



A **non-partisan** resource to give Nebraska voters the **information they need** to make an informed decision when voting.
 A non-edited opportunity for candidates to state their position **in their own words**, online for **free**.

LINCOLN AIRPORT AUTHORITY
 (Vote for 2)

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	Party: Republican	
Brad Hulse	Party: Republican	www.facebook.com/brad.hulse.73
Jim Lauerman	Party: Republican	www.facebook.com/jim.lauerman.1
Tai R. Pleasant	Party: Democrat	www.facebook.com/TaiheemPleasant

See also www.votersnap.com

Questions Key:

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- [Biographical](#)
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(Contact Information) - Details of when we inputted the candidate's responses, including attempts to establish contact and other communication.

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	4/16/15, 10:40am, spoke with candidate – said he was out of town. 4/16/15, 10:48am, emailed questionnaire. 4/17/15, 9:47am, said was still out of town, will do it by 4/22. Answers copied from email response received 4/23/15, 9:39am.
Brad Hulse	4/16/15, 10:24am, ok to do questionnaire. 4/16/15, 10:31am, emailed questionnaire. Answers copied from email response received 4/17/15, 9:35am.
Jim Lauerman	4/16/15, 10:23am, left message with email address. 4/16/15, 10:40am, left Facebook message. 4/16/15, afternoon, wife called to confirm email address. 4/20/15, 7:11pm, candidate had not received questionnaire but would do it that night or the next day. 4/20/15, 7:18pm, emailed questionnaire. 4/21/15, 8:35am, said wasn't going to do questionnaire. 4/21/15, 9:23am, new request with more reasons to do questionnaire. Answers copied from email response received 4/21/15, 9:48am.
Tai R. Pleasant	4/6/15, 10:39am, sent Facebook message, including questionnaire, since phone number not found. 4/16/15, Facebook messaged phone number. 4/20/15, 6:69pm, texted reminder. 4/21/15, 9:08pm, candidate said it would be done by 12:30 on Wednesday. Answers copied from email response received 4/22/15, 6:44pm.

(Biographical) - Please include biographical information , e.g. family members, church affiliation, employment, etc. you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	<p>John L. Hoppe Jr., CCIM, E-Pro, RECS</p> <p>John L. Hoppe Jr. is Chairman of Hoppe, Inc., a family real estate development business. He’s the owner and President of Signs Now in Lincoln and Omaha and a Principal and Associate Broker in PrimeSites a commercial real estate company. Over the years he has completed many real estate projects for the companies own account and has developed and managed low-income housing projects using tax credits.</p> <p>Professionally he is active in the Home Builders Association of Lincoln as a past president and board member and is also a life director of the National Association of Home Builders. He’s a member of the Realtors Association of Lincoln and has served on their board of directors and a past president and has a CCIM (Certified Commercial Investment Member) designation. He’s a member and serves on the board of the Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) and a past Chairman of LIBA and is a member of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. He is a past President and Board member of the Cornhusker Council, Boy Scouts of America.</p> <p>Hoppe is a member of the Lincoln Airport Authority having been appointed in May of 1998 and since reelected three times. He’s presently serving a six-year term through May of 2015. He was a big brother to Jeremy Erickson as part of the Heartland Big Brother Big Sisters organization for seven years. Jeremy is now getting his PhD in Chemistry at UC Davis after getting an undergraduate degree from Augustana College. John’s still active in his life.</p> <p>He’s a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. His wife of seven years, Susan, is active with her two son’s families including 5 grand children. He enjoys golf, travel and drinking wine and other adult beverages with friends.</p>
Brad Hulse	<p>Wife, Emily A. Hulse, Children, Mya Hulse (6), Madison Hulse (3), Lincoln Hulse (2 months). Member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate (Spanish Major, Political Science Minor). Licensed Real Estate Broker (9 years)</p>
Jim Lauerman	<p>Retired Chairman/CEO of Bailey Lauerman Marketing/Communications. Instrument/Multi-Engine Rated Pilot with over 2,500 hours of flight time. Served on LAA board previously in late 80’s and early ‘90’s.</p>
Tai R. Pleasant	<p>Graduated for Lincoln Northeast HS in 2009. Will Graduate from Concordia University, NE on May 9th</p> <p>I was born to Latoya Cox and I have 3 siblings. I have a one year old son name Myles with my girlfriend Cynthia Mick. I am affiliated with the Southern Baptist church</p> <p>I am currently serving in the Nebraska Air National Guard</p>

(Activities) – Describe the various activities/responsibilities of the position.

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	<p>Manage all aspects of the Airport including Commercial Airline traffic, private aviation and the Airpark West commercial area.</p>
Brad Hulse	<p>Lincoln Airport Authority oversees the Lincoln airport. It also has an important responsibility to oversee the industrial park including a 350-acre tract recently named the LNK Enterprise Park which is in the early stages of development.</p>
Jim Lauerman	<p>LAA’s board serves the needs of the citizens on LNK focused on commercial, business and general aviation and the industrial Air Park area.</p>
Tai R. Pleasant	<p>Responsibilities of this office is to ensure we do everything within our power to not use the tax levy. Citizens of this great city don’t deserve more taxes.</p>

(Motivation/Qualifications) - What has motivated you to seek this office? What do you hope to accomplish? What three qualifications do you bring to this office?

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	I want to help Dave Haring, the new Executive Director, get up and running as fast as possible using my institutional knowledge. I hope to continue growing the industrial area of the airport.
Brad Hulse	The average age of those who hold political office currently is between 55 and 60. The importance of democratic/political process has become unimportant for nearly 2 generations of people. I still believe in that process and I would like the opportunity to show others why.
Jim Lauerman	Qualifications – 1 - Frequent airline customer. As Chair/CEO I flew commercially several times a month over my 40 year tenure. 2 – Successful business person. I will continue to help LAA be self-support, non-taxing entity. We'll run LAA like a business. 3 – Pilot. I understand business and general aviation. And it's importance to LNK's economy.
Tai R. Pleasant	The vision to make a difference and bring some bright new ideas to the board is what motivated me to see this position. I would love to successfully establish growth in the enterprise park. Three qualifications: -A new perspective to the board and vision that is more in line with the progress that are young city is making, -New marketing ideas

(Accountability) – What would you recommend for measures of accountability and transparency in airport management? Please be specific and list examples.

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	We are controlled by the open meetings act and the general public are always welcome to our meetings.
Brad Hulse	How about some interest?! People for years have not known about or cared about what the airport authority board does but as our city continues to grow the lack of expanded airline service will become a mounting problem and hindrance to future growth. The Airport Authority Board wields the ability to impose more property taxes upon the city of Lincoln but hasn't and so people have not worried about the level of accountability and transparency.
Jim Lauerman	The board meetings are open to the public. Media covers the meetings. The City of LNK supervises financial transactions.
Tai R. Pleasant	I would recommend that the board takes full responsibility for anything that happens at the airport.

(Environmental Impact) – Discuss the situations related to federal government involvement in environmental issues at the airport. What do you recommend?

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	We follow all laws and regulations that the federal government put on us. Not much to recommend!
Brad Hulse	No comment
Jim Lauerman	LAA is surrounded by dozens and dozens of environmental regulations. We adhere to every one of them.
Tai R. Pleasant	FAA has the right to ensure that the airport is playing its part in reducing carbon emissions. I would recommend that we require all planes be taxied to the run way. Only then will they be able to start their engines. By doing that it will save on fuel and prevent spills on the air field.

(Governing documents) - What do you see as the major governing documents for this position? Have you read them? What does it mean to “uphold the Constitution” in the position you seek?

John L. Hoppe, Jr. We are controlled by Section 3501 City Airport Authority Act. Yes I have read it when I first went on the Board.

Brad Hulse No comment

Jim Lauerman NA

Tai R. Pleasant I have not got a chance to the read the documents. If I am to take office in May, I will serve with great integrity and work within the law. I will make sure I never tax my fellow citizens. I know a majority of the population can't tolerate having more taxes.

(Coming Renovation) – What steps do you picture as important for the board to take to establish the best management of the expected and unexpected issues of the upcoming renovation of the airport?

John L. Hoppe, Jr. What steps do you picture as important for the board to take to establish the best management of the expected and unexpected issues of the upcoming renovation of the airport? This is a daily responsibility of the staff at the airport. We budget or bond all needed renovations so it is very controlled by staff.

Brad Hulse *In a word...“future”. The renovations are an important step but I think what they really need to accommodate for is the future. The board needs to be involved in the process to ensure that they do not have tear apart what they have done in the future.*

Jim Lauerman If I'm elected, I'll be better informed to answer this question. Any “renovation” is subject to the review of the City of LNK, the NE Department of Aeronautics and the FAA.

Tai R. Pleasant I believe it is important for the board to ensure Lincoln's airport continues to keep the current flights over 75% full. If that happens we can ensure more flights come to our great city. It is important that we bring in businesses the Enterprise Park, that will fit into our community and offer stable job opportunities.

(Airport business connection) - Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationships serving the Airport? Please describe.

John L. Hoppe, Jr. No

Brad Hulse No, I do not. I see this as an important question because I don't think people with business contracts with the Airport should have any vote in whether or not those relationships are continued.

Jim Lauerman NO

Tai R. Pleasant Nothing. Besides a plethora of close friends parents who are frequent business travelers.

(Elected or Appointed) – What value do Lincoln citizens receive from this being an elected instead of appointed position?

John L. Hoppe, Jr. The law we operate under (see [Governing Documents]) calls for an elected board. This gives the citizens of Lincoln a voice is the Airport Operation thru their vote.

Brad Hulse It gives the people the opportunity to take part in the decision making process of the airport. Although they may not be able to vote yes or no on airport related items, they are able to choose whom will best represent them as though they were at the table.

Jim Lauerman LAA is an anomaly. Most are appointed. Perhaps there is an enhanced profile of the board.

Tai R. Pleasant If elected the great citizens can expect to have a real politician on their side. I will ensure I listen to their opinions and grow the airport. I promise when I am on the board Lincoln's airport and Enterprise Park will be one of the most competitive businesses in the state. I will bring new fresh ideas to the board! Youth is key to revitalizing our airport

(Personal story) - Please briefly describe a situation where you had to stand alone for what you thought was right when the momentum was pushing the other way. What was the result?

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	Our Board gets along very well and seldom do we have issues we can't resolve.
Brad Hulse	No comment
Jim Lauerman	My life's fairly boring. However, growing BL from it's founding to being named the Small Advertising Agency of the Year was a nice accomplishment.
Tai R. Pleasant	When I was about 7 years old some friends and I went to the local gas station. The attendant was gone so my friends decided to pocket some items. I was always taught not to ever steal so I decided not. I actually ended up telling the attendant to check my friend's pockets. The guy checked them and found some items, but none of them got in trouble though. The attendant just gave us all a lesson about stealing and the consequences. I know after the day none of them ever thought about stealing again.

(Decision making) - To whom/what will you go for counsel in decision-making?

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	Institutional knowledge and using our corporate attorney, Bill Austin and Executive Director Dave Haring.
Brad Hulse	I would seek out counsel from John Hoppe, Jr., whom has a wealth of knowledge and experience. I would also seek counsel from other city office's such as the mayor's office and community organizations like the chamber of commerce.
Jim Lauerman	LAA board members, LAA legal counsel, LAA staff, aviation experts
Tai R. Pleasant	Not answered

(Personal views) - Even though the position has nothing to do with making any decisions concerning either the abortion issue or same sex relationships, many voters would still like to know your personal positions on those issues.

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	The Lincoln Airport does not and will not get involved in these issues.
Brad Hulse	No comment
Jim Lauerman	NA
Tai R. Pleasant	I have a gay uncle, so I welcome everybody no matter the sexual orientation or color. You respect me and I will respect you. I a Pro-Choice, I believe the woman should have complete control over her body. Sometimes unexpected pregnancies occur in life like for example: If a woman is raped and she gets pregnant.

(Anything else) - Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.

John L. Hoppe, Jr.	[nothing further noted]
Brad Hulse	No comment
Jim Lauerman	[nothing further noted]
Tai R. Pleasant	I am the first African-American ever to run for this position. Help make history and elect me to the Board of Directors for the Lincoln Airport Authority. I am a collegiate athlete I will bring that competitive drive with me to the board.