

2016 CITIZEN SURVEY

Summary Report

Prepared by the Cookeville Planning Department
September 2016



ENVISION COOKEVILLE 2016 CITIZEN SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

This document is intended as a report to the Cookeville City Council and Cookeville Planning Commission on the results of 2016 Cookeville Citizen Survey.

Background

In December 2015 Cookeville City Council announced the creation of a long range visioning process for the City. **Envision Cookeville** was developed to provide citizens an opportunity to articulate what they value about the municipality and to develop a consensus on a vision for the future. The planning endeavor was designed to be completed in a number of phases.

The first phase of the visioning process involved soliciting input from the public regarding five (5) development factors that will affect the future of the City of Cookeville. These development factors were: (1) Public Infrastructure; (2) Community Facilities and Public Services; (3) Community Growth and Development; (4) Quality of Life; and (5) Natural and Cultural Resources. Participants were asked to identify issues, opportunities, and concerns for each of these factors.

There were two (2) groups of participants in the first phase of the process. Approximately 200 community leaders representing business, civic, environmental and governmental interests were specifically identified and invited to partake in the initial phase. In late January of 2016 nearly half of those invited participated in a charrette to gather input concerning the five (5) planning categories. These participants identified nearly 200 total issues ranging between 34 and 53 individual issues for the five (5) factors.

The next phase of the planning process involved refining the approximately 200 issues specified by the selected participants. In February of 2016 the public was asked to indicate which of the issues were most important to them. There were two (2) opportunities for the public to provide their opinion. First, citizens were able to identify their top three (3) issues for each of the five (5) categories by visiting Cookeville City Hall during the first week of February and second, citizen were able to provide their top three (3) concerns on line from February 15 through February 26, 2016. More than 950 citizens participated in this phase of the visioning process.

In August of 2016 the next phase of **Envision Cookeville** was initiated. This phase involved the completion of a random survey of Cookeville residents relative to the findings from the first phases of the planning process. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of survey results.

Survey Methodology

The City of Cookeville has successfully utilized citizen surveys to obtain public opinions on a number of occasions. In 2003 the city completed a citywide survey of its residents. Surveys were distributed to more than 12,000 households and a response rate of approximately 20 percent was achieved. In 2010 the city completed a random sample survey. Surveys were distributed to 400 randomly selected residents and a survey response rate of 38.5 percent was achieved (154 of 400 surveys returned). It was determined that the 2016 survey should be a random survey as was completed in 2010. The primary reason for selecting a random survey methodology was to obtain a more accurate representation of public opinion.

Statistically sampling a population by randomly selecting residents is a widely accepted method of obtaining public opinion from which inferences can be made. To quantify how closely the results of a sample survey reflect the opinions of the entire population, survey researchers generally cite a 95% confidence interval. The 95% confidence interval indicates that if 100 samples had been taken of the same size population then the results of the survey would have been within the same range 95 times. The 95% confidence interval is dependent only on sample size. The National Research Center, Inc. illustrates the relationship between sample size and precision (the 95% confidence interval or margin of error) as follows:

SAMPLE SIZE	MARGIN OF ERROR
100	+/- 10%
300	+/- 5.5%
400	+/- 5%
800	+/- 3.5%
1,000	+/- 3%

To obtain a margin of error of 10% or less it was determined that minimum sample size of 100 should be obtained. Assuming a typical response rate of 20 to 25%, a total of 500 surveys were distributed. The survey population from which these 500 households were randomly selected consisted of 12,869 residential utility customers with addresses located within the corporate limits of Cookeville. Each customer was assigned a random number by utilizing the random number generator option in the Microsoft Excel program. This process was repeated five times to maximize the random selection.

Format and Content of Survey

The 2016 Citizen Survey consisted of six (6) sections on one (1) page, front and back. In the first five (5) sections the selected resident was asked to rank from 1 to 7, with 1 being the most important, the seven (7) issues most frequently mentioned for each of the five (5) development factors in the first phases of the visioning process. In the sixth section the participant was asked to indicate whether they would be willing to pay additional taxes to address particular issues, and, if so, to list those issues. A copy of the survey form as distributed is included in Appendix A. The seven (7) issues for the five (5) development factors that citizens were asked to rank were as follows:

1. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- Address storm water/flooding/drainage issues
- Expand options for fiber optic, broadband and cable services
- Coordinate street improvements with the placement of overhead powerlines underground
- Build additional bicycle lanes
- Address traffic flow issues
- Increase parking in the downtown area
- Construct new sidewalks/repair existing sidewalks

2. COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

- Keep taxes low
- Build a dog park
- Build a new police station
- Enhance codes enforcement
- Build an aquatics center/water park/pool
- Build a convention/event center
- Provide curb-side recycling

3. COMMUNITY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Develop community branding/marketing/tourism plan
- Protect single family residential areas
- Redevelop old mall area
- Promote redevelopment of dilapidated/deteriorated areas
- Expand retail development
- Promote vibrant downtown district (business and residential)
- Redevelop Fairgrounds property

4. QUALITY OF LIFE

- Restrict number of signs and billboards
- Enhance gateway entrances to the city
- Develop more youth/family/community events
- Increase recreational facilities (parks, sports fields, etc.)
- Develop greenways and trails
- Establish city-wide beautification program
- Place all overhead wire underground (electric, telephone, etc.)

5. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Promote and develop green spaces
- Develop cultural/visual arts center
- Address homeless issue
- Create pedestrian mall on West Side (Broad Street between Cedar and Walnut)
- Create and promote music, visual and performing arts events
- Preserve waterfalls and natural areas (wetlands, sinkholes, caves, etc.)
- Preserve historic areas and structures

Distribution of Survey

The 2016 Citizen Survey and related materials were mailed to the 500 randomly selected households on August 5, 2016. The packet included a cover letter from the Mayor of Cookeville encouraging the recipient to complete the survey. The letter included instructions that the survey was to be completed by the adult in the household with a birthday closest to the date of the letter. Recipients were informed that the survey was completely anonymous and that their answers would be kept confidential. A postage-paid envelope was provided for the resident to return the completed survey. The completed surveys were returned to the Planning Department.

The Planning Department began receiving completed surveys on August 9, 2016. On August 12, 2016 postcards were mailed to the 500 randomly selected households reminding them to complete and return the survey as soon as possible.

Survey Results

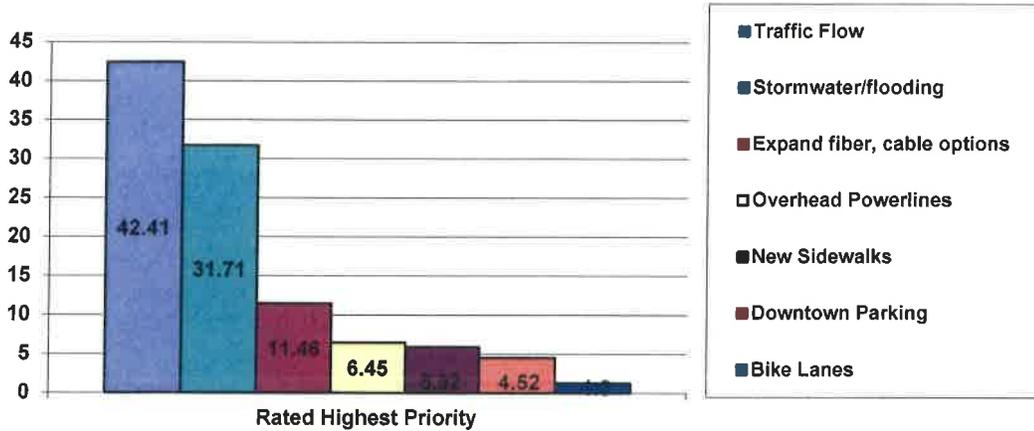
Completed surveys were accepted through August 26, 2016. A total of 192 surveys were returned, which is a response rate of 38.4 percent. This compares favorably to the 2010 survey response rate of 38.5 percent. However, of the 192 returned surveys only 167 were filled out correctly, which reduces the response rate to 33.4 percent. According to the National Research Center, Inc., typical response rates for similar type surveys range from between 25 and 50 percent.

Intern Christopher Phillips compiled the survey responses as the surveys were returned. SurveyMonkey was utilized to tabulate the results. A complete summary of survey responses is provided in Appendix B of this report. A general overview of the survey results by sections is presented in the following:

Section 1: Public Infrastructure

The public infrastructure issue most often ranked as the number one priority by respondents was *address traffic flow issues*. Over 42 percent of the respondents had traffic flow as their highest priority. The second issue most often ranked as the highest priority was *address storm water/flooding/drainage issues* with nearly 32 percent of the respondents listing it as their top issue. Only one other issue, *expand options for fiber optic, broad band and cable services*, was listed by more than 10 percent of the respondents (11.5 percent) as their number one public infrastructure issue.

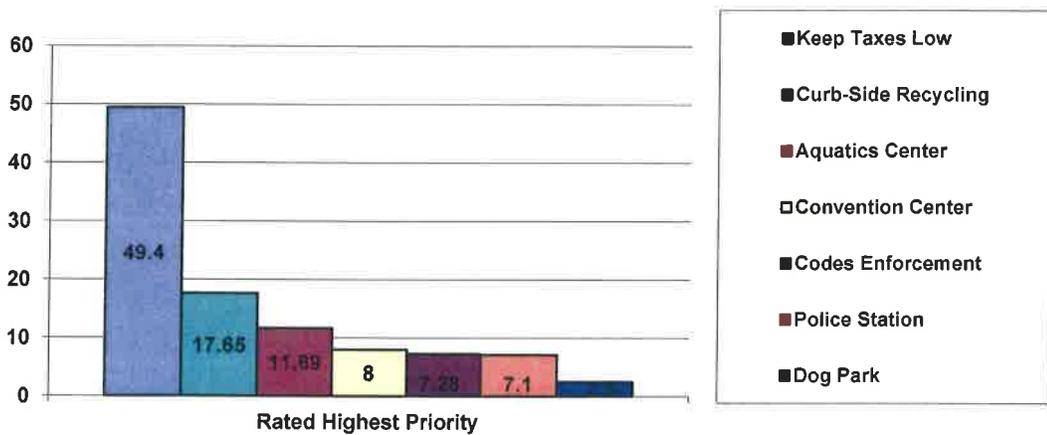
Public Infrastructure



Section 2: Community Facilities and Public Services

Keeping taxes low was the issue most frequently (nearly 50 percent) identified by respondents as their highest community facilities and public services issue. The *provision of curbside recycling* was the second issue most often ranked as the highest priority with nearly 18 percent placing it as number one. One other issue, *build an aquatics center/water park/pool*, was rated by more than 10 percent (approximately 12 percent) of the respondents as their highest community facilities and public services issue.

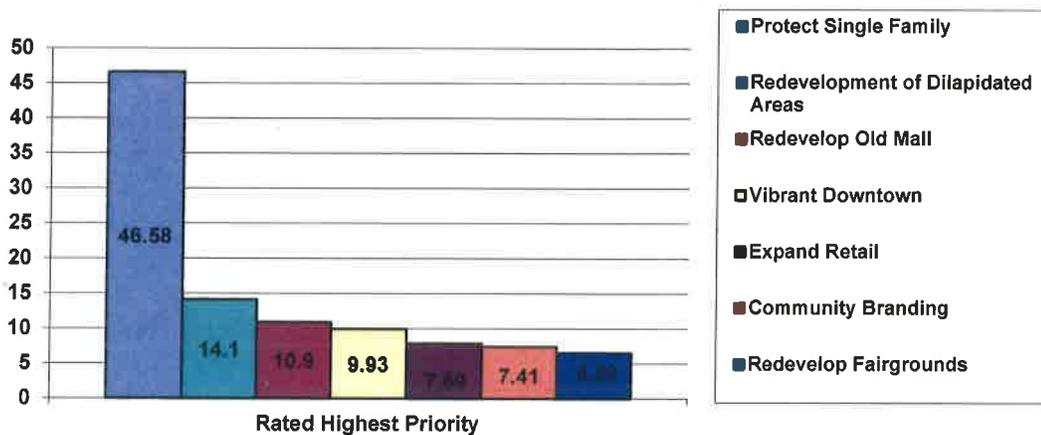
Community Facilities and Public Services



Section 3: Community Growth and Development

Almost 47 percent of the respondents ranked *protecting single family residential areas* as their highest community growth and development issue. *Promoting redevelopment of dilapidated/deteriorated areas* was the issue identified with the second most frequency as the highest priority with just over 14 percent placing it there. Nearly 11 percent had *redeveloping the old mall area* as their highest priority for community growth and development.

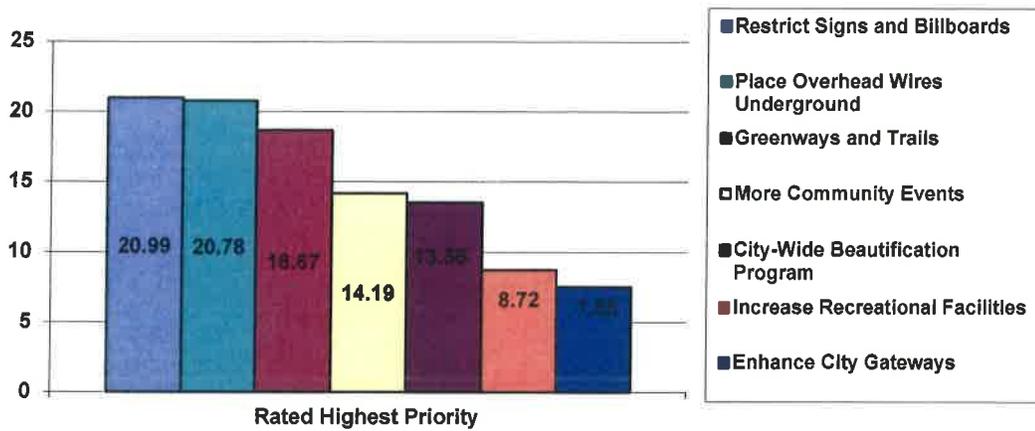
Community Growth and Development



Section 4: Quality of Life

The quality of life issue most frequently rated as the highest priority was *restricting the number of signs and billboards* (21 percent of respondents). *Placing all overhead wires underground* was the second issue most often ranked number one with nearly 21 percent of participants ranking it first. *Developing greenways and trails* was rated as the highest priority by more than 18 percent of respondents.

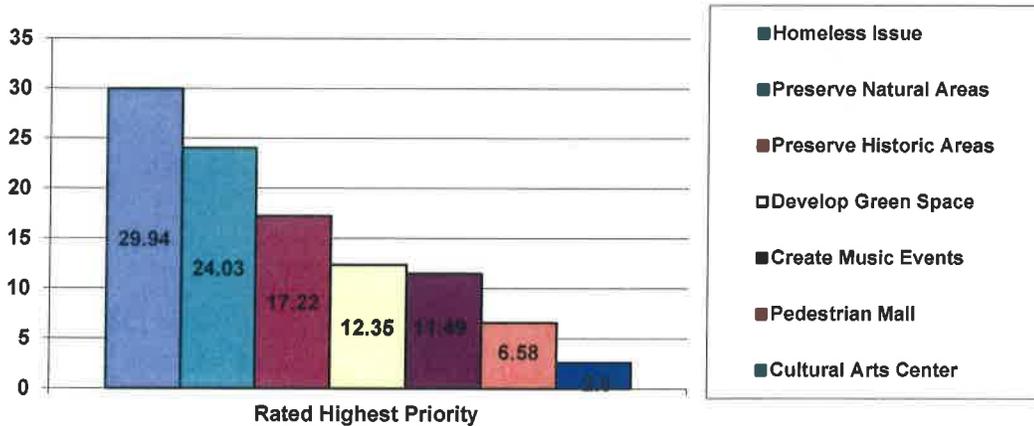
Quality of Life



Section 5: Natural and Cultural Resources

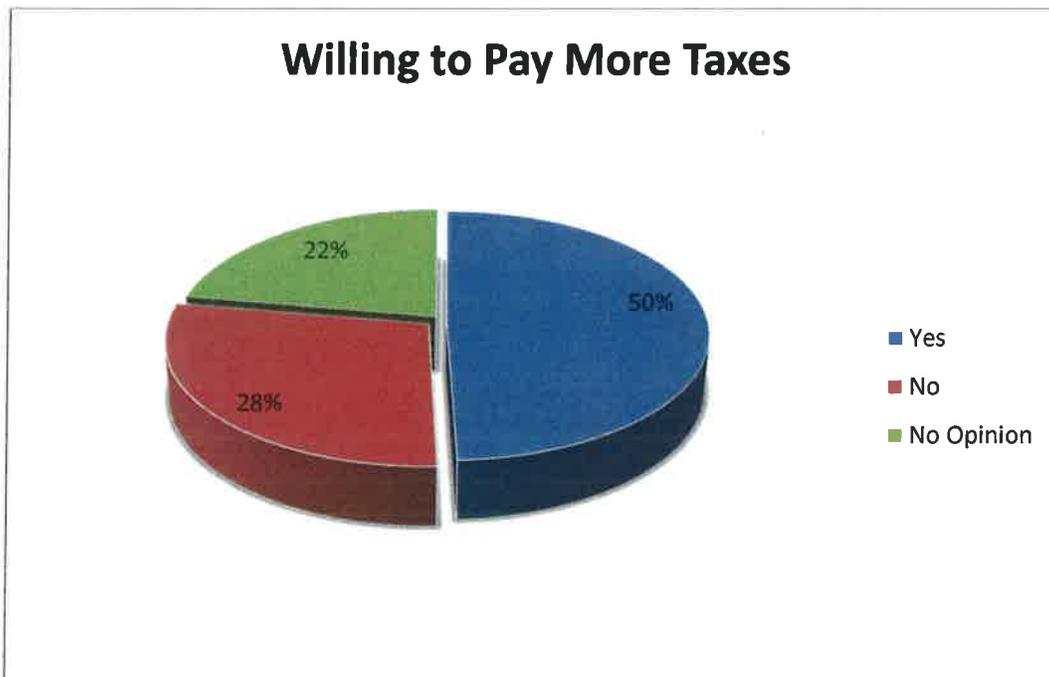
For this development factor *addressing the homeless issue* was the issue most often listed as the highest priority (30 percent of respondents). Approximately 24 percent of the respondents rated *preserving waterfalls and natural areas* as the number one issue. The third issue most frequently placed (17 percent) as the number one issue was *preserving historic areas and structures*.

Natural and Cultural Resources



Section 6: Additional Taxes

Of the 166 survey participants responding to the question whether they would be willing to pay additional taxes to address a particular issue, 82, or 49.4 percent indicated that they would be willing to pay additional taxes. The number of respondents opposed to paying additional taxes was 47 or 28.3 percent. No opinion was indicated by 37 of the participants (22.3 percent). Comments from participants regarding paying additional taxes are provided in Appendix C.



Priorities by Weighted Score

To more accurately determine priorities survey responses were ranked by a weighted score. The weighted score was derived by utilizing a point system based on where a particular issue was ranked by a respondent. Scores were weighted 7 to 1 with a score of 7 points for an issue rated the highest priority down to a score of 1 point for an issue rated as the lowest priority. The total points are then divided by the number of responses to provide the weighted score. For example, if one person rated *address traffic flow issues* as the highest (1) choice, and another placed it as their sixth (6) choice, it results in a total of 9 points (7 points for the highest priority and 2 points for the sixth priority). The average of this choice, or the weighted score, would then be 4.5. Utilizing weighted scores the overall top 15 rated issues are as follows:

OVERALL ISSUES	SCORE
Address Traffic Flow Issues	5.61
Keep Taxes Low	5.48
Protect Single Family Residential Areas	5.42
Address Storm Water/Flooding/Drainage Issues	5.23
Promote Redevelopment of Dilapidated/Deteriorated Areas	4.91
Preserve Historic Areas and Structures	4.73
Preserve Waterfalls and Natural Areas	4.61
Develop More Youth/Family/Community Events	4.61
Address Homeless Issue	4.60
Provide Curb-Side Recycling	4.58
Establish City-wide Beautification Program	4.24
Develop Greenways and Trails	4.24
Promote Vibrant Downtown	4.17
Increase Recreational Facilities (Parks, Sports Fields, etc.)	4.08
Build an Aquatics Center/Water Park/Pool	4.04

Ranking of Issues Requiring Public Expenditure

Survey participants were asked to rank issues that may or may not require the expenditure of public funds. For example the issue of addressing the traffic flow will likely require the use of tax dollars to complete street improvements, etc. while addressing the issue of protecting single family residential areas would more likely involve the adoption of policies or regulations. To assist with potential budgeting, the highest ranked issues likely to require the expenditure of public funds are as follows:

ISSUES REQUIRING EXPENDITURES	SCORE
Address Traffic Flow Issues	5.61
Address Storm Water/Flooding/Drainage Issues	5.23
Provide Curb-Side Recycling	4.58
Develop Greenways and Trails	4.24
Increase Recreational Facilities (Parks, Sports Fields, etc.)	4.08
Build an Aquatics Center/Water Park/Pool	4.04
Place All Overhead Wire Underground	3.96
Build a New Police Station	3.95
Construct New Sidewalks/Repair Existing Sidewalks	3.89

Summary

The 2016 Cookeville Citizen Survey was completed as the next phase of **Envision Cookeville**. It was the second random survey of its type undertaken by the municipality with the first occurring 2010. Surveys were randomly distributed to 500 households and 192 surveys were returned of which 167 were correctly completed. The return rate of nearly 40 percent from this survey compares favorably with similar type surveys nationwide; however, it would not be accurate to state that the survey results can be used as a true reflection of the entire city population. The 60 percent of survey recipients that chose not to respond may have different opinions than those who did respond. A non-response bias is particularly relevant when the received responses are evenly divided. While the non-response rate negates the possibility of stating with some certainty that the survey results accurately reflect public opinion, the responses do have some significance.

Appendix A

Survey Form



2016 CITIZEN SURVEY

The City of Cookeville is in the process of completing a visioning strategy designated as Envision Cookeville. This long range planning endeavor, which was initiated earlier this year, is intended to provide citizens an opportunity to articulate what they value about the city and to develop a consensus on a vision for the future. As a part of this process, five (5) development factors that will affect the future of the city were established. The five (5) categories are: 1) Public Infrastructure, 2) Community Facilities and Public Services, 3) Community Growth and Development, 4) Quality of Life, and 5) Natural and Cultural Resources. Earlier this year approximately 950 citizens were asked to identify specific issues and needs for each of the development factors.

The next step in the visioning process is the establishment of priorities for the issues and needs identified in the initial phase of the process. The seven (7) most frequently mentioned issues or needs for each of the five (5) topics are presented in the Questions below. As a survey participant, for each of the development factors please rank the issues and needs from 1 to 7 in terms of importance to you with (1) being the most important and (7) being the least important.

1. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

RANK

Address stormwater/flooding/drainage issues	
Expand options for fiber optic, broadband and cable services	
Coordinate street improvements with the placement of overhead powerlines underground	
Build additional bicycle lanes	
Address traffic flow issues	
Increase parking in the downtown area	
Construct new sidewalks/repair existing sidewalks	

2. COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

RANK

Keep taxes low	
Build a dog park	
Build a new police station	
Enhance codes enforcement	
Build an aquatics center/water park/pool	
Build a convention/event center	
Provide curb-side recycling	

3. COMMUNITY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

RANK

Develop community branding/marketing/tourism plan	
Protect single family residential areas	
Redevelop old mall area	
Promote redevelopment of dilapidated/deteriorated areas	
Expand retail development	
Promote vibrant downtown district (business and residential)	
Redevelop Fairgrounds property	

4. QUALITY OF LIFE

RANK

Restrict number of signs and billboards	
Enhance gateway entrances to the city	
Develop more youth/family/community events	
Increase recreational facilities (parks, sports fields, etc.)	
Develop greenways and trails	
Establish city-wide beautification program	
Place all overhead wire underground (electric, telephone, etc.)	

5. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

RANK

Promote and develop green spaces	
Develop cultural/visual arts center	
Address homeless issue	
Create pedestrian mall on West Side (Broad Street between Cedar and Walnut)	
Create and promote music, visual and performing arts events	
Preserve waterfalls and natural areas (wetlands, sinkholes, caves, etc.)	
Preserve historic areas and structures	

6. Would you be willing to pay additional taxes to address any of the issues identified in Questions 1-5?

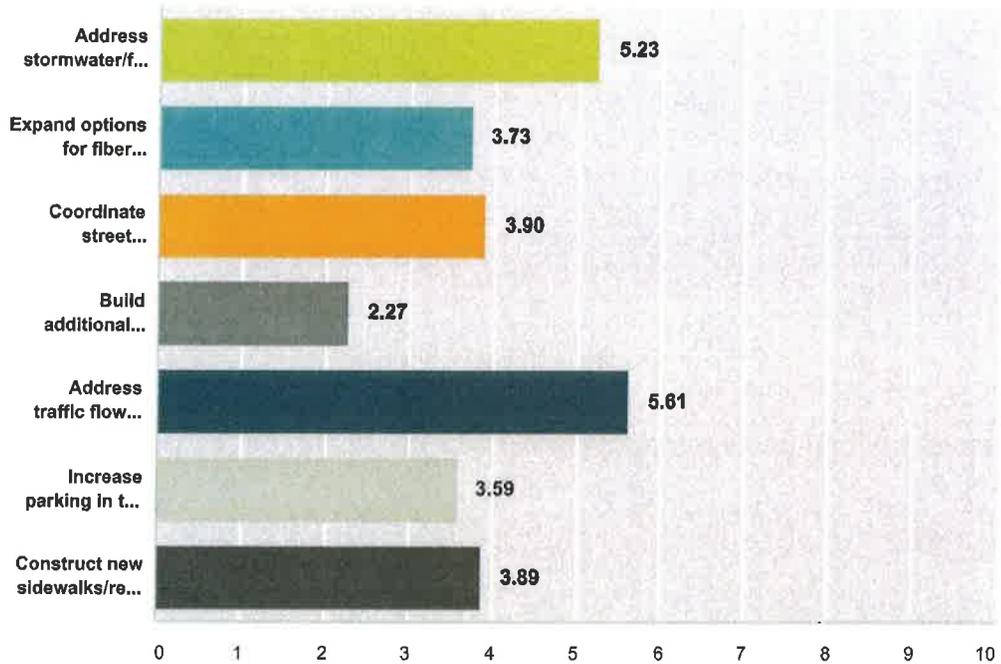
Yes No No Opinion If Yes, please list the issues you would pay additional taxes to address:

Appendix B

Summary of Survey Responses

Q1 PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

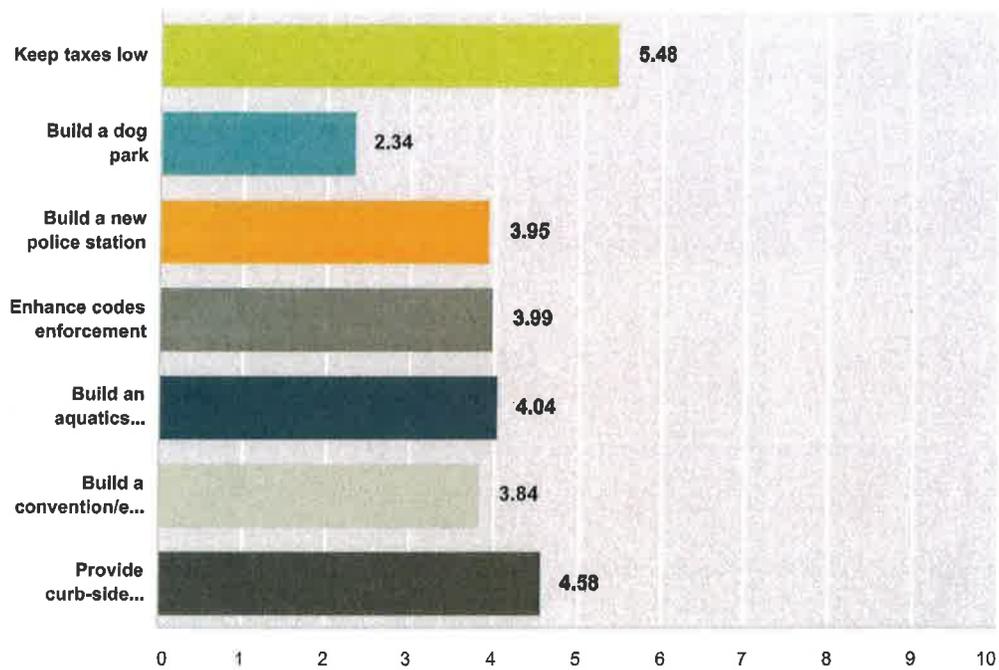
Answered: 167 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Score
Address stormwater/flooding/drainage issues	31.71% 52	23.17% 38	14.02% 23	11.59% 19	10.98% 18	3.66% 6	4.88% 8	164	5.23
Expand options for fiber optic, broadband and cable services	11.46% 18	14.65% 23	12.10% 19	14.01% 22	10.83% 17	18.47% 29	18.47% 29	157	3.73
Coordinate street improvements with the placement of overhead powerlines underground	6.45% 10	14.84% 23	18.71% 29	18.06% 28	14.84% 23	18.71% 29	8.39% 13	155	3.90
Build additional bicycle lanes	1.30% 2	4.55% 7	7.14% 11	9.09% 14	12.34% 19	16.23% 25	49.35% 76	154	2.27
Address traffic flow issues	42.41% 67	20.25% 32	12.66% 20	12.66% 20	5.70% 9	5.70% 9	0.63% 1	158	5.61
Increase parking in the downtown area	4.52% 7	10.32% 16	18.06% 28	17.42% 27	16.13% 25	23.23% 36	10.32% 16	155	3.59
Construct new sidewalks/repair existing sidewalks	5.92% 9	14.47% 22	17.11% 26	15.13% 23	26.97% 41	13.82% 21	6.58% 10	152	3.89

Q2 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

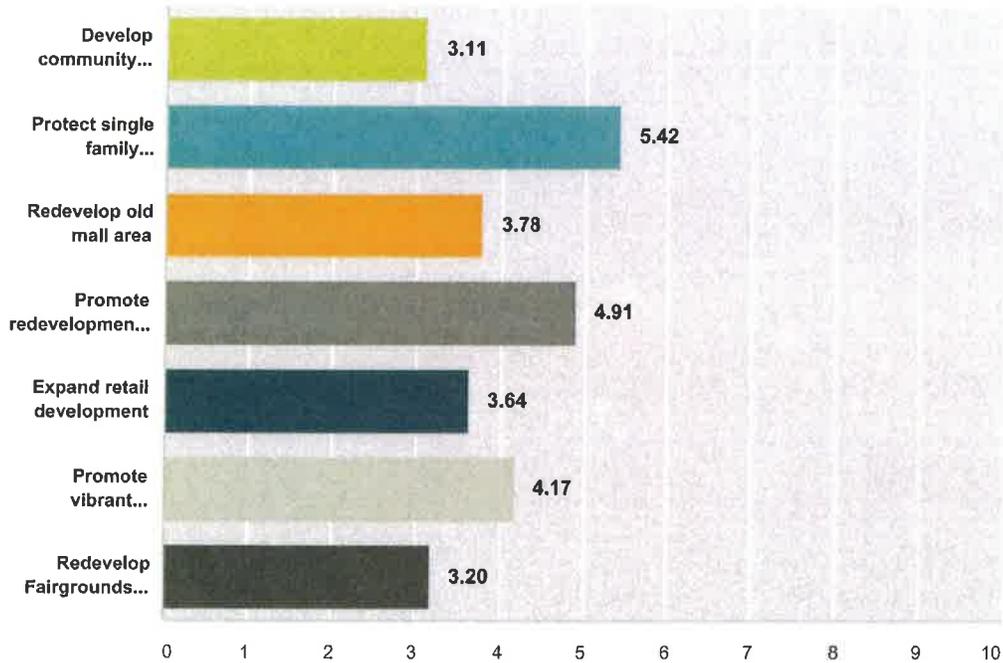
Answered: 167 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Score
Keep taxes low	49.40% 82	12.65% 21	12.65% 21	6.63% 11	6.02% 10	6.02% 10	6.63% 11	166	5.48
Build a dog park	2.50% 4	6.25% 10	5.63% 9	11.25% 18	8.75% 14	14.37% 23	51.25% 82	160	2.34
Build a new police station	7.10% 11	18.71% 29	14.84% 23	14.84% 23	20.00% 31	15.48% 24	9.03% 14	155	3.95
Enhance codes enforcement	7.28% 11	15.89% 24	15.89% 24	19.21% 29	19.87% 30	14.57% 22	7.28% 11	151	3.99
Build an aquatics center/water park/pool	11.69% 18	14.29% 22	18.83% 29	13.64% 21	11.04% 17	24.03% 37	6.49% 10	154	4.04
Build a convention/event center	8.00% 12	16.67% 25	10.67% 16	15.33% 23	26.00% 39	12.00% 18	11.33% 17	150	3.84
Provide curb-side recycling	17.65% 27	18.30% 28	20.92% 32	16.34% 25	7.84% 12	12.42% 19	6.54% 10	153	4.58

Q3 COMMUNITY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

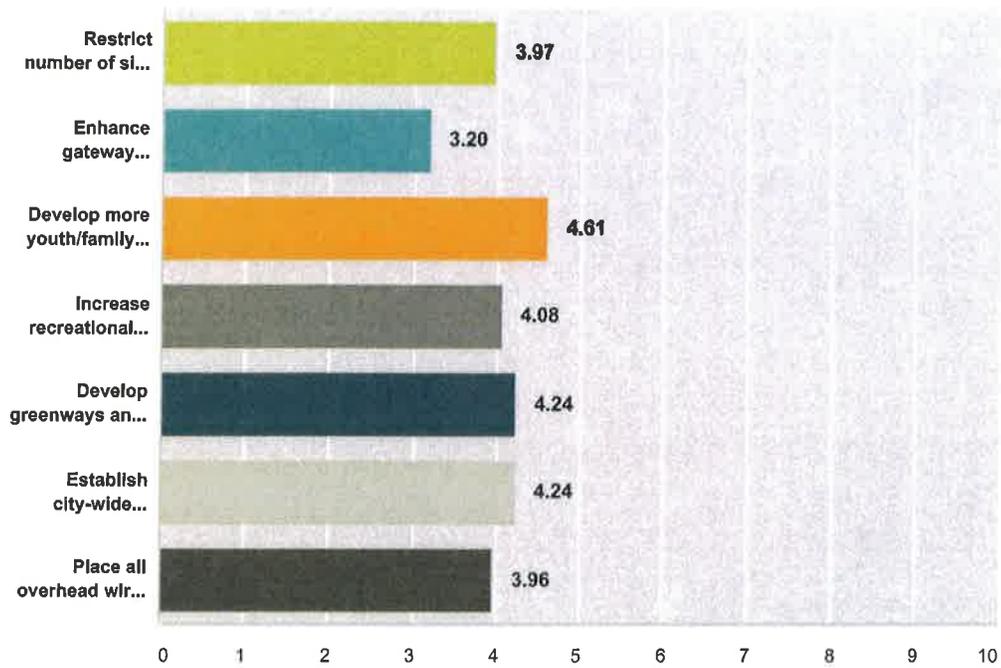
Answered: 157 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Score
Develop community branding/marketing/tourism plan	7.41% 12	9.88% 16	6.17% 10	12.96% 21	16.67% 27	20.37% 33	26.54% 43	162	3.11
Protect single family residential areas	46.58% 75	13.66% 22	10.56% 17	11.18% 18	4.97% 8	8.07% 13	4.97% 8	161	5.42
Redevelop old mall area	10.90% 17	10.26% 16	16.67% 26	15.38% 24	17.31% 27	14.10% 22	15.38% 24	156	3.78
Promote redevelopment of dilapidated/deteriorated areas	14.10% 22	33.33% 52	19.23% 30	10.90% 17	10.90% 17	8.33% 13	3.21% 5	156	4.91
Expand retail development	7.89% 12	11.18% 17	17.11% 26	13.16% 20	16.45% 25	19.74% 30	14.47% 22	152	3.64
Promote vibrant downtown district (business and residential)	9.93% 15	13.25% 20	21.19% 32	20.53% 31	17.88% 27	8.61% 13	8.61% 13	151	4.17
Redevelop Fairgrounds property	6.58% 10	9.87% 15	9.87% 15	15.13% 23	14.47% 22	17.76% 27	26.32% 40	152	3.20

Q4 QUALITY OF LIFE

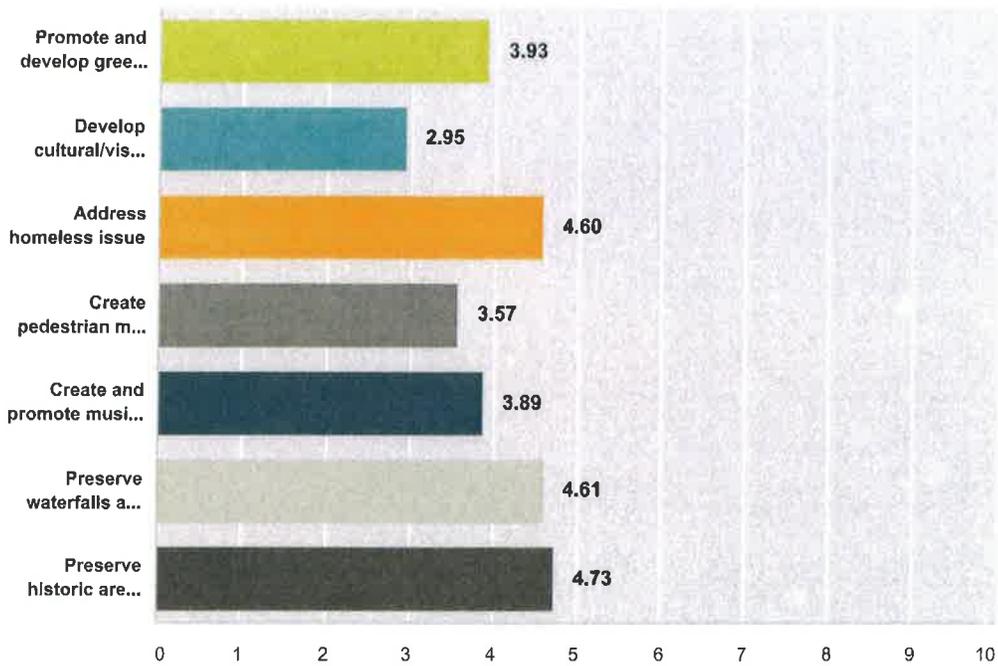
Answered: 165 Skipped: 2



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Score
Restrict number of signs and billboards	20.99% 34	10.49% 17	12.35% 20	9.88% 16	12.96% 21	13.58% 22	19.75% 32	162	3.97
Enhance gateway entrances to the city	7.55% 12	8.81% 14	12.58% 20	13.84% 22	10.06% 16	18.87% 30	28.30% 45	159	3.20
Develop more youth/family/community events	14.19% 22	23.87% 37	18.71% 29	16.77% 26	10.32% 16	10.32% 16	5.81% 9	155	4.61
Increase recreational facilities (parks, sports fields, etc.)	8.72% 13	18.12% 27	18.79% 28	12.75% 19	18.12% 27	15.44% 23	8.05% 12	149	4.08
Develop greenways and trails	18.67% 28	13.33% 20	14.00% 21	14.67% 22	14.67% 22	16.00% 24	8.67% 13	150	4.24
Establish city-wide beautification program	13.55% 21	14.19% 22	14.84% 23	20.00% 31	20.00% 31	12.26% 19	5.16% 8	155	4.24
Place all overhead wire underground (electric, telephone, etc.)	20.78% 32	14.29% 22	7.14% 11	11.04% 17	13.64% 21	11.04% 17	22.08% 34	154	3.96

Q5 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

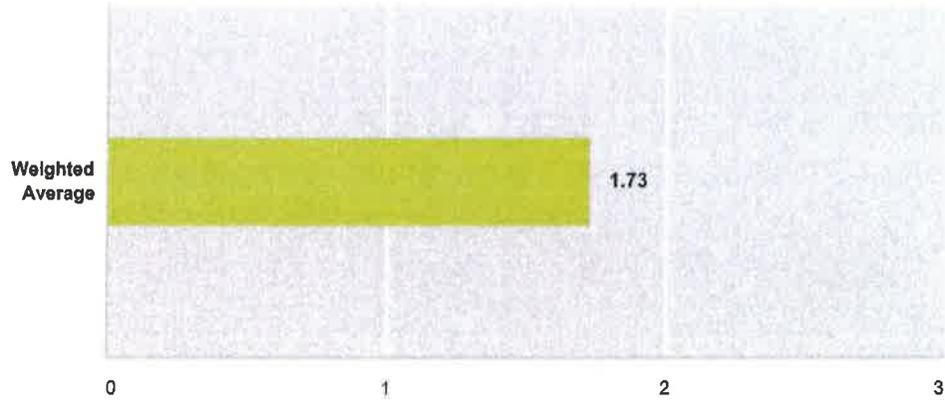
Answered: 166 Skipped: 1



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Score
Promote and develop green spaces	12.35% 20	10.49% 17	16.05% 26	18.52% 30	17.90% 29	11.11% 18	13.58% 22	162	3.93
Develop cultural/visual arts center	2.60% 4	7.79% 12	7.14% 11	11.69% 18	24.03% 37	29.22% 45	17.53% 27	154	2.95
Address homeless issue	29.94% 47	9.55% 15	16.56% 26	14.65% 23	7.01% 11	8.28% 13	14.01% 22	157	4.60
Create pedestrian mall on West Side (Broad Street between Cedar and Walnut)	6.58% 10	15.13% 23	14.47% 22	14.47% 22	13.82% 21	12.50% 19	23.03% 35	152	3.57
Create and promote music, visual and performing arts events	11.49% 17	10.81% 16	16.22% 24	17.57% 26	16.89% 25	14.19% 21	12.84% 19	148	3.89
Preserve waterfalls and natural areas (wetlands, sinkholes, caves, etc.)	24.03% 37	20.13% 31	16.23% 25	7.14% 11	9.09% 14	11.69% 18	11.69% 18	154	4.61
Preserve historic areas and structures	17.22% 26	27.81% 42	14.57% 22	14.57% 22	9.27% 14	9.93% 15	6.62% 10	151	4.73

Q6 Additional Taxation

Answered: 166 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	49.40%	82
No	28.31%	47
No Opinion	22.29%	37
Total		166

Appendix C

Additional Taxation Comments

2016 Envision Cookeville (Random Sample)

Q7 Taxation Comments

Answered: 85 Skipped: 82

#	Responses	Date
1	Smarter Traffic Lighting System Building a new police station Preserve historic areas and structures	9/2/2016 1:25 PM
2	Address the homeless issue	9/1/2016 8:57 AM
3	We are in our 80's. My wife has dementia and I am insulin dependent diabetic. There is a huge demand for our income.	9/1/2016 8:56 AM
4	SEE ATTACHED LETTER	8/30/2016 11:46 AM
5	stormwater/flooding/drainage issues	8/30/2016 11:21 AM
6	Greenways, trails, bike lanes, underground utilities, sidewalks, anything to promote more walking or bike riding.	8/29/2016 4:31 PM
7	I believe the flooding/drainage issue is one of the most important listed on this survey. In addition, I think preserving our natural areas and increasing our recreational facilities is crucial. I would totally support a tax increase if it addressed these issues. On the contrary, I would firmly oppose any tax increase that funded a new police station or any similar project (we have entirely too many officers as it is). Thank you!	8/29/2016 4:30 PM
8	Recycling Preserve historic areas Sidewalks Roads Traffic	8/26/2016 10:35 AM
9	Traffic Flow-Street improvements Curbside recycling	8/25/2016 2:12 PM
10	New police station Address homeless issue Develop green spaces Address storm water/flooding issues	8/24/2016 2:07 PM
11	I'd like to see Cookeville have all the conveniences of a major city while maintaining the comfort and safety of a small town. With a focus on family and environment. Thank you	8/24/2016 2:02 PM
12	Preservation, city enhancement, tourism, flood plains, convention center. Thank you!	8/24/2016 2:01 PM
13	Place overhead wire underground	8/24/2016 2:00 PM
14	Improve traffic flow Address storm water/flooding Maintain green areas Level the low storm gratings along South Willow! Widen 12th Street between campus and North Washington	8/24/2016 1:58 PM
15	Maybe if handled responsibly and efficiently.	8/22/2016 11:49 AM
16	Homelessness is a natural and cultural resource?? Homelessness is a very basic human issue. That being said, I wish I had answers. I do not. I do know those of us fortunate enough to drive home every evening to shelter and safety and perhaps even love must treat those not so fortunate as humans who deserve dignity and respect. Your job is a challenging one. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to ease it a bit.	8/22/2016 11:20 AM
17	Expand public transportation.	8/22/2016 11:16 AM
18	Preserving natural areas/storm water/flooding (go hand in hand) arts center better traffic flow better mall! It's too close to interstate to not be functional! Needs shops for travelers or local needs.	8/22/2016 11:15 AM
19	Expanded broadband/internet/cable options Development/preservation of west side shopping/entertainment area including traffic/parking issues Generally any issues that ranked as 1 or 2	8/22/2016 11:13 AM
20	If and only if it would be done. I would prefer more focus on education opportunities for youth. Cookeville most deteriorated areas. Dilapidated rental housing. My opinion: what is yours? Do you have codes to address this-do you have enough personnel- I will pay additional taxes to help make Cookeville more beautiful. I think the codes department is most important in helping making Cookeville beautiful.	8/22/2016 11:10 AM
21	Fiber! Preservation of waterfalls/natural areas Flooding issues	8/22/2016 11:06 AM
22	Hillary Clinton is going to tax us the Middle Class. We don't need any more taxes	8/22/2016 11:04 AM
23	Flooding issues on Willow, Green ways, curbside recycling to add convenience.	8/22/2016 11:02 AM
24	Parks and Recreations Codes Enforcement	8/22/2016 11:01 AM
25	Additional public recreation facilities, such as park/green ways. Transportation improvements such as bike lines. City beautification to a limited extent, public murals are great but a park full of expensive statues isn't what I'd want to see.	8/22/2016 11:00 AM
26	Parking downtown is not too bad, but I always like to see free parking there. Thanks!	8/19/2016 2:55 PM

2016 Envision Cookeville (Random Sample)

27	Activity centers for youth and family activities Low income houses	8/19/2016 2:53 PM
28	Roads and safety-what about a wheel tax-Many do now own property; but folks own cars which impacts both roads and safety	8/19/2016 2:52 PM
29	See #2 Rankings	8/18/2016 11:35 AM
30	Protect ancient trees! Especially in downtown and near Farmer's Market and Pecan still standing Willow and 4th.	8/18/2016 11:34 AM
31	Dog park, recycling	8/18/2016 11:33 AM
32	As an older local citizen, most interested in items that address quality of life! Request a better balance of music types @ our city concert-in-the-park and special events. Too many bluegrass and country concerts – need more jazz and easy listening. Thanks for your efforts.	8/18/2016 8:29 AM
33	Curbside recycling Underground power lines and telephone lines Protecting single-family residential areas Address homeless issue	8/18/2016 8:26 AM
34	If there is a clear vision of the process and a distinct plan, then taxation would be better supported.	8/18/2016 8:25 AM
35	All #1 choices Plus need to raise Putnam County property tax to fund our schools. We are cheating our children by under funding the public schools!	8/18/2016 8:21 AM
36	Promote vibrant downtown district Develop green ways and trails Preserve waterfalls and natural areas Promote develop green spaces Create pedestrian mall on West Side Preserve historic areas and structures Address homeless issue	8/18/2016 8:19 AM
37	Expanding cultural, retail, and green way development. Recycling	8/18/2016 8:17 AM
38	Water drainage on N. Washington Curbside recycling Green ways	8/18/2016 8:15 AM
39	Underground utilities Schools I also feel we need a retirement condo or small home community	8/18/2016 8:14 AM
40	All issues marked #1 and #2	8/18/2016 8:12 AM
41	Would like to see Convention on fair grounds. Attended a convention center in Chattanooga, TN where they had put their convention center in downtown. It was deserted excepted for convention attendees. No activity was around it. No local people. Need to be near where all the brand restaurants and the new shopping mall. Willow Ave cannot handle anymore.	8/18/2016 8:11 AM
42	Beautification (planting trees) on Jefferson and Willow New sidewalks	8/18/2016 8:08 AM
43	Public infrastructure Service issues, especially utilities Police Fire Streets Etc.	8/18/2016 8:07 AM
44	Curbside recycling Development/completion of Rails to Trails—I believe this would be a tremendous tourist attraction for biking, walking, etc., or the expansion or creation of any new green ways and trails Enhancement of codes for cleanliness, beautification of city, especially placement of wiring underground Additionally I would be willing to pay additional taxes to implement any of the issues, need except keeping taxes low (of course).	8/15/2016 1:49 PM
45	Note: Please do not go up on Residential taxes! Derive taxes from business enterprises! Thanks	8/15/2016 1:46 PM
46	Downtown parking is horrible making it difficult to drive through.	8/15/2016 1:44 PM
47	We are taxed enough already! We need to learn to leave within our budget	8/15/2016 1:43 PM
48	Comment: Overall I think our Mayor and City government has done a wonderful job.	8/15/2016 1:41 PM
49	Schools	8/15/2016 1:39 PM
50	Job creation left out entirely	8/15/2016 1:38 PM
51	Build a water park/pool – If McMinnville can operate Gilley Pool – Then Cookeville should be able to offer something just as nice	8/15/2016 1:34 PM
52	Flooding issues on main roads such as Willow Possibly build conference center Bring revenue to the city More retail options such as target, other grocery stores Clean up run down establishments along Willow and Jefferson. This is the first impression of our city.	8/15/2016 1:27 PM
53	Tax money improves the quality of life in our city. Better quality of life brings more people and businesses to our city. More people and businesses contribute taxes.	8/15/2016 1:24 PM
54	Taxes are too high now - When we run out of other peoples money what will we do then. Even if our house is paid for we just rent it from the city in the form of taxes.	8/15/2016 11:45 AM
55	I am retired and on a fixed income Much needed- pedestrian crosswalk in front of library "Walk" lights to protect pedestrians at Jackson/Willow intersection	8/15/2016 11:42 AM

2016 Envision Cookeville (Random Sample)

56	Build a new police station Protect single family residential areas Address the homeless issue Develop more youth/family/community events Address the traffic flow issue	8/15/2016 11:35 AM
57	Only for projects that would directly benefit the residents, such as dog parks, water recreation facility, or green spaces.	8/15/2016 11:33 AM
58	Placement utilities underground with street improvements Preserve natural areas Preserve historic areas and structures Restrict signs and billboards Promote development of dilapidated/deteriorated areas	8/15/2016 11:30 AM
59	Sidewalks Recycling Trails and green spaces More police to enforce speeding and violations	8/15/2016 11:28 AM
60	Traffic issues Drainage Sidewalks Overhead wire underground rec parks homeless issue "NO" Other items. Also concerned about "subjectivity" of property tax assessment approach (Realize that was not subject of this survey)	8/15/2016 11:22 AM
61	Would be willing to pay additional taxes if it went toward adding additional lanes and improved traffic flow on 10th Street and E. Spring Street. We travel these streets daily and the city is far behind in addressing the traffic problems on these streets. The City should have done something about these streets years ago!	8/15/2016 11:19 AM
62	Recycling, water park, convention center, police station, parking downtown.	8/15/2016 11:15 AM
63	A dog park and redeveloping the old mall.	8/15/2016 11:13 AM
64	Stormwater/flooding issues Vibrant downtown district Create pedestrian mall Develop green ways and trails	8/15/2016 11:11 AM
65	Address homelessness in a secular nonreligious way. (shelter, soup kitchen, etc.) Bike lanes; more playgrounds like "Heart of the City" Internet, recycling	8/15/2016 11:09 AM
66	Moving overhead lines to underground Build a convention/event center	8/15/2016 11:06 AM
67	Community Infrastructure	8/15/2016 11:04 AM
68	Taxes are too High!! Lower property taxes!	8/15/2016 11:02 AM
69	Expand options for Fiber Curbside recycling Address homeless Protect single family residential	8/15/2016 10:59 AM
70	Pay for underground wiring Build dog park	8/15/2016 10:56 AM
71	Natural and Cultural Resources Preserve historic areas and structures. Water park/pool. Police Station,	8/15/2016 10:55 AM
72	Please fix streets--repair pavement at the intersection of S. Lowe and E. Jackson plus E. Jackson and Jefferson	8/15/2016 10:52 AM
73	If the tax amount is very reasonable and about necessary issues.	8/15/2016 10:50 AM
74	Remove junk cars Remove junk houses. Roadside recycling.	8/15/2016 10:44 AM
75	Promote and developing green spaces. Place all overhead wire underground. Address homeless issue. Preserve historic areas and structures. Build an aquatics center/water park/pool.	8/15/2016 10:42 AM
76	Restrict signs and billboards Stormwater, flooding and drainage Address traffic flow Develop green spaces Preserve sinkholes	8/15/2016 10:40 AM
77	Have more control of our money and likewise try doing a tiny house community for homeless would make secure and have hope. Don't move fair	8/15/2016 10:36 AM
78	Only if current priorities could not be adjusted.	8/15/2016 10:33 AM
79	All of them, but especially: improving and adding sidewalks beautifying the city, especially on Willow and Jefferson I don't mind paying more in taxes if the money is going to improve the city as a whole.	8/15/2016 10:30 AM
80	Arts Center and Arts Events Traffic and Parking Historic and Natural Areas Green spaces and Green ways	8/15/2016 9:41 AM
81	Think about city residents living on fixed incomes! Where is the revenue from all the liquor stores going?	8/15/2016 9:34 AM
82	BUT only if it is unnecessary spending is under control and a tax increase is the only logical way to fund items that will benefit the city and its citizens going forward.	8/15/2016 9:29 AM
83	We need live music venues and the rest will follow!! (Like Franklin)	8/15/2016 9:26 AM
84	Address traffic flow issues Promote and develop green spaces	8/15/2016 9:23 AM
85	Expand options for fiber optics Curbside recycling Enhance codes enforcement Establish city wide beautification program	8/15/2016 9:15 AM