

**COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY
CONDUCTED FOR
THE CITY OF ALBANY**

April, 2008



**ADVANCED MARKETING
RESEARCH INC.**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALBANY, AS A PLACE TO LIVE (Q1)

On a scale of one to ten, where one is “poor” and ten is “excellent,” Albany was given a mean rating of 7.2 as a place to live, similar to 7.4 in 2003 and 7.1 in 2000.

THINGS PEOPLE ENJOY (Q2)

When asked to name one thing about living in Albany that they particularly enjoy, 26% said they like the small town flavor. 19% like the location and accessibility to mountains, coast, and other cities. 14% like the parks and the Parks & Recreation activities. 11% like downtown, shopping, restaurants, etc. 9% like the people and neighborhoods. (Multiple responses possible; responses based on # of responses, not # of respondents. Total equals 100%. See Tables 2 and 2V for more detail and verbatim responses.)

WHAT WOULD PEOPLE CHANGE? (Q3)

When asked to name one thing about living in Albany that they would change, 21% said crime/homelessness/law enforcement (up from 11% in 2003). 15% want more shops, restaurants, and entertainment. 10% brought up traffic issues. 9% would like less growth. 8% would like to see increased economic development. 7% feel taxes/rates/fees are too high. 7% feel streets/sidewalks need improving. (Multiple responses possible; responses based on # of responses, not # of respondents. Total equals 100%. See Tables 3 and 3V for more detail and verbatim responses.)

RATE OF GROWTH (Q4)

40% of respondents feel Albany is growing too fast, while 49% feel the rate of growth is just right. Only 5% feel the rate of growth is too slow. 5% are unsure.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (Q5)

26% of respondents feel economic opportunity in Albany during the past five years has gotten better, while a nearly equal amount, 23%, feel things have gotten worse. 36% feel economic opportunity has stayed the same. 16% are unsure.

QUALITY OF LIFE (Q6)

27% of respondents feel that in the past five years the quality of life in Albany has gotten better, while 18% feel it has gotten worse. 51% feel the quality of life has stayed the same. 4% have no opinion.

SATISFACTION WITH CITY SERVICES (Q7)

On a scale of one to ten, where one is “very dissatisfied” and ten is “very satisfied,” Albany was given a mean rating of 6.6 for satisfaction with the overall level of services provided by the City of Albany government.

ALBANY'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Q8-Q13)

Albany voters support the concept of the City taking an active role assisting businesses in order to provide more jobs in the community, though the level of support varies significantly depending on what form that assistance takes. 76% feel the City should provide problem-solving assistance to businesses for siting, permit, and development issues. 74% feel the City should take an active role helping outside companies come to Albany in order to increase economic opportunities. 70% feel the City should take an active role helping local businesses create and retain jobs. 61% feel the City should provide tax incentives to businesses creating new jobs. 46% feel the City should provide assistance with road, sewer, and utility costs to new and expanding businesses. 44% feel the City should provide financial support to businesses in targeted areas, such as Downtown.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Q14-Q15)

85% of respondents regularly use the Albany Democrat-Herald to keep informed on City government activities, 58% use the City of Albany Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, 50% use the City Bridges newsletter, 45% use local radio, and 17% use the City of Albany website. There has been no significant change since 2003. (Multiple responses possible; responses based on # of respondents, not # of responses. Total may exceed 100%.)

STREETS IN NEED OF REPAIR (Q16)

Respondents were asked which three Albany streets are in the greatest need of repair. 6th Street tops the list with 14% mention, followed by Queen Street (13%), Water Street (11%), Waverly (10%), Pacific (9%), Main (8%), Jackson (7%), and Hill (7%). (Multiple responses possible; responses based on # of respondents, not # of responses. Total may exceed 100%.)

SUPPORT OF FUNDING TO IMPROVE STREETS (Q17)

59% of respondents are "very" or "somewhat" likely to support increased funding for street improvements over the next several years, down from 71% in 2003. 14% are "very" likely to do so, down from 28% in 2003. 34% are "not very likely" to support such funding, up from 24% in 2003.

STREET FUNDING SOURCES (Q18-Q22)

The majority of Albany voters is not likely to support any of four options proposed for funding street improvements. 30% are "very" or "somewhat" likely to support a region-wide motor vehicle fuel tax, down from 38% in 2003. 24% are "very" or "somewhat" likely to support a property tax increase, up from 15% in 2003. 20% are "very" or "somewhat" likely to support a city-wide motor vehicle fuel tax, down from 31% in 2003. 14% are "very" or "somewhat" likely to support a monthly fee on each household and business, down from 7% in 2003. Conversely, 81% are "not very likely" to support a monthly fee, 77% are "not very likely" to support a city-wide fuel tax, 71% are "not very likely" to support a property tax increase, and 66% are "not very likely" to support a region-wide fuel tax.

In write-in comments for "other funding ideas," 87 respondents (11% of the total) expressed the feeling that the City should use existing funds more wisely. Other ideas include, but are not limited to, a sales tax, motor vehicle registration, business tax, real estate development fees,

bonds, and other government funding. (See Tables 22 and 22V for more detail and for verbatim comments.)

INTERNET ACCESS? (Q23-Q25)

82% of respondents have internet access at home; 17% do not.

37% of those with internet access at home have broadband access, 43% have cable, 12% have dial-up, 4% have DSL, and 1% use wi-fi. 2% are unsure what type of internet access they have.

**COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY
FOR THE CITY OF ALBANY
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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to assist the City of Albany in determining voters' attitudes and opinions regarding the quality of life and the quality of city services in Albany.

METHODOLOGY

Advanced Marketing Research was hired to conduct the research project in order to obtain unbiased and statistically valid results.

Using questions proposed by the City of Albany, Advanced Marketing Research designed a mail-out questionnaire instrument. The sampling frame consisted of a list of voters living within Albany city limits. 2,500 questionnaires were mailed out on March 19, 2008. 828 completed questionnaires were returned by April 12, the date after which no more new questionnaires were accepted for inclusion in the survey.

Analysis of data using statistical methods assumes a randomly generated sample. The data gathered in this mail-out survey may or may not reflect the opinions/responses of a randomly generated sample, but for purposes of analyzing the data and using statistical formulas, the data will be treated as if it had been randomly generated.

RESPONSE RATE

Of the 2,436 questionnaires successfully mailed out, 855 questionnaires were completed and returned, for a response rate of 35%. The overall breakdown of numbers is as follows:

	<u>2008</u>
Refused/not returned	1,581
Returned undeliverable	64
Returned post cut-off date	27
Returned and processed	<u>828</u>
Total Number Mailed	2,500

TESTS FOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROPORTIONS

When looking at the data tables, differences between percentage amounts can be misleading, and statistical tests must be conducted to determine if the differences are statistically significant. The computer makes these calculations for us, and the results are occasional plus or minus signs at the bottom of certain cells. These indicate that those answers are more different from everybody else's answers than could be expected due to chance, given the sample sizes involved. Plus signs are used if the group picks that answer *more* often than everyone else; minus signs if it is *less* than everyone else. The number of plus or minus signs indicates the level of statistical significance. One means the 90% level, two the 95% level, and three the 99% level. For example, two plus signs would mean that you can be 95% sure that the people represented by that group really would pick that answer more often than the people represented by the rest of the sample. It should be noted that this test can only be done for banner columns that contain at least 30 people. Because of this requirement, it is possible that the test will be done for some banner columns on a table and not for others.

NOTES ON CHI SQUARE

The chi square value and its associated probability are printed beneath the first column in each banner heading. The probability (p=.xxx) indicates the probability that the heading and row variables are *not* related is .xxx. For example, a .05 probability of not being related means a 95% chance of being related.

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

The following table shows the demographics of the respondents, and, where data is available, of the sample list of 2,500 voters who were mailed questionnaires. It should be noted that the sample is reflective of Albany *voters*, and may not be reflective of the general population of Albany.

	Survey Respondents	Survey Respondents	Sample List
Age	2003	2008	2008
18-24	2%	3%	7%
25-44	30	23	32
45-64	36	41	37
65 and over	32	33	24
Gender			
Male	48%	43%	
Female	52	57	
Years in Albany			
Under 2	1%	6%	
2-10	21	29	
11-20	23	19	
More than 20	56	46	

BOUND ON ERROR

SEX	SAMPLE SIZE		Bound on Error at 95% Confidence Level
	Frequency	Percent	
Male	350	43%	4.8%
Female	463	57%	4.2%
AGE			
18-24	25	3%	--
25-44	190	23%	6.5%
45-64	338	41%	4.9%
65 +	268	33%	5.5%
YEARS IN ALBANY			
Less than 2	46	6%	13.2%
2-10	242	29%	5.8%
11-20	157	19%	7.2%
More than 20	377	46%	4.6%
EDUCATION			
No college	181	22%	6.7%
Some college	324	39%	5.0%
College graduate	177	22%	6.8%
Post-graduate	141	17%	7.6%
INCOME			
Under \$20,000	81	10%	10.0%
\$20,000-\$29,999	67	9%	11.0%
\$30,000-\$39,999	80	10%	10.0%
\$40,000-\$49,999	90	12%	9.5%
\$50,000-\$74,999	198	26%	6.4%
\$75,000-\$99,999	129	17%	7.9%
\$100,000 or more	131	17%	7.9%
TOTAL	828	100%	3.4%*

* What this means is that we are 95% certain the mean response of the entire population of Albany voters lies within (plus or minus) 3.4% of the survey response.

Note: Analysis of data using statistical methods assumes a randomly generated sample. The data gathered in this mail-out survey may or may not reflect the opinions/responses of a randomly generated sample, but for purposes of analyzing the data and using statistical formulas, the data will be treated as if it had been randomly generated.

**MINIMUM DIFFERENCE IN PERCENTAGE POINTS REQUIRED FOR
STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN COMPARISON OF REPORTED
PERCENTAGES FOR SUBGROUPS WITH 95% CONFIDENCE**

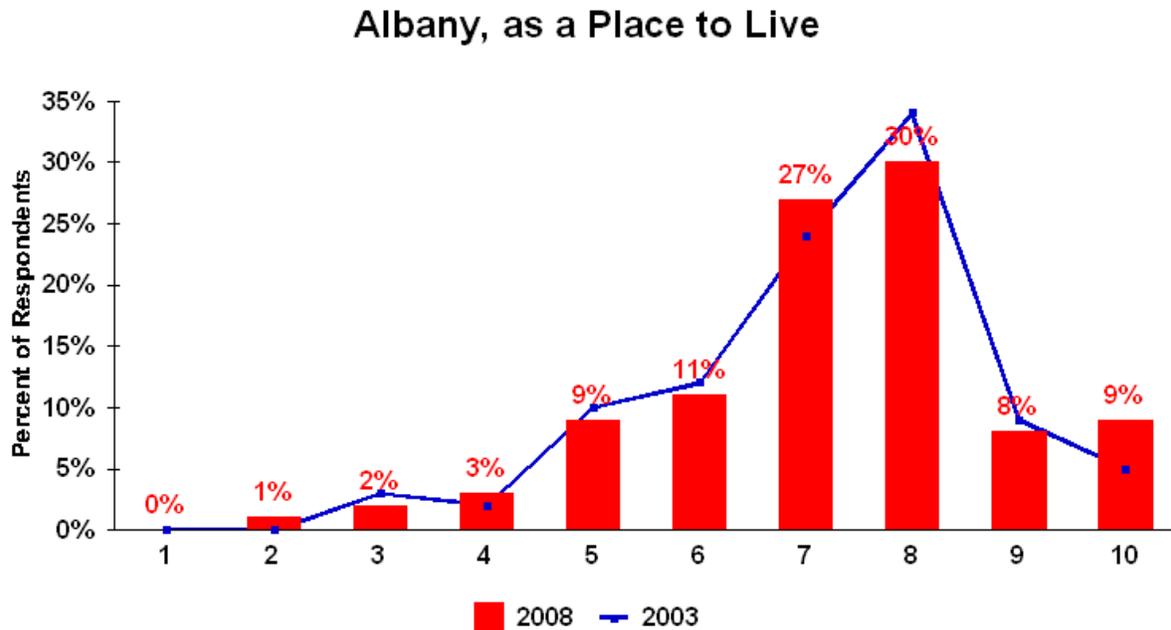
<u>Subsample</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>600</u>
50	20%	17%	16%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
100		14%	13%	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
150			11%	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%
200				10%	9%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%
250					9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%
300						8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%
350							7%	7%	7%	7%	6%
400								7%	7%	7%	6%
450									7%	6%	6%
500										6%	6%
600											6%

Minimums are for reported percentages near 50%. When much smaller or much larger percentages are reported, a slightly smaller minimum is required.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

ALBANY, AS A PLACE TO LIVE (Q1)

On a scale of one to ten, where one is “poor” and ten is “excellent,” Albany was given a mean rating of 7.2 as a place to live, similar to 7.4 in 2003 and 7.1 in 2000.



Scale of 1 to 10; 1 is poor, 10 is excellent.

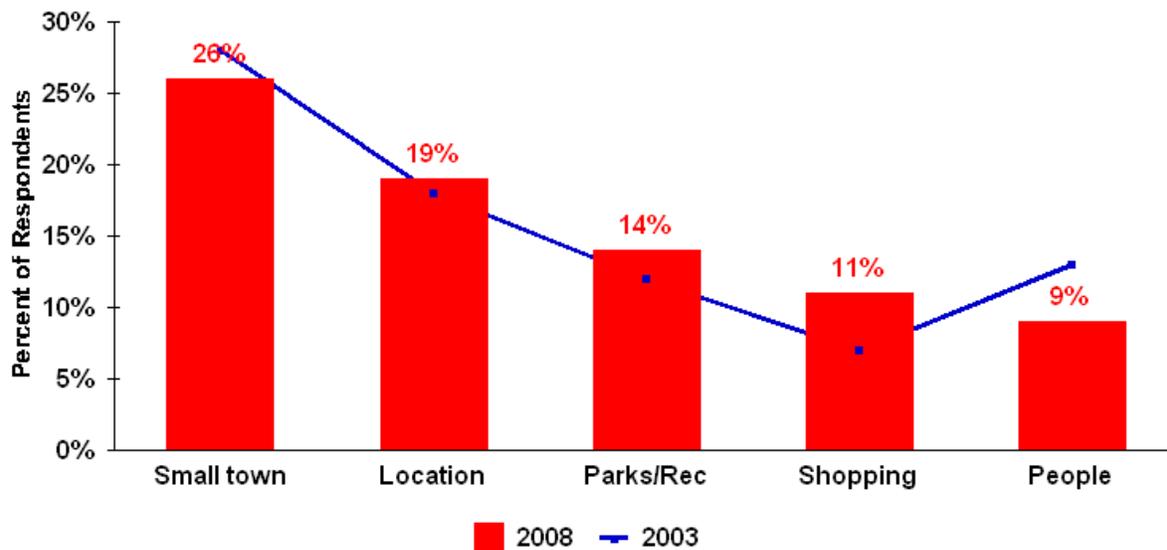
Demographic Differences

Seniors, those who have lived in Albany for more than twenty years, and those earning \$20,000 to \$29,999 are more likely than others to give Albany high marks for livability.

THINGS PEOPLE ENJOY (Q2)

When asked to name one thing about living in Albany that they particularly enjoy, 26% said they like the small town flavor. 19% like the location and accessibility to mountains, coast, and other cities. 14% like the parks and the Parks & Recreation activities. 11% like downtown, shopping, restaurants, etc. 9% like the people and neighborhoods. (Multiple responses possible; responses based on # of responses, not # of respondents. Total equals 100%. See Tables 2 and 2V for more detail and verbatim responses.)

Things People Enjoy About Living in Albany



Percents based on # responses, not # respondents; total equals 100%.

	2008	2003	2000	1994
Small town atmosphere	26%	28%	25%	34%
Location/accessibility	19	18	21	20
Parks & Rec. activities	14	12	20	5
Downtown/shopping	11	7		3
People/neighborhoods	9	13	12	25

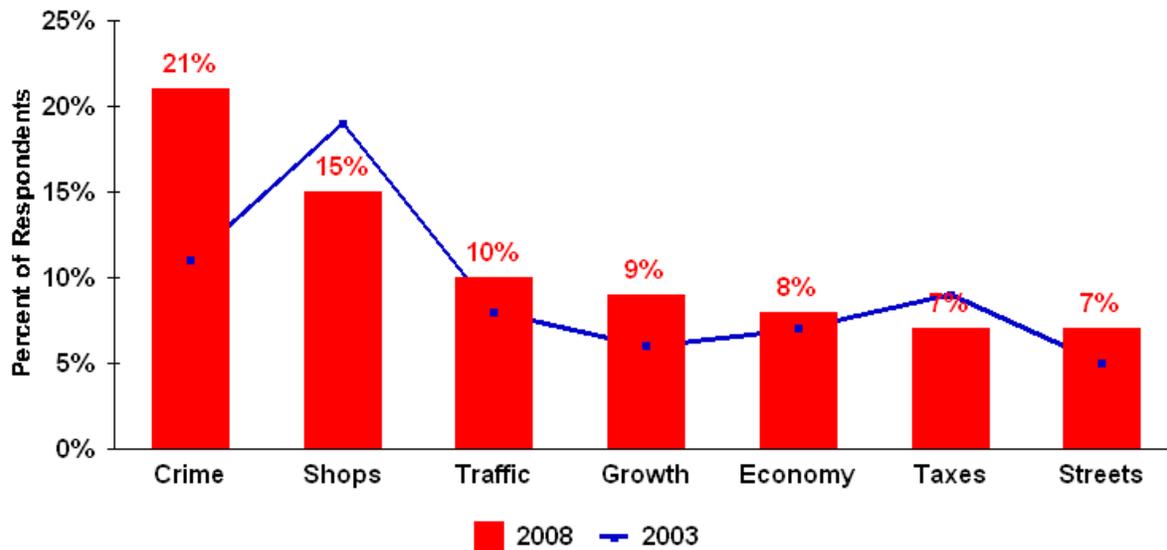
Demographic Differences

Males and those who have lived in Albany for more than twenty years are more likely than others to enjoy the location. Females and those with some college education are more likely than others to enjoy the parks and park activities.

WHAT WOULD PEOPLE CHANGE? (Q3)

When asked to name one thing about living in Albany that they would change, 21% said crime/homelessness/law enforcement (up from 11% in 2003). 15% want more shops, restaurants, and entertainment. 10% brought up traffic issues. 9% would like less growth. 8% would like to see increased economic development. 7% feel taxes/rates/fees are too high. 7% feel streets/sidewalks need improving. (Multiple responses possible; responses based on # of responses, not # of respondents. Total equals 100%. See Tables 3 and 3V for more detail and verbatim responses.)

What Would People Change?



Percents based on # responses, not # respondents; total equals 100%.

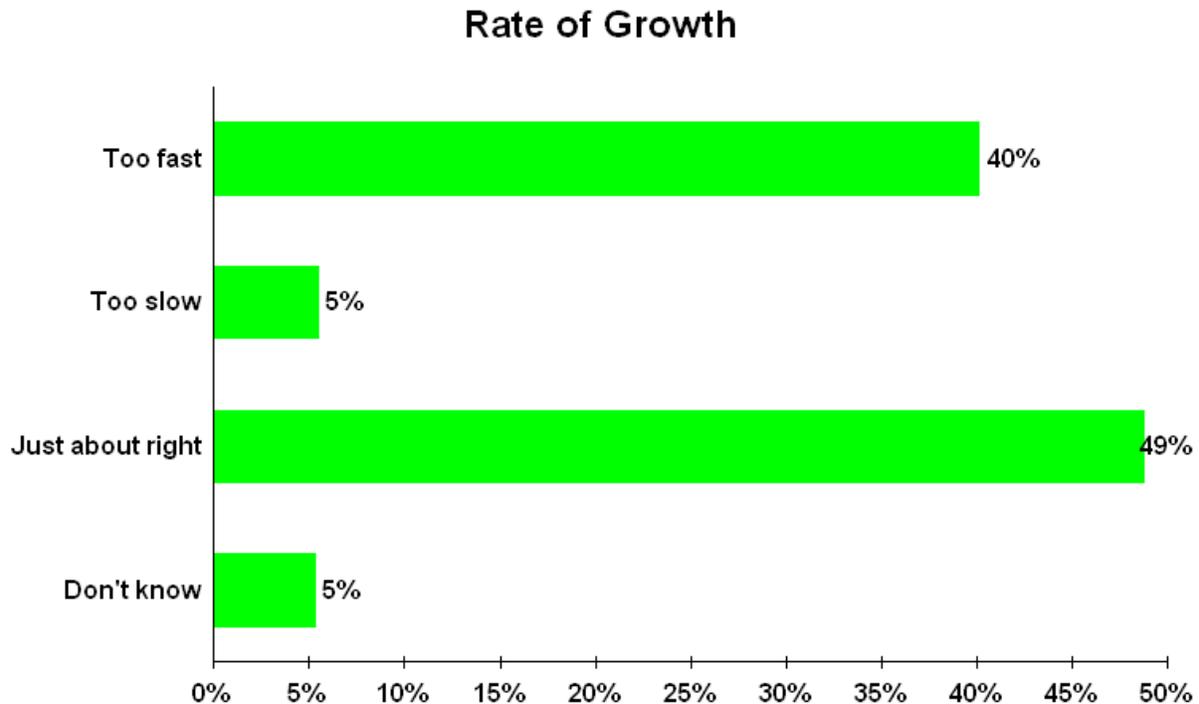
	2008	2003	2000	1994
Crime/law enforcement	21%	11%		13%
Shops, restaurants, entertainment	15	19	20	
Traffic	10	8		
Growth	9	6	11	
Economy/jobs	8	7		8
Taxes/rates/fees	7	9		6
Streets/sidewalks	7	5	14	27

Demographic Differences

25 to 44 year-olds are more concerned than others with crime. Females and 25 to 44 year-olds are more concerned than others with having more shops, restaurants, and entertainment. Males, seniors, and those who have lived in Albany for over twenty years are more concerned than others with traffic. Those who have lived in Albany for over twenty years are more concerned than others with growth issues. Seniors are more concerned than others with the streets.

RATE OF GROWTH (Q4)

40% of respondents feel Albany is growing too fast, while 49% feel the rate of growth is just right. Only 5% feel the rate of growth is too slow. 5% are unsure.

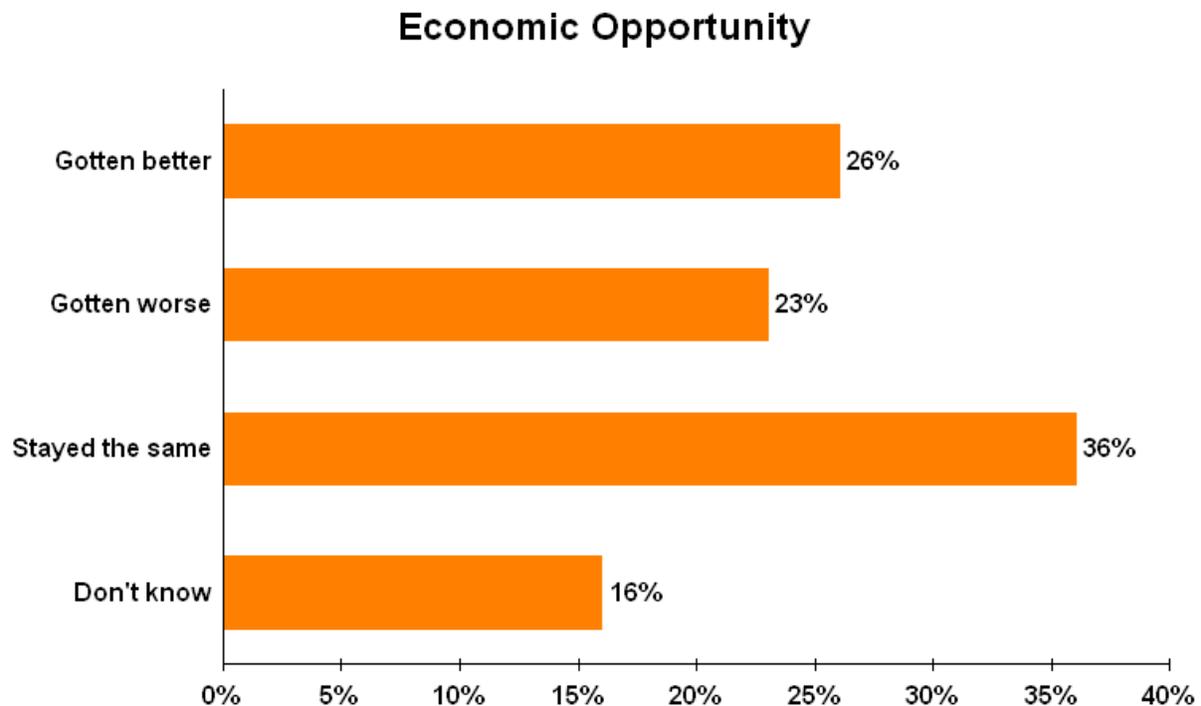


Demographic Differences

Seniors, those who have lived in Albany for more than twenty years, those with no internet access, and those with no college education are more likely than others to feel Albany is growing too fast.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (Q5)

26% of respondents feel economic opportunity in Albany during the past five years has gotten better, while a nearly equal amount, 23%, feel things have gotten worse. 36% feel economic opportunity has stayed the same. 16% are unsure.

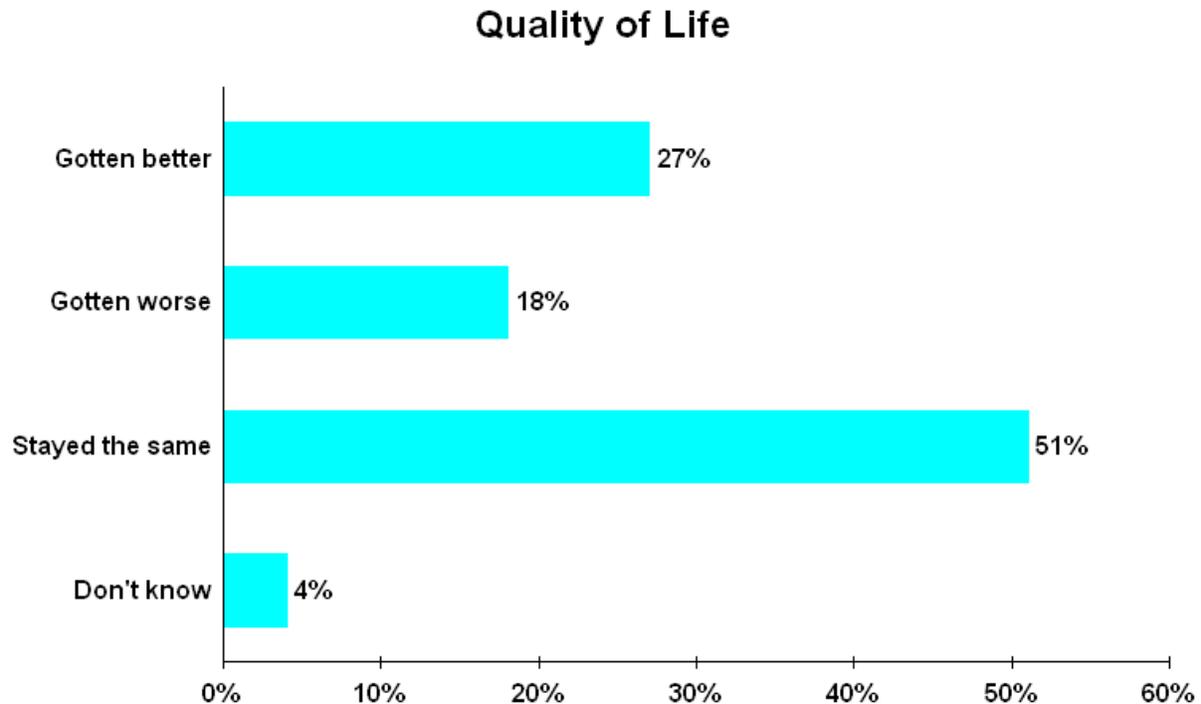


Demographic Differences

25 to 44 year-olds, those who have lived in Albany for two to ten years, and those earning over \$100,000 are more likely than others to feel economic opportunity has improved. Those without internet access and those earning under \$20,000 are more likely than others to feel economic opportunity has worsened. Males, 45 to 64 year-olds, and those earning \$50,000 to \$74,999 are more likely than others to feel things have remained static. Females, seniors, those who have lived in Albany for less than two years, and those earning under \$30,000 are more likely than others to have no opinion.

QUALITY OF LIFE (Q6)

27% of respondents feel that in the past five years the quality of life in Albany has gotten better, while 18% feel it has gotten worse. 51% feel the quality of life has stayed the same. 4% have no opinion.



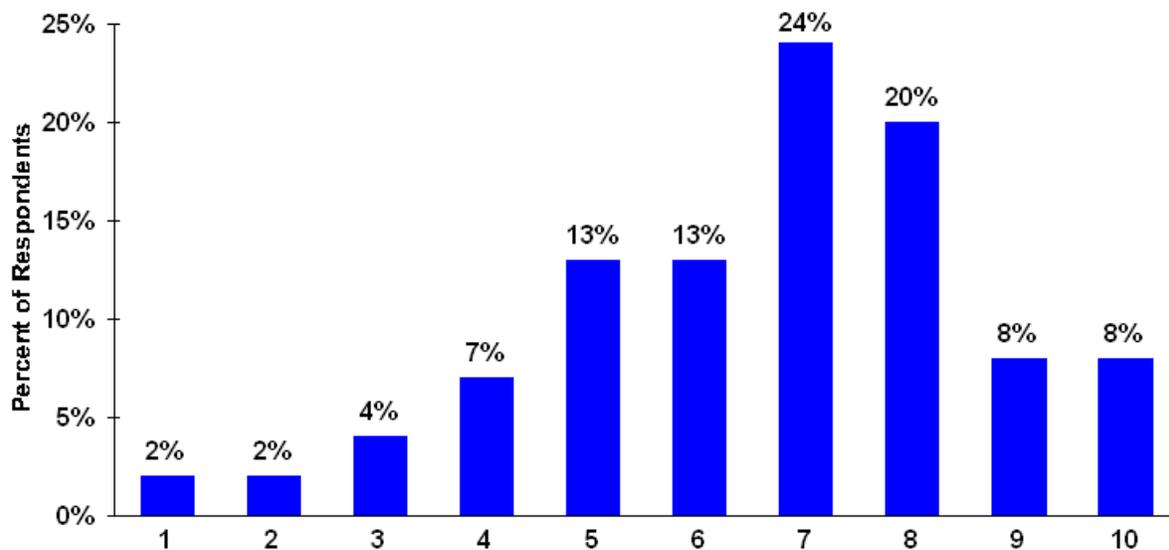
Demographic Differences

25 to 44 year-olds, those who have lived in Albany for two to ten years, those with internet access, those with a four-year college degree, and those earning over \$75,000 are more likely than others to feel the quality of life in Albany has improved. 45 to 64 year-olds, those who have lived in Albany for over twenty years, and those earning under \$20,000 are more likely than others to feel the quality of life has worsened. Seniors, those with no internet access, and those earning \$20,000 to \$29,999 are more likely than others to feel the quality of life has remained static.

SATISFACTION WITH CITY SERVICES (Q7)

On a scale of one to ten, where one is “very dissatisfied” and ten is “very satisfied,” Albany was given a mean rating of 6.6 for satisfaction with the overall level of services provided by the City of Albany government.

Satisfaction with Services Provided by City



Scale of 1 to 10; 1 is very dissatisfied, 10 is very satisfied.

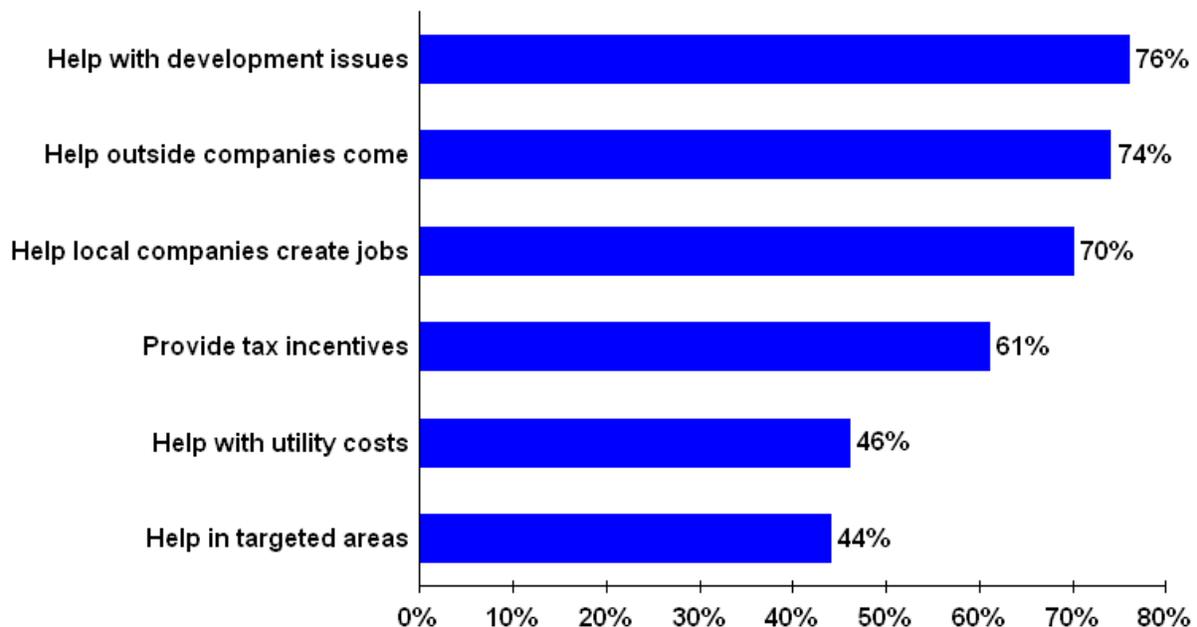
Demographic Differences

Seniors, those with no internet access, those with no college education, and those who earn less than \$20,000 are more likely than others to give Albany high marks for the level of services provided by City government.

ALBANY'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Q8-Q13)

Albany voters support the concept of the City taking an active role assisting businesses in order to provide more jobs in the community, though the level of support varies significantly depending on what form that assistance takes. 76% feel the City should provide problem-solving assistance to businesses for siting, permit, and development issues. 74% feel the City should take an active role helping outside companies come to Albany in order to increase economic opportunities. 70% feel the City should take an active role helping local businesses create and retain jobs. 61% feel the City should provide tax incentives to businesses creating new jobs. 46% feel the City should provide assistance with road, sewer, and utility costs to new and expanding businesses. 44% feel the City should provide financial support to businesses in targeted areas, such as Downtown.

Albany's Role in Economic Development



Demographic Differences

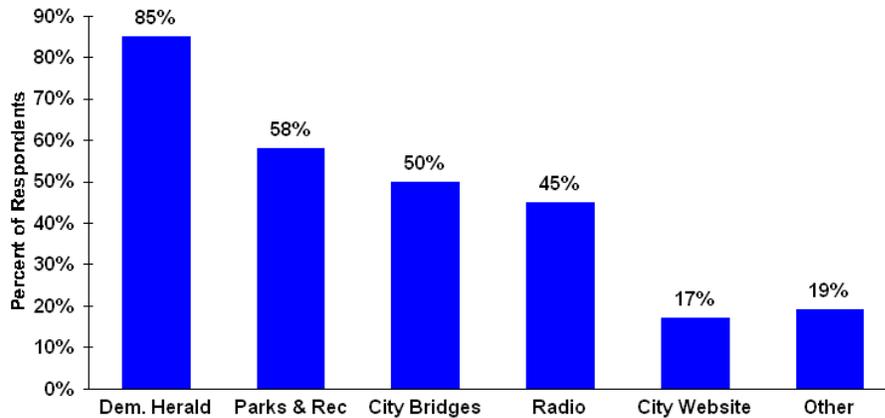
Males, 45 to 64 year-olds, those with internet access, and those earning \$75,000 to \$99,999 are more likely than others to feel the City should provide problem-solving assistance with siting, permit, and development issues. Those who have lived in Albany two to ten years and those with internet access are more likely than others to feel the City should help outside companies come to Albany. 45 to 64 year-olds and those earning \$75,000 to \$99,999 are more likely than others to feel the City should help local businesses create and retain jobs. 45 to 64 year-olds, those who have lived in Albany two to ten years, those with internet access, and those earning over \$100,000 are more likely than others to feel the City should provide tax incentives to businesses creating new jobs. Those who have lived in Albany two to ten years are more likely than others to feel the City should provide assistance with road, sewer, and utility costs to new and

expanding businesses.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Q14-Q15)

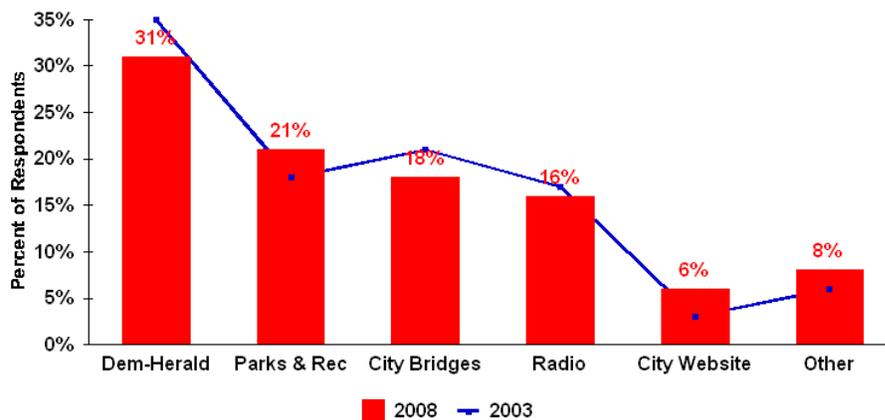
85% of respondents regularly use the Albany Democrat-Herald to keep informed on City government activities, 58% use the City of Albany Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, 50% use the City Bridges newsletter, 45% use local radio, and 17% use the City of Albany website. There has been no significant change since 2003. (Multiple responses possible; responses based on # of respondents, not # of responses. Total may exceed 100%.)

Sources of Information on City Government



Percents based on # respondents, not # responses; total may exceed 100%.

Sources of Information on City Government



Percents based on # responses, not # respondents; total equals 100%.

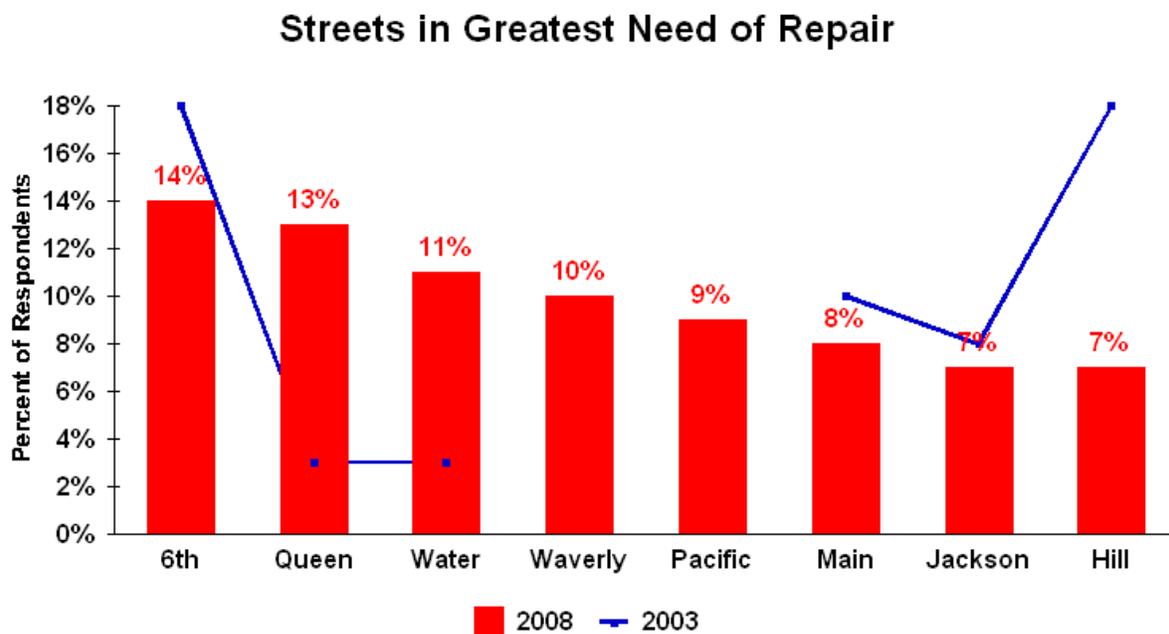
Demographic Differences

Seniors, those who have lived in Albany for more than twenty years, those with no college education, and those earning \$40,000 to \$49,999 are more likely than others to rely on the Albany Democrat-Herald. Females, those with internet access, those with a post-graduate education, and those earning \$50,000 to \$74,999 are more likely than others to rely of the Parks

and Recreation Activity Guide. Females, those who have lived in Albany for more than twenty years, and those earning \$75,000 to \$99,999 are more likely than others to use the City Bridges newsletter. 25 to 44 year-olds, those who have lived in Albany for two to ten years, those with internet access, those with a post-graduate education, and those earning \$75,000 to \$99,999 are more likely than others to use the City of Albany website.

STREETS IN NEED OF REPAIR (Q16)

Respondents were asked which three Albany streets are in the greatest need of repair. 6th Street tops the list with 14% mention, followed by Queen Street (13%), Water Street (11%), Waverly (10%), Pacific (9%), Main (8%), Jackson (7%), and Hill (7%). (Multiple responses possible; responses based on # of respondents, not # of responses. Total may exceed 100%.)

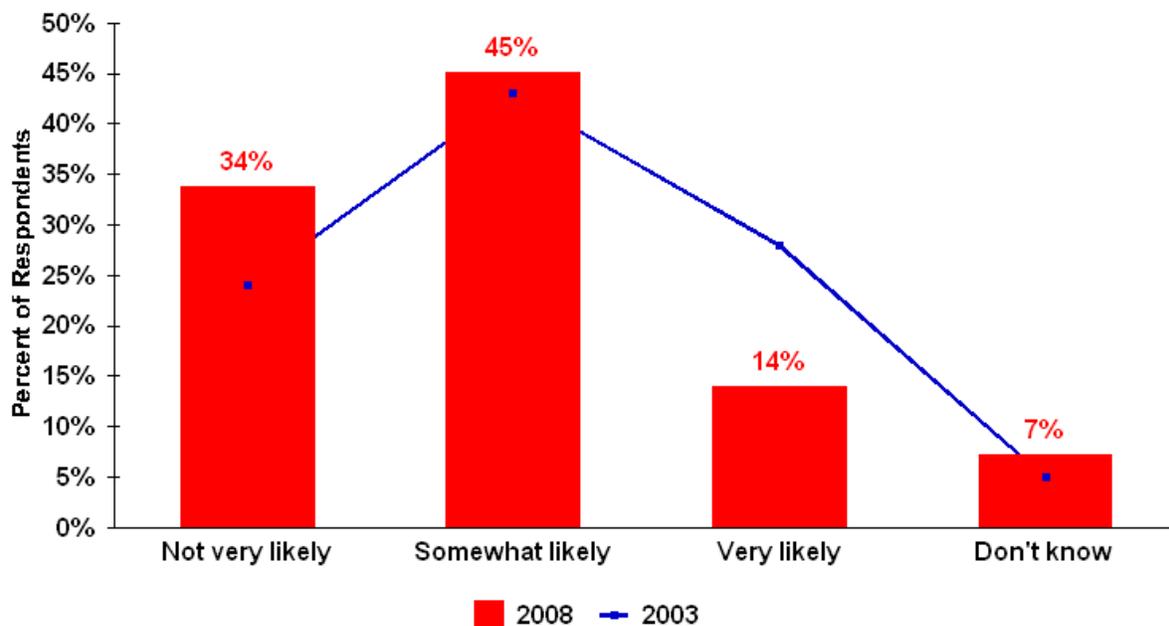


Data not available for Waverly and Pacific for 2003.

SUPPORT OF FUNDING TO IMPROVE STREETS (Q17)

59% of respondents are “very” or “somewhat” likely to support increased funding for street improvements over the next several years, down from 71% in 2003. 14% are “very” likely to do so, down from 28% in 2003. 34% are “not very likely” to support such funding, up from 24% in 2003.

Likelihood of Supporting Funding to Improve Streets



Demographic Differences

45 to 64 year-olds and those with a post-graduate education are more likely than others to say they would be “very” likely to support funding for street improvements. Those without internet access, those with no college education, and those earning \$30,000 to \$39,999 are more likely than others to say they would be “not very likely” to support such funding.

STREET FUNDING SOURCES (Q18-Q22)

The majority of Albany voters is not likely to support any of four options proposed for funding street improvements. 30% are “very” or “somewhat” likely to support a region-wide motor vehicle fuel tax, down from 38% in 2003. 24% are “very” or “somewhat” likely to support a property tax increase, up from 15% in 2003. 20% are “very” or “somewhat” likely to support a city-wide motor vehicle fuel tax, down from 31% in 2003. 14% are “very” or “somewhat” likely to support a monthly fee on each household and business, down from 7% in 2003. Conversely, 81% are “not very likely” to support a monthly fee, 77% are “not very likely” to support a city-wide fuel tax, 71% are “not very likely” to support a property tax increase, and 66% are “not very likely” to support a region-wide fuel tax.

In write-in comments for “other funding ideas,” 87 respondents (11% of the total) expressed the feeling that the City should use existing funds more wisely. Other ideas include, but are not limited to, a sales tax, motor vehicle registration, business tax, real estate development fees, bonds, and other government funding. (See Tables 22 and 22V for more detail and for verbatim comments.)

	Not Very Likely		Somewhat Likely		Very Likely	
	2008	2003	2008	2003	2008	2003
Region-wide motor vehicle fuel tax	66%	57%	19%	25%	11%	13%
Property tax increase	71	78	18	12	6	3
City-wide motor vehicle fuel tax	77	64	13	19	7	12
Monthly fee	81	89	12	5	2	2

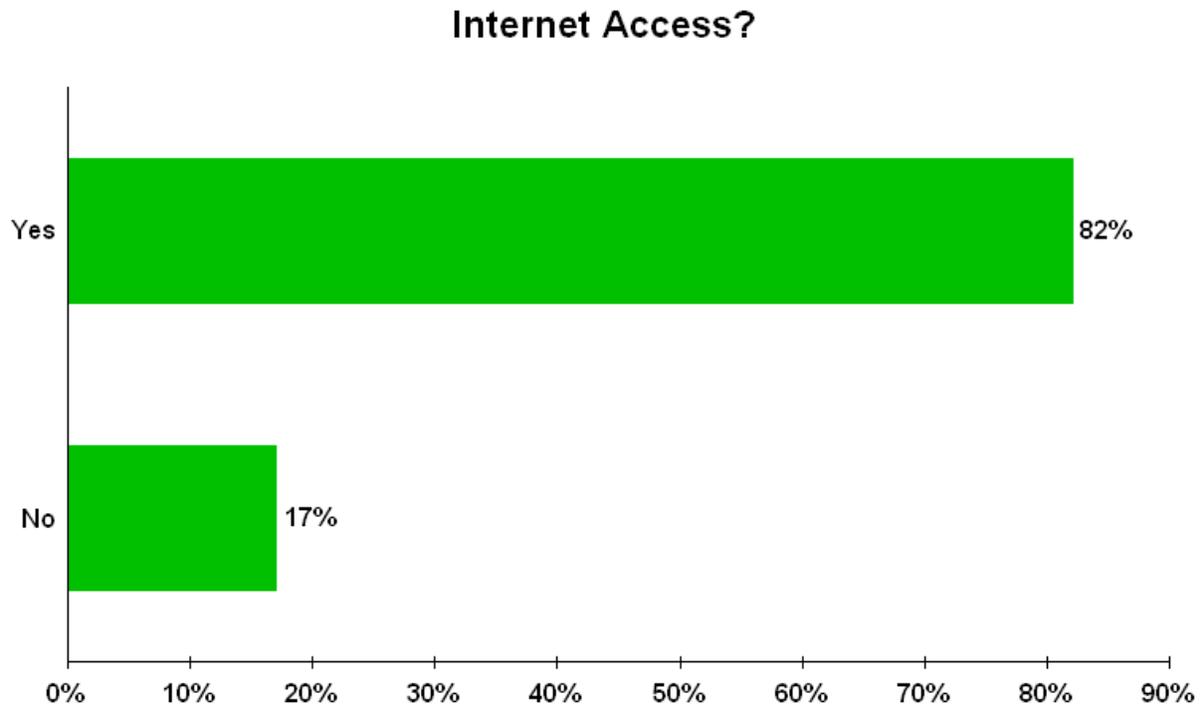
Demographic Differences

Those with a post-graduate education and those earning over \$75,000 are more likely than others to support a city-wide vehicle fuel tax. 45 to 64 year-olds, those who have lived in Albany for two to ten years, those with a post-graduate education, and those earning over \$75,000 are more likely than others to support a region-wide motor vehicle fuel tax.

INTERNET ACCESS? (Q23-Q25)

82% of respondents have internet access at home; 17% do not.

37% of those with internet access at home have broadband access, 43% have cable, 12% have dial-up, 4% have DSL, and 1% use wi-fi. 2% are unsure what type of internet access they have.



Demographic Differences

Males, those under 65, those who have lived in Albany for two to ten years, those with a four-year college degree or more, and those earning over \$50,000 are more likely than others to have internet access at home.

25 to 44 year-olds, those with a post-graduate education, and those earning over \$100,000 are more likely than others to have broadband internet access. Males, seniors, and those who have lived in Albany for over twenty years are more likely than others to have a dial-up connection.

GENERAL COMMENTS

ALBANY COMMUNITY SURVEY - 2008

Table 31V: If there are any other comments you wish to make or any ideas you have for issues you want the city to work on, please let us know in the following space:

Quit giving tax breaks to companies. Need better crosswalk enforcement and a better light system at South Albany High and Waverly. Lower speed limit on Waverly to 30-35. Too many kids almost get hit (and my daughter did get hit) at that crosswalk. It's a school zone that isn't enforced. Fix it like North Albany school zone.

I love Albany.

Spend tax dollars on things needed, not what government thinks is needed.

In town neighborhoods zoning does not require enough off street parking. The lots are too small. No more multi-family dwellings. Bring in people who care for town.

I resent my tax dollars being used to support libraries that allow people to access pornography on library computers. People can access that garbage at home and if they don't have a computer they can do it the old fashioned way and buy Playboy.

Lower my sewer bill and water bill.

Repair of roads is a given. The population of Albany has outgrown the "old" traffic flow roads. Improved/expanded capacity arteries and better designed traffic flow is desperately needed before any more housing projects are allowed. Also, traffic laws regulation needs better enforcement.

How about an overpass over the switching operation on Queen Avenue?

I just (don't) understand why a small group of people can keep new businesses from coming into Albany. Seems like if the company is Mexican, then they are welcome, but not anyone else. It'll be a much happier place to live if others had a chance to be here.

I feel the City Council needs to allow for more freedom of speech, more open forum. There is too much controlled conversation on opinions. Discussion has a lid on it. The Council needs to get out on a regular basis and have input from everyone. Schedule meetings with the public for 2-3 hours at various locations 3-4 times a year, and not just an hour here and there and definitely include some evenings. Some people can't get away at 3 or 4 p.m. or in morning meetings. Let the public see who they are. At least the public would be able to talk and not be shut down as happens at the council meetings.

More cameras at main intersections.

Have police concentrate on "real" crimes, not seatbelts. Hell-o-o-o.

I would like to see owners of annexed property held accountable for weed control so the homeowners who live next to the annexed property don't have to keep bothering the city to get the annexed property cleaned up! The City Council bickers too much - **x** and **x** always seem to think everyone is against them and that is getting really old!

Teach Spanish to speak English, not other way around.

I'm getting tired of subsidizing "Downtown Albany" redevelopment. (Property Tax Districts reduce taxes to the rest of the city.) We've spent a lot and still have only government, banks and antique stores. Give it up. Downtown is now Santiam Highway area.

We have only lived here six months and we really don't know anything about city government.

Not too many tax breaks to outside companies. They need to do their share and be responsible and responsive to advantages given them. Regarding street improvements, what happened to the budgeted funds? Why not better planning?

When giving perks to a business that wants to "grow" in Albany, have the new business use workers from this area in all aspects of getting going as well as for future labor. Have the new business contract at least for 5 years after the perks are finished or expire.

Attracting new businesses could be a good goal, but taking care of existing businesses would be a smarter, more efficient way to promote economic stability. A regional industrial park at I-5 and Hwy. 34 would attract medium size business enterprises. The new YMCA will add a great amount to Albany quality of life. A new housing area for modular homes would support the local modular manufacturers, showcase local products.

Pave the parking lot where the county parks equipment. The dust in the area is terrible. Need more clean up weekends several times a year. Some properties are a terrible eyesore for the community.

STOP issuing building permits for houses in N. Albany!!!!!!!!!!!!

I would like to see a Wal-Mart and Lowe's built. New restaurants. I-5 widened to 3 lanes each way between Salem and Eugene.

No new taxes. No tax incentives. Businesses should pay their way (i.e., taxes). Albany needs to remain as is: population, livability, environmental, etc.

Better bus service.

Lower any/all taxes to senior citizens whose total yearly income is less than \$26,000 and whose prescription drugs amount to more than \$2000 a year after insurance provider's payments.

Sidewalks the full length of Geary St. No walking in street. Better patrols to get trailers and basketball hoops off of city streets.

There are too many overzealous police in Albany that are ticket happy! When a warning would suffice!

We need to have a youth shelter in Albany and a youth drop-in center. The closest one is in Corvallis.

We pay too many, too much in taxes now. Our utility bills keep rising (with taxes on them). Government must not realize seniors are on fixed incomes. Why don't they consider giving seniors a break on taxes?

A sales tax is most fair. The more you spend the more you pay. It also allows for visitors to help bear our financial burden (also fair). I love Albany, not too big, not too small. It's beautiful. P.S., our parks are very well cared for, thank you! (Love the summer programs!)

Telephone - no answers for weeks in the water department when we were told to call for low income water assistance. Never could get a hold of anyone and gave up.

x responded to my request, has since been ignored, to stop "for sale" cars at intersection of Scenic/Thornton/Hwy. 20. It's in City of Albany, a traffic hazard since new houses cause cars to come across and down streets there. A railroad problem? City? Why not posted "No Parking"?

Social Security is only income. Have expenses. Loan monthly, taxes yearly too high. Need repairs, widowed 22 years and ill. Osteoporosis. Tax increases, can't pay.

I think the greatest improvement Albany could make as a city, besides encouraging business growth and opportunity, would be to establish more services to help the homeless, troubled youth, and drug addicts. Albany could be a really great place if it were cleaned up!

Put police to work on crime, not traffic. Traffic is not a problem, only a revenue enhancer for government. Maybe we have too many police. Get rid of the homeless shelters that bring in criminals from other cities. Get rid of red light cameras, another revenue enhancer for government and a private business.

Put the cops back on their motorcycles to do traffic control. Use ticket fees to repair streets. Bond for repair of water levies and don't use property taxes nor put a fuel tax on P400 and a gallon gas. P.S. Don't increase water rates!!

You need to get rid of people like **x** and **x**.

Develop support for and encouraging efforts to establish housing for mentally ill and sex offenders. Continue efforts to address homelessness. Improve quality of adult recreation/sports programs. Continue support for community events such as River Rhythms. Increase funds for traffic enforcement.

I would like to see Albany improve shopping. We have plenty of dollar stores/discount stores. Encourage new business away from mall area. It is turning into the Lancaster Drive area of Salem.

City government needs to watch out for the public. For example, Comcast fees are outrageous. Don't they operate under a city license? I pay \$700/year for very little content! Also, what about doing something about the drug house on Hwy 20 (right by the "Welcome to Albany" sign)? It has been an eyesore for over a year. It gives a terrible impression of the city for the 10's of thousands of people who pass by there weekly.

Thank you for making the effort to communicate with the community! I would love to see desirable residences developed in the upper stories of the lovely old buildings downtown. I appreciate the effort of the city of Albany in having the vision for the new library, continuing the concerts on Monday and Thursday nights (in the summer) in Monteith Park, the Art and Air festival and other cultural events. Thank you!

No roundabouts! Confusing and dangerous. 3-way stop (signs) at Main and Salem. More free parking in downtown area. Run the bus on a schedule that allows people to use it to go to and from work - present schedule only works for shoppers.

As city grows, crime, unsafe streets/areas should be reduced.

Stop building new houses in N. Albany! Build affordable apartments for young single adults so they can live by themselves without having to live in with a girlfriend or boyfriend. Stop speeding in N. Albany! Every one needs to support Ray's Food Market - it is the only store in N. Albany.

Doing more with our river front areas – i.e., as Corvallis did.

Please take into consideration the impact on roads, traffic and surrounding neighborhoods when approving new subdivisions. Please do something about Albany's homeless population. We are becoming a magnet for these people. I'm tired of seeing public drunkenness and people panhandling. Albany really has gone downhill in the past few years.

Until my utility bill goes down I'm not going to support another thing that takes money out of my budget.

I think what the city council thinks is the most important gets done and what they don't - don't. I sat on a mayor committee 12 years ago about how to fund street repairs and as far as I'm concerned it was a waste of my time as nothing came of it.

Check signage on Waverly, south of Pacific. Inconsistent? Traffic signs on northbound Geary between 9th and Pacific are not accurate, misleading.

It doesn't help a community to raise property taxes on low income homeowners - who struggle to keep their homes and feed their family. People could lose the homes they struggle to keep because of rising property taxes - are we to go back in time?

Stop farming out their park maintenance, street sweeping, street maintenance, increase downtown parking lot maintenance, solve the shopping cart pick up that are left downtown and other locations. Water and sewer rates far too high!

I would like to see more city unifying events. We need to grow a stronger sense of community. Timber carnival and the Arts and Air festival are nice. Most people I know don't have any pride in being an Albany resident. I miss the town I lived in as a youth. Let's try to bring pride and happiness back to the valley.

Stop granting building permits in north Albany. The roads can't handle the traffic load already! They are clogged morning and evening. Why do the developers always get their way? Always! Who's getting paid off under the table?

The elderly need a break with their property taxes. We've been married 58 years and we've paid property taxes 56 of those years. It is the American dream to own your own home. Now we are being forced out. This is not fair.

The City should use inmates (both adult and juvenile) to clean up parks, city streets, and sidewalks; also to prune, weed, etc., teaching them to respect property. Cut out built in waste in the budget.

Tighten your belts! Our family is....

Water and sewer bills way too high. Albany should work with ODOT on better traffic patterns through or to bypass downtown. City of Albany okays too many home developments.

Traffic traffic traffic - north Albany.

Albany needs a new sports complex that will house soccer, baseball, softball, girl's fast pitch, and football on artificial turf fields. We live in damp and wet Albany, Oregon. We need this! Albany Little League needs this also!

I think the city really needs to address and begin to try to find solutions to the homeless problem in the city. This is an issue that affects every resident.

More speed bumps put on residential streets. More red light cameras fighting crime and gangs.

If the city wants voter cooperation it is important to avoid permanently alienating them due to inappropriate decisions and actions. These include: Construction items and materials that are perceived as a waste of money, and then not having the funds for correction and/or maintenance. Traffic signal cameras, tree removal, inappropriate vehicle and bicycle lane control and enforcement, fitting a round-a-bout into too small an area, unenforced codes. Assessing property owners for street improvement costs that are the result of inappropriate decisions made many years before.

We need a new city police department building badly. I keep promising if I win lottery but likelihood low. APD provides one of the most important services and yet all I ever see and hear is more more more for fire department.

It would be nice if they had a few things for low income children to do. That would not cost any money or a small fee, and that transportation would be provided for them. We should think of things for our children, so they will have things to do in summer.

Lower the cost of living by reducing water/sewer fees; I have a 750 sq. ft. apartment with 1 bath and I pay right around \$70 per month for water/sewer. That is ridiculous.

Lower taxes, lower water and sewer rates; quit spending tax money on stupid things. How about having all the contractors repair the roads they tore up? Quit raising taxes!

We do our youth a tremendous disservice by not provided space for the sports programs. Studies show that if we don't provide this opportunity these kids will turn to crime. We need a new sports complex and more indoor space made available.

I would like to see the city council actually listen and do what the neighbors in various areas want when changes in those areas affect them directly. This affects the livability of their living in Albany.

Stop letting builders build so many subdivisions, cluster housing. There is hardly any country left in Albany. Take a "clue" from Corvallis and Benton City. They do not allow so much building to happen. The only reason, or "much of the reason" North Albany has so many people is because there is a "glut" of housing here so it is cheaper to live and buy houses, and they commute to Corvallis to work!

Government has an abundance of tax revenue at your disposal. You cannot solve problems by raising more taxes. The best thing government can do to increase revenue is to promote business. In the meantime you must use the available resources and make hard decisions between good and better - just like the rest of us.

Lower the baby swings and parks such as Tadena. Heavy babies are very hard to get into them and out of them. Very hard on mom's backs.

It is sad to go downtown and see all the empty buildings and nothing but antique shops. If we could get a large retailer (well known) and restaurant in downtown, it would help attract other businesses.

Get rid of odor from paper mill.

Do away with bulb-outs!

Cut down on city expenditures.

Please stop approving all developments until there is a plan for the traffic that is already too heavy for the roads we now have. In north Albany we will need wider roads and a new bridge. How will we pay for that!? Just stop developments until we have the roads!

The town has little to offer except location in valley. The town expands with no overall plan for a service of the community. The bike path is a great idea but is incomplete. Every expansion or project is built is for the purpose of generating revenue, but fails to offer the simple enjoyment of living in the town.

I'm willing to reduce spending on parks/fees and other non-essential services in the general fund. This money should be used to improve our streets. I would probably not support new taxes for street improvements.

I think the water and sewer rates are outrageously high. Albany used to have reasonable water rates - any more the water rates go up faster than my household rate of income. (I.e. 10% for water 1% for my income). We pay more and make less. If rates were more reasonable people would be more likely to water their lawns and then Albany could be a green city instead of a city full of dead lawns in the summer.

Have the police ticket more people who make improper lane changes on turns. Grand Prairie and Waverly is really bad. 80-90% turn into far lane.

Do over playground in North Albany Park - emphasize needs of small children. Shopping is good, but need a Wal-Mart, a book store like Barnes and Noble, a grocery outlet like Winco.

Unfortunately Albany is turning into another Salem. I'm seeing problems with crime, drugs, gangs and Mexicans. The city needs to reverse these trends before too many of the educated, upper middle class decide it's time to move to Corvallis! NO Wal-Mart in Albany!

The train horn noise is completely out of control. I realize that the engineers must blow at intersections for safety reasons, but I'd say 80% or more do not follow the pattern. They blow anywhere from 50-100 times going through town. Mostly very late at night and on weekends. Is it possible for the city to apply for federal funding to upgrade our rail crossings as the city of Eugene successfully has? Less train noise would improve the quality of life in Albany immensely! Please help! Thank you.

I would like to see more businesses come to Albany to create more jobs. And I would like to see the Albany police be aware of people's concerns and not hassle innocent people who are riding bicycles or walking. And get the crackheads out of Albany.

I appreciate the great jobs that Parks and Rec and Albany Community Pool personnel do. Gas and food prices are hitting many in our community hard. Please try to find funding for street repairs without taxing us more heavily.

Improve the standards by which landlords need to operate. The homes and trailers in the King Kone area have shown some improvement, but there are still many homes/apartments/trailers that should not be rented out to those who can't afford anything different. We would love to see a tennis court in Gibson Hill Park in the southeast area that doesn't get much use!

The upgrade/renovation of core area downtown has been very good. Have heard many visitor comments such as "wish their" city made this effort. City should encourage and seek new business for downtown. Other positives: summer concerts at the waterfront park, Vets parade in November. Downside: growing drug and gang activity.

I think there should be a fine assessed for garbage piled in driveways and yards. It is not fair to the neighbors across the street to look at wrecked cars and garbage in driveways, especially if the house is not lived in. It is used for storage of crap.

The City should NOT try to decide what types of retail or other businesses locate here. Opposing Wal-Mart or Lowe's by making it harder for them to locate here interferes with our free market. If citizens do not want them here they will not survive. Also, restrict high density housing and restore larger setbacks in developments. The City is allowing future slums to be created by reducing the restrictions on these building codes.

Diversity, especially for gay and lesbian citizens, needs a lot of work. The community is clearly homophobic as shown via letters in the newspaper, biased articles and the hate message we had written in the snow of our yard this winter. VERY disappointing and distressing!

It would be nice to see downtown revived and the waterfront developed.

As we have a large number of apartment dwellers, use a taxation method that includes the users (not the owners), i.e., one bdrm. apt. = \$5 tax per month, 2 bdrm = \$10 tax per month. Apt. manager responsible to inform City of names of residents and type of apartment, length of stay.

We CHOSE to live here in retirement and are not sorry.

Property taxes are way too high!! I come from CA, this was a real hardship. I believe our property taxes should be able to pay for what the city/county needs.

I strongly object to the City Council recognizing NANA as the official representation of North Albany residents. It is plain they are grinding their own axe. We did not vote to choose them to represent us. I believe in user fees for parks, etc.

For a city this small you've got a lot of lesbians. My place of employment has lesbians to a greater ratio than anyplace I worked in Portland. Do you think hard metal contaminants contribute to this? And they're all the butch types. Not the cute lipstick ones.

City needs a facelift; it looks very much like a blue-collar town, which is not totally true anymore. Improve quality of education in schools. The downtown area has potential that has not been developed into a great downtown the way Corvallis has done it, why?

Stop spending and chasing down shopping carts and going after businesses with sidewalk signs. The City should focus on the BASIC needs for which government was intended and stop trying to find reason to increase its payroll load!

I live in the SE Albany area. I'm concerned about the traffic on Waverly Dr. that will increase when the property at South Columbus and Ellingston Rd. is developed. I don't want the problem they're having in North Albany. Also, there needs to be a right turn lane at Columbus and Hwy. 34.

Somehow Albany needs to be able to keep ODOT from creating unbelievably stupid designs on state highways that go through our city.

Please be more aware of how future buildings - home and traffic affect the quality of life of existing homes. Lots are much smaller and traffic is a huge problem. Don't allow cluster developments and have solutions for flow of traffic before permits get issued.

Attract manufacturing rather than service related industries. Start listening to constituents regarding water/sewage rates. Open competition by ending fraternizing (?).

Please help infuse downtown with charm and character; it could be so charming next to the river... cafes, downtown power!

Keep doing your good work.

The City Council runs on its own agenda. Speaking at council meetings is like talking to a wall. They have already decided the outcome. I am one of those who got saddled with the cost of extending N. Albany Rd. when many were against the opening and the minority won and didn't even have to help pay for it. We now have a huge traffic problem in our neighborhood because of it that is NOT being addressed.

Lexington Street between the four-way stop sign and Grand Prairie is in desperate need of speed bumps. I think the City of Albany should put them in to slow the traffic down to at least the posted 25 mph signs.

Take care of the traffic mess on Geary and Pacific. I almost had an accident there!

Services for elderly, poor and others in need should always try to be improved or maintained to highest level. Basic services such as water/sewer are overpriced. Police need to concentrate on serious crime and not on frivolous traffic stops/tickets.

It would be nice if the City Council didn't already decide on issues before they ask for comments or input. We have a typical City Council, two that listen, two that know what's best for the City, and two that follow the pack.

Crime is becoming a very serious problem in Albany. We have almost completely lost our sense of safety! Law enforcement is grossly under funded. Police officers are obviously overworked. The quality of service is very low as a result. The low level of service from the Albany Police is becoming criminal in and of itself. As crime progresses in Albany, it's only a matter of time before the people who care about this survey become victims themselves.

I am in Albany just a few months each year and I'm not concerned or involved with employment or community problems as a full time permanent resident would be. We live full time in a motor home and the Blue Ox RV Park has been a great home base for us in the warmer months.

An overpass for railroad tracks on Queen.

More free parking downtown. Lower water rates for seniors with low incomes. Tax breaks for low income seniors who can't keep their home because of all the tax increases!

The City bus system is poor. More routes, more buses, and better scheduling is needed badly. The bus schedule brochure is almost impossible to understand. See how other cities do their schedule brochures.

Wife and I love the North Albany shopping area. Pulls the North Albany community together. This would be a great way to pull other Albany community areas together.

Need grocery stores on south side of town. Need more economical housing (not cheaper).

Please consider lighting on bike path behind our home between Grand Prairie and Queen St.

I would like the City to work on slowing traffic down through the downtown area and in residential areas. I would also like to see streets and intersections upgraded before developments, not after. I am very concerned about the number of homeless people coming into our town.

Albany should be considered a bedroom community. With the recent increase of population many new home buyers are commuting. That means many dollars are being spend outside of Albany. We are finally getting an influx of restaurants and this needs to continue. Most of my shopping is being done in other cities. We need to be more proactive with businesses that would like to locate to Albany.

Please, can you at least TRY (before spending more money) just try for one week, staggering for 30 seconds the lights at Pacific and Santiam. If it does not work, what are you out!! No houses on East Thorton Lake! Can we do more about drugs?

Nutria at Oak Creek. Stray animals (cats and dogs).

Still many park playgrounds that need replaced, especially Deerfield and Grand Prairie, which are widely used parks. The slide at Deerfield Park is unsafe!

Recent job loss emphasizes personal need for any opportunity for work. All job applications and resumes are online. No personal interest. How can Albany create better jobs, less red tape within City process. The State also needs to be employee friendly - not something the City has control over. I do like neighborhood shopping centers with restaurants - great idea.

Be more helpful to benevolent organizations like "Albany Helping Hands." They are way better at getting people off the streets and into productive society than you are.

I love Albany; I see a lot of potential here and most of the people are wonderful. However, focus needs to be put on local business for growth and sustainability, not the big companies who pay poorly, and aren't rooted in the local scene. Take care of, and listen to your own first. Right now, you aren't doing a very good job of that - too many stars in eyes for out of town \$.

Get more jobs for the white people and better housing and cheaper rent and better medical for the white folks - we are tired of playing second fiddle.

More local meetings with access for working mothers and non-English speakers.

If we do give businesses a tax and utility break, they should be required to hire a % of local residents. Something needs to be done with the RR industry. Portland and Western needs incentive to move operation to Old BN yard; close Queen Ave. before somebody gets killed.

Stop city "road blocks" on businesses. Of course "Pussy Cats" sneaks in and all is okay! Grocery store on SW side of town would alleviate traffic from Santiam/14th where all groceries are located.

We need good family type eating places, Outback, Ruth Steak House, German food.

Parks in North Albany (where home growth is occurring).

I have concerns whether the City Council or City staff has the capacity to take us to the next level.

Stop spending time on foolish issues - as an example: all the hype over shopping carts. Encourage businesses that use the carts to set up a deposit and return system like all airports use. Lots of incentives to get them back in the slot for that deposit of at least \$1. Help our downtown businesses with incentives they can use!! Why aren't the red light cameras producing compliance? No enforcement. Stop these unenforceable foolish programs. Fix the RR problem at Queen instead of promising a new overpass to PepsiCo! Fix the poorly designed couplet by Walgreen's instead of fining confused motorists!!!

I would much rather pay a gas tax to help increase city funding than have more city police giving out traffic tickets; use them to take care of the vagrants.

The police don't respond every time a complaint is called in. Things such as barking dogs, fireworks being set off when it is not legal to do so. These things may be small complaints, but when you have several calls about one thing and ignore it, then something ought to be done.

A speed sign on Calapooia SW between Pacific and 12th SW.

Having grown up in a small town, Albany has been a sad disappointment. The constant traffic police harassment has gotten old, the photo radar camera (set up ONLY to make \$) only increases the boss hog impression. My friends drive to Corvallis to shop and now, sadly, so do I.

We should be a greener city. More accessible garbage cans for public would keep streets cleaner and appear more welcoming. Why don't we use existing buildings instead of building new ones? I.e., Corvallis.

When North Albany was annexed, the city Council promised they would help maintain North Albany's rural environment. I believe the City has failed on this promise.

I'd like to see the Council enthusiastically support the library with additional \$\$ for staff and hours and the Linn Library District! Shame on you for dragging your feet and not providing vision and leadership for this great community good.

Five Republican Linn County Commissioners are too many; there needs to be checks and balances.

I think the roads should be better taken care of. We are on the I-5 corridor and have many fuel stops to support the gas tax which should be what supports our roads.

I feel besides the drug/alcohol abuse in our community, we need to address the homeless issue. I strongly oppose bringing the homeless here from other areas. We should allow these programs for the aid of Albany residents who have already resided here and found themselves homeless as a result of already being an Albanite. Also, English should be made our PRIMARY language, both at work and in our schools.

REDUCE: urban sprawl, poverty, crime, drug issues, and unemployment. IMPROVE: aesthetics, culture, bike paths, public transportation, and socio-economics of citizens.

Improve funding and staffing for city school libraries. Treat the Willamette River as the City's "Front Door," not the backyard. Promote cleaner water of the river and encourage "green spaces" and residential and environmentally friendly businesses along the banks.

Do not increase your budget. Get by with what you have like the rest of us have to do. No more taxes.

With additional housing developments being created on Water St., it is important to address the condition of the street for increased traffic. Riverfront needs to be developed, area prepped for growth, safety, etc.

Get rid of the tree ordinance; it flies in the face of private property rights. Feel free to plant all the trees you want on city property.

The City of Albany has a very troubling history to find outlets and programs for teens. A rising influence of gang activity shows how idle teens fall into bad influences. More information on mentor programs might help.

Keep user designated taxes/fees (gas tax) dedicated to their intended use. Do not funnel any of these fees to other social programs.

Council needs a better understanding of the Linn Library District proposal and the City staff needs to do a better job of explaining the library proposal.

Start worrying about some of the local neighborhood streets before approving more housing developments.

Yes, there is an old shed (1515 Lafayette SE) next to me - 2 years ago - we finally got the druggies moved out and it's been empty since. It should be condemned, the shape it's in. We neighbors have called x many times. She reported to us. The owners (in Lebanon) say they'll remodel in 2-3 months. We were told the SAME story nearly 1 1/2 years ago! Animals (raccoons, nutria and cats) go under the house. It stinks. Health hazard. Also, we've seen transients and couples come from the shed! Sure doesn't help our properties.

No new taxes.

Concern about railroad blockage of major access roads to North Albany. Volume of traffic on N. Albany streets created by growth of new housing.

The City Council needs to stop giving developers carte blanche to infill certain areas, like North Albany, with congestion-causing housing tracts. We need a City Council and Planning Commission that listens to the concerns of the long-time residents and considers them over the moneyed interests of developers. A more forward-thinking city, in this regard, would be nice.

Return the duck back to lake if still possible. I would like to see the lower income families to have more help with beginning school supplies for the year. Children should not be held at fault or made fun of for our economic downfall. Special needs children have the necessary supplies provided for future advancement. Our children are our future. They should be top priority.

Please don't take away our now existing businesses by adding new strip malls. Our businesses are struggling now as it is. Maybe with new officers, new management, new president, things will come back to the good of Albany. Our future is in your hands.

I would like to see if the city could implement a technology on the street lamps to turn off/on alternate lights to try and reduce costs, obviously without reducing safety aspects. Technology based solutions to upgrade Albany's image and efficiency. My wife would like to see more art shows, sculptures around the city.

Illegal immigration should be reported to the Federal Government.

A lot of work is going to ones that don't live here or don't have green cards. Also that work for the City. I feel it takes away from our kids that live here. Also, I don't feel we should let outside ones to play the Oregon Lottery when the Oregon ones are the ones that put so much into it. Thank you for your time.

We need more shopping and restaurants.

I wish Downtown was more like Corvallis. There is more to do and better restaurants. When my husband and I go out on weekends, it's usually in Corvallis.

Don't think we need bulb-outs or circles. Less focus on the "historical" downtown and more on more retail. We have lost so much! Get camera and lights on 1st and Ellsworth.

More recovery of downtown core area! We need more business diversification than just a bunch of antique shops in our downtown!

Albany as a whole really sucks.

The City needs to educate the old time local business people on how to be business people. I have found that they lack the proper etiquette and customer service (I am not talking the national businesses). Their attitude may be okay for their good ole boy standards, but me as a newcomer, I am appalled at their attitude and level at what they call service. I believe that Albany has the possibility of being the next Bend. What with its location, weather and living conditions. I believe that there are some people in leadership roles for this city that have long term vision and should be supported, but with the attitude of the good ole boy business environment, people will only look at other locations to live.

There has been a great increase of graffiti in the SE Albany area, especially around Grand Prairie and Periwinkle areas. Lack of employment opportunities for convicted criminals following punishment. Speeding cars and trucks on Geary St. south of Queen. Speeding cars and pickups in vicinity of South Albany High School by students. Littering throughout the city. Congestion in residential areas because of vehicles parked on streets instead of driveways. Too many inoperable vehicles. Some areas are beginning to look like ghettos.

There are other comments I would like to make, but city workers will not listen anyway.

I only live here because of my work; I will leave as soon as I retire. I don't spend money or weekends here because there is not much to do. The only good thing about Albany is its location to N.E.S. and W. I make the quality of my life better by finding things to do on my own.

Water rates are way too high!

Basically, you're doing a good job. Money is tight but life goes on. We can't improve Albany without some financing. Good luck!

As a city, Albany should lessen the gap between upper middle and low income families. Any hungry person is very sad in our great society. Families, seniors should not have to choose between buying food or paying a heating bill, much less unable to cover a healthcare plan that narrows coverage and raises rates of co-payments. Back when the voters passed the approval of the state lottery, were we told these lotto funds would cover 1/3 of road repairs and 1/5 of school bond measures? I wonder....

I appreciate all the volunteer hours that enhance the living in Albany.

Need a turning lane into Costco off Pacific St. Waverly Lake needs an aerator fountain to freshen the water and lessen summer stench. Some of the street people could use a bath, haircut, and new clothes. Perhaps the city could afford this. Some of these people are probably mentally impaired and can't do for themselves.

System in place to clean up graffiti and make sure gangs don't get a foothold. I like downtown, but need more businesses meeting necessities of upward trends to bring more people down there. Why are all the best sports fields used for adults and not children; either need a sports center for children, or reverse priorities and let children play the nice park fields. A wading pool park (like in Wilsonville) downtown Albany would be nice. It would be a good way to get families downtown. Better variety and pay jobs here in Albany; don't bother soliciting companies that don't pay a livable wage. I have to commute to Salem for a good paying job. I know it's a catch 22, but if you grow the town too much, you lose what's great about it, small feeling community.

My wife and I are new to Albany, having lived in Seattle and Columbus, OH prior to moving here for my job. We hope to settle in this area and would love to see Albany grow economically and dynamically. We look forward to raising our kids in a healthy, vibrant, "smaller" city.

Expand bus service. Crosswalk signals - not enough time to get across the street.

Stimulate small business in Albany through incentives that make it easier to hire employees, build, zone, and provide needed utilities like electricity, sewer, etc. at a subsidized rate. Stop the meth problem. Make FAIR increases to city revenues to fund these programs by spreading a FLAT rate that affects all of the citizens, rather than one or two groups like businesses or higher income.

Reduce the water bill. It's excessive and you know it is. But once a tax is in place, you're not going to reduce it. Taxes are not the answer; proper management is.

Generally speaking, there are many things that bother me throughout Albany. People parking on lawns, abandoning vehicles, and speeding through residential areas.

Walking around downtown it is very sad to see all the places that have recently gone out of business, all the office spaces for lease with no businesses to fill them, and all the homes for sale or rent.

Don't approve additional housing projects in N. Albany until streets are improved to handle additional automobiles.

Big truck traffic on Springhill. Bridge traffic. Rush hour traffic - too many people for through roads.

We live in the residential area off of Clover Ridge Road by Knox Butte. The roads out here never get maintained, tons of weeds, overgrowth on sidewalks in summer.

I have never lived anywhere that has more potholes than Albany. I think how our infrastructure appears; it makes the rest of town look shoddy. We need businesses downtown that people will go to. A wide variety of stores. High-end, middle-end. We need something other than antique stores.

Better support for downtown businesses. Safer parks; do something about homeless hanging out at Monteith, underage drinking there also. Drugs, also!

This community has the potential for incredible beauty, however, the railroad yard and OBVIOUS poverty and drug use make it very difficult to recognize the latent beauty (see Chico, CA for a great model for a beautiful town).

City Council could be more responsive to citizen input and stop railroading their seemingly hidden agendas through meetings. Listen more to **x**; she seems to have more of a feeling of what the regular person wants.

Would like to see another way into North Albany and less traffic on North Albany Rd.

Police working on getting rid of drug houses. Working on crime prevention programs. Don't worry so much about writing traffic tickets for minor offenses.

Better services for the mentally challenged (not drugs). Get rid of all the dirty government officials and lock up all the criminals. Help families in need, such as alcoholics, drug addicts, and gamblers instead of separating families, so

we have more messed up kids to grow into messed up adults. And quit pushing your drugs on everyone; they are not the answer.

Get the water/sewer rates lowered. Outrageous fees!!!

I agree with Mel Yeager's letter to the editor 3/20/08, the second paragraph, traffic in the left-most turn lane from Geary onto Pacific is directed in 2nd lane of traffic on Pacific, very confusing. It should be directed to the first lane of traffic on Pacific.

City should aggressively pursue repair of leaking water system. Add sewer to areas not now served.

Road shoulders for bicycles on road out to North Albany Park.

Queen St. RR intersection gates down waits are too long! Seems City Council members really care about Albany; thanks! Abandoned cars are being towed away promptly; thanks! Law enforcement; keep up the good work fighting meth and meth crimes!

All City concerns seem to center around downtown. We in greater Albany are treated like we don't belong or are not important. Why don't you change that. Improved street lighting would help and also improve crime prevention, we think.

Stop dense building projects with houses crowded together. People need space; if one child takes violin lessons, three neighbors need not suffer.

More bike lanes; with gas prices, we are riding our bikes more often.

Clean up meth areas. Need condos in downtown and North Albany. Continue to work on downtown. Protect air, water, human health. The City is losing its human face; no one answers their phones. The new park signs and logo are ugly; the old ones were better.

There seems to be more litter building up.

Do something about the over-consumption of illegal immigrants on benefit programs that are provided to those that have (not) paid into via taxes, donations, etc.

More shopping facilities for clothing. More recreation opportunities for middle and high schoolers. Step up gang/drug removal and enforcement. More family (average cost) restaurants (not just pizza or fast food).

Too much for water utilities.

This survey is a waste of resources (\$6500?) that could be used to provide actual services, such as loans to people fixing housing; clean-up of run down buildings; greater enforcement of speeding laws. The City substitutes bureaucracy for action, and consultants reap the benefit.

Corvallis has a very nice area for the farmer's market. I'm not very enthused by our market space. Support the carousel project.

Lower speed on Waverly Dr. and ENFORCE it. Enlarge the traffic enforcement team! Two officers are good, but 5 or 6 would pay for themselves in the long run and make the town safer.

The overblown residential development, especially north of Grand Prairie Road is idiotic, and has hurt the livability of Albany. The Chamber of Commerce has too much power.

I haven't lived in Albany long enough (7 months) to really understand its issues.

More than anything, we need a city/county funded no-kill animal shelter! Public transportation should be improved - more buses on the Linn-Benton loop and more (fuel efficient) buses in the city. SW Albany needs a grocery store (not a dollar store). Invite the Co-op (Corvallis) or Trader Joe's to town. Thanks for asking!

Sidewalks on North Albany Road, Gibson Hill Rd., high volume of walkers, runners, and school kids use the road daily. Help Samaritan Albany General with parking difficulties in that area.

Prioritize maintenance of existing infrastructure rather than expanding in order to minimize tax increases.

My family would like to see a super Wal-Mart come to town, and an Olive Garden.

As long as the water and sewer rates stay as high as they are, I will not vote for any city taxes or bonds.

Thanks for being a good city. Levies are tough on my property taxes; try alternatives.

Keep us informed how much is spent in each department and how the number of employees changes per year.

Your survey asks the questions in a way to get the answers you want! Besides, you will do what you want anyway no matter what the people who pay you want. Gov. is a joke! All Democrats. No one takes responsibility for anything. Just raise taxes on the backs of the people! Remember the Boston Tea Party! I doubt it.

There are major speed problems on Clover Ridge.

If subsidies are needed to attract businesses they're the wrong types of enterprises.

I do not have enough information to properly address some of the questions.

Basic city services should always come first. It's not fair to offer money to companies and they can't fix the roads. All city services should be 3rd party evaluated and activated for efficiency. Sub-contracting services often saves money.

They need more of the cameras here. Speed limit on Queen to 25 mph, not 35. Pave road by Albany Police Department. Reduce speed on one way east; needs a camera here on Hill and 14th by the bank and furniture store.

I think the city should allow a Wal-Mart in town.

1. Synchronize the stop lights to save fuel and reduce pollution. 2. Close down housing slum areas – Ref. two trailer parks on Salem Ave. between Sherman St. and Geary St. 3. Stop funding the expansion of Helping Hands - has become a magnet for all the area's homeless - over capacity now. Don't need more.

A performing arts center for Albany, capable of seating about 1200 and supporting musicals, visiting orchestras, serious plays, and art shows. The West Albany cafeteria would be a good place (with remodeling). Or? Past time we had such a place. On-going attention to our river front. Should include shops, barbers, and small restaurants in the buildings along fronts that now turn their backs on the river. Less police emphasis on traffic tickets (and my wife and I haven't gotten any). Albany drivers are about the most courteous and careful I've encountered. I can't believe that treating them (us) like wayward children saves enough serious accidents to be worth the antagonism toward police and city to be worthwhile. Outside of Pacific and Santiam, are there any? Take those two traffic officers and put them to work arresting drug dealers, and send all of them to drug court or jail. We could, I believe, stop the drug scourge within two years by simply taking it seriously and getting it off the streets and out of the city's children's lives. And it would pay for itself in decreased burglaries, domestic violence, and fetal alcohol/drug syndrome cases.

We need to get a handle on the increase in drug use and crime. Penalties (read longer jail times) for drug use and sale have to be implemented. Drug rehab needs to be available to repeat offenders. We just keep putting them back on the streets. Gang activity needs to be addressed more aggressively.

Housing in North Albany has grown too much and the roads in and out of North Albany can't support any more traffic. Something needs to be done before the problem gets worse.

I live in an Independent living residence and enjoy it very much.

1. Another bridge across the Willamette to link North Albany and Corvallis traffic (Hwy 20) to I-5. One which is not blocked by RR and flooding. 2. Replacement of the overpass on Pacific and solving the traffic merging to Downtown. 3. Continued revitalization of Downtown maintaining historic buildings. 4. Relocate RR staging and free up intersection at Queen and RR.

Albany needs grocery stores in the SW region. Ever since (old) Safeway was shut down the only option is to deal with the high traffic area near the mall. North Albany is taken care of; it's time to deal with SW Albany.

I believe this city wastes too much money on parks and the library. Money would be better spent on public safety issues and road repairs. If a community doesn't respect the park in their area the city should not sink excessive money into it.

It's getting more difficult to live in North Albany because of the yearly increase in our property taxes but yet the value of the houses has dropped. There are 15 houses for sale in our area because homeowners can't afford the high property taxes anymore. Give the homeowners a break!

City wide sports arena or sports complex.

I feel like Albany has made great strides on "beautifying" itself. It has less of the industrial feel than it had when we moved here from Eugene.

Does the train conductor have to lay on the horn at all hours of the day and night?

We lived in N. Albany for 47 years. Since the city took over, the area turned into treeless, noisy, race track like loonhouse. If used to be so nice up here. Even the deer lost their places.

Sanitiam/Pacific/9th intersections and one ways are confusing for people unfamiliar with it - Merging lanes are also difficult at certain times of the day.

Invest in production business with national sales. For example, Target, Pepsi excellent impact to labor. Stay away from Portland type investing restaurants, condos.

Taxation without representation - annexing areas without those residents vote is unfair. Uncontrolled housing developments put a hardship on schools and increase the need for new schools. The developers are there to make money but the citizens ultimately have to pay for the increased services required – schools, etc.

I work in Albany and have seen over the years more and more people use the system's money. (Oregon Health Plan) drug seekers and parents who keep having kids to keep working the system - we should make people work if they are physically able too.

People on fixed incomes, as we are, have a hard time dealing with the rapid rise of our property taxes, our property taxes are way too expensive!

Many of us live in Albany but work, do our commerce, entertainment, and recreate somewhere else. I've personally approached Parks and Rec with tried and true, low cost initiative, no response.

Albany needs a better priced grocery store such as WinCo. Trying to keep a budget with our current selection is hard. I know several people that drive to Corvallis or Lebanon to shop. I would also like to see stricter laws on homeowners and landlords with the appearance of front yards and porches that accumulate trash, furniture and run down cars.

We need to make the city more bike-friendly, add businesses, and decrease taxes so people will stay. Property tax is terribly high and if it gets worse, we may have to move. Don't drive people away like Corvallis does.

Stop frivolous spending-elaborate vacations, meetings, etc. provided by taxpayers such as myself. Stop giving Mexicans breaks, they already have more than a white person gets, just because they are a "minority." They have become a majority and white people have become the minority.

Shorter lengths on trains (Queen by Pacific is a nightmare). Roads that can keep up with traffic growth in N. Albany.

Slow down on the property tax; soon my taxes will be worth more than my house.

City government often leaves the impression that they are more willing to pander to the demands of large corporations and are less willing to address the concerns of their actual residents. Many of their practices seem strange at best. For example thousands are spent on refurbishing a power plant of dubious value, no problem funding generous raises for city execs who then spend thousands for consultants to tell them what to do, water dept. can make loans to other depts. but still must raise rates to consumers.

More policing for car break-ins. Lower water rates to an affordable amount and then perhaps could afford money for street repairs.

It seems like more and more each year the meth growing and dealing is becoming larger and larger. As our kids become older you have to worry. Some sort of system has to be found to take care of the problem.

We really need to get better restaurants. We need a steakhouse like an Outback or a Roadhouse.

Increase Albany employment opportunities. Offer better parks and waterfront utilization.

Use money from red light cameras to help pay for fixing Albany roads and support schools.

Need to have a revitalization of our downtown buildings and riverfront properties.

Improve and enforce traffic flow around Pacific and the side streets. Too many drivers make their own rules to cross three lanes of traffic. Improve where two highways merge. Continue good police work and community action to keep gang activity out of Albany.

Current city council has not listened to the will of the people!

I'm glad you are working on the riverfront. Hope you have an overall plan on what is being done, keep in mind the project as a whole beautifying area for the city of Albany.

I want the city to continue pressing businesses to be responsible for their shopping carts. I'd like to see our water rates go down. I'd like to see the city encourage all of us to pick up trash and be conscious of the environment. I'd like more enforcement of polluting by cars and industry.

Reduce water rates to encourage more use which will increase revenues!

Illegal immigration and meth users/manufacturers.

Need more cops due to drugs and stealing. Too much money for parks. We don't need more parks. We need enforcement in this city.

I believe closer attention (security) needs to be given to certain depts. (i.e., planning and public works). The depts. seem to have too much power and control over the lives of taxpayers. There is little, if any, communication between

the 2 depts. and this makes it difficult for the property owner to make decisions and move forward. I am extremely dissatisfied with my dealings with both departments and believe the problems need to be addressed.

Crack down on people that trap domestic animals and dump them.

This resident lives in an assisted living facility, has dementia, and doesn't get out much. She is unable to complete this survey.

If our water bill is \$50 in the winter, I can't even imagine how high it will be when we begin watering all the flowers that everyone loves to see - this will detract from the beauty of our city if we can't have flowers.

Schools - need arts, music, a better listen group at long range planning, crime, drugs, dog control.

People that work for this city should listen more to the people that have businesses in this city. Every time they "need" money, they think the businesses can "afford it". We cannot withstand any more water, sewer, etc. rate hikes. The council thinks we can pass this along to customers. We can't. They will quit purchasing. The city council needs to live in a "REAL" world.

We are very concerned about development in N. Albany. Current roads cannot handle all the additional traffic expected with new development. Forested hills should be preserved for wildlife and a healthy environment. Albany needs to attract more diversity and cultural stimulation. We dream of things like a college for the arts, annual arts festivals - dance, fine arts, music, etc. We long for professional artists from outside Albany to provide more cultural awareness and appreciation. We need to find out how to attract youth to come downtown and bring some life! We need many more miles of bike paths for people to enjoy and to attract tourists.

Our drug problem should be our #1 priority. Followed closely by keeping up and constant improvement on our schools. I very much believe that improvement in our schools will go a long way to help with our drug problem.

The city council does not care what the people of Albany think. They do exactly as they wish against every objection the people have.

Either super Target or super Wal-Mart. It would be nice to do my shopping at one store. More child friendly entertainment - children's museum/family fun places.

Meth houses. Homeless problem.

The air pollution on weekends and holidays. Meth education. Schools that are overcrowded don't even have enough books for each student and limited space on buses.

Albany has a rich and wonderful history of attracting the best and brightest citizens who care deeply for their community. Encourage participation earlier in decisions. Develop the areas in Albany that desperately need attention. Lower the water bill.

When family neighborhoods become occupied by non-profit organizations serving unfortunate members of society (felons, mentally ill, etc.) it would be helpful to have a task force working with affected neighbors, brainstorming methods of maintaining strong neighborhoods in spite of the intrusion. In addition, it seems reasonable for the City to begin a long-term assessment of the impact of these organizations on family residential neighborhoods. For example, it seems unlikely that housing values will remain unaffected, or that families with young children will choose to locate in homes near a group of felons. Perhaps that is not the case – I hope it can be followed. Also, it seems unreasonable that the location of these units should be focused in certain areas of the city. Perhaps the City needs to think about the goals of historic districts – maybe there is a point where the City should purchase historic properties.

Parking of vehicles on Lyon Street (especially furniture trucks, on east side of street near corner of 1st Street restricts view of vehicles on 1st going west wanting to make a right hand turn on red light.

Restaurant on the Willamette River again - please.

More children-related activities and for teen's.

We need to keep Albany an affordable place to live without continuing to raise property taxes. We need to continue services to keep citizens safe and make sure the community is friendly and clean.

Increase police force; Albany is growing. Increase Fire Dept. Decreased crime will result in more growth.

I don't think that the current city government is a true representation of the city's population. The city needs to listen to the concerns of a broader spectrum of the population. Maybe you could consider taking your meetings into some of the "other" neighborhoods.

The hike and ski tours with the Park and Recreation helps for exercise and social.

More neighborhood watch groups, it has made a big difference in our downtown area. Snack bar bigger at Swanson Pool. (Love the pool!) More summer activities for kids at pool area. Maybe in the park area for not very warm days. Larger Saturday market.

Our reputation is known for high crime rates and I.D. theft. This should be a huge priority!

Smell. Population. Old cars and junk around homes. We called about the people across from us but because the old green moss truck and car were in their driveway it was o.k. Now there is a fish tank and washer and etc. Plus the two trucks and cars they drive.

Would really like to see more safe places for kids to play. The skate park is an absolute disaster and should be torn down or monitored constantly. Many young kids enjoy skateboarding. Toledo, OR has a wonderful skate park that is directly next to the police station and is video monitored 24/7.

Better park maintenance, create a handicapped/wheelchair accessible playground, fix the homeless problem, not ignore it like currently happening, and help provide actual low-income housing.

Responsible growth, with the people living in the area and the environment and infrastructure as main consideration, not the developer/landowner's possible big fees, etc. put into the city coffers, as "buying a development."

Please continue to enforce property owners of unkept properties to clean it up. Houses, businesses, and yards in disrepair or yards with accumulated junk reflects poorly on our city, and gives the wrong impression that we don't take pride in living here. Thank you!

We like Albany's uncrowded feeling, but we have to accept that growth is necessary for opportunity for our children. We have to stop anti-development roadblocks (e.g., stopping subdivisions for "wildlife migration") - all they do is raise housing costs and price people out of the market. Less regulation (get rid of the tree ordinance), less foot-dragging, more respect for private property.

Viable downtown, no junk, a destination, take advantage of the tourism/winery possibilities the Willamette Valley offers. QUALITY BUSINESSES. More patrols to instill driver responsibility in this town, and hand out tickets to instill it! Improving the aesthetics of the outdated strip mall areas outside of downtown. Keep up the fantastic Monteith summer concert series - one of the best things Albany has going! Improve the aesthetics of the downtown neighborhoods and the riverfront area.

Besides taxing residents, where will the city get funding to give tax breaks, provide financial assistance, etc. to new businesses?

Minimal tax incentives only should be provided to businesses creating new jobs. We're excited about the new library. Cable costs more in Albany than Corvallis. Thanks for seeking our input!

Would like hazardous waste disposal to be available for household chemicals, computer parts, etc. No Wal-Mart. Would like a Trader Joe's or Whole Foods. Increase business in downtown.

How about using that Water Street money to fix the streets and sidewalks around town. Maybe even hire a few more police.

Better bus service that covers Tangent. Also more buses and not so long in between runs.

People are being taxed to "death." Development fees in this county for permits are ridiculous. We need more police, EMTs and firemen, and I would support a tax for them. The City government needs to listen to the people more instead of going through the motions after they have already made up their minds.

Why doesn't the City Council let more business (large Wal-Mart) into the Albany area?

North Albany and the traffic is a concern to our family. I leave Dover (?) to get onto Scenic in the morning at 7:30 because trying to get onto Gibson Hill from Laura Vista takes too long. People on Crocker needing to get on Gibson are at risk for accidents. Some mornings the traffic is backed up to the round about from the light being red at NAMS. There is too much growth for these roads.

Place three-way stops on Madison and 31st (Lafayette School).

Getting rid of eyesores like empty lots, old houses no one lives in. More Neighborhood Watch groups and safe houses. More stop lights along the avenues off of Ellsworth and Lyons.

Council needs to listen to the public, not railroad their ideas. Crack down on illegal aliens working in Albany. We are very pleased with the police department; they have done great. Go CARA! Downtown is looking great! Slow down on the subdivisions; Albany is getting sprawl. Downtown needs a sensitively designed parking structure.

Lower the property taxes.

Parks, new developments need to plan for open spaces, enough room for trees along streets, and local neighborhood parks with recreational opportunities (basketball hoops, soccer practice fields, playground equipment, etc.).

Urban sprawl is disturbing, especially for "Tree City." Historic homes - get that Oxford House out of SW downtown Monteith! More help and support (not laws and red tape) for historic homes to keep the neighborhoods up. Infill of downtown. Put limits on big box stores. Environmental clean-up and crack down on businesses, especially industry.

In the past, Albany has been a big softball (City League) town. Recently this has not been the case as younger players have disappeared. I feel funds and manpower are inadequate to keep this dying sport alive.

The Council needs to start representing Albany citizens, not big money out of town developers! We need intelligent progress done sensibly to benefit existing citizens, infrastructure, and the environment. North Albany has lost its rural country appeal and is now a traffic nightmare. Your next bottleneck for traffic is Knox Butte Rd. Many of my neighbors are on fixed incomes and are struggling not to be taxed out of their homes!

Yes! The cost of water and sewer. I am a low-income household and I have a hard time paying my bill!!!!

City needs to be more business friendly when issuing building permits!

I support the improvement of the city streets. That is, the repair and replacement of streets. I do not support the installation of fancy street lights or bulb-outs!

You touched on it earlier, but bringing in more "sit down" restaurants would be excellent!! More "entertainment/shopping" options. More family-friendly things to do, places to go.

Bike and walking paths to connect communities.

City government should work on sustainability issues, preventing by creating awareness in the population, regulating pollution from industries and businesses, and enforcing new and strict regulations. Also, should promote and support diversity.

Promoting recycling to everyone would be a good idea. Many of the lower class communities don't recycle when they typically provide the largest yields of recyclables.

I would like to see more bike and walking paths in North Albany.

Many of the questions in this questionnaire seemed to be oriented towards discovering how much more the City of Albany can raise our taxes. We want to make one thing perfectly clear; NO NEW TAXES - PERIOD! We don't know how much more clearly we can make this statement. We already pay enough taxes and we don't want to pay any more. The "government's" appetite at all levels (local, state and federal) to tax and spend our dollars is insatiable. It can never be satisfied. No matter how much money the taxpayers give, you will always find a way to spend more. The "needed" and "necessary" projects and programs just keep coming and coming in a never-ending stream. The recent school bond issue, the ongoing effort to form a county-wide library district and now the initiative to form a taxing district to support the OSU Extension Service are all examples. When we see these we just shake our heads and want to cry out loud. You mean to tell us that the school district is so inept in managing finances that they had no capital improvement program and had to wait until heating system boilers in our schools became 35 years old before they recognized that they needed replacing? The Extension Service is an example of a government agency that should have been disbanded decades ago. We know first hand since we worked for them in the 1970s. Very few people use their services; maybe grass seed farmers and 4-H kids, but the rest of us never go to them. Our handout from them on how to home can tuna is 30 years old. We now have the internet and can get more and faster information from Tom's Garden Center or Home Depot than they can provide. It's deceiving to say that taxpayers will only be charged \$0.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value to support them. Where do you think the rest of the money comes from to pay their bills? Directly from other state and federal funds which we taxpayers support. This is like the advertisement on TV about the lady who obtains a wheel chair through the "Scooter Store." It's "absolutely free," they say. NO IT'S NOT! Who do you think pays for the scooter? Either some insurance company or some government program is going to pay and again the rest of us pick up the bill. And now comes the library; our precious library issue that just won't go away. It's almost as bad as our hard-headed Governor "Tax & Gouge Me" who is bound and determined to force the Oregon Health plan down our throats no matter what so poor children of illegal immigrants can get health care. Let us make this perfectly clear. We don't use the library. Have never used the library. And we have no plans to use the library. So why should we taxpayers pay for another person's education or entertainment? In our working years we struggled, saved, worked, took out loans (which we paid back) and paid our own way. Both of us are educated with college degrees which we earned; one through the GI Bill where 6 years of our life was donated to the defense of our country. If the library is as popular as we are continually told, has anyone ever thought about charging a "fee" for its use? We're not talking about something exorbitant either. What about a \$1.00 admission charge? Too much! O.K. drop it to \$0.50. By our calculations this would raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the library each year. Can't afford the admission charge? Go collect bottles and cans door-to-door. Last year we cashed in over \$50 of returnables since nobody comes to our door anymore to collect them. Too much of a hassle we've been told so we have to haul them back to the Safeway for deposit return ourselves. And don't think the Library is not supporting other people's entertainment. The headlines in the local paper read "Library branches plan spring break activities..." The article goes on to indicate that a variety of "free" programs for kids of all ages will be provided songs, stories, puppet shows both in English and "Spanish." And a theater group will perform, of all things, "Wonder Tales from Africa." Not wonder tales of America or wonder tales of Lewis and Clark, but wonder tales of Africa so we once again can be told how bad a country we are and how poorly we treat our people I suppose, but then we digress. All this for "free" without a charge, without a fee, without a donation. No registration is required and all materials will be provided. Who is paying for all this activity? The taxpayers ya think? We both need exercise in our family to stay healthy. One of us has a membership at the local golf course and the annual fee is \$1,200. Another takes workout classes at the local YMCA. Just to attend one class three times per week costs \$40 per month or \$480 per year. One of us likes to hunt big game in Oregon. Just for the privilege of "applying" and entering the annual drawing for big game tags for deer, elk, antelope, sheep and goats we had to shell

out \$49.50 If we are actually successful in obtaining a tag the following fees will then apply: \$19.50 deer tag, \$34.50 elk tag, \$101.50 sheep tag, \$36.50 antelope tag and \$101.50 for a goat tag. We don't ask other people (taxpayers) to pay these fees for us. We pay them ourselves and feel good about it. Others should try this system. They might be surprised at the feeling of responsibility and achievement it might bring to their lives. We don't want this to sound like a rant and a rave. We are just average retired citizens trying to live our lives out in Albany in some sort of quiet desperation. When we retired we decided to stay here even though we could have lived in a dozen other places. We have put over \$75,000 into the improvement of our home so we can enjoy it since we spend a lot of time in the house now. Is it too much to ask that a small portion of the property taxes we already pay go towards keeping barking dogs to a minimum, the stray cats that want to poop in our rose beds curtailed and the gang graffiti off the new \$600 fence we just built in our back yard that borders the Periwinkle Creek walking/bike path? It was less than 2 months old before it got spray painted. There are many more retired people in our community than you might think who feel the same way we do. We don't go to public meetings or write crazy letters to the editor like **x** and most of the time we simply pay our bills on or ahead of time and keep our mouths shut while trying to enjoy what's left of the rest of our lives. Some might say we are "fortunate." It does not have anything to do with being fortunate. It has to do with working hard, getting an education, living a responsible life and making sound decisions during our working years. It does not have to do with abusing alcohol and drugs, sneaking across the border into someone else's country and suddenly waking up and realizing how miserable our life has become and then expecting someone else, namely the taxpayers to bail you out. We already pay enough and are either unable or unwilling to pay any more at the risk of us going into revolt. In 2006 we paid \$12,760 in total federal, state and property taxes and wrote off \$13,223 in medical expenses. In 2007 things improved a little but not much. We still paid \$12,104 in total taxes and \$11,260 in medical expenses. And although we're seniors, we are relatively healthy. But the percentage of our total taxes going to the property tax has risen from 20% to 23%; a disturbing trend. So as you are reviewing what we and others have told you here, think about this. Last month our phone bill was \$58.39. Of this, \$10.78 was for "Taxes, Fees & Surcharges;" that's 18.46%. This should prove to you that we already pay enough; from every corner, direction and aspect of our lives. We realize as City Council members and the Mayor you are volunteers just trying to do what is right. But we do hope that you understand what we have said here. We can pay no more nor do we want to. Like us, the City of Albany will just have to learn to live within its means and get by on what we already give you. Learn how to live on a fixed income. That's what we're doing and you should learn how to do the same. And by all means avoid all these "do-gooder" programs and projects you get bombarded with every day. Sometimes it stings to say **NO!** But in the long run it can be much better medicine than some people realize. Our folks did it to us all the time when we were growing up and we did not turn out all that bad. P.S. The City needs to do much more in enforcing the junk auto/RV storage ordinance. Our city is littered with these eyesores (that devalue our property) and little or nothing is done about them unless a citizen calls and calls and calls and writes letters or files complaints. Why have these ordinances on the books if they are not enforced. The City Manager needs to get out of his office and drive around the city streets and take a good hard look at all the junk that people have stored on their property. This does not have to be a financial drain on the city enforcing these ordinances. If we can charge \$302 for running a red light we can charge at least this much to remove this junk in fines. If it's not removed after proper warning, just have it towed and junked and place a lien against the property. Soon the word will get out and this stuff will start disappearing.

Don't give new businesses years of tax reduction as seniors all over are having problems paying all the taxes on home, gasoline, telephone, etc.

If the City of Albany were to purchase road repair services from companies that do **QUALITY** road work (look into what other countries are doing in this area), I would support it. Until then, absolutely not. We're wasting huge amounts of money for the cheapest work, then doing the same thing the next year.

It seems that both the City and Linn Co. have millions to help finance many unnecessary projects. Many necessary improvements are ignored. I think that the rush to make the city larger has precedence over improving livability. This is my view and it may not be what you want, but it is the truth.

We need "Free" or subsidized drug and alcohol classes for those who need and want it and cannot pay (or a repayment program). They need help and support. Also, more healthcare for the same people and very poor, the ones the Oregon Healthplan do not and cannot help.

Less fast food restaurants, more quality ones. Less two story homes built next to single story homes. I think city government does a good job.

City services are costly and poorly managed. For example, why are city fire trucks at grocery stores and firefighters grocery shopping. They should pick up groceries on personal time, not use city gas.

Civic leaders should not choose to look only at the past or only to what can be, but use a vision of both to form a vision of what Albany can be in the future.

North Albany growth - there is too much growth for the current infrastructure. The schools are overcrowded and the roads are not designed for so much traffic. This growth really needs to be studied. Perhaps the builders need to be taxed to pay for these infrastructure upgrades (similar to what Portland and Sunnyside have done).

Provide basic services, law enforcement and emergency response. Shut down all of the committees and study groups not focused on the above. Live within the budget and do the same with the schools. Maintain them instead of letting them fall apart, and then shoving a bond measure down our throats.

Clean out the local police and Sheriffs office. Get rid of trouble making Mexicans. Cut courthouse and City office in half. Make do with less people. Take away cell phones. We did without them in the 80s and 90s and got more work done.

Find a solution for Queen St. The trains are holding up traffic way too much.

Public Works Dept. to pay more attention to the street surfaces, maintain potholes, dips in streets (35th and Waverly settling for past two years!) Why not maintain streets with existing gasoline tax instead of hiring more engineers and using monies for administration?

There should be more safe options for teenagers at night. The bike path to Corvallis should be aggressively pursued. Downtown revitalization should be high priority. Few of the county roads have bike lanes, either. Thank you for allowing us to participate.

I have the perception that on neighborhood issues, public testimony is little regarded in decision making. I have seen numbers of people from a community testify on an issue affecting their community with great passion, only to receive a unanimous dissent from city council. This does not promote public involvement in city government.

Whoever planned the new roads through Geary, 9th, it's a mess. You all need to figure it out before construction. You didn't improve anything except faster speeds through town.

Appreciate x leadership. With some community involvement/awareness, we can make Albany an even greater place to live.

I would like the city to be more pro-active in cultural and economic activities downtown. Outside of River Rhythms, everything seems to be done with mediocre approach.

Listen to your citizens!

Need grocery store for west-side area. Leave Water Street alone, until train tracks are gone. Council will do what they want, no matter what the public wants. Older people are having a hard time with expenses already, don't need any more.

I am a strong supporter of public parklands and would like to see increased funding for parks. I would also like to see a waterfront park connection between Bowman Park and the Dave Clark Walkway.

Encourage businesses, homes and neighborhoods to take pride in the community. Derelict areas are downers in many ways. Keep after the county and city about litter. Encourage school personnel to instill pride in the students about themselves and their neighborhoods.

I do not work for the City's planning or budget committee, so I cannot completely say how they conduct business. As a resident, I can tell you that the property taxes are too high, and from what I hear and read, it appears that the city never has any money for anything. I would suggest a complete evaluation of the full budget to find out why the city doesn't have any money, and how to better put it to use. Also, I think it is a complete waste of taxpayers' money to do surveys like this. There has to be another way. It is also a completely inaccurate way to find the citizens of Albany's views.

The one thing that is a detriment to living in Albany is the extreme high water rates. While I understand that improvements had to be done, why did the increases have to be done all at once, and on the backs of the working family!! Thanks for the great park at 53rd St. and River Rhythms and great teachers and school district.

We're disappointed with the haphazard development of N. Albany. We moved here because of the rural area, the wildlife, trees, etc. Now we have houses all over with plans for more, all for the almighty developers. We saw this happen to Los Altos and other areas of California. There's no change in your planning, just the same old, same old. Too bad! Please don't always accommodate the large property owners nor "influential" (\$\$\$) folks.

I'm very concerned regarding the amount of drug use and/or related crime in our city. There are some areas of our city that are extremely run down, e.g., Old Salem Road's "trailer" housing. I'm thankful and quite pleased with the "cleanup/new face" coming to our downtown. It is very appealing! Albany's library and community college are exceptional. My children do not attend Albany's schools, but I would like to see better management of the taxpayers' funds which they receive, and better management of funds in our city.

I'm concerned about the amount of transients we are seeing around the Helping Hands shelter. They are often in the street and given the location, I don't think it's a good representation of our city. I don't like my daughter seeing people sleeping all over in the middle of town. After seeing the number of registered sex offenders who have that listed as their address, I don't think housing them near one of our child friendly facilities (Cool Pool) is very safe.

I think the City of Albany needs to invest in a recycling center like Marion County does. It would provide jobs and help with the ecology problem. The city owns lots of property (like that 75 acres it just bought) and could put the property to good use. I live in one of our mobile home parks, privately owned, and I think the city needs to make the owners of these parks more responsible to their occupants. Crime, trash, upkeep in my park is sorely neglected by our owner and manager!

We have been here two years. We like Albany.

We've tried to get the city to respond to a city building code violation for two years. We were told different things, but nothing was ever done. Now, when trying to sell our home, we are struggling because we have an enormous (ugly) bird shack on our property line! At what point does the city stop allowing people to raise exotic birds within city limits for a profit, raising them in 20 foot shacks that have electricity running to them (built one foot off the property line), without getting/needng a permit. Glad we bought a new house outside Albany's city limits.

Don't feel safe going for walks anymore; too many weirdoes loitering.

Roundabout up N. Albany Rd./Gibson Hill Rd. Gibson Hill Road seems to think they have the right of way (period)! A flashing yellow needs to be installed in their (?) area to wake them up that first in has right of way. I see accidents in the future! I am tired of having to stop in the middle of my round so they can bomb down in front of me!!!!

We live in Albany, but work, shop and spend our time in Corvallis. We do enjoy summer concerts and parades in Albany, though.

I wish that Albany had a transit system that was more convenient for those of us in the outer areas of the city (N. Albany, specifically). Longer operating hours, more routes, and easier access would all help. I wish that Albany had a downtown that was a source of pride for its residents, somewhere you'd love to show off to out of town visitors, a place filled with businesses for shopping, eating, simply hanging out. It's getting there! Each improved historic building there brings us one step closer, but more incentives are necessary to sustain the bit of progress. Thank you for the opportunity to address my Albany "pet peeves."

Good work getting the Albany-Corvallis trail funding. I am really looking forward to seeing it complete. LIMITED growth east of I-5 would promote growth downtown.

Stop being afraid of negative sounding critical comments. It is needed so the citizens feel they will be listened to on critical growth questions. Stress the importance of small business since they are the most vested in the community.

Police response needs to be better. Respond to cold car break-ins. I discovered fingerprints and advised police to please lift for latent prints. They refused. They refused to even come out. Hire more officers if APD is too short handed. Other than that, APD is doing a great job. Keep up the great work.

Do not install any more "traffic calming" structures. They are super expensive and they had a thing on 60 Minutes that the curb extensions encourage pedestrians to get run over, and slowing emergency vehicles costs lives.

Street improvements and repairs are not the most pressing issues for this city! In many areas, Albany is trashy and neglected. I know we have poor areas, but businesses should have to comply to certain aesthetic codes. I love Albany, but it's embarrassing in some areas.

I'd like to see the City bus let us put our walker on the bus; they do in Corvallis. There we can ride the bus more.

Hotline and police do something about drug deals going down at the time. Why should honest people have to give their names when they see something going on?? Every citizen of Albany, not only homeowners, needs to pay their share to help keep Albany a good place to live. We don't need another shopping area by Coastal Farm!!

I like the direction the town fathers/council have taken in the last five years. The civic improvements and planning and zoning have greatly improved appearance and services in Albany. I am very upset with drug-related crimes. I think that our police department is doing a great job. I think it is obvious we need more policemen/officers.

Please continue River Rhythms and the restoration of downtown Albany.

More planning between departments would be great. Our street (36th Ave. SW) was in need of paving for over 15 years. Once it finally got repaved, it had big holes dug in it a year and a half later to do a water dept. project, and then was very poorly patched! POOR PLANNING!!! WASTE OF \$\$\$!

Love it here - NA Village a great asset to us living here. Help revitalize Downtown; not everyone likes driving to the current congested shopping area. I've lived here since 1956, seen it grow. Albany is a wonderful place to live, and growth is inevitable.

Stop growth in North Albany because of too much traffic congestion. Pacific Blvd. - Geary St. intersection. Homelessness. City streets.

I recently had my car vandalized and had to work with the APD. I was very disappointed with the treatment I received and how they handled it. They need to step up their game and keep up their community's respect. I understand their job is difficult, but that's no reason to slack or be rude. The APD needs an attitude adjustment.

Gang related issues. Crack down illegal citizens.

Planning committee is way too single agenda biased. Water rates too high. Support family activities/programs. Higher quality restaurants. Continue to improve Downtown area.

Quit having surveys that are outsourced to a Eugene company when you have people on staff that can perform the same task at no extra charge.

No Wal-Mart! Look at Lebanon! Albany would lose jobs to low-paying Wal-Mart. Businesses would suffer and close. Do we want Albany a city of "low wage" earners? Wake up! If people want to drive to poor Lebanon, let them. Look what it has done to them!

If you provide assistance for roads, sewer, etc. you want more taxes. You people are taxing everyone to death. You keep giving money to places like JC Penney and riverfront. This money should be for us, the people, like street improvements. \$1,384,000 was in the paper, front page April 3, 2008 - that is just way out of line, giving that much money out.

Find ways to lower water costs to citizens. The water bill in our home has gone up by almost 25% due to expansion of the water facilities. It seems a bit unreasonable to have a large increase in the past seven years since we've moved here from Hawaii.

Increase efforts to revitalize the downtown area. Shopping and restaurant choices are limited in downtown Albany so people go to Corvallis, Salem, Eugene, and Portland to shop and dine.

I take issue with all the new stop signs that keep popping up all over the city. It seems to me that the City believes that most people have no common sense when it comes to driving.

Concerned with recent notices regarding lead in the water, allowing criminally insane people to set up house in Albany without public hearing, etc. There is no indoor park for kids during winter months.

I would build two bridges across the Willamette River, but not where it was suggested a few months ago. Contact me if interested in the locations. 926-3785.

North Albany: no more growth. Structures can't take it - roads. Halt growth in this area. This was supposed to be a rural area. Traffic is terrible. If the city is going to use West Thornton Lake for storm drain, they need to be an active participant in helping the lake stay clean. City is pro-growth. No balance in decision-making. It appears they make their mind up before they listen to the community. City has good drinking water. A plus. Clean up drug problem in Hackelman District. Homeless - problem on First St. and River walks. Make this area safer. Create more safe walking, bike trails in downtown and N. Albany.

Downtown really is hurting. I've talked with a lot of people that just don't like it. What to do about it, I just don't know. It's been that way for so long. I would like to see something done to improve it.

Albany's large transient population is annoying and unsafe, and should NOT be encouraged. There also seems to be a large amount of drug users, and therefore increased theft, etc. The city needs a big clean-up program for these two problems.

Speed bumps on east end Morse Lane SW, like a raceway when people come around the corner, many small children!

Would love Albany to be a no smoking community. Our family would bowl and go out more in town if it was smoke free. I work downtown (for the State) and love it. But I don't shop much downtown, I'm not a "fashion boutique" person, and while I love to browse antiques, my home is full. I shop for groceries, kids (young adult) clothes, and household goods all at Bi-Mart, Safeway, Ray's, Target, Ross. We eat at Mexican Restaurants in 2-Rivers, Riley's on occasion and Wyatt's from time to time. We will consider switching to the new optometrist office downtown (Pearson) because our current doc is in Lebanon. Would love to have Dr./Dentist downtown for convenience. And a McMinimin type restaurant/entertainment. (Saw in paper tonight about new project at Buzz Saw Property - yay!) Unfortunately, low prices drive where I shop (and most people, I think) which means small shops aren't as viable for my needs as Bi-Mart/Target. I would like to be more supportive, but it is hard to justify spending more. I don't shop

at Fred Meyer as a rule because there are cheaper alternatives, so big isn't always the key. I don't have the answer, but I sure love the small town, downtown feel. Especially the spring and summer hanging baskets and the winter/holiday stars/snowflakes. Thanks for asking.

The City has an income tax base - quit trying to raise new taxes for new projects. Fix the streets with existing funds. Operate the City the same way we have to live - on a fixed income.

In this day and age of tracking and communication, GPS, cell, radio, etc. I would think the need for endless train horn blowing all night long while the switch process is taking place should be on the way to needless. It sure is a pain when you're trying to sleep in the summer when windows are open!

Listen to what your residents have to say. We are taxed to death.

The City Council should consider tax incentives to businesses creating new jobs only if they provide a livable wage. The City Council needs to listen to the people of the community, and not have their minds made up beforehand, like that Pepsi thing (bad decision).

My opinion may be biased, but I think nighttime police should increase. I have been robbed three times in the last three years, all in the dead of night when normal working people are sleeping. Most of the theft I believe is due to the meth problem here. I would like to see something done about it.

We need a westside grocery store. Renew efforts. Perhaps at the current YMCA site?

Our city land use and zoning laws are too restrictive. Please make it make sense! Why is your answer "No" before a resident asks "Can I ..." I know this is a vague statement, but I work in Real Estate and hear and see the negative stance on growth. We are not Corvallis, at least I thought!

Lower property taxes. We seem to be a haven for the homeless.

Albany is a great place to live. Thanks for the great cooperation between the city, schools, and business community.

Fuel taxes are not going to be received well with the current price of gasoline. Maybe look at offering more public free wireless internet access similar to Portland's project, but not on that large of a scale.

City of Albany is doing a nice job; keep it up!

Growth rate is okay regarding population, but too slow regarding economic opportunities. Funding streets should be the burden of all residents and businesses, not just property owners.

My priorities: economic incentives to keep and attract businesses. Development and maintenance of alternative forms of transportation in cooperation with Corvallis and Lebanon such as safe pedestrian and bicycling facilities, public van or bus systems, incentives to commute by train if your job is out of the tri-city area.

Need to address the traffic flow from Ellsworth to 9th onto Pacific Blvd. I have seen more near accidents than anywhere in town. One idea, albeit expensive, is to widen the overpass to allow both lanes to continue and become part of Pacific Blvd.

I feel like having worked all my life and never been on assistance, I'm tired of paying out for people that do not deserve "free programs" from the City or County and State. Making more funding for streets, etc. is necessary, but making existing programs accountable is essential. Will Albany government stand up to County and State government and make sure our money is spent wisely before sticking out their hands asking for more?

A grocery store on the SW side of town would be nice, or Target.

Where is money! With all the new homes, construction added to Linn County past 10 years tax roll, why do the library, schools, etc. need more money. Cut government spending! Douglas County fairground makes money, why is Linn County fairground losing money?

Lower our property taxes - we pay much too much.

I believe that when hooking up water or sewer to the city, it should be by the size of the house, or number of bedrooms, not by the footage of the front of the property.

What portion of our current taxes and fees go toward streets. We chose to move here because at the time we could better afford taxes and a house in Linn Co. than Corvallis area (where we really wanted to be!) Shortly thereafter Albany area taxes adjusted to same old same! So for 14 years we have lived here, no not angrily because we would rather be in Benton Co. or Corvallis area, but watching the community flap around like beached fish. Okay, so where then am I going. You put up red light cameras at one intersection for why – it's like putting a guard at one bank. If you want to fix the problem forget the red light cameras and patrol the whole area on an ongoing area, not to hand out \$300 tickets that do nothing more than a much lesser fine in actually deterring infractions. Presence is a deterrent. Being watched, stopped, told not to do it or get a ticket is not only a good way to deter but to get people without license and insurance off the street. We have a Neighborhood Watch sign on our street, but no watch – plenty of crime though. If you bust people who buy and sell meth (you know when people call you and say here come here, there's a meth house in my neighborhood) you let these know they can't do that, it will stop – same as traffic problems. Bottom line – if you want me to pay more you have to do more – more than point out the obvious. Come to me and offer services. The speed limit in front of my house is 35 – 10% of the cars exceed 50+.

Why did you close down the homeless community and put all of those people out on the streets? I strongly disagreed with this move and lost respect for our city council decisions. Why is the city council forcing away big businesses that could bring more jobs to our area? Even if they bring their own people with them that would bring more consumers to the area. Does the city have an emergency preparedness plan? What would we do if we have an earthquake?

North Albany - major traffic issues! Too much growth not enough road improvements! Need a new or another bridge from Hwy. 20 into Albany.

Need grocery stores in south, a larger police force, skating rink, bowling more accessible to in town persons, more buses - longer running times maybe weekends, help for low income on utilities, especially water and sewage.

Education, smaller class sizes, should be the number 1 priority. New residential streets should be wider and sizes should be larger (7500 sq. ft. min.).

End CARA or offer it to all of Albany. Hire people who have been in business vs. college grads. Stop making parks. We don't know any city councilors or the mayor. We always did in the past. It's like a club now. Get rid of x. He's for big business only. No more homeless support. Solve the problem! Forget new taxes. It's a waste of your time. You have a good budget. Work within it!

Downtown along Water Street including the old buzz saw building and the torn down cannery. It's waterfront property and should be treated as such.

We need to find a better way of funding street bonds and school bonds and all bonds, other than raising our property tax. Our property taxes are getting too high.

When I went to OSU in Corvallis the university did not have any desire on training the locals of this community. They wanted to serve international students where they were making 300/cent more money than with us. However, if you want other corporations to open plants around this area, then you need to talk to the universities to start graduating students in other fields, like engineering instead of social sciences.

Lots of nice parks in Albany. Need more parking downtown.

More recreation opportunities, specifically some decent soccer fields! The glorified parking lot at Timber Linn does not count. Flat, irrigated or better yet, field turf like the Eugene high schools have.

I hope there is a park for a stop light at Hickory and Springhill. It is already a hazard and poor design. When the rest of Hickory is built out the traffic there will be impossible. Also at Crocker Lane and Gibson Hill Road. These should have been paid out of development fees - before the mass developments were filled. Also - how about planting more evergreen trees! Huge quantities are felled for development, then the City plants deciduous trees everywhere. No habitat for birds. No shelter in winter. North Albany used to be rich in birds, now they are fast disappearing. That will mean an upswing in the mosquito population, and no natural means of control. I wish the "Powers that Be" would look past the dollar signs of the contractor and the idiotic goal of 50,000 people and worry about the falling quality of life here!

Prices everywhere are too high and growing higher every month; Young people can't get jobs that pay enough, and older people thought they are able to have an enjoyable life and leave their children a small nest egg.

Do not allow developers to serve as or on city council.

The Albany police force is the most disinterested in the safety of older people; walkers especially. Speeding, drug trafficking seems to have gotten worse. They are also some of the rudest policemen that I have ever talked to. Pacify is all they seem to want to do.

Please use my taxes to pay for jobs and economically beneficial programs. Please do not make more parks or monuments at this time. Find something that will raise the economic status of our people, and new libraries, parks, and other such things will naturally be provided for once our ability to fund them has increased.

The city needs to help develop business centers/shopping areas in North Albany and South Albany and it is almost easier to drive to Corvallis for my shopping needs instead of to the Albany businesses. Changing zoning requirements/flexibility along Pacific would be a boon to the area.

Put up old fashion stocks on courthouse yard for youth's minor crimes. Put youth in stock for a day with the crime and his/her name written above their head! Embarrass them! The one thing kids fear is embarrassment, so use it!! To stop them and make a real impression on their minds that they won't forget. Sitting in a cell only allows them to sulk and think of other mischief to get into! If you really want results, put the parents in stocks too! Old fashion methods worked; today's methods fail miserably. Also, community service is another tool, riding with emergency response teams also teaches that drinking and driving kills and the terrible results of crime with weapons - let them see the pain and blood and death for real, not on TV. Time has come for reality measures.

Stop the garbage company from maintaining our parks, and put it back into the city. You would save money as well as creating a youth and court assisted program.

Put Wal-Mart in.

The Hwy. 99 overpass will be too expensive and is not needed. It will disrupt travel between SE Albany and LBCC area. The city council favors increased development over quality of life. Library funding inadequate compared with parks funding. Parks dept. should not be making Timber-Linn park property available to a private enterprise (YMCA).

I think Albany is one of the nicest places I've lived, I have guardianship of 4 of my small grand-children, and we love the many neighborhood parks. And the homeless shelter! My grandchildren love Sunrise Elementary school and the staff, especially Mrs. Freeman!

I was raised in Albany and came back here to raise my family. Now my grandchildren live here. All of my children have fond memories of things like River Rhythms and the Christmas candlelight ceremony. The new things the Downtown Assoc. is adding are great. We enjoy Moves by Moonlight especially. We do need to get a grip on crime

though. Overall I think the roads are pretty good but I know it costs \$ to keep them that way. Our city council needs to learn we can't keep Albany the small town they grew up in if they don't want it to die. Major industry will only fight the nonsense so long and then they will just go elsewhere.

I moved here to retire. Currently working at low level job to stay busy! Intermediate jobs very hard to find. (Was corp. VP). Don't want high level management but I have a lot of knowledge.

As a retired person who doesn't drive anymore and do not get out in town only shopping and medical business, am not too observant in the city downtown.

When I worked for industries, when economy got tight they cut back on overtime and each person done more. I was a millwright for Scott paper Co. at Everett Wash. for 18 yrs. We had 4 paper machines when I started they added 1 more machine. Se we answered calls on 5 machines, no extra pay we just worked harder.

I do not support your hired company red light program. It is just an improper way in which to generate money without problems. Also added more police but still get some poor service when one calls (too busy-not enough staff etc.) Stop city workers from smoking in city (taxpayer) vehicles. Also, don't toss butts and packs in my yard. Keep our parks repaired and to high standards. Better drug enforcement. One of worse female violators was arrested one day and shot up a friend and O.D. him (died) the next. Still she is out and about.

Albany needs to look at wireless internet, fixing traffic congestion around the mall area and making streets wider when building new subdivisions. The water rates need to be controlled; they continue to climb to the point where people don't water their yards because they can't afford to.

The city personnel from police to city hall are rude and arrogant. Fix that!

Why do taxpayers in Albany have to pay 1.3 million to CARA, it will not benefit many of us at all?!

Listen to the people (all, not just a few). Keep waterfront development aesthetical - the proposed bldg. replacing the buzz saw is atrocious and not in keeping with waterfront beautification. Need to consider everyone when approving development of housing areas and "strip malls." Not just cater to the developers wishes. Also need to consider the economy when approving all this development. Empty buildings (store or homes) do not bode well for a community, nor unmaintained parks, etc. Quit spending "just because you have it" today - next year you may need that general fund overage. Be thrifty just as we are required to be at home. We are tired of new tax proposals because no one planned ahead. Who commissioned the library bldg. proposal? The outside color proposals are horrible! And for that they spent how much? We need a building that fits with the area - not one that sticks out like a "sore" thumb. Be reasonable.

Not enough stuff for teens to do activities. Bored teens can cause trouble. Bring back the Timber Carnival! Albany should look into minor league football/baseball team. A nice tennis court; you tore down the core at Timber Linn.

As we are on a limited income more taxes will put us out of our home. A grocery store is necessary in West Albany.

I think an overpass for the train tracks on Queen St. would help a lot!

Library should stay open longer and library should have more resources. More speed bumps on residential areas streets.

I am concerned about the laissez faire attitude the city has regarding properties that are unlive in and deteriorating. The hazardous sidewalks in the historic district (cracked, uneven surfaces) and the lack of a downtown area that consists of shops, restaurants and businesses conducive to walking! Shopping are other concerns.

It is so difficult to merge to the left going west on Pacific after Geary St. (by Walgreen's).

Since the economy isn't the best, it makes it difficult for taxpayers to pay more. Also senior citizens on a fixed income over a certain age (65+) should be exempt from paying more property tax increases. Spend the taxpayers' money very frugally. Red light cameras are a waste of money, in my opinion. Many water pipes in SE Albany are leaking and in need a repair. A lot of city water is wasted.

I am concerned about the number of group homes we are getting here in Albany. Criminal, mental and others. We are starting to turn over our lovely historical section of homes to more and more group homes. Albany seems to be targeted, which will eventually ruin these historical homes for other owners in the area.

We need more police officers ticketing speeders, tailgating and reckless drivers.

Police is starting to go in the right direction. After years of no traffic police we finally have two. City council wasting money on issues like generating plant. Cost over one million to start, will generate maybe \$30,000 year. And cost thousands to operate a year. City not keeping up with road repair because of wasteful spending on other projects.

Albany maybe one of Oregon's best kept secrets; over the past six years we've seen many cosmetic and shopping and entertainment improvements. Even the smell from Millersberg has diminished. I'm sure everyone has their wish lists, but everything costs money or should I say has a price. It would be nice to find positive ways to support organizations that help the homeless. Also find a way to make Albany more bicycle friendly.

Perhaps bringing in different (more) stores. Heritage Mall is slowly getting better. More variety for shopping and eating would make Albany even better!

Albany needs a Petco/Petsmart, Victoria's Secret. Timberlinn Park needs tennis courts.

Police must be given the authority to identify illegal immigrants and detain them until they are processed through the deportation systems. Relieving the financial burden illegals bring to the city could free up more dollars for street repairs.

We need still more police officers, so we can have more than one, several officers, patrolling solely for traffic offenses during a shift! I've seen just blatant disregard for the traffic laws, because there is very little fear, of getting caught. We also need a red light camera on Waverly and Santiam.

Moratorium on building in N. Albany until the long-term transportation problems are resolved. Significantly improve bicycle and pedestrian routes. Push developers to build higher-quality structures and allocate a higher percentage of the project budget to retaining and installing mature attractive landscaping (e.g. trees). Expand cultural opportunities.

Concern over the city officials voting in a mayor that was not an elected official. Concern with the school board choosing to bus students across town to attend another crowded school - extra fuel costs!

This is a nice town but the traffic and parks are bad – wasteful. Waste of money on replacing signs that now look awful, when we had nice looking signs already. This parks guy, x, needs to work in Portland, not here. He has no clue about this town. The “freeway” built from the mission and soup kitchen to the Helping Hands is a highway for perverts and homeless. This was a really brilliant idea and a huge waste of money. Also, if you live downtown you can be blasted out of your seat when trucks come down the overpass with their J brakes so loud the windows shake. This is a new event since putting in the unnecessary stop light at the bottom. Before that, this was a quiet area.

Lower the water rates. Get the train tracks off of Queen - overpass or something.

Skate park safer. More things for teens to do.

Please fix the Queen Ave. RR crossing!

Stop making more congestion in North Albany. Stop making stupid decisions without checking things advisable.

Consider 4-way stop at SW 12th and Elm and eliminate SW 12th & Calapooia.

Clean up the Police Dept.

We live off of Century Dr. and would really like sidewalks on this road. So many people walk in this area it would be nice if they were safe. New bike park would be great help; keep kids safe and entertained.

Continuing to restore or "clean up" run-down areas of town is important for families to feel like they are in a safe environment. More serious consequences for drug-related crimes are part of helping to create a safe, clean environment for families.

I love Albany, even though I've only been back here 3 years I actually grew up in Albany but left for about 20 years. I was surprised that there didn't seem to be as much growth as I thought would have taken place. And I am very saddened by businesses such as the adult video store and the new opening of the Pussycat Club. This was not what I saw as being good growth for Albany. I really enjoy old town - the remodel of the Pix, Toki Teriyaki and the many small businesses. Have you considered a "Trader Joes" as a business for Albany?

More retail development in the south end of town would be appreciated. South end residents must drive to the north end of town to buy groceries, get vehicle services, purchase entertainment, etc.

Albany with progressive leadership sits in a position to attract many new economic opportunities in the mid-Willamette Valley, and should do all it can to attract these opportunities. Failing to do so will place Albany in a weak spot a generation from now. Many new people live in Albany who work in Eugene and Salem (cheaper housing), but this may change if Albany doesn't.

Albany's city government is fiscally out of control. It needs to be "streamlined" and run more efficiently. The number of FTEs added in the last ten years is unwarranted - since the government "growth" has outpaced the growth of the entire city!

There is nothing downtown Albany to even bother to drive there for. Especially the "car" mess in the summer with the bands on the river.

Traffic control device (light) at Marion and 34th Avenues (Circle K intersection).

I'm very disappointed in the amount of homeless people roaming the city streets. Albany has become a "magnet" for the homeless. I would also like to see restrictions put on new multi-family housing in the south or east Albany area. It needs to be equally distributed throughout the city. With all the new construction in North Albany, there is no multi-family housing allowed.

I have lost total respect for the Albany Police Officers. They are dishonest. They need to take some classes on people skills and treating people with some respect.

Increasing taxes should be done slowly and gradually. Our economic situation is already precarious and companies are not interested in paying living wages so that people can survive and have a little to put away. One way to cut costs is to cut exorbitant salaries of administrative and bureaucratic officials. You get elected to the position because people think you will do some good, not so we can fill your pockets with money.

Stop charging such outrageous water/sewer rates!! What a joke!!

City is too pro-development, at any cost. The City does not listen to the people, only to things that bring "growth." There is no thought for current population, only what will make it larger. At this stage, more growth only brings more problems, not more money. Albany is not equipped to handle any type of growth (business, subdivisions, etc.)

The City allowing a large amount of shelters and rehab centers to accumulate in the downtown area has ruined my SW neighborhood. As a single working woman, I can't coexist with the transients that pound on my door for money

or the violence, stealing, etc. When I look at my \$3,300 tax bill for my home, I wonder what I'm paying for. With all the effort put into glorifying the historic area, it is pointless without a serious change in mindset from the City regarding this. Thought I would live in Albany a long time. Not now!

Albany is in need of economic stimulus. New businesses downtown Corvallis is a wonderful example. Tax incentives to create a work study program for teens that work for local businesses.

NO GAS TAX! ARE YOU INSANE?

There are far too many housing developments! Stop raising property taxes.

Helping Hands is a big scam! You give them money when they have plenty with all the donations they get; they don't claim all cash donations. If Albany knew what went on at Albany Helping Hands, they would close it down. And our kids go without some things and our streets need repair. Money could be used for other resources!

Please attract some nice sit-own restaurants, no more fast food joints. Some areas of town could stand to be cleaned up. I live near a manufactured home park - there is traffic in and out all night long - high suspicion of meth labs. Also, I would like to see more development of nicer homes and businesses on the southeast side of town and south side in general.

More groceries on west side. Improvement of SW Pacific corridor. Limit east of I-5 residential growth. Railroad blockage of Queen. Far east side location of library.

Prepared by Advanced Marketing Research, Inc.

DATA TABLES

QUESTIONNAIRE INSTRUMENT