

Norwich Town Survey 2018

Question #1

Summary of Responses

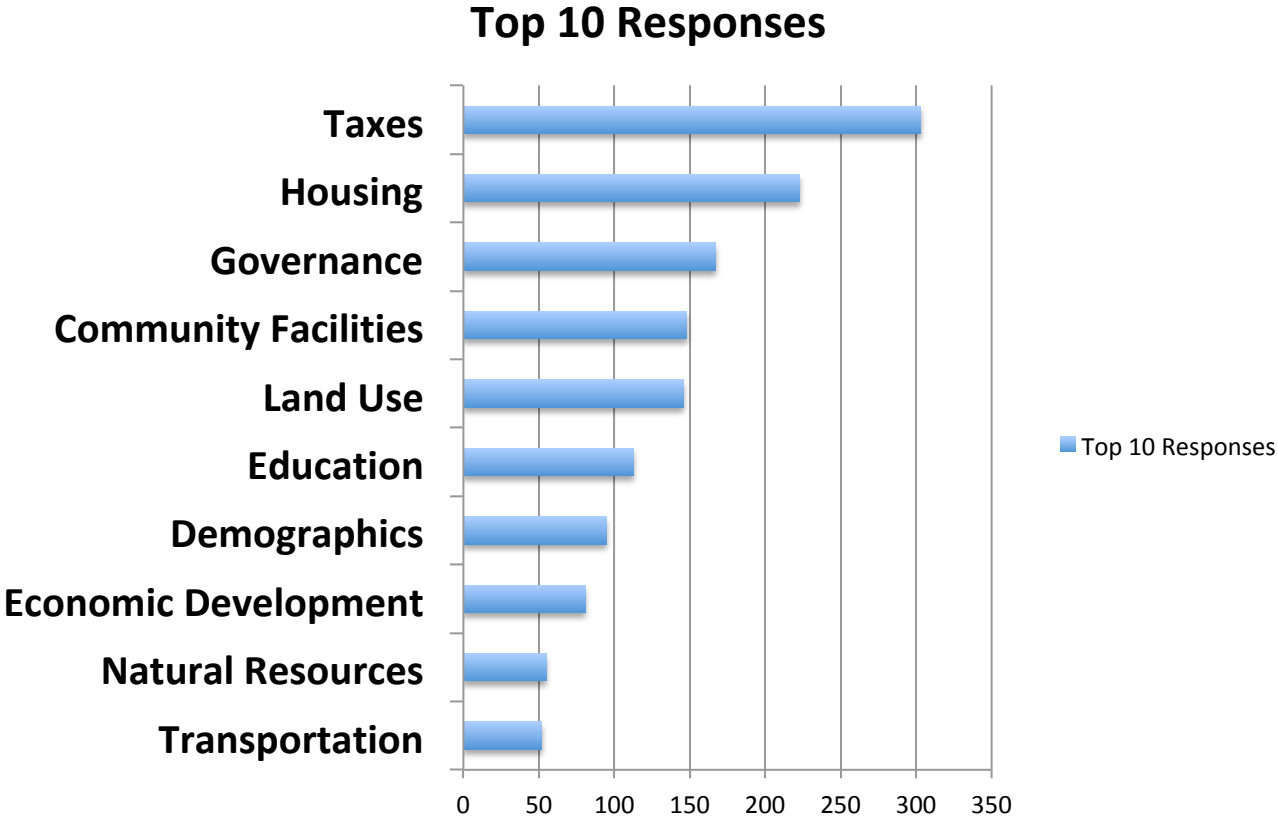
Methodology

- The following question was included as the first item on the Selectboard survey, which was fielded from mid-July thru Oct 2018.

“The Planning Commission of Norwich is embarking on a new planning cycle, and would like your feedback on priorities for our town. Please write your answers to the following question in the space provided: What do you think are the 3-5 most pressing issues facing the Town of Norwich?”
- There were 464 respondents to the question.
- A sub-committee of Planning Commission members worked with the Town Planner to complete an analysis. Most responses were coded by relevant chapter headings of the Town Plan. Additional categories were created, as needed. Word clouds were developed to provide additional detail and color on the top issues.
- The purpose of this exercise was to gather input on town priorities and help inform Planning Commission work on the Town Plan.

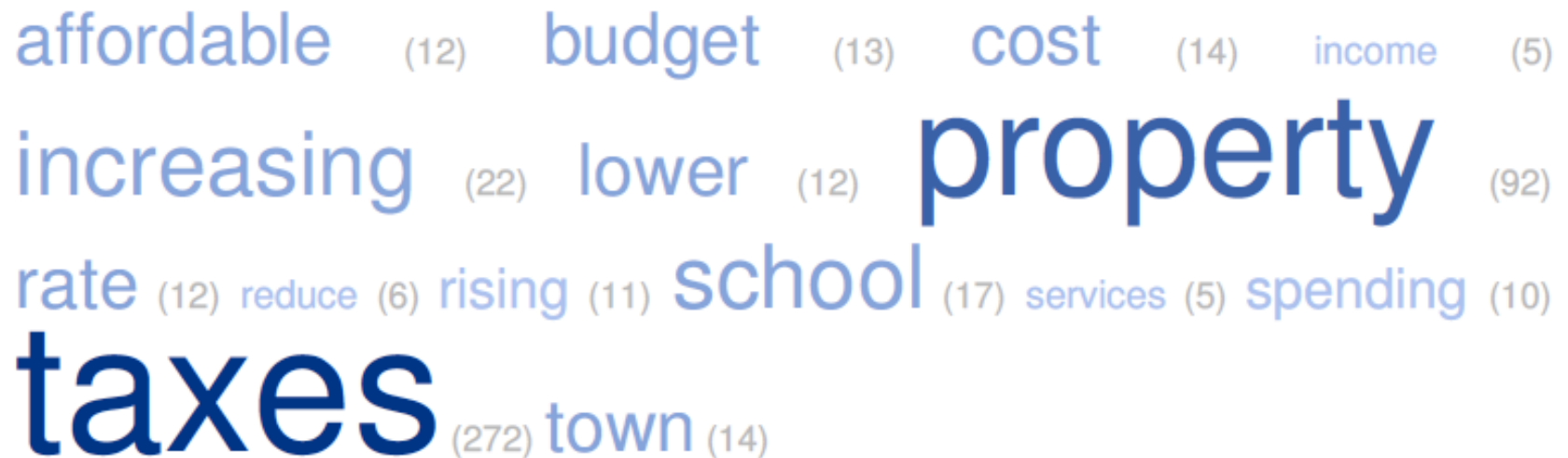
Summary of Question #1 Responses

What do you think are the 3-5 most pressing issues facing the Town of Norwich?”



Tax Issues

Respondents emphasized the burden of high property taxes, concerns about increases, and diminishing affordability.

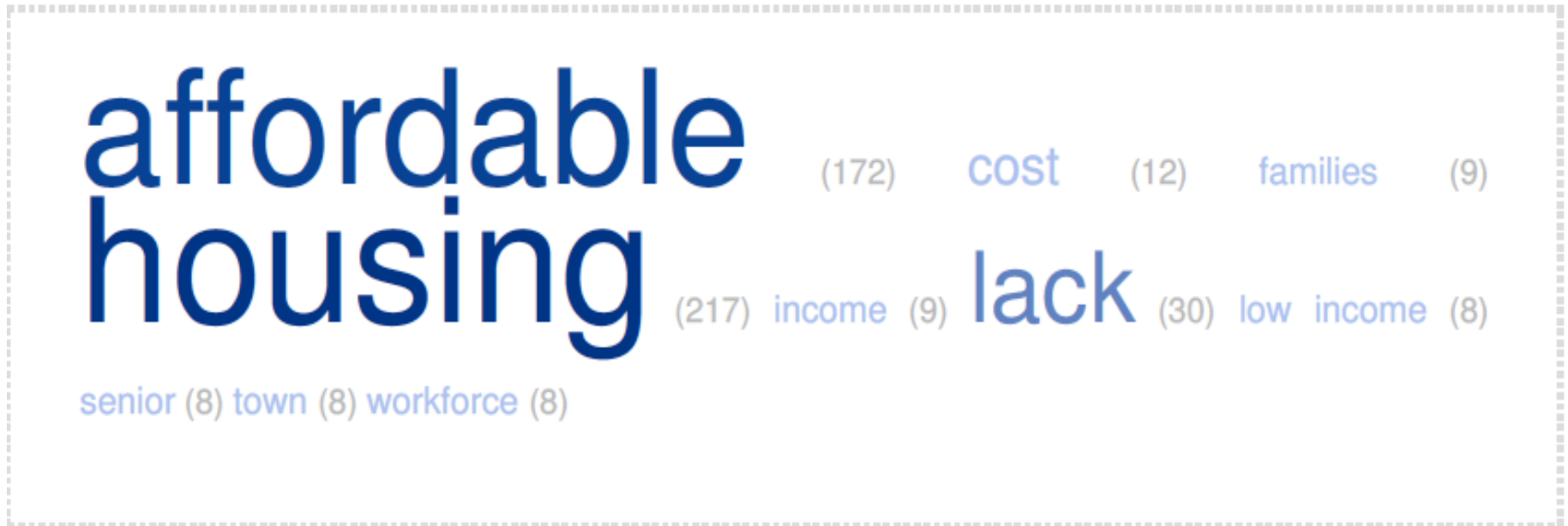


A word cloud of terms related to tax issues, enclosed in a dashed border. The words are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with their size and weight corresponding to their frequency. The most prominent word is 'taxes' at the bottom left. Other large words include 'property' and 'school'. Smaller words include 'affordable', 'budget', 'cost', 'income', 'increasing', 'lower', 'rate', 'reduce', 'rising', 'services', 'spending', and 'town'.

Word	Count
affordable	(12)
budget	(13)
cost	(14)
income	(5)
increasing	(22)
lower	(12)
property	(92)
rate	(12)
reduce	(6)
rising	(11)
school	(17)
services	(5)
spending	(10)
taxes	(272)
town	(14)

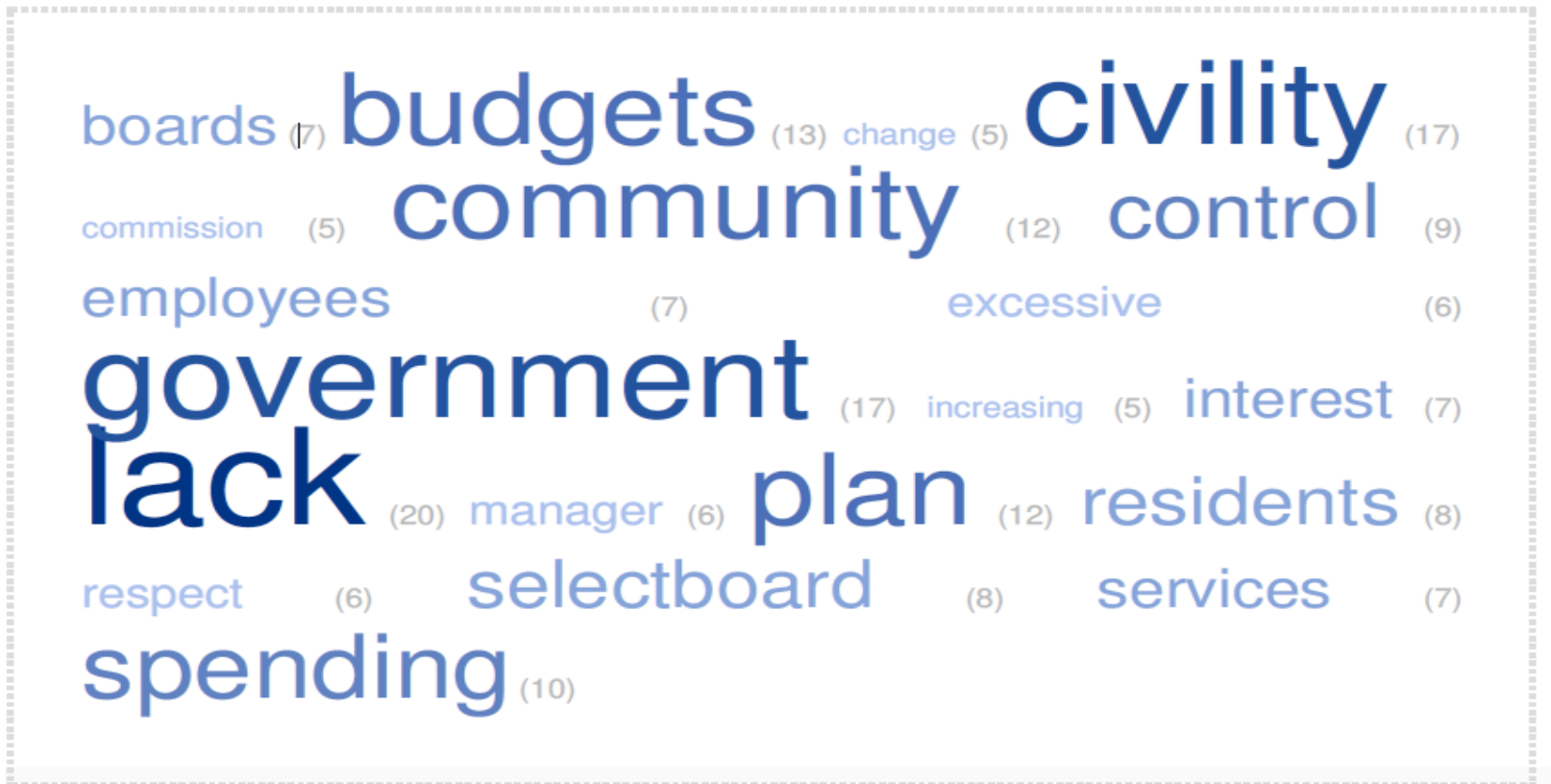
Housing Issues

Respondents emphasized the need for more affordable housing to accommodate families, workforce, seniors, and lower income residents.



Governance Issues

Respondents emphasized the need for rigorous budget management, more civility, and less divisiveness in the community.



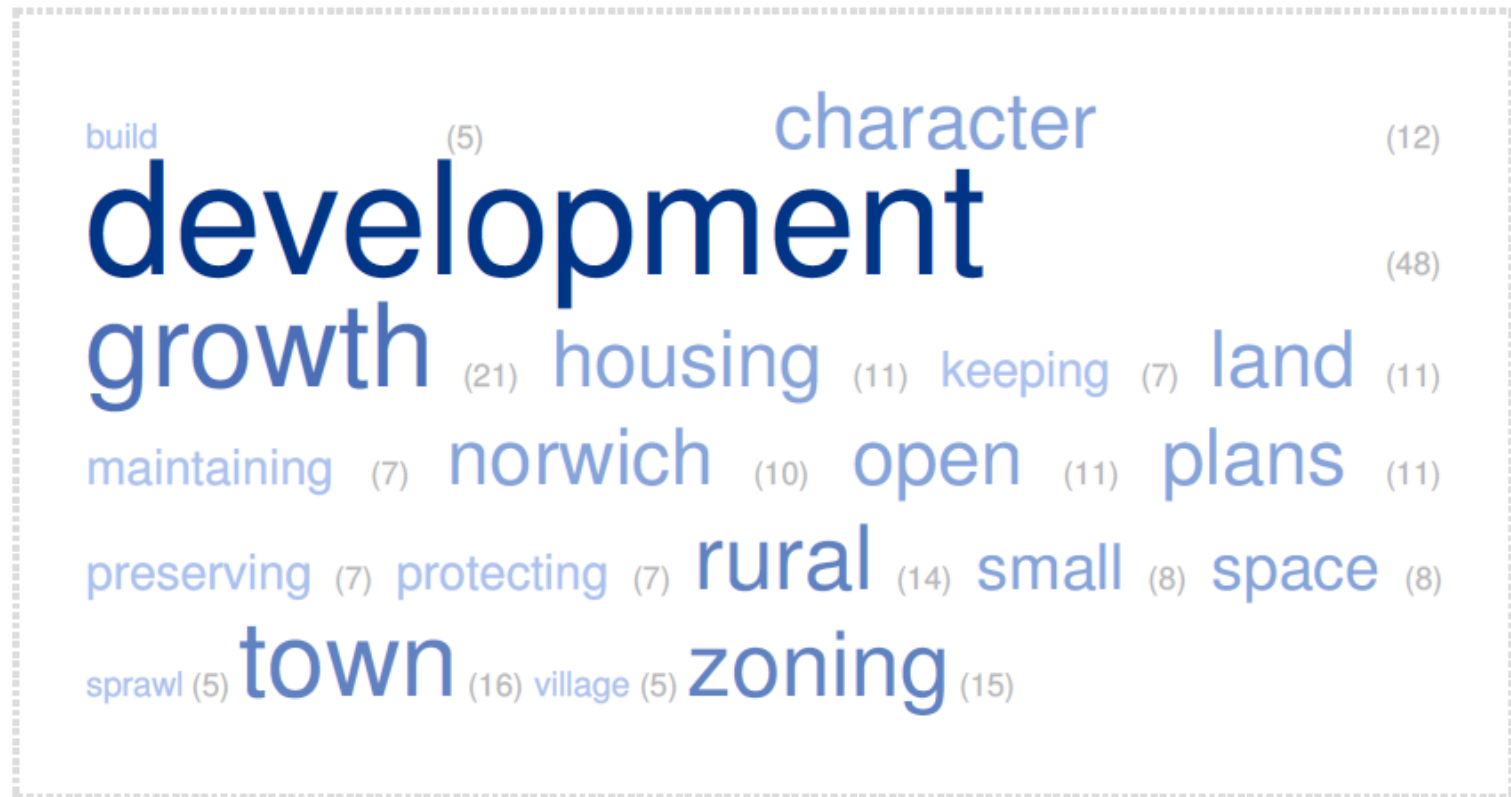
Community Facilities and Services Issues

Respondents emphasized maintaining infrastructure, road conditions, and provisions for swimming and sewage treatment.



Land Use Issues

Respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining the rural character of the town.



Education Issues

Respondents emphasized support for high quality education, and the need to contain costs and increase enrollment.



Demographic Issues

Respondents emphasized the lack of diversity, an aging population, and need to attract young families.



Economic Development Issues

Respondents emphasized a need for more businesses to increase the tax base, support for local business, and internet service.

business (25) commercial (5) community (6)
economic (5) farms (5) internet (7) jobs (7) lack (9) limited (5)
local (10) restaurants (6) small (7) **support** (10) tax (5)
town (8)

Natural Resource Issues

Respondents emphasized open space and trails within the community and town.



A word cloud of natural resource issues. The words are arranged in two rows. The top row contains 'community' (8), 'maintaining' (5), 'open' (7), and 'preserving' (5). The bottom row contains 'resources' (5), 'space' (8), 'town' (7), and 'trails' (9). The words are in various shades of blue and black, with 'trails' and 'space' being the largest.

community (8) maintaining (5) open (7) preserving (5)
resources (5) space (8) town (7) trails (9)

Transportation Issues

Respondents emphasized sidewalks, traffic, and bike safety.



Summary of Question #1 Responses

