

Vote for up to three.

LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL

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Leirion Baird (Democrat)	Question	Eugene Carroll (Democrat)
3/28/13, 3:00pm, spoke to, said will see, questionnaire emailed. 4/2/13 emailed 2nd time. 4/4/13, 12:50am, email offering extended deadline.	Contact Info	3/28/13, 3:15pm, left message. 4/2/13, 9:30am, returned call, said would look at it. 4/4/13, 12:50am, email offering extended deadline.
Website: www.LeirionForLincoln.com	Biographical	Incumbent. Website: www.genecarroll.com

LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL

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Question	Roy Christensen (Republican)
Contact Info	3/28/13, 3:10pm, said to send it. 4/2/13, emailed questionnaire 2nd time. 4/4/13, 12:50am, email offering extended deadline. ANSWERS RECEIVED 4/4/13, 8:40pm.
01 Biographical	Website: www.royforlincoln.com. I was born in Washington, D.C. On 3 September 1959. I think my father was a professional student because we moved many times when I was growing up. We lived in Virginia, Upstate New York, Utah, Arizona, Indiana, and Idaho. I graduated High School from Highland High in Pocatello Idaho in 1978. After graduation my family moved again to Alabama. From there I went on a two year mission for my church to Chile. I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When I returned my parents had moved back to Arizona. I went to Northern Arizona University. It was there that I met my wife and got married. Our first two children were born there. I also joined the Army R.O.T.C program on scholarship to help pay for school. Upon graduation I entered active duty with the Army. I was a Medical Service Corps officer and served my first three years in Germany. I was a medical platoon leader in the 1/36 Infantry and later served in the Third Armored Division Headquarters. From Germany we moved to Edgewood Arsenal at Aberdeen Proving Grounds Maryland where I was the Detachment Commander and Adjutant for the Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense. From there I went back to school and received my Masters of Science in Audiology from Idaho State University in 1992. My first job as an Audiologist was in Yakima, Washington. After five years in Yakima I had the opportunity to own my own practice in Lincoln. I moved here in early December 1997. In my experience, people make the place. By that standard Lincoln is as good as or better than any other place I have lived. My wife and I have seven children with two still at home. Our first five have all graduated from East High. We have put our roots down here. We have eight grandchildren who all live here.*
02 Motivation	The experiences I have seen my adult children have as they establish themselves as adults has really motivated me. The difficulties they have had motivates me to help make Lincoln a better place. We need good jobs and more of them. Young people may want to stay here because of our quality of life. They can only do so if they can find good jobs. Under employment is a serious problem that we face in Lincoln. City government cannot create these jobs, but it can help create a welcoming environment for job creators.
03 Qualifications	I have leadership experience as an Army officer. I have business experience as an owner of three different businesses located here Lincoln. As a father of seven I have learned how to make hard decisions.
04 Sustainable Development	Sustainable development puts government in the position of picking the winners and losers among business and property owners. It is an attack on property rights. As such I am opposed to this social agenda.
05 City Resources	Taxpayer funds should be focused on the core functions of government. Infrastructure; roads, water and sewer. Public safety; police and fire. If we can focus our spending on essentials first we can create a friendly environment for job creators. CIR reform at the state level is critical for local governments to be able to get budgets under control.
06 Animals	[not answered]
07 Illegal Immigration	Illegal immigration hurts everyone and is most harmful to the immigrants themselves. Folks come here looking for opportunity and because of their legal status they are easily victimized by some unscrupulous employers. Low wages perpetuate a semi-permanent underclass that harms families and burdens communities. The city has few legitimate options in this situation. We are better off staying out of it and letting this be resolved at the state and federal level.
08 Eminent Domain	Eminent domain should be employed only in very limited situations. These situations must have public interest that is limited to roads and essential infrastructure.
09 City Business Connection	No.
10 Representative Government	The City Council should be more involved in developing the budget and not leave it to the mayor's office to propose.
11 Morality	I think city government should adopt the idea of "first do no harm". The law of unintended consequences seems to operate to full effect when government takes action. Restraint in passing new laws and ordinances should be exercised.
12 Homosexual ordinance	The law should be honored and the issue should have already been put to a vote of the people.
13 Governing documents	Governing document are the City Charter, the Constitution of Nebraska and the US Constitution. I have read them all. Upholding the Constitution means to allow no government action that would reduce individual liberty. I have taken an oath to "bear true faith and allegiance" to the Constitution. I will actively seek to hold all laws and issues before the City Council up to the standard of Liberty.
14 Constituents' concerns	I have been and will remain available to people on a daily basis. I will reach out to neighborhood groups and organizations for input.
15 Family	My family is my motivation. My wife and children have been very supportive.
16 Personal/Political	Personal principles and moral character are the only accurate predictor of future behavior. All decisions reflect character and principles either intentionally or unintentionally. This is why it important to elect individuals with proven high moral standards. For counsel I will go to my family, neighbors and most importantly to God.

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Part 2 of 4 (cont.), page 2 of 4

Question	Roy Christensen (Republican)
17 Political decisions	All of our political documents have their roots in the Bible. There are those who dispute this and dislike it. This does not change the reality of history. Moral principles must be the basis for political decisions.
18 DOMA	I have one wife and she has been with me and I with her faithfully all our adult lives. Marriage and families are the foundation of any society. Any assault on marriage is an assault on our society
19 Abortion/capital punishment	I am for individual right and liberty. We all have the right to life and I believe it begins at conception. Those who claim the liberty to kill an unborn child have forgotten that there can be no liberty without individual responsibility. They seek to avoid the responsibility for their choices.
20 Past President	[not answered]
21 Anything else?	[not answered]

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Question	Meg Mikolajczyk (Democrat)
Contact Info	3/28/13, 4:13pm, sent contact info. 4/1/13, requested questionnaire. 4/2/13 email - on website. ANSWERS RECEIVED as of 4/3/13 8:38pm.
01 Biographical	I grew up near the small town of Union Grove, Wisconsin. In 2008, I earned Bachelor of Science degrees in both Anthropology and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and in 2011 I earned my Juris Doctor from the UNL College of Law. Following graduation and the successful completion of the bar exam, I started my own law firm with a fellow law school graduate, and together we prioritize providing effective legal services to vulnerable populations who desperately need these services, but struggle to access them. I have made Lincoln my home because of the camaraderie of its residents, the city's emphasis on maintaining green spaces, libraries, and other key services for families, and because it is growing responsibly. Also, it's a town with ample entertainment and culturally enriching opportunities. In 2012 I purchased a home in the Near South neighborhood and aim to stay put in Lincoln. My immediate family includes my mother, Deb, my father, Glen, and my sister Callie, all of whom reside out of state. My significant other, his daughter (and our four dogs), as well as several close friends comprise my "Lincoln family." Please visit www.megforcouncil.com to learn more about me and my campaign.
02 Motivation	I have wanted to serve my community as an elected official since moving to Lincoln. The work I do every day as an attorney has further opened my eyes to the specific needs of my fellow Lincolniters; the desire to advocate on a larger scale in order to positively impact the city is my impetus for running this race. The city and its residents-not party affiliation-must be the focal point of the City Council's decision making. I know I will take action in the best interests of the entirety of our community. My priorities of greater sustainability, stronger neighborhoods, more effective public transportation, and responsible business growth make economic sense and benefit all of Lincoln. We can't have it any other way.
03 Qualifications	1. Through my legal practice, and as a mentor and volunteer, I am in touch with the needs and strengths of Lincoln's core neighborhoods, its youth, and its most vulnerable populations. Lincoln will not reach its potential if it fails to provide the services and support these communities need, which are the same services that attract young families and new businesses. 2. I am action-focused. I understand that there is no start-up training for City Council members, and I am ready to dive in, learn what I need to know, and work with tenacity to get things done in the best interests of Lincoln. 3. I am a small business owner who knows how to stretch a dollar and still offer high-quality services. We must have new energy and ideas at the City Council level, and that's what I will bring to office if elected.
04 Sustainable Development	In an era of continuous budget shortfalls and concerning environmental conditions, green policy makes sense for our economy, our community, and our future generations. The entire proposition put forth in UN Agenda 21 is that all people the world over should take stock of their lifestyle choices and reevaluate practices in order to conduct themselves more responsibly, whether that responsibility be in the form of spending habits, caring for our earth, running businesses, or how we interact with our own communities. Further, the argument that UN Agenda 21 cuts against American sovereignty is completely false and somewhat silly - the Agenda itself is a non-binding agreement that holds less authority than any treaty we have signed into as a country. It is confusing to me why an Agenda from the United Nations which simply offers suggestions on how to combat some of our most pressing global issues, like overpopulation and environmental concerns, could become so controversial. People and nature need to exist with one another or the entire globe will fail.
05 City Resources	First and foremost, I plan to bring my strong analytical skills to the table and make reasonable and responsible decisions based on all data available on any given topic. My aim will be to encourage services and programs that positively impact most Lincolniters and/or those Lincolniters most in need. Protecting key services will be my major priority, as budget cuts have the more dire effects on our most vulnerable neighbors and community members. I plan to focus much attention on both public transportation and continuing to foster strong neighborhoods by way of encouraging and incentivizing home ownership for young families and low-income folks. I want to explore creative means of achieving these goals without having to raise taxes. For example, if we can partner with groups like Neighborworks and increase home ownership in some of our blighted areas, the property values in those neighborhoods increase which will generate higher revenues from taxes without the tax rate itself increasing. The rise of property values is a great thing because it indicates that our neighborhoods are thriving and that the quality of life for our fellow Lincolniters is exceptional. I will not say that I will never vote to raise any taxes in Lincoln because to do so is completely irresponsible. I can guarantee that I will make every decision based on the best interests of all of our citizens.
06 Animals	Lincoln is a great city for pet owners, largely due to the amount of space we have for owners and pets to enjoy their time with one another. Although it would be a lower priority issue, I would like to explore the addition of 1-2 new dog parks in other parts of the city. These spaces help create community as well as provide a healthy play space for our four-legged friends who may spend most of their days in apartments or in homes without adequate yard space. I am open to learning concerns Lincolniters have involving pets and animals in the city and exploring how we can address these concerns by the least restrictive means possible.

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Question	Meg Mikolajczyk (Democrat)
07 Illegal Immigration	I require more information on this topic before I can take any stance on this issue. I have grave concerns about how our services are or could be limited to this population of individuals, particularly when said services are aimed to benefit children living in our community. I would like to enter a dialogue with knowledgeable individuals working and/or living within this delicate issue. I feel strongly that this is an issue best left to our state legislature.
08 Eminent Domain	Eminent domain is only to be used in the most dire of instances and I am a strong proponent of private ownership of property (see my comments on initiatives to encourage property ownership amongst young families and low income folks). While it is true that a large bundle of rights comes along with property ownership, there is also a "bundle of responsibilities" that is not often discussed in the law. Landlords have responsibilities to their lessees to keep the spaces rented in livable conditions and all property owners have responsibilities to their neighbors to not create situations which may be deemed a nuisance. But, in instances where a family is struggling in all aspects and financial penalization would exacerbate the problem, then I support an approach of teaching self-reliance through education about home ownership and accompanying responsibilities would address the core issues.
09 City Business Connection	I have no contracts with the city nor do any of my family members. I support the Charter Amendment because I hold that the utmost transparency between government and its citizens is the only way a government can best serve the needs of its people. The optics of Councilmembers holding contracts with the City of Lincoln are terrible and invite Lincolinites to form distrust in our local government. Councilmembers are like the Board of Directors to the City and thus, should avoid conflicts of interest at all turns. As an attorney, this issue is black and white for me - I would never advise a client serving on the board of a corporation to form a contract that he or she would financially gain from.
10 Representative Government	First and foremost, the City of Lincoln must listen to its residents in order to create effective, informed policy. Yes, politics are always involved, but they should not be the driving force behind the City's next steps/missteps. I will disagree with a proposal or decision when it conflicts with my core beliefs and what I know about my community, and I will compromise when doing so is in the best interests of the majority of Lincolinites. If all City elected officials do the same, we will have Lincoln on a very positive trajectory. As a councilwoman I will aim to have open, honest conversations with the executive branch of our city government as well as with my fellow councilmembers and constituents, which is the best approach to achieving success for our city as a whole.
11 Morality	Being an elected member of the Lincoln Council is a HUGE responsibility and one that I would never take lightly. If chosen to represent all of Lincoln, then I must exemplify the above statement in both word and deed. Peace, order, and general well-being are possible if we prioritize maintaining the services our residents, especially vulnerable populations, need to thrive. This means tough decisions about both policy and spending; however, if we consider the end goal-again, peace, order, and general well-being-then making these decisions shouldn't be all that hard. Further, as this statement applies to all of our fellow community members, I will maintain a focus on treating all Lincolinites with fairness, dignity and respect, regardless of age, religious affiliation, race, gender, socioeconomic status or sexual orientation. To successfully move forward as a city, all of our citizens need to be on an equal playing field.
12 Homosexual ordinance	I am a strong advocate and ally of the LGBT community. I work tirelessly to better understand the issues individuals within this community are struggling with and then attempt to provide legal services to assist in overcoming the hurdles currently in place. I will not back down from ensuring that all Lincolinites achieve fairness and equality in employment opportunities, housing, etc. I take offense to the statement of this question which suggests that members of the LGBT community would be achieving "special rights" by way of an ordinance which simply puts them on equal footing with their heterosexual counterparts. We, as a community and as a culture, need to shift the way we view this ordinance and realize that our city will only thrive when we cooperate and collaborate as a community, eradicate lingering prejudices, and aim to achieve fairness for all of our citizens.
13 Governing documents	As an attorney, I have exceptional statutory interpretation skills and have experience working with local city ordinances, state statutes, and federal law, as well as all levels of case law. I am comfortable working within the bounds of governing documents such as charters, by laws, and corporate governance documents.
14 Constituents' concerns	I thrive on connecting with my community, be it through volunteering at Community Action, mentoring LPS students, or working side by side with vulnerable children, families, and adults through my legal practice. During my campaign, I have enjoyed immensely knocking on doors, making calls to voters, and attending neighborhood association meetings throughout Lincoln. If elected, I will continue to do the same during my term of service in order to stay in touch with the people who matter most, our neighbors. I won't always be able to change exactly what they want changed, but I will do my very best to keep their voices and ideas front and center. I plan to maintain a presence at neighborhood association meetings when possible. I have been dreaming up other ways for me to remain engaged with the constituents if I am a councilwoman, but I have yet to finalize what those means of engagement look like.
15 Family	My family has supported me from day one with my campaign. Prior to my announcement, my parents always encouraged me to be involved in my community, which my track record clearly demonstrates. To my immediate family, my running for City Council was just the next step in a natural progression for me. I am responsible to them and to my clients first, and I understand the balance it will take to fulfill both my role in their lives and my role as a City Council member. Having been an involved student and community advocate during my time as an undergraduate and as a law student, and now as a business owner, volunteer, and mentor, I am adept at finding and maintaining a healthy life balance while making sure no individual or organization that relies on me is shortchanged. Further, I am excited to be a positive female role model for all of the young women in the community with whom I currently mentor, previously coached, and/or include in my "Lincoln family".
16 Personal/Political	I am very consistent in my core beliefs. With that being said, I believe fully in the concept of the marketplace of ideas and that everyone should have a spot at the table to discuss their viewpoints. Thus, my goal as a City Council woman would be to give as many voices as possible the opportunity to speak their mind on a topic. I would consider all concerns and analyze supporting evidence to determine the best course of action for the city. I will not be swayed by party politics or following the popular proposal if said proposal erodes away at the equality and fairness of all citizens. I will operate fairly and responsibly with my decision making and again, welcome many conversations along the way.

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Question	Meg Mikolajczyk (Democrat)
17 Political decisions	It is our core beliefs that create the framework through which we navigate the issues we grapple with as elected officials. With that being said, quoting to a specific religious text in order to support one's argument for a course of action as an elected official is completely inappropriate and may border on unconstitutional if it is the main motivation for proposing some course of action. Religious affiliation and spiritual practices are very personal and individualized, so while they are instructive to a person's moral compass, religious texts should not be offered as evidence in support of or against any governmental act. I firmly believe that respect shall be given to all religious affiliations and I would never want to put myself or any fellow council members in a situation where we are endorsing or the optics suggest we are endorsing any one religion over another.
18 DOMA	The legal irregularity stems from the act itself, not the failure of the Department of Justice to uphold DOMA. The matter is before the Supreme Court of the United States and is a federal issue. With that being said, this statute has caused a plethora of issues for same-sex couples and their families. Again, I would emphasize the need to maintain equality and fairness for all of our friends, family, neighbors, colleagues and Lincolnites. The Defense of Marriage Act, if nothing else, is an administrative nightmare that I have struggled to navigate in my legal practice. The end effect of DOMA in Nebraska is that same-sex marriages perfected in other states cannot be undone in Nebraska, which means that same sex marriages now have the most permanence within our state. This causes couples with irreconcilable differences consternation, as they lose their ability to form meaningful relationships in the future that may be recognized legally in other states. And, on the opposite end of the argument, I doubt it was the State of Nebraska's intention to elevate same sex marriages to our most protected relationships, since the state also has a Constitutional Amendment stating that marriage is to be between one man and one woman.
19 Abortion/capital punishment	My views on abortion and capital punishment have no bearing whatsoever on my ability to be a strong Councilwoman. Personally, at this point in my life, I do not think I could undergo an abortion. However, that's me. I can't begin to understand what some women are going through or how their pregnancies came into being, so I do not feel as though it is my place to impose what my course of action would be upon other women. Women should be able to make that choice individually, based on their own set of circumstances. The criminal justice system is not failsafe. Thus, we learn all the time that inmates on death row should be exonerated due to the discovery of new evidence, particularly DNA evidence. Perhaps my biggest concern with the death penalty is that the State creates the job of "professional killer" when it hires someone to perform the lethal injection. In one of my anthropology courses in college we examined the psychological effects an "executioner" undergoes and it concerns me that the State would put someone in that position. Further, I do not think the death penalty prevents future acts as it does not serve as a deterrent to other criminals. It is an expensive proposition for the State to take on and our tax dollars could be used in other ways - perhaps providing rehabilitation and services to at-risk folks and previous offenders. BUT AGAIN, these are not issues that I think should even be considered at the City Council level.
20 Past President	When I vote in a Presidential race, I look for a person who is sensitive to the fact that not everyone has the same opportunities to become successful and that, as a whole, we have to look out for one another. I do not want a President who cannot relate to our most vulnerable populations. I do not want a President who is insensitive to issues effecting women, minorities and the LGBT community. I do not want a President who will favor the 1% of our nation over the 99% of us. I had (and still have) grave concerns regarding the Medicare/Medicaid discussion and the cutting of funding in a time when our country's Baby Boomer generation is aging into the "senior citizen" demographic. I want someone to lead our country who is in tune with climate change and wants to shift the focus from foreign oil dependency towards wind energy at home.
21 Anything else?	I am, through and through, a Democrat. But, what is important when selecting candidates for this election is not party affiliation, but rather ability to give a voice and credence to the opinions and concerns of all Lincolnites. I am well adept to do this, as my job, every day, is to assist a wide variety of Lincolnites in their struggles. As the only candidate with a legal background, I interpret statutes, ordinances, and the Constitution on a daily basis. I am a skilled negotiator and often make compromises for the betterment of the whole. THESE are the qualities that embody a solid and successful city council woman. I am open and honest and willing to have the tough conversations with anyone who wants to share an idea. I am a fast learner. I am compassionate. And, above all, I love the city of Lincoln and know I am the right person for City Council.

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Trent Fellers (Republican)	Question	Mark Whitehead (Republican)
3/28/13, 3:05pm, spoke to and will send by email. 4/2/13, emailed 2nd time. 4/4/13, 12:50am, email offering extended deadline.	Contact Info	3/28/13, 11:20am, spoke to and he will respond. 4/2/13 emailed 2nd time. 4/4/13, 12:50am, email offering extended deadline.
website: www.trentfellers.com	Biographical	Website: www.whiteheadforcitycouncil.com

See next page for actual questions asked.

LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL Questions

Question Key	Actual Questions asked. “*’d” questions offered as minimums to answer
Contact Info	Contact Information - ranging from the details of when we inputted the candidate's responses, to attempts to establish contact, to if we still need a volunteer caller, to if the candidate is unopposed and therefore not on the list to contact.
01 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.
02 Motivation	*What has motivated you to seek this office? Is there a key issue you hope to address?
03 Qualifications	*What three primary qualifications do you bring to this office?
04 Sustainable Development	* Discuss how the sustainable development presented in the UN Agenda 21 comprehensive plan can be a benefit or detriment to the citizens. What do you believe should be the government's role in establishing green policy?
05 City Resources	*What specific plan do you have for making the best use of taxpayer dollars? For example, what priority would you put on zoning, business incentives, personnel management, etc.? Should each year's budget include funding for future retirements?
06 Animals	What are the hot button issues concerning animals/pets in the city?
07 Illegal Immigration	What are your convictions regarding illegal immigration? What role do you believe the city should play in dealing with this issue?
08 Eminent Domain	*Describe your thinking on eminent domain and private property rights.
09 City Business Connection	Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationship serving the city? Please describe.
10 Representative Government	What do you recommend for efficient interplay of the responsibilities of the executive (mayor) and legislative (city council) branches of city government in serving the constituents each is elected to represent?
11 Morality	Article II, Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Lincoln City Charter includes this statement: "The city shall...make such ordinances...for maintaining the peace,...preserving order.....promoting the public health, safety, convenience, comfort, morals and general interests...of the inhabitants of the city...." What will you do to follow these requirements?
12 Homosexual ordinance	What is your view concerning the peoples' petition to rescind the ordinance giving special rights to homosexuals? In your opinion, what should be required to qualify for special rights?
(These last questions we ask regardless of what office is being sought. You may not think these relate to your office, but how you respond to these controversial questions might help the voter know how you would respond to other controversies in office.)	
13 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?
14 Constituents' concerns	*What plans do you have for remaining aware of your constituents' concerns and desires?
15 Family	What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?
16 Personal/Political	To what degree should an office holder's personal principles be reflected in political decision making? To whom/what will you go for counsel in decision making?
17 Political decisions	Is it appropriate to use the Bible or other religious writings in making political decisions? If so, what would you use? If not, why not?
18 DOMA	The Department of Justice has refused to uphold the Defense of Marriage Act. What is your personal view on this legal irregularity? What is your personal view on the Defense of Marriage Act?
19 Abortion/capital punishment	*What definition do you give for each of these terms: pro-life, pro-choice. Which is your view and to what level of conviction do you hold that view? Some say capital punishment is a pro-life issue. What is your perspective?
20 Past President	*What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?
21 Anything else?	Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.