



# PEORIA COUNTY, IL 2010

Report of Open-ended Question

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## **SURVEY BACKGROUND**

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™**

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality survey methods and comparable results across The National Citizen Survey™ jurisdictions. Participating households are selected at random and the household member who responds is selected without bias. Multiple mailings give each household more than one chance to participate with self-addressed and postage paid envelopes. Results are statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of the entire community.

The National Citizen Survey™ customized for this jurisdiction was developed in close cooperation with local jurisdiction staff. Peoria County staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community problems; they defined the jurisdiction boundaries NRC used for sampling; and they provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings. Peoria County staff also determined local interest in a variety of add-on options to The National Citizen Survey™ Basic Service.

## UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

### ABOUT CLOSED-ENDED AND OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Questions can either be asked in a closed-ended or open-ended manner. A closed-ended question is one where a set of response options is listed on the survey. Those taking the survey respond to each option listed. Open-ended questions have no answer choices from which respondents select their response. Instead, respondents must “create” their own answers and state them in their own words. The verbatim responses are categorized by topic area using codes. An "other" category is used for responses falling outside the coded categories. In general, a code is assigned when at least 5-10% of responses will fit the code.

Advantages of an open-ended question include:

- Responses are not prompted, allowing respondents to provide answers that are not anticipated or well known.
- This type of question tends to capture response options that come to mind most quickly.
- The final result can be richer, since verbatim responses are included in an appendix, giving you and others a chance to “hear” the voice of respondents in their own words.
- There is a smaller risk of missing important dimensions.

### VERBATIMS

Respondents were asked to record their opinions about Peoria County in the following question:

- What do you think will be the single most important issue facing Peoria County in the next five years?

The verbatim responses were categorized by topic area and those topics are reported in the following table with the percent of responses given in each category. Those verbatim responses are grouped by the first topic listed in each comment whenever a respondent mentioned more than a single topic.

Results from the open-ended question are best understood by reviewing the table of frequencies that summarize responses as well as the actual verbatim responses themselves.

Peoria County Open-ended Question	
What do you think will be the single most important issue facing Peoria County in the next five years?	Percent of respondents
Economic development and employment	39%
Public safety- crime, law enforcement	19%
Governance- budget, taxes, maintaining funding services, collaboration with other governments	15%
Schools, education	9%
Growth issues- zoning, sprawl, traffic, housing	4%
Environmental issues, Illinois River, water	3%
Don't Know/No Response	4%
Other	7%
Total	100%

## VERBATIM RESPONSES TO OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

The following pages contain the respondents' verbatim responses as written on the survey and have not been edited for spelling or grammar. Responses have been organized by coded topic areas.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING PEORIA COUNTY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

#### **Economic development and employment**

- (1) Job's creation (2) Crime prevention (3) Lower taxes (4) Less regulations
- (Jobs & housing) - money
- Attracting and maintaining jobs crime and crime prevention throughout county growth/and taxes county
- Attracting jobs
- Attracting jobs & growth in the county
- Attracting jobs & growth to the county
- Attracting jobs and growth and overall making Peoria an attractive place to want to be.
- Attracting jobs and growth to the county.
- Attracting jobs and job growth
- Attracting jobs, real estate taxes - level offer lower - killing us! attracting businesses
- Attracting more people and business to the county maintaining a sound tax base for services rendered
- Attracting people to Peoria when it quality lacks amenities that young professionals want - shopping, food, transit, activities, outdoor events,
- Attracting sales & growth
- Attracting well-paying jobs to this deed would be my top priority.
- Attraction to Downtown of Peoria.
- Availability of jobs for our youth, who are moving into the job market as fast as Peoria's job's are leaving the area.
- Bring in new business
- Bringing businesses and jobs to Peoria County.
- Bringing jobs back to the area so that people will start buying real estate again. There are too many empty homes in the area.
- Businesses moving out
- Catapiller jobs
- Continued exodus of people/jobs out of Peoria County leaving behind excessive cost structures, inability to find suitable replacement businesses, residents and tax support structure.
- Creating new jobs
- Creation and retention of high-paying jobs (especially for our youths).
- Decent jobs with decent salaries
- Dependence on caterpillar for local economy.
- Developing urban centers to attract young professionals and retain them.
- Development
- Development and quality job growth
- Development of business downtown
- Down town development
- Economic



- Employment - We need to get people back to work
- Employment issues
- Employment opportunities
- Employment opportunities
- Employment opportunities
- Employment opportunities (jobs)
- Employment, cut back effecting education.
- Employment.
- Employment/budget
- Employment/crime low/or no income young artery travel during peak periods/[illegible].
- Employment/jobs
- Employment/tax revenue
- Employment-Lower crime & criminal elements-education
- Finding jobs for people
- Finding jobs for the resident's in Peoria County that are unemployed
- Finding ways to keep people working at good paying jobs while dealing with the most challenging economic issues we have ever seen.
- Fixing up downtown, establishing new businesses to make it more attractive and more exciting
- Get some jobs in the county
- Getting employment back to pars
- Getting jobs for people
- Getting our people jobs & helping solve county govt difficulties.
- Getting people back to work -- attracting & maintaining businesses to create jobs.
- Good jobs
- Growth Jobs Violence
- Growth of the economy
- I believe we need expand our job industry in order to have more and better job opportunities and help small industry.
- I more jobs
- I think that the economy will be the most important issue.
- I would think they'll probably create new jobs for the people.
- If cat remains in Peoria, and the increase in minority population downtown, which crime land value.
- Increase of employment opportunities & attract businesses
- Industrial development!
- It's clearly obvious, that Peoria has not focused itself attractively as a major player in the business sector of the world. However, Peorians might reverse the arrogant subltant stance once caterpillar has move completely out of state within the next 5 years. One horse town.
- Job
- Job creation
- Job creation
- Job creation & retention, crime prevention,
- Job creation and job stability
- Job diversity, partial responsibility
- Job employment rate
- Job growth
- Job growth
- Job growth
- Job growth



- Jobs & safety
- Jobs & school issues & good government
- Jobs & taxes
- Jobs and better wages
- Jobs availability, affordable healthcare
- Jobs Bike & walking trails. More control over housing development in NW Peoria
- Jobs education, public schools dist. 150 (horrible!)
- Jobs for one drugs stop age second third gangs and prostitution not just one
- Jobs for our younger (17+ yr) and the quality of insurance if any for 17(+)
- Jobs health care for all uninsured
- Jobs loss
- Jobs Lower crime rate
- Jobs retention & creation in private sector.
- Jobs Security Healthcare.
- Jobs that pay a livable wage!
- Jobs Using vacant commercial buildings downtown revitalization
- Jobs you can support a family with
- Jobs!
- Jobs! (Good jobs)
- Jobs! Create more
- Jobs, crime & community development
- Jobs, crime, and education, and healthcare
- Jobs, growth and crime
- Jobs, health care
- Jobs, jobs, jobs!
- Jobs, lower taxes, effective police, responsive highway department, real zoning laws
- Jobs, schools
- Jobs.
- Jobs.
- Jobs/education equally
- Jobs-Employment crime clean drinking water.
- Keeping jobs and fostering economic growth.
- Lack of employment (especially if cat relocates) and the terrible state of dist 150 schools, I plan to move before my child is school age because of dist 150 schools
- Lack of job growth
- Lack of jobs. Health insurance. Lower taxes-property & sales tax
- Losing the jobs at cat. And all the lay-offs.
- Loss of cat jobs affecting the whole county-
- Loss of jobs affecting tax base.
- Lost jobs, unemployment
- Making Peoria proper an attractive place to live & shop, everything does not need to focus on the north side. The gap between the north & south will be so great that there is nothing in between. The middle & working class make a strong city.
- Managing commercial and residential development.
- More job opening
- More jobs
- Need to create more good paying jobs.
- No jobs and crappy roads. News and radio stations said Peoria has jobs, so people from out of state came and took them all. So I have to try and support my family working at burger king.

- People unemployed
- Peoria city & county government needs to be more user friendly to new construction, new business start-up, and expansion as far as zoning & permits.
- Poor economy/lack of jobs/high taxes & costs.
- Poverty
- Providing new business opportunities to those who see it. Please provide incentives to create business growth. And job opportunities Make it easy Growth should be the objective Peoria County (we want your business).
- Reinvigorating tie downtown are a finish the Museum & Warehouse District. Attract small businesses & residential to downtown to promote growth!
- Rundown neighborhoods, slum landlords & interest in improving services to the lower income neighborhoods.
- Slow economy-job retention & growth
- Staple diverse employment
- The economy
- The economy & its effect on the county's ability to provide services & cost of those services
- The economy & unemployment
- The economy and jobs.
- The economy and road maintenance of North Peoria County
- The economy and unemployment
- The economy!
- The economy, job growth - it's scary - I am more about job future, as I will be soon unemployed (due to my long time job closing next month)
- The economy. Job & population growth
- The economy. My answers may not be valid as I love in an assisted living placed. I have never been involved in the Peoria County government and I've never volunteered to work in places that would make me acquainted with things going on in. Peoria I was born in Southern Kentucky, living in both Livingston and Louisville. I also lived in East Moline see. I'm 89 years old - but a college graduate.
- The economy: Businesses closing.
- The economy-lack of jobs
- The economy's effect on jobs & struggling families
- The job market cost of living
- The lack of jobs.
- The loss of jobs. Bad economy!
- The single most important issue facing Peoria County in the next five years is getting a better tax base by attracting more businesses.
- Trying to keep jobs available for Peoria residents, so people will stay in Peoria.
- Unemployment
- Unemployment
- Unemployment in our area.
- Unemployment, childcare, & healthcare
- Unemployment, jobs, and help for low-income families
- Unemployment.
- Unemployment/debt
- Unemployment-loss of Businesses
- Unless the economy turns as fund, there will be more lay offs which will impact Peoria in every way.



- Crime and education
- Crime and gangs
- Crime and how unsafe Peoria has become. I do not feel safe in this city.
- Crime Belwood Nursing Home
- Crime in city
- Crime in the city of Peoria, and jobs should be all numbers 1 priority! jobs affect the crime rate.
- Crime kid's killing kid's got to stop.
- Crime law enforcement
- Crime on our streets. We need the police that got layed off. We have seen more shooting this year then ever before.
- Crime prevention
- Crime rate going higher.
- Crime rates/shootings
- Crime reduction
- Crime, lack of jobs, poor roads.
- Crime, our courts should stop putting felons back on the street. Over & over fire the entire 150 school board & advantage Help middle class stay in our home look @ real estate taxes pensions for gov. employees. Get in line & get real with the rest of the people
- Crime/Safety
- Crimes because of lack of jobs.
- Do something about the crime-lack of employment
- Drugs, crimes
- Drugs-gangs
- Eliminating/decreasing crime
- Emergency preparedness/plan
- Fighting crime.
- Gangs moving into the area from Chicago. I heard gangs were coming to Peoria & Madison, WI. Madison has come down hard on the gangs Peoria has not.
- Gangs, taxes,
- Gangs/Drugs
- Get crime under control.
- Get rid of all of the worthless trash people! i.e.: Drug dealers, gang bangers, and the stupid slots that keep spitting out little bastards to get more welfare money.
- Help "take a bite" out of crime- call crime stoppers
- I hope get the crime rate down so it will be a safe place to live. Not be scared after it gets dark out!!!
- I think that with all the crime, up-n-economy is the way its is that we need to try to budget,-n-recession should of not hurt the people out there that was trying to make it.
- I would like to say employment, however I feel increase in crime will become a bigger problem, maybe even affecting the population looking for jobs in Peoria.
- Increase in crime. I've lived in rolling acres for almost 2 yrs - my husband over 10 yrs... The crime has gotten so bad, even our area that we are afraid to leave our door unlocked in the evenings when we are at home. We have to leave lights on when we are gone because of the recent breakin's down the street.
- Inner city crime

- Inner city problems including crime
- It's difficult for me to separate the city & the county. Crime & public education are both huge issues that need to be addressed.
- Keeping crime rate under control. With the economy being the way it is, people seem to be willing to do whatever it takes to support themselves
- Law enforcement.
- Lower crime rate Better economy
- Lowering crime
- Making Peoria a more safely place to live.
- Making Peoria a safer place to live, making use of empty bldg instead of bldg new only keep future businesses in Peoria instead of sending them across the family.
- Making sure we have safe communities & excellent quality education throughout the county
- Not letting criminals off the hook on a PLSA bargain, and letting that criminal back on the streets only to kill someone. Nice job Peoria.
- Police protection
- Police, budget issues. In our opinion, we would rather raise local taxes than have cuts
- Population loss out of city of Peoria to other counties due to 1) Poor-performing schools, 2) Crime rate, and 3) Quality of air/environment
- Preserving safe neighborhoods
- Prevention of crime
- Providing funds to provide needed services crime prevention.
- Public safety
- Public safety, Peoria has to many unsafe areas. It limits safe affordable housing. Also many of our most unique/historic areas no longer are attractive living areas.
- Public safety.
- Rampent crime and drugs! jobs; industrial jobs. Not slaves to cat?
- Reducing crime, including corporate crime, such as blatant over charging by hospitals.
- Reduction in police & law enforcement due to budget cuts.
- Safety
- (1) Safety (2) Schools
- Safety - Security police services
- Safety & health of Peoria city/county residents.
- Safety of all areas Peoria County. The level of crime is statistically astonishing compared to similar 3 cities
- Safety of citizens
- Safety on the streets
- Safety, assimilation of multi culture
- Sheriff election-safety in Peoria County schools-growth in county as many are leaving district 150.
- Support law enforcement - States attorney office meets to prosecute according to letter of the law, not in an attempt to derive connection members
- The crime is the single most important
- To have a safe community for children, a good environment and good/truthful people to represent the people.
- To make all our streets safe and liveable (minus violence and crime) 24 hours a day.
- To much crime. The people are not very friendly.
- Try to maintain Peoria County as a safe place for all people.
- Violence - Jobs - Housing

## Governance- budget, taxes, maintaining funding services, collaboration with other governments

- \$
- (Taxes) over taxed
- Balance the budget by reduced projects we can't afford.
- Balancing revenue and expenditures.
- Balancing the budget
- Balancing the budget without raising taxes/fees!
- Balancing the budgets to ensure services.
- Better communication-I don't even know what district I'm in or who my representative is!
- Budget
- Budget
- Budget
- Budget need to be more proactive!
- Budget; taxes
- Building a new nursing home that is not needed. A \$ 40,000,000 waste of money
- City/county relationship & tri county relationship.
- Containing costs and not raise taxes!
- Control spending, quit cutting services, I believe this can be achieved by responsible people in government
- Controlling budget deficits
- Controlling expenses and wages without raising property taxes people one broke
- Controlling property taxes! Both city and county are extremely high. I will not be able to stay in my home when I retire because of outrageous taxes!
- Coordinate spending & services with city & state to make best use of resources. Improve recycling & yard waste removal. Stop open burning (29 & chilli) create manual labor jobs to keep people busy & employed so they don't steal & break into houses
- County, state, federal debt
- Don't you think PCB needs to worry about issues relative to the next "5 mos."? Instead of trying to by pass them now and look down the road 5 yrs. Personally, I'm sick & tired of paying taxes for schools that hoodlums don't want to attend. Libraries full of bums, parks I can't go to safely, or an airport & can't afford to fly out of. PCB just wants more and more to squander. Waste-waste, squander that's their mantra.
- Due to economics - tax increase - on the backs of the business owners & self employed - we can do no more! Typical - take from those who work & give to those who won't work. I do not mean those who can't.
- Eliminating waste. This survey is binned. Would have liked to offered more written opinions.
- Ever increasing taxes.
- Exclusively high property taxes
- Finances
- Finances - focus on necessities and eliminate unnecessary/pork spending.
- Financial issues
- Financial/fiscal responsibility
- Government employee pension & benefit costs to taxpayers.
- High property taxes - I pay over \$17,000/yr in property tax and cannot determine what value I actually receive!
- High tax rates on property

- Honesty in government-not wasting tax money on pork pet projects. Saving rural timber/farm land from development. Question 18a. What regional storm water regulations? Couldn't answer that without knowing what they were sorry!
- How the cutbacks in police, animal control & public services will affect health & safety.
- How to do more with less due to loss of good paying jobs
- I believe people will be leasing their homes. Our taxes are extremely high! Especially on new homes. Taxes need to go down and taxes need to come to a halt for awhile. We are taxed to death here that is a huge reason we won't stay here for retirement.
- Increase in real estate taxes. Service we have lived here (in the same house for 43 years & are both 81 years old) and are both retired. We do worry about increase in taxes and decrease in social security.
- Inner city public school taxes
- It's always cash flow.
- Keep taxes down - Improve efficiencies.
- Keep taxes under control and more new jobs!
- Keeping residents improved of services/opportunities keeping taxes down so people can afford to stay in their home
- Keeping taxes at present rate.
- Keeping taxes down
- Keeping taxes from increasing. Peoria taxes are unbelievably high. Waste of money to have city council and county board. They should be combined to save tax brokers.
- Look at question 18. We need to consolidate many other public services in Peoria County. Too many duplicate activities. Police; emergency; admin; etc. Cost management is the most critical area of focus for the next 3-5 years. I pay a lot of \$ in county taxes and am quite certain there is waste across the board. My business or family budgets are managed & prioritized more diligently than the county and all other governmental bodies.
- Loss of tax base.
- Lower tax base; lower retirement employee pensions; cost of entitlement programs; lower property taxes!
- Lowering property taxes - especially for farmer/landowners of many acres. We are paying for the land over and over again. Even as the economy is in a shambles. Our taxes continue to increase.
- Lowering taxes taking away zoning on a lot of their laws
- Maintaining essential service with minimal increases in property taxes
- Managing budgets of all city & county services. District 150 & education of city students.
- Managing cost control and not over taxing residences.
- Money
- Money - Making money balance jobs, all kinds. Cut guess along roads
- Money for less economic families to survive
- Money matters (such as taxes, Belwood, etc.)
- Money spending to much
- Money to meet obligations - need wage freeze & pension reform
- Money!
- Money!
- Money,
- Mounting debt from our poor managing government
- Move forward - not be afraid to make decisions - not be swayed by whoever (developer or business) has the money to throw at it for short - term gain to Peoria.
- Not going bankrupt

- Not housing taxes
- Outragious property taxes
- Pensions and their effect they will have on property & other taxes paid by home owners. We are seriously considering selling our home due to excessive property taxes.
- Please balance the budget. Considering the questionable quality of service we now receive from Peoria County, I would hate to pay more!
- Property taxes
- Property taxes - budget & education
- Property taxes are outrageous
- Property taxes are too high and the scheme for figuring the rate is unexplainable. The value of service received for the cost of taxes is upside down.
- Property taxes keep going up! Wages going down or staying same paying for others retirement can't afford my own!
- Provide value to tax payers, taxes continue to rise yet expected services do not. For what we pay on this side of the river it is an embarrassment to out taxpayers.
- Providing all the services needed while balancing or attempting to balance the budget & keep taxes in line
- Providing essential basic services in the current economic climate; e.g., snow removal has been very substandard in recent years, and with recent staff reductions it is difficult to believe it will not be even worse in the coming winter.
- Providing necessary services in the face of job loss & home foreclosures resulting in reduced tax revenues to support those services.
- Providing services while not increasing taxes
- Quit hiring out side consultants paying out money we don't have. Use common sense on issues instead of trying to make a name to keep political jobs.
- Raising taxes for a museum, then not building it.
- Raising taxes on homes as it will make more people relocate to avoid them.
- Real estate taxes, Rebirth of downtown, fixing district 150 to stop white flight out of downtown, overpaid city & county workers, pensions, losing big businesses
- Revenue
- Revenue and expenditures. Crime
- Rising taxes
- Service to its citizens at the least cost possible
- Soaring costs related to a population that would rather receive than contribute Note: Waste is also a problem - There was no need to send out a 2nd flyer for the survey. (wasted \$)
- Spend money wisely. Get rid of waste when we are broke. Don't just lay off workers
- Stable cost of services
- Staying within budgets while not raising taxes to exceed inflation
- Tares - If they keep going up more & more people will be moving out of the city.
- Tax
- Tax increases
- Tax rates
- Tax reduction
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes - have employees pay for their own pensions - Impose a 401k plan & eliminate tax money for pensions.
- Taxes - health care for seniors

- Taxes - incomes are down yet governments (all) Raising taxes to make up for lost income. No jobs, poor retention of mfg jobs - Don't makeup short falls on the backs of the Ave. Resident.
- Taxes - Where does are money go? Some taxes seem to be incredibly high which makes the mortgage go way up - housing costs seem to be out of line with income
- Taxes & not raising them.
- Taxes & roads
- Taxes everyone taxing us - where is it going to end up at?
- Taxes for property owners is high! I don't know how I can afford to live here after retirement w/ 10K+ (increasing) taxes!
- Taxes getting higher
- Taxes on senior citizen
- Taxes to high!
- Taxes! my taxes are now 1/2 of my original home mortgage (monthly) 18 yrs ago. Will I be able to stay in my home when I retire in 12 yrs. Will property taxes force me to move outside Peoria County. Projecting 12 yrs from now, the answer is yes!
- Taxes-between property, sales tax, and other fees, most peoples income do not provide enough for the extras in life. Incomes are way too low for most people in Peoria country, Ours is ok.
- Taxes-Real Estate taxes seem to be higher here. Education I was born and raised in Peoria, but lived elsewhere for 20 years. I am very glad to be back in Peoria, and Peoria County north no places to leave again-a good place to live even with a higher tax.
- That we will continue to be lead by dumb asses! To see how to do things right, follow East, Peoria's lead. Peoria is, "stupid is, is what stupid does! Peoria and Peoria Heights has more speed traps than any place that I have traveled. Thanks, I feel safe. Makes me want to spend my money there, not! Get government out of my damn wallet!
- The budget
- The encroaching indebtedness & control of the state & federal govt.
- The raising of property taxes
- To keep taxes at an affordable level during this economic crisis
- To rid most offices of the graft theft and the "go along to get along" attitude that is totally prevalent in the county structure. Peoria's county reputation is well known throughout the mid west. Local contractors hate the county offices with a passion.
- Too high taxes
- Trying to balance the budget and maintain good quality public services with the dollars available
- United city-county government
- Wastefull spending! (Govt).
- We should all pay our fair share of taxes our village is very poorly assess.

### **Schools, education**

- (1) Decline in the effectiveness of urban elementary & secondary public education & (2) Inefficiency of local government
- Capacity of schools in each district - Options for leisure time for all levels of age - Downtown abandonment
- Changes to the dist 150 school system
- Control in the public school systems class rooms, and control over gangs, and put them out of business. Neighborhoods can do it, also police can if they have the authority! When you do this people and business will move back to the county. Then things will fall back normal.
- District 150

- District 150
- District 150 and economic development
- District 150 is a complete disaster. The administration must be changed & the faculty need to be properly reviewed & held accountable for substandard reading.
- District 150 school administrators and school board members seem to find the exact, wrong answer to the right problem. They listen to big business and jump on every band wagon that comes to town (eg. Edison) instead of concentrating on quality, neighborhood school. The Charter School is their next expensive project. People with school age children are not moving into Peoria.
- District 150 the obvious “white flight” out of district 150 is causing a housing boom in Dunlap (village) & Tazewell county - notably Washington, that is glaringly obvious.
- District 150 will never recover. Stop trying to fix it & privatize. Taxes are way too high. We are a multi-million dollar annual salary family & we despise paying our property taxes because they are wasted. We see zero good comes from the tens of thousands of dollars we have paid. We will stay in Peoria (& keep our company here) because of Peoria Christian School. If it wasn't for that school, we would relocate. The Midwest is a nice place to raise a family. We wish Peoria would clean-up & lower taxes.
- Early childhood education. Well educated children educate their parents.
- Education
- Education
- Education - Students need to be more attentive, better behaved, so that more will stay in school. We need higher tech scores and graduations rates. They need classes to make them competition for jobs of the future.
- Education cooperation between all levels of government is best solution for the ten paper dollar
- Education of black youth
- Education of grade and high school students
- Education of our children. I believe we need to pay the teachers more and upgrade our schools.
- Education of youth
- Educational system, especially high school and drop-out rates.
- Effective administration of the public schools
- Fix the schools - If you don't do that none of the above matters. Nothing less opens the door to growth. Dist. 150 - how? Demand excellence, promote excellent students, demote trouble makers. Demand parental involvement, if they don't, you don't. Much more.
- Getting better schools & less crime.
- Improving public schools
- Improving quality of schools/education
- Maintaining a high level of public education without closing more schools or having to raise taxes so new schools can be built.
- More troubled teens due to loss of recreational & entertainment opportunity. There are no educational fun places and things to do with kids anymore.
- Our school systems.
- Peoria public schools job loss
- Peoria public schools, crime, litter, thru mentality' taking over neighborhoods, police apathy on gang/drug related crimes?
- Poor education in the Peoria County schools! The student is a real person, not a number. The emphasis seems to be on “looking good” through test scores, grant type programs, etc. We need to return to a basic education for all, so that our children can read, do basic math computation, and develop good character.
- Population expansion schools conservation of farm land

- Population movement from district 150 schools to suburbs-will it make district 150 a financial & social wasteland where only underprivileged remain
- PSD 150
- Public schools
- Public schools - no one wants their kids in district 150
- Public schools and the negative effect on housing in Peoria
- Quality of public education & quality of family life. 2 parent family's
- Safe, adequate schools
- School - Taxes.
- School district 150
- School district 150
- School district 150 is a train wreck and the most glaring disadvantage to Peoria growth
- School district needs improved
- School system
- School system, open enrollment (example Iowa) would encourage schools to provide better "service"
- Schools
- Schools -
- Schools fix dist. 150 or everyone w/ kids and the means will move out of Peoria including my family
- Schools, jobs
- The ability to provide consequences for actions. Punishing disruptions in PSD 150 classrooms will improve attendance by desirable children and achievement by all others, and stronger punishment for violent crime. May deter young adults who see friends and family receive for less punishment than those arrested for drugs.

### **Growth issues- zoning, sprawl, traffic, housing**

- Absorption of small towns due to the city of Peoria's rapid growth causing the county to lose community character and rural living options within county.
- Cleaning older neighborhoods
- Construction & gun issues. & drugs
- Controlling growth their excellent planning and managing older neighborhood to keep them vital.
- Controlling growth through zoning regulations
- Growth & increase in property tax
- Growth! Peoria has not grown in years.
- Keep Peoria County growing in North Peoria because of the empty spaces north of the city. It is one of the better parts of the city. A couple other issues would be: unemployment and keeping the Peoria County budget balanced.
- New and affordable housing
- Not enough places to build new homes
- Planning and zoning. It is absolutely ridiculous the hoops you have to jump through to get a permit and the things you have to do to keep up with code!
- Responsible new development to the environment
- Roads, traffic control, & services must keep pace with growth in housing.
- Sprawl and loss of farmland
- Sturdy, affordable homes. Protect woodlands & farmlands as "Green Area" clean air. Grocery store for local farmers to sell healthy, fresh, Local home grown foods
- Sustainable growth

- The downtown area needs to be cleaned up and the housing projects either need to be moved or destroyed. There is a growing problem in Peoria in which many people are afraid to talk about so not to offered anyone. We need to get this under control before the entire city becomes the ghetto and no new growth is made.
- The fact that we seem to chase away business and home building due to excessive code regulations. How are people supposed to want to build a house in the county with their every more being scrutinized and the cost driven up. This discourages new tax revenue.
- Too much housing taking over good farm land.
- Traffic flow too much traffic
- Urban sprawl/annexation by city
- Working w/ neighbor counties to build/plan a ring road joining Rt. 6 to I-155.
- Zoning-too restrictive, too many changes & too expensive

### **Environmental issues, Illinois River, water**

- (1) Environmental concerns - recycling, wild life, & recreation as well as cultural (2) Zoning, road & construction.
- 1. Toxic waste @ landfill - stop adding/start removing 2. Reduce chemical output into local environment 3. Distr. 150 - Why would anybody who can afford to leave distr. 150 choose to stay? All the funding goes to help south & central Peoria, ignoring the continuing needs to help better students to excel.
- Closure of the PDC toxic waste handling facility
- Environmental and public utility issues
- Environmental issues
- Environmental issues I cleanliness & going "green"
- Environmental issues: wreckless lack of tree replacement, pollution.
- I would hope in improving all qualities of the Illinois River
- Illinois river, for silt & toxins in water for sporting & (fishing, boating, skiing) environmental (fish, birds, & mammals)
- Pollution-water (including run-off); air (manufacturing generated plus serial spraying); land fills
- Preserving open space, wise land use to maintain quality of agricultural, green space, park land, and making use of already developed commercial space that is empty-there are many of these- in Peoria County.
- Providing a clean, safe, and healthy environment for all residents in all areas.
- Quality of life: Watershed conservation to enhance river quality; promoting care for the land, through better care by property owners, encouraging pride in ownership, stewardship; water runoff.
- Removing silt from Illinois River
- Safe landfill management! Continue to balance the budget.
- Water
- Water safety. Disposal dumping safety
- We need drinking water. Our water in unsafe. Bartonville Smithville Rd home owners have not access to winning water system.

## Don't Know/No Response

- Do something quickly & stay to it.
- Don't know
- Don't know - unless building a new Belwood Nursery Home for seniors.
- Don't know. Many things could happen between now and then
- Don't really know
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know, there are many issues
- I feel the things that will have most import on retirees such us will come from the federal gov't rather than Peoria County-big flow.
- I really don't know
- I'm really not sure at this time!
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- No comment
- No opinion
- No single - many multiple factor.
- Not know right know
- Not known
- Not sure, I have only lived here for about 9 mos, I'm still very new in these parts

## Other

- 1. Lack of natural gas service. 2. Too many deer 3. Too high tax for retired folks
- 1. Road repair 2. Downtown activity, participation to keeps Peoria alive, 3. Money for new jail 4. Snow removal on secondary streets.
- A safe and healthy community for seniors
- All of the above!
- Attracting outsiders to visit.
- Dealing with a dysfunctional city & its school district
- Flooding peoples basements for the sake of storm waters!
- Get off of being stuck on stupid
- Getting a bridge between Chilli & the across the Illinois River
- Getting a hiking-biking trail through Peoria heights. I believe this would address many of the issues in this survey, as well as create job opportunities.
- Getting a new states attorney
- Health care
- Health care

- Health care for the elderly-medication. Expenses over all freedom of speech-
- Health services
- Heath
- Homeless
- Housing builders, use cheap material and poor workmanship.
- How we all relate to peoples as a whole presently I see. We all allowing happening in the past create a generation gap. Different ages segments of groups.
- I don't think the coming museum was what we needed. For a city this time, Lake views was quite adequate - He have enough along the never and need to address other more important ways to use our monetary spending. You have a lot to be proud if in that Previous street, side-walks & the like are being address-long way to go yet
- I like to help my son move out her. Get a good live on Owen and get a job go back school.
- In every thing good I hope and pray
- Keep people in staying and promoting activities for seniors
- Livability, quality of life has deteriorated especially in the older neighborhood, should dept needs some pleasant folks, they are very discourteous, (not all of course)
- Medicare:- balancing budget!
- Outsourcing
- Peoria County is a good place to live. However, Illinois has a terrible government, is influenced too much by Chicago and appears to be getting worse every day. I have recommended to my children that they look outside of Illinois to live the rest of their lives. Also, I will not retire here.
- Poor image.
- Recycling
- Replacing Belwood Nursing Home.
- Retirement
- Road quality
- Road repair
- Services
- Social & environmental honesty -
- Social security and medicare for seniors
- That stupid museum
- The growing situation in Peoria inner city will impact all of the county
- The need for more pedestrian/bike friendly transportation options. The need for better litter control/pick-up. The need for more recycling opportunities. All of these to encourage more of the younger generations to come here & stay here.
- The street repairs in subdrive
- To terminate the museum project. Taxpayers cannot afford more debt for a want. Spend money on public safety services! Repeal the public facility sales tax!
- Trying to help souls that do not know Jesus as their savior. Doing unto others as we would have others do unto us.
- Will build-a-block ever happen?