

We would like you to meet

Joe Hewgley

Our Lincoln County Commissioner

Joe is a life long resident of North Platte. His father Ray was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad until his retirement in June of 1975. Joe helped put himself through college by working summers on various U.P. maintenance-of-way extra gangs.

While at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Joe met and married Penny Saal, a Psychology Major at the university. Upon their graduation in May of 1973, Joe and Penny returned "home" to North Platte.

Joe and Penny are blessed with three children; Laura, a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law; and Tony and Melissa, who are both graduates of the University at Kearney. With both Tony and Melissa choosing to return to North Platte to raise their own families, Joe knows our children are our future, and wants to do everything humanly possible to see that North Platte continues to be a healthy and growing community that will give our children and grand-children the same opportunities we have had.

3 Good Reasons to keep

Joe Hewgley

Our District #1 County Commissioner

1. LOWER PROPERTY TAXES

Joe has voted on the county board for 26 years, and each year he has voted to reduce the proposed Lincoln County budget requests, resulting in a savings of more than \$1.2 million -- just in his first three years of office.

During his time, the county initiated several cost-saving procedures to help offset an additional \$400,000 in lost federal dollars, as well as nearly \$1.5 million in state cuts during the last three years. By comparison, during the past three city administrations (covering 15 years), we have seen the city property tax levy increase more than 56%. Lincoln County's portion of the overall tax levy has DECREASED NEARLY 10% IN THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME.

Lincoln County continues to maintain one of the lower tax levies in the state, currently ranking 3rd lowest among counties of comparable size.

We unfortunately have not fared quite as well with the North Platte levy. During the past three city administrations we have seen a sharp increase in spending. In addition to higher city tax levies, sales tax revenues alone have boosted city revenue, totaling more than \$78 million during the past 14 years with more than \$7 million more expected in 2011-2012 tax year. By comparison, that equates to over 64% of the total revenue the county generates from our county property tax. We have also seen city utility rates take a dramatic increase during this same period of time. City water and sewer rates have increased by 253% and 363% respectively, with electric rates increasing by over 90%.

"Those of us in Government also need to learn to do more with less, just as we do in our everyday lives," it is often said.

Thanks to Joe, Lincoln County is DOING MORE WITH LESS!

2. BETTER GOVERNMENT, NOT BIGGER GOVERNMENT

Joe has been a leader in establishing shared City and County services and the efficient use of governmental funds, such as:

- A. Shared services of City Engineer and County Surveyor
- B. Combined Administrator for City/County Planning Office.
- C. Combined North Platte and Lincoln County Law Enforcement Dispatch.
- D. The combined efficient use of buildings, personnel and equipment has been a direct savings of thousands of tax dollars to the citizens of North Platte and Lincoln County.

3. EXPERIENCE

Joe has worked very hard the past 26 years not only as your representative here at home, but also in seeing that your concerns are heard by elected officials in both Lincoln and Washington, D.C.

Through his presidencies of the Nebraska Association of County Officials, Joe helped write and introduce a law requiring the state to be financially responsible for "state prisoners" held in our county jail. This law was repealed last year because the state said they were having a difficult time with "their" budget. Joe was not impressed.

"Everyone is having a difficult time with their budget, including you and I, but we're still expected to pay our own bills," he said.

Through his presidency in NACO, Joe has worked and continues to work to get a law passed that would make individuals "convicted" of a crime and placed in our county jail, at least partially responsible for their own expenses.

A message from Joe

I want to personally thank each and every one of you that has offered your counsel and support over these past 26 years.

I think we have made some significant improvements in the operation of our county government. We have improved our roads and replaced well over 100 deficient bridges. But there is still much left to do. We must continue work with the Legislature to help relieve the burden now carried by our state's property tax payers. We also have a great deal of work to do, in not only strengthening our existing industries, but also attracting new industry to our area.

The next couple of years are going to be extremely trying times for local government. We must continue to make all of our government agencies not only more efficient, but more responsive to the taxpayers of North Platte and Lincoln County.

It won't be easy, but with your help we can overcome these obstacles and continue to build on the strong foundation we have laid these past years.

GOD has truly blessed the Hewgley household and may HE bless each and every one of your families as well.

