

Explain support of policy direction	Explain support regarding effectiveness of policy direction	Actions recommended
<p>People should pay to educate their own children. They should only breed as many as they can afford. No free anything for illegal alien leeches. Pass a home rule message declaring "Overdevelopmentmont" as a non-sanctuary city for illegals. They are draining the economic life blood out of this city ,just as the big box (selling) out of the city has done. If you want criminals-illegal aliens-here, all you liberal idiots should pay for them, and leave the law abiding citizens out of the equation. Aiding criminals is a crime, or haven't you heard. Longmont is on the way down the toilet, thanks to the morons who have run this city in recent years. I hope you are all proud of yourselves for shattering a once decent city.</p>	<p>This place is shot down. There is more graffiti, more garbage in the streets, and you are starting to see bars on business windows. Three hallmarks of a ruined city. Crime is up-ask you police chief how many outstanding arrest warrants there are for people with Longmont addresses-also-the demographics of the breakdown-it will shock you-or will it really? You might have to wait for an answer, though, because he has been busy lately passing the buck on the illegal immigrant issue. That, unfortunately, is going to take up more and more of his time, as he dances on the strings of the present administration. All I can say at this point is when the last American Citizen is finally forced out of "Illegalmont", please take the flag-Old Glory has suffered enough.</p>	<p>Cut off illegal aliens from any and all help-they are criminals. Aiding them is a criminal conspiracy. When the 'freebie well" runs dry, they will go somewhere else and ruin it instead. Not much you can do about downtown-you already (sold) out the city to big box development, irreversibly damaging you upscale small business community. All I can think of is get rid of the section 8 sores festering all through the area, thereby eliminating the unsavory element that it always brings with it. Nobody wants to air out the major gang problems occurring in the schools nowadays. Why be honest about where the demographics of this problem is coming from.</p>
	<p>Rapid high-density urbanization brings social problems that are underestimated, and it presents unintended consequences that can negatively impact all current indicators. Be alert for new and emerging indicators that may redefine current thinking.</p>	<p>Don't be afraid to say "No" to high density urbanization that will overwhelm available and future resources. Start articulating what the region will look like, sound like, feel like, in the near and distant future. Don't allow only the marketplace to rule decision-making.</p>
<p>Boulder has Pearl Street Mall, Longmont has the.....?</p>		<p>Focus on parks and family setting</p>
<p>1.With out this, none of the others can happen. 2. I strongly support education as a community wide value, I have marked somewhat supportive as I think that this may not be the role of the local municipal government, and even if it is, this is not the most important of the five. 3. I believe that the state and county has been and will continue to be the lead players here, and our existing Development Code and Policies and Procedures around this issue are fine. 4. I was involved in many of the forums, without a doubt this; "our downtown" was the one thing that almost all agreed set Longmont apart. 5. Even with all my involvement, I could never get a handle on what this really meant. How can such a small group of participants (maybe in the end 1000 people) out of 80,000+ decide what our "community identity" is or should be? Our community identity is what it is. We work on the other four to naturally shape a more positive community identity, not the other way around.</p>		
<p>More focus on charter schools</p>		

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Business development/employment creation is critical to the continued economic vitality of our community.	I haven't formulated my thoughts on how we maintain a sustainable economy once we reach build out. I truly believe in all aspects of life; if you're not growing (in some way) you're dying! We can't coast, if so, we're going down hill.	Keep the Boulder Want-to-bees out of the decision process. "Elitist, close the door now that I'm here" or "screw growth, the environment and prairie rats are all that is important" will only create the artificial inflation of cost of living in this area. I grew up in Boulder and I am embarrassed by what they have done to that community. Don't let it happen to Longmont.
We want to start a business. A baby boutique. Unique, classy baby and toddler and young child (all things from furniture, clothes, toys, candy and design consultation		
People should always come first, I'm surprised education as a value is in opposition to healthy business climate. Well-educated people contribute to a healthy business environment. Let's keep the horse before the cart, shall we?	Again, educated people make better decisions about the present and future. Focusing on business/material things will lead to suffering. History has proven this endlessly.	Give teachers a tax break - they are laying the very ashlars of civilization. Every advantage we give to them, we give to us ALL.
Stop the growth of housing. There are no significant jobs in Longmont. You keep building more houses and multi unit rentals to the detriment of existing landlords and the blight of Longmont. Your questions are not definitive. Healthy business climate seems to mean "retail sales" not industry. Support education?? Schools are currently receiving way too much in tax money and kids are less equipped to handle serious employment after graduation than in earlier generations. Cultural inclusion, No. Longmont's position as a safe haven for illegal immigrants is a disgrace and a spit in the face of law enforcement	How can I address my neighborhood's involvement in Traffic Mitigation for almost 5yrs with no results. After completing the "process" we are informed that there is no scheduled date for implementation. A simple problem - unresolved. Yet, you want feedback on major city policies for the future. What happened to the Traffic Mitigation citizen meeting feedback and the consultants who gave the city less than favorable feedback. We have heard nothing. So what will you be doing with this feedback? Why bother giving input if the city refuses to change its direction when citizens disagree.	Try locating some major industries in town so Longmont citizens don't have to exit town to go to work every day.
3. A balance must be maintained. Sometimes protection of some environment issues lead to the sacrifice of the safety of people. 5. This statement is too brief to understand the intent.		While it is important to bring in business with some of the "big block" companies; that ultimately puts smaller, local "Mom & Pop" businesses in a situation where they cannot compete with the buying power of the larger companies. This will and does lead to the closing of their doors. Many of these businesses make up the present downtown businesses, which would seem to interfere with the "focus on downtown" or will make "downtown" with a totally different make up of businesses for the future. For the smaller businesses to survive they need some kind of incentives: tax relief, or something.
The cultural inclusion one is difficult because until real discussion can take place without being called a racist, it is only throwing money at issues with no real affect. I would like to be involved in these discussions.		We should promote an Hispanic shopping enclave where there can be "one stop shopping" much like Boston, San Francisco, and other cities have, i.e. China town, the North End (Italian), etc. It would become a destination magnet and free up valuable redevelopment space on Main Street. The same shopping district should be created for the second hand, thrift, pawn shops, etc. Lets make their businesses thrive in a meaningful way.

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I believe that we need to create a positive out going message that Longmont is a wonderful place to live and work. We need to promote that our community has a positive direction in supporting the economic development and is open to helping develop and bring new business to our community. We are "open for business" and at the same time we have a wonderful "down home feel" that truly creates the feeling of being home. Our community is supportive of the unique cultures we have and celebrate these cultures as part of our community. Education is important to all in the community. Many of us would love to see a university develop and flourish here. We have a highly educated work force. The challenge for us is that we do not control St. Vrain School District. This district is serving a number of communities and has little stake in the outcomes of Longmont. Downtown: remains a cornerstone of the community. My neutral position on this is that we need to find ways to continue to develop and promote our downtown. It is a major part of sense of a "down Home feeling" about living in Longmont. However, the development plans and opportunities offer great challenges in creating a successful re-development of the downtown. This will be an on going process. I work with many real estate folks and developers and many are not sold on the plans for this redevelopment. Additionally, traffic, parking and easy of access remain major challenges for success. I believe we can achieve success but it will take major efforts and support of the "economic gardening" plans the city has looked into to bring this about.

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I believe that the city is embarking upon a strong plan to achieve many of these goals by the development of an economic vitality coordinator position to bring together all the elements of the community, business and city to make it easier to drive new business development for the coming years. I believe that in the economic development community in the state there are number of creative ideas that we can use to help us plan, manage and engage in the type of growth that Longmont's citizens will accept and want. "Economic gardening" is one idea, forming corporate ambassadors to talk with potential businesses is another, developing a stronger bond with state and regional economic development groups is another and finding a way to engage the school district so that they become partners is critical. I would also expect to see ties being built not only with Front Range Community College but with CU & CSU's business schools to help drive business development. Sole proprietorships and entrepreneurial ventures still drive the economic growth in the United States. We need to have resources to help these types of business folks grow their businesses in Longmont. SBA and Score offer some help here and we as a city need to ensure through the economic gardening process that we have resources in place to help grow the next generation of new businesses while helping our long term businesses continue the process of adapting to changing market conditions to remain economically viable. The city has stated that we need to look at how business deal with the city and find ways to make it easier. The major cities around us are already doing this: Boulder, Ft. Collins and Broomfield. I was shocked to hear that the city does not have a positive relationship with developers at the Focus On Longmont meetings. In my work, this has been born-out in my meetings to talk with developers about bringing one of our business units back to the city. Most developers were against it. I also found it interesting as we worked the front range with four developers that Longmont was not in the mix of recommend locations. Developers worked north of the city in communities north or south of us from Boulder and Broomfield and Westminster: Longmont was not on the radar screen unit I demanded it to be in the plans for the five year strategic plan. I was surprised in the Focus On Longmont business meetings when it was pointed out that we want an international reach for the city but we have no local banks that can handle international business in the local branches. Many citizens have been concerned about Wal-Mart entering the city in a major way and the long term impact to smaller retailers. My feeling is that Wal-Mart sees the strategic location that Longmont presents for drawing in customers (strategic trade area), the economic balance of incomes (drivers of sales), and long term potential of the market. What we need as a community to do is to ensure we help all of our businesses to be competitive.

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<p>All the policy directions have very nice, idealistic goals but what do they really mean - if I support a healthy business climate does this mean I like to idea of Wal-Mart at every gateway to the City? Or do I support Wal-Marts and local business balance - these goals are too vague and open to personal interpretation. I want healthy business minus 3 Wal-Marts (or 2) so where do I stand? I want variety!</p>	<p>These policy directions only serve a purpose if city leaders and especially our mayor actually stand behind them. Once again, some of the goals are vague enough to be interpreted on a way a person wants.</p>	<p>Be more specific. Have city leaders commit to listening to citizens.</p>
<p>#1 - I'm appalled at the number of Wal-Marts in this area. I support small businesses, independent booksellers, etc. and believe attention and focus should be on them. #4 - Focus on downtown but not to the neglect of other neighborhoods. Especially moving ConAgra from its present location. Truckloads of turkeys on "Death Row" brings down the Longmont image. #5 - A somewhat split community that could learn a lot from each other; Dia de los Muertos celebration (sp?) were great - I'd encourage much more cross cultural activities.</p>	<p>#3 - I love the "green" public building idea - this would influence more people to be aware of environmental issues. #4 - Although a vibrant downtown is important, people need to feel that their neighborhood also is an important part of Longmont.</p>	<p>1. Senior Center to have more cross cultural activities. 2. Especially bring in small business restaurants - not chains - to encourage congregation in downtown. 3. Green - I have to go into Boulder for organic meat specialty foods - again encourage support and aid to businesses locating here. 4. Are smaller neighborhood forums held? People my feel intimidated in larger forum, especially if English is not their first language. Get input at grassroots level. 5. I picked up form at Senior Center - send out to every resident?</p>
<p>Policies are great as they promote input from citizens who wish to participate however there are so many people who would prefer to complain versus engage. The leadership who receives surveys from the City population do not necessarily use them in the decision process as seen in the decision to zone areas of the City for retail (Sandstone area) as opposed to keep the "corridor" an attractive entrance to the City</p>	<p>Again, I do not feel that surveys taken will be used as a decision tool by the Longmont government in attracting new business and sustaining existing business</p>	<p>enforce existing benchmarks against current and new growth. An example is the build-out on the Ken Pratt extension - two new lights with many new business' going in to the Main St/Ken Pratt area. I would be willing to bet money that existing traffic benchmarks will be eclipsed during this process, people will complain, tax money spent on additional surveys/meetings/etc and in the end statistics will only go to show that tax revenues were valued more than quality of life, sense of community or enhancing the environment. It's these circumstances that make me believe that surveys like this are for show and not for actual use</p>
<p>none given</p>		<p>Please encourage less urban sprawl and more protected open space. Also better education for all levels of education, and a continued focus on community identity. No Wal-Mart!!!</p>
<p>Reduce urban sprawl and slow the residential building in Longmont. Reroute those monies into better education and Open Space preservation.</p>	<p>We are hoping you understand we do not want to become another Louisville or Broomfield. Longmont is highly unique with it's wide open spaces, yet close enough to other areas for high paying jobs. To bring that sprawl to Longmont would simply ruin the community warmth of Longmont.</p>	<p>Slow the building of residential areas and large retailers such as Wal-Mart, etc...</p>
<p>downtown died when the last blacksmith shop closed. Quit wringing your hands and concentrate on something constructive.</p>		

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<p>I would like to see "Promote a healthy business climate" have additional emphasis on bringing strong employers to the area, not just retail business.</p>	<p>I think the policy directions are very strong and will be supported. I think #5 may be a struggle in the community - unfortunately, there is continuing backlash and negativity about multiculturalism and inclusion in this community.</p>	<p>I believe the addition of an Economic Vitality Coordinator as a city staff position will be critical to the success of #1, and possibly #4. An annual education summit is a good starting point for #2, although the past financial scandal at St. Vrain has left its reputation greatly damaged and it will take a long time for school district to regain the trust and confidence of this community.</p>
<hr/> <p>Government should focus on pure public goods (police/security/fire protection), perhaps a few transportation (auto/bike/pedestrian) corridors, etc., and let individual citizens and businesses do the rest. Gvmt. should NOT be a nanny, and try to, for example, do education for individuals, nor subsidize activities that should be private (like recreation centers). Use the tax money you have more efficiently; stop doing some things (just like private businesses must) in order to do something else you think you should do. Reduce staff in some areas, just like private companies, before adding staff in other areas. Live within your means of current taxes as approved by the public -- don't over commit our children and grandchildren (and any future citizens of Longmont) to high debt that they didn't ask for.</p>		
<p>Healthy business climate is critically dependent on making the community attractive to high-skill workers. Employers will follow. A strong education system is essential to making this a desirable community. Environment features are necessary to compete with other nearby communities.</p>	<p>Though downtown could be a centerpiece of the Longmont living experience, it will never attract the high-end retail of, say, the Pearl Street Mall because of the 287 auto traffic. What's plan B?</p>	<p>1)Set higher expectations for the St. Vrain Valley School District. Council should recognize schools as critical infrastructure and push for major improvements. 2) Promote pride in educational achievement within the Latino community by sponsoring and English/Spanish dual-immersion charter school.</p>
<hr/> <p>Longmont must get pro-active in planning retail centers and drawing new business to our community. Someone should be thinking of a re-development strategy for the Twin Peaks Mall area to be implemented in the not too distant future. It would be nice to have some shopping and a real and nice movie theatre in town. That way I could begin spending my money in Longmont. No more banks or Wal-Mart's!</p>		
<p>These are all great goals.</p>	<p>Hope for the best in all these areas</p>	<p>I think the whole process was very good. It was done in such a way as to get a great amount of input from the community. Keep it in writing - Put it up where it will be seen. If it is shelved it will have been wasted time. POST IT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR ALL TO SEE AND REFER TO!!</p>

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2. Quality education for all is an essential goal. 3. Further investment in open space enhances our quality of life. 4. An essential and vital "downtown" is THE mega priority for Longmont's future. 5. As "build out" becomes a reality, a major effort to achieve ethnic/racial inclusiveness is a crucial priority.	See answers to the first question set.	Improved multi-lingual education. Downtown, downtown. Take community identity and cultural inclusion very seriously.
	We need to proactively address hate, fear, and intolerance of immigrants in our community.	More affordable housing near downtown.
We should promote a healthy business climate but take care not to interfere with market dynamics. We must examine the costs and benefits of any downtown development. How much are we willing to spend on something that may be an antiquated ideal.		
		I'm disappointed that there is no policy direction for promoting the public safety aspects of community growth and development. This is THE most important function of government.
	You can't sustain a community with out retail and industrial-commercial growth. Look at stupid Boulder. They are searching for answers these days and only have temporary solutions. Front Range CC should help Longmont.	
	I believe the city must be pro active in leading these discussions and bringing people together.	
The items I strongly support will probably be extremely important in long term, but not have as much visible return in short term.		Periodic reports - as specific as possible - on progress, to all citizens.
Focus on small business		
	We all need to be included, we all need to contribute and share in the results.	NO MORE WAL-MARTS! I think any big businesses that come in should landscape their parking lots and street area so the presence of building are "softened" by trees, shrubs. This will go along with our goal of enhancing our environment while promoting business.
While our downtown environment is important, we also need to focus on the business environment throughout Longmont - including north main and Highway 66, and Twin Peak mall and Southmoor area - all subject to blight.	1 - 3 are vital to making Longmont a destination for living, 4 and 5 - also important, but I am unsure how we can have a big effect on #5 - to some extent evolves naturally.	
		I am most concerned that a second (or third) Wal-Mart is not competitive but anti-competitive with other businesses. Council must pay attention to these initiatives, or your time was wasted.

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These all provide for a vibrant and healthy community.	A policy itself can't create these things - it's support of the policy's - implementation. The proposed 2nd Wal-Mart is an example of how the support for downtown and healthy economy could be killed - if it's allowed to build.	#1 - Do not allow a 2nd Wal-Mart in this community. Job fairs and strong economic development group can help. Funding for diverse and downtown events helps (use Roosevelt park!) funding for trails (continued!).
All are important to keep overall balance in managing the future needs/wants of the community. The cultural inclusion part is difficult if the other cultures don't participate. I think an event related to "food" has the most universal appeal and will get people together.	Can't have successful leadership to desired results without a direction/vision but is shared with by all.	1. Help small business learn to co-exist and prosper with big box neighbors as has been done in many other communities. Form a study group on this and see "the success stories" and what can be applied to Longmont. 4. We still need to make Main Street, 3rd - 6th "more pedestrian friendly". It is only a matter of time until someone is killed or seriously injured at the midblock crossings - lights like those used in Boulder are the easiest and best solution IF we can't do the "Mall" concept.
This is all about making a healthy city and also preserving the natural environment.	It will take all of us to work together not just city council and city staff.	We will need to keep the people involved i.e. newspaper and radio. (Promote general discussion panels periodically, not just city council meetings.
Well yes, but these seem not to be well developed - how will these worthwhile goals be accomplished.		Missing from any discussion that I have seen is a plan to address the decrease in revenues once building permits decrease substantially.
The promotion of a healthy business climate, education, and the focus on downtown must be done with inclusion in mind. The needs of our diverse community must be addressed in each of these areas and the course of action must reflect these needs.	I believe that if number 1-4 take number 5 into consideration in all deliberations and truly make Longmont into an inclusive community, then the vision can be reached.	Develop education and training strategies that would equalize job opportunities for all of our community members.
Longmont needs to be diverse in business, culture and education we need something that sets us apart - that makes us look and feel different than other communities.	If these are truly implemented we will be a good community. However there appears to be effort that talk a good talk, then we allow Wal-Mart to have 4 stores. This is not good for downtown or midtown.	Get actions going. Don't wait to start mid town redevelopment or so much of the business will be big box in the ??? of town.

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I checked 2, 3, and 5 as less important only because the other two are urgently needed by Longmont to produce a bigger tax base with more of what Longmonter's spend their money on out of town. We can use that tax base to promote the other considerations.	Everything mentioned can enhance these to be sure.	I think we all need to think bigger and be more aggressive with each of these. For instance, developing a "downtown plaza" sounds nice, but we really need to redirect traffic (287) around the downtown or families will still stay away. Another idea would be to have the downtown store fronts open into the alleys as a mall type atmosphere. Until downtown is developed to become something other than a highway thoroughfare, it will remain the same. I really think Longmonter's are thirsty for an upscale mall with new theaters...where ever that might be located. Our competition is way beyond us right now, and we are spending way too much time talking about what to do instead of doing it. (see Boulder Crossroads development) We need to be aggressive in recruiting developers and not afraid to give them lucrative incentives. The result could help us keep retail money in Longmont. Consider consulting with Broomfield experts. It seems that they have done their homework and beyond.
I support being somewhat picky about the businesses we invite to Longmont - do they support their employees (fair pay, good working environment, etc.), protect the environment, give to the community? Grid system of bike/pedestrian trails = important, alternative transport. Emphasize cultural inclusion.	Support the people through education and healthy community identity, and crime, pollution etc. will decrease. People will want to live and work here. Make every decision win-win.	Continue to support programs like Tamales & Talk. Address Longmont's high teen pregnancy and domestic abuse rates with 24 hour hotline for "someone to talk to": providing referrals, shoulder to cry on, advice etc. from team of licensed counselors with access to computerized info. about City and other services.
Without a strong business environment - any implementation of strategy and policy aims will go south, we should put effort into becoming more of a college town.		I, personally, do not see a significant supportive economic data system in this city.
		Gain funds for the purchase of agricultural lands for enhancement of natural environment. A second open space tax.
The policies are all connected in that support in education results in building a healthy business climate to help students with work and from this a natural environment enhancement to promote a place where the community will enjoy.	The community, education, and our environment came first in reaching the vision of a sustainable community because if these policies are fulfilled, a healthy business climate will result.	
A sense of community identity may involve a focus on other areas than downtown with the practicalities of a healthy business environment.	A healthy #1 will enhance the tax base essential to all goals without education, nothing is possible.	4. the possibility of a reroute of highway 287 through town. 5. involve the Hispanic community fully.

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<p>1. I am strongly supportive of a healthy business climate. A healthy business climate means a good tax base. 2. While support education as a community wide value I have reservations about the current educational system. There must be more emphasis on learning the basics and English should be the primary language...not the 2nd language. Our children are graduating from high school and needing tutoring in order to compete in college. Something is drastically wrong with our school system. 3. It is important that our citizens learn to appreciate nature and I assume that is what natural environment is referring to. We enjoy the parks and trail system but would like to see fewer dogs allowed to run loose. Am on sure what you mean by enhancing natural environment. If it means preserving prairie dogs and spending thousands to relocate them, etc., that is a waste of time and money as it appears that prairie dogs are far more adaptable than some think. For many years there was a colony living on the side of Ken Pratt Blvd. just south of Sunset. Think we might be overdoing the parks and open space acquisitions when we don't have the money to maintain them as was evident this past year when the parks didn't even have flowers planted. 4. I enjoy some of the doings downtown, but don't spend time shopping there or visiting the restaurants and coffee shops. Personally think the center median has made Main Street more dangerous to drive the way pedestrians just step out in front of moving traffic in midblock and creates a real hazard when there are emergency vehicles trying to get through. This summer for the first time the planter on Main St. with their plantings appeared to be well done. 5. As I mentioned above we are getting to be too much like Boulder. As far as cultural inclusions are concerned, most immigrants from other countries try to assimilate and are happy and proud to be here in the United States. If they live here they should make an effort to learn English and assimilate. Perhaps then their children wouldn't feel so alienated and form this gangs that roam the streets and put graffiti on walls all over town. The gang graffiti is really disturbing.</p>	<p>1. We need a major change in the way business is being created in Longmont. The Boulder influence is too prevalent with all this desire to micro-manage what comes to town and what businesses can come into the commercial district. This nation was built on the free enterprise system. If a business owner wants to invest and take the risk that should be up to them, not the City Council, P & Z Commission, and city staff micro-managing who can do what where. 2. Our school system has got to get focused on the basics and it is imperative that all children learn to speak English as soon as possible. Allowing children to take years to learn English does not help them. If they could communicate in English with other children they would feel like a part of the community. It is tragic that our students have to be tutored when they reach college. I don't know if that is because of the outcome based education in their early years but something is wrong. 3. Open space is great, but not if you don't have the money to take care of it. The pocket parks are not being utilized and some people might prefer larger yards. 4. Think we have to go back to number 1. We also have to look at the fact that times change, we are living in a faster paced world, one stop shopping is what a great many people prefer. 5. We need to keep Longmont as Longmont. Unfortunately we are beginning to look and sound like The People's Republic of Boulder. That is not a good thing. We have people living here from a variety of countries and that is a good thing. Some immigrants realize that they have to learn English in order to be a part of the community. Every year we see more graffiti and gangs and that is because the city allows too many people in one home, cars parked in the front yards, loud musing that disrupts the whole neighborhood, etc. The neighborhoods begin to look run down with the grass in the front yards destroyed, etc.</p>	<p>Continue to annex land in Weld County and put Terry Lake back in the planning area.</p>
<p>A healthy business climate needs some successful small businesses as well as the large. More large box retail/wholesale will force some successful small businesses to close.</p>	<p>Air pollution is becoming an environmental problem with the increase in traffic and congestion. Downtown loses some importance as population increases and crowding is alleviated by businesses locating further away where space is available.</p>	<p>Slowing down build out will be helpful in giving more time to implement policy directions.</p>

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1. Commercial zoning of Kimbark and Coffman St from 3rd to 8th Ave. will help Downtown and provide parking. 2. Longmont should identify area of future growth out side of its comprehensive plan. Longmont is surrounded by County open space and other communities. 3. City should plan and acquire land for future cultural Event Center. Some corporation may help build it. 4. Traffic solution needs better planning.

This is written as an explanation for my neutral answers. To me, education is the most important question. Why, you may ask? An educated community member is a better consumer, employee, provider of services and involved citizen. I've been on the accountability committee and have volunteered in Columbine, Spangler and Mountain View Elementary Schools. I've seen the need for children to learn more of the English Language prior to kindergarten. I would like to see more of an opportunity for non-English speaking partners to learn English so they can learn with their children. I've heard that businesses with non English speaking employee, give the employees an opportunity, at lunch perhaps to learn some English; it was to help with the job, then to speaking with children, then when they met with that success, help was given for their education I would like to be further involved, but do not travel at night any longer and because of a facial problem, don't talk well. Thanks for the opportunity of living in Longmont. I made an excellent choice of town when I moved here nearly five years ago