

# Town of East Lyme 2019 Community Survey Results

## Community Questionnaire Results

An online Community Questionnaire was distributed via various print and digital channels and open to responses from mid-October through December 31, 2019. There were 530 respondents.

### What is your zip code?

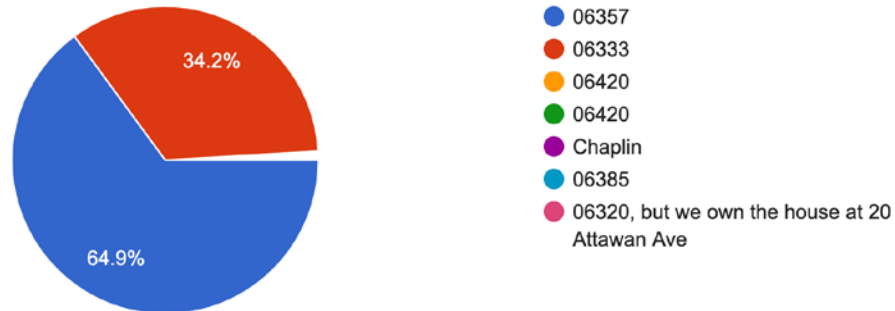
64.9% of respondents reside in Niantic

34.2% of respondents reside in East Lyme

The remaining .9% of respondents reside in Salem or Waterford. One resides in New London and owns property in Niantic.

What is your zip code?

530 responses



### What is your age?

16-18 years of age: 23 respondents

18-24 years of age: 11 respondents

25-34 years of age: 146 respondents

35-44 years of age: 92 respondents

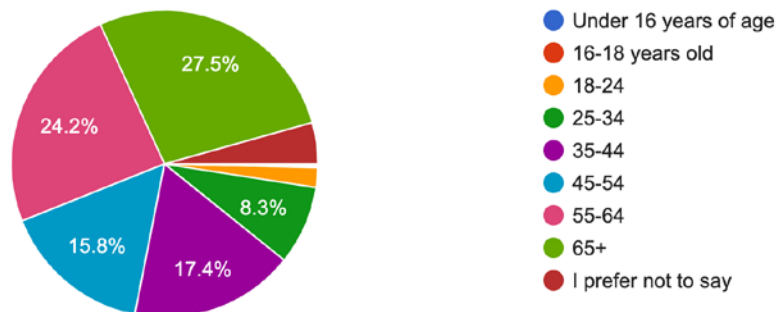
45-54 years of age: 84 respondents

55-64 years of age: 128 respondents

65+ years of age: 146 respondents

What is your age?

530 responses



### What are the public places in town you value most?

Open ended response- responses were aggregated by topic.

Beach	255	Darrow Pond	5	Sports fields	18	Aquifers	2
Boardwalk	191	Historic Spots	5	Forests	16	Lattimer Brook/Dam	2
McCooks	129	Green Spaces	5	Community Center	14	Vets Field	2
Downtown/Main Street	101	Boat launches	4	Senior Center	14	Cinema	2
Library	84	Powers Lake	3	Restaurants	13	Goodwin Trail	2
Oswegatchie Hills	50	Wetlands	3	Nature	12	Transfer Station	2
Schools	47	Sidewalks	3	Rec Areas	11	Youth Center	2
Rocky Neck	34	Costco	3	Niantic River	11	Marinas	1
Hole in the Wall	26	Fire Dept	3	Shops	11	Tennis Courts	1
Cini Park	24	Police	3	Hiking Trails	9	Wheelchair Accessible Areas	1
Trails	23	Town Hall	3	Nehantic State Forest	8	Gorton Pond	1
Bridebrook	20	Ocean	3	Pool	7	Care and Share	1
Open Space/Land	20	Green Spaces	2	Waterfront	7	Crescent Beach	1
				Peretz Park	6	Ravens Woods Trails	1
						Pattagansett Lake	1

### Which Town Services Do You Use The Most?

Open ended question, responses were aggregated by topic.

Beaches	316	Oswegatchie Hills	8	Camp	1
Library	241	Bridebrook	8	Street Lights	1
Rec fields / Parks and Rec	93	Rocky Neck	6	Darrow Pond Trails	1
Boardwalk	85	Track	6	Farmer's Market	1
Schools	28	Youth Center	5	Movie Theater	1
McCooks	22	Downtown	4	Town Hall	1
Senior Center	20	Events	4	Boat House	1
Waste/Recycling	18	Snow Removal	3	Emergency Services	1
Playgrounds	17	Tennis courts	2		
Landfill/Dump/Transfer Station	17	Restaurants	2		
Pool/Aquatic/FitnessCenter	12	Sewer	2		
Community Center	12	Conservation Areas	2		
Drinking Water	9	Land Trust Sites	1		

## What, if any, publicly available amenities would you like to see in town that we do not currently have?

- “Swap Shop” or “Freecycle” station where you can drop off good useable household items and take what you can use. Probably best at the transfer station.
- 1. Discount passes to McCook Park for disabled adults, who are not seniors (can show Medicare Card to prove disability); 2. Bus service 7 days a week (SEAT/9 Town Transit)
- 24 hour Post Office access w/ keycard
- A better pool and rec center for residents
- a bike lane connecting the schools and connecting the Book Barn buildings
- a bike trail
- A bike trail. Something to connect the Flanders side of town to Niantic to make it easier for kids to bike to their friends safely.
- A booth off the highway highlighting area attractions. Staffed with volunteers. I think the lee house use to have this service. Not sure if it's still there in the summer
- A dog park, biking lanes
- A dog park.
- a family changing room/restroom at McCook beach
- A grocery store downtown (Whole Foods); a railroad station stop in town.
- A lab in the library with things like a 3d printer, 3d pen, and cricut. Also, weekend story times at the library so working parents can take their kids too.
- A place like Stonington has at their dump where useful items can be recycled?
- A professional fire department and EMS team
- A recreation center
- "A shuttle that would go back and forth bt Flanders and Niantic
- A bike share program
- People driving the speed limit
- Bike lanes
- Sidewalks everywhere
- Beautification of Flanders"
- A splash pad
- A splash pad for the children! Like they have in Colchester.
- A splash pad would be nice
- A YMCA type recreational facility. Charge people town memberships.
- Additional trails in Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve
- Adequate sized senior center
- After school bus from middle school to practice fields, more public restrooms downtown for summer
- An accessible park that is not a beach
- An EV charging station; municipal water and sewer replacement of wells and septic, particularly near beaches
- An Innovation Hub for start-up companies and small businesses
- Athletic classes, bullying/self esteem classes, water fountains, better marked trails
- Athletic classes, bullying/self esteem classes, water fountains, better marked trails
- Bathrooms open in offseason!
- Beach concerts with bands people know
- Beautification of Domintion Millstone power plant , so it not such an eye sore. Trees Mural etc..
- Better bathrooms in public places
- Better business choices downtown
- Better maintaining of sidewalks in the Flanders village. Niantic village is not the most important part of town.
- Better Public Transportation, Train Station
- Better recycling/compost programs
- Better roads or ways to deal with the tourism and I-95 traffic that spills through our neighborhoods. Kayak rental at Cini beach and Rocky Neck would be nice.
- Better senior center services
- Better water
- Bicycle lanes
- bicycle lanes, especially on Rt 161 & Rt 156; more support of open space & events at the existing town open space locations
- Bicycle rentals, Rotation of a Food Truck every day at Public House?
- Bicycle trails at waterfront and in northern portions of the Town.
- Bike /pedestrian lanes on rt 1 and 156/ 161
- Bike lanes
- bike lanes
- bike lanes, sidewalks, transit connections
- Bike lanes/trails
- Bike Path North/South
- Bike path, tennis courts, playgrounds, cummunuty garden
- Bike path!!!!
- Bike paths
- bike paths
- Bike paths
- Bike paths
- Bike paths
- Bike paths (i.e. rail trails)
- Bike paths would be amazing.
- Bike paths, more hiking trails
- Bike paths, sidewalks in neighborhoods,
- Bike trail
- Bike Trails
- Bike Trails, Sidewalks connecting Flanders and Niantic, Better public transportation, Trolley
- Bike trials

- Bike/running trails
- Biking/running path to connect through town
- Boat access! A marina or town dock to bring in boaters to town and to get to town without using a car. A bike lane.
- boat launch/landing in Smith Cove
- Bulk pick up
- City Water City Sewer
- Community Pool
- Composting, Community Gardens
- Considering the number of dog owners and the restriction on dogs in public lands, a dog park would be good. I do not have a dog.
- Considering the number of dog owners and the restriction on dogs in public lands, a dog park would be good. I do not have a dog.
- Cricket field and cricket nets
- cross country ski trails
- Curbside leaf pickup
- Dinghy dock on lower Niantic River
- Disc Golf Course
- Diverse holiday celebrations (Diwali, Chinese New Year, etc)
- Diversity in restaurants; a bike/walk trail from Giants Neck Heights to downtown to encourage exercise
- Dog park
- Dog and water/sprinkler park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog Park
- Dog Park
- Dog park
- Dog Park
- Dog park
- Dog Park
- Dog Park
- Dog park
- Dog Park
- Dog Park
- Dog park
- Dog Park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park and dogs allowed at McCooks
- Dog park, skate or activity park
- Dog Park, dedicated bike lanes on major roads
- Dog park, planetarium
- Dog Park, skate park, bike paths
- Dog park, skateboard park
- Dog park.
- Dog waste bags in Niantic and public areas.
- Downtown Shuttle (seasonal); sidewalks completed
- Dual use walking and biking trails that shadow the main roads. Specifically along the 161 from the 85 to Flanders 4 corners and eventually all the way to Main Street. Currently the 161 is too narrow and busy to safely ride a bike.
- Electric car charging station, better aquatic center facility upgrades including locker room and pool painting, Safe biking routes, better pedestrian traffic infrastructure near Flanders 4 corners
- Electric vehicle charge station
- Environmentally safe tick control. Speeding deterrent for Chesterfield Road and address the loud motorcycles which disturb everyone's peace and quiet.
- EV charging stations, community garden
- EV charging stations, WiFi
- Expansion of sewers
- Free trash bulk pick up annually
- Good transit boat area
- Grocery Store - little mini mart
- Grocery Store in Downtown Niantic
- Grocery Store in Niantic
- grocery store in Niantic
- Grocery store in Niantic
- Grocery store in Niantic
- Grocery store Niantic village
- Happy with what's here.
- Health and Wellness Center for Elderly Focus on well being, exercise
- Historical plaque program/ better walkability
- I think that in general East Lyme has a very good balance given the size and nature of our community
- I think we are perfect!
- I think we have come a long way. Can't think of anything that we currently don't have. Maybe more restaurants.
- I would absolutely kill for a walkable path along Main Street. I'm between Henny Penny and Roxbury Rd. I'm constantly terrified of someone getting hit because I know of a few people that have to walk along that road to work and I've watched as they have to hop guard rails in order to avoid oblivious drivers. And if a path was made I'd be biking with my kid OFTEN into town and anywhere within two miles. I know it'd mean a whole lot to many people.
- I would like to add a sidewalk and bike path from Rocky Neck State Park to downtown Niantic.
- I would like to see the intersection of Main St. & Pennsylvania Ave. not flood every time it rains
- I'm content with what we have.
- I'm good.
- ice rink
- ice skating rink
- ice skating rink, walking trail along Pattagansett Lake
- Improved park/playground for kids-
- Improvements to playground areas
- Indoor soccer field

- Kayak launch into Long Island Sound at either Cini Beach, Hole in the Wall or McCook's
- Kayak racks at the public beaches at down for residents would be a great addition.
- Kayak/canoe launch at Darrow Pond
- Kayak/Dinghy racks to provide better water access for residents to recreation as well as moorings in the area. For example: Guilford, Madison and Old Saybrook all have these amenities.
- Kid friendly things to do like a roller rink, skateboard park, tennis courts, science center, community garden.
- lake facilities/beach
- Larger police, fire, paramedic force. Flashing posted speed signs in all school zones. Let our EL police patrol 95/395. Install overhead radar in trouble spots. We can receive income from speeding, DUI's, etc. State troopers are worthless.
- Leaf pickup
- Less Government please
- Lighted boardwalk, Public restroom at my cooks open all season
- Little free pantries (similar to the little free libraries; for food & hygiene supplies)
- Long multi-use path connecting Flanders, west Flanders, and Niantic
- Low income housing
- Maintain current facilities; preserved open space for wildlife habitat
- Mid-Point Boardwalk access (Across from Penn. Ave.)
- Middle School Sports Reinstated
- Miniature Golf Course, Supermarket in downtown Niantic
- Moorings!! Better access to down town from beaches, ice skating rink, public concrete cornhole games like the ones in hammonasset park. Signage to make down town more bicycle friendly. More bike racks in town. Bike paths (off road and for commuting).
- More access to Nehantic Forest. This gets less and less every year
- More benches on main street
- More bike lanes
- More bike paths and trails
- More bike racks downtown, more sidewalks that connect areas of town, Universal broadband
- More boardwalk.
- More boat access
- More community gardens
- More conservation and open space and hiking trails.
- More diversity in recreational options. For example, the Costco development will take the private EL Driving range which has always been a special

offering. All school sports fields and parks are posted "no golfing" among other things ie "no dogs". Our taxes 70% go to schools which service a minority of the population who are not welcome on school property.

- More dog areas
- More free concerts in the Summer
- More great restaurants downtown
- More hiking and biking trails
- More hiking areas, bike trails
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails and/or camping locations along public lands of East Lyme
- "more hiking trails, fill the empty store fronts with quaint shops and better seafood venues,
- poor snow plowing on secondary roads"
- More lights on streets where there are lots of kids,
- More open areas, less construction
- more open space
- More open space
- More outdoor facilities for seniors - Boccie Court, Shuffle Board, Horse Shoes, etc.
- more parking
- More parking downtown
- More parking for residents at beaches
- More parks, open spaces and trails with free access
- more pedestrian-friendly all over town, not just Main Street; dog park; community garden
- More places to get water to drink.
- More playgrounds, a splash pad, more activities through parks and rec that are accessible to working families - exploratory type programs on nights and weekends
- More police force
- more protected lands and green spaces, recycling, public composting
- More public parking
- More public parking downtown
- More public parking, area to hold events that does not tie up public streets so much
- More public safety
- more public transportation and sidewalks
- More recycling bins around town. It would be good to be able to recycle plastic bottles at beaches and parks.
- More recycling options at landfill (eg film plastic), more open space (eg Oswagatchee). Would be open to bringing back paying for garbage bags, rather than increasing property taxes, making it a use tax which will make people focus more on recycling, and renters would pay their fair share. Would be great to be able to have the boardwalk open up access to main road at more access points to increase foot traffic at local shops, restaurants, etc. directly off of boardwalk.

- More restrooms
- More seating outside restaurants. A couple more benches
- More services for free for our retired veterans, service men and woman
- More shopping boutiques
- More sidewalks
- More sidewalks
- more sidewalks
- More sidewalks on roads. I'd love to be able to walk downtown from E pattagansett rd. but it can be dangerous at times. I wish the transfer station was more accessible. It's great saturday time was extended but it would be great to have the ability to use the transfer station on sundays as well.
- More sidewalks on routes 156 and 161
- more sidewalks, bike lanes for safe walking and biking; outdoor public pool
- more stores like Grace (higher end, creative, destination spots); a gallery downtown, like Hygienic on New London: a community art space that can put on shows, music, events; a music venue; a workshop space for the community; more ocean-oriented community service like NESS
- More walking areas
- More walking paths
- More walking trails & sidewalks
- Natural gas
- New Baseball Fields away from schools
- Once per week recycle pick up, better bike/pedestrian lanes
- One full-time fire department; a train station
- Opportunities to meet other families with you children
- Outdoor community pool
- outdoor fitness stations
- Outdoor ice skating ring, summer splash park for families
- Outdoor pickball courts, more sidewalks
- Outdoor pool/water park type like in Midwest Y
- Outdoor skating rink (similar to the ones in Westerly, RI and Newport, RI; Therapeutic pool for adults; provisions for animals (dogs) to be leash walked on boardwalk and/or beaches; downtown public playground, public restrooms opened 24 hours in downtown; SEWERS IN ALL OF DOWNTOWN!
- Outdoor town pool
- Outdoor town swimming pool
- Park for younger kids (under 2), city water, sidewalks , flat walking trail with shade,
- Paved bike path
- Pickleball
- Place on beach for dogs year round
- Planetarium
- Please make the cross walks on Main Street and PA avenue be speed bumps. People are speeding through town.
- Police sub station in downtown Niantic.
- Pool unattached to high school and heated, Niantic supermarket
- Possibly town water and sewers
- Public access to pool
- Public bathrooms
- public parking, EV plugin
- public recyclable cans
- Public rest rooms
- Public rest rooms
- PUBLIC REST ROOMS IN DOWN DOWN AREA
- Public restroom downtown, but tactfully hit away
- Public toilets in Cini Park
- public transportation
- Public transportation around town, to shopping and medical areas of nearby towns and to Old Saybrook and New London train stations is essentially non-existent. SEAT buses cover very few areas and do not run those routes often enough to be an alternative transportation method.
- Public transportation between various parts of town.
- Public transportation, bike paths, walking paths, sidewalks
- Public water & sewer (golden spur cove area)
- Public water and sewer access in places in and around our wetlands.
- Rack for kayaks and paddle boards
- Rec Center
- Reception venue
- Recreation Center/field house
- Recreational opportunities in summer that meet the needs of working families. Rec camps end at 1 pm +/- and then expensive after care is required. Greater options for transient boating would be nice- a dinghy dock, mooring field or public dock (fee based of course) would be nice. More sidewalks or re-engineered sidewalks especially on roads such as East Pataganset where the side walk is narrow, dangerously close to the road, etc.
- Recycling bins in public areas. If I have a water bottle at mccoooks park I cannot recycle it.
- "Restaurants. No more pizza or Italian.
- Sidewalks. "
- Restrooms downtown
- River-walk such as along Groton Pond and Pattagansett. Sidewalks.
- Road clean up crews (for litter)
- Save the Hills!
- Seasonal ice skating i.e. flooding Bridebrook
- Separate or set aside beach parking for east lyme residents as on week ends and holidays residents are

denied entrance because of over crowding, totally unfair for EL taxpayers.

- Shoreline East train stop
- Side walks from one end to the other and a bike lane
- side walks linking center of downtown to Society Road- better signage for speed control and sidewalk crossing along route 161
- side walks on west main street
- Sidewalks, bike lanes on busy roads
- Sidewalk along East Pattagansett Rd to Bush Hill Rd
- "Sidewalk along Main street, from Niantic downtown to Rock Neck State Park.
- A community farm that each family can rent a small piece in it."
- Sidewalk on East Pattagansett Road and other high traffic areas
- Sidewalks
- Sidewalks
- Sidewalks
- Sidewalks connecting Niantic, Flanders sidewalks on west main st, better lit crosswalks downtown
- "Sidewalks continuing from downtown all the way to the west end of town (Pondcliff, Guy's, Book Barn area) to facilitate walking to town for events.
- Lighting on boardwalk to enjoy it in the evening
- Restrooms at Hole in the Wall open year round. "
- Sidewalks in the Black Point area
- SIDEWALKS ON WEST MAIN STREET & ROXBURY ROAD
- Sidewalks or bike lanes on Attawan Road and Old Black Point
- Sidewalks so I can get around more safely with my wheelchair
- Sidewalks throughout the entire town! Bike lanes in the town (like Seattle or Holland), perhaps even a public biking system like the UK
- Sidewalks, biking trail, public transportation
- Sidewalks. A public swimming area on Dodge Pond
- Sidewalks. Many people walk on the roads which is very dangerous, especially at night. I would also like to see bike lanes.
- Skateboard & bike park and bike lanes in town
- Skateboard park
- Skateboard park, hang out area for teens, sidewalks in Flanders area and bike areas, all resources go to downtown we want more in Flanders
- Skatepark, ice rink
- Small area at McCooks for launching kayaks and stand up paddle board, Over by the rocks, just left of the swimming area. There is no place to do it outside of the railroad bridge. Maybe even a wooden rack for storing kayaks also. I'm seeing those pop up in other coastal towns, and they are usually fully utilized,. They get locked to the rack.

- Small Downtown grocery store
- Small Downtown grocery store
- Small market like Colonial was.
- Small parks
- Snack shop at McCooks, designated Bicycle Path, Grocery store in or near downtown Niantic, Restaurant on the water
- Some type of trolley to minimize traffic in the summer. Honestly I love this town and I don't have any complaints. I think the only way to improve it would be to better navigate it during the busy season. Still would never keep me from living here
- Something like a YMCA with classes, workout room, and childcare
- Splash pad
- Splash pad, Public pool, community garden
- Splash pad, skatepark, dog park
- Splash pad, updated playground equipment
- Splashpad
- Splashpad, fenced in playground especially for all the special needs parents and parents of multiples.
- Summer hydration stations, recycling for public not just residents
- Swimming pool inside but not cold high school pool
- Tennis courts and track on Niantic side of town. Trader Joe's in Niantic.
- The town green is lovely, but the gazebo takes up majority of the space. It would be nice to have something more open for people to gather.
- The town has done a great job with our village. Continue the good work and partnership with small business in the village and in town. There has been enough large business development in the I 95 area. It's time to preserve and protect the natural environment that remains so we don't spoil what we have here.
- To extend the weeks for leaf bag pickup
- tourist center
- Town boat dock
- Town dock for residents and Kayak racks at beaches
- Town hall meetings... maybe 2 times a year
- Town water available in all neighborhoods! Expand public transportation. Update the town pool/bathrooms, beach snack shacks local kids could work.
- Train Station
- Train Station and stop
- Train station, bus transportation to near and far towns (bus into NYC and Boston, for example)
- "Transient docks and mournings
- Transportation
- TRANSPORTATION and more sidewalks. I cannot safely walk or run in most areas, and a shuttle

between Four Corners and Niantic would bring more foot traffic to local stores.

- trolley to take visitors to Cini Park so residents could find a spot on our beaches
- Turf baseball field
- Uber Scooters/Bikes
- Variety of restaurants to attract visitors
- water park/splash park at community center,
- water shed protection.

- We already have too many that keep costing us more and more to maintain.
- We need a skate park or some place for the teens to be.
- WiFi at the baseball and football fields
- Would love more lane time at the pool for lap swim and Sunday hours at the Library year round.
- Would love to see the train station brought back to Niantic.



### Why do you choose to live in East Lyme?

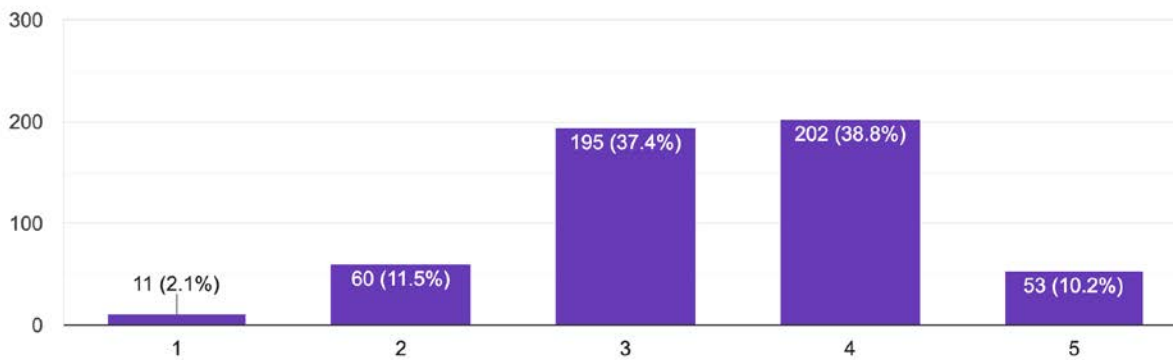
Most common answers shown below:

Schools	210
Beaches/Ocean/Waterfront/Shore	120
Community	81
Family	45
Small Town	44
Born Here/Lifelong Resident	43
Low Crime/Safe	36
People	27
Nice	14
Affordable	11
Beauty	10
Boardwalk	6

### How well do you feel East Lyme is prepared for strengthening storms and weather events?

1: not at all prepared ----- 5: expertly prepared

521 responses



### In your opinion, what makes a community sustainable or resilient?

- "1. Restricting growth beyond the capacity of the water table. 2. Only fund post secondary education to meet jobs in the region in the high school. De emphasize college as the only message. 3. Institute an in house disposal system for all
- plastic and foam bases waste, don't allow it to escape the primary recovery
- collection area. 4. Create a tax neutral food generating small farm economy within the towns borders. Not just brewery's ."
- A balance between environmental/cultural preservation, responsible economic development and government support for all members of the community, not just upper echelon taxpayers
- A combination of all of the above.
- A community and Government committed to these things because they understand it's over all value.
- A community is sustainable & resilient when there is a balance between economic growth, and preservation of unique community resources. Additionally members of the community must believe they have input into the governance of the community. If community members believe they are stakeholders, they will fund education, and community projects and offer reasonable solutions to community problems.
- a dedicated balance of development and residential - not a lop-sided NIMBY approach
- A good Education, easy access to cheap public transportation
- a good solid tax base, and smart government spending,
- A good tax base, good schools etc.
- A government that works for everyone, public transportation and/or walking and biking paths, community gardens, clean drinking water, and a significant plan to prepare for the effects of climate change.
- A healthy local economy
- A strong community
- A strong economy at the state level
- A strong education system, a well managed town budget and unique character to downtown
- A strong government that works on behalf of the taxpayers. All constituents working together. Reasonable taxes, excellent schools, good amount of open land, farms and nurseries, good water supply and quality, continued education around our history - something for everyone - from families to young adults to seniors.
- A strong local business community (including shops, restaurants, etc), a level of safety that allow people to feel comfortable being out and about at night or for events, a strong educational system to draw families and keep them.
- A successful economy- residents with good jobs that buy goods and services locally
- "A sustainable community is one that cherishes residents of all ages and promotes harmony with respect for meeting the various needs of all its residents. It encourages activities such as Boadwalks, beaches, Celebrate East Lyme Day, Memorial Day observances, etc

- which brings together residents of all ages. These activities build/ strengthen the sense of community.
- Unfortunately, a food bank is a must in these days. Fortunately there is Care & Share, a volunteer organization. Encouraging backyard food production for personal use and donation to food bank.
  - In-town transportation for citizens of all ages is needed to get to jobs, professional appointments, stores etc.
  - Education is important for all ages but must be cost effective. Programs for non-college bound graduates and continuing education for adults is important. To bring in an educational center to provide certification in numerous professions and trades and retraining or updating skills would strengthen the economic situation of EL residents.
  - To have a community health care center to foster programs which enables residents to pursue heathy activities, can distribute flu shots, house group meetings for organizations as AA, teen groups, family counseling etc. and hold General public seminars. This could be used as a central public distribution/information center for any public health emergencies.
  - Plans for sewage management should be developed. As East Lyme grows, the septic tank may become untenable and a town wide septic system may be required."
  - "A sustainable community is one that cherishes residents of all ages and promotes harmony with respect for meeting the various needs of all its residents. It encourages activities such as Boadwalks, beaches, Celebrate East Lyme Day, Memorial Day observances, etc which brings together residents of all ages. These activities build/ strengthen the sense of community.
  - Unfortunately, a food bank is a must in these days. Fortunately there is Care & Share, a volunteer organization. Encouraging backyard food production for personal use and donation to food bank.
  - In-town transportation for citizens of all ages is needed to get to jobs, professional appointments, stores etc.
  - Education is important for all ages but must be cost effective. Programs for non-college bound graduates and continuing education for adults is important. To bring in an educational center to provide certification in numerous professions and trades and retraining or updating skills would strengthen the economic situation of EL residents.
  - To have a community health care center to foster programs which enables residents to pursue heathy activities, can distribute flu shots, house group meetings for organizations as AA, teen groups, family counseling etc. and hold General public seminars. This could be used as a central public distribution/information center for any public health emergencies.
  - Plans for sewage management should be developed. As East Lyme grows, the septic tank may become untenable and a town wide septic system may be required."
  - A sustainable community must provide strong educational opportunities for its residents. It must also have the ability to produce its own food, energy, and a clean water supply to its residents, particularly during a natural disaster or other adverse circumstances.

- A trustworthy leader
- A variety of generations, a safe environment, opportunity for healthy activities, excellent school system and a mill rate that will allow me to retire in my house.
- A willingness to pay taxes to live in a beautiful place and electing officials who want to preserve a small town feel while encouraging sustainable development.
- Ability to adapt
- Ability to adapt to changes.
- Accessibility, investment in health, education and recreation
- addresses all needs of people but especially those in the predominant age groups.
- Adequate sources of revenue, without overburdened taxpayers. Ensuring the town is an attractive place to live, including a quaint downtown, enough shopping options (balance of big box vs mom and pop)
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing not at risk from mortgage debt.
- Affordable living, access to public transportation, SIDEWALKS
- Affordable tax base, reasonable mix of commercial/retail /residential and open space
- Affordable taxes, Providing for those in need...medical and mental health services, Good , safe schools, support teachers, Educate and act for clean air and water, Advocate for alternative power sources, Diversity to be celebrated.
- All above and safety (police)
- all are important components
- All of above and strong religious participation
- all of the above
- All of the above
- All of the above
- All of the above , however we need to slow down on spending, our taxes are going higher and higher. Seems as if every town employee has a new truck,
- All of the above & we seem to have very good services-- I'm sure there is room for improvement- but none that I have experienced.
- All of the above are important... health and safety are critical (emergency shelters) and with rising sea levels the waste management and emergency transportation are key.
- All of the above mentioned and transparency in the town government.
- all of the above. Beautiful downtown, beaches, friendly people
- All the town personnel coordinating for their usual jobs on a weekly basis and our 'big' events- ie Light Parade, Celebrate EL. There seems to be enough pizza places and Chinese restaurants all over town--it would be nice to have something different move in--like the Noodle restaurant in Flanders area...
- An eye towards the future with a focus on the needs of others and not just an individual's. Quality of life enhancements such as recreation and a strong education

system, diverse tax base and vibrant retail and restaurant scene.

- An updated "Market Study" will answer those questions
- Availability of services to all residents
- Backup plans
- Balance
- Balance of business and residential areas with open space for public enjoyment along with sustainment of natural habitats
- balance of protected lan, watersheds, and other uses
- Balancing economic development versus quality of life for residents
- BEAUTIFUL TOWN WITH GOOD SCHOOLS AND GREAT PEOPLE
- Before a storm we should see more trimming of the tree branches. I am not personally affected by this as I live downtown. But I do see many people constantly post about issues of lost power. I think outside of that we all have the intelligence to survive
- Being economically prepared and able to sustain those things, having residential input as to what goes on in town, and having sustainable and eco friendly ways of carrying out its duties to its citizens
- being proactive to rising sea levels, having a plan in place for the inevitable
- Better communication during emergencies, education
- Better food established Niantic
- Better local economy
- Better Restaurants & Stores like Mystic
- Boards members who care for a citizens
- businesses and jobs. excellent schools. low crime.
- By keeping our small town atmosphere and not over building.
- Carbon-neutral. Storm barriers. Also local alternatives to things provided elsewhere - water, waste, energy sources
- Careful planning which long term focus on the needs of the people who live here. Need long planning rather than stop gap measures.
- Careful planning which long term focus on the needs of the people who live here. Need long planning rather than stop gap measures.
- Carefully watching budget. You can't have everything at once!
- citizens working together for the common good of all
- Clean, safe and affordable access to all of the above.
- Cleanliness of roads and properties, education, quality businesses. I think it is MOST important not to grow too big in regards to big box stores and big housing projects, especially apartments or development of Oswegatchie Hills.
- "Clear communication to residents. Resident participation.
- Healthy local economy which, in my opinion, should includes more restaurant choices.
- Perhaps more local transportation?
- We need food delivery in East Lyme!"
- Collaboration among all citizens for the benefit of one another.

- common interest and respect for others (e.g., actively avoiding irritating others with behaviors such as trespassing, noise violations, property encroachment, or disregard for the environment through failure to recycle, compost, or refrain from public fires)
- communication
- Communication
- communication
- Communication between all town departments.
- Communication and volunteering as a town
- Communication is key.
- Communication, education, equality, Community involvement and a strong economy create Sustainability. Networking, mitigation and financial stability along with consistent planning for the "what if's" allow for resiliency.
- Communication, strong infrastructure, opportunities where we don't have to leave town
- Communities are sustainable and resilient when the townspeople care about their neighbors, the way the town is maintained, the activities available in the town, the long term impacts of decisions are thoroughly considered (such as allowing property to be developed or environmental hazards are placed near environmentally fragile locations) and plans are in place to least impact our natural surroundings.
- Community activities. Art, movement in school, and music. Cleanliness in the town and yards.
- community and local economy is strong
- community building with local economy
- Community involvement and knowledge. Being aware of what's happening and what's possible and feeling involved in decisions
- Community members
- Conserving its green space and natural resources. Not overbuilding..... balanced development.
- Conserving open spaces like Lyme. Less is better
- Consistency in town governance and support of the local economy
- Controlled growth, rec facilities, healthy downtown, affordable housing
- Controlling development and traffic, high quality schools
- Cooperation between all of the above
- Decisions are made by those who live in town & have a vested interest; Town officials that know their community residents; Services that are available to all residents; Residents are put first- before the summer visitors- ex. our resident beach passes don't guarantee parking because non-residents are taking up spaces
- Definitely not our elected town officials
- Demographic diversity, representative government, education for all ages, access to transportation, reliable & economic town services, community events & engagement
- destination spots (restaurants and events); work with the NBYC to make sailing a branding element for the town; marine and climate education for the entire family; reading and book events throughout the year in collaboration with the book barn = use the existing destination spots for dynamic and year-round engagement with locals and to draw visitors
- Disability services
- Disaster preparedness and transparency in communication
- Diversification and planning for the future.
- Diversity in the community and commerce drives sustainability. Our public services appear to be adequate. Everything is stressed in the summer but overall, adequate.
- Diversity of industry, good schools and reasonable tax burden
- "Diversity. East Lyme is severely lacking in diversity in our population and in our town governance due to lack of public transportation and housing options.
- The town also needs better leadership and hiring practices- too many positions are filled by people who "know the right person" at town hall, and are hired despite questionable backgrounds and the availability of more qualified candidates. "
- easily accessible stores and reliable roads
- Economy and Schools
- Education
- Education
- Education
- education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education , health and safety (water quality!)
- Education and economy
- Education and economy
- Education and governance
- Education and health/safety
- Education and local economy
- Education opportunities, superior police services, excellent fire and ambulance. Good leadership in town hall. We have excellent services in EL across the board
- Education quality, reasonable taxes; controlled capital spending, inviting commercial districts; good selection of town events, reliable quality utilities, variety of activities (All age groups);
- Education should be the main priority. That budget should never be cut.
- education system, community building needs to be opened longer
- Education system, safety, cleanliness of streets and public places.
- Education, business district/restaurants an public events/concerts, low taxes
- Education, Communication/Community Building, Affordable Economy, Environmental Protection
- Education, community spaces, free parking/transportation

- Education, food, health and safety
- Education, governance, community
- Education, health & safety and local economy
- Education, health, & local economy
- Education, local economy, health and safety and balancing of commercial vs residential
- education, maintenance of public spaces, community events, support for arts
- education, open space, reasonable tax structure, waste management,
- Education, public safety, recycling program
- Education, safety and cleanliness, and sense of community/community-building
- Education, thoughtful retail...NOT big box stores, recreation for all ages
- Education, Transportation, Community Building, Food, Vibrant downtown
- Education. Volunteerism
- Education/ great schools
- Education/health & Safety/Education
- Education/youth services/sports
- Effective government, services for all
- Emergency serviced
- Engagement of town government with citizens; willingness to accept facts like climate change and sea level rise with a vision to meet these challenges; the willingness to keep fighting appalling development schemes such as in Oswegatchie Hills; the wisdom to avoid future poor development choices such as Costco right on top of our drinking water aquifer.
- Enough of a tax base to cover what we want to pay for
- ensuring we have high quality facilities and services that attract people, support community events, support recreation and foster community engagement.
- Events throughout the year that different/all segments of the community can enjoy. East Lyme already does a great job of this.
- everyone working together. All elementary schools doing the same things (unity in the schools),
- Excellent school system, waste management
- Excellent schools
- Fiscal prudence; transparent local government; housing for a wide range of socio-economic diversity
- Fiscal responsibility, civic-minded citizens, excellent AND inclusionary educational system, strong emergency responders.
- Fiscal responsibility, effective & efficient public transportation, high quality education, safe neighborhoods
- food availability for those in need, public education and collaboration between the town and schools, WE NEED A YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU-we are far behind the surrounding towns
- Food, education, health and safety, waste management
- Food, Education, waste management and community investment
- Forward thinking mayor active in all aspects of community life not just city hall.
- Friends, family, good neighbors, respect and open communication
- Gardens, public community awareness
- God, churches
- Good balance between progressive visionary future investment and actual sustainable tax structure. Safety and environmental concerns over pocketbook. Regionalization for pooling of resources. Town only Shuttles to help with congestion and food desert issues; allowing movement along our narrow infrastructure allowances between 06333 and 06357.
- Good communication between departments within town and with neighboring towns. We need to be interdependent
- Good communication btwn town, businesses and schools
- good communication for environmental issues and emergencies, ie storms
- Good financial planning, staying within budget and preparing for downturns in the economy to limit the tax burden on the residents. Not following the State's example of poor planning. Encouraging smart business growth that includes smaller owned tech companies, bio-medical start ups etc. we should encourage these types of businesses to grow our corporate tax base. Maintaining the good quality schools we already have. Support for our local farmers, farmers markets, community gardens. Maintaining a healthy water system is essential and managing waste. Working with our neighboring towns to consolidate services where ever possible.
- GOOD GOVERNANCE
- Good governance and informed, involved citizens are the primary factors in making a community sustainable. With the leadership of governing officials, citizens can make informed decisions regarding any and all issues.
- Good government working with good citizens.
- Good leadership
- Good leadership
- Good Leadership and a community willing to help.
- Good people and organization
- Good people who work in all our public works areas.
- Good planning & Public involvement. Reliable equipment (trucks, vehicles, maintenance equipment).
- Good planning and preparation, good communications between the towns leaders and the community, good cooperation with surrounding towns.
- good public transportation, an easy accessible grocery store, easy accessible amenities, and things for younger people to do.
- Good school system, clean drinking water access, safe roads and side walks, good evacuation plan for storms
- Good school systems, restaurants, lots to do
- Good schools, reasonable taxes, vibrant downtown
- Good variety, well kept buildings, easy access.
- Governance
- Governance
- Governance and Education
- Governance that meets the needs of all residents
- governance, education, health and safety, local economy

- Governance: more public input such as this survey, we have enough stores without the big box monoliths moving in, better community planning: Stop and Shop gas station and McDonalds entrance are ridiculous. Better eye on Eversource to prevent power outages.
- government, education, transportation, health and safety
- Great families
- Great place to raise a family, people have a desire to live here as a result.
- Great schools & no commercial development
- Great schools, recreation areas, as well as reasonable growth to boost tax base
- Has it's own gas for heating and cable/wifi
- Having a healthy economy and little debt
- Having a town government that is totally transparent and one that doesn't just listen to a small group of people.
- Having all of those items locally and not having to rely on Hartford as much to give us back the money they take from us to begin with
- Having good honest leadership
- Having things readily accessible such as wide variety of stores/shops. Community events/parades/festivals are key
- Health & Safety
- health & Safety and waste management, recycling all that can be recycled.
- Health and Safety, Education, Clean water supply and proper management, food availability and supply, Bell shaped frequency distribution of population age. A healthy balance of young, middle aged and elderly population.
- Health and safety, waste, zoning commissions pre construction reviews
- High quality schools
- High quality schools, strong youth sports (quality fields), trash pick up, local economy
- Higher Education standards, public transportation which we lack, and better food options
- Highly controlled expense management. Stable mill rates
- I can't think of anything
- I think a good education system coupled with a Town that offers a variety of restaurants and shops for residents as well as visitors.
- I think a sustainable community meets the needs of its citizens while protecting the land we live on. We only make adjustments that are within the environments ability to support it. It prioritizes social equity & ecological/environmental issues.
- I think all those things. None of it can exist without a good economy. The ability to connect to all our areas in town (see above bike trail wish) would be amazing. Good restaurants so people want to stay in town. Laws that encourage businesses to stay or open new ones. People move here for the schools, so that is also important.
- I would like our community to place more emphasis on the environmental issues at hand.
- if cut off from services outside East Lyme could we survive?
- Inclusiveness and diversity
- Inclusiveness, participation, transparency, compassion, pride, fairness, cooperation, high standards...the list goes on!
- Information dispersed to residents, accurately and bi-partisan, in a variety of media (robo-call, social media, print, etc). Diverse options for leisure time (library, sports, etc).
- Infrastructure well maintained
- Innovative, proactive planning on all of these mentioned
- Invest in our schools and pay teachers more.
- Investing heavily in maintaining physical structure of buildings and roads, investing heavily in the recruitment, development compensation and retention of teachers.
- It certainly isn't more high priced condo's. Show's quite the lack of imagination
- It needs to be a place where people feel comfortable and safe with enough amenities like good restaurants to make people want to come and stay. The residents should have confidence in the education system, maintenance of the roads, cleanliness in the commercial areas, and management of blight.
- It should insure that it's population is age diverse. Presently, taxes (State and local) are forcing Seniors on fixed incomes to sell and move out. EL should set an example by freezing property taxes at the level paid when the home/vehicle owner turns 65 ie no more incremental annual increases. I have other ideas but the idea is to give all age groups proportionate benefit for the taxes they pay.
- It would be wonderful to have a small grocery store back in the village. We walk to town more often than we drive. The tax base remains balanced and affordable with a good local economy. Environmentally conscious actions, added recycling services, less plastic waste, etc.
- It's Citizens
- It's residents
- keeping that small town feel
- Keeping up with the times, changing with the economy and generations.
- Leaders that actually listen tot he town's people.
- Leadership and participation by the community
- Less building - open spaces - no more big box stores
- Less dependence on fossil fuels with more renewable/alternative energy, locally-grown organic produce (or with minimal pesticide application), less development and more re-development, frequent waste (resource) collection (e.g. consumer electronics), etc
- Less taxation growth is more important than currant fads of the moment
- Limited development, conservation of natural resources and land, support for local agriculture, environmental stewardship
- Listening to the needs of the citizens
- "Local
- Economy, education "
- Local economy is poor as we are essentially a bedroom community. So a better economy would be helpful. We have poor public parking.

- Local economy, community building events
- Local Economy, Education, Health and Safety, Community Building
- Local economy. Dealing with all various types of drug abuse by kids and adults.
- Local farmers markets in the summer, reputation of school which bring people to the area, waste management available to all
- Local food stores and farms. Community events. Control over employees of town hall so they don't own their little kingdoms and work FOR the tax payers, excellent schools.
- Local government support of business and commerce
- locally (within state of Connecticut) and renewably supplied (sun, wind, geothermal) energy
- Location
- Location, schools, value, beaches
- Low property taxes that enable people to stay in the town.
- Low taxes
- Low taxes, attracting commercial development and new businesses to town
- Lower taxes
- Lower taxes
- Maintaining a beautiful downtown area protects community economically which encourages resilience
- Minimal bureaucracy
- Minimal spending so that you aren't taxing us to death like other failure towns in this state.
- Mix sized, diversified business; Quality public schools; Outdoor space for both kids and adults.
- Moderate taxes, good town services, good local businesses including services.
- "Moderation, don't expand too quickly so that infrastructure can keep up. Low taxes, don't keep spending beyond your means, keeping middle income families in town by
- not taxing them out. New London was once a great place to live but series of bad decisions have made New London what it is today. It's a fine line."
- More based on the strength of the community overall than the strength of individual components
- More grants from Hartford
- more open space of DIFFERENT (grassland, forest, marsh, shore, etc.) types with educational signage
- More riparian zoning for coastal runoff similar to hole in the wall. More buffer areas for coastal storm surge.
- More transparency (Police station debacle), town based recycling and composting, NO plastic bags, no exceptions
- My husband is a lifelong resident of Niantic. I have resided in town for approximately 25 years. It is my opinion that without improved stewardship the present quality of life in town cannot be sustained. We are teetering on the edge of an abrupt downward spiral. In my opinion, haphazard development - particularly commercial development - is the greatest impediment to the sustainability and resiliency of the East Lyme/Niantic community. It strains our natural and human resources and as it stands, is inconsistent with the specifics of past plans of conservation and development. This is no longer a small

- town; it is a very large community attempting to squeeze into a small town foot print. The attractive and unique features of small town life are eroding. I urge a less reckless approach to development through the establishment of a Town Manager position to be filled by a properly credentialed and experienced individual who possesses the skill set necessary to ensure balance.
- need to handle local intense storm runoff, especially in downtown area.
  - Neighborhood/community involvement.
  - None
  - None of the above. EL lacks public transportation access
  - Not sure
  - Not sure exactly, I imagine proper allocation of tax dollars and resources, good, honest, forward thinking local government officials etc
  - nothing much
  - Offering clean, safe, and maintained public areas and downtown for people to congregate and enjoy their community. Annual community events help too!
  - Open lines of communication & more transparency
  - Open space, good schools, 20% minimum undeveloped land in town.
  - Openness to suggestions and new ideas from residents; AND all of the above coordinated and managed as well as the local government has done, presently and historically.
  - park and rec
  - Partnership and collaboration
  - People
  - People move to areas based on schools, economy, events, and location. East Lyme has all of those boxes checked. With that said, there have been discussions lately about cuts to education funding. This would be a big mistake. Schools and education have always been our biggest strength and draw.
  - People themselves
  - People, especially the residents
  - People. It's all about the people
  - people's faith in each other, town government should provide structure for that to occur.
  - Peoples attitude
  - Planful infrastructure investments; being proactive rather than reactive. Investment in education. Wise use of resources and not continually asking residents to fund big projects.
  - Planning and Preparedness. Sustainable self sufficiency in all areas.
  - Planning not just for now but also for an uncertain future, but doing so with fiscal responsibility
  - Planning, education, infrastructure
  - Power, water and vehicle sustainability
  - "Preparation is a major thing, ie preparation for budget cuts and storms
  - 
  - Education, health, safety, economy, waste are all important also"
  - Preservation of natural spaces, rehabilitation of waterways and marshes, recycling, alternative energy, moratorium on

residential/commercial development, promotion of local agriculture and small business vs. chain stores

- Preserve environment. Less development
- Pride in our little gem of a town
- Proactive thinking and acting
- Prompt clearing of streets after a snow. Emergency shelter after an extensive and/or extensive loss of power.
- Proper, objective and balanced planning
- Protection of existing natural resources (e.g., Niantic River and Bay, coastlines, beaches, healthy aquatic life and ecosystem services).
- Provide the basic needs for ALL our population within a workable distance, maintain high educational standards, provide "luxuries" everyone can enjoy - e.g. the waterfront, parks, playgrounds, a thriving business community
- Providing for all members of the town. EL picks and chooses which sections of town to enhance. Example: deciding not to invest in sewers for Oswegatchie Hills section.
- proximity to decent jobs, good schools, range of recreational and social opportunities, competent management
- Prudent budgeting, smart services
- Public and private sectors must at least understand each other, and agree that a healthy community requires that both prosper.
- Public engagement and educational sessions and long range municipal government planning in collaboration with state and federal agencies
- Public safety
- Public transportation options, balanced economic development, variety of housing options, strong schools
- public transportation, strong education, affordable housing
- Putting the highest priority on development that complements natural resources so the town's growth takes the fullest advantage of the free services provided by a healthy natural environment. Clean water, clean air, open space are the best investments any town can make to enhance the needs listed above.
- Quality education
- Ready for the unexpected
- Realistic planning for likely outcomes. East Lyme faces rising waters. How we plan for them will dictate whether we remain a desirable community.
- Really, all of the above. It takes everybody doing their job, being smart about it and working smarter. Be proactive to the needs of all our residents.
- Reasonably Investing in schools
- Reliable electric power
- Responsive, transparent government.
- Safe and secure water supply, good public transportation, and strong educational system
- Safety, diversity, good foods and education, reasonable living cost. Collect leaves by the curb.
- Safety, economy and safety.
- Schools are probably number 1. Although health and safety are right up there! Governance and community building are essential.
- Schools with sufficient budgets and strong inclusive community, long term, well thought out financial planning in regards to infrastructure
- Schools-access to good stores-affordable housing
- Shared values
- Single family homes, main st shops, churches and a great governing force. We do not want to see any more apartment developments going up! Enough already!
- slow down growth
- Small enough to be able to give residents a good healthy environment to live and play while providing services needed to sustain that life.
- "Small government, great education including for special education. Focus on local businesses, but welcoming to other larger businesses.
- 
- Allowing families to rest, take a break from sports activities. Can we stop the sports activities on Sundays?!? I need a break from the Childrens' business!!"
- small size community with common interests, quality of life, and people who well-know each other
- Smart governing
- social spaces for people to interact
- Sound financial management
- Strong down town area with train station
- strong education system, safe community, things to do
- Strong fiscal management and professional staff. Strong volunteer network as well.
- Strong recycling program, quality schools. Good police/EMS force.
- Strong school system,
- structure, function, budget and use reflect the actual needs of the inhabitants, environmental /natural resources health and function, community involvement
- support of nature's freebies: clean drinking water and clean air; easy access to parks and undeveloped land; strong policies maintaining riparian buffers, living shorelines, healthy marshes and wetlands; many mechanisms of 'village' communication and transportation; education and easy access to recycling receptacles
- Sustainable communities need proper infrastructure.
- Taking advantage of the natural charm of the Town, good education services and good waste management, care of roads, traffic management especially concerned with resident safety.
- Taking steps to minimize the inevitable damage from ocean storms.
- Tax base/diversity of land use/small business/agriculture/adequately protected aquifers/uncongested roads/good fire/police/ambulance service
- Taxes more money to spend supporting the community restaurants and stores



- Taxes, public transportation, ease of parking, Food Store Near Main Street.
- teach everyone about recycling - get the schools involved
- The school system
- The citizens
- The fact that we are, for the most part, a small town with a wonderful location on long island sound and half way between Boston and New York
- The opportunity that is so readily available
- The partnership of business, government and community all working to achieve shared goals
- The people
- The schools need to be the backbone of the community. It's why people come and stay and is worth the investment. The public works department and road maintenance is critical to health and safety, as are communication between departments. There should be greater levels of coordination between towns as we have a lot of duplicate efforts in our area and could get more "value on the dollar" if we were sharing the purchasing and care burden (public safety, recreation, etc).
- Their kindness to others, that will sustain our community and make us resilient. Our Buy Nothing group is a perfect example of that.
- there needs to be a reason for outsiders to want to go there and the ability for residents to get what they need locally without needing to go elsewhere
- Thriving downtown which is walkable. Easy modes of transportation.
- To make this community sustainable, we should do all that is possible to protect our water supply in the Aquifers. That is not the case, currently. Just look at I-95 at exit 74 bisecting the aquifer. A gasoline tanker spill or chemical transport spill or regular, long term salt applications on these area WILL adversely affect the water supply. It actually is already the case: look at increasing sodium levels at the wells by the Little League fields. The town water has too much sodium, in that well. Additionally, protecting open space and farmland should be very important. It must be realized by town agencies that keeping local farms viable and productive actually act as an anchor for the tax base. Since most agricultural land is zoned residential, a housing development will bring lots of town expenditures that a farm did not. This includes more fire, police and ambulance protections as well as educational costs for children as well as maintenance costs such as garbage collection, snowplowing, road repair, tree trimming/removal on town right of way along roads. Additionally, open space acts to purify groundwater before it reaches the town wells. Finally, farms will produce local products that will not only benefit the customers, but keep farms viable, and out of residential development and therefore costly expenditures that the town must pay when land is developed into housing projects. Additionally, we need to promote aquaculture, or farming of the sea. Revitalized shellfish beds in the Niantic River will not only produce a local food supply, but help to clean up the water, which is good for swimmers, boaters, fisherman and nearby property owners. A clean Niantic river will also attract tourists, who will spend money at local businesses. Open space/agriculture/aquaculture are a very important, but overlooked aspect of keeping our town sustainable and thriving for all residents. Town regulations should favor/promote farming and aquaculture and promote an ongoing effort to purchase development rights to conserve farms/open space.
- Too me, health and safety is important. I would like to see more police and a better staffed fire department (with the ambulance as part of and staffed by cross trained firefighters). Education is also critical but I am happy with our educational system in East Lyme.
- Too much development going on
- Town shouldn't expect to do everything. Individuals, state, & federal government are all partners in these events.
- "Transparency
- High ethics
- Accountability
- Smart development- not like Costco "
- Transparency and making open communication regarding all doings in town
- Transparency in governance, teachers that love their job, transportation for elders,
- Transparency within government entities, public involvement (not just when they are angry), people who are governing for reasons beyond ego.
- Transportation
- transportation, public safety
- transportation. we need to work on public transportation.
- Transportation/ education
- Truth and accountability in governance which we do not have and which are the foundation for everything else.
- Unbiased education
- Unsure
- Updated infrastructures, renewable sources of power generation, community policing model, further development of village of Niantic to include increased walkability, i.e. food stores and medical services. And please stop cutting all the trees down; it has significantly reduced village charm and may even present a danger to the local elementary students who attend the "fish school" as there appears to be a direct sight line to the school from every corner of the nearest intersection.
- Very good safety. Whenever there is a road blocked there are police directing traffic.
- Vibrant local business Community and top notch public schools
- Walkability, access to healthy food, safety, affordable housing
- Waste management & transportation
- Waste management, education, local economy
- Waste management, environmental protection, land preservation
- waste management, water conservation, limited housing (large houses)

- Water, education, economy, governance, strong infrastructure, leaders who work together for the common good
- "We need to keep our spending under control. The mill rate needs to be reigned in quite a bit. I truly believe it is increasing faster than inflation and that is going to catch up with us. This town will become too expensive for people to live in. Bringing Costco into our town was a great move and a source of additional income for the town. Our leaders should not be so quick to spend that additional income. It would be nice if we could get a Trader Joe's to move into Niantic!"
- We need to not cut essential services like education, parks, library, police, etc and then find money for other things like a tiny park. Recycling more would make us more eco friendly. We could ban plastic straws and balloons because we live so close to the ocean. Plastic is killing our ocean.
- We need to recycle more, maintain town buildings instead of waiting for to all of a sudden be beyond repair or need major renovations.
- We need to recycle more.
- "We should be growing what we eat and support local farmers.
- Our town government should change to mayor and town manager. "
- Well right now I'm choosing to build community within my condominiums. Knowing and building trust with your neighbor is an incredibly valuable tool, especially as theft has become so intense for us over here. But more importantly at base level (if you really wanna hear me go off) I think that financial security is a human right and that nobody deserves to make less than a livable wage. Protecting our most vulnerable (the poor and marginalized) is by far the most valuable thing we can commit to as tensions rise and finances become tight in the US.
- Would like to see a grocery store in downtown Niantic.
- wow - this is a thesis question. If I were to sum it all up, the key is communication
- Zoning - quality of life

**Please rate your feelings on these land uses:**

	We have the right amount - not too much, not too little	We need more of this	We have too much of this	No Opinion
Dedicated Open Space	185	315	6	13
Parks and Recreational Spaces	281	209	10	13
Agriculture/Aquaculture	175	269	2	60
Historic Places	330	120	12	45
Coastal Resources	241	237	4	27
Industrial Development	254	98	126	30
Commercial Development	223	120	153	13
Residential Development	265	61	168	16
Commercial Marine Development	218	171	45	75

**Please rate your feelings on these types of residential developments:**

	We have the right amount - not too much, not too little	We need more of this	We have too much of this
Single Family Homes	369	79	53
Age Restricted Housing (55+)	285	109	110
Apartment Complexes	279	72	148
Condominiums	297	75	123
Multi-Family Homes/Duplexes	310	82	96
Mixed Use Residential/Commercial (First Floor, Residential Above)	295	135	64
Rental Units	288	113	86

**Please rate your feelings on our town's transportation options:**

	We have the right amount - not too much, not too little	We need more of this	We have too much of this
Bike Lanes	79	415	11
Sidewalks	91	426	2
Bus Routes	235	229	10
Train Service	165	303	14
Crosswalks	303	190	15
Carpool Services & Amenities	249	185	11
Transportation Corridors	282	182	24
Marine Transportation	264	178	9
Public Parking	293	199	9
Handicapped Accessible Parking	329	136	15
Electric Vehicle Chargers	126	316	21

**What town do you typically commute to?**

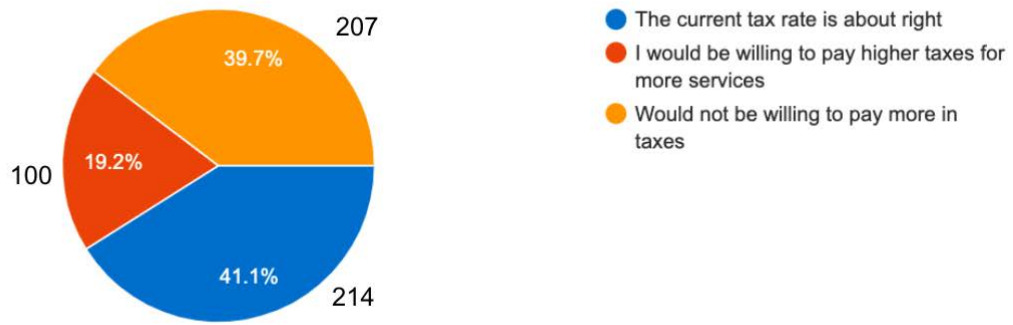
N/A	78
East Lyme/Niantic	58
Groton	58
Waterford	40
New London	36
Norwich	21
Hartford	18
New Haven	16
Old Lyme	15
Old Saybrook	13
Middletown	8
Uncasville	8
Mystic	6
Boston	5
Providence	5
Ledyard	4
Montville	4

Colchester	3
Guilford	3
Westbrook	3
Westerly	2
Rocky Hill	2
Branford	2
Windsor	2
Madison	2
Storrs	2
Noank	2
Willimantic	1
East Haddam	1
North Stonington	1
Wethersfield	1
Fairfield	1
South Windsor	1
Mansfield	1
New York	1

Shelton	1
Plainfield	1
Hopkinson	1
Meriden	1
Cromwell	1
Deep River	1

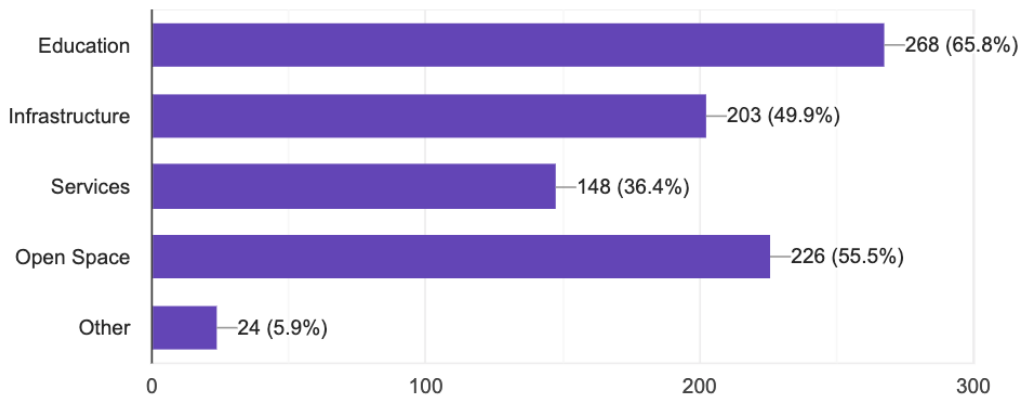
**Choose the answer that best describes your feelings about the tax level in East Lyme:**

521 responses



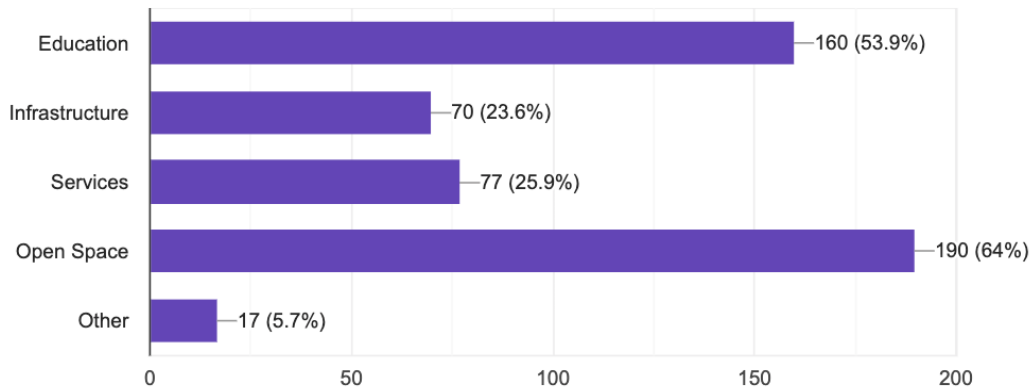
**Would you be willing to vote for a tax increase or to bond monies to fund increases/improvements to any of the below? (Check all that apply.)**

407 responses



## Would you be willing to make a donation to fund increases/improvements to any of the below? (Check all that apply.)

297 responses



### What is your great idea for East Lyme?

I think the reason people were drawn to East Lyme was at least partly the small town New England appeal and lately it has been losing a lot of that because it's becoming overcrowded and too built up. Hopefully there's a way to keep the town nice without building it up and giving it a city feeling. Sometimes too much of a good thing it's just that ... too much. Niantic has always been small town New England.

"I love this town!" - just the way it is. But, non year round residents should contribute more to our great town."

Discounted beach passes for the disabled (with proof of disability)

Promote/encourage/provide incentives for use of bus service (SEAT bus & 9 Town Transit bus)

Overall I am very satisfied. I would like to see high school sports make adjustments to the coaching staff. The current coaches have been there for decades and it's time for change. The games have changed but the coaches haven't changed with them. It is painful to watch excellent players turn into average players in high school. Particularly high school boys Soccer.

Hold restaurant owners accountable for better quality. Everyone leaves town to find a good meal. The towns north of us and south of us are superior. We should have better choices."

A bike path not on the road!

A community center that would attract all age groups. One where the different generations would be interacting. This way all age

groups could be learning from each other & have a better understanding of generations & cultures.

A full time professional fire department unified under one chief and including professional EMS services. People do not realize the lack of capacity our volunteer departments have and the lack of consistency between Niantic and Flanders departments.

A local business co-op to offer year-round branding events including arts, education, sports (sailing, biking, etc.), and ocean themes (climate change, marine life, etc.)

A new selectman

A railway station in town.

"A safety dpt. that knows all residents by name and any special needs of each, if any. With contacts arranged to insure no-one is abandoned or in need of basic human rights. A real community which we are not."

A summertime Jitney to travel between beach areas/restaurants/historic houses/shopping. Could be funded with a nominal fee to passengers/ major support from business owners/insurance coverage through the town/possible grants from State

A town whose separate departments collaborate more regularly especially with schools to provide services to the community.

A train station would be awesome and/ OR a pier into Niantic Bay.

A train stop/station in Niantic for Amtrak & Shoreline East.

Abandon the Honeywell building. Bad idea from the beginning. Sell it for more (it was such a great deal that had to be acted on immediately!) Build what is needed in the center of town. (Town garage area, Bob's, near Costco). Access via I95 from the isolated location of Honeywell to all areas of town will be limited during summer and every day when there's an accident. Ideally, save us all money and go back to a Resident Trooper town and we won't need the extravagant building.

Acquire Beers property on Fairhaven for open space/kayak launch.

Understand that residential development ends up costing towns more than the revenue produced.

Acquire more open space (remaining Oswegatchie Hills area, Hathaway property, etc.).

Maintain diversity of landscape, including distinct villages and cluster housing, single-home developments, farms and agriculture, forests, and distinct marine environments.

Limit future large commercial or industrial developments.

Follow the POCD - stop forever changing zoning regs to allow for creeping developments out of character with existing features (e.g., the buildings now going up near Pattagansett Lake on the Boston Post Road).

Adapt for the future and keep the small town, village feeling.

Add bike lanes

Add Kayak racks to the beaches for residents to pay a small fee to use to store kayak. This will be great for recreation as well as to access boat moorings in town waters.

Add more police force to address horrible driving and traffic in this town.

Adopt/implement recommendations found in the Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan, Harbor Management Plan, and Shellfish Management Plan.

All of the above depend upon the overall plan, the extent politics and funding sources play into the plan and the competencies of those executing the plan.

Allow more businesses such as Costco to build

An awesome miniature golf course, which would attract people from miles around. The course at the dinosaur place isn't that good.

An updated facelift on structures and complexes. Why can't our sweet Main Street mirror the look of Mystic or Old Saybrook? We have the best area on the shoreline.

No more antique shops. Food, food, food!

Guilford, Essex, and Middletown have hot spot restaurants and tapas establishments. Quality food, bring it here!

Arrange multi-town First-responder training events on Autism/Asperger's. Not only would this benefit the individuals on the spectrum and their families it would be a great way to bring together nearby community's for a good cause. Perhaps at the new Police Department facility?

As stated earlier I think EL should recognize the value of a diverse (age) community and not continue to lean as heavily towards school age families who benefit from all taxes collected disproportionately. Simply making all school properties open to all residents would be an easy first step in giving all taxpaying residents recognition for their taxes paid.

Attract clean businesses to the town.

Balance the budget and eliminate spending and borrowing so EL is out of the red and sustaining within the available resources that is EL only! Residents are moving out due to this factor.

Be fair to Tax payers especially the older ones who can't afford to live here any more

Be Fair to the retired members of East Lyme. My Taxes are too high for the home I live in. I would love to be able to afford to stay here but it is becoming increasingly more difficult because of the Taxes. I was the first Graduating Class from East Lyme High School. I was the Carpenter Foreman of the Boardwalk, I volunteered my skill and time to build the Children's Museum and Coached Soccer and Little League for 7 years. I am constantly called upon to help senior citizens in need and I do all of this Pro Bono

Beautify our Main Street with American flags.

Become involved with Ct Dept Ag Small Farm preservation program for joint State/Town monies to purchase development rights on small farms, such as East Lyme has. We currently are not, and this program will leverage town monies to preserve farms, and by so doing, help to protect groundwater that flows into the aquifers.

Better leadership at town hall

Better preschool options, snack bars at each of the beaches, splash pad for kids at one of the beaches, more events bringing people together, more diverse restaurants, better parks and rec options for working families with children

Bike lanes and a bike share system, including cargo bikes; solar panels on all town buildings, let's make East Lyme the greenest town on the East Coast and realize our greatest asset is our natural surroundings. If we lose them, we can't get them back.

Bike path!!!!

Bike paths and sidewalks on all roads leading into town. Bike paths connecting Waterford East Lyme and old Lyme.

Bike paths connecting the town, it's parks & beaches with Niantic center.

Bike routes and more sidewalks. Especially East Pattagansett Rd to Bush Hill Rd and all of 161 with a sidewalk.

Bike trails

Bike trails linking all areas of town!

Bring back fireworks

Bring in more NICE restaurants. We have lots of pizza joints, but few middle ground family eateries. We're always driving to other towns for this. Also, let's get a Whole Foods or Trader Joe's. Can't believe we don't have either.

Brings rails to trails here!

Build a long term plan for the ongoing use/future development of the town, through consultation with the public and provide an opportunity for everyone to have their ideas heard.

Build and improve on what currently exists. We have a strong public school system that should be supported and not attacked every budget season. We have natural resources (beaches and woods) that should have more access and visibility in the town. We have existing commercially zoned property that could be more effectively used. We have a strong well educated community. Keep that community in place and don't go off chasing the next big thing (i.e. big box stores, retirement communities, etc.)

Build right the first time, completely.  
Buy the Oswegatchie Hill from Russo

Change recycling collection from every 2 weeks to every week and change trash collection to every 2 weeks!

Change the governance structure, the First Selectman system does not work

Close main Street to traffic and make it a pedestrian square

Community Pool /Club house

Complete moratorium on commercial development like COSCO and large apartment complexes.

Composting pick-up for community garden

Income tax instead of property tax

Alternative fuel for school buses

Better drinking water quality

Community garden with summer jobs for youth

Connecting bike paths that can take you downtown from around town, less need for car parking and less traffic!

Consider widening RT 161 from Fanders Rd to Main St.

Move public offices to town owned 161/Roxbury rd. land , sell Honeywell for a profit

Continue focused development to increase tax base and sustain the high ranking of our schools

Continue to build community and value our natural resources for all people, all seasons

Continue to build the community spirit.

Control large commercial development. The Gateway Commons concept was from 20 years ago . No one could have known what has now happened (good or bad) but it should have been reviewed in recent years to limit the type of development. If we continue to allow uncontrolled development we only have ourselves to blame. East Lyme is losing its small town charm especially in the Flanders area

Converting the existing Community Pool into a true "Rec Center" by adding access to the connecting Basketball Gymnasium.



Create a walking/bike trail starting the river and going around Black Point and ending at Rocky Neck park.

Create an Innovation Hub

Dig out the south shore of the river and install transient docks that the town manages and put mounrings in the bay and have a water taxi to the hole in the wall

DISCOUNT Beach/Parking passes for DISABLED RESIDENTS

Do not over develop. Maintain the atmosphere that made East Lyme a desirable place to live. -

Don't lose small town feel. Get trees back on main street

Don't over develop East Lyme. This is really a great town...!!!

"East Lyme and Niantic in particular has become a destination for day visits. We need more eateries. Please keep it in mind when people apply for permits. Why not consider allowing food trucks. As Andy Pappas used to say when he ran/owned Constantine's, "More restaurants give people options and they will come to Niantic. Food Trucks will bring Interesting food choices and people. Thank you for the Survey!"

East Lyme is a beautiful community; we should ensure it does not get too big or commercial. Open space is critical to maintaining the small town feel, with our wonderful amenities!!

East Lyme is a great town to live in. My concern is that many people seem to think that no tax is justifiable. People need to understand that you get what you pay for, and we get a lot in East Lyme for our tax dollars.

Education grants- stipend provided to writer based on success of grant; endowment fund for education

End the spend-borrow-tax binge.

Enhance the Downtown area, limit low income housing.

Ev charging points. Free beach pass for residents. Handicapped playground at McCooks park like the new playground in Old Lyme. Improved playgrounds - ours are inferior to old Lyme and Groton

Every 10 years the town should get service that pumps sand from the bottom of the bay to rebuild the beaches that have been eroded away over time on the west shore of Niantic bay. I saw this take place one year in Key Biscayne, FL. It was the most amazing thing that I had seen. The year prior water was right up to a break wall

and the next year they had a beach that went out 25 yards from that sea wall. This would help preserve value of property and assure healthy tax revenue and also preserve the valuable beaches that this area has. You might think this is a crazy idea, but give it some thought please. I would pay an increase in taxes for something like this.

Expand downtown Niantic to make more of a destination like Mystic

Extended Library Hours

Fenced in playground and splash pad up in the flanders area of town!

Fill current empty commercial spaces! Put something kid friendly in the Bob's, like a roller rink or indoor climbing zone. A YMCA would be amazing.

Finish the new police building with cells. I'd love to see a shooting range for them/town people also. Police put their lives on the line for our safety. Let's keep them safe.

Fix the traffic situation

Fix town roads, remove corrupt politics, combine the fire service, centralize fire and police, sell the worthless building that was bought for ther new police department and build a centralized emergency operations building (fire, ems, police, 911, fire marshall and oem), build a centralized elementary school instead of wasting money on 3 outdated ancient schools. Last but not least more fire hydrants are needed in town. Install more or buy a fire tanker for the northern end of town. That is money spent wisely and creates more open land in town, 3-6 parks or even a dog park.

Focus on filling or removing empty commercial space in lieu of new construction

Focus on improvements, which will help increase development

Focus on schools and beach/rec access.

Follow first selectman Murphy's philosophy (he was first selectman when we moved to EL).

For it to become a smaller version of mystic. With a real downtown and real recreational facilities. Not half ass

"For niantic and East Lyme to become a cycling destination. Cyclists are an excellent demographic who have money to spend, are environmentally conscious and add to the quality of life of any town. Think block island, Martha's Vineyard, etc. anywhere bikes are

dominate is a thriving community where cars are secondary. Safety actually increases. Also there is a huge cycling culture among young people. They would bring a vitality and new businesses to town. East Lyme needs to start thinking of how to attract young professionals and I feel cycling is one way.

PS I find it very inspiring that the town is asking these questions!!"

Free WIFI downtown

Fulfill the promise Paul Formica made when he was selectman re the Hills. Stop Big Box development! We are not Waterford!

"Get a Train Station for Niantic!!!"

Get rid of the over head power lines in downtown Niantic, promote downtown businesses and keep Niantic main street quaint. the way it is going it wont look like Niantic anymore. It will just look like another small downtown

Get rid of unnecessary street lights and commercial and residential light pollution. The new LED streetlights are ridiculous. We waste a lot of electricity with unnecessary lighting at night which causes a lot of light pollution.

Preserve all open space possible and create an East Lyme Land Trust, much like Lyme already does.

Stop new massive housing developments.

Keep downtown as is, it's great!

Move Amtrak rail lines to the I 95 corridor, have commuter lots available at the highway/railway mass transit corridor. Then turn the Amtrak line along the shoreline into a rail trail.

Give more focus to arts and music. Right now the focus is more on sports. Empower artists to open up more small businesses in our town to make it more appealing to a diverse group of residents

Give seniors with low income a tax break.

Give teens more safe places to hangout and easier for them to get to jobs by biking

Grocery store in the center.

Grow the downtown Niantic area

Have a town manager instead of first selectman and a full time Human Resources Dept.

"Have a train station with a stop in East Lyme. Make it easier for us to travel without cars. Add bike lanes and sidewalks. Right now, walking and biking in town is not always safe.

Also continue to add to the vibrancy of our downtown. Bring unique shops and restaurants to town."

Help for the seniors living here. We can not afford any more taxes living on SS. We need a break so we can stay in the town we love.

Help the downtown small business survive by financial incentives.

High education standards chrome books for all students to create competitive students we are falling behind in technology

Hire a Town Manager.

Historical plaque program

I am hoping the town is able to fund the school district and renovations 100%. Budget cuts and lack of wanted to raise the education budget each year is something that scares a lot of the young families in town since the education system is one of the main reasons why people move to East Lyme

I am very content with the twin as is.

I do believe that the current and recent capital projects have been well done but I also believe we should slow down on spending for new projects now.

I don't have a Great Idea, because I think EL does a great job of providing what's necessary for a well-balanced community. But I would like to see ON LEASH dogs allowed in McCook PARK during the summer months. Other than inland trails, there's nowhere to walk a dog that close to the water in the summer. I would love to be able to walk my dog there and be able to sit on the benches and read, eat, or just take in the salt air and the view. I really can't imagine this being a problem for anybody. It would really appeal to those of us who walk our dogs and socialize with fellow owners at Cini Beach. We don't see as much of each other during the summer. It would be one more notch on the belt that binds our community together.

"I have never gotten over the fact that Bush Pond was ruined by the draining of Gorton Pond. It was a beautiful pond that you could have a boat, fish, and skate on. It extended down to Roxbury Road. It is now disgusting and overgrown. It breaks my heart to see it become such an eyesore. If I hit the lottery, I would have it dredged and restored! Only old timers like me could appreciate that though.

Honestly, I would just like to see East Lyme retains its quaint, small town demeanor like so many other New England towns."

"I heard Scottis Farm on the Pattagansett River may be coming on the market. It would be a good thing for the town to buy for open space or a park. It might be an idea for a community garden where people could have a small section to grow vegetables. It could also be used as a park with maybe a sports playing field like soccer or all the ideas combined.

Also sidewalks in the beach areas would encourage people to get out and be part of the community. It is also a safety problem in the densest populated part of town. More residential taxes are collected per square foot from there and yet very little is done to improve the walkability of the area. Black Point Road in particular is very narrow heading towards Old Black Point and needs to be widened or given sidewalks.

I'd also love to see another access to the boardwalk under the train tracks across from the town green.

I'm very much against the "Nantucket Plan" to restrict by law what can be down with downtown architecturally. Commercial interests have always worked with the town to achieve our "look". We don't need to be so restrictive that we chase small businesses away. We are not Nantucket nor do we want to be. I don't mind the movie theater architecture. It's a part of Niantic as well as other downtown buildings. I love the way the town feels; like a well worn favorite pair of jeans. It isn't posh, aloof Stonington, but comfortable, friendly Niantic, which is inviting. It's not so manicured that it chases away everyone. That's what draws people here. It is livable and welcoming and nonjudgmental."

I really am concerned about the direction the growth is taking. We need to be sure our resources are able to keep pace with the construction of places like Costco. Route 161 from the intersection of Society Road all the way to Flanders Four Corners has become so congested and unattractive that it takes away from the original appeal of our town. I am concerned that the desire for the almighty tax dollar has become the main focus. I would like to see very careful consideration given before more permits are given for ugly big boxes that generate yet more traffic and take away from our quality of life.

"I think town needs a board of local residents with background in buildings and land use to better help guide and recommend needed maintenance to town properties and buildings. IE a local hvac, plumber, electrician, structural engineer, civil engineer, landscape architect, architect, builder/carpenter and others. The Towns properties and buildings always seem to be in need of repairs from lack of maintenance. i think much money could be saved in better

maintenance of our town properties rather than letting them get run down and fixed when they have no choice."

I think we need to work hard to eliminate inefficiencies within the government in order to lower taxes while still providing great services to town residents.

I would like East Lyme to make this community more accessible to walkers, bikers, and public transportation by having bike lanes, continuous sidewalks

I would like it to retain more of a small town residential feel (like Old Lyme). It is fast becoming commercially overdeveloped and the roads overcrowded and under-managed.

I would like to see more environmental education programs, walking groups through town and the board walk, and more lectures in the library or other venues.

I would love a kohls department store

I'd like for the town to continue to have fundraising events, like Oyster Festival , even after the miracle league is built. It would be pretty cool if every year we chose to raise money for a cause that's great. The proudest I've been being a part of this town is when it came together for my friends's daughter who had cancer, and currently as we fundraiser for the miracle field. Things that unite us!

I'd like to see East Lyme remain small and quaint - I don't want to see any further development. I'd love to see the town add sidewalks and bike lanes to make it a more desirable place for pedestrians.

Improve retail, dining and marine accommodations to grow the economic potential that will also grow the town tax base.

Incorporate education to help better the community. Engage local schools on projects to help serve the community.

Increase boat access, including inoto boardwalk somehow, more like Greenport, southold etc...

Increase recycling pickup to once a week. We would be able to recycle so much more of it got picked up every week. I'd prefer trash to be picked up every two weeks.

Increasing a sense of community between Niantic & Flanders so that all residents appreciate the fantastic natural beauty and bounty this town has to offer.

Increasing opportunities for residential high density housing in downtown Niantic and Flanders. Bringing more people live in the downtown is a win-win for all! I would like to insure that the architecture of new building reflects the tradition of a New England coastal community.

Increasing town events throughout the year!

Install kayak/dinghy racks like many other coastal towns so that our residents have greater recreational access to Niantic Bay & Long Island Sound. Establish a dock such as the Sheffield Street dock in Old Saybrook where residents with mooring permits can pull up for short periods to load/unload their guests, take on supplies and rinse off their boat.

Installation of sidewalks

Institute 'complete street' structures on the main transport routes

Invest in our kids

It is upsetting that the Flanders area is becoming this huge commercial off interstate area

It would be nice to see more restaurants in downtown Niantic. Also, develop the marinas to bring in more boating.

Kayak racks at public beaches and a town dock with moorings for town residents to utilize.

Keep a community mind set

Keep bringing business and people into the town. There is still room. I know a lot of people assume there is not, but the taxes and money will help the town flourish and support the economic growth of all the small businesses.

Keep East Lyme Driving Range

Keep it a respectable small town where we are allowed to enjoy the quaintness and peaceful environment we have come to know.

Keep it a small New England coastal town

Keep it a small quint coastal town

Keep it a small town

Keep it great.

Keep it local. Reduce out of town people and stop drawing out of town people and activities.

Keep it simple. Great town with lots of family activities but feel like it's trying to out do itself. Just slow down and keep it simple. Keep is small town feel.

Keep it small

keep it small, the home town feel

Keep moving in the same direction. Our biggest assets are the great schools, small businesses and natural resources that surround our coastal gem.

keep Niantic as is

Keep our schools good, pay teachers more

Keep our small town feel and charge out of town tourists more to use our beaches.

Keep our small town small

Keep the current small town environment and culture.

Keep the small town character. Don't ruin this place with over development.

Keep the town small, not to much increasing of residential. Small community.

Keep up the good work

Keep up the good work.

Keep up the great work, and encourage a small grocery store to return to the village.

Keep up the great work. Maintain what we have.

Keeping it from turning into Groton

Large multi-use path connecting Niantic, Flanders and west flanders

"Leave East Lyme the small Town it is. Too much crime has been happening and the school system is not what it used to be. With the way residential and rentals are being built out school system will be bursting at the seams"

Leave it alone. Stop trying to fix what isn't broken. I've seen other communities destroyed from those that think a town needs everything, thus residents taxed beyond reason.

Leave it as a nice bedroom community, more undeveloped land as public space

less rapid growth and plan for ocean problems re water height

Less reliant on summer "tourism", more reliant on local services such as health services, small industry, and continuous improvement of the schools. Even though our children are 15 years past attending EL schools, we want even better schools and are willing to invest tax dollars into that

Let it stay a community outsiders not making the decisions

Let's not become Groton or New London. Curb development, promote redevelopment of existing structures. Make sure zoning requirements keep structures well built and attractive. Keep the beaches tranquil, if necessary make rules (example: no radios) to keep beaches from becoming ocean beach.

Link up municipal services with abutting towns to share resources.

Lobby to widen I95 between Saybrook and New London to improve public safety

Long distance sidewalks and bike lanes. No more developments.

Look at how Lyme operates and learn. Our taxes are scaring people away

lots of bike paths that are for bikes only - make it possible to get around town easily on a bike by using short cuts through the woods

Love East Lyme and would continue as is no great new idea

Make it a fully Accessible community.

Make it bike-able and walkable wherever possible - sidewalks and mixed-use development.

Make this community as sustainable as it can be!

Making it pesticide-free in favor of methods that don't kill natural control measures up the food chain. And being able to walk anywhere (via SIDEWALKS) would be great.

Lower taxes

Lower taxes

Lower taxes and get the schools to pay their fair share instead of burdening everyone with the 'I want's'

Lower the tax rate to attract more people to live here. Update the older buildings which are not deemed historical.

Maintain a reasonable tax rate, good education, and a physically attractive town,

Maintain and enhance the small town Charm of Niantic...it will dra

Maintain as an economically viable small town

MAINTAIN ITS GREAT REPUTATION

Maintain the basic character of the town, as well as its architectural legacy.

major bicycle lane route throughout the Town and adjoining communities

Make a flat walking path through rocky neck

Make downtown more of a quaint destination. Bury power lines, open up access from boardwalk to downtown with increases access points. Train stop to increase visitors.

Make East Lyme a model community for the use of renewable resources and the preservation of habitat that will ensure that East Lyme will remain a sustainable and beautiful community for future generations

Make sure the garbage and recycle trucks don't let garbage blow all over the place - what a mess it makes.

Make the new park on Main Street more environmentally friendly

Make the river/bay aquaculture great again public and commercial

Making Main Street a pedestrian-only area with mixed use buildings. More affordable housing in town. Bike paths/lanes. Sidewalks connecting Flanders and Niantic.

Market the town to people of greater diversity. We are too white & getting too old. We need to attract diverse people who will be the future growth & energy of the town.

Maybe I should have scrolled down first, but once again the walking, running, paved bike path would be amazing for our town.

Minimize growth and maintain small New England town charm

Monthly town meetings

More aggressive tourism program. That's an economic booster to our local economy

More commercial services, more affordable housing, more apartments

More Community Activities - the light parade, East Lyme day bring thousands of spectators, these activities show others what a "happening place East Lyme is". More activities and possibly a boat display/show in the bay.

More community involvement. Have a huge town baseball game. Promote it

More democracy, more attention paid to the average person and less elitism

More eateries coffee houses more diversity downtown, I hate to knock books but do we need 5 book stores

More family entertainment, mini golf, old fashion arcade room

More library services (& more advertising for them)

More night life, like a club with live music. When we first moved here there was Moby Dicks's in Waterford with live music, kind of a dive but great music.

More police at beaches over summer on patrol. Trader Joe's Niantic side

More restaurants and stores downtown and a dog park !

More sidewalks please!

Most things to do in the winter

Move to a town manager system of governance. We are way too big for a first selectman.

My great idea is to build a town center housing all the governing, administrative and emergency offices (even the police) north of I-95. Offer space to the USPS to get a decent Post Office in Flanders

Need responsive government representatives.

Need to find a way to sustain our current school programs with expected declines in state funding and anticipated increases in enrollment. This will likely limit our ability to invest in other priorities.

Need to resolve Flanders vs Niantic mentality. As a transplant this seems ridiculous.

New owners for restaurants where Smartys and Main St Grill are now. These are prime locations and would be hugely successful for the right operator. We would then be able to support even more shops and make Niantic a true destination.

Niantic by the Atlantic - finetune its character as a quaint seaside town that keeps and attracts residents and attracts tourists - not continued development of apartments, etc.

"Niantic is going in a fantastic direction. Our public parks and beaches are fantastic. I would really enjoy seeing improvements made around the Flanders area, especially from ELHS to Stop & Shop on Route 161 and from Flanders Plaza to Upper Pattagansett Road on Route 1. These improvements should include street lights like those in Niantic and continuous sidewalks (maybe even dedicated bike lanes off of the roadway).

I'd also like to see the town take control of the private ambulance and make it part of the fire department. The ambulance revenue can help enhance needed staffing. Additionally, there should be one career fire chief who oversees these operations. There have been a number of recent issues that justify this position. With the current documented lack of staffing, along with recommendations cited in the latest fire study, I feel regionalization is also a viable option. If we are going to keep our own FD, we should at least be working more regularly with Waterford. They are experiencing similar problems and could be an active partner in addressing these critical issues."

"NO BOX STORES NO BIG COMMERCIAL PROJECTS, BUILD ON WHY PEOPLE LOVE NIANTIC"

No more commercial development or apartment construction

No new taxes!

No town sports activities on Sunday

Not to grow any more but keep village quality

Old Lyme did the right things with Lyme St. Niantic should do that. Flanders road looks like Longhill Rd. in Groton. Nasty and common. And get those butt ugly crossing signs out! Who's bright idea was that! They are useless and disgusting. Those hideous things are disturbing every time I see them. Put some hiking trails in. How about a dog park for the dog owners who are always whining on the town pages about not being able to bring their dog to the beach. How about some bike paths too. If you can do that boondoggle of a "new" safety complex you can do these small thing for us.

Open access to the beaches in summer time to dogs in a.m. until 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. like they do in Wells, Maine. Add more community 5k's, walks and fun runs. Become the healthy, dog loving community. Maintain the school systems A rating.

Our commercial space is mostly linear. It would seem possible to have people park in one location (in any of the existing parking lots) and be brought up and down the street by shuttle bus.

Outdoor tennis,basketball, park area within walking distance to downtown

Pier

Plant trees around millstone to hide it from view

Please stop building on previously unbuilt on land.

Polish the gem that is Niantic. (But I don't know how to limit summer intruders.)

Preservation and added interest in downtown Niantic. A recreation center/field house is a must. The community center is great, but need other space and possibilities for recreating for all ages. Check south kingstown Rec center as an idea.  
preserve downtown

Preserve it for what it is. If growth continues, we will lose the small town feel of the community.  
Preserve our land next to the river.

Preserve the coast line -including along the River.

Prevent further development of Oswegatchie Hills; otherwise, stay the course

Private public partnership for solving our challenges

Produce a POCD that is realistic given external pressures of development and doable considering the inevitable conflicts in priorities.

Promote respect for others and the environment.

Protect and beautify our beaches

Protect our natural resources and they will continue to help support us

Protect us from being taken over by developers!!!! No more apartments/condos!!!! Protect our Environment for us now and our children.

Public bike share program like in Boston

Public parks that are not associated to a beach.

"Public private partnerships

Bike lanes

Bike Sharing

Universal WiFi

Community farms- gardens

Community aqua culture

Food coops

Spots around town people could adopt and plant..beautify

More recognition/ celebration of our students —especially thru local businesses

Celebration and support of our veterans

Venues for concerts, storytelling, etc.

Adopt a sister city Asia- Europe or US

Purchase better accessible building for Police, Dispatch,FM office. Very poor location for it now. Sell present building BEFORE they do any renovations.

Purchase Oswegatchie Hills for open space

"Put a limit on nail salons and pizza and sub shops which we have too many of and attract some more upscale and healthy dining

options or attractions to get people in here from other towns. Invest in the high school pool to grow a more robust swim program beyond racing for children and adults. Add outdoor family destinations like a large public pool and splash pad or an ice rink. I moved here from the Midwest and those things were in abundance and wildly embraced by the community. It brings people together in a way that is lacking here."

Put the brakes on future commercial development (like Costco and apartment complexes); seek leaner staffing for town government by improving efficiencies (such as excessive overtime) and develop a more vibrant volunteer force.

Rail trail on defunct line through downtown,

Recycling pickup weekly, trash pick up every two weeks.

Redevelopment/get rid of blighted properties

Reduce the number of employees in the schools and town by starting with the top positions. Get rid of anything that we don't NEED. Clean your own house before expecting more taxes from residents.

Regionalize, police, fire ambulance and public works

Regionalized services (like water project with NL) to avoid duplication that is needless, focusing on needs that require EL to honor alone.

"Relocate the police to the new building as it is and then expand to their needs"

Remove politics. Too much name calling lately and not enough teamwork.

Request the state to build a commuter train station at Rocky Neck beach. Workers could use during the week and tourist beach goers could use on weekends. Also, the currently vacant Bob's Furniture May be a great location for an indoor ice rink.

Retrofit neighborhoods so they are off the grid, support the growth of sustainable organic farming. Stop fluorinating the municipal water supply and spend the savings on desalinization and purification.

Direct development to retreat from the coastline and flood plains.

Renovate or relocate Town Hall into a more functional space. Sell the newly acquired Public Safety Building and construct a PSB in the vicinity of Lilly B Haynes (i.e. the Masonic Temple) or Gateway. Bring a satellite University to Town (Yale-they are the 2nd largest land owner in Town next to the State of CT).

Revised tax structure. Small towns and cities cannot rely on state funding any longer because state funds aren't there and the state is

finding it more and more difficult to fund the entire state. We need to become self sufficient. Pay 1% income tax to CT, 2% to EL, determine specific levies for school, city services, library. Total break with the state.

Save the Oswegatchie Hills from development

Sculpture park

Side walk from Flanders to Niantic, charge more for out of towns folks to park for beaches

Sidewalks/walking path to connect the rest of West Main Street to downtown

Skateboard park

Slow down development - commercial and residential. Keep the friendly village feeling in downtown Niantic, and enjoy the best asset of all - the water. The river and bay!!!

Slow down growth is too fast and Town is changing- not for the better

slow down growth of commercial/retail

Slow down on the development so we can keep the small town feeling. It is on the brink of being ruined in my opinion

slow population growth, bring in more industry to help with taxes. Do we need three elementary schools?

Small grocery store downtown

So it down and keep the small town appeal. As a town we are about to turn into the stepford village.

Solar lights on the boardwalk and open from 5 am till midnight, also allow controlled aquaculture in the Niantic River

Somehow acquire the property adjacent to Oswegatchie hills that goes to the Niantic River.

Start controlling the towns budget without raising taxes or bond monies. Overdevelopment/rapid development has brought new families into town that have put financial pressure on our town in numerous uncontrollable ways. Get control of our finances please!

Stay focused on quality schools, open spaces and a small town atmosphere with small local stores. Preserve the environment. This is what attracts people to East Lyme and we are losing it.



Stay quaint and clean.

Stay the course

Stop building more and more houses and commercial developments like Costco and the apartments, slow down on expanding the town.

Stop building more condos and apartments, we have enough.

Stop building these huge condo/apartment buildings and on-street downtown condos

"Stop building, leave it alone, make due with what we have.

Let us be a slice of history."

STOP DEVELOPMENT

Stop growing, stop developers from buying up land to build condos/apartments. Sell the Honeywell building and move the PD/dispatch/emergency center to the Bob's location

stop growth ; public water has been over used and quality lowered ; main road are over used keep EL the same not more not less.

Stop spending

Stop the development of Oswegatchie Hills and buy it

stop trying to B something we are not(Mini-Newport, RI) /people R leaving the area bc spending and taxes R out of control/ Thx

study the storm drain system as it could be a source of pollution in the sound

Support for an auxiliary/volunteer police force to manage safety of town construction zones, town and school events so that our paid police can be readily available to respond to serious public safety issues/events

Support the schools better!!!!

Tap into the tourist market and update Niantic more like Mystic. Revenues would increase for the town

Taxation is theft

Thank you for finally finding a home for police department. How sad they could have had a beautiful place at the Guard property at pine grove. I think the location now can be put to good use. Conduct

classes on public safety, guarding your credit cards, tips for keeping your home safe,

The applicant was not satisfied with the printed questionnaire

"The job market is not good at all. We need to attract more businesses-not just crappy retail businesses but ones that provide good paying jobs. Also, Costco was a mistake. Stop over developing and advertising this town as a huge tourist destination.

Get ride of the nasty crack motels on Flanders Rd. "

The town keeps getting better and better, I'm very happy with it.

The town needs more sidewalks and safe roadways for people to walk/run/bike. Increase speed detectors and increased fines for speeding. Too much has been focused on developing Flanders road or on downtown. It's time to get back to the roadways and support the neighborhoods (old and new) to increase outdoor activity among residents near their homes.

The town should not allow businesses to sell vaping products, it harms our kids. the state is doing more to impede this than our town.

Wake up and don't be over concerned about monies!

This was a quiet, lovely town when I moved here over 30 years ago. The increase in development and traffic has severely decreased the quality of life. It is no longer a pleasant place to live. I doubt there are any great ideas that can make it better.

To continue to grow and attract young people. Property values continue to go up and niantic uses its full potential.

To coordinate with other southeast Connecticut towns related to key services. This community is too small to be duplicating all of these efforts. To develop/help support the towns marina district with new waterfront restaurants, transient slips and more public access/park for the public.

To keep it like a small town as much as possible

to maintain what we have, not to have significant growth but to have places for the over 65 to downsize and the recent college grads to come back to and find jobs in the local area.

To make this town bike friendly and Education Aquatic Programs during Summer season like NESS in North Stonington. to save money by having regional county police chiefs and superintendent of schools, conn 169 towns, 150 superintendants, no

wonder education budget is so high pay these people and principals (usually 2-3 per school) more than governor

Too much bonding happening, not enough investigation into costs of projects, i.e. police building, water wells which should have been taken care of long ago. Costco not really paying their own way on taxes. This company has caused major roadway delays and traffic jams. Another item the town fathers have been not honest about. Residents have to use back roads to get around town.

Town dock! Scratch food in the school system that supports our local farms! Community garden downtown.

Town pool.

Tracking great. Limit big development, small steady growth to encourage more families to enlarge tax base and keep schools filled. We don't want to be Old Lyme with aging population, less students every year, unaffordable starter homes.

Traffic is issues esp. Flanders. 395 I95 merger! How can we put people on the Moon n cannot solve I95 traffic?

Train stop

Transient docks and moorings for visiting boaters like Greenport NY offers.

Transparency within government, more political involvement for community members (yes, that is their own responsibility, but you need to motivate people), actually following through with promises made to small businesses (Mark- you only favor the big business, keep in mind that you are not on their radar at all...Nobody at corporate is going "Oh, that Mark Nickerson. Let's ask to go 18 holes with him." But you are on the small business radar. Getting involved for your photo op, does not make you a supporter. It makes you an opportunist.

Try to bring in more entrepreneurs with money that would invest in Niantic. Loosen up the regulations for outdoor dining.

Try to hold what we have. It is possible that EL can get too attractive with the changes over the past several years

Try to maintain a slow and steady growth of East Lyme's economy and population size.

Turn Vets field into a dog park. Make a portion of each beach parking area "resident only" parking. Bring a small grocery store to downtown. NO MORE BOX STORES! And finally, invest in the teachers!!! They are the ones molding the minds of our future!

Two prosperous, bustling villages, Niantic and Flanders, with lots of folks out and about connected by safe walking, biking, and bus routes (both in town and connecting to neighboring towns and train stations).

Underground electrical lines mandated for new housing developments, and similar upgrades to established neighborhoods.

Upscale clothing and gift shops with convenient nearby parking

Use our natural, and historic, resources and citizens to become a regional center for organic farming and specialty food that serves the Northeast including New York city and Boston.

Use the money for the new public safety building and put it into the education budget. Educated individuals are less likely to draw on our public resources like police, fire and ambulance. We do not need to live in an over policed town.

Utilize spaces designated for commercial/industrial better. Stop burdening business by having residential development that complains about their operation on top of them. We are a great, tight knit community.

Walking trails or park/protected space along Pattagansett lake. It's such a beautiful spot

Water Taxis to surrounding areas and attractions. Continue to improve education rather than remain complacent.

We are located exactly between New York and Boston, one would think that would be a advantage.

We have lost our small town feel. No more big box stores and cement!!!!

We live here bc we love East Lyme and the small town, strong community feel it has. Development has been happening quickly throughout town. It needs to slow down as to not overwhelm our systems (school, sewer, etc). Otherwise the community events are fantastic and the people are wonderful...just don't want to grow so fast we lose that.

We need a Trader Joe's. We need more quality waterside/outdoor dining. We need a splash pad at McCook's. We need new housing in the 200-300,000 range. I want to see the Costco area developed with more quality shopping!!!!

We need more culturally diverse families! More green spaces.

We need to have a better plan for alternate routes and signage when I95 is closed.

We need to move forward like Mystic

We need to reach out more to other towns in CT that aren't as fortunate

We should invest the money we need for the police station we need, with cells and secure areas

Well this is in response to taxes but I wanted to mention that I don't mind paying slightly more so that single mothers and recovering addicts can survive. What I do mind is crooked politicians turning it into a profit machine.

Where can I look to see where tax money for East Lyme goes exactly?

Would love to see more ways community can get involved with helping each other. Preserve the 'good vibes' without making it difficult to afford living here. (My husband is a disabled veteran, and I am a teacher/tutor.)