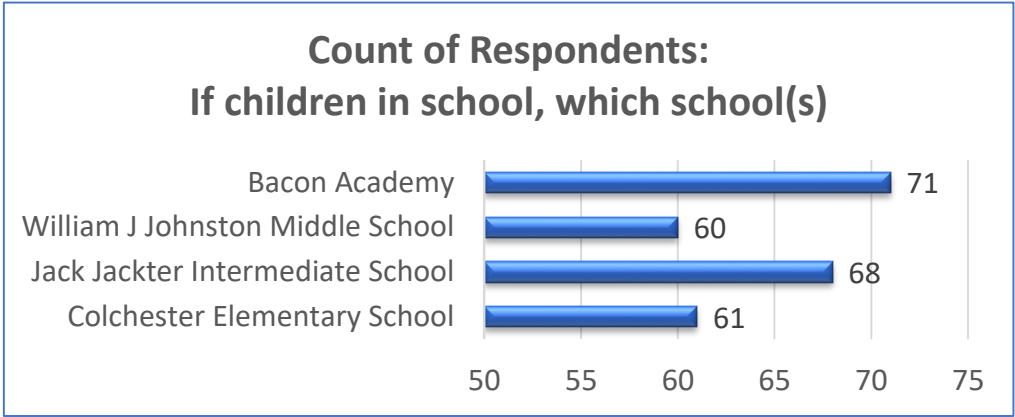
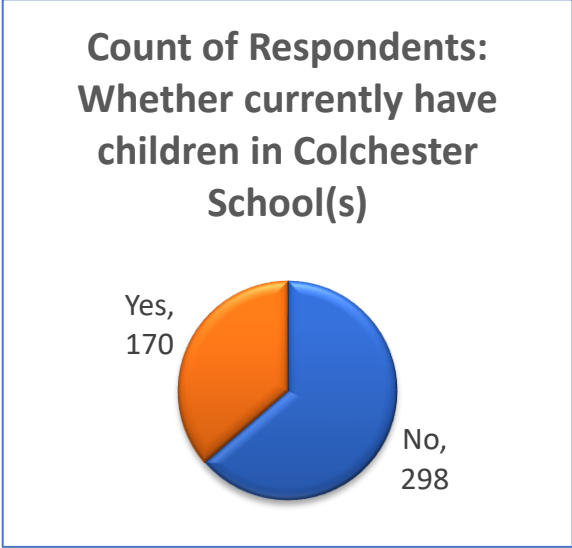
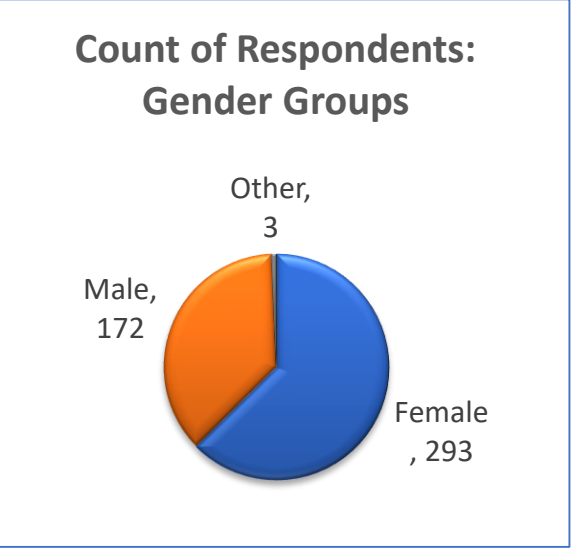
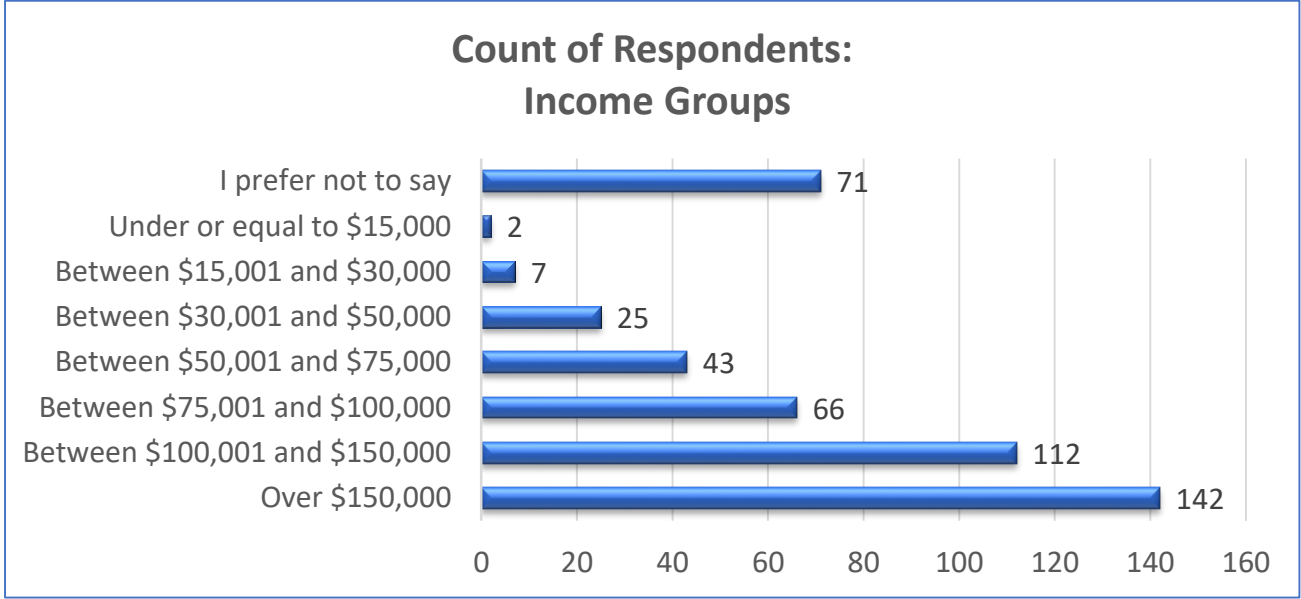
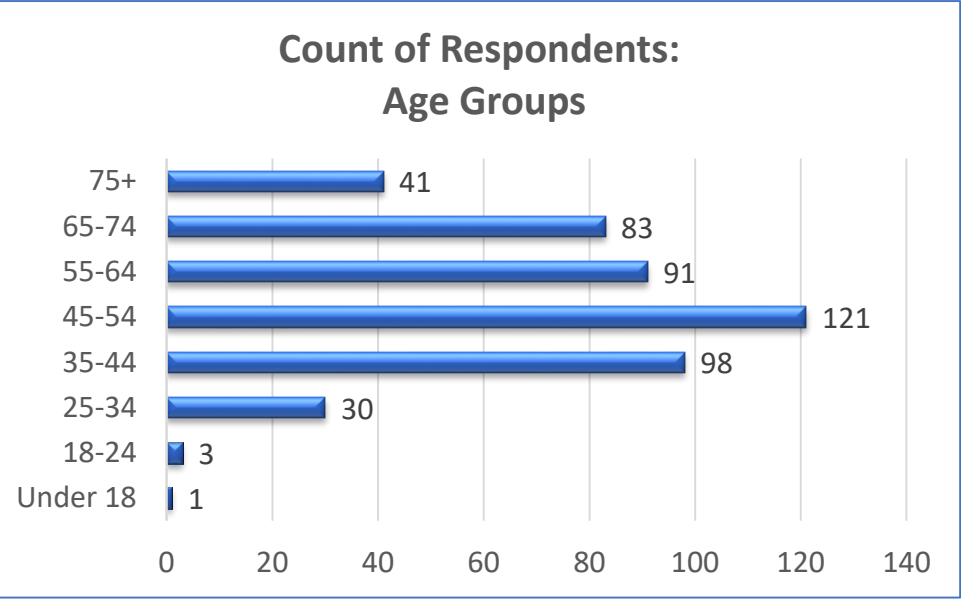




Colchester, CT

# Budget Survey Results 2024-2025

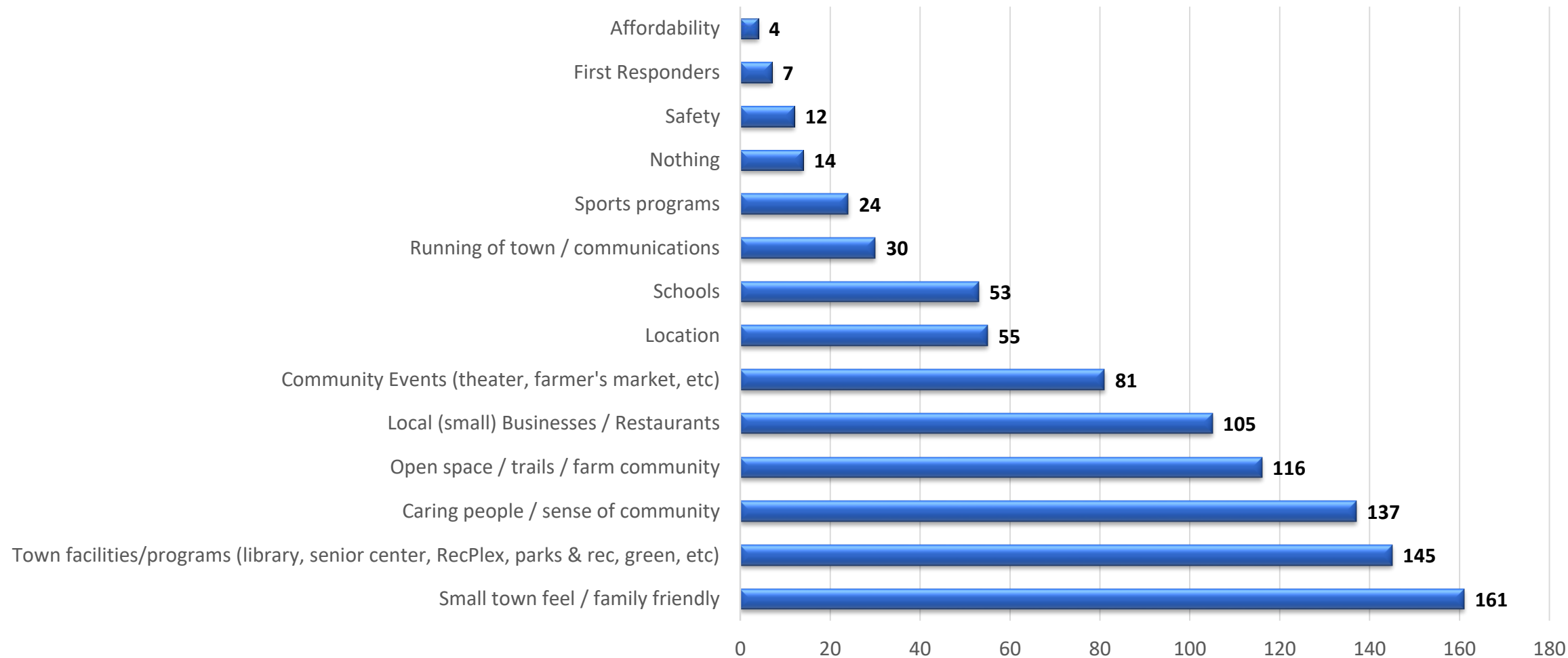
# Demographic Information Questions



# Question: “What are your favorite things about the town of Colchester, CT today?”

Total Respondent Count: 468  
See full set of unedited verbatim responses in the separate Excel document (see last slide)

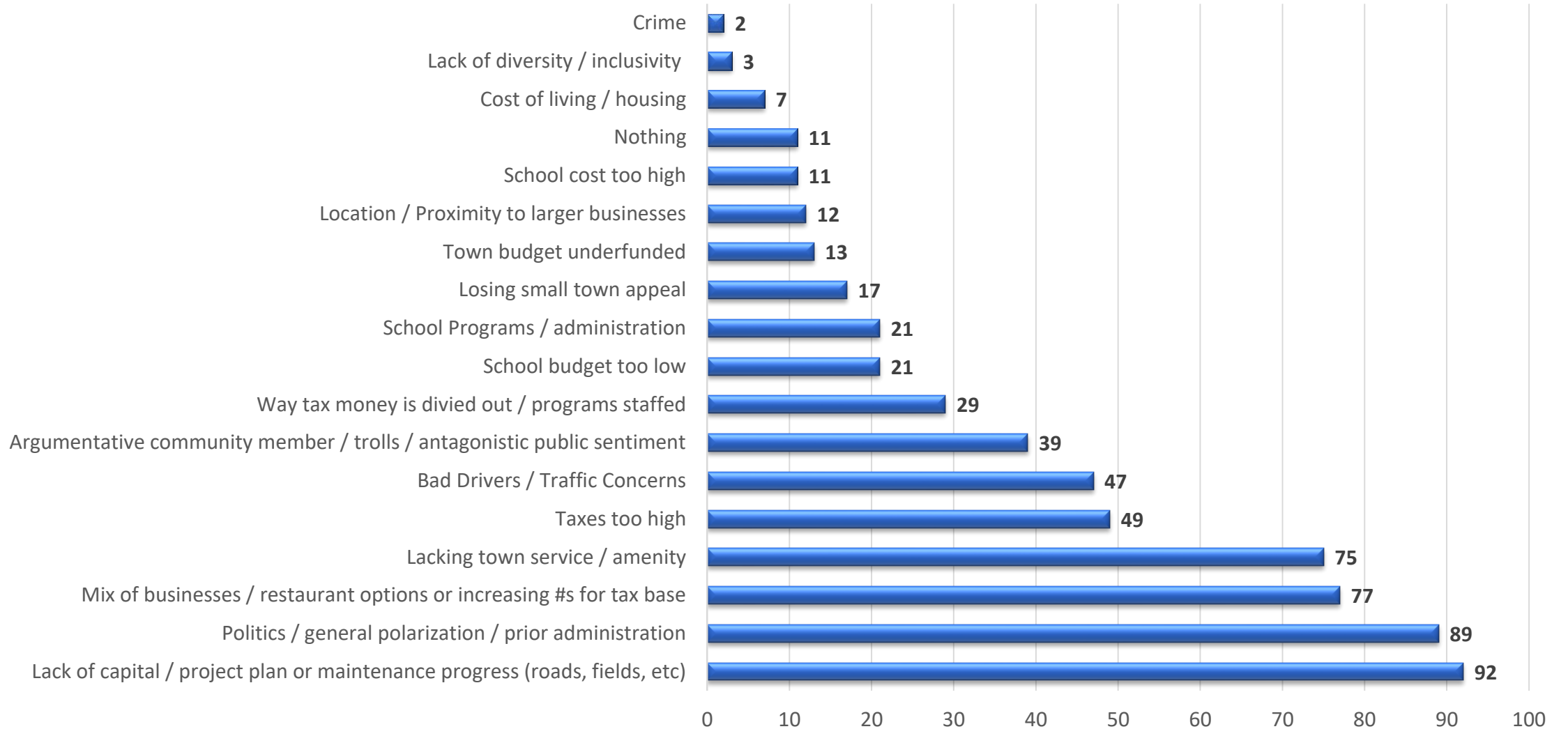
### Count of Respondents: Summary of Verbatim Comments



Total Respondent Count: 468

See full set of unedited verbatim responses in the separate Excel document (see last slide)

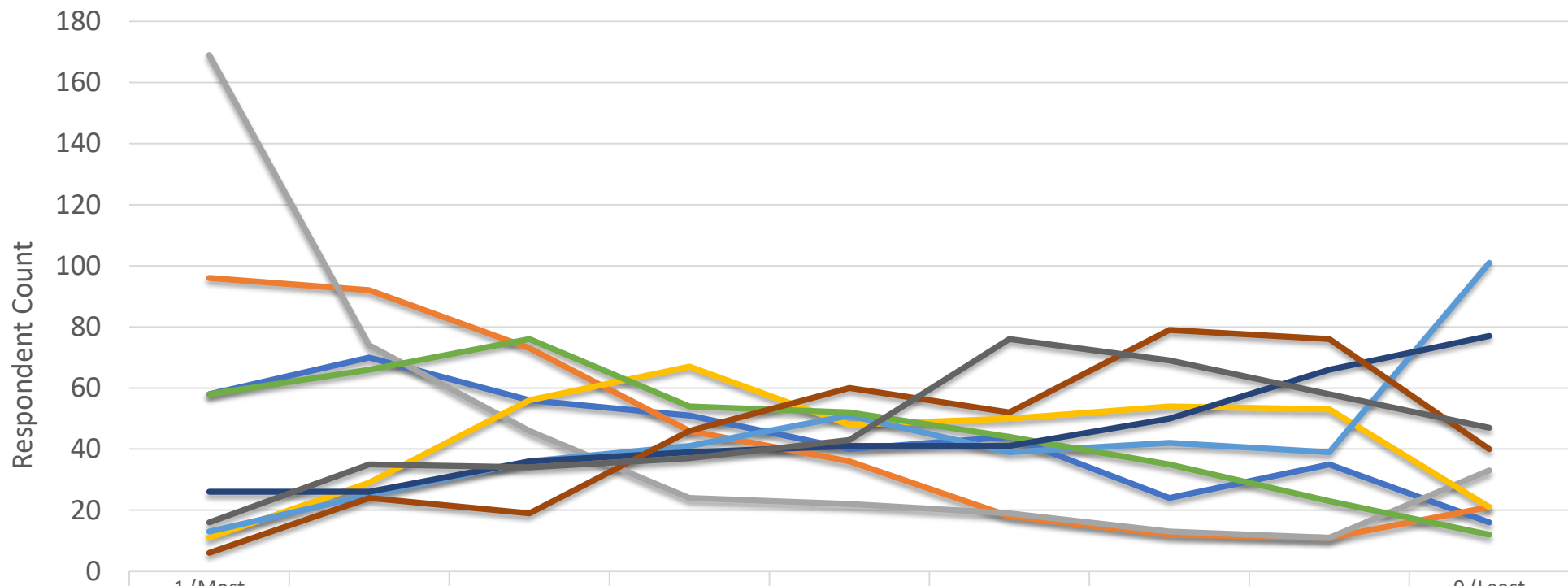
### Count of Respondents: Summary of Verbatim Comments



Total Respondent Count: 468

**Scale:**  
1 should get the most funding / 9 should get the least funding

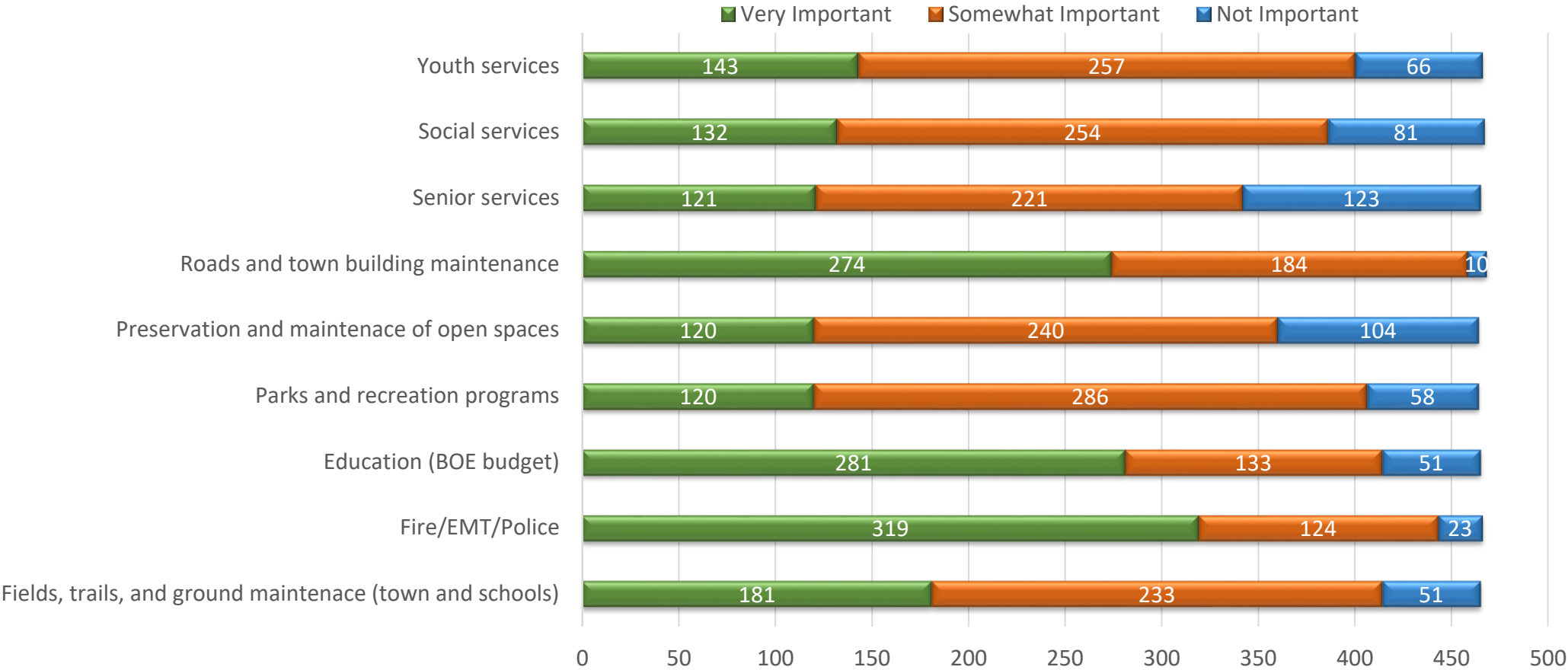
# Question: Rank the Categories



	1 (Most Consideration)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 (Least Consideration)
Fields, trails, and ground maintenance (town and schools)	58	70	56	51	40	44	24	35	16
Fire/EMT/Police	96	92	73	46	36	18	12	11	21
Education (BOE budget)	169	74	46	24	22	19	13	11	33
Parks and recreation programs	11	29	56	67	48	50	54	53	21
Preservation and maintenance of open spaces	13	25	36	41	51	39	42	39	101
Roads and town building maintenance	58	66	76	54	52	44	35	23	12
Senior services	26	26	36	39	41	41	50	66	77
Social services	6	24	19	46	60	52	79	76	40
Youth services	16	35	34	37	43	76	69	58	47

Question: “Please indicate for each category how important that category is to you when allocating the town’s limited resources”

Count of Respondents: Importance level of each category

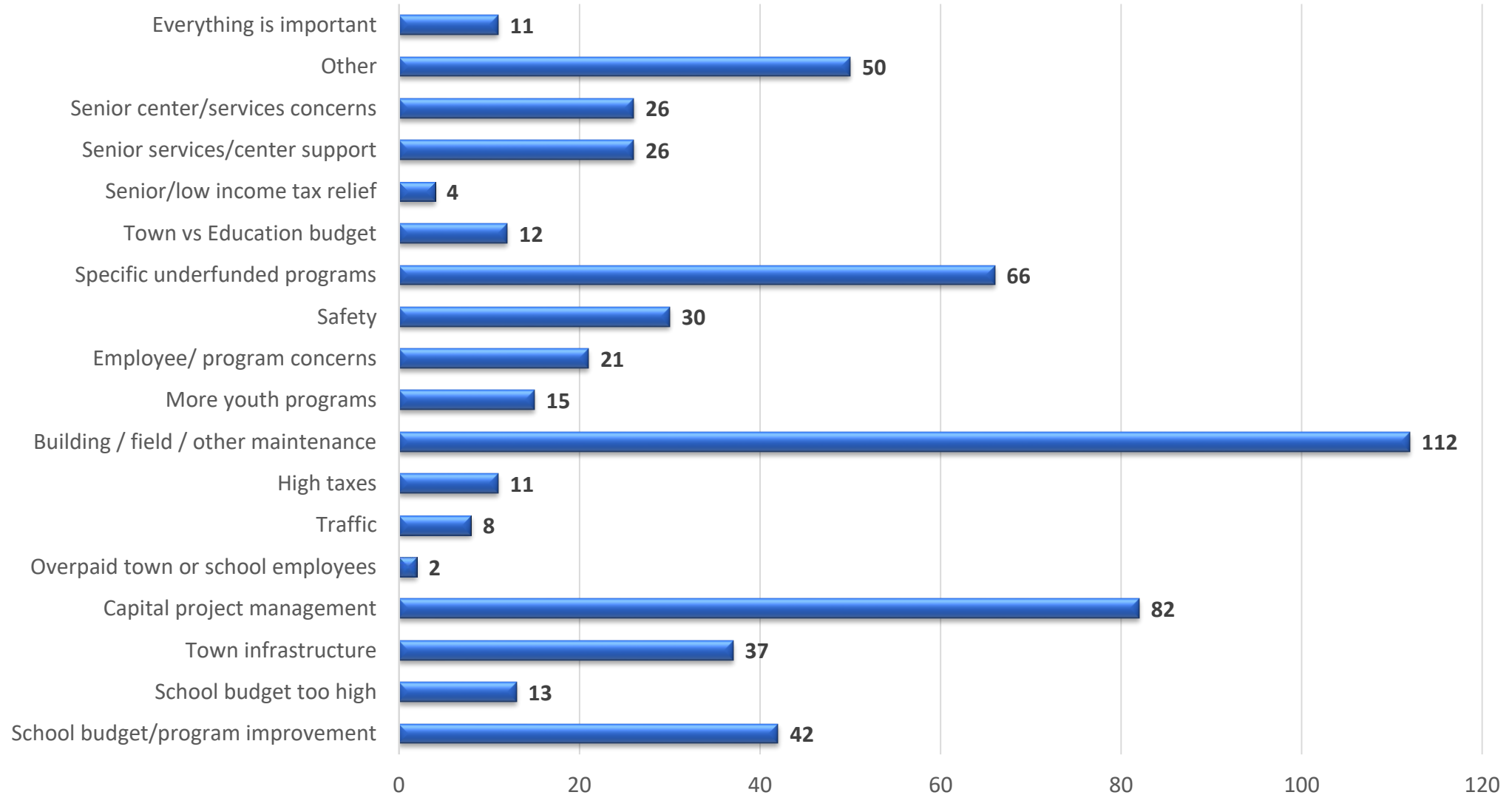


Total Respondent Count: 468

See full set of unedited verbatim responses in the separate Excel document (see last slide)

Question: "Please note any specific services or concerns you have related to any of the categories prioritized or rated above."

Count of Respondents: Summary of Verbatim Comments

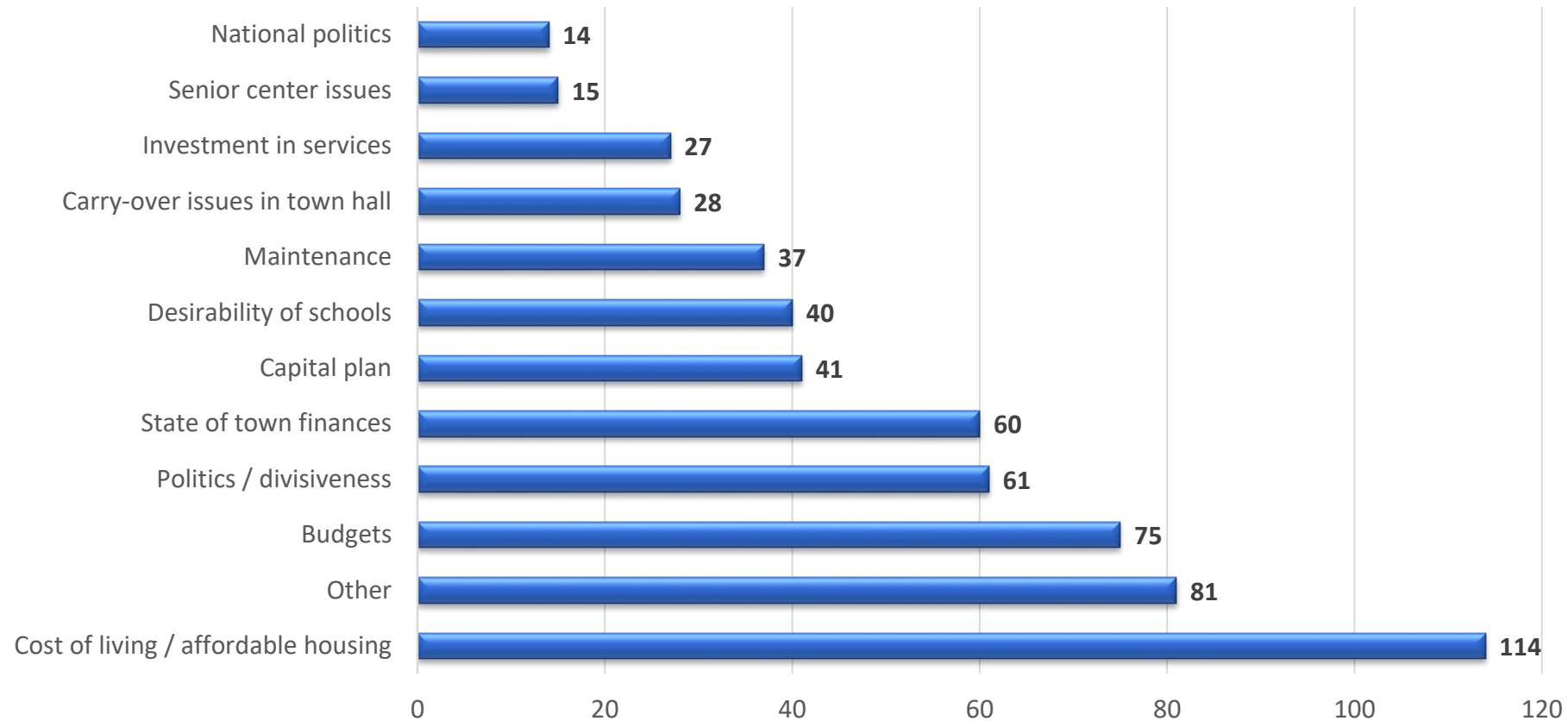


Total Respondent Count: 468

See full set of unedited verbatim responses in the separate Excel document (see last slide)

# Question: What do you think are the biggest problems facing Colchester in the next twelve months?

Count of Respondents: Summary of Verbatim Comments





# How to view all free form comments

In addition to the questions in prior slides, there are two remaining open response questions contained responses not easily grouped for visualization. Instead, please see additional file with all free-form responses listed to review verbatim statements.

Question: In general, how do you feel about taxes and the funding of town services?


Question: Please note any other concerns or commentary related to your budget preferences or feedback.

## Directions:

The file with free form comments is an Excel file. There is a separate tab for each question that included free form answers. On each of the tabs, Column A contains each individual comment. For questions that were put into groups (slides with bar graphs above), there are columns with headers showing each group and 'X' marks showing which group each answer was counted in for the summaries. You can use filters or sorting available on the column headers.

	A	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1	Question: What do you like least about Colchester today?														
2	Count per Grouping	12	17	75	13	39	92	49	77	29	7	2	3		
3	Verbatim Comment	Location / Proximity to larger businesses	Losing small town appeal	Lacking town service / amenities	Town budget underfunded	Argumentative community member / trolls / antagonistic public sentiment	Lack of capital / project plan or maintenance progress (roads, fields, etc)	Taxes too high	Mix of businesses / restaurant options or increasing #s for tax base	Way tax money is divided out / programs staffed	Cost of living / housing	Criminal	Lack of diversity / inclusivity		
4	That Colchester imports students from Norwich and is always asking for more budget money														
5	Drivers not paying attention to pedestrian crossings														
6	Love living here.														
7	The political divide														
8	Schools only respect the Christian holidays, there is no respect for Jewish or others. I also dislike the ranking system that follows this question.														
9	The traffic lights in the center of town are not timed properly.														
10	The absolute financial mess that we are currently in due to the utter incompetence and ineptitude of the previous administration. The fact that I have to drive between 25 and 35 miles to get the items that I need as a homeowner. And the fact that Colchester does NOT have an American's with Disabilities Act [ADA] Commission and does not comply with Title II of the ADA, nor the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [RA of 73], nor any of the Technical Reports put out by the Federal Depts. of Transportation, etc re the ADA, etc. If Colchester were to comply with Title II of the ADA it would know that it is required to have all of the playing fields per the ADA specifications, regardless of the budget ramifications, and a whole lot of other items that should be included in the current years budget, regardless.														
11	Lack of funding for schools, police and lack of a community center. Recreational programming is poor.		X												X
12	Local Political hacks and trolls.			X		X									
13	NOTHING														
14	Not looking ahead at our future for building projects. Geothermal or Solar should've been implemented in town buildings when built or renovated. I'm tired of the buildings not being maintained so we are forced to build new.				X		X			X					
15	Seeing the new very expensive senior center being built when BOE was threatening to cut full day kindergarten. Also, no free preschool and very expensive daycare centers.									X					
16	Bacon academy fields						X			X					
17	taxes							X							
18	High taxes, politics,							X							
19	The fighting between political parties							X							
20	The state of Bacon Academy field						X								
21	Democrat control of town political leadership positions.									X					
22	Lack of and poorly structured youth services activities. Parks and recreation and youth sports are great. Can not understand why we spend so much for youth services and they only have the youth center open 2 days for 2 hours. What are we paying so much money for that department. We need to give more money to the sports programs and fix the fields.				X		X			X					
23															

To open file with all comments, click this:



If you are unable to open this file from here, it will also be available as a separate file on the town website.