



2025 City of Columbia Community Survey Open-Ended Comments

Presented to the City of
Columbia, MO

December 2025



ETC
INSTITUTE

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Q4-14 [Other]. Which FOUR items from the list below do you think should receive the MOST EMPHASIS from City leaders over the next TWO years?

- Add loitering ordinance, keep homeless off medians, curfew for juveniles
- Additional Fire Services
- Address homeless issue. Stop spending city resources on providing tents to homeless who have no connection to our city.
- Allowing beggars on city streets and medians is both extremely dangerous for the beggar and for the driver.
- Arrest the vagrants and beggars. Do not provide them more services. My wife is afraid to take our children downtown. They openly drink and use drugs during the day and have threatened us for just walking down the street with a stroller.
- Beautification efforts. Columbia looks economically depressed like an industrial city that has lost it's economic engine. Grimy, rundown, depressing
- better and more destinations at airport
- Better connection with the city government.
- chime
- Clean out the homeless camps!
- Clean up downtown. It looks old, abused and uncared for. Buildings are dilapidated, dirty sidewalks, signage irregularities. Look at Lawrence or Iowa City for examples. Kind of embarrassing.
- Continue to improve the community policing concept. We had 3 departments (city, county and state) swarm some very famous and popular rap artists playing at Rose Music Hall on a Friday evening. No cause for this disclosed, no charges filed, but we traumatized a young man and miffed a famous artist who likely won't be back. We can do better than this!
- Crime/homelessness/appearance of city
- Defund the police
- Downtown security
- Electric grid and street maintenance
- Electric infrastructure improvements. Waste management improvements including recycling projects
- Enact laws to prohibit panhandling in the city. Need to have an independent auditing of the unnecessary positions in government and have a recall of the mayor who's done nothing to curb the violence and panhandling in the city!
- Enforce laws on the books currently. Stop allowing loitering & panhandling within the city limits especially in traffic medians. Address & remove homeless encampments destroying our waterways & parks.
- Enforce laws on the roads such as the speed limit and excessive engine noise from racing motorcycles and modified exhaust systems.
- fiscal responsibility
- fix the baler, start recycling of cardboard
- Get a handle on city finances and get realistic on what is a need/obligation vs "would be nice to do as well"
- Get our schools back to learning quit and doctoring our children with things they shouldn't learn at school.

- Get rid of homeless by clearing out encampments, arresting them and holding them accountable for trespassing instead of giving them squatter rights.
- Get rid of the wildflowers on Scott Boulevard. They look awful.
- Get the homeless off our street corners and keep our streams free of their trash and s**t!
- Get the homeless out.
- Get the homeless people off the streets, sidewalks and out of the parks.
- GET THE PANGANDLERS OFF OF THE STREETS AND OUT OF MEDIANS. WHY WOULD VISITORS OR BUSINESSES COME HERE WHEN THATS THEUR FIRST EXPERIENCE?
- help seniors with low income
- hire less people-lower your overhead
- Homelessness attracts drug addicts. Which attracts drug dealers. They attract gangs. Then you have gang violence. Doesn't take a genius to figure this out
- Improve city beautification, especially along I-70 and at city entrances. Looks like a dump to outsiders/visitors
- Improve electric infrastructure to handle additional load/demand
- Improve utilities and better support businesses
- Improve winter snow clearing, don't use so much salt as that destroys the roads.
- Improved safety
- Increase fire personnel
- increase firefighters
- infrastructure-electrical station, water system, etc.
- Maintain and improve regular sewer and storm water run off drainage systems
- Make Columbia a safe place to live.
- Make bus routes go from impoverished neighborhoods to actual jobs such as Route B and the many jobs there.
- Median safety. No loitering in any medians.
- Mental health care. Better Gun permit background checks for mental illness
- More fire department personnel
- more housing development-affordable north of the city for the elderly
- More patrol officers working the streets and high crime areas
- No more panhandlers
- Over abundance of approved rental housing within neighborhoods that are established. Some of which area don't have the resources/services those renters would need. Not actually coming out to those area and seeing the effects of traffic & crime in those areas. Instead the emphasis should be on buying instead of renting. No, not every level of income needs to exist in the same area because the need for services isn't the same.
- Pass panhandling ordinances. Hire more police. Enforce laws on the homeless.
- Pay cuts to sit in administration like the mayor.
- Pay down unfunded pension liability
- People who stand in medians holding up cardboard signs begging should be outlawed. It is a distraction to drivers and dangerous to the vagrant.
- Plan for the future. More parking downtown
- Please sell lesser used parks - we have too many - we have excellent parks but the city has focused too much on this and we have new problems to deal with. Please sell them and use the revenue to increase the police budget.
- Provide less services to unused and more safety for our children

- Public safety
- Public transp. should go back to providing student housing busses as that was a lot of money from each property to fix your now broken system
- Quit pandering to the homelessness
- Recently had an opportunity to observe the planning commission in action. The event that I watched was unbelievable. After the event several contractors told me that the project being discussed was "bought and paid for" and trying to introduce facts to the planning commission was an exercise in futility, "don't try to confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up!" Being a new resident and watching this event has made me question a lot of the practices of the City of Columbia. I don't believe that Columbia is the city now that I chose 6 years ago.
- Recycling
- Reduce taxes
- Remove illegal aliens
- repave streets
- replace council
- Replace the mayor and city council.
- Safety is the number one concern for my family. We moved here because it was a very safe place, that is no longer the reality.
- safety, recycling
- Speeding in neighborhood
- Stop enabling apartment developers from invading beautiful new subdivisions- just to house section 8 people.
- Stop putting Ashford Place into the middle of The Brooks neighborhood. No excuse for this unreasonable building in the middle of an already established neighborhood.
- Stop the Non-Starter BS, get the jay walking homeless off the medians!!! If you're going to ticket students for jay walking you need to start enforcing nudity, public indecency, and intoxication and arrest the homeless who are violent. Mayor and her admin are not doing their jobs. Turn on public comments on the Mayors posts so people can truly communicate with her even if negative feedback.
- Stop vagrancy downtown.
- Stop wasting my taxes on the homeless. Police should stop panhandlers from standing on the roadway islands especially with dogs
- There are MAGA Members in the Columbia Police Department.
- There needs to be more Public safety emphasis on safe travel on our streets by slowing down traffic and discourage the emphasis on panhandling and homeless harassment of other citizens.
- Transparency in the city council and the city manager and the mayor. Find ways to lower city, utilities, and property taxes.
- Vacancy, soliciting money at intersections.

Q36. Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to share with the City of Columbia about our services?

- 1) Where is the water tower the voters approved in 2018? It will now cost more to build. 2) Please increase police presence in downtown and the surrounding areas. 3) Please stop accommodating the homeless population at taxpayer expense as this helps make Columbia a destination for the indigent. This contributes to littering and crime, and presents a negative image of Columbia to visitors.
- 1) Some street lanes (Broadway) are not viable at rainy nights. 2) My car was broken into three years ago. I reported to the police but never heard from them. 3) My old tag from my sold car was used by others. I tried to report to police but denied. That is ok but treated disrespectfully. 4) I see many cars have expired tags. I wonder whether that is ok or not. If so, why do I have to renew my tag?
- 1. Park bathrooms need major improvements to restroom facilities, including more frequent cleaning. 2. All playgrounds need sun shades that cover much of the play structures. Look to suburbs in KC for lots of family-friendly examples. 3. The city needs text message alerts as an option for more responsiveness. We have enough social media platforms and apps... a straightforward text is more user-friendly and could be used for alerts related to trash pick-up, winter weather, plowing roads, electrical outages, etc. 4. When electrical outages occur, the city needs to do a much better job responding to them quickly and updating affected customers frequently. 5. The city had great parks and trails. Our athletic fields are lacking. We need multiple turf fields with lighting for soccer and the growing lacrosse community. Jeff City is way ahead of us in this area. 6. The city needs to be more reasonable with canceling youth games due to wet fields. They seem to cancel at the drop of a hat after minor rain, which has a major impact on schedules and seasons. Maintaining the fields within reason is understood, but canceling too often for minor moisture, gives you a bad look. Specifically, Gans Creek and Cosmo are too frequently closed due to wet fields. This is just one of the reasons why converting to turf fields is necessary to better meet the needs of the youth sports families in the city. 7. Figure it out with Jeff City and build an ice rink in Columbia.
- A beautification program and better street maintenance would be very welcomed. A handgun ban would be excellent, though I know a major challenge. The development process should be simpler. I think a lot of folks would pay increased taxes if it would go to improving streets, beautifying the city, and making downtown even more of a business/commercial/living center, for folks of all ages.
- Aggressively assist in the promotion and development of the Columbia Neighborhood Watch Program. It will help the COMO PD in making our city one of the safest in MO at little cost to the taxpayers.
- All fire apparatus should have 4 man staffing at all times- this is an industry standard for safety and effectiveness. We are in need of additional police officers and they need to be supported to do their job in effective and evidence-based ways. The homeless problem is the biggest problem facing Columbia. Laws should be enforced and we should not continue to provide additional services that cause homeless to want to come to Columbia. We do not have the mental health or law enforcement infrastructure to deal with the influx and it is effectively destroying our town.
- As a resident deeply engaged in community wellness, recovery, and inclusion, my priorities for the City of Columbia center on equity, accessibility, and resilience. I want to see continued investment in behavioral health infrastructure, affordable housing, and public safety approaches that emphasize care and prevention over punishment. Columbia's policies, programs, and

partnerships should actively advance racial, LGBTQIA+, and economic equity, ensuring that every resident feels safe, seen, and supported. I also value transparency, data-informed decision making, and authentic community engagement that includes lived experience voices in planning and evaluation. My hope is for Columbia to lead the state in compassionate, equitable, and sustainable city development.

- be less influenced by MV leadership
- Being a longtime resident of Columbia, growing pains are common, but I hope the city can adjust better to improve opportunities for youth engagement and careful planning concerning infrastructure.
- Bring back the reflective street paint. It is an absolute hazard that we can no longer see the lanes and markings.
- Buffalo is not for the people. Stop serving her on trips and send her to protect my kids and the parks from the unhoused and their drug supplies/suppliers.
- build ice rink, let police be police and give them more resources aka money. stop paying for homeless. clean up como
- City employees are always courteous. It is the city leadership that is absolutely failing in Columbia. They should be ashamed of their willful denial of crime and homelessness which are wrecking our city. Overall lack of leadership will ruin Columbia if action not quickly taken to address crime. Next the streets and infrastructure but first safety.
- city employees are underpaid
- City leadership isn't receptive or willing to act on citizen feedback or concerns.
- City Manager and Mayor must lead not be led. Council as a whole must stop focusing on their own ideologies and listen to all their citizens not just who supported them.
- Stay focused on urgent and important issues (electric capacity, water, public safety, affordable housing, etc.). Be transparent about where revenue needs to come from and honest about your true priorities.
- City needs to improve and widen many streets such as Providence. Need better street lighting and to paint the lane markers. Poor streets, the concrete islands on Clark at Paris road should be removed or painted.
- City needs to stop wasteful spending, cut needless programs
- City of Columbia customer service is horrible. I dread having to talk to any city employee. Very rude!
- City sales taxes is too high
- City should do more to maintain what we have in the way of sidewalks, roads and parks and trails. STOP ADDING until you can manage and keep up with what we have. Developers creating new neighborhoods should be responsible for infrastructure required to support that neighborhood. Roads to it, infrastructure for it and to it, roads, sidewalks in the areas around it, etc. The overbuilt downtown area has created issues with watershed, sewers, electrical loads, parking, etc. ALL now put on the backs of the public. Infrastructure should be considered and required PRIOR to allowing for overgrowth.
- City should operate with transparency and best practices. Too much consideration is given to builders and developers and too little to protecting citizens and homeowners. The citizens do not get unbiased decisions from planning and zoning.
- City should've applied the multimillion dollar lawsuit settlement towards the unfunded pension liability.

- City staff is outstanding. I participated in the Civic Academy and learned so much. I also learned to appreciate all the city does and how professional all the operations are. Everyone should participate in that program.
- City workers need to be better funded.
- Clean up downtown and the business loop. The good businesses are leaving downtown and the area around the high school is trashed. Spruce up the highway entrances into the city, they never look mowed have trash all over them and panhandlers. Let's take pride in our city again, clean it up! Prohibit panhandling around the schools and in the medians of busy roadways. This is the only city you see it in, so obviously other cities listen to their citizens and make ordinances.
- Clean up DT and homeless areas especially near the university. We want students and residents to feel safe.
- Clean up the drug addicts on every street. It's not educational nor is it helping. It's enabling drug users and people are supporting this by giving money.
- Clean up the homeless problem the new multi million dollar facility being built in business loop better hose every homeless person I Columbia get them off the streets peoples yards etc. between panhandlers and homeless and the no mow zone this all makes our city very unattractive. We actually need new leadership.
- Columbia does not have ONLY college students but housing for family leaves a lot to be desired. We need more housing for families. Some of us would love to live downtown but if you are not a student there are no options.
- Columbia has become the armpit of Missouri. It used to be Jefferson City, but at least they can take care of their streets. In Columbia, I have given nick names to several pot holes. These areas in Columbia that are not mowed for the sake of birds etc. is a bad idea. Can you imagine if I put a sign in my yard saying I'm not mowing it for the sake of birds? This along with roundabouts falling apart/curbs that need painted, pot holes filled and weeds pulled is embarrassing. Columbia has always had reactive leadership. I suggest being more proactive. You would think with a budget of over 1/2 a billion dollars Columbia would be able to take care of its crime and streets. Maybe some people in government need to be fired or maybe their salaries need to be decreased. My family is seriously considering moving. I bet some of the people that come to town to watch SEC football leave thinking what a crummy town Columbia, MO is and they are correct.
- Columbia is a great city with an extraordinary quality of life. The greatest threat to our cities long term health are developers who are not paying their fair share of costs for new development, and that lack of alignment of new development with housing needs.
- Columbia is a reactive city. I'd love to see it become a proactive place to live in work.
- Columbia no longer feels safe
- Columbia use to be a safe wonderful place to live. IN the last few years, it has really gone downhill. Homeless and panhandling is out of control. Need a mental hospital to help these people. Mayor does nothing to set rules for the homeless. They harass students downtown, defecate in front of businesses, Nasty! We need a leader who can take control.
- CPD has been a mess for a long time. Can we find better candidates for CPD
- Curfew may be need for under 18 yrs. of age. Many MORE Police....they are down at least 20+. Somehow- clearing the HOMELESS OFF the streets.
- Dedicated bike lanes with dividers and continuous sidewalks
- Definitely seen more roads being redone recently and some sidewalks. We live in a suburban area with no sidewalks connecting to the nearest bus stop (40+ min walk away). I'd like public transportation to get downtown so I don't have to find parking but there's not enough lanes on most roads as it is for the population/traffic they see. I like the pollinator habitats and the adopted

roundabouts! I either don't know about or haven't used or interacted with most city services and programs. I think we got something in the mail at one point though about the rec centers. Also the T intersection of State Farm parkway and E Nifong Blvd. has a weird right of way situation with the right turn yielding to the left turn? Just goes against all precedent that the left turn lane doesn't yield to the oncoming right turn and it's caused confusion and backups. It's also hard to see that the right turn has a yield sign if you're not familiar with the area. Also I don't think the speed limit on E Nifong Blvd needs to be 50mph since there's stop signs every few blocks. The speed adds to the noise of starting and stopping at those 4way stops and makes it more dangerous when people run the stop sign. All the people I've interacted with working for the city have been friendly and helpful! Am hoping the recycling center can be rebuilt so we can have paper recycling back.

- Derek Ulta, Bud Pierce and Allison on the concrete replacement project are WONDERFUL City Employees! This is the BEST CITY we have ever lived in! Thank you City of Columbia
- Digital service delivery deserves improvement.
- Do away with the bus system. Only a group of idiots would continue to dump money into a losing venture and ask people to pay more taxes to cover the cost. Put the money into the police department.
- Do not need a 'no mow' on Scott Boulevard. It's a distraction to the beauty of the street. Please keep mowing it.
- Do something about jay walkers around the hospitals and MU campus.
- Downtown crime and safety is number one problem. Need more police presence. Remove homeless and panhandlers from the intersections. It is a safety hazard and distraction.
- downtown crime seems to be number 1. homelessness is number 2. love this city and want to see it continues to grow
- Downtown gets too much attention from police, snow removal, and street maintenance. Need to serve all of us. The SEC move ruined downtown. Quit caving to the U of MO.
- Downtown no longer feels safe due to the homeless population.
- Electric for Boone electric is too high; crime and late nights happening; need one curfew.
- Electric service has too many outages.
- Eliminate panhandling! Enforce it!
- Encourage people not to wear black at night
- excellent police chief
- fewer police, more firemen; increased support/access to mental health services
- Figure out how to make Columbia a place where homeless don't want to be. Hire more police to help with crime. More high paying blue collar jobs to help with the poverty level
- Fix the baler, start recycle of cardboard. Paris rd. needs major changes including slow down traffic, better traffic lights.
- focus more on public safety than social service programs. do something about the beggars. clean up the medians on Scott Blvd
- FOCUS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING NOT CHEAPLY MADE OVER PRICED APARTMENT BUILDINGS FOR COLLEGE KIDS! COMO CITIZENS DESPERATELY NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING TOO!!!! I am angry that our city folded so easily and installed flock cameras everywhere. Not only did you make it extremely difficult to attend the city council meeting for community input. Those things are a threat to personal safety. They have been hacked before. They infringe on civil liberties and mark my words, will be used to nefarious purposes by ICE. Shame on you. And we sure as hell don't need more police. More police esp. downtown will just raise the tension for something bad to happen. If anything it causes more crime.

- Focus on public safety should be the first priority. Other programs are dependent on safety first. I don't think taxes need to be increased to pay for public safety when the city has a surplus of funds. That is not fair to the taxpayer.
- Focus on safety issues like gun, violence, gangs, teen violence. More police and fireman needed.
- From the six years we have been here I believe that the City of Columbia is not the place I chose 7 years ago. I realize that the city has a very difficult time just maintaining the status quo let alone becoming the city we would like to live in. In fact you can't maintain status quo because that in fact is losing ground. Serious progress is needed to keep from losing ground over time. I am not an expert or even a moderately qualified person to judge but it does seem the City of Columbia has lost focus on what has and could make it a better place to live. When I think about what that means it is something like, good schools, great neighborhoods, job opportunities that allow citizens to prosper, safety in all of these, and finally a city government that speaks out with transparency and ethical behavior. I would hate to write a report card and cite examples on that last sentence but my "gut feeling" is that a report card would either give a failing grade or just passing by a small margin. Thank you for the opportunity to share my feelings.
- Frustration over large new developments being approved in the southwest with already scarce electricity and low water pressure.
- full recycling services to resume as soon as possible. don't like having to rent roll carts
- fyi, this is a church(4710 Rice Road). we have had multiple thefts and burglary attempts.
- garbage disposal/landfill and recycling should be given a priority in near future
- Get a new Prosecutor and build a City Jail. Get these needles out of the parks! One went right through a NIKE shoe during a Marathon! Ask State Patrol to maintain panhandling at State owned intersections. It's disgusting
- Get crime under control. Quit devoting some much resources to the homeless; all it does is encourage more homeless to come to Columbia.
- Get rid of DEI and sustainability!
- Get rid of flock cameras. More services for unused population. Stop any Cross training of police with Israel.
- Get rid of no mow areas along Scott Boulevard. It's dangerous to not be able to see oncoming traffic when trying to make left turns.
- Get rid of the city manager, the mayor, and the entire council. We need better leadership!
- Get rid of the homeless loitering downtown. They are dangerous. Downtown will die if they are allowed to grow. People already want to recall the mayor.
- Get the homeless off the streets and out of Columbia.
- Get the homeless out of downtown. Stop the climate change farce.
- Get the water tower in SW Columbia built. Connect the two southern electric substations along Nifong. Look at reducing some of the 120+ employees hired the last three years to free up money for additional police and fire personnel. Put more money into the Police and Fire retirement funds.
- Getting rid of squatters
- give seniors a discount on utilities
- Good intentions are not the same or as important as good results. Stop forming committees to throw money at problems. Use common sense.
- Good to be transparent and keep working at problems.
- Grow a spine.
- gun violence
- Has the city considered a tiny home area to provide resources and homes for the unhoused? Instead of destroying areas where we live.

- Have one city app for everything and make it better than the current available mobile app
- Have the mayor allow comments on her social media posts.
- Hire more police. Enforce the laws at all levels. Law-abiding residents are suffering and too little is being done about it.
- Homeless persons are a huge issue. If they will not accept mental health, give them a bus ticket out of the city. Non prosecution of repeat offenders. There doesn't seem to be any consequences for anything anymore. Teen crime is ridiculous and gun violence is out of control.
- Homelessness and trespassing are the most important focuses at home and work. Wilkes Blvd is a nightmare.
- Homelessness is a huge issue in Columbia. Also, need to take better care of the streets.
- Homelessness is out of control
- Homelessness is out of control. We should not be paying taxes to support or encourage the homeless.
- I absolutely dislike chip n seal and so does everyone who rides a bike or skateboard, so does the wildlife in the creeks, it gets all over bike lanes creating major hazards for us- even on absent roads bc cars pick it up and carry it all over. Also the dead end sidewalks!! But seriously: 8 speed humps on a road that's not even a mile long is Insane.
- I am disabled and use a wheelchair. There are many dangerous sidewalks in Columbia with huge cracks in the concrete
- I appreciate upgrade to power lines. We used to have lots of outages from squirrels and starlings getting electrocuted. I hope our power lines get buried sooner rather than later. (We live in North Central just off of downtown.)
- I don't feel safe in Columbia anymore, especially downtown
- I don't like to see the green areas with trees being taken out for any reason
- I feel like I only see the mayor going on trips to places that could have been a zoom. It seems like there are many other things that this city could use the money for.
- I have been coming to Columbia for years. Two of my children graduated from MU. 4 of my grandchildren graduated from MU and 4 more will be attending. We were excited to move here but the city has changed. Too many homeless, more crime, terrible traffic. I'm afraid for my grandchildren to be in the downtown at night. My husband and I rarely go out at night. Things need to improve.
- I have been following the work of the city's violence prevention program and support it. Also feel very positive about the Opportunity Campus that is about to open. I would love for Columbia to keep becoming more and more walkable and bike able. I appreciate our mayor's and council's support for our diverse population. The biggest area for improvement I see is in public transportation. Too many places you can't get to or near on the bus. We also need more affordable housing.
- I hope the recycling program is up and running asap
- I know y'all are working hard to do the best you can, and we are grateful. We drive to Booneville to use their pool in the summer because its better than Columbias
- I like Columbia! I think there needs to be an emphasis on Public Safety. Slow traffic down not necessarily by ticketing but maybe utilizing more electronic signs showing what speed a driver is driving at. I am amazed at the high Auto Speeds and lack of courtesy of drivers in Columbia. We should promote safe driving conditions. I have empathy for those who seem to need to live on the streets but as a city, Columbia needs to get on top of street safety and discourage vagrancy, and people coming from other communities to live on the streets of Columbia. We need to be

promoting safer driving! As a community, we are better than that. These are my observations to keep our community safe and friendly.

- I love our parks, focus more on maintaining what we have, no expansions needed.
- I LOVE this city. Please do not listen to people complaining about safety and crime. We do not need more police. We need more social services and proper public communication about the resources available in our amazing city. Keep fighting the good fight!
- I really appreciate the interactions I've had with city employees. I get the sense that they care and want to do their jobs well. I like the priority the City of Columbia has put into the home energy efficiency incentives. I appreciate the transparency and ability to attend city council meeting and commission meetings even though I've never attended. I know I can attend if I want to.
- Public transportation and making our city more easily navigable for people without cars is really important to me (either increased walkability/bike-ability and/or public transport). Affordable housing is also very important to me. I appreciate how liberal our city is, but also want to note that I have the perception that our police department isn't adequately supported (though I do not know the facts on this -- it's just kinda what I've picked up from social media and the inability of police to enforce traffic laws or other low-level offenses because they are lower priority than violent or more serious crime). I would support increased taxes for any of these issues. I LOVE our library (don't know if that is city-related though)!
- I said I could never live in a town smaller than 250,000 but I have loved living in Columbia. Bike Trails, all of the beautiful trees. activities, great city
- I sharply disagree with the recent hysteria about crime, and oppose more spending on policing.
- I think downtown Columbia should have 24 hour policing with officers on foot, with increase presence when the bars close. The businesses should form a crime prevention entity that would receive both public and private financial support.
- I think in the last year the city had unfortunate had the perception of being unsafe. I think overall it's safe. The amount of juveniles carrying guns is scary. City when collaborates with MU for safety of students have MU put some skin in the game. They could have more promotion of students cutting back on the alcohol drinking. These students come and start binge drinking for any reason. Game days, weekends, week days. They get drunk. Go into the streets and start yelling and fighting. Add the armed juveniles in the mix and you get shots fired incidents. All Columbia residents need to feel safe. It isn't just protecting the drunken college students hanging out downtown. They are adults and part of the problem.
- I think the city could do a better job of correcting misinformation on social media (and elsewhere), and also of comparing us against other regions and cities. I'm tired of people complaining that Columbia is dangerous and crime-riddled, when the statistics show otherwise in a per-capita basis. I know this is something that isn't unique to Columbia, but I don't want pearl-clutching to lead to Columbia shifting toward more authoritarian/right-leaning policies. I like our blue island and want it to remain welcoming and empathetic to all. I'd rather see compassion and empathy drive decisions, than hate, greed and fear.
- I think the more technology we can provide for public service the better Columbia can be: healthier, safer, and satisfied.
- I think there are way too many police and there is good data that they harass people of color and apply the laws in a racist way. I am particularly upset about the city's treatment of unhoused people. We need our warming centers open much earlier, we should stop throwing away people's stuff, and we need better housing options. I would like to see much better sidewalks and lighting on city streets.

- I think this is probably more a concern for the board of education, but it would be nice if some of the older school buildings could be renovated and improved before building entirely new schools down the street from existing ones.
- I use a bicycle for most all my in-city transportation. I feel personally safe cycling all over the city. City streets are overall well maintained.
- I used to be proud to live in Columbia. Now I am fearful.
- I work downtown and often work late into the evening, sometimes until 2am. I rarely feel less safe than I do during daytime hours. I think our police department has improved under the latest chief. I also think we have a contingent of people who are loud and promote fear about our community to advance their own goals. Keep up the good work and don't listen to them! PS- I live near downtown in Benton Stephens and the endless whir of helicopters in the late evening hours over the last couple of weekends has been super annoying!
- I would like to have the recycle system fully restored including drop off sites
- I would like to see more walkability and connections to different parts of the town. Pedestrian areas and more bike lanes. This is an incredibly safe city and I am very happy with our leadership. I would like more of what the city departments are doing.
- I would like to see some housing for young adults to live in (buy) so they could save up (build) equity
- I would like to suggest regulating the brightness of street lighting. The very bright LED lighting is blinding at night. It also has a negative impact on migratory birds and other wildlife. Public spaces, medians, intersections, parks etc. are not as well maintained in central Columbia as they are in more suburban areas. The city should have incentives for central city landlords to plant and maintain trees. Instead the city only offers incentives to have them cut down if they are near power lines. Similarly I think we could solve the housing crisis if the city would offer low and moderate income homeowners incentives to develop and rent accessory dwelling units on their properties. This would help homeowners pay their mortgages, making more rental housing available at a variety of prices and increase the diversity of landlords. Neighborhood associations are a part of city government but there is no support for them. Neighborhood associations can do more over time to increase the feeling of public safety than the police can. It is a way that residents can feel part of and connected in their communities but there is no staffing or financial support for neighborhood associations.
- I would shop downtown if parking was readily available. City parking lot on Walnut Street sucked by leases. Parking near hotel off limits unless hotel guest. Hell, lease out all of the downtown parking spaces and run all customers off. Tried to park in Walnut Street lot and was run off because all of the spots are leased even though at least half of them were empty. Went elsewhere to shop.
- I'm increasingly concerned about the growing homeless population in Columbia. Many individuals are camping in parks and wooded areas, and it has made me feel unsafe when walking or biking on public trails. In addition, the city has not been maintaining certain sidewalks—particularly along Proctor Drive—which have become severely overgrown and unsafe for pedestrians. I've contacted the city twice about this issue. While I received an initial response saying it would be looked into, I never heard back or saw any action taken. I hope the city will address these safety and maintenance issues more promptly. Both the trail system and sidewalk access are important to residents who want to feel safe enjoying their community.
- I'd like to see a better recycling program in our city. Homeless and panhandling is a problem. Crime downtown is a worry.

- Ignore the haters, especially Mun Choi, and refrain from overreacting to the tragic shooting downtown. I have been working in public safety-related field for over 25 years and while any city can do a better job, I think Columbia is on the right track. I've only been in Columbia 3 1/2 months, so I don't have an opinion on whether or not Columbia has enough police or fire fighters, or enough training, community policing initiatives, etc. I do know that more cops would not have prevented that terrible shooting. That is the expected result of a target-rich environment on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights filled with young, naive, intoxicated people infiltrated by ne'er-do-wells and scalawags from all over the state seeking to take advantage of them AND THE FREAKING GUNS. What will help? You need to enforce underage drinking, over-serving by bars, serving minors by bars (especially Shiloh, I hear), make bars have more and better security up front, and make MU and the bars pay for every single extra cop you need. That would be a good start, but not enough. Every city of this size needs more public services, youth opportunities, unhoused person resources, etc., and Columbia actually seems pretty good with this. Investments in people will create more safety than more cops, but both can be possible if the right people, businesses, organizations, and university are willing to pay for them. And also--more affordable housing options, etc. I'm very glad to see the crackdown on BnB, Vrbo, etc. Now do the apartment complexes and other property managers. I have lots of thoughts. Good luck! We are looking forward to spending our retirement years in Columbia after moving from Indiana, and also contributing as much as possible to this great little city.
- Increase number of police, stop homeless program and fund the police. Cut unnecessary administrative expenses.
- Increased funding for police and fire departments. There is no justified excuse for understaffed public safety services. City parks and recreation areas are an important part of a community, Columbia has more than enough. Columbia should now focus on public safety funding and staffing. No more new parks until public safety staffing levels meet or exceed established standards. Panhandlers at intersections and trash on streets are a black eye on Columbia. We should focus on assisting the involuntarily homeless that want help, I.e. the single mom that is homeless due to lack of sufficient employment and affordable childcare facilities. The "professionally homeless" that are panhandling in our city are an entirely different situation. They should be banned from intersections and engaged in programs that promote and require them to be responsible members of our city. I have spoken to some of the panhandlers and they have ALL been transient. I don't feel we should waste city resources on transients who only regard our city as a good place to beg at stoplights.
- Indoor track that I am allowed to bring my dogs. Winter is hard when the amazing trails can't be used. Other than that, all of our problems are the same as the rest of the country. Thank you for chipping away at it piece by piece.
- Is there a way to prioritize City Council agenda items to promote public attendance and/or comment at council meetings? The structure of the meetings, seems to push important decisions towards the end of meetings which go past 10 pm. That discourages even folks like me who want to be engaged. There is no way someone who works or has children can attend council meetings.
- It is time to fix and provide recycling to citizens again. Think this should be a bigger priority. I think the proposed guidelines on where people can panhandle will help with first impressions folks have when they come to Columbia. Think the city needs to more about the homeless (refuse to call them unhoused) as a tax payer, I am tired of cleaning up after them. We need to hire more police and fire fighters. I love the park system and the opportunities they provide, however, it may be time to stop adding more parks until we can afford to take care of those we have.

- it seems like the city is more concerned with taking care of the homeless and criminals than homeowners and law abiding citizens
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work! (Except don't assume everyone has a mobile phone.)
- Kids on the south side of town are very limited in options during the summer especially. A splash pad at Bethel park and increased activities would be beneficial for the community, but also provide a useful outlet for children in the area who are otherwise at risk and need something to do other than cause issues. I think Columbia needs to do a better job of identifying and encouraging at risk youth with activities and inclusion.
- kit would be nice if there was a website instead of a number to call, to find out about developmental proposals. thanks you for all you do
- Less taxation, it's too expensive to live in CoMo, but some of us have to work, and for our business. The homeless need to be dealt with noooooo panhandling allowed!!!
- Let the Police do their jobs!! It shouldn't matter what color you are if you're breaking the laws there should be consequences!!! Quit worrying about offending people if they're doing something wrong they need to be offended!!
- Lower taxes (sales and property taxes) even if that means fewer services. Address downtown safety, and number of homeless downtown and at intersections.
- make it safe
- Make panhandling illegal!!!! Columbia has gone down hill so badly.
- Make updates and re-open little mates cove at twin lakes park.
- Mayor is the source of a lot of these problems. She does not address the real issues and if she does, she brushes them off like crime is not an issue. There are WAY too many homeless people in this town, and it adds to the drug use and crime. Furthermore, many local businesses have burned down due to homeless fires. This is unacceptable.
- mayor not good
- More attention needs to be paid to the homeless issue. We need more housing and fewer fees and regulations that inhibit construction and affordability. We have outstanding services for the unhoused. Those who decline services should be held accountable for littering, vandalism, trespassing, blocking public sidewalks, creating a nuisance and other disorderly behavior through police enforcement of appropriate ordinances. That includes those who suffer from mental illness and addiction. We need to get these folks off the streets and into treatment, which might mean a jail hold pending a competency hearing and placement. Allowing them to camp on public and private property, creating disorderly and sometimes unsafe conditions, helps nobody. It lacks compassion for the individual who needs help, fairness for the stewards of our public and private spaces, and regard for the need to keep Columbia a safe and inviting place to live, work and visit. We have a local population that is very willing to help people in need. We're looking to the city to provide leadership and deal with homelessness in a caring way that also respects the rights of people who need a safe, clean and inviting city to thrive. We can have both.
- More cops on the streets. More prosecutors to prosecute criminals. Reduce rules and regulations for businesses and development and construction.
- More fire and police personnel on the street, and less handouts to those who will not work. The less fortunate may need help, but those who can- need a job.
- More focus on city services and addressing homelessness, less focus on race / sexual orientation / equity / etc.
- more indoor rec center; recycling
- More litter initiatives, cost of electricity - take money from city administration salaries.

- More police. No more homeless causing traffic risks begging on the median. Protect the innocent, prosecute the criminals.
- more sidewalks; something to slow down speeding on west Blvd. stadium side
- More youth programs, more indoor rec facilities (roller rink!), more snow plowing
- Move the homeless and sex offenders.
- mow the road areas marked pollinators-we look sloppy as a city take pride-not the easy way out
- My biggest grievance is that I can't walk anywhere without the homeless along Bear Creek Trail.
- My biggest issue is not being able to find information about public meetings. There was a sign nearby about a public meeting over a piece of property and I never found what it was about. That part of the website is hard to use.
- My main concerns for Columbia is the homelessness and crime. I also hate why pollinator no mow areas-they look terrible
- Need a new mayor. I used to be proud to live here. Need to focus on crime and homelessness.
- need more housing for seniors that is affordable
- Need more police and less taxes
- Need to address recycles of solid waste as soon as possible.
- Need to discourage the homeless population from all over the state from moving here for services. Columbia has set forth politics that attract unhoused-many who have severe mental health issues with serious criminal records moving to Columbia. the myth of the boogeyman in the park is no longer a scary story-its reality
- Need to get rid of panhandling , pay less attention on spending money on the homeless and hire police and fire. GI. The streets etc. etc.
- NO more increases in taxes or utility rates. Focus on the basic purpose of government not all the fluff you can't afford.
- Nobody cares about bike lanes. Focus on safety.
- Not at all satisfied with city government. Talk a lot, but not much gets done. And what is done does not address the problems. We don't need more trails, we need police to stop all the violence.
- Officials should remember they save all citizens not just the homeless. Better support for businesses.
- One spot on old63 that gets a lot of water pooling when it rains, by a bridge. More recycling please.
- Organize a way for the homeless to earn money. Put ;GPS trackers/stoppers on shopping carts. Makes it difficult to take cart off of the property
- Our city problems stem directly from our city leadership...or lack of leadership. Mayor hides when confronted and is unable to get the crime , drugs and vagrancy issues under control. It's rare that I shop downtown or go there for any reason due to the infestation of mentally unstable individuals who have taken over our city.
- Our road Bent path drive is often not plowed for snow or plowed late when it is not needed. We have a hill so I have to use my four wheel drive truck to manage the hill in the snow. The begging downtown, at street corners and at medians is distracting for drivers since the beggar is often holding signs and some drivers stop short and hold up traffic to hand out a dollar bill. I have personally witnessed a beggar stepping into oncoming traffic and almost get hit. I recently (within the month) saw a homeless person wrapped under a blanket lying on the sidewalk near the DVM and Jersey Mikes restaurant on Nifong Blvd. This is what I expect to see in NYC but never expect to see in Columbia.

- Overall, I love living in Columbia. I have had easy interactions with City staff and Council members. I do think that the discussion surrounding gun violence is overdue. As a municipality, we are limited in the power we have to keep guns out of our city, but we can certainly work toward being a city where less people feel the need to carry guns for perceived 'safety'. Following the lead of other cities that have initiated violence intervention programs is a good step, but it will not be the immediate change the public wants to see. I personally do not believe in saturation policing; more officers downtown leaves other areas of the city vulnerable and will likely increase the reaction times for emergencies outside of the downtown area. Increased programs for youth, at low or no cost, seems to be the best avenue to keep juveniles off the streets late at night. Increasing social services and resources to assist families/individuals in need would hopefully drive down the instances of petty theft. I look forward to seeing what the violence intervention office plans.
- Overt haul the police department, more police and traffic enforcement
- Parks and Recreation is the best thing about Columbia. Crime is the real problem, especially downtown. Please show the results of the survey.
- Perhaps some volunteer groups could be formed for issues like trimming trees that block signs or sidewalks or roads
- Please address crime, take care of streets and the endless parks.
- Please address the homeless/unhoused begging for money at every street corner. Please address the break-in of vehicles that are reported almost every single day. Please address expired temp tags on the hundreds of vehicles driving around every day.
- Please clean the snow on the small roads as well.
- Please communicate about the productivity by the mayor, council and city management. Great things are happening however by not communicating the city opens itself up to criticism. I wish I could help by telling you how. Perhaps it's the same as now, just more! Try to reach dissenting voices with truth. Do not be afraid to disagree where facts support good work that is being done. Several conversations about "not enough police" which I have heard-they had no idea about the training process and the officers coming on line through tat process. Please communicate. Thank you.
- Please communicate more and better about all processes. The people pushing the narrative that Columbia is a crime ridden liberal hellhole are wrong and trying to discredit what we are. They must be countered
- Please consider alternatives to raising property taxes when considering ways to increase tax revenue for additional city police, fire, &/or other services. All citizens are generating these needs not just property owners.
- Please focus on adding police force visibility downtown; and I would like to see more bike/walking trails on the east side of the city connecting to Hinkson Trail
- Please fully fund the Police and Firefighter pensions that the City has failed to do so for so many years. This way our first responders can take more pride in their jobs and quality of work provided, this way they won't have to work in their respected fields past their ment and physical expiration dates.
- Please fund the public media center, Midwest Studios. The city has done a great job of giving people a place to play basketball, pickleball, etc. Now, give youth a place to create their own music videos, podcasts, and TV shows. Give people the opportunity to learn to create media. Much like offering sports, it gives young people something to do (other than crimes of boredom) and it gives adults specialized training for their careers. Fund the public media center Midwest Studios.

- Please get our streets cleaned up the pan handling and trash is gross. The crime is a major issue as well we need more police.
- please get politics out of PD , enforce laws, including state and federal laws
- Please hurry up and rebuild the MRF
- Please improve the budget document and process so it is more understandable to more people. I support a sales tax for police and fire but I really think the City should make some budget cuts to departments that are not part of the core services area (sustainability, arts, community connectors/communications, etc.).
- please increase police dept to combat gun and juvenile violence
- Please know Marc heart for recycling. They are ugly and people leave them out. It looks like Seattle and that's not a compliment.
- Please make our city safe with an adequate number of highly trained police officers who engage with the community and are well paid and supported
- Please move the homeless out of our parks and trails. Move them out of our shopping districts. I limit my shopping downtown due to homeless and crime. Increase our police force.
- Please take care of the horrible homeless problem and gun violence. Support our police!! We don't need a tax increase, we need to adjust the budget and take away from superfluous arts programs and put it toward our city's safety! We don't need more gun control, we need for law enforcement. We don't need more drag shows for the children's library, we need more support of families. We need safer streets and that includes getting RID of the homeless, repairing the streets, and SUPPORTING police/law enforcement. Get rid of the mayor, she's the worst; how can you be for our city if you don't support police? How can you say you're for safety when you deny there's a problem?
- Police are dishonest, courts protect police and city from being held accountable.
- Police need to do their jobs better. You say you have a deficit in funds then enforce license plate laws. I've seen people with expired plates from 2000. I've called police to remove homeless people from my property and they weren't cooperative about doing it, stating it's raining so have a heart. Get rid of the squatters having more rights that property owners.
- Police services need to improve. Homeless people are an issue due to the large numbers, considering the size of city.
- Political correctness has gotten out of hand. Majority of the city problems are related to pleasing certain groups and not what is right for ALL citizens. Problem starts at the top-Mayor (too much pandering to special interests!)
- Provide mor early announcements about city public events.
- Public transit is the most important service to me. I don't have a car, so my ability to go anywhere outside my neighborhood is hugely dependent on the bus system. I would love to see more frequent buses along the existing routes, since planning my life around buses that run only every 90 minutes is difficult.
- Public transportation and safe pedestrian access are key problems. The biggest danger downtown at night - or on game days - is the mix of college students and alcohol.
- Quick respond to minor streets snow removal
- Quit coddling the homeless. No soliciting. Columbia has become a magnet for homeless. They are a threat many places, including the Columbia Senior Activity Center.
- Re-allocate money spent on failed programs, to offset raising taxes.
- Recent experience with the Planning & Zoning Commission was about as pathetic as possible. The committee members were condescending to the public attendees. They appeared to have their minds made up before the meeting, and had no respect for the concerns brought by the public.

One staffer made the comment that Columbia never plans for infrastructure before allowing development to occur. Stupidest comment and strategy possible.

- Recycling, Crime reduction and investing in downtown should be priorities. Official letters from City staff should include their email address and a department phone number. The mayor should open her comments on official city social media. There are not enough avenues to offer public feedback and even though she has a lot of detractors, many people want to offer their opinions and ideas and are not going to take the time to go to BeHeard. Its a really bad look and makes many of us who have long been in her camp, wish for better. And while we do need more police we don't need them handing out traffic and jaywalking tickets with repeat offenses. Times are very hard and people need a break. Care more about downtown. When I moved here in 96 downtown was coming alive and enjoying a growth spurt. Now there is a vape shop and a shooting on every corner. Where is the investment so that unique independent businesses WANT to locate downtown? Most folks just can't find enough reason to go downtown anymore but can find a lot of reasons not to with yet ANOTHER increase in parking meter prices AND a few chronically misbehaving homeless folks. Its just not as clean or pretty or safe or interesting as it was 10 years ago. And another thing while I am at it, why don't we get to bank our solar credits?!?!?!?
- Reduce our taxes
- Reduce spending on parks and rec and transfer to police dept
- Road conditions are horrible. Hire more police
- sales tax is as high as downtown Chicago and the city budget and the city has a surplus. unacceptable. clean the homeless and drugs out of downtown, asap
- Sending gratitude to all who make CoMo so wonderful!
- Services are great for the most part. Big suggestion is to make downtown or a portion of downtown pedestrian only like Boulder, Colorado. Would add space for outdoor seating, events, community, gatherings, etc..
- Snow/ice removal needs more attention, better public golf facilities, homelessness downtown and violent crime need more attention too
- Something need to be done about the panhandling going on all over the city. It has become dangerous with these people at walking in and out of traffic at all the major intersections in town. While walking downtown during the day, I have had them follow me asking for money to the point that I will no longer walk anywhere downtown alone.
- Spend more to increase police officers presence; and get beggars and solicitors off the intersections. They are degrading this wonderful community.
- Stick to basics, do them well. Police, fire and functional, safe streets.
- Stop adding fluoride to water. Help low income seniors with tree trimming
- Stop charging property owners for the homelessness our government created and stop giving them get-out-of-jail-free tokens when they trespass.
- Stop charging seniors property and real estate taxes!!!! Make panhandling illegal. Stop homeless from approaching people at store fronts, parking lots and stop lights. Shut down the illegal homeless camps on private and public property. Stop protecting homeless over tax payers! Fire the mayor, city manager and that crime prevention? Dude that does nothing but collect paychecks. We are planning to move away from Boone County asap.
- Stop rewarding the homeless.
- Stop sending EMS to calls about unknown subjects before someone gets hurt. Have the police police.

- Stop taking things from public safety to fund other programs like the homeless, parks, etc. Number one focus in the city should be safety with police and fire, and realize all other programs will not work if no one feels safe in this town.
- Stop the panhandling
- Stop wasting money on homeless people and social welfare. Spend more on police and roads! Pass a no loitering ord., curfew, and no standing in medians begging for money. This town has become terrible.
- Stop with the committees and other groups of people to talk about the problems. DO SOMETHING!!! If the mayor can't take the comments of Facebook from her biggest detractors then she should have never run in the first place.
- Street storm sewers should not empty into open channels on private property. It is filled with oils and lubricants and other pollution and it floods and damages property during storm events. All open storm channels within 30 feet of homes should not be allowed and should be removed or enclosed.
- Stressing environmental and climate issues on household and city levels is my top need and priority
- Support parks and trails as they are gems of our city. Add more park police. I appreciate the high level of maintenance for parks and trails.
- Support the fire department better
- Taking care of homeless situation. Offer more services.
- Thank you for this survey. Please address the growing homelessness problem. It is worse here than other places and it does not feel like it is being addressed.
- Thanks for all you do
- Thanks for doing this. Peace and every good for our journey.
- Thanks for the survey. It is a good sign.
- The Airbnb's are ridiculous. Not enough housing and they sit empty. They are party houses - who knows who these people are? The neighborhoods have been destroyed by multiple Airbnb's in walking distance of each other.
- the airport is a city's bread and butter. the more emphasis put on destinations, the more robust a city becomes
- the amount of trash and debris alongside of our roadways is embarrassing. an effort to clean up Columbia must be made
- The ARC needs more exercise class space. Classes are too crowded each morning.
- The biggest issue is the homeless people, squatting everywhere and asking for handouts.
- The City acts like it is their responsibility to solve everyone's problems, but creates issues for others in the process. Stop providing for & allowing those standing on the islands to trash our city. Stop thinking that there needs to be housing for everyone in the sense that it degrades everyone else in the area that has worked for what they have. If they have no real investment in where they live they don't take care of property.
- The city administrative staff is very over bloated. The city needs to trim its administration and shift those salaries to hiring police, fire, sanitation and other actually needed employees.
- The city has spent entirely too much money on bike paths, parks, and being green and need to do better in maintaining streets and making a safer city.
- the city is adrift. poor leadership from the city council, city dept heads. no one sees the city only for their pet projects and special interests. city leaders are totally untrustworthy-collecting fees for unbuilt water tower, fees for an unbuilt electric line; collecting fees for truncated recycling

services; bond rating is declining; no more new taxes until water tower and electric line are resolved

- The city is too focused on trying to be 100% renewable which increases the budget but does not change where power comes from in real terms. The city is talking about violence prevention instead of dealing with trespassing, having enough police to make arrests. We tolerate too much and wonder why there is so much district and frustration. The city won't deal with homeless issues but is quick to fine businesses who have debris, damage from these individuals. Another tax is frustrating to consider when the city has not cut non essential services.
- the city manager needs to do better
- The city needs to focus on providing general city services in an efficient and cost saving manner. Stop wasting money on woke nonsense and mayoral boondoggles to needless conferences. I'm sick of being accosted by panhandlers and having to watch them defecate in public. The city has no business promoting social agendas like trans, etc. Police, fire, streets, utilities, etc. That's what you need to focus on! And stop wasting money.
- The City needs to involve and engage with ALL Business owners, not just Brown. Business owners should have a voice in Columbia and ALL owners should be involved and have a voice. City Council meetings are a joke and only attract the same some group. You are not getting a true voice from businesses or public from those meetings. Because no one believes in or trusts the City Council including all public officials. The City Employees themselves work hard. No one trusts the City Council or Leadership in Columbia.
- The city needs to operate within a budget before increases staffing and programs and then raise taxes. Columbia has grown a lot. You have an increase in those taxes but yet you continue to increase taxes. People are fed up! Non of us are getting our income increased at the degree of your increases. It must stop. You are losing people to neighboring counties that are more economical. Wake up.
- The city needs to prioritize crime prevention and street maintenance. We need broken windows policing. This should not require additional taxes. Rather, other programs should be eliminated to facilitate adequate funding for those two areas. There is no better way to attract businesses and people to live here than by making people feel safe and the roads visibly well maintained.
- The city police cannot be trusted due to their racist/homeless obsession. They make fun of poor people on social media, one of the top people does that.
- The city should NOT bill landowners for cleanup of homeless camps on their properties. Homeless camps on public property should be immediately removed.
- The City website for dispatch (Fire & Police) appears to be not working. No map shows.
- The city's waste and recycling app is seriously outdated, needs an immediate fix. We need better traffic enforcement, not writing tickets for minor violations to enhance revenue but on serious moving violations, especially driving while intoxicated.
- the crew that patches the streets needs training
- the dog park on Garth needs serious attention. It has been poorly maintained for at least 2 years
- The gang and drug problem in Boone County needs to be addressed. You need to support Roger Johnson. City employees are not perfect - demand excellence and accountability.
- The homeless population is out of control
- The homeless population is out of control. Really distracts from any positives.
- The homeless problem is the number one priority. Decreasing the "draw" to attract criminals is number two. Thirdly, the punishments need to be harsh and enforced for all crime. Lastly, revenue should be increased by enforcement of traffic rules including impounding of non registered vehicles. After 100 are impounded compliance will vastly increase!

- The homelessness is out of control and the mayor doesn't even have comments turned on her page so you can't even communicate.
- the majority of individuals who I have met, who are police officers, are rude, condescending bullies. they are in dire need of structured and regular training, education in interpersonal relationships, communication and demeanor
- The mayor is out of touch with real issues. We no longer support downtown businesses after dark due to many times feeling unsafe. The loitering and panhandling is embarrassing for visitors and completely out of control. I have been aggressively approached by homeless in daytime. The mayors passive aggressive social media posts, and immature language on her shirt are not professional. I would be reprimanded at my job if I behaved like here.
- The mayor is pushing liberal policies and ideas and not dealing with the issues
- The mayor should allow commenting on her social media pages! If she was really interested in public opinion let the public comment
- The number of police officers and city communication are the biggest problems.
- The overzealous and hostile treatment by police, especially on reading day last springs is totally unacceptable. fix this.
- The parks and trails are my favorite thing about Columbia. There are high-quality, well-maintained trails all around town that are great for walking with my dog and partner and friends. The ARC is a great place to work out and pretty fairly priced even with the recent rate increase. I love the small neighborhood parks and the big ones like Stephen's Lake and Cosmo alike. It's great to have such a wide variety of options within just a mile or two of my house. Public transportation and street maintenance, on the other hand, are dismal. Even on major roads, the painted lines on the street are barely visible at night or when it rains, and I have pretty solid vision. Then there are the potholes, the cracks, the lack of buses, the terrible condition of some sidewalks. For a city with as many other amenities and as relatively well-off a tax base as Columbia, the state of our roads are an embarrassment, and of course they're a hazard too. There are a lot of people (most of them acting in bad faith) raising a stink about how unsafe they feel when they have to look at a homeless person or smell weed in the air, but I feel by far most unsafe when I have to drive in town. The state of the roads is terrible, and I never know when I'm going to come across some new problem. I also don't see traffic laws being enforced equally. I'm not generally a fan of the police and don't have much faith in them to enforce the law fairly, but I would like to see some kind of consequences for the worst offenders out on the road. I regularly see people speeding a ridiculous amount, weaving like they're drunk, cutting across multiple lanes without signals, and/or staring at their phones while driving. I'd like to see some of these problems mitigated, especially on Stadium and Providence and the Conley shopping complex, even when white people in nice cars are the offenders, rather than see more cops patrolling downtown or in poorer residential neighborhoods. I do not believe property owners should have responsibility for and control over the maintenance of sidewalks. In practice, this simply means that sidewalks are not maintained. Many people do not even know they're responsible for the condition of the sidewalks in front of their homes/businesses. Lower- or middle-income homeowners like me don't have access to the resources to do an adequate job of this anyway, especially with the national economy in its current state, and landlords (and some other business owners) simply don't care. The city doesn't enforce any codes related to the maintenance of sidewalks anyway. I walk a lot around town in a wide variety of neighborhoods, and even the higher-income areas have pretty terrible sidewalks. Even if it took an additional tax, I think the city should take on the responsibility of repairing/maintaining sidewalks for the sake of pedestrians and especially disabled residents. The answer to residents' public safety concerns is not more policing. While there is a problem with

gun violence, we're doing well compared to many other parts of the state. Obviously the city can't do too much about people's access to guns, but it can provide better mental health/substance abuse resources and raise the overall standard of living. These interventions may stop violence before it happens; police can only respond afterwards (and I don't have much faith in their ability to do even that competently and fairly). Happy, healthy, fulfilled people don't shoot other people. If the city wants an easy, enforcement-related band-aid solution, cracking down on bars who overserve customers would probably go a lot farther toward stopping violence than an increased police presence, at least downtown. I feel perfectly safe in my lower-middle income and mixed-race neighborhood, even though a lot of bad-faith actors (like "The Real Columbia MO" Facebook page) would try to paint it as "scary." I feel perfectly safe walking around downtown. I feel safe in pretty much every other neighborhood I've passed through too. If anything decreases my feeling of safety and security in these areas, it's the police. I believe they probably won't harass me because I'm a fairly clean-cut white guy, but I don't like the way I see them treat unhoused people and black folks, and I generally don't feel safe around anyone I don't know openly carrying a gun. They're obviously better than a lot of police departments, but I think we should strive to be better rather than patting ourselves on the back and getting complacent. Finally, on the bike lanes: paint isn't infrastructure, especially when the roads and the drivers are bad. If bike lanes aren't protected, they're not doing much to help people get around town. I hate to see people riding on the sidewalk and having to move out of their way when I'm out walking my dog, but I can hardly blame them when the alternative is rolling the dice with their lives going down Garth or Ash with speeding cars a foot or two away. If the streets here aren't wide enough for protected bike lanes, I think working to build alternate routes for cyclists and connecting the existing trails would go farther toward making the city bikeable than throwing down some white paint and calling it a day. I know that takes a lot more time and money and might make some people happy, but I also think the city would get a great return on investment. Providing truly good and safe cycling routes throughout the city will make different parts of town more accessible to lower-income residents and more attractive to recreational cyclists and people concerned about their environmental impact.

- The past 5 years it seems like the city has created new and useless jobs inside the city.
- The questions about the police and fire department should've been separate.
- The sidewalks along West Broadway are awful. They are very narrow and have gaps and pieces of them are missing or warped and are hazardous. Perhaps other sidewalks on that side of town, but that is where I have been driving lately and seeing the mess. Also I don't think it is necessary to destroy the trees on Ash to build giant sidewalks there.
- The state of our education system is declining every year. As a retired teacher, this concerns me deeply.
- There are a lot of street signs that are so worn they are illegible, need to replace. need to reduce panhandling, it makes us feel less safe.
- There are actually too many police in my neighborhood, and it feels like they profile who live in low-income housing.
- There are no street lights in our neighborhood. We are paying a huge amount as HOA fees , it is unaffordable for us,.
- There needs to be a sidewalk or some form of public transportation from where Hwy WW and Rolling Hills meets to Conley rd. <https://www.modot.org/node/70678>. This link mentions ADA plans that just never seemed to have happened.
- There should be rules about panhandling; homelessness needs to be strict. Often their unsafe, dirty axes happening downtown on roads.

- Things are seriously going the wrong way here. Was going to retire here. Now not going to do so. Very poor city leaders on the council, including the mayor. Quit looking at big cities and look at comparable cities in MO. It already may be too late to return Columbia to the collaborative community it once was between both major political parties. Sad.
- This city has become a Mecca for the homeless and with all of the current/future attractors for them, it will only continue to get worse.
- This is a great place to live and while there is always room for improvement, this city has always been a welcoming and safe and diverse place to call home and I feel lucky to do so especially these days
- this state needs to do something to help the mentally ill/homeless; some cannot take care of themselves and need to be institutionalized
- too many bright streetlights-light pollution; under enforcement of noise ordinances-noise pollution
- Too many empty retail buildings. Do not allow new retail unless they repurpose existing structures. Trash/litter is also an issue.
- too many people walking and riding bikes on public streets and not paying attention to vehicles on streets
- Too many rentals, not enough affordable housing for young working families. Would love to see uniformed police presence on walking trails and paths in the EARLY morning (5a-7am). Quit walking before work due to number of encounters with agitated persons that I guess are homeless. No issues with encountered with homeless persons sleeping on benches and minding their own business. I would like to see more social events and assistance for seniors to keep them involved and in their own residence as long as possible.
- Too much money is spent on parks. We have too many and they aren't well maintained or patrolled. We need more police and more tools to deal with crime. The homeless are out of control and some harass people. The streets need more attention like Creasy Springs Rd.
- Too much money spent on "wants" and not enough spent on essentials-police and streets
- traffic has become a large issue. streets are pretty much the same for last 20 years. town has doubled. crime and poor school behavior are big deterrents for my children and us to remain here long term
- Trees and landscaping add quality to all communities, planting more trees everywhere.
- turf fields for outdoor sports would be appreciated
- Unhoused issues. stop destroying the camps and establish zones near I70
- Upgrade city electrical system, upgrade city water system: potable.
- Utility costs are too high.
- Vagrants and homelessness are my biggest concerns. Also, my home is on the bottom of a steep hill which is not a through street (Bentpath Drive). When it snows or we have ice conditions, my street is the last on the city's priority list to be plowed. Therefore, I cannot drive up the hill to get out of my neighborhood due to snow and ice covered roads until it melts.
- Very concerned with microplastics and forever chemicals in our city water
- Very hard to shop with a walker
- Ward 2-enforce illegal parking in residential areas; enforce cleanup of rundown housing
- Water, the system is ridiculous. I should not have to pay higher per unit rate because I use more.
- We do not go out into town because feel unsafe. Rules of driving are not followed, people on tiny medians is terrifying.
- We do not need more police or more policing of homeless population.

- We don't need more police. We need more social services and better city planning. We need parks, sidewalks and robust public transportation as well as more support for our public libraries
- We have a great police department. It needs more funding, and it needs to rapidly expand. We should support that goal as residents. I hope the city pushes to drastically increase the number of officers at CPD.
- We have beautiful parks and trails in this city. The homelessness population is destroying them all. Trails are unsafe to walk now, so sad.
- we have good services/ don't neglect what we have in order to add or change
- We love Columbia. When out of state visitors come to Columbia they are impressed
- We must get homeless off our streets. They are destroying this community. We must make downtown safe.
- We need a better recycling solution.
- We need a city-wide audit before you consider any additional city taxes
- We need a different mayor, city manager!
- We need a new mayor and city administrator
- We need a new mayor she has no concern for the people in Columbia. Homeless need to be addressed. Get them off the streets and people's private property. Downtown is invested with homeless people strung out on drugs and alcohol and harass people downtown who are trying to enjoy dinner etc. we have a major problem Pan handling needs to be made illegal in Columbia.
- We need better public transportation and protected bike lanes, intersections, and a complete bike/pedestrian network that helps people get around without a car safely!
- We need more police
- We need more trails connecting neighborhoods. Please extend the Grindstone Creek trail to the Vineyards, Brooks, Old Hawthorne and Chaparral. There are close to 1,000 homes that do not have access to the City trail system and people have to walk along busy Hwy WW. Thank you!
- We need open, honest and timely information and protection from those with money and power.
- We need to get recycling back on track and when that's done, it needs to be single stream in a wheelie bin. These blue bags are ridiculous
- we need to quit treating criminals like victims. There needs to be consequences for committing crimes and bad behavior
- We want a safe downtown!!!
- Website is atrocious. Finding information is tedious and difficult. Redo it.
- When we are developing land like I know we are doing by old nifong and grindstone, make sure to plan for green space, walking paths, and public transportation from here on out. As Columbia grows, we have to avoid building haphazardly. We need to really plan it out. Also we really need some sort of public transportation to the airport and maybe even jeff city
- Where did pilot money go? We need to understand if something criminal went on. Why does the city have huge accounts of our hard earned tax dollars in accounts in foreign countries? Why am I paying for services I am not receiving like no snow removal in neighborhoods, no weekly curbside recycling, water tower for the SW subdivisions that the city approved their development but are unable to adequately provide city services such as adequate water pressure? What happened to the money collected for the water tower and the transmission lines? Why won't the mayor communicate openly and freely with the citizens? They limit our ability to talk at city council meetings, turn off comments etc.
- Would be nice for things to be developed on the North side. And I mean North side not North East. north Columbia is North on Rangeline or Providence. Northeast is the connector area. There

are plenty of housing development on the Southside. Please encourage developers to build stuff on north side that is affordable.

- you have a lot of work to do-please take these surveys seriously
- You need to do something with the homeless riding the city buses, rude and like to fight.
- You need to have authentic transparency with the public. You need to finish projects you start. We deserve a dependable electrical grid and a reliable and safe water supply. Investing more money in the health department and the office of violence prevention. Those departments are underfunded.
- You need to support the police more, give them resources and backing to do their job better
- Your ridiculous farce about trying to stop Ashford Place from being built has been both frustrating and eye opening. The city planners are rude and refuse to consider the fact that every single person currently living in the Brooks wants the stupid building project stopped.