LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY

City of Lincoln Ballot Issues 2026

This guide has been developed by the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County (LWVLL) - a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) whose aim is to educate and empower voters. For more information about the candidates on your ballot, visit https://www.vote411.org/
For more information - Lancaster County Election Commission's website https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/314/Election-Commissioner
***Text in italics** is the official language that will be on the ballot.*
Regular text has been developed by the LWVLL to further clarify the questions on the ballot.

City of Lincoln Ballot Question 1
VOLLEYBALL SPORTS COMPLEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Official Language	*N4VB, a Nebraska nonprofit corporation, and the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, propose to establish a volleyball sports complex economic development project by appropriating annually from state assistance received by the City pursuant to the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act for the purpose of funding a volleyball sports complex to be owned by N4VB, and related infrastructure improvements, which may include financing of the privately owned sports complex through issuance of revenue bonds to be repaid from such state assistance.* *Shall the City of Lincoln, Nebraska establish a volleyball sports complex economic development project as described above by appropriating annually from state assistance received by the City pursuant to the Sports Arena Financing Assistance Act?*
Description	This ballot measure will allow N4VB (Nebraska for Volleyball) and the City of Lincoln to utilize the **Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act (SAFFAA)**, which is a Nebraska law that allows local political subdivisions and nonprofit corporations to apply for state financial assistance to build or improve sports complexes and large public arenas. It acts as a "turnback tax" incentive program, providing funding through a portion of state sales taxes collected at the facility, box office ticket sales, and new sales taxes generated by nearby businesses. For the proposed volleyball sports complex, the project would be eligible to secure roughly **$12 million** (around 70% to 75% of the total construction costs) via the state's turnback tax incentive program. N4VB would need to raise the remaining approximately **$5 million** in construction costs through private donations and corporate sponsorships. The city of Lincoln would join as co-applicant with N4VB for assistance under SAFFAA for the proposed project and would issue revenue bonds to pay for the $12 million portion of the construction costs. Redirected tax money, through the "turnback tax" incentive program would be repaid to the city for 20 years to pay off the construction revenue bonds used to build it.
For	A vote "FOR" authorizes the City to establish a volleyball sports complex economic development project and appropriate state assistance to such project.
Against	A vote "AGAINST" will not authorize the City to establish a volleyball sports complex economic development project and appropriate state assistance to such project.

City of Lincoln Ballot Question 2
CITY OF LINCOLN ELECTION TIMING

Official Language	*Shall Articles III and IV of the Lincoln City Charter be amended to align city elections with statewide elections beginning in 2028 so that mayoral and district council member elections are held in both 2027 and 2028; and that at-large council members elected in 2025 shall serve until their successors are elected in 2030; and that elected terms of a length different than four-years due to this provision shall count as a four-year term for purposes of term limits?*
Description	This ballot measure would change Lincoln's city elections from the current odd-year schedule to an even-year schedule, aligning with the statewide primary and general elections beginning in **2028**. If passed, the city's three at-large City Council members, who were elected to four-year terms in **2025**, would instead serve approximately 4 years and eight months to align with the **2030** state-wide election. Meanwhile, the mayor and four district-bound City Council members who will be elected to four-year terms next year, in **2027**, would have their term shortened to 1 year and eight months to align with the state-wide election in **2028.**
For	A vote "FOR" moves the Lincoln city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with statewide elections, starting in **2028**.
Against	A vote "AGAINST" keeps the current odd-year schedule for Lincoln city elections

City of Lincoln Ballot Question 3
CITY OF LINCOLN ELECTION TIMING

Official Language	*City's Alternative Amendment: Shall Articles III and IV of the Lincoln City Charter be amended to align city elections with statewide elections beginning in 2030 so that mayoral and district council member elections are held in both 2027 and 2030; and that at-large council member elections are held in both 2029 and 2032; and that elected terms of a length different than four-years due to this provision shall count as a four-year term for purposes of term limits?*
Description	This ballot measure would change Lincoln's city elections from the current odd-year schedule to an even-year schedule, aligning with the statewide primary and general elections beginning in 2030. If passed, the mayor and four district-bound City Council members who will be elected to four-year terms next year, in May **2027**, shall have their terms reduced to approximately three years and eight months ending when the officers elected at the **2030** state-wide general election take office. The city's three at-large City Council members who will be elected in May **2029**, shall have their terms reduced to approximately 3 years and eight months ending when the officers elected at the **2032** state-wide general election take office.
For	A vote "FOR" moves the Lincoln city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with statewide elections, starting in **2030**.
Against	A vote "AGAINST" keeps the current odd-year schedule for Lincoln city elections

City of Lincoln Ballot Question 4
TERM LIMITS

Official Language	*Shall Articles III, section 4 of the charter be amended to provide that council members shall not be qualified to hold office for more than two consecutive four-year terms?*
Description	This ballot measure would institute term limits for city council members to two consecutive four-year terms beginning with the May 2027 city general election. There is no limit currently. Council members' terms beginning before 2027 would not count toward the proposed term limits.
For	A vote "FOR" institutes term limits for Lincoln City Council members to not more than **two** consecutive four-year terms
Against	*A vote "AGAINST" keeps* the current no term limit for city council members

City of Lincoln Ballot Question 5
TERM LIMITS

Official Language	*City's Alternative Amendment: Shall Articles III, section 4 of the charter be amended to provide that council members shall not be qualified to hold office for more than three consecutive four-year terms?*
Description	This ballot measure would institute term limits for city council members to three consecutive four-year terms beginning with the May 2027 city general election. There is no limit currently. Council members' terms beginning before 2027 would not count toward the proposed term limits.
For	*A vote "FOR"* institutes term limits for Lincoln City Council members to not more than **three** consecutive four-year terms
Against	*A vote "AGAINST" keeps* the current no term limit for city council members

City of Lincoln Ballot Question 6

EXTRATERRITORIAL ZONING JURISDICTION VOTING IN CITY ELECTIONS

Official Language	*Shall Articles III, section 2 and Article IV, section 2A of the charter be amended to allow all citizens residing in the three-mile extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction around the city, but not within the city's corporate limits, to vote in its elections?*
Description	Currently only individuals residing within Lincoln city limits for at least three months are eligible to vote in city elections. This ballot measure would add individuals living in a 3-mile "extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction" to vote in city elections, excluding city bond elections. **Additional context:** • An extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction is a designated buffer zone just outside a city's formal corporate limits. • The extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction residents are subject to most city zoning ordinances and regulations but do not pay the same taxes to the city as city residents, including city property taxes and wheel tax. • The Lincoln City Council manages final zoning decisions, codes, and map changes inside the city limits and within a 3-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners governs zoning regulations and land use for the remaining unincorporated areas of the county.
For	*A vote "FOR" a*llows citizens within the 3-mile extraterritorial zone jurisdiction outside of the city's formal corporate limits to vote in Lincoln city elections, but not bond issues.
Against	*A vote "AGAINST" keeps the only citizens eligible to vote Lincoln city elections as those residing in the city's formal corporate limits.*

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

Sept. 28 – Early vote ballots mailed out.
Oct. 5 – Early Voting **IN PERSON** begins at Election Commission.
Oct.16 – Deadline to register to vote online (by midnight), by mail (postmarked by Oct. 16), at a state agency (DMV, DHHS, Dept. of Ed., via deputy registrar (by 6 pm) or via personal agent at Election Commission (by 4:30 pm).
Oct. 23 – Last day to register to vote **IN PERSON** at Election Commission (by 6 pm).
Oct. 23 – Deadline to request an early voting application be mailed (by 6 pm).
Nov. 2 – Last day to vote early at a county election commission office (by 5 pm).
Nov. 3 – Election Day. Polls open at 8 am CT (7 am MT) and close at 8 pm CT (7 pm MT). Early ballots due back to county election offices by the close of polls.