

Public Survey Results

Berrien County Master Plan
 Berrien County Planning Commission Meeting
 November 9, 2021

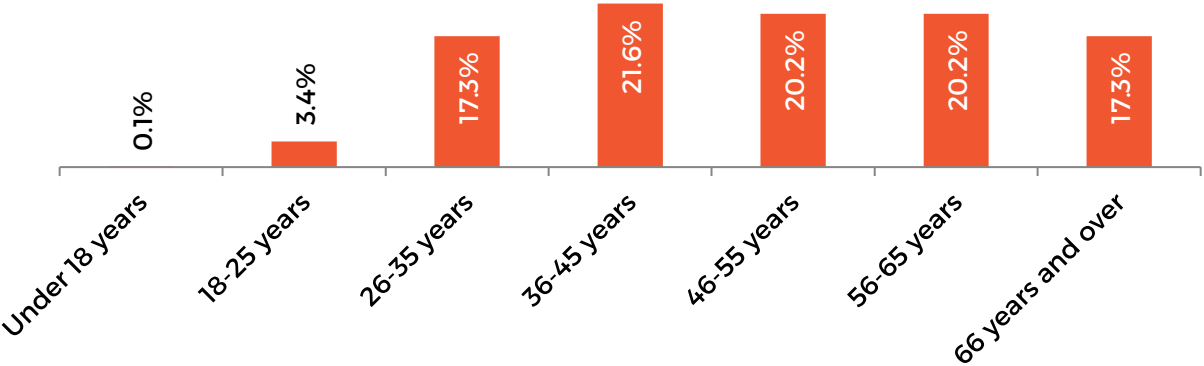
INTRODUCTION

In September 2021, the Berrien County Planning Commission issued a Strategic and Master Plan Survey to gather public input in support of the efforts to develop a county-wide Master Plan and a county strategic plan. There were 2,166 responses to the survey, which provide a large amount of quantifiable data to help set policy related to growth and development in the Master Plan. The following are highlights from the results of the survey.

RESULTS

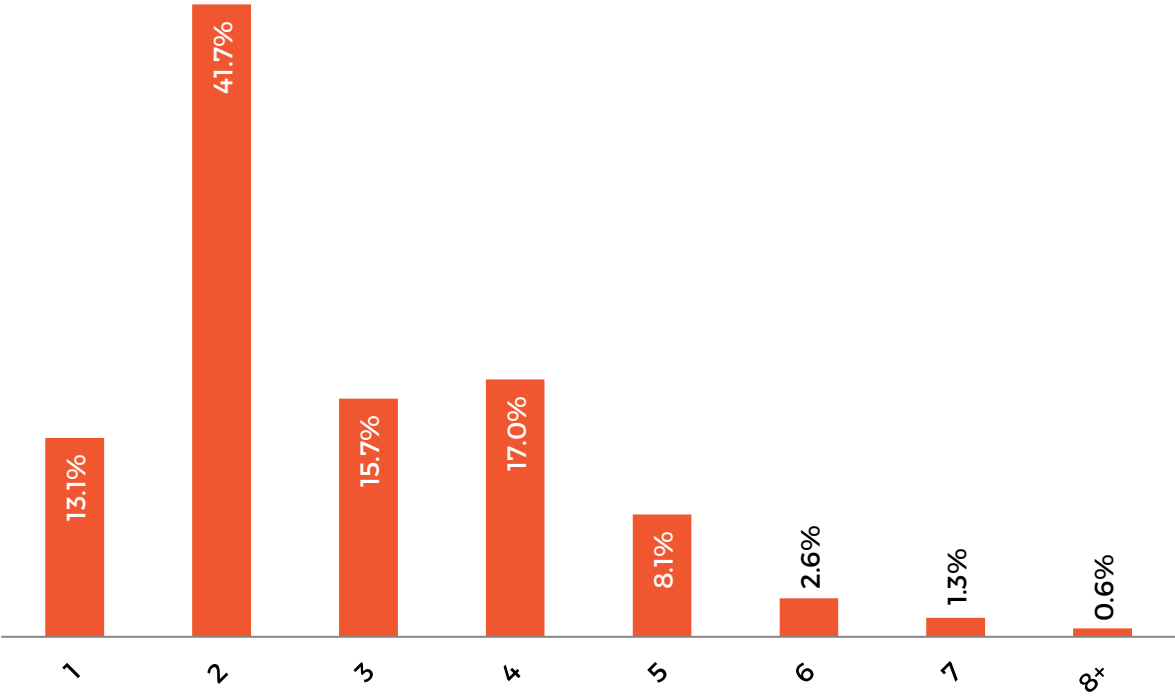
1. What is your approximate age?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18 years	0.1%	2
18-25 years	3.4%	73
26-35 years	17.3%	373
36-45 years	21.6%	465
46-55 years	20.2%	436
56-65 years	20.2%	436
66 years and over	17.3%	373
Answered	2,158	
Skipped	8	



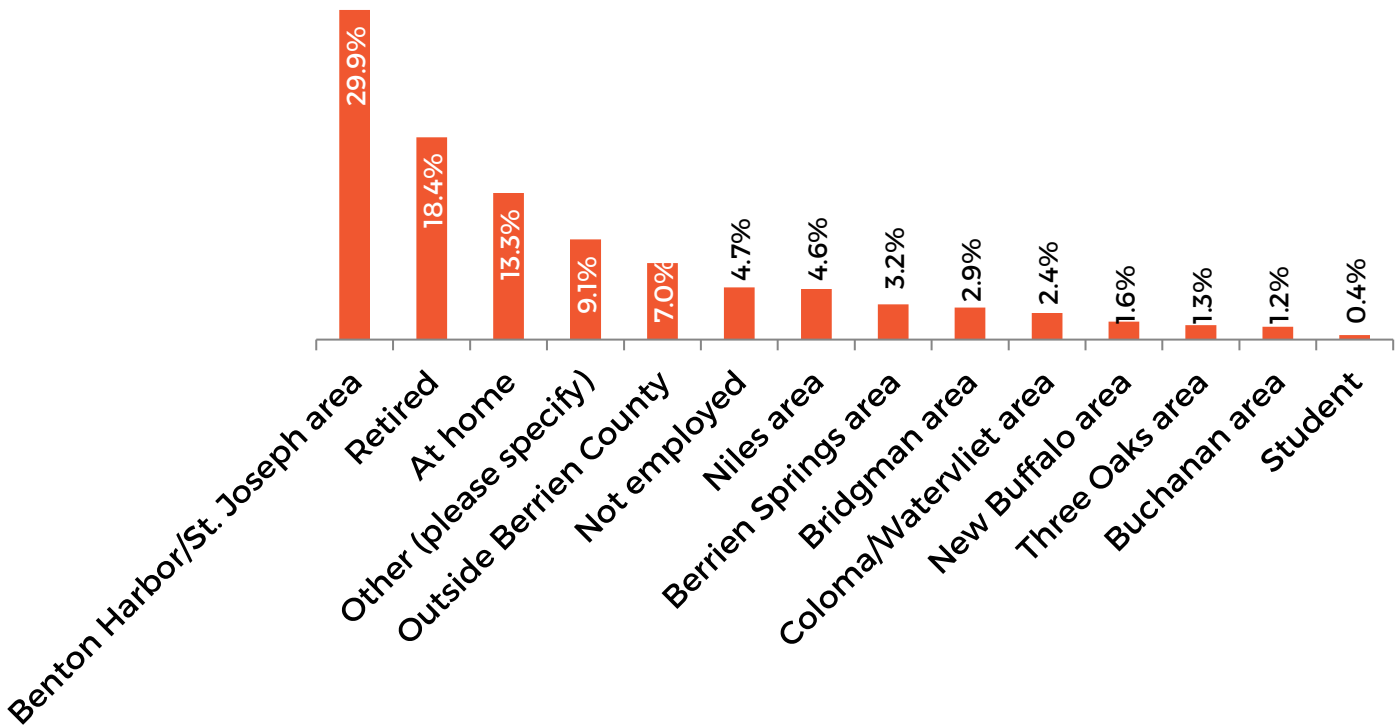
2. Including yourself, how many people are in your household?

Answer Choices	Responses	
1 person	13.1%	283
2 people	41.7%	900
3 people	15.7%	339
4 people	17.0%	366
5 people	8.1%	174
6 people	2.6%	55
7 people	1.3%	27
8+ people	0.6%	12
Answered	2,156	
Skipped	10	



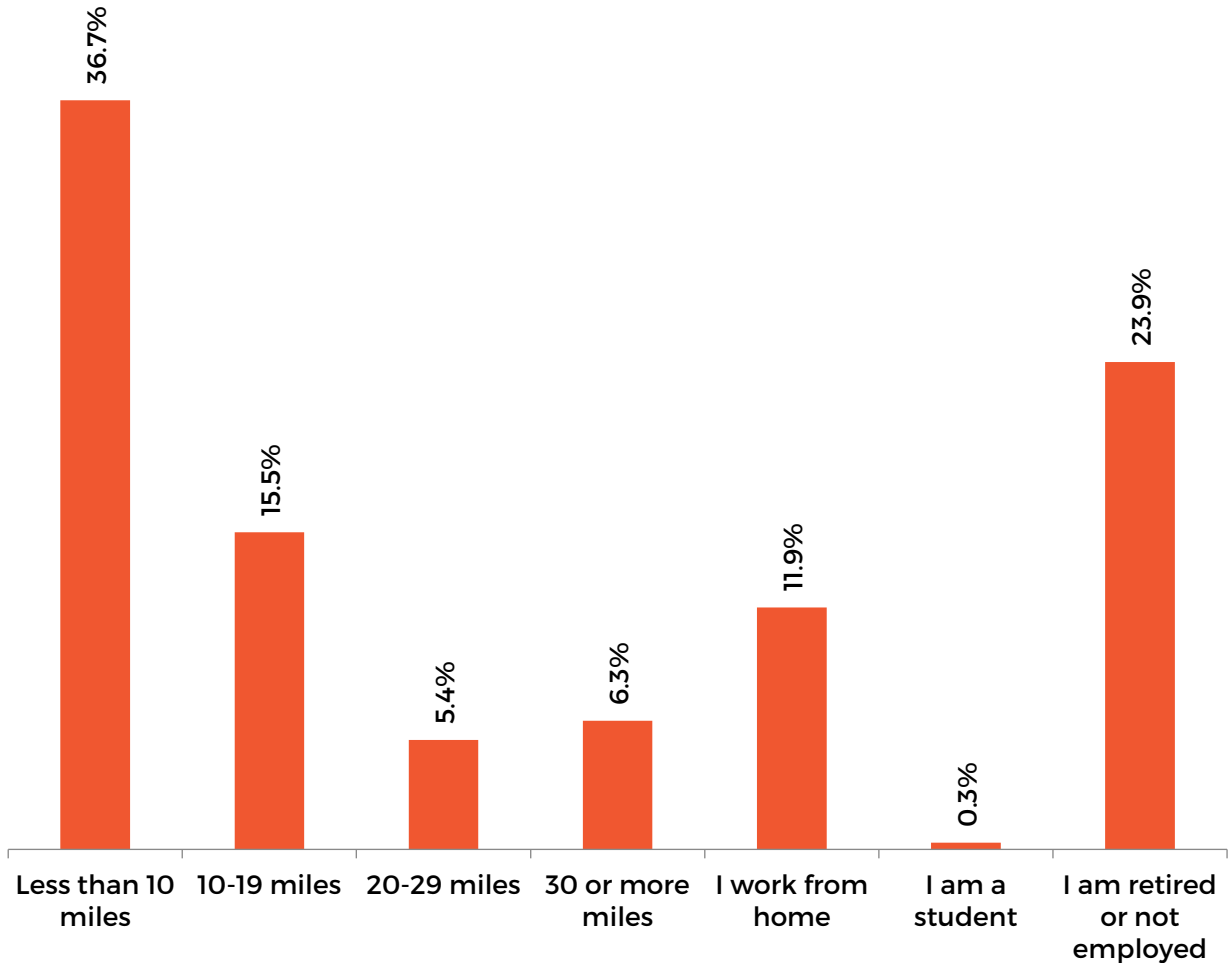
3. Where do you work?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Benton Harbor/St. Joseph area	29.9%	645
Retired	18.4%	396
At home	13.3%	287
Other (please specify)	9.1%	196
Outside Berrien County	7.0%	150
Not employed	4.7%	102
Niles area	4.6%	99
Berrien Springs area	3.2%	69
Bridgman area	2.9%	63
Coloma/Watervliet area	2.4%	52
New Buffalo area	1.6%	35
Three Oaks area	1.3%	28
Buchanan area	1.2%	25
Student	0.4%	9
Answered	2,156	
Skipped	10	



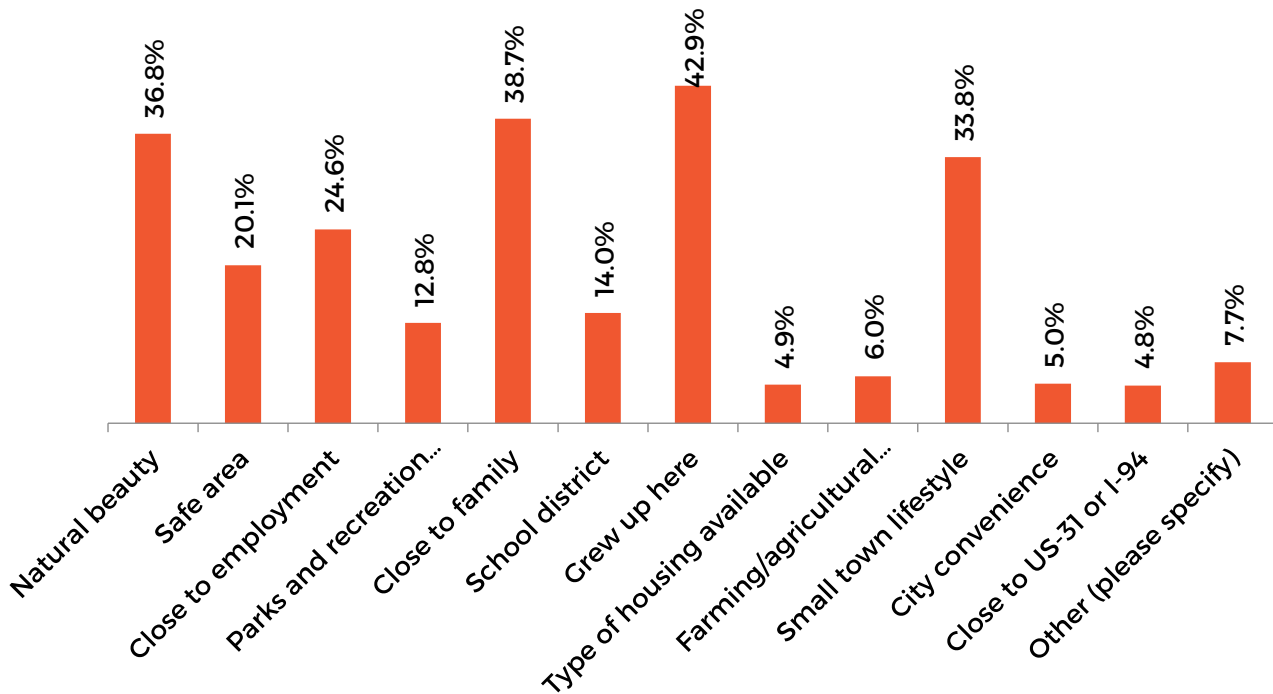
4. About how far do you travel one-way to work?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 10 miles	36.7%	787
10-19 miles	15.5%	333
20-29 miles	5.4%	115
30 or more miles	6.3%	135
I work from home	11.9%	254
I am a student	0.3%	7
I am retired or not employed	23.9%	512
Answered	2,143	
Skipped	23	



5. Which of the following reasons have you chosen to live in Berrien County?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Natural beauty	36.8%	790
Safe area	20.1%	431
Close to employment	24.6%	529
Parks and recreation opportunities	12.8%	274
Close to family	38.7%	831
School district	14.0%	301
Grew up here	42.9%	921
Type of housing available	4.9%	105
Farming/agricultural community	6.0%	128
Small town lifestyle	33.8%	726
City convenience	5.0%	108
Close to US-31 or I-94	4.8%	103
Other (please specify)	7.7%	166
Answered	2,148	
Skipped	18	



Other:

- Employment opportunity
- Lake Michigan beach!
- Wife applied for a job here and she got it. Been here 8 years.
- Economic opportunities
- Business

- Employer location
- Live in Cass County but 2 minutes from Berrien and my kids school is in Berrien
- When I moved here it was quick to get back to my then job in Chicago.
- Close to Stateline
- Relocated due to employment at the time
- Harbor on Lake Michigan (St Joseph)
- Location of my business
- I work in Berrien, but live in Van Buren
- Lake Michigan
- Close to South Bend
- Moved here for the job.
- Moved in with girlfriend.
- Close to Lake Michigan, Amtrak, SB Airport & Family & Shopping
- Not Indiana
- Originally work related. Transitioned from NY
- A job brought me to the area and despite switching jobs I like it here. I like the small town vibe and outdoor options such as kayaking, snow shoeing, etc.
- Happened to relocate. My spouse is from the area.
- Blossomland learning center
- Had to stay due to divorce with child
- At the time, the school was the reason. Now, I can't wait to leave -- Niles Community Schools are abusive to their students.
- I grew up in Niles but lived in South Bend until I was in a domestic violence situation. Indiana did not protect me and because I was a Michigan citizen when the offender tried to follow me into Michigan Niles police had arrested him and I feel more protective living here.
- When I met my spouse, he lived in Niles so I moved to live with him
- I liked the "up and coming" nature of the community
- Lower property taxes than Indiana
- Husband's job
- Clean air and water, wildlife
- Cost of living theoretically
- Significant Other
- Lake Michigan
- Small town relationships w variety of cultural opportunities
- Lake Michigan
- Preparing to move out of state
- Cost of living
- Conservative values
- I got married, and this is where our jobs brought us.

- Less restrictive rules for living and enjoying our freedoms
- Husbands work
- We have a summer home here and have been coming for 53 years
- Beach
- Water
- Commitment to building bridges across the racial divide
- Well the corruption is hair-raising, mockery of government flat out joke posse arresting people with makeshift reasons of resting victims protecting the scum drug makers yeah it's sick and demonic.
- Lake Michigan
- afraid to branch out
- Can commute to Midway Airport
- Spouse was hired at a job here.
- Cost of living
- Water quality
- Craft beer
- Spouse's employment
- Friendly people
- Close to larger cities
- Husbands job
- Cycling on country roads
- Community
- Came with parents for dad's work
- Partner lives here
- Spouse's job
- When working was because of work and now because of family
- Husbands work
- Just happened that way
- Moved in with my husband
- Lake Michigan
- Relocation for husband's job
- Moved here thirty years ago due to job opportunity.
- Ex-spouse relocated here so I found a teaching job in county.
- Bought the house I loved as a child.
- Default location
- Lakes
- Business investment
- In the Pokagon 10 counties
- Second home
- Lake Michigan
- Parochial school
- Affordable & great arts community

- Boating
- Wife
- NOT affordable housing
- Hospital
- Friends here
- Before retirement, our jobs were here.
- Came for job stayed after retirement
- Job offer from employer
- Close to Lake Michigan
- Live on Paw Paw Lake
- Wheater: Winter
- Live on lake shore
- Access to Lake Michigan for sailboat
- We live on paw paw lake!
- Because right now I own a house and work here otherwise I get the hell out cuz of the corruption
- Married my husband who lived here.
- The fruit and vegetables!
- Lower cost of living than big cities
- The people are great! Moved here just a few years ago because of this
- Needed to be close to airport (SBN) when we moved here in 2003& still was working.
- Stuck here after divorce
- Before drugs/pot was legal
- Safer from natural disasters than most other areas
- Close to Lake Michigan and recreational opportunities
- Required for work
- Moved here for a job
- Married person from here. Has employment here, owns a company.
- Lake Michigan
- I've lived my life here. This is home.
- Community
- Cannabis
- Husband moved here. Why would I want to move to cancer county Michigan?
- My husband already lived here
- Types of restaurants/retail in the area
- Beach & entertainment
- Desire to leave it better than when I was born
- Close friends
- Wife grew up here
- Close to Chicago

- Originally recruited for work
- Affordable
- Only work in Berrien County
- Former resident homeowner and taxpayer
- Moved here because of job but I just retired.
- Activities and events however lately not as available
- Don't have enough \$\$ to move right now.
- Lake Michigan
- Ex-husband from area. Stayed after divorce for kids.
- Career
- Adventist community
- Moved here for employment, now retired.
- Volunteer organizations I'm associated with
- Live here part time-snow bird
- Have not lived there in almost 40 years
- Haven't found a better place to live.
- D
- Not sure
- The weather
- Job Transfer
- Beach
- Lake Michigan
- Centennial family
- My husband's family owned the home and we moved here from Chicago
- Friends in area
- Just got lucky with a job change 30 years ago
- Took a job
- Low cost of living
- Lake Michigan
- Moved to this area because of employment.
- Husband grew up in this area
- Beaches
- Lots of friends live here. And it's convenient to Chicago
- Spouses' employment
- Moved here due to Whirlpool, big mistake!
- My grandmother bought a farm here in 1958 and have loved the area since then!
- Grew up here
- The lake and amenities
- And now retired, chose to stay
- Just haven't had the money to leave

- Lake Michigan
- Close to Chicago
- Only place I could buy a house
- Maritime Transportation
- I like it here.
- Moved to be close to son-who then moved. Love the people & the community spirit & the friendliness & the natural beauty
- Got married and it is where my husband lived

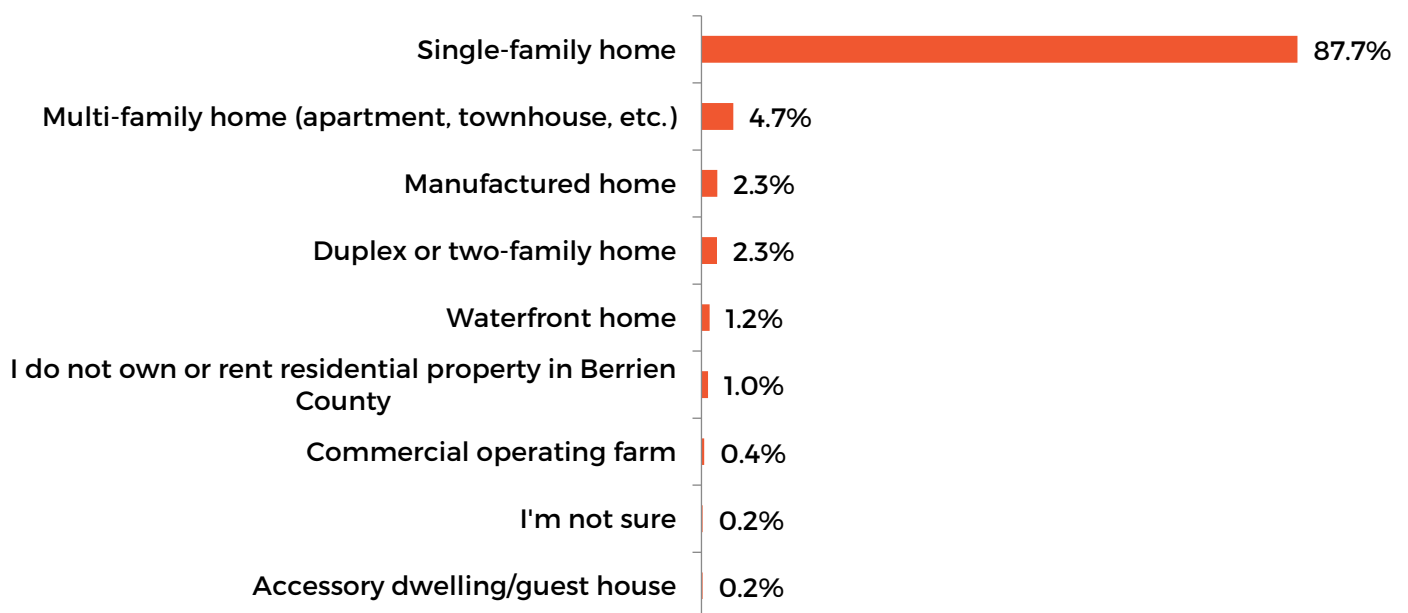
6. In which municipality do you live?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lincoln Charter Township	13.1%	276
St. Joseph Charter Township	11.3%	238
St. Joseph City	10.4%	219
Niles City	8.1%	170
Royalton Township	4.6%	96
Niles Charter Township	4.5%	94
Benton Charter Township	3.9%	82
Chikaming Township	3.8%	81
Berrien Township	3.6%	76
Bridgman City	3.2%	68
Coloma Charter Township	2.8%	58
Lake Charter Township	2.7%	57
Stevensville Village	1.9%	39
Baroda Township	1.8%	38
Oronoko Charter Township	1.6%	34
Buchanan City	1.6%	33
Buchanan Township	1.6%	33
Hagar Township	1.6%	33
Bainbridge Township	1.5%	32
Shoreham Village	1.5%	32
Benton Harbor City	1.5%	31
Coloma City	1.5%	31
Berrien Springs Village	1.3%	27
Bertrand Township	1.2%	25
New Buffalo Township	1.2%	25
Three Oaks Village	1.1%	24
Three Oaks Township	1.0%	20
New Buffalo City	0.9%	19
Pipestone Township	0.9%	19
Watervliet Charter Township	0.9%	19

Outside of Berrien County	0.8%	17
Watervliet City	0.7%	15
Weesaw Township	0.7%	15
Sodus Township	0.7%	14
Baroda Village	0.5%	10
Eau Claire Village	0.4%	8
I don't know	0.1%	2
Galien Township	0.1%	1
Galien Village	0.1%	1
Grand Beach Village	0.0%	0
Michiana Village	0.0%	0

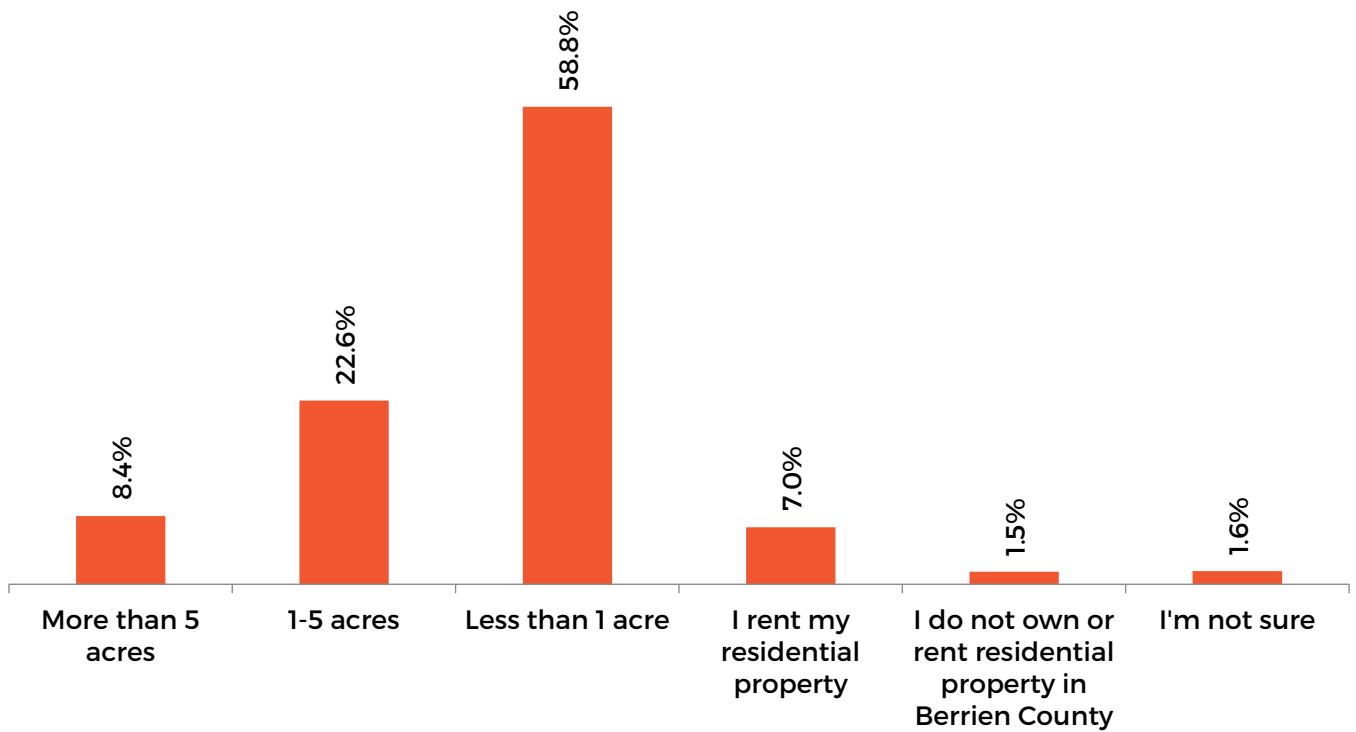
7. If you live in Berrien County, which of the following best describes your home?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Accessory dwelling/guest house	0.2%	4
I'm not sure	0.2%	4
Commercial operating farm	0.4%	9
I do not own or rent residential property in Berrien County	1.0%	21
Waterfront home	1.2%	26
Duplex or two-family home	2.3%	49
Manufactured home	2.3%	50
Multi-family home (apartment, townhouse, etc.)	4.7%	100
Single-family home	87.7%	1,880
Answered	2,143	
Skipped	23	



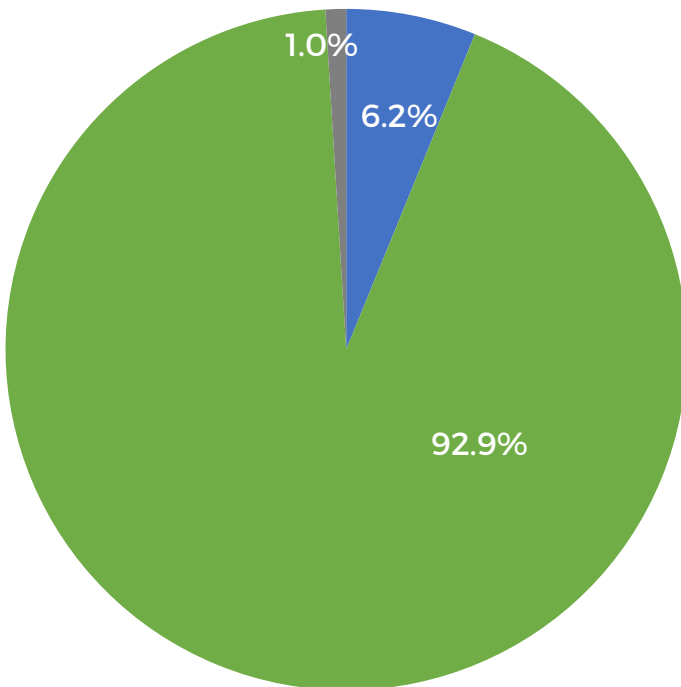
8. If you live in Berrien County, which of the following best describes the size of your property?

Answer Choices	Responses	
More than 5 acres	8.4%	180
1-5 acres	22.6%	484
Less than 1 acre	58.8%	1,259
I rent my residential property	7.0%	150
I do not own or rent residential property in Berrien County	1.5%	33
I'm not sure	1.6%	35
Answered	2,141	
Skipped	25	



9. If you live in Berrien County, do you live on waterfront property?

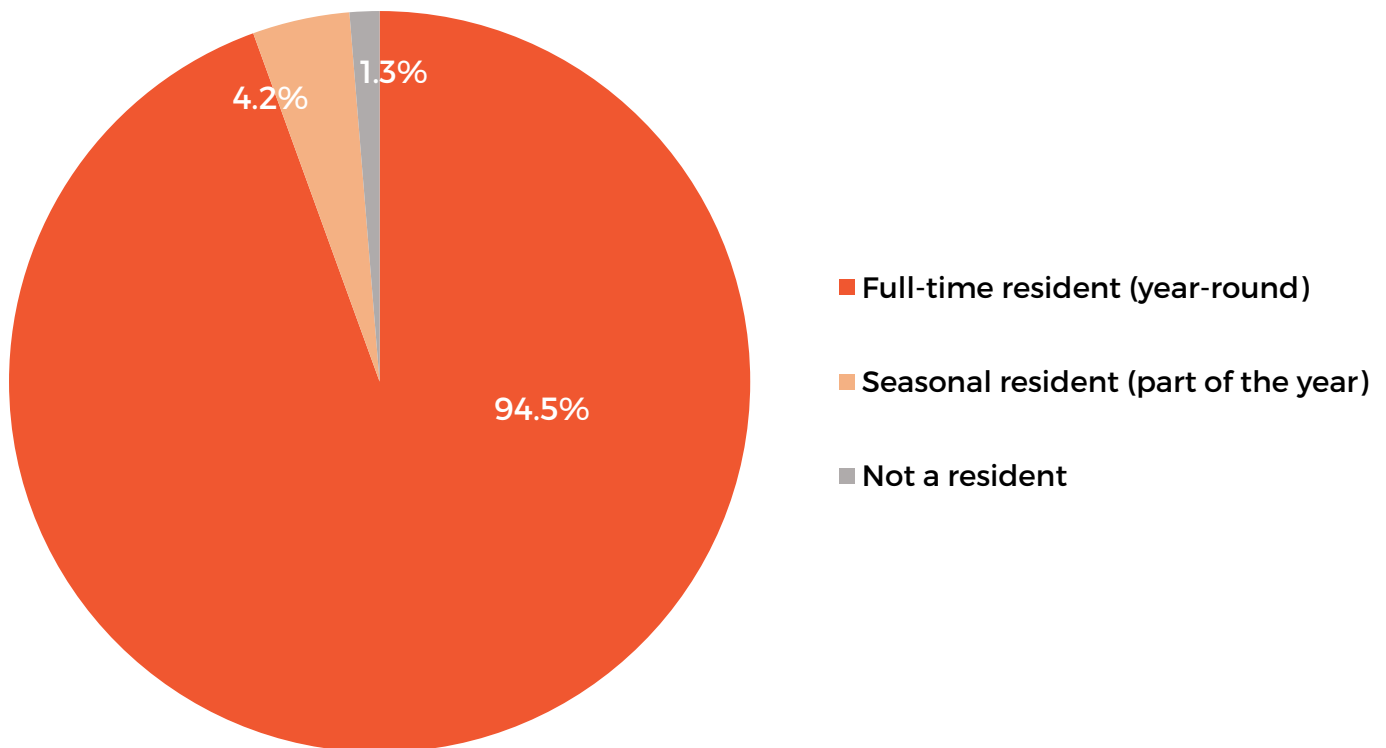
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, I live on waterfront property.	6.2%	132
No, I don't live on waterfront property.	92.9%	1,988
I don't live in Berrien County.	1.0%	21
Answered	2,141	
Skipped	25	



- Yes, I live on waterfront property.
- No, I don't live on waterfront property.
- I don't live in Berrien County.

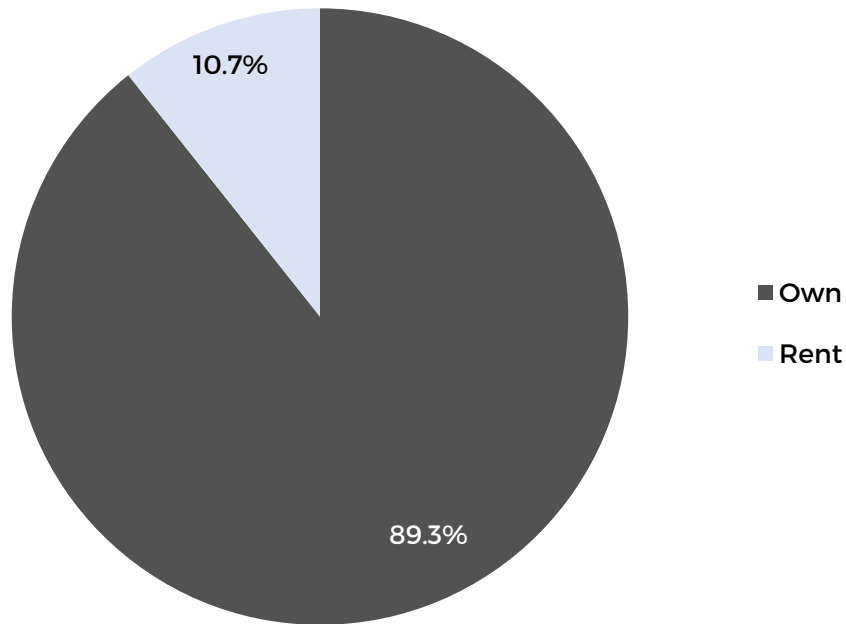
10. What is the status of your residency in Berrien County?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Full-time resident (year-round)	94.5%	2,028
Seasonal resident (part of the year)	4.2%	91
Not a resident	1.3%	28
Answered	2,147	
Skipped	19	



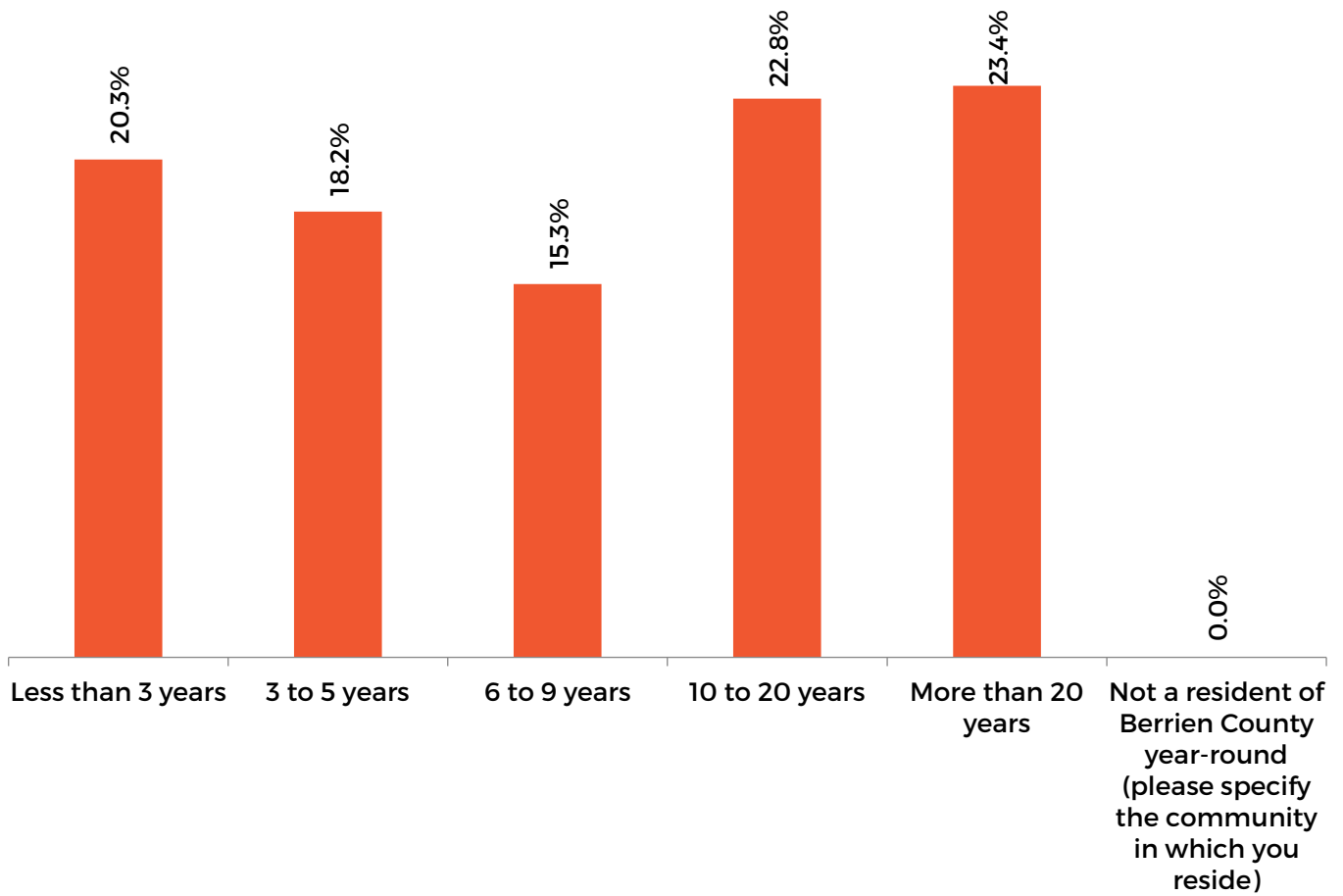
11. Do you own or rent your home?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Own	89.3%	1,891
Rent	10.7%	226
Answered	2,117	
Skipped	49	



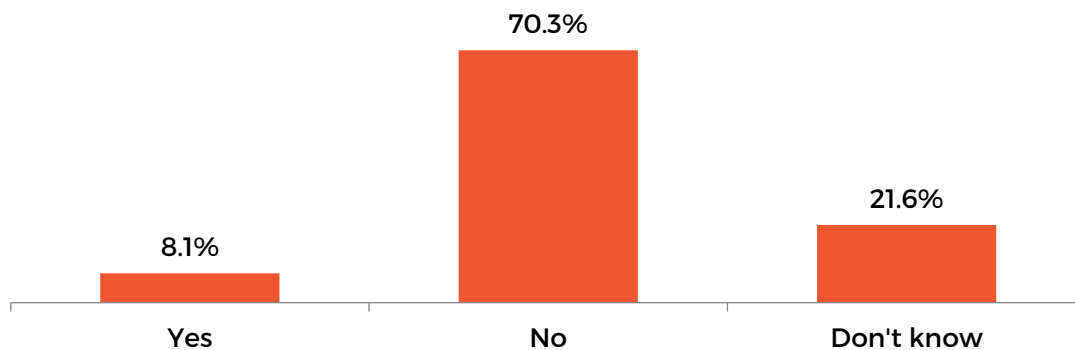
12. How long have you lived in your current home?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 3 years	20.3%	432
3 to 5 years	18.2%	387
6 to 9 years	15.3%	324
10 to 20 years	22.8%	485
More than 20 years	23.4%	496
Not a resident of Berrien County year-round (please specify the community in which you reside)	0.0%	0
Answered	2,124	
Skipped	42	

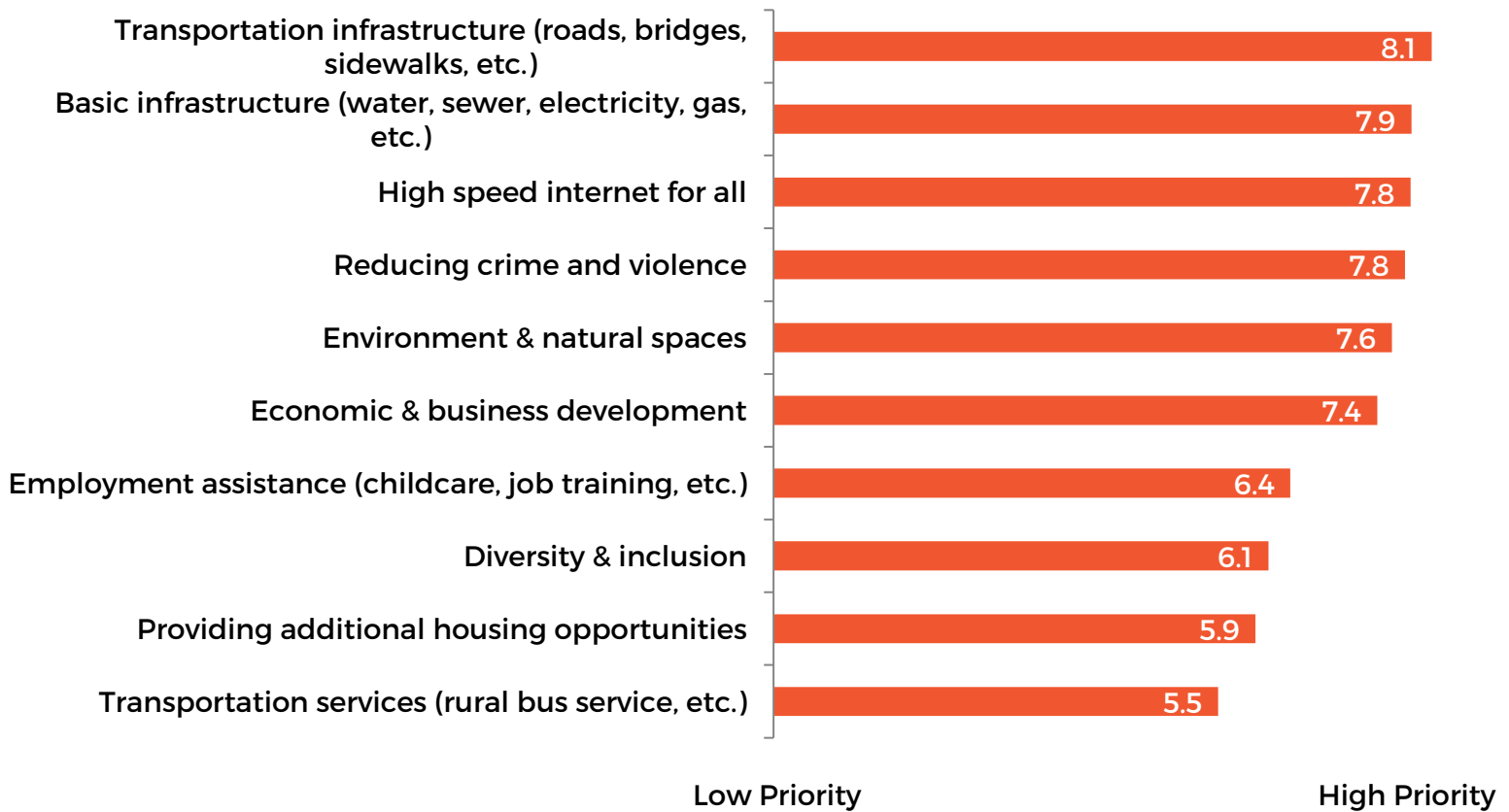


13. Do you expect to move out of Berrien County in the next five years?

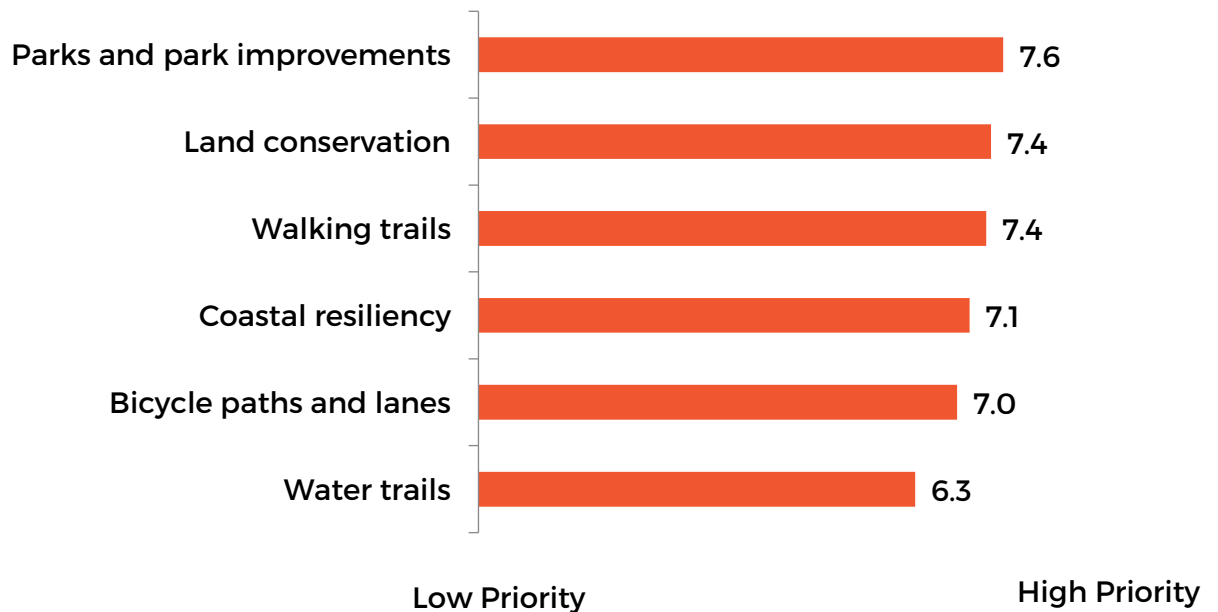
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	8.1%	173
No	70.3%	1,494
Don't know	21.6%	459
Answered	2,126	
Skipped	40	



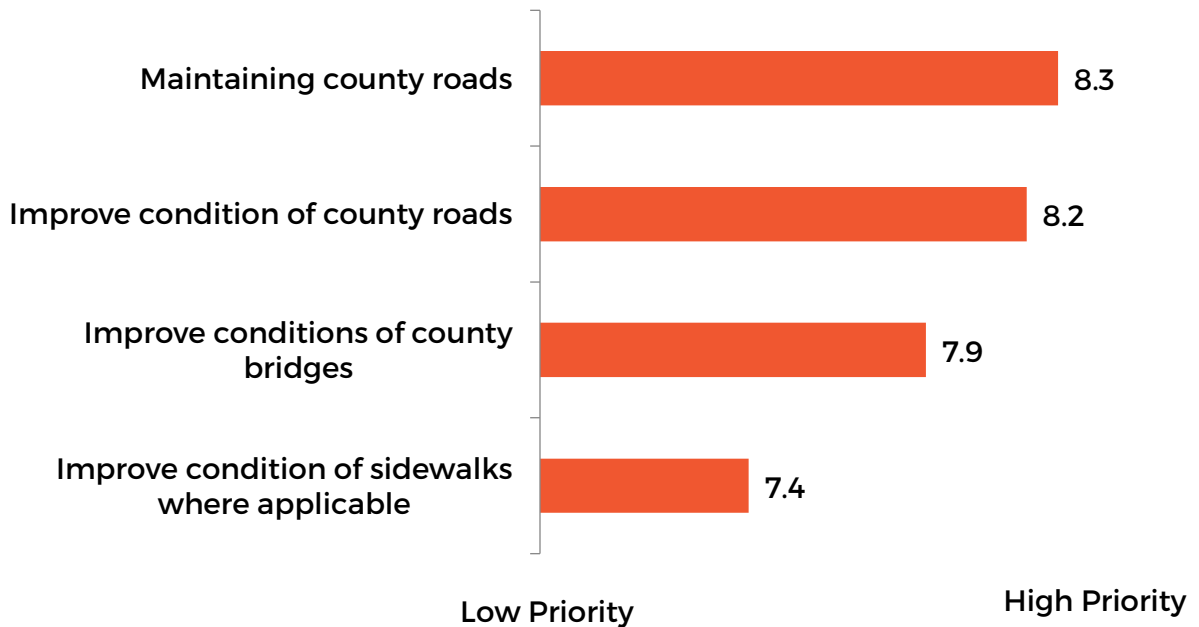
14. Please rank each general category on a one (1) to ten (10) scale, with one (1) being the lowest priority and ten (10) being the highest priority:



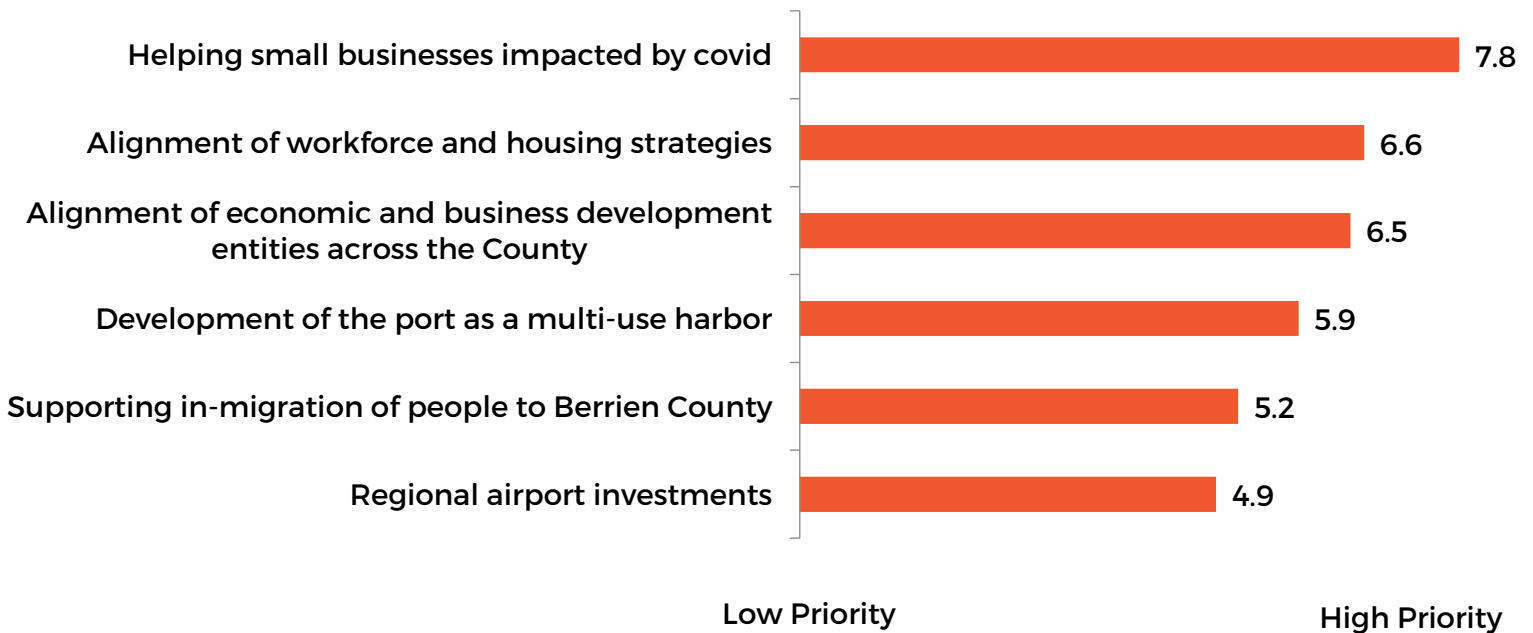
15. Please rank each environment and natural spaces category on a one (1) to ten (10) scale, with one (1) being the lowest priority and ten (10) being the highest priority:



16. Please rank each transportation category on a one (1) to ten (10) scale, with one (1) being the lowest priority and ten (10) being the highest priority:

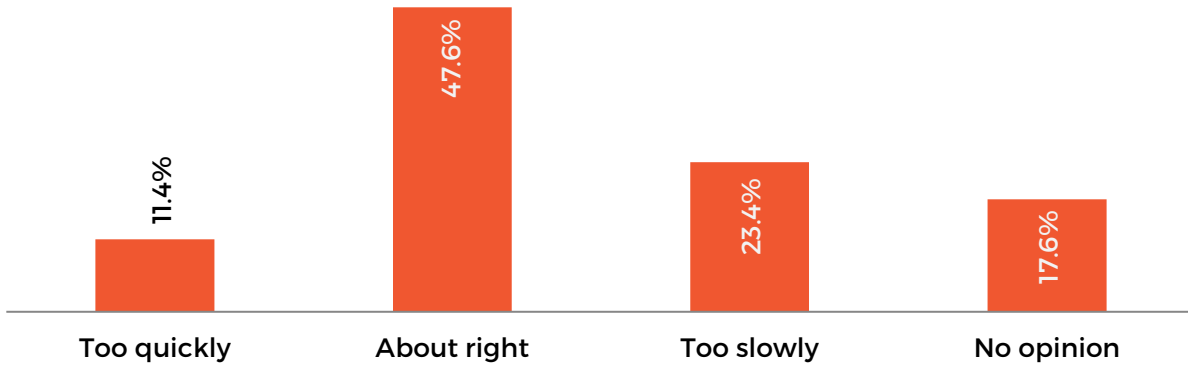


17. Please rank each economic and business development category on a one (1) to ten (10) scale, with one (1) being the lowest priority and ten (10) being the highest priority:



18. Do you think Berrien County is growing...

Answer Choices	Responses	
Too quickly	11.4%	203
About right	47.6%	852
Too slowly	23.4%	419
No opinion	17.6%	315
Answered	1,789	
Skipped	377	



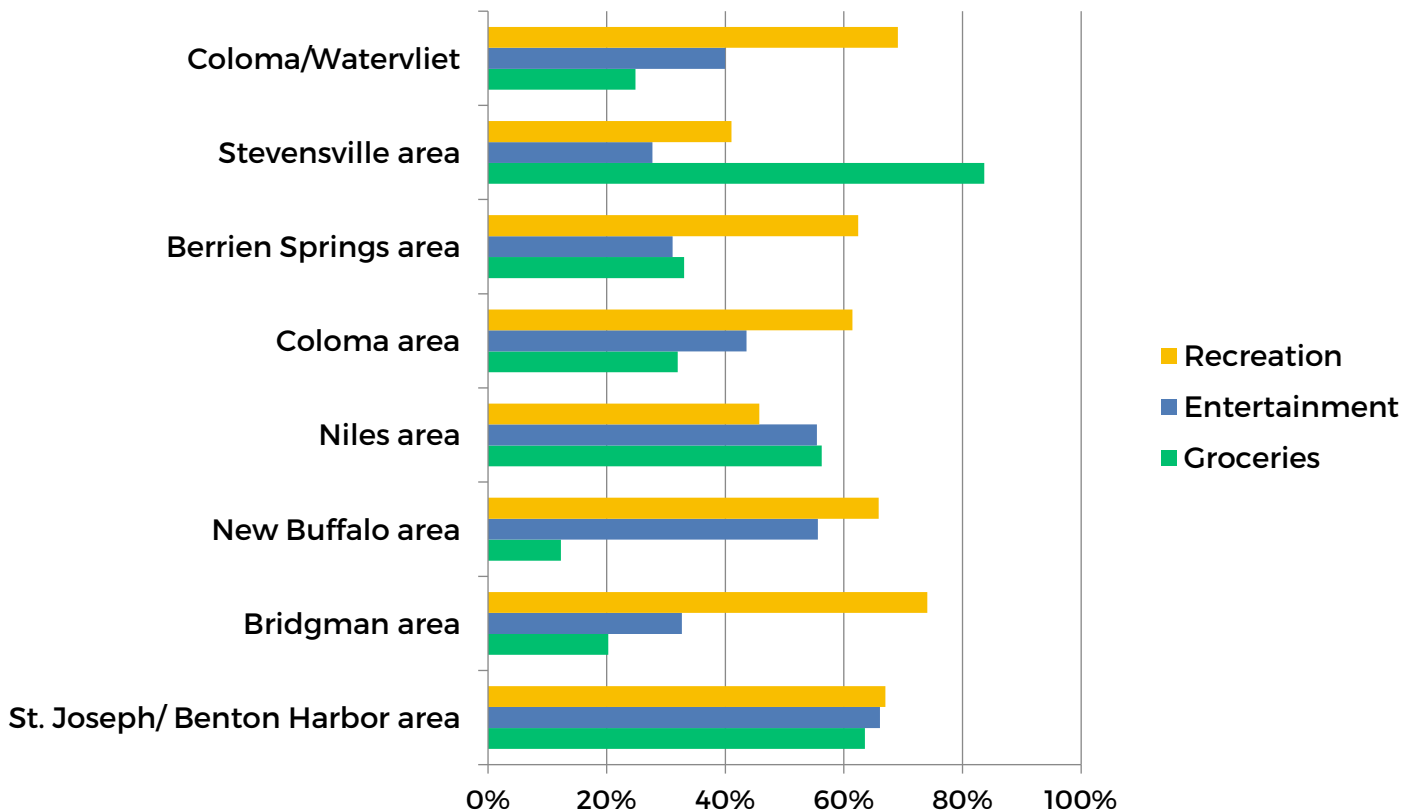
19. In the area where you live, how would you rate local efforts to guide and direct growth in your community?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	4.6%	83
Good	28.1%	503
Fair	36.0%	644
Poor	21.2%	308
No opinion	10.0%	179
Answered	1,789	
Skipped	377	



20. Where are you most likely to go for the following goods and services?

Answer Choices	Groceries	Entertainment	Recreation	Total
St. Joseph/ Benton Harbor area	64% (935)	66% (973)	67% (986)	1,472
Bridgman area	20% (144)	33% (232)	74% (526)	710
New Buffalo area	12% (89)	56% (402)	66% (476)	723
Niles area	56% (342)	55% (337)	46% (278)	608
Coloma area	32% (127)	44% (173)	61% (275)	397
Berrien Springs area	33% (153)	31% (144)	62% (244)	463
Stevensville area	84% (927)	28% (307)	41% (455)	1,108
Coloma/Watervliet	25% (99)	40% (159)	69% (275)	398
Other (please specify)				237
Answered				1,757
Skipped				409



Other:

- Harbor country for entertainment - Chikaming Township
- South Bend, IN for Shopping
- Entertainment, Acorn in Three Oaks
- Kalamazoo/Portage/Holland
- Benton Harbor! Great restaurants, farmers market and theatre. Why wasn't this city a choice?
- Three Oaks
- Hagar
- South Haven for groceries
- South Haven
- Three Oaks for entertainment
- South Bend, Mishawaka, IN
- Baroda/entertainment
- Sawyer/Union Pier/ Three Oaks area for entertainment
- South bend/Mishawaka for groceries and entertainment
- Go to Indiana for entertainment/recreation
- Please keep up Paw Paw and other water trail maintenance for paddlers. I'd love to see more bike lanes and trails around St. Joe/BH.
- Aldi's in South Haven
- I use Stevensville, Bridgman, and Berrien Springs, occasionally St. Joseph for groceries.
- Outside of Berrien County / State of MI
- South Bend, Indiana (groceries, entertainment)
- Out of town/state for entertainment, if not in SJ area
- I go to Kalamazoo for a lot.
- Also south bend if not available in Niles
- End up having to go to Indiana for some restaurants since there aren't enough steak houses or seafood restaurants in Niles
- Mishawaka/Granger, IN
- Mishawaka
- Upper Michigan for recreation
- Hartford, South Haven, Kalamazoo- shopping
- Entertainment, South Bend aka out of county
- Mishawaka/South Bend for entertainment and recreation
- Mishawaka
- Indiana
- Indiana
- Mishawaka Indiana for all 3 categories.
- Indiana
- Mishawaka, they have an Aldi for groceries
- South Bend...the people are nicer than those in Michigan areas and they have the products we are looking for.
- Indiana
- We go to Indiana

- St Joseph County
- Groceries: South Bend/Mishawaka
- Seriously? South Bend/Mishawaka for nearly everything. . .
- Buchanan, Mishawaka
- leave Berrien County for entertainment
- also head to s. haven and other local areas for recreation
- Buchanan - groceries, entertainment and recreation
- For serious shopping I go to Kalamazoo or south bend
- Buchanan Township - Recreation
- South Bend and Mishawaka mostly
- Michigan City area
- Fix roads. fire courtney davis. stop medical tyranny
- Tend to go outside the county for any entertainment or recreation
- South bend Indiana
- South Bend for some things... It is sad that our mall closed. It wasn't here when we moved here, and were glad to have it.
- Depends on prices
- Leave area for entertainment & Recreation (south haven bike trail)
- Indiana
- Three Oaks
- South Bend for groc, Buchanan for entertainment,
- Michigan City, IN
- Indiana
- South Bend, IN
- Buchanan (All the above)
- South Bend and Mishawaka for all 3
- Buchanan
- BUCHANAN
- Mishawaka (groceries)
- Mishawaka
- Also South Bend
- Entertainment- South Bend
- Flying in and out of 40C
- Entertainment and Recreation is poor in this area
- South Bend
- Groceries - South Haven (Van Buren County)
- South Bend
- South Bend
- South Bend
- Entertainment and recreation usually out of town, camping.
- There is no entertainment here, lol.
- I ride my bicycle in south Berrien County
- We don't have anything around here for entertainment. Movies, and golf is it. That is not enough or good enough. We need a family fun park something like that.
- We visit South Haven for groceries

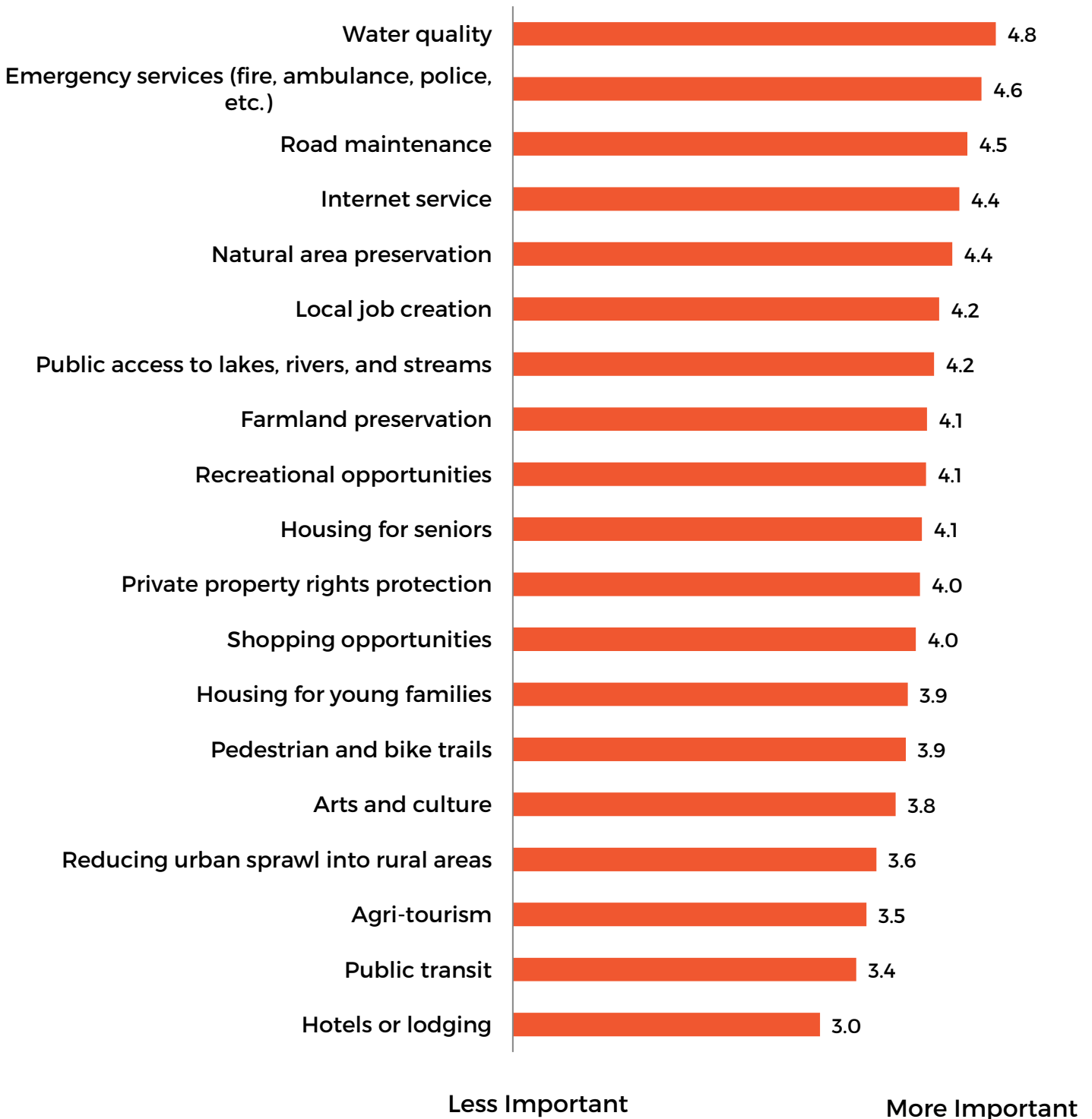
- primarily Michigan City
- Three Oaks Entertainment and Recreation
- Arrogance of people keeps me from doing any of these activities very often
- South haven - groceries
- South Haven
- Kalamazoo/South Bend
- We shop, seek entertainment and recreation in Three Oaks whenever possible. We order from Whole Foods in South Bend. We also go to Michigan City for restaurants and shopping.
- South Bend/Mishawaka
- Mishawaka for groceries. Chicago for fun.
- None of these places for entertainment.
- Need better shopping and eateries
- South Bend
- Most shopping is done out of state- more clean, quality options
- Anything besides groceries we have to go outside the county for lack of stores
- Holland, Allegan
- Mishawaka
- None. Go to south bend, in
- Along the lakeshore to the state and local parks for hiking, biking, and walks. Also playing with our 6 year old at various city parks.
- Sawyer- sawyer market local, fresh produce
- Mishawaka or Kalamazoo
- South Bend
- Area should support family friendly recreation which is highly lacking
- Three Oaks
- Medical
- Sawyer
- Three Oaks for Entertainment
- Three Oaks
- I don't really spend much time in the surrounding towns other than passing through on commute.
- Three Oaks for entertainment
- South Bend
- Three Oaks
- Michigan City- Groceries
- Michigan City
- South Bend
- Mishawaka
- Saint Joseph (Not Benton Harbor)
- Kalamazoo
- South Bend and Mishawaka
- online
- all of the above for entertainment and recreation
- Recreation: also Sawyer and Galien areas
- South Haven

- South Haven, Holland
- South Haven
- Mishawaka for Groceries, often - Home Depot on the way to nowhere in BH, Target still empty, Minimal restaurants in BH, Municipalities in Eau Claire and BS are bad to work with - EC speed limit to low, BS business signs too small, Honor CU too close to road, same in SJ
- Buchanan
- Buchanan gets all my business
- Baroda
- New buffalo - groceries, three oaks entertainment & groceries, sawyer groceries & entertainment. You have missed the hamlets of Chikaming
- Three Oaks for All three selections above
- Watervliet needs help. They have nothing worth doing or shopping for. They need businesses that are worthy to go to They do not need anymore thrift or antique stores
- South Bend, IN
- South Bend/Mishawaka
- Mishawaka IN for groceries
- I often go to South Bend for groceries and other purchases
- South Bend or Holland for entertainment and clothing
- Indiana
- I go shopping in South Bend as the options close to my home do not include my desired stores
- Travel outside of state for entertainment and recreation
- Three Oaks
- Indiana
- Chikaming has the best entertainment. Three Oaks, Sawyer, Harbert, are where I go to eat and be outdoors
- There is absolutely nothing that caters to children around here and very limited entertainment options for younger crowds with families. We need things that don't cater to only tourists
- Kalamazoo and Mishawaka
- Chicago and GR for entertainment
- Eau Claire Clear Water Meats
- North (recreation) Indiana (groceries and Entertainment)
- South Haven or South Bend
- I mostly go to Indiana for these things
- Most of our towns in berrien county are too rural for entertainment or grocery. Also need focus on selling farmers products instead of big grocers
- South Bend IN for recreation and entertainment
- Benton Harbor most stores. Im very surprised it was not an option
- South Bend area for groceries
- Mishawaka
- We live close to Michigan city, in and shop and go out to dinner often over there as well.
- I very rarely go to some of these areas, but if I had to this would be why

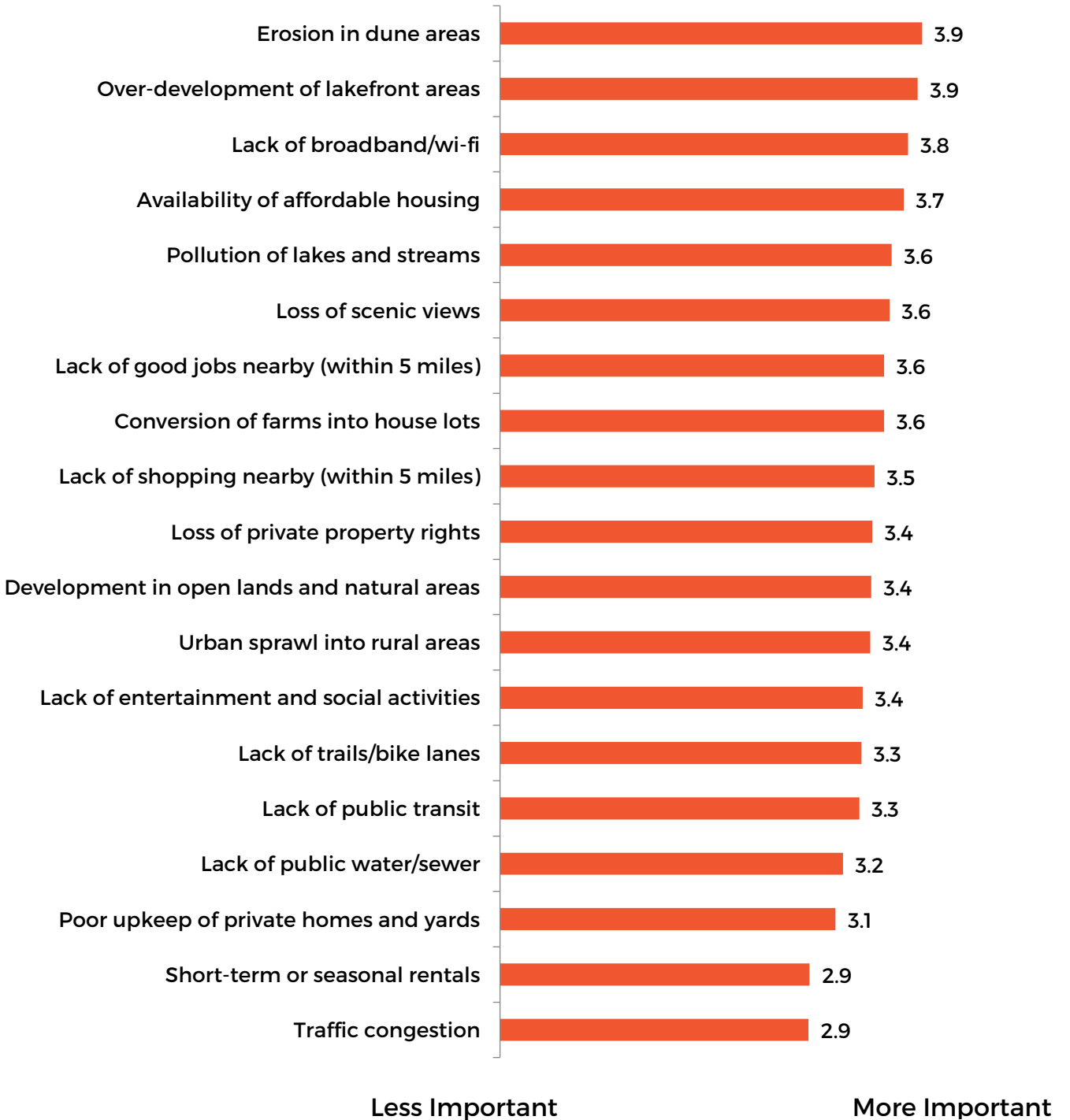
- Chicago
- Northwest Indiana.(Michigan City, Laporte)
- Chicago, So.Bend, East Lansing, Florida, Arizona
- Mishawaka. Everything is done in Mishawaka
- Local farms, Mishawaka and Kalamazoo
- Entertainment & recreation occur outside Berrien County
- Sawyer recreation
- This is a weird question....doesn't make sense
- south bend
- Michigan City, IN
- Indiana
- I do all my shopping out of town except for basic groceries. The few stores left here are abysmal. When I moved here there was at least a Carson's & a Target. Now not even that.
- Three oaks entertainment
- South Haven - we live north end of Coloma so it's close
- South Bend Indiana
- Mishawaka, South Bend, Dowagiac
- Three Oaks
- Honestly, South Bend. This area doesn't provide good options close to me
- South Haven
- South Bend and Kalamazoo
- South Bend
- Entertainment out of Berrien county
- Sawyer. Recreation
- Out of state
- South Bend, Indiana
- Online
- Michigan City, South Bend, Chicago
- We have to now go out of the area to shop after losing the mall, PierOne, Target, etc
- south haven
- shopping out of town or state
- Indiana, Mishawaka, Granger or Michigan City
- Buchanan, South Bend
- South Bend
- Indiana
- I do my shopping in South Haven
- Mishawaka Indiana. There's no decent stores around here.
- Stupid question...
- Indiana for entertainment
- Mishawaka for anything fun.
- Mishawaka/South Bend
- Sawyer
- Three Oaks entertainment
- Kalamazoo

- Mishawaka- Groceries
- South Haven
- South Bend
- More rural areas that safely support biking and running
- Indiana
- Reference question 1, local government working hard for our citizens in our local area. County Government sitting back watching and slowing the process.
- We do need more options for retail
- South Bend/Mishawaka
- Hartford
- Three Oaks for entertainment
- South Bend, IN
- Three Oaks for all 3
- There are few worthwhile entertainment or recreation opportunities available for us in Berrien county
- Three Oaks
- Out of county
- South Bend/Mishawaka Sam's Club
- Three oaks and Michigan city
- Three Oaks - Culture, entertainment, dining, theatre
- Three Oaks for entertainment
- Shopping: South Bend or Kalamazoo
- Buchanan
- Where is Three Oaks (for the Acorn theater)
- I buy groceries in Buchanan.
- Kalamazoo- groceries
- South Bend or Kalamazoo
- South Bend
- Mishawaka in
- Buchanan
- South haven south bend Kalamazoo
- Three Oaks for entertainment; online for groceries
- Groceries - South Haven (Walmart and Meijer); Entertainment - Grand Rapids
- South Bend/Mishawaka or Kalamazoo for Groceries
- South Bend
- other shopping nothing here really so either South Bend or Kalamazoo
- Out of town

21. In terms of community priorities, how important are the following?

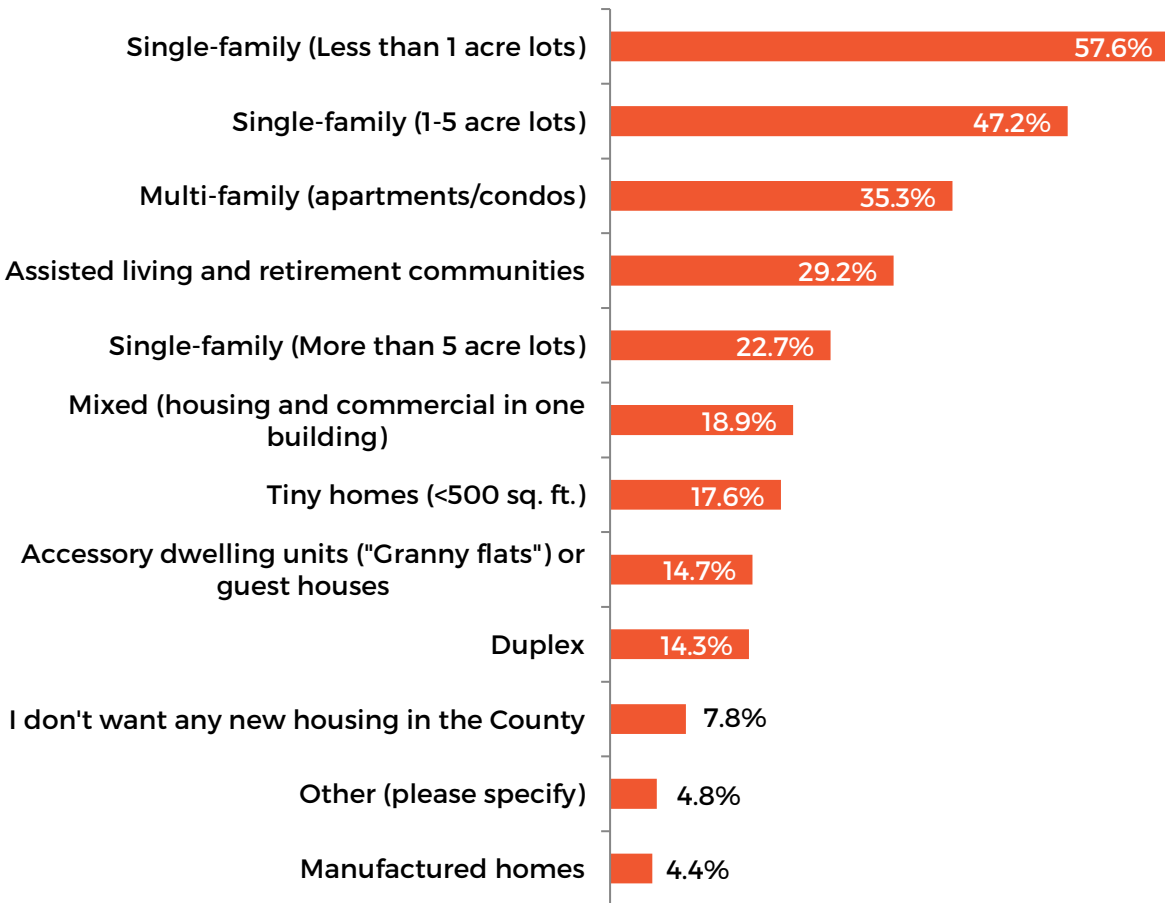


22. In the area where you live, how serious do you think the following problems or concerns are:



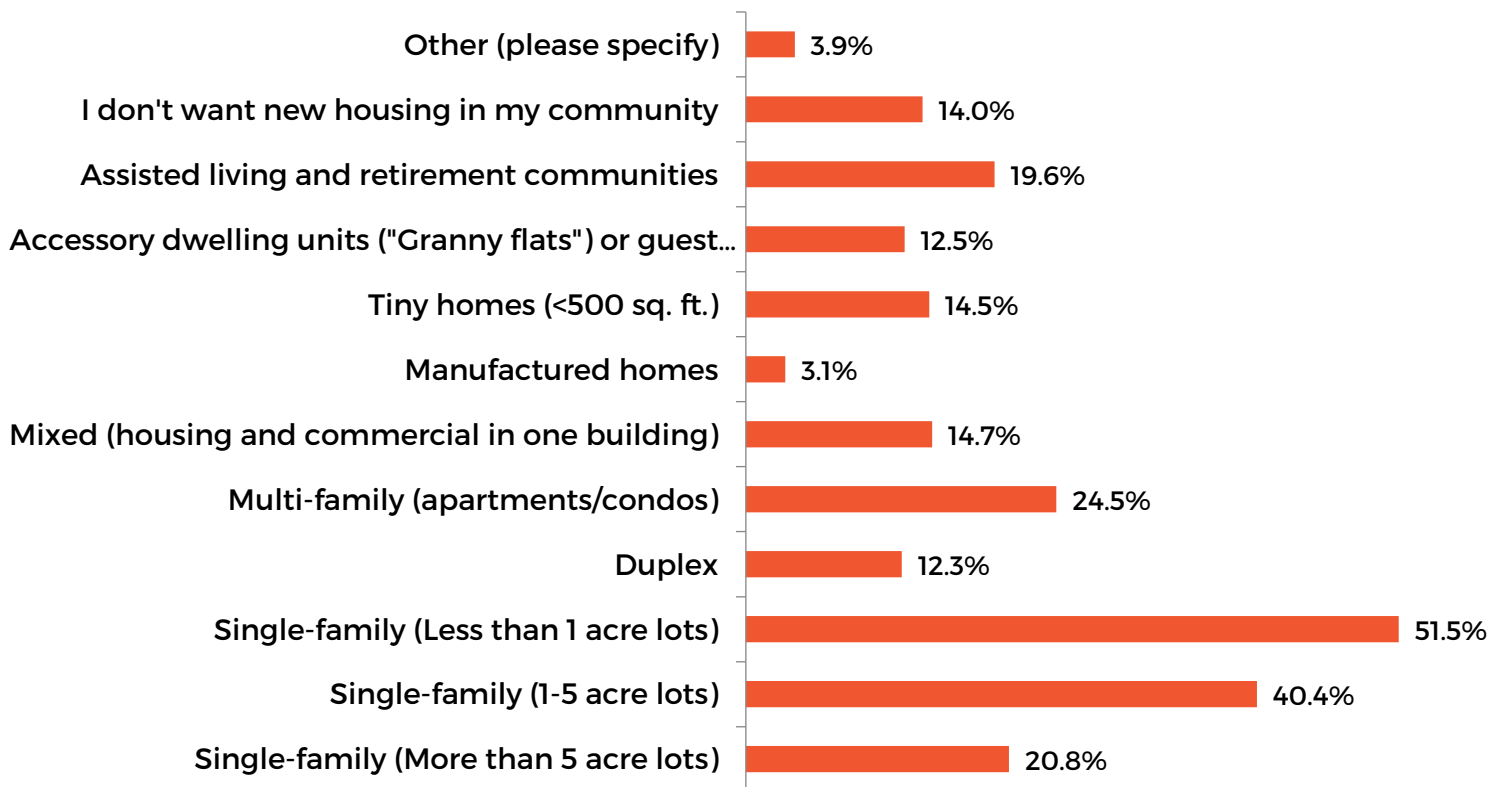
23. In Berrien County as a whole, what types of new housing should be encouraged? (select up to 3)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Single-family (Less than 1 acre lots)	57.6%	1,018
Single-family (1-5 acre lots)	47.2%	833
Multi-family (apartments/condos)	35.3%	623
Assisted living and retirement communities	29.2%	516
Single-family (More than 5 acre lots)	22.7%	401
Mixed (housing and commercial in one building)	18.9%	333
Tiny homes (<500 sq. ft.)	17.6%	311
Accessory dwelling units ("Granny flats") or guest houses	14.7%	259
Duplex	14.3%	253
I don't want any new housing in the County	7.8%	138
Other (please specify)	4.8%	85
Manufactured homes	4.4%	77
Answered	1,766	
Skipped	400	



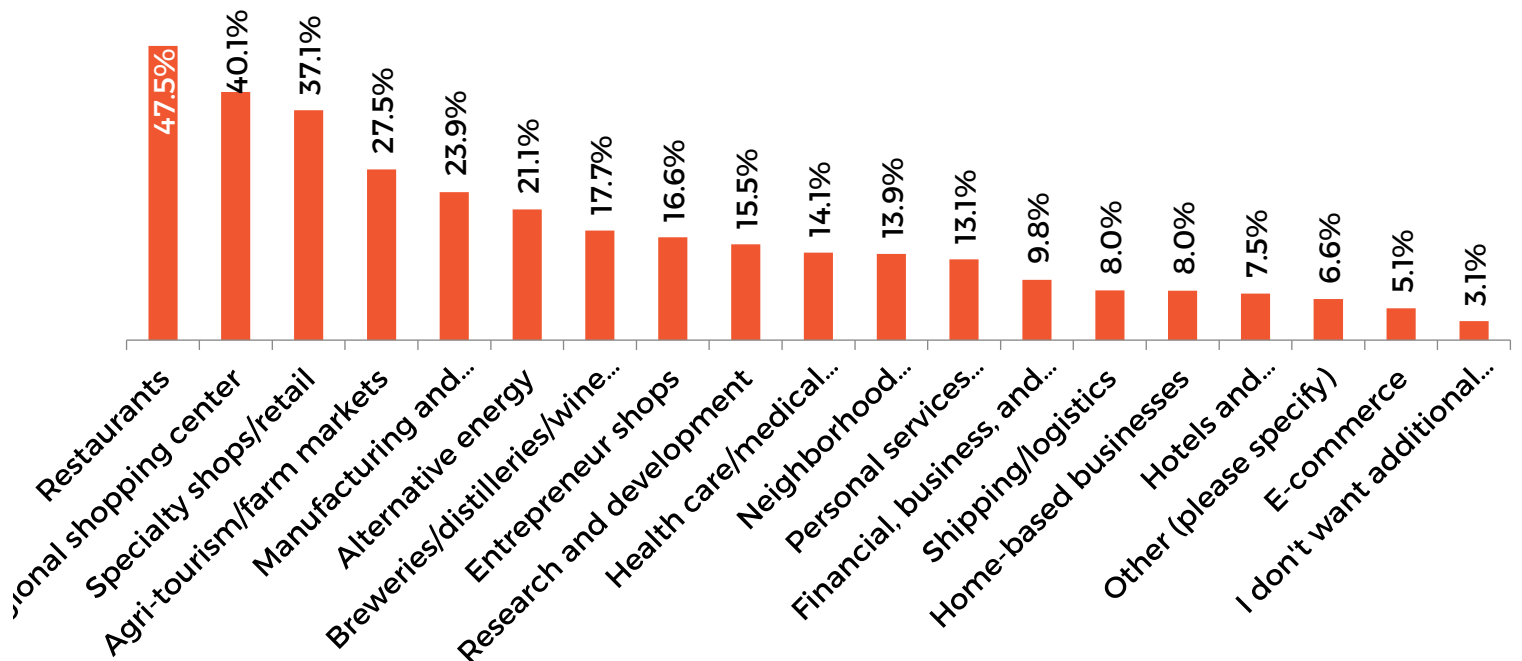
24. In the area where you live, what types of new housing should be encouraged? (Select up to 3.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Single-family (More than 5 acre lots)	20.8%	366
Single-family (1-5 acre lots)	40.4%	711
Single-family (Less than 1 acre lots)	51.5%	908
Duplex	12.3%	217
Multi-family (apartments/condos)	24.5%	432
Mixed (housing and commercial in one building)	14.7%	259
Manufactured homes	3.1%	55
Tiny homes (<500 sq. ft.)	14.5%	255
Accessory dwelling units ("Granny flats") or guest houses	12.5%	221
Assisted living and retirement communities	19.6%	346
I don't want new housing in my community	14.0%	246
Other (please specify)	3.9%	68
Answered	1,762	
Skipped	404	



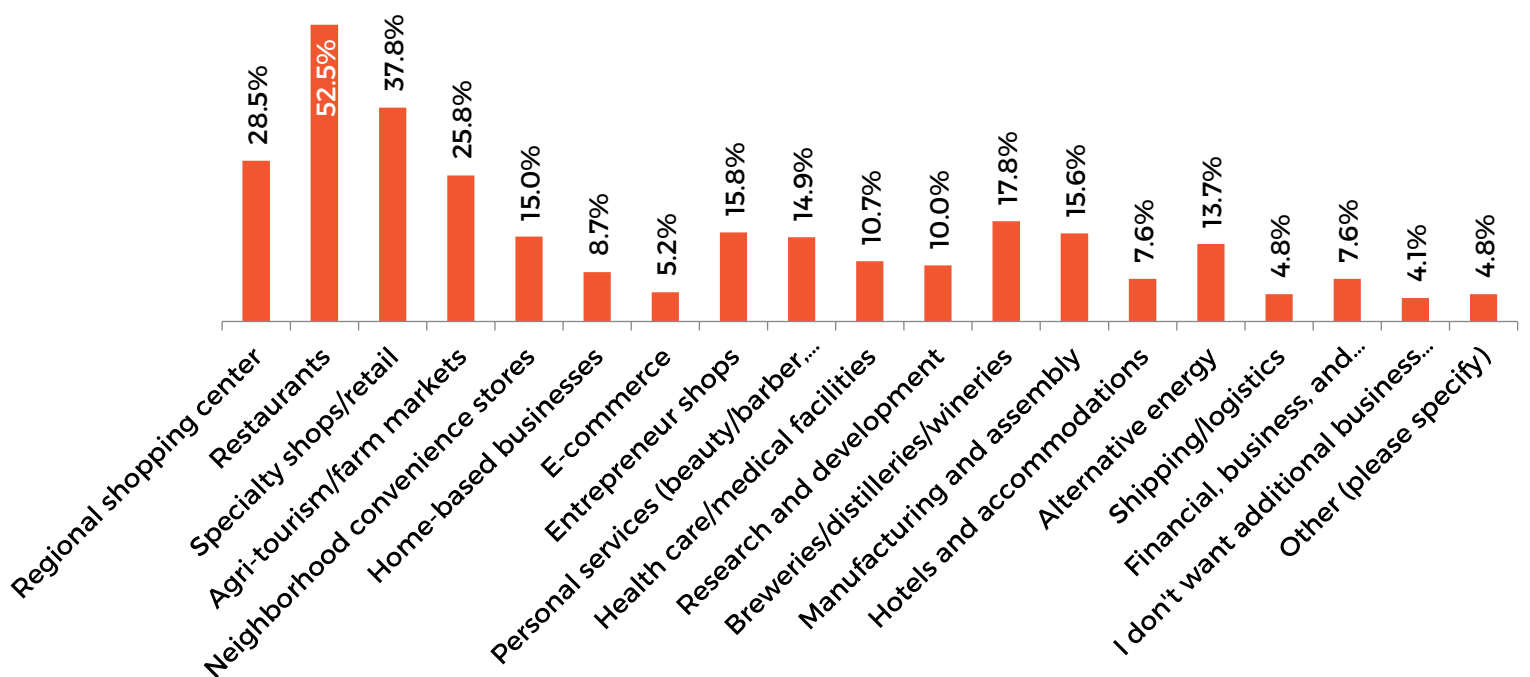
25. In Berrien County as a whole, what types of businesses do you think would best enhance economic activity? (Select up to 3.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Restaurants	47.5%	833
Regional shopping center	40.1%	703
Specialty shops/retail	37.1%	651
Agri-tourism/farm markets	27.5%	483
Manufacturing and assembly	23.9%	419
Alternative energy	21.1%	370
Breweries/distilleries/wineries	17.7%	310
Entrepreneur shops	16.6%	291
Research and development	15.5%	271
Health care/medical facilities	14.1%	248
Neighborhood convenience stores	13.9%	244
Personal services (beauty/barber, fitness center, dry cleaning, etc.)	13.1%	229
Financial, business, and professional services	9.8%	171
Shipping/logistics	8.0%	141
Home-based businesses	8.0%	140
Hotels and accommodations	7.5%	132
Other (please specify)	6.6%	116
E-commerce	5.1%	90
I don't want additional business development in the County	3.1%	54
Answered	1,754	
Skipped	412	



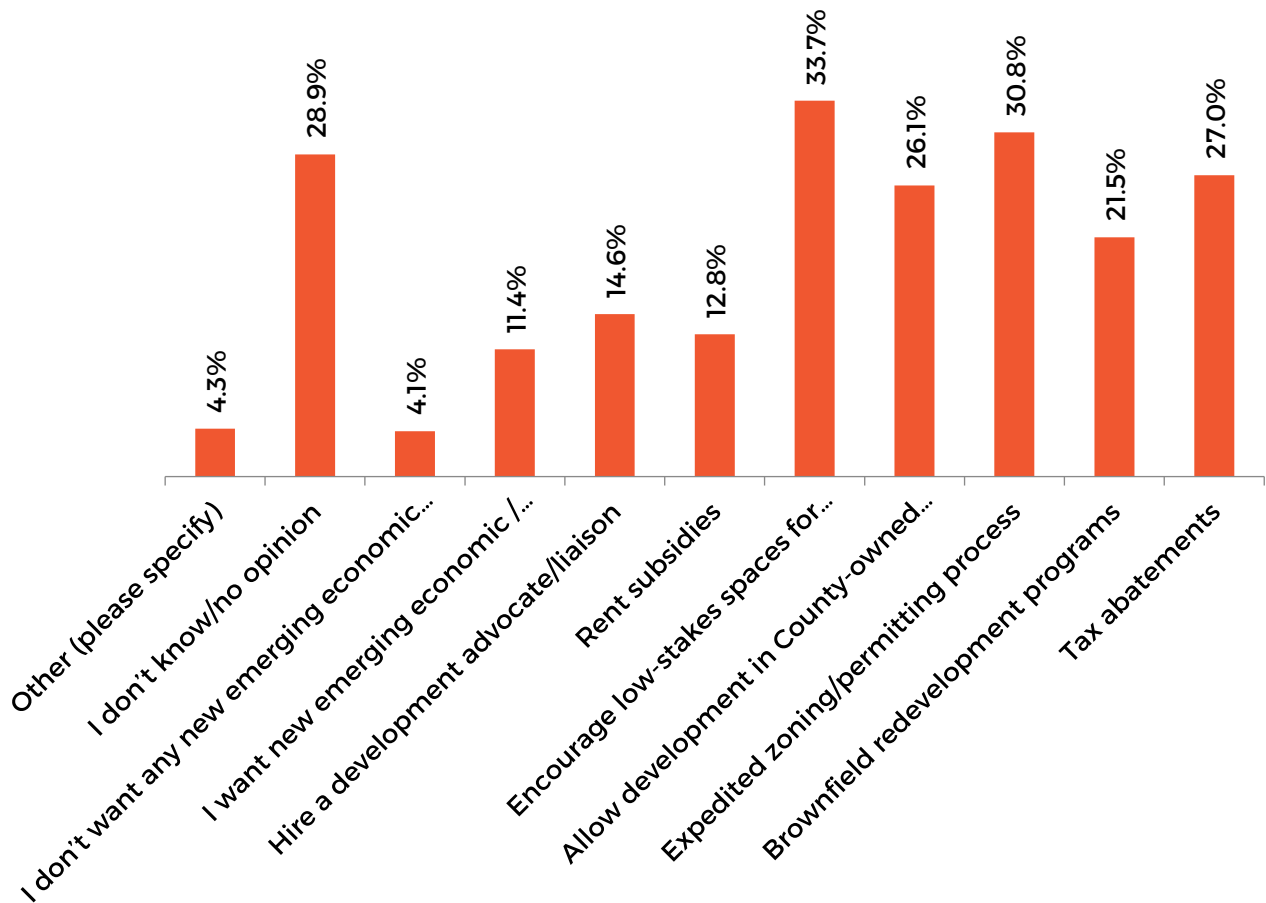
26. In the area where you live, what types of businesses do you think would best enhance economic activity? (Select up to 3.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Regional shopping center	28.5%	489
Restaurants	52.5%	902
Specialty shops/retail	37.8%	650
Agri-tourism/farm markets	25.8%	444
Neighborhood convenience stores	15.0%	258
Home-based businesses	8.7%	150
E-commerce	5.2%	89
Entrepreneur shops	15.8%	271
Personal services (beauty/barber, fitness center, dry cleaning, etc.)	14.9%	256
Health care/medical facilities	10.7%	183
Research and development	10.0%	171
Breweries/distilleries/wineries	17.8%	305
Manufacturing and assembly	15.6%	268
Hotels and accommodations	7.6%	130
Alternative energy	13.7%	236
Shipping/logistics	4.8%	83
Financial, business, and professional services	7.6%	130
I don't want additional business development in the County	4.1%	71
Other (please specify)	4.8%	83
Answered	1,718	
Skipped	448	

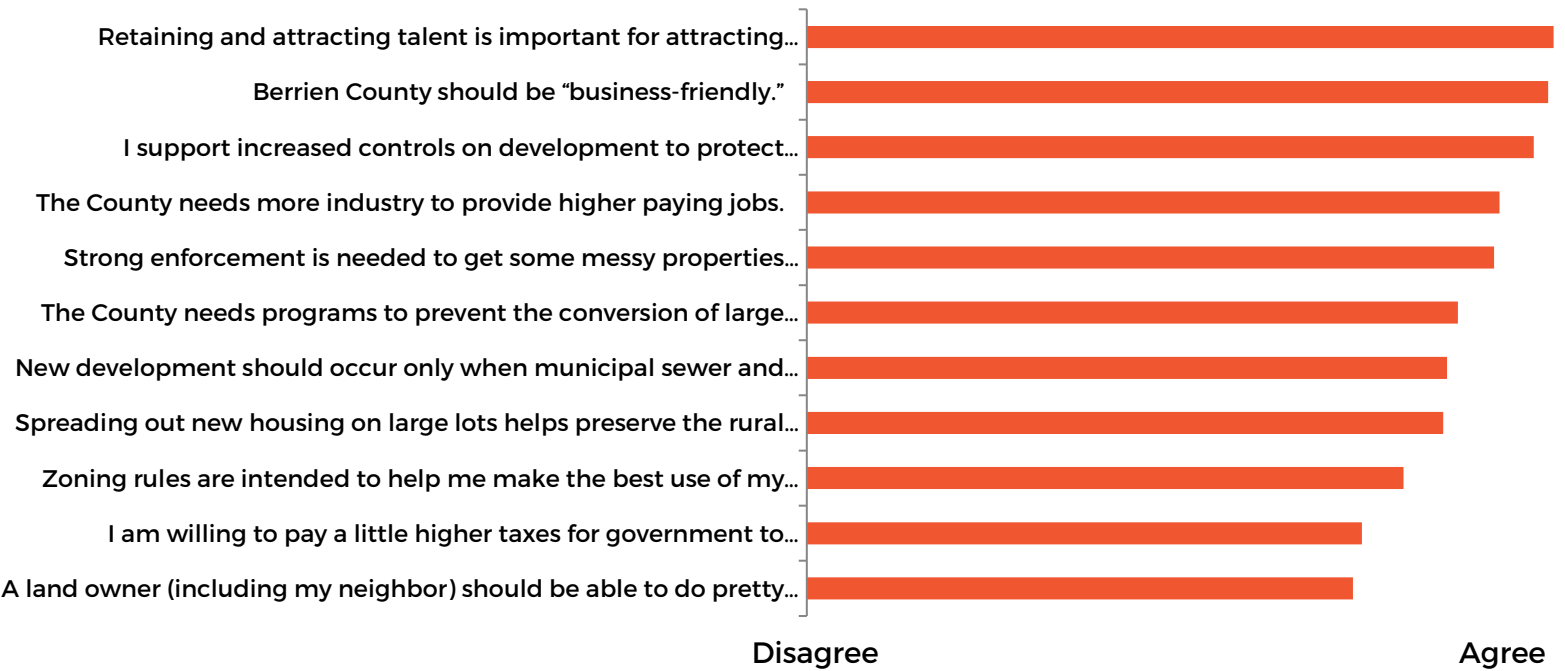


27. If Berrien County were to encourage economic development, how should they do so? (Select all that apply.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Tax abatements	27.0%	466
Brownfield redevelopment programs	21.5%	370
Expedited zoning/permitting process	30.8%	532
Allow development in County-owned buildings	26.1%	450
Encourage low-stakes spaces for entrepreneurs	33.7%	581
Rent subsidies	12.8%	220
Hire a development advocate/liaison	14.6%	251
I want new emerging economic / industrial development, but no incentives	11.4%	197
I don't want any new emerging economic or industrial development in Berrien County	4.1%	70
I don't know/no opinion	28.9%	498
Other (please specify)	4.3%	74
Answered	1,725	
Skipped	441	



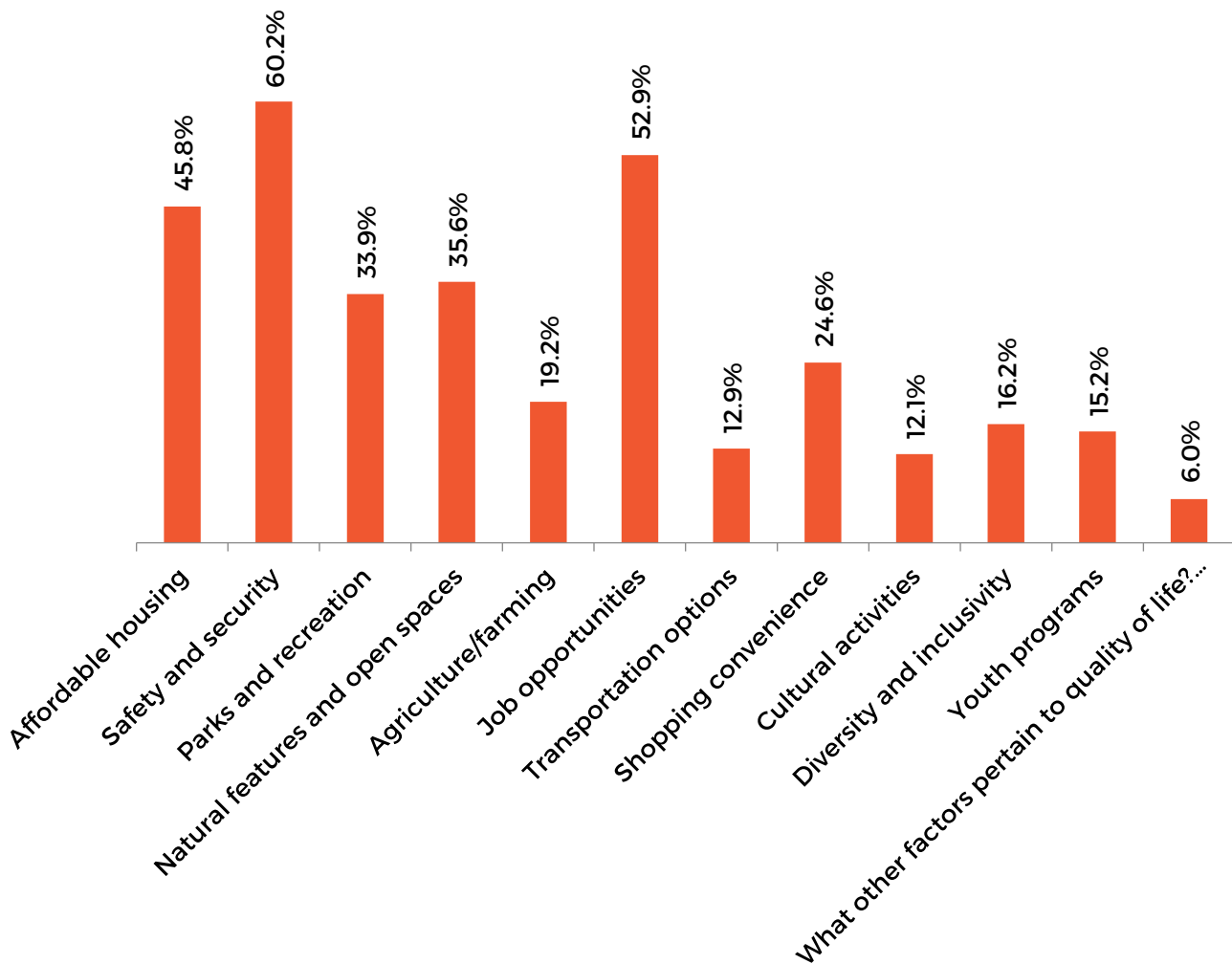
28. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.



Statement Sentences
Retaining and attracting talent is important for attracting industry and jobs.
Berrien County should be "business-friendly."
I support increased controls on development to protect groundwater and surface water quality.
The County needs more industry to provide higher paying jobs.
Strong enforcement is needed to get some messy properties cleaned up.
The County needs programs to prevent the conversion of large tracts of farmland into residential or commercial developments.
New development should occur only when municipal sewer and water services are available.
Spreading out new housing on large lots helps preserve the rural feel in parts of the County.
Zoning rules are intended to help me make the best use of my property.
I am willing to pay a little higher taxes for government to purchase and protect areas threatened by development.
A land owner (including my neighbor) should be able to do pretty much what he/she wants with their land.

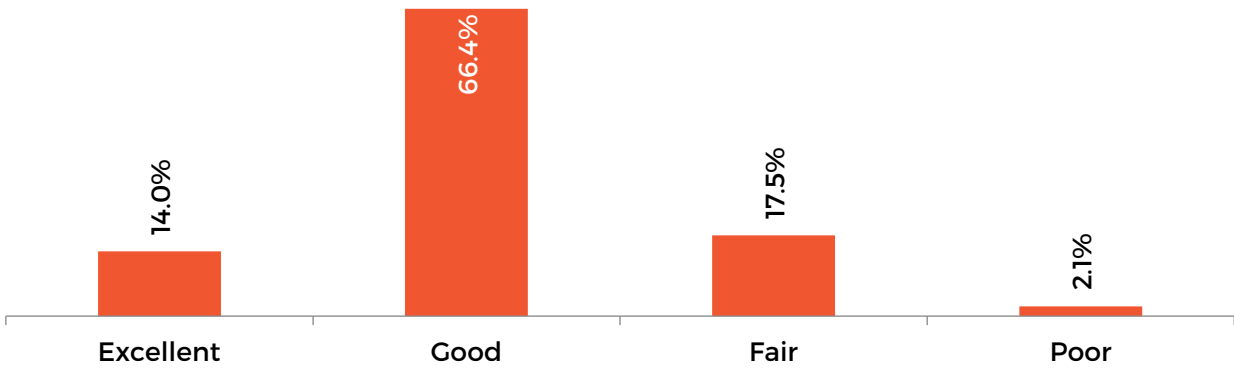
29. Which of the following do you think are most important to quality of life in Berrien County? (Select up to 3.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Affordable housing	45.8%	774
Safety and security	60.2%	1,016
Parks and recreation	33.9%	573
Natural features and open spaces	35.6%	601
Agriculture/farming	19.2%	325
Job opportunities	52.9%	893
Transportation options	12.9%	217
Shopping convenience	24.6%	415
Cultural activities	12.1%	204
Diversity and inclusivity	16.2%	273
Youth programs	15.2%	256
What other factors pertain to quality of life? (please specify)	6.0%	101
Answered	1,689	
Skipped	477	



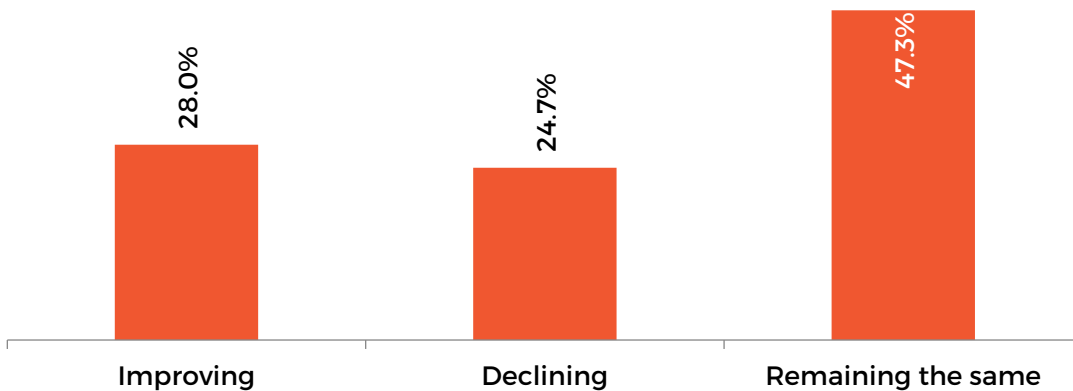
30. As a whole, do you believe the quality of life in Berrien County is:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	14.0%	236
Good	66.4%	1,122
Fair	17.5%	295
Poor	2.1%	36
Answered	1,689	
Skipped	477	



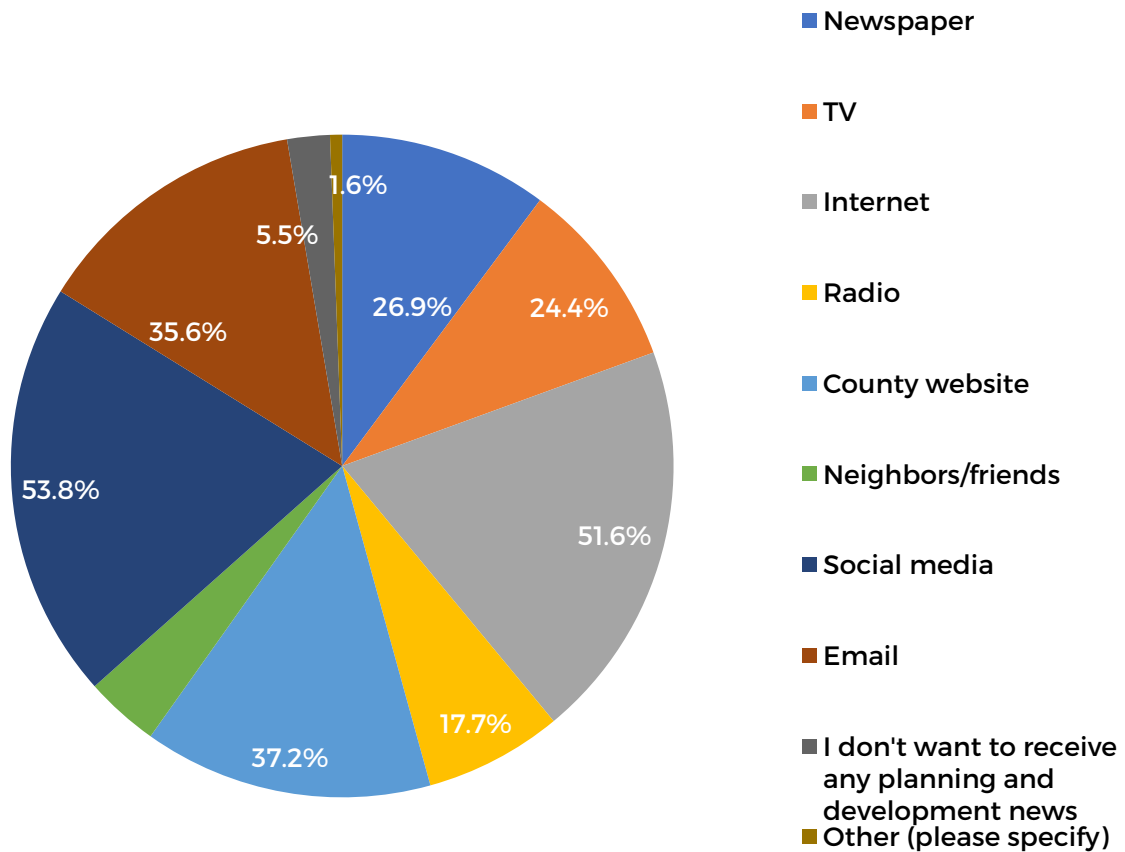
31. As a whole, do you believe the quality of life in Berrien County is:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Improving	28.0%	473
Declining	24.7%	417
Remaining the same	47.3%	798
Improving	28.0%	473
Answered	1,688	
Skipped	478	



32. How would you like to receive news and information about planning and development in Berrien County? (Check all that apply.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Newspaper	26.9%	451
TV	24.4%	410
Internet	51.6%	866
Radio	17.7%	298
County website	37.2%	625
Neighbors/friends	9.5%	160
Social media	53.8%	904
Email	35.6%	598
I don't want to receive any planning and development news	5.5%	92
Other (please specify)	1.6%	26
Answered	1,680	
Skipped	486	



Other:

- Make sure those that do not have access or understand this input is being taken have an opportunity to be heard. Reach into communities. Take time and go to the communities and explain your plan. Do it as many, not just one
- Text messages
- Text messages
- Group texts
- Text message
- Local township website
- Postal services
- Direct mail
- Text
- Digital County Newsletter with email notification.
- gwlifeline@hotmail.com
- You do what you want to do anyway whether we the people agree or not
- Text
- Text
- Text
- Mobile digital billboards. (RunningBoards Marketing)
- Mail
- USPS
- Snail mail
- Do not have an effective newspaper
- Moody on the market/mail max
- Text subscription that directs me to detailed articles/reports on the county website
- Mail
- Internet if I had it! Get off your checkbook and get internet out to the county citizens! Ridiculous that in 2021 we have underserved citizens needing internet.
- Actually encouraging and appreciating citizen participation and involvement in county activities.
- Reading information that has been sent to my address is simple, factual and most often I am able to make up my own mind on each topic without much outside jumbo.

33. Survey Respondents Comments

1. P&D needs to focus on young people if they want to retain workers and keep population growing. Families and young people are stressed and drained. We would like to see our lives made easier with simple everyday improvements like safe sidewalks, bike paths that lead to somewhere... like shopping, food, schools and parks. Safe crossings at schools would be great. We pay high taxes, where are these amenities? I would like to see taxes steered away from local police and fire and more towards infrastructure improvements. If you build it, they will come!
 - a. Providing multi-use spaces for families where life is made easier and help support small business, and that's affordable for working families around here.
2. I would like to see a Heavy Industrial Park built in the BH, St. Joe Area that could take advantage of the existing Harbor, Rail Network, and offers the opportunity for large factories to be built in the area that can employ 10,000 People. Factories like a Paper Mill, Steel Mill, Car Manufacturing Plant, ETC. Look at how Battle Creek's Fort Custer Area has grown or the Industrial Park in Cedar Rapids, IA has helped put Cedar Rapids on the map.
3. I see M22 bumper stickers all over the region, including in Chicago. Berrien County needs a positive image that can be celebrated. I would like to see it modeled after the Traverse area.
4. I live in the country and dislike cities in general. I appreciate living in unrestricted areas where I can do as I see fit with MY property. Over the last decade we have had a large influx of out-of-state people taking over the county, to our detriment I believe. St. Joseph is, for all intents and purposes, inaccessible to county residents during the summer months as are many other surrounding areas. Worst of all, land prices have been steadily rising due to what seems like mostly Chicago people buying up and developing seasonal properties and pricing us locals out of the market. We've unfortunately been considering moving out of Berrien county because of this.
5. New industry/business should be environmentally clean as well as offering a living wage.
6. Fix the roads. Lower property taxes. Need senior living places. More condos for seniors. Thx.
7. We just moved here, so I'm just learning about the county.
8. The Berrien County area is beautiful. We need to keep it balanced by not letting it get overrun by people from Chicago. It's getting too crowded in the summer time. It feels like they want to make our area

their “suburbs”. We need to not let them buy everything out so that we keep our small-town feel.

9. In those areas that need lifting up, focus on making those communities have better access to food, healthcare and schools. Education is key for all of us to become a better county/country. When we leave and vacate areas of the poor we leave part of our society behind. This hinders all communities not just the one we left behind. Get serious and make sure the county is working closely to understand what each cities needs are. Is the county compounding a problem for the city (traffic) or are they resolving issues with the city. Leave your Republican/Democratic politics out of it and just do what is the right thing For ALL residents and their families. Be better listeners to small voices or seek those out that don't use their voices to make sure you are thinking thru all of the counties needs! Thank you!
10. Far too many out of state people moving to Berrien County. We enjoy the serenity and safety of the Bridgman area and do not appreciate an influx of rude large city people inflicting their attitudes on Berrien County.
11. Too many out of state people moving here. That will change the political view of the county.
12. It is extremely important to prevent the abuse of our Lake Michigan shoreline by allowing rock armoring of the beach. The Lake is our most important asset and rock revetments destroy much of its beauty.
13. I have been living in Nile for just over a year. 11th street is a mess of a road. All of that business, all of the store, the bulk of Niles business seems to be on 11th street and it's one of the worst streets I have ever driven on. That is the first impression of Niles for a lot of visitors and it is quite sad. Roads have to be a focus in Niles.
14. Racial equity has the presence of deliberate systems and supports to achieve and sustain racial equity through proactive and preventative measurable measures. BC should be working with BH City, working in right relationship and accountability in an ecosystem for collective change. Viewing the USA through the Racial Justice Lens of the BIPOC is a powerful tool to eradicate structural Racism. Sincerely.
15. We could use a Pool for the kids in summer?
16. Ecosystem, ecosystem, ecosystem... and LEADERSHIP! The County should take an active role at corralling the muni's (and supported by NGO's) into a cohesive county wide master plan that focuses on leveraging our assets, futureproofing our resources and creating a world class environment that allows us to COMPETE with not only every other county in the State, but with all states in the country and for that matter we should be able to compete with other countries that want to play in

our industries and what we do best. This should be based on free market principles, the least of amount taxes possible and very few, if any incentives. And only used sparingly when totally aligned with a robust strategy. Ask the question: Do we know what we want to be when we grow up? Thank you, Peter Colovos 269-363-4101.

17. The county also needs to review not only outside employers but themselves as an employer. It's important to invest in new businesses for growth, but if you're not maintaining your own staff there will be fewer resources to assist in the type of growth and recovery you are interested in pursuing for the community. Additionally, both the county and local governments have been very slow to allow progress in development. In comparison to areas such as Ottawa or Van Buren counties where in particular lakeside growth is occurring exponentially, Berrien and some of the municipalities (St. Joseph, New Buffalo, etc.) have been hesitant to allow new development opportunities. For example, the amount of hoops Silver Beach Pizza had to jump through just to expand their space which brings in a large amount of customers and taxes year-round. The county needs to work with the cities and townships as a whole to improve the overall quality of growth to compete with areas like Holland, Saugatuck, and South Haven.
18. I feel that our roads are in need of replacing and resurfacing some are plain embarrassing especially in downtown Bridgman....it's time to make the exit 16 look as nice and lite up at night just like Michigan City and New Buffalo....it's the Gateway to a great Grape and Brew Trail and at night it's so dark it's dangerous.
19. NO MORE HOTELS IN STEVENSVILLE AND NO MORE RENTAL STORAGE PLACES.
20. What is most enjoyable about Berrien County is the open, rural atmosphere. I do not want to see development of every square inch of land into multiple family housing, low-income housing or more breweries or wineries. We have plenty of shopping and businesses now. We have everything we need. Support the police and fire departments to keep our community safe and do not look for ways to bring in more people. Keep our community free, safe and friendly, like it is now.
21. It was sort of covered, but more competitive options in internet/cable. Also think the use of things like Webcams at some of the beaches like Weko, Silver Beach, Warren Dunes, etc would be good to get current weather conditions, parking congestion, and view of beach events like converts, etc. Also feel it promotes tourism. Webcams can often be subsidized by selling advertisements on the webcam home page. (I am not in the webcam business, but have seen other beach cam pages)
22. Continue to solicit public input on any changes moving forward.

23. I moved to St. Joseph/Benton Harbor in my late 20's for a job after graduate school and I couldn't wait to leave. This region felt so old, conservative, and averse to change.
24. The county needs to maintain a strong Health Department. It should work in concert with our regional health system.
25. Safety and security is very important and I didn't check it given the 'check 3' instructions.
26. I would love to see more health food-based specialty stores in the area, such as Whole Foods, Trader Joes, maybe even a Costco. My family does most of our shopping in South Bend because we do not have these types of stores.
27. We need to be greener and energy/eco-friendly. We use and throw away so much in this area. We need a county recycling drop-off program. A lot of big cities have one. I know we have the Recycling Events, which are AWESOME I've even volunteered a couple of times, but needs to be more. Oh, and don't let the FIPs take over.
28. To improve planning and development, the County Commission must be open to truly engaging with the public. It's been a "closed" board, with little regard for soliciting public input, since we've lived here more than 30 years. This survey is one example, though I just "happened" to come upon it looking on the County's website. I also appreciated the County holding meetings via YouTube during Covid. More must be done to engage and work with local community representatives for the greater good. These are good first steps.
29. I have to say I do not like the incentives Cornerstone Alliance has put into place in drawing Illinois people here, PAYING them \$15,000 to move here, which I find abhorrent, when people who already live in our county have a hard enough time being able to find affordable housing. Young people have a hard time finding even an apartment with a rent that they can afford. Why do we need to draw these people here? And who is paying that \$15,000? And, assuming they're liberal, I don't want them changing our politics in this county. Yes, that's a harsh thing to say, but I've had it with this political crap going on. We also need to figure out how to keep businesses here, we've lost Target, JC Penney's, Carson's, to name a few. And we're told to "buy local". How can we? Let's say, if I want a pair of jeans, or a winter coat, I have to go out of town, or order on-line now. We don't have a store, other than Kohl's, where MAYBE you may find something that would be suitable. And one huge mistake that is way too late to fix, was allowing all those apartment/condo buildings along the lake and river in St. Joe. They could have built a nice little "sea side" shopping area with stores and restaurants, and entertainment areas, on a boardwalk even. That alone

would have brought in tons of tourism. But no, instead they build those godawful apartment/condo buildings that block the beautiful view of the lake! That has always sickened MANY people in this county.

30. I do think Berrien County does a great job overall.
31. Police, Fire, Ambulance services must be a priority.
32. Best way to lift a society is to raise up the worst parts. Benton harbor needs a face lift. Could be gorgeous, but here we are...community jobs going to cell mates from the mayors past life...
33. Marijuana is a bad idea... we should not be encouraging people to ruin their lives. Call it what you may, "recreational losing control of yourself" is a bad idea for any community. Seriously... Think about it. Do you really want your neighbor not able to control themselves...?
34. Improve the county drains they are too small for the increased housing
35. Berrien County may not have influence over rentals in the area but homeowners should be allowed to create income from their property. Healthier food options are a must. Otherwise, I'll (and others) will be traveling to South Bend, and BC will lose out on those monies.
36. While agriculture is super important, we have a severe housing shortage, so buyers are moving to Indiana. We need new housing on land not being farmed. We also don't have a single restaurant in Niles where you can order filet mignon, so although we try to SHOP NILES, we have to go to Indiana for dinner quite often. Another concern is that crime has increased over the past year. Overall, Niles is a great place, but as with all things and all people, there's always room for improvement. Thank you.
37. The County should be putting in and encouraging others to utilize rain gardens. They county should be encouraging solar panels and rain collection.
38. Someone the questions allow for quite a lot of grey space in how it can be interpreted and could be too easily construed as something it's not for benefit of one person versus another. Long story short, this survey itself needs to be improved to remove subjectivity and bias from those interpreting it.
39. I think our secret super-power in economic development is agriculture. We need to be an example for what it looks like in the 21st century when the public and private sector are all pulling in the same direction. What does it look like when a place goes "all in" to fully embrace our agricultural potential? By that, I mean all aspects of food production: growing, shipping, processing, value added industry, circular economy (creative use of "the rest" of the food products we grow, etc. nutraceuticals), preservation of prime farm soil, eliminating food deserts. There is ENORMOUS untapped potential in our agricultural sector.

40. Biggest gap Berrien County has compared to area I lived in on east side of state (Rochester Hills, MI in Oakland County) are sidewalks, bike trails (Paint Creek Trail), and high end grocery / shopping (i.e., Whole Foods; Trader Joes; etc.). When they took a dilapidated mall like Orchards Mall and turned it into "The Village of Rochester Hills" <https://www.thevorh.com/> it made the town incredibly desirable while maintaining its core values.
41. Orchard's mall and other "retail" locations like the old target are an eye sore and a detractor for prospective residents. These properties should be taken care of. We should find a way to get Target back and find a way to just tear down the Orchards mall and re-purpose that land for something better than what they are talking about now. It needs to go. I live on the river in downtown SJ and I have heard that there is talk of a multipurpose path along the utility easement. I have concerns. I think it will negatively impact my property value and also, I have had bad experiences with people who use that path today. People come down in their cars, their quads and even their dirt bikes. People come down with their dogs off leash and let them poop in my yard or allow them to go after my dog (or my kids) while I'm down in my own yard. I've had one man threaten to shoot my dog because her bark scared him. I have young kids that use my yard and I don't want them down there alone with strangers if this path becomes more public. This path will limit my ability to utilize my land and devalue my house and those near me. I am all for public paths but not for those that cut right through the middle of my backyard and devalue my property.
42. Open us back up and let business return to normal. Stop undo restrictions that don't allow small business to thrive. AND unmask our kids!!!
43. Preserve natural resources. Now is the time to implement good long term environmental action.
44. Please no more breweries and wineries there are enough.
45. The issue of all the old abandoned buildings and houses that need to be tore down needs to be addressed so that new prospects can you use the unused land. We have way too many eyesores in Berrien County that need to be dealt with it makes the area ugly
46. Overall, Niles and Berrien County are good places to live.
47. Berrien county really needs more for the youth to do, schools need updated play equipment.
48. The county and township ordinances are too restrictive and impose upon private landowners rights. It's programs only benefit the wealthy and fail to ensure that it's middle class citizens and communities benefit from programs given to the wealthy. Variance costs are too high and a

board should not receive additional pay for doing their job if a meeting is necessary. Change your rules if meetings are always needed. The county allowed development and variances for more often to wealthy developers than private land owners and the wealthy get to profit from this, not the citizens. The county had become too political and influenced by the wealthy. All county business should be conducted in the middle of the county Berrien Springs and should never have been moved to St. Joe. But again, because the elite and wealthy live there, it got moved to accommodate them. The county dangled the proverbial carrot by promising a south county building and services, but failed to follow through with their promises by limiting services and functions at the south county building. Strongly considering selling everything and pulling out of Berrien County.

49. No more banks, auto part stores or dollar stores. Get us an Aldis and bigger sit-down restaurants and places to go so we don't have to go to Grape.
50. No comment
51. Too much big government these people make way tooo much money, some have been in office way toooo long Niles City alone has a 6 figure \$\$\$ city manager!!! Local reps make Way too much\$\$\$\$ no longer in touch with local people that put them in office!!!!
52. I believe, and I'm not the only one in Niles who believes this, the cops need to do their job and get rid of the drug houses on every corner, do something about the crime in Nikes, it's gotten way out of hand, quit worrying about new businesses and meaningless stuff, fix the city and hold the police and city government responsible, maybe the mayor of Niles needs to worry a little less about posting pics of his family and focus on fixing the city and do we really need this many pot dispensaries, the whole city is starting to smell like pot, you can't even go outside with your kids without it smelling it, or go to a store without hitting a huge wall of pot smell, fix the damn city, make it safe for our kids to go outside without fear. It's not hard to do your job.
53. We desperately need affordable housing.
54. Many if these choices applied to north Berrien County and I think it's about time more focus is placed on south Berrien County.
55. As a while Berrien Bountly is the most un-pedestrian friendly area I've ever lived. It's evident that the people who are making the rules and Allocating funds are likely not health conscious. If the were they would see roads like Jakway and Fairplain are simply unsafe! St. Joseph township asked for money to improve a park that is only safe to DRIVE to because speed limits have been raised on both roads to 40!!!! I would LOVE to see anyone from the Berrien County Road department and the

SJCT board to walk Fairplain and Jakway with your child or grandchild. Just like Napier it will require someone to get killed before change happens. Instead of surveys perhaps, hire a consulting group that can advise you that residential areas should not have speed limits of 40 MPH!

56. Township roads are horrible and should be in the plan to replace.
57. Taxation is theft.
58. Thank you for supporting recycling efforts. Specifically, the hazardous-waste collections
59. Some questions require addition explanation. Some questions point out programs that are not common knowledge to all citizens. No idea what Brownfield redevelopment is and no explanation in survey. Let people improve their properties with unnecessary red tape. You shouldn't need an architect to draft plans for putting up a fence or common additions or modifications to property. It causes unnecessary economic divide between neighbors and money is routed to architects vs property improvements. Too much red tape for common sense stuff.
60. One item not covered is health care, and I believe this is a serious need in Berrien County, particularly access to quality primary care physicians.
61. I appreciate the survey to gather input. However, there were a couple of areas where I wasn't sure what I was being asked about. Did you test this survey with a variety of users? I don't know everything and there's people who know less than I do when discussing the big picture on environment and resources. Just a thought for getting better feedback.
62. We are not going to increase the population in the county without supporting density in housing development and creating new properties to balance out our local housing market. Farmland redevelopment should not be section off into multi acre lots, but smaller neighborhood feel. Also - how many surveys do we need to fill out to get some recreation bike trails in the area? So many people want this, it's past time to make it happen. Thank you for receiving my responses. Take care.
63. Thank you for working to update the county master plan.
64. Berrien County is doing a fairly good job with growth of business and tourism. We just need some more focus on year-round residents and their access to recreation and public areas in rural communities. Long connecting trails and maintaining publicly owned properties are very important to me. As soon as the tourists leave there isn't much for our community to "do" that helps maintain a healthy lifestyle. Getting out and busy makes for a healthier community.
65. Recycling facilities/locations.

66. It is sometimes easier for my family to go to Indiana where there is plenty provided in neighboring counties, than there is to drive to the north side of the county. There are more "moderate" "family fun" facilities or restaurants in neighboring Indiana, including fast food options, as well as outdoor areas like parks and rec.
67. I would like to see improvement to Riverview Park. The flooding issue needs to be handled in order to improve the looks of the area. My son used to play American Legion baseball there and I spend my lunch hour there almost everyday enjoying the view of the river.
68. Please work on reconciling the differences between Benton Harbor and surrounding areas, and I am not only speaking racially. The economic differences are also too vast. Why are the surrounding areas developed compared to Benton Harbor? With Lake Michigan, Benton Harbor should also thrive as St. Joe does during the summer. Those of us who reside in Berrien County know we live in 'Republican Country' and that is ok, but those of us with different views on some issues should also feel we have a voice and should feel we are part of the family as well because after all, we live here too.
69. I urge our commissioners to tackle two things ASAP: 1. affordable housing for our younger families especially, in order for them to live in the communities they work in. 2. off road paved hiking paths which would enable residents to get to various places without driving, especially a path along red arrow highway connecting the various town centers with foot traffic.
70. I believe that supporting our hospital systems is key in helping our county maintain residents. I am concerned about the strain that is on our health system currently because of covid. Please work with our health systems and support them.
71. Remember that elected commissioners represent ALL of us. Not just the loudest. This area has become riddled with my way or no way people and it's just awful. I do not support firing our health office Courtney Davis. Period. Any commissioner who supports firing someone for doing their job will not have my vote next election.
72. I am concerned about the problem of erosion along Lake Michigan and feel that home owners and HOAs have not had rules enforced to protect their properties; rocks were supposed to only be allowed for a year and should be taken out, the beaches have been ruined. When will this get enforced if ever? Building along Lake Michigan should be forbidden in the future. There are a lot of local ordinances that have not been enforced for years in some areas of the county. I realize we are currently living with a pandemic illness, but let's hope this ends and we can all

get back to normal. Hopefully 2022 and 2023 will start to see some normalcy in everyone's life.

73. Fire Courtney Davis.
74. I think funding for education should follow the student.
75. Fire Courtney Davis.
76. Lower taxes. Improve road maintenance program. Health care needs to be more accessible-no Docs are taking new patients.
77. I would like to see a reduction in taxes and a more of a voice for parents in schools.
78. The school systems use to be amazing. They are becoming liberal and slowly going downhill.
79. Lower taxes and stay the hell out of my families lives! I don't need the government co-parenting my kids! MY BODY, MY CHOICE!!!!
80. I want to see us remain a rural area. I want the county to honor the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States.
81. I think we should have our freedoms restored. No mask or vaccine mandates. This is America the land of the free!!
82. Quality of life, rid the county of mandates, clean out the health department. Read and follow the constitution.
83. I really only want to reiterate that people should be able to use their tax dollars to send their kids to the school of their choice. Make that a reality and you will have all the economic growth you can stand because people are tired of failing public schools that indoctrinate their children to hate America.
84. State government needs to make Michigan a more attractive place to live and to invest in business, industry, housing, etc. before the County even has a chance. Consolidating school districts to provide more educational opportunities through larger school populations in a cost-efficient manner is an area to consider, too. Creating a county-wide or north county/south county vocational/tech school(s) would be a pragmatic step in the right direction. Improving access to high-speed internet and creating a larger school district with broader educational opportunities are two fundamental building blocks that need to be achieved in order for this area to thrive.
85. Please, please, please, reduce and/or eliminate legal marijuana stores. May be the only reason I leave Berrien County.
86. Job training centers
 - trades, technology, media, culinary, professional development.
 - Professional services
 - salons, dry cleaners, auto repair, cell phone service, catering. Strong tower boosters to keep internet signal. Summer park programs
 - Youth, Exercise, Concerts, Vendor events. Fine-dining options.

87. The school systems in place (and future education centers) are integral in planning the county's future. Isn't that who we are planning it for? Our next generation! School system concerns like River Valleys ugly principal controversy (my alma mater) and the New Buffalo consolidation of sports (etc) could re-shape opportunities for youth. Sadly, we only get to talk about sports as the academic consolidation was shut down years ago. Alternative education and stem centers, vocational training, local college (Imc, andrews) touring should be our pride as a community and our focus on attracting and maintaining talent as mentioned in this survey. Writing this as a new working mom, and a college grad with honors and a BFA I felt I not only needed to leave Berrien County but was pressure by educators and community members to search for bigger and better opportunity. I indeed found them but returned to the county after 4 years in grand rapids and 4 years in Chicago to the quieter county life by the lake and use my learned skill set as a self-employed artist. Better schools lead to better citizens.
88. Please do not allow any more roads to be built without first maintaining all local roads. I realize the state will superimpose its will here. Also, the size and numbers of trucks traveling at high speeds on the roads is dangerous and these large trucks are destroying the roads we continually must rebuild. Most goods should be hauled via trains. We need no more red lights; roundabouts are much more efficient.
89. Too many marijuana places in Buchanan I would like to see more restaurants, retail stores and businesses other than people from Indiana and Illinois coming in to buy drugs.
90. More chain eating places and a Target!
91. 31 Bypass needs right lane replaced as well as connected past Napier Ave. I'm in Buchanan but Niles township and hope that Southeast County landfill continues to be maintained safely. I would think Buchanan would be good candidate for multi-family housing developments based on good commute to business heavy south bend. More should be done to encourage businesses to be built that interact with South Bend businesses.
92. Spend monies on AUDITS of local governments and police forces. Weed out abuse and corruption!
93. The roads are sorely in need of improvement in Chikaming township.
94. It would be great to get sidewalks in Lincoln charter township. Kids can't ride their bikes in the streets and only certain areas are getting funding for sidewalks to be built. Sidewalks are safer for our children, our elderly and families to walk with small children. Also, we need to make renovation of old properties and districts a focus. The impact on

- the environment on new builds both from land conservation but also building materials are detrimental. By renovating run down and derelict properties we can breathe life back into homes and communities and make pricing more modest for new families and first time home buyers.
95. I love living here. But lake township and communities like this are their own worst enemies. No forward thinking. A local kid wanted to start / developer a camp found and the township put in barriers. No wonder young kids with ideas leave. Stop with the McMansions. It's crazy. Some people just want a nice simple ranch on a larger lot. Nice & affordable!!!!
 96. Would love more restaurants (ChicFil-A, Jersey Mikes, etc- not duplicates of what we already have.) Trader Joe's!!!
 97. I want health to be a priority during the pandemic. Reeducate the mislead antivax and anti-maskers. Don't build in places that repeatedly flood. Bring back Target or other stores. Make more social opportunities that don't revolve around alcohol, churches or sports. (Think of the spastic geeks, atheists or people who aren't Christian.) Please analyze M-63 going from Ace Hardware up to Hilltop. How likely will the low area wash out or get flooded? Could we build up that crucial roadway? Thank you!
 98. While it was covered upon, it is clear that land is being rapidly transformed in the county and surrounding areas. Farmland preservation is part of sustainable land use management. We should look to revitalize our towns and cities; creating space for industry and residences that maximize the use of land in urban areas. Doing such should include affordable housing, promote thriving communities, and better funded schools. Preserving our natural spaces and farmland is part of what has drawn so many new residents to the county, and further development will eventually destroy the very thing individuals seek in the county. Those spaces and farmland are non-renewable resources that should be preserved for future generations. I hope that the plan will include tangible policies to preserve that land in a way that is measurable and accountable in the next 5-10 years. - Carl Wagner III, Young Farmer Chair.
 99. More money to public safety!
 100. Recall Christina Price & Dennis Krotzer.
 101. Part of the reason I've stayed in Berrien County is the small towns. I'm not liking the Chicago people coming here and bringing their big city ways. Yes, I would like to have new things here but not what they are bringing here. We are losing that small town feel.
 102. So many of these questions are contingent on where you live in the county, what resources are available to that area, what jobs are available, what the situation is with the schools, industry. You do

address all of these issues, but not sure how you are going to determine who needs what and how to improve ALL areas of the county.

103. Need more walking and bicycle trails.
104. High speed internet services in rural areas!!!!
105. I've lived here nearly all my life. Where are the free beaches? Rocky Gap? Some people can't afford the beach cost. Due to erosion, stairs are not getting rebuilt, so no access. We need more free parking, closer to the beach, in St. Joe. Out of state people come here & i have to walk from the bluff to the beach at 62 years and carry beach stuff?
106. Sewer systems should be made available to greater areas and combined. Governmental services should be combined...need Regional Government and services...too much duplication.
107. We just bought a home and slowly realized that it is across the ravine from Wolverine Metal Stamping. We have to listen to an insidious, loud, low pounding noise at any hour of the day or night. It is very stressful to hear and not be able to do anything about it. We are trying to decide if we sell the house that we just moved in to. We feel this noise is infringing on our quality of life here, polluting the air. The EPA indicates that noise is a huge part of air pollution and boy do we have it here. Between that company, I-94 and all the trains running through, it is noisier than our last home when we thought it would be quieter. I would like the County to help residents establish safe, quiet, enjoyable homes first, before business. This is our home! I don't believe that industry should run rampant over our right to a peaceful life.
108. Berrien County lacks diversity and inclusivity. It feels extremely segregated. I also feel like people are unable to find single family homes that they can afford because out of towners are buying up our land and our homes and using them as Air BnBs or summer homes. These homes sit vacant all winter, spring, and fall, yet there are so many families who LIVE here that cannot find housing because there is nothing affordable available.
109. Do not gentrify help to strengthen the community of people living in poverty. They deserve a good quality of life and should not be push out of their homes.
110. Chicago short term rental tourism is a clear way to bring money into our local economy and create income for families who wish to rent part of their home. I understand concerns about properties being purchased and operated exclusively as AirBnb, but full-time occupants should be supported in this possible revenue stream, not hampered by local municipalities that are already struggling to retain good jobs.
111. Developers continue to promote discounts, subsidies, and tax abatements as a means of attracting business to the region. This

supports the Kmart Blue Light Special mentality that simply cheapens what Berrien County has to offer business. As long as we continue to accept this "status quo" style of attracting business by giving away the store, we discount our worth. Look at the natural resources offered to all who live in Berrien County:

- Fresh, treated water coming from Lake Michigan
- Natural resources such as Lake Michigan itself as well as other small lakes and the St. Joseph River
- Summer festivals celebrating local lifestyle
- Quality community college and partnerships with universities that offer an excellent education
- A strong, fiscally responsible county government

112. Really would like better playgrounds and more trails / sidewalks connecting neighborhoods and features within communities.
113. Continue investing on Diversity and Inclusion we are a vibrant community with multinational corporations in the area that brings multinational talent and global awareness to the area and even with that the community is not very inclusive.
114. Sustainable jobs with good pay and good working conditions are needed. Preservation of environment and nature are a must in the area. To sacrifice nature over businesses or housing should be discouraged.
115. Plan for extension of the Niles pathway to Berrien Springs and eventually to Saint Joseph.
116. High speed internet access in rural areas is very important. We have lived in our home over 30 years just 5 miles from Comcast in Benton Harbor and still don't have access.
117. Affordable housing and better transportation to areas of Stevensville and Bridgman
118. Schools need AC. I'm a school teacher and these kids in masks all day when it is 85 degrees outside and 95 degrees inside, is asinine. No school are starting earlier in the year and it is hot. It's crazy that at this day/ age schools do not have AC. I'm not saying they need an ice box, it just needs to be cooler. Covid has really hurt business downtown St. Joe. This season was much better but it is still rough. I am a business owner and we have gotten some help from grants, etc. but it was still a hard season.
119. I am concerned about the many people who are essentially voiceless, who will never be even aware of this survey, much less believe that completing it could make a difference. Thanks for trying. Maybe we need to find a more effective methodology?
120. Our natural resources are precious and what makes Berrien County special. Please preserve them. Once gone, they can never be replaced.

121. Concerned about the low level of government support of recreational facilities for biking and hiking. Low support for conservation programs such as availability of garden mulch, recycling and control of harmful (to the land) agricultural activities. Our county roads are in terrible condition and when they are worked on it is just the minimum. We need bike lanes and parks that are open year-round instead of just during the summer.
122. Sidewalks are needed in many areas. The road commission doesn't seem very motivated or running with a plan. Where I live trees on county right of ways are not taken care of at all, even when they should be removed.
123. We need to remain rural and small town. Keep our police dept strong. Please do not bring in big city ideas.
124. Road maintenance should include trees on county property that line neighborhoods-many need trimming or replacing.
125. We recently looked into downsizing and finding a neighborhood with amenities for retirees. Couldn't find anything to fit our needs. Walking trails are a must and shopping/restaurants within walking distance. Also, a community center with rec classes, a pool, fitness center, etc. Without a development like this, we'll just stay in our current neighborhood with our house paid off.
126. Employment opportunities are central to developing the area. We have a good skills base for manufacturing and should continue to leverage that.
127. We need more bike lanes and sidewalks. Improve the pay of our professional workforce including Healthcare workers, engineers, etc.
128. Too many laws. Too many police and no support of the fire service. 911 support the police departments over the fire services. Radio systems are one of the biggest problems. Stop spending all of 911 tax money on the police departments.
129. Many questions are very vague and/or conflicting based on how reader is left to interpret on their own. For example, I believe the shoreline protection is a very serious topic... but I want it protected naturally for the long term coastal benefits - not with reinvestments that protect one home at the cost of long term damage down the coast.
130. As a young skilled professional trying to leave the area, the biggest drawbacks are there is nowhere nice to live and nothing to do. This seems to be a common theme amongst locals and recent college graduates moving to the area. There are plenty of breweries but nowhere reasonably priced to meet and socialize that isn't packed. The summer tourists overrun everything decent and drive prices up.

131. Email. Survey should have provided a space for adding this in previous question
132. Talk to employees who work for the County of Berrien. Find out what is working and what is not working. Ask employees for input. Follow up on that input and implement that input.
133. I earn a middle-class income with benefits and cannot afford a quiet place to live in this county. It feels to me like all county commissioners care about is making out-of-towners happy. But if service/hospitality/tourist economy workers cannot afford rent, food, transportation in this county, then there's going to be no one to cater to the out-of-town folks. At some point I wish you all would realize the world is much bigger than the Upton family, and that the ideas that have been implemented here are why the county is shrinking in population. Questions on this survey indicate that you're worried about who is maintaining lawns properly - you think that's why full-year residents are leaving? I'm leaving because there seems to be no vision or willingness to lead. Because I cannot make an offer on a home that would compete against someone buying a second home or tenth rental unit. Because everyone who lives here full time is expected to cater to tourists full time and we're tired.
134. If we do not begin to monitor the amount of pesticides that are released onto our crops, we will all be left without clean water, clean air and clean land to grow our food on. This area is known for its agriculture and amazing wines and spirits and to see the amount of pesticides that are being put on our food supply is absolutely terrifying. We are blessed with this beautiful area. Please don't let big business kill off one of the last natural and "pure" areas in the USA. We have to focus on clean, sustainable growth with the future in mind. It is so sad to see acres of crops that look gray after being sprayed with these chemicals. There is absolutely no wildlife, insects or birds anywhere near these farms. If the animals don't want anything to do with it, why would we think it's safe to feed this ,"food" to America? Please make this county proud of its farmers and ag families. This is killing off our region and the topsoil is going to be burned and poisonous by the time our kids are adults, there won't be anywhere else to try to grow from. Please don't let big business take our last remaining resources. You have the power to speak for the people. Your great, great-grandkids will thank you as they grow up to an earth that is healing.
135. Public safety needs more funding to better protect the residents of the county
136. There were not questions that covered or asked about the Three Oaks, Galien, and Buchanan areas. South county needs more medical facilities

- and better/ cheaper food stores. We need to make towns more walkable and more parks for kids with more/improved walking trails.
137. Stop paying rich Chicago or other to come buy homes that jack up our taxes... so unfair..
 138. There are little things for young children (doctors, hospital, child care, museums, zoos, etc.) without traveling far. Moving here has made it so I am driving to Kalamazoo or Grand Rapids for any specialty for my children. Besides parks and beaches, there is not much for children. Child care is always on a long wait list and little options as to where to enquire.
 139. The country roads in southern Berrien County are very dangerous for cyclists. The far right third of almost all roads are rough, potted and have cracks running the length of the road that catch wheels and send cyclists to the pavement even after chip seal. I have received a concussion when wearing a helmet because of bad roads. Often the law requiring cyclists to "ride as far right as practicable" puts cyclists in the middle of most roads. This irritates some motorists who attack cyclists -- buzzing them, "rolling coal," running them off the road, stopping to fight and intimidate cyclists. Berrien County law enforcement DOES NOTHING TO PROTECT CYCLIST SAFETY! NOTHING! They won't show up when cyclists are attacked unless a cyclist is injured or killed. I've heard some cyclists are carrying firearms because of lax law enforcement. Where Kalamazoo County is pro-cyclist with its roads and law enforcement, Berrien County is very anti-cyclist. Unless you do something to improve roads and law enforcement, there will be blood on your hands. Most beautiful place on earth with the worst attitudes toward cyclists on the planet.
 140. Areas of Berrien County are becoming unaffordable for someone who wants to raise a family. I will include the Galien/Three Oaks area, Oronoko Township. Chicago families are buying land and houses and driving up the cost of single-family homes. Meanwhile, they are building new homes on farmland and retailers are changing the environment of the area to cater to Chicago people, rather than those who live here year-round. That is why many do not shop in this area.
 141. I think you've covered this area very well. I think this approach for the County is on target.
 142. There needs to be a place that family's, teens, and kids, can go and have fun. We have nothing her for a family. Berrien County is coming more for alcohol (which is ok) but that is not for families to go with kids and have fun.
 143. Too many stores have closed and we have to shop outside of Berrien County, which is losing tax dollars because we have to go to South Bend

- or Kalamazoo. We need to get clothing stores, household item stores like Bed, Bath and Beyond back. I think the county does not do enough to encourage stores to open and stay in Berrien County.
144. Cleaning up downtown Saint Joseph and giving a facelift to this county primary tourist destination would be a huge step forward. Compared to many other lake towns this is not a visually appealing downtown space and it lacks many of the nicer shopping destination our neighboring cities have which not only attracts tourists but makes it a more appealing location for relocation and would help retain professionals in locations like the hospital, whirlpool, and leco.
145. Bike trails are advertised in the area, and there are none. Highly needed!
146. It would be nice to see high speed internet become a utility like water and sewage, trash pickup, and electricity. I also think the area would benefit from having more renewable energy like wind. That may bring in more environmentally conscious businesses.
147. I am absolutely for big plans for things like trails and natural preservation across the county, protecting the environment, attracting businesses, etc. when it requires a governing body to align multiple areas. Also, I'm absolutely in favor of protecting the quality and safety of our communities. However, I think the responses you're going to receive from the survey are "yes all of those things are wonderful" but I think the county should be careful to filter out what really is the role of government and what is not.
148. We live in a beautiful area, we need to have a much more inclusive way to utilize our outdoor spaces, we have multiple old railroad ways that easily could be converted into better hiking walking and biking trails. I've been dedicated space getting to our local breweries and wineries along with promoting outdoor exercise and activity is the logical next step. Unfortunately for our area, there is a paucity of viable hiking and biking trails that are safe and dedicated to preserving our natural beauty, which will further increase our foot print as a recreational and scenic area of Michigan.
149. More bike trails please.
150. Berrien County has the most arrogant, citizens and activities I've ever seen. Prices are awful. If lots go larger prices will not be affordable to anyone but the rich. That's how it is now! Any new subdivisions with one acre lots are sky high in price even before covid. Rent is out of sight for any age! Have no other option but to buy if you can find sound under \$100k. I've always hated the rudeness of this area but I'm stuck here now.
151. The number of short-term rentals has to be limited and licensed, and in my opinion, taxed heavily. There are only so many homes in a town like

- Three Oaks, and many have been purchased and turned into vacation/wedding rentals. Not good. Too many of those leads to a loss of community. The homes should ideally be for full time residents...the fabric of the community. NOT for folks who show up, enjoy the town, then leave. I am good with some, but it needs to be reined in.
152. Slow speed limit on Red Arrow to 45 during the summer & 50 otherwise. Limit square footage of homes. Overbuilding is an unfortunate trend.
153. Being flexible in these changing times has meant life or death to many businesses. The same is true for county govt. the emphasis today is quality of life however that is achieved. We have a beautiful spot of earth here.
154. Our county drain commission should be ashamed of their failures in the recent flood damage sustained in the Bridgman area. They have neglected the drains in Bridgman for the 17 years I have lived here. They are directly responsible for the flooding of the AEP substation and the loss of power the the south end of the county which caused damage to many homes due to sump pump failure. They are also directly responsible for the undersized culvert they allowed to be placed causing the flooding to the hidden creek subdivision.
155. I do agree with migration to Berrien County. LEGAL MIGRATION.
156. The seal and tar on the roads is a joke and does damage to our vehicles. The closed hotel on m1-39 has tons of homelessness people living in it and they are stealing business blind at night. Tons of open buildings with nothing in them and new ones are being built with no plans for anything in them. Shopping in the area is poor!! Seriously how does a town lose target? Parking downtown St Joe is a nightmare! When you have a hour wait in the local restaurants a two hour limit will get us tickets. Pedestrians walking everywhere. A flashing light at the crosswalk at the top of the stairs would be a huge help so cars know people want to cross!
157. There has to be a balance between residents and tourist. As a resident in feel I have no voice and I'm being run over by tourist. We live in a beautiful area with a variety of farms. We need to preserve our agricultural as it will become more important. We also need to preserve our water and lakes. These are irreplaceable.
158. Thank you!
159. Overall good questions. Answers are likely based on where one grew up and type of education. Local control to me is best with regard to property uses, growth plans, and property maintenance. With the political climate and tax base in Illinois we do need to plan for growth though as there is a notable increase in traffic coming this way (ask your realtors)-But let's not convert Berrien County into an extension of

Chicago either. There is a reason people like this area so let's not change it too quickly.

160. Infrastructure should also include drains; there are plenty of services that are affected by inadequate maintenance of creeks and culverts. Trees are not cleared back, then die and take out power lines and ties up emergency services. Dead branches and debris then plug up the culverts and cause issues. Routine maintenance or inspections of these areas and allowing the local community to work towards clearing these out should be arranged.
161. Don't raise my taxes to offset county projects in areas that do not affect my home.
162. Work on youth programs and implementing a mandatory COMPREHENSIVE sex education in schools. Studies show abstinence only courses like Michigan have higher rates of pregnancy.
163. I absolutely love it here! I have lived here since 2019 and I have found kind and friendly people, job opportunity, a well-cared for neighborhood of regular people who can afford their home. I have seen communities like this be decimated by teardowns until a town is only affordable for the very wealthy. Protect St Joseph from that...protect farmland from over-development.
164. Blowing grass clippings onto the road is highly dangerous for motorcycle riders and in many areas it's illegal. The small gravel that is put on the roads is also incredibly dangerous for motorcycle riders!!! This should also be illegal!!! The signs to indicate that there is gravel on the road are not put far enough away to alter your travel. This is probably the stupidest idea I have ever seen as far as repairing roads! Repair the roads properly or don't, it's better than that gravel that damages vehicles, brakes windshields, and can cause motorcycle riders to lose control and die!!!
165. Improving transportation and road quality should not lead to lack of parking and access to local businesses. The changes in the Union pier to Sawyer area on Red Arrow highway have a greatly diminished the access to local businesses and diminish the parking that is available. I don't feel the planning also took into consideration the emergency I-94 routing of red arrow highway. It's a local resident this has reduced access to businesses especially during especially during the tourist seasons.
166. I feel like there's more than enough housing opportunities, but the prices for single people apartments/ spaces are going up at a ridiculous rate. A new shopping center/ mall or renewing the old one would be essential to the economic growth in the community.

167. Why the road between Washington and Lincoln get a new road but by Upton we get tar and stone?
168. Look into improving and updating county buildings and positive productive use of county land.
169. You need to invest in the schools. There are too many kids that don't get the courses they need for the college they have chosen. The courses are open for upperclassmen to sit in and mess around instead of them being offered to the underclassmen first. Also the admin of most schools is atrocious, as a parent I've been yelled at several times over simple questions instead of them communicating what is happening. Berrien RESA is also a joke. That needs to be addressed as well.
170. All the kayak parks and launches are restricting fishing access points (Paw Paw River County Park for example). This is very frustrating.
171. Here in Saint Joseph every time there is new construction it's either a realtor office or a bank. How many do we need?!? Why has there not been new developments coming in, just these businesses we already have so many of?!? We need more restaurants and actual businesses not another Karen who wants to get in on real estate. Target left our area and that was a huge hit. Bring in any other sort of new business because especially in the summer with the influx of people, the few stores and restaurants there are, are packed.
172. Please stop construction of multi-plex housing developments. It attracts more people to a confined area and aggravates limited parking, limited public beach space, and respect for the land many who have lived here for years have enjoyed.
173. I did not answer that we need more diversity because I don't believe we need to make it a big deal. People get along fine with each other. Just don't bring in immigrants from countries that are not going to embrace our culture and language. Do not force homeowners to use their acreage for multi-unit housing. So do unto others as you would have those do unto you. Do not ever forget that.
174. Cancel contracts with Comcast & let Internet Service providers compete on cost and quality. Use government resources to tear down abandoned houses throughout the county. Utilize government to improve quality of housing stock. Inspect rentals and improve them. Assist homeowners with deteriorating housing conditions.
175. There were a lot of questions about preserving farmland. I think it's important to preserve farming opportunities and to preserve "unique" properties. Berrien has a unique climate that works well for certain fruits/veg and we need to maintain/grow those opportunities. On the other hand, there seems to be a lot of vacant, unused farms that could be used for either residential properties, recreational space or just open

- land preservation. I don't think it has to be either/or, just find the right balance.
176. Don't allow new short-term rentals in St. Joe city. Lower taxes.
 177. The drain commission needs better oversight. Our county drains are ridiculously not taken care of. Only when there is a problem!! The main drains need to be addressed yearly, not when we have an issue. I believe we need a program set up too keep the ditches cleaned out and property maintained!! The drain commission needs too be pro-active, in maintenance of all the drains. Honestly the system is way over grown and not designed to handle all the water from the run offs.
 178. We have lived in SJ for many years, and we have always wished there were more sidewalks, like along Cleveland Avenue, like Stevensville has!!! For pedestrians and bikes!
 179. Upton is damaging this county he does not support the majority voice in this area.
 180. Forcing children to wear masks for school but allowing a full stadium football game is ridiculous. Unmask our children!!!
 181. I love the feel of Berrien County! There does seem to be a lack of affordable apartment housing though. We own our home but my sister, who will likely relocate here, who need a place. It seems hard to find someplace affordable that is not income limited.
 182. None
 183. Please fix the roads and bring in businesses and jobs!
 184. The natural beauty of the area needs to be showcased more. More trails around lakefront. Bike paths. Stop selling lakefront properties for housing, New businesses to attract tourists. Winery, tour guides to offer organized kayaking on lake. Rafting. Develop winter activities for tourists to come also. The livelihood of the tourists coming is what makes this town special too. Thank you for letting me participate!
 185. Need more communication between county and townships
 186. Thank you for doing this
 187. Please consider allowing homeowners in Bridgman to rent their properties short-term to benefit from tourist activities in the area.
 188. All small/affordable homes are being bought and torn down and being turned into huge, outrageously expensive homes. My family loves the area but it's almost impossible for us to purchase a new home big enough for our family, but also within a reasonable price range. I also think we need to do more to help/support small businesses but also bring in more larger companies that can provide well-paying jobs for those who don't work for the city or county, or own their own small business.

189. The condition of the roads in the Fulkerson Park area (side streets off of Fulkerson) and Niles Township are terrible and nothing has been to repair them for many years. I have craters all of my road and at the end of my driveway on floral ct. It is always filled with water and washing out my driveway. Everyone that comes into Niles Township talks a out how bad the side roads are. Looks like landmines went off all over. How bad does it have to get before something is done?
190. Would just re-emphasize the concept of bike trails - would be a huge boost for our community to have a more extensive trail system like elsewhere in the state!
191. Need to link Internet through local elementary and secondary school feeder networks in Community College Hubs and major outreach for hotspots for homework and health. Starting November and May 2022 in Broadband Data Accuracy Assemblies, as part of quarterly service quality and outreach assemblies. Plus linking Skills and Mapping Labs at high schools, libraries and community colleges with Western Michigan, U Michigan and MSU Extension, (MERIT/Internet 2), and linking with Federal Digital Access via VA, USPS, FQHCs, plus Land Grant/Sea Grant cooperation.
192. There are not enough businesses, dining and activities to keep young families and teens busy in the off season. We would be full time residents if this were otherwise. For those of us with aging parents in the area, we're moving them to Indiana for the nearest assisted living and rehab closest to hospitals. I strongly encourage growth through industry and housing BUT doing so responsibly. I think in this area where beaches and natural spaces are savored by full time and part time residents alike, it offers Berrien County a unique opportunity through their growth efforts as a LEADER in the reduction of fossil fuels in the midwest to encourage CLEAN and GREEN efforts in building and industry as well as offering current homeowners and businesses incentives to go green. The world is moving this way with the most recent and dire news regarding urgent action on climate change. Realtors and builders will soon be required to rate safest places to move by climate change impact. It has been published that The Great Lakes states will be listed in the top choices as safe states. It would be a waste of resources to move forward without keeping this in mind as for infrastructure, as for responsibility to our climate, as for preserving our natural spaces as well as wasteful tax dollars on growth not to assume legislation will change in the near future as what green efforts must be made as we prepare for a larger migration to the Great Lakes region.
193. I hope that further development of the bike path on the Red Arrow Highway is not as highly developed as it is in Union Pier. Berrien county

might look to Jackson Wyoming to see how bike lanes can be integrated without being obtrusive. How they're able to preserve the natural beauty of the area. And availability of public transportation might alleviate some traffic or development issues. On a separate note, discouraging waterfront intrusive strategies to combat erosion would be a good idea when the water rises would be helpful, we know there's a cyclical nature to the lake water levels And, that nature tends to correct itself over the decades. People should not be allowed to mar the beauty of the lakefront.

194. I would prefer to see economic development in 3 areas: amenities to enhance tourism; retirement facilities and services; and creation/enhancement of small communities with urban amenities to attract home based workers.
195. Hard to generalize about such a large and varied county.
196. There seems to be a lot of poverty around this area.
197. There need to be incentives for locals over the tourism season. The tourists take over our beautiful area and locals can't even enjoy the beautiful area they've chosen to live in and helped pay to maintain. Why can't everyone in Saint Joseph get the free parking passes for Lincoln Township Beach for example, or at least pay less for a pass? I understand the importance of tourism to the economy but it's gotten out of control for locals.
198. Limiting short term rentals will help housing in tourist heavy areas where staffing is an issue due to lack of year-round residents. This also ties into transportation issues of staff potentially traveling over 30 minutes, and no public transit is available either.
199. The only things I know about are the lack of bike paths on busy roads, imperfect internet, and poor and bumpy roads. The rest I have not read or thought about.
200. The development of "soft" commercial, tourism-based type businesses needs more infrastructure and financial incentive support in order to see county-wide economic growth. Change the name of Red Arrow Highway into Red Arrow Corridor (or another name). Reduce speed to 45 in rural area and 35 in township areas. 94 is close by if people want to move fast through the area. When there's more people traffic, more businesses will invest. When businesses invest there will be more jobs. The county commissioners could make it a huge movement to boost tourism over a three-year period. I will volunteer my time and expertise to make this happen!
201. Quality of life for lifelong residents has been decreasing for years. Our towns are overcrowded and outsiders have driven up the property values, making moving in our own area nearly impossible. They stay for

the summer or the weekend and then the properties sit throughout the winter and weekdays. Our beaches are overcrowded, parking downtown St. Joe is impossible and the wait for restaurants is crazy. We can't even enjoy our own town because we are CONSTANTLY catering to the tourists and now encouraging them to move in. Sad state of affairs for the lifelong residents.

202. As a lifelong resident of Berrien County, specifically the St. Joe-Benton Harbor area, one issue that has stood out to me the last few years is the abundance of buildings that have been boarded up. This observation includes commercial buildings and houses within the neighborhoods. As a resident, I would like to either see these buildings reused or torn down. They become eyesores if not maintained and attract the criminal element.
203. Gun clubs and shooting ranges should only be allowed in areas of extremely low population, not in a residential area such as the one located on Ridge Road in the Village of Stevensville.
204. The loss of lower wage service workers due to the lack of affordable housing and Covid policy is a huge issue right now, In the Southern part of the County. The shoreline is being slowly annexed by out of state property owners, short term rentals here are a total disaster. destroying residency, decreasing school population and ruining year-round business opportunity. We must call these what they are "commercial lodging" limit, regulate and tax them too much focus on summer tourism is killing year-round investment, driving away residents and workers to areas with 12 month economies. In the North County, lack of investment in Tech and manufacturing or alternative energy jobs should be priority one. Something must be done to rebuild and reinvest in Benton Harbor, there is massive opportunity there for commercial investment. We have some really great school systems in BC protecting the residency to keep those schools full and potentially keep people in area after they graduate is something that's being lost. Focus of Jobs, Housing and Full Time Residency.
205. Fix south county roads that have been abandoned, they are part of the infrastructure of Berrien County.
206. My taxes more than doubled. Why is the water quality in Watervliet allowed to be so poor?
207. I feel the amount of hotels is more than sufficient but we need more than beaches and our wonderful agricultural draws we need more shopping and restaurants. Still can't believe we couldn't keep a Target! We are a bit stagnant and of course like everyone else during Covid there is a need for people that want to work. It is a sad commentary that jobs are there but no motivation to apply and keep a job.

208. I live in Coloma now. Absolutely love it here! But I grew up in Benton Harbor. Benton Harbor is completely sad now. When I was young it was an amazing town to live in. Now every single weekend someone is getting SHOT. It's truly sad to see the town go to shit in all honesty. Stores always closing, the crime level is ridiculous. The schools are horrible. Roads are crap. Water is nasty. Trash throughout the entire town. Safety of people. House falling in or abandoned! **SOMEONE NEEDS TO SAVE THE PEOPLE & TOWN OF BENTON HARBOR!**
209. Parking downtown during the summer and during events is a nightmare.
210. Thank you.
211. Benton Harbor is a huge problem in terms of workforce skill levels, jobs, and crime. Until the blight is corrected and more professionally trained, motivated workers are being produced, growth will not be possible. There is so much crime and little accountability for poor governmental decisions (both tactically and financially). Until that is corrected, it will not attract new professional service industry to the area. It's not necessarily a money problem....a lot has been invested already. If the County is serious about correcting it, they will need to lead the change and not trust local leaders to do it for them. Crime and public safety is the first step. The Sheriff needs funding to dedicate sustainable patrols and an organized crime unit and assign them just in the Benton Township and City areas to begin cleaning it up. It appears to us in the city the County is only interested in doing enough to say they are doing something....but only for a news cycle. Sorry, but that is the good people's perception in the city, I hope it doesn't offend anyone.
212. I am against cannabis businesses and wish they were not allowed.
213. Convince the Federal Telecommunication that we live in MICHIGAN not Michiana/Indiana.
214. I am tired of all the new houses being built in our neighborhood, RockyGap. It is a continuous parade of huge trucks delivering heavy duty equipment, supplies, etc., along with all the worker trucks and delivery trucks and specialty vans and trucks installing utilities. I understand that this is well and good for the community and is keeping the economy afloat but when I walk around the neighborhood. I see the destruction of our nice road which had just been rebuilt and surfaced a few years ago. Also I see many trees totally demolished and removed for the sake of bigger homes, many that are only second homes.
215. Too many questions depend on the future or results of others questions and almost all are completely subjective. How do you draw a clear line between property owner rights and the quality of life of the community? Zoning is and always will be a compromise. Much has been said in favor

of local governance but keep in mind that that state gave the local governments that authority so by default retains the right to modify or take it away especially when considering the rights of the property owner at odds with local government! It's not black and white. Berrien Country is beautiful but not without its blights. ASSISTING businesses with temporary tax breaks or help to meet changing state of federal regulations could be the best way to encourage sustained and even growth

216. I would like to see more incentives to use resources we already have but are not being fully utilized. Areas like the Mall in Benton Harbor could be used for a multitude of different industries or as incubator space for new business. Targeting businesses/industries that pay higher salaries will attract and retain more talent, and steadily grow the county. By developing land into affordable housing, the ease of entry for those new businesses and their employees will allow for faster growth, more cultural diversity, and more tax money to develop other areas in the county.
217. 1. The country needs a plan and funding source to address blight (residential and commercial) - demolish structures, especially in benton harbor. The burnt-out hotel at 94/exit 28 needs to go. I wouldn't invest in the community with eye sores like that laying around. 2. The county should look to the city of Detroit's highly successful app that engages residents to Ed self-report issues (burnt out street lights, litter, areas that need improvement, etc.). Helps city to prioritize limited resources and restores residents' faith in local government. 3. The county needs more new home sub-divisions, for young families with children. Let's start converting farmland into usable housing stock
218. I think help should be given to businesses already here or to business owners that had to close their business due to pandemic. Also don't let our fruit farms disappear. I see fruit farm are disappearing or the season is short.
219. Having only one viable broadband option is inexcusable.
220. Do not raise our taxes. If people want bike paths and trails then the original property developer should put them in. Not local governments Or TAX PAYERS.
221. Work on diversity and racism. Require owners of local businesses to place a % into the community that patrons their business mandatory.
222. - Not enough well-paying jobs.
- Unaffordable housing and poor conditions.
- Unrealistic prices and economic changes for the actual average financial state of families.
- Emphasis on tourism without a drive to improve the lives of year round

citizens.

- Terrible Healthcare system locally, which has a large drive towards helping Christian families and abandoning others.

- A skewed and corrupt policing and criminal justice area that allows for the wealthy to pay and talk their way out of messes while the less financially fortunate suffer.

- Highly political and the things that should be done aren't because of the catering to the handfuls of wealthy families that the county allows to run everything.

223. It is important to protect the farmers as well as the local businesses. Without the farms, where would we get our food? I'd hate to see farms closed down because the government wants better jobs. Without proper food whatever jobs are available would be worthless.
224. The County needs to identify ways to attract more young people (20-50) to the area. Attractive and safe affordable housing, transportation diversity (i.e. public transit, ability to walk/bike to work/shopping), retail/grocery, recreation options, good schools, and good paying jobs are important to people in that age range.
225. Use a global consciousness and progressive critical thinking approach. Housing, rehab of blighted areas, cultural awareness, and cost/benefit should all be evaluated and monitored as time progresses. What works today will not work in 5 years. Address CLIMATE CHANGE. Think Local Affects Global!
226. The government is not good at doing anything. So, if this area is to improve, adding more government is not the answer. The answer comes when elected officials listen to all constituents. In Berrien County, the same 30 people slow progress and growth because they do not want change.
227. Looking back over the last 20 years I think the greatest improvement in Berrien County has been the growth and breadth of medical services locally available. Whirlpool's commitment to downtown Benton Harbor and Harbor Shores are tied for second in my view. I'm not sure County government had much to do with any of these. In that sense, I might have answered some of the survey questions differently if they had come from my local municipality. That is, I am not sure what the county's role is in some of these things or how to answer - and that really is it: I do not object, I just do not know or understand. I would have liked to have seen some questions on schools whether the county's role (if any) in BCISD, or partnerships with LMC, SMC, or Andrews. Tony DeLapa, St. Joseph Twp.
228. Better walking/biking lanes on more roads. Safe walking trails. Better parking in towns.

229. Roads need to be repaired where people live. Not only main roads.
230. I am glad this survey is available for public input. Berrien County has much in the way of natural resources and beauty which must be protected. Thank you.
231. I don't do business in Eau Claire because of the speed limit is too low - 25 mph should be 30-35 mph. Berrien Springs does not favor businesses. The sign issue is a big one and as I said the required Honor Credit Union placement so close to the road is really bad. There is no US31 access in Berrien Township, traffic over the Lake Chapin bridge is very loud. I would like to spend time in other Berrien County communities but hard to get there. Berrien Springs doesn't allow parking in the streets - I would want to live in town because of it - I couldn't have friends over. Takes too long to demolish and repurpose vacant industrial land (Niles) or demolish bad homes to improve quality of life. One boat slip business person has a business with his boat docking fixtures all over his property that is in rural/ag/residential area - I don't blame the guy, it just doesn't fit the area and looks rather cluttered, sort of junky.
232. The inclusivity questions on this are a complete joke. I hope the person who wrote that bullshit gets fired. Concerned about affordable safe housing for our families.
233. Concerned that young families will be priced out of home ownership. (Which includes high property taxes). Safety in general is also a big concern. Too many auto thefts, catalytic converter thefts and home break-ins. And too many shootings in some areas. Affordable Rural high speed internet should be a priority. We have waited way too long for this necessity. Tired of seeing roads torn up and rebuilt with seal coat, only to be a mess again the very next year. It is a waste of money. Our roads need to be done right so they will last longer. When talking about Berrien County, you also cannot forget the needs of Benton Harbor.
234. Chicago Tourists are overtaking our parks beaches and local residents can't even enjoy our own beaches. Need higher fees for out-of-town residents at our parks and beaches! Have to go to the beach at 7am to enjoy our own beach.
235. WE NEED NEW CELL PHONE TOWERS !!!
236. Rebuild road on Mall drive in Benton harbor by junction of McDonald's along to the goodwill as is heavily used and not in good condition. Improve help of city to clean up streets and yards in Benton harbor, get grant from whirlpool to encourage local residents to take some pride. In their properties which is not currently happening. Thanks for making survey easy to complete.
237. Things NEED to be done about the police departments!!!

238. There is a lot of different areas and possibilities in Berrien County. I don't believe in one size fits all. There needs to be specific focus on the different communities.
239. Create a County Fire Department. We have too many small fiefdoms. The County could make fire services full time across the county with paid on call reserves. Fire and Ems combined. More economical and efficient.
Create more Careers
240. The Watervliet area is in desperate need of a grocery store, restaurants, and all-around shopping. NO MORE GAS STATIONS OR DOLLAR STORES.
241. A local bike trail or better bike lanes would be a huge improvement. Having to travel to Kalamazoo or South Haven to feel safe biking stinks.
242. Housing equity is a problem in Berrien. We need more affordable housing for BIPOC community. The BIPOC community can't afford \$300,000 homes. The homes on the golf course in Benton Harbor does not have BIPOC people in their community.
243. Part of a healthy and diverse community is the community's trust in its law enforcement and judicial systems and election integrity. This is all on shaky ground right now.
244. Either tear down Orchard Mall or maybe make it into a large recreational center or a place for travel teams such as volleyball, hockey, etc... to play.
245. Protect our schools and the property surrounding them so they will have room for expansion as the population grows.
246. Affordable taxes are very important. When taxes go up it hurts families but it really hurts seniors who have very limited income. Maybe need to look at ways spending in the county can be controlled.
247. Berrien County's environment is extremely important and will become even more valuable with time. We should do whatever we can to preserve nature in this area, including rivers, streams, lakes. These are our most valuable assets for now and the future.
248. Public schools are probably the most important way to improve the quality of life for Berrien County long term. Better rated schools with a wide variety of outreach, job training and education paths.
249. Please, please fix the roads. Niles Township gets virtually no road repair work and our roads are literally crumbling. Fulkerson Park area has been patched so much it looks like we have cobblestone roads. Also, it is shameful that we have children walking to school with no sidewalk access at all on roads with a 35mph speed limit. Sidewalks to all schools should be a priority (example Brandywine Jr/Sr High School).
250. As a young person hoping to start a family in Berrien County, I desperately would love to see more business development in the area.

More retail, more shops and services focused on the 20-40-year-old crowd. We have great community events, but it's difficult to convince friends to move here when there aren't a lot of job opportunities appealing to young adults or opportunities for us to shop/buy clothing/socialize besides at a restaurant/brewpub. That age group will be this area's future! The county should be open to the changes and home ownership we are excited about.

251. We need to build, build, build. I'm leaving Berrien after growing up in new Buffalo my whole life because I literally just can't find anywhere to live. The housing stock is severely inadequate.
252. Affordable housing is my #1 concern. People cannot afford to live here anymore. Only rich out of town people are able to afford houses and are paying cash for properties sight unseen. Why would Cornerstone Alliance give out of town people grants to live here, when young people who were raised here and want to come back and raise their own families here, can't afford to do so? It's terrible and WRONG!! We need affordable housing for LOCAL people who work here year-round! No wonder businesses can't find employees! It's very sad!
253. This survey was created with inherent bias in some of the questions. What is being done to ensure a broad range of residents take this survey? If not enough is done that will increase the bias of the results.
254. Really just very concerned locals will be crowded out by out of state people. We do need the business but it challenges the ability to enjoy our own area. I work in Stevensville in the device industry and at the casino, and can see it happening everywhere.
255. Affordable housing, broadband, transportation, and childcare are some of the biggest issues in our county and I believe that those areas should be our next focus.
256. The County needs to reverse its negative population growth, any planning should focus on how we attract permanent residents to the area from across the state and region as well how we retain the population we have. Rural areas don't help this, development, affordable housing, and job opportunities do focus on growth.
257. We definitely need a splash pad for children during summers!
258. There should/needs to be a local grocery store for those who don't have transportation can walk to and consider a McDonald's or Burger King for foot traffic also.
259. I feel BC already has a lot of recreational opportunities/parks, etc. Before planning on more, ensure the county has resources to maintain what we already have. I would like the county to figure out a way to encourage visitors to dispose of their trash properly and behave at silver beach. I do think the county keeps the park clean, however, it dismays me that our

tax money is spent so much on the upkeep. Also, in the summer, I don't even like to go to silver beach on the weekends because of the unruly crowds. There is drinking, pot smoking and trash on the beach, please get this under control. Safety - please help with the shootings issue in Benton Harbor. Speeding - please, please enforce speed limits more!!!! People are driving too fast. I choose to live in St. Joe/Berrien County because of its quaint nature. Please keep this in mind when developing economic business expansion.

260. Berrien County lacks racial equality when it comes to housing, jobs, crime, economics etc. Diversity and Inclusion should be a priority when discussing plans for the county.
261. There needs to be greater willingness on older generations to allow young people to lead and provide for a future that we have to live with
262. The things that are most important to me and my family is going to events/festivals and making memories and it doesn't even have to be anything big, but if we could clean up the parks in Niles and make sure that there's no one vandalizing them and that there isn't anyone homeless living there and maybe get a splash pad or something fun. There isn't really anything fun for the kids to do here it's all about shopping and jobs here, but these kids are our future and I want my children to be proud of the town I'm raising them in. That, to me, is the biggest problem Niles has is that there's nothing for the kids and they are our future.
263. My husband has lived here almost all of his life, and in the past decade+, I've never heard him speak of moving... until recently. We both have worked FT in the same fields for over a decade, paying taxes and doing our best to spend within the community. We ARE NOT socialists though, and we go out of our way to help people start their own businesses or succeed in the field they're in. If Michigan continues to try and force more restrictions, government and taxes down our throats, we will simply move somewhere where we can support a community that allows us to live as free Americans.
264. No new housing subdivisions!
265. Again, we have some good rules. We grant too many variances. Make it easier for people like Chikaming Open Lands and other preservation non-profits to protect land instead of our county doing it. Focus county on roads and bridges, sewer and water. Focus on safety and keeping our area free from over development or people putting homes too close to each other. Focus on internet and less power outages. Focus on education and keeping kids safe. Stick to existing rules. Looks horrible and you will kill everything that attracts people here in the first place. Your survey asks for county to "do more" when we just make exceptions

- anyway so I don't see the point of more rules we will just let people break.
266. South county by Niles to Berrien Springs has many biking opportunities. As we have just moved to Benton Township I do not see these opportunities hardly anywhere. Also was very discouraged to find that there is only 1 option for high-speed internet in this area. This should be changed quickly.
 267. Specifically, St Joseph Township area needs sidewalks to and from the city. All road to the city are busy and dangerous for pedestrians. Bike paths or sidewalks would encourage exercise and attracted more visits. Lime bike and scooters could be available or bike rentals.
 268. County wide attractions as an economic engine for development. Trolleys, water taxis, maximize summer/fall tourism
 269. Stop letting people move here.....or buy homes as secondary homes without being properly taxed. A person who owns a second home in Berrien County, but are from another area, like Chicago, should be paying higher taxes. The more people that move into our area, the harder it is for actual Berrien County residents to survive and buy properties.
 270. Berrien County should focus more on small owned businesses instead of big industries and franchises. Let's try to urbanize in a healthy direction instead of ending up in the same concrete jungle every other urbanized city has become. Let's preserve our beautiful beaches and farms and give more power to the people of our county that have goods and services to provide our community. Give better opportunity and affordability to small business concepts
 271. Berrien County needs to develop a "promise" program similar to what Kalamazoo has (and to a lesser extent...Buchanan) to pay the tuition of area students going to college. That will attract industry to the area who see it as an 'employee benefit' to those who live in Berrien County. It would give us a competitive edge on attracting new business and businesses looking to expand.
 272. Any and all focus needs to be on the people who live in Berrien County full time.
 273. I would like see Berrien County not bother itself with such inane activities such as ensuring that Berrien County is a "gun sanctuary." What a ridiculous, politically motivated non-issue. It was an embarrassment to the County that it was even given consideration.
 274. The Government was and should never be expected to Provide anything except for the protection of our Constitutional Rights. We were born Inalienable rights (these rights are from a higher power than man) and cannot be taken away, so stop trying, remain on infrastructure, that's all

you need to worry about as a government. Stop trying to please the woke and bending to media, protect us from illegal aliens coming from other places from the Federal government. Local government is there to protect the people from the Federal government. If you have questions on the role of the government than maybe you need to get out of the way and let someone in who knows more than you, if you're in it for money than that is the wrong answer, we will find you and vote you out of office very quickly. Protect the Locals from the over reach of the Federal government.

275. I moved to Berrien Springs because there were no homes in our criteria when we sold our house. There is not one decent restaurant and high-priced gas and shopping it terrible stores. It's 20 minutes to Benton Harbor. I'm 30 minutes to South Bend so I choose South Bend. I don't understand why when I drive home to my nice house that I have to drive past moldy falling apart houses it's disgusting. The Village can't do anything about it because they're up to code. Well, their code is no good. There are very few sidewalks for the children to use to get to school. Even if the people actually shovel
276. There seems to have been a transition to a cannabis business envious in this area and that is not a great thing. Yes, there is money to be made but it also is dangerous when you put all your economic growth in one basket.
277. I'm not sure what is meant by shoreline protection in this survey. I think it's very important to protect the shoreline but I don't agree with the armoring strategies that have made the issue worse in other areas. I recently moved back to Berrien County after living out of state for 23 years. I'm so glad to be back but it breaks my heart to see so many businesses boarded up. This area has so much potential!! We need things to do for kids and teens, especially indoor activities when the weather is bad. An indoor trampoline park, rock climbing gym, teen center, etc. We have a huge amount of tourism and so many destination weddings here but we are missing an opportunity to provide amazing experiences with specialty service options that cater to these groups like blow out bars, waxing salons, and a full spa. The locals would love these too BTW. On a personal note, I'd love to see more healthy options for restaurants. How many burger/pizza places do we need? Diversity in food would be welcome with Indian, Thai, Sushi, etc. Has the county ever partnered with the Universities in the area to collaborate on economic development? San Diego has a great program with UCSD that has become an incubator for life science companies: <https://connect.org/>. Maybe Berrien could partner with Western to

- develop a similar program focused on the appropriate industry for the area?
278. My biggest complaint after moving back to the area is convenience. I'm sick of being told "you can go to South Bend for that".
 279. You need to be more Cannabis friendly. Concerts, motels, cafes, dispensaries, tour buses. Remove the restrictions and open the business. Tourists are coming and people moving here solely for Cannabis. Look to the future stop asking these questions from the past.
 280. Berrien County overall is the least pedestrian friendly area I've ever lived. It's sad we don't have places to walk run and explore. Please look at the riverfront in Bay City Michigan. They did it and are doing it right!!! Business friendly, housing and entertainment AND recreation paths that ALL connect. The quality of life for their residents is so much better and they are a blue collar non tourist dependent city.
 281. I own a small business and can't afford to purchase a home in Chikaming township because all the affordable homes are snatched up by people from other states making them into short term rentals!
 282. Can we please get a recycling program? Bins that get picked up. Incentive for local black business owners to thrive in Benton Harbor, to keep it from becoming totally gentrified by out-of-towners. Reduce the speed on Euclid Avenue before someone (me) gets killed while mowing the lawn.
 283. Less dips would be nice but what I really would like to see is a sign say "entering cancer County Michigan".
 284. Marijuana dispensaries
 285. Thank you so much for asking our opinions! The role of government is to keep people safe. The roads (particularly in the city of St. Joseph) need to be fixed! How can they get away with this? They offer trolleys for people to cycle around in on dangerous roads with HUGE holes. This is an accident waiting to happen or a lawsuit. Please don't think about parks and recreation until you fix these roads. Please 🙏 Also, where are all the police officers? People are driving dangerously and there are no police to be found.
 286. Attract more major employers than just Whirlpool in BH/SJ.
 287. I would love if this was an area where anyone was able to buy a home. I have good credit and it's still not a possibility because housing is so expensive-even to rent.
 288. 24/7 urgent care is badly needed. Also, there is terrible access to nice apartments in Berrien County. There is only one complex I would feel comfortable living at, and I know a dozen or more people who rent houses or just bought a house before they were ready to buy one. I am

- currently forced to rent a house in St. Joseph, but we are considering moving to south bend area just to have a decent and clean apartment
289. It's just really hard to find good paying jobs, you have to leave the area to get world class employment especially for college educated. A lot of the people are backwards, albeit nice, but still backwards. The area has a lot of assets like the Lake Michigan shoreline that make the area a great place to live. It just sucks there are no good jobs
290. There needs to be high speed internet to ALL rural areas. It's so hard for kids to complete learning activities when they can't be in school. We need more attractions. Possibly a water park like deep river in crown point Indiana. There needs to be better, safer activities for teens to get involved in. There's too much time for them to get in trouble. We need more sit-down restaurant options. There are few quality jobs in the area and medical care access in Niles is slim pickings.
291. River Valley School district needs to hire more bus drivers. For some idiotic reason they believe that children riding the bus for an hour and a half to school then an hour and a half home from school is OK. It is NOT.
292. Safer biking routes, both on and off road.
293. The best way to combat crime, properties in disarray, and to get residents willing to invest and spend locally is to make sure there is transportation, a living wage, and fair housing. Ask any poor person, and they will tell you. Their life revolves around getting to work, to make money, to pay bills. Additionally, there should be a cheap/free way for our residents to enjoy our beaches/nature. Living in a beautiful area, only to find out that only the middle class/rich get to enjoy your town is sickening. Let the poor have joy too.
294. While I believe tourism has its place in the economic sustainability of the county, I also believe it drives the number of seasonal and short-term rentals up which decreases the housing availability for locals who live here. I also strongly believe that nature/beaches should be more accessible through parks, walkways, biking paths, etc., and should be more protected.
295. Someone in government, someone needs to be a hero and come up with solutions that don't always cost millions. Possibly recruit people from the community for sweat equity projects. We cannot keep spending as if tomorrow is not guaranteed.
296. Roads/infrastructure are so important to any municipality, county, or state. There is an appalling lack of sidewalks in the St Joseph Township area, particularly around the area of the middle school. Kids aren't safe walking to school along Maiden Lane or along Washington or Lincoln. They're not safe walking to the bus stops. Road repairs with chip seal are

- rough, throw rock at cars behind, and don't last. They're unsafe for bicyclists, who have no bike paths to ride as alternates.
297. There are too many seasonal jobs here, the only jobs that seem not seasonal is alcohol related business. There are very few high paying factory jobs or office jobs here. People who have a college education has a hard time finding a job here unless you are in the medical field. Places charge higher prices because the Chicago people are willing to pay it but then the local people can't afford it to help support local businesses during off season. There should be a local discount among businesses created.
298. Don't f*** up the environment. People over profits always.
299. Need hi speed Internet in all rural areas, have been waiting for years and still don't have.
300. The use of zoned single family residential homes as multifamily short-term rentals is negatively affecting the quality of life for year-round residents, raising the cost of entry-level housing for local residents, and taxing the ability of police and fire to effectively respond to emergencies.
301. I understand this county relies a lot on tourism and part time dwellers but you really need to concentrate on those of us that are here year-round or have grown up here. We are the backbone of this area and we have different needs then those of us we serve. Please prioritize affordable housing for everyone and bring back industries that can flourish along our coastline. We are strategically placed perfectly logistically to boom in the transportation and distribution markets. Let's build on that please!
302. Affordable housing is very hard to come by in Berrien County. Families and young adults are working as hard as they can and still living pay check to pay check. I rent a room and my share of the bills is more than 700\$. When I first moved here we had a 2 bedroom apartment for \$475 a month. We need cost friendly living, and we need more living spaces open to people having pets! I have 3 pets, all well behaved and wonderful but its impossible to find living that will allow them. Transportation in small towns like Watervliet and Coloma would be helpful too. I cannot drive due to medical reasons but I have place to be and errands to run and I can't do that when I need rides from people around me.
303. This is WAY too long of a Survey. We need transportation equivalent to normal city bus routes AND affordable rentals for our hospitality workers.
304. The push to offer incentives for people to move to Berrien County from out of state made me furious!!! I have been a lifelong, tax paying

- resident here and no one is offering me any incentives. Besides, we should not encourage people from the big cities to bring their politics and their crime to our peaceful, small-town area. If I wanted to live in Chicago, I would move there!!! Please don't turn us into Chicago.
305. Thank you for asking! Berrien is a diverse county, very spread out. Many socioeconomic levels in each area. Safety of the residents should be a priority, esp in BH & Niles areas.
306. Niles needs more places for people to enjoy themselves. Anything other than going to the park or a movie requires driving out of town
307. Housing prices are forcing out all the locals. Lack of high paying jobs keeps multi-generational families from staying.
308. We are desperate for reliable internet in the rural areas. I feel like this would open up employment and educational opportunities
309. St. Joe/Benton Harbor specifically needs more restaurants & nightlife
310. We need high speed internet in rural areas, especially Oronoko Twp.
311. The County should not be wasting resources by using tax payer dollars to run broadband or fiber to those who chose to build their homes in the middle of nowhere.
312. We need trails and to open up the roads to off road vehicles! We head up north as often as possible because we are able to enjoy rides throughout the country, towns, trails, etc. We have sooooo much land here! Let's get some trails and legalize orv's on some of our roads! The money that this could bring to the community is nothing to shake a stick at
313. Do not like that drugs have become legal. Way too many meth heads & no enforcement & just a little slap on the wrist. We need MORE MANUFACTURING. Support our police. Clean up our city in EVERY WAY.
314. If the health dept. keeps mandating ridiculous COVID restrictions Berrien County will start seeing mid to upper class families leaving the area. I am already considering it, as are many of my friends and family.
315. Someone needs to look out for the existing residents and stop trying to import new ones from across the lake and paying them to move in, without decent paying jobs and opportunities there won't be any left.
316. I hope to see positive outcomes that encourage our community to become an inclusive, stronger and more productive society. It's pretty sad to see the community crumbling due to shut downs and people just not wanting to work and help make our community a better place to live. I wish I had a safe, up kept and clean area to raise my child like the way I was raised and be proud of my community and its residents.
317. We need to focus on improving life here for the people in Berrien County. Not bringing in people from IL or otherwise to live here. We live

- here because it is a small town, if I wanted to live in Chicago or Detroit I'd move there.
318. Way less hotels. Everyone is complaining there is nothing affordable to rent and we have a million hotels around here that could have been apartments.
 319. The lack of good paying jobs outside of Whirlpool is just pathetic and even they don't pay well compared to other regions. One of the most logistically awesome places and you can only work for one of the credit unions or Whirlpool if you want to make something resembling a "decent" wage. Everywhere outside of Berrien County pays better and has better opportunities everywhere you look. Go on LinkedIn in and search "Manufacturing Engineer" in Berrien County and then do it anywhere else. Compare the results.
 320. Benton Harbor needs to be reclaimed. The old Howard Johnson's needs to be demolished. There could be a wonderful agri-tourism businesses put in there. The Orchards mall area is in need of a huge overhaul. My idea is to convert that into an area of housing, support, school, daycare, healthcare for families. It could be groundbreaking for this area.
 321. There should be bike lanes in the street. Bikes should not be on sidewalks.
 322. I believe the country should do more to attract development of housing and retail. To lose Target, Zales, JC Penney, Carson's, Steak n' Shake, Pier 1 and others within about a 2-year period is ridiculous. I have always tried my hardest to shop local, but I can't find what I need any more in this town. We need stores here. Don't tell me all of the influx from Chicago is satisfied with our choice of retail. And the housing here is sorely lacking. There are many people who have trouble finding housing, affordable housing, be it through home ownership or apartment dwellers. Coming into Benton Harbor on Napier looks like a dump because of the way Berrien Hills Country Club is allowed to look. How is that allowed to look like that, when individuals have to maintain their lawn and house? The mall looks like a dump, and little is really done in Benton Township to make that entire area look any better. I know times are tough for everyone, especially right now, but I'm disappointed in the steps backward we're taking with regard to the things I mentioned.
 323. Tourism has been encouraged, especially in St. Joe; however, parking is a major issue which keeps local county residents from going to St. Joe in the summer. I agree that shopping locally is important; however, shopping opportunities are shrinking in Berrien County, i.e. TARGET, Old Navy, Penny's (and other mall stores), Pier One, etc.
 324. St. Joe needs a parking garage downtown.

325. Nearly impossible to walk anywhere in my area, example there should at least be sidewalks from Upton MS to the YMCA and surrounding areas. Bike transportation is horrid and getting worse as all the road are being chip sealed making them dangerous for bike usage, feels the county doesn't want people traveling by bike.
326. The social aspect is sad. More restaurants and bars needed, in st Joe especially. Lacks for a beach town
327. Build protected bike lanes! Get Spectrum Lakeland and Whirlpool to collaborate on this important cause.
328. We desperately need transportation and wifi.
329. Far too many county resources are directed to North County, while South County suffers. It is not right and the county board must redirect efforts to South County. The services that could be available via the South County Building must be re-instated.
330. Thanks for sending out the survey. Please share the results.
331. My biggest issue involves buildings laying empty and becoming trash while we let businesses build new buildings. What is going to happen to the empty Walgreens now that they built the little pharmacy in Stevensville? The mall is an eye sore and will go under and just be a waste of space. We need to be working with closing businesses to help attract new businesses into the buildings. Tax incentives for using old spaces? Grants?
332. Thank you
333. In recent months, we have seen on a national level what larger cities look like in a time of crisis. We, in Berrien County, may have a different set of values that assist in keeping things relatively peaceful. We have a great blue-collar work force and an agriculture community that understands the value of a good day's work and so far, it has been good. The flight we have seen from the cities like Chicago into our neck of the woods concerns me in that big city values may creep in. We are seeing this in Sawyer with the number of applicants applying for recreation marijuana, as an example. We also do not want to grow as big as Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo. Thank you for taking the time making this survey available and thank you for serving our community.
334. I would like to see more transportation to and from major cities including Chicago, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Detroit. Our college student doesn't need a car except to come home because there just aren't enough trains/busses to make a convenient trip. It would be great to see more bike paths and bridges modified to have a bike lane when they are repaired/replaced. We live in an area where groups of 6-50 riders go by almost every day there is good weather. Their routes could be much safer with small changes.

335. HOW ABOUT FIXING THE ROADS IN OAK MANOR, IN NILES!!! THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN DONE. I MEAN CAN YOU AT LEAST DO IT CHEAPLY? INSTEAD OF TARRING OVER THE HOLES?? IT SERVES ABSOLUTELY NO PURPOSE!!!
336. It would be nice for the roads to be fixed and to have some sort of shopping mall in town so our money isn't going into Indiana. A new form of entertainment for younger crowds would be nice as well _ such as a year studio, some kind of play area like strikes and spares so families have a place to go in the winter time. Some sort of splash pad for summer would be really cool for younger crowds as well. Maybe some kind of nature reserve so kids can have a closer connection to nature? Some sort of cultural diversity groups.
337. It would be nice to have other big companies other than whirlpool and spectrum for people who are career minded. I love Berrien County.
338. Would love to see bike paths for enjoyment and safety. Businesses that are not just tourist centered. More development toward Stevensville rather than Benton Harbor for shopping opportunities. A Menards, Target, and an Olive Garden!
339. I would seriously consider moving my business to my vacation home but I can't get internet to even upload a Reel to Instagram. My upload speed was less than 1. Yes, that is correct, LESS THAN 1! If lived around the corner on a different road I would have multiple high-speed options. Lack of internet devalues my property and I believe our real estate taxes should be reflecting that.
340. Please put in more walking paths.
341. Housing Costs are increasing faster than wages in this area. Lake area of Berrien County is becoming weekend- homes area for out of towners, locals are being priced out of the area. Not many apartments nor year-round affordable rentals in the area unless you work for Whirlpool
342. Berrien county is a tourist area. The high cost of living and low paying service industry jobs have created a poor quality of life for those that grew up here. Our beaches are lined with multi-million-dollar homes and towns are filled with part time Chicago residents. Only reasons to live here is it's your second house or your too poor to move away.
343. Would like to see communities clean up blight and raze abandoned homes and buildings that have no intended use. Public safety is a priority and a high level of commitment to improving relationships amongst citizens and law enforcement agencies would be beneficial. Thank you all for your dedicated service!!!
344. This area is such an amazing place to live (I've lived abroad and elsewhere in the U.S.) and I appreciate you reaching out to the community for input. But there is so much that could be improved upon

- I hope you all think outside of the box and look at other coastal communities that are thriving to see what works and what doesn't. Listen to New, Young and Fresh ideas!

345. Retaining talent is more important than attracting talent.
346. We need to lower taxes and regulations to allow the free market to thrive. By doing so more businesses will open b, become profitable. More affordable housing will be built. Broadband development must become an additional priority.
347. St Joseph encourages too much tourism... I pay high taxes to have out of town people enjoy our town.....instead of local people!!!
348. I wish the county were doing more to encourage residents to make beneficial changes to their properties. Rain gardens, solar panels, greywater systems. I wish the county wouldn't allow so much single plastic waste to come through here, its ending up on our roadways and in our waters. I wish the county would do more to promote greener and more science driven careers, we live in an incredible place and we should be teaching people to care for it.
349. It's a great area with great natural resources. It is a little too conservative and segregated.
350. The county needs to encourage more high-speed internet access. Could be fiber or 5G. We need options were we currently have none.
351. County should develop stronger ties with Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Nation. Please increase funds for Niles Township Policing. thank you.
352. It is important for Berrien County to keep the natural land The way God intended it, natural. It is also important to make every person in Berrien County feel safe and wanted, including minorities and POCs
353. Please, please make transportation possible. It is such an issue especially for those who live in other counties and have no way to get to Niles from saint Joseph with public transport etc. We need better shopping, target, Trader Joe's etc. we could be bringing money in to our country rather than everyone going out of county to shop. Bring a coffee shop and drug store to Royalton manor please!!! Also, Uber!! There are so many wineries and breweries but no way for people to get home safely.
354. I would love additional economic development but without the fluctuations of residents that Whirlpool brings. Something that supports many levels of staffing such as an amazon warehouse. Jobs that people who already live here could fill. Also, I would like to see development of something family oriented for kids ages 10 and up that are too old for curious kids, the fountain, etc. We just visited Mears, MI and they had a small arcade and craig's cruisers, open air family friendly restaurant with easy in/out, shopping, ice cream, etc. I don't want to

- have to always take my kids to a brewery for good food and a night out. Zip lines would be fun.
355. Do not give tax abatements. Keep our Rural areas rural. Encourage start-up businesses. Develop within city limits to try to prevent urban sprawl.
 356. Berrien County is 30 years behind St. Joseph County IN - from development, to government, to development, to emergency services to leadership. Berrien County Government itself is extremely incestuous and riddled with nepotism and favor hiring's. The Sheriff's department is a PERFECT example of this. BERRIEN COUNTY NEEDS CHANGE - IT STARTS WITH GOVERNMENT - REMOVE THE INEPT LEADERS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSION, THE EXTREME LIBERALS OF ST. JOE AND THE INCOMPETANCE FROM BENTON HARBOR AND BENTON TWP! Without a change at the top the county will continue to be Michigans Sewer
 357. Fix the roads the right way the first time so you don't have to close down roads for months because someone didn't do what they were supposed to do to begin with. M139 was repaved a few years back. That was a perfect time to fix the culvert. Instead, the entire county is on a detour because of the road commission's failure.
 358. Efforts need to be made to distribute gains in certain geographic areas (specifically 49085 and 49127) region wide. This phenomenon is largely driven by school districts as has been documented by Richard Reeves at the Brookings Institution. Families naturally want to do what is best for their children, especially when it comes to safety and education. In Berrien County Lakeshore and St. Joseph stand out as large districts ranking in the top 2-3% of districts in Michigan (New Buffalo and Bridgman are nearby in the rankings, but much smaller and benefitting from massive lakeside tax bases) with premier facilities and athletic programs. The result is that everybody with young kids wants to live in a few select areas that are safe and offer premier educational opportunities. This drives real estate and rental prices as well as new development (and resulting tax revenues) in these areas while families in the top 20% of the income distribution leave other areas of the county to relocate there. The result is this persistent decline: outlying districts (Eau Claire, Coloma, Watervliet, Benton Harbor, Buchanan, River Valley, etc.) struggle to attract/retain families with large/growing incomes. Stemming this tide requires investment in outlying communities and schools to incentivize families away from 49085/49127.
 359. More rental options are needed that are affordable to lower wage employees.
 360. Thank you for passing the mask mandate for schools k-12. I stand firmly behind this!

361. Good job! Planning for such a diverse community must be a really hard job!
362. I would like to see local tax breaks for residents that are using alternative energy such as electric cars/hybrid vehicles solar and wind technology in their residences and also proactive recycling habits. I would also like to see incentives for residents to use public transportation. And increase taxation on residents who do not meet these needs or requirements moving into the future in the county. This might be part of a vision statement or something like that for the county.
363. Berrien County has awesome potential. However you are losing your way when you discourage new entrepreneurs by burdensome regulations and over diligence, too many rules and ways to high taxes (this said Illinois is out of their minds with their taxes....DON'T BE LIKE CHICAGO...for heavens sake). Lower taxes so people retain more profit, they will then hire who they need, be able to spend it on their families and communities. Lower taxes ALWAYS encourage growth. Welcome new types of industry, and allow types we haven't even thought of yet.
364. Drains and ditches need better maintenance.
365. Until Berrien County focuses on finding industry that could be serviced by the existing population and then puts money and time into training the existing population to do that work, they will continue to stagnate as a place where the haves work for the big three employers and the have nots struggle to work three jobs and lack the education necessary to sustain their families and build a stronger educated middle class populous. Your class divide widens, your racism and inequality continue to drive the population apart, and the haves continue to govern with a level of nepotism not seen in other large metropolis communities.
366. Allocating time, intellectual capital, and money to infrastructure (roads, bridges, nuclear energy, and communications/internet) is the best way to keep Berrien County's house in order, and attract businesses, development, and people to sustain our communities. Diversity and inclusion should arise from these investments, not the other way around. I do not work in the nuclear industry but informed people know it is carbon-free, and outpaces alternative energy sources more efficiently, 24/7, on a small footprint with great longevity.
367. High speed Internet is desperately needed for everyone in the county. It is a necessity, not a privilege, in the year 2021. Without high-speed Internet, it is pointless to try and attract business and talent. Our township is way behind in trying to address this concern and I don't believe that there will be meaningful change for many years. Our family is struggling to continue living here because of the lack of high-speed

- Internet. We want to live here for so many reasons, but my husband cannot work and my children cannot learn without dependable access to high-speed Internet.
368. If you would get off your behinds and get the underserved and non-served areas of the county broadband you may be surprised who and what you might attract to the county! Ask you realtors how many property and home sales they have been lots to lack of high-speed internet!
369. As a 30-year-old professional that lives and works in Berrien County - I love living here. There's not much opportunity to buy homes such as new development houses, new updated homes, or even rent nicer apartments. The only nice apartment in St Joe is consistently full only with residents/employees of Lakeland. They have a waitlist that's several years long. Additionally we need more shopping for clothes. The only place you can go is in Benton harbor, small boutiques, or Meijer's. We consistently have to take our money to another larger city like South Bend or Kalamazoo. For new development of businesses I have heard from new business owners in Downtown St Joe the hoops, and hurdles it took the city/county to get theirs off the ground. I think we need to lesson those barriers. Bike paths would be such a nice addition to our area. Maybe more advertising to smaller parks such as the Warren woods state park. Additionally, we need to have more land acknowledgment to the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. We live in their traditional homelands, and they provide so many services to their citizens. Plus give so many of our fellow county residents employment. This is a great step in DEI work. Berrien County is a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.
370. Berrien is so beautiful but is probably 20 years behind on technology and all social aspects. There is a major lack of good leadership along with an intense narrow-minded atmosphere. St Joe is NOT the cream of the crop and it needs to stop being presented that way, its three blocks of nothing. So much development and economic growth is needed. Simple as putting a bike path through the entire county that leads to places people can stop at, develop a new huge farmer's market things like this would intensify moral.
371. I believe property owners should have the right to use their home for rentals purposes whether short term or long term without the municipality or state telling them they can't.
372. Please do not mandate masks in schools. Children are not in danger. Masks didn't stop the spread before. COVID is here to stay and we need to learn to live with it. Masking our children should be our choice.

373. The Berrien County Health department and their mask rules in our schools are ruining this area. Fire everyone involved with mandating masks in school.
374. I believe Berrien has a high cancer rate (maybe because of nuclear plant?). I would like to see more efforts go into research to reduce carcinogens
375. Stop the monopoly of Spectrum Lakeland. We need health care that isn't about profit over patient. Stop the mandates too!!
376. I hope people realize that with the increasing home/rent/childcare/cost of living, while good for some things, we're also consequently losing a fair portion of the very people who work the jobs everybody's complaining about being part-time closed/struggling/understaffed. Somebody needs to factor in our low-income population, who also work in all those services and need affordable options themselves, when looking high-level at rapid growth and expansion...
377. Please don't do anything else like union pier! The intersection looks like a Chicago suburb now and is no safer. The lights are overdone and distracting. Perhaps even more dangerous. There needs to be better signage (arrows painted further down the road) to indicate where the road is about to lose a lane. I would VERY much like to see gates at more railroad crossings! Too many accidents. Def would like gates at Prairie Rd, Harbert Rd, and Lakeside.
378. In light of the recent flooding in Bridgman, I urge county officials to reconsider the "linear park" plan. Our infrastructure here is still ailing. Drains need immediate attention. Our internet access is subpar. It seems irresponsible to construct such an expensive project while homeowners can't rely on basic infrastructure. As housing development makes our area denser, I ask that the Commissioners make rules around land usage/noise. It's all well and good to say Landowners should be able to do what they want with their properties until you get someone next door who has set up an ATV track in their backyard or decides to run a tow truck service out of their duplex.. I've had both happen here in Lake Township after many years of living here and it's not pleasant. People around me shoot EVERY DAY and there are groups who do workshops/training exercises in the area, which just adds to the noise. Being a "granny" I appreciate the idea of allowing small permanent dwellings to be added to existing properties. Again, I would stress: creating compounds of noisy neighbors will have a negative impact on the "quiet country setting" feel of this area. It's a balancing act for sure and I applaud your continuing efforts to make this a lovely area for all.
379. The county is very bicycle unfriendly. Very few bicycle paths and lanes. It is challenging to commute via bicycle, and drivers do not seem to

believe that bicycles have the right to be on the road. There is also a severe lack of public land and trails for walking or hiking. We do have a lot of small parks, but they are not connected to each other, and it's not really worth it to drive half an hour to an hour just to hike on a 2-mile trail. We need more places with 10-20+ miles of trails. Places where you can go backpacking and camp overnight on the trail. The closest place to go for an overnight backpack is a few hours drive.

380. Do not gentrify Benton Harbor. Make business when they leave the county clean up their messes. ElectraVoice in Buchanan is an eyesore. Protect the lake. Expand kayaking opportunities on the St. Joe.
381. Katie Montoya ROCKS!! Glad I saw she shared this, otherwise, I probably would have never known about the survey.
382. Encourage growth based around having more activities for kids to do. There is very little as a county other than a handful of museums and the beaches and restaurants. Invite a water park, tree top park, outdoor animal preservation, interactive trails. Also....build a vocational tech center for all county high schools to utilize! Why isn't that a thing in BC yet????
383. Be more open to the cannabis industry. And quit acting like it's the 1940's.
384. The most important thing to me is to preserve the beaches, the erosion has devastated our beaches and will soon demolish the road and houses in the area.
385. If this past year is any indication, many people who work here can't afford to live here anymore. Affordable housing solutions I hope will be a top priority, along with potential public transportation assistance so folks can get to their jobs. I've lived in Berrien County my entire life, and can't imagine living anywhere else. It appears the economic disparities between some of our communities is growing.
386. Denser development is the best way to grow the county while preserving open space. Conservation zoning is a great tool. when subdividing a property instead of equal lot sizes, houses are located together in smaller individual lot, allowing for walkability while preserving the remain area for natural amenities. Focus more effort into Benton Harbor. BH could accommodate many more apartments for younger residents. I would like to see both St. Joseph and Benton Harbor have thriving downtowns. to do this we need to have them have unique attributes that complement each other. Having St. Joseph focus on tourism and BH focus on residents would be a great option. Don't focus on new residents at the expense of existing residents. That is don't just give money for remote workers while ignoring the plight of the "essential" service workers. When marketing a smaller town living the

- selling point isn't "having everything" it's having what you need close by. I would love a trail system that goes into/through St. Joseph so I can begin my walk/bike ride on foot from home instead of driving a ways to a destination.
387. I believe the current zoning regulations are antiquated to today's technologies and the localities selectively enforce them. And a county chair personally benefits sitting on zoning board and selling land after it is rezoned. They also do not account for many businesses being mobile and not needing a showroom bathrooms and indoor office space.
388. I moved to rural Buchanan 35 years ago after living in downtown St. Joe. Don Ryman wasn't joking when he continually nagged the Bd. of Commissioners about the divide between north/south county. COVID has made the cultural divide palpably worse and our craven electeds like Kim LaSata have agitated people to the breaking point, pushing the lie that every government project is a sneak attack on their freedom and livelihoods. Please don't come to these folks with ideas about viewscapes or zoning "improvements" or peer pressure to improve their neighbors' junky properties. Quit sending the drain commissioners to wring out every last dime some folks have in the name of "cleaning the ditches." Stop forcing old folks in old villages to go into debt and lose their paid-off homes because they can't pay the brand-new mortgages, they had to take out to install new septic systems. Unpave the roads if they want it! Help these folks.
389. If we are going to continue to increase the tourist traffic in downtown St. Joseph, parking needs to be addressed and increased. As a city of St. Joseph resident, I very rarely go downtown from May until October because of the lack of parking. If I have guests or someone asks about going downtown, I suggest other areas because of the lack of parking and issues getting around town. Especially with those using the bike rentals. They really tie up traffic on already overly busy downtown streets while the "tourists" hold up traffic waiting for a parking space. I previously worked in downtown for over twenty years and the parking issue never gets any better.
390. This is a nice area. Lately politics and personal beliefs are taking over and it's sad to see. I LOVE the small area feel, the schools are good, mostly friendly people. I love the farm lands. Not a farmer myself, but there is something soothing about seeing the farms.
391. Since moving from Chicagoland to Berrien Springs this past January, we've loved the change of pace that this area offers. We are also proud that the local government wants to focus on farmland and a quiet area. I do want to see some more businesses come to Berrien Springs (and the surrounding towns) but with mindfulness and care to make sure that

the business will enhance the area without degradation. There should be a push and incentives for small businesses to take up shop in existing buildings and shops that have been closed or abandoned. I believe the county should first preserve its history and way of life before allowing developers to just build whatever they please. The locals of this area live here and stay here for a reason, and if we allow too much development too quickly, they will all be priced out and we will become just another overpopulated area (much like the Chicago suburbs and what New Buffalo has become).

392. County needs: Dedicated walk/bike (non-motorized) trails-strategy for redevelopment of derelict big box/shopping mall/strip mall areas.- affordable housing options for young working people to remain in the area.
393. Please retain the nature we still have. We are losing trees at an alarming rate. Stop the clear cutting of trees. This area is being ruined by the loss of nature. It's extremely upsetting. We need to preserve our environment and wildlife.
394. Thank you for accessing the county's needs and given residents input into what we feel is important. Love our location and that in St. Joseph area, we are the county seat, have a great hospital, good schools, working utilities, adequate shopping and entertainment, but still keep our parks, beaches, and farmland a priority. Thank you.
395. Stop giving incentives to people to move to the area and restricting them from local employment
396. You asked if I am willing to pay more taxes for land conservation. The answer is yes. But I am not willing to pay more taxes, so that businesses can get a tax break. Everyone should pay their share.
397. to work, professionally. This survey is more focused on transportation and farm land then how do we get people to want to be here. I didn't see ideas for that. Having a question with an answer to hire someone for attracting businesses, is wrong, when we have economic development in the county and through Cornerstone. Now an option is to pay another. Again, we are not looking for solutions but assurance of what you are doing is ok. It is not.
398. Drains need updating, roadside trimming needs to be done you can't see down roads. Allow more rural areas to Comcast or some form of internet service so it doesn't cost an arm and leg. Better internet service. Let locals have a discount card that can be used in shops in area more people would be more agreeable to all new businesses coming in to community. Community fairs and farmers market to bring more community together and out.

399. I would prefer no more development. It is unaffordable to residents, only catering to those with money from other places like Chicago. Jobs here do not pay the needed to sustain a decent quality of life.
400. Agritourism, tourism and industry jobs all benefit from multi modal forms of transportation. The streets and bridges are too auto centric, making streets safe for all people (8-80) makes it a better place to live. Safety on roads is paramount to people enjoying Berrien County. Can a pedestrian cross Red Arrow Highway? Are speed limits taking go into account people whom prefer alternative forms of transportation? Complete streets are safe streets! And trails attract tourism and raise property values.
401. I don't agree with aggressively going after people that need to clean up their property. Many of them can't afford renovations which is why it's so run down. It should get cleaned up & as long as the property owner cooperates, it should be done in small, affordable steps. I also mostly agree with property owners being able to do what they want on or with their property however if it goes against zoning rules or gets lots of complaints from neighbors, then something should be done.
402. At this point, this is a wonderful place to live!!
403. Their needs to be more for the kids to do, or families things, the state in whole should allow more free fishing,
404. Make tourist areas more local friendly! Berrien county residents should have passes to beaches & free parking in St Joseph. We can't even enjoy our own area without dealing with tourist plus having to pay extra.
405. More work needs to be done to maximize use of the local harbor (St. Joseph/Benton Harbor) as a commercial port as well as a recreational harbor. Dredging and improvements would go a long way into helping the economy.
406. I hope they do not put a walking bridge on Lake Chapin. We, like many moved there and pay fair taxes for the privacy, seclusion, peace and quiet of the Lake. We don't want loiterers and litterers on the Lake, then walking trail over the Lake would cause this.
407. We need continue and higher investment into heritage and cultural institutions like museums, art galleries, libraries, and similar institutions. These locations are cornerstone for identity and expression for residents and a key introduction to visitors to our history and our impact on the region and world.
408. I believe in staying local for my purchases but without good retail (JC Penny's, etc.) It is hard to find quality retail other than specialty stores. Instead of more grocery stores we need more clothing options. We are also losing more of our farm land each year to housing, we need to see what we can do to keep our farm lands.

409. School Improvement. Better Health, fair wage jobs, affordable good places to live.
410. Better ways to communicate to residents county planning, contacts with those in office and county intended projects.
411. Thank you for asking.
412. Planning for the effects of climate change is extremely important and needs to be addressed in every aspect of the plan.
413. No new or more taxes!
414. We need to have SAFE bike and walking trails interconnecting from schools to parks, much like Hilton Head, SC, which boasts of them. South Haven has also done a great job of trails from Van Buren State Park through town to KalHaven trail. Young professionals I know are very much into individual and family fitness recreational activities. They always complain about the lack of safe walking and biking trails.
415. I believe the County has to focus on Benton Harbor and Benton Township as they have lots of open space and some existing infrastructure to support new developments. There are little or no floods and moderate weather patterns.
416. Better attention needs to be paid to restoring the reputation of the county and county government. A good place to start is requiring accountability of and respect from employees. Another is reviewing and requiring objectives of Departmental directors and employees and making department heads responsible for understanding and following best practices with an attitude appropriate to serving their constituents.
417. I am from New York. There the state had special authorities, such as the New York State Dormitory Authority, that provided low-cost funding for construction. Does Michigan have any similar authority that offers low-cost bonds? This low-cost funding then was used to attract development. I also would like to see more of a variety of restaurants- not just upscale hamburger restaurants. Maybe some ethnic cuisine beyond Mexican or Thai. Maybe a seafood restaurant. I also find the shopping situation here dismal. I have heard Berrien County had a few decent stores such as Target and Carson's. I wish we could attract good stores here again. I have written grant proposals, am an MBA in Finance and am volunteering to become involved. I also have worked for county government in New York and for a money center bank.
418. We have a lot to offer in this community. Although those of us who grew up here take it for granted, our community and its world class beaches have made us a resort town. We should do the things to attract businesses to this hidden gem without sacrificing the very tax dollars needed to improve our community. Make them fight for a spot here!

419. Berrien County residents should be able to access local beaches free of charge. Let the tourists pay the fees.
420. I would love bike lane opportunities like Holland Michigan provides. My family spends a week in Holland each summer because of the fantastic outdoor spaces! Disc golf, beaches, bike and bike trails. The smaller beaches in Berrien County are going away and I miss them. Lincoln Township Beach was my favorite growing up!
421. I think municipalities in Berrien County should follow the lead of Niles and Buchanan and allow recreational marijuana-based businesses and take advantage of the tax revenue.
422. Pot hole repairs seem to be worse than the pot hole itself, meaning the repair is not level. Napier between Langley and Niles for an example. And the lane stripes where the paint wasn't dry all the way and someone drove over and tracked paint into the lane sure makes the roads look horrible.
423. With incoming new homeowners from larger urban areas working remotely, median incomes and housing costs will most likely rise. However, our area (and many others nationwide) is experiencing record numbers of unemployed individuals. It will be interesting to see how demographics have changed with the 2020 Census and where new disparities between "the rich and the poor" are now recorded.
424. Surveys (by electronic media) are nice but not a true way to get local information.