



UNL law student John Robinson . . . "The current city council hasn't listened enough to all the citizens of the city."

UNL duo seeks city posts

by Tim Anderson

A summary of the upcoming Lincoln city primary election will be published in the Daily Nebraskan Thursday.

A UNL student and an administrator—John Robinson and Harry S. Allen—will be among the 17 candidates for city council in the April 3 primary election.

Robinson, a 29-year-old law student, said his previous involvement in Lincoln government convinced him to seek office.

"The current city council hasn't listened enough to all the citizens of the city," Robinson said.

Robinson, who will graduate in May from the UNL Law College, was involved last year in development of a set of goals and policies for the city and Lancaster County.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Goals and Policies Committee was directed by local government officials to design the document and to advise on its implementation, Robinson said.

However, Robinson said he is critical of the city council's treatment of the report.

"The goals and policies report, for all practical purposes, has been ignored by our city government," he said. "I believe that the least the city council can do is recognize the existence of the document. They have had this report in their hands since the middle of last year and they have yet to officially comment on it."

In addition to his involvement in developing the report, he is also a member of the Goals and Policies Monitoring Committee, which succeeded the original committee.

According to Robinson, the Goals and Policies report touches virtually all aspects of city life, several of which he sees as crucial issues in the upcoming campaign.

Two of these issues, he said, are citizen involvement in the workings of city government and the preservation of the quality of neighborhood life.

Allen, UNL director of Institutional Research and Planning, also has a record of professional service in both government and education.

The 50-year-old director is a member of the Executive Committee of Lincoln Community Services and chairman of its planning division. He is also a member of the Mayor's Housing Committee and the Commission on Human Rights.

He also is one of three directors of the federally-funded Lincoln Housing Survey.

Allen said he believes the key issue facing Lincoln is "sound development of the community in a period of great pressure for uncoordinated growth."

"I am strongly in favor of strict interpretation of existing zoning laws," he said, "but I believe that the city should make a major review of its master plan."

Allen said, if elected, he would advance the concept of neighborhood improvement groups as a way of revitalizing the central city, rather than favoring a "bulldozer" approach to urban renewal.

"We need to find a way of encouraging improvement of existing neighborhoods, including public funds invested in public facilities such as streets, parks and utilities," he said.

He added that he also would hope to use his position on the council to advance county-city cooperation in many areas.

J. James Plant, a student lobbyist, filed last Wednesday as a candidate for the city council, but was disqualified Thursday by Election Commissioner Bill Davidson.

According to Davidson, Plant's petition contained only 97 valid signature instead of the required 100.

Plant, 30, said he may contest Davidson's ruling.

Other candidates for the council are:

Merlyn McLaughlin, vice president of Superior Equity Corp.; **Wilma Street**, low income spokesman and Lincoln Action Program representative; **William R. Thierstein**, attorney.

Sue Bailey, former Lincoln League of Women Voters officer and housewife; **James N. Bourne**, general manager of Executive Care Free Vacations, Ltd.; **Nancy Childs**, realtor and housewife.

Max A. Denney, attorney; **Jack Hunter**, realtor with Byron Reed Realty Co.; **Ray E. Judds**, owner of Judds Brothers Construction Co.

Emmett Junge, retired Public Safety Director; **John V. King**, account executive with Botel Investments, Inc.; **Charles H. Kitchen**, retired plasterer.

Robert P. Muggy, plumber and labor leader; **Norman L. Peterson**, vice president of Lincoln Production Credit Assn.; **Harold Sheldon**, employe of American Stores.

daily nebraskan

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