

Proposal called 'unnecessary'

Republicans vote against land valuation amendment

By Brad Gifford
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

After hearing presentations for and against, people attending the Lancaster County Republican Party's committee meeting Thursday night voted 19-10 against a

proposed agricultural land valuation amendment. The public was invited to the meeting, which was designed to simplify the Amendment No. 4 issue, but committee members and other prominent Republicans mainly comprised the crowd.

The vote, an unofficial straw poll, does not necessarily reflect the position of the county party.

The amendment was drafted in response to a January Nebraska Supreme Court decision which held that assessing agricultural land significantly lower than residential and commercial property violates state law. To comply with that ruling, agricultural land valuations would have to be drastically increased or the constitution changed.

Bryce Neidig, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, spoke for the amendment, stressing that its passage would not automatically change valua-

tions. "All the amendment would do is give the legislature the power to change valuations," Neidig said.

Agricultural land valuations will increase whether the amendment is passed or not, Neidig said, but Amendment No. 4 could be "more fair to farmers."

"This is not a tax break for agriculture," he said.

Charles Bacon of the Nebraska Tax Research Council said the amendment is unnecessary because the state has worked around the unconstitutionality of uneven tax valuations.

"It would just legalize something we've been doing the past 117 years," Bacon said.

Although Nebraska is one of only three states that does not value agricultural land separately, Bacon said creating another class of valuation would cause more complexity than continuity in the state tax system.

Neidig and Bacon agreed that the major fault of the amendment is that, if passed, it would allow the legislature to set new valuations every year. They also agreed that it could establish a precedent for other groups who think they are being unfairly taxed.

"From where we're at now," Neidig said, "this is still the best alternative."



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The following incidents were reported to UNL police between 1:49 a.m. Thursday and 11:10 p.m. Saturday.

- Thursday**
1:49 p.m. — Person reportedly heard screaming at 16th and S streets. Person was gone when police arrived.
2:15 a.m. — Two people reportedly attempted to steal a meter head from the metered lot at Abel Hall. Meter head was recovered and no one was found by the police.
9:05 a.m. — Something obscene report-

edly painted on a vehicle in the parking lot of University Terrace, 17th and R streets.

10:50 a.m. — UNL police assisted the Lincoln sheriff's office with an arrest warrant.

12:25 p.m. — UNL police helped Lincoln police attempt to locate a person suspected of shoplifting.

1:26 p.m. — Man reported to be causing a disturbance at Love Library.

1:36 p.m. — Grill damage reported to a vehicle in Parking Area 6 on East Campus.

2:53 p.m. — Parking permit reported stolen from a book bag at Love Library.

4:21 p.m. — Belated report of football tickets stolen from Memorial Stadium.

5:58 p.m. — Medical emergency reported at Pound Hall. Person was transported to Lincoln General Hospital.

Friday
8:30 a.m. — Purse reported lost or stolen from Pound Hall.

9:04 a.m. — Car reportedly sprayed with graphite at 17th and Holdrege streets.

12:42 a.m. — Two-car accident reported in the metered lot near Nebraska Union. No injuries were reported.

10:47 a.m. — Electronic equipment reported stolen from the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Follow-up showed that the equipment had been picked up by employee.

11:20 a.m. — Door knocker reported stolen from 1229 R St.

12:30 p.m. — Alleged vandalism reported to a vehicle in Parking Area 12 near 18th street from T to U streets.

1:17 p.m. — Bicycle reported stolen from Pound Hall.

1:18 p.m. — Money reported stolen from a coin operated machine in Bancroft Hall.

3:50 p.m. — Football tickets reported stolen from 335 N. 18th St.

5:51 p.m. — UNL police helped Lincoln police look for someone on a mental health warrant.

5:53 p.m. — Alleged vandalism reported to a car in Parking Area 1 at 17th and R streets.

6:54 p.m. — Suspicious person reported at Selleck Quadrangle. Person was contacted by officers.

9:13 p.m. — Indecent exposure reported at the Coliseum.

11:49 p.m. — Glass reported broken in a door at the Former Law Building.

Saturday
1:16 a.m. — Assault reported at Abel Hall. One person was arrested.

2:09 a.m. — Injury reported at Schramm hall. Person required stitches for a cut hand.

2:24 a.m. — Disturbance reported at 16th and S streets. Police were unable to locate anyone.

2:38 a.m. — Intoxicated person reported unconscious on the sidewalk at 16th and S streets.

2:44 a.m. — Window reported broken at Harper food service. Window allegedly was broken when someone tripped and fell.

5:58 a.m. — Two coats reported stolen from a vehicle in Parking Area 10 at 17th and Vine streets.

2:14 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident reported in Parking Area 31 on East Campus.

10:11 p.m. — Disturbance reported at 16th and S streets.

10:35 p.m. — Vandalism reported in Parking Area 12 at 14th and Vine streets.

11:10 p.m. — Suspicious person reported in Parking Area 12 at 14th and Vine streets.



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