

Critical Issues

We realize that the following critical issues must be addressed in order to move forward and effectively achieve our vision for Columbia:

- All public safety departments must remain competitive.
- There must be a clear strategy for reducing crime, including violent crime, in our City.
- Code enforcement must be improved.
- Homelessness of our citizens must continue to be addressed effectively.
- We must have a transportation system that supports all our citizens.
- All regulatory roadblocks must be adequately addressed to encourage growth in our city.
- Education & work force development must be a priority.
- Too many people in our community are unemployed or underemployed.
- Support for existing businesses is central to maintaining a strong economy.
- Our existing tax structures & fees should be re-evaluated to assure adequate support for our community and to stimulate growth.
- Quality of life within the City helps encourage economic development, include the arts & culture, tourism, enhancing our natural resources (including our rivers) and overall beautification.
- Increasing the tax base is vital to future growth of the city.
- We need to continually improve our public works, including water, sewer, storm drainage.
- It is vital to maintain our roadways.
- The most up-to-date information technology is needed to support all aspects of the services we provide.
- We must invest in and support our critical human resources.
- High quality customer services is the foundation to of our work.
- Consolidating and prioritizing our funding streams, to include the use of our water & sewer funds, will assure best use of resources.
- We want to encourage ongoing citizen input in all that we do.
- We live in a great city; our citizens need to be aware of all the good things that are happening.
- It is important that we remain transparent in all that we do so that we are adequately communicating our activities and are accountable to the residence of our city.
- We must use effective problem solving techniques.
- We are in this together – we want to promote regional cooperation whenever possible.

