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**CITY OF ASHEVILLE, NC  
2008**

**Report of Open-ended Question**

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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/County Management Association (ICMA).

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 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 Asheville staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community problems; they defined the jurisdiction boundaries NRC used for sampling; and they provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings. City of Asheville staff also determined local interest in a variety of add-on options to The National Citizen Survey™ Basic Service.

## UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

### 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.

## VERBATIMS

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

- What do you think is the single biggest issue facing Asheville over the next three to five years?

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. Those verbatim responses are grouped by the first topic listed in each comment whenever a respondent mentioned more than a single topic.

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 #18d: What do you think is the single biggest issue facing Asheville over the next three to five years?	
	Percent of Respondents
Growth/development/planning and zoning/environmental issues	33%
Economic development issues, jobs, cost of living	24%
Public transportation/infrastructure/traffic/parking	13%
Affordable housing	11%
Crime/public safety/gangs/homeless/drugs/cleanliness	9%
Other	9%
Don't know	1%
Total	100%

## VERBATIM RESPONSES TO OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

The following pages contain the respondents' verbatim responses as written on the survey and have not been edited for spelling or grammar. Responses have been organized by coded topic areas.

What do you think is the single biggest issue facing Asheville over the next three to five years?

### Growth/development/planning and zoning/environmental issues

- Regaining the small city feeling - seeing to traffic issues, parking, affordable housing, slowing growth, improving the architecture for the new buildings (the quality just doesn't seem to be there), etc., etc.
- Sustainable growth, how do we handle it?
- Over development - the "rape" of the mountains destroying trees for developers, "Asheville is killing the goose that lay the golden eggs". Asheville could learn about preservation of trees from Hilton Head Island, SC. Beautiful trees have remained near the roads, developers for businesses can't destroy them needlessly.
- Lack of planning/foresight with commercial development
- Overwhelming growth!
- Overpopulation - not enough jobs!
- Control development better - slow down!
- Managing & controlling growth, affordable modernization. Building a sense of community without losing diversity.
- Smart, sustainable growth economic development value for taxes / supporting art & cultural institutions & artists art museum, civic center local business support diversity
- Urban sprawl - (strip malls & loss of family businesses, have diversity, & community)
- Unregulated growth w/ out sustainable transportation options (ie. Sidewalks outside of downtown, light rail, greenway/bike paths)
- Growth & development.
- Management of growth that emphasizes (1) better roads and transportation in general. (2) Increased public services (police, etc.) Commensurate with growth. (3) Less population density (e.g. south Asheville).
- Single biggest issue is how to balance sustainable growth w/ keeping A'ville's image - green mountain views and close knit, "very Asheville" - type communities.
- Sprawl causes the housing boom causes the traffic, public transportation renewable energy
- Growth in population, leading to traffic congestion, pollution, demands on services & natural resources, eg water & gentrification.
- Land use/growth
- Uncontrolled growth
- No limitations on development - if they price is right it is for sale in Asheville!
- Growth
- Growth
- Unfettered growth.
- Erosion - save our slopes. Exponential growth in construction is destroying our landscapes.
- Overgrowth & overbuilding on steep slopes - land use planning - zoning - building on mountain top needs to be more restricted & zoned for a future plan

- Could not think of just one-sorry -slowing down development - particularly on slopes real, quality affordable housing so A'ville stays diverse
- Contrarily growth on top of our mountains - Reynolds Mountain is a mess from the distance, jobs and housing for low income retirees and young people
- Environmental protection, renewable energy & air quality! (3)
- Slow down growth - better management of current budget. Require all agencies and non profits open their books to public inspection - fix sidewalk in current neighborhood limit green ways. No new water hook up until old city wide is repaired.
- Population growth roads decent paying jobs and water to support and energy availability i.e. Natural resources
- How to pay for all that needs to be done. Take care not to overbuild.
- Growth & development - too much, too fast!
- Growth & sprawl
- Construction growth - green space - controlled development illegal drug activity - housing options for working class, recycling, "tourist tax", improved pay for police fire fighters & teachers, safety
- Manage growth - clamp down on money hungry developers. - get better people in planning and zoning! Get tough
- Managing growth during uncertain economic times.
- Growth & development
- Encroachment of downtown of hungry developers wanting a piece of the downtown Asheville action with cheaply unimaginatively built condos affordable to only a very small percentage of they population - generally, the gentrification of Asheville. Inviting and making it possible for African Americans and Hispanics to shop/eat/culture - piece of Ashe. downtown pie! Affordable living wage for downtown servants (wait people, cooks, dishwashers, retail depts, etc. To live downtown. - saving all of the blacktops in front of the Baculice, Civic Ctr, Grove Park Arvade, etc - for a "green" park! – rather than expensive ugly brick & mortar!
- There are over 80,000 people in Asheville. Asheville is too small for this at this point. This makes for congestion everywhere not just on the road
- Development - we must find a way to balance growth with environmental/quality of life issues.
- Overgrowth of buildings in downtown; no parking in downtown
- We need to maintain Asheville's identity and not succumb to the whims of developers. The quality of life overrides developer's and other investors' profit.
- Keeping the "mega" stuff out in favor of smaller business controlling the take over of our identity. For example the condos proposed next to town hall will pressure use of the commons to be "quiet" and "conform". Events will become "too noisy" so...don't let the developers take over!
- Quality and direction of development greenways
- Declining air quality. -
- Outside developers are ruining the overall aesthetic. This is unacceptable. It does matter to the citizens.
- Environmental issues
- Managing growth
- Too much construction
- Handling growth and dealing with large developers who don't respect the land/natural environment
- Alternative energy options
- To big growth - with upscale building what does the average person do?
- Population

- Overzealous development leading to the loss of the things that make Asheville special: green space, diverse community, interesting older & appropriately-scaled buildings, no chain stores (or very few). And thus bringing the undesirables: pollution, traffic jams, gentrification, loss of green space, catering to the needs & desires of tourists rather than residents.
- Over development by outside contractors who do not understand or appreciate our mountains and the importance of not building on slopes & ridges.
- Growth! Impact on the environment
- \*Sustainability of growth (population and development) \*Sustainable transportation options (bike lanes & street lights please!)
- Development of downtown Asheville and public greenspaces reserved for public use.
- Overdevelopment (resources - abused) reducing the very reasons that people are drawn here in the first place - mountains - nature
- Expanding the downtown area.
- Over development - too much, too fast too many people -
- Too much development
- Growth management & development
- Development/planning for growth
- Over crowding -
- Air quality public schools (esp. Middle schools) over development
- Over growth
- Population growth & alternative transportation & energy \*Asheville needs sidewalks and ways for people to walk or ride a bicycle anywhere in Asheville. Denver Colorado is well known for bicycle paths everywhere - please follow that path - a more active society = healthier people.
- Lack of strong zoning
- 1) Maintaining the unique diversity of downtown 2) Keep development under control and "green" smart 3) Address the problem of more affordable housing
- Developers have too much power re: growth
- No zoning
- Growing beyond the belief in "sustainable development" and getting behind the first half of that oxymoron.
- Controlled growth without loss of character more sidewalks in outlying neighborhoods and bike lanes are essential! Keep city taxes affordable.
- Control over not letting the community get so large that it hurts the citizens.
- Over population, out-of-control development, energy issues.
- Controlling commercial and residential growth
- Zoning, building permit costs, unnecessary fines & fees associated w/building, low income housing & fee adjustments to create low income without high fee building cost. We cannot do both
- The destruction of our mountaintops due to development.
- The lack of trees (instead of condos)! How can we all breathe without them! The Geico can go as well as the ugly thing at the federal building!
- Developers! Over development: eroding mountain sides, destruction of trees, air quality & natural settings. Downtown traffic flow, over-size building, unnecessary congestion of developers' so called "living, retail, entertainment complex living" it doesn't work that way off paper. Fix what we already have!
- Control growth with careful planning & review.
- Good planning for growth; planning carefully for development downtown being sure there are green spaces/parks as well as parking and/or public transportation. Also need a performing arts center bigger than d. Louthan Theatre.

- Minimizing new buildings in downtown especially when then change the view.
- Controlling development in a way sustainable to the environment.
- Enviromental extremist - halting Asheville's growth - securing jobs other than service type. Removing oneself from the San Francisco type -
- The need to reduce greenhouse gas production forces us to make changes in our personal choices and public plans. We must do much better on energy conservation and economic decisions that harm the environment.
- To much growth to fast taxes to high to many outsiders taking over Asheville
- Preserving and maintaining natural beauty and environmental quality
- Over development over population
- Impact of population growth on quality of life: city services, utilities, safety, roadways, etc.
- Shooting itself in the foot: 1) new houses on mountain ridge crests 2) new buildings & hotels masking view of iconic building like courthouse & city hall and Biltmore Village. Self-destruction of its appeal!
- Controlled growth/development
- Development - new jobs -
- Overpopulation & the fact that its happening too fast.
- Large development that threatens the identity of the city/poor quality dining
- Air pollution
- Well researched regulated development.
- Population growth
- Development - too many condos! Crime -
- Adopting a master plan for downtown with mandatory development guidelines and best utilization of existing buildings with responsible infill on vacant property \*retain ownership of public property use ground leases for private development.\*
- Too much growth - without adequate water supply, very poor parking - need to change downtown image from "gay and wierd" to a family/friendly environment
- The ever increasing infringement by developers and the support they receive from city government over what the citizens who live here want.
- Growth--and it's ability to control it
- To much overbuilding expensive homes on mountain sides. No affordable housing for low income "regular" people.
- Keeping up with the rapid growth in every area -
- Ruining the uniqueness of the downtown/building that are not to scale & that are not aesthetically pleasing - catering too much to the very up-scale consumer. Ruining the river district by making it a "chic shopping destination." get some backbone to what you will/won't allow managing growth development to maintain uniqueness & charm.
- Poor zoning with rapid growth and inadequate public transit to keep up with growth
- Overbuilding of residential and commercial buildings
- Over development, poor planning, lack of sufficient resources to accommodate current population, protection of natural resources.
- To manage growth without destroying the city's character and the beauty of its surroundings
- Air quality - continues to decline.
- Overpopulation & roads & highways not being able to sustain the growth. Quality of stores & restaurants not keeping up with the higher standards of the customers here.
- Air quality
- (2) Land use; affordable housing; the air, (1) water, - environment
- Overgrowth/over-development

- Residential development in downtown area only for the wealthy. The average worker cannot afford to live in Asheville. More restrictions should be placed on developers.
- The use of land - affordable housing & jobs that pay. Thank you for passing the fair wage decree.
- Overdevelopment - we moved here from Atlanta to get away from the development. Now we're stuck in it again!
- Keeping up with population growth - roads, services, affordable housing
- Overdevelopment!
- Too much non-thought out development - mostly in the city outskirts. Too much high money dollar properties will send the everyday away b/c they won't be able to afford the cost of living.
- Managing growth responsibly.
- Having a plan to accommodate the population growth due to people moving to the area. (i.e. professional jobs, infrastructure, services, workforce housing, development near public transportation, etc...)
- Sensible, controlled development. We need modest, not extravagant, neighborhoods built. Don't allow any more strip malls or stores to be built until all the vacant stores are utilized. Preserve our landscape! Attract manufacturing jobs!
- Growth without industry, environmental policy, no affordable housing for families, diminishing greenspaces, lack of agrarian livelihood.
- Uncontrolled growth
- Responsible growth & development - balancing essential & desirable growth with maintaining Asheville's integrity.
- Excessive development + stealing public greens (Coleman property)
- Population, crime, traffic control
- Stopping steep slope development
- Population growth!!! Yikes!! Jobs.
- Uncontrolled, senseless, greed-fueled development, especially development by amoral outsiders who don't care about Asheville/WNC's culture, heritage, or residents, or anything else except profit
- Environmental protection
- Managing growth - planning for it rather than reacting to it - I think there have been some poor decisions on the part of the city council and poor insight into the bigger picture - lots of room for improvement in traffic flow, maintaining the history & charm of Asheville - don't need to put highrises downtown - or - dig into mountains - that's what makes this place beautiful is the nature \*you're destroying the beauty & nature by the random & seemingly unthoughtless development!
- Over development - I live in Chas Cove area I can't believe the condos overtaking our mts. - downtown is a disaster and taking away the wide rd in front of the court house was not the way to go!!

## Economic development issues, jobs, cost of living

- The growing gap in income that is creating "natural" segregation.
- Lack of jobs that pay a livable wage.
- Wages are too low. Working class people can't afford to live here. I work for the city of Asheville, & had I not bought my house 7 years ago, I would not be able to afford to live in Buncombe county \*we need a law school on this side of the state!
- Job opportunities
- Employment opportunities
- There aren't very many professional jobs here
- Job/safety/
- Mostly creating more jobs & economic growth especially away from the restaurant/medical/retail fields where there is a lot already. Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!
- Large biz. Interests descending on Asheville & entering the field. Included in this is step-slope developments.
- Lower gas prices, grocery items and natural gas prices I'm 82 yr's old and live on fixed income.
- Commercial development or lack of it we need to focus the tax base away from residential. Homeowners pay too much to support this city.
- Lower taxes for senior citizens over 60
- Price of living becoming too expensive and forcing people to move.
- The erosion of higher compensation jobs such as manufacturing. Manufacturing shouldn't be a bad word in Asheville. There are plenty of non-pollutant manufacturing.
- To have more jobs for citizens (plants etc) to think more about Buncombe residents & not tourists and scenery etc. To stop wasting money on these parks and parking lots and buildings use it wisely jobs. Economy not anything for young people to do.
- Job opportunities for those w/college degrees.
- Rising prices leading to forced annexation!
- With the influx of new people into Asheville our cost of living and economy is un-naturally inflated because the people aren't from Asheville area & many are wealthy retired who have a large disposable income that the native Ashevillean can't relate to.
- Jobs, and affordable housing
- Keeping Asheville affordable for the working class not just the rich retired people. We do not need to impress the Jones just maintain a good quality of life.
- 1.) The tax rate is way too high 2.) The police beat up black people!
- Economy - jobs - living wages
- Developing jobs that pay a living wage - developing housing that is affordable to working people.
- The overall national economic fear of spending for nothing.
- Jobs/economy - employment opportunities are poor. One must be self employed to work here. I strongly suggest going after tele-commuters.
- \*Reduction in cost of water for homeowners & increase in employment opportunities
- Employment other than tourist town
- Providing jobs that pay a liveable wage
- Education gainful employment - 18 yrs to 25 yrs old
- Taxes
- A living wage and affordable housing
- Jobs, housing
- Increases in regional price of living/overcrowding
- More work

- (1) Need to increase employment opportunities - with good, high paying jobs (2) increase public transportation & walkability (sidewalks)
- Economy growth public safety
- Employment opportunities (especially for young folks just out of college!) Homelessness epidemic (we must help these people get jobs & education)!
- The same as every where. The cost of gas, and living are too high. I can't afford to live & I can't afford to leave. I work two jobs.
- City water system lack of quality employment - finding new uses for old buildings finish I-26 connector
- Being able to afford living here because of taxes, housing, gas prices.
- We are facing a severe shortage of well-paying jobs both within and without of the service industries. There is not a living wage available to a large number of citizens.
- Maintaining housing and services that are affordable for average citizens, not just wealthy retirees
- The economy nationally
- Everyone complains about no high paying jobs but no one wants heavy industry or additional pollution problems. To work around these issues Asheville must develop the downtown & surrounding areas in a way that will maintain & grow our tourist trade. The thoughtless way land development has continued should be stopped. Citizens are very disappointed in the way the city has handled big developers.
- Property taxes
- "Greening" & the economy. Better jobs + wages, affordable housing, thoughtful development - better plans for public transport & bike lanes etc
- Affordability - balance between cost of living and income scales
- Decent jobs to support high cost of living here.
- Living wage jobs. Walking & cycling easier - foot path over Smoky Mtn Bridge!
- Employment, affordable housing, daycare
- Jobs that people can learn as well as keep. Safe environment to live and raise family
- Jobs - jobs that pays enough for people to be able to live in Asheville.
- Improvement of available jobs better planning dept (the Staples on Merrimon is a horror) the selling of part of Pack Pl to a developer is pathetic. Very sleazy
- 1) Asheville has all these shopping areas, condo's, new housing etc. 2) where are the jobs for minorities/whites taking over our neighborhood 3) why is every activities geared toward whites, act like black & Hispanics do not exist when planning events. Employment
- Gas prices
- Ridiculous property taxes. Who can afford to live here anymore?? Not the middle class!
- Attracting/retaining businesses & industries that provide well-paying jobs with benefits. The tourism & crafty side of Asheville are part of its charm, but real people need real jobs that pay enough to live on. We lose too many talented young people to other cities because they can't afford to live here.
- Employment opportunities, quality of schools and better use of taxes already collected.
- Industry, jobs market
- Jobs
- Attracting business opportunities to expand and sustain the tax base to support other services. Better customer service by COA employees!!
- Maintaining a healthy economical growth that doesn't rely solely on tourism or "part time" residents! Affordable housing goes out the window with the glut of people buying 2nd homes here.
- Bringing in jobs and economic growth not centered around tourism

- More employment, environment issues - less building, community involvement, transportation near-closer to end of new creek rd
- Good jobs for young people (professional, not service)
- Business (manufacturing) development to bring jobs that pay more than minimum wages. Secondly, it breaks my heart that Asheville is known as "freak city" and "the beer capital of the south".
- If property tax is not decreased the ordinary citizen will be unable to live in the city of Asheville!!! It is already impossible for a worker to live her
- Jobs
- The influx of new people to the area and low paying jobs not being able to support the cost of living.
- Environmental/economical are tied together.
- (1) Jobs and (2) affordable housing and (3) stopping the ever-rising taxes on property
- Trying to find good jobs for the community w/o turning Asheville into another commercial city like Charleston
- Jobs for the middle class. Jobs! Jobs!
- Jobs aren't available property taxes are ridiculous affordable housing is non-existent - prices are outrageous
- Jobs with a livable wage - wages that allow home ownership with a modest lifestyle along with the means to raise a family
- Jobs - taxes - health care - people over 65 or 55 do not need to pay taxes on their homes especially city & county taxes combined.
- Remaining affordable for the middle class
- Class/income divide (job growth) middle class and below are going to face harder economic difficulties
- Bringing in jobs that require high levels of education in the areas of science, engineering, and research. Providing a school system that can educate children property. Also, controlling the drug/transient problem(s).
- Decent employment opportunities.
- Income for residents is not increasing yet everywhere and in all areas costs are rapidly increasing. This needs to stop. Increases in taxes, water, food, gas, power, etc. Need to wait until the economy gets better. It is getting impossible for the average person to just survive.

## Public transportation/infrastructure/parking

- Public transportation. I gave up my car and only use bus. Frequency must improve and they must run 7 days a week to be a viable alternative for many people.
- Transportation to Charlotte, Atlanta, if gas prices go up air service will fall. We will need public transportation options
- New sidewalks, public transportation, civic center, lowering taxes, easing housing regulations, traffic improvement
- Parking and growth patterns
- A place to park while down town...
- Transportation - with auto travel going to be so costly, public transit may get a chance.
- Traffic - too much - especially Hendersonville Highway, Merriam Ave. Etc.
- Water
- Not enough parking
- Asheville Court House parking garage to far away - don't need it to look good. Need parking close to the building.
- Infrastructure (water, bridges, roads). Building heights/development w/in city. Jobs.
- Need to plant more tree's, bushes, shrubbery, benches to sit on. Quit putting mulch and billing all grass, and other vegetation
- Roads & hwy 26 & 40
- Building infrastructure to serve population growth, especially children
- Transportation. I travel by bus a lot, bike a lot, and car some. However, few people believe they can get anywhere but by car. This has to change.
- Maintaing city sidewalks, roads & bus transportation - making the downtown predistion friendly.
- Transportation for our low income and service worker community. We need nice -shelters at bus stop at every location where a bus stops especially on Highway 25.
- Improving green space, walking trails, parks, playgrounds! Community is formed on the playground!! Bike lanes, better sidewalks for handicapped people - better pedestrian lights (I walk to town w/my child 4 to 5 times per wk) urban density! \*a fantastic single farmers market that is a major destination w/great food, music etc. (like the Portland OR market or Ithaca, NY market)
- I-26 connector - use local plan! High quality zoning
- Too many opposition groups regarding road improvements and new development thereby making road construction more costly and keeping quality development out of the area. Currently there are too many poor paying service jobs.
- Replacing water lines and improving water usage efficiency
- More and better mass transit
- Parking with access to city hall
- Providing enough public transportation
- 1st is getting water pipes and roads fixed 2nd is trying to green with the rest of the world and keeping up with change
- Traffic problems on roads such as Sweeten Creek - development is outpacing capacity.
- Roads and interstates unable to handle traffic.
- Public transportation would really make the city desirable. Right now its just not enough. Need more bike lanes too. People love the environment here.
- Roads & sidewalks

- Traffic - having speed bumps in all heavily traffic areas - ex. Oakley (Fairview Rd). Police to enforce speed limits decrease in homeless/drug use that leads to breakins, theft & poor quality of life for others.
- Providing recycling for all - road improvements to keep up with growth as well as employment.
- Water
- Infrastructure of water & sewer system
- Parking & park in front of courthouse
- Supporting increasing traffic volume in neighborhoods.
- Parking downtown
- Providing adequate public transportation 7 days a week and more than once per hour to decrease traffic on city streets and provide viable alternative for those that work.
- Public transportation -functional bike lines -focus on natives: jobs, affordable living less on stripping mtns. for vacation homes & shops that no one can afford to make purchases...
- Parking, duh!
- Roads to accommodate growth affordable housing cost of living
- I-26 connector growth in downtown/development parking in downtown
- \*Side walks - I've lived at 3 different addresses since I've lived here for the last 8 years and never been able to walk with my four children anywhere. School funding - ridiculous on expectations for supplies from parents food pantry's - no more food available. Food prices increased - income hasn't

## Affordable housing

- Creating affordable housing for young families affordable starter homes need to be an option.
- Affordable housing - employment - cost of living - gas - food
- Building housing (affordable) parking areas for special events
- Affordable housing!!!!
- Affordable housing, public transportation (including rail services to connect to other cities in NC & other states) pedestrian safety (drivers don't honor walkers at crosswalks) over development (high rises, capping mountains for development) we need to invigorate a lot of existing housing
- Housing for middle class working people. There is housing for low-income and high but what about single working people. The rent is so high around here. Working people don't have a change about here.
- Housing for the older.
- Affordable housing
- Housing (both rental and purchasing) is way too expensive compared to the cost of living and the wages most people in Asheville are making. Soon only the upperclass will be able to afford to live in Asheville.
- Affordable housing
- Middle/lower income residents being forced out by high property taxes and poor job opportunities outside of the service industry catering to tourists.
- Tie - 1) creating affordable housing 2) eradication of government by plutocracy
- Over priced housing!
- Affordable housing and lack of employment also the public transportation system
- Affordable single family homes
- Affordable housing/quality jobs
- Affordable housing!
- Affordable housing traffic jobs crime-control
- Affordable housing for seniors. Also, what are we going to do about the homeless that gather at Pritchard Park? How do we help them?
- Housing, parks for kids.
- Low and medium income families wont be able to afford housing
- Good value housing at a variety of price permits
- Affordable housing & jobs
- Affordable, decent and safe housing for all citizens incl low income persons
- Affordable housing! We have so many homeless and low income families in the area that even with 2 people working it would be hard to afford a home! We need more options & more banks willing to work with these people! Everyone deserves a home!
- Housing for homeless
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing Asheville is building there are people that live here can't afford to live in these downtown condominiums or duplexes.
- Housing
- Affordable housing

## Public safety/crime/gangs/homelessness/drugs/cleanliness

- Gang prevention.
- Importance of police solving cases
- Our city thinks its important to spend \$1000's on our appearance yet somehow thinks it acceptable to forget the homeless & mentally ill (which are usually hand in hand). I work in healthcare & have treated several homeless people who refuse to go back to the shelter b/c there's so much crime. I'm ashamed to live in a city where the homeless shelter is unsafe & full of drug deals & prostitution. Public safety needs to be stepped up. I was recently assaulted downtown by a man who was never found. There was no lighting on the street. I now carry mase & a knife b/c I'm fearful of what might happen. If our city's money was used for public safety I wouldn't be afraid to go out at night. Our city's govt is focused on its image. We need to stop striving for a "diverse" govt & start electing people who will actually get their job done.
- Littering/controlling garbage along side interstate - its horribly ugly gangs - crime - drugs accessable parking downtown
- No police protection, no desent housing - very unsafe. No jobs!
- Crime rate/moral decay
- Overall safety for all. Affordable housing and employment for minorities
- Public safety (crime & traffic)
- Crack users, over pricing, & homeless panhandlers.
- Crime in housing projects cost of gas, heating fuel & taxes living expenses - good, utilities & jobs with good pay
- Crime and gang increases in Asheville.
- Clean it up! Hoping Asheville does not become "Trasheville".
- Control homelessness; improve cleanliness
- The feeling of safety downtown, it is overrun with homeless people & pan handlers more family & community parks need added
- Controlling the homeless - we quit going downtown due to the homeless begging - some have scared my wife & kids beating on car windows & begging is a downfall to the downtown area.
- Homelessness, poverty, increased crime activities
- Homelessness/dwindling recreation outdoors (especially for citizens with pets)/no sidewalks or bicycle lanes/dichotomy of Asheville being green vs. Reality of Asheville not giving two shakes for the environment.
- Gangs, drugs, including meth, and prostitution
- Hiring the correct law enforcment officers and properly placing them in correct jobs. Firing those who make up their own rules and laws teaching them who to serve and protect.
- Recreation for youth - more help for youth/teens to keep them busy and away from gangs!
- Crime prevention
- Drugs - as a resident of the so. French Broad neighborhood, I constantly observe drug deals & prostitutes in my neighborhood. When ever I go out of town I always feel like my house is in danger of being robbed. I've also had gunshots fired outside of my home.
- Crime and not letting new construction ruin the mountain ridges.
- Teenagers have no where to go as a group event and need to more education about drugs & alcohol
- Crime

## Other

- We need someone in office that can disperse money from tax-money wisely employment, slow economy.
- Asheville holds an image of diversity and eccentricity. We value these distinctions. It is important that our city government understands. City council should support more fireworks, more support for the completion of park square, a larger Bele Chere, and public entertainment.
- The need to elect a city council and mayor that is truly qualified and has at least same sense of what our needs are there are so many idiots in city govt. \*example: \*Terry Belamy & \*\*Carl Mumpower what a joke you are madam mayor \*idiot #1 \*\*idiot #2
- Less political and more working together listen to the taxpayers.
- Make better use of our tax money quit paying for outsider to tell Asheville what they need to do. Ask the people!
- A city council run by 'progressives'.
- Useless city council
- Government, rather than protecting citizens' rights & liberties, taking them away.
- The way the city polititions spend for consultant fees for someone to come to tell what should be done to our city - and then they take no advice and seem to spend more money. That money could be used to make repairs on roads - water lines - etc. Which brings me to have to say I don't know
- Getting city gov't out of the pockets of developers and more responsive to the basic needs of the community
- City council is "power hungry" and have their minds made up an do not listen to people at open forum meetings illegal immigrants are sucking us dry.
- Excess taxes deaf city council.
- Tax dollars being wasted.
- County city water agreement -
- More entertainment services (bars, restaurants etc) in West Asheville & making the walk area from west to downtown cleaner & safer. (Haywood & Clingman)
- All the diversity arriving in Asheville
- We need a decent civic center beg-borrow or steal but get one built, can't drive to Greenville, anymore
- Getting Pack Square looking nicer & construction done ASAP! It is the centerpiece of city & looks horrible now. At least put up some greenery & keep clean!
- Impress our city schools & combine with the county into one system. More community involvement needed.
- Incorporation of county property by Asheville
- A civic center for groups to come for people.
- Gays & homeless - housing projects panhandlin
- Improvement of riverfront
- Closing racial gap.
- Too many diverse groups coming to Asheville
- Homosexuals - queers - becoming a gay town! The welcoming of illegal immigrants! Mexicans!
- Making sure social services are available; desegregating Asheville
- Will Asheville be a place to support families. Will city officials seek god's wisdom to make decisions so the city will prosper.
- More amenities for residents
- We need to improve education & deal with drop-outs and preparedness of students to become active members of society

- Too many parks - lost race track tax - we are for Biltmore to do anything they want - stop giving sewer & water free to new construction let Biltmore pay for use \*repair our water & sewer
- Providing more for our youth between 10-17 years of, age these are the ones that will be causing the most problems in our communities.

### **Don't know**

- Not really sure. Just moved up here on May 31, 2008
- Not sure
- Don't know