

DECODING THE BALLOT 2019 GENERAL ELECTION

Lincoln, Nebraska	Municipal Election	May 7, 2019
<p>Decoding the Ballot is a nonpartisan resource created by Civic Nebraska to help explain what elected offices and initiatives 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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Thank you for being an informed participant in your democracy!</p>  <p>John Cartier Director of Voting Rights Civic Nebraska</p> 	<p>City Ticket</p> <p>For Mayor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The mayor is the chief executive officer and administrative head of Lincoln's 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 elected on a nonpartisan basis. The mayor works with the city council in matters relating to legislation, including the city's annual budget. ○ The mayor does not vote on issues before the council. Rather, 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 seven members. <p>For City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Lincoln City Council passes laws, budgets city funds, and has authority to investigate city agencies and employees. The Lincoln City Council has seven members: Four from equally populated districts and three elected at-large. ○ Each city council member receives a salary of \$24,000. The council meets most Mondays in regular session at 3 pm. <p>For Lincoln Board of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The board oversees the primary mission of Lincoln Public Schools: the development of responsible adults who are productive citizens of their community, nation, and world. ○ As the elected governing body of the school district, the board serves parents, students, and citizens and staff members. Members of the seven-person board are elected by district to four-year terms and serve without pay. <p>For Lincoln Airport Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Lincoln Airport is owned by the public and managed by an elected board of officials. Airport Authority members serve six-year terms and are elected by voters citywide. Airport Authority Board members are unpaid. ○ The five-member Airport Authority meets once a month. It is responsible for setting policy and budget for the Lincoln Airport and its LNK Enterprise Park industrial area. 	<p>Amendment to City Charter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The City Charter defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of the city's government. Voters have five proposed City Charter changes to consider May 7. They are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repeal of Article IV, Section 6 removes language requiring council members to post a surety bond as a requirement for serving on the council. If this section is repealed, council members still must have the modest bond under a provision of state law. ○ Repeal of Article IV, Section 17 removes language that gives the mayor and police chief the authority to draft any citizen to aid in suppressing a riot or to help enforce any city law. ○ Repeal of Article VIII, Section 13a removes language authorizing the city to own and operate a coal yard. ○ Repeal of Article IX, Section 3f removes language authorizing the city to issue up to \$1.5 million in bonds for a city auditorium without further voter consent. Passed before Pershing Auditorium was built, it was never used. ○ A new Article XII to clarify that Charter language referring to "he" or "his" is intended to be gender-neutral and should be interpreted that way.