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The City of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Report of Open-ended Question 2007



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SURVEY BACKGROUND

About The National Citizen Survey™

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City and County Management Association (ICMA).

The National Citizen Survey™ was developed to provide local jurisdictions an accurate, affordable and easy way to assess and interpret resident opinion about important community issues. While standardization of question wording and survey methods provide the rigor to assure valid results, each jurisdiction has enough flexibility to construct a customized version of The National Citizen Survey™ that asks residents about key local services and important local issues.

Results offer insight into residents' perspectives about local government performance and as such provide important benchmarks for jurisdictions working on performance measurement. The National Citizen Survey™ is designed to help with budget, land use and strategic planning as well as to communicate with local residents. The National Citizen Survey™ permits questions to test support for local policies and answers to its questions also speak to community trust and involvement in community-building activities as well as to resident demographic characteristics.

The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality survey methods and comparable results across The National Citizen Survey™ jurisdictions. Participating households are selected at random and the household member who responds is selected without bias. Multiple mailings give each household more than one chance to participate with self-addressed and postage paid envelopes. Results are statistically re-weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of the entire community.

The National Citizen Survey™ customized for this jurisdiction was developed in close cooperation with local jurisdiction staff. The City of Ann Arbor staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community problems; they defined the jurisdiction boundaries we used for sampling; and they provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings. City of Ann Arbor staff also determined local interest in a variety of add-on options for The National Citizen Survey™ Basic Service.

One of the add-on options that Ann Arbor chose to include was an open-ended policy question.

About Closed-ended and Open-ended Questions:

Questions can either be asked in a closed-ended or open-ended manner. A closed-ended question is one where a set of response options is listed on the survey. Those taking the survey respond to each option listed. Open-ended questions have no answer choices from which respondents select their response. Instead, respondents must “create” their own answers and state them in their own words. The verbatim responses are categorized by topic area using codes. An "other" category is used for responses falling outside the coded categories. In general, a code is assigned when at least 5-10% of responses will fit the code.

Advantages of an open-ended question include:

- Responses are not prompted, allowing respondents to provide answers that are not anticipated or well known.
- This type of question tends to capture response options that come to mind most quickly.
- The final result can be richer, since verbatim responses are included in an appendix, giving you and others a chance to “hear” the voice of respondents in their own words.
- There is a smaller risk of missing important dimensions.

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

Verbatims

Respondents were asked to record their opinions about Ann Arbor in the following question:

- Please finish this sentence: If I could change one thing about the City of Ann Arbor, it would be...

The verbatim responses were categorized by topic area and those topics are reported in the following table with the percent of responses given in each category. Because some comments from residents covered more than a single topic, each topic mentioned by a resident was categorized and counted for the table below. Appendix A includes a full set of verbatim responses. Those verbatim responses are grouped by the first topic listed in each comment whenever a respondent mentioned more than a single topic. Verbatim comments that contain more than one topic nevertheless appear only once in Appendix A (in the category of the first topic listed), however the analysis in the table below counts each of the topic areas given by all respondents regardless where those topics appeared in the comment.

Results from the open-ended question is best understood by reviewing the table of frequencies that summarize responses as well as the actual verbatim responses themselves.

Question 16d: Please finish this sentence: "If I could change one thing about the City of Ann Arbor, it would be..."

	Percent of Respondents
Less traffic/more parking/more public transportation	20%
Affordable housing/lower cost of living/homelessness	14%
Improve infrastructure (street repair, street lighting)/More parks/green space/bike and pedestrian paths and trails	13%
Lower taxes	10%
Economic development/job opportunities/local businesses not chain stores	10%
Limit growth/development/better planning	7%
Public safety/code enforcement/police issues	6%
Better communication/relations between Ann Arbor government and public	5%
Other	13%
Don't know/nothing	2%
Total	100%

APPENDIX A: VERBATIM RESPONSES

- More affordable housing.
- The cost of living and recreation area availability meaning more lakes.
- More & better affordable housing, not low income, but middle of the road. More police presence even though it is a low crime city, it is rising and it seems as if police presence is declining. More jobs for non degreed people.
- More affordable housing. More resources for older adults.
- To lower the cost of living without compromising the quality of the city or its uniqueness.
- Help the homeless more.
- More affordable housing.
- The loss of lower cost rentals & housing are pushing young people and the arts out of Ann Arbor. There's no practice space for music groups or housing for such 20-30 somethings. This keeps us from being a cool city in terms of all the innovation of life such people supply!
- The cost of housing (rent) and availability of quality options.
- More affordable housing for our lowest-income individuals and families.
- Ann Arborites seem conceited to me & too sure that they are always right. They're liberal on easy issues & volunteer for those, but tough issues like helping homeless people. I've lived here since 1975. Housing costs & property taxes=broken lower middle income back!! Google moving here didn't help me!
- To provide actual affordable housing.
- More housing for the lower income people!
- Provide more variety of housing, especially for lower income families.
- More affordable living.
- The cost of living here.
- My wife and I have 4 children plus my disabled mother and sister. For a total household of 8. The city of Ann Arbor water rates discriminates against my household by price gouging. Water rate is way too high for my family. Not fair!
- Better services for the homeless and for those in poverty.
- Like the rent that the people paying for her home will be a little bit more cheap because the Ann Arbor is very expensive.
- Increased availability of low-income housing.
- Better ethnic food for less money.
- An area downtown with shops and restaurants that cater to the poor and much more low income housing.

- I would like to see more moderate priced housing. Seems to me most people I know can't afford million dollar homes.
- Provide more affordable housing.
- More affordable and better quality housing with a parking space.
- Cheaper day care, more help for single moms/pregnant women.
- To make available more lower cost housing.
- Increase diversity of citizens in regard to income.
- To lower/make more affordable the housing situation in Ann Arbor. Much too expensive to own a home on my university income alone. And I'm sure there are many others that feel the same.
- More affordable housing close to downtown. Not just low-income slots, but options for middle class families.
- Medium priced price. Climate (good luck with that one. It was my husband's contribution).
- Ridding ourselves of our elitist attitude and being more accommodating to our citizens who have poorer resources, so better transportation, way more affordable housing and better downtown retail, etc.
- More affordable housing. We should get the high speed rail line connecting Ann Arbor and Detroit.
- More affordable housing & taxes.
- More affordable housing for students & better maintenance of student housing.
- More affordable housing for lower income people.
- More affordable housing.
- Make it easier for middle class to live & shop in Ann Arbor. It's getting more & more expensive to live in Ann Arbor. Taxes are increasing more than the family income.
- To make it more affordable for retirees & lower income families.
- That a person of any income level can work and live in this city and can appreciate all of the wonderful things Ann Arbor has to offer. I don't want Ann Arbor to turn into a place where only the rich can live.
- Make housing more affordable and reduce taxes.
- To find a way to get the homeless off the streets in a warm place to live.
- More senior affordable housing.
- Decrease cost of housing.
- More assistance to people stuck in the welfare system such as child car, job training, counseling and/or coaching. Let's give the needy hope & the help they need to get back on their feet. Lets be a compassionate community.
- Getting rid of homeless people-threaten safety & image.
- The cost of living & taxes!

- Lower the cost of living and provide better options for older adults housing.
- More affordable housing.
- To provide more affordable housing, particularly apartments to rent.
- Lower cost quality housing.
- Lower the cost of living, especially apartment/house rents. Lower cost of food would also be nice as well as in public parking structures. This town is more like a NE coast or SW coast city, which is crazy for the Midwest.
- House the homeless.
- The cost of living here. Taxes are very high while school services are diminishing. Grocery stores and gas stations within the city are more expensive, too.
- To have the homeless and panhandlers off the street.
- Less expensive for people on fixed incomes and more choice of cable television providers.
- For people such as myself, that is disabled and have to have another unexpected surgery. As before, gets behind on bike and asks for help for 1 month, which would allow them to not end up being one month behind. Having to pay late fees.
- Build affordable housing for retirees. As more retirees, they are moving where housing is cheaper for the average person. Keep their money here. Provide activities, volunteer opportunities, find a way for them to use their work experience in the community, hospitals, schools. Web type communication so they don't have to move when they are no longer as mobile.
- High cost of living.
- Cost of living. Too expensive to live here. City wastes time & money on sidewalk repair program forcing people to spend \$\$ on things that are not important!!
- More affordable housing.
- Housing would be less expensive per city size.
- Price of housing, taxes, that anyone would ever consider putting a hooters restaurant in Ann Arbor-what a huge step backward and how tacky.
- Affordable housing for seniors with adequate facilities.
- Providing more services and opportunities to low income/homeless people.
- Build more affordable housing.
- Please help the homeless.
- If I could change one thing about Ann Arbor it would be cheaper places to live. Everything here tends to be overpriced.
- Bring down the price on student and rental housing.
- The availability of affordable housing.

- To decrease the cost of living. I earn a very good wage for having entered the workforce less than 2 years ago yet almost half of my income goes to rent alone. It is ridiculous!
- The prices of goods/services in downtown shops. Everything, every menu, every boutique is overpriced. Life in Ann Arbor is too expensive for a small university town.
- The quality of student housing and the way students are treated by landlords. Without the Ann Arbor community's support for fair tenant treatment by landlords, they continue to break laws and treat students unfairly.
- That the cost of living here wasn't so high.
- The absurdly expensive rental market. The apartments and houses are small and in bad shape yet they rent for big city prices. Frustrating!
- The availability of affordable housing.
- The cost of living is too high, especially rent/property prices.
- To make more affordable housing available to middle income families who would like to live in the Ann Arbor school districts, but simply cannot afford it and are forced to live around the outskirts of the city.
- It is very expensive to live in Ann Arbor. Given people pay in taxes, it seems that garbage collection and building upkeep is poor. The city needs to build the downtown up and become more dense in order to conserve space.
- I am a low income senior. I get food from focus hope and food gathering. I do hope I will get more fresh food than as usual and not so much canned food.
- To increase services to the homeless in the city.
- Build new multi-family housing.
- Cost of housing is absolutely ridiculous. Ann Arbor prides itself on being "diverse" yet only the richest of rich may live here. Landlords of student housing are charging criminal prices for shoddy and often times unsafe housing. Something must be done!!
- Cost of living.
- High cost of living and high taxes.
- Cheaper housing. Rental and for purchasing.
- Availability of quality, new, modern housing for purchase.
- Housing is too expensive for what you get, especially for the Midwest.
- The price of housing, decent homes need to be affordable.
- Make housing cheaper!
- Cost of housing, both rentals and owned homes. I actually plan to move within 6 months because I simply cannot afford to live here.
- Have more adequate housing and education of social opportunities for black people.

- Lower rent for apartments in downtown area. Clean up student's mess with stricter enforcement for "student ghetto".
- Cost of living (housing).
- High cost of living.
- More affordable housing and less expensive taxes.
- To protect the citizens of Ann Arbor by limiting the excessive costs of goods, rent and various services as compared to other cities of similar size and composition.
- The high cost of housing in and around the campus of the University of Michigan.
- The cost of living here. It will prevent me living here after retirement in 5-10 years.
- Reducing basic living costs (housing & energy are very expensive), improve traffic congestion (allow left turns without the green arrow), make it sunnier, getting paid to fill out these surveys.
- Provide affordable housing and living facilities to all seniors and low income individuals/families.
- More affordable.
- Lower housing costs.
- The cost of living.
- Affordable housing.
- It would be lowering the real estate prices.
- More affordable housing.
- Create affordable housing to make the population more diverse. Becoming an enclave for the wealthy.
- More affordable housing, improved mass transit (frequency & routes).
- It is a college town...offer more discounts/services to students because it is very hard to afford the cost of living on student loans.
- Stop building so many condo communities and try more affordable for those of us who don't have a lot of money and don't want to live in slums.
- The power that the landlords have over student housing. The cost of living is rising for those that are already deep in debt from tuition bills while the overall quality and safety of student housing is dropping drastically.
- To prevent Ann Arbor from becoming an elite place where sense of community excludes minorities and lower income people, I think Ann Arbor is becoming a bit isolationist.
- The homeless are taking over Ann Arbor.
- Have more affordable housing and more help for single parents.
- Availability of housing for mid to low income families is too limited. Apartment rental pricing is outrageous.

- To make housing more affordable.
- Affordable housing!!
- Housing/rental prices.
- Pick it up and move it between a lake and a mountain. The cost of living to job availability ratio. Cost of housing is almost on par with Chicago but pay is much lower. Seems like that in TC too (used to live there).
- More low income housing.
- Buying house is very expensive. I would like to reduce cost of living.
- The cost of living.
- The price of rent, it is out of control.
- To ensure that the city remains accessible to low and middle income individuals rather than continuing it path into a playground for highly paid professionals and students from wealthy families. (I.e. shut down “vinology” and grant historic status to Fleetwood to make sure it isn't torn down for “luxury lofts”). People shouldn't have to move to find reasonable rent.
- Lower the cost of living. Increase bus routes.
- To enforce speed limits and stop people from running red lights. Make more affordable housing.
- Cost of housing.
- The high tax rate.
- Lower property taxes (of course) without sacrificing services.
- Address the heavy tax burden rather than spend all city council time on social reform. Lower taxes.
- Not to waste tax payers’ money on projects that were not well thought out.
- Lower taxes. Clean up neighborhoods near campus & downtown.
- Find a way to reduce property taxes by insuring all businesses and institutions pay their fair share. Too many tax breaks are given resulting in the citizens bearing more of the burden.
- Stop inventing new taxes and hire things from Ann Arbor. Why this firm on this survey?
- Lower real estate taxes.
- To lower property taxes for people on limited incomes. To make it easier to park downtown. To plant more trees on sides of streets in neighborhoods.
- Lower taxes and/or making non-residents pay for services.
- A tax decrease.
- The taxes!! They are way too high. Open more city jobs to unemployed residents (most job vacancies within the city are filled by city employees).

- The taxes are too high. I earn \$42,500/year and can barely afford paying the high property taxes, especially on a cheap condo. Relative to other Midwestern cities of the same size, it seems too high.
- Lower taxes on property and rubber streaks to patch the road crack and snow-plowing to the curb without blocking mail boxes and driveways.
- Lower taxes.
- More senior activities. Lower taxes for seniors.
- Lower property taxes.
- Lowering property taxes!!!!
- High taxes. Not enough parking.
- Having the non-residents share the tax burden. People live in the nearby township should pay for some of the service. Also, free parking.
- Lower property taxes. We've seriously considered moving out of Ann Arbor due to the high taxes. Easier/more parking downtown.
- That the city would spend less of the tax payers' money on liberal social programs.
- Taxes are far too high, punishing. I pay almost 12,000 per year on a house I bought for 296,000. Upon retirement, I will have to move. Ann Arbor is a nice place to live but because of taxes, it is not a nice place to live.
- Decrease property tax-no city income tax.
- Cheaper taxes.
- Lower property taxes.
- Lower property taxes for homeowners.
- City services that are commensurate with the amount of taxes that we pay.
- Lower taxes.
- Lower property taxes significantly!
- That taxes and housing costs would be more affordable for the average citizen. Also, more in line with national & state averages (we will look for a house outside of Ann Arbor because of the above).
- Excessive taxation-supporting non-core services. City should be responsible for sidewalk maintaining.
- Property taxes.
- Reducing property taxes.
- Lower taxes.
- That city council find some other way to fund operations besides increasing property taxes. We are pricing lower and middle classes out of our city, which will be detrimental. Why not tax the university a nominal fee for each student. They also use our infrastructure and facilities.
- High taxes! Too high & unfair system of assessment.

- Lower taxes by decreasing non-essential services like the bus that rarely has anyone on it. Police seem to be over staffed and the fine department is minimally staffed.
- Better/more benefits for the citizens for the amount of taxes we pay. For example, sidewalk repair costs are burden of citizens. City trees are responsible for problem, other communities pay for repair!!!
- Taxes are too high in proportion to the services rendered. Add more parking.
- To lower the property taxes. I do not feel that the value I get is equal or even close to the amount of property taxes I pay for living in a condominium. Street repair in neighborhoods has also not been occurring according to the schedule in the Ann Arbor observer.
- Lower taxes (or at least an understanding of why my taxes are so high).
- A reduction of property tax for senior citizens home owners over age 65.
- Lower property taxes, but as that is unlikely I'd like to see more local shows on CTN, especially history and educational!
- Lower taxes.
- Lower property taxes.
- Lower property taxes. We appreciate all of the services that the tax money provides but we own a home and an investment property in Ann Arbor and the taxes are painful!
- Lower taxes!
- Lower taxes to make living in Ann Arbor affordable.
- Decrease the property tax to reduce the financial pressure of home owner.
- I think all perks should be taken out of the budget and the budget balanced at end of the year, without increase in taxes.
- Expand recycling program to include plastics 3-8, maintain property tax rates & have citizens more involved in planning of development.
- Rising taxes.
- The taxes are too high!
- Lower property taxes for residences within the city. As residents age, upkeep of these homes is more difficult due to the need to hire service workers. High taxes force residents to look outside city limits for affordable, lower taxed residences. Young families find it hard to buy a home in this city!
- To lower taxes for senior citizens.
- Greater fiscal responsibility and accountability. Also the city must create new ways to solve problems and stop raising taxes because people living on fixed incomes are being forced out of Ann Arbor after building this community.

- Lower property taxes, most people don't want to move to Ann Arbor due to extremely high property taxes. Taxes are highest in Ann Arbor as compared to the rest of the cities in Michigan.
- Cost of living for college students/availability. I am getting an apartment in Ypsilanti next year because it is more than \$200 cheaper!!
- Very expensive real estate taxes.
- Eliminate or reduce school taxes for seniors ages 60 and above based on income.
- Stop taxing property owners out of their houses and learn to manage the money they already have (idiots).
- Lower taxes.
- To live within its budget and stop asking residents to pay more taxes or accept fewer services.
- Lower taxes.
- To reduce taxes. I would be willing to receive fewer city services. I enjoy the city parks but think there are too many. I could cope without leaf collection.
- Lower taxes.
- Lower property taxes and provide more affordable housing.
- Lower taxes. Control city employee retirement. Six month service for 500k increase retirement.
- The higher taxes for homes. Some other areas in Michigan are better than Ann Arbor and at the same time low taxes.
- The high tax burden.
- Lower property taxes and affordable housing.
- To lower the city taxes, even just a little. They are hurting everyone I know who owns property.
- Reduced property taxes. Increased number of roads with bike lanes.
- For seniors who wish to remain in homes. They own to get more of a break with property taxes.
- Lower taxes for seniors so we can stay here and enjoy all the city has to offer.
- The implementation of tax breaks (property) for single residents without children.
- Improve quality of public school leadership and reduce property taxes.
- Better management of taxpayers' money! I have to live within my budget/means. The city must learn to do so as well.
- Lowering school taxes for those of us who live alone and have no progeny attending Michigan schools.
- Manage taxes better, in particular school over-spending and make all facilities i.e. school fields, etc. Available to all taxpayers so we don't have to duplicate and can share more resources.
- The lowering of the real estate taxes.

- To lower my taxes.
- Living on a limited retirement income, I have trouble paying the property taxes.
- Lower taxes.
- That I got better value for the amount paid in taxes. The tax burden isn't commensurate with the services received. Particular areas of concern are the overall appearance of the city especially the downtown area and maintenance of the infrastructure such as street lighting, trees, etc.
- More services for our taxes and affordable housing close to the city center.
- The high property taxes, within the city limits. This contributes to expansion outside the city, like the townships which then use schools and other services without paying the same taxes.
- To decrease tax burden on homeowners. Possibly impose an income tax on those who work in the city, but reside elsewhere.
- Lower taxes for seniors. No school tax for people over 70 years. Open fire station on east stadium and Packard for safety. Home fire and health.
- To reduce property taxes and ease traffic congestion.
- Lower property taxes. Police officers are jerks. They need to be nicer.
- Less funds spent on useless surveys and less taxes gleaned from the citizens!
- Lower property taxes.
- Lower taxes. On fixed income, it is difficult.
- To find ways to lower taxes so more young families can afford to live here.
- Get better value of property taxes especially for public school education. The quality of school education is falling in my opinion in Ann Arbor and there is not enough accountability in public education. Inefficient teachers cannot be fired!
- Lower taxes.
- Parking availability, affordable taxes and a decline in liberals.
- Use tax money effectively, stop wasting it. Wasting it has caused part of the reason for increase. I am maxed out in my ability to pay additional increases.
- Lower taxes!!
- Lower the property taxes. Support the local economy. It is inexcusable that this survey is being done by a company in boulder. What were you thinking! Why no questions about the performance of city council and mayor?
- Lower taxes to senior citizens on fixed income. Reduce water & sewer rates for seniors, eliminate fee to collect taxes when office is closed to pay said taxes (i.e. December 30th). Adjust assessments to true value.
- Control taxes and new building (strip malls, high rises) by renovating current buildings. No desire to live in "suburbia". I enjoy the uniqueness of Ann Arbor.
- Lower taxes.
- Real estate tax break for retired.

- Better, faster, more reliable public transit. Public transit that comes more than twice per hour. A better quality of life for low income Ann Arborites. Affordable in town living.
- Make biking for transportation more possible-bike lanes, paths, parking. Problems along main roads like Stadium, Huron, Liberty. Fix the lights (traffic) on Washtenaw. There's no reason for the traffic jams. Get the lights set & give less time to the side streets, lots.
- To create less metered parking in the downtown areas and more free public parking spaces within close proximity to downtown.
- Less traffic than there used to be.
- Do something about the incredible traffic on Washtenaw (from e. Stadium on to Washtenaw by Whole Foods). It's a mess. And getting worse as a new mini mall is going to be built across from whole foods.
- More parking.
- More reliable bus schedules.
- More availability of parking for public and less homeless on the sidewalks.
- Find a way to limit the protestors on Liberty and Division/Fifth. Can't they find jobs? Public parking/traffic needs to improve. Build more parking structures for public USE. Apartment costs are absolutely ridiculous. This is not Chicago.
- Traffic timing and traffic flow issues near target on Saline Rd-Whole Foods. Traffic management/parking of new shopping is horrible.
- Improve traffic congestion.
- Noise/traffic abatement.
- Improving traffic congestion on the main roads and providing a little more public parking space.
- To make Ann Arbor a leader in non-automotive transportation starting with biking and public transportation, such as the AATA.
- Public transportation. We need a frequent affordable rail service, from Dexter/Chelsea to Detroit to cut automobile traffic/pollution. I agree with the mayor on this one. Check out public transportation in Portland, Oregon & emulate.
- More bikes lanes & paths. Fewer "nimby's" (though historic preservation of supreme architectural buildings is essential), more hi-rises and better connection to Detroit, Lansing, Chicago.
- Traffic conditions, including street repairs & better signals & lanes where possible.
- To restrict how many cars can be downtown. Use some kind of system to charge cars that drive downtown. Force people to walk more or use public transportation.
- Better traffic flow would help. I avoid rush hours as much as possible.

- To get rid of football fans, which causes bad traffic and roads being blocked to make things worse!
- Better parking downtown. Less student to teacher ratio in middle school!
- To get more public parking and to eliminate the meters.
- To find more parking and to finish fixing lower town.
- Improve the timing of traffic signals and better maintain neighborhood streets (broken pavement, pot holes, etc.) And more frequent street sweeping!
- Close off Main St at Huron on the north and William St on the south. Traffic would reroute down Huron & up 1st St. to William St. Could be widened on the east side because it's mostly parking lots!
- Better traffic management.
- Downtown traffic.
- More late night public transport options. More growth/fun invested in downtown. Let's close Main St at night so people can walk in the streets without cars hitting them.
- Public parking, and the residential parking program. There's not enough public parking and the residential parking program is unfair.
- Improve handling of traffic congestion.
- Establishment of a shuttle route between the city and DTW that runs every half an hour.
- The parking downtown! We need more, with easy access! Cost is important-availability is! Less parking on the street, mere off-street lots & structures available to the public. All housing to provide parking for all occupants. All new building to provide occupant parking!!
- How traffic is handled during Michigan football games. The allowance of taller buildings with in home parking.
- To improve public transportation system.
- Increased parking at the outskirts of the city limits complemented by a comprehensive mass transit system to bring folks in and out of the city.
- To have more diversity downtown and free parking for citizens and no charge for special trash collections.
- Traffic.
- To find a way of alleviating the heavy traffic on Washtenaw in the area between Manchester and US 23.
- Increase parking on streets. A new mayor-new vision-new openness with citizens.
- More parking on the streets, not jut parking structures or at lease making the garages free on Sundays. This is a university town. Most students are scrounging for that \$10 for three hours of parking. Also, the traffic here is horrendous. I am from New York City and they have better traffic flow there.

- Available free public parking.
- Improve biking paths into and around the city, particularly to improve ability for families with children to bike into downtown safely and re-surface and add bike lanes on Huron river drive.
- Traffic/more parking.
- Make the downtown area traffic free.
- Traffic.
- AATA would offer limited on the hour bus services between 10 pm and 3 am.
- Parking! There are new buildings going up for shopping, etc. But no where to park! I avoid places like whole foods market because of this.
- Parking & homelessness.
- Increase public parking downtown. Any influence on increasing night school at UGM??
- I would use the valuable spaces by converting parking lots to parking garages!
- Train transportation to Detroit, take over air traffic making Ann Arbor the hub for the state vs. Detroit or Lansing.
- To have more bus service to u-m hospital. I am a nurse and cannot get to the hospital in time for morning report if I take the bus. I wish bus service could be expanded to be more practical. More people might use it, which would reduce congestion and help protect the environment.
- No parking meters in downtown Ann Arbor! Free, available parking (like Chelsea, mi) for shopping & use of downtown services.
- The flow of traffic during rush hours.
- To increase the number of parking spaces in the downtown area, especially public parking spaces.
- More bike paths and public transportation options. Later hours for bus service.
- The parking situation. There is not enough public, free parking, and there really should be more free parking!
- Fire department protocol. Why do we pay to send a pump truck to every EMS call? It's excessive and a poor deployment of resources. I wonder that the fire department is making unnecessary runs to appear busier than they really are.
- Traffic issues on Glen St & Washtenaw Ave.
- Improve parking downtown. I wanted to go to Seyfrieds Jewelers but I know that parking would be questionable so I went to Lewis Jewelers. I have patronized Seyfrieds for years but I can't trust the parking anymore. My son lived in the Maynard apartments and that is another difficult place to park. Someone stole my neighbor's car Friday night-January 12, 2007.
- Parking in downtown.

- We need trains to get to all cities in Michigan. To have taxes shared by U of m. Taxes for returns are too high.
- Make bus service later on weekends.
- The utter lack of sensible parking options or the lack of viable late-night bus service.
- Parking. Make it more accessible.
- I would make all parking rates the same. As a 110, 16 female, I hate having to park in a dark, dangerous parking structure. Meter parking has increased to \$1 per hour. Its only 40 cents in the structures, but again, its dangerous for residents like myself.
- Need more parking lots & less parking meters. I would visit downtown a lot more if we had less parking meters & need to allow credit/debit cards at lots/garages.
- To lower parking rates, parking fines & Mickey Mouse speeding patrols as well as put less emphasis on green zone.
- Traffic. More expensive gas is in Ann Arbor.
- Availability of adequate parking in the downtown area.
- Improvements to the efficiency, affordability, cleanliness & safety of the public transportation system. As the population grows & the cost of owning & operating a private vehicle increases, the need to maintain a more modern public transportation system will be essential.
- The amount of money the city brings in due to parking violators and associated areas. It's simply ridiculous and in several first-hand events, borderline unlawful.
- Get traffic under control. Ticket offenders. Lights are too long during minimal traffic periods.
- Traffic flow. Traffic is backed up everywhere, especially on campus. State St is the worst.
- Allowing multiple residency buildings without extra parking.
- Improving flow of traffic, especially in areas of new construction where more people are dining but using the same old, narrow roads and not enough parking.
- Traffic on Washtenaw at 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm and speed bumps on King George.
- Fewer automobiles in inner city. Therefore, use more satellite parking with buses from them, encourage commuters to use public transportation and make it easier to do so.
- Increase handicap parking spaces in downtown areas.
- More free parking for students on campus.
- To have non-smoking establishments everywhere. To have a more comprehensive, need-based public transportation system.
- I know a lot is dependent on this but I would like to see AATA expand its bus service on the weekend from 6 pm to 10:15 pm on Saturdays and from 6 pm to

maybe as late as 9:15 pm Sunday. It is hard sometimes as a non-driver to make plans on any given weekend night without a dependable means of transportation.

- To find a way to handle all the traffic.
- Increase the frequency of transportation vehicle, reduce the bus size.
- Increase the amount of parking downtown and near campus and hospital.
- To be sure there is adequate parking so we can enjoy all the assets of the city of Ann Arbor - restaurants, concerts, special events.
- Public parking! Why does the city make it so difficult to find parking? Why not create more structures, parking lots, etc? But at the same time improve bus system. For example running later at night and on weekends and more often during rush hour!
- We are choking on cars. Parking is difficult. Buildings should be limited to six stories unless stepped in towards the top.
- Parking, need more parking spaces and less restrictions.
- Traffic planning. Lights and other traffic control devices limit traffic flow more than help. In my neighborhood a "traffic circle" was added in an intersection (side streets) but size endangers drivers and passengers. It is in a bus route, forcing the buses to turn into oncoming traffic.
- That parking codes and availability and enforcement are constructed around profit for the city and discouraging motor traffic downtown, instead of such a way to ease the problem for residents and visitors alike. You can't make people ride the bus.
- More parking/more disc golf courses.
- Better traffic flow. More lanes on us 23, i-94. More lanes on Ellsworth. Better parking downtown.
- More respectful parking enforcement officers.
- More available parking for trucks/vans trying to do work in a2.
- Traffic, driving enforcement and downtown parking.
- Clean trolley/train mass transit. Strict enforcement of noise ordinances.
- Open parking in Burns Park to non-residents and increase available parking in general.
- Public transportation to enable citizens commute to be easier.
- Better public transportation, no cars downtown!
- More downtown parking. Lower taxes. Get rid of the mayor. Hurricane.
- Increase mass transit. City should provide a model for the state and nation for decreasing reliance on standard auto use in the city center.
- Better parking.
- To establish far more frequent bus services, on the neighborhood routes. The half hour/hour cycles of the buses are not conducive to encouraging the use of

alternative public transportation by folks who do not commute to jobs or schools. As it is now, bus trips to town during the mid-day require a lot of planning and if one were to miss the bus, one must wait a full hour for the next. If the buses ran, city-wide, every 15 minutes I am sure many more people would take advantage of the svc

- More accessible parking downtown.
- Clean trolley/train system (expansion). Strict enforcement of noise codes. Especially concerning sub-sonic-boom stereos. An effort in our area (stone school Ellsworth) to bring all community members together regardless of race/religion/sexual orientation. More wild parks. More contiguous parks.
- More parking -downtown and center campus.
- Not have parking enforcement waste time driving in residential areas trying to find people parked on wrong side in private cul de sac.
- The lack of roads wide enough to carry the volume, especially on state, Main Street, Ellsworth Road.
- Traffic, roads.
- More public parking near central campus please!
- Offer bus trips to Detroit for zoo, Pistons, Detroit Tigers...
- An increase in the amount of public parking.
- Increased public transportation.
- Work on solutions to the traffic gridlock at certain times of the day.
- Increase free public parking downtown.
- Easier, cheaper parking downtown.
- Traffic lights.
- Decrease traffic.
- Slow down traffic of Huron Avenue/bus 94. More affordable housing. More art & science in the elementary and middle schools.
- The transportation system. Even though the AATA does a terrific job of helping us to get to places, I wish it could be faster, more efficient that there could be more routes and they would run at later times, especially during the weekend.
- Less traffic and less sprawl.
- To shorten the stop lights. I live near the football stadium and I typically wait for at least 3 minutes at that light.
- More parking.
- Traffic.
- The bus system and increase street lighting.
- I would fire the guy who approved inadequate parking at the whole foods strip mall, threatening reliable access to essential services such as groceries and medication. The jerk seems to think he did something clever.

- Traffic control and planning. Why aren't lights synchronized? Increase development with no eye to increased traffic - i.e. Washtenaw. Some very degraded roads. Taxes - Ann Arbor has very high taxes, higher proportionally than New York and certainly California...where is it going.
- Better public transportation and street lighting. The public transportation system can't increase capacity without substantial improvement in schedules. With buses every 1/2 hour, I either have to plan well or drive. With more frequent buses, I could drive once every few days. Also, I'd be happier walking (even from bus stop to home) with better street lighting...without lighting, I have to drive at night.
- Bus service to/from downtown ran much later in order to take advantage of downtown entertainment opportunities without trying to find parking.
- Move the U of m stadium outside of Ann Arbor to cut down on traffic.
- Better public transportation. I'd love to take the bus to work. It is under 5 miles along one major road- both home and work in city limits. It would take 45 plus minutes and two transfers! Also the streets are very "pot-hole) which makes riding a bike a hassle and sidewalks are uneven.
- Downtown parking. The city council are idiots when it comes to downtown parking. More parking is necessary. Quit assuming people want to bike to downtown. It is not practical.
- More parking.
- The pedestrians and bicycle riders who need to follow traffic safety, rules, laws. The traffic on Washtenaw between stadium and us 23 is very poorly managed. Ann Arbor needs to crack down on people who feel free to walk out into the street against the signals and bicycle riders who tie up traffic riding down the middle of the road.
- Having an easy, inexpensive light rail connection to downtown Detroit and more businesses like the Fleetwood Diner!
- I would like bus transportation to run every ten minutes. I would use it if I didn't have to plan ahead and know the schedule. I would ride my bike more if there were bike lanes everywhere.
- More parking.
- More downtown parking!
- Have more zip cars.
- More emphasis on personal transportation. We need more parking, especially downtown as well as wider roads that can handle more traffic in places like the Washtenaw Road and Platt Road intersection.
- Rail line from Ann Arbor to Detroit. Don't let Detroit handle it.
- Make more parking available.
- Parking downtown.
- More parking downtown!

- Do something about the Arborland area traffic situation.
- More parking, maybe build a few structures.
- More free parking areas in public areas like downtown.
- More comprehensive public transportation.
- Less traffic congestion.
- Better public transportation to Detroit.
- More parking downtown.
- Parking space and amount of time you get.
- I feel the Plymouth/Nixon traffic is severely congested during rush hour times to the point that I refuse to utilize these roads during these times. Also, I feel that University of Michigan students often jay walk so often that they constantly endanger themselves and others. More jay walker citations must be issued!!
- The reworking of on street parking regulations, back to the no more than 48 hours rule. I miss leaf pickup because of on-street parking and it also interferes with snow plowing. Very, very inconvenient. At the very least can't they put up temporary no parking signs before leaf pickup like they do for street cleaning.
- To promote alternative to one driver, one car, alternate transportation to cars to promote shorter commutes in and out of Ann Arbor for work...theme here being an example of less petro-independence.
- The lack of downtown parking and planning.
- Better timing on traffic lights!
- Increase the availability of parking, free of charge, around University of Michigan and redesign the street layout into a grid that actually makes sense and is easily navigated. There are far too many one ways and winding, circuitous roads. Also street lighting is poor in student neighborhoods.
- The winter! Increased traffic congestion.
- More affordable (or free) parking downtown.
- Traffic congestion.
- To reduce the afternoon traffic jams.
- Have better public transport overall, within city and between Ann Arbor and metro Detroit area. I would prefer to live without a car.
- Increase parking availability and find ways to improve car-alternative transportation options.
- Decrease traffic on Washtenaw and other major streets!
- Sorting out main street traffic congestion. The current traffic light sequencing is appalling.
- More efficient ways of controlling traffic - more streets that run through without thousands of stop signs and traffic lights running more smoothly.
- More downtown parking. Fix the poor roads in town i.e. stadium blvd.

- Improve traffic flow.
- Less high-rise buildings.
- Require businesses to maintain their properties so that they enhance rather than detract from the beauty of the city such as weeding the lawns and controlling trash and sanitation especially in areas like Washtenaw and stadium which are real eyesores. Cities like Northville make their businesses beautiful and it shows. The new construction on Washtenaw where the old dealership is.
- So much development all over.
- Increase police & fire staff & slow growth.
- The size of the buildings going up.
- The excessive non-essential construction done by the university. Having lived in Ann Arbor since 1946, it is outrageous that many major universities have been built only to be leveled in 25 or 30 years and rebuilt. For example, Women's hospital, Children's hospital.
- The unchecked growth and sprawl.
- Nicer housing. Aesthetically, most Ann Arbor housing is not too pleasing. I prefer older, historic structures.
- Less irresponsible development. The kind of development that destroys desirable things (open land, old buildings that could be rehabbed) and creates pretentious eye sores that were only built to make a small number of people a huge profit.
- Preventing the expansion of Ann Arbor city limits. The city works better if it is kept small & contained where land use is. Have green space surrounding the city, separating from the out-lying districts.
- To add more community centers instead of expensive high rise lofts.
- To build taller buildings instead of sprawling out and requiring "green belt" purchases that have no tangible benefits.
- We seem to be in a phase of housing construction. We are losing small locally owned retailers at an unacceptable rate due to high rents. A vibrant downtown requires a mix of retail food and housing. By retail I do not mean national chains whose goods are the same in city after city. Shopping those stores is boring and not a reason to go down & own. We also need to continue to support a vibrant arts scene in the downtown area. Ugly architecture is never good.
- Stop building cheap constructed high rise buildings in the city. More police patrols in the neighborhoods along Dexter Road, west of Maple Road. We never see police patrols here.
- Limit perimeter growth, increase population density downtown.
- Building on empty lots downtown and eliminating a lot of the pedestrian dead zones. If the city has to build more parking structures downtown, at least put retail on the ground floor to maintain street-level activities in these blocks. Ann Arbor's greatest asset is being dense, compact & walk able. Keep it that way!

- No more mall developments in the Washtenaw area between us 23 and stadium traffic is almost impossible. Not enough parking spaces in the Whole Foods-Walgreen Mall.
- Better site development planning.
- The amount of new lofts being build. I much prefer the older houses in town and hate to see these attempts at making Ann Arbor more urban or gentrified!
- To slow the growth of new housing on the city's perimeter which comes at the expense of farmland, wetland or green spaces?
- Because there are so many expensive development and not enough occupants, stop making/developing unneeded houses and save trees and historic buildings, please!
- Too congested! More apartment buildings/condos on the out skirts of Ann Arbor, where the noise of traffic isn't so bad.
- Keep existing buildings in downtown and university area. Renovate them as necessary. Preserve the old Ann Arbor the way it used to be!!! Ann Arbor was a beautiful town years ago!!!
- That it stop growing at such a speed that it soon becomes a twin city of Detroit.
- To require a higher level of quality (materials, design) in housing development. Require the use of architects. Two types of new housing seem to occur-ridiculously prices/horrid vinyl sided tract houses w/terrible roof lines & monotonous facades! Too much control in a single developers hands!!!
- Better zoning to encourage retail businesses downtown and control the placement and design of new buildings.
- Less development of tall buildings & more parks and public art.
- Not growing too fast.
- Build downtown up, not out with mixed use developments. Ann Arbor is a city, not a suburb.
- The ability of the city to have some control over the building plans of the university. The U of m has too much power vs. the city.
- To make the city look more modern although there are many new businesses on the street of state/e liberty. The buildings look trashy, old, and run down. They need to be modernized or cleaned up to preserve their historic character.
- To keep a sense of the past, in buildings and to retain downtown business (retail) so that it remains a living town, not a place that rushes to high-end city. The town must have a variety of stores in order to retain a diverse people.
- To refocus its development in a way that maintains some of the small town atmosphere that I have enjoyed...the library parking lot library hub! Quick access to downtown and campus.
- That Pfizer wouldn't leave and that we wouldn't destroy our historic buildings.
- Less sprawl.

- To limit the number of condos/McMansions housing while encouraging unique businesses. Ann Arbor used to be known for its unusual shops, those are quickly being replaced with chain retail stores.
- That they exert more influence over regional planning, esp. growth in the townships and that they find a way to extract money from the U of m to pay for infrastructure maintenance in lieu of property taxes (which they don't pay).
- More limits on sprawl. Keeping downtown area a desirable hangout: restaurants, shops, etc. Need to preserve green areas around a2.
- The mayor developing downtown and eliminating surface parking lots in order to build more condos. Leave downtown alone!!
- Cut way down on the University of Michigan building programs for example the destruction of the frieze building. It appears the city did little to prevent this. The U of m is like the gorilla in the bedroom. Does the city run the city or does the U of m run it.
- Create architectural harmony. There are buildings downtown that support the supposed class and elegance of an established university town and they are right next to other architectural monstrosities. Create and allow space around classy buildings, don't cram and crowd them.
- Slow down the building of small condos that decrease the property value of mine by flooding the market.
- No sprawling residential development and strip malls outside the m-14, us 23 and i-94 ring.
- Slow down developers who focus mainly on profit and live elsewhere.
- Reduce strip/commercial development.
- To stop all of the retail development i.e. on Plymouth Road and/or Washtenaw.
- Better vision for downtown including use, transportation and building design to include height of building codes. Stop using water rates to fund programs such as trash bins and building programs. Add highly useable (i.e. irresistible) public transportation. Get the city out of the business of owning vacant property including the YMCA.
- Less "retail" development and no more condo communities replacing farmland.
- Less high rise buildings. Make them further out of town. Changes the character small town but bigger city feel without the high rises.
- Stopping development of open space.
- I would make the sense of place greater. When one drives into Ann Arbor you simply see car lots, strip malls, etc. There is nothing telling others how wonderful our community is. We need to make Ann Arbor a place where you know you are in Ann Arbor.
- Greater protection for historic buildings/larger historic districts.
- The amount of construction and new expensive retail stores.

- Curb the incessant retail expansion.
- To find a way to keep the small town image that Ann Arbor once had.
- Increased density downtown, less sprawl, more diversity (businesses).
- To slow down the development of the downtown area. In particular, I would strongly support any initiative that would encourage local businesses and discourage large national chains from invading.
- Reducing sprawl on the outskirts of town and allowing greater density housing in the downtown.
- Too many consultants, too much support for infrastructure by city residents for development outside the city limits which leads to less green space and urban sprawl. Police should focus on crime not traffic reinforcement.
- To develop system to decrease number of squirrels. Stop condo development.
- Suburban sprawl.
- To stop the “generification” of Ann Arbor. That is, limit the number of chains, big box stores, cookie cutter developments that suck the life out of downtown. Obliterate the building that houses “Buffalo Wild Wings”.
- That the city would fight some efforts of the University of Michigan (such as the new building on Huron & Washington and/or business school). That respect for this community is more important than the name um (and what it brings) and that the community is diverse enough to stand on its own outside of um, rather than being saturated by it.
- The really generic new architecture that continues to invade the city. There needs to be a rent control program to support new small businesses, like a lottery system subsidized by government. The new wave of 3-5 hundred thousand dollar condos with retail on the ground floor is mindless. There is nothing interesting or creative for the city except taxes for over priced condos, these big box structures loom over any interesting buildings. It is the small business owner who brings life and flavor to the city. The large rents are impossible for and small business start up unless it is in nature. Culture is more than the school by music. The direction at this time is for big stores, common to any city in America...stop! The place we live in forms our culture.
- Restricting urban sprawl and development.
- To stop overdevelopment. Ann Arbor looks more and more like canton with every passing year...malls & cement.
- That I would be able to ride my bike safely for miles and miles along the river with my kids and to cross the river safely on my bike between central and north campus.
- To make all of Ann Arbor more bicycle friendly. Bike lanes are irregularly placed. Please improve bus transportation so people can use it without long waits.
- Pot hole maintenance.

- Maintain public sidewalks better.
- Street lights & street signs.
- The quality of street repair. It takes, in some cases, up to a month to fill in the hole or bump on the road. And even though repaired, no fixed right.
- There would be fenced-in dog parks (or portions of existing parks) with waste collection and running water in various geographic locations throughout the city.
- More green space (trees, landscaping, etc) spread throughout the city, not just having it concentrated in city parks, which I never use.
- Change the streets downtown that used to be one way back to one way. Also, I want those kids to get off my lawn!
- Add more bike paths for real transportation throughout the city, not just bike lanes.
- How snow is removed on east stadium. The snow plows go so fast they throw snow at least 7 feet! Also, many times a day the plows block the foot of my drive. At my age (80), it is not physically possible to keep up with this.
- Add sidewalks on Arlington blvd!
- Repair sidewalks, roads, weeds, trim trees, limbs so traffic can be seen. I would like to see more police cars all over. Property owners clean their yards and not plant things that make it look like the boonies, retrieve trash cans and keep them off the road.
- Better grass mowing in parks.
- To make it more conducive to walking and biking safely.
- The quality on streets and roadways especially Ann Arbor Saline Rd. Terrible pot holes.
- The street lighting. The design of most lighting is poor and contributes to light pollution. Also, most lighting seems to still be the high energy consumption type rather than the more energy efficient (lps) type.
- Make downtown more pedestrian friendly-pedestrian only streets in downtown, improve safety of crosswalks. Our family's example-Main & Kingsley-crossing Main on the south side-cars rarely yield.
- Two things: lighting on streets & potholes as some streets & roads are poorly maintained.
- Need a light on Huron and Chapin. I live in senior citizen center Larie Terrace and like to walk to YMCA across the street. At least a warning, slow down sign?
- The lighting on all streets. Too many streets are poor lit, therefore unsafe to walk on at night.
- The road layout.
- Our section of i-94. It should be 3 lanes. Better snow removal (not just on the main streets) would be great too.

- Highway exit on Route 23 to Nixon Rd.
- Mow the median on Huron Pkwy & Washtenaw at Toumy intersection West Stadium. Both are messy and a poor impression of Ann Arbor. To say it is a natural planting is a coup out to good maintenance.
- To improve bike lanes, paths & biker awareness so that one does not have to risk their life to ride their bike to work. Pedestrian walk signals need to be made more bike friendly, so that it does not say it's ok to walk only if a button is pressed and intersections need to be better monitored so that cars do not stop half way into the intersection to turn right on a red light.
- Road signs which are confusing at times.
- More protection of the trees.
- The bike lanes. Madison, WI can do it. Why can't we?
- Improve the quality of the roads and sidewalks.
- Bike path on the roads, and places to lock the bike so that you can get around with a bike. Right now is too dangerous. You feel like you are getting to get run over.
- The condition of the sidewalks all over the city is atrocious! Also, not enough street crossings. Except for this, this is a nice town to live in.
- To create more extensive biking/walking paths around & throughout the city.
- Make sure all neighborhoods have good access to parks and fairness in snow removal timing.
- Positive actions re: environment i.e. /air quality/incentives/re-cycling, etc.
- Creating more sidewalks for easier areas for pedestrians.
- Using Ottawa as role model for bike & walk paths.
- Roads.
- To up bike paths to full bike lanes on each major road.
- Better care of the trees.
- The appearance-graffiti, roads, sidewalks, etc.
- More bike paths. Better architecture. A plaza (town square meeting place).
- More consideration to street quality.
- Making the entire city more friendly for walking and biking.
- Clean the street more than once or twice a year. Keep clogged drains open (sewers).
- To create a safer biking environment. I am a dedicated bike commuter and my very progressive employer is happy that I commute between all our businesses. Unfortunately, there is no safe way to cross 94 on State St or on Ann Arbor-Saline. On many days when my work requires me to travel from downtown to Plaza Dr, I have to drive. I'm hopeful that of the thousands of Ann Arborites who work s of I-94, many would bike if it was safer.

- Have a dog park closer than saline.
- To redesign Main Street between William and Huron into an emergency road only for football traffic, police, ambulance, etc. And create a people friendly space with green areas and cafes.
- Eliminating waste paper, trash & butts on the streets, with the possible exception of Detroit. I can't recall a dirtier, larger city. In fact, parts of Detroit are cleaner than Ann Arbor.
- The side of the road on Geddes between Concordia & Galleys Park so there was a bike path there. Less high rise buildings.
- Turn lanes on Huron.
- To keep the properties around the school cleaner. Too much trash in lawns & on streets.
- Creating a large green space going through the city.
- The conditions of the roads. Maybe this year, since we don't have much snow, the money leftovers could be used to fix all roads and keep them in a good shape. Thanks.
- Better bike roads would be nice since you ought not to ride on the sidewalk but biking on the street in fairly dangerous. More people biking would be a lot better for the environment then recycling.
- To improve and expand the roadways especially Maiden Lane!
- Improve snow removal, which is still a joke compared to any other place I have lived. And I would say this in July as well.
- To have better cab services for seniors. Sidewalks need to be repaired.
- Regarding parks: more water centered activities in summer like they have in Canadian parks.
- More and safer bike paths.
- Better aesthetic guidelines for architecture and open space.
- Fix the roads and use other than salt in snow times.
- Better access to scenic bike paths.
- Rescind the greenbelt proposal, sell the purchased land to a land conservatory, bring the money back to Ann Arbor for city needs, especially parks. How sad to hear testimony that there are not enough funds for proper mowing and park rangers while idle land, expensive to maintain, sits way out in the townships. We can't even go there to have a picnic! Let's live in practical, sensible ways, true to this town's heritage.
- Add at least one dog park!! Please!
- Having a Malleck Creek walk through. The city with connecting paths to circular walks around the city with benches along the way in the paths and a bus to get home if needed.

- A dog park.
- Sidewalks throughout the city. Bike lines throughout the city. Affordable daycare for kids, where parents would like to keep working.
- To add/provide dog runs in public parks.
- Better road surfaces and even more bike paths.
- The roads, I live on a dirt road in the city limits and they do not maintain, fix, scrape, salt, remove snow etc...without me and others calling, then it is only when ever. And city streets, fill a pot hole with asphalt and just walk away...never done right. And the traffic light timing is so bad on the streets.
- To plan ahead for roads/parking during the development phase of any new project. For example, congestion on Washtenaw heading east is unbelievable. Parking at whole foods, football traffic, etc.
- More lights needed in outlying areas and better repair and ice removal on city sidewalks (more so than on private).
- Better highway systems to get into and especially out of Ann Arbor, especially via us 23. Leaving Ann Arbor via this route is highly time consuming for many commuters.
- I would make bird hills into a dog park.
- City should be responsible for repairing sidewalk in city of Ann Arbor.
- I did respond, but forgot to include, the fire hydrants need to be painted. They are almost white not red anymore.
- More off street bike paths.
- More consideration of citizen problems with services such as snow removal methods, area street and sidewalk repairs/replacement, etc. Streets don't need to be reploved just to be sure already shoveled sidewalks and driveways are fully blocked.
- To require sidewalks on both sides of residential streets.
- I would spend more money on repairing roads. How can you keep buying property for green space when we can hardly drive on some streets? What kind of management builds a fancy new high school and goes into debt and then talks about more taxes. I have to live on my fixed income.
- If I could change one thing, I would add more street lights to the city.
- Maintain roads and sidewalks in better condition. Employ or hire more people for services...experienced people.
- To make it pedestrian friendly--right now it is pedestrian hostile--as long waits at corners and traffic patterns/behaviors that are appalling.
- Improved snow removal.
- Administrators in Ann Arbor are very unfriendly toward dogs. A dog park in Ann Arbor is badly needed.

- Better care for trees put in by new developments. The city takes care to require new developments to include trees but then the developments, especially commercial, just leave them to die rather than flourish.
- Better public use of the Huron River, etc. Areas.
- Creating lively places like city parks and streets which can attract lots of people with their mixed use.
- To create a pedestrian zone.
- To plant more trees.
- Improving roads and keeping small businesses around.
- More pet friendly parks or dog park. I know one is in the works, but I haven't heard of opening or cost.
- Preservation of green space.
- I would increase street lights of road.
- Improve residential street lighting, many areas are quite dark. Preferably this would be done using downward facing lights which minimize light pollution.
- The creation of walking and bicycle paths that were grade separated from major roads, i.e. that had overpasses to allow safe crossing without conflict with motor vehicles.
- Bike path lanes on all major thoroughfares. Minimally road edge and shoulder repair so bike travel is safe and so bicyclists don't have to weave out into traffic to avoid broken pavement that damages rims on thin wall tires/wheels.
- Their time management of the roads when there is bad weather. I think it takes the city way too long to get salt trucks and do the roads when we have snow. Improved response or quicker response to inclement weather for our roads.
- The design and layout of its streets and sidewalks as well as the maintenance of its street scapes. Streets are too narrow, intersections are often poorly designed, sidewalk spaces are cramped. In general, streets, curbs and sidewalks are rundown and tawdry, too much litter and dirt.
- Fix the bike paths outside of the immediate downtown to make it possible to bike around easier. The sidewalk/bike paths are often broken and cracked or even abruptly end without warning or worse actually end by going off a curb.
- Increased amount for parks and recreation including programs for all ages.
- Create a dog park.
- Get some mountains nearby! Improve the ease and safety of getting around by foot and by bicycle.
- Add many more paved multi-use trails and paths.
- Properly time lights on State Street at hill, Packard and hover.

- All streets would have sidewalks. University property would be taxes and citizens summer/winter taxes would be lowered or replaced by more equitable, fair taxes shared by all...whether income tax, sales tax or some county action.
- The road maintenance.
- A park for dogs to run free or free sources for drug & alcohol rehabilitation.
- The roads and the condition of our public schools and grounds.
- Better bicycling lanes/routes.
- To have chapter 82 - littering and distribution of handbills enforced. 7:92, 7:94, 7:95, 7:96, 7:102. Also to have free samples of Ann Arbor news delivered once a week discontinued (these papers are thrown onto our extensions, driveways and become litter). Also signs stuck on the right of way along city streets- advertisements.
- Quality of road reconstruction is poor. Example, 7th avenue was repaired in 2005 or 2006 and had potholes immediately...poor quality of work. Need to hire or train better for this type of work. It is extremely expensive and should be done correctly the first time.
- Regulations governing sidewalks and city right-of-ways. If you want to have a walk able city, you need to have a walk able path, paved or not, passing every house. People should never have to walk in the street except to cross. Now there are only regulations where there is paving (sidewalks). People should be able to walk in the right-of-way whether it is paved or not. Trees & shrubs need to be trimmed.
- More bike paths.
- Enforce codes on Old Michigan Inn on Jackson Road, it is a blight and deal with panhandling downtown and near campus. Plus sponsor neighborhood community building events, work projects, etc.
- Clean up the student neighborhoods-maintain homes, eliminate trash, decrease size and variability of property management signs. Perhaps a small, standard, brass-colored sign.
- As a student I feel that street lighting should be improved. Walking on the streets at night, I find myself frequently on dark streets. Even though there are lamps they are not working. It is very unsafe and dangerous. An example is on Oakland and Tappan which is a very dark street crossing.
- Get rid of the loophole in the city noise ordinance allowing lawn services to operate at up to 91 db. (Louder than a subway train) in residential neighborhoods. Police have tried to help in our Pontiac Trail neighborhood with no luck. They say it will be up to city council to close the noise loophole.
- To keep the police from hassling the homeless.
- To reduce crime. Many places in Ann Arbor have too much crime.
- Change role of police from income to true safety concerns. Example-the police act as a source of revenue and not a source of security and billing or taxing.

- The importance of fairness and equality of the degree of punishment to criminals in court.
- Closer monitoring by police of speeding, stop signs, red lights, parking lots.
- The prevalence of homeless people downtown in the Kerry town district & the garbage littering and other streets from college students.
- Make it safer for women to walk around at night.
- Ticketing bicyclists that violate traffic laws.
- Penalize violators for not recycling/homelessness-control squatters. The roads suck if you own an older car. Pot holes. Sorry for too many. I say roads are #1.
- More police enforcement at fraternity houses.
- Clean up the student area downtown.
- Not to pay for sheriff services when the city of Ann Arbor does not use.
- Less crime. Police too busy issuing traffic tickets. Crime rate should change according to social trends, not police work. Incarceration does not seem to be the answer.
- I think hash bash is horrible. It encourages kids to smoke, destroying kids' memories, minds.
- Animal control-skunks, raccoons, etc. At Green Rd housing & Green Baxter Ct.
- To lessen the amount of police officers. There are more police than are necessary for the small amount of crime here. Many of us feel needlessly persecuted by the police due to the vast amount of free time they have.
- Local laws.
- Require tenants and landlords around Ann Arbor and especially around the um campus to keep yard and porches free of trash and debris. Limit number of rental houses in residential neighborhoods. Catch speeders and reckless drivers.
- Having police be more active in keeping neighborhoods safe, not just on patrol for speeders.
- More police presence. Too much graffiti. Need more police at bus AATA sell drugs at bus station downtown.
- To do more police patrols in residential area at night. Push 10 pm curfew for under 18 years of age. Crack down harder on the drug dealers and car radio noise. More free recreation activities for kids so they have more to do in the summer instead of wandering the streets.
- Reduce number of police. Serious traffic offenders escape with impunity. The entire city is a speed trap. Filling quotas seems to be a top priority.
- Stricter code about property owner's removal of dead trees, especially if they threaten neighbor's properties. Refurbishing/painting of restroom buildings in community parks such as Allmendinger. To lessen financial burden on property owner's responsibility regarding sidewalk repairs.

- Get rid of graffiti and other petty crime.
- Relax code enforcement. My first winter here I got a note to clear my sidewalk of snow even though all but one inch or two was cleared. That is a bit over aggressive.
- To increase safety for people walking through parks and throughout the city, campus, downtown and neighborhoods, especially arboretums.
- The enormous police presence at the University of Michigan; there are too many police and they honestly harass us. We are tired, over worked, stressed students who wake up at 9 am late for class to find their car ticketed for parking too close to a driveway (for example). Please turn down the police. Crime at the university is slight.
- I would put more lights to deter crime in student areas.
- The police department being a little more useful and monitoring areas which are poorly lit and actually enforce crime prevention as opposed to waiting for citizens who don't come to a complete stop at the stop sign.
- Enforce all codes (esp. garbage/recycling) in neighborhoods with many students. They are a mess.
- To start licensing cats. Free roaming cats are a nuisance.
- Greater discouragement against panhandling and begging.
- Good landlords taking it in the neck while student ghetto landlords get away with loads of code violations. Why do campus neighborhoods overflow with trash, rundown houses, soft furniture on porches, beer pong games permanently installed on front lawns?
- Making the streets feel safer at night.
- Maintaining street people, looks bad for our town.
- The police worry about giving tickets. When will they start protecting people?
- I live in the student district and after athletic events they become drunken and disorderly. There has been a lot of vandalism of vehicles in Burns park as a result. I would like increased police enforcement. I would like the fire station at Packard and stadium to be staffed.
- Enforce laws on lights on bicycles at night and publicly punish graffiti creators by sentencing them to its removal.
- Increased enforcement of noise ordinance (in homes and in cars) and speeding laws.
- Enforce property maintenance codes regarding upkeep of property (no junk piled in yard, no houses in chronic stage of construction without siding, weeds, multiple vehicles parked in yard). Also pave dirt roads and put in storm sewers and we pay high taxes and over the years every home has paid for the cost of storm sewers and paving already.

- Increase of police vehicle presence on Newport Road between 8:00 am and 9:00 am and 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm (very few drivers are able to read the “25 mph” speed limit signs and/or understand what this means.
- Police responsiveness to petty crimes and burglaries.
- Allow the police to apprehend criminals by any means necessary! Show all students through a prison (not a jail) when in 7th/8th grade. No exceptions!
- Increase safety for individuals walking day and night in the city.
- To get rid of neighborhood noise.
- The over criminalization of minor traffic offenses. There are much more important things that the police could be doing.
- Cleanliness (relates also to absentee slumlords).
- I wish I had confidence that the police do not practice racial profiling in the cars they choose to pull over. Free parking downtown!
- More severe control of dangerous driving...sudden lane changes, only one hand on steering wheel, speeding, failure to stop at stop signs, etc. And more punitive fines for malfeasance.
- Parking enforcement.
- Help to keep more local businesses alive & try to keep out major corporations.
- To increase the number of retail options. I think Ann Arbor is missing the boat as I am often forced to travel to other areas i.e. Oakland County for retail purchases even though I prefer to shop local.
- Make the downtown area between State St & Main St less desolate.
- More general retail in downtown Ann Arbor, the way it was years ago with department stores, shoe stores, etc.
- Loss of retail stores in downtown.
- The increasing presence of chain stores/restaurants at the expense of local businesses.
- At this time, I have nothing to contribute to the quality of life of Ann Arbor. However, stores such as Wal-Mart, restaurants (Logan’s) should be closer to the university or stay open longer. Many people do not have the necessary time or money to travel large distances to these locations.
- To increase the amount of retail downtown.
- Increase social environment of Ann Arbor. This could be done by encouraging small businesses, maybe create a new downtown. The demand is there & the money is waiting to be spent. Safety & reputation will follow naturally.
- To provide a downtown economic environment more accessible to independent businesses.
- Keep more of old buildings & shops downtown (Main St).
- To improve retail shopping opportunities.

- More of a livable downtown with more diversified stores and fewer art galleries and restaurants.
- Diversifying downtown business district (no restaurant saturation!) Creating a pedestrian mall.
- The tendency to replace small, family-owned businesses with chain stores.
- Better night life.
- Combined into three things: encouraging local business growth, developing more bike lanes and public transportation options and subsidizing affordable downtown housing.
- More job opportunities.
- More independent, creative restaurants.
- Make the city more friendly to small business to enhance the economic diversity.
- To bring in more private businesses in order to improve our tax base. Every time um buys a building in a2, the tax base decreases. Ann Arbor needs more private companies.
- To give greater consideration to small businesses-downtown and neighborhood.
- More retail shopping, less taxes, more affordable housing.
- Providing more support for small locally owned businesses. Along w/ the university, they are essential in keeping Ann Arbor an interesting place to live.
- To increase job opportunities and level the ratio of income to housing costs.
- Support downtown retail.
- To add a drugstore to downtown Ann Arbor (CVS, Rite Aid-selling some food items as well as medicines, magazines, cosmetics-on main street) to increase use of Main St/downtown beyond destination site & businesses like restaurants & art galleries, to stimulate variety of shopping there.
- Make liberty between Main Street and State Street more exciting and welcoming! Make clearer which University of Michigan activities are available for all Ann Arbor citizens (lectures, etc.).
- Make the downtown area expand further and bring in more local businesses.
- Encourage the growth of locally owned businesses downtown to help create more jobs, retain money in the community and encourage people to shop in town instead of using cars to shop outside of city limits.
- To have more moderately priced, cozy restaurants.
- Increase the number of available jobs, not related to the university.
- The city would be more proactive about helping businesses, large & small. Also, forget the greenway!
- Increased retail & service variety in downtown core.
- More sophisticated, up-market shops.
- One high quality retail store like Nordstrom's.

- More economic development on the northeast side of Ann Arbor, including more restaurants, stores, etc.
- Increase the number of groceries & pharmacies within the city.
- To have at least one good Mexican restaurant and more good shopping places on the west side.
- We need a Costco!!!
- Less proliferation of chains taking over where local businesses used to be. Need to protect the unique stores/restaurants that separate Ann Arbor from any other mi city, especially the s state & downtown areas.
- Limiting the number of chain stores that have moved in and replaced and/or strained local businesses downtown & in surrounding areas.
- I would invite more restaurants that are cheap and of good quality.
- Revitalize a downtown shopping district: toy stores, dept stores, etc.
- More professional employment opportunities, especially in the technology sector.
- Improved accessibility to grocery, laundry, etc for on-campus students without cars.
- To keep Pfizer here in Ann Arbor.
- Create more jobs.
- Provide a new tenant for Pfizer lots.
- The opportunities/programs for young professionals ages 23-35 is limited. I would like to see more programs geared towards the young professionals in Ann Arbor.
- To concentrate on creating job opportunities for affected Pfizer employees.
- To have a good retail mall, need to have better stores and variety at briarwood, especially the department stores.
- Increase job opportunities.
- More job opportunities.
- More diversity of job opportunities. Add dog park.
- Getting a full size grocery store in downtown vicinity.
- If I could change one thing about Ann Arbor, it would be to create more jobs.
- Job creation and economic growth.
- Honestly, many of the people, many Ann Arborites are just to full of themselves. Also job availability is lacking.
- More jobs.
- More jobs to cease brain drain out of Ann Arbor/Michigan. Enforcement of recycling provisions at apartment building so residents can recycle without driving materials somewhere. More all day non-metered parking in off-campus areas.
- Balance budget. Attract new business.

- Encouraging locally owned, independent businesses and discouraging chains.
- More aggressive development of a diverse business environment. Right now, the city seems to be satisfied with the university and Pfizer and that is it. Almost everyone I know is turning to freelancing, because the professional and tech companies have disappeared. And we don't need to live in an insanely expensive city like Ann Arbor if we're freelancing.
- I would allow more than one drug store to be here within the downtown area.
- A greater mix of retail downtown. There are plenty of restaurants, galleries but we miss the grocery stores and small department stores.
- More job opportunities for high school students, with so many college students, it is difficult to find work, especially the 14-17 age group.
- More job opportunities, especially related to technology.
- Bring in more better and permanent businesses to downtown. Have better and fewer restaurants recycle more plastics.
- To add grocery shopping to downtown Ann Arbor so people could live downtown.
- More bars and restaurants. Better mall. Lower housing/rent costs.
- To make the downtown area livable to a mixed population with small European-style grocery stores, etc. Also closely enough relating to court as "one thing". I regret that the "student ghetto" has been allowed to develop in a district of historic housing.
- More retail and grocery shopping options within walking distance.
- Add a well-designed major hotel/convention center to downtown Ann Arbor (with plenty of easily accessible/usable parking).
- More focus on tasteful and well maintained commercial areas and more green space.
- Employment opportunities for public school teachers.
- Job opportunities.
- Hi tech services (city wide wireless, etc), preservation of local business, increased tolerance toward student population.
- Somewhat slow job development and tax/loan breaks for Michigan students who graduate and stay and work in Michigan.
- Be more responsive to individuals and small businesses rather than only catering to large businesses and developers.
- More locally owned businesses/stores/restaurants.
- More (variety) of places to go such as night life and restaurants.
- That there was one or two more laundry mats in this area.
- The lack of quality shopping malls!
- Improve local economy/job market so that high tech and attractive jobs available so that the city would be able to attract and retain talent to the city.

- Create employment opportunities in the arts. I cannot support myself as a visual artist in this city and must sell my work outside the city. Also have schools stop participating in the “no child left behind act” (stop teaching to the tests).
- Football - the migration of the lemmings. How about something downtown besides destination restaurants?
- Promoting more economic development to attract more jobs. I would also increase the number of youth programs and summer jobs for youth and address testing disparities between different schools in the Ann Arbor public school system.
- To develop public parks, restaurants and shopping along the Huron River downtown.
- More venues for very small businesses such as craft sales. In New Orleans, they converted one of the French market buildings to stalls inside which they rented to artists & craftsmen.
- To encourage the Ann Arbor police to dedicate more time to detrimental crime (robbery & assault) in the student neighborhoods and spend less resources crusading against underage drinking and noise violations. In relation to students at U of m, the police have a readily apparent inclination toward discrimination, harassment and general impoliteness toward the younger adults. Overall, situations in the past give me the impression that the police do not invest adequate concern for crimes of robbery in student houses but are never late on the party scene to insult party goers and hand out tickets.
- To have city council focus on the business affairs of the city.
- I would remove the current city council due to the fact they have very little on many topics including the city’s refusal to clean and maintain sidewalks throughout the city.
- To be more in tune to the needs and wishes of the majority rather than every small group or individual.
- The mayor.
- That Ann Arbor public officials focus on only those issues that affect the city of Ann Arbor and stay out of state and national politics. In other words, mind our own business.
- For city government to seek more input from Ann Arbor residents regarding planned changes which would affect their quality of live, and that would alter the character of the city whose public servants and residents worked hard to maintain during its development stages. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.
- Significantly improve the transparency of city budgets and budget performance reporting, eliminating hidden funds and enabling taxpayers to track our tax dollars and participate in allocation decisions.

- A more politically even-handed city council that respects the conservative minority.
- More cooperation with local/small businesses. City council always seems at odds with small business but bends over backwards for large. Taxes are too high!
- That the city council would be more effective & make some things happen. All they do is talk & disagree!
- Instituting non-partisan city council & mayoral elections. While things generally work very well in Ann Arbor and quality of life is exceptional, just think what we would be with a city council that compared favorable with the rest of Ann Arbor.
- Focus our city council on service issues (including finances) and away from all the social/political issues.
- Responsive of city and specifically council to public concerns and opinions-all of the public, not just special interest & groups.
- Introduce real discussion to governance. Prohibit one-party rule, especially on city council, where the preceding caucus meetings frequently make discussion at the council meetings mere formality. We have seen what on party rule leads to on the federal level.
- A more diverse city council.
- That city council members become mature individuals with more good sense who know how to make decisions and have less belief they have to be politically correct.
- Listen to what the people want. Not what the city council thinks is best!
- Changing to a non-partisan city council.
- Shrinking the city government to do more with less. Partnering more as necessary.
- Giving huge retirement packages to city employees. How a fire fighter can get promoted in his last month on the job and get benefits based upon that is laughable.
- The morale of city employees is poor. The city administrator needs to get rid of Jayne Miller, Director of Community Services. Then the mayor and city council should replace the city administrator. These two have done more to undermine city employees and that has impacted the public enormously.
- To cut the bureaucracy at city hall even further and thus hopefully enable our too high property taxes to fall and even have enough monies left over to make Ann Arbor a wireless city (perhaps Google could help pay for this??).
- To have a less liberal government/city.
- City management. Less emphasis on adding green spaces. Better parking downtown, too little/too expensive.
- City government politics.

- The fiscal responsibility of the city council and the mayor. That is to say that I don't believe they have made good decisions or managed their financial budget in a responsible manner.
- That the city council would spend less time on ridiculous issues like whether upholstered furniture should be outlawed. I often roll my eyes regarding some of the decisions made. However I do appreciate Ann Arbor and think it is a wonderful place to live. Recycling should be expanded. I don't understand why we pay such high taxes yet have to pay to have our sidewalks replaced. Overall the city does a good job.
- The city administrator. (Or if you mean the physical presence of the city, it would be to improve parking by building multi story, above and below ground, structures in appropriate areas such as the library lot between 5th Avenue and Division Street.
- That elected officials would act upon, even shift away from what seems like “vested” interests in higher rise development. The clear reservations and alternate proposals expressed by Ann Arbor residents.
- More tolerant of political diversity.
- Better management and knowledgeable employees.
- The attitude of some city officials. Two years ago I walked into a city building to read the job listings and I was treated with suspicion by a woman, who apparently was part of security. I was told to read the listings from the website and I think citizens should have access to city buildings. Also I had my car towed when someone changed an existing no parking sign. The sign used to have an arrow pointing in one direction, someone added an arrow so that both directions were illegal for two-week period. Probably a lot of people were fooled by the sign and the city probably collected some extra money. But towing fee from Brewer's was \$155, plus the city charged \$60 and \$25.
- For the city council and city administrators to show everyday common sense in decision, making and to focus on issues important to the lives of Ann Arbor citizens, not to a liberal ideal of a social agenda.
- The sense that city council will do what it pleases no matter what objections sensible people might raise.
- To bring balance to the liberal left attitudes of both city government and citizens that will vote in and spend endless tax dollars on inefficient public transportation, ineffective public schools, \$10,000,000 dollar library branches, anything to do with parks and a green agenda, along with countless social programs. All the while our city's infrastructure quite literally crumbles 1/4 billion 30 year millages are wrong.
- The city council establish a structure for citizen involvement in government, especially planning and development.

- To make the city more economically and fiscally responsible to its citizens so it is not so two-faced in its actions and intent (like buying green space, limiting development and complaining that housing is too expensive).
- Respond to taxpayers complaints. The same issues here remain unresolved for 10 years. Everyone talks nicely and does nothing.
- Heightened fiscal responsibility on part of city council.
- More diverse views on city council, i.e. all democrats.
- The political climate. I do not agree with the city council passing a resolution against the war in Iraq as this has no effect on Ann Arbor and the time spent on this is a waste.
- Consistent, reliable local government support of local business and non-arbitrary code enforcement.
- The political make up of city council. One party should not control the city council.
- To change the mayor and council. Stop buying property for parks yet they do not maintain what parks we have. This city needs a dog park. Every good size city has a park for dogs only. Stop the building of high rises in the downtown area which is mostly eating places, no shopping, clothes, no drug stores. Parking is terrible!
- A more conservative government.
- Democrats on the city council.
- School board and Ann Arbor council members to be financially responsible for all the financial blunders either deliberately or unintentional.
- To better staff city departments and then hold those folks accountable for timely and correct performance of their duties, including answering questions put to them by phone and email! City hall seems like a black hole, and staff turnover no excuse for not getting job done. Needs better management.
- Non-essential trips by city officials, i.e. the train trip to Whitmore Lake to assess rail transportation fed Ann Arbor & Whitmore lake...dumb!! Outrageous payments for retirees who don't work long enough to receive them.
- Non partisan elections.
- To reduce the size and scope of the city government. The city government needs to learn how to do more with less, the same thing an individual citizen without the power to tax must do. The wasteful spending of my tax dollars on lazy, unemployed, able-bodied scumbags makes me sick.
- Elected leadership would follow recommendations of highly paid consultants in area of real estate development and other planning arms of the community.
- Balance of political power.
- The weather.
- Climate.

- To have better schools! When your child has a problem, no one seems to care & your child doesn't finish school because they don't get the proper help! Your school system sucks!
- Mandatory recycling!
- Less concern about adding more open areas in city and put efforts into sensible use of land for housing and local businesses.
- Stop selling out to Google!
- Do something with all the empty buildings and for lease properties that is affordable beyond students at U of M spending their parents' money.
- Its citizens. Too many people here believe that the public is represented by those who scream the loudest. I expect public representatives to make decisions rationally & for the most part they do but sometimes they make decisions based on who shows up at the local meetings. This is not the public. This is a segment of the public.
- More sunshine! Improve air quality!
- To stop trying to attract boorish out-of-towners and concentrate on the needs of the people who actually live in Ann Arbor.
- Better high schools in terms of education and the monitoring of all the children so they become involved in positive activities instead of drugs, smoking, poor friend choices and overall, wasting their time.
- Much improvement in the city primary and high school systems. Listening to complaints and opinions of the parents of school children. Roads have improved but could be better.
- The weather (to please my wife).
- Cooler weather in summer.
- To find citizens to return Ann Arbor to the great town it was years ago!
- Sorry that the DGA was re-enacted for such a long period.
- I would like to see that the U of M students who inhabit our city temporarily treat our city and its citizens with more respect. They sometimes feel because they are away from home they act inappropriately!
- Move it out of the snow belt.
- The school board and its patterns of poor and costly decision-making.
- More equitable distribution of wealth, and more compassion for the disadvantaged by Ann Arborites.
- Too much spray paint used on streets & sidewalks for construction.
- Expand recycling collection to include all plastics. We just moved from Seattle 6 months ago & the recycling programs there were much more progressive.
- That all parking ramps be required to have cameras on every level of their structures. My car was stolen over winter break and because there were no

cameras in the liberty square lot, I don't know when it was taken & I have no info. Regarding the theft.

- Located someplace with a better climate. More temperate weather.
- Free wireless internet access for everyone.
- To have a wonderful place for children of all ages to attend for lots of fun, free of charge & learn about as many different things there is to know.
- The weather. But seriously, the condition of the roads and sidewalks.
- That Ann Arbor would exist in a warmer climate state, rent would be cheaper, and I could always find a parking space!
- The amount of money spent to purchase more park property while we do little or nothing about anything more than basic maintenance on current park & school property.
- I'd beat Ohio last year. I'd change the new high schools name to Schembechler high! I would also lower the taxes a lot! I would spend less of Ann Arbors money on repairing streets. Oh yeah, affirmative action. We need it back.
- More opportunities for students to become involved in the community & civic life.
- To reverse the zoning decision that did not allow Ave Maria College to open at Domino's Farms.
- Don't spend resources on bike transportation due to bad weather in Michigan.
- A city arts center.
- The snobby feel and overpriced food at restaurants. I'd also change the way people drive. It will say though, that having the green lights delayed after the opposite light turns red is awesome. Hopefully I won't get killed by someone running a red light now. Seemed quite likely before!
- People with those "I'd rather be in Ann Arbor" bumper stickers. They make all Ann Arbor residents look like smug a\$%#@!.
- Make it less liberal.
- The arrogance and rude behavior shown by many of our residents. Closet racism exists and we are not the friendly community we claim to be.
- Easier to recycle for students living near campus. There are no bins near my apartment building.
- Promote the public schools, encourage as much participation as possible and make it a priority to correct any problems. Be the best, so folks won't utilize charter schools and private schools for general education. If they choose religious schools. That's their own choice. Ann Arbor public schools should be good enough for all!
- To obtain our energy from "green" renewable sources.
- High quality of public schools.

- Make sure to look out for anyone around you when outside buddy system “escort”.
- Accessibility to certain offices. Have to call numerous times or are referred to another office or person. Once you connect with a voice, they are on top of situation though.
- Improve the public schools and have continuous bike lanes across town.
- Better maintenance of public schools.
- To stop any discussion about relocating the downtown library!
- If I can only choose one thing, I would make it a jail able offense to smoke in any public location.
- To offer most city services (or add more) through a web portal, paying taxes, tickets, bills or obtaining building permits or campfire permits involves trips downtown (gas=money & pollution) and a parking space (land use & money). Maybe Google can help you.
- The weather. Want more sunshine.
- The only thing that makes me think about leaving Ann Arbor is the drinking water quality. It’s simply horrible. I use bottled water for cooking and that’s an important concern at this time. I hope the city could improve its tap water quality for the citizens’ health and that’s the most important project. It should be focused on right now.
- To encourage more involvement in community and volunteer activity by college age residents.
- Tone down the politically correct liberals in town!
- To provide health insurance for every resident in the city of Ann Arbor.
- Consider seriously a city tax. We need more money for basic services, i.e. schools.
- Not kow-tow to the university.
- More welcoming to new residents.
- To look for another vendor for cable services other than Comcast and get a better price for services.
- Introduction of “meritocratically” based, efficiently run organized ring of prostitution.
- Make welfare people work off their grant or do volunteer work for the city. Food stamps should be for food only, no snacks.
- To clean drinking water. We cannot believe in the quality of tap water because of old and worn water pipe.
- It is schizoprenia. I've only lived here a short while, but I see two visions of Ann Arbor colliding: Ann Arbor as a small, progressive, hip town that is great for families and students alike and Ann Arbor as a boomtown with new businesses, i.e. Google and lots of commuting in and out, i.e. Ann Arbor as a city. They must be reconnected.

- Having two children who grew up here, I think that we don't have enough affordable programs for them. I think maybe having more recreational programs, offer more choices so that kids have an option. Not only to hang out at the “diag”. We need to make our children/youth a priority.
- That free wireless internet should be available throughout the city and make it less expensive to park in lots and garages.
- To have free internet access throughout the city.
- More recycling bins for different kinds of recycling i.e. plastic, aluminum, etc.
- More could be done for our environment: air, water, etc.
- Less obsession with the homeless and affordable housing and more attention to quality of life for the great majority of us who live in Ann Arbor (i.e. roads, traffic congestion, police protection, land use). Black and white is much easier to read than a gray background. Main problem with questionnaire. Much of the quality of life in Ann Arbor depends on U of Michigan and some of the best rec facilities are provided by the county. Services by city for non-intuitively housed aged are non-existent.
- That they would listen to the DDA.
- Force U of Michigan to pay more taxes for all the space they take up, all the noise that they directly and indirectly create, extra cost to them in any other way possible!!
- School funding always seems to be on a roller coaster. Have more reserve to use in lean years.
- The need to realize that youth and young adults are the future. The ideas presented by these individuals should not be blown off. Especially with an esteemed public university that lies within the city. Many students leave after graduation to return in their later years. For the economy to improve, jobs are necessary and knowledgeable individuals should want to stay in Ann Arbor.
- Don't let the U of m run everything.
- That I had more free time, which is not the fault of this survey, but I put it in to explain the gaps in my experience of Ann Arbor and the fact that I place such a high value on the recreational or cultural opportunities I can take advantage of. I think adult Ed is fabulous here, so far have never taken a class.
- Racism. I have never experienced more racism in my entire life until I moved into Ann Arbor. I would not suggest to anyone to move here that support diversity.
- The civility of its citizenry.
- Education -access for all children to excellent education which would reflect the taxes we pay, better cable TV.
- Friendlier, more courteous people living here, visiting here, etc.
- Reduce the massive investment in public schools and allow more diverse and privately initiated schools to use public funds. Our schools are weighed down by

huge bureaucracies and are not responsive to the needs of students or the desires of their parents.

- The public schools. Smaller classroom sizes, equality of educational opportunities regardless of socio economics. Also better staffed, community sensitive police department.
- The attitudes of the teachers and some citizens thinking they are better than people who live in lower SES cities.
- I am a student so a lot of this isn't applicable to me. But my recycling is infrequently picked up and since I recycle a lot it is very inconvenient. Also my street is poorly lit even at night like 11:00 pm. Many students are out that late and later.
- I would allow limited licensing of entertainment venues such that they can remain open on weekends after 2:00 am.
- The budget cutting in schools.
- Increase usage of technology for all Ann Arbor citizens.
- Increase diversity.
- The city should not kow-tow to the university. The city should represent the interests of Ann Arbor citizens (who are not u-m employees) when dealing with the university.
- The weather.
- Rethink why Ann Arbor invited so many “homeless” people to this area. Why build a facility to house them and why give them West Park to sleep in at night. I watched the downtown area change over a 30 year period. Some of city of Ann Arbor employees, social workers, city council created a “monster” by wanting to do “good” for others.
- The weather.
- The miserable weather.
- Decrease the amount of halfway house. Drug treatment houses that leave their failures to walk the streets.
- To be 40 miles from Chicago instead of Detroit.
- More language programs in the Ann Arbor public schools.
- An openness to all people, not just the far left liberal agenda.
- More money for our schools without raising costs to the taxpayers.
- Putting more money into our schools.
- Better accessibility of the housing code online and a website that is easier to navigate.
- Better garbage pick up. More volume and accommodations for items that don't fit in dumpster.

- I would make it more dog friendly.
- That the cable television company should be held accountable by the city for the safe placement and maintenance of its cable lines and other equipment.
- Eliminate utility poles (have underground service) improve aesthetics, eliminate power outages and stop the butchering of trees that dare to get close to an electrical wire.
- Expanding educational opportunities for same-sex middle schools.
- Pick up recycling like garbage is picked up, rather than requiring individuals to take their recycling to a grocery store, etc.
- The weather.
- Stop paying for housing for all people who used to live in the old YMCA. (This is a poorly designed form).
- Resolutely support the interests of Ann Arbor's citizenry when they conflict with the university's perceived self-interest. Since the university isn't taxed, this is the least the city government can do. Thanks.
- The school system. Each teacher and administrator would have mandatory psychological evaluation to make sure they are child compatible. The high schools would be equipped with metal detectors and there would be regular visits by drug dogs.
- Alertness to the potential pollution to our ground water and water supplies.
- To be more open to conservative thinking.
- The lack of cultural and racial diversity.
- Better service facilities. Lurie terrace should be remodeled and showers should replace the elevated bath tubs which are dangerous. We call them "pillar bath tubs". Your firemen are wonderful.
- Change and improve child care system, such as offer cheaper and quality child care center and women will have more opportunity to go to the work place.
- To eliminate revenue-generating speed traps and other traffic enforcement techniques that serve not to improve safety but merely to bring in money to the city. Please re-direct police efforts to more egregious violations that more directly serve the overall public good and raise speed limits to levels appropriate to road conditions not to the arbitrary values they are currently.
- That the public schools would do more to place its substitute teachers and student teachers, that are qualified, in full time teaching positions.
- For Ann Arbor to develop more of a "community" feel and less emphasis or focus on "individual achievement" or "elitism".
- Trash collector is too particular. A full can will be not emptied and no notice as to why it was not emptied is provided. Resident does not have any option but to wait another week without any way to get rid of trash. Cable/internet company (Comcast) has terrible support/service.

- Get rid of your superiority complex. Other towns have good things happening, let's give them some credit and newspaper space.
- Move Ann Arbor's location 200 miles north around Gaylord.
- Improving school education.
- Small groups with "agendas" are able to divert a lot of time and energy from mainstream functions of city government. (I.e. council meetings). We should consider getting rid of political parties in electing council members and try for funding and choosing the best qualified people as a number of other cities have done.
- Maintaining existing city facilities in top condition before purchasing more of same.
- Warmer.
- I would like to see more scholarships and tutoring available for students regardless of grades. I strongly would like to see money spent in making sure kids feel safe and wanted at the schools. Also, more drug prevention. Please let me know if I could be of assistance.
- The weather.
- Make it more enjoyable for graduate students. I've heard them say "Ann Arbor is a great place if you are in a stroller or pushing one". The demographic group of grad students ages 25-34 and single, feels like the group that has a harder time finding their place here. Too old to fit with undergrads, too young to fit with families, they need more public spots aimed at them. Recently Ann Arbor has improved that by adding vinology and mélange.
- To continue to balance its popular left and help maintain Ann Arbor as a cultural Mecca and not start or bend to the conservative right. Tolerance for gays and gay culture.
- To have better public schools. I do not have kids in school, but I have friends that do and they complain about the quality of the system. For the taxes we pay, the school system should be higher.
- Where my child/children will go to school. We are in the Georgetown neighborhood and Bryant, I feel, is overcrowded and much too far. We are paying a fair amount in taxes to live in the city, take part and care for our city and I am sad that we will not be participating in the school system.
- To make the schools teach essential knowledge and stay out of teaching its own liberal brand of morality.
- The university paying property tax.
- Nothing really. Just moved here from Philadelphia. It's a nice place to live. A little less urban than we prefer but the parks make up for it. Oh, road surfaces are really bad in some areas especially for bicycling.
- Overall, Ann Arbor is a desirable place to live. It's flawed only in its efforts to try to please everyone all the time. Cyclists vs. drivers, students vs. homeowners,

common sense vs. elaborate complicated solutions, historic vs. developers vs. greenies. Sometimes it appears a bit crazy or laughable.

- This is a waste of time. Nothing will be done! The city should leave saved resources and applied them to something more useful/urgent!
- It's the best city and I trust you to keep it the best.
- I would change nothing because I cannot change one thing or another, I am not in that position.
- I like Ann Arbor. I am greatly satisfied living here.
- Nothing at all.
- Communicate to residents and others how Ann Arbor is able to provide so much for its residents through much collaboration and effort. Quality of life is valued and many people work to respond to the zillions of quirky personalities in a positive manner. I love living in Ann Arbor. Kudos to all who make it this way.
- That the value of my home would go back up again. There is nothing I would change about Ann Arbor. I think it is a great town to live in.
- I need to live here a little longer to decide.
- Not much. I love Ann Arbor.
- At my age of 82 I enjoy living in Ann Arbor and I think it takes care of my needs. I find this a very friendly city.
- Nothing, you are doing a great job! Good luck. Ann Arbor is a great place to live!
- I don't know. I am a student of U of Michigan and quite satisfied with the university and city of Ann Arbor.
- I wouldn't change a thing. Ann Arbor is a wonderful place to live. I only wish I took greater advantage of the social and recreational opportunities available.
- Nothing in fact...it is fine the way it is.