

Preliminary Results to the 2009 Community Survey

Number and Percent of Respondents Indicating Item is a High Priority – Meaning Spend Money on This

N = 408

Survey Item	Total No.	% of all Respondents	% of LMI ¹ Respondents
9. Accessibility improvements (such as ramps, accessible showers, lowered cabinets.	99	25	27
10. Construct affordable single-family homes.	106	26	28
11. Construct affordable rental units	81	20	25
12. Construct housing for persons with disabilities.	108	26	33
13. Construct housing for persons who are homeless.	101	25	29
14. Construct housing for Seniors.	119	29	31
15. Energy efficiency improvements (such as installation of storm windows and doors)	192	47	49
16. Fair housing services to investigate complaints of discrimination.	65	16	16
17. First-time homebuyer courses.	71	17	16
18. Foreclosure assistance – such as counseling.	88	22	22
19. Home maintenance courses – such as workshops on dealing with mold or ice dams	62	15	16
20. Home rehabilitation for homeowners to assist with repairs to roofs, windows, etc...	87	21	21
21. Homeownership assistance (such as help with down payment and closing costs)	42	10	13
22. Lead-based paint hazard testing and abatement.	70	17	15
23. Modifications to help Seniors and persons with disabilities continue to live in their own homes, such as grab bars and raised toilet seats.	202	50	51
24. Rental assistance – help with security deposits and utility connections costs for renters	51	13	22
25. Rental rehabilitation to assist landlords with making repairs to rental property.	35	9	14
26. Rental subsidies to lower the amount of rent paid to 30% of the household income.	61	15	30
27. Tenant/Landlord counseling.	29	7	9
28. Tool lending library – to loan tools to homeowners to make repairs.	59	14	11
30. Clean-up of abandoned lots and buildings	141	35	31
31. Debris and trash removal.	174	43	39
32. Demolition of blighted buildings.	114	28	26
33. Graffiti removal.	95	23	17
34. Accessibility improvements to public buildings, such as installation of ramps and automatic door openers.	118	29	33

¹ LMI = low and moderate income. N=129.

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Survey Item	Total No.	% of all Respondents	% of LMI ¹ Respondents
35. Child care centers.	85	21	18
36. Clean-up of contaminated sites.	160	39	37
37. Community centers.	78	19	19
38. Fire stations and equipment.	190	47	47
39. Flood drain improvements.	111	27	31
40. Parks and recreational facilities.	76	19	13
41. Senior Centers.	93	23	20
42. Sidewalk improvements.	69	17	19
43. Street and road improvements.	189	46	46
44. Street lighting.	95	23	22
45. Transportation (such a public transportation within your community).	91	22	29
46. Transportation (between your community and other communities in Dane County.)	99	24	26
47. Youth Centers.	90	22	22
48. Loans for businesses in downtown areas to improve the exterior of their buildings.	45	11	11
49. Loans for micro-businesses to start-up and grow.	109	27	22
50. Loans for businesses to create or retain jobs.	195	48	47
51. Technical assistance for persons wanting to start a business.	97	24	26

Responses to section asking for other comments (reference to specific individuals or addresses were omitted.):

- a. Tax reform!
- b. Help for the people who fall thru the cracks - single adults - what happens in the loss of a job - medical coverage. Also for many....seniors.
- c. Fix the streets. We need better roads in Dane County.
- d. Whether the money is spent or not spent, available or not available due to budget deficits, it's not going to change the problem. We need parents to raise the children to which they give birth, instill values, responsibility, and accountability. If you can't pay for it, don't buy it. If you have to prioritize + make choices, exercise the discipline to do so. We save to buy our house. We saved to send our daughter to college. We

get zero for our efforts; no respect from our elected leaders but the promise to pay more in taxes. Where is the incentive and reward for working hard and being fiscally responsible?

- e. Stop wasting taxpayers' money with these ridiculous surveys. Apparently there are too many employees that don't have a better way to utilize their time.
- f. I remodel when I can pay cash and pay 0% interest² and have lowered my kitchen cabinets and added a row in the dining area, lowered the bathroom sink, put in child's toilet and walk in shower which has made a big difference in my life.
- g. Many of these things are wonderful, but to be honest, I don't want my little town to grow anymore. I like it small and it is only 5 miles to a town with all kinds of services - and MAJOR growth.
- h. The lack of public transportation in my neighborhood is a reason I would move - more so than school concerns. I would prefer to live closer to campus, however as a state employee, I cannot afford to do so.
- i. I believe it's important to use existing buildings, housing, infrastructure first before building more. Demolishing unusable buildings and building new housing on that site would be 2nd choice, provided any and all materials are recycled. Recycling materials good for economic development as well as environment.
- j. No RTA!
- k. I would prefer a specific zip code for the City of Fitchburg. Less high density housing and all the policy problems that comes with that.
- l. Thanks!
- m. Thanks for asking!
- n. It's time everyone spends wisely. Time to work together. Government needs to grow up and learn from working class.
- o. Flashing red lights at dangerous rural intersections.
- p. The single biggest lack in Dane Co. is enough really nice affordable rental units. The next thing is transportation, including between the cities (Sun Prairie-Madison, Oregon-Madison, Stoughton-Madison, etc.) I don't think lots of people want this. I think people want to keep people of color (Black, Latinos, Hmong, etc.) out of some towns around Madison and only in Madison "trouble" neighborhoods.
- q. We need to improve the economy, create jobs, get people working and spending money.

- r. Putting folks to work so they can provide for themselves - not giving handouts or money to people. Our nation was built on hard work and perseverance. "Socialism" is not for me or my family. Reward those who deserve it!
- s. We need funds for older people to get help to keep up their homes or just people to come and do it for them. We also need help for people with small businesses.
- t. Taxes too high for value of home.
- u. Work in partnership with local governments and non-profit organizations.
- v. I know my answers may not be consistent, but I voted based on feelings of fairness not a thought[t] out policy.
- w. I believe each person should work hard and provide their own needs and not expect others to pay their way. I do understand seniors and persons with disabilities do need more help. We may need extra money for fire stations, parks, sidewalks, street and road improvement so taxes don't become unreasonable.
- x. Sun Prairie does not need any additional rental units or public transportation from Madison.
- y. Flood plain.
- z. It would have helped to have a few paragraphs at the start of this survey outlining what CDBG and HOME programs currently do; i.e. funds. If one is not familiar with these programs, it's hard to decide how money for them should be allocated.
- aa. Thanks for caring!
- bb. Thanks for sharing this survey; it is a first time that anyone asked us (average, middle class seniors). Obviously, our bias was for service enhancement to seniors and persons with disabilities as we would need more help if we couldn't pay for services or if family didn't help out!
- cc. Americans need to accept responsibility for their actions. STOP spending money on areas that are way out of their budget so we can once again bring this country back on track!!
- dd. Infrastructure benefits everyone!
- ee. Desperately need jobs!
- ff. I think more consideration to regional transit system should be given.

gg. Dane County is a wonderful place to live. Thank you.

hh. Develop healthy neighborhoods.

ii. I think some of the funding should be used for land trusts in order to conserve undeveloped, wilderness areas. Also, my neighborhood does not have street lights nor sidewalks, hence the no need marks in those categories.

jj. Force neighbors to clean up their property. We live at _____ and the property next door has been under construction for 5 years. It looks terrible.

kk. #1 Priority: Early Childhood Intervention/Literacy.

ll. I would hope that a lot of this money would be set aside for senior housing, with our aging population and for helping our seniors stay in their homes. We should also help out those most in need, such as the homeless.

mm. Holding departments accountable for the efficiency of their area(s) is paramount. Zero based budgeting, real cost benefit analysis and having measurable goals. Too many inefficient programs!

nn. We do not need mass transportation here. This would be expensive and a money-loser frivolity.

oo. We need to worry about jobs and quality education.

pp. We should have public transportation (trains) similar to the systems in Europe. We are 100 years behind Europe in this area. It is pathetic.

qq. When or if you consider this survey, please consider that we are not against helping people, but after reading the survey and then completing it, the realization came to me that the survey is backwards. Too much emphasis on social issues, not enough on economic issues. Things that this survey asks about will have to be paid for!

rr. This survey was sent out to keep someone busy in county government. A good way to justify and keep spending money foolishly.

ss. Get on the stick and get light rail and trolley up and running.

tt. Your questions are slanted for manipulation of data. Your no fault, no responsibility data serves our do nothing tax happy government with slanted socialistic demands. Don't spend money you don't have!! Our economy is down 35%. Our government should be reduced by a like amount.

- uu. Earthships collect and reuse water 4x, they collect/store energy, grow/produce food indoors, are built using thermal mass and southern exposure and maintain a comfortable indoor temperature year 'round, and are able to do so in any climate. Please research earthshipbiotecture.com. Thank you.
- vv. Basic needs - food, housing, utility assistance for people.
- ww. Neighborhood services portion was unclear. \$1.5 million sure won't get much done - especially the potential spending laid out in the questions.
- xx. We need to build a 4 lane bypass North to Southwest of Middleton and a 4 lane freeway from I-90 to Dodgeville to remove this traffic from Madison roads all together!
- yy. I appreciate these kinds of surveys. I just hope the information isn't ignored or used to benefit special interest groups such as tree huggers, gay rights, abortion rights, trolley cars
- zz. Living close to Allied, we like improvements seen so far. But still need to eradicate the drug activity and crime and protect the actual families who live in and around our neighborhood.
- aaa. We are fortunate in that we live in an area that seems well-maintained - though not necessarily future thinking. We do not see the true needs for people who are disabled, senior or minorities or have a lower income and we feel too uneducated in these areas to comment on policy. We know the needs exist; we just can't prioritize based on our exposure (or lack thereof).
- bbb. More help for people to live away from home that have slight disabilities but can't get a job or have a social life.
- ccc. Have trains or buses come out to rural areas - take to city (example Madison) then have employer have transportation from bus terminal or train station to work. This would cut down on relying on gas, cut down on pollution, etc.
- ddd. I live outside Stoughton and would like to see improvements in lighting.
- eee. Cut programs until budget is balanced.
- fff. No trains/trolleys. Build North Mendota Parkway. Move spring elections to fall odd years. Elect _____.
- ggg. If there is any way you could provide funding for our area school district, it would be appreciated by so many of the residents in this section of Dane Co.
- hhh. Spend the money on what will benefit the majority such as roads and community clean ups; not loans geared only to minority groups.

- iii. Please, please get the house - rental unit - on _____ in Albion condemned - it is a disgrace that people can't even have decent, clean water or a mold-free house or apartment! It is the white house between 73 and Albion.
- jjj. Do not spend our money on transit...people, unfortunately will not use it. You can't force a horse to drink water.
- kkk. Need to create vibrant downtowns that are walkable and pedestrian friendly. Curb sprawl and encourage an energy-efficient community.
- lll. I think it's disgusting how much low income housing there is in this community. We need to focus more spending on education and infrastructure to create jobs.
- mmm. Let's start up more volunteer programs for seniors, teens and at risk youth to do some good to improve our cities, communities, some Americorp type things for them to feel good about themselves while helping get some stuff done.
- nnn. I am new to the area but so far I'm very happy with Dane County.
- ooo. I think that people with disabilities should live in low income house instead of trying to live in any apartments. So people with a disability can't work.
- ppp. Please realize the economic situation at hand and get back to providing the basic services of county govt.
- qqq. I wish they would finish the bike trail from Hwy Y to Springfield Hill along Hwy 12.
- rrr. Would like to see an online option for surveys like this.
- sss. Sun Prairie needs more businesses and less low income/subsidized housing.
- ttt. Economic development and lifting people from homelessness to home ownership is huge.
- uuu. Teach people to be self-sufficient and not dependent on government.
- vvv. Tax Cut!!!