

# Survey Results: Community Priorities

**Survey Info** - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of Portsmouth to the FlashVote community for Portsmouth, NH.

**These FlashVote results are shared with local officials**

360

Total Participants

342 of 606 initially invited (56%)  
18 others  
Margin of error: ± 5%

Applied Filter:  
**Locals only**

Participants for filter:  
**307**

**Response Time (hours)**

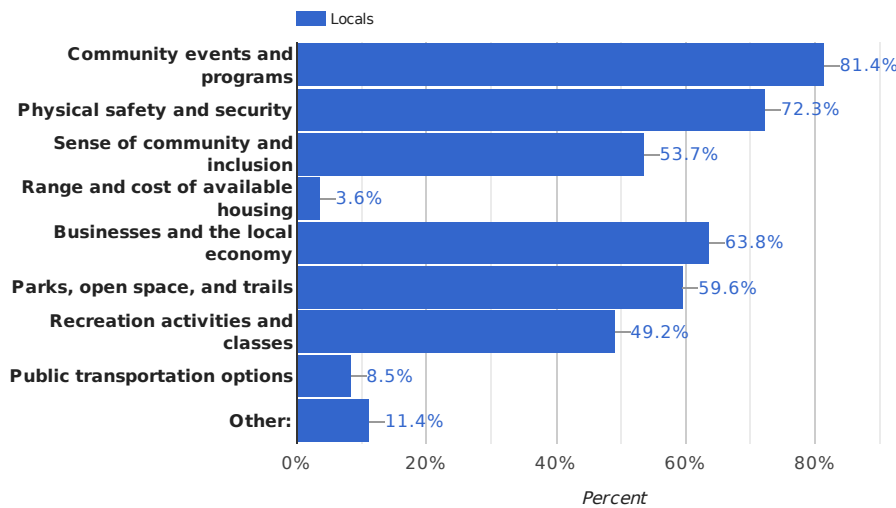
Started:  
**Jun 21, 2023 11:16am EDT**

Ended:  
**Jun 23, 2023 11:16am EDT**

Target Participants:  
**All Portsmouth**

**Q1** Which of the following things do you think are a **STRENGTH** of Portsmouth, if any? (Choose all that apply)  
(307 responses by )

Options	Locals (307)
Community events and programs	81.4% (250)
Physical safety and security	72.3% (222)
Sense of community and inclusion	53.7% (165)
Range and cost of available housing	3.6% (11)
Businesses and the local economy	63.8% (196)
Parks, open space, and trails	59.6% (183)
Recreation activities and classes	49.2% (151)
Public transportation options	8.5% (26)
Other:	11.4% (35)



opportunities downtown options dining  
 location need historic  
 local culture affordable hall  
 access art ocean huge  
 near city work community  
 walkable housing music  
 venues theater

Beauty of Town

Church options

Coastal community

Communication - City newsletter

Cultural associations

Culture and history

Dining

Fire and police safety

Geography/Location, Walkability, Historic

LOCATION: good air, near ocean, lakes and mountains, higher education opportunities.

Local historical sites, beaches nearby

Location by the ocean

Near and convenient to the coast

New pickleball courts At Community Campus

Options for youth

Public school system

The Arts: PMAC, all theaters, Music Hall and Lounge, Jimmy's Jazz Club and MONA, art galleries, 3S

There is a huge need for affordable housing . There is hardly any open space, it's all been built

There is no affordable housing because the property taxes are outrageously high!

Walkability

Walkable city at least in the downtown area (more work needed in the outer wards)

arts and culture

easy and frequent access to City Hall

none

proximity to the beaches...and Boston

ya know... you really need to use a 'rank in order of preference' way of voting. All are important

Livability.

The fact that people care for each other and demonstrate that by ongoing volunteer projects

the arts & heritage

Access to Great Bay, Portsmouth Harbor and the ocean

Access to water for kayaks + canoes

Cosmopolitan identity (inclusive, cultural offerings, etc)

Downtown ambiance with outdoor dining, street musicians and interesting local shops.

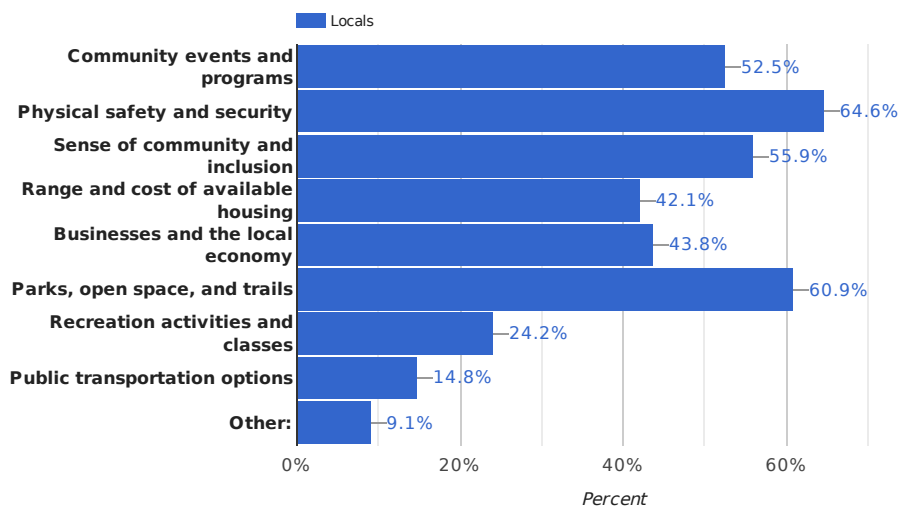
Just 1 as a strength the rest have some strong points but need work

Music & theater venues, variety of eateries

**Q2** Which of the following aspects of Portsmouth are most IMPORTANT to you, if any? (You can choose up to FOUR)

(297 responses by )

Options	Locals (297)
Community events and programs	52.5% (156)
Physical safety and security	64.6% (192)
Sense of community and inclusion	55.9% (166)
Range and cost of available housing	42.1% (125)
Businesses and the local economy	43.8% (130)
Parks, open space, and trails	60.9% (181)
Recreation activities and classes	24.2% (72)
Public transportation options	14.8% (44)
Other:	9.1% (27)



people protection environment culture  
**historic road** see  
 parking  
**local location public**  
 services hotels water walkability  
**access art school**

Access to services for all residents—senior housing, public housing, recreation transport/inclusion

Better fiscal responsibility from local government. AND managing environment protection of area.

Climate change/sustainability efforts city-wide, neighborhood locations for compost collection

Culture and history

Geography/Location, Walkability, Historic

Historical p

I would like to see roads that are safer for people riding bikes.

LOCATION: near oceans, lakes and mountains, close to main highways/roads.

Less congestion and slower growth

Not really clear on the question so answered what I wish to see made more of a priority

Parking for handicapped that permits greater participation in “downtown”.

Protecting our environment and water supply

Public school system

Quality of schools

Services for people with walking disabilities

Stop building hotels and expensive condos & we need more open space

Walkability

When I say Businesses, I am referring to LOCAL - not hotels and chain stores / restaurants!!!

arts and culture

beaches and proximity to Boston

sorry for my previous comment :(

Good schools

Keep character of road, pave/strise, off-street parking, ADA sidewalks, flashing beacon crossings

the arts & heritage

Access to water

Art events and classes

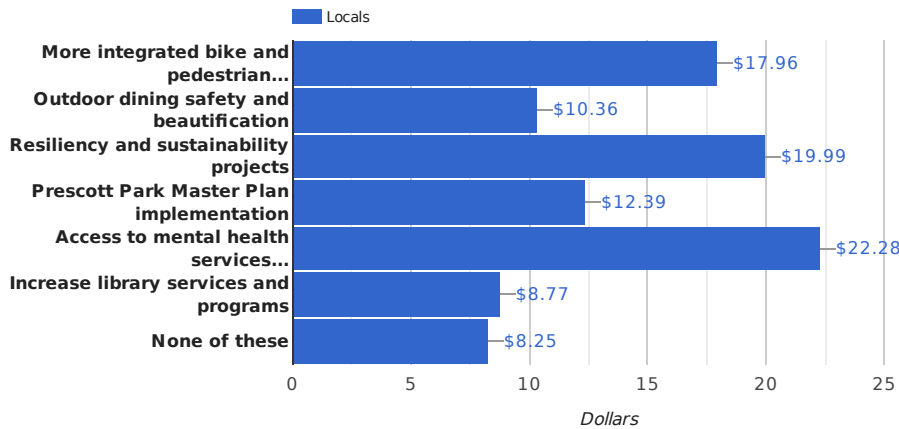
Environmental Justice (community power, reducing pollution from fossil fuel power stations etc)

Historic preservation

**Q3** If the City could make additional investments, how would you allocate \$100 across these specific options?

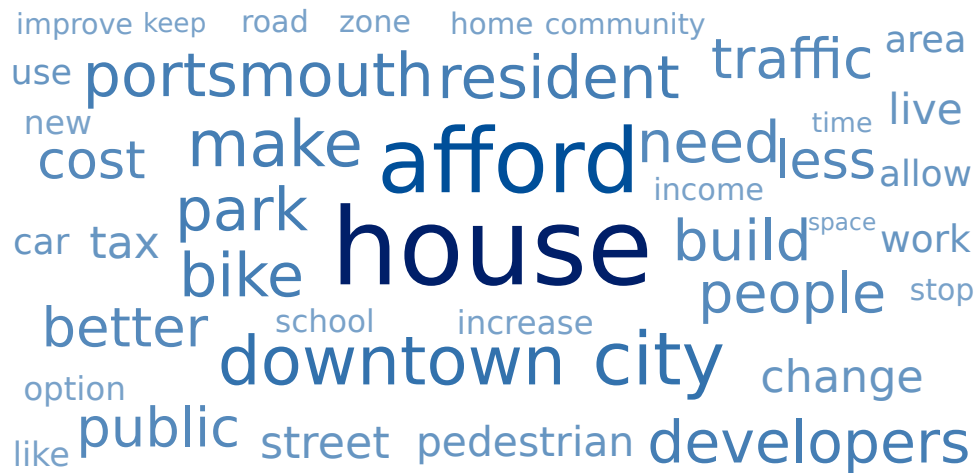
(277 responses by )

Options	Locals (277)
More integrated bike and pedestrian access	18.0%
Outdoor dining safety and beautification	10.4%
Resiliency and sustainability projects	20.0%
Prescott Park Master Plan implementation	12.4%
Access to mental health services through school and Police	22.3%
Increase library services and programs	8.77%
None of these	8.25%



**Q4** If you could change anything about Portsmouth, what would you change?

(234 responses by )



Housing availability- it affects the diversity of our city greatly

Access to affordable housing. Portsmouth needs to help its working class. We make up 41% of the downtown workforce and none of us can comfortably rent within a few miles of Portsmouth. Give the housing authority more funding and let them build another building close to town.

Add more greenspace and strengthen ordinances to protect trees.

Add oedestrain sidewalks and bike paths on roads such as Banfield and Peverley Hill.

Additional senior and workforce housing made possible through public and private investment. Developers have won - no more excuses to bypass requirements.

Affordable housing

Affordable housing Difficult HDC (contributing to issues with affordable housing and sustainability efforts) Inconsistent planning board and ZBA decisions

Affordable housing for all, not just low-income. Senior living community, affordable for middle class, with range of activities and even assisted living option.

Affordable housing has gotten a lot of lip service for decades, but hey we have a new skateboard park and more pickle ball courts! (Sarcasm)

Allow Short term rentals like most cities do.

Allowing developers to make promises about a percentage of affordable housing units and then having no compliance review to make them hold to the plans. Disgusting! Time and again!

Allowing new development without requiring the developers to include parking for patrons and/or residents.

Attract more diversity

Beautify neglected areas that serve as gateways into Portsmouth.

Better access for low income and work force folks.

Better city budget control. Multiple councils have failed to make meaningful changes that control the budget. There is not enough time spent to measure effectiveness of programs.

Better communication and allocation of funds with the outlying neighborhoods.

Better enforcement of speeding laws and safe walking (sidewalks and crossings)

Better public transportation. Portsmouth is a small town. I shouldn't have to drive everywhere. I should be able to conveniently take the bus to Market Basket, the Mall, C&J, and downtown, quickly and easily.

Better sidewalk/bike paths along route 1 and surrounding area to improve non motor ways of travel

Can I say Mark Brighton could move to Florida?

Change both the rate of growth (too rapid and driven by developers!!) AND the type of housing being built (nothing for the middle class, nothing for individual families)

City council

Clean the downtown sidewalks frequently - between dog urine and human vomit the sidewalks need to be hosed down at least once a week as soon as the snow is melted. But kudos to the public works team who I are sweeping the sidewalks every morning!

Climate change preparations More range of housing (re: cost) Better public transportation & increase traffic safety with increased development. Slow/temporarily pause new developments to catch up with the changes of those recently completed or in progress.

Close off sections of Market, Daniel, and Congress streets so they are primarily pedestrian only zones - like what Burlington, VT, has done with Church Street. Less cars, more pedestrians and bikes!!

Congress St should not have outside dining, such as Goat. It's ugly and hazardous and the traffic backup causes pollution.

Controlled tax structure.

Cost of housing

Cost of housing would be actually affordable for the working middle class. The police department would be more focused on their own Reputation in the community as opposed to Facebook posts no one cares about. Coffee with a cop?

Create more housing for work force and low income, and provide better transit options.

Development of affordable single-family homes, no more luxury apartments, or condominiums. And not every house in Portsmouth needs to be \$1 million home think more of the working class citizens.

Divisiness

Either have a zoning code which can be implemented without exceptions and conditional use permits, or allow unlimited by right development. Eliminate government influence by people who have nothing better to do with their time than waste it at hearings.

Eliminate single family zoning, allow more density: 3-4 units by right. More extensive public transit. More bicycle parking. Taller building maximums downtown.

End restaurant seating in streets, parking spaces.

Focus more on supporting the working-class residence of Portsmouth instead of community events.

Greater affordability to support diversity of citizens and creative community

Halt all new construction. Downtown is now a concrete jungle

Having no more hotels built and high rise buildings.

Housing affordability

Housing affordability

Housing costs

Housing costs

Housing costs

Housing for the disabled (low income), end on-street outdoor dining, offer municipal mandatory masking hours to accommodate disabled residents.

Housing. City must do more to address needs of service workers and lower income residents

I love this city and consider it my forever home, but I think we can be a little precious and self-important. I wish more people would go with the flow and realize what a good thing we STILL have here, even through all the changes.

I would add a functional sidewalk along route 1. The Rye to McKinnon's area is super dangerous and unsafe as it is.

I would change ( reduce) the amount of large developments being allowed in the downtown area.

I would change the need to feel obligated to provide work force housing. No one helped the current residents to purchase their existing homes. Some homeowners actually purchased their first homes in more affordable communities, built equity, sold and have now moved back to Portsmouth. While helping one group of people, the city will be hurting seniors with fixed incomes, unable to afford the higher taxes that these programs require.

I would do something about the significant trash issue. I would start by replacing the open, green recycling bins given to every home with a larger blue type that has a lid. I think we, in part, cause our own problem as wind spews our recycling out of the bins. Second, I would dedicate public works personnel to trash pickup in our neighborhoods.

I would encourage public discussions to benefit receptivity to change rather than keeping things the way it is. Let's preserve the best of what is history and our traditions but let's have a prosperous future.

I would have the city council serve the people who work in this city over the businesses.

I would increase the availability of affordable housing (through new developments, zoning changes, etc.), make transportation less car-centric (better and more bike lanes, improved walkways, more useful public transit), and provide better support for artists (low-cost space, and pay/funding that helps with living costs).

I would like enrichment and recreational opportunities for children beyond 4th grade. School sports are competitive and inaccessible to many if not most interested students. Popular sports like soccer are available only for the highly talented. Not good for health. Similarly for technology classes/opportunities for kids. Schools are simply not doing their job and our kids are woefully behind and have no access to technology learning.

I would love to see the trend of redesigning every street in town stopped. Leave it the way it has been for decades. Because a few people think there is a speeding issue or people don't think cars stop at stop signs doesn't mean we need to redesign roads. Also lets get real about bicycle usage. Way too much pandering to a very small percentage of the population.

I would make Congress St closed to traffic in the mode of Burlington VT, which closed its downtown to cars...if not all year, at least May-October.

I would make more housing options available for middle class people. If you purchased real estate before prices took a sharp increase, you're fine, but, if you missed the boat, you can't hope to buy property in our community. My adult children, both of whom are college-educated professionals, would have a difficult time buying in Portsmouth and they would love to be home owners here.

I would raise the standard for keeping a police officer on the force when there has been wrong doing.

I'd like more bus options between downtown and the west end to connect those areas. Prescott park is a major draw to downtown, and it's pretty run down at this point.

I'd make housing more affordable with greater parking options

Impact fees that actually benefited long time residents that are retired on a fixed income. The developers are out of control and the current administration appears to rubber stamp any of these projects. Everyone tells me that my home which I've owned for over (45) years is worth so much more. Yeah, if I wanted to move someplace that isn't gouging me yearly with increased real estate taxes. All of you should be ASHAMED of what you've done to MY city!

Implement rent control to limit lucrative rent increases and keep housing affordable for Portsmouth residents.

Improve infrastructure (power lines underground), reduce vehicle impact on historic areas & neighborhoods (reckless drivers) and improve the historic character of the streets in the downtown area (cobble stone streets and better sidewalks).

Improve pedestrian safety. The crosswalks need repainting! The crosswalk at Middle and Richards Streets has a pedestrian activated light system that would make other high-traffic crosswalks safer- for instance, the crosswalk on Congress at the Arch/Music Hall and the crosswalk on Hanover St. near Portwalk.

Improve the quality of the schools. There is "brain drain" in the school district because the schools are not perceived as challenging enough for bright children.

Improved public transportation options

Improvements to outdoor pool, keep it open longer (mid-june through August), with lap lanes available during morning hours.

In no particular order: Increase vertical building requirements; increase support of the Portsmouth Housing Authority in true affordable housing development; redesign traffic patterns to be less car-centric and reduce traffic volume; lobby State Government to keep more meals and room tax dollars in Portsmouth.

Increase affordable housing

Integrate a specific path for bikes /pedestrians through town, such as having one way streets with 2 lanes, have one dedicated for bikes, scooters..... I want safer, slower pathways with less or slower vehicles; 25mph max. 2 bridges are available to by-pass downtown. Much better public transportation, such that these lanes could also be for electric public transportation vehicles. One can dream in a survey!

It's building approval process

Keep property taxes as low as possible

Keep things simple. Designs and efforts have become over the top. place a higher priority on preserving what little undeveloped land is left

LET PORTSMOUTH BE PORTSMOUTH. LESS GOVERNMENT. MORE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Lack of the publics ability to be involved in major decisions of Portsmouth. What happen to Portsmouth listens?

Less dog restrictions (eg Prescott Park, etc)

Less leaf blowers i.e. more environmentally conscious regulations. Better bike paths. More affordable housing.

Less tourists

Limit development density. Too many expensive condos are changing the culture of the city.

Lower my taxes. As a retiree my income is not going up much. My elderly neighbors had to go back to work.

Lower residential property taxes

Lower the cost of housing. Lower the average age of residents.

Make 3 elementary schools into 1 located at LHS or better location with parking access —sherburne school/community campus? K-2 on one side/3-5 on other. All children meet in K not at PMS aids with equity on day 1. Possibly reduces enormous school budget -2 gym/2art/2 principals/2 special Ed., etc. Keep classroom size to 18 in all grades. Take old schools and created affordable housing OR place all senior housing in one location (all services/transportation etc.) and sell off other locations. MAJOR changes in school budget/equity must be addressed. Seniors should be in one community that feels safe. Other section 1 housing should be segregated so mental health services can be directed to those residents. Recalibrate what has been the norm in Portsmouth.

Make all parks dog friendly; resident free parking downtown.

Make bicycle travel safer by having dedicated bike paths throughout the city .

Make it less expensive to live, support added density. Be smart about expenditures, provide safeguards against costly lawsuits/irresponsible behavior by elected officials/board members. Be forward thinking about sustainability.



Make more waterfront available.

Making the area outside of Downtown more bike friendly. Having more public garbage and recycling bin locations around town. Would love to see the sidewalk connect around South Mill Pond.

Mental health in the schools, social and emotional development with more genuine adult involvement, not just keeping kids in line. I will pay more tax for this. 2) Get control of over-development. Change zoning back to more citizen-oriented and not development-profits oriented. Change land use boards so that developers have to actually show HARDSHIP to get variances, etc. If possible, make land use board more subject to voter wishes, not just appointments. Reform the PLANNING dept so that it is more in touch with citizen wishes, not developers and attorneys.

More affordable housing

More affordable housing

More affordable housing

More affordable housing Rentals and Starter homes

More affordable housing options and better public transportation

More affordable housing that is available to the forgotten middle class and much LESS luxury housing!! Soon I'll have to leave this beautiful city because of this.

More affordable housing, more public areas with food trucks, public art, sculptures, and music / book stores

More affordable housing. Lower property taxes. More walkability.

More bike paths and connectivity between our neighborhoods (special mention for Elwyn Park / The Woodlands) and "destinations" such as downtown, rye beaches, Pease, etc. Core users should be families, tourists, and commuters.

More common area in downtown for pedestrian traffic instead of vehicles. Close some of the smaller roads and turn them into community areas either for part of the day (evening hours between 4-8) or longer and allow local artisans and restaurants to use the space either with booths, seating, or performances.

More direct input from all residents... like this voting system

More diversity in housing options (with some lower prices), safer bike paths (I know a lot of work has been done on this but I don't feel safe biking from my neighborhood on Maplewood), more traffic enforcement.

More enforcement at the traffic circle. Traffic lights with improper signage regarding turns on red. These are not keeping me from loving this town. What a great place to live.

More equitable housing options. Exceptions to zoning should not be made just because the applicants have money or bring business. The 100 foot wetland setback should not be up for debate.

More fiscal responsibility of budget. Deriving revenues to counter services expenses. Such as collecting adequate revenues from outside dining to fund the expenses. Taxpayers and renters should not be paying for these services while restaurants build revenue streams off of taxpayers & renters covering through budget increases. City Council should be focused on needs of existing residents versus increasing density and supporting of outside interests. My kids who grew up here can't afford to live here. We've been here 32 years and it's completely unaffordable now. Don't force residents to change a utility that they have to opt out of, give them choice to opt in. Stop worrying about increasing the budget and enhancing dining for tourists. Take better care of residents, so they don't have to move. Listen to long time residents as well. Listen.....

More off leash spaces for dogs, such as ball parks

More open space and trails for pedestrians and bikes city should purchase land Another swimming pool, expanded offerings including more kids swim lessons, water polo, Portsmouth rec sponsored youth summer swim team

More outdoor spaces, more work to improve the west end

More parks; take a look at Savannah, Georgia!! Let us be known for celebrating nature's beauty!!!

More public access to waterfront downtown.

More quality affordable housing options is essential. What is the plan?

More traffic safety and pedestrian safety

More walking space downtown. Examples: Make Market St from Bow to Market Sq pedestrian only, even if just nights and weekends during summer (brick the roadway and have temporary pylons to block roadway from vehicles, similar to Bourbon St). Congress St could be reduced to one lane and parking eliminated except a few loading zones. The sidewalks could then be made really wide allowing outdoor dining and space for other pedestrian activity, winter carnival activities, etc. Raised pedestrian bridge over Maplewood from Foundry garage, either on Deer or Hanover, would help promote more use of that garage.

More workforce housing

More workforce housing for all the people who make our city great and cannot afford to live here (teachers, fire fighters, police, city workers, service workers, artists, musicians, etc). Rapid and deep investments into greenhouse gas reductions and sustainability best practices.

More/better public transportation, more affordable/senior housing, more & different activities for tween and teens thru Rec/Library and local business partnerships (surfing, biking, dance class, boating, yoga, mindfulness, hiking, concerts, dances, places to hang out), better sidewalks and bike paths, easier permitting/zoning for home renovations/ADU's/multi's

Move forward with post office redevelopment plan.

My biggest worry is an armed gunman entering the schools.

Need to have many more housing options that are set aside for moderate income persons. Walkability of neighborhoods and grocery stores. DO NOT need major bike lanes or any other improvements unless roads are widened to accommodate and have PROTECTED bike lanes. Also, if bike lanes will be part of the plan, must include in areas where lower income people live. Street and infrastructure improvements in public housing and lower income housing areas have been largely ignored. Transit could be improved to and from outskirts of town -- not just where the tourists go. Also, focus more on the residents and their long term livability in the city -- should not be all about the tourists and hotels, restaurants.

No traffic zone downtown

Opportunities for residents to engage in independently facilitated civil dialogue well in advance to what we know will be polarizing topics.

Ordinances to limit building and keep open space , too many millionaire condos and hotels ! More local feel and make housing affordable so locals can afford to stay here and Hardly any local businesses downtown with things you need .. most cater to tourists drug store ,more food stores, laundry , & resident parking !

Parking should be free for residents. We should have a sticker like they do in Hampton and be able to park for free anywhere. I mean if they have free beach parking in Hampton, I think we should be able to have free parking downtown to go to a Restaurant..

Pedestrian and traffic safety. Too many dangerous intersections. Drivers not obeying rules.

Pedestrian walk, no cars, on Congress.

People who 'say' they want affordable housing but then are against attempts to make it happen. Less hotel development.

Please take some steps to support sustainability efforts and encourage involvement...easy one is multiple areas to compost (not the expensive parts close up at each house), could be at schools, library, Portsmouth community garden, near Prescott park (how about a drive up spot at four tree island?). More portopoties where people gather ... gardens, trail heads, dog parks, please! Let's encourage people to get outside!

Police officer posted at all elementary schools during school hours and school events

Police reform (more accountability), increase in affordable housing

Portsmouth has never appreciated that it is desirable because of it's residents and the local business owner's that have worked so hard to survive. The outrageous property taxes need to be reconsidered and should be offset by the enormous amount of commercial building. Green space also needs to be honored at the expense of developers looking to "own" the City.

Portsmouth is catering too much to tourists and there needs to be more balance. Fewer hotels and more integrated housing, for example.

Real affordable housing. Our lower income residents cannot afford Portsmouth.

Reduce automobile and truck traffic in residential neighborhoods

Reduce the amount of cars and parking in the center of town. Make it more pedestrian friendly, especially for people with disabilities. Make more roads 1-way, and pedestrianize streets.

Remove outdoor dining from traffic lanes. Keep more open space along riverfront.

Resident parking areas or rates

Right now, I am very happy with Portsmouth.

Safer (protected) bike lanes and just a general shift toward a more Dutch-style biking/walking culture. Maybe closing market square to traffic so it's pedestrian and bike only.

Schools should focus more on project-based learning opportunities

Sense of Old VS New Residentially as well as Residential VS Commercial. Right now, no one is winning. This movement in America has crept into our town and zoning, policies and board power need to take back our city. I am pro-growth but only in terms of developing a small-feel community - certainly not giving corporate America a break on our backs!

Shift more of the property tax burden to downtown business site we have given them the downtown for tourism.

Slow down increasing density and development that is causing congestion and problems with people and the city adjusting to the impacts of this rapid change.

Slow down the building of expensive housing. Bring back the post office to downtown.

Slow down the large apartment/condo projects after a huge surge in the past 5 years, more diverse recreation offerings, tweak traffic light sequences to promote better main road flow (west end yards, planet fitness lights are both too frequent or long for entering roads), public transit to limit cars on rt 1 and through the circle. Promote another grocery store for downtown people.

Slow down the rising tax rate....

Slow down!

Smarter growth planning. We will soon outstrip our ability to support the influx of buildings and people.

So hard to pick one! For us being able to walk to the school less than a mile away, and road safety would be amazing. Elwyn Road is fast and not safe to walk along. We are sooooo close to UFC and Dondero but also so far since we can't step out of the driveway without worry of being run over.

Soft security at our schools..

Somehow change the attitude that all new people moving to our city are bad, and that unless you were born in Cottage Hospital, your voice doesn't count

Sounds pie-in-the sky, but here goes: A new police station. Affordable housing at the Lister Academy site. Purchase of the Spinnaker Point Recreation Center. A public-private partnership for clean-powered ice skating rink(s) at the Community Campus. Completion of the bike/pedestrian path bordering Pease so the entire, circular route is paved and off-road.

Stagger city council terms to increase more continuity and experienced team.

Stop the incredible increases in taxes so that the people who have lived here a long time can stay here.

Stop treating downtown as though it is the only important part of Portsmouth.

Substantially increase housing options for middle and low income. Add more sidewalks for pedestrians and fix current sidewalks that are badly in need of repair. Fix roads-many are filled with pot holes and deteriorating asphalt. Leave the Federal Building as is and put the post office back downtown. Stop allowing residential homes to become commercial properties. If we have a shortage of housing don't think this should be allowed. There is plenty of space available in our office buildings and strip malls.

Take auto traffic away from Congress Street and make it pedestrian only

Tax increases

Tax increases are OVERWHELMING, especially for seniors. We love living here, we appreciate medical service accessibility and want to stay. However, personal budgets have true limitations, and this is a cause of extreme worry.

Tax rate

Tear down the ugly McIntyre building. Stop asking clueless residents how good urban planning works.

The attitude of some residents toward a range of housing, including affordable housing, to meet the need of all residents.

The city adopts a much more aggressive approach to providing below market rate housing, mostly rental, for service workers and people on lower incomes.

The city would be considered more than just the 3 x 3 x 3 that it cares about now. Portsmouth is far more than 3 bridges, 3 tugboats, and 3 square blocks. I would demand the city be more inclusive of residents on the outskirts, in mobile homes and apartment complexes, and stop focusing every minute and dollar downtown.

The continued discrimination against poorer residents in favor of the richer residents. It makes for a very dull city. The cool people have been forced to leave. (i.e., OKing outdoor dining by Jumping Jay's across from a construction site. Dangerous and ugly place to eat but not approving it on Pleasant Street simply because Jay McSherry is seen as a favored business person.) And the new architecture makes me sad but that is for another day. All this new construction and yet my taxes go up and up.

The cost of a parking ticket. \$35.00

The lack of affordability because of high property values but also the property tax burden

The lack of truly affordable housing, and the mentality of those in this City who speak out against ideas without suggesting what they might support.

The oversized influence that the folks who say no to everything that speak at most of our City Council meetings.

The rapid building of overpriced condos and homes. The ridiculously cost of buying a home (most expensive city in the state to live in). The road work being done (some makes absolutely no sense like the Bartlett Street roundabout and stop signs on

Bartlett before the train bridge to Islington (this intersection isn't poorly designed it's downright dangerous!).

The rush to build more big buildings.

The tax rate. Some traffic flow patterns in town to make it more pedestrian/bike friendly. It's downright frightening to bike with my 5 and 7 year old into town.

There is so much illegal motorcycle noise, especially in the summer. It is not legal for motorcycles to make the amount of noise that they do, yet no one is enforcing the law. They sit outside of my house at the light revving their engines which shake the whole house and disturbs anything we are doing. It is totally unnecessary.

Too much priority is given to cars and traffic flow and not enough to pedestrians and cyclists. It is, for the most part, a compact and walkable/bike-able city but doing those things is dangerous because of how fast cars travel and how little space there is given for sidewalks and protected bike lanes.

Traffic enforcement of illegal (loud) motorcycles.

Transparency of government, halt on building out west end with square brick buildings, enforcement of building codes with fewer variances granted, fiscal responsibility.

Truly affordable housing - families who have lived in Portsmouth for 2 or 3 generations will not be able to continue to live here without it. Also, current High School and College graduates cannot afford to live on their own in hometowns.

We live in an amazing, thriving city. After 10+ minutes of trying to come up with something to change, I've come to the conclusion that we have so much to be grateful for!

We need more affordable housing!!

We need more housing options, such as micro-housing projects, more locations for "manufactured housing" placement, even on or adjacent to businesses for their employees -- a few here, some there -- a "rebuild" of our downtown area and streets to encourage more pedestrian and bike use, less vehicle traffic, more adult education opportunities.

We should be a city that welcomes tourists not a tourist town that puts up with locals

Workforce housing options

Zoning. Current zoning is exclusionary, driving up costs. Reduce regulation to only that which is safety related. Require new buildings in the historic district to distinguish themselves as new and not old. Abolish the HDC

allow citizens to vote on the ballot with large development projects (mcIntyre, affordable housing, sports complex)

availability of affordable housing for Portsmouth work force and artists

leadership has their own agenda, not the people of Portsmouth,

more diversity in demographics and income levels

more parking

need public transit options

1. Greater focus on climate change and decreasing green house gas emissions to protect planet for future generations! 2. Cost of housing to allow more families to live here. 3. Cost of rent to businesses- a lot of our small independent shops have left downtown due to cost.

I would change the way developers get influence the city. I would like to see more transparency with their dealings with the city council and city manager.

Improved walkability and safer for kids to bike downtown. More green space- public space to gather where you don't need to buy something

Keep roadways simple and less "traffic calming" distractions. "Improvements" have created more hazards than solved. More effective communication for visitors & not all residents should have to use tech. EMS signs for events (activities affect traffic patterns & parking like Prescott Park events, race, parades, etc.), snow parking status, road changes, City meetings etc. Loosen Zoning regs. Need REAL affordable housing, so perhaps share cost of roadway improvement. Cities have cracked down on past abuses of developers, but we still depend on them so strike a balance promoting needs, not financially punishing. Please try to make new subdivision roads fully publicly owned, including maintenance. HOA's become predatory, overpriced dictatorships, limiting freedom/privacy of home owners. Allow manufactured homes on private lots. Ensure boards/committees/employees pledge knowledge of regs and only speak on merits of application within jurisdiction. Many demand random requests outside scope.

More affordable housing.

More car-free downtown with more room for walking, bikes, outdoor dining. More funds for schools to keep classes small and help with COVID learning loss. More rec options for teens who have no services since New Heights shut down

More open space, less large buildings, and somehow, against all logic, housing costs don't increase for residents. Since that's absurd, how about something reasonable: curbside compost pickup for residents.

More workforce and affordable housing.

More workforce/diverse housing options. More connected community membership (less animosity). More trails. More action to become sustainable and resilient to coastal climate risks.

The cost of living in Portsmouth has exploded in the last ten years. Housing prices and rents are out of reach of many, especially young adults. Without a diverse mix of people from all income levels, the local community and its businesses will decline. To keep the community thriving I would like to see the city continue to address housing issues.

To be able to make decisions and implement decisions in a more timely manner

We need affordable housing for people that work in Portsmouth to be able to live in Portsmouth. We need to make sure that we take care of our school infrastructure. We need transparency with how the city decides spends money and how certain projects are able to bypass rules. We need better bike/walking infrastructure.

the allowance of the tall and brick buildings that Portsmouth historic district seems to think are what we want. no more brick sidewalks.

Lower cost housing fer cryin' out loud! To mitigate or far too narrow narrow economic and cultural diversity.

Make Marcy & Pleasant Streets each one-way, between Hancock and Mechanic Streets. Add bike lines and sidewalks at both sides where they are missing. Wider sidewalks. More parking. People shouldn't open their front door into cars going 20+ mph. People shouldnt have to cross the street multiple times because the sidewalks are discontinuous. Due to the power pole at top of Gardner street - road is only wide enough for one travel lane. So many broken side view mirrors are on the ground here... I witnessed an ambulance being hit by oncoming traffic where Marcy meets Pleasant. This delayed emergency response time. And wrecked someone's car. This is an easy fix.

More places to lock up my bike downtown. Also sharable bikes like Blue Bike would be nice.

Wayfinding improvements to keep visitors out of neighborhoods. Encourage the use of Market Street and not Maplewood.

Commercial developers getting a pass on many of the requirements while residents are burdened with rules and regs that often change depending who is on what board.

Create areas equivalent to market square in other areas of the city

Eliminate Divisive politics - but that goes well beyond Portsmouth!

Encourage developers you create smaller, more affordable housing. Make it easier for elderly or people with walking limitations to access community events held in the downtown area.

Future election to city council should have seats for each city ward, this would allow an opportunity for each unique area of Portsmouth to feel like they can and will be represented fairly and equally.

I would increase the amount of affordable housing for low and fixed income residents.

Less big building development

Less construction and destroying of forest

Less focus on growth, more focus on residents and making the city less dependent on automobiles. Add and promote transportation from outlying areas, and bike and pedestrian paths for getting around each neighborhood, including around outlying areas.

Less multi-story buildings in downtown

More (and free) public transportation, a lot of protected bike lanes and multi-use paths, less parking, less cars. Car-free downtown streets.

More affordable housing options by removing zoning and permitting restrictions to new supply. This would lower cost of living, attract younger residents, and create a more vibrant city. We're on the path to an exclusive country club retirement community, which sucks.

More affordable housing options- for purchase and rent

More dense and affordable housing

More/better walking paths

Pedestrian safety in the downtown area. Would help to have more state law signage in market square & congress street. Speed around city has become terrible.

Portsmouth needs to allow artists to teach small art classes in their home art studios. The city has seen a mass exodus of artists (see city wide data from last Portsmouth Cultural Plan) because they cannot afford to live and work here and all the zoning barriers. Portsmouth has a deep rooted culture in the arts and this is a big miss. If this was changed as an allowable use it would attract and retain more artists to Portsmouth. Thank you

Some of its spending priorities. less emphasis on the "look and feel" of Portsmouth to tourism and more on better design, planning and installation of long overdue street repairs and improvements in our neighborhoods. Better balance of our students and staff and the budgets to support it among the three elementary schools. Its ridiculous to observe how disparate things are between Little Harbour and the other two.

Stop continuous building of apartment and condo complexes.

The amount of noise and light pollution

The cookie cutter hotel construction is a blight on Portsmouth's identity as a beautiful, thriving, cosmopolitan city. I would encourage the city to increase its municipal housing efforts and attempt to purchase some of these hotel properties and convert to beautiful mixed use (multiple income levels) municipal housing. Especially the hotels near New Franklin School.

The misdirection of city funds toward vindictive law suits and chasing federal handouts that are wasting the tax payers money.

The parking situation downtown. Either more parking or more frequent and more local public transportation.

The slow process for development and how each project seems to be continuously challenged in court by a handful of people. If a project is approved it should be able to move forward provided no variances to current zoning ordinances were needed.

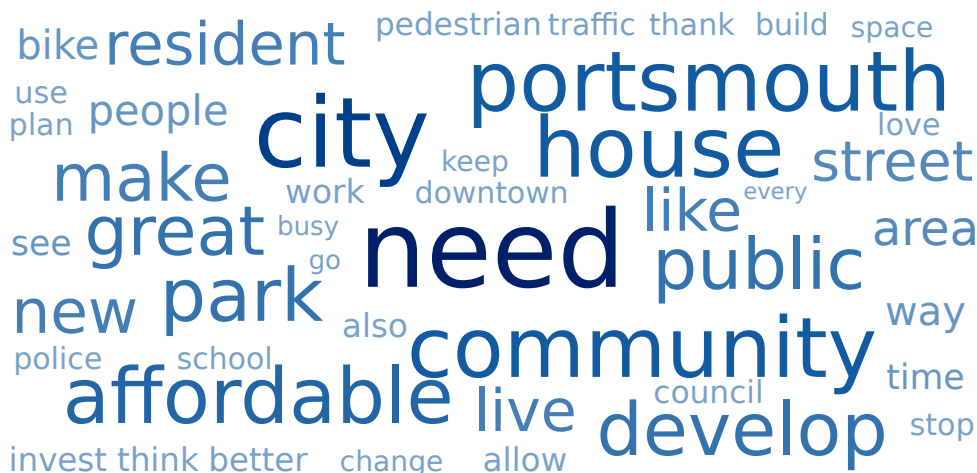
additional affordable housing

more effort to keep property taxes down by easing zoning to allow more tax base

more pedestrianization of core downtown

**Q5** Any other comments or suggestions about community priorities or needs in Portsmouth?

(145 responses by )



Portsmouth is far more than 3 bridges, 3 tugboats, and 3 square blocks. Given the chance, I would demand the city be more inclusive of residents on the outskirts, in mobile homes and apartment complexes, and stop focusing every minute and dollar downtown.

The pool, the boat launch, Prescott park, and having the middle school, the library, and central fire station downtown all help make Portsmouth feel like a real town and not just a destination for others.

"Traffic calming" should not be a high priority. Those tax dollars benefit only a small number of people and annoy a great number of others

A city Council that listens to citizens. Budget passed after every person spoke out against it.

A senior living community for middle class homeowners who want condo living with activities at least and continuing care at best.

Affordable housing.

Agree with sentiment that outside dining at intersection of Congress and Middle should be re-examined

An active Arts Council that creates an arts district in the West End (starting with securing the future of the Button Factory) and a strong affordable housing policy to create below market inventory.

Apply more long-term thinking. Short term investments distract from building needed resilience against rising sea levels and other impacts of climate change. Use a longer planning window than merely the next 4-10 years. Portsmouth will have significant challenges in the next 20 / 30 / 50 years.

Appreciate senior center, Outdoor Pool and Spinnaker Point.

Avoid lawsuits. Why did the city settle with Kane and then end up in a future lawsuit on McIntyre. Keep city streets safe to pedestrians, by not allowing outside dining in travel lanes and at busy intersections. Involve residents in more planning, before seeking partners and making plans. What is happening to Pannaway Manor residents of ignoring their needs for data, participation and process is horrible. We have to be better.

Be more inclusive of everyone across all spectrums of life..

Can we activate the vast swaths of undeveloped land for recreational purposes? The great bog for example

Change City Council to staggered terms to better preserve continuity. Other communities do this. Don't vote out/in the entire Council every 2 years, wastes time/loses institutional knowledge.

City Council needs to understand the long time population and stop catering to the commercial builders

Clone Rochelle Jones.

Coming up with affordable housing solutions.

Continue stressing what we LOVE about this place! It brings us together to tackle the hard stuff.

Continued support of senior activities as population ages and there is greater isolation. It would be great if Portsmouth offered a continuing care community similar to the Riverwoods model.

Control and slow down commercial development and projects. Tighter budget and less spending. Smaller city staff. Fewer high salaried admin types..

Develop workforce housing.

Disc golf course

Do not let developers let demolished building lots stand. City leaders should be embarrassed that the heart of the city looks like a war zone. City leaders allow developers EVERY excuse to allow that mess to stand. This includes zoning, HDC, and Planning to let developers off the hook.

Easier access to swim and camps for residents! It's like battle royals trying to get spots in these programs. If you aren't online right when they go live you miss out.

Fairness. Treat businesses and neighborhoods equally.

Find more innovative and proactive ways to engage busy citizens so that the council and committees hear from far more people than the noisy complainers.

Focus on the customer and driving successful outcomes, and the growth and revenue to support community needs will follow.

General sidewalk improvements throughout the city are needed.

Get the state to fund affordable/regular public transportation from outlying communities

Greater focus on the needs of the community.

Have the budget numbers scaled to per capita, per unit, per income basis. Compare these metrics to the same communities used to compare rate per thousand valuation metric, which is misleading. Require consistency in budget presentation by department. Trends in the number of FTE's by department.

Housing as agreed upon by the Community

How about a line item referendum that we as citizens can vote yearly on any major expenditures. We need to have a moratorium any any new developments until we can access the long range expenditures that will be created by this over building. Welcome to Boston New Hampshire!

How about investing in the Dog Park. With all these COVID puppies, the park could really use some shaded areas and trees.

I appreciate the progress to date on bike lanes and paths, and I look forward to future improvements in that area

I feel that there should be affordable housing for people that work in Portsmouth

I would like to see our elected city government modernized. Firstly, the at-large voting system doesn't provide results that are representative of voters and is open to abuse, as any large voting block can elect an entire council and leave other voters with no representation. See e.g. <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/the-bias-of-at-large-elections-how-it-works/> Secondly, I think both decision-making and communications between elected officials and the public desperately need to be improved. The

one-way "public comment" sections of city council meetings are useless, and hours-long late-night city council meetings don't seem sustainable for volunteer officials, or very accessible to the public. An initiative like FlashVote is a good idea, and there are many other tools, paradigms, and organizations which can help. The National Civic League, for example: <https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/>

I would love to see adult education come back. The Rec department used to have fantastic cooking classes, art classes, first aid and language classes for adults.

If we truly want the city to be pedestrian friendly, we need to look at areas that are experiencing tremendous residential growth. Lafayette Rd., in the area of WestRd., desperately needs either a traffic light or a safe way for pedestrians to cross the street. As use of our beautiful Community Campus increases, a lack of pedestrian crossing options will become even more of an issue.

Improve the biking experience

Improvement of city council which has wasted too much time and effort with drama and wasting taxpayer money. The McIntyre disaster cost us millions and it's shameful. It would have been a great project. It would have been a great asset to the community.

It would be great for the city council to offer opportunities for public comment that allow for dialogue between the public and the council so that the council has the opportunity to correct misunderstandings and misinformation

It's a great city! So fortunate to live here!

I'd love to see us become a more bike and pedestrian friendly community. The library, playgrounds, and recreational opportunities—benefits that impact all residents regardless of their income—are also very important to me, as are the quality of our schools.

Keep up the good work! We're lucky to live here. Thanks!

Keep working on the affordable housing issue.

Less government-mandated inclusion leads to real and honest inclusion.

Let's put solar on public buildings and no more hotels, no more offices. Plenty around downtown and what is vacancy rate, especially for latter? Remote working is a societal trend!

Love the skate park idea!

Love this city Planners need to be careful with greedy developers and mass production of expensive rentals and condos. Design matters

Make it more affordable to live here, and have more options for the unhoused population.

Make less light pollution a priority. A lot of the new decorative street lamps put in (on Islington Street for example) shoot a ton of light straight up . . . for what purpose.

Make our boards more aware of resident needs cD business needs . Our planing board , other boards and commissions HDC etc should be in same page and educated about not encroaching 1 ft into our wetlands. Implement fees for new buildings ( businesses or homes ) To include but not limited to :: parking water/sewage, public works., Schools , police and fire , recreation, city government , homelessness , health

More bike lanes, slow traffic, fix the mess that is outdoor dining on Congress (goat etc should not block traffic) Kayak racks at creek farm at reduced rate for residents. More public toilets open year round. Bus stop at library. Public showers and toilets in town year round - on hill near police?

More diversity is desperately needed here. Concord, Manchester, and Portland, Maine have great relocation programs for refugees—why not Portsmouth?

More support for the working class residents as well as increases outdoor as well as indoor fitness locations that can accommodate those needing weight loss support.

More traffic enforcement needed for illegal loud vehicles and speeding.

No

No additional comments.

Not at this time.

Not that I can think of now.

Obviously affordable housing

Oh! I love that we upgraded our power grids so we have reliable power and that we now are on Community Power. Thank you!!!

Our young people will face challenges we cannot imagine. They'll have opportunities to do incredible things, but they also will face problems that will demand the best from them. Examples: climate change, possible wars, more pandemics. They need to



be prepared. Our investments in them will describe and define Portsmouth's future.

Outdoor dining was a great idea - in its time. Today I think some of it is infringing on residents with regard to traffic flow (on Congress St) and further limiting downtown parking.

Pay more attention to the people who live & work here and less attention on tourists.

Plan for transit access along the Route 1 corridor.

Please do not let the NIMBY's derail efforts to develop affordable housing. Their input should be heard, but it should not stop this type of development.

Please keep finding innovative ways to engage with the community, especially those you don't typically hear from.

Police officer posted at every elementary school during school hours and events.

Portsmouth BOA and HCD needs to be revamped. Why do residential homeowners have to sit through hours of commercial projects? These should be split and the boards better educated (especially HDC!!!). A commercial project ultimately will pass without a problem after hiring lawyers and architects to ultimately make millions of dollars when meanwhile homeowners pay an exorbitant amount of money only to pay more in taxes. This inequity greatly hurts the homeowners!

Portsmouth has a voice at Pease Tradeport. I would like to see our bike path already connected to that area, further developed for bikes, walkers.... to be able to get to the Wildlife Preserve in Newington. I would like some money spent around the Tradeport to have a wide bike lane or combined ped/bike path separated from vehicles on all roads. I find the sidewalks under utilized but taking up valuable space where a combined path would benefit Pease workers and residents alike. It would be a drop in the bucket for businesses to pool funds for a project like this. The Greenway will be great too, but the views on railtrails are often limited and we only will have a few miles in Portsmouth. Thanks for asking!

Portsmouth is a great place and can be even better with more and better public transportation options and pedestrian-friendly zones. Thanks for all you do for our great little city!!

Portsmouth is a great place to live but it is growing so fast!

Portsmouth is fantastic. I embrace change but I am also very socially conscious and want to make sure nobody gets left behind.

Portsmouth, with all of it's resources should lead the State in mental health and addiction support services!

Pre-K childcare

Prescott Park will soon enough be under water. Foolish to spend money there. Perhaps a new outdoor concert venue would be a better use of our tax dollars. Also building Middle School and Library in a flood zone seems problematic, too. Move infrastructure to higher ground while you still can.

Public transportation as it relates to affordable housing as they go hand in hand if such housing is developed outside the downtown area.

Putting so much money into a skatepark that will be inaccessible to many at-risk youth, lower income families, and persons who do not have adequate transportation to get there is a shame. The city actually already has a skatepark at Greenleaf Recreation Center and wondered why major investments weren't made at that city-owned location, which would be more inclusive of lower income residents.

Rent control and sustainability are the two most important challenges Portsmouth is up against. And the two go hand in hand. The average daily commute time for the working class of Portsmouth is 40 minutes. If we had affordable housing close to town, it could cut our carbon footprint drastically

Reroute trucks off of Peverly road and onto the Route 1 By-pass. via Borthwick Avenue

Save Portsmouth so people will want to come and visit. We do not need a Boston.

Show leadership in climate action planning and follow through.

Skate park is too expensive, while other rec. facilities are being neglected. Prioritize pedestrian safety over cars at downtown intersections. Prioritize pedestrians over outdoor dining on downtown's sidewalks.

Slow down traffic.

Speeding.. we really have a speeding issue on our back streets. I live on Richards and its a GD Indy 500. There is not a day I don't see cars blowing through the stop signs at Richards and Lincoln. 1 because the signs are high up and blocked by trees and 2 people are going too fast. We need portable speed bumps on the through streets. Ones that can be removed in the winter for the plows.

Spinnaker Point gym should be open on most holidays as it was in the past. It was staffed by part time employees on those days.

State St. is a speedway.

Stop the density like West End Yards. Keep the earlier building height guidelines. Four stories.

Strengthen public space for all, slow down "development", build more sustainably, etc

Thank you for asking!

The City Council is doing a phenomenal job! Thank you!!

The Fleet Street reconstruction project needs to include burying the utilities and eliminating the telephone poles. EVERSOURCE should contribute the majority of funds to accomplish this.

The library is one of the biggest assets in this community!

The recent pull back of the Daniel Street government building by the GSA should give people pause. Think about what went wrong and how it could have been avoided. There isn't any side of that issue that isn't massively at fault. Both the initial plan backers and the late comers with their wish list. Idiots.

The speeding on our city streets is scary. People go thru red lights, stop signs and just ignore speed limits. I even see cars speeding thru downtown. I think that Portsmouth is an awesome place to live.

There have been many new condos added that are straining route 1 south of the circle. A plan needs to be outlined to ensure that side of town doesn't become overwhelmed with traffic. Disc golf is a much better value add than just about any other possible investment, it will most likely have as many users as the skate park at a tiny fraction of the cost. All public fields should post schedules so the public knows when they are open.

There is too much focus on attracting outsiders. Too many hotels, too many "tall" buildings downtown. A need for more community based events.

There needs to be more variety of housing options. Zoning ordinances should be less restrictive as to allow multi-family units where currently only single-family are allowed and parking requirements should be eliminated.

This is a strange survey. The community strengths do not necessarily translate into priorities. The options given for distributing increased spending were limited and did not allow identification of other priorities (for example, affordable housing).

Unfortunately, it's not specific to Portsmouth, nor is there a clear or easy answer, but many of us are wondering how we can feel safe sending our kids to school every day, especially given the recent threat at Portsmouth High. Our community needs to work on ways to make sure our kids can be safe to learn.

VERY grateful for our police department, fire department and ambulance services.

We are not doing a very good job of public transparency

We don't value open space enough.

We have enough tourists, don't you think? Let us celebrate what water views we have left. From a 50 yr resident

We need affordable housing but we also need more transparency around city land and projects so people feel like they are part of the planning process.

We need affordable housing! And affordable parking - 5.00 per hour is ridiculous.

We need to clean up the hotels around the traffic circle there is a lot of sketchy guests and residents there.

We should have a program that keeps affordable housing affordable, not just sold to developers for an obscene profit

Where are the electric car chargers for the Bridge St lot? Thought they were an element of the recent redo of that space?

While outside dining is nice, it takes up precious parking downtown. Residents should have free parking in the garages.

Would be great if downtown from Market Square to end of Congress a pedestrian only area

more transparency with city council & engagement with the community

our kids need to be seen and cared about by adults, not mass produced education on an assembly line. I will pay more taxes for this. Control the crazy development and put power back in the hands of the citizens as to the way the city is developed. None of this massive development would have passed a referendum, yet no one is trying to change how things are done. So it will just keep happening.

require new developments to provide more parking

see previous page

thanks for doing a great job (and getting OUT of the McIntyre dilemma)

As stated we need to seriously be addressing climate change in all sectors!!

Better policing. The culture is unhealthy. Need mental health, psychology, and deescalation training. Experienced harrassment and property destruction. Constantly received dif responses from police. They only started believing me when I had a boyfriend present, confirming experiences. I also saw a police harrass a couple on moped at Middle/Cass a couple years ago. The couple slipped on road (it had just rained) and were injured and in shock. I immediately ran to my apt for ice and called

police. 2 mins later the police arrived and began aggressively berating them about helmets and registration. I was disappointed and demanded the cop recognize they're in shock, worry about injuries, then he can deal with legal issues. So tone deaf and untrained in dealing with the public. Witnessed a college kid publically intoxicated without mask. Nonviolent on Congress just staggering in and off street. Police inappropriately treated it li SWAT operation, holding guns on holster. Need to deescalate.

I wish there was an easier way to get information out and for people to give their opinions. I also wish the people be more polite and understanding when talking about things and people they don't agree with.

Investment in mental health programs in our community should not in anyway be associated with the Portsmouth Police Department. Police Officers are not trained mental health professionals, nor social workers, and they are not qualified to act in either capacity. Multiple studies (and seacoast NH area examples) have shown police often escalate situations involving mental health issues rather than providing effective solutions.

More inclusive engagement opportunities (it's hard to get to meetings!)

More transparency from city government.

Spinnaker pool needs to become a priority as it is for some of us the only exercise we can do.

Teen rec option like New Heights at library and/or rec so teens have spaces again. More waking and biking friendly downtown. And limit ability of HDC to block ADUs, solar, energy efficient windows etc

Housing, housing and housing.

I assumed the priorities for how to spend 100 were on top on maintaining operations. thanks!

Strengthen the neighborhood associations.

We should make pedestrian/bike access a priority when expanding!

Affordable housing for Portsmouth workers

Affordable, Municipal housing , ecological sustainability, and reclaiming city space from hotels. Consider land grants as alternative method to ensure affordable housing.

Concentrate city investment on things that benefit all residents.

Continue to invest in our school system, and make safety of our children a priority

Develop new efficient intra City transportation

Get rid of bollards in the streets, speed humps, and traffic circles which make driving dangerous.

I would like to see at least a small budget of funds go to the Portsmouth city pool house. The pool itself is great but the pool house feels dirty and dingy and needs some attention and beautification. It's a great asset for the city. I am also in favor of getting the bike rail trail done as soon as possible - so hopefully this stays on schedule. Thank you

No

Parking

Portsmouth is the only walkable place in NH, it's what makes it a unique urban area. Keep improving that.

Preserving historic properties while mitigating rising tides

Stated previously

The train near the new garage seems to idle all the time, day or night, seven days a week, rarely moving. And the garage acts as a sound board, reflecting the noise across the pond toward the Dennett Street neighborhoods. Many homes in Portsmouth pre-date the first railroad charter in New Hampshire (1831). I'm not sure why the railroad is allowed to operate as such a poor neighbor. It's not like we built our house next to the railroad. Our house pre-dates the rail yard. And they changed how they operated. 25 years ago, you rarely heard the noise. The train was in and out and didn't idle. I just can't imagine that level of noise and pollution is healthy for city residents. We're all told not to idle our cars in front of New Franklin School for the safety of the kids and the environment, and yet the train can do it all the time. Doesn't seem right.

prioritize pedestrian use, de-prioritize driving/parking

reserve new areas for public parks as development continues to eat up open space.