

**JASPER COUNTY RESIDENTS**

**WELCOME**

**2 THAT'S IMPORTANT**

**3 STRATEGIES**

**4 FUNDING BALANCE**

**5 WRAP UP**

**Help us plant the seeds for a bright future!**

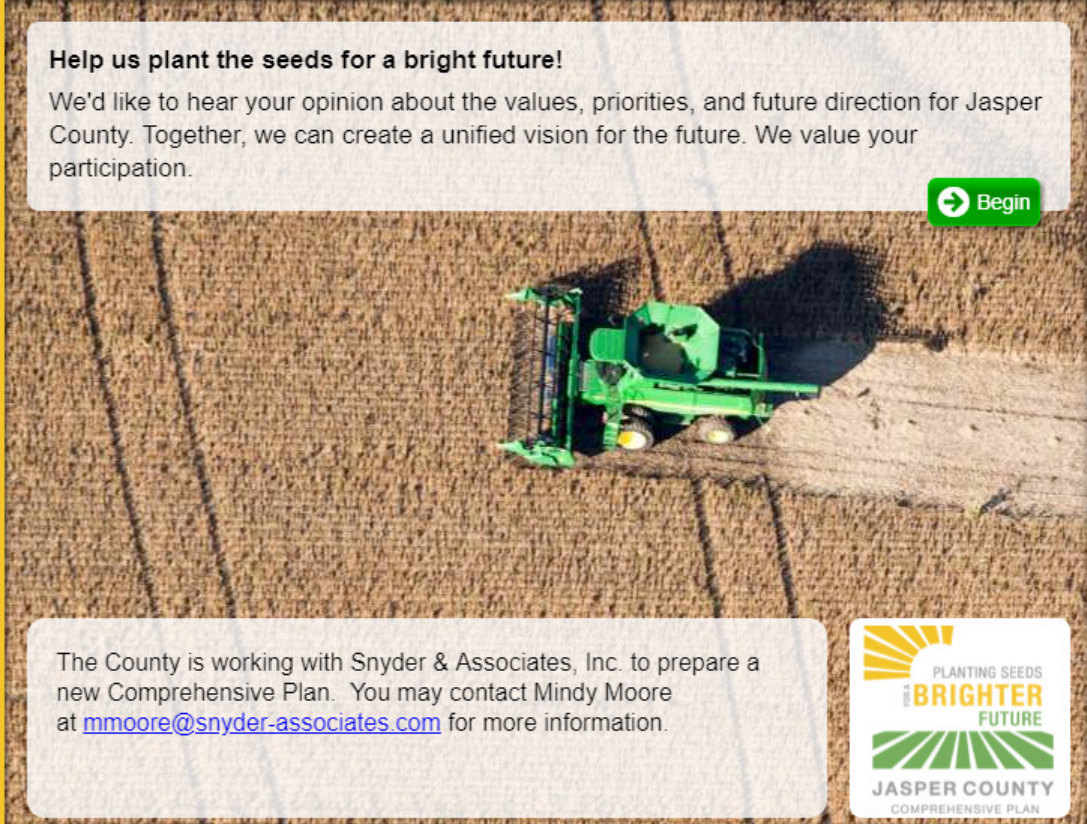
We'd like to hear your opinion about the values, priorities, and future direction for Jasper County. Together, we can create a unified vision for the future. We value your participation.

[Begin](#)

The County is working with Snyder & Associates, Inc. to prepare a new Comprehensive Plan. You may contact Mindy Moore at [mmoore@snyder-associates.com](mailto:mmoore@snyder-associates.com) for more information.

**PLANTING SEEDS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

**JASPER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**



# MetroQuest Survey Results

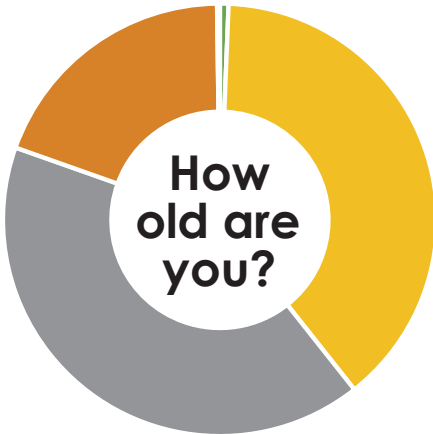


- Open July 12 to August 30
- Distributed via
  - [www.jaspersbrightfuture.com](http://www.jaspersbrightfuture.com)
  - Facebook
  - Emails
  - Flyers

**Total of 600 Participants**

# Participants

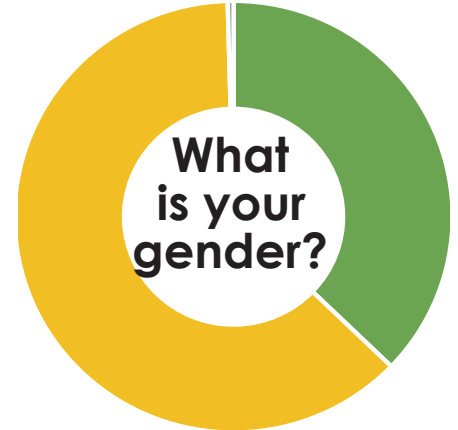
In order to fully understand and appreciate the significance of the results of this survey, it is first important to gain an understanding of the participants who completed the survey. The following demographics were collected as part of the survey:



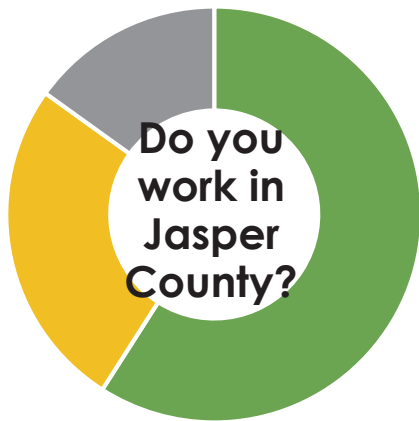
under 20	3
21 to 40	182
41 to 60	193
61 to 80	91
over 80	1



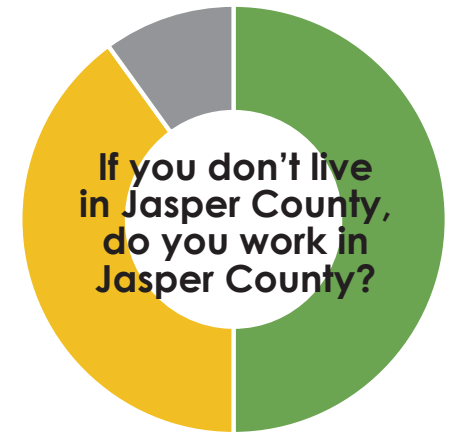
Baxter	22
Colfax	19
Kellogg	14
Lambs Grove	1
Lynnville	9
Mingo	11
Monroe	23
Newton	204
Oakland Acres	2
Prairie City	36
Reasnor	7
Sully	25
Unincorporated Jasper County	70
I do not live in Jasper County	10



Male	173
Female	290
Other	2



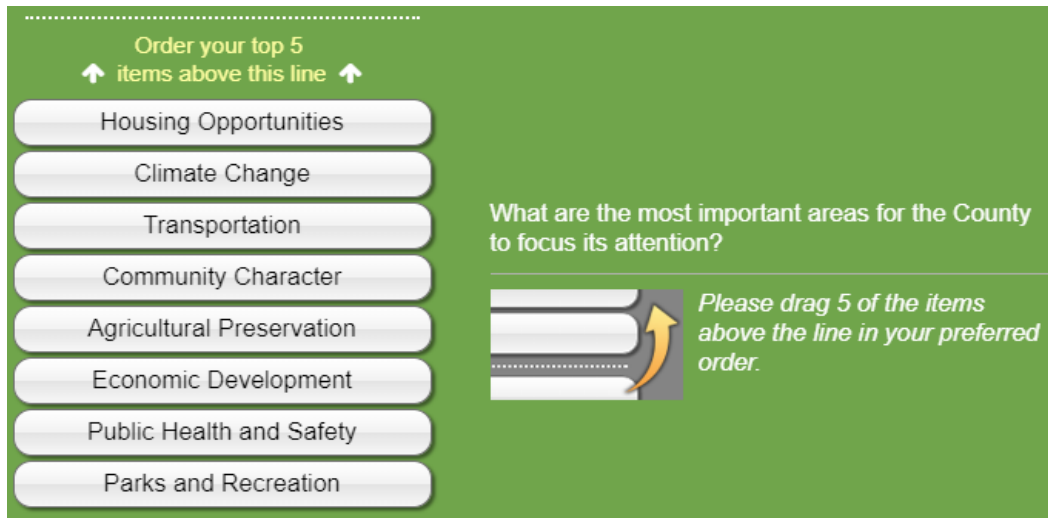
Yes	274
I work elsewhere	120
I am retired or unemployed	70



Yes	5
I work elsewhere	4
I am retired or unemployed	1

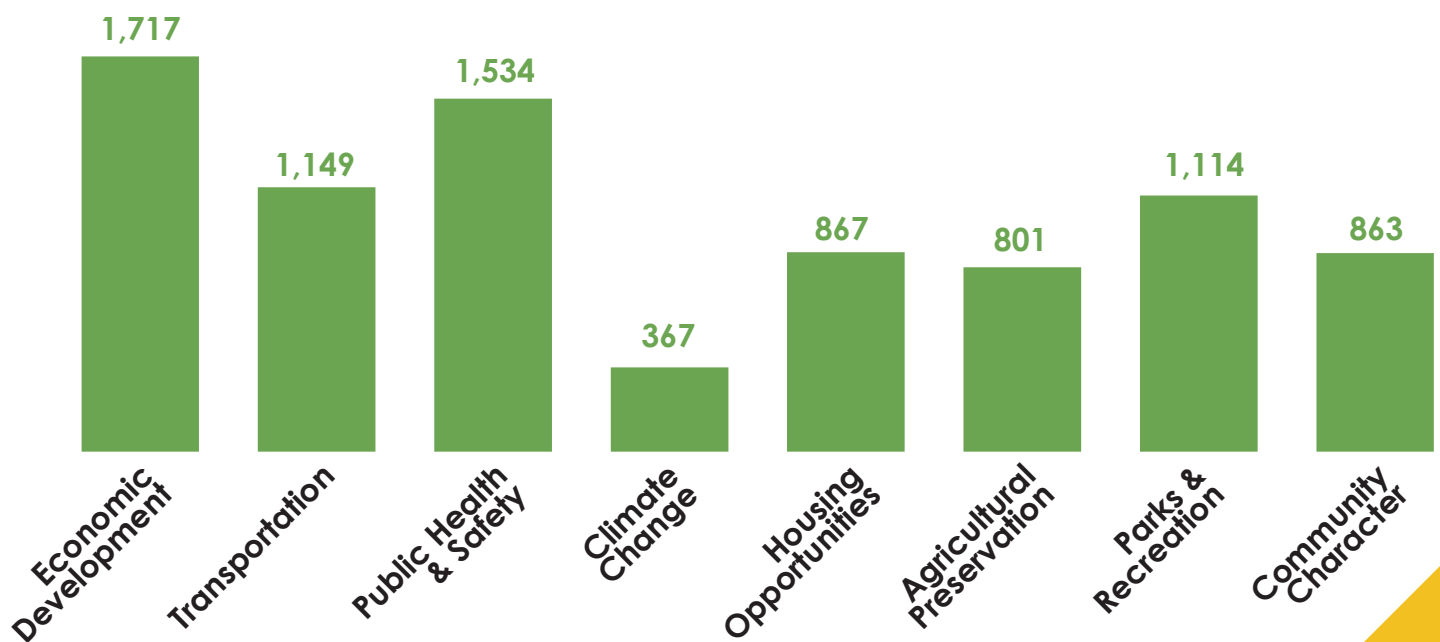
Because we want to make sure that the participants of this survey are true stakeholders of the community, we analyzed the results of the questions relating to living and working in Jasper County to determine if the people who do not live in the county work in the county. The results of that analysis are shown in the above graph.

# What's Most Important?



The first task in the survey was for the participants to identify which of the above issues (Housing Opportunities, Climate Change, Transportation, Community Character, Agricultural Preservation, Economic Development, Public Health and Safety, Parks and Recreation) were most important to them for the future of Jasper County. The participants were able to rank up to 5 of the issues as priorities.

The graph below shows the weighted responses. We took the average ranking of the issue (in this scenario, 5 being highest ranking, 1 being lowest) multiplied by the number of times the issue was included in the top 5.

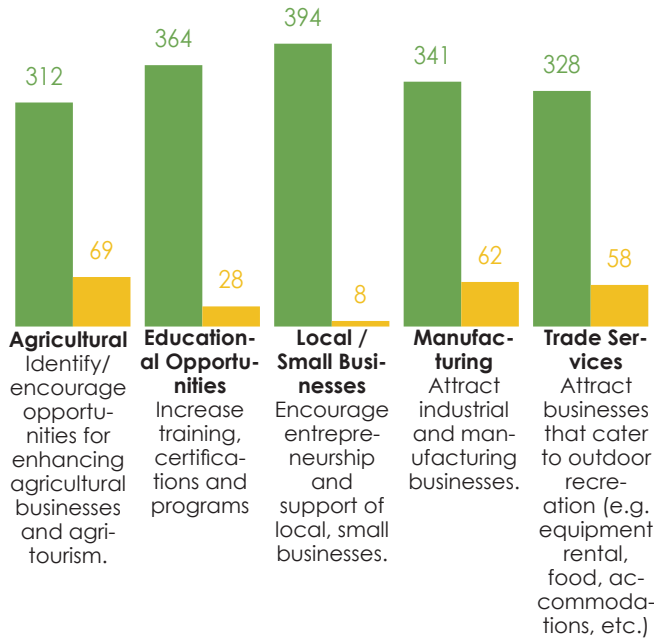


# Strategies

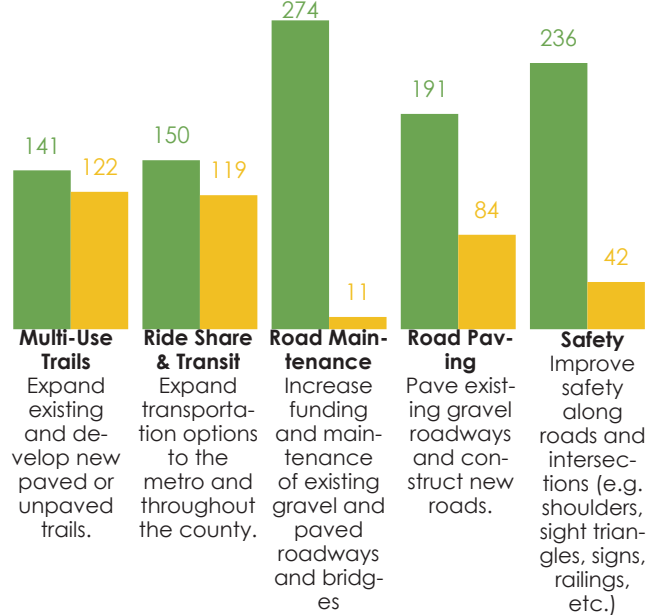
For each priority chosen in the previous section (What's Most Important), several strategies were presented. The participants of the survey decided if they agreed or disagreed with each of the strategies for each of the topics as shown in the following graphs.

Agree Disagree

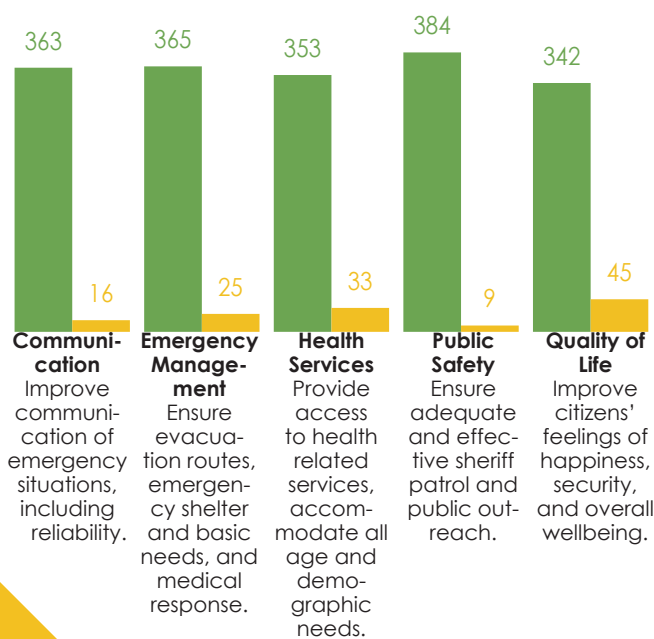
## Economic Development



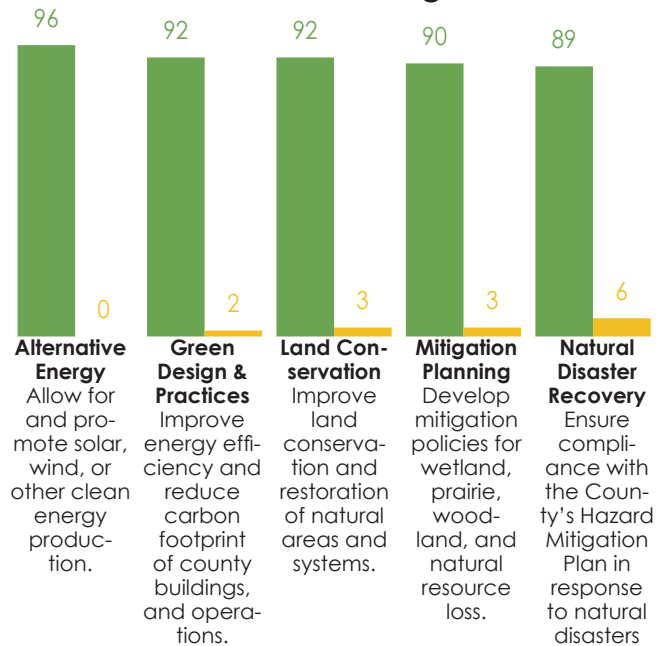
## Transportation



## Public Health & Safety



## Climate Change

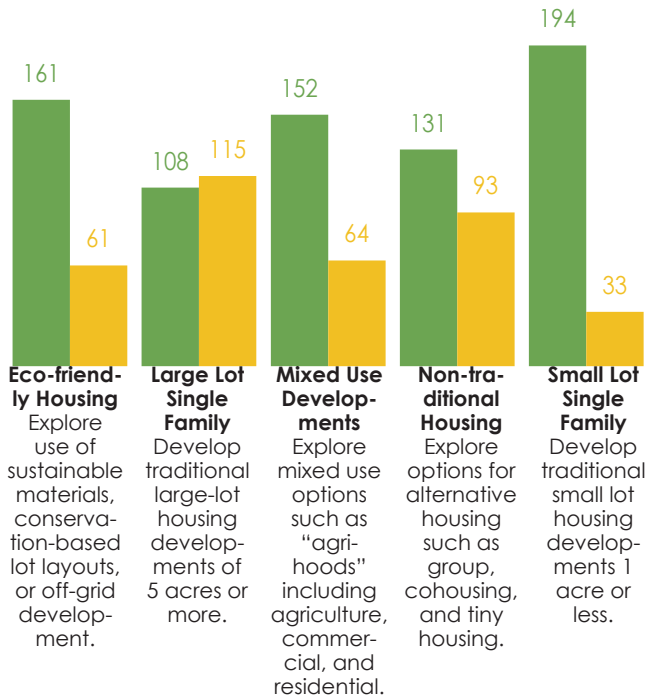




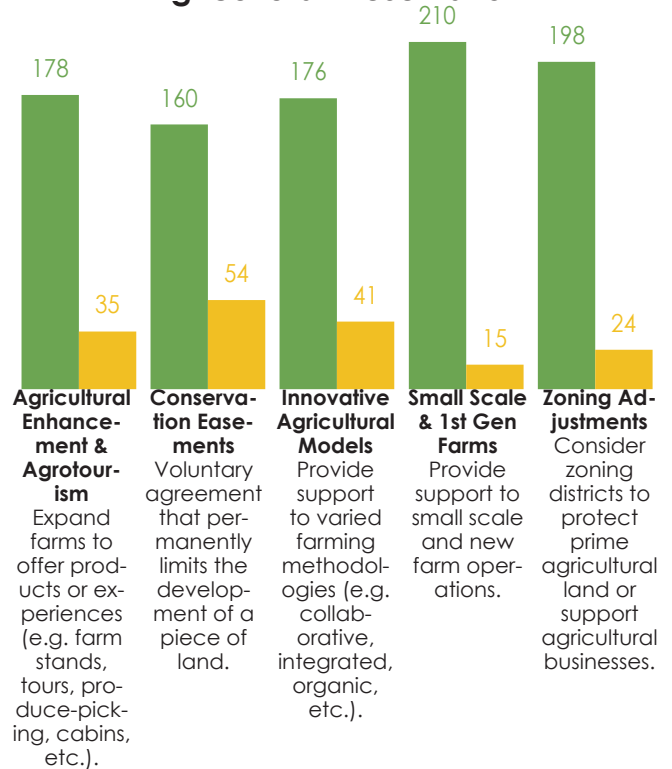
Agree

Disagree

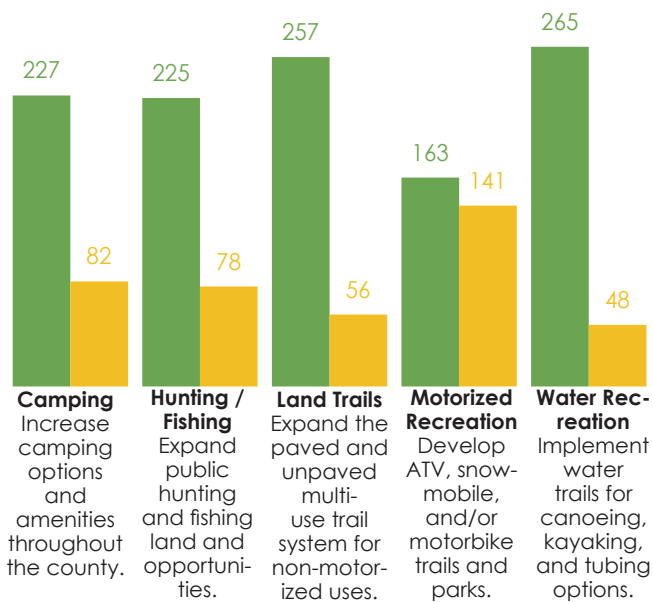
### Housing Opportunities



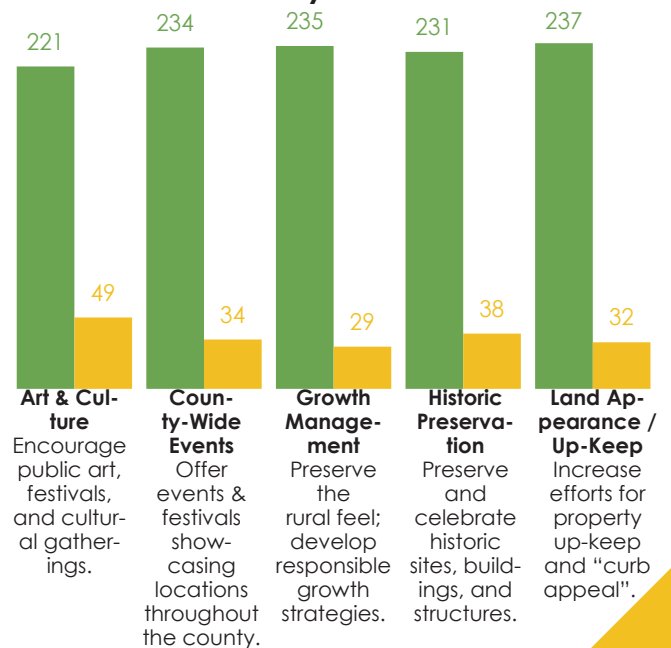
### Agricultural Preservation



### Parks and Recreation



### Community Character



# Funding Balance

The last section of the survey gave the participants the following directions:

**“In order to provide a high quality of life for residents & visitors, you can decide how the County should balance their budget. How should these limited funds be spent? Use the sliders to adjust the percent of funding to each category.”**

## Roads and Transportation

Maintenance, repair, and improvement of the county highway system including construction of new roads and bridges. This includes providing options for biking, walking, and transit.

## Public Safety

Funding for services related to emergency management and law enforcement.

## Conservation

Construction, maintenance, or provision of outdoor recreation facilities and programs, wildlife management areas, conservation areas, and environmental educational opportunities.

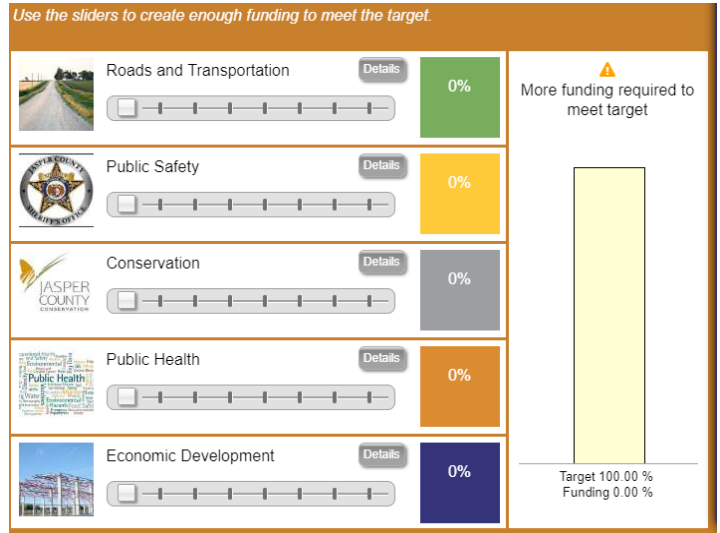
## Public Health

Funding for services related to physical, mental, and environmental health.

## Economic Development

Funding for programs to support new businesses and business expansion, commercial/industrial property improvements, and job creation.

The results from the Money to Spend allocation are shown to the right as the Total Budget Allocated to Each Category for All Participants.



**Total Funding Balance allocated to each category for all participants**



**Roads and Transportation ..... 25.6%**  
**Public Safety ..... 22.2%**  
**Conservation ..... 15.1%**  
**Public Health ..... 17.4%**  
**Economic Development ..... 19.7%**

# Comments

Each section of this survey offered the participants the opportunity to provide comments. The following pages contain the list of all of the comments received from participants of this survey.

## That's Important

### *Economic Development*

- More better paying jobs. Incentives to get businesses in Jasper County. Expansion of Speedway Activities
- But not at the cost of other property or business owners.
- We should foster existing businesses and encourage bedroom communities poised to work within a 40 mile radius in addition to bringing new business here.
- per my library suggestion... A good bit of our homeschool community are rural dwellers. Please keep the library and ALL of it's services affordable (meaning FREE) and accessible to all of our residents of Jasper County.
- Need more retail and manufacturing for employment and shopping
- The city has made a very good start with this, let's keep the momentum rolling.
- Market and promote also, tourism, industrial and commercial development, sustainability, and perhaps offer some certified sites in the county.
- I am including Libraries and access to libraries into my "Parks and Recreation" bubble at level 2 importance.
- Economic development will come once we focus on making our towns, safe, clean, and appealing. Business want their employees to have access to the best possible environment and amenities. Let's start by building on our county's natural beauty and get some tourism flowing.
- Provide better or more shopping options such as more variety .
- Some see economic development as attracting large scale companies. Since Maytag has closed there have been various employees that went on to create their own small business. Some of those fill a small need by these larger businesses. How can these smaller businesses be helped? Many of the smaller ones could use grants to improve their businesses but do not want to go the route of common government assistant. What can be done besides providing faster broadband to assist these small rural businesses. Another issue small businesses encounter is the cost of leasing. This is especially hard when local retail/service business opens up. They want a strategic location but that often comes at a high price. Offer start up businesses rental assistance for a year to help them get on their feet. And stop letting Birkenholtz Realty control all the commercial property for sale or lease as they are over priced and often sit stagnant for 2 or more years with the overall condition of the property declining in that time.
- This applies for the whole county; not just Newton.

- This applies for the whole county; not just Newton.
- Newton needs to expand on businesses that come in. I've heard plenty of times businesses and want to come to Newton but for some reason they don't .... Newton needs to fix that
- Improved roads would attract biz development

## Transportation

- More paved bike and walking trails please! Let's connect ALL of the towns and give people a different way to get around.
- Everyone knows the gravel roads need work and that it will take time to fix. The difficulty will be folks staying patient if we have another spring like 2019.
- We have so really bad roads that should have been fixed years ago.
- Repair all the bridges and re gravel the country roads, they all are in sad shape
- The roads are pretty good in pc
- Our road needs fixed
- Terrible roads here, poorly maintained or enough money allocated. Poor weed control, mowing in county, even by the drive-in which draws attention.
- Like the new bike racks uptown!!
- Fix the rural roads!!!!
- Including public transportation options for seniors, etc. across the county.
- They should build an urban bike path and maybe a few rural ones. They could build a path connecting some of the rural cemeteries and call it The Boneway.
- How about somebody who knows what it takes to maintain a gravel road properly. Roads were lost a couple years ago with poor maintenance.
- How about we take a look at the snow removal situation? I know these guys worked hard this past winter, but improvement is needed.
- An urban bike trail would be awesome. Or county wide, maybe a trail that connects Jasper County's rural cemeteries. You could call it The Boneway Bike Trail.
- No. 1 priority: improve rural roads, esp. gravel. Find \$\$ to hard surface rural roads.
- Public transportation is almost non-existent
- It seems to me that the roads to access anything in the county or to have services is a priority as it will be difficult to attain some of the other important items without this! : )
- Repair and upkeep county roads before considering bike trails.
- The rural roads need lots of work but it won't happen over night. Make the Engineer separate from the manager of roads. Use more electronic tracking for roads.
- Request: conduct an evaluation of all county bridges to determine the repair and replacement schedule. Please post this for all to see. valuation.
- Conduct an evaluation of the condition of ALL county bridges and a repair and replacement schedule. Post this on the Jasper County website for all to see.
- It would be so great to have more affordable public options.
- Country roads are horrible during rain/snow. Paving the roads would be great
- To foster economic development requires more paved roads. Bike trails are big costs to maintain in the summer. We should prioritize people moving here over biking here from Des Moines. No economic benefit to Jasper.



- gravel roads are a mess
- Roads here are terrible and need maintenance.. gravel roads are absolutely terrible
- Improve streets and roads, Inforce driving laws. Stop signs are not yeald signs, speed, noise.
- Bike trails and good roads are necessary as well as transportation for the elderly to meet their needs.
- Need to keep roads safe and bridges updated.
- The gravel roads in Jasper County make it seem like the 1940's. Can't go to town on a muddy day and don't dare take a semi down the road unless it is frozen solid.
- Climate Change is a hoax.

### **Public Health & Safety**

- Give the sheriff the resources and staff he needs. #1 priority.
- Does this include water management? If not it should. Many small towns in jasper country are struggling to update broken and old water lines and simply dont have the tax base to fix them.... is the county going to step in at some point and fix this?
- Better help for mental agencies
- More sheriffs deputy's to patrol our roads
- Does this include fixing the water issues that small towns are having across jasper county? Many small towns are struggling with outdated and unsafe main water lines and simply dont have the tax base to fix them. Everyone in the county has a right to clean water. When is the county going to step up and help solve this problem?
- Protecting the citizens from harm and a clean, safe environment is #1.
- We are not able to walk our dogs on leashes around our neighborhood due to all the loose running or not fenced or leashed dogs. Seems to be all over town and nothing is done about it.
- Please pay special attention to the elderly. They need these services very much.
- We need to take care of our elderly
- Develop plan for homeless, mentally ill, theft and drug issues to make it a safer community.
- My emphasis here is specifically on mental health - NOT more policing. Or not more policing as it's been going now. I dont want a mini military - I want cops that know how to see people as human and in need of help and who are properly trained in how to help and de-escalate without causing more burden on the individual or their family. And police that see themselves in the community - not as better than.
- A close second to transportation; however ensures the health and safety for all in the county regardless of where you live and how much you make. Benefits all!
- Law enforcement is always important. More presence in schools. Lots of community collaboration for mental health and substance abuse. Need better building for social service programs. Promotion of Live Well Center. Focus more on healthy living such as walkability, exercise, and healthy eating.
- Crime rate down
- Need a better building with handicap access. More injury prevention in the county.

## Climate Change

- How about the noise pollution that the speedway makes? That is disturbing.
- Think about communities becoming "Tree City U.S.A.s"--plant more trees, especially on Main Streets where it's so hot and sunny. Install rain gardens on public spaces to help with storm water runoff. Tax credits for those who install rain gardens on their business or home properties. Recycle more, investigate the use of wind or solar for public buildings, use energy efficient light bulbs and street lights.
- They should get an electric vehicle charging station. They could add it to the parking lot behind PJ's Deli.
- Not passionate about this
- Keep our air, lakes and rivers clean! We can build off of this and use them to create more tourism for local economies.
- When you dig up a ditch, don't leave it bare to grow up in weeds and run off into the creeks. Seed it with prairie grasses. Little things help

## Housing Opportunities

- Currently, we are considering moving out of state as we feel the condition or value of houses do not match pricing demands.
- I would like to see the smallest communities in Jasper county get help with attracting prospective builders. These small communities don't have the financial ability or staff to pursue this on their own. A collaboration between the communities that can provide information at one location that prospective builders can look at and compare across the board may be helpful. Some of the smaller communities may have property owners that have land for potential development but the community itself may not have the ability to develop it.
- People that show interest and want to move need to have affordable housing options for all demographics.
- It would be great if the county would help small communities fix up and build out the apartments above all the little shops. I think this needs to happen first to help renters, plus it would help with historic preservation. I think this would benefit the county more if it were to happen first. Before building out new homes, and apartment complexes that would create a larger carbon footprint.
- Clean up the low housing areas and penalize slum landlords that are not maintaining properties.
- Could we have nice mid income apartments. Many have concerns about moving into "affordable" housing mixed with unsubsidized units.
- Improved roads would increase rural housing, up tax base
- More places for seniors like new places on e 4th st n. Ground lev walk ins
- There is too much low income housing or income restricted housing not enough for middle class families the people we need in Newton
- But not to bring illegal immigrants or people from low income, over crowded cities where crime is prevalent.
- affordable housing options
  - Clean up and get rid of property and apartments, bad landlords attracting

wrong people.

- More medium income housing.
- Emphasis on all income levels - meaning not just giant houses.

### **Agricultural Preservation**

- I think this will happen no matter what the County does in the plan.
- Would love to see more than the traditional agricultural that is everywhere. Why don't we do more experimenting with permaculture? Why don't we turn an old apple orchard into a profitable food forest? Let's capitalize on Agritourism. Let's be the first in the state to create profitable, replicable models.
- Stop the pollution of our rivers and lakes.
- Would love to see more than the typical agricultural we have now. What about permaculture? Or how about turning an old orchard into a profitable food forest?

### **Parks & Recreation**

- Would love to see more drop-off/unloading zones to get more recreational use out of the south skunk river. I think this would help promote tourism and the economy. Would also like to see more bike paths connecting parks and small towns together.
- There is lots of natural beauty in Jasper county that isn't being utilized to its fullest. Jasper county could have an amazing tourist economy if they simply capitalized on it. Why don't we add more access point to the South Skunk River? How about having one at every town? Then people could float from town to town, get out, have lunch, and float to the next town, spend the night in a hotel, and continue the next day. I've seen this work Amazing well to stimulate small town the economies in other states... How about we add more paved bike and walking trails. It would be cool to connect one from Newton, to Colfax, and then down to the one that is going through the Neal Smith wildlife refuge. Let's encourage more people to use our county's natural assets. This could stimulate the economy and encourage more people to move here
- We need to maintain what we have before we build more. This survey seems to be geared/worded/grouped, in such a way so as to come to a foregone conclusion.
- For 45 years I have worked with climatologists to plan our growing season. Climate change is all political!
- People are now staying for the experience. If you create community around activities that also draws individuals to Jasper county.
- Not every area of Jasper county is suitable for bike trails. How can those areas be developed to provide recreation? With Colfax developing the quarry area along the Skunk River, perhaps it should be looked into developing a water trail down the river with the trail ending by Reasnor. There is potential for a seasonal canoe/tubing business there if access points are developed.
- Create synergy between existing parks and developments to improve quality of life for families rather than foster suburb monotony.
- The condition of the roads in Jasper County are horrible. This includes gravel. You are not going to attract people to live in our communities if you can't keep up with road maintenance.
- We have lots of parks. I feel like it is hard to maintain the numerous County prop-

erties and this should be addressed. Maybe the County should sell some properties for housing developments. More camping facilities. More marketing of County land and options to draw people to Jasper County such as hunting.

- Jasper County does an amazing job on Parks , but it needs to stay in the fore front to remain a positive influence in our communities.
- Newton had great parks and recreation areas. Just for other's to wreck them.
- Better places for families
- Don't waste any money on that climate change nonsense.

### Community Character

- We need to appeal to businesses, individuals, etc. first to create interest. That way we have interest to start other projects and people to participate.
- Make newton appeal to people - now it seems to not help attract go down 1st ave there's housing that looks run down crappy unkept ! They need to get ride of those eye sores
- Better restaurants, family entertainment, build up art culture vs. rather than biker culture. Use speedway for big name music, Christian bands.
- The county as a whole should take pride in a neat appearance and work to eliminate junk sites.
- Please keep our communities' character at the forefront. We are a hidden jewel county with our beautifully kept parks, our scenic countryside, our community festivals and fairs
- Need more promotions on what we do well. Welcome to Jasper County signs, website. I feel like Newton does a good job with "Get to Know Newton".
- Encourage (tax credits or loans to people that they don't have to pay off until they sell their homes?) people to clean up their properties--haul off junk or keep it behind a fence, out of sight. Encourage people to paint their homes, do some landscaping. Paint murals on empty buildings showing early residents (big wigs) or what the building looked like originally and what business it housed. These are just a few ideas.
- Our libraries are critical to the health of our communities!
- Attracting is one issue and retention another. Quality of education a concern because of so many needs of students.
- Need more people to shop in Jasper county. Clothing and home improvement opportunities.
- I'm not sure what attracts people to want to live in pc
- The county needs to support its smaller towns and communities more. Help us have safe and secure water supplies, attract tourists, and create identities. Small towns can only do so much when they have a very limited tax base and no funding to employ a full time grant writer. I think once the county is perceived better more businesses and people will want to move here. There is so much natural beauty that the county isn't taking advantage of.
- Our roadside ditches are a mess. Public dumping makes us look like a community of rednecks. KEEP THE 4 WHEELERS OFF THE COUNTY ROADS!!!
  - Create a cleaner image, better litter campaign (starting back up in schools

educating do not litter campaign) and more volunteering, enforcement, especially in rural areas. Designate non-smoking areas and enforcement. Better marketing and drawing in of the arts and foodie atmosphere, rather than being known for ALL biker, dirty town. Bring big name bands (some Christian Bands) to Speedway.

- The county needs to help our small towns keep and preserve their history as much as possible. And every town needs help formulating a distinct identity to help draw tourists and encourage economic growth.

### **Suggest Another**

- Tax Reduction
- Gravel Road Conditions
- Conservation
- Improved Library systems
- Libraries
- Reduce property taxes
- Fix the gravel roads.
- Lower Property Taxes
- Paid County EMS
- Education
- IMPROVE THE SECONDARY ROADS
- Paved roads in and around Colfax!
- Current manufacturers in Jasper County treat their employees like drones not human beings and that needs to change to attract new people to the area
- nothing else
- Trails
- Roads are terrible
- More opportunities for children
- Less gov. intrusions, not more.
- Expanding and providing for public libraries
- Building more prairie flower areas to save Butterflies and bees
- Library services for rural users.
- Libraries
- Make our rural roads gravel roads again with real rock that doesn't break down. We can't continue with dirt/mud roads that were impassable.
- We need more community events that attract younger people
- Library and Literacy Promotion
- Library
- Public outreach through the Library
- Educational programming through Library
- Quit trying so hard NOT to spend money. Invest in the future. Grow the county's economic base.
- Public libraries. Properly funded to serve everyone, not just city residents
- Better broadband connectivity
- Preservation and protection of family, NOT CORPORATE, farms.

- Attention to the unincorporated towns
- Better roads. Clean up weeds and all the litter. Start litter campaign in schools.
- Request: the bridge due west out of Colfax on old Highway 6 is unsafe as it sits on this curved road. Check the history regarding the # of deaths occurring on Jasper Co. County bridges. Where does this bridge fall? One of the worst, I bet. Colfax may be annexing and expanding to the west. This bridge will not safely handle increased traffic.
- Support of the educational and cultural opportunities in the County.
- Gravel Road improvement
- The 1st bridge due west out of Colfax on old Highway 6 is dangerous and needs replaced. Review the # of deaths that have occurred on this bridge. Does this bridge have the most deaths if any Jasper County bridge? With possible annexation and growth with a housing development on the west side of Colfax, this bridge will not make for safe traveling given increased traffic.
- Quality education and libraries
- The Newton public library
- Safety and accountability by city and county officials needs to be addressed. Too many times drug dealers and users are being allowed to abuse the system by getting out of a charge in exchange for information. This allows the problems to continue as they continue to deal and use making our community unsafe.
- Animal Shelter
- County Image
- Protecting citizens and the environment from the scientifically proven harmful effects of 5G radiation. [www.5Gcrisis.com](http://www.5Gcrisis.com) On Facebook: [Iowans for Responsible Technology](#) or [Americans for Responsible Technology](#)

## Strategies

### *Economic Development*

#### **Manufacturing**

- Get into regenerative agriculture. Nurturing the environment, returning nutrients back to the soil to have healthier food. Stop unhealthy industrial manufacturing.
- If Newton and the county had not been so focused on Maytag for years, the area would not have felt as much of a blow as it did when Maytag left. I think the county should encourage several manufacturers to come in. I would hope, though, that the county would do its part to ensure safe work practices and not hand over taxpayer money to a company that will put workers in health hazardous situations.
- I support attracting manufacturing. However, we need to be sure their methods of production aren't detrimental to the quality of life to those who live nearby or to the employees who work there.
- Well known companies that pay
  - This isn't a glamorous sounding option but we need more and better jobs
    - Care should be given to foster synergy with existing manufacturing. It is easier to

help existing business grow that convince new business to relocate.

- This really is a city/town issue, not county. I do not want the county to be a “city”. County, is supposed to be “country”.
- Need more upper paying employers to raise our tax base.
- concentrate on racing related manufacturing near the open land near speedway
- This has the potential to bring down the demographic of a community depending on the industry/major manufacturer one would bring in.
- Until we can provide a workforce, this is not a priority. The manufacturing companies here now cannot fill their open positions due to applicants unable to pass background screenings and drug tests. Those who do get hired are often unreliable. It’s incredibly frustrating for current businesses trying to hire.
- Get away from the wind industry. It’s not sustainable and will ruin agricultural land and communities. I don’t believe they have kept their end of the bargain in several areas though (county? city?) gave them \$ to get started. Make sure we research before something comes in. Just because someone promises jobs doesn’t mean it will be good for the community.
- We have lost almost all manufacturing in Newton

### Agricultural

- Jasper county is a farming community and is our strong suit (like it or not). So lets flex our muscles and do best at what were best at.
- Ag is well established here. We need to diversify
- This needs to be in concert with Story County and Iowa State agri corridor. We can’t compete with them.
- No more hog confinements though. If the owners of them cannot live within 500 feet of the confinement then they shouldn’t be allowed to build it. Every fall we have the manure hauled through our town to be applied to a field just outside of city limits. You cannot open your windows because of the stink and there often is a trail left through town as they can be sloppy when connecting and disconnecting to the tanks.

### Educational Opportunities

- Having DMACC located centrally in the county provides an excellent opportunity to offer more training.
- This could help attract young people. Need to help DMACC create focus areas with Newton specialties identified and advertised.
- DMACC does a good job.
- Not gov. responsibility.
- Education and training for whom? I’m not sure I understand this question. JEDCO or local economic development committees or organizations? Main Street Iowa helps provide positive technical assistance to communities participating.
- Need to be more specific...increase training and certifications for WHO?
- This is a state/industry/educational system issue.
- Educational Opportunities are offered at your libraries, whom you wish to take funds away from. They have adatabases available to assist patrons in finding

jobs, high-speed Internet needed to apply for jobs, trained Librarians to assist in tech/ computer help, and plenty of books, programs, and networking events that assist in career development and training opportunities.

- Organic or near organic certification. Community gardens Sharing knowledge for gardening

### Trade Services

- encourage racing related businesses near speedway
- Again, a city/town issue.
- We need other businesses
- Family restaurants NOT fast food
- Holiday Inn Express would be nice. More sit down restaurants. More food options on Speedway exit.
- Get biz to develop outdoor recreation instead of using county \$\$
- Not sure Jasper has a big enough pull with small lakes and bike traffic spasmodic. Not a great business opportunity.

### Local / Small Businesses

- There should be a resource for small businesses to sound ideas. A Collaboration Center where people can incubate ideas-perhaps an off shoot of DMACC campus.
- Giving breaks for dreamers wanting to start up a local business there's too much red tape
- Bring more quality restaurants to Newton. That was promised with the worthless race track, haven't seen it yet.
- Make it easier for small businesses to get started. Streamline and improve the permitting process. Make sure only necessary regulations are followed and be very clear on what those regulations are and how to fulfill them
- If only gov. truly followed this. Local business will make it if they are customer oriented, even at a slightly higher price.
- Explore Targeted Small Business Certification for small businesses that qualify.
- Small businesses are the backbone of a community. We need to increase incentives and lower barriers such as needless regulation from employees of various local governments
- Must shop at and encourage new businesses in county
- We need other stores in our community other than WalMart.
- I agree with this only if it is done by reducing obstacles such as zoning ordinances and other regulations pertaining to uses of one's own property.
- give these businesses the tax breaks & incentives instead of corporate welfare to large corporations
- That sure don't happen now
- I think small businesses should be helped similar to what is offered to the big guys that everyone offers incentives to to build in their community.
- Use closed up businesses as a delivery drop off (lockers) for online orders of food coops and or retail goods or any other store (Amazon, Target, etc).



## Suggest Another

- How about spending resources to grow what we have in addition to bring in new.

## Transportation

### Road Maintenance

- Use more of the money in your budget to address this problem. Don't take more money from citizens.
- This should be priority number one. Years of neglect has created a disaster
- Attention and funding needs to be directed to bridge repair within the county. The bridge on N 4th Ave E has been closed for 2 years. Unacceptable.
- You wanna raise our [expletive] taxes but our roads are still [expletive]. Get it together
- Bridges in jasper county, like on 11065 W 36th St S, Monroe, IA, where the bridge can provide immediate access to the property on the other side of the creek and the school bus doesnt tear up the drive by using it as a turn around point several months of the year.
- double edge sword for this question, I would like to see more funding towards paving current gravel roads. I am sure the save the planet types could go for the reduced particulate dust that it would prevent.
- Proper training and regular maintenance is key and part of the reason why we have such a problem now. Need to keep infrastructure current and safe, etc.
- These rural roads can become a nightmare when it is extremely wet. Very hazardous, so I am glad you are looking at that.
- Not sure spending more is the answer. Perhaps doing the maintenance right the first time.
- Maintenance should be done as existing gravel roads are being paved. A schedule should go along with this to keep all roads maintained.
- Farmers need to be more mindful about using heavy equipment on the roads.
- Our little town need a lot of road work
- The country roads in this county have never been worse. There is no excuse for this.
- Need to pick key areas to create housing developments. This will increase tax revenue to help pay. Also need to increase sales tax. Roads are the stumbling block for getting new people to come here.
- I would like to see improvement of what we currently have and look to paving the gravel roads.
- Existing gravel roads in my area are more like dirt roads. Almost impassable after large rain events.
- It is going to take a bond or increase in levi rate and folks just need to be explained how much is needed, for what purpose and that oversight will be tight to orent misuse of funds.
- Any kind of maintenance to the gravel roads would be very nice. 1st of all more gravel would help a lot. Paving or asphalt would be even better. If paving or asphalt isn't a option, then the roads need to be redone because many of the

roads do not have a crown anymore.

- Need training on how to maintain the roads by putting a crown back in the middle of roads for water run off to eliminate potholes. Use quality rock to prevent repeat applications resulting in higher expenses.
- Our gravel roads are unsafe and our county should be ashamed at how they have been maintained the last 5 years or more.
- I neither agree or disagree with this and am more middle of the road. I grew up in the country and KNEW I needed a vehicle that could get me safely to and from town in a blizzard, downpour, etc. I think society has been babied and maybe they need to rethink their vehicle choices and plan ahead. Regular road maintenance and upgrades are expected but laying gravel every time the snow thaws is impractical.
- There is plenty of money. It is not being spent where we need it.
- Do not need more money, just existing money spent where it is needed.
- Maintenance of the roads needs to be improved through ALL the seasons.
- The gravel roads in Jasper are absolutely horrible. Shame on the supervisors for letting it get this bad!
- Our travel roads are slowly improving, but are still very dangerous.
- What is our funding dollar amount today and how does it compare to other counties?
- As someone who has lived on various gravel roads in Jasper County most of my life, this last Spring confirmed that the current condition is not acceptable. They were in poor condition prior to the rain, which made them outright hazardous. It was beyond difficult to get our kids to and from daycare.
- Many of our students missed school because of the horrible gravel road conditions. Also, the elderly people that live on gravel had a very hard time getting out.

### Road Paving

- I think the roads that are currently paved need to be repaired. All farm to market roads need to be built to support the traffic and weight they are being subjected to presently and in the future.
- Sometimes this is feasible to do, sometimes not. This has to be evaluated objectively on a continual basis.
- If gravel roads aren't going to be maintained properly then I'm in favor of paving to avoid sliding in mud deeper than the bottom of my vehicle.
- Sure if its feasible and makes sense
- We do not need more paved roads. We need maintained roads and gravel is perfectly fine.
- Maybe a road here and there, but paving is too costly for the miles of roads we have. If you live on gravel you know what to expect, but more part time folks for maintainers in the winter would be great.
- This would be amazing! I can't begin to count the amount of money I've spent keeping my vehicles clean, repairs due to crappie gravel road maintenance etc. Although paving all the gravel roads would be very expensive, but in the long run, if you think about the amount of money spent on gravel, and workers trying to

keep them maintained over the years... I think it would pay for itself. Less complaints from rural residents as well. It wouldn't have to be spectacular, but concrete or asphalt instead of gravel would be very nice!

- No new roads! If anything pave what we have.
- Pavement on east 60th Street North and down n 27th Ave East to Kellogg
- Key economic zones need to be created to focus our paving dollars.
- Some of the gravel roads could be paved to reduce maintenance costs but not all of them. Creating new roads doesn't seem wise when we can't maintain our existing ones.
- The more paving that is complete, the less maintenance over the years to come.
- Gravel road will never be paved in my lifetime.
- Our paved roads we have now are in disrepair, our gravel roads need so much help. Don't need to pave gravel roads, just fix them, and put that money to repaving the roads we have now
- E. 8th St N is paved only to the Dairy Farm. Because of TPI, that gravel road is HEAVILY traveled. Please consider expanding the pavement.
- Perhaps as more revenue comes in. Paving some major gravel roadways with housing development would help increase tax base.
- This is one of the few things I can agree with gov. on as it relates to environment. Paving the gravel roads would cut down on dust particulates and save money, in the long run, through reduced maintenance issues. (although maint. has been severely lacking for several years). I do not think we need additional roads built, however. I think the roads that are currently paved need to be repaired. All farm to market roads need to be built to support the traffic and weight they are being subjected to presently and in the future.

### Multi-Use Trails

- Pave the ones we can as they will get the most use by a long shot.
- I do not agree with expansion because it seems that we always build without regard to future costs of maintenance, ultimately leading to more taxes and less quality maintenance.
- Much of our park service hours are spent maintaining existing trails. Can't afford to focus on this until more people have moved here.
- I really like the info I've been reading online and in the newspaper regarding development of 30 Acre Park. Keep that project going!
- I do not like expanding things which do not have funding for maintenance after the initial funding goes away.
- Why waste money on more bike trails when they aren't being used. Hwy f36 (Newton) Isaac Walton League road has sign beware of walkers and bikers. No, that's what the results were made for.
- I think this is the least of our worries as a county right now when people can't even get out of their homes to get to their jobs because the roads are impassable when it rains.
- We can't afford to maintain our roads but let's build trails? Makes sense
- It would be nice to have some horse trails, not all bike trails

## Safety

- Good to do but lower priority
- Use discretion. This is not county wide but rather only areas that need it.
- For years there should be deer signs on the curves on F24. The intersection where F24 and S52 meet up is sometimes dangerous because half the time you have to guess because the county takes their merry little mowing this way and you can't see if there are vehicles coming. The best option is to widen the shoulder of the highway of S52.
- I am not aware of any particular problems.
- Safety is in the operator, not the county. Incompetent people are the problem not our standards.
- It is very difficult to see bicyclists on Hwy S74 S (reasnor road). I am committed to sharing the road, but when I come up over a hill, have a car coming at me from the other side, even though I am going the speed limit there is no way to give cyclists the room they need for safety. It is TOO DANGEROUS for cyclists to be on that road with regular road traffic until a path is built for them. Also would like to see/hear of cops enforcing traffic laws for cyclists. It's frustrating to see kids and adults being careless-not stopping at stop signs, riding all over the road, not signalling, etc. I hope officers start to pull over these people and give them a ticket for their own safety.

## Ride Share & Transit

- I don't think JC should find this. If a company wants to come in because it would be profitable then great.
- While it would be nice to have a bus between Newton and Colfax and Des Moines- a first priority would be to get people relocating here with money to improve the tax base. Not expand services for a group that pays little in support of the county
- Rideshares are a great step in the "green" direction and could help a lot of economically disadvantaged residents. However, if you are looking at a ride-share program, also think about rides to the library where residents can use the high-speed internet that they can't get at home, or to the hospital, grocery store, etc. A bus route in addition to ride sharing.
- We need uber/Lyft
- People can figure out their own transportation. Let's worry about our roads.
- Yess!!
- Waste of money unless it is just parking areas, but then those areas must have some security or they will not be utilized.

## Suggest Another

- Gravel roads need to be gravelled and maintained on a regular basis, not just when there is a crisis in the spring! Compare how many tons of gravel we are putting on per miles of gravel roads in 2018 vs. how many per mile of gravel road in past history, say in about 1970?
- Fix the problem the county created by cutting down trees along gravel roadways and NOT treating the stumps. It's unbelievable we wasted time and money to

make the problem worse. Please cut the trees again and apply a treatment to the stump to keep the trees from growing back!

## Public Health & Safety

### Emergency Management

- All these are vague concepts - any specific plans on them to either day yes/no?
- Make sure EM does not become a self-perpetuating bureaucracy.
- Absolutely! This should be an area of primary concern
- Sheriff is great. EMA needs to be more visible with more Community events and training.
- Volunteer EMS in this County is dying. And isn't sustainable under the current system.
- MercyOne needs to have Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners on-call or at hospital at all times. Too many patients who have been sexually assaulted are being told to go to Mercy or Methodist in Des Moines. This is not trauma-respectful of victims and is damaging to public safety.

### Public Safety

- With the sheriff's office filing in for smaller communities as their police protection or when they aren't adequately staffed, I feel they need more funding to hire more officers.
- Currently Prairie City "Does not have a 24 hour police service" (according to the chief of police). They also spend a large amount of time on 163 pulling over speeders. In town cops on duty at all times seems to be needed.
- Law enforcement is a vital part of our community. The courts are as well. Too many unnecessary plea bargains are taking place. I would also like to see an emphasis on transformative justice in Jasper County. This can also help with promoting community.
- Need more sheriff patrols in the lesser populated areas of the county
- Drug control please
- #1 priority for Jasper County.
- Sheriff has a great department.
- They leave out the small towns already and we get maybe one pass through a month. But the towns that have police the Sheriff departments will patrol or they are all in the same part of the county. I don't understand how they can't be split up. Small unincorporated towns shouldn't have to wait an hour to almost three hours for them to respond to a call even if they do. Have the time they just call back to say there's nothing they can do. How reassuring is that?
- We need more than one deputy on duty at a time!
- More focus on public outreach and serving the public - not patrolling. What is the department doing to fix problems BEFORE they become a problem?
- Law enforcement should have more of a public image because they are so important.
- Crime high, consequences too few
- The police in this town do not do anything about theft nor drug use. They

continually let the same people off in exchange for information which then allows these people to continue to use, distribute and steal. The entire situation has gotten ridiculous.

- Hopefully the sherriff patrolling is prepared to do the job hired for while not turning a blind eye to the crime and drug use in this community.

### Communication

- Does the county have a text alert system for which the public can register? I know Marion County does.
- Your current emergency notification is horrible. I receive missing texts, partial texts, or alerts way after they have been sent.
- Keep us informed consistently. Example-got a call that a missing child was found but no call that they were missing!!
- I feel well-informed already. How could this be improved? I think you are already doing a great job.
- City and county need same radio system. More information to residents about situations. More social media presence.
- You can't rely on the Sheriffs department to show up. Hell you can't even even get them to patrol unincorporated towns.

### Quality of Life

- Too much crime to be at peace
- It's not the county's responsibility to improve citizens' feelings of happiness, and overall well-being. They should provide security especially in areas outside of the communities.
- The more we focus on this, the safer and healthier our communities will be.
- One's happiness is up to him/herself. I don't think it's wise to invest money in feelings.
- Very nebulous. This needs to be done through expanded medical and social services
- This is not a government responsibility to make people "feel good".
- explore "Nature Deficit Disorder". Get people back into nature and they will be happy.
- I think this comes from cooperation as a community and so not likely something that the gov't can provide, but a strong sn engaged gov't is part of.
- We've become such a sensitive country. Its not the county's job to improve someones mental health
- The government can only do so much to ensure someone feels this way
- I don't think this is up the County. We as citizens need to do this for each other
- A large part of Quality of Life is access to a community center, high-speed Internet, educational programs, reading material and information, all of which is available at our libraries. If you are putting an importance on Quality of Life, also put an importance on your libraries in the County.
- I was born and raised in Newton for 64years. We are considering moving out of Newton due to over taxation on our house in a year or two
  - That's up to the individual not the county.

## Health Services

- Improved and increased quality of healthcare in the county. Skiff has improved, but there's still a lot of room for improvement. Physical/Occupational therapy available in some of the smaller towns in the county also.
- Healthcare is not a right.
- Already do a pretty good job of this.
- There is sufficient access already.
- More education and awareness of how to work with people who have been victimized by crimes. More trauma-training is needed for professionals.
- Bring an Iowa clinic to Jasper County
- I'm not sure why Mercy One (Skiff) transports an increasingly high number of patients to DSM on a daily basis. This leaves me to believe they aren't staffed or equipped to handle what a community hospital should be able to and appears to be a huge overburden on our EMS system.
- Preventive health and injury prevention will save tax payers money. More collaboration with County offices.
- Mental Health services are lacking.
- Need more holistic related practitioners. Functional medicine doctors, Integrative doctors, whole health wellness.

## Suggest Another

- The county has zip for spirit and unity. More like 36,000 individuals. That would go a long way to get the much needed volunteers for fire/ambulance, etc.
- Mental Health Services need to be improved & a Shelter for Youth brought back

## Climate Change

### Alternative Energy

- Let's take a leadership role here. It is time.
- All for it!
- consider Geothermal too
- Not a fan of wind energy expanding any further than it already has. Its eye and ear noise, it is ruining our state.
- Explore more cost effective options for homeowners as well.

### Natural Disaster Recovery

- Not familiar enough with this to have an opinion.

### Land Conservation

- Very important to expand what we have.
- Increasing rain and increasing flooding means we have to examine land uses and determine where changes in uses can have the most positive impacts and work with landowners to help them implement them.

## Green Design & Practices

- Strongly agree with this. County should be a leading example!

## Mitigation Planning

- Identifying some of our sensitive natural resources in the county would be a needed first step.
- We have so much less wildlife habitat than we used to. Everything is tilled, drained and mowed. We need to compensate for some of these ag trends. Thankful for farmers who utilize buffer strips
- Those were always my favorite science lessons in school - is there a way to get the community more actively involved in this?

## Housing Opportunities

### Large Lot Single Family

- I think that would offer a lot, but the County does not need to subsidize such projects, other than ensuring there is infrastructure in place to accommodate it.
- We have plenty of larger lots. We need developments targeting home owners who want a rural setting with city-sized lots
- Need medium income apartments and homes. Have a lot of expensive and low income. Need to help people of medium income more
- Far better to locate near existing parks and eliminate excessive mowing for each family
- Acreages are popular and the County could do more to facilitate expanded opportunities for them.

### Small Lot Single Family

- This works best if there is common area or close proximity to parks.
- I know this and the 5 acre lots are still popular right now... but I'm just not sold that it is going to continue to be... or that it's the best thing to explore considering other options. I wouldn't mind seeing some of these in with other options - but not exclusively these types of lots.

### Non-traditional Housing

- If someone wants to put in that kind of development, government's role is to provide infrastructure for it. I don't think money should be waste actively seeking it.
- Affordability and community.
- We need more diversity in housing options
- If this includes homes for the elderly, this is important to me.
- I think Jasper County needs to explore the tiny housing movement more. Tiny houses can fulfill multiple needs. A program like Cass Community Social Services Tiny Homes in Detroit Michigan would be awesome. For what people are paying for rent in an apartment, they could be applying that money towards owning a small home. That equity then can be applied towards a larger home on down the road freeing up the tiny house for someone else. A look needs to be taken into



the way the younger people of today want to live. Do they want the large homes or would they rather have a smaller manageable home that allows them to have more disposable income to spend on life experiences or invest.

- Keep high standards for development, use
- I don't want to see low income apartments.
- Cities may find new types of apartments desirable for young people-small apartments with lots of common areas.

### Mixed Use Developments

- Love to see this- especially to attract larger income families. This could give Jasper an edge over more traditional mass growth of Polk and Story Counties.
- I mean... this is basically creating a town. I'd more like to see Jasper work with the existing towns to collaborate on this potential.
- Absolutely. I think there is great opportunity for this if the county can move past its own zoning ordinance and let people use their land as they see fit.

### Eco-Friendly Housing

- Don't turn it away, but don't waste money seeking it. Most developers and homeowners already try to find ways to be environmentally friendly these days anyway.
- As housing developments are designed, I think more care needs to be put into the way water is shed. There needs to be more thought given to the water runoff issues by creating more water retention areas in these developments. More flooding has occurred along the Skunk River since the flood of 1993. The landscape was changed but also since that time there has been a considerable amount of housing and industrial development in Ames without consideration of all the runoff water that would be going into the river and flooding downstream.
- We have one land we are living on; let's treat it well for ourselves and future generations to come.
- We need to support builders who provide this environmentally friendly housing
- LOVE this idea as it goes with the climate change issue. No idea what the off grid stuff would be like, but it sounds very intriguing and I'd like to hear more. I feel like it could be popular.

### Suggest Another

- More apartments for Seniors. This will provide starter homes for young people.
- 55 & older communities with huge property tax breaks

### Agricultural Preservation

#### Conservation Easements

- Need more info
- I think areas along rivers and streams that often flood should have those areas pursued to be placed in such programs.
- I agree with some caveats. The land should be low quality ground or already established as prairie or timber.
- Absolutely not.

- Stop spraying the milkweeds! Protect the pollinators. Encourage residents to be able to grow native plants on their property. Encourage residents to stop spraying their lawns with pesticides. Plant more wildflowers in areas to provide food for pollinators.
- Key word: voluntary

### Zoning Adjustments

- Find nonzoning solutions instead
- Emphasis on “consider”.
- Need more info

### Agricultural Enhancement & Agritourism

- Have our local groceries and farm stores etc start selling more or only local products
- Organic and non GMO farm to table food would be great.

### Small Scale & 1st Generation Farms

- Absolutely agree. We need to keep the small farmers supported over the large multi-acre farming.
- Disagree, all small businesses fall & pick themselves back up, or not. Why support only farms?
- This is a demographic that is dwindling as well as losing our younger generations. Offering resources or networking events may convince more young farmers to buy or take up the family business.

### Innovative Agricultural Methods

- Farming operations will diversify based on what works for their land and personal operation structure. This is not something the county should spend resources on.
- Conservation education needs to come 1st. They wont do what they dont understand
- More CSA foods

### Suggest Another

- Conservation setbacks, buffered waterways, and things like precision agriculture that take marginal ground out of production and make areas for the ring necked pheasant (recreation) and pollinators.

## Parks & Recreation

### Camping

- Smaller tent only campgrounds with a real camping experience would be more ideal for low income families.
- Other nearby counties have far superior parks with large lakes. This project should come after we grow the base.
- Not a priority. We're well served with a variety of camping
- Good for revenue and supporting local economic development (businesses, etc.)  
Neal Smith Center is an asset, Quarry Springs, Speedway, etc. Take advantage of these tourism opportunities and market, market, market!

- Need to maintain what we already have.
- I think there's a market for it.

### Land Trails

- The biking trail that attaches Slater, Madrid, and the High Tressle Trail have high traffic. It would be awesome to implement a nice trail like that in our community!
- We need to fix our current system of roads and trails and not add more. More = more maintenance costs in the future.
- This is what many young families desire! Middle age as well!
- Trails are a waste of taxpayer money.
- Trails, especially bike trails will be a draw for our communities and encourage young families to move to our cities. Yes, maintenance is an expense, but it is a worthwhile investment long-term for the county's vitality.
- Duluth, Minnesota has amazing trails even within the city. It's a city well-respected for biking and hiking. It brings the community together and brings visitors/\$. I think we can emulate this.
- I would love to connect the bike trails so we don't have to drive to Baxter!

### Water Recreation

- Good idea, however, will be difficult to maintain accesses. For instance with so much flooding on the skunk, the likelihood of having to rebuild regularly is high and would be costly.
- I don't think there are any ideal bodies of water in Jasper County to accommodate those things.
- Yes!!! We are trying to find some safe places to kayak a river but can't find any nearby.
- No need.
- A splash pad a wading pool would be awesome
- Splash park in the downtown area
- I think Jasper County has more options for water trails with it's terrain than bike trails as most bicyclists don't want to climb hills. Between the South Skunk and North Skunk, different types of water trails could be offered.

### Motorized Recreation

- Already have enough of these. We need to encourage non-motorized facilities
- The snowmobile registration fees should be used towards small marking signs in the ditches like many other counties do. Prioritize the safety of snowmobilers.
- And horse trails
- There may be a new ATV/UTV Ordinance that the Comp Plan may want to look into.
- Allow atv's on roadways only.
- There is greater chance for revenue to local businesses through the purchase of equipment like that.
- I go to parks to get away from noise.

## Zoning Adjustments

- Improve upon the fishing opportunities we have. Many counties are banning lead shot from county public hunting areas to protect from lead poisoning and contamination.
- Undecided but seems like this could be inexpensive compared to many other options.
- Absolutely there should be more places to hunt and fish.
- More areas for people to hunt, hike and recreate will be good for the county. Brings revenue into the county from both inside and outside the county.

## Suggest Another

- Libraries are key to many of our communities. There is a lot of foot traffic and some pretty amazing programs. We have some great library programs in the county, and we should not step backwards.

## Community Character

### Land Appearance / Up-Keep

- Colfax should actually enforce their own city codes. Half this town is junk.
- I have lived in a townhome association, so let me stress that I don't feel everyone should have the exactly same front lawn. However, there should be some regulations as to what is allowed and not allowed for public viewing as people pass by.
- Provide incentives. Teach kids "clean" values
- This is a never ending task. People who rent do not care about their property's.
- Absolutely a top priority. When our community looks nice, it will draw the right kind of people here.
- No. I relish the old times when nobody paid any attention. What you do on your side of the fence should not matter. This isn't Beverly Hills. Less Gov.= less stressful living and better health.
- Consider passing ordinance that prohibits mowing of ditches until After the pheasant hatch (August 1)
- Agree, but difficult to enforce. Maybe increase roadside prairies which offer pretty drives in the summer and fall. But would need to curb recreational spraying of ditches.
- Keep properties well kept as lawn mowed trash pick up around houses.
- Really? Curb appeal is a city/town issue. County needs to stay out of it. A person's property ought to be theirs to do with what they please. This smells of overreach. "Good fences make good neighbors". Roads are what needs to be focused on. We have historical pictures of homesteads with broken down equipment and old buildings that we cherish, country life is not about curb appeal. "Curb appeal " is merely another tool to "control" residents via a rule or regulation and subjective and dependent on the "enforcer's" opinion. Leave people alone and don't go here.
- Newton and rural Newton is dirty and litter dumped every where. Clean up/tear down dilapidating structures. Code enforcement of junk on properties. Weed

---

control, and beautification of rural areas, county management and better maintenance of roads (terrible here) and weeds mowed.

- Get more community involvement!! Churches and businesses should be willing to help with this!! Reach out to them for funds and volunteers.
- efforts to increase property appearance only leads property tax increases is what I here from many residents
- Too many people in town think they live in a rural area. No junkyards in our neighborhoods would be great.
- Need a County “Pride” campaign that doesn’t stop after 6 months!

### County-Wide Events

- Low cost family activities are needed
- The more we can highlight/create “things to do” in Jasper the better.
- Partnering is great but don’t think it should be a focus.
- Leave this to municipalities.

### Art & Culture

- Public art and festivals are always good to bring people and money to the community. I don’t feel out community is large enough to have separate ethnic celebrations, however it would be nice to have an ethnic festival to celebrate and share and experience foods of various ethnicities all at the same festival.
- Sculpture festival could be expanded. Mason City has a designated route--Could offer a competition each year to attract new talent and visitors.
- can this be done without exorbitant fees and permits that curtail participation to vendors?
- And family friendly. Not all Biker related. Work with DMACC culinary for an eatery. Also bring in better quality restaurants with a Prairie Canary feel and a real Steakhouse farm to table (like Big Steer / Trellis type foods), offer cooking / baking classes for kids and families. Attract more artists and showcase the Arts more here.
- Some cities do very well on this, but we can expand
- This should remain a municipality responsibility.
- These are sooo vital to communities. They bring people together, promote community involvement and care, show visitors a love of community and brings them to visit, and overall shows a respect for humanity and the beauty of various cultures.
- Encourage art and culture, but beyond having public services available for traffic control, parking, etc., I think the bigger role is to attract private sponsors to bring these to Jasper County.
- Not just in summer when its too hot to attend!
- Art and culture is about more than festivals. We need restaurants, museums, community spaces and libraries to become vibrant community that people WANT to call home.

### Historic Preservation

- As long as my taxes don’t have to pay for it.
- Hotel Maytag and the Maytag Plaza are awesome!

- This, this, this, and more this!
- Historic preservation should be a low priority. It's important to honor the past, but taxpayer dollars have more urgent demands than old buildings and sites.
- While history can be interesting to learn, let's focus on the here and now. We need money to filter to projects that help people in the present, not spend lots of money on the past.
- City/town responsibility.
- Newton has been pro-active in this. We need to do more
- Yes as long as it is a discriminating list. Just because it is old it may not be worth preserving.
- This depends on the expense that goes along with preserving. If the expense outweighs the benefit, then by all means a new building should be considered. The expense to maintain a new building would be much less and common sense should be used to make that decision.
- I support historic preservation but also feel that common sense has to be involved also. There comes a point when a building is in such need of repairs that if there isn't a functional and practical use for it besides "saving" it then money should be used on other structures that will fulfill a purpose. I would also like to see the Red Bridge south of Reasnor be moved as soon as possible to the quarry at Colfax. This structure will fulfill a purpose and add character.

### Growth Management

- Jasper county can not afford to preserve the rural feel because that means dusty roads and run down farm buildings too close to urban expansion. That would produce stagnation of this county.
- Rural preservation is a must! Wind farms are not the answer. Data against them and impact on a community is devastating.
- Rural feel is over-rated but it seems to help our community. We're not that rural
- I only agree because, if left alone, it is preserved without government interference.
- Make sure we protect ourselves adequately from livestock confinement issues.
- Rural feel can be important, but again, we need to focus on people and community in order to heal and bring people together.
- There are those of us who like the small town living. We work in another town and don't necessarily need to have the grocery store and restaurants. We enjoy our kids being able to ride their bikes freely on the side streets and know that while they are out playing with other kids in town that someone always has an eye out for their safety. When looking at housing needs remember the smaller communities have lost growth also and need to expand their tax base to be sustainable.
- Let the free market determine Jasper County's growth.
- I agree with this partially; I want Jasper County to grow responsibly but I don't want the need to preserve the rural feel to stunt our growth as a community.
- Don't try to merge town and country.
- No housing developments, keep this county a farming community. I do not want to be like Polk County

## Suggest Another

- Support the local libraries!
- Housing incentives- specifically for some of the houses in Newton. Curb appeal is terrible, which in turn attracts terrible home owners. I could care less if these houses were given away to investors to then rebuild them (to certain qualified specs) in turn building up remodeled homes bringing up the community and its people whom live in it.

## Suggestions

- Senior housing in the smaller towns
- Build a community center that individuals and organizations can use to offer classes
- Having nice libraries
- Provide adequate funding for Library Services
- More advance widespread notice of activities is desired. Better info= better attendance
- Libraries are a crucial component of quality of life!
- Jasper Cty needs to get tough on crime & retire the judges who give all criminals probation or dismissal.
- Provide adequate funding for Library Services
- Make us the friendliest city in Iowa. Hospitality training for everyone - competition for "friendliest" businesses - "miles of smiles" walking paths- smiles on a stick for advertising.
- Continue buying out ran down condemned houses & tearing them down.
- Bring back neighborhood watch program to help residents feel safer.

## Wrap Up: Final Thoughts

- As social service funding across the state has decreased and the concerns about children's time spent on electronics increase, now is NOT the time to cut funding for libraries. Libraries are so important to the fabric of a strong community. It is wrong, when those services are being offered to ALL Jasper County residents, that the county should be pushing additional funding responsibilities onto the city governments. I realize everything is expensive and projects have been pushed down the road, and now we are "down the road". Things cost money. Services cost money. I don't understand why we wouldn't expect our taxes to increase as costs increase. It's just math. Libraries are SO important to the low income families of our county. Please consider restoring the library funding to an appropriate level. Thank you.
- Currently live off gravel and roads are terrible. Directly affected by double bridge closure on Hwy 6 and extremely unhappy with how it's been handled.
- The survey did not allow me the opportunity to answer first two questions in completion.
- Thank you for allowing for our input.
- Jasper co needs more industry. More jobs creates more tax revenue.
- Property taxes have gotten totally out of hand. The assess value of our home in Mon-

roe rose from 90,000 to 170,000 this past year. We may have to downsize or move to an apartment to continue living here. This should not be an option for any senior citizen living in Jasper County.

- Jasper County is a well-hidden secret and for those of us who live here, we'd like to keep it that way. However, we need businesses and growth that truly fits the vision for the county. People who live in large cities want to move to places like JC allowing them to commute to work easily, yet come home to a slower-pace in life. We have an opportunity to build upon this by building the infrastructure needed to attract the types of small and mid sized businesses that are unique and compliment our county, not be an eye-sore.
- We need to limit and stop the growth of hog confinements. We need to cap wind turbines. We need to promote more natural areas that do not involve motorized vehicles.
- People want things to do, create or highlight things to do and people will come.
- Please clean up our town of dilapidated housing, messy lots and restore buildings like they did the Maytag Hotel. Increase activities for kids.
- There is so much potential here! I love to think of outside of the box ideas and I'd love to see all of us in Jasper County work together more. I know that this has been great for the Fire Departments - or as far as I know anyway. :) I also think it is our responsibility to make sure we are being thoughtful about how we use our land and not just throw up housing or businesses without thinking about what is best for the land. I would love to have Jasper County known for being good stewards to where we live.
- I am mostly concerned about crime & the leniency in punishment. It harms the whole community.
- We need to increase housing opportunities for new young families, provide outdoor living such as improvements in parks and trails. We also need better/ affordable transportation throughout jasper county for all populations such as uber/Lyft. Many elders in the county do not have access to transportation.
- We definitely need to focus on roads. Keep funding for things like elderly nutrition
- Add a bike trail on Hwy S74 S.
- Newton is aging rapidly and solutions should be build for the next generation. Invest in and grow small businesses. Tech education and opportunities, especially for start-ups
- We need to fix our gravel roads and highways.
- I live on the County line and have a business which adds to the economic and tourism impact in Jasper County.
- Gravel and county roads need repaired and upkept better. This is step one to taking care of all other issues. If our roads are crappy our county looks poor, and crappy to any visitors or potential new businesses.
- Preserving our farmers and land are the most important to me. Stop Urban sprawl.
- Looking good! I like the options and the initiative
- In Newton particularly which is the county seat we need to gain control of the drug problem. We have too many users and too much theft for people out side of our community to want to live into the community. We need city and county officials who will not turn a blind eye, participate in the crime and who will bring in the DCI FBI or whatever public state officials are needed to get a grip on this situation.



- Need more stores. Sick of Walmart
- We need higher wage jobs to compete with employment opportunities outside Jasper Co.
- Jasper County has a big task ahead of them to pull their heads out of whatever whole they put them in. Their needs to be less concern about “attractions” and more concern about the counties infrastructure. Quit trying to compete with Polk County and their trails and parks and worry about spending our limited funds on our roads.
- Fix our roads!!!!
- The county really needs to start paving more gravel roads.
- I think the county is in a predicament of keeping up with Polk county and being our own entity. I think a lot of people look to the west and see them, but if they would look south, east or west a different perspective might be had. We are doing a good job with limited funding streams. More funding is necessary to “keep up with the Joneses”. Have to increase that tax base to make it happen.
- Love it here but it seems like the city only cares about making money.. 2 meter maids yet not 1 officer can stop thieves around town.. roads are also terrible
- Need harsher juvenile penalties. More services for out of control teens. More services for mentally unstable juveniles that refuse help and the justice system wont do anything about it.
- No more factories. If we do they need to be high paying, all we are doing is attracting low income single people that work in factories.
- Look into offering property tax credits for home improvements that boost curb appeal. (Roof, siding, exterior painting)
- Fix roads and create opportunities for new growth
- Stagnation unless we get some leadership willing to invest in the future. Look at all the development from our neighboring counties on both sides of the county. No reason we shouldn't have that.
- How about including Ira in the options another way the county overlooks ira
- We need to focus on recreation and bringing and supporting small business - retail (especially clothing) and dining (especially casual of a higher scale than we currently have). Manchester is a great example and I'd like to see our city learn from them.
- I love the small town feel but jasper county needs to upgrade to the times. Shopping is very sparse and a lot of economy goes to Polk county.
- Keep the small town feel
- Need to seriously address homeless people, drug trafficking and theft problems in our community.
- The county as a whole is heading in the right direction.
- PLEASE fix the bridge that is owned by the city and the county on N. 4th Ave. in Newton. Want to improve the lives of residents? Please prioritize fixing a bridge that is violating a city ordinance and fire code, affecting school district buses, trash pick-up, and inconveniencing 16 property owners (city and county) for an extended period of time.
- Rural development will never progress with deteriorating gravel roads. Wake up and smell the roses. Our roads are a mess
- Hopefully the vulgar tax income misappropriation gets fixed soon so I don't have to

constantly fix my vehicle cause the roads are [expletive]. Also would be nice if the cops did their jobs and busted rapists and drug dealers instead of ticketing people for exhaust noise and window tint

- I would like to see the epidemic of meth and opioid use and proliferation dealt with in a way that works. I have known people who have moved here from other central Iowa communities that were shocked at how bad the problem really is.
- The focus will always be the bigger towns. The unincorporated towns always get screwed so I am sure this was a waste of time to do.
- We need to continue to fund needed projects, not raise taxes. Utilities have increased this year in all areas so they need to show us that the increase also increases the services.
- Quit being petty Administrators and actually listen to the calls and feedback you get instead of catering to the people you like or your own designs instead of the collective designs of the majority.
- There is a lot of work to be done!
- This is a great place to live but I think in order to attract additional families, we need to focus on our roads. If potential residents see difficulty in travel, they won't move here.
- I think Jasper county, specifically Newton, is a great place to live in. I think it will continue to only get better and we look forward to the future.
- There is a lot of drug use in this town that needs to be addressed. The more drugs, the more crime--thefts, robberies, etc.
- Need to have options for people who want to live in the country but closer to a certain school district. We have been trying to move up to Baxter but everything we find wont let me park my semi at home.
- I think it is important to keep libraries available so all children have access.
- Library was left out of the budgetary options. Considering recent and intended cuts, this doesn't look promising for the county's intentions toward lifelong learning.
- I'm really disappointed in how little support our libraries and community centers are receiving. Libraries in particular, are lifelines to residents who do not have access to internet, job searching assistance, youth development opportunities, and many other resources. Children, seniors, and the economically depressed are especially dependent on libraries and you hurt our communities when you rip away resources from these groups.
- Should be kid and education geared otherwise wasting our time to separate our county to other counties who doesn't want to be at a place with the best schools and parks geared toward youth
- Newton needs to bring in more business . Menards, craft store (hobby lobby), restaurant's on the east side. I'm tired of driving 5 miles across town to a restaurant and then 5 miles back to shop.
- Make Jasper the county that people who want to get away from the Polk County, call home!
- Let's make this the best county in Iowa
- Keep ATVs off county roads. They do not have the proper safety equipment, or insurance. The damage they do is not worth opening up our roads to pleasure riders. Please fund our libraries! Without continued funding for our public libraries, services will suffer.
  - Going to sell and move to Polk County - closer to work and many more family

- activities and restaurants
- Cut down on crime and fix the roadd. Please.
- Fix the gravel roads!!!
- Keep it simple, maintain transparency, limit government involvement, let the private sector do the heavy lifting!
- It would be nice to see the county spend money on substance abuse treatment for county residents at county businesses.
- Personally, I am tired of the high taxes and the money being spent unwisely.
- Stop moving in factories. Low paying job draw low paying people. Crime rate and drug use is out of control in Newton and Colfax. Small business breaks are what we need. No more factories unless they can pay what Maytag used to and has the same long term benefits.
- We need to get a handle on the drug abuse, more things to do, and better paying jobs.
- Jasper County is primarily an ag community and should stay that way. The little housing developments that pop up in the middle of farmland should be kept to a minimum.
- I would love to see some changes in road development and maintenance as well as parks and rec development. Public health and safety is always a concern so making sure the community is taken care of is important as well. I have faith we'll see good changes coming soon!
- good survey
- I would like to see, Jasper as a mi-stop between Iowa City and DSM offering larger city amenities while maintaining small town appeal. I think Newton can attract several outside community citizens here with the right business and attractions building more revenue and creating jobs for local residents.
- I believe that we'll find an emphasis on funding infrastructure because of the current state of roads, bridges, etc. Over time, with the right amount of initial funding, the percentage going to infrastructure should go down or hold steady against some of the other areas.
- Young families want an area where they can work and play. Currently both those options are found more elsewhere than in Jasper county. I think the outlook and opportunity of the county is great, we just need to focus on the key areas of development.
- We need follow through and implementation to progress. People need to be open to change to grow our community.
- County needs to get its act together and be touch more progressive. This is, after all, the new century and the counties around us are cleaning our clocks economically and residential.
- 2 easiest ways to grow are economically well located housing developments and helping existing companies grow. This takes money spent now to get more people. This is not the time to be frugal.
- I would love to see a bike trail from Newton to Kellogg
- It's paramount to ensure funding for school systems and Library systems.
- DON'T FORGET to prioritize library funding. Rural dwellers need library services just as much as city dwellers.
- Iowa as a whole has a good future, Jasper Co. Should do more to take advantage of their proximity to Polk Co. On a side note, the water quality in this state is awful.

- Obviously after the spring we have had, our roads are in bad shape. Something needs to get figured out! And please stop spraying the ditches!
- We better paying jobs!! And job opportunity!!! Our roads need improved. We need things for kids can do to keep them out of trouble.From Going down the wrong path.
- Good paying jobs. Most of Newton works out of town so they spend their money out of town
- I appreciate the county is taking time and initiative to get input from the community and their opinions so matter so much. Thank you.
- I want the integrity of this county to be preserved in its rural roots. I do not want the farm land to be destroyed. I enjoy the peace and beauty of this state.
- Economic development Climate change
- I live on a gravel road and I know everyone talks about how bad they are...some are I think we need to find a better solution to what we place on the roads with cost in mind. we understand everyone has a budget and everyone wants to talk bad about something but are unwilling to put up the money through taxes to fix it. Many of the roads in town are really beat up the city has done a great job taking down the old broken houses to make our town look so much better. The town is growing with new small and large businesses. We need to find ways to attract young families back into our community. Our crime rate scares the crap out of me with a 2 year old granddaughter growing up here. Thank you for all the thought and hard work you put into place to make our town a better place!
- Clean up Newton
- Jasper County has fallen behind in many ways, in roads, jobs, housing. As a County we need to work harder. The roads need so much work.
- Glad to see start of change. Long overdue.
- Allow wind turbines to be used in Jasper county.
- It's an exciting time with all kinds of opportunity!
- Need to increase economic development efforts across the county to keep moving in the right direction. Take advantage of local assets and coordinate works working together more closely to market regionally. Close proximity to Red Rock is also a plus in addition to many items mentioned. We need to be working to attract as many young families as possible, which means we also need quality employers, housing, etc. We also need senior housing options in our local communities to free up residential homes for those first time home buyers, etc. Supporting quality schools and safety are also important.
- Don't get too big for yer britches, can't do everything at once, pick 1 or 2 and do those well. ROADS ROADS ROADS.
- While the County does not have a Library directly that they run, I am disgusted that libraries were kept completely off of the questionnaire. Also, that Parks & Recreation were only mentioned once. A high quality of life is directly proportionate a resident's ability to improve their life improve their education/training, and feel part of the community. While Public Safety and road maintenance are important they barely scrape the surface of a person-s true quality of life. Why did you not ask about services to the economicaly disadvantaged? Anything about senior citizens and how they can make their doctor's appointments? Where a person can go to use high-speed Internet to apply for a job, check email from family, or find people to converse with. This survey was very

one-sided and clearly put emphasis on the few subjects that the County deemed important and not it's residents.

- I want our community to grow and bring higher paying jobs to the county. Incentives to shop and businesses to locate in Newton
- Seems like it is becoming a town for the elderly
- Its not looking good with the people moving in more crime rate and more trash more drugs. Need to quit giving away housing and attracting good people back to newton
- County will be fine without alot of these proposals/wants.
- if you do not fix the roads this plan will not work. I think the county has to many employees compared to other countys
- We love Jasper County and are excited to continue to see it grow and thrive!
- Need to have good roads and sports complexes to attract good people. Also good jobs good housing options and things to do. City and county have to work together on making this a better county!
- Need more restaurants.
- This is a good place to live. We need to work to maintain our community and improve it.
- newtons population and growth has not changed in the past 70 years and I dont see any changes in near future
- Would rather you keep my taxes down and do nothing than raise my taxes for anything other than roads.
- Grant our libraries more funding they are an important piece to pc!
- Change is needed. Sad to be know as a rough, dirty town and crime here on news. Clean up, improve roads, properties and attract others here. Bring in some foodies, emphasize arts, more family friendly areas, activies. Better sportsmanship. Become a little more classy with quaintness, not all biker, smoker, drug town. Check out Weston, MO.
- Jasper County is a great place to live and raise a family.
- I think Jasper county is a great county, however I think lately we've attracted some individuals who likely to cause issues, I.E. bring in families of prisoners causes those individuals to stay in the area and drugs are become a bigger issue.
- Lots of potential!!
- 40 yrs old
- Lots of caring peoplein Jasper County
- Are roads need major attention
- Lots of potential for the county, the more we continue to try and engage folks the better. This plan is a great start!!
- Bike trails should be a part of the conservation budget not roads.
- Farming
- The county needs to concentrate on necessities not niceties
- Action plans, mission statements and the like are hollow rhetoric without a system of realistic implementation
- Roads are completely unsafe through alot of Jasper county, needs to be priority.
- I am hoping that some of the roads can get fixed better and there will soon be more affordable housing for low income family and more help with it as well
- Jasper County is well positioned to have a bright future! Being located in close prox-

imity to Des Moines gives Jasper County the chance to become a high-quality haven for sustainable growth. Recreation and other quality of life amenities could be the leading strategy for attracting more people and commerce to the area.

- Question 3 did not work and was just a blank grey area. I think Jasper county needs to focus on fixing the utilities within all of the small towns before it focuses on expanding and building more homes. It is ridiculous that so many small towns have old and unsafe water lines. Or slow to no internet. My husband and I work from home and we know many people who would move to Jasper county (or any town) if it has a Fiber internet connection. And they would do so in a heart beat. If Jasper county worked on building and providing this asset I think the county would see a massive amount of people move here. Jasper county also has some amazing beauty that it is not capitalizing on. Let's focus on our natural assets, and keep our rivers, lakes and air clean. I think creating more tourism could go a long way to building our economy and attracting younger people who work via the internet like we do.
- IMPROVE THE SECONDARY ROADS. WE LIVE IN THE COUNTRY AND PAY TAXES FOR THE ROADS AND THEY ARE IN HORRIBLE SHAPE.
- Need to seek collaborative items with Pella and Grinnell. Need improved road from I-80 to Pella.
- If you have more wholesome outdoor activities, quality of life goes up and crime goes down.
- All towns in Jasper County need to work together to give everyone a better future.
- I believe economic development and housing should be strongly supported. More paved roads are needed, which would open up areas for housing!
- Need to make sure ALL areas of the county are equally represented; not just large cities such as Newton.
- I think that we need to place a higher priority on our County Attorney's Office so that they can spend more time on more cases that come before their office. These efforts would help keep our community safe. I would also like to see more Jasper County support for public libraries within our community. Public libraries are an important way to provide learning opportunities for our residents.
- It looks good, we're trying to stay on a productive path. We could entertain some new companies, paying good wages, to help build our communities.
- we need to improve our public lands and recreational opportunities in order to attract people and businesses to visit and then stay here.
- The man that put this together needs a raise...
- I would like to see an emphasis on public safety and conservation which will make the job of promoting (economic development) much easier to potential future employers considering Jasper County.
- I think we need to make the rural areas of our county more appealing to all demographics. That way, money is put back into those areas to help them thrive.
- Rural roads must become a priority as well as public safety and law enforcement in rural areas
- Build some houses. People can't move here without them. Differentiate Jasper County from the metro. We have a lot to offer. Build on the budding success of Quarry

- Springs. Build bike trails
- All though trails are good for some they do not belong next to roadways nor should Jasper County fund them with roadway funds.
  - affordable house is a real issue. home builders won't build a \$150 to \$200k home but this what people can afford.
  - Quit playing politics. Get to work.
  - Great County would love more funds for library system.
  - Need to address the gravel road system & explore paving these roads, because I don't see it getting better in the future if we continue on with just gavel surfaces. The more gravel roads that get paved, the more potential for rural development - whether that be housing or ag/commerical.
  - Keep going after businesses to come to the newton area. We have done a great job at getting jobs to Newton now we need to find a way to keep the jobs here and keep businesses open and being profitable and attract more big box retail stores
  - Cant wait for more bike trails!
  - Gravel roads are in desperate need of work. Newton is a very unattractive looking town.
  - Connect hike and bike trails to others and outside county. Support the Conservation Center.
  - thanks for what you do
  - Fix the roads
  - The roads need repaired. Marion County are 75% better than Jasper.
  - Roads in Jasper County need addressed, some roads are impassable in spring and fall. Our tax dollars should be put to work.
  - Please connect the hike/bike trails to the system accessing the metro area so that we may have a usable central Iowa interconnect.
  - I live in Jasper County, and am self-employed and work in Jasper as well as other counties. I would love to see Jasper County pave their farm to market roads, and get hi-speed internet in rural areas. I would love to see Jasper Co. help attract IT jobs and business to rural small towns to help spark the towns growth.
  - I'd suggest better housing, more diversity and enforcing laws
  - Great potential, and progress, but still got room to grow.
  - Lookong bright!! #thebeard
  - Keep in mind that Jasper County includes all of the county--not just Newton.
  - Volunteer EMS in Jasper Co and statewide for is failing and not sustainable under the current system.
  - Fix the roads! Shut down the tweakers! Fire the mayor and the council! Fire the veterans affairs rep Jackson in Newton he is worthless!
  - Jobs, jobs, jobs
  - There was no good reason to disagree on any of the strategies. Should have been rated instead
  - We need more jobs that people can make a living doing. 10 bucks an hour in Newton don't pay your bills. Newton is expensive for middle class people.
  - Forget bicycle paths for the very minority of Jasper Co. Citizens. Black top all dirt-gravel roads"

- Need to get the people that have been making the rules for years out and get some new and fresh ideas going.
- Bring more jobs to the country and construction will follow.
- The county is in desperate need of real mental health services. Capstone and Optima are doing a disservice to the county with med-driven solutions paid for by pharmaceutical companies that don't address problems adequately. MercyOne has some solutions, but needs encouragement from the county to continue providing real solutions for mental health that do not include dangerous and untested pills.
- I think a lot of Jasper county's problems are the poor roads. Once this is under control I think a lot the other things mentioned will also improve.
- Ask Marion county and Monroe county about their secondary road plans. Both are incredibly better condition than Jasper
- Law enforcement and roads need to see more funding. Removed from welfare programs.
- put term limits on the board of supervisors
- I really think we need to focus on conservation and preserving natural land. I appreciate agriculture but I feel that we do not need to keep expanding on it or else our future generations will have nothing. I also feel that the road systems and maintenance really need to be focused on. One can tell when they are crossing in and out of the county not by physical signs but by how bad Jasper County roads are...
- It's a great county I was born and raised here I would like to see more things on the ATV / Ranger on the roads do u have to have a license??
- I can't wait to see what the future holds for Jasper County!
- hopeful for a bright future
- I think with the number of smaller communities of Jasper County, there is a lot of potential for small businesses and homes that can make Jasper County unique. We all don't have to be Polk County as there are still a great deal of us that like the simple, small town, rural way of life. We just need the yuppies money to sustain us!
- You should have given an option on funding balance. I only used 85 percent as I believe the budget can be cut. Jasper County's future is best determined by the free market and not by County taxpayers subsidizing every one of them to a degree. The County should know its role, recognize the struggle current businesses and residents have, and provide the infrastructure to make the county attractive to investors. I don't care for bribing people to invest in our county with dollars people are forced to pay in. "
- Reduce property taxes. Fix the gravel roads. Don't waste our money on Global Warming, it is a lie.
- Lower property taxes. Fix the gravel roads.
- Lower taxes.
- Our gravel roads are a disaster!