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## A Community Conversation: Future of Lincoln

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University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

Focusing on Nebraska

# A Community Conversation: Future of Lincoln

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Prepared by:  
University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

Project Partners:



University of Nebraska Public Policy Center  
121 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 303  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0228  
Phone: (402) 472-5678  
Fax: (402) 472-5679  
Website: [www.ppc.nebraska.edu](http://www.ppc.nebraska.edu)



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## **Executive Summary**

On Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 62 randomly selected residents of Lincoln/Lancaster County, Nebraska participated in a discussion about economic growth and quality of life in the City of Lincoln. The event was termed “A Community Conversation: Future of Lincoln.” The participants were surveyed both before and after the event to measure their opinions and knowledge of topics related to Lincoln’s economic growth and quality of life.

### **General Opinion Highlights**

- **Positive Feelings Toward Economic Growth:** 92% of the participants agreed with the statement, “Lincoln should pursue an aggressive policy of economic growth.”
- **Positive Feelings Toward Impact Fees:** 74% of the participants agreed with the statement, “Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln.”
- **Positive Feelings Toward Downtown:** 73% of the participants agreed with the statement, “A successful downtown is crucial to Lincoln’s long-term success.”
- **Positive View of the Personal Benefits of Economic Growth:** 58% of the participants agreed and 21% disagreed with the statement, “A policy of aggressive economic growth in Lincoln would benefit me personally.”
- **Split Opinions on Willingness to Pay Taxes for Downtown Master Plan:** An equal number of participants agreed and disagreed (37%) with the statement, “I am willing to pay higher taxes to pay for the goals of the Downtown Master Plan.”
- **Split on Feeling Knowledgeable About Antelope Valley Project:** An equal number of participants agreed and disagreed (44%) with the statement, “I know a lot about the Antelope Valley Project.”

### **Significant Differences in Opinions Before Versus After**

- **Support for Impact Fees:** The percentage (74%) of the participants who agreed with the statement, “Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln” on the survey administered after the event was significantly greater than the percentage (42%) who agreed prior to the event.
- **Increase in Feeling that Economic Growth is Personally Beneficial:** The percentage (58%) of the participants who agreed and the percentage (21%) who disagreed with the statement, “A policy of aggressive economic growth in Lincoln would benefit me personally” were significantly different from the percentages (48% agree, 40% disagree) prior to the event.

## **Significant Differences in Opinions Based on Demographic Characteristics**

- **Partisan Differences on Taxes and Infrastructure:** Democrats were significantly more likely than Republicans (72% versus 34.6%) to agree with the statement, “Property taxes should be raised if it results in improved city infrastructure.”
- **Education Differences on Taxes and Infrastructure:** Participants with a college degree were significantly more likely than participants with less education (68% versus 25%) to agree with the statement, “Property taxes should be raised if it results in improved city infrastructure.”

## **Significant Changes in Knowledge Levels**

- **Economic Growth:** 94% of the participants correctly answered the question: “According to the Angelou Economics study, one of Lincoln’s major obstacles to economic growth is....”<sup>1</sup> Before the event, 74% answered the question correctly.
- **Antelope Valley Project’s Cost:** 89% of the participants correctly answered the question: “As far as I know, the Antelope Valley Project’s first phase is expected to cost....”<sup>2</sup> Before the event, 29% answered the question correctly.
- **Impact Fees’ Purpose:** 80.6% of the participants correctly answered the question: “Impact fees are designed to place a portion of the burden of new infrastructure costs on which group?”<sup>3</sup> Before the event, 53.2% answered the question correctly.

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<sup>1</sup> The correct answer is “Lack of available sites for business development.”

<sup>2</sup> The correct answer is “\$225 million.”

<sup>3</sup> The correct answer is “developers.”

## Introduction

On Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 62 randomly selected residents of Lincoln/Lancaster County, Nebraska gathered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to participate in “A Community Conversation: Future of Lincoln.” The purpose of the event was to gather input from the participants about economic growth and quality of life in the City of Lincoln. The Conversation was a collaborative project of Leadership Lincoln, the Lincoln Journal Star, and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

The 62 participants were randomly recruited from a list of Lincoln telephone numbers. Staff from Leadership Lincoln and the Public Policy Center called residents between January 18, 2005, to February 10, 2005. To participate in the project, respondents had to be 19 years old or older, and a U.S. citizen, a legal resident alien, or a holder of a work-eligible visa sponsored by a paying institution. Individuals were offered \$35 in compensation to attend the event and respond to a 16 item survey at that time. One hundred eleven residents completed the phone survey when they were contacted. Of the 111 respondents, 62 actually attended the event on February 24th. Only those who attended and answered the post-survey questions received the compensation, and it is these 62 people whose information forms the basis for this report.

**Table 1.** Participant Demographics (*n*=62)

	Percentages
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	43.5%
Female	56.5%
<b>Race</b>	
Hispanic	3.2%
Non-Hispanic White	91.9%
Native American	4.8%
<b>Education<sup>4</sup></b>	
Less than college graduate	38.7%
College graduate or more	59.7%
<b>Age</b>	
19-54	53.2%
55+	46.8%
<b>Party Identification</b>	
Democrat	40.3%
Republican	41.9%
Independent	12.9%
Other	3.2%
Not registered to vote	1.6%

<sup>4</sup> Results do not add up to 100% because of missing data.

Compared to the general population in Lincoln, the 62 participants attending the event were more likely to be female, White, educated, older, and Democrat than would be expected if the sample represented the cross-section of residents in the community.<sup>5</sup>

Upon agreeing to participate in the event, participants were mailed background materials prepared by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center on topics related to economic growth and quality of life in Lincoln. The materials focused on economic development recommendations for Lincoln, the Antelope Valley development project, impact fees, and the relationship between public education and city growth. The Lincoln Journal Star initiated a media campaign to generate interest and awareness of the event through a series of pre-event news stories. Indeed, the newspaper printed the same background materials in the paper on four successive Sundays that were sent to the participants.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the 62 participants gathered at the College of Journalism and Mass Communications on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. Each of the 62 participants were randomly assigned on-site into one of five small groups to discuss the topics of economic development and quality of life in Lincoln. The groups ranged in size from 12-13 people. Each group was assigned a separate break-out room from small group discussions.

After 75 minutes of discussion, the participants assembled in a large room for another 75 minutes to pose questions generated during the small group discussions to a panel of experts. The experts included Jennifer Brinkman, a Lincoln neighborhood volunteer; Kathy Campbell, former member of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners; Jim Fram, President of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; E. Susan Gourley, Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools; Joe Hampton, owner of Hampton Enterprises; and W. Cecil Steward, President of the Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities.

Following the expert panel discussion, the participants reconvened in their small group break-out rooms, where they completed a post-event survey including the original 16 items from the phone survey and additional items. Upon completion of the survey, the participants received their \$35 compensation.

The effort – from the briefing materials sent to participants beforehand to the group discussions to the opportunity to present questions to a panel of experts – was modeled after the Deliberative Polling® format developed by Professor James Fishkin, currently Director at Stanford University's Center for Deliberative Democracy (<http://cdd.stanford.edu/>). Deliberative Polling combines random sampling techniques with small group deliberations. It aims to measure changes in attitudes and knowledge about public policy issues after participants have an opportunity to discuss and think about them in an informed way. Since its inception in 1988, Deliberative Polling has been employed in England, Australia, Denmark, and the United States. For the past few years, it has been used as part of PBS's *By the People* project, an effort designed to hear what ordinary people have to say about important policy and political issues (<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/btp/about.html>). The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center has been involved in two of the *By the People* conversations that have been held in Nebraska

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<sup>5</sup> See Appendix C for the general demographic distribution of Lincoln according to the most recent Census as well as the 111 people who answered the phone survey.

([http://ppc.nebraska.edu/program\\_areas/documents/BythePeople/bythepeople10-04.htm](http://ppc.nebraska.edu/program_areas/documents/BythePeople/bythepeople10-04.htm)). The “Future of Lincoln” effort used the Deliberative Model to examine issues of local rather than national and international interest.

## Results: Post-Deliberation Survey

### *Opinion Questions*

On the post-deliberation survey, participants were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with 16 statements. Five response options were provided: (1) Agree Strongly, (2) Agree Somewhat, (3) Neither Agree nor Disagree, (4) Disagree Somewhat, or (5) Disagree Strongly. This report collapses those five responses into three categories: *Agree* (the “Agree Strongly” and “Agree Somewhat” responses), *Neutral* (the “Neither Agree nor Disagree” response), and *Disagree* (“Disagree Somewhat” and “Disagree Strongly” responses).

Twelve of the questions, numbered 1-12 in Appendix Table A, were asked of the 62 participants both in the pre-event telephone survey and the post-deliberation survey. Statistical tests (repeated measure analyses)<sup>6</sup> were used to assess changes in participants’ opinions before and after the Deliberative Polling process.<sup>7</sup> In two areas, “Positive Feelings Toward Impact Fees” and “Positive View of the Personal Benefits of Economic Growth,” there were statistically significant changes in participants’ opinions. Even though there appear to be shifts in pre-event and post-event opinion on the other 10 questions, these changes may be simply chance fluctuations in responses. (Note: The remaining four questions, numbered 13-16 in Appendix Table A, were only asked on the post-deliberation written survey, so those results cannot be compared.)

The findings, summarized in Table 2, indicated that there were large majorities (70% and higher for either *Agree* or *Disagree*) on three questions,<sup>8</sup> moderate majorities (55% and higher) on four questions,<sup>9</sup> an even split on two questions,<sup>10</sup> and no majorities (all categories less than 50%) on the remaining seven questions. Complete results are in Appendix Table A.

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<sup>6</sup> The McNemar and McNemar-Bowker tests were used.

<sup>7</sup> To reiterate, the three key elements of the Deliberative Model are: pre-event information; group discussion; and experts respond to questions

<sup>8</sup> The three questions are:

- Lincoln should pursue an aggressive policy of economic growth.
- Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln.
- A successful Downtown is crucial to Lincoln’s long-term success.

<sup>9</sup> The four questions are:

- A policy of aggressive economic growth in Lincoln would benefit me personally.
- Lincoln’s overall quality of life is improving.
- I support the Antelope Valley Project.
- Lincoln should continue to pursue large development projects even if it means an increase in property taxes.

<sup>10</sup> The two questions are:

- I am willing to pay higher taxes to pay for the goals of the Downtown Master Plan.
- I know a lot about the Antelope Valley Project.



The strong majorities were:

- **Positive Feelings Toward Impact Fees:** 74% of the participants agreed and 11% disagreed with the statement, “Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln.” This was a statistically significant change from opinions before the deliberation, when 42% of participants agreed and 25% disagreed with the statement during the pre-deliberation telephone survey.<sup>11</sup> Past Citizen Deliberations on other topics, in other communities, have shown significant changes like this on one or more opinion items.
- **Positive Feelings Toward Economic Growth:** 92% of the participants agreed with the statement, “Lincoln should pursue an aggressive policy of economic growth.”
- **Positive Feelings Toward Downtown:** 73% of the participants agreed with the statement, “A successful downtown is crucial to Lincoln’s long-term success.”

The moderate majorities were:

- **Positive View of the Personal Benefits of Economic Growth:** 58% of the participants agreed and 21% disagreed with the statement, “A policy of aggressive economic growth in Lincoln would benefit me personally.” This was a statistically significant change from opinions before the event, when 48% of participants agreed and 40% disagreed with the statement during the pre-event telephone survey.<sup>12</sup>
- **Positive View of Lincoln’s Quality of Life:** 57% of participants agreed with the statement, “Lincoln’s overall quality of life is improving.”
- **Support for the Antelope Valley Project:** 57% of participants agreed with the statement, “I support the Antelope Valley Project.”
- **Opposition to Large Development Projects:** 55% of participants *disagreed* with the statement, “Lincoln should continue to pursue large development projects even if it means an increase in property taxes.”

The split opinions were:

- **Willingness to Pay Taxes for Downtown Master Plan:** 36% of participants agreed and the same percentage disagreed with the statement, “I am willing to pay higher taxes to pay for the goals of the Downtown Master Plan.”
- **Knowledge of Antelope Valley Project:** 43.5% of participants agreed and the same percentage disagreed with the statement, “I know a lot about the Antelope Valley Project.”

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<sup>11</sup>  $\chi^2_{.95(3)}=14.552, p < .01.$

<sup>12</sup>  $\chi^2_{.95(3)}=10, p < .05.$

**Table 2.** Selected Post-Deliberation Survey Results

Opinion Statement	n	Post-Deliberation		
		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Lincoln should pursue an aggressive policy of economic growth.	62	91.9%	1.6%	6.5%
Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln.	57	73.7%	15.8%	10.5%
A successful Downtown is crucial to Lincoln’s long-term success.	62	72.6%	11.3%	16.1%
A policy of aggressive economic growth in Lincoln would benefit me personally.	62	58.1%	21.0%	21.0%
Lincoln’s overall quality of life is improving.	62	56.5%	19.4%	24.2%
I support the Antelope Valley Project.	60	56.7%	21.7%	21.7%
Lincoln should continue to pursue large development projects even if it means an increase in property taxes.	62	25.8%	19.4%	54.8%
I am willing to pay higher taxes to pay for the goals of the Downtown Master Plan.	61	36.1%	26.2%	37.7%
I know a lot about the Antelope Valley Project.	60	43.5%	12.9%	43.5%

*Differences in Opinion Question Responses Based on Demographic Characteristics*

Further analysis of the results revealed some interesting differences in opinion question responses based on the participants’ demographic characteristics. The results are summarized in Table 3. For example, Democrats and Republicans had significantly different opinions on one issue, and on other issues so did people of different ages and education levels. Comparisons were also examined based on gender, but no significant results were found. Complete results are presented in Appendix Table B.

There were four significant differences based on education:

- **Attitudes about Impact Fees:** Participants with college degrees or more education were significantly more likely (87% vs. 58%) than participants with less education to agree with the statement, “Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln.”
- **Attitudes about Large Development Projects:** Participants with college degrees or more education were significantly more likely (38% vs. 8%) than participants with less education to agree with the statement, “Lincoln should continue to pursue large development projects even if it means an increase in property taxes.”
- **Raising Property Taxes for Infrastructure Improvements:** Participants with college degrees or more education were significantly more likely (68% vs. 25%) than participants with less education to agree with the statement, “Property taxes should be raised if it results in improved city infrastructure.”
- **Attitudes about Growth’s Effect on Quality of Life:** Participants with college degrees or more education were significantly more likely than participants with less education (38% vs. 25%) to agree with the statement, “Lincoln’s continued growth is threatening its

quality of life.” They were also significantly more likely to disagree with that statement (57% vs. 46%), and significantly less likely to take a neutral position on it (5% vs. 29%).

There was one significant difference based on party identification:

- **Raising Property Taxes for Infrastructure Improvements:** Democrats were significantly more likely than Republicans (72% vs. 34.6%) to agree with the statement, “Property taxes should be raised if it results in improved city infrastructure.”

There were two significant differences based on age:

- **Business and Taxpayers in Lincoln’s Development Policy:** Participants 55 and older were significantly more likely (69% vs. 30.3%) than younger participants to agree with the statement, “Lincoln’s development policy favors big business at the expense of normal taxpayers.”
- **Knowledge of Downtown Master Plan:** Participants younger than 55 were significantly more likely than older participants (42.4% vs. 13.8%) to agree with the statement, “I know a lot about the Downtown Master Plan.”

**Table 3.** Significant Differences in Opinion Statement Responses Based on Demographic Characteristics

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>n</b>						
		<i>Less than college</i>			<i>College or more</i>		
<b>Opinion Statement</b>		<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln.	61	58.3%	25.0%	16.7%	86.5%	8.1%	5.4%
Lincoln should continue to pursue large development projects even if it means an increase in property taxes.	61	8.3%	33.3%	58.3%	37.8%	10.8%	51.4%
Property taxes should be raised if it results in improved city infrastructure.	61	25.0%	41.7%	33.3%	67.6%	8.1%	24.3%
Lincoln’s continued growth is threatening its quality of life.	61	25.0%	29.2%	45.8%	37.8%	5.4%	56.8%
<b>PARTY IDENTIFICATION</b>							
		<i>Democrat</i>			<i>Republican</i>		
<b>Opinion Statement</b>		<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Property taxes should be raised if it results in improved city infrastructure	51	72.0%	8.0%	20.0%	34.6%	26.9%	38.5%
<b>AGE</b>							
		<i>19-54</i>			<i>55+</i>		
<b>Opinion Statement</b>		<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Lincoln’s development policy favors big business at the expense of normal taxpayers.	62	30.3%	30.3%	39.4%	69.0%	24.1%	6.9%
I know a lot about the Downtown Master Plan.	62	42.4%	24.2%	33.3%	13.8%	20.7%	65.5%

### *Knowledge Questions*

Participants were also asked six questions to assess their knowledge of growth and development issues. The findings, summarized in Table 4 indicated the participants had strong knowledge of five of the questions, and were about evenly split in knowledge terms on a sixth question.

Four of the questions were asked of participants both in the pre-deliberation telephone survey and the post-deliberation survey. There were statistically significant changes in the number of correct answers to three of those questions. Past Citizen Deliberations on other topics, in other communities, have shown significant changes like this on one or more knowledge items. Two other questions were asked only on the post-deliberation survey, so those results cannot be compared.

The four questions asked on both the pre- and post-deliberation surveys were:

- **Economic Growth:** 94% of the participants answered this question correctly after the deliberation: “According to the Angelou Economics study, one of Lincoln’s major obstacles to economic growth is....” Before the deliberation, 74% answered the question correctly. The correct answer was “Lack of available sites for business development.” The change was statistically significant.<sup>13</sup>
- **Antelope Valley Project’s Cost:** 89% of the participants answered this question correctly after the deliberation: “As far as I know, the Antelope Valley Project’s first phase is expected to cost....” Before the deliberation, 29% of participants answered the question correctly. The correct answer was “\$225 million.” The change is statistically significant.<sup>14</sup>
- **Impact Fees’ Purpose:** 81% of the participants answered this question correctly after the deliberation: “Impact fees are designed to place a portion of the burden of new infrastructure costs on which group?” Before the deliberation, 53% of participants answered the question correctly. The correct answer was “developers.” The change is statistically significant.<sup>15</sup>
- **Lincoln’s Largest Employer:** 69% of the participants answered this question correctly after the deliberation: “Lincoln’s largest private employer is....” Before the deliberation, 66% of participants answered the question correctly. The correct answer is, “BryanLGH Medical Center.” The change is not statistically significant.

The two knowledge questions contained only in the post-deliberation written survey were:

- **Antelope Valley:** 52% of participants correctly answered the question, “Phase I of the Antelope Valley Project will take how many years to finish?”<sup>16</sup>
- **Downtown Vacancy Rate:** 31% of participants correctly answered the question, “The overall vacancy rate of downtown business and residential space is ....”<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>  $\chi^2_{.95(1)}=4.562, p <.05, n=57.$

<sup>14</sup>  $\chi^2_{.95(1)}=.004, p <.01, n=56.$

<sup>15</sup>  $\chi^2_{.95(1)}=.517, p <.01, n=56.$

<sup>16</sup> The correct answer is “5-10 years.”

**Table 4:** Knowledge Question Results, Pre-Deliberation and Post-Deliberation (*n*=62)

Knowledge Question	Pre-Deliberation	Post-Deliberation
	Correct	Correct
Lincoln’s largest private employer is.... (BryanLGH Medical Center)	66.1%	69.4%
As far as I know, the Antelope Valley Project’s first phase is expected to cost.... (\$225 million)	29.0%	88.7%
Impact fees are designed to place a portion of the burden of new infrastructure costs on which group? (Developers)	53.2%	80.6%
According to the Angelou Economics study, one of Lincoln’s major obstacles to economic growth is.... (Lack of available sites for business development)	74.2%	93.5%
Phase I of the Antelope Valley Project will take how many years to finish? (5-10)	*	51.6%
The overall vacancy rate of downtown business and residential space is approximately.... (9 percent)	*	30.6%

\* These questions were not asked in the pre-event telephone survey.

## About the Sponsors

A Community Conversation: Future of Lincoln was a collaborative project of Leadership Lincoln, the Lincoln Journal Star and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Financial support was provided by the Cooper Foundation and the Woods Charitable Fund.

Further information about these organizations can be found at:

Leadership Lincoln	<a href="http://www.leadershiplincoln.org">http://www.leadershiplincoln.org</a>
Lincoln Journal Star	<a href="http://www.journalstar.com">http://www.journalstar.com</a>
University of Nebraska Public Policy Center	<a href="http://www.ppc.nebraska.edu">http://www.ppc.nebraska.edu</a>
Cooper Foundation	<a href="http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/cooper/">http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/cooper/</a>
Woods Charitable Fund	<a href="http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/woods/">http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/woods/</a>

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<sup>17</sup> The correct answer is “9 percent.”

## Appendix: “Future of Lincoln” Citizen Deliberation Pre- and Post-Deliberation Results

**Appendix Table A.** *Opinion Statement Responses, Pre-Deliberation and Post-Deliberation*

	Opinion Statement	n	Pre-Deliberation			Post-Deliberation		
			Agr.	Ntrl.	Dis.	Agr.	Ntrl.	Dis.
1.	Lincoln should pursue an aggressive policy of economic growth.	62	91.9%	0%	8.1%	91.9%	1.6%	6.5%
2.	Lincoln’s development policy favors big business at the expense of normal taxpayers.	61	50.8%	23.0%	26.2%	49.2%	26.2%	24.6%
3.	I support the Antelope Valley Project.	60	48.3%	30.0%	21.7%	56.7%	21.7%	21.7%
4.	I support the Downtown Master Plan.	57	49.1%	33.3%	17.5%	47.4%	26.3%	26.3%
5.	I am willing to pay higher taxes to pay for the goals of the Downtown Master Plan.	61	34.4%	18.0%	47.5%	36.1%	26.2%	37.7%
6.	I am willing to pay higher taxes to pay for the goals of the Antelope Valley Project.	62	37.1%	17.7%	45.2%	40.3%	25.8%	33.9%
7.	I know a lot about the Antelope Valley Project.	62	50.0%	16.1%	33.9%	43.5%	12.9%	43.5%
8.	I know a lot about the Downtown Master Plan.	62	40.3%	16.1%	43.5%	29.0%	22.6%	48.4%
9.	A successful Downtown is crucial to Lincoln’s long-term success.	62	74.2%	9.7%	16.1%	72.6%	11.3%	16.1%
10.	A policy of aggressive economic growth in Lincoln would benefit me personally.	62	48.4%	11.3%	40.3%	58.1%	21.0%	21.0%
11.	Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln.	57	42.1%	33.3%	24.6%	73.7%	15.8%	10.5%
12.	Lincoln’s overall quality of life is improving.	62	66.1%	16.1%	17.7%	56.5%	19.4%	24.2%
13.	In order to prevent school overcrowding, Lincolnites should pay higher property taxes to finance construction of more schools.	62	*	*	*	51.6%	16.1%	32.3%
14.	Lincoln should continue to pursue large development projects even if it means an increase in property taxes.	62	*	*	*	25.8%	19.4%	54.8%
15.	Property taxes should be raised if it results in improved city infrastructure.	62	*	*	*	50.0%	21.0%	29.0%
16.	Lincoln’s continued growth is threatening its quality of life.	62	*	*	*	32.3%	14.5%	53.2%

\* These questions were not asked in the pre-deliberation telephone survey.  
 Agr. = Agree, combination of survey responses “Agree Strongly” and “Agree Somewhat”  
 Ntrl. = Neutral, survey response “Neither Agree nor Disagree”  
 Dis. = Disagree, combination of survey responses “Disagree Strongly” and “Disagree Somewhat”  
 Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.  
 Non-responses were not included in the analysis.

**Appendix Table B. Post-Deliberation Opinions by Demographic Variables\***

Question	Party <sup>1</sup>	Age <sup>2</sup>	Gender <sup>3</sup>	Education <sup>4</sup>
Lincoln should pursue an aggressive policy of economic growth.	.98 NS	1.77 NS	1.43 NS	1.81 NS
Lincoln's development policy favors big business at the expense of normal taxpayers.	4.33 NS	11.72 <b>.003</b>	2.27 NS	1.71 NS
I support the Antelope Valley Project.	2.98 NS	1.85 NS	1.46 NS	.43 NS
I support the Downtown Master Plan.	4.03 NS	.00 NS	2.28 NS	1.22 NS
I am willing to pay higher taxes to pay for the goals of the Downtown Master Plan.	.47 NS	.88 NS	1.12 NS	1.24 NS
I am willing to pay higher taxes to pay for the goals of the Antelope Valley Project.	1.25 NS	.40 NS	.44 NS	1.54 NS
I know a lot about the Antelope Valley Project.	.21 NS	5.39 NS	1.64 NS	2.62 NS
I know a lot about the Downtown Master Plan.	2.12 NS	7.75 <b>.021</b>	4.27 NS	3.74 NS
A successful Downtown is crucial to Lincoln's long-term success.	2.60 NS	.09 NS	.20 NS	1.10 NS
A policy of aggressive economic growth in Lincoln would benefit me personally.	1.20 NS	2.30 NS	.75 NS	.88 NS
Impact fees provide economic benefits to Lincoln.	.01 NS	.54 NS	.28 NS	6.22 <b>.045</b>
Lincoln's overall quality of life is improving.	2.63 NS	1.40 NS	.29 NS	2.28 NS
In order to prevent school overcrowding, Lincolnites should pay higher property taxes to finance construction of more schools.	1.83 NS	4.69 NS	.27 NS	2.29 NS
Lincoln should continue to pursue large development projects even if it means an increase in property taxes.	1.90 NS	2.34 NS	2.12 NS	8.72 <b>.013</b>
Property taxes should be raised if it results in improved city infrastructure.	7.43 <b>.024</b>	2.30 NS	3.31 NS	13.31 <b>.001</b>
Lincoln's continued growth is threatening its quality of life.	.12 NS	.33 NS	.04 NS	6.63 <b>.036</b>

\* Regular Type: Pearson Chi-Square, **Bold Type: Significance (2-tailed)**, NS=Not significant at the .05 level, 2-tailed.

1 "Party" consists of the survey responses Democrat and Republican. Because of the low numbers of participants in those categories, the survey responses Independent, Other and Not Registered to Vote were dropped from the analysis. For all questions, df=2, Democrat n=25, Republican n=26.

2 "Age" is a two-category variable: 19-54 and 55+. For all questions, df=2, Age 19-54 n= 33, 55+ n= 29.

3 For all questions, df=2, Male n= 27, Female n=35.

4 "Education" has been collapsed for analysis purposes into a two-category variable: "Less than college," which consists of the survey responses Less than high school, some high school, high school graduate, trade or technical school and some college, and "College or more," which includes the survey responses college graduate and graduate school. For all questions, df=2, Some college or less n= 24, College degree or greater n=37.

**Appendix Table C. Demographics of Pre-Deliberation Sample, Post-Deliberation Participants, and Lincoln Population**

	<b>Pre-Deliberation</b> <i>n=111</i>	<b>Post-Deliberation</b> <i>n=62</i>	<b>Lincoln Population<sup>1</sup></b> <i>N=225,581</i>
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	44.1%	43.5%	49.8%
Female	55.5%	56.5%	50.2%
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>			
Hispanic	1.8%	3.2%	12.5% <sup>3</sup>
Asian-American	0.9%	0.0%	3.6%
Non-Hispanic White	97.3%	91.9%	89.2% <sup>4</sup>
Native American	0.0%	4.8%	0.7% <sup>5</sup>
<b>Education</b>			
Less than high school	0.0%	0.0%	3.0% <sup>6</sup>
Some high school	0.9%	0.0%	6.8% <sup>7</sup>
High school graduate	12.6%	9.7%	24.5% <sup>8</sup>
Trade or technical school	7.2%	9.7%	8.4% <sup>9</sup>
Some college	27.0%	19.4%	24.1% <sup>10</sup>
College graduate	36.0%	41.9%	22.1% <sup>11</sup>
Graduate school	15.3%	17.7%	11.2% <sup>12</sup>
<b>Age<sup>13</sup></b>			
19-24	2.7%	1.6%	12.0%
25-34	12.6%	8.1%	15.9%
35-44	17.1%	12.9%	14.8%
45-54	27.9%	30.6%	12.6%
55-64	20.7%	29.0%	6.8%
65-74	9.9%	9.7%	5.2%
75 +	9.0%	8.1%	5.2%
<b>Party Identification</b>			
Democrat	44.1%	40.3%	37.6%
Republican	35.1%	41.9%	44.0%
Independent	13.5%	12.9%	17.3%
Other	1.8%	3.2%	11.3%
Not registered to vote	4.5%	1.6%	37.6%
No Answer	0.9%	0.0%	44.0%

<sup>1</sup> Source for all figures save Party Identification is U.S. Census Bureau Web site, <http://factfinder.census.gov>. Source for Party Identification is Nebraska Secretary of State Office's Web site, <http://www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/RegisteredVoters.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Data on race/ethnicity are based on participants' self-reports. They may have reported one race during the pre-deliberation recruiting call, and another race on the post-deliberation written survey.

<sup>3</sup> The Census category is "Hispanic or Latino (of any race)"

<sup>4</sup> The Census category is "White"

<sup>5</sup> The Census category is "American Indian and Alaska Native"

<sup>6</sup> The Census category is "Less than 9th grade"

<sup>7</sup> The Census category is "9th to 12th grade, no diploma"

<sup>8</sup> The Census category is "High school graduate (includes equivalency)"

<sup>9</sup> The closest comparable Census category is "Associate Degree"

<sup>10</sup> The Census category is "Some college, no degree"

<sup>11</sup> The Census category is "Bachelor's degree"

<sup>12</sup> The Census category is "Graduate or professional degree"

<sup>13</sup> The numbers for Lincoln Population do not add to 100 because younger people comprise the remaining 17.5% of Lincoln's population.





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