



Tama County, Iowa  
Economic Development

# Lincoln, Iowa

## The story of Lincoln...

With the coming of the railroad, a new town was born. Mr. Charles Spencer was the first to locate in the town as he owned most of the land. The town was in need of a name and Mr. Spencer decided to name the new town for himself, but a short time later found out there was already a Spencer so he picked the name "Augusta" in honor of his wife. Again he learned that his choice had been used for another town. Finally it was decided to call the new town "Bellin" for a town in Scotland which his wife loved. The word was misinterpreted and appeared as "Berlin" on the official maps and document. Because it was a German community, the name Berlin was accepted and became official. The 1892 plat map shows a number of businesses which were in operation at that time. In 1913 Berlin was incorporated.

Life continued smoothly for people in this little town until the outbreak of World War I. Soon those of German birth or descent were subject to verbal and physical abuse by those who questioned their loyalties. To demonstrate their support of the United States and to indicate that the majority of the people were loyal to her, the council decided to select another name for the town. It was suggested that "Lincoln" be chosen and on June 12, 1918, the name was approved.

The city council strives to keep Lincoln a clean city. A new water and sewer system has recently been installed.



**Location:** Lincoln is located in east central Iowa along county road D65. Lincoln is 1 mile west of county road T47, 12 miles west of U.S. highway 63 and 19 miles north of U.S. highway 30.

**Population:** 158 (2005).

**Per Capita Income:** \$14,313 (2000); county average \$24,112 (2002); state average, \$28,089 (2002); median household income \$33,750 (2000).

**Geography/Climate:** Gently rolling mid-continent farmlands. Four sharply etched seasons. A few brittle cold winter days may not rise above zero; a few sultry summer days may reach high 90's. July average temperature is 72; January average temperature is 14. Precipitation averages: 35 inches of rain, 32 inches of snow.

**Employment:** Corn, soybeans, cattle, & hogs anchor the agricultural economy. Larger pay-rolls: Heartland Co-op, Lincoln Savings Bank.

**Financial Institutions:** 1 commercial bank: Lincoln Savings Bank has 12 statewide locations with total deposits of \$325,219,000.

**Newspaper:** Northern Sun Print, published Fridays. One-year subscription: \$39.00. Other regional newspapers: Marshalltown Times-Republican, Des Moines Register, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Waterloo Courier, El Heraldo Hispano.



**Communications:** Local Public Access, Cable and broadband available via Mediacom. Phone service and High Speed DSL internet via lowatelecom.

**Utilities:** Alliant Energy provides electric service and natural gas for residents of Lincoln. Alliant offers a rebate for customers who build an energy-efficient home. Water & sewer are provided by the City of Lincoln.

**Health Care:** Nearest medical clinic is in Gladbrook, 5 miles away.

**Schools:** Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District: enrollment of 745; 13.2 students per teacher, \$6,351 spending per student. State ACT average 22; SAT average 1204, graduation rate 89.4%.

**Educational Level:** 8% of Lincoln residents have an associate's degree; 7% have a bachelor's degree; 0% have a graduate or professional degree.

**Library:** Nearest library is in Gladbrook, 5 miles away.

**Recreation:** 1 city park. Swimming, fishing, boating, camping at Union Grove State Park, south of Lincoln.

**Housing:** Median value of housing units in Tama County (2000) is \$64,200; median gross rent of units in Tama County (2000) is \$418.

**Taxes:** State sales tax rate is 5% plus Lincoln's local option sales tax is 1% and school infrastructure local option tax is 1% for a total sales tax rate of 7% in Lincoln. State income tax rates range from 0.36% to 8.98% plus a base rate.

**Churches:** Salem Church of Lincoln.

**Further Information:**

City Clerk's Office

641-473-2793

[cityoflincoln@iowatelecom.net](mailto:cityoflincoln@iowatelecom.net)

Tama County Economic Development

[www.tamacountyiowa.org](http://www.tamacountyiowa.org)

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**What the People Say...**

Lincoln reminds me of Mayberry.

Lincoln has friendly people.

Lincoln has helpful and caring people.

Lincoln is the biggest little, best little city in Iowa.

