

Postcard Survey 2019

Town of Norwich

Summary of Responses

Methodology

- A postcard stamped that included return postage was inserted into each of the 1500 tax bills that were mailed out on July 13th.
- There were 281 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 illustrate more detail 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.

2019 Postcard Survey-Sample

The Norwich Planning Commission is in the process of developing a new Town Plan. There are many ways of making your voice heard during this process. During the summer and fall, we'll be hosting a series of public events with key topics for discussion. Another way you can contribute is by responding to the survey below, and dropping this postage-paid card in the mail by **Thursday, August 15th**.

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

1.

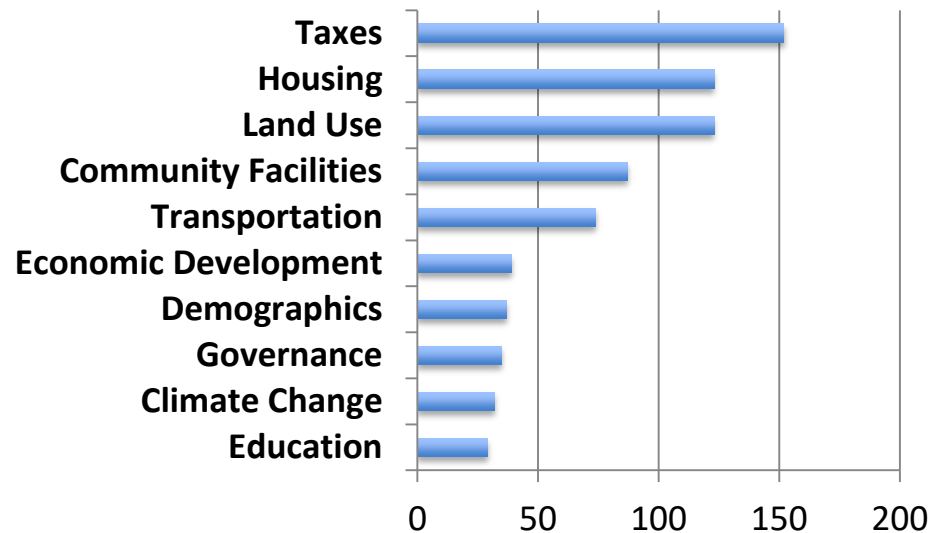
2.

3.

For more information about the Norwich Town Plan process and related events this summer and fall, please visit norwich.vt.us/town-plan-2019. Thank you!

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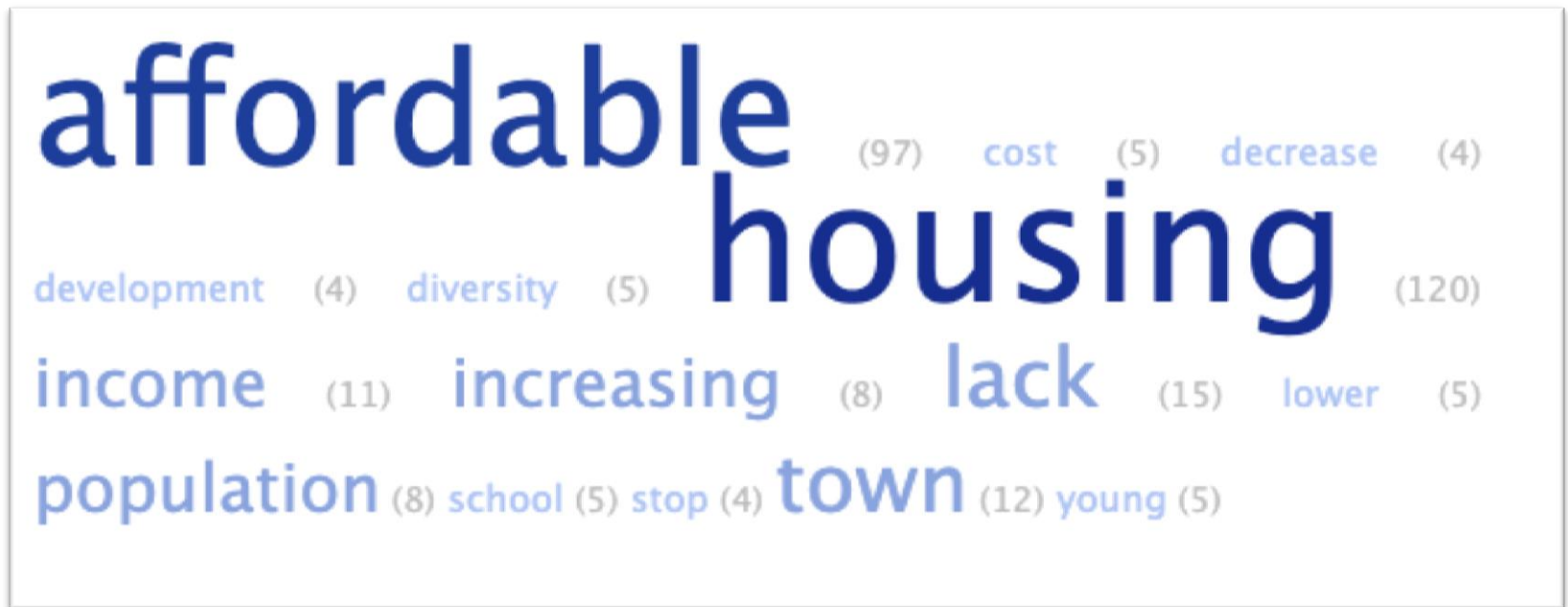
Tax Issues

Respondents emphasized the burden of high property taxes, the high cost of education, and diminishing affordability.

affordable (10) cost (11) education (6) income (5)
increasing (9) keeping (12) level (4) lower (8) norwich (5)
property (41) rising (7) school (16) spending (5)
taxes (138) town (9)

Housing Issues

Responses overwhelmingly supported an array of affordable housing options.



Land Use Issues

Respondents expressed concern about over development and maintaining the rural character of Norwich.



Community Facilities Issues

Respondents emphasized a need for more proactive planning for waste water, as well as interest in a Town swimming area.



Transportation Issues

Respondents are seeking improvements in alternate transportation, e.g. sidewalks, trails, and bikes. They emphasized roads that need improving, speeding, and some discontent with blinking lights.



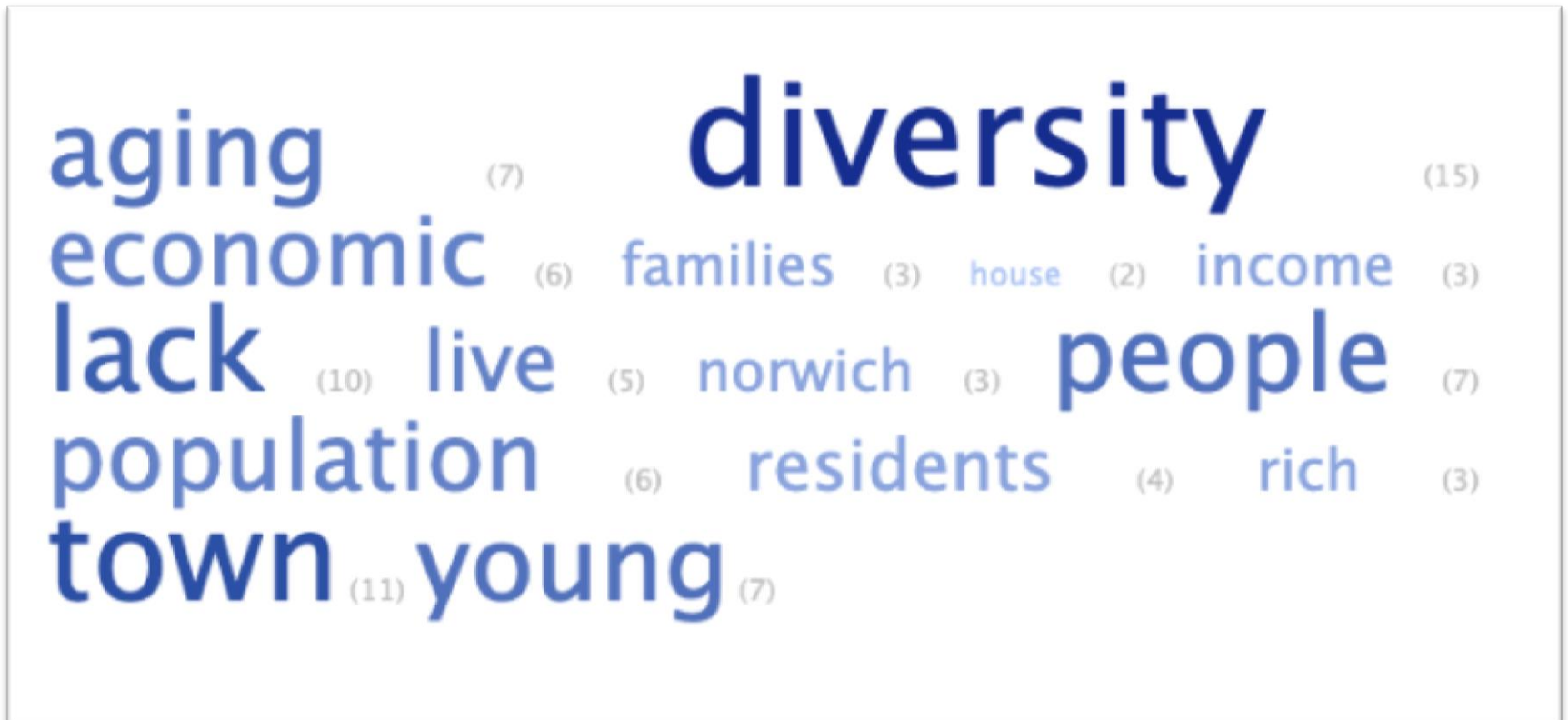
Economic Development Issues

Respondents emphasized a need to broaden the tax base, encourage business, and improve internet and cell service.



Demographic Issues

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



Governance Issues

Respondents emphasized the need for good communication and community involvement.

commission (2) **communication** (4) control (2) conversation (2)
decision (2) dept (2) enough (2) issues (2) keep (2) lights (2) **manager** (3)
paved (2) **planning** (3) population (2) **residents** (3) sb (2)
selectboard (3) taxes (2) **town** (20) transparency (3)

Climate Change

Climate change was a new category that appeared in 2019. Respondents indicated planning for the threat, alternative energy, and community resilience as key priorities.



Education Issues

Respondents emphasized support for high quality education, and concern regarding student enrollment.



Summary

- Respondents emphasized the burden of **high property taxes**, the high cost of education, and diminishing affordability.
- Responses overwhelmingly supported an array of **affordable housing** options.
- Respondents expressed **concern about over development** and maintaining the rural character of Norwich.
- Respondents emphasized a need for **proactive planning for waste water**, as well as interest in a **Town swimming** area.
- Respondents are **seeking improvements in alternate transportation**, e.g. sidewalks, trails, and bikes. They emphasized roads that need improving, speeding enforcement, and some discontent with blinking lights.
- **Climate change** did not make the 'top 10' mentions a year ago, but made the list this year. Also notable compared to prior year is **fewer concerns about town governance**.

APPENDIX

Summary of Responses 2018

What do you think are the 3 most pressing issues facing the Town of Norwich?"

