

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
1	too much resources used in personal than actually accomplishing anything all talk no action
2	These are all good priorities that match my priorities as a community member.
3	Low income housing is not available as it should be. Charlotte is too concerned with gentrification and bulldozing historical sites. Also low income areas desperately need grocery stores!
4	Only selected "no" for the environmental leadership action plan because it doesn't appear to affect multi-modal transportation.
5	The County doesn't even develop its own staff, just chases the young out with removal of benefits and adversarial policies.
6	Health Outcomes
7	I think schools need to focus on student wellness rather than on test scores.
8	Safe affordable housing is definitely a priority for many families in Mecklenburg County. Once housing and supportive services for those who need them are in place, families have stability.
9	Disparities continue due to our culture not valuing the nuclear family and values. Addressing mental health and equipping families with loved ones caught in addiction related to mh issues is huge.
10	Provide MECKLENBURG COUNTY EMPLOYEE ONLY facility for Child care and After-school care. Have this be a fee based day care. Deduct it from the employee's check. Yo will see employee retention RISE!
11	Most of the what county government does isn't especially efficient in use of money and staffing.
12	if you continue to be passive on transportation, transit and Land use decisions, how do you expect to address workforce development, racial disparities affordable housing etc?
13	Each priority should entail intentional involvement of grassroot leaders and organizations that have rooted relationships with marginalized communities. We need true change not more of the same.
14	Nice to see Environmental Leadership as a top priority. We can't have healthy communities if they don't prioritize the environment.
15	We need more parks greenways and recreation centers
16	Some people in Charlotte are put in better apartment. Able to get assistance to help stay in place. You know it as RACIAL DISPARITIES
17	The county should continue to operate as color blind, value all individuals, and recognize individual differences as our combined strength.
18	I am sick of affordable housing on a list, make them affordable, and stop playing with people's life.
19	We also must focus on early education. Teachers are burned out and quitting. They need help, support, and a PAY RAISE! They are shaping our future leaders!
20	More parks and greenways.
21	Affordable housing and reducing racial disparities should be the two most important!!!!
22	Closing racial gaps must include providing comprehensive mental health services to individuals and families. Generational trauma and substance-use is passed down, therefore, it must be addressed.
23	More focus on attracting and retaining businesses and make our county the best place for companies and workers.

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24	Affordable housing is a great "talk" but decision on what that is and should be is dictated by those that are not or have not ever been in the trenches, the options/pricing is not affordable for avg.
25	Focus on raises for employees that matches the cost of living hikes in Charlotte Metro Area.
26	Criminal justice reform is also important
27	Looks good
28	Add Peer Support to all of the above priorities which would add real time lived experience to decision making.
29	affordable child care (vs pre K) needed more
30	Mecklenburg county has failed the people. All it's worried about is kicking people out of homes, displacing them and building homes they can't afford. Not fighting for the people, it's about money
31	1-Multiple studies demonstrate "pre-K" spending shows no benefit by the 3rd grade. 2-It is against the law to use race in preferences. 3-We waste too much money on the bureaucracy of CMS. 4-The 2040
32	Many county agencies should work together for these goals, as many separate parts of the county are utilizing their own agenda/resources towards these goals.
33	Great deal of nepotism in the county.
34	Biggest problem County has is ineffective managers in key positions w/in departments. County needs to find way to get rid of incompetent staff who are waiting out until retirement.
35	Support and Education for Families will make the biggest impact
36	County doesn't have clear role in affordable housing. Role is environment needs to be better aligned with Charlotte gov
37	Free pre-k. Scholarships for higher ed.
38	Not sure if I have enough information to answer appropriately
39	'Ensure that investments by the County focus on closing racial and ethnic gaps so that race does not predict one's success.' It is behavior NOT race...check out the Beatties Ford Road Corridor.
40	Charlotte still ranks 50th in economic mobility. We are more segregated now more than ever, in housing, in our schools, etc. Schools should offer online AP classes no matter where a student resides.
41	The County's investment in MECK Pre-K has proven to be forward-thinking and essential to the education system in Mecklenburg County. Keep it going!
42	Earning 3 times the monthly rent is hardly a realistic qualification to be able to rent "affordable" housing. Educational disparities is an issue much more prominent than race in economic gaps.
43	STOP Deforestation for unaffordable housing, protect wildlife that's losing their habitats, increase affordable health care, transportation for the needy, stop legislation from taking away voting access
44	We have found it impossible to enroll our children in pre-k. We tried 10 years ago and again for last year and there are no openings
45	Education - decrease racial and economic disparities

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46	Education from pre-k through college MUST be a priority. NO MORE third party online hiring. The District NEEDS to direct hire and pay more. No more racism in housing, PERIOD. More affordable housing.
47	Regarding education, can these strategies not include so much standardized testing. There are too many things wrong with it to list here. Pre-K should start at 3 years.
48	Senior Fin Asst For Real Estate Taxes, Food, Meds, and Medicare Ins Premium. Senior Job Training For Supplemental Income. Easy Access Of Free Internet Access For ALL Seniors.
49	Charlotte is already a hot location for business development. Business will come here without us having to spend funds here. Put this money in the other priority areas.
50	The Detention Centers should be at the top of the list. Inmates are not safe in our jails.
51	How about letting CMS decide their own strategies and targets? You don't run the schools; stop trying to. And let CPCC and CMS worry about workforce development.
52	Companies should provide their own workforce development plans.
53	Providing resources and support for Arts and Culture has proven to help bridge some of the gaps above! Arts and Culture funding MUST be on this list.
54	I'd like to see schools able to teach subjects and focus on what they are teaching and not worry about their paycheck, resources, or politics while in the classroom. LET THEM TEACH!
55	It should be CREATING and BUILDING new affordable housing opportunities not just evaluating. The need is time sensitive and needs to be expedited so folks have safe, affordable places to live ASAP.
56	we need vocational training for all ages and work experiences for teens to prepare them for the workforce.
57	Please stop giving money to United Way, Goodwill, and the like. Give the financial support to GRASSROOT organizations. Boots on the ground!
58	Considerations should be made to address and halt gentrification.
59	Education should not link "existing allocations." The schools are underfunded. We lost over 500 teachers since the start of school. Funding should increase.
60	YES to environment and education!
61	workforce development with private industry
62	County supported arts and cultural facilities/activities would help insure the equitable growth and support of our creative community .
63	Provide more services for caregivers of seniors who do not get paid to care for their lived ones and do not have access to healthcare FULL coverage medicaid or respite opportunities. Caregiver support
64	Arts should be on this list.
65	Also funding for the arts.
66	public health has been instrumental during COVID and routinely underfunded, outdated and behind the times in everything. It needs more investing and revamping.
67	More funding for the Arts and Culture and Diversity, Inclusion and Equity
68	Again, I want greater leadership as it relates to arts and culture funding to promote equity in the area . . . more funding for racially diverse arts groups.
69	the way educational attainment is worded is misleading. Everyone wants (I hope) educational attainment for all. But if you want to run the schools, run for school board.
70	ARTS AND CULTURE NEEDS ATTENTION

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71	Mental Health needs more. N. CLT, etc. are overrun w/ apts. We saw what happened in NoVA. The same thing is happening here. Stop allowing so many apts. There is plenty of affordable housing here.
72	Please invest in improving outcomes of our school system. What new models can be implemented to significantly boost the reading and math of elementary? How can we improve the high schoolers? A must!
73	Please consider the arts as a priority
74	Workforce development is critical to help our youth gain technical job skills and help improve economic mobility.
75	Please don't threaten to withhold funding from CMS again.
76	Stop the huge corporate tax incentives.
77	My opinion is that communication between jobseekers and employers is already in a good place. I would like to see more paid technical training for those looking to build careers and not just a job.
78	Many Cities are reducing pollution and Carbon emissions by outlawing gas powered blowers and mowers which cause substantial pollution and lung diseases. They are switching to electric equipment.
79	These are out of touch with what average citizens need and want our tax dollars to support. Cut these and and reduce the budget. Lower taxes.
80	Add homelessness. There needs to be a "boots on ground approach" to getting the homeless and panhandle connected to jobs, transportation, and housing for human and their pets
81	Priority #1 needs to be getting panhandlers and homeless connected to housing and jobs and/ or mental health help
82	Formation and education of future generation prevents crime, mental health and poverty.
83	Mental Health Services
84	Every one of these areas will be addressed by being sure we educate from preK up. No one would try to build a house by starting at the roof. We must spend more on the education foundation.
85	Education should be about more than finding a job. Help students learn to think and reason well, to be able to express themselves as thoughtful citizens and caring stewards of our community & planet.
86	Education should be about more than a job. Help kids learn how to think and reason, how to be good citizens of our community and our planet.
87	How specifically would the county EFFECTIVELY reduce racial disparities? It seems that focusing on education, housing, healthcare accessibility would do that, rather than creating specific programs.
88	The county government can't fix all of these things. Help people find jobs and earn an income with dignity and then get out of the way. Stop making it so expensive to live here
89	None of this is the government's job.
90	Arts and culture would enrich and knit our community together and help resolve many of our problems here in Mecklenburg County
91	I think the above buckets are great and would again add the arts to the list. Thank you for acknowledging and working toward a more equitable community!
92	Increase Children and Youth programs via Park and Recreation
93	Put Arts and PE back into the schools.

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94	Charlotte and Meck County will never come up to doing anything about Racial Disparities. No matter how many disparity studies, Charlotte will never show Racial Parity.
95	Why can't government require 10% of the new apartment homes that are being built be mandated as rent control to get zoning approvals. Cities use this avenue to address homelessness and affordability.
96	New housing are never affordable in the Charlotte area. Single hut investor houses put in "existing develop" neighbors-continues to decrease the property value of private home. JAIL should be listed!
97	Affordable housing should be left to the city to provide. The county should continue to provide necessary services through the programs of the Health and Services department.
98	Workforce development funds should focus on the recruitment and training efforts, especially inclusive of a promising low- income workers pipeline, for more sustainable energy type of jobs.
99	Homelessness and linking the homeless to jobs should be priority #1a and 1b. Employers complain there are not enough workers, yet every corner is a panhandler or those who appear to need employment.
100	Better mental health resources
101	Our parks and greenways remain under-funded. Please address these needs before taking on additional obligations.
102	We need Parks to be a priority - this addresses health and environmental issues and is critical for the County to add specifically as a priority.
103	Mayor movilidad en la ciudad con autobuses
104	There is a culture of people who intend on destroying the educational institutions and are chasing good faculty and staff away. Focus on disincentivizing single parenting and incentivize marriage.
105	Better employee pay is highest priority.
106	Great need to assist communities with connecting to resources and especially affordable housing.
107	Lacking for a focus for outdoor activities for the public. If COVID taught us anything, it is readiness to provide outdoor programming for our children.
108	I think there should be more funding related to mental health and domestic violence.
109	workforce development should focus on living wage compensation and employee benefits, not recruiting more amazon warehouses for slave wage labor in our community.
110	I don't know what the Environmental Leadership Action Plan is.
111	Economic growth is more important, some of this other stuff is overblown and political.
112	Stable housing is a key to educational achievement. Food stability is also needed. Early childhood education and childcare are keystones to parents being able to seek education and jobs.
113	Educational Attainment item, not clear on what you're advocating as indicative of greatest community needs.As with courts and the appropriate 'lane,' seems like you should lean more on Sch Bd for this
114	Though many of these initiatives are good per se, they are not the place of government to engage in.
115	Highest focus should be for 0-5
116	No to free college. Yes to subsidized vocational training with strings attached. Less free, more hand up.

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117	Environmental leadership impacts all of the other areas on this list. If we fail to take the necessary steps in this area, the other top priorities will be taxed further.
118	I would be available for hire to assist in these goals call 704-417-2590 I have a program called Tools for Change
119	First, fix the affordable housing problem. Make sure "affordable housing" is for ALL people, and is actually a SAFE place for everyone to live.
120	Livable wages would help in advancing racial equity and potentially mitigate area housing crisis. Intersects with workforce development. Employees need to afford to live here to work here.
121	Respect, leadership, economy, reforestation, socioeconomic change, entrepreneurship
122	Educational Attainment Allocation goal sounds like simply spending the current budget smarter. That should be a given for ANY spending.
123	Stop focusing on liberal pet projects and focus on real issues that impact everyone
124	Reducing racial disparities is not something you can legislate. Children need safe homes, and access to education. Focus on those things, not some nebulous disparity reduction.
125	Many of these are wonderful, additional efforts that should be applauded. However, parks and greenways have been underfunded for years. You need to make up for that lapse.
126	We need to do way better with "environmental leadership"
127	Would like to see more emphasis placed on parks, greenways, trails, etc-anything to encourage people to get active and move around by foot or bike versus car
128	Parks are sooo needed for our sanity and well being as well as for our environment.
129	Arts and culture
130	This question is leading. You ask are these important, yes or no. Obviously not that simple. Other items are more important. County should facilitate others to implement ideas above
131	Art saves lives. Public art and opportunities for creating art can provide sustainable hope and an outlet for despair - as well as a skillset needed in underfunded communities.
132	We need more funding for our Hispanic children so they don't fall behind in education more information about college readiness
133	Workforce development is an unknown for me.
134	Mental health services and services for the homeless are not prioritized and should be
135	Services for Seniors
136	Investments should be made for greatest return. County employment should be based on qualifications without including or excluding people due to their ethnicity, races, religions, etc.
137	Parks need more funding
138	Cut spending Making outdoor space attainable and integrated with how meck is developing
139	Development is driven by builders — not necessarily adding green space, affordable housing to anyone.
140	There is not enough information about these to decide
141	Ensure that they focus on effectiveness and efficiency and not on race. Good employees not loitering on jobs.
142	County must make a substantial on addressing the affordable housing crisis!!!

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143	Ensure that they focus on effectiveness and efficiency and not on race. Good employees not loitering at jobs.
144	Stop gentrification of Black neighborhoods
145	Don't see much going on in my neighbourhood.
146	Homelessness and Human Services, especially those surrounding mental health, should also be considered a priority.
147	Get rid of DEI nonsense and focus on things that matter like jobs and economy
148	mental health, homelessness, veteran assistance, and affordable housing are more important than pretty much everything on this list. That's why the county is in such shambles at the moment.
149	Affordable housing needs to not just focus on new opportunities but also on regulating existing zoning/housing laws to integrate affordable houses/units into communities that are gentrifying
150	Recognize that the public schools are hugely hampered by the requirement to educate ALL students. I think special needs students should be grouped together so their needs can more efficiently be met.
151	These are all great priorities but I would replace Work force development with mental health outreach and services.
152	Somehow you need to stop the handouts and the "so oppressed " mentality. Begging on the streets is tolerated even though there are jobs. Homeless camps and people in the streets is pathetic.
153	All these goals are laudable..but I am not confident in what they will do to operationalize
154	Address the homeless situation on our street corners
155	I do believe that education should be a high priority, but I do not agree with that specific goal being the priority.
156	Cautiously optimistic on anything "universal".
157	While these are all important, I feel that some are far moreso than others. For example, environmental investment, affordable housing, mental health services are more of a priority than workforce dev.
158	Allow more of these to be privatized so that the government doesn't have a monopoly on these services
159	No more money on studies and "experts"! Experts live in the neighborhoods--and a sample isn't enough. Empty words=no results: "evaluate" by who? using whose criteria? and who benefits/\$\$ off results?
160	Housing and transportation to all agencies of help and provisions which lead to all of the above
161	Providing a roof over head and transportation to allow people to get help and services leads to everything
162	Help people with skills and job training to become gainfully employed and lessen the handouts. Allow people the dignity of self-sufficiency and pride of work and agency over their own lives.
163	For affordable housing, change "evaluating" to "providing". Limited affordable housing is already a known issue.
164	The public library is extremely essential for all citizens because it welcomes and serves ALL citizens.

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165	Workforce development is very important, but more burden should be placed on the private sector so goals and training are aligned.
166	Expand library services access, including internet and computer access for people whose households lack access
167	If you work on educational attainment and workforce development, affordable housing and racial disparities will most likely naturally reduce
168	Greenway / bike trails should be a priority
169	I agree with the categories, though not necessarily the identified "priorities."
170	would like to see libraries and parks/greenways on this list (including additional dedicated cycling lanes across the city).
171	If new employees are offered more than those currently in the positions they are hired to fill then the current employees are not at a high enough salary. Why is this happening?
172	Education focus needs to close educational and opportunity gaps between low income and high income students
173	Focus on higher quality of life for all communities in CLT. How can we worry about college and career readiness/higher needs when caregivers are under such stress to meet kids' basic needs??
174	Providing a good education for all would correct most of the other problems listed here.
175	The budget for the race grifting you call "reduce racial disparities" needs to go to zero.
176	Would like to see community development as part of the plan with focus on low income neighborhoods
177	Schools need to offer certifications, internships and apprenticeships in infrastructure jobs, IT, and other needed industries. Public education can foster jobs, not just college.
178	If existing funding was properly managed and spending was monitored, the board would realize great waste in their allocations. Many groups are top heavy with management, and the intended outcomes are
179	The government should leverage the private sector services (ie: job training and recruiting) and stop focusing on race. Help all children who are falling behind their peers, all victims of whatever!!!
180	expand school choice. hold each cms school accountable for outcomes - that is measuring the actual placement of students in meaningful and achievement based advancement. cms performance lacking
181	Raise teacher pay. Reduce the CMS Schools Superintendent's pay by half. More Police Officers needed! Get rid of the Homeless junkies on every corner!!! Raise City Council Members Pay.
182	Health services, including mental health, need prioritization.
183	Racial disparities can be reduced by ensuring a quality education for all children in need.
184	Efforts to improve racial disparities often make them worse.
185	We also need to continue expanding alternative modes of transportation besides cars.
186	Education (including libraries) is the key to the county's success. We need to pay for it.
187	More services need to be provided for keeping our county's streets and roads clean and free of litter.
188	Really think that you have captured the most critical issues. Excellent. Now please put plans into action and make sure that you publicize the initiatives and positive outcomes!
189	The loudest get the most tax dollars today
190	Eliminate racial disparity.

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191	Housing prices are climbing really fast. Maybe a freeze on increases, Also rent control is needed.
192	Better use of funds in education
193	RE EDUCATION - FORGET CRITICAL RACE THEORY - NEED TO BE COLOR BLIND AND NOT FOCUS ON DIFFERENCES OF RACE, ETHNICITY, RELIGION , WHATEVER! MLK HAD IT RIGHT. CURRENT WOKE THINKING HAS IT ALL WRONG.
194	More funding for ARTS (specifically home grown professional THEATER)
195	I don't know what all these "political-speak" descriptions mean. I'm inclined to think they mean very little in terms of actual action that will solve specific problems.
196	Offer funding for arts and culture. The arts make us better people which positively affects all the rest.
197	The priority here is correct
198	I agree with these priorities.
199	Some areas need more priorities, some less.
200	The library provides soany different and valuable services to the community and definitely deserves to be mentioned here as very worth prioritizing
201	Inflation, employee shortage, higher taxes, poorly educated(Pass w/Fail), lack/Manuf.,mental health probs, crime/violence, Reveals need/raising Standards in all facets. Charlotte will suffer if not!
202	Racial disparities are a joke. All disparities need to be considered: gender, age, social, economic, geographic. Applications should be blinded on initial screening and gender shouldn't even be asked.
203	Boost library funding. If ever there was a place for boosting quality of life, education, job development, seniors, reducing disparities, and provision of human / health services, the library is it
204	Need more funding for the arts
205	I don't think there is a way to specifically fund racial disparities. Fund the drivers like affordable housing and education. Or pay reparations. Meck PreK needs to be evaluated.
206	Inclusive Public Transportation around the city of Charlotte to be available and affordable to all residents to commute to work & to reach grocery stores to promote healthy food to prevent diseases.
207	RE: The "Voluntary" Pre-K, is the county reaching all candidates? Is the County making Pre-K accessible to all, or are conditions like transport, for 1, keeping some children from attending?
208	Health inequities should also be considered, eg infant mortality etc.
209	Residents in need require affordable housing near their employment. Allocating additional resources to close the gap hasn't proven effective. Stop throwing \$ at the problem and motivate equality.
210	Please include library funding.
211	Investments should not be based on race.
212	Housing specifically for low income seniors.
213	Morgan Freeman (Axtor) once said, "that having a Black History Month was 'ridiculous' and that the best way to end racism today is to 'stop talking about it.'"
214	Stop talking about it and be about. Affordable housing should not be such a problem in a county rich as Mecklenburg

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215	Affordable housing is broken at federal and state level, needs fixing there before Los cal gov can work. CMS is too big, tying funding to attainment at such large level will fail.
216	The problems in the city cannot be fixed by throwing more and more money at schools. More money does not equate with better test scores.
217	Love this! Great work!
218	education a priority Not pleased with quality of schools
219	Mecklenburg county schools paid \$25,000 for a CRT speech? I would say that is a waste of tax payer money.
220	"Race" already does NOT predict one's success. One's family, education and SELF efforts produce success. The more programs like this seek to "close gaps" the worse things get by teaching dependence.
221	Again, in addition, Charlotte needs arts funding. Its reputation is one of a staid banking town. Arts allows for creativity and innovation.
222	Arts & Culture Funding
223	Re entry for people coming out of the jail is vital.
224	I believe that arts and culture as well as libraries and parks are critical to educational attainment, pre-k, and reducing racial disparities. Criminal Justice reform is needed for reducing disparity
225	Mental and homelessness need to be addressed in relation to affordable housing
226	Unsure- these are all important.
227	It's important to also include a thriving Arts & Culture sector that is expansive and inclusive. Arts & Culture are part of the heartbeat of a city and community. Without this, we are a ghost.
228	Checks and balances so racial disparities aren't balanced using tokens. There has to be a change in the mindset of people who allow racial gaps.
229	Charlotte is a majority minority city. As such, there should be little to no racial disparity just like in Atlanta.
230	In order to close gaps you have to create opportunities. How does your budget create opportunities for us to target improving our communities lives?
231	Community first
232	this question needed a 'not sure' option as an answer
233	provide programs that can help those unfortunate residence included all races to learn vocational skills for higher wages
234	I do believe these are all important areas to focus on with the most important being education which covers all aspects.
235	Involve the family in every decision concerning childtrn
236	1. HOMES. 2. FOOD. It's simple. What is so hard. Don't complicate things. STOP the onslaught of wasteful sidewalks! People lie to get them! Get people out of those nasty shelters. Please listen!
237	NOT college readiness. 60% of humans aren't college material. Maybe CPCC material yes. NoChildLeftBehind ruined education! Focus on readin,writin,rithmetic, and MANNERS! Yes ma'am. And consequences!!!

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238	Money spent on promoting CRT in the public schools is wrong. Focus on helping ALL students succeed & improve student performance, which is very low for the amount of money being spent.
239	Arts and Culture funding
240	Ensure the arts and creativity are part of the solutions.
241	Libraries are a vital part of our democracy and communities and should be appropriately funded
242	I believe that providing technical schools to train people in the skilled trades is as important as college preparatory focus
243	Please look at what the Durham Children's Initiative is doing - it's so incredibly collaborative and is showing a kindergarten readiness rate of 97%.
244	Unfortunately, based on the above priorities outline, it truly concerns me that nothing is planned or done strategically.
245	Please stop trying to divide families and races within our community.
246	I might be misunderstanding the Workforce Development category, but everything I experienced when I was unemployed was completely useless. There are much better resources elsewhere on the internet.
247	Re: housing, the focus needs to be on new housing where people can own instead of new projects featuring luxury apartments. There should be more affordable condos and townhomes built under 300K.
248	Unless our environmental issues are addressed, the others will not matter. As a former teacher from Illinois, I'm appalled at the state of public education in NC. Teacher salaries must improve!
249	Affordable house ONLY if residents are working, receive education about health, wellness, birth control, crime reduction. Current low-income housing (old communities) =crime & unwanted children.
250	if people are employed and taking care of themselves some of these other problems are taken care of then.
251	So long as prioritization remains as suggested in Section 1.
252	Selections in this section are accurate, so long as they reflect the prioritization suggested in the previous section 1.
253	Would be helpful if you could include links to "Environmental Action plan" so we can know what we are saying yes or no to
254	Keep the libraries standalone
255	Preservation of trees by planting or keeping green space in charlotte. This should be environment action plan!
256	Not sure what is in the environmental leadership action plan
257	Utilize funding already there for education and workforce more effectively, don't throw more money at it to try and fix it. Troubleshoot, problem solve, don't band-aid the issues.
258	While all of these are important, reducing racial disparities will have the greatest positive impact of the future prosperity of Meck County & NC overall than any other initiative on the list.
259	All of these are definite priorities. However, for decades, business's wants have outstripped the needs of the public. It is time to reprioritize how much funding is 'given away' to businesses.

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260	The County does not need to lead Workforce Development but should partner with agencies that are well equipped to do so. Do a better job with Reducing Racial Disparities; more than lip service.
261	These statements are very broad - I'd like to know more about the tactics that will support them
262	Diversify investments to cover larger aspects of diverse & high population growth, sound economic development means jobs for all. Private partner negotiations to facilitate mutual interests.
263	Some private/public goals overlap with city efforts already. County should not duplicate efforts which might lead to overlooking basic or unique needs of county obligations and non-city residents.
264	Instead of millions for greenway engineering contractors, just pave the paths and fund maintenance. Sugar Cr GW far exceeded budget. Postmortem study should terminate all leaders responsible for waste
265	Stop being Scrooges. Raise taxes as necessary to provide better quality of life in Mecklenburg!
266	Housing- define "new housing opportunities"-does this mean creating entirely new housing units? The focus should be on helping those in need get in to opportunities ASAP,not waiting for new facilities
267	Lower taxes!
268	Affordable housing includes housing in the \$200,000's. There's nothing decent out there below \$300,000. Homelessness needs to be addressed so there isn't another tent city.
269	Greenways and Parks needs to be on this list - long neglected. While Affordable Housing is a need, not sure how much the county can do about, absent changes in state laws.
270	Current leadership lacks effectiveness.
271	N.C.'s low-income residents are in need of accessible and affordable lease-to-own programs as well as increasing minimum wage without inflation.
272	Please prioritize improving neighborhood parks. We really need these parks upgraded. We need playground improvements.
273	The descriptions of the priorities are not based in a plan for that category. Why is the County still "evaluating" and "investigating"? That means that no solutions will be affectuated for years.
274	Workforce Development should mean supporting unions, raising the minimum wage, and helping people get job training they need for free or at low cost. It shouldn't mean tax breaks for businesses.
275	Education support to CMS should not be specified to particular strategies. Trust our educators to do their jobs. More funding for teachers and facilities, after-school & summer programs to close gaps.
276	bring more than banking jobs
277	This is best strategic priorities I have seen in 50 years in Mecklenburg County. Very impressive vision. The key is gathering enough revenue to fund them meaningfully.
278	Not of this time.
279	Shrubbery blocking intersections in Hidden Valley. White lines in road are faded.
280	The overdevelopment of a lot of residence areas. Making people relocate out of area because of high cost of living.

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281	We need more code enforcement to help with our streets and yards! Street and curbside cleaning. Also, to educate residents about the city codes.
282	Plus, please continue to assist the homeless. City/County did a great job assisting residents of Tent City get out of the rat infestation, set up in a temp hotel, plus counselors to help w/next steps.
283	Public Safety - Trash pickup along streets - maintenance -public works
284	Afford. Housing: include % units in all new developments Universal pre-K: provide vouchers for those who qualify - that can be applied to existing neighborhood/community public/private pre-K programs
285	I believe reducing racial disparities is important but I do not agree with the critical race theory that is being taught in schools.
286	I think anything connected to racial issues is simply pandering ie. just needing "good" PR. Those disparities can be addressed by addressing larger issues of education, housing, and mental health.
287	Providing a more inclusive transportation system (greenways, bike lanes, bike paths) should be a priority. Charlotte and Mecklenburg county need to get away from being car-only.
288	More programs and support for small businesses.
289	too much development, need to refurbish neglected city areas and STOP spreading out and removing wooded areas
290	Need a clearly detailed plan on how county will reduce racial disparities.
291	Schools need an area resource officer, school nurse, & mental health counselors in each building. Additionally school breakfast & lunch should be free for all. Add after school tutoring & late buses
292	Couldn't educational attainment mitigate this challenge?
293	What's an environmental leadership action plan? Also, not everyone will go to college. Skills and Trades and job readiness so high school graduates can get jobs paying a REAL living wage is the need
294	for racial disparities- we also need better (longer) cop training. (not saying we need to up their budget at all though) but that would go under racial disparities.
295	Focus on education.
296	jobs, jobs, jobs with an emphasis on salaries that provide a liveable existence.
297	Stop the unbridled destruction of land and tree canopy in Charlotte. Place moratorium on all development until independent environmental assessments performed. Protect mature trees!
298	Great list in the abstract. Would like more context on the action plan...this really is not a great framing for a question without that (maybe a link to learn more an opportunity to comment on each)
299	The no represents overlap between City and Co. and the continued siloed approaches.
300	Do not remove necessary funding from already woefully under resourced public schools.
301	Educational funding should be used to target personnel resources such as school counselors, psychologists, and behavior management particularly in historically marginalized and underfunded schools.
302	Healthcare should be on this list. 1 in 6 county residents are uninsured and/or can't afford or access healthcare.

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
303	These questions should define things like "eligible" in the context of 4 year olds and pre K. Also what is the Environmental Leadership Action Plan?
304	We should not be tying funding to outcomes. We should be funding because they have been identified as priorities.
305	Affordable housing requires public transportation and access to parks and greenways as well. Public pre-K should be needs based, rather than free to all.
306	The County is not the primary provider of transit, streets. This is not true, the county pays millions to the city for transit each year and the county can directly impact zoning issues for streets.
307	I say no on educational attainment linking to targets because that incentivizes teaching to the test. Also, the goal of education should be to think critically, not just preparation.
308	In education, priority should be to meet the need of all students, whether college-bound or not.. Entrepreneurial training, perhaps with seed \$\$\$, as a form of scholarship.
309	Reduce racial disparities--would love for county to create an actionable plan that includes community input in the plan
310	More emphasis need to be placed on racial disparities.
311	Priority needs to be maintaining the lifestyle and advantages of Charlotte Mecklenburg so we do not destroy what attracts people to this area-and ensure that infrastructure keeps up with development.
312	Anything to help all people.
313	More senior help, please
314	I have been on a housing list for 6 years. No one has paid me any attention. Please hear me. This housing thing is a joke for me and my experience. Get in touch with me to let me now you got this!!
315	Having long term respite services for family caregivers aids in reducing burn out, mental health issues and providers a relief some never receive. 5+ days of full coverage without needing hospice care.
316	It would have been great if you provided hyperlinks for each "priority" - providing further information on the current status. That way, I'd be in a better position to provide objective feedback. 🎵
317	Also consider how to support our arts and culture sector, including individual arts in our community.
318	I would like to see more emphasis on school construction. Educational performance is not your responsibility. it's the school board's
319	Grassroot non-profit
320	Public Health crises of the pandemic needs to be a focus.
321	Arts and creative activities
322	continue to fund arts and culture initiatives.
323	Not sure what the Environmental Leadership Plan is. I think there should be a recreation priority - greenways and parks. Also need a mental health priority. Not sure about the Pre-K.
324	All of these deserve a yes, so instead of just saying "fund everything," I put "yes" by the three that matter most to me.
325	The description re educational attainment shouldn't be a euphemism for tying school funding to test scores. Low scores are a complex socioeconomic issue. The failure of Project LIFT underscores this.

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
326	If public health is prioritized, racial disparities would decrease, as would homelessness, mental health crises, educational disparities, unemployment. HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT. Medicare for All.
327	One's success should never be based on race. Employment should be based on qualifications not race.
328	Either you don't make enough or you make to much. Where is the balance, or the other options are unsafe!!!
329	As part of the Environmental Leadership plan Mecklenburg should assess its level of investment in composting and recycling, especially as our established landfills reach capacity.
330	CMS K-12 schools are desperately in need of funding to hire support staff and raise teacher pay.
331	I am a latino and I hate to see when "race" is invoked as the cause of success. The issue is the lack of community leadership that gives mentoring, good examples and accountability.
332	I cannot express an opinion about the Environmental Leadership Action Plan because I don't know what it is. It sounds good but could include a lot of meaningless fluff
333	Meck PreK should be open to CMS teacher children, even if they live out of county. They can transfer in K so why not offer them the best start possible?
334	Funding for teachers should be a top priority. Teachers are leaving and something needs to be done to retain the teachers.
335	The climate is perfect. People want to come to Charlotte and relocate here. We need programming in the schools to attract people.
336	There are other entities that are better equipped and experienced in the area of Workforce Development so while the County can support, the leadership role should not be your priority.
337	I reject linking education allocations to standards not set by the school board.
338	I have been informed that linking educational allocations was an impossible goal and that this item should not be listed. I hope you treat this category accordingly.
339	waste too much social services money on administration and personal vs actual helpingmoney
340	Drug Abuse Prevention and support services are needed in a rapid deteriorating environment for citizens with substance abuse and mental health issues
341	How we would we know whether any of these services are funded. As far as I'm concerned this should be a metric for how these services are performing.
342	I would like to see more money budgeted to promote historic preservation and the arts.
343	Transportation
344	Maybe bring back some employee benefits instead of the slow removal taking place over the past 25 years. Give staff a reason to stay. The County is nothing but a stepping stone job now.
345	many vacant positions due to lack of competitive salary
346	Please stop handing out corporate welfare. These folks take our money and can leave penalty free at any time.
347	Plant more trees in areas that just have grassy areas like on Independence, and in those areas that surround over and under passes that have grassy areas. More trees =better air quality, less mowing.
348	Pay your teachers. Pay your officers. Help your veterans.

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
349	people need to be able to live in Charlotte we need more affordable and apartment for people who just starting off home
350	Light rail and road capacity isn't keeping up with the excessive development and increased population in some areas.
351	It may not be the lack of services but a lack of awareness on the publics behalf as to what's available.
352	Please focus on the environment. This is the biggest and most urgent concern for me and my peers in Charlotte. Take bolder and harsher steps to prevent further loss of our City's beautiful tree cover.
353	More money for teacher pay
354	How many times and how many ways do we need to tell you we want more parks and greenways? Why do we perform so poorly here?
355	Mental Health would address the homelessness and crime in one swoop.
356	Provide Universal Pr-K and DAY/AFTER SCHOOL CARE for EVERYONE regardless of income. EVERYONE pays taxes, EVERYONE should be included.
357	while not budget impacted, the county has to have a greater impact on zoning and transit development
358	you have voting roles on land use, transit and transportation that you are ignoring. how can you do any of these other goals if you are not participating in transit, transportation and growth plannin
359	More monies directed toward transformative programs for detention centers
360	Economic development would be primary to me since it creates jobs lifting people out of poverty and generates additional tax and fee revenue that can be used to fund more needed programs in Charlotte.
361	Environment!! Recycling and Compost initiatives PLEASE
362	Parks and schools! Invest more there and help reduce the need for investment elsewhere!
363	CMPD is incredibly over funded.
364	CMS Schools needs more accountability for funding prior to receiving their funds. A vision and annual specific plan with an aggregated and non-aggregated strategic plan to create equity needed.
365	More is needed for veterans.
366	The Homeless is a problem, we build park etc,But yet we have people living on the street, or the slum because they can not afford the cost the rent. Have any of You seen the places. they put people,.
367	Annual budgets should be balanced - no deficits
368	We need to make DEVELOPERS responsible for the damage they do to your City. They need to be taxed or service charges levied to make them pay more to help the City. They have too much influence.
369	University City Library building
370	Invest in improving maternal health outcomes and prevention
371	I would like to better understand how to move categories from "I don't know" to an assessed category.
372	Please make it a bigger priority to brag on yourselves with how much each person's taxes actually buys them so they are less afraid of government.
373	Water Air and Environment are essentials

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
374	Since I have moved to Charlotte in 2013, affordable housing has been a topic, yet housing is unaffordable in Charlotte.
375	Affordable housing is a major crisis in this county that needs to be addressed
376	We have to start investing in people and developing relationships in the community. Community engagement is key and all interests need to be taken into consideration.
377	Funding CMS to help offset the state's chronic underfunding of schools is by far the most important priority
378	More support for our Arts
379	Senior living facilities for the average citizen is needed. Most of the senior living facilities are for the affluent citizens of the county. Poor people get old too and need affordable homes.
380	I think the priority should be sufficient raises for employees
381	Our homeless population is costing us so much more than it would cost to house them!
382	Funding for the employment of Peer Support that would add lived experience to the County workforce
383	Mecklenburg county doesn't care about the people: they're just pushing us out of our homes, gentrification at its worse, rental prices are out the roof and the people of the county don't care
384	I'm a college graduate that works full time for the County and I got a second job in order to live paycheck to paycheck. Raise the minimum wage.
385	Most of these services should be privatized and not controlled by government
386	As an employee at MCSO there are high safety priorities that need to be addressed - new locks on the cell doors and trap doors, stab vests
387	Should include additional educational funding for children with disabilities, from low income families, and English learners
388	Too many inefficiencies lead to misuse of funds
389	I dont feel like I know enough about funding in most of these areas to have an opinion about its funding level. Regardless of amount of funding there are some areas where the county needs to do more.
390	If we put more resources into providing solutions to domestic violence, mental health, and workforce development & job training services many other costs will be reduced such as the jails.
391	Let's have some POSITIVE impact programs; so we don't need as many NEGATIVE (jails etc) programs
392	we are being over taxed
393	K-3 Literacy intervention, every step of the way.
394	Hazardous material collection sites, sidewalks along collector streets
395	Can we get an introduction to the current budget of these services and their effectiveness?
396	Please educate our children and serve homeless especially veterans.
397	The biggest problem the county has is incompetent staff in key positions and manager's office won't do anything about it
398	This question would be easier to answer if the current funding (% of total) was provided
399	You should include what the 2022 dollar amount was and what is proposed for 2023 to help people gauge being Over-, Under-funded, etc.

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
400	The teacher stipend needs to be increased. Affordable housing needs to be number 1. The average rent is way too expensive. All county workers need a living wage.
401	Priorities well thought out. Program planning, direction and oversight need immediate attention.
402	Education first and foremost
403	Election protection, racial disparities, education, AFFORDABLE housing, Better Medicaid assistance, animal rights & accountability for animal neglect & cruelty, transportation for needy, & homeless
404	Picked Meck Pre-K funding was appropriate b/c I think other levels of government should be funding pre-k, too.
405	Teachers NEED to be paid more. Education is paramount. Those who work in Criminal Justice NEED to be paid MUCH more. All positions in Criminal Justice. Affordable housing in nice neighborhoods needed.
406	Elder Asst With Real Estate Taxes, food, Meds, and OTJ Training For Work ReEntry, Fin Asst For Medicare Premiums
407	There needs to be a budget for the city and county to purchase more green space throughout the region so that these lots (small and large) can be protected as "green buffer" areas kept as pocket parks
408	Connecting Irwin creek greenway would help connect historically black neighborhoods to areas they're segregated from
409	Would love to see funding continue for parks, libraries and the arts.
410	Please continue to support the arts! We need beauty in our lives.
411	The arts should also be funded
412	Parks and recreation are embarrassingly underfunded compared with other cities. If you don't want to fund it return it to the City of Charlotte. Stop bullying CMS. "It's the poverty, stupid."
413	Arts & culture is important to the healing h of a vibrant city and is underfunded
414	All services need to be distributed according to priority and equally
415	Please include ARTS AND CULTURE!
416	I don't know the level of funding. Your earlier table only listed the categories, not the % of the budget each gets. Therefore, I can't answer this question.
417	More funding for the arts
418	None
419	Arts & Culture are also underfunded
420	Veterans should be a priority for HHS. Priority should be homes for the homeless, mental health care, and workforce training for these two groups. Security, education, and wellness for all children.
421	Arts and Culture should be included as a priority as they are essential for quality of life
422	The state of NC takes taxes away from the County Items marked "unknown" should be State funded. Some funding should be available for arts, esp for children.
423	Mecklenburg desperately NEEDS to fund REENTRY SERVICES for people getting out of prison and jail!
424	I wish arts were more supported. Also access services for persons with disabilities.
425	Please recognize the importance of the Arts through education and also through community impact

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
426	People cannot be healthy if our environment is not healthy...our land, water and air need to be a top priority for the budget!
427	Arts and Culture should be funded if we want a vibrant uptown
428	I sm u familiar with the funding issue
429	The arts are also underfunded
430	In cities with thriving arts and cultural sectors the county provides support to organizations to bring the arts and culture of their city forward as a value and not a luxury. Arts make a community!
431	Providing FULL medicaid and respite for caregivers will allow more ppl to be able to care for themselves in order to care for loved ones. Covid has shown us the importance of needing our full health.
432	Schools and Housing have been underfunded for decades. While the county is not the major funder of schools it has also not been the force it needs to be to address historical underfunding and public
433	Charlotte needs to invest in arts & culture, including arts education. We have a national reputation for being a burgeoning mid-sized city with a dearth of cultural offerings, and it is embarrassing!
434	The arts are severely underfunded.
435	County should provide some funding for the arts as well.
436	The arts are severely underfunded. There needs to be a cap on the development and construction projects for office & apartments. Developers need to be tasked with projects that benefit the community.
437	There are other public health services not included on this list that require increase in funding
438	more funding for arts, artists living and working in Charlotte, recreation, parks, greenspaces - Charlotte needs more soul and places to create community
439	more affordable safe housing for single mothers and more scholarships for kids in the arts
440	Please fund the schools this year.
441	I am appalled at the lack of serious funding for Arts & Culture
442	Affordable Housing for people making under 40K
443	Including the current funding level for each service would help in assessing.
444	schools need resources, and support, not sniping. Actively attacking the board of education and superintendent will have negative impacts on economic development efforts. Don't be shortsighted.
445	arts and culture needs funding
446	CMS needs more fundings. Class sizes are too big. Teachers need assistants to help improve reading and math skills. Test scores are unacceptable. Offer "reading clubs" for strong older students help
447	Fine
448	The arts are important to our community and are underfunded!
449	Arts & Culture is very important for youth development and growth. More funding needs to be allocated to this important program.
450	We need to pilot a universal basic income model for people and families in the lowest income brackets
451	Getting rid of cash bail and pre trial detention for many low level non violent offenses would really cut down on the cost of the jail

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
452	Stop the violence. Too much crime. It's scary.
453	Reentry Services are not listed
454	PLEASE PRIORITIZE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR YOUR CITIZENS.
455	Regeneration of the Ecosystem with Native Species Wildflowers, shrubs and trees will bring back our plummeting bird, bee, and butterfly populations.
456	Arts and culture is a missing element here that impacts quality of life, economic opportunity and mobility, etc.
457	Almost all of these items are over funded. Be creative and change the way you do things and cut spending.
458	There needs to be a "boots on ground approach" to determining the needs of our homeless and panhandlers. If there are all these jobs without workers, seems to me that there needs to be a linking.
459	Prioritize prevention is the best!
460	If we fund early education and then provide better educational opportunities for elementary, middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults IN THAT ORDER, some of the other areas will improve.
461	Affordable housing is so important to our community health. Also investing in young children - pre K etc. Environmental assets must be protected for a sustainable future.
462	Please consider the support for art rich history, historic preservation and arts
463	This is not government funding. These are TAXES. Decrease the burden of living here. Don't make Charlotte like Seattle or San Francisco.
464	The arts and culture should be funded a lot more
465	The arts are also an important area of funding for our community. The arts enrich communities and drive economic prosperity.
466	Delete Greenways add more Youth programs. Arts and PE should increase in schools
467	Take out Greenways, increase youth programs.
468	I think creating affordable housing can go along way in addressing homelessness for families. Rent is too high!
469	Pay the Social Services workers enough that they are not considered poverty level citizens
470	The County do not fund appropriately for Seniors. More Transportation options & better quality of foods are necessary to improve the quality of life for our older population. Affordable housing.
471	Arts & Culture are critical to the development of Mecklenburg County and should be included as Parks & Recreation are.
472	Please complete the Greenways.
473	While all 18 services are very important, it is the environment, and the need for a circular economy, and environmental justice that are my top priorities!
474	Some of the areas may use funds inappropriately so it may appear that more funds are needed
475	We need more funding for park maintenance and for land acquisition for park property. This is critical as the County population grows and land gets more and more expensive. Do this today!
476	More attention to greenways and parks
477	Mas rutas de autobuses

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
478	Remove the homeless from the streets. Keep criminals in jail and police on the streets. Take care of the city before it turns into LA. Drop all this mask mandating. We've had enough.
479	Pay not keeping up with inflation
480	Youths between 14 and 18 y/o should have summer jobs through a summer youth employment initiative, not by lottery
481	Need more land purchases for parks/fields in Central Charlotte Region open for Winter use.
482	All county services need to scale to adjust to current population, not 2008 population. Property taxes keep going up, budget should too.
483	The county has to stop limited the number of affordable housing units available in certain areas and focus more on those that make under 40%.
484	WE REALLY NEED TO ADDRESS A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION FOR HOMELESSNESS
485	services for seniors- 60 and over to have free access to county recreational facilities (keep them engaged in exercising, decrease health issues); tuition free classes at community college-employable
486	How can you choose what level the to pick for funding when you don't know how it is being funded. Include the funds beside the category.
487	Gentrification is pushing out people in the community where they are not able to afford new housing. When the County removed 'tent city' and those people were sheltered in hotels that was temporary.
488	We need to prioritize housing because students aren't able to learn as effectively if they are experiencing homelessness.
489	Transit
490	Pay teachers more
491	Fire Earnest Winston
492	Workforce development should focus more on green jobs. More funding to support SEAP in general
493	Courts are a state responsibility. Grilled the local delegation on why they won't and aren't advocating for appropriate funding. Use that "bully pulpit" every meeting to put heat on the state
494	The county only fund things that generate good outcomes.
495	The government that governs best governs least. County government is too big and expansive. Reduce the debt to -0- by eliminating programs so taxes can be greatly reduced.
496	Stop giving people so much money and, instead, provide resources to help them get off of assistance forever.
497	CMS needs more money for school counselors. The recommended ratio is 250 students to 1 school counselor; our current ratios leave our scholars lacking the needed support.
498	Make affordable housing a priority. We continue to see new businesses while so many of our neighbors lack essential services.
499	Define what we want Charlotte,NC and Mecklenburg County to look like and then tell those that want to invest to meet our expectations
500	Make sure "affordable housing" also means EQUAL access for ALL people and also means less crime.

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
501	Encourage and work with employers/businesses to provide a livable wage to employees and ensure that County employees, especially low-wage hourly earners, are paid a livable wage
502	Reforestation, more security, healthy economy, well-being, respect for different cultures and religions and languages, more education. Effective
503	Not a very good survey question.
504	Stop election fraud
505	Please ensure money flows to the need, and not to the enlargement of some county agency.
506	We are not providing enough green space for increasing population.
507	We need more green space and adequate maintenance.
508	Affordable housing and living wages for county employees need priority
509	Would love a dog park
510	Arts and culture are severely underfunded
511	It would be good to see a pie chart of how the monies are currently divided in order to better answer this question.
512	IMO, parks and greenways are underfunded but getting better. CMS and courts are way underfunded and getting worse, thanks to the NCGA.
513	Funding and how the funds are used are very different things. Remember how the military was known for paying \$600 for toilet seats.
514	THE ARTS SHOULD BE ADDED AS A FUNDED SERVICE
515	Cut spending
516	too much emphasis on growth the past 10 years without thought to infrastructure or consideration to those that already live here
517	Stronger laws, crime in the city is increasing every day. You have to do something urgent.
518	The County needs to lead on education and criminal justice. Many of the other priorities are already shared with the City and State.
519	So many people are using library services on line. Do we need so many physical building?
520	The county excelled this year in supporting meck pre-k and libraries. CMS needs help on a lot of different levels.
521	The schools are woefully underfunded and it's evident in student performance.
522	We have the only mental health ER in the state, yet the number of homeless due to mental health issues in this county is horrendous.
523	I have not done much research in terms of the funding for any of these. It would be remiss of me to comment on these without due diligence.
524	Need public transport improvement to North Mecklenburg
525	We love the parks and greenways but understand that clean air and water, public safety, economic development, education and decreasing the number of homeless on the streets are greater priorities.
526	More money for trash cleanup along the West Blvd Corridor would be great!
527	Quit supporting people to sit home and breed. Everyone should have skin in the game and work. Contraception is free, give them a reason to use it/be adults& accountable for their behavior.
528	Public libraries and education are my top priority

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
529	It does not always appear the money is tied to outcomes....schools get billions but for the last twenty one years they have not gotten better and the answer is always say they need more
530	I love the libraries and support their existence into the future 100%. What I don't support is dedicating funding to redoing buildings when this money is so desperately needed in other areas.
531	Get results from schools so far not getting results for money spent
532	Please redefine affordable housing to consider the "middle-class" single households as well. A lot teachers, university workers, public service workers fall in this group.
533	Other than these surveys--which can't measure important nuances--decisions seem made makers out of self-interest. I never see members in the hood--walking around them continually and talking to us
534	Increase in upward mobility starts with affordable housing.
535	We must start with a roof over our heads, transportation to go for services including food, health care, financial aid for living and utilities, education and safety of our children adults including sr
536	Why would you not include % of existing spending next to each category above???
537	Would love to see infrastructure prioritized - new pipes are clearly needed
538	Would like more consideration for the arts outside of more popular areas.
539	Housing is the absolute priority. We have condos but nowhere a real person can live. Hold realtors' feet to the fire to KEEP housing affordable. State-owned if necessary.
540	Some of these will resolve the funding strains in others. Ex: Affordable housing will ease the burden on homelessness.
541	transportation, includ in crime, trafficking drugs
542	I think funding public spaces and libraries etc is economically sound policy as it will keep from straining more expensive servies like courts and hospitals
543	Please focus on school support funding for special needs education which is very bad as of now. Increase techer's hourly pay.
544	Affordable housing should be the 1st priority.
545	I do not feel very well educated about how funds are allocated.
546	I do not have a copy of the budget allocations. Can not comment
547	Middle class has disappeared in Charlotte I make 40000. A year and I can't purchase a home in Charlotte anymore new or used
548	My opinion is based on what I see on the surface. In regards to resources I think many people are not sure how to access them. Overall Mecklenburg county does a great job with community resources
549	This city needs to be more inclusive of lower income workers and their families. The cost of living has shot up in the last 10 years tremendously. I cannot imagine being someone living below poverty
550	Let's get apprenticeship programs for our youth
551	What happened to money given to Charlotte mecklenburg schools? There needs to be accountability!
552	RE-funding the police with mental health professionals, sex education and birth control for teens, domestic violence assistance... so important. I LOVE the Parks and Greenways! Great Job!

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
553	Building and development has destroyed a lot of the beauty and charm of Mecklenburg County. We need more parks and green spaces. Environmental concerns should get top priority.
554	Stop funding the schools. Most of the money is going to administration anyway - not the teachers or the physical school buildings.
555	Increase funding for MEDIC so they can hire more employees and pay them better, purchase more ambulances, and be a real asset to the community they serve.
556	The homeless funding that was provided awhile back (bc of tent city) could've been used more effectively- Based on a financial article (doing my own calcs) twice as many families could have benefited.
557	The library is heavily involved in workforce development, job training, and services for seniors. Additional funding there could go a long way.
558	For a relatively wealthy place, Charlotte does not fund it's libraries and schools appropriately. Greenways and parks are catching up but are also far behind Raleigh and other large SE cities.
559	More ordinances to force developers to include a percentage of new housing to be affordable & not at market rates.
560	New employees should not be offered a higher salary than those who are in the positions they are hired for. This is demoralizing to current employees who have paved the way for the new employees.
561	Regular review of existing programs to ensure effectiveness, avoid redundancy, and seek ways to improve efficiency..
562	Give up the arts
563	Please fence middle and high schools and add metal detectors
564	I have to go by the news as I don't actually know what's in the budget or how it is being spent
565	expand school choice
566	No more corporate welfare with sweet deals to pay no tax while property tax goes up for regular folks.
567	We NEED more Police! We also need more drug addict/ homeless enforcement.
568	Where is the info found??
569	Collaboration between the Community College and Workforce Development has great ROI to help aid in economic mobility.
570	Quality Parks and Greenways leads to happier people. This then has a secondary positive affect on a lot of these other issues.
571	If the county spent money making the streets clean and safe by prosecuting crimes, we wouldn't need as many economic development dollars to attract business.
572	Libraries are one of the best per dollar benefits to the county and should be increased. Particularly online usage.
573	Education needs to be the top priority. Arts should be stressed as they provide an avenue of release for students and community members who are not interested in sports. Libraries need full funding.
574	More Funding for Police---Crime is too rampant in Mecklenburg County
575	We need to cut the crime by education, legal services, jail time, and making charlotte a nicer place to live.
576	If the results were not horrible then good, but now it is a free for all in tax dollars

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
577	library should be its own category. Provides WIFI and voting places.
578	More funding for ARTS (specifically home-grown professional theater)
579	For several election cycles there have been bond referenda for affordable housing approved, but affordable housing is virtually nonexistent compared to the funds available and approved.
580	arts and culture should be funded as a public health and wellness service.
581	Affordable housing, health coverage as well as the environment would assist the largest percent of the population. Therefore the greatest positive impact
582	Have more land designated for green space/natural areas
583	Why isn't the arts on this list? With the city's takeover of a big swath of arts funding, the county will be needed more than ever.
584	investing in people rather than things is important to me.
585	Arts are also underfunded
586	Education:Hire more teachers; Lower number/students/classroom/Alleviate disciplinary problems, teacher shortage, & learning problems. Ratio:1 teacher/15 students;Cut 1/2 Admin; NO Pass if Fail; Basics
587	I think it's very important to consider people need to be motivated to work. They currently are not because the government is sending everyone free money. This is leading to increased cost of goods.
588	When it comes to funding the public libraries, more money needs to go towards locations in low income areas such as West Boulevard, University City, Suagr Creek, etc
589	Arts should be a line item; it's important to all
590	Voter Registration
591	I will be searching for information to better discern my "Not Sure" categories. I am suspicious about waste in county budget, and ill informed decisions.
592	The housing cost in Charlotte extremely out paces the average income for Charlotte residents.
593	Arts and culture
594	Education, health and housing. Also more equitable distribution of resources a cross communities. That is, more resources for communities that need more.
595	The Police are overfunded. These resources need to be redistributed to services to create healthy communities-housing, education, health care- with less \$ spent on criminalizing and punishment
596	Need more focus on protective services
597	REAL"Affordable Housing"will,for the most part,take care of the homeless issues. I put GREENWAYS/TRAILS last,because that is the last thing we need.Charlotte is getting to be to big for their britches
598	You may have appropriate funding but the issues above will never be fixed with poor decision makers, poor allocation and lack of strategy and involvement of end user
599	Must have balanced priorities to meet needs of low income, Victims of domestic violence, and others who are marginalized in this wealthy county.
600	Transportation and walkability
601	Address Food insecurity
602	library services
603	Arts & Culture are a vital part of a rich community, providing experiences that enrich all areas of life, including mental health, racial equity, and overall community engagement.

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
604	I can't say this enough - WE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING! No more \$300K+ homes! Starter homes between \$150-\$250k are needed.
605	Sidewalks or trails off Mt. Holly Road as there are large trucks on this road and no places for residents to walk. No bench or cover for the bus stops.
606	We need to fund the arts. Arts provide inspiration and creativity for a community that leads to innovation. We are probably one of the largest communities in the nation without major arts funding.
607	A number of these e.g affordable housing are public policy issues as much as they are funding issues. They also require buy in from private sector. \$ alone will not solve these issues.
608	Homelessness, mental health, domestic and gender violence, college rape cases need to be addressed more
609	The arts of all kinds help attract people and good jobs. Do not exclude them.
610	Charlotte -meck needs to find a way to support artists. Artists are an economic engine driving community growth, but all too often they leave for greener pastures once gentrified out. See NoDa.
611	Would like to see continued increases in funding for homelessness, affordable housing and arts & culture.
612	Arts and Culture are such an important part of living; these programs and initiatives encourage us to connect with one another across differences and challenge us to be better human beings.
613	Economic development is gentrification. Its businesses being brought to the city when those businesses are not needed and it's at the expense of the residents and the environment.
614	Education, mental health and environment can all be considered as investments, not expenses.
615	The city's crime rate is very high and little is being done to bring it down. This will have a long term effect on desirability.
616	Proportions feel unbalanced, with majority going to the southern part of the county vs. the northern part.
617	Given the compounding impacts of COVID-19 on CMS public schools, I believe that CMS building and especially Title I Schools need to be funded more in order to decrease violence within schools
618	I would like to see funding going towards kids, seniors, and mental health including restorative conversations.
619	more emphasis on people leaving jail - transition support
620	I am looking forward to make new parks and big library. in future.
621	Pleas include Arts and Science Cultural blocks. Residence are benefited by bringing community together for dance and martial arts, young and old, rich and poor with all ethnicity groups
622	Funding more online services for all county citizens, seniors to elementary students, utilizing library resources and more money for ebooks to libraries.
623	I'd like to see more money going to build the community into the future (education, libraries) and less to seniors.
624	stop spending money unnecessary project we have overall high property taxes homeless noe help for seniors citizens

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
625	Forget about sidewalks in Barclay Downs-Parkdale for God's sake! Put them where peop have no cars! Focus on homes & FOOD & criminal justice will sort itself. Get kids out of poverty! PERIOD!
626	Focus on: 1. Housing; 2. Food; 3. Healthcare (including mental). Period. Then CJ & courts will sort themselves out.
627	If transportation falls under the jurisdiction of the County, I'd like to see that better funded as well in the form of lightrail expansion.
628	The people expect a level of discretion and priority that is above the Federal level
629	More money for the Arts is needed as well.
630	funding the arts is a priority
631	Water is going to be the most important natural resource we have. Protect water at all costs.
632	arts and culture are underfunded
633	We must support whole child focus - education, health, outdoors to reduce impact on violence, courts and increase upward mobility
634	One of my primary concerns is that the Mecklenburg County leaders are not strategic in their plans and lack the vision to effectively plan for the future. It appears that the leadership leads blindly
635	Without seeing numbers, it's hard to know how to answer these questions. I do think Charlotte should look into having a cap on rent increases and bring that up downstate in Raleigh
636	I couldn't answer this question because I do not know what the current budget is. This information should have been included on this page.
637	Libraries are essential and need to remain - become a standalone budget item
638	Too much tax money is rebated to rich corporations. They should have to pay their fair share.
639	I would like to see arts funding continue at the current level.
640	dedicated bike trails and streets from the Eastway area to uptown Charlotte
641	Senior services and affordable housing for seniors and homeless are of vital importance
642	Education & Safety of our children should be our top priority!
643	Emphasis on child protection and enrichment (pre-K and other education services, libraries, housing and other shelter) in an equitable manner.
644	It seems to me that business is given priority in funding and incentives
645	We need more affordable housing, we need more street lights, we need more cops, we need less prejudice judges and law enforcement. We need FREE COVID TEST to travel. We need more public transportati
646	Amp up funding for affordable housing.
647	City Stormwater fees for those living in rural Mecklenburg county has not clear justification when water drains on own property with no storm water systems nearby?
648	We MUST do better for public schools. We also must do better in regulating charters and holding them to a standard level of education.
649	Too much tax breaks for "new" high housing developers.
650	Priority areas above are underfunded. Future funding allocations should occur against a backdrop of equity. The public needs to see true equity; not more funding for programs that already have \$\$\$.

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
651	Public health should be prioritized above all else given COVID
652	Throughout history every culture is remembered for its arts, a category not even on the budget list.
653	Stop all the building. Too much green space is being eliminated .
654	I don't really have a way to evaluate except CPCC is a mess.
655	Safety in Schools, Parks important with population growth, technology aided efficient transit and road repair to keep up with growth of population, reuse empty commercial/ office spaces. safe growth.
656	Affordable housing, homelessness, safety in schools are all top priority and need to be focused on.
657	Reforming section 8 should be high priority. Another priority is increasing N.C. minimum wage without inflation to ensure a livable income.
658	Our police department doesn't need military grade equipment or hundreds of thousands of dollars of new supplies. Reprioritize to support the community, rather than oppress them.
659	The juveniles criminal activity with no accountability is out of control
660	Teacher retention is top priority for me. Two extraordinary teachers in my children's elementary schools have moved away (Montana) or have been displaced mid-school year due to housing costs.
661	Need effort to bring more industries to Charlotte other than banking
662	I believe arts and culture should be a priority because it aligns with mental health, education, jobs, etc.
663	Why the delay in building a new Univ. City Library at University Place? Citizens and Univ City Partners have been campaigning for this. And we want the highest quality possible.
664	Funding Public Services around education, shelter, and mental health should be our biggest priorities. CMS is specifically grossly underfunded.
665	Now that evictions have resumed and rents are continuing to rise, the county can prevent more homelessness by expanding rent subsidies.
666	Some funds delegated to public transportation are misguided and take way too long to implement , therefore not appropriately serving public transportation needs .
667	People over money, please.
668	Services for seniors is much better than it has been.
669	We must spend more on essential services to live, air, water, housing, education, medical care, stop funding more corporate growth and let them fund their own growth - they should pay for infrastructure
670	Libraries are grossly underfunded; the city/county is becoming increasingly unsafe; the schools are abysmal and do not utilize funding effectively
671	I do not see the arts.
672	Environmental Protection: purchase land & commit to high-impact actions that result in significant climate emissions reductions Afford. Housing: require units in new developments or (high) pay-in-leu
673	I do not know the level of funding for these categories, so it's hard to answer this.
674	Libraries are over funded especially when promoting a cultural agenda that is not universal.
675	It'd be great to have more services for small businesses
676	Remove barriers to grassroot non-profits receiving county funding i.e. audited finances

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
677	You need an option for poor allocation of funding & resources option. Add needed positions part time & full time over 2-3% teacher raises. Adjust class room sizes and student to teacher ratios.
678	I was SHOCKED to read our budget is 2.0 BILLION! I wish I knew what we were doing with all of it then I could answer these questions.
679	cms school funding depends on the area- richer areas (myers park) are over funded vs. other areas
680	I hope these surveys are taken with a grain of salt since there is limited opportunity to flesh out the thoughts For example, we need more affordable housing but the County can't tax us out of it.
681	Focus needs to be placed on public health and spreading awareness of covid-19 misinformation, as well as getting more people vaccinated.
682	need better balance of economic incentives for homegrown small business with economic development/incentive packages for fortune 500s
683	Most services are adequate from the Co. The State is short changing education. There should be better collaboration of plans & funds between the City and Co. where services overlap: housing, eco dev
684	Affordable housing needs to be located in the affluent areas of the city (like the wedge). Affordable housing needs to be located near high performing schools and job opportunities.
685	Need better collaboration with City. Please avoid duplication of services with City. We do not need wasteful dueling governments.
686	CMS need more funds
687	Teachers at this moment are desperate. For funding for themselves, their schools, and their students. Don't cripple them again.
688	1) Raise the minimum wage 2) Communicate often & broadly how you are spending \$ to address housing crisis 3) More drug/alcohol treatment options are badly needed here
689	Funding is needed for at risk teens.
690	I prioritize youth, the environment (and the community's ability to enjoy), esp in these pandemic-driven times.
691	The County is not the primary provider of transit, streets. This is not true, the county pays millions to the city for transit each year and the county can directly impact zoning issues for streets.
692	Public health is more than HIV/STI - no mention of COVID?
693	More funding for Animal Shelters
694	Provide funding for grassroots non-profits. They have boots on the grounds and close connections with the community.
695	More funding is needed for grass root nonprofits
696	Would like to see easy access to data for all these services Needs vs results. For instance How many veterans needs are being met and how many are termed away due to funding. Homeless turned away.
697	the arts
698	Arts & culture are part of quality of life and should be funded well. We spend too much on economic development and Charlotte doesn't really need that as much as we need to improve life for residents

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
699	SOME SUPPORT FOR PRO LIFE SERVICES NEEDED
700	Family caregivers need long term affordable respite services. Arts need funding... like MINORITY artists programs/galleries/businesses
701	A community is NOT VIBRANT without support for arts & culture
702	More funding needs to aid those who are family caregivers without long term respite care opportunities. Also- find the arts in community like CAL/ASC and minority artists!
703	Arts & Culture should be a priority
704	School buildings! We have gorgeous, updated libraries while our schools are overcrowded and crumbling and that is the county's responsibility
705	I do not know what the funding is for any of these items, but we have very serious issues with lack of safe, affordable housing and avenues for people to rise out of poverty.
706	Where is the funding for Grassroot non-profit
707	prioritize funding for public health specifically to fight COVID19. More accessible testing with faster turnaround for results is needed.
708	Arts and creative activities
709	Arts and culture improve the mental health a community
710	Medic and First Responder funding needs to be increased
711	I believe Climate Change issues should be given strong emphasis.
712	Charlotte needs a Botanical Garden for health & welfare of all. No more giving our tax money to lure corporations here like Chiquita bananas. No more giving money to developers like Southpark
713	do not defund the schools
714	I'm not qualified to answer, unless I know the amounts currently being spent and how they have risen or fallen in recent years. In fact, NOBODY is without knowing those totals. Not a helpful question.
715	Schools appear severely underfunded. Seem to have lost funding the last few years.
716	Please prioritize public health and education.
717	I don't understand why people can pay 1,000 plus a month consistently for year's because we have prioritized that, we are not able to get/buy a home. We know that is important to have a place to live.
718	Intercounty rail & bus rapid transit to resolve congestion
719	The most important: EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION
720	I do not think more money has solved the county's issues. More focus should be on proper use, and creation of competing departments to allow innovation. For example, CMS is too big and bloated.
721	Fund people, not systems
722	The schools need to be prioritized with greater accountability from CMS leadership.
723	The state has withheld funds from CMS and certified staff is being impacted. We are about to lose unprecedented numbers of staff. Increasing our supplement funding should be a priority right now.
724	Need to devote more funding to schools and pre-K, paying teachers, counselors, and administrators enough to afford a decent standard of living. Today our best teachers are hired away by other schools.
725	I would love for Charlotte to become an innovative city where businesses and people can relocate to and raise their children. That means funding schools.

Ref #	Open Ended Comments Provided by Residents
726	Please ensure that funding is done in an equitable manner. Some arts programs are being favored over others in the current County Budget.
727	I want anything that improves health, safety, education and economic opportunities for all residents of the county.
728	I haven't studied all of the issues, but more funding for education is a must. Our children our our future. Their education and mental health are critical.
729	Education needs more funding!!!