DECODING THE BALLOT 2019 PRIMARY ELECTION

Lancaster County, Nebraska	Municipal Election	April 9, 2019

Decoding the Ballot is a nonpartisan resource created by Civic Nebraska to help explain what elected offices are on your ballot and what they actually do. State and local government has a real impact on our day-to-day lives, and voting in those races couldn't be more important.

There are hundreds of different ballots used in each Nebraska election (they're all different based on where you live), so we've included some of the most common. Each entry includes a brief description of the office's responsibilities, term limits, and salary (if applicable).

As always, if you have questions or need more information, you can always contact our office at 402-904-5191, or e-mail me at john.cartier@ civicnebraska.org.

Thank you for being an informed participant in your democracy!

John Cartier
Director of Voting Rights
Civic Nebraska

City Ticket

For Mayor

⬭   The mayor is the chief executive officer and administrative head of city government. The mayor serves a four-year term, and can serve a maximum of three terms. The mayor's salary is $84,000 a year.

⬭   The mayor is largely elected on a non-partisan basis. There is now a term limit. The mayor works with City Council in matters relating to legislation, including the city's annual budget.

⬭   The mayor does not vote on issues before the Council. However, the mayor signs or vetoes City Council legislation. Only emergency ordinances or enactments relating to emergency appropriations or borrowing cannot be vetoed. The City Council can pass an ordinance over the mayor's veto by an override vote of five of its members.

For City Council

⬭   The Lincoln City Council passes laws, budgets city money, and has authority to investigate city agencies and employees. The Lincoln City Council has 7 members, 4 from equally populated districts and 3 elected at large.

⬭   Each City Council member receives a salary of $24,000. The Council meets most Mondays in regular session.

For Lincoln Board of Education

⬭   The Board sees the primary mission of Lincoln Public Schools to be the development of responsible adults, who are productive citizens of a community, nation, and world.

⬭   As the elected governing body of the School District, the Board believes in serving parents, students, and other citizens and staff members. Board Members are elected by district to four-year terms and serve without pay.

For Lincoln Airport Authority

⬭   The Lincoln Airport is owned by the public and managed by elected board of officials. Airport Authority members serve six-year terms and are elected by voters citywide. Airport Authority Board members are unpaid, but have taxing authority.

⬭   The five member Airport Authority meets once a month and is responsible for setting policy and budget for the Lincoln Airport and its LNK Enterprise Park industrial area.

Ballot Initiatives

⬭   The process by which a public petition to vote on a statute or a constitutional amendment is enacted. Proponents must obtain a specific number of public signatures to start a ballot initiative.

⬭   There are two types of ballot initiatives: direct initiatives and indirect initiatives. Direct initiatives are placed on an electoral ballot immediately after the signature threshold has been achieved. Indirect initiatives are first referred to a legislative body and then put to public vote if the legislative body does not act on the initiative.

Bond Issues

⬭   A ballot initiative that asks voters to approve a city issuing debt securities in order to pay for public works projects that benefit the community at large.

⬭   Bonds are issued to address infrastructure projects that benefit the community at large instead of private recipients. Bonds are assured by a city's taxpayer structure.