



CITY OF MONTPELIER, VT 2009

Report of Open-ended Question

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SURVEY BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality survey methods and comparable results across The National Citizen Survey™ jurisdictions. Participating households are selected at random and the household member who responds is selected without bias. Multiple mailings give each household more than one chance to participate with self-addressed and postage paid envelopes. Results are statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of the entire community.

The National Citizen Survey™ customized for this jurisdiction was developed in close cooperation with local jurisdiction staff. The City of Montpelier staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community problems; they defined the jurisdiction boundaries NRC used for sampling; and they provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings. City of Montpelier staff also determined local interest in a variety of add-on options to The National Citizen Survey™ Basic Service.

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

ABOUT CLOSED-ENDED AND OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Questions can either be asked in a closed-ended or open-ended manner. A closed-ended question is one where a set of response options is listed on the survey. Those taking the survey respond to each option listed. Open-ended questions have no answer choices from which respondents select their response. Instead, respondents must “create” their own answers and state them in their own words. The verbatim responses are categorized by topic area using codes. An “other” category is used for responses falling outside the coded categories. In general, a code is assigned when at least 5-10% of responses will fit the code.

Advantages of an open-ended question include:

- Responses are not prompted, allowing respondents to provide answers that are not anticipated or well known.
- This type of question tends to capture response options that come to mind most quickly.
- The final result can be richer, since verbatim responses are included in an appendix, giving you and others a chance to “hear” the voice of respondents in their own words.
- There is a smaller risk of missing important dimensions.

VERBATIMS

Respondents were asked to record their opinions about Montpelier in the following question:

- What is the most important issue the City of Montpelier will face over the next five years?

The verbatim responses were categorized by topic area and those topics are reported in the following table with the percent of responses given in each category. Those verbatim responses are grouped by the first topic listed in each comment whenever a respondent mentioned more than a single topic. Verbatim comments that contain more than one topic nevertheless appear only once (in the category of the first topic listed).

Results from the open-ended question are best understood by reviewing the table of frequencies that summarize responses as well as the actual verbatim responses themselves.

| Montpelier Open-ended Question | |
|---|------------------------|
| What is the most important issue the City of Montpelier will face over the next five years? | Percent of respondents |
| Taxes/property taxes/taxes too high | 20% |
| Economic development/jobs | 15% |
| Housing affordability/availability | 10% |
| Budget/maintaining services/loss of revenue/fiscal responsibility | 8% |
| Retaining families/aging population/decline in population | 7% |
| Growth issues/planning | 7% |
| Schools | 6% |
| Affordability/cost of living | 6% |
| Downtown development and parking | 5% |
| Infrastructure | 3% |
| Other | 12% |
| Don't Know | 2% |
| Total | 100% |

VERBATIM RESPONSES TO OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

The following pages contain the respondents' verbatim responses as written on the survey and have not been edited for spelling or grammar. Responses have been organized by coded topic areas.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE THE CITY OF MONTPELIER WILL FACE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

Taxes/Property taxes too high

- Adding additional revenue sources to reduce reliance on the property tax
- Affordability of property taxes
- Balancing the tax load on citizens!
- Because of rising taxes. They are driving senior citizens and middle income people out.
- City taxes are way out of proportion for the size town we live in. Not school tax, city tax!
- Collecting property taxes
- Elevated property tax rates and crumbling school infrastructure
- Escalating taxes
- Ever increasing property taxes - We must reduce these!
- Finding a funding source other than property taxes - We are taxed to the max - My family could be forced to move out of Montpelier.
- Finding alternate forms of revenue besides/in addition to property tax - use local option taxes.
- For me its the taxes, if they continue to rise, only wealthy people will be able to live in Mont.
- Forcing Montpelier residents to go else where to live. Too high taxes reduce tenders by 50% reduce city gov't by 20%
- Getting your property tax structure under control where average wage earners/or retirees can keep their homes!
- High + property tax burden on homeowners!
- High cost of property taxes - New housing will increase cost - More residents do not pay for themselves.
- High cost on prop. tax ever increasing cost of schools
- High property taxes
- High property taxes
- High tax rate and lower student enrollment lack of new business
- High taxes
- High taxes
- How to lower property taxes - fund education equally across the board we all pay thru income tax
- How will people pay the taxes, the school expenses are out of control and new construction is suppressed.
- Increase in property taxes. Increase in school taxes
- Increase of taxes without a stable resource for payment. Long time residents, especially those on fixed incomes cant stay here!
- Increasing property taxes
- Keep raising taxes the taxpayers will leave and non-tax payers will occupy the town-
- Keeping taxes down so people with level incomes can still afford to live here. The elderly have owners, who have supported the community their entire lives should not have to move.
- Keeping taxes from rising to much
- Keeping taxes low
- Loss of residents because of high taxation
- Lower school & property taxes!!! It's getting too expensive to live here.

- Lower the property taxes! Lower the property taxes! Lower the property taxes!
- Lowering property tax
- Lowering property taxes or citizens will have to move.
- Lowering tax rates especially the schools
- Mass exodus of home owners who can no longer afford to pay high property taxes.
- Massive taxes for a dwindling school population - regionalize!
- Must do something to lower property taxes.
- Not raising taxes - possibly reducing them. The state should pay more on the pilot program.
- Our taxes are out of control. They must be reduced.
- Outrageous property taxes!
- Payment in heavy taxes from state govt all talk no action, State should pay its fair share
- People moving out of Montpelier because of high taxes. Please consolidate schools.
- Prioritizing use of property taxes.
- Property tax
- Property tax affordability
- Property tax control and maintaining a vibrant downtown.
- Property tax increases
- Property tax issue
- Property tax relief for homeowners while maintaining high quality schools, parks, roads, maintenance and libraries.
- Property tax stabilization.
- Property tax state quo or reduction if possible. Keeping an downtown area thriving - No empty stores..
- Property taxes
- Property taxes
- Property taxes
- Property taxes
- Property taxes - not taking people out of the community
- Property taxes - Too expensive
- Property taxes are too high-
- Property taxes make this a very tough place - ex. retirement - Jobs are not highly paid, so taxes are a disproportionate burden
- Property taxes squeezing out the middle class.
- Property taxes too high. Consolidate cross walks
- Raising money in some way other than property taxes
- Raising of property taxes. Especially for users who have, lived here for many years and their income doesn't increase with the cost of living.
- Real estate taxes-maintaining affordability.
- Redistribution & taxes to lessen the burden on residents
- Reduce property taxes
- Reduce property taxes cut spending
- Reduce property taxes cut wasteful spending on proposals and studies etc.
- Reducing cost of living in property taxes & creating more jobs
- Reducing property taxes
- Reducing property taxes
- Reducing taxes on home owners
- Reduction of taxes
- Residents out taxed from city - forced out of community
- Rising cost of property taxes/water & sewer. I'm here 5 yrs, and have to sell my home it is so expensive.
- Rising property taxes & lack of new businesses.

- Rising property taxes affect on home ownership.
- Rising school taxes and costs of policing city.
- Rising taxes
- Rising taxes! This is why population is dealing not from lack of housing
- School taxes
- Sustaining services while keeping taxes in check - Montpelier must do more to recover pilot funds.
- Tax burden to citizens.
- Tax rate
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes-
- Taxes - Affordability!
- Taxes - affordable to stay here
- Taxes - You will lose families who can't afford to live here. That will affect schools and other issues. I will not be here in 2 years due to taxes being the highest in the state.
- Taxes are too high
- Taxes Taxes Taxes
- Taxes!
- Taxes!
- Taxes!
- Taxes, cost control,
- Taxes, debt, unemployment, & the program
- Taxes, parking
- Taxes.
- Taxes. This survey is bogus. The real issues are not addressed here. Too many people have moved here from somewhere else. The real Vermonters are leaving because it's become too expensive. It's a shame.
- Taxing people on limited incomes out of our home
- The high property taxes. Young families are not moving here because of them.
- The high taxes are driving the moderate and middle income home owners out of the city.
- The need to reduce property taxes - reduce staff in city gov't, and schools
- The rising tax rate
- The unsustainability of the property tax burden coupled with a school system with out-of-control growth in their budgets. And, please note, I value education very highly; but, the schools have become tyrannical!
- The very high property taxes

Economic Development/Jobs

- Attracting new businesses that pay livable wages
- Changing economy.
- Creating opportunities for business growth, and controlling costs and taxes.
- Declining dollar.
- Due to economic troubles in the nation, I feel Montpelier will suffer, as it is very small, and businesses will lose a lot of money, therefore shut down.

- Economic development - job retention - maintaining/keeping local young adults from moving elsewhere. Parking and public transportation will also be an issue in enabling retail locations to maintain brisk business.
- Economic development that preserves the integrity of Montpelier.
- Economic growth without losing the small town feel
- Economic opportunities taxes
- Economy
- Economy
- Economy
- Economy housing
- Employment
- Employment
- Employment and infrastructure
- Employment opportunities with a livable wage
- Employment, housing
- Empty store fronts and their impact on the perception of the community.
- Empty store fronts owned by Jeff Jacobs & family
- Encourage private sector economic growth and housing opportunities for all income levels.
- Growing an economic base that can afford all the services this city has come to pay for.
- If the economy & job opportunities continue to be poor then there will be more poverty and that breeds crime.
- Job creation
- Job loss
- Job losses & the economy
- Joblessness
- Jobs
- Jobs
- Jobs - availability of good \$ 40k + jobs. Costs - water/sewer/prop taxes - affordability & housing costs.
- Jobs - People will want to move here, but we need employment opportunities, encourage business to invest here, and create jobs. Also encourage small businesses (self-employed) to stay here, or move here.
- Jobs & budget
- Jobs Jobs Jobs
- Jobs to people in community. Too much power given to citizen boards. Need better professional director from elected or lived officials, put them or their jobs on the line.
- Jobs, lowering property tax, & payments in line of tax from state.
- Jobs/recession
- Keeping business; esp. Small business running - providing jobs for the welfare of the common people.
- Keeping independent stores alive with out chains coming in, lose out quaintness
- Keeping local businesses
- Keeping local businesses thriving and reduce taxes
- Lack of economic growth for industry who make "things", not those that shuffle papers.
- Lack of jobs & health care to attract & keep our youth (in whom we have invested) in this community.
- Lack of jobs, leading to aging population
- Let businesses come into this city of state to bring in attraction for people to shop at not just cater tourist.
- Making vacant job attractive
- Montpelier needs more good jobs!

- More jobs, less rent.
- Riding out the rest of the recession.
- The economy
- Unemployment
- Unemployment and taxes
- Unemployment, housing

Housing affordability/availability

- 1. Lack of housing - Lack of kids - Lack of \$ for schools. 2. Lack of jobs - Lots of suffering 3. Lack of single payer health care - Lots of suffering.
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing - people who work here can't afford to live here.
- Affordable housing - Property tax is driving people away
- Affordable housing for renters.
- Affordable housing, we need to maintain level of families for growth of town, federal funding for schools, to ease tax burden and growth of recreation. We need a YMCA if we are not going to have enough recreation programs for families and youth. But 500 units would be too much for present schools to
- Affordable housing.
- Affordable housing.
- Affordable senior housing
- Availability of affordable housing
- Availability of housing
- Balancing housing and open space needs.
- Balancing the need for more housing (increasing population & taxes) with open spaces.
- Commercial & residential rents very high - but quality of spaces is poor. Montpelier is great for owners, not for renters.
- Developing enough housing to meet future needs.
- Good affordable housing
- Having enough affordable housing for its citizens.
- Housing
- Housing
- Housing affordability P.S. Please take down holiday decorations away/down earlier.
- Housing and jobs. Develop Sabin's pasture. Too many police officers.
- Housing availability
- Housing parking spaces
- Housing! We need to come up with new ideas, there is a very big problem, in the city of Montpelier, along with a very large group of homeless, what about their needs?
- I couldn't check off any! - That it might have to cut costs on "C" above - Housing w/out compromising the environment & bldg on open lands
- It is virtually impossible to afford to buy a home in Montpelier unless you have a trust fund or are retiring here.
- Lending leadership to the construction of affordable housing to diverse economic base can be built
- Maintaining Montpelier's vibrant sense of community and activity and providing affordable housing for young as well as older people.
- Need for housing & employment

- Need for housing that is affordable more infrastructure problems
- Safe - How income housing for seniors filling the schools
- The development on affordable housing and health care for individuals

Budget/Maintaining services/Loss of revenue/ Fiscal responsibility

- Affordable log stable tax growth energy efficiency provide essential services
- At least maintaining services & quality of life for residents w/out taxing them so that they reconsider the cost & choose to relocate.
- Attracting revenue generating ventures. Creating employment opportunities in the private sector within the city and the accompanying tax-base. Which could be used for a nominal but cumulative municipal tax.
- Budget
- Budget
- Building (Interviewing, hiring, etc) a more cohesive & visionary city government that can smartly & creatively grow a downtown on less money & with more creativity & ingenuity.
- Capital investments required for schools, rec dept, senior center and w/out \$ - & cities pasture protecting tool.
- Continuing to maintain essential services with a declining population & tax base.
- Cost of government
- Economic collapse - learning to perform the same functions with much finer resources.
- Ever increasing cost of city government and schools given the ever decreasing population. The city badly needs jobs for its inhabitants, jobs that will increase the tax base.
- Expenses - reducing school size. Economic conditions.
- Finance
- Finances - And people moving because too expensive to live here!
- Finding enough funding for the city's needs.
- Finding ways to obtain the resources to maintain essential infrastructure without turning the city unaffordable for non-affluent, non professional folks.
- Fiscal balance between service and revenue receive thru various tax purposes
- Funding - too many special interests & not enough funding, extreme burden on property owners! i.e. Prop. Tax.
- Funding services
- How best to balance city services provided. To resident in order to control property tax increases.
- How to maintain service at current levels, and reduce property taxes!
- How to sustain services & stop subsidizing services for non-residents using the city; I worry about our ability to afford to live here after retirement; we need to explore every opportunity for consolidation, cooperation, cost-savings
- Lack of revenue due to so many exempt properties.
- Maintain community services/develop downtown given fiscal constraints
- Maintaining city services while not increasing, or lowering property taxes which are too high.
- Maintaining excellent services without substantially increasing property taxes
- Maintaining services due to current economic conditions
- Maintaining services without continuing to increase taxes annually. School costs need to be considered with teacher/student ratio at an extreme low and cost per student extremely high.
- Maintenance on a budget
- Paying for education & balancing housing growth.
- People need to do more for each other. Money is tight and getting tighter. We can not rely on government or the world it is not able to withhold. Put god first and he will be in the center of our lives

- People will want more services- but less taxes - We don't mind paying high taxes to live in Montpelier
- Providing services to the elderly and poor while maintaining it's growth and keeping services affordable Montpelier's attraction for tourists is very important to help in taxes
- Providing services, school resources, and parking for the affordable housing we must build
- Revenues - Getting state to pay fair share of cost of municipal services
- Run city government more efficiently and reduce costs
- Schools are off the table. Otherwise, city must reduce spending w/o reducing major services. Lots of peripheral services could be cut. City employees are very generously compensated on the Vermont scale.
- Shrinking revenue
- Trimming the school budget which, by virtue of its continued growth, adversely affects property taxes.

Retaining families/Aging population/ Decline in population

- Addressing needs of varying population and youth for activities - and welcoming 20 somethings.
- Aging population
- Aging population - Jobs - New business
- Aging population in the state, low economic growth
- An aging population cannot support an increasing school budget
- As the population ages and as a pedestrian. I believe the most important issue for the city of Montpelier should be maintenance of the streets and side walks during inclement weather, the current maintenance is terrible.
- As the population ages, the property taxes will be unaffordable.
- Attracting families to Montpelier
- Attracting young families with good jobs and nice housing that is affordable for people starting out. By this I don't mean low income housing, but affordable small green homes.
- Bringing in young people & young families to live in the city
- Declining population
- Declining population leading to reduced revenue and declining school pop.
- Decrease in affordability for new young families to move to and live here
- Encouraging modest population growth, & accompanying low in lane & mixed housing growth.
- How to attract new residents to Montpelier
- How to keep the city an affordable place for low/mid-income families and retirees to live.
- How to keep young people here with the cost of everything skyrocketing
- Keeping our children + elders, + our less fortunate citizens feel, healthy + happy + kept want educated.
- Keeping people here in the face of high property taxes
- Keeping people living here.
- Lack of population growth, property tax increases which I will not be able to keep up with and will be forced to move out of state, unfortunately.
- Losing business & residents due to relatively high cost of living in this city -
- Loss of residents, school population & revenue.
- Maintaining the city as a "Real" place where people of diverse opinions & economic classes - esp. The middle class, not just the professional class & those supported, by public services - can fit into the community & afford to live.
- Need population growth!
- Not enough population

- People moving out of Montpelier due to incredible high property taxes, and a down town that is very selective (in political) as to what businesses can operate in Montpelier. I rarely shop in town as it is so overpriced.
- Population of families going down.
- Population, businesses
- Promoting the smallest capital as a very good place to live, work and raise a family!
- The aging population (baby boomers) and the lack of younger adults to provide the services/jobs that baby boomers currently provide.
- The cost of leaving in Montpelier with agency population as younger people move away, lack of affordable housing, food, services for aging population.
- With aging population, the decline in young middle class families who can afford to call Montpelier home.

Growth issues/Planning

- Carefully managed, dense, smart growth that included more housing, parks and open space, public intra-city transit
- Continued growth and improvement
- Controlling growth appropriately & taxes
- Development within the urban compact (encourage it)
- Do not know unless increase in population
- Growth
- Growth - Parking
- Growth & Taxes
- Growth, parking
- How to handle the pressure of population growth without losing its essential character
- Increasing population growth which will bring in more money in taxes & revenue & student population as well.
- Keeping growth within a planned framework
- Maintaining high quality of life & close-knit county feel while adding new housing & business.
- Maintaining live-ness while keeping a vital downtown
- Maybe population growth
- Over population! High property taxes
- Population growth
- Population growth out of control
- Population growth.
- Population growth/more stress on infrastructures/traffic, etc.
- Promoting growth
- Public's perception of growth & development within the city limits. Services are available. Development needs to happen in town - that's the definition of city, after all.
- Smart growth (E.g. Energy efficiency, more housing while maintaining facing of life.)
- Smart growth, housing options for aging population public transit.

Schools

- 1. Increasingly expensive school setup for fewer and fewer kids 2. Pilot program from being cut of remaining at same levels. 3. Gang culture finding roots in Montpelier. There goes the neighborhood!
- Consolidate the schools seems like a no brainer - Need to have more breath to downtown stores - Need more housing close to town for all income levels.
- Consolidation of schools with WCSU.
- Declining school population and the rising cost per pupil for current residents in the tax on property
- Decreasing population of school aged children

- Education - The cost is very high - I think we should still try to look at combining w/ U32 for Jr High/HS.
- Education costs new housing
- Fewer school-aged children may not support 3 separate buildings. How will Montpelier residents address demographic changes to maintain schools without wasting tax dollars on all 3 buildings? A merger seems inevitable, let's make it a good one!
- Funding education without continuing increase in property taxes. Property taxes are too high!
- I feel Montpelier needs to merge with the U32 school district or consider "Sharing" administrators with other small districts. Also look at money spent within City government with a fine tooth comb as is done in the schools so, keeping taxes down as much as possible.
- Keeping our schools full & affordable (i.e. taxes! Too high)
- Keeping school quality high
- Maintaining current school structure of elementary, middle and high schools in separate buildings, with local control & high quality education
- Maintaining the school system - costs escalate even though enrollment is down. Education is important for tomorrow's future
- Maintaining/improving quality of schools
- Pending quality schools & essential city services
- Quality of education
- School budget is overly high for number of students
- School consolidation
- School costs + improving tax base.
- School population/costs
- Schools
- Schools
- Schools
- Schools
- Schools - Keeping them small & excellent.
- Schools - reduction in enrollment, maintaining existing facilities
- Schools.
- Supporting a first class public school system
- The poor condition middle schools are sending student's to high school unprepared 4 the way things are done. Going from 3 months to finish/make up homework to no late assignments.
- The rapidly increasing costs of the school system balancing costs
- Too many employees in schools with dwindling # students.

Affordability/Cost of living

- Affordability
- Affords the quality of lifestyle the residents used like to have
- Cost of living and earning an adequate wage.
- How to keep Montpelier an affordable place to live
- Increased poverty, increased rent
- It's too expensive, incomes don't correlate with price of housing, taxes
- Keep city affordable & diverse maintaining 5m town feel & open space while providing more diversity of housing
- Keeping Montpelier an affordable place for moderate-income families to raise children in.
- Keeping our city affordable, keep a vibrant downtown, make better use of downtown buildings (upper floors) for affordable housing.
- Maintaining a diversity of income-levels among its residents
- Maintaining affordable cost of living
- Maintaining livable - wage employment for residents

- Making it affordable to live here! The property tax rate is obscene, making it hard to start and raise a family here. We will be lucky if we can stay in town long enough to see our kids graduate from MHS
- Montpelier has a challenge to stay affordable for people living on fixed income of less than \$ 25,000.00 a year.
- Only wealthier folks can afford to buy homes here
- Providing affordable living opportunities and creating strong 21st century schools.
- Rising energy costs (Peak oil) will lead to an influx of population from surrounding towns, older people who need housing & services.
- The city might become too expensive for some given. The high cost of real estate (Houses, apt for rent) & property tax
- The cost to live here - The tax rate
- Whether Montpelier remains an affordable place to live for its residents. (Tax rate too high to property owners)

Downtown development and parking

- Commercial property space - Too expensive to rent, not enough parking to support
- Downtown staying vital. "Buy local", succeeding fear of big box moving in.
- Health of the downtown business climate
- Keeping businesses for a vital downtown
- Keeping businesses in the downtown. We like to shop locally (only go to Chittenden County once every 5-8 years to stop).
- Keeping the downtown occupied & relevant
- Keeping the downtown vibrant
- Maintaining a viable downtown of shops, restaurants, etc.
- Maintaining a vibrant downtown, supporting local producers, keeping population stable (Keep Montpelier small!)
- Maintaining downtown vibrancy & holding down property taxes - last most imp't
- Over management and parking. I am also against to Charlie 'Os beer garden.
- Parking
- Parking
- Parking
- Parking and absent-minded pedestrians.
- Parking garages, shopping, somehow tax state office buildings' to lower private home taxes before. We have to leave the area. Senior citizens cannot afford to live here and where do we go.
- Providing adequate and convenient parking to allow out-of-towns to visit, shop and patronize Montpelier businesses.
- Redeveloping the paralytic property & building a parking garage.
- Retail failure due to lack of parking.
- Updating downtown - Adding elevators to buildings to allow greater access & therefore improved use

Infrastructure

- Flooding - This issue needs to be fixed so we don't have to spend the \$ on preparing if it will or not spend the \$ to fix it so it wont happen
- Infrastructure and road deterioration.
- Infrastructure, road, bridges, parking, and housing
- Infrastructure.
- Infrastructure: River St. Is looking much better, but there are other streets & bridges that are in dire need of repair. Keeping the roads use able will help keep other costs down for the residents.
- Integrating storm water quality retrofits & changes to conventional drainage thinking.

- Maintaining existing infrastructure & high taxes
- Repairing roads. At the minimum, state and main should always be in perfect condition.
- Road repair & taxes
- Roads are a mess. Water pipes need replacing. Taxes are a huge issue. Probably this one.
- Utility, infrastructure
- Very poor-streets
- Water

Other

- Build bike paths/lanes. Have bus station. Farmers market on 2 days/week make health care affordable for all.
- Bus service one is pollution of pkg lots (more of that for informed public)
- Climate change, dependency on oil, local foods, economy, jobs, livable wages
- Community development & outreach
- December 23rd 2012 the end of days (Mayan calendar)
- Deciding what to do with remaining open space.
- Developing community.
- Drug crime gang crime.
- Drug use (effect on youth, crime, family life) maintenance of a quarters where economically viable/factors sense of community
- Energy
- Expanding parks/open spaces & affordable housing
- Fair property appraisal
- Food security
- Get the city back to where it was too or three decades ago! It has gone down hill in recent years.
- Getting rid of Abey's junkyard
- Getting the people here to take their jobs seriously
- Having a mayor who will have the insight to control the police chiefs over zealous factors. This is a small peace feel town with many officers rating like a good squad.
- Health, schools
- How to buy business in Montpelier.
- Increased participation of Montpelier residents.
- Maintaining real respect & protection for the rights, privacy, freedom & dignity of all who live here. Don't like the cameras planned for every street corner.
- Money
- More people in need of less social services.
- New citizens
- Not enough tolerance from liberals; "Live and let live as long as you live as I want" is too pervasive in the cultural fabric.
- Peak oil
- Reduction of carbon foot print. Green job creation
- Retaining Montpelier's unique small. Town character while maintaining services, increasing affordable housing, and promoting carefully monitored economic growth. (Buy out slumlords, ban chain stores.)
- Retaining/recruiting qualified people for city boards
- Senior center, as of now in five years there be a Montpelier senior center
- Solve bus station problem Improve R.R. Station over
- Staying vital in a climate that balks at change.
- Stopping the migration of "Flat landers" and "Carpet baggers" to Montpelier, they have ruined the city in recent years.
- Swine flu outbreak. Economy

- The “right” people get lots of help and attention, and the less fortunate are neglected or discriminated against.
- The amount of earmarks for supplemental funding federal
- The inspection of properties. I know of a place here on Barre St, you could get hurt. One of the mailings are not safe as you go in the maintenance.
- There is no quiet place to study in Montpelier - Jobs clearly is # 1. The library is too bad & social gathering/following sport & low library far weird and start lower.
- Traffic congestion
- Traffic control during road repair
- Traffic reduction
- Transitioning to a simpler, more sustainable, social structure as the effects of post-peak oil are felt at an ever increasing rate.
- Transportation - Public
- Transportation especially as it applies to visually impaired and lack of at night
- Transportation matters more cuts being done in “The economy” budgets being made more tighter
- Transportation terminal (Bus-greyhound, local.) Development of Sabin's pasture. Lower our taxes: Tax the state offices and national life!
- We seem to be increasing low-income housing by too much without increasing the extra services these families require within our community.

Don't Know

- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know- I have just (last month) moved to Montpelier from Barre, so have not had enough time to evaluate any of these services or issues.
- I don't know!
- I don't really know enough about the issues to prefer an opinion
- Not sure