



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 CITY COUNCIL – District 2

Jon Camp

Party: Republican

Website: www.facebook.com/jon.camp.545

Patte Newman

Party: Democrat

Website: www.pattenewman.com

Note: Order of responses is generally alphabetical, but is changed sometimes for better use of space.

Questions Key:

Contact Information
Biographical
Motivation/Qualifications
Roads
Development Taxes
Property taxes

Gambling-city
Police
Accountability
Ordinances
Electric power
Sustainable Development

Eminent Domain
Abortion-City
Personal story
Decision making
Anything else

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

Jon Camp	4/10/15, 8:23pm, sent message on Facebook asking for phone number. 4/11/15, 9:40am, phone number sent on Facebook message. 4/11/15, 10:39am, questionnaire attached to Facebook message. 4/18, 11:18 am, left phone message. 4/18, 11:31pm, emailed questionnaire. 4/20/15, 9:31am, candidate emailed would try for the next day. 4/21/15, 2:48pm, emailed to say still working on questionnaire. Answers copied from email response received 4/22/15, 1:06pm.
Patte Newman	4/11/15, 10:47am, emailed questionnaire. 4/18/15, 11:32am, left phone message. 4/18/15, 11:41am, resent questionnaire. 4/21/15, 9:10pm, left phone message. 4/24, 11:57am, left phone message.

(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. (continued next page)

Patte Newman

(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. (continued from next page)

Jon Camp Lifetime resident of Southeast Lincoln.
Education:
Lincoln Public Schools including Lincoln High School, Class of 1967
Attended the United States Air Force Academy
University of Nebraska—Lincoln, 1971 B.S. Degree
UNL College of Law—J.D., 1977
Business/Employment:
Current:
President of CH, Ltd.
Managing Partner of Haymarket Square
Both own and developed commercial properties in Lincoln’s
Historic Haymarket.
Lincoln City Council—represented District 2, Southeast Lincoln,
since 1999.
Other memberships:
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Independent Business Association
First Plymouth Congregational Church
Nebraska State Historical Society

(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? . (continued next page)

Jon Camp I have provided solid leadership for South Lincoln since I was first elected to the City Council. I have been a fiscal watchdog to ensure Lincoln’s tax dollars are spent wisely. My focus over the years has been on improving our roadways, enhancing public safety and facilitating Lincoln’s growth. While I am proud of my accomplishments, I believe that there is more work to do, which is why I am running for re-election.

Main goals for the next 4 years for my service on the Lincoln City Council:

1. Public Safety for South and Southeast Lincoln
 - a. Oversee the construction of a new police substation
 - b. Oversee the construction of two new ambulance/fire stations
2. Design, funding and scheduling of the construction of the South Beltway
 - a. Remove the dangerous truck traffic from Highway 2
3. Ensure that Lincoln continues to grow, while also protecting our neighborhoods.
 - a. Encourage private sector growth with concurrent new job opportunities

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(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? . (continued from previous page)

Jon Camp

Three Most Important Qualifications:

1. Institutional memory of City issues and activities—provide continuity for the City Council as it interacts with City departments and ongoing and new programs
2. Business experience—fortunate to have been involved with two successful business endeavors
 - a. CPI Qualified Plan Consultants—actuarial consulting firm that specialized in “defined benefit pension plans”, which is the type of retirement plan currently in place for Lincoln’s police and firefighters. I implemented approximately 500 defined benefit plans in the late 1970s and during the 1980s, which enables me to understand the principles of the Police and Firefighters Pension Plan. This Plan is currently UNDERFUNDED by \$88 million and I have constantly urged greater funding by the City annually to meet our obligations to police and firefighters and I have also encouraged consideration of alternative programs that do not create such enormous liabilities on the City’s taxpayers.
 - b. Haymarket Square Developers—first developer to rehabilitate Lincoln’s Historic Haymarket and successfully weather 33 years of business.
3. Lincoln native/education
 - a. Born in Lincoln and have lived substantially all of my life in Lincoln
 - b. I am a produce of the Lincoln Public School (LPS) system
 - c. Attended the United States Air Force Academy (and am a veteran)
 - d. Graduated from University of Nebraska with B.S. emphasizing business
 - e. Graduated from the UNL College of Law and am a member of the Nebraska Bar Association.

(Roads) – Discuss your view on the Bypass potential. If you favor it, say why and what you would recommend for paying for it. If you are against it, what would you recommend for traffic control??

Jon Camp

The South Beltway is the NUMBER ONE project on the horizon of Lincoln! The safety of our citizens demands that the road hazards on Highway 2 be eliminated by construction of the South Beltway.

The City of Lincoln needs to provide \$40 million of the \$200 million cost. The Railroad Transportation Safety District has committed to providing \$12 million toward the City’s share leaving \$28 million. Due to prioritization of another roads project, the City has credit for another \$10 million leaving approximately \$18 million to be funded.

The City’s budgets in three and four years will need to provide \$9 million each year. My service on the Lincoln City Council will ensure that the South Beltway will have the top priority and that these funds will NOT be spent elsewhere.

I am known as the “fiscal watchdog” on the City Council. I will continue to be a “watchdog. .not a lapdog”.

**Patte
Newman**

(Development Taxes) – What ideas do you have for pursuing development without increasing taxes? On balance, do you perceive tax increment financing net positive or net negative for Lincoln? Describe.

Jon Camp Development DOES pay for itself. Unfortunately, in recent years, other projects have been given priority of funds created from growth, camouflaging the new revenues generated from growth.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a good tool, but like any tool, TIF needs to be used appropriately. TIF has been a “net positive”.

TIF needs to be more transparent—from initial discussions and throughout negotiations. There have been developments that would have occurred anyway.

TIF funds need to be spent efficiently. . .not expended in ways that are inefficient or merely to satisfy “wants” and to the detriment of municipal needs.

Citizens of Lincoln need “fiscal watchdogs” on the City Council to ensure this economic tool is utilized in the best manner. We need to remember that TIF takes moneys away from other jurisdictions that rely on property taxes including LPS, Lancaster County, the City of Lincoln, NRDs, and the other 14 agencies that receive revenues from property taxes.

Patte Newman

(Property taxes) - The overwhelming sentiment during the governor’s race was that property taxes in Nebraska are too high. Yet there is little to nothing a governor or the state can do about high property taxes. Do you think the office you are running for could manage a property tax cut? If so, what items?

Jon Camp Lincoln has seen a creeping increases in property taxes over the last several years as well as “hidden taxes” from other sources. In each case I have questioned the need for higher taxes and fees and, unfortunately, all too often been on the losing side when the time came to vote on those tax/fee increases. Regardless, I will continue to oppose those increases because money continues to be spent unwisely on “wants” to the detriment of “needs”.

With good leadership, I do believe that property tax reduction in Lincoln is doable and I will work with my colleagues to make it happen.

Patte Newman

(Gambling-city) – Discuss the pros and cons of government having more revenue from gambling.

Jon Camp Most forms of gambling are illegal under our state constitution. Therefore, I do not take gambling into consideration for the city government. The City does receive the benefit of revenues from Keno gaming and that has been applied to our parks and recreation programs and to programs to assist those most in need.

Lincoln needs strong leadership to ensure it does not succumb to the pressures to consider programs that involve gambling. Gambling all too often results in an increase in the need for more social/welfare benefits due to further undermining of the finances of those most disadvantaged.

Patte Newman

(Police) – Is the police force adequate? If not, what would you recommend to ensure that there is complete police protection?

Jon Camp First, the new Southeast Police Substation will assist in making those police officers who patrol that region of Lincoln more effective—no longer will they have to drive from downtown Lincoln just to reach their area of service.

Second, Lincoln needs to follow program of gradual increase in our police force to match the increase in population. To the credit of two of my City Council colleagues, Roy Christensen and Trent Fellers, we were able to add new offices this past budget season. But more efforts need to be made, which also means we need to “prioritize” public safety as the number one purpose of municipal government.

Patte Newman

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

Jon Camp I have always led the fight for more transparency at City Hall. The public’s right to know how their government operates is important to me. In recent years too many meetings have been conducted by the City Administration behind closed doors.

Our upcoming city elections give the citizens ample opportunity to elect individuals who will demand greater transparency.

Patte Newman

(Ordinances) – What city ordinances would you like to change? What should the city do about the sexual orientation ordinance the people overturned with a referendum in 2012?

Jon Camp First, we need fewer regulations, so legislation to that effect is high on my list.

Second, the City, despite some recent improvements, has too much bureaucracy. For example, inspections for new dishwashers or hot water heaters can be either delegated to licensed vendors or the City could adjust staffing hours so that residents could have the necessary inspection at a convenient time, rather than taking time off work to meet an inspector.

Third, decrease the number of meetings. “Git ‘er done” attitude.

Patte Newman

(Electric power) – Other communities in the state have an elected board for the power utilities. Do you oppose or support Lincoln continuing with a mayor-appointed board? Why?

Jon Camp I would support an elected board for LES, which will be accountable to the rate payers and voters.

Patte Newman

(Sustainable Development) – Officially Lincoln has dropped its association with ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.) Do you agree or disagree with that decision? Should initiatives begun under that former authority be maintained or discontinued?

Jon Camp I agree with decision to disassociate with ICLEI. Prior initiatives should be itemized, discussed and reconsidered for continuation or termination.

Patte Newman

(Eminent Domain) - Describe your thinking on eminent domain and private property rights

Jon Camp Eminent domain can be a useful tool. However, unless there is a verified emergent need, I favor respect for private property rights. Currently, I cannot think of any reason I would support eminent domain in the City of Lincoln.

Patte Newman

(Abortion-city) - Even though many voters would like to know your personal position on the abortion issue, for this race, would you support the city funding Planned Parenthood?

Jon Camp No.

Patte Newman

(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?

Jon Camp My personal philosophy is premised on 3 core values/principles:

1. Use common sense
2. Be fiscally responsible
3. Do the best thing for Lincoln.

During my service on the Lincoln City Council, many issues have arisen in which I have (1) asked the questions Lincoln wants answered, (2) discussed options that I deemed met my 3 core values, and, (3) voted independently, unfortunately finding myself in the minority. The current majority on the City Council represents several distinct values that differ from mine. For example, there is a tendency to favor “governmental” solutions rather than encourage “individual responsibility”; I favor the latter.

An example of an issue was the legislation by one of my colleagues to target a private business that provided “drop boxes” for clothing and other items with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of those items going to the March of Dimes. I strongly disagreed and explained that this was an infringement upon private business and an area in which the City of Lincoln should not involve itself. I was outvoted 6 to 1. During the following six months, litigation ensued resulting in the City of Lincoln losing the case and settling with the private enterprise party for a significant amount of money. I am proud to have stood for my principles and done the “right thing for Lincoln.” Had my colleagues followed my lead, a substantial amount of taxpayer money would have been saved.

Patte Newman

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

Jon Camp I will listen to the citizens of my district to better determine what they need and want.

Patte Newman

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

Jon Camp I am grateful for the opportunity to have served Lincoln these past years and look forward to the next four years to provide proven leadership.

Patte Newman