

# City of Wichita ACT ICT Community Engagement Survey Results

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WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

*Hugo Wall School of Urban  
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## **Disclaimer**

The study was conducted by the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs, Center for Urban Studies (HWS) at Wichita State University (WSU). The HWS is an independent research body not affiliated with the City of Wichita. This report was prepared by the research team. It represents the findings, views, opinions and conclusions of the research team only and the report does not express the official nor unofficial policy of the HWS or WSU. Information for this report was supplied by sources identified. The accuracy of findings for the report is dependent upon these sources.

## **Acknowledgements**

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# ACT ICT

## Community Engagement Survey Results

### February 17, 2014

#### **Background**

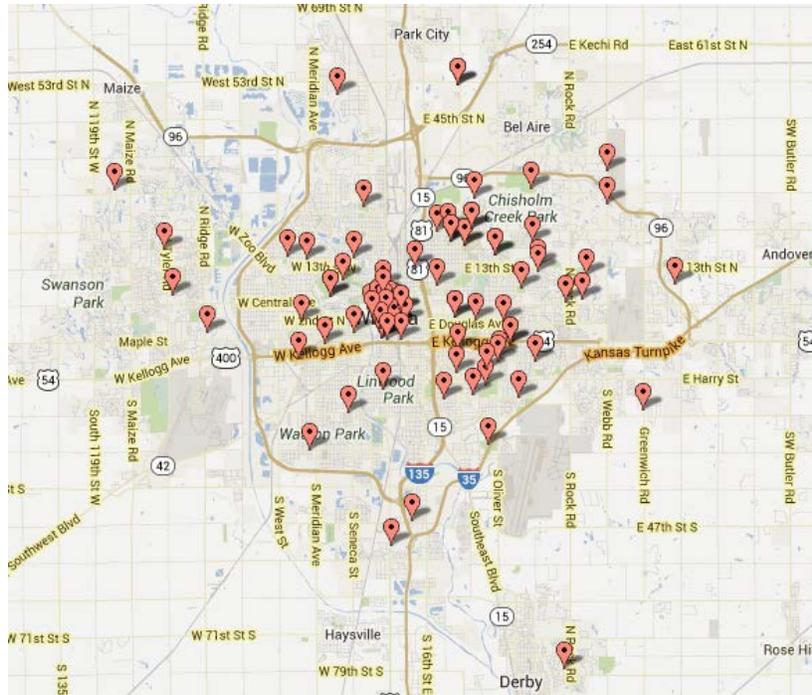
The City of Wichita undertook an intensive community engagement effort to receive citizen input on the community survey results from the Community Investments Plan, which was completed in April 2013. The Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs (HWS) at Wichita State University assisted the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County in the development, distribution and analysis of the survey. The survey was distributed to 25,000 Wichita and Sedgwick County residents and more than 4,000 surveys were returned. The survey results serve as a foundation for discussion of a vision, priorities and willingness to invest in the future. While the survey results provide a reliable and valid representation of citizen input, more discussion on the results was needed to clearly understand perspectives and priorities of citizens, and citizen preference on funding for how to invest in the community. The HWS assisted with developing the engagement process and training for the engagement project.

#### **Process**

The engagement project, ACT ICT, provided a structured discussion process to actively seek input from citizens on the survey results. The conversations provided opportunity to seek input on critical issues facing the City of Wichita, discuss a community vision, define community priorities, and identify willingness to pay for future commitments. In the ACT ICT project, approximately 400 organizations (neighborhood associations, business associations, civic groups, businesses and nonprofits) were contacted about hosting an ACT ICT meeting. A premise of the ACT ICT was to “go to” where the meetings already were occurring, instead of only having open forums or special meetings. By “going to” the citizens, the expectation was to engage more people and people that do not typically attend town hall type meetings.

The process was successful with 102 citizen meetings held from mid-September 2013 through January 2014 and more than 2,000 citizens participating in the discussion. Two of the meetings were open community meetings, while the other 100 were hosted by organizations. (*See Attachment A for the meetings.*) Significant efforts were made to communicate with organizations and the media to encourage participation in the process.

The following map provides indication of the locations for the meetings:



The 102 meetings followed a consistent format including (*See Attachment B for presentation materials*):

- Visioning Exercise
- Presentation on issues defined in the survey
- Survey results
- Prioritization Exercise (Define the most important issues for the community)
- Funding Exercise (Define how to pay for the priorities)

The conversations at the ACT ICT meetings provide insight into the survey results and supported the findings of the survey. All meetings requests were fulfilled from organizations or groups of citizens to host a meeting during the four-month timeframe. City staff members were trained and served as facilitators for the meetings. Meeting information was collected by the facilitators through meeting notes, electronic and paper prioritization exercises, and funding questionnaires. The meeting results were summarized and analyzed by the HWS.

### **The Community Vision**

The citizen survey included a series of items that were used to form an index that measured community attachment. In this case, community attachment is the degree to which citizens are

willing to make personal sacrifices to advance the long-term well-being of the community including supporting governmental investment of their tax dollars in ways that advance the public good (Glaser, Bruckner & Bannon 2010; Glaser, Wong & Bannon 2009). A series of survey questions highlight significant community attachment for citizens in Wichita, which include:

- **Balancing Community and self-interests:** Citizens in this community are willing to rise above their personal interest to do what is best for the community (72%)
- **Responsibility for the Well-Being of Future Generations:** Citizens of this community have a strong commitment to preserving the future and are willing to do their part so that a better community is left for the next generation. (86-98%)
- **Creation of Opportunity for All Citizens:** The community is willing to take responsibility to help create opportunity for all citizens IF citizens are willing to do their part. (93%-95%)

As participants in ACT ICT discussed their vision for Wichita, those values continued to be reflected in statements about creating opportunities through jobs; improving quality of life amenities for a community where young people want to live; ensuring a water supply for the next generation; and a focus on bringing the community together. A few specific quotes from the visioning process include:

*"We are the largest home of entrepreneurs....funding is necessary to identify, develop and train future business owners."*

*"A clean, long-term water supply is critical."*

*"We need opportunities for self-sufficiency for homeless and access to programs."*

*"Youth driven decisions-youth are connected to the community and driving its future."*

*"Don't lose "culture" identity and pride."*

Through the 102 meetings, there were 1,379 statements collected on a community vision. The HWS separated each statement and identified the top 60 words and presented in this word cloud format:



The HWS also quantified the statements in the following categories; the vision for the community focused on economic development issues, such as job creation and diversification. Culture/entertainment amenities was the second topic discussed most in the visioning process.

ACT-ICT Visioning Discussion Comments		
Vision Theme	Counts	Percentage
Affordable Housing/Cost of Living	22	2%
Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Events and Amenities	125	9%
Community Involvement (community pride, engagement, integration, and diversity)	66	5%
Community Marketing/Community Visual Appeal	77	6%
Core/Downtown/River	89	6%
Economic Development (Community Growth, Innovation, Job Creation and Diversification, Job Training, Business Promotion)	180	13%
Environment (Recycling, Trash Disposal Options, Air quality, Being "green")	51	4%
Transparent and Fiscally Responsible Local Government	60	4%
Healthy Community (Physical Health, Walkable/Bike Friendly, Parks, Green Space, Recreation)	90	7%

<b>Homelessness and Social Services</b>	29	2%
<b>Other</b>	65	5%
<b>Retention of Young Professionals</b>	40	3%
<b>Revitalization (neighborhoods, blighted areas)</b>	63	5%
<b>Safe Community</b>	60	4%
<b>Smaller Government</b>	37	3%
<b>Stormwater</b>	17	1%
<b>Streets (Arterials, Residential, Freeways, Sidewalks; Maintenance and Capacity)</b>	92	7%
<b>Public Transportation (Transit/Rail)</b>	93	7%
<b>Water/Sewer</b>	53	4%
<b>Youth (K-12 Education, Activities, Opportunities)</b>	70	5%

Below is provided a short summary of comments included within each vision theme category. Refer to *Attachment C* for an exhaustive list of visioning discussion comments.

*Affordable Housing/Cost of Living*

Comments made within the “Affordable Housing/Cost of Living” theme include, but are not limited to: lowering property taxes, expanding public housing Section 8, extending grants to non-profits to do low-income housing improvements, partnering with non-profit housing organizations to expand Section 8 options, rehabilitating blighted areas, upgrade and improving housing, increasing variety in residential housing choice, and simplifying process to apply for housing programs.

*Arts, Culture, Events, Entertainment and Amenities*

Comments made within the “Arts, Culture, Events, Entertainment and Amenities” include, but are not limited to: enhancing cultural opportunities, leverage arts partnerships, enhance performing arts, maintain and market unique historical identity of Wichita, invest in becoming an entertainment hub, modernize library system, and support of current arts, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

*Community Involvement (Community Pride, Engagement, Integration and Diversity)*

Comments made within the “Community Involvement” theme include, but are not limited to: encouraging community engagement, supporting neighborhoods and neighborhood associations, creation of positive Wichita image and community pride, create plan for Wichita’s future and go after it,

inspire leadership in community, promote diverse community that works with and cares for each other, and increase collaboration.

Community Marketing/Community Visual Appeal

Comments made within the “Community Marketing/Community Visual Appeal” theme include, but are not limited to: increasing city beautification efforts, becoming a place known for innovation, define a community brand, become a destination for tourists, market community better, improve neighborhood aesthetics, be aggressive and proactive in marketing community.

Core/Downtown/River

Comments made within the “Core/Downtown/River” theme include, but are not limited to: concentration on infill development, creation of a vibrant downtown with increased employment and residence, city investment in core area, increased river access, access to grocery stores in downtown, increased public events on river, and increased public safety in downtown and Old Town.

Economic Development (Community Growth, Innovation, Job Creation and Diversification, Job Training, Business Promotion)

Comments made within the “Economic Development” theme include, but are not limited to: growth of community, growth of medical industry, concentration on innovation and technology, diversifying economy beyond aircraft industry, investing in job training and mentoring programs, support local small businesses, become a fertile ground to grow a small business, attract companies/industries with professional jobs, and promote and encourage entrepreneurial spirit in Wichita.

Environment (Recycling, Trash Disposal Options, Air quality, Being "green")

Comments made within the “Environment” theme include: exploration of waste disposal alternatives, promotion of energy efficiency, showcasing sustainable systems and communities, creation of local recycling center, promotion of recycling, continuation of neighborhood cleanups, and prioritize the creation and conservation of a clean environment.

Transparent and Fiscally Responsible Local Government

Comments made within the “Transparent and Fiscally Responsible Local Government” theme include: government demonstration of accountability in public/private partnerships and incentives, encourage civil discussions between government and citizens, decrease politics – increase cooperation, emphasize debt control and reduction, increase fiscal transparency, and enhance communication between city hall and citizens through various modes of communication.

### Healthy Community (Physical Health, Walkable/Bike Friendly, Parks, Green Space, Recreation)

Comments made within the “Healthy Community” theme include, but are not limited to: increase access to healthy foods, become increasingly bike friendly through an expanded bike path network and bike friendly streets, encourage walkability in neighborhoods and downtown, increased green space and access to recreation, implementation of PROS plan, and promotion of good physical health.

### Homelessness and Social Services

Comments made within the “Homelessness and Social Services” theme include, but are not limited to: increase shelters or programs for homeless, provide resources for homeless population, enhance full spectrum of safety net services, improve community mental health services, provide increased access to services for jail population post release, and increase opportunities for all to achieve upward mobility.

### Other

Comments made within the “Other” theme include, but are not limited to: become a retirement destination, resolve the backlog to receive government services, City government provide excellent customer service, create a world-class airport - this is important for economic development, and leave Wichita as Wichita.

### Retention of Young Professionals

Comments made within the “Retention of Young Professionals” theme include, but are not limited to: promotion of higher education opportunities in Wichita, increase quality of life to retain young professionals, and become a top choice city for young professionals to live and work.

### Revitalization (neighborhoods, blighted areas)

Comments made within the “Revitalization” theme include, but are not limited to: revitalize neighborhoods, eliminate blight, reduce sprawl, promote and invest in clean and maintained neighborhoods, enforce housing codes, increase landlord accountability, increase revitalization and development south of Kellogg, and create safer and more vibrant neighborhoods.

### Safe Community

Comments made within the “Safe Community” theme include, but are not limited to: reduce gang violence, keep crime percent low, improve animal control, create a safer downtown, increase public access to tornado shelters and safe areas, decrease incarceration and recidivism through prevention programs, and maintain adequate financial support for police and fire.

### Smaller Government

Comments made within the “Smaller Government” theme include, but are not limited to: consider government consolidation (city and county), discontinue tax incentives, no competition between government and public sector, discontinue public/private partnerships, decrease regulation, lower taxes, and emphasize the free market.

### Stormwater

Comments made within the “Stormwater” theme include, but are not limited to: decrease street flooding, increase stream and river maintenance, concentrate on drainage improvements across Wichita, and place storm sewers in all neighborhoods.

### Streets (Arterials, Residential, Freeways, Sidewalks; Maintenance and Capacity)

Comments made within the “Streets” theme include, but are not limited to: maintain current infrastructure, improve citywide circulation, synchronize traffic signals, complete Kellogg freeway improvements, increase access to residential streets, prioritize street maintenance, increase sidewalks across Wichita to provide accessibility, regulate large truck traffic, increase capacity to decrease congestion, improve and maintain residential street network, and improve safety of bridges and frequently used interchanges.

### Public Transportation (Transit/Rail)

Comments made within the “Public Transportation” theme include: better/improved public transit, more accessible public transit (extended routes and times), creation of park and ride program, invest in passenger rail to other regional cities and light rail within city, more accessible public transit for seniors and low income residents, and consider smaller buses to improve efficiency and cut costs.

### Water/Sewer

Comments made within the “Water/Sewer” theme include, but are not limited to: secure long term water supply, promote conservation of water supply, explore grey water reclamation and reuse, and invest in maintenance and replacement of water/sewer infrastructure.

### Youth (K-12 Education, Activities, Opportunities)

Comments made within the “Youth” theme include, but are not limited to: create opportunities for next generation, develop further family friendly attractions and opportunities, support the betterment of USD 259, invest in early childhood education opportunities, provide safe entertainment and recreation options for youth and teens, and prioritize partnering with school system to ensure excellence in education opportunities.

## **The Priorities**

In the community survey, residents were asked several questions about economic development, water, community development and transportation. Respondents were asked to rank the importance of the issues and their willingness to pay to address those issues. The following are the survey results of the priorities for willingness to pay:

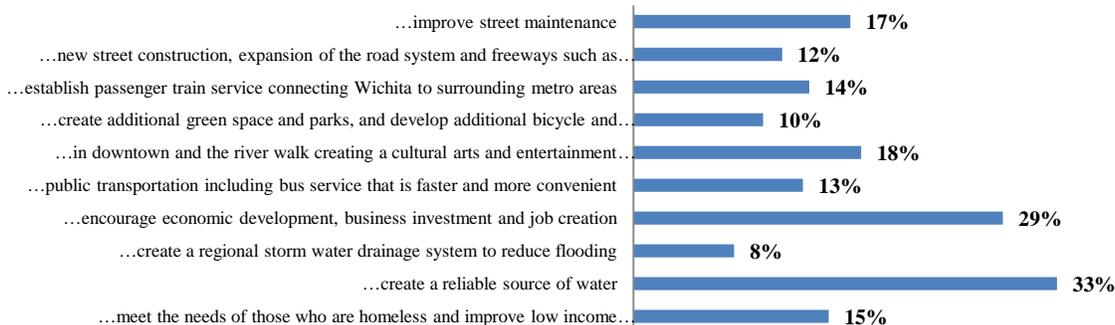
1. ...to create a reliable source of water that will meet the future water needs of the community (85.3%)
2. ...to improve street maintenance (66.4%)
3. ...to establish passenger train service connecting Wichita to cities such as Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth(65.3%)
4. ...to meet the needs of those who are homeless (63.4%)
5. ...to encourage economic development, business investment and job creation (62.3%)
6. ...that creates a regional storm water drainage system to reduce flooding (56.5%)
7. ...in public transportation including bus service that is faster and more convenient (54.7%)
8. ...in incentives for airlines that are willing to reduce the cost to fly into and out of Wichita Mid-Continent Airport (54.6%)
9. ...in freeways such as Kellogg and K-96 (51.4%)
10. ...in new street construction and the expansion of the road system (50.2%)
11. ...to improve low-income neighborhoods including housing (50.0%)
12. ...to develop additional bicycle and walking paths (41.0)
13. ...to create additional green space and parks (41.0%)
14. ...in downtown and the river walk creating a cultural arts and entertainment center where people want to live and business is willing to invest in office space (40.9%)

Participants in ACT ICT meetings were provided limited background information on the issues, asked questions and discussed the survey results regarding how these issues addressed the vision they had for the community. The priorities from the survey were captured in ten combined statements and ACT ICT participants were asked to prioritize these issues, also.

The results from the ACT ICT engagement effort for the most part reflect the same priorities of the survey. While the survey is scientific and is the valid and reliable method, the conversation provides insight and thoughtful consideration of the priorities that participants thought would create the preferred future for the community. The results from the ACT ICT prioritization exercise include:

## Question: What are the Most Important Priorities for Our Community for the Next Generation?

■ % of Total Participants



As of February 10, 2014, **2009 community residents** had participated in the prioritization exercise as part of the City of Wichita ACT-ICT engagement effort. Community residents were asked to *select up to 4 items* that represented what the most important priorities were for our community for the next generation. *Chart A* represents the distribution of participant priorities. Of community residents that have participated, the *top five most important priorities for our community for the next generation* are to:

- ...Create a reliable source of water (**33%** of total participants ranked this as a priority)
- ...Encourage economic development, business investment and job creation (**29%** of total participants ranked this as a priority)
- ...Invest in downtown and the river walk, creating a cultural arts and entertainment center where people want to live and business is willing to invest (**18%** of total participants ranked this as a priority)
- ...Improve street maintenance (**17%** of total participants ranked this as a priority)
- ...Meet the needs of those who are homeless, and improve low income neighborhoods, including housing (**15%** of total participants ranked this as a priority)

A few themes from the discussion on priorities connected to the vision of a diversified economy and a water supply to support the community. Participants indicated that a job growth that creates wealth is cornerstone for creating a tax base to help support the other priorities. Participants also discussed water as a basic need for the community that must be met.

There were less comments (62) made following the prioritization exercise than in the vision or financial section. Of the comments made, 28 percent (17) were about economic and job growth. There were specific reference to diversification, land and financial readiness to attract jobs, and youth employment. Water received the second most comments (8 comments, 13 percent) and focused on quantity and conservation. Smaller/transparent government had 5 comments, eight percent of the comments, and so did cultural/entertainment opportunities.

A couple of specific quotes include:

*"{We need}...employment that provides a good standard of living and sustainable water supply."*

*"More tax base -more jobs -jobs for all that want them-living wages -more diverse economy-more than just aircraft -pro small business,"*

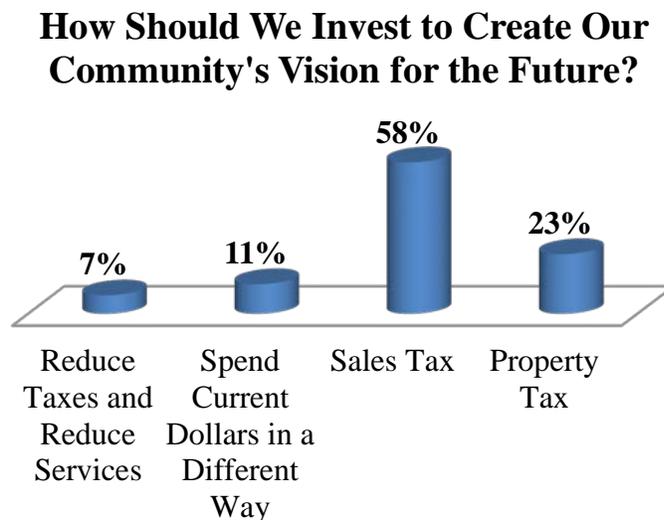
The main difference from the community survey results was higher priority of the downtown investments in the ACT ICT process; and the lower results of the passenger train service in the ACT ICT process than in the community survey results.

### **The Funding Options**

The final exercise for the ACT ICT participants was to discuss and indicate funding preferences for the priorities (See Attachment D). The following provides the results from the revenue questionnaires:

#### **How Should We Invest to Create Our Community's Vision for Our Future?**

**Chart 1**

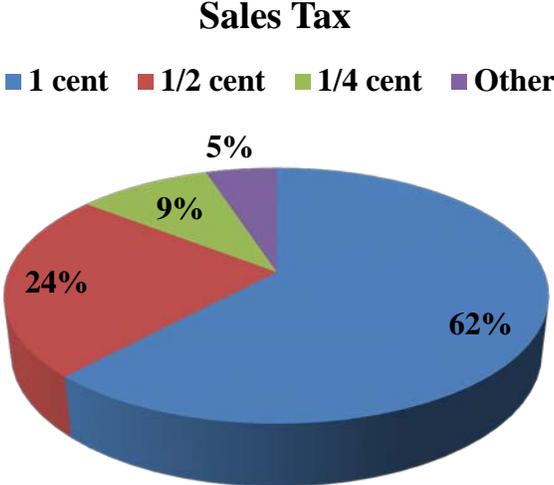


Of the 1973 respondents to the financial worksheet, **58%** recommended the City invest in the community's vision for the future through Sales Tax, **23%** recommended the City invest through Property Tax, **11%** recommended the City spend current dollars in a different way, and **7%** recommended the City reduce taxes and also reduce services. *Chart 1* represents the distribution of community responses for preferred investment option. For an exhaustive list of comments provided for each category, please refer to *Attachment E*.

Comments included in the “reduce taxes and reduce services” section of the financial worksheet concentrated on the role of government, recommending increased privatization of services, reduced use of economic development incentives, streamlining the provision of government services when possible, concentrating on needs rather than wants, reducing government salaries and contribution to employee benefits, reducing taxes to promote growth, consolidating City and County services when possible, and reducing regulation to encourage business development.

A number of ideas were also expressed in the “spend current dollars a different way” column of the financial worksheet. Some felt that too much money was currently being spent on public works and public safety, and dollars should be reallocated to invest more in quality of life, while others felt that investment in public safety should increase while quality of life expenditures should decrease; streamlining to more efficiently deliver services was recommended, as was consideration of consolidating City/County service functions; some participants expressed that reallocating current dollars was not an option, that new funding needed to be secured; participants also recommended reducing incentives to developers, securing private funding for non-essential services, and privatizing services when possible.

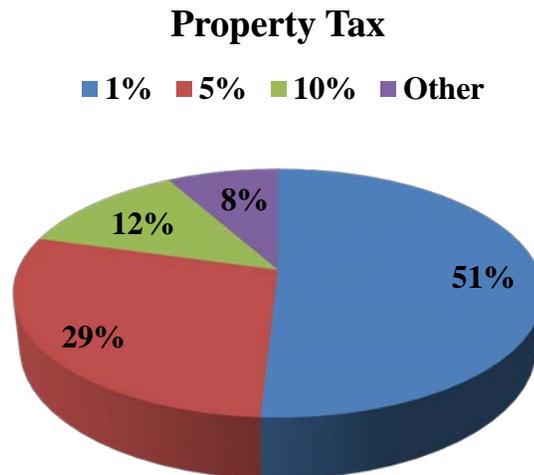
**Chart 2**



Of those citizens that preferred investment through sales tax, **62** percent recommended a 1 cent additional sales tax, **24** percent recommended a ½ cent additional sales tax, **9** percent recommended a ¼ cent sales tax, and **5** percent recommended some other sales tax. *Chart 2* represents the distribution of community responses for preferred sales tax investment option.

Comments made in the “Sales Tax” column of the financial worksheet recommended defining the use and time period of the increased sales tax, and also potentially exempting food purchases from the increased sales tax.

### Chart 3



Of those citizens that recommended investment through property tax, **51 percent** recommended a 1 percent increase in property tax, **29 percent** recommended a 5 percent increase in property tax, **12 percent** recommended a 10 percent increase in property tax, and **8 percent** recommended some other percent increase in property tax. *Chart 3* represents the distribution of community responses for preferred property tax investment option.

The majority of comments made in the “property tax” section of the financial worksheet recommended not raising property taxes; if property tax were raised, recommendations were made to apply the increase directly to public works and transit, or to have increases approved for specific projects over specific time periods.

A number of comments were also mentioned in the “other” column of the financial worksheet. Recommendations include, but are not limited to: raising user fees (water, sewer, stormwater, etc.) to fund maintenance/improvements of infrastructure; charging more for fines; raising hotel tax; raising sin taxes (on alcohol and cigarettes); spending additional dollars on the betterment and creation of youth activities and education to attract families to community; provide opportunities for community groups and citizens to donate funds to projects, and seek additional opportunities for partnerships.

Once more the community survey results were supported in the feedback of the ACT ICT project. In the survey, respondents demonstrated a strong willingness to pay for specific investments and in the ACT ICT project there was considerable support for tax increases to support the investment.

## **Conclusion**

The ACT ICT project continued the engagement effort with citizens on community priorities and willingness to pay for those priorities. The response from the ACT ICT project supports the findings from the community survey, where citizens demonstrated a significant commitment to make personal sacrifices for the community interest, a responsibility to the next generation, and a willingness to create opportunities for those willing to help themselves. Participants in the survey and the ACT ICT engagement indicated economic development and job growth, a sustainable water supply, streets and homeless/low-income neighborhoods are priorities. Downtown development, including cultural arts, also was elevated as a priority in the ACT ICT discussions. Finally, citizens consistently in the community survey and the ACT ICT demonstrate a willingness to pay for the priorities. The ACT ICT responses indicate a strong preference for a sales tax option to pay for future investments.

## **References**

Glaser, Mark A., Misty R. Bruckner and Corinne Bannon (2010) "Citizen Attachment: Building Sustainable Communities." **Government Finance Review**, 26 (5).

Glaser, Mark A., John Wong and Corinne Bannon (2009) "Symbiosis between Government and Community: Community Attachment, Trust, and Willingness to Pay." Research paper presented at The Fifth Transatlantic Dialogue, Washington D.C.

## Attachment A: ACT ICT Meeting List

Grandview Heights  
A Price Woodard/Murdock  
Fabrique  
CNAC  
Schweiter  
Women Business Owners  
Southwest Village  
Americans for Prosperity Kansas - Wichita  
Chapter  
Indian Hills  
Northend Riverview  
Golden Age Club  
Willowesque HOA  
Political Science Class - Friends University  
Northeast Heights  
Country Overlook  
Brooks Middle School  
District 4 President's Meeting  
Chairman Skelton DAB Meeting  
Catholic Charities Foster Grandparents  
Sunnyside  
District II Advisory Board  
District I Advisory Board  
Pilgrim Congregational Church  
Uptown  
Sierra Club  
Chamber of Commerce  
Sunflower  
League of Women Voters  
NAACP  
East Mt. Vernon  
Transit Advisory Board  
Meade Neighborhood Association  
Mayor's Youth Council  
South Central  
Chamber Meeting  
Institute of Real Estate Management  
Chamber Meeting  
Wichita Area Builders Association  
Kansas Colling Contractors Association Board  
Northwest Big River  
American Institute of Architects  
Chamber Meeting  
GO Wichita Board  
First Mennonite Brethren "The Brdige"  
Hilltop Neighborhood Association  
Old Town Association  
Heights High School  
Heights High School  
Downtown Kiwanis Club  
Go Wichita Staff  
B-98 Radio Interview  
Newman Univeristy Cabinet  
District II Breakfast  
WIBA & Non-profit Chamber  
Historic Preservation Board  
WDDC  
Leadership Wichita - Fire Dept  
Chamber's Government Relations Committee  
South Wichita Business Association  
Arts Council  
College Hill Neighborhood Association  
Library Board  
Grassroots Coalition (Teaparty)  
Junior League  
Center for Health & Wellness  
MAPC  
Pachyderm Club  
Council of Elders  
Child Start  
Wichita Community Meeting (public Meeting)  
Wichita Community Meeting (public Meeting)  
Catholic Charities Leadership Council  
South Area Neighborhood Association  
Young Professionals of Wichita  
Water Walk Tenants  
Fairfax  
Riverside Citizen Association  
Weigand Commercial Division  
Blessed Sacrament  
Executive Women's International  
J. P. Weigand's Managers Meeting  
Downtown Lion's Club  
Crestview Heights  
Via Christi Village Georgetown  
Wind Jammers - Sunday School Class  
Lambsdale  
North Riverside  
WSU Graduate Class Applied Research  
Episcopal Social Services

Law Kingdon  
Oxford Grand at NewMarket  
Holy Savior Catholic Academy  
DST Sorority  
Kapuan Mt. Carmel Community Meeting  
Downtown Rotary Club  
Power Neighborhood Association  
WSU Graduate Class Applied Research  
Owners of Property in Commerce Street Art  
District  
East Wichita Rotary Club  
High Touch Technologies  
Wichita Society of Professional Engineers  
Normar International Marketplace

**ACT ICT**  
Attachment B: Presentation  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

**ACT ICT  
City of Wichita**



Community Investments Plan  
www.wichita.gov

**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

**Tonight's Meeting**

- ACT ICT:
  - Phase I: Stakeholder interviews and focus groups
  - Phase II: 25,000 Community Survey
  - Phase III: ACT ICT: Making Decision, Taking Action
  - More information at: [www.communityinvestmentsplan.org](http://www.communityinvestmentsplan.org)
- Hundreds of community meetings
- Final report February 2014
- Information used in variety of City and community planning



Community Investments Plan  
www.wichita.gov

**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

**Agenda**

- Welcome
- "Our community in 10 Years..."
- Issues and Survey Results
- Prioritizing
- Financial Information
- Financial Survey
- Meeting Follow-up



Community Investments Plan  
www.wichita.gov

**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

**Facilitator's Role**

- Ensure neutral process
- Encourage participation
- Keep process on track and on TIME
- Keep ground rules
- Share and collect information



Community Investments Plan  
www.wichita.gov

**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

### Ground Rules

- **Be Engaged:** *We are here for EVERYONE to share their ideas.*
- **Be Respectful:** *We are NOT here to reach agreement.*
- **Be Attentive:** *We have LIMITED time, so will focus the conversation.*
- **Be Civil:** *We will not allow personal attacks, bad language, or disruptions.*
- **Be Purposeful:** *We are here to make our community better for the next generation!*



**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

### Community Interest...

- Community interest...not personal interest
- Create a better future for the next generation...play it forward
- Create opportunities...for all willing



**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

### The Vision...

- In 10 years, how do you want to describe our community?
  - next generation
  - best for the community
  - opportunities



**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

### Issues and Community Survey Results

- Securing the next generation of jobs is important
- It's important to have solid basic public services (such as water, streets, bridges, transportation)
- People want a community that goes beyond the basics with recreation and cultural attractions
- People in this community care about each other and its future

***And...we have to pay for it...***




**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

- Citizens in this community are willing to rise above their personal interest to **do what is best for the community** (72%)
- Citizens of this community have a **strong commitment to preserving the future** and are willing to do their part so that a better community is left for the next generation. (86-98%)
- The community is willing to take responsibility to **help create opportunity** for all citizens IF citizens are willing to do their part. (93%-95%)



**ACT ICT**  
*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

### Jobs and the Economy

- **Lost thousands of jobs** in 2008 recession; diversification of economy important for economic growth
- Our community's growth has slowed to **less than 1 percent**
- About **20 percent** of young adults leave our community each year
- As city/county revenues slow and decrease, there is increased demand for services and costs to provide services



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### Water and Stormwater

- Our City funding for **repair and replacement of aging sewer pipes** will increase threefold to **\$5.4 million** annually as well as **\$5.4 million** annually for the repair and replacement of aging water pipes.
- In the next 6 years, Wichita may need to spend up to **\$150 million** for **upgrades and new wastewater treatment facilities**.
- An affordable, long-term water supply is vital to our economic prosperity.
- More than **\$85 million** in future **stormwater mitigation projects** across the city have been identified.



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### TRANSPORTATION

- About half of Wichita's streets fall below national benchmark standards.
- Wichita's Transit public bus system has an aging fleet that requires **\$21 million** to replace and a **\$3-7M** annual investment to improve service levels,
- Funding for the City of Wichita from the federal and state government has been cut by 35% for transportation infrastructure projects.



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### Community Development

- The Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan recommends \$19 million each year to expand parks and recreation areas.
- Federal funding cuts have reduced the amount available for community development, homeless support programs, housing, rehabilitation and programming in low-income areas.
- The 2004 Visioneering survey found that 90% of residents felt public recreation was important in making Wichita a good place to live.



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### Investment Priorities and Willingness to Pay More Taxes or Fees

- ...to create a reliable source of water that will meet the future water needs of the community (85.3%)
- ...to improve street maintenance (66.4%)
- ...to establish passenger train service connecting Wichita to cities such as Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth(65.3%)
- ...to meet the needs of those who are homeless (63.4%)
- ...to encourage economic development, business investment and job creation (62.3%)



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### Investment Priorities and Willingness to Pay More Taxes or Fees

- ...that creates a regional storm water drainage system to reduce flooding (56.5%)
- ...in public transportation including bus service that is faster and more convenient (54.7%)
- ...in incentives for airlines that are willing to reduce the cost to fly into and out of Wichita Mid-Continent Airport (54.6%)
- ...in freeways such as Kellogg and K-96 (51.4%)



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### Investment Priorities and Willingness to Pay More Taxes or Fees

- ...in new street construction and the expansion of the road system (50.2%)
- ...to improve low-income neighborhoods including housing (50.0%)
- ...to develop additional bicycle and walking paths (41.0)
- ...to create additional green space and parks (41.0%)
- ...in downtown and the river walk creating a cultural arts and entertainment center where people want to live and business is willing to invest in office space (40.9%)



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Questions



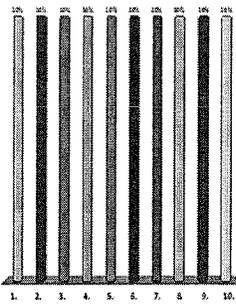
**ACT ICT**  
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What are the **most important priorities for our community** for the next generation? Please select up to **4 items**.



**QUESTION: What are the most important priorities for our community for the next generation? Please select up to 4 items.**

1. ...meet the needs of those who are homeless and improve low income neighborhoods, including housing
2. ...create a reliable source of water
3. ...create a regional storm water drainage system to reduce flooding
4. ...encourage economic development, business investment and job creation
5. ...public transportation including bus service that is faster and more convenient
6. ...in downtown and the river walk creating a cultural arts and entertainment center where people want to live and business is willing to invest in office space
7. ...create additional green space and parks, and develop additional bicycle and walking paths
8. ...establish passenger train service connecting Wichita to surrounding metropolitan areas
9. ...new street construction, expansion of the road system and freeways such as Kellogg and K-96
10. ...improve street maintenance



Item	Percentage
1	32%
2	31%
3	30%
4	30%
5	28%
6	26%
7	25%
8	25%
9	24%
10	24%



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The Conversation



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**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

- **Prioritization** – *How a City General Fund Dollar is Currently Spent*
  - Majority of funding (80%) pays for Public Safety (Police, Fire, Municipal Court) and Public Works (street maintenance, snow and ice removal, etc.) services.
- **The cost to provide community services is rising**, and revenues (taxes, fees, assistance from federal/state government) are remaining stagnant or decreasing.

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**How do citizens typically pay for general government services?**

- Property Tax
- Sales Tax
- Fees for service (Such as your water and sewer)

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**Funding Priorities**

**How should we invest to create our community's vision for the future?**

Reduce Taxes and Reduce Services?  
 Reprioritize and Spend Differently?  
 Sales Tax?  
 Property Tax?

Please check the box and complete the exercise in the column of your preferred option.

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 City of Wichita

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**Meeting Wrap-Up**

- Questions or comments that you did not get to share tonight, please write them down.
- Please stay involved
- Know others that might be interested? Contact LaShonda Ganes at: [lgarnes@wichita.gov](mailto:lgarnes@wichita.gov)

Community Investment Plan  
  
 City of Wichita

# ACT ICT

*Making Decisions, Taking Action*

*"The true meaning of life is to  
plant trees, under whose shade  
you do not expect to sit."*

**--Nelson Henderson**



## **Attachment C: Visioning Discussion Comments by Theme Category**

### **Affordable Housing/Cost of Living**

**Comments made within the “Affordable Housing/Cost of Living” theme include, but are not limited to: lowering property taxes, expanding public housing Section 8, extending grants to non-profits to do low-income housing improvements, partnering with non-profit housing organizations to expand Section 8 options, rehabilitating blighted areas, upgrade and improving housing, increasing variety in residential housing choice, and simplifying process to apply for housing programs.**

- Low taxes
- Affordable
- Cheaper Property Taxes
- Low cost of living
- Affordable housing
- Expand public Housing Section 8
- Affordable housing
- City grants to nonprofit to do low-income housing improvements -emergency home repair needs
- More "Section 8" housing options; partner with Mennonite housing and/or habitat for humanity; waiting lists are too long; increase publicity
- Senior programs for home improvements/repair
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing (adequate-not substandard housing)
- Housing: affordable; new developers; rehab of blighted areas
- More variety in residential housing choice-density/mixed use
- Upgrade of housing
- Improved housing
- Tax incentives for major residential dwelling maintenance where needed (sliding scale)
- Emphasize quality over quantity in residential construction
- Financing for home improvements
- Simplify process for applying for housing programs
- Vacant housing/foreclosures
- Housing improvements in urban areas; fixing up existing housing – the older/boarded up homes

### **Arts, Culture, Events, Entertainment and Amenities**

**Comments made within the “Arts, Culture, Events, Entertainment and Amenities” include, but are not limited to: enhancing cultural opportunities, leverage arts partnerships,**

**enhance performing arts, maintain and market unique historical identity of Wichita, invest in becoming an entertainment hub, modernize library system, and support of current arts, cultural and entertainment opportunities.**

- Cultural opportunities
- Strong fine arts community (more visible)
- Keeping unique historical culture (neighborhoods - midtown, McAdams, Delano, Nomar, etc.)
- C II improvement
- Local industry foundation for arts and culture
- Arts council - in alignment - consider growth
- Enhance performing arts - economic enhancement to ICT - ICT can be a testing ground
- Arts Partnerships - Final Friday: Riverfest
- Finish Dunbar, Orpheum, Air Museum
- Leave C II, historical content in place
- Strong local arts/culture presence
- Maintain our history, create opportunities to learn our history
- Cultural opportunities
- Piatt Memorial Dunbar - add to cultural arts
- Invest more and/or equally support cultural arts for black community as is given to other communities, money, marketing/advertising
- More cultural opportunities
- Better offerings/arts for young adults
- New convention center
- Stronger arts communities - already good quality
- Leave C II alone - renovate but don't tear down
- Vibrant with thriving arts and culture
- New convention and performing arts center
- More public art in community
- Enhanced cultural infrastructure
- Modern libraries
- Redevelop Orpheum Theater and strong cultural center
- Cultural attractive/things to do
- World class performing arts center
- Emphasis on history of city
- Cultural arts
- Art-keep up: symphony, opera, ballet, music theater
- Value in convention center, downtown library, river corridor
- Cultural attractions

- The survey isn't focusing on what the Art Council wants to focus on "Creative thinking"
- New Central Library with ADA, working elevators, parking and café
- Elevated culture in community
- Build downtown library
- Rehab Westlink Library
- Neighborhood libraries improved and expanded
- Technology has changed the role of the central library; can rehab existing library for less money than building new.
- Downtown library for archive and research purposes
- Least important priority - tearing down and rebuilding C II
- Maintain cultural attractions
- Keep the arts
- Don't lose "culture" identity and pride - enhance ie; Art Museum
- Cultural/entertainment attractions
- New library
- Cultural experiences
- Vibrant c II and performing arts
- Strong arts
- Enhance arts and culture
- Vibrant cultural community - local art events
- Preserve our history
- Vibrant arts community
- Strong library system
- New concepts for library
- Accessible libraries (in neighborhoods)
- New library
- Strong library system
- Electricity - accessible for community events
- More entertainment- keep money here, attractions, affordable, more variety, more vibrant down town areas
- Amusement park
- Movie theaters in core
- Entertainment (keep what we have and bring new entertainment to attract tourists)
- Entertainment Paradise (Good place to raise family)
- Entertainment hub
- Sustained efforts in improved community assets and attractions
- Destination casino in city
- More entertainment

- Joyland
- Lots to do in Wichita
- Electricity - accessible for community events
- Use entertainment venues we have - Joyland
- Big landfill use for sledding
- Amusement Park
- Movie Theaters in core
- More entertainment - Keep money here - attractions - affordable - more variety - more vibrant downtown areas
- Entertainment hub
- More entertainment – Quality of life attractions
- WSU football
- Amusement Park
- NBA team
- Jack in Box- bigger; White Castle - smaller
- More community events at river
- Increase education opportunities – like libraries and exploration place
- Dave and Busters
- Aquarium - SeaWorld
- Entertainment - movies, more theaters, alley
- Water park
- Quality of life downtown - library - ballpark - convention center
- Dave and Busters
- Jack in the Box
- Professional sports
- IKEA, Cheesecake Factory, Pottery Barn, Teds, Home Goods
- Diversity in "acts" at Intrust -not just country
- Dave and Busters
- Macy's
- White Castle
- Mall
- Amusement park
- Pro sports team, State Fair here in Wichita
- Outlet mall
- More events/things to do
- Diverse dining, shopping
- Utilize arena more
- Increase healthy places to eat

- No Gander Mtn.
- Challenge is planning, scheduling events, and attractions downtown
- Take advantage of river, plan activities and events on river
- Diverse shopping and dining
- Amusement park
- Family-based entertainment (private)
- Allow casinos in Wichita
- More diverse entertainment @ Intrust
- More diverse locations for shopping (bring south)
- Macy's!
- Promotion of technology and entertainment
- Add a dollar tree to district 1
- Attract more business to neighborhoods (ex. Hardware store affordable)
- Casino would benefit the community
- Greater utilization of arena
- More attractions (Joyland, water parks)
- 47th shopping district
- More activities and businesses
- More entertainment opportunities for youth

### **Community Involvement (Community Pride, Engagement, Integration and Diversity)**

**Comments made within the “Community Involvement” theme include, but are not limited to: encouraging community engagement, supporting neighborhoods and neighborhood associations, creation of positive Wichita image and community pride, create plan for Wichita’s future and go after it, inspire leadership in community, promote diverse community that works with and cares for each other, and increase collaboration.**

- Viable- pride
- Sharing community that takes care of one another
- Diverse communities, remove segregation
- Positive self-image
- Neighborhood involvement in city services, especially safety.
- ICT has a unique identity
- Decide what we want to be - stick to plan
- Wichita is the right size
- Increase Voter Reg. and turnout
- More affective community engagement
- Community pride
- Caring community

- Make use of all media to get info out
- People to have right to vote on city council action
- Highlight positive events
- Change language and promotion to include all of city of Wichita
- See more partnerships with the Black Community in cultural art activities
- A government that reflects the voice of the community. Listens and follows the voice of community
- Bring community together; needs to flow through decision making
- Diverse group of people making decisions
- Improved regional self-image
- Anticipate, move forward addressing challenges
- Better self-image
- Being a good neighbor by helping your neighbors
- More city knowledge
- Status quo v. move forward
- Expand community endowment
- Create community identity of collaboration -with nonprofits, businesses, generational cultures –collaboration example: Nat. Center for Aviation
- Expand conversation to Sedgwick Co., not just Wichita
- Residential -build awareness, benefits of maintaining communities
- Identify common thread
- People want to live here not just because of marriage, job etc.
- Educate people on issues (transparency)
- Cultural representation in individual communities
- Clean up the city - more public responsibility (N. Assoc. and Block Watch)
- Get community more involved
- Disconnect it's educational empowerment/is long term
- More representatives/participation in extra-curricular activities
- Better marketing, enhance quality of life
- Strong core -sense of belonging, community at the heart of many things we need to do
- Strong leadership that reflects the communities wishes -private sector experience
- Educated public
- Harness technology-running dialogue
- More citizen involvement
- Inspirational leaders from these communities
- Create a community of life project
- More diverse community - age/culture/business/accessibility and mobility
- Diverse communities, remove segregation

- "Melting pot" of talent from all over the world
- Cultural acceptance
- More international students
- A need for the "community of color" - crime rises in under developed communities – provide opportunities
- Inclusive; welcoming; diverse
- Good quality of life...all income levels/ages etc.
- Neighborhood awareness- good neighbors, civic pride
- Support neighborhood associations - have thriving, engaged associations
- Strengthen neighborhood associations
- Neighborhood awareness - good neighbors - civic pride
- More active neighborhoods for safety
- neighborhood involvement in city services or WPD
- Self-sustaining neighborhoods
- Stronger neighborhoods
- Knowing your neighbors
- Neighborhood partnerships
- Neighborhoods working together more
- More people out in neighborhoods

### **Community Marketing/Community Visual Appeal**

**Comments made within the “Community Marketing/Community Visual Appeal” theme include, but are not limited to: increasing city beautification efforts, becoming a place known for innovation, define a community brand, become a destination for tourists, market community better, improve neighborhood aesthetics, be aggressive and proactive in marketing community.**

- City known for innovation
- Vibrant, successful, attractive, energetic
- Center for innovation
- Prosperous
- Brand south Wichita(create better image)
- World's largest tanker air force base
- Building a beautiful, competitive city - #49, 51, or 48??
- Let the world know we're the 49th largest, get on the radar screen, promotion, self-image
- Marketing Wichita as a destination AAA, Salina, Winfield
- Aggressive, proactive, innovative
- Great place to live
- People want to live here, not just because their job is here

- Known(stuck) as Wichita as the air capital city -blue collar, diversify marketing/branding to attract white-collar professionals
- Promote ourselves to rest of country
- Emphasize quality of life for businesses to locate here -not just weather, etc.
- Need a core identity/image
- Improve marketing of the city, develop a marketing plan (KC is an example of a city marketing itself well); brand Wichita as something other than a Cowtown
- Image -what is Wichita to be known for?
- Play up "centrality" aspect w/ businesses coming in
- More positive reputation
- What's our identity/brand
- Stop apologizing
- Branding/identity for Wichita
- Improved website
- Quality of life
- Define ourselves - what's our brand? Don't copy others (unless it's broken learn from others)
- Use our uniqueness to market (i.e. agriculture)
- Better marketing of our city to our youth
- Market, advertise what's already here...(add history)
- Identity of city, market the city, messaging, what is Wichita
- Enhanced branding to outsiders
- Market the city in positive ways (big, bad, Wichita)
- Tourism
- Tourism magazine
- Make traveling into Wichita more convenient
- Increase tourism
- Wichita-destination city
- Make Wichita tourist attraction - KAM - heritage of aviation
- Regional tourism attraction and convention
- Exciting place to be/want to be
- Wichita as a destination - what would 21st century American capital look like and be
- Destination city
- Market and be competitive with other cities as a destination
- Increase tourism
- Expand convention business
- Convention business to bring visitors - dining, shopping
- Historical tourists
- Neighborhood aesthetics

- Visual appeal/attractive (flowers, landscaping)
- Clean and maintained neighborhood
- Beautiful Wichita
- Attractive (Clean and pretty)
- Attracting tourists (staying competitive)
- Reduce odors
- Architectural Requirements And landscape
- Curb appeal, landscape, aesthetics of Wichita - maintain
- Neighborhood aesthetics
- Odor control
- Wichita does great job w/ trees, streets - keeping things looking good.
- Visual appeal/attractive - flowers, landscaping
- Cleaner city
- Doing it well, not half-heartedly (-Waterwalk) (+Keeper of the plains, Arena)
- Keep city clean
- Make Wichita more attractive
- Cleaner - stronger fine on littering
- More vegetation/trees
- Improved curb appeal
- Keep city appealing
- Maintain existing assets -do not regress
- More visually appealing
- Maintain properties/communities
- City beautification
- Make city beautiful
- Beautify city
- Commitment to beautification and innovation in who we are -puts us on the map
- Graffiti removed
- Enhanced city landscaping and beautification

### **Core/Downtown/River**

**Comments made within the “Core/Downtown/River” theme include, but are not limited to: concentration on infill development, creation of a vibrant downtown with increased employment and residence, city investment in core area, increased river access, access to grocery stores in downtown, increased public events on river, and increased public safety in downtown and Old Town.**

- Change attitude of core area perception, from local government
- Expand incentives for all new residents in core area

- Local government look at core area as a priority
- New business in core area
- City investment in core area
- Library done ( plans, decisions)
- Vibrant downtown...the heart of the city (not just offices, retail, dept stores, walkable)
- More vibrant urban core
- Higher density infill/development
- Robust downtown with increased employment/residence
- Attractive community for next generation - vibrant downtown
- Thriving downtown
- More vitality downtown/parking
- Downtown development; attractive service for people who live there
- River Access
- City Invest in Core Area: SE ICT, DT ICT
- New school in core area - retain schools
- New business in core area
- Developed and increased opportunities of the river (full river)
- More business in downtown and parking
- Change attitude of core area perception, from local government
- Expand incentives for 211 new residents - core area
- Local gov't look @ core area as a priority
- Improve and continue downtown development
- Library Downtown! (plans, decisions)
- Water walk enhanced
- Quality of life amenities in the Center city
- Vibrant downtown for young
- River development
- Strong core
- Better downtown
- Downtown grocery
- More river front development
- Make it easier to develop downtown
- Downtown is Wichita's best chance
- "More modern" - downtown growth
- Quality of living downtown (grocery, shopping, etc.)
- Focus back on the core of the city
- Vibrant river area
- Expand Old Town and Riverwalk - keep young people

- Growing downtown
- More community events at river
- Safe and vibrant downtown
- Thriving downtown/more than old town
- Take advantage of the river -education, events/art
- Active downtown evenings, weekends, 24 hour city
- Finish Waterwalk
- Perception that Old Town and Downtown are unsafe
- Public use of river front
- Revitalize Downtown
- Less focus on downtown
- River corridor -more residential -grocery/retail-magnet store(draw from E & W)
- City is growing out, center city declining
- River development
- Active downtown (24hr city)
- Revitalize downtown
- Vibrant downtown for young
- Better developed downtown: new library, more living opportunities, grocery store
- Fewer vacant buildings & garages
- Increased public spaces along river-docks, fishing
- More robust utilization of our river corridor
- Completion of downtown revitalization-new business
- Supermarkets for downtown
- Downtown revitalization
- Increase development along river.
- Downtown library
- Vibrant downtown
- Downtown development
- More retail/commercial business into core of the city
- Strong downtown, core area
- Safety, of downtown, want people to feel safe visiting downtown
- Redevelop downtown/grocery stores
- Vibrant and safe downtown
- Revitalized downtown
- River recreation
- Family oriented downtown attraction
- Business development downtown
- Strengthening the core

- Vibrant downtown living
- Continue to improve downtown Wichita
- Downtown grocery store
- Completed riverwalk
- Upgrade of central city area and neighborhood reinvestment
- Downtown revitalization -improve surroundings
- Strong downtown and river corridor
- An urban downtown is key
- Vibrant riverfront; address human trafficking
- Clean up downtown -cultural center
- Eco Devo – downtown

**Economic Development (Community Growth, Innovation, Job Creation and Diversification, Job Training, Business Promotion)**

**Comments made within the “Economic Development” theme include, but are not limited to: growth of community, growth of medical industry, concentration on innovation and technology, diversifying economy beyond aircraft industry, investing in job training and mentoring programs, support local small businesses, become a fertile ground to grow a small business, attract companies/industries with professional jobs, and promote and encourage entrepreneurial spirit in Wichita.**

- Growth
- Grow Wichita
- Population growth
- Growing
- Expansion drives development
- Economic development and growth
- World-class medical facilities to draw people to ICT
- New industry/technology - medical
- Medical and healthcare focus
- world class medical center
- Career transition/exploration opportunities- Available (free), training (pre-career), help overcoming life challenges, all ages
- Career training/opportunities
- More trade and skills courses for job training - home economics
- Career transition/exploration opportunities- Available (free), training (pre-career), help overcoming life challenges, all ages
- Good schools (technical schools)
- Career training/opportunity

- Job training, mentorship, youth work programs, black youths, apprenticeships
- Job training at a higher level
- Capitalize on educational resources/technical training
- Stronger National Aviation Training
- Create and support a skilled workforce
- Largest home of entrepreneurs -funding necessary to identify, develop and train future business owners
- Diversify Public Ed. System-offer schools that fit community's demographics-align with skills needed for local jobs
- 21st & grove-Boys & Girls Club focus on youth training for jobs
- Mentoring programs
- Good quality education and tech. training programs available
- Job service training
- Retail and technical and domestic skills
- Build place where these needs can take place
- Youth technical training
- Equal tech training and job opportunities for youth of ethnic background by business community
- Employment opportunities
- Private sector jobs
- More diverse/more industry
- Jobs- Variety, better paying
- Increased entrepreneurial opportunities
- Diversity: jobs, people
- Job opportunities
- Jobs (incentives for business, expand technology jobs, and keep aviation.
- Job security - creation - job opportunities
- Attracting diverse quality job opportunities - outside of aircraft
- Focus on quality of life - this will attract jobs
- Diversification in manufacturing base
- Center of job creation
- Diverse economic base
- Diversified economy
- More employment/better paying jobs
- Jobs
- Good jobs
- Increased manufacturing employment
- Pro-small business
- Tax free enterprise zone

- More high paying, fewer low paying jobs
- More diverse/more industry
- Jobs - variety - better paying
- Cheap buildings that are vacant to create jobs
- Bring back diverse job sectors
- More employment opportunity and new businesses
- Progressive - jobs, traffic, tech, economy
- Diverse business - not aircraft
- Diversify manufacturing base
- Diversify job market, more industries
- Diversity: jobs, people
- Job opportunities
- Increased entrepreneurial opportunities
- More employment opportunities and better opportunities
- More diverse job opportunities
- Private sector jobs
- Employment opportunities
- Jobs - expand opportunities - technology, jobs training; diverse - outside aviation
- Jobs
- Quality Jobs
- Attract new businesses to Wichita
- Incentives, contract for startup, money, loans, tax breaks/minority business
- Programs to assist/educate minority business on how to qualify for economic incentives
- Diversify economy
- Diversity in economy
- Business diversification
- Fertile business climate, be a place where you want to start a business
- Competitive economic instruments
- Better understand what companies look for when relocating
- Job market diversification
- Encourage/resources for entrepreneurs
- Diversify economy - employment base
- More building - shop jobs
- Job centers
- Less red tape/ more red carpet - pro business/small business, technical training, incentives
- Economy diversification
- Invest more on cargo/commercial side
- Help existing companies - thrive/diversity/expand

- Jobs - professional w/ wages diversified
- More job opportunities, more variety
- Diversification of the economy
- More jobs -industry jobs
- Aggressive economic development - more, diverse
- Reduce hunger by attracting jobs that meet needs
- Job diversification-political boundaries don't matter
- I-35 corridor is an asset
- Economically diverse
- Low unemployment
- Friendly business environment
- Jobs -more diversify
- Good jobs to draw/keep people here
- Strong economic foundation
- Provide living wage
- Diversify employment; retain good jobs
- Divide business and aircraft
- Strong economic region
- Keep manufacturing work
- Get in new companies
- Friendly to businesses already here
- Business friendly environment -considered an asset, not bad guy
- Equal value on non/aviation, small and medium sized business
- Retain business, promote business, examples of companies leaving Wichita -boeing, raytheon, coleman
- Attract and diversify business
- Good jobs to bring and keep people here
- Wichita needs hi tech jobs
- Job creation and diversification
- Vibrant business
- Job creation
- More business friendly
- Positive atmosphere for job creation
- Increase in professional employment
- Diversity for employment & work forces
- Climate that encourages future business (ie costs of doing business)
- Job development w/o bureaucracy and consultant fees
- More professional opportunities

- Job creation/economic diversification
- Create entrepreneurial spirit
- Diverse economic base
- Provide good jobs
- Increase employment opportunities
- Job placement
- Good jobs = investment, training, quality of jobs, good paying jobs
- Creates jobs
- Business friendly, inviting
- Jobs - manufacturing, diversification in economic base
- Diversify job/tax base
- Job creation number 1
- Jobs
- Diversify industry (too much focus on aviation). Past decisions by government prevented diversification of industry and/or caused homegrown businesses to leave the city
- Expand and diversify economy
- Attract industry for job creation
- Jobs
- Jobs -so people can be successful and self - supporting and support families
- Industry diversification
- Job creation
- Workforce retention
- Attract industry
- Economy: diverse industries
- More jobs -industry jobs
- Diversify jobs
- More jobs -moderate/higher pay
- Jobs
- Thriving community-job diversity
- New industrial park
- Get back to entrepreneurship -Wichita as entrepreneur
- Job creation, esp. for young people
- New jobs and incentives
- Enhanced job opportunities, business growth and young professionals
- Jobs -diversity of business
- Job diversification-political boundaries don't matter
- Small business infusion
- Jobs

- Competitive jobs -wages -diverse industries
- More jobs
- More jobs -support for small businesses so they can hire more employees
- Support locally owned businesses
- Farmers Mkt.
- Local Produce
- Community gardens
- City improvement project = jobs - keep local
- Center of innovation for technology and business
- More innovative
- Progressive -aspire, look to other cities for ideas
- Innovative -continue and expand current efforts in the technology industry
- Be progressive -watch our peer cities
- Attract hi-tech industries
- Tech center
- Opportunities –diversity; security; new companies

#### **Environment (Recycling, Trash Disposal Options, Air quality, Being "green")**

**Comments made within the “Environment” theme include: exploration of waste disposal alternatives, promotion of energy efficiency, showcasing sustainable systems and communities, creation of local recycling center, promotion of recycling, continuation of neighborhood cleanups, and prioritize the creation and conservation of a clean environment.**

- Clean environment
- Green community (Sustainable)
- Environmentally aware/friendly
- Waste disposal alternatives
- Roof top gardens
- Energy Efficiency - windmills/solar
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Solar parking lot
- Native plants
- City and schools use solar on its buildings; Windmills
- Showcase sustainable systems
- Rooftop solar, windmills
- Make Wichita smaller
- Recycling center
- Pay attention to climate - arch./bldg. design (LEEDS) - water conservation - water runoff

- Go Green - energy efficiency - recycling - incentives
- Continue diversified energy options
- Consideration of waste disposal alternatives
- Clean environment
- Environment - water and air - sustainable water/clean
- Encourage green building, landscaping
- Recycle
- Trash/recycling/yard waste
- Community gardens w/ free water
- Alley cleanup
- Policy favor sustainable design
- Energy code
- Promote sustainable design
- Support for eco-friendly organizations or agencies
- More self-sufficient as city; environmentally responsible -no using natural resources for energy; green city
- Mandatory Recycling
- Non-mandatory recycling
- More public recycling
- Recycling -curbside, standardized
- Air quality
- Low impact development (rain gardens, bioswales)-medians
- Enhance recycling trash-keep it local
- Recycling (address barriers to be green)
- Single service for trash -but maintain competition -composting needed
- Do more w/ recycling -more accessible -free
- Clean environment
- recycling w/o cost
- Affordable waste disposal recycling
- Better recycling program/policies
- Re-use, recycle, repurpose
- More sustainable development, environment and fiscal planning/design sustainability
- Neighborhood cleanups
- Prevent Neighborhood associations from prohibiting recycling
- More frequent neighborhood cleanups ( love Wichita) - more than once a year
- Neighborhood clean-ups
- Cleaning up neighborhoods

### **Transparent and Fiscally Responsible Local Government**

**Comments made within the “Transparent and Fiscally Responsible Local Government” theme include: government demonstration of accountability in public/private partnerships and incentives, encourage civil discussions between government and citizens, decrease politics – increase cooperation, emphasize debt control and reduction, increase fiscal transparency, and enhance communication between city hall and citizens through various modes of communication.**

- Ethical city government, level playing field
- Accessibility, enhanced communication - operation in the sunshine - revive my Wichita
- Evaluation tool for public - private partnerships, accountability
- Accelerated development review
- Broader investor pool - minimize cronyism - eliminate
- Improved economic devo benchmarking
- Accountability, action, don't skirt around issues
- School district - increased accountability in using current buildings
- Less cronyism
- Tennis Doom discussion was deceitful process
- stop getting projects, equipment, money on the backs of blacks
- Transparency in Govt. (local)
- Government doesn't lie to us
- Government red tape/attitudes; County does better.
- Progressive leadership -make decisions in best interests of economy
- Discussions w/ city hall not arguments
- Less crony capitalism
- Less politics, more cooperation
- Alliance on city officials - revenue directing towards them
- Property tax assessments are not correct
- More open communication process with city - meet at night
- Maximize use of existing community resources
- Transparency/fiscal
- Strong public finances
- Federal additional water resources
- Pay as you go financing, debt free - accountable, stable
- Departments fully staffed - to be more responsive address a backlog of services
- How is city spending current funds - bang 4 buck?
- How do we pay w/ decreased Federal and State funds?
- City - Balance wants vs needs -water, streets, pub. Trans.
- Increase fiscal responsibility
- Maximize use of existing community resources

- Hold the line on sales tax
- Sales tax should be for a specific use and time
- Increase specific taxes, cigarettes, liquor, etc.
- Speedier time frames for public projects
- Doing more w/ what we have
- Cash fund to go after new businesses
- Economic opportunity/benefit
- Need to consider big users moving forward
- Opportunities to use funding smarter
- How to create funds? New revenue?
- Leaner
- Less reliance on outside funding - fed, state
- If local business - does all sales tax go to city? Portion when it's a chain?
- No cost shifting between departments
- Sales tax increase should include county too
- Long term plan for taxes, esp. corporate
- City must be fiscally responsible
- Lower taxes for business Dev.
- Don't spend what we don't have
- Reduce debt
- Infrastructure investments that stimulate new business and private investment
- Sales tax preferred over property tax, sales tax paid by those that visit Wichita as well as those that live here (9.3 sales tax in Overland Park, not as much in property tax as Wichita)
- Sales tax may be regressive
- Revenue sources that don't require as much of a sacrifice from citizens (limit need for tax increase by identifying new revenue streams, oil drilling in downtown potential revenue source)
- Regulate or maintain property taxes
- Progressive leadership -make decisions in best interests of economy
- Better investment decision and planning for school and local government
- Continued emphasis on debt control, public safety and infrastructure

**Healthy Community (Physical Health, Walkable/Bike Friendly, Parks, Green Space, Recreation)**

**Comments made within the “Healthy Community” theme include, but are not limited to: increase access to healthy foods, become increasingly bike friendly through an expanded bike path network and bike friendly streets, encourage walkability in neighborhoods and**

**downtown, increased green space and access to recreation, implementation of PROS plan, and promotion of good physical health.**

- People w/ good physical health
- top 10 healthiest city's in nation
- People with good physical health
- Active community- more walkability, out in community, walking trails, more opportunities.
- Bike friendly
- Bike share program
- Vibrant walking community and biking
- More bike/walk opportunities
- More bicycling/walkability
- Cross town bicycling
- Walk DT
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Make big Ditch Walkable
- Redbud
- Pedestrian walkways in parking lots - Pedestrians are not 2nd class
- Expanded multi-model - bike education, bike friendly community
- Active Community - more walkability - out in community - walking trails - more opportunities
- Continued investment in bike and walking paths and parks
- Model of cooperation with other communities - bike trails, connectedness
- More outdoor amenities walkable
- Improved investment in bicycle facilities
- Walkable neighborhoods - sidewalks, maintain, improve bike paths
- Promote health and wellness, bike/walk trails, parks
- Better connectivity/linking network or trails citywide (especially the north)
- Infill of services/development - neighborhoods and downtown - Walkability, bike/pedestrians to schools and parks
- Bike/pedestrian/greenspace - connect
- Bike lanes - Racks, parking - Create more separation from vehicle traffic
- Infrastructure that promotes walking/biking
- Biker friendly -bike lanes
- Better bike trails - drive less
- Bike paths
- Biking roadway lanes
- Bike paths

- Walkability
- More bike/walking; Protects streets -sidewalks, lanes, paths
- Walkable, accessible downtown (visitors residents)
- More walking trails/bicycle paths
- Walking and bicycle paths
- Bike paths -connected to city centers
- busy/walkable Downtown
- Integrated healthy neighborhoods
- Healthier low-income neighborhoods -location of grocery stores
- Better parks- more maintenance, lighting, equipment
- Green space, parks, and recreation center
- Thriving (Parks, bike paths, welcoming)
- Free city swimming pools
- Implement of PROS Plan - more park and open space
- Well-maintained park and green space plus enhancing existing park assets
- Better recreation (like worlds of fun, water park)
- Wildlife corridor
- Better parks - more maintained - lighting - equipment
- More park amenities
- Well maintained parks - all
- Better utilization of city property for outdoor recreation.
- Green space, parks, and recreation center
- More green space - pools/neighborhood center
- Good park system - better than now
- Quality of life - arts, pools, parks, rec center
- More rec centers - NE Wichita
- Solid parks/tree canopy
- City stop cutting trees with better plan
- Park equipment in the areas that are just open spaces
- Hiking, nature trails
- Green spaces for neighborhoods
- More quality green space
- improve park maintenance
- Safety, education, parks
- Enhanced regional parks
- Water in all pools
- Parks maintained/developed for multi-generational activities
- More community spaces (parks)

- Sims park-integrate existing and add to
- Increase support for or maintain parks & libraries
- Quality of life enhancements-parks, pools open, bike paths
- More gathering places
- Look to SG park for example of amenities
- Recreation and open spaces - more
- Enhance park system
- Dog parks
- CLAPP Park - what's happening with this?
- Don't take from our public spaces to build businesses
- Recreation opportunities
- Expand green space and parks - bike and walking paths -safe
- Parks -maintain -diverse recreation activities/amusement -running/biking paths
- Quality of life -safety -family/schools -recreation -arts
- Better public park identity
- More child-friendly parks
- Focus on river -use of it for recreation; access; 2nd dam
- Enhanced parks
- Improved Park and Recreation facilities and diverse programming

### **Homelessness and Social Services**

**Comments made within the “Homelessness and Social Services” theme include, but are not limited to: increase shelters or programs for homeless, provide resources for homeless population, enhance full spectrum of safety net services, improve community mental health services, provide increased access to services for jail population post release, and increase opportunities for all to achieve upward mobility.**

- Opportunities for self-sufficiency for homeless - access to programs - keep housing out of downtown for homeless
- Church community doing great things for homeless population
- Improve Social Services - homeless
- More shelters or programs for homeless
- End homelessness
- Homeless issues, especially for teens
- No permanent place for our homeless population
- Partnerships to fill empty buildings w/ homeless asst. services
- More services for the homeless
- Homelessness
- Housing for homeless and low-mod income

- Programs to help homeless
- Resources for homeless
- Providing resources for homeless
- Enhanced safety net - housing, social service, full spectrum
- People in poverty
- Reduce poverty and segregation
- Need for family abuse shelters
- Balance assistance programs to make them more available
- Increase funding for mentally ill (keep out of jails)
- Less need for social services
- Improved community mental health
- Bridge gap for healthcare and mental illness
- Rehabilitation for post-release from jail
- Need programs -for motivation and potential
- Opportunities for everyone- Single, elderly, handicapped
- Opportunities for everyone
- Assistance w/ upward mobility
- Assistance/Accessibility to social services

### **Other**

**Comments made within the “Other” theme include, but are not limited to: become a retirement destination, resolve the backlog to receive government services, City government provide excellent customer service, create a world-class airport - this is important for economic development, and leave Wichita as Wichita.**

- Backlog in services
- Abortion free community
- Leave ICT as ICT
- Elect Municipal judges
- Fall election of city council
- Warm beer sold at stores so won't drink in car - must fridge
- Not Feasible
- Vital to life
- Other grocery stores besides Dillons
- Opportunities for investment by out-of-towners
- Only qualified purchaser of sheriff sale property -ordinance change options
- Venture capital
- Focus on intangibles not just tangibles
- Quick start type program

- State office building
- City 7 is outdated and useless -it serves to bolster political
- Better customer service
- Improve life style of low-income people
- Review additional tax opportunities
- Lots of change in next 10 years
- Forfeiture clauses for incentives
- How do we want to grow as a community?
- Delivery of electric power in 10 years may be very different
- High paid civil workers
- Plan for growth rather than wait and see
- Lifeline to a healthy community
- Tax -lower property taxes -no specials
- Tougher laws on pay-day loan biz/car title stores
- No tax on food
- We need money
- The other items get taken care of if you do "d"
- Means to connect people - economic benefits
- Senior services enhanced
- Services for elderly and disabled
- Retirement community
- Top 10 places to retire in
- Services for those disabled and elderly
- High quality senior living and services, programs, activities
- Destination for retire
- Keep retirees here -medical services -affordable cost of living -ways to stay engaged
- Public/Private Partnership
- More consolidation-city/county depts.
- Combined city/county
- Consolidated city/co govt
- Regional approach
- Integrated -outlier communities feel connected, regional approach
- Support REAP
- Take advantage of I 35 corridor
- 1st class airport
- Airport hub
- Mogas for airports
- Regional air hub in Wichita

- Improve airport - expand runways - improve serv./carriers
- Affordable airfares, hub - create/competitive
- Cheap air fare
- Improve aviation transportation -more flights to more cities
- D. D. Eisenhower "National" airport
- Airport service – eco devo benefit
- Non-partisan detailed study on airfares -cheaper flights -include all transportation
- Affordable airfares, hub - create/competitive
- Maintain/reduce airfares
- Air travel is critical; performing arts are also important
- Fair fares
- Affordable and available flight
- Cheaper flights

### **Retention of Young Professionals**

**Comments made within the “Retention of Young Professionals” theme include, but are not limited to: promotion of higher education opportunities in Wichita, increase quality of life to retain young professionals, and become a top choice city for young professionals to live and work.**

- Higher degree attainment
- WSU repeats as national champions
- Opportunities for Higher Ed -more graduates, doctorates
- Scholarships
- 1st gen college students
- Top college grad destination
- A community college in Wichita -for recruiting fodder
- Jobs for young adults
- Retain young professionals
- Retain young people
- Retain our young adults (College age - 45)
- Equal access to old town
- Job creation - retain young professionals
- Attract/retain young talent - arts and downtown - better market
- Stigma among young professionals – confront this
- Attractions for young professionals
- Job creation - retain young professionals
- Become top choice to live/work for young professionals
- Opportunities for young people

- Stop the brain drain
- Create businesses, great wages and benefits, retain young adults
- Attract and retain young adults
- Keep young adults in Wichita -more for singles -not everything geared towards families
- Stop brain drain
- Keep WSU students in community
- Retain young people with good jobs and quality of life attractions
- Keep young people here
- Opportunities and excitement where young want to stay
- Jobs to keep young
- Losing young people -moving out how do they stay? What do we do?
- Retain youth
- Retain young people
- Retain young people, attract visitors, jobs for young people, taxes paid by visitors
- Retaining young adults in the community
- Retain young people
- Could explain losing young people
- Key for younger generation -currently underutilized -first thing people see - business attraction -it isn't "east or west"
- Retain young talent
- Concerted effort to retain our youth
- Keep young people here

### **Revitalization (neighborhoods, blighted areas)**

**Comments made within the “Revitalization” theme include, but are not limited to: revitalize neighborhoods, eliminate blight, reduce sprawl, promote and invest in clean and maintained neighborhoods, enforce housing codes, increase landlord accountability, increase revitalization and development south of Kellogg, and create safer and more vibrant neighborhoods.**

- Maintain neighborhoods
- Implement 30-year plan south central plan
- Focus on low-income neighborhoods - infrastructure
- Neighborhood revitalized
- Clean and maintained neighborhood
- Revitalize neighborhoods - older neighborhoods
- Concentrate on existing neighborhoods
- Safer and more vibrant neighborhoods
- Improve low-income neighborhoods, esp. along channel route

- Don't allow neighborhoods to die
- Riverside development
- Area revitalization
- Revitalization of old neighborhoods
- Expand NRA & LIA areas
- Little to no blight
- Eliminated blight
- City revitalization - blight and older areas (Delano examples)
- End to sprawl
- Inner cities sustain.
- Should favor revitalization over new development
- Little to no blight
- Retain green space - focus on infill, economic development existing infrastructure
- Area revitalization
- Eliminated blight
- Expand NRA and LIA areas
- More compact development - able to age in place
- Development of NE Wichita, Policies encourage infill development
- Broad thinking, invest in city, tell advantage of infrastructure
- Growing tax base, new development, don't play one against the other downtown v. other areas through special assessments
- Policy favoring Historic preservation
- Less sprawl
- Incentives for renovation
- More infill development
- Reduce urban sprawl
- Renewed growth/infill in current city limits
- Redevelop south Wichita
- Develop South Fork
- Revitalization
- Keep what we've got
- Densify the city, don't expand geographically
- Less urban sprawl
- Revitalize inner Wichita-Houses & neighborhoods-urban blight issues
- Infill development -affects existing infrastructure -developers pay extra for sprawl
- Investing in older neighborhood (housing stock)
- Why not use empty buildings for new businesses?
- More development south of Kellogg

- Get rid of Joyland; improve district
- Neighborhood revitalization
- Stop sprawl
- Invest more money in Central, northeast Wichita, Mosley, Central, Oliver, 29<sup>th</sup>
- Abandoned homes - enforce housing Codes
- Landlord accountability
- OCI meet needs more proactive
- OCI not having much to do, more teeth, revamp system
- Rental property ordinance -building code
- Code enforcement must be effective
- Frustrated with permitting processes. Inspectors too tough.
- Landlord accountability
- OCI meet needs
- OCI policies and procedures
- Force property owners to maintain grounds
- Ban fireworks -bigger fines -more enforcement
- Better OCI control

### **Safe Community**

**Comments made within the “Safe Community” theme include, but are not limited to: reduce gang violence, keep crime percent low, improve animal control, create a safer downtown, increase public access to tornado shelters and safe areas, decrease incarceration and recidivism through prevention programs, and maintain adequate financial support for police and fire.**

- Less Crime- More community, more good news
- Safe neighborhoods
- Tough on property crime
- Known for being a safe community
- Safe - adequate political and financial support of police and fire - trends - increase population - higher concentration of officers
- Crime % - keep low
- Safer downtown
- Less crime
- Less crime/gangs
- Gang violence - safer community
- Gun control/safer community
- Legislation - domestic violence re: guns
- Improved animal control

- Less crime
- More police and fire - recent cuts
- Control crime
- Enhanced animal control
- Less crime
- Safer community
- Safer schools by eliminating gang activity
- More public tornado shelter - safety areas
- Police in elementary and middle and high schools - to cut off gang development
- Safe community - address illegal(gang, drug) activity in neighborhoods
- Safe community citywide
- Crime - reduce
- Safe neighborhoods
- Less gang surveillance - safer community
- Dogs
- Improved animal control
- Safe for families
- More police officers
- Dept. of Corrections(Sec. Pat Roberts) - Money for transportation to help reduce recidivism
- Better/larger jail
- Make people retake driver tests
- No smoking in public places, parks
- Limit drinks at bars
- Safe neighborhood -kids playing at parks -police/community better -knowledge
- Keep up emergency services
- Enhanced public safety
- Lower crime rates
- Less prostitution
- Continued feeling of safe and secure
- Faster delinquency Recovery -sheriff sale
- Consistent/logical speed limits
- Better animal control dept. -license fees -revise vicious dog laws -central post box
- Less crime, esp. copper thefts
- Don't pay for copper thefts
- Police & fire #1
- No gun signs on library/other doors & parks & rec
- Offender registration (remove question about felonies on job applications)

- Reduce crime
- Safety, education, parks
- Less crime ie; dare program, gangs
- Citizen safety -enhance
- Public safety
- Law enforcement
- Safe
- Safety
- Lower crime
- Safer community

### **Smaller Government**

**Comments made within the “Smaller Government” theme include, but are not limited to: consider government consolidation (city and county), discontinue tax incentives, no competition between government and public sector, discontinue public/private partnerships, decrease regulation, lower taxes, and emphasize the free market.**

- Government consolidation/city and county
- No tax incentives
- Less travel to foreign counties by elected officials
- Zoning promotes sprawl
- Follow a plan - stop doing things ad hoc
- Focus on basic city services - Do things only the city can do - understand basic gov. role
- No pay to play
- Lower taxes, regulation reform/reduction
- Streamline bureaucracy, city gov.
- No private-public partnerships
- Less government control subsidies (smaller govt)
- Collaboration of city/county services(like OCI)
- Want to see government agencies stay downtown-practice what preach -centralized
- Don't use incentives for business development
- City should not compete with private sector
- No eminent domain
- Gov't don't invest
- Manage what we have
- Limited gov't
- Promote liberty
- Get out of incentive business
- Decrease tax abatements

- Emphasize free market
- No subsidy for SW airlines
- Flouride-free water supply
- Don't build downtown library
- Review privatization for library system
- Increased privatization can lower costs
- Privatization of tree trimming
- No state income tax
- Stop community college subsidy
- Easy on property tax
- Reduce property taxes
- Business friendly; less red tape
- Re-evaluate fair fares program
- Private development climate
- Avoid international purchase of assets

### **Stormwater**

**Comments made within the “Stormwater” theme include, but are not limited to: decrease street flooding, increase stream and river maintenance, concentrate on drainage improvements across Wichita, and place storm sewers in all neighborhoods.**

- Floodway improvements
- Storm water drainage - street flooding
- Drainage improvements - multiple areas of town
- Flooding improvements
- Stream/river maintenance
- Reduce flooding at 15th and Joann, near 17th
- Stormwater improvements for streets that flood -West street, parts downtown, 13th and park place/main
- Less flooding -better stormwater sys.
- Infrastructure, stormwater management
- Better stormwater management (S. Meridian, Pawnee)
- Less street flooding
- Put storm sewers in all neighborhoods
- Stormwater and drainage systems
- Addressing flooding issues
- West street flooding can it be addressed now?
- Flooding roads –none

## **Streets (Arterials, Residential, Freeways, Sidewalks; Maintenance and Capacity)**

**Comments made within the “Streets” theme include, but are not limited to: maintain current infrastructure, improve citywide circulation, synchronize traffic signals, complete Kellogg freeway improvements, increase access to residential streets, prioritize street maintenance, increase sidewalks across Wichita to provide accessibility, regulate large truck traffic, increase capacity to decrease congestion, improve and maintain residential street network, and improve safety of bridges and frequently used interchanges.**

- Physical accessibility
- Maintenance, access to public facilities in all areas
- Better access to residential areas
- Better Streets
- Improved citywide circulation
- Synchronized traffic signals
- Kellogg complete
- Great roads, sewer, bridges, transportation
- Street Lights
- Roads finished (kellogg)
- Long-term street plan
- Road expansion - older areas
- Infrastructure improved
- Streets/Infrastructure
- More street repairs
- Street repairs/flooding
- Street maintenance - delayed - prioritize
- Reuse of infrastructure
- We need sidewalks
- Streets great shape
- Street Lights
- Finish infrastructure maintenance
- Maintain local neighborhood streets
- Better streets
- Improved citywide circulation
- Synchronized traffic signals
- More street repairs
- Kellogg complete - great roads
- Great roads, sewer, bridges, transportation
- Improve/maintain trans/road bridges sidewalks
- Limit types of traffic

- Roadway improvement/aging, not appropriate
- Improve neighborhood roads
- Street repair - residential, funding
- Street lighting - like better visibility
- Visible lane markings, repaint more often
- Continued good roads
- Maintain easy commute
- Do not bypass neighborhoods
- Improve residential streets
- Strong infrastructure
- Streets, highways; planning traffic flow
- Transportation
- Easy to get around - Kellogg - Transit
- Upgrade infrastructure - sewer, water, drainage streets
- Faster construction
- I-235/US 54 interchange
- Flyover at 21st and Broadway for trains
- Update -235 and Kellogg – right now it is dangerous
- Update 254 and 96 -gridlock
- Road crews who work 24/7 to decrease construction time
- Focus on infrastructure -roads, water
- Fast construction projects
- Less congestion
- Improved infrastructure
- Improved parking coordination –new application for phones
- Maintain infrastructure
- Minimize large truck traffic (trash, etc.)
- Commitment to improve infrastructure city-wide
- Improve, take care of infrastructure (streets, water, bridges)
- Sidewalks - new and old communities
- Improve street maintenance
- Finish freeway
- Improve street maintenance & security-lighting
- Improved road maintenance -Arterials and neighborhoods
- Maintain sidewalks better
- Mandate sidewalks in all new developments
- Infrastructure improvements
- Repair of streets -downtown streets in particular

- Fix infrastructure
- Take care of roads we have
- Master plan for infrastructure needed
- Transportation -congestion on Kellogg and elsewhere
- Streets
- Streets need attention -neighborhoods
- Improved infrastructure
- Enhance capacity of road system
- Sound street system
- Finish Kellogg
- Take care of infrastructure
- Finish Kellogg freeway
- Better street maintenance
- Infrastructure to support job growth and creation
- Finish Kellogg
- Improved transportation
- Resurface public parking lots
- Clear sand/salt mix from walkways
- Get NW expressway done
- Need to improve flow
- Maintain/improve commute times
- New traffic signalization
- synchronization of traffic signals

### **Public Transportation (Transit/Rail)**

**Comments made within the “Public Transportation” theme include: better/improved public transit, more accessible public transit (extended routes and times), creation of park and ride program, invest in passenger rail to other regional cities and light rail within city, more accessible public transit for seniors and low income residents, and consider smaller buses to improve efficiency and cut costs.**

- Support for seniors (public transportation, easy walking, healthcare)
- Services for aging and disabled - transportation
- Improved public transit
- Train Service
- Better transit system
- Park and ride
- Easier access to transit
- Transportation (Improve transit and develop passenger rail service)

- Public transit (bus/rail)
- Better public transit
- High quality public transportation
- Improved public transit
- Transit improvement
- Rapid transit
- Passenger rail
- Elevated RR crossings
- Public transportation improvement - better access/usable - better time average-homes
- More buses, 24 hr., bike racks
- Park and ride
- Passenger rail
- TOD/Light Rail
- RR crossing elevated
- Buses, not roads
- Improved public transportation
- Improve public transit
- Better public transportation
- Passenger rail connections
- Improved bus system
- Train Service
- Better transit system
- Park and ride
- Bus Service - expand - its distance - days - fuel efficiency
- Train service - pass
- Right sizing the buses
- Improved transit routes, north/south
- Commuting: trains
- Transportation - enhance the service - try enhance service before replacing fleet
- Transit system - as well as passenger rail
- More robust transit
- Air, rail, and transit
- Public transp. - more than buses (with better image)
- Transit must connect where people live and where they want to go
- City buses safer
- Inner city rail system
- Buses to take drinker home
- Passenger rail

- Better/universal access to public transit
- Better bus system - more buses, more places, more often - bus stop 18th and Joann-gone?
- Public transportation -smaller buses -more routes -more days and hours -grid system
- More comprehensive transportation system -transit-better service -expand to other communities
- Rail system within city instead of buses
- AmTrack
- Enhance transportation
- Passenger rail needed?
- More and better public transportation
- Public transportation
- Train service -economic development benefit -access(regional)
- Better transit -quality -route maps -improved access-day and other long-term passes - reward conservation, not dis-incentivize - easier to use -better 24/7 coverage -combine city/school bus services -financial benefits from consolidation; reduced truancy
- Improved public transportation
- Dynamic downtown in region passenger rail
- Good transit
- Urban transit downtown and throughout
- Good rail service
- Diversify commuting options - taxis, buses(hours), etc.
- Functional public transportation system -after 6pm/late into evening
- Transit system deficiencies, bus system lacking
- Transit system-schedule-better routes
- Improved transportation choices
- Better public transit-use alternative fuels-not spoke & hub
- Enhanced transportation
- Employee benefits for transportation and better wages
- A user-friendly public transit system
- More robust transit, especially downtown
- Improve public transit -more accessible to the poor
- Improve public transit
- Improve public transportation; add train service (KC, TX, Chi. Ex.)
- Keep working on passenger rail
- Public transportation-better service, make sure it continues more hours, better system
- Infrastructure -enhance transportation (small buses, more coverage)
- Public transportation
- Public transportation system needed
- Transportation

- Train service
- Buses -public transportation -longer hours -more smaller buses -pattern bus routes after snow routes
- Public transportation
- Public transit better
- Passenger rail
- Transit for family recreation activities
- Transportation -train service -affordable fares/competitive fares -public transit
- Better public transportation
- Passenger rail needed?
- Passenger rail service -ok, w, kc
- Better public transit system and service

### **Water/Sewer**

**Comments made within the “Water/Sewer” theme include, but are not limited to: secure long term water supply, promote conservation of water supply, explore grey water reclamation and reuse, and invest in maintenance and replacement of water/sewer infrastructure.**

- Improved water and sewer infrastructure
- Viable community - water supply long-term
- Water supply
- Better infrastructure
- Water source - options
- Waste water treatment
- Water conservation
- Water source
- Water supply
- Reliable, long-term water supply
- Long term water resource
- Improved water and sewer infrastructure
- Secure water supply
- Better water resource
- Water - can we buy water from Butler?
- Alternative Water Sources
- Address water issues
- Future growth impact of rural water districts, boundary, city services, water, fire
- Core infrastructure - water,sewer,streets
- Water supply

- Grey water system
- Better water quality - drinking - surface
- Better maintained water infrastructure
- Reliable and renewable water for entire community
- Drought fresh in minds
- No water problem -no shortage -infrastructure -long term water policy
- Access to drinking water -long-term supply -conservation
- Abundant water supply
- Improved infrastructure (utilities bonds)
- Adequate water supply
- Water
- Adequate H2O supply
- Reliable source of water
- Broken things (infrastructure) fixed
- Solid infrastructure-water
- More affordable water rates
- Water -guaranteed supply
- Infrastructure -water/sewer lines
- Water supply
- Infrastructure
- Secure water supply -competition for water
- Underground utilities -need to be taken care of
- Water conservation needed
- Regulate utility increases and home locations
- Water -reliable
- Water source
- Reliable water source
- Plan for water conservation
- Better water supply
- Long-term water supply
- Clean, long-term water supply
- Long term infrastructure investment, especially long-term water use, supply and conservation
- Better waste water

### **Youth (K-12 Education, Activities, Opportunities)**

**Comments made within the “Youth” theme include, but are not limited to: create opportunities for next generation, develop further family friendly attractions and**

**opportunities, support the betterment of USD 259, invest in early childhood education opportunities, provide safe entertainment and recreation options for youth and teens, and prioritize partnering with school system to ensure excellence in education opportunities.**

- Opportunities for the next generation
- Strong educational system
- Better education
- Good education system
- Education incentive
- Better places for families
- Thriving cultural center/family events
- Growing/expand population, amenities to attract families
- Family friendly attractions, (KC)
- Family oriented -pools and parks open longer -more opportunities -safer park
- More family attractions and events
- Great place to raise kids
- Family friendly -safe -strong
- Consistent, high quality education opportunities
- Quality education system
- Collaborate with metro area cities, growing base, improve education, transit
- Education big part of future
- Organized funding system-public education-fund philosophy-not piece-need strategic plan
- Early childhood education opportunities
- Education, partnerships, drives growth
- Charter school
- Educate parents on "education"
- Education
- Education is a part of the equation
- Head start
- Continue to grow education
- Good schools, safe for families
- New school in core area- retain schools
- Higher standards for teachers- More language opportunities, summer classes
- Education- high school grads, go on to college
- More youth opportunities- education, recreation
- Better education K-12
- Strong childhood education (All ages) college
- Good public schools

- Higher standards for teachers - more language opportunities - bi-lingual - smaller classes
- Education - high school grads
- Good public schools
- Better education K-12
- Better suburban school district
- Good schools, safe for families
- Strong school system
- Better image for school system, impacts people moving in
- Enhanced schools - K-12 and college
- Hire good teachers (public education)
- Schools -more practical education on investing, budget, home economics
- Regional Education Council
- Strong school system
- Coordinate promotions among school districts, and jurisdictions
- Stronger public school system
- Work to keep USD 259 viable and valuable
- Prioritize and partner between 259 and city/co.
- Attractive - USD 259 to keep families here
- Schools -all grades-good system-good teachers, better curriculum-discipline
- Strong schools
- All day kindergarten
- Quality K-12 ed
- Improve Wichita schools
- Improved k-12 education
- Youth activities
- More youth opportunities - education recreation
- Youth opportunities - stay in Derby - job, education
- Increasing youth activities
- Youth activities
- Engagement of young people
- Youth programs: arts, music, sports
- Teen/preteen -enhance programming
- Youth driven -youth are connected to the community and driving its future
- More teen jobs
- Teen hang-outs
- Something for youth to do (Joyland, etc.)

## How is a City of Wichita General Fund dollar currently spent?

**62 cents** of each City General Fund dollar is used to **provide services that keep the community safe**, to protect the life and property of Wichita residents:

- **Police**
- **Fire**
- **Municipal Court**
- **City Prosecutor**



**5 cents** of every City General Fund dollar is used to fund the functions that **support the work of City service departments**:

- **City Council**
- **City Manager's Office**
  - **Law**
- **Human Resources**

**17 cents** of every City General Fund dollar is used for **public works** expenses, including:

- **Street Maintenance**
- **Snow and Ice Removal**
- **Clean Air and Water**
- **Stormwater Management (Big Ditch, etc)**

**16 cents** of every City General Fund dollar is used to **create a livable community for Wichita residents**, providing a community where residents want to live, work and play, including services such as:

- **Parks and Recreation**
  - **Libraries**
  - **Cultural Arts**

- Out of every City General Fund Operating dollar, 79 cents is used for public safety and public works.
- Other City operations and services that are not paid for through the general fund include:
  - ⇒ *Water & Sewer operations, funded through customer payments;*
  - ⇒ *Wichita Transit (bus service), supported by user fees and other assistance (state/federal);*
  - ⇒ *Federal and state funding for specific programs*



## **Attachment E: Financial Worksheet Comments**

### **Reduce Taxes and Reduce Services**

**Comments provided in the “reduce taxes and reduce services” section of the financial worksheet concentrated on the role of government, recommending increased privatization of services, reduced use of economic development incentives, streamlining the provision of government services when possible, concentrating on needs rather than wants, reducing government salaries and contribution to employee benefits, reducing taxes to promote growth, consolidating City and County services when possible, and reducing regulation to encourage business development.**

- Cut wasteful spending and unnecessary spending
- Have a strong mentor program for the youth to establish jobs and economic freedom for youth
- Have better jobs for northeast and all community of children
- No
- No – has not worked across the state as planned
- No
- Cut council budget-waste
- Quit giving tax monies to developers
- No more 350,000 art work around town that looks like it needs paint
- No more business paying large donations to get stop lights or buying land easements for parking
- Give all of Sedgwick County low interest rates to improve their homes, not just special areas in town
- Payroll and healthcare would/could be cut, but it’s already lean; therefore it’s not a cut expenses issues, it’s an increase revenue issue!
- Privatization of more services
- Priority-based budgeting-Do what must be done well and stop doing non-core functions
- No government incentives: CID/TIF/etc.
- Privatize bus system
- Privatize park maintenance
- Less restrictive to open & grow business-encourage entrepreneurs-free market approach
- Get government out of attempting to control investment
- Taxes should go only to primary functions of government safety/H2O/Streets
- Cut taxes for everyone
- Eliminate incentives
- Cut revaluations for everyone
- Limit size of gov’t

- Create an environment for individual entrepreneur & craftsmen to excel and build our community from a bottom up approach & not top down as is the current thinking.
- Kellogg expansion, passenger rail, and transit
- Get rid of sales tax on food
- More for public works & less on keeping us safe (or restructure those depts.. for more efficiency)
- No more incentives to developers
- Reduce subsidies to businesses to move to Wichita, eliminate abatements
- Cut public art. This is a non-essential, certainly could be paid for by the affluent who want it.
- Not convinced the City should be paying for cultural arts
- Lower the Mayor and city department heads salaries except for police and fire
- Cut pools and recreation. YMCA does it. Revamp library operating budget. Revamp City retirement system.
- Cutting employee salaries to better match the local average-the highest ones with the city
- Cutting back benefits, such as retirement, health, etc. –packages are way better than local companies can afford!
- Eliminate \$900,000/year memberships
- Eliminate reduce incentives to local companies
- Cut mayor’s salaries to \$13,000/yr. Make it part-time like it used to be
- Stop incentives to 6 downtown developers and Warren
- Less purchases/backing of hotels
- Less on arts
- Real estate taxes, fire dept services, combine city/county law enforcement
- Stop funding dead projects in the downtown area, lots of money has been allocated to crooked developers in order to get holders paid off. Pull the plug and stop the bleeding
- Education spending without informed results doesn’t work and we have lowered standards without telling parents
- Less on replacing old buildings with new
- Less incentives to businesses
- Yes, I suggest reduce sales taxes.
- Not responsible
- By firing police and firemen and sell their vehicles
- Less money for the arts, parks, libraries, etc.
- Less money for the mayor, city manager, city and county commissioners
- CID, STAR, TIF, etc. stop them all
- Reduce spending for the culture arts, parks. Let private funds pay for the bulk of this.
- Not sure at this time
- Reduce the cost of the services by improving efficiencies and out-sourcing
- Just hold the line at the current rate and look for ways to cut expenses if possible

- Combine city and county. The savings would likely be significant
- Eliminate the crony handouts. At best, they only shift jobs; more likely they discourage honest entrepreneurs from investing in Wichita.
- Focus on good roads, police, fire, schools, and good businesses will make Wichita their home.
- Eliminate crony capitalism in city projects
- Create operating efficiencies in the City and use that money to fund activities
- Stop council members from jetting around the world
- Simplify city regulations that cannot be eliminated
- Bribes to industries to invest in City council favored companies
- Contract for services
- Eliminate costly outside consultants advocating more capital spending
- Police and fire should be looked at
- Get out of mass transportation business-privatize our PD officer time=cheaper to subsidize “private” enterprise than subsidize govt
- Create an overall better business environment-reduce regulation
- Too many feel good social activities which mainly provide jobs for middle class bureaucrats
- Reduce waste, stop tax abatements for favored few
- Stop concentrating on downtown at expense of other areas
- No - we cannot reduce taxes
- No reduction of taxes
- Cut income of city council members, government don’t pay their benefits, health insurance, retirements, they should invest in their own benefits
- Reducing taxes attracts more business and increases development
- More businesses paying taxes creates more revenue
- Reduce taxes
- Eliminate subsidies and tax avoidance and forgivable loans to hotels, stores, entertainment
- Government administration
- Implement across the board efficiencies
- Bus
- Have downsized where fewer people absorb additional job responsibility
- Reexamine pension benefits
- Use equipment longer and maintain better and reduce capital investment
- Reduce legal expenses
- Privatize jobs like water meter readers, inspector changes, bus service
- Reduce mayors wages to \$13,000 like it used to be
- Eliminate taxpayer funded incentives
- 1.5 cent sales tax to replace prop tax

- Cut this so-called beautification of Wichita
- Stop the bicycle path construction
- Yes reduce taxes, all taxes property and sales reduce “cultural” services
- Reduce spending
- We should not be using tax dollars to pay for private enterprises, ie loans (warren) joint ventures (unless maybe for a large employer with breadwinner wage jobs)
- Increase and enforce fines, collect delinquent property taxes
- Why does the city assume reducing taxes leads to reduced services?
- Stop waste fraud and abuse
- Eliminate CityArts and the D’Angelo arts grants. Cultural arts are not a city core function
- Close and sell one golf course
- Curtail city employee travel by 60%-too many out of town trips produce no results
- Combine more city and county functions –fire, eco devo, police, library, transit
- Stop writing so many unnecessary tickets with the police so that there would be very little use for so much court activity
- Reduce the size of government, less employees, cut salaries in city government, cut mayors salary, don’t need a full time mayor and city manager
- Privatize some services ie-buses, parks, more competitive bidding for services and building projects
- Non departmental public information, libraries, cable channel 7
- Asst. Department directors
- Cultural arts
- Property tax specials
- Budget responsibility
- Savings/reserve –only spend 90% of income
- Save remaining for future use or rainy day
- Easier to pay sales tax increase if more responsible spending, stop spending all money received, save some
- Govt’s don’t invest
- Govt’s serve the community and the people managing prudently, assets we the people see fit to contribute
- Manage what we have, not build new just to be in the nightly news
- Complete the freeway beltway
- Economic development junkets to Africa, junkets to China, junkets to anywhere
- Quit lobbying, stop spending on attracting business
- Don’t worry about passenger rail
- Reduce property tax on commercial property to encourage development which grows the economy which will result in more revenue
- Cut waste; there is plenty of waste.
- No

- Library spending on libraries is outdated and expensive.
- Don't spend on train travel. Price per passenger per mile is too high.
- There are always options for cutting as priorities change.
- Property tax
- Not feasible. Too much need for money.
- Stop doing the federal government's job. Let them enforce their own regulations.
- Start with being more efficient with fire and police.
- Privatize the bus system?
- Privatize as can be.
- I would welcome more outsourcing of City infrastructure functions.
- Airport renaming. Not building a new convention center. Not building anything, letting public do.
- Bus system. Don't spend hundreds of thousands renaming airport.
- Provide incentives to businesses and entrepreneurs through reduced taxes with proven job creation/city growth.
- We need more minority cultural events in the downtown river walk and arena.
- Property taxes
- Cut top dog's salary down to a more reasonable amount.
- Increasing taxes doesn't necessarily mean a good balanced budget.
- City Council, City Manager, County Manager, Mayor, Law, Human Resources
- I don't know
- No
- No change
- Create more user specific fees
- Tax is the bane of the individual. We must pay for services like fire/police. But subsidies on Century II – No. They should have to pay their own way. Specific votes on any new proposed tax must be done with a sunset and how it is used.
- No more funding private projects with public money.
- Reduce mayor and manager salaries.
- Cultural arts
- Any service that people should have provided for themselves or planned for during their lifetime. Any service that allows people to continue to be a nonessential citizen.
- No more TIF districts. No more public money in downtown development.
- Reduce or eliminate TIF
- Remove REAP funding. Get private developers that owe city taxes or money from TIF loans to pay them back NOW! STOP taking money from tourism taxes and use it on Century II. City needs to do preventative maintenance on what they own.
- More efficiency. Grid bus. Do not finance private development. Stop downtown development.

- Eliminate economic development incentives. Sell City owned real estate to the highest bidder without incentives of any nature. Reduce City staff across the board by 20%-30%. Pay as you go without debt! Sell the 300 City owned homes.
- I don't assume services would have to be reduced for long. It is important to get us focused and limited to only doing things government can and should do. Get us out of real estate deals and private business. Get our debt paid down/off so we can be financially sound and not spending so much on debt service.
- Reduce taxes by discontinuing incentives for businesses – no private/public partnerships. Decrease or stop funding of the cultural arts and recreation.
- Eliminate economic development that favors one group of businesses or one location in town.
- Stop giving away tax revenue for economic development. No water saving rebates. No more no-bid contracts. Reduce funding for arts group.
- Definitely the best option. Eliminate the public transit service altogether (taxis could pick up the service), or opt for a system similar to that in other countries with smaller vehicles, such as minivans, used for public transport instead of costly busses. Reduce or eliminate spending on recreation and cultural arts. These are not a necessary function of government.
- Lowering taxes doesn't have to mean reducing services.
- If it is a need, do it. If it is a want, do not!
- Reduce taxes and focus more on user fees.
- I think a lot of people are hurting from the economy, and I am low income and can't afford anything above my budget. Please make some way to not put a tax on everybody regardless of if they don't have the money.
- Definitely no.
- Look for duplication of costs/efforts between departments and inefficiencies within departments before you do anything with taxes.
- Lowering taxes by better financial decisions. Lower taxes for all is better for attracting all businesses instead of tax abatements for a few or TIF/CID districts. Accept lower bids on airport and save \$2 million.
- Stop investing in REAP or U.N. Agenda 21. We do not need the United Nations running Wichita, KS unless City Council is unable to do its job.
- Reducing taxes would not necessarily reduce services. Why not identify inefficiencies in our present services?
- A library should not be an investment for the City. Current services are adequate for the digital age.
- Reduce vehicle taxes.
- Don't pay for new suburban infrastructure.
- Keep them the same.

- Cut current salaries of City Council and all salaries that support these people. Wichita spends foolish on nonessential things and not enough on services that affect all citizens.
- Eliminate bonding of future capital expenditures; go on a pay as you go basis.
- Reduce huge salaries of public employees. Install 401(k) rather than just life pensions. Let the people do their own retirement like the rest of us.
- Stop giving tax incentives.
- Quit subsidizing downtown developers w/ tax dollars
- Want a true risk reward capitalistic system
- Curtail future investments on economic development and public transportation. Ax more money into arts and cultural entertainment. No passenger rail service, no new green space, parks, no more bike and walking paths, no new streets. Until we pay down the debt, no new name for the airport and no new Century II.
- Cut welfare food stamps and unemployment benefits.
- Cut food stamps, housing, cash assistance costs. Make people support themselves.
- Help the community by buying from Kansas. Our food should be fresh and more on sales side.
- Reduce taxes but increase efficiency of government in all areas of spending.
- Get better at prioritizing spending and budgeting. Cut out the frills, focus on essentials. We can pay for our own education and our own activities. Give more power to the people – unburden them.
- I believe we spend too much money on beautifying the City and redoing buildings that seem in good shape (Century II) and decorating concrete along the sidewalk and Kellogg. I don't think it gets that noticed. That money could be spent on more needed items.
- There is too much overlap in government and our legal system is not efficient
- Changes need to be made to operate more like a profitable business
- Libraries, Lobby groups, Channel 7, Visioneering Wichita, Public Affairs, Sister Cities, Reduce advisory groups.
- Streamline things like the court system, where there is a great deal of overlap
- Reduce money in prosecution, court, and police by legalizing marijuana. Tax it for obvious reasons
- Spend money more wisely
- Merge county and city services
- Tourism
- If you invested more in the quality of life for lower income, middle income individuals, you would not have to spend such an astronomical amount to keep them safe. I think 80% on public safety and only 16% on quality of life is a huge disparity.
- Hire out services to more companies to bid for work. Lower speed limits on highways to lower costs. Quit mowing everything so often to save on fuel and maintenance.
- No, nay, never.

- End de facto subsidy of new home building (eliminate special assessments to pay for sidewalk, street, water, sewer and construction). Make developers include these costs in new home prices.
- I do not support the Tea Party's no-government philosophy.
- Maybe a lower tax on small business.
- Quit building new schools and community buildings. A building remains functional over 30 years. Why are we talking about building a new Century II?
- Better bike use leads to less street maintenance. Public transportation leads to less street maintenance. Increase public volunteerism.
- Do not cut taxes
- Eliminate government waste. Create more tax growth by allowing and making the city business friendly
- Understand where each money is spent and try to spend more efficiently
- Use solar above parked cars. Encourage rain barrels. Encourage water conservation. Ration water on lawns. Encourage families to raise 3 chickens.
- None
- Quit giving incentive to the MN boys
- I believe reducing taxes is the best approach. Additional details would need to be provided regarding spending, efficiency, and effectiveness of services to determine what services should be cut
- I think the concentration of homeless in downtown area detracts from family activities. I went to keeper of the plains and there were a lot of homeless, some fishing. It was getting dark and I was concerned for safety.
- Eliminate traffic cops, dedicate all police officers to reducing real crime such as domestic violence, robberies, homicide
- Reduce waste
- Keep taxes same, because so many people are unemployed
- Less govt spending
- We need the taxes if we want services
- Less traffic biking
- Would question coverage of fire protection
- Private rail service, increased private air flight service, private mass transportation, current public mass transit is ridiculous for a city of this size, time for private sector investment and service to run mass transit
- Think tanks
- Outsource a professional group to help with budget balancing consultants other than our elected officials and comptrollers already in place
- This will (should) leave plenty of money to fund the projects. Conclusion –do not raise taxes
- Limit growth so lots in the city have value not just suburbs

- 4 workers watching 1 work in city - style this must change
- Reduce police, fire, court, city prosecutor
- Housing-leave to private sector and feds
- Eliminate the wasteful red tape-operate govt more like a profit driven business
- Parks and rec –I think is great as is-maintain
- Invest different
- Has the city and Sedgwick co. discussed merging the fire dept and sharing assets and personnel?
- No, if the city is going to tax the people, then I recommend they use it for actual needs not on preposterous things
- Increase efficiency to reduce staffing and processes
- Outsource more city work
- It seems a big piece of the budget goes to law enforcement a very little to create opportunities for youth to not see crime as an option for their lives. It is important to have a community that is proud of its identity to the level where they want to stay/live/invest in it
- Get rid of any and all waste ie city managers that jobs overlay with other positions
- I feel that if citizens are being asked to invest, the business community, corporations who want to be here should also invest. I'm not against raising taxes for citizens if we can also be open about companies who are getting tax subsidies and drying up our city. We must all do our part.
- Reduce waste and overlapping services, privatize services where possible. Private business is always more efficient and less county govt produces nothing and we need less of it
- A reduction in taxes would kick start business growth allowing for more taxable opportunities - we need more businesses and that will generate more funds
- Reduce taxes but, reallocate funds to not reduce services
- Efficiencies and productivity of service providers
- Combine city and county agencies – would cut administrative costs and salaries
- Cut subsidies to private businesses
- Government responsibility
- Establish more of a user tax sales tax – keep property taxes affordable
- I really don't know
- Cut homeless services and instead increase incentives for the private sector to provide these to the community ie low income housing and charity organizations
- Get rid of income tax. Which would drive people to come and stay in Wichita
- Reduce property taxes - we have some of the highest taxes compared to other states
- Tax dollars seem to spend easier than personal dollars, I am sure there are plenty of cost cutting measures that could be achieved. Offer incentives for saving money rather than you had better spend it or next year's budget will be less.

- Reduce tax for the poor and middle class, increase tax on the rich

### **Spend Current Dollars a Different Way**

**A number of ideas were expressed in the “spend current dollars a different way” column of the financial worksheet. Some felt that too much money was currently being spent on public works and public safety, and dollars should be reallocated to invest more in quality of life, while others felt that investment in public safety should increase while quality of life expenditures should decrease; streamlining to more efficiently deliver services was recommended, as was consideration of consolidating City/County service functions; some participants expressed that reallocating current dollars was not an option, that new funding needed to be secured; participants also recommended reducing incentives to developers, securing private funding for non-essential services, and privatizing services when possible.**

- 85% on public safety/10% on quality of life/6% on support services
- Public safety is extremely important
- Reduce overhead in administration
- Have a savings account
- 50% public safety, 30% Quality of life, 20% support function
- Decrease recreation; basic human needs more important than recreation
- More private funding for arts
- Reduce law budget and hire private as needed. They do anyway
- Stop developing downtown, more local neighborhoods
- Would like a thorough analysis of these fund expenditures
- Quality of life should include a recycling program, reward those who recycle most and have very little trash
- Leadership can decide based on the input received thru ACT ICT
- Giving money to the homeless
- Privatize as much as possible
- Police, Fire –municipal court \$0.50 –add public works and others
- Reduce waste, city and county replicate services
- Sell some city property such as hotels etc.
- Strong core
- Programs that lift the self-esteem of low income neighborhoods
- Can't afford to reallocate
- Not reallocating
- Keep like it is, it works fine
- Believe there are savings available in fire dept equipment purchases
- We need this as is
- Cut some spending w/ municipal court and prosecutors office
- Cut the municipal city prosecutor

- Collect more in taxes to reallocate needs
- Reduce corporate tax breaks – we haven't realized much up side
- New accountants, comptrollers, consultants to balance budget
- More on public safety
- More police
- Look at the large ticket items-improve efficiencies, add to public works and livable community
- I believe we need to look at current operations in our police/criminal system and work to reduce the cost and stay of our jail system. Rehabilitation vs retention
- I wouldn't –keep everything the same make the changes by taxes.
- Administrative costs, only spend money you can see
- Reduce inventory of city owned property. Be responsible as a seller to deal with
- Reduce duplication of services, consolidate as much as possible
- Less community safety, more public works
- For every dollar spent currently, cut a penny
- Less for cultural arts, rail service development, funding fair fares, development of bike lanes, and bike paths
- Reduce cultural arts investment and potentially reallocate to street/infrastructure maintenance
- No cultural arts. Nonprofit can fill this role
- 5 yr freeze on utility hikes
- Make the court system more efficient
- Throwing good money after bad is never a good idea
- Refinance Debt
- Streamline
- The new airport really, 12 gates are 12 gates
- Make and follow a viable budget. Live within said budget
- Stay out of business endeavors; ie rail systems, riverwalk
- More needs to be done to control traffic –streets are dangerous; use more radar it is easy to do and it would provide much needed revenue for the city
- Lower mayor and other excessive wage earners
- Look for more efficient ways to spend
- Privatize jobs
- I have confidence that the manager and council are revisiting and adjusting appropriately on a regular basis
- Reallocate money to basic services - water, fire, police etc. reduce spending
- Less for safety and better wages for city employees
- Stop cronyism and tax abatement for favored developers
- Pay the mayor less money
- Stop making poor fiscal decisions

- No more decorations
- 4% city services dept
- Stop for 5 years the downtown development operations
- 18% public works – reduce public works spending
- Privatize jobs
- Privatize more services
- Limit government growth
- More than 5% for city services
- Property tax for things people use – not stainless steel fans or wheat stalks
- Spend less on public safety
- Less on government control
- Change to 8% quality of life, 85% for public safety
- 75% public safety, 15% quality of life and 10% functions
- Spend less on arts. Put the bus system up for public ownership.
- Quit crony capitalism tax breaks etc.
- To infrastructure
- Send more public works projects to be bid on by the private sector, would save our money
- Recycling
- I think if the sales tax increase is for the long term than a lower % tax rate is easier for people to accept
- Sales tax is a regressive tax so it would be important to protect lower income by exempting food
- I would like to see more focus on creating a coherent, core identity for the city. That distinguishes it from others in the country. This focus on our identity will be the ha of all other actions that will magnify and reinforce its identity, must be elevated to the level of myth as a compelling 21<sup>st</sup> century city
- Could hotel tax be increased?
- Other priorities
- Reduce police and courts
- Don't build a new library or CII. Don't add stuff outside of ACT!
- 75% public works and public safety/16% quality of life/10% Support services
- Improve city efficiency and smaller administration
- Consolidate city and county govt
- More spent on visual arts
- As far as current spending, make sure that there are not redundancies in areas
- Less building(CII, Intrust, Library) more beautification
- Quit spending so much on issuing speeding tickets and reallocate resources to new libraries & parks.
- More help for all children and northeast, change the opportunity for jobs

- Allocate quality of life items
- Less on police, save money by spending on less on traffic profiling
- Change laws on municipal drug use
- 40% improve quality of life, 40% street and infrastructure, 20% public safety
- Prioritize the need
- More funding for libraries and parks
- Less public safety more quality of life
- Cut livable spending to 10%
- No more David Burk economic development; invite new industry to town
- More for libraries & parks, less for city manager & city council
- Use private sector
- 70% essential services, 20% culture & life, 10% non-contributing segments
- More allocated to quality of life
- Spend on life, less on streets & maintenance
- Police should protect property more & harass drivers less. Cut burglaries & car theft.
- Reduce the use of incentives that decrease tax revenue sources
- Merge the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County to save on administrative costs. If not all, at least public safety.
- Take a look at wasted expenditure outside “general fund” dollars.
- Education
- It is sad it takes 62 cents of each dollar to keep Wichita safe.
- Privatize services. No TIF.
- 70% for public safety is too much. Increase quality of life from 16%-26%
- Online library. Close brick buildings.
- Cut or combine some services and state jobs.
- 75% public safety. 20% quality of life. 5% administration.
- OK as is, good balance.
- Increase the job creation spending.
- Reallocate more money to transit.
- Less going to City Council and more going to street maintenance and ice removal.
- Eliminate waste, fraud, and crony capitalism first.
- Police and fire could be reduced by 5%-20%
- Reduce wages/benefits for top earners in administration
- No tax increase spent on fire and police.
- During hard times, maintain but don’t spend on new development.
- Reduce taxes.
- Increase infrastructure renewal, perhaps reduce parks and recreation.
- Move more to public works and community improvements.
- Current spending could be spent on job development which would eventually bring more industries.

- Stop putting money into Kellogg. It's fine how it is. Reconsider the money you're putting into nonprofits. Check that they're spending it responsibly.
- Quit hiring outside specialist to tell the City how to do things.
- Quality of life up 10% while public safety down 10%.
- Don't have enough info to comment on this division.
- Balance
- Reduce cultural arts and parks and recreation by 10% and give to public works.
- I would keep it as is for the sake of public safety. That is important to me.
- Prioritize needs such as food before city beautification such as arts etc.
- Stop huge travel expenses for City Council for starters.
- Stop giving the Mayor and employees big raises.
- Programs for youth before they become involved in criminal activities. Prevention.
- More repairs in northeast area. Vacant lots and streets.
- Lower the debt and use to fund.
- Really fix potholes or start paying for vehicle alignments.
- Through studies and careful planning.
- No one should earn more than a teacher.
- Do not cut on public safety but on what
- More for quality of life and less on public safety.
- Eliminate waste in bureaucracy and paperwork in government
- Less spending on highways and roads and more on public transportation.
- More long-term sustainability and green reduction of costs.
- Less emphasis on roads and more on public transportation. Less eco-devo, doesn't seem to pay back. Area innovations that pay for themselves such as wind and solar. Focus on jobs of the future at high salaries.
- Move about 1%-2% to quality of life from public safety and infrastructure.
- Big investment in busses. And less to road building. Get people on the busses and take the strain off the roads.
- Spend more on community safety and less on the arts.
- Less economic development-spend on infrastructure improvement less on the sacred cow of public safety, privatize when possible
- Add to police and fire and cut libraries.
- Basic services need coverage.
- Find private support for cultural amenities.
- Police retirement is way too much. Probably other City officials too.
- 90% for public safety, 8% for quality of life and 2% for support.
- Search for public-private partnership or private investment in cultural arts and entertainment
- Fire and police most important
- Hire out 3<sup>rd</sup> party companies to perform some City services more efficiently.

- Stop giving incarcerated felons extra benefits like better meals than I get, free cable TV, etc. Stop dragging court issues out. I think courts do this just to make more money.
- No new expensive statues and art.
- Cutting services to park and rec/libraries/cultural arts and direct to public safety/public works
- Reduce salary for city top earner administration
- Less help to developers through TIF etc. Don't pick winners and losers.
- Make funding even throughout.
- Increase number of animal control officers.
- Spend more on animal control.
- Less travel for City leaders.
- Reducing juvenile detention
- Fund transportation services that are more appealing for everyone to use and that are safe and reliable.
- New library
- Would need to look at budget I am sure changes could be made
- More inclusive of the predominantly black area. More beautification and street repair.

### **Sales Tax Ideas**

**Comments made in the "Sales Tax" column of the financial worksheet recommended defining the use and time period of the increased sales tax, and also recommended exempting food purchases from the increased sales tax.**

- Less food
- Temporary
- Grocery
- With a public vote
- General revenue
- Less safety, less sales tax
- Minus groceries
- Not on food
- Increase for 5 years and increase in services
- No sales tax on food
- Not against groceries
- Should be county sales tax
- If it doesn't last forever
- Dedicated sales tax-not into General Fund
- Sales tax should not include food and essential services
- Exempt prescriptions and groceries from sales taxes –was doing this 38 years ago
- If we exempt the sales tax on food –I like the possibility of voting on incremented steps system

- County wide
- I think sales tax should be selective as it's regressive. Please rethink taxing food.
- Some should be sunset and voted on toward specific projects
- Tax increase on food or drugs (OTC)?
- Vision for Dunbar
- Dunbar/NE Community
- City of Wichita and Sedgwick County should each add ½ cent sales tax, totaling 1 cent sales tax
- ½ cent sales tax should only apply to alcohol and cigarettes. Luxury tax of 2 cents.
- No
- This is a fair and equitable way to generate funds
- 1 cent for 10 years
- Only if food is exempt
- Raise sales tax only for a specific project
- Exempt food purchases
- 0

### **Property Tax Ideas**

**The majority of comments made in the “property tax” section of the financial worksheet recommended not raising property taxes; if property tax were raised, recommendations were made to apply the increase directly to public works and transit, or to have increases approved for specific projects over specific time periods.**

- Apply to public works and transit
- No, too inconsistent
- No
- No
- Reduce property tax 50%
- 0
- You can't keep raising property tax on older citizens
- 1% or 1 mill?
- No increases
- Tax corporations
- Approved per project, goes off after completion
- No, these are killing us

### **Other Ideas**

**A number of comments were mentioned in the “other” column of the financial worksheet. Recommendations include, but are not limited to: raising user fees (water, sewer, stormwater, etc.) to fund maintenance/improvements of infrastructure; charging more for**

**finer; raising hotel tax; raising sin taxes (on alcohol and cigarettes); spending additional dollars on the betterment and creation of youth activities and education to attract families to community; provide opportunities for community groups and citizens to donate funds to projects, and seek additional opportunities for partnerships.**

- Develop impact fees
- I would support a higher sales and property tax increase but I don't feel all Sedgwick county residents can bear the burden
- I would hope the city would work hard to provide the services that are determined important; payment should come from current sources in a balanced way. I do not believe that property taxes should be cancelled in favor of just a larger sales tax
- Increase motel bed tax by ½ to 1 cent so visitors help pay
- Help refill the aquifer
- Exempt groceries from sales tax
- Koch Koch Koch Koch Koch Koch
- The current investments in the city as shown on the reverse side should continue to increase with population and the amount of property to be taxes through sales and property taxes. The least painful tax increases are through more citizens and more taxable property.
- Progressive income tax
- Exempt food and groceries from sales taxes
- Restore states cuts
- Community investments plan
- Increasing jobs when increase income to cover those items
- Sales tax for a certain project than goes away when project is complete
- Dave Barber 1993 current comp plan
- \$9-106 short fall for our growth
- Decrease by at least 1% each area to develop basic need of water resource and improve human functions
- The arts are important but human comfort of life much more important
- Provide tighter relationship between city jobs with school/college training and research
- Improve programs to support HS graduations rates thus improving all aspects of life
- Gambling
- Eliminate taxes on food and medications
- A flat sales tax would be appropriate
- WSU football team
- I think we need to do a breakdown of our police/jail system and look at other cities for direction in reducing repeat offenders
- Build a reserve and save money, make the city more flexible in the future
- Next recession be ready, not if but when
- Improve the K-12 grade spent on our children to make productive citizens

- Need to continue to promote new ideas and services to create jobs – it is important for city to create an atmosphere that promotes new ventures
- I don't mind increasing property taxes; I spend more than \$37.40 a year on hamburgers. For public transportation: I'd like to see businesses invest in supporting it. Businesses would benefit because more people would have access to transportation to their business, giving them more options in who they hire. Businesses would increase for them because more access. Less unemployment because many don't have their own transportation and people can't get to work evening and weekends because they don't have transportation – many businesses expect flexibility in schedules, so many jobs are not possible for young people or those in low incomes or on cash assistance – would keep young people in the community because of access to jobs and entertainment
- Supporting resources for mental health will reduce costs of municipal courts, etc.
- Revote for: slot machines at the Dog Track
- Increase transit routes by charging more per ticket (ride)
- Also – more bus routes to east and west Wichita
- General fund monies to mental health services
- I think we need to stop spending money on things that aren't necessary if it were to be spent I think the focus should be on creating sustainable and reusable resources that provide the people of Wichita not only jobs but food and water
- Raise fees for smaller cities that use our jails, water and services
- Charge everyone that visits here every day for the resources they get by the city supporting them
- No property tax increases
- Taxes need to be increased especially for those in our community who are well off but there needs to be buy in from the community - would be difficult. Would take political will and leadership
- We have an inner city problem with neighborhoods that once were decent. Perhaps that is the nature of the beast but one can only move so far out to feel safe, etc.
- Make Wichita more attractive for people to move to –is our problem high taxes, no job base, what can be done?
- Access/lobby for/apply for and accept as much state and federal funding as possible (it's going to go somewhere
- Track the spending and be accountable to the results. What services give the biggest ROI
- Cut city benefits-sorry, should be same level as private sector
- Finding meaningful ways to invest in the immigrant/first gen latinos. Public art, cultural events, creating 'spaces' to showcase identity; connect neighbors and envision a collective future that includes people's real issues
- Job development public transportation
- Improved schools which produce students who are better educated and better suited to support themselves

- Reduce nonprofit tax bases
- If sales tax increases are necessary must be per project with defined time limits for it to be in effect
- Tax soft drinks
- Do major projects via special tax with an expiration date
- Better street maintenance and traffic control tax
- More jobs besides airplane
- More traffic officers to five tickets to people who break the law
- Bus funding needs to be supported by general funds: does Wichita want to be progressive or backwater
- Utilize the CID more
- Keep covenant laws informed
- Stop bringing in outside experts to do things that Wichita has the talent for
- Do not increase property tax
- Increase ear marked for special projects and not more of the same
- Ear mark extra money to what we are investing in.
- Combine city and county services
- Gambling and marijuana taxes
- Shave wasteful budgets
- Several depts. spend end of year money on junk just to not lose the amounts they have. Shave waste or use excess where it needs not just use it up.
- Private businesses don't operate like that
- Remove all or most current sales and property tax exemptions
- Push for changes in state and federal financial cuts
- More improvement to lower income areas with low property taxes
- More police on streets in neighborhoods
- Tax reduction for new businesses that create a minimum number of new jobs
- Sales tax increase is a regressive tax, new businesses = more jobs = more tax payers = more money
- Gambling casino's creation of jobs
- Reduce duplication
- Consider privatization
- Create a centralized waste system where all trash (recycling) is sorted by either inmates or people in dire need of jobs (homeless) keeping our recycling in Wichita rather than sending it out of state
- Partnerships/collaboration of community leaders identified priorities; ie GWEDC, WSU, WMCC/Leadership Council, City of Wichita, Sedg. Co., Downtown development, the arts council, junior league of ICT ...too many silos currently
- Need to better capitalize investment as well as advertising our successes such as WSU, Koch

- Reinvest in the universities especially athletics and college culture to retain younger residents and revenue
- For community improvement I'm for tax increase
- Sales tax increase should directly fund Kellogg and other road expansion not maintenance
- Stop giving free or low cost housing to people who abuse it. Not all homeless people should have their own apartment. Tired of property owners picking up the tab thru increased taxes. It seems that prosperity is penalized not rewarded
- Eliminate 'non-government' spending-I love the arts but is that a function of government. I do not know how much that would generate but it is possible
- Promote city to bring in businesses to occupy empty buildings and develop industrial park
- Provide employment opportunities for those that are unemployed
- Improve public transportation for entry level jobs
- The one cent sales tax should go only for capital infrastructure projects related to water, water reclamation and streets
- City council stop crony capitalism; create initiatives for private investment. The public sector will step up to development if the road blocks are reduced
- End tax on food and clothing and reduce sales tax, end income tax, would draw more employees to this state
- Be more small and first time business friendly
- Improve residential roads
- Eliminate tax on food
- Incentives to work-not remain on cash assistance
- Reduce taxes and increase services by –reduce mgmt. wasted exp. –privatization of some services w/ free enterprise driving costs w/ proper guidelines
- Residential housing in areas to rebuild new homes over old ones to increase property taxes. Especially in areas around popular College Hill, Crown Heights etc.
- Reduce property tax in combination with a sales tax increase
- Increasing the jobs base, widening it, brings more revenue here by employees and businesses having more money to spend
- Improve public parks, public green space, streetscapes
- Keep school officers
- To keep young people in community, must maintain/improve quality of life side of economy without reducing core government functions –safety –city services, etc.
- City needs to look at itself on how it options for green space/landscaping on new projects
- Consider taxing items such as cigarettes more
- Consider increasing awareness of WSU, especially with current basketball program gaining national recognition
- Higher fees for specific services

- Those in jail should be contributing to local economy
- Allow religious groups greater access/flexibility with incarcerated
- Charge more for water usage
- I do think spending in different ways may still apply. However with loss of federal and state funding we residents need to step up to maintain of community. Nutshell: more tax used correctly
- Invest in public school education
- Legalize marijuana
- Allow casino in Wichita
- Increase tax on cigarettes
- Increase alcohol tax
- Small amusement park along the river
- Nice small outlet mall –macy, coach,carter,crystal, under armor
- Increasing taxes and fees on things that aren't healthy. Unhealthy people lead to an unhealthy community and increased cost of care (health, etc.) –ex, would be a tax on cigarettes
- Lower tax on health memberships or promoting health
- Donate land to KU Medical school for the purpose of bringing into Wichita large medical research houses that would bring large salaried positions
- With an increased sales tax you can increase reasons and places for more people to make purchases in Wichita for example outlet malls, casinos on the riverfront amusement parks, etc.
- I would like to see Wichita do something similar to OKC's maps program
- Project specific funding
- Community funding should also come from out-of-town dollars through spending. More tourism more attractions, events conventions would carry more sales tax and community spending. Another way that we can produce revenue and cut general funds is to do something extreme that most people don't want to talk about - legalize the sale, tax, etc of marijuana
- Remove specials associated with residential development
- There are lots of loopholes that need to be eliminated. The rich should pay more on tax especially big corporations
- Un-exempt properties that are exempt ie retirement facilities
- Sell any city owned properties that are not used to put them on tax rolls
- Have local communities adopt green areas ie parks cemeteries etc.
- More focus in improving public schools. Better educated teachers make better educated students
- I don't feel that I am educated enough on this subject to give an answer
- To support our future we have to have people with money

- Do more to reduce duplication of services. Combining city and county building. Inspection depts. was good and should serve as a model for streamlining other duplicative services that now exist
- Combination of sales/property tax. Tax could be selective doesn't apply to food so that it doesn't disproportionately affect the poor or fixed income
- Reduce billing costs for water use electronic billing
- Abandon our conservative 1940's attitude and get it right in the future ie casino in sumner county
- Equitable resources for all neighborhoods
- Bring the slots to Wichita park dog track
- Change in tax on developable property-tax more for vacant land to encourage development
- Invest through sales tax where everyone would pay (not through property tax levy)-and I am a renter
- We need more employment opportunities - without new jobs and people moving here we stay at a stalemate or a loss
- More sidewalks along main arteries such as Douglas/Woodlawn to the Mall
- Women of Wichita and rotary groups have paid to help improve arts and parks reach out to them for projects
- Reach out to Kansas ultra-runners society, go run Wichita, Etc. to help fund with donations or challenge them \$10/participant/race or member to contribute
- Let citizens have option to contribute to some designated projects, they could then deduct the gift on income tax returns.
- It is hard to increase any tax but I think if anything needs increased it is sales tax. However if we can bring more people here we can recoup the money
- Devise some incentive for redevelopment projects with various zones inside current city limits. They could vary based on need ie different for low income vs luxury apartments
- Don't let another company leave the community – Coleman and Boeing. Be proactive prior to a company moving, well in advance – be active not reactive
- Make companies that get city money pay a living wage so that community members have more income to support their families and build a stronger community as it's all about better jobs. Minimum wage should be higher
- Encourage community policing and involvement
- City officers need to be more efficient and supportive to its people
- Having to call several types of different offices
- Exclude food tax at grocery store but include restaurant taxes
- Increase tax on alcohol and tobacco products. Offer English classes or driving classes to Latino families. We need to educate the parents because they are the students' biggest role models

- Other transportation options trolley? Other than the bus transit which is clearly a big cost to our city on a state and federal level. Contract with private sector
- The spending level is fine, but shift it a bit so that the sales tax is lower and property tax is higher. That will encourage economic development through retail sales plus property taxes can be deducted on federal taxes
- Remove the practice of “specials” to fund new development
- Need to focus on economic development. The need for more jobs in industry (other than aircraft) more jobs will bring more people and increase the tax base
- Focus on improving quality of life as that will drive job creation sales tax revenue, property tax revenue
- Frank and direct explanation of increased tax cost
- User tax like OK city did for a specific area-CID-where it is paid off by those using district or a special sales tax
- Coop effort w/ private investment by city
- Stop arbitrary spending
- A casino in Sedgwick city would operate a significant amount of revenue for our community
- Critical to keep young professionals in Wichita to work/live – they are our future
- Look for revenue opportunities within parks and recreation – large rental fees to host events at Sedgwick county park or other venues
- I think a combo of sales and property tax should be employed; though I’m not sure at what rates. The idea here is to not disproportionately affect low income families by an increase in sales tax alone.
- If job creation is king, many local services create those jobs. It’s a domino effect, build more, create more jobs. The same is true of increased maintenance
- Coming to Wichita or Kansas from another state, taxes seem a little high comparable. More marketing of the city and better attraction for big business and attraction
- Address the homeless situation that should improve people wanting to come to town
- Large capital outlays should be paid for in cash rather than more bonded indebtedness
- Sell newly refurbished school building or rent
- If something is good for promoting Wichita, or providing jobs, let the business involved fund it
- Don’t give away all our tax dollars to business and then not monitor it
- If it’s bad now just think of what’s going to happen when Obamacare kicks in an big in November and many jobs drop to part time!!!
- Build it and they will come doesn’t work but I liked the move
- Increase sales tax to keep investments alive. Property tax hits families hard at one time. Sales tax will be less painful. Hopefully economy will rebound
- Potential increase in fee for water. This would discourage rescue growth, potentially helping long-term water problems, while creating a small rise in revenue.

- Slight increase in bus fares to continue its support
- Get real on future jobs and real economic facts
- Cut the cultural arts. The city doesn't need to fund this, a nonprofit could step in here and supply this easily
- Combine police and fire service with the county (like St. Louis). Wouldn't this reduce total costs?
- Stop giving tax "incentives" to airline industries
- Rehabilitation services, community policing, mental health
- Privatize some of the public safety programs/services
- Cut all business tape loopholes if any
- Special tax on items: hotel, rental car, air fare, tourist driven items, culture driven items
- Make water service more expensive water should not be so cheap
- Assist Wichitans in learning how to live more responsibly (from the perspective of natural resource consumption)
- Focus on new identity for our city so we can attract jobs and supplement w/ real improvements in cultural investments
- The city should have gone out to groups for input and then prepared a survey, but we are where we are. Until we create an environment where people want to live, we may just be throwing money at relocating businesses. Let's look at quality of life-education housing, art, river, etc.
- The city should have already had these points as priorities. None can be excluded. There needs to be consensus by city on how to address them and with a plan. Sales tax on these projects would be forever. For council to choose if funding should be sales tax or prop. tax
- Stop trying to spend to the end of money. Use lean and practices to reduce expenses and redirect what you have for true capital improvements, for ex a complete beltway. Build a better coalition of Christian faith based organizations, follow a budget! Watch Stossel pack episode and privatize parks
- Reduce debt load, prepare for debt crisis
- Reduce political risk created by crony policies
- Quite pandering to Key, Burk, Maxwell, etc.
- Reinstate SRO in all schools
- Stronger oversight on how the money is spent-too much crony capitalism in this city
- Not only privatize but sell off the bus service to completely private companies privatize all art and cultural services
- Stop comparing Wichita to other cities
- More police and fire in operations
- Stop paying people for doing nothing
- Invest in education; build a new library
- I think there could be a modest increase in park fees (pools)

- Ask citizens to donate funds for city activities
- Could hotel tax be increased
- Private rail service
- Build new library
- Encourage and support business without crony capitalism
- More feedback from folks; think about taxes and costs
- Governments don't invest, they spend. There are no returns on governments
- Stop throwing money away on dead end spending, ie bike paths, subsidies to developers
- More dog parks and better landscaping in existing ones
- Provide more bedsits for homeless people
- Look at possibility of roof gardens
- Invest in more police to drive gangs out of Wichita
- Crime is on-going much of what the city leadership has accomplished in Old Town and downtown
- Invest in community projects such as historic Dunbar theater in my community since I don't go to Intrust Bank Arena
- Get rid of property tax all together, fund with a sales tax increase
- Make decisions that make it easier for businesses to do business in Wichita
- Abolish rent control
- Homeless outreach through NGO's, private charity, lower mayor's salary
- Lower taxes will drive new business and job growth
- Privatize bus service. Promote the use of mini-buses to go to more areas of the city which would be cheaper
- Create jobs
- Prices have more than doubled in the last 5 years
- Wages should increase to meet that
- Stop giving tax-payer dollars to companies like Spirit. They should have to pay their taxes too
- Bus system does not need the money. Only 3% ride. Put the money in a place that creates jobs and benefits the community as a whole
- Provide more counseling for young people of all ages for planning their educational future. What schools to go to? What trade schools? What skills/trades are in demand? Make these counselors available year round.
- Allow private operation of casinos to encourage more employment and bring in more taxes to fund the city
- Put many items of maintenance and services out to bid by private contractors
- Increase stormwater fees
- Stop spending money on new infrastructure in suburbs (fringes) of the city. Instead, invest in existing infrastructure and make improvements which encourage redevelopment in the existing city. Increase density and return on investment.

- Explore county wide
- Exclude food sales in sales tax
- User fees
- Strong library system
- Municipal bonds
- Get state to pay their share
- Demand transfer return
- No tax on food! No new taxes less omit property tax!
- Stop spending money on things not needed!
- Stop extorting money from the people via fines, traffic court all anti-American.
- County wide tax
- Figure out level of services desired then use combination of taxes to fund it
- Need to consider future costs to maintain public employee pensions
- Targeted use of special assessments
- Like the idea of a developer's tax for livable community and infrastructure
- Casino in downtown w/convention center
- Should consider user fees dedicated to specific infrastructure (ie water)
- Use taxes
- Entertainment district for outside revenue
- Target special assessment financing to support infill development
- Institute impact fees for new greenfield development
- Raise stormwater management, water and sewer rates
- More hotel tax for city
- There should be a limit on prop. Tax abatement on a per year basis
- Do complete study of fair fares
- Stop adding tifs and other giveaways every Tuesday
- \$60 million downtown is enough for not fixing neighborhood issues
- City budget needs to cover roads and water
- New tax for new building-performing arts and convention center
- Reduce tax on food
- Spend money on what residents are spending money on
- Cost of urban development covers extension of services but not on impacts on existing services (water and sewer). Developers at the edge of the City need to pay higher taxes for extension of services.
- Sales tax for capital improvement projects – not operations.
- If we attract new job opportunities, we need to manage the effects to keep the core strong. Otherwise, economic prosperity will go to the perimeter and leave us in a situation like Detroit.
- Should be a combination of all.
- A combination of reallocation of money and increased property tax.

- Get bigger businesses in like Jack in the Box, Cost Co and bring more grocery stores like Albertsons, Safeway.
- Rethink spending money on sculptures and artwork on the roads and at intersections. Is it best to do some of that when the roads are bad and services for low income and homelessness aren't enough?
- County wide sales tax
- Plus user fees increase
- County-wide sales tax
- Water using fee of under 5% increase
- Focus on local business development rather than spending more to attract
- Sin tax, casino tax. Ask for funding from community groups.
- Most cities have 7% on sales tax. I think people could afford 7.5% and “out of towners” will help out.
- Quit overtaxing the Wichita residents
- User fee increase county sales tax
- Small increase in prop. Tax
- Commercial property taxes are disproportionately high now
- Increase animal fees
- Recycle waste water
- Balance approach with combination of fees, prop taxes and sales taxes
- Frequent level of services desired then tax accordingly
- Establish a comprehensive transparency policy/system so any citizen can see a running balance sheet on such investments. Including names of specific individuals who profit.
- Remember that public transportation is equal to streets.
- Don't expect transit to be self-supporting.
- We need to equalize property tax. There are people that pay more for a \$30,000 house and people that pay less for a \$200,000 home.
- Change building codes to achieve upgrade in quality of housing stock. Build streets to a higher quality. Incentivize road maintenance contractors to use “one-time” efficiency.
- Water bill should include a portion to fix water infrastructure.
- Bonds for specific projects to be done in a finite timeframe
- Increase City's underwriting
- Consolidate city and county government functions
- Water source secure
- Fines on people who park cars in yards; leave unwanted furniture on curve more than 24 hours, uncut yards of weeds and grass over 7inches
- Improve mass transit(bus)
- Jobs
- Vibrant downtown
- No tax on fruit, vegetables, meat, whole grains

- Library
- Eliminate city property tax and replace it with a revenue neutral sales tax
- Freeze all administrative salaries for 2 years including every dept.
- Eliminate neighborhood city halls and all expense associated with it.
- I would support 2 cent increase in sales tax to eliminate all property tax
- No additional sales tax without eliminating property tax
- Eliminate public art in CIP
- Dedicate funding for street improvements funded by an addition to tag registration based on vehicle weight (not age or value)
- Development impact fees for new sprawl development
- New funds must be dedicated beyond the reach of elected officials
- New funds must not be a replacement for base services which allows elected officials to reallocate base funds for other items
- Increase user fees
- Special taxes in developments to replace old infrastructure
- Below average citizens are being hit hard with all the increasing cost of living! Hard to choose one thing that doesn't negatively affect elderly/jobless/low-income. Sales tax seemed to be easiest for me!
- Sales tax for services that are entertainment outside transport and quality of life issues
- Review the cost of administering the municipal court. Certainly we would find that 80% of the problem crimes can be attributed to 20% of the community. Correcting this would lower the overall cost to the city and therefore provide additional funds for another opportunity
- No more deferred maintenance
- Put half cent sales tax into economic development
- Agreement with increasing sales tax for a specific project
- Example: Intrust Bank Arena
- And then eliminate it when the project is paid for.
- Raise 1% over the next 5 years. 1% per year.
- Wichita needs to make an investment in funds to be competitive with the economic incentives other cities offer new businesses
- Communicate how Wichita relates to other cities in our region.
- Show what other cities did to generate the funds, convince them to vote for sales tax
- Tax exempt food. Tax should be issues specific x amount for roads x amount for water and so on sales tax from persons outside Wichita will help fund services they use
- Sunset
- Benefit districts and allow casino in city
- More in cultural needs The Dunbar Cultural Theater that involve African American people: To put in the district

- Memberships to be discontinued to public museums. They should be open to the public. I don't mind my taxes being raised for access for everyone to museums. End discriminations that deliberately target groups.
- Northeast culture and passenger train.
- Expand money to diverse cultural arts-Redirect money to the Dunbar arts program and give money back to Ms. Adams Park & Pool.
- Jobs for the poor and re-entry from prison.
- Business development for northeast.
- Sunset
- Job creation
- Passenger train service
- Street maintenance
- Invest in cultural activities such as Dunbar District
- Have a portion of sales tax go to the Dunbar Theater for a limited amount of time (sunset)
- NE Wichita
- Spend more money on cultural arts of interest to African Americans
- Youth jobs programs
- Economic development & job creation in NE Wichita
- Create more tax investment for cultural arts, especially for the Dunbar District
- Economic development to include communities already under stress- near NE community
- AA culture to be represented on the river
- Take advantage of every federal grant opportunity
- State apply for all available monies
- No brainer-look at Denver- increase \$\$\$, population business and young adults, decrease spend on public safety
- Continue to pursue grant opportunities
- If you raise sales tax- 1-2 year there should be a tax holiday for families, like at back to school shopping
- Property tax is too high already
- Take advantage of federal opportunities
- Look at utility costs distribution. Individuals are penalize at the expense of business discounts-that is wrong
- Educational sessions for neighborhoods to understand financial side on how taxes are spent.
- Federal grants for targeted programs
- Look at all areas and find a common ground so everyone can help improve our communities for the future
- Set an expiring sales tax for a raise
- Revise pension plan to 401-k to decrease future obligations
- Invest in knowledge not in council cronyism

- User fees
- A sunset target tax similar to the arena tax seems to be a workable solution to major projects
- WSU downtown
- Invite new citizens from out of state
- For sales tax exempt foods
- I was surprised that support functions was 5% of budget, this seems high.
- I do not like property tax; however, it appears that that has lowest impact when compared to sales tax per person. Sales tax does get \$ from outside Wichita.
- Fine with 1 cent sales tax with specific items to be paid for, not slush fund or blank check.
- Don't increase property tax, but increase sales tax
- I think that Wichita needs to raise taxes. We can't improve our city w/o more money. We can't even maintain service @ current level due to inflation. I would definitely support higher taxes.
- Any sales tax increase should be temporary & for specific projects
- No more incentives and tax breaks to developers
- Not gov't function. "Investment" by city competes with business & crowds out private growth, I wouldn't invest in apartments.
- Make a tax to projects. Not general fund.
- Expenditures to statues and what some people call art need closer evaluation.
- City Council get input of community groups and vote per their wishes, not personal wishes.
- Promote local businesses because the City gets more sales tax money from local businesses.
- Need to analyze what true benefit is to the City when tax abatements are given.
- Everyone should live within their means . . . Learn to cut back on unnecessary things, bills will always arise, work within your budget.
- How can city get out of the way of more growth - get rid of unnecessary regulations.
- Look how incentives for new things penalize existing businesses.
- Quit spending money on projects that don't pay for themselves.
- Legalize marijuana.
- Provide a 24 hour City bus service.
- Reduce pay of staff and council
- Help WSU bring back football
- Tax big businesses
- Exempt groceries and prescriptions from sales tax
- Too high of a sales tax hurts poor
- Flat city income tax
- Those who can afford to own homes can pay more

- Be creative
- Stop the TIF taxes
- IRBs to encourage manufacturing diversification
- Listen to the voice of the people and not surveys by WSU
- User fees!
- Sales tax should exclude food items
- Follow the MAPs program of OKC
- Leave airport name as is and use money for streets or other priorities.
- Reinstate police in school program in middle schools. I feel this is an age when redirection can be accomplished.
- Move forward on Westlink library branch. I hope it's near NW High School at 13<sup>th</sup> and Tyler.
- A cash fund to get businesses. More incentives.
- Sales tax for special projects. Property tax for ongoing operations.
- Don't send federal money back.
- Increase sales tax 1 cent with exemption on food. Use ½ cent to lower property tax. This would have to be a permanent sales tax, but voters would go very few years to the polls for a vote on the next 2-3 big projects to fund with the ½ cent.
- I think the City should decrease taxes and allocate those in a different way. The sales tax was 6.3% before the construction of Intrust Bank Arena. It should be reduced to that percentage and spent in a different manner for the priority issues.
- Keep a lot of local taxes local.
- Meter all wells in Wichita and county region. Merge more city and county functions.
- Earmark 1 cent sales tax toward Dunbar Theatre and Pratt Memorial Park.
- The City needs to have better parks and recreation as well as activities for people to get out and spend to boost the local economy.
- Need to create better culture in communities. Stop allowing people to do nothing off tax payer's money. Invest with new companies to get more opportunity to people in our community.
- We must be able to fund the expenses of the City.
- Increase employment with high paying jobs.
- Invest portion of receipts.
- Focus on priorities that attract new businesses to the area (schools, downtown/green space/river and culture).
- Do those things that will bring new businesses to town, which will create a bigger tax base.
- Culture and entertainment attractions are critical for growth.
- Business development is important for future job growth.
- Be bike friendly but not obsessive.
- Sales tax need to be an extremely well-planned project if sales tax were increased.

- Have more resources for homeless families.
- Sales tax to fund solely recreation (Dumont Stadium, Century II and Library).
- I do not feel a new library is a necessary expense.
- Need to reduce reliance on property tax over time. It is very unpopular as a tax. Be innovative. Don't just accept the status quo.
- Raise the sales tax and get it over with to fund the most important projects.
- I would love to see more money towards education. Our schools and children in Wichita are suffering and are lacking compared to other students.
- Correct Old Town and the Arena with additional entertainment district with outdoor stage etc.
- Invest in new housing which generates bulk of new revenue.
- As the need for public services increases, there is a need to use private sector to provide. Have a competitive bid process and also avoid adding to cost by benefit programs provided to government city employees. Some of these are too far reaching for the future.
- I don't have an issue with raising taxes to a limit. You have to spend money to have nice things and if we don't spend money on Wichita, the younger generation won't stay.
- Reduce incentives given to private developers. Especially in suburb areas where development will occur anyways.
- Do a one cent sales tax for a limited time for new buildings and have the citizens vote like the Arena project.
- Business incubator
- I prefer an increase in sales or property tax to be for a specific project for a defined period with a mandatory sunset unless extended by vote.
- Make sure specials for suburban development actually covers all expenses of sprawl. Stop subsidizing developers in suburbs.
- The sales tax for the Arena was a boom, at least, for the young professionals of the region. I would love to see ½ cent to a cent increase to be allocated to incentives for general economic development.
- To allow more minority business within the community where credit or alternative good faith or income can be expected.
- Families having to pay for boy and girls Summer programs. Job readiness programs for 14-16 year olds.
- Please see about our children in all areas. Computer training. After school support. Home economics. Extensive summer camps. Counseling for home issues.
- Invest in recreation for teens. Something besides concerts and something that is affordable for all.
- The Intrust Bank Arena only has white entertainment, and it isn't beneficial to helping the economy grow and improve for all people.
- I think the higher ups should not get raises that match regular working people!

- Not to make the water bill to go crazy high as our electric bill has been crazy high to point I eat as little as my body can take to survive.
- Use what you already have instead of tearing it down and using more money to rebuild.
- Take out the parking meters. Let American people park free. So they can do their business or a fun activity they came to see. Take some money away from big wigs and give it to their employees so they support themselves when they work and don't have to ask for handouts.
- No raise in taxes.
- Better public transportation. More programs for homeless and low income.
- Open their eyes. Use common sense.
- More CIDs. Neighborhood revitalization money for targeted neighborhoods and for specific exterior projects.
- Growth in the economy solves many problems so the key is to encourage economic growth that is sustainable.
- Tourism brings in dollars from outside our area so it is a win-win.
- Enhanced secondary education in some areas: aviation, medicine and sciences.
- Combine services with City and County. We don't need duplication of services in every area.
- I am not going to pretend to be an expert on this, but I would look at other cities that are prospering and follow their lead.
- Legalize cannabis (marijuana) and tax it, regulate it and stop wasting money on prohibition of it because it has and always will fail. Other states will legalize creating more opportunity to create revenue. P.S. Take this seriously.
- Find ways to help young people "plug-in" to the community through jobs, internships, careers and volunteer opportunities. Improve schools so families with kids will be encouraged to live here and stay.
- Income tax tends to be the most progressive tax, but it might be a real hassle to collect it. Also, it might discourage people from living in Wichita. Are there cities in the U.S. that collect income tax?
- Raise cost of penalties for traffic violations; driver's license renewal; sales tax; reduce unnecessary costs and social functions; less trips for officials; paying for spouses to travel with spouse on trips.
- Thank you for taking your time to ask us our opinions.
- I'm all about efficiency so my biggest concern is that the City wastes money on no-bid contracts for subpar work. I am also against incentives for attracting businesses. The Ambassador Hotel, I don't think they should have received the incentives they did given the Broadview just opened and fills the niche market.
- More green space, environmentally friendly facilities.
- Local corporate and personal income taxes; progressive property taxes scaled to value of home (or perhaps ecological footprint)

- A public train to other metropolitan areas would create jobs for the community and create a much desired industry for many residents.
- Get back the monies the state is losing from the loss of state income. Tax on businesses. What was the thought process on this? It is not creating jobs.
- Why can't we do speed traps in residential areas to slow speeders down? How can we get speed limit signs up in residential areas?
- Fire mayor?
- Streamline functions instead of defunding them. I'm sure that administrative costs could cut without cutting services.
- Don't waste money by purchasing needless things and trips.
- Lower government spending and regulation to allow the private sector to create jobs.
- Stop cronyism that hurts the City. No new companies will invest in a city that is known for cronyism. That is a fact.
- Cut down on Mayor's travel. Would not like any more cuts on services.
- Cut out expensive travel for City Mayor. Otherwise I am OK with current tax and service levels.
- Let the energy and creativity of markets work. Use less government planning.
- Lower taxes and fees. Honest and responsible allocation of our tax dollars.
- Increase the fee for the golf course.
- Fair tax in Kansas/Wichita. Restructure taxes to bring companies to town. Then you can provide services. Don't like sales tax for City services.
- Stop public/private investment. All money should be spent as if it were your own business.
- Expand the use of user fees and spend them on the intended purpose. Stay within the budget and revenues collected through user fees.
- Tax big business.
- Stop giving tax abatements
- Look for new ways to do things. Be creative. Use resources we have such as solar and wind energy and sell to other states.
- City flat income tax – 1% payroll withheld – no exemptions.
- Return to an excise tax for high dollar items.
- 1% sales tax
- Designate money for specific areas.
- Have a sunset clause on sales tax.
- Have public input on where tax money is spent and how much is spent.
- Take care of our transit to improve the system.
- Reduction to incentives to businesses to locate here. A better educated populace would attract the kind of businesses we want here. We don't need to encourage minimum wage jobs coming here.
- Income tax, resist more privatization schemes.

- Cut back substantially on TIFs and other tax giveaways. Prioritize subsidies for low income.
- Encourage small business tax abatements.
- Cut TIFs.
- Reduce TIFs
- Additional money should go to culture and arts and libraries and homeless.
- Improve transit. Provide water source. Repair roads. Economic growth.
- Build a plan to execute the plan. Dedicated and consistent transit budget.
- Special sales tax for special projects. Example: Intrust Bank Arena.
- Sales tax needs to be exempt for food.
- Expand transit to serve the whole region. Sales tax should support transit.
- Develop methods that keep our young 25-40 from leaving. Replace parking downtown with revenue generating opportunities.
- More money for buses.
- Need more public works to remove dead trees. Businesses need to pay their property taxes to increase City revenue.
- Noise control after 10PM. Cars going too fast.
- Mandate the time trains can blow their horns. Other cities have this rule. Safety record is good.
- Street repair is important. More passenger rail for the region. Strengthen ordinance on out of control dogs.
- \$0.01 gas tax per gallon. Use it to fund public transportation.
- Possibly reallocating money that is being used to beautify the City for more essential functions.
- It's the entrepreneur's job to create jobs. Not tax dollars' job.
- Sales tax should exclude food.
- Reduce state funding by raising standards on applicants who apply for any kind of assistance.
- All residents need to help revitalize the community. Not just homeowners.
- Evaluate City costs. Make more efficient. Look at pension program.
- Alcohol tax increase. Tax on restaurants and bars and theatres. Earnings tax of 1%.
- Look at other types of employment than airplanes.
- More city sponsored activities. The community would take more interest if people could be involved.
- Bring Big City attraction to Wichita. Example: Midwest Disney.
- We have to invest in jobs to keep young people here.
- Make property owners and business owners pay their fair share. No individual should pay more than a business owner.
- Promote volunteerism.
- Go as green as possible. A quarter cent sales tax to fund the bus system.

- We need solar panels on top of all city buildings.
- Serious consideration of city/county consolidation.
- Charge more for fines.