

# OPINION

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Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
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## X marks the spot

*Voters deserve multiple ballot choices*

Lincoln voters have some tough choices to make in today's primary election.

For mayor, it's either Mike Johanns or a write-in candidate.

Four city council seats up for grabs. The voters' choices? In the first district, it's Coleen Seng or a create-your-own candidate. In the second district, vote Linda Wilson or write someone in. In the fourth district, Curt Donaldson is sweating it out against ... no one.

Five key positions in the Lincoln city government are contested. But only one position — the third city council district — has two candidates listed on the ballot. Any challengers in the other races come from write-ins.

Voting is a wonderful right and privilege, but when voters have almost no choice but to "X" the one name on the ballot, there seems no point. The decisions already are made.

Johanns, who has performed well as mayor, is basically in a popularity contest. Perhaps the ballot should read, "Do you approve or disapprove of Mike Johanns' performance as mayor?" The mayor has no need to campaign and no reason to reach out to the voters. He knows they must come to him.

That is a problem. Perhaps Johanns has extensive plans to reach the voters later this year, but this is doubtful.

Voters are going to have less information in this election to make an informed decision. Issues will be absent. If anything, a write-in candidate should come forward to challenge the unopposed candidates' views.

Johanns and the three unopposed city council candidates need to try to reach voters before November's general election. They need to have forums in neighborhoods and around Lincoln to let voters know their plans for the next four years.

## Foolish fad

*Voting remains best way to limit terms*

America's elected officials are breathing easy this week.

Last week, the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives failed to approve a constitutional amendment for term limits, marking the first defeat for the Contract With America.

But more than a victory for the Democrats, it's a victory for American voters.

Term limits are a bad idea whose time has not and will not come.

As was repeated last week by seemingly every Democrat taking the floor: We already have term limits. They're called elections.

As corny as that statement is, there is truth to it. What kind of democracy would we live in if we did not allow someone to run for office? And just because they have experience?

Sure, there are plenty of Washington politicians who are out of touch with their constituents. But if voters take the initiative, those people can be swept out of office.

But by not letting career politicians run again, we lose the good ones with the bad ones. That's something we can't afford to do.

"Term limits" is a buzzword in this day and age, oddly enough a battle cry for some who run for office, including Nebraska 2nd District Representative Jon Christensen.

Nebraska voters have bought the "good news," twice passing initiatives that would limit the number of terms someone can serve.

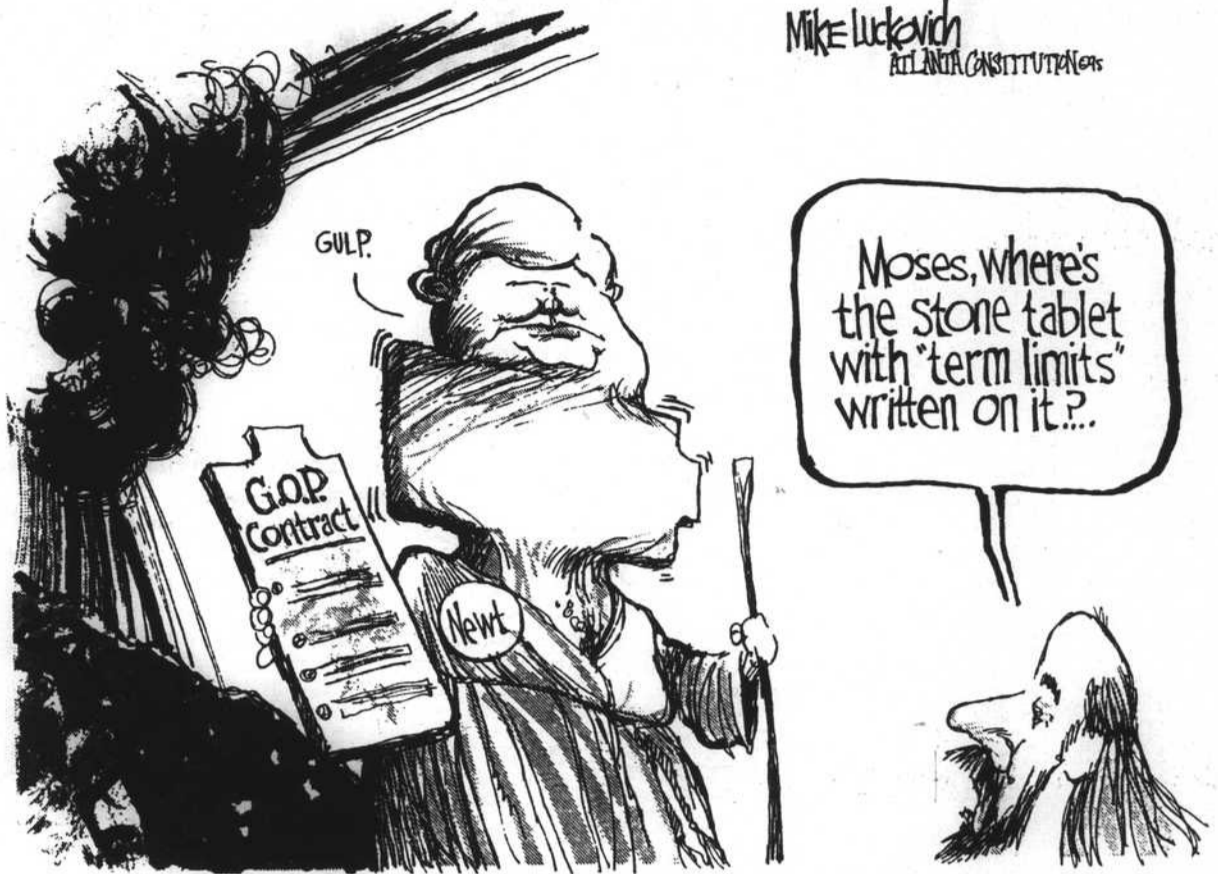
Those proposals go directly against the U.S. Constitution. And they go against common sense.

### Editorial policy

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The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



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to: (402) 472-1761. Letters  
must be signed and include a  
phone number for  
verification.**

### 'More than sports'

I am writing this letter in response to DeDra Janssen's article titled "Learning to lose" (March 20). I was pleased that an article was written about our boy's basketball team and school, but I feel that the story did not portray our school and community accurately.

We have been fortunate enough to be very successful in athletics in recent years; however, we are quite proud of all aspects of our school and community. We feel that our academic expectations and achievements are top-notch as well.

We have had the Conference Academic winner three of the past five years. Most of our athletes are consistently on the honor roll and are members of the National Honor Society.

In addition, one of our recent alumni, Jami Kubik, now a freshman on the Husker women's basketball team, earned Academic All-Big Eight with a 4.0 GPA this past semester. We are very proud of her accomplishments.

With a senior-high enrollment of 140 students, we have 90 members in our band and 60 vocal music students. Our band and chorus groups have received superior ratings at district competition through the last number of years. We have also presented major musical performances the last three years.

I could go on and on; however, the point I am making is that we are more than a sports school. Teachers do give assignments on game days, and we do accept losses with dignity.

I would say that we have been fortunate to have a group of very competitive student athletes with the right work ethic who have had a number of excellent coaches. Combine these attributes with a very supportive community, and success has been the result.

Ron Streit  
Cambridge Secondary principal



Bret Gottschall/DN

### Lied protest

I am writing in response to the anti-gay protest outside the Lied Center for Performing Arts on March 28. As a Christian, I would like to begin by apologizing to both the homosexuals and heterosexuals who were offended by the actions of the group of protesters from Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan.

I am ashamed of their actions as Christians, and have yet to witness a more disgusting display of hate hidden behind the name of God. God hates sin, not people.

Christ taught love, not hate. Christians may disapprove of the homosexual lifestyle, but hurling hate-filled insults oversteps the boundary of moral disapproval. Christ would never have condoned or contributed to such unloving actions. Christians may not love the sin, but they are called to love the people.

Suzanne Cimino  
sophomore  
agronomy

### 'Real class'

I wish to extend a note of thanks to Erick Strickland and Jaron Boone

for being so cordial with us March 30 and 31. On those days, I brought some students to tour the Lincoln museums and have lunch at the student union.

The students were thrilled to see and visit with Erick. He was very kind and social with the exuberant crowd of middle-school students from his old school in Bellevue.

Erick, you showed real class. Thanks.

Dave Zach  
science teacher  
Mission Middle School  
Bellevue

### Right to privacy

So stunned was I by your March 30 editorial regarding the protesters at the home of Dr. Winston Crabb, I re-read the item three times. Was this an early release of an editorial meant for your annual joke issue on April Fool's Day?

"But the citizens of Lincoln do need to know what Crabb is up to. The doctor's Country Club neighbors need to know what he does when he goes out of town." SINCE WHEN?!

Do I expect to be kept informed if my dentist practices oral surgery in Omaha? What if my lawyer does a seminar or, for that matter, coaches little-league softball in Walton? Should your neighborhood know what YOU are "up to" when you go out of town?

Remember, this is America. Nobody's neighbors have the right or the need to know the details of anyone's life unless they are in violation of the law. The Supreme Court has ruled that abortion is a legally protected medical procedure and it has inferred a right to privacy under the Constitution.

Although these protesters may have a right to voice their opinions, the Crabb family has the right to live in Lincoln without being terrorized.

Christine Scudder  
Lincoln