

Mayor Launches Online Budget Survey

Lincoln

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It's time for Lincoln city leaders to put together the next city budget, and Mayor Chris Beutler says the national recession and its impact on sales taxes and property values have created a fiscal perfect storm and have left the City with few options. With that in mind, Mayor Beutler said Tuesday he wants help building the budget.

Lincoln residents can weigh in on the city budget through an online survey. The Mayor's Office says the Taking Charge survey focuses on programs and services that are in danger of being eliminated or reduced in the 2009-2010 budget. In a statement, Mayor Beutler said major budget choices must be made, and the community must be involved in those decisions.

Mayor Beutler said the budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year will be a "milestone in the city's history".

He said citizens need to make their vision clear, and help elected officials make decisions on how to spend city dollars, and evaluate the need for city services.

"If the community is unwilling to support these services, they must understand that we will be committing ourselves to a lesser quality of service in the future. The Lincoln that we know and love will be diminished," Beutler said.

A statement from the Mayor's Office said the city is again working with the **University of Nebraska** Public Policy Center on the current survey, and the project is receiving funding from the Sloan Foundation.

According to the statement, the survey will take about 20 to 25 minutes to complete. Those taking the survey will answer a series of questions selected at random from a larger pool. Specific topics include Library services; pools and other Parks and Recreation programs and facilities; health programs to prevent injury and disease; Police services; stormwater, floodplain and development review; and snow removal.

The Mayor is scheduled to make his decisions on the 2009-2010 City budget in May, and the budget is released to the public in June. The City Council votes on tentative changes to the Mayor's budget in July. The public hearing and Council adoption of the budget are scheduled for August.

Click on the link below to see the survey.

[Lincoln Budget Priorities Survey](#)