

# CITY OF BELLINGHAM

# RESIDENTIAL SURVEY REPORT

## CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS RESEARCH

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Prepared for  
The City of Bellingham

Author(s)  
Isabel Vassiliadis  
Hart Hodges, Ph.D.  
James McCafferty

Prepared by



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## Overview

The 2016 City of Bellingham Residential Survey (Survey) is a collaboration between the City of Bellingham and the Center for Economic and Business Research (The Center) to collect information regarding City residents' views about issues facing the community.

This Survey is modeled after similar surveys administered by the City of Bellingham. Results from previous surveys (2008, 2010, and 2013) are used in a historical analysis of most questions. Each question is also analyzed to determine whether any significant response differences exist based on demographic subgroups.

## About the Authors

The Center for Economic and Business Research is an outreach center at Western Washington University located within the College of Business and Economics. The Center connects the resources found throughout the University to assist for-profit, non-profit, government agencies, quasi-government entities and tribal communities in gathering and analyzing useful data. We use a number of collaborative approaches to help inform our clients so that they are better able to hold policy discussions and craft decisions.

The Center employs students, staff and faculty from across the University as well as outside resources to meet the individual needs of those we work with. Our work is based on academic approaches and rigor and not only provides a neutral analysis perspective but also provides applied learning opportunities. We focus on developing collaborative relationships with our clients and not simply delivering an end product.

The approaches we utilize are insightful, useful, and are all a part of the debate surrounding the topics we explore; however, none are absolutely fail-safe. Data, by nature, is challenged by how it is collected and how it is leveraged with other data sources; following only one approach without deviation is ill-advised. We provide a variety of insights within our work – not only on the topic at hand but the resources (data) that inform that topic.

We are always seeking opportunities to bring the strengths of Western Washington University to fruition within our region. If you have a need for analysis work or comments on this report, we encourage you to contact us at 360-650-3909. To learn more about CEBR visit us online at <https://cbe.wvu.edu/cebr/center-economic-and-business-research>.

The Center for Economic and Business Research is directed by Hart Hodges, PhD and James McCafferty.

## Executive Summary

The results from the 2016 City of Bellingham Residential Survey provide important insights about residents' opinions regarding City services and community priorities. While the quality of life in Bellingham is very high, there are notable trends regarding challenges facing the community and the City. We note the following key points and overall trends in reviewing the research.

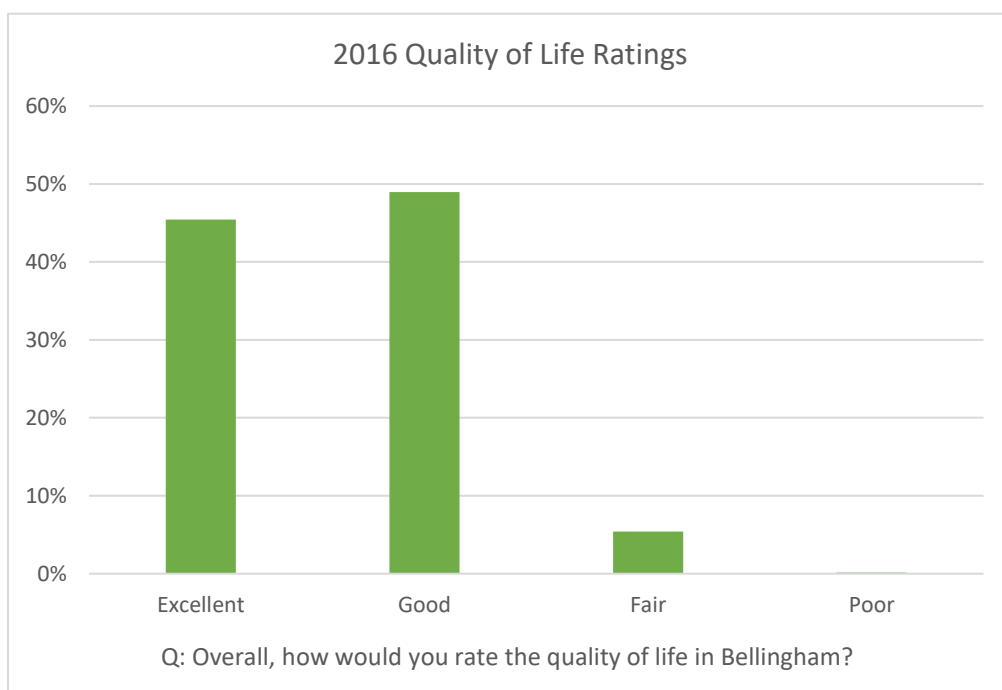
### Respondent Demographics

- 84 percent of households responding to the survey classify themselves as **homeowners**, and approximately 15 percent classify themselves as renters.
  - The US Census Bureau estimates that within Bellingham 46% of housing units are occupied by the owner, indicating that the response rate for renters is excessively low.
- The **majority (51 percent) of respondents identify as female**, 44 percent identify as male, and 2 percent identify as neither male or female. 3 percent of respondents prefer not to report their gender.
- There are **respondents from every neighborhood** in the City of Bellingham.
  - Some neighborhoods account for very large rates of response (Columbia, Samish, and South Hill), while others only accounted for a handful (Meridian and Irongate). However, these response rates tend to correspond directly with the population density in those areas.
- For the most part, the survey respondents are seasoned residents of the Bellingham – **almost 72 percent of respondents have lived here for more than 10 years**.
- 27 percent of respondents report having children in their household under the age of 18. This could include not only parents, but also guardians of minors and other household arrangements.
- **More than half (52 percent) of survey respondents are at least 55 years old**. 6 percent of responses came from people between 18 and 30 years old.
  - This is disproportionate to Bellingham's overall demographics – as of 2010, only 24 percent of the total population is 55 or older, and more than 26 percent fall into the 20-29 age range (US Census, 2010).
- Historically, the respondents of this year's survey have **higher incomes** than those in previous surveys.
  - 18 percent of respondents report annual household incomes less than \$35,000, 39 percent report household incomes between \$35,000 and \$75,000, and 43 percent report household incomes over \$75,000.

## Life in Bellingham

Respondents are **extremely positive about the overall quality of life in Bellingham**. Approximately 94 percent of respondents rated our city's quality of life positively (either *Excellent* or *Good*), while less than 6 percent give a rating of *Fair*. Only 2 respondents in the entire survey rated the quality of life in Bellingham as *Poor*.

This represents a very positive conclusion that should be taken into account when considering the following results of the survey – **even though there are always ways for Bellingham to improve and grow, residents clearly appreciate and value it as a place to live**. Additionally, the thought and time that many respondents put into their open-end responses demonstrate that residents of Bellingham truly care about their city's future.



## Summary of Notable Trends

### Homelessness

The issue of homelessness is heavily present throughout survey responses. **Respondents rank *Homelessness* as the most important challenge facing Bellingham.** Additionally, hundreds of responses to open-end questions discuss the challenge of homelessness in Bellingham in depth. A few notable trends from these results include:

- **55 percent of respondents list that *Homelessness* is either the #1 or #2 top challenges facing Bellingham.**
- Those who responded that the City's efforts to prevent crime and protect the community were either *Fair* or *Poor* elaborate that "**Homelessness**" contributed to that rating more than any other topic. Many of these responses connect homelessness to other community concerns, including but not limited to topics such as:
  - "Property crimes"
  - "Drug enforcement"
  - "Unsafe downtown"
  - "Unsafe parks and trails," (especially Maritime Heritage Park and Cornwall Park)
  - "Mental health options and other social services"
  - "Concern for marginalized populations"
  - "Problems with gangs and loitering"
- When asked what positive changes respondents would make as a City leader, "**Solve homelessness**" is mentioned more than any other topic. People also offer their ideas for solutions related to homelessness, including but not limited to topics such as:
  - "Affordability"
  - "Improve public healthcare, including mental health"
  - "Create jobs"
  - "Community involvement," especially with social issues and policies



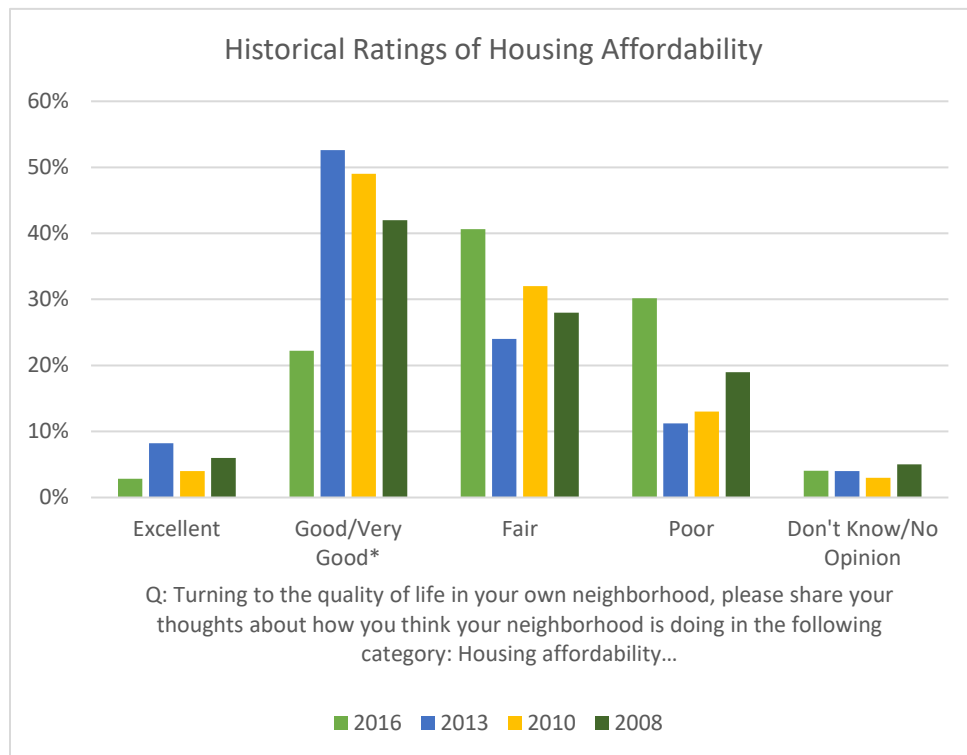
## Housing Affordability

*Housing affordability* is rated as the **second most important challenge facing Bellingham** – 43 percent of respondents listed it as either the #1 or #2 most important challenge facing our city.

The current **ratings of housing affordability have dropped significantly since 2013.**

- Positive housing affordability ratings (*Excellent, Good, or Very good\**) have decreased from 61 percent (2013) to 25 percent (2016).
- Negative housing affordability ratings (*Fair or Poor*) have increased from 35 percent (2013) to 71 percent (2016).

The decline in housing affordability is reflected throughout the state. In Washington State, median sales price rose to \$331,100 in the Third Quarter of 2016, a 13.2 percent increase from a year before. In Whatcom County, median sales price sits at \$316,900, an 8.5 percent increase from the year before (Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington).

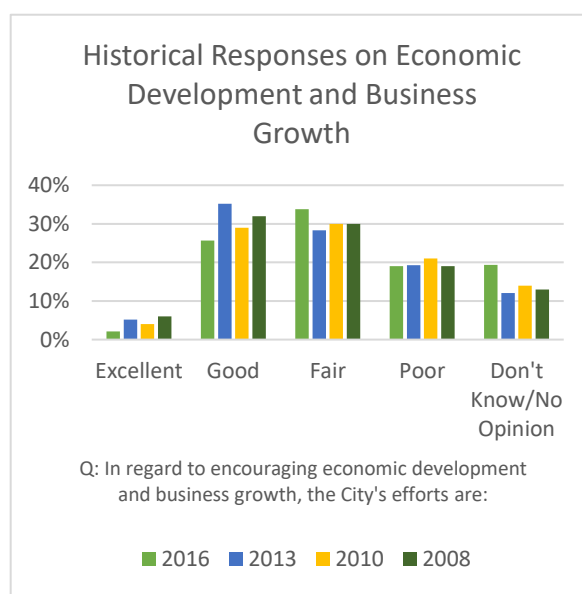
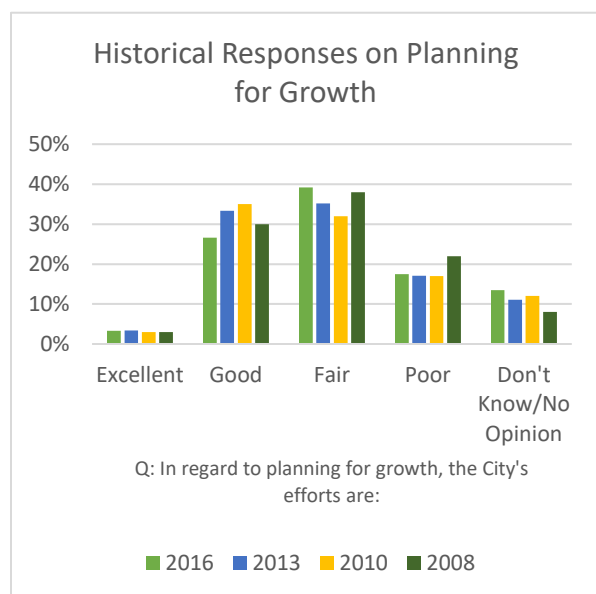


## Growth and Economic Development

Respondents view managing growth and economic development as important challenges facing the City. *Economic development* is rated as the **third most important challenge facing Bellingham** – 28 percent of respondents list it as either the #1 or #2 most important challenge.

Historically, there has been a negative trend concerning respondents' views of the job the City is doing to plan for future growth overall, encourage economic development, and stimulate business growth. 2016 reports the **lowest proportion of positive responses regarding the City's efforts planning for growth** since 2008. This year, only 30 percent of respondents rate the City's efforts planning for growth as *Excellent* (3 percent), or *Good* (27 percent), compared to a 36 percent positive response rate in 2013, 38 percent in 2010, and 33 percent in 2008.

Additionally, many respondents think there is **room to grow when it comes to the City's efforts encouraging economic development and business growth**. Only 2 percent rate the City's efforts in this arena as *Excellent*, 26 percent rate *Good*, 34 percent rate *Fair*, and 19 percent believe the City's efforts are *Poor*. 17 percent answered *Don't Know/No Opinion* (a sharp increase from previous years).



## Budget Preferences

A common trend in responses to questions about the City budget is that **respondents would rather increase taxes and fees than cut services**.

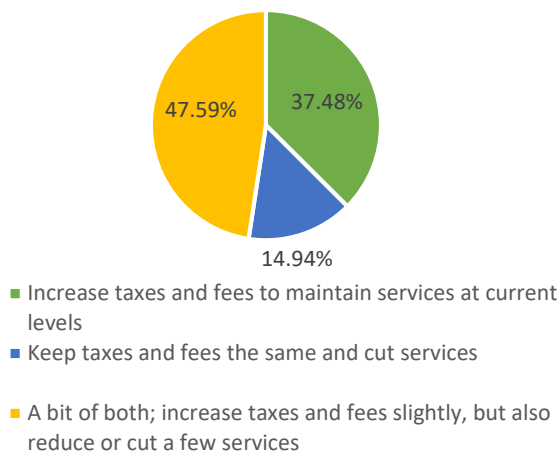
Concerning overall budget priorities, almost half (48 percent) of respondents would prefer a *combination* of increasing taxes/fees and reducing services. 37 percent would prefer to *increase taxes/fees* and keep services at current levels, and 15 percent would prefer to *reduce services* and keep taxes/fees the same.

In a following question, respondents rank services (that rely on taxpayer dollars) based on budget priority.

- **High priority services** include *Crime Prevention* (31 percent rated #1) and *Emergency Response Services* (27 percent rated #1).
- **Low priority services** include *Culture and arts experiences* (26 percent rated last) and *Recreational programs* (18 percent rated last).

### 2016 Budget Source Opinions

Q: City leaders must carefully choose budget priorities. If you had to choose only one, which of the following would you choose for the city?

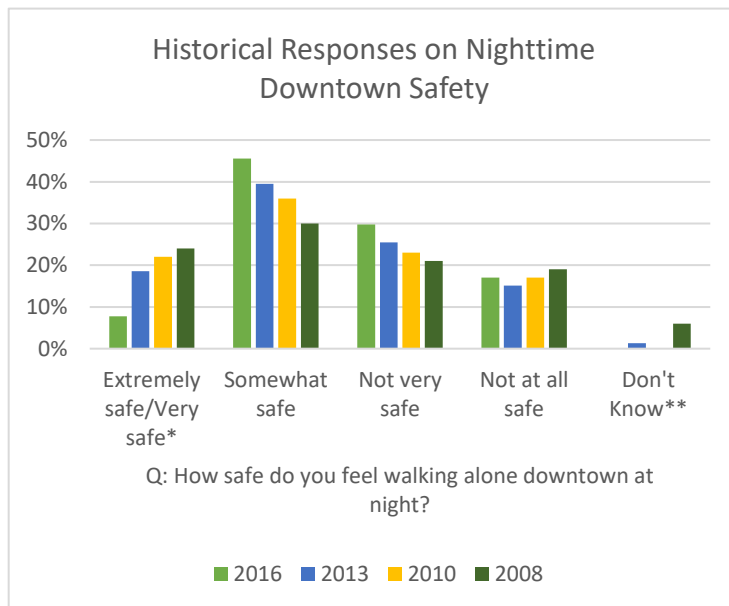
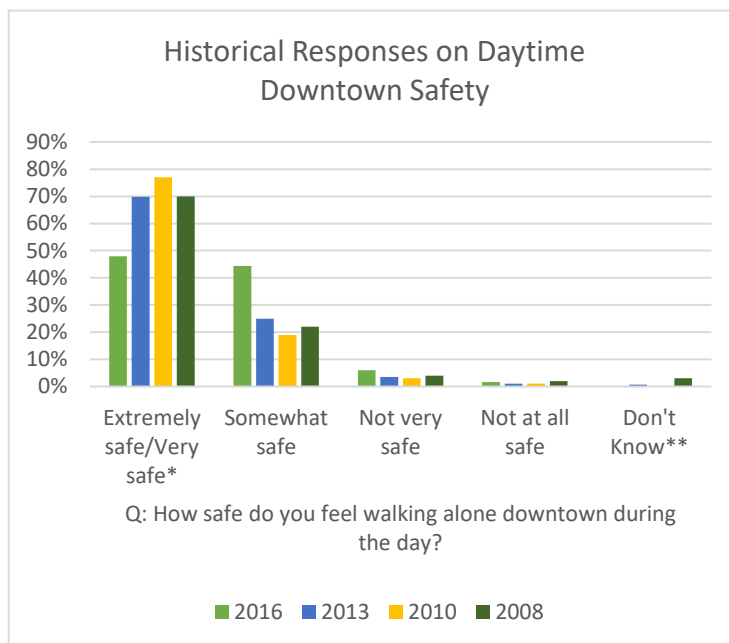


## Feelings of Safety Downtown

Respondents report feeling **less safe downtown during the day and night** than in any previous survey. Notably, only 8 percent of respondents report feeling *Extremely safe* walking alone downtown at night. While 46 percent do feel *Somewhat safe*, 30 percent feel *Not very safe*, and 17 percent feel *Not at all safe*.

Notable **demographic differences** in responses concerning nighttime downtown safety include:

- Women feel less safe than men when walking alone downtown at night. 54 percent of female respondents report feeling *Not very safe* or *Not at all safe* in this situation, compared to 38 percent of male respondents.
- Young respondents feel safer downtown at night than other respondents. 12 percent of respondents age 18-24, and 16 percent of respondents age 25-29 report feeling *Extremely safe* in this situation, compared to the average of 8 percent.



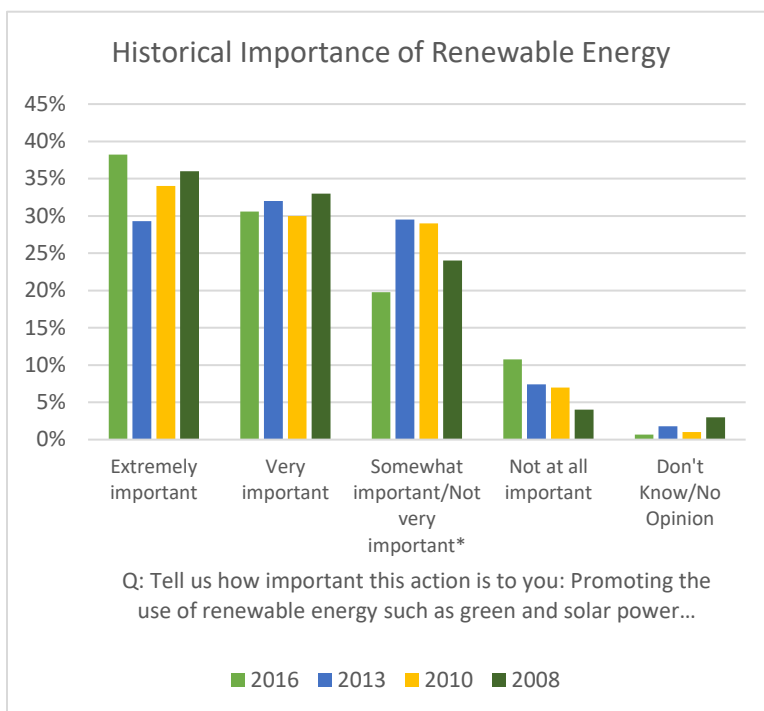
\* This year the survey only four levels of safety as options: *Extremely safe*, *Somewhat safe*, *Not very safe*, and *Not at all safe*. Previous surveys included a fifth option of *Very safe*, which has been included with the *Extremely safe* section in our historical analysis figures. The 2013 and 2008 Survey also offered a *Don't Know* option.

## Renewable Energy

Promoting the use of renewable energy (such as green and solar power) is viewed by current respondents as more important than in any other survey year.

69 percent of respondents think it is *Extremely* (38 percent) or *Very* (31 percent) *important* for the City to promote the use renewable energy, such as green and solar power.

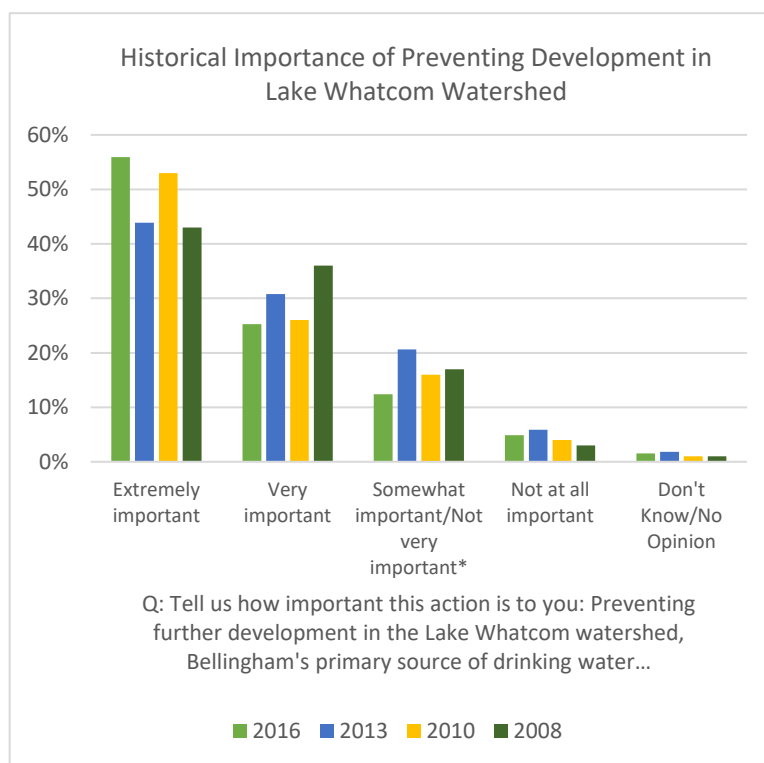
However, 11 percent of respondents consider promoting renewable energy use to be *Not at all important*, which is an increase from other survey years. It seems that respondents are becoming more polarized in their opinions about renewable energy.



## Lake Whatcom Watershed

Historically, views of the importance of preventing development on Lake Whatcom have varied – this year, respondents think this environmental action is more important than ever.

A distinguished majority of respondents (81 percent) think it is *Extremely* or *Very important* for the City to prevent further development in the Lake Whatcom watershed. Only 5 percent of respondents think this action is *Not at all important*.



## About the Survey

The Center for Economic and Business Research, located within the College of Business and Economics at Western Washington University, conducted the research and analysis services for this survey.

The purpose of the Survey is to seek feedback from residents about their experience as citizens of the city of Bellingham. A combination of multiple choice, rank order, and open-ended questions aim to gather information from respondents about their demographic details, quality of life, satisfaction with City services, opinions on budget priorities, views on challenges facing the community, and ideas for the future. The Survey is designed in reference to previous residential surveys conducted by the City of Bellingham. Questions aim to gather information surrounding and related to each of the nine Legacies and Strategic Commitments adopted by the Bellingham City Council, including:

- Clean, safe drinking water
- Healthy environment
- Vibrant sustainable economy
- Sense of place
- Safe and prepared community
- Mobility and connectivity options
- Access to quality of life amenities
- Quality, responsive City services
- Equity and social justice

The Center has worked with the City to make question adjustments to previous surveys that are expected to enhance readability, decrease response bias, and reflect the City's current priorities. This report includes historical analysis of most questions based on results from the previous surveys – it is noted when question or response wording differs from year to year.

## Survey Methodology

Surveys were taken by phone with a Western Washington University researcher or through an online survey form. The Center sent out a letter and reminder postcard to 7,000 randomly selected Bellingham residences, including a description of the Survey purpose, as well as instructions for both phone and online response options. Respondents were screened within the survey to ensure their residency. The survey was left open for approximately four weeks, from mid-October to mid-November. A total of 1,248 responses were obtained – 73 by phone, and 1,159 online. Respondents were able to skip questions at their discretion, so the total number of responses varies between questions.

The US Census Bureau estimates the 2015 population of Bellingham to be 85,146 based on an estimated 5.3% net migration from the 2010 census. The results of this survey analysis are provided with a 95% confidence level (meaning that a reader should be 95% confident the answers are reflective of the broader population) with a confidence interval of 1.2% (meaning that the answers provided by the respondents reflect the broader population's thoughts +/- 1.2%). This is an extremely high accuracy rating for a survey where many have a range of +/- 3-5%.

## Possible Limitations

In analyzing the results and processes used for this survey we note several items of importance:

- Possible **survey fatigue** is an issue for all surveys fielded. With the advent of inexpensive and easy to field surveys, nearly all publicly involved businesses and organizations are sending requests for opinions throughout the developed world. In general, this reduces overall participation. Survey fatigue also increases the opportunities for respondent bias as specific demographics with certain opinions are more likely to continue to take surveys beyond that of other demographics. Surveys, such as this one, may have a higher response rate among demographics of citizens with deep convictions about the ways their city or neighborhood should be managed.
- This respondent bias is can also be referred to as **Self Selection Bias** – households that actually respond to the survey may have different characteristics as a group than the entirety of households that received an invitation to the survey, which was randomized.
- Respondents put in a **significant amount of time and effort** into this survey – with 59 total questions, and 6 unlimited open-end questions, the survey is lengthy and in-depth. Some respondents did not complete the entire survey, but their complete answers are still considered. The median duration of the survey for both complete and incomplete surveys was approximately 20 minutes.
- **Survey language**, used in past studies and this one, may vary in both how questions are expressed and the answer choices provided. While every effort has been made to reduce this, multiple edits were made to help reduce survey bias from word choice within the instrument. This has been noted in the relevant questions within this report.
- **Respondent demographics** differ significantly between phone and web responses. While the survey in general attracted an older sampling than the general population, the phone response option was much more attractive to the older demographics. This has been analyzed in a number of questions.
- The **random sample** of 7,000 Bellingham addresses was provided by the City. Western did not supervise the creation of this list nor can we provide any assurance beyond that of the City that this was a random selection.

## Survey Results

### Demographics

In order to fully digest the data presented from the survey questions, it is paramount to understand who the respondents are and how that might influence their answers. Given the overall statistical sample parameters of the study there is little concern that these demographics have led to significant sampling error. We have every reason to believe that the data provided within this report is a statistically representative sample of Bellingham residents.

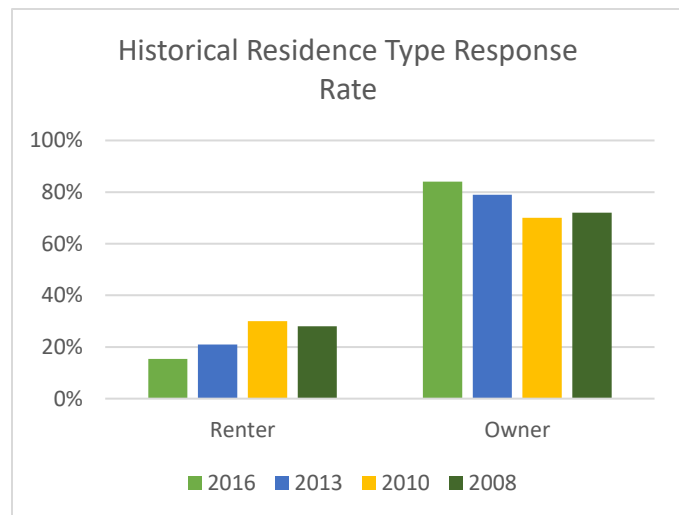
Where appropriate, the following demographic data points have been used to further analyze questions throughout the survey.

### Residence Type

**Q: In thinking about your residence in Bellingham, how would you classify your household?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Renter</b>	15.43%	190
<b>Owner</b>	84.00%	1034
<b>Non-Resident</b>	0.57%	7
<b>Total</b>	100%	1231

84 percent of households classify themselves as homeowners, and approximately 15 percent classify themselves as renters. The remaining 1 percent reported as non-residents, and were directed to the end of the survey since they do not meet the survey requirements (being a resident).



In this study, there were more homeowners and less renters than previous survey years. It is also noted that this is a trend for all surveys fielded – except for 2010.

The US Census Bureau estimates that within Bellingham 46% of housing units are occupied by the owner, indicating that the response rate for renters would be excessively low. The Census collects this data through an annual statistical sample over a 6-year period with the option of a residence being occupied by the owner or non-owner. Non-owners are assumed to be renters.



## Gender

**Q: Which gender do you prefer to identify as?**

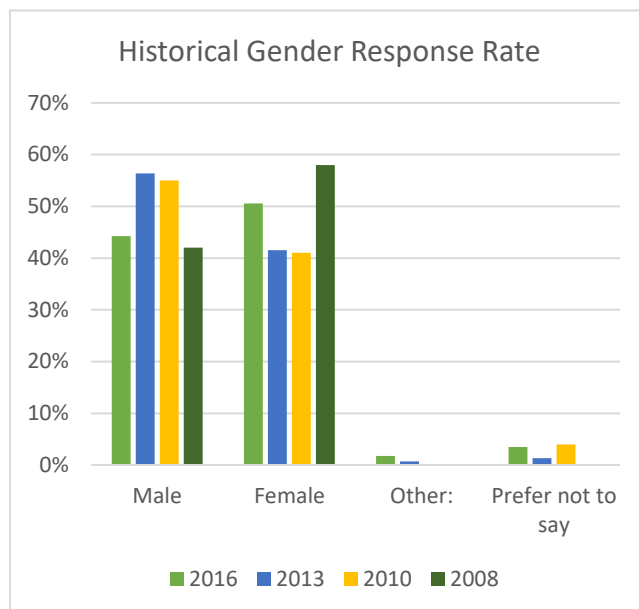
Answer	% Respondents	Count
Male	44.22%	509
Female	50.56%	582
Other:	1.74%	20
Prefer not to say	3.48%	40
Total	100%	1151

A greater proportion (51 percent) of respondents identify as female, 44 percent identify as male, and 2 percent identify as neither male or female. 3 percent of respondents prefer not to report their gender.

Other surveys also garner higher response rates from females. According to the coverage rates reported by US Census Bureau, females have had a higher response rate to the American Community Survey every year since 2000.

The 2 percent of respondents identifying as an 'other' gender further specify themselves as couples (taking the survey together), or gender fluid. However, a predominant number of these responses, based on comments provided within their response, are people who chose this option to express their dissatisfaction with the presence of a third option. While this only accounts for a small proportion of respondents' views overall, it does speak to the fact that the issue of gender identity is still debated in our community.

Historically, there has been some fluctuation in this category – 2016 and 2008 surveys garnered many more women respondents, while 2013 and 2010 had many more men.



## Neighborhood

### Q: Which neighborhood in Bellingham do you consider yourself a resident of?

The respondents from the survey accounted for at least some of every neighborhood in the City of Bellingham. Some neighborhoods with large response rates include the Columbia (8 percent of respondents), Samish (7 percent) and South Hill (7 percent) neighborhoods. The neighborhoods with lower response rates include Meridian and Irongate, each contributing to less than 1 percent of total responses. These response rates tend to correspond directly with the population density in those neighborhoods – Meridian and Irongate have low response rates, but this is expected given that they are two of the City's lowest density residential neighborhoods.

This question is followed by an option to write in the respondents' street and block number in place of reporting their neighborhood, if unsure about their residence's neighborhood classification.

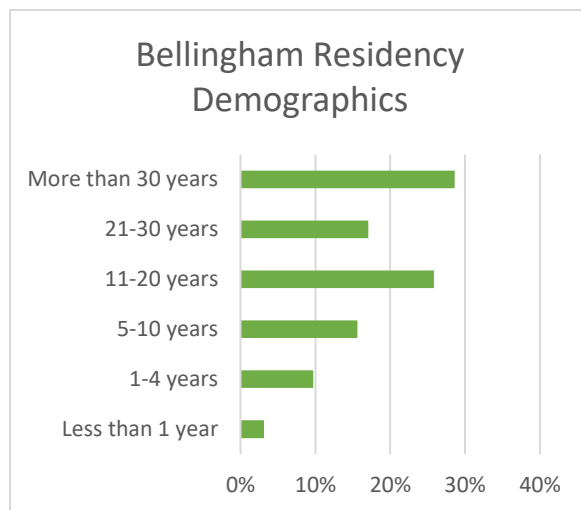
It should be noted in sections that analyze results based on neighborhood, the low response rate from particular neighborhoods results in less confidence about significant differences in these responses.

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Alabama Hill	6.35%	75
Barkley	3.81%	45
Birchwood	5.84%	69
City Center	1.61%	19
Columbia	8.38%	99
Cordata	3.81%	45
Cornwall Park	4.40%	52
Edgemoor	5.41%	64
Fairhaven	4.23%	50
Happy Valley	4.15%	49
Irongate	0.68%	8
King Mountain	1.35%	16
Lettered Streets	3.55%	42
Meridian	0.42%	5
Puget	5.33%	63
Roosevelt	2.88%	34
Samish	7.02%	83
Sehome	2.96%	35
Silver Beach	4.57%	54
South	1.35%	16
South Hill	7.19%	85
Sunnyland	6.26%	74
Whatcom Falls	4.99%	59
York	3.47%	41
Total	100%	1182

## Length of Bellingham Residency

### Q: How long have you lived in Bellingham?

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Less than 1 year	3.12%	36
1-4 years	9.71%	112
5-10 years	15.61%	180
11-20 years	25.85%	298
21-30 years	17.09%	197
More than 30 years	28.62%	330
Total	100%	1153



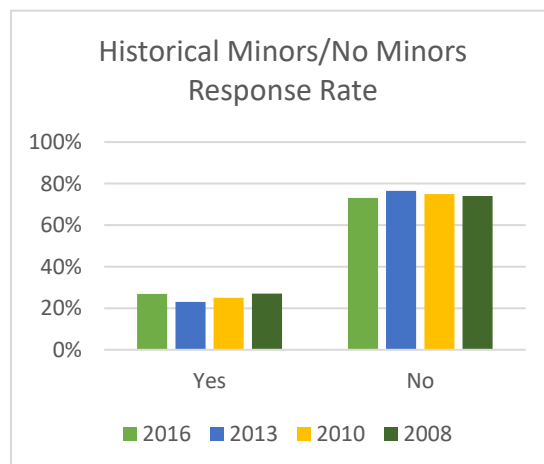
For the most part, the survey respondents are seasoned residents of the City of Bellingham – almost 72 percent of respondents have lived in Bellingham for more than 10 years. This demonstrates that the responses from the Survey largely capture the opinions of residents who have been involved in the community for a significant amount of time, have seen the City of Bellingham grow and change, and are likely invested in its future. What does appear to be missing within these responses are the significant presence of college-aged students which would have shorter-term residency. It is recommended that in future surveys a question be added asking about any potential student status.

According to the article “Non-Response in Student Surveys: The Role of Demographics, Engagement, and Personality”, those with high levels of community involvement (for the general population as well as the student population specifically) are more likely to respond to a survey regarding current community issues (Porter and Whitcomb, *Research in Higher Education*, 2005).

## Minors in Household

### Q: Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Yes	26.82%	310
No	73.18%	846
Total	100%	1156



Approximately 27 percent of households report having children under the age of 18. This could include not only parents, but also guardians of minors and other household arrangements.

Historically, the amount of respondents with at least one minor in their household has remained stable.

## Age

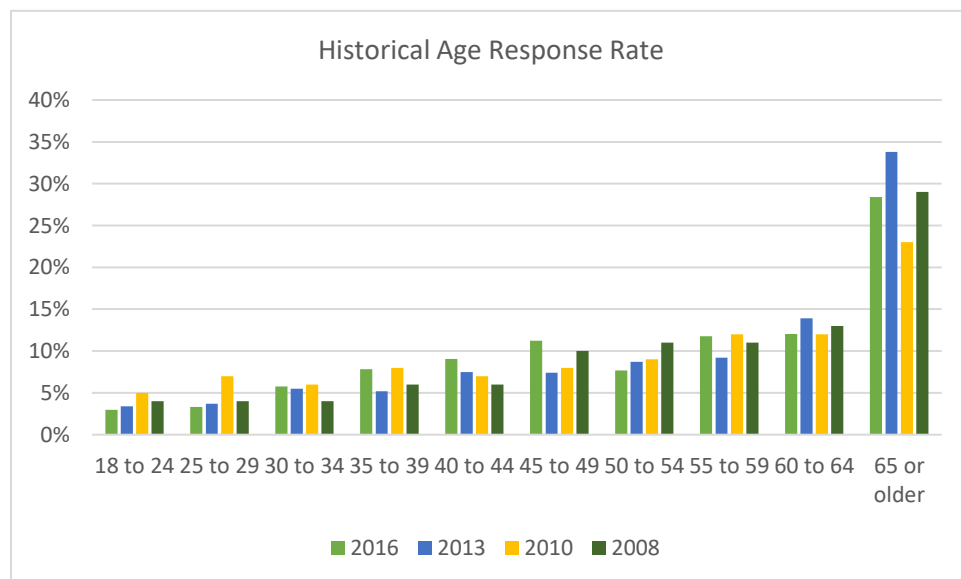
### Q: Which of the following best describes your age?

While we obtained responses from large range of age groups, more than half (52 percent) of survey respondents are at least 55 years old. Only 6 percent of responses came from people between 18 and 30 years old. Previous surveys (2010 and 2013) also report high response rates from older individuals and low response rates from younger individuals.

This is disproportionate to Bellingham's overall demographics – as of 2010, only 24 percent of the total population is 55 or older, and more than 26 percent fall into the 20-29 age range (US Census, 2010). This should be kept in mind when considering the results of the survey.

Other research on age demographics and survey participation, like the article “Assessing the Representativeness of Public Opinion Surveys” indicates that older individuals are usually less likely to participate in surveys (Pew Research Center, 2012). We recommend that future surveys take a closer look at possible causes of the disparity between age response rate in other societal surveys and age response rate in this survey.

Answer	2016 Results	Count
18 to 24	2.96%	34
25 to 29	3.31%	38
30 to 34	5.75%	66
35 to 39	7.84%	90
40 to 44	9.06%	104
45 to 49	11.24%	129
50 to 54	7.67%	88
55 to 59	11.76%	135
60 to 64	12.02%	138
65 or older	28.40%	326
Total	100%	1148

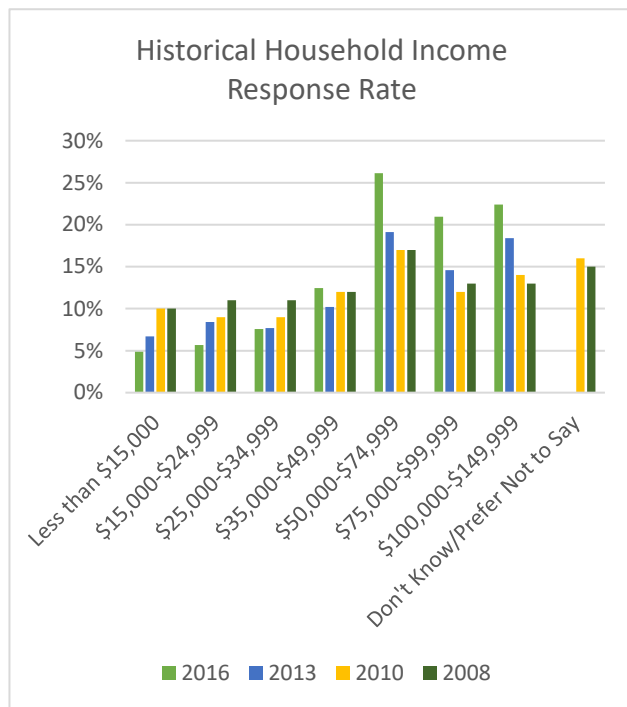


## Household Income

**Q: What is your annual household income before taxes?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Less than \$15,000	4.86%	43
\$15,000-\$24,999	5.66%	50
\$25,000-\$34,999	7.58%	67
\$35,000-\$49,999	12.44%	110
\$50,000-\$74,999	26.13%	231
\$75,000-\$99,999	20.93%	185
\$100,000-\$149,999	22.40%	198
Total	100%	884

18 percent of respondents report annual household incomes less than \$35,000, 39 percent report household incomes between \$35,000 and \$75,000, and 43 percent report household incomes over \$75,000.



Historically, the respondents of this year's survey have higher incomes than those in previous surveys.

The US Census Bureau estimates the median household income in Bellingham to be \$43,536, indicating a possible self-selection bias. According to the article "Non-Response in Student Surveys: The Role of Demographics, Engagement, and Personality", in the general population more affluent or educated individuals are more likely to participate in surveys (Porter and Whitcomb, *Research in Higher Education*, 2005).

## General Observations

This section is designed to gain a view of how residents feel about life in Bellingham overall, with a combination of multiple choice, rank order, and open-ended questions concerning the quality of life, values, and the challenges of life in Bellingham.

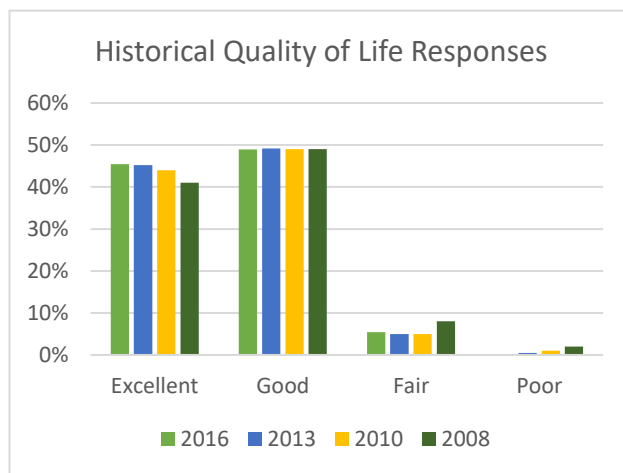
## Quality of Life

**Q: Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in Bellingham?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	45.44%	553
<b>Good</b>	48.97%	596
<b>Fair</b>	5.42%	66
<b>Poor</b>	0.16%	2
<b>Don't Know</b>	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>	100%	1217

More than 94 percent of respondents rate the quality of life in Bellingham as at least *Good* (49 percent), if not *Excellent* (45 percent). Less than 6 percent rate the quality of life in Bellingham as either *Fair* (5 percent) or *Poor* (less than 1 percent).

Since 2008, the reported quality of life has been slowly but steadily rising – In both 2016 and 2013, 45 percent of respondents rated the quality of life in Bellingham as *Excellent*, compared to just 41 percent of respondents in 2008. Even though the change is slight, it does indicate an upward trend in residents' perceptions of quality of life.



## Bellingham Values

**Q: What do you value most about Bellingham as a place to live? Drag and drop the answer choices in order of preference, from the attributes that you value most to those you value the least.**

This question asks respondents to rate the following from most to least valuable:

- *Education options*
- *Environmental friendliness*
- *Recreation programs and opportunities*
- *Economic environment*
- *Safety of neighborhoods*
- *Infrastructure quality*
- *Arts and culture*
- *Sense of community*
- *Quality of EMS*
- *Nightlife*
- *Public transportation*
- *Housing affordability*
- *Shopping*
- *Public involvement in City decisions*

The top-rated values about Bellingham as a place to live include:

1. Sense of community (24 percent rated #1, 13 percent rated #2)
2. Environmental friendliness (17 percent rated #1, 16 percent rated #2)
3. Recreational programs and opportunities (17 percent rated #1, 16 percent rated #2)
4. Safety of neighborhoods (16 percent rated #1, 13 percent rated #2)

The least valued aspects of Bellingham (rated last) include:

1. Nightlife (37 percent rated last)
2. Housing affordability (19 percent rated last)
3. Shopping (15 percent rated last).

**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

This is an open-ended question requiring a text entry from respondents. It should be noted that some respondents expressed confusion with this particular question – many interpreted it to be asking about their general values, instead of existing aspects of Bellingham that they value.

The following table contains a count of topics that are mentioned. One response may contain multiple topic tags, so total count of topics exceeds total responses.

Count	Answer Category
51	Parks, Greenways and Trails
46	Outdoors
42	Community atmosphere
37	Natural beauty
35	Location
19	Climate
18	Size of town
16	Diversity
15	Public Health
14	Values
12	Food scene (including breweries)
11	Bikeability
9	Cultural awareness
9	Small town environment
7	Air quality
7	Geographic region
7	Walkability
6	Driveability
4	Drinking water quality
4	Equity
3	Religious centers
3	Variety
2	Libraries
1	Tourism
1	Uniqueness

**Verbatim responses**

The following were provided by the respondents and are presented within this report without edit or analysis beyond an attempt to create a count (above) by generally expressed themes.

#3 includes Parks and Open Spaces  
abundance of nature  
Access to Canada  
Access to healthcare  
Access to HEALTHY FOOD...raw milk, grass fed beef, local farmers. coop, farmer;s market  
Access to nature



**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

ACCESS to places around Bellingham, there are more and more "Do Not Enter/No Trespassing  
Access to public spaces/parks  
Access to Salish Sea and Mountains  
access to the Bay  
access to the outdoors  
Access to the Waterfront  
Accessibility to the great outdoors  
active citizens  
Active Police presence  
addressing homelessness  
Age diversity  
Air quality  
Air Quality and Water Quality  
all  
Amount of Regulation  
appreciation for nature and those who support sustainable agriculture  
Arts and Culture are easily participatory  
Availability of quality child care  
Beautiful location, historic downtown, liberal  
Beautiful region  
Beautiful scenery  
Beautiful trees lining the streets  
Beauty  
Beauty  
Beauty of surroundings  
Beauty of surroundings  
beauty of the natural environment  
beauty, close to seattle and vancouver bc  
being dog friendly  
Bellingham and Whatcom County library system  
Bellingham bay and marine environment  
bicycle friendly streets  
Bicycle infrastructure  
Bicycle Infrastructure/Friendliness  
Bicycle trails, street markings for bikes and all the trails!  
bicycling lanes and trails  
bike friendly, open spaces and nature,  
Bikeability (trails, not bike lanes)  
Bikeable  
biking frendliness  
Biking-Hiking-Walking Trails, Parks-Greenbelts  
Buy Local movement; support for small independent businesses  
casual atmosphere  
Churches  
Churches  
City and County parks  
City Council & Port don't listen to the citizens  
city government

**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

City of Bellingham Police Attitude  
City Parks and Trails--outdoor recreation, not programs  
city size  
Clean Air  
Clean air & Access to water  
Clean air water; bay, mountains, parks, trails, low-density  
Clean safe drinking water  
cleanliness & tidiness of neighborhoods  
Climate  
Climate  
climate  
Climate  
Climate Conditions  
Climate! #1 Access to major cities #3  
Climate/Weather  
Climate/Weather  
climate/weather  
Close to two major cities, Seattle and Vancouver B.C.  
Commutability, no traffic  
compassion, open-mindedness, creativity  
Connection with I-5  
conservative representation on county council  
Core of aware caring people attuned to the needs of the larger world  
Cost of living  
craft beer  
Cultural feel  
cultural diversity  
dining choices  
Dining options  
Diversity  
diversity  
diversity of community  
diversity racial/ethnic  
Drag the answers where?  
Dumb bike Lanes and No real bike laws !  
ease of Traffic though becoming more congested  
Easy access to green spaces  
economic diversity  
Economic Mobility  
Eliminate profiling  
Embrace of Diversity  
Environmental care/beauty (potentially goes in 4)  
Environmental Quality  
Environmental variety  
Ethnic and Racial Diversity and Tolerance  
Existing trees  
Family Friendly  
Family friendly!

**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

Food Growing  
Food options  
food sovereignty  
Freedom from burglaries--our neighborhood is plagued with them  
Friendliness  
Friendliness of people  
Friendly Atmosphere  
Friendly People  
Friends and Family. Beautiful surroundings. I was born here. Some of the provided list of options used to be true, but are no longer true.  
Galbraith.  
Generally politically liberal  
geographic location  
Geographic Variety  
Geographical Location  
good place to raise a family  
Great hiking and sea kayaking  
Great Place to Raise a Family  
Green Space (but need more)  
Green space access  
Green space and trails  
green space/trails  
green spaces  
Green Trails  
greenways  
Greenways/parks  
Greenways/trail access  
growing cultural diversity  
Have just lived here 50 yrs  
Help for Drug Addicts and Alcoholis  
Hiking and Mountain Biking Trails, Schools  
Hiking trails  
historic preservation  
historic preservation  
Homeless situation  
how much people love living here  
I appreciate the size of Bellingham in terms of traffic compared to the greater seattle area and resource availability  
I enjoy our breweries, parks, trails, and unique neighborhoods.  
I enjoy the fact that we have most of the amenities of a larger city without a large part of the hassel.  
I found you list hard to work with as some of the items I value cause other items on the list and I am not allowed to value items equally. I have created an inaccurate hierarchy for you.  
I grew up here. It is my home.  
I have a job here  
I like my job - at WWU.  
I like that we are trying to build and maintina our city with consideration of the environment.  
The city services are also of very high quality.

**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

I like the fact that there's so many things to do here.  
I love the historic feel of Fairhaven and seeing it evolve, grow and change.  
I think the environmental groups and corporations could come together to create a better community. There should be more considerate, compromise and cooperation on this issue.  
I'm confused by this question. What I value that Bellingham SHOULD have, or that Bellingham has? I put what I think Bellingham has.  
inclusion of college lifestyle; physical location  
Inclusiveness of diversity  
inclusiveness  
Integration with local counties/regional partners  
Inter-racial/cultural relations  
Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list? Let us know in the space provided below.  
It is an easy place to live, particularly car free, due to it's size.  
Its not Seattle  
keep neighborhood character  
Less Traffic Congestion  
Liberal  
liberal values  
liberalism  
light rail from outer neighborhoods  
Livability  
Local Entrepreneurship  
Local food quality  
Local sustainability  
location  
location  
location and small size  
Location between two large cities  
Location between Vancouver and Seattle  
Location- near Canada and burlington  
location of bellingham  
Location to other major Metropolitan cities and Intl Airport  
Location--proximity to both Vancouver and Seattle  
Low key, casual life style  
Many churches-very imp. to community  
medical access  
Medical Services are close  
medium size  
Medium-sized city with amenities  
mild weather  
Mountains and Ocean  
Mt. Baker Skiing/Hiking?Wilderness is WHY I am still in this town.  
Music scene, size of city, bike friendly  
My family is here and the location is great.  
My parents were here, so I value family roots. My husband and I lived in Seattle, which sounded like a good idea until we tried after school programs. The neighborhood school system is great.  
Natural beauty

**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

natural beauty and bounty!  
natural beauty of location  
Natural beauty of the region  
Natural beauty, libraries  
Natural resources  
Natural setting  
Natural Surroundings  
Natural surroundings  
Natural Surroundings  
nearness to major urban metro areas Seattle WA / Vancouver BC  
nice area, good climate  
no  
no traffic jams!  
not a big city  
Not overpopulated/crowded/trafficky  
ocean access  
Open space and wildlife  
openness/inclusiveness  
Our public greenspaces  
Outdoor recreation  
Outdoor recreation (hiking parks, trails)  
Outdoor recreation and access to do so. This would be my actual #1  
Parks  
parks  
parks  
Parks  
Parks  
Parks - good  
Parks and greenways  
Parks and Outdoor Activities  
Parks and Outdoor Space  
Parks and trail systems  
Parks and trails  
Parks and Trails  
Parks, walking trails, nature is all around us & I love it!  
Phone  
Physical Beauty  
Physical environment/beautiful location  
Politically liberal trend  
Population size, low traffic, nature  
Preservation of public recreational green spaces  
Professional jobs for WWU grads. Keep the talent and skill here  
Protection of single family neighborhood quality. Keep zoning that doesn't allow building to the edge of the property line. Even in business development areas, allow for green space between the building and the sidewalk.  
Proximity of good medical and hospital care  
proximity to Canada  
Proximity to intact natural areas

**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

Proximity to major centers  
Proximity to major metropolitan areas  
Proximity to mountains and water.  
proximity to nature  
Proximity to Puget Sound, mountains & big cities  
Proximity to Seattle and Vancouver  
proximity to Seattle and Vancouver and the airport  
proximity to Seattle and Vancouver B.C.  
Proximity to Seattle and Vancouver BC  
Proximity to Vancouver BC (Arts & Culture - Nightlife)  
Proximity to variety of recreational options nearby  
Public health (subsidized nutrition and exercise programs)  
public open/park space, public access to waterfront  
Public Safety - Too many people living on our street and breaking the law.  
Public trails  
Quality City Government  
Quality Healthcare  
Quality Industrial Employment Opportunity at Cherry Point  
Quality medical facilities  
Quality of available medical care  
quality of health care  
Quality of Medical services  
Racial, social, economic equity awareness  
Restaurants  
retention of identity -- not Seattle or a suburb  
revitalization of downtown  
safe Trails and walking places  
Safety for homeless  
Scenic Views  
Senior Center  
Senior center  
Senior Services/Medical  
Sense of History  
Sharing the community with young people  
Shopping at Local Owned Stores  
Size  
Size  
Size and amenities  
Small business friendly  
small size = convenience  
Small town feel  
small town feel with big city amenities; nature access  
small town feel, short commute, beautiful locations  
small town feeling  
Smallness  
Social Partner Dancing  
social services/homeless/disinfranchised  
Solutions for Homeless

**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

Strong Benefit to Tourism  
sub-communities, i.e. Fairhaven, Downtown  
subdued excitement :)  
surrounding environment  
Sustainability - ability to access/grow local, organic foods; strong alternative educational community for K-12. Accessibility for pedestrians/bikers. Access for those who need disability accommodations.  
the above did not work on line for me  
The beauty of the area  
The beauty of the area  
the community tries hard to support small local business  
The drag and drop feature does not appear to be working. Quality of emergency services and safety of neighborhoods are my top concerns. Nightlife would be last on the list.  
The environment as number 1  
The geographic setting  
The LIFESTYLE!!  
The location is great: access to many outdoor options and major cities. I also appreciate the police department and Western Washington University.  
the ocean  
The scenery/views  
The view of the water we used to have  
the walking trail system and parks  
The wide range of age groups and that I see gatherings with people of all different age groups. Also, people riding on bikes because it makes a difference so actually see people, not cars.  
This is a poorly worded question. These are things we value but not necessarily existing currently.  
This is a poorly written question. If you think there is a problem, you may value the issue, but not think Bellingham does a good job. For example, I value economic environment; however, Bellingham needs to work on this. I hope that makes sense.  
this section is worded poorly. "what do I most value about Bellingham" or... what would like most TO SEE in Bellingham". I don't know how to fill out this part and quit.  
Tolerance/Diversity  
traffic condition, value least  
trail system is great  
Trails and Greenspace--maybe included in Environment or Recreation?  
Trails and Parks  
Trails and Wild place, eg, Whatcom Falls Park  
Trails in city & county  
Trails, Access to Water, Dog Friendliness, Brewery-culture, Local-Culture  
Trails, Politeness,  
Transportation planning: Light rail, we are not taking care of our traffic congestion  
Unique restaurants  
Uniqueness  
University town  
university town  
Variety of outdoor available activities  
Very close to the outdoors  
Vibrant church life

**Q: Is there another aspect of Bellingham that you value that was not included in this list?**

Viewpoints (vistas)

Views

Vitality of Faith Communities;

Walkability

Walkability

Walkability -ability to walk to groceries stores, restaurants

walkability to services/activities

walkability trail systems

walkability/bikability

water recreation, including boating on Lake Whatcom

Water/air quality

Waterfront safely developed

We moved here because of the good air quality for our asthmatic family members.

We need to address the homelessness/addiction issues

Weather

weather

Weather

Weather

Weather

Weather and proximity to water

weather is better than many parts of the US, good airport, very little traffic. No. 1 is the short commute to work.

Weather/Climate

What I like about Bellingham is access to outdoor adventure. Note that the above question is worded poorly. Are you asking about attributes we value most (in general about any city) or about what we value about Bellingham? Not entirely clear.

WWU

Yes. The No. 1 reason I live here is because of the progressive politics and lack of corruption. I'm from back east, and to be able to live in a city and state where the politicians are (generally) competent, dedicated, and well-educated is a blessing I don't think many natives fully appreciate. Not a single item on the list above would matter if I couldn't count on sensible, left-of-"center" policies here.



## Bellingham Challenges

**Q: What do you think is the most important challenge facing Bellingham today that city leaders can do something about? Drag and drop the answer choices in order of preference, from most to least important.**

This question asks respondents to rate the following community challenges (that City leaders can influence) from most to least important:

- Education options
- Environmental friendliness
- Recreation programs and opportunities
- Safety of neighborhoods
- Safety of roads and infrastructure
- Quality of EMS
- Public transportation
- Public involvement in City decisions
- Housing affordability
- Homelessness
- Economic development

Respondents feel the most important challenges facing Bellingham include:

- Homelessness (34 percent rated #1, 21 percent rated #2)
- Housing affordability (22 percent rated #1, 21 percent rated #2)
- Economic development (16 percent rated #1, 12 percent rated #2).

The homelessness challenge stands out as a pressing issue to the community throughout the Survey, especially the open-ended questions.

The least important challenges facing Bellingham, according to respondents, include:

- Recreation programs and opportunities (17 percent rated last)
- Education options (16 percent rated last)
- Environmental friendliness (14 percent rated last).

*Recreation programs and opportunities* and *Environmental friendliness* are also recognized in the value rankings (previous question) as some of the most valued aspects of Bellingham. The results demonstrate that these are aspects of Bellingham where the City's efforts are both recognized and valued.

**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

This is an open-ended question requiring a text entry from respondents. The following table contains a count of topics that are mentioned. One response may contain multiple topic tags, so total count of topics exceeds total responses.

Count	Answer Category
33	Public health (notably mental health services)
31	Population density management
21	Crime
21	Drivability
12	Community atmosphere
9	Bikeability
8	Drinking water quality
8	Equity
8	Population
7	Cultural awareness
7	Diversity
7	Jails
7	Waterfront development
6	Parks, greenways and trails
6	Train regulation
6	Walkability
5	Public areas
3	Natural beauty
2	Air quality
2	Libraries
2	Opportunities for change
2	Waste management
1	Access to shopping and other services
1	Disaster preparedness
1	Sewer system
1	Tourism

**Verbatim responses**

The following were provided by the respondents and are presented within this report without edit or analysis beyond an attempt to create a count (above) by generally expressed themes.

conflict of interest in city leaders

\*Major issues, particularly noted in the last two years out of the 15 we live here: substance abuse/mental illness on the rise. Drug homes in neighborhoods, drug deals/use on public trails & parks, resulting in caring, tax-paying citizens moving, and children too scared to play outside.

**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

Loss of small community schools to larger catch-all schools with huge geographic areas that require long bus rides. Increased infill making infrastructure and quality of life sub-par, including air quality, traffic safety, and noise pollution. Medical/dental infrastructure also can't keep up with the too-steep rise in population growth.

Ability to conduct/open business without having to jump through 10 million hoops.

access to mental health supports

access to quality healthcare

Access to quality healthcare/more choices in healthcare options

Add intersection, no parking at stop light. Can do better on one way roads. Work on traffic flow.

Adequate Parking, Robust Music Scene

Allowing appropriate in-fill in the city (especially south hill)

Arterials are jammed already. Roundabouts are not signed correctly and are inept, actually slowing traffic. "Signal out of roundabout" is signed in experienced communities and Europe.

I've driven 20,000 miles in Europe and know how a roundabout works. I can drive across France without using the Autoroute(Freeway) without stopping.

Attracting high-paying jobs

Availability of mental health programs

Availability of quality child care

Balance of development against quality of life

balance representation of community

bayside cleanup

Beauty

Better bicycling infrastructure

Better paying jobs!

Bicycle Theft

Big box stores competing with local businesses

Bike friendly roads, cultural diversification and awareness, access to mental health services!,

indoor dog park

Bike safety

Bike theft and drug and alcohol abuse

Boats out of Lake Whatcom

BPD needs Detectives

Building permit/variance resistance

building the jail we've paid for twice

Business Friendliness

By 1, I'm referring to oil trains. Bellingham needs to work with the WA State to make it safer.

Right now, it is very dangerous.

City Council & Port not listening to citizens

City Council and Mayor listening to public

City Planning / quality development

City water bills are the highest I've ever encountered.

cleaning up after the homeless

Cleaning up the filth downtown, unruly and aggressive transients, sleeping and litter and human waste left on the street and in doorways. People no longer want to work or spend time downtown. And bicyclist and skateboarders on the sidewalk. Downtown, not a pleasant place.

climate issues such as putting a moratorium on coal and oil trains and fossil fuel transport

through and out of Whatcom County and this should be number one

Commercial Vacancies Downtown

**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

Connect with I-5  
Cooperation with other Govt. entities  
Cordata neighborhood needs a library and a completed park!  
Corrupt Police Department  
Cost of living in Bellingham  
Crime  
Crime AND DRUG PROBLEM  
Crime concerns  
Crime, mental illness, illicit drugs  
Daycare providers and affordability  
Dealing with climate change  
deemphasize diversity and emphasize community  
Development of Jobs - Manufacturing businesses  
Development of Waterfront  
difficult and expensive place to do business  
discipline in fiscal management  
discourage sprawl and encourage infilling  
Don't allow over building of the available open space.  
Downtown Development, urban infill & maintaining economic diversity  
Drug abuse  
Drug addiction services  
Drug addiction treatment, mental health assistance  
drug epidemic  
Drug manufacturing, delivery and culture.  
drug use and sales  
ease up on govt regulations which is stifling business  
Economic development of waterfront  
Elder Services for caregivers  
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure  
Emergency mental health services  
Employment opportunities  
Employment opportunities  
Ending dependence on fossil fuels and developing resilience to the effects of climate change  
enforce anti distracted driving  
Enforcement and regulation of house zoning (ie single family homes) and college student behavior in neighborhood (parties, noise, too many people living in a residence)  
Enforcement of traffic laws  
enforcement of zoning regulations  
Environmental damage- coal, oil, water quality, air quality  
environmental protection  
Environmental regs, permitting, NIMBYs have prevented local development and increased costs while driving down living wage opportunities  
Excessive Local Gov. Costs  
family wage jobs  
finding a viable option for building a new jail, dealing with repeat bike thieves  
Finishing the port project correctly.  
food desert in alderwood, racism in police/jail  
Friendliness to Small Businesses

**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

Functional neighborhood identity  
Funding for Arts and Culture Development  
Gang activity  
gangs, graffiti, drugs  
Get Rainbow Center OUT!!!! What it brings is not good.  
going downtown, there's no public bathroom  
Governmental big wigs pushing their weight around to push through the projects they want done.  
Grow the economy sustainably with a mix of blue and white collar jobs. Once again, too many Western grads are leaving, but let's make sure that Bellingham doesn't blow up too fast and the only people who can live and work here are techies. Also we need better services for the homeless to get them back on their feet and give them meaningful work  
Growing Senior Population  
Growing Traffic Problems  
Growth  
Growth Management  
growth management  
Growth while maintaining character of residential neighborhoods  
hard to remodel/fix house  
Healthcare options beyond St. Joseph's  
Help for Drug Addicts and Alcoholics  
Helping Small Businesses. Attracting homeless population to town. Safety for families  
high paying jobs  
Higher-skilled jobs  
Homeless people walking around has to be dealt with.  
Homelessness  
household and neighborhood preparedness for natural and economic/social disasters  
Housing affordability, especially for renters.  
Housing for the homeless  
How do I drag?  
how does Bellingham become conscious of itself in a global community  
How to keep growth sustainable, how to limit growth, how to have environmentally beneficial economic development.  
how to pay for the above without taxing people out of their homes  
Hunger  
I am all for environmental friendliness but we need to balance that with supporting our local economy such as the refineries  
I am interpreting "environmental friendliness" as "healthy environment".  
I know many places within Bellingham that used to be safe to use the parks/ trails but you cannot do so now as the homelessness or crime is too high.  
I live 4 blocks North of Downtown, and have lived here since 97.....and in that time the homeless/vagabond issue has exploded. I used to take my kids to more parks and places than I do now. People sleeping in doorways everywhere. Crazy people screaming at the sky day and night in front of my house. Big problem getting rapidly worse.  
I still can't make the drag and drop feature work, which is very frustrating. If the rest of the questions are drag and drop, you will not be getting meaningful answers from me.  
I would like to emphasize. HOMELESSNESS!!!!

**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

I'm bothered by how downtown Bellingham can seem like a homeless camp late at night and a general feeling of lawlessness that's about. I also am bothered by how many people don't follow the local speed limits. I usually go about 40 mph on arterials and most of the time I am tailgated by fuming and aggressive drivers. I'm specifically referring to streets like Lakeway Drive - it seems like an accident waiting to happen.

Improve the quality of STEM education in Middle/High Schools

Increasing diversity

Increasing ethnic diversity

Irresponsible landlords!

Jail

job creation, support entrepreneurship

Job Growth

Jobs and Wages

Jobs that pay living wages

Jobs!!! That pay!

Jobs, Supervise Police

lack of diversity

Lack of political diversity of thought

land preservation, including farm and park land; bike lanes/alternative transportation; LOCAL economic development

limiting population growth; preserving natural environment

Limiting sprawl and making things bike-friendly and non-car owner friendly.

living wage jobs

low density needs more infill, less sprawl, more mix of uses, better walking & cycling

opportunities & safety

low wage jobs

maintain character of single family neighborhoods

Maintain growth without sacrificing quality of life

Maintaining the quality of life here as we grow and the waterfront develops.

maintain neighborhood integrity

Maintenance of streets and public parks. I am also concerned about developers violating the city code.

Managing Growth

managing growth

managing growth/limiting sprawl, protecting lake watch

Maplewood area roads and crime

Mental health and drug addiction services

Mental Health Education and Care

mental health services

mental health treatment for the indigent

Mental Health/Addiction services

Mental Illness services

Mental Illness, drug use

min wage

minimal enforcement of traffic laws

Minorities having too much voice

Monopoly of Peace Health/St. Joe's

more friendly to racial and ethnic diversity

**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

more mental health beds at hospital  
more parks and trails  
much already done - so rated lower  
Need for safe bike lanes  
Need more infill development  
Need to protect and enhance BEAUTY  
Negative public health and safety affects of train horns and unsafe RR crossings  
new jail  
new main library  
no  
no  
No activation of new sewer from Horton Rd north to city limits  
Not just homelessness but the poverty in the area and no mental health services  
Number of marijuana shops  
Opiate Addiction  
opportunities for youth to make a difference  
Our Property taxes are way too high AND keep going up on our fixed income!!!  
Over development of neighborhoods  
Overall affordability  
overpopulation  
park maintenance  
Pedestrian design, reducing and calming traffic  
People need jobs that allow them to live in this community  
planning & development  
Poor planning for industrial space and over regulations  
poor urban planning i.e., Sunset mall, etc.  
population growth  
Population growth  
Preparation for climate change and disasters  
Preserving the unique character of Bellingham, not becoming gentrified, or little "Bellevue!"  
price of water bill, indirect means not voted on by public, even though to protect Lake Whatcom  
better by another means?  
property permits very difficult  
Property Taxes  
protecting wetlands  
Public access to our waterfront  
Public Art/Culture  
Public health engagement in the community  
Public input in the downtown GP property development  
Public roads continue to be a safety issue in the silver shore areas  
Public transportation access for transient folks, and HOUSING options. Affordability not  
necessarily being the key issue.  
quality of hospital  
QUALITY of roads/infrastructure  
Quashing the Sherriff's corrupt jail  
Race Relations  
Racial Profiling  
racial/social/economic equity

**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

Rapid lot development 3+ story building development in residential neighborhoods that's NOT geared towards high-density living  
re:environmental friendliness-doggy poop bag stations and disposal  
Recreation for at-risk teens  
Recycling Compost and Waste Systems  
Reduce taxes  
Reduce Taxes  
Reign in the governmental spending  
removal of "homeless" people, prostitutes and drug dealers from Bellingham  
rental quality and regulation  
Rental safety, especially close to WWU. Rental companies get away with too much negligence (mold, leaks, drug contamination) because student renters aren't as savvy about what is/isn't acceptable.  
renter market, renter laws  
Restrictions on Rental Properties  
Revitalization of Downtown  
Rise in crime, especially petty crime  
Road "safety upgrades" need to stop making it more dangerous for bicyclists  
Road signage & expansion  
Safe crosswalks - street lighting  
Safety in downtown area  
safety of water supply  
Sea Level Rise  
segregation by class-disproportionate growth, lack of housing choices, public schools segregated by income/race, needing to work toward an integrated growth model  
Severely out of balance transportation system. Far too many transportation facilities dedicated to and resources expended on privately owned and operated motor vehicles to the point of encouraging more of the same vicious cycle of unsustainable, NON-local, unhealthy, polluting, enviro-destructive, climate-changing, dangerous, noisy, ugly heavy use, over-reliance of privately owned/operated motor vehicles. Taxation and local/regional/national/global economic structures that encourage more of the same and invites said motorists to shoulder much less than their proportional and fair share of the negative economic, health, environmental and quality of life costs. Inadequate/disconnected bicycle transportation facilities. Complete lack of paved, separated bicycle path facilities/system. Inadequate enforcement of traffic laws.  
Side Walks - Safety for pedestrians  
Small businesses surviving  
Social Justice  
social services! especially support for those with mental illnesses, including addiction, getting upper/middle class people to stop trying to keep "undesirables" out of "their" neighborhood  
speeding of trucks and cars from the mt. pass all the way through town to north of Bhm  
Sprawl  
sprawl and control of design of construction  
surveys :)  
taxation  
Taxes are too damned high  
taxes for small business are a huge issue  
TAXES!!



**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

The City of Bellingham employees need to stop pushing their political agendas and start paying more attention to being civil servants. Businesses need to be supported instead of being overtaxed and over regulated. City employees need to remember where the tax dollars come from that pay their salaries.

The city's preparation for growth.

The disappearance of greenbelts

The downtown core is overrun by homeless. It is not a safe place for families to visit.

The fact that we are a destination city for the homeless

The homeless issue is misleading. Many individuals who are truly homeless will allow themselves to get help from the many resources we have to offer. The transient and criminal who decide to camp out in disrespect the parks, trails and neighborhoods that degrade my children's safety as well as our families enjoyment of the area we live in is a huge problem that I believe this city needs to address.

The mayor put together a group that makes decision about neighborhoods but those people don't include/represent the neighborhood. The planning commission should not only include people from building or real estate, except for 1 person. There needs to be more balance. The group MNAC is intervened on by the mayor and she just tells them stuff, they don't have any power. She has taken away their power to make statements on issues affecting neighborhoods.

The mayor doesn't like to have any opposition.

the outrageous permit fees the city is charging and they keep rising also time once again has increased. this is contributing to housing costs. the employees in these positions are out of control on power trips.

The Port

The watershed

There is major overcrowding of jails and the prices and resources to assist people with mental health problems are outrageous.

Too many Canadians on the roads and in the stores, it affects the activities of daily living for those who live there

too many people moving here

Too many people with mental health issues

TRAFFIC

Traffic

Traffic congestion

traffic issues

traffic, social services

Train noise

train noise

Train quiet zone; protected views

Transients and their crimes

transients in the parks

Transit Oriented Development

UGA-Urban Development

Unemployed people

Urban sprawl

Vagrancy in downtown

Visual Arts

Wages vs Cost of Living

walk-ability--more sidewalks in Samish neighborhood

**Q: Is there another challenge facing Bellingham that was not included in this list?**

water quality issues

WATER!

waterfront cleanup and public space

Waterfront development

We can not answer the above question because the wording is too ambiguous.

We need living wage jobs, less retail.

While my neighborhood is very safe, there are others that are not  
zoning and development

## Concluding Remarks

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

This is an open-ended question asked at the conclusion of the survey, once respondents have had a chance to gauge the subject matter of all survey questions. The following table contains a count of topics that are mentioned. One response may contain multiple topic tags, so total count of topics exceeds total responses.

Count	Answer Category
124	Solve homelessness
104	Improve roads and parking
87	Walkability
72	Improve government management
71	Density management
66	Affordability
66	Community involvement
57	Bikeability
51	Improve parks, greenways, trails and public areas
49	Improve public healthcare including mental health
37	Improve law enforcement
35	Create jobs
34	Help small businesses
31	Develop the economy
31	Develop the waterfront
27	Safety
26	Equity
23	More public transportation
21	Enforce zoning regulations
21	Less regulations and taxes
18	Fix jail system
17	Libraries
17	Protect drinking water
14	Crime
12	Improve schools
10	Train/railroad management
8	Access to Shopping and other services
8	Respect property rights and protect views
5	Improve waste management
5	Raise minimum wage
4	Disaster preparedness
4	Improve EMS

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

### **Verbatim responses**

The following were provided by the respondents and are presented within this report without edit or analysis beyond an attempt to create a count (above) by generally expressed themes.

Very happy with the Bellingham Community and our current way of a happy retirement life. I can see continue development happening here as Vancouver and Seattle continue to grow. I can see that the city and county will have challenges in the next years as a growing number of people continue to move into this area.

There is an increasing amount of retirees in this area and since this is identified as a supportive retirement community a strong understanding of the needs and requirements of this age group need further study.

The continued increase of housing costs and taxes to support this community will determine the demographics of this area and will challenge city planners. More research and development groups will be needed to prepared Bellingham for the inevitable future."

provide shelter & secure areas for protecting the belongings of our homeless population,  
provide more mental health & community service officers

act on the waterfront advisory committee's recommendations

prioritize working harbor /no more high end waterfront facilities

Support the NGO's that help the homeless and addicted so they don't have to resort to panhandling and street crime which reflects poorly on the city. Continue removing homeless camps from public lands and force the use of existing homeless services.

Community discourages opinion different from one political party in community."

"\$15 per hour minimum wage. Bellingham can afford it.

More sidewalks.

"\*My first choice would be to maintain, if needed, and upgrade every street in town' especially the ones that still have drainage ditches (22nd).

\*Back off on the trails and the parks.

\*Stop assuming that Neighborhood Associations are giving voice to what everyone in that neighbor wants. They only do what those who attend the meetings want, if your not a ""simple"" green your not allowed to say anything at the meeting.

\*Transet service- always keep the same route, not change it every 2 years.

\*Stop playing to the greased wheels."

"+ Accelerating waterfront development

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

+ Doing something about Meridian

+ Enforce parking restrictions on south Cornwall Ave. (rec. vehicles)

+ Educate public on how to use or rotaries (turning circles)

+ Improve dog park maintenance

+ Hang in there and ke"

1) Bike lanes on Lakeway Drive or a bike trail on south-side of Lakeway Drive

2) Mental health services for homeless population

3) Perform an extensive study of our government efficiency. Look for ways to do more with less money: Less staffing, removal of unnecessary services, etc. I would love to hear that this was being done, and I would love to hear the results."

"1) In the Public Works project initiation/definition process, I would add a criteria for ""high visibility or likelihood of public interest,"" and create for those projects, a separate process for public stakeholder vetting of the presumed project outcome. I believe that 90+% of PW projects are invisible, well-planned and executed, and should proceed according to current process. But time and time again, PW is caught off-guard by public response when they work on infrastructure that has direct impact on the aesthetics of our environment. They move forward with good intentions on a project like street lights with the same engineering focus they bring to upgrading a water line. But for high-visibility projects, that sometimes happens at great expense to retroactively re-execute projects, and sometimes just at the expense of the quality of life for all citizens. This is largely avoidable with a simple process change in project initiation - find out how much citizens will care before investing lots of time and money.

2) Everyone within the city is frustrated by the challenges of public outreach - people don't pay attention during public comment periods, then often accuse the city of never telling them something was happening and until it's too late to change much. (This would obviously account for challenges with suggestion #1.) However, the process for outreach largely relies on the minimum legally required process (at least according to city personnel defending the process), despite the results so consistently falling short. I would pilot a project to research innovative practices for this problem, and earmark funds to hire outside consulting to design & test promising approaches. I have the definite sense that the city personnel want desperately for better public input and have done their best to promote it, but don't have the internal expertise to design programs that might be more effective.

Both these high-level proposals target critical areas of breakdown between city and citizens, where both sides want the same outcome and yet end up in conflict that costs time, money,

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energy, and perhaps most critically, trust. I believe that if successful, either could provide lessons transferable to other city/public interfaces."

"1) One of the most important actions regarding the Comp Plan update is to ensure that related City documents (Municipal Code, Design guidelines, etc) are also updated. Too often in our neighborhood we have heard that the MC or DG have not been updated to reflect the Comp Plan.

2) When considering a large multi-residential complex, our neighborhood learned that even when a stormwater retention system (pond) is part of the initial agreement for building, there is no city funding to check on these systems in subsequent years.

3) Short plats are exempted from adding or improving street frontage (curbs, sidewalks, streetlights). This exemption should be eliminated.

4a) Individual commercial buildings continue to be built away from the street frontage " with large parking lots between the street & the building. Planning permits should specify proximity to streets.

4b) Developments are built with buildings isolated from each other & separated by parking lots (e.g. Lowe's and neighboring businesses). Thus, people drive from one building to another. They could be clustered.

5) Commercial developments continue to be allowed to place driveways onto arterials. The Bike Master Plan notes the problem this is for people on bikes & neighborhood plans note the problems created for walkers & motorists. Commercial driveways don't contribute to a livable city.

6) I am dismayed that " (shared lane markings) are considered bike infrastructure by the city. They are merely signage, providing no additional protection/safety.

"1) We need strong Development Impact Fees so that developers adequately pay for improvements needed for neighborhoods due to their proposed development. For example, transportation fees, impacts to infrastructure, impact to safety response (police and fire), library system, recreation services.

2) Bellingham needs a strong General Plan so all the diverse neighborhoods within the City fit complement each other.

3) We need to foster WWU's continuing success with an expanded satellite campus on the old Georgia-Pacific site, which will in turn foster Bellingham's success.

4) We need to maximize our transportation advantage (road, airport, seaport, train, public transportation), including focusing on traffic engineering, traffic calming, and anticipating the "Seattle to Vancouver BC Tech Corridor" <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/autonomous-highway-seattle-vancouver-1.3770315>"

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

1) Please, more buses routes, bus stops, more and wider bike trails, more sidewalks.

2) Better schooling: higher standards for the students and more rigorous/advanced teacher training.

Make the Common Core standards a reality in Middle/High schools Bellingham!"

1. Better job development paid with a living wage 2. Homeless population addressed 3. Affordable housing for families

1. Increase neighborhood patrols.

2. Clean up homeless population - maritime heritage park, Wharf street bridge underpass, Roder street - there are a number of homeless areas with high concentrations of homeless people stockpiling stolen bikes and goods. Very frustrating to walk by these areas and have no one from the city doing anything about it.

3. Spend less time, money and effort on the crazy green bike lanes. No one understands them and the bikers still ride wherever they want w/ little regard to car or foot traffic.

"1. Encourage the tiny house movement. I hear ""Bellingham rejected tiny houses as not making financial sense."" This kind of thinking is ignorant. Please reconsider encouraging any and all tiny house neighborhood ideas. Many young people are interested in building a tiny house because that's all that is affordable. Don't stop this--it's a good thing for the environment and for helping our youth be able to afford home ownership.

2. Expand WTA routes to the airport and expand their hours so they can run later in the day and maybe even holidays. We would take the bus to go downtown from the Whatcom Falls area for an evening dinner or outing if the buses didn't stop running so early. We need to encourage mass transit over individuals driving their own cars everywhere.

3. I would gladly pay more taxes if ideas like these were supported. "

"1. focus on this city and avoid wasting resources on playing politics beyond this city.

2. avoid dictating to the public on minutia of daily life..eg bag issue at stores was over-stretch!!

3. involve community in cleaning up and maintaining public areas eg hold regular clean up events to pick up litter. Civic field and facilities are inundated with litter after big events....advertise this and get the public to help with the clean up....it might educate them into not dropping it in the first place and give them some pride of ownership in the state of cleanliness, and reduce the burden on the over-worked staff. At the very least publish how much of the parks budget is spent on picking up litter that the thoughtless drop.

"1. Limit ADU's based on existing zoning. That is, residential, single-family neighborhoods, should not have the ability to add unlimited numbers of ADU's. In the extreme, unlimited ADU's could double the population of a neighborhood. There are few, if any, neighborhoods that can

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sustain that kind of growth. Limits could be placed based on, for example, lot size. So, a lot at lot minimum for that zoning could be restricted to zero ADU's. A lot with 25% above lot minimum, could have the ability to add an ADU that adds 25% of a minimum lot's assumed density; etc. Alternatively, limits could be placed on total ADU's in a neighborhood. Etc.

2. Plan for the decline of the role of libraries in a digital age. Libraries used to be the primary resource for research, pleasure reading, and general information. Today, all of these functions have been replaced by the internet. Libraries have evolved to having a large social-service function for the homeless; providing internet access, warm places to hang out, and social contact.

3. Plan for the increase in use of alternative energy and its impact on electric utility rates.

4. Help motivate programs to improve energy efficiency in the home and workplace. Building code, incentive programs, and education all play a role.

1. Rather than add tax and reduce services, I would reconsider all staff positions, especially managers. The city is manager top heavy. Most times its hard to find a Manager who isnt working on the budget or attending meetings. Not sure how that is actually managing staff. Why cant experienced managers figure out a budget in say one month? 2. Eliminate meetings that waste staff time and replace with buget for more staff training. Meetings to eliminate like "all staff meetings", "supervisor meetings", "good bye parties during worktime", "supervisor appreciation meetings", the list goes on and on. Any meeting where a manager says "we value your opinion" is a waste of everybody's time because the managers do what they want. Just decide stuff and move on. Saves lots of money and increases moral. 3. If you don't like an employee's performance, just tell them. Don't attend 10+ meetings with human resources before telling the employee. Don't you know how to do your job already? 4. There are so many staff positions that are filled, but they are not doing all the tasks in their job descriptions. Ask them to do all of their jobs or overhaul the job description if they are not qualified to do one task for some reason. 5. Hire staff who are fully qualified to fill the positions so you get real value. 6. The city doesn't value those staff that are highly experienced and or overqualified. Give them a raise so you keep the good people vs. being stuck with a bunch of entry level people who need a lot of training. 7. STOP RENOVATING AND RELOCATING STAFF. It's hard to believe the budget needs added taxes when such actions are taken. 8. Promote beauty. Make design development standards for beautifying all types of development including remodels. Mostly regarding non residential development. Beauty increases value & quality of life. 9. Require dogs be registered, especially if in dog parks. 10. Focus on Maintenance. We have valuable raingardens, street trees, parks etc. Maintain them. Increase that staff and give them the resources they need. 11. Make a law that allows police to ticket & sweep homeless living in right of ways. 12. Use city vehicles longer. Eliminate the mandatory vehicle replacement thing. 13. Times have changed. Consider what positions you actually font need. Consider filling positions of work you do need done, like maintenance. 14. Figure out how to save money in the IT realm. Maybe don't get new phone systems for millions of dollars, etc. Thank You.



**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

"1. Work harder to rejuvenate the downtown--there are many examples of what works in other cities close to our size.

2. Homelessness is getting worse. Rules need to be determined and enforced, along with more mental health services and shelters.

3. The more than decade-long lack of progress at the GP site is inexcusable. Too much process (the Seattle way). Folks need to make decisions and declare enough input is enough! Many groups will never be satisfied; but that is why we elect city leaders to act after appropriate input has occurred.

4. Revisit planning guidelines and codes to prevent developers from creating tenements like the one going up on Forest St. A visit to Vancouver, BC reveals how moderate and even low income housing can be attractive and FIT the neighborhood.

5. Require homeowners in neighborhoods to be responsible for overgrown trees and hedges that block sidewalks and alleys. "

"1. Work is needed on the growing numbers of homeless in town.

We need to help them as much as we can; but not let them define the downtown district.

2. We also need to think carefully about the expansion of multi-unit housing on the north side of town. What I would like to see done is to build up the established core of Bellingham, and not have more and more growth of isolated suburban neighborhoods, accessible only by automobile, that are centered on strip malls or artificially constructed shopping centers."

"1.) Maplewood needs to be re-paved.

2.) The NW crosswalk on the round-a-bout at Northwest Ave and Mcleod is not safe due to the large retaining wall which blocks the sight of cars. My son will cross the street on Mcleod near the driveway of the Baptist church because he can't see if cars are coming around the corner off Northwest.

3.) Though probably not feasible, I would love if it the signal lights at Meridan and Telegraph were timed better so the traffic, going onto the freeway heading north, didn't clog the intersection and middle lane of traffic under the overpass on Meridan. Cars just sit in the middle of the street, blocking traffic, stuck, waiting for the signal to turn, holding up other cars going in the opposite direction. There is a similar situation on Sunset heading east off the freeway, approaching the shopping center on the left.

Nice work on the Alabama Hill bike lane! I also am truly grateful for several of the roundabouts (too many to list) as they do ease traffic congestion considerably, making it much easier to navigate around town.

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Also, I am wondering if anyone has ever considered or proposed an open air covered playground, maybe housed in a pavilion type structure? It would be great if kids could get outside when it is pouring and run around, play, without getting soaking wet in the process. The cold is not so bad, but being cold and wet is different. Difficult to run and play tag with umbrellas. Nice, too, if it had some sort of small track around the perimeter for mini-races, sack-hops etc. The pavilion could possibly house children's fairs and even, maybe provide some kind of temporary structure in case of a disaster, such as an earthquake. Maybe be a type of focal point for the community which could serve as triage in case of an emergency. There are not many places, if any, we can go that would be open, out of the rain and accessible as an emergency meeting place outside our home and neighborhood in case of a huge earthquake.

On a last note, I really love and appreciate Boulevard Park, and think it is a true success story to the beauty of Bellingham. Having a Woods coffee in there, with it's fireplace with a view, is a great place to go to, have as a destination after, or between, a bike-ride or a walk. Thank you for the parks and trails everywhere, as well as the music in the Park series. The summer music in the Park Series ranks up there as one of my favorite aspects of living here. Lovely to see and watch all the families enjoy their dinners while listening and dancing to music!

"1. Have more community forums & opportunities for citizens, especially those of goodwill, to interact with city officials; electeds and departmental leadership. Don't just handle public input through hearings/EIS, etc; create more opportunities for creative interaction.

2. Bring more persons representing success stories in environmental, transportation, planning from other cities of similar size or scale; publicize these better (virtually no publicity reached me about the recent Charles Marohn visit)

3. Special need to have Bellingham learn about how cities can create better neighborhoods, less motor vehicle traffic, less noise AND greater density--which means more shopping and services/recreational opportunities closer to home.

4. Educate the merchant community about how parking can be managed better, not simply expanded.

5. Work with the school district to actively discourage the excessive driving of children to and from school; have more after school activities AT THE SCHOOLS. Truly encourage the safe walking to school at the level of effort it needs. Charge for staff and student parking at high schools and community colleges."

"13 year old WMS student: change high school start/end times

39 year old female: increase focus on equity issues in our community"

"A couple of notes about my neighborhood: Cornwall Park area. Cornwall Ave has a high school and elementary school, yet cars drive aggressively on the avenue--way too fast considering that it's a residential neighborhood with schoolchildren frequently walking and biking to school. A

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

little more policing might help. My wife watched a child get hit by a car recently and of course another child was killed on Cornwall a few years ago. People treat the road as if it's an artery, yet it's still a residential/school neighborhood.

I ride my bike daily. Cornwall Ave area has some ridiculous green boxes for bikes painted on the asphalt at several intersections. Nobody in this town has any idea what they are for. I'm all for encouraging people to bike to work, school, etc., but some of these efforts--green boxes painted on the streets--don't make any sense. A few more Greenways, bike lanes would help more than the Greenways.

A few more police, and try to figure out the homeless situation. Also try to foster a few high rise apartments/condo's downtown.

A library branch in Cordata would be great!

A little Less emphasis on environmental stuff and more on maintaining the things we have. The new Squalicum park is most well designed, mixed use park I have ever seen. Kudos to the city.

"A Lummi Cultural Center as a focal point of the new waterfront development with carving classes, canoeing, history classes, and traditional arts for all ages to bring the Lummi Culture front and center.

A renaming of the Pickett Bridge -- General Pickett may have built Fort Bellingham and a bridge across the creek, but he also fought to keep black people enslaved. It's time to retire his name -- it won't wipe out his past contribution or ties to our history -- but gives the honor and visibility to someone else. Someone who better upholds the values we espouse as a community today and for future generations. There's no place for hate in Bellingham.

Bring food security back to neighborhoods that don't have ready access to fresh food and groceries. There's at least one food desert in Bellingham -- let's get that fixed.

Require all box stores to have solar on their roofs.

"A permeable walkway down South Street before there is a death to make it happen.

Those of us who walk/cycle down South Street to get the the 36th Street entrance to the Gorge Trail (to Padden) take our lives into our hands!

There have been countless injuries to many people. A 'grating' over one of the ditches would improve our safely greatly.

We have tried to no effect to get a safe walkway put there.

PLEASE DO THIS BEFORE SOMEONE DIES trying not to be run down by a driver going too fast on the stair steps."

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A program rewarding local businesses and/or residents for planting and keeping trees on their properties within city limits.

A review of street and trail lighting placement would be helpful.

"above mentioned - increase attractiveness of social envt & opportunities to greater range of racial/ethnic groups.

Foster civic engagement across partisan divides within community; maybe between city and county even? I'd like to think we could do better here than we are doing as a country right now. this might take the form of creating or helping sponsor discussion- based approaches to common good.

Increase authentic youth participation and stake in governance and civil society... perhaps through partnership with non-profit group that might take on goals such as the above as part of their mission."

"Accept that the city is growing fast into a medium sized city, and that to make housing affordable, more supply is needed. If citizens do not want to annex new developments, then in-fill is necessary. This means working with investors and developers to develop Old Town, the Waterfront, the urban villages, and allowing easier ADU development in all core neighborhoods.

Cleaning up the parks is essential. Our police personnel are top quality. We need to allow them to enforce laws already on the books regarding safety and health in the parks. We also need to agree with the County to build the new jail.

We should have both an Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness Plan in place. This is a once every 300+ year event, but most residents and visitors along the waterfront have not thought about what to do when a tsunami occurs. Many of our big events, including the Fourth of July celebration and the Sea to Ski race, are at our lowest points of elevation. How could people get to higher ground soon enough from Zuanich or Marine Parks? What is our evacuation plan from the new Waterfront Development. Similarly, most homes and buildings have not been retrofitted for earthquakes. We will get one. How we prepare our community and educate our children to survive this event will probably have longer lasting meaning than much of the other things in this survey."

Actively encourage businesses to move to or be created in Bellingham. This town needs more living wage jobs to sustain our quality of life. Consider providing short-term subsidized shared work centers in several different parts of the community to allow start-ups and businesses considering Bellingham to use the space(s). You could implement this by leasing some under-utilized existing spaces under long-term, upgrade the improvements to the spaces with workstations, internet/phone, kitchen, conferencing then sub-leasing for short-term. Create a business-to-city liaison to facilitate business growth.

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Actively seize abandoned properties (those for which property taxes are hopelessly in arrears) so they can be cleaned up and sold for redevelopment. I'm thinking of the many empty storefronts in my neighborhood (Columbia/Fountain) along Meridien. (Though I don't actually know whether their property taxes are unpaid.)

"Add sidewalks in the older neighborhoods. Add more stop signs and cross walks.

Create more opportunities for citizen involvement in planning and housing affordability solutions groups.

Quite favoring the development community.

Enforce city housing codes and zoning to increase more affordability.

Additional homeless services

Address homelessness please. It's heartbreaking to see people suffering, especially elders and youth

Address homelessness, drug addiction, mental illness before it gets out of hand and makes the city a less safe and desirable place to be. Spending more money on housing is not fully addressing the underlying issues. Bike lanes and sidewalks on Samish Way all the way to lake Padden. There a lot of bikers and pedestrians along Samish Way. There is a good amount of shoulder along side the road but I wouldn't call it safe. The new bike lanes in the Cornwall area are a waste of money. There is already a good bike lane there, no need for the green boxes. Spend the money to increase safe access in other places around town instead of going over the top with areas that are already adequate.

"Address the transient community needs. Fund the mental health and drug rehabilitation. Zero tolerance for illegal camps.

Keep up the hard work of balancing growth with parks/trails/outdoor recreation. Our city trails and parks is one of our City's greatest assets."

Affordable housing and addressing homelessness is of major importance. The rich should be taxed higher to finance solution of these problems. Minimum wage should be higher so working people can afford to have housing, food, and health coverage. There is no excuse for the way this country is doing away with the middle class to have the upper class get off the chart richer.

"After resolving the transients loitering downtown, make the train quiet zones the top priority.

Aggressive educational efforts to convey the severity of the massive crisis our society faces with intensifying impacts of climate change and the accelerating destruction of the ecosystems we are a part of and depend on. Educating citizens on the historical roots of our society's crisis and how capitalism, colonialism, imperialism and patriarchy are fundamental pillars that need to be transformed. Encouraging all citizens to engage in efforts to transform our economy toward a

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model of meeting all peoples basic needs without destroying the ecosystem we are a part of and depend on. Also seeking to strengthen local resilience and ability to withstand the effects of inevitable global economic crisis we will experience in the next decades.

Allow ADU's in all neighborhoods to promote growth within the city and allow for more affordable housing.

Although I have learned the bike trails around town, it can significantly lengthen the commute. I would love to be able to bike to and from Sudden Valley, out North Shore road and down Lakeway but the limited shoulders and narrow roads concern me. I love the new green bike lanes and can only figure that we should continue to consider how we can develop safe ways to navigate around the city without driving.

As a board member of my neighborhood association and the MNAC, I have seen how difficult it is for my neighborhood and other neighborhoods to successfully engage with the neighbors. I think it would be helpful for the city to launch a civic outreach program that seeks to increase engagement both with neighborhood associations and with city government. I know we could do this just within our neighborhood, but I believe that a city-wide effort would be more efficient and also more successful.

As a leader I would make sure we got value for the tax dollars spent and budget yearly for future needs like any normal family rather than depend on bond issues every year. This year alone, if all the bond issues go through, my property taxes will increase in the vicinity of \$300 to \$400 without increases needed by the city budget. I personally do not get a raise in my annual income that would cover the increases in taxes. If my income is flat lined by the economy so should the city's. That would be a positive in the long run for the community. Do more with less, just like your average citizen.

As someone whose house is largely powered with solar energy, I'd like to see the city invest in conversion to solar and other renewables in a more visible manner, e.g., new public buildings powered 100% by solar with excess used to cover the electric bills of low-income residents. A roof not covered with solar is a roof wasted, and with all the excellent banking programs the energy utilities provide here in WA, we're missing an opportunity to both become energy independent as well as ensure no one in the city ever has to worry about keeping the light or heat on.

As the parent of a developmentally disabled individual I am concerned about the availability of options for entertainment, and housing (of which there is very limited options.) The Max Higbee program is wonderful!! It would be nice to be able to expand that with a larger space where there could be more opportunity to promote physical activity.

Attempt to mitigate the effects of homelessness, particularly in the downtown area, and increase police presence there.

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Availability of quality child care impacts economic development, productivity, and ultimately the education of our children. Please consider this very important aspect of supporting the quality of life in our city.

"Ban begging on the corners. Stop supporting the homeless. Get them out.

"Be careful of over-regulating businesses.

Eliminate the parking meters downtown. They are adversarial and are a deterrent to shopping/doing business downtown. The revenues in increased B&O taxes will make up for loss of meter revenue."

Be frugal with our money.

Be more aggressive in addressing the negative impacts of homelessness on our neighborhoods, downtown, and environment.

Be more fiscally conservative.

"Be more open about planning and spending.

Who came up with the goofy and spendy ideas on the fancy crosswalk patterns a couple years ago that just wore away? And the green shirt strips for bikers? Complete waste of money.

There are also the behind the scene deals the city works with developers at the expense of the homeowners and renters. This city is getting to expensive to live in. "

Be more supportive of small business owners. Accelerate permit processes, create tax incentives, etc.

"Bellingham already has placed very high in a number of studies having to do with health - this can be a great incentive for a business to recruit workers. A healthy workforce tends to be more productive. So economic growth can be tied to promoting healthy lifestyles. All activities which can emphasize human powered activities; recreational programs, biking, protecting our beautiful environment contribute to the quality of life and economic growth.

Homelessness is unlikely to be solved by any single city. This will require a reinvestment in affordable housing at a much larger scale and providing an alternative to de-institutionalizing people with mental health issues."

Bellingham has a lot going for it. I'm pretty satisfied and grateful to be part of this community.

Bellingham has as long as I've lived here been a city that places its priorities on upscale issues, while ignoring the fact that the majority of its residents do not have upscale incomes and upscale lifestyles to pay the upscale taxes that are needed to work on the upscale priorities.

Bellingham does an outstanding if not over-the-top job with public transportation, environmentalism, and green space projects, but while environmental issues are great to solve

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they are also expensive to fix. Bellingham residents have lower household incomes and higher housing costs than their counterparts in much smaller neighboring cities. There's little excuse for not having a quality long term plan for population growth and economic development that raises incomes and decreases housing costs. As much as I would love to see improvements such as sidewalks in my neighborhood so I can go jogging without fear of being hit by a car, know that the water coming out of my tap is not going to turn my tub pink any longer, and be able to enjoy local culture on a scale larger than the other cities in the region, I realize that I'm a little luckier than most. Most people I know and meet are more concerned that they can't find a quality job than that their drinking water is clean, and are more concerned that they'll never be able to afford a house than that we have more bike lanes in this constantly rainy climate. A solid foundation builds a strong house, but Bellingham is constantly a city with a weak foundation but lovely curb appeal.

Bellingham is a GREAT place to live. Thanks for making it so.

"Bellingham is wonderful but has its challenges, especially for lower to middle income families. Huge imbalance between housing costs and wages makes affordable rentals and houses to purchase very hard to come by. We need more and better family wage jobs if we are going to have a sustainable housing market. Great schools, but need improvements to the library system with more branches and extended hours. Focus on restoring and adding habitat and recreation features to the shoreline to build connection with Puget Sound.

Support for low income families with city utilities- that huge water bill every other month is brutal when you are living paycheck to paycheck and there is no assistance available, unlike other utilities. "

"Bellingham Library merge in with the Whatcom County Library System

Reach a decision to help pay for a replacement of the dilapidated Whatcom County Jail

Bellingham/Whatcom County is currently in the cross hairs of the transport of the fossil fuel industry, with the transport of fossil fuels to other countries (i.e. coal/oil trains, Cherry Point, et al). At this time in history, we have the opportunity to set a precedent as an example to other communities and countries by stopping - permanently - the transport of fossil fuels through our communities. Fossil fuels are a dying commodity - hence the deep sea drilling, fracking, and tar sands mining. The more this commodity wanes, the harder and more expensive and more dangerous it is to obtain, and the more polluting it becomes. And, we all know well that fossil fuels are destroying our world. The time has come when we humans, starting in our own community, must admit to this situation and take positive action, NOW! Not sometime in the distant future. We must immediately educate our communities and support ways that will transition our community, and be an example for other communities, away from fossil fuels and into green energy and better transportation programs. This in turn will create more jobs, in the green sector, for those who are displaced by the fading out of fossil fuels. In addition, one of the main issues in our world is overpopulation and over growth of communities. Therefore we must



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begin to focus on slowing both of these situations down, drastically. Non-stop growth is what cancer does. It is important that we recognize this and do something about it, before it is totally too late. For many years our economics and politics have focused on growth. The time for that has come to an end and must be recognized as such and action taken to change it. We must learn and invent new ways to keep afloat without continued growth. When cancer is allowed to continue its growth, its host dies. If we want to survive, we must stop thinking in terms of growth/quantity and start thinking in terms of quality.

Bellingham's future depends upon a healthy and safe environment

Better job opportunities for young folks

better sidewalks, quicker response by police

Better traffic-slowing devices on major roads (e.g. "Your speed" lights, alternating-block stop signs, etc.); longer library hours; incentives to move commerce and entertainment into the downtown area.

"Bicycle lanes are confusing and hard to navigate despite Bellingham being heavy with bike traffic.

There are many streets in neighborhoods that lack sidewalks as well that make pedestrians feel unsafe walking places that are walking distance away.

I think fixing those problems with the roads should definitely be further looked into if I were to take a next step in city development rather than expanding. "

Bicycle riders need to so they fit in their lane. They ride double wide, they need lights at all times, and isn't it obvious that bicycles use roads? What up with the wasted paint for a bicycle "logo" prior to a cross walk? And all the green paint, obvious is obvious. I don't even know what the green paint on the ground by Cornwall and Alabama means. Does it mean a bicycle rider can cut in front of a car because we have to stop behind the green? Seems to be a big waste of money. Well marked lanes are great, but obvious is obvious. Just because you have the money doesn't mean you have to use it all. What happened to all those banners Whatcom Transit put up? Well at least the brackets lasted longer than the banners, because you can still see them on the poles. Kind of like the "parking lot" lighting that was done on Broadway a few years ago. Sure, you can remove the poles and reuse them, but all the wiring is still there. Ooops, guess these aren't very positive.

Bicycling safety: Specifically city should work to enforce use of lights by cyclists riding at night. City should prioritize homelessness issue.

bike lane on electric and down lakeway

bike lanes (Lakeway!) , sidewalks, Farmers Market is wonderful. Mt Baker tix cost too much.

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Bike routes that are not on major streets would be great. I do not think bakeries or holly are great examples for directing bike traffic. Send them to a secondary street and connect bike lanes throughout town to reduce car reliance.

"Bike safety.

In general, there are great paths. However, there are some tight spots for bikers.

I feel safe walking as an adult white male.

I worry about safety as my teenaged daughter walks about town or takes the bus. The ""Clown Face"" drug users on Railroad scare me. My daughter needs to get on the bus on Railroad, to get to school. IT SCARES ME!

The mentally ill people on Railroad, and Marine Park are scary too. Both of my kids need to go through those areas to get to school. We need to get medical help for some of those people, and get them back on their psych meds.

Birchwood needs a grocery store! Encourage infill with smaller buildings and allowing small (700 square feet or less) detached and attached accessory dwelling units that are no more than 1.5 story (as in 1 story plus attic or loft space) tall in single home zoned neighborhoods near downtown and fairhaven cores. Do not allow homeowner associations.

Bring back the SNOWFLAKES in downtown! Don't turn GP site into another ridiculous shopping area. We don't need anymore shops in this town! Another nice park with a merry-go-round of either endangered or Northwest animals would be lovely. Solar powered, even better! Do whatever is necessary to protect Lake Whatcom. And please, help out the homeless and troubled people in our community.

Bring in better variety of shopping stores, and develop the water front with shops, boutiques and restaurants, to help with small business entrepreneurship and give character to our fabulous bay.

Bring more professional jobs here.

"Bring protected bike lanes into town. Hehe cars parked right next to the road and the bike lanes behind the parked cars. Institute this now before the population grows exponentially. Also, we need more community gardens put them everywhere and allow people to own their food and have a stress relieving and community building area.

Perhaps even tying in a job training/skill building community garden for those who are homeless, jobless, or with mental illness"

Build a new library!!!!!!

Build natural playgrounds that attract usage with various age groups that add to existing areas not take away from them by taking up space (proposed playground in Broadway Park). Also

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more off-leash areas that are NOT dog parks. Dog ownership is huge in this area, dogs require safe open areas to run freely on grass (not wood chips). These areas, much like playgrounds for young children, promote social interaction but in addition to playgrounds for children promote exercise for dog owners. Dog parks, stereotypically, promote lazy dog ownership. Owners do not always have control over their animals because they are confined, these areas have greater levels of excrement per Re-Sources volunteer I spoke to, and do not promote exercise of owner. I am usually unable and unwilling to go to dog parks because animals there can be more aggressive. Many residents use neighborhood parks, which is forbidden, to run their dogs. Many of these areas go unused/underused by other groups. I also do not understand putting in baseball fields that require high degrees of maintenance, water, lighting (all expensive) that are only used seasonally and even then rarely, but we don't have enough off leash areas, a decent swimming pool, etc. These are things that would be used year round and by more groups of people. I think often we think of recreation we think of kids, and honestly that is just a small part of our population. We have so many playgrounds that get used so infrequently, it's infuriating to think they want to put additional ones in my neighborhood in a park that is highly used when there are so many other options nearby, when other areas of town like Birchwood have so few.

Build something to alleviate the lack of parking in Fairhaven. The privately run Parking District is obsolete and will do nothing.

"Build the boardwalk between Boulevard Park and Cornwall Avenue.

Continue bicycle safety improvements.

Improve homeless conditions."

Bus at night. There is no public transportation to come back from downtown to my house after 6 or 7.

Bus stops are too far from my location to make it worthwhile to walk (10 to 15 minutes) then wait for a bus to go somewhere! More bus stops would be helpful.

Businesses, large and small, generate jobs and revenue. Yet our county does little to encourage a climate for sharing the "revenue Load". We must create an inviting atmosphere to entice new businesses. Constantly increasing property taxes, cob taxes on existing homes and businesses is short-sighted.

Caregivers need help. Anything the city can do to provide services for caregivers and families with members who have dementia or other illnesses where the sufferer slowly declines over time would be really helpful.

Cars heading southbound on Elm St. have to go around a curve that has limited visibility of eastbound cars coming on to Elm from North St. It would be nice to have a sign on Elm saying something like "Traffic Entering" or something. Thank you.

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Change all of Alabama St back to two lanes. This is an ARTERIAL, bikers can use side streets that are safer for them anyway. Some of the center curbs are good idea to reduce congestion by reducing turns mid block - but going to one lane in parts of Alabama St has increased congestion. People are driving more aggressive than ever on this street because they are frustrated. This was a waste of city dollars.

City leaders need to take a closer look at the budget when it comes to parks. They are continually buying new properties for large parks (the future Cordata Park is a great example of a very, very high maintenance park) but not hiring more staff to take care of them or giving longer months and benefits to the valuable 26-week seasonal facilities workers who open and close the parks, maintain the restrooms and provide garbage control.

"Clarifying earlier- emergency first responders are great; what could use a huge improvement is our health care choices, which are currently not great at all. Maybe Bellingham is too small, but we have very few options for emergency medical care that are near by.

Environmentally, some of the City programs are really outstanding, while others could use some improvements.

Overall, the City does a good job and I do enjoy the quality of life I live here."

Clean up my own house before asking for more tax dollars

Clean-up of the down-town port area to improve the aesthetic value and access to all citizens of the county/city. Decrease amount of fossil fuels that traverse the city via train/trucks. In-fill residential lots within the city to accommodate increase in population. Encourage more affordable housing.

Combining school buses and public transport

Community financed solar projects. Downzone lake whatcom watershed. Use asb pond on mill site for storm water remediation. Use mill site for skilled job creation not low paying hotel/tourism jobs.

Consider extending the sidewalk from Hawthorn road up Fieldston Rd.

Continue the bike lanes and bicyclists safety. Try to take care of the most used streets, such as fixing potholes. Do not put 3 stop signs in a 4 way intersection, I have seen people think they can go through and that is hazardous.

Continue to connect neighborhoods to the inter urban trail/consider adding over the roadway crossings to balance car and bike/foot traffic.

Continue to develop the waterfront. Raise speed limit on Alabama back to 35. Raise all 25 mph speed limits to 30 except on non-arterial residential streets and school zones. Reduce property taxes for those of us that don't have children.

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Continue to keep free/affordable gatherings for families and multi-generational citizens sponsored by local businesses on the top of the priority list; keep Bellingham unique.

Continue to promote local economy, buy local, support local. Increase transparency of council members funding sources. We live in a vibrant place, how do we keep it this way as the population continues to grow. Promote community wellness efforts- walking programs etc as our populations become more sedentary.

"continue to work on walkability, bikability within community,

enforce rules on driving while texting, talking on cell phones

continue to support downtown businesses, continue to encourage infilling

Continued education efforts aimed at drivers. As a daily walker I am painfully aware that many drivers ignore pedestrians right of way at intersections, even at lighted crossings. Also, drivers need some reminders about the rights of bikers.

Continued efforts to address the mental health and substance abuse issues in our community.

Continued emphasis on greenways and land acquisition. Purchase Galbraith Mountain. Build more parking on the Birch Street side. Continue HIP program, AIS program at Blodel, and hold homeowners and utilizers of Lake Whatcom accountable for use of Roundup, pesticides, etc. Focus towards sustainability in the city--banning of plastic bags is great. Banning of organophosphates would be a good next step.

Continuing to work on the homelessness issue in Bellingham would be my primary concern. I know there have been efforts to try and tackle the problem, but as a resident of the city it seems like there are more homeless people than ever in recent months.

Coordinate with county to fix water issues. Fix intersection of Fraser and Valencia--currently a fatal accident waiting to happen. Review street planning guidelines to prevent another intersection being completed so poorly. Find funding to assist mentally ill and get them housed and fed. Take initiative and support the stoppage of fossil fuel transportation, refining, and production and create strong support for solar/wind development. Put together a task force to reform the Bellingham Police Department to be MORE POLITE and LESS RACIST.

"Create more affordable housing for young people without building more or using more land by allowing home owners who already have extra land or large outbuildings (garages) to build rental units/mother-in-law units for rent. The city currently works at not allowing this; when most cities in N. America are working on infill residences so that they can limit the amount new building yet create more housing capacity.

Change city code to allow creative building structures that (meet and exceed code) but are cheaper to build, such as cob housing. [While still maintaining a high public appearance code].

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Outlaw motorized boating on our water shed Lake Whatcom; and get tough (legally) on the use of harmful chemicals by residents who live on the lake. [i.e. solvents and finishes used on decks, docks, housing etc].

Dream Stuff:

Build bike paths as far out to Mt. Baker as possible, possibly a route up to the Canadian boarder/out to the County.

Clean up the biggest super fund sites; especially the mercury filled lagoon from GP in our harbor.

Get the railway off our waterfront by running it on the old infrastructure that still exists out in the county. BNSF trains themselves are horrible polluters not to mention the toxic payloads they carry. Somehow come up with the money to buy the land back from them and get trains off the waterfront.

Create people-oriented places. Support Smart Trips, this program does amazing things and is way more affordable than building infrastructure. Don't provide any incentives for Big Box stores. Create incentives and foster more infill and affordable housing. Partner more with WTA to increase development close to existing bus routes. I would love to see detached adu's in every neighborhood. We don't need anymore roads, it is already too expensive to maintain the ones we have. We need more sidewalks, cross walks and bike lanes and less parking required for commercial and residential development.

"-Create/promote affordable housing

-create/promote amenities for people living without adequate shelter: ie: 'shower trucks'; public restrooms

-foster a community that cares about all people, embracing diversity at all levels

-develop city-wide 'work part"

"Creating a more vibrant downtown that would draw a heavier population of upstanding citizens who CARE about our community and keeping it healthy, safe and strong:

1. Decreasing rent on commercial store fronts to increase occupancy.
2. Creating a stronger Central Area of downtown where more activities take place throughout the year to draw more people down town.
3. Helping the Homeless: Not allowing the homeless to sleep (day or night) on the sidewalks or alcoves of open or closed businesses. AND not allowing camping on public sidewalks/thoroughfares - like by the Granary Buliding/Waterfront area. AND Not allowing the homeless to lock their shopping cart to light poles or street signs for days on end.
4. Make parking more affordable IF meters are absolutely necessary, ie: \$.25 per hour."

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"Crime prevention through excellent recreation opportunities, free cultural programs educational opportunities and quality of life for all. Keep the library free. More fees for services will cut out the most vulnerable. School district is doing great with leveling the playing field for all families.

Many of things I voted most important as far as why I love Bellingham don't necessarily have to be city priorities because there may be other groups who can take the lead on recreation, culture, etc. The city does have to worry about things like our infrastructure. We won't really be able to farm that out.

One thing the city can do:

MUNICIPAL BROADBAND!!!!!!!!!"

cut down on all of the new parks

Decentralize and distribute homeless services. Include more pedestrian activated stop crossings on Holly, Elm, Meridian and Northwest. Enforce loitering/property crimes in Marine Heritage Park. Begin the legal and policy framework for regulating rail travel speed and safety, local and state level.

Develop a real plan for the waterfront that incorporates public spaces including parks and community meeting rooms, retail, tourist attractions, affordable and unaffordable housing, and easy access and parking for visitors

Develop parks in the north end before allowing any more residential development.

Develop the waterfront. Hold down property taxes.

Development the GP site in my lifetime.

Do not let Bellingham become a high-tech center or bedroom community. Value Bellingham's working class roots. Create more opportunities for public access to Lake Whatcom and waterfront access to Bellingham Bay. Bring back the San Juan ferry.

Do not let gentrification happen! Offer incentives for small business owners as we are part of what makes this community great and yet what rewards or incentives do we receive? Also, traffic is already getting heavy and I do think the city has made errors in recent road and sidewalk revisions.

Do not want accessory dwellings approved for absentee landlords. That will destroy our neighborhoods. Do not want increased density in currently zoned residential only neighborhoods. Changing the zoning on accessory dwellings over the summer was devious and underhanded. We need to improve affordability but approving non-resident accessory dwellings will increase buy out by big money to rent to students and destroy affordability even further.

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Do what you have to do to attract companies to the area that would provide living wage jobs. Support green manufacturing efforts instead of supporting efforts to shut down manufacturing facilities. Cap the number of micro-breweries, we have enough drunk and stoned hippies in this community as it is, we don't need more. Clean up Railroad Avenue loitering and homeless groups that hang out there. Actually enforce building permitting laws and fine and convict those that build without permitting that have gone this route because housing costs and regs are so out of control that on every block in my neighborhood people are converting sheds into living quarters and renting them out for income (this is against zoning, doesn't meet permit laws, brings dangerous people and drugs into our community, and looks awful and the permit office's response over the phone was "we simply don't have the resources to enforce the laws" - something needs to be done about the increasing construction of non-permitted "human coops" around Bellingham - this is turning into pseudo tent-city in some areas). And finally, change our City's awful motto "City of Subdued Excitement" that's terrible and depressing, lets change the lazy attitude this promotes!

"Do whatever it takes to force Albertsons to permit a grocery store in its old space on Birchwood Avenue.

It is a huge burden to hundreds of families and individuals, for whom driving is a challenge, to get to Fred Meyers or Haggens. People should be able to WALK in less than 15 minutes to a grocery store.

The city should be ashamed it cannot help provide reasonable access groceries to one of its most vulnerable populations."

"Don't permit multi family units or college dormitory houses in established residential neighborhoods. It causes parking congestion and unsafe conditions for children playing, and it's detracts from the character and flavor of the neighborhoods, those neighborhoods are what gives Bellingham it's charm

Relocate the Lighthouse Mission to Iron-gate Rd and reclaim Marine Heritage Park for the Citizens of Bellingham

Support Downtown Merchants and encourage more businesses downtown. Planting all the trees was a great idea. Do more like that so that downtown can thrive. Walking down a beautiful tree lined city street is way better than walking around a mall. Make it easier for building owners to rent second stories as living space, to encourage people to actually live downtown and support downtown business."

During this election, there was several tax items on the ballot. One of the arguments against the EMS was the tax dollars are limited and we need a new prison. I would ask for better communication on the over all design of what the taxes are going for and if the city council is in favor of the levies. Of course, I want excellent EMS service and trails, but if that comes at a cost of not being able to afford to fix the roads or fund our schools, I would probably make different



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choices. It was hard to make decisions now regarding taxes for a few items this year when I don't know what will need to be paid for in the coming years.

"Economic growth for future

Curbing neighborhood street completely- neighborhood streets flood

Homelessness / Crime"

Educate bicyclists and skateboarders on proper behavior while on the road. Even though skateboarders should not be on the road.

Educate residents who own dogs that there is a leash law!! And, that there are alternative parks for off-leash runs, that are inappropriate for city neighborhoods.

Efforts should be made to promote business growth and employment opportunities so there are decent jobs that allow people to afford housing and to live in this community. It is the wrong focus to provide "affordable housing". If there were better business, job opportunities the problem of housing would take care of itself because people would have better salaries to pay their own way.

Eliminate traffic lights ( as much as possible) and replace with traffic circles. We have traveled quite a bit in the last few years. We love to meet new people in our travels. It is amazing how many people know of Bellingham and would like to move here except for the lack of really good jobs--especially in the tech area. So, when we try to build up the old GP site, please try to encourage tech companies to relocate to Bellingham. Seriously, we have traveled worldwide, there is no better place to live other than Bellingham ( except for --maybe Bayeux, Normandy!)

Encourage a growing number and diversity of community run projects

Encourage an environment for diversified business growth in our City . We need to promote our City to encourage Companies to come to Bellingham because of our business friendly City, natural surroundings like the waterfront and Mt Baker . I think it's wonderful to have the in fill of housing but we also need to always keep in mind some citizens still like the idea of being close enough to downtown but not necessarily living downtown with their families. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to comment. Respectfully, Kelly Jeffrey

Encourage business growth and new business in the area. Do not chase away jobs and economic growth for idealist principles and liberal values. If something is inevitable (coal train traffic), don't protest and chase away the opportunity because of principle. The trains are coming anyway, but now our local economy will not benefit from the jobs. Do not chase away successful businesses based on one-sided values (i.e. Chick-fil-a in WWU). Look at the profitability that business is experiencing in Lynnwood and Bellevue. Be open to all businesses, even if they don't align with the liberal majority's agenda.

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Encourage continued development of downtown corridor; be more pro-active with the Port to bring family wage clean light industry, high tech and manufacturing jobs to increase and diversity the economic life of the city while at the same time, continuing to protect our environment.

Encourage diversity by making housing more affordable for families.

Encourage local economic development and small family businesses as opposed to allowing chains and other stores in our downtown area, like the new waterfront development. Support the local economic multiplier with dollars into our community, instead of outside it. Also, support and educate about cooperative business development as a viable business model.

Encourage more volunteer citizen participation in maintaining trails and parks and cleaning the neighborhoods.

Encourage renewable energy development. Promote community gardens. empower neighborhood associations. Pursue municipal cable service.

"Encourage residential development within the city limits. Make it easier for people to start small businesses. Do more to combat homelessness substance abuse.

Enforce bicycle laws for people who are utilizing (and oftentimes abusing) the bicycle lanes that were added for their protection.

"Enforce existing land use and development regulations; respect complaints regarding encroachment (building to the edge of lots and new/extended properties overlooking existing properties). Work to encourage owner occupancy! Allow ADUs and detached ADUs where they meet a real need, but not where they are used to increase home sizes or subvert density regulations.

Enhance the downtown and make it an even better alternative to the mall.

Assist those struggling with hunger and homelessness; finding a place for them in the community rather than trying to push them out of areas."

Engage as many citizens in discussions about their individual concerns. Encourage participation in neighborhood associations to foster a sense community, not differences. Search for a successful model for developing neighborhood cohesiveness.

"Enough spending on bikes! How about ticketing bikes! I've been hit by bikes hopping off sidewalks twice!!! What's with not policing bicyclists?!

Put side walks on Electric! Replace street lights on Electric!

Stop asking for more jail money, I've lived here for ever. We give you project money, use it for that project!

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Get a handle on the water fees. The less affluent neighborhoods are metered, so I use \$15 average, Edgemoor has poor garden. We don't even water our lawns!

Saving water is pointless to some if it doesn't reflect in what you pay on a limited income.

Give city officials a pay cut, that essentially what you're doing to residents when you tax us more.

And rent all those ""low income"" apartments to low income residents! Let Western provide more housing. There are hard working single moms camping here, that's unconscionable!"

Ensure the permitting process for new businesses, housing was predictable and speedy; ensure City size is adequate to accommodate growth in a positive way

Ensuring that all community members feel valued, welcome, and safe. Given the recent Presidential election it is important, now more than ever, to respect one another and remain determined to guarantee the rights of all community members.

Excessive speed and seeming indifference by big trucks and also all population to speed limits within city limits especially. Most people going 70-80 especially in inside lane of freeways.

Expand only northward, on the flat, not south or east. Keep Whatcom Falls and Galbraith parks untouched. Slightly loosen forestland restrictions to allow owners to protect their property in reasonable ways and less expensively (hazard trees, branch encroachment, invasive native plant species (blackberries, etc).

"Expanding bus service an hour in evening on go lines

Good luck with housing affordability "

Expansion of the public transportation system (bus) to enable more citizens to leave their cars at home to get to and from work, shopping, entertainment and recreation.

Explaining my responses to the last question: Electric Avenue needs a sidewalk.

Explore homeless solutions that have worked in other cities. Mental health evaluations and care used to be funded by the state, this and drug treatment is needed.

Fiber optic system throughout the city. This could speed economic development - like Chattanooga's experience.

"Find a way to increase city revenue from Canadians who shop in our city.

We love Bellingham! :)"

"Find a way to move the Lighthouse Mission to the Cordata Area or even to the City of Ferndale. Focus on redevelopment efforts in Old Town to parallel the waterfront redevelopment.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

Apply pressure to the Port Commission (Mike McCauly) to allow for service industry, i.e. hotels and conference centers, on the waterfront. The waterfront has been scarred by decades of industrial use. We should push for heavy manufacturing and industry in less visible areas of the county and focus on high tech businesses and tourism in the urban core and waterfront. "

Find affordable shelter for the homeless and/or working poor.

"Find real solutions to the homeless problem.

Foster historic preservation rather than rampant growth of new housing.

Make housing affordable by incentives to prevent tear downs of small houses for large expansions.

Enforce regulations on rentals, housing and signage.

Create a government that is truly receptive to the public (City Council receptive to public comment, Planning Commission not stacked with real estate interests, transparency of the Mayor, etc.).

Do research to study the long-range implications of ideas like promoting ADUs, especially detached and without owner occupancy."

"First, I like the results of COB efforts. B'ham is a nice place to live. For suggestions:

\*The economy and jobs need to be a very high priority. Continue to (tirelessly) promote business development and tourism. Is the Bellingham waterfront going to end up a lackluster industrial park or an attractive blend of industry, tourism and public space? Will growth continue to favor the rest of the County versus Bellingham?

\*Find a way to embrace the trend away from local shopping. Bellis Fair vacancy rate is growing. It appears there will be fewer local stores, businesses, jobs so... what? E-commerce taxes, local e-commerce depot requirements...? What best practices are out there to stem the tide.

\*How is the long term plan for transportation improvement going? As most major Washington cities have found, it gets more difficult with growth if there's not an enforced comprehensive plan. Use zoning/regulation/development requirements to create transportation improvement lanes now. Assume some form of efficient mass-transit or public transport will be needed.

\*Regional transport to/from Bellingham is very poor and coordination of available services is missing. Air travel to destinations South is good; to destinations in Eastern Washington it's poor. No bus service to the airport?! Bellair Shuttle is ambitious but also not integrated into local transportation (no WTA routes to Bellair pickup points). Amtrak is under serving the area.

\*The City could communicate a bit more with Home Owners/Condo Owners Associations

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\*It appears homelessness is growing. The Whatcom Homeless Service Shelter's data says it's down by 35% since 2008 yet the Mission is adding 70 beds. Please don't let the Seattle/Portland homeless plague spread to Bellingham.

\*Promote best-practices in running City Administration and Operations. Add metrics and incentives for management and employees to encourage continuing education and make continuous improvement part of every day. Could the City benefit from employing more certified professionals; i.e. project management PMP's, 6-Sigma Black Belts, etc.

We appreciate that you are asking. Thanks for giving us the opportunity."

"Fix dangerous traffic intersections, like Brandywine & Barkley (blind turn into fast traffic coming down hill) & turn lane from Barkley into Lowe's (confusing and could cause head-on collisions). Extend right lane heading N from Barkley across Sunset so traffic does not back up so much.

More sidewalks on both sides of streets, more streetlights, especially where there are crosswalks.

The trails and bike lanes and green spaces are what make Bellingham unique--great job on that and keep that up!"

Fix some of the streets that are really major arterials instead of spending huge amounts of money on hiring the so called experts to do a study. I would bring in local residents and have a committee do the study. It is like going to the doctor for an ailment and the doctor suggests what the problem might be, however, you know the diagnosis is off - you know your body better than anyone else. The residents of the City of Bellingham know what is best for this community, not the high paid consultant from Seattle or back east. The money saved would go a long way in improving traffic heavy under standard roads, which would improve traffic flow and safety for pedestrians walking the edge of the roadway.

Fix the potholes! :) E McLeod and James St by Sunset have been in disrepair since I moved to the neighborhood 5+ years ago. They get partially patched now and again, but quickly fall apart again. Lots of Bham seems to have some road issues.

Focus on making interacting with city departments easier and consistent for the public. For instance when working with public works or the planning department, one gets multiple different answers to the same question depending on the person they talk to. Also, it is difficult to partner with the city on projects or innovative ideas b/c city government moves at a much slower pace than the business community and the nonprofit community. Groups/businesses need the City's leadership and partnership, but are sometimes unable to fully realize these potential partnership b/c the City appears to be bogged down by bureaucracy that doesn't plague the private sector. Finding ways to effectively interface with community groups and leaders, as we work to solve our issues, will be essential to accomplishing our shared goals.

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Focus on mental health awareness and services. Reduce pan handling. Work with PeaceHealth to use their abandoned facilities or property off of Chestnut St. Cheaper broadband in community. Utilize the upcoming new access to coastline on old GP site so that it is a community destination and draws tourists. I'd like to see a higher standard of living on the Reservation and more community access - tourism around Lummi Is. and the other islands. Perhaps a county-tribe partnership.

Focus on programs that lead to job creation and growth in our industrial and commercial sectors. Do not imagine that home based, non-commute jobs will generate sufficient income for our community or that only "clean" jobs are to be allowed within Bellingham.

Focus on promoting renewable energy sources and limiting the continued negative environmental impacts of the (struggling and increasingly irresponsible) fossil fuel industries in this country. We don't need to be a conduit for coal and oil exports to further mortgage the future of our planet and jeopardize our children's legacy; we need to be a force for change and healthy human evolution.

For cyclists to use streets, the bike lanes shouldn't be full of junk swept over from the street, like sticks, nails, and broken glass. Also, bikes can be affected by uneven blobs of topcoating (such as on Garden Street just south of WWU), big cracks and holes where small chunks of asphalt have washed out. As for pedestrians, I think the most dangerous problem is car drivers being unsure whether to stop for you or not--some do, some don't, sometimes one car stops and another in an adjacent lane (who may not even see you) goes bombing right through as you're crossing in front of the car that stopped for you. Some stop where there's no crosswalk, and other cars don't expect it.

For the lettered streets poorly parked vehicles (blocking pedestrian walkways and/or traffic lanes) is a concern.

Forums on homelessness

Foster historic preservation and adaptive reuse of older structures, such as the Armory.

"Free wi-fi            More giant gardens

Pay adjunct college instructors fair wages

Big Vegetarian Thanksgivings

All-age Family Neighborhood Happenings"

Fund the Clean Green site again -- I recently used the Hannegan Road one when it was open and this would also be a good option if could be open on a more consistent basis.

Funding for more police.

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General education concerning nutrition, mental health, and how drugs work in the body. Lack of education leaves a gap being filled by the people trying to sell products, not knowledge.

"Get a trail through the GP site soon, even if it's chain link on both sides with limited access. Progress is way SLOW on redevelopment of GP site. I suggested someone visit Duluth 15 years ago which did the same thing. Very similar city. Population, hill, Railroads, shipping on large body of water at it's feet. Industrial heritage that is celebrated, kicked out like our maritime museum was by the Port. They are long gone in Duluth as I visited it again last year.

Tear out the medians that were installed on Lakeway 10+ years ago and widen Lakeway under Freeway all the way to Electric. Work on all arterials to flow. Not jammed like now.

WTA bus stops should be pull outs, not to occlude traffic. We have the worst traffic flow in the west except maybe parts of Seattle. Believe me, I get around. "

Get control of Galbraith Mountain before the developers do.

get rid of homeless camps

Get rid of Pinky, the board chair. She is not doing her job and the job she is doing is awful.

Get rid of the problems downtown. It's an embarrassment and not safe

"Get rid of the special interests influences from environmental & social justice advocates, out of state transplants, WWU political whims and others who don't really have a stake in living in Bellingham or Whatcom County.

Quit catering to political party politicking and start impartially administering city government on the basis of infrastructure (roads & streets), safety (police, fire & EMS) and the common welfare of the citizenry (clean up downtown, the homeless enclaves and concentrate on getting the drugs out of our neighborhoods)."

"get rid of train whistles downtown and along Chuckanut. Preferably reroute freight trains around bellingham instead of through the downtown. Would be nice if Amtrak coverage through town increased and was cheaper so people could actually use it to commute to Seattle.

Homelessness is a big problem in Marine Park and along Holly. I wouldn't walk those places at night. There's also a big IV drug use problem with those people. The cost to the community is high-- especially because that's what visitors to town see when they go to the marina. They think bellingham is an ugly place. I also think letting a foreign company control the waterfront development was a bad idea. I don't believe they will make the best choices for long term beauty and use. I don't anticipate they will be interested in safe cleanup of the site since they won't be living here. Having safe ways to get to the waterfront for pedestrians would be helpful; it's currently difficult to get from Broadway to the Bellewether area without going around through the mission area. A pedestrian/bike bridge would be great. It would also be

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great if there was a way for cars/emergency services to get down to the GP site over/under the train tracks.

"Get up to speed on management of ecological services. Develop the knowledge and skills to responsibly coordinate with state, national and international institutions that manage ecological services.

Set up reliable fast municipal internet.

Make sure that when sea level rise overtakes the railroad on the waterfront, that they don't move inland. The Illinois Central case is precedent for ending their theft of ecological services."

Great awareness of local tribes and their concerns in City decision making and planning..

"Green energy

housing and programs for the homeless

re-imagine education -- more pay equality between administrators and teachers

quiet train crossings "

"Green sharos are over reaction to bicycle safety (wasted money). Bicycle riders still ignore the rules of the road.

Ban of plastic bags in markets is environment over reaction. I buy plastic bags and still use them for containing animal waste and food garbage."

Halt the pandering to upper-class families. We should be improving the lives of our lower and middle-class, not driving them out. There is a bright beacon shining on Bellingham's gentrification issue which creates embarrassment when discussing with other Washington citizens. Our money is being spent to provide unnecessary services to the rich of Bellingham, meanwhile we were statistically shown as one of the worst cities in the country for a homelessness and affordability clash.

have bicyclists lanes separately than in main roads

Have the streets lit at night, have sidewalks.

Having a proper Hearing Examiners instead of a secretary at the Fire Department. When the City Council changes something that affects all parties involved .....appeals must be heard and recorded.

Help find solutions for housing affordability crisis. I'm a small business owner, a job creator and deeply rooted member of my community. I still cannot afford to purchase a home within city limits and may need to move to Ferndale or another similar location should I want to realize my dream of home ownership.



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Heritage Tree program would protect our oldest trees and provide mechanism for teaching and learning about tree species, history, and the role trees play in reducing greenhouse gases.

"High priority, I already mentioned in a previous comment: Help homeless. Housing is not going to be forthcoming at a rapid rate. Create and allow a homeless village area per my prior comment.

The jail issue is also important. Perhaps a new jail is needed but not on the order it was designed. Need a greater complex of social services, especially for mental health. Need restorative measures for after incarceration. There are many models for creative community solutions around work and restitution to address this. Most incarceration results from deep trauma. Let's break the cycle and be human about it.

A vocal portion of Bellingham community members would welcome opportunities to mentor less fortunate and teach basic skills. Please foster programs and attitudes that promote such opportunities, This gives ordinary citizens avenues to help less fortunate. Perhaps all this is not the city domain, per se...but somehow I think a city adopted attitude could open avenues to solutions...invite businesses that complain of homeless population to be part of the solution by helping area agencies with resources to: support storage areas, buildings for showers, laundry etc.

The city can look into providing locations for these services. Also look into programs to hire homeless for temporary jobs as other cities have done. Yes I know this is not the gleaming economic presence of a large ship harbor on the waterfront.

But it is the fact of our life and now many who live in Bellingham have the will and the desire to work shoulder to shoulder, to work it out, to create solutions...because there is a lot of pain and inequity. And as unpleasant as it is, this inequity cannot be sweep under the carpet and ignored anymore. So let's get on with it and get through the unpleasantness and come into the space of dealing with it realistically through opening to these mentioned means and attitudes. Thank you.

Also, allow in-fill of mother-in-law type units on properties and allow long term rental in them to ease housing shortage. Regulations can be established so that that neighborhoods do not feel threatened. Institute rent controls. Had a friend whose rent went from \$1200 to \$2100 in one stroke. This is all to common a story now.... then the homelessness happens and the city has to spend scores of thousands to move people along and clean up after them and they get warrants and have less and less chance to return to normal functioning and life... We can break the cycle. Let's spend those ""move them along"" funds differently. Thank you.

And I realize that the expansion of the Lighthouse Mission and the introduction of lower barrier sheltering has been instituted. Thank you...and that is a beginning and not an ending, as I imagine you realize as well."

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"Homelessness and affordable housing along with access to mental health services would be at the top of my priority. I work within the school district and have been a Bellingham resident for 10 years, throughout my time here and my experience interacting with families..I see this as one of the greatest needs for our community.

Homelessness is the primary issue we see in our household. Next might be condition of infrastructure and roads, because in our region the rain can erode them quickly.

Housing cost is becoming unsustainable. As a single parent who works full time I am thrilled with the resources that my child has for care and extracurricular activity in this city and the community itself is outstanding. However, I don't know how long I will be able to live here. Rents are increasing at an alarming rate and I am priced out of the possibility of obtaining a mortgage and buying a house. I make too much money to qualify for a program such as Kulshan Community land trust, but I don't make enough to buy a home so that I can get out of the rental market and rents are so high that I am unable to save money toward a down payment at a reasonable pace. I am looking at more affordable cities in Washington and outside of Washington and preparing myself and my child for the day that we have to move away and that makes me very sad. I fear that Bellingham is becoming a posh bubble and the working class will soon be gone.

"-Housing inventory of illegal housing

-Figure out how to enforce regulations that are already there that they are not doing

-Put pressure on Western to buy into affordable housing because landlords charge a lot for housing. It is not safe and can be illeg"

How can participants find out about the results?

I am concerned about the future of traffic management in our city. With the addition of the Costco and new apartments off of Bakerview there will be a large influx of traffic. I have seen that it is already difficult to make unprotected left turns in that area and I fear they will be come all but impossible during rush hour traffic. Also living off of Sterling drive, it has become difficult to exit the neighborhood going left towards the roundabout during periods of high traffic. I appreciate the city government very much and I thank you for this survey and opportunity to share thoughts.

I am concerned about the number of new high-density residential buildings being put in--where is the infrastructure to support all this new traffic and services required???? That is a knee-jerk reaction to affordability issues for students. You could a) encourage more placement in private homes b) promote more jobs that pay a living wage. Economically, we are a joke for anyone between student and retired.

"I am friends with several small business owners in Bellingham (a couple breweries, a small eatery, a restaurant, a small retail store, all of which are located in the downtown area-ish). All

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of them have said that they feel stifled by the city with regard to permitting, fees, delayed responses from officials, and simply getting their business up and running. Several have even said that, were they to do it again, they wouldn't open a business in Bellingham. It's just too costly (time and money) and too much of a hassle to deal with the city.

If you want to foster strong communities and growth, you have to encourage small business. And to do that the city needs to seriously rework the way that it interacts and charges small startups, business owners, and local entrepreneurs.

I am in a bit of a unique position to provide feedback because I grew up here in the 60's - 80's and moved back six months ago. I hate to admit it but I am a bit nostalgic for the Bellingham of yore. I get a distinct impression that the city is bursting at the seams and a bit unprepared for all the different types of people who are rapidly moving into the area. I hail from the greater Seattle area and even with all of its well known traffic problems I see the potential for even worse ones here in Bellingham. We live in the Geneva area and I drive along Lakeway Drive most every day and I'm shocked that there aren't horrible accidents on a daily basis. I've noticed that there seems to be a fairly high tolerance for a basic attitude of lawlessness. Whether it's on the roads, in a parking lot or downtown streets after dark...and I rarely ever see a Police car anywhere. I like to walk to Whatcom Falls Park from my house but it's a bit tricky since there are no sidewalks and drivers frequently speed along Lakeside Ave and Flynn St. Plus no one seems to take into consideration the fact that deer could dart out into the road at any time. I'd like to see greater civic pride in our downtown core. Build on the success of the Farmer's Market and the Mount Baker Theater. Bellingham has a lot going for it, that's why so many are moving her but I'd like to see it become a safer and thus more vibrant community, but it's going to take planning and educating people for that to happen.

I am new to Bellingham but was very active in civic life in my former town. I think it would be great if the CoB offered some sort of citizens league that encouraged citizen engagement for new comers or folks who would like to learn more about how the city works

I am not aware of the issues preventing the planning and development of the waterfront, but I have been living here for 9 years and there has been talk of developing it, but it has been painfully slow. Developing the waterfront with an overall plan (such as in Fairhaven) for economic development and housing would be a huge benefit to the city in terms of resources, city income, and removing the eye sore that is the current waterfront. That should be a higher priority than most things on the list I prioritized.

I appreciate that City Staff get paid well and have great benefits. Too many public sector employees are undervalued across government. However, payroll is an area that the City has to be mindful of when balancing the

I believe many people retire to Bellingham and Whatcom county. This might be another area of focus.

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"I believe recruiting volunteer work would save out butts. Not everyone wants their taxes raised, or to lose services but there are a lot of people that will simply just come help.

Put more effort into setting up volunteer work. People like to have a part in what goes on, a sense of accomplishment. Not everyone can afford to come out of pocket to hire another Parks employee, but they'll come pick up trash if you organize it and supply some coffee.

Volunteer work is a win-win. Not only for the parks, but for everything. We want to help. "

I came to Bellingham over 30 years ago to attend WWU. I fell in love with Bellingham the first year I was here & stayed after I graduated. I've never regretted it. I plan to live here for the rest of my life.

"I can only speak from a general impression as I am not knowledgeable about all of the dedicated efforts of our City. I feel our City must be more active with promoting, attracting high tech, environmentally friendly organizations, including established non-profits to expand into Bellingham. Would encourage development of higher density housing coupled with surrounding park, open space, recreational, and small business neighborhood amenities.

Must take stronger actions to insure Lake Whatcom is fully protected.

Perform stronger outreach to use the talents of retirees to help the City. "

"I don't like the way you framed the question about growth as if were a good thing. I've talked to a lot of people in town who live here because it is what it is and wonder why growth is always promoted as a good thing when we think we've already got a good thing.

It would be nice if we could get more ""health care providers"" here. Not all of us are fortunate enough to have a primary care physician, and a lot of us have to go to Seattle for specialists because even if there are specialists here they have too much patient demand.

We need some education about what if anything the green paint on the street is for. I'm a cyclist and I just see it as more confusion for drivers which makes things less safe.

We need more crosswalks with pedestrian-initiated flashing lights. I'm sure everybody can come up with examples but crossing Boulevard at State Street to get to the stairs down to the Bay Trail would be my example. As a person with low vision I find making the crossing rather sketchy.

"I don't take the bus because I'm often out late and cannot rely on the bus to get home. Busses should run at night. At least late enough to make taking the bus home from the bars an option. This will hopefully cut down on drunk driving.

There is a patch on I-5 SB just before the lakeway exit which is very jarring. Please repave.

Some of the homeless people downtown at night can be threatening.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

The bike cops are great!

The I-5 NB sunset on ramp is dangerous. I would like to see the merging lane extended.

N. State to James St: the speed limit is 25. I would like to see it moved to 35. "

I don't understand why the city is in the TV business. I think it is very unnecessary.

I feel expenditures for parks should be reduced substantially and reallocated to streets & roads and other infrastructure areas.

I feel that citizens in Bellingham are over-regulated by laws such as apartment inspections, boat inspections and building planning regulations. These laws raise the cost of living in Bellingham and the hassles faced by the residents. I am deeply concerned about the city's efforts on homeless people. The problem is getting worse as the city's policies are encouraging more homeless people to come here and not act responsibly, causing more problems and costing taxpayers more money for free housing and services. Demands must be placed on homeless people to clean up their lives or move out.

I feel that we have a huge homeless/drug issue in Bellingham, which is compounded by the lack of affordable housing and lack of mental health services. We need community mental health, some sort of in patient drug treatment, and more policing regarding drugs. I have found used needles in multiple locations around town, which is horrifying. I also have a major issue with the ER/hospital services provided by PeaceHealth. They have recently drastically cut the social work department, which has serious public health implications. PeaceHealth no longer provides adequate ER assessments of suicidal patients, people are allowed to come in saying they are suicidal and then just walk out the door without being seen, and many of those same people have returned the next day after actually attempting suicide (this is happening multiple times per week). When police bring in people from the community who are experiencing a mental health crisis, and possibly a danger to the public, there is no guarantee they will actually be seen by an adequately trained mental health professional. This is a major looming public health crisis. In a city that is already struggling with a homelessness and substance abuse issue, there needs to be some serious understanding of the profound depth of services that have recently been removed by PeaceHealth, as the city will soon be called upon to provide those same services.

I feel that you really need to consider allowing detached ADUs (such as Portland has done, in conjunction with the Tiny House movement, mostly utilizing older detached garages for the footprint of the new units) in areas zoned for Single Family Residences as a means of in-fill and promoting affordability of housing in Bellingham. In my discussion with my neighbors, friends and co-workers, I have heard repeatedly that current residents of Bellingham do not want high-density living (condos, row houses or townhomes). They prefer to live in Single Family Homes. Rental Income from an ADU could assist a family in making buying a home in Bellingham much more affordable while providing additional rental capacity to our many students and professionals who chose not to own a home. Thank you.

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"I found it difficult to do this survey because of the broad categories. There are important things to do in each. And some less important things. I think housing is a priority here -- affordable housing. I think the city government could be more open about plans to deal with this issue. Transparency in general is vital. I have been following reports of the discussion at City Council meetings about ADUs and mostly what I hear is that people in neighborhoods do not feel included, respected and heard. And, I'm unsure of the motives from the mayor and city council for making the zoning changes they want. Is it that there's pressure from developers? Or would it really increase diversity in housing in neighborhoods? Or, would it create more rentals, absentee landlords and not fix the affordability problem? More information to the public and respectful inclusion of all voices on this issue is important to me. I care about making housing more affordable and there being flexibility, and diversity of income in neighborhoods, but also about all voices being respected and heard.

Bellingham is a great place to be because of the beauty and respect for environment and people here. It seems like the city has been very supportive of the environmental and there's a lot more to do. Anything and everything we can do to be a model city to go greener, get off of fossil fuels and keep water clean, I support. And, I was happy to see the City Council support indigenous rights and the environment with those protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline. I'm concerned about the possible algae bloom at Lake Padden. That is a well loved lake.

I would also like to know the city is doing all it can to include people of all races and backgrounds and make them feel safe and that they belong here. Mostly I've heard good things about policing here, but am still concerned that it be done wisely. I don't know much about EMS due to lack of really using that service, but it's important to keep it strong.

Libraries, trails and parks and cultural opportunities are great. Keep up the good work there!

More transparency in government and attention to citizens at meetings would be welcome. (Several years ago I came with a group of college students and was unpleasantly surprised that when they spoke in the public comment period, very few council members paid attention. It was disheartening.)

Compassionate work with the homeless, I also support.

And, I also think it is important that Bellingham attract and keep living wage jobs.

There's a lot to do! Enlisting citizens input and engagement makes for good government.

Thanks for your work!

I grew up in this town and love it here. The business of politics can be corrosive and unproductive. It's the nature of the game but I really believe we have a great level of peace minded people here as well as deep well of conservative values that are necessary for the symbiotic lives we strive to lead. I wish, and I believe, the two could be fused together to make

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this community stronger than ever. I would like to see those kind of people continue to lead our unique and lovely home.

I have concerns about their rent inspection program.

I have concerns for the homeless people in Bellingham. Would the city be able to partner with Lighthouse Mission to provide 24/7 shelter facilities. I see so many homeless people on the streets. What can the City do to help solve this problem?

I have concerns regarding the jail situation. Transferring low risk felons to other parts of the state removes them from contact with friends and family that could possibly be of benefit. In addition, from what I read in the news, the current structure is not only inadequate, but unsafe and poorly built. I would like to see more cooperation on the part of the city and the county to resolve this.

"I have lived here about 3 years, and own a small business. Overall my wife and I are very satisfied. Two concerns, the number of homeless in a community of this size. We are very supportive of the programs to help these folks and other underprivileged. We were also amazed at our water bills. We recognize that the cost of the water is actually the smallest portion of our bill, the plus ups for stormwater management and other costs are out of line with very else we have lived.

The current bond issue for EMS was not supported by us, the resulting \$10M reserve was way out of line for the size of the program. Showing us you are serious about excesses, not feathering the bed and trying to guilt us for not supporting EMS is not the way to work.

I have lived in Bellingham less than a year. I love the community but I do notice the scarcity and high prices of rentals and the rising cost of owning a home. This, while there are limited professional jobs available for people. People making minimum wage are having and will continue to have a hard time paying the increasing rental prices and still be able to support their families.

I have only lived in Bellingham for two years and still getting to know the community. I do love it. However, I think the city could do a better job promoting/marketing the area. I consider myself a geographically astute person but had not heard of this city before moving here from Florida. I don't think we have great paying jobs and the city could do more to bolster economic and business development in order to attract more talent. I am fortunate to work remotely with a great salary. However, friends of mine who have lived here for decades say that Bellingham could do more to foster and attract better paying jobs especially given the increasing housing costs that are not commensurate with the median salary for local jobs.

"I have seen many deer crossing Alabama street near the railroad trail overpass and I have seen cars hit the deer, it would be helpful if there was a deer crossing sign near that area to remind cars of the hazard.

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The North side of Vining Street from Alabama is a dark road and it would benefit this community to have street lights.

Many of the sidewalks in our neighborhood and along the cul-de-sac are cracked and need maintenance.

We are looking forward to us using the community pump track that is being installed in Whatcom Falls Park! Thanks you for approving that! "

"I heard the mayor speaking of the importance of urban villages as part of Bellinghams future. But the mayor and city have persistently been thorns in the side of Fairhaven.

Urban villages are way overdue - your efforts to keep downtown as a center of activity have been a major impediment to them.

Meanwhile, Fairhaven has been successful despite the mayor and rest of the city bureacracy"

I just feel like money is going towards fixing streets in other areas and not really in Birchwood.

I just moved to Bellingham this year and, having lived in numerous large cities as well as a rural, island environment, I think Bellingham offers the very best of both worlds. Perhaps I still have my rose-colored glasses on, but I have been most impressed by the number and quality of arts and educational opportunities offered here, as well as the vast parklands and trails that are maintained. To me, the two issues that most need to be addressed are the homelessness population and the cost/availability of housing.

"I know you are trying to get a feel for public opinion, i appreciate that. I feel that this survey doesn't offer enough information to get an honest opinion. I was asked my opinion on which city services i felt we should cut. Without knowing which percentage each service currently receives it is difficult to make a good decision. I'm sure my answers may have been different if bike lanes take up 10% and arts takes up 1% for example. Looking at them as all equal, i chose those services that don't impact the safety of my daughter to cut.

Anyway, thank you again for allowing me to participate. Sorry for the rambling :)"

I like receiving the watershed update that includes many factors about living in Bellingham. I love the parks and trails systems and how they are becoming interconnected. Please keep working on the Bellingham to Baker trail. I work in our community and find that people new to Bham are not familiar with many of our services, trails, parks, etc. Perhaps you could create (unless this already exists) a pamphlet or something like the quarterly rec. insert that comes out in the Herald, to put in senior housing and apt. complexes, the library, senior center. Yes, we have pieces of what we offer, but hard for a newby to know which to pick up.

I live by lake padden on 40th st. There are many bicyclists, and pedestrians that walk on that road to get to the lake. There is a 15 mile an hour sign with poor visibility around a sharp curve. Sidewalks are needed desperately for the safety of all in that area.



**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

I live in a neighborhood where there are public schools and the University. Many people walk and use the bus. We have sidewalk on one side of the street, I have seen walkers, strollers, and wheelchairs trying to make their way along on a bumpy side of the street, plus it is not safe as we also have the driver who think of Harris Ave. as a main artery through town, taken at speeds that exceed 25 mph.

I live in a neighborhood where WWU students are walking yet there are no sidewalks on my street. Some young people drive too fast. There is a hill on my street that increases the danger, though I realize we can't change the hill. But we could put sidewalks on N & S 34th/Otis, between Byron and Laurel.

I live on Illinois street, and I often walk with my children to the park or Haggen, but there is a huge section of Illinois street that does not have a sidewalk. And the lack of sidewalk is okay, except that people sometimes drive very fast down Illinois. (I live on the corner of Pacific and Illinois). I would love to see some speed bumps or a roundabout nearby so people slow down. Orleans and Illinois is also a heavily used biker and pedestrian crosswalk but it can be very unsafe as well. I would suggest putting in a crossing light like the crosswalks which were installed on Alabama earlier this year. This crosswalk is used by many children going to and from Sunnyland Elementary. I would also love to be more involved in local government but I don't know where to get involved or have my voice be heard. I think our city doesn't do a very good job of getting its citizens involved.

I love living in Bellingham, I have been here for 10 years, and this city is doing things right. I never want to leave!

"I love my neighborhood, but we do not have sidewalks or adequate street lights (northern Columbia neighborhood). I do realize there are MANY more important things to worry about, but just wanted to throw that out there.

And I would love to see the walk way finished along the water between downtown/GP and Blvd Park."

I might recommend the Greenways folks take a few years off. While we all enjoy the parks and trails, when is enough enough? They need to separate needs and wants. While we all hear the amount of \$\$ proposed for Greenways, we never see an itemized list of how the \$\$ were spent, and that should be published in the paper for all to see. Several think that the Greenways \$\$ are not spent on Greenways! The Park Dept. is becoming quite an empire. The tax burden falls on the home owner, not the renters, per say. When the city/county buys more property, that is more property taken off the tax rolls.

I must share this. The first page of this questionnaire is flawed. It is not clear whether the list applies to success or importance. I answered as though it was about importance. Then on the second page, I became unsure what the first page ordering was about.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

I question the infill toolkit for the Columbia neighborhood. It is a family-friendly neighborhood that will not be well-served by multi-tenant rental housing. Consider instead, reducing the restrictions on allowing homeowners to develop their garages, etc. into auxiliary dwellings. It will maintain the character and feel of the community.

"I support ADUs and especially lifting the restriction on whether they be attached and owner-occupied. We are seeing a lot of people moving to Bellingham, we are going to have to accommodate them somehow and I'd rather do it through more ADUs and some more apartments like NXNW for students than through more sprawl or just ugly apartment buildings.

I think the city council members Pinky Vargas and Roxanne Murphy have been doing a great job with studying the ADU issue and the people who are complaining about it are being total bullies.

"I think bicyclist should be held responsible for obeying the laws. Maybe a license and tickets, they want auto privileges without responsibility. They want street access with out licenses taxes. Auto should not pay for bicyclist.

I think begging should be outlawed, these men scare me away from shopping. We need to get them mental help and a real job."

I think City leaders need to be willing to make hard decisions to be good stewards of the limited tax dollars available. You can't please everyone, but I appreciate the survey and I hope you listen to what the results have to say. All Bellingham citizens will have different views, but personally I believe BTV10 is a waste of tax dollars and is the easiest program to cut. Utilize cob.org to make council meetings accessible. The museum is a wonderful asset, but it should be self supporting and the City cannot continue to subsidize it forever.

I think I've stated it a few times already, but I think a major focus needs to be serving our homeless populations. Increasingly, homeless populations are including the elderly and disabled. I would like to see the city do more than force camps to disband and relocate. I would like to see a viable alternative in place that respects their dignity. I wasn't happy about the derogatory tone in a recent police video on the Herald website that described a camp. I want to see homeless addressed as the incredibly complex social problem that it is, and I do not want to see our officials paint the entire homeless population as criminals.

I think our city leaders do a good job, and I appreciate that Bellingham is such a good place to live and to raise a family. Thank you for your work!

I think that city leaders are currently doing an excellent job. Improving communication between the city leaders and departments with the citizens they represent is always challenging. This takes on even greater importance as our society becomes more digitized. While much information may be available through online city websites, this often requires sufficient time and energy to navigate across different webpages and some/much information may be lacking or not routinely updated on these sites. It might be useful to consider a single City newsletter

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

emailed monthly (similar to those used now by B'ham School District). My apologies if this already exists! :)

"I think that our city leaders should always demonstrate courtesy, objectivity, impartiality, concern, integrity, and a willingness to listen. If I were a city leader, these would be the responsibility of any elected officials and they would be held to task. We have elected officials that have neglected these principals and discouraged community participation.

I would address homelessness in our city-why can we build mini-houses to address the homeless problem like the city of Seattle is doing?

Why can't we take city properties that have no structures on them and are not in use to convert into gardens to help teach the homeless to grow food during the spring and summer?

I think that turning most of downtown Bellingham into a strictly pedestrian zone would dramatically improve our city, significantly increasing its vitality and regional visibility. I have spent much time in Europe, where these zones are common and they are wildly popular. Downtown Bellingham would be perfect for this and I think would be an instant hit, if attempted. I also think that linking our wonderful trail systems to make them interconnected would be a great asset, as would dramatically adding to bicycle lanes and trails to make cycling safer.

I think the city government is doing a very good job overall but I would like to see a lot fewer "studies" that end up wasting time and taxpayer \$\$'s with no result. As a business owner in downtown Bellingham, it is apparent the problem of homelessness and transient population is growing at an alarming rate. I think an "empowered" focus type group of experts, working within a specific (and short) time frame could identify a course of action/steps to take and then begin implementing them with a minimum of red tape...kind of like a FEMA disaster response team with the resources available to get the people the help they need quickly. Get the these folks real world results with programs that could be adjusted as needed.

I think there have been a lot of improvements over the 19 years I've lived here

"I think we as a community promote the use of public transit, biking and walking. However, as a pedestrian I feel I am putting my life in danger when crossing streets; sometimes even at green lights.

Drivers do not seem to SEE pedestrians! Sometimes cars will stop to allow one to cross, but then another vehicle will attempt to go around the stopped vehicle or in another instance traffic (after stopping) will continue before you are even half way across the street. I have observed this with parents and little ones crossing the street and a toddler may slow or stop unexpectedly and a car narrowly missing the child because they continued to drive before the people made it safely across."

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

"I took this survey based upon my current residence on Alabama Hill but I should have answered the questions based on my first house in the Roosevelt neighborhood which we've kept as a registered rental property (2900 block of Nevada St). My biggest complaint while living there for 8 years was the inequitable way the city maintains the sidewalks. I have friends that live in the Lettered Streets and Sunnyland that had constant sidewalk improvements done while most of Roosevelt doesn't even have sidewalks on both sides of the street. We joke and call them the sidewalks to nowhere because they just end for no reason. It would be nice to see the city spend money to complete our neighborhoods with proper sidewalks and lighting before spending more dollars on fancy colored bike lanes or tearing up sidewalks that already exist. Let's spend the dollars where we know people already live, not on areas we want people to use. The kids in Roosevelt deserve sidewalks to safely walk to school, families to walk their dogs, and be a part of their neighborhood community. We used to drive with our daughter and dog over to Sunnyland to be able to have a safe evening family walk on sidewalks. We spend many months with dark evenings and navigating a neighborhood with poor lighting and no sidewalks is just not ok.

It would be nice to see the neighborhood charters finished before starting new projects around town.

I understand that the permitting process is cumbersome and slow. I'm not sure that this helps for positive, timely development. It seems there are a few projects taking an inordinate amount of time...not sure if it's the permitting or funding?

I was shortsighted when I rated public transportation as a low priority on this survey. Upon reflection, improved public transportation and the encouragement of the majority of the public to use it is VERY IMPORTANT. The city should work to get as many of Bellingham's slow, bumbling drivers off the streets as possible and GET THEM OUT OF MY WAY. This would be the single greatest change the city could make to improve the quality of my life and it would make me allow me to make great strides in my anger management.

I would advocate for the inclusion of bike lanes on Lakeway, not waste money on Share Row signs. We were recently in Davis, California and they are a university town with a great system of bike paths. Also, I would carefully review allowing new buildings, such as the huge apartment complex near the Lakeway Fred Meyers, making sure there are enough services for people first. I would make sure there are enough recreational services ( such as swimming pools and classes) available for people of all ages. I would also try to promote more volunteer programs so that perhaps older, retired people could work with children, as tutors, etc. I would also try to promote more communication between the university and the community, perhaps providing more access to university services for local residents. For example, there is a great recreation center at WWU, I would work to lower the fees there so that local people could also use these services. I would also advertise the city's website and television channel so that more people would use them.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

I would ban turning right on red, because I have seen terrible accidents while turning right.

I would be in favor of an additional tax (maybe 15%) on the purchase of a house in Whatcom County for those individuals who are from outside of Washington state. I am concerned about "trickle down" from Vancouver on Bellingham's housing prices. As real estate gets more and more out of reach up there, people will come down to Whatcom county to purchase homes and drive up housing costs for those of us who live here. And we need to ensure those purchasers actually LIVE in the houses they purchase--in other words not just purchased for investment reasons. This is critical to maintaining the wonderful quality of life we have here in Bellingham.

I would be less responsive to the demands of individual neighborhoods and and more attentive to the logic of providing services for an entire city. That means relaxing zoning restrictions when it and where the logic of existing services makes it reasonable to do so. Be patient and a lot more imaginative about economic development and about affordable housing. Both of those depend a great deal on serious investment in education and environmental protection (not the other way around).

I would be more conscious of Bellingham within a global context.

I would certainly continue the push for pedestrian, bicycle, and bus service utilization. Programs like Smart Trips are excellent for fostering motivation, encouragement, and education. I think the city should work more with partners (public and non-profit) and private sector to provide and foster opportunities for community education and involvement. The city should also focus more resources on the assistance to transient and homelessness in efforts to not only clean up our downtown streets, but provide some direction and encouragement to help folks stabilize their lives. I know this is no easy task.

I would change the archaic recycling system that is harmful to the environment as I previously mentioned.

I would continue to foster the positive relationship our community has with law enforcement!

"I would create a private/public partnership to solve the homeless crisis. I would make sure that anyone who grew up in Whatcom County would have access to modest, but safe and clean housing.

In addition, I would work with WWU to make sure that any child in foster care in Whatcom County who graduated high school could transition at 18 years of age into a university dorm and be able to attend WWU for 4 years with a variety of scholarships. That would decrease (if not virtually eliminate) the foster aging out process which is quite likely to lead to homelessness since it is rare 19 year olds with the skills to live independently providing a roof over their heads since they do not have the skill set to negotiate the transition; however, by the time they are 22 years old, they will be more able to avoid the homelessness trap. "

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

I would create no car zones (or other vehicles) in the downtown area. Make it more pedestrian friendly grouped around shopping and dining.

I would cut taxes so that productive citizens can afford to live here, cut out the levels of unnecessary bureaucrats that inhabit City Hall (I know, I know, they are all vitally important), clean up the streets by discouraging loitering and panhandling, enforce laws against overcrowding of single family dwellings with huge numbers of non-related persons, curtail WWU's runaway growth and sprawl. Basically, start viewing the earnings of citizens as actually belonging to citizens and not as a bottomless cookie jar from which to extract any funds they want (knowing as they do that the ill-informed college students and ever growing number of non-producers and government workers will vote for all spending). Thank you for your time (not that I expect this actually to be read by any elected official, since it expresses a minority opinion in this city).

I would do a better job of supporting businesses so the community could flourish. If business is healthy the community is healthy.

I would do everything in my power to not allow slum-lords to conduct business in the city e.g. Lakeway Realtors/Rentals. I live on a street with several Lakeway rentals and the homes shouldn't even be called "homes" one across the street doesn't even have a window in the upstairs bedroom. I realize that the city has created an inspection program, but I think more needs to be done to make sure slum-lords are not operating in town.

I would do more to foster home ownership rather than rental housing

I would eliminate jailing people who are mentally ill, addicts and alcoholics. De-fox only has 8 beds for all of the county. Jailing people awaiting trial because they are poor is medieval. The prosecutor is prosecuting people for the wrong reasons. The majority of the people in jail need treatment, not incarceration. At least one of the judges doesn't know what she is doing. Increase the number of public defenders, so dissolutions are not delayed for years. Make ankle bracelets for serving time free not paid for by the prisoner. Stop punishing poor people in the criminal justice system. Putting money into prevention and treatment is much more effective than jail. The city council has been better than the county council but still more money is spent on incarceration than assistance to those suffering. Investment in services pays off much more.

"I would face the problem of vagrancy in downtown.

There is a risk that the downtown will lose its appeal to all members of the community because people camped out on the sidewalks appear potentially threatening.

To contain sprawl, downtown has to be a place where people from all over the County can meet their needs for shopping or entertainment. The place needs to be inviting and somewhere they look forward to coming to.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

The consequence of permitting vagrancy is that people get in their cars and drive elsewhere where they don't have to worry about the threat of people who seem to take ownership of the sidewalk.

I am from the Northeast and am old enough to recall cities in that region losing their business and entertainment core due to rising crime and theft. I'm afraid Bellingham is at risk of that on a smaller scale. It would be wise to avoid that risk by strictly enforcing loitering. If people want to busk or have a protest, then they should have a permit and be able to show it.

IMO, stronger enforcement of loitering downtown should be a priority. "

I would finish the sidewalk on Chuckanut Drive between Willow Rd and Broad St so that the children in our neighborhood no longer have to walk to Fairhaven or to school on that dangerous drive, which includes tourist traffic and speeders.

"I would fire the Planning and Public Works Directors. Both work to limit economic/housing development and to decrease the utility of streets, sewer and water systems.

Within the planning department, the concept of ""Building Services"" continues to be an oxymoron. Permit applicants face an attitude of, ""NO ... and you can't make me help you."" Check the stats on response dates to applications and the refusal to gather permitting issues into coherent sets of questions to resolve. Each response to a city concern results in a new delay and a newly extended deadline for the city to respond. When one issue is finally settled, the city comes up with a theretofore unidentified ""problem"" that restarts the whole cycle. Lawful assistance, not obstruction, should be the order of the day for ""Building Services"".

The Growth Management Act requires the city to plan and execute industrial and residential development within the city. The city should comply, with enthusiasm. Jobs should be created in the city and its growth areas, not in remote areas of the county.

The Growth Management Act also requires the city to actually develop business and residential space in our Urban Growth Areas. The city should do what is already mandated. More urban growth in these areas will expand the tax base, support improved city services and reduce the stress on more rural areas as further reduction of rural development is achieved.

The Planning Director leads the obstruction of required plans for the future and the Public Works Director neglects his duty to develop resources or extend existing resources into the Urban Growth areas.

The City Council wastes too much time passing resolutions to advise state, federal and foreign governments on how they should work. Passing resolutions for which the Council has no authority makes no sense. These proposals are out of order and a rational City Council Chair would say so.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

The city should begin to act like the partner it is supposed to be with the county and other cities to get a proper county jail built."

"I would first get the roads fixed, and not waste money on those ""car traps"" that are seen downtown. (drain water planters) filters would be much cheaper I'm sure. Expanding the sidewalk crossings out into traffic lanes is another waste of money I believe. I would let the community know that Transit has the right of way and keeping our Transit system on time will make it more desirable to the community and cut down on the traffic congestion.

Have ""Community area"" work days. Supply trucks and equipment at certain locations so people can help keep their local streets and parks looking good and maintained. (Volunteers with supervision)"

"I would focus on the transient problem. This is not an easy problem to fix but the transients are changing our city. I no longer feel safe downtown. In the early mornings (5:00AM) when I run to the YMCA, I now carry pepper spray. Each doorstep of downtown has a sleeping person and every day I am yelled at (positive and negative remarks). I no longer walk/run through Maritime and feel our city has ""lost"" that gorgeous park to the transients. Only 10 years ago, I used to take my kids to that park to watch the salmon and the seals. Now I stay away. What has happened in the last 10 years?

I think our city should start looking at Salt Lake City and copy what they have done to clean up the streets and provide for the mentally ill and homeless. Allowing them to sleep in doorways of businesses and in our public parks is not fixing the problem. These people need shelter and medical attention. I would also like to see more funding for the police. We need more bike cops and foot patrol to walk the parks, trails and downtown. I would go to Maritime if I knew a police officer was there. The Parks Dept needs more funding for their maintenance crew. This crew is cleaning up transient shelters daily. They are cleaning up garbage and human feces so the rest of us can still enjoy our parks. As the transient population grows, this crew will not be able to maintain the quality of work they currently do without more staff. I would love to see the people who make decisions for our city walk downtown at 5:00 in the AM. I would love for them to walk through Maritime (at any time of the day). After these decision makers have done this and reflected on how they ""felt"" they then should make some budget decisions."

I would give no tax breaks to developers.

"I would have loved a call back from the mayor when I repeatedly called last year!

My neighborhood had a huge problem and the mayor should have returned our call.

Instead we were left to fix it on our own. zoning laws being broken in a commercial zone next to our residential zoned area

I'm not impressed at all..



**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

"I would have the ""Rental Inspections"" include adequate parking for the number of tenants.

The sidewalks are lacking or over grown with blackberries in some of our area. We need to maintain what we have before adding more."

"I would implement tax breaks for small, local businesses like Tacoma did when they got rid of B&O tax. The small businesses are now having to figure out how to cover the increase in minimum wage. Without tax breaks, we will be cutting jobs which are in short supply for those looking for even part time work.

Small, local businesses contribute greatly to providing jobs, taxes and a unique cultural feel to Bellingham that seldom gets looked at by our liberal government.

Everyone wants to feel good providing services, but they don't spend time considering the reality of these will be paid for. "

I would improve economic growth. It is a huge concern that young professionals have to leave the community to find wages that will support their families. We need to attract companies with a balanced approach between protecting the environment while not ruling out other opportunities.

I would improve relationships with all local Native American Governments and be inclusive in planning for all of our futures.

I would install playground equipment at Maritime Heritage Park and promote more family activities. I don't consider protests family friendly. I used to walk my children through there and long ago I would walk by myself. I will never go there again, that is unless we do something to address the drug/alcohol use during the day, homelessness and human waste on the trails. It's such a beautiful place. I would try to do something to curb the homeless problem Bellingham has, which has exploded in the last 10 years. I watched a group of people under the overpass on Lakeway Drive openly drink from a vodka bottle at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. I'd vote to address this issue and spend less on bicycle stuff if that's what it would take.

"I would involve people more in decision making. It feels like businesses are getting a priority over the populous in development. (huge apartment complex on Forest. I am concerned about the mental health of folks when jamming so many students together in tight quarters without much access to green and nature, i.e., courtyards, view, natural light. I worry about depression and heightened suicide rates.)

I would like to see approved detached ADUs in single family zoning around the college, with owner occupied units.

I would like to see the development of the GP sight move forward more quickly. It has taken far too long, in fact, Bellingham has been used as an example of how not to develop our waterfront due to lack of progress. (Portland, Everett)

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

I would love to see the over-water trail extended from Boulevard Park to the new waterfront site. What happened to that? it kept getting pushed out and now it seems like it is not happening. The other end of the trail is well used and brings the community together.

I would like a stop sign on Cedar and Forest to slow the traffic down. It is by a park that children and families use and speeding occurs frequently, especially when the students return.

A number of us in the neighborhood have been talking about the site on State St. that has been sitting less than half-built for a number of years. Please enforce the building codes on this builder.

Also, skate boarders riding down the middle of the streets in the cars lanes going really fast.

Is there any way to educate pedestrians about being present and looking out for cars, even if they have the right-of-way? Young folks are often plugged in and distracted and I am afraid there will be more car/bike/pedestrian accidents."

I would keep in mind that Bellingham's natural environment -- woods, water, coastline -- is its biggest draw, and do everything to protect and maintain it as healthy \*public\* space. Also, I see the huge spike in homelessness in Seattle as I work there every week, and it is a terrible situation. I would get on top of the situation here in Bellingham before it gets any more out of control. I will gladly pay more for services that will help get these people off the streets and into stable housing. Finally, I would partner with our public library system to extend education and awareness into our community -- the city does not have to do it all itself, I bet the library can help.

I would keep, and continue to keep, all the issues in this survey before the citizens, the public, of Bellingham. Keep informing us, keeping issues before the city and from that awareness ask for responses, for feedback. Then tell us again what you have done, have accomplished. Educate, educate and move forward.

"I would like a tax imposed on all property owners for a limited number of years to do an experiment to address homelessness. I am a homeowner. i would be happy to pay another \$100 a year for a 5 year period to see what we could do to help homeless people. If it didnt work, we could stop the program. We could get matching funds through grants if we as a city stepped up and did this, and we would get the attention of funders.

I would give a tax break to anyone who installed photovoltaics, at least not tax the increase of the property value due to the installation of the system, and secondly a reduced water bill because if someone is not using power from hydro electric sources, that person is helping the rivers , salmon, oceans, etc.

I would like to have clean water to drink. I think is it wrong to have any new developement on Lake Whatcom. It is wrong to have boats on there, especially power boats.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

The city should have a long term plan to buy up the private developement there, not issue any new permits, and cash out anyone who offers to sell.

then the city can recoup some revenue by taking the properties it aquires and recycling them, selling the materials in an incentive program so any new developement in suitable areas gets an incentive to use the old lumber. and gets its permit and developement costs reduced as well.

Or the city can buy all the houses with financing, cash out the owners, create a huge recycling and re-selling materials industry, which would employ a lot of crews to do the demolitions in the most enviromentally friendly manner possible, and then open up new land for developement to anyone who sold thier house on the lake. Or, if it would be cheaper, stop using lake Whatcom as a water source and developement some new ones."

"I would like every city leader to walk the neighborhood streets in the evening and early morning hours - particularly in Birchwood, Lettered Streets, downtown, and near Samish - on their own. Then I would like all city leaders to spend six hours on a weekend night in the ER, watching the patients who are coming through, picturing that they are there with a young child, maybe with a young child with disabilities, facing everyone who comes through there and asking whether it's even safe to be there. Then I'd like you to take a walk on all public trails and keep track of how much you see in terms of garbage, drugs, homelessness, etc and ask yourself if you would take a toddler there to play. Then, I'd like you to push a stroller through the Birchwood neighborhood up Northwest toward Bakerview to access the Fred Meyer on foot, in the traffic, with all the elements, to buy groceries because you don't have a car and the local Albertson's has been closed and the Haggen is too expensive.

Then, I'd like you to come back to the drawing board - only when you have actually walked in the shoes of residents who are now feeling unsafe and worried can you really adequately plan for a Bellingham that is on a downward slope.

Thank you so much for reading."

"I would like for council members to show respect for citizens at council meetings. The behavior of some of the members is a strong indication of their poor opinion of the electorate.

I would also like to see some positive change in the downtown areas. homelessness appears to be on the increase and there are areas I will not go when alone. "

"I would like more open field space for recreational use. We keep on growing and we seem to be a very active community, it's seems like we are running out of field space to accommodate everyone especially during the fall and winter when the fields are too wet to use.

The other thing is more pet friendly housing it is almost impossible to find a place that rents to pet owners."

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

I would like to figure out how to better involve the community/provide transparency to city decisions, to allow citizens to feel we as a city are including them. I am not sure how to do this or what this would entail, though! But it would go a long way towards alleviating fears of non-involvement, address the "I didn't know that ... was happening" if we could figure out multiple avenues of effective communication and make it a two-way street (have residents involved/active rather than just city needing to provide information).

I would like to have convenient grocery shopping.

"I would like to see a bike lane on Ellis St. and on Lakeway before the Woburn light and also on Roeder Ave by the waterfront (that road is in disrepair and plenty wide enough for a bike lane.)

Lastly, I notice a few folks experiencing homelessness downtown who are known bike thieves. They get caught or disrupted for a month or so and then are back at it again, setting up shop in the same places on Roeder and near Maritime Heritage. I would like to find a way to help them out of this cycle and put a stop to the endless cycle of bike theft.

Generally speaking, I feel safe in my community. That said, there are definitely areas that I do avoid because they don't feel safe (ie. Maritime Heritage Park).

If the city is facing cuts, it would be nice to have some conversation between the city council and residents as to what we should be cutting. "

I would like to see Bellingham become a little more friendly to businesses.

I would like to see better lighting in my neighborhood, especially on streets without sidewalks. I have recently been in touch with cob and PSE regarding this issue.

I would like to see bicycle law I forced, lots of them ignore red lights and go from street to sidewalk into the crosswalk. Why can't bikes be licensed to help pay for the bike lanes. I wouldn't care if so many would not discard the law.

I would like to see even greater effort to promote public transportation, bicycling, and fuel efficient vehicles. More motorcycle parking downtown would also be nice. Maybe one car space worth on Holly or Cornwall?

"I would like to see more support for high-paying industry and technical jobs in the form of making Bellingham a low cost, low regulation, low barrier-to-entry place to conduct business. I would like Bellingham to be a city where my kids can find high-paying jobs so that they do not have to move.

We can responsibly protect the environment without excessively regulating businesses and individuals, but we may have to be more tolerant of legitimate dissenting opinions on environmental issues, focusing on results instead of ideologies.

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P.S. I really appreciate that we do not have red-light cameras in Bellingham. Thank-you to Kelli Linville for keeping her word on that issue."

"I would like to see the city be more assertive regarding waterfront development. I have NO confidence in the Port of Bellingham with respect to consideration of long term planning, environmental clean up, balance between esthetics, public use ( parks and recreation, education, transportation infrastructure) and the Port's excessive bias toward commercial interests.

More attention city-wide on infill and housing in general. "

I would like to see the city to do more to create affordable housing, I am in no position to criticize our city leaders and I have not gotten involved with city or even neighborhood meetings. I would look into the 100 acre wood on the south side as a possibility for low cost housing, while keeping the trail system there as is. There are plenty of pristine trails/land just south of there

I would look at all spending and try to find places to make cuts. My real estate taxes on my home are far far too high but our sales tax is fair. Improve our bad areas of town and stop trying to fix good areas like Alabama that are perfectly fine. All that does is waste our money.

I would look at other routes from Sudden Valley as that area continues to grow lakeway continues to be more of a safety problem. I believe that a new priority road to the north lake Samish interchange should be looked at. If thats not feasible then lakeway needs upgrading.

I would love to see the City of Bellingham diversify it's workforce by hiring individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. Whatcom County is one of the premier counties in the country for integration of individuals experiencing some type of intellectual or developmental disability into private businesses. I'd love to see the City become a more representative employer of those who live in this community.

"I would maintain neighbor integrity by not allowing lots to be rezoned from single family to multi unit and/or lots to be sub-divided. I would find methods to enforce BMC 20.08.020(f)(1). I would look for ways to enhance small business opportunities rather than big box. I would look for ways to intelligently manage foreign real estate investments to help control property value inflation. I would seek development plans that allow for growth in such a way that provides affordable ownership opportunities and choices (single family/apartments) for all.

Bellingham is a special place to live and work. I fear that our children will not be able to afford to stay here. "

I would make a big effort to reach out to freshman university students concerning traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety. It's fearfully dangerous around the university, especially in the first

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weeks of Fall quarter with distracted behavior and lack of attention to traffic laws by pedestrians and bicyclists demonstrated daily in my neighborhood.

"I would make an effort to expand emergency medical services, particularly for mental health, which includes educating our local police on mental health conditions and de-escalation.

I would make the area of Samish way and Alabama Street safer.

I would expand more job opportunities for graduates, including school to job placements.

I would make Meridian Street and Sunset Street more pedestrian friendly and fix the traffic mess. "

I would never have spent time, effort money painting the streets for the bicycles to find low traffic streets and especially those big green squares which indicate it's ok for a bike to come from behind cars and stop in the front of the cars! The bike lanes were sufficient. Bikes are supposed to follow the rules of the road, just like cars and cars aren't allowed to do that. It takes a cyclist much longer to get going which now holds up the car traffic. Bikes are notorious for not following the rules of the road, at intersections, weaving in and out of their bike lane, riding on the lane line and not signaling.

I would place clear and objective requirements on any new building, residential, commercial or infrastructure, that would prevent overpopulation in the city based on available space and environmental conditions, with the object being to prevent deterioration of the standard of living in our city.

I would prioritize making infrastructure improvements in the neighborhoods with the lowest incomes so that it increases their chances of being successful. Improvements could include pedestrian facilities, transit, zoning to allow detached and attached dwelling units, community gardens, police outreach, neighborhood library, whatever it takes to help people succeed by lessening the obstacles they face.

"I would prioritize the development of the GP bayside land for public recreational use.

I love the street signage for cyclists on Texas and Illinois Sts, for example. I wish the traffic speed for cars be reduced on these streets, too. "

I would prioritize the homelessness/crime in downtown as well as reducing some of the taxes to Bellingham Businesses to encourage growth.

"I would promote alternative energy on all pubic buildings. Start planning for electric cars and the power infrastructure required. Build a homeless shelter for the homeless to maintain proper hygiene, drug screening, and employment placement. Pass a loitering ordinance to keep groups of young gangs and panhandlers from clogging the sidewalks and degrading the appearance of our city to provide a clean city and promote tourism. Consider creating bike corridors that are protected from vehicles. This would mean reducing or eliminating the parking

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lanes and elevating the pathway to the sidewalk level. A proposed Bike Tax to build and maintain the bike routes.

I would have intersection lighting and crosswalks programmed to stop all traffic in all directions to allow pedestrians and bikes to cross at one time. This eliminates vehicles turning into pedestrian during a right hand turn or left hand turn. Install more lighted cross walks similar to those on Alabama with red stop lights. Put a walk sign for the pedestrian to see that indicated the lights are flashing and they can proceed. Even an audible alarm for the blind.

Consider funding a convention center for hosting large shows and conferences on the GP site. Put a green roof on it to act as a park and minimize the view of more tall buildings. This site is built on fill and will liquify during a major earthquake, maybe it should be capped and turned into a solar and wind farm. If it's unsafe due to exposure than cap it and keep people away.

Put DO NOT ENTER signs on one-way street intersections.

Increase the density of housing within the confines of the City Limits. Limit height to avoid blocking views of the bay. i.e the Forest Street apartment/dorm building. It has blocked views to the bay for owners on the upper side of Garden.

More police on the streets patrolling the recent bike theft and mobile chop shops.

No More BIG BOX stores. Clearing natural wetlands to build.

Enhance the lower Whatcom Creek Falls at the Dupont Street bridge by evicting homeless, installing lighting on the stairs. "

I would provide sidewalks on urban streets; I would not open my arms to every developer for the promise of \$\$\$; I would clean up the streets and sidewalks downtown; I would dedicate a number of police to start giving hefty fines to those who sail through red lights - as a pedestrian and cyclist as well as a driver, I am outraged at the brazen disregard for the law.

"I would put pressure on owners of vacant buildings downtown to clean up eyesores and fill with positive tenants. Instead of tax breaks, they should be fined for leaving buildings empty for so long. Downtown Bellingham is filled with historic buildings that could use some love. And really, how long does the old JC Penny building need to stand empty? It's located in the heart of downtown. Depressing and discouraging.

By filling vacancies and cleaning up downtown, criminal activity will undoubtedly lessen.

Take a look at downtown Missoula, Montana (also a college town)... a great example of revitalization."

I would put some more light poles in the streets.

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"I would reach out to residents that I represented and select random people (not the usual suspects) to attend public events, including and especially city council meetings, as my guest and invite them to my office to meet everyone and give feedback. The less involved they have been in local government, the better. ... May sound corny, but the more people who realize the city belongs to them, the better.

I would really love to see the city focus on neighborhoods in which crime is higher, poverty more endemic, and find ways to alleviate community stress in those areas, with more police patrols, recreation programs for young people, incentive programs for maintaining homes and yards, community organized meetings and events to introduce more transient neighbors to one another, to beautify those neighborhoods, and to create a sense of belonging.

I would regain control of the management of Lake Padden Golf Course and return it to the money maker for the city that it was before current management.

I would spend a ton more on helping high school kids find summer jobs, encouraging people to become involved with kids' activities by volunteering with the Bellingham School District and supporting educational opportunities for kids.

I would stop raising taxes on home owners and make it a more fair tax by taxing what people buy. Raising the sales tax. Its always the homeowners who get hit the hardest!

I would try to expedite the development of the waterfront, and I would push to have all the empty lots in the city (especially the huge eyesore on Holly, across from Chuckanut Brewery) either cleared or developed. We also have a huge -- and growing -- transient problem that needs to be dealt with. It has become much worse than our homelessness problem.

"I would turn all the unused parking lots for the South Campus St. Joe's Hospital to be used for WWU's parking needs. If there is an ambulance emergency call, I would NOT send a firetruck too when there is no fire! What a waste of money and resources. On our Sanitary Service bill, the City of Bellingham tax is 12.99 % which is excessive and unfair. I would change that to 3.5%. Our water/sewer bills charge us \$25.49 base rate for Lake Whatcom Watershed and \$19.61 for Medium Stormwater Footprint on top of the water base rate, consumption and metered base rate. An average \$200 water bill seems too expensive and why should we be charged for watershed and stormwater fees which get raised every year? I would change that.

I would allow buildings for low income people to be higher than 4 stories. Build more buildings like Lincoln Square and Chuckanut Square with adequate parking space. It would be good to have more housing and medical assistance for mentally ill people and a bigger jail for prisoners. It is too bad with all the great assets of Bellingham educationally, recreationally, environmentally, economically, culturally, medically, spiritually, etc. that people waste their lives with drugs, alcohol and crime. I appreciate the difficult work the police do every day to keep our city safe. It is great that Bellingham has it's own television station. What a great asset that could be more fully utilized."



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I would turn Commercial street into a Pedestrian Only Street (leaving the space for the parking garage open to cars). If you have ever been to Burlington, Vermont and walked down Church Street you will know what I am talking about. If you have not been there google it. I think this would help revive downtown and give it heart! Picture a brick pedestrian alley lined with shops, restaurants, & pubs where people can enjoy themselves. It could be the focal point during the holidays with extra lights and a huge X'mas tree. If not here then we need a pedestrian only street somewhere where Downtown Sounds and other events can be held where you wouldn't have to shut down the street because it would already be set up for cool events.

I would work on bicycle and pedestrian safe roadways. The more people travel through a community outside of their automobiles the more connection they feel to the community. The more connection citizens feel to their community the healthier and safer the society becomes.

I would work with property management companies and homeowners to quell the lack of affordable housing in the city. Just because my apartment (which I've been at for 7 years now) is affordable does not mean the rest of the city is anywhere close to the affordability I currently have. There are residents paying \$1100/month for apartments riddled with black mold (with fear of eviction, should they report it to their property manager), and this is simply unacceptable.

I'd allow for the citizens to celebrate the Fourth of July with explosives. Like the good old days. I'd also tell the gutless liberal hippie pigs to quit sucking the homeless cock and get rid of the touchy feely bullshit that brings the homeless here in droves and makes the downtown look like a third world shithole on a Friday and Saturday night.

I'd like to see leaders bring together people with experience and expertise early in any planning or decision-making process to create very well-informed opinions and decisions on issues that impact our community. I'd also like to see leaders use social science means like this survey to determine opinions on controversial issues, to be sure their not having their ears bent by the squeakiest wheels or the people with the most money or time to participate in the public process.

"I'd like to see more Buy Local campaigns to support our small businesses and artisans.

I'd like to see empty store fronts donated to local artists and non-profits to educate people about their causes.

Water metering program--I'd like to see there be two different rates for commercial buildings water usage and home water usage. Currently only \$5 of my \$185 water bill is the metered portion. And, I pay the same per month as a 3 story commercial building in Fairhaven. I am an extremely conservative water user (I moved from California) and I can't believe that my bill is so high. To me, metering should allow me to pay less. I also cant help thinking that the delivery of

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this service is disproportionately high. EBMUD in California is an award-winning utility company and my bill there was typically \$15 per month (so \$30 to compare to here.)

I don't understand why pet waste cannot go in the commercial composting service. It reaches a high enough temperature to kill any bacteria and I wonder is it's a privatized company that is making an arbitrary decision that hurts the community. There are many cities taking back their garbage, recycling, and composting services and doing great work--using the methane they produce to fuel trucks, for example. Compost should be tested and monitored before pet waste is deemed unfit to compost. The city of Sonoma is composting human waste and is finding it produces excellent compost and all harmful bacteria are neutralized.

I want to be able to recycle styrofoam and aluminum foil. The city of El Cerrito has an award-winning drive-up recycling service.

I would like to see a plastic film pickup service added to our weekly recycling service. Currently, I have to drive in and pay \$5. "

I'd like to see the COB join the See-Click-Fix ([www.seeclickfix.com](http://www.seeclickfix.com)) program. I lived in a similar sized community (Portland, ME) where the program/app was used and really enjoyed the transparency and accountability element that it provided to citizen interactions with local government.

If I were a city leader I would build a community center that held workshops, classes, and activities promoting healthy living. Healthy eating habits/cooking, sustainability, gardening, meditation, art, yoga, and communications classes would be available to the public with a simple annual membership fee. This information should be available to our community and we should all have an equal chance to learn how to live happily and healthy together in this gorgeous place!

"If I were a city leader today:

- I'd allow a major retailer to move into the Gary's space (Parkade - due to be vacant soon) at a reduced lease rate to encourage more traffic to downtown. The cost of retail level spaces in Bellingham is just too high for anyone to consider when they have a captive audience waiting for them at the mall. I'd also work with land owners to find a way to fill every vacancy downtown.
- I'd implement the Pay-by-phone parking system tomorrow! Seriously. What is taking so long?
- I'd get rid of the horribly bright LED lights on Broadway Street and other neighborhood areas and leave them as-is downtown.
- I'd establish seasonal festivals downtown.
- I'd close Commercial street permanently between Holly and Magnolia and create brick park/fountain area in it's place.

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Thanks for letting me rant! ;)

I'm a huge fan of engaging the community's civic spirit of giving to create change. I encourage the City to continue fostering a proud community of individual leaders in each home who want to make change and have their neighborhoods represent the City in clean air, public safety, clean water, education, and economic opportunity. That's an abstract statement, but it starts with one resident at a time in one neighborhood at a time.

I'm all for protecting the water shed and not having to large of an impact on the environment. That said there needs to be a greater effort to attract business to out great community. Business that have good paying long-lasting jobs. Jobs that pay within ear shot of the housing market.

I'm extremely concerned about the rising cost of housing in Bellingham, both rental and housing costs. A median income of \$40,000 and a median home price of \$369,500??? Something must be done.

"I'm new to Bellingham, thanks for including me in this survey. Since I'm new, take my answers to the questions as superficial or impressions rather than firm answers.

The initial questions in the second part of the survey presented a choice which may not be true: higher taxes or lower services. Does this suggest there is no option for productivity improvement or better allocation of existing resources? This implies the CoB is either at peak efficiency and doesn't need to improve or some level of inefficiency and can't or won't improve.

Higher taxes make sense to residents if CoB is at or near 'peak', lower services make sense of CoB is inefficient in service delivery. I don't have enough local knowledge to provide honest commentary.

I'm really not sure. Sorry. I feel strongly we need to find a solution to the homeless problem.

I'm very concerned about how much money Bellingham spends on studies. I first moved to Bellingham from King County in 2001 and was delighted to hear that we would be getting a new central library. That was over 15 years ago and we still don't have a new central library but huge amounts of money have been spent on multiple studies. I think this is really getting in the way of moving forward with things.

Improve Old Town. Columbia is great and downtown provides reasons to visit, but going through Old Town is always sketchy. Especially with the waterfront being developed, improving Old Town makes sense to me.

Improve the attendance, quality, ownership, and promotion of city sponsored events to build community.

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"Improve the efficiency of all operations, break down barriers between various tax payer funded entities (ex.- 15 years to get any real progress on the Port lands)

Make informed decisions rather than reacting to special interests (such as loud protests).

Evaluate the permitting process as the costs contribute much to housing affordability. On a recent apartment development the permits cost more than the land.

Take advantage of opportunities to improve the community at minimal cost such as having the railway pay for the cost of quiet zones as a condition of any new permits. "

Improve traffic control through better use of existing traffic lights Two examples traffic coming up to 12th Street from Chuckanut and wanting to turn left. The second is entering and leaving Shuksan Middle School off Northwest Both very dangerous locations.

Improve traffic flow and repair streets.

"Improve traffic flow in numerous areas throughout the city especially on Meridian and Interstate exits and on ramps.

Enforce single family residential, i.e. oust multiple students from renting in single family residential by penalizing the homeowner. No VRBO in single family residential areas.

Get panhandlers off the street corners.

Reduce government spending and property taxes."

Improvement of housing opportunities for lower income people. Not special low income housing. We need more affordable homes for first time home buyers.

In general I think the city is doing a great job.

In our neighborhood we have unfinished sidewalks on the north side of Barkley closest to Haggen's, making it difficult for pedestrians to head towards town without having to cross Barkley in a curve. Sent email to city but no response. It would be nice to know what the plans are for that area to be more pedestrian friendly.

In the last two decades, spending has gotten out of hand. Comparing B'ham's budget and spending with Wenatchee's, we look like the last of the "big time spenders." I know personally that those in city government in Wenatchee are aghast at the size of our budgets for ALL departments compared with theirs. Per capita spending is not even close. There seems to be this never ending appetite by city government for more revenue in light of the fact tax assessments are up, taxable real property continues to increase and municipal source assessment are on the rise.

"In the neighborhoods around WWU, parking can be difficult at some times of day. It would be nice if non-student residents could get zone parking permits like they issue in Seattle...

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Also, when students move out and ditch their furniture on the side of the road, I know it's a big hassle for the city, and it's very wasteful. It seems like WWU should coordinate with the city to communicate and facilitate items being donated or disposed of appropriately. "

Include people and their experiences in your decision making about their neighborhoods. Find a way to enforce the very laws you have adopted.

"Increase communication with the public via social media or other ways to reach the masses. Most people aren't attending public meetings because it's hard to fit in your life, but we care about issues and want a chance to provide feedback.

Improve service at the Permit Center."

Increase crosswalks at major intersections outside the commercial core in Fairhaven (example: 13th & Harris)

Increase information on the impacts of climate change on the community and the Salish Sea. Increase advice on how to increase wind or solar generated electricity to offset fossil fuel use in residences, especially condominiums where increasing amperage can be complicated and costly.

Increase intersection safety and traffic flow with expanded use of roundabouts. They are environmentally friendly and would also save money and energy required for intersection signal lights.

Increase parking availability downtown and in fairhaven.

Increase the opportunity for family supporting wages. Invite large manufacturers of green and environmentally friendly products to call Bellingham home. Solar panels, electric bikes and cars, battery manufacturing, wind turbines, organic farming etc...

Increase the size of the downtown public library

Increase use of alternative energy sources, such as solar.

Increased affordable housing downtown or in the surrounding neighborhoods, increased SECULAR services for people who are homeless or suffering from mental illness, including addiction. Increased secular medical options. I think decreasing the number of people without homes should be the city's #1 priority at this point. And to be clear, this should be accomplished by increasing the availability of housing options and not by harsher policing of homeless populations.

Interesting you only ask for "positive". Stop spending money on bike safety...bicyclists need to conform to the rules of the road and if any more money gets spent it should be on educating them on their duty in traffic. The side of the road bike lanes are great but the rest has become obnoxiously "trendy". Also enough with the fat-curb corners...we're not allowed to make free right turns in this city.

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invite more potential resources to get involved in the development of the old mill and a little less capitalistic hotel venture bringing in chain stores which would dilute the homegrown entrepreneurial establishments...

Invite technology companies to locate here. Foster development of a technology park in conjunction with WWU. Provide further support of training in high tech trades. Many people would like to remain in Bellingham after their education is complete but are unable to find decent jobs. With good quality of life in a smaller sized city, a good airport, I-5 access, rail, a local university it seems like if we had a highly trained workforce that enticing high tech manufacturing, software development, ... would be possible.

It is a city that works. A good place. Always things you can do to improve here and there, but a good place. Thanks.

It is important for the city to enforce existing zoning and establish consequences for violation of them.

"It is really important to provide adequate facilities for addicts. There is little help for addicts in crisis and they are forced to use the Emergency Room at the hospital. There should be safe places for them to shoot up and there should be walk in or drive in services to help them if they are ill or have a place to sleep at night. The Light House Mission does fabulous work but it is not sufficient. A program to allow restaurants to provide meals to homeless from leftover food that won't be refrigerated overnight to serve the next day but which will essentially be thrown out.

The Bellingham Food Bank does an awesome job but it needs to do more."

It just seems to me that it is getting prohibitive to afford to live IN Bellingham. Housing prices are climbing and first time home buyers are having a more and more difficult time being able to afford to buy a home in Bellingham. The job opportunities do not at all match the inflation of the real estate market. We are thankful that we were able to buy our home before prices got so high and feel sad for those who now have to look to buy in outlying communities simply because buying a home in Bellingham is financially impossible for them.

It seems like the street sweeping has been cut in recent years. Can't find info on outdated website for this service. Impacts safety for bicyclists. City should publicize the current service levels. I have to sweep the pine cones, etc from my area on a busy street and don't feel safe doing so.

It seems we have many homeless individuals, teens, and families. I also understand we have built a lot of "affordable housing", but what are we doing to support the transition between to make sustainable changes?

"It would be nice to have crosswalk lights at Ellis and Gladstone. It is very commonly used and not marked at all. It's far enough from the other crosswalks that people continue to cross there.

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The homeless continue to be a problem. It's the only reason Bellingham is not a safe place for families. Residents and their families and pets should be able to enjoy Maritime Park downtown and right now, nobody goes there."

"It's getting harder to afford housing in my neighborhood. Luckily, I rent from a family member, so my rent is affordable. But housing prices and rents are too high for many, so they end up living in a one of those big apartment complexes, which can't be a positive place to raise kids.

Downtown could be greatly improved. It's not a very nice place to be. I don't have a car so am always taking the bus or walking. I don't feel safe downtown, but it's the main area of town I am in for shopping and services (besides my home and work). It's not a place where people gather as much as it could be. There are so many other downtowns in other cities where you WANT to be. I think because it's such a hangout for the homeless, the mentally ill, the down and out...that people don't like to be there.

Homelessness is a big issue. I ride the bus 5-6 days a week that goes up and down Holly. Sometimes I feel like I am the only person on the bus (or one of a handful) who has a place to live and/or a job. It's sad and depressing that there are so many people without homes here in Bellingham. A friend who used to live here and has been gone 4-5 years came to visit recently and noticed how many more homeless and mentally ill people were on the streets. She used to own a business downtown and remarked how much the area has changed. Homelessness seems to be a top issue that needs addressing, though I know that there are many people who don't want their taxes to go toward that as they feel it's the homeless people's fault that they are homeless. They don't realize how many people are one crisis away from being homeless.

Not certain if it's related to the above issue, but our neighborhood has a lot of burglaries (both homes and cars)! Our neighborhood email-letter is full of them. My 85-year-old mother lives alone and I live alone, and we don't feel like we can leave our doors/windows open in the evenings when it's warm out. I have a lock on my back gate to try to prevent people from coming in to the yard from the alley. Not certain how the city can improve that though."

I've already mentioned homelessness. That's a really big one. We need to greatly reduce homelessness, preferably by providing some sort of shelter -- probably a variety of shelter types -- for people who are homeless in our community. Further, we need to find ways to provide employment for those who have been homeless, and often treatment, rehab or other services. We have a fine, welcoming city that's a great place to live. But it's lousy to be homeless. There must be places that have dealt effectively and compassionately with this situation, who we can learn from.

Jobs and economic growth opportunities will continue to be a real challenge for Bellingham if we are not actively addressing it by wooing employers and industry into our city. We have a highly educated population - we need more diverse job opportunities in things like manufacturing and technology.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

Keep improving celebrating diversity- being a welcoming community to all. Keep trying to find ways to in-fill and avoid sprawl without giving in to developers. We understand the resistance of Birchwood but somehow we must keep finding ways to deal with the increasing population. Multi-unit housing should be integrated in creative ways and not concentrated in certain areas like it has been in the past.

Keep making the right choices even if they are the hard choices so that Bellingham is strong and healthy for the future.

"Keep preserving the green spaces. Foster friendly bike/pedestrian environment. They are part of what makes Bellingham unique and attractive.

I very much favor the idea of Urban villages and if large complexes existed that had sufficiently large floor plans they would be my 1st choice for living. Like Portland, keep building ""neighborhoods"" hip business will move in and attract the affluent that will make up the tax base. The vision for Samish way is attractive and I might move there when my children are grown and leave if it were finished as envisioned. A place where I could garage my car and function almost completely by walking and riding a bike.

Create affordable housing islands with easy access by public transportation to the essentials such as mall, shopping and medical attention where seniors and the less affluent can live and be attracted. "

Keep pushing for walkable and bike-able communities

Keep the homeless camps out of the family neighborhoods, parks, trail systems and water fronts. Do we have a panhandlers law?

Keep the waterfront view open and accessible the public,at the Georgia Pacific site. Don't let it be over built. No high rises or large homes.

Keep trying on the homeless situation. Don't give up our parks to the homeless population. Don't let our natural areas turn into a toilet.

Keep working with the Port and community to find the right balance of public green space and residential/retail on the waterfront opportunity. This will be our crown jewel. Sponsor a childrens initiative to offer preschool for families who cannot afford it. Strive for demographically balanced neighborhoods. Resist wealthy southside and poor north end.

"Knowing that cars are a major contributor to greenhouse gasses, I would like COB to do more to reduce SOV trips.

Parking meter rates downtown are too inexpensive and Fairhaven parking should be metered. The only way to get people out of their cars is to make it too expensive and/or inconvenient to drive.



**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

Less cars on the road would be a positive for everybody."

Lakeway Drive is too dangerous. There is very poor access from side streets for cars, bikes, and pedestrians due to the excessive speed of many drivers and the poor traffic flow resulting from the volume of Sudden Valley traffic. The only speed enforcement is in school zones or near the freeway. The area around Roland and Electric is particularly bad for access but speed is a problem everywhere.

Lakeway Drive really needs a bicycle lane, it is too dangerous to ride during peak hours forcing cyclists and walkers to compete for the sidewalk.

Learn to live within the budget just like the citizens who live here. Budget increases should be increased by the average wage increase, just like the residents. Everything that sounds good does not mean that it warrants a new tax to pay for it. Just like the jail-figuring out how to reduce the inmate count only because the levy fails. Lets look at way to live, work, play, learn, .. without looking at new taxes to pay for them.

"Lease land / buildings on parks property to increase recreational opportunities and generate revenue such as Woods Coffee in Blvd Park.

Reform administrative support to reduce expenses.

Stop increasing taxes. Special purpose taxes (EMS, drainage, greenways, watershed land purchases, etc) are gouging families. Set a base tax rate and operate within our means."

"LED street lights have been proven to be harmful. They are also an annoyance and eliminate the charm of the historic neighborhoods.

The pedestrian and bicycle improvements, although seem like a good idea, really are making more congestion and traffic issues. Planning for growth is needed.

Homelessness has become a serious concern for both safety and crime. There needs to be better efforts for remediation, rehabilitation and reduced crime in neighborhoods.

There needs to be continued funding for the parks and trails, because that is one of the biggest draws for our city and community. "

less emphasis on special interest groups. Promote industry. Lower taxes. Less school levy.

Less government. For example. Alabama was better before it got messed with. Traffic in the morning and afternoon is now a mess between James & Cornwall. The bike lane reasoning is a joke. Bikes use and are much safer coming down a block away on E North and still most use this route. Stop trying to put cars and bikes together. Let the cars have the main streets and keep them moving not slowing them down. Put the bikes and the people on side streets and trails.

"Let the people do more and the city do less.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

Fewer regulations."

Limit the number of ADUs in full density neighborhoods such as the Sehome Neighborhood

Listen to and respect the political minority.

Live within the budget. Continual increase in taxes will have a huge impact on our ability to live in this area. If spending by the City continues to expand and more constraints are placed on us, we will be priced out of our homes.

Long term planning which anticipates a time of increased cost and decreased availability of fossil fuels is critical. Plan now for an infrastructure of public transportation and decentralized services to reduce our dependence on automobiles. Continue to expand bike trails, public transportation and greenways. Continue to structure our city in a way that makes it easy to reduce our individual carbon footprints. Foster and encourage local green businesses. Built strong local support for treatment of mental health disorders including drug abuse and homelessness using a progressive local tax- well to do individuals are able to pay to improve our local social services. Restrict use of gas powered engines on the portion of Lake Whatcom that lies within the city limits and partner with the county to do the same on the rest of the lake. This will greatly reduce the chance that boats carrying invasive species will infect our city water supply. This one move could save millions of dollars in the future which could be used to advance city social services.

Look at LEAN practices to make sure you are spending all tax dollars efficiently. Where is there waste? How can we make housing more affordable? permit fees in Bellingham are 2-4 times what costs are in similar communities.

"Look at what can be done to alleviate congestion at northbound I5 exit at Meridian. Cars are starting to back up onto freeway at times.

Lower homelessness, drug addiction, crime. Clean up lakes and other toxic areas like gp.

Lower speed limit on Donovan Ave to 25 throughout. Improve the distance between the sidewalk and the traffic lanes on Donovan, certain stretches especially.

Make a pedestrian-only street in downtown Bellingham.

Make housing more affordable. Over the last twenty years costs for housing, food, and services have skyrocketed.

"Make it less costly and easier to build or remodel a house.

Attract business to the downtown area..

Help for people with addiction problems that will help clean-up the downtown area.

Lose the NIMBY attitude!!!"

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

Make Lakeway safe please please please. Limit the increase of property value for renters. Educate the police on racism.

"Make our city the envy of the world for it's leading progressive efforts towards ending our over-use of and dependence on the automobile for mobility by ending bad investment in the failed motor vehicle-centric transportation system and creating a first-class, continuous, connected, city-wide network of paved, separated pedestrian and bicycle trails. Communities that prioritize mobility by foot, bicycle and public transit going forward will be happier, healthier and ""richer"" places to live. This will take wise, bold and courageous leadership.

With regards to feeling safe and secure while moving about our city's neighborhoods and downtown: biggest concern is threat from automobile traffic, particularly being struck while walking or bicycling."

Make providing housing for the homeless the number one priority

Make sure the GP Port Project works for everyone in the community, not just the 1%.

Make the cops treat bicyclists like any other motorist that they have to obey the laws of the road and stop catering to all the idiot students and pay attention to the people here that actually pay the taxes.

Making Bellingham bike friendly is great. However, some attempts have been poorly thought out. Specifically, the addition of a bike lane on Lincoln Street near the elementary school has created a dangerous situation with skinny vehicle lanes on a busy road full of parked cars. Keep up the bike friendliness, but think things through... On a separate note, I hardly ever see police walking around interacting with the public anymore. It seems like they just swarm around in cars, getting out only when there is a problem. I think the police as a "warrior" mentality is creeping into the Bellingham police force and I worry that it will cause animosity between law enforcement and local communities.

Managing city owned buildings/land in a more proactive way to keep these areas safe and secure for the general public.

many intersection have cross-traffic views blocked plants-bushes and trees--that have grown to tall on peoples property. cars have to pull completely through a stop sign to see oncoming traffic. this creates an environment where the stop sign is ignored because to see oncoming traffic or, sometimes pedestrians, a car must roll through the stop sign...leading to the habit of just rolling and NOT stopping. this is an issue throughout the city.

"Many of the city streets are quite dark, in my opinion.

I think we need a lot more streetlights.

mental health issues- providing services is great but I feel it is also causing the rise of homelessness and crime in our city. do we offer too much and have maxed out???? bike theft

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

is a major issue. why do we see homeless camps throughout parks or on the waterfront? drug use like heroin is done in the open in downtown areas. it's not safe

"Mental Health Services

Homeless remediation

Motor boats off Lake Whatcom

More green space in neighborhoods and downtown, not just in-fill."

"More active enforcement of traffic speed and red light laws, the violation of which are rampant, which results in unsafe conditions for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Affirmative initiatives to create housing programs for the homeless, and mental health treatment options for the homeless mentally ill.

Require City departments to fulfill their functions. For example, Code Enforcement will not even respond to complaints about zoning violations. This results in perpetuation of violations with a resulting change in the character of the neighborhood over time, which eventually gets to be irremediable.

More aggressive efforts to attract high paying employment that does not compromise the environment. Bellingham is too reliant on minimum wage low skill service employment.

"More bike lanes & sharrows.

Is there anything the city can do about the new food desert in Birchwood? There are a lot of people around here that relied on being able to walk to Albertson's. There is supposedly a clause banning any other grocery store from opening at that site, and it seems unlikely that anyone else would want it. Are we doomed to this blight?"

"more collaboration of organizations to solve problems. Why can't we work with BTC students, who build tiny houses every semester, work with places like the Re-store, WWU depts, and other orgs to build tiny home community for the homeless.

I would love for the police to work more with schools to teach bike safety to kids - I've almost hit several kids riding to school with no helmet not following the rules of biking on the road.

encourage schools to collaborate with more local companies for their fundraisers. I'm sick of them trying to get my kid to sell mattresses and magazines to fill the pockets of the CEO of some corporation somewhere."

More College funding for students to make life easier while pursuing education. More plants and trees around to balance infrastructure, buildings, and concrete. Environment impact reduction and restoration. Lots of cherry blossoms.

More commuter bike routes, rental bikes, bigger library

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

More crosswalks on Lincoln street and Bill McDonald Parkway!! I see people j-walking all the time on both streets to get to the other side where they live or need to catch the bus! Just today when it was very dark out for 5:15, four students ran across traffic in the area on Bill Macdonald between the turn in to Sehome Village and the bus stop across the street by the Wendy's. I almost didn't see them, and with the number of students that cross in the same area, a lit crosswalk would do wonders!. Living on Lincoln street, I watch people cross the street by Maple St.- specifically www students that live in the student apartments south of the Lakeway Fred Meyer!

"More crosswalks. Reduce speeds. Barkley Blvd is especially unsafe in several areas.

First, speed limit to high- 35mph equates to 40-45 mph up Barkley Blvd and hill. Past Woburn, extremely unsafe to cross Barkley on foot. Need X-walks, especially as the a designated trail exits on Barkley across from the East end of the golf driving range. Even with a bike lane I feel unsafe. Have had cars show aggression towards bicyclists. Witnessed awful deer, animal vs. auto accidents- slower speeds and yellow wildlife signs. Aggressive driving in residential neighborhoods. "

more frequent evening bus service!!

More funds need to be spent on social services, especially for housing the homeless, mental health services, and alternatives to jail.

more incentives for alternative energy. trail entire length of Padden Creek to connect Fairhaven to lake Padden by foot and bike

More involvement with the homeless

more parks and trails

"More people carpooling or busing.

Improved bike/ped safety around neighborhood elementary schools"

"More public access to water, places like Lake Whatcom need additional access points besides Blodel Donovan and the North Shore. The same is true of the bay.

more regular cleaning of streets-as a bicycle commuter, I've had a number of flat tires due to broken glass, etc. in bicycle lanes

more sidewalks

More sidewalks for students of all ages in the Happy Valley neighborhood.

more sidewalks in residential neighborhoods

More sidewalks. Less bike lanes. More funding for entrepreneurship programs like NWIRC

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

"More street lights in neighborhoods please!

Larger library collection

Friendlier and more helpful cooperative bike shops

"-More streets that are at least part time pedestrian only. Making Cornwall, State, Holly, and Railroad a super block. I.e <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/17/superblocks-rescue-barcelona-spain-plan-give-streets-back-residents>

-More bike infras"

More tangible focus on local business people who create a local economy. Leadership by example is great, as is increased fostering of small business creation and support during growth.

"More traffic infraction awareness. I walk A LOT and am astounded at what cars and bicycles get away with on the streets- no turn signals, no lights at dusk, for example.

We don't have many sidewalks in my neighborhood but that isn't a problem most of the time."

"Most people I know are excited to see the old GP site redevelopment. We would like to see City leaders expedite that activity and finish the boardwalk connections.

There are some extremely large housing developments happening. I hope that those developments will be required to have high quality of life attributes, such as outdoor space for each unit, parking, trees, safety...

Mental health services in WA are extremely under-funded. I hope the City can support mental health for the least fortunate of us.

Equity of school quality between the neighborhoods is very important, especially grade schools and junior-highs. Access to special education and preschool services is important.

I really like our public art sculptures in Bellingham. I hope that continues.

I'd love to see more walk-ability in Silver Beach. Frankly, we need a neighborhood pub and cafes we can walk to. Maybe zoning and incentives can be considered to create that. Keep the Silver Beach grocery mini-mart, even if tax incentives are necessary.

We have some seriously ugly history when it comes to racism, equity and inclusion. I'd like to see the tours being designed by the Salish Sea Welcoming Committee, embraced and funded to create real historical virtual tours and markers.

I have experienced extremely unprofessional treatment when dealing with City staff around property issues in the silver beach neighborhood. ""We are supposed to make it HARD to develop in the water shed"" is an exact quote. Have rules, but then don't be manipulative or denigrating about it.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

More ways to pull the population of Bellingham onto the WWU campus and vice-versa. "

"MOVE the bus service to lessor used streets, so that the bus does not impede traffic. SUCH as MOVE from ALABAMA to TEXAS, where the rentals are, and there is less traffic. The same problem on NW. When the bus stops at the stop across from Jerry Chambers, it stops ALL traffic as there is a pedestrian island in the middle, and cars have to go in the OPPOSITE lane to go around the bus and Island, which is possibly dangerous and against the law.

We also need more buildable lots or increase in the UGA. We have built two new Grade Schools (Cordate and Wade King) in areas that every kid has to be bussed or driven to school. I have waited in line for a half hour to pick up my granddaughter at Cordata. The other STUPID choice is to BUS them to school at the cost of millions of dollars, while they eliminated Larrabee School where EVERY kid walked to school as I did as a kid to Washington School.

Study the CHAT report. The city and County spend hundreds of thousands of dollars and 20 of us spent 3 hours a week of our time for 18 months, coming up with well balanced housing plans and needs. From the Mayor down, to the lowest level the ""city experts"" tabled the plan and developed stupid obstacles to stop any growth, as they listed to the neighborhood groups that did not want any growth in ""their back yard"" nor within the city.

IMPACT fees and related costs are absurd, if the city wants choices of housing and not just Bellingham Housing Authority housing. The private sector can do it far better and for less cost.

The City from the Mayor to the Council to the Planning Department is not listening to the public, but just giving lip service, and then doing what they wish including lying to the public, taking funds out of dedicated funds that the public had voted for a specific use. EMS and the JAIL are examples. "

Move WWU to some other county.

"much more aggressive enforcement of zoning in family neighborhoods if a ""college"" house does not maintain an appropriate coexistence with family neighborhoods â€"â€" noise, party, garbage and used furniture left in parking strips, etc. issues.

"My biggest concern for our community are for those with mental illness and the lack of services throughout WA. We must do better than incarcerate and provide drugs to those who struggle living in society due to mental illness.

Traffic is another issue. Meridian and I-5 are the only North/South corridors to get through Bellingham. Meridian traffic has become severely congested during high traffic periods. "

My biggest concern is that the way the City is going now, limiting development of land and associated cost, and lack of living wage if not high wage jobs, and likely increases in taxes for parks and services, this City will become Boulder CO or Santa Barbara CA. Many people will no

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longer be able to live here, younger people will not be able to find good jobs and be able to afford to live here.

My biggest issue with Bellingham is what seems to be poor planning. Meridian is a mess and with Costco moving there's another huge concrete structure the'll probably be empty for years. There's multiple empty spaces downtown that the city should take the lead on. There doesn't seem to be any vision the core of downtown or any thought given architecture and design - unless you live in Fairhaven of course. I'm often told how lucky I am to live in Bellingham but to be honest when I take visitors through town I'm sort of embarrassed.

My community is very important and I appreciate you asking.

"My main concern with our community is the welfare and resources for the homeless population. I have come into contact with many homeless people on my bus route from Birchwood to downtown, otherwise I might not have realized the size of that population in Bellingham. I'm not sure what changes I would make, though. I know there's a Lighthouse and women's shelter, but I imagine they get overcrowded, especially in bad weather. Today on my rainy bus ride home, a woman wrapped in a blanket got off at the Lighthouse stop after asking the driver for directions to it.

Additionally, there are some places in Bellingham that I feel unsafe walking through alone, even during the day. These include Maritime Heritage Park and the two blocks north of the bus station on Holly (these blocks include a Rite Aid and JJ's). There always seem to be people there, especially in the alley by JJ's and outside the Rite Aid, who seem dazed and possibly on drugs, and they sometimes yell at passersby. I'm not sure why they choose these places to hang out, but without fail, they are there. Again, not sure how I'd change this--patrolling would just send them elsewhere. "

"Need to address the growing number of people who are soliciting on street corners and freeway ramps. This point to the homeless problem in the area that also needs to be addressed.

Need to look at are community from visitor eyes. Take Samish Drive, just to name one of several; Grass growing up through the sidewalks, inadequate lot maintenance at sidewalk areas. Center traffic calming buffers with ugly un-kept landscaping. Garbage at main intersections due to the policy of allowing solicitation, (which also a safety concern.)

new jail

New library downtown (feels overcrowded). Bike lanes; Improve I5 by repaving/asphalt (although we realize this is not really something the city can do alone and is state funded but we thought we would mention it); Keep the water front accessible with plenty of parks (trees) and trails when developing the new waterfront;

New library!



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no

No housing on the waterfront, this should be kept community friendly. More safety education opportunities, especially for children. Child ID card events. Bicycle traffic infraction enforcement is very needed, with clear traffic laws. Work towards discounts for homeowners to improve their homes (i.e. heating, energy) for a greener community. Late night and Sunday busses. There are many. I would like the city to be more transparent with their decisions, and offer alternate means of providing feedback on multiple city issues. I like to live here, but it's too expensive. An apartment is not even affordable. Rentals and their restrictions are out of control. A roundabout at Stuart and Cordata would help with traffic flow. Don't close Eliza, the traffic flow is too heavy.

No more building near our drinking water supply. No camping over night in our city parks. Limiting marijuana stores within city limits. No promoting of marijuana by the city taxpayers.

No suggestions.

None at this time. I believe all city leaders are aware of the need for a park and library in the Cordata neighborhood.

none come to mind.

None.

Not enough sidewalks. The city needs sidewalks wherever kids walk to the bus. That is not the case in many places.

Not sure how to make this change, but it is very difficult to rent or purchasing a home as a middle - low income household.

"Note. I never watch BTV10 because it is not available on the Dish service that I have.

I would like to see the city invest and provide better street lighting for the sake of safer driving and walking.

Notify citizens much more in advance of critical issues at meetings. It feels as though the city at times gives short notice and has discussion on issues at late or odd times in order to decrease involvement rather than increase involvement. Be honest and open with your intentions and truly encourage involvement rather than just saying you encourage it.

Oh how I love our 'ham. I truly do not have many complaints but something must be done about or neighborhood streets in terms of pedestrian safety and the downtown to make it safer. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

On the subject on safety in the neighborhoods, I think there should be more streetlights in many of the neighbors and every street in town should have a sidewalk.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

"One last thought:

From my understanding, most bodies of water that are considered reservoirs rarely allow motorized boats on them. When I was present at a meeting regarding the moratorium on 2 stroke engines back in 2004-5, I could not believe the immaturity (and willingness to use emotion as manipulation) of many of the people present. It saddens me that people don't want to make more sacrifices with their lifestyle for the sake of the community at large. I understand that those who live on the lake feel as if they should be able to have boat access, i just don't think they have the community's long term interests in mind. If you want to live in that luxurious and delicate area, I think people need to not get up in arms when city and state regulations are created to prevent runoff, algae blooms, and invasive species from interfering with our water supply. Like most things in the political and social sphere, money and corporate/private interests win while logic and the environment lose. Saving the environment rarely makes money and in this case, is definitely a costly component of Whatcom county."

Open forums to improve diverse relations. All races, ages and identifiers. This forum would be to discuss challenges and barriers to entry within our communities

Our biggest concern is homeless & crime that has grown immensely over recent years. Our city has facilities with free housing, free meals, free food to take, free phones, free clothing, etc... We offer all these great services for those in need, but the services are so good that we are attracting those in need from all over the country. And we have no solution. The mayor and her staff seem to think the first step is more homeless housing, particularly housing that will take individuals high on drugs and drunk. Here's a simple fact... the solution to many problems is Work! Find a way to put as many people in need / homeless, etc... to Work and things will improve in many ways! People will gain some sense of self worth. They will have less time to do drugs & alcohol. Those who are lazy will be somewhat dissuaded to accept all the free services if they know that requires putting in a day's work for a day's food and a night's rest, just like it is required for the majority of our citizens.

Our city and school district need to do something about the imbalance of socio-economic make-ups of elementary, middle and high schools. There is a TREMENDOUS difference between the schools in "wealthier" neighborhoods vs. "less wealthy" neighborhoods. This is not because of lack of teaching skills or effort by the teachers, but because of the socio economic status of the families attending the schools. How can the school district redraw the lines, but also, how can the city encourage more "mixed housing" neighborhoods so a variety of families are living around and attending all of the different schools.

Our city's resources are being strained by the arrival of many people flooding into the area from other parts of the country ... who are then depending on the city and other agencies to take care of them. There are panhandlers on nearly every corner, and some of them have vehicles parked nearby. Some of them do this as their 'job' ... making quite a bit of unreported income while taking advantage of the good will of agencies who provide for the disadvantaged. Yet, if you

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

continue this type of care ... the disadvantaged are not inclined to look for real work, so society becomes their caretaker. Unfortunately, one of the outpoints of this beautiful area is that there is an insufficient number of businesses that provide employment to large numbers of people, e.g., Microsoft, Boeing, etc.

Our downtown is one of the worst cities I have seen in some time. Not to be prudish but I am sick of having to go to the mall if I want to shop. Our downtown core is mostly headshops, and bars, catering to the college students and younger crowds looking to party. We need more retail shops, with affordable rent or lease so a small business can succeed and develop into a thriving core of business. Nobody goes downtown to shop at one single store, but a block or two of small businesses would bring revenue and a life and identity to our town. And get rid of those damn parking meters!

Our neighborhood is being challenged by the possibility of infill. Developers are purchasing our large lots and using the homes as rental property in anticipation of a change in zoning. Some of the rental properties are not maintained well in the meantime. Subdividing our lots may cause loss of privacy, views, sunlight and green spaces while increasing traffic. Many owner/occupants of homes in the neighborhood would like to maintain the integrity of the Birchwood neighborhood by keeping the large lots intact. I would encourage City leaders to listen to owner/occupants and their survey of ten years ago.

Our waterfront is one of Bellingham's most valuable assets and I would like to see more progress made on the clean up and development of the GP site so that all of our residents can enjoy it

"Overall everything is going well. Housing is high, but not sure what can really be done about that. Jobs are okay, could be a little better. Fixing up the waterfront is a huge plus and I have only heard good things about, I am very excited for that.

The trail systems are one of the best things about the city. It is one of the reasons that I live in Bellingham and bought my house so close to the tail head. Growing up this was a highlight of my life. The tail end of Whatcom falls park is still pretty bad the last time I was out there. Within the last year or so, the trail that goes between Lincoln and Yew is littered with the homeless, I counted 6 tents two weeks ago. I walk my dog through that area every day, it has gotten very bad and needs to get cleaned up, I will be taking measures to take care of this myself if nothing has been done by the spring. Trim the tree and clear up the area to make it less welcoming to put up tents everywhere.

"Overall we do a great job (and I work for the City). We could still improve our level of service by being a bit more proactive in eliminating employees that exhibit sub-par performance. We've done good things recently in this regard but there is more to do.

Leaders also need to be sure to tune out the vocal minority when it is obvious that then do not speak for the greater population. "

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

overall, i think our leaders are doing a good job balancing a host of challenges

People park cars in bike lanes. People park their cars the wrong way on streets like in our neighborhood.

Permanent housing for homeless populations is critical.

permitting permitting permitting

Place a lot of thought into the re-development of the waterfront. I don't want to see a bunch of condos and restaurants. It should be a mix of opportunities for residential, working-class jobs, and recreation.

Plan for traffic problems on the Interstate as well as city. Our cities population is growing; are we preparing for it in advance. A second choice for the Lakeway traffic to take the pressure off of Lakeway driving East and West commutes. A second Arterial.

"Plan now for future sea-level rise, before the GP site is developed.

Please add sidewalks in Edgemoor!

Please buy a couple more of snow removal vehicles as the city is slow to remove snow/ice on secondary roadways. Stop spending so much money on the library system (does one small city really need more than one library? We have, what 4 now???) In this age of the internet not as many people really use the library. The main library is all we need. Stop spending money on the museums and get them to be self supporting. If attendance is light it is because people don't WANT to attend. Stop acquiring new city buildings put the money into the ones you have. As a citizen I am tired of paying for all the services we don't need or use. Make it pay as you go. Most of us are more worried about putting food on our table or how many hours at work we will be cut I'd sure like to make \$15.00 an hour like some Seattle workers! Start taking a hard line in spending cuts of the perks of living in Bellingham and don't raise taxes to make the few pay for the many.

"Please continue to foster relationships with the non-profit and faith-based organizations that we are fortunate to have, particularly in the area of working with homelessness & help for the mentally ill folks in our city.

Please don't fight the economic progress that would come with allowing the GPT. It would be a valuable asset to our community.

Thank you for your service! You are appreciated. "

Please improve traffic lanes on West Bakerview around new Costco!

"Please make as much public beach access possible...If people can touch the water safely and enjoy the Tides, Beach Treasures and all the wildlife we will be a very health community !!!

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

"Please make sure the development of the GP site (albeit it is under Port control), has enough public access to the water. A good mix of public access, green space, housing and good paying jobs would be my preference.

Work on the homeless issue, move Parberry recycling from the prime Holly street location to more of an industrial zone, clean up Maritime Heritage Park and stop the months long parking of RV's etc in town."

please make the marine heritage park safer. Its a real jewel but I feel unsafe walking alone on the trails there.

Please pass an effective and fair ADU ordinance. We can't afford to sprawl and I have family I need to think about living on my property in the future. Will will with rental availability and housing prices.

Please remove the Lighthouse Mission, or at least put it in the county. Why does it have to be on our waterfront? Please stop attracting homeless to our city. It may sound mean, but get a job or leave. There are other towns. I believe in tough love. Love them, but don't give them a free ride...especially on our waterfront.

Please see my comments on the environment i.e. locomotive exhaust fumes are dangerous to the health of our citizens. We need to require newer locomotive regulations on diesel exhaust.

Please take care of our homeless, at-risk youth and sex trafficked communities. People of color and battered women as well, of course, and ultimately shying away from doing even more for those at the top and something more for those at the bottom.

Please, listen to community and neighborhood residents and focus less on speakers and promoters of real estate development and improper/illegal use of real estate within existing neighborhoods.

"Post signs on heavily used bike trails (Boulevard /Fairhaven, Barkley Village, etc.) to warn bikers that saying ""On your left"" is not very effective for deaf & hard of hearing people. I've been hit 3 effing times by well-intentioned bikers, one of who said ""What's wrong, you deaf or something."" I did not respond, but in the future I'll yell ""Yes, and it's better than being a pompous ass hole.""

(Thank you for letting me get this off my chest). "

Prioritize policies and practices that advance equity and promote the health and well-being of children and families

Prioritize replacement of antiquated fire trucks to ensure that these vehicles are safe and reliable.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

Proceed with redevelopment of the GP site with a mix of recreational, residential, and commercial sites like Sidney BC. Keep non-marine manufacturing and warehousing in other industrial areas such as the airport and I-5 corridor.

Prohibit power boats on Lake Whatcom. It is our drinking water and should not have engines polluting this valuable resource. Also more outreach is needed to protect Lake Whatcom Watershed, including phosphorus reduction and homeowner property modifications. Also we need more high paying jobs to keep talent from leaving the area. Bellingham is becoming a very grey and aging small city.

"Prohibit the homeless from camping on the Roeder Ave. bridge over what come creek. As of Oct. 20 there are two separate encampments on the sidewalk of the bridge. One of them is directly under the sign which says ""Our Changing Waterfront""

The irony is amusing, the reality of the encampments an eyesore and an insult to the community. They have been there for weeks now, surely the City is aware of them and has done nothing. Amazing!!!"

promote front yard, surrounding property beautification efforts to clean up overgrown vegetation, or dying vegetation. LED lights are not as great as once thought. Please research what AMA has to say about them before installing them in all Bellingham neighborhoods. Not enough dog owners pick up after their dogs. We need more family wage jobs not minimum wage service sector jobs. Attract more high technology & manufacturing to Bellingham and surroundings. Discourage ownership and operation of old clunkers spewing blue smoke. Those cars are a source of ground level pollution. Make owners fix the problem.

Promote green energy i.e. solar and wind.

"Protect the current property owners and new building are constructed. Set and enforce design standards. Protect views of existing property owners. Remember that residents that have lived in the city for 30 years deserve as much of a break as the new developers.

WILL MOVE FROM THIS TOWN AS SOON AS I CAN SELL PROPERTIES. RENTAL INSPECTIONS ARE A VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE RENTER. IF A RENTAL IS INSPECTED, ALL OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES SHOULD BE INSPECTED ALSO."

Protect the quality of water we drink and do away with bottled water.

Protect the single family neighborhoods from ADUs. Our neighborhoods are not negotiable.

Protecting the water source should be a driving force in managing the area.

"Provide more land supply to reduce housing prices.

Policy that encourages businesses to locate and grow in Bellingham.

Enforce laws downtown to make it clean and safe.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

Better wages and job opportunities.

Provide more mental health support to homeless

Provide more resources for the homeless members of our community.

Public buildings need to be fitted with solar panels to lead the way towards a small carbon footprint. Local leadership is needed to generate greater knowledge of our need to reduce our carbon footprint

Public education on pedestrian and bicyclist safety

public swimming instruction and play is lacking. living next to lakes and oceans, I find swim lessons, and safe play in water to be very important. Arne Hannah is unequipped to meet the need and lessons are mediocre. Lanes for swim play are never open it seems. Firstenburg community center in Vancouver WA or the richmond water center are very good examples of what I'd like to see in the Bellingham area. Slides and water play equipment designed for very young children, and depths suitable for kids under 8 to allow for earlier swim lessons and introduction to fun, safe practices in the water.

Pursue replacement of central library building with larger building; increase services for homeless downtown: computers and internet accessibility, safe personal storage; safe showers and washroom facilities; increase support for mental health services and jail reform efforts

"Push for more city involvement from Churches, community groups and businesses to help offset parks budget.

Publicly support all Law Enforcement in the Area! Meet with the leaders of the Law enforcement community weekly.

Get tough public drug use. No tolerance rule in public parks!

Clean up the streets of petty crime. Crime task force.

Lower property taxes to allow young families a chance to buy a home!

Help companies come to Bellingham by updating telecommunication lines.

Put a real sidewalk in on Hannegan Road on the west side of the roadway, between Division Street and Sunset Drive cross streets. Also put in continuous sidewalks on both sides of the roadway along E. Bakerview Road, between Deemer Road and Hannegan Road. Lots of people walk and bike along those roadways using the routes I've just described, day and night. Many are commuting to and from work or walking to and from shopping centers.

Put more effort towards the drug problem, such as bringing in detectives or more educated forces. I would also try to foster more common interaction between the police force and people.

Put more stop lights.

**Q: We greatly value feedback and ideas from community members like you. If you were a city leader, would there be any additional positive changes you would make in our community?**

put public bathrooms downtown. have clothing/department stores downtown

"Put road markings such as a center line stripe on north end of Deemer.

Develop the waterfront in a timely manner.

Bring in cruise ships and boost the economy.

Bring in businesses to offer better paying jobs.

More low income housing.

Help the homeless. (and eliminate pan handling on street corners)

Put sidewalks in in the Roosevelt neighborhood. It's a hassle to have to walk 6 blocks to the bus. Also, there should be better street lighting because it's hard to walk around at night.

"Question- Earlier you asked us to rate the city's efforts in multiple categories. Their efforts may be different than the results. I know they have good efforts! But I'm not sure the results are always top notch. That made it really hard to answer.

On another note, I'd like the city to work more closely with the school district. I hear rumors that they don't work well together, and I've heard that for years. What are you doing to improve that relationship?

Thanks for all the work on bike trails/paths. It will take time but slowly I believe more people will adopt that method for transportation, as long as the pathways exist. "

"Quit making regulations on landlords that raise the cost of housing.

Make it easy to find a resolution to expanding my house without paying hundreds of dollars to sit in front of a committee that may or may not let me do anything.

If you fix a pothole that is interconnected with 10 other potholes, you are doing it wrong. Cut up a rectangle that removes all the potholes and fix it right. Find some people that have some pride in their work.

re Barkley, the intersection at Brandywine is a high risk area for both traffic and pedestrians. It needs to be marked better, particularly for traffic coming down the hill, with signs, warning lights and roadway markings alerting traffic of pedestrians and sudden traffic entering from the side streets.

"Really look at the budget. Taxes just keep going up - they are forcing us out of our house.

Which programs are really working? cut the fat."

"Reclaim downtown for the citizens of Bellingham and take it back from the homeless/crime and drug culture that has taken over downtown and Marine Park. Network to design a bike chip program so that bike theft can reduce and they can be reclaimed by their owners. Reduce the



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tax burden from small businesses who are paying 40% of our revenue to taxes. Get rid of the Use Tax! It is ridiculous to pay tax every year on things that I have already purchased and paid sales tax for!

We felt like we were home the moment we moved here 20 years ago. There are a lot of things that need attention however we wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Thank you for all you do to make Bellingham continue to be the special place that it is."

"Recreation centers including the Arne Hanna Pool and city owned Bellingham Sportsplex are undersized, disgustingly filthy, inefficient and expensive to operate. As a family, we refuse to use Arne Hanna because of these problems.

Additionally, the city's long-term lease of the Bellingham Sportsplex facility to the Whatcom Sports Commission moved this building off of the city's P&L, however, the building and lands are still a city asset. The building is being poorly maintained by the Whatcom Sports Commission (bathroom fixtures broken, no hot water at some changeroom/ bathroom sinks, soap dispensers missing, broken locks on toilet stall doors, water dripping through the roof, rusted through interior metal cladding, rotten flooring, potential structural issues lurking) and is a disgrace to our community.

Quality and availability of pool and sport facilities available to the community at large are two issues that I value and would support through appropriate user fees and potential tax increases.

Our city parks and Civic Field/Joe Martin complex are a credit to our community, its unfortunate that these other facilities remain the butt of jokes in Washington state and the pacific northwest. "

"Redevelopment of the downtown core is needed, specifically the larger spaces near commercial.

Homelessness appears to be a greater issue in town, making parts of downtown feel less safe and some of our parks also feel less safe at times. "

Reduce government control

Reduce impact fees for home construction. Ask permit employees not to impose personal environmental leanings on applicants.

Reduce services for the homeless, we attract too many that are not FROM Bellingham because we have TOO much services for the homeless and we are on I-5. No problem supporting locals but we cannot support the out of town drifters

"Reduce super market garbage thru recyclable packaging such as returnable beverage containers; eliminate plastic containers.

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Make it easier to improve existing structures without charging high permit costs that seem to be based on make-work projects for engineers and consultants. "

"Reduce taxes on all citizens, reduce water bills when I first moved to Bellingham my water sewer bill was \$47 now it is over \$200 and heading higher. Why?

Promote more family wage jobs that a person can work at for a long time if desired.

Find a way to reduce homeless people."

Regulate the Unlawful Bicyclist who don't respect traffic. They swerve in and out of traffic thinking they own the road and sidewalks. Why are we promoting bicycling in Bellingham?

Reinstate Clean Green. I hate to think what a lot of people are doing with their yard waste now. Just charge more if you need to. We will happily pay for the services! Clean Green services are in the best interest of the whole community and the environment.

Remove all roundabouts. They are a stop gap measure that does not work for more than ten years. Install street lights instead. Remove the concrete barriers on Illinois street so the greater public can use it in a two way setting. The bicyclists never complained about it being unsafe in the first place. The head planner lives on that street and he wanted limited traffic on his street so he " made it happen". Slowing cars down is just like slowing business down. That is one reason things are not better here. Thank you!

Remove homeless camps, and prevent them from recurring.

"Remove the squatters on Citizen dock.

Making the trail around the new waterfront development project a top priority to encourage community interest and participation in the development. "

Repair burnt houses and messy overgrown yards.

Replace our old library!

"Resolve the ADU issue by allowing them in all areas with adequate WTA service and reduce the impact fees associated with them so that more affordable housing can be created.

Stop subsidizing developments on the fringe of town by building roads and roundabouts at taxpayer expense. Costco is not contributing to the freeway interchange improvements - that is simply wrong.

The Port is supposed to be the economic development arm of the region but they really have done nothing. The Itek move was fine but it was just poaching one city area for another. The City should be all over the Port for their inactions."

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Restoring parks and recreation programs, like life guards at each of the lakes, rebuilding the swim docks, and having students in the parks for at least one month in the summer doing games and crafts (like in the old days.) The parks seemed to be used less and less interactive back then.

Revoke the inspection program for rental properties.

Safe neighborhood and no potholes or cracks on sidewalks and streets. Here what people say about their community.

Safety at pedestrian crosswalks. Cornwall Avenue near Assumption Church is dangerous when the evenings are short and it gets darker earlier (especially in the winter).

"Samish is close enough to WWU to have a lot of student renters. Carmen Rasmussen was excellent in building relationships between student renters and long term residents. I was sorry to see her leave, and I haven't seen much from her replacement, although she is quite new and probably needs more time to become effective.

I wish there were some way for the city to enforce the 3-unrelated-person rule. I understand that this is difficult, but it seems like the city doesn't even try any more."

Samish Rd between I 5 and Padden does not seem very safe for pedestrians or bikes. Also, I think the museum should be lower admission cost and it should be promoted more as a frequent, affordable place to visit.

Sanctuary city

"See my long comment about discouraging growth and long-term planning for sustainability, roughly four pages back.

I have studied and taught sustainability studies for over thirty years at WWU, and would love to meet and talk with a city planner. You can email me at Gary.Bornzin@wwu.edu. There is significant expertise at Western that does not seem to be well utilized.

City could utilize the mediation services of the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center to initiate not just public hearings on issues, but mediated conversations among representatives of diverse interests. I am saddened, and I'm sure the city is frustrated, by the polarization and non-communication at public hearings, seen at recent Comp. Plan hearings. We need new processes for achieving consensus and collaboration. We need to move ""Beyond the Culture of Contest"" (title of an excellent visionary book by Prof. Michael Karlberg in Comm. Dept. at Western. Or check out a 17 minute TED talk at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0ZCAbYrQ7Q>). We don't need more or different stuff; we need new processes.

This survey was a great idea. And open comment periods at City Council meetings have some value. But I think an ongoing, full-time appointed ""listener"" to the public (ombudsperson?) would be a valuable way to get feedback and help the public feel heard.

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Finally, let's use these new processes to see if we can make some faster progress on the waterfront. Bellingham's extraordinary gift is proximity to water and mountains, proximity to nature. Let the city help people connect."

"Send a single unit to emergency aid calls and save \$ plus you have units that can respond to other aid calls.

Better street maintenance; the street quality is noticeably better in the County with fog lines and vision clearances.

Make development around Lake Whatcom pay for stormwater treatment.

Leave social services to social service agencies and use public funds for public safety."

"Set up a homeless camp with dumpsters and rest rooms. I see too many homeless camps with stacks of garbage.

Sidewalk needed on Nevada St."

Sharing of information. Example: the police were apparently doing a training in our neighborhood a few months ago with search dogs and a hovering helicopter. This greatly alarmed us and other neighbors, as we thought it was something of true concern and alarm (no one informed us of a training). So much so that the principal of the local school called 911 to ensure that the attendees of the PTA meeting were safe to leave the building and return home. To continue to build trust with neighbors, it is essential to share information.

sidewalks on all streets, enforcement of traffic laws (especially at stop signs), enforcement of noise restriction on vehicles, enforcement of leash laws in public parks...Greater emphasis on replacing the jail (even at the "cost" of creating more parks on the south side of town). The 100 acre woods should be space for in-filling (close to shopping, public transportation, etc). We have enough wonderful parks on the south side of town!

Slow down the growth of Bellingham. Too much traffic on certain streets , such as Sunset and Meridian.

Solve traffic congestion, and allow commercial/retail development on Meridian north of Van Wyck Rd/Thomas Rd which is LII/PIM at present, but would require the activation of the new completed sewer line that has been ready for activation for several years.

Some of the items were hard to rate for importance, as they feed on each other and all are important to a strong community. Economic development can lead to increased opportunities for everyone. Increased opportunities can lead to greater hope, to be able to take care of yourself and not feed off others. The great thing about the library and recreational programs is that they are available to everyone (as long as fees are kept under control). Crime control is

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needed, but crime prevention and drug education could be more important in the long run. I think city leaders could focus on providing business incentives as a means to lead to opportunities for everyone at all skill and motivation levels: economic development, jobs of various types, access to recreation, and so on. Give people something to do other than just hang out. Please remember handouts are only a short-term solution and should only serve as a stepping stone to improving yourself, but the opportunities need to be there. I really like Bellingham but, as with many places, problems and solutions are complex.

some places need fix speed for pedestrians

Sorry to be overly provincial, but it's really past time for the city to install a sidewalk on the south side of W. Illinois between Meridian and Northwest. This is truly a dangerous stretch for pedestrians and crossing to the north side isn't always readily feasible during rush hour traffic.

speed bumps on certain South Hill residential streets to curb speeding; COB to enforce single-family dwelling rule to rental units on South Hill to alleviate parking issues for residents in non-permit areas; reduce train traffic through Bellingham; implement underground electrical lines to eliminate danger/outages.

Speed up the clean up and development of the waterfront

spend less money on bikes.

Spend tax dollars that benefit the majority of the community not just the vocal special interests. The bike markings on the streets are confusing and a total waste of \$.

Start discouraging more growth in population. Put some effort into making every household off the grid with a private power source.

Stop allowing box stores to infiltrate and expand within our community. Don't allow companies like Costco to destroy natural spaces and build new stores when existing buildings sit empty. Don't allow housing prices to continue to be out of reach for most young- and first-time homebuyers.

stop buying more park and trail land and start maintaining the land you have i live next to a park and i call the parks dept and they say they do the have the time or man power to take care of it IE mowing more frequent cutting down of dead trees and just area maintenance neighbors have volunteered but we are told we can not do the work. so they need to step up and maintain what we have before buying more

Stop the building of huge structures in residential neighborhoods. The enormous luxury apts. on Forest is an example of ill planning with no public input allowed. This structure will cause huge traffic problems and has, as of now, blocked views of houses on North Garden. Real estate agents say that the value of a house goes up \$100,000 with views. This permissive building of structures that block views happens too often and should be stopped. Many new

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developments in Bellingham have been and are brought in from the outside. Perhaps we need more diverse representation on the Port of Bellingham and City Council. We also truly need much more attention payed to community members express their opinions.

stop the growth of low income homes that turns our neighborhood to a slum

Stop using tax dollars to build low income housing! This should be done by the state or the federal government. Low income housing should not be placed in the downtown area. Also, businesses will continue to move out of the downtown area if the city does not decrease the number of homeless that sleep in doorways, urinate everywhere and threaten families. No more panhandling on street corners. It is unsafe and attracts people from all over.

"Stop wasting tax money. Spend money better. Think about what you're spending money on and how many people is even helps. Find something for all the homeless to do. Like what most cities in Colorado do; get them bus tickets to some other place.

The city has the potential, lets make Bellingham great again."

Stop worrying about affordable housing and start dealing with economic growth in the form of white-collar tech jobs. There's no reason why Bellingham shouldn't be like Silicon Valley, CA when it comes to jobs. We have more here to appeal to people than it does. If people make a decent living, they'll be able to afford the increased housing costs. There are too may low-income people in Bellingham. Too many free lunches being given out in schools.

"Strong emphasis on energy efficiency and alternative energy sources; using progressive taxes (not sales tax) to fund initiatives; Ensure the jail is funded in such a way that the police and fire levy limit isn't compromised; Promote biking and alternative transportation (the bus system is very cumbersome and takes a long time to get anywhere); promote natural disaster preparedness by having an annual Emergency Preparedness Day on January Jan. 28 (the anniversary of the last M9 earthquake in the region) when everyone changes out food from their emergency kit (or makes one in the first place). The older food goes to the food bank; Do more for the homeless! I'm unaware of efforts outside of the Lighthouse Mission, which is not a city organization, and there should be more being done.

All this said, I don't want to simply complain. A lot of great work is being done and I appreciate how much the City administration cares about Bellingham as a community. "

Study what other cities are doing about the increasing incidence of chronic homelessness. How are other cities "thinking outside the box" and addressing this problem? I realize there are no easy across the board answers, but feel this is problem that affects our city in so many ways that continued discussion needs to happen.

"Support for neighborhood block watches and disaster preparedness.

Clamp down on speeders and too darkly tinted car windows.

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Street beautification, i.e. More trees, shrubs, and fixing potholes/rough roadways.

Work hard to fill downtown empty retail spaces, promote walkability (make a pedestrian only corridor on 2 or 3 blocks of Cornwall Avenue such as Pearl St. in Boulder, CO). Encourage locally owned businesses.

Put limits on new big box stores - use what we already have. Lessen ""retail sprawl""!!

"Support new businesses and growth opportunities. Do not make it so hard to get permits.

Don't spend time listening to a small proportion of residents who are very vocal about their beliefs. The ones that have time to protest and attend meeting after meeting after meeting are usually not too busy doing things to support the infrastructure and growth of the community like working and starting/supporting local businesses."

Take back our downtown so people can feel safe and want to spend time there. And clean up the transient camps that pollute our water and environment, are such an eyesore and disgrace to our city and are a bed of criminal activity.

"Taking the survey clarified the difficult decisions which be made by our civic leaders and I do applaud their efforts and believe that they are all striving for the best for all the citizens of Bellingham.

Thank you."

Thank You for all the continued hard work!

Thank you for asking

"Thanks for all of your work. I know being a public servant/city employee is thankless work. Much appreciated! I appreciate the work on Alabama (nicely done Chris Comeau!), love our trail system, and appreciate the work done to make my bike commute to work safer and more accessible. I'm glad to finally see progress on the waterfront site (thank you Mayor Linville for doing something Pike couldn't).

Finally, the blue lights that were on the trees downtown at the beginning of Western's school year were really fantastic. Kudos to the city for recognizing that we have an outstanding university presence here. It created a welcoming and festive atmosphere downtown. I would love to see the city put lights on/in the trees permanently as it not only was beautiful, but made downtown seem more welcoming and less dangerous at night. Who knows, it could benefit the city/merchants too."

Thanks to the vision of past leaders who had the foresight to preserve & acquire as much park/open space that we currently have is what makes Bellingham such a great place to live & sets it apart from other less user-friendly cities (like Bellevue/Seattle). As the population grows, it is critical that current & future leaders realize they must continue to maintain & acquire add'l

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open space/parks/trails which are key to feeling connected to the environment and each other. There is no doubt that if the city & port officials invested in a substantial park & trail system along the GP waterfront as a #1 priority that the public would have faith & confidence in our officials knowing they put the citizens' needs first. Ideally, the city/port would also involve our local natives to have a presence on the waterfront as well (similar to Victoria BC) which would not only be honorable but a huge tourist attraction as well. waterfront

The appearance in walking into City Hall is not friendly as the screening areas into offices like Planning. I understand that the Parks office is moving to City Hall from Cornwall Park. I think this will result in parking problems and change the friendly environment of the office setting. Do they need more space or more control by City Hall?

"The best of what the City does? I have gone the COB.org site....why? To look for summer concerts in the Parks. The Downtown Sounds on Bay street, the concerts at Boulevard and Elizabeth Parks. Thank you City of Bellingham.

The best of what the City does in terms of building a sense of Civic engagement is many times through public/private partnerships showcasing the best of what the City has to offer. I consider the Woods coffee shop at Boulevard a shining example of such an arrangement as well. Local for local. It would kind of break my heart to see Starbucks there instead....but I think the larger idea holds great value. The Lightcatcher and first friday art walks are another great example. Ski to Sea.

The purchase of Chuckanut Ridge. The civic engagement with the developers vs. mountain bikers on Galbraith. The value of this ""place"" and the reason a lot of people like me live here is for access to great places and spaces, and experiences. It isn't for the great job opportunities, pay, or affordable housing. Recognize your assets. Recognize and ACTIVELY promote all of it, the Mt. Baker wilderness despite its distance....with all kinds of local businesses....REI, Backcountry Essentials....the City is the gateway. Look at all the bike shops and yet I have never seen a ""Convention"" with City Resources promoting this far and wide.

The City would also do a better job of fostering, and at least not losing businesses to the County by making a much more active case that the City is providing them substantial resources across many fronts and that therefore the tax pie is not being holistically addressed. Do everything you can do to foster local small business. I think there's a few empty storefronts Downtown.....

Recognize that the make-up of the City is changing. It's not just college students and retirees anymore with a few church-going parents with kids. It needs to think big because already big city problems are coming. And without thinking big....all that's left are band-aids.

Thanks for asking. "

The biggest, most important thing they could would be create a business friendly environment and bring in good businesses; assembly (like Kawasaki), stronger agriculture related businesses (like ADM), and other higher income types of jobs in technology fields; i.e. --- stop trying to call



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service jobs "growth". This would mean rethinking some of our growth plans; and we all know the current one is out of whack with reality. People will come; where are you going to put them? Condo's? Apartments? And like it or not, we are NOT a tourist destination. So, look at models like Lincoln Nebraska who was where Bellingham is now a number of years ago. I would make changes to make good companies fight over the chance to move to here....even if it was 'no taxes' for 25 years.

The bump on the state street entrance headed South on I-5 is very dangerous. It is an uneven surface which makes it very difficult to go 60 mph over.

"The city council has gone so far liberal its embarrassing. They no longer listen to the taxpayers, they listen to anyone who wants to speak. The city has gone way over balance with parks and taxes. You cannot continue to regulate by buying up all the vacant land parcels in the area. This is not an acceptable manner in which to regulate anything. There is no common sense among the majority of council members any more. They have lost touch with reality. What this city needs is good business backed common sense and stop spending money of the finer things in life while you owe 6-9 million in unfunded liability to the police and firefighters fund. You go out and buy an 8 million dollar park but don't pay off the pension fund. The 8 million dollar park by the way, was harpooned by the city and shame on you.

I have lived here all my life and am totally ashamed of the semi developed half wits on our council. I have the right to speak this way as I pay more real estate tax a year than most of you make in salary. I am a conservative hard working business person who would never make the kinds of decision our council does. Get back to basics. Our city is a laughing stock when it comes to our leadership. We bring people into this town to try and get them to invest only to have the city (and the county) run them off.

What you should do is get a group of citizens like me who would serve on a committee to help facilitate a better environment for businesses to succeed. You probably wouldn't like hearing what we have to say but its high time. Get back in touch with reality."

The City council needs to stop worrying about national & international current events & run the City of Bellingham much better than they currently do. Almost all the current council members have no clue about housing affordability and what it takes to run the City business.

The City Council should be required to approve all contracts not just bid contracts.

"The city has already moved in a very positive direction with traffic flow. Although, there is still much to be done.

The development of bike lanes was a great move, however, not enough was done to educate the people using them and the cars competing with them!"

The City needs to be more resourceful with the public funds. The "governing" bodies are no where near as efficient as the "private sector", and until it changes, we as a society will continue

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to have funding issues. The government sectors offer more vacation, sick leave, holidays, and retirement than the private sector. No wonder it takes three government employees to do the job of one private sector. It takes two just to cover the vacation time the other has off. Just way too much waste.

The City Needs To Help Homeless Community. The City Of Bellingham WA is Totally Unsatisfactory when it comes to the issue of Homelessness. The City Officials I feel are extremely incompetent and look away from this matter and Quiet Frankly I Think I Should Be The New City Manager and trust me you have not seen anything like me. Have a Blessed Day.

The City needs to stop pushing for infill in the Birchwood and other large lot areas. If they want to promote building homes, they need to look at rural areas first.

"The COB should take a more proactive role in developing the waterfront. Many are frustrated with encouraging citizens to participate in a decision making process and then allowing the Port to ignore citizen input and delay things to the point of exhaustion (20+ years) and then allowing them to change things and ignore the process.

Likewise, the COB needs to be more proactive on protecting our water supply. "

The current city council leadership is a disgrace. Is the administration encouraging this? Seems so.

The current City Council seems to be swayed greatly by sometimes uninformed neighborhood groups. I wish that all sides of any issue could be represented with a variety of input. "Not-in-my-backyard" is the attitude of neighborhoods. If we are to adhere to the Growth Management Act, we need to provide new areas to build affordable houses. People want to live in houses, not in apartments and condos. Houses are not affordable, considering our local economies wages. My children cannot afford to live in Bellingham. I couldn't afford to live here either, but bought our house 30 years ago. Something is wrong!

The frequency of trains and volume of train horns is very annoying. More annoying is that this so-called "utility" is nothing more than a vehicle for resource extraction. I work downtown, and have an excellent view of the trains that pass through. They bring our downtown and waterfront to its knees as they transport coal, tar sands oil, and forestry products almost exclusively. Antiquated railroad law continues to trump our local needs, environment, and quality of life, and I wish there was a way to rethink our local obligations to the railroad.

"The homeless issue is huge in this community. You can't really see how bad it is during the day, but at night in downtown Bellingham, it's glaring. I sometimes go out for drinks and walk home. I do not at all feel safe when I'm alone. I think there need to be more police on foot to patrol the downtown streets.

I love this city. I moved here in 1977 and plan to retire here. "

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The homeless population is out of control. Bellingham should NOT be the safe haven for the homeless. Maritime Heritage Park is not useable by the average citizen because the homeless have taken it over. Every street corner has a beggar and they leave an incredible mess behind. Sehome Arboretum has homeless camps and even the Roeder Street bridge, overlooking a multi-million dollar proposed development, has homeless living on it. This insurgence of homeless is ruining the character and the economic opportunities of the City. We need to move these people elsewhere. Many have no intention of working but we provide so many free opportunities for food and shelter that Bellingham is THE attractive place to go.

"The homeless situation is terrible. Homeless people are coming from other communities because Bellingham is known as a place that provides services. This needs to be addressed. Creating more and more homeless services by providing free housing and food and other services just encourages more homeless to come to Bellingham.

If Bellingham wants to encourage more homeless to move here, then make arrangements far from downtown.

I admire those who devote their time and energy helping others. I contribute financially to this cause also. But creating more services just encourages more to come here.

Our family definitely has decreased our trips to downtown because of the homeless situation. We go to Fairhaven and Barkley and the mall more than downtown.

The improvements to biker and pedestrian safety Have been amazing and more than adequate and I thank you very much! I think it's time money and resources be directed elsewhere.

"The increase of folks experiencing homelessness in our community is visible, drastic, and disheartening. We need more spaces for these people. It is not acceptable that in a city as privileged as Bellingham, that there are people sleeping outside, going without access to healthcare, and going hungry.

We also need more community health centers. Especially dental. I have Molina and Apple Health, and I have to drive to Kenmore to go to a dentist that is contracted with my insurance. Most people don't have the privilege of taking all day to go to the dentist like I do. Medicaid reimbursement needs to increase..

As a cyclist, I wish that more lights 'sensed' me. Sometimes I have to run red lights when it's safe because the light will never change for me.

Also, I like 'Ride your Bike to Work and School' Day, but I wish that a part of that was how to be a safe cyclist (regarding following traffic laws) and how to be bike-conscientious driver (check your mirrors before you turn, give space, etc.)."

The Lake Whatcom Treatment Center near Silver Beach grocery is in a location that does not make sense, it is not convenient to the people it serves, and it is near a elementary school and a

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neighborhood which is nearly 100% residential. Nearby home and car break-ins have been up since it has opened, and the feeling of neighborhood security has taken a hit.

The loudest- or most vocal- or most involved- don't always represent the majority. Find a way to make sure the conversation, and resolution are balanced and represent the whole or majority and not just a few.

"The most pressing issue I have noticed in Bellingham is the growing population of people living on the streets/in tents. I think that more and better mental health services are desperately needed, as well as more low-income housing. At this point in time, a lot of our emergency services are being directed toward this population, which I feel is preventable.

I would also continue to make aggressive efforts toward environmental protection, including a carbon tax (if the state-wide tax initiative does not pass). "

The need for affordable housing is huge! Residents often choose between rent and food or medicine.

"The number one positive change that Bellingham city leaders could make is to upgrade the RR crossings to Quiet Zone standards to enhance community safety, health, livability, and our economy. This is especially important given the City's focus on developing the central waterfront. The Fairhaven waterfront, which is already developed with homes, condos, hotels, restaurants, and businesses has one huge, huge negative feature: the loud train horns which are unhealthy to residents and visitors alike. Please upgrade the RR crossings to modern safety standards.

Thank you for reading and acting on our feedback."

The only thing that I would change are minor such as syncing signals for smoother traffic flow and reduce traffic congestion. Key spots are Samish & Bill McDonald Prkwy, Woburn & Alabama and Sunset & Barkley. Also, something needs to be done about the homeless and I realize this is a huge problem, but it is hard to take kids downtown when they are sleeping in the doorways, living on the sidewalks or gathering in the park by the fish hatchery on Holly.

"The Port of Bellingham needs to include public good in its mandates and decision making. It is infuriating that tax money supports the port and its projects and then the public and citizen priorities lose out. Also, public process and hearings sometimes squander the time and input that the citizens have contributed through backroom deals or changes in plans that don't have public process behind them.

Examples of this include some of the infill toolkit decisions and many of the decisions that have been made regarding the old GP site.

I don't know the solution to the homeless issue. I'd like to be compassionate as I see this problem as coming from ill-treatment of veterans, lack of adequate services for the mentally ill,

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and addiction problems as well as an economic issue. However, it seems that increasing services (shelter beds, food, new housing options, etc.) combined with a lack of enforcement related to camps, panhandling, drugs, theft rings of bicycles and the like are making Bellingham a ""friendlier"" place to be homeless. The break-ins and people lurking/casing our yards has really increased in our neighborhood. This is a very pressing issue that Bellingham needs to address much better."

"The rental property issue in Bellingham is ridiculous. There are many landlords in this city who should be classified as slum-lords. The city government refuses to enforce the few rental laws we do have. I would force landlords to monitor their rentals and fine them if their rental property does become an eyesore or nuisance. Western Washington University could help with this issue due to the fact that most of the problem rental properties are rented to students who don't care about our community.

I would also strongly encourage other communities in our area to share the burden of dealing with the homeless.

The residents of many neighborhoods feel that the city is biased in favor of developers and builders relative to current residential homeowners. If this is a misperception, it should be corrected through dialog with residents. If this is a correct perception it needs to be changed by altering the mindset of city planners when growth and tax strategies are considered.

The senior citizen reduction of property taxes qualifications are too low. The qualifications need to be reviewed and adjusted and perhaps add a sliding scale based on income AGI allowing for flexibility. We are seniors living on a small pension and SSA with annual property taxes of \$3919.65 that is \$326.63 a month. As it stands now we are looking at options of which neither is one that we want to chose. First sell the family home and then try to find something that is affordable that can be bought without a mortgage - not likely to happen with the cost of housing in Bellingham 2) sell and move out of Bellingham leaving our family behind 3) Do a reverse mortgage and basically give your home to the government when you die leaving nothing behind for family This issue needs to be addressed as our senior citizen population needs to be able to stay in their homes and not forced to sell.

The small footbridge was taken out over Fever Creek near Roosevelt Elementary, because the city says it's unsafe. This bridge is heavily used by students and neighbors walking to Roosevelt school and Barkely village. It has been out for months and the sign says it will be at least till next summer before being replaced, saying they are seeking permits and searching for funding. They clearly have placed this small but important footbridge at the bottom of the list. The creek is 6 ft wide! This would not be an issue if it were in Fairhaven or Edgemoor. Not happy in the Roosevelt neighborhood!

The summer concerts on Thursdays in Elizabeth park are great, it got more people out and kids could run around. Try to get more people out and about to expand everyone's perceptions. Also,

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Arbor Day volunteering at Squalicum Creek park was great because people were out and working together.

The Taylor Street boardwalk, there was supposed to be an extension of the overwater trail heading into Bellingham. There's a sign saying they're getting permits to finish that portion over the water trail and here it is 5 years later and nothing has happened. They haven't come through with their promise.

The understanding of mental health is a critical aspect of managing homelessness. I believe the public having a basic understanding of mental illnesses is crucial to everyone being able to help. How does the average citizen best respond to a mentally ill person they pass on the street? How can they tell if a mentally ill person is dangerous? How does a business owner handle a mentally ill person that comes into their store without having to call the police? "Education is expensive, but consider the cost of ignorance."

"The urban village concept has been around in Bellingham has been around for 20+ years but its implementation is barely evident. Invest in completing planning for all identified urban villages and incentivize redevelopment.

Implement form-based codes. Stop focusing so much on use and focus on form, with some use considerations. Urban design, urban design, urban design - I can't write it enough. Look to old building forms downtown and Fairhaven for guidance. Build-to lines, massing, building scale, parking behind, minimum heights, start prescribing good urban form in urban villages. Hire consultants if need be that do this around the country. And work with the neighborhoods via design charrettes.

Do away with neighborhood councils, they are non-representative and too often have an activist element of property owners that don't want any changes in their neighborhood unless they give the okay. How many renters are represented? How many WWU students are represented? How many racial and ethnic minorities are represented? Emulate what Seattle has done with their neighborhood groups.

Lastly, do way more scientifically valid forms of gauging public opinion, like this survey. Many people can't or won't find the time to attend a public meeting, especially families with young children and people working odd hours. Retirees are not representative. Let people provide input on their own time, not the typical Tuesday-Thursday evening meeting located downtown with no child care.

I really appreciate the opportunity this survey provides and feel lucky to have been selected. I hope the input is valued!

P.s. Allow detached accessory dwelling units in all single-family zones, with size limitations of course, as permitted uses. Affordable housing problem solved."

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Thee care of our vegetation...roads.. sidewalks.. Has shown to be place on thee back burner in thee passed 20 plus years roadwork traffic jams especially in thee silver shore and Silverbeach areas with more attention spent on drainage then actual fixing the roads themselves especially after being torn up.. Also I always wondered why if a small tree needs to be planted or replaced along the roadway why it takes 5 individuals to due the work 1 or 2 doing the work while the others just stand around watching.

There are many community neighborhoods that are lacking sidewalks, which impacts accessibility and safety for pedestrians. Considerations on how to expand volunteer programs and service projects with incentives so that youth and adults become involved in the community and contribute to the overall good. How can the city support community service? The economic growth in this area is not equal to how the cost of housing and expenses. Many people work out of the area and commute in order to live here. Housing is very expensive compared to the economic opportunity here.

There are many working poor in our community, people working 40 hours a week but still unable to pay for the basic needs. I believe in an increase in the minimum wage, if the Statewide initiative fail the city needs to adopt it in a non graduated way.

"There are still several major streets without good bicycle lanes - Girard, James, etc. (James is tricky, I know).

It may be a nitpicky, but for cars southbound on Meridian after Squalicum, the road cuts from two lanes to one in a.... very nonstandard manner. The sign currently there is too easily missed. If the right hand lane were marked as right turn only onto Maplewood, it would clarify who has right of way in the merger, and make the right lane's need to merge into the left lane apparent to drivers."

"There are walking/biking trails that exit onto Woburn and also onto Orleans that need much more lighting. When driving at night pedestrians and bicycles are almost impossible to see, particularly the trail exiting to Woburn behind Haggen's grocery store

There are way too many issues that the city seems to take on that are really not the proper venue to work on the issues. If the city stuck to its core mission, it would be far better. There should never be a zero-sum-gain approach to taxes and services. However, the questions on this survey presented the tax vs services issue in that manner. Poor design of that portion of the survey . . .

There has to be something done about the homeless epidemic in this city. Many are on the streets due to serious mental health issues, which remain untreated, and cause undue hardship on others.

There is a lot of racism in our community. We should invest in good trainings and thoroughly review all policies and agencies for bias and eliminate it. Hosting more community events /forums which celebrate and honor the diversity in our community (and led by people of color in

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our community) would go a long way in showing that the city welcomes people of color. Also, the creation of more low income and emergency housing (following a housing first policy) would be wonderful. These units should be environmentally sound and efficient so that residents aren't bogged down by exorbitant utility bills and also that the whole community benefits. As far as road safety, increased sidewalks and streetlights would make things safer for pedestrians at night (especially for disabled folks like me). In many parts of the city it is difficult to see the lane demarcations on the roads at night, so either redoing the stripes with a more visible paint or increasing street lights would be very helpful. My last thought for today is that we should encourage innovative, sustainable industries to come to the area, to provide jobs and ensure that there is a just transition for workers as we phase out fossil fuel production in the area. Thanks!

There is a strong us-vs-them attitude in the city. It is easy to say that this is all perception, but it is not. Decisions are made without seeking input from the governed, or input is given and ignored. The connection between those who govern and those governed must be meaningful and continuous. It doesn't work when the city asks the citizens for input when something important comes up. So, encourage all aspects of Bellingham government to engage with the public. BBQ with the police; pancakes with the council; pint with the mayor (it is Bellingham after all).

There is much speeding at all times of the day/night on Northwest Avenue between Bakerview and Illinois, and especially between Birchwood and Illinois. Something needs to be done seriously. I have seen so many near accidents between cars/cars, cars/bicycles (often riding bikes the wrong way) it is very dangerous considering the shops, homes. The only time the traffic slows is near the Middle School during the day.

There is problem on Eldridge avenue, there is no bike facility. bicycle lane merges into traffic.

There is such an economic difference between the various neighborhoods. Any way we could increase economic diversity in all neighborhoods would be positive.

There seem to be a lot more homeless people coming to B'ham. I believe it is a reflection of liberal policies by city government giving freebies to homeless people. Give them free stuff, and more of them will come. The question for city leaders is, "Do we wish to become like Seattle where the homeless have taken over all their parks and green spaces?" Last year, while bicycling, my wife and I stopped for a restroom break at Maritime Park (the one downtown) and there did seem to be a lot of homeless people in the park! We do not need to make homelessness a vocation. Remember the Jamestown, VA, settlement in the 1600s? The settlers tried socialism, where everybody would share everything. Well, the hardworking settlers had to share the fruits of their labors with the lazy ones, who didn't lift their fingers to till the soil or hunt for food. Everybody almost starved. Then, they tried capitalism, and all of a sudden, their society grew prosperous. In other words, you work for yourself and your family, not for the lazy neighbor or the stranger down the road. Those who did not work did not eat. Simple



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prescription, which still applies today. If the homeless don't wish to work, then they don't eat. If you take away the honey, then they will not come.

"There shouldn't be any parking on major roads or neighborhoods.

More bicycle trails. "

There's a housing crisis, I have to leave Bellingham because my partner and I are separating and I can't afford available housing on my own unless I live in a house full of students I guess. Halt the insane rise of housing prices somehow, please

"They recently rebuilt Happy Valley Elementary. Parking/school pick up and drop off is dangerous. Too many cars and not very good forethought of how this was going to work. I've heard this is a problem at many of our schools. They have now taken out one of the cross walks in front of the school. More attention needs to be given to these areas with high congestion of people in short amounts of time.

Sunset area could also use some revamping of traffic. It is currently worse than the Guide. "

Think outside the box. Support a local solidarity economy (worker owned cooperatives, customer owned credit unions, community supported agriculture). Let homeless people use the bathroom at Maritime Heritage Park. Reduce incarceration, through, e.g., bail reform, reduction of the impact of racial bias, and providing jobs, housing, and health care (including mental health/substance abuse). Collect and share raw law enforcement data regarding race data for all police stops, searches, seizures of contraband, and arrests. Require dense infill and mixed use so that people live near their work and retail (do not expand the UGA). Ban the box (on employment applications asking about criminal history).

This is a long process, but I strongly think that we need another hospital and that we as a community need choices in healthcare. I also believe this would provide better and more competitive work opportunities for healthcare workers in Bellingham.

"This survey was too general. I would prefer that our representatives evaluate all options as presented, with regard to overall needs and priorities. I cant blindly rule out or rank topical areas without considering the quality of individual line-items within topical areas OR the OVERALL budget. It ain't noway as simplistic as some of this survey.

We need to get on with our waterfront redevelopment, but not put functions that can exist elsewhere (offices, hotels, etc) on our LIMITED land/water interface.

We desperately need CHEAP minimal multi-family housing IE ROOMING-HOUSES, Too Damn Many folks on street need 1 ROOF over their head ,NOT Private Housing. JOBS are disappearing at a terrifying rate due to cyber-automation. Lower wages (yes) and provide MINIMAL basic jobs and shelter. We expect too much as minimum, leaving some with less than nothing."

"Three roundabouts added on Ellis St.

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Ellis at Magnolia/ Potter/Billy Frank. weird intersection. Not great for peds coming from Billy Frank to Potter.

Ellis/Gladstone/Champion -- traffic does not stop for pedestrians at crosswalk

Ellis at Forest/ York @ Planned Parenthood. Very long light.

Roundabouts at these three intersections would not only improve traffic flow, but also make pedestrian crossing from York to Downtown and back much easier. Right now Ellis feels like you're crossing a dangerous road. Please consider.

Also pedestrian safety under I5 on Lakeway is Really Bad. Consider putting in very narrow row of planters. Would create physical / psychological barrier for pedestrians. And narrow enough that cars can still fit, but may slow them down a bit. This would be great to build the connection for peds/bicyclists from downtown and surrounding neighborhoods and Civic Field/Sportsplex.

Thanks for making Bham a great place to live! - DW

Too much commercial development. Traffic issues.

Tough job! So much info on website and BTV10 channel. I wish it was mandatory watching & they more people watched it to learn more about the government, community, etc. it'd be nice if the Herald partnered more in getting educational info out to community, and that there would be more accountability to landlords in how their tenants follow simple laws and environmental standards. My neighborhood has become predominantly rentals in the past 10 years and I feel it has impacted crime, sense of community, care for common areas and proper use of resources we have available to us.

Traffic "calmers", such as the one on Texas Street between St. Clair and Yew Street are a disaster. Pull them out and replace with speed bumps if necessary. Activity on the old GP site seems to be moving at glacial speed. A partnership between the City, the Port and WWU to put an arena/Convention Center there would be a huge step forward. It would be nice to see some steps forward in my lifetime.

Traffic light at Stuart & Cordata parkway, more traffic control in WWC area!

Traffic speeds are out of control. There is a lot more traffic in this city since I moved here over 20 years ago. Posted speed limits are just not followed. Most of the enforcement I see is in school zones which is great but more enforcement is needed elsewhere. It can be plain dangerous to pull out of mine and my parents streets.

"Treat all citizens equally.

Focus on safety & infrastructure and let the social service organizations do the social work.

Stop Sudden Valley from putting their stormwater in the COB sewer system.

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Enforce traffic laws.

Use City funds for their intended purpose.

Better stormwater control in the Lake Whatcom watershed.

Get park maintenance in order before purchasing more land for parks."

Try to make downtown more interesting. Cornwall between Holly and Magnolia is a dud which is unfortunate because it is in center of things.

Turn the GP site into a place industrial use for cruise ships or a container port, rather than a park.

"two things I would do. One I would dramatically deemphasize the individual and diversity. it's a pervasive problem.

I would make a conscious effort to reduce homelessness. "

Unbiased investigation of the Bellingham Police Department regarding civil liberties and extensive training on the Bill of Rights for all officers to keep them from going rouge on the people that pay their salaries.

Update W. Maplewood Ave as the new Costco is coming soon. The road is not well lit as LED light-post are not existent and the sidewalks are not even a thing.

"value citizen opinions as highly as the opinions of special interest groups

more street lights

traffic light cameras (I'm a pedestrian; I want them)

CCTV downtown?

more traffic calming

neighborhood parking permits?

Volunteer outreach.

We are always getting money in so there shouldn't be a need to increase taxes or cut services. Also, I am seeing monetary waste so the budget needs to be allotted better.

We can and must do more about affordable housing, not just 'homelessness'. Affordable homes for all economic levels is fundamental to health, education, safety, the environment, and sense of community.

"We could benefit from better mental health, chemical dependency, and emergency medical facilities. Our hospital is too small, corporate, and short-sighted to provide all of these services for our community.

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We could benefit from more diversity in our medical service providers. Some healthy competition would go a long way towards better patient outcomes.

We could benefit from neighborhood policing, cops with regular beats who are in communication with the residents they see.

We need to invest in more affordable housing.

We should be encouraging neighbors to work together for disaster preparedness and fostering communication among neighbors.

We should be requiring developers to pay into green space funds and require parking with all new developments.

We could either privatize or cut down the number of buses and drivers because there are too many.

We have too many traffic signs for this and that. Traffic is horrendous on Meridian and Bakerview. Too much lighting, wasting electricity and disturbingly bright.

We live within Bellingham city limits along North Shore drive and there is no side walk along North Shore drive or a good path going up Academy hill, where there are lots of families and kids. I'd love to see more sidewalk availability. Also, the nearest bus stop is over 1 mile away.

We must look at our policies through a health and race/equity lens. We are an white community in a nation that is rapidly becoming more diverse. We have to be very intentional in our actions to ensure we integrate our neighborhoods and ensure all have the opportunity for a just and healthy life style.

We need a jail. We need quality drinking water. Deal with the homeless situation. I would like it better if the city would require the police department to enforce the laws that are on the books such as public nudity, use of illegal fireworks, Homeless camps etc. I also would love to see a ban on all burning in the city. I find it difficult to breathe outside at night with all the wood burning stoves in the neighborhood.

"We need a new jail as soon as possible.

Also need a new library."

We need better outreach and advocacy for our homeless population. These people are members of our community and we are failing them. I would pay higher taxes if it meant a better shelter and employment system for them.

We need more high-paying jobs that do not pollute the environment. We need more tech jobs for families to afford to bring children up here in a healthy way. Many have to drive to Seattle

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to work, or leave the city for years to make a living, only to come back in retirement. Newcomers cannot find work, as the locals have taken all the good jobs. We can maintain quality of life and provide for our families.

We need sidewalks on the major street in our neighborhood. The city made a bike route by painting bicycle signs on a steep hill in front of Fairhaven Middle School, but the neighborhood streets that feed into the bike route are narrow, hilly, and have no sidewalks which creates a dangerous situation for everybody. Also, the bike route is along an area where there are no sidewalks for children walking to school. Where are the city's priorities? I see children walking to the middle school up a steep hill with no sidewalks, poor visibility for drivers going either direction, which the city labels as a bike route. Thankfully I rarely see children actually trying to bike there.

We need to at get good wage jobs, to reduce the service job dependence. The city is becoming wealth biforcated.

We need to make traffic flow better. For example, the roundabouts can be very dangerous. Also, street parking is filled with parked cars which cuts down on the availability of the roads. I think we just need to do a better job at developing. The streets are very narrow and planning for growth overall seems to be minimal.

We need to reduce costs/taxes and increase income for those who live here through a variety of different job choices and opportunities. We have become a retail community with a shaky infrastructure in allowing livable wage jobs. The answer is not in increasing the minimum wage or adding more taxes and rules, but in providing/encouraging and supporting the opportunity for business to be successful. Our rules and council actions have added to the need to accommodate growth and the provision for additional housing, which are now becoming unaffordable due to the taxes and the add-ons that may or may not be areas where a city government need to operate.

We need to remove the new bicycle turn lane by BHS. It is going to be confusing. A roundabout would be a better solution for pedestrians/students/vehicles/bicycles.

We need to tackle the homeless population crisis and beggars on most major corners. We need a new jail and a mental health center and mental health and drug diversion treatment facilities. We need to bring businesses into the downtown vacancies, and get the GP, cornwall beach, public housing at the old Aloha site projects moving faster.

"We should have a citywide optic internet.

Structure individual involvement in their neighborhood, such as gardening, park, road maintenance, clean up be a neighborhood activity INSTEAD of a government/expensive contracted service...meaning...government provides the material and technical guidance while neighborhood households provides the ""work parties"" (that way you get neighborhood commitment/ownership and responsibility. Also these services should be part of both a

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community policing effort AND jail alternatives and part of the rehabilitation/re-incarceration prevention...i.e., job training."

"We want more parks and outdoor recreation from these public spaces.

An effective long term, well funded, public education campaign to eliminate homelessness/mental illness and poverty"

"We would like to see sidewalks on every street. In Happy Valley there are few sidewalks and it isn't safe with traffic flow and kids.

More mental health resources/ facilities.

More focus on economic development.

We would like to see traffic safety interventions at the intersection of Cornwall and Illinois, and perhaps further south on Cornwall and further west on Illinois as well, to improve the safety for pedestrians coming to and from Parkview and Sunnyland Elementary Schools. School zone flashing lights for example, like what exists in front of Assumption School. Many children in these neighborhoods walk or bike to school and a speed reduction during school commute hours would make me feel much safer as a parent. This is going to be even more important next year when the elementary school days begin earlier, and children will be walking to school in the dark during fall and winter months.

"When considering major impact decisions, be open to local input and expertise. It is a common joke that the city only thinks real experts are from out of town, and hires accordingly.

Examples: energy inefficient wastewater facility, poor quality LED street lights. Both mistakes could have been averted, and thousands/millions of dollars saved, by seeking local input. There are nationally recognized water and energy efficiency industry leaders located in Bellingham, that consult all over the world.

When our family first moved here 15 years ago, we chose our neighborhood in part due to the proximity of Cornwall Park. We use Cornwall Park on a weekly basis - for running, disc golf, walking, biking. In the past three years, we've noticed that now there are homeless people using the park as a campground. On my frequent 8am walk/runs, I no longer feel safe as I come across tents off the trail, camper vans in the parking lot, homeless folks firing up their campstoves in the covered picnic area or fast asleep on the picnic tables, and sometimes even a person passed out against a tree. I feel it's a tragedy (1) that these folks don't have a warm dry place to call home and (2) that our park is becoming a homeless encampment. Cornwall Park is a jewel, please work to keep it safe for all of us to use properly.

where i live there aren't any parks to the north and only Cornwall is nearby to the south. There are few trails to walk on and to get to them i have to cross busy streets or walk along them.

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"With the increasing price of housing, I would allow homeowners to convert garages to apartments that they could rent out but only as long as the homeowner was still a resident on the property. I would work to allow a homeowner to park a ""tiny house"" that was on a trailer on their property and rent it out. I would revisit the fees that are charged to homeowners when they want to improve their property. For instance, I wanted to add a separate electrical line to a bedroom and the cost was prohibitive because the fee charged by the City of Bellingham was an extra \$200 above the estimate I received from a licensed electrical contractor. One would think that if you wanted to improve your home from a safety aspect, the City would make it easier on you to do so. It doesn't make sense that the City would make it cost prohibitive to do so. That one factor prevented me from making that improvement.

I would think twice about spending tax payer dollars on so-called improvements such as the 'green zone' for bicyclists. I would want to make sure that a program that impacted auto traffic was explained thoroughly to the community before it was instituted. We need to handle changes like that in a far more transparent and educated manner, and make sure that it was actually going to make a difference in bicycle traffic. I have only seen one or two bicyclists take advantage of the street markings since the program was initiated.

I would make more use of round-abouts for traffic. I think they are wonderful.

I would work to remove the traffic blocks that have been placed in many neighborhoods in the last ten years to curtail car traffic. This constant addition of traffic blocks through neighborhoods forces more cars on to main thoroughfares and makes traffic congestion worse. "

Work more often and more openly with Lummi.

Work on the issue of homelessness, panhandlers and the like. It's a complex issue that does not have a simple solution, as mental health and substance abuse appear to play a major role.

Work to offer more locally grown foods in our schools and a centralized commissary kitchen to prepare meals from scratch. Develop a good food purchasing policy for all city entities, similar to the one adopted in L.A.

"Work with building owners in the downtown neighborhood to actively seek, attract and keep long-term ""anchor business"" tenants for larger spaces that have remained empty for long periods of time.

Provide parking discounts or sliding scale fees for municipal parking lots for minimum/lower wage employees who work in the downtown neighborhood, or designate one just for lower wage earners with lower fees.

Offer more than just monthly fee options for municipal parking lots downtown, such as 15 days a month for a lower rate.

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Add more eight hour meters. Convert eight hour meters to pay stations that accept other forms of payment like those currently near the library.

Add more evening bus service.

Install meters in the Fairhaven Shopping District.

Provide education for downtown business owners & employees on safe and effective methods of interacting when encountering street people or people with mental or drug issues, either at their places of business or in the general downtown neighborhood. Provide businesses with handout sheets listing available help resources for people in need, food banks and shelters and explains how to connect with those resources.

Working to ensure that people who live and work in Bellingham can actually afford to buy a house there.

Would like to see taxes on sales be instituted rather than the home owners. Taxing sales would reach everyone such as travelers, students, Canadians and any others who do not own real estate.

"Yes, I wish the traffic plan was more like a 3 year plan rather than a 6 year.

The city used to have a small and simple grant program for neighborhoods and it accomplished a lot of positive things. I wish we can get that back. "

Yes, I would work on making the downtown core feel safer, cleaner and a more attractive place to go.

Yes, lower water costs. The water costs here are 3x what I paid in CO, a state that is a desert with 1/3 the water fall compared to here and we have a lot of water yet pay through the ear for it.

"Yes, On the website COB. It would be a very good Idea to dedicate signs, commercials that explain a driving or biking law. I known there are some commercials on the COB but,

More need to to created.

So many people forget what is law and what is their own rule. I am a bike rider and have decided to Not ride my bike in/on B'ham streets. The bike lanes end abruptly and the biker is caught with the struggle of a car trying to make its way around the bike in Very Unsafe ways.

If you have to tax bike persons then do it. But, be ready to put that money to Real Bike Lanes"

"Yes. I would immediately and swiftly eliminate all homeless encampments on city property, as well as congregating of those publicly intoxicated in places like Maritime Heritage park.



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I would also enforce all laws regarding rental properties and landlords and pass laws that encourage owner-occupied home ownership, as well as greatly discourage the ownership of multiple homes by absentee landlords."

You have had many questions concerning roads but the ditch and sidewalk maintenance is horrible. I often ride bikes with my sons as well them him biking to and from Fairhaven Middle School and Happy Valley Elementary School. For example the sidewalk down Old Fairhaven Parkway usually has so much overgrowth of blackberry branches that we are often forced to go to the very edge of the sidewalk that is closest to traffic. We encounter this problem on so many sidewalks and road that have unkept ditches.

"You really want to improve quality of life and community safety? Reduce the traffic speed on Lakeway Dr. to 25 MPH, set up routine speed traps, and install crosswalks like those on Alabama St. I regularly see vehicles going 45-50 MPH near the first entrance to Whatcom Falls park (even while the 20MPH school speed limit is effective!)

Many people cross Lakeway between Clearbrook and Kenoyer to enter the park. Many children walk on those sidewalks in order to get to school in the mornings. Since there isn't a crosswalk, it's only a matter of time before there's a fatal accident.

Could we please also come to an agreement about DADUs? We have a 1% rental vacancy rate and single-family home prices are skyrocketing in Bellingham. DADUs would help solve both of those problems by providing housing for renters, and additional income for homeowners."

Your question about taxes did not include an option to LOWER taxes. As a business owner, I am strongly considering moving out of the City of Bellingham, and I know for certain that I am not alone. I would like our City leaders to embrace our employers and remove roadblocks and disincentives for business growth.

## City Services

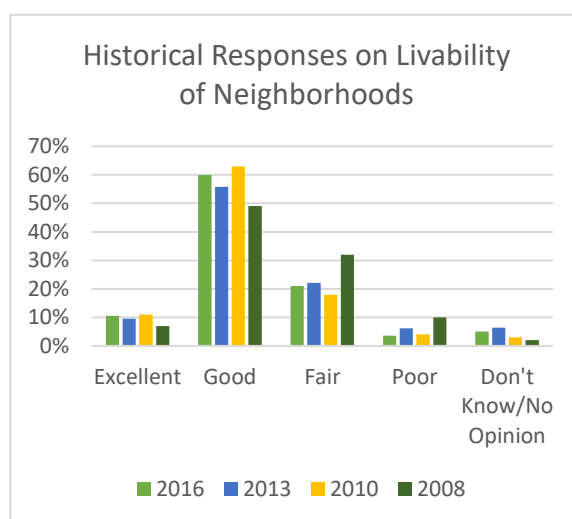
This section asks respondents to rate the City's efforts to achieve a number of general community priorities – livability of neighborhoods, planning for growth, protecting the environment, using tax dollars responsibly, and providing public safety services. The questions in this section were presented in a randomized order help eliminate possible consistent biases resulting from framing.

Respondents to these questions have high rates of *Don't Know/No Opinion* responses which may indicate either a lack of exposure to the topics or a feeling of not having enough information to have an informed opinion. This may represent an opportunity for the City to further educate the public regarding these areas of operations.

## Livability of Neighborhoods

**Q: In regard to the livability of neighborhoods, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Excellent	10.53%	124
Good	59.93%	706
Fair	20.97%	247
Poor	3.57%	42
Don't Know/No Opinion	5.01%	59
Total	100%	1178



Most respondents (70 percent) believe the City's efforts are at least *Good* (60 percent), if not *Excellent* (11 percent), when it comes to the livability of neighborhoods.

Historically, residents' perceptions of the livability of neighborhoods have been increasing. In 2008, 42 percent of respondents rated the livability of neighborhoods negatively (*Fair* or *Poor*), compared to only 25 percent of respondents in 2016. The survey is unable to explain why the shift is occurring but only that it is.

## Neighborhood Influence

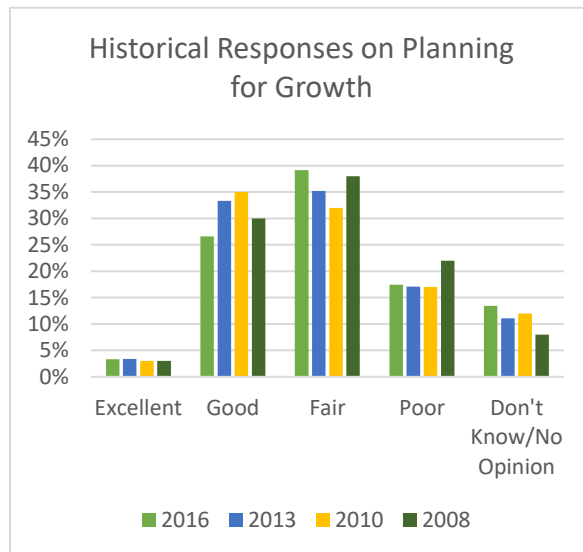
Some neighborhoods rated the City's efforts to ensure the livability of neighborhoods significantly higher or lower than average. Respondents from Edgemoor and South Hill neighborhoods rated the livability of neighborhoods more positively than average. Respondents from the City Center and King Mountain neighborhoods rated the livability of neighborhoods more negatively than average.

## Planning for Growth

**Q: In regard to planning for growth, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	3.31%	39
<b>Good</b>	26.61%	314
<b>Fair</b>	39.15%	462
<b>Poor</b>	17.46%	206
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	13.47%	159
<b>Total</b>	100%	1180

More than half (57 percent) of respondents think the City's efforts planning for growth are *Fair* or *Poor*. 27 percent responded that the City's efforts are *Good*, and only 3 percent believe the efforts to plan for growth are *Excellent*.



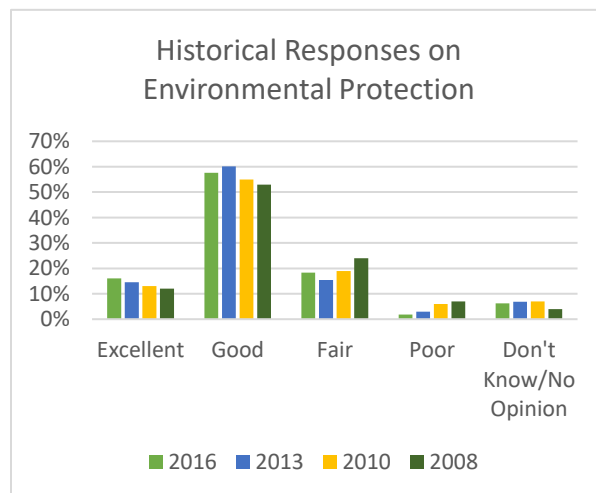
2016 reports the lowest proportion of positive responses regarding the City's efforts planning for growth since 2008. This year, only 30 percent of respondents rated planning for growth as *Excellent* (3 percent), or *Good* (27 percent), compared to a 36 percent positive response rate in 2013, 38 percent in 2010, and 33 percent in 2008.

## Protecting the Environment

**Q: In regard to protecting the environment, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	16.00%	189
<b>Good</b>	57.58%	680
<b>Fair</b>	18.37%	217
<b>Poor</b>	1.78%	21
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	6.27%	74
<b>Total</b>	100%	1181

Many respondents believe that the City's efforts to protect the environment are at least *Good* (58 percent), if not *Excellent* (16 percent). As discussed later in the Survey, Bellingham residents consider the environmental protection and remediation efforts to be quite important.



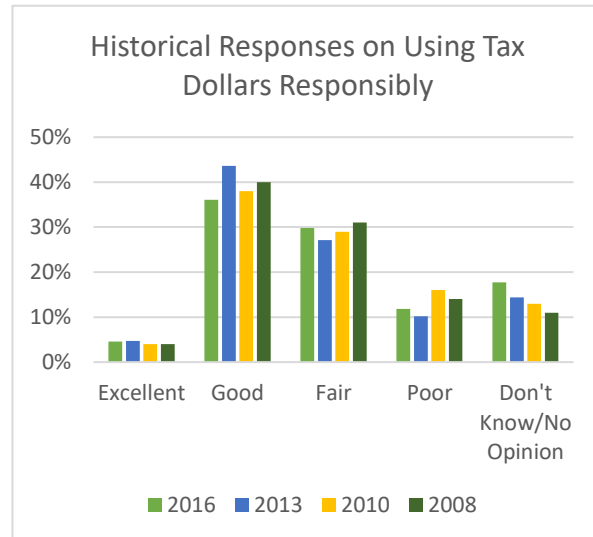
Respondents views of the City's environmental protection have been steadily more positive since 2008. The rates of *Excellent* responses have risen from 12 percent (2008) to 16 percent (2016), and the rates of *Poor* responses have dropped from 7 percent (2008) to 2 percent (2016).

## Using Tax Dollars Responsibly

**Q: In regard to using tax dollars responsibly, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Excellent	4.58%	54
Good	36.08%	425
Fair	29.80%	351
Poor	11.80%	139
Don't Know/No Opinion	17.74%	209
Total	100%	1178

The majority of respondents are more neutral about this subject – 36 percent of respondents rated the City's efforts to use tax dollars responsibly as *Good*, and 30 percent rated the City's efforts as *Fair*.



Historically, views of the City's efforts to use tax dollars responsibly have fluctuated. This year, the total positive response rate (*Excellent* or *Good*) was 41 percent, the lowest of all four years. Also, the rates of *Don't Know/No Opinion* have been steadily increasing over the years, from 11 percent (2008) to 18 percent (2016).

## Public Safety Services

**Q: In regard to providing public safety services (such as police, fire, and emergency medical services), the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Excellent	21.74%	257
Good	57.70%	682
Fair	11.25%	133
Poor	1.69%	20
Don't Know/No Opinion	7.61%	90
Total	100%	1182

In regard to providing public safety services, the majority (80 percent) of respondents rate the City's efforts as *Good* (58 percent), if not *Excellent* (22 percent). Less than 2 percent of respondents rate the City's efforts as *Poor*.

Since the 2013 survey, *Excellent* responses have dropped from 28 percent (2013) to 22 percent (2016). Since 2010, *Don't Know/No Opinion* responses have increased from 3 percent (2010 and 2013) to 8 percent (2016). Data from 2008 is not available for this question.



### Services relying on taxpayer dollars

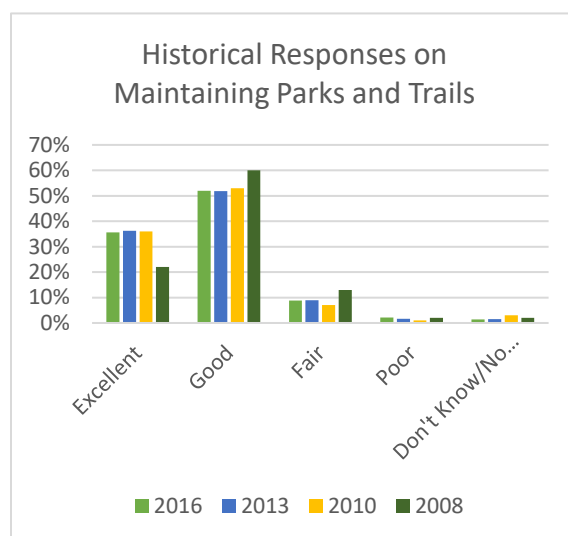
This section focuses specifically on City services which rely on taxpayer dollars. Respondents are asked to rate the quality of the City's efforts providing each of these services. The questions in this section were presented in a randomized order to eliminate possible bias.

Respondents have high rates of *Don't Know/No Opinion* responses for particular questions in this section. This accounts for the questions concerning recreational programs (15 percent responded *Don't Know/No Opinion*), fire protection services (18 percent), emergency medical services (17 percent), economic development and business growth (19 percent), involving the public (14 percent), and reducing human impact on the environment (15 percent). This result may indicate that these are sections that respondents either don't have experience with, or do not feel opinionated about.

### Maintaining Parks and Trails

**Q: In regard to maintaining parks and trails, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Excellent	35.58%	417
Good	51.96%	609
Fair	8.87%	104
Poor	2.13%	25
Don't Know/No Opinion	1.45%	17
Total	100%	1172



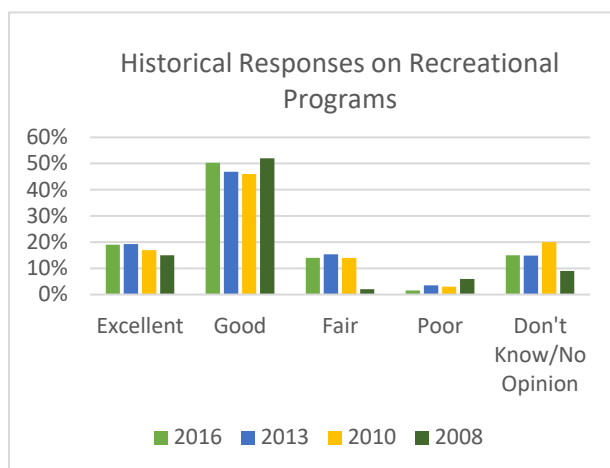
Park and trail maintenance is recognized by respondents as one of the City's strong points. 52 percent responded that the City's efforts to maintain parks and trails are *Good*, and almost 36 gave an *Excellent* rating.

Ratings of park and trail maintenance have remained relatively steady since 2010, but are still an increase from 2008 ratings, when only 22 percent of respondents regarded park and trail maintenance as *Excellent*.

## Recreational Programs

**Q: In regard to providing recreational programs for youth and adults, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	19.03%	223
<b>Good</b>	50.34%	590
<b>Fair</b>	13.99%	164
<b>Poor</b>	1.62%	19
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	15.02%	176
<b>Total</b>	100%	1172



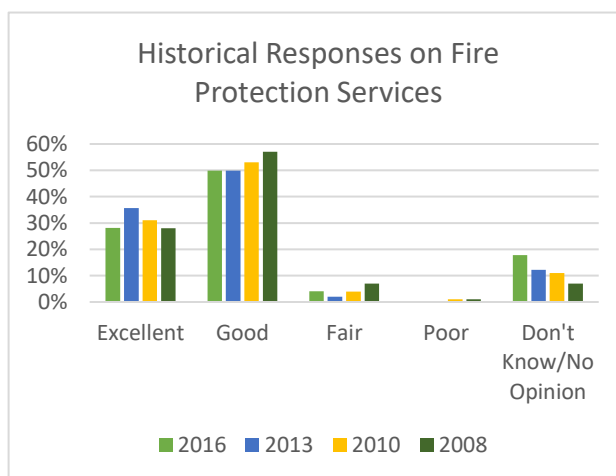
In regard to providing recreational programs, respondents rate the City's efforts quite positively – 50 percent give a rating of *Good*, and 19 percent give a rating of *Excellent*.

Since 2008, this year represents the highest positive response rate regarding recreational programs, with a total of 69 percent rating *Excellent* or *Good*.

## Fire Protection Services

**Q: In regard to providing fire protection services, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	28.10%	329
<b>Good</b>	49.87%	584
<b>Fair</b>	4.10%	48
<b>Poor</b>	0.17%	2
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	17.76%	208
<b>Total</b>	100%	1171



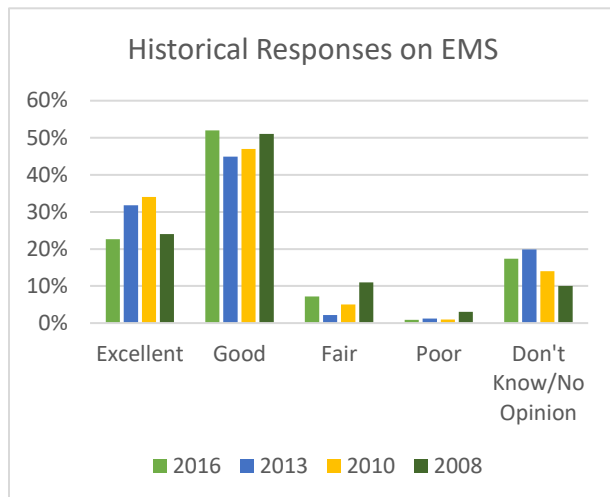
The City's efforts providing fire protection services are recognized as a positive aspect of our community – 50 percent of respondents rate the City's efforts as *Good*, and another 28 percent gave a rating of *Excellent*.

Historically, fire protection services have always been rated quite positively – the highest rate of negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*) came in 2008, which was a low 8 percent. However, this year did bring in the lowest rate of positive responses (*Excellent* or *Good*), and the highest rate of *Don't Know/No Opinion* responses.

## Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

**Q: In regard to providing Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	22.61%	265
<b>Good</b>	51.96%	609
<b>Fair</b>	7.17%	84
<b>Poor</b>	0.85%	10
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	17.41%	204
<b>Total</b>	100%	1172



Respondents also recognize the City's efforts providing EMS – 52 percent rate EMS services as *Good*, and 23 percent give an *Excellent* rating. Less than 1 percent believe the City is doing a *Poor* job providing EMS.

Historically, this represents the lowest rate of *Excellent* and *Poor* responses of all past surveys, but the highest rate of *Good* responses. Residents' opinions seem to be becoming more moderate about EMS services.

A similar percent of respondents replied in the *Don't Know/No Opinion* category as the previous question regarding general fire services, possibly indicating a lack of overall knowledge of the particular services available.



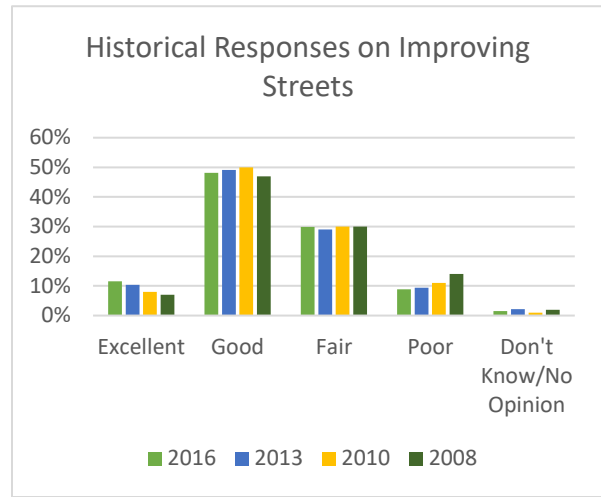
## Improving Streets

**Q: In regard to improving streets (such as fixing potholes, signage, bike lanes, sidewalks, and traffic lights), the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Excellent	11.52%	135
Good	48.12%	564
Fair	29.95%	351
Poor	8.87%	104
Don't Know/No Opinion	1.54%	18
Total	100%	1172

In regard to improving streets (for example, fixing potholes, signage, bike lanes, sidewalks, and traffic lights), 12 percent of respondents rated the City's efforts as *Excellent*, 48 percent rated *Good*, 30 percent rated *Fair*, and 9 percent rated *Poor*.

Historically, views of the City's efforts to improve streets have become steadily more positive. *Excellent* responses have increased from 7 percent (2008) to 12 percent (2016), and *Poor* responses have decreased from 14 percent (2008) to 9 percent (2016).



## Economic Development and Business Growth

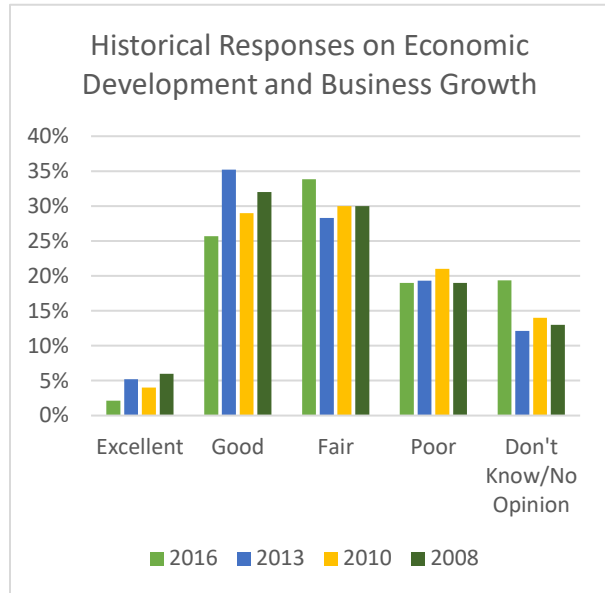
**Q: In regard to encouraging economic development and business growth in Bellingham, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Excellent	2.14%	25
Good	25.68%	300
Fair	33.82%	395
Poor	19.01%	222
Don't Know/No Opinion	19.35%	226
Total	100%	1168

Many respondents think there is room to grow when it comes to the City's efforts encouraging economic development and business growth. Only 2 percent rated the City's efforts as *Excellent*, 26 percent rated *Good*, 34 percent rated *Fair*, and 19 percent believe the City's efforts are *Poor*.

Historically, this represents the lowest rate of positive responses (*Excellent* or *Good*), by far. The rate of *Don't Know/No Opinion* responses has spiked to 17 percent (2016) from a steadier rate between 12 and 14 percent from 2008 and 2013.

It should be noted that the term "economic development" is open to fairly wide-interpretation based on a person's background and experiences.



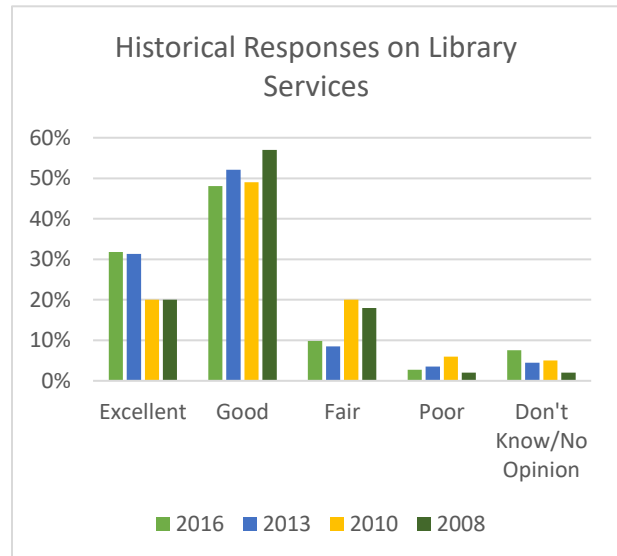
## Library Services

**Q: In regard to providing library services for the community, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	31.77%	373
<b>Good</b>	48.04%	564
<b>Fair</b>	9.88%	116
<b>Poor</b>	2.73%	32
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	7.58%	89
<b>Total</b>	100%	1174

Regarding library services, respondents rated the City's efforts very positively – 32 percent rated *Excellent*, and 48 percent rated *Good*. Only 10 percent rated the City's efforts as *Fair*, and 3 percent rated *Poor*.

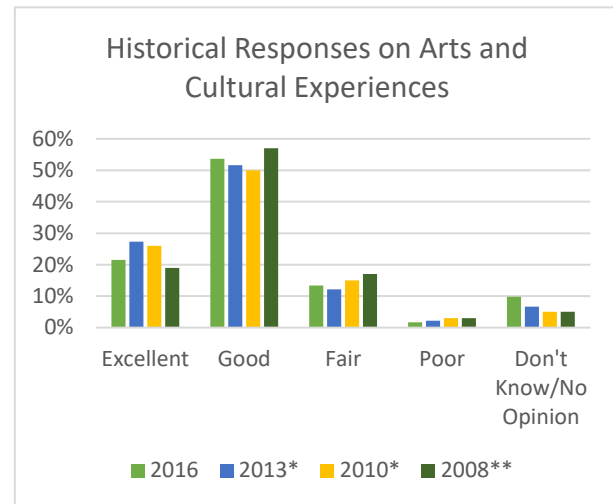
This year **and** 2013 have seen a significant increase in total positive responses (*Excellent* or *Good*) and a decrease in total negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*) compared to the 2010 and 2008 views of community library services.



## Arts and Cultural Experiences

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	21.48%	252
<b>Good</b>	53.62%	629
<b>Fair</b>	13.38%	157
<b>Poor</b>	1.71%	20
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	9.80%	115
<b>Total</b>	100%	1173



Respondents feel positive about the City's efforts fostering arts and cultural experiences – 21 percent rated *Excellent*, and 54 percent rated *Good*. Only 15 percent rated the City's efforts negatively – 13 percent rated *Fair*, and 2 percent rated *Poor*.

Compared to 2010 and 2013, this year's *Excellent* and *Poor* response rates have decreased, and *Good* and *Don't Know/No Opinion* response rates have increased. This suggests that in recent years, people's views on arts and cultural experiences provided by the City have become more moderate.

### Follow-Up

The Survey follows up with respondents who rate the City's efforts fostering arts and cultural experiences as either *Fair* or *Poor* (177 respondents) by asking them to elaborate on their choice in an open-end text entry. The following table contains a count of some of the most popular topics that are mentioned. One response may contain multiple topic tags, so total count of topics exceeds total responses.

Count	Answer Category
<b>20</b>	Private arts community more important
<b>19</b>	Not a high priority
<b>16</b>	More diverse culture
<b>10</b>	Too expensive
<b>9</b>	Public Awareness
<b>8</b>	More funding for art
<b>7</b>	Decrease arts funding
<b>7</b>	Local artists
<b>7</b>	Music
<b>7</b>	Not my thing
<b>5</b>	Opportunities for youth
<b>5</b>	Public involvement
<b>4</b>	Cultural events
<b>4</b>	More public art needed
<b>4</b>	Performance art spaces

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

### **Verbatim responses**

The following were provided by the respondents and are presented within this report without edit or analysis beyond an attempt to create a count (above) by generally expressed themes.

The efforts are pretty lame. Downtown needs more attention and investment by the city to create more businesses and to deal with the homeless/mental health problems.

It's hit or miss throughout the year. It's not bad, now that I think about it more. I just wish the city had a bit more consistent energy.

While Bellingham seems to have a fairly vibrant and varied arts community, I don't know how much, if any, of that is due directly or even indirectly to the city's "fostering." All the organizations that I can think of are independent and, as far as I know, don't rely on any City support.

I'd like to see more public art options, permanent and temporary and art education options. I'd like to see a greater integration of the waterfront (such as the "Seafeast") in art, culture, history and architecture.

Outreach between schools and public spaces with art needs to happen; local museums should be open every day; public and private organs should be promoting art; city and university should work together to further artistic education/display/events.

Arts and other cultural experiences enhances everyone's lives, I know schools do the best they can to stimulate our young people, opening the doors to classical music, symphony & artist displays would be a huge enrichment to our young people!!

I'm not sure how the COB can improve what I see as a lack of cultural experiences. I do appreciate the Museum and funding of other endeavors such as public art installations, etc. Perhaps this is more my own ignorance about what the COB supports vs. lack of experiences.

The Arts organizations cater to non-representational two and three dimensional artifacts that emphasize sensationalism and are under the influence of institutions that pretend to be institutions of higher learning, yet foster mediocre objects for public exhibit. Music concerts also approach sensationalism with loud and clashing sounds.

Relative to other strengths, i.e. recreational opportunities & outdoor accessibility, Bellingham arts and cultural opportunities are lacking.

We need a public arts center for dances, bands, musicals, plays, Choirs, and other arts. I.E. Like the Public Museum, Public Library, Public Market.....There is so much talent in Bellingham but no were to show it for large groups....

Parking makes the WWU events difficult for most citizens. Most arts and cultural experiences are too expensive for most citizens.

Other than the monthly Friday night Art Walk it doesn't seem like there is much "Arts or Cultural" events going on

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

I understand...You can only accomplish what your tax dollars will allow.

- City council needs to concentrate on Bellingham issues and not get involved in national or international concerns. Their mandate is to serve the people of Bellingham.

I think there could be a greater diversity of arts and cultural experiences brought into the city and additional venues to support them.

Removing downtown businesses with unique contributions to our community and replacing them with e-cigarette stores and more and more chain restaurants (i.e. Starbucks, Woods Coffee) will further bland our society and chase out locals trying to do something exciting.

Don't believe it is a high priority of the city

The music scene in Bellingham used to be more active. The number of venues has gone down dramatically. Down town sounds is great in the summer, but more could be done. Also, other than Ski to Sea support, it seems like the Port and private entities do a lot with the waterfront, but not the City as much.

The promotion of arts and cultural experiences is lacking. The city could do a much better job getting the public involved in the arts by getting the word out.

Bellingham has a lot of smaller festivals/races but nothing big to draw people from afar to Bellingham more more more

Bellingham continues to lack in arts and culture. Part of this is the small size of the town, part is the insular nature of Western WA Univ where many cultural events occur. Things like Bellingham Symphony could use more support and be expanded

City doesn't seem to be too involved in this arena, seems like these are more something that private industries sponsor and create.

It could be the result of not being informed of the cultural events provided or fostered. Improving the communication of events and activities occurring in the Bellingham area BEFORE they happen is a major obstacle. I would assume an APP featuring local events, news, police activity, recreation events, etc., might be a possibility. One can no longer rely on the newspaper, local radio & no television!

I think the city could do more to embrace and celebrate our ethnic minority groups

There definitely are organizations in Bellingham who work hard to foster arts & cultural experiences, but I'm not convinced that the City has much part in that.

I see evidence of money spent for public "art" installations in the downtown area ("art district") that are ugly and expensive, at least in my opinion. Plus that money did not stay in the community. We should be celebrating Bellingham artists rather than importing incongruous sculptures from Seattle and outside Whatcom County.

Not involved

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Don't know that the city does all that much, but other agencies are providing this (e.g., Mount Baker Theater, Bellingham Theater Guild, Whatcom CC, WWU...)

More opportunities for kids.

Diversity in Bellingham remains something to be desired. There is always room for improvement when it comes to the city's support of actively fostering many more of these experiences.

I guess I don't see anything that is very innovative. the arts and culture stuff is about the same that you find in any city. there's nothing new or interesting.

Two years ago the city council approved \$2,000,000 for new city art, and the new sewer line that is complete and ready for activation still has not been activated as of 11/3/2016 because the city will not approve \$1,500,000 for a pump station for the Meridian/Cordata neighborhood. Bellingham needs to get their priorities in order. What comes first - ART or Activation of a completed SEWER LINE!!!

It seems like the neighborhoods foster most of that but that the city isn't involved in it.

Its hard to embrace and create spaces for culture when our community is predominately.

I do not seek out much in the arts and cultural experiences due to not a lot of parking for events. Its more of a hassle. Most times I avoid the areas. Which fosters Lack of interest

I believe down town Bellingham has taken on the appearance of a want-to-be artsy town. However, it's an unfriendly shopping area with one way streets (hard to get around easily) and pay parking everywhere. I was born in Bellingham and I haven't been down town in years. I used to go there frequently.

Not as important to me as other considerations.

Personally, I don't find there is much in the way of arts and cultural experiences available in Bellingham. I usually travel to Everett, Seattle and Vancouver for events.

Cultural events in Bellingham have always seemed small and underdeveloped. Ski to Sea, the 4th of July events, the Bite of Bellingham, and the Night Market to name a few are all good cultural experiences, but they are all tiny for a city of this size, and are all much smaller than similar events in the region put on by smaller communities. Quite some time ago Bellingham used to host fairly large musical acts. What happened to that? Anacortes puts on a good sized art festival. I wonder every year what it is that Bellingham is doing wrong that our events aren't that size. In short, the City of Subdued Excitement has become much too subdued.

There seems to be a lack of cultural events and limited venues in which to experience art.

I am not aware of any experiences instigated by the city, other than those listed in Take 5 that are put on by various organizations. I may not have sufficient and, if that is the case, I apologize. The city's job may not be to do this, as I think the city's job is to run the various departments of the city.

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

The children museum used to be a fun place, no longer... money took over. The museum used to be a great place... no longer true.

I was sad the Friday night market wasn't a weekly event this year

I think they spend way too much time and way too much money on it. there are other problems in this town that need to be fixed before we have statues in library or on street corners.

no answer

city spends too much money on arts and cultural experiences

Who cares what the artsy-fartsy, yuppie outdoorsy types want. Most of their events (bike races, runs, nude parades, etc.) either wind up using excess parking, disrupting traffic or closing some routes completely making residents prisoners in their own neighborhoods.

I think the city is beginning to improve in this area. Efforts of the Pickford Cinema and the Lightcatcher Museum are appreciated. I think the art work is okay, but it seems like more of an opportunity for people to take advantage of free wine than it does to showcase local art.

to much arts

There are some nice city led programs and connections for the arts. It's fair. I wouldn't call it stellar, but I appreciate having the opportunities we do have.

Arts and cultural experiences are important, but there are things that are more important. In a time where wages are very low for the cost of living, in Bellingham, there are things that need to take a higher priority than putting "art" on street corners, for example.

I'm not aware of the city's role in fostering arts and cultural experiences - most of the opportunities we see in this area are spearheaded by private or not for profit agencies and organizations. That could be my own misperception.

It seems to me that most arts and cultural experiences I encounter are come from the university or private efforts, not city programs

Same events, year after year.

The city does an okay job of fostering arts and cultural experiences. I'm not convinced that this is, foremost, a government function. The private sector should be taking the lead on this (and the city should encourage this by making building / event permits easier to obtain, use hospitality taxes to support private efforts, etc.).

give us more informations

I don't think of the city as having a large role in the cultural life of the city other than music in the park and downtown sounds during the summer. Perhaps I'm ill informed though.

Not much available in the North part of Bellingham, except for WCC.



**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

I think we have many opportunities in this area. I would like to see the city provide more affordable options for families with children. As an example the Lightcatcher has a children's area, it fees are very high for the average family and there is not that much to do. I realize that there is a day that is free or used to be for families.

I have found that the cultural events sponsored by the city are geared towards families with children. As a young adult, I would be interested in a better array of cultural experiences and events that foster productive dialogue. I wish there were more arts events for educated adults. I have found a lot of events for adults are focused on health.

Too much of our taxpayers money is spent on arts and cultural experiences. We need to spend the money on neighborhood streets, not more parks, not more bike lanes, not more trails.

The types of events do not draw in my community.

Whatcom Museum of Art and Mt. Baker Theatre should involve local artists. City of Bellingham should have a vibrant public arts program—more public art because it's underfunded.

I think Bellingham has the potential to be a really rich in art/culture, but more opportunities, more outreach to community would be great.

Not aware of any programs.

I just don't see much happening in the city.

Always room for more!

Does not matter to me

The city is generally not responsible for the most successful of arts experiences.

Museum should be free. Libraries should be open more hours, especially Sundays

I'm not aware of any cultural experience fostered by the city (?)

It is lacking a real connection with people of color such as the Latino community because there are no events to celebrate and encourage diversity.

Hope they have plans for art and culture on the GP site. Trying to keep cost down for the middle class to afford. Benches along the walking trails.Bring in more bands, and groups.

As a musician I am very interested in the arts. The city of Bellingham has some regulations and requirements that make it difficult for musicians to perform for the public in public spaces such as Boulevard Park and the Fairhaven Village Green. To charge a local non-profit for the use of these spaces seems petty and gets in the way of spreading local arts awareness. It's important to control these venues, but the cost keeps many deserving groups away. Consider what it is like to practice and rehearse for many hours and then be told you have to pay for the opportunity to play for the community.

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

While there are many arts and cultural experiences, it seems to me that the city could foster more of them and make them more affordable to everyone. For example, the programs at the Mt. Baker Theatre are excellent, but not affordable for most of us. The downtown art walks are a good example of what could be done.

I would like to see the city give the Mt Baker Theater as well as other art groups the accolades and funds they deserve. I understand the city has a limited budget but sometimes it feels like an antagonistic rather than cooperative spirit with respect to the arts.

Eh, the city is doing as well as it can, we just aren't a big city and really the PNW is a bit of a cultural wasteland compared to the Bay Area and the east coast. It's ok, I've made my peace with it. Mount Baker theater gets some good stuff.

I do not hold the City responsibility for fostering arts and culture.

My impression that effort to foster arts and cultural experiences are much more of a priority in the private sector.

Bellingham has consistently had one of the top per capita populations of artists in the entire nation. The vast majority of these artists have very opportunities to display and sell their work within Whatcom County. City Officials need to explore an effective way to foster economic benefits to both the city and her creative population from this fact.

Very White. Very Euro-Centric. Overpriced. There needs to be significantly more diversity and lower-cost programming.

I think there could be more done

You have so many talented artists here and this is one of the worst places to advance as an artist. Why don't you look at Mt. Vernon, Burlington, Skagit or other communities where they choose local artists and sponsor art projects, give subsidies to assist artists to survive economically, etc.

No opinion

Too much effort to the neglect of the basics of Police and fire services. Let the private sector or the University work here.

not sure, Don't see many diverse cultures being celebrated

I don't think you can have too many community related events with a focus on culture. Super important for humans.

Much of what I see in arts and cultural experiences are private events. I am not sure what the city is doing to "foster arts and cultural experiences."

I think the city could make a higher impact for arts and culture through funding programs. The Mount Baker Theater which the city funds is too expensive for myself and many to afford. 130K for the acid ball? I would rather see this funding go to support the fledgling Arts District then a one time project

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

There are many small arts organizations in the city, but a lack of performance spaces. A small concert hall for musical events would add a great deal to the city, as would a true concert hall for the WSO and touring groups.

I must have given an incorrect answer, I would rate "Good"

Many things are very expensive and show cultural bias.

There aren't enough great events for kids.

I should have answered don't know/no opinion. I see plenty of the arts and culture, but I guess I don't know if the credit should go to the city.

I simply don't see a lot of city sponsored experiences that foster the arts and cultural experiences (I do see numerous community and privately sponsored events, though). Perhaps it's just a matter of me not understanding how the city is involved with these experiences.

Other things are way more important I am sure the city is doing more than I am aware of. More concerned with the homelessness and drug issues. Should have answered no opinion

The city should be more open and supportive of anyone who wants to improve the art culture in Bellingham. There are many, many talented artists in Bellingham, but the only ones that get promoted are people with the means to not have a "real" job (and very limited talent) and call themselves "artists".

The city (mayor) talks like this important. They have shown no support in putting \$ into the game. The city does not deserve a title of "supporting the arts".

It seems the few concerts or events supported by the City are so congested, few people go, to avoid the crowds.

This should primarily be privately funded.

We need more City sponsored or City supported opportunities

The museum is not fairly funded

Whatcom Museum so sad. It's a ghost town in there. And please, the library could use a new building.

I feel they rely on WWU for the lead in these areas.

Cultural experiences seem concentrated on downtown and Fairhaven. Little parking in either case. Birchwood has a shuttered Albertson's with a parking lot mostly empty and begging for better use.

more opportunity for all ages

I didn't mean that the city was doing a bad job of that. They need to focus on other important things and let society (private) take care of those things.

The city hasn't supported certain efforts as much as it could, like the jazz festival.

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

I do not really think that the city should be spending much time in this area, and should instead focus on reducing barriers for others to participate in this area.

Fair in this area is good. I don't want any more tax dollars foed there.

not high on my list

The museum is one of the poorest examples I have ever seen...I surmise the museum budget only goes to pay for employees because I rarely see anybody in there. And, CULTURE does NOT belong with the arts! What you are doing is destroying art and replacing it with culture!

It is unfortunate that Mt. Baker Theater has upped their prices and the number of interesting shows/events are less and not as entertaining. There is a lot of money going into that program and not as much to show for it as in previous years.

As a Latino in Bellingham, I feel there should be better outreach to make the city more diverse.

I should amend that to 'Good' or 'I don't know'.

Need more cultural programs throughout the year.

Marketing is either non-existent or doesn't reach everyone who would be interested.

No enough intercalated involvement in government programs and services

The craft beer culture is good but it shouldn't be the only focus of "arts". Bellingham has no culture... cause there is very little diversity.

There are small groups of people who have enormous effects on the programs and outcomes who, as a group, have neither the real creativity or involvement with the rest of the world that is necessary to provide stimulating results.

There are many talented local artists, but their work is very rarely displayed in city venues such as the art museum.

There can always be more.

Prefer more fine art less folk and street art.

Arts & culture is a lesser priority for city government.

We need more promotion and better visibility for local artists! And we need the mayor and police to chill out for World Naked Bike Ride. In Seattle the police and parks are on board with it.

local arts and culture are ok but getting better

Be more inclusive to celebrate local history, not bury it, and stop trying to push "political correctness" agendas.

**Q: In regard to fostering arts and cultural experiences, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Money could be better much managed, for example the vast majority of the money that was supposed to develop an Arts District went towards building an over priced museum that requires continued heavy subsidies. How much was spent planting grass on the roof of the museum to save the environment when there is 100 acres of barren dirt at the GP site. The same environmental benefit could have been achieved with \$20 of grass seed.

there are more pressing issues with limited budgets

Late-night concerts are useless to me, as a parent. That stupid awful scepter thing downtown is an EYESORE, you'd have been better off burning the money as a piece of performance art. Does \*anyone\* like that thing? Honestly.

There is no budget for public works acquisition or implementation of innovative cultural experiences in town. Local artists suffer from lack of opportunities locally-in terms of education, opportunities or tangible fiscal support. Meanwhile, much pride is taken in the presence of trades people and artists who chose to live here. And yet, a recent study conducted Allied Arts shows that the majority of local artists working here live below the poverty line. I wonder what can be done to rectify this injustice.

Recreation program cuts during recession need to be reinstated.

I'm originally from Chicago, so there really isn't much this city could do to impress me. It seems like cheap knockoffs of what one would consider art or culture. I have been here since 1990 and I will say that the city has made great improvements. I do find myself doing more at MBT. I'm just not into homegrown, college entertainment- nor do I consider most of the "art" at the museum art, but I'm comparing it to the Art Institute of Chicago- so what can I say.

Museums too expensive and everything is la-de-da high hat. Too much emphasis on tree huggers and stuff.

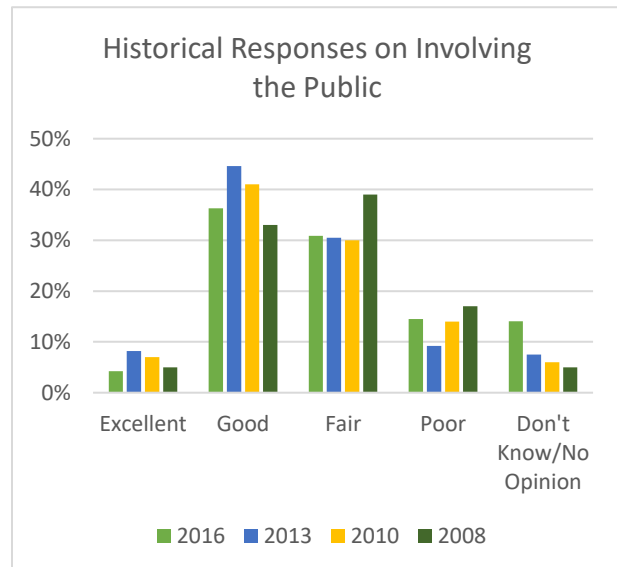
This must be a joke - the arts and culture experiences in Bellingham are really second rate - I travel to Vancouver BC for such experiences

Don't care

## Involving the Public

**Q: In regard to involving the public in making decisions that affect the community, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	4.26%	50
<b>Good</b>	36.32%	426
<b>Fair</b>	30.86%	362
<b>Poor</b>	14.49%	170
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	14.07%	165
<b>Total</b>	100%	1173



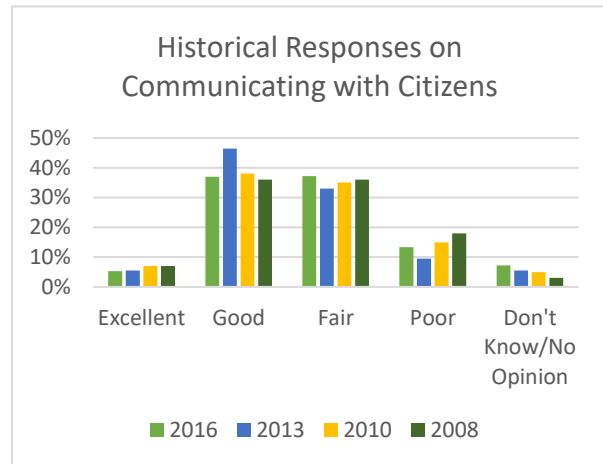
Responses regarding the City's efforts involving the public in community decision-making are generally moderate. 4 percent rate the City's efforts as *Excellent*, 36 percent rate *Good*, 31 percent rate *Fair*, and 14 percent rate *Poor*.

Compared to previous years, especially 2010 and 2013, positive responses (*Excellent* or *Good*) regarding involving the public have decreased significantly. The positive response rate is 40 percent in 2016, compared to 48 percent in 2010 and 53 percent in 2013. The rate of *Don't Know/No Opinion* responses has been steadily increasing from 5 percent in 2008 to 14 percent in 2016.

## Communicating with Citizens

**Q: In regard to communicating with citizens about City issues, decisions, and services, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	5.29%	62
<b>Good</b>	37.00%	434
<b>Fair</b>	37.17%	436
<b>Poor</b>	13.30%	156
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	7.25%	85
<b>Total</b>	100%	1173



Respondents are also generally moderate in their opinions about the City's efforts to communicate with citizens about City issues, decisions, and services. 5 percent rate the City's efforts as *Excellent*, 37 percent rate *Good*, 37 percent rate *Fair*, and 13 percent rate *Poor*.

This year's responses are slightly more negative than 2013 responses, but similar to 2008 and 2010 responses. Since 2013, positive responses (*Excellent* or *Good*) have decreased from 52 percent (2013) to 42 percent (2016), and negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*) have increased from 43 percent (2013) to 50 percent (2016).

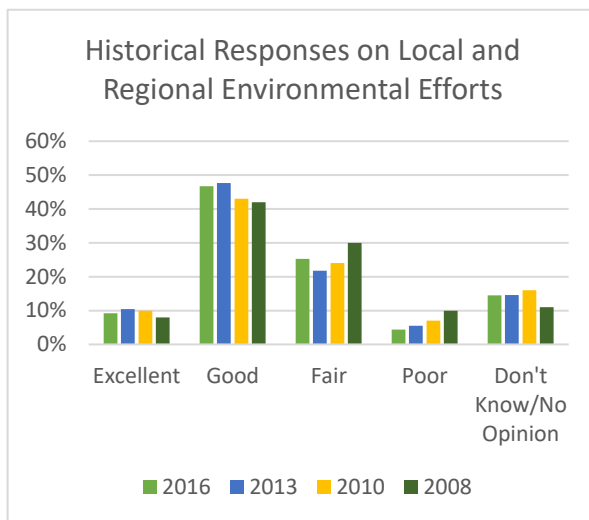
## Reducing Human Impact on the Environment

**Q: In regard to leading local and regional efforts to reduce human impact on the environment, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	9.22%	108
<b>Good</b>	46.67%	547
<b>Fair</b>	25.26%	296
<b>Poor</b>	4.35%	51
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	14.51%	170
<b>Total</b>	100%	1172

Concerning local and regional efforts to reduce the human impact on the environment, most respondents rate the City's efforts positively – 9 percent rate *Excellent*, and 47 percent rate *Good*. About a quarter (25 percent) of respondents rate the City's efforts as *Fair*, and 4 percent rate *Poor*.

Responses to this question have been becoming slightly more positive over the years. There has been a steady decrease in *Poor* responses, from 10 percent (2008) to 4 percent (2016).

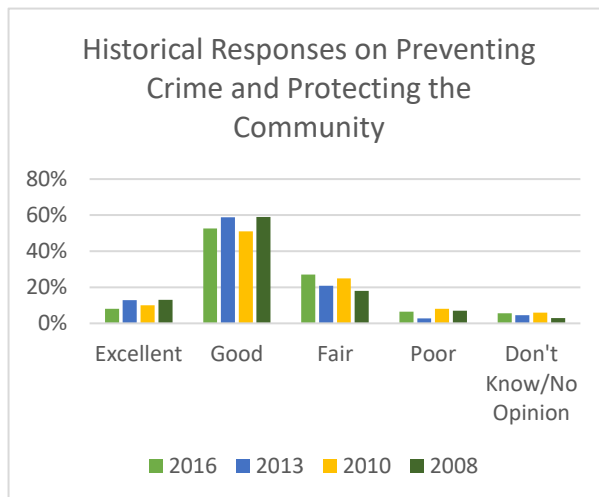




## Preventing Crime and Protecting the Community

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, the City's efforts are...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	8.16%	96
<b>Good</b>	52.68%	620
<b>Fair</b>	27.02%	318
<b>Poor</b>	6.54%	77
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	5.61%	66
<b>Total</b>	100%	1177



When it comes to preventing crime and protecting the community, 8 percent of respondents rate the City's efforts as *Excellent*, 53 percent rate *Good*, 27 percent rate *Fair*, and 7 percent rate *Poor*.

Historically, positive responses (*Excellent* or *Good*) have slightly decreased, from 72 percent (2008) to 61 percent (2016). Also, negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*) have increased, from 25 percent (2008) to 34 percent (2016).

### Follow-Up

The Survey follows up with respondents who rate the City's efforts preventing crime and protecting the community as either *Fair* or *Poor* (395 respondents) by asking them to elaborate on their choice in an open-end text entry. The following table contains a count of some of the most popular topics that are mentioned. One response may contain multiple topic tags, so total count of topics exceeds total responses.

Count	Answer Category
127	Homelessness
126	Property crimes
51	Drug enforcement
51	Unsafe downtown
46	Quality of police
37	Mental health options/Social services
31	Police visibility
29	Police budget unsatisfactory
20	Police response time
17	Unsafe trails
14	Traffic enforcement
10	Community efforts to support police
10	No preventative policing
9	Jail overcrowding
7	Concern for marginalized populations
7	Problems with gangs
6	Loitering

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

### **Verbatim responses**

The following were provided by the respondents and are presented within this report without edit or analysis beyond an attempt to create a count (above) by generally expressed themes.

- Would like to see more professional sector jobs/business attracted to Bellingham -- growth seems primarily in the retail/restaurant sector. I do not find jobs here that are commensurate with my education and experience or have a realistic salary; I have

1) I have contacted the police numerous times in regards to general crime in my neighborhood with no response. 2) A neighbor witnessed someone stealing mail from my porch, called the police, and officer left his card with a case number asking me to contact him, I did and he never returned that call.

A big part of this is addressing the problems of mental illness, drugs, and homelessness. These have all grown noticeably worse in recent years.

A growing transient/homeless population, and transparent drug use throughout Bellingham and Whatcom Co fosters crime and leaves many low-income children at risk of neglect, malnutrition and learning deficits, and a lifetime of mental health problems.

A lot more illegal drug sales and use could be prevented in the Roosevelt neighborhood. A more common police presence - cruisers, bike cops, perhaps a "police box" as in Japan - is necessary.

"A replacement Jail is needed . Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services are needed.

After multiple car break ins in neighborhood over past several years, I and others don't even report anything anymore. It takes up time to report, never results in anything and officers seem to respond in a less than caring manner.

All older neighborhoods are experiencing a fast crime spike of burglaries and theft. I have only seen police in my neighborhood one time, and that was for a call. There needs to be more funding for officers and more routine routes out into the neighborhoods. The increase in people without homes is probably positively correlated to some of the crime spike; so the accessibility and willingness of officers to take calls regarding camps is appreciated, but the city needs an organized plan to tackle these issues.

As a person who cares deeply about the plight of the homeless, the city is ignoring the issue. This has the unintended consequence of deterring families from frequenting downtown establishments. This helps no one and is the slippery slope to people abandoning the downtown area. It is not enough for the city to simply move encampments, though. There needs to be a clean, dry solution for those people living under bridges and in tents. I'd like to see some innovation, here, and not the same old broken gov't solutions.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

As I mentioned before some neighborhoods have a high repeat crime level. I would like to see emphasis in those areas.

As the city grows and draws more crime, I feel the city stills sees itself as a small town and doesn't do enough to grow with the crime (more police force, how to deal with criminals, etc)

As we indicated above, we experience homelessness, the associated drug use, and the associated crime/loss of safety to be one of the greatest concerns of our city. We no longer travel by foot or bike through certain areas of the city, nor do we use particular parks anymore. 10-15 years ago we saw the development of the corridor between downtown and the Lettered Streets/Columbia neighborhood. We anticipated mixed use buildings and a vibrant neighborhood; we expected that it would be an area we would commute even more frequently by foot. We looked forward to the development of the GP waterfront as well, but now this same portion of town is not family friendly or safe to travel by foot. Further, drug use creates risky garbage right in our neighborhood and the outdoor sleeping carries concerns too. Our family does not know the answers to these concerns, but that is part of the reason why we list this area as a "greatest concern".

At times I do not feel safe downtown. There are groups of people who hang out, block sidewalks, and appear threatening. There needs to be more of a police presence on Holly street especially between Railroad and Cornwall.

Because the City does far too little to eliminate homeless encampments and enforce laws regarding absentee landlords, the City falls far short of preventing crime and protecting the community from the inevitable problems that arise from these issues.

Bellingham feels out of touch with the growth and sprawl of the growing small city. Services and attention seem focused on only those area's west of I5.

Bellingham has become a magnet city for the homeless. People are moving here from all over the state and the country. This is due to too many services provided for the homeless and really good police officers that do not enforce the law. Let's take care of our own homeless people, but not attract the homeless from across the country. The downtown core is unsafe and unattractive for businesses to open and families to visit. No more panhandling on street corners. Write tickets and arrest people for public drunkenness and urinating.

Bellingham has one of the highest Theft rate is in WA

Bellingham is doing nothing to get rid of homeless people -so called- ruining public and private spaces

Bellingham needs more police officers and detectives to follow-up on reported crime. Policing should be a higher priority for financial support, over creating more nightlife in downtown.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Bellingham Police Department is not serving the public as a public servant. I'm a model citizen but I'll be damned letting the BPD trample others' constitutional rights. Police serve the public! You are public servants whose job is to uphold existing laws not interpret the laws as you see fit to meet your quota.

better management of homeless/drug addicts that cause much of the crime

Bicycle crime and the blatant "out in the open" parting of bikes is not only discouraging as a citizen (who has had his bike stolen), but it's a blight to the beauty of downtown. It has to be addressed.

Bike theft is awful and there are no consequences. Thieves take apart bikes right in front of the Rainbow center. I don't feel safe walking downtown much. I am heckled and asked for money multiple times.

Bike theft prevention and recovery could improve

Car break ins are an issue. Bike theft is rampant. Garage break ins in neighborhoods is a problem.

City does not support police in addressing the homeless problem. The numbers of transients is increasing dramatically resulting in harassment, petty theft, squalor, and impact on the city's commercial viability. People no longer will go downtown because they don't want to be confronted by the riffraff on the streets. They are afraid!

City Policy seems to encourage services to the homeless population in the urban core thereby making Bellingham a magnet for homeless persons from throughout the region. Homeless persons and/or drug users have started to drift into traditionally "safe neighborhoods".

Columbia neighborhood has a lot of minor theft, and this is a well respected neighborhood and it has been this way for years. In the Lettered streets, I do not feel comfortable walking around at night.

Communities of wealthy/middle class white folks are well protected but a great many Bellingham residents are left on the margins when things like NXNW come into town, or Mac's and Aloha are destroyed in the coldest months of the year.

Community safety is effected by homelessness which seems to be out of control in this town. Bellingham needs to up the effort to get the homeless off the streets.

concerns about treatment of "fringe" populations i.e. minorities, homeless, mentally ill, poor, women,

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Cornwall Park is a dark, dangerous area when the sun goes down. There needs to be adequate lighting, emergency call boxes, and regular patrols through such an important part of our city. Homelessness, violence, bullying, vandalism. These are things that are seen everyday in Cornwall Park, as well as many other city parks. It is unacceptable, and I'd be happy to pay more in taxes to address these issues.

Crime (break ins, drug houses, houses being cased, auto theft) has been an issue in my neighborhood, and while police officers are doing their best, there needs to be more support for them. Also support in the terms of help for people who are part of the crime. Some of these people who are committing crimes need mental health, drug/alcohol treatment, or other social support (housing) that is not being provided. While Bellingham has many productive programs to help, more is needed to help these people. Once that happens police officers will have a manageable load.

crime due to drug related issues - heroine in the community - need more outreach for addicted ones

Crime has my particular area of East Sunset Dr. Has experienced multiple break-ins to buildings and my car. I do not mean to impugn Bellingham's efforts, it's just that there is so much and so wanton.

Crime in our neighborhood seems much greater than it used to be. Theft in homes and yards and broken windows from car prowls happen far too often. Neighborhoods need to feel safer.

Crime is growing with the influx of homeless and mentally ill persons. Neighborhoods are seeing more break ins are bicycle thefts. Downtown BHAM is fine during the day but too scary at night to even go out due to fear of harassment or assault.

Crime reports keep rising and it is the result of the reality of our economics. People are doing break ins, participating in drug use and stealing things, due to the economy or their own lack of motivation or opportunities.

crime seems to be on the rise in our neighborhood. our neighborhood association encourages us to report suspicious behavior, but when we do, it does not seem to be taken seriously by the Police.

currently it is a force outside, not clearly a part of our community. I have never been approached residentially, who just who is our local policemen. I see their cars parked down at the local fire station. During one of our winter storms I ran over to the fire station thinking I could inform them of a fallen power wire in the road. I banged and knocked, nobody ever answered.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

"Daily a police officer passing our residence and the officer is just looking ahead and never looks sideways. It would be good if the officer would pull off once in awhile and enforce the speed limit.

Too often when there is a concern, the answer back from the BPD states that we don't have the personnel or time to thoroughly investigate the crime.

The City of Bellingham has many Municipal Codes that are only enforced if there is a complaint or a police officer has to observe the infraction ( or crime) when it is taking place. Several times in the past when notifying the BPD of an infraction, the answer back is for me to talk with the offender first. It seems to me that the police are the ones trained to handle disputes and enforce the law.

Just a minor issue: Drivers are not to be distracted while driving, yet often officers are observed with their head down to the left, which I assume they are reading their computer monitors. Walk the talk.

Do not see any "preventative" measures, only reactionary when a crime occurs.

Downtown can be intimidating at night with my kids. Sometimes there are some sketchy people who are belligerent. Drug rehab is needed for some folks.

Downtown is filled with homeless people and scares my wife just walking from her office to her car. We have finally just decided it is better to drop her off in front of the office and pick her up.

Downtown needs help dealing with homeless, mentally ill, and drug dealing. Jail is not the answer. Need to focus on how to make downtown a safe, inviting place for people to live and work. Economic development starts here, home of most Whatcom County jobs.

Downtown remains a scary place after dark

Drug culture, manufacturing, and delivery has been growing for the past 2-3 years and I was in contact with the police department about this but the communication has not been good. I do understand that it is difficult to deal with drug culture, but I am not sure if enough thought and professionally trained effort is in that direction.

drug related crimes and issues seem to be on a rise. Bike theft is a major issue and is out of control. homelessness is a real concern. not only does downtown seem unsafe at all times of the day but I'm not comfortable at night in certain areas all over town. the homeless community is spreading into every nook and park area. I like the bike lanes that we do have but some roads on the north end need to be repaved for safety.(Maplewood ave)

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Experienced considerable petty crime at my business downtown. Theft and vandalism in particular. Repeated incidents. Aside of taking a police report I saw no evidence of follow up investigation or steps to curb the problem. The inferred message was to just live with it.

Feels like there's a lot of petty crime, car break-ins, bike thefts, etc. Don't know if the data support this, but compared to where I moved from it feels a bit more "sketchy" out there at night!

First of all, I have strong feelings about the availability of firearms and I don't think the city can do anything about that.

Frequency of property crimes in residential neighborhoods is too high- car prowls, vandalism, break-ins.

From experience, crime is on the rise along with illegal drug use (connected, I'm sure) and by appearances, little is being done within neighborhoods to minimize it. It seems like the prevailing attitude for non-violent crimes is that it's up to the citizens to take measures against it. I imagine an understaffed police force is partly to blame.

From where I sit there has been an influx of crime in my circle. The police have been there but not amazing in their efforts. Personally think that there could be more action and harder penalties for crimes in our city.

Fucking homeless account for a shit ton of crime and we welcome them in with two meals a day and a place to sleep. Fuck that. Get some cops in that can help the homeless spread the word to stay out of Bellingham.

gang related problems and homeless issues

Gentrification is pushing lower-class into condensed areas, creating motivation for would-be criminals to follow through with criminal activity.

give young people more instructions

graffiti stays around too long, homeless camps exist in plain sight for far too long, drugs are too freely available to youth in our area (ask the school kids). mail boxes broken into, mail stolen, bikes stolen far too often. Cars with no tail lights should be pulled off road for example.

Hearing about more local crime in the news. Seeing a huge increase in homelessness and garbage and graffiti in our parks. Feeling more unsafe when I am out on our trails.

Here is a basic standard of measurement. My 12 year old daughter is not safe to walk or ride her bike to one of the nearest parks, Maritime Heritage, or walk on the trail behind the police station. If a 12 year old child is not safe enough to use tax payer funded, public parks literally

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either "Fair" or "Poor". Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

within feet from the police station and City Hall, then we, as a city, have not fulfilled our side of the social contract to its citizens.

"Hi, I did try to some degree to elaborate above....I've lived here since '97. The City is a better place to live without a doubt. It used to stink like a rotten paper bag and had zero going on day or night. The City is now a third larger than when I arrived and there is a little bit going on. MUCH better for younger people 20 & 30's than older though and I am now 53. I take my kids to activities, but I've kind of given up on the social aspects.....20 years here and I am STILL a stranger. Terrible economic environment and sky high housing. I make easily 60% or less of what I would make in Seattle. I stay because of Mt. Baker wilderness activities. Every chance I get.

Regardless....to answer the question....I believe in the world of what ""people"" or the citizens of this world ""deserve"" (hot button topics) is 1: a warm and safe place to sleep at night. 2: healthcare including mental health care 3: educational/other opportunities to ""better"" oneself to the point of inclusion in the economic system most of us engage in. Other than that....individuals need to engage life on their own. Nothing is deserved without earning it....but the opportunities must be there.

I live just a few blocks north of downtown along Cornwall....and I am a frequent visitor downtown and it is clear to me that despite the City improving in the last 20 years, the ""homeless"" or ""vagabond""/""mental health"" issue has EXPLODED. I see and/or hear ""crazy"" people walking by my house all hours day or night. People sleeping in every available doorway, dumpsters, in the parks, in cars and RV's, etc. etc. etc.

I would feel substantially less safe except that many more people of more ""normal"" attributes are also on the streets, which is a VERY good thing. So perhaps the net outcome it just less safe. Been in big cities all my life....never let your guard down. Don't lose track of who is on the street. But I have to admit, even with the homeless problem in Seattle, due to MANY more people on the street overall....it feels safer. That's not a complimentary statement in regards to Bellingham.

So many people are not included in the general well-being of the public state of affairs. Take a look around. By any measure people are falling through the cracks left and right. It's not an easy problem. I have no illusions. But what I find galling is that somehow this becomes a ""City"" problem only.....as if all these were only City people. Ridiculous. They are from every walk of life, rural, suburban, County.....yes.....that's right to all who want to turn their back, put up a fence, build a moat, seal themselves off....well it worked. No place for these people out there...so into the City they go....but it's ALL of our problem....but politically it's just not viewed that way. Sadly.

I think the wisdom of the people of Bellingham really showed through by crushing the Jail Funding measures. WHEN will our ""Law"" enforcement start addressing this as a bigger social



**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

issue than focusing on their own battle for resources. There is another way here and locking people up is never going to solve what's going on.

But I don't see law enforcement that way. Too much time on morality laws and petty enforcement and NOT enough time engaged in long-term social resolutions.

THE YOUTH OF THIS NATION SEE THE HYPOCRISY.

Is that our only hope or not?

Homeless and drug use is at an all time high in our community. What is being done to clean up the homeless camps, motor homes parked all over the place, bike theft, drug usage. I am all for giving others a hand up but in my opinion we are giving too much away without expecting anything in return. I get the mental health issues and what we have here seems more like drug and alcohol abuse. What's the fix?

Homeless are becoming a problem again in my part of town

Homeless camps and sleeping on streets and in parks and drug transactions are rampant. Citizens feel unsafe and money is wasted cleaning up from these activities. At the same time as development continues on the Granary building. The number of homeless on the streets and the permanence of some camps (citizens dock for example) is disheartening and discouraging use of our downtown and old town areas.

Homeless people and transients seem to control our old town area, most people I know won't use them or are afraid to use them.

Homeless people are over running our community. Its time to do what Marysville did and make begging for money illegal. The deplorable will be deplorable... Its time to kick them out.

Homeless people need assistance.

Homeless population is ruining Bellingham's natural areas and seriously affecting quality of life here

Homeless problem seems to be increasing to the detriment of Samish, Lakeway and Downtown areas. Not family friendly environments.

homelessness

Homelessness and associated criminal activity has gotten quite a bit worse in the 10 years that I've lived here

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Homelessness and the crime that tends to go with it continues to be a problem and is a blight on our downtown area.

"Homelessness has clearly become a huge issue over the past few years, and I believe that most Bellingham residents are sympathetic to the plight of the homeless. However, a certain amount of crime is the inevitable by-product, and it appears that the police either do not have the resources or are not invested in addressing reports and taking preventative measures.

Break-ins, prowling, and theft by passers-through are common in my neighborhood, and every day I see many stolen bikes being used by homeless folks downtown. This epidemic seems obvious to everyone I talk to, yet the problem grows. I personally provided a valuable, fresh lead last week that could have been combined with two other reports, but no follow-up was done by the police.

I understand that the solution for homelessness is complex, but feel that this city is capable of committing resources before Holly St. becomes a true Skid Row eyesore. Without intervention, Bellingham will have a glowing waterfront park, shopping, and condos for the well-off, and an ugly, rotting Old Town/Downtown that locals are ashamed of and guests avoid."

homelessness is a growing source of crime. I feel that BPD is overwhelmed responding to calls. I have lived in other places in the US and BPD is the best law enforcement organization I have seen. Hats off to them. My wife and I appreciate all they do.

Homelessness is a huge problem in Bellingham. In the summer, Fairhaven as well as downtown is chock full of struggling souls and increased crime. There is a heartbreakingly sad man who has the word 'Hell' tattooed all over his face who I have seen all over town. I am fearful of me or my family walking or running on the InterUrban due to homeless people who live off the trail; bike theft is astronomical and the businesses in these areas truly suffer. I must say that we are huge supporters of the Bellingham Police: we have experienced professionalism, respect and hard work from them as a whole. My impression is that their staffing may not be adequate to address the level of this problem in our community. I'd like to see a comprehensive plan to address homelessness and related crime in our community.

Homelessness is a public health and crime problem. Fix this.

Homelessness issue seem out of control in the City. Can the City provide more shelters or lobby state for funds to improve homeless councils, support, etc.

Homelessness, feelings of being unsafe in the downtown core have worsened. Property crimes seem to be increasing. More violent crime also.

Homelessness, mental health issues, and substance abuse in the downtown area makes much of it feel unsafe, and it's creeping into neighborhoods.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

House has been broken into multiple times in 9 months, no action has been taken by police.

housing for the homeless and better/easier access to mental health services and getting people treatment instead of jail time is what reduces crime and protects the community. I don't see the best efforts being put towards this.

I always hear of break-ins and things stolen out of people's yards in Sunnyland.

I am aware of increasing break ins in the Columbia neighborhood as well as in other parts of Bellingham. I am concerned that homelessness, despair, and drug abuse are behind the increased crime against property. I would like to see a more holistic approach to treating the underlying mental health disorders that give rise to these conditions.

I answered fair because the citizens in a given neighborhood are responsible for crime prevention and protection of their community, not the police. The police investigate crimes after they have already happened, write reports, file paperwork and then try to catch the perpetrator(s) when they can. A civilized society takes care of their own regardless of city involvement. The more a community works together, the safer the community becomes. It comes down to caring about those around you and of course a robust 2nd amendment right.

I believe in community police involvement...not the militarized police state posture/tactics. That there is a severe lack of training in interacting with the homeless, drug addicted and mentally ill. A new jail is not an appropriate use of taxes/levies; money would be better spent on social services, the prevention, community awareness and more appropriate law enforcement, medic and ER training.

"I believe much of the crime is related to homelessness & substance abuse. These are significant problems for our community.

I believe that the mayor and the city's efforts to deal with homelessness are counterproductive. The plans are encouraging more homeless people to move here to get free services. This is particularly true of the decision to relax demands on homeless people to live responsibly while using more tax dollars to provide free housing and services.

I called police when I saw my neighbors bike being stolen. I followed the thief for 30 minutes while on the phone with dispatch. The thief finally disappeared from site and I never heard a siren or saw an officer. I realize it was not a violent crime, I guess I just expected some kind of response.

I check spotcrime.com for the Local Crime Map and Crime Report, and know there are problem areas in the City, such as the "Texas" area, etc. I am also not pleased with the number of cannabis shops that have boldly sprung up in town, which I understand has not diminished additional illegal operations of such trade.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either "Fair" or "Poor". Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

I consider the homeless community members and don't feel that they are necessarily protected, especially when homeless communities are told to move and not given an option of where to go. I believe we should provide housing for the homeless and find opportunities for them to participate in community, ie: organic gardening of open spaces and selling the produce or some such idea.

I continue to read in the Bellingham Herald about individuals who are arrested, and it turns out they frequently have been released on bail for a number of other offenses. I don't blame the police department for this situation. However if this issue isn't corrected, law abiding citizens will continue to be in danger from law breakers.

I did not mean to say "fair" our neighborhood Policeman is very available, supportive and spends generous time explaining crime prevention and explaining policies. I meant good.

I do not feel safe walking the trails around What com Creek & Maritime Heritage Park. Beautiful spaces that I wish I could enjoy with my children

I don't consider Bellingham to be a generally "unsafe" community; however, that being said the amount of petty and violent crime that occurs in the city and county seems high to me. Maybe my perspective is skewed due to moving from a smaller community (population 30,000) where I lived for 13 years. This appears to be corroborated by some recent crime statistics I looked at that showed both property and violent crime rates being higher than the US norm.

I don't feel safe walking downtown with my children. I understand the many challenges of homelessness, but I feel that there could be more drug enforcement.

I don't feel well enough informed on this topic.

I don't see any policeman on my street except when there's problems.

I don't see police officer keeping eyes on the residential areas as much.

I don't think our city has the ability or funding to really protect our community. We are lucky to have a great trail network and alleys for access to houses but that also creates situations that are beyond the capabilities of our police force.

I don't think that citizens should be scared to go to dinner downtown near Railroad St area. I think blatant drug and alcohol use and harassing of citizens who walk the streets in the downtown area is deplorable . How can we move forward with making our City more inviting to people from all over the world when our downtown is frankly a bit on the scary side day or night. It's embarrassing . Loitering ,pan handling and harassing people should have some sort of consequences if people complain. I do not want my kids downtown at any time. I'm not sure what the answer is but I'm here to help in any way but I've seen areas like we have cleaned up

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

and downtowns revitalized . It can be done if people work together and more police make citizens feel safer and free to walk the streets without being harassed .

"I don't think that we employ enough police to follow up on concerns promptly, especially student party houses. I think our police are wonderful but understaffed. We have gangs and shootings. How is that normal and acceptable? We have neighborhood crime and thefts. Drugs are a problem here. I don't walk in my neighborhood after dark because it isn't safe. I think this is unacceptable.

I don't think the city enforces the law adequately, there's a lot of crime that happens and all they do is come out to do the report.

I don't think the city has enough resources to deal with the homeless and/or drug addict community. I hear about drug labs, break-ins, homeless camps, etc. being discussed on a regular basis on online community forums.

I don't think the city is doing enough to deter crime. Not only burglaries, but speeding on our streets which threatens personal safety are big concerns of mine. I moved back to B'ham after living here for most of the '90s and this is not the same place I left from a safety standpoint.

I feel as if the police are doing the best they can, but there is still a lot of crime due to the homelessness problem that is running rampant in the city.

I feel law enforcement spends a lot of time dealing with homeless people! Addressing the homeless situation would free enforcement to do handle others situations!

I feel like crime, especially theft, has increased significantly in Bellingham in the past years. It seems like Bellingham doesn't have the resources to keep up with the amount of theft that is happening, so our community ends up becoming a target of even more theft.

"I feel like the police force is slow to respond. I am also appalled at the recent video an officer made of a homeless man's camp. Illegal or not, that was his home. The officer publicly shamed him on multiple social media. That homeless man is a part of our community, like it or not.

I have had to call police a few times and the response is always slow.

The force is absolutely disconnected from the citizens."

"I feel our police force is doing the best they can with their limited staffing as they face increasing problems. I have lived in Europe, in the San Francisco Bay Area, and been up and down the west coast and want to emphasize that the amount of crime, homelessness, drug abuse, drug traffic, mental illness, and general feeling of unsafety in Bellingham now surpasses that of larger cities, like Portland or Hayward, CA. It's a shame - we left the East Bay to get away from crime and crime-related fears, and now feel unsafely in Bellingham than we did walking

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

around Oakland. City of Bellingham needs to focus on actively discouraging unwanted elements in our communities. Offering low/no-barrier housing is not a solution. For starters, we need more neighborhood police officers to build a strong communal presence and relationships, especially with youth who grow up exposed to criminal elements. We need to absolutely reject, act upon, and prosecute crimes related to drug and gang activity, and we need a drug task force that is present in our individual neighborhoods continually. If a person has moved here from elsewhere on a warrant, they need to be arrested and shipped off immediately. And we need to do a better job of broadcasting to the community and the nation at-large that Bellingham is a family-friendly, environmentally responsible city that will choose community safety and livability over an individual's lifestyle choices/addictions to discourage unwanted elements from coming here. Bellingham also needs to focus on treating - effectively and with an outcome-based approach - mental illness in our community. We sorely lack treatment beds, and mental illness and substance abuse often go hand-in-hand. Importantly, we need to empower landlords to evict those who don't obey the law rather than supporting the rights of tenants to have squatters, deal drugs, and bring down their neighborhoods. We went through a 14-month ordeal on our block with a drug house involving three generations of women and their extended family - this included late night threats to my husband and my kids because we reported to B'ham Police and CPS. Officer Dante Alexander was present and supportive of our endeavors, but it was a wake-up call for us how little the police really can do in a situation like that. My 9-year old son is now in counseling for anxiety as a result of this - please keep in mind that loose social policy can bring a city like Bellingham to its knees and jeopardize the health of its long-time, law-abiding residents.

B'ham needs to adopt, pursue, and empower residents to visibly carry out a no-crime/no-drug/no-gang policy in ALL our neighborhoods."

I feel that getting police out of their cars downtown and spending time in the general population would do more for public safety than cameras or other previous efforts

I feel the city does an adequate job but could always do better to prevent crime, like dealing more harshly with the homeless.

I feel the efforts in these areas should be increased greatly.

I feel there is a lot of theft including car parts, bicycles, home break ins. I think it's mostly fueled by drug addiction issues. A majority of the people I am friends with have been victims of theft. I have personally had my home broken into. City police and county sheriffs were somewhat helpful but also unprofessional at times.

I feel there needs to be more officers to take care of the loiterers downtown and homeless camping in the parks, business entrances, etc. The parks would stay cleaner if the loitering homeless were evicted. As a community we need to provide options for the homeless, even if

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

there is a tax. Also a dedicated police helicopter to aid in tracking criminals. i.e. Peoples Bank robbery.

I feel very unsafe in the areas where there is increased homelessness such as Downtown, in our urban forests and on the North side of town.

I feel we are seeing a rise in crime and that maybe we need more officers to keep a better watch on things.

I frequent downtown a lot, and am continually dismayed at active drug deals I watch go on in the alleys and streets. This is not good for business, does not feel safe and is not a good use for the resources taxpayers pay for.

"I grew up in Bellingham and still spend a fiscal quarter or so there each year.

I see that the City is doing a very poor job at managing homelessness and crime. I am aware that homelessness and crime are not the same issue and are often not caused by the same people, although there can be some overlap. I expect that many residents treat the two issues equally and consider all homeless to be criminals."

I guess my opinion goes back to the homelessness problem and drug use. I don't feel safe sending my kids on public transportation or having them walk around downtown, or even to school without an adult. There are times I park in a grocery store parking lot, then decide not to go in, because I see folks that look like they're involved in drug deals or dangerous activities.

I have been in Bellingham since March of 2106. I have personally seen very little police presence or any outreach by the police department.

I have called the police twice in the past 10 years. Once a mailbox was thrown through our living room street window and the other time about a child endangerment issue. Both were not solved to our satisfaction so I did not call when a bike got stolen from our backyard and our car was vandalized. I didn't think it would be high priority.

I have concern for the protection of marginalized populations and would prefer that Bellingham and Whatcom County become a sanctuary city/county.

I have had 3 to 4 contacts with the police dept in the last 2 months and they (BPD) have seen disinterested or unresponsive to returning unused drugs and reacting to drug sales in our neighborhood. Considering the per capita law enforcement force, I feel we are not getting the bang for our buck.

I have had minimal experience with the PD, I live downtown and always make a point to smile or knowledge officers on bicycles, rarely does an officer acknowledge me. I think having citizens call 911 in a non-emergency situation sends the wrong message to civilians.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

I have known individuals who live in the Sunset Pond Area who have been robbed in their home three (3) times in the last year, and it appears nothing is being done to clean up the homelessness issue in this area, who are committing the robberies.

I haven't seen the city nor police department do anything about the increase in crime and especially petty crime in neighborhoods. There is no prevention and in truth, no response if there is a small crime, such as car break-in.

I hear a lot about burglaries. Much of this is through the Columbia newsletter, which we receive even though we don't live in that neighborhood. We have not experienced that personally, however, and I can't say I know much about the city's efforts on this.

I hear so often about theft in the neighborhoods and I'm guessing most of this is driven by drug use. I also live in a neighborhood that would be considered middle income families and watch on a daily basis the crime of drug activity and stolen goods coming and going on a daily basis on my own street. However, I am told that there are not enough police officers to handle such small crime. So do we just wait until it grows to such a huge problem that it will affect my family? Also, it seems that all these small outdoor camps (not homeless) just get shuffled around instead of letting them know that we will not tolerate them destroying our habitat and neighborhoods. The panhandling is out of control in the Sehome neighborhood. Garbage is always left behind on the corners of the off ramps on Samish Way and entrance to Haggen. Downtown is not the most pleasant place to bring children. I know many business owners who are so discouraged with the amount of urine, waste and loitering that affect the exterior of the buildings. Where are the laws that discourage this behavior? How do we convince business people to bring their business downtown and stay with a city that does not back them up?

I just don't feel Bellingham is as safe as it could be. Drugs are a big issue, mental health care and homelessness.

I just know I had a lot of people that they don't bother calling police because they don't show up in a timely manner.

"I know of a functioning drug house in Cornwall Park neighborhood. The police have been called numerous times and are aware of drug dealing to the point that officers were in the house and did not test for meth, which would have tested positive and forced the city to condemn the house. To date nothing has been done. The occupants of the house are dangerous.

Next topic. My husband and I have been in contact with the planning department regularly for the last 4 years or so. We have had to advise the department of violations on numerous occasions, and the staff does not seem to care. If we didn't wave red flags they wouldn't follow up on anything. Just recently, we questioned the sewer hook up of someone on our street. The planning department blew us off. We think this neighbor has hooked his sewer to a decades old



**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

pipe going nowhere. They didn 't even test it. Brent Baldwin, the supervisor would not return my calls."

I know there's not much that can be done, but bike theft, personal theft, and property damage is getting out of control. I don't ride my bike as much as I used to because I'm afraid of it getting stolen, even well locked up in broad daylight.

I live in the Broadway Park neighborhood and I am hearing of more and more petty crimes in the neighborhood. Just yesterday one of my neighbors found two transients sleeping in a house that is for sale without the owners permission. That same neighbor was also burglarized a few months ago for several thousand dollars in damages. Several other neighbors have reported petty thefts from the alleys, their garages, porches, cars, etc. Last winter when I was working with a business downtown we discovered a break-in attempt at the back entrance (along the alley, Railroad Avenue across from the bus station).

I live on South Hill. Every week there is a post on our neighborhood watch about a break in a car or house. This has been going on for about 2 years. There has been no concerted effort or task force to stop this as far as I can see.

"I own property

I am tired of the homeless people and the city's lack of respect for the people who pay the bills. Over the last 5 years, our homeless society has grown but the herald says its down. NO it is not down. Keep building places for these people to go and guess what? They will stay. I say, give them a bus ticket out of town. We don't need that kind citizen around here. Be careful what you underwrite ....."

I read about various criminal activities reported in the newspaper but I do not see community policing happening.

I read the police blotters - there are a lot of entries, more than I expected in a town this size.

I see few police on the streets. We have quite a problem in bellingham with people who are begging and there is drug abuse. I don't feel safe going to bellingham at night.

I see homelessness, and the accompanying crimes associated with that, as a real problem in Bellingham. I feel the city should be more concerned with the safety of the community when balancing the needs and rights of the homeless population.

I think our city is growing exponentially but we don't have enough manpower. There seems to be more and more crimes happening in the last few years. Would like to see less of these and I think police visibility would help but I think we need more of them.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

I think the efforts and intentions of the Police are good, but there are too many people with nothing better to do than vandalize things. I think increased focus on economic and job development, and housing affordability for all, even those with limited job skills or no interest in "advancing" themselves, could lead to increased hope for people who need it. Focus should be on opportunities for all, not just handouts, which might decrease vandalism.

I think there are areas/houses in some neighborhoods that have chronic problems with squatters/drugs/etc. and it is difficult to get these areas cleaned up.

I think there are certain areas in town that do not feel safe in general. Most neighborhoods are very safe but I think that has more to do with the people living there more so than any prevention.

I think there could be more outreach, more focus on supporting the homeless community, and drug rehabilitation.

I think they can do a better job. The use of drugs and homelessness and not putting people in jail that have mental health problems.

I think too much emphasis has gone to fire dept. and not to the police and sheriff depts.

"I wish Bellingham didn't have the sizeable homeless population that it does, but hey, we're all pretty close to being out the streets with home prices the way they are!

I would the police to focus on small petty crimes more often. These crimes often go unpunished and lead to patterns of increasing number and size of crimes

If the city can try to help the homeless more--crime will go down. Take a look at Maritime Heritage Park. You can't go down at night or day to take a stroll, eat at a local restaurant without hearing the fighting, screaming and --what seems like chaos happening. It is intimidating to us as senior citizens and those of us who have lived here our entire lives (born and raised in B'ham) to have this area not controlled more by our police. We remember when it was not such a problem. But I do have a great understanding that drugs and alcohol is 80% of the problem and not having enough shelters is another problem. But I do not think we as citizens need to feel intimidated by the lawlessness that occurs. So what can we do? My dream would be to build "tiny house villages". Other cities are trying this approach. I have always thought if an animal shelter was attached to such a village the folks living in the shelters could have a cause, by taking care of the animals. They would have a reason to live, get up and go to work. I believe that we need to put our tax dollars into rehab and shelters for the homeless--concentrating on this will make protecting the community much easier. I don't blame police department, they are great but I believe their hands are tied. Seriously, homelessness is the biggest problem Bellingham is experiencing.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

"If you read the Bellingham Herald, there seems to be several violent

crimes happening every day. Don't know how most of these could

be prevented because they are unpredictable. Removing guns is not the answer. I think we do the best we can with the personnel and budget we have. "

I'm concerned about the housing being built on Cornwall for people who are homeless. Because most people who are homeless, are homeless because of mental illness and addiction.

Downtown is filled with people who lack housing. This will only get worse and will then affect nearby neighborhoods. Having worked in mental health for many years, I know that certain cities buy their troubled, one way tickets to Bellingham, because we do offer more services. I'm not sure what the answer is. More mental health services would be a good place to start.

In my experience with them, police in Bellingham are spread too thin, and are simultaneously over-concerned with catching drunks and ticketing drivers, and under-concerned with preventing and investigating other types of crime. I have seen over half hour response times to dangerous situations as they were happening, and officers pulling every car on the street over for drunk driving checks. I've seen more overly aggressive officers with the "catch the bad guy at all costs" mentality than I would like, and few instances of police being active members of their community. In the instances where I have seen good cops trying to help make the city better, they always seem frustrated with the resources they have to do that. I do not think this situation is unique, but I hardly consider it a rousing success as a city.

"In my neighborhood there is endemic, small-scale burglary.

We need work done on that."

In my neighborhood there seems to be a fair number of small burglaries, car prowls. Street lighting could be better.

In my neighborhood, break-ins are a regular occurrence. I also know there are parts of downtown that don't always feel as safe as they should, especially with the increase in panhandling in recent years. Both these things, (burglary and panhandling) probably go hand-in-hand with homelessness, which has dramatically increased. Homelessness is certainly a safety and crime issue. It feels less safe for those of us who have to see it on the streets, and it's certainly a safety issue for those who are homeless. That's why I listed homelessness as the most challenging issue facing Bellingham. We really need to deal with it. And it's probably linked to cost of housing.

in our next door neighborhood, i often see burglaries and crime and response time is really poor. My home and my neighbors was broken into and response to that was pretty poor.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

In regards to the homeless population, I'm not sure the City is doing all that it could. Homelessness can lead to criminal activity and makes it much more difficult to break the chain of poverty and allow someone to pull themselves out of the endless cycle.

Inadequate patrols/traffic law enforcement. Inadequate jail facilities. Erroneous application of traffic law violation. Failure to properly prosecute traffic law violation.

Increase in gang violence

Instead of becoming a leader in new ways to think about policing, incarceration, and racial bias, Bellingham seems bent on building an expansive new jail and acquiring "predictive policing" software. We can do better.

Iowa has a big pot hole.

It boils down to long term housing for all the people of our community. When forced to live in tents, in the woods we can do more to provide services for them. It is not just the responsibility of our churches but of our community too.

It has been my experience that the police are too harsh. When I've seen them respond to calls regarding people in crisis, they were unkind and dominating. I would like to see our police take a gentler, more service oriented approach to police work. When I say they are doing a "fair" job, I do NOT mean they aren't hard enough on crime.

It is my opinion that the City responds to crime, but does not actively prevent it. Two examples include: the City allowing the Occupy Bellingham participants to camp in a public park. Another example is the City's public trail system is most unsafe with transient activity on the trails nearest the City offices. The city is tolerating transient camps in our public parks. (Note recent report of the Bike chop-shop in Whatcom Falls park.) Herritage Park is known as 'the park not to go to.' These are examples of how the City is not preventing crime specifically in our city parks.

It may be presumptive to say and I don't specifically have data to back up. But the amount of transient and homeless activity in the downtown is very alarming. I do not know if it has caused issues in terms of crime and protection. But, word on the street is there's more and more suspicious activity in our downtown. I fear more people are (and will) avoid utilizing our vibrant downtown because of the perception of threats, along with attractiveness, due to transient and homeless activities. It's also very depressing to see.

It seems there are not enough police officers available to cover the size of our city such that oftentimes there is simply not enough staff to investigate and handle crimes that occur.

It seems to me that the police are far less likely to come or be concerned if they think that someone is not being actively murdered. I have had several experiences in calling 911 about

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either "Fair" or "Poor". Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

people attempting to break into my house or people across the street threatening to murder each other and I could tell that their level of interest never rose above "bored."

It takes too long to decide to do something major

It's "in regard to." In the Columbia neighborhood, we have had the same theft and break-in problems for more than year. There appears to be little proactivity and officers rarely follow up on leads.

Jails are over crowded so criminals are being released which causes a safety issue for the community. This empowers them to be unlawful because they know they probably won't go to jail. Clean up drugs in our city!

Just go downtown and walk around! Awful environment---beggars, dopers, drinkers, its awful. Who would want to go there?

Just what I read in the paper mainly and hear on the radio. I have been a victim of crime but not serious crime. There's a lot you hear about of home break-ins, mash and dash, and car prowls. Not major concerns but cops do their best. There's not as much as neighbor hood watch as there used to be.

"Knocking down areas where the homeless build shelters to facilitate more development merely pushes these people downtown or into parks. This devastates our downtown economy and is unjust to those who do not participate in our capitalist lifestyle.

As opposed to building more monstrous apartment complexes for Western students, may we please develop more housing like the Lighthouse Mission - strict rules of conduct, safe, clean, job training opportunities, etc."

"Known drug house next to student rental 1 block from WWU, with constant trespassing while buying or using drugs in their cars. The student renters there don't feel safe, & no known efforts to work with the drug house landlord to mitigate it.

It's possible the police are doing everything they are able to, they have been very supportive. In which case I would fault city leadership for not giving them more resources and focus. Known chronic crime spots should be prioritized."

Large amount of homelessness, slow response time

Living in Whatcom Falls, there are transients in the park near me and people rob the stores near by.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Loose dogs are a threat to safety especially when they bite. Leaf blower use is a threat to health with the mold, dust, and partially combusted fuel they put in the air. I'd like to see laws and especially education about these threats. They also make Bellingham less of a nice place to live.

Lots of car break ins

Lots of overcrowding and slum lords in this city. Letting neighborhoods "infill" to please big money and the slum lords increases crime.

Lots of smash and grabs occurring everywhere. Theft must be increasing. Transients, addicts and combinations of both all over.

many break in in my Columbia neighborhood last Summer; excessive speeding on Northwest Avenue

Many people are afraid to go downtown, especially near Railroad Avenue in the evenings.

Massive homelessness, to which there are limited options for mental health, drug related emergencies, and short-term housing.

Meant to choose good. Not poor.

More City funding for Police Dept., to increase bike patrol specifically downtown.

More financial and personnel support could be provided to our law enforcement agencies to help with the growth of criminal activity in Bellingham

More homelessness and camps throughout the city. Lack of action and lack of public funding and awareness to appropriately deal with the cause and consequences of homelessness/mental illness/poverty

More police presence downtown and eliminate homeless especially in Maritime park and downtown. Many corners don't feel safe

"Most of Whatcom County's crime stems from drug and alcohol addiction. If the core issue of addiction is addressed then the homelessness and crime will drop significantly. These people will become productive members of society that will give to the system rather than take.

There is also an increasing population of mentally ill individuals that also suffer from addiction.

If these two core issues are not addressed then any perceived ""solution"" will only be an expensive band-aid."

My car gets broken into on a fairly regular basis as do other's that I know of.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either "Fair" or "Poor". Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

My concern is more directed at protecting the community. I see poor street lighting, lack of traffic speed enforcement, crumbling, unsafe sidewalks, lack of safe bike lanes, lack of enforcing property owners to keep sidewalks clear from vegetation.

My family, and too many other people I know have been victims of property crime. I feel safe everywhere that I go, but I completely see why others may not. I have no recommendations on how to fix the crime problem, so maybe a "Poor" rating is unfair, but I haven't seen it getting better. That said, the response to my incident by all law enforcement involved was great.

My primary experience is in my neighborhood, so I can't speak in an informed way for areas outside of Columbia. The rate of burglary, car prowls and other minor to moderate crimes seems to be increasing, and it isn't apparent that there is much being done about it by the City. The biggest effort seems to be from FI!p's email list (what I call the Weekly Panic), encouraging people to keep lights on in alleys and lock the doors.

My understanding is that the COB Police need more Detective staffing because of retirements and positions not filled.

Need for increased police and resources for responding to crime, trespassing, drugs etc.

"Need for more police presence on Samish Way to those who drive way over the 35 mile speed limit at all hours every day.

Drivers are ignoring stop sign and running red lights constantly.

Drivers are driving much too fast thru parking lots and congested areas.

Need more police to deal with drug use, crime and vagrancy.

Need more presence in the high crime areas

Need to improve the safety and cleanliness of the downtown area, particularly the public spaces.

Need to solve the homeless problem. The solution isn't providing more "support" or "beds" for them in town at the lighthouse mission. It doesn't work. I am sorry they are homeless but the camps promote crime and bad seeds and dirty up the city. Maritime Heritage (Heroin as most of us call it) Park is a complete embarrassment to the city. They should not be allowed to hang out and nasty up a major part of downtown Bellingham.

Needs better lighting and police patrols to prevent crime areas before monumental crimes happen and gangs multiply.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

No violent crime, however the presence of drugs and minor crime can be tied to the homelessness and drifter problem

Not enough police or time to be able to help neighborhoods

Not enough police personnel to handle problems.

Not enough police presence

numerous car prowls in our neighborhood. We have been impacted once, our neighbors multiple times in the past year.

Our neighborhood has almost daily car prowling issues or home invasions. We have a serious drug issue in Bellingham and very little services or inadequate service for those in need of help.

People steal stuff from my yard and the cops do not even care. LOUSY patrolling of streets and intersections and never ticket the stupid bicycle people who do whatever they want.

Petty crime seems rampant, and it seems tied to an epidemic of drug use and homelessness. Walking downtown after dark is an eye-opening and often abusive experience. The Maritime Heritage Center is a nightmare.

Petty Crimes such as mail theft and break-in's seem to be on the rise.

Petty theft is quite common. Bicycles, in particular, are often stolen or disassembled. For many people, bikes are their main form of transportation and it is incredibly disheartening to know that there is little to no chance of recovering a bike after it is stolen. Drug abuse is also a problem, and I would advocate for better rehabilitation services to both prevent petty theft and improve public health. However, I do generally feel safe in Bellingham.

Plenty of meth addicts in downtown who like to harass passersby. Marine park feels unapproachable by general public

Police "turn a blind eye" to problems caused by transient population including the bike theft epidemic. Parking enforcement ignores long term parking problem on lower Cornwall Ave near former GP site which translates to selective (non-democratic) enforcement.

Police are no longer as close to residents as they used to be.

Police aren't visible enough.

Police department services have been sub par. When seeking assistance, making a report, officers had a hard time understanding simple issues, and the reports were full of errors -- things



**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

as simple as who was making the complaint, who had a spouse, etc. Makes all police reports' accuracy questionable. When errors were pointed out, it was ignored!

Police have not been available to respond to non urgent but important issues that we have reported. Assuming that force is understaffed.

Police presence overall...in places where "up to no goods" gather...so citizens feel safe to walk downtown to shop and support local retailers and not just during 9-5 hours. More police? I don't know if that's the answer or not...solution to some problems are hard to resolve.

Police response times seem slow, in this neighborhood. Some efforts, like banning fireworks without County cooperation, or creating bike lanes without educating the public about their new rights and duties, seem futile, counter-productive or no more than window-dressing.

Profiling minorities, not enough school programs regarding drugs, alcohol and crime, and working with Native police.

Property crime in my neighborhood is higher than anywhere else I've ever lived. My office downtown is consistently trashed by a homeless population that doesn't care about the city's well being and business friendliness. We hear complaints all the time about the lack of job opportunities in Bellingham but has nobody linked the proliferation of homeless as a major reason why businesses do not want to settle here.

Property crimes (theft, etc) feel like they've increased dramatically in the last 10 years.

"Rampant homelessness breeds crime and drug abuse in the area.

We, the parents, stopped sending our children unattended to the school bus to protect them from being exposed to dangers posed by violent homeless individuals.

Read too much about reduction in police officers because of budget cuts

"Really need to create a PR message to motivate more foot traffic downtown. The biggest issue I've heard from peers and other surveys I've created list ""Fear of Downtown / Transient community"" as a leading cause for people avoiding downtown.

The Downtown area is depressed. It's a sad place devoid of many reasons people visit any urban environment. Too many commercial vacancies just contribute to the contrast of transient activity. From what I can tell, the COB has done very little to encourage more traffic downtown and have left that task up to the DBP.

Can we please get the pay by phone meter system in place? "

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

response times could be better; community disaster training drills needed; communication of existing disaster plans more apparent and easy to find

Risky behavior of drivers has increased this year - the combination of crime and drugs increased - the homeless population infringes on the rights of others --

Root sources are being ignored and could be addressed by policy directions. However, the choice is to direct policy direction in counter intuitive directions that serve more to feel good and sound good than do good. Many recent policy decisions have actually done damage.

"Seeing more and more gang type activities which decreases the sense of safely in town.

Seems like crime is on the rise. Vehicles are broken into frequently and houses are being vandalized with no police in sight.

Some areas are great but I lived on Maplewood for years and the lack of city effort in that area was atrocious. The carelessness with the road conditions and homeless issue (which left a lot of litter) left the neighborhood feeling crummy which attracted crime and theft.

Some parks are unusable due to safety/homeless issues.

"Speeding, red light running, defective equipment are not being enforced which causes accidents and road rage. The citizens can't control this and the police need to.

Occasionally there are shots fired and there appears to be no police action.

Printing arrest reports in the Herald rather than conviction reports is generally a crime against the arrested--and does nothing to prevent crime.

Block watch was a good program but appears to have one away."

Tell me what is being done to prevent crime. I don't see it. They just react to crimes that have occurred.

The amount of bicycle theft over the past year and a half or so has skyrocketed. Bicycles are a huge part of this community, and becoming a source of revenue for the tourism/hospitality industry. A lot more effort needs to be put into eliminating this problem. I realize that they are not synonymous, but there is a LOT of crossover between homeless, drug users, aggressive loiterers, litterers, and thieves. This city has had it with all of these problems and we're going to descend quickly in the ranks of 'quality places to live' if its not sorted out and eradicated quickly.

The amount of homelessness due to poverty places a burden on police and emergency services. We have had several burglaries of our car, beach, mail, etc. Police have been responsive, but the problems persist.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

"The biggest issue is doing something about all the homeless in downtown. In my opinion, the city has fostered an environment that encourages homeless people from surrounding areas to come to Bellingham. Our family avoids going to downtown businesses because of this issue.

Providing more homeless services is not the answer. This only fosters more homeless to move to Bellingham.

By providing free food and clothing for everyone and free housing for all, then more and more will move to Bellingham.

Can services be provided outside the downtown core? I avoid parts of downtown in the evening.

The camping in certain areas of town is out of control. As well as the stealing. This town doesn't seem to have a lot of violent crimes.

The city

The city could do more to combat drug use and petty crime issues that are becoming more and more of a problem within the poor and low socio-economic status populations. It's possible that community and city officials are being steamrolled by certain groups, that on the surface appear like they are fighting for individual rights, but end up fostering bad behavior by not holding people accountable for their actions. Even now we are seeing a lackadaisical attitude about criminal behavior that puts the economy and safety at risk and it's only going to get worse unless something is done about it.

The city doesn't seem to address the issue of the homeless population. On many occasions ive seen inappropriate actions downtown that should be policed. Just because they wont pay a ticket, doesn't mean the issue shouldn't be addressed (jail, rehab, mental health counselling, etc.) At times i feel uncomfortable walking downtown because this population has full reign of certain streets downtown. Because of that, the problem has spread and there has been an increase of problems in the neighborhoods (car prowls, bike theft, etc.)

The City has an overwhelming explosion of theft, crime, and homelessness. The City does not appear to have the staff, facilities, or means of keeping up with the demand.

The City needs to do something about the HOMELESS!!!!!! It is an embarrassment to that the homeless are allowed to take over our parks and set up camps all over. What is up with the bridge on Roeder Ave where a beautiful viewing spot is taken over by a homeless camp. Would you go to Maritime Heritage Park with your family?? The city should do something about this issue.NOW

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

The city should be a more vocal supporter of the Law enforcement community. Specifically supporting all local and Federal Law enforcement agencies and requesting more assistance from them. The Law enforcement community does not feel welcomed in this environment that the city has created.

The community is too liberal with the homeless situation. The police need to be able to crack down on drugs and look at relocating the homeless and services outside of downtown. Families and tourists feel safe in Fairhaven but not in downtown Bellingham. Local businesses are negatively affected because people don't feel comfortable downtown. We invite the homeless to relocate here and then depend on tax payers and small business to pick up the bill for the social services.

The crime in our neighborhood has increased in the past few years

The crime neighborhoods are very poorly tended to (needles in long grass at Roosevelt Park, for instance) and I've heard several experiences of slow response times.

The current policy of allowing vagrancy throughout Bellingham has significantly impacted overall safety concerns of most citizens. It appears that the present policy only encourages more people, who were located in other areas of Western Washington, to come here, which is over-taxing the ability to serve are "own".

The current street dwellers in downtown is becoming more aggressive. The number of homeless encampments are becoming more prevalent. Bike theft, and altercations are happening more often.

The downtown area is awful. It's no place you want to be with your family at night & barely during the day. It rivals downtown Seattle but in a much smaller space. I am not sure what the answer is...

The downtown area is unsafe late at night. Too much drug traffic and street culture.

The efforts seem misguided and shortsighted with an emphasis on a "bandaid" approach rather than long-term solutions. I am interested in seeing the city look into the idea of a better drug and alcohol treatment plan such as ones that are being considered in BC and Seattle. There is currently not a drug an alcohol treatment facility in Bellingham which I see as a real problem.

The failure to work in a cooperative manner with the county regarding jail services. law enforcement access to jail services is a high priority. The shipping of inmate population out of the county is a undo hardship on family members. The city has a long history of failure in providing this needed service dating back to the 1970.

The homeless population has increased dramatically over the past year, by all appearances. I understand it is a complex issue, but I find it unacceptable that shelters can be set up in the

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Roeder bridge over Whatcom Waterway, derelict RV's and vehicles can park for weeks on lower Cornwall Ave (leaving trash, etc all over the place), and people can camp out all day long at Maritime Heritage park surrounding by piles of belongings and panhandling everyone who walks by. It is a regular occurrence on Nextdoor to see weekly reports of residents yards being prowled and items being stolen. It is reaching a level that I find disturbing.

The homeless population in Bellingham downtown area is totally out of control and scary. Affects where people can walk even during the day and be safe, how we protect our work areas.

The homeless presence at Maritime Heritage Park, Railroad at Holly, and Northwest at Birchwood can often be sketchy. I generally feel more can be done for the homeless issues throughout Bellingham and WA. As the new waterfront is developed, I hope it does not turn into another Maritime, where the community actively avoids it.

The homeless situation in Bellingham is absolutely horrible, I have live here over 30 years have never seen the numbers and mess they are creating over the last 3 years. It will only continue to get worse unless the city steps up and says this won't stand ! Downtown needs to be cleaned up and kick these people out ! The city needs to quit continuing to provide services that draw these transients downtown that enable the large majority of homeless that are addicts or mentally ill. This is the route of the majority of our crime problems in the city.

The homeless situation is contributing to the crime of our community. The homeless need more housing and jobs to help get them off the street. A living wage needs to be offered as wages vs rent in Whatcom county is very out of balance

"The large amount of break-ins, vandalism, and arson are the crimes that I have noticed or been directly affected by

The militaristic persona of the sheriff and police worry me. It can't help but instigate. Their jobs are tough and I don't know what the answers are.

The neighborhoods around the CBD regularly experience, car prowling, theft from yards and garages and in some instances home invasion. There are constant bike thefts. There is an omnipresent criminal element downtown and in the parks. Then there is the graffiti and trash.

The number of burglaries and car prowling incidents continue to rise.

"The number of drug addicts camping in parks and trails is a safety risk, making those parks , paid for with our hard earned dollars unsafe. Although our police do their best, they are overextended with addicts who are homeless, and mentally ill who are dumped on them. The lack of action has created a problem that is only getting bigger.

We've been taxed for a bigger facility, build the damn thing with a mental health wing.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Try walking your dog through Whatcom Falls after dinner. See how safe you feel."

The police and SWAT teams go to incidents in such a loud and scary manner that if someone is having a problem, they would be too afraid to work it out with such a show of force.

The police are generally more interested in fine collection than protecting and serving. Dedicate less police to speeding tickets and more to theft and crime.

The police department has minimal resources when dealing with a lot of offenders. We need a new jail and we needed it years ago. the police department also needs a resource to deal with the homeless and the mentally ill homeless

The police department is wonderful, but the city could do more to discourage the proliferation of homelessness in Bellingham and its impact on our streets and parks. Also, a greater push from government for a new jail would show some leadership.

The police presence is limited my neighborhood and they seem to react with indifference when they are notified regarding safety, crime, nuisance or annoyance calls pertaining to my neighborhood.

The police should have a greater presence patrolling neighborhoods, the downtown streets and alleys. Specifically via bike so they can see more detail of what's really going on around them.

"The response time for BPD ranges from okay to downright awful. As a personal anecdote, one night my roommate's vehicle was severely damaged in a hit and run incident. My neighbor and I chased the offending vehicle down on foot and tracked it down to a neighboring house. Despite calling 911 while in pursuit, and calling a second time to confirm the vehicle was found, we had to wait for 3 HOURS for an officer to arrive. When he did arrive, he confronted the owner of the vehicle who was heavily intoxicated, then told us he couldn't issue a DUI due to too much time passing since the incident. My faith in BPD's dispatch has since faltered.

On another occasion, yet another hit and run (this time affecting my own vehicle), I requested an officer to come file a report. In the time it took the officer to arrive, I had already located the other driver and agreed to meet with them to discuss the damages. When the officer arrived, I relayed the information to him, and instead of proceeding to file a report, he chose to berate me for not having evidence of the neighbor hitting my vehicle and said that I ""can't just incriminate someone with no evidence,"" despite me having already discussed the matter with the other driver. I showed him the pictures of the other vehicle's damage, and even a piece of their car that was left behind, and he refused to accept any of it. I had no choice but to tell him I no longer needed the report and that his assistance was no longer needed or wanted and that I would handle the matter privately. My faith in BPD in general has also since faltered."

"The sweet little Columbia neighborhood is riddled with home and car break ins.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

Downtown is a frightening place; people living on the streets, drug use and untreated mental illness.

Downtown Sounds is now more of an outdoor drinking party than a music venue."

The traffic enforcement downtown is catastrophic. I work downtown, commuting by bus and often a pedestrian. There is so much running of red lights, drivers with a sense of impunity. Where are the police?

theft is high in Bellingham, and it does not seem that the police really do much about it

Theft is very common- especially in neighborhoods with high populations of students (Sehome, York).

Theft seems rampant in & around the city from auto & homes. Our neighborhood in particular even made KIRO news last year because of excessive theft. Additionally, rentals we own downtown are constantly hit by graffiti &/or theft as well as drunks passing out on the property causing issues for the residents.

There are a lot of homeless people near my business. There has been some problems with human waste. There have also been some instances where my employee's did not feel safe leaving the office. One employee had her car window smashed during daylight business hours.

There are a lot of petty thefts and car burglaries in our neighborhood (Sunnyland). We have also seen an increase in what looks like drug dealing and meth dealing/use. Bikes are stolen frequently.

There are a lot of petty thefts in the community and drug related crimes that could be prevented with improvement of services for the homeless and mental health population

There are houses in our neighborhood that need cleaned up and have become areas for drugs. I think the city needs to take a stand on these "slumlords" that are taking over the neighborhood with property purchases as well as the number of people who are residing in the house. And, it would be great if the partnership with WWU was continued to be strengthened by educating off campus students of parties, noise levels, etc. We know this is a transient community with many rentals due to Western, but the process and/or protocol when dealing with neighborhood issues come up can be enhanced with more communication.

There are large amounts of car break-ins all around campus and downtown

there are many break-ins. areas are targeted by prowlers, cars and homes broken into and the perpetrators are seldom caught. Bay Road in Birch Bay has a speed limit of 50 mph, yet there are a number of drivers doing 60-80 mph on that stretch often. Vehicles in Maples at Cordata are often vandalized.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

There are some shocking crimes occurring with slow action in response, but for minor traffic violations the police are everywhere. Consideration needs to be made with regard to police assignments and priorities.

There are still a lot of reports of robberies and/or sexual violence, especially south of WWU's campus.

"there are too many drugs in our community and the homeless population is booming

STOP THE DRUGS NOW"

There has been a lot of theft in the neighborhoods. More patrols might prevent this.

There have been a couple times I witnessed criminal activity in my neighborhood (drug use on sidewalk in broad daylight) and called the police. Nobody came.

There have been a number of break-ins and car prowls in our area lately. However, we have not been subjected to any big college parties this year so far, which is a big positive change.

There have been four break ins in the last several months in a two block radius. We have received no feedback from the "neighborhood" police officer or the police department regarding the incident itself the nature of the offense and the outcome. One of these thefts occurred two doors away. I saw one of the individuals (we found out about the matter several days later) and no one knocked on our door to ask if we could offer a description of those involved. This does little to inspire confidence that the police are actively involved these matters.

There have been too many car prowls in my neighborhood. Two neighbor's homes on my street have been robbed.

There is a lot of breaking in to out buildings and vehicles in our neighborhood that hasn't changed in the last 4 years.

There is a major drug and homeless problem the city is ignoring. I no longer feel safe going to dinner downtown.

There is an increase in the number of homeless individuals due to drug addiction and or mental illness and I see the city doing little to address this issue. I've seen tents pitched in the lawn of city parks in plain sight as well as alcohol, drug use and violence. Petty crime seems to be increasing too. We need to reduce the number of people coming here who are homeless and address drug addiction and mental illness before spending money to house people who would



**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

rather get high than have a roof over their head. The BPD don't seem to do anything about this issue.

There is more crime in Bellingham than there should be in a city of this size.

There is much more criminal activity in the Birchwood neighborhood than in many places around Bellingham, so this colors my perspective. Despite the high density apartments, there aren't many streetlights, which makes me feel even less safe to walk around my neighborhood at night. That said, I think I have noticed less criminal activity across the past few years (at least, fewer police sirens at night).

There is no security on the trails that I can see. Heck, half the time there aren't even adequate trash receptacles!! They are plentiful and beautiful, but there's no efforts to reduce crime that I can see.

There is not enough police presence in City parks, especially at Maritime Heritage. Drug use and drug dealing in the open is tolerated too much, and people are setting up tents in parks and on sidewalks and nothing is done about it. For example, there are currently two camps set up on the sidewalk of Roeder Ave (bridge near Central Ave) and they have been there for months.

There is rampant theft and petty crimes. Homelessness and public loitering.

There is too much crime happening in the neighborhood, driving fast in neighborhoods and nothing is happening to control it.

"There is too much. Too much at some hotels on Samish way still. I would not stay at some, or feel safe walking on this street after dark.

Do not like if have house alarm system at my house Bellingham is one of 3 cities in WA that police or fire do not respond first but private security firm. This is old fashion. "

There needs to be more police presence downtown all the time. The current officers do as much as the can. We need more officers.

There needs to be something done about overcrowding the jails, specifically in Whatcom County. Rehabilitation options or getting people the help they need can keep them from returning to a jail cell.

There seem to be a lot of petty thefts that are sometimes larger organized operations.

There seems to be a lot of homeless people here. They stand on the streets and block views when turning. I would like to see that be controlled. I have seen police even stop to give them money. I feel that we are just encouraging them to beg and not seek proper help and treatment at the facilities we provide.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either "Fair" or "Poor". Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

There seems to be a lot of people who are high on drugs or selling drugs, but the police seem more interested in busting people for speeding tickets.

there seems to be little security patrols in our neighborhood

there should be more mental health services provided for those who need them

There's a lot of homeless and drug addiction and there's not a lot of places for those people to get help.

There's a lot of work that can be done, it cost a lot of money. I think it needs to be addressed very well. Lots of drug issues. There needs to be programs for those on drugs. More could be done.

There's an obvious problem with transient population in Bellingham. It's also very intimidating walking downtown with my child around a large group of people smoking, talking about drug deals and swearing all while they hang out on their \$2000.00 (stolen) bikes. You can't tell me there isn't a drug problem here, I work night shift in the ED.

This is a slippery slope..."tagging" was once a minor crime, now it is commonplace. Nudity was limited, now it is promoted (e.g. naked bike ride) If you have a problem with someone naked confronting you, just get their name...is this a joke?

This is the only way that I can say that I don't agree with the way Bellllingham spends our money. The loudest mouth(s) get with they want. The rest of us pay for it.

this last year I have noticed an increase in crime downtown

This service is provided on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, which is dangerous and unfair. When reporting a crime in the Roosevelt neighborhood, a cop told me, "What did you expect? You live in a bad neighborhood." Now, Sunnyland neighbors are reporting a massive increase in house and alley prowls. There are many more transients in Bellingham, and not enough patrols. We need more cops and less riot gear.

to many car and house break ins all over bellingham more patrols at night a stiffer penalties, espesially for the youths and there parents.

To many people on drugs and stealing to suport their habit.

Too many "crimes" are related to homelessness and this population is not given enough empathy. The city needs to work on solutions that go beyond busting camps and citing people for sitting or lying.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

"Too much theft, car prowls, burglaries and dangerous drivers. My business was burglarized 4 years ago.

Too much theft. Complete disregard of police for the rights of businesses

Unsavory elements loitering on the city streets, especially downtown. Feels unsafe, especially after sundown.

Until the homelessness crisis in our community is addressed, crime prevention and protection of the community can only be "fair"

Violent crime is low, but property theft is a real issue. I would like to see more done to prevent property theft. I know bike theft is rampant, and I would like to see sting operations set up to help prevent that.

We can't be safe if we don't have a decent jail. Your continue to refuse to deal with this issue. Get over yourselves and figure something out.

We have a disproportionate amount of homeless and transient population which the city seems to deal with by NOT dealing with it. These higher numbers of people create a very unsafe environment in many places in Bellingham. We also have a higher amount of bike theft per capita than San Francisco. I know that there are many factors that contribute to a person finding themselves on the streets and facing the challenges of everyday survival, but it seems the cities response is to use tax dollars to create a haven for people to make little to no improvements in their lives. Organizations that actually are trying to assist in helping individuals get out of their situation are trying to heal a person that is most likely been traumatized and has multiple mental and social issues. Our city seems to be dealing with the problem by putting a band-aid on a gaping wound instead of truly addressing the person and the problem. I am not a conservative but it is really hard to watch my tax dollars being used by individuals who know that the city of Bellingham will continue to pay for their housing and food and most often drug habits and they have to just show up each month with hands open. We could be a great place to live and a great destination for travelers but we are not because our town keeps our businesses in locations where we provide services to our growing and disproportionate population of transient and homeless.

We have a drug problem. This isn't a knock on the police force, but our society values our own highs over caring for people's safety. Our community/state has chosen to embrace pot use, knowing that this too frequently leads to more harmful substance abuse. It's unfair to police to have to manage selfish choices of others (which, admittedly, is what keeps them employed). We, as a city, should do more to stop the drug culture.

We have a lot of night time prowlers in my neighborhood who break into cars. We also have people who go through mail boxes in broad daylight. I read about one such case yesterday on

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either “Fair” or “Poor”. Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

the neighborhood blog and when police were contacted, they said they didn't have time right now to come!

We have a problem with petty theft, prowling, etc... I would like to see more visibility / patrolling at night to deter these activities. Patrolling seems to relate to traffic infractions rather than community safety. I also think we are too tolerant of homeless encampments near public spaces. Drug use / activity seems to be tolerated downtown. We cannot allow downtown to become a scary place to bring families / children.

We have concerns about the treatment we have seen of some poor/homeless people. We realize the police have to deal with difficult people but we want to see all people treated with courtesy at first. We need more on foot police presence and we would support with our taxes, more training and community resources to support police and the services to provide mental health/drug abuse treatments.

We have seen increased crime in our neighborhood and city, and graffiti that reflects such.

We maintain crime we do not reduce it.

We need better communication from city about these efforts.

We need to do a better job taking care of the homeless and drug addiction. I'm not afraid to walk around by myself at night (except in certain places like Marine Heritage Park), but we have had neighbors dealing drugs, I have had needles in my garden, we have seen arrests from our front porch, all related to drugs. Regarding the homeless situation, I would rather pay extra to house them and help them and give them help than feel uncomfortable about living in a city that doesn't take care of its people.

We recently moved from the Alabama area and felt very unsafe in our neighborhood, to the point where I, as a female, would refrain from taking our baby on the trail next to our house because of sketchy characters that we would encounter nearly every time. My husband did not have this same fear.

We tend to stay away from the downtown area at night. We have had a couple of times where we have not felt safe or felt harassed by those that are downtown (Cornwall especially) at night. We have seen a naked man masturbating by the Parkade and have come across human waste in the Parkade. It seems as if there is not enough staffing for officers in the evening. This would appear to be a problem with funding and not the officers themselves. It would be nice to be able to support downtown businesses. We tend to go to Fairhaven at night.

When I have an issue I do not feel that LE cares or takes me seriously. I feel like all they care about is image, not my family.

**Q: In regard to preventing crime and protecting the community, you answered either "Fair" or "Poor". Please elaborate on your choice in the space provided below.**

While I believe BPD is great, I believe they are not equipped to handle the amount of homeless and mentally ill influenced crime that our city experiences.

While I don't think it is solely the city's responsibility, the population of homeless people and untreated mentally ill folks and addicts remains high. This leads to so many problems not only for the people who are living on the streets and in our parks and alley ways but everyone around them in the community. Our city needs to come up with a workable plan that helps those who cannot make it on their own. The current plan, whatever it is, is NOT working.

While safe overall, there seems to be a lot of petty crime in Bellingham. I'm sure this is a hard problem to address but we need to work on it.

"Why doesn't the city clean out the drug and homeless camp at Whatcom Falls?

Why does the city waste money on ""Share-On"" bike lanes that bikers (who do not contribute to road taxes) ignore anyway and crosswalk lights that kids activate as a prank and disrupt traffic. A regular traffic light would be better.

Since auto traffic contributes more to the tax base (road taxes), economy (shopping) and growth why not make improvements to facilitate traffic flow and not pander to the small ""alternative modes"" special interest groups.

With regard to the homeless, there is not only an ethical issue in the very complex problem we face here, but a safety issue. Multiple times I have been threatened or felt unsafe when going to a cash machine or just going to downtown Starbucks. I am no disabled or elderly and I am concerned about those that are and how they can be safe in those situations.

"With so many homeless encampments, both hidden and in public view, there is a perception that these areas are unsafe and not really accessible for public use otherwise.

These are difficult problems to solve obviously, but it does lead to parts of the city being less accessible to some. For example, would you take your kids on a picnic to the park at the foot of Holly Street?"

Within the confines of COB police budget, they do an excellent job. but they are overworked and underpaid. Efforts should be made to hire the very best officers and increase education standards for potential hires.

you can't be everywhere at once, but I will not walk certain areas or some places at certain times.

## Media Services

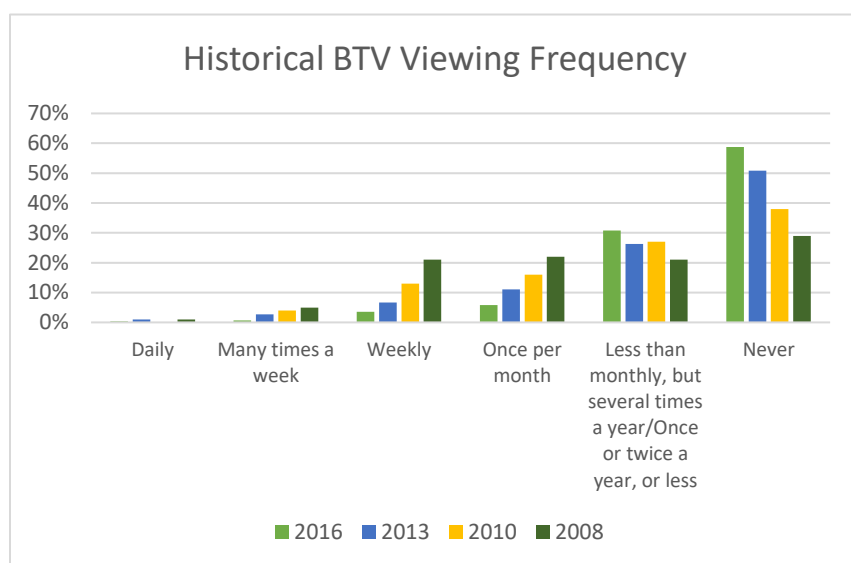
### BTV Viewing Frequency

**Q: Which statement best describes your typical viewing of BTV?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Daily</b>	0.35%	4
<b>Many times a week</b>	0.71%	8
<b>Weekly</b>	3.54%	40
<b>Once per month</b>	5.76%	65
<b>Less than monthly, but several times a year</b>	9.30%	105
<b>Once or twice a year, or less</b>	21.52%	243
<b>Never</b>	58.81%	664
<b>Total</b>	100%	1129

More than 10 percent of respondents view BTV *at least* once per month (*Daily, Many times a week, Weekly, or Once per month*). Almost 31 percent of respondents view BTV occasionally during the year (*Less than monthly, but several times a year, or Once or twice a year, or less*), and 59 percent report *Never* having watched BTV.

Historically, the proportion of respondents who report *Never* watching BTV has increased **significantly** each year – rising from 29 percent (2008) to 59 percent (2016). The rate of regular BTV viewing (*Daily, Many times a week, Weekly, or Once per month*) has been steadily decreasing since 2008, and the rate of occasional BTV viewing (*Less than monthly, but several times a year, or Once or twice a year, or less*) has increased since 2008.



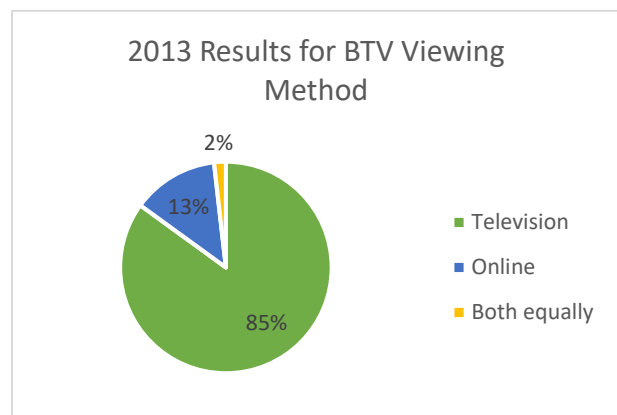
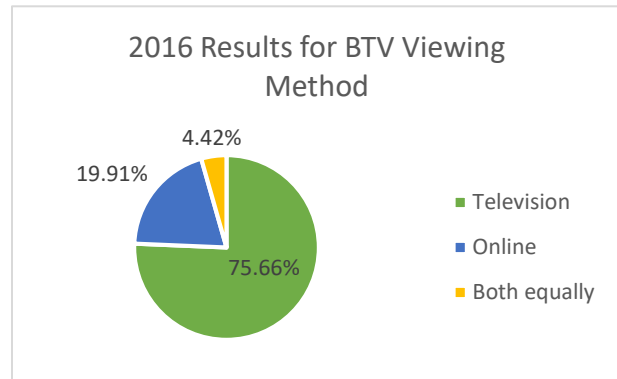
## BTV Viewing Method

**Q: When you watch BTV programs, do you usually watch on television or online?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Television	75.66%	342
Online	19.91%	90
Both equally	4.42%	20
Total	100%	452

Among the respondents who watch BTV programs (all who did **not** answer *Never* or *Don't Know* to previous question), most report watching on television, about 76 percent), some report watching online (20 percent), and some report watching both equally (4 percent).

Since 2013, the rate of television viewing has decreased from 85 percent (2013) to 76 percent (2016), and the rate of online viewing has increased from 13 percent (2013) to 20 percent (2016). Data from 2008 and 2010 is not available for this question.

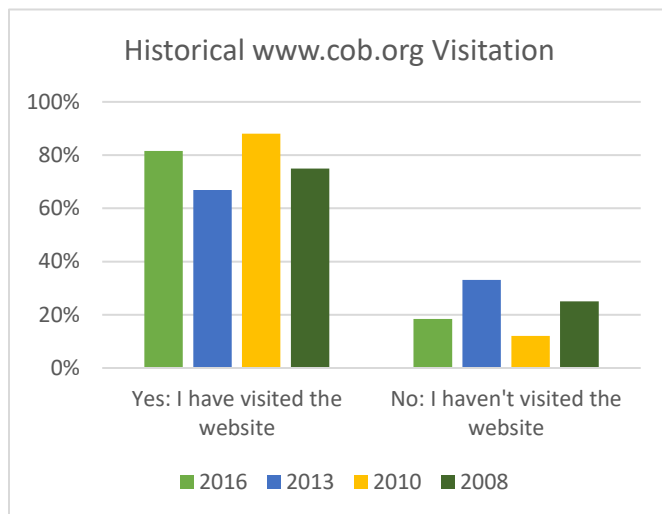


## COB Website Visitation

**Q: Have you ever visited [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org)?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Yes	81.55%	946
No	18.45%	214
Total	100%	1160

Almost 82 percent of respondents report having visited [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org). This question and the following question (online visitation frequency) are the only questions in the survey that are significantly affected by survey method; of respondents who took the survey by phone (as opposed to online), only 53 percent have ever visited [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org).



### Demographic Influence

Historical rates of COB website visitation vary from year to year. This may be a result of survey methodology – in 2008, the survey was administered solely by phone, the 2010 survey introduced an online response option (80 percent of responses) in addition to phone responses (20 percent) and the 2013 survey offered online (59 percent) and phone (41 percent) options. This year's survey was taken predominantly online: 94 percent online responses and 6 percent phone responses. This year, of the responses taken **by phone**, only 53 percent reported having ever visited the COB website. Respondents who choose to take the survey by phone most likely have different computer habits than those who chose to take the survey online, which could account for the variation in responses to this question.



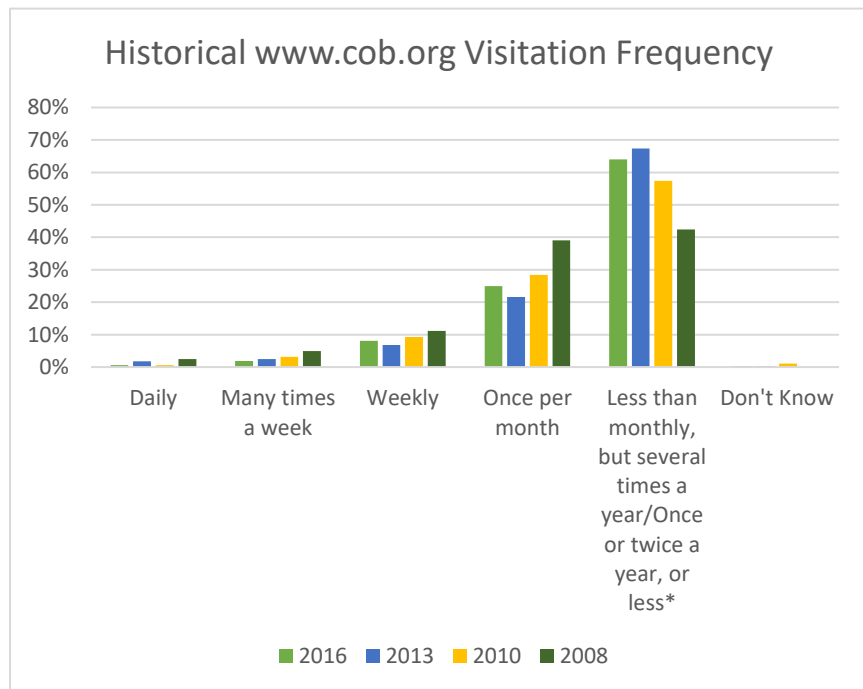
## COB Website Viewing Frequency

**Q: How often do you visit [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org)?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Daily	0.64%	6
Many times a week	1.91%	18
Weekly	8.07%	76
Once per month	24.95%	235
Less than monthly, but several times a year	40.45%	381
Once or twice a year, or less	23.67%	223
Don't Know	0.32%	3
Total	100%	942

Of respondents who report having visited the COB website in the previous question, almost 36 percent report visiting *at least once per month (Daily, Many times a week, Weekly, or Once per month)*, and 64 percent report visiting occasionally during the year (*Less than monthly, but several times a year, or Once or twice a year, or less*).

Of those who have visited the COB website, the rate of regular visitation (*Daily, Many times a week, Weekly, or Once per month*) has generally been decreasing over time, and the rate of occasional visitation (*Less than monthly, but several times a year, or Once or twice a year, or less*) has generally been increasing.



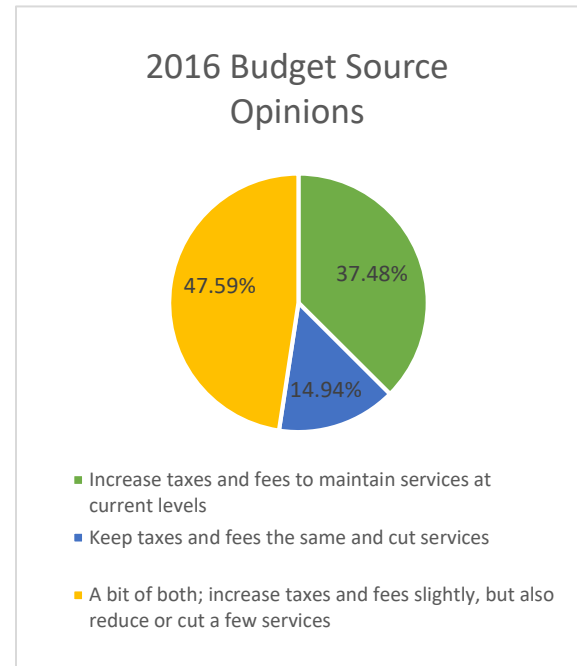
## Budget

The following questions ask residents to put themselves in the shoes of City leaders, and choose priorities for the future City budget.

### Budget Priorities

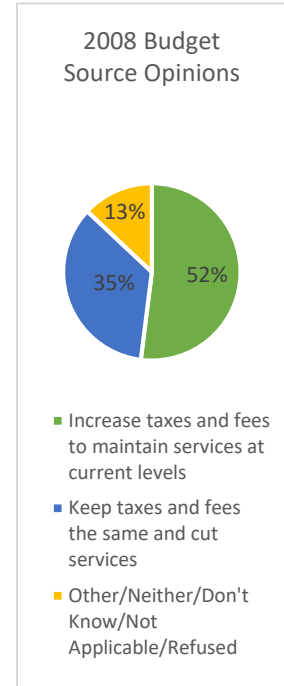
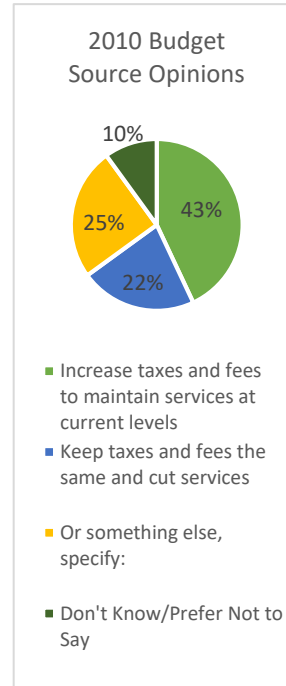
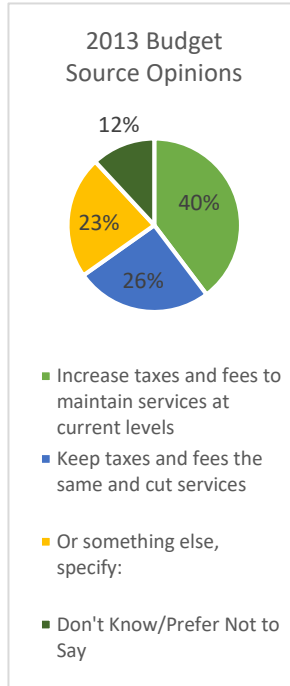
**Q: City leaders must carefully choose budget priorities. If you had to choose only one, which of the following would you choose for the city?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Increase taxes and fees to maintain services at current levels	37.48%	404
Keep taxes and fees the same and cut services	14.94%	161
A bit of both; increase taxes and fees slightly, but also reduce or cut a few services	47.59%	513
Total	100%	1078



Concerning budget priorities, almost half (48 percent) of respondents would prefer a combination of increasing taxes/fees and reducing services. 37 percent would prefer to increase taxes/fees and keep services at current levels, and 15 percent would prefer to reduce services and keep taxes/fees the same.

Historically, it should be noted that this question varies in methodology, making it difficult to draw comparisons between survey results. However, it can be seen that in **every** year, respondents prefer to *Increase taxes and fees to maintain services at current levels over Keep taxes and fees the same and cut services.*



## Tax or Fee Preference

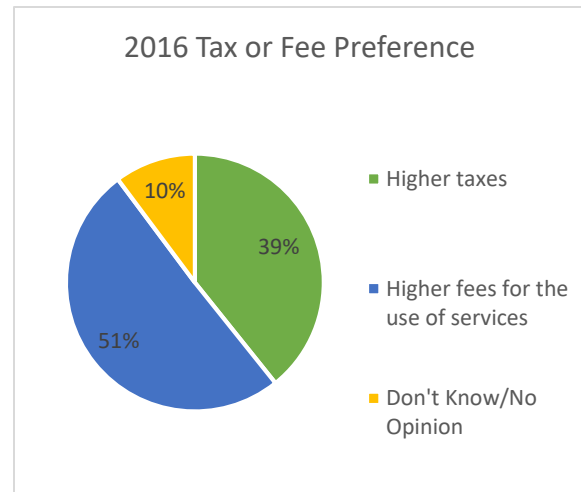
### Q: What would you be more likely to support?

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Higher taxes	39.25%	354
Higher fees for the use of services	50.55%	456
Don't Know/No Opinion	10.20%	92
Total	100%	902

Only respondents who selected *Increase taxes and fees to maintain services at current levels* or *A bit of both* in the previous question (902 respondents total) were asked this question.

39 percent of these respondents would be more likely to support *Higher taxes*, and 51 percent would be more likely to prefer *Higher fees for the use of services*.

This is the first year that the survey has asked this question – there are no historical survey results.



## Services to Reduce or Cut

**Q: What services would you reduce or cut? Select all that apply**

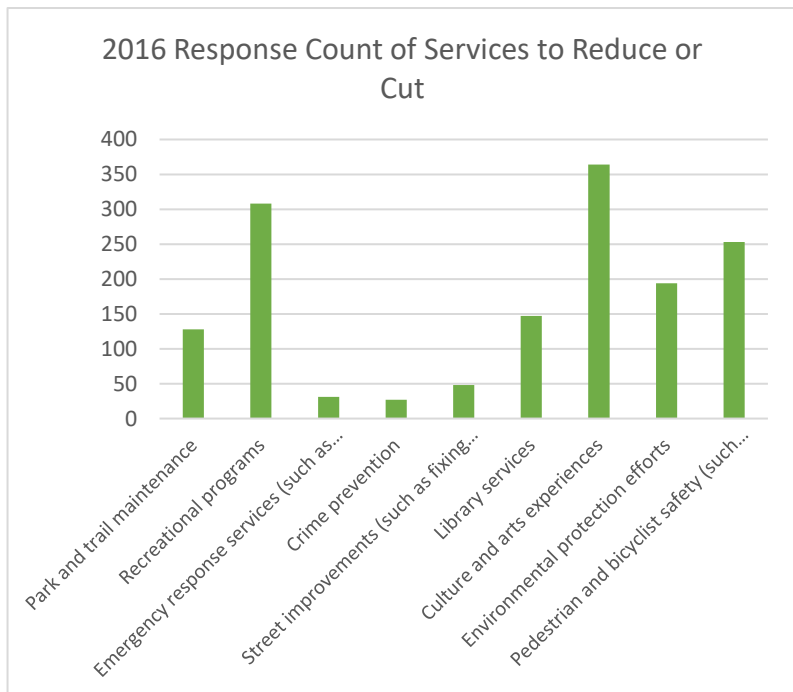
Answer	2016 Results	Count
Culture and arts experiences	62.87%	364
Recreational programs	53.20%	308
Pedestrian and bicyclist safety (such as sidewalks or bike lanes)	43.70%	253
Environmental protection efforts	33.51%	194
Library services	25.39%	147
Park and trail maintenance	22.11%	128
Street improvements (such as fixing potholes, signage, and traffic lights)	8.29%	48
Emergency response services (such as fire, police, EMS)	5.35%	31
Crime prevention	4.66%	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>579</b>

Only respondents who answered that they would prefer to either *Keep taxes and fees the same and cut services* or *A bit of both* in the budget priorities question (579 respondents total) were asked this question. They are able to select all that apply, so the total response count exceeds the number of respondents.

Many responded that they would reduce the following services: *Culture and arts experiences* (364 responses), *Recreational Programs* (308 responses), or *Pedestrian and bicyclist safety* (253 responses).

Few indicated that they would reduce the following services: *Emergency response services* (31 responses), *Crime prevention* (27 responses), and *Street improvements* (48 responses).

This is the first year that the survey has asked this question – there are no historical survey results.



## Service Priorities

**Q: As a community member, how would you prioritize the following services? Please drag and drop the answers below into a rank order, from your top priority to your lowest priority.**

This question asks all respondents to rate the following services that rely on taxpayer dollars, from most to least important:

- Park and trail maintenance
- Recreational programs
- Emergency response services
- Crime prevention
- Street improvements
- Library services
- Culture and arts experiences
- Environmental protection efforts
- Pedestrian and bicyclist safety

Respondents feel the most important services that rely on taxpayer dollars are:

1. Crime prevention (31 percent rated #1)
2. Emergency response services (27 percent rated #1)

The least important services that rely on taxpayer dollars, according to respondents, are:

1. Culture and arts experiences (26 percent rated last)
2. Recreational programs (18 percent rated last)

These results correspond to the results of the previous question, which asked **only** people who preferred at least some service cuts in replace of tax or fee increases to identify service priorities. This question is available to all respondents, and results show that service priorities are similar among all groups of respondents.

## Environmental Actions

The following questions ask respondents to report the importance of current environmental actions the City is taking. The questions in this section are presented in a randomized order to eliminate possible bias.

### Importance of Reducing Automobile Use

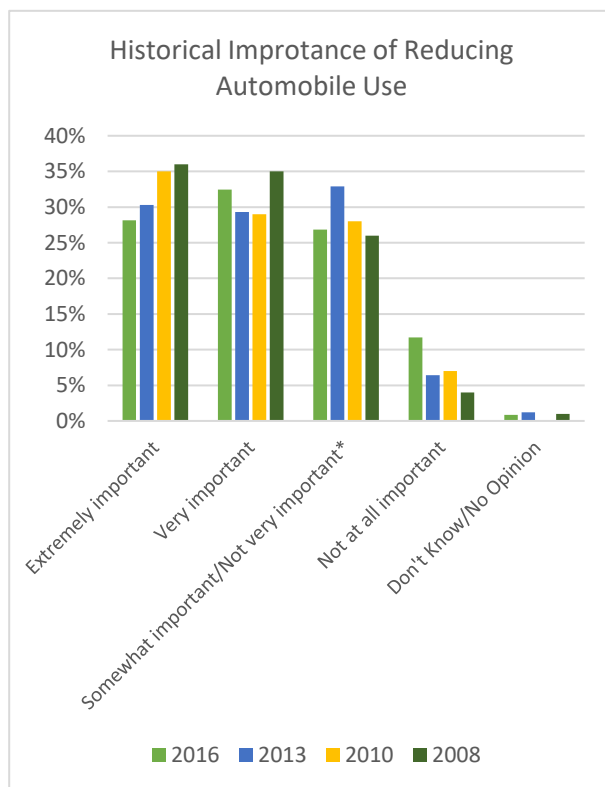
**Q: Tell us how important this action is to you: Reducing automobile trips by improving public transit, bicycle and pedestrian choices...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely important</b>	28.14%	325
<b>Very important</b>	32.47%	375
<b>Somewhat important</b>	26.84%	310
<b>Not at all important</b>	11.69%	135
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	0.87%	10
<b>Total</b>	100%	1155

61 percent of respondents think it is *Extremely* (28 percent) or *Very* (32 percent) *important* for the City to reduce automobile trips by improving public transit, bicycle and pedestrian choices. Only 12 percent of respondents consider this action to be *Not at all important*.

Historically, reducing automobile use has become less important to respondents. The rate of *Extremely important* responses has decreased from 36 percent (2008) to 28 percent (2016), and the rate of *Not at all important* responses has increased from 4 percent (2008) to 12 percent (2016).

One possible explanation for this trend is that past success with trip reduction, both real and perceived, has led fewer people to believe that it remains a high priority focus.



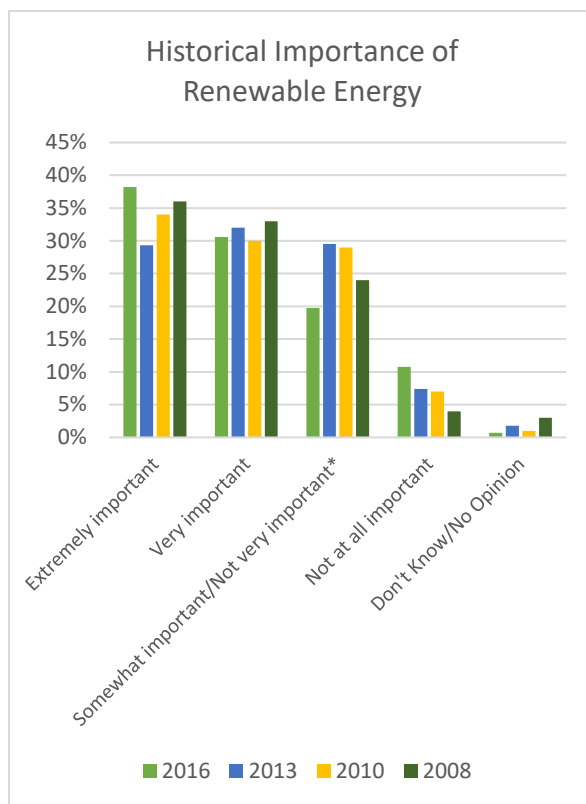
## Importance of Renewable Energy

**Q: Tell us how important this action is to you: Promoting the use of renewable energy such as green and solar power...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely important</b>	38.21%	441
<b>Very important</b>	30.59%	353
<b>Somewhat important</b>	19.76%	228
<b>Not at all important</b>	10.75%	124
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	0.69%	8
<b>Total</b>	100%	1154

69 percent of respondents think it is *Extremely* (38 percent) or *Very* (31 percent) *important* for the City to promote the use renewable energy, such as green and solar power. 11 percent of respondents consider promoting renewable energy use to be *Not at all important*.

Between 2008 and 2013, the historical trend indicates that promoting renewable energy had been becoming less important to respondents as an environmental action (decreasing rates of *Extremely important*, increasing rates of *Not at all important*). Instead of following that trend this year, respondents seem to be polarizing their opinions about the importance of renewable energy – there is an increase in the rate of responses for both *Extremely important* and *Not at all important*, and a decrease in the rate of *Somewhat important/Not very important\** responses.

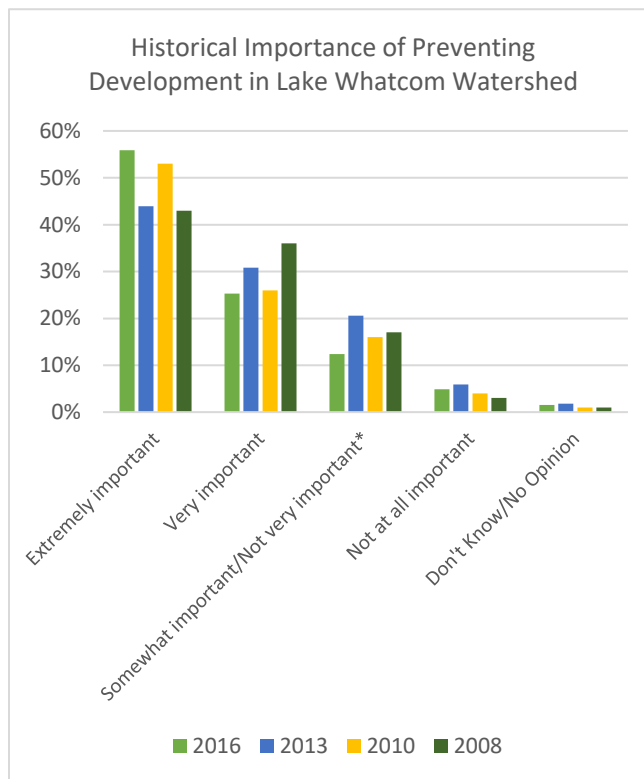




## Lake Whatcom Watershed

**Q: Tell us how important this action is to you: Preventing further development in the Lake Whatcom watershed, Bellingham's primary source of drinking water...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely important</b>	55.90%	644
<b>Very important</b>	25.26%	291
<b>Somewhat important</b>	12.41%	143
<b>Not at all important</b>	4.86%	56
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	1.56%	18
<b>Total</b>	100%	1152



A distinguished majority of respondents (81 percent) think it is *Extremely* or *Very important* for the City to prevent further development in the Lake Whatcom watershed – more than half (56 percent) rate this environmental protection action as *Extremely important*, and a quarter (25 percent) rate it as *Very important*. Only 5 percent of respondents think this action is *Not at all important*.

The historical results concerning the importance of preventing further development on Lake Whatcom show that this year's results are similar to results from 2010. Compared to 2013, current respondents find preventing Lake Whatcom development to be more important – positive responses (*Extremely* or *Very important*) increased from 75 percent (2013) to 81 percent (2016), and negative responses (*Somewhat important/Not very important\** or *Not at all important*) decreased from 27 percent (2013) to 17 percent (2016).

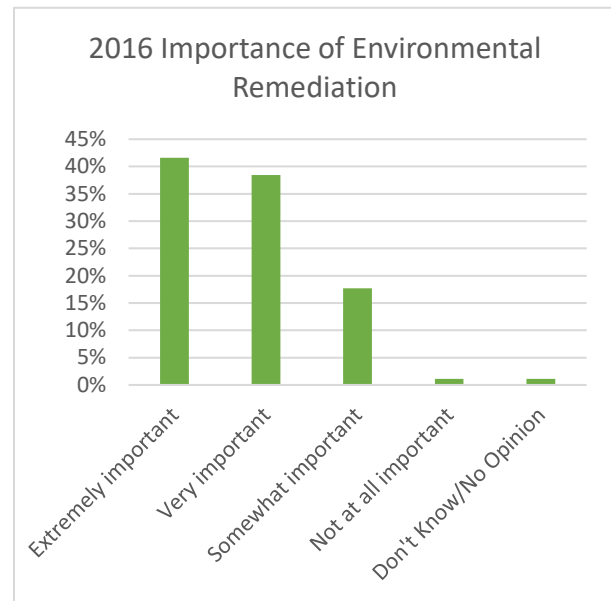
### Neighborhood Influence

Only 63 percent of respondents from Silver Beach, and 65 percent of respondents from Barkley, think it is either *Extremely* or *Very important* for the City to prevent further development in the Lake Whatcom watershed (compared to 81 percent of all respondents).

## Environmental Remediation

**Q: Tell us how important this action is to you: Environmental remediation and cleanup of contaminated sites...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely important</b>	41.63%	480
<b>Very important</b>	38.42%	443
<b>Somewhat important</b>	17.69%	204
<b>Not at all important</b>	1.13%	13
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	1.13%	13
<b>Total</b>	100%	1153



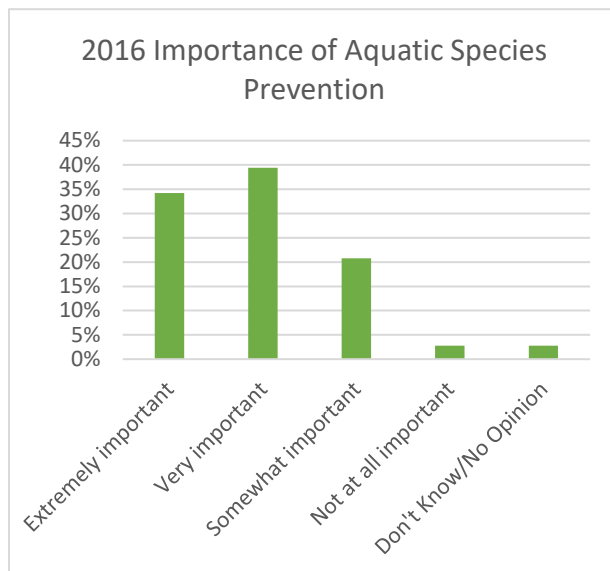
80 percent of respondents think that it is *Extremely* (42 percent) or *Very* (38 percent) *important* for the City to conduct environmental remediation and cleanup of contaminated sites. Only 1 percent of respondents believe that this environmental protection action is *Not at all important*.

This is the first year that the survey has asked this question – there are no historical survey results.

## Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

**Q: Tell us how important this action is to you: Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely important</b>	34.23%	395
<b>Very important</b>	39.43%	455
<b>Somewhat important</b>	20.80%	240
<b>Not at all important</b>	2.77%	32
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	2.77%	32
<b>Total</b>	100%	1154



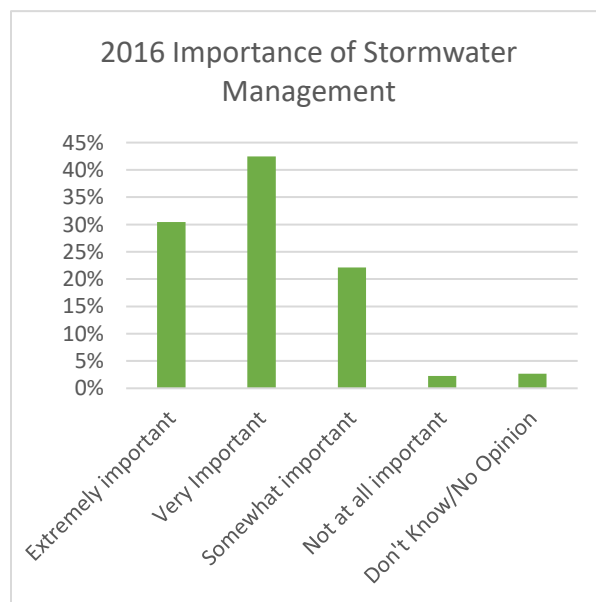
74 percent of respondents think that it is *Extremely* (34 percent) or *Very* (39 percent) *important* for the City to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Only 3 percent of respondents believe that this environmental protection action is *Not at all important*.

This is the first year that the survey has asked this question – there are no historical survey results.

## Stormwater Management

**Q: Tell us how important this action is to you: Stormwater management...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely important</b>	30.47%	351
<b>Very Important</b>	42.45%	489
<b>Somewhat important</b>	22.14%	255
<b>Not at all important</b>	2.26%	26
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	2.69%	31
<b>Total</b>	100%	1152



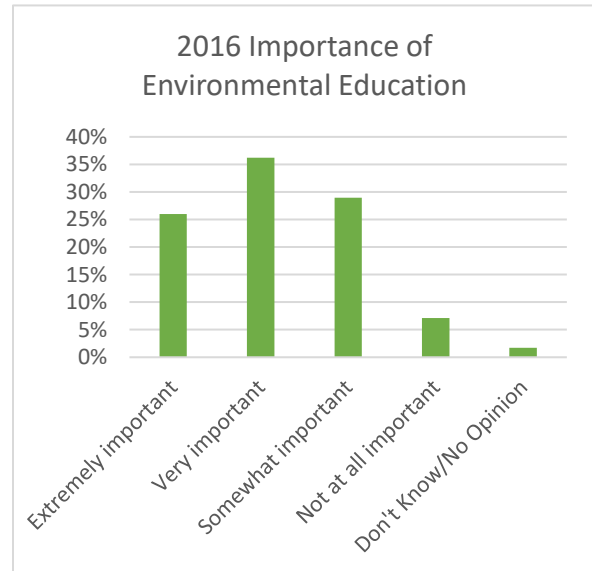
73 percent of respondents think that it is *Extremely* (30 percent) or *Very* (42 percent) *important* for the City to manage stormwater. Only 2 percent of respondents believe that this environmental protection action is *Not at all important*.

This is the first year that the survey has asked this question – there are no historical survey results.

## Environmental Stewardship Education

**Q: Tell us how important this action is to you: Educating community members to foster environmental stewardship...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely important</b>	26.00%	300
<b>Very important</b>	36.22%	418
<b>Somewhat important</b>	28.94%	334
<b>Not at all important</b>	7.11%	82
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	1.73%	20
<b>Total</b>	100%	1154



62 percent of respondents think that it is *Extremely* (26 percent) or *Very* (36 percent) *important* for the City to educate community members in order to foster environmental stewardship. 7 percent of respondents believe environmental education is *Not at all important*.

This is the first year that the survey has asked this question – there are no historical survey results.

### Additional Environmental Action Ideas

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

This is an open-ended question requiring a text entry from respondents. The following table contains a count of topics that are mentioned. One response may contain multiple topic tags, so total count of topics exceeds total responses.

Count	Answer Category
42	Protect natural areas
39	Protect Lake Whatcom/Watershed
31	Address homelessness
29	Encourage non-car use (Public transportation, biking, walking)
26	Improve recycling and composting programs
24	Do not address environmental issues
23	Create incentives for greener business practices
22	Educate citizens on how to reduce footprint
20	The city needs to make more informed decisions regarding the environment
20	Do not allow coal or oil trains passage through Bellingham
18	Create incentives for energy conservation in households
18	Raise density (will lower driving, etc)
11	Community solar stations and projects
11	Storm water treatment and storage
10	Banning environmentally hazardous products (e.g. styrofoam and plastic containers)
10	Develop the waterfront with the environment in mind
10	Improve roads and infrastructure
10	Reduce land development
9	Hold polluters accountable
9	Reduce mismanaged pet and livestock waste
7	Decrease noise pollution
7	Increase community participation in environmental projects
7	Tax high emission vehicles
7	Teach environmental stewardship in public schools

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

**Verbatim responses**

The following were provided by the respondents and are presented within this report without edit or analysis beyond an attempt to create a count (above) by generally expressed themes.

coal trains: NO"

#1 priority: purchase of land in a fair manner in the Lake Whatcom water shed.

\*Traffic signal coordination should be considered (i.e. Barkley Haggen's center w/ 5 uncoordinated signals. \*Seriously consider long term plan to alleviate traffic (provide alternatives?) to key areas; Meridian, Bakerview, City Center. \*I appreciate the direction COB is going to make cycling a safer alternative. Always strive to keep cyclists off major arterials. \*Not familiar w/why COB is involved in contaminated sites?? \*I appreciate hard line COB is taking with County & developers re Lake Whatcom.

Adding more green belt space; enforcement of prolonged squatting of motorhomes, etc. along S. Cornwall by the PSE plant, working to rid the section West of downtown of homeless encampments.

Adding sidewalks and parks to underserved neighborhoods. Samish neighborhood has very few parks and doesn't have sidewalks or paved roads on all streets. Additionally, Samish Way itself is in disrepair with potholes and uneven pavement that have gone untouched for years.

address homelessness better

Address homelessness to reduce littering/pollution along creeks

Address the homelessness crisis and resulting pollution of Whatcom Creek (and others)

Adopt Happy Valley's green infrastructure program.

Affordable housing. Folks in substandard housing and/or homeless have a significant impact on the environment.

Allow only electric motors on Lk. Whatcom, even though it's 40yrs. too late.

Allow property owners to improve older inner-city homes by permitting sheds and outbuildings to be converted into small residences (increase density).

Allying with Lummi and other local tribes to prevent ecodisasters. Getting BP out of our community.

Animal agriculture is the biggest environmental contributor. Save the community tax dollars and focus only on cleaning up waste.

Anything that promotes bicycle use is preferred. I think bike lanes are a great idea, I think all the green paint was a HUGE waste resources. If bicyclists and auto drivers are educated in the rights and wrongs of co habitating we'd have far less of an issue and wouldn't need thousands of \$ of green paint.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Attempting to reduce automobile traffic by add bike lanes won't work in a cold, wet hilly environment. Amsterdam may have similar weather but it is flat with neighborhood restaurants and shopping. What about adding more transit options? I find that the morning commute is significantly more busy when school (both BPS and WWU) are in session. Aren't all these cars are going to the same places? Why build big parking lots for the new schools especially high schools? Aren't there school buses available to the students plus if we want to change the way we think about automobile trips why not start with the young people?

Attracting industry that creates and employs green technologies and offering economic savings for building green homes and businesses.

Back when GP was running, GP sucked excessive amounts of water from lake. What happened to the water flow from South Fork of the river to Lake Whatcom? Fresh water flowed in daily and the lake was full of motor boats etc. Re-connect the aquifer and the lake will clean itself up.

Ban pesticides and chemical fertilizers

Ban the use of leaf blowers in city parks.

Banning styrofoam to-go containers. Encouraging less plastic container use in stores and restaurants. Algae bloom prevention/treatment. Reducing carbon emissions. No coal.

bans on destructive chemicals in Lake Whatcom Watershed

"Be reasonable rather than making requirements that affect all, when the problem does not apply to all. For example, I live in an area where we do not have a storm sewer available, yet I pay for the storm sewer that others use.

A half mile north of where I live people can burn their tree yard debris. I live in the same geographical environment and I can't burn. Yes, I used to live in the county, however, I was in the rural fringe area and subjected to many of Bellingham's rules. Also, as a result the county refused to take care of the ditches to prevent flooding and the City of Bellingham refused to take care of the problem because we lived in the rural fringe area - No man's land!"

"becoming a sustainable community, continued emphasis on protecting Lake Whatcom. The HIP programs is great! And the DOE's mandates are long overdue.

Make homeowners in the watershed on the lake more accountable for their behavior in their yards. Take further action to maintain the city property waterfront on Northshore, by Maynard Place...dogs run while, people throw their beer bottles in the lake, and garbage is not picked up."

Being strict with Homeless camping in the woods here and there.....Sehome Arboretum ...Fairhaven's "100 acre wood" ...Squalicum creek watershed to Locust beach.

Bellingham is one of the hardest places to develop in the country we need less oversight and regulation allowing for smart environmentally friendly development in the future so family that actually work can afford to live here. The development over the last 3 years has been largely multi-family, commercial, hotels within the city. The single family home market is in high

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

demand There is a very limited supply of new construction median priced properties. Residential construction over the last 7 years has been significantly down.

Best practices, while moving forward on necessary development. Takes way too long to get anything done, at a cost which is prohibitive.

"Better growth management

Keep out of town developers from building in our city. They have far less interest in our community and environment than they need to have.

Better recycle programs. Make it easier/cheaper for people to recycle so that they do.

Boats off Lake Whatcom!

Bring back the green cycle that used to be available off Lakeway Drive.

Build bike paths throughout the city. We are SUCH a cycling friendly city, we should lead the way on this mode of transport and making it safe. Holland is an outstanding model of this approach to cycling as a common method of transport!

Carbon taxes

City should begin a 100 year( or longer) program to buy back the Lake Whatcom watershed. Existing residential uses should become non-conforming.

Clean up and prevent homeless camps. Preserve remaining greenbelts. Buy property on Chandler to preserve a city view for everyone.

Clean up of the old GP site

Cleaning up the sound so the Orca's are safe and ensuring they have a solid food source

COB has turned into the Portlandia TV show where everyone is allergic to everything, bikes have priority over cars, everyone is hugging a damn tree. Holy Christ

"collaboratively reducing lake whatcom development is #1

future growth in region very significant concern - continue absorbing population, but also prevent sprawl into agric. areas of county (better city-county agreement on this; i know, not too easy)"

Communications to homeowners about ways to minimize chemical usage on lawns & landscaping.

Community solar. Income tax the commuters from out in the county.

compost pick up mandatory , feasible?

Compost/Recycling containers downtown alongside the garbage cans.



**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

concentrate future growth in existing city limits where zoning allows--DO NOT expand city boundaries and DO NOT include Yew Street in UGA

Considerations to use volunteer labor to support environmental considerations, offering internships, work release and community service groups. Increase community awareness and participation.

Continue to replace streetlights with LED bulbs, but try to have a warmer light. The whiteness of the light on the new streetlights on Broadway is jarring. Could there be city credits toward home installation of solar?

Continue/expand citizen involvement in taking individual responsibility to protect the Lake Whatcom watershed.

Continuing to maintain and add to Greenways and Parks.

Coordinating with Sanitation Services to provide different recycling bins that do not allow the wind to blow the materials placed out for recycling out of the bin and all through the neighborhood. Simply placing them on the ground does not work!

"Crack down harder on those individuals and companies who knowingly damage the environment. Last year, I heard about a pool company that knowingly drained a private pool into one of our local lakes.

Curb excessive growth and density in the City. Stop giving the highest priority to builders and real estate. Improve the quality of life, not the growth of the population.

Curbing the sort of growth that occurred along the Guide, instead of spreading it down Bakerview (like the City did) until Birchwood becomes all but cut off from Cordata.

Cutting down trees that could fall down

Dealing with garbage left by Homeless camps

Decreasing impervious surfaces; fixing the widespread fecal coliform bacteria problems in our city's watershed; working on resiliency for climate change.

Decriminalize collecting rainwater. Penalize trash accumulation on the streets.

Demand a full cleanup of toxins by the Port in former GP lands and associated waters.

Develop a program where tickets can be sent to people who leave the excrement of their dogs in public spaces

develop programs that encourage landlords to upgrade insulation/windows, convert to more efficient heating, solar, etc in order to cut bills for renters and increase citywide efficiency. solarize/ update city buildings; institute efficiency requirements for new buildings

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

developing better trash collection process & procedure during stormy, windy events in order to prevent trash from being scattered along roadways, yards, open spaces

Disallow the use of fire pits within city limits. There is nothing more aggravating on a clear, beautiful summer's day than to smell smoke coming from a neighbor's fire pit, polluting the atmosphere.

do something about transient/homeless/hooligan people loitering and littering and taking over some of the parks and making some areas of downtown deplorable.

Dog waste bags really work! Check supplies. Dog waste receptacles in and near parks, trails.

Don't charge so much for the Woburn site to dump brush. Make it free and chip up branches and use the chips around the parks. Have cameras installed at parks to catch thieves breaking into vehicles and have them connected to police so they can catch criminals immediately. I think the cost to build a home today is so ridiculously expensive because of all the environmental permits required that are not necessary. It is excessive and so costly.

Don't keep allowing home building in environmental areas.

Don't throw money at big bureaucratic organizations that aren't sustainable and will require even more future tax dollars to be maintained, i.e. "spread of aquatic invasive species" efforts. It's ridiculous having 3 staff people at Blodel-Donovan boat ramp late on a week day night when there is zero to little activity. The City should get serious about trimming the fat and looking at ways to have these inspections take place more cost-effectively. A thorough analysis needs to be done on efforts like this with the goal of matching the cost with the results.

Drop off locations/public bins for citizens to dispose of or recycle household goods, appliances, electronics & other environmentally hazardous household chemicals. Provide a central depot for recyclable items with the ability to accept larger items & publicly accessible large bins for dropping off paper, cardboard, metal

Educate Educate Educate! The more we can prevent environmental harm by stopping uneducated/uninformed decision making means that much less money needed to fund recovery efforts. LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Educational outreach to the schools to teach the importance of environmental protection.

Educational outreach to Watershed residents and better environment education in the schools. Current school program is outdated and tired.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in public parking spaces. Allowing residents to install curbside Electric Vehicle charging stations along the city easement space in front of residences.

Eliminating greenfield development to the extent practicable, instead emphasizing redevelopment of brownfields.

Emission control checks for those cars that spew out emissions.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Enact a solar protection access ordinance so buildings do not rise to 2 stories in line with the setback. Stagger the 2nd story design element so it is set back from the lower story. This helps prevent a structure from looming over its neighbor and sharing its solar access.

Encourage planting of trees in the city and discourage them being cut down. Development takes a huge toll on the number of trees in the city. Trees are not only important to the identity of Bellingham, but are proven to have a correlation to health benefits to those who live around them

Encourage/require low impact development measures

Encouraging a car-free area downtown & in the Fairhaven district

Encouraging development that will allow for natural systems and processes to return to the downtown waterfront. The shoreline restoration at Marine Park in Fairhaven is an excellent example. I realize that tearing everything out and turning the Bay back into a mudflat is unlikely to happen, but sterile development would be sad, and a wasted opportunity to bring back a functioning ecosystem down there. Another concern is the wisdom of building on fill at sea level in an earthquake zone with sea level rise likely.

Encouraging low impact development and reducing sprawl

enforce noise limits on motor vehicles, establish "no idle" zones and verbally discourage unnecessary idling of vehicles. Improve northbound biking lane on Samish way; remove obstructions where driveways impinge upon the bike lane.

Enforce traffic laws on all the idiot bicyclists! Cops never do ANYTHING to them and they run stop signs and curse at motorists.

Enforcing noise ordinances--not just noisy parties: enforce excessive noises from industrial zones; take a cue from Los Angeles and ban gas-powered leaf blowers and weed eaters; educate the public about how noise is insidious and a serious health hazard. Enforce motor vehicle noise excesses; Bellingham does not even attempt on these matters

Engage with Sustainable Connections to get some radical policies in place. I've heard the US Post Office in some regions is considering delivering Farm Boxes to residents that sign up. Bike to work week with prizes along the trails. Buy Local initiatives for our small businesses. Composting toilets programs like those in Sonoma County. Less permitting and for green building projects. A liaison person for home owners wanting to get permits on their green building/efficiency projects, but don't have the funds to hire a contractor. Electric vehicle charging stations, recycled bio-diesel fueling station.

enhance fish and wildlife habitat

enough is being done.

ensuring we are looking at the potential unintended consequences of decisions

Environmental education opportunities

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Establish emissions standards for commercial vehicles like buses, garbage trucks, and industrial equipment.

Expand Lake Whatcom watershed protection, public education, improvement and H.I.P.

Expand WTA hours and routes so auto use can be minimized more

Extend bus routes to areas that are growing, like east-west on Barkley, and clean green yard waste drop-off sites for fallen tree branches, etc.

Facilitating better/greener home heating options/weatherization of old homes (if there's not already a city program for that).

Fairly good job now, except the BUILT environment. Planning for new development is horrible-- tacky houses, weak restrictions related to heights (example: the monstrosity being built on Forest Ave near the university!), too much retail development and strip malls, no serious effort to create urban villages where people can live, work and recreate (i.e., Barkley). Bellingham has become a case study for what NOT to do for urban planning students (i.e., Sunset Mall, development along Sunset, much of the Guide, etc.

"Find an alternative to incinerating sewage sludge.

Clean up waterfront before developing it.

Encourage zero and negative population growth. Focus on birth rate, not the rate at which people are moving to Bellingham."

Find or create another source of water, like a mountain lake, and fence it off so that people and boats cannot get to it. Seattle, Bend, Vancouver do this. It is insane that boats and snazzy waterfront homes can pollute our drinking water

Finding a solution to the homeless issue of people using the Parks as bathrooms.

Focus on household and neighborhood environmental responsibility, increase public and human powered transportation, focal on local gardening projects and discourage use of cars and trucks by higher taxes/fees, not upgrading streets/interstate ramps and reduced parking spots (unless for park/ride areas and public transportation links, e.g., at Nugent's corner, Sudden Valley, North Shore, Northwest Ave corridor).

"Free Bus Service

Help people have homes and educate people to not trash the environment."

further reclamation of water front

Get dog owners to clean up dog waste.

Get gas/deisal powered boats, jet skis,etc. out of our Watershed.

Get homeless folks under shelter and provide services to move them into permanent

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Get it together on a plan for the waterfront. So far it has been nothing but infighting and ineptitude.

Get motors of all sorts off the lake.

Get out of the crazy idea that any human involvement is bad. We live here. Let us live and enjoy the environment.

Get power boats out of our drinking water. I realize it's a great recreational lake but we drink that water.

Get rid of homeless camps!

Get rid of these bike lane and stop pushing them down our throat and lets move traffic once more

get the government out of the waterfront development.

Get the homeless a real place they can camp with sanitation. As it is now there is no way to control the contamination of human waste into our creeks , rivers, and the watershed into the lake.

Get the homeless out of our parks and other environmentally sensitive areas.

"Global Warming will Completely DESTROY Every Living thing - TO it extinct. We must ACT NOW. I mean NOW or the process of Polar Ice melt-down WILL BE ""IRREVERSIBLE"". My name is Ivan. Cell 3607390123. We Absolutely need the Brightest GO Green Minds/ with Everyone Praying To Christ who is my GOD and Savior to Help Societies /Nations change their way of Life. Hey Let's Have Many More Livable Days upon EARTH.

greenhouse gases in particular

Growth boundaries; land preservation

"Growth without limit is not sustainable

Encourage people to grow more of their own food, allow more use of private and public spaces for agricultural uses."

"Habitat features in waterfront redevelopment.

Expanded restoration of Bellingham bay shoreline.

Have a WTA stop at the airport

have peer review of studies done by only one source (at least seems as such when printed results are stated) regarding the "health" of Lake Whatcom

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

"Have recycling bins next to all garbage bins around the city. It's good now, but making a huge effort to educate the public on the importance of recycling and using public transportation is big, especially as our city grows.

Having public gardens closer to the city center for students and residents would be amazing too"

Have the Tsunami bouys to help with early warning on storms.I also think we should have more earthquake and storm warnings.

"Having a place or facility for Recycling Different Types of Plastic, Foam and Polystyrene Products more than what Sanitary Services accepts. I have driven down to Kent to recycle things in order to prevent them going into a landfill as waste. I also mail off the polystyrene from meat and egg containers to Dulco ... It's a small gesture, but every little thing helps our planet as well as the seabirds and whales.

Additionally, (and I know it's somewhat ridiculous), but I wish we could ban the use of those mercury type bulbs as well and just use Halogen and/or Led bulbs. Too many people I know just toss them in the trash as it takes time to recycle them, and make a special trip just to drop them off, or remember to take them with you. Personally, I think they should have some kind of pre-packaged mailer that comes with the purchase. Every light bulb I drop off at the toxic waste site costs us as taxpayers one dollar to recycle..Is it really worth it?

I worry about the possible long term hidden repercussions of slowly poisoning the environment and our children because too many people don't understand the importance or necessity of them needing to be recycled. Blah, aargh. It's a pet peeve of mine - sorry!"

Helping to expand bus service to more of the Lake Whatcom watershed to help reduce car trips

High emission vehicles should pay a higher tax

Hold polluters accountable for costs.

Homeless housing. More education about dog waste.

Homeless people are using Marine Heritage Park as a place to sleep and they defecate in the park, and it runs right into the creek when it rains. Citizen can no longer safely visit that park. Some of the city's efforts to revitalize the waterfront should be directed to policing the existing parks and green ways, not just focusing on new acquisition and development.

Homeless population ruining our parks

Homelessness and their camps. They damage the environment and increase unsafe environments for our city!

I am disturbed about the homeless camp in Whatcom Falls park. I don't even want to take my dogs there because they drink from the creek which they are using as a toilet.What is the point of taking care of the environment when that goes on.

I am not a big fan of the EPA, they tend to be on the extreme side to me.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

I am very concerned about the diminishing quality of Lake Padden. I know it is not a drinking water source, but its increasing amount of algae and diminishing water quality is a really big loss recreationally and environmentally and something must be done to halt this.

i applaud any and all efforts by the City government to conserve the natural splendor that has made Bellingham a great place to live. I have rented here for 16 years and don't aspire to own a home. I hope the City puts the health of the city above "development" for single-family homes.

I appreciate the composting and recycling opportunities which keeps more material out of the landfill.

I believe the city is spending too much money on environment protection and storm water projects. I do not see the value of city spending to install many rain gardens downtown. The city has a record of not maintaining rain gardens once they are installed. So they become a waste of money.

I believe the money spent on most of the environmental protections do not warrant the minor amount of benefit received from these efforts. The money would be better spent elsewhere, particularly regarding storm water management.

"I feel Galbraith Mountain is a valuable resource for our community. I'm not a mountain biker, but I understand that this area draws a large number of recreational users and outdoor enthusiasts to our area. We are becoming a mountain biking haven, and I think this will be a boon to our economy. The city should play a role in protecting this space.

I'm also excited that the Bay to Baker trail is being built and we should invest in that."

I like the idea of the rain gardens that have been newly installed around town, mitigating the impact of automobiles on water.

I live along Broadway Park. The city recently replaced the old streetlights with energy-efficient LED bulbs. While I strongly support energy efficiency measures, no thought was given by Public Works as to the light pollution effect of brighter bulbs, clear lenses and a 360 degree broadcast of a much brighter light that existed previously. The result is an unbearably bright white light that floods peoples houses in the dark of night, forcing them to close all shades and thereby severely reducing the number of people watching the streets at night. This could have been prevented by taking a moment to anticipate the effects of this new technology incorporated into an old fixture. Had they ordered amber lenses and dialed down the power of these new lights the residents of this neighborhood would not have become so upset.

I miss having the clean green station on Woburn and Lakeway. Encouraging more large businesses, like peacehealth, to work towards zero waste would be great too.

I see MANY people not recycling correctly or not at all. The amount of recyclables being taken to RDS is offensive. There are numerous businesses that still do not provide containers for recyclable materials and far too many people who claim to be concerned about the environment take no responsibility for cleaning up the area (check out the alleys and areas behind the homes near WWU).

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

I think in accordance with cyclists who are encouraging a green life, there should be a pressure on veganism. I am not a die hard vegan but it doesn't take one to know that car use and the efforts on that side of the conversation are far less impactful than a diet of meat and dairy.

I think the biggest problem in protecting the environment is the trash that homeless people leave.

I think the City should pledge to divest from fossil fuels and land grabbing and deforestation. I think the City should not allow sea-level real estate development.

I think the city's efforts to "promote" any of the above are useless. Getting flyers, pamphlets, etc. about renewable energy doesn't seem to be a reason why a person makes a buying decision.

i think the poop pledge is going in the right direction, but we could do more to educate dog owners on dog waste disposal

I think they should protect the environment by restricting the amount of new houses being built. For example, recently a very large apartment complex was built next to the Lakeway Fred Meyers and there is continued building of houses near Birch Falls Drive. Also, the Neilson brothers recently clear cut a big swath of land near where we live. I believe clear cutting forests should be stopped.

I truly believe the city and county should ban all further development of land that is in the Lake Whatcom Watershed, as well as ban all watercraft on the lake. The invasive aquatic species inspections are a joke.

I want to know why Squilicum Beach is still contaminated. Why isn't something being done about it?

I wish the city could instigate a program which would hire the homeless to clean up the homeless camps. The homeless problem in Bellingham needs to be tackled. I suggest looking at small city success stories with homelessness and following their lead.

I would like to see incentive for the private sector to get involved. I don't think city dollars need to fix all our local issues. People in this town are motivated and extremely creative.

I would like to see the City be more efficient in its efforts in the area of environmental stewardship.

I would like to see the City not only prevent further development in the Lake Whatcom watershed but put into place stricter policies for safeguarding and protecting this precious resource. I think public education campaigns could do a lot of good. I really hate to see all the pleasure boats out on the lake.

I'd like some recreation from the city to the train traffic that comes through Bellingham and the area. In the situation where there are oil trains, coal trains, all of which can harm the city. I want to hear more from the city and more active.



**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

"I'd love to see a road removal project: taking a few block-long streets or alleys in a few neighborhoods with local homeowner support, depaving and making a park/pedestrian area/trail/community garden/etc. mainly as a conceptual demonstration of alternative city planning options.

I'd love to see flexible permitting options that would make alternative/eco building less onerous to attempt inside city limits."

If there were more sidewalks - especially in the neighborhood that I am in (Edgemoor) it would be safer for our kids to walk to school. We pay some of the highest property taxes in the city and yet have no sidewalks!

I'll just ask you to think carefully what other ways we can pursue to maintain the natural environment of this beautiful part of the world.

I'm not sure it's the job of the city to promote solar power or environmental issues. Our community does a great job and we are conscious minded anyway. Does the city need to be involved with these issues?

improve regulation process to Help permitting for private environmental projects

improve wetland habitat and expand habitat corridors, support energy efficient homes and vehicles

Improving quality of our roads and infrastructure. Increase standards on local contractors who are continually tearing up our street pavement for their clients and not returning the streets to the quality they were before the damage. We need much higher standards here.

In terms of educating the community, i'd like to see the city reach out to the private sector, WWU, and other folks to assist in the efforts specific to environmental protection.

In this community, the city will be "preaching to the choir" if they try to educate the community regarding environmental concerns. Resources expended on this topic should be used on other issues.

Increase in use of alternative energy sources will alter the payment streams to the electric utility and force them to seek adjustments to rates. If this problem is not well understood by city leaders and well communicated to the community, then there will be a lot of upset citizens who have invested in alternate energy (say, solar) and for whom rate changes will alter the value of their investment.

Increase the fees for developers to more accurately reflect the impact of new development. Those costs now seem to be borne by residents, but do not seem to increase affordable housing. An example is the increases in the Bellingham Utility billings (\$80 in December 1996 to ~\$200 today).

Increasing density in lower density residential neighborhoods; smaller lots, make ADUs less burdensome; maintain character through design review, control of building heights

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Investment in solar panels on government buildings.

is the city really protect the environment or are we just jumping on to every bandwagon that comes along?

It is in line with green energy - the waterfront development should be heated with a ground-source heat pump utilizing the heat from Bellingham Bay water. Circulation in the Bay is sufficient that thermal pollution wouldn't be an issue, and ground-source heat pumps can be up to 500% efficient.

It seems minor, but SSC does not offer an option of covers for the recycling bins or alternate pick up days during windstorms and consequently I see garbage all over Bellingham. It is not always feasible to wait another full week for garbage/recycling pick up. On a bigger and much more important scale - we need to be protecting our drinking water source from boats!!

Jobs and Economic vitality is necessary to pay for our fun stuff. Poor countries have poor ecologic impact records. Ensure that there are feasible "people & industry places" within the city or its UGA so that our budget can address more robust environmental programs.

Keep fighting to eliminate coal trains. Support future efforts to increase use of electric cars.

Keep the homeless from camping on the trail systems

Keep up current efforts. In regards to an earlier questions about viewing BTV, I used to all the time and no longer have access to it through my cable provider.

Kick out the homeless. Dont let them destroy Bellingham like they have parts of Seattle.

Leading, organizing, and supporting efforts to involve the increasing numbers of retirees to help with protecting the environment. Facilitating neighborhood groups to help educate the public on individual and collective efforts to protect the environment

Less government control

Less measures should be taking

"Light rail, I've spent a fortune for bike enhancements, but our aging population does all ride bikes!

Some can't drive anymore, and busses are focussed on students, not getting people to /from jobs that serve the public.

Reverse the bus frequency from the out lying neighborhood, and add hours for those residents to get to and from the city to get home, thus taking cars off the road, and offering a safe ride.

Start planning light rail! One light rail from Lake Louise Road over to Byron would take a huge chunk of pressure off Lakeway. One light rail from Bloedel / Silver would take huge pressure off Alabama.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Stop putting off the obvious. This towns not getting any smaller."

Limit development along other riparian environments in the city, as well as along Lake Whatcom.

Limiting transportation of hazardous materials such as coal, fuel oil, etc. by rail and waterways through Bellingham and the Puget Sound/ Bellingham Bay.

Litter pick-up, homeless camp cleanup

Loosen Lake Whatcom watershed development restrictions

"maintain parks and trails to get people into the environment more

Make city leaders and elected officials announce if they walked, used public transportation, or rode their bikes to the public meetings

Make polluters pay. The aquatic invasive species program should be paid by boat users of the lake exclusively.

Mandating current California air pollution restrictions for locomotive/diesel emissions within our city limits.

Mandatory recycling and/or a sanitary services fee structure than incentivizes recycling.

mandatory requirements around lake whatcom; madatory water savings in the summer (no watering grass, but gardens are okay); any possible savings or tax benefits for solar, non-permeable surfaces or other environmentally friendly home owner efforts; stop and higher tax for selling small water bottles; higher tax for non-recyclable packaging materials that end up in our landfill; low cost bus passes for all middle & high school students, college students and elderly.

Mental health and drug addiction services will do a lot to better our environment

methane digester from sanitary sewer solids.

More action with the County regarding Lake Whatcom.

More aggressive action on protecting our drinking water source, Lake Whatcom.

More attention should be directed towards thee care of our green ways around the city including storm drain cleanings and pruning of our trees along the sidewalks which should be free of overhanging branches on both sides

More bike friendly/promoting infrastructure and roundabouts in busy intersections.

More curbside recycling... you should be able to recycle all plastic containers and bags curbside

More education and incentive to avoid landfills as a waste destination option, including easier toxic waste disposal and requiring curbside "garbage" pickup exclude recyclables materials.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

More funding in the Parks Dept. so the parks can be maintained and kept clean. I know there are very few maintenance workers and there are times when the parks are filthy. We need more workers in the parks, specifically the messiest parks such as Maritime. I also worry that once we build more parks, how will all of the current parks be maintained? The parks are so beautiful and the maintenance crew does an amazing job with the people they have, but they need more staff.

More infill incentives for developers and zoning allowing detached adu's. Support WTA and Smart Trips. Expand the number of complete streets.

More information and access about native plants noted in parks plantings.

More informed decision making on projects such as the LED streetlights, which were bought and paid for before the public had a chance for much input about color temperature, light pollution, the myth of brighter = safer, and related issues. We could have made a better choice.

More money would be available if the City promoted economic growth instead of what the City currently does discouraging economic growth.

More recycling and compost bins in public places

More recycling options. Countries like Germany present exemplary practices in this concern.

Motorized boats should not be allowed on Lake Whatcom.

"Move coal and oil trains to tracks east of city.

Extremely important"

NA

Nearshore restoration for salmon recovery

no

"No coal port

Earthquake preparedness

Climate change"

No coal train

no motorized boating on lake whatcom

"No motorized boats in Lake Whatcom

No coal or oil trains

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Dedicated homeless village space with support services...showers, storage, office for case workers, day center, computers, training...allow camping and temporary shelters to congregate around these resources in one area. How about giving Maritime Heritage over to this for a few years?...Was originally an Native Village anyway and was taken from them so there is a sort of justice in it. Let's get real and create solutions. Use as a park is marred by homeless presence anyway. It is a prime location to create a solution. Otherwise desperate people mar environment at high cost with encampments and money is spent to chase them away. The are criminalized for being homeless...let's meaningfully address breaking this cycle. Thank you for considering.

Noise pollution from planes and trains.

Noise pollution issues due to lack of funding for proper railway crossings in residential areas around the railway right of way should be addressed.

None

none

Not allowing damage and removal of natural spaces for poor additions to the community such as Costco and other large box stores.

Not building parks with giant plastic features and turning greenspaces into playgrounds for only one age group to use and replacing the grass that was there with wood chips that do not promote cooling effects during our increasingly hot summers.

Not doing projects that help one species while harming another. Otters have as much right to live as salmon do.

Offering more recycling programs for items not accepted by SSC, i.e., styrofoam blocks.

Our drinking water needs to be the top priority.

"Our water source - Lake Whatcom - should NOT allow motorized vehicles except for emergencies.

We should ban the sale and use of glyphosate, neonicotinoids, and other likely carcinogens within the city and promote organic pest and weed management.

We should seek to create a plan to shift our local economy from fossil fuel based to renewable -- phasing out incentives and tax breaks for the former and investing in the latter -- and getting Bellingham totally 100% Clean. "

Overall this should be the number one priority. In the long run if it's good for the environment it's good for the economy.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

"Overall, and not related to this question, I find this questionnaire a bit biased in how it presents options, and especially how it buckets my responses. Due to my work experience I have had to obtain training in questionnaire design, so I do feel for you.

Partner with the County & State to build a stormwater system around lake Whatcom to protect the drinking water.

Pass a "no-idling in your car" law (while you stare at your smart phone and emit exhaust).  
Implement a tax on large fume-spouting diesel trucks.

"Pedestrian design, reduce and calm traffic

Cost/benefit analysis, advice and publications for people considering various purchases

Special subsidies or ""rewards"" - eg for low energy consumers who pay to insulate the homes of high energy consumers instead of (or in addition to) their own

Community solar stations

Environmental housing for people living in their cars or on the streets"

Penalties and fines for dog owners who allow their dogs to run off-leash in parks and trails, leaving dog poop everywhere. I wonder what the coliform count of Lake Padden is...certainly high enough to be a safety issue.

Permanent recreation and conservation easements on Galbraith mountain.

Permit incentives for green new construction. Perhaps a property tax discount for energy efficient homes or retrofits.

pesticide reduction education

"Plan for reducing carbon emissions

Planning to encourage denser growth close-in and less expansion on edges of the city.

Please keep motorboats out of Lake Whatcom. At least have a few designated days a week that motors are not allowed.

Preserve, maintain and protect existing Trees. Replace trees that die. Trees are important for countering global warming. Trees provide habitat and beauty. Ban all topping of trees.

Preserving greenspaces and farmland.

Prevent big oil and big coal from taking hold in Whatcom County and get them off of our rail system! Prevent oil bombs from traveling through our city, and get the coal dust train cars out of our state, and certainly, out of our city!

promote net free rivers stop netting salmon in rivers

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Promote proper composting and recycling

Promoting dense development to create walkable neighborhoods and reduce energy needed to provide services. Implementing Integrated Pest Management for City property and reducing pesticide use on City property and ROWs. Possibly making a couple parks Pesticide-free parks. Removing certain problem products from our city, such as banning styrofoam take-out containers.

"Promoting energy conservation -- not just the use of greener energy, but the use of LESS energy.

What is the city doing about light pollution? Sound pollution?"

"Promoting local sustainable agriculture. Programs to dramatically increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption. Educating citizens on local water issues. Educating citizens on the natural history of this region including how colonial occupation has dramatically changed the landscape and how indigenous people have related to this land base. Creating a Citezen engagement space where we can vision and make plans for the city twenty years from now that is not completely dependent on fossil fuels.

promoting passive solar, green buildings, super insulation.

Promoting public transit, more "filling" stations for electric cars, encouraging solar energy for any businesses with enormous rooftops.

Propose a height law that prevents sun blockage for solar panels, especially in neighborhoods and near single family houses.

Protect views of the bay by removing trees and limiting building heights.

Protecting green spaces, limiting sprawl.

"Protecting the Cherry Point aquatic preserve

Airshed

protection of land like Blanchard Mountain, though that may be out of the city's jurisdiction

Provide infrastructure for adding many more electric vehicle charging stations.

Provide recycling for Lamps and Batteries.

Provide toilet and garbage services at all trailheads and parks.

Public education is the most important measure the City can take with regards to all these issues. A well-informed populace will make the best decisions and work together to create the quality of life that people in Bellingham want.

Put a permanent moratorium on oil and coal trains and all ports that would transport fossil fuels through or out of Whatcom County.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Put a sewer around Lake Whatcom so there can be a pathway to transition from all of the failing septic systems. Two-stroke outboard motors are not the problem!

Put severe limitations on the number of people permitted to live in whatcom county.

Quit getting so spread out.

Re open Clean Green

Reduce global warming through dense infill and mixed use so people live near work and retail.

Reduce homeless camps. Again, I don't know the answer, but garbage and waste (human and other solid) is a big problem. It's a huge multi-faceted issue, but I think the environmental impacts are under reported/represented.

Reduce land development.

reduce oil and coal trains

Reduce regulatory roadblocks that cause more problems than they solve.

"Reduce street parking and promote the parking garage. Create designated streets as pedestrian and delivery only. Railroad

Parked cars leak oil on the street parking areas, degrading the asphalt and finding it's way into the storm drains. Make a more walkable, biking, public transportation town vs a car centric community. "

Reduce there land grab

Reduce undesignated trails in parks

Reduce waste going to landfill. Force stores to separate recyclables and make bins available in stores. Reward residents for reducing amounts going to land fills. Educate citizens about cost savings made by recycling. Put programs in schools. Legislate green and organic waste and make it free so all participate.

"Reduced water use, e.g. use of rain barrels.

Funding incentives for insulation/reduced energy use.

Incentives/regulations for landlords to make properties energy and water efficient."

"REDUCING AUTOMOBILE TRIPS/USE!!!

This is the single, most important action any community can take to protect the environment by reducing our negative impacts. This effort alone will have huge positive multiplier effects on protecting the environment (and concomitantly, the health and well-being of it's residents) in ways that current planners, experts and non-daily users of bicycles for transportation, recreation and fitness cannot (and obviously do not) even imagine. Not only should alternative



**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

transportation choices be encouraged through engineering, education and enforcement, but automobile use must be DISCOURAGED, by:

1) discontinuing subsidization of automobile use; 2) allowing costs of the negative impacts of operating motor vehicles to rise to their real level; 3) enacting a permanent moratorium on the planning, design or construction of new, expanded or otherwise ""improved"" automobile facilities/infrastructure; 4) improve and expand current pedestrian, bicycle and public transit infrastructure/facilities/system; 5) construct a comprehensive, continuous, connected paved bicycle/pedestrian trail system accessible by every city resident."

Reducing residential fertilizer use. Especially in Western Washington, rain run-off can transport fertilizer nutrients into the Whatcom Watershed.

Removing parking for install more cycling facilities. Spend more of the stormwater dollars in areas outside of the watershed to improve water quality for other surface waters.

Require a 25 foot zone of native vegetation at the water's edge for all who live in Lake Whatcom waterfront houses. Review city zoning and plat covenants to reduce restrictions on planting native green zones. Enforce regulations and increase fines for illegally cutting forested areas within the city limits. Put a moratorium on development within the Lake Whatcom watershed. Amend city zoning to increase housing density within the city limits. Amend zoning within the city to allow neighborhood services such as grocery stores and drug stores and small general stores to lie within walking or easy biking distance of houses.

RR crossings need to be upgraded to create a safe, healthy, reasonably quiet, livable community. The train horn noise in the waterfront neighborhoods is intolerable and the city hasn't really placed a high priority on it. This is by far the number one issue directly affecting many residents on a daily/nightly basis.

"Since the majority of us can walk I would like more emphasis on pedestrian and less on bicycle.

Slow the runoff down in the water shed areas with filter dams and allow flooding of grass flats that suck up nitrates from the water.

Smart growth, infill.

Some of our best points of natural access are not developed for safe use, such as: Northshore has no bicylce lane, Chuckanut has no bicycle lane, Galbraith Mountain always seems in danger of development... Increased transit reach and frequency in the suburbs would be good. Personal automobiles may not always be so bad for the environment as technology improves. Autos serve important roles and the City should plan for effective access to downtown via personal automobiles. I don't support the idea of making it harder to use your own car to get downtown. That would hurt quality of life here. Arterial access to downtown sucks, especially the daily traffic jam at Chestnut, Lakeway and Ellis. Idling cars backed up aren't good. Would like to see the Waterfront old-GP site developed in my lifetime. Put parks across as much of that water front as possible!

Some of the above are important - but not as City Responsibilities (ie should be handled by other Agencies

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

some of these are already being done by nonprofits and for profits in the area- why duplicate?

Sticking to the Growth Management Plan, continue to encourage residential & commercial infill instead of sprawl, promote clean industry and stop increased oil tanker trains from running through the city.

Stop coal trains, or make sure they are covered

"STOP PROMOTING GROWTH! Discourage, do not court or subsidize outside investors, developers, businesses. They promise jobs and payroll, but create more population growth than jobs, and have more negative impact than the taxes they pay. Encourage local businesses, and ""buy local"" initiatives to keep money in the region (increase the multiplier). IT would not be necessary to increase taxes if the city would greatly increase fees for developers in order to FULLY fund, compensate for, impacts on infrastructure: more roads, schools, police, fire, public transit, water, sewer, runoff, traffic, accidents, crime, less open space. Do the cost benefit analysis.

Growth CANNOT continue indefinitely in a finite environment. What's the city's plan, not for ""managing growth"" but for STOPPING GROWTH? -- preserving the environment and quality of life insofar as possible. What's the city's plan for transitioning to a healthy vibrant SUSTAINABLE (non-growing) community? PLEASE GET GOING ON IT!"

"Stop the building of homes on wetland.

Stop allowing the building of homes much to close together. "

Stop using pesticides for weed control.

Storm water treatment/storage. Prevent future sewage spills from the city into Padden creek. Last year there was a large amount of raw sewage spilled by the city into Padden creek during the restoration of Padden creek.

Stormwater management can solve a host of point source pollution issues.

Streets are being minimized to socially engineer the community. Reducing Alabama to one lane in each direction with unused bike lanes wastes money and burdens auto traffic. Trying to force people on to bikes or buses is an outrage.

Strive to have a lean, yet productive and available staff. Organizational excellence.

Subsidize the use of EV and hybrid vehicles by removing Bham taxes from their purchase.

Supporting the Community Energy Challenge is very important. The city should take the lead in using alternative energy sources.

Tackling the largest producers of CO2. All humans must act to mitigate the climate change we have caused. Bellingham should lead the way, even at the expense of some services for its own citizens. Earth first!

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

Teaching bicyclists to obey the law

"The city already collects money for storm water and parks//trails

Our greenway tax should be used for bike lanes, ect.

Promoting green power is no way the city's issue.

Trip reduction should be up to the employer

Cleanup of contaminated sites should be up to the Feds or the polluters not the city's job"

The city can set the tone by allowing more volunteer groups to do more and offer incentives to companies to be involved through tax breaks.

The City is spending too much time and money and focus

"The City is taking very positive steps to protect the environment.

Perhaps, taking more time to consider the impacts of new development on the existing (non-natural) environment? Not simply 'build vs don't build,' but the size/scale of projects approved relative to their neighborhoods and the impacts these projects have on bordering streets, etc, obstruction of views from roads and existing houses (not ours specifically) and related issues."

The city must use its influence in Olympia (together with all the communities along the coast) to increase the safety of the oil trains. It is only a matter of time until we have a huge environmental disaster. Each oil train is like a bomb on wheels going through our communities. Although I would like to see no oil trains at all, at a minimum, WA State can demand from BNSF to have a higher tech. way to check the rail lines. Right now it is a physical inspection from someone traveling the line on a platform. That's very 1960's of them.

The city needs to do something about homelessness in our community. I feel bad for these people and their situation... But the amount of litter, human waste and drug paraphernalia in our community is disheartening, and it makes my family avoid certain parks and area in our town.

The city should focus on providing infrastructure (restrooms, storage, safe camps etc) to homeless populations to discourage camps that are environmentally disruptive.

The city should implement an incentive program promote the use of re purposed and reclaimed building materials in new construction, and should modify codes and standards to allow use of recycled framing lumber in new construction. There should also be permit fee incentives and other fee reductions to incentify the preservation and reuse of the heritage wood in vintage structures that are being removed for new construction.

The city should pursue grant funding to support upgrades to industrial sites in Whatcom to achieve environmental compliance and promote green industrial growth so we can actually have living wage jobs; Bellingham is an area with one of the highest number of Bachelors degree and Masters degree holders working as baristas and other low paying service jobs per capita in

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

the nation because they can't find work because Whatcom County has taken radical environmental leaps that are way too fast which scare new businesses and much needed manufacturing away. If you want to improve quality of life, attract green manufacturing and make the economic environment (taxes/fees/regulations) such that living wage jobs will come and stay.

"The city spends way too much time on the environment

They have lost sight of reality and have people working in environmental areas who should be terminated."

The current Greenways up for vote is primarily for Parks and would not pass muster as Greenways. Although I have supported Greenways in the past, I cannot vote for this. Parks is not Greenways. The importance of critical areas is being ignored.

The downtown area is being used as a public bathroom that can't be great for the environment.

The environment is more than air and water. Unless we want to become Vancouver, B.C., we need to preserve more green/open spaces and not develop every square inch of commercial and residential property. Perhaps more neighborhood parks and trails would help. When stands of tall, old trees are few and the deer are seen as a menace to fertilized lawns, will we have saved the environment?

The issue of coal trains and coal ports and any issue between the border and us (fires or any other natural disaster) seems to not be handled well.

The major environmental impact of the new wastewater management facility could have been averted by considering more efficient and modern technology. Many were disappointed at the decision to go with conventional, energy intense, over priced systems. Bellingham should be an environmental leader. City should be open to low impact and efficient technologies in the major decisions, not just a few raingardens here and there.

"The parks and trails in Bellingham are one of the best features of the City without a doubt. Without a doubt. Very nice work on Boulevard Park by the way!! These are gems that can't be lost!!!!

Please don't let homeless communities and others trash these places. Once it begins it's almost impossible to fix and when general members of the community stop visiting....the battle is lost. It may seem like a never-ending battle budget drain, but the cost of doing otherwise is far more EXTREME. Look at the Jungle in Seattle and beware. "

The recycling system uses open bins which cause debris and waste material to blow away in mild wind. That debris goes into various places including the bay, the lakes, and the ditches. This debris also clogs storm drains. Aside from being unsightly it is harmful to the environment, and endangers wildlife which is contrary to the idea of having a recycling system. Many other counties (such as Lewis County, King County, etc) have adopted a single can system that is similar to that of a garbage can, which has a lid, and therefore prevents such detrimental effects from occurring.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

There are a large number of people in Bellingham that live here because they are educated and environmentally conscious. Any money spent on environmental awareness is "preaching to the choir".

There should be more information about local environmental issues that could affect Bellingham residents but are just outside the city limits. One example would be the pending possibility of logging inside the core area of Blanchard Mountain (where the popular Oyster Dome, Lily Lake, Lizard Lake, etc. are contained).

These efforts are spurred and continue happening due to a very small contingent of active, vocal residents in Bellingham who think that environmental protection is the most important issue facing our community and world today. To think this is what the city should be spending the most time and energy on is ludicrous. I caution the city to recognize that high majority of residents that do not think this is important are not as vocal and active saying so as those who have time to spend their days protesting and advocating for the plants and animals.

They have done enough.

They should not allow the selling of products that would pollute lake whatcom and the watershed.

This community has they type of citizens that will take care of that themselves and the City does not need to be spending a bunch of money being trendy

This survey lumps bicycles in with pedestrians and public transit. I think there has been far too much done that focuses only on bikes and not enough on improving bus routes (frequency of pickups should increase for errors out cordata, and the fact that there is no service on holidays/late night for people that work retail or evening Sunday shifts) and making safe places to cross the major streets (I.e. Sunset drive)

Too much emphasis in environmental areas

Too much importance partly because the activists for such are usually students or with limited or narrow education in the wisdom and balancing of env. vs. economic needs of real people.

Too much planning, effort and money is being spent on the waterfront redevelopment project without understanding of how sea level rise will greatly affect that land over the next century. This is a waste of resources. We should be planning how to cap the hazardous waste in the area to withstand higher sea surges and planning a waterfront that is on higher ground.

Treating storm water before it re-enters the enviroment

try to develop a water source father out in the mountains.

Try to regulate the coal and oil train traffic through Bellingham. There will be a catastrophic accident if they are not regulated strictly and limited in number and frequency.

"Unfortunately, the City like other government groups often make environment decisions that negatively impact the environment. A recent example was the City's support of the protests

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

against the pipeline in North Dakota. That pipeline will transport the oil that it currently being sent through Bellingham in railcars. Blocking the pipeline exposes our community to significant safety and environmental risks as seen with the disaster in Quebec.

The Whatcom Lake protection efforts have been miss-managed for decades with millions spent on ""consultants"" but minimal real progress.

The public transit should be optimized to reduce the number of large, mostly empty buses on the road. Perhaps smaller (and maybe natural gas fueled) vehicles would be a better solutions for most routes. Also, there should be cooperation with the school bus system and private industry to reduce the overall fuel consumption and therefore environmental impact.

City should also ban the use of electric heat in new buildings that have natural gas access. Natural gas heating is 95% efficient whereas using electricity from a nationally connected grid results in the electricity being generated from natural gas (or coal) with ~40% efficiency. Therefore using electricity to heat buildings more than doubles the carbon footprint."

Upgrades to the city's recycling program are drastically needed. The three plastic bins are ridiculous - they're too small, people don't sort properly, and they're wide open! The wind and animals frequently strew recyclables and refuse across driveways and yards. This problem could be easily remedied by using large, covered, all-in-one recycling bins (functionally identical to the green city trash cans).

Use electric vehicles for city buses, city vehicles and anywhere else . No need for gas powered vehicles to run around town unless it's for police, fire trucks ,ambulances and any other emergency vehicles.

vigilance regarding coal trains

Voting against the coal and oil train. We also need more trees planted in neighborhoods, they are cutting them but not replanting. This will help with pollution and other things.

'Walking' buses like they have in some other communities. Where educators will provide a safe person to walk with children to school and back home who live within a mile of the school.

Water quality is number 1.

We are doing good stuff but could do more to promote community bike access and alternative transportation

We have done enough! Stop spending so much on so called "green" energy and trying to bankrupt local taxpayers. Stop charging ridiculously high fees for water and sewer. This City government believes that it has ownership rights over my earnings and that I should feel gratitude for being allowed to keep any of it - this does not encourage a productive citizenry.

We need to keep implementing the trail and park system that was brilliantly implemented approximately 20 years ago, by implementing development impact fees and requiring developers to connect to the Citywide trail system. We need to promote the park system so that Bellingham does not become another typical "Vancouver BC" jurisdiction, to prevent developers

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

cutting down all the original wildlands, prevent the obliteration of natural watercourses and landforms.

"We need to make Bellingham a leafblower free zone. Other communities in the country have done it, why not Bellingham? In addition to air pollution they create noise pollution which harms psychological health.

We have ordinances about not washing cars and letting the dirty water go down the storm drains into the bay but we need some education about it because people do it and they get aggressive/defensive when they're reminded it's against the law here.

What can we do about the people who put their dog poop in a plastic bag then leave it on the sidewalk or trail?

+1 for the plastic bag ban and the smoking ban!"

We should be leading in green energy to prepare for global warming like Vermont.

We would love to see bike lanes like those in Vancouver BC, a more extensive biking path system past the I-5 Loop. Ways for pedestrians and bikes to get across I-5 (i.e from Samish Hill and Meridian neighborhoods...)

Well, I can think of several but something that the city did last winter to I suppose use less energy was to use rope lighting to decorate the downtown during the winter holiday rather than the beautiful, traditional giant snowflakes. BRING BACK THE SNOWFLAKES! This won't protect the environment but it sure will bring us all more cheer during this dreary time of year!

Whenever I talk about environment I mean social and cultural environment as well. I am also bothered by the architecture of this mill town. It would serve bellingham to have beautiful architecture.

Why are stinky, foul smelling, choke on the fumes diesel vehicles on the road.

With proper stormwater management (an engineered solution to treat runoff), we do not need to prevent development in the Lake Whatcom watershed. We can support clean water, property rights, and quality of life at the same time. Rain gardens are not a viable solution, buying land is not going to be effective in any meaningful way, and changing laws only increases the cost of housing while reducing enjoyment of property.

"Wood burning education for city residents.

Dealing with animal/(pet) and human waste (homeless people) contaminating local lakes and streams. [i.e public rest rooms/porta-potties in strategic locations].

Encouraging solar panels and electric cars.

Giving tax breaks to local food producers and vendors who carry their products. Taxing heavily environmentally harmful and net negative energy food products like meat, eggs and dairy.

**Q: Are there any other measures you think the City should be taking to protect the environment?**

"work with county to protect our watershed

work with county!"

Work with SSC to offer aseptic container recycling

Working to increase housing density through innovative housing types, not just apartments.  
Help the County prevent sprawl into rural areas.

working with the BSD to ensure that stewardship is a mandatory part of the K12 Curriculum.

Working with the public, and engineers to develop a CAN DO attitude instead of driving away business and JOBS as they are doing now from the Mayor down to the lowest levels of department heads. WITHOUT Jobs, we have no COMMUNITY and thus no HOMES.

Would like to see city ban on styrofoam take-out containers and encourage a program like GO Box.

Yes, get out of the environmental protection business altogether. Enough state and federal involvement already and it's just another make work governmental agency at the city level.

Yes, they need to do something about the dog excrement. It is being left behind by owners. I think that they should increase the licensing fee for dogs so that they can generate enough income to clean up after them.

Yes; Encourage private business and citizens through incentives via paid services (recycling, business tax credits for alternative energy use/installation, etc). In other words, protecting the environment is not the job of government; that is the job of the people to choose, demand, and practice. The role of government is aiding groups in educating public and thereby changing perceptions and behavior. Use the tax dollars elsewhere.

You already do too much which costs the city money. This money could be used for critical infrastructure instead of the "feel good" or "makes me look good" measures.



## Community Safety

The following questions ask respondents to rate their feelings of safety when walking alone in different areas of the community, as well as their level of disaster preparedness.

\*Historical comparisons are difficult to make, because this year the survey only offered four levels of safety as options: *Extremely safe*, *Somewhat safe*, *Not very safe*, and *Not at all safe*. Previous surveys included a fifth option of *Very safe*, which has been included with the *Extremely safe* section in our historical analysis figures. For this reason, each historical analysis shows a lower proportion of respondents feeling *Extremely safe* compared to other years, most likely because those who previously chose *Very safe* would have been divided between *Extremely* and *Somewhat safe* when faced with only four options. For this reason, explanations of historical analysis figures are excluded.

### Daytime Neighborhood Safety

**Q: How safe do you feel walking alone during the day in your neighborhood?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely safe</b>	81.69%	946
<b>Somewhat safe</b>	16.84%	195
<b>Not very safe</b>	1.21%	14
<b>Not at all safe</b>	0.26%	3
<b>Total</b>	100%	1158

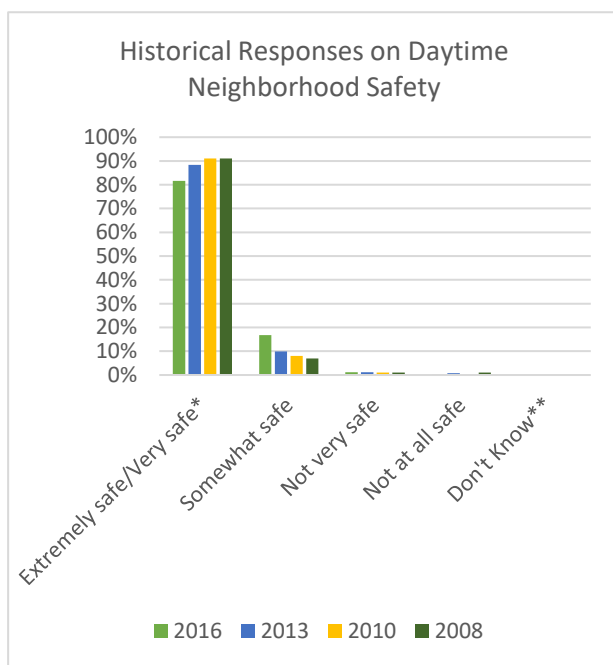
Most (82 percent) respondents feel *Extremely safe* walking alone during the day in their neighborhood. Less than 2 percent of respondents feel unsafe in their neighborhoods during the day (*Not very safe* or *Not safe at all*).

### Neighborhood Influence

Respondents in some neighborhoods feel safer walking alone during the day than respondents in other neighborhoods. Edgemoor, Fairhaven, and Silver Beach neighborhoods feel safer than average during the day. The City Center, King Mountain, and Roosevelt neighborhoods feel less safe than average during the day.

### Demographic Influence

Gender does not affect overall feelings of safety walking alone during the day in neighborhoods. Younger respondents report feeling slightly less safe than average during the day in their neighborhoods. Roughly 71 percent of those age 18-24 and 74 percent of those age 25-29 report feeling *Extremely Safe* (compared to an overall average of 82 percent).



## Nighttime Neighborhood Safety

**Q: How safe do you feel walking alone at night in your neighborhood?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely safe</b>	39.19%	446
<b>Somewhat safe</b>	47.89%	545
<b>Not very safe</b>	9.40%	107
<b>Not at all safe</b>	3.51%	40
<b>Total</b>	100%	1138

Most respondents feel at least *Somewhat safe* (48 percent), if not *Extremely safe* (40 percent) when walking alone at night in their neighborhood. 13 percent feel unsafe alone at night in their neighborhood (*Not very safe* or *Not at all safe*).

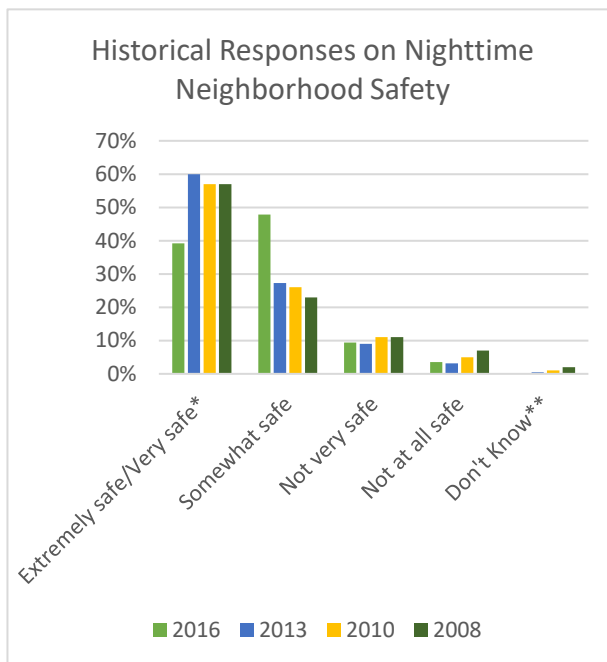
### Neighborhood Influence

Respondents in some neighborhoods feel safer walking alone at night than respondents in other neighborhoods. Edgemoor and South Hill neighborhoods feel safer than average at night. The City Center, Birchwood, Cordata, King Mountain, Roosevelt, and York neighborhoods feel less safe than average at night.

### Demographic Influence

Women feel less safe than men when walking alone in their neighborhoods at night. 50 percent of men report feeling *Extremely safe*, and 7 percent of men feel unsafe (*Not very safe* or *Not safe at all*). Only 30 percent of women feel *Extremely safe* walking alone in their neighborhoods at night, and 18 percent of women feel unsafe (*Not very safe* or *Not safe at all*).

Young respondents (under age 30) feel less safe walking alone in their neighborhoods at night. Of respondents age 18-24, only 24 percent report feeling *Extremely safe*, and 35 percent feel unsafe at night in their neighborhoods (*Not very safe* or *Not safe at all*). Of respondents age 25-29, only 24 percent report feeling *Extremely safe*, and 16 percent feel unsafe at night in their neighborhoods (*Not very safe* or *Not safe at all*).

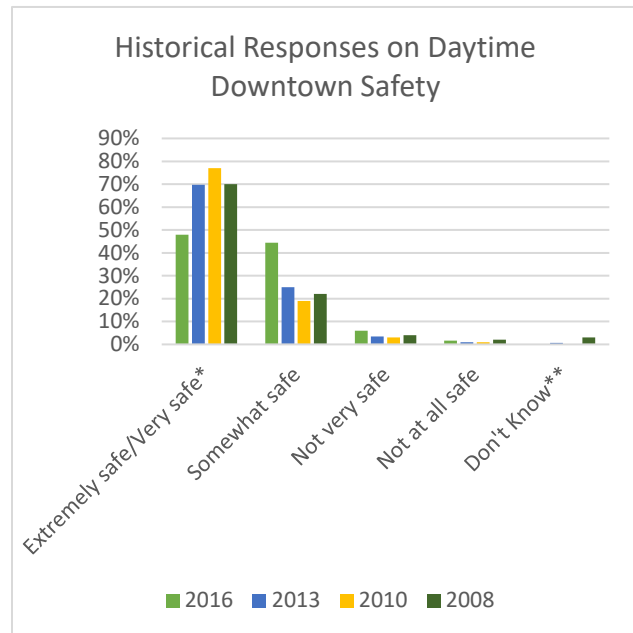


## Daytime Downtown Safety

**Q: How safe do you feel walking alone downtown during the day?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely safe</b>	47.90%	547
<b>Somewhat safe</b>	44.40%	507
<b>Not very safe</b>	6.04%	69
<b>Not at all safe</b>	1.66%	19
<b>Total</b>	100%	1142

Most respondents feel either *Extremely safe* (48 percent) or *Somewhat safe* (44 percent) walking alone downtown during the day. 8 percent of respondents feel unsafe alone downtown during the day (*Not very safe* or *Not at all safe*). Age and gender do not affect general feelings of safety walking alone downtown during the day.



## Nighttime Downtown Safety

**Q: How safe do you feel walking alone downtown at night?**

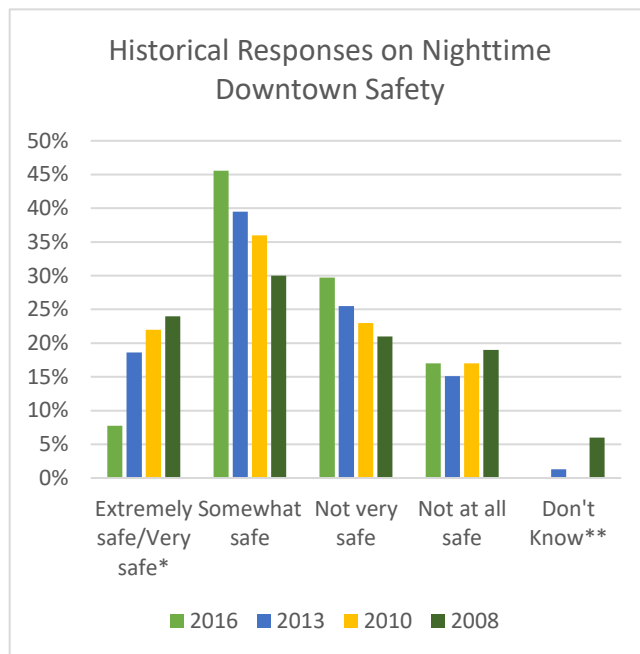
Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Extremely safe</b>	7.73%	85
<b>Somewhat safe</b>	45.55%	501
<b>Not very safe</b>	29.73%	327
<b>Not at all safe</b>	17.00%	187
<b>Total</b>	100%	1100

Only 8 percent of respondents report feeling *Extremely safe* walking alone downtown at night. While 46 percent do feel *Somewhat safe*, 30 percent feel *Not very safe*, and 17 percent feel *Not at all safe* walking alone downtown at night.

### Demographic Influences

Women feel less safe than men when walking alone downtown at night. When walking alone downtown at night, 9 percent of men feel *Extremely safe*, 53 percent feel *Somewhat safe*, 26 percent feel *Not very safe*, and 12 percent feel *Not at all safe*. Concerning women, 6 percent feel *Extremely safe*, 40 percent feel *Somewhat safe*, 33 percent feel *Not very safe*, and 21 percent feel *Not at all safe* when walking alone downtown at night.

Contrary to the safety of neighborhoods at night, young respondents reported feeling safer downtown at night than other respondents. 12 percent of respondents age 18-24, and 16 percent of respondents age 25-29 feel *Extremely safe* when walking downtown at night.

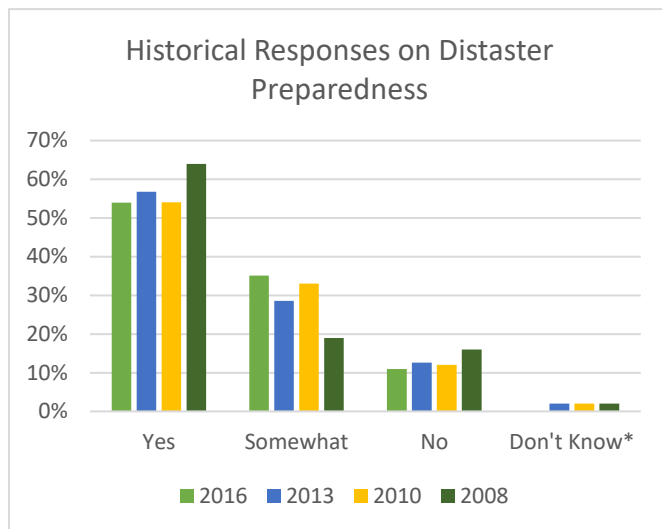


## Disaster Preparedness

**Q: When thinking about your household, would you say you are prepared to sustain yourselves for at least 72 hours after a major disaster?**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Yes</b>	53.92%	619
<b>Somewhat</b>	35.10%	403
<b>No</b>	10.98%	126
<b>Total</b>	100%	1148

The majority of respondents report that they are at least *Somewhat* (35 percent), if not completely (54 percent) prepared to sustain their households for at least 72 hours after a major disaster. 11 percent of respondents don't believe they could sustain their households for 72 hours in a time of crisis.



Since 2008, levels of complete preparedness (*Yes*) and complete unpreparedness (*No*) have decreased, while levels of partial preparedness (*Somewhat*) have increased.

## Demographic Influence

Young residents are less likely to be completely prepared to sustain their households after a major disaster than older residents – only 37 percent of respondents under age 35 are completely prepared (*Yes*), and 20 percent are completely unprepared (*No*).

## Mobility and Connectivity

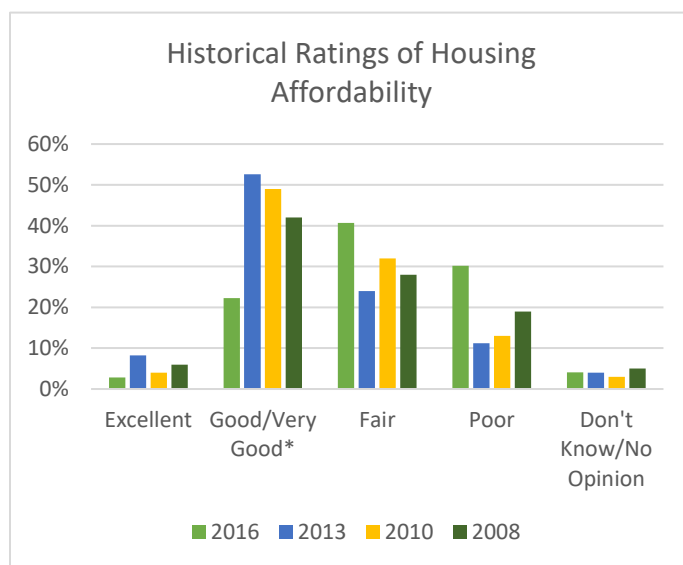
The following questions are designed to get a better picture of the quality of life in Bellingham neighborhoods. Respondents rate each of the following subjects in reference to their own neighborhood. The questions in this section were presented in a randomized order to eliminate possible bias.

\*It should be noted that this year's survey only has four rating options: *Excellent*, *Good*, *Fair*, and *Poor*. Previous surveys have had five options: *Excellent*, *Very good*, *Good*, *Fair*, and *Poor*. Historical analysis combines previous ratings of *Very good* and *Good* into one category. Explanations of historical analysis observe the trends in the total of all positive responses (*Excellent*, *Good*, or *Very good*\*), and the total of all negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*).

## Housing Affordability

**Q: Turning to the quality of life in your own neighborhood, please share your thoughts about how you think your neighborhood is doing in the following category: Housing affordability...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	2.85%	33
<b>Good</b>	22.23%	257
<b>Fair</b>	40.66%	470
<b>Poor</b>	30.19%	349
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	4.07%	47
<b>Total</b>	100%	1156



Only a quarter of respondents (25 percent) give their neighborhoods' housing affordability a positive rating – 3 percent give an *Excellent* rating, and 22 percent give a *Good* rating. 41 percent of respondents rate housing affordability as *Fair*, and more than 30 percent rate it as *Poor*.

This year's responses regarding housing affordability are significantly more negative than previous results. Just in the past few years, positive housing affordability ratings (*Excellent*, *Good*, or *Very good*\*) have decreased from 61 percent (2013) to 25 percent (2016), and negative housing affordability ratings (*Fair* or *Poor*) have increased from 35 percent (2013) to 71 percent (2016). On the surface this appears to be following the trend of housing prices and months inventory available.

## Neighborhood Influence

Respondents from Alabama Hill and Cordata neighborhoods report housing affordability to be much more positive than the City average, while South Hill neighborhood respondents view housing affordability more negatively than the City average.

### State Trends in Housing Affordability

Bellingham is not alone – the decline in housing affordability is reflected throughout the state. In Washington State, median sales price rose to \$331,100 in the Third Quarter of 2016, a 13.2 percent increase from a year before. In Whatcom County, median sales price sits at \$316,900, an 8.5 percent increase from the year before (Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington).

### Park or Trail Distance

**Q: Turning to the quality of life in your own neighborhood, please share your thoughts about how you think your neighborhood is doing in the following category: Walking distance to a park or trail...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	69.58%	803
<b>Good</b>	22.01%	254
<b>Fair</b>	5.11%	59
<b>Poor</b>	2.25%	26
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	1.04%	12
<b>Total</b>	100%	1154

Most respondents (92 percent) rate the walking distance to a park or trail in their neighborhood positively – 70 percent rate park or trail distance as *Excellent*, and 22 percent rate *Good*. Only 7 percent of respondents rated their neighborhood's walking distance to a park or trail negatively (*Fair* or *Poor*).



This is the first year that the survey has asked this question – there are no historical survey results.

### Neighborhood Influence

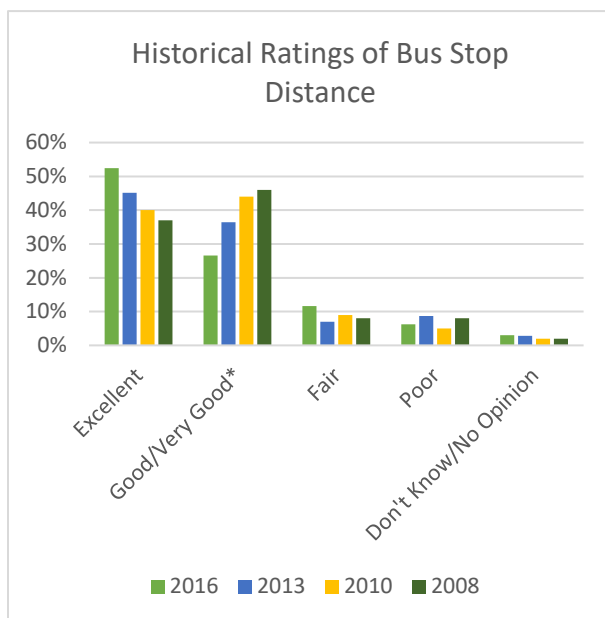
Respondents from Alabama Hill, Barkley, Cornwall Park, and Whatcom Falls neighborhoods report walking distance to a park or trail as more positive than the City average. On the other hand, respondents from Cordata and King Mountain neighborhoods report walking distance to a park or trail as more negative than the City average.

## Bus Stop Distance

**Q: Turning to the quality of life in your own neighborhood, please share your thoughts about how you think your neighborhood is doing in the following category: Walking distance to a bus stop...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	52.46%	607
<b>Good</b>	26.62%	308
<b>Fair</b>	11.67%	135
<b>Poor</b>	6.22%	72
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	3.03%	35
<b>Total</b>	100%	1157

Most respondents (79 percent) rate the walking distance to a bus stop in their neighborhood positively – 52 percent rate bus stop distance as *Excellent*, and 27 percent rate *Good*. 18 percent of respondents rated their neighborhood's walking distance to a bus stop negatively (*Fair* or *Poor*).



Historically, total positive responses (*Excellent*, *Good*, or *Very good\**) and negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*) considering bus stop distance have been relatively stable since 2008.

## Neighborhood Influence

Responses concerning walking distance to a bus stop vary significantly by neighborhood.

Neighborhoods whose responses are more positive than the City average include: Columbia, Cornwall Park, Fairhaven, Happy Valley, Lettered Streets, Sunnyland, and York. Neighborhoods whose responses are more negative than the City average include: Alabama Hill, Barkley, Irongate, King Mountain, Meridian, Silver Beach, and South.

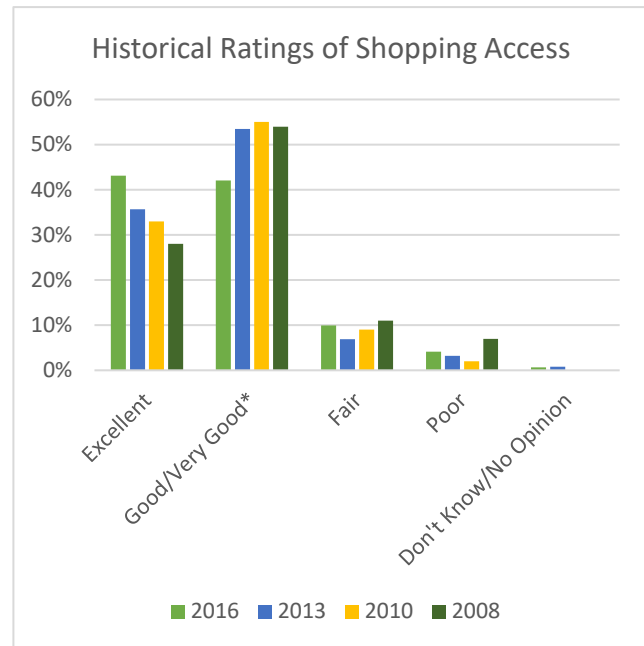


## Shopping Access

**Q: Turning to the quality of life in your own neighborhood, please share your thoughts about how you think your neighborhood is doing in the following category: Access to shopping, or other services**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
Excellent	43.13%	499
Good	42.09%	487
Fair	9.94%	115
Poor	4.15%	48
Don't Know/No Opinion	0.69%	8
Total	100%	1157

Most respondents (85 percent) rate access to shopping or other services in their neighborhood positively – 43 percent rate shopping access as *Excellent*, and 42 percent rate *Good*. 10 percent of respondents rated their shopping access negatively as *Fair*, and 4 percent gave a *Poor* rating.



Historically, total positive responses (*Excellent*, *Good*, or *Very good\**) and negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*) about shopping access have been relatively stable since 2008.

## Neighborhood Influence

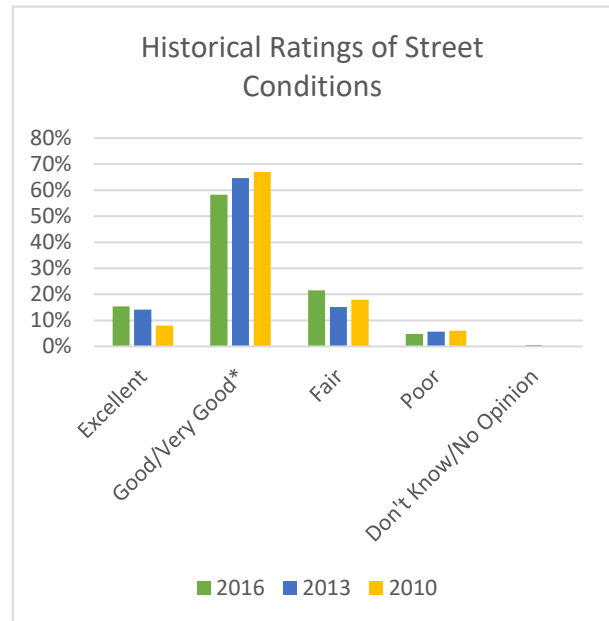
Respondents from Cornwall Park, Meridian, Sunnyland, and York neighborhoods report access to shopping or other services as more positive than the City average. On the other hand, respondents from Birchwood and Samish neighborhoods report access to shopping or other services as more negative than the City average.

## Street Conditions

**Q: Turning to the quality of life in your own neighborhood, please share your thoughts about how you think your neighborhood is doing in the following category: Physical condition of streets...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	15.42%	178
<b>Good</b>	58.23%	672
<b>Fair</b>	21.49%	248
<b>Poor</b>	4.77%	55
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	0.09%	1
<b>Total</b>	100%	1154

Only 15 percent of respondents think the physical condition of the streets in their neighborhood is *Excellent*. Most respondents (58 percent) rate street conditions as *Good*, and 21 percent rate street conditions as only *Fair*. Almost 5 percent of respondents rate their neighborhood street conditions as *Poor*.



Historically, total positive responses (*Excellent*, *Good*, or *Very good\**) and negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*) considering street conditions have been relatively stable since 2010. The 2008 survey did not include this question.

## Neighborhood Influence

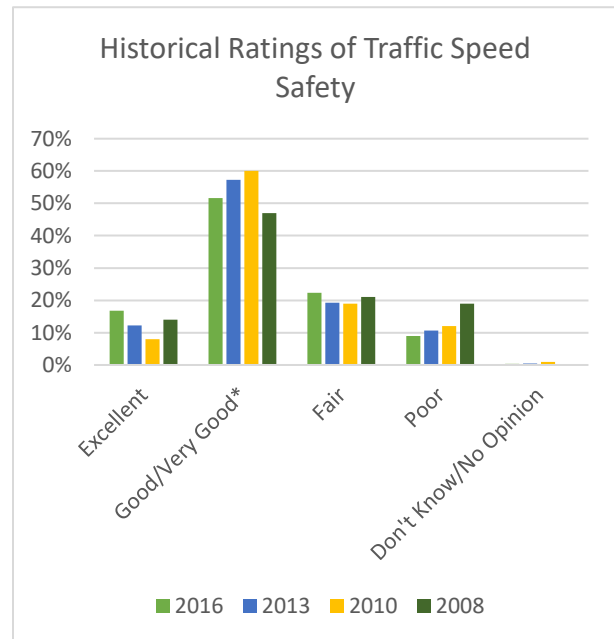
Respondents from Barkley, Cordata, and Meridian neighborhoods rate street conditions as slightly more positive than the City average. Respondents from Birchwood, King Mountain, Sehome, and South neighborhoods rate street conditions as slightly more negative than the City average.

## Traffic Speed Safety

**Q: Turning to the quality of life in your own neighborhood, please share your thoughts about how you think your neighborhood is doing in the following category: Safety of traffic speed...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	16.80%	194
<b>Good</b>	51.60%	596
<b>Fair</b>	22.34%	258
<b>Poor</b>	8.92%	103
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	0.35%	4
<b>Total</b>	100%	1155

Only 17 percent of respondents rate the safety of traffic speed in their neighborhood as *Excellent*. Most respondents (52 percent) rate traffic speed as *Good*, and 22 percent rate traffic speed as only *Fair*. Around 9 percent of respondents rate the safety of traffic speed in their neighborhood as *Poor*.



Historically, positive ratings (*Excellent*, *Good*, or *Very good\**) of traffic speed safety have been steadily increasing from 61 percent (2008) to 69 percent (2016). Negative ratings (*Fair* or *Poor*) have decreased from 40 percent (2008) to 31 percent (2016)

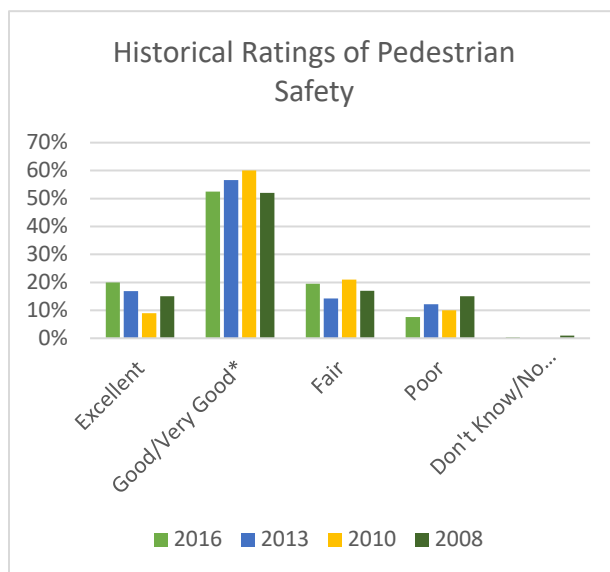
## Neighborhood Influence

Respondents from the Inrgate neighborhood report that the safety of traffic speed in their neighborhood as more positive than the City average, while respondents from Samish and South neighborhoods report that the safety of traffic speed in their neighborhood is more negative than the City average.

## Pedestrian Safety

**Q: Turning to the quality of life in your own neighborhood, please share your thoughts about how you think your neighborhood is doing in the following category: Safety of pedestrians...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	19.98%	231
<b>Good</b>	52.51%	607
<b>Fair</b>	19.55%	226
<b>Poor</b>	7.61%	88
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	0.35%	4
<b>Total</b>	100%	1156



20 percent of respondents rate the safety of pedestrians in their neighborhood as *Excellent*, and 53 percent rate pedestrian safety as *Good*. 20 percent rate pedestrian safety as only *Fair*, and almost 8 percent give their neighborhood a rating of *Poor*.

Historically, positive ratings (*Excellent*, *Good*, or *Very good\**) of pedestrian safety have been steadily increasing – from 67 percent (2008) to 73 percent (2016). Negative ratings (*Fair* or *Poor*) have decreased from 32 percent (2008) to 28 percent (2016).

## Neighborhood Influence

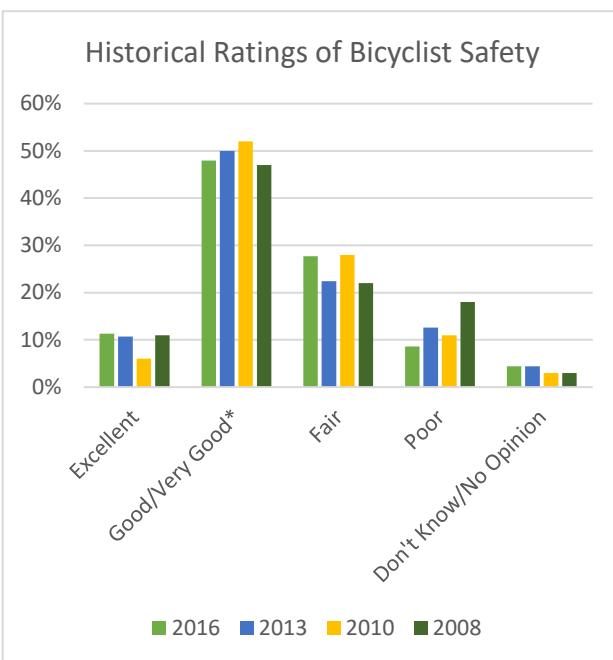
Respondents from Barkley, Columbia, Cordata, and Lettered Streets neighborhoods report that pedestrian safety is more positive than the City average. Respondents from Birchwood, King Mountain, Sehome, and South neighborhoods report that pedestrian safety is more negative than the City average.

## Bicyclist Safety

**Q: Turning to the quality of life in your own neighborhood, please share your thoughts about how you think your neighborhood is doing in the following category: Safety of bicyclists...**

Answer	2016 Results	Count
<b>Excellent</b>	11.34%	131
<b>Good</b>	47.97%	554
<b>Fair</b>	27.71%	320
<b>Poor</b>	8.57%	99
<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>	4.42%	51
<b>Total</b>	100%	1155

Only 11 percent of respondents rate the safety of bicyclists in their neighborhood as *Excellent*. Many give a moderate rating for neighborhood bicyclist safety – 48 percent rate bike safety as *Good*, and 28 percent rate bike safety as only *Fair*. Almost 9 percent of respondents rate the safety of bicyclists in their neighborhood as *Poor*.



Historically, total positive responses (*Excellent*, *Good*, or *Very good\**) and negative responses (*Fair* or *Poor*) about bicyclist safety have been relatively stable since 2008.

## Neighborhood Influence

Respondents from Lettered Streets and Sunnyland neighborhoods report that bicyclist safety is more positive than the City average. Respondents from City Center, Irongate, King Mountain, Puget, and Samish neighborhoods report that bicyclist safety is more negative than the City average.