the wonderful trail system

Youth sports : Lincoln does not have an indoor public aquatics facility for both competition and leisure swimming. With the growth of the community, lack of indoor pool space and the commitment to physical fitness, an indoor community pool is overdue. Similarly, Lincoln does not offer quality or quantity of baseball/softball fields as neighboring cities such as Omaha, Council Bluffs and Des Moines areas.

We do not have a public indoor aquatic swimming center in Lincoln. This would promote youth sports and a safe place for kids to go. This idea is based on sporting village that has been built based on soccer and football for youth sports. This facility could use additional funding to make it successful in the future for the community also.



I believe that if we paid employees a living wage for Lincoln at the minimum, many of the issues troubling our community -- including those identified above -- might solve themselves. I think the current living wage for Lincoln has been calculated somewhere in the neighborhood of \$13.50/hr. I'm also afraid through these discussions that with the focus on youth and young professionals that we're missing a large segment of Lincoln's population that are no longer under 18 and those that are not and cannot be in professional careers. I think UNDERemployment in Lincoln is rampant as is evidenced by the number of people working two or more jobs just to get by. I think less attention should be paid by media and others on the low unemployment figures in Lincoln -- it's very misleading. I also think Lincoln does a good job of hiding its social problems. In Omaha, it's very clear that when one crosses into some sections of North Omaha that's it is very different -- it's obviously poor and disadvantaged. In Lincoln, it's really not that obvious and I think that leads to misconceptions about the economic health of our citizens. As an IT professional that is looking a different job, I'm troubled by the lack of IT opportunities in Lincoln, especially opportunities that pay at a similar level to those in Omaha. Even if I deduct commuting costs from the Omaha salaries, what's left is still much higher than in Omaha. I don't want to commute and buy my gas and lunches (and other purchases) in Omaha -- I'd rather do it in Lincoln -- but Lincoln employers (and especially the State of Nebraska) need to be more competitive. Kind of a rambling missive, I know, but it's what I think. Thank you for your attention.

I think many issues with our youth, economy, etc., might take care of themselves if Lincoln employees earned at a minimum a living wage... which is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$13.50/hour, with access to affordable health care and child care, and housing. I believe in addressing problems for our youth and providing opportunities that keep professionals in this community. But I'm afraid we're missing a large segment of Lincoln's population that is not under 18 and those that are not and cannot be in professional careers. I think Lincoln has a much larger homeless and near-homeless population than we realize and certainly much larger than what's visible. I've often thought that if all agencies that provide services to this population shut down for one day, and the homeless had no where to go during that time, that most Lincolniters and public officials would be shocked. I think that lack of public transportation after 7pm is an issue -- it hinders low income people and others from possible employment options because they can't get there or can't get home. It also precludes many people from taking advantage of health care opportunities at Clinic with a Heart (which does not really provide services with bus schedules in mind). UNDERemployment in Lincoln is chronic in my opinion, as evidenced by the number of people working two or more jobs just to get by, and by the number of two or more income families. Too much attention is paid by media and others to the low unemployment figures in Lincoln -- it's very misleading. I also think Lincoln does a good job of hiding its social problems. In Omaha, it's very clear that when one crosses into some sections of North Omaha that the landscape is very different -- it's obviously poor and disadvantaged. In Lincoln, it's much harder to see those areas and I think that leads to misconceptions about the economic health of our citizens. I also think there are a lot of Catch 22s for our economically challenged. For homeless or others to apply for public assistance, they need an ID. For homeless folks in particular, they've often lost their ID. In some cases, you need an ID to get an ID, OR you need money to pay the fee to get a duplicate piece of ID -- they don't have that



money. Just all kinds of those issues that most of us don't even think about. And going back somewhat to my opening paragraph, I think if we could somehow make things easier for our lower and middle income families -- affordable health care and child care, better wages, access to better public transportation, etc., that issues for our community's youth, economic prosperity and quality of life would certainly decrease. I also want to be sure that we don't forget singles that are often put at the bottom of lists for assistance if on a list at all -- there needs are just as important and issues just as difficult to overcome than those in a family situation.

As for youth success I think it is important to give kids of all ages access to experiences in varying areas of the community's workforce. This will provide them with glimpses into potential career opportunities they may want to pursue in the future. Lincoln has a wealth of diversity and exposing youth to all the possibilities gives them a wider world view as they approach graduation and make decisions for their careers. If Lincoln could initiate a program that partners churches, banks, doctors' offices, hospitals, law firms, farmers, insurance companies, as well as other small and large businesses with youth, this would grant them access to explore different fields long before they have to choose what they want to do as well as broaden the possibilities for youth who have not felt they had any options.

A long term strategic plan for children's health

I would like to suggest a community supported indoor public aquatics facility for both competition and leisure swimming. The creation of an indoor aquatics facility would allow children access to a 50 meter pool, which is not available in Lincoln at the present time. The facility would also spark economic growth. Lincoln would have the capability to host local, state and national swimming competitions. With the growth of the community and Lincoln's commitment to physical fitness, this would be a business to promote health year round as well as provide for economic growth

I think Lincoln needs to be a destination city. If we could expand the downtown area with commerce, there would be a draw for travelers. This would provide additional job opportunities for youth and adults both. I'm thinking about places like Kansas City or even a small town like Santa Fe. There are numerous breweries, wineries, art galleries, and shopping arcades. Let's figure out a way to make the entire area pedestrian friendly and in such a way that would appeal to vacationers.

Indoor public pool.

we do not have an indoor public aquatics facility for both competition and leisure swimming. With the growth of the community, lack of indoor pool space and the commitment to physical fitness, an indoor community pool is way overdue.

Please finish the Centennial Mall project ASAP. I recently graduated from UNL, and it has been an eyesore for the university, downtown, and entire community for the whole time I have been here in Lincoln.



Lincoln does not have an indoor public aquatics facility for both competition and leisure swimming. With the growth of the community, lack of indoor pool space and the commitment to physical fitness, an indoor community pool would be an excellent addition to the Lincoln community.

Build a competition pool to take your talented swimmers to the next level!

Stridently promote Boy and Girl scouting programs; encourage incorporation of such programs into after school programs across the Lincoln area. These programs are organized to provide the norms and activities which promote individual competencies and highest society values.

From what I read about School age children without access to some of the basic needs, it seems that family financial issues are a large part of it. Raising the minimum wage to a reasonable level would help them provide for their own children. We are all paying for it now anyway through higher taxes for medicare and food programs. The corporate culture of layoffs, outsourcing, and centralizing has and continues to destroy our large base of middle wage earners. This class of workers are generally low crime, family centered people that drive the local economy. You can't just say to be entrepreneurial as very few people can actually afford to start a business and succeed. Lincoln treats neighborhood swimming pools like the plague. So many kids and families go to the pool yes Ballard for instance cant afford to replace a plastic alligator that has been broken for 2 years now. They close at 6 so working people can't get there before closing. Sports like soccer, baseball, football however seem to have unlimited support from the city. The City also completely ignore the music world and continues to push it further away from the people. July Jamm - gone, Celebrate Lincoln (with bands not from Lincoln of course) - moved to the haymarket where it is impossible to get to over lunch . Ribfest, same thing. It is a horrible place to have an event where the only scenery is concrete. Local bands and music survive only from the individual effort of the musicians and local clubs which btw makes it hard for youth bands to perform anywhere that is family friendly.

Let's make sure we get a grocery store down town.

Faster, city-wide WiFi

There needs to be more emphasis placed on prevention programs and changing the societal view of asking for help from a negative to a positive. It's a positive thing to reach out for help and actually shows strength. Those programs operate on extremely small amounts of funding, which limits their ability to help families in every capacity. If we placed our priority in helping families with young children in a prevention manner, we are economically helping our community by helping nurture happier, healthier children who will turn into more successful adults. This also leads into quality of life; if we can help eliminate some risk factors of abuse and neglect by supporting families, we are helping children learn safety and stability and live happier lives. If we focus on educating the public on the ACEs study and cultivating the Protective Factors, I feel we would be changing out community in a positive way.



More downtown housing. Condos in downtown Lincoln are incredibly expensive per square foot compare to other Midwest cities (Omaha, KC, Des Moines, even St. Louis). This indicates demand is there.

Proposal: Make sure single-parent households have access to quality information and services that might be available to them in order to better support their kids for success in school and life.

Background: Recently, I was working as a long term substitute in a LPS middle school, and overheard a teacher tell a colleague something to the effect that a good part of the reason teachers today struggle with so many students in the classroom (many students with less than stellar behaviors) was because they came from single-parent households. As a single-parent, I was offended at first! (I was widowed when my boys were young and whom are now successful young men). But, I wondered, are we (mostly women as single-parents) still being blamed for behaviorally maladjusted kids and societal ills? And statistically, is there some truth to that perception of this teacher (whom I admire and has more experience than I in the public school system)? Understanding first-hand the socioeconomic and EMOTIONAL difficulties of being a single parent, I wondered, are there enough supports for single parents with school-age kids in Lincoln that are accessible to those parents who might be in need? I know there are some community services, and teachers and school counselors play a big role in helping make sure students can get the help they may need to succeed, despite the parents. Still, it's a huge job, and would Lincoln benefit from having some kind of single-parent, one-on-one mentoring or small group discussion/counseling program? I had more financial, educational and social resources than most single parents, and I still struggled and wish there had been some contacts with people in the know about how to navigate parenthood better under such circumstances.

I think focusing on youth impacts so very much within our economy and community! Problems that root in early childhood, impact our community for generations, and are very expensive. We, as a community, can spend a lot of time putting high-priced bandaids on issues, which may have been prevented (or lessened) by intervening early. Do we spend more taxpayer dollars trying to fix problems, or go after the cause through prevention? Thanks for this opportunity!!

As I review the findings of the initial study and then the three priority areas, one demographic group that will be significantly affected by Economic Prosperity and Quality of Life are our senior citizens. As the Baby Boomer generation ages, our community will need to include this age group in their planning and preparation for the future. Statistics show that as individuals age, their incomes decline and many live near poverty as health declines and cost for care increase. We also recognize that because of living longer, the issue of quality housing and extended care become more prevalent. These issues relate to Quality of life - just because we live longer does not mean it will be a quality longer life. I believe strongly that the needs of our elders must be part of our planning for the future.

We are a first rate city with many awards for our areas of excellence. I think it is time to mandate recycling as part of our waste management system, and include any additional cost as part of our regular billing for garbage pick-up.



Encourage students in High School to educate themselves on the trades not just assume they have to go to college. While an education is an excellent avenue for some many waste tens of thousands of dollars chasing what is expected of them not what they want to do. There needs to be a legitimate frame work put in place to encourage students to pursue working with their hands.

Additional programs that provide summer employment for youth at risk. Some programs are available through the City, however the numbers of youth that are reached and have services are minimal. Need additional funding and staffing for these programs. Young people need to learn about how to become employable and how education increases their opportunities through a life time. The programs that are available are disconnected. Non-profits may have some of these programs, however a lack of city-wide coordination does not lead to maximized resources and effort in this area.

Expand the Leadership Lincoln idea into the younger age ranges. Establish more volunteer opportunities for younger-aged children. Start having more outdoor musical/plays at Pioneer Park like Omaha's Shakespeare on the Green.

I would love to see Lincoln adopt some kind of program like the Kalamazoo tuition program. Thousands in our community could gain the knowledge they need for successful careers and not be burdened by student loans in the prime of their lives. To use myself as an example, if I didn't have to pay close to \$400 a month towards my student loans, my husband and I could afford to save up for a professional to paint our house and we could have sent his daughter to Bright Lights classes instead of saving money by having her stay home alone. We are certainly not the worst financial managers and yet the burden is great. There must be thousands who feel the weight heavier than we do. I know there are many who don't like to share in the cost of a program, but an education for someone else's kid means a better doctor or mechanic or other professional to help me in the future. And it would mean thousands could afford to use that professional. Tuition assistance for higher education would even the playing field for so many, which would in turn enrich the community.

Keep great places for them to play, great. Too many parks in our town are not mowed and trash is not picked up often enough. Find a way for neighbors to use equipment owned by the city to mow and figure out a way to ask the kids for help on the clean up. Get them outside, too many spend too much time inside on video games and with there phones.

The key to a strong and vibrant community all begins with education. We need to help our young people learn what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in our community. I believe focusing on the 40 developmental assets are what we need to do. The key however is to have parents teach their kids these things. Studies show the best way to learn something is to teach it. However when parents do not spend enough time/attention on their children, it is difficult to teach them. We need parents to not just be friends and have relationships with their children, we need them to have a PARENT relationship with them and communicate boundaries. The idea I have is to have a short 2 week course in the summer time (call it "Family school") where parents attend for a few hours (2-3 hours; 9-12 or 1-4pm) with their



children (of course have an incentive for low/middle income families to attend). In the course parents learn/teach at times with the children present in small groups but have some times where they are separated and parents/children are taught to their age appropriate level regarding a number of topics. Topics could be listening to others, coping with stress, budgeting, giving praise to family members, accepting criticism, etc or could be based upon the 40 developmental assets. Local teachers could be hired at an affordable rate to run the classes. They know the families, what skills students (& parents) need and could keep the classes/activities fun. Parents could earn credit (educational or otherwise) that allows the course to be put on resumes and/or give them advantage professionally, or give them discounts at certain businesses. The following summer could be a combination of level 1 and level 2 courses with further learning. Depending on funding & legality perhaps a goal setting portion with incentives for HHS to do a random home visits once throughout the school year.

I lived in Lincoln in the '90s and now am back working in Lincoln. The city has always struggled with roads, from keeping potholes filled to snow removal. Better road maintenance would be beneficial to the city. I know individuals (that drive very nice cars) whose reactions to a city are greatly influenced by this aspect.

Set up a Housing First program in Lincoln. See articles:

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/02/housing-first-solution-to-homelessness-utah>

<http://www.nationofchange.org/utah-ending-homelessness-giving-people-homes-1390056183>

Lincoln is a great city and I think could become better known if there was a way to sometimes team-up with Omaha in hosting an event or providing a service. Omaha is much more known on the national stage and with the cities being so close, Lincoln could benefit from being more closely tied to Omaha.

Improve the look and feel of O Street through the city. This is in many ways the main street of Lincoln, and from east of downtown to about 48th it is not attractive.

Kids throw away fresh fruit from the school cafeteria. If there were separate receptacles for kids to put the uneaten fruit into before tossing tray, the fruit could be donated to the mission and or food pantry. Highly successful program.

Focus on programs and initiatives designed to foster new high growth startups, entrepreneurial activity, and innovation including: - Lean startup training for startups and corporations - Coworking facilities - Build interactions between corporate community and startup community - network resources and links to other entrepreneurial communities - mentor training - Foster educational and meetup programs like NMotion, 1 Million Cups, Open Coffee - Actively target and attract new 2-4 person startups to relocate to Lincoln - actively target entrepreneurial and creative talent to return to Nebraska (similar to a football team recruiting) - Target economic development resources at high growth startups - Foster greater density of startups and creative community initiatives - Look to identify and grow angel and venture capital sources



"Follow your dreams" is too vague and quite frankly poor advice for high schoolers preparing for college. With the rising cost of tuition, and various other hits the middle class has taken, students need to be more economically minded. Most importantly, they need to be informed about which jobs and skills the job market currently demands, as well as which careers are exhibiting the strongest growth. To solve this problem, personnel from Cabela's could give brief presentations about such matters at various high schools to those students considering higher education. These presentations could be supplemented with advice on what to expect I received no such advice in high school. At no point did any educator provide me with information about which majors are most promising career wise. My parents and educators told me to follow my dreams and to do something that fits my personality. This led me to changing my major multiple times, taking out loans for classes that I ultimately didn't need, which, now that I'm paying back said loans, are costing me dearly. Finally, I got realistic and started to make wise, economically-minded decisions about my choice of studies, and I'm already reaping the benefits I otherwise would not be able to.

Lincoln needs more green space. It may be too expensive to go back and add it to existing areas. However, for the future, I think all new developments should be required to have a larger amount of area devoted to "green space". The bike trails in Lincoln are good. I also think this should be a requirement for all new developments that they include bike and walking trails. New developments should have a mix of retail and housing. The retail should have a new and improved look. All retail should have green space and trees around it instead of just pavement. Large billboards detract from the way a city looks. Consideration should be given to reducing the number of billboards.

Foster/Create a city wide mentoring program between high school and grade schools. Similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Teammates but have students mentor students. A career development mentoring program between young professionals and high school seniors. More education available to families and individuals in the community on basic life lessons. For example budgeting and managing money, interviewing skills, and basic computer skills. These are several life skills that I believe us in the business field take for granted. More internship programs throughout companies in the city. Internships for young adults are difficult to come by any more. It is a great way to get your foot in the door. Better public transportation across the city of Lincoln. If you were visiting our town you would HAVE to rent a car to get through our city easily. I think a trolley system between major downtown attractions would be amazing. Connecting downtown, to the hay market, to the rail yard, to the Arena, to the Stadium. More family splash parks across Lincoln.

When I was a young person growing up in Lincoln the YMCA had a program called Youth Employment Service. This service provided us with babysitting opportunities, house cleaning services, all types of little job and ways to earn money. It taught me responsibility and gave me some extra money. They tried to keep the job opportunities in the area where you lived. During my senior year in high school I worked part time at a local office where I sorted the mail did some filing and some typing. It was great experience for a young person, it gave me office experience and a look into what working in an office was like. This was done through my counselor at school. I honestly don't know if counselors still help



kids with these this opportunities while in high school. It seems like now there is much more focus on getting kids ready for college. But college is not for everyone and something this simple can be all it takes to build some self esteem and give a young person some direction in life.

I sat at a Salt Dogs game one evening recently, and was struck by the enhanced skyline view after all of the development in that area. The arena, the walkways, it was all very nice. Then I walked several of those walkways to test them out, very nice. I do spend quite a bit of time in Lincoln running on the various trails and paths, and several of the paths are newer, nicer, well maintained. some paths are not so well maintained and are showing their age. And, some areas do not have paths that are readily accessible to those neighborhoods without driving to the nearest path to get on. Promoting the healthy, active lifestyle is very important to our overall community and provides a nice attraction to individuals and families considering moving into the area. This is also beneficial for our youth to ensure they have healthy habits, lifestyles, and readily accessible facilities to promote these for both the youth and their parents and adults in their lives. I am all for continued development of the trail system, sound maintenance, and exploring additional trails where there may not be such trails available today.

Improved and consistent before and after school care available for all students attending LPS.

I think we should adopt certain neighborhoods within the community that need assistance with education, nutrition and quality of life. Let this be a platform to instill values that youth in the community may not currently have.

We have a great school system. I feel that programs like the LPS Career Academy will be a great thing for our city. We should keep "doing what we're doing" in regard to education. Attracting and retaining the best teachers should be the #1 priority. Our young people will continue to leave our city/state until our property taxes and state income taxes are reduced. This should be a top priority of our government. Saving \$100/year on our property taxes (per the governor's latest idea) is not going to make a difference.

I think Lincoln could use public bikes. I've used them in Chicago and Omaha and they are a great way to get around the downtown areas and see the city. Sometimes you just want to go for a bike ride and for some people they can't afford to have there own or they are only here for a couple of days.

Improve the accessibility to interstate 80 by adding a south and east by-pass. The city sprawl is beginning to get so spread out that if we wait much longer it won't be a viable alternative. This is the number 1 drawback to Lincoln I've heard from visitors to long time residents. It's been a discussion item for easily over a decade and the last I heard, it wasn't even a possibility for another 10 years down the road. Really?

Make it a bike friendly city! I work with a lot of customers that bike all around Lincoln and I hear the same things from all of them, you have no protection from drivers and are always at risk. Even the "bike" lanes downtown don't feel safe riding on them. I know a lot of people have tried to get some of



the laws changed such as the one that makes bikers walk their bike through every cross walk. If you have tried to do this it is tiring and frustrating to do! I travel quiet a bit and I have noticed some of the larger cities out there that are bike friendly and it is a night and day difference! We have great bike trails all around Lincoln and that is great, but I still think we should do more! :)

We could work more closely with youth groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H and Campfire, etc. making it easier to recruit youth and schedule activities and meetings. Make resources more available to them. Make more use of the Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center at 44th and Superior in the overall Lincoln Parks and Recreation programs.

Our bike trails in Lincoln are amazing. Riding downtown is scary. The new N street pilot program is a step in the right direction, but I'd like to see it implemented through a few north/south streets in downtown also. The bike lanes down the middle of the street are ridiculously scary.

Build strong families – parenting, wage earners (wages are too low in Lincoln), functioning families (communicate, goals, education), public transportation to go to work at 7 am or stay to 7 or 11 pm.

Develop cradle to college set of measures – combo of access or uptake of to key services & child outcomes (e.g. % of children ages 1-2-3-4-5 eligible for free & reduced lunch receiving quality early childhood education services) & other of kind.

Have hands on education programs like rails, roads, racecars

Support us have someone to look for in our community

You need to have a positive attitude on everything

Grow more trees and recycle

Provide more programs for youth so that one day they'll be able to enter the workforce

Support libraries and community/recreation centers with attention and funding

Go outside in the next 2 weeks

Have more youth groups like the Joble Noble

To help the community we can make sure kids in high school stay there by that we should help kids that do drugs

More kids should finish high school instead of dropping out

Provide affordable before and after school childcare.

Need more places like LightHouse for youth



Need more offerings for LPS Focus School students outside normal school hours

Support families experiencing crisis, particularly suicidal youth

Inpatient facility for suicidal youth

Long term mental health care facility for suicidal adolescents

Improve mental health care for our youth

Avoid budget cuts in human services

Improve numeracy in Lincoln

Offer math intervention programs in our elementary schools

Support programs like Girls on the Run

Special academies for low income kids

Great emphasis on STEM subjects

School should have tech/industrial partnership with business

Better wages for lower income people

Livable minimum wage is important

Increase workforce development efforts

More ways for workers (both currently employed and those not) to get additional job skills

Improve educational opportunities for lower income individuals

Encourage employers to increase benefits for lower wage jobs

Offer more specialized educational training beyond high school

Greater emphasis on community fitness

Libraries are important to our community

Find ways to provide families in crisis a boost so they can remain intact

Don't reinvent the wheel, find out what has worked in other communities



1. Endorse a community standard for early childhood “care” and education. 2. Get public/foundation and city – subsidy for families in poverty so that every child not just 1/3 in poverty can attend. 3. Parent support system for single parents in need/ training/support

Low wages dictate poverty level. 1. Go to a higher minimum wage for Lincoln (A LA San Francisco) – need city / county and community support. 2. Get “economic energize fund” support Chamber of Commerce or State Economic Development in bringing new or expanded business and jobs to Lincoln

Neighborhoods in poverty. 1. Need a model plan to take to all 10 neighborhoods – i.e. safety of downtown. 2. Get city “resolution” and

If this is not already being done- leverage the CLC’s to create an out of school time programs (school year & summer) to strengthen the OST efforts in Lincoln. This should include public and private OST programs throughout Lincoln.

Perhaps based on the LCOC Angelou analyses – develop a talent initiative for the key and growth industry sectors in the Lincoln area. The initiative could be leverage with the Career Academy. (may want to look at the Tech Talent Initiative in Omaha) no need to reinvent the idea.

Create an out of school time (OST) middle school program to specifically develop the essential skills needed in all careers – and to also create a structure of career exploration engaging Lincoln businesses with this age group of students.

Establish a local initiative to develop a robust and rigorous program development for child care providers to develop best practice learning for pre-school children.

Create a wheel tax that is proportionate. This is one tax/ fee that is regressive.

Increase CLC’s & funding – make afterschool programs in every school in Lincoln. *Every after school program needs to have the same guidelines. Example – educational component, health component, community engagement.

I think there needs to be an assessment of SVCs in Linc & Lancaster Co that are available to children/teens/single parents etc. so we know the dollars that are now available. Then we can determine where the holes are that need to be filled.

Establish uniform policy in pre-school & early elementary public schools.

Facilitate form groups of early child care providers to get ideas ref. the need & solutions

Investing in public libraries is important for education of our population, especially lower income segments, and low income youth. In the electronic age it’s especially important that these people in the community have access to computers, which is provided by public libraries. We are currently far behind other cities in providing a 21st century library to provide access to electronic data, worker spaces, places



to congregate and obtain community services, as well as the traditional access to education that public libraries have always provided.

1. CLC's available for all youth. 2. Jobs are available and workers are trained for modern workforce. 3. Need to address issues of homeless and pan handlers of Lincoln's streets

Businesses need to have child-care plans for employees. FMLA should be paid, not unpaid. Education through the arts. Arts Council is doing great projects in the area that could be expanded. 4-H. Everyone loves a project. Give kids a project to work on. This could also engage their parent(s). makes people take ownership of their city or parts of it. Co-living – multigenerational – experiments. Shared kitchens, etc. Groups who did this would need to be type-compatible and pre-matched to be able to work together.

1,000 hours of lap time for children ages 2-5 – 250 hours a year provided by a large volunteer effort to spend one hour a day – matched up through schools/after school centers/ churches, etc. Need to look at poverty among elders and future as baby boomers retire and many more into poverty.

-Mentoring- I would encourage developing mentor programs for all ages – grade school, high school, with single parents, grandparents, and all races, and backgrounds.

Adopt the teammates model for pre-school children: i.e. each Wed. night, at local churches, for 2 hours, retired adults provide one on one attention.

I think libraries are important for everyone in a community, there is beginning to be discussions about a new downtown library. I'm concerned that won't go well because if people like me have a concern about the upkeep of some of our branch libraries they might not support a new one. Examples: South branch has bricks knocked off on the north and south of the east low wall. Anderson has bricks off – the NE pillar.

Continue fixing and replacing pothole streets at a fast pace. Good streets are a plus for our city and the opposite is not. Push through a toll road facility to finance the South Bypass or the talk will continue as is the case since 1962 when it was first suggested. We have to get the 18 wheelers out of our fine city!

We must become a nation of humanity. We are no longer black, white or any other color, with all the intermarriages of all colors, we have lost the distinction of being black or white, etc. once we all learn to accept this, it is hoped that blame will no longer be against any particular segment of our society. With this change in thinking, it is hoped that jobs will become available to "all" without thought of ethnicity or color. And, along with this change in thinking, we must stress that each of us is accountable for our actions – if they are wrong choices made, there are repercussions to be had!

Fix the school year so kids are in school Sept-June instead of Aug-May. It's crazy when pools have to shut down the second week of August because the lifeguards all have to go back to school, and especially crazy when the first weeks (May/June) of "summer" vacation are too cold to go swimming. It's sad that



the first calendar day of summer comes half way through the school break. Start Labor Day, 1st sem. Finals the 3rd wk. of Jan., End school mid June.

Increase support for the arts in Lincoln. It's almost there already – it just needs a good push. This city is too spread out. If you want successful youth to stay in Lincoln after they graduate, you need to make this city more appealing to them. A lot of them don't necessarily have access to cars, so either this, or improving public transit would be a good call.

Quality, affordable healthcare for all. Quality, affordable childcare for all. Quality, affordable public trans. For all.

To have more youth programs like this (El Centro de las Americas)

Continue to do & create community events that create Education, value, culture studies, & community building. Create all age activities more block parties & multicultural festivals

For the youth grow I think we really need to focus on mental health issues. Focusing on Latinos y Hispanics making sure their school environment is open to them. (Maybe having counselors that speak their language or their parents language). As the economy overall we can keep growing as we are. Having more attractions to college students give us a great way to grow since every year we have so many of them in town.

We should have more programs like the America's to help kids do something positive.

Youth group programs with success principles as themes

Really helpful advice and maybe for free time and better activities

Put more money towards schools and educating the youth

Our community needs to get more involved and support local non-profit agencies with youth programs. It can be monetary, volunteer hours or even show support towards the agency

Early childhood develop & education. Lower soci-econ kids s-l-o-w learning for all to CATCH UP. English!

More skate zones and a Dave and Busters in Lincoln. And also build a cheese cake factory.

Add better security cams & anti-theft protection. Add more robot companys for instance IROBOT. (not the movie) so people can sit around while robots do the work. Make electric cars more popular. Stop using gas powered cars/ trucks to help stop pollution. People have to prove that they will not misuse guns – BB guns & air-soft guns not included.



More concerts, 3 more banks, more amusement parks, carnivals, police, video game stores, more schools, community centers, shelters, ad up to n centers, museums, bigger zoos, more malls, more swimming pools, more fast food, new rest runts, more open feilds in some areas.

Get the bad guys. For cops instead of guns laser swords. Bigger legos. More cops. =) =(

More amusement parks biger legos

More skate parks more house more farmers more NBH plaryler

More sheeols more library more cops, free wifi more pools no more homes more chrchis

We need more public pools, because right now are pools are crouded here in Lincoln. For example UNI and Ballard are crouded all the time. So if we have more pools, it wouldn't be so crouded, because their would be some people at each pool.

More ymca's becaus a lot of people like to work out. More schools becuas the community is just going to get bigger. Free wifi all thought linocln and it needs to be high speed. Less pullting, less oil, less gas, more police. More police station less odoptions

High speedd energy less electronics more houses more schools!!!! More homework!!! More librarys!!!! More pools!!!!!! More amusement parks!!!

1. Need more kids fun areas. 2. Have all year theme park. 3. Have a colonary school or more. 4. Have more neighborhood gardens. 5. Make Lincoln zoo like Omaha zoo. 6. Make houses chaper. 7. Make Ips schools bigger. 8. Have more homeless shelters & soup kitchen. 9. Make parks bigger and have more equitment (havealock park) 10. Have free internet all over town.11. have free fruit trees all over Lincoln.

More schools. More librarys. Beter high speed inernet. More wifi. Less factorys that polut water and the sky.

Our community needs more schools that can help people with special needs. I thank we need more hospitals. Thanks.

We should grow plants (foods) in school playgrounds so we can have organic food and school lunch is bad!

1. The foundation to have a successful youth is to have a good home. So make sure the kids have good home.

Continued attention to food scarcity and children in poverty. Less attention to Haymarket/Pinnacle development. Support for community arts. Thank you.



1/3 of Lincoln's children are obese? Our hospitals need to have programs to correct this. Not just keeping track of the number, but programs.

All of these in "red" are great issues to address. But I think you can add a couple more. Our seniors in the community and our veterans and our disabled. For sure, we need to have our youth be successful, that would be to have good jobs available for them. Youth programs relate as an intergenerational program. A lot can be learned from our seniors, veterans and the disabled. All have challenges. Connect them! Will grow the youth's mind and spirit, which makes positive outcomes.

Teammates and City Impact/Reading Impact Programs are great, but need to grow with volunteers!! Parents or single parent families are too thin where non-typical or non-traditional students need additional help or resources to be successfully later in life. LPS and SCC could be a great partnership, but will really need help to get those kids there and be proud of that choice. We need to help our youth found their passion/their strength to be successful in life....to be productive citizens. We need skilled laborers and technical people as well as educated/academic people. The Haymarket/Arena area is exciting and wonderful.....transportation is key with our need to go east, west, north and south in the city. A car is now a necessity along with a cell phone and/or computer. Omaha has the Henry Dooley Zoo with national recognition and the College World series.....Lincoln needs a year round attraction.....maybe build up the car museum(s) from Speedway Motors or other private collections and attract to people to O Street/Airpark along with the UNL Engineering College or an aviation event with Duncan Aviation or rail cars with Kawasaki.....even Lincoln Industries has an association with transportation from big rig steel plating....electric cars with Tesla as we have parking spots in the garages now.

Invest in Bike/Hike Trails for . As the city grows in all directions the string of public walking and biking trails becomes even more important. The trail system we have now has been improved dramatically the last 5 years. Now a person can ride their bike from Southpointe Mall to Memorial Stadium Union Plaza or even Haymarket Park. We must continue to invest in strategic land purchases or require developers to include key trail connectors. Connecting our current system to new neighborhoods (West A, The Woodlands, Fallbrook, Waterford, etc.) will allow the City to claim one of the most comprehensive trail systems in the country. These trails help to encourage active behavior for citizens of all ages, and provide transportation methods to connect these new neighborhoods to existing parks, libraries, schools, business districts, etc.

Lincoln needs to have more baseball complexes. Our complexes now are inadequate and some do not have any lights for evening games. Many cities around such as Omaha, Seward and Grand Island have nicely landscaped, well maintained baseball complexes, with great concessions, lighting and seating. More tournaments could be held in Lincoln that would attract teams from all over the region if Lincoln would build new baseball complexes. This would generate income for the entire city of Lincoln.



We need to do a better job of educating our youth in handling finances. We need to help them understand how checking accounts work. How important it is to create and live on a budget, how it is important to balance your checking account each month and most importantly save for the future. When I was a early teen, we were still able to have a paper route. This created a sense of responsibility and caused me at an early age, to learn how to pay bills (monthly paper cost), how to collect from my customers and most importantly balance the account to see what kind of profit I made each month, moving a portion of those profits to a savings account...for a rainy day. My parents were integral in establishing this early on but when I got to high school, it was strengthened in some of the business related courses I took. I don't remember high school being as competitive academically as is it today, so we were able to take elective type courses that would teach us everyday skills that would make us better in the future. In today's online banking society, people just assume the bank's are always right. If my balance says \$200 when I log in, I must be able to spend \$200 today, instead of realizing that I may have written a check for \$100 to pay for something or that I have an automatic payment coming out tomorrow for \$150.

We need more jobs. With unemployment so low, it is hard to attract talent to the workplace. It is hard to attract candidates from outside the city because they don't see career opportunities here. We need to continue to invest in education. LPS is an outstanding district and the community needs to continue to support it. The community needs to come together to address the poverty issues in the city. We have large percentages of people living in poverty and kids on free & reduced lunch.

Youth Success From my time volunteering in the community, my eyes have really been opened to the ultra-importance of children learning to read at an early age. I can't believe the difference it makes in a child's academic performance as well as self-esteem and confidence. By contrast, those who struggle to read fall behind and become withdrawn. We have a great school system in Lincoln, and I'd love to see that furthered with leading-edge reading programs for K-5 that can be tailored to improving those who struggle as well as challenging those who excel. I don't know exactly what those programs are, but I'd love to see my tax dollars fueling such programs. We'll see the benefits in the form of higher graduation rates, improved workforce, and greater contributions to our community.

I think more attention needs to be placed on the needs of Lincoln's elders. While current resources may be adequate for middle and upper income elders, not enough resources are being provided to low income elders. With increasing health care costs, the increasing number of elders (baby boomers) in the next few years and the studies that show only a small percentage of future retirees are financially ready for retirement, Lincoln needs to stay "ahead of the game" in this area. I suspect that the reason that elders' needs are not showing up as frequently on the Prosper Lincoln surveys is because not enough "outcry" is being heard. The fact that Tabitha provides the number of free meals-on-wheels is certainly an indication of the needs of Lincoln elders. I am not sure of the Prosper Lincoln definition of elders, but if it is defined as 65+ years old, it should probably be increased to 70+ or even 75+ to reflect the current day definition of elders. Thanks to Prosper Lincoln for doing what you do.



This community should seriously consider a public or private/public partnership venture to construct a new natatorium with 50m and 25y capacity. Pool time in Lincoln is at a premium and it is no easy task to distribute time to the various swim groups. The only 50m pool in the area is Woods, which was built in the 1960s and is therefore expensive to maintain. Indoor swim facilities are effectively only available through LPS high schools. As such, during high school swim season, these high school pools are over-taxed, with hundreds of club swimmers training on a daily basis, as well as the YMCA swim clubs whose own facilities do not rent out lane space to such swimmers. A city this size with such demand and popularity in this sport is in dire need of such a facility. The increased popularity of the sport in general, the fact that Omaha is now host to the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials, and the great success of Lincoln's swimming youth are proof of this sport's growth and a testament to the need of the city to meet this need. Surrounding cities have private/public ventures that serve as good examples in this area -- the Elkhorn "Common Ground" facility is a very successful partnership with that city that derives revenue for the City of Elkhorn. Fremont and LaVista are also seeking to construct a natatorium to capitalize on the current financial opportunities in providing a facility of this type. Thank you for considering this suggestion.

Promote vocational and community college as options after high school. 4-year college was shoved down my throat when I graduated and while college is great it's not for everyone and some people would benefit from going to vocational or community college. You have great local resources might as well use them.

Affordable, extended hours, with well trained staff, child care centers for working families. More before and after school program availability. More community based (low or no-cost) mental health resources for individuals needing counseling and mental health prescriptions. More community based safe houses for youth, like The Bay, that encourage community volunteer opportunities. More appropriate foster care and guardians for youth in the Juvenile Justice system.

I think we should have conversation with our neighbors quite often. Sometime we need to share lunch or dinner together. so we should feel comfortable and know each other better. Help each other when it's needed.

Parks are one of the best ways to enhance neighborhoods. Unfortunately many of our parks are overgrown and shabby looking. I would love to see Lincoln have a botanical garden. I am a member of Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha and visitor to botanical gardens in Kansas City and St. Louis. They are all lovely. I think it would bring visitors to Lincoln and be an wonderful asset for our community. I know I feel renewed after walking through a botanical garden. I think it could be done in partnership with the University with assistance from local garden clubs. It could also be a wonderful educational asset - a butterfly gardens, bee education and hives, etc. I belong to a garden club and would love to assist in such a project. I would also propose something similar to the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead, a family attraction in Overland Park, Kansas that shows farm animals, birds of prey, show gardens, butterfly gardens, a nature trail, etc. Wonderful attraction. Again it would bring visitors to our



community and a great educational experience, particularly for urban youth that don't have opportunities to experience farm animals up close. Maybe a great addition to the Lancaster Event Center.

Increase science rigor in middle school. Get bunsen burners and have them learn about how to do fundamental chemistry. That will help move the LPS science programs in chemistry and physics closer to the high standard of the English programs. More Cops and Bobbers types of programs. Reaching out to children with authority figures who are good to be with...

We have a variety of non-profit organizations in Lincoln/Lancaster/Nebraska that deal with mental health issues within our community. Each of these organizations have varying degrees of administration costs being incurred relative to delivered services. Strategically there would be a great advantage to merging organizations to reduce overall administration cost and increase the amount of revenues being allocated to support services. Although we have great support in our area for United Way, I believe we need much greater support to reduce the efforts that each of these organizations engage in to independently raise funds.

1) We need better ways to travel from North to South, and back the other way, in Lincoln. The streets are difficult to travel & terribly crowded, especially during rush hour traffic. 2) We need more mentoring and tutoring for at-risk youth and children. Reading skills are a vital part for achieving a quality education, which in turn helps graduates earn a better living and become productive citizens. 3) We need more community outreach, including using volunteers, to families in poverty to help teach them improved job skills, so they can earn their way out of financial problems. This might include child-care centers being available for the parents who are going to school and working.

Lincoln needs a new indoor/outdoor 50 meter adjustable pool. It would provide employment opportunity, staff, lifeguards, etc. Also youth opportunity such as large swim meets which would bring people to spend money in our city! Swim instruction for younger kids (or adults). If it was nice enough, could bring big name Olympic swimmers to town!! It could provide city revenue by renting out there pool to swim teams for practice and meets. Please consider the need!

It is time we begin to take care of the basics. Teach kids to read. Teach parents to budget. Get livable wages for parents to work only 1 job with benefits. Have public transportation available for 2nd and 3rd shift work. Set high expectations on our community. 100% graduation rate! Have community nights out so we can meet our neighbors.

Offer more choices for after school programs for youth. Teach them about Lincoln, help with school work, give practical knowledge for their growth.

We need another 50 meter pool to host large swim meets. The youth would benefit from the swim lessons and exercise, the city would benefit from money spent on hotels and eating from out of town participants, and families would benefit from activities to do together.



Continue to support excellent public education. Keeping classroom numbers at a manageable number is needed to provide the best education for students. Provide support for low-income youth to be able to access extra-curricular activities: music, athletics, art, theatre, etc... Promote the importance/necessity of a high school diploma AND the need for some training beyond high school. This doesn't necessarily mean a 4-year college degree, but a 2-year degree or other vocational training that will prepare students to access employment beyond minimum wage, dead-end jobs. Increase access for mental health support for students and families. The social/emotional needs of children has grown. School-based mental health services have been successful in schools and provide the support needed for students to continue their education and graduate (Child Guidance therapists for example). Supporting equal access to technology is needed - i.e. wireless internet access for students in their homes. I've heard of cities that are providing internet zones in low-income neighborhoods. LPS students will all have Chromebook computers in the next 3 years - Having internet access at home will be needed to maximize this opportunity for learning. With the advent of smart phones, low-income families are having to choose between a data plan for a phone and internet access in the home. The improvements in the Haymarket area and growth at Innovation Campus are exciting, and will hopefully encourage college graduates to stay in Lincoln. I love living in Lincoln. It has been a great place to raise my family.

To ensure our youth are successful, our economy grows, and our community is strong and vibrant we need to want to vastly improve our public education system and remove the cookie-cutter facilitation. We need to see children as more than just a number ID and a standardized test score on a spreadsheet of engineered software and hard-drives. We need to watch the documentary entitled, "Fed Up" and snap back into reality! We must avidly work toward utilizing locally-grown produce and proteins to not only feed our public school students, but to nourish their minds, bodies, and souls. We need to fix a lot of things in this country...and it all starts with our treatment of youth.

Property tax relief should be a top priority. Putting more dollars into the hands of the citizens would dramatically increase our overall economic prosperity and make Lincoln a more attractive place to live.

Build an indoor pool that can be used for year round swim teams and meets. The swimming pools in Lincoln are over crowded with all the swim teams. Devaney is the only indoor pool for winter Mets and it had limited access.

*People need to know their neighbors, support them, encourage them, love them and invest in them. Be a leader, a planner and a safe place for your neighbors. * Team mates is a wonderful program. Many kids are not matched with a mentor and are still very at risk. Spend time with 1 or 2 of our troubled junior high/high school kids on a regular basis. Encourage them on face book or by texting. They are easy to reach, as they all seem to have a cell phone. Believe in them and encourage them. *Join a church body, so you can be encouraged in your faith and offer encouragement to others. *Discover your passion and get out and unselfishly serve as a volunteer. It blesses you more than anyone else. *Encourage those with need to seek health care at Clinic with a Heart and People City Mission. These are outstanding opportunities for those needing to see a physician.



I think it is an embarrassment that the Lincoln Foundation has not supported the Boy Scouts. The idea that because of the BSA policy on membership keeps the Foundation from supporting this program is at least as closed minded as they accuse the Scouts of being. The Scouts policy at least had been upheld in court. Not the Foundation's position. It has held back donors from more full support of the Foundation. The foundations intolerance should be examined.

These are in no particular order. I am an old Gallup person, and it amazes me that we aren't using these concepts to design the outcomes we want to develop the place we want to live. This is very powerful stuff that focuses on strengths and the future of what could be. Strengths based management, strengths finder in particular should be used with every person that lives here to nurture their potential and their success. LPS uses this some, but if the parents and employers aren't involved much the great gains with people won't happen. This has to start very early, before 5 to develop the brain. The neural plasticity of the hippocampus in the brain has to be stimulated. Use it or lose it, or expect neural pruning that limits access, opportunities and career success. LPS is going to have to go way beyond the 3 R's to reach into this. Is there anyone who knows your name? is there anyone who cares about you? And, Is there anyone who has expectations for you. There is such a focus currently on how to address needs and remedy short comings that we look out of balance on developing the best to become better. Everyone can be best at something and be even better. They will need programs and processes to help them know what it and how to develop it. 3. Daycare in Lincoln appears to be mostly group babysitting services. Kids are not going to develop much in this environment. Without solid enrichment programs to stimulate kids, they will miss opportunities to look up and develop. I have seen what a difference two field trips a day does for kids. It fuels their growth and development in significant ways. For people to become entrepreneurial they are going to need solid understanding, skills and experience here. They are not getting it at school and many are not getting it at home. This is not just my perception. The tenth district branch of the Federal Reserve has identified this as a very real problem. They are developing programs to address this. Lincoln needs to become a full contact partner with them to help lay the foundations for development in this area. I have heard they have good resources to help with this. 4. Micro lending and crowd source funding have not really taken off in Lincoln. I believe this has significant potential to support development. Some report that China's tremendous gains recently has it roots in micro lending. This needs explored by experts with and eye toward future development and support for progressive people. 5. TO has done a tremendous job with the Team Mates program. Can this beginning be taken to the next level to mentor people and upstarts for business? 6. Following the format of the popular show How it is Made, develop tours and videos of interesting things that are being done in Lincoln. I have been a member of a local International Facilities Management Association for about 20 years. We tour plants and facilities during the summer. It is amazing what is going on in Lincoln that people never see. Places like Duncan Aviation and Molex are very interesting if you like engineering. Figuring out ways to see these will surely simulate development and expand minds. 7. Actor John Ratzenberg has figured out that one of the problems with America is that we don't build much anymore. and that people don't how. Budget cuts have limited "shop classes". He is donating millions to get the shop classes back. Ok we are doing the career center with SECC. We need to do much more. Did you know that you can get a degree



at UNL in mechanical engineering without learning how to weld? Wow! This is like being a clothing designer and not knowing how to sew. We are missing huge opportunities here. Pay attention to the Rural Futures Institute. The farm kids are miles ahead of the city kids in common sense skills, knowledge and particularly abilities. Think I a kidding? Test this at home by asking your teenage to change a flat tire. Could you do it?? Somehow we have to change the culture of learned helplessness that we have allowed to seep in on us. Home depot has a monthly workshop for parents and kids to build little projects like cares, and birdhouses. the parents and kids doing these, are investing in our future. They will be the ones that grow up and do things. Let's have less skateboard parks and more how to centers. Popular Science has a good article on a program called Makers that is catching on nationally to get people building again. Omaha is our closest. We need to work hard at this type of stimulation if we want development. Ok this is not about framers and roofers. it is more like an invertors support lab. 10. Look at what the bicycle and light house contests have done for Lincoln. Let's do more of this type of stuff and expand into many areas. Small amounts of seed prize \$ money could yield good results. About all it take is to issue the challenge to people. We need a development office that issues challenges to people. I am not seeing anywhere that we are making list of things we want and asking people for it. I believe people would respond generously to this concept. I am not talking about just give us money, that is OK too. This could be requests for volunteers to do projects, for someone to teach something, cleanups, observe things. develop opportunities. Do above and beyond things. Then design solid award and recognition for great works people do 12. Human brains develop in direct response to complex and novel experiences. What is complex and novel? Make a list of the activities that you like to do and regularly do. cross it off. This is not complex and novel. Learn two to four new skills a year. Play an istrument, digital photography, flying, travel, leading volunteers. Challenge a little above current abilities. Paul Nussbaum from Harvard uses this concept to inoculate people against Alzheimer's . This is very powerful. Met life has put a lot of money into his research. The idea here would be to develop opportunities for youth and others to do complex and novel experiences. and get into the habit of making self- assignment in this area, for purposeful development. It will take someone to challenge them to get it started. 13. A wise insurance agent told me to get my two boys a go cart and put a thousand hours on it before they started driving. I won't have problems with accident or high insurance bills. He was right. drivers ed is another thing that have fallen of with budget cuts. It shows. Do it differently, use go carts. 14. Challenge the community to no trans fats. 15. Develop a film festival like Sundance, using NET leadership. Lincoln now has a critical mass of venues, counting school auditoriums to do this. You would have to improve the sound systems. 16. Build a Viper weather radar facility and research lab to improve Lincoln's weather reporting. We get our radar out of Valley Nebraska and they are down in a hole an can not see below 5,000 ft. 17. Develop programs to increase emergency prepared ness for the community and people. Remember Hallam. People need to be more mindful and competent in this area. 18. Increase parking for high schools. The school parking is a major nuisance for the neighborhoods. Why? noise, disrespectful behavior, littering, drug activates smoking. trespassing. Take a look at how many streets have no parking signs during schools hours. It is growing every year. believe me you don't want to own a house in the school race track. 19. The city parks are not being mowed appropriately. This is becoming a significant issue. It doesn't look nice, rather shaggy. People don't want to live in shaggy town. For those that have



allergies it is very unhealthy. Look at the lines at the allergy doctor's shot clinics. Letting the parks go natural (go to weeds) is ugly in many ways. Biting insects: chiggers, ticks ,mosquito. Field mice love it. This practice is driving people out of parks. They are just not a place you want to be anymore in many areas. One wilderness park is enough. I am aware of one nice sized visiting conference group that got eaten up by chiggers in Peter Pan park and moved their business. Let's don't follow game and parks lead. Their operations have driven so many people out of their small parks and lakes, that they should just sell them off. Look at Arbor day lodge. The foundation was so disgusted they took over the park because it was embarrassing what Game an Parks was doing, or not doing. We have to find a way to turn this around. The air quality is getting so poor that people will start moving away. 20. Inventory Lincoln's hobbies and activities. Analyze what can be done to support and expand activities and events. Soccer got more ball fields, Horses got the event center, Concerts got the event center. etc. The event center needs a nice conference center beside it that is built right for conferencing. Look at the Embassy beside Cabela's in Omaha. It is one of the best planned conferences built for operations and needs of groups. Lincoln is short of places that can 750 people and above for groups with enough breakout rooms. Groups that are growing will out grow us and have to move to another city. Study what is holding groups from coming to Lincoln. Venues, parking, lodging, services. Go after groups more. Expand the CVB to include more sales people. We should be able to get events like the Denver Stock Shows. 21. Set up development committees to increase wrap around events with conferences. Develop forums, seminars, tours, taskforces, etc. for every event and conference that is possible. Hold people for another day or two. Build in some free stuff for the community. Look at the outpouring of support for the recent special Olympics. Harvard U. follows many national conferences, and hosts a wine and cheese reception for groups of past institutes just to keep the flock together. We are missing many of these opportunities. People may have to travel out to other cities to do this right. 22. Many meeting rooms in Lincoln have really poor sound systems and A/V equipment. This ruins experiences for people coming to Lincoln. We need to help people know they have problems and help them clean up these messes. Use NET's broad cast quality standards for a uniform format. It really doesn't cost much more and would facilitate higher quality and inter face with the media. It will take some staff training and some auditing to improve this. Lincoln will have to be known for great A/V support in their venues to be able to attract important groups. Hold conferences and work shops to train staff in this area. Design confidential surveys to help businesses and operators, see how far off the mark they are. 23. Many businesses have security camera that are poor quality and old and need updated. This doesn't leave the police much to work with if they are looking at crimes in progress. Put in place a process to help business evaluate their quality. These should be checked out annually and actually test peoples ability to use the equipment. 24. Strengthen communication with service clubs and organizations. What do they need? What can they work on together? Give them more challenges. Give them more awards. I remember being on boards where people were eating lunch trying to think up things to do. Keep lists ready and in front of groups all the time. Develop a liaison program to meet regularly to facilitate this. Ask for a liaison from each club or organization to come to the meeting. 25. Communicate what the UNL foundation is doing with athletics to build an Olympic village. Kent Seacrest has a great power point on this. I am betting very few people in Lincoln know about this. 26. Develop a backyard farmer type format to feature UNL departments.



Each show would have deans and staff featuring programs and research. Use students in media arts to shoot these segments. The facility is already set up at NET. Of course communicate department needs each time. 27. Develop cooking contests like Kansas City does with its BBQ. 28. Add band shells to shopping centers for concerts like South point. Any place there is parking and restrooms. You may have to add the restrooms. Build in proper A/V and electrical so people don't have to struggle with all this. 29. Use the format for the health department's old annual reports to details out progress for the prosper Lincoln initiatives. This little newspaper was very well done., and helped people know what was going on. You would use a website now but may need an ad in the paper to direct people to it. Ask the high school students and college students to help do the project. 30. Get your plans ready for drones. They are coming! This will be our next utility. figure out ways to develop around this. Use the drone journalism lab at unl to launch this initiative. 31. Begin development of fiber to the desk top in businesses and residences.. Learn from Lusk Wyoming. If you want young professionals to stay around we will need this. 32. Encourage teens to work earlier and especially in the summer. It is a great way for people to learn and develop. Set up Personnel type service like the old union shops to connect teens that want to work with employers. 33. Figure out a way to use homes for lodging when the cities hotels are overloaded. Get your rules right for everyone. 34. Put a just in case taskforce together to deal with Colorado type weed laws. This will be a mess if not handled right. I am not advocating it, but we better be ready, instead of playing catch up by a surprise like several other states did. 35. Keep burying power, phone, and data lines. Get rid of the overhead and its problems. 36. Figure out a way to replace gas taxes. When the auto fleet converts to electric cars your gas tax income goes waaay down. Begin planning now.

Youth - more opportunities for youths to organize and lead a community event - showcase their talents and stretch their imagination. Job shadowing programs also have a significant influence on young people. Economic - more family orientated activities will attract and retain talented people. Promote the quality of life and excellent education systems that are available. Quality of life - more family activities in the Haymarket.

I think the biggest thing that youth growing up in Lincoln lack is a sense of pride and identity with Lincoln. High schools do well and some communities do well, but I wish Lincoln as a whole was a place more people were proud of. I volunteer my time, money, and talents to Lincoln because it is my city and I feel part of my identity is Lincoln. I want to make sure my city is as great of a place as it can be. If more people felt the same, the residual effect would be the growth of all the areas mentioned above.

Lower taxes and fees. Fix the streets.

the movies are great being played in the haymarket. Keeping the area safe for kids. Great family times!!

Huskers Helping Huskers This is a "flash donation" idea. During 7 Saturdays this fall over 80,000 people will fill Memorial Stadium. This is a great time to select a school or community "need" to feature. If every person is asked to give just one dollar, the 7 featured projects will have more than enough.



Community groups, Lincoln Public Schools and the city can submit ideas to a committee that will select the projects. The day before the game the "need" can run in the paper to make sure people know what the fund will be used for. A short video at half time could also be featured to help generate interest. Businesses in the Rail Yard/Downtown/Haymarket could also choose to have a donation jar for that same cause, for Huskers who do not attend the game. I believe strongly that Lincoln is a "donation town" (as we have just seen with the success of Give to Lincoln day) however, people are often asked to donate money to a "cause" without knowing how their money will specifically be spent. People will be more likely to give if 1.) they are only being asked to give a dollar 2.) they see the faces of the kids or people who it will help 3.) they know EXACTLY how the money will be spent. Things like "buying 2 new elementary school playgrounds," "creating a community garden," "tuition and daycare expenses for a single mom who is going back to college," etc. This would be a great way to raise quick funds for a great cause and also bring Husker fans together in a common goal. For this to work people should not feel pressured to give, by a person when they arrive at the stadium. Simply putting the idea and information next to secure donation boxes would be enough.

San Francisco has a "Kindergarten to College" program aimed at incentivizing young people to go to college. Every kid in public kindergarten gets a saving account and \$50 in seed money, and then private groups match deposits as families add to the account. It would be important that the money can only be paid directly to a college or university, not to a family directly. Please go to <http://sfofe.org/programs/k-to-c> and click on "further reading" This is an AMAZING program! Article: <http://www.sfchronicle.com/education/article/Duncan-lauds-S-F-s-Kindergarten-to-College-4615709.php?t=c7ccf44e80>

Jazz in June is rumored to be losing its funding, supporting this event is essential to what makes Lincoln great. As a community we need to find a way to support this event. thank you,

Progressive, modern thinking! From government to the business sector, we need to have a vision for the future. Keep up with cutting edge technology! Our infrastructure and services need to be able to attract business and a work force in a competitive world. A strong recreational scene! The arena project has proven that having a lot of activities helps drive a positive vibe. A competitive airport! Lincoln has lost several large, home grown businesses to Omaha due to the lack of competitive pricing and routes..

Adult Reading- When I was young Pizza Hut had a program called Book-It. Elementary age children could track how many books they had read, and after a certain point would earn a free pizza. I remember that it encouraged everyone to read more without being overbearing. I think that if the Lincoln City Libraries created a program like this it would benefit the city tremendously. Instead of pizza (or, maybe pizza) the incentives would be geared toward adults. For example: EBT credits, tickets to local events, public transportation credits, more books, gift cards to local businesses, contributions to savings plans, cooking classes (I think more adults and soon to be adults should know more about cooking. Improves health and quality of life.), donations made to charity, etc. Books read could be tracked by library staff, physically or using the library card if possible. I think this would improve library traffic and encourage



people who haven't read in years to pick up a book. Public Transportation- a more comprehensive taxi or ride sharing service, as well as group to cater to the downtown area specifically. The downtown cabs could have funding to cut ride costs in early hours, in order to discourage drunk driving. For busses- Educate people on bus routes, post maps of bus routes, and show common busy hour routes to and from hubs across the city. Bike lanes- the lanes being built on N street are a good example of how to help make the bike lanes safer. Currently, the bike lanes are between driving lanes and parking stalls. This causes the biker to be in the street, which can be dangerous as some drivers don't yield to bikes. This happened to me last year when I was hit by a driver and suffered a severe concussion. Instead, I think it would improve bike safety to place the lane between the parking stalls and the curb. That way bikers aren't exposed to traffic and have a driving lane of their own.

I think educating families on family planning would be a great thing to work on. So many families are having children they can't afford, take care of and properly raise to become productive members of our community. Year round school should happen to ensure kids that don't receive any summer enrichment (there are more that don't than do) or proper supervision have a better chance to be successful and productive. Increasing wages of low and middle income families where both parents work. In my job, I see way too many 12 years olds babysitting the smaller siblings throughout the summer because daycare is out of the question. This is wrong on so many levels.

I think that we need to offer more low or no cost high quality preschools and rec activities. Continue to maintain parks, libraries and schools. Encourage family friendly outdoor activities. I am impressed by some of the amenities that people in residential higher income residents have but inner city amenities are lacking. Continuing to offering low cost, fun things for people to do will negate Lincoln's image as being boring.

Youth would be more successful (and our economy would grow) if families were stronger and better supported by the community. Providing good daycare for low-income working families would be a good start and a solid short-term solution. Long-term, we could look for families that are raising successful children against the odds, try to distill what works and why and then enlist those parents in teaching their peers to handle the challenges they face. I'm not suggesting anyone donate a lot of time; there would have to be some financial support for a program like this. But I think it might be more effective than someone from "outside" trying to teach people whose situation he or she does not share or understand.

As a friend of one of the leaders of a Boy Scout Troop based out of Lincoln, I suggest partnering with the local troop using their manpower, uniform recognition and positive image to further the image of Lincoln. Many local troops could come together with outdoor projects that would not only assist with menial, time consuming work included. This would assist Lincoln with those tasks, the troop with needed community service hours, and the image that groups can work together.



When I visit other communities often the paved walking/biking trails are lit at night. I do not know if that is done year around, but particularly in the good weather times, they are. This would be a huge addition to the city. I often use the trails and see dog walkers, joggers, families, youth, cyclists on them - even when it is dusk and evening. I understand that this would be a large undertaking, however, we have awesome trails throughout the city and are known for this by visitors.

Families with very young children need affordable, reliable summer and before/after school programs. Mentoring programs for elementary aged children should be expanded to include more partnerships with the private sector. We need to remove barriers to economic growth and continue to steam line processes from concept to a built-out. I would like to see more existing structures reused as well as new construction. We simply must have loitering laws to empower LPD.

We should consider housing options for those who do not have adequate housing due to a substance use or mental health issue or both. Evidence-based initiatives show the value of establishing housing as a basis for building a recovery environment for persons with substance use and mental health issues but we do not have suitable options for this housing in Lincoln today. There are a significant number of communities nationwide that have successfully established community-wide housing options such as this from which we could learn a great deal. Establishing these housing options would help to make our community strong and vibrant.

While visiting my son in Boston, we were able to visit the local library and check out day passes to enjoy tourist attractions at a reduced price or for free. For instance, admission to the JFK Library cost \$15, but with the library pass we paid \$3 each. The ferry to the Harbor Islands was free, and the zoo was reduced. What a nice way for Lincoln families to enjoy attractions without the high cost. All they had to show was their library cards. At a time when so many books are available electronically we need to find ways to draw families to the library....think outside of the book! Do you know in small-town NE you can check out speciality birthday cake pans and project tools?

Good health is key to individuals achieving all three of these themes. One major factor in achieving optimal health is engaging in regular physical activity. Our community needs to focus on providing opportunities for all residents to participate in appropriate amounts and types of physical activity. There are many approaches that would serve this goal to reduce sedentary behaviors and promote physical activity. One critical approach is for schools to provide a minimum of 30 minutes per day of physical activity for all students, as recommended by the CDC.

Increase access to the internet to be compatible with LPS's Chrome book roll out How can the city encourage growth in athletic infrastructure for youth? could serve as an economic development tool. Solidify funding for the Community Learning Centers and connect the dots to downstream and upstream services and educational opportunities. Expand access to quality early childhood Education by growing the the public and private contributions to SixPence Endowment and instituting Universal Pre-K in Lincoln



Recruit leaders from the tech sector to mentor youth and new graduates (college & high school) in technology and especially leadership. Provide them with environments to experiment with and expand their talents.

Continue to support the Haymarket theatre, and arts programs to keep kids involved with community events that will enhance development and social skills. I love the idea of neighborhoods coming together to support local events that everyone can join in on (i.e. Malone Center event @ Trago Park). I also LOVE the Community Crops gardens, which have seemed to gain improved interest over the years! I would like to see local businesses host a plot in these gardens to provide the crops harvested to those in need of food. My church, Horizons Community Church, does this to provide food to the less fortunate.

Incorporate more community service for youth, through school or after school programs so they have an idea of work ethic and ownership in the community. There are too many kids that have the sense of entitlement, they need to know how much work it is to provide the programs, parks, walking paths and other things they can take advantage of. The more a person is involved their confidence and self-esteem will grow and they have a better understanding of opportunities for the future.

Make the bus system free. Our bus system could be "re-branded" as a way for everyone to cruise around the city "informally." If the system is free, people would feel free to hop on and off (even on impulse) and could dramatically increase the # of riders. Right now the bus system is important for many people as a way to get to work or services, and we don't want to infringe on that, but eliminating the cost of bus travel might also eliminate the need to "plan" to take the bus. This idea might be usefully combined with bike rental/storage (e.g. get your bike to a convenient place, hop on the bus for the rest of the trip, get your bike on the way back).

Comments for Lincoln Prosper – June 26, 2015 For our society to survive, it is important for life skills and the arts to be taught in the schools. Some youth have a home life where they see, by example, these life building skills but the number of those who don't outnumber the ones who do. This is where we can begin. Our youth would benefit from life skill classes beginning the moment they enter the school system. Many are without both parents and lack a home life that many of the older generation was fortunate to have growing up. The classes do not have to be extensive due to beginning at an early age but incorporate the necessities of life skills such as money, manners, respect for life, work ethic, and importance of education at a level each age can understand while advancing with each grade. Also, life skills such as how to apply for college, buy a home, car, insurance, taxes, interviewing for jobs, talking on the phone (as in business), writing letters, purchasing appliances, balancing a check book, using a debit card, savings accounts, retirement accounts, and credit cards. Budgeting and planning for the future because life happens. Without true knowledge of these life skills and more, life is slapping our young adults in the face and making it more difficult to work through it. This is where the frustration comes in and causes them to be dependent on the system or their families even longer. Incorporated correctly into the curriculum, the other subjects such as reading, English, and math could teach the life skills without it being a separate class, if necessary. It is, after all, part of life. There are those who may not



succeed in higher education so give them the opportunity to learn skills they can make a living with and the ones that will make that life smoother and keep them out of the poverty that so many live in at this time. The arts are also very important to our youth's growth. Without the access to creativity, our youth will not flourish no matter how much access they have to education. The arts are proven to use the part of the brain that helps the rest of the brain excel. It creates new ideas to blossom and take shape. This is entrepreneurship. When entrepreneurship flourishes, quality of life benefits because those who are interested in business growth want to live in a growing and thriving community. If you have Youth Success, I truly believe the Economic Prosperity and Quality of Life will follow naturally. Economic prosperity will be enhanced by those youth who, not only are the college graduates, but also, the ones who are given the opportunities to help build from the bottom to the top, but they must have the skills. I see these thoughts all tying into each other and building, growing, and thriving among a caring population. But we must work together to build a strong foundation in our youth because they are the future. They need us and without them we will slowly fade.

I feel strongly that, to ensure youth are successful, we make sure that every at-risk youth is paired with an adult mentor. I was once an at-risk youth. I had several adult mentors who took an active interest in me, showed great support of me through my middle school and high school years and helped instill values and a positive outlook on life. I graduated from high school and earned a bachelor's degree in college. I was the first one in my family to go to and complete college. It was not an easily achieved accomplishment since I did not have any support at home. However, the support I received from my mentors was instrumental in my success.

Create a "permanent" outlet/publication/communication opportunity for young people's ideas about improving our community (high school? maybe middle school?) Could be a website, with maybe a local "TED-like" ceremony? Young people (maybe with teacher help - government and politics or civics classes maybe?) could start thinking of ideas early and work on long term projects (maybe there could be some grant \$ involved to help with student projects) This could establish a culture of many (many!) young people starting projects and documenting their process and failures and successes. This kind of archive and communication could supplant many of the limited "outcome measures" that dominate conversations about education, etc (NeSA scores, etc)

Have at least one 4 hour "event" where there are no "electronics" allowed. Think of it as a challenge to see if the "participants" can beat the challenge (and see what it is like to be "unconnected" for 4 hours!)

1) Youth: We need to ensure that youth receive individual attention/guidance to avoid drop outs and to engage parent/parents in school activities. 2) For the economy to grow productively we must try to include all citizens in the benefits. It is not enough to just increase business while ignoring the lower income families. Wealth does not trickle down in any significant degree. More businesses should include training programs to make it possible for the unqualified to become qualified. 3) Much is made of job creation, unemployment/employment figures, and secondary school graduation rates. Often this just



means that many low income people work two jobs and still remain financially strapped. Is it possible to encourage job creation that is not just for the professions and the skilled?

Encouraging opportunities! Free! Create a public library/learning commons/innovation space in downtown Lincoln. A free facility for the public to use in a variety of ways - meeting space, Internet cafe concept, makerspaces and innovation campus concept...for young and old to learn new skills, interact with each other, learn from each other, in a safe space...to enhance creativity, collaboration and communication. All skills we all need!

jobs need to support families, meaning they need to pay enough so that a working family can pay their bills and invest in our economy. Invest in programs that provide highly skilled job training to meet the demands of employers who are hiring. research shows that we have a lack of qualified people to fill the jobs that are open, not that we dont have enough jobs.

I wholeheartedly advocate for continued implementation and expansion of physical education and movement opportunities through the day. Vigorous physical activity has been correlated to increased academic achievement (despite socioeconomic variables), decreased disruptive behavior, improvements in mental health (including ADD/ADHD) and social behavior, improvements in attention and comprehension, improvements in health. There is now evidence that the level of activity we participate in as children significantly impacts whether or not we will become active (healthy) adults, employees, parents, caregivers, citizens. Our neighbors in Omaha have implemented changes and reaped the benefits of increased physical activity. http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/quick-activity-breaks-increase-movement-resetting-kids-brains/article_91ec6ddb-28fb-5d33-b9fb-99a2a00abc6b.html Physical education prepares children to be physically and mentally active, fit and healthy...for life. Here are some of the many benefits children receive from a quality PE program: Improved physical fitness Skill and motor skills development Provides regular, healthful physical activity Teaches self discipline Facilitates development of student responsibility for health and fitness Influence moral development, leadership, cooperate with others Stress reduction – an outlet for releasing tension and anxiety Strengthened peer relationships Physical education can improve self-confidence and self-esteem Respect - PE helps you respect your body, classmates and teammates Experience in setting goals Improved academics - The big bonus benefit! - See more at:

http://www.phitamerica.org/Benefits_of_P_E_in_School.htm#sthash.a5qRjz1t.dpuf "Exercise tempers ADHD is by immediately increasing the neurotransmitters dopamine and norepinephrine. When we exercise, particularly if the exercise requires complex motor movement, we're also exercising the areas of the brain involved in the full suite of cognitive functions. We're causing the brain to fire signals along the same network of cells, which solidifies their connections." <http://sparkinglife.org/page/add-adhd> "Vigorous exercise BEFORE learning helps create a heightened state of attention."

<http://sparkinglife.org/page/the-new-p-e> "Studies abound showing the correlation between fitness and optimal brain functioning. To spark meaningful change in our student's lives, we need an exercise revolution." <http://sparkinglife.org/page/guidelines-for-educators> PE4life is a nonprofit agency that helps schools build fit kids by advocating for and assisting in the development and enhancement of



physical education programs and physical activity opportunities in schools and communities.

<http://www.pe4life.org/about-us/who-we-are/about-pe4life.html>

Create a program that pairs up middle or high school youth with elderly folks. Our older generation not only has a lot of knowledge but life experiences to share. I think older people enjoy having a visitor to chat with from time to time as well as passing along some fond memories of days gone by. We have turned into a disposable high tech world. Lets not forget all those who have lived in simpler times and perhaps paved the road for the great things that became of their hard work. We should encourage people to become involved in programs that enrich a connection between young and old.

I would like to suggest that we consider pooling the resources of some of the healthcare facilities in Lincoln that employ CNAs to partner with SCC or Bryan, etc, to offer CNA classes to residents that may be unemployed/living in poverty. An individual can earn a nurse aide certificate by taking a two week class, doing a clinical rotation and taking an exam. By packaging the classes with scholarships and subsequent employment as well as offering the classes at community organizations located in high poverty areas we could solve both the CNA shortage as well as address poverty and healthcare issues. In conjunction, a life skills class, transportation plan ideas, and childcare should be incorporated into the process so that once the individuals were employed they would be set up for success.

I am a teacher at a very low income school. We do not have many programs for our students after school, other than athletics and study hall. It would be nice to have a Community Learning Center come into my school, such as the ones in many elementary schools and middle schools. After school clubs, community gardens, and volunteer opportunities would be perfect!

Bigger Parks close to home

Better and free WIFI all over Lincoln

A GO-Kart Park/race area

More swimming pools and water parks

More industry (factories) for more jobs and Lincoln made products

More arcades

We need to encourage more recycling within the community. Why do we have to pay for curbside recycling pickup? Why don't we have more recycling collection bins in community areas like the Railyard, Arena, schools or the Malls? The garbage collectors and in turn, residents, should be rewarded for recycling more and using the landfill less (fewer pounds of garbage.)

More art in neighborhoods



We need more skate parks on the north side of town. The Bay is a great place but is hard to get to and costs money. For kids who just want to skate at a park on their own, a public skate park in the Havlock area would be very helpful.

Early Childhood Education should be available to all Lincoln Children, for free, year round for kids 3-5. This will help students who do not have a great home life catch up so all kids can be on the same page when they enter Kindergarten. Basically, public education should start at the age of 3.

we need to focus less on tests in schools and more on giving teachers the freedom to teach students how to learn and a thirst for knowledge. This is along with better arts education. Art, music, and other "specials" should be given to all students in every school.

STEM education in the public schools, especially at the elementary level needs improved drastically.

I would like to see us provide health, inspiration, and education to people and create opportunities and high quality outdoor recreation for balance of self to improve their well-being and quality of life. Classes should be available that focus on a whole body approach to wellness, with exercises using simple movements for all, including those with limitations and physical challenges, so they can stay active by increasing their mobility and balance. These exercises would be beneficial to the aging population (baby-boomers) and those in sedentary occupations to lengthen and strengthen their productivity, giving them more independence for their retirement years

Some things we can do to help our youth: Get more mental health professionals and family counselors involved in the public school system. Our schools are overwhelmed with kids that need extra help that we do not have the staff or resources to address. Either have these professionals come to schools to meet with students and families or at least make them a known presence at Open House and Curriculum Nights so that families feel more comfortable reaching out for help. We also need either free and reliable transportation for kids in the West Lincoln Elementary School area to participate in extra curricular activities like YMCA sports etc or an activity center very close by in that neighborhood to help keep kids actively engaged in positive activities. There is literally nothing out there for them. Employers could and should offer their employees a certain amount of "free" hours to persue community service interests - where they won't be penalized. This way community members can select something that suits their personality and benefits the community at the same time without taking into their family time on nights and weekends. Plus the more people get involved the more likely they will be involved in other ways and with their families. Having some "free" hours could be the stepping stone to an employee finding something they are passionate about, like becoming a Teammate or mentor for a student in need. This would also allow community members to offer a free class to the community of something they are skilled it We need stronger neighborhood communities to support neighborhood cleanups, etc. Maybe start with the neighborhood associations sponsoring these sorts of activities and potlucks so neighbors get to know each other. If we want professionals to stay in Lincoln we need good benefits and a competitive pay and work force more like Omaha.(I know many people commuting to



Omaha because the pay and benefits are just that much better) We also need employers who are willing to take a chance on people who are changing careers and trying to stay in the community. It is very hard to get a job in Lincoln at a certain pay grade unless you know a lot of the "right" people.

The school system should work with the school lunch program to qualify children by neighborhoods or schools rather than individually by application. This would allow entire schools to qualify for free lunch and breakfasts. PPS needs to work with individual schools so that all food is cooked and prepared on site using fresh fruits and veges rather than schools catering to other schools. The highschoools should not be selling fast food at lunch to student. Bring back PE everyday. My 8 year old has PE once every 7 school days which equals 22 days per year! Lunch is only 15 minutes long and that includes waiting in line for lunch. At highschool my daughter cant get through the lunch line before lunch is over because they have only have 2 lunch periods serving almost 1000 children per sitting! How can children learn when the school doesn't allow children to exercise, feeds them junk, doesn't allow enough time to eat and only qualifies some children for free and reduced lunch? We need to pay attention otherwise our children will live shorter lives than ourselves.

I believe we need to start with putting our children, all children, first. There is a huge disparity between what is provided at different schools. I appreciate the parents who can spend time and money to provide the extras, but this is not even a possibility for some parents. After working their two (or more) jobs there is no time left. After providing food and shelter, there is no money left. How about a pool for the extra funds that can be dispersed through all the schools. Filling the needs of all our kids. Childcare is necessary. Affordable child care, that keeps our kids safe and busy with positive activities. Again looking at the schools as a point of delivery. These kids will be better prepared to meet the challenges of our world and from this the community will be stronger and vibrant

Youth Success: I think part of what I'd like to see in our school systems would be better curriculum around enabling children to be great decision makers. Kids are growing up with more ACCESS to information than ever before (why memorize a specific history date or a chemical formula when I can just Google it whenever I need it?), but I don't think our school system has evolved to account for that. We shift the focus to teaching kids how to analyze and synthesize this information in order to make wise decisions. A lot of people also talk about incorporating more tech education into schools (like teaching kids to code), which is also great. However, that industry moves so fast that I find it unlikely that a public school system can keep up. Economic Prosperity: Honestly, I've been super impressed with how much the Haymarket Tech Scene has grown in the past few years. That's the world I'm most involved in, so it's really the only area that I can speak into with some knowledge. I've known many professionals that have left Lincoln, but come back once they're ready to raise a family. That's awesome, and definitely highlights Lincoln's core strengths of safety, low cost of living, etc, but it makes me think "What could we do to make young professional singles want to stick around?" -- that probably involves continuing to invest in stuff like the quality-of-life type stuff below. Quality of Life: - Jazz in June all summer! :) - Continue to invest in bike trails and other inexpensive/free outdoor activities. I'd love to see more frisbee golf courses! - More AWARENESS of cool stuff going on (honestly, I feel like there are some cool



things going on in Lincoln but I never know about them!) - this could be through more focused/targeted social media channels, classy email, or other forms of advertising (young people don't really read the paper anymore!) This is really cool. I wish I had more stuff to share, but I'm just excited that Lincoln's even actively thinking about improving the city in these ways.

A dream is for Lincoln to build an Early Childhood School that would serve children (birth to age 8) and their families. School staff, families, community members would join together to support all children and each other. The School would implement Developmentally Appropriate Practices as written by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and focus on educating the whole child. School staff would consist of the best of the best in order to create a prestigious model for all educators and communities to visit, discuss, learn, and even replicate. The school would not only be based on current research but would also conduct its own research in order to create new research to shape the future, nation, and world. Lincoln would become the Early Childhood City and be the leader in school and social reform! We would rise to the top and then help other schools and communities get to the top, as well. Together, we can!

Thanks for this program, as so MANY of our families are low income and food-insecure. Thanks so much for offering meals during the summer time. For offering the Mentor programs from adults, and from older students to younger ones. Awesome! One way to help youth is perhaps: A-Parents-Without-Diploma-Study-Course, and helping parents to take their GED tests. A fantastic way to fight poverty, model working toward goals to their children, maybe even getting them more involved with their children's schooling, and on and on----a true Win/Win !!! Our children are currently in LPS, and we are highly satisfied. We feel incredibly fortunate for excellence in teachers, leadership, and community support, (passing bonds, etc).

Lincoln could really use a new 50M pool like woods pool or even an indoor aquatic center for use the other 9 months of the year. Woods pool is old/outdated and unless it is summer the kids don't have any other pool space other than the high school pools and that is shared amongst a growing swimmer population. We have a lot of talent coming out of Lincoln but with limited training space. Swimming is one of the best forms of exercise without such wear and tear on our bones. The ymca won't rent out their pool space and oftentimes their pools are too warm anyway.

Our educational system in our community is strong. Education is the key to success for our youth. As a community, we need to ensure that ALL children receive an appropriate education. Learning differences must be addressed. Research validates that one in five individuals have dyslexia and that 40% of 4th graders are not reading at grade level. With appropriate instruction and interventions, these numbers can change. Identifying children at an early age and providing interventions even prior to public school age is vital.

I feel we need a better airport system if we hope to have significant economic growth and improve opportunities for people to visit our city. I myself have quit using the Lincoln airport. The last times I



tried to fly out of Lincoln the flights were cancelled - not postponed - cancelled - and I ended up rushing to catch a flight in Omaha anyway. The cost of flights in Lincoln is usually enough higher than Omaha that it's still worth the drive. When airport board members have talked about the lagging Lincoln airport they have blamed it on "secretaries who "get" to travel and think it's fun to Omaha and have lunch on the way." If the attitudes of the board have not entered the Twentieth Century, it seems unlikely the service will ever compete.

How about a Prosper Lincoln "wishing well" somewhere in town where everyone/anyone can write a wish, hope etc for something that they think would help themselves, someone they know or the city as a whole prosper. Get influential/ connected volunteers to randomly draw one wish and do what they can to make that wish come true

I think a good place to start would be to fix the problems that have been created to our house and the persons house on the other side of the new house that was built at 920 Rose St. We both have had water in our basements since the building of that residence.

Continue to include storm water percolation berm-and-basins in street projects - I'm proud of my town for pioneering this approach to storm water.

Keep improving bike parking! Downtown has great bike parking but it is patchier in other retail areas in the city.

Bring school start times into alignment with what we now know about child development (like: teenagers are innately unable to cope with 7 AM start times). Prioritize classroom time. If the high school needs to be open 7 AM-6 PM to accommodate extracurriculars, put the classroom time into the hours when teens are most likely to be alert (not 7 AM!)

Foster development at a human scale and where people already are. Try to stave off development that stretches city resources by placing hub activities at the outer fringes of the city (e.g. the Heart Hospital bus route, which is distorted away from its core purpose in service of a major employer that chose to site itself within a few yards of the city limits).

Please read link: [http://www.edutopia.org/blog/global-teacher-prize-winner-nancie-atwell-takes-mic-suzie-](http://www.edutopia.org/blog/global-teacher-prize-winner-nancie-atwell-takes-mic-suzie-boss?utm_content=buffer080b3&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

[boss?utm_content=buffer080b3&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer](http://www.edutopia.org/blog/global-teacher-prize-winner-nancie-atwell-takes-mic-suzie-boss?utm_content=buffer080b3&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)
From article: Global Teacher Prize Winner Nancie Atwell Nancie Atwell: Too often in education, we're satisfied with mere compliance. People make the mistake of thinking kids either resist or comply. I'm saying there's another option, and that's engagement. Our students [CTL is an independent school that serves 80 students from K-8] like what they're doing. They have choice. They choose their own books as readers and develop their own ideas as writers. And it's quite a robust program. Our students read, on average, 40 books a year. They work in genres. They read all kinds of books. They talk about poetry every day in critical ways. Their effort is fueled by interest -- and it also involves a lot of pleasure. Atwell:



Americans seem to think, if kids are enjoying what they're doing, then something must be wrong. And then sometimes schools will try to bring joy or fun into a school by giving out bicycles to kids who read the most books. Or maybe the principal will dye her hair green if everybody reads 10 biographies. That's extrinsic. Kids are intrinsically motivated if they love the books they're reading, if they love the topics they're researching, if they love the poetry and essays they're writing because the subjects intrigue them. You don't apply joy on top of a situation. Edutopia: Your central message seems so straightforward: Give students voice and choice about what they read and write, and they'll engage in meaningful learning. Why is that so hard for many schools to put into practice? Atwell: The challenge comes from not trusting kids to make good decisions. It comes from not trusting teachers to have the background to steer kids in good directions. There's also an economic effect. You don't need a textbook to teach this way (although you do need a classroom library). You don't need a core program or a basal. The writing-reading workshop doesn't make money for anybody. There's nobody to lobby for it -- and there are plenty lobbying against it, starting with Common Core advocates who definitely don't trust children.

Steps to Help Low-Income Students Direct Their Own Learning | MindShift | KQED News Ideas to inspire children to learn: http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2015/06/24/steps-to-help-low-income-students-direct-their-own-learning/?utm_content=buffer24826&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Sustainability is vital to the future of our city and can help achieve all the stated goals.

It is imperative that the business community step up and begin to pay a living wage to those at the lowest rung of the pay scale. It is not enough to make excuses or to wait for the legislature to pass laws mandating it. The CHE report shows a direct link as to where people can afford to live and their income. Those in certain neighborhoods are working two jobs and still can't make ends meet some cases. As a community we must begin to look out for one another not just in small ways, but where it helps the most in the paycheck! A very good public transportation system that would work until second shift is over so that shift workers can take advantage of public transport. Healthy and strong schools where public education for all students is offered at the same academic level throughout the system. Childcare free or reduced rates for low income families who need childcare. It should begin in infancy not at just one school in the city but many schools. Particularly those in the at risk neighborhoods.

Water is crucial to life. Lincolnites are "spoiled" because there's always been sufficient water so we don't conserve as we should. I'd like to see cooperation with the new water study group on Innovation Campus to protect and conserve our water supply. More programs for the at risk preschool and elementary school age children. Studies indicate that many young children are never read to as infants. How can the senior citizen population be utilized to help these children improve readiness for learning? Transportation to evening week-end concerts/programs is a problem for many senior citizens who no



longer drive. Can the city organize some sort of pick up transportation to the Lied, the Arena, theaters on a scheduled basis for those who don't drive -- not just senior citizens.

My idea has to do with both economic prosperity and quality of life. I have seen very little mention of how a forward-looking sustainable development can be a huge contribution to both these themes. One concrete way to accomplish this goal would be for Lincoln to set the goal of becoming a STAR community (see <http://www.starcommunities.org>). Here is an excerpt from what they are about: "The STAR Community Rating System (STAR) provides a clear, data-driven approach to assessing social, economic and environmental progress. It is a catalyst for local action and is transforming the way that communities address sustainability and prioritize future investment."

Since we moved to Lincoln from Iowa City more than 15 years ago, this city has made amazing strides in quality of life, environment, and economic opportunity. I still see lots of duplication and overlap among nonprofits as they try to help disadvantaged groups, but overall, Lincoln has become a top-tier town in many measurable categories. The improvements we have seen are remarkable, and we should all be proud of the vibrant look and feel of our city. The recent events in South Carolina, Baltimore, and other cities remind us that citizens of all backgrounds must have an opportunity to work, learn, exercise, provide for their families, feel safe, and feel a part of Lincoln--from new immigrants to Lincoln natives. Parks, bike trails, music and multicultural events, access to city libraries, and opportunities to engage in the outdoors enhance quality of life for people of all ages and economic backgrounds. Our quality of life in Lincoln must be environmentally sustainable. Our ranking for recycling and for public transit is abysmal. Isn't there a way to increase recycling while providing jobs or outdoor opportunities for kids? Could we revise some of our building codes to be more sustainable? Portland, OR is a good model. Involve local contractors to come up with ways to repurpose and recycle construction materials. Mandate water and power sustainability. For example: All new construction, remodels, and all city/county buildings must install two-stage flush mechanisms for toilets, and replace old lights with LEDs. Water sustainability is vital on the Great Plains, and Lincoln should lead the way. Revamp our public transit routes and replace old buses with nonpolluting vehicles. Many in our immigrant community rely on public transit, yet the system isn't always reliable, which means they cannot count on arriving at work or school on time. Lots of food for thought....

Lincoln enjoys incredible positive ratings reports for its strong economy and "healthy" lifestyle. But, it's easy to assume what we have achieved will somehow automatically continue into our future. It will not and obviously Prosper Lincoln recognizes this. You have given us an opportunity to keep good things happening. Thank you. I am most interested in progressive decisions that will impact the use of our natural resources. I applaud Lincoln Electric System's decision to add renewable energy options to its energy portfolio and encourage them to continue an aggressive plan to develop more solar options. I also hope to see significant progress to recycle our trash. Finally, and extremely important, is a rigorous plan to develop strict city policies for water consumption. This should include increasing water rates, restricting chemical use on lawns, and implementing the use of "greywater" for non human consumption - such as watering lawns and car washes. Finally. . .we must improve our public



transportation system. For the good of both our young and retired populations, we must expand the destination grid of our city. This action not only benefits our citizens, but shrinks our carbon footprint. These are all lofty ideas. But, then, why limit the possibilities?

I think Lincoln is on the right track, but we need to double-down on sustainable initiatives. LES's recent commitment to renewables is a great first step, but we should have a goal to get ALL of Lincoln's energy from renewables within the next two decades. There should be support and incentives for rooftop solar and backyard wind to augment LES' larger-scale initiatives. We should also continue to expand and improve Lincoln's trail system. The current system is great, but we need to ensure it keeps pace with the city's growth. Efforts to improve downtown bike/pedestrian access should also continue with more dedicated bike lanes. Lincoln should also be a leader in developing infrastructure for electric vehicles. We should have public charging stations at malls, parks, and other public gathering spaces to encourage as many people to drive electric vehicles as possible. There should also be a concerted effort to switch to electric for as many of the city's fleet vehicles as possible.

First and foremost get the LJS to represent local Nebraskans and not corporate America that is trying to undermine your efforts.

This is my second comment but want to add that I believe the future of Lincoln depends on dealing with the effects of climate change and adapting to a more sustainable lifestyle. Within that, concrete ideas include mandatory city recycling, reducing our carbon footprint by developing ways for people to walk and bike. That would mean that for every development, commercial or residential, would be required to provide walking and biking plans to get around and to that area. Residential areas should be seen as areas to be walked in. I walk in my neighborhood and it is like a ghost town. No one is on the sidewalks, no kids play in their yards, only cars drive by.

More recycling. More alternative energy. More grants and programs to fix older neighborhoods so they do not fall into disrepair. And teach more people more skills to do that work. Make each company who gets to build here have to hire unemployed Lincolnites who don't have a skill like electrician or welder or Commercial Driver's License etc, that they hire at a certain amount depending on job and that person is taught that skill, becomes a member of union etc. Give people who are poor new skills. Get someone who is a "rainmaker" to be in charge of Innovation Campus to bring in new companies. Not a former professor. Create a position/office in city that is all about speaking to companies on the coasts about moving divisions here, where life is less costly and we have skilled educated work force

Lincoln schools are great, but they can still be improved. Reading and literacy programs need to equip more students to succeed in school and life. Better public transportation and increase routes and ridership. Expand and connect Lincolnshire great trail system. Something that will raise salaries for lower and middle class jobs. Ensure the success of the new Career Academy. Grow the fitness culture of Lincoln. Have more races and more kinds of fitness events. Grow the ones we have.



Sustainability in every area: electricity, water, infrastructure is what we need to consider in every decision. Let's think of the future.

My thoughts center on engaging in community...becoming a part and 'owning' our community, including youth. The school gardens that grow not only beauty and native plants for pollinators also provide healthy foods and much education plus outdoor sunshine experience...often all too lacking these days. Kids, and all of us, need those opportunities. They provide not only what is mentioned, but will cross age groups and economic lines to ensure we can all link hands and work together. From that grows something that will expand, imo, to good works thruout our community. Neighborhood 'open' or 'free' spaces, as well as community areas with gardens can give a sense of pride. Fostering frontyard gardening and expanding, as has the Hawley Hamlet, is nurturing in so many ways. Tim Rinne's Tedx Talk is enlightening. We need to look at our greenspaces in different ways beyond big flat expanses of grass that 'hog' our precious water resources and instead see them as building blocks to community. Re: workforce development, it's important that individuals are not considered 'resources', but humans, with hearts and souls. That is being lost in many areas. I see very disheartening changes in situations where the importance of employees is not celebrated, but simply tolerated. I realize we don't 'control' corporate decisions, but we can encourage good practices, such as how to schedule creatively so that the value of families is recognized and so that labor laws are appropriately followed. We should be able to find work, go to work, and enjoy a day's work well done. It seems more and more, we are moving from that feeling of accomplishment. That saddens me, because I remember that feeling of 'tired' at the end of a day, but in a way that let me know my contribution mattered. I see too many belabored faces and hear too many tired voices today. It's good to see how we can create a positivity within the workdays so that we can encourage younger people to want to join us and not feel apart from us. I am pleased that LNK has such great access to the arts community. Often I hear that cost is a deterrent to many, but we also have much to be thankful for that is at no out-of-pocket cost to the people enjoying...such as t he wonderful music scene around here in the summertime. The arts festivals and Farmers' Mkts are literally woven into our weeks in a way that encourages participation in some way. We need to be able to continue that, imo. Along with that, there needs to be an ownership again, for each of us, in keeping our city clean and healthy for all. Litter is not the problem it is in some areas, but still is a concern. Keeping up with programs to educate and encourage residents to help is great . The new pgm with the trash haulers picking up items to donate should be wonderful. Hopefully, it will not be abused. Along with the various curbside recycling and the city's recycling spots, I would encourage mandatory recycling even more than we do. It's a good way to teach, and to protect future resources. Water conservation is a must, even in times like we've had this spring. IMO, it should be year-round and ongoing and there should/could be eduation and encouragement for more native plantings and drought-tolerant landscaping with limits on the use of pesticides. With the advent and growth of home and community gardens, the continual spraying of pesticides by lawn companies and homeowners, is often in violation of the EPA standards (via the product labels) and needs better enforcement. Many I know have complained of this. It's sad to think home gardeners cannot eat their own foods because of neighbors' spray habits or those of lawncare companies. Those who walk/run/cycle also often note it's



difficult to take a breath when walking thru such areas filled with chemicals. That brings to mind this coming 4th of July. Something that many have discussed along these lines it to have only one community event, such as the Uncle Sam Jam. One local TV station did a short guest appearance with a law enforcement officer last week who read the statutes re: fireworks. The very last one in his list was that they are not to be 'shot' from, onto, or toward the property of another (w/o that person's permission). Many who garden, especially as many more are using more organic methods, are noting that after the 'celebrations', their garden produce is covered with the residue of fireworks. So are the plants' leaves and stems, driveways, walks, patios... Those residues contain all sorts of toxins as well as heavy metals known to be carcinogenic. How can we grow what we think is healthy food with this contamination? Even if the food is washed, the residue is washed into the soil with rain or watering. It cannot be removed and is a part of that soil structure for a long time, or forever. I know those over the past few years noting that in some areas the 'smoke' was so dense it was being pulled into their attics or other vents and filling houses, making breathing difficult. So this isn't a simple issue any longer. It's definitely an issue of noise, air pollution, pollution of our water/soil/food, and a general nuisance. It isn't like it was 30 yrs ago. LPD is overwhelmed, I'd imagine, trying to cope on those days. Something needs to change, as noted by many these days. Certainly a return to neighborhood/family picnics or events w/o the fireworks can be just as fun and more safe. The effects there are far-reaching. It just takes all working together and having a conversation. We can do that. Going back to gardens...I liked the idea of the areas in the parks used as watersheds, and with fewer mowings. It promotes native plant and native insect populations. Why has the prairie at Gere Library been basically destroyed? I am so unhappy about that. Just as we were creating a greater awareness about that, and when many I'd talked with thought it could be a great place for children to learn...it was mowed to the ground so often that it's destroyed. The answer I heard in my query was that the fellow contracted was in violation of his agreement. But...it continues. That makes me sad. It till take alot of work/\$ to restore, and it was a place in central LNK for pollinator diversity. :(Can we bring that back? What a good place to teach diversity, community involvement, conservation, etc. Thanks for the opportunity to add some ideas and to encourage some things we are already working on. Go, Lincoln! ;)

First of all, I'm very excited to find a group such as this! Thank you for inviting comments. One thought that is always in the back of my mind is recycling, and the ever-growing need for it. I see so many people throwing away bags upon bags of "trash" when so much could be reused. I know many big cities have mandatory recycling, where the city provides a container. If residents are informed of how much landfill space and other resources could be saved if they did their part, I think they'd be more likely to contribute. Unrelated, but also an environmental thought, this one relates to schools and parks. Last summer, I took my young children to play at the school park near our home. When we arrived, I noticed the large soccer field and surrounding lawn had been heavily sprayed. Many "weeds" were wilting. It concerned me, knowing that many children would unknowingly walk across these toxins, and later track them into their home. As a parent and homeowner, I make the decision to not spray our yard. I don't think it's quite necessary at a school where the children won't care. These are just a few thoughts, I may write more later.



We need to move up to the next level with recycling & sustainability. The City of Lincoln needs to ban plastic shopping bags, styrofoam food & drink containers. The City needs to make recycling & composting mandatory. We need to increase fines on littering & illegal dumping.

1. City planning in suburban areas like south and north Lincoln that encourages walking, green spaces, parks, and discourages long rows of cookie-cutter houses and looping roads in neighborhoods that are difficult to navigate. 2. City policies that encourage home owners to grow hearty, tall, native trees. For example, I took advantage of a city program in which the city paid for half the cost of a tree I planted on the parking between sidewalk and street. But the tree species options were slim and involved bland, weaker, quick-growing trees. I'm guessing this was to protect property values so each home plants the same species of (non-native tree). Unfortunately, the list of trees to select from was not close to those species that Nebraska Arboretum recommends. 3. City policies that encourage growth of native grasses that require little water like prairie grass and buffalo grass. This saves water, costs less to maintain, enriches soil, and is a symbol of our state landscape. 4. More options for after-school programs for k-5th grade. Many that exist are costly or have too large a student-supervisor ratio. 5. More pay for police officers. Many have college degrees and therefore debt, work difficult hours, weather abuse and disrespect that police previously did not have to deal with, and are expected to be social workers too. Each man and woman in uniform is an investment in our community and we show our appreciation with pay increase.

Ideally, ensure universal availability of high quality child care. This helps with youth success and workforce development. Reduce Lincoln's reliance on traditional, fossil fuel based energy sources. Become known as the green capital of the prairie. Secure faster broadband/internet service so tech and other companies have the infrastructure they need to compete. Become known as the tech capital of the Silicon Prairie. More opportunities for multilingualism in our schools, for professional experiences/apprenticeships for young people in our local businesses, and for coding education and training for anyone interested - young or old. Healthier food in restaurants - kids' menus are horrifically unhealthy and practically the same everywhere you go. Obesity and lack of nutrition is holding our youth back from success and longevity. Lincoln is already an incredibly successful city, but one of the things holding us back - and our state as well - is the lack of tolerance for difference. SCOTUS has just taken care of our DOMA law, but we need to address and get better at cultural sensitivity and social tolerance of others from the ground up. People with real economic choices don't want to stay put or move to a city that seems backwards when it comes to equality issues - whether in regard to sexual orientation, race, gender, or cultural origin. If we want people to land here instead of fly over, we must be better than we are now. And the publicity we garner in the national news needs to tell a better story.

I am pleased to learn about the formation of Prosper Lincoln, and its focus on sustainability. For the stability and growth of Lincoln it is essential to support the growth and development of local food enterprises. Right now the state of Nebraska grows about 10-11% of the food consumed here. That makes us vulnerable to a host of rapidly changing economic and environmental factors that are not just national but are global in scope. We can do a lot better. We would be wise to do a lot better. As you



may know, there is an ad hoc group in Lincoln that is engaged with this dimension of sustainability (Local Foodshed Working Group ~ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/352890068184430/>) If Prosper Lincoln has not already established a link of communication or association, then I would strongly encourage you to do so. I feel such efforts will play an increasingly important community role in the years ahead. I serve on the Board for Open Harvest Community Market, and know that we are in active economic relationships with over 100 farms in Lancaster County and nearby Nebraska. From this vantage I'm able to see the need and the potential for exponential growth in local food and as a consequence greater opportunities for our youth, greater environmental and health benefits, and much enhanced food security for Lincoln and surrounding communities.

I believe the future is guaranteed and protected by stewardship of what we have. I believe in conservation and the careful use of resources. Community recycling is a start. Not sure how to inspire youth to get back on board. It takes some extra effort and trouble but keeping waste down helps us all. (The UNL student group has done important education during the Jazz in June concerts by helping people decide which container their refuse belonged in.)

The community needs to be continuously persistent and advocate for our children so they have a voice and will be heard. Those children are our future of this community. We must stand up to those staff and demand they take action and not ignore the bullying. The community needs to petition and demand to rewrite the "out dated" bullying policy, so that it reads clearly to all, states action to take and what happens if those involved and even the staff don't comply with the school policy. We need to protect the victim and STOP PUNISHING THEM. We are doing more harm to those victim and it shows in the behavior, attitudes, grades, and in their interpersonal relationships with everyone around them, and tearing at the attachments bonds with their immediate family members. That is only the beginning of the victims self destruction. The child who once was happy, and learning at school, is now tardy to school, doesn't want to go, or has physical issues because of the emotional distress that this toxic environment has caused. This "slippery slope" is stealing the child who once was our child. We don't recognize them any more at home. The school is now labeling those victim children as the "bad kids" or the "lost causes" (which they tend to ignore, try to push them off to another school, wait for someone else to take care of the issue, or blame the parents for this personality change and suspend this child every chance they get). Those victims are not ignorant and they know the system is not helping them, but their voice is NOT heard. Those children need all of us in the community to advocate for them. Be the one who stands up with courage and speaks with authority and demands to be heard, as we are the voices for all of the children. We must unite as a community. It is our individual responsibility to get involved, no matter whose child it is. Make sure the child is heard, do them justice and be their voice, so they will be treated fair. All humans in the USA have civil rights. The victims of bullying, those children in our public schools deserve a fair trial. Innocent until proven guilty. We adults must initiate our own investigation for the child needs someone to advocate without biases. Talk to other parents in the community I'm sure there are several stories out there all we have to do is communicate with others. Ask about this topic of bullying and see how many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and



cousins are frustrated with the policy, or lack there of, on bullying Our future,of this community, those children need our help. Will you have the courage to stand up for change, demand it, speak out loud with the authority as you state you ARE this child's advocate, and you have the right to do so, for each and every child deserves this much. No child is exempt from the chance that they may be bullied. It isn't like it was in the 80', even the popular children are bullied. Those times are over. ANYONE can be bullied about ANYTHING, and BY ANYONE, who is inside those school walls alone with our children the majority of the day. Coaches on the football team have bullied our sons. Make a difference in a child's life. Take a stand and become an advocate for every child you encounter, no matter how long you have known them. Stick up for a steanger, a child needs your voice. Will you help make this community a netter place today and for the future? Pay it forward.

The Boy Scouts of America and the program they offer are a great opportunity for the youth in Lincoln. Although the majority of programs are geared for boys, the families are also encouraged and incorporated into programming. There are programs available for girls as they get older. Help from the City to increase to potential and the good scouting provides would have a long lasting effect for the community. Show casing the variety offered in scouting also. Look at the great influence the 2 large scale community service projects the Scouting program offered, how it benefited the city of Lincoln and the number of community people who came to help also.

Create an after-school program for high school students, especially targeted at low-income students, where they will spend a semester launching their own business. Junior Achievement of Lincoln has this program curriculum already available. The JA Company Program unlocks the innate ability in students to solve a problem or fill a need in their community through an entrepreneurial spirit. We just need a true community effort to help us make this happen by securing locations in the city where students can meet. Business professionals would be recruited to mentor the students. This program fits all your criteria by ensuring our young people are successful, growing our economy by encouraging entrepreneurship and therefore, creating a stronger, more vibrant Lincoln!

First, thank you for seeking the community's input, and thank you to those involved in the steering committee and engagement committee for their time, expertise, and concern for our great city. I have reviewed the materials provided through this website including the Lincoln Vital Signs documents. Although I know that EVERYONE in our community will be helped when Lincoln prospers, I believe that those experiencing issues of poverty, immigration status, language barriers, mental health problems, chronic health problems, drug abuse, and incarceration stand the most to gain if we raise the level of prosperity in this city. I was particularly drawn to the following sentence in the Lincoln Vital Signs document Executive Summary (page 7): "Poor work history and failed background checks were a primary concern for employers looking for health care support workers, food preparation workers, construction occupations and transportation and material moving occupations. This raises another critical issue in labor supply. The supply of hireable workers could grow if these workers are able to improve their work history." I suspect that of the 3,000+ respondents to this survey, people that fall into the above group of workers are very much underrepresented and that these barriers to employment are



even more widespread. My hope for Prosper Lincoln is that we can support businesses that are willing to invest the intensive resources needed to help this population overcome these obstacles.

Teach more Social Entrepreneurship Build businesses to solve a social or environmental issue and makes a profit. Use part of the profits to fund a mission that gives a hand up and not just a hand out. Help nonprofits discover other alternatives besides grants and donors for funding.

One of the things that attracted my husband and I to move to Lincoln were the great green spaces that this city has. I have gotten very involved in our parks and recreation as a volunteer, and I am discouraged how the care and maintenance of our green spaces is always the first item cut from the city budget. Quality green spaces are so important to our city, and maintaining them are absolutely essential. I suggest that we study the current open spaces, how they are being used, how could they be used better, and how and how much would it take to get them up to proper maintenance standards. Once that is done, create a multi-year plan to tackle these needs.

Gather community leaders including employers to find ways to reduce poverty in Lincoln.

Host an annual conference on evidence-based activities that increase the social, mental, and economic wellbeing of individuals, families, organizations, and communities. For example... Happiness Lincoln: A Summit on Wellbeing (Fall 2014) <http://www.happineslincoln.eventbrite.com>
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzsnGFjg_PPEUYejBI45fiSEZk_zoSgO3

Youth Success starts with access to books. Research shows VERY clearly that if children do not have access to home libraries, they are very unlikely to learn to read proficiently, which will cause them to fall behind in school. If they are not reading at grade level by 4th grade, they are FOUR HUNDRED TIMES more likely to drop out of high school. There should be book drives for impoverished children EVERY year several times a year. Not just used books, but brand new, beautiful books for children to take home and write their name in. It is SUCH a simple task, and if people were truly well educated about the situation and how huge of an impact it can have on the cycle of poverty, they would be donating hundreds towards new books every single year. Also, the reason why libraries aren't the (only) answer is: many children do not make it to a library; many parents do not have permanent addresses; many parents are working two jobs and can't take kids to the library, and many impoverished families are AFRAID of fines! <http://rightingthestory.com/> Also, for economic prosperity: network marketing opportunities are HUGE for working women who need extra income, but often times even the small start up cost of a network marketing business is too much for an impoverished woman or family. Offering microloans to families who want to start small network marketing businesses could be HUGE for helping them stay out of debt and work their way to a long term sustainable career and income.

1. Lincoln Public Schools are good but not great. There is too much disparity across the city. Hire high achievers to teach in the low income areas. Pay them a premium. Extra pay for performance. South side schools have been treated much better in the last 15 years. Provide new schools in those areas don't just try to remodel them. 2. We need a regional airport that is shared with Omaha. We can't support a



robust business environment without a solid transportation system. Competitive fares and access to multiple airlines and flight schedules. Without this it will be hard to attract new businesses. 3. Provide tax incentives to attract high tech high paying jobs. We will recoup the tax dollars through employees salaries, along with lowering the tax on all people living in the city. 4. Repair the infrastructure. Get high speed communications to businesses and homes. Bury utilities in all areas of the city with the ease of maintenance. Fix the streets and provide for better traffic flow. 5. Every student has got to graduate from high school. Be the first city/state to require a high school education and at least 2 years of post high school education. Work with the NU System to provide instate free tuition for students that meet a specified criteria. There is nothing more important than education. Jobs in the future will require a higher level of education and we have to start preparing our children now.

We need an indoor aquatic center for both competition and leisure swimming. This would encourage youth to be physically fit and give them a great location to socialize in a controlled environment.

Having experienced the positive aspects that Boy Scouting brings to the youth of the Lincoln area, I recommend the implementation of additional financial assistance to this organization enhance the leadership qualities found in the Boy Scout organization.

Ensure that only kids who need extra school (for instance, who have parents who can't be home for them to take care of them) are in extra school. Kids should be outside playing instead of locked in schools for ever longer days. Support families and quit persecuting them for so-called truancy charges (what used to be called "absences" including excused absences for family reasons, medical reasons, or extra-curricular reasons). Families who are being threatened with truancy charges are distracted from their goals of ensuring that their youth are successful from the stress. Families want the best for their youth. Trust them. Provide extra-curricular programs accessible to all families for their kids, but do not make more school mandatory. Many youth learn successfully outside of school. Support families who question the social norms and make their own decisions regarding nutrition, health, and child-raising. Unless the kids are physically in danger, the parents who make alternative choices in vaccination, nutrition, and child-rearing practices have probably done more research in their chosen methods than you ever will and should be trusted and supported in their decisions. Trust the family. They want what is best for their kids (unless they are drug-addicts or otherwise irresponsible....but do not make rules to punish all families based on a few bad apples.) Ditch the Common Core Curriculum. Encourage more alternative energy projects (solar, wind, geo-thermal) for businesses and homes. Stop the coal trains running through constantly. Encourage more businesses to help and support the community. Support those in need instead of cutting programs that help them (WIC, SNAP, medicare, housing). Provide ways for families in poverty to eventually get out of poverty so they can contribute back to the community instead of using the community's resources. (I have a friend who is disabled and is constantly having her benefits cut and cannot get a real job or risk losing all benefits, cannot have her daughter get a real job without risking their housing allowance, cannot receive large gifts or have a car that is reliable and works without affecting their benefits. She has no way out of where she is, even though she would work and does give back to the community as much as she is able to.)



Promote more, and larger litter free events. The EAA fly-in at Oshkosh Wisconsin is a litter free, 10 day event with over 500,000 attendance. They are your model. They make it look so easy. There is a few signs, They make a daily announcement, More trash cans and in the right places. Our biggest litter mess is athletic events. Someone needs to go to the EAA event and talk to the sponsors to better understand how all this works.

I think there needs to be more affordable programs or free programs for at risk or behavioral children. Giving them the tools and successful coaching necessary to become a contributing citizens. Hopefully in the long run the crime rate here in Lincoln starts to decrease making families feel safe working and raising their children here. Follow in Omaha's footsteps making the lunch program available and free to everyone. Children should not go hungry during the day. Speaking of school lunches, we need to find a way to make them better tasting so the children actually eat it. And give them proportions that make them feel full. I went to have lunch with my son in second grade and decided I should have to eat what he is and the food was not even edible. The majority of the children through the food away because it was cold and hard when it should have been warm and soft. And the proportions were incredible small. I left and brought back Jimmy Johns for my son. I felt bad I couldn't afford to do that for all the children as they all stared at enviously.

we do not have an indoor public aquatics facility for both competition and leisure swimming. With the growth of the community, lack of indoor pool space and the commitment to physical fitness, an indoor community pool is way overdue.

Each new school year should prepare students for the next grade level and for college. I hear way too many parents of LPS students say their kids were not prepared for high school or college.

I think our community needs to focus on affordable childcare, the availability of affordable mental health for youth and adults, and programs that focus on reading and school readiness.

Embrace diversity in its broadest sense and cultivate a culture of acceptance. As Lincoln grows and more out-of-state audiences move into Nebraska, this will be more important for youth, education and our communities. Working at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and specifically, within the arts, there is so much potential for reaching out to communities in need, with no access to the arts. There should be opportunities for youth to be exposed to cultural education that encompasses diversity, creativity and innovation.

Woods Park Tennis has always contributed to a prosperous Lincoln! The Tennis Center provides a year-round facility enabling the staff to provide programing to nurture youth, teach life skills and strategies, and creates a safe and active environment for healthy activities. Woods Park Tennis is the thread running through all the public tennis in Lincoln. I consider Woods Tennis at Woods park an important part of our community in that it serves our youth with a staff that can provide lessons and after-school/summer activities, it provides courts where adults play for their physical and mental health, and its a facility that attracts people to Lincoln for both competitive tournaments and as an asset when



deciding where to live and raise a family. Lincoln is steadily growing posing a strain on the current public tennis facilities. Woods Park Tennis is poised to meet the future demand for the sport and should be a priority when looking at what makes and keeps Lincoln prosperous.

We need to move from elementary teachers as generalists to specialists that loop with students. Imagine the growth that could come from having a teacher start with a group of students in kindergarten and loop with them through 2nd grade. But only in reading, then having another teacher do it with the same group but in math. A team of 4 teachers could loop with students each specializing, and they could work as a team with a specific group of students. You could then do the same with 3rd - 5th grade. The research is clear and the research on generalists is qualitative and based on opinion. Doing so would allow us to go move from around 80% proficiency in reading 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades on all state and national exams, (ITBS, NAEP, NeSA). To a much higher level and doing so would allow students to develop further in other subjects and turn raise the graduation rate. Students must be on grade level by the time they reach 6th grade.

Economic Games/Upstart Trials. Something like the Olympic Games, where groups with solid presentations(with the help modeling some of their ideas through local business/school/resource centers), co-op towards possible business relationships opportunities, or independent ventures. Plus, as a challenge compete to see who can raise the most capital as an effort to gauge what the market has room for, or new networking. Thank you.

Lincoln is a great place to live and work, however there are many families living in poverty that are working to make ends meet. I think it would be wonderful to offer and continue to offer services that help empower these families, providing the basic needs for their family. I cannot imagine how stressful it is for families struggling to make ends meet, this leaves little time for educational, enriching quality time with their children. I believe programs like Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters help families to provide these opportunities, mentoring youth is vital. All youth should have the same opportunities to grow up and become contributing members of our community. Helping empower youth allows their unique, important skills and talents to emerge and they are the future of our community!

Quality, affordable childcare is a must so that parents can work to better their lives and feel comfortable leaving their children in a safe place. Childcare subsidies must also cover an entire workday. During a tour of Educare I learned that parents can only drop their children off for a limited amount of time because that timeframe is the only one covered--it was something close to 9am-3pm. That is not a full workday for most adults, so these parents then must find other arrangements if they are working full-time.

I think the area on NW 48th street has a lot of potential with a new road, etc. However, the area is commonly referred to as "Air Park" which related to the old air base and still has negative connotations (I also believe this is the name being used for the new industrial development by Kawasaki, while turning onto the interstate I have seen signs that indicate "Air Park"). Although this negativity relates to prior



activities it affects the current residents, and a possible opportunity would be to start using a different name for the area which is more innovative and recognizes its potential.

Dear Prosper Lincoln, 1. Abolish all food waste in Lincoln by 2020; reducing greenhouse gas emissions, creating 300+ waste management special jobs, and creating entrepreneurial opportunities for energy and value-added products. 2. Create year-round gardens in every school – public and private – supported by an integrated classroom curriculum that partners with local non-profits, community learning centers and businesses to offer a comprehensive gardening program that teaches Lincoln kids how to grow and prepare their own food. This garden program will: • Bring families from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds together in a safe, community space • Promote healthy food habits and a sense of empowerment • Develop knowledge and life-skills in agriculture, horticulture, marketing and food preparation 3. Lincoln to become self-sufficient in growing fresh, local produce by 2025; developing a skilled workforce of farmers, building career success in our youth, and creating numerous opportunities for entrepreneurs in our city. Thank you for the opportunity to submit ideas!

Youth success: make sure kids have access to opportunities that align with their skills and propensities. Each opportunity a child has to excel in something in school leads to better attendance, increased confidence, and better engagement. This means the arts, sports, cooking, shop class, etc. need to be considered as important as the traditional STEM subjects. There are children who will never master STEM but will and do excel in others. Economic prosperity: (see above) Quality of life: Lincoln has many and varied arts organizations, and some are not-for-profit organizations. Support them like our future depends on them! Advocate for community improvement all across the city to ensure all neighborhoods are appealing, safe, and inviting for families and the elderly. Ensure that people have easy access to medical care, grocery stores, and other services. Bus routes/schedules and public transportation need a serious overhaul.

I think an indoor pool for swim teams and winter recreation and exercise would benefit the entire community. This might be an opportunity to partner with the university for a joint facility?? I also think the movie theater requirement of a 6screen limit is ridiculous and impedes development and competition. We are underserved screen wise and who wants to develop a 6 theater screen these days. The 6screen rule was meant to shelter the Douglas family from competition and enough is enough. Developers shouldn't and won't work to develop our city. Remove the roadblock to more theaters. Our city could use a second run theater in particular. It would allow lower income families the ability to see a movie. I just went to one in Omaha with my daughter and when they charged us \$6.50 for 2 people she was shocked. I told her about the Starship 9 and what a loss it was for the community. Wouldn't it be nice to have a situation where a developer could legally bring one back?

(1) Provide more money to schools: As a new PTO member, volunteering for the 2nd year this coming school year (2015-2016), I was completely amazed in the effort our PTO puts in to raise funds to meet the needs for the school and also to provide out-of-classroom learning experiences (field trips). It was interesting to see how much the principal had to re-configure the school budget to meet requests by



teachers for supplies and different educational opportunities that would compliment the teaching that goes on in the classroom and outside of the classroom. To have a strong and vibrant community and to be successful, invest in the schools! The economics will follow accordingly. (2) Volunteer/Community input: Again as a PTO member, it is frustrating to see not a lot of parents volunteer and we also try to get the community and area businesses to donate time and money. We have a handful of parents and businesses that are willing to put in their time and money into the school. We have about 400 families with children going to the school! (3) NO COMMON CORE: Nebraska is NOT a Common Core state and should stay that way regardless of the "carrot" the government dangles in front of Nebraska for funds. Common Core is a "bust" and even the children of those in the White House, etc. attend schools that are NOT teaching Common Core. If it's so great, then why are teachers, schools and administrators from around the U.S. against it and raising a fuss and why are students opting out of the tests? Secondly, there is no reason for students to be tested so much as they all learn at different levels and in different ways. The teacher should be the ones to condition her/his teaching according to the levels and abilities in the classroom to meet their goals. Not condition her/his teaching in order to prep students for testing. Common Core does not reflect real-world use. I have advised my husband that I would love to home-school our children, but it's not economically sound to do so at this point. So in the meantime, in addition to my son attending school, I have also taught him at home during the school year and a little bit during the summer (don't want to infringe upon his summer too much) and since he is going into 1st Grade, he's already learning how to do some things in 1st grade and we're dabbling in 2nd grade just to see if he can do it. Tidbit: Also "Whole Child Network" is in conjunction to Common Core. The grant money is great, but feel it's a back-door approach to introducing Common Core into our school system. I already see bits and pieces of CC education in the schools as it is (via parental complaints in person, on facebook, news, etc.). (4) Truancy Policy: I do understand the reason for the truancy policy as we want to keep children in school to better themselves, but there are exceptions to the rule and there always should be. The policy needs to be revamped. It's almost criminalizing the parents and students. (5) Overall: I was amazed at how much less recess the students had especially in kindergarten and how much less extracurriculars were offered in school. Comparing to when I was in school, we had 3 recesses, then Art and P.E. every other day. And we all still came out fine and successful overall. Children learn through play. I teach my children Art at home in addition to what they were taught in school. (6) Listen to the Parents: Education should be in parental hands. I feel that the government has often overstepped it's boundaries.

Welcome packets to new residents that include how to register to vote (or update their current registration), which territory/district/etc they live in for every office, and who currently holds every elected office based on their address. I'd also like to see an easy to use link on every govt webpage that directs people to a page where they can put in their address and see all their elects in one place. This would make voting easier and government more transparent.

I hope that the original Vision 2015 can continue! The ice rink, and hopefully added baseball fields will bring in a lot of families to our community. This will ensure added revenue and family fun. Also, I'd love



to see walking and bike paths repaired (I know, no budget) as it is amazing the number of families I see using them. And, it knows no income boundaries as to who can use them! I love that schools are getting tablets. Keeping kids plugged in with technology may spark interest where it lacks otherwise. I hope that Lincoln Public Schools continues to look at alternative learning methods. One size fits all is no longer the best solution. Is there testing to determine how children best learn? If so, start early and get them placed accordingly. God bless the backpack program. Can we find a way so there are no kids on a waiting list? Innovation Campus is amazing. Can we build on this concept? It may bring all levels of young adults into the community.

After being involved in youth sports in the seventies and eighties and now having grand kids involved I hope and pray that there are always sports that our youth can be in that are affordable to everyone.. I had a daughter who went clear through college on athletic scholarships in the eighties and there is no way that my family could have afforded the expensive team sports that they have now. Having a friend that has seven kids I was more delighted to find out that some of the schools were offering free lunches in the summer. Having all the kids home on a low income is a great strain for many families. I have a friend in Minnesota where some of the schools, during the school year made lunches free to everyone. They found that the cost was not much more because they do not have to pay any one to do all the bookwork involved. Any programs like these are a very direct way our money goes directly to feeding the low income kids stomachs. Raising and supporting the minimum wage always helps the low income people.... I totally support health care for everyone. Many single moms have no choice but to stay on welfare just so they can get health care for their families. If they go to work many low paying jobs do not provide it.... or they can not find a full time job that does. I think more woman would work at least part time if Health care was not such a big issue.. and it is just as important for mom and dad to be able to do to the doctor. Yes, we have some free and income adjusted clinics and they are wonderful but every member of the legislature should be required to go set in the waiting room of these for a couple hours so they understand how busy they are and that more are needed. People in this state do not at all understand the working poor.

Ban open carry of firearms without any training within the city limits. Concealed or open, if someone has a firearm around my family legally, they ought to have had training and testing on that weapon.

Economic and Quality of Life. Implement pro-innovation policies

Better sustainability is key. Finding ways to reduce consumption of precious resources. Focus on sustainable transportation.

Keep class sizes as small as possible; make available supervised afterschool programs for very little money; increase minimum wage (middle class just can't keep up--let alone others who aren't even there yet); keep our streets safe with police who serve (not just shoot first) and have enough officers to keep interacting with neighborhoods; keep open carrying people off the streets (it sets a tone of violence for our youth--and adults as well); bring pressure to make sure poorer people get Medicaid and stop



withholding it; make sure gun owners are required to have sound background checks--and training so they don't shoot someone accidentally (there's been too much of that); make sure local government reflects our racial and cultural diversity; don't pander to money grubbing businesses (like Walmart and Hobby Lobby); let's bring in business that respects the individual, both patrons and employees.

Implement pro-innovation policies: Connect Investors and Entrepreneurs Make Internet Fast and Wi-Fi Free Give Startups Preferential Treatment in City Contracts Keep Regulation In Step With Technology Make Public Data Available

We can support sports in our city. Tennis is a lifelong sport that the whole family can play and enjoy. It is an active sport which promotes fitness. It is a sport that causes you to contemplate your next move, tally mistakes and make an effort to correct them, observe your opponent and read what they are doing that causes you trouble to play your game. With the physical and mental parts of tennis, children learn much which will help them for life. The new tennis facility planned for Woods Tennis Center will bring many families here for tournaments from around the country. As our facility draws participants, the city benefits from the money brought into our community. Having good sports facilities attribute to drawing healthy, fit people to Lincoln and provide an excellent choice of exercise for all. Tennis not only provides a healthy sport but it provides a community where friends can meet and constantly make new friends. Competition is also provided.

Create a theme park like Worlds of Fun in KC or Adventureland in Des Moines. Or a larger water park like Oceans of Fun. Lincoln is viewed as a family-oriented community and so far the growth that I have seen have been more geared toward bars and business-related growth. This will bring the Lincoln community together which is important for my family and I to stick around instead of moving to Omaha.

I think it is wonderful that Lincoln promotes citizen recycling. I would like to see more responsible and efficient recycling for businesses. Every senior facility has residents taking the daily newspaper and numerous magazine subscriptions, plus receiving daily paper reminders and donated magazines. Although the residents and staff want to recycle these facilities rarely budget for this service. It is troubling to see the trash bins filled with items that could be easily recycled. I am also concerned about the increasing poverty of families in our community. It is very difficult to achieve middle class status and stay there. Many friends are over qualified in education, but working entry level or low paying positions. I don't have any suggestions, except for employers to offer better wages and benefits.

All downtown bars in Lincoln need to be cleanup and remodeled. When visiting other cities we strive to be like their bars are were clean, had bathroom assistants, fully themed and decorated. Here they are grungy, dirty and gross. In downtown lincoln or the haymarket we need to have a night time farmers market where there is local foods to grab dinner, lights strung from building to building, painters, music, drinks and dogs allowed. It should take place from 6-11pm. This would give visitor's and Lincoln residents a place to go on a Friday and Saturday night besides the bars and would have more of a family friendly atmosphere. When visiting California, this was such a fun night time activity to do. Lincoln



should offer skydiving and adrenaline pumping activities. Easy navigation around Lincoln. Especially north to south. We need a gelato shop!

As a Gen-X'er one of my concerns has to do with the recent infusion of college student condos/apartment living in and around the downtown area. My husband and I are more and more reluctant to spend time downtown because it seems as if it's been taken over by the University and focused toward the college age population. As someone who works in downtown Lincoln, it makes me a little sad as the downtown/Haymarket area is predominately what I love about Lincoln! I know it's not so much a solution as a problem, but I would love to see some way to entice some of the "non-college" population downtown again.

Take action on climate change. Ensure access to affordable health care and quality education at all ages. Do not acknowledge, support, or condone outdated policies and practices that stratify people into prejudicial categories; promote women and minorities in leadership positions and pay equally. Provide paid family medical leave, especially for new parents. Change the start time for high school to match the sleep schedules of adolescents and leave less unsupervised time in the evening for mischief.

Stop adding bonds on top of bonds to our tax debit. Stop allowing \$800,000 to decorate an alley. Help the same business guy and not just the corporates.

Installation of a combination tennis/basketball court in Folsom Park.

Create high expectations of our youth in school. Make the International Baccalaureate the standard and build programs from Kindergarten on to prepare children for attaining it. Start teaching foreign languages in kindergarten. Make Antelope Valley a focal point for community gatherings that are free for all. Include food. Support environmental improvements that are fair to all. Make garbage hauling fair by treating it as a utility that it is. Use a Pay as You Throw system to encourage recycling and composting. Build a hazardous waste facility to divert toxic materials from the landfill. Provide universal access to recycling and composting (curbside) for business, single and multiple family homes and institutions. Build more protected bike lanes, subsidize buses deeply, and ask employers to make allowances for employees that use these modes of transportation. Celebrate these things and fold them into our culture. Invest heavily in renewable, distributed energy and high-speed internet.

Providing strong after school and community programming opportunities that are available to everyone from all socioeconomic backgrounds. The more diverse offering of the programming the better to keep youth engaged, developing and staying productive. Programming like what is being provided both at and through Woods Park Tennis Center across the community in after school programs, parks and rec programming and their other work with community non-profits where everyone has an opportunity to play this lifetime sport. They go above and beyond attempting to share the game with everyone and providing fitness opportunity as well as developing team work and other life lessons.



The transportation system in the city is virtually non-existent. Star Tran is mired down in old idea and old politics. I am very concerned with the newest proposal to locate a new bus hub downtown. The problem with the bus system is that too many buses go downtown. We are dedicating too many buses to take too long to transport too few riders to one destination (downtown). The \$6 million annual deficit is outrageous for the taxpayers. I propose that Prosper Lincoln convene an independent review and analysis of the bus system outside the purview of Star Tran administrator and the Downtown Lincoln Association. We need a viable transportation system that is efficient. We either need to redesign the bus system as a service or we need to develop new ways of moving people that do not realize on large buses.

Encourage all trades and tracks of vocation. Construction and skilled trade workers are needed now more than ever. Continue to develop the railyard area, but also look at other sites for development. It seems like other cities that are thriving have multiple destination areas that draw people in. Continued commitment to law enforcement and keeping the city safe & clean as it grows is a must.

We are shifting how we work and live. Governments and FIRE industries need to define what is happening and how to support their clients and constituents.

Because DHHS is a vital gateway to services utilized by people in need or crisis, it is a foundational piece of this puzzle. Although the organization's mission is "Helping people live better lives", the organization does not currently have any indicators (other than budget) by which success at meeting its mission is measured. Until success is judged in a way that shows the impact of services on people rather than simply just the cost of services, this agency will continue to have problems "Helping people live better lives." I suggest that as the second largest community of taxpayers in Nebraska, we work to lobby for people-focused, non-monetary measurements for legislators to use when determining DHHS achievement. In addition, I suggest that our community works to identify and educate people about the DHHS services that when properly funded, produce cost-savings both in the short and long-term. Expanding the vision of what DHHS success looks like to include actual improvements in people's lives and educating individuals on areas where investments can be made for future cost savings will give taxpayers the information they need to fully fund the expenses associated with actually "Helping people live better lives."

We need to be known as an entrepreneurial city. We work and live in a world of close encounters. Cities are platforms for sharing. We need to increase the frequency of contact between interesting innovative people both socially and professionally. When most cities are operating with a diminishing budget it will be the urban entrepreneur who supplies the talent to address our biggest urban challenges – transportation, housing, energy, food, water and workforce.

Downtown needs a supermarket. Walgreens and Panera and a few months of farmers market don't make the cut. We need more 24 hour open convenience and food places. The new startup community works all night and it's mainly downtown.



Street repair is needed. Many streets throughout the city are in poor shape.

Support existing community facilities like Woods Park Tennis Center that are desperate need of repair and improvements so it can strengthen its outreach to underserved youth of all ages who may not have an opportunity to learn a sport that will provide them all sorts of benefits including commitment, responsibility, physical fitness, academic success, and leadership. Woods Park Tennis Center provides these opportunities to children at Title 1 schools, Park and Rec Centers, CLCs and Woods. It is a safe place located in a core neighborhood that provides activities for kids who may otherwise find less desirable activities. Programming has increased 4000% since 2008 and the facility needs to replace the bubbles with a permanent structure if it is to continue and strengthen this opportunity for our underserved youth and children of diverse populations. In addition, improvements would allow Woods to attract additional economic activity to our community by hosting additional state and regional tennis tournaments. The private campaign has raised \$4 million and needs only \$1.6 million to start building. It is a wonderful opportunity to hit all three priority areas identified by the Lincoln Community Foundation. We need to take care of what we have to ensure Lincoln's wonderful quality of life.

We need to find a way to address poverty in the community especially as it relates to the working poor.

Youth that come from low income families should be given the opportunity to attend summer camp programs. In order to accomplish this, more scholarship funds are needed. We are finding if an individual is getting para assistance during the school year, many of these same individuals need similar assistance to be successful in community programs during the summer. Many families cannot afford this kind of financial requirement so if there was a way for them to get some type of financial assistance, it would help the child as well as the family. Continuing to build out the bicycle facilities is important for Lincoln's quality of life and to attract businesses to the community. Great strides have been made and even greater strides need to be made to keep improving on our system. Following the Complete Streets Guidelines is a great start. We need to continue to build out the greenways identified in the comp plan. What has been developed gets heavy use. A greenway along Stevens Creek and then a greenway along the South Beltway would be great completion to an already great greenway corridor along Salt Creek. Building out along other corridors including Haines Branch are also critical. There is a huge need for sports facilities that will bring in regional and national tournaments.

More funding for services for the poorest/ most vulnerable members of our society (i.e. homeless) regulate pay day lending- it keeps people in debt, when they have no other option- perhaps regulate how much interest can be added/ accrue? more services for people getting out of jail or prison and trying to start over more accessible public transportation- perhaps more than one main hub?- if hours or routes cannot increase more low income housing options- new developments typically aren't affordable for low income households

for services (and funding for services) for people getting out of prison increase access to no cost/ sliding scale healthcare- there is not as much available as people may think more housing options for low



income people- either through programs or housing developments specifically affordable for low income people more services and funding for homeless services, esp those that get "lost" like former felons, people without kids, etc

more employment opportunities for "unskilled"- those without college degree, increase services for them like job training and education assistance more help for homeless people that don't have a place to go- transitional places maybe- especially for people without kids because we don't seem to get many services since there aren't children in the home improved public transportation - more hours, or some option that doesn't make people go all the way downtown to get a different bus more housing options for people in the lower income bracket

more support for the arts, it adds so much to our community grow employment opportunities for less skilled worker (i.e. no degree and/or not a lot of experience) job training programs and help to fund them affordable housing more free or low cost health care options (income based/ sliding scale)

more funding for services for people getting out of prison (or jail)- housing options, job assistance, etc services for people that are homeless and don't have kids with them

end homelessness! We are so vibrant and growing, let's not forget about all the people in poverty and how that has increased according to the study! services for adults in need, heard a lot about helping kids but what about their parents or other adults who don't have little kids anymore?

I think we should invest in infrastructure, which includes both physical (roads, library, internet access, parks) and mental (content and programs) and we should be inclusive and should do it with progressive taxation. What I love about Lincoln (and I grew up and lived in a number of much larger cities) is that it is inclusive of most socioeconomic levels in its voluntary activities. One doesn't have to be well-off to be on a board, to work on a benefit, or to contribute to the life of the community by performing day-to-day volunteer work. This attitude means that most of the people who live here have ownership of the city. That translates into good schools, good parks, and clean and safe streets. The true danger to Lincoln as it grows larger is to lose the individual sense of ownership in this city and the concomitant sense of responsibility for its well-being.

Cost of health care is a major expense for Lincoln's businesses and employees. Access to health care is still an issue for many Lincoln residents. A blue ribbon panel of business leaders, health care providers and consumer representatives should develop plans and ideas for local initiatives to help make affordable health care available to all Lincoln residents. Possible ideas include hospital non-duplication of services for cost containment, small business combined group health plans, local approval of significant health care ventures, reducing duplication of lab and x-ray services by general physicians and specialists, privately-funded (foundations and grants) health clinics for uninsured residents.

Building a new library is essential. If you can't read, pretty much you can't do anything. This should be a top priority for Prosper Lincoln



The most successful long term youth program that I am aware of is the Scouting movement. The Cornhusker Council BSA serves thousands of youth in Lincoln, Lancaster County and Southeast Nebraska including young women in the Venturing Scout movement. This is not to take away from other youth programs but scouting is year round. Support for the Outdoor Education Center on the edge of Lincoln and for the Camp Cornhusker where each summer there are resident camps for Boy Scouts and Venturers, Webelos and Cub Scouts, would go a long way towards making it possible to reach even more young people and instill in them the values of Scouting.

All three of these topics rely on one main subject: Youth. The youth of this era are much different from times past. There seems to be very little self-worth in these young people. They are not made to try to do things on their own, they are shown that even if they don't try, they will still be recognized. A program that I have had all 3 of my sons in is Scouting. They had things re-emphasized to them that we taught them as children. They found out that mom and dad really knew something when they were taught about civic pride, duty to community and nation, manners and a sense of self worth through personal achievement. Scouting teaches them that they will get more out of life if they actually try new things and experience both the wins and losses. Scouting needs more support from the community. The ideals and values that scouting teaches benefit not only the youth, but the community and everyone they may touch in life.

Youth success: we need more art and music and more community events that foster creativity in our youth. More art should be spread across the city in the form of murals and sculpture to remind youth and adults to be creative. Our society sometimes forgets to dream. There should be more music festivals that are ongoing throughout the year. We need more inspiration in Lincoln! Economic prosperity: Lincoln needs higher-paying jobs. Our college students need to know that they will be rewarded by their efforts and will be able to pay off their high student loan debts. More programs to help students pay off those debts should give them some incentive to stay in Lincoln. Lower property taxes is also an obvious way to do that. We need local employers to treat their employees right with better benefits and the proper tools to succeed. Too many employers don't offer health incentives to quit smoking, get more exercise, or just be generally healthier. There is minimal investment and great ROI in supporting a healthy lifestyle for employees. Educational support and appreciation are also highly sought after in careers and there just isn't enough of that in Lincoln jobs to make the best employees want to stay here. Quality of life: Lincoln needs more events in general to get the community involved. How about more humanitarian events? Let's raise money to help decrease the homeless population in Lincoln. Let's raise money for refugees who've come to Lincoln. Let's learn more about the cultural opportunities we have right here in Lincoln. We need to encourage acceptance, community, and philanthropy in our own city. And educate people on how to live a healthy lifestyle. How we can grow our own food and focus on the most important things in life instead of consumerism. We should focus on public transportation as a cost-saving and healthy way to get to work. Even better, let's create more safe bike lanes so that our children can get to school with minimal traffic to face. Let's show our youth how to support local business instead of all the big chain markets that keep coming into our city. Local business is what helps



Lincoln grow. Our youth are the future and they are the ones that will impact our city the most. Let's teach them so that they can teach their parents. Kids will help Lincoln become a city that recycles, lives a healthy lifestyle and cares about its citizens. If we educate, propagate and nurture our city, it will continue to grow because that's the type of city people want to live in.

Our city has made commendable strides towards preparing for natural disasters (via extensive flood control projects), improving transportation and decreasing travel delays (roads projects), and transitioning to clean energy and protecting our common home (via LES initiatives, low maintenance and low water usage planting a, and tree planting and park maintenance). These great advances should be maintained and improved upon: we still have much to do to prepare our city for the future. Global warming, increased population density, electric vehicles and self-driving cars, and distributed energy generation all require attention and adaptation.

Something like 800 people spent a week at Camp Cornhusker sponsored by the Boy Scouts. 800 weeks of camping. Over half of those people are from Lincoln, most of the rest from southeast Nebraska. Seems peculiar that for all the fantastic stuff that went on there, that the Lincoln giving community does not do a very good job of sponsoring any programs.

Don't know where my sons would b without Scouts. None of them did anything special like make eagle. bit theysure learned a lot of good lessons. Was a lot of fun for the familie to.

I read in the daily Nebraskan about this initiative. I think what Lincoln really needs is another place to train young people how to shoot. The commercial ranges allow rent and facility, but the classes are pretty poor. We need something like the Scouts to build a range and teach youngsters gun safety. Better them than the NRA.

The role model should be based on the model that started over 400 years ago, was written down in 1776, fought for in the 1800's, started to decline in the 1880's, and is surveyed in 2014 for Lincoln as a comparison with the average group in the United States. My proposals for Prosper Lincoln: 1. Prayer returned to family life and the schools. 2. School have daily Pledge of Alligance to the United States. 3. Expose everyone to the film "America". 4. Christian Bibles available in the Classrooms. 5. Encourage familys to be exposed to a Church setting with Christian Standards (Pue Research shows 2010 family with School Age Children are 4% of population vs 1955 attendance was 64%) 6. Schools present U S History truthfully as American viewpoint.

I think that a new downtown library at the Pershing site is a great idea. I was just in Minneapolis and their downtown library is amazing. Our current downtown library is embarrassing. I see a new library as a technology center, a place to exchange ideas and a place for children to learn.

Provide more programs for children especially after school and during the summer. These need to be a safe place for children to go. Also providing sufficient transportation to and from these programs. Provide more resources for those families living in poverty. Provide classes on cleaning and parenting



more often at a reduced or free cost. Make resources easier to utilize. Have the bus system run longer hours and more often.

Thank you for putting such a survey out there where the people of Lincoln feel they might get a little input. 1. Offer more help to the homeless to get them off the streets. No one wants to raise a family in a city where the street is lined with the homeless. And make it illegal for the people who stand on the street pretending to be homeless because they are just too lazy to work. It's not pretty on the eye or pleasing to pull into Sam's and Wal-Mart on North 27th and have 5 or 6 different people standing there begging for money. How are the people supposed to feel safe with this happening? 2. Offer more family friendly places not just bars. I heard from a buddy of mine that there are more than 75 bars downtown. Downtown is geared toward college age students not families that will raise children and support the community. How about family activities? Create a nice water park for the summer. (I don't mean to fix up Star City or whatever it is called.) Put money into a new one. I personally take my family to either the Grand Island water park or Mahoney State Park. Living in Lincoln, you would think with all the football money and Keno money that we would afford a huge water park that people from other cities would drive HERE for. Instead of us leaving to go to their city. 3. Have you ever been to Yanney Park in Kearney? We have and it is a great place to take the family for the day and spend time together. They have a smaller lake with rental boats (boats look like swans, which is a huge hit with the kids.) fishing, a trail with several bridges (again huge hit with the kids) a city observation tower that goes up 25 feet to view the city, several nice buildings for rent, indoor play area, outdoor concert stage with FREE concerts throughout the summer along with FREE plays and musicals, huge spray water area for the younger kids. A family could spend all day there. I realize we have Pioneers Park but this park in Kearney is not like that. We need one in Lincoln. 4. I mentioned downtown earlier, how about making that more family friendly. Horse rides with carriages, offer city parades so the kids can watch the bands march while catching candy, put more money into the Children's Museum (you can only go through so many times before you have seen it all.) 5. Put more money into the Lincoln Children's Zoo. It's a smaller zoo and one visit every year is sufficient. I wish it had more to do there or the zoo itself was larger. 6. Create more city parks. 7. Put more money into the city trails so it's kid friendly. Create "Pit stops" along the trails with a few park benches for the kids wanting to ride a long trip with the family. They can stop and sit down and rest. Also at these Pit Stops put in a swing or a small slide or a little money bar. 8. We have a Roller Rink but the one Lincoln has is not up to date in any means and is not family friendly. We tried to take our children there one night and it was over run by thug like teenagers wearing all black. Maybe we can open a new larger one, more colorful with an arcade? Family friendly fun. 9. I heard from some family friends that Hastings and Kearney both have Food Truck days a couple times during the summer. Where food trucks from all over the state and other states come and line the downtown streets. They have clowns, bouncy houses for the kids, bands playing. Great Family Fun! 10. Create a world class sports theme park. You can find these in the bigger cities. Top notch baseball fields, basketball courts, indoor soccer courts, football fields. But you can find it all on one sports campus. These places are very cool and draw crowds in from all over. Like Abbott but nicer more state of the art and city owned. Competitive sports are a huge money maker. And it would draw in lots of revenue and get other cities to



visit Lincoln. Not including all the tournaments Lincoln could hold. Inclusion, I think Lincoln (with it as big or a city as it is) needs to concentrate on more family friendly activities and not so much the bar scene. We have PLENTY of bars. Clean up the city to make it more attractive to those visiting. Plant more trees, put money into city parks, create things here in Lincoln so we have no reason to go to other cities to use their amenities.

I think a good addition would be to help Woods Tennis Center complete their new permanent structure project which will allow more coaches and more kids the opportunity to learn this sport which encourages critical thinking, exercise and manners. I think the investments in the alternative learning programs are great, like Zoo School, Entrepreneurial, IB, Trades, etc. The investments in beautifying our city with public art, the arena, the railyard, keeping parks nice, etc are very important to make Lincoln a place people want to be. For young people to stay here there must be a draw (not just a safe place to live).

Ideas from our Ladies Luncheon at Antelope Park Church: More comprehensive, freely available nutritional information and teaching for parents of young children. Have SCC set an example by paying all daycare workers, not just the head teachers, a livable wage with full time hours and benefits. Also concerned about policies that pay AA students with early childhood certification more than BA degreed students with early elementary degrees.

As a young person in Lincoln, a UNL College of Business grad, and a student at the UNL College of Law, I have seen many of my friends and colleagues make the decision to leave Lincoln and, very often, Nebraska altogether because of a lack of opportunity and, at times, excitement in our city and state. What I see as paramount to maintaining and growing our youth in Lincoln is to ensure that there are strong careers awaiting them after graduation at innovative and industry-leading companies. While we certainly have those at advertising agencies like Swanson-Russell or at tech-companies like Hudl, more can be done to incentivize entrepreneurs to start their own local businesses and to encourage out-of-state or non-Lincoln businesses to relocate or open up a Lincoln-based office. A strong place to start is controlling spending. That means a concerted effort to see where cuts can be made as well as stopping certain irresponsible habits of our elected officials like offering non-bid contracts to artists and other contractors. Next, scaling back fees like the wheel tax and all those attributed to maintaining a vehicle in Lincoln. Public transportation is not an option as our city is not made for it, it is typically too slow and inefficient, and is simply another siphon of private dollars for more public spending. Last, lobbying the state government for actual comprehensive tax reform is key. Luckily, our state has the businesses it does because, despite our high tax burden, our state gov't is hospitable to business, we have a high quality workforce, and our cost of living is negligible compared to near every other place in the country. However, it is hard to attract further business with our current individual and corporate income tax structure. Why should a major business fight for a tax subsidy with our state or simply locate here at all when presented with alternatives like the low-to-no-tax structures in neighbor states like South Dakota or in states like Texas? A major tax overhaul on the state level would do wonders for Lincoln along with spending and tax reforms on the city-level.



The Farmers' Market should be moved to the block around the Capitol and the Capitol should be open for tours and restrooms. (See Madison) Our Zoo should be free. We should incentivize small and medium sized non-chain restaurants (to appeal to young professional crowd). #riselincoln

To help our economy grow, people look at three things before relocating or choosing to raise a family in a certain city: Does the city have good public schools? Can you afford to live there? Is the city growing and prospering?

We need to encourage young people — and all people — to vote. There are so many people in our community who have great ideas but feel that their vote doesn't matter because of the parties who typically dominate elections in our state. It's doesn't stop at the polls, though; it's about sharing ideas and standing up for what you believe in as a part of the political process.

Shrink the size and scope of Government. Allow private enterprise to compete and replace traditional government functions. Initiate a School Voucher System that will enhance our K-12 Education System within the City. The demise of Special Education at LPS is a good indicator of what will happen to the rest of the system. Eliminate the apparent Telecommunication Monopoly for Cable TV and Telephone. Allow Free Enterprise to construct a high level telecommunications/internet system and enhance the community to have the advantages of high level technology. Eliminate political paybacks and corruption, particularly to union organizations. The City and County should limit their scope to Public Safety, Infrastructure and Economic Development. The City should not own golf courses, swimming pools, arenas or retirement homes. Government does not manage anything well. So, government should manage as little as possible. In time, when private enterprise realizes that government is no longer going to interfere or compete with private enterprise, then private enterprise will fill in the gaps with services far better than we have now, at a lower cost to the public.

Great schools, affordable living , lots of playgrounds, low crime rates, cities with a lot of parks, playgrounds, libraries and recreational venues geared specifically for children, family friendly events throughout the year (art downtown on the streets, street dances, parades) this is only part of the package that makes a city great for children making them successful, our economy grow and our community strong and vibrant.

It's important for us to help children, but our community can never break through if we don't help the underserved groups as well. Homeless men and women — without children in their custody — often face greater hurdles in reaching self-sufficiency, and we need to help them overcome those barriers if we want to see our community thrive.

Lincoln is a great city for bicycling, but our public transportation is miles behind. We need extended hours so working people can rely on buses both as a way to work, and to run errands and seek entertainment. Riding the bus would improve a sense of community by encouraging new conversations and connections, and would cut down on pollution and traffic in our city, especially during peak travel hours.



I already filled one of these out and gave my input but then started thinking and the number one thing we need is student to teacher ratio needs to be half of what it is to give every student a fighting chance. Right now the student to teacher ratio is 26 kids. It needs to be 15 students to 1 teacher. Hire more teachers and give these kids the opportunity to learn.

Youth are successful Investing in early childhood education. Since more and more of Lincoln's youth are from non-white backgrounds, growing the capacity of professionals to serve this youth and their parents will be an increasing need. Fluency in a language other than English (Spanish, Vietnamese, etc.) may be a part of the need for increased professional capacity. Bringing youth from different backgrounds together (not keeping them isolated in their own "groups" would add to the vibrancy of our community and their multicultural understanding in an increasingly diverse and globalized world. We should keep an eye on the demographics within our schools as far as any intentional or unintentional segregation that may be occurring. Economy grows Enhanced public transportation could facilitate access to education, employment, and more preferred housing for Lincoln's residents. Looking at the factors that could continue to keep our cost of living (particularly cost of housing) lower than the national average and working to maintain these conditions. Community is strong and vibrant I think it starts with the children in our community. Good public safety-community relationships.

Lincoln already has a great network of multi-use trails, but they could be improved. Signs could be placed along the trails to tell walk and bike time to different attractions, such as the Sunken Gardens. Also, the trails could be better labeled and a map of the trails could be provided at a few key locations. Similarly, walk and bike time signs could be added in the downtown and Haymarket areas. It is not far between the two of them, but most visitors think it is necessary to drive. There are several locations in downtown and the Haymarket that could be targeted as destinations. I appreciate all of the recent improvements to both the downtown and Haymarket areas and the smattering of art installations around town. I would like to see more of a thriving local art community in Lincoln, so further support of related events would be great. Along the same lines, I have been disappointed at the lack of advertising of events taking place in Lincoln. Many communities have an "alternative" newspaper that lists upcoming events of all sorts. Lincoln residents and event organizers would benefit from such a newspaper (print and electronic). Many residents of up and coming cities embrace bicycling and walking and easy access to the places they want to go. I was recently in Boulder and at many of the crosswalks there was a sign that stated it was the state law to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. I just saw a similar sign at Eppley Airport, but since I moved here 4 years ago, I have very rarely seen cars yield to pedestrians. When I do, I get honked at. Of all the places I have lived (most west coast states), Nebraska (Lincoln) is the worst at being polite to pedestrians. Changing to a culture that embraces and respects pedestrians and cyclists is needed if Lincoln wants to be considered a competitor for younger generations. Creating and maintaining green spaces in Lincoln is also important - not highly manicured, but natural places. Establishing a standard (not extra fee) curb-side recycling and composting program would be great. The use of Styrofoam in Lincoln is appalling. I have NEVER been anywhere where Styrofoam is the standard for cups and take out food. Even coffee shops that are supposed to be hip use



it. Lincoln establishments need to take a huge step away from using Styrofoam. My fellow students and I started boycotting the use of Styrofoam in the early 1990s. Lincoln has a lot of catching up to do. Along the same lines, Lincoln could join the many cities (and islands) across the country that are banning single-use plastic bags. Not only are the discarded bags terrible for wildlife, they are made from petroleum products. There are many alternatives and many people choose not to use them, but it would be great if the city banned them across the board. You only have to walk along the Antelope Parkway to see the pollution they create and the potential danger they cause to the wildlife that use the streams and surrounding land.

I would like us to take an out of the box look at systemic approaches to changing the direction of poverty. In talking to my colleagues, to educators, and to people involved in supporting the under privileged community, everyone thinks the poverty problem will continue to grow. While there are many good programs, these don't change the systemic reasons for poverty. One can ask if Lincoln can control "levers" large enough to drive such change. For example, we tend to go after the "glitz" in the form of high-tech, high-visibility business that helps Lincoln look more attractive. We could, however, look in addition at attracting businesses that require relatively unskilled workers or require skills that could be easily trained. Examples include a city (sorry, I've forgotten which) that created laundries in poor areas to service the city and business laundry needs. While they started as city owned, they transferred to worker-owned. This is just one example. The core of my suggestion is that we need to think big and we need to think systemically. As I discussed with Barb Bartle, I would like to pull together some small groups of people to investigate this thinking. She is supportive. All I need to do is get through my busy summer research season and I can think about getting this effort started.

Lincoln and the state of Nebraska need to help those who are underemployed by both counting them and making those numbers known, and also by offering them ways to get re-trained quickly. One way is to offer alternate certification for teaching for those who have been in the work force including education for many years. This should be offered on the state level. As it stands right now, it looks like the unemployment is low, but does not take into consideration those who had to take huge pay drops in order to stay employed. Lincoln and Nebraska would benefit from being environmentally progressive. Let's not wait for there to be a drought or a dried-up aquifer before suggestions for caring for lawns are made or mandated. Drought-tolerant plants should be actively encouraged as well. And isn't there a way to reduce the amount of garbage and recycling trucks within a neighborhood. In my neighborhood (Irvingdale) there are numerous trucks on several days picking up and garbage and recycling. It would be terrific if the city of Lincoln could organize leaf pick-up in the Fall at the curb the way other cities do. Put the leaves in the compost so that everyone doesn't have to take care of leaves on their own. For that matter, composting vegetable scraps could also be encouraged by the city. Recycling could be required. All this could be encouraged by charging for the amount of garbage one leaves out (encourages recycling). I think I've made more than enough suggestions.

We have a food desert on our hands. The only grocery stores from greater south to downtown are small, local stores, which is nice, but there needs to be something bigger. This is especially true around



downtown. Every major city I've been to has a decent sized grocery store downtown where someone can get produce or a single meal. Doing this will encourage more people to live downtown and increase affordable meal options for those that are downtown on a daily basis. I think Lincoln has a lot to gain from several more grocery stores, especially in the downtown area.

Improve bike and public transit infrastructure. The new bike lanes are going to be wonderful and I'm so excited but the bus system is sorely lacking. The signs rarely indicate which routes use the stops and the hours are too skimpy to be useful for a lot of people.

Please help those of us who live in north Lincoln receive the same services and opportunities as those in other parts of the city. We are lacking so much -- everything from health care choices to decent, locally-owned restaurants to a good park. It's disheartening.

Wages are too low in Lincoln compared to other cities of the same size. Decent wages retain and attract workers of all ages. A larger tax base could improve a number of things that are currently being delayed (i.e. road/bridge repairs). The following trades do not have adequate numbers of skilled laborers currently - automotive technicians, plumbers, electricians, construction workers of all levels, etc. This is only going to become more dire. A trade school focus in Lincoln would help with this. Some type of outreach program or beat cop presence from the Lincoln Police Department in the area around 12th & C Street (not sure what the actual boundary of the area would be) is needed. People are moving out of this area because of the crime.

It is necessary to prioritize sustainability to ensure our future quality of life and the economic prosperity of our city. Clean energy is a step in the right direction and we can serve as an example to other cities around linkln, or perhaps even other states.

Have city, even county wide, access to free high quality internet service. Minneapolis / St Paul does this... Booming economy. Promote the Arts in Lincoln as a destination, not just the cheesy public art projects which are doubtful at best. We had a world class albeit small museum in the Sheldon. Why are there not billboards on I-80 promoting the Sheldon? Same with First Friday's in the galleries around town.

Concerning successful youth: 1. Provide excellent education for all pre-school - 2 yrs community college or technical training. 2. Provide after-school opportunities you elementary and middle school youth and summer programs so that school learnings are not lost during the summer. 3. Provide free or reduced meals for all who qualify, or better yet - free lunches for all school children. Concerning Economic Prosperity: 1. Provide a living wage for all who work full time. 2. Provide vocational/occupational education and training for all teenagers who desire it and for adults who need it in order to secure jobs. 3. Provide adequate and quality infrastructures that would support entrepreneurial efforts and encourage professional persons to remain in Lincoln. Concerning the Quality of Life in Lincoln. 1. Ensure a living wage for all full-time workers. 2. Continue to support Lincoln's quality and diversity of community parks and recreation areas. 3. Ensure the quality and upkeep of all of Lincoln's infrastructure



and improve the mass transportation system. 4. Improve the promotion and publicity on Lincoln's rich and diversified cultural and arts opportunities and offerings, bike and walking paths including those provided by our high schools and colleges.

Enlist more programs for families and community people to read aloud to children. After much thinking about this feasibility, I do not know how this could be efficiently and effectively implemented even though public and private Lincoln schools, as well as the library systems could well-serve this goal. After millions of dollars of research, the one thing that was revealed is that the best way to improve reading is to practice. Reading works together to improve everything else including language, cognition, empathy, and insight -- which in turn goes hand in hand with progress and prosperity. Reading aloud to others is the first and a very important step. Anyone who can read aloud to another is a resource.

Keeping our young people engaged with available educational and physical fitness activities is essential for growth and a sense of belonging to our community. Providing experiences that translate to life-long activities is a huge bonus for individuals and the community. I feel tennis is such an activity. The Woods Park Tennis Center Project would provide tremendous opportunities for the youth and families of Lincoln. Many of the programs offered are geared to children who may not participate in any sport/activity. The free programs/beginning lessons can expose many children to a sport/activity at no cost or low cost. However the current Woods facility is already "bulging at the seams" with activities, housed in an outdated, ready to fail facility. One good storm could cause a loss of the covered courts and eliminate the youth options. I strongly urge our city government and business community to help fund a permanent tennis structure to serve all citizens and youth of Lincoln.

Discourage out of wedlock children to single mothers who have little hope for success for themselves or their children. Their reliance on government continues their dependence on others and reduces their incentive for self improvement. Minimize government regulations that are a barrier to youth obtaining employment. Youth employment provides income (even if modest) and employment experience. This experience can be leveraged to better and higher paying jobs.

Arrange for it to be uncomfortable for those businesses that refuse to recycle and who refuse to use anything other than styrofoam (polyurethane?) (which never biodegrades even in the landfill) for their customers. Examples of one of these are Valentinos take-outs, McDonalds at South Pointe, and Marcus Theatres. Requests go unheeded - anything from "we'll see about it" we don't have room, and Corporate won't allow us to use other materials". Resources are next to free and yet these profitable businesses will not be good stewards of our sustainable future for all of Lincolnites. I believe recycling in Lincoln should be required. It is so easy to do, and essentially provided if a few walking steps are taken.

Value and support of public education, libraries and parks. Summer youth programs need to be supported, from art to athletics. A fair tax system that does not give away or play towards business, non-profits, unrestricted growth, or individuals. Taxes should be progressive promoting sustainability.



To ensure our economy grows, the city should build on the momentum from the business sector by supporting our LGBTQA citizens and employees. Until such time that all employers / supervisors / landlords treat all people equitably, we need public policy to provide these protections.

Youth: Enhance curriculum and grow CLC's to ensure that all school age children prefer (want) to attend and provide the means to those who can't afford it to keep children from being home alone. As a part of the Career Academy, SCC, UNL, etc. work with Lincoln businesses to create more volunteer opportunities and unpaid internships for public and private high schoolers and also summer camps that allow high schoolers to explore their career interests. Economy: Develop a world class workforce with community wide collaboration. Build additional economic incentives to retain and grow existing businesses, to bring businesses to Lincoln, and attract entrepreneurs. Community: Focus on downtown vibrancy and Antelope Valley commercial development. Incent redevelopment of SODO neighborhood to focus on entrepreneurs and young professionals with work, live, play opportunities.

Our community needs to prioritize sustainability, and clean and healthy living spaces for all Lincoln residents. This is paramount to ensuring the future quality of life and economic prosperity that should be demanded. With the rise of asthma among children and heart attacks among adults, it should be an imperative that no person live closer than a reasonable distance from major pollution emitters (power plants, production factories, and landfills). Land lords should meet higher standards in providing better air quality and living situations (changing filters more regularly, patching holes, etc). The city should also provide more incentives for residences and businesses to find energy savings to save money and create a more sustainable living and working environment. Protecting and advancing public health is the basis for which a community thrives. Ensuring the ability for families to be healthy will create good students and strengthen the work force.

Quality of life can be improved by lowering taxes and allowing citizens to spend and invest their own dollars as they desire. Government should provide services that cannot be provided by the private sector - like roads, water, sewer infrastructure and other such services. They should collaborate with individuals and the private sector for the arts and cultural amenities for the community. Local government employment should be compared to local private sector employment and not other cities as required by the CIR. Many government jobs are NOT susceptible employees moving to another city for more money. That only involves management who have minimal roots in Lincoln.

As for economic prosperity and quality of life, it seems to me the most important thing we can do is to be in the forefront of the effort to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that cause climate change, and to be known and to know ourselves, as a green city. We have a strong start, with a comprehensive plan for the city that curbs sprawl, provides neighborhood parks (though, unfortunately, at a reduced ratio) lines residential neighborhoods with trees and the downtown with native plantings. We have early glimmers of water conservation policies that will no doubt need to be further developed. We're beginning to contemplate a real public transportation system around the city, with connections, eventually, to Omaha and Chicago. One of the largest sources of emissions of greenhouse gases are



from buildings. Much remains to be done to make public and private sector buildings energy efficient. New building codes with higher standards for conserving energy are needed as well. As for youth success, it's my belief that the education of young children done by the Pioneers Park Nature Center is extraordinarily beneficial for those few kids who get to participate. A much broader effort to introduce children to the beauty and complexity of the natural world is needed. It's my belief, not yet documented by science, that many of the public health problems generated by stress--obesity, high blood pressure, insomnia and others-- can be "treated" effectively by restoring the connections of humans to the natural world. Lincoln has a great potential in this regard, especially when so many of us are just a generation or two from the farm. As a thoughtful guy said recently, so much more eloquently than I ever could: "Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are a part of nature. . it is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, an at the same time protecting nature." Paragraph 139, Laudito Si, "On Care of Our Common Home"

1)The challenges are complicated, especially trying to address the poverty and the effects on kids. The highest percentage of poverty is in homes with single moms. I suggest focusing on programs for couple counseling/ parenting classes and creating support communities. A good format would be similar to the Family Literacy program in West Lincoln Elementary where the family member comes to the school to learn English with other parents and than are also allowed to sit next to their child in class. It would be great to replicate this program in other schools but also use this model for the couple counseling mentioned earlier. Realizing these programs need funding; I believe this funding would lower the need for other funding...such as food stamps, etc. 2) Build on the "Take Charge" class required in high school and find more business partners to participate in the job shadow day. This takes more community outreach but the pay off would be beneficial. As a teammate myself, I was sad to learn my teammate went to HyVee on her job shadow day instead of a hospital or clinic. My teammate is very interested in a medical field, like nursing or lab technician. It's important to help our young people get a visual of what their career might look like and talk to folks in the field to share how they got there. I believe there is momentum for this type of idea in relationship to the career academy. 3) The career academy is fantastic! But continue to provide trade fields at the academy, not just college required jobs. I believe we need to communicate the value of trade jobs, since not everyone's strengths are in the college required professions. Consider giving HS credit for working and also for being admitted to the community college. 4) Consider a tax credit to companies who hire HS students in a trade internship job, or pay the wage for the company based on very defined parameters, of course. 5) Most folks would like to reduce the property tax. Here are a couple of ways our old school district in Kansas handled school funding cuts while maintaining competitive teacher salaries. First, they offered school bus transportation for a FEE to families who lived closer than the state paid bus service. For families who qualified for free or reduced lunch, they provided the bus transportation for free. Since Lincoln has a



high percentage of kids who would qualify for the free bus; the cost of picking up this service could be spread over the families who elect to be a FEE rider. Second, the school district started charging a fee for extracurricular activities (sports) and a flat book fee per child and flat technology fee/ per year. Again, with the families on free or reduced lunch, these fees were waived. Although the cost of a public education was not free anymore, the advantage for homeowners with children in school - they paid a "user fee" and did not pay property tax for these services to ALL children for as long as they owned their home. Based on the growing disparity between incomes, the folks who can afford to pay for their kids sports, school supplies, books, etc should pay for these things since in the long run, it is a win/win since they will pay less property tax vs/ the school district providing all of these things for "free" and paying the cost through property tax to all of the homeowners. 6) A final but very important comment. Although very polarizing and unpopular, the city needs to begin community conversations about CLIMATE CHANGE since the effects are already happening. These conversations should start with the major stakeholders in the community AND the biggest users of energy. The city has a fantastic resource with the scientists at the University of Nebraska who have already offered themselves as a resource on this issue. Although the conversations will be difficult, we need to have faith that we can agree on a higher value of caring for the environment and the economy. The cost of climate change is already happening and at some point, the people adversely affected will look for someone responsible. For example, the current situation where homeowners are asking the city to pay for damages to their homes from the TWO - one hundred year rain events within a 6 month period; sadly this will only be the beginning. I want to thank everyone involved with this project and am very grateful for the opportunity to provide input.

1. Put the youth to work instead of playing all the time.
2. If they play give them a sandlot to play in and leave them alone.
3. Desperately need to change the education system from kindergarten to college graduation. Our youth are ignorant and know only what they need to know to pass a test.

Lincoln needs to plan its development very carefully or we risk becoming a big, unpleasant city. I live in the Knolls neighborhood and the proposed rezoning of the Knolls Country Club property is alarming to me. The 2040 Lincoln vision document includes this area as greenspace and that the current Planning Commission panel would consider changing the zoning to allow for a monstrous building to be placed in that area is unconscionable to me. There is very little public greenspace in that neighborhood, and the Knolls CC property is the de facto welcoming gateway to the area and has been since the building of that neighborhood decades ago. I think we need to be very careful about accepting rezoning requests from developers who are not our neighbors and just wish to come in and create a profit-making entity with no real regard for design considerations. At the least, the City of Lincoln should have design standards in place for instances when none exist. If the developer proposed building an aesthetically-pleasing, single-story retirement community complex on the property, in line with the current design of homes in the area currently, and proposed to retain many of the existing trees and greenspace, this would be much easier to accept. As it is, the for sale signs rimming the golf course are a sure sign that a developer is moving in who has no real regard for the neighborhood.



Lincoln can be a nationwide leader in green energy. The LES Sun Shares program is a great start, and the Lincoln city government needs to get behind efforts such as that. We also need to promote recycling and composting among residents and businesses much more than we do now. The rain garden initiative was fantastic. These things only take a bit of public relations and community education to get going, it does not require a huge financial investment to propel many of these changes. The Lower Platte South and other NRDs do a good job of getting out into the schools to educate students about such things, but it's going to take a bit more than that to help make Lincoln a leader in green environmental practices going full on into the 21st century. To make Lincoln a truly great place to live, we need to facilitate green energy and other sustainable environmental initiatives.

Please do not assume that either everyone owns a car or that everyone wants to own a car. I think anything we can do to provide better public transportation in Lincoln would benefit people of all economic classes, plus make the city more ecologically sustainable. In talking about a downtown bus 'hub' or center, why not combine it with a grocery store, or at least a convenience store? Having a grocery store in the downtown area has been talked about before, but it still hasn't happened. What can the community do to bring this about? People (including workers, high school and college students, and others) currently ride the bus 30 - 45 minutes one-way in order to get groceries. We do have an exceptional downtown/haymarket area, but it needs to be made more convenient and practical. The road infra-structure cannot sustain many more cars; we need to plan for better public transportation. Thank you for listening.

I like the idea of having a circuit workout on some of the trails and parks in Lincoln. The balance beams, pull up bars, sit up benches, etc. Also, just putting mile markers on trails would be nice. Additional garbage cans on trails so pet waste can be disposed of properly (and more often since you wouldn't have to walk around with a bag of waste for as long). Some neighborhoods could benefit from some additional street lighting. It can be a bit spooky if you have to (or want to) walk outside in the evening. More daycare, before/after school and summer programs. With as many two-income families there are it can be hard to find affordable daycare for our young school-age children during the summer and before/after school. I wonder if the people of Lincoln would be willing to consider a year-round school calendar which could solve the issue of trying to find daycare during the lengthy summer break.

Continue to support our schools and encourage lower student/teacher ratios. Providing more opportunities for leadership development helps build more responsible, resourceful individuals. We need our private citizens to support public art. It is accessible to everyone, creates character and identity for our city and gives a more vibrant energy to the community. We have a phenomenal park and bike path system and we need to be sure the support is there long after the current leadership is gone. I think we should look at all sectors of the city to be sure excellent access is provided for all. West Lincoln and Northeast Lincoln could greatly benefit from better bike path access. We need to take more advantage of the great computer engineering resource we have at the university and find a way to encourage and support more start ups here in Lincoln. The success of Hudl is one example. We can do more. Supporting these effort is likely to keep our brightest and best right here building businesses that



will offer great jobs and act as a magnet for our community. I think it is all about economic development. Strong companies bring great jobs and great people and provides great benefits for all. I notice a huge issue with homeless individuals gathering in the West O Street area. I wish there was a way to build more job training and job opportunities that would help and encourage people get back on their feet to support themselves.

Lincoln and Lancaster County should develop the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch, a 7.5-mile corridor linking Pioneers Park to Spring Creek Prairie along the Haines Branch of Salt Creek, with an additional link to Conestoga Lake. The Prairie Corridor will support economic development, build on Lincoln's nationally recognized trail system, contribute to environmental education and promote the enhancement and preservation of one of Nebraska's most valuable resources--tallgrass prairie. The Corridor will connect the already popular Pioneers Park Nature Center and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center highlighted as destinations today by the Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau. A 15-mile roundtrip trail ride will encourage visitors to stay another day in Lincoln and bring them through rural towns like the Village of Denton. The Prairie Corridor will support youth success by building on the outstanding education and outreach programs provided today by the Pioneers Park Nature Center and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, such as nature camps, prairie immersion field trips, education programs for families, and thousands of nature hikes for school children annually. It will also celebrate and conserve our natural heritage for future generations of this community.

I know it is kind of down to the wire with the deadline being today so I have made a categorized, bullet-pointed list of my thoughts on each of the themes: Youth Success - Free child care and education for pre-K - Curriculum that inspires inquiry and discovery - More funding for the arts to inspire critical thinking, problem solving, and divergent thinking (something I see severely lacking in college-aged students as a college professor) - More opportunities for those in middle-high school to explore different career fields and paths - More connections with businesses and industry to help students explore career paths and understand what is expected of them to know within those fields - Better career counseling in high schools Economic Prosperity - If you want to bring young professionals into Lincoln, NE it has to have that "cool" factor. There are a lot of things working against us (while we are progressive, we're not as progressive as some of the other areas that attract young professionals like Portland, Seattle, Denver, Austin, etc.) - Study and build off models and philosophies such as those found at Hudl, FireSpring, Arch Rival, Vega, etc. These are seen by young adults as the "cool" places to work - More encourage, funding, and support for incubators like SCC's Entrepreneurship Center - It comes back to education: we need students and young adults who are curious and have the right skill sets for 21st century occupations Quality of Life - Anyone living in or wanting to live in Lincoln has to feel safe. More connections to our neighbors, encouraging things like block parties, more community events. Even the promotion of an app like Nextdoor can help neighborhood communication so those living here can feel safe and secure. - Half-marathons have been really popular, especially among younger demographics. Keep those up but also continue to improve the city for cyclists. More bike lanes, bike racks, trails, etc. will be seen as a huge move forward by those within the 18-35 range. - Further



promoting the arts is great but we need to bring the art to the people. Murals can be hugely popular, make the city more beautiful, and promote both culture and the arts to the community. Take a look at what Constellation Studio has done to a rather dumpy area at 2055 O St. - More promotion of entertainment acts for younger adults. Most of the acts that come through Pinnacle skew much older than what our college-aged students want to see. - More cultural events (especially around food) would be seen as popular within Lincoln. As a Grand Island-native, I was disappointed with the city when they got rid of the Ethnic Festival. A large festival that highlights the ethnic diversity in Lincoln by inviting and encouraging local vendors with live music would go over very well.

The success of youth is strongly influenced by their opportunities. A recent study by the Wallace Foundation documents this very well. Art opportunities are a great developmental experiences that build four foundational components: 1. Self-regulation 2. Knowledge 3. Mindsets 4. Values The arts need to be accessible for all in our community. The benefits of art are well documented by other independent researchers as well. In fact, University of Pennsylvania researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare, and lower crime and poverty rates. The arts deliver a powerful impact.

Keep Lincoln in the "Smart Growth" column of cities that do not bow to the pressure to "Grow at any cost". Maintain and increase investment in our beautiful parks, and preserve the floodplains for the safety of all citizens. Pay attention to the voices of those who cannot afford a lobbyist or lawyer. Support and maintain our great schools.

Better paying jobs... a smooth path to move from minimum wage, to a living wage & the educational resources to accomplish it.

I think it's important that government and youth encourage entrepreneurship and the free enterprise system. To do sure requires a vigilant review of laws and policies to ensure the average person and/or youth has opportunity and that these opportunities are not stifled by legal requirements. Capitalism is NOT a dirty word.

Lincoln could use more splash parks like traigo park. Splash parks are cheaper, easier, and require no staff to maintain. We currently have no splash parks on the south side of lincoln. The park east of 27th and hwy 2 would be a good location. Splash parks also offer a free alternative to less affluent children in our community.

To the degree the city can control it, the city should (and should solicit the state) to remove any corporate tax. Stating a city or state "loses" tax revenue by granting businesses that relocate there tax credits/subsidies/etc. is misleading. If the company didn't relocate, there would not have been any tax. If the business re-locates there, the city/state benefits from the individuals tax regardless of taxing the corporate entity. Granting the entity tax free status simply helps bring jobs to the city/state. The city/state may be collecting less tax than it could have, but it isn't ever "losing" tax revenue in that scenario. I think there will be a slow but constant world-wide pressure to continue lowering corporate



tax. Why not be the leader? The increased tax revenue increases from individuals would make up for any "reductions" at the corporate level. The city/state should leave the option open for special assessments for specific projects that could be voted on.

Growing up as a child in poverty with my single mother was difficult but with the supports she received during my childhood, I was able to overcome generational poverty. There were too many supports to list but the ones that I would like to recognize here are LPS, TeamMates and Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity provided my family with stability, helping me finish high school and be college ready. TeamMates connected me to a mentor that has helped me not only through elementary, middle and high school but also through college and after college. I also think that more attention needs to be made to mental health. Especially with families that do not have the best health insurance and can't afford to seek help. I am speaking about the families that are right above the poverty level, and don't have medicaid.

We need really good community centers, well funded public schools, and great summer programs that are not only sports-based. We need to encourage mixed uses of commercial districts. The Haymarket is a gigantic food court/beer hall! Get some diversity in there. We need to have better fire-arm regulations by prohibiting in permitted open carry of weapons. We need improved public transportation that runs longer hours.

All Lincoln high schools should require all students to take at least a one quarter personal finance class. The class would teach the basics of budgeting, saving and investing, including compound interest.

Quality of Life: make sure parks and green spaces are included in all areas of new development. and continue to budget to maintain the current parks. Is there a Junior Master Gardener program anywhere that could allow kids to learn to tend part os our park areas? Prosperity: invite professionals to design research projects that focus on nurturing a city with the demographics of ours. How about neighborhood family activities on a small scale like block events, but doing projects for the neighborhood or child success -- like a block where all are signed up for summer reading through the libraries maybe. Grow the economy: continue to look for places where our city institutions can lead. For example, are the adults who are employed by the city working in the preschool programs able to work full-time and paid a living wage? Look for places where we have cut people back to part-time and take the lead and allow them to work full-time with good benefits.

Since 25% of adults lack basic literacy skills required for employment, we need to make sure that every high school graduate in Lincoln can read. This may require our schools to review and modify their literacy training programs.

1) other races need spoken guidelines on appropriate behaviors and words 2) those who live outdoor would fit better in "rustic" places, coverted sheds or garages with wood-buring stoves – (keep it simple). My big concer – Lincoln has over-run our natural world's ability to live.



They could have more places to live for handicap people, and prices which goes with our wages or our social security amount.

Affordable housing without the deptsits. More wheelchair accessible housing available to low income.

More houses for elderly. Shorter housing list for them.

More free recreational/healthy lifestyles activities for low to no income individuals. Better shelter facilities for homeless people. Making it easier to locate local resources. More affordable family activities.

People for Center for Need not helping people when income is \$1-\$2 over. Free and low cost exercise/health class. Expanded bus service evening & weekends. More teen activities. Easier reduced daily fee at YMCA.

Affordable housing. Helping with utilities. Childcare. Fair college tuition. Nu busing for Lincoln public schools. No busing on Sunday!

A better parks or they need to fix the parks. Swimming pass that don't cost a lot of money.

More affordable place to go like cultural, bus run 24 hours more ethnic activities – cultural. Teach more black history in high school.

Have more programs to educate people.

I believe that more accessible transportation to outlining areas for jobs are essential for being able to keep a job and also more things for teens to do.

My ideas making more parks for families and kids. More jobs, better schools à more outside play – especially for hyper children who cant sit long. More organic food in schools.

In summer make activities for children need places families can camp overnight to introduce children to nature. (not a housing issue). Many parks do not have places to park. Exercise for whole families – more family activities – no cost. Better to have activities for the whole family as in respondent's home country of Mexico. Children are excluded from places where you can dance.

there are no assistance programs for single men without children – they get told “go to the mission.”

Fix potholes on bus routes no new fuel tax because they are not fixing streets so why raise gas tax. (west dawes av. & nw 10th is a good example) it's been this bad for a long time.

We need buses to run on Sundays, holidays, & evenings – we need more bike trails. We need less police brutality. We need better drinking water.

Fix the streets.



Better roads, more friendly cops

Car rep. to maney. Car used cares for sale. To maney not good ones.

Having the legislature approve expanded Medicaid. Currently it's only 40% of the poverty level for adults unless you've had an injury and are on temporary assistance. Either that, or have truly affordable healthcare.

Fower grow. Toys chep.

More grants for kids (teens) to be able to go to gym and do activities. Help with utilities. More free events for low income families. Exercise classes. Need "lighthouse" type places for high school kids in addition to those at Lincoln High.

Community policing (watch) initiative involving LPD pushed in the lower middle class à poor neighborhoods.

Buses on Sunday. Run buses every hour instead of every two hours. Run buses 24 hours. Bus drivers are rude. Buses are overcrowded w/ school children. People can be hurt when bus brakes suddenly.

Affordable housing & better public transportation.

Stop encroachment on wildlife habitat – limit growth. Recognize that all races are prejudiced.

Making doctor visits more affordable. Providing more resources to low income families such as more toolnets. Having buses run on Sundays.

more housing help for the poor/homeless. Utility company's working with people who can't pay there bill maybe letting everyone be on "budget plan." More health clinics to help those without insurance.

waive the connect fees on utility bill, or lower fees, or eliminate them, people are already struggling & need help not only with this but are desperate for health, clothing, food. Need to find ways to deal with this.

Get rid of the homeless! Buy housing them: helping them to rent apts. & offering classes in drunk addiction.

I feel that Lincoln could have a better bus service. Run every hour for the #52 instead of every 2 hours.

Public transportation run later more to the factory areas. People on system disability be required to work in the community and random drug tests & drug test mandatory rehab no \$\$; weaning off system; little over the guidelines; scale off of food stamps, childcare, assistance, don't just cut off!

Stop building Big Building for things we don't need. Build another homeless shelter or build onto homeless shelter. Give people better opportunities. Give felons better opportunities.



I think there should be more places for the needy. Buses should run longer and add more cab service. More places for the children to go after school & on the weekends.

“More jobs” year round schools

Need better public transportation. Need faster and better response for those calling places needing help with rent. Need to help the homeless vets get off the streets. (they fought for our country now come on and help them). Lincoln needs to start helping fathers in need. STOP being such a woman state.

Public transportation on Sundays (does not have to be during church hours). Need to help fathers in need better. Better response time for those calling places for help for things such as rent and electricity (bills).

Put a taxicab company within a block of the greyhound Bus station. Is the bus station open 24 hours? It needs to be open 24 hours every day of the year.

I think that they give food stamp to the wrong people to to many in same household.

Tricycle ride share for seniors.

Affordable childcare for single parents after & before school. So many parents fall right above the lowest poverty line are not eligible, but are not able to afford child care. The same with other benefits. More outreach for LGBT youth. Continue to outreach in the community and educate.

Let's do murals all around down – positive, colorful, including many groups

Look at the Green for All website &/or read Van Jone's book, Green Collar Jobs. How can Lincoln do more to create a sustainable, prosperous, transition for coal & fossil fuel to renewable energy? From factory farming to local, organic? From free trade to grass roots economy, Go, Lincoln, Go!

Non-discrimination laws to protect everyone, including LGBT people.

Review the Kiwanis' community assessment of 2014. The main issue is concern about poverty. Poverty and several ethnic issues follow.

End discrimination in workplace against LGBTQ people

Workplace discrimination against LBGTQ people needs to end! People shouldn't fear losing their job simply because of who they are.

1. Funded LGBT resources esp for youth (after school shelters, etc.). 2. Enact the Fairness Ordinance. 3. Increase employment opportunities for professionals.

The need for skilled labor in Lincoln seems large – how do we connect business w/ youth to fill those jobs? Besides supporting the skills academy w/ LPS.



Keep ALL our libraries open & work at enhancing their already-good programs.

I think this is a perfect time for my community (GLBT) to join forces with Unions & faith community. For example regarding the right to work issue and in working on that together we could form bonds and work on economic justice issues.

More emphasis on early childhood education.

Having lived other places and being back in Lincoln again, I have to say that I think Lincoln is pretty round good.

Invest in mass transit. Aim for all renewable energy by 2025. Encourage youth to help the community.

1. An ice cream social with the community. A chance to come together as one & know people from different cultures, religions, etc. 2. A work program where the university partners with a place, so a hopeful student can work for said company, but instead of cash payments have their school paid for. So more people could have a chance to get more education.

Free early childhood education for everyone.

1) Provide more sponsored youth activities maybe thru the libraries and encourage a cross-cultural focus. 2) engage more youth in service learning opportunities that make a difference. Tap into the h.s. graduation requirement & work w/ schools for city-wide projects. 3) provide scholarships for youth to learn credit – either h.s. or college – in out state Nebraska, maybe in the parks in the state.

Every neighborhood should have a community center for children (after school, summer). Solar powered schools and parks would help with a clean energy city. More funding for clinic with a heart. More funding for teammates youth program.

Affordable housing for families/single-parents. Higher paying jobs with affordable benefits. More family-oriented activities/things to do.

1.) Better transition services for youth who are leaving foster care/state wards when they age out - #1-shelter for these youth!!! 2.) Better transportation services – STARTRAN runs until at least 10 pm. Also accessible on Sundays! 3.) Support for youth in detention center who will age out there – life skills and outreach to help prepare them for adulthood. 4.) Lincoln needs more outreach support – i.e. homelessness and hardships are on the rise in our community and the services available are overwhelmed --- need more vital services.

Either a NHRA dragrace facility or a NASCAR race track (at least 1 mile) would bring so much revenue to Lincoln for everyone such as hotels, restaurants, etc.

Regarding Youth Success, more educational programs on how to manage money, even at an early age. Unfortunately, many young people today may have not had the best role models to learn how to save



and budget their money. To the contrast, society seems to teach entitlement. By starting this early, it will enable more youth to grow into responsible adults and hopefully pass this way of life onto their children as well. Regarding economic prosperity, the easy answer is to attract some large fortune 500 companies, which, of course, isn't easy to do. So maybe we need to work more closely with the large companies we already have. UNO can tout that have more internships for their students then they have students to fill them. This in turn leads to more jobs for those students right there in Omaha. Perhaps UNL needs to partner more closely with companies to develop internship opportunities and learning experiences for their students, which will hopefully keep those students in Nebraska, some of which may start their own companies.

In the healthcare policy field there is a lot of interest in the concept of Accountable Care Communities which would have the potential to make dramatic improvements in health and reductions in health care costs. A successful effort along these lines could lower healthcare costs thousands of dollars per person, freeing up millions for community investment and make our community much more attractive to major employers who choose expansion locations based on the healthcare costs of the community. This would make a large improvement in quality of life, increase prosperity and free up funding for investing in youth success.

Hula hooping and slack lining are popular on the coasts. Can we have a slackline park? Hooping coaches/festivals? Hoops for kids?

Youth need to be taught to take full responsibility for their actions (good and bad). The more work that can be done with the character of our youth and fleshing it out in practical ways will be helpful. Teaching youth through multi-generational efforts. Giving them an opportunity to discuss hard issues with different generations. Teaching them to listen to and learn from the history. History written from a variety of viewpoints and angles. Providing opportunities to create an economy not just based on money but also includes trade of items or services. This way new ideas can be started, generated and carried through without much monetary capital to begin with. Helping youth understand the value of hard work, patience, perseverance. And teaching them basic skills with their hands -- i.e. how to hammer nails, how to use paint, how to plant a garden, how to clean up after themselves, etc. Providing opportunities for youth to serve others not to pad their resume but to really reach and touch lives. HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP building is a key as well. And not social media relationship, actual human to human contact relationships -- not just mentorships but also peer to peer interaction. Healthy meaning - how do men meet with women without it being "sexually charged," how do you interact in a workplace with the opposite sex. How do you befriend someone and be part of their life honestly and openly without USING that person for personal gain. I think broadening the range of skills taught to youth will help to broaden their opportunities for career success. There is a need to special yes, but a range of skills will help to create an overall life experience that will be beneficial in the long haul.

Here's a rather involved idea I've had for 16 years. Create a club/group/organization for dis-advantaged youth junior or senior high. They apply to be involved. The rules to belong are: they must attend school



daily and have at least a C average; no swearing, smoking, drinking or drug use. The bar will be set high to encourage them to strive for more than they ever thought possible. The message that will be foremost is that they are valued and what they have to contribute is important. During the school year when they meet they will focus on homework the first 1-1 1/2 hours. Since community service is a requirement for graduation, it is my vision that high school students would come in and mentor and assist these young people with their homework. This brings different socio-economical young .people together so they may see, hear and value one another. The rest of the evening will be spent writing their stories or a story they want to tell and it will be turned into a play. Others in the group will write the music, create, the sets, go out into the community to gather support. This will be a production for the public. All profits will go into a trust and when these young people graduate they will be awarded a scholarship for their continued education based on how many years they participated. Thank you and Blessings to you.

Build and modify existing playgrounds that kids with all sorts of disabilities can use. Better access at the Lied and other community spaces for people with hearing impairments Coffee shops that aren't so noisy with good wifi, parking and comfortable chairs that aren't downtown A good deli (and a good jewish deli) with high quality affordable take away More venture capital Better flights! Housing rehab investment in inner city neighborhoods Recruiting plan to attract 2-10 people startups BIG Upgrades to Hyde observatory and Morrill Hall Science museum for preschoolers Einstein bagels Music together Spa with day care More tapas Vegan restaurant Parades like MLK parade in Denver

Directed at LPS: Allow the students freedom-- freedom to think, to explore. Make the classroom a lab not just in science. Allow for collaboration beyond Common Core or District bubble tests. Stop making it note taking and test taking. Do that and you have my support. Otherwise you are just like the rest.

Inclusive playgrounds that kids with all sorts of disabilities can use. Better access at the Lied and other community spaces for people with hearing impairments Coffee shops that aren't so noisy with good wifi and comfortable chairs that aren't downtown A good deli (and a good jewish deli) with high quality affordable take away More venture capital Better flights! Housing rehab investment in inner city neighborhoods Recruiting plan to attract 2-10 people startups BIG Upgrades to Hyde observatory and Morrill Hall Science museum for preschoolers Einstein bagels Music together Spa with day care More tapas Vegan restaurant Parades like MLK parade in Denver

There's lots to do, but I'll keep it to my top three... 1) PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Knowing that Lincoln will only continue to grow, and the fact that our public transportation system is about 50yrs behind the times - there's no better time than now to make it better. Where to start..? How about square one - GO! 2) LIVABLE WAGES: Not \$9.00 minimum wage, but a livable wage. This isn't hard. Ask the right accountant, and he/she can crunch the numbers for you by lunch time. 3) GREEN SPACE: As Lincoln continues its march into the future, expanding green space will not only make it beautiful, but livable - period.



Youth Success: ensure each child has a mentor; leverage early youth programs such as the Susan Buffet early childhood program. Economic Prosperity: expand programs like the LPS Career Academy and focus on knowledge that not all students need a college education but some form of training. Quality of Life: allow citizens and neighborhoods the channels to explore and formulate what they need for their neighborhood or community.

Plant more trees Keep community pools open to provide a place for youth to hang out with adult supervision increase tourism by creating an amusement park improve public transportation--a simple doctor visit may mean several hours on the bus for some families, leading to missed school and work increase access to mental health care I think parks and rec undercharges for many fine programs. I think it is possible to raise fees to better reflect the value of these programs while keeping it affordable for Lincoln's families.

I think we have to improve our mass transit system. The buses have way too early of a quitting time people that do any shift that isn't regular 9-5 don't have a way to take advantage of the bus system. Also the holiday schedule that doesn't even have the buses running eliminate transportation for hospital workers and those that are already missing the holiday because of work obligations.

Lincoln is in need of quality daycare with extended or different hours. I don't know if businesses that already provide that just need the suggestion or a different business or a college or university with child care education.

I would think a tutoring and college prep organization by a non-profit would be a good fit for the near South neighborhood. I know our church has space and it is relatively near the University that may be able to have some students that need a practicum in some content areas or general education. It would be a good place for a college entrance organization for low income students that need help with pre-college exams. Perhaps something like a College Possible www.collegepossible.org. This would give low income students a better chance to get into a college and give others volunteer opportunities and connect college with community.

Any improvements that help us to be more sustainable is what Lincoln needs. Those things that hurt our environment also hurt people and the ones most often affected are those with lower incomes. I think a constant reminder of our water use is one small way to encourage the right thinking. We have contests for "Best of Lincoln" with so many criteria. How about the business that recycles the most or has the smallest carbon footprint or individuals that do the most.

A strong arts and cultural community improves the quality of life for all residents. It also improves economic vitality by encouraging new businesses to locate in the community and assists in recruiting/retaining top talent. The following ideas could assist in building the arts and cultural community in Lincoln: 1) Establish a vision for the Lincoln community to know known internationally for exceptional performing and visual arts. (Note: Lincoln has a strong start on this vision with the Lied and Sheldon) 2) Grow the arts & cultural community for unique jobs for members of the community. There



are many artists who currently work for poverty wages in Lincoln. Identify unused commercial space and turn it into art studios for free while arts ventures establish commercial success. Building a creative economy is a proven way to provide jobs and unique products made in Lincoln. 3) Build the Arts Community by annually having September as "Arts Month" in Lincoln. September is a perfect month to promote the arts as many arts organizations kick off their annual seasons, the Lincoln Arts Commission has their annual art fair and the Lied Center often has major free arts events for the public. The "Arts Month" should include a PR campaign that brings awareness of the arts and encourages participation in the arts. A website should be created that promotes all the Arts Month activities and a printed publication should go to all households in Lincoln through the LJS with advertising to assist with costs. The publication should feature popular programs to "try out" the arts in September. Arts Month should also include a campaign to support the arts with donations. The Chamber of Commerce and Community Foundation should encourage business leaders and donors to invest in the arts. This would assist with Lincoln arts groups being underfunded compared to similar sized cities. Arts Month Commission should include reps from the Lied Center, Sheldon, Arts Council, Lux, Playhouse, Symphony and other groups that could make a difference in this effort. 4) Create an "Opportunity Fun" at the Lincoln Community Foundation that organizations that serve youth could apply for support to provide free access to activities. Organizations that could participate include the Zoo, Children's Museum, Lied Center, Playhouse, Symphony and others.

Here are a couple of ideas: 1) Identify and/or recruit funds to support individuals to develop and start new businesses (including artistic services/products). Similar to Nebraska's REAP (Rural Enterprise Assistance Program) which is not available to people in Lincoln due to the population size of the community. 2) Create a "Shark Tank"-Lincoln Style Venture Program. A) Recruit ideas from across the nation for business models that could provide above average wages for Lincoln's under employed population that are working in poverty. These ideas need to be for ventures that can provide a profitable business or sustainable non-profit. B) Recruit start-up funds for these ventures from wealthy individuals in Nebraska. Warren Buffett could provide high visibility for the project that could be used across Nebraska once it found success in Lincoln.

Improve the downtown and economic vitality of Lincoln by creating an Arts District in addition to the "Entertainment" and "P" districts. Arts District will encourage arts organizations to locate in the downtown area and showcase the Lied, Sheldon, Rococo, Hixson-Lied College, Ross and many other arts ventures in the downtown core. Lots of cities have benefited from creating official arts districts.

Would be great to connect more well off kids with less well off kids, almost a buddy/adopt a kid system so the less well off kids get exposure to experiences, role models in the kids & their families they wouldn't otherwise and more well off kids good experience to give back, stay grounded to make the most of their opportunities they may take for granted. One specific idea related to this would be to ask youth clubs to sponsor a couple less well off children as scholarship members...could be 4-H clubs, rec sports teams, etc. Another would be to get busloads of less well off kids out at the Super Fair during first 4 days when all the 4H /FFA kids are competing to get exposed to all these ag-related career



opportunities/knowledge areas they could pursue in their studies with lots of job opportunities in NE to help keep NE economy vibrant. Idea obviously works with other major events in town to include these youth in some meaningful way so their worlds are broadened to all the possibilities for bright future in NE and why to study particular areas..

To ensure youth are successful, involve them in exciting, meaningful activities. The economy can grow if ALL persons are encouraged to be involved. Our community can be strong and vibrant when ALL share their talents and abilities.

I think we should consider having "Parent Guard" You know how businesses allow workers a week or two off to participate in the National Guard and still get paid. How about a child care center where most of the work is done by volunteers, who are able to take the time from work. Whoever joins the Parent Guard gets substantial savings on child care. We could start with government employees and see how it works. The goal is to help parents get quality child care at affordable prices while children are benefiting from meeting new people and children who come from different backgrounds.. We should try to have enough volunteers so that children are read to, and nurtured.

Parenting education is piecemeal, random or non-existent in Lincoln. ALL parents would benefit by receiving research-based information about stimulating their child's gross motor, fine motor, speech/language and social/emotional development at each age and stage of his/her first five years of life. A coordinated and comprehensive system for parent education, which starts with all newborns of all families, could be developed, such as the Parents As Teachers national program. All Missouri parents of newborns through age 5 years received services through this program for many years, with statistically significant benefits. Many agencies (LLCHD, LPS, Family Service, DHHS, Northeast Family Service) have contacts with the same family. If there were coordination so that parents received periodic developmental education and mentoring by the same well-trained parent educator, many educational, behavioral and social problems could be minimized or prevented.

To ensure youth are successful, teach them how to read, write, and to communicate effectively. Teach them critical thinking skills. To ensure our economy grows, don't just emphasize youth and young people. There are plenty of people over 40 with the skills and experience employers claim are lacking in the local workforce. Encourage local businesses to value these people and to pay them what they are worth. Many of these people are leaving Lincoln for employers willing to pay for their experience and knowledge. To keep our community strong and vibrant, spread cultural and family events around to different parts of the city.

If there are 120 boy scouts ushering Memorial Stadium games, and they are there for 6 hours each, and there are 7 games, then that means the scouts are donating 5040 manhours to do that service. That is 2.5 manyears. Very few if any thank yous. Everyone assumes it is a way to see the game for free and is fun. It is, but it is an awful lot of work too and most of those volunteers stand the entire game. "Free" admission that is earned.



95% of children can learn to read. One in five students has a reading disability, most often inherited. In Lincoln this number is 8,000. In addition, 31% of lower socioeconomic students in Lincoln, or 12,000, have reading failure as a result of inadequate developmental stimulation and literacy exposure, and/or poor school reading instruction. Research shows that both groups of students can improve their accuracy and speed of reading when they receive direct, systematic, cumulative, explicit, multisensory reading instruction prior to third grade. This evidence-based reading instruction can be routinely employed to teach ALL students to read in the general classroom. Teachers currently are not being taught how to teach reading, and in Lincoln they generally don't use this explicit instruction for those struggling with reading. With 85% of youth in the Juvenile Justice system functionally illiterate, 25% of adults lacking basic literacy skills required in typical jobs and 31% of Lincoln's poor youth with reading failure, cost savings could be significant if these changes in teacher training and reading instruction were made in LPS.

We can stop imprisoning non-violent offenders & a sizable number of innocent people for simply being too poor to come up with bail. I recommend the article by Chris Ingraham which ran in the Lincoln Journal Star on Sunday June 14th, page A6. Bail for non-dangerous offenders wastes taxpayer money, damages family structure, increases unemployment and homelessness, and perhaps worst of all; is blatantly unjust. We can do Lincoln a lot of good with this one simple adjustment. Thanks for your time & interest.

All preschool (ages 4 - 5 years) and Kindergarten children should be screened for risk for reading disabilities. Besides a family history, testing for phonological awareness and rapid automatic naming are required. The routine testing for Kindergarten readiness will not detect this risk for a reading disability. The earlier the screening, identification and intervention using direct multisensory instruction by knowledgeable and skilled teachers, the better the reading outcomes. When this type of instruction is not initiated prior to third grade, as often occurs in Lincoln, 75% of students continue to struggle with reading through high school. If initiated in first grade, the expected reading disability of 12% - 18% is reduced to 1.6% - 6%. Significant cost savings in special education, the criminal justice system and in unemployment could be realized if reading disabilities are recognized early and appropriate instruction is begun early.

Youth Success: Find ways to really partner with businesses to mentor young people in the fields that matter to or interest them. Give them access to real technology right now. Expand community learning opportunities for every student, and their parents. Offer a Homework Helpline. Affordable job/career and mental health counseling services so that the people we're unleashing into our community are confident, balanced individuals. Economic Prosperity: Give incentives to independent businesses which open and operate in challenged neighborhoods. ESPECIALLY give those incentives to local owners, and increase the incentives for each of the first 5 years they are in business, then taper them back over the next five. Give incentives to LOCAL businesses and owners who create jobs in the community, who sponsor community activities or partner with schools and non-profits for neighborhood development. Provide economic/business management guidance for new business owners in the community. Give



them tools they can grow with. Quality of Life: We have so many wonderful art and humanities opportunities available, but continuing to grow that community spirit, expand and explore the creativity and talents in our neighborhoods, and reward/incentivize neighborhoods and communities which provide these opportunities for the people that live there. (Social/community activities from Easter Egg Hunts to artist expos, neighborhood cleanup to neighborhood parties in the parks. Business showcases to town hall meetings. Always strive to create strong bonds between neighbors and neighborhoods; the residents, non-profits and religious centers, schools and businesses that operate there.) Continue to encourage multicultural events which showcase the rich diversity and heritage represented in our community.

All LPS-approved reading tutors in after-school tutoring programs should be trained in direct, multisensory, systematic, cumulative, sequential reading instruction.

As part of community-wide parent education programs, each Community Center should provide a Parent-Infant and Parent-Toddler Interactive "Play" Group conducted by a trained Parenting Educator. This would provide hands-on parent education, parent mentoring and parent practice in behavior management. A curriculum, such as "Parents As Teachers", would provide consistency in training of these parent educators.

Because 40% of children have allergies, which can significantly affect learning and behavior in addition to causing health problems with school absenteeism, all rental units should be required to have a safety and health inspection on a periodic basis. These inspections would detect mold, dirty furnace filters, plumbing leaks, unhealthy bathtubs, cockroaches which contribute to asthma, non-working smoke alarms, etc.

High quality early child care and preschool education should be available for all at-risk children from birth. Children living in poverty, children born prematurely or with birth defects, children with developmental delays, children with a family history of abuse are just some of the children at-risk for abuse, learning and behavior problems, and mental and physical health problems. Research on Early Brain and Child Development from Harvard at www.developingchild.net demonstrates the necessity for a healthy environment and appropriate interactive experiences in order to create a strong foundation in a child's brain. This strong foundation has been shown to prevent learning problems, behavior problems, mental health problems and physical health problems, resulting in cost savings in these areas.

Lincoln needs incentives to de-convert multi family housing units back to single family. (Think old, big houses in Near South that are currently apartments and returning them to one family houses.) The City needs incentives to rehab existing homes instead of razing and building new or simply building new on the outskirts of town. Incentives are also needed to keep smaller grocery stores in neighborhoods to prevent food deserts from occurring. One judge or court dedicated to hearing housing violations. The Building & Safety Dept. needs to be more customer service oriented towards existing neighborhoods and their problems. Inspectors need to look at the whole property instead of going in with blinders on.



For instance, the LPD under Casidy adopted a proactive community policing program. Building and Safety needs to adopt a similar proactive approach.

Refer all child abuse/neglect cases for developmental and behavioral assessment and treatment of child and for community-based family supports.

Conduct a multi-faceted, public education campaign about the epigenetic changes that occur in the unborn due to poverty, which can then become permanent genetic alterations passed from generation to generation. The purpose would be to make the public aware that poverty has significant health consequences. Reference is www.developingchild.net.

Train early child care providers to help children with behavior problems.

Implement proven after-school programs for teens of working parents.

Train parents, early childcare and elementary school teachers on how to develop Executive Function Skills in children.

We need more city planning for sustainability with the continued growth of our city as well as the threats associated to climate change. This includes our water rates, energy consumption, building energy efficiency, and transportation. All of these items affect the public's health, the city and residential economics and the over-all health of our environment.

To ensure that our youth are successful we should overtly embrace the mission of turning all K-12 youth into two or four-year college graduates with minimal debt. Continuing to invest in after school, summer, and early education will help more students reach this critical goal. Directly communicating with our colleges and K-12 schools about the skills most lacking and in demand in our community will motivate them to prioritize these skills. Communicating directly with all high school seniors regarding the advantages of starting a business in Lincoln should persuade more to consider doing so. Give them the full Lincoln economic development pitch.

Encourage organizations to train volunteers to monitor playgrounds and offer tutoring, game nights, classes etc. instead of putting money into building big fences to keep neighbor kids out (see Sacred Heart's playground). It's becoming difficult to want to live in a city that rapes its trees for the supposed protection of power lines. Bury the lines or cut down the trees and plant shorter ones but please don't allow butchering the bit of nature and beauty in our neighborhoods. (See 33rd or 48th streets north of A Street) We need to show respect and NOT allow outdoor concerts after 10:00 pm. Take them to an indoor venue! We have 300 language groups in this country. All have united through English except the millions pouring over the border from Mexico who are given a second line in Spanish. As an interpreter I've witnessed the manipulation by leaders in this group and am alarmed at the conquest in progress that we are too naive to see.



Quality of Life-traffic laws in Lincoln do not seem to be adequate or possibly enforced. Driving the speed limit seems to be optional. Stopping behind a crosswalk or when a pedestrian is in it must not be in place. Driving your vehicle in the bike lane downtown is also allowed, apparently. In the past month I have had people driving at me in my lane and would have caused a head-on collision if I had not gotten out of their way. (Two different incidents and sorry, but I could not get their license plate number.) I am not sure how to fix this other than maybe better enforcement. It is a growing problem.

Please don't forget those in poverty. I attended the Vital Signs/Prosper Lincoln meeting in May, and there was a positive emphasis on recognizing that many are still struggling despite the overall success in Lincoln. Yet as I read the 3 themes, economic prosperity "for all" seems to be missing that important piece. I realize there is also an emphasis on helping children to have access to basic needs, but we cannot forget that their parents are not beyond hope, so the programs we invest in cannot be only for children. I do think that Lincoln has many great programs that could be expanded. One idea would be for Lincoln businesses to encourage (grant time off) for their employees to volunteer. For example City Impact's Impact Reading Center addresses many of the reading concerns that Dr. Bounds spoke about, but they need more people to participate in this partnership between City Impact and LPS in order to reach more schools. My other idea would be to build a communication channel between employers and nonprofits who work with those in poverty in hopes that the nonprofits could add job training in the areas where employers are struggling to find employees. This is especially true for employers with jobs that require a high school education or less in order to reach those in poverty. Thank you for continuing to educate all of us through Vital Signs. In addition to knowing more about the poverty in our midst, I hope more of us can become advocates for the public policies that our State needs to adopt in order to have a positive impact on our most vulnerable neighbors, such as Medicaid expansion and increasing Aid to Dependent Children.

The concept of Trauma Informed Care has recently been introduced to the LPS system and is being incorporated in training for CPS workers. Supporting the most vulnerable children by developing understanding of their ongoing challenges and the affect that has on their ability to learn can only enhance their ability to succeed. Also every child needs access to healthy, nutritious, and adequate food. An effort should be made to get all of our youngsters engaged in activities that promote healthy living, exercise, eating well, etc. Traumatized and hungry children cannot learn. This (Prosper Lincoln) is a remarkable process and I wish you well in moving forward.

1. Youth success will be enhanced if we adopt Common Core to get our education focus back on the basic building blocks of learning and thinking. And, we need to complement that with a focus on character development.
2. Have government at all levels get back to the basics of infrastructure and public safety and be minority partners in supporting the business and civic organizations in implementing the new Angelou Report.
3. Use data to determine whether and which art and culture and quality of life ideas are wanted and/or used by the majority of citizens. And, let's focus on fewer more noteworthy efforts to empower the quiet majority.



I believe that our community organizations need to spend more time collaborating and sharing resources rather than competing against each other for clients and resources. Also, community organizations should familiarize themselves with other organizations and be able to provide referrals to the other organizations. There are many great resources in the Lincoln community, but it seems like there are many people that aren't aware of them, so communicating information to community members is very needed. I've lived in Lincoln for 24 years, and I am still finding out about community organizations and events that I have never heard of! In short, organization collaboration and more information dissemination to community members.

I am probably thinking way outside of the box but I wish we could teach our children from elementary school on to think more than regurgitate what is taught for tests. LPS does a wonderful job of identifying kids but I wish the education system wasn't creating ants or robots. I feel teachers have lost having the time to personally or even as a class let the direction of a topic flow to the teachers discretion of learning instead of watching the clock for education minutes. I really am not complaining but look to the future and hope we are teaching this generation the proper way and using everyones time in school wisely and in turn making school more exciting. We all can remember that one teacher that let the class flow and learning was fun and you looked forward to what would happen the next day. Also, I noticed that as a country more states are choosing to have school begin around Labor Day and end early June. My child's summer camp has even changed the operating times to accommodate this trend. As a parent and many parents I have talked to agree it is still chilly in May when school is out and summer seems to be in full swing that second week in August. I agree with today's paper on the recommendations we were given by the consultant. Making the University an even better place and keeping students here to go to college instead of the out of state draw. Lincoln has done a wonderful job with downtown but I think if we get more business there.

I honestly believe that one of the most impactful things we can do in Lincoln right now is to expand the public transportation. People who cannot afford a car or who cannot drive have their options extremely limited by the lack of public transportation in Lincoln. It limits the jobs that a person can apply for, because they can only work certain shifts within the bus schedule. It also forces people to take time off of work for important things like doctor's appointments. I also highly believe in reducing the abhorrently high number of DUI's in Lincoln. If a person has access to a cheap way home from the bars, they are incredibly less likely to drive drunk. The fact that people cannot access jobs, education (night classes), grocery stores, healthcare, etc. is just absolutely ridiculous. We can plan more events and offer more resources, but that is pointless if there's no way for people to access them.

Coordination of youth services so that: 1 children in every neighborhood have places like Lighthouse to stay after school 2 all children have access to meals in school and in weekend and summer backpacks 3 1 stop offices for social services to children 4 Increased staff for services to "at risk" children of all descriptions



We need a city ordinance to ban styrofoam food & beverage containers & plastic shopping bags. We need to dramatically increase fines & penalties for littering & illegal dumping. Be creative & require community service hours to clean up litter.

Vibrant Community: a virtual "event passport" system where people can hear about events through one "ticket master" and can sign up or buy tickets for events that is linked to their State ID or Library Card or some other form of widely held identification. This would make finding events and activities for dates, families, etc. much easier and streamline the work it takes to promote them.

We need to enhance our bus system. This includes longer ride times, expanded routes and audio systems that work. This will enhance the quality of life for everyone including youth, the elderly and the disabled. This will also cut down on pollution as it will reduce the amount of cars on the road.

Free recycling program like other cities – pick-up @ household. Year-round farmers markets. More recycling bins downtown. Better public transportation – maybe 2 hubs to transfer instead of all downtown. Grocery store downtown.

1. Crack down on out of town (or state) landlords. It can be difficult and a bit touchy. The city has made many inroads as far as hoarders, junk, cars, abandoned homes yet more needs to be done, and a "take charge" health dept. would help. 2. Police Dept. has far too many unsolved crimes on it's books. Serious crimes have been committed with victims & neighbors very uneasy. 3. City & LPS & Community needs to focus on youth suicide – without spending nay money – quite a heartache for family & friends and troubling for others. 4. Keep taxes low – lots of us are willing to do without many services to live here. However, there are far many other cities with far lower taxes, that are wonderful to live & retire.

For a strong & vibrant community: My time in Lincoln has been focused in and around the campus area. One of this communities strengths is in bringing people together, when people know about the events. I believe a centrally managed group dedicated to informing the city of local events could go a long ways. Through minimal paper driven information, the city could gain a large following online, in a cheaper setting. Companies and groups could provide information to the managing workforce. Management could organize events to streamline information for people looking for events that fit their interests. People could "sign up" for events on the website to build support and help groups putting on events plan. A Lincoln specific implementation of this idea could build a following and lifestyle that improves our community.

As a teacher, youth and community are daily focuses for me. Some ideas for youth: volunteer led sporting, musical, artistic, and educational programs in low income area. –Students, in my perspective, are much more successful in all facets of life if they are more active. Especially in low income situations, stagnant children find their way into activities that hurt their current and future selves. –Activities could be coached by a volunteer force, organized by either volunteers or a paid supervisor. –Programs will be more successful if equipment is grant funded. Festival at local high schools to raise awareness of situation in their peers and younger students. Young people are a group that has the time, energy, and



frequently drive to use their time to support community. More frequently than not, the force stopping this group seems to be a lack of knowledge of the problem, the ways to address the problem, and that they are needed. This could be extended at an adult level in downtown events.

As a parent of 3 children, one of my concerns is having a good paying, sustainable job in Lincoln. I have been downsized twice during the 17 years I've worked in Lincoln as both companies closed our offices. It's too expensive to have an office here, they say. I've worked my way up and now make a "good" living, but now can't find a comparable job in Lincoln with similar pay. I'll either commute to Omaha or take a significant pay cut. Lincoln needs more professional level employers and jobs. The arena and call centers are great for entry-level positions. Please focus on bringing in more professional level positions (\$50k+ to Lincoln). Is there a way to have a minimum wage exemption for employees under 18? In a few years I will want my kids to get their first part-time job to teach them good Nebraska work ethic. However employers have a hard time hiring a 16 year old with no experience and paying them minimum wage. They can hire an under-employed 45 year old for the same wage with experience. What can we do to help high school age kids get part-time jobs? Maybe \$9.00 per hour (Jan 2016) is too much for a 16 year old. Maybe about \$6.50 is more feasible for some employers to take a chance on an inexperienced worker under 18. Work to bring back the "state" activities we have lost to Lincoln - State Fair, State Volleyball, State Wrestling, etc. These were huge tourism dollars that need back.

Lincoln needs an aquatics facility for all ages. Pool space is currently very limited. The extra space could be used for swim meets, practices, swim therapy, etc. Currently, the only practice space truly available to club teams 9 months out of the year is at LPS high schools. More aquatics space is needed to meet the growing swim population in Lincoln.

Youth Success - Continue supporting, and even expanding, arts in the schools and Lincoln community for all youth. Arts are such a vital tool for development of expression, confidence and creativity, and benefit any career path. Community centers and libraries need solid funding to ensure free spaces to foster education and growth, especially for those in living in poverty. Economic Prosperity - Keep focused on providing livable wages for everyone in the community. Look at models used in 3rd world countries for encouraging micro-businesses, particularly for women. Creating easier transportation routes/options throughout the city. The extended parts of Lincoln in nearly all directions have very few quick and easy ways to get to the other extremes ends of the city. For example, from the south-central area - a very well developed and growing part of town - there is no convenient way to get downtown or to the interstate/Omaha, and almost no public transit that is convenient to anywhere. Tap into the new maker space at the Nebraska Innovation Campus, and encourage public use to foster development of new ideas and products. Community classes, especially for young people, there would be excellent! Quality of Life - Love the improvements made in the Haymarket area over the last several years. The Antelope Valley Project has also been a success in improving that area. Continue to improve sections of downtown and O street, while maintaining affordable properties for small, family-owned businesses. Employ smart development plans that aren't dominated by bullying, big money businesses (i.e.,



Walmart). Lincoln has a wonderful draw in its parks and trails. Continue to support and expand these beautiful resources.

Please make sure that we leverage the effort of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development in all efforts related to economic development. It would be a shame to be headed in different directions.

I am concerned that we are not positively messaging to our young citizens that leave. I wish we would quit bemoaning the fact that some if not many leave Lincoln. I think we can all understand the desire for adventure. Can we turn our messaging around and find a way to welcome them back. Make Lincoln a place that they want to return to and stop telling them they should not leave.

Need to find an effective strategy to leverage the research at UNL. Break down the barriers around the campus. Find a way to bridge the community with the campus. Has the University of Nebraska - Lincoln developed the best way to bring its research to commercialization in the city? Are their models in our own state on how to do it well (UNIMED).

Help support the new Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship MBA track at Wesleyan to empower students to find creative solutions to Lincoln's social problems. The curriculum teaches students how to launch businesses that focus on social issues that make a difference. This could be a great ideation starting point to help build sustainable solutions to the problems we are facing as a community.

True net metering, zoning laws in favor of solar and small wind generators.

Helping those who need food assistance by doing what is being done in San Francisco with Feeding Forward to allow places like dorms, restaurants, etc., to use their excess food to feed those in need.

The Quiet Time program through the David Lynch foundation has extraordinary research supporting its efficacy in building resiliency in young people--check out www.DavidLynch.org. the DLF has already offered matching funds for at risk students in Lincoln public schools to begin their meditation program now. Quiet time program has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of students from US and abroad it can't be beat!

There is a lot of trouble in America lately. A lot of institutions seem to be under assault. Two of the pillars seem to be the churches, and Boy Scouts. I am going to dedicate myself to helping these two. There may be others. Who is willing to help?

Youth Success: Support the ongoing sustainability of the Lincoln Community Learning Center Initiative (CLC). Offer opportunities to expand CLC's into additional schools as the rate of poverty among students increases. The CLC initiative is a coordinate system of community partners that focus on youth development, family support and neighborhood vitality. Programming specific to local needs is determined through annual action plans guided by local school/neighborhood advisory groups. A community scholarship fund that could be accessed by all CLC's would assist in assuring that children from economically challenged families have access to CLC programming. Youth Success: We find that



some children are not able to function in large group summer recreation programs due to behavior challenges. A family can be put into crisis if a child is dismissed from a summer child care program because of the loss of care. A community program with a higher staff to participation ratio would be beneficial. Staff should be trained specifically to address youth behavior challenges.

Economic Prosperity Additional youth sports facilities that provide opportunities to bring youth sports tournaments to Lincoln should be part of the communities economic development strategy. Sports tourism can bring additional visitors to Lincoln on a regular basis. Youth baseball should be an initial focus. Other future opportunities include youth competitive swimming and tennis. The Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitors Bureau can be a significant partner in recruiting events, provided that adequate facilities are available.

New downtown library Employment and housing protections for LGBT people Homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, and other basic service providers that don't discriminate against LGBT people (if they receive public funds)

Given the abundance of new research showing that exposure to nature improves health and wellbeing and lowers stress, coupled with the need for habitat for dwindling species, I would love to see Lincoln naturalize medians and areas along streets, as well as small sections of city parks. I would also like to see a push to educate Lincolniters about the use of pesticides (including herbicides and pre-emergents) on lawns and gardens, as they are overused, which not only harms the environment, but also impacts people and pets. Healthy people need healthy environments in order to prosper.

Lincoln is an amazingly vibrant city. As Lincoln is developing greenspaces, a portion of the green space could be utilized for growing food, think fruit trees, filbert / hazelnut bushes, service berry bushes and vegetables. An edible landscape for all! Teaching people to grow their own food, forage for their own food, cook unprocessed food will decrease our obesity rates, decreasing our health care costs. Connections with nature are crucial to creativity and motivation. Growing your own food and access to the Wilderness Park and Pioneers Park Nature Center develop that creativity. Though my entry is a day late, my hopes are you will consider my input.

I would love to see that trans folk be able to access and amend their birth certificates to their proper identity. This would simplify many aspects of life and reduce mental stress for the individual.

We need equal protection in housing and employment for LGBT community in Lincoln and all of Nebraska.

We need designated and safe bike lanes throughout the city.

Non discrimination laws protecting LGBT folks in housing and employment

Quality of Life The Lincoln community has recently developed a number of outdoor venues designed to support community festivals and events. Initial conversations have been held regarding developing a



method of coordinating and promoting community events. A coordinating group should be organized and managed, and ideally of community funding resource should be developed to assist in supporting quality events that are free to community residents and visitors.

Youth Success: This begins with the parents and the time or should I say lack of time and education they have with their kids today trying to support and feed them. As such, let's have grants to bring the two together for educational purposes that pay with food and ease the money stresses with the low income parents, for example: gardening can be a group place where people of this class can join together to grow fruits and vegetables for their families that they can take with them and at the same place have education classes after the planting is done in a variety of blue collar and white collar work by professionals on a weekly basis. The incentive here for the parent who is trying to make ends meet is free food from what you plant and the side benefit is education and parent quality time with the children. This should not only be for the poor this should also be for everyone but over a certain income these families would pay as a donation so all this can be written off their taxes, so make it a 501C so that everyone can benefit. This is just one idea that I have. Economic Prosperity: The best way to get people to stay is by lowering taxes. For example when I moved here I was shocked that a percentage was added to taxes for dining for the Pinnacle bank arena....really ??? When was this done....how long has this extra collection of taxes been going on? The problem with doing this is that there never seems to be a time when you announce that the tax gouging is over and the ticket sales and other area sales have exceeded the costs and we will now take that percentage back from the area now and going forward to help fund another project that the citizens have voted on. In addition, that sneak gas tax that was pushed through....that happen quickly without proper notification to the people to oppose. If you want to truly keep professionals in the area then we must all be notified in a timely fashion of these proposals and there should be an end time for these emergency taxes and such. Also your real estate taxes are ridiculous so why would anyone want to build their business and home here and stay? We really need the books opened here to discuss with the public of the community to see where all this money is going to because it is not the roads that's for sure. Let the people help decide the flow of monies and then people would seek and desire to live here because they feel that they count and therefore will give more willingly. Break open those books and use your unemployment force to work for you instead of just throwing it away in unemployment benefits and other hand outs. Quality of life: for starters spread out your homes, why too close to each other Nebraska is pretty big? When I asked why this is to a realtor they informed me it was because of the property taxes. Trust me crowding people together does not create prosperity nor wellness just frustration so again do something about these taxes and spread out.....you have the room especially if people are moving here, I should know since I've come from an over crowded city and people are angry for this reason. So you better start thinking about this and setting up limits of how many homes or apartments are allowed in an area which ensures the spreading out or you're heading for heartache. In addition, ethnicity clusters is a problem as well. I come from a city where there are clusters of groups and in these communities the people who lived there all their lives had to move because there were no building regulations and all the stores and shops were not in the English language nor was the type of food marts, they were all in their foreign cuisine and there was



no parking left....nice houses torn down and replaced with 10 apartment units with no grass and now less parking. Literally you would have to drive 4 towns over just to get an american English speaking person that sells american food. Do not let that happen here. It's nice to have diversity don't get me wrong what I am saying is it's not okay to have domination which alienates everyone else. Put these restrictions in place now before it is too late trust me on this one!!! Learn from other city's mistakes like California, NY, DC just to name a few. Lincoln is one of the happy places to live now because you don't have this yet....and I say yet loosely if you don't restrict things now. Health: Enforce the restriction of airplane droppings.....I believe they call it chem trails and ensure that the levees are sustainable to avoid any future flooding. Finally get the drugs out of here! I'm seeing more and more looting and other crimes on the rise here and usually this is a sign of drugs and poverty. Don't provide hand outs if people are poor, hire them to work for their welfare and/or unemployment benefits. If you insist that they must work for the state for these benefits then they would most likely really look for work and the ones that cannot really get a job will work for these benefits thus easing the tax burden for all. If they are not terribly handicapped then they can work, so make them work for these benefits. If they don't like it they will find other jobs or move either way its a win win for the community! Everyone has a job and thus is responsible who stays that is. Who cares if they move out looking for hand outs. Let them, why should we the people pay for the truly lazy who are more than capable of working. Almost forgot..... stop the electric companies from installing smart meters they are very dangerous to our health as well and regulate the cell towers. They are too high in some areas like mine on salt valley view and old Cheney you can hear the ringing faintly and that is a pure sign that they have it illegally too high which is harmful for the community. We need to ensure that we are protecting our people from these violators. These are just a few of my thoughts...thanks for reading and I hope this gets to the right person who can make a real change and a better one for all!

Lincoln could really use a nationally-known steakhouse -- such as Ruth's Chris, Morton's, Landry's, etc. Many are targeted at larger metro areas (Capital Grill, Smith & Wollensky, and others) and may not be interested in Lincoln just yet. However, visitors to Lincoln have an expectation of having a good steak because of Nebraska being The Beef State, and they find Lincoln lacking in that regard. Therefore I would encourage discussions and/or incentives. Barring that, provide encouragement and advertising for the local places to emphasize the steaks are their menu -- especially those nearer to the arena, which are more likely to see tourist traffic: Single Barrel, Misty's, etc.

Really need groups like the Boy Scouts to help teach leadership and provide service to our community

Lincoln does not have an indoor public aquatics facility for both competition and leisure swimming. With the growth of the community, lack of indoor pool space and the commitment to physical fitness, an indoor community pool is way overdue!

I would like to see a better online calendar of events. I would like a website to search by date and type of event. I would also like to be able to search several weeks or months in advance in order to be able to secure tickets.



Lincoln needs better baseball fields. Age specific fields for boys 8-14. My family travels for baseball at least 6 weekends a summer for tournaments and spend a lot of money on dining, entertainment, etc. Lincoln is missing out big time!

More free community outreach programs. All throughout Lincoln. i.e.- community gardens, kids running, kid friendly business maybe! More activities for family. i.e. celebrate Lincoln, party in the parks.

1. Better rides for Lincolniters from downtown to home. 1. Safety, 2. Drunk driving, 3. Save economy. 2. Increase aid to pre-school education for grades born to 5 years.

Make it easier to get back into school! There are places that encourage a year off between H.S. and college. We penalize with long term consequences. Also our "affordable" jr college is farthest away from our poorest students residing in center of city. Again make it easier to get there and stay there. (transportation in Lincoln is not usable whole topic of town).

1. When a family gets a better paying job they immediately lose their child care subsidy (Title XX). Often times this raise puts them into a new income bracket that still barely means meeting basic means. It's got to be a gradual transition off subsidies. 2. Embrace the diversity of our beautiful community with a concerted effort to be culturally responsible with literature, ads, etc. Families would be engaged if they felt welcomed in their own languages. 3. Full day preschool birth to 5 for every family that wants it. Huge gap & kids suffer.

Help support & grow our Lincoln's Sym & Orch.! It is one of a greatest cultural assets, along with a strong community economic engine & phenomenal educational tool. I look forward to re-installing of our LSO @ the Uncle Sam fam, & also expanding into a summer service of orchestra concerts (Pop, light classics, Broadway, patriotic, etc.) in June leading up to the Uncle Same fam.

Angel Funels – low cost gym & fitness program & flights out of state ment for med treatment – alternative treatment (health) grant or scholarship. Diatician consults à weekly program à cooking food measuring Wellnish Nurse à Weekly meeting planning à Free to \$10 a week!

Any efforts must be multi-faceted. We need to ensure that the quality of life offerings remain strong while @ the same time focusing on endeavors to help youth & own economy. Additionally, the success of this effort will lie in the ability to identify & raise NEW dollars. We can't create the systemic change designed by simply diverting existing funding.

Focus on youth. It is the basis for both economic growth & community strength. Get kids involved. Create multiple, free, enticing opportunities for participation throughout city (not on elite youth leadership Lincoln). High schools need to recommend diverse student leaders. Need college interns to lead who want to give back to the community. Leaders who are diverse and are excited about the future of the Lincoln community. Economy & community will grow if we believe & support our kids.

Summer camp programs for youth in the summer time



Provide after school and summer programs that are free. Get volunteers to staff them. A lot of older teens would be willing to earn credits and work off community hours to help!! And stay at home parents too. When there's a need in the community, they usually come together. More sports and etc... less gangs, drugs, etc... it's been proven!

Education, beyond traditional schooling. Things like manners, and basic human respect. Not letting kids be the parents.

More teachers for one on one with the students that are hard of learning.

Maybe some community gardens where they can learn & enjoy the benefits of good food. Have seen many good results from these.

More family activities.

I want the same thing Autism Community so we don't have to move out of this state. More state funding to our family that have kids with Autism just to focus on the families with Autism kids only. A lot going for kids with special needs already time to focus with Autism and there families and siblings to help the families out that don't have resources to find this out for thereselves from being to busy raising Autism on their own as a single parent.

More autistic community for autism kids only

More jobs for teenager. More community center. More preparing kid ready for the work force...

More fun things to do. More sports events. More things for our children to do.

Single parent support groups – especially for those who have children with disabilities. More respite care – little or no expense to parents. Activities for autistic children – I know of a single mother who has to pay for a child care worker to go with her child to community activities – besides paying for the activity – very hard on the parent who is also on a fixed income. Positive things about Lincoln, good bike trails – well maintained. Music throughout the city all summer long, the zoo, great parks.

Be good role models to the youth & open more youth programs for free. Keep kids active and out of trouble.

Jobs. More programs.

More youth programs. Help them to learn respect and help to older people. Help with school work like teaching. Help all kids in trouble or teach them to care about each other and respect each other no matter what color or race they are. Keep the gangs out make them a safe place to be.

Cheaper food and everything else!



Bravry all ways keep the world healthy

Lower gas prices so people can get around easier & better! Have more family events advertised.

Lower gas prices so people can get around easier & better! Have more family events advertised.

1. Re-educate parents by addressing social issues, and responsibilities for their children. 2. Facilitate better mass transit services so that people can get to work. (bus routes). Educate employers that loyal, responsible employees feel their needs matter. 3. Encourage diversity & acceptance of new ideas. Make the arts and sporting events available to more people. Promote volunteer and community service.

1. Re-educate parents by addressing social issues, and responsibilities for their children. 2. Facilitate better mass transit services so that people can get to work. (bus routes). Educate employers that loyal, responsible employees feel their needs matter. 3. Encourage diversity & acceptance of new ideas. Make the arts and sporting events available to more people. Promote volunteer and community service.

“Basic classes” Trade school i.e. cooking, taxes, simple financials, how to save, application process, relationships, etc.

In the Philippines, the government/ non profit organizations gives parents seminars, certificates or training workshops so they can start their own small business or apply for a rank & file position related to the workshop they took.

By following up on the parents (parent) to see how they are raising there children and to see there life styls and have them change.

In his book, *The Coming Jobs War*, Gallup Chairman Jim Clifton makes the point that job creation and successful entrepreneurship are the world's most pressing issues. In the book, Clifton uses findings from Gallup's World Poll. He shows how job creation (or the lack of good jobs for citizens in communities just like Lincoln) affects everything from economics to the future of our nation's leadership standing in the world. Clifton says the solution to creating good jobs must be found in all levels of leadership in cities. He believes that promoting entrepreneurship and job creation must be the sole mission and purpose of cities' leaders. The book offers a prescription for attacking the jobs creation issue. I wholeheartedly agree with Clifton's assessment of the importance of this grassroots level of attack. Community citizens must act. We cannot wait for Federal leadership or programs to jump-start our community. Lincoln has many great programs in place. The school district has one of the highest high school graduation rates in the nation and above average scores on achievement tests. While there is still more to be done to enhance opportunities for youth, both of these indicate that our community is on the right track. However, programs to help Lincoln's youth be successful will not help Lincoln prosper in the future if there are so few family/household-sustaining jobs for graduates to move into. My "idea" is that we foster community education. Let's ask/demand that everyone in leadership roles from the Mayor and CEOs of major businesses to the leaders of neighborhood associations and service clubs read this book. I



believe it is a crucial first step to have everyone in the community understand the importance of fostering entrepreneurship and job creation in our community and the immedia.cy of need. A group of Prosper Lincoln team leaders would be needed to envision community-wide efforts of job creation, set goals and a plan for community accountability. I believe in general that CEOs are not investing in their human capital. They are taking more out of their companies than their leadership adds back to productivity. They are not providing sustainable incomes for families. I believe that Lincoln CEOs need to "borrow a page from Henry Ford's book." Henry Ford realized that it benefited his business to pay employees enough money so that they could afford to buy the cars they manufactured. Lincoln citizens earn an average of 11 percent less than workers in other communities. I am not a statistician or economics guru, but even I can understand that if a person who earns \$30,000 a year had \$3,300 more to spend each year, it will ripple through the entire local economy which, based on a simple spending multiplier, results in \$7,000 to \$9,000 additional spending per person. People who are far more educated in these topics need to help corporate leadership understand that when workers prosper, businesses and their leadership also prosper. Non-profits are trying to help citizens get by. Our business leadership needs to understand that by investing more in their workers, they will realize immediate benefits to their organizations and ultimately to their personal bottom line.

There are many silo's asking questions, doing surveys - & have their own agenda's - when is everyone going to get together & talk to each other. I.e. Health Dept Mapp planning, prosper Lincoln, Comm. Health improvement plan, healthy Lincoln collaborative, CHE agenda & priorities. It would be nice if all worked together & actually took the input - & didn't just have a hidden agenda (or so it appears to many!)

Keep/strengthen neighborhood parks & libraries

More parks around the air park or youth sports advertisement

Close high school enrollment districts so that each school is closer in enrollment to ensure equity in quality of high school experience.

Provide activities for youth free of charge. Get people involved in community activities.

Help out in your local school - give back to community

Focusing on improvement in education. Nourishing communication between teacher and parent. Neighborhood events and activities.

Lincoln is a great place to live. We have been impressed by the parks and have loved how almost every park in Lincoln has a playground. We also love the programs available such as the summer passport. We love going around Lincoln and having fun. We always are discovering more about this great city every day.



Provide opportunities for all youth to visit with various professionals around the community. Show them the value of continuing their education beyond high school. Many children may not have that message expressed to them at home, so they may need to hear it elsewhere. Maybe the schools, or community centers, could work with local companies to have speakers come to the schools (k-12) or set up visit to the companies. I feel like if a good base is set for youth (a 'want' to succeed) it will create a snowball effect and the economy will grow because the youth will be working/ creating jobs for the community. Community pride is also very important. We need to get youth more involved in the community by providing more ways to provide service. If they get involved in the community, they will take more initiative in the way the community grows.

Help kids start businesses and find jobs during the summer, offer classes to teach children to be good workers.

More after school programs. More backpack with food so more children don't go without food. Programs in the evening for parents. Subjects children nutrition, children exercise, how to help our children read better. Disciplining our children and what support programs are available for parents.

Ensure our schools provide not only healthy food, but education about it as well.

Teenagers need some art entertainment, activities, music/dance place to keep busy. Some start to develop and discover their talents and find out what they enjoy to do best other than just sports.... Like art, music, and dance. 10-7 yrs need tumbling classes, dance & artistic development project. Waterpark in Airpark like Sprinkler Park an area to Ride bikes with hills in Tanker Hill airpark.

More recycle bins to make easy to recycle for people and to show our children how to recycle.

What is great: summer activities like Jazz in June are great, summer reading programs, YMCA activities are great, community fun runs or 5ks are great. Uncle sam is awesome, music. Ideas: 4th of July parade or some other parade to allow local high school bands and others opportunity to showcase their talents. More computers in schools so children can learn to use technology.

Senior coffee group: (*illegible list of names*) Family resource center at 48th (Carol Yoakum). 1. YAS – We need a McDonald's for employment and use. Enhanced REC center can't happen too soon for our youth. Be conscious of hidden youth who may need services – school a great resource for this. 2. Economy grows: tax free zones for new businesses for x number of years. Deadlines for construction to attract new businesses as they try to plan their personal growth plan. 4-way stop kept at Thatcher for safety. More flights into Lincoln airport. 3. Community is strong: asking for community input as this construction continues is good. More fairness and continuity across HOAS, neighborhood ass. Continue opportunities for comm. Input when the 48th project is complete. Be mindful of careful planning for enterprise park for consequences to entire neighborhood and enough services to support.



SAFETY- I would love to see the streets have reflective paint on the curbs of the center islands. Depending on the time of day or if it's raining they are hard to distinguish from the road. Better lane lines would also be wonderful.

Community should all get behind building youth assets (to developmental assets). Everyone can be an youth asset builder – need training, evaluation.

Build capacity of parents to serve as leaders in school and neighborhoods.

Free WiFi in low income neighborhoods with little to no access to libraries. Places w/ high population # in small areas like apartments.

Expand preschool programs for 3&4 year old students at Lincoln Public Schools. Expand Family Literacy Program to additional schools that have large numbers of ELL-enrolled students.

Ensure all youth achieve a minimum of 60 minutes per day of physical activity by: 1. Requiring schools to provide at least 30 minutes per day of physical activity through: a. PE class at least every other day. B. 2 recesses of 15 min. each day. 2. Providing opportunities outside of school for 30 minutes per day.

Youth success: Create programs and/or self-help information to get parents back to parenting. Schools are here to educate, not raise children. Economy: create jobs & offer help to teach fiscal responsibility. Hand-outs are not the answer. We need to get people back to work and teach them to live within their means. Community: start a campaign to get people off their phones while driving. Promote something like one short honk means to get off your phone!

Support multiple types of transportation – walking, biking, buses, etc. – and not just cars. Biking, in particular – laws need to be more supportive, law enforcement needs to know the laws, and drivers need to know more about interacting with cyclists on roads. I'm a young person, and my friends and I like to get around on bikes and on foot and use cars less.

1. Stop treating everyone as a victim! 2. There are already numerous organizations available – concentrate on funding those to make them better! 3. Set standards high –if you set standards low, no incentive to push yourself.

Economy – reduce property taxes, pay equality. Community – better transportation (walking, bicycling, better streets, mass transportation)

I think Lincoln should have more parks!

Grow jobs for parents. Create a family to family mentoring system. Inform the community of the educational impact of poverty. Engage the community in the cultural proficiency journey.

Schools should be used as resource for many things books, technology, reading opportunities, job skills, use their expertise and facilities.



Strive to be more productive! More eligibility! More opportunities.

1. Better upkeep and building of more sports fields. 2. More junior mentoring programs to prepare youth for employment. 3. Lower or eliminate some of the taxes on Lincoln has to make Lincoln more appealing to new families. 4. Lower or eliminate some of the requirements for businesses and make Lincoln more welcoming to start a new local business.

I'm a day late so I hope this works... After 11 years of operating the community volunteer center, Volunteer Partners, I strongly urge the consideration of the community providing FAR more resources to promote and support volunteerism, in each of the theme areas: Youth Success, Economic Prosperity and Quality of Life. There are 'resource targets' for each of these areas: educational institutions, businesses and government/neighborhood associations. However, the local foundations, and/or the Funder's Group, should annually budget operational funds for Volunteer Partners, or a similar entity. Even a cursory review of the relevant literature will demonstrate the ROI of this strategy. Of course, funds should be tied to performance and closely monitored. Benefits will exceed costs if properly managed.

A way to make Lincoln more prosperous and attractive to the younger generation is to keep remodeling places like the haymarket, it is such a fun area and is very attractive to people in my age group. I am 23 and just graduated college.

To encourage economic development and growth, Lincoln would benefit from having faster and stronger internet.

I've lived in 9 major university intercultural cities. One of them Shanghai, China. Here is a link referencing an article about "Aspirational Cities"... Cities where professionals and international cultures of all backgrounds feel included. Cost of living is lower and opportunities for work and social integration are higher plus continue to grow. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/07/30/hot-u-s-cities-that-offer-both-jobs-and-culture-are-mostly-southern-and-modest-sized.html> My observations: Cultures still tend to isolate themselves in different areas of the Lincoln. Young bright and highly educated Asians, Latinos, Eastern Europeans and other groups are not apparent at some of the bigger events that I've seen. Even as shoppers. They should be highly integrated into the Farmers markets. I have heard of several Asian groups that sell only into the Asian markets, thinking that they are only wanted in the Asian market. Even in Cleveland, OH, there were many European [French-German- Slavic] Latino, Greek, Korean, and other Asian vendors as well as some Indian food and bakery at farmers markets. Sheboygan, WI had many Hmong, a few Latino's and Greeks at their farmers markets. Sure, they have their own isolated events at their own cultural centers or in the university. However it would seem that they need to be strongly invited into the Lincoln social structure at large. More groups could use platforms such as MEETUP.com. It makes interactive social opportunities more readily found. Most international and major university educated folks know what it is. I'm accustomed to seeing many culturally focused MEETUP groups in cities with major universities. Downtown: In many cities, even though universities are a vibrant part of the downtown, the city center area is open and convenient to many others who to live



in a walking city. This not only includes restaurants and salons, it also includes medical clinics as well as grocery shops. It would seem that there would be an inclusive grocery store like a mini grocer [with narrow aisles] such as "Eataly". <http://www.eataly.com>: Some Bodega's and Asian stores in the near downtown area yet not that appealing to all. ...Maybe a blend of a grocer, with something like "the mill". Maybe once the Pavillon is open, it could house something similar to what Cleveland OH has in the warehouse district. In any event, the leaders of Lincoln have demonstrated creativity, passion with focused and goal driven actions in the last several years. I fully believe that they can make this as good or better than the cities listed in the article above. After all, what I'd heard before I came, is true - It is "Nebraska Nice". Albeit in transition.

This might be too late to include as I have been out of town for a while. I spent 40 years as a public school employee, 34 as a superintendent and 6 as a high school teacher. I still work as a private consultant and serve about 50 clients that are public schools and ESU's. So I know just enough about youth to be dangerous. Some things I find troubling include the following; We do not expect much from students. We allow them to re take exams they fail until they receive a passing grade or a high grade. I know this is true in Lincoln as well as other schools. There, is thus grade inflation that is rampant in the public schools as well as colleges. When one purchases something at a store, if the cash register does not calculate the change, I am not sure most clerks could make change. I think this is one example of the failure of public school education. There is some evidence, just reported that Sesame street does more to prepare students for elementary school than Pre-schools. I visit lots of schools and am not sure pre schools are worth the money we spend. We need to quit being so enamored with getting a 4 year college degree. The trade schools and two year diplomas at the community colleges provide youth with many opportunities for a decent paying job. The department of labor suggests about 20 percent of the jobs in this country require a degree, but 33 percent of US adults have a 4 year degree and many cannot find a job in which they were trained. We have to instill a work ethic in our youth. I shop at the same grocery store, a large chain, and have gotten to know a number of the department heads. They all tell me finding high school age students to have a strong work ethic is impossible. I have neighbors who have high school aged children who see no need to have them work a part time job as "They do not need" the money. When I suggested work ethic is important they just laugh at that thought. I think we need as a city, to be less interested in sports and more interested in cultural events. We are lucky that Lincoln has lots of other events, but often times parents are the ones we have to convince of the importance of these other events. This all sounds kind of negative, and I really do not intend it to be. But I could go on forever on this topic.

We need better and longer hours for buses. They need to start earlier in the day for those who have to be to work before 7am. They also need to run later and on Sundays.

Teach meditation in schools, starting in 3rd grade.

Discover, develop and direct the entrepreneurial talent throughout Lincoln. (I have been using the EP10 (Entrepreneurial StrengthsFinder). Connect the millennial entrepreneurs with the late blooming



entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses. Build teams with utilizing their strengths and talents that solve the social and environmental issues.

The community should continue to use and expand using mediation and facilitation services to encourage dialog and decrease destructive conflict within the community. The use of community dialog with neutral third-parties has worked out well for community engagement on budget and environmental issues. These types of constructive dialogs should continue regularly, even when there is no pressing need to make big decisions.

Lincoln is a progressive community, which is one of the things that make is a great place to work and live. I think the youth of Lincoln would benefit from programs what offer positive alternatives and at the same time teach life skills. For example, if kids get in trouble when they are young it can adversely affect their career opportunities. But programs like mediation, community service involvement, work programs can provide a positive alternative to the judicial system. To promote business in Lincoln it seems like there are adverse regulations and/or fees. For exampe when you ask restauants in Omaha, why they don't open in Lincoln they say it is too expensive.

Promote mediation as a viable and successful way to resolve matters in our community for all kinds of disputes and matters ranging from divorce to land lord tenant to cases that involve children who are wards of the state. Many mediators can detect that a family or an individual is in need of services and mediators and attorneys at the mediation center are very familiar with the services available in our community and can provide that as an opportunity to people in need who otherwise might not have found out about it. Provide more funding to the Mediation Center so that mediation can be an option to all individuals not just middle and upper class. could potentially create more jobs and attract more professionals to this field (from both inside an outside of this community) making it more respected and more effective.

1. Focus on early childhood programs for children in poverty: work with parents on nutrition, vocabularly building, education beginning at birth.
2. Continue to improve our community with vibrant opportunities for young families including concerts, sports, quality (affordable) day care options, and activites for families.
3. Support peace and cooperation through support for mediation services, interfaith collaboration, multicultural opportunities and mentoring for minorities and immigrants in our community.
4. Create more programs that provide scholarships and support for minorities in teaching professions that help young people see minorities in role model positions. Grow our own: give to those in our community to build capacity from within minority communities that are committed to this city and will stay.
5. Build strong internships to help students at area Universities develop ties to local businesses that help them see Lincoln as a strong contender in their future success.

Take into account all socioeconomic aspects of our community when planning. What brings us together - not further separates us? What helps us recognize we are one community - and embrace our diversity? Raise up activities such as mediation to help us find common ground when there is disagreement.



An recent article in Fast Company (July/August 2015) gave the following information on what Salt Lake City has done to decrease their chronic homeless population. *Most cities prioritize temporary shelters over long-term housing. Salt Lake City has adopted a different strategy, placing chronically homeless people in one of 950 federally subsidized apartments, for which they pay a nominal rent of, at most, 30% of their income per month. *Caseworkers meet with residents of the apartments, helping address underlying problems by referring them to medical care, psychiatric counseling, financial planning, and other services. *The state helps the now formerly homeless find employment, even if it's a job that offers only a few hours of work per month. The approach leads to better results for the homeless, and saves Utah money on emergency services, as well.

More mediation and facilitation services

Character education, community service should be considered as key to equipping youth with skills and manners needed. Recreational activities, academic support and job skills training are also important. Youth also need help in learning how to communicate effectively and to manage conflict. Mediation skills training is one way that can be done. The Mediation Center is an excellent resource for this. There is also a chapter of the Alternatives to Violence Project in Lincoln which offers a different style and approach to conflict resolution.

Character education, community service should be considered as key to equipping youth with skills and manners needed. Recreational activities, academic support and job skills training are also important. Youth also need help in learning how to communicate effectively and to manage conflict. Mediation skills training is one way that can be done. The Mediation Center is an excellent resource for this. There is also a chapter of the Alternatives to Violence Project in Lincoln which offers a different style and approach to conflict resolution.

Youth prosper when they are free of abuse, bullying, strife, etc., in their homes and in their schools. Mediation is taking a larger and more effective role in addressing these disputes -- in the courts, in the schools, and in the families. That mediation is a force in ensuring that our youth are successful is beyond argument. Mediation can also help improve the economy by making sure that divorce settlements are fair, equitable and acceptable to both parties. More and more divorcing couples are using mediation to create their settlement agreements and, more importantly, their parenting plans. The less time these folks spend in court, the more productive they can be in their work. The strength and vibrancy of our community is dependent on the neighborhoods, the city government, and the community services are all working together. That takes communications, especially when there is a breakdown. If more of these entities and citizens seek mediation as a solution, the easier it becomes to "grease the wheels" and lessen or even eliminate the friction which slows those wheels down. If you missed what I have been stressing here, think "MEDIATION" whenever you become aware of a dispute, a disagreement, or any other negative energy situation.



-Mentor program with preschool children. Start with SODO area, get ideas from TeamMates., etc -Have engagement from Lincoln Police, maybe fire prevention professionals too. Enaging Lincoln police with schools, churches, park and rec ., etc., will add to sense of community and safety for all.

Youth and Careers - focus more on the basic skills (not just technology, but things you need to know to survive if Google or a computer is not available), and also provide job/career oriented activities such as job shadowing. Teach manners, too. Practical skills such as money management and saving (know how to balance a checkbook). Know our country better, our system, our constitution and fundamental principles. Jobs - pay scale needs to be improved (salaries need to be increased to hold workers here). Entrepreneurial - more variety of stores and shops. Shopping is boring in Lincoln. Provide incentives for startup companies. Quality of Life - need a better, more flexible and convenient bus system; NOT go downtown for every trip on a bus, or diversify with smaller buses/vehicles. Encourage mediation of disputes; The Lincoln Mediation Center does great work.

Kindergarten readiness testing Greater opportunities for before/after school and summer learning for children regardless of income level Support of libraries

I stopped two 7 yr olds from fighting in a park. There was a group of older kids, 11 to 13 yr old, recording it on a cell phone. I informed them that they could be held responsible for any outcome if downloaded. I contacted the non emergency number and informed them of the fight and description of the person recording the fight. The officer never went and spoke to the older children. Even though they can not cease the phone, I would have liked them to make a informal talk on consequences to who release video of that nature and if one of the parties make a action due to the publican of that video. Most kids are unaware that they are just as guilty and there are multiple ways the authorities can find out who recorded. I also do not think families are aware of places kids can go during the summer, I know I am not to familiar on where to find information.

Lots of green space. Be willing to spend sufficient money on education, including early childhood, pre-school education and youth programs up through teen years. Lincoln seems to be doing well economically with all the development in downtown and in Haymarket and Lincoln should keep that momentum going by focusing on education and community programs to bring people together. We have a more diversion population and need to emphasize the strengths of that diversity. Mediation would be a great way to bring people together to address issues that arise.

The former state ward program and Project Everlast, could utilize MEDIATION to address differences or to settle problems which may arise -- i.e., perhaps between landlord/tenants, past owed utility or medical bills, etc. MEDIATION could also be used to arrange for future events to occur, i.e. make arrangements for future payments on tuition, car payments, or for many services. The city and private enterprises need to take a very close look at improving the bus system. The less fortunate are the ones who need a bus the most, and often they are also the ones working weekends or evenings, when there is no bus service. Perhaps these individuals could contribute hours to another organization, etc., in order



to get "passes." Learning a job skill is often vital to keeping Lincoln residents in our city. Perhaps other skilled persons/businesses could take on "interns" & receive a tax break, or some other benefit.

Add more greenspace downtown and in the haymarket. More greenspace will encourage residents to live and play downtown.

Make early childhood education affordable and accessible to all. Early childhood education makes a long-term difference in life from cradle to career. Implement year-round school. Year-round school improves educational outcomes and attainment and prevents learning loss over long breaks. Create a "Science City" at the Lincoln Children's Museum for grade school and middle school children to participate in STEM learning opportunities. Making STEM fun will encourage knowledge and curiosity.

Improve traffic flow around the city. Major roadways should have fewer stoplights. Consider making 27th street around Superior and Corhusker a byway or overpass with exits to allow for merging traffic. Complete the south beltway and get approval for the east beltway to alleviate heavier trucks and thru traffic on interior roads. Eliminate traffic lights from highway 77. These intersections cause too many dangerous and life-threatening accidents. Safety of our citizens should be important. Improve public transportation availability. More efficient public transportation with extended hours will increase the workforce, decrease traffic, and improve the economy. Not all busses should have to go through downtown to get to another side of the city.

Create a large greenspace with a big park, trees, and a bike trail on the North side of town to encourage growth into the North and Northwest parts of town. Connecting neighborhoods will encourage population growth and ease some of the growth from the south side of Lincoln. Making neighborhoods walkable and enjoyable will bolster growth and expansion. Invest in some low-cost housing for low-income or limited resource individuals. The limited housing availability means increased prices and few safe options for low income individuals. Provide bus service to extended locations in Lincoln, like out to Verizon. As a refugee city, we should not make a refugee community pay the government back for their plane ticket here. We should provide a fund or support for our refugee community to assist in long-term placement, literacy, job growth, and financial assistance.

Create "Saturdays in the Park" and feature local neighborhood talent among the schools. Break dancing/singing/lip sync contests, etc. Could be showcased in different parks around Lincoln or focused in the Haymarket arena. (maybe this is being done...i'm out of the loop).

Implement city-wide curbside recycling and pay-as-you-throw trash service so we don't have to make another landfill.

Lincoln Public Schools should consider implementing a year-round, 12-month school calendar. This would prevent "summer slide." In addition, it would alleviate financial strain on numerous families -- as their childcare costs would be decreased.



Create more and more substantive opportunities for high-achieving students to learn and develop in and out of school. Create higher expectations for youth and the skills to meet them. Provide earlier foreign language education. Continue to develop incentives for youth to remain in Nebraska and expand incentives to attract youth.

Expand medicaid (I realize this is a state-wide issue in the legislature). Free quality childcare - provide it through after-school programs. Free and compulsory pre-school. THERE SHOULD BE A PRIORITY TO FINISH THE CENTENNIAL MALL PROJECT - it's been under construction for as long as I can remember. It connects the State Capitol and the University, arguably two of the most important places (for many reasons) in Nebraska, yet it's been fenced, muddy and painful to look at for years. Create a UNL mentoring program through the Honors Program that requires all first year honors students to mentor a lower income student in an elementary school. I'm aware of the Teammates and NHRI, but I think that many students would enjoy the opportunity to mentor but simply aren't made familiar with the opportunity upon entering college, so a mandatory program would not only create more mentors, but would stimulate more interest in it - and I bet you there's many kids who would absolutely love continue with their mentee. Quit allowing the Walmart takeover. Also, not much can be done at this point but maybe shy away from allowing places like Twin Peaks in the Haymarket, if Lincoln wants to create a reputation for being a fun and classy community. That in the Haymarket is just embarrassing - I thought we were doing so well until that came about. Maybe create a year-round "farmers market" where farmers can sell their groceries and artists can sell their crafts, in a permanent building - it would support local businesses and foster the art community. Ensure that UNL Campus Police are doing their jobs (ensuring safety of the college community) rather than trying to make a buck for the University by handing out Minor In Possession tickets (which ears the University \$100 every time).

http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/community_builder_the_life_legacy_of_jc_nichols The methods and philosophies Nichols championed are now being used by architects, planners, and developers to build towns and combat sprawl.... Also, downtown needs to be more downtown-living friendly. Those that live/work downtown should not need to drive anywhere to get anything. With all the new development in the Railyard and more apartments along 12th street, there should be a fully functioning 24-hour grocery store and shops within walking distance. Walgreens does not count. Make it a feasible, functional, aesthetically pleasing downtown living area. Better ways of road transportation all away around. It should not take 30-45 minutes to get from one end of town to the other. I refuse to make the drive across town unless I absolutely have to. It is my belief that everyone in Lincoln should be forced to live in a larger city for a year. They will no longer be so content with mediocrity.

We need higher speed internet infrastructure. This will improve business recruitment/retention and quality of life for residents. I wish we could come up with creative ways to have a viable, desirable public transportation system that better served residents with service on routes where people need to go, with more frequency, with extended hours, and in vehicles that are more conducive to people wanting to use.



Create better public transportation; keep investing in green spaces and events to entice and maintain engagement and retention of young talent. Re-vitalization of down-trodden neighborhoods with spaces for community engagement. Investment in schools and children; continued efforts like Nebraska Innovation Campus; Competitive salaries and development, like the Pinnacle Arena and Haymarket. Increased living space with amenities near-by (grocery stores and entertainment within walking distance). Bike lanes to promote health and safety.

I think that our populations are becoming increasingly overhead but undernourished. An idea for all three of these categories would be to make eating healthy cheaper and to provide schools with quality foods for our children. No more packaged, processed goods...give them real food.

I believe life-giving partnerships could be developed between the city, the Lincoln Community Foundation, and churches. One aspect of a community that keeps it strong and value-oriented is the presence of churches and the people who belong to the congregations that worship there. My idea is to partner with churches to create COMMUNITY CENTERS where people gather, like gathering at a well; to fellowship, receive sustenance, solve problems, experience the joy of friendships, develop new skills in art or music, have fun, etc. We know that spiritual health is just as important and vital to human beings as physical and mental health. And yet, our communities seem to be losing our spirituality. Let's stem that tide with productive partnerships between public and private sectors by appealing to churches. They are a great people-resource in our community. Please make available grants/resources so that churches can enter into the community-building that is happening through Prosper Lincoln. Thank you.

21st Century economic development will be about creating a place where talent, ideas and capital are able to come together. Creating a place that attracts talent (educated young people) and ideas (educated young people, again) will require investment in the quality of life available in Lincoln. Building on the terrific quality of life we already enjoy will be most effective and efficient when invested in the assets we already have - leveraging the competitive advantage we already have. This means investment in trails, bike paths, community events, local food, small entrepreneur shops, keeping commutes short, family-friendly activities, 3rd spaces for community engagement.

An expanded network of bike trails for recreation, transportation, and exercise.

Spur entrepreneurial culture with connections between high school and college students, current entrepreneurs, workshops/conferences, and access to startup capital.

EMBRACE and recruit for racial and ethnic diversity. Diversity enriches our community, making it a more exciting place for our young people to stay or return to (rather than feeling that diversity can only be found elsewhere). Diversity can also make our business climate better for existing or recruited businesses.

Connect with Lincoln's college students to let them know all the advantages that Lincoln offers and be aggressive about connecting them with businesses that are interested in their skills.



1) As an adoptive parent, I would like to see more support for children who were adopted in Lincoln. On the whole, we haven't found Lincoln to be as welcoming to adoptive families as other places we've lived. a) For children, I'd like to recommend a mentoring program (which I've heard/seen working in other cities) between teenagers/young adults who were adopted and younger children who were adopted. There are so many children who were adopted in Lincoln who could benefit from this program, and it would be inexpensive to create. b) In addition, there are very, very few support groups/social groups for adoptive families in Lincoln, which considering the size of the city is crazy. Children and adults in adoptive families need extra support and connections to one another to thrive and grow. Many of our adoptive family friends drive all the way to Omaha to connect with other adoptive families, although there is a sizable population here in Lincoln. There is only one group (Open Hearts) that we know of, and it has stopped meeting regularly. (There ARE more options for people who have adopted children through foster care in terms of support, but those of who adopt internationally or domestically not through foster care cannot take advantage of those opportunities). Please help in these areas! Thank you!! 2) As someone who volunteers with immigrant/refugee children and their families, I'd like to recommend some kind of mentoring program/parent partnership program between fluent English speaking families and new immigrant/refugee families who have children attending the same school. ELL parents struggle to help their kids with school work, and it's not because they don't care, it's because the whole school system is new to them, including the language. I would love to offer assistance to a family needing homework help, especially a family with a child in my daughter's classroom. Can LPS start something like this, perhaps supported by/through the Family Literacy Program? I'd also like to see more of these kids able to attend the great kids' camps around Lincoln - what about scholarships for ELL kids to attend camps in the summer? Thank you!!

As a community, Lincoln should endeavor to: Encourage development patterns that increase density while being sensitive to existing built environment. Encourage mixed-use development and neighborhood business districts that create identity and engagement. Focus on downtown and the Haymarket as a centers for entertainment, culture, and retail activity. (As well as commerce and government.) Design and build transportation systems in support of the above goals. Make public transportation, bicycling, and walking as attractive as driving to enable using land currently dedicated to the movement and storage of motor vehicles in "higher and better" ways.

We'd like to see LPS incorporate more physical activity to school every day, even if it is just stretching or a brisk walk outside. In preschool our son went out in almost all weather and there were rewards for being active and engaged. Kids work and focus better if they can get some of their energy out during the day and their blood moving and brains awake. Plus it can reduce the stress of testing days. And cutting recess as a group punishment for individual misbehavior or on testing days when they need a release most seems counterintuitive. Our son at home is at his most creative when he is moving, pacing, bouncing a ball--I know you don't want chaos in the classroom, but there must be creative ways to make the system more flexible to encourage learning and not stifle individuality.



Make Lincoln the city where anyone who works a 40 hour week lives above the poverty line. Challenge us all to pay a living wage! Affordable housing for low and moderate income residents. The possible regentrification of the SODO area needs to be taken into account. Where do those currently living in high density housing go. Jobs and economic opportunity for low income residents. Better public transportation especially for low income. Become a "Resilient Community" where we work together to achieve success for all residents. Support Behavioral Health and peer to peer programs for trauma and other issues: veterans, mental health, physical health. More support for community collaborations such as the work of the Human Services Federation!

Many people have transportation issues. An improved public transportation system with greater access would be the best improvement I can think of.

To ensure our youth are successful, focus on mentorship within the schools. Teammates is a great program that could help with this. As for making sure our economy grows, our professionals needed better pay, especially our young professionals. We will consistently lose the best young professionals if this does not change. To ensure that our community is strong and vibrant, keep doing what we are doing. There are honestly enough events, they just need to be advertised and marketed better so the target audiences can take advantage of them.

Indoor community pool

Keep it family-friendly!

A gift to Lincoln from the Federal Government was the airport and surrounding land. I would recommend that we give free land to any company that will build a sustainable work group in Lincoln. Land is not helpful to a corporation's balance sheet, so free land is in many ways a double added incentive to the balance sheet of a company that would relocate. We have thousands of acres of land at the airport that we currently mow, and it could be readily given to anyone who wants to create good paying jobs for the city of Lincoln and the state of Nebraska. Our way to a healthy future is more good paying jobs in Lincoln and the state of Nebraska. With 4,000 to 5,000 acres of land available, we should be able to use this as an inducement to get great corporations to consider Lincoln their home. Lincoln's location in the middle of the country and plenty of air and rail access would provide an additional incentive. Another Kawasaki or Duncan Aviation in Lincoln or of a company of a similar nature would add a great deal of value.

Lincoln has been working to become a healthier and greener city. One thing that might help to step up further recycling could be accomplished through encouraging the business community to enter into or increase their recycling efforts. Recycling of normal materials and maybe even add recycling of food products by composting of the food products, especially since our community has so many restaurants and food service operations. This might be accomplished by a program spotlighting what is occurring and the business with a "Best of Lincoln" program. Same concept could help with a use of renewable



energy efforts and/or energy reduction. "Best of" programs highlight and get people voluntarily supportive. Thanks!!

Lincoln has been working to become a healthier and greener city. One thing that might help to step up further recycling could be accomplished through encouraging the business community to enter into or increase their recycling efforts. Recycling of normal materials and maybe even add recycling of food products by composting of the food products, especially since our community has so many restaurants and food service operations. This might be accomplished by a program spotlighting what is occurring and the business with a "Best of Lincoln" program. Same concept could help with a use of renewable energy efforts and/or energy reduction. "Best of" programs highlight and get people voluntarily supportive. Thanks!!

Not sure it is possible but I think Lincoln should be the first city to provide free Wi-Fi throughout the city. This would be a great tool for educators and college students. I actually think it would encourage graduates to stick around and would help recruit businesses to the city.

Lincoln should become the Portland of the midwest.

I believe one of the best ways to foster a sense of community is to help people feel like they can be a part of the community. One of the best ways I feel this is by walking, biking, and running outside. While we are blessed to have many amazing paths, it is not always feasible to only use those while walking, running, and biking. I believe Lincoln should create a campaign that talks about pedestrian, biker, and runner safety. A good example of a time I did not feel like a valued part of the Lincoln community was while I was running home from the Antelope Creek Trail in March. I was running eastbound on A street and crossing the intersection of A and 33rd. The walk sign was white for walk. The car going westbound on A was turning right to go north on 33rd. We made eye contact, the car slowed, and then the driver kept creeping forward and wagged their finger at me. All I could do was keep running and hope they did not actually hit me! This is a two way street, no pun intended, I believe education and enforcement of running, walking, and biking laws needs to happen with cars and those running, walking, or biking. Community means we all look out for each other and this is one example of a way I would feel more valued in the community. I also believe we should have more trash and recycling receptacles along our trails and in our parks. I can see why things end up on the ground, because there are limited options of where else to put them. Treating the land in our community well is also important.

I would like to see the city of Lincoln continue to focus on older neighborhoods and continue to develop a strong city core. As part of this, I would like to see greater collaboration among the city and landlords, particularly in areas of the city with high rental unit densities. I appreciate and want to ensure that there is affordable housing in Lincoln, but I also want to encourage landlords to invest more in their properties, for the sake of the tenants who live in them and for the sake of the historic neighborhoods. Probably regulation is a part of this, but I think there is also room for creatively thinking of solutions that will benefit everyone. Enriching and enhancing the city core seems crucial to all areas--youth success,



economic prosperity, and quality of life. Another way to hit all three focus areas for Prosper Lincoln is to reinvest in, and reimagine, the dynamic and powerful role libraries and public information agencies can play in youth success, economic prosperity, and quality of life. Libraries are not only for books, they are information agencies and connection spaces. They provide an early space for youth to imagine success and the possibilities open to them. They can also serve as incubators and accelerators for entrepreneurs and as cultural centers for neighborhoods. The City of Lincoln has, in my view, taken a pretty limited view of the role of libraries and of what they make possible. Rather than needing something wholly new, we could focus on these existing social and physical infrastructures, and revamp, enrich, and reinvest in them. I'm also interested in how we can create a culture of volunteering and civic engagement in Lincoln.

Foreign language should start in kindergarten, mainly Spanish and Chinese. If it can't be offered during the school day, there should be an opportunity after school at certain sites for those families interested for their young child. Service projects or some type of mission work should be incorporated in all levels of education starting in kindergarten. When students reach high school, they could have one travel experience providing acts of service here in NE, US, or internationally (depending on family choice) that could have a life changing impact on them and ultimately our community and world.

Research suggest that children excel when reinforced with "growth mindset" vs "fixed mindset." Fixed mindset suggests that we have fixed traits e.g. I'm naturally good at math so when I fail, I've reached my capacity vs growth mindset which reinforces efforts e.g. I succeeded because I worked hard to achieve the outcome I wanted. Teaching a growth mindset increases motivation and builds a "can do" attitude. My suggestion is to begin sharing this research with mentoring groups to pass on to their mentors, parents and others. A quick guide giving examples of growth mindset statements could be included.

International students from the Czech Republic, China, India and other countries have expressed how impressed they are with the entrepreneurial environment in Lincoln. Some have found start-ups and small firms enable them to stay and apply their education after graduation. Perhaps some group could put forth a coordinated effort to showcase the many activities and organizations in Lincoln that help grow young entrepreneurs. Then, admissions offices for UNL and other universities could promote this as a reason for young people to attend college in Lincoln.

- Universal early childhood care and education for all Lincoln families. This will remove barriers to work for many Lincoln (particularly low-income) parents, ensuring economic prosperity and youth success. - Start a program where for every x number of hours a youth spends doing community service/service learning in Lincoln, they can earn x number of free credit hours at SCC. Youth can do things like volunteer at libraries, clean parks, etc. which frees up city funds for other uses, and they earn education while doing so. - invest in the inner city neighborhoods- Near South, the area along north 27th etc, put in more street lights, sponsor neighborhood block parties in high crime, low income neighborhoods to instill a sense of community and get people to meet their neighbors and take ownership of their neighborhood.



Multi-cultural events. As the diversity in the population of Lincoln increases, I think it is very important to show its appreciation and promote the integration of diverse cultures. Lincoln should celebrate their multi-cultural population with an event that should not only recognize the diversity of the people, but also their respect and integration to the American one.

Adequately finance anti-poverty programs. Focus on providing affordable housing for working-class families.

Youth Success: Train our youth to think globally and incorporate people from other countries, cultures and backgrounds. This can be done through cultural exchange programs to different countries, making news available to the youth on what is happening around the country and the globe. Possibly setting up a cultural exchange center and working with other such centers around the country and the world on exchange programs. Economic Prosperity: Setting up centers that can teach Lincolnians both young and old alike about financial management. Basic lessons like how to use credit efficiently and effectively. Teach these lessons right from elementary to high school and emphasize in college coz this is when the youth mess the credit privilege. Encourage through campaigns the younger generations to be spend less and save more rather than be consumers. Quality of Life: Have an initiative to empower people to report crime and report criminals. Encourage travel around the state and take time to enjoy the natural while supporting our state. Encourage the young to take time to relate with people rather than relate with electronics..... Encourage for the city to spread out and create less congestion, more space and fresher air. The simple things in life. Buy local fresh food initiative which has long lasting health effect. Therefore encourage our grocery stores to buy local produce to boost farmers around our state and fresher produce.

Would like to have accessible municipal pool especially in the T-Town/Malone area. Would also like more input from stakeholders before any SoDo development takes place. So many feel left out and underrepresented.

Youth Success- Anything that would work to improve the opportunity for children to learn and enjoy activities that would promote their physical fitness. The risk for our children now and when they progress to adults is endless. The current level of our children's physical fitness is low and could be attributed to many things, but I would list a few things that could be changed. 1- More P.E. time for children in grades K-12 (minimum 3 times a week). Especially K-6 in the years their bodies are developing. There are endless studies that show how much physical activities are needed. The basics that are taught in any college of education will tell you that babies learn through locomotor skills first before anything. An active baby through a child and adult progresses in every category much better than a sedintary individual (for multiple reasons). Basically any physical activity opportunities in a school or neighborhood. Economic Prosperity- Develop opportunity's for individuals of every neighborhood (start here and work up to the entire city engagement) to become engaged in activities that promote neighborhood pride (team work, engagement, etc.). Quality of Life- Possible engagment of local law enforcement with neighborhoods so they understand who is in charge of their area. Possible foot



patrols by officers to gain an understanding of their neighborhood with the inhabitants. I guarantee more information would be collected in one day than could be imagined. More follow up with police to local areas where events happen. Especially if specifics are reported and there is never follow up. If this is an issue of too little police, then propose a plan for hiring more and why. As a tax payer I know I would support it if I saw the benefit. Everything starts and ends with security. Without it, there cant be an equal distribution and execution of any laws, at least not consistently.

The academic achievement of minority K12 students (African American, American Indian and Hispanic) in the Lincoln Public School System (LPS) is tragically low. For example, statewide in 2014, 11th grade black students performed on par with special education students in math (28% proficient) and science (42% proficient). LPS has similarly poor results. Clearly, this trend must not continue if Lincoln's minority youth are to prosper. Nationally, certain public charter school models have been shown to radically enhance the performance of minority students in math and science. In some cases, the achievement gap has been reversed and minority students in public charter systems outperform their Caucasian counterparts in traditional public schools. In Lincoln, however, there is doubt regarding the merits of the public charter school system. Indeed, statewide, there is a strong lobby to discredit charter schools (e.g. Susan Buffet's organization "Nebraska Loves Public Schools"). The purpose of this Prosper Lincoln proposal is to answer the question: "Does the public charter school model reduce the achievement gap in math and science between Lincoln minority students and their Caucasian counterparts?" This question could be answered by conducting a multi-year study in which a cohort of children are taught in a charter school system for the first three years (kindergarten through 2nd grade). Presently, public charter schools are not legal under Nebraska law; however, for this study, private monies could be raised to fund a single class of approximately 30 students. The one-room school for this cohort could be created by contracting with a successful out-of-state public charter school system to set up a single satellite classroom here in Lincoln. The classroom would have one local teacher and part-time teacher's aide. The anticipated cost of this venture would be \$675,000 over three years for 30 students, or \$7,500 per student per year—significantly less than LPS per pupil expenditures. The cohort of students would be chosen such that it consisted primarily of demographics that are correlated with poor academic performance. Measurement of the students' academic progress would be evaluated via the Nebraska State Accountability exam (NeSA). Lincoln's minority youth are not prospering under the current public educational system and this gap in achievement must be overcome if these youth are to prosper as adults. I propose that the way forward is to systematically study the public charter school systems that are working in other communities and to replicate and build upon those successes here in Lincoln. By improving educational outcomes in Lincoln, we can become a more attractive destination for businesses and be the beneficiaries of the increased entrepreneurship that results from a more educated populous.

I think Lincoln should conduct regular walking tours, "downloading" the valuable local history that Ed Zimmer has as resource for interesting walks. Lincoln should also publish this information in attractive maps on the Lincoln website (under a Tourism tab), in an easy to print and follow format for persons that want to do self guided tours. I know that there were some rudimentary maps online last time I



checked, but the information accompanying them did not have the color and flavor that you get from an Ed Zimmer "tour!" Also, the maps did not print out well, did not give good directions/instructions on how to make a self conducted tour. Sorry for the "late" additional idea--but I am concerned that we are going to "lose" the Ed Zimmer resource before we get it properly documented for future generations. Also, there are some amazing neighborhoods in our city, and walking tours will help keep these neighborhoods in the public's eye.

Our community should have more programs for the youth so they can be occupied.

Give advices and support to the youth. Look for the ones that are trafficking drugs, take guns away. Have more security in the schools.

We need to have more activities in our community and have more people or the youth to come to learn important things that they need to know.

More activities in our community so we can be more united.

We need more activities for the youth.

More information to how to maintain families together, how to eat healthier. Also, information about diseases that can affect the Latinos. How disconnect our kids from the electronic devices, how to maintain our kids occupied doing healthier things.

We need more family unity. The youth needs to be prepared more and more. Also we need to have a better relationship with others. More respect, more our human values cannot end, because we are losing them.

I think we always need to help other people so they continue studying and be someone better in life. I am really thankful to El Centro de Las Americas, which is always helping me. Thank you very much and God bless you.

Always support the youth in their decisions and at the same time push them to do it. Always talk to them without yelling and advice them in what is the best for their future. Also, maintain them playing sports so they can be distracted but not lost. Other activities can help people too, because they can realize that there are people that did not study but can have a good life.

The communication with the family and to grow everyday spiritually and morally.

Prepare all the youth since little to have a better future.

Study more, exercise, and eat better. Work, be responsible people with no bad habits. Spend more time with family.



For a successful new generation, we need more family unity, work with responsibilities, and put more effort in the studies.

Be a more united community. Be more prepared academically. Achieve our goals and dreams that each one has.

More communication in the families and with people prepared. See more psychologists and counselors and have more programs in this area.

Help our children in their school, so they can have a better future and have better jobs.

One of the biggest things that I would like to see more is the unity in the family. I think there is a lot of disunity with things like computers, cellphones, etc. Need to reinforce about eating healthy, family and exercise.

To the youth give them the opportunity of study, and for the economy provide more work to everyone that does not have it. We need to be all united, without guns and without violence.

More activities to distract them from their phones.

We can start by giving work to the youth, with that they will not go to the drugs.

I think we need to dedicate time and motivate them day-by-day. We need to work together and try our best.

We need more unity in the families, watch less television and exercise more. Work and prepare professionally.

Work more; study to be prepared for the future. Eat healthier.

To learn how to manage our money better. Our kids need to be getting prepared more and more. Show more how to plan the time better and to spend time with the family, and exercise.

For the larger adults, the calming of water is a stress relief. Today's time, we may not afford the gym's with a pool, or just a night of peace. Suggest: City pools open up for a late night relaxation float party just for those over 30. Friday or Sat from 9-12 am during season. I would pay 5.00 for a float night with the girls & no kids. Better than a loud gym.

1. Fund Parks & Recreation and libraries at the highest possible level. This is essential for quality of life for all income levels but most important for low and middle income families. These departments are the great equalizers within a community. 2. Listen to Tom Casady regarding police and firefighters. He has always been in the forefront regarding these two essential city services. Our city MUST be kept safe!



Grant funds available to groups starting family based facilities or events. I personally know a group currently looking for a location for a family friendly "club". They will have concerts, comedy, & theater productions at low costs for families. Other activities include summer camps, parties, workshops and other projects to entertain, educate & bring families together.

Outside stage at Walt Library. City texts.

Run the bus systems late into the night. That could bring more people to social areas (like Downtown) at night and not have to worry about parking. Esp important for those with limited transportation.

More bike trails and a system that connects them better so bikers do not have to fight busy streets.

Fund the library system.

Homes that look like we are repeating 18th century. Newer homes that have a modern look to them. And on some streets the homes are so small it not fit for an actual pers instead of the size of a shed.

We need a new, downtown library that can accomodate the books & technology needs of the next several generations. I don't support re-modeling the Pershing Aud. Bldg. itself, but the land site of Pershing would be ideal for a new modern bldg.. Youth and children, in addition to adults need all the support & materials available through public libraries esp. as the city continues to rehab downtown.

Get an American Girl store so familys won't have to drive or fly over to other states. The stores have many activities and fun birthday parties. The activities bring families together and is a great place to go for a girls night out. The money these stores make goes to the community hospitals in Lincoln. They also donate dolls to kids in hospitals, homeless shelters, etc.

Find some way to provide funds for inner city kids so they can participate in Y sports programs. Cat leash law – lets protect our songbirds. Change bicycle law so people and kids riding their bikes across pedestrian walkways are protected not ticketed if there is an accident. Enact anti-discrimination laws for gay community. No cuts to park & library budgets. Develop more nature education programs for the schools – at all levels. When you close a road for reconstruction speed up the timetable. These 3-6 month closures seriously hurt local businesses.

Need more things for family to do like Dave & Busters; coco keys, Better public transportation; improve the children's zoo with live shows and facts about the animals. Mail out information of free or low cost activities for everyone

Live a visual life to be recognized by Lincoln Neb. Youth and productive humans. This must improve and ensure are youth garateed indepedant growth

I wish that Lincoln had more accommodations for people who do not speak English. Also, more diversity.



A public pool further south than Antelope Creek Parkway/Road & further East than 46th Street (Eden Pool) would be great. Most parents don't care for Star City Shores if they have a couple of young children. It is too busy & hectic there on hot & sunny days. Another public library south of Normal & East of 56th Street (Gere Library) would also be most appreciated. A public park with a jungle gym & basketball hoop in the Fox Hollow Neighborhood would be nice. WE have Holmes Park but no playground equipment in it.

I wish there were more shops downtown, in the haymarket and railyard. There's enough restaurants, but we lack boutiques in these areas.

I was going to suggest that we help folks with sidewalk care--rock walls tumbling onto sidewalks, and the dirt that turns to mud in rainy weather. Recently my grandson (2) slipped on a muddy sidewalk, but he (in muddy coat and pants and shoes) and his little sister and I continued our walk to the library. Additionally, there are environmental costs to gutters running water onto sidewalk dirt and into streets, overextending the storm sewer system and contaminating water downstream. Following that paragraph, I was going to write a rationale for keeping the sidewalks in good walking condition--including that neighborhoods feel and probably are safer when folks are out and about on foot. Too walking fosters human interactions (as compared with cars zooming past one another.) Too, there are physical and mental health benefits to walking. And on and on. But instead, I think we should develop a network of walkers--with an end goal of daily walkers in every block. I suggest we develop a corps of early morning and of evening walkers, with captains (heads, lead walkers) meeting regularly to strengthen and expand the groups. In the joy of walking and socializing we'd begin to notice and maybe find solutions for poorly maintained sidewalks, and would discuss and begin to implement solutions to other city problems too.