



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 MAYOR

Chris Beutler

Party: Democrat
Website: <http://mayorbeutler.com/>
See also www.votersnap.com

Andy Stebbing

Party: Republican
Website: <http://andystebbingformayor.com/>
See also www.votersnap.com

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.

Chris Beutler 3-18-15: Talked to campaign manager, Emailed her the questionnaire. Asked her to have it back by the 20th, 23rd latest. 3-20-15: Sent a reminder email. 3-24-15: Sent a reminder email. 3-24-15, 11:50am, spoke with campaign manager – still working on it. 4/1/15, 4:51pm, left phone message reporting other opponent had answered.

Andy Stebbing 3-18-15: Talked to campaign manager and emailed questionnaire. Asked him to have it back by the 20th, 23rd latest, 3-20-15: Sent a reminder email. 3-24-15, 11:45pm, spoke with campaign manager by phone – aiming for Thursday, maybe. 3-24-15: Sent a reminder email, 3-27-15, Facebooked campaign manager, he said it should be done by Monday. Answers copied from email response received April 1, 2015 08:24am.

(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.

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing Andy Stebbing; Two sons: Chase (15) and Jesse (9); attends Christ Place Church in Lincoln; Retired Sergeant with Lancaster County Sheriff's Department and currently serves as the Lancaster County Treasurer. Website: www.AndyStebbing.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/AndyStebbingforMayor; Twitter: @Stebbing4Mayor

(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?

**Chris
Beutler**

**Andy
Stebbing**

I am running because I believe Lincoln can be a better place to live, work and raise a family. We can provide more efficient and effective services for our citizens.

I would like to improve our public safety and infrastructure. Right now Lincoln residents pay some of the highest taxes in the state. Our wheel taxes are up 37% over the last four years yet city studies indicate our roads get progressively worse each year. Violent crime is up over the last eight years yet the current administration fails to provide even enough police manpower to keep up with the growth of the city. Simply put, Lincoln residents pay the highest taxes in the state but are not getting anywhere close to the level of service they should expect.

The three most important qualifications I bring to the office are:

1. A fresh perspective and energy to find new solutions to our problems. My opponent has been in elected office for over 32 years and it is clear he lacks the vision needed to look outside of the box for new solutions. Nearly every challenge the city has faced has been met with a tax or fee increase. This hurts our families and businesses.
2. A proven track record. As Lancaster County Treasurer I have made numerous changes and reforms that have improved services while saving the taxpayers over \$1 million in my first four years. We were able to reduce the size of our staff and at the same time add locations and expand office hours to make services more convenient for our taxpayers. We have also made all materials, budgets and account available online to provide greater transparency for the citizens. (continued next page)
3. My service as a law enforcement officer for over 24 years, the last twenty with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, have provided me much needed experience dealing with the public and other entities at times of extreme need. It has helped equipped me to be able to find solutions to problems in extreme conditions. It has given me a knowledge of public safety functions and needs that will help me address the needs of Lincoln residents.

(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??

**Chris
Beutler**

**Andy
Stebbing**

I support building the South Expressway and as mayor I would start immediately planning for an Eastern Expressway. The South Beltway already has some funding set aside and is progressing toward what will hopefully be a 2018 start. An Eastern Beltway would be a very important component toward addressing Lincoln's transportation needs. It would help spur development and growth on the city's east side and help us grow the tax base.

(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.

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing

As a rule, raising taxes is always a last resort and only then if all other possible options have failed. Lincoln residents currently pay some of the highest taxes in the state. This serves as a deterrent when recruiting new development and business to our city. I would work to reduce the tax burden on our citizens and businesses to make Lincoln more attractive to those looking to invest in a community.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) can be a very useful tool for revitalization and development. However overusing TIF does not help the overall needs for the better good of the city. Recently I believe Lincoln has been overusing TIF authority by extending projects to pay for items one may deem excessive, artwork as one example. We must remember that the use of TIF takes money away from other entities – like schools – that rely on property tax revenue. I would work to make sure we do not abuse the use of TIF.

(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?

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing

Lincoln pays some of the highest taxes in the state including the recent addition of a property tax increase. As mayor I will work to make government more efficient and prioritize the basic needs of the city over the desired extras. The end result is to reduce the tax burden our families and businesses have had to deal with over the past eight years.

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

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing

I oppose expanded gambling.

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

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing

Lincoln’s police force is substantially understaffed by national averages. Police response times are up and violent crimes have increased since Mayor Beutler took office. I have set a reasonable goal to hire 5 – 10 new police officers over my first two years. This can easily be achieved by simply reorganizing management. As an example, I would eliminate the Public Safety Director’s position. If you have a strong mayor, police chief and fire chief there is no need for an extra layer of bureaucracy. That salary of more than \$160,000 plus benefits would cover the cost of three police officers. There are other positions that can be eliminated or combined to fund additional officer. Lincoln is top heavy with management. We will reorganize to put more police, fireman and city workers addressing the everyday needs of our citizens.

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

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing City government must be more transparent and accountable. I have made this one of my top priorities in the Treasurer’s Office and I will with city government too.

One of the top priorities will be to update the city website. Citizens and potential recruits should be able to go to the website and find access to nearly every bit of information they need to be informed. The website should be updated on a regular basis and easy to navigate.

Top on the list is making sure that citizens know where every penny comes from and where it is either spent or allocated to be spent. We will revise the way our budget is presented to make it easier to find any item. Items will, be clearly labeled by the accurate title and through the actual department the resources are managed by.

One example in the current budget would be the salary for the Mayor’s Chief of Staff. If you were to look at the budget and try to find the actual annual salary for the “Chief of Staff” you will not find it. The current organizational chart for the mayor’s office does not match titles found in the budget. The same is true in other areas of the budget. Information should be easy for the average citizen to find.

(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?

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing The City Charter requires a vote on issues overturned by referendum, yet it has been sitting on the mayor’s desk for three years. I would put this to a vote at the earliest opportunity and allow the citizens to decide as the Charter requires.

(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?

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing I would favor looking into changing to an elected board. I would first need to research what this would take by law and what the process would be to assure this is best for Lincoln. For example, it didn’t seem that the rate-payers had any say in the recent addition of street lights placed in the LES rate payer’s bill instead of staying in the city budget creating yet another tax increase on Lincoln power users.

(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?

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing I support local control and completely agree with the decision to drop ICLEI. Lincoln should have never signed on to let an international organization dictate how we do our business.

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

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing Eminent Domain should only be used when necessary for the public good.

(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?

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing I absolutely oppose any public funding for Planned Parenthood.

(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?

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing I have numerous examples that I could use. I am going to use an example from an early age that many of us can relate to. In high school a number of my fellow class mates wanted to, as a group, skip classes for a day. I did not believe this was the right thing to do. As a result of me standing up to do the right thing, a majority of my classmates did not go through with their plans. I was later elected to be class president.

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

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing I will seek input and advice from my staff, experts in the subject at hand and finally I will seek input from the citizens. I plan to hold town hall meetings throughout the community in order to be more connected with the citizens and their needs.

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

Chris Beutler

Andy Stebbing I am a tested and proven public servant who will bring fiscal responsibility to the Mayor's Office. We will improve our infrastructure and public safety by making these the top priority of the city. We will make city government approachable and transparent. I understand that we work for the citizens not the other way around. I am asking for Lincoln voters to give me a chance to make our city an even better place to live, work and raise a family.