

# The National Citizen Survey™

Canton, SD

Open Ended Responses

2014

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The National Citizen Survey™  
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# Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. This report includes the verbatim responses to an open ended question included on The NCS 2014 survey for Canton. Additional reports and the technical appendices are available under separate cover.

Respondents were asked to record their opinions about the top issue facing Canton in the following question:

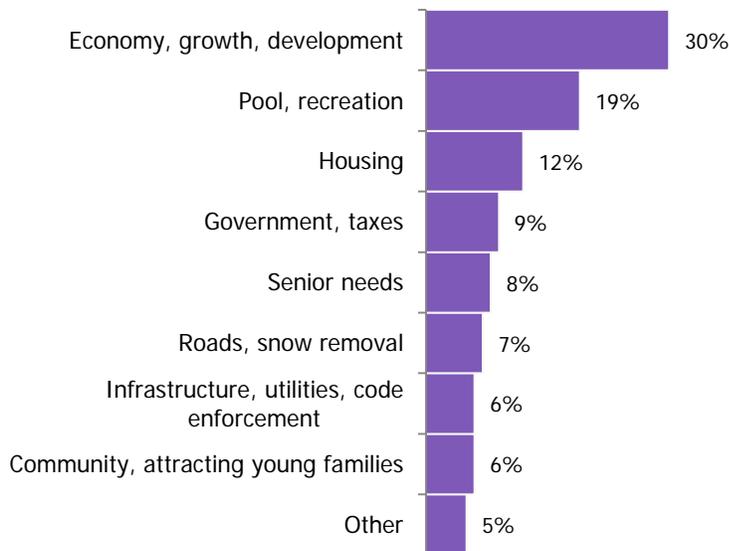
- What do you think is the top issue facing the Canton community over the next five years?

The verbatim responses were categorized by topic area and those topics are reported in the following chart with the percent of responses given in each category. Verbatim responses are grouped by the first topic listed in each comment whenever a respondent mentioned more than a single topic. Verbatim comments that contain more than one topic appear only once (in the category of the first topic listed).

Results from the open-ended question are best understood by reviewing the frequencies that summarize responses as well as the actual verbatim responses themselves. A total of 499 surveys were completed by Canton residents; of these 341 respondents wrote in responses for the open-ended question. The most frequently mentioned issue facing Canton was the economy, growth, development and job opportunities. Other popular topics included the Canton swimming pool and recreation and housing.

Figure 1: Top Issue Facing Canton

*What do you think is the top issue facing the Canton community over the next five years?*



# Verbatim Responses to Open Ended Question

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

## What do you think is the top issue facing the Canton community over the next five years?

### Economy, growth, development

- Revitalizing downtown building affordable housing spending taxpayer money with common sense.
- We need to work on getting business places in town. Our problem is one place starts something and does good everybody does the same. We are not like Sioux Falls where there's more people & few handle. If you are a gas station don't sell chicken & pizza stick to being a better gas station. We had a beautiful bakery that the grocery was putting in bakery items from Iowa. Why?
- We one a dying town. Businesses seem to be closing and nothing else comes in to replace them. Also nothing for kids to do have. A community center would be great in the empty antique stores.
- Businesses are dying or leaving. We need more opportunities for children & young adults.
- Bring more job opportunities to Canton (large & small) Rebuild the pool-but lets not get carried away with aquatic center-just a place to swim, work to get rid of double standards between average person and those who "think" they are important.
- 1) Downtown Canton business development 2) pool.
- The town is becoming a ghost town we have businesses closing. I feel we don't support our local businesses. The younger children and teens have nothing to do or place to go so I feel they resort to drugs & alcohol-my opinion the city government is unfriendly towards new businesses trying to place their establishments with in our city.
- New business opportunity. We need more places to shop & choose from.
- Figure out a way to get the empty buildings filler so we don't look like a dying town.
- Growth No sense of supporting youth-youth project need bike-trails more rec areas.
- Canton needs more shopping opportunities. Clothing groc. Etc. Canton needs to be finally. I've lived here since 2007. I tried to belong no one was responsive. So now I keep to myself.
- Need a more vibrant main street, its away from being a bedroom community!
- Decent-well paying jobs.
- Growth-there is becoming less & less things to do in Canton. Too many city employees-in office & on the street. Cut costs by cutting spending within the city employees.
- Bringing in more industry-more housing.
- Bring in more business and trying to expand the though process to make the community citizen to the needs at hand, improve pool and see about a community center to support senior citizen as well as young people.
- High paying job growth & housing growth.
- Attract new and retain main street businesses the business district is a disaster. Also clean up the community. Nuisance ordinance are not enforced.
- Job's, growing no developments here.
- We need new business to open up. Main street is almost empty. Police need to enforce ordinances. The back yards need to be cleaned up.
- Growth that is consistent with surrounding properties, i.e. Business next to business, single family homes next to single, family homes; zoning is inconsistent currently; need to protect property values of all citizens.
- Encouraging population and new home development as well as business growth in our community.
- Getting & keeping new businesses instead of the steady downhill slide of them leaving town. New pool/new senior center.
- Economic development, high speed internet fiber to the home (FTTH), more shopping opportunities, better grocery store, & laws to Sioux Falls

- Position Canton for continued growth to south from some Falls. Clean up hiway 18-poor impression & bldgs - disrepair-"junk" in yards. Incentives for business development create jobs-entry level housing- pool, sr ctr, Down town looks deserted & creates poor image bldgs need paint etc.
- Attract new business and new factories so there is more job opportunities
- Developing and supporting new businesses.
- Economic development-downtown is dying. Lack of quality jobs causes people to drive out of town to work.
- Bringing more jobs & better pay. Being open to new companies or aid in residents standing businesses plant advertise more events to generate tax dollars every citizen should have same freedoms & not have those freedoms limited by social class or who you are.
- We need new business in the down town at times looks like a ghost town.
- Economy in operation.
- Economic development for downtown business.
- Growth-business.
- Would like to see viable employment and the busy downtown "main street" that we had-empty rundown buildings are unattractive to everyone-get on top of "slum lords" that allow tenets to have junk and trash everywhere fine the bind lord and I can guarantee their properties will be cleaned up. There is too much drama within the city government and citizens. Everyone is unhappy. We are a community that is closed to "new" and growth. Old is they comfort zone. We spend too much and draw nothing from all the people and equipment they spend their payroll is SF and the equipment just gets abused.
- Growth & clean up town.
- Keeping businesses-that offer-clothing, food, etc.
- Jobs-(Professional, industrial, medical) downtown (Businesses,) stores.
- Canton has to focus on getting businesses into the empty buildings in its business district. Canton has to focus on companies for people to work in that have good pay and benefits.
- Employment opportunities.
- Economic development Change form of government Infrastructure improvement.
- Redevelopment of downtown and bringing in new businesses for economic growth.
- Need to really work on the "look" of Downtown Canton. It look really run down. Need to invest. Make all the old buildings look good so people will want to move business there, which will help own town.
- Improving Downtown.
- Attracting good paying down business to.
- Having more jobs in town and affordable housing. Also getting more stores in town. Our downtown looks like a ghost town.
- Canton need to get more jobs coming into town otherwise the one you have now will be moving out of Canton Harrisburg has more to offer now then Canton does. Sad because I like here since 1984, and looking to move out.
- Recreating new business!
- Getting and keeping businesses in town can't afford to lose any more businesses.
- Creating an economic draw for families to move here. If population continues to decline cut the city admin costs/salaries to lower property taxes.
- Need more business downtown people need to support what we have or rec won't have anything.
- Economic growth new business development/attract new maintain businesses.
- Bringing in new business to promote economic growth.
- Economic investments need good paying jobs in town and local area. Small town can't support Sioux Falls like projects town needs something to bring it back to life. Need business to attract families and the type of people that make a vibrate community. Nothing here to move to except school system for special ed. Look at tea-Harrisburg even Beresford those are growing not dying.
- Fill vacant buildings on main street. Bring in businesses which allow Canton to grow.
- We are not business friendly take a clue from Harrisburg, tea as far as business is concerned. Do they have a pool.
- Business development in and remodel of the downtown area to attract new people to move here
- Economic development community/senior center.
- Keep business going. Also closed antique stores aren't economic and lab of Canton people do not shop Canton! why did we need a new hand we are store when we have Canton farm/home true value?

- Setting and beeping businesses on 5th street. Encouraging citizens to the wool businesses with incentives to keep in town.
- 1Promote filling the Downtown "Ghost town" no empty buildings; LISTEN to your constituents and work with them; get a main street facade of shopping stores other than antiques i.e., Clothing, shoes, bakery, coffee shop, kid's shop, toys, cards, sundries, furniture.
- Need more business for people to shop
- If a town will not support its own businesses and does not encourage new business-most down-town stores empty & owned by slumlord from SF-it cannot there. I've watched Canton die by degrees for 18 years and I think it is sad. Check out the empty stores and the many houses for sale-not a good precedent for the future. In another five years Canton will just be another town to uncreate to same itself.
- Lack of development, no bike path-trails. Poor police & county services-focused on young violations and not respect or integrity - It only creates problems. No sense of community in town. Very poor at welcoming people. County services focused wrong.
- We need more businesses and business competition in Canton. A better place for senior citizens. Definitely not an aquatic center.
- Getting more retail businesses
- The down town has lost a lot of businesses and we need more places to shop-the downtown & places in general has sadly basically died-time to bring more businesses into town & stop stopping new business from coming in that is the economic plus we need and it's not being done.
- Getting in industrial & lower taxes
- Economic development increases opportunities of will bring more families to Canton to support business, school, churches, parks etc.
- Building down town area; try to get business to more here and get people to works.
- Economic development Canton needs to being/allow new business to town it is imperative to our growing & community which won't open without opportunity.
- Do something with the down town area its beginning to look like the slums.
- Jobs businesses to shop canter you need something to shop in that is not overpriced.
- Growth. The community itself is not real open to change.
- Jobs-factories-business senior citizen building-update the pool The yellow building on main needs a facelift a paint job a cleanup some properties, weeks
- Making it easier for people a businesses to build homes bring businesses to town.
- Try to turn our "main street" from junk stores to actual businesses like Canton used to be. The empty store fronts just point at what direction Canton is headed.
- 1) Invest in economic development including shops to restaurants along main drive through town. 2 Daycare options-2 center-based very dirty, one overpriced & lack of control/outside intruders 3) support of new pool if you want to Canton to grow to compete with other communities-you need to invest so young families want to come & stay in Canton.
- Economic development & providing jobs with good pay. have pool without a lot of extras, to start, then add on as money becomes available. Have senior citizen facility with large room to rent out for weddings etc., to help cover costs.
- Lack of new businesses which create jobs & growth.
- Economic stability with some growth to had maintained resident population-for revenue. New basic pool/bathhouse-appearance/Aesthetics of homes/business downtown/hwy 18
- Retaining locally owned business having enough staff for the ambulance
- Lack of support of locally owned and operated retail & service businesses.
- Canton needs to bring businesses that will make people stay & spend their money here. Better pool, community center where youth can hang out & that can be rented throughout year for other events.
- Attract more businesses or industries to come to Canton to increase population & school enrollment.
- Getting new businesses to come to town there by increasing job opportunities
- Ability to start and support new business growth. Improve affordable housing by allowing new & under 10 year old double wide pre-built homes in the city limits. Improving cooperation from city hall. Karen is not a positive-hopeful person to work with about building a simple structure.
- Downtown revitalization-updating & upkeep of deteriorating buildings
- Growth/how to deal with. Look more to future then relying on the past!

- The city & businesses must try to get the people of Canton to shop in Canton, swim in Canton eat in Canton, go to community fairs in Canton etc. money is a problem but most can well afford to shop in Canton but won't age them why?
- To make sure we have businesses in our community for the citizens to shop at-housing also leave was not good-we need to bring in a store (department) where we can buy essential. Everyday things at a reasonable/affordable price-we need another store like alco!!!!
- Vacancy of building on the main street through town. There should be a design code-bring back faced of original design-encourage clothing store for family, especially women, there are now 5 empty store front on the main street hwy 18
- 1 Need to bring new businesses/industry to attract people to want to live here. 2 New pool this has been on table for 50 years. Make downtown more of a shopping environment not a bunch of closed businesses affordable housing/\$135,000-\$175,000
- We need businesses in Canton. For streets need Dakota & Cedar Streets completely redone. Do not need so many city employees. Do not need city police. Have 28 low enforcement people
- Attracting businesses
- Do not want to see "over" building. The close small town feel is why I bought in Canton. Do not want to see it getting bigger & bigger. Traffic, crime, etc.
- Recreating new businesses to town recruiting additional health services to town
- Economic development. You have to give young people the reason to stay here, new families need a reason to put down roots here. We are facing an ever increase in aging Canton is a dying little town. Build an indoor community center like a mini YMCA- maintain current form of pool as raise Canton to a better standard of living so it can be used all yr round.
- Economic development
- Developing the building in the downtown area that are vacant and offering to paint them/fix them up to be used! provide recreational center for youth-ARLADE type! offer to pay partial cost to potential businesses to rent/buy vacant buildings to stimulate the city to entice outside businesses
- Economic growth in downtown & town. Bring new & young families to community, plus make community more kid friendly i.e. Update our pool and/or get a center.
- Economic development, community growth
- (1) revitalized downtown development of shops on 5th & main streets (2) Indoor pool if a new one is built other wise use maintain current pool! (3) We need more recreations for youth & a community center tennis courts skateboard park ice rink (4) Invest in a senior center
- As Harrisburg continues to grow, I feel that Canton will lose business to them. There is very few shopping/services choices in Canton people will drive to Harrisburg or Sioux Falls to seek competitive prices for goods and services.

#### Pool, recreation

- Swimming pool-generational center.
- Pool and senior citizens center.
- The Canton pool needs to be updated. We went elsewhere last summer due to the condition of Canton's pool. You should look at building on indoor/outdoor facility for seniors/families w/children to use. Also-the street cleaning in the winter is absolutely horrible. Our streets need to be maintained better.
- New pool, community center & senior citizen center. Canton needs to glow!!
- Recreational opportunities, IE. Pool & trails affordable housing community center/golf club house/senior center.
- The need for a pool/community center I think there is a huge need for both of these and they should be constructed @ the same time both being indoors and the same site. The price would be much higher than the pool that was previously planned, but being able to use the facility year round would be a huge plus for the area community. Also there is neat to zero affordable housing in the town.
- We need a new swimming pool for the children in Canton. They don't have enough for them to do & it also is the best form of exercise to maintain healthy children. Get this new pool built!
- I agree Canton needs a new pool, but not with all the bells and whistles. They need to consider other parts of the city's make up that needs updating such as the senior citizen center, and bringing other business to the downtown area.

- New pool New senior citizen center New housing development.
- Give the pool a rest, you've beat it to death. Cut back on street sweeping. Rethink it. I'm sure this survey is a waste of time and tax payer money.
- Need indoor health center/rec. Center. Like Madison, SD or rock rapids. Needs hotel! No place to stay! No place for wedding, graduation, etc. Big events -Need better competitive pricing in stores so I don't have to go to S.F. Would love to spend money in Canton but I need the product & I need a good price.
- The pool-so much negative talk I want a better pool (or renovate) but do not want to pay more taxes. Wish we could have money first & then build. Wish people "loved" to visit and live/shop Canton
- Community center for "all" ages interest in our schools improve our roads - Try to interact in are downtown, economy improvement.
- New pool.
- I have always maintained that Canton should invest in more, activity for the youth. We need places they can go and enjoy themselves, such as a movie theater, roller-skating rink. This is especially true for children ages 10-15, who aren't able to drive yet.
- We need a new pool to enhance our city parks, for recreation of our citizens and to entire people to choose Canton as a place to live. New senior center.
- New pool for Canton we need it for to keep the young families in Canton for people to come & most Canton.
- New pool community center. More apartments-assistant living new businesses.
- Making a decision to include-pool bathhouse exercise for seniors more availability for children to use recreation sites.
- Building of a new pool/rec center, I would support a year round facility that includes swim come for lop swimming and suggest a city/school combined effort (& possibly Sanford) for lessons recreation rehabilitations, etc.
- Swimming pool
- We have needed a new pool for too many years. It was bad when our kids were young they're in their 30's + 40's, How come all of a sudden we need so many employees in the city office?
- Pointless to build a new pool when we use the current one for 3 months out of the year. Prides are outrageous to get into pool this year. I will not be swimming there at all.
- New pool streets/alleys maintenance safety security water/savage maintenance.
- Pool costs and senior center (new one).
- I feel it would be very beneficial to Canton to build an indoor pool/senior center. For better health of community and year round income for the city. Neighboring towns would bring money to swim and may be shop and eat and mouse even need gas think of what we could give SR citizens who have been paying taxes have for years.
- Pool & senior center
- Swimming pool! New development out on the North West part of Canton! hope this goes through!!
- Swimming pool needs to be upgraded before we have to close it clean up messy property new curb on Dakota use one of the empty businesses to make a community center with a large commercial kitchen for senior meals.
- Pool-senior center- New business
- Canton does need a new & swimming park for the children buy very to the pairy their is makes property takes to incoming high for meeting. Canton needs to improve neighborhoods. They're are so many run down are abandoned homes in Canton that are such eye se
- The pool, more things for children. Parks are run down.
- We should be promoting our access to the river, for use. (Hataqua sp) park is ridiculous. Keep those kids out! we need the people to come here more than just for a pit stop b/n or coming for antiques.
- There are several issues that should be looked at I sometimes think we should build a community center that would involve a new swimming pool, senior citizen center, + youth activities. I know the cost of such project would be large. Cost of maintenance also high. This project would unite all different interest groups to achieve what they want with one vote, one bond issue.
- I'm truefully applied that health authorities not enforced closure of the pool-in my opinion that would be a major disaster. All our children are not athletes or athletic. Communication between citizens needs improvement too much talking & not enough "action" before finding out how everyone is affected-whether its good or bad. Changing type of government will not help. We already know that doesn't work. I feel part of our

problem is we waited too long to at least try and fix something, resulting in a lot of things needed to be done. A city manager is important. nothing important is cheap at this point in time.

- Some walking/running paths a nice center for senior citizens.
- Need a comm-center-inside pool can be used all yr long-in good & bad weather
- Need a new pool, just not a \$250,000 pool.
- Summing pool & bond costs
- We need to have safe places for our children & seniors to spend time (pool, centers etc.) but we don't need to spend so much to do it. Projects can be done without spending every dime we have. We need to look at more options and not focus on one way only.
- We need facilities that can be used year round to help the economy year round
- Think most people agree we need a new swimming pool. But not so much of the money need to be paid by taxes. Fundraisers needed. Our main street needs help. Look at Dell Rapids SD. smaller than Canton, about the same distance from Sioux Falls. But there main street is doing very, very well. We need to find out how they did it. Empty store's does nothing to the community, revive main street!! Law enforcement needs to patrol the street other than 2pm when the bars close. Orange flags on speeding signs look like crap. Patrol!!that's what we pay them for. Our tax base is high priced. City needs to watch its spending. Canton is not a cheap place to live.
- Do something with pool & expand sr center & space for sr, activities. Maybe combine pool & new sr center in pool location
- We need a new pool, we need a better senior citizen center-it would be nice to incorporate the true. Senior housing activities for kids in summers
- Pool, more retail, maintain retail we have, activity center.
- Would support an indoor/outdoor waterpark facility that can be used year round tap partnerships w/keystone, schools, Sanford etc.
- Pool, housing, senior center, better, snow removal, run down homes, lawns moving, vacant home's
- Swimming pool. Bringing younger people to Canton!!
- A community room from all functions. I am 81 so what I think is immaterial
- New pool please. I have 4 kids under the age of 8. The pool hasn't been re-done in years. Sorry I didn't finish all. Didn't have time. Lost interest
- They offer nothing for the young adults need more housing for low income families bring new business in for better jobs
- Indoor pool if we are going to "compete" w/s.f. Which seems to be the goal indoor/outdoor pool-sliding roof and doors so we can use all year get Sanford to build a therapy pool many many of us even there of us under 65yrs old 90 all the way to s.f for therapy in work worker more than 20 yrs!!! then we shop, eat sea show i.e. spend our
- Need to work together for new pool and senior center community center doesn't need to be together more business!!
- Pool
- A new swimming pool a new senior citizen etc.
- I think we need a new pool but not a water park may be an indoor pool that could be used 12 months instead of 3 and we could use a community building. Smaller towns around here have them. And north Dakota needs some major work. It is a busy street and in very poor condition.
- The pool issue. Build an indoor pool. Open every day during the summer and weekends and one day the rest of the year. Affordable housing, future development on the northwest side of town may be along bridge street and west of tofts trailer court.
- Waking together to get a new pool and imaging senior center facility and activities
- Getting the citizen to work together to work Canton grow new that the "pool issue" blow split the town.
- I think we should figure out a way to make a new pool happen! I also believe it would be in the public's best interest to make sidewalks mandatory for every home regardless of age. A walking/bike path from parks in town, continuing out of town to the golf course would be a great idea as well. There is plenty of ditch area to keep it a safe distance from the highway.
- Need a new swimming pool need more new housing
- New pool needs to be done. Also maintaining the same form of government as new
- New pool ! and fitness opportunities

- Pool & bath house & rec, center for all ages (community center) reasonably priced housing that is well-built and maintained. Main street development-fill those empty store fronts.
- Enhancing recreational and cultural programs to accommodate the growing community and the younger population moving in to the community.

## Housing

- Housing pool senior citizens.
- Housing & business district. Need more businesses to fill vacant spots.
- Affordable housing, creation of new jobs (support) ways to attract businesses to move here improve recreational facilities for both the seniors and the youth of the community. Improve our cash reserve. Watch wasteful spending. -Do you realize a pool pass is \$10 more this year than what SF changes for their well-maintained pools -Get rid of our current form of government.
- Affordable housing/new residential development attractions that entice people to visit our community-enhanced ball fields, pool, trails build combined-use facility such as senior center/community center.
- Housing/development area sewer Building opportunities New business development.
- More needed apartment blgs. & SP assisted living apts. Also a more sr. Center.
- Getting affordable housing in the city-overs had us all also-we need new houses build- The city gov. Is very heavy
- Quality affordable housing. Dakota street crab, gutter, & sewer.
- We need more affordable housing.
- New rental housing New pool-a must New senior center.
- Housing, more places for children to play & etc..
- Affordable housing Available jobs with salaries families can live on
- Housing.
- Increase housing availability ratio of old homes to new homes will be bad new senior center new pool.
- Affordable starter family housing and family programming
- Build affordable housing & apts for low-income people. Pave the access road to river up to the barracades in place now.
- Housing shortage. community 4th of July celebration. spraying for west Nile - do not (often enough) adequately. people who pay taxes, should be able to do what they want to their home within reason, and not be held back by the city's stupid guidelines
- Lower house taxes!
- Affordable housing, keeping/attracting high paying jobs, maintaining infrastructure, Gov't spending want vs. Need, of city employees,-enforcement of codes, attracting families, looking at options to update pool besides building new.
- Housing development-all types city streets-all are in poor condition city pool city parks & recreation-bike trail?
- Housing between \$120k + \$170k similar to developments in Harrisburg to tea. Single family homes, not apartment (not income).
- Affordable housing, better roads & snow removal, a real recreational center and senior citizens center
- Building diversified housing-townhomes & apartments and improving the appearance of downtown Canton (there are some buildings that look quite bad.)
- Housing & jobs-pools don't bring people job's bring people-tax revenue builds pools. Fill industrial park
- Affordable housing for low income people. Supporting the current retail businesses and encouraging new retail businesses
- To building new homes for the old area's that's combined and more apartments, wanting Canton to grow with respectability without becoming like Sioux fall near Harrisburg thanks!!!
- Affordable housing community center swimming pool
- Affordable apts-nice ours-new senior culture new pool
- Housing infrastructure on Dakota street
- Lack of lots for new homes
- Housing and drawing in more business to Canton. Become a place that people want to invest their money in.
- Housing development-community growth main street development/business. Mainstreet cosmetics, especially old bank building get rid of eye sores on hwy 18

- Affordable housing & the support of new business. Also more health & files education for the whole community.

### Government, taxes

- City leaders have lost the trust of Canton citizens. Their track record of wasting money in months to month spending makes items not trust them with a big project such as a pool. Canton's image will never improve unless this issue is resolved. Even doing this survey-what is its cost? so many studies & surveys in the last few years. Figure out how to get rid of the superiority perceptions that citizens have of the commission. (them vs. us).
- Return to previous form of government where commissioners were accountable for their appointed departments).
- New form of government.
- Curbing growth of city government and budget.
- Maintain tax base & attract new residents.
- Returning to old form of government cut the park out of city hall, city worker's are the highest paid in town.
- Maintaining the current form of government!
- I don't think there is just I issue the community has not been progressive in then thinking & new we are behind in many areas, of our town. We need to spend within one means last get it takes spending to see rewards. 1) maintain our infrastructure 2) recreational opportunities i.e. Pool. 3) housing developments 4) senior citizens facility 5)try to have a downtown life yet being so close to Sioux Falls.
- Voting to change Canton form if government building new swimming pool. Giving city police things to do not sitting outside of town at city limits. Doing nothing positive-catching speeders before they get to town our cops do nothing structured.
- Get common sense in local Gov't. No overspending. New businesses & housing.
- Government is a joke! Hypocrites is all they are they sit there and bang their fists at what should be done and vote against it! big name with no brains.
- Lean efficient government-better lack of tax dollars getting members of the community involved in all aspect of gov't instead of alienate them by the rule of few public servants are always open and available to people ideas. Cannot destroy city reserves for public recreation-safety infrastructure recreation in that order for properties. D12 is more of your business-you wanted opinions. D13 to D16 were not my choice so they should never matter.
- To have good officers in office that well work for the people. Not themselves.
- Control and reduce the spending on in city hall. Survey the four cities larger & four cities smaller than Canton in s d & pattern our city administration accordingly.
- We have 9 commissioners 6 + police 8 + city workers so we should not have to report lawns that need mowing or weeds that need to be cut they drive all over town every day so should notice and do work needs to be done.
- Return to the mayor and four commissioner's form of city gov. Get rid of city manager and to save a lot of expense contract with the Lincoln county sheriffs dept. For police protection in the city of Canton.
- Stop spending the max amount for any project fire hall 750,000. Depot who really knows how much has been wasted there.
- 1. Stop spending money on survey's to try and get this pool threw, Canton roes not need a 3 million Dollar pool for 3 months of use.
- High salaries for city managers/supervisors storm sever needed
- Need funds saves for infrastructure replacement in cases of disaster such as tornado: loss of watertower, city hall, city shop, library, fire/ambulance building.
- Better communication, between commissioners and citizens
- Keep present government, stop beating the dead (pool) horse built other go to sf because they need a place to drive to. More then pay there
- Stop raising taxes housing development
- Do not overspend reduce number of employees in city hall and police dept. Have sheriff do the law enforcement in city of Canton and forget building a new pool. The citizens have spoken twice on this issue.
- Getting good people on the city commission. Who are not on for their own agenda but to service the community.
- Cohesive govt. City manager spearhead opportunities & pegits

- We have good things in town. The current form of government appears to be viewed as only for the pool and wasteful with money. Fix our pool rock rapids Iowa did this exact thing for fraction of cost. Build a senior center. Enforce the codes for yards and properties. Quit playing favorites Dakota needs replacement. It's a farm to market road, get all responsible to market road, get all responsible to contribute accordingly. Wages for mid
- Tax are to much to many cops to many city workers
- Get rid of our city manager form of government!
- Separated chamber of com. & Economic development they should not be gov't obligation. Council should be more involved with govt. Economic city streets-water & sewers-etc. Does the council know what street repairs, snow removal, equipment repairs cost them. They should have record of the costs. We have bad man hole covers on every corner. Do better job of ice removal or control. Quit putting, jobs such as cleaning x walks & shoveling out fire hyd. The street dept has plenty of time to do these jobs. Contract police dept with the county. They are in Canton.
- Money is being spent in city hall foolishly city hall pushes its ideas with no concern how the average citizen feels about it-the city is not grounded on making a future for the town. Our store fronts are entry on main street there are empty on main street there are buildings down town that should be fixed or from down. You have to walk in the street because the sidewalks (off 5th street they are good) are so bad-walk down town on 6th street
- Taxes are to high & more city employees are needed.
- 3. Growing distrust between the public and elected officials. 2. Streets-poor condition and maintenance-sweeping, snow removal, pot hole repair 1. Wasteful spending by the city
- Stop buying new "toys" for bill and Jeff at the city shop ! change form of government back ! stop spending money on dead issues ! Trim the fat at city hall, no need for all those people for a town of 3,000 people, and cut back on police force ! We can go on all day about this, those with money and are self-centered, you can't get a straight answer from anyone there, not user friendly at all ask contractors from Sioux Falls that have come and left.

### Senior needs

- Senior citizen/community center city sponsored fitness center buy also building for community center redo coop road. Dakota street Duplex's-multifamily dwellings, condo, duplexes, condo, etc. Retirement housing.
- Senior center/events center.
- Always talking about the seniors, what about our young people, they are, the future.
- Senior citizens facility pool & its cost.
- Not enough assisted living for seniors.
- 1) New senior citizen center lower water rates improve streets new business.
- My opinion is to build a new senior citizen center and complete rebuilding the park at the dam south of downtown. If they take 1/2 of the money that is put aside for a new pool center, and use that for the senior and park it would make more since. We don't need or big fancy pool or indoor pool when they will be able to go to Sioux Falls and swim in their pool. Let's take care of an older folks. It hard enough living on a fix income at alone pay tax for a fancy pool that we don't need.
- Canton needs a senior citizen building and a new pool.
- A new senior center is needed.
- New senior citizen center.
- Community center think of our senior!! other grocery store groceries to pricey here in town!
- Senior citizen center new pool
- Housing for sr citizens new sr center covered pool & sr center under one roof
- Having a handicap accessible community facility to home the growing senior population and include opportunity for education & enrichment of all Canton area residents.
- New senior center New pool clean up junior properties.
- Forget about an experience pool build a senior citizen center & community center.
- Need a better senior-center and children areas pool is outdated and dangerous.
- City and residents need to address the senior citizens building and recreation area. Move for would same pool and bathhouse improvements.
- There is not enough affordable 1 level senior (low income) housing.

- New senior center store like alco
- Need of more low income housing for the elderly.
- Canton needs more services for an ageing population rehab etc. As people age they drive less & less in Sioux Falls. I feel Canton could fill a big void for those king of services & housing not only for Canton but surrounding towns. We need a community center, should of had one 20 years ago.
- Senior citizens-swimming pool
- We need more affordable housing for the elderly.
- Many seniors are upset with the street commission became nothing need to be on the horizon for an adjusted pools senior citizen are there try plans? or even place to come up
- Building for sr. Citizens? build com. Center that can be used by all ages. Swimming pool?
- Senior citizens center. The current condition of the center is disgraceful and we should all be ashamed!
- It's a combination of: 1) relocate senior center to a larger more easily accessible location. 2) Get some kind of aquatic center going- 3) banquet facility to handle large receptions like weddings etc. 4) A skate park for the kids to use their skate boards.
- The community working together toward a senior center and swimming pool. They need to select better candidates to promote things to support unity and not alienate people as has happened in the past. I believe city government works hard but need to promote unity more.
- Following through on housing projects for retirees. This would open up other housing stock!
- Senior citizen center-new place for community exercise

#### Roads, snow removal

- Street repair throughout Canton.
- Repairing streets, especially north Dakota enforcing all city ordinances equally for everyone (sidewalks) are in need of repairs. And many homes do not have any at all. Some very bad sidewalks belong to property owned by current city personal and also some former employee; police man included.
- Fixing pot holes along center street. Remove all building downtown. Create better access to big Sioux river creating more incentive for people to do business in Canton rather than Sioux Falls.
- The streets could be in better conditions during the months. They are snow patched and icy.
- Canton needs to take care of itself and especially the roads it is embarrassing when family comes to visit and that is the first thing they notice! This community will never grow if it doesn't start using our tax money wisely-not for flowers on main st., but to improve the town as a whole-starting with new roads. Pool for our children!
- Need more stop signs in town. Kids need to have things to do I need and want 3 bedroom town houses!
- Redo Dakota street Build new seniors center add'n to library.
- Snow removal! senior citizen center, affordable housing, more business growth, jobs.
- Be better with snow removal on the streets.
- Fixing the streets so that there aren't such dips & bumps. If anyone looks at a house to buy here, and they are always scraping the bottom of their can when going through town, they won't buy here. They will go about anywhere else.
- Improve our streets. Do a better job in the winter. Did a very pool job on snow and ice this winter
- Repairing our roads! change form of government back! stop spending money on dump toys for bill and Jeff !! trim the fat at city hall!
- Street repair curb wasteful spending general distrust of city officials
- The city's inability to property remove snow on lower traffic/side streets. Paying the current city officials exorbitant salaries with little to no benefit to the city and its citizens. The lack of things to do in this town beyond going to bars and paying too much for food at sunshine
- Roads, beautification along main rd, rail road crossing enforcement for the rail company (they can stop the traffic for a very long time), most importantly develop business locally and get some national chair to open a store such as Walgreens, Kmart in the vacant aldo store area, or similar store-
- The street dep. Sucks to many police personal development off businesses very important to all hidden meadows There are one way in and one way out the trains keep one way out blocked a lot of the time. If someone needed to get out they would not be able to. Very unsafe

### Infrastructure, utilities, code enforcement

- Our "downtown" has several buildings that are more than an "eye sore" structurally not sound. When you drive into town it does not give off the "what a great place to live" vibe, also the buildings need so much & put into them they may not ever be renovated without some assistance.
- The south side of town has to be cleaned up-old/run down houses turn down or be made to clean up. Must be better resources for youth-summer rec. Facilities, etc. If young families don't move have this community will die.
- Infrastructure Community pride.
- Improve appearance of homes, yards, and businesses on hwy 18 through town. Many "passer bys" say Canton is "dumpy" looking outside of the downtown area on hwy 18-in town.
- Infrastructure & to buildings loss income housing loss of businesses aged populations.
- Water! & roads. We have brown/yellow water everytime they "clean out" the pipes. I've been told that's just the way it is. Because we are at end of line. I go through 6 month filters every 2 months! and water is more expensive here than anywhere else I've lived. Also fix the roads right the first time stop taking the cheap way out. Had the same pot hole develop in our road the last 3 years! all they do is slap down oil & cover with gravel.
- The stinky sewage system.
- Age of sewer system & replacement?
- Water quality & cost pool.
- Cleaning up downtown & private housing to make Canton look better to bring people & business into Canton. This town looks dumpy & dirty. Flower pots are not going to disguise how bad downtown looks. New businesses need to be brought in.
- Clean up the entrances to town (Hwy 18 across from depot) Enforce ordinances to clean up residential areas and downtown buildings. Most important \*infrastructure\* we can continue to patch problems.
- The water in Canton is so poor we have to go to the store and buy water just so we can drink water. We pay for a very high water bill and we can't ever drink the water that comes from the faucet. I would like to see some changes with the water so we can drink it and save money.
- I would like to know what we are paying for on our nice water bills-the ponds stink when the wind rows right and it is horribly hard water
- Clean up 8th st. Paint the buildings-
- Infrastructure senior citizen building.
- Cleaning up yards and repairing roads, getting sidewalks that we can walk on. The pool will be another factor which is one of the few things around her to keep kids out of trouble in the summer.
- Clean up canon, too many home are sum a down & store & too many junk items it their yard. Really depends Canton. Build more affordable housing. Grain park also has a lot of junk cars sitting outside. By park around Canton off of hwy 18. Trains block both main accesses in Canton. Wait too long because of train.
- Infrastructure of water, sewer, etc. Bringing in new businesses in very important for city to survive & grow otherwise will be a bedroom town!
- Some properties are empty and not well maintained eyesore and could be a hazard some houses need paint & maintenance
- Lower the water & service bills.
- Our city government does not enforce city ordinances. Examples trees eroding sidewalks, allows abandoned buildings to create unsightly neighborhoods, city government needs to represent the people not themselves on city issues. Taxes are too high for the services that are provided.
- Water, affordable housing, economic opportunities
- Infrastructure-street & utility needs

### Community, attracting young families

- Attracting and keeping young families in Canton.
- We need to appeal to young people who want to raise their families here. Without a pool, Canton will die, need services for elderly to stay here. New senior center or multi use center. We need to attract some downtown business so it doesn't look like a dying town and generate revenue.
- Unity and community pride.

- To have a more friendly community, better opportunities and be open to other culture. In my case I'm an American citizen born in another country since I moved to Canton I feel very unwelcome no job opportunities including the county I get the interviews because I have excellent qualification but I immediately see the change on people's faces because of being a different race.
- As a community we have got to stop being so negative, taxes in Canton are very high, but we still have to move ahead. The downtown is dead.
- We need to invest in opportunities to entire young families to move here, such as the pool and maintain parks. What can be done for a new motel?
- In order to keep people interested in living here there has to be something to draw families to town!
- In order to "grow" Canton, we need to be able to attract young couples and families. Canton is an easy commute to SF for work isn't as expensive as tea in Harrisburg, but there isn't anything here to attract young couples to this town. The buildings along highway 18 look dirty and unkempt, giving Canton as a whole the appearance of being dirty and unkempt. We need to spruce up and invest in things that'll bring young couples to our town.
- Maintaining a small community atmosphere while expressing healthy economic growth.
- How do we grow as community? How do we reduce the city budget?
- Keep our youth in Canton & proud different levels of staff to do at (age) reasonable cost!!
- Balancing the needs of youth & seniors while attracting new businesses and creating housing.
- Moving forward as a community, seniors and families. Businesses for people to support to stay in town. Recreational activities not bar related for families.
- Need to build Canton with more thought to do for kids + adults + families w/ more places to live as well.
- We need things to attract young families to Canton! other communities close by have pools, nicer parks, bike trails, sports complexes, etc. Canton has more of that !!
- Community members sense of "community" is gone-no one looks together for the good of Canton. Hope everyone would have an open mind!!
- This city needs forward momentum. On something. Almost anything. We need a win. Emptying storefronts & an empty hole in ground where the pool once operated sends a message to internal external audience (A dangerous pool with cosmetic alterations will no longer fool us into swimming there. We're afraid we're grossed out. Sorry. Again a terrible message) Housing, jobs+attracting new families are an ant growth of the vision you build and sell for your city. We are an eager, educated & involved community-Give us a vision, Please !
- Attracting young families & building a new food complex
- Sense of community
- The community is very dived on some issues. At is essential that this is addressed and steps one made to come together as a community. At not, Canton, will fade away.
- The top issue fascinating Canton community is the division in over town. Until citizens can come together to support a project, or our form of government, there will be no sense a community or can-do spirit, or pride in Canton. Assuring this is not able to be resolved, we will move from Canton after own children have gardened. There are other small communities regionally which provide a healthier atmosphere and more amenities and benefits than what we experience here
- More opportunities for youth & families. New pool, ball park with more than an outhouse. Good opportunities bring families who will go to our schools & support out city & schools & add to our tax base.

#### Other

- How do you note a police dept you never see on the street? City com. Needs to listen to people!!
- Most Canton residents have to be sensible and live within their means. Canton needs to do the same, instead of wanting to cater to the fancy whims of the extremely wealthy at the expense of those who are not wealthy.
- Maintaining what we have.
- Schools, pool, senior, business, medical building, income, streets, sewer, water, taxes.
- Sin 91 years old. You wouldn't listen to my elder anyway But a think it seen is a stupid thing to let a bomgaurs slow come into town when rue have a very good locally owned farm and stone supply stow. I hope nobody grew to burry areas
- Make Canton more affordable de live bringing new businesses into Canton

- Decreasing population, aging population, lack of people moving to Canton decrease of lack of jobs this year- the lack of snow removal
- Raising the community's understanding of how essential it is to the overall health & value of Canton to vote for the progress of going forward & expanding Canton investments for the future of Canton
- Reconnecting and maintaining volunteers/or paid members of our emergency services (fire & ambulance) volunteers is fading and member are decreasing. The city needs to provide these services. Recreation areas, affordable housing and nice clean looking town.
- "Seek ye first the kingdom of god, and all these things shall be added unto you." As soon as we as a community, county, state, country and world realize that, all things will fall into place.
- Not sure-It would take a lot for to stay here in Canton education has alot to do with it not a very friendly town. If you don't have money your that's pretty sad. If you don't know anybody here and move in the community I don't want you here. You can live here for 15 years community don't care. Thats really sad
- Public safety in conjunction with quality maintenance of infrastructure-roads/sewers/utilities.
- Adams thermo system bringing in blacks that needs to stop. We need more agriculture business not niggers taking work away from Canton citizens
- People leaving/silver Falls