



Woonsocket Comprehensive Plan 2022-2042

*Public Survey
Summary of Results*

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Timeline & Purpose of Surveys

The City of Woonsocket provided a kickoff survey and two policy surveys over the course of the fall of 2021 through the summer of 2022 to gather information from as many residents as possible about their priorities, goals, and experiences in Woonsocket. Why was it important to hear from so many Woonsocket residents? All responses together tell a story about what Woonsocket is like today and what it should be like in the future. The City is going to take this story and use it to shape the Woonsocket Comprehensive Plan: 2022-2042. This Plan will be built on what YOU had to say.

Survey Topics & Common Themes

Many common themes emerged from the ideas and issues that were provided on the surveys. The following pages contain brief summaries of the most common themes broken down by subject matter. Responses provided to open-ended questions are detailed in the Appendix.

Kickoff Survey

This survey was offered in English and Spanish, online and in hard copy, from late fall 2021 until March 2022. In total, over 100 people responded. The same questions were also discussed at the public workshop held at the Woonsocket Public Library on March 24, 2022.

When survey respondents were asked, “What is the one thing about Woonsocket you most want to change? ¿Cuál es la cosa de Woonsocket que más le gustaría cambiar?” the following trends emerged:

- Many respondents advocated for the addition of more stores, restaurants, grocery stores, and businesses to Woonsocket. Several of these respondents indicated that Main Street and Diamond Hill Road would be ideal candidates for the additions of these businesses.
- Many respondents expressed support for renovating and reusing currently vacant buildings. Some respondents suggested using these spaces for housing, while others suggested using them for businesses or artist workspaces.
- Many respondents stated that improved social services are needed in Woonsocket. Several of these respondents suggested that access to more childcare support and drug addiction support services would be beneficial.
- Many respondents stated that they had concerns regarding crime and safety in Woonsocket.
- Many respondents indicated that they would like to see improvements made with local government, both in terms of engagement with diverse populations in the City and in terms of responsiveness to policy issues such as housing and homelessness.
- Several respondents indicated that they would like to improve the City’s reputation.
- Some respondents stated that they would like to see improvements to the condition of the City streets as well as the condition of the public schools.
- Several respondents expressed support for the creation of more gathering places for youth, including youth centers and skate parks.
- Some respondents stated they had concerns about the smell from the wastewater treatment plant facility.



Policy Survey #1

Participants at the public workshop held at the Woonsocket Public Library on March 24, 2022 were asked the questions below. The questions were then posted online from March through June as part of a “Virtual Public Workshop” where anyone unable to attend the workshop could review the presentation and background materials and answer the questions asked at the workshop. Unfortunately, there were only 18 respondents to the online survey. Below is a summary of the most common responses, but it should be noted that there were not enough responses for these to be representative of Woonsocket residents as a whole.

Land Use

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to land use?” the following trends emerged:

- A significant number of respondents emphasized that the City should prioritize the redevelopment or removal of blighted buildings.
- Several respondents expressed support for the focused redevelopment of Woonsocket’s downtown and particularly Main Street.
- Several respondents expressed support for more or better parks in Woonsocket.
- In addition, several respondents indicated that the City should prioritize protecting undeveloped land and developing in areas that are already built out.

Economic Development

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to economic development?” the following trends emerged:

- A significant number of respondents expressed support for the development of entertainment options in Woonsocket that would appeal to youth. Popular examples included roller skating rinks, malls, and movie theaters.
- A significant number of respondents emphasized the City should prioritize adding a grocery store that is centrally located.
- Several respondents identified job creation as a priority, providing examples of manufacturing, trades, and technology industries as potential sectors to invest in for job creation.

Housing

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to housing?” the following trends emerged:

- A significant number of respondents indicated that housing was not affordable in Woonsocket in terms of both renting and purchasing homes.
- Several respondents emphasized that tax rates were unreasonably high in Woonsocket.
- Some respondents stated they would like to see the development of housing options that would support the middle class.

Transportation

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to transportation?” the following trends emerged:

- The majority of respondents expressed support for increased investments in sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure (protected bike lanes, bike paths, etc.) to encourage alternative forms of transportation besides cars.
- Some of these respondents indicated that these investments should be made in tandem.

Services & Facilities

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to services and facilities?” the following trends emerged:

- The majority of respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied with the state of the public schools in terms of facilities and staff.
- Several respondents expressed support for the public libraries and want to see building upgrades and additional library programming.
- Several respondents emphasized their support for police and fire services, but some respondents indicated that they seemed overwhelmed by the demands in Woonsocket.

Social Services & Public Health

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to social services and public health?” the following trends emerged:

- Several respondents indicated that they had access to good healthcare services.
- A few respondents emphasized that their main social services and public health concern was the number of homeless individuals in Woonsocket who are in need of support that may not be available to them currently.
- Some respondents indicated that they had difficulty accessing healthcare services in Woonsocket.

Natural Resources

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to natural resources?” the following trends emerged:

- A majority of respondents indicated that they did not believe that there were enough natural resources in their neighborhood, with several respondents suggesting that additional plants, flowers, and trees would be welcome additions.
- Some respondents indicated that they did have sufficient natural resources in their neighborhood.
- Many respondents emphasized that litter was one of their primary natural resource concerns.
- Relatedly, several respondents expressed concerns about the status of the Blackstone River, with a few respondents suggesting that litter and nutrient pollution from stormwater and other sources should be reduced as much as possible.
- A few respondents suggested that Woonsocket should redevelop the areas near the River to make the waterway more of a focal point, increasing recreation along the riverbanks and encouraging residents to use the resource.

Historic & Cultural Resources

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to historic and cultural resources?” the following trends emerged:

- Several respondents supported the redevelopment and renovation of historic buildings in Woonsocket. Some of these respondents suggested that the City should use funds from property taxes in addition to support from outside investors to finance these improvements.
- A few of the respondents provided specific suggestions for historic buildings that were in need of renovation support, in particular the Mill Office on Hamlet Street and the old middle school.
- A few of the respondents emphasized that rather than focusing on preservation of older buildings, the City should explore opportunities to develop new more modern infrastructure that would support investments in surrounding neighborhoods.

Parks & Recreation

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to parks and recreation?” the following trends emerged:

- A majority of respondents emphasized that there were not enough parks currently in Woonsocket.
- In addition, several of these respondents indicated that park maintenance needed to be improved and that cleanliness of the parks and safety were priority concerns.
- A few of the respondents expressed support for the City’s efforts to upgrade Cass Park.

Energy

When survey respondents were asked, “What is your top issue related to energy?” the following trends emerged:

- Many respondents expressed support for the addition of solar panels in Woonsocket, including for residential, municipal, commercial, and industrial buildings.
- Some respondents indicated that they had cost concerns about the transition to renewable energy in Woonsocket.
- A few respondents indicated that it would be beneficial for the City to install more LEDs for streetlights, in addition to transitioning streetlights to solar power where possible.

Policy Survey #2

This survey was open from June through September 2022. There was a total of 260 responses, 252 in English and 8 in Spanish. The majority of surveys were completed online, and a small portion were completed in person (hard copies). Most questions asked respondents to rate policy statements in terms of level of importance. In this summary, the most common response for each policy is listed. Each topic also allowed respondents to provide open-ended comments. The most common open-ended responses are summarized at the end of each section.

Economic Development

When survey respondents were asked, “In what ways do you feel the City should focus to improve Economic Development?” the following trends emerged:

- 64% of respondents indicated that attracting new businesses was “Very Important.”
- 68% of respondents indicated that supporting existing small businesses was “Very Important.”
- 31% of respondents indicated that promoting Woonsocket as a tourism destination was “Very Important.”
- 46% of respondents indicated that promoting economic development on Main Street was “Very Important.”
- 39% of respondents indicated that coordinating with neighboring cities and towns on economic development initiatives was “Important.”
- 41% of respondents indicated that encouraging industrial and manufacturing-related industries to locate in Woonsocket was “Very Important.”
- 28% of respondents indicated that using public funds to support business centers (like Highland Park) was “Somewhat Important.”
- 44% of respondents indicated that using public funds to convert old mill buildings for new businesses and/or mixed use was “Very Important.”
- 54% of respondents indicated that supporting job training programs and educational opportunities for residents was “Very Important.”

Open-ended responses to this topic included the following:

- Several respondents suggested that the City should hire a staff person or team of staff to specifically focus on supporting economic development in Woonsocket.
- Several respondents suggested that the City should become more business friendly by offering incentives for businesses to come to the City (e.g., tax breaks).
- Several respondents expressed support for redeveloping vacant lots and buildings for new purposes, including for housing and small businesses.
- Several respondents recommended that the City prioritize improving Main Street and Diamond Hill Road to attract new businesses and visitors to the City.
- A few respondents suggested that the City should prioritize improving education in the community to build a more attractive community for businesses and residents.

Housing

When survey respondents were asked, “In what ways do you feel the City should focus to improve Housing?” the following trends emerged:

- 39% of respondents indicated that preserving existing housing stock through revitalization programs was “Very Important.”
- 36% of respondents indicated that encouraging the development of subsidized affordable homes was “Very Important.”
- 36% of respondents indicated that encouraging the development of smaller market-rate (non-subsidized) homes (e.g., cottages, townhouses, etc.) was “Very Important.”
- 28% of respondents indicated that encouraging the development of higher-end housing was “Important.”
- 29% of respondents indicated that increasing the housing options for seniors was “Very Important.”
- 44% of respondents indicated that encouraging the conversion of former mill buildings to residential use was “Very Important.”

Open-ended responses to this topic included the following:

- Several respondents suggested that the City has ample subsidized housing and that more small, single-family homes are needed.
- Several respondents recommended that the City consider prioritizing more higher-end homes to build a wealthier tax base for the community.
- Several respondents indicated that shelters are needed to accommodate individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
- Several respondents expressed concerns regarding high rents and recommended that the City consider measures such as rent control or rent assistance.
- A few respondents indicated that more affordable housing is needed in Woonsocket.

Natural Resources & Energy

When survey respondents were asked, “In what ways do you feel the City should focus to improve Natural Resources & Energy?” the following trends emerged:

- 71% of respondents indicated that protecting and improving the water quality of the Blackstone River and its tributaries was “Very Important.”
- 56% of respondents indicated that better maintenance and protection of conservation areas (forests, fields, etc.) was “Very Important.”
- 39% of respondents indicated that pursuing additional land to be preserved as open space for conservation purposes was “Very Important.”
- 42% of respondents indicated that planting and better maintaining street trees throughout the City was “Very Important.”
- 57% of respondents indicated that investing in the environmental cleanup of old industrial properties and “brownfields” was “Very Important.”
- 46% of respondents indicated that increasing opportunities for residents/businesses to reduce trash going to the landfill (recycling, composting, reusing etc.) was “Very Important.”
- 41% of respondents indicated that protecting neighborhoods, businesses, and infrastructure from flooding, storms, and other natural hazards was “Very Important.”
- 43% of respondents indicated that investing in more energy efficient municipal facilities and vehicles and connecting the public with energy efficiency resources was “Very Important.”

- 44% of respondents indicated that investing in more renewable energy for municipal facilities and vehicles and connecting the public with renewable energy resources was “Very Important.”

Open-ended responses to this topic included the following:

- Several residents recommended that the City should prioritize improving the water quality of the Blackstone River.
- Several residents expressed support for increased trash and recycling programs in the City.
- Several residents suggested that the City should prioritize initiatives to expand access to solar in Woonsocket.
- A few residents expressed concerns about discharges from the wastewater treatment plant into the Blackstone River.

Historic & Cultural Resources

When survey respondents were asked, “In what ways do you feel the City should focus to improve Historic & Cultural Resources?” the following trends emerged:

- 38% of respondents indicated that preserving and protecting culturally and historically significant structures was “Very Important.”
- 33% of respondents indicated that creating a Historic Commission to regulate the use and appearance of historic structures was “Somewhat Important.”
- 33% of respondents indicated that creating voluntary design guidelines for owners of historic properties was “Somewhat Important.”
- 36% of respondents indicated that promoting Woonsocket’s identity as a Blackstone Valley community was “Very Important.”
- 32% of respondents indicated that promoting cooperation and coordination with other Blackstone Valley communities was “Very Important.”
- 46% of respondents indicated that supporting and promoting cultural and arts events and programs was “Very Important.”

Open-ended responses to this topic included the following:

- Several residents expressed support for efforts to restore and maintain historical buildings in the City.
- Several residents recommended that the City host more cultural events to embrace the diversity of residents.
- Several residents suggested that the City offer additional diverse arts opportunities for the community.

Social Services & Public Health

When survey respondents were asked, “In what ways do you feel the City should focus to improve Social Services & Public Health?” the following trends emerged:

- 40% of respondents indicated that attracting better health and medical facilities to the City was “Very Important.”
- 67% of respondents indicated that attracting more grocery stores and other sources of fresh and health foods to the City was “Very Important.”

- 48% of respondents indicated that connecting residents with mental health support services was “Very Important.”
- 43% of respondents indicated that connecting residents with addiction support services was “Very Important.”
- 50% of respondents indicated that expanding health/wellness and social services for seniors was “Very Important.”
- 55% of respondents indicated that expanding health/wellness and social services for veterans was “Very Important.”

Open-ended responses to this topic included the following:

- Several residents stated that the City has ample support services currently and the City should focus on maintaining the quality of existing services, rather than adding new services.
- Several residents expressed concerns regarding homelessness in the community and indicated that the City should prioritize solutions to address this problem.
- Several residents emphasized that Woonsocket needs a grocery store that is easily accessible to all residents.

Transportation & Circulation

When survey respondents were asked, “In what ways should the City focus to improve Transportation & Circulation?” the following trends emerged:

- 55% of respondents indicated that roadway condition was “Very Important.”
- 37% of respondents indicated that traffic signals/traffic circulation was “Very Important.”
- 45% of respondents indicated that transit service (buses, trains etc.) was “Very Important.”
- 31% of respondents indicated that wayfinding signage was “Important.”
- 48% of respondents indicated that sidewalk condition was “Very Important.”
- 52% of respondents indicated that crosswalks/pedestrian signals were “Very Important.”
- 34% of respondents indicated that bike facilities were “Very Important.”
- 36% of respondents indicated that downtown parking was “Very Important.”

When survey respondents were asked, “What would make it easier for you to access Downtown Woonsocket?” the top responses for this question included:

- Clear/easy to find parking (55% of respondents)
- Placemaking/improved public spaces (42% of respondents)
- Improved/more sidewalks (41% of respondents)
- Improved bus stops with more amenities (35% of respondents)
- Better lighting (33% of respondents)

When survey respondents were asked, “How would you prefer to get around Woonsocket for daily trips such as work, school, shopping, etc. if improvements were made?” the responses for this question included:

- I would not change how I currently get around (51% of respondents)
- Walk: if sidewalk and crossing conditions were improved (36% of respondents)
- Transit: if bus stops and service were improved (27% of respondents)
- Bike: if bike lanes and paths were improved (21% of respondents)

When survey respondents were asked, “What improvements would make you more likely to use the RIPTA bus service?” the responses for this question included:

- I am unlikely to use RIPTA regardless (60% of respondents)
- More routes/different route connections (36% of respondents)
- Expanded service hours/frequency (29% of respondents)
- Accessible bus stops with more amenities (22% of respondents)

When survey respondents were asked, “Would you be supportive of returning commuter rail service to Woonsocket?” the responses for this question included:

- Yes (83% of respondents)
- Unsure (13% of respondents)
- No (4% of respondents)

Respondents were then asked, “If you answered “Yes” to the question above, which connection(s) would you prioritize?” and responses included the following:

- Providence (80% of respondents)
- Green Airport (55% of respondents)
- Worcester (35% of respondents)

Open-ended responses to this topic included the following:

- Several respondents expressed concerns regarding pedestrian and bike safety and urged the City to adopt measures to protect both pedestrians and bicyclists. A few of these respondents emphasized concerns with speeding in particular.
- Several respondents stated their support for a rail service option to Boston and Providence.
- Several respondents emphasized a need for more bus routes in the City.

Parks & Recreation

When survey respondents were asked, “How important are the following items regarding the City's Parks & Recreation?” the following trends emerged:

- 47% of respondents indicated that increasing regular maintenance and upkeep of existing equipment, amenities, etc. was “Very Important.”
- 34% of respondents indicated that adding new equipment, amenities, etc. to existing parks and recreational areas was “Very Important.”
- 29% of respondents indicated that developing new parks and recreational areas was “Very Important.”
- 48% of respondents indicated that improving the safety and accessibility of parks and recreational areas was “Very Important.”
- 46% of respondents indicated that expanding recreational opportunities in natural areas and rivers like walking trails, bike paths, piers, canoe launches, scenic overlooks etc. was “Very Important.”
- 35% of respondents indicated that expanding opportunities for indoor recreational activities and programming was “Very Important.”

- 41% of respondents indicated that increasing organized programming and activities for children was “Very Important.”
- 46% of respondents indicated that increasing organized programming and activities for teens and young adults was “Very Important.”
- 33% of respondents indicated that increasing organized programming and activities for adults was “Very Important.”
- 40% of respondents indicated that increasing organized programming and activities for seniors was “Very Important.”

When survey respondents were asked, “What limits your usage of Woonsocket parks and recreation areas?” the top responses for this question included:

- I don’t feel safe in these areas (39% of respondents)
- I lack time (25% of respondents)
- It is unsafe to walk or bike to get there (24% of respondents)
- I’m unsure where these sites are located (16% of respondents)
- Sites are too far from my home (16% of respondents)

Open-ended responses to this topic included the following:

- Many respondents expressed concerns about the safety and maintenance/upkeep of Woonsocket’s parks. A few of these respondents recommended additional police patrols of the parks, security cameras, and better lighting.
- Several respondents expressed support for improving access along the Blackstone River.
- A few respondents stated that the City should prioritize connecting bike paths in Woonsocket.

Services & Facilities

When survey respondents were asked, “How important are the following items regarding the City’s Services & Facilities?” the following trends emerged:

- 68% of respondents indicated that investing in programs to improve public school student academic performance was “Very Important.”
- 70% of respondents indicated that supporting programs and policies to decrease the high school dropout rate was “Very Important.”
- 49% of respondents indicated that investing in programs to expand continuing education programs for adults was “Very Important.”
- 49% of respondents indicated that achieving City-wide handicapped accessibility was “Very Important.”
- 48% of respondents indicated that improving access to information on City programs, services, and government (generally) was “Very Important.”
- 37% of respondents indicated that improving access to information on City programs, services, and government for non-English speakers was “Very Important.”
- 42% of respondents indicated that improving access to information on City programs, services, and government for people with disabilities (e.g., hearing or vision impaired).

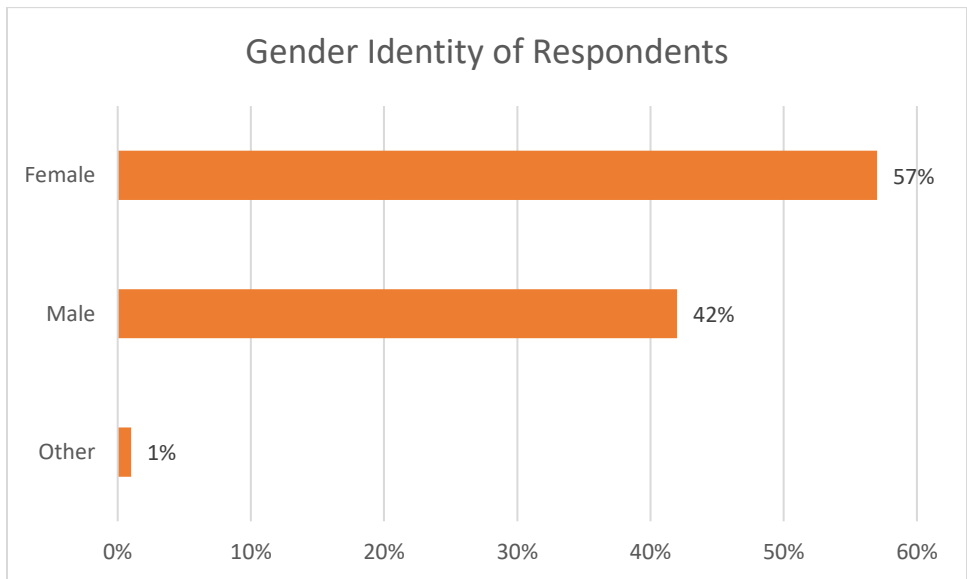
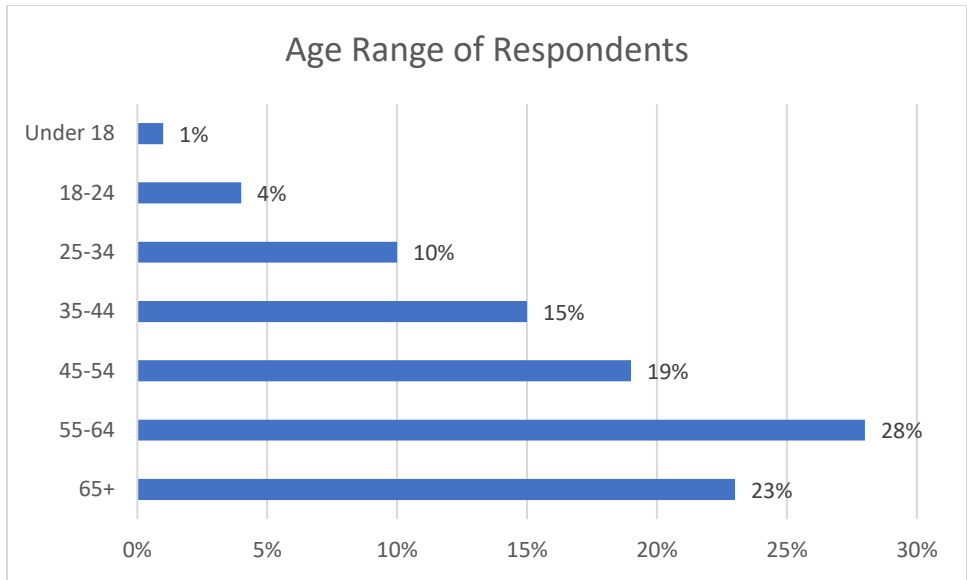
When survey respondents were asked, “How satisfied are you overall with existing Services & Facilities in the City?” the following trends emerged:

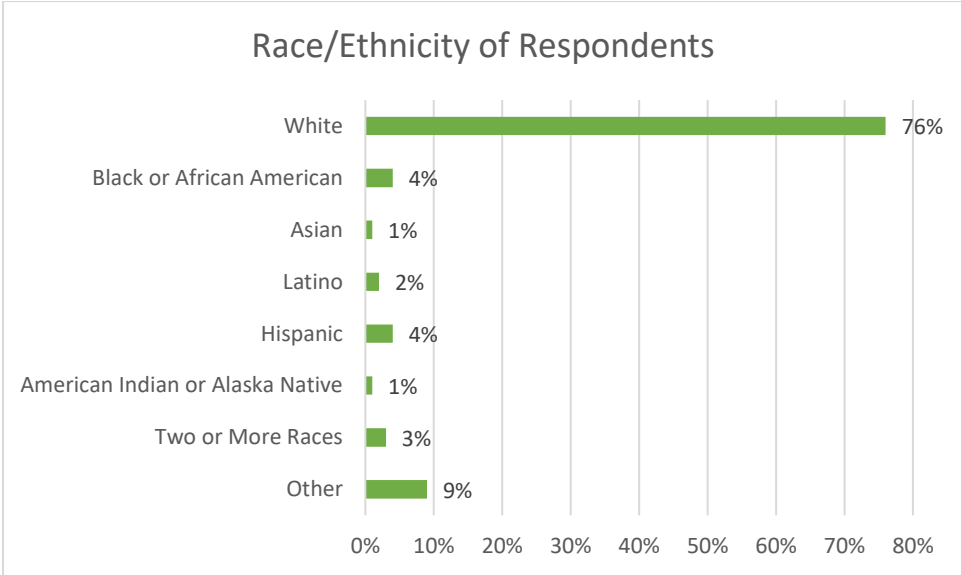
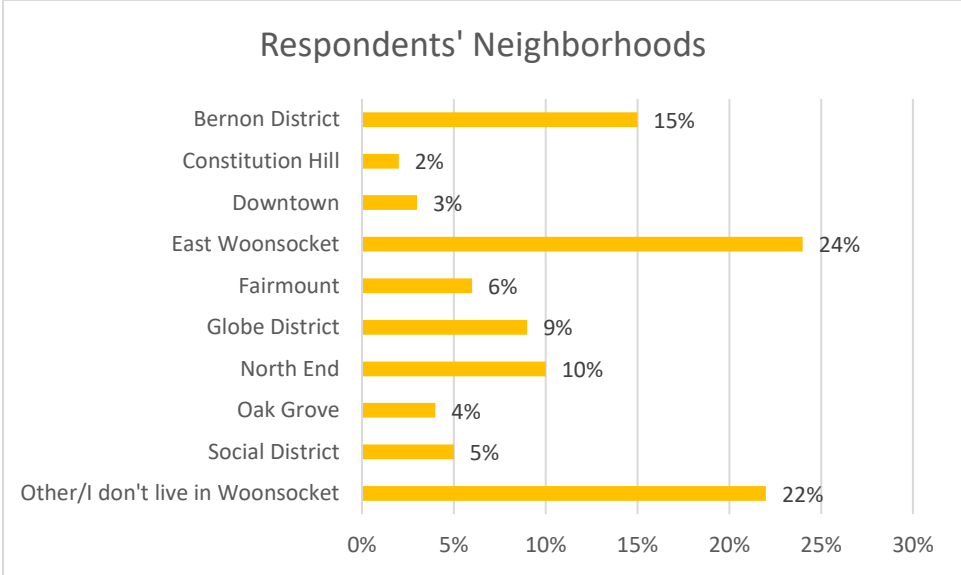
- 48% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with ambulance/emergency medical services.
- 42% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with Fire Department response time.
- 41% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with Police Department response time.
- 44% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with traffic law enforcement.
- 32% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with crime prevention programs.
- 54% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with trash and recycling collection.
- 36% of respondents indicated that they were “Unsatisfied” with repair and maintenance of roads.
- 46% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with plowing of roads.
- 53% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with adequacy of street lighting.
- 45% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with library services.
- 42% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with recreation programs/activities.
- 40% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with the effectiveness of animal control services.
- 37% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with services for seniors.
- 28% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with services for veterans.
- 36% of respondents indicated that they were “Unsatisfied” with the quality of education in public schools.
- 43% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with sewer/wastewater services.
- 38% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with drinking water services (taste, reliability, etc.)
- 40% of respondents indicated that they were “Satisfied” with public information/communication.

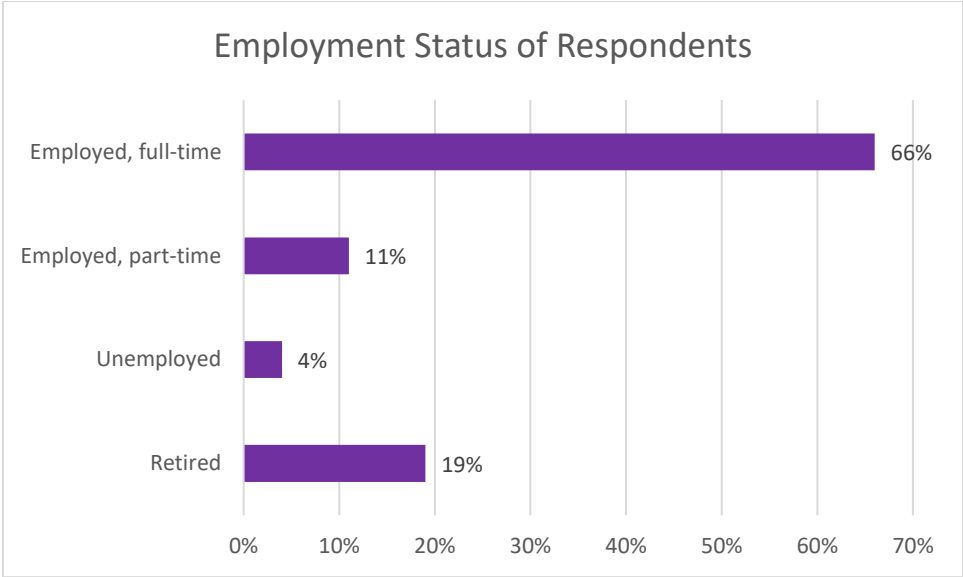
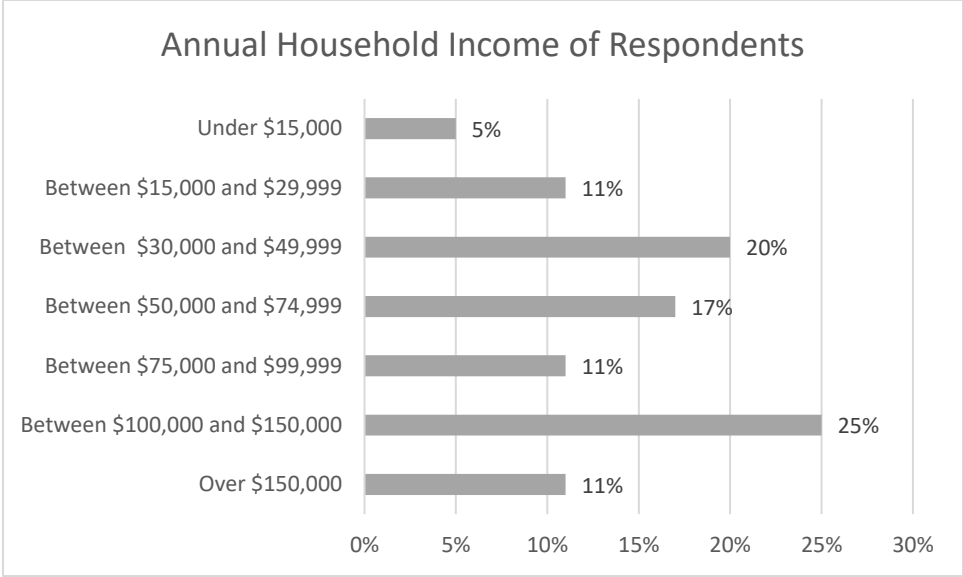
Open-ended responses to this topic included the following:

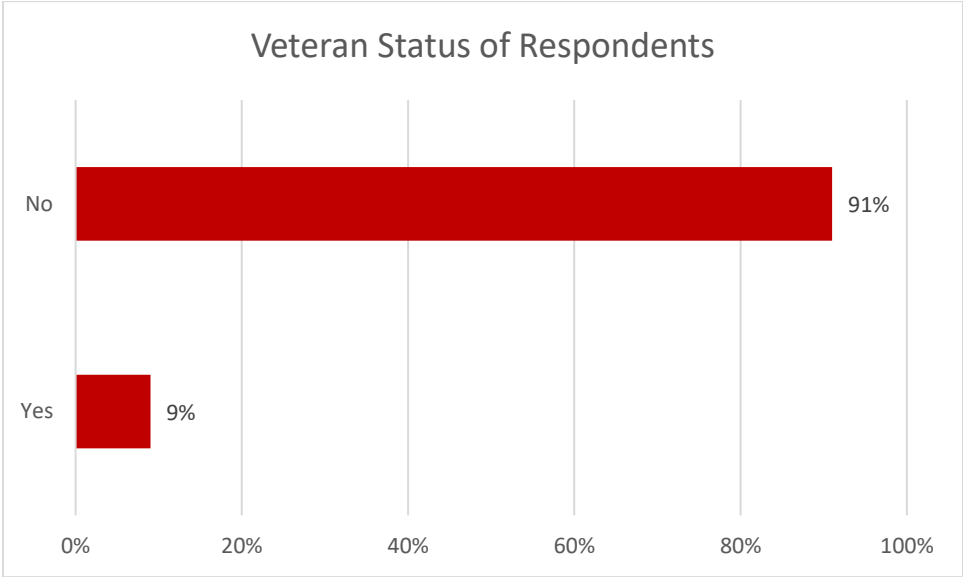
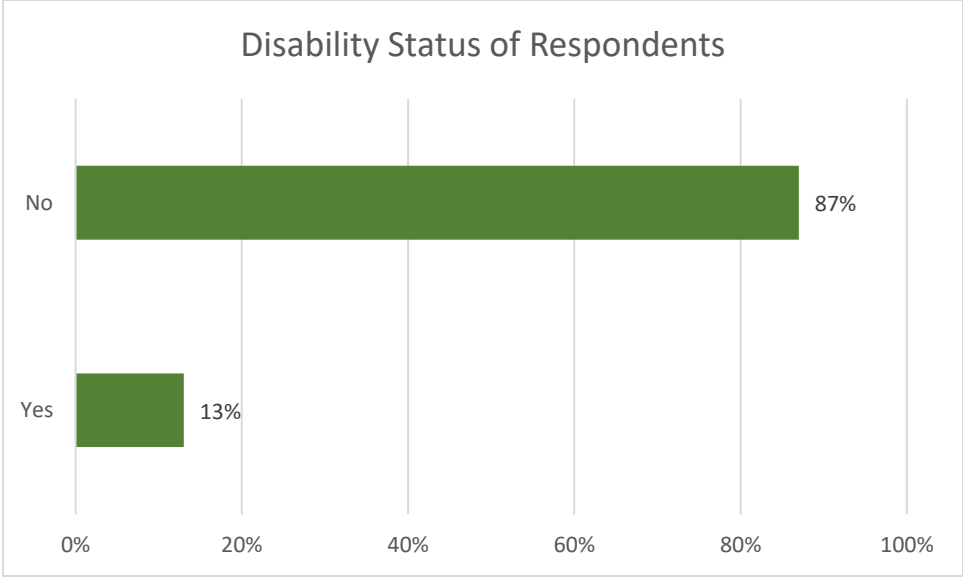
- Several residents expressed concerns regarding the quality of the drinking water in the City.
- Several residents recommended that the City explore initiatives to improve the wastewater treatment plant.
- Several residents indicated that they had concerns with the quality of the schools and education system in Woonsocket.
- A few residents indicated that communications between the City and residents could be improved, including through building a stronger social media and website presence.

The following graphics summarize the demographics of survey respondents. It should be noted that the average respondent was more likely to be 55+, white, and female. People of color and people under the age of 35 were underrepresented.









Appendix

The following sections include comments received to open-ended questions of the surveys. Responses are unedited and presented as they were provided.

Kickoff Survey

What is the one thing you love best about Woonsocket? Qué es lo que más le gusta de Woonsocket?

- The diversity of its people
- The parks
- The resources and nonprofit
- cost of living is low & location to the blackstone river
- The historical buildings downtown
- The history of our city
- Culture
- It is a close knit community.
- The beautiful buildings, well what once was. Main Street has great character but not when you see falling down building and dollar trees.
- Small town atmosphere, great sense of Community
- Being able to walk around my neighborhood and talk to everyone
- Stadium theaterplay more movies
- The diverse population.
- ITS POTENTIAL!
- The history of the city.
- Low cost of living. Taxes being low means I can enjoy spending money on fun things. Taxes going up is not a bad thing as long as it goes towards city improvements. For everyone.
- gente amable, ciudad limpia,
- Culture. My roots are here. The current hate culture has put me on a five year plan to move out of the city.
- The improvement of some of the parks in the city.
- The history of French culture and the presence of many different backgrounds in the city.
- Location to get anywhere easily
- I love the architecture and the form of the city. Excellent walkable and diverse streetscape.
- History
- The people of Woonsocket are very friendly and have desire to revitalize the City they love.
- The restaurants and shops
- Born and raised here. City is very conveniently located between Boston and Providence and everything in between. Easy to get around and nothing is too far away.
- The people! I have lived all over the eastern half of this country, and I think the best, friendliest and most helpful people live in this city.
- The diversity.
- It's a city ripe for change
- Autumn Fest/Great Restaurants
- My home town
- The architectural quality of the buildings on Main Street.
- There is significant diversity among the people of Woonsocket
- Natural spaces

- How central it is to all the locations that i frequent personally and for business
- Main Street is a huge asset for our community. It tells the history of our City and we should prioritize the revitalization of our beautiful historic building. I also love the Blackstone River which should be a focal point to economic development.
- It's history and culture
- I like that there are so many options for community involvement. I like that leaders in this city are always searching for ways to improve life for its citizens.
- Nothing
- The history and architecture.
- My job at WHSCDA.ORG
- The local parks
- The coordination of services for families.
- small city- lots of community partnerships
- It's history.
- The diversity
- Is quit place
- Is a quiet place
- There are incredibly nice parks in this town!
- The way the community is so eager to help one another
- Nothing because as we see everything has change , stores have close or moved to another town
- I love all the resources that woonsocket has to offer.
- Diversity
- People and the community
- Convenience. Comfort of my home town. The history.
- The Old buildings
- Very good public services. Police and fire departments as well as public works.
- the culture, rivers, parks and celebrations
- community collaborations and support
- Great Friends , Great City , my whole family lives Here too
- It's a city with a small town feel. There are many people with strong ties to the city who are committed to positive change.
- The history
- I love the presence of the arts but it feels small and I want to see more focus on arts and culture in more modern, innovative ways.
- Pride of residents
- The diversity. The beautiful shades of color of people. All the different cultures to learn about. The diverse LGBTQ+ residents. Older residents, who have stories to tell. Woonsocket is a wonderful place full of wonderful people.
- Striving to better. Our city.
- Its history and architecture
- I grew up there and have many memories.
- The historic buildings and French-Canadian heritage
- Alot available within the city.
- Great quality of life at an affordable price.
- the variety of landscapes. the blackstone valley/river has serious potential for city beautification and property values.

- Bike paths and River Park concerts
- The architecture
- The historic Main Street and architecture of buildings in the North End.
- The heritage that's everywhere.
- It is home
- The architecture, central location close to Providence, Worcester, Boston, Hartford
- location...I love the ability to travel to massachusetts yet we are close to the capital
- We can make a big difference here.
- The diversity and keeping a "small town" feel with the convenience that city living offers.
- The people!
- The hometown friendly atmosphere!
- It's location-near Providence and Boston.
- My house is within 1.5 miles from my job, my Employer is in Woonsocket.
- Because it was largely developed prior to the 1950s, Woonsocket has the bones of an old city that can, with some vision, once again be a dense, mixed-use community that is walkable and bikeable.
- Hometown
- Mostly everything that is needed it's right here in the city, I also love the history of the city
- Born and raised.... Police, Rescue and Fire Department's personnel.... Cass Park...
- The people who can unite and come together to show the city's strength.
- We moved in around the financial crisis of 2008. Homes were boarded up, property taxes insane and parks were outdated. We don't know how the City did it? But we saw those homes being purchased, the parks have been upgraded & property taxes lowered. The City continues to be a place where quality of life has improved and it's been great for our kids.
- The people here wrap you into their community and become your village. We're a family.
- The diversity.
- how close the everything is downtown
- I typically enjoy the public spaces that Woosocket has, after school, my friends and I will visit the library, so I enjoy that.
- One thing I love about Woonsocket is how small the city is. We are all able to connect and watch each other grow because of how small the city is.
- Architectural and cultural diversity
- Real estate prices were cheaper when I moved back here a couple years ago.
- I love how it is a small close knit community
- I actually love a ton about this city. Of all the places I've lived, this one feels most like home. People are genuine, it's comfortable, easy to get around and despite what it doesn't have... we have what we need.
- The caring, generous, citizen's and service organizations
- Simply put, Woonsocket is my home, my life long residence. My history -- and my future, what's left of it -- is all here.
- The sense of community and the generosity of the people.
- The diversity
- The mayor
- The unique architecture left behind from the mill days. From the mills to the big Victorian mansions in the North End! Also the diversity, there are all kinds of people from different backgrounds and cultures, it's a true mixing pot!

- The community agencies and their partnerships
- Diversity

What is the one thing about Woonsocket you most want to change? Cuál es la cosa de Woonsocket que más le gustaría cambiar?

- Get rid of some social service agencies.
- The reputation of the city
- The crime
- Local government leadership
- political leaders have to be "involved" in the city, walk the streets of the most undesirable areas & visit the schools often. The mayor needs to "promote" the city to folks who come visit the blackstone river from out of town/state
- The quality of stores and restaurants
- Make it more safe
- Main St
- Infrastructure and neighborhood renewal needs to ramp up. People are leaving the town due to high taxes and not seeing any improvements within the city.
- The smell. It is very embarrassing when people say "you can tell your in Woonsocket because it smells". We have the supplies and equipment at the sewer plant so why don't we step up and use them!!
- the lack of housing that people can afford
- Transferring from septic systems to the city's sewer system
- Too many low income housing projects...change the projects to duplexes...just looks too ghetto...people would be more prideful to live there
- I want Woonsocket's people that have power (i.e. schools, police, elected officials) to recognize and dismantle systemic racism.
- MORE BIKE LANES AND TRAILS. PUBLIC TRANSIT. A WAY TO GET FROM HOME TO WORK OR SHOPPING CENTERS WITHOUT USING CARS
- The hate that people have against the city. They're not trying to make it better and just complain.
- Some buildings are sitting dormant. I would love to see people living in these places. Building code I know can be hard to comply to, to then have living habitants in these building.
- mejores calles pavimentadas, luces de trafico en providence st & south main, letras grandes de oonsocket luces solares identifique entrada a la ciudad, mejores escuelas , edificio de dpt Escuela tiene paredes contaminada de pintura por anos, edificios abandonados utilizar para apartamentos, mas tiendas atraer el consumidor (tjmaxx, Best buy, homegoods,etc) restaurants
- Hate. People seem to be full of hate towards the city/people but continue to live here and contribute to the city's bad reputation.
- Children's disregard for education, especially within Junior High & High School grades.
- I would love to improve the system for social services, as the city has a high population of families dependent on assistance, it would be great to offer incentives to families to improve their independence from these services. I know there are current resources but feel at time people abuse them long term.
- Negative Public perception
- There is a lot of room for sustainability and new methods of rehabilitating land.
- The roads are horrible

- The continuing struggle for power between the City Council and the Administration to the point of detriment to the citizens of the City. They both seem to have their own agendas that cannot converge even if it would mean betterment for the City.
- Too many high rises
- The city needs more businesses and a revitalization, especially on Diamond Hill Road, the plaza which were once bustling with activity are now mostly abandoned. Really miss Walmart and Lowe's.
- Besides the condition of the roads? That would be to see empty buildings either put to use or if not habitable, to be torn down. These buildings are unsightly and make the city look dumpy and poor.
- More events that encourage community involvement. Additionally, better help for individuals struggling with substance abuse, homelessness, and hunger.
- Take advantage of being so close to Providence, Worcester and Boston. I think you could be the Next Worcester.
- More community event's
- The bad reputation we have.
- The absence of population growth in the younger, educated demographic.
- Woonsocket's reputation
- City government
- The smell of the water
- The demolition of the waste facility in Woonsocket. These facilities are needed but should not be located in densely populated Cities. It was a huge mistake to bring an odor producing site in our community and it stops our progress to improve our reputation. No one deserves to live with a facility like this in their backyard and now that we have the ARPA funding, this should be used to remove this facility and hook up to the Narragansett Bay Commission.
- The Stigma of Woonsocket as a depressed community that is somewhat over rooted in it's past
- Crime rate and the amount of violence. The feeling of helplessness that some suffer. Rampant poverty and lack of career opportunities for those without credentials.
- Everything, crimes actually being listened to
- Taxes and repurposing the mills for artists/residences
- Decrease in crime.
- More fun places for kids, teens to go to hang out so they can stay out of trouble
- the high incidence of abuse in the city
- expand infant child care availability
- The smell! The waste plant is disgusting!
- the poverty level
- The street
- The broken st. And the smell
- The smell. I hate the fact it smells like excrement.
- Poor Living conditions
- Housing, high school
- I would like to see more recreational centers for our children
- Decrease poverty
- Bring more business. Have more help for house development and child care
- More law enforcement officers to decrease drug abuse and drug trade, as well as the car theft that has been happening for months.

- Reduce the number of people that live in the city who rely on the system.
- Unfortunately I can't pick just one because they interact with each other. fix the following. Abandoned property, violent crime, illegal drug sales. This would force the undesirables to move out of our city
- to have adorable housing, rent control
- lack of space for and support for infant toddler and preschool programs
- Add a Free Community indoor Water park/ pool or a Free indoor skate park / Bmx Bike Park
- More businesses on Main Street and maintenance of Main Street buildings.
- The dirt everywhere
- The quality of the environment. The air quality here is unlivable from the water plant. The water in the rivers and ponds is polluted. The roads are a mess and there isn't enough green space downtown. There is runoff and erosion and trash everywhere. It doesn't feel safe in this city unless you have the money for a house with a yard because the parks are the only places for people to go and it's dangerous for children. We are a FOOD DESERT and people need access to healthy food. We deserve farmers markets and grocery stores. I want funding for our nonprofit centers so they can actually function well. The structures and organizations exist but can't serve the people with lack of staff, outdated systems, and no money for grants. I want attention for our homeless, I want them housed and having access to a better life. I want to see a HARM REDUCTION CENTER FOR DRUG USERS so we can reduce overdoses, violence from people getting high and fighting in the streets, and dying from fentanyl. And we do NOT need a bigger police budget.
- Proactive solutions to rampant social issues in community; acknowledgement of issues and work together (leaders and community) to create solutions.
- The smell. I shouldn't walk outside of my home and gag because the smell from the sewage treatment plant is so strong, I can taste it! That has been an issue for MANY years now. Businesses are not going to want to bring their companies here....who wants to shop or hang out in a city that smells like really sick feces?
- removal of sludge burning plant..
- The complete and utter lack of regard by City leadership at all levels for the well-being of its most vulnerable citizens. City leadership has a narrative that is outright false and prevents it from seeing the real problems or acting to resolve them. Ignoring homelessness perpetuates the problem. By facing it head on, City leadership would have the opportunity to make it disappear, creating healthier individuals, families and community.
- Get Diamond Hill back to a go to shopping area.
- It needs to really develop the greater downtown area
- Paying tax bills etc online without extra fees. Don't really like walking Main St. Uncomfortable.
- Abandoned buildings.
- more bike lanes and paths with connections to the other bike paths. serious gaps in the bike paths/lanes lead to bikers on city streets and angry(sometimes aggressive) car commuters.
- The empty store fronts on Main Street
- Economic Base: needs to be increased (fewer social service / non profits)
- More shops, restaurants, places to go and hang out. The architecture on a Main Street is incredible. It would be wonderful to see less empty storefronts and renovated historical buildings.
- Increase new reasons to come to the City (new stores, shops, coffee house)- make it a destination
- Bring the old buildings back to their former glory.

- The Image and want the new bypass Canal project which brings in hundreds of million dollars but also changes from Woonsocket as a depressed city to a vacation attraction for all of newe england.
- Too many dollar stores, would love more variety, eclectic shops, revitalized downtown with trendy coffee shops
- reputation ... I have heard many people call this city a dump and dangerous
- I want to see more local businesses
- Reinvigorating the abandoned spaces
- Woonsocket desperately needs affordable housing
- The demographic trend that appears to be leaning towards a lower educated populace.
- The overall image of the city.
- we have no dog park
- Harness the riverfront. The majority of the riparian land along the Blackstone is unusable by residents and visitors. Our backs are to the Blackstone, and that is a tragedy. More public access, more amenities along the banks, more making it a feature of the useable city rather than just a fun incidental 'W' on a map.
- Archaic policies and barriers to entry
- Number one get a grocery store, more pressure put on slumlords make them keep their properties looking well kept, lowered property taxes, more beautifying of the city like murals art sculptures trees planted along the streets.
- Football field needs to be moved near High School in Cass Park...
- The attitude of treating those in power with automatic deference. Too many leaders in the city use a push and shove approach, whether literally physical or metaphorical, when opposing ideas are presented.
- I know a lot of homeowners that have been frustrated with dealing with the some of the City personal in dealing with issues related to their homes, it's true they may not understand it's a safety problem but it's startling that anyone I have come across who dealt with the city has expressed extreme distrust. I am not even asking, that's why it stands out to me.
- Economic opportunity: so many families are struggling with housing insecurity, underemployment, low wages, etc.
- The diversity in our local politics and law enforcement.
- the roads
- ˘(ツ)˘
- One thing I want to see most change in Woonsocket is how careless our officials are towards the lower income families and communities in Woonsocket. Money should be invested in all sides of Woonsocket not just the richer, non poc side of Woonsocket.
- Lack of quality housing
- Terrible odor from waste water plant. It's gotten A LOT worse this year and can be smelled from farther out than it used to be.
- The quality of the Middle and High School education and ratings
- How others perceive it.
- The existing mayoral dictatorship
- The empty stores and buildings on Main Street. There is no first rate market, no dry-cleaner, no locksmith, no book store, etc.
- I want the reputation that it's a bad place to live to change.
- I want the city to clean up...in a multitude of ways, but if it was your first visit here, the city itself is not very inviting nor welcoming.

- Tax rate
- More businesses that improve the city's reputation. There are too many discount stores and fast-food restaurants. Restaurants like Ciro's and Christopher's attract the younger crowd to come here... Also we are a food desert we need a better grocery store than Price Rite. Maybe work with Thundermist to make the farmer's market bigger, bring it to the WWII park? Help them get more vendors? Healthy food trucks?
- Decreasing child abuse and neglect
- Help for those in need

What is one thing you really want to see in Woonsocket that is missing? Qué cosa quisiera usted ver en Woonsocket que no existe hoy en día?

- SUPERMARKETS!!!!
- Really good restaurants
- A public pool or swimming place for the city kids who can't get to Lincoln. a roller skating rink
- More connection with the local government and community especially youth
- more businesses are closing than opening, i have to leave the city to go shopping or to dine out, for a reasonable price, there are not many national retail chains here for a 40k pop city. better schools bring in corporations.
- Starbucks or any store other than dollar general and dollar tree
- Sense of community (more chances and diverse ways for the community to come together)
- Small businesses
- Need some solid businesses downtown.
- More shopping enterprises and restaurants (Christmas Tree Shop, Olive Garden, Home Depot, etc). Businesses that will bring people in our city.
- more parks and gardens to make the city more beautiful and to provide outdoor activities for children of all ages. Other cities in other parts of the country have parks with lots more modern and inviting equipment.
- More diligent cleanup in Globe Park, or more trash bins for visitors. There is a lot of litter (and dog waste) both on the grass and in the pond.
- A real skate park..main st to come back to life...
- I really want to see community policing in our city.
- TURN THE BLIGHT INTO YARD SPACE/MICRO-FARMS
- More affordable markets for low income families.
- un buen Cinema, chukichesses, chrismastreeshop, chicken fillet, mas factorias de trabajo, hoteles, rental cars,
- Central grocery store. Downtown area. It can be done.
- More support, encouragement of our kids to participate in sports.
- Larger charter schools. I have applied all three of my children to various charter schools and none were ever accepted, I feel that it is important for the child to start in the charter school versus transitioning from public to charter as it's a difficult mindset to adjust to short term.
- Tourist
- The image it deserves
- I see a small amount of improvement in the north end, but you must member of continues over Haskell st. toward blackstone
- Revitalization in the Main Street/Bypass area that would attract people to visit the City and then want to move here.
- Something that makes Woonsocket a destination

- Major Retailers/Restaurants that would attract more people from a greater distance away to visit our city.
- More activities for young people and also older people!
- Professional support regarding financial literacy/readiness, teaching functional life skills, encouraging and preparing youth to pursue higher education.
- A vibrant Main Street. When you drive on Main Street you see all the potential it had and has. Right now all you got is junk shops and buildings that are falling apart.
- Dog Park late night main street attractions/food
- A feeling of pride in for people who live here and feeling of respect from others that Woonsocket is not a bad place.
- A rail and street mass transit hub at the historic rail station.
- I would love to see Woonsocket become a destination for people to dine and shop
- Secure, safe housing for all citizens
- Bring in a grocery store so we don't have to leave the city and a movie theater
- A new stage at River Island Art Park for summer concerts. It would be a great way to bring people here in the summertime when most leave the City for the southern part of the state. It would be a huge boost to the local restaurants and shop to be known as a destination location for entertainment.
- More community centric events that bring the city residents together.
- Affordable housing. Better career options.
- An ice skating rink again
- Vibrant downtown
- Leadership.
- Roller skating rink, the closest one is 45 min away. Kids can go, families can go, promotes exercise
- affordable housing
- expand infant child care
- More businesses. Diamond Hill rd is so empty now. Growing up, there were so many stores and restaurants. Bring back the community feel!
- More community centers
- Some for kids and teenager entrainment
- more places to have fun with family
- A city youth center.
- More ties to community and families
- The environment
- Woonsocket is missing teenage activities to keep teens busy and out of trouble
- More giving
- More child cares support
- A supermarket. A dog park.
- Brewery/Distillery
- Quality schools that are rated in the top of the state rankings. This would encourage people to move to our city
- sport complexes for all children
- Market Basket
- Indoor Roller Skating Kingdom Again
- A full grocery store.

- More places for kids and teenager to go for activities like roller-skating
- Opportunities for artists! We have no opportunities for local artists. A lot of us are here but poor and can't move to Providence or afford opportunities in the creative capital. Hire us!
- Culturally diverse restaurants places; reflective of changing community
- Respect. I think that is missing. While I love Woonsocket, and the people who live here, I'm quite disgusted with some of the ridiculous behaviour towards other people. Call it ignorance, bigotry, whatever, but Woonsocket is full of it. Including within our own city government. No names. If you think I'm talking about you, I probably am. We need our government to show respect to the ALL the people of Woonsocket, not just the ones they like or approve of.
- canal project.
- Compassion for the homeless. Exceeding an arbitrary target for affordable housing is inadequate when it does not fully meet the need. The average annual income is below \$25,000, less than half of the State average of over \$67,000. The unemployment rate is among the highest in the State. Rather than blame the human services agencies for occupying too much real estate, the City leadership should be working with these groups to identify innovative programming. ARPA presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to leverage funds to implement radical new programs that can lift people into housing and financial stability.
- Maybe bring back a theater for movies which will then bring more restaurants
- Revitalization of Main St. We need more shops that people from surrounding communities would shop at. An Aldi's in the area would really help people that are purchasing condos in the area
- An affordable supermarket like Stop n Shop at Walnut Hill.
- Night life.
- affordable housings. rent is outrageous and landlords are disrespectful. more can be done to lower the cost of places to live.
- Diversity and Inclusion for small business start ups with tax breaks
- Rubbish collection (or financial compensation) for condominiums
- Make it a tourist destination.
- More involvement with groups working together
- Walkable stores.
- The lack of leadership at City Hall especially with the lack of communication between the executive and legislative branch, and the interference into departments by the Mayor in not allowing department heads in running their departments with fear and poor morale. People should be happy in their Jobs
- Train to Worcester and Providence! We have a beautiful station already! Let's use it!
- Use of spaces available for businesses, (more sites for entertainment)
- good schools for kids and adults. a grocery store.
- We need our own grocery store that has a bigger selection than PriceRite. Far too much money of ours is going to surrounding communities (which is lovely but,) not staying in Woonsocket.
- Affordable housing
- A larger anchor store like a Marketbasket that would draw other commerce into the city
- A central business district that acts as a focus for the community.
- we need a dog park
- A cooperative or small grocery store in the center of the city that can be reached without the need for an automobile. That and a brewpub. And a comprehensive network of safe, dedicated bicycle infrastructure. Sorry, that's three.
- Innovative and burgeoning industry small businesses

- Grocery store
- Football Field close to High School...
- An attempt to solve housing problems before they become a bigger issue. There are a lot of landlords who don't provide legal requirements for tenants, and those landlords seem to evade legal sanctions.
- Other than the Autumn fest other events are not well advertised & we find out by chance We need to have business move in that have more indoor activities, supermarkets and shopping similar to the Bellingham MA (way up where 495 exit's) and Lincoln RI plaza.
- More cohesion; a more united front against oppression instead of a denial that oppression exists here
- The inclusion of the public opinion
- more activities for kids
- I believe that Woosocket is missing funds for their schools. I haven't been to a public school since the 5th grade (3 years ago) so i have no idea if it has changed, but while i was there, a lot of the things were cheap, and easily broken. please improve this if you haven't already.
- One thing I want to see that is missing in Woonsocket is resources and recreational activities for the youth.
- Better commercial tax base
- MORE BIG BUSINESS! The city completely imploded when they rejected Supercenter Walmart years ago. More big businesses, more tax income. A Target would be awesome. A supermarket, more businesses like that in the Walnut Hill area. Heck, even a sandwich shop on the East side would be nice. (besides Subway) When I was growing up, Walnut Hill was THE place to be - the movie theater, supermarket, Lowe's, Staples, Sears, etc.
- More healthy, high quality restaurants that don't have to be expensive. Think Providence and California
- More retail, dining and entertainment.
- Better communications relative to what's happening in planning from City Hall and more transparency and full compliance with the City Charter by the executives
- Centrally located market.
- Education for parents. WE keep putting things on the schools but parents need to be more educated on the value of having an education.
- Taxpayers. Vibrancy. Rejuvenation.
- Woonsocket s own indoor ice complex
- Some kind of entertainment facility, a movie theater/arcade, indoor paintball arena, go-kart track, mini-golf, something that kids and adults can enjoy in their free time! The trampoline park is a good start and I know that the kids love it!
- Police sub stations at the housing developments
- Collaboration between community agencies

Write down three words that describe what Woonsocket is like today...

Escriba tres palabras para describir cómo es Woonsocket hoy en día...

Poor	Rundown	Dying
Downfall	Noisy	Worse

Diverse	Imperfect	Improving
walking through many parts of the city is like a recession	need more inclusiveness in city hiring people of color women	poor business practices very competitive for not much \$\$\$ hear
Historic	Out run businesses	Diverse
Dirty	Unsafe	Boring
Diverse	Unique	Dying
Dirty	Dangerous	Loud
Smells	Potential	Historical
multi cultural	run down/ abandoned properties	hard to get around
Friendly	Walkable	Diverse
Growing	Changing	Potential
Segregated	Diverse	Misguided
ABANDONED	SPRAWLED	ABUSED
Evolving	A bit dangerous	Hopeful
Industrialism	Mixed (people and culture)	Empty (not vibrant)
ciudad olvidada por el Estado	mala reputacion en sistema Escolar	mejores distribucione de ayuda de dinero al pueblo
Hateful	Crime-riddled	Ignorant
Inner city	Historical culture (French, now Asian & Spanish communities)	Melting Pot
Diverse	Improving	Limited
Hospitable	Growing	Underrated
Contemporary		
Scary	Dirty	Drugs
Cultural	Homelessness	Political
Poor	Blighted	Struggling
Old	Quaint	Tired
city	dumpy	poor
Struggling (academically, financially, etc.)	Cold — very little community involvement	Sad. Many people are struggling.
Gloomy (I don't like it)	Gritty (I kind of like it)	Poor
IMPROVING	POTENTIAL	BARE
Poor	Unsafe	Messy
Deteriorated	Lack of significant, new business investment	A river with untapped potential
meh	poor	behind
Crumbling	Hostile	Conservative
central	affordable	boring
Recovery	Hopeful	Political
Evolving	Challenged	Opportunity

Over crowded	Diverse	Hopeful
Trash	Boring	Violence
Improving	Safer	Expensive from tax and fee standpoint
smelly	full of crime	low income
Crime ridden	Less friendly neighborhoods	Petty thefts of property
low income	resilient	busy
historic	low income	underdeveloped
poor	violent	rundown
Low income	High rate of incarceration	High crime rate
Empty		
Scenic	Smelly/ Polluted	Community
Cold	dirty	run down
Pollution	community	resourceful
Diverse	Hardworking	Downtrodden
Employment	Business	Community
Unemployed	Historical	Poverty
Dirty	Low Income Magnet	City of the Dollar Store
Worn	Crime	Boring
closures	uninvited	beautiful
diverse	struggling	resilient
Nice	Beautiful	Great
Diverse	Hard working	Lacking in opportunities for the young and new to Woonsocket
Dirty/ scary	Dollar tree town	Crumbling
Abandoned	Outdated	Poor
close knit	disconnected	struggling
Smelly	Historic	Beautiful
Smelling.bad.	too much housing for low income.	Lack of attraction.
Defeated	Suffering	Abandoned
Run down	Vacant buildings	In need of revitalization
Sketchy	Historic	Gray
Community	Trying to keep up	
Cozy	Quiet	Hidden gem
hibernating	vacant	old
Families	Churches	Education
Social Service Mecca of Rhode Island	A defunct downtown	Empty storefronts all over the city
Sad	Run down	Dormant
Promising	Historic	Creative
potential	neglected	fragmented

Drug infested City		
Impoverished	Full of potential	Artsy
empty	dirty	poor
gritty	directionless	hopeful
Diverse	Smelly	Unrealized
Diverse	Historical	Discriminatory
generous	disrespected	promising
Do not live in Woonsocket, but grew up there.		
dog	park	deficient
Underperforming	Disjointed	Impervious
Old	Stinky	Had better days
Low income	Food desert	Visually undesirable
Loud music in cars	Speeding cars	On The Move
Diverse	Hopeful	Underestimated
Of know fault to the City Woonsocket has a high percentage of low income families, especially children	I have always known Woonsocket to be affordable but the recent pandemic / housing crisis has meant an increase in rent & housing costs	Woonsocket has lots of agencies that allow low income families opportunities for growth
Denialistic: we have many issues, but some people take the attitude that being honest about those issues is "bashing" the city or bashing local leaders. We need to be more honest about people's experiences here so we can work together to improve them.	Underrated: there is a lot of talent, skill, and passion in this city but there aren't enough resources to elevate them and make them more prominent features of the city/state	Old-fashioned: this isn't necessarily a bad thing, and perhaps is part of Woonsocket's quaint charm. But it wouldn't hurt to modernize a bit (a more modern downtown area, addressing old blighted buildings, etc.)
clean	festive	small
Small	Socially active	(it says 3 words, so i'm counting active at me 3rd)
Low-income	Diverse	Failing
Progressing	Stagnant	Diverse
Depressed	low income businesses	High taxes
Community	Affordable	Lots to offer if you know where to look
Diverse	Historical	Affordable
Home	Controversial	Caring
Subsidized housing	Rental flats	Dollar stores
Busy	Developing	Warm
Desolate	Downtrodden	Dirty
Caring	Clean	Beautified
Low-income	out-dated	hopeful
Family friendly	Hopeful	Historic
Limited	Weak	Separated

Write down three words that describe what you want Woonsocket to be like 20 years from now...
 Escriba tres palabras para describir cómo quisiera usted ver a Woonsocket en 20 años de la fecha de hoy...

Vibrant	Fun	Living
Less crime and stealing	More neighborly	Cleaner
Diverse government	Unity	Prosperity
best schools in the state, highest graduation rates etc	highest % of woony students ready for college/vocation, this will bring companies in & better paying jobs	city govt needs to get out of the 19th century, get into the 21st century, get stuff done NOW & quit bashing the state house!!
Renovated	Utilized	Family Oriented
Safe	Thriving	Tight knit community
Clean	Welcoming	Business friendly
Peaceful	Thriving	Wealthy
Beautiful	Busy	Friendly
multicultural	vibrant	beautiful neighborhoods
Accessible	Clean	Inclusive
Better outside image	More pride in schools	
Peaceful	Prosperous	Racially Equitable
CONNECTED	CLEAN	HEALTHY
Safe	Neighborly	Welcoming
Business	Food	Upcoming
mejores calles pavimentadas	lugares turisticos, Arboles, hospital ,Universidad	policia, Alcalde, consejales mas comprometidad con la comunidad
Less crime	Less hate	More retail/shopping
Community driven	Cleaner, less pollution, liter	Safer
Diverse	Modern	Flourishing
Vibrant	Searched	Achievements
Hub		
Grocery store	Good resturants	Places to go and be safe.
Thriving	Inviting	Proud
Destination	Charming	Wealthy
Modern	Updated	Clean
lively	good education	environmental stewards
Tight-knit and safe	Bright/hopeful	Prosperous
Hip	Convenient	Entrepreneurial
SAFE	THRIVING	UNIQUE
Vivacious	Engaging	Worthwhile
A downtown with historic properties rehabilitated	A city fully leveraging the aesthetic value of the Blackstone River	A fully active rail station and transit hub catalyzing pedestrian traffic, real

for housing and commercial uses		estate investment along Main Street, and a vibrant restaurant and bar scene
innovative	thriving	leading
Vibrant	Communal	Restorative
fun	vibrant	affordable
Collaborative	Thriving	Destination
RE-established	respected	desirable
Thriving	Diverse	Middle class population
Wonderful	Happy	Calm
Revitalized	Active downtown commerce	Arts & Culture destination
not smelly	less crime	affordable housing
Fun	Neighborly	Secure
safer	cleaner	proud
industrialized	progressive	community agriculture development
cleaner streets	sense of community	better education system
Low rate of poverty	Low rate of incarceration	Low rate of crime
More activity o place for everyone but more for young	More store supplies	
Not Polluted/ Smelly	More Green Space	Dog Parks
Bright	Safe	Dependable
Clean	Healthy	Colorful
Diverse	Cooperative	Teamwork
More income accessible	More business	More schools and day care
Bountiful	Restored	Economic growth
Thriving	Vibrant	Magnetic
Destination	Economic	Family
diversity	child friendly	nicely maintain parks and sports park
walkability	safe	transparent government decisions
Awesome	Excellent	Fantastic
Stable	Full of opportunities for young people	Diverse
Clean/ safe	Example for other cities	Affordable
Safe	Clean	Fun
inclusive	flourishing	connected
Bustling	Stench free	Diverse
Apealing	attractive	pleasant
Thriving	Inclusive	Compassionate
Revitalized	Safe	Beautiful again
Vibrant	Destination	Community
Safe	More theatre and arts	Satelite college of science

Smart-city	Electrified	Happy
recycled	connected	fair
Trendy	Affordable lofts and Homes	Accessible transportation to remote parts to connecting cities
A new consolidated Public safety & Administrative Complex	Demolish and level old main street buildings	Provide Rubbish Collection for all Residential Units (condos)
Destination	Modern	Lively
Vibrant	Alive	Energized
cohesive	well kept	walkeable
City of destination		
Bustling	Trendy	Cosmopolitan
safely walkable	industrious	less low income housing
Business incubator and innovation hub.	Woonsocket should become a tree city, USA.	I want the city to celebrate the blackstone river.
Vibrant	Productive	Welcoming
Diverse	Thriving	Non-Discriminatory
thriving	respected	popular
Vital	Improved economic base	Diverse
multiple	dog	parks
Vibrant	Self-reliant	Sustainable
Reinvigorated	Air quality conscious	Forward-looking
Thriving	Beautified	Desirable
More help for homeless, shelter....	Better school systems..	Grocery Store
Inspiring	Rebuilt	Caring
Vibrant	Affordable	Safe
Cultural hub: Providence is the "Creative Capital," but Woonsocket could have a vibrant arts & culture scene that attracts both locals and people across the state/region	Economically prosperous: Woonsocket residents have enough money to finance their needs and contribute to the local economy. This means investing in our current residents, NOT gentrifying the city and pushing poor people out/into greater hardship.	A destination city: the goal for residents isn't to earn enough money/education to leave Woonsocket, but rather residents want to stay because Woonsocket is a great place to live!
Diverse		
friendly	kid activities	better education
Closer	Cleaner	Cooler?
Prosperous	Safe	Economically Equal
Reflective	Open	Self-sustaining
BIG business	Lower taxes	Less crime
Vibrant Community	Quality Schools so people want to move/stay here	Higher quality healthy and tasty restaurants
Diverse	Desirable	A destination
Proud	Safe	Transparent

More local industry	Housing in better shape	More young, stable families with children
More educated	Opportunities for high paying employment	Safe
City	Moving	Forward
Modern	Thriving	Developed
Family friendly	Safe	Accomplished, Impressive
Strong	Cooperative	Helpful

Policy Survey #1

What is your top issue related to LAND USE? For example: Where do you think new development should go? What areas should be conserved?

- Possibly historical land but important monuments should stay
- We have so many properties and lots that look like dumps. both privately and city owned. New developments should take over buildings that are eye sores or already empty instead of chopping down what little woodlands we have to build new structures.
- Near the Junior high school some more parks and recreations for the kids
- Preserve the land we have left
- Better parks or updates to the high school
- Diamond Hill area.
- Diamond Hill has the potential for revitalization. Three plazas that have low end retailers.
- Blighted buildings need to be knocked down and the land/property sold to developers. This lessens the need to use undeveloped land.
- Abandoned houses and factories should be knocked down to prevent injuries and break ins and not make the area look so run down
- We should focus on developing Main Street area to create a community that has it all
- blight. abandoned buildings are an eye sore and only raise my rent by reducing availability of housing options.
- Downtown, and along Blackstone river.
- We should maximize the already-developed land we have and should be encouraging mixed-use development wherever we can and bringing development to the city center, not to the geographic outskirts of the city. The Downtown/Social corridor should be a single mixed use neighborhood of the city that prioritizes pedestrian and bike traffic. Buildings and storefronts should abut the sidewalk and parking lots should be minimized and interior. The land between Social and Clinton, currently now almost entirely surface parking, presents an excellent opportunity for this type of redevelopment and could tie directly to the Downtown/Main Street corridor. We should also keep developments that have low tax-value per acre (e.g. self-storage
- Woonsocket needs to keenly focus on higher-level of its socioeconomic base. REDEVELOPMENT is key to this Blighted land and building need to be recovered and revamped for higher yield/value use

What is your top issue related to ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT? For example: What sorts of shops, services, and entertainment are needed? What sorts of jobs are needed?

- Roller skating, mall, and more.
- Woonsocket is boring. Especially for our kids and teenagers. We used to have theaters, roller skating rinks, and great sources of entertainment for people of all ages to go to. Now all of our shops sell the same things, and there is very little lure to stay in the city. We need more book stores, places to take our kids and teens, and higher quality food markets. We need less thrift shops, fast food chain restaurants, and dollar stores.
- Need more shopping in downtown and social st and Clinton st need a movie theater
- Something for kids to go do or play
- There are not enough shops in the Diamond Hill area. It would be nice to consider an Amazon warehouse in that area that can be another avenue for jobs for local residents.

- We desperately need a supermarket that is full service. Other retailers might consider Woonsocket viable if there is a stable anchor
- Good paying jobs. Stop paying people to stay home. Welfare and unemployment is not intended to be life long.
- EVERYTHING. A medical marijuana facility would do leaps and bounds for the city. Things for teenagers and young adults to do- movie theater, rec center, etc.
- We need a full scale supermarket in Woonsocket. I have to leave the city if I need to go food shopping. I would love to get a Market Basket in Woonsocket. That really is a wish item for me as I love Market Basket and I hate driving to Bellingham to go to it.
- Need to find a niche for Woonsocket- maybe our mill history, and also need more food shops- gourmet, and a BAKERY!
- we need to have cutting edge tech in the center of the city. we need Hydrogen generation and storage on a main road for all to see and for workers to access easily. creating a clean industrial job in the center of a city would encourage people to move here to live permanently while creating short commutes.
- Nice dining. Entertainment
- The city needs to get back to manufacturing jobs if possible. We need to be more business friendly and not let politics or favoritism to cause the city council to make bad decisions like it did in the past and chase major companies out of the city like they did to Walmart and make a once busy Diamond hill rd. a ghost town.
- The priority is a grocery store. While no major grocery store will build here because of market conditions, a smaller, ideally co-operative or community owned store located centrally (e.g., between Social and Rathbun) that is walkable for visitors and for nearby residents. It would also be nice to have more small coffee shops, bakeries, sandwich shops/cafes, brewpubs, and maybe even a bookstore. Having an eclectic and diverse offering of small businesses could provide jobs for residents and draw visitors to the city. We also have tons of historic building stock, but much of it needs to be brought up to code before it is developed. Property owners should be incentivized to do so in order to draw commercial and residential redevelopment interest from developers of all sizes.
- Manufacturing drives the economic growth of a community - period. Jobs yield pay that yields purchases. This is parallel to a vision to have Woonsocket be 'the' trades' center of Rhode Island. Any and all available grants should be driven toward technical schooling

What is your top issue related to HOUSING? For example: Are you and the people you know able to find the types of housing you need at prices you can afford?

- No, it's rare
- Property taxes are unsustainable for middle class families.
- Need more availability for homeless and more affordable housing for single people
- There is too many subsidized housing complexes
- Rent is very expensive, it was so hard to find a place I was almost homeless many times the past year and was LUCKY to have my mom give me her apartment
- Need affordable middle class one family neighborhoods.
- Taxes are too high

- The city is inundated with affordable housing projects and blighted private properties. Remove the blighted properties and clean up the area to make the city a more desirable place to live, as right now people are leaving in droves.
- More affordable- 30% of income or more- allow for pride in ownership- co-ops and mixed use
- wtf is up with rent. why cant i live in something that is below 30% of my weekly paycheck? we have the cheapest rent in all of new england and yet its still a money suck. build more creapo-corner towers and lower my rent please.
- Yes, I can find these.
- I would answer no to this. With the exception of income based or welfare housing rents and mortgages are out of control like the rest of the country. Building high priced homes in Oak Grove is not the answer. Taxes are also out of control here.
- Upzone everything. Get rid of single-family-only zoning along with minimum lot sizes and setback and parking requirements. Establish grants/forgivable loan/incentives to encourage residents to purchase and rehabilitate multi-family properties. Require a minimum period of owner-occupancy to provide opportunities for residents to build or purchase and keep up income-generating properties to provide additional housing units and opportunities for wealth generation. Encourage incremental development instead of relying on large developers to swoop in. Also, stop destroying what little open space the city has to build single-family homes.
- Affordable housing should not be a formula of 30% of AGI, but rather (and married to the previous Economic Development question/answer) driven by social interest to strive toward self-betterment. JOBS / PAY / HOME OWNERSHIP

What is your top issue related to TRANSPORTATION? For example: How easy is it to get around Woonsocket? How can the City do a better job of making walking, biking, and taking transit easier?

- Pretty easy
- Our sidewalks are in terrible shape or non existent. People are forced to ride bikes and walk unsafely in traffic.
- The bike path is great
- Clear the side walks better in Diamond Hill Road near the houses and apartment complexes
- The roads really need to be redone as well as lights and sidewalks
- More bike trails and designated areas for bike riders would be helpful.
- Sidewalks would be extremely helpful for walking
- Higher police presence in walking and biking areas. And everywhere in general.
- Biking- complete and enhance the bikeway- need to get the Boston? Woonsocket line as a reality!
- I ride my bike to work in Cumberland to reduce my carbon footprint, reduce morning traffic headaches, and save myself some trips to the gym. I get harassed by truck drivers when I do, and there is no real bike lanes anywhere in the city. its dangerous to do here. this city encourages people to drive THRU it and does not aid those that live here to transport themselves safely down the street when they want to. let's explore alternative travel techniques. Let's utilize river travel if possible. lets create a local ride share program with discounts for citizens of the city to get to work within the city limits.
- Woonsocket is a tight, densely developed community that is entirely car dependent but shouldn't be. Many residents do not own cars and many more would make trips on fott or bike if we could. Public transit must be expanded, both RIPTA routes and potentially a municipal circulator. Woonsocket should pass a Green and Complete Streets ordinance that would mandate that city-owned rights of way are redeveloped in a way to accommodate all road users

safely. Where possible, we should look to see where we can treat streets to "road diets". There should be an interconnected network of bike lanes, paths, and protected bike routes (sharrows don't count), and there should be sidewalks in good repair along EVERY street to provide safe walking routes for pedestrians. Install street trees and traffic calming where necessary.

- Incorporated in 1888, this older city with its topographical (elevations and river) features is not easy to navigate through. Other than the Stadium Theater - what else makes it a destination - rather than than a 'pass-by' community? People aren't driving 20-minutes, coming here for shopping or for fish and chips or wieners!

What is your top issue related to SERVICES & FACILITIES? For example: What do you think about public schools and local libraries? How is service from the police and fire departments?

- Libraries and schools should have a better connection
- Our school buildings and library are old and in need of many repairs. Our library is not appealing to the younger generations and looks like it hadn't been updated since the 60's. We need to keep our schools and public facilities in good shape and inviting to encourage our youth to enter.
- Our public schools are rated pretty low on the academic scale. Listen to the parents not the politicians
- I feel like this is hard to answer due to covid I would like to hear more about events but rarely do
- I think the public library is good. It would be great if they had more programs. The public schools (middle and high school) are a disaster and should be evaluated with new, more motivated staff brought in.
- Schools need to be renovated soon!
- Public schools are a disgrace. Metal detectors and police are needed to keep the children safe.
- I have no children so cannot comment on schools. Police presence seems hit or miss. There is tons of crime all over the city at night, from vandalism to breaking into cars, car theft, property theft, drug use, etc.
- New public safety complex is good idea- combine all- schools need to have extended day.
- the police should be getting outposts. spread them out instead of making a new police station. my street is a race track and people routinely drive at very unsafe speeds. I wish police would be more active when it comes to in-town speed limits. letting the roads rot so they have to slow down around the pot holes is not working.
- I feel the police, fire, and libraries do a great job and should be commended! As for the schools that is a different story. In a major country wide survey last year put R.I. last when it came to education. And a state survey put Woonsocket last in this study. Do the math and Woonsocket has the worst schools in the nation. Do we need more dog parks or a new public service complex when that money should go towards education?
- Our public schools drastically need resources to retain talented teachers and ensure good outcomes for students. Communities with a thriving public school system will draw residents. The library is great, however, its location is not convenient. There are few residents that live a walkable distance from it, it is located on a busy, dangerous street, and there isn't any safe bicycle access to it. Redeveloping that part of the city and focusing on interconnected pedestrian and bike networks could draw more city residents to make use of it.
- We all know that the public school system has poor results. That is a problem to itself. Being redundant: we need to create a Technical Trades Center that starts focusing on children in 7th grade. While the 'Trades' still require academic courses such as English, Math, etc., the 'Trades' are hand's-on and can be a fun and easy curriculum. Fire and Police should be consolidated -

but where? I believe that Cumberland Hill Rd (Station #1) could have sufficient space (think multi-level) for Police 'over' the Fire Department. *Cops do a great job for the work they have to do. Fire should not have to be an ambulance service, which I suggest is 85-90% of their workload.

What is your top issue related to SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC HEALTH? For example: Do you have access to good health care? Are you and your family able to find assistance when you need it (from the City, local non-profits, or other sources)?

- Yes
- I struggled to get dental and still can't get my teeth fixed or services that I desperately need
- I have private insurance.
- More primary care physicians would be beneficial
- Thundermist seems great at offering all sorts of access programs, the city should tout them more. They are a shining beacon in this city.
- We need jobs to put people to work so they can get health care- maybe start a small group healthcare option for certain groups (like day care).
- we see more tents popping up in the wooded areas around the train tracks (which are also abandoned) and in corners of larger parking lots at night. The homeless need a place to go that is safe and clean. they need food pantries on the sidewalks like in providence. they need drug treatment facilities (like those NYC safe heroin shoot up sites where medics help them use clean needles and stuff).
- Yes to this, the above plans are decent and the only issue I can think of is the same it seems everywhere...the homeless!
- I am lucky to have access to health care and at present do not need to use these community resources.
- Being frank - Woonsocket is the social-service magnet of greater Rhode Island. If you don't teach people how to fish - you will always have to feed them.

What is your top issue related to NATURAL RESOURCES? For example: Is there adequate protection of the Blackstone River? Are there enough trees in your neighborhood?

- Yes
- Litter and cleanliness. We have very few natural resources to explore, and the few that we do are littered and unsafe for families to explore together.
- Yes but not enough flowers/plants
- There are enough trees in my area, however, there is always room for more. It would be great if there was a beautification effort for the city.
- No on both questions.
- Almost no trees. Everything is covered in litter, so I can't imagine the River is doing well.
- Need to make the river work for us again! Light it up! Offer options to explore- clean it.
- my landlord recently clear cut all of the bushes and now traffic noise is on a new level of annoying. did i mention my street is a race track with a speed limit of 25 that gets beyond ignored? yes, we could use more greenery. who couldnt? trash is pretty bad in our neighborhood tho. street sweeping would help but i doubt its in the budget.
- Defiantly not adequate protection. Just looking across the river from Island Park you can see piles of trash and tires falling down into the water! It's very sad people are allowed to do this!
- For the most part, the city has its back turned on the Blackstone. This is a result of the historic exploitative use of the river, but we have done little in the past decades to undo this. We should

look at redeveloping along the river, especially downtown, making it a focal point and draw for visitors. We can also find more opportunities for river access for recreation. But we also need to reduce non-point source pollution to the river by depaving as much as possible, managing stormwater through nature based solutions, reducing trash and plastic pollution through source-reduction policies. We should look into putting tree pits/street trees wherever possible (including making provisions to maintain them) to reduce stormwater runoff and increase tree canopy cover.

- The land embanking the Blackstone river has never been developed to maximize this natural feature. It is however limited in area to actually yield a return on the investment to take advantage of it.

What is your top issue related to HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES? For example: How can the City take better advantage of the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park? How can we preserve historic buildings and neighborhoods?

- Not sure
- The building near the train station is abandoned and could be affordable housing the prostitution should be eliminated to help the downtown neighborhoods live a safe life
- Not sure
- We never have done that in the city. Take the mill office on Hamlet St, it's shameful to see it in such disrepair.
- allow for renovations of historic buildings
- Have a location in the city where the park is represented all the time, not just once a month with ranger talks
- Woonsocket does not know who it is anymore. We need to make new history and stop focusing on the old. Reminiscence is bad for moral. The majority of this city is between 25-35 years old. We don't care about what this city was like 100 years ago. It doesn't matter. Let's make history NOW.
- Investors and fund raisers, utilize funds from the huge property tax the city receives.
- Our building stock and development pattern here are excellent and we need to do more to incentivize their preservation and rehabilitation by bringing them up to code and trying to find ways to redevelop and repurpose them. For instance, the old middle school could be redeveloped into something like 10 Sims Street in Providence or Hope Artiste Village in Providence. There are probably other similar buildings in the city that could be repurposed in this manner. Look into cooperative redevelopment so there is community ownership and commitment.
- Living in the Almon Miller house circa 1855, I have keen respect for historic architecture. Being practical, the historical buildings that comprise the downtown area limit any practical redevelopment and I dare say are the reason that no improvement has happened in this area. The time has come to loose the old impractical structures and draw up a new fresh plan with more modern structures and thoroughfares.

What is your top issue related to PARKS & RECREATION? For example: Are there enough parks in your neighborhood? Are there adequate park facilities for you and your family to do the things you like to do outdoors?

- Yes
- Parks are dirty and often unsafe.
- There are decent amount of parks

- The parks are great, just need to be monitored more and the addicts and homeless kept out of them.
- No
- Not enough programs for families and kids.
- No. Again many available empty lots just sitting dormant and looking junky
- Most of the parks in the city are dirty and covered in trash and dog waste. There is crime and drug use rampant in some of the parks.
- Cass Park has been turned into a great park with all the renovations
- Urban parks- more of them- are a god send.
- we have parks? can i get to those parks without a car? can i just have somewhere to smoke in peace? I don't even have a bench on my side walk. I think you could complete the bike trail from MA into cumberland. the biggest gap from uxbridge to bristol on the bike trail is woonsocket. just finish it...
- The cleanliness of the parks. This city is loaded with trash all over the streets.
- Here is where Woonsocket has done or is trying to do a good job. There are plenty of parks some need major upgrades but the work the city is doing with the funding available on Cass and WWII is comendable.
- Look into establishing more pocket parks in residential neighborhoods as well as a network of bike/pedestrian routes to connect all of the parks, either on-street or via internal paths. Look into new methods of park maintenance (e.g. not mowing EVERYTHING at River's Edge to preserve habitat and capture stormwater. Establish community garden network across the city to give residents options for growing their own food safely in uncontaminated soil.
- More than enough! If we own it we have to maintain it!

What is your top issue related to ENERGY? For example: How can the City conserve energy, reduce energy costs, and use more renewable energy? What can local residents and business owners do?

- Not sure
- Not sure
- Energy costs are too high.
- Stop with the new green deal BS and let businesses thrive.
- Don't place the burden of energy consumption and conservation on residents in this city, place it on the few large corporations who are housed here. CVS, the car dealerships, etc.
- I believe that we should have more solar panels to allow for a better way to use electricity on buildings as other cities do.
- invest in more solar- lights- energy on roof tops of city buildings, etc
- hydrogen is the future. we can make it without advanced technology. we can integrate it into the infrastructure that exists TODAY. we have vacant industrial space to make it. let's move on this. let's be the beginning of something internationally important.
- Change all the street lights to LED. Utilize the Blackstone river for hydro power.
- We should be looking to transition to renewables and implement energy efficiency wherever possible. We can do this for municipal owned properties (EE and rooftop solar for schools, public housing, etc.) and incentivize them for private properties as well, ESPECIALLY for rental properties where the occupants pay the utility bills. Look to sunset fossil fuel infrastructure (i.e. gas/oil) in new developments/redevelopments over the next decade. Require/incentivize EV chargers for new residential developments. Install EV charging stations across the city.
- A bigger question for the state and the Fed' - substantial incentives (80-90%) should be given to put solar on every house that wants it and can support it. Every street light ought to be solar

powered with battery backup - not just LED lighting! Another focus should be to move Utilities underground in as many areas that would permit it. Additionally and kind of related, a 20-year plan should be to fully excavate and reconstruct every street in the city with new water, sewer, gas, cable & phone, and electric U/G.

Policy Survey #2

Are there other ways you feel the City should be working to improve Economic Development? Feel free to explain any of your responses above.

- Help young adults financially. Encourage to continue their education to better their future. More programs and organizations to help with daily struggles such as food, temporary rent assistant, mental health etc
- Reduce taxes. Provide incentives for a business that would not compete with businesses with similar activities/products
- Bringing people into Woonsocket showing that they are willing to build, develop, and keep the city going
- Work with young kids to get jobs.
- I feel like the number one way to improve Woonsocket is bringing new businesses in and buying from our own city rather than other cities.
- The City should focus more on helping the tax payers and the folks who work. I do know that they have kept the tax rate low, but it is not enough. They should do more for the folks who actually contribute to this City.
- -Need another supermarket -Need co-op options for the community
- Stop allowing business to open without adequate parking. Examples convenience store on the corner of Cass Ave & Wood Ave, barber shop & convenience store on Elon Street. All have no parking signs posted yet people park on street regardless. For safety reasons adequate off street parking should be mandatory.
- Hire an Economic Development Coordinator to assist
- Economic Development is needed for the city but not on the dime of the taxpayer.
- I have heard about Main Street redevelopment for years, and I don't understand it. In its hey day, Main Street was probably wonderful. With increased auto use, and Woonsocket having very little highway access, I don't see Main Street ever being what it was. I see the pride in refurbishing, but I don't see the practicality. I'd actually like someone to explain it to me.
- The City does not have an official supermarket. Would be a great location in the former Lowes to put a Market Basket. Main Street needs to be refurbished so people will want to go there.
- Programs in early school years teaching money management and entrepreneurship to encourage new small businesses in Woonsocket from our own students.
- The City should plan to support the Woonsocket Heritage Canal District (WHCD) Project in order to be able to create a new City image, as was done in Providence by Mayor Cianci. The Project is/would be a possible one but only with the cooperation of the City's administrators and its people. Vision is a very necessary component of this Project!
- I would like to see more of the old dilapidated buildings taken down.
- Yes. The city should redouble its past efforts to re-establish passenger rail service to both Providence and Worcester.
- ENCOURAGE MORE WORK-FROM-HOME STUFF. RETAIL SHOULD BE ALLOWED FROM PEOPLES FRONT DOORS. RE-LEGALIZE THINGS LIKE PROSTITUTION. REDUCE ZONING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARKING. ENCOURAGE FOOT TRAVEL OVER BY-PASSED TRAFFIC ON WIDER MAIN STREETS. PARKING GARAGES TO REDUCE PARKING LOT FOOTPRINTS.
- Tax breaks for developers. Loan programs for developers. Clean up the city. Get more high end people, get a bunch of restaurants like Federal Hill. Build the river on the bypass and sell land to hotels, an outdoor amphitheater to have National shows. Let's go. Open your eyes and get this moving.

- I think it is great that the City is re-purposing old mills into great looking apartments and I also believe downtown has a lot to offer tourist and shopping.
- No more Section 8 housing. More upscale apt at reasonable prices to draw individuals who spend money. Support arts and museum.
- If I knew id tell u
- Less affordable housing and low income people would be great for our city
- 1. Grow retail outlets, especially in the Diamond Hill plazas. 2. Expand the tax base and employment opportunities.
- With the large, lower economic statuses of families in Woonsocket, it would be beneficial to encourage industrial and manufacturing-related industries.
- -Should work with kids, to help them appreciate the value of the city -Involve the youth in the city
- If possible looking into open a pool in Woonsocket
- Yes, I think they need to help the community. A lot of activities.
- -Advertise locally and nationally incentives for medium and large companies to relocate to Woonsocket -have a pamphlet/website dedicated to business development and a clear-cut easy to follow process for starting a business in the city. Incorporate city & state requirements.
- Giving people more city jobs to keep people employed and improve infrastructure
- Bring back business
- New businesses needed for our youth (i.e. recreational) New businesses needed for our lower income residents (i.e. Market Basket) Old Mills should be converted for use for many residents rather than just a select amount of residents More affordable variety of job/educational training programs for all ages
- Still thinking about it
- Bring rents down Taxes down
- Useful businesses such as bakery, grocery stores, coffee shops, businesses that people need in everyday life in vacant spaces with affordable apartments upper levels. Similar to cities where main streets are lined in and used - the way it once was
- More money for the programs
- Promote the arts and make city/housing/studio's Artist friendly
- I am a successful recovering alcoholic due to this town and the people in it. A location to hold AA meetings would help us! I am also a father that pays child support along with arrears. Credit Bureau reports so I have a hard time getting anyone to rent to me.
- The economy has to improve
- Use social media to promote the city and its plan for development.
- I wish there were more perks for those who live in and own multi family houses. It would make the city more attractive. The landlords don't keep up their property. We need more businesses in the city. More of the entertainment should not be done at River Island but at Rivers Edge. People don't want to go into the city. River Island is away from the city and would attract the already people using the bike path. You can't attract new people where there is no parking or hidden parking you have to know about. More functions away from the main street crowd could be helpful to attract new people. You have some restaurants. People will go to but other things on main street have to be very unique to stay there.
- THE SCHOOL NEED TO PUSH THE CHIDREN TO GO TO WORK . IIKE WORK STUDY PROGRAM INTREST.
- Need another supermarket

- Reduce commercial taxes so city is competitive; have a point person to assist businesses (existing and new) in navigating city departments; create positive business climate (businesses should not be caught in local politics - sends bad messages [for example - RESH])
- I feel that the city has done a great job encouraging small business development, and needs to also focus on passive recreation like replacing the golf area that was given to the dogs.
- Acquire required funding to complete the Blackstone Valley Bike Path. The bike path would connect the Woonsocket downtown to tourists, diners and spenders from both the north and south of the city. Further development of attractions, restaurants and park settings will make the city a place people will want to come to. Continue to work on policing efforts and social work to clean up the city and alter the perception that Woonsocket is a cesspool of crime and drugs. People won't want to visit, or live here or invest in a business if they are concerned for their safety. My wife and I feel confident that the completion of the bike path is the key to providing some new direction for development in the city, other upgrades would surely follow that projects completion.
- Expand transportation accessibility to the inner city through road restructuring. Specifically, widen Cumberland Hill Road from route 99 to Hamlet Avenue.
- Current employees need training in how to deal with the public.
- I have seen other cities with commercials to attract business and tourism. Woonsocket should look into that
- Tax incentives for very large technology companies. They provide awesome opportunity for job seekers who will come here when opportunity is greater than cost. Look at places like Raleigh, NC for example. Please don't burn down my house.
- More affordable housing
- Low income Rent
- they should be supporting the canal project that was presented at the city council meeting in April.
- I think repurposing the old mill buildings should be a priority. Any abandoned properties soon turn into an eyesore and the beautiful structures of these old mills is worth preserving.
- Help homeless with shelters...
- Use Old Mill Bldgs for indoor farms & put our Homeless plus derelict juveniles or adults to work there!! Also give indoor farmwork in lieu of some fines, especially for fast driving down residential streets (all streets should be 15mph) & LOUD car playing of music at all hours & non standard exhaust mufflers which are getting residents all over very sick!! Teach large scale Indoor Farming to them in 1-2 old mill bldgs. ty - That's what all tourists & all businesses hate about this town.
- Support the families already in the city who can't afford basic necessities to afford them.
- coordinate education (HS) and worker training to build a better workforce thus fueling companies in town
- Use of public funds to convert old mill buildings into affordable living units.
- Not just condos in the mill buildings
- Change the demographics of the city through investment in more 'visible' police; Not proceeding to build a limited public safety complex, rather offer this parcel to a developer to construct high value housing units; Reach out to someone like Bob Kraft to build a woman's soccer complex at the football field - think out of the box... don't be afraid to try the impossible
- The city should actively market the existence of St Anne arts center outside of new england as an arts destination. that all should see, bus tours etc. every small town in europe with an interesting ruin or church sometimes less than what we have has constant tours.

- The commercial tax rate. If we want to compete, why handicap ourselves.
- More cohesive government officials to make it more appealing to potential investors or residents to stay or move here.
- There are some requirements that tie the hands of small businesses, like parking restrictions for restaurants. Get reasonable.
- Attracting and developing new businesses! Revitalize Main St (downtown)
- Enhanced public transit connections. Working to reposition the train depot as a regional transit hub.
- Ethnicity inclusion, training programs to create skilled set individuals and assist in job placement within Woonsocket business.
- Updating Parks and /or recreational places.
- Find suitable businesses to reoccupy Diamond Hill Road
- Dramatically reduce the amount of social services within the city. Those types of services attract homeless and other under motivated people to the city making living conditions worse.
- I feel that in the past, all of the municipal entities involved have lack of future vision. The zoning board for instance has until recently been made up of old people with the “that’s the way it used to be” attitude. That all has to change. We need people with drive, vision and ingenuity AND the the city needs to be willing to accept new ideas and be aware of the cultural changes and opportunities that the city presents
- Encourage downtown development. Attract more shows to the stadium.
- Bringing back a vocational school focused on the industries located in Woonsocket
- Promoting and supporting tourism, such as development of the proposed river by-pass project (not sure of its name) would possibly help with main street development efforts as well as help existing small businesses, with the possibility of attracting new business. You need an attraction!
- Woonsocket is a unique and diverse city. Economic development could mean not just having more business in this city, but ones that represent the population. Example is we have a lot of African, Spanish, Asian & Indian businesses and it’s fun to have these as places to shop at. I do think we need to avoid more dollar stores and similar. It doesn’t look like a thriving community. Woonsocket does seem to have a lot of old buildings not in use & certainly it makes sense to turn them into something positive, especially where real estate is slim.
- Be sure the strategy aligns to industry trends and is not more of the same that might not have worked in the past. We are a large community surrounded by suburban areas and should be looking to draw businesses and customers as a destination and reason which could also encourage restaurants to plant here
- Need to give tax breaks to businesses that have 75-100 workers. We need to fight harder against other communities to allow business owners to be intimate wanting to come here
- make improvements to main street- to be more safe and walkable
- Clean up the rivers and smell on Cumberland hill rd
- Better fiscal policy
- Convert old Lowes shopping center to elderly and or low income housing
- Attract business to Main Street and surrounding areas. It is shameful to see so much of Main St. Abandoned.
- Create more jobs and opportunities
- maybe place a mall, great opportunity for new businesses
- Bring diamond hill back to life

- Stop adding more low quality businesses like Dollar Tree. There are no high quality retail stores in Woonsocket.
- Bring new business to this city. Like market basket
- The City Administration should have a devoted team to economic development, IE. economic development director, dedicated grant writer, mill reuse coordinator liason with city council to develop oriented goal working relationship.
- Create incentives for young people to move to Woonsocket.
- Make sure that personal finance is a required aspect of high school education to promote financial literacy from a young age.
- Tear down the old dilapidated structures.
- yes looking more program for kids and training
- Would the city be open to receiving suggestions from residents regarding different businesses that might be an asset to the city? Personally, I would like to see the Diamond Hill district become a mecca of off-price stores. It would draw people to our city's other businesses -- restaurants etc. I know I would be willing to do research.
- Work always with team help each other listen the community what is good to improve the Exi o l'd development a lot of activities in the community Work together Make any changes if is good for the community
- The Main Street area has so much potential and needs to be maximized. Also, the North End is a special area and marketing this area could be helpful.
- Promote any and all businesses. Become a business friendly community. Attempt to create less residential areas and more commercial areas especially in the Park Avenue, Mendon Road and Cumberland Hill Road areas.
- 1. Transportation Bus and Train daily commuters from Woonsocket to Worcester on to Boston.
- Make the process more streamlined for new businesses to come to Woonsocket.
- Education is key. Start there.
- Get a commuter station in Woonsocket
- I also think that our schools should be better supported so as to attract people who own business to come here with their families and invest in the city.
- More pre-k classes for children
- Develop a roadmap, a vesion about the future you want to achieve. Publicize it. Build political and public support for it.
- Economic development in Woonsocket should be good for the people that live here. The city should be focusing on placemaking as economic development; that is, creating an economic base made up of business that will provide goods and services to the people that live here AND to visitors to the city, all inviting, walkable, and convenient. Things like bookshops, bakeries, brewpubs, bike shops, small grocers, etc. that residents can walk or bike to, and that visitors can patronize without having to get in their car to go to each stop. Business owned, operated, and staffed by city residents. Primary attention should be on developing the downtown corridor - Main Street and Social Street. The city should prioritize the development of street-level commerce with doors right on the sidewalk as opposed to outdated strip-mall style development that prioritizes parking, incentivizes short visits, and exacerbates automobile dependency.
- Tear down the blight buildings.
- Encourage Renovation of currently unutilized strip malls into affordable housing options.
- A real Historic Preservation Commission to vet projects in the historic districts. A real Main Street Program, that rehabs not only Monument Square, but Main street and Depot square.

Rehabbing the buildings and getting businesses and residents in there. Also getting the train service up from Worcester to Providence. Make downtown Woonsocket a valid and exciting stop.

- Get rid of homeless bums and help those who want to help themselves. The Social flatlands was built as a showcase and now is an embarrassment.
- As a small business owner, I feel there is a disconnect between the departments in this city. It was very difficult to move my location. Some of the departments had never even heard of me and after being a thriving business here for seven years, that is not acceptable. We need to make it easier for businesses to come into, or expand, in this city. Having someone be the "go between" for the departments would be a God send. I feel that an Economic Director (or a team of) is the answer to this problem.
- encourage people to live locally to their work. if youre going to build industry up, you have to make life here more dense and affordable.
- Attract trendier businesses, enough with the dollar stores!
- Many vacant lots, why not use them to make parks. If the city looks attractive and thriving maybe it would encourage business to move here.
- Get a full fledged market like Market Basket
- We need restaurants that's serves healthy food. And I don't mean a salad from the local pizza joint. Actual healthy food. There's plenty of trash food, but I don't see very many healthy options.
- Hire an Economic Development person
- Darle mas oportunidad a los latinos que buscan un mejor porvenir

Translation: Give more opportunity to Latinos who are looking for a better future

- Mejoras en las calles . Billboards digitales da un mejor look a la Ciudad e información en cuanto a todo

Translation: Street improvements . Digital billboards give a better look to the City and information regarding everything

- Mejorar las carreteras , mejorar las apariencia de el pueblo y ayudar a los dueños de casa con recursos para mejorar sus hogares

Translation: Improve roads, improve the appearance of the town and help homeowners with resources to improve their homes

- LIMPIAR CON TODOS LOS QUE VENDEN DROGAS Y ABRIR ALBERGUE DE REABILITACION DE ADICTOS FUERA DE LA COMUNIDAD Y ZONA URBANA

Translation: CLEAN UP WITH ALL THOSE WHO ARE SELLING DRUGS AND OPEN A REHABILITATION SHELTER FOR ADDICTS OUTSIDE OF THE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AREA

Are there other ways you feel the City should be working to improve Housing? Feel free to explain any of your responses above.

- No comments
- Better screening.
- Continue to turn places like old mills into new apartments and lower housing cost.
- rents too high!
- -Rent Control + Rent Assistance -More assistance for working people for home improvements. (Income guidelines are too Low)
- Way too many apartment buildings for a city this size. Not to mention half the landlords are slum lords.
- Have an ongoing live web site for rentals and purchases

- Stop stigmatizing the homeless
- The city has too much subsidized housing already.
- I think if you had a well rounded city you would have to do some of all of the above. As it is now I don't think higher end houses will sell.
- We have enough housing in Woonsocket especially low income.
- Woonsocket needs to appeal to the working residents. There has been too much emphasis on social services. Develop housing that will draw a higher economic population which will increase your tax base and change the image of the city, tying into the redevelopment of Main Street, etc.
- make it affordable--including the taxes
- Safe shelters for the homeless near bus and grocery. Social Street near Dollar Store? Convert or add shelter to the motel?
- energy incentives and home improvement credits for existing homeowners/tax payers to help take care of their property. Fines/punishment for slum lords/absentee landlords
- Encourage concentration of new housing opportunities along key transit corridors and around train station
- FIND WAYS TO REDUCE RENT. ENCOURAGE LANDLORDS TO NOT BE PART OF MANAGEMENT-CORPS. THE RELATIONSHIP OF RENTOR TO LANDLORD NEEDS TO BE PERSONAL AND MORE ACTIVE. TOO MANY VACANT LANDLORDS EXIST AND TOO MANY PROPERTIES ARE LEANING TOWARD BLIGHT. EXAMPLE: 402 SOUTH MAIN STREET IS NEARLY 1/3RD VACANT AND THE RENT WENT UP DESPITE THE POOR/FAILING CONDITION OF THE BUILDING. WHY???
- We need to attract more high end people.
- Please less subsidized housing and more market rate apartments and houses
- One downside to Woonsocket has always been the total number of subsidized housing, and I think there is enough of them. Focus should be placed on higher end homes and also promoting Woonsocket's close proximity to Providence, and Boston.
- More upscale housing at reasonable prices to attract individuals who will spend money in the city.
- Figure out who is taking advantage of the housing in the low income areas so that people who actually need it can use it.
- Less apartments and section 8
- I want to emphasize that the development of smaller homes should be a priority.
- If converting the mills, make them affordable housing instead of luxury apartments.
- 1. Create owner occupied requirements, as is allowed by law. Ownership presence matters. 2. Encourage housing opportunities for singles and couples that will not significantly draw city resources.
- The city needs more subsidized single-family homes, rather than more "project" based subsidized housing.
- I came across a topic not too familiar with but seem like a common topic is housing for those release from jail/prison
- They can help a lot of training for Housing and a lot of activities
- The city should improve its cooperation with existing housing nonprofits in order to support more housing + family support.
- -Fine & penalize neglectful absentee landlords, in violation of property code & city ordinances. Especially repeat offenders and those who own large amounts of property -Ticket property owners who are in violation of public nuisance & landscape ordinances. Have a mechanism for city to correct violations for negligent property owners. -Semi-Annual Beautification Award

Contest for well-kept properties. -Require that agencies operating in and relocating residents to Woonsocket do inspections of the property. -Look into more solutions for rat control, possibly using public funds.

- Making housing more affordable is the first priority, once everyone is comfortably housed then we can add improvements to the look of Woonsocket
- Convert mills for low income people
- More subsidized housing needed More single home houses needed for families More shelters and domestic abuse housing needed
- Still thinking
- How's about legal resident first
- Some mills could be kept to encourage businesses that use machinery to come to the city. Educate those students who are good with their hands to use machinery and encourage them.
- Temporary housing available for those who may find themselves on the brink of homelessness but need to break in the interim.
- Rents are out of control too high. Rents should be brought down to reasonable amounts.
- Provide housing for homeless people until suitable housing can be found for them
- Encouraging the conversion of former mill buildings for HOMELESS
- Fix up old developments and have people of low/middle class have lottery option of income capped housing.
- Offer affordable housing to the working MAN.
- There are people who need a place to live. A lot of them.
- Housing should be working with all the centers. Housing should be linked to the Senior Center and Sojourner House, especially the shelters and city housing.
- Try to buy and fix abandon homes
- WE have enough section 8 and enough absentee landlords . Concentrate on more places for people to work and more small homes. These people pay ridiculous rents. Everything is and expensive llc company making money and not keep these homes in great condition. Small tiny homes owned by the city with rent to own would be great and many could own them and get off heat assistance.
- GET RID OF LOW INCOME HOUSING WE HAVE TOO MUCH
- No more subsidized housing
- Capping the amount of subsidized unit.
- converting mill buildings for residential use should not be encouraged because it reduces industrial/office (job) opportunities in the city. The city is land poor and needs to expand its commercial tax base. It would be better to demo a mill buildings thereby creating a land opportunities for industrial/office (jobs) development.
- I think the city needs to be prepared for the shifting demographics. The 65 to80 group is exploding and the millenials who are struggling to make ends meet.
- Creating new lots for development via the "dirty thirty" program allows for affordable "starter homes" to be built in their place. Continue to train and develop the personnel that work with the developers and contractors so that they look forward to a project in Woonsocket. Some communities have reputations for being difficult to do business with. Woonsocket would want to be on the side of "good to do business with."
- Significantly reduce old multi-family housing and replace with single family dwellings.
- Everyone could use a grant for improvement of some kind
- Put stricter rules on properties for keeping the lots and housing cleaner which will increase property values and be more attractive to people moving to the area

- Subsidized housing is good for people who can't afford a roof over their head. It's awesome for the landlord. Time to come down on the landlord. Reward those who genuinely care about their tenant. Cut off the slum lords. Cut off the slum lords. Cut off the dang slum lords! Reward people who contribute, Cut off people who suck blood.
- Have Wi-Fi as a free benefit of residing in the city Promotes more community spirit
- Please no more low income and senior housing. It is killing our city. Do more for high income millennials.
- Rent control
- Bringing in high end buyers will help revitalize the city.
- Shelter for Homeless...
- Make it safe to walk out on the streets again (daylight, dusk, & after sunset! People are scared to walk around the town even to get exercise! And, the huge exhaust pipes allowed within city limits makes air smell bad & your people get sick. Make all LAW that ALL multi-family housing must separate trash & use recycle bins. Give them FINES if not recycling! It will clean up all this street rubbish blowing into other people's yards & down gutter drains. Use the MONEY saved by paying for more trucks going to LANDFILL to buy some community recycle bins to put on various busy streets & for advertising campaign.
- Create more shelters and spaces for the homeless population to be safe.
- create an easy to use system to allow potential renters and buyers to find available properties
- Smaller market rate home and townhouses along with other senior living options.
- Go by the codes, too many condos, less affordable housing,
- Adjust the Senior tax exemption to be 100% (no RE tax) for owner-occupied single family homes that are owned by a Senior over 70; Stop any additional social service developments - if you coddle them they will expand further, and prevent you from changing the citizen base from takers to producers;
- most seniors are being priced out of their homes by increasing taxes. most young families cannot afford the cost of the home and taxes.
- I think we let the market lead us to where we should go.
- As we have a large population that falls into a poor category as well as many homeless, more attention should be focused on introducing ways to improve their situations; rehabilitated, more modern and efficient housing, learning opportunities, job opportunities and to be a part of the community instead of being relegated to staying poor.
- Woonsocket is a city not a suburb; as long as our infrastructure grows along with our population we could benefit from a higher density of families. Greenspan, in-and-around transportation, available parking, RR connections with Prov, Boston, Worcester.
- Conversion of all mill buildings and structures not being used into affordable housing
- No additional thoughts.
- Renewing or taken care of existing buildings that are deteriorating.
- Attract more tax paying residents to the city and although Section 8 is a necessity, the City may benefit from eliminating one of the complexes we have in the city, regardless of how much government funding is received.
- Recommend more oversight and inspections of housing development projects including completion of new streets and drainage/sewers.
- Assisting working class with buying home for the first time. Let's not focus on low income housing projects we need more working class people to help the r3sr of us pay taxes and get some financial relief. We have too many people on state assistance, homeless, and narcotic

abusers! We need to give more help and breaks to those like myself who work hard and work multiple jobs

- The city would appear to have more than enough subsidized housing. The city needs more "tax paying" residents that take stock in their property.
- Convert existing structures to mixed use/residential
- Reduce density and the amount of low income / section 8 housing.
- There is a s plenty of subsidized housing. There are many working poor but there are also many free loaders. "If you build it, they will come." Additional subsidized housing needs to be paid for somehow and that is on the backs of the taxpayers. I do not support additional subsidized housing in Woonsocket
- Continue to revitalize city parks. More city sponsored youth sports
- a balance in anything is always the best approach and that is why I listed the first three as I did. In aggregate, they should provide seniors with more options as well.
- The City has enough low income/subsidized housing. We carry the burden for the communities that surround us. It's time for the City to begin to limit the number which will hopefully see growth in other areas by increasing the tax base.
- Affordable homeownership is extremely important. We have plenty of affordable rentals. I assume high end housing would not be popular, but if you think about it. It's great to have & it brings in higher incomes & individuals with the means to help the city improve in various areas. Not only that, it reduces the tax burden by having such properties on the tax roll .
- More Affordable apartments for people on SS and disability
- Focus on building single family housing Town house Condos We have enough low income now We need to expand our tax base and get more than 10k of the 40K residents contributing This would help to lower our tax rate for everyone
- Communicate with landlords regarding upkeep of rental properties.
- Bring people here that have good jobs so they can spend money here
- Figure out a way to het these rent prices under control!
- Better socioeconomic mix, more higher earners, skilled workers
- Allow for looser guidelines for additional units in existing buildings
- Have more homeless shelters
- Less subsidized housing in general.
- there is defiantly more than enough housing, too little shopping
- I am quite happy..thank u..
- There should be limits on what a landlord can charge for rent. The rents in the city are way to high for a low income city. I'm a home owner not renter but I see so many people struggling to get by. Maybe rent can't be over a certain percentage of the mortgage so landlords make a profit as well and there's more affordable apartments to those who can't get into housing but also can't afford rent that's a huge issue right now.
- Increasing subsidized housing increases the school population in a city that does not support their public schools.
- Unless, Woonsocket has a shortage of senior housing, which I do kot know if it does, than are current senior housing is adequate.
- Woonsocket is not unique in its lack of affordable housing. The recent \$82m influx of funding for refurbishment and adding additional units in the state will have a positive effect statewide.
- Woonsocket needs housing for the middle class. No need for more housing for low income. He city has plenty of that already.

- Yes lookin more event for senior and give the people who works in housing the right training so will be able to help the community who been have eviction and problem work together will be able to understand the system better
- I think we're doing a good job with new construction of higher end homes and I definitely don't see a need for any more subsidized housing. Attracting investors to remediate existing housing would be good.
- If everyone work together Gelo Each other doesn't matter what part of state will be better to improve for homeless people who having struggle psid bill rent they need change couple thing training will be better to get knowledge and learn more about help the community
- Woonsocket has more than it's fair share of affordable housing for its residents. It's time to down size the affordable housing and create homes for taxpayers and their families. The long term benefits will increase all of the other areas schools and city services.
- All the building down town turn in to mix use. Condos & family rentals, elderly units ect. Woonsocket residents living, working and spending their funds in the neighborhoods where they live. It important that the city bring those old building up to code to make us business friendly. To many code violations and stumbling blocks keeping potential buyers and businesses owners away from our great city.
- All the building down town turn in to mix use. Condos & family rentals, elderly units ect. Woonsocket residents living, working and spending their funds in the neighborhoods where they live. It important that the city bring those old building up to code to make us business friendly. To many code violations and stumbling blocks keeping potential buyers and businesses owners away from our great city.
- Affordable housing and subsidized housing are not the same thing.
- Having both affordable and high end housing is important to make housing available to any and all that want to come to the city.
- Less subsidized. Folks can work hard if motivated to do so
- Homeowner rehab loans for owner occupied homes
- The old mill buildings could be converted to both housing and businesses. The old buildings on Main St. should also be repurposed. Perhaps there is a way for people of Woonsocket to work on these buildings with/as incentive to live or work in them.
- We need to find housing for middle income families. We are the ones who have suffered the most!
- First, the city needs to overhaul its zoning ordinance. Euclidian zoning is outdated and inequitable. Short of that though, the city should at least upzone all zoning categories to allow for more flexibility in housing development. It should eliminate minimum parking requirements, minimum lot sizes, and mandatory setbacks. Find ways to encourage mixed use developments, particularly in denser, walkable neighborhoods. Many of the iconic houses that make up our building stock could never be built under the current zoning code. Not only does this mean more housing at every income level, but it increases the city's tax base by maximizing tax value per acre. The city should also find ways to incentivize incremental development and redevelopment by small-scale owners rather than fixating on large scale hail-mary projects from largely out-of-city developers. Where can infill development happen? How many units can fit there? How can the city help a prospective homeowner rehabilitate a dilapidated multifamily property that will see their family live in one unit and rent out the others to subsidize the mortgage? How can we reimagine the huge, underutilized properties (e.g. along Walnut Hill, the old French Worsted site, etc.) as mixed use developments to provide desperately needed housing at all income levels as well as amenities for the people that live there or visitors to the city. The number one

thing that the city must do, though, is stop its fixation on single-family homes. There are neighborhoods of single family homes in the city, and there should be. Woonsocket is not a suburb, however. As we grow, we need a diversity of housing to meet the needs of ALL residents. We are a dense, urban, and diverse city and we need to develop like it.

- Encourage the renovation of unutilized strip malls into affordable housing options
- Affordability is crucial right now.
- Get rid of homeless bums unwilling to help themselves.
- I feel that we have more than enough subsidized and elderly housing. If we want this city to grow, we need more smaller and higher-end homes. We need people that can contribute to the welfare of the city, not just take from.
- new tower-like residential buildings. make this place more dense. make every business extremely local to these dense residencies.
- I don't believe Woonsocket needs more housing for people that don't want to work. There's so many beautiful old buildings in Woonsocket that can be converted into apartments/condos for people that want to actually go to work and spend money in this city.

Are there other ways you feel the City should be working to improve Natural Resources & Energy? Feel free to explain any of your responses above.

- Reduce the incoming waste to our treatment plant from surrounding town
- Energy Resources are very important.
- Partially treated sewerage in the BKstone River!!!! The companu is not being monitored? What's the problem!!
- I feel the more businesses and recreational areas we bring the more people will walk over driving especially with such a small city.
- Grants for New Windows for City Hall + Better Insulation. More efficient heating/cooling units. Fining residents for not keeping their properties clean.
- Roof top solar but not cutting of trees for solar projects
- The Blackstone River should be the key element in attracting visitors to the City. As an example, Reno has built a competition kayaking course in the middle of their City. It is a well utilized resource. The state of California collaborates with rafting tour companies in drought years to link water release to the time of on river rafting trips conducted by the tour companies. The dam in the City could be utilized in the same manner for tubing trips from park to park and to provide the water flow for kayaking. Outdoor activities of this type attract folks with leisure funds who want an experience event. There are more than enough retail options in all of southern NE. Retail is not going to bring folks to the City. Recreation that is unique to the Blackstone River will draw the folks. Execution of developing a kayak and tubing capability will take years and hopefully the continuing improvement of water quality will progress as well to allow this type of unique recreational feature.
- The city should not be paying for the environmental cleanup of old industrial properties. The individuals that owned them should be responsible for any cleanup.
- Enough of the municipal facilities. Beautify the city and draw businesses and residents to increase your tax dollars. Change the image!!! Woonsocket suffers from a poor image.
- Plant the trees on sidewalks on the opposite side of utilities so they won't interfere with wires meaning less trimming.
- I think the flowers and landscaping look wonderful!

- BIKE LANES BIKE LANES BIKE LANES. I SAY THIS EVERY TIME. TAX PICKUP TRUCK OWNERS AND DRIVERS OF NON-EFFICIENT VEHICLES. ENCOURAGE MORE FOOT TRAVEL. INVEST IN HYDROGEN GENERATION AND USAGE. STOP PROMOTING ANTIQUE CAR USAGE.
- Plenty of flat roofs in the city school's And other flat roof city buildings Should have put up solar systems on the roofs Would at least be paying for most of the electricity if not half in these buildings Just look at what mount Saint Charles has done they hardly pay any electricity for their ice arena
- There are plenty of beautiful trees in Woonsocket, the issue is their upkeep, and the upkeep of the walkways and sidewalks. and history seekers. In the summer months there is way to much overgrowth on many streets.
- Supporting arts, museum, historical society, open land, clean, neat, and pretty places makes me want to live in the city and spend my money there.
- I think they need to work more for parking lot, recycling, and so on so they can be a better place for a new generation.
- -Planting more trees, lots of areas with no shade on street.
- Potentially using state owned buildings as solar farms on their roofs. We need so much more green in woonsocket and I know real estate is pretty condensed, consider using vertical gardens
- More recycling and composting containers/bins needed for businesses and residential areas Clean up and planting could be done by homeless people and youth as incentive programs
- Still thinking
- More police and patrols
- I believe that trees need too much maintenance and dead leaves become a nuisance. There never are enough people to take care of them.
- Begin to convert to electric vehicles. Plant more trees. Use environmental guidelines and green energy.
- Quiet near houses at night.
- Promote more people to walk or bike. But on other hand people driving are very impatience.
- This area has to improve.
- investing in the clean up of mill buildings and brownfields is very important ONLY if the cleaned up property will continue to be used for industrial/office uses. NO RESIDENTIAL.
- Replant the trees on Cato St.
- Recycling is a failing effort. State government should do more to regulate out of use bad products that contribute to litter such a nip bottles and single use grocery bags. We have more than enough open space thank you. Trees don't belong on sidewalks; they belong on private property, preferably near sidewalks. The city needs to make solar a standard for government buildings and establish an incentive program for residential solar power use. Municipal vehicles should all be electric and/or hybrid with charging stations at city facilities. City employees who own electric vehicles should then be allowed to charge their vehicles during their work shift.
- Wind, hydro and geothermal has not been explored enough
- Solar panels on the buildings in the parks is a great way to start
- The city does not need to pursue land. Generous people will give it up freely. The city and tax payer does not need to clean up hazardous sites. Hold the owners responsible or confiscate the

property then auction it to the highest bidder on condition that they clean it up within a certain time frame. Negative bids accepted within a reasonable limit.

- Free Wi-Fi
- We have enough parks. More high end housing and more high end businesses should be the focus. The whole city can't be parks and the linear park on the bike path is a joke.
- Give discounts to property taxes for installation of solar panels
- Don't laugh at us when we call the city about the skunks, racoons, or other strange animals hanging from our trees. You tell us to get a private exterminator to come & pay an enormous fee! If the City lets these animals roam all around, there should be funding to give at least a partial Grant Reimbursement to us when we are told we have to get some out of town business to come here to remove these animals.
- be smart, help businesses DO NOT add additional hassles, burdens and \$ to lives
- Replace windows at City Hall.
- Sewer treatment plant stinks, more water parks for kids
- Mandate solar for all new ground-up construction and include greenspace (20%) in all new developments
- preserve the river
- retrofitting of public buildings to be more energy efficient is a key improvement
- Get rid of the PUC.
- As we have received a surplus of ARPA funding, now would be the time for ALL our elected officials to work together to make these vital improvements to our City. We need to look to the future to attract and retain residents and businesses. Woonsocket has potential with its river and geographic location to be a place that attracts younger generations, but they need reasons to be here and renewable, sustainable energy is what they want. We should all want that.
- Improve water quality and add more open space
- Consider the options of micro-grids to enhance resiliency for critical facilities such as hospital, senior housing, city hall, etc.
- Finish bike path through the city. Cross country course in city would be nice for runners.
- Solar panels at every conceivable location. See attached
link:<https://interestingengineering.com/school-district-turns-to-solar-power-teachers-get-raise-from-savings>
- First I want to say, putting a recreational area on a land capped dump was a very poor decision. I hope no one gets long term illness from playing at Rivers Edge. Secondly, expansion of safe recreational space is important and I am a firm believer in keeping Barry Field as open recreational space
- I don't know much about how this works but going green is definitely the way to go.
- Promote Solar credits and incentives
- cleaner parks, maybe more water sources for public to enjoy on hot days
- Yard waste pickup should continue during the summer. Spring through fall.
- Planting fruit trees in public spaces, so people that have trouble accessing fresh food can easily acquire it.
- They need to improve to low the cost for energy is expensive and is a lot of people without job that can not pay the service it is hard

- Provide more opportunities for the public and civic groups to get involved with environmental clean ups on a volunteer basis.
- Right now everything is going up will be better try to help the community to look for any thing to help the natural resources and energy a lot of the community not ei
- Invest in the Blackstone River and the properties along the river banks. Look at the existing open spaces, fields and parks and determine whether or not it makes sense to redevelop areas to make room for commercial areas.
- All of the above is critical yet we need more royalties from resident that work and pays taxes to see all these costly wishes come to life. If you invest in your residents they will give back to their city hand over fist. Trust the process.
- Green space is important
- Stop wasting energy!
- Enough with the renewable energies. We don't even know if they work and no one has looked into nuclear.
- stop that treatment plant from dumping shit in the Blackstone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And the smell is disgusting!!!!!! We are a laughing stock of the state!!!!!!!!!!!!
- All municipal buildings should run on renewable energy within the next decade. All vehicles in the municipal fleet should be replaced with electric vehicles as the old fleet is retired. The city should look into developing microgrids and community solar programs. Solar development projects should be confined to rooftops and brownfields where no other development is feasible. New developments and redevelopments should be required to capture stormwater onsite through green infrastructure. The city should adopt a Green and Complete Streets ordinance to better manage stormwater and encourage other forms of transportation. Develop an urban forestry program to put desperately needed street trees in neighborhoods that need them (and develop a program to maintain them). Do not use chemical pesticides or herbicides in city parks; when it rains, they pollute the river.
- research and promote renewable energy resources, tax credits, etc. for home and business owners, ie. Solar
- Really.... fixing that disgusting sewage treatment plant that is polluting the Blackstone needs to be priority. That's the city's problem to fix and not blame on XY and Z company. Brownfield repair could really be vital.
- Additional incentives for clean energy (solar panels, etc.) would be great. Regular trash cleanup on the streets and in parks is much needed. Very often I walk my dog and there is broken glass on sidewalks and litter in the pond at Globe Park.
- Don't build sports complex at Hill at Cass Park. Leave it natural the way it is.
- If we want to become a more up and coming, modern city, we need parks and open areas for people to gather and have events (which I feel we have been on the right track the last 5-10 years). We also need to appeal to the more "environmentally friendly" with more renewable energy options. If we want more people to enjoy our parks and the bike path, we need to keep them clean and functional.
- bike lanes bike lanes bike lanes bike lanes bike lanes bike lanes EVERYWHERE on EVERY street! stop people from driving THRU the city, and get them to live in and pedal around.

- There's several area along Blackstone river that where people are dumping waste from their backyards along the banks and into the river. It's very sad. I don't know how people think this is acceptable!
- Crear nuevos espacios para paneles solares fuera del área
Translation: Create new spaces for solar panels outside
- Donar sistemas a Los landlord para beneficios del arrendador
Translation: Donate systems to landlords for leasing benefits

Are there other ways you feel the City should be working to improve Historic & Cultural Resources? Feel free to explain any of your responses above.

- Voluntary design guidelines don't work. We use dollars to tear down structures, we should use dollars to preserve buildings
- Don't see voluntary design guidelines for owners of historic properties working
- More culturally diverse events
- I feel sad to see the Villa Novan Native American removed from public areas. I grew up with that and it was a symbol of my school years.
- STOP WORRYING ABOUT THE PAST. ITS A WASTE OF MONEY. CELEBRATE NEWER THINGS. MAKE NEW HISTORY.
- This goes without saying but Woonsocket although small has had a huge important in history and should be a focus in Woonsocket's identity and pride. There should be more events that focus around the Blackstone Valley.
- Focusing the above attributes of this wonderful living space will give a positive shine to our city.
- It's difficult to say because half of the residents in the city are racist if it isn't about white holidays such as Columbus Day etc
- Less strict guidelines for owners of historic properties
- Yes will be excited if this makes change and all this program and people are enjoying more programs with the community.
- Woonsocket needs to partner with more organizations More community involved arts and cultural events needed
- Still thinking
- Display and doll out wares at local artists who have made a name for themselves locally through the years such as John Loveland, plus many popular local artists and photographers.
- More cops, hospitals, fire departments
- More cultural events!
- Possible arts festival
- The arts never seem to be something that takes off. Sad but you give money for this but face it/ Does not work.
- regarding the creation of an historic commission, the city needs to be careful to not create bureaucracy which would hinder redevelopment of the older structures.
- Although it is nice to keep the integrity of the old buildings we must change with the times and use newer building techniques.
- Yes, mirror successful programs and offerings that are in place in other communities. No need to reinvent the wheel, steal their ideas and then mold it into what "fits" in Woonsocket. I would say one BIG opportunity to sell the city and some of its offerings to the public would be to have

a bus tour of the city during Autumnfest weekend, have the buses pick up at the park, drive a loop with stops at the Museum of Work and Culture, the Veterans Museum, St Ann's Cultural Center and maybe a couple other venues. Maybe make it a shuttle service for the day on Saturday. I would also advocate for the creation of a walking history trail in the city, similar to the Boston Freedom Trail. Maybe the historical society would want to get involved? I would be interested in that myself.

- Preserving historic building is nice, but often times old buildings are just OLD and should be destroyed to make way for new development.
- Now that Ray Bacon has passed and the school does not teach local history. The current citizens know nothing about who we were in past years
- I have no insight.
- Arts and cultural small business events More of them
- Providence has the arts and culture scene, we can't compete. Let's focus on Woonsocket's unique history with the mills. And it's French Canadian history.
- I feel historic structures should be renovated and preserved as they are part of the city's history
- Make it Honest History, claim the fact that there were soo many slave owners here & slaves working here as well as how this City protected it's own white & separate ethnic group isolating others... because it still goes on!
- Not at this time.
- Sinking "local" funding into preservation of any old building (think Main Street) is a waste of tax dollars, sorry but Main Street is dead. The sooner we realize that, the sooner we get on to purposeful planning and development
- we have huge historical resources here. we need to market them. CLOSED churches need to revert back to taxable property for residential or commercial developement with sensitive restoration. NO denomination should be just holding on the property as a real estate holding company, without paying taxes on that property!!!!
- If someone is willing to invest their own monies... They should have a say in the best use of what the are investing.
- New England's greatest asset is its mass of culture, including its people, location, and building structures. We should be taking advantage of opportunities to attract artists to this beautiful area, work together with other communities to continue our bike path and public services and be part of a great reinvention.
- Besides the above, citizens should be strongly encouraged to keep their properties maintained. AND STOP THE LITTER AND DOG CRAP. On the streets, sidewalks, parks ... some people are pigs.
- Promote more cultural and arts events/programs for children
- No additional thoughts.
- Bring other cultures that are present in our neighborhood as part of the various ethnic groups we have around.
- Bring more cultural festivals to promote Unity .
- Ensure the preservation of buildings that have not been neglected for decades, but other buildings need to be torn down. They are an eyesore and a potential public health hazard.
- Not enough knowledge to respond to this question

- more events related to history- expand on what the museum of work and culture does
- Don't remove or damage history because of today's "woke" culture.
- could use more art/craft events
- We are blessed with an abundance of history on the Blackstone Valley. Take advantage and utilize everything.
- By promoting pride in community, you provide a foundation for moving the city in a positive direction
- Yes, do more event work with community do a lot of training help family so they can have a lot of fun with their kid and cultural resource
- Try to attract more investors who would be willing to rehab neglected historical buildings by offering them incentives.
- Woonsocket History is rich and has birthed many new and established cultural communities such as the Black American, Black Africans, Latinos, Asian and so on we are strong in our diversity. Those historic story have yet to be told. I'd love to see that culture of how these minorities played apart of the yesterday and the current Woonsocket History stories. We must forge a new future for our children one of unity and community that looks more like the word "we".
- more musical and theatre events, as well as art exhibits
- Free stuff
- We need to be proud of our past and history and show it.
- Enough with the arts crap.
- Have a little more artistic variety to performances at the Stadium. More theater and comedy style events instead of the seemingly large focus on Music. Promote local Artists, Painters, sculptors, etc with Festivals etc.
- The events the city has been helping put on are nice, but Main Street really needs to be worked on. As mentioned before, revitalize the buildings and get some businesses in there. Help stretch the events beyond River Island Park and Market Square. Again, would love to see a HDC.
- We need to work with surrounding communities. We need to break this cycle of the "Woonsocket Trash". Our community has been steadily improving and we need to continue moving forward, while preserving some of our history. One of the best ways to do this is through the Arts.
- be new. preserving the old is futile. make news, not history.
- I would volunteer for a Woonsocket historical commission

Are there other ways you feel the City should be working to improve Social Services & Public Health?
 Feel free to explain any of your responses above.

- A grocery store is NOT the answer . . . need to think bigger
- -Assistance for Seniors who struggle to pay for their medications -More options for affordable housing for retired + Senior Citizens on fixed incomes (other than High Rises)
- I feel there are enough agencies in the City to support the need.
- there is a food desert in the center of the city. Please get a grocery store more towards downtown and not on the outskirts of city limits
- If there were any cannabis selling in Woonsocket, perhaps Walnut Hill or where Job Lot is.

- MORE SMALLER HOSPITAL/MEDICAL/DENTAL/MENTAL SERVICE CLINICS SCATTERED THRU THE CITY. LESS OF THE ONE BIG HOSPITAL STUFF. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO WALK TO A DOCTOR, NOT JUMP ON A HIGHWAY OR PAY FOR AMBULANCES OR TAXI RIDES. SAME GOES FOR POLICE STATIONS. HAVE OUTPOSTS, NOT STATIONS. ONE COP IN AN OFFICE SIZED GARAGE ON EVERY OTHER CORNER. FIRE DEPARTMENTS ALREADY KINDA DO THIS. 1 OR 2 TRUCKS IN KEY SEGMENTS OF THE CITY. SPREAD IT OUT.
- Get the drug goes and drinks out of the city
- The city has enough of grocery stores as it is we are surrounded on the outskirts by big Box grocery stores we do not need any in the city
- Maintaining what we have seems appropriate with more emphasis on mental health issues. Accenting the positive.
- We need more free things for teens to do. There's nothing for them to do around here and that's why they all act the way they do
- Having more affordable access to healthy foods for ALL residents is needed. We need to expand services (mental health/wellness) for ALL ages, not just kids and seniors. There isn't enough services for 30-60 year olds.
- Have more local natural organic food
- Yes will be grateful if the put more grocery w/ the healthy foods. For residential support and people who disable can be able to expand it more social services plan and be good to start for the next couple years after the COVID. The community need more help after a lot of residents loose they job and any circumstance will be fine to to support for senior resident.
- Do something about the sewage treatment plant. It diminishes quality of life, and I'm sure there's health related issues as well
- Poor mental health and addiction is rampant in Woonsocket... more services needed Need another grocery store than than Price Rite
- Have a city bus with handicap accessibility
- Hire more people
- Should encourage more educational programs available to all levels on topics affecting them and interest to certain groups. This could be done through different groups such as library, senior centers, etc. teaching seminars how to better utilize smartphones as a starter.
- HOMELESS
- Mental health will never be fixed but we must try.
- The above questions should be done
- Social services and public health are really important issues to be improved!
- Make it public flyers everywhere to show what resources are available
- Must have skin in the game On Order to receive benefits
- The health care already does this. They promote free gyms and money to spend on some items.
- for items clicked not important, in my opinion, it is NOT the city's job to do such things. Woonsocket is bounded by communities with grocery stores literally located at the boundaries. Walmart is the largest grocery store in the country; it is located on Woonsocket's boundary; prices are generally lower than other nearby grocery stores, and it is serviced by RIPTA. Also, socially dependent people have cars; take notice. I think the city should do something more exciting as it relates to quality fresh food like a vertical produce facility. That's what should be located at Barry field. Such a facility could provide fresh produce to the locals, restaurants, and grocery stores. Be creative! That would bring positive press about Woonsocket. TOO often news about Woonsocket is negative. Turn the tide. PS - An indoor fishery is another creative idea for consideration.

- If people had access to medical Marijuana we might not need a mobile methadone clinic.
- Without a serious funding subsidy from the state and federal government to support the city for these efforts, we should not make them our obligation. The city is already a hub for such services and it is part of why our residents pay such high taxes.
- Poor decisions on peoples part should not cost us all. Dope is a choice the individual chose to live with
- Mental health and addiction are personal, government sponsored programs cost too much and too often fail. For real results that transform people, partner up with private non-profits like Teen Challenge for example
- Transportation for seniors
- We are already the dumping ground for all the addicts in the state. We should be focused on getting CCA and neighbor works out of our city, they are ruining it.
- I feel the seniors and veterans are in need of more services but otherwise there are adequate mental health and addiction services available.
- Public Health includes "noise pollution", "air pollution" (exhaust pipes big enough to roll a melon inside, & the smell of rotting river with sewage going into it), and "food pollution" as is sold in chain grocery stores from their suppliers pesticides & insecticides used. Identifying these 3 Public Health issues & helping us (the people here) with it should be part of your Social Services.
- Promote more organizations like Thundermist and CCA who provide easier access to some of these services already.
- provide health resources for all (don't prioritize one group of others)
- The city has a good medical facilities but there's always room for more mental health and addiction services.
- Urgent cares left, more for seniors and veterans
- The city is social services magnet, Seniors can access them (speaking as senior). Vets through the several Veteran organizations already assist their peers.
- we are the regional center for services. Not sure we need more, just continued quality of services. That being said we need to limit the amount of taxable property that becomes untaxable.
- If your looking to attract Grocery Markets and don't make the commercial Tax rate competitive... Good luck Chuck!
- You can pretend they don't exist and sweep this under the rug or Woonsocket can realize that it's ok that some people need help and we can find ways to help them and make life better for many people, realizing there are many who don't want help. However, there are many that do and don't have access, knowledge, or enough choices for it.
- I think the city has done its fair share in this area, focus on educational institutions and opportunities.
- Very important to expand on all these services for all residents
- No additional thoughts.
- There are an abundance of mental health, veteran, and senior services in this city, but I also see an abundance of homelessness, substance abuse, and crime. This is the number one detractor, in my opinion, for the city of Woonsocket. No one wants their Main Street or downtown area riddled with homeless, trash, and crime. These people need actual help. Partner with CCA to ensure they receive it or enact punitive actions.
- We need to focus more on the elderly and veterans getting help with doctors appointments, affordable medications, housing, meals. In regards to addiction service we need service that are

not gonna promote "safe havens to use drugs" like community care alliance! We do not need anymore companies coming in enabling the drug population.

- Reduce free handouts.
- There is a growing community of homeless in the area, some of whom are frequent users of emergency services and the ER at Landmark. We need to be tougher on this issue. Anywhere they go they leave behind trash and filth. Go visit the areas they congregate. Go behind the Subway restaurant and auto repair on Clinton St which is just one example. It's not San Francisco or Seattle yet. Let's stop it before we become that
- Woonsocket does more than it's fair share to promote and care for the mental health and addicts. People come from all over to get these services. The downtown area is referred to by many as an episode of the Walking Dead. It's embarrassing to know that your City is known for that. It's a scary place to visit especially not being from here. Woonsocket is too small of a community to take in so much. It has become even more noticeable. Enough is enough!! It's time for a long over due change. The citizens that call Woonsocket home who live and work here deserve better!!
- I marked as non important simply because the City has a wealth of these systems already and we need other things to be in the city. But we certainly don't want to lose these services we already have, they help keep a city stable.
- All services should be fiscally reasonable and responsible.
- Educating the youths of the city about public health
- there is more people than stores, need more shopping
- Although we have local medical facilities, many people voice concerns over quality of care. With our aging population, people should have access to a higher quality of care to keep them out of the hospital, and out of nursing home care as long as possible.
- I think the need a lot of service to help this people who need transportation because the circumstance like transportation will be the better part for them and event or teach them so they can be able to maintain busy and happy will be the most thing they need it
- Woonsocket has too many social services that drain on its resources and creates an image that is not appealing to potential home buyers and potential businesses.
- We are our brothers and sisters keepers. I don't suffer from mental health but I do know family and friends that suffer with this issue. We need to be a more caring community for our residents.
- There is no access to behavioral health supports as no one can get an appointment. Overdoses are on the rise and Woonsocket does not have a Harm Reduction Center- an evidence based model to reduce overdoses and support recovery.
- Providing more of all of these services will better support the community and help people to be healthy and happy about their community.
- We need a grocery store in Woonsocket that is easily accessible for all residents
- We need to support smaller neighborhood grocery stores selling fresh produce etc so as to not create food deserts.
- No one in this state does enough for mental health
- Take care of seniors and vets. not the drug users!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Of these, access to fresh and healthy foods is one of the most important things we can do. We could be leaders in developing a network of urban farms and community gardens. We should also incentivize smaller, perhaps cooperative grocery stores that are conveniently located (i.e. walkable/bikeable) that have fresh produce and other affordable, healthy foods. Establish a farmer's market on the weekend (as opposed to one on a weekday afternoon that is

inconvenient for most people). The city should also create and implement a mobility plan. Woonsocket is a dense city that could be walkable but is instead car dependent because we have pushed all amenities to the city borders. This ties in to housing and economic development, too. City residents should be able to safely get to most places throughout the city by walking, biking, taking public transit, or some combination of the three. There is no safe way to bike around the city (sharrows in lanes of travel DO NOT count) and pedestrian safety is not a priority. See where road diets can be implemented. Adopt a green and complete streets ordinance so that everytime a city street is due for resurfacing, the city must explore ways to make it safer for all modes of transit, including wider sidewalks, traffic calming like trees and speed humps, reduced lane sizes, smaller curb radii, and protected bike lanes. Residents in the various neighborhoods across the city should be able to reach just about everywhere else in Woonsocket safely by bike or on foot.

- Obviously solutions for homelessness and addiction services are some of our largest problems. I don't know the answer, but maybe connecting with other cities to find out what they have done could be helpful.
- I can't speak too much to this, but Woonsocket is always the place they show on the news that show the people who are odging. Also, why is it so hard to find a PCP in Woonsocket that isn't at Thundermist. I have to go to East Greenwich for a PCP and OB!
- We already have so many mental health and addiction support sights. We have Thundermist, Landmark, local doctors, the Prevention Coalition, CCA, etc. If we have too many, we just continue to promote being a lower class city. We need to help our existing community, but we also need to bring in healthy people to live here as well. We need more of a balance. We should always help our veterans. Period.
- police outposts. not whole police stations. same thing with medical service sites. smaller and more distributed. Also, give the homeless a place to be during the day. benches do not cut it. pavilions with a public shower and toilet. public heated space during the winter. open spaces open 24/7.

Are there other ways you feel the City should be working to improve Transportation & Circulation? Feel free to explain any of your responses above.

- Better locations for RIPTA to pick up customers
- Get better drivers (RIPTA)
- Bike safety
- Increase the construction of roundabouts.
- I live on Blackstone Street and walk my grandchild to school. The sidewalks in the whole North End are in dire need of repair.
- RI has a newly adopted statewide Transit Master Plan and the federal gov't recently passed the largest federal investments ever for public transportation and passenger rail. This would be a very good time for the City to exert advocacy at state and federal level for vastly improved transit. Would be a major boon to downtown / MainStreet
- A HELICOPTER PAD. SELF DRIVING CAR TAXI SERVICE TEST/PROTOTYPE VOLUNTEERING (JUST AROUND TOWN, IT WOULD TURN WOONSOCKET INTO A HEADLINE FOR A BIT). BLACKSTONE RIVER BOAT TRAVEL AND BIKE TRAIL EXPANSION (AGAIN, THE BIGGEST GAP IN THE TRAIL DOWN TO BRISTOL IS THE ENTIRE CITY OF WOONSOCKET... BECAUSE OF A FLOOD PLANE AND A BRIDGE HEIGHT) MORE SPEED BUMPS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL ON STREETS WITH LOW SPEED LIMITS, HIGHER TAXES ON OWNING CARS IN THE CITY. TOLLS TO PASS IN AND OUT OF THE CITY.

- At 1 time 1 socket could have put a parking deck on Main Street should look into it again considering you are putting in a major school and trying to attract other businesses and apartments Parking will get very tight very shortly Especially in the bad weather of Winter
- If there was a commuter rail from Providence to Woonsocket that would be a awesome way to get other Rhode Islanders to local events and specify stores downtown. Woonsocket is very diverse and has lots to offer the rest of the State. Let's give them a reason to visit.
- I wish I had more suggestions to contribute. Better minds than I have grappled with this.
- Working on the roads, wood ave was a great start.
- Like I stated before pedestrian safety/roadway safety. Speeding is a big problem in the City.
- I wish it was safer to walk. Some neighborhoods are unsafe
- Work with the city and community will be better to improve the transportation circulation. Working w/ a team will be good.
- Public busing needs to be cleaner, more flexible, and more affordable
- More dependable and available services
- Commuter rail service to Boston
- Make it mandatory for businesses and home owners plus with the city helping to shovel the sidewalks and properties during winter seasons.
- hamlet ave light manville road they stop under the light and don't know its there all the time this is done.
- SLOW the drivers down, I see continually occurring speeding as well as other driving infractions (wrong way, running red lights, lane changing, aggressive driving....) This is not just a Woonsocket issue, but it would be nice to provide support to the police to allow them to better manage the issue in Woonsocket. A comprehensive plan to systemically repave city streets is needed, repaving as needed is functional, but not optimal.
- The city should be working to have the federal and state government increase higher volume access through roadway widening from highways to the center of the city. There are not enough city resources to pay for that, nor should we expect there to be.
- Rail service to a hub Providence Worcester or Hartford
- there are some areas that would be better suited for a traffic circle than a light to move traffic faster
- Trolleys running loops around city at set points
- Less buses, that is for the addicts at CCA. Not what we want here. We want business people.
- No I don't
- Electric busses (both public & the school busses). Nearby commuter parking lot. Electric Trolley service from farther away parking that goes to center of town. An Ongoing Notice space in local newspapers that ALL RESIDENTIAL STREETS ARE 15MPG UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED! Get the word out! Stop soo much driving on your tight main street. Too many cars, & people open car doors into traffic lane (somebody is going to get killed squeezing in there!!)
- connect to Boston too
- Not at this time.
- More bus services for elderly to get to doctors, they have to use Uber, RIPTA doesn't show up
- Woonsocket is a pass-through community not a destination place, other than social services
- we need to be more accessible to Boston and Metrowest.
- Bring back the trollies!
- As we live in a time where distracted drivers, flagrant law breaking and speeders make life dangerous for everyone around them, how about they get caught and punished? Speed and red

light cameras! Yes, it does make people angry - the ones who are doing it! Stop condoning this and take action. Don't wait until it's someone you love who gets hurt.

- The problem is that the major stores are not centralized, and most of them are not in the city.
- More bus routes/better attractions
- Reposition the Truman Bypass as a two-lane road with parks and walkways. Upgrade Cumberland Hill Road area from Rte. 99 to Social Street by eliminating unsightly properties and install sidewalks and street trees.
- commuter rail from Green to Worcester would be nice and build up the train depot area with cafe and small restaurants
- I think rail service would greatly benefit the city. However, the importance of secure parking for those using the rail service cannot be understated.
- Train would be great! Service to Providence and the rest of the State would be as well. From there, one could access Green Airport.
- No, except I always wondered why we didn't have direct transportation to Worcester and Providence, especially Providence. I am wondering if it would create many opportunities, especially career opportunities.
- Shuttle service between attractions/historic sites.
- Commuter rail to Boston
- Public transportation (bus) and commuter rail would definitely help Woonsocket to develop economically.
- Need solar powered lighted flashing pedestrian sign or speed bump at the crosswalk in front of Cass park at the corner of Elm. People speed and are distracted such that someone is going to get killed because they stop to let a pedestrian go and the person behind them wasn't paying attention.
- cleaner and updated bus stops
- Provide transportation for children to and from school. Lack of reliable transportation, especially in winter months, leads to increased absenteeism.
- I would love to see van-sized self-driving vehicles provided to elderly housing to allow residents more freedom of movement when they are no longer able to drive. I am wondering how the pilot program in Providence worked out.
- this is the most thing they need a lot of transportation help people who need it
- Train station to allow for others to visit and depart from Woonsocket. Will assist in the revitalization of Main Street with the increase in more foot traffic and vehicle traffic into the area.
- Signage for walkers as well as drivers. A lot of people walk in Woonsocket we should have due to the low lighting that residents wear reflective clothing to be seen by motorists and cyclists.
- literally all this survey cares about is bringing things into Woonsocket. There is a lot to address within the City that takes precedent over tourism. People are literally dying.
- Improve road conditions
- Commuter rail to Boston
- We should have trains running to Providence and Boston!
- Everything ties back to land use. Housing and economic development will dictate how we get around. But Woonsocket is a walkable and bikeable city that has no infrastructure for either mode. Eliminate minimum parking requirements. Encourage walkability in economic development. Prioritize development in denser parts of the city.
- My major concern is pedestrian cross walks and curbing distracted driving. Someone is going to get seriously injured or killed AGAIN. We need flashing lights at cross walks and significantly

before the cross walks to alert the drivers who are on their phones and we need better policing of hands free driving laws.

- Having a commuter rail into Boston would be great for me.
- The train to Providence would be a God send. It would cut down on the 146 traffic, make commute much easier for many that work there and it would also make it easier to get to Boston and the Airport. I would personally take the train to the airport instead of paying for parking and I travel quite often.
- Keeping the streets and sidewalks clean. Issue fines for polluters. From Park Ave to Front St via Bernon, there's always trash and broken glass along the street and sidewalk. People through trash from their cars everyday in this location

Are there other ways you feel the City should be working to improve Parks & Recreation? Feel free to explain any of your responses above.

- I live next to Bernon Park . . .it's in great condition
- -More options for Adults + Seniors -Parks + Recreation is geared more for children + teens
- Addition of outdoor fitness equipment
- A new director
- See my earlier comment about developing a kayak course below the dam and improve the river frontage to allow tubing from below the dam to the Rivers Edge Park.
- I am near Cold Spring park. Maintenance is fine. I love the river and see nothing that needs improvement.
- We have way too many parks as it is.
- They get trashed anyway!!!
- Scate-board area. Roller Kingdom was fun. Pickle ball is fun too.
- EXPAND/CONNECT UP THE BLACKSTONE RIVER BIKE TRAIL. PUT SMALL STORES ALONG THE SIDES OF IT. MAYBE MAKE IT PASS THRU/OVER CERTAIN PARTS OF HIGHLY TRAFFICED AREAS.
- With all these houses the city has torn down Because of blight The city should try to make them into neighborhood Mini parks Since most of these blighted neighborhoods do not have yards
- More/improved bike paths along the river
- Clean, neat, well lit, safe recreation areas Bring in more individuals that want to live here. Emphasizing the positives that we already have goes a long way.
- Security cameras, better lighting
- 1. Evaluate need and usage, consolidate programs where possible. 2. Provide river access for recreational use.
- Increase recreation for ages 20-60 year olds.
- Keeping the activities in the park
- Yes, but I only work and Woonsocket need to learn more about recreation and parks.
- Cleaner, sun and rain protection, safety for very young ones
- Parks are not always aesthetic or natural. Cater to athletic only instead of relaxing, natural environments.
- Parks need more shade for children not to get burnt on hot surfaces. Love Liz Kerrigan amazing woman.
- Improve!
- The bathrooms aren't accessible. There isn't enough park rangers or someone to watch the behaviors of others and have porter potty if the bathrooms aren't available.
- Some parks good the ww1 not a good area That whole area and the bank of america not good. seniors can find things to do and so can kids and teens should be lower work age.

- just safety and cleanliness
- Have you heard of Pickleball,bring back the 3 hole golf area . More seating by the river higher benches with arms.
- See Bike Path comments from earlier.
- Limited, inexpensive water features should be added to parks where small children go. Cooling stations will add to the attractiveness of the park. Especially important is to add the stations at Dunn Park and others that may be used by residents that can't easily access WW2 Veterans Memorial Park.
- Homeless have taken over these areas!
- The park on diamond hill across from WNRI is overgrown, unsafe, and a haven for homeless people and drug users
- Maintain natures beauty
- We have enough parks. Just take care of the ones we have and make sure they all allow dogs.
- No
- Sports fields close to High School...
- Costa park on first ave needs more lighting they never finished putting up the rest of the lights the cement bases are there but no light poles.. also needs more trash cans 1 for the whole park doesn't cut it...
- Security cameras & regular signs stating they exist with 24/7 surveillance. Also 24/7 in the parks or rec parking area. If it isn't safe on the streets, how can you expect us to go to Parks??
- I frequent the Dionne Track and will miss it when the sports complex is installed and completed. The location is ideal and the restrooms are convenient. I hate the thought of clearing land for the new sports complex. There are some truly beautiful tress on the hill area next to the track.
- Only goes for autumn fest, physically too much walking
- Cleaner and update equipment and landscaping
- Some park areas don't have adequate public access parking etc. security at some parks is not good.
- I think we do a wonderful job with our parks.
- We have beautiful parks that have recently been upgraded for children, which is wonderful. But what is offered to residents in the colder weather, which accounts for more time in the year than warmer. We need to attract businesses that offer activities for different ages year round.
- Too many people take dogs to the park, let them run unleashed, and don't pick up after them when they crap .. even if it's in the middle of the ball field. It's disgusting. Police turn a blind eye.
- Improve equipment in current parks/add more parks with new equipment
- No additional thoughts.
- maybe a nice park at the rivers edge somewhere in city with walking, picnic areas that can also be quiet from city noise
- Re-do all basketball courts really bad condition. Add volleyball nets and sand floors
- WWII Park is the biggest attraction to the city, especially during Autumnfest. The splash pad and basketball courts have been a great addition, but this is also a homeless haven. Again, I understand they are humans, but these people clearly need help. It appears that they are incapable of taking care of themselves and that results in a bad look for the City. There are multiple areas in city parks, behind mill buildings, and along the Blackstone River that serve as homeless encampments. These encampments are disgusting to say the least. This city needs to be cleaned up.
- Increase Police presence.

- Increase police patrols of the parks.
- Maintenance and revitalization. Tennis courts at Dunn need to be revitalized. Volleyball court would be a great addition
- There needs to be more for children ages 11-14/15 to do. The only entrainment is a skate park and a trampoline park.
- I feel that the city may have too many parks already. The parks that border the Blackstone River would be great land and opportunity for the City to utilize for restaurants and housing and smaller parks. They will highlight the City's natural resource and potentially draw in people that work in larger communities to live and enjoy all of Woonsocket can be.
- I think the reason I felt very strongly in this area is because the parks have progressed tremendously and they are awesome. I absolutely love what the City has done and I hope they continue to improve upon all these items on the checklist. Indoor recreation would be awesome, especially in the winter. Also, I heard a skate rink might come our way.
- Litter should be cleaned up more often, especially at the bike path off of Hamlet Ave.
- More walking/hiking trails along the river
- more events in the parks
- not close to beach, would be nice to have more water options for public to enjoy. more programs and activities to get the public out
- Install cameras.
- will be perfect to have park and recreation for kids
- Disciplining those who cause trouble in our parks.
- Connect Worcester to Woonsocket on bike path
- Study each park and determine its usage during peak times. If the parks and recreational areas are not being used, redevelop the property for an alternative use. Additionally look at other areas in which a park or recreational areas would be beneficial to the area/s that surround it.
- Make them inviting so families want to go to the park with their children allow food trucks ice cream truck to be at the parks. More recreational shorts that aren't so organized were families can join in or sign up for the day.
- I feel regular maintenance and upkeep of what we have will save money in the long run. There is already broken equipment at WWII park. Please do not let this be the beginning of the end of this newer place for families to go without cost.
- Our taxes should fund this
- I don't think that Cass Park was ever finished with its improvements. Nothing was done to the pond.
- Too many parks and they are unsafe.
- The city should develop a Blackstone River master plan to overhaul uses along the river. This should include green space but also economic development. Buildings have their backs to the river. Heavy industrial sites line the riparian zone in many parts of the city. River access is limited. Cities that have rethought their riverfront areas and reclaimed them from historic, undesirable uses (e.g. auto recyclers) have benefited greatly from these efforts.
- Improving the Blackstone River area along River St would be lovely
- I Think Park and Rec does a great job and I utilize as needed. Love visiting Santa in December!
- Litter and graffiti removal on a regular basis.
- Should have kept the golf course with better maintenance
- Please see my previous answers regarding open spaces.
- connect the bike trail. the biggest gap from Uxbridge to Bristol is WOONSOCKET. the entire town disconnects the railroads. put more bike trails. get bikes off of the streets but also connect them

to the city. encourage people to use it. it brings business to places like bristol and pawtucket, and woonsocket is looking to expand on this stuff.

- Las canchas de baloncesto la mayoría están muy deterioradas esto hace q los jóvenes opten por otro tipo d diversión

Translation: Most of the basketball courts are very deteriorated, this makes young people opt for another type of entertainment.

- Creo q debería de haber más recreación para mayores

Translation: I think there should be more recreation for older people

- NO ES AGRADABLE IR CUANDO HAY USUARIOS DE DROGAS EN LOS PARQUES

Translation: IT IS NOT NICE TO GO WHEN THERE ARE DRUG USERS IN THE PARKS

- Necesitan mejoras

Translation: They need improvements

Are there other ways you feel the City should be working to improve Services & Facilities? Feel free to explain any of your responses above.

- More public service employees, more police, equipment. There is a lack of knowledge of use of 911 for non emergencies and no enough EMS/fire to cover city when emergencies occur.
- -Classes to teach English -Need improvements on Communication/Public Information Especially for Seniors + Veterans -Drinking Tap Water is not pleasant
- English should be mandatory
- Animal control needs a new building
- More access to bi lingual speakers
- Get rid of flouride in the water
- invest in the schools. good schools attract young middle class families and that will bring up property values as well as create a safer city. Then more people would be interested in what Woonsocket has to offer
- Not really unsatisfied with anything although there is always room for improvement.
- The horrific odor from the waste treatment plant is disgusting. Huge turnoff for anyone considering buying a home or opening a business in the area. It is awful for anyone traveling here!
- EDUCATE PEOPLE WHETHER THEY WANT TO BE OR NOT. USE BILLBOARDS TO DO MORE PSA'S (OUR LOCAL SAUL GOODMAN IN HIS YELLOW HUMMER HAS HAD ENOUGH AIR-TIME).
- I have always thought Woonsocket has the best tap water out of everywhere I've ever been.
- Publicity accenting what we have here might bring in more individuals/families.
- Better working conditions for teachers, especially at Woonsocket Senior High School.
- Bathroom when they have activities
- More employees available for animal control Less focus on testing in public schools and more focus on different teaching styles and strategies More one-on-one support needed in public school
- Senior bus service New ice machine for senior center Push button bathroom doors for senior center
- For home improvement like Neighbor Works more time for when the kids come to help more time
- No more compliers its ruining accountability and relationship dynamic. Bleach water :(
- Improve!
- Teachers need an assistant in the classroom so someone can pay attention the children that need extra help or a disability in the classroom.

- You need to get these kids to the trades plumbing and electrical and construction. My brother in law went to Cumberland school years ago. Was given a little plumbing a little electrical and a little construction. This is necessary for a job and for a house today. they don't even know how to write a check. a check book
- programs and activities for all ages may help improve quality of life in Woonsocket.
- Get traffic cameras for red light runners.
- City employees need training on how to speak to people
- Make sure water is safe to drink
- The mayor seems to lie and hide information. She needs to be more forthcoming and open. Don't do anything for non English speakers.
- I'd like to see better education on recycling and the importance of recycling every day!
- Do regular surveys like this.
- Clean air ventilation and focus on fixing up older buildings more than building new complexes.
- i think your choices / order in question 29 is confusing (& maybe wrong?)
- Police and Fire are understaffed.
- No choices for schools,
- Drop the idea to reroute traffic at North Main at the Stadium; Move the Charter Schools away from Main St; Move City Hall elsewhere; Fix the damn intersection at the Post Office the paving is awful
- Wastewater treatment plant needs to be relocated to another area. Current location is too low and the smells get trapped and linger
- The city services are for the most part well done and handled. thanks so much. Education is a problem, but it seems to be more about truancy than quality of teaching or schools. perhaps truancy needs to be more strongly addressed
- I heard about this survey on the radio, but when I went onto the website I had to go digging around for it. It's not a bad website all in all, but it should be promoted more, and a bit easier to navigate.
- Improve and communicate
- No other thoughts.
- The city could have a digital billboard at the enter gateway to promote all the services offered
- More transparency Totally fix the wastewater and sludge facilities A huge issue to solve for the neighborhood I. Terms of odor and traffic
- I do not live in the city - this question more for residents
- get more info out to those who are not familiar with city services through churches and social service agencies
- Why can't we have yard waste collection throughout the summer?
- improve the hospital by updating and expanding, especially the ER
- Make it easier to dispose of large household items.
- they need a lot of change and specific road and facilities that depend hope working together will be the best to improve anything need in the city specially the road need more maintenance and repair
- Fix the schools. The first this I was told when I thought to move to Woonsocket was that the schools are awful.
- When you send out cards in the mail that say the annual water quality report is now available and you go to the website on the card and it says this site is not found, ensure the link works before sending it out! Secondly if the new report is available why is the previous year the only

one available on the city's website? Please keep the site current and up to date for all city departments.

- School choice. I've paid close to 100k for my childrens' education in private schools as I was concerned about safety in woonsocket public schools. When you need a police presence in a high school there is a serious problem. Very serious.
- Concentrate on school and education!
- would not drink the water
- The city is terrible when it comes to communications. There are barely an active social media sites. There are barely communications about things like snow emergencies. The city website no longer shows email addresses of city employees. The city is not proactive about communicating anything, and when decisions are questioned, city leaders get defensive and even hostile (especially on social media). My experience with rank and file workers has been very good, however. The city should create a communications department that is proactive about communicating with residents about programs, services, weather hazards, etc. It should be multilingual as well. Additionally, the WWTF and sewage incinerator is a huge, HUGE problem. It is an air pollution problem and an environmental justice problem. It is a quality of life problem. It is a water pollution problem. And it is going to be an environmental disaster when (not if) a sever weather event floods the Blackstone and breaches the rip rap along the shore. The city needs to find a remedy for this toxic nuisance. Wastewater treatment is a critical service, but there are best practices that can be adopted to eliminate all of the negative externalities produced by this facility.
- Get rid of that smell from the water treatment plant
- The schools need the most attention. How do we improve the quality of our schools?
- Plowing and parks and rec is great. The drinking water tastes like chlorine.
- There really isn't an online communication presence for residents to keep up to date with what's going on in Woonsocket. I am 100% for improved accessibility and resources for disabled residents and visitors. I strongly feel that our street on Avenue A should be connected to the sewer system instead of using septic tanks.
- I feel we are on a good path. There is a definite improvement in this city. The areas I've indicated above need some work though.
- support the homeless. treat them like people and give them somewhere to be. ask them what they need and want.
- Need to have annual large item pick up. The current Bins do not allow for any type of spring or fall household cleanup.
- Un billboard electrónico ubicado en las áreas más transitables . 1-se puede display más información y mas Clara 2- embellece la Cuidad

Translation: An electronic billboard located in the most walkable areas. 1- more information can be displayed and more clearly 2- beautifies the City