



2009

Comprehensive Development Plan Update - Citizen Survey



Abilene Community
Development Department

10/23/2009

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A. Background

The 2009 Citizen Survey is an integral part of the 2010 Abilene Comprehensive Development Plan update. This effort is to update the Plan which was adopted by the City Commission in 2006 after a planning process that began in early 2004. In 2004, the same survey was conducted as part of the original plan development. The survey has remained unchanged in order to allow for a direct comparison with the 2004 survey.

There were approximately 2,660 surveys mailed to every residential water customer in the City with a \$3 rebate on their water bill if a completed survey was returned. The survey's were color coded to allow analysis to include differences between neighboring parts of town. **Figure 1** depicts the survey neighborhoods. The survey consisted of 26 questions covering such topics as public facilities and services, social community, community development, housing, and demographics. A total of 735 surveys were returned for a response rate of 28.3%, which is an extremely good response rate. **Figure 2** shows the number of surveys sent to and received from the survey neighborhoods. The East Central neighborhood was the largest with 859 surveys sent while the South was the smallest with 324 surveys sent.

The response rates between neighborhoods varied by 9.3% with the North having the highest response rate of 34.0% and the South having a response rate of 24.7%. The overall response rate of 28.3% is excellent when it is common for surveys to only receive a 10% to 15% response rate. Despite having the lowest response rate, the South responded very well to the survey. Having an excellent response in all sectors of town will make the guidance provided

Figure 1: Survey Neighborhoods

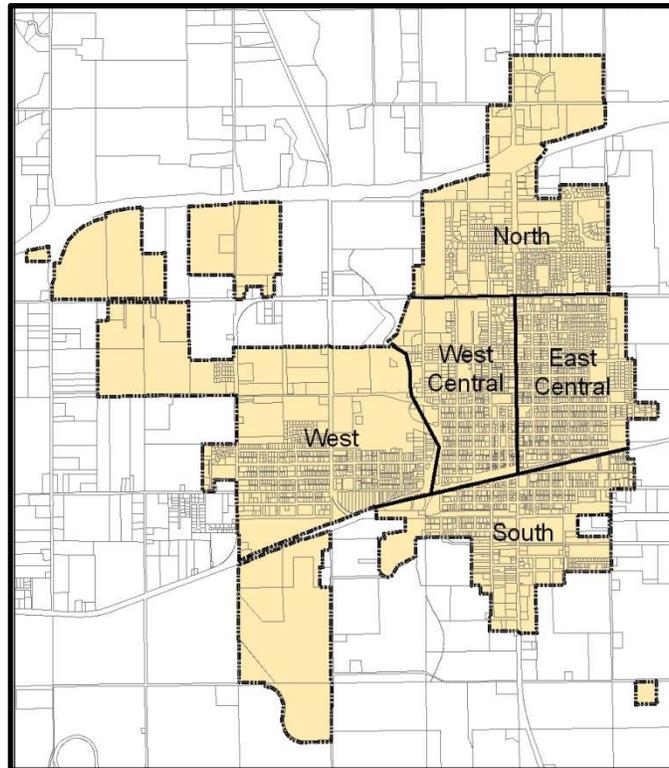
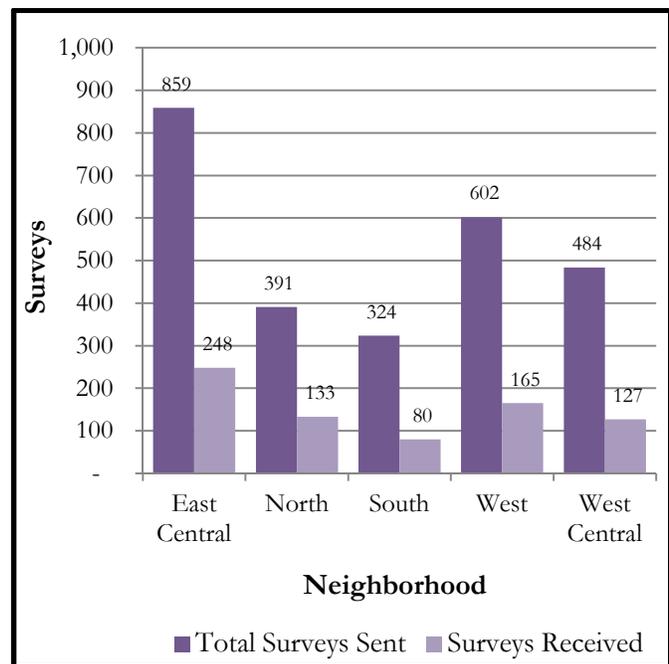


Figure 2: Surveys By Neighborhood



through the Plan be representative of the entire community.

Figure 3: Percent of Surveys Sent

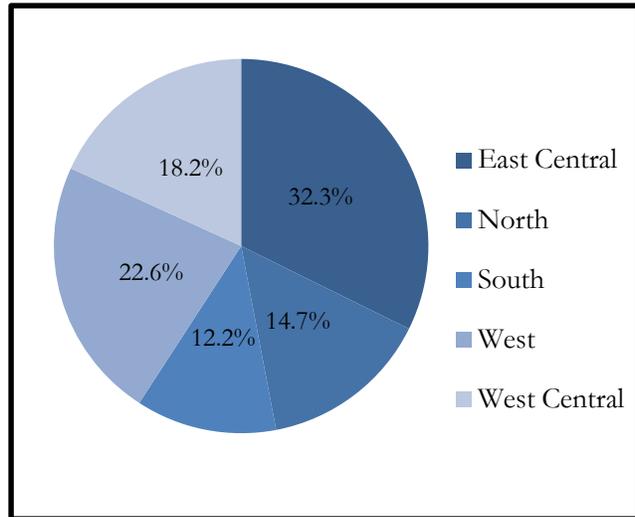
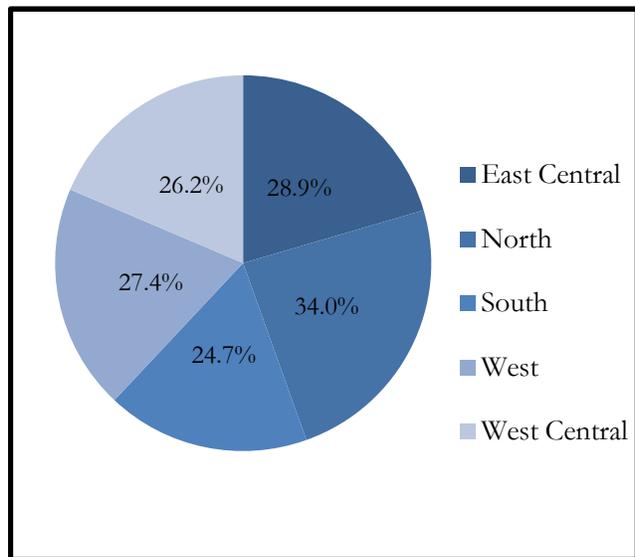


Figure 4: Response Rate By Neighborhood



B. Survey Responses

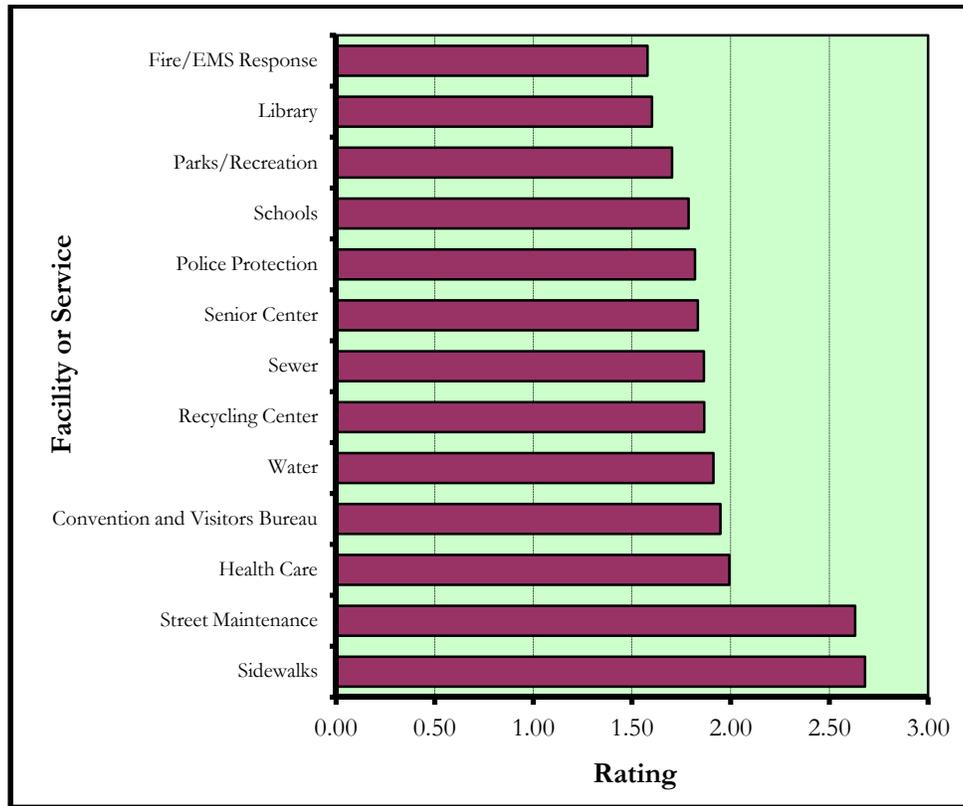
Question 1. Rate the following facilities and services by circling the appropriate response (*Mark with an "X"*).

Service or Facility	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	No Response	Average
Sidewalks	9	50	75	19	5	7	2.68
Street Maintenance	15	55	67	25	1	2	2.63
Health Care	40	77	29	5	13	1	1.99
Convention and Visitors Bureau	25	74	15	2	47	2	1.95
Water	57	72	21	11	1	3	1.91
Recycling Center	44	84	18	3	14	2	1.87
Sewer	51	80	18	6	8	2	1.86
Senior Center	25	69	8	0	59	4	1.83
Police Protection	48	97	11	4	4	1	1.82
Schools	45	88	10	2	19	1	1.79
Parks/Recreation	67	72	18	1	6	1	1.70
Library	66	69	7	1	19	3	1.60
Fire/EMS Response	72	76	5	1	11	0	1.58

Survey respondents rated most city services and facilities between excellent (1) or good (2). The two areas of concern are clearly the condition and maintenance of streets and sidewalks as indicated by both being rated closer to fair (3) than good (2). This clearly reflects the importance of street and sidewalks to Abilenians and the poor condition they are currently in due to age and a lack of public investment. **Figure 5** graphically depicts the ratings received by public facilities and services.

Public opinion regarding the condition of the sidewalks and streets is also reflected heavily in the written comments for Questions 10 and 26, which begin on Page X of this report. Specifically the condition of E. 1st Street and 14th Street is mentioned numerous times.

Question 1: Public Facilities and Service Ratings



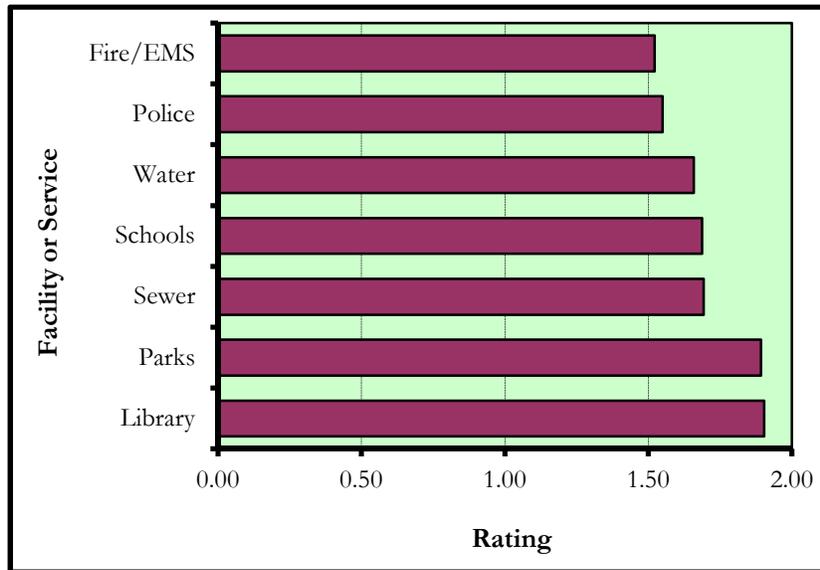
Question 2. The City should require adequate service levels for the following public facilities and services in conjunction with development (*Mark with an "X"*).

Service or Facility	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average Score
Library	216	387	121	12	5	12	1.90
Parks	215	409	88	24	4	13	1.89
Sewer	308	366	56	12	0	11	1.69
Schools	345	293	79	18	4	14	1.69
Water	323	359	50	10	2	9	1.66
Police	394	301	39	10	1	8	1.55
Fire/EMS	401	300	38	4	0	10	1.52

Nearly all survey respondents either strongly agree (1) or agree (2) that adequate public facilities and services should be provided in conjunction with development. Public safety services received the highest level of agreement while library and parks were less of a priority. It appears that the public thinks that adequate service levels should be enhanced overtime to reflect growth. This can be accomplished by benefit district (water and sewer), impact fees, parkland dedications or payments in lieu, development agreements, general fund expenditures or other funding mechanisms.

What is an adequate public facility or service level is determined by the governing body and is commonly measured as a level of service (LOS) relative to 1,000 residents. For instance, the current LOS for police officers is 2.05 officers per 1,000 persons (14 officers/6,835 population). Therefore with every 500 new residents (or 200 new homes) we would add 1 officer to maintain our current level of service. In the case of physical assets (building, vehicles, equipment, etc..) needed to maintain an adequate LOS, the community may adopt a reasonable impact fee on new development.

Question 2: Adequate Public Facilities Required

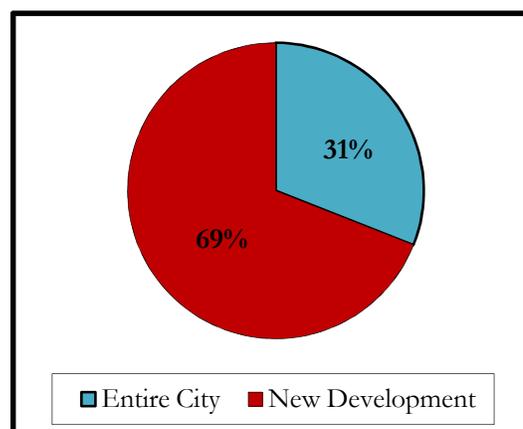


Question 3. The cost of additional public facilities needed by new development should be shared by *(circle one)*.
 a.) the entire City
 b.) the new development

Entire City	New Development	No Response	Total
210	468	75	753

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents believe that new development should pay the costs associated with public facilities and services needed to serve the new development. The large number of respondents indicating that the entire city should be responsible for the costs suggests that servicing new growth is a public responsibility to be shared by the citizens. Public support for cost recovery provisions, such as impact fees, special assessments and excise taxes is difficult to gauge from the response on this question.

Question 3: Public Facilities Costs

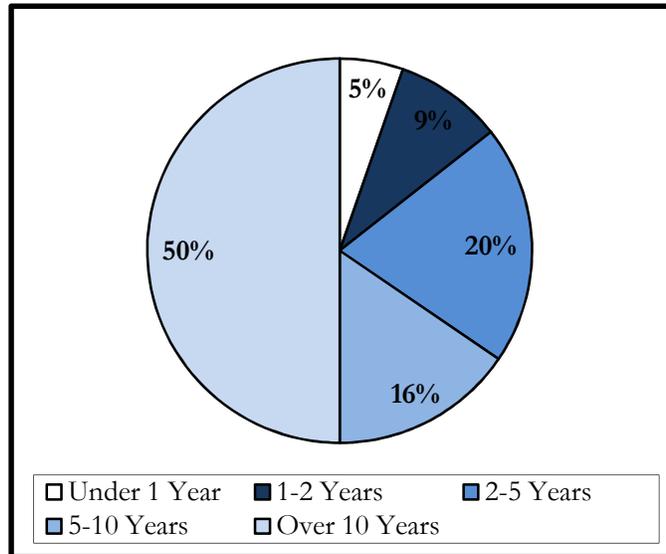


Question 4. How many years have you lived in your current home?

Under 1 Year	1-2 Years	2-5 Years	5-10 Years	Over 10 Years	No Response	Total
40	68	151	116	375	3	753

Fifty percent (50%) of survey respondents have lived in their current residence for over 10 years and only a third (34%) of the respondents have been in their current home for up to 5 years. This suggests that the community has stable residential neighborhoods, likely with a significant number of empty-nesters and retirees who may be looking for a home with fewer bedrooms in the near future. The small number of transient residents is likely a contributing factor to the common written statement that friendly close-knit neighborhoods are a positive aspect of Abilene.

Question 4: Years In Their Current House

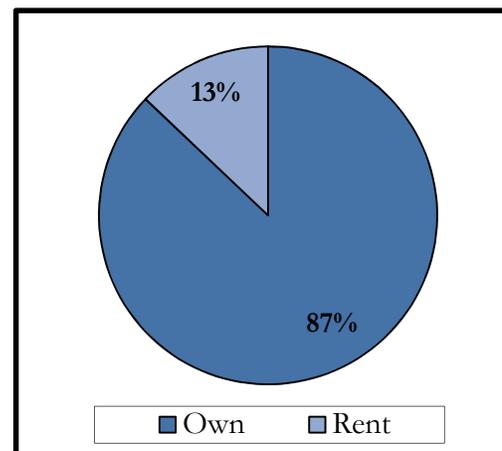


Question 5. Do you own or rent your current residence? Own Rent

Own	Rent	No Response	Total
647	96	10	753

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of survey respondents own their own home so the results of this survey heavily reflects the opinions of homeowners. This statistic also reinforces the community has a large number of long-term stable residents. This also suggests that there is a lot of equity residing in real estate.

Question 5: Owner vs Renter

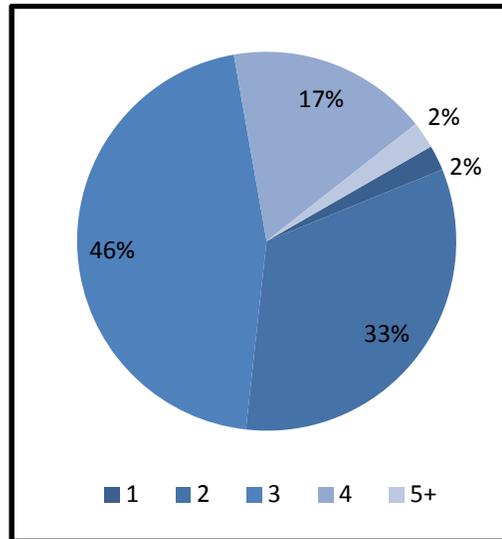


Question 6. How many bedrooms does your current residence have?

1	2	3	4	5+	No Response	Total
16	244	337	127	17	12	753

Approximately 79% of the respondents live in homes with between 2 and 3 bedrooms. This shows that the existing housing stock is of modest size. This is common in communities with a large portion of the housing stock being older homes. Throughout the 20th century new homes have continually increased in total square footage while household sizes and birth rates have both decreased.

Question 6: Number of Bedrooms

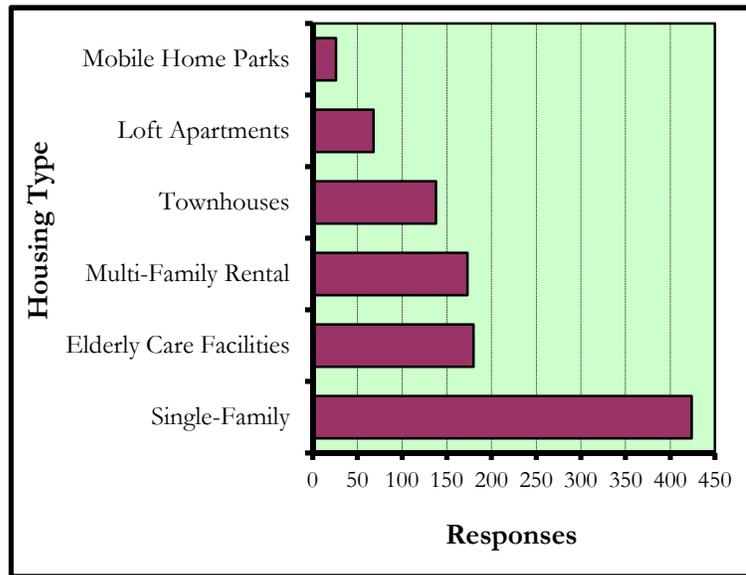


Question 7. What type of residential development is needed in Abilene (*circle all the apply*)?

Housing Types	Response	No Response	Total
Single-Family	424	329	753
Elderly Care Facilities	180	573	753
Multi-Family Rental	173	580	753
Townhouses	138	615	753
Loft Apartments	68	685	753
Mobile Home Parks	26	727	753

When asked which type of housing is most needed in Abilene, more people responded “single-family” housing most often. The second and third most responses were for elderly care facilities and multi-family rental housing. Mobile homes received the fewest responses.

Question 7: Desired Housing Types

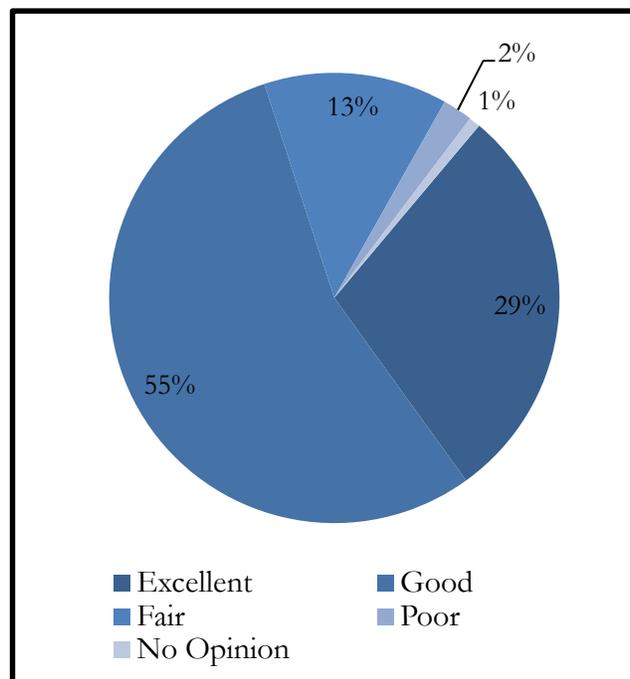


Question 8: How would you rate living in Abilene?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	No Response	Average	Total
215	408	98	16	6	10	1.88	753

Over half of respondents rated living in Abilene as good (55%) with over a quarter rating Abilene as excellent (29%). This indicates that residents have a very high level of satisfaction with the quality of life experienced in Abilene. Only 2 % of the respondents thought that living in Abilene is poor.

Question 8: Living Rating

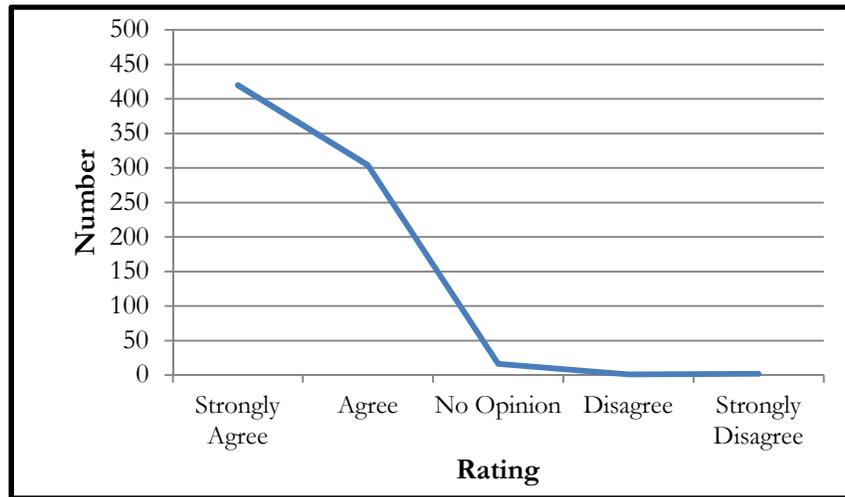


Question 11. The City’s growth should be cost-efficient and designed for lasting value.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
420	304	16	1	2	10	1.43	753

Nearly all respondents (96%) believe that city growth should be cost-efficient and designed for lasting value. This suggests support for high standards for public and private improvements, which may include infrastructure, facilities, structures, parking facilities, signage, landscaping and other features.

Question 11: Cost-Efficient and Lasting Value

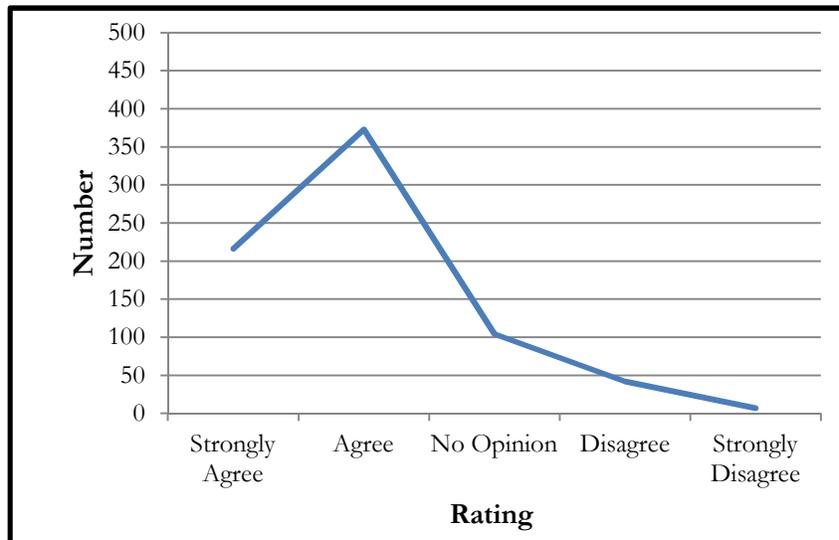


Question 12. The City should place a high priority on maintaining or improving older residential neighborhoods.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
216	373	104	42	7	11	1.75	753

There is widespread support - strongly agree (29%) and agree (50%) - for continued improvements to older residential neighborhoods. Much of the community’s wealth resides in residential property in aging neighborhoods. Supporting improvements, maintenance and revitalization enhances the value of areas, which have contributed to the tax base far longer than was necessary to pay for their infrastructure.

Question 12: Improve Older Neighborhoods

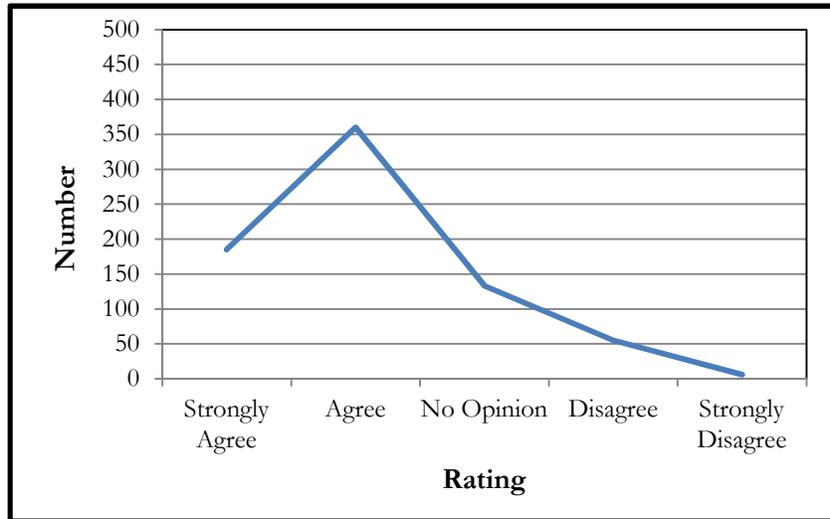


Question 13. The City should actively support the redevelopment of out dated commercial and industrial lots.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
185	360	133	55	6	14	1.81	753

Question 13: Improve Dated Commercial and Industrial

Nearly three-fourths (74%) of the survey respondents believe the City should take an active role in redeveloping aged commercial and industrial areas. This suggests support for redevelopment incentives and perhaps actively funding site clean-up, marketing, acquiring sites and issuing Request for Proposals (RFP) for redevelopment activities.

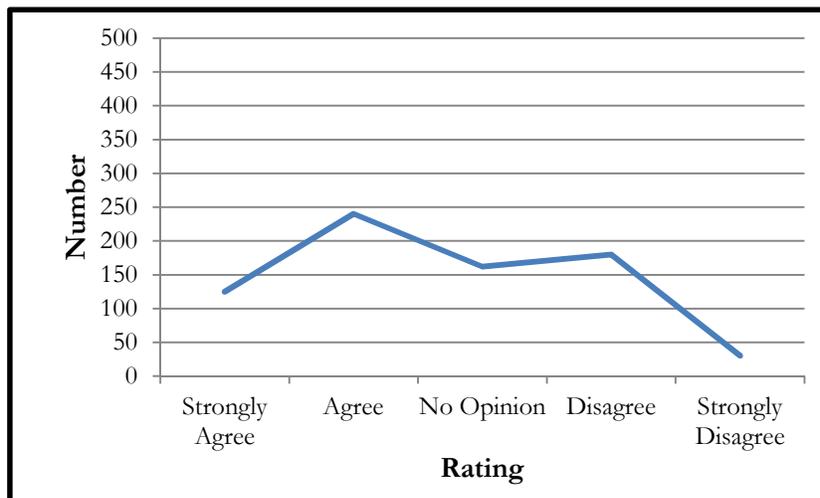


Question 14. The City should require new residential areas be designed with sidewalks, street trees, mixture of housing types and narrow streets.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
125	240	162	180	30	16	2.20	753

Question 14: Traditional Neighborhood Design

Overall the community nearly was neutral on this question with 50% being in agreement and 50% either having no opinion or being in disagreement. Reviewing margin comments made regarding this question, many of the respondents did not understand why “narrow streets” was listed. Strategically placed narrow



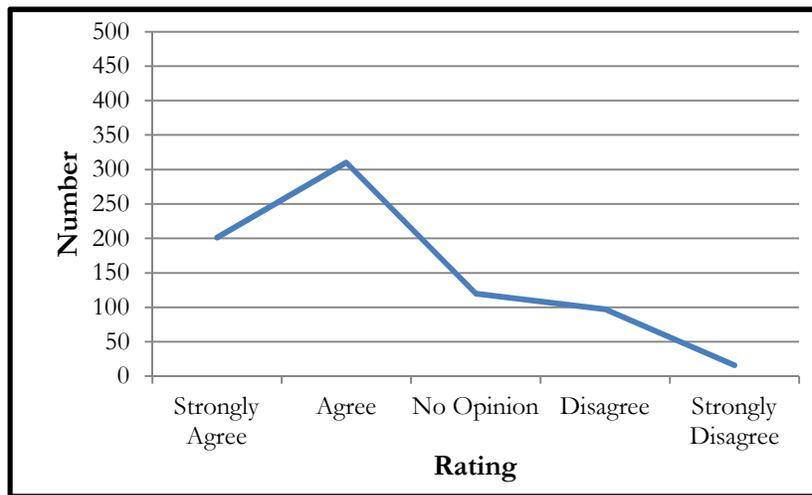
streets coupled with street trees slows traffic, minimizes through traffic, allows public surveillance of street activity, costs less to construct and creates a quaint protective environment.

Question 15. The City should require construction of sidewalks on both sides of streets in new residential development.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
201	310	120	97	16	9	1.88	753

A majority (69%) of the survey respondents believe that sidewalks should be provided on both sides of the street in residential areas.

Question 15: Sidewalks on Both Sides of the Street

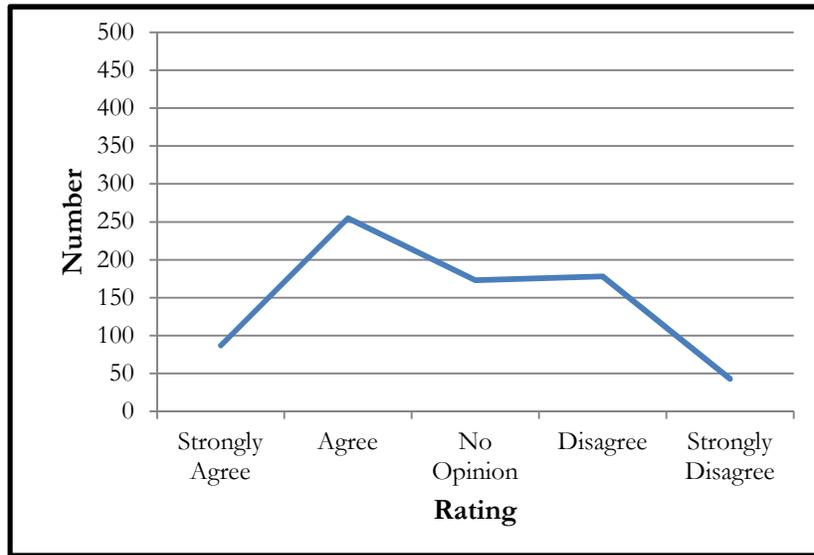


Question 16. The City should allow well designed, smaller multiple family housing within single family neighborhoods.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
87	255	173	178	43	17	2.31	753

The survey respondents appear split on whether well designed and context sensitive multi-family housing should be allowed in predominantly residential areas. Twenty percent (24%) of the respondents indicated that they had no opinion on the matter, so the community’s guidance on this question is difficult to gauge. Less than a majority (46%) indicated that they agree with having multi-family housing in single family residential areas. In-fill housing and the Cedar Ridge and Highlands West developments allow for a mixture of housing types.

Question 16: Multi-family Housing in Residential Areas

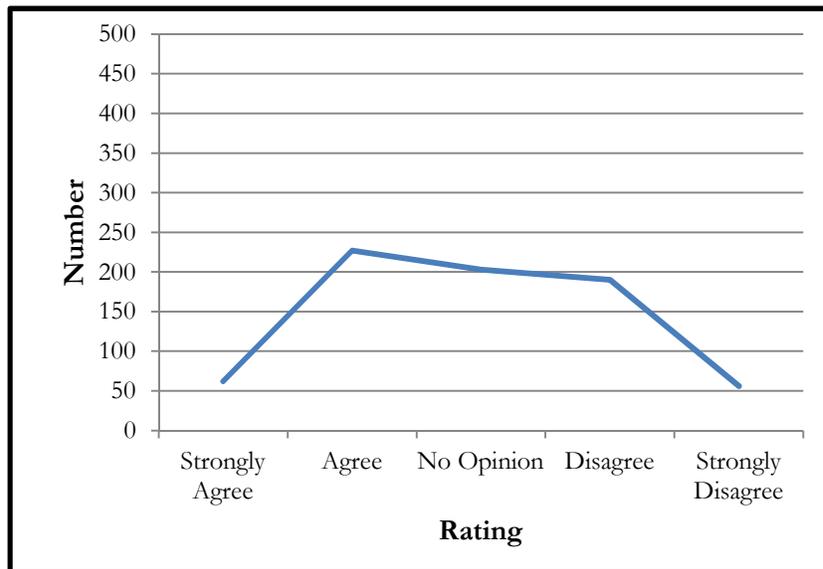


Question 17. The City should continue to allow rural development to receive water and sewer services without being brought into the City.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
62	227	203	190	56	15	2.45	753

Question 17: Multi-family Housing in Residential Areas

The response to this question does not provide unequivocal direction regarding the provision of water and sewer services outside the city limits. A quarter of respondents had no opinion regarding this issue. Those who either agreed or strongly agreed that services should continue to be provided outside the city limits made up 49% of the responses.

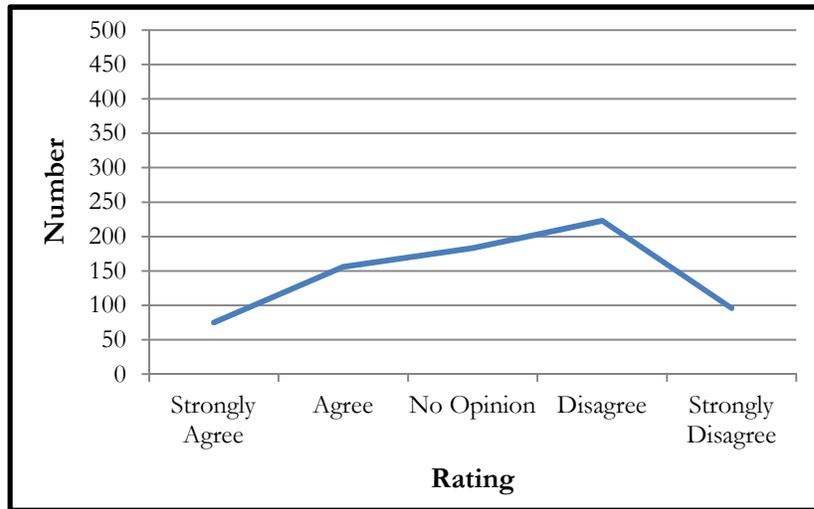


Question 18. The City should build a modest convention center to attract conferences and other events.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
75	156	183	223	96	20	2.62	753

On the question if whether the City should build a modest convention center, overall the community disagrees with the City building a convention center, although less than half (44%) of the respondents disagreed. Only 32% want to build one and there was a significant number of people who expressed no opinion on the question.

Question 18: Build a Convention Center

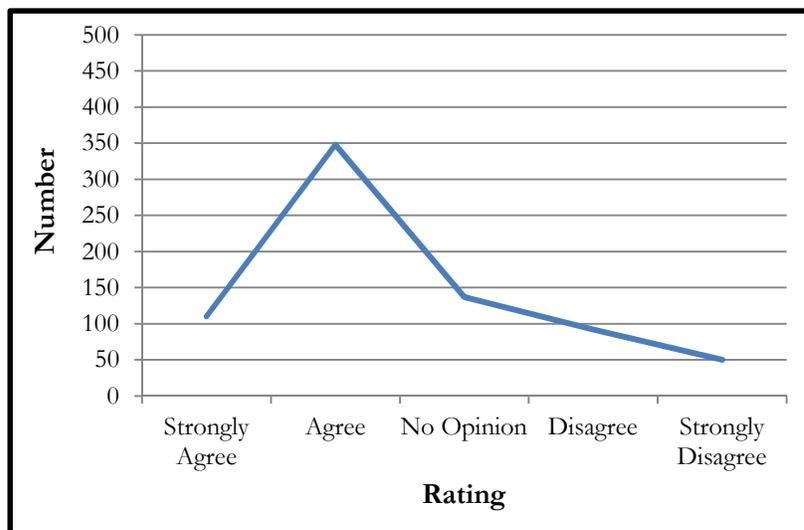


Question 19. The City should continue to encourage and financially contribute toward downtown revitalization projects.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
110	348	137	92	50	16	2.14	753

The respondents support (62%) continued financial investment in downtown revitalization projects while only 19% disagreed with the statement.

Question 19: Downtown Revitalization

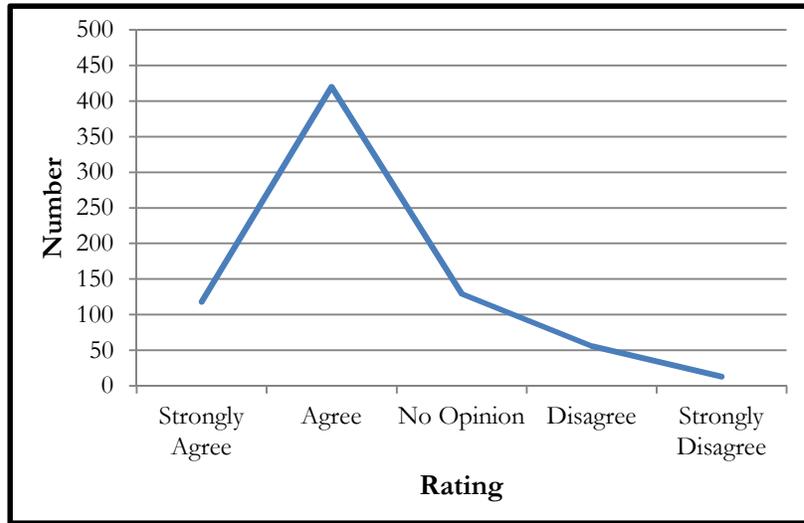


Question 20. The City should adopt and enforce design requirements to ensure new commercial buildings and sites are attractive and well designed.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
118	420	129	56	13	17	1.94	753

Question 20: Design Requirements for Commercial Sites

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of those who responded believe that commercial buildings and sites should be attractive and well designed. While most stores understand that appealing design leads to more customers, Abilene’s development code does not address the quality of site design beyond fencing materials and parking space design.

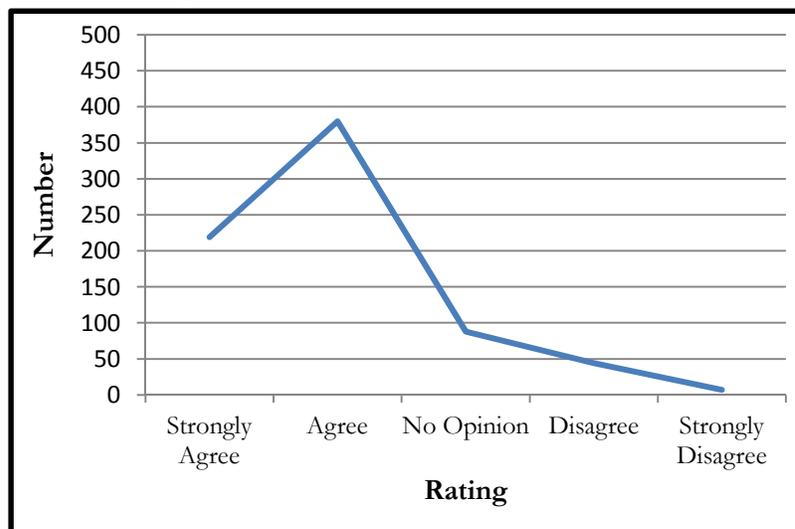


Question 21. The City should encourage and support the preservation of unique and historically significant buildings.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
219	380	88	44	7	15	1.75	753

Question 21: Historic Preservation

An overwhelming majority (81%) of respondents believe that the City should encourage and support historic preservation. How to “encourage and support” is not specified in the question, but clearly historic preservation is an important endeavor and has value to the entire community.

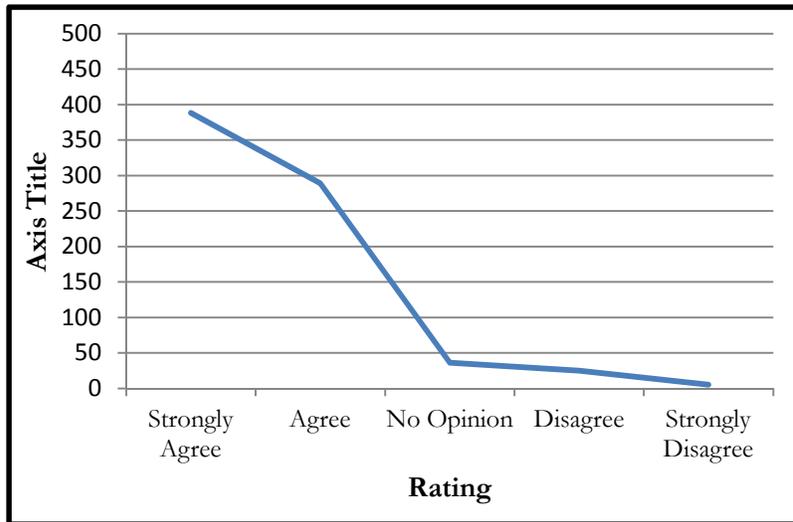


Question 22. The City should increase its efforts to attract businesses with higher paying jobs to expand or locate in Abilene.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response	Average	Total
388	289	36	25	5	10	1.50	753

Question 22: Attract Businesses

Most Abilenians (93%) support proactive efforts to increase the number of high paying jobs through business recruitment and growing existing businesses in the City.

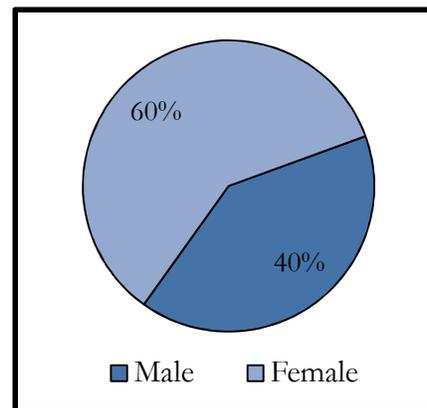


Question 23 To make sure all voices are heard, please complete the following:

23.a. You are Male _____ Female _____

Male	Female	No Response	Total
302	445	6	753

Question 23a: Gender



The survey results were more reflective of the opinions of females.

23.b. City resident _____ Rural resident _____

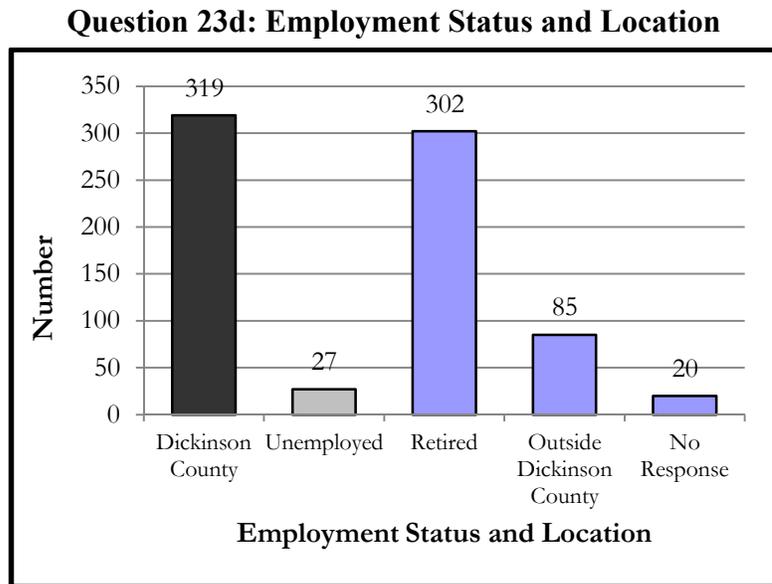
All respondents were City residents.

23.c. Length of time in Dickinson County. ____
Open ended Question.

23.d. Employed in Dickinson County ____ Unemployed ____ Retired ____
Employed outside Dickinson County ____

Dickinson County	Unemployed	Retired	Outside Dickinson County	No Response	Total
319	27	302	85	20	753

Of the respondents, 41% were retired and 44% are employed within Dickinson County. Only 3.6% indicated that they were unemployed, which is lower than the most recently reported County unemployment rate of 5.3%.¹



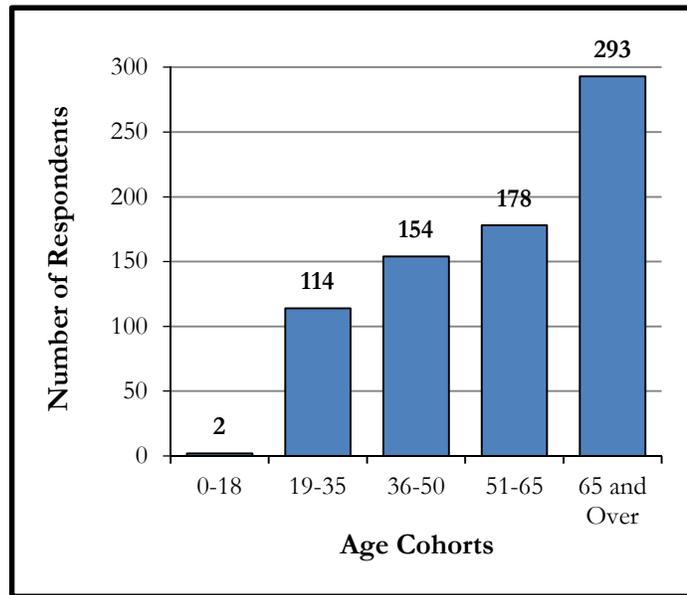
23.e. Age group: 0-11 ____ 12-18 ____ 18-35 ____
36-50 ____ 51-65 ____ 65 and over ____

0-18	19-35	36-50	51-65	65 and Over	No Response	Total
2	114	154	178	293	12	753

¹ Kansas Department of Labor, August 2009.

Question 23e: Age Group

Older Abilenians were more likely to answer the survey than younger citizens. The largest age group to respond were those aged 66 or over with 40% of the respondents. The response by age cohort tapers down with those between 0 and 18 years of age being the lowest cohort with only 2 respondents. The survey closely reflects the opinions of the older people in the community.

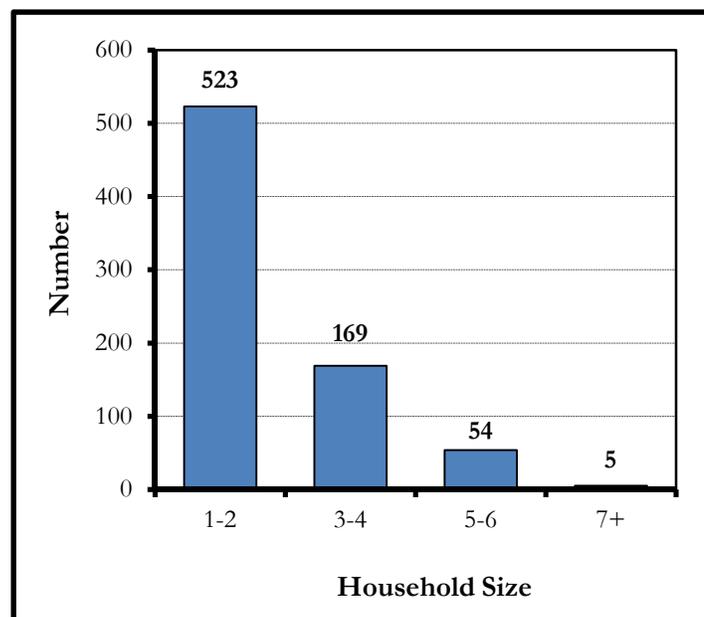


Question 24. How many people live in your household?

1-2	3-4	5-6	7+	No Response	Total
523	169	54	5	2	753

Once again, the number of people living in the households that responded was extremely low. People living in households with 1 or 2 people in them made up 70% of the respondents. This indicates that the survey results disproportionately represents the opinions of “empty nesters” and widows (ers).

Question 24: Household Size

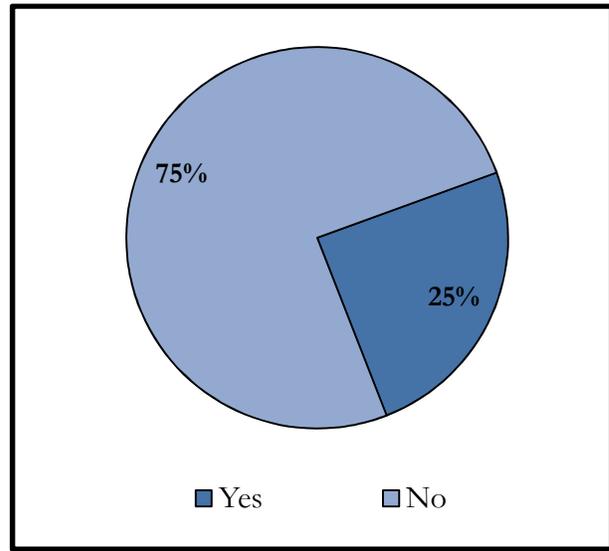


Question 25. Do you have school age children? Yes No

Yes	No	No Response	Total
185	566	2	753

A quarter of the survey respondents indicated that they have school aged children. Once again demonstrating the survey response’s slant towards older households.

Question 25: School Aged Children



C. Written Comments

There were 3 open ended questions on the survey (9, 10, and 26.). These responses are reported here unfiltered and as transcribed by the Community Development Department. One highly offensive comment was removed. The comments were randomly logged so that comments do not appear in any order relative to the survey number, area of town or date received. These comments provide greater detail than the survey questions provide and in many cases provide specific locations, businesses, persons or situations and as such are not intended for the consumption of the general public. As the comments are read, there are recurring themes and topics that support the findings of the tabular data and in some cases offer solutions or approaches to certain concerns. Verbatim written comments will be used in the Comprehensive Development Plan to illustrate the connection between the goals, objectives and strategies espoused in the Plan and the desires of the community.

Question 9. What are the best things about living in the Abilene community?

1. The schools – classes are small enough that the children can get a better education.
2. Parks. Small town environment. Historical.
3. School system. Medical services.
4. Quality of life, convenient services. Safe environment.
5. Small town – no crime.
6. Schools, parks, fair, Eisenhower museum, pool, summer concerts, Christmas tree lane.
7. A great place to raise your family.
8. Quiet place to relax at home.
9. Have not lived here long enough.
10. Travel distance, anywhere in 5 minutes.
11. Small town.
12. Less crime than larger cities. Good neighbors. Not heavy traffic. A lot of community pride, but as statement reflects below. Kansas and this area are not the end of world. Good ideas – experience comes from maybe east or west of Kansas borders as well.
13. Nice clean town and not a high amount of any kind of crime. Feel safe.
14. Schools, access to I-70, Recreation Center – Pool/Parks, small town atmosphere.
15. Quiet, peaceful community, we moved from Salina and we absolutely love it here.
16. Friendly people. Good churches and schools.
17. Quiet, friendly.
18. The sense of community that is fostered throughout the year.
19. Small, crime low, good schools.
20. Small town feel.
21. Quiet overall. Low in problem areas of great concern. Good facilities (& improving) library, parks/rec, airport.
22. Small town friendliness, community feel.
23. Good people.
24. Small town atmosphere.
25. People are friendly but people drive way to fast on W. 1st not going 30 but maybe 35 or 40. Speed limit should go down to 15 for school 20 from Buckeye west to Washington and 20 Buckeye east to Brady.
26. Safety for children. Education is wonderful system.

27. Friendly people.
28. It's the best place to raise children. It's fairly safe. Pool is a great improvement and staff I trust. Sports programs. Great majority of teaching staff.
29. Smaller area not a lot of crime.
30. Small town atmosphere. We know all of our neighbors.
31. It's a safer place to raise kids at the moment.
32. I like the size of Abilene, the water is good, the town is clean and looks good. The streets are well maintained. I like the way when a project is started it is done so nice and fast – roads – the pool – clean up, etc. Good Job.
33. Quiet neighborhoods.
34. Neighbors very friendly.
35. Small town. All the larger town close enough to make it convenient to get places.
36. Close to interstate, Salina, Manhattan. Nice size.
37. Safety, recreation facilities.
38. Nothing.
39. Small town atmosphere. Good educational facilities. Good public library. Eisenhower Center.
40. Quiet. Friendly people.
41. Low crime rate. Good parks, band concerts.
42. Small town atmosphere, quiet.
43. We came from farming area and small town living. We enjoy the friendly community.
44. Strong sense of community.
45. Small city. Easy to drive. Schools. Churches. Attention to the poor (HOPE, Food and Clothing Bank). Available assistance for elderly. Good connections with Fort Riley. Library personnel with exception (new staff). Excellent library resources.
46. Knowing most everyone.
47. Safety.
48. Drugs are under control. Police are good at getting the bad guys.
49. Low crime. Friendly people. Peace and quiet.
50. The friendly people. Good churches. Good schools. Easy town to get around in.
51. Opportunities for kids.
52. Comfortable, easy.
53. Small town atmosphere. Good for raising kids.
54. Overall nice community.
55. Small town – easy to get around. You know many of the people in town.
56. Not a large amount of crime.
57. Small town community that is rich with history.
58. Friendly, safe, great schools.
59. In a small community, it is easy to know your neighbors, etc.
60. Abilene is very clean community for the most part which makes it an attractive place to live.
61. Size, location.
62. Small town.
63. It is directed towards a family environment.
64. Great people, civic pride.
65. Friendly service, for the most part it is clean and inviting.
66. Good school system.

67. Small.
68. Family values.
69. Doesn't take long to go places.
70. People are friendly.
71. Low traffic flow and low crime.
72. Public transportation.
73. Small town feel.
74. Not too big – Not too small.
75. Clean.
76. The community is very child and family oriented.
77. Good schools.
78. Friendly, progressive, lots of good activities to get involved in, safe, nice parks, bandshell and community center. Opportunities to volunteer, good churches. Historic and cultural.
79. Low crime.
80. We love our small town and all it has to offer and that everyone knows who everyone is. It's also nice that we have mostly small business owners in town. Supporting A-town!
81. Tourist attractions.
82. Peaceful.
83. Live in a great neighborhood. Good school system. Nice tourist area.
84. People are very friendly. Low crime. I like Abilene because it's not a big town easy to get around with good churches, grocery stores and restaurants.
85. Feel safe. Close proximity to shopping. Lots of churches. Good school system.
86. Always something going on for holidays and special events.
87. People are friendly.
88. Feel safe, size, has what is required to survive.
89. No large city traffic.
90. Crime is not predominant as in large cities.
91. Small community living.
92. Good medical and pharmacies.
93. Peaceful town.
94. Schools.
95. School system. Swimming pool. Parks. Recreation building. Safety worker.
96. People are friendly and caring. There is a strong sense of patriotism and community that is always refreshing. Abilene is one of the cleanest, well-kept towns I've ever seen.
97. Schools, communication between government entities and citizens. Recreation activities offered community-wide.
98. Schools, church.
99. Things are convenient, services are adequate, people are friendly and helpful as a rule. Christian ethics and principles are still maintained.
100. Good, clean little city. Keep it that way and stop trying to do what the bigger cities do. Leave our hospital alone!
101. Safety.
102. Quiet town.
103. The people.
104. Fair, rodeo, street cleaning, hospital service.

105. Nice people.
106. Low crime, great facilities.
107. Low crime, good schools.
108. Small town family atmosphere, feel safe.
109. Small town, generally people are friendly and willing to help. Low crime rate.
110. Great grocery stores.
111. Clean and attractive.
112. Churches, community pride, fairs, neighbors, small town atmosphere, nice parks and recreation, history.
113. Well, I can't think of any at all.
114. Not living in Salina or Junction City.
115. K-15 Highway and I-70.
116. Not a lot of crime.
117. This is a nice community good size nice people and the city seems to do good at maintaining it.
118. Friendly people. Antique shopping. Historical sites.
119. The people.
120. Small town, crime is low.
121. Activities for children, safe.
122. The people.
123. Kennedy, McKinley and Garfield schools, wonderful grocery store, friendly shop and business owners.
124. Small town atmosphere, close to larger metro areas.
125. Friendliness of people in business, various services, neighborhoods, etc...
126. People, parks, pool.
127. Low crime, great schools.
128. Quiet friendly. I like smaller cities over the larger ones.
129. People supporting community in all kinds of ways, monetary, physical labor, donations of time and resources.
130. Quiet – we have a lot of potential.
131. There are just enough people to make it big enough but still be a small town (city) atmosphere. The schools are very good and it's a relatively safe place to raise children!!
132. Small town.
133. For the size of the town, there are a lot of services many different businesses. The history of Old Abilene Town, steam engine train.
134. The amenities that Abilene tries to provide to it's citizens (see back page). Having had some serious health issues and I can't say enough good things about the health services here (also true for my wife).
135. Small town atmosphere!
136. Great location. Fairly peaceful.
137. Feel safe no matter where you are in town.
138. Small town values and close community.
139. Quiet and most things are within driving distance.
140. We have almost every type of facility as those offered by big cities. Just not as big or as much. Also, it is basically devoid of crime and drugs. It is an excellent place to raise a family.
141. Quiet.
142. Very friendly people, clean community and I don't see out of control children.
143. Small town feel with lots of options.

144. All stores are friendly and give good service.
145. It's a quiet place and everyone cares for everyone else.
146. Progressive community. Proximity to I-70. Diversity of people. Cultural attractions (Eisenhower Center, GPTF, etc...).
147. Farmers market, garage sales, friendly people, gardens, flowers, fruit trees.
148. Pleasant community, good family doctors, good hospital, proximity to I-70, interesting history, good mail service.
149. Ease of being close to I-70 to do necessary purchasing out of town – main staples are outside.
150. Small hometown atmosphere.
151. I feel safe.
152. Love the pool and feel safe.
153. The people and I think our government has always been forward thinking.
154. Small city.
155. Low crime rate, emphasis on education activities, nice stores and shops, community involvement. Very clean town. Places for bicycles to be used or marked would be great.
156. Small town living.
157. Always something to do with family, community events, small town values, safety, morals, good schools and parks and recreation.
158. Lower crime even though we do have some. Good medical care.
159. Schools, health care.
160. Small town (country) environment. Sense of safe.
161. It has low crime.
162. People work together.
163. The easiness in being able to get around. The convenience of living close to larger towns. It seems safe when you are out at night. You know your neighbors and most of the other people in town. We have good doctors and the availability to get to good health facilities nearby.
164. Very friendly people.
165. Small town "America".
166. "Hometown" atmosphere.
167. Small enough to be friendly but large enough to supply basic needs without going out of town.
168. My family are here.
169. Small size, friendly people, pride in old homes and other historic buildings, great volunteer opportunities, variety of churches, great schools.
170. The people and the schools.
171. Small community active and involved citizens.
172. Small town living, quiet, good schools.
173. Medical care, churches, schools.
174. No rush hour. Small town, yet has basic shopping.
175. Things to do, people are nice.
176. Abilene is a safe city. When we read about all the things going on in "our world", it's nice to know we can feel relatively safe here.
177. Size is just right for raising a family.
178. Friendly, safe, quiet, east to get around. Good schools, well kept homes. Proud citizens. All types of churches, good recreation programs. Born here. Know the people.
179. Friendliness – caring for others.

180. Good people, good churches, good schools, people that care.
181. Friendliness of citizens and businesses.
182. Quiet neighborhoods.
183. The spirit of the citizens toward Abilene. Safety. Schools. Health Care.
184. Small town atmosphere, lower crime rates.
185. Access to interstate. Access to Eisenhower Center and Library
186. Everyone is very friendly and helpful. It is a very safe community.
187. The laidback attitude and quietness of the surrounding community. We moved from Junction City in 2000 because that's what they lacked. Small town atmosphere is it's biggest plus.
188. Schools, atmosphere, safe.
189. Small town atmosphere with good community services and facilities.
190. Small town – good to raise children in.
191. Friendliness, pride in how city looks and good representation. Community projects are a nice thing to be doing.
192. Excellent downtown, lots of opportunities for things to do, fair, festivals.
193. Size, community support, "Great People" who care about others.
194. Small town atmosphere and friendly people.
195. Many things.
196. Small town living, quiet and serene, friendly people.
197. Fewer people.
198. It is very community oriented. Abilene is also a very friendly community. There is a lot of pride in the community to keep it looking nice.
199. Small town and quiet. Very little crime.
200. Smaller town, excellent services, low crime rate, excellent schools, excellent health care.
201. Small community with good public services.
202. Small, safe feel to the town. Always things going on to plug into.
203. The people are friendly and caring.
204. Small, good community.
205. Safe and quiet.
206. Small community, schools.
207. Community pride, people are very caring to each other.
208. One of the best was our taxes were lower, now you want to increasing property tax. How are the retired going to live.
209. Quiet and peaceful.
210. Ease of getting around. Don't have long drive to get around.
211. Friendly people, lots to do, good shopping.
212. Lots of activities for children. Safe community to live in.
213. Variety of businesses to choose from. People friendly and have pride.
214. Relatively low cost of living.
215. Good progressive thinking people.
216. You have all you need.
217. No noise pollution or highway traffic.
218. The library, recreation center, fairgrounds, parades and chamber of commerce.
219. Nice community.
220. I feel my children are safe.

221. Friendly, low crime rate.
222. Old town.
223. Home town value – closeness.
224. Friendly people, low crime, close to Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City. Great schools, medical facilities. Plenty of things to do locally. Good all around Midwest city.
225. Small enough to know your neighbors, close to doctors, dentists and hospitals.
226. Knowing people, feeling safe and at home. Trusting businesses you deal with. Lots of community activities and pride in the schools. We have all we need right here in our town.
227. Small town atmosphere, ease of travel, local medical care, live theater.
228. Historical nature of community. Community events (fair, comm. Mingle, flour power, What's up Dickinson County Coffees).
229. A quiet town fairly close to larger towns.
230. Low crime, friendly community, lots of churches.
231. I don't worry about locking my doors at night.
232. Small town, good schools.
233. Do not worry about drive by shootings.
234. Small town. Children and parents being comfortable growing up in.
235. It's a small town.
236. Size of the town.
237. Abilene has doctors, hospital, grocery and other needs within easy access.
238. Everyone knows everyone. Sometimes that's good and sometimes that's a bad thing.
239. Small community.
240. Small town, friendly people, no excessive traffic, those things marked Excellent or Good in question 1., first page.
241. The people of the community.
242. Been here all my life, know all about it and know most of the people. It is just a good place to raise kids.
243. 1) size. 2) Friendliness of most. 3) Cleanliness of city.
244. Small town living and everything you need is in this town.
245. Very little violence, small town, everything's close together.
246. Does not have large city problems. Crime and drug problems.
247. Friendly town, easy to get around in, a good senior center.
248. Good attitude of helping each other. There are several good "survivor jobs" for hard times, with better hopes for future.
249. People come for the schools. Location to Fort Riley.
250. Size, clean, schools, churches and community in general.
251. Friendly, many activities.
252. People
253. Abilene is a friendly community. The location, just off I-70 makes accessibility to larger towns easy to get to. Abilene has nice tourist attractions and home tours. The activities for the people who live here has been constantly improving! City band, the park, recreation center, new pool, library, old Abilene Town and the train.
254. Small town living. Great for raising children.
255. People are friendly and show their care and concern about each other. Most people feel safe here.
256. Quiet, respectable, market value, amenities.

257. Close to my job.
258. Small town feeling, friendly people, importance put on special events and holidays.
259. Small town close proximity to larger cities.
260. We have all the services we need in our city. Our schools have quality teachers.
261. It's beautiful, great, peaceful, people doing what they want to do, family-oriented helpful people. The new recreation center and swimming pool both have brought families together, it's beautiful to watch how they have brought our community together.
262. Friendly neighbors, nice shops, clean looking town.
263. The people, friendly town and you know the people who work for the city. Like police officers.
264. Abilene is a simple retired farmers town. The police protection is good. The health services are good. I have no problem with the city outside of the fact that I cannot seem to get my alley bladed after 2 requests.
265. It is a quiet town with low crime.
266. Progressive leadership. Overall safety/low crime. Very good overall services. Good people and neighbors.
267. The multi-generational aspect, our schools and youth programs, forward thinking development (ie. Pool and library projects).
268. I lived here all my life, so it's home but if Abilene has any chance of growing we need to allow businesses to come that people go out of town to shop at or eat at.
269. Cost of living is lower.
270. It's my hometown. My family's roots are here. It's always been "my" home, I love Abilene.
271. Pool, theater quality, variety of schools – public and private, community working together.
272. Small family centered community.
273. Clean community, many wonderful volunteers, great teachers.
274. Community, convenience, schools, events, size.
275. Smaller community.
276. Small town atmosphere, low crime, good location, friendly people.
277. Friendly people, nice homes, nice parks, pool, community center. Good schools. Low crime.
278. Small home town feeling. No major crime.
279. Less crime than larger cities.
280. Local hospital.
281. Small size.
282. People are friendly. Shopping. When you have a problem you can call the police.
283. Low crime, safe for children, not too far from larger communities.
284. Small town but close enough to large cities for their different venues.
285. Safer than a larger city.
286. Small community.
287. Size – but yet close to larger cities. Small town atmosphere.
288. Convenience.
289. Low crime rate. Nice looking town. Good schools.
290. I grew up here and wouldn't change my childhood at all. I have fond memories of playing in the woods and frog ponds and going to Old Abilene Town. It's sad to see children not enjoying these places. I wish they could.
291. Size.
292. Small friendly town. Churches and good schools.

293. Size.
294. Safe community, clean town, downtown shopping and businesses.
295. Small town.
296. Size, interstate availability.
297. People.
298. Small, friendly community.
299. That there are some fairly decent paying jobs in our town.
300. Friendly citizens. A desire by the City Commissioners to keep Abilene the best city possible with what assets it has to work with.
301. Size, location, good services.
302. Small town living, family's.
303. Small town, friendly people.
304. Kid friendly, small town charm.
305. Close enough to bigger cities, but small enough for me.
306. The people.
307. Location, good educational system, low stress.
308. The small town atmosphere, but we need to strive for more. We need more economic development. We need to collect taxes on businesses not give everything away. Taxes would pay for basic improvements needed for new business.
309. Friendly, beautiful, small.
310. Low crime and everybody knows you. We take care of each other.
311. The close knit community is what I like. The ability to call the doctor or pharmacist at home.
312. Small community, great for raising a family.
313. Fire and police protection, good water and sewer, good and friendly people overall a good place to live.
314. Small town, friendly.
315. The people are very nice to talk to.
316. Schools.
317. Quiet, very low crime, good auto repair services, you keep stray dogs in check, people are as a rule very friendly and helpful to elderly and we who walk with a cane or walker.
318. Safe.
319. Quiet community, not too small or big. Friendly. We can still buy everything here. Health providers and hospital available.
320. Small town living, safe, friendly, beautiful small town atmosphere, convenient, family.
321. Know many people here, which business I can call and trust for good service, sense of security, usually quiet.
322. Short distances and time involved for activities.
323. Close drive to Salina and Junction City/Manhattan to shop.
324. Friendliness, churches and medical facilities.
325. People, schools, services available, parks and recreation.
326. You get to really know the people you deal with. We have a great relationship with our veterinarian, electrician, etc...
327. Being a small community and most of the time quiet and a clean place to live.
328. Small.
329. It's a nice little town.
330. Small hometown feel, friendly people, has the basic necessities close by.

331. City size and friendly people.
332. The hometown feeling and the right size town for raising a family.
333. The atmosphere of a small town. With Midwest town quality.
334. So many fun and cultural events going on in town at any given time. Unique shops and places to eat out. We don't need to leave town to get what we need, but when we do it is good proximity.
335. People who care and who invest in both families and structures – a sense of legacy. The new pool and library – YAY! The ADA activities ie: Midsummer's Night Dream.
336. Easy access to church and grocery stores.
337. Don't know – West Country Mart is the best store in town.
338. It is a small quiet community.
339. Small community – great shops – nice parks.
340. Lots of community based events dealing with families.
341. Small town with opportunities. Clean and friendly. Safe for kids.
342. It being a small town a good place to raise children. We raised 4.
343. Safe, quiet.
344. Small town.
345. Community spirit, convenience (5 min from anything), safety, great retail atmosphere, self sustaining community.
346. The ability to live in a quiet neighborhood. It is a nice sized community with good schools and conservative values. Location to larger cities.
347. Small, quiet town. Variety of tourism and activities. History.
348. A small town that we feel safe in.
349. Small town, low crime rate, safe, clean and beautiful.
350. The schools, quiet neighborhoods, friendly business owners.
351. It is still a down home city.
352. It is a quiet place to live.
353. Good and safe place to raise kids.
354. Schools, recreation, nice neighbors, friendly people in general. Most residents keep a good watch at everything going on to make sure our children are safe!
355. Small.
356. Senior center.
357. Lack of major crime.
358. Small close community. Easy to get places.
359. Schools and churches.
360. Good all around. No problem for our family.
361. Small town, nice and quiet, it's a clean town. Eisenhower park does have really pretty flowers. They take good care of the flowers and it shows.
362. The quietness at night.
363. No crime.
364. A small community and clean town.
365. Friendly atmosphere, the feeling of being safe.
366. Most of the necessities are here, friendly people.
367. Security, no traffic problems, neighborhood neatness (for the most part).
368. Small town.
369. Small community.

370. It is a good place to raise children. Crime rate is low.
371. It's a great place to raise kids.
372. Small town, low crime rate.
373. Good community goals.
374. Close to most things needed.
375. Close to Drs, schools and stores.
376. Proximity to services we use.
377. Friendly, small town environment with lots of history.
378. Small town atmosphere; clean.
379. Great schools, great place to raise a family.
380. Safe, clean, school system, services, parks.
381. The friendly people – good customer service.
382. The small town atmosphere. Everyone knows you and your family. Everyone is a big support system with things that are going on ie: fundraisers, sports send offs, etc...
383. Size of community, shopping and services (except for police dept.), churches, community activities, town history, Eisenhower Center, new pool and updated library.
384. People who live here.
385. Small community, no traffic, decent schools, close to I-70.
386. The people, customer service, safety, quiet, non-congestion, affordable schools, are great, opportunities to stay fit, cultured for a small town.
387. Lots to do, good parks and recreation services, good schools.
388. Small town providing safety. Christian – moral community.
389. Low crime rate, Interstate access, schools and health system, community that cares, tourism.
390. Safety, nice parks for kids, smaller class sizes for school kids.
391. Small town.
392. Nice size, close to Interstate for better shopping elsewhere. Cultural (GP theater, Eisenhower, etc...).
393. Peaceful and calm. Need better stores.
394. Friendly attitudes, no traffic jams, try to provide new and necessary services.
395. Small community.
396. The people.
397. Parks, Eisenhower Center, DK County Historical, steam engine, new pool, historic homes, small town, know lots of people.
398. Small town environment. Most businesses are easily accessible. No traffic congestion.
399. Small community.
400. Friends and family.
401. Friendly people. Nice stores with a nice variety of goods. Well kept houses and lawns.
402. Friendliness, convenience of necessities, many more !!
403. I like the small community feeling and being close to larger cities that you can get to in a reasonable amount of time.
404. The parks and recreation activities are wonderful. Small town living is great. Let's not expand Abilene too much.
405. Quiet! Friendly.
406. Friendly, low crime rate.
407. People.
408. Small and clean.

409. Schools, police and fire protection.
410. Streets, medical.
411. Small, easy to get around.
412. People know people and are friendly.
413. The people who have lived in town for years are all very friendly. The stores are all customer-oriented and the city office are very helpful.
414. Small town – You know your neighbor. Excellent schools. Safe environment for families. Larger communities nearby.
415. Convenience without big city traffic.
416. Friendliness and school support, our good schools and police and EMT service, low crime.
417. Nice size of town to live in. Good historical resources and tourism attractions. Abilene has name recognition due to it's western heritage and ties to Dwight D. Eisenhower, which need to be promoted widely.
418. The entire community. Small town living at it's finest.
419. Small town atmosphere with national exposure.
420. Friendliness.
421. Size, safety.
422. Local access to necessities.
423. Business community and support, parks and activities for kids.
424. Schools.
425. Strong sense of community. Good schools. Great Plains Theater.
426. I feel safe here and the parks are great!
427. Small town grocery stores, driving in small town, Taxes of small town.
428. The schools and being a small community.
429. Schools are good. Town is clean for the most part.
430. Variety of stores for most shopping needs. Fairly clean town in most areas.
431. Size.
432. The small town atmosphere.
433. The "smallness" – Country Mart carried out groceries, elderly work at library. Old Abilene town, immediate service for police and fire. Impact Sports and Fitness and the "tourist" atmosphere, antiques and schools.
434. It is a small friendly town and clean.
435. Protection from crime and fire. Decent schools and good churches.
436. Small town. Feel safe. Good schools.
437. Friendly, small community.
438. Safety.
439. Small town atmosphere. Number of activities for all ages – affordable. People. I feel safe!
440. Somewhat smaller community lifestyle. Close enough to the bigger cities. Clean city that most people have pride in their community.
441. Small town laid back atmosphere. Low violence rate. Traffic not as hectic as larger towns (except for when fair on).
442. Abilene is a very good community to live in. Friendly people and activities going for all.
443. Small city life, low crime rate, good people.
444. Small friendly community feel; welcomeness to new residents.
445. The size not too big or too small.

446. Small town fee. The many events Abilene does put on.
447. Excellent schools and health care, clean community, progressive on economic development, tourism and keeping the community as a living versus a dying community.
448. Small town, the people.
449. Low crime rate. Clean community – citizens have pride. Volunteer organizations are active and improve the community/environment. Great Plains Theater – Old Abilene Town – DK County Historical Museum – Eisenhower Center.
450. Convenience of getting from Point A to B in a matter of 10-15 minutes.
451. Live close to every business, supermarkets, restaurants, doctors/dentist/hospital etc... Close to our local church. Takes but minutes to drive to any location.
452. Friendly, low crime.
453. Family-oriented, excellent schools, safe community.
454. Small town.
455. The antique shops. The Eisenhower Center. Excellent schools. The Great Plains Theater (excellent entertainment). Beautiful park.
456. It's small enough to be able to get where you need to go. Friendly atmosphere.
457. Close to church and shopping necessities. Friendly.
458. Small, basically safe, clean, pretty.
459. Pretty quiet, stores close by, love the schools, people are friendly.
460. Small town atmosphere. Quiet.
461. Quiet, friendly, clean.
462. 1) Community pride – close knit. 2) Good school system.
463. It is a safe community to live in.
464. Small enough to know most people around you.
465. Low crime, safe place.
466. Small town and friendly people.
467. Smaller town.
468. Friendly, people willing to help a neighbor.
469. Low crime, rural setting.
470. Very friendly, low crime, close proximity to Salina/Manhattan.
471. I hear that schools are excellent. I see a lot of support for the kids.
472. Small town feel with a good grocery store. The community has a lot of family-oriented gatherings.
473. Small, clean, safe.
474. Most of the people are friendly and they are several that extend themselves to our community.
475. Small town – not that much crime.
476. Hospital near. We try to keep up on things that make our city attractive – like new swimming pool and addition to library.
477. Relatively low crime rate.
478. Small town.
479. Knowing neighbors, the connectedness of people through school/church/commerce/arts activities. Population size and service ratio.
480. I don't know any.
481. Small town atmosphere.
482. No gangs or major crime. Safe schools. Kid friendly town. It's a unique and beautiful town.

483. Small town with good services and lots of active organizations (ie. Historic Old Abilene Town) to enjoy. We feel Abilene is a safe community with amazing health care available for it's size.
484. It is relatively clean and safe. It is a small community that looks out for it's citizens.
485. Lots of trees. Sidewalks. Low cost water bill.
486. The family commitment. Schools notifying parents when children don't show up at school. The support system there is in the whole town for families. Theater, tourism, history of Abilene, reenactors.
487. Excellent water.
488. Hospital, city government, schools, safe.
489. Friendly people.
490. Recreation center, public library, Eisenhower Center, Churches.
491. Small and quiet. No gangs.
492. Quiet, peaceful, low crime rate. Close to Salina or Junction City to make purchases we can't get here.
493. Small town living but has larger town activities.
494. Abilene is a very clean and safe community. It is a great place to raise kids. We have a great school system.
495. We have good street maintenance. Very good ambulance service.
496. Lower crime rate compared to big cities.
497. It's a fairly quiet community.
498. Size and convenience to medical services.
499. Small town.
500. Parks and recreation programs, tourist attractions (Eisenhower, Old Abilene Town), events (CKFF, Chisolm Trail Days, 4th of July celebration, etc...), churches and civic organizations.
501. It's a quiet peaceful town. Has many interesting activities to attend – almost on a monthly basis. Has many dedicated people who volunteer in the community. Has many attractions for visitors to Abilene.
502. Small community-friendly. Local hospital and Dr's available. Good police and fire services.
503. Everything you need is "right here" without going out of town.
504. Small town life, knowing neighbors and prominent people, officers, ect.
505. It's clean, friendly, pretty and close to larger towns for shopping and eating out. Close to I-70 and I-35.
506. Good people.
507. Abilene Historic nature, new facilities like library, pool, rec center, schools and hospital.
508. Has a daily newspaper. Radio station. Good parks and recreation.
509. The people.
510. Small size. Ease of getting from one place to another. Medical facilities close.
511. Small community with friendly atmosphere.
512. Low crime rate, close to hospital, good schools.
513. Still has small town feel. Children are valued. Great schools. There are facilities to provide things to do.
514. Tree-lined streets.
515. Less crime, friendly, good hospital, good doctors, good dentists.
516. Excellent police and fire. Feel safe in the city.
517. The homey small town feel where everyone knows everyone.
518. Small town community. Sale ads for grocery stores. Appreciate the local pharmacies. Variety stores, eating places.
519. La Fiesta and Maddy's Pub.

520. Lack of traffic, noise and clean air.
521. Location.
522. Less stressful living, feel safe, being familiar with people in the community, community spirit, historic preservation, Great Plains Theater, service-minded forward looking hospital, service-minded business people.
523. People, attractions, atmosphere.
524. People are friendly, can run all your errands in less than an hour.
525. It is friendly neighborly place to live and not over or under populated, very little crime, great drinking water, wonderful churches. It is kept neat and clean for the most part.
526. Abilene is a clean city with caring people.
527. Neighbors help neighbors.
528. Quiet most of the time.
529. Small town, small traffic.
530. Clean and friendly.
531. Just much better than living in a city. It's an active and well kept community.
532. Great lifestyle, laidback, minimal traffic.
533. It is smaller yet offers some variety for residents. Great Plains Theater is a plus.
534. People are friendly and lots of volunteers help everyone. We're proud of our town.
535. Schools, low crime rate, parks and recreation activities for children.
536. Everyone cares about their neighbor.
537. Friendly people. Most needs available – groceries, gas, etc... Small town living is the best. Help when needed.
538. Friendly people. Peaceful. Good services.
539. Small town atmosphere. Friendly people.
540. You can walk to any place you want to go.
541. I feel secure and I like the atmosphere of Abilene.
542. It's a small town. The crime rate isn't very high.
543. Schools. Mobility on foot/bike is good and physical activity.
544. Everything we need is all here (for the most part). Small town living in a larger setting.
545. The business community here is real good. The community as a whole is real friendly. I think that the IKE Center is a huge draw for the tourist industry. I've been there twice and I've enjoyed it both times.
546. Small and friendly, safety.
547. Doesn't take long to get anywhere.
548. People, community events, Eisenhower Center.
549. Easy access, streets.
550. We do have a lot for us here. Good schools, parks, good store (want a Walmart though).
551. Quiet, little crime.
552. The Eisenhower Center. The Great Plains Theater.
553. Low crime, nice people, small town.
554. Local attractions, recreation areas in city or near.
555. Schools and health care.
556. It's small. It's my home. I love it here.
557. Good water.

558. Excellent identity and community friendliness. Parks and rec is wonderful and the city is the most desirable size for a smaller town (6-7 thousand).
559. Great Plains Theater. Grocery stores. Parks and recreation.
560. Not many crime scenes and many houses for sale more available on a daily basis.
561. Safety.
562. The People. The convenience of driving a short distance to the store.
563. Location, tourist sites.
564. Security, people, downtown, Eisenhower park.
565. Schools, friendly people, health care and hospital. Would love to see and shoot fireworks on my home property.
566. Nice community and when there are problems, they always have the support to help.
567. It's a small town everybody knows everybody and are willing to help each other out when they can.
568. I like the small town feeling.
569. Good schools. Things are close. Grocery, post office, lumber yard, RHV.
570. Knowing people you see in the grocery store or when you are out in the community.
571. 1) Good schools. 2) Small town environment. 3) Assistance availability.
572. Friendly community.
573. Small town, quiet.
574. The city tries to include something for everyone in the recreation department.
575. Shopping is close.
576. Feel safe in my neighborhood. Have good neighbors.
577. The people are caring and helpful. Events for youth.
578. Small town atmosphere. Certain sense of security.
579. Anyone can get involved and have a voice in government. Pretty, clean town. Close to larger cities.
580. Short travels to what's needed.
581. Friendly people and small town.
582. No traffic jams.
583. The size of city.
584. The schools. Not a big city but not a small town either.
585. Small and friendly.
586. Most all services we need are provided locally and provided well. We are close to I-70 and Salina/Manhattan. Safe community.
587. Low crime, good schools.
588. Friendliness. Belonging to a neighborhood.
589. Small friendly town within easy driving distance of larger cities.
590. The people.
591. It is a good place to raise a family and it is senior friendly. The cost of living here is reasonable.
592. Safe small town with great things like the Eisenhower Center, ALCO headquarters, theater, beautiful community center and wonderful facilities at Eisenhower park for ball and more.
593. Small community living.
594. Safety. Schools. City/County Government. Location.
595. Quiet living. Little to no public violence. People care about fellow citizens and help each other out when able.
596. Abilene is still a fairly safe town to raise children. The drug problem in elementary schools seems to be low.

597. Neighbors. Low cost of living. Parks.
598. Minimal crime, small town atmosphere, minimal traffic.
599. Small town environment.
600. Friendly people, good schools, recreational facilities are great.
601. Small town friendliness/familiarity.
602. Relatively safe. Good schools. Park & Rec Programs. Nice town to raise a family.
603. Small town.
604. Community, activities, safety, hometown feel, unique history, big town opportunities with hometown comforts.
605. Do not have a long distance to drive to get to work. Neighbors are friendly and know your neighbors. Not a lot of crime.
606. It's small and I think everyone helps everyone out. Makes me feel safe.
607. Small town atmosphere with good amenities.
608. How everyone helps each other.
609. A nice quiet and clean community with good schools and medical facilities. Good City services. A progressive City government. Central location with access to an interstate highway.
610. Abilene is a very strong, family-oriented community. Eisenhower Park along with the new pool are very kid and parent friendly. The City has good facilities and for the most part keeps these facilities in good shape.
611. Can't think of any.
612. I live in a nice neighborhood and the town is a wonderful place to live.
613. All the various events held here that you do not have in most towns this size.
614. Friendly atmosphere.
615. Schools for the kids. Community activities.
616. We have everything here, except Walmart. Don't need them.
617. Low traffic. 5-10 minutes to appointments. Good churches, schools. Over abundance of gift and antique stores.
618. The town is peaceful and the people are friendly. The town offers a lot for families. It's safe.

Question 10. What are the major challenges facing the Abilene community?

1. Drug and alcohol abuse by the children. Something for the kids to be involved with – not all kids skateboard and play basketball.
2. Industry jobs. Would be nice to have a Dillons, Wendy's and Walmart. Water is expensive.
3. Not enough state funding to help fix sidewalks and streets. Old town – not enough activity to promote tourism.
4. Air quality – alfalfa mill smells. Flour mill bad. Grain elevators need. Jobs for community. Street repairs.
5. We need a closer Walmart. The stores here don't always have things you need and are usually over-priced. It's difficult packing up the kids to make a trip all the way to Salina.
6. I would like to see a KFC brought back to Abilene.
7. Create skilled and semi-skilled job opportunities. Stop property increases.
8. Government.
9. Maintaining a small town feeling, while continuing to develop in both residential and business.

10. Retail – there are not enough stores for people to shop at; most people I know do their major shopping out of town.
11. Diversity – need more diversity. Water. Cost of living.
12. The wages for people are too low to have money to live on.
13. The skate park in Eisenhower Park. It is ALWAYS trashed and it invites a bad element into our town. The maintenance of our streets needs to be looked at VERY closely as well as the width of some of the residential streets. The high prices of the residential and rental properties.
14. 1st and 14th Streets improvements.
15. Money to get things done.
16. We need something for our children, young and older – skating rink, Bass Pro shop, movie house. Good clean movies, etc. Clean entertainment. Do a lot of praying for Abilene, It's a chosen City !
17. No quality entertainment ie: movie theater. There is not a lot for kids to do in town.
18. Attracting business that can spur competition in goods.
19. Keeping the small town atmosphere while growing larger.
20. Increase in pay for wages. Keeping younger people in the community.
21. Keeping the population stable.
22. New retail. Jobs.
23. Developing but not getting too big. Some services (such as appliance and utility repair) are hard to come by. Sidewalks and downtown improvements.
24. Economic Development.
25. Need more clothing and shoe retail stores for the elderly, so we do not have to go out of town to shop. I've had tourists stop me on the sidewalks downtown and ask if there aren't more stores to shop in.
26. It is a retirement community and the wages around the area are low. You won't let big businesses in and it keeps the town small.
27. Jobs for kids getting out of college. Keeping businesses in Abilene. Also, to keep people shopping in Abilene.
28. Maintaining an adequate water supply. Attracting more businesses where people can work and earn a living wage.
29. Nice restaurant choices.
30. The new hospital moving forward.
31. This is a farm town retirement community. Stop spending tax money on things that don't do anything for Abilene.
32. Add new development. Lower income housing. New business as restaurants, motel and retail stores.
33. Not listening to the public at community meetings – ie. Closing 10th Street and the hospital expansion and any other expenditures during a time when monies are tight for everyone. People are struggling, "Kids in Crisis" and food for backpacks for kids on from school – how sad. The elderly on fixed incomes cannot afford the taxes on their houses they've lived in for years.
34. No entertainment, need a movie theater.
35. Financial – our planners should remember that we do not have the income to build things that are unnecessary, such as remodeling the hospital and closing off tenth street. Should let the people vote on major projects.
36. Having Abilene be itself not like other towns. We're unique in being a relaxed atmosphere as we stroll along the sidewalks in town. As we did in the old days not all the other junk. Sorry, trees not needed only cause a mess on sidewalks and droppings on people.
37. Jobs. Care of elderly. Commerce and industry growth. High cost of utilities. High taxes.

38. Attracting new industry and attracting new residents.
39. Keeping the “teens” entertained so they are less likely to get into “trouble”. A teen center would be great.
40. Water supply, street repair, sidewalks.
41. No challenge for jobs (Everything goes up but wages). Need a Walmart (ALCO needs competition). ALCO never has what you need.
42. Finances.
43. There isn't a lot to do for ages 30 – under.
44. Updating downtown. That has been on the agenda for 20 years and nothing happening by city. Other cities spend money on beautification but not cheap Abilene. Christmas decorations on Buckeye should be more than Christmas tree lane and less at civic center which isn't seen by persons passing through town.
45. Growth.
46. Need more businesses to come to Abilene.
47. Becoming overgrown and losing a sense of identity and closeness.
48. Jobs, housing.
49. Rumors and back stabbing.
50. Property taxes too high.
51. No entertainment, very few things for children and adults to do. Not enough places to have a sit down dinner.
52. The drug problem is getting much worse. The increasingly diverse cultural groups are hard on existing older, quieter neighborhoods. There is a lack of good restaurants.
53. Maintaining downtown and old neighborhoods.
54. Keeping jobs here for young people and also just in general.
55. More things/places for kids to do or go.
56. Need some type of industry to keep younger people here also employees of business need to provide methods to keep good people at their jobs instead of having to turn over of employees at times.
57. I wished that the drugs and alcohol would go.
58. Growth ?? Keeping young people here.
59. Retail tax base and retail expansion. Job creation and industry growth.
60. I don't know.
61. Keeping young families housing in this town is way overpriced – not enough good paying jobs. When the Fort Riley soldiers came back it seems like the housing skyrocketed. Rental property is an average of \$600 for a two bedroom house that is usually rundown. Ridiculous. I would challenge most landlords to live in their own rental property – maybe then they would fix them and justify their high rent.
62. Encouraging people to move to Abilene. Too much free time in summer for kids to get into trouble, possibly look into year around school with 2 week breaks every quarter. Encouraging new businesses to start up in Abilene (or move to Abilene).
63. To perhaps get away from so many redneck attitudes. Having lived in the area 18 years, think that's a bit problem. Not from city employees as such – not dealt with them – but you can see it feel it in businesses – organizations – and spills into the churches. Marlin Fitzwater, who was Press Secretary for Presidents, does not have a sign up stating his hometown when talking to persons from Chamber – Convention & Visitors Bureau – Eisenhower Center – No real answer. The ideas and thoughts –

- experiences of new persons into the community may be good. Not just the established names of (old) families, etc...
64. Keeping our community safe.
 65. Economy, unfinished housing developments, quality dining options.
 66. Need an indoor heated pool for the elderly that's affordable.
 67. It does not appear that the Abilene Police Department (ie. Chief Dunlap) chooses to enforce enforceable city ordinances, such as noise levels, speeders, etc. the support and understanding regarding downtown business reconstruction also seems to be lacking.
 68. Retirement people. Historic Abilene. New developments raising taxes, but not giving the community any breaks. Homeless cats and no ordinance. Old ordinances, for example "No fireworks on the 4th of July". Younger generation moving in. Time for a change.
 69. Bringing in new business.
 70. Property taxes. Road repairs.
 71. Streets are in bad shape. Responsible activities for all citizens to make community cleaner and better. Make sure low income workers can work without spending all their wages on child care. Senior citizens – good quality of life.
 72. Low income, high expense. Apathy – some of the long time citizens have not even been to our museums.
 73. Drugs, alcohol problems are huge.
 74. Streets – schools maintaining a sound business community.
 75. Economy, streets.
 76. Taxes.
 77. Economy but who isn't facing economical challenges.
 78. Lost of businesses resulting in deterioration of downtown infrastructure.
 79. Attracting or keeping younger families. Keeping the business we have. Concentrating economic development on recruiting small businesses with 10-20 employees.
 80. Places to eat. No Chinese food place. Variety of shops to choose from.
 81. Finding the money to make progress while not taxing people so much. Getting people to accept change and progress.
 82. Needs lower rent, more financial help for residents, more jobs.
 83. Soldiers from Ft. Riley.
 84. Medical services – outdated.
 85. Taking on 2 or 3 projects at once when they could have been done years ago one at a time cheaper. Also refusing the need for the hospital expansion. There is no more room or privacy.
 86. Need more access to college level education. More recreation available to the older generation. Maintain adequate downtown parking. Why not a new police department near new EMT building? The post office is no longer an adequate facility – no easy access, no adequate parking, etc...
 87. Need businesses, jobs for people.
 88. Street and sidewalk improvements. Developing business (jobs).
 89. Jobs, poor/needy, old houses, rundown properties, empty commercial buildings, unkept vacant lots.
 90. Commercial development in need – great need of a restaurant, example – Applebees, Montana Mike's, Golden Corral.
 91. Creating some good jobs.
 92. Need someplace for young teens to go and things to do.
 93. Too many empty developments. Not enough shopping.

94. Lack of jobs. Pay scales don't appear to be keeping up with cost of living. True affordable housing.
95. Growth. Certain people businesses not letting other businesses come in. Clean up of older streets/houses.
96. Affordable housing, owning and renting.
97. Streets. Development – too much too soon stresses infrastructure.
98. Bringing in new businesses. Not locally family-owned.
99. Keeping taxes in line. Also increasing retail stores, shoes and clothing.
100. Businesses in downtown. Availability of jobs.
101. Business development for shopping. New industry development. Better paying jobs.
102. Too much money and high powered improvements put into the hospital. Also, too much development depending on Fort Riley build up.
103. Bad kids doing crime and keeping jobs here.
104. 1) Increasing lack of water. I feel our lack of water was not addressed in allowing recent past construction and future construction should not proceed without this critical issue being addressed and shared with our residents. 2) Our drainage problems. 3) Jobs. Good paying jobs. 4) Very limited or no choice when shopping. Shoes? ALCO or Salina or Topeka. Appliances? RHV or go out of town. Clothing? ALCO or Guys & Gals or again shop out of town. 5) A movie theater.
105. Fixing the streets.
106. Need more doctors, jobs and opportunities for young people, so they will want to stay here and raise their families.
107. No work!
108. We could use more stores. Would be nice to buy shoes and clothes here. Not have to leave town also maybe another grocery store. Restaurants would be nice. Also jobs to keep the family here.
109. Lack of quality jobs for college and high school graduates.
110. Attracting industries, employment for teens, quality education.
111. There are really no problems for me.
112. I do not know.
113. Traffic lights need more attention.
114. No fireworks on the 4th of July.
115. No movie theater for the kids.
116. Projecting future water needs (considering the new housing developments).
117. Nothing for youth to do. Movie theater. Tie with GPT to support live theater.
118. They don't have enough services for their senior citizens.
119. Better shopping to keep local money and tax money in Abilene, encourage new family type businesses for entertainment.
120. Street drainage.
121. Nothing for people to do, no movie theater no going places to go shopping, no steak house.
122. No theater (movie). No shoe stores. Feral cats – no cat ordinance. Needs more main fastfoods – Taco Bell, Wendy's and Applebees.
123. Keeping industrial base.
124. To many new houses are being built need more 62+ low-income apartments. A good place for apartments to be built is where Priem's Pride motel was.
125. Drugs, drugs, drugs, police need to do more to rid our city of criminals and protect the law abiders. Our sidewalks are pitiful. Our street lights on NE. 9th Street are pitiful.
126. The People!

127. I'm sure this probably won't happen, but it would be nice to see a store like Aldi's come in to Abilene, other than that I can't think of anything else. I am retired so I don't get out a whole lot.
128. Teenage activities, movies, skating, teen club, etc... There are none.
129. Affordable housing for young families, military families. Jobs available for new people. Affordable entertainment, movie theater.
130. Need a Walmart.
131. Shortage of jobs.
132. Housing costs.
133. The up keep of the side streets!!
134. Places for young people to go – like to the SHOW!!
135. Job Growth. Keeping taxes and spending under control. Things for the young to do and enjoy.
136. Sustaining growth.
137. We need new businesses.
138. Movie theater. Wheel chair accessible sidewalks in all neighborhoods.
139. Need for more job opportunities.
140. There isn't enough job opportunities and there isn't much for the kids to do. Most of everything cost a lot for the kids to do. Need something that people can afford.
141. Don't lower the quality of housing. Please abandon the downtown streetscape project.
142. Keep the mix of population the same. No need to create more apartments for military.
143. Keeping businesses going.
144. Shopping.
145. Hospital expansion needs more study. Don't close 10th Street.
146. Maintenance of services and facilities. Budgeting. Growth of population. Retaining retail stores.
147. Activities for kids and young adults.
148. Not enough entertainment for our youth. We need a movie theater.
149. Lack of downtown retail businesses, lack of good restaurants.
150. Shopping for clothing, shoes. Keeping infrastructure up to date. Keeping taxes as low as possible.
151. Enforcement in some areas. I.e., low hanging branches over roads and sidewalks; traffic violations persist; blocked sidewalks where walking is a problem. Maintain city functions without breaking the bank or tax increases. More wise use of some funding, i.e., asphalt overlays that are in poor shape a year or two after application.
152. Streets, sidewalks, need movie theater.
153. Jobs, new business, keeping young people here and something for them to do. Keeping youth from stealing and ruining things when bored.
154. Eating establishments – family – not fast food.
155. Cheap housing for the 18-30 year old population.
156. Not enough retail stores, especially clothing stores.
157. More affordable housing. More street repairs (mainly East 1st Street). Eliminate truck parking in downtown area mainly on Cedar Street by stop sign north and south.
158. People moving out.
159. Not enough well-paying jobs.
160. No growth for being an I-70 town. We need a Wal-Mart or Target Super Store. ALCO sucks.
161. Businesses locally so driving out of town to shop shoes, clothing, etc...
162. Including all people in decisions not just a few rich and poor north side and south side. Keeping Abilene a friendly town, my town.

163. High rainfall over the curbs from Brady west on 5th Street, always deep, speeders on Buckeye, radar should patrol this street more, cars do not stop at stop sign at 12th and Campbell, could be a bad wreck there.
164. Street repairs.
165. Accepting outsiders.
166. Loss of jobs and downsizing.
167. Lack of knowledge some people have of what is available for community involvement.
168. Need more large employers in town to keep more people in Abilene. As well as give Duckwall's, Memorial Hospital and Russell Stovers wage competition.
169. The older downtown buildings need to be restored.
170. Better street drainage (NE. 5th Street). More restaurants. More clothing and shoe stores.
171. Don't jump to fast – look ahead and things will work out OK. That is the way we got here. Get our books in order then go on.
172. More shops, clothing, shoes.
173. Keeping young people here.
174. Growing elderly population.
175. Overall growth, maintenance of aging services that must always be usable and functional; (ex. Water, sewer, streets, etc...).
176. Need more apartments and rental for average incomes. Keeping facilities updated without tax burdens. Preventing the move in, increased drug traffic. Health - seems to be a high rate of cancer. Clean air – DeBruce still puts out a lot of debris, my car gets covered.
177. The economy.
178. Retail, needing better selection than ALCO and Dollar General. Having to drive and spend money outside of my tax dollar range for items to live on. Entertainment for the citizens: movie theater.
179. Question real need to close off 10th Street to local traffic.
180. Perhaps losing businesses because of the short distance to larger cities. I'm not up to all the major challenges so I will not comment on that.
181. Aging community and jobs.
182. Keeping people to shop in Abilene such as groceries.
183. Growing since major retailers are less than 30 minutes away. Need to grow tax base to sustain quality of life.
184. Lower utility costs.
185. Not enough to do for the younger generation. Too much focus gets put on the elderly. Nothing for young families to do.
186. Bringing new jobs and businesses to town.
187. Need to attract good businesses to Abilene to keep the town strong and to give people a reason to stay in town.
188. Complacency, lack of quality jobs and roll up sidewalks at dark. Satisfaction on part of citizens, not caring to grow or expand. Happy with the status quo. No changes.
189. Maintaining infrastructure without taxing homeowners too heavily. Attracting industry, retail, restaurants and tourist-related businesses to keep Abilene vital and growing. Maintaining and improving health care and number of physicians.
190. Try to find a way to earn enough money to live on.
191. Attracting young families – not enough good paying jobs for young families to “make it” here. Would like to see a movie theater, Walmart and more restaurants.

192. Increase in transient people (hence lower relatedness). Increase in poverty.
193. More industry needed, lack of jobs, No reason for young people to stay.
194. Increasing population – negative.
195. Our street-east 1st! Alcohol abuse in the middle and high schools. We would love a pediatrician here in town.
196. We need businesses other than antiques and convenience stores, plus another grocery store. Old 40 bypass needs resurfaced. It is 57 years old with zero maintenance. I don't know who is responsible.
197. The cost of housing is way too high for the wages that are paid. The influx of military made our realtors greedy. Sad! Also, the folks with rentals.
198. Leadership.
199. Hoodlums.
200. 1) Affordable housing. 2) enticing businesses. 3) Entertainment opportunities for all ages.
201. Street repair. East 1st Street.
202. Drugs, drinking.
203. Supporting what is already available, especially all the dining facilities. Also, we need more jobs. We spend thousands of dollars every year to educate our quality youth. They go to a Kansas college and receive an excellent education. Then they have to leave the state to earn a living. This situation is tragic.
204. Keeping small town pricing in stores competitive with stores such as Wal-Mart... in this economy.
205. Improve rental properties. Some are pathetic.
206. Need more business store, ie (shoe, clothing, etc...).
207. Job availability.
208. Continued tourism development.
209. Inability to maximize growth potential.
210. Needing to grow. Need a Walmart – Target type store to bring more people here. Need a theater or other options for entertainment.
211. Providing good jobs. Sustaining growth.
212. Lack of housing and jobs. Not everyone wants to work for the hospital.
213. There is a need for more restaurants. It would also be nice if there were more entertainment options (ex. Movie theater).
214. The business district needs drastic redevelopment. Whenever I need to buy goods I typically do so in Junction City or Salina. There is no decent shopping in Abilene for individuals who would like more than one choice.
215. Adequate water supply and funds for street maintenance, affordable housing for young families, dealing with an aging population and better paying jobs to attract younger families.
216. 1) Being more welcoming – not just in words but actions!!! Offer domestic help, transportation through church groups. 2) Humanely deal with feral animals. 3) Repair sidewalks – a fall can be a disastrous life changing event!! (It happened to me!). 4) Provide better eating facilities for tourists.
217. Property decline. Lack of retail business.
218. Water, keeping small businesses, need retail.
219. 1) Affordable housing. 2) More and higher paying jobs. 3) Retention of youth.
220. Growth/Economic Development/Jobs and street improvements.
221. 1) Overpriced housing – you can buy/build houses in a major city for the same and sometimes less than the prices here. 2) Poor high paying jobs – in terms of amount of jobs. 3) Better police patrol –

- too many vehicles break ins and I always see people speeding, but no police driving around. 4) Clean up the entrance off I-70. Town looks run down. Needs jazzed up.
222. New jobs. Leave 10th Street open. New Hospital Board.
 223. To have additional services without losing a small town atmosphere. A new place to eat.
 224. Not enough commercial business.
 225. Controlled growth of city, good quality restoration of old Abilene Town, downtown revitalization, continuing good support of band, etc... cultural activities continue to maintain good quality and quantity of water supply maintaining good quality roads.
 226. Elder care, affordable rental homes/apartments.
 227. A balance budget, adequate pay for city employees, especially fire and police.
 228. No shoe store. No clothing store that carries large sizes.
 229. Keeping and gaining population.
 230. Finding family entertainment.
 231. Road upkeep is poor. Property taxes and sewer bill are too high.
 232. Bringing people to Abilene to increase tax revenue. Current sidewalks.
 233. Not enough jobs.
 234. Yes, we should do all we can to attract businesses.
 235. Larger towns – nothing safer.
 236. Need more things for the youth to do – (15-18). WE NEED A MOVIE THEATER!
 237. The economy.
 238. Streets.
 239. Street rebuilding. Hospital improvements.
 240. Taxes (raising mill levies). Building onto hospital/blocking 10th Street. Need better street repairs, building up keep in downtown area. Alleys/street maintenance. Better paying local jobs/more jobs.
 241. Keeping stores and industry going and attracting new ones.
 242. Taxes too high. Nothing for middle-HS youth to do to get together.
 243. More places to pay higher wages instead of starvation wage.
 244. Can't think of any except maybe the new hospital.
 245. Growth, people moving to larger cities, attracting businesses.
 246. Economy and low paying jobs.
 247. More jobs, lower rents.
 248. Better paying jobs, New business, More water supply.
 249. Water.
 250. Health care, snow maintenance.
 251. Shopping, businesses need longer hours.
 252. To obtain and keep businesses operating in Abilene.
 253. Keeping expenses down property taxes down. Feds will be taxing us to the poor house.
 254. Unemployment and services to help these people and the elderly.
 255. Street repair and maintenance. Growing the business base. Affordable housing. Controlling growth of the community.
 256. Stagnation. Conservatism. Roads are terrible, but it is hard to raise taxes when the voters are so conservative.
 257. Employment opportunities for young and low income. The economy and effect on city expenditures. Taxation. Do we really need whatever is proposed. Finding the money to keep streets and sidewalks in good repair.

258. Far too costly to live here, specifically utilities.
259. Restaurants, movie theater, jobs. Costs are too high at parks and rec.
260. Vehicle traffic.
261. A lot of shopping is done outside of Abilene. We need more stores in this area.
262. Needs more choices for entertainment and eating.
263. Nothing for the young to do. Entertainment. No housing for young family's. Low income.
264. Hospital – need better doctors. Restaurants – need more variety.
265. Keeping the 18-40 year olds here in Abilene to reside and work and rear families.
266. High housing cost.
267. Kids and adults being obstructive. The illegal rate is getting bad.
268. High rent! Lack of things to do, places for youth to go.
269. Being less than ½ hour drive from two much larger towns that have more services and better retail opportunities. Being too conservative and status quo when change may be desirable at times. Bad streets, including several unpaved ones that are more consistent with towns of a few hundred.
270. It would be nice if we could get a major road restaurant here, ie. Olive Garden or something similar. M&R is great but is always crowded. Need more of that type.
271. Street and sidewalk repair. Railroad track repair especially the 3rd Street – Washington crossing.
272. No movie theater, lack of street repairs on streets south of tracks, ignore homeowners wishes, penalizing visitors to town with parking tickets, not listening to suggestions to improve city from citizens new to the community, the hospital holding community hostage so they can add unnecessary departments. There is not population to support an enlarged hospital. Yes, they need new, not grandiose.
273. We need access to an indoor pool, more bike trails.
274. Economy and its affect on large employers such as ALCO and Russell Stover. Getting young people involved in voluntary civic duties.
275. Growth with 150 homes for sale and virtually no buyers? Future of Duckwall-ALCO, what would replace the loss?
276. 1) Need more rental properties that are not “rundown”. 2) When it comes to employment, it seems as if all our “eggs are in one basket”. If we were to lose Duckwalls or Russell Stovers, this town would be in a world of hurt. 3) Not much in Abilene to “draw in” more families. People I talk to would pick other towns before living in Abilene. They say the town is too “outdated”.
277. Retail, jobs.
278. High taxes for the older people on Social Security.
279. Financing growth, repairing/improving infrastructure. Need to promote recycling and recycling center.
280. More than just ALCO.
281. Street repair, retail businesses.
282. Physicians don't have good reputation in community. So many people are forced to doctor in neighboring towns.
283. Economy, health care.
284. Improvement and health care.
285. Healthcare – providing the best care possible.
286. Jobs.
287. Need more entertainment options and additional shopping. Such as movie theater, restaurants, mall, large department store.
288. Abilene needs to allow for growth, new businesses need to be enticed to come here.

289. Openness to military. Keeping things “small”.
290. I don’t know haven’t lived here long enough as I lived in Chapman for 42 years until the tornado hit my home.
291. Aging population.
292. Lack of businesses downtown, ie. Shoes store, clothing.
293. Jobs and pay levels.
294. Complex overhaul of police department. Start listening to all citizens not just the select few.
295. People losing jobs!
296. Not raising the mill level when the economy is like it is. Get more money if needed by raising sales tax, instead of asking the property owner to pay it more.
297. There isn’t much for the kids to do. Like a better bowling alley would be nice. Or a movie theater. Or something of the sort.
298. People keeping their jobs.
299. Needs a Dillons and Walmart store.
300. City streets are in bad shape! Need more promotion of greyhound museum and Ike tours. Most people outside Abilene don’t realize the great history we have here. Maybe more funding for good tourism advertising?
301. Needs better shopping.
302. Try to do things a big city does.
303. Keep it safe.
304. Attracting new businesses.
305. Present economy and budget challenges.
306. Filling existing buildings downtown.
307. Remodeling of downtown buildings should have a time limit. They should also require that owners hire certified contractors and engineers. Due to age of some buildings, owners not be allowed to do leveling or jacking up of their buildings. Require engineers be hired. Any buildings being remodeled and updated should be under strict supervision to ensure no damage occurs in adjoining properties.
308. Drugs.
309. Keeping taxes in check, especially for seniors.
310. Lack of business growth.
311. Hospital.
312. Need street repairs bad. And not just the main streets.
313. Money.
314. Learning change.
315. Taping into the Fort Riley market and getting the cultural and historical aspect of Abilene more widely known – doing more publicity. Renovated the historical buildings, especially Old Abilene Town, maybe getting grants for it. Keep the downtown area with the 1920’s - 1930’s look and feel. These landlords of these buildings down there are doing an awful job keeping up with it, where ceilings/roofs are collapsing.
316. Too much tax.
317. Expansion and infrastructure financing.
318. Too much spending.
319. Taxes.
320. Jobs (good paying).
321. Drugs.

322. Street Repair.
323. Street repairs – especially E. 1st Street and NW. 14th.
324. Sidewalk Repair.
325. ADA laws.
326. Too much infrastructure costs for new developments.
327. Growth is a huge challenge and many are afraid or do not like change or progress.
328. Being competitive with bigger towns.
329. No movie theater.
330. More things for our youth !!
331. Schools require better up keep.
332. Community needs to be proactive in facilities upgrades rather than a “knee-jerk” reaction.
333. Bike and walking paths??
334. Why lift the fire cracker ban throughout the community when a restricted area might be a “win/win” alternative for city residents.
335. Home prices are way too high. We won’t get too many people able to pay the prices that are being asked. It seems lately there are a lot of problems with break ins and vandalism throughout town.
336. Keeping our young people.
337. That taxes don’t keep going up and up.
338. Street repair – would support tax increase for this.
339. Bring in good paying jobs.
340. Keeping property taxes within reason.
341. Competing with surrounding communities for services businesses, shopping. Keeping citizens interested in Abilene events; issues without it being one sided (diversify) between income levels.
342. Convention center. Motel. Dillon’s store. Evening entertainment.
343. Health care – many people go out of town. Even if things changed here, I feel many people would still go out of town.
344. Employment and keeping the money here. I know our largest employers most of the people don’t live in the Abilene community. Keeping taxes down.
345. The lack of commerce competition coming out of Abilene.
346. No jobs.
347. Continual development to keep \$ here (food, entertainment) and not Salina or Junction City/Manhattan.
348. Our youth leaving due to employment and nothing for entertainment. We need a movie house and things for the kids to do.
349. Keeping spending down is the big one. Low taxes are another. It seems to me this town thinks it needs to have all these fancy new buildings and projects to compete with other cities and appear modernistic to draw more people in. However, I think our city and county boards are so ignorant of the plain facts. That is, most people in this town are average or low income. This is not a gold belt of a town. People struggle and yet some paper pushing jackels think we need all this extra new stuff. They need to realize we don’t. It gets me so angry!
350. Integrity, stay within budget, no new taxes.
351. I feel with library expansion and pool overhaul – community center and senior center, there may not be too many challenges, unless some businesses for shoes and clothing. Hard to compete with J.C., Salina and Topeka so close.
352. Retaining youth. Drawing in and retaining new businesses. Maintaining a historic township.

353. Keep it that way ! (referring to her answer on Question 9. #33).
354. 2010 Budget. Streets affected by hospital expansion. Lack of shopping places, clothes, shoes, etc...
355. Lack of aggressive action to solicit new businesses, such as shoe stores, department stores, bias by city inspector on property (trash, etc.). Too much "selective" work done by Mr. Holland as to who can and cannot build, etc.
356. Drugs, vandalism and petty theft.
357. Employment for young families and professionals.
358. Shortage of retail stores – cannot buy decent clothes here. No weekend bus service. It appears too many ride free!
359. Small business success in the face of larger stores in close proximity towns (Salina, J.C.).
360. Expanding and keeping younger people.
361. Growth.
362. Escalating costs.
363. Lacking affordable apartments for low-income senior citizens. Ground level apartments. Smaller communities have more available than Abilene.
364. East 1st Street improvement. Pass ordinance about people driving and talking on cell phones.
365. We let a big outsider come in and tear down a motel and the city thinks we should build a modest convention center. We don't have motel rooms for the attractions we have now and this property (on the main thoroughfare) is just sitting and growing weeds. This same outsider came in and was going to build a lot of expensive homes and never. Flag Road was paved water and sewer was put in and the tax payers over all will end up paying for it all. East 1st Street should be a priority when fixing streets. If you had to drive it everyday, you would agree. I think the way our economy is that we should not just give in to certain people's wants. Every few years we pay big money for a consultant to come in and tell us what we should do. Let's pay what we owe before we add anymore on.
366. Abilene needs to back off and stop letting a few people keep getting whatever they want. The swimming pool, the library, which adds more money to the project every month, GP theater, which is now begging for money, addition to hospital, when a large percent of people don't even doctor here. The new ambulance building, new health center and day care center. Community building (which had been voted down). Now they want to revitalize downtown. We bought a trolley which doesn't pay for itself. There are no new jobs.
367. Railroads and no late night dining.
368. Teen crime – there isn't much around here for teens to do to keep them out of trouble.
369. Taxes.
370. Surviving the economic down turn.
371. Rising costs of living, decreased or sub-par wages offered by many local employers, tax increases for street improvements and possible hospital expansion.
372. I really don't know what to tell you.
373. Provide family-oriented business, movie theater, skating rink, outdoor go-carts.
374. City government! Trying to be who we are not. Abilene is a small town, no big city attitudes apply.
375. The cost of living here. Everything costs more here than Salina or Junction City (like food).
376. Over-spending.
377. Growth, increased crime.
378. Wanting to establish more housing and business development while we already have inadequate water supply.
379. Street repair and maintenance.

380. Having something for the youth – so they don't have to roam the streets.
381. Jobs – a lack of opportunity for young people to find homes and jobs to stay here.
382. Shopping.
383. To continue to provide the services to which we have become accustomed. To continue to try to keep a healthy downtown. To encourage new businesses which can blend with existing businesses with mutual benefit.
384. The need for development in homes and retail businesses.
385. Cost of living to high for wages paid. I think that with the economy as bad as it is the City should be finding ways to save money instead of spending it.
386. Pricing too high compared with pay of community.
387. Taxes, nothing for kids to do, no jobs.
388. High taxes and high water bills.
389. The need for more stores, ie Walmart.
390. Growth.
391. Growth from other cities.
392. Keeping businesses we have. Higher taxation and valuation. Water supply. Maintaining strong middle class. Losing young adult population to metro areas for white collar jobs. Maintaining downtown and make it thrive.
393. Cost of education. Cost of medical care. Keeping small businesses. Dependence on ALCO's presence.
394. Fixing lights on bridge on 3rd Street, generating interest and growth in downtown Abilene, attracting responsible businesses, bringing unsightly properties up to standard, keeping up-to-date with changing environment, making downtown a place desirable for shoppers.
395. Lack of growth, lack of employment to sustain above poverty living, durable goods are almost non-existent here. Need night time activities for tourists (if we want them here more than one visit).
396. Task force services being changed.
397. Teen pregnancy, the need for jobs, the need for a little more toward tourism, the ridiculous rates for health club facility. I realize it is a private facility, I just wanted to voice my opinion. ☺
398. No movie theater. Small choices of eating establishments. New job opportunities for young people.
399. Unemployment, economy, need more jobs, businesses, health care, hospital and doctors. Lack of space for meetings and a space for public (indoors).
400. Services for youth. Drainage in 1st to 6th Street from Buckeye to Brady. Specialty medical care.
401. Bringing new business in.
402. Jobs/shopping (retail).
403. Cops harass younger people. The dog catcher purposely lets dogs out. Unfair on battery cases with getting property statements, etc...
404. Lack of stores, lack of higher paying jobs to keep our young folks in town. Without young people a town has trouble growing and without growth, you don't have progress.
405. Poor restaurant facilities. Too too much emphasis on "Eisenhower" running into the ground.
406. We need a movie theater and a shoe store!
407. City giving away a public road (E. 10th Street) raising the mil levy by 6 to pay for roads. Should the elected officials be recalled for giving away public assets when the sale could benefit road repairs?
408. Road conditions ex: 1200 block – 1500 block of NW. 2nd Street is torn up at almost every driveway, affordable housing, rentals for younger and new to town people, more dining choices?
409. Dining and shopping options.

410. Need family type restaurants, better shopping.
411. 11th Street not paved. Kids who hotrod around the schools.
412. Growth, how to handle. Affordable housing, good houses in the \$75,000 to \$125,000 range.
413. Childcare, health care, business that can provide good pay with full benefits.
414. Encouraging new industries to come into the community to offer employment. Having jobs to offer our high school / college graduates to come back to the community to live.
415. Employment for local citizens. New industry.
416. There are few decent restaurants no Wal-Mart and not many leisure activities and outlets in Abilene.
417. Lack of variety of commercial businesses (ie. Department or variety stores). Higher unemployment.
418. Jobs.
419. Fixing streets, education, senior assistance. Need some place where there is a safe environment for children to go to. Put the people in jail back to work and cut back on city employee hours, so the city doesn't have to keep raising taxes that we are having a hard time paying. Cut city officials pay.
420. Emergency response, health care, schools, economic development, control spending and costs.
421. Taxes – We need entertainment for all ages. Movie theater would be nice. Maybe we could try donation help and begin once we have and ideas of what type we need and cost.
422. Manufacturing the historical elements of the city while incorporating new housing developments.
423. Cost of living.
424. Continuing services without raising taxes too high.
425. More things to do for children and teenagers.
426. Lack of industry.
427. Sewer costs are more than double compared to other towns we have lived in. Bringing in jobs that provide incomes that will support families who want to buy houses. There are too many houses for sale.
428. Attracting businesses to support our economic base.
429. Keeping older neighbors clean and presentable.
430. Employment opportunities to keep younger people here.
431. Maybe need more businesses.
432. Money.
433. Growth.
434. Cost of building compared to other cities.
435. Lack of business and industry (jobs).
436. Closed minded to modern advancements.
437. Water district #2 needs to be equal with Abilene. District #2 have lower rates and they need to be charged more the amount. They need to be conservative in their consumption not only Abilene. Streets do need fixed and snow routes stops at S. Cedar and Southwest 4th. It needs to go all the way south on Cedar then is only two streets to go south out of Abilene. Buckeye and Cedar.
438. Upkeep on the streets.
439. Wages of common workers not enough to afford high cost of housing. Certain areas of town are neglected for normal maintenance.
440. Finding companies that will be good employers and expand job opportunities for the community expanded retail and entertainment for the community.
441. Economic downfall.
442. Stagnation, moving forward in all areas.
443. Jobs. Movie theater. More shopping.

444. Would love to have a indoor pool in Abilene. North Buckeye could use some fixing just to make it look a bit more attractive when people are coming in off the interstate.
445. Not sure if there are any major new here.
446. Diversifying the local economy. Too much emphasis on the hospitality/tourism. Not enough emphasis on areas that produce higher paying jobs.
447. Have to drive to go shopping, entertainment nothing for kids to do. No dance place. The tax for food is up because of pool and library and it's as high as shopping in Salina or Manhattan and they have O so much to do. Challenges, people moving, vacant houses, no jobs.
448. Keeping people from buying in Salina and Junction City.
449. Providing good paying jobs to keep families and younger people here.
450. Keeping all of the good things we have going for us going. We must maintain nice housing, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, medical and activities. Maintaining the city streets, water, sewer and related things. With sky rocketing costs, these all will continue to be an uphill battle.
451. Street repairs, taxes too high, have to go out of town to shop.
452. Money to meet our needs without excessive taxes. Keeping cost of living affordable. Encouraging your people to locate in Abilene.
453. Clean out the air. Treat everyone fair. Don't allow as much time to clean up property as you did Old Abilene what a disgrace.
454. Lack of recreational options in the winter, ie. Theater. Lack of restaurant choices.
455. The city needs to find a way to keep young people in town. It is to geared towards the elderly.
456. Entertainment for kids other than sports. Movie theater.
457. Water, retail stores.
458. Way to many drugs in this town and the cops are to big headed to take care of real problems. There is nothing for families or kids to do in this town, which makes people go to other cities and spend money in other towns.
459. Getting the roads, street lights and sidewalks fixed.
460. Drainage problems.
461. Letting most of large purchases/tax money going out of county to Saline or Riley Counties.
462. No shoe store, only one limited clothing store.
463. Keeping remaining businesses in Abilene. Attracting job/payroll producing industry.
464. Job market.
465. Profit seekers have caused over building. Consequences – service sector is now struggling to provide quality necessary services.
466. Economic growth so it will stay a viable community. We need businesses that provide jobs. Our schools need to do a better job educating youth so they have the qualities needed to hold a job (showing up, being on time, dressing appropriately, behaving responsibly and professionally). The potential employees in our labor pool are pathetic.
467. The economy. Road and sidewalk repair. Jobs for the new generation. A movie theater would be nice.
468. Development of the schools. Cost of maintaining parks and streets. Assisting small business. Attract new businesses.
469. The lack of retail clothing stores. The difficulty of finding rental properties when trying to locate here.
470. Needs more entertainment, ex: movie theater, better shopping. You have to travel to do anything. Lot's of youth get into trouble but if we had more things it would not be as bad.
471. We need some good duplexes (not expensive) with attached (safety features) garages for elderly or handicapped people.

472. We do need a Walmart! We do need a Dillons. Bring in businesses that will make shopping more competitive.
473. School money.
474. The business community should emphasize developing a long-term loyal customer base rather than the view of grab all possible on the immediate sale/service.
475. Control growth, local employment opportunities.
476. Higher paying jobs in Abilene.
477. Need more restaurants. No burger joint. Better shopping. ALCO needs to carry more stuff like WalMart does large volume of stuff.
478. Economy, drugs.
479. Downtown businesses (not talking about antiques shops) clothing and shoe stores. Employment industry with competitive wages to keep young families in Abilene. Also trying to get a movie theater in town would be great. Even if it was only open on Fri, Sat and Sun afternoons or evenings.
480. Stopping the godhood of ALCO. Having stores downtown so we don't have to go to Salina to shop.
481. SURVIVAL. Need industry and commerce revenue for citizens. Need to equalize income/housing ratio. Currently, misproportionate by a huge percentage.
482. Jobs/opportunities for grown children to stay/return to Abilene.
483. Small business, ALCO is not sufficient enough, getting around driving winter on side streets.
484. Keeping up with the infrastructure, especially schools, as Fort Riley continues to expand.
485. Abilene needs to focus on creating a healthy environment, clean water restricted pesticide usage, curb side recycling, etc...
486. Water and sewer rates are too high impacting young families. Taxes are increasing without corresponding services increasing. Non-essential services too costly – not responsive to public. Park and recreation facilities are deteriorating – where does the money go?
487. Lack of good paying jobs.
488. Employment, shopping, development of the downtown.
489. Water supply.
490. Abilene sets between 2 major cities. Salina and Junction City. The City Commission is building too many buildings to try to get people to move here. The tax load on owners of residences will go clear out of sight. Soon I will no longer be able to own a home in Abilene, if this crazy spending is not stopped.
491. Need more stores to shop at. Grocery/department stores.
492. New stores, new business, new restaurants.
493. We need move industry to create jobs.
494. Need more rentals.
495. Keeping all of our citizen's informed and encouraging involvement of all.
496. Right now there are barely any places to rent that are worth living in and that are also affordable. There is barely anything rent at all and what is out there.... Geez people must be out of their minds charging \$1,000 for rent in this town! People that can afford that are not looking to rent they buy!!!
497. Water you keep adding new developments and restricting people who have lived here for years trying to keep Abilene looking good.
498. Lack of entertainment. What happened to the movie theater? No variety of restaurants.
499. No shopping!!! Too many antique stores. No decent shopping for locals. Only geared for tourists. Need a Chinese restaurant.
500. Very little for older youth teenage and Junior High.

501. How transient it is becoming with military moving in and out. It is hard on schools and affects taking and property prices. They still spend their money at the PX.
502. Growth.
503. Same as other communities, school upkeep, road upkeep, town upkeep, stores, keeping business going in Abilene. Attracting new industry etc...
504. Military commute, meeting new people.
505. No where to shop.
506. Some people wanting to build a new hospital and closing 10th Street.
507. Need to keep downtown alive, but we don't need more antique shops. Need a different variety of eating places. A movie theater, only need a 2-plex not 4-plex.
508. Flooding, prices rising.
509. Air quality from mills and DeBruce. Entertainment for young people, theater.
510. Need more industry to retain younger people.
511. Keeping the young people here and affordable housing for retirees.
512. Schools. Landlords not doing enough up keep on their houses. More grocery store choices.
513. Little recreation.
514. Not too much for people in their twenties to do they need movie theaters, dance halls and more restaurants.
515. Better schools and streets need repair. Sidewalks.
516. More retailers (Walmart or K-mart), restaurants.
517. Lack of jobs.
518. Some citizens want this community to grow and it does along with growth comes higher crime, more youth causing problems, and more people without jobs. Keep this town small!
519. Affordable housing. Rentals are priced too high.
520. We have no eating places. It is awful. Can't believe we can't attract anything.
521. Taxes are too high!! Need more retail outlets.
522. I would say a challenge would be keeping up with surrounding cities to draw people into town. It's very hard for a young adult to find anything to do.
523. Real estate assessment rates too high. Streets are becoming in need of care.
524. Taxes, water.
525. Never staying status-quo, keeping on top of new challenges.
526. Kid/teenager friendly activities.
527. Short sightedness.
528. More housing, better services, more things for young and elderly to do, public transportation.
529. Vandalism.
530. Water, street repair.
531. Job growth, affordable housing (especially rentals), replacing old schools, maintaining or growing tourist business, limited retail stores (other than specialty shops).
532. The economy. The changes at ALCO.
533. Too many cats.
534. Drugs and alcohol, vandalism, burglary.
535. Kids they need something to do besides hang out in the park and do whatever.
536. Affordable housing, jobs.
537. Need more shopping and retail (No more antique shops or boutiques)! Need better "eating-out" resources. Some streets need attention.

538. No jobs, no box stores to shop, high price of housing/taxes/utilities.
539. Lack of restaurants.
540. Residential sidewalks are dangerous. Tree trimming needed to be done. Too many branches hanging over streets.
541. Not enough industry.
542. Crime, break-ins, drugs and etc. Enforce property upkeep, make people get rid of junk, cars and other trash. Stop letting people park in the front yards, instead of in the street.
543. Paying off new development streets, curbs, etc... Maintaining existing buildings on limited budget. Growth potential.
544. Young professionals attraction to Abilene. Dentist, family physicians, attorneys, etc...
545. Change middle school get the kids that go there under control. They come through back of AHS cursing and fighting with each other. Crack down on drug use in Abilene. Too many adult supply drugs and alcohol to children. Pay attention to AHS and AMS schools. Kids smoking and some drinking at least it seems like it. There so hateful and mean at times to other kids.
546. Streets and jobs.
547. Day care shortage, support of downtown businesses, lack of safe entertainment for youth/teens (need a possible movie theater, fun center, roller skating rink, etc...), affordable housing, need a shoe store and/or athletic store in town, rebuilding Old Abilene Town.
548. Convenience hours of businesses, nothing open on Sunday, ie. Medications. Cost of living. We need a Wal-Mart.
549. Unemployment and low starting wages.
550. Growth.
551. Could use another grocery store. Need stores for shopping other than ALCO. I wish the city would force removal of junk (especially in old part of town) of yard waste old limbs, etc... both in front and back yards. Also, bindweed needs to be controlled.
552. I do some walking and have noticed that the city does a poor job of keeping residential sidewalks clean. Many sidewalks are covered with weeds or grass. I would think we have some codes we could enforce.
553. Balance growth with small town atmosphere. Lack of movie theater. Adequate health care. Jobs with higher wages.
554. More diversity – like the Flour Power venue.
555. Place to shop.
556. Too fast drivers. Drivers do not slow for intersection crossings.
557. I really do not know.
558. Needing of more good restaurants. But needing to feel safe wherever we go in town. Knowing our children are safe also. Good neighbors helps a lot seeing things that the police dept. don't. Neighborhood crime watch is a bigger need in town.
559. High taxes, reasonable water rates, entertainment for children “movie theater” etc...
560. Property vacant by Pizza Hut should not be idle this long.
561. School system. The AMS needs lots of help. The Abilene Park (Eisenhower), I took my children out and left. Older kids smoking, using bad language and I don't feel safe there. Need more restaurants, sit down and eat. People need to keep better track of their children. They let them just roam the streets.
562. Having enough water for the community. Hopefully getting more industry and I don't mean the tourist trade.
563. The people are friendly.

564. Maintaining doctors and the hospital while at the same time, listening to the public concerning the upgrades.
565. Keeping population.
566. Need shooting range.
567. Not enough clothing and shoe stores. We have to go elsewhere to shop. Good restaurants. Too many fast food places.
568. Closing streets.
569. Need more industry and more jobs.
570. Needs more retail stores. Needs more jobs that provide future upward mobility.
571. Vandalism, stealing.
572. Taxes.
573. Trying to stay in budget and therefore never enough money.
574. Keeping development from overtaking farm, open spaces. Over building – putting strains on services before the city is ready. Jobs – good paying – safe eco industry – strong eco laws and regs. New businesses downtown that is mall strips. Being a Payless or Old Navy or Walmart or K-mart, satellite to downtown.
575. No place to shop or dine or dance. Shopping is limited for clothing or shoes. No country dance (smoke free) would be nice.
576. The young kids need things to do.
577. Cost/taxes increasing – income remains fixed.
578. Getting places of employment where people can make a living wage. Getting city offices to provide more service oriented tasks completed – spring clean up, sidewalk maintenance, street maintenance and avoid sister city and other frivolous expenditures.
579. 1) Lack of water – yet we continue to build new additions and we don't have enough water for the people here. 2) Lack of shopping. 3) Big is better mentality with regard to the tax base and more homes, businesses. 4) Downtown area lacks a “central feel” to it, ie. No courthouse square and lousy shopping unless one is in to antiques.
580. Challenging economic times, tight budgets.
581. More places for teenage kids to hang out things like, movies, skating rink.
582. Not enough snow removal. Things for teenagers to do.
583. Not enough economic development to balance proposed residential building. Not enough effort spent on beautification of the downtown area as well as Buckeye between I-70 and 14th Street. These areas are the first thing travelers see and its very unsightly.
584. New businesses and keeping prices low to compete with stores in nearby towns.
585. Employment, drugs, crime, streets, healthcare (not enough Drs).
586. Growth.
587. Shopping – have to go out of town for so many things. Entertainment – movies, skating and putt putt.
588. Economy – jobs. Having stores to meet residents' needs (wish I could buy everything I need without going out of town).
589. Keeping out gangs.
590. Retaining young talent. Maintaining facilities and living space for low income. Rent is too high for lower income families to find decent housing.
591. Need new businesses.
592. The hospital addition mess! Resurfacing side streets.... Many are like driving on washboard avenue.
593. Need more variety in eating establishments, need a movie theater.

594. Not allowing Memorial Health System to expand any further. Revitalization of downtown retail district.
595. The enhancement of current structures and the ability of the city to bring in businesses.
596. I understand it is drugs.
597. Major stores are not available (Wal-Mart).
598. Good street repair needed.
599. Competition from Salina, Manhattan. I think a lot of people drive to those towns to purchase items because there isn't a lot of choice in Abilene.
600. Street up-keep.
601. Street repair. Taxes.
602. High taxes and high utilities. High grocery prices. Need big box store so we don't have to go to Salina or Manhattan to shop.
603. Room for receptions.
604. Streets and drains. Affordable housing.

Question 26. Please use the space below to provide any additional comments you may have.

1. The city of Abilene "needs" a movie theater.
2. The city should continue support of attractions. Upkeep of streets. Community events. All these are good reflection of the city and it's people. We have a solid infrastructure and good schools. After school safety should be addressed. Parents and school buses don't mix well. That is a tragedy waiting to happen.
3. I would really like to see Abilene grow and develop into a place that provides goods and services that I might want. It's a pain to go out of town.
4. More respectable daycares without restrictions based on child's napping ability.
5. The city needs to do something about the house on W. 1st next to the bar. It's a shame to Abilene.
6. We lived here 20 years and unfortunately because of ending employment are forced to leave. Our son was educated from Kind-12th grade by USD 435. We wish we didn't have to sell our home and move.
7. I think a comment section by the questions should be included next time.
8. I feel city Planning officials have been remiss in the handling of old Ben Franklin building, even in county there were rules of length of time to build or rebuild. This building has had paper in the windows and been allowed to do as they wish for almost 5 years. Who is getting paid off to look the other way. For awhile they lived in the building without going through a conditional use.
9. Hold the line on taxes in these uncertain times.
10. Publish survey results in paper. Thank you.
11. I love living in Abilene! Most people are very friendly. We need more variety for shopping. I have to go to Salina to do most of my shopping. I feel safe living in a small town.
12. I think that since our police officers are spending extra time patrolling the park because a certain council member has a problem with beer cans in the park they should also be patrolling my block more because people throw beer cans and trash in my yard frequently.
13. City Commissioners must think there is no recession in Abilene – All they want to do is spend and tax us. Most of us are on fixed income and can't take more taxes.
14. As far as I can remember in the past 14 years, 14th Street has never been paved! It's horrible!! All the way around to Van Buren, it feels like you have a flat tire. Up by the High School to Buckeye the road is in bad shape. When is it going to be repaired?

15. All full time city employees should live within the city limits.
16. Sewer taxes are too high.
17. Appreciate the “winter storm clean-up” efforts and efficiency. Would love to have our son move back to Abilene, but no incentive job wise.
18. I think the city is doing a great job of managing the city.
19. City employees should not be allowed to drive a city vehicle to and from work. (outside city limits).
20. Our community has plenty of police protection.
21. I pray you can make out what I think and feel for Abilene. I want the best for our City and we really do need to think about the younger generation, us older people. We just need a place to lay our heads and enough money to keep bills paid and a few shoes.
22. I thank the city in doing a good job. A clean city.
23. Recreation center hours to be extended – include holidays.
24. Too many change orders on city projects after bids have been let. (library, swimming pool, street repair, housing developments, etc.).
25. Too many city employees.
26. More to do for kids. Lower \$ of parks and recreation fees. Our kids play in other city’s because this is so high! Jane must make a lot! We do need a convention center with hotel. Blocking 10th Street is a bad idea. The dog leg will cause accidents.
27. I hope the hospital comes up with an alternative plan for expansion. I oppose closing 10th Street. It sounds like they’re trying to monopolize the healthcare in Abilene, ie. Hospital, day care, nursing home and now assisted living is part of their expansion plan.
28. Water cost too much, taxes too high. Homeowners have to take care of replacing sidewalks and city does not trim trees on city easement. Property owners have too? Not right.
29. Utilize the city engineer.
30. Please be sure to think of our youth not just our seniors. The kids need something to do to help keep them out of trouble by just walking around town.
31. Continue to care and show compassion; however, enforce the laws and standards that have provided so well for Abilene. Emphasize the positives and commit to improving the challenges. Don’t be consumed by negativity!
32. Get new blood on eco. Devo. Committee. Too many long-term members. How about manufacturing, other industrial people. Need a new motel to compete with Holiday Inn in the \$70 - \$85 range. Many H.I. have larger rooms for that price range.
33. We need something to keep our young people here, more businesses that will attract the younger. We need more things for the teens to do, like skating and miniature golf.
34. We are charged too much for sewage charges. We had visitors from out of state – May – July – and we are charged the high rate the rest of the year.
35. I was wondering about any plans for the drainage ditch located at the end of NE. 9th Street and continuing to Brady. Rumor has it it was/is to be cemented in/over. Would like to see something done. Although don’t want any water runoff problems to the residents of the 500 block of NE. 8th.
36. Find more entertainment. Jobs for Abilene.
37. Abilene has so much going for it with all the historical and tourist sites. But it really seems to be a city of “haves” and “have nots”. Job development should be a priority and also maintaining infrastructure.
38. I realize some of my answers are contradictory. I like to see some modernization here but I just don’t like giving the paper pushers who run this town and county, a blank check. Just look at my water bill. It’s \$19.00 for water and \$26.00 in extra taxes and costs! It gets me so mad. I feel like I’m in Russia

- sometime. Our leaders here seem not to care. They so casually spend money. This is how I see it. My house taxes and value is through the roof! On the flip side, I do watch channel 2 meetings and I see there is honest effort put into planning and saving money in this town. They just need to try harder! I'm struggling always, like most. Don't raise my taxes any more please. With the \$3 off my water bill, it's now only \$42. Thank you sooooo much.
39. Maintain the small town fell. I know my neighbors. Keep tax cost low. Say "No" when required. Say "No" to mill levy increase for roads. To long term for economy. Plan-take more time to lay out.
 40. The sidewalks need to be continued to ends of blocks (ie, N. Buckeye, West 1st). All schools need work, while they've had additions, the older parts have not been remodeled or updated to match. All public buildings should be kept updated and private should be expected to do the same. Questions are not well written – very confusing (Also should ask about facility and services separately).
 41. Abilene is a nice place to raise a family.
 42. It seems to me Mr. Holland is selective in his administration of zoning/building etc... at times. Also some properties are allowed to be "let go" and others are targeted when they are not even close to being as bad as others.
 43. Keep the budget balanced! Keep a watchful eye out for wasteful projects and spending. Keep activities and entertainment family oriented.
 44. I am strongly opposed to the closing of 10th Street. Why can't the hospital build on (wholly on the Conklin land and connect with a skywalk to the old structure? I do not feel the citizens feelings were considered in the city/hospital's decision.
 45. I was very disheartened when watching channel 2 cable rerun of community meetings regarding the hospital and 10th Street closing. The people for it were extremely rude to those voicing opposition. Also noticed the same attitudes at the City Commission meetings for a variety of issues. Nobody is "holier than thou". Please continue to work for a unified community. Thank you.
 46. Thanks to the city staff and the City Commissioners for all of their time and efforts to keep Abilene a very attractive community in which to live and work!. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated, even though at times it probably doesn't seem so. Thanks for being responsible.
 47. Our city government does a good job. Department managers are effective and concerned.
 48. Need fall city-wide clean up week since there was no spring clean up. The new flower pots downtown are very nice. In regard to Little Ike Park downtown, something needs to be done to buildings facing the park. Repaired and painted! The park is always neat and beautiful flowers.
 49. Our biggest complaint is the high water/sewage prices. In Salina, we never paid over \$50 for water and trash together. Here we pay \$70 for water alone.
 50. Our sewer account is \$39.00 (add water and tax about \$70.00 – 2 people). Your \$3.00 credit is ridiculous! Better look at # of retired people living here on not so well fixed income. City government here is sad! Our Mayor recently told of talking to Salina residents for advice!
 51. Need to have some residents clean up their yards like by Brownie's Bar that house needs yard clean up bad. It looks awful. Trash everywhere. Go around town and you can see them. Thank You!!
 52. I'm very disappointed in the hospital plans. They own sooo much real estate, yet they want the street too! There is plenty of space for the new hospital facility without closing one of the few nice, wide streets. It is very disheartening to think that there is not a better plan for the hospital.
 53. Northwest 2nd Street west of McKinley school needs some major work (1200 block – your car could get lost in the pot holes).

54. I think we need a movie theater, something for the young who cannot drive and the older that don't want to drive late at night. I think live within need until economy gets better. Take care of what we have and try to improve it.
55. Recycling center needs to accept more (ie plastics, foil), Police protection depends on your situation. Library – excited to see the remodel. Healthcare – our Dr. is excellent.
56. When hiring city salary employee a positive attitude with city residents should be a priority. For example, a city inspector should be helpful in dealing with situations and cite the resident after a little counseling with the resident and age consideration as to deadlines. No new taxes.
57. Let the developer put street sewer water in at their expense no cost to the city. Get a license from all carpenters painters floor cover and all enforced their trade. Gutter hanger and yard men.
58. We need more low income places to live in Abilene.
59. I would like to see our hospital stay around for the next 20 years or longer. There is not a need for a new street or closing 10th Street.
60. My biggest complaint about living here is the mill that puts out a very disagreeable odor when the wind is in the right direction. I never would have moved here if I would have known about that. I know the city probably can't do anything about it, but it is a big negative about living here.
61. Please stop downtown streetscape planning.
62. The cleanliness is very noticeable and appreciated. It appears that the leadership place a high priority on Abilene providing important services to the citizens, (library, recycling center, municipal band, swimming pool, sports fields, restaurants, schools hospital, medical services). We have enjoyed our 2+ years here.
63. E. 1st Street could sure use a little help.
64. #11 - #22 Could leave residents to think these are all city functions and responsibilities. I think some answers would change if the statement was made – “should additional tax \$ be levied or should this be property owner responsibility”.
65. We need to “think outside the box” to continue to capture our towns history and development. Need to understand elderly needs as well as engage and keep youth here. Police Department needs to be fair to not only arrest drunks, but young people who are out past curfew and harming personal property.
66. Bicycle paths would be a great addition to the community. Need another “big name” motel on I-70.
67. I lived in Abilene years ago and loved it, that's why I moved back. I remember how downtown was full – busy – we had Penney's, cafes, stores, it would be nice to see all that again. We have a good location, good history. I guess the potential is there. I love Old Abilene Town. That should always stay and added to. It's a good tourist attraction. Also it's still affordable to live here.
68. 1) We need a theater and not one built north of town! We need a theater that kids and adults can walk to like the one we had before. 2) The actions of the hospital are horrible. They have a monopoly going in this town and it's unattractive to say the least. 3) The City Council is just as bad, these two entities forget that most of the people in this community do not make enough money to sustain their meager lifestyle and support all the city and the hospital board wants to impose on the citizens in this town. 4) Our newly elected Mayor should try living on a salary under \$25,000/yr. and then impose a higher mill levy along with everything she wants to do.
69. We need better wages and more full time jobs cut out all this part time jobs and low income employment. We are wasting money on things that don't improve the working public.
70. Abilene is a nice town; speeding could use a little more enforcement at places where bicycles are on the road. More people would ride bicycles if they felt safer; especially in regards to their children using bicycles.

71. Work to improve side streets.
72. We need to lower considerably the cost of houses in the area. They are outrageous.
73. It would be nice to have a new hospital, but we can't afford it. Please just wait. There bonds aren't always safe and if one of our large businesses would leave many families would be devastated. Yes, I am old, but please be wise and give it more time and a vote by the people. Thank you. Thank you for removing \$3.00 from my water bill.
74. I do not like the idea of narrow streets. Sidewalks would be wonderful. Multi-family housing translates to rentals, which usually means multiple vehicles, decreased attention to home maintenance and less connectedness to the community/neighborhood. In my view, these do not blend well with single-family homes.
75. When the City does work on water pipes and breaks the curb, they should fix it. Mine has been broke for years. If on level pay you need to inform people about rate increases so the payment need to be changed unlike you did to me and then want all the extra money in a couple payments. Put the people in jail back to work helping fix or maintain the streets, ect. Why should we be paying cable for them. I have to pay for mine. Make them work. Maybe they will feel self worth instead of just sitting around!!! They should not have a phone in jail that is a privilege not a civil right.
76. There is a growing problem of drug use among certain residents of town. It could become a larger issue if police can't nail it down soon. I don't blame the officers we have now, but stricter enforcement may be what we need. I have lived all over the world, but this little town is by far where I have been the happiest.
77. I love living here in Abilene. It's a great small town and a real friendly place to be. I used to live in California and I was really glad I got away from all the hub-bub of a large city.
78. Use the community center for conventions or take a historical building and make it a convention center use some of the empty building if they are structure proof. Still good to use.
79. I think there should be more programs to help the unfortunate one's with fixing their house (roof, outside) etc...
80. On street maintenance on our street grass in spring/summer grows in cracks in the streets. Residents have to mow keep neat yards. City should put chemicals on this grass to kill it. Junction City did this in street where I work part-time.
81. More should be done to encourage recycling, water conservation and energy efficiency.
82. Would like to see a community building for performing arts – music concerts, dances, etc.... Schools are not big enough for Christmas concerts, etc; either stage is not big enough for kids performing or not enough seating for audience.
83. The decision making in regards to new business interests has been negative. Current businesses owners seem to consider competitive possibilities should not be considered. This is not good for growth. We need new businesses in Abilene. East 1st Street from Buckeye to city limits needs repair and drainage considered. I would consider voting a sales tax increase to provide monies for these projects.
84. Abilene is a very good town, which is very fortunate to have I-70 running beside it. We are lucky to have wonderful attractions like the Eisenhower facilities, mansions, antique stores, Greyhound museum, Great Plains Live theater, wonderful parks. Excellent fair. There is still a lack of good paying jobs, which is very hard to attract in a town the size of Abilene. We don't have the box stores to keep people from going out of town to shop. We have very good restaurants in town but not a lot of variety.

85. Section 2. Question 3 – Why should we who live in the older parts of Abilene help new development pay for facilities when our own are in bad shape and need care to update? Especially the streets, sidewalks and alleys!
86. Where I live, excessive noise and odors from alfalfa and grain mills. Lots of truck and train noise. Also lots of air pollutants and dust. I was sorry to read in the paper that fireworks will be allowed in the city. Another step backward!
87. Sewers should definitely be upgraded in older parts of town. Cost effective and sharing program for homeowners to upgrade old pipes and connect to new city lines.
88. Abilene has come along way since I moved here in 1966. The pool improvement and rec center are nice additions.
89. The town could really “boom” if the right steps are taken and the right businesses are brought in. It is important to keep young families in this town. Otherwise, this community will eventually fade away.
90. More choice for shopping and entertainment.
91. The city has done no repair to crumbling curbs in residential areas in a long time. However, it seems those curbs in areas that may be seen by tourists are kept in good repair.
92. Would look forward to another good food store such as West Plaza, maybe Dillons, etc. 10th and Buckeye needs control lights, very hard to get across at times. I feel our water sewer bill has increased too much, missed city wide cleanup week this year.
93. We need restaurants! No more antique stores! We need shoe stores. We need something besides “ALCO”. What a joke! Tired of that crammed down our throats. No wonder people go elsewhere to shop! Dept. stores... for clothing Abilene is stuck in the “70s”.
94. We need a major 24 hour restaurant. We need the City to support C.E.R.T. We need more manufacturing jobs. We should have an industrial park developing jobs and careers.
95. 1st Street and 14th Street definitely need improvement. Hospital does need renovation but shouldn't require closing a street.
96. I really like living in Abilene. My kids really have adapted to living here. They do not want to live anywhere else. They like Abilene.
97. With the high traffic of schools buses and other's 11th Street needs to be paved to cut down on dust and wash board effect. Thank you.
98. You need to review water usage and sewer rates twice a year instead of once a year.
99. Abilene is the biggest little city with lots of good for it's size. Homes and streets are generally safe.
100. We have a pretty good town. Want more businesses in Abilene though.
101. Friendly town, friendly people but need to keep up with infrastructure. Good jobs are needed with decent pay rates. Jobs for professionals not only blue-collar or low wage service jobs.
102. Perhaps you might be sure to check neighborhoods that have extreme poor condition homes that just need to be removed. It would be nice if a steak house could come in. Buffett type for a nice place to eat. Something special for the Holidays would be nice. Maybe bring in some special entertainment we could have. We need a morale boost.
103. Improve downtown traffic by building an overpass from Clay Center to Elmo. This should decrease the north-south traffic on Buckeye.
104. City Commission needs to find a way to help our city grow not keep trying to build on what we have. They need to open their minds and let this city grow.
105. Abilene is a great place to raise a family. The lack of high paying jobs is very detrimental to the success of the community. Some people are scared to move here because they see so many houses for sale and they wonder what is wrong with the community.

106. The things in question here are important to me and may decide if I retire in Abilene. I like this community but as in all of life things either get better or worse. We must improve.
107. We don't need 10th Street closed. There are other ways for hospital to expand and grow.
108. We have so many things going for us but we need a theater and additional restaurants. But first we need growth to support these endeavors.
109. I like Abilene. I feel some of the streets (12th) could be improved. I try not to drive on it very often.
110. I hope someday people crack down really hard on drug abusers – the big users and sellers are left alone because police/city officials are “scared” of them. They look the other way.
111. Spring or fall “clean up” week needs to be reimplemented!! Very disappointed it was cancelled this spring.
112. Very bad time to even suggest funding downtown revitalization. Let alone \$7M worth. A third of this town is struggling just paying water/sewer bills. For what this town offers, it's too high. Our kids (teens) have nothing to do but hang out at the park and drink. Nearly half are on diversion. Funding underage drinking programs with tax money is a waste of funds until we offer them a “Plan B” and something else to do.
113. Should quit showing favoritism for the wealthy vs the less fortunate.
114. I believe many people would like to see a retail chain open here like Walmart or Target. Is there something the city can do to attract a business like this, not a discount store.
115. Increasing property tax by 5 mills seemed a little excessive. Use the storm water fund like issues tied to the streets are also storm related. As a tax payer and retired it will punch the house hold from needing the paper you just want to save the storm water fund.
116. I think Burger King needs to be replaced with a Wendy's restaurant and a Arby's restaurant should be added and a steak house restaurant.
117. City moved city limit 25-30 years ago to include our block to be inside the city limits to be able to collect city taxes, but in all that time the city has not fixed our street. It is still a dirt road and as soon as it gets packed down hard the grater comes thru and breaks it all up again. The dust then gets all over everything and plugs up filter systems. It is also a mud hole when it rains or snows.
118. Lovely city. Love antique shops and Old Abilene Town.
119. No sidewalks on either side of the street here.
120. If you “need” to offer tax breaks to lure a business into town, the message is easy to read. Your tax rates are TOO HIGH ! It is not fair to existing businesses to give an advantage through tax breaks to their “new” competitors.
121. Police need to forget about some laws and use common sense. You have some very good officers and some not so good. I was an officer in a County this size but 3 times the population.
122. 1) make the mills clean up the air pollution. 2) Make the mills pay on repair of streets that supply them. 3) Lower taxes on decent older homes. 4) City should take of own weeds and pay for new and repaired sidewalks. 5) City should assist on downtown sidewalk snow removal.
123. Abilene is a nice town to live in. Some problems are people need to keep after their houses and clean up. If there are vehicles sitting with current tags but has been sitting for months, give them a notice to move it or city tows it to junk yard. Schools suck especially HS. I don't think we should pay anything to send our kids to public school. I have two kids and it's \$80 - \$100 for one and \$55 for the other. Also I would love to see more shops but not expensive to shop. Also a drive in movie theater would be nice. A place for dancing and not a bar. Kids play area like Jumpin Joe's. A Wal-mart would be nice to have for shopping.

124. I lived in a city like Abilene in New Mexico, when the city fathers died off and kids took over a change took place, expansion, new stores, etc. The \$ stayed in town. Wake up Abilene, stop sending your people to Salina or Junction City to shop. Build here and keep your spending money here, get new businesses here, Junction City doesn't need it. Cut out the good ole boy's crap.
125. Need new business. Need new industry. Need movie.
126. City and County needs to develop 10, 15, 20 year plan. Abilene is a unique town. Please keep it that way! Please enforce speed limits on Buckeye and 7th. Many driver on Buckeye run the red and yellow lights and speed up to do so. School is getting ready to start and I'm afraid for kids. Please keep out gangs.
127. I think the City needs to review the costs of the city owned utilities, ie, water and sewer. My sewer charges are 3 times what my water bill is. Also, with the water restrictions, you need to figure out some way to not waste the water from the pipe hydrant on 7th Street, north of the fairgrounds. That runs thousands of gallons of water down the storm sewer. When residents have water restrictions, it leaves a pretty bitter taste in our mouth to see this water going to waste.
128. Abilene is a historic town but we care too much about fixing up downtown and not enough to fix up streets, sidewalks, etc...
129. I think it is a very bad idea to allow the hospital and block off NE. 10th Street. It is the only nicely paved east-west street on that side of town.
130. I wish the City had a way to clean and cut out the trees in the easements back of our homes.
131. The recycling center should accept more types of recyclables and that older guy who works there should get some sort of people training. His people skills suck!!
132. The need for street repair should be a must. E. 1st Street is in bad shape needs to be repaired this year.
133. Water bills have become too costly. Co-residents feel the \$20 increase appeared at the same time the new pool was being built and that is paying for the new pool, not the local tax increase.
134. Raising kids there is not that much for them to do in the winter.
135. Thank!
136. Not in favor of the City financing of downtown revitalization. We need a leash law for cats like we do for dogs. Our water is curtailed now. There is no sign of it getting better. Why give it out of the city. The owners of downtown buildings will surely keep their buildings attractive and safe without having the City do it.
137. Since I have lived here such a short time, I haven't experienced a lot of things your questions involve.
138. We would like to see better roads. People that have come to visit always make a comment about how bad the roads are. I would like to see more street lights. My wife likes to walk and would like to do it at night when it's cooler.
139. School taxes should be dropped and they should be supported by user fees. Only those parents with school age children should pay to support schools. Those with kids in athletics or special interest groups should pay the cost of those activities.
140. Been here 20 years June, and the street's just keep getting patched, the curbs and gutters are in sad shape.
141. We wish you would please take the time to look on NE. 16th Street between Kuney and Oak Streets. It is in bad need of a new curb.
142. I see speeders on Buckeye everyday, several times a day. Would like to see better police presence for speeders on Buckeye; through school zones, etc. Better monitoring for vandalism at night. Would love to see a chain-type family bar and grill like Applebees, or restaurant like I-HOP.
143. #14 was rated down because of narrow street clause.

144. Development needs to stop until infrastructure is surveyed and assessed. Better streets and roads. Less talk more ACTION!!
145. Continue to listen to the citizens and try to give choices and encourage participation in events and discussions. Try also to get the schools more involved in various associations and volunteering.
146. Would be convenient to have drive-up drop box for payment of bills.
147. It would be nice if someone bought the "Yellow" building and made it into another youth and community building like a skating rink, movie theater, indoor miniature golf, racket ball or something fun for people to do in a great area and has adequate parking.
148. I think Abilene should have a Cat Ordinance. These people who abandon the animals for other people to feed is really sad. And so many dumped. Taking them to the vet. Costs so much. The poor animals can't keep if they are abandoned and they all have to eat. People are very cruel and hard-hearted. We need a humane society in Abilene very bad and cat control just like for dogs. Most all other counties have them, why not here?
149. The Elms Hotel could easily get some small children killed.
150. Since we came here in 1954, the town has changed and not for the good. There was 3 places downtown to buy groceries and 3 or 4 places to buy shoes. There was 2 men's and 3-4 women's stores. 2 or 3 restaurants. You have lost Penney's, Wards, Sears, Gamble's and all the downtown grocery stores. About the only reason to go downtown is to the post office – banks or drug stores. Abilene is getting to be a "tourist trap". Whenever a store closes another antique store moves in. It is silly to have 17 of them! You should think of the local people – we are the ones who pay the taxes! We need a shoe store bad!
151. Merchants are afraid of competition, so nothing progressive ever happens in the retail sector. Commissioners got sold a bill of goods on the development west of town that all residents will end up paying for.
152. Just wish we had more to offer to attract more people. Only certain people get what they want or don't want. Abilene doesn't want competition; therefore we don't let it into town. And that's sad.
153. Train noise is absolutely ridiculous. Why can't trains that do not need to stop in Abilene be routed around the city? Even if it means a greater cost to the railroad industry. A few train engineers/conductors are reasonable about blowing the horns. Other evidently don't care or deliberately hold the horn button quite excessively!
154. Need things in Abilene to make younger people out of school to stay here. Things to do better jobs and support from everyone in the community.
155. Abilene is a wonderful little city, but as a tourist town it really needs cleaned up. East 1st Street looks like skid row and down town there are many weeds growing on the sidewalks. Who's responsibility are the weeds? The alleys look like a jungle. The trees, weeds and bushes growing through fences on the property lines. They all need cleaned up. If there is an ordinance it needs to be enforced along with all the continuously barking dogs. Thanks for asking.
156. Abilene needs a movie theater, not a large or fancy one, but one that the kids could go to in downtown, not up north where the younger kids could not walk to. Also senior citizens could walk to one downtown.
157. Thanks (God) that we live in a Country where we all can take care of our property and fix up our own property without somebody looking down on us and after us about it. (Let's all remain free).
158. I would like to see stricter enforcement of the traffic law. Mainly tailgating!!! Running stop signs, speeding, cutting corners and talking on cell phones while driving.

159. I feel our City Commissioners have done a good job, considering the daily changes all around us. As long as we are given good information we don't always have to be on the winning side.
160. Abilene must support the businesses that are here and recruit new businesses or this community is going to decline. The decline is starting already. None of the higher paid ALCO executives live in this town so they are not supporting or building the infrastructure of this community. This affects the community economically and does not provide quality individuals to serve on committees or as parents in the school district. There is a reason those people choose not to live here. Wake up. This is not an attractive place to live.
161. I think we need to concentrate on how to bring people to attractions in Abilene. We need to create more jobs in Abilene. We need to create things for the kids of Abilene to enjoy year round. I'm against spending millions to plant trees and narrow Buckeye in the business section of town. Fix the sidewalks and provide some benches and awnings. Could use more parking downtown.
162. I like to see the citizens involved with decisions. Quorums, town hall, etc... are a good idea. This lets the people actually have a say and provides good ideas for our elected officials to know how we feel. If you say you're going to do something and you tell the people, always do what you tell the people you will do. Don't change unless the people are informed first and have a say. Thanks.
163. I like the fact that we have home-owned businesses.
164. Survey left no tables unturned, excellent.
165. This new hospital idea is clear beyond the reasons of common sense. With a huge hospital complex in Salina, just 22 miles west and another complex in Junction City, 23 miles east. It seems to me the thinking is "Let's spend money like the U.S. Government, because someone else will have to pay for it anyhow!!"
166. I think that houses in already developed areas should be allowed to build additions to homes that are limited by area because of sale of parts of lots to neighbors (in other words ignore the distance requirements). Also, I think there should be some assistance to those who are struggling to keep their properties in repair and money is short.
167. Take cable out of the jail and the phone. These are privileges not a right to life. Put them back to work make them help fix up Abilene. In prison, they earn so much money per day and they have to pay for what they want.
168. Too much focus on fixing elementary schools but nothing done to fix high school.
169. Streets and sidewalks need attention.
170. Generally very satisfied and proud to be a resident of Abilene.
171. There are so many family owned businesses in this town that people won't allow the idea of new things coming to town, even if it could mean growth for Abilene. How can you begin to attract people to live here if it offers nothing? Who can afford to shop in a town taking advantage of the fact the next closest thing is not a short drive away? "Walmart" for example. I work at ALCO and even with my discount Walmart is still cheaper and offers a lot more variety in shopping. ☺ Grocery shopping is way cheaper than here.
172. Live within your means and stop raising taxes.
173. Offer incentives to businesses and home owners to upgrade their properties which will increase their values. Related taxes the city can receive for these upgrades can help offset the cost.
174. Thanks for the change to hear our opinions.
175. Would love to see drive up water bill drop. No parking.
176. The town needs more businesses that come from out of town for new jobs for our community. We need new development.

177. People need to keep sidewalks cleared off. Trees or bushes trimmed.
178. Just get more businesses to locate in Abilene area to increase the wage level and get more places for people to shop for everyday goods. We need a nice steak house for the tourist to have a decent evening meal, besides bar, bowling alley or fast food.
179. I feel that we are wasting water on reverse osmosis filtration. I have been told that we send about 1/3 of our pumped water down Mud Creek. I would like to thank our city fathers on the stance to send the Hospital Board back to take an alternate plan to their expansion.
180. We feel our tax dollars are too high when our streets are terrible. Not enough good shopping we always end up in Salina. Eating facilities are not the best. How come you don't spray for mosquitoes. They are terrible and you use to spray. With the taxes we pay, that should also be done. Where is our tax dollars going???
181. Get your inspection department on the ball. Stop spending tax money on your so called downtown restoration. You got rid of all the businesses to put in junk stores when you need something you have to go to Salina or somewhere else. A retirement center like Abilene don't need to spend the fixed income people's tax money on stupid stuff.
182. You give us a bad time about using too much water but still the City has water running all the time on 8th Street. Property taxes are too high!!
183. City should pay and repair all sidewalks. There is a lot of bad sidewalks in town and most people will never fix them. We pay enough taxes in town, so I think the city should at least let people repair or you put in new sidewalks.
184. Abilene is presently a "tourist city". Dickinson County is an agriculture county. "East is east" – "West is west". Never the two shall meet. That's the way people like it.
185. Everyone says Abilene is a friendly city, but I beg to differ. If you are just visiting, yes. But if you're going to stay and live here it's a different story.
186. Need to make people keep yards mowed and tear down places that are an eye sore to our city.
187. In the month I have lived here people have been great.
188. We are not in favor of closing 10th Street. We feel there are other options to updating the hospital.
189. So many in Abilene live on a fixed income, so I feel that if new deals are to happen it needs to be by sales taxes! We would love to see more stores in downtown instead of having to go to Salina to shop for shoes, etc...
190. Very disappointed in the snow removal process in Abilene. Where we lived before, if there was a significant snow fall, the street crew would hit all streets and even alley's. Otherwise, it was hard to move through side streets, like it is in Abilene.
191. My husband and I have lived in the Abilene area forever (we were born and raised in the vicinity) and we think it is a great place to live.
192. Historical significance of Abilene (other than Ike) needs to be improved. Love the small town and beauty. Military aren't strangers unless you let them be, need to feel included, aren't looking for another JC or we would've bought there.
193. Need to continue to develop things for the younger generation. The pool is awesome and the library is going in the right direction.
194. We need more eating places in downtown Abilene. We need a movie theater.
195. Curbside recycling would be a great asset to the community.
196. Street repair badly needed!

197. Get control of Heritage Commission acting as dictators as to every little thing that goes on in town. I feel they abuse their power. I feel they should be advisers instead of the power, especially in downtown.
198. The storm drainage system in our block is inadequate to handle rain runoff from Buckeye east and 10th south. When there is a downpour, water is clear up over our sidewalks and with no police control of kids driving up and down streets have had water lapping at my front porch steps as well as dirty water and trash splashed up over our vehicles in the driveway.
199. Keep up the good work. Continue to do more with less as we always have. Remember everyone has an opinion, so don't take it personally. We are here for the good of the whole community not just a few.
200. The streets and sidewalks in the older residential areas are in terrible shape. Tourism is all well and good, but the city does need to focus more attention on basic repair and upkeep to keep their residents safe. We walk a lot. Some of the sidewalks are so bad, it is much safer to just walk out in the street.
201. Before we can consider a convention center, we need to have the retail shops, etc. on Buckeye in place with one or two more eating establishments – primarily a family steak house idea.
202. Keep the pretty flowers around town and our street clean. Stay our the public about throwing trash out on our clean streets, if we do maybe they will learn not to litter our streets. (our recycling center has a very hateful old man tall and skinny and has a lot of cursing comes from his mouth. He gets really mad when I take boxes, newspapers and ect... out there. So I don't go out there very much.
203. My 5-generation family live in Abilene. Thus I am very interested in schools, health care, employment opportunities, decent housing for young or low income families who cannot afford present rents. One of my grandsons is being deployed to Iraq in August for his 2nd tour so I am concerned for our military families, who remain in Abilene. I have had an opportunity to meet several.
204. Live theater is a major asset. Sidewalks in residential areas have outlived their usefulness.
205. When we moved to Abilene, we were disappointed that there were no sidewalks on Buckeye north of 14th Street. We like to walk to places like ALCO and Country Mart, but the lack of a sidewalk makes it so we have to follow the "cow-path" made by all those who went before us.
206. I enjoy and appreciate Abilene.
207. I was glad to see some future plans to redo East 1st Street. It's been bad for years. I will be very disappointed if you allow 10th Street to be closed.
208. I believe the City should encourage growth and development to all areas. They should not completely support these projects financially. Giving temporary discounted tax breaks would be good but not a complete tax break. I believe that developers and new businesses profit from our community and that should be incentive for being here. They should share in those financial risks. No one gets anything for FREE. If they do the cost is passed on to someone. It should not be passed on to the public, if the business or development is a for profit entity.
209. Please make parallel parking at the intersections of NW. 3rd and Cedar (NW. Corner) and NE. 3rd and Kirby. Long pickups can make these places unsafe. Buckeye also, no parking at the NE. 13th, NE. 12th on both sides of the road, because its to close to 14th and Buckeye.
210. Stray cats. Tailgates down on street parking. Noisy exhaust tail pipes.
211. I don't like the way the grade schools are split up. Very soon I will have 3 kids in 3 different schools because they're 1 1/2 to 2 years apart. I don't like that. First of all what reverse side? I hope Mr. Holland is smarter than that, but I don't think so. I hope the streetscape project never goes anywhere because I sure don't want to pay to water and trim all those trees. Maybe Mr. Holland would fit in better over in Salina with all their stupid Art projects. And that's my opinion.

212. I believe we need more activities for the kids and not just have it be sports. Something like what JC has where there are games, movies, roller skating. Hire teens to work there and have a food stand.
213. This survey was a joint effort for the entire family, including daughter and grand daughter. Daughter and grand daughter don't come to see new bigger businesses, they come to see a friendly small town and buildings, museums, homes. We are not a large town and wouldn't want to be. We should be just "Abilene", "My Abilene". People want to enjoy a small town, feel safe!
214. I do believe we should put in a Wal-Mart or K-Mart and something for our teens to do. Like a skating rink – movie theater. Let's do something for our kids. Thanks for letting me voice my opinion.
215. We need to do something about the cat population help for seniors who need it and lower housing for unemployed and low income.
216. County, City and Schools seem to be "top heavy". Too many high paying administrative positions leaving not enough money to hire people who could do the job equally well.
217. The city needs to do major street improvement to East 1st and 14th and not close 10th unless the hospital pays for another connecting street that could go around the south end of their property that would be a public street accessible to everyone.
218. Taxes for fixed income families should be taken into consideration on assessments.
219. Sidewalks are an issue in older parts of town. They need to be built and/or repaired.
220. Is new housing needed? Housing is needed for young families at an affordable price. Seniors can benefit from having another Frontier Estates type building.
221. I think beautifying the back side of business buildings that face the Little Ike Park should be a top priority. I understand the city feels the property owners should take responsibility for this. Well, that hasn't happened and likely will not happen. Perhaps volunteers might help to give a good finish to the back side and a good mural could be painted on it. I understand one of the small towns in western Kansas that became vacated had the college art class from Hays University paint building fronts on their buildings and it was exceptionally beautiful. P.S. Since I am hoping to go on a tour with friends in October to see the Catholic Churches in western Kansas, I will be able to provide more information and hopefully a picture of that mural.
222. I don't see why this town has never reopened a movie theater. I would go with my son! Plus where I live the sidewalks are really bad! It makes the streets look so much better if they have nice sidewalks. Not only I think it would help sell houses. Makes the buyer like the outside of the house more. And I think events that go on in this city need to be advertised a lot better than they are. Turn outs would be bigger if advertising was done right.
223. The property tax rebate for our house on SE 2nd Street was a major deciding factor in favor of buying the house. Thank you for considering my opinions, we love it here!
224. It is a shame that Abilene does not have a movie theater. There are many smaller towns that do have one. More help and support is needed for the baseball program.
225. We need a movie theater and/or skating rink.
226. Support the hospital expansion, closing 10th Street isn't a big deal in comparison. Need a movie theater.
227. The bigger the population, the more destruction! (crime, druggies, etc...) Is this what you want. The population is big enough here. Slow growth rate is good. Fast growth is disastrous.
228. The way the city allows its personnel to be so influenced by ALCO and West against new businesses and competition coming into town is a disservice and a disgrace.

229. We need a movie theater, a kid place with arcade games and events, like miniature Chuck-E-Cheese with the games. More auto events like derbies more often and more mud runs and a 4-wheel drive park.
230. I think our Christmas decorations are shabby. Old depot is done nicely. Christmas tree lane has deteriorated and needs more and brighter trees. Too many trees not lighted.
231. I moved here for the quiet, clean, wholesome living that Abilene provides. I am NOT interested in any growth to this area.
232. This community has a large proportion of elderly citizens, the sidewalks need to be repaired and leveled. They have caused more than just a few injuries. They are a lawsuit waiting to happen.
233. More places for kids to go. Skating rink. The new pool was a great success this summer!
234. All house owners use of wind fans, supply town with lower gas and electricity due to bad economy at this time people cannot meet mortgage make easy cut ½ mortgage. So there are no foreclosers. That is the best solution. Is the best to help home owners just ½ mortgage on every Abilene home is best any town gave people. Once a month town meeting on Sat. 1pm. – 7 p.m. All speak out. Abilene drastically needs eat place like Wendy's, movie theater, no more antique stores please. Abilene needs more for school kids to go that does not require \$\$\$. Shelter for homeless that is the vacant rest home on 1st Street or make it for rental that cost no more than \$200 a month. Rent for housing is way to expensive on rentals. Need more rental housing.
235. Too many policemen. Too much money spent on police vehicles. They should not be allowed to take police vehicles home.
236. Don't close E. 10th Street. Salina didn't close Santa Fe street for their additions. There has to be a better way. They have surgery across the street and rooms there for patients. I don't believe it will make that big a difference in the care people get. The Drs already have their own offices so why more? Don't sound right. Sorry.
237. If it ain't broken, don't fix it. Don't overspend your budget. Don't tax me to death for "pet" projects that I could care less about.
238. Buy what we need, not what we want. If some people want something we don't need, then let them pay for it. Think about people that can't afford taxes that is used to buy foolish things.
239. More effort should be spent on code enforcement in the city limits such as not having junk/debris in the front properties.
240. There seem to be some codes on the books that are not fully enforced. The idea of publication and enforcement could go a long way on many things. The idea that the City Commission meets during business hours curtails many from attending and interaction. Feel they should be after hours so all can attend without taking time away from work.
241. The recycling facility needs to be expanded to accept more items, e.g. all plastics and drink boxes. Perhaps it would be beneficial for the city to contract with a trash provider to have curb-side pickup of recycling and make it mandatory to participate. I see a lot of water waste from the spigot north of the fast pitch diamonds. The city needs to fix this. Let's work on making Abilene a little more green. I think as a city we are severely lacking in this area!
242. I think there are a lot of drug users here. I'd like to see stronger penalties for a adults who provide our youth drugs and alcohol. We need to recycle more. I used to recycle all the time. I don't even go out there. The older man who is tall and skinny is really mean and uses bad language. Don't you dare show up 30 minutes before they close. I was yelled out real bad. I've never been back. One more thing – how does "snacks" store – old short stop – they have smoke supplies on the floor within children's reach?

243. Provide recycling.
244. Some sidewalks are in need of repair especially in older areas of town. Also have to drive to surrounding areas like Salina to get certain products, which ALCO or RHV don't carry. Need something for teenage kids to do on the weekends.
245. We need a skating rink or something equal for our youth, miniature golf and open bowling.
246. I think if we are paying a city inspector, he should enforce rules and regulations for everyone and not just some. It seems to me the "good ole boy" rule is very much alive and well in Abilene.
247. It is getting too expensive to shop at all the small owned stores. We need a Walmart. Also, there are too many wild cats in Abilene, the animal control lady should be responsible for catching them.
248. Sidewalks needed, especially in middle school – high school areas. Eleventh Street should be paved.
249. Work with people.
250. A small zoo would be awesome. Also a new theater.
251. Abilene needs more lower cost rental homes.
252. We need more sit-down restaurants Like Applebees and more things for pre-teens/teens/young adults – like a movie theater.
253. People walking dogs should clean up if the dog uses your lawn for a bathroom.
254. We could use an independent theater. More middle age entertainment (not really your job).
255. Why do Directors/Managers/Etc... hired to do a job, contract analysts – at high costs – to do their jobs? It is a waste of money and time. We hired these people to do the job – not hire someone else to do their job for them.
256. We need clothing and shoe stores.
257. Lived on this street over twenty years and nothing has been done to it. I know streets above and below mine have been at least resurfaced over the last twenty years.
258. We enjoy living in Abilene but the constant increase in real estate property taxes could force us to relocate.
259. The biggest problem with Abilene is the shopping (or lack thereof). We shop in Salina or Junction City. We have ALCO which provides about one out of ten things one needs. We need a Walmart, Lowes or a big store that keeps people here. We worry about offending hometown businesses, so people go elsewhere. If you want to keep people here, provide what they want and look for.
260. We need a movie theater.
261. The police force has gotten somewhat better in the past 5 years.
262. Due to the warning against putting floride in drinking water, it needs to be removed. Many warnings have been given by doctors and scientists regarding the dangers of using floride.
263. Do away with the revitalization plan with all of the new trees. Trees downtown are unnecessary and messy. Do you see trees in pictures of historic Abilene? They do not bring people to town. We must not forget our agricultural base.
264. Abilene is a rare town, both historically and culturally. It's uniqueness is it's appeal. Large scale residential development should be avoided! A mere 20% increase (overtime) in Abilene demographics would change it's cultural identity forever. Keeping the friendly (know your neighbors) state of living is the best thing that could happen for Abilene. Moderate growth and outside interest will occur over time and thus should not be "actively" sought. Cities with Abilene's character and style are rapidly disappearing and only very modest, remedial development should be sought when needed.
265. Not many cities can boast about having a presidential library. There needs to be more signage (both in town and highway) about presidential library. The Eisenhower mural on Buckeye is great, but there should be more things like that.

266. Taxes are too high and everyone is not treated equal !!
267. If this town would get business to compete with ALCO, West and Zeys would be helpful. Also activities for kids so they have something to do and a movie theater as not all swim, bowl or skateboard. A movie house would also allow older folks who don't want to drive (or can't) to Salina or Junction City be able to see movies.
268. We live on NW. 2nd Street, the road is very bad. When they come to fix it, they just fill the holes. And in 2 days it's out of the hole. The side housing roads are always never fix or fixed right. The city needs very bad to fix all side roads. Or maybe the city should be responsible for people of Abilene to keep getting their tires aligned and new tires and balanced because the roads 1200 to 1400 block of road is very bad and needs to be repaired right.
269. You need to let new business come in to town for better pay and so everyone can find a job in town, instead of going out of town to work.
270. Combine water and sewer bill take based on monthly use.
271. Do not blow any more chances for Abilene to prosper. KS Speedway should have been here. Abilene should have been Air Capital of the World. KS Collisium should have been built here. Abilene should be State Capitol. Too many chances gone in 100+ years. New convention center should be futuristic, green and set new standard in the industry. Abilene is so short on money for road repair and other needed projects, but the police officers can afford to live high on the hog. Example, how can an officer afford a house on Wilson addition on 21st Street?
272. Abilene needs a movie theater.
273. The legalization of fireworks would be GREAT! We leave town on the 4th to go spend our money somewhere else that they will let us shoot them off.
274. The hospital's expansion needs careful scrutiny.
275. In my opinion, Abilene must take care not to overextend it's facilities, simply because it sounds like a good ideas. For instance, I'm against expanding the hospital across tenth street. Our hospital has discontinued many services they used to perform, but wants to expand the facility. This idea does not make good fiscal sense. Much more thought should be given to this idea.
276. Please make 7th Street a "No Parking" on both sides of the street. Thank you.
277. We love Abilene.
278. Take care of city streets. People need to keep lawns mowed. Houses need kept up paint, etc... Street north of Santa Fe Depot needs repaired.
279. I really enjoy living in Abilene, but I grew up in the country and it is a big change. It seems like we are also getting in trouble for something. Why not others in the area that have the same things? I love the schools here and the town. We are trying to get everyone and everything happy and done. Thanks.
280. I wish you would try to act like the small town you are, instead of like a big city.
281. The water/sewer department needs to provide one full billing cycle before disconnection.
282. If you build a theater, put it right back where it was and you don't need more than 1 screen. Use Rice's for parking. Families can rent new releases and watch them at home a lot cheaper. The reason people won't shop at ALCO is because they are always out of stock. The officers control how much stock the store carries, even with the warehouse here in town. They used to have a complaint line that customers could call in to talk to them, but customers said "If their so stupid to keep their stores unstocked when they've got the warehouse on the other side of town. I'll just go to Salina. Anyway, if they want something and the store doesn't have it, anyone from the office or all warehouse employees can buy anything they want at the warehouse. My last comment is on 10th Street. Why do they need that one block replaced? You can get to Brady from Brown to 12th or Brown to 9th. I really want to know what

anyone living on 10th Street will lose if 10th is blocked off. At one time I heard there were no wide streets in the last block. As far as wide streets no one ever was concerned about them being too narrow for fire trucks, so why worry about ambulances? Since a new station is being built for EMS, 10th Street really won't be needed to respond to a call. They can use it to return to the hospital though. One thing Mayor Bailey and Commissioner Peterson need to do is put Commissioner Weishaar in a wheelchair and get him on 2nd floor of the Annex. Then go to med surgery on 2nd and have them get him in the restroom being wheelchair fast. That's not only a problem, it's the law. When citizen's complain, let them try this and maybe they'll face the facts and stop whimpering.

283. Sidewalks are terrible! Can't even push a stroller on some of them! Have to take a walk in the street! Would you please stop trying to fill in the pot holes on NE. 1st and NE. 14th, and just repave the whole street. It would be nice to have a pediatrician in Abilene so we wouldn't have to drive to Manhattan/Salina. For a "kid-friendly" town, I can't believe there is not a pediatrician.
284. Property taxes go up every year and roads keep deteriorating. Children are out of school a lot more than when I went to school, but the schools keep increasing my property taxes. Why? The kids are going less and less to school, so the schools shouldn't require so much.
285. Street maintenance is very poor. Naroma Court has needed repair for 10+ years. I have requested it numerous times. Also, extremely rarely does the street sweeper go down Naroma Court. Property taxes too high in a recession.
286. Abilene is a great place to live and raise a family. For the most part Abilene is great. There is always room for improvement but my family is very happy living here.
287. We think existing streets and sidewalks need help. We drove East on 13th Street and it's a mess! We're sure the residents that live on this street will be taxed for the improvement, but can't imagine they would balk on a tax for a decent street. However, 13th Street isn't the only street that needs help.
288. Better police – more police.
289. We were disappointed to find out that the pool was not acknowledge "family swim" nights. The manger told me that "they weren't doing that this year". The Parks and Rec prints off the magazine guide, the pool has no control over it. but, everything else in the guide is happening that deals with the pool!
290. Shoulders on streets and roads to allow for walking and biking.
291. I think this town needs a movie theater again that way people don't have to drive and can help support their city and not someone else's. People need more things to do in this community.
292. Please abandoned downtown streetscape project.
293. Combine Chamber of Commerce, City Economic Development Director and Downtown Association into one agency to work for the good of all of the city. Hire one well paid director and staff to run this one agency. I hope the city does not close 10th Street. The cost to develop another through street would be expensive for the tax payers of Abilene. The hospital should look at another plan (a overpass or underpass) if they do not want to build all of the unit south of 10th Street.
294. The streets need a lot of work on them. There are streets that flood bad when it rains. There are a lot of pot holes in the streets. You don't see the police a lot different times of the day. The city needs to do something about house that are trashy looking and have junk around them.
295. I disagree with Abilene Police Department allowing officers who live outside the city limits to use police vehicles to commute to and from work – and leaving the car parked next to the highway. Memorial Health System has already attempted to monopolize services: 1) Highland Care Home – hospital dismissals referred to MH's Village Manor – Highland closed – no referrals. 2) We were

- forced to vote on both the library and the pool together on the same ballot. (Chicago-style tactic). 3) Community center voted down 2 times – we are forced to pay for it regardless of voter’s wishes.
296. We want the city to work with the hospital to make sure the expansion plans can proceed. To deny our citizens the best health care available just to keep one block of one street open makes no sense, no matter what street it is.
297. Recycle center needs to expand the categories taken. More retirement dwellings, patio housing, low-medium income with simple facilities.
298. Our children have asked and wanted us to relocate to the cities (Dallas and Nashville), but we will stay in Abilene as the public facilities and services are excellent. Health care is adequate. Good choice of church and lots of activities are available.
299. Would like to see formal creation of Food Bank facility. Being new to town I have heard rumblings of churches etc providing this service but its not well advertised or encouraged for donations etc from community. A central entity known for such a service would be good. Perhaps entice a Salvation Army type non-profit to move to town. They provide a myriad of services from youth development to disaster relief to serving disadvantaged to religious/crisis counseling.
300. Do something about the ADM mill spilling dust into the air.
301. Abilene is a great city to live in.
302. Catch speeders who use main streets in town as speedway. People who never stop or roll through intersections. Kids riding around late at night or early early morning with music “so” loud you can feel the vibration. Set up trash cans in downtown area. Keep storefronts to conform to the older authenticity, historical, instead of hot pink and brown colors.
303. Would like a small movie theater in Abilene.
304. 1) Too many police in daylight hours. Park and wait for dispatch calls, save gas. Need more police (marked and unmarked) after midnight. 2) There seems to be almost no recreation for the 55 and up. Softball is advertised as for adults 15 or older. Since when is 15 an adult. I’m 81 and would like to play softball! 3) Streets that need maintenance should have priority over streets that are already in good shape, ie. Downtown streets. My street was in perfect condition but was still resurfaced. 4) Why didn’t they build a new library on available school property?
305. I wish the ambulance wouldn’t turn their lights and siren if it’s not an emergency. The people fixing the streets should have better orange cones. The workers are stupid there always in the way of cars. They are not visible enough they don’t wear orange.
306. We need motion picture and restaurants that open on Sunday, all day and holidays.
307. I would like to see the city focus on the preservation and revitalization of the downtown areas. The older historic buildings should be saved. We have unique and restored homes in the residential areas – would like to see that continued to our downtown. It is a good “selling” point to “baby boomers” and travelers. They come see and then spend. If we are proud of our downtown structures it will show.
308. Since Abilene residents pay for “trash” on the water bill then Abilene should provide trash service, like Junction City, to the residents. As it is now residents are paying twice for this service.
309. Would like to see a movie theater in Abilene. Would like the drains fixed on East 1st so the water doesn’t go clear across the road when it rains hard.
310. Need more grocery stores and department stores. Need something for kids like roller skate place.
311. People of this community need to be more receptive of new people arriving in their area. We have encountered very unfriendly and unreceptive people here.

312. Sorry no city “Clean Up Week” cancelled. Many older people can clean up or hire but have no truck to haul clean up to dump. Older people and teenagers would definitely go to a movie theater. Swimming pool a great success.
313. City should have ordinance against car tires kept outside for over 3 days.
314. Abilene needs more affordable townhomes in more centrally located areas such as 15th and Cedar. Property taxes are increasing at such a rate as to tax retirees on fixed incomes right out of their homes. Sewer rates are way too high. \$41/mo is a lot for a one person home!
315. More small parks (like the one on 3rd and Spruce) 1) North of ALCO store downtown (on Buckeye) 2) South of RHV Store (across from the Kirby House) 3) South of Trapp drug store (a small section of that lot). Beautify the town more (the town is small, can be done).
316. Develop the site (lots) north of the Pizza Hut and put in some modern restaurants. The hospital expansion and closing of 10th Street, isn’t water and sewer, gas and telephone lines buried under 10th Street. How can you build over all these utilities.
317. City should do more to support/encourage activities and projects which encourage tourism.
318. Abilene is a good community, but must enforce regulations. I have a dump 2 houses down from me on Cottage (by the storage facility). We reside long period of time here, other streets have been redone or fixed up to 5 times, but Cottage Avenue not been once. And AHS needs at least one crosswalk on Mulberry and 14th Street because the car drivers are not willing to stop or let the kids finish crossing the streets safe. And a lot of them going very fast by AHS or leaves AHS parking lot fast.
319. How can we justify the cost of new developments when we can’t provide proper maintenance on what we have. We live in Hidden Meadows and our curb and street are a mess.
320. A poor decision by city commission to raise the mill levy by 6 mills in an unstable and poor economic time.
321. Streets need a lot of attention. When financially feasible.
322. First impressions are very important. Whenever I drive into other communities, the condition of streets, buildings on major entrances in that city give you your thoughts on the condition of the city. The streets are horrible coming into town and 14th, Buckeye, 1st Street do not give the impression of a thriving community now. It’s a SHAME. Needs to be a better impression.
323. First of all there should be work done on East 1st Street. If cars park on side of the street, then it should be wider. As of now, I have been using other routes.
324. Glad to see our opinion is desired.
325. Clean up needs to be done. Was not done this spring. Inoperable cars are everywhere, junk, clean up used tires. Need pickup, mosquito hazard. Streets need striping – NE. and NW. 21st turn lanes. Buckeye turn lanes, crosswalks. Fence ordinance, location/height/inspection/maintenance and enforcement. Street sweeper and public works does an excellent job!
326. I have never called the police department for protection so have no idea about how fast they respond. I disagree with allowing fireworks to be shot off in the City of Abilene by the public on the 3rd and 4th. There will be more injuries. Too many children and adults are careless when using fireworks.
327. I think our sewer charge is outrageous. Ours is 1 ½ times our water charges. I think our recycling center is wonderful and we must continue to have it. I think free land on I-70 is stupid for new business. The city doesn’t support the train or theater who bring many tourists to Abilene. They could use city support. We are a tourist town and make more from visitors than a business on I-70.
328. Please remove the fireworks ban in Dickinson County.
329. We really do enjoy the Municipal Band Concert on Thursday night. Speed limit in Abilene should be strictly enforced.

- 330. I would like to experience a greater variety of restaurants.
- 331. We need to bring in a nice eating facility – most people go out of town for more variety. It seems like when bringing in a new restaurant, grocery store, etc... gets shot down because it might run down the small business owner. We need something!!! Daycare is outrageous also. I'm glad I don't have small children anymore.