

Wichita Citizen Study Sessions

Section 1. Global Economy and the Strength of Community				
<p>We must make difficult choices about how best to invest limited resources to strengthen the local economy and to improve quality of life today and for future generations. The outlook for the future depends in part on the willingness of the community to pull together and respond to global challenges. Please circle the number that best describes your level of agreement with each of the following statements.</p>				
Wichita-Sedgwick County and the Global Economy	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
01. Boeing's decision to move its operations is a warning for what can happen if we fail as a community to work together to respond to economic challenges	1	2	3	4
02. It is better to have local employees working for international manufacturers than to lose jobs to manufacturing outside the United States	1	2	3	4
03. Local government should use public resources to encourage business investment and to improve our capacity to compete nationally and internationally	1	2	3	4
04. Local government, the school district, community organizations and the business community should work together to create an investment climate that is attractive to business	1	2	3	4
Strength of Community				
05. The growing divide between citizens is one of the most important threats to the well-being of our community and nation	1	2	3	4
06. It is important that we pull together as a community to respond to global and local challenges to quality of life	1	2	3	4
07. I would be willing to get involved in activities to improve the community if I knew what to do	1	2	3	4
08. Most people would be willing to get involved in activities to improve the community if they knew what to do	1	2	3	4
09. I am willing to put community interests above personal interests	1	2	3	4
10. Most people are willing to put community interests above personal interests	1	2	3	4
11. I am willing to make personal sacrifices for the well-being of future generations.	1	2	3	4
12. Most people are willing to make personal sacrifices for the well-being of future generations.	1	2	3	4
13. Government should invest public resources in ways that balance the needs and concerns of current and future generations	1	2	3	4

Comments _____

Section 2. Government Involvement in Economic Development

There are differences of opinion about the proper role of government as it relates to economic development. Some feel that government should not interfere with market forces. Others feel that government should aggressively use public incentives to encourage business investment and job creation. Please **circle the number** for each item that describes the course of action that you feel is best for the long-term well-being of the community.

- If you **do not believe** that it is in the best interest of the community for local government to get involved in economic development **Circle 1** (strongly disagree) or **2** (disagree) on items in this section.
- If you **do believe** that it is in the best interest of the community for local government to get involved in economic development **Circle 3** (Agree) or **4** (Strongly Agree) on items in this section.

	Strongly		Strongly	
	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Agree
01. ...in ways that create employment opportunity for all citizens	1	2	3	4
02. ...to encourage job creation through local business expansion	1	2	3	4
03. ...to encourage job creation through new business formation capable of surviving start-up challenges	1	2	3	4
04. ...to encourage job creation through business relocation to our community	1	2	3	4
05. ...to prepare business sites that are ready for investment including water, sewer, streets, etc.	1	2	3	4
06. ...to assist businesses that are willing to train high school students and young adults	1	2	3	4
07. ...to assist businesses that are willing to retrain adults	1	2	3	4
08. ...to encourage business investment when community benefits are greater than the public dollars invested	1	2	3	4
09. ...to encourage business investment when private dollars invested are greater than public dollars invested	1	2	3	4
10. ...when businesses make a substantial investment in facilities demonstrating a long-term commitment to the community	1	2	3	4
11. ...to encourage growth in aviation related jobs	1	2	3	4
12. ...to encourage growth in non-aviation related jobs	1	2	3	4
13. ...to encourage investment in residential units and office buildings making downtown a place where people want to live and work	1	2	3	4
14. ...renovate and expand Century II to create additional space for cultural arts and entertainment	1	2	3	4

Comments _____

Section 3. Community Development

This section assesses the strength of neighborhoods and the proper role of local government in neighborhood improvement. Please **circle the number** that best describes your level of agreement with the following statements and what is best for the **long-term well-being of the community**.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
01. I'm willing to work with my neighbors to make our neighborhood a good place to live	1	2	3	4
02. My neighbors are willing to work with me to make our neighborhood a good place to live	1	2	3	4
03. If I saw a stranger hanging around a neighbors home when they were gone I would contact my neighbor or the police	1	2	3	4
04. If my neighbors saw a stranger hanging around my home when I was gone they would contact me or the police	1	2	3	4
05. I'm willing to work with and provide community police officers the information they need to prevent or solve crime	1	2	3	4
06. My neighborhood has a strong neighborhood organization that encourages neighbors to work together	1	2	3	4
07. As the federal government reduces funding the community should develop local solutions for homelessness	1	2	3	4
08. As the federal government reduces funding the community should assist those who have lost their jobs with housing	1	2	3	4
09. Local government and the school district should work with neighborhood and community organizations to improve neighborhoods when neighbors are willing do their part	1	2	3	4
10. The community should assist children whose parents are unwilling or unable to meet their needs	1	2	3	4
11. Neighborhood schoolchildren need more after-school and weekend supervised activities than they are currently getting	1	2	3	4
12. Local government and the school district should work with community organizations to create opportunities for schoolchildren to become contributing members to society	1	2	3	4
13. We should expand summer youth employment programs	1	2	3	4
14. As the federal government reduces funding local government should invest in neighborhood improvements including streets, sidewalks, streetlights, etc.	1	2	3	4
15. Public dollars should be spent to improve neighborhood libraries	1	2	3	4
16. Public dollars should be spent to build a new central library downtown	1	2	3	4
17. Public dollars should be spent to create green space and parks	1	2	3	4
18. Public dollars should be spent on swimming pools, aquatic parks and water features	1	2	3	4

Section 5. Water Related Concerns and Investments

Urban communities throughout the United States are struggling with decisions about how best to create access to and use a finite/limited supply of clean water. We have invested approximately \$256 million in the first two stages of an **Aquifer Storage and Recovery system (ASR)**. The ASR pulls and cleans water from the Arkansas River during high water periods and injects it into the aquifer (groundwater supply). We must decide what mix of options will best meet our water needs including conservation, re-using treated sewer water for irrigation and manufacturing, tapping into the El Dorado reservoir, and investing in stages 3 and 4 of the ASR. Please **circle the number** that best describes your level of agreement with the following statements based on what you feel is best for the **long-term well-being of the community**.

“To make the best use of a finite/limited supply of clean water the community should.....”	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
01. ...require residential and commercial property owners to reduce water consumption including reductions in watering grass	1	2	3	4
02. ... change to landscaping that requires less water	1	2	3	4
03. ... discourage businesses that are heavy water users from investing in our community	1	2	3	4
04. ... reduce water consumption now to delay when investments in infrastructure will become necessary	1	2	3	4
05. ... reduce water consumption now and invest in infrastructure to ensure that we will have water in the future	1	2	3	4
06. ... not require reductions in water consumption but should increase the price of water to pay for investments in infrastructure to ensure that we will have water in the future	1	2	3	4
07. ... require business to pay the same price per gallon of water that citizens pay	1	2	3	4

Stormwater and Flooding

As concrete and asphalt surfaces replace green space and as the current storm water drainage system ages it loses capacity to carry storm water and is increasingly prone to flooding. For example, the “Big Ditch” (18 mile channel and levee system built in 1959) is in need of repair.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
01. Flooding is not a problem in our community	1	2	3	4
02. We should develop a county-wide strategy to manage and fund storm water improvements	1	2	3	4
03. I would be willing to pay a small increase in my water bill to fund improvements	1	2	3	4

Comments _____
