

# Mayor seeks input

Lincoln's mayor isn't the only one looking to the citizenry for help in making big budget decisions.

The mayor recently conducted an online survey and town hall-type meeting to help make budget decisions, such as whether to close pools and libraries or whether people would be willing to increase taxes to keep them open.

According to Alan Tomkins, director of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, which helped organize the survey and town hall this year and similar work last year, several dozen communities nationwide undergo similar efforts to help shape budgets.

Among them: Los Angeles, Auburn, Ala., Boston, Philadelphia and Fort Collins, Colo.