

2008 Door County Citizen's Survey

COMMENTS

SURVEY QUESTION: What do you feel is the top issue or concern facing the county today?

RESPONSES :

Need more high quality, year-round jobs with benefits

1. Jobs / employment (6 responses)
2. lack of year round employment / good paying jobs with reasonable medical benefits (10 similar responses)
3. living wage / reasonable salary, for all residents in county (13 similar responses)
4. Increase the number of stable, well paying jobs outside of the tourist industry (11 similar responses)
5. Jobs that pay enough to attract and keep young people / families, in the community (17 similar responses)
6. Lack of jobs that are well paying to retain young people returning from college or universities. (3 similar responses)
7. JOBS FOR THE FUTURE NOT BEING SOLELY A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. Pay and living expenses better equalized an expensive place to live and work.
8. Keeping the young people in this area to take care of the growing senior population. (Healthcare)
9. Too many low paying jobs. More than 50% of the k - 2 students in Sturgeon Bay qualify for free and reduced lunch. This is an indicator of the level of poverty in the county. We seem to be cutting programs related to children. Idle hands are the devil's toys.
10. Our community residents cannot get employment during the summer months from local area merchants. WE work for the winter months but when resort time comes around, our jobs are then given over to people who live outside the country and community. While we pay the taxes, for schools, roads, public officials, part of the year of wages are given to outsiders. They come here take our jobs, take our money that would usually stay within the community, and go home with it. While we are left here paying the bills. Our community suffers every time an outsider works the resort times taking away our financial opportunities because the merchants pay lower wages to the outsiders. I will not buy here in my community anymore, I go to another city where prices are better and my dollar goes further. The merchants get richer and when they retire they too leave our community and again we are holding the bag.
11. We are facing the loss of our middle class - the young families/people who can no longer afford Door County homes; food prices/gas and fuel prices and who we need to keep our communities working - the cooks and waitstaff, cleaners and clerks, etc. When we offer jobs to new teachers at Gibraltar, half the time they turn us down because they cannot live in Northern Door on the salary we can afford to pay them.
12. The cost of living is very high compared to the kind and quality of jobs available to the general public with.
13. I would like to see more employers advertising their best positions to local people as well as out of the area. The people who have moved here are already proven to be loyal to the area and should therefore be considered first for top positions.
14. Jobs in the area that pay well enough that people can make a substantial living, & not necessary to drive a long distance to get to work.
15. We need jobs in industries that are environmentally suited to the area.
16. Economically-full time employment opportunities for all citizens, year round and with health benefits. Employment opportunities for citizens who are disabled.
17. Retaining and obtaining well paying jobs, not just basic bottom of the line pay.
18. Get new industries with long term job potentials.
19. Industry is only coming around lately. too few quality jobs with decent wages. The local citizen is secondary to the visiting tourists. Tourists are indeed an important part of our economy but the are NOT the foundation for our tax base. That burden is left to our county citizens. Life long citizens are literally

being taxed out of their homesteads. It's irresponsible government that has our families moving out of the county in search of a decent living.

20. Limited year round employment.. Why are the young people having such a hard time of it here?
21. Affordable living for people buying their first homes - more opportunities for the average person to move up in the quality of their homes - we seem to cater to the wealthy as far as opportunities for better living
22. We need more support for local families and support the people who live here all year. More year round jobs. Let's slow the focus on the people who are here for only a few months. In Door County, they will come anyway.
23. There are too many people living at or near the poverty level, with no insurance, nothing to fall back on. They cannot afford gas for their cars to get to their low-paying jobs, and cannot afford to put decent meals on the table.

Economic Development and Diversification:

1. The Economy (7 similar responses)
2. Sustainable employment including fair wages and health benefits. This should be a top priority for our leaders. Without sustainable employment, young families will not be attracted to or be able to continue living in our county.
3. Broaden economic opportunities with minimal impact on our environment and existing opportunities.
4. The narrow vision that tourism is our only product, our only means of making a living. We need backup work, cottage industries, Internet work--not just an industry that is prosperous for three months of the year and then only for business OWNERS, not their workers. Yes, we should be proud of and protect the natural beauty and qualities that make Door County a tourist area, but we shouldn't let that define everything in our county.
5. Bringing in businesses to sustain the economy.
6. Recruitment and Retention of additional personnel to keep major employers such as Palmer Johnson Yachts, Bay Shipbuilding and Industrial Park businesses successfully moving forward in order that the economy in this area remains strong. We cannot rely upon tourism alone. We need to work toward more state % federal grant programs that will assist employers to relocate outsiders to the area. A suggestion would be to conduct an assessment of age average among employers and within the Door County area. Results are quite clear. Difficulties for the county will become severe unless more youth and young families are guided into the area. We need to attract these persons by offering a "Youthful Surrounding"...more options with regard to dining, entertainment, etc. Let's put Door County on the map not just for tourism but more importantly, a better quality of life in comparison to the larger cities within the state.
7. We need to attract more industry and commerce which pays higher earnings. Along with senior citizens on fixed earnings and many others earning minimum wages, young people are going to higher education and not returning. They & their families need higher wages.
8. There's no work force left in Door Co. to service all these old folks
9. Economics are difficult to measure, my teens all have summer jobs and therefore I'm thinking all is good but the cost of living here and commuting anywhere is rising so fast I'm afraid it will be a rough time for the next few years.
10. Lack of industry and needless tax increases due to thoughtless spending as in Sister Bay
11. New manufacturing opportunities
12. Need more year-round business development to enhance job/employment opportunities.
13. Loss of young families
14. We need to bring young families (w/ children) into the county. Land has to be priced affordably so that people will & can live here.
15. Young families are struggling to make ends meet. There isn't much for full time YEAR ROUND quality paying jobs. Door County caters to the tourism WAY too much! Unless you work for the county, city, or health care industry or are a small business owner. And let's face it even having a position with the county or the city doesn't ensure you will have a job for much longer with the way the city and county are cutting back and farming out all of their work (and not with local contractors but from OUT OF TOWN

COMPANIES!), not hiring new employees to replace retirees. It won't be long before there won't be any county or city "workers", just pencil pushers in offices collecting salaries. We need to find a way to keep our young families here in Door County.

Taxes/Budget/Spending Too High

1. Taxes (16 responses)
2. Budget's
3. High property tax, and the inability of all our government to control spending.
4. The cost of government
5. Economic issue. High prices.
6. Taxes are out of control, especially in the city of Sturgeon Bay.
7. high property values that are out of synch with the incomes of the full time residents. I own property on the lake but am from out of town and can't afford the taxes. I grew up there and can see how difficult it is for the local residents.
8. Using tax dollars most efficiently
9. The quality of life here relates to the beautiful outdoors, fresh air and wonderful people and culture. This has nothing to do with the quality and efficiency of county and city govt. The services provided are far to expensive for the value received. Taxes should and must be reduced. (example: I moved here 4 years ago. The taxes on my house in Sturgeon Bay are \$5000 which are over 3 times what I paid in Missouri for a house worth at least \$50,000 more than this one.) What do I get for my money besides poor quality roads and getting my driveway plowed in every time it snows. I have reviewed salaries and benefits to Door County employees they are absurd in their excessiveness.
10. Keeping taxes (expenses) under control.
11. Keeping the budget (and taxes) from going up.
12. maximizing the efficient use of tax dollars while continuing current services
13. I believe the high taxes are an issue, especially in the city of Sturgeon Bay.
14. Keeping taxes at a level that the taxpayers can handle while still providing services in a conservative manner.
15. Setting priorities and budgeting accordingly. Don't get involved in long range plans that can burden property owners down the road. You can't predict what will happen to Lake Michigan water levels and therefore should be cautious with long range plans involving projections along the shorelines of Door County.
16. Balanced budget
17. Taxes and budget
18. continuation of low tax rate
19. Sound fiscal responsibility in difficult economic times.
20. Aligning services with the budget without going for additional financing.
21. Spending
22. the way the county spends its money
23. Continued excessive growth in government spending compared to economic growth.
24. Controlling employee costs. We cannot continue to pay benefits that are defined by unions no matter what they cost. Taxpayers cannot begin to afford these benefits for themselves, but every year they are forced to pay more taxes to cover these "defined benefits" for public employees. The gap between what the private sector can afford to provide in benefits and what the public sector is guaranteed - with someone else's money - is growing every year. That is compounded by the fact that as our taxes go up we have even less of our own money for our own health care, retirement and living expenses in general. This is a problem with all levels of government and absolutely has to be dealt with or we will all hit a wall beyond which we simply cannot go. Perhaps it is time to seriously look into sub-contracting many of the services that the County now provides with public employees, equipment & facilities.
25. Out of control county government spending

26. State imposed budget caps on both municipalities and school districts which are crippling local efforts to provide adequately for their citizens.
27. The inability of the County Board to hold the line on spending.
28. Budget. Making due with less and providing the same level of service.
29. Spent too much money we don't have.
30. maintaining services while spending within a sensible budget. Some cuts will be necessary. We have found recently that economies and tax bases are not going to continue to expand forever. The economy is falling and so cuts will have to be made in services and programs to reflect the fact that people have less income. Government cannot expand while the economy shrinks.
31. Providing safe levels of services in most cost-efficient manner yet still avoiding conflicts of interest.
32. Over expensive County government. Our County government spends too much. Property owners are overtaxed.
33. County government is too large and costly
34. The cost of employee benefits for City and County employees
35. Budget. Running each Department as efficiently as possible.
36. How to pay for goods and services with tax limitations.
37. The cost of benefits for unionized workers for the state, county, local and school governments.
38. Fair taxation
39. Spending tax money wisely and managing the expenditures for timely results. It appears that too much money is spent on consultants without careful management of consultants along with expected results.
40. Real estate taxes, services
41. waste of tax money by the board with elevated opinion of self and arrogance to the people of the county

More Efficiency in Providing Services

1. Maintaining or improving the services in the face of rising energy costs and underfunded state mandates while trying to minimize tax increases
2. Using Tax Dollars More Efficiently
3. maximizing the efficient use of tax dollars while continuing current services
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Preserve Natural Beauty/Aesthetics/Environment

1. Preserve, conserve, protect the natural resources on which Door County Tourism and economy depend, esp. water quality and quantity.
2. Keeping the county quaint, stop the building on every square foot of free space, put a moratorium on more condominium development, enough it enough!!!!
3. Preserving the beauty of the County
4. Limiting development, preserving natural amenities, reducing traffic.
5. Not developing so quickly that we lose the natural beauty spots of the county.
6. loosing the Village feeling that people come here for.
7. slowing down growth and preserving what we have left.
8. Preserving green space and the natural beauty of Door County is very important. I am seeing too little concern for this.
9. Preserving and protecting the natural resources and aesthetic values of Door County
10. Limiting Chain Stores -- keeping the small town feel
11. Retaining the character of the county while encouraging tourists and other economic development.
12. Keeping the charm that brings tourists who are the real lifeblood of the economy.
13. Preservation of the viewscape
14. Too much commercialism. It is losing its uniqueness.
15. Certainly not the top issue - but important to our future. Sustainability. We live in a wonderful place. If we don't preserve the beauty of our natural environment, we'll look just like every community in the US. Keep growth contained to specific areas. Prevent urban sprawl. Do what we can to protect this beautiful place.
16. Responsible growth and protection of our environment.
17. maintain the natural beauty. We must keep our water clean, our parks pristine, and our air pure. If we don't the tourism industry is dead anyway.
18. Preservation of undeveloped tracts of land and insuring that growth is sensibly managed.
19. Preservation of its unique qualities of charm, seclusion
20. Keeping the area preserved while still surviving economically in a changing society
21. maintaining quality of life and trying to grow economically in a sustainable way
22. Strip development along state and county highways can ruin the feel of Door County for both residents and visitors.
23. Environmental concerns, such as topsoil erosion and the types of energy currently being utilized by the majority of concerns.
24. Spoiling natural resources
25. environmental protection
26. Our fragile environment.
27. Environmental issues -- water quality, preservation of natural areas, controlling development, etc.
28. Loss of natural assets
29. Responsible development- primarily in the city of Sturgeon Bay, but also county-wide. The infrastructure to draw and attract young,
30. We need more green space.
31. smart growth that protects farmlands and increases density and ensures safe drinking water
32. A growth of condos without proper zoning has been occurring for some time. There seems to be little concern for the maintaining the environment and the non-metropolitan life style that had attracted so many people over the years. Environmental concerns such as water, open space, and protection of the land apparently are relegated to private groups (Land Trust, DCEC, etc)) and are not the concern of elected officials and business people.
33. controlling growth without ruining the character of the Door.
34. Controlling development and maintaining the present environment
35. Stop all the building projects that block the water. Local people are losing the view!
36. Preserving our lands from development! We are losing the County's natural beauty for the sake of making money!
37. Probably zoning issues, with water quality a very close 2nd. It would be great to limit or eliminate the unsightly junk patches in the countryside (abandoned cars, equipment, etc which litter the landscape). Condominiums seem to be built anywhere & everywhere....a bit of an exaggeration!

Control Rampant Overdevelopment (Including Condos)

1. Over development / large developments / overdevelopment of our fragile environment (23 similar responses)
2. too many condos / limit condominium development (20 similar responses)
3. Zoning and residential overdevelopment.
4. Allowing existing properties to be torn down and condos to be put up. The lack of sidewalks, and bike paths.
5. Over development of building complex's and changing the look of Door County
6. Land Use Policies that are well thought out and STUCK TO
7. Ugly billboards that block views and totally spoil the beauty of Door County. Several businesses and private properties that lack up kept appearance.
8. Too many new developments. Unattractive exteriors/harsh colors on new developments
9. professional families MUST be improved. Biking trails, walking trails, dog parks, high speed internet, alternative forms of transportation, unified school districts. Please help!
10. Keeping development from ruining the charm and desirability of the county.
11. Land use & local government in the battle between sustainability and economics
12. Environmental concerns, particularly over-development
13. Improve zoning to control the building of condos--there are too many vacant buildings in this county. And the shoreline needs to be of a major concern.
14. Better enforcement of zoning issues--a moratorium on the building of condos and retail establishments--there are too many empty buildings that could and should be used for retail. We need to monitor the shoreline.
15. There is no county-wide growth plan - each village can determine what to allow developers to do - inconsistency among villages - need to develop a plan that will protect the land and lake for the future - and not just short-term gains for developers. look at the land just north of Sister Bay will show you what happens when developers are unchecked.
16. There is no county-wide plan for preserving the land and lake view for the public. We need to make sure that there is land set aside for all to enjoy and not allow only the very wealthy to enjoy the stunning beauty of Door County land and lake shore. The county needs a systematic policy for purchasing land in all areas of the peninsula and south of the peninsula to set aside for public parks.
17. A tertiary concern is the lack of sturdy ordinances that would protect the county from huge billboards that deface the beauty along Highways 42, 57, and 42/57. We need ordinances controlling the size, placement and lighting of signs to protect the county - preventing light pollution and spoiling the natural views of beautiful Door County. (A recent trip to Florida revealed that in Georgia there are now double decker lighted signs all along I-75. There is no limit to billboards unless there are strong ordinances.)
18. Big box sprawl, ugly rental units going up all over the place in visible areas, and billboards along scenic highways. We need to keep DC natural and beautiful or people will stop coming here -- it won't be any different from where they're escaping from!
19. The amount of condo's and build up of waterfront property becoming more important than the economic development and continuing well being of the shipping industry.
20. Inability to deal with overcrowding of condominium and resort development. We have abandoned any sense of protecting what made Door county a special place - it was the rural setting with parks and water and small - quaint shops that brought back memories of times past. It has been obliterated by overdevelopment of commercial and residential facilities, ironically catering to a class of visitor who spends less in the tourist sector than less affluent visitors and day trippers who no longer find Door County a breath of fresh air.
21. appropriate development. At some point development will diminish charm and tourism will drop off rapidly
22. planning, development and quality of the environment.
23. Over development in the form of new "retirement housing". It is not in keeping with the scenic, rural atmosphere that is the very life of the county and the reason for our number one industry: tourism.
24. We need well thought out planning that covers several years, so when issues arise decisions can be made within the context of the plan.
25. Tearing down businesses instead of utilizing, too many left empty.

26. Proliferation of condominiums that scar the landscape and multiply the need for public services.
27. Overdevelopment of land and degradation of the environment.
28. Less restrictions on waterfront property
29. Development that benefits local as well as seasonal residents while maintaining Door County's quaint charm.
30. Keeping the County from being overbuilt! A close second would be making sure our children are getting a well-rounded education - meaning, the arts & humanities in addition to sports, math and science.
31. Proper commercial development
32. overdevelopment ---> environmental degradation ---> loosing our niche as natural and artistic haven
i.e. overall blandification
33. Parking has become deplorable, new guidelines for required parking are necessary. Outdoor seating at restaurants is still seating requiring as many parking spaces as indoor seating!
34. Very poor long term planning -- unzoned areas - 'sprawl '
35. becoming a second Wisconsin dells! THE LOCALS ARE FORGOTTEN AND THE TOURISTS GET IT ALL!
36. Condominiums are being built on top of some of the most beautiful areas in the county. When the county is cluttered with condos, there will be nothing more for visitors to see here. Realtors are driving the price of land above what is affordable, thus artificially inflating the price of everything.
37. Land use planning and preservation.
38. Building restrictions; i.e. size of lots, condominiums (number, location, etc.), building size (overbuilding)
39. Zoning issues
40. Proper commercial development
41. ugly development that blocks preexisting views
42. Uncontrolled development, contempt for zoning, too little protection of environmental treasures - the very things that attract visitors and sustain the economy
43. Growth - develop key strategy to avoid a water park / Dells location. Also am dismayed at clear-cutting on Glidden Drive for homebuilding and the allowance of what looks like out-buildings recently built on Glidden.
44. land use/development
45. too much development on the canal (Shipyards partners) and in northern Door (condos, condos, and more condos and cheap trinkety shops---this is not Door County)
46. Rampant and uncontrolled tourist development continues without adequate controls! The economy is for tourist related business is sluggish as much because of excess competition as the economy. also, the quiet rural nature of the county that ATTRACTED tourist is now turning that away!
47. Too much condo & gift shop development

Protect Water Quality

1. Water Quality / Assurance of Safe Water (16 similar responses)
2. Water quality. Protection of water quality and remediation of problem situations. Tourists WILL NOT come to a place PERCEIVED as having water problems. Perception is reality when marketing. So even if there are no current water 'emergencies', the marketing materials should keep emphasizing the strong emphasis by local governments to be 'on the leading edge' of water quality efforts. MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT WATER QUALITY. AS AN ISSUE IT WILL BE #1 FOR YEARS TO COME.
3. Mostly importantly, I believe the county has allowed overbuilding to the point it is endangering our sanitary and water systems.
4. water pollution from ag & non-ag sites and inadequate septic systems
5. How to protect our resources, particularly water!
6. WATER POLLUTION AIR ADVISORIES
7. updating septic systems /people who really can't afford to update their systems unless they sell their homes.
8. The invasive species (phragmites, in particular) and the quality (or lack thereof) of the lake water. The algae problem MUST be addressed.
9. As building continues the water quality and beach conditions should be a top priority.

10. Also I think the environment and bio diversity of the beautiful place we live does not get enough attention. There are pockets of people and groups who live conscientiously however, not everyone is living by the same guidelines. We have a lot of work to do to keep this county in pristine condition. More focus on our groundwater protection, storm water runoff, clean beaches and invasive species would be a great start.
11. Environmental damage from invasives, lack of coordinated effort for control on the part of the various political entities.
12. Development not taking into account the limited water and soil resources for potable water and waste disposal
13. The problem with algae and weeds on the beaches of Lake Michigan is awful! We used to be able to swim in the water 5 years ago and walk the beaches, but not anymore. It doesn't make our property worth much if we were to sell! Run-off from farms; and sewage being dumped by boats, Milwaukee, and Chicago needs to be addressed and promptly take some action.
14. Ground water - inspection of septic systems is too slow
15. Lake Michigan - shells brought in by ocean tankers - this will also be affecting the shoreline on the Green Bay side of the peninsula if it has not already happened - losing water depth as well
16. the top environmental issue is water quality
17. Poor water quality in the Green Bay and in Lake Michigan.
18. Lack of control over septic tanks, ground water---by townships
19. County Wide Sewer System
20. Low water level and scum on beach at our bay cottage near Dyckesville, as well as gypsy moths.
21. Beach grass completely obscuring beach at our lake cottage on Glidden Drive.
22. groundwater protection and proper household wastewater disposal, the septic tank inspection process is moving way too slow and this needs to be expedited even if it means securing extra funding to increase staff for the sanitation inspections, over the objection of present staff. The turf battle that seems to be in place with the service personnel can be eliminated if the installers, pumpers, and maintenance firms increase their capabilities to correspond with increased inspection staff
23. Our environment, especially disposal of wastes, human and agricultural; surface and ground water pollution; and land use
24. safe drinking water. it does not work to knowingly allow a failing septic system of any size to leak human waste into our drinking water for as long as a year before it is fixed.
25. The potential for the ground water (the stuff we drink) to be polluted from runoff and leaking POWT's. This is especially true where large commercial eating establishments are allowed to operate even after they have been identified as having a failing or leaking POWT. The fact that most storm sewers connect directly to the lake and bay are also having an effect on the surface water and the growth of Cladophoria due to increased phosphorus loading.
26. algae ruining our lakefront shores
27. Making sure development doesn't ruin water quality in the county.
28. clean drinking water which is threatened by failure to impose more stringent guidelines for replacing failing septic systems. without clean drinking water the health of the citizens of the county is threatened.
29. Beaches fouled by claudaphora, algae and mussels
30. E coli on the beaches
31. Summer time - Ecoli warnings on our beaches.
32. Prevention of water contamination
33. Septic
34. water quality of Green Bay and water levels
35. Preservation of drinkable water- which is endangered by the over-development especially by condos proliferation !
36. the weeds in Sturgeon Bay harbor; the algae on the shores of Lake Michigan which are quite smelly.
37. invasive species (phragmites, zebra mussels etc)
38. Not enough concern for the land and our environment, greed
39. over building the water supply
40. Polluted beaches
41. Polluted water and air.
42. ++Actively conserve the natural resources that people come here to enjoy.

Need for More Affordable Housing

1. Affordable housing / Housing is too expensive (28 responses)
2. Housing (2 responses)
3. The continued rapid escalation of real estate value and how that impacts the local school districts.
4. affordable housing and being able to make house payments year around
5. I think affordable housing for working people in Door County is the top social issue because it prevents us from hiring the workers we need to staff essential services
6. Affordable housing and supportive economic situations for developing families!!!
7. Affordable Housing in Northern Door. Employers can't find help because the younger working population can't afford to live here. Even those of us who work 2 jobs have trouble.
8. Affordable housing, especially north of Sturgeon Bay. This is essential to the viability of local young person and their families being able to make Door County their home. It is also necessary for the success and continued growth of many businesses (service providers especially).
9. Affordable housing and living standards for young families / professionals

Transportation

1. Transportation (2 responses)
2. Lack of public transportation (5 responses)
3. transportation that is affordable. Infrastructure to deal with aging population.
4. Lack of public transportation or any transportation options, especially for rural residents.
5. I think we would be better off in the long run if we established a simple mass-transit system both within the county & without. A decent bus service from Green Bay should be re-developed & promoted. The 4 lane highway from Brown Cty is not going to relieve congestion up here, it will eventually exacerbate it. We should have a shotgun only deer season.
6. There was a time we had a bus service from Sister Bay to Green Bay, etc. ???
7. Affordable Transportation
8. Transportation is a major issue. Due to the shape of our peninsula, it is difficult to get people in the middle and lower portions who need jobs to the north where jobs are available. Not only is it hard for people to get to jobs, but also to medical appointments, shopping, etc.
9. An effective transportation system both within Door County and connecting to other communities, particularly for people who cannot (or should not) drive vehicles.
10. rural transportation system available to all including disabled people. Not just for medical appointments, but also to get to work or shop etc. A good bus system would cut the amount of cars, gas needed.
11. Transportation-affordable public transportation is needed including evenings and weekends.
12. the lack of public transportation, not only locally but long distance to Green Bay. many residents are elderly and may not be able to drive very far and a regularly scheduled bus service would be helpful.

Healthcare

1. availability of good healthcare for the aging population;
2. The lack of adequate health insurance for most workers and farmers is a health issue for everyone.
3. Health care of seasonal employees
4. Health care
5. Adequate health care, so many people go to green bay
6. lack of health care

Energy / Sustainability

1. Sustainability (4 responses)
2. Being very careful with alternative energy schemes. ...Having fields of windmills or solar panels located in the wrong locations will visually pollute the county...one of the most important assets...people come here for the beauty...and that should be a priority to keep that beauty. Those alternate energy resources would best be located in areas already disturbed....such as the outskirts of existing towns or near an existing pool of radio towers...not scattered helter skelter over the county
3. Over-reliance on fossil fuels.
4. Understanding the pending energy crisis and developing a coherent means to address this issue locally.
5. Cost of energy items--heating fuel, gas etc.
6. Energy Technologies-No plan, resistance to change, ignorance, not in my back yard. Throughout the U.S. each area need to use local resource to start becoming energy independent. This should have been started 20 years ago
7. ++Encourage development of cutting edge technology--such as wind energy. Few areas between here and South Dakota have such a fine wind resource. How many board members have visited a field of wind turbines?? I have visited several in western Minnesota. The few turbines set up in DC are old. Learn about the latest technology and move us forward. The roadblocks that have been thrown up by townships in this county are shortsighted.
8. gas prices
9. We need to encourage wind energy not discourage it.
10. The need for energy conservation and sustainable lifestyle.

Tourism and Economic Development

1. Ineffectiveness of the public and private sector to coordinate year-round tourism.
2. To much emphasis for tourists and summer residents.
3. decline in tourism
4. decreases in tourism which affects the overall economy
5. Finding the balance between tourism and industry. The County will never survive solely on tourism. There needs to be a strong base of manufacturing or other industry to keep the peninsula alive through well paying year round jobs with benefits.
6. The economy is ok overall but tourism seems to be suffering.
7. Tourism and the ability to make Door County attractive to a wide variety of people.
8. Loss of Tourism
9. Tourism is a big part of our industry and should be encouraged and supported.
10. Increasing the awareness and promotion of green tourism...low impact on the environment tourism...biking, walking, hiking, Arts, kayaking...these people have money to spend too, but their recreation doesn't harm the environment, physically, acoustically or visually.
11. Tourism - this county depends on it and we should be marketing the county heavily to continue its growth.
12. It's unbalanced economy, too dependent on tourism
13. We need to do something to set us apart from everyone else. We need people to come to Door County to spend their money here, because of our uniqueness.
14. Maintaining presence in national tourism market
15. Economic slowdown causing continued decline in tourism
16. too much dependence on tourism as prime income producer. People come here for the unique charm, not to see another suburban remake they can find where they live

OTHER

1. The lack of governmental cooperation and working together also contributes to the bankruptcy; the County does not work out an arrangement with the City and causes the City to build a jail at taxpayer's expense tearing down the old - my very strong belief is that the City's own services mean savings to the county (for example law enforcement) but the County does not appear to be appreciative at all. the County in my opinion has and continues to overcompensate - compared to private industry where the employees appear to be under significantly more stress while the county employees have too many benefits whether by terms of hours off or other such as retirement and health coverage's - the day not so many years ago when extra benefits was intertwined with lower pay in the governmental sector has been replaced with overbenefits when pay is intertwined - stand up and assert as the private sector has long been passed behind and should not be. All attributes to the bankruptcy of the citizens - too much spending. "Justification" may be made, but it just should not be. This is the top issue of concern today in my opinion.
2. parks and landing facilities
3. Too elitist and expensive for the common worker and visitor. When we told people in Milwaukee area that we were moving to Door County, they all thought we were wealthy, and we are not. Most of our Milwaukee area friends think it is too expensive for them to stay overnight and shop. Not enough people think of Door County as a place to just live and relax without having to spend a lot of money.
4. Being able to live here economically; I am a lower income resident and find that the economy and choices for telecommunications access in my not-even-that-rural area and economical shopping choices are extremely limited and monopolized. For what it's worth, I am a native and hate the land development that has occurred here that has removed all but the memories of how wonderful DC was when I was a child. It's not special anymore. I know that as soon as I can afford to I will be moving away, and have heard many people who feel the same or who don't come here anymore in the 1st place, because there is little to no public access to what everyone had access to 40 years ago, so why bother coming here? It's all about money and not about the original ideal of DC.
5. The need to be more results-oriented rather than tabling or referring issues to committee. Related too is the critical need to do a much better job with key hires--way too much turnover
6. TOO MANY "GREEN" PEOPLE TELL US WHAT TO DO
7. I think the county is an alright place, and the county gov. tends to go along in its usual fashion. Efforts are made by some to keep up.
8. Lack of leadership
9. Infrastructure management, justice center and new police station was a complete architectural blunder. Not to mention the renovation of the courthouse building that is taking more than a year and how many more dollars.
10. Gentrification in the guise of retired gentry.
11. Too much money spent on surveys and studies for the same things. Please have the guts to either be for or against something (ie. WALMART) and voice your opinions honestly instead of wasting so much time and resources to not look like the bad (or good) guy.
12. Maintaining its sense of place particularly as it concerns economic development issues.
13. We have plenty of retired wealthy, many who retired years ago on modest pensions, but our own folks can't afford to retire here.
14. Maintaining infrastructure for a safe environment to last for the next generations.
15. We love Door County and have a home on Lake Michigan. We do not believe bigger is better. We are pricing out the long-time Door County resident who wants to live and work in the communities.
16. Continued increase in land values, not enough diversification of local economy.
17. I feel that we have gone off the deep end in spending tax dollars on new justice center along with tearing down of old jail just to put offices in what a waste of taxpayers money. Property values have dropped and all we see is we are taxed on the upgraded values if this trend keeps on going you will force many residents to leave this community. We are electing representatives who are doing very little as to cutting unnecessary projects out.
18. Have been here for four years now and my main concern is the change in how our kids act. There are more disturbances. For the first time my van got egged. Last year store windows were broken and our outdoor decor' was damaged. It seems to be getting worse, like I'm almost living in the big city again.

19. That development will make this county just another noisy, messy, congested place. No separation in townships and loss of charm and natural beauty.
20. Wise, consistent regulation of development including well thought out zoning and executed zoning plans/mandates.
21. the attitude of law enforcement toward the mentally ill
22. Not having a long term plan and vision for growth of our community. Becoming a retirement community with fewer young families staying here due to inability to achieve a fairly high standard of living, without a diverse employment base, and enough companies to provide ladder within corporate environment
23. maintaining the county's unique character and beauty, while improving job opportunities
24. trying to keep the local people in the county- economic costs of land etc with the low paying jobs.
25. Financial - inability to pay for needed services
26. Seasonality of the local economy
27. lack of communication between the city officials and the citizens of DC. We also need more participation from the citizens in working together...northern door, southern door, ALL OF DOOR...to finally realize that is not us against them...we are all in this together. Not quite sure how to accomplish this...but it needs to start from the top...
28. Losing the feel of what people come to Door County for: open spaces...spaces to park and see the beauty of the land without commercial traps around one. Coming into Sturgeon Bay, the look of the Doorway To Door County is as if one never left Green Bay - or any other place one wanted to get away from...a clutter of businesses. Tear down the broken/old buildings on 42/57 - really an eye sore. Junk along the highways.
29. Stability of workforce. Taxes.
30. THERE IS NO FUTURE HERE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. WE NEED TO GET SOME MORE SMALL BUSINESSES HERE THAT EMPLOYEE 25 - 75 PEOPLE IF WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO KEEP AND ATTRACT YOUNGER PEOPLE.
31. Many people are increasingly having a difficult time making ends meet.
32. Wages are not going up, but the prices everywhere certainly are!
33. Anything that the County can do to improve the situation is a plus.
34. Services to people must be continued. Spending thousands of \$\$ just to open a new bridge would certainly be a big waste of money.
35. Quality of products and services that encourage return of local and tourist customers.
36. Declining population of young adults, families, and children. Gibraltar has seen high school enrollment decline by 60 students in 10 years, that's 60 teenagers who almost assuredly would be working 20-60 hours a week in Northern Door restaurants, hotels, and other businesses. As would their parents. Instead we ship in Europeans, but now there aren't enough visas. The quality of the Door County experience is declining, and with that decline goes the economy.
37. Lack of diversity in economic base. Believe we will suffer because of our dependency on tourism.
38. Failure to manage development sustainably, in a manner that supports both the environment and our economy. Thinking people recognize the inherent relationship between our environment and the local economy; unfortunately, too many decision-makers in our community fail to grasp the absolute need to protect the ecological integrity of Door County. Of course, those are the same folks who fail to grasp the economic blight of a Super Walmart.
39. It is becoming more difficult to financially live here to raise a family. It seems as though Door County is overwhelmingly becoming a retirement community - especially in northern door county.
40. Obtaining tax revenue dollars from tourists who have replaced some of our major industries in the last 10 years.
41. Tax equalization for tourist areas throughout the state of Wisconsin.
42. we need a more diverse economy
43. The ability to balance industry with tourism. There currently does not seem to be a strategy for this.
44. Traffic management in the 5 tourism months. Facilitating the smooth flow of traffic and; proper control mechanism should be in priority review.
45. appropriate and sustainable economic development (growth should occur in a way that does not harm existing small business owners)
46. Dependence on outside resources, especially energy and food
47. special interests groups/alarmists changing everything for a select few who really want it.

48. The county lack vision and leadership to take it into the future of high gas prices, low economics and job instability. Many live at poverty and there is a high economic gap between the have's and have-nots' within the county. Long term well paid jobs with little environmental impact on our land and water is key to making the county viable as a tourist mecca and industrial community.
49. Providing for our retired population moving here. Not enough employers paying sufficient wages to survive on to draw work force from other larger cities.
50. I think a the County has made a mistake in catering to the wealthy and shutting out the middle class
51. Financial viability because of:
52. Keeping jobs in a declining market that has been overstretched by building on both the public and private front. New buildings (courthouse/justice center) take new dollars to maintain and to support. There is too much real estate for sale. Baylake Bank and the County have over-reached themselves counting on the economy to stay strong. This results in a loss of wealth in the County coupled with the prospect of taxes rising to support a system built for rising wealth.
53. The biggest "metropolitan" area in the County, Sturgeon Bay, has also jumped on the bandwagon by building its new municipal building and rebuilding Third Ave. reducing dollars available to be spent on other services and stretching the budgeted dollars into non-existence. The approaches to the Maple/Oregon Street bridge come from nowhere and go nowhere at this time. To make it all work, another public area will doubtless be taken to extend Fourth Ave. AHG!!! Talking about killing the Goose in the name of progress.
54. Infrastructure
55. The direction the county is going. I don't think everyone or even most of the citizens are on the same page. There is too much greed and not enough green. I feel we should be looking to the future 20 years down the road instead of being so concerned with our "own piece of the pie". Let's look at how our actions will impact Door county of the future as well as today.
56. Poverty
57. We spend too much on unwarranted projects. The new bridge is an example. The new county building is another as is the jail where we rent cells to others.
58. The top issue for those of us who live in Door County year round is the "cost of living" in a "tourist economy". Many of the businesses charge "tourist rates" for their services. In a normal economic setting they would not be in business.
59. I understand that they need to make their money during the summer season in order to survive but it sure hurts the people who live here year around and also need to survive.
60. The county needs and depends on tourism, but I think the tourists are looked at as intruders. Also, it appears that the administration has the attitude that all is just fine as it has been for many years and we can live off our past reputation of 'Door County'. The younger generation (the ones willing to spend money) don't know much about our county since we only advertise the activities and advantages to locals.
61. Rampant tourist growth with little or no year-round economic expansion. The number of permanent residents who are under the poverty line is not good. All the expansion seems to be in high end residences and shops and service industries. How does the county plan to encourage a wider diversity of income streams?
62. Too much money is going to the Technical College. What exactly does the top administrator to merit his pay?
63. What exactly is happening with the Wal-Mart deal?

Other Not Directly Related to County Government

1. I don't feel that down town has developed correctly. The park that was destroyed for the new fire/police was terrible. The Palmer Johnson buildings are an eye sore. The fiasco about the Michigan Street bridge. Where is the planning????
2. getting rid of the old sturgeon bay bridge and making the speed limit 65 on the new highway into DC
3. Get rid of the old bridge. Fix Egg Harbor Road.
4. Second bridge for the Bay View crossing. Need for divided highway to the 57 42 split. in adequate marine spaces. Little Lake in Sturgeon bay is a great future site. Horseshoe farm is a good start to increasing capacity.

5. Rehab of old bridge (not needed)
6. Stop the increase in size of Wal-Mart
7. The way money (our tax money) is spent - most of the time taxpayers have no say in these matters. Things like LARGE fire stations in small villages - like in Liberty Grove which is never used - in fact I question if the One fire engine that was in the Ellison Bay parade came from that station!
8. Many people do not want to see us put money into the Michigan bridge. Why couldn't it always stay open, but use it as a look out point for the community.
9. Support the New Wal-Mart Super Center
10. Need for a four lane bridge at Bayview, And four full lanes to the "C&W Auto" intersection, Overpass/underpass at Michigan Street and Hwy 42-57. With the new four lanes from Green Bay necking down to only two lanes at the Bayview Bridge, This is now the "Bayview Bottleneck"
11. Our schools need more help.
12. sturgeon bay promotion and development.
13. School funding
14. the economic development of the west side of sturgeon bay
15. Having more regular shopping for those who live here year round. Like Kohls, Walmart Superstore...too much politics in this county
16. With regard to the Walmart controversy, we are against a larger Walmart.
17. The stone quarry at Sister Bay which follows no rules for pollen by dust and noise.
18. People in Sturgeon Bay don't seem to really support Surgeon Bay.
19. I feel Wal-Mart Supercenter is not needed. It will destroy a number of small businesses. The store we now have is adequate although dingy. If they want to provide food products build a food store on the west side of the bay. LasVegas has a number of wal-mart food stores.
20. The top issue in education is the broken WI school funding formula.
21. Technologies in our school systems. Not just that they have computers but training for instructors so students can compete in the future
22. Still not convinced on the need of the new bridge
23. affordable restaurants
24. Making sure our children are getting a well-rounded education - meaning, the arts & humanities in addition to sports, math and science.
25. Sturgeon Bay needs to realize that it is the county seat and shopping hub for the county. It needs to quit putting up barriers to retail development. A Big Box will not ruin the county. We need something other than specialty shops for the locals.
26. Not enough options for shopping, again many go to green bay.
27. Better education, youth leadership opportunities
28. Sturgeon Bay needs to do more aesthetically with the roads. This is the first community that many see. Drive by Walmart - this is not the quaint looking area one would expect of Door County. Much more can be done by the city and county to improve tourism by improving the community - very run down looking.
29. This is not a thriving economy--what is it going to take to improve this area? We have moved here 4 years ago and have seen a steady decline in life style and services. However, costs have increased. We are especially concerned about utility costs.
30. The general economy is performing well but the "County of Door" is economically bankrupting its citizens. The idea that pay for everything today even if beneficial to the future has been and should continue - whosever idea it was that the idea should be considered to change to borrowing and having the future pay should be fired. The bankrupting is evidenced by the past and continued over expansion and over compensation in the County. The idea that the personnel should be moved outside of downtown was poor, and the "Justice Center" at its location was and continues to be bad in my opinion; now the City has expanded the sprawl by changing zoning to commercial for adjacent property, etc - talk about what is not good for Door County - ask in other communities would they like to see residential areas changed to commercial - this is all because of the County of Door push to leave downtown, which in my opinion would have been much preferred.
31. Lack of representation of non-voting members of the community who pay most of the taxes. (I am a year-round resident, so this is not a self serving comment)

SURVEY QUESTION: What do you feel is the best way for the County to inform you of important issues and decisions?

RESPONSES

1. Newspaper (65 responses)
2. Local media (14 responses)
3. News media (5 response)
4. Radio (30 responses)
5. Internet / website (22 responses)
6. Email (43 responses)
7. Mass mailing / direct mailing / newsletter (39 responses)
8. Advocate (11 responses)
9. Television (6 responses)
10. Public Access T.V. (10 responses)
11. Newspaper and board members going to town and village meetings
12. Utilize all media means to communicate regularly and frequently with citizens about affairs and issues of County Government. Perhaps a County appointed reporter to provide accurate, up-to-date coverage of County Board, committees meetings. Continue to videotape meetings and publicize their availability on cable and thru local library. Consider late afternoon or early evening Board meetings to enable working people to run for office and/or attend these meetings. A few "token" trials of evening meetings are not sufficient to change many years of habitual daytime meetings--people's habits don't change that quickly; would require mass media publicity of the change to give it a fair trial. The Gov't. Center remodeling that necessitated rotating venue for County Board mtgs. is an effort at improved communication with the municipalities and their constituents, but needs advance all-out publicity inviting citizens.
13. "The problem with communication is the assumption that it has been accomplished.".....Anonymous
14. I'd like to be able to opt in to email alerts regarding information and upcoming agenda items on topics I select
15. better news release in the local paper
16. for the county supervisor to get out in his district and meet the people
17. Better reporting in the local Advocate and Pulse. Although that may be the fault of the reporter's expertise and political bias rather than just plain good ole investigative reporting.
18. Better newspaper. Perhaps an On-line forum requiring realio-trulio names of residents. A newspaper that must pander to its advertisers is not addressing the needs of its subscribers but pander is what local shoppers' rags do.
19. Media coverage of county meetings - keep the videotaping going and show on public access channel.
20. Public forums and open meetings for general comment at the county board level.
21. The meetings and agendas should be published in the Advocate, and broadcasted on local radio stations, and the co gov. internet site at a minimum a month in advance, allowing adequate time for citizens to speak at the meetings.
22. Advocate and radio; keep board and committee meetings on television (expand to include all); suggest a monthly newsletter that can be subscribed to sent out at the same time that the county board agenda and minutes is sent to the supervisors prior to each meeting so that the public can call their supervisor with concerns about any issues before the board that month..
23. publish press releases that include reminders to go to the web for more details and have compete details available on the web and in the library
24. I don't think some the different committees have the expertise to adequately manage the departments. Some members are only serving to advance their personal uninformed agenda. Maybe they will learn maybe they won't.
25. Direct mail or e-mail to EVERY household. We NEVER hear from our elected representative!
26. town hall meetings would be a good idea. semiannually. For all county board members.
27. Citizens have a responsibility to seek out this information.
28. I believe the county and local governments in Door County are democracy at its best - messy and complicated and outspoken and lively.

29. mass media, unbiased mass media.
30. After building an unneeded courthouse and leaving an unnecessary bridge standing, it's hard to know what difference it makes.
31. Take some action and be able to see what can be done to clean up the water and beaches.
32. Notice of annual reports, town hall discussions of issues for the county as well as for the towns and villages.
33. Regular reports in local newspapers. Also sending reps to town meetings.
34. Persuading the local media outlets to expand real coverage.
35. encourage citizen groups and seek their input
36. Use all means of communication - internet - newspaper - tv/radio - do more than simply following the legal requirements
37. Department heads should provide the pro and con of each agenda item for the respective oversight committees and to the local new media. Department heads need to take more of an educator and teacher role for county board members. In turn we the citizens will learn from our county board reps and our local news sources.
38. Ben Meyer emails a group with updates. This is the most efficient (and free) way to reached a wide group of people who then will share this info with others.
39. The County should utilize a number of methods: the website could be more informative, cable access, radio, and press.
40. Through the paper. Any meetings held during the day are not feasible for people who work. Any meetings broadcast on TV are not available to people who get there TV from a satellite. Many people do not have internet access.
41. newspaper, meetings in various places in the county, north to south
42. posting notices in public buildings
43. Quality video taping of board and committee meetings. The past few months have been inferior in quality and quantity.
44. Open meetings that are well publicized and located centrally so a majority of our county's citizens can attend.
45. Publicizing info in ALL media, including newspapers, radio and Internet. Do not assume everyone has the Internet (a major service problem in Door County.)
46. Leave it to the Advocate, yeah, they always have the story right, reported in the most unbiased way they know how. (Note sarcasm).
47. Advocate is OK... Pulse is OK... are your minutes posted on your website?
48. A real newspaper!
49. That's just the point! There are no adequate communication systems within the county that reach sufficient numbers of us. An email communication system for county news, issues, and decisions would be valuable and worth developing
50. Monthly e-news letter. For those not using computers, articles in the Advocate and WDOR.
51. The newspaper is probably the best way. I would like to see decisions on important issues thought through and then acted on so that the new issues can be addressed.
52. Talk to us more often. Yes, yes, the meetings on cable are a good start, but let's face it, they're about as boring for us as they are for you all. Select a spokesperson and have them do the Rotary, Eddie Allen Chat show circuit.
53. I used to listen to the WDOR talk show with the county admin. but haven't heard anything in a long time.
54. Web site on local cable. Radio stations. WDOR is very good at this for local city news.
55. Public forums and news articles.
56. Being more open in meetings notifications, especially committees. Need agendas and minutes of these meetings more readily available.
57. Hold Board meetings in the evening. Supervisors need to do a better job of informing those in their District about the issues we are facing. A quarterly "listening session" would be a good idea. Utilize newspaper and media.
58. E-Mail info, Pod Cast county board meetings or post to u-tube, or a county website that shows videos of meetings and posting of other important info
59. Offer an automated email system, where the resident can choose the topics of interest, to receive notification.

60. County Board meetings at night would be a good start. This should be a voter/taxpayer decision, not a Board decision. Not only does this limit people's ability to attend meetings, but it limits who can run for office.
61. County government spends too much. We get little value in return for the high taxes we pay.
62. Referendums, because while campaigning they tell you what you want to hear, but then do what is not in the best interests of the average citizen, but what benefits tourism and cheap labor.
63. Increased crime, traffic, garbage, pollution, inflated economy, etc.
64. Pertaining to cheap labor, they will promote that even if it means shipping immigrant workers up here.
65. We pay our County officials to figure these things out. If they cannot think of better ways to help the citizens then maybe they shouldn't be in office.
66. Open communication would be good. There is no appeals process. All Door County government does is justify its behavior. There is no attempt to reconcile problems.
67. A newspaper article written by county personnel after every County Board meeting and/or meetings that the Chair believes important to inform the community about.
68. Press releases on the radio and newspapers, and the minutes of the County Board meetings in the Advocate.
69. Provide information readily to journalists and the public; support open-government attitudes and keep the doors open except during those rare instances when the law requires that door be closed. Announce all meetings in a consistent public location, perhaps to be posted alongside the Letters to the Editor of the Advocate.
70. The two most read papers (Advocate and Pulse). You should get everyone's email when they pay taxes. Say that this is required for their taxes to be processed. For the <15% that might not have an email, encourage them to set up an account at the library.
71. Probably to all forms of media via news releases.
72. Unsure. Consider producing a regular publication that lists the issues as well as decisions of the county. Plus - upcoming meeting times. Make sure meeting times are when people can attend.
73. Communicate with those who are impacted by issues and decisions. Use shared decision making as you approach issues and decisions and inform and include those people impacted by the issues/decisions in the process of problem solving, planning and making decisions.
74. A web page that is up to date. just read some pages of who works for the county and I see names of folks that retired 5 years ago
75. The media is really the one who helps communicate info to the citizens - from attending meetings or addressing controversial issues. This should continue. The county has opportunities to communicate as well should it choose to do so via newsletters to property tax payers or mail or web updates, etc. More of this should be done.
76. Public broadcast of meetings and press releases of pertinent planning events.
77. A newsletter sent whenever pertinent information or decisions are to be made
78. Democracy needs to be practiced in order to preserve it. Massive publicity on meetings that decided the environmental and economic future of DC must be widely disseminated. Newspaper, radio, emails to constituents.
79. I feel I am out of the loop with a lot of issues going on and I am not sure what would work best. I usually end up watching the cable channel to find out what is going on, but by that time, it is sometimes too late and process of whatever is already rolling.
80. They don't inform you or want your opinion -- their minds are made up.
81. Through the Advocate, though the problem there is most of my peers in the early 30's age group do not subscribe to it so you are missing a big audience who is not informed on the performance of the county gov't.
82. Stop making decisions without input from taxpayers.
83. Predetermined reports in the Advocate.
84. The Advocate, e-mail to a wide range of county groups/organizations.
85. Through our representatives
86. Town or community specific developments: use town announcement boards
87. Town Hall Meeting
88. The county is stuck in the 1950's in its mentality and leadership. The world has changed and so must the county.

89. If the Advocate had not turned itself into a complete piece of shit, this would be the way. However....
You might do an email, and spare the cost of a mailing.
90. By publishing items in the free circular newspaper that is delivered to every mailbox.
91. The Town of Sevastopol has a most magnificent town newsletter. It is informative, thoughtful, inviting and explains who is responsible in our township for making decisions. I do not know if other towns have such a newsletter. If they do not, they could take a lesson from Sevastopol.
92. I feel that opinion polls in the voting booths are beneficial. To listen to the people is essential.
93. bulletins, news articles
94. mailings, newspaper, radio, and just going out into the community and talking.
95. survey is good, online information
96. news releases to the local paper and radio
97. skip direct mailing - gets lost in mounds of junk mail and is wasteful
98. Non-bias news writers, more public forums, e-news, etc.
99. newspaper, present issues better on local TV radio
100. Email may be impractical, but an article in the Advocate - "Door County Government wants you to know".
Also PSA's on radio.
101. have more open forums to listen to what people have to say about the issues.
102. A few unbiased, factual articles in the Advocate and the P Pulse would help. See if you can get someone to write without a slant or bias. I feel that county board members need to conserve and try to minimize their expenditures. Maybe some citizen input into some issues. One of my pet peeves is the fact that county departments have to spend ALL of their budgeted funds in order to get the same of more the next year. This is NOT fiscally responsible nor is it sane!
103. I am a young person struggling to make it up here and truth be told most of what my tax dollars go to I feel very unformed about.
104. Mail specific to only that particular issue; not mixed into a newsletter or other extended publication.
105. Newsletter with the tax bills
106. prominently publishing them in a timely fashion. Never after the fact
107. Media Open meetings
108. Email--newsletters and opinion surveys like this. But I'm not a resident of Door Co currently--I live in Sheboygan and have a 2nd home in Door Co. (Maybe someday to be my primary residence)
109. electronic newsletters, televised meetings, regular televised reports from Department heads
110. Have someone write a periodic report to be published in the local papers or put on the web
111. The meetings I've attended have shown to me the County doesn't listen to the citizens. It seems the elected officials have already made up their minds and the public comment falls on deaf ears.
112. Occasional mailings and emailings as we don't want to subscribe to the Door County Advocate
113. Multiple
114. Get information to local TV stations, radio stations, Pulse. Not everyone buys the Advocate.
115. Local television broadcasts and timely press releases.
116. I think important information is being relayed, however the typical citizen's opinions are not factored heavily enough into the end result. The county does what it wants regardless of public opinion.
117. live radio and media interviews by people who are in charge, not necessarily the political nuances but the real reasons for specific action and/or the lack of.
118. These questions are somewhat vague. Is 'the County' the staff or officials? It's hard to lump them into one.
119. I pay a lot in property taxes because I have shore property, yet the road in front of my house is made of dirt and is only marginally maintained.
120. Inform us in regards to hidden agendas.
121. Be up front about issues in plenty of time to have discussion and opinions voiced. Use the newspapers and radio stations.
122. Sharing issues with the public. Having county Board open meetings in the evening.
123. Have open meetings of the board, held in the evening, with time for citizen input. Publish the agenda a week prior to the meeting drawing attention to any issue of controversy.
124. Open meetings at all times and through the media.
125. You can't find out anything until it's over. If you can't make the meeting, you don't know what going on.
Where do you post your agendas? Or the minutes don't get posted for months on the web sites.
126. a column in the paper called " your county government".

127. more press coverage highlighting key issues and seeking input beyond small group directly affected
128. written letters concerning items coming before appropriate committee, etc.
129. By discussing the activities and decisions with the local media. Using the website of the county works as well
130. Focus groups/town hall meetings.
131. Send us cards, e-mails etc. or even call us and leave us a message.
132. Better communications
133. Through the media - i.e. Advocate (of course there is the issue of potential for bias)
134. not quite sure - but the current system does not seem to be working...
135. A newsletter telling what the issues the Boards are considering - maybe minutes from meetings - giving taxpayers a chance to vote on big money expending being considered - it is our money.
136. We need much more communications from the county, township and local school boards on the actions they are taking. I realize in many cases this is listed in the legal sections of the Advocate but it might be better if this meeting results were printed in somewhat larger print.
137. In the newspaper but not buried so far back. More radio other WDOR. Bulletins at the libraries and post offices.
138. Special newspaper articles describing what is happening vs. just printing meeting minutes. Maybe have a committee chairperson write an article summarizing topics each month.
139. Listening sessions. Having Board meetings during the day limits the pool of people who can serve on the County Board and also those who can attend meetings.
140. advertise on the compass what the agenda got meeting is and what it affects and who is going to make money from the change
141. more communication about the changes that are being contemplated especially at the town board level.
142. Meeting notices
143. Whether it is County Board decisions or road closings for rebuilding and repair, keep the public informed sufficiently ahead of time by radio and newspaper.
144. Only three employees of the county bother to engage the media at all. If the media is supposed to pass the word to constituents, one can only imagine how much information they're getting from the largest governmental body in the area.
145. E-mails (like Ben Myers provides) to alert county residents to issues being discussed/voted on....before the votes happen.
146. In the Door County Advocate and Radio stations. The Pulse should be more available.
147. A constant stream of press, online coverage, town hall meetings, any method you can to get people involved in what impacts their future.
148. Perhaps a column in the paper to discuss and inform the public about issues in front of the County board.
149. I don't watch TV and listen to little radio. Written articles in at least two printed publications / newspapers and available electronically (internet). I would have to develop a habit of seeking those publications out.
150. Peninsula pulse newspaper because it's free. Also more "town hall" type meetings that are separate from city council meetings.

SURVEY QUESTION- ANY FINAL COMMENTS? Please add any comments that you would like considered during the 2009 budget process or would enable Door County to provide better service in the future.

RESPONSES:

SUGGESTIONS ON LOWERING TAXES/SPENDING AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY
Keep an open mind to all budgeting options. "Pay as you go" may not always be the wisest method of financing expenditures. Lobby the state government to change budgeting legislation to eliminate the budget caps.
Please don't worry about lowering my taxes. Please take care of the problems that need fixing. Infrastructure, health care, and other social programs. Also you could become a front runner in the state in providing wind energy to everyone in the community. Other communities are doing this. Since jobs are needed in the community, this would be one way of creating needed jobs. Go for alternative energy. Thank you.
To better service this county look at government spending and try to keep taxes low. Households have had to cut back, maybe it's time government does the same.
Cut spending and lower tax rates. To do this you will need to lower overhead not raise taxes. Some layoffs or reduced hours may be needed.
Don't fall for the "tax phobia" so common among American citizens today. Taxes are the just dues we pay for citizenship in our society. We must pay for the needed services!
Lower taxes, consolidate services, control spending.
Continue to be prudent with tax dollars, but not at the expense of justifiable services (Tough Call)
Services cost and costs go up. Reasonable growth in the taxes to support the County programs is necessary and required.
"Lower Taxes" is a worthy goal, but completely empty and meaningless unless attached to issues of value. Don't tell me you're for 'lower taxes' unless you can tell me how you are going to accomplish that in a way that provides me better value. For example, I can easily lower taxes by stopping all road maintenance - but I'd be an idiot to do so and would decrease the value of the investment of taxpayers by screwing up their infrastructure for the sake of a reduction in taxes that doesn't come close to being worth the damaged business climate and quality of life. I'm actually okay with raising my taxes if it will decrease my expenses, raise my revenues or enhance my quality of life above and beyond the cost of the tax hike. And just because some of your constituents won't see that, doesn't mean you should pander the vocal, but shallow-thinking. Please invest our communities' collective dollars wisely.
across the board budget cuts to lower taxes
I don't mind paying taxes for the excellent services we receive. Please try to maintain the level of service.
LOWER PROPERTY TAXES!!!!!!
NO BORROWING! We must live within our resources. If necessary to meet the budget - downsizing must be considered.
Land values are not going to be rising and development is slow and this leads to rising tax rates or service cuts. service changes need to be made clean and not reversed by an 11th hour out cry from those affected unless you are willing to raise taxes to keep them. Either is okay but stand up and say this is why.
After reading through your list of programs and services it is no wonder that our taxes are so high. I am sure there were justifications for creating and continuing to fund many of the departments that have been established over the years and once in place they only tend to grow. But how much can we afford to have every "need" provided by govt. and everything we do regulated? You ask whether we are satisfied with land use planning & zoning in unincorporated areas or how we feel about enforcing environmental protection rules and regs. If we answer "poor" would you think that we are suggesting they are not doing enough or that we don't like what they are doing? If we answer "good" is that interpreted to mean we like what they are doing or that we just don't want to suggest that they should do any more. Why don't you ask, for instance, whether we think that the planning dept. has too much power or is over regulating us? Reasonable zoning is one thing, but when they reach a point where they can restrict and regulate how one uses his own private property then we get into an area that challenges what is constitutional. I believe that the County should be working to reduce the size of government and understand that there are limits to what services can be supported. As discussed above, if we didn't have to provide benefits that none of us can afford for ourselves, maybe the tax payers of the County could afford these services. But that has not been the case and I don't see anyone seriously addressing this critical issue.
Cut property taxes 20% across the board and reduce county employee salaries/benefits to a level that reflects private sector income and benefits.
By far the most important is to reduce the extremely inflated county/city tax assessments on Door County properties. Taxes on properties I own in Missouri range from 3 to 10 times LESS for similar properties (home, 2 rentals and a vacant water front property). On a recent trip in June I compared taxes in 4 cities and not one had assessments 1/2 as high as Door County and hence the highest taxes paid for similar property was 50% of tax amounts here. (Cities were Columbus, IN; Madison, IN; Vincennes, IN; Mattoon, IL) When did you look last at all the businesses vacant or for sale here in the county?
Door County is a great place to live, but when you compare the amenities available to the taxes paid, there is a huge discrepancy.

Where is all this money being lost. How can most counties that have taxes that are only half of what I pay, still provide the same or better amenities to their residents (i.e. waste removal, free boat launches, more county parks, etc.)
I would like a frank discussion of the fact that the economy is shrinking and inflation in food, fuel, other necessities is rising. Because of these facts I would expect all County officials to look to cutting services and programs. I understand that many people need help and that with the present situation even more will need help but I don't think the answer is to increase taxes on others who may themselves be cutting back due to economic circumstances. The fact that citizens may be paying their taxes on time and in full doesn't mean that it is easy to do. Any increase could cause serious resentment on their part.
Lowering property taxes. I'd like to build my house but the taxes are so high on my vacant property. What will they be once I build?
Hold the line on property tax increases to the rate of inflation or below; increase taxes on hotel/motel stays and impose a "condo environmental impact" tax on non single-family developments.
Taxes too high
Put all big projects on hold for awhile...cut back on the taxes.
reasonable increases in property taxes to support worthwhile governmental programs fro Door County people is acceptable
Preserve as budget priorities: public amenities (e.g. library, parks); social services; environmental protection. Mission should be to protect quality of life of current residents and prevent growth that requires higher taxes to service a growing population. Economic support should be prioritized for existing, local businesses.
Lower property taxes, we do not need some of the things we have (justice center!)
Fewer services - fewer taxes
get a budget together that will stabilize the tax structure of the county. do not borrow money to pay for annually re-occurring expenses.
Government should provide only those services that cannot be provided by private parties. Government should not be involved in an airport or low income housing or health services.
Offer the general budget proposal to the public at large for individual comments. Include volunteers (or selectively recommended private citizens) to participate in the committee level budget review and development process. Create an "ad hoc" oversight committee from those volunteers or participating citizens to express its view with general recommendations about the budget proposal before it is put to vote.
Cut compensation and benefits - take a management stand even if that costs more; put your foot down as the governmental sector is way out of line with the private sector. No increase budget - stop the bleeding and bankruptcy of the citizens (wasn't there a double digit increase last year - that replaces inflation for many years).
I do not feel that borrowing is the way to balance the county budget.
Please look closely at the subsequent effects that will occur when determining to "cut services". This is something that potentially could affect the quality of life in Door County. Good roads, services for the elderly and at risk, a paramedic ambulance service is not "fluff".
The services that Door County provides is a primary reason why Door County is a quality place to live and visit. These services must be maintained to enhance and support the quality of life here.
None. Overall from my limited perspective, I am pleased with the county services.
All levels of government have become too large and oppressive. Cut and slash . Stop constructing more buildings . !
Public information and communication has improved since the arrival of Administrator Mike Serpe, but more is needed. An informed and educated citizenry makes for better government in a democracy. Meet most urgent human needs first: health, safety, education; then environmental issues. Lobby Madison for changes to the administrative code so that steel holding tanks can be banned, at least in Door County.
Invest money in people not just "things".
Our Local government it to large for our population. Offer the same benefits in Health insurance to general population that we are paying for all county and city employees
Overall I think the county government is doing a good job, I think it is pertinent that we continue to plan for future issues, some of which may be coming faster than we may think.
These are tough times. No new projects!
There is always room for improvements. Unfortunately, like everything else, you hear more about when it is wrong, rather than when it is good. I believe, on the whole, you have good employees doing the best they can with what they have.
We are getting a great deal for our tax dollar compared to other Wisconsin counties.
It would help to see a pie graph of all tax dollars spent in the county to help decide what programs could be cut to reduce tax burden. Some money seems to be overspent. Do we need as much services that we have?
How to maintain or improve services provided while paying a fair wage!
Focus on the needs of the people, community and environment first vs. letting the financials always tell you what is going to get addressed.

In Kewaunee County we maintained a healthy general fund balance. This would help us finance one time large dollar projects without having to add it to that year's budget. For example the new phone system for the courthouse was paid for out of the general fund. The general fund would then be slowly built back up.
The typical lifetime citizen is over burdened with taxes, while we maintain an infrastructure to welcome the so called unemployable. A hard working, law abiding taxpayer has no economic advantage over someone who is unwilling to work. The school situation is deteriorating while the county's working class are leaving to find better neighborhoods.
Money in the budget to better advise taxpayers of the many departments and programs the county supports - especially the ones I checked in the Do Not Know column.
I feel its time we get back to the real things in life that are important. We have wasted enough money on where to put the bridge, buying land for parks and we have enough places to launch boats. What about the youth of the county. They are our future and we have nothing here to keep them, they are bored out of there minds. They get in trouble so we put out more officers to follow them, if they had a place to wear of that energy, they would be in bed, not on the streets. PS; The Old Bridge: Instead of officers, why not just put up an overhang on the bridge so big trucks can't cross. And maybe if the sign were posted properly on the highway, trucks would by-pass downtown. If the exit is on the right, I would think signs should be on the right side of the road, not the left were you can't see them.
more funding for transportation and road construction and rehabilitation of drug addicted people and less funds for law enforcement and incarceration of non-violent drug offenders
Putting money into prevention services and intervention services in all of the human service arenas costs less in the long term than the cost to a community in dollars for court, police, jail, and the loss to the community of that person and their long term contribution as a fully functioning community member. Prevention, early intervention, and individualized holistic service planning for at-risk community members is a worthy investment for the future health of our community. Employment Issues and the ability to support people as they join the workforce, advance in their careers, and have the opportunity to achieve and advance in their local community is also a worthy investment in our future. Attracting green, clean manufacturing etc jobs to the peninsula will ensure year round employment with benefits for our community members. Establishing a four year college on the peninsula will foster youth available locally for the tourist season no matter how many seasons represents the busy season.
- middle income families cannot get ahead financially - many roads are in need of repair, fix them and cut back on welfare. - bright spot is our library system. - DC is in an economic decline and will get worse if you don't give residents a tax break. Young people are leaving to live in other states.
COUNTY BOARD
I think that communication is a big problem--one that is difficult to solve. County board meetings are during the day, thank heavens they are taped for people to view! Even then many citizens really do not understand what services are offered, the financial challenges, etc. Perhaps the county should continue to take its show "on the road" every so often. It takes time for people to realize the value of attending a meeting. The problem once again of course is the day meetings when so many work.
We appreciate the videos of the county board on public channels.
Have more of your meetings in the evening so that the majority of the public paying the bills are able to attend & have input.
Thank you for sending out meeting agendas so the municipalities know what is up for discussion.
GENERAL STAFFING / COUNTY EMPLOYEES
Continue to support the basics including the Sheriff's department, court services, ambulance, and other emergency services
Look at offices that utilize part time employees for particular times of the year. Everything doesn't need to be done ASAP. Is it necessary? Have offices share employees or combine departments.
Get rid of all the over staffing in the county that does nothing for value for the people of the county.
Staff I have encountered, with one notable exception, seem bright, dedicated, educated, thoughtful and reasonable. I am concerned that too few of our supervisors seem to take time to study issues thoroughly and weigh the input of staff.
Also, many departments do not appear to be running as efficiently as possible. Staffing seems to be threatened in social services and community programs while other offices have increased staff unnecessarily. Those increases in clerical or administration at Justice Center and Government Center seem excessive. In the private sector, people in those jobs would be working harder with less benefits and possibly lower income as well.
Start cutting jobs at the Government Center. We are in there weekly and say cut one position in each office. These people in these offices have nothing to do. Cut out some of these jobs and save the tax payers some money. It is ridiculous!!
Look at better ways to provide services to residents. Some 'jobs' might be cheaper to farm out leaving more time for employees to do their jobs. Or, hire some people to do some of the more mundane tasks at a lower wage. Actually ask the employees what they think. Most employees have good input on how to better provide services and yet they are consistently left out of the planning process.
MANAGEMENT THAT IS ON SALARY SHOULD PICK UP EXTRA HOURS SO THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO PAY OVERTIME TO THE GENERAL WORKERS.
Cut salaries or cut positions for government employees who are not residents of Door County. We pay out too many salaries to employees who live in other counties, so we aren't getting anything back from them except their time on the job. Big county salaries with few benefits to the residents of the county that pays them.

Make the county employees pay more for their health insurance. Who, in the private sector can have this type of health coverage?
Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion, & for anything you do to actually deal with reality...
It's time all union/government held positions pickup more of the individual health care costs ... individual taxpayers pay their own way .. why not everyone else.
County employee benefits--above the norm? Also, the DC Highway fringe benefit tack on.
SPECIFIC COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:
AIRPORT
Why does the county operate a airport that is only used by private individuals?
I think it's time for the County Board to reconsider partial funding of the Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport, which brings in so many residents and tourists to Northern Door, whose residents pay a large share of County taxes.
Great job by airport staff!
Expand the capability to handle larger aircraft at the airport.
don't expand the Cherryland airport to accommodate larger/more frequent jet traffic. we don't need the noise or pollution. I lived for 20 years 15 miles west of O'Hare airport and moved to get away from the 24 hour a day noise. please note that the new runway alignment as proposed will put the approach pattern over sturgeon bay/sevastapol, and the proposed new ILS will almost surely result in much greater nighttime operations. with the new highway, green bay airport should be a better option. if one can afford to operate a biz-jet one can afford a limo
The airport should be expanded to bring in new industry.
I am a part time vacation resident. Have been for 28 years. The airport and the waterfront development are the reasons I spend time
Our County government spends too much, especially on things that don't affect most of us. For example why is so much spent on an airport which probably less than 1% of us use?
CHILD SUPPORT
Child support arrearages are running rampant. I am surrounded by local mothers who are the primary caretakers of their children and are struggling in part due to the fact that their ex-spouses are so far behind in contributing to their children's upkeep. If you have the means to view such statistics on a local level, I hope you will consider looking into our collection status as compared to other Wisconsin counties.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
District Attorney's office in my opinion is too aggressive; recommend cutting funding to force compromising on cases the DA or assistant have been unreasonably willing to compromise on (or too arrestive). If necessary to control spending cut back services - as indicated above the DA and sheriff's offices can be brought into control by cutting the budget. Balancing, the spending has been way out of control!
Many of the statements did not allow for an accurate response. Example: The District Attorney does seem to prosecute all, or nearly all criminal cases, but some of those should either not be prosecuted at all, or should be resolved in different ways, so that the courts are not clogged with unnecessary hearings and trials and the jail is not unnecessarily housing people who could be paying their own way and satisfying their social obligation in a way that is less expensive to the County.
EMERGENCY SERVICES
Why pay the high salaries of paramedics in Sister Bay when there are EMT's available to do just a good of job, if you would pay them more? There aren't paramedics on Washington Island or in Brussels. How many lives are actually saved for the fee that is charged?
Please plan ahead for Emergency Services radio and data communications systems.
Prioritize Ambulance
HIGHWAY SUGGESTIONS
Contract out county road work and dispose of the county-owned road maintenance programs - it no longer seems to be financially beneficial for the county to operate this program with the rising cost of petroleum.
Less spending on highway ,highway equipment.
Roadside mowing is a travesty, waste of money, and environmentally unsound. Highway department needs better management and more oversight.
Reduce the total budget for the Highway Department.
Eliminate wasteful roadside mowing. In most places only one mowing (in fall) is necessary
I think that we need to see improvement of snow removal on our highways, especially Hwy 57 south of Sturgeon Bay. Kewaunee & Brown counties consistently have better snow removal on that highway. I drive it often for work and I can see the difference at the county line. I don't think the roadsides need to be maintained as much as they often do. Let the weeds/flowers grow.
I would hope the county does not forget the southern half of our community as it seems they have in the past. I don't want to seem bitter but northern door has always seemed a top priority for roads etc. There is a large community in southern door also and with the expansion of the highway coming to a close we only grow larger. Please keep this in mind when allocating funds.
Road and traffic problems are serious. The use of roundabouts instead of a further proliferation of traffic lights and signage.
When cutting expenses start with the highway mowing program. The shaved look of the roadside is not appealing and not

necessary. Just plan for a thorough mowing in late fall.
Cut out the stupid mowing of the roads. It is NOT needed and looks terrible. When they come to a roadway, they stay back in the trees instead of standing out in the mowed grass before crossing the road. Maybe if you are so concerned about safety, educate the construction, repair, maintenance businesses who park their vehicles on the roadways (IN the roadways) and on curves so that it is IMPOSSIBLE to see anything coming from the other way. I feel this is dangerous and find it happening too frequently on wooded roadways. A few cones on both sides would help if it is IMPOSSIBLE to park their vehicles in the driveway. Also, on Brauer Road, a few times of the year there are cattle crossing the road with NO signs or cones or warnings that it is coming up. They take the time to put a wire fence across but there aren't even flags on the fencing! Once the cattle are in the roadway it is fairly easy to see them but before and after is a different matter, especially in the early evening.
Put a toll booth on the bridges and use that money to lower Door county resident's taxes.
County Highway Department does a good job maintaining network of county roads and local roads. State could use some pressure on state highway funding for maintenance, including winter maintenance.
Overpass/merge/purge /multiple lane road system for traffic to move swiftly and smoothly through the county.
One wasteful program is the roadside mowing program. It is very expensive, yet for the most part unnecessary and also harmful to the visual appeal of the area. Roadside mowing should be limited to intersections, special situations and to a full width clearing in the fall.
The snow plowing system needs much improvement especially on county roads that criss-cross the peninsula inland. Also improvement on 57 & 42.
Highway and Parks Departments both need personnel dedicated to invasive species control --> our roadsides are getting atrocious. stop the waste of time and energy mowing the sides of roads when effort would be better spent on widening the paved shoulders of roads for bikes and walkers.
LIBRARY SUPPORT
Our library system is top notch. In the tough economic environment we're facing, we appreciate this service more than ever. Please continue to support this resource; the only county resource I witness people using every day that it is open!
continue funding library system
Please do not cut any hours to the Forestville Library. They are already short-changed when it comes to Library dollars spent in this county. The Northern part of the County has a lot more library hours. It's lopsided!
The library system is excellent. It provides a wide range of valuable community services. The staff does a great job.
Please continue to provide funding to the excellent county library system.
It is a real service to lower income families and the elderly who are unable to drive long distances to Sturgeon Bay
As a longtime resident for five months of each year of Ephraim, I feel strongly about the vital importance of our branch library to our community. If members of the County Board could see the constant use of this wonderful facility during most of its operating hours, they would understand how we use and value it. We have an excellent librarian, good computer services, availability of a variety of books on shelves or by order. I urge your continued support of the resource of our branch libraries! Katharine H. Ostrander
Add more hours to the public libraries.
The Door Co. Libraries and the Miller Art Museum are Door Co. treasures. Thank you for supporting them.
Make sure satellite libraries remain funded
PARKS SUGGESTIONS
I would like the county continue to financially support the indoor arena project in the John Miles Fair Park.
TAKE OVER THE OPERATION AND RUNNING OF THE PARKS AND LAUNCH RAMPS IN THE CITY SO THEY CAN BE AS GOOD AS THE ONES IN THE COUNTY
Provide overnight parking at or near county boat ramps. Provide for the development of additional marinas or marina capacity.
move forward with funding for the ice rink
protect and maintain our public areas and parks
I would like the county continue to financially support the indoor arena Project in the John Miles Fair Park.
The Park department has done a good job.
Closely monitor the Parks Dept revenue and expenses. Use more common sense in dealing with issues such as the "Carp Kill" Off in Forestville and the expansion of boat launch facilities.
I would like the county continue to financially support the indoor arena project in the John Miles Fair Park."
We are a Door County 4-H Horse and Pony Family. We have been working very hard to raise money for the Multi-Purpose Building at the fair grounds. Now I hear the county is going to remove it from the 2009 budget. I cannot begin to count how many 4-H families and individuals who have worked so hard for so many years to see this building become a reality for our 4-H youth. We are in no way relying on the County Board to provide us with the ALL the money needed to get this building started. We are just asking that they keep their word, and keep the \$200,00.00 that they originally allocated to the Multi-Purpose Building at John Miles County Park in their 2009 budget.
Think long term and implement the Smart Growth plan. Don't always go for the short fix. Capitalize on parkland acquisition

opportunities! This is an investment in the county's future tourism base.
Continue to maintain the beauty of Door County- parks, green space.
I would like to see the Fair grounds stay or improve. I am upset of the \$200,000 taken out of the budget for the new barn. We have youth that have nowhere to go with the declining availability of land to ride a horse on. The fairgrounds is used for this as well as by many other small animals at the fair time. The new building is a minute investment by the county as compared to what the skate project is willing to undertake. This building will serve a multitude of families all year long, families that need a place to go. We are taking of hundreds of families when the fair, animal projects and skate are all totaled. If the park goes in the direction that it is heading down you can also look at the number of families in the soccer program. Many of these youth bike to practice, which is a strong reason the soccer families don't want to move to the west side. We take care of and grow our parks for tourists, who needs to happen, but we also need to invest in our families to stay in Door County!
- residents are ripped off by park fees. we pay taxes to support parks but must pay to launch our boats same as non-residents.
I would like the county continue to financially support the indoor arena project in the John Miles Fair Park! Stop cutting funded programs at the public schools! Enough \$\$\$\$ has been spent in the past few years on building new City and County buildings (police station, fire station, county jail, etc...) How about the future for the kids who will be running our county some day????
use some of the park budget to build a real Frisbee golf course (big hill park would be perfect). Something all kids and grown ups can enjoy. If we had a nice enough one, we could even hold events in which professionals would come to play in.
I would like to see better care taken of our beach and recreation areas. They could be money makers if we invest more time and money. No one wants to get sick from swimming. And it's hard to take a walk down the shoreline when it's covered in filth. Park equipment needs to be cleaned or removed if it's broken.
Taxes are a problem for everyone. I am fortunate to live in an area with lower taxes, or I fear I would not be able to keep my recreational farm. I can't emphasize enough the need for improvements at the fairgrounds. The horse barn, which has been an issue for as long as I have been involved in 4-H, is in desperate need of replacement...grand plans always seem to get in the way. If an agreement can't be reached to build a large multi-purpose building, then a small horse barn (or multiple animal barn) should be built. I hope the County Board represents and supports their past decisions by continuing to fund the buildings at the fairgrounds, and provide County Fair and other services related to the very important agricultural concerns of this county. Tourism is driven by the beautiful scenery and shopping, but the rural aspect and agricultural feel of the county is equally as important!
Have the snowmobile trails open more even during low snow years. People can run on some bare spots from time to time. Move the racetrack at the fairgrounds out into a rural area. The county fairgrounds should not be inside the city limits anyway, that noise from the races even with restrictions and mufflers is awful.
Public land and Public access to water is important to continue to pursue. Continued maintenance of existing public lands to current standards is very important.
I think the board needs to look more into the future and stick to their promises made to the children of the 4-H for their new barn. The board needs to be more honest about where the money is being spent... When it is big items It should make the public aware of all of the choices
The need for more beach areas. (in the Sturgeon Bay and southern door areas).
PUBLIC HEALTH
More resources are needed in the Public Health Area.
REGISTER OF DEEDS
Given the current condition of the real estate market (or lack there of) the Register of Deeds office is definitely over-staffed and under-worked. Staff could and should be reduced! I know it is one of the "old boy" deals where once a person is voted in it is almost impossible to replace them. Let alone the fact that this is a position that should be filled by the most qualified candidate, not whoever can muster the most votes. Someone needs to look into the operations of this office further!
Register of Deeds procedures have become increasingly "unfriendly" by imposing standard or requirements - what worked just a few years ago after a hundred years if presented today would not be accepted (this is regression regardless of the "justification").
I think the County Board must seriously look at the staffing level of the Register of Deeds Office. Anyone who works with this office knows that the workload has decreased and more people get info on-line and it's time to make a tough decision to reduce staff levels.
LAW ENFORCEMENT SUGGESTIONS
Increase number of sheriffs that can issue speeding tickets.
My criticism of the sheriff's department is one of overkill. There are simply too many patrols for this county. Law enforcement should watch OUT for the people, not WATCH the people. Given the overall liberal nature of our county and the general approach should be tolerance and "spirit of the law" for non-violent offenses. Certain offenses should be decriminalized based on the general stature of the citizenship of Door County. This may mean dogs in parks, or marijuana, or open containers, or live outdoor music. Door County law enforcement should relax enforcement of many of these sorts of offenses. The jail is an abomination and is being run like a maximum security institution. Absurd. The sorts of offenders that reside in Door County need rehabilitation rather than incarceration. Further the DA should also follow-suit with the decriminalization of the above items listed. If the sheriff makes

arrests that are overkill and not in the "spirit of the law" the DA should not prosecute. Place the Sheriff's department and jail on that chopping block this year- trim their budget significantly.
*Competent county law enforcement that do not judge for personal reason gain.
The biggest problem in the County is the lack of enforcement in the County. The Sheriff and his men never seem to find the bars that serve the under-age drinkers, even when a death occurs after being served there. I can't recall any bar (outside of Sturgeon Bay city bars) that has been cited and fined aside from one in Valmy. They should be cited for over-serving but that never happens.
I believe it is time to evaluate the need of vehicles for some county employees. Why are we paying for a vehicle for the sheriff and chief deputy to travel to & from work? There should be a vehicle available to them at the SO. With the cost of gas, this is a start.
Law enforcement seams to center on traffic laws. The county board and city aldermen seam unable to say no for request from these departments. The cost of these programs are much higher than for cities & counties of similar size.
We are not permanent residents but are in Door County 25%+ year round & have been here since 1978. Most major issues seem to be addressed promptly 7 with good outcomes. It is the small items or those @ a lower level which are difficult to evaluate unless services are used directly or by close friends to receive feedback. I believe, unfortunately, it is necessary to maintain law enforcement @ a high level in this time. Thanks for this opportunity to communicate!
Law enforcement needs more training in working with mentally ill members of our community.
Prioritize Law Enforcement
Increase visibility of law enforcement.
The radio stations promoted a safe July 4th but I must say that my neighborhood was shooting off firecrackers as well as roman candles and exploding fireworks from 7 until midnight without a patrol car coming near the neighborhood. Not much of a crackdown.
Lower mileage of vehicles, city and county police. Get some of the city police on bicycles and cut back on county police mileage.
Cutting budget for local law enforcement as all we have in many cars out controlling traffic.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SUGGESTIONS
I think Community Programs suffered alot due to the heavy NEED of human services, mental health and AODA issues.
The financial management of Community Programs has been terrible for a long time not to mention the waste, inefficiencies and redundancies apparent within that department and its programs. More people need to be served in more efficient ways.
I think that certain county board members, city council members have made it difficult for Community Programs to fulfill its mandated requirements of servicing those in need. Make sure the Human Service areas have the monies they need to take care of those in need. If we take care of out AODA and Mental health issues up front we will alleviate many of the problems that may occur with crimes, more abuse etc.
Expand mental health service through community programs
Increase the budget for Door County Community Programs. Increase the number of counselors so that we do not lose people to drugs and alcohol while they are waiting for help. It takes much courage to ask for help and the window of opportunity to provide care and assistance is small. Counseling alcoholics and addicts has a "high burn out" rate. Overloading existing staff is very detrimental to the health and well being of those employed in that department.
County needs to continue and expand funding to organizations like Boys & Girls Club, Help of DC, Community Programs, etc.
We have multiple repeat alcohol related offenders. Why not give equal resources to rehabilitation as we have to jail time. Jail time and fines seem to be the only tool available and it's not working. THANK YOU for getting a psychiatrist in community programs.
Let's do what we can as a community to help community programs succeed as a service by finding a way to solve the current budget issues and help them get back up to full staff.
Be more proactive with services to the mentally ill, so they do not have to be institutionalized either in our jails, inpatient treatment facilities, and other counties residential programs. If we could invest in educating people to these challenges, we would gather their support for helping the third class of mentally ill be vibrant members of our county's society. People with mental illness enrich our lives. Many of the United States greatest leaders, artists, and musicians were diagnosed with a mental illness. They would be our best investment.
Alcohol and drug prevention and effective treatment. More Community events that don't involve drinking.
Inclusion of people and children with disabilities within the community.
SOCIAL SERVICES SUGGESTIONS
I don't know much about the social services interaction with the County, be it children or seniors.
Re Social Services Budget: Funding for and assignment of the Social Worker (Mark Hill) should be restored to the DC Challenge Program at Sunset School. This program has been proven to work, and saves the county taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in court time and costs and subsequent out-of-county placement/detention of troubled youth. Door County has a program that is serving as the MODEL program for other counties and schools! It works. Please do not jeopardize the program or progress that has been made these past many years. Contact Challenge Program teacher Ed Schriener-Schmitt for details and accurate statistics.
I am very concerned about the trimming of the social services and community program budgets. In the long run cuts in this area may becomes greater expenses in other areas.
I am very concerned that our child protective services (Social Services) are so strapped for money, they have to continue to cut programs and positions. What is going to happen to the troubled teens that once had a chance because of the Challenge program?

OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE, IF WE CANNOT PROTECT THEM WE ARE IN BIG TROUBLE.
Investigate if people really are in need of food stamps. Make them work for it. I work to pay my bills. I was a single mother. I worked two jobs so I wouldn't have to use welfare system. You people make it too easy for people to be lazy!!
Check into welfare fraud in the county. How can people on welfare afford cigarettes when they can't afford food for themselves or their family. You see women with a cigarette dangling from their mouth going into the court house for welfare with 2 or 3 kids tagging along. If people are able-bodied and are on welfare, put them to work cleaning parks or other county property. Also people on food stamps are eating better than those who are working 40 hours to support a family. Food stamps should only be used for the basic foods, such as vegetables, milk and meat. Convenience foods should not be allowed to be purchased with food stamps!
- too much of our high taxes are going to welfare programs
The overall social services budget must be protected and boosted. In times of cuts, these services are often the ones that are placed on the chopping block.
Continue to provide the Challenge Program which has been recognized by the state of Wisconsin for its excellent quality for those children in need of special services. Recognize that both Social Services and Community Programs need to have adequate funding to care for individuals and families. Especially when persons need to be placed in treatment facilities or group homes. Our board tends to spend money on buildings and roads rather than helping residents afford adequate housing, transportation, food and daily necessities. Non profit agencies are trying to fill the gap in services, and are competitive in seeking grants and individual donations to support their cause.
My experience with social services in the county is that there are far too few people trying to do way too much. Consequently, many things are not handled or investigated or dealt with properly. It is extremely difficult to get services or even information for any but the extremely needy. Again, I would reference the Challenge program and the very valuable work that was done through that program. If it is eliminated, what will happen to these children and their families? The bigger question is how many classrooms and educational settings will be severely disrupted because these kids will be sent back to the regular educational environment? Children with severe emotional disabilities cannot function in a regular school setting; schools are not set up to provide the necessary supervision, communication with home, and simply, the time and space needed to work effectively with these kids. Everyone in the community will pay the price. The children with emotional disabilities and their families, the students and teachers in regular classrooms who will have their learning environment disrupted, and, eventually, the community at large. The kids not given access to a program like Challenge typically do not go on to become productive, contributing members of the community because they have not had the opportunity to learn and practice the necessary skills. This decision is amazingly "penny-wise and pound-foolish".
It was very disappointing to hear that the Challenge Program will be discontinued. The program helps support at risk youth and their families. I believe it can make a difference in helping to break the cycle of dysfunction those youth grow up in and save the county money in the long run. Supporting youth and families is an investment in the future well being of Door County. Please continue to fund programs for this population.
Return the Challenge Program at Sunset School to full funding before those kids have to be placed out of county at a greater expense than the funds you pulled.
To say that the population of the Challenge Program is dropping is deceptive. The moment the board indicates there won't be a Challenge program the school districts MUST come up with alternative plans. Of course the population will be dropping. Districts won't--can't--wait until mid-September and then develop programs to take the place of the Challenge Program. Prior to the 'drop' in population it was made increasingly hard to get children into the challenge program. This is a program that saved us thousands of dollars. The cost of educating a child in county is many times less than the cost of sending a troubled youth out of county. Troubled children who have 'turned around' are more likely to continue their success if they made the changes while remaining in the community. Children who are sent to a residential facility, 'turn around' and then return to the area have a much harder time maintaining their new approach to life when faced with the old friends and/or dysfunctional family. The Challenge program taught children how to become productive citizens while remaining in the community. We will pay many times over for dropping this program. Out-of-county treatment/education and incarceration are expensive. Once the Challenge Program is gone it takes monumental effort to reinstate such a program. The program was developed by a group of special ed directors who worked together. The same cannot be said of the current special ed. directors in the county. Please consider the money that some programs SAVE us. Keeping people who are elderly, mentally ill. or developmentally delayed in their homes or group homes is much more cost effective than letting them 'go' i.e. not providing services until they reach crisis and then require emergency care, whether this be in a nursing facility on the county dole, incarceration or hospitalization.
You made a mistake not helping to fund the school Challenge Program. It is an excellent program and keeps some at risk students from becoming a part of the penal system. I hope your decision does not come back to bite you in the butt.
We need to provide more financial backing to prevention and support of elderly, children, and low income families in our community. The mentally ill, developmentally disabled also need to be supported both financially and supportive services need to be increased for these members of our community. If you do not provide prevention up front the cost is much greater down the road. The challenge program needs to be maintained it is one of the most cost effective programs we have in keeping our area youth out of Lincoln Hills which is very costly. This community needs to develop a program to deal with the large number of alcohol related crimes. Out jail is filled with members of our community with alcohol and substance abuse problems which is not solved by putting them in jail. The only thing accomplished is they are clean and sober while they are in jail. Programs need to be developed for these individuals while they are in jail.

how can you spend the kind of money you are going to put into the old bridge, when social services are suffering? can't believe we need 3 bridges, especially when so many people are not getting proper care.
I have had a problem with County personnel responsiveness with regard to coordination with the state on BadgerCare+ problems.
Continue with funding for children at risk. I would like to see more money go toward permanent programs and facilities for children, especially after school and in the summer.
Services for children and families need to remain in place and intact. Economic stresses affect how families are coping and dealing with everyday life. Parents need support and education to assist them with daily living.
Please consider the importance of supporting the members of our society who suffer from infirmities, low incomes, violence in the home, and poor housing.
More emphasis needs to be placed on human services. If the government is going to have a dominant role in providing services, they shouldn't "dump" services and assume a non-profit agency is going to pick up the slack.
better and more to poor, elderly, disabled, and anyone on a fixed income.
more involvement with youth in process.
The senior population is fast growing. The county needs to plan for needs of this age group, such as care in the home that will be an increasing need. Current programs are inadequate.
Getting all people productive. What happened to the work for some of the money put out in social programs. Why are we still paying for services to illegal immigrants.
*Safe home for domestic abuse victims. *Homeless shelter.
We need to keep money in the budget for our YOUTH programs! We need to think of the future of Door County, we cannot support families on tourism, we need industry to keep families here in Door County. We need to keep our Youth off the streets and in supervised activities, do not make budget cuts that take away from YOUTH programs that are currently growing in numbers! Specifically, the County Fair, John Miles Park, 4-H, the Skate Association, these are all programs that our youth from ALL OVER the county are benefiting from. These are the Youth that are developing leadership skills, teamwork, self confidence, work ethics and take pride in the work and skills they are learning and accomplishing! These are the LEADERS of tomorrow, these are the YOUTH that we want to stay here in Door County, to take pride in Door County and see it thrive for years to come. But our YOUTH programs are the first to get cut out of the budget every time. Every time INDUSTRY, QUALITY PAYING, FULL TIME YEAR ROUND JOBS come looking to establish here in Door County, our County Board turns them away or tries to make them jump through so many hoops, they go to another community. Meanwhile, another WATERFRONT CONDO gets built to sit empty for 7 months and our police officers are following our youth up and down side streets.
Ensuring that the senior population continues to receive services to assist them in living in their own homes and are being protected from those who might take advantage of this vulnerable population.
More medical assistance for low income persons and families.
Bring back a Youth Coordinator --> our youth suicide rate is unacceptable.
More comprehensive assistance for the elderly, poor and disabled residents, including actually hearing from/maintaining a committee of these individuals in order to get a realistic and accurate scenario of their situation in this county
SENIOR CENTER
The Door County Senior Center has been a wonderful asset for the community. Any moneys to improve the facility or improve programs would help the entire community.
With the increase in senior population, can the Senior Center and its offerings be improved upon?
I am dealing with elderly parents and appreciate the reasonable cost for Meals on Wheels through the Senior Ctr. I also attended a workshop for Caregivers at the Senior Ctr. which was very helpful.
ENHANCE OUR POWTS AND SANITARY INSPECTION SURVEY
More money for the Dept. of Sanitation to speed up the testing of septic systems throughout the county and ensure the safety of our water supplies.
Expedite the Sanitary System Inspection Survey. Revise the BOH Policy that allows one year for the replacement of failing septic system. Provide or seek funding to subsidize the cost to homeowners required to replace failing septic systems .
The county needs to expand its oversight of POWTS, especially in the northern part of the county where little soil material makes POWTS more problematic. This includes educational efforts with landowners on maintenance and financing. Scofflaws should be reported on the website and other media.
We have been retired 11 years and must put in a new septic system when what we have works.
Consider funding for low-income property owners at low interest rate or cost sharing to improve wastewater failed systems. people are now aware that they may have a legally failed system and are letting it go to be forced into compliance by the inspection process. If there was reasonable funding for low income people, with expiration deadlines, many of them would assume the responsibility to get the job completed on their own. We can't, as was shown in this last year, leave the protection of our groundwater to the slow process that is occurring currently. There are also new options that are legal in Wisconsin beyond the traditional mound as a replacement for failed systems. the staff people need to become aware of this new-to-us technology and start using this technology. it is very easy to remain status quo and continue as we have in the past, the job can be done with alternatives that are accepted, less obtrusive, and in most cases longer lasting than mounds.

UW-EXTENSION
Designate more money to the UW Extension program - their services are incredibly beneficial.
Continue funding youth programs - like 4-H
SWCD
My main contact with County officials has been through the Soil and Water group. I was extremely impressed with their knowledge and attentiveness to invasive species issues. This came to my attention during the all-too-brief phragmites program run during last summer ('07). I hope the County is able to continue funding for programs like that - as a former tourist to Door County I can attest to the fact that the County's natural resources are its most important resource.
I would like the county to take more of a leadership role in environmental matters, and compliment the work being done by Soil & Water under Bill Schuster.
We desperately need to elevate the general level of understanding of the county's unique geology and groundwater situation. Conservation Department could use more support to educate and assist the public in better understanding and protecting our fragile karst aquifer.
ZONING / DEVELOPMENT / LAND USE
I guess look to the future and realize that change cannot be stopped only guided...so by adopting new zoning that will guide future development you can control how the county's future will evolve. A wait and see attitude is easy to do, but not in the best interest of the residents. I know that people all want to control their own little portion of the county, but someone needs to guide the overall look of how the county will change and not try to create zoning rules or other regulations after the fact.
Discourage the use of STRONG, bright accent colors at business establishments. Nothing cheapens the Door more than the use of unnecessary huge billboards. Cut down the amount of lighting on the flag at Sarkis Realty, the night time glare is extremely annoying.
I believe that the developments that have been occurring on City properties have been mismanaged particularly on Canal/Buffalo Road. One other concern was the snow plowing this last winter. I realize we have a large county to care for but it seemed to lack any sort of priority. As for how we can do better, we need to slow down, adhere to our zoning laws.
I think Door County is a wonderful place and applaud all of you who are directly involved either as employees or volunteers in maintaining and protecting the "feel and lifestyle" of this amazing place. Please continue to review, approve and enforce the zoning regulations. I am not suggesting "shutting the door" on continued development but please attempt to control growth so Door County can maintain its present "character and feel". Thank you. If I can provide any additional information my name is Mark C. Falb, 8223 White Cliff Rd., Egg Harbor. My DC phone number is 920 868-2600.
I would like to see more stringent zoning in place to prevent unabated building in our environmentally sensitive county.
No more condominium development.
I have concerns that no matter how loud people complain ,there will continue to be big box business' coming in and empty buildings being abandoned. Please think about restricting more development and protecting more green space.
Please consider developing a county-wide growth plan to ensure that Door County maintains its special features and beauty. Please consider developing a county-wide plan to purchase lakeshore when it becomes available to ensure the shore can be enjoyed by all citizens regardless of income. Please consider developing sturdy ordinances for control of billboard and other signs to protect the beauty of the county.
The County Board, Resource Planning and the City of Sturgeon Bay have done everything they could to squelch any type of progress for the past twenty years. Instead of being leaders in progress they have created reactive legislation that has stymied growth and progress. Where affordable lots of 100 foot width were the norm they passed legislation making any future lots 150 to 300 feet. Lots have to be less than 3,5 times the lot width which is prohibitive to good growth in a rural community. Why have elections when Soil and Water Conservation creates prohibitive legislation detrimental to growth, under the guise of environmental protect. The more protectionism you create the more likely you are to have your future generations move to areas that are more progressive. Its been happening for over 20 years and will continue until there is a relaxation of the rules.
We need strictly conservative laws re ugly billboards littering our main roads & detracting from the very assets which most people want to visit here. Dilapidated buildings along the roads need to be demolished & landscaping planted.
Too many permits allowed for building.
Improve land use planning, work with local interests in improving land use.
One concern is with balancing the need for increased development to allow for greater tourism dollars to flow in, while still maintaining the small town charm and natural beauty that draws the tourists in the first place.
Adopt, support, and budget for the implementation of the county's Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan. As happens all too often with planning efforts, with out the commitment of will and dollars, plans end up collecting dust on the shelf.
TECHNOLOGY – ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED INTERNET
Access to high speed internet in remote areas would be nice. At this time there is nothing along the lake or bay other than cost prohibitive services.
Address the high speed internet issue.
Dear Mr. Serpe and Supervisors: High speed internet access is critical; we will really be a second class county if that is not available everywhere.

Hi speed internet connection, county-wide.
Increase use of the Internet and email to keep people informed where appropriate.
Work with cable TV and high-speed internet companies to provide service to areas not presently served.
The county needs to make available to residents the detailed minutes of all county board meetings and committee meetings via email and internet
Support efforts to expand business with high-speed fiber optic services and business development incentives.
Start looking to the future and we are back to investing in technologies.
DO MORE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES
More money spent on environmental programs. Less road construction
keep protecting the environment by enforcing current ordinances
I hope the County Supervisors do not get steam rolled into doing "Green" projects by the promises and fears of the true believer environmentalists. For example "demonstration" projects that are inherently uneconomical should not be pursued with tax money, including state or federal tax money. There is no reason for Door County to "demonstrate" any new, non-economical technology. Let the technology be proven by Californians or somebody else. We get no benefits from risking a penny.....if it is good technology, it will be developed.....then we can see if it is justified. One example is Sturgeon Bay's plan to spend \$65,000 on solar power generation to save about \$300/yr. This is not wise, and I bet they would not spend their own money on such a poor investment.
Take our environmental issues more seriously as a threat to our WHOLE survival, not just to our economic future: toxic water affects not only our property values but also our health; land speculation affects our elderly population's ability to keep their homes; condo-izing our peninsula dramatically challenges our ability to SUSTAIN our communities with populations our resources can SUPPORT; narrow-minded approach to wastewater and stormwater treatment [central treatment plants and dynamited sewer lines] endangers our health, our environmental quality and our wildlife habitat. In other words, our FUTURE. We must learn from nature's processes, not continuously try to control them (and fail in the long run).
set an objective that all county departments must consider the impact of the actions of each department on providing potable water for now and the future. Make accommodations in the budget that allow for short term expenses with long term economic gains and maintenance of plentiful safe drinking water.
More money budgeted for improving the quality of waters and beaches of Lake Michigan and make them usable as they were 5 years ago. What is causing these problems, other then to say its low water level and pesticides? Property values should be going down instead of increasing, due to these factors!
Protection of ground and surface water should be the top priority not just for those of us who make this our home but to make this a destination for tourists.
Dredge the waters and/or clean them up.
Please consider enacting better protection of our water resources and "green space." Please consider limiting large developments or centers located outside the villages and towns of Northern Door. This would help to protect the water, keeping such developments on local sewer systems, and protect the very important visual appeal of our community.
There is urgent need to take a more proactive stance on the safety of our drinking water. I don't know quite what needs to change, but I do know that it does not make sense that anyone with a failing septic should be allowed to continue to leak wastewater into the public's drinking water for as much as a year so that they have time to get the system fixed.
What is being done to improve lake/water quality? Why isn't more concern paid to invasive plants?
Greatly intensify groundwater protection. Put location-specific limits on liquid manure spreading to prevent nutrient run-off. Support added-value production by local farmers
Ground water quality - standards and enforcement
Anything relating to monitoring water quality, enforcing existing laws, remediating water quality problems, and looking forward to having 'leading edge' water quality priorities. This will help the current residents and go towards keeping the tourists coming.
We are residents of Florida and spend 5 1/2 months in our Door County home in Egg Harbor. One of our main concerns is water quality. We don't think failing septic systems should have a year to be fixed. During that time they may be polluting the wells of their neighbors. Even though we are on Village sewer, we have a well to provide our water. We have it tested every spring.
Start working on a plan for a municipal sewer system for door county.
It is absolutely crucial that the county administration address county-wide land use issues. Zoning and land use issues need a county-wide focus, taking into account the groundwater table decrease and septic system failures. Disposal of holding tank waste is major problem that require better enforcement.
I'm concerned about water quality and the efficacy of our waste disposal systems.
I own beachfront property and pay high taxes. I can rarely use the beach because of the algae that floats in and smells terrible. I understand this may not be the County's problem, but I feel I am paying for a beach I cannot use.
Preservation of natural resources /green space should be more highly regarded, especially those areas still in cities or towns.
Protection of our natural, cultural and human resources will only benefit the county in the next 100 years. Thinking outside the box with resources and use of those resources to better everyone including the natural resources is the only way to move the county forward and keep it alive for future generations.

SUSTAINABILITY
I think the main word in any discussion by our county officials should be sustainability. We can no longer afford short-term solutions and the wasting of resources. If it takes extra time and money for a sustainable answer to a need, so be it. We need to think green, need more bike lanes and/or sidewalks, need renewable energy, need sustainable jobs. These are the things that will attract new residents to our county. Sometimes I am a bit embarrassed by the amount of waste that goes on here. So many empty buildings. Why not make new businesses make use of those properties that are vacant?
Sustainability - cluster growth: residential; commercial - to prevent urban sprawl.
Sustainability is huge if this county wants to maintain the quality of life that we have today. I would like to see the county implement and adopt the Natural Step System Conditions.
WIND / ENERGY
I think the county truly needs to consider deeply, (as I know it has) the possibilities of utilizing wind energy. After hearing recently that Texas is now employing the green energy to provide electricity to major Texas cities, I wonder why we are dragging our feet in such a wind energy friendly environment.
Door County could break new ground for the state of Wisconsin if we implemented an energy alternative program - I believe that a phalanx of wind powered generators could meet our energy needs, or at least cut our need of the nuclear or coal powered energy offered in our state. We can break new ground and probably qualify for federal or grant money to do so. What an opportunity to take leadership in such a crucial area - we could end up selling excess energy back to WPS!
Energy problems are here to stay. We need to implement the community wind project ASAP to guarantee our county with the energy needed to maintain our quality life and keep our businesses up and running.
The County needs to consider developing its own sources of energy: wind, solar, bio-fuels, and to ensure sources of local foods: put our citizens to work, providing for our citizens....the tourism industry will take care of itself.
Why can't our city and government buildings start setting an example for saving energy. We created a lot of new buildings that could be running off solar energy. And our jail and highway dept has enough land they could have their own wind farm to power their buildings and put some power back into the grid to give us a tax break somewhere for it.
Can the county run vehicles be made more 'green'? More fuel efficient or run on alternative fuels? Can county buildings be run using alternative energies?
Become more involved in providing alternative (green) energy for the county.
start immediately building and remodeling government facilities with green architecture, conservation and renewable energy.
IMPROVED JOBS / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Door County Economic Development Corp does an excellent job of keeping job in DC & helping businesses. Great ideas!
What is the job growth outlook for Door County? Is there any reason to expect high school and/or college graduates to want to stay in this area? Are there jobs for them with health insurance benefits?
Please consider a DC development position that would act as a spokesperson for Door County tourism (I think you are missing some cheap and easy PR opportunities that a Spokesperson could handle for you) as well as work to attract small professional businesses like technology firms, recruiting firms and other companies that can offer well paying, full time, all season work for Door Counties young professionals.
Spend less time promoting Door County's beauty and more time developing support for the economic infrastructure.
Market for new business development
Our residents are not allowed to work in the businesses in our community because when the "immigrant labor forces" come from other countries, our jobs are given to them and we are let go. The lower wages given to them are taken from us, while we are left paying our taxes to support our infrastructure, etc. The immigrants take our American dollars out of our communities, and spend it over seas, which means the money they make here, doesn't stay here. The local businesses who hire temporary immigrants to run their shops, are stealing from the community for their own profit. They use the community to pay for the roads, etc, and they turn around and hire out of country employees who have no responsibility towards our communities. The people who are using these immigrant workers are not just taking our jobs from us people who work here, but they are paying immigrants to take our American dollars out of our area. They are takers, they do not help our communities to thrive, our schools suffer, our taxes get higher while the immigrants go home to their countries with our money that will help their countries to grow faster than ours. It is not fair to hire lower wage employees from out of the country, businesses should show more support for our communities by not being so Greedy. Our communities suffer, hospital costs go up, taxes go up, and the immigrants go back to their homes in other lands which means their money doesn't stay in our communities. When are we going to stop this??
You need to attract more business to Door County. We need to have a way to help keep our young adults here with good employment.
*More industry for better paying full time jobs.
improvements in job training
If you want to attract young families and retain them, the county needs to look to attract decent paying jobs (more than just manufacturing or factory jobs) WITH FAMILY BENEFITS. As a person in my mid 30's with a family, we are very close to moving out of the county due to the difficulty in securing stable, year round employment with family benefits.
Free training of the difficult to employ, such as those found to be disabled by the federal government.

Development of more industry.
I feel it important to look at attracting high paying year round jobs in manufacturing and other stable industries to create stability for year round residents during the long winter months with low tourism as a partner to the wide array of tourism related jobs which exist
Help businesses move into the area that provide full time, year round employment with benefits - a strong economy will reduce the cost of services provided by county to those who struggle financially and will create stronger families which will curb destructive lifestyles
Work harder to attract new industry and well paying businesses. Help make our educated young people want to return here to raise their families.
Our children have moved from Door County because they can't earn a living. As soon as our property sells we're gone too for the same reason.
Give industries wanting to come to Door County some incentive by creating some tax loopholes. The taxes in Sturgeon Bay are way out of line and people / homes cannot afford to pay the taxes because the city spends the money before it even gets into the banks. (Give the tourists a reason to return)
HOUSING / AFFORDABLE LIVING
improvements in low cost housing
Housing availability for summer workers
Please no more building of condos. If we must build, sustainable dwellings younger families can afford should be the priority.
BUILDINGS
The idea that every new building must be a Taj Mahal must be reined in. Fire Stations, Libraries, Airports, Parks. While these are necessary they do not all need to be "state of the art" and provide amenities like large cities where more tax money is available. More of the public buildings could be dual purpose.
We already spent far to much money on Justice Center and Hwy Dept buildings and now spending more on rebuilding downtown courthouse complex.
Our County government is too big. I remember when the court house housed all the county government in one location on Nebraska St; now it houses an out of control government in many separate, expensive buildings.
To this citizen, it does not appear that the county is as fiscally responsible as it should be. To follow the Justice Center construction with more renovations at the Government Center seems inappropriate in light of the economy and what should have been apparent on the horizon based on the limits placed on counties by the state.
It will take at least a decade for the county to recover from the wasteful and inappropriate construction of the justice center. We now have the highest per capita cost of public safety of any county in the state.
IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC
We need much better communication about county services, needs, efforts, studies, possibilities for state and federal funding, and so on. The county cannot rely on a Gannet newspaper for providing adequate information to the people! That corporation does not have the good of the public at heart.
More/better communication methods including newsletters, email blasts.
Better communications for County residents
IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
public transportation to Green Bay.
There is a serious lack of public transportation in the county.
affordable transportation should be strongly considered as our county ages.
Please ensure that 5311 Public Transportation funding is included in the 2009 budget, and that its operation be coordinated with the Door County Transportation Consortium.
I am most interested in public transportation services to sustain Door County's viability as a vacation and living environment including: * some service connecting to Green Bay (light rail or buses) * Some kind of local cab service for senior citizens for shopping, medical appointments, etc., and * Some regular bus service from northern Door to Sturgeon Bay and back.
We need reliable and affordable public transportation!
Develop public transportation "jitney" service along major highways
Transportation - help develop a mass transit throughout the county
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR STURGEON BAY AND NORTHERN DOOR (AT LEAST SEASONALLY)
Please continue planning for public transportation services in northern Door County as this population ages.
More mass-transit. Possibly shuttles (vans or busses) running from northern Door County to southern DC several times daily. Also city busses would be good.
Funding for elderly transportation for health care, shopping, entertainment, religious functions.
It is important that we review future possibilities for greater public transportation as fuel costs continue to rise and take a greater portion of individual's budgets.
Considering the high rate of elderly, Northern Door could use some form of taxi/shuttle service between Northport & Sturgeon Bay servicing all communities.

BIKE TRAILS / PATHS
It is very important to tackle plans for a much expanded off-road bicycle path network. It would be one of the most beneficial features that the county could offer to visitors and it would also provide safe and engaging transportation options to those living and working here. Off-road paths would provide a view of the county unavailable now and would keep bicyclists away from danger. A major bike accident is just waiting to happen. Families with small children are constantly traveling the narrow margins with cars charging by full speed as it is now. Families with bike trailers and multi passenger bikes are venturing into the most congested parts of northern Door towns at great risk. There is also a great need for regular public transportation.
Are there any plans to continue the bike trail beyond County C on "old 57", or will it simply end, like so many of the sidewalks in Sturgeon Bay?
We had better start building pedestrian and bicycle access soon. There will be more foot and cycle traffic in the future. There are currently no bicycle lanes on our roads.
bikes lanes on city and county roads.
Better shoulders for bikes.
Hwy A was expanded for a bike lane, but still needs to be finished. It is very rough and has two colors of pavement. We use it daily and hear many complaints from customers and friends.
I would like to see more bike lanes/trails in the county. It would also be nice if the existing bike lanes were wider.
Please consider bike paths on any new street additions
Bike lanes must be included on all county roads.
HUMANE SOCIETY
Would like to see increased support for the services provided by the Door County Humane Society. They relieve a significant burden from public safety officials. The County cost to perform their services would probably run 900,000 to 1.2 million. Perhaps you could encourage the towns to volunteer something additional as well.
VOTING / ELECTIONS
Voter education must be prioritized...before we lose our Democracy.
Polling places all over the county for every single election, should open at 6 am and close at 9 pm to accommodate people who work different shifts and who work 15 mi or more from their polling place. if voting is important, it should be based on people's lives NOW, not 50 years ago.
TOURISM
I believe we spend far to much money for tourism. My wife and I are retired and at tired of being pushed out of the picture to promote this activity. If I knew then what I know now, this would have been the last place in world to retire.
NON-RESIDENT COMMENTS
Give the non-resident tax payers a voice.
As an out of state property owner, I feel all I am good for is pay taxes. We can not vote on any elections or other proposals. Just pay your taxes and go back where you came from. Not a good feeling.
MISC. OTHER COMMENTS
We should aggressively address the issues of employment and transportation. We should improve the approach the County takes to the work and natural environment; it should be a leader, spending money when necessary to encourage a healthy economy and good working conditions, including good transportation availability without relying on the automobile. If the County took the lead in promoting wind and solar energy in homes, farms and businesses, it would attract young people interested in living a high quality of life. Those young people would bring ideas, and ultimately workers, jobs, and consumers to the County.
Spray for gypsy moths. Give seasonal property owners the same rate as year round property owners on boating and fishing licenses-we pay just as much tax and don't get anything for it.
I don't think you have a clear understanding of how the beach closings get played up in the press and via work-of-mouth in our tourist bases of Chicago and Milwaukee. This has to be fixed.
INSIST that NWTC provide training for Door Co issues (Fire Dept, septic system inspections, etc) here in Door County! We're supporting the institution with our tax \$\$ but not getting our money's worth! REQUIRE that all the police squad car drivers have ANNUAL safe driving certification. This would include a reminder that tailgating is against the law, for good reason: it's DANGEROUS, especially when it's a cop that's doing it! Running a divided highway into a closet was a STUPID, shortsighted idea, all for the sake of more tourist \$\$.
We live on a small peninsula! Let's take care of it, for ourselves AND for our future generations.
For the amount of taxes paid on shore front property I don't feel that the services are as great, especially in the more remote areas. The shoreline is not what it was 40 years ago, when my parent bought the property. The invasive species and beach contamination has exploded in the past 10 years and it does not make our county that pleasant to live in at times.
It seems that the thought is everyone living along the shoreline is originally from out of the area and has lots of money, but that is not the case where I live. Hopefully we will be able to continue to live here and enjoy the area where we were born and raised, even if he did leave to go to school and earn a decent wage before returning.
Door County is unique and it is harder for the locals to make a go of living here.
I had to go through two armed guards and X-Ray to go to County Clerks. There was absolutely no intent to provide services. That

<p>is why no one was there. I had to appear, in person, with a Driver's License and rent receipt to register to vote. According to the City of Sturgeon Bay it is impossible to register by mail or if you do not have state issued identification. Door County does not realize that America is not 92.5% white. There are millions of immigrants; none of which are here. A whole lot of Door County's economic problems are a direct refusal to deal with a diverse US population. Door County is poor. Dead end minimum wage tourist jobs are not going to provide the basis of a stable economy. \$4 a gallon gas is going to kill that.</p>
<p>I moved to Southern Door County about 4 months ago, previously from Appleton and before that Waukesha. I am a business owner in Sturgeon Bay and plan to live here for the rest of my life. I am interested in "getting involved" but need more / easier accessible help in doing that.</p>
<p>The aging population needs more help than it's getting. Scandia Village is great but needs to expand. The medical services are getting better, but we're becoming the millionaires' retirement community, with property taxes out of control - let's institute Prop. 13-style taxing as they did in California. Let's see some public transportation. Service industries up here are horrible--you can't get a construction person/plumber/electrician to show up, much less do the work. Working people have no chance of getting to a hardware store before it closes (whoever heard of a hardware store closing at 1 p.m. on Saturday?), a grocery store, the doctor. Nobody offers full-time, year-round work, nobody offers good benefits or decent wages. I grew up here in the summers, and after living here more than 6 years full-time, my motto is becoming, "It's a nice place to visit but I wouldn't want to live there." I'm working 80 hours a week just to keep up.</p>
<p>Whatever we need to do to keep young families here and improve the local schools. They need more money.</p>
<p>No public transportation, no affordable health care and no affordable housing is a hardship for many people in the working middle class who would like to make Door County their home.</p>
<p>Review of utility (water, wastewater, electricity) options and potential costs for doing different options needs to be prepared and presented to citizens who often do not understand how complicated the issue is.</p>
<p>Ask the residents what they consider to be important priorities</p>
<p>We use the Airport, as do many others, and the Sturgeon Bay Water facilities and really feel that traffic management is a big concern as the number of visitors increases. We have great roads and facilities.</p>
<p>Residents need to have a "know who to call" list. For instance, if garbage is dumped inappropriately at a city park, which county entity is responsible for picking it up?</p>
<p>The county needs to create a user-friendly database for county public records, including real estate sales/purchases The county needs a comprehensive recycling program, modeled after the best programs in the country, and to include all electronics, batteries, and chemicals. Incentives should be initiated.</p>
<p>I do not believe that beachfront property assessment is done fairly. I know that the process includes or is based on what nearby or similar property is sold for but this is very unfair to people who have lived on their land for 10, 20, 30, 40 years and are forced to sell their homes because of high taxes. After a property is sold and revalued is OK, but there should be some way to slow tax rate for those who intend to stay and not sell for new value profits.</p>
<p>Surely hope that someday Sturgeon Bay and vicinity will obtain their water from Lake Michigan. The well water here is very bad. I certainly also hope there will be a generous amount in the budget for the operation of the Mariner, Sturgeon Bay and Miller Art Museums and all the wonderful public places to enjoy in this county. Please do not extend the double lane highway any further north than it is. Since I am only a summer resident, I could not fully answer all of the questions.</p>
<p>"LONGER" COMMENTS</p>
<p>1. Strict adherence to ground water quality. 2. Following the strictest of guidelines for arrest and intervention of for individuals drinking and driving. Regarding quality of life in Door County, alcohol and drug abuse is an epidemic. Overall, it is the most severe issue effective quality of life in Door County. 3. Disaster preparedness. 4. Inclusion of youth in Door County Government. Asking High School student government representatives (Every class has a class president) to comment on services that effect youth in our county. 5. Involvement in the Great Lakes Compact. Just because the water is blue and pretty to look at does not mean you would drink it. You often can't swim in it and eating fish out of it is dangerous. 6. Overseeing agricultural runoff of animal waste, herbicides and pesticides. 7. Looking at all services for the elderly, i.e. housing, health care, transportation, alcoholism, isolation.</p>
<p>Again, I wonder if these and other comments of the general public are considered in the county budget. In looking around, constituents have seen major capital improvements throughout the county (& city), the hiring of a number of new employees, and other new programs, and yet somehow are left wondering how our elected officials are financing services they don't manage very well (outdated programs, employees, and status quo mentality) and control a growing budget due to these programs, capital improvements and in large part to employees and their benefits (health care?). We hear about a paintbrush mentality that identifies every department and their employees the same. And yet, there remain "sacred cows" left as untouchables fueled by a fear mentality. A paintbrush thought process of uniformity to reduce the budget does little to actually consider the public's perception and prioritization of the budget reality. I ask that elected officials get "in the trenches". We've not yet scrutinized the departments, employees, and the programs they run. Instead of keeping the sacred cows apart from the discussion, the mismanaged dept. budgets/promises, and status quo mentality, we have to expect that there are ongoing opportunities in every department to become more efficient and effective. But who's asking? Who's listening? Instead of having the chairs face the county board chairman, perhaps the seats should be turned around to face the people that</p>

<p>actually fund the employees and services and consider their perception for the reality that exists. We can do better and must ask our elected officials to "walk the talk" and reflect the people they serve. We cannot spend that which we don't have. We cannot fund outdated policies, programs and employees. We need a critical thought process to bring back a more balanced, sustainable approach.</p> <p>We must stop deferring an unsustainable govt to future generations.</p> <p>It's a greater risk to be proactive than see a govt that remains reactive. Change is always most difficult in the beginning.</p> <p>I look forward to the discussion, if one should take place.</p> <p>Thanks again for this opportunity. chris olson - 46 E Redwood St - 746-4008</p>
<p>Door County, like many counties in the United States, faces the incredibly difficult task of meeting the needs of a social and economically diverse population with an increasing number of that population being over 65. Door County does not have the infrastructure to meet the needs of an aging population and the needs of the working poor. Counties like Door County that depend on tourism need to have a tax equalization program to enable those who have lived here all their lives to continue to work and live where they grew up. It's not just a matter of jobs programs and transportation programs, it is a fundamental rethinking of the tax base and the way in which taxes are calculated. People who move here, like myself, should be taxed at a higher rate than those young couples who work two jobs, attempt to raise children, and can not afford a place to live. The Door County Board needs to send some folks to Vermont or Oregon, to help identify what "limited development" is all about. Condominiums built in inappropriate places resulting in bank foreclosure is not the economy's fault, the gas price problem, but rather it is the fact that the county plan is not clear on that kind of development and has not limited that development in a creative and meaningful way. If we all work together and if we do not let greed and selfishness govern we can make this place, one of the seven wonders of the mid-west, a jewel worthy of the beauty of the sun, wind, and water that surround us. But in order to do that we need to think outside the box and we need to think together.</p>
<p>People should be in their offices, during work hours and not found out side the work place shopping. Work 4/ 9 hour days. Would cut down on electricity usage and natural gas when prices are so high. Better air system. It smells when you come into the building. Also is very humid and clammy with the present system. I am sure I could think of more ideas, and I might just check back in the near future with other ideas that pop into my head. A senior citizen. Meals at the meal sight are fantastic. A very good place to go, for conversation and socializing. Give those cooks a hand and pat on the back. Oh I just though of another. the snow plow guy we had in our area, had never plowed snow before, so he ripped the neighbors yard for over 400 feet with the blade sticking out too far, it was a mess to clean up with the big chunks of ground left at the edge of the road. Knocked her mail box off. We as neighbors fixed it for her. Good thing she had kids to help with the big chunks laying along the road.. He also missed her road 3 times and had to be called back to finish the job. Which costs time and money.</p>
<p>I wish the supervisors of the county, after listening to the wants and needs of the department heads, would do some foot work, and investigate on their own, these very needs. I suggest asking a few employees, who not only have knowledge of what's going on, but are also tax payers. I have seen enough fraud, waste and abuse. Departments such as the Airport and Parks should not be combined. Why is the Park Dept NOT combined with the highway dept. Since Leo Zipperer stated the Park Dept should move out of the Airport, its a perfect time to merge it with highway. This move alone will stop the duplication of services, equipment, etc... The supervisors who depend on nothing but the word of the department heads, are perfect examples of perpetuating a problem rather than finding a better solution, and insisting it gets done. I often wonder who is working for who. The department head sells the idea to the committee, and they vote yes. End of story?? Cutting back on some department heads, and consolidating a few departments that duplicate services and equipment would save money, improve efficiency, and show the tax payers some effort on part of the true heads of our county that they have things under control. These supervisors also need to remember these are SERVICES provided to the taxpayers. The taxpayers DO NOT work for the departments, or the department heads. If some department heads do not understand customer service, they should be held accountable. I have not seen this. In fact, I have seen several examples of the contrary. As a tax payer, and an employee of this county, this is my 2 cents worth</p>
<p>SURVEY</p>
<p>I'll do this form in the future</p>
<p>I wouldn't put too much faith in these "self-selecting" surveys since they are easily skewed by self-interest groups (county employees), those with an ax to grind or simply by the fact that it's geared toward those more attuned to the technology. While the results may make for interesting reading, they are certainly not worthy of consideration in formulating a budget.</p> <p>If you're looking for budget savings next year, dump this survey.</p>
<p>Thanks for having the survey</p>
<p>This survey is poorly designed. The questions asked get at how well certain functions are preformed. What is needed is input on what programs are important to people. For example, one can say that UWEX is performing fairly well, but the real question is whether the county needs them at all, to which I would answer "No."</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey a d for allowing public input.</p>
<p>Thank you for doing the survey.</p>
<p>Thank you for providing this survey for us to answer. But DPO made me aware of it---by supplying your web-site. Perhaps you need to get the web-site survey E-mail address in the Pulse and Reminder----BIG ad so we can respond</p>
<p>All the questions I answered pertained to the county government as is.</p> <p>They are pretty general and should lead to a nice survey.</p>

Too much time, money, effort spent on studies showing what we already knew.
I don't have personal experience with most of these programs so I answered Don't Know rather than grade these based upon hearsay.
I don't feel qualified to answer most of these questions. I live primarily in the Milwaukee area and only vacation at Baileys Harbor residence about 1 week a year - plus a few weekends. I am very satisfied with all services that I am familiar with.
NOT RELATED TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
I'm not sure if this fits into your concerns for budgeting, but now that the newest bridge will soon be operational, I feel we need to really look more carefully at spending the published amount on refurbishing the Michigan Street bridge. I definitely was not in favor of it going on the Historic Registry and I feel that action has put us in a corner we can't get out of. Perhaps we could use it for a "tourist/citizen" walkway, but please let's think it through carefully before we spend to repair an aged structure. It does not make sense at all. Thanks for asking.
County get in voice in the old bridge.
What is the plan for repairing Egg Harbor Road?
TEAR DOWN THE MICHIGAN STREET BRIDGE! WE DON'T NEED THE ADDED COST OF REDOING A BRIDGE THAT HAS OUT LIVED ITS USEFULNESS. WE'VE HAD ENOUGH LARGE EXPENDITURES IN RECENT YEARS IN THE COUNTY THAT WE NEED TO PAY OFF WITHOUT WASTING SUCH LARGE SUMS OF MONEY.
Sturgeon Bay has mired itself in a political mess. The Wal-Mart issue along with a third bridge shows that the entire City lacks vision and the leadership to go forward.
My big concern right now is the old downtown bridge. It needs to be removed rather than rehabilitated to the tune of 23 millions of our tax dollars. We have more demanding use of that money-whether it comes from the county or state or federal dollars. And that bridge will keep eating up our tax dollars. How that thing got sneaked in as a historical object burns me up. I don't believe any of us who were here when it was built, have any desire to keep pouring money into the endless repair of it. So please keep any monies required for that --Out of the budget.
Citizens have not been kept informed about the downtown building usage plans! Don't throw more money into renovation of old downtown bridge!!
1) I don't agree with rehab of the old bridge! Instead leave the span in the open position and rent space to vendors, kind of like a boardwalk. It would draw people to both sides and supplement county revenue! (Maybe reduce our taxes a bit) 2) Egg Harbor Road needs work to include sidewalks. (Argument is which side do we put sidewalks ... Answer: BOTH)!!
Keep the existing blue Egg Harbor street lights. Upkeep needed for area between street and sidewalk in Egg Harbor.
Please fix egg harbor road. It was last paved in 1952
And another thing why are we still paying tax to NWTC. After all these years they should be self funded.
Train the members of the Sturgeon Bay City Council to make wise and well thought-out decisions. Right now I feel they are not always very bright in their planning for the future. They also tend to be too afraid to make important decisions. Education needs to receive much more support, so that the various school districts no longer need to rely on referendums every year or two.
Fix egg harbor road!!!
become realistic regarding big boxes..... the county has a definite need for more big boxes, but the few public officials (elected) who seem to lead the fight to deter this effort are in a strong conflict of interest on this issue, yet they are allowed to vote and discuss. This is WRONG. The "good old boys" in the business sector vote only for themselves when elected, and the good old boys that put them in office continue to overcharge and complain about people going to Green Bay to shop, again, very wrong.
Has anyone considered moving the Farmers market out to the Kmart parking lot - They would have TONS of room for setting up (They could have MORE people involved) - and they would have more parking for customers. I think we are sending the wrong message to our community, we don't want people to drink and drive, BUT when they leave there car in the parking area behind the Ladder House or the Red Room - they get towed on Sat. morning. I really have issue with that. I think this causes people to drink and drive - so they don't have to be towed. Also people have a hard time finding a place to park on Sat morning because of the traffic pattern, it really isn't the perfect spot for the Farmers market. Yes people will be upset to have to go all the way out to the highway - BUT it will also give more people a place to park for shopping on Sat. morning. Just a thought.....
The amount of money that follows to NWTC from this County continues to be a sore point and so unfair.
Drug and alcohol testing in public schools, not only for athletes but the entire student body. More liaison personnel in public schools.
The school system is getting far too much money for the quality of student they produce. Why are more parents seeking other education for their kids (home schooling, parochial etc.)? Teachers are paid far too much for light workloads and only 9 mo. of work.
Provide more money to the schools for our children to become better for our communities in the future.
Provide less to Technical School.
Help Sturgeon Bay understand the importance of being in the Tourism Zone
shopping here in Door County. Get a Super Wal-Mart, Lowe's, etc.

Fortunate to have a good Technical College.
Motivate retail shop owners to offer high quality, reasonably priced goods/services.
Provide weekly garbage collection to all areas in the summer months
As far as Gibraltar goes seems like downtown runs the marina & airport. What they say goes. Too much control. They also run county workers as to plowing and such. Board office should be voted on not to whom they want on the board. Terms should be limited. Some of the airport commission members have been on forever yet some only get to be on for 1 year. Why? Downtown will have an answer for that. Very unfair process.
Egg Harbor Road - I have a brand new car. Need I say more?
how many extra dollars were spent on third avenue (more lights, colored concrete, etc.) when that money could have been saved for egg harbor road. Get rid of all of the police officers and use the money somewhere else. Sturgeon Bay is safe and has been in the 30 years I've lived here. It is ridiculous. Focus our attention on making this area attractive for all ages and not just elderly, or the poor. Focus on industry, tourism, and arts and entertainment.
Tourists should pay a higher room tax.
Throw out the idea of a possible round-about at the Mill Supper Club intersection. Make the property owner next to C & W level that house, it is sad when a salvage yard and car lot is a lot less of an eyesore than the neighboring property. Throw out the idea of a possible round-about at the Mill Supper Club intersection. Make the property owner next to C & W level that house, it is sad when a salvage yard and car lot is a lot less of an eyesore than the neighboring property.
Community welfare & social services---are all the programs available actually used and/or appreciated; if not downsize. Concerned about possible excessive spending for welfare such as mowing lawns and cleaning houses?
As a taxpayer I think each department should be reviewed to insure that they are operating as efficient as possible. This should include input from not only department head but staff within the department. One key thing that needs to be adopted by all departments is customer service. My mother recently tried to contact a case worker within the Social Services dept. She left messages on her voice mail never to get a call back in fact the case worker went on vacation and didn't even return her phone calls before doing so. It took my mother 4 phone calls to finally connect with this person. I work in customer service and I can tell you that if I treated my customers that way I would not have any customers anymore.
Cut down on welfare fraud and the number of people collecting who could be working. If able bodied, put them to work cleaning up the ditches and parks. Food stamp usage should be for basics only - potatoes, vegetables, fruit and meat, not convenience foods and junk food. How can people on food stamps afford cigarettes?
Why are we providing so much Social Services? A better question would be why are there so many people in Door County that need assistance? I see drunks, we pay their rent, by their food get ambulance service to their house when they pass out on the neighbor's lawn. Why do we keep paying for this crap? And go to the government center on Food Stamp and WIC days here are all these women with 3 or 4 kids in tow, whites, Hispanics, blacks all going to Social Services to get the free-bees. And just sit outside in the parking lot and see all the men are there on their cell phones, smoking cigarettes waiting for the women to come out with the Food Stamps and WIC. And all the women have cell phones also. If they can afford cell phones and cigarettes then they can get a job or 2 like my husband and I have to pay for our own food and our taxes. This county is a joke. People come here for all the Social Services they get.