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Citizen Comments on Open Ended Question 31

1. Flooding.

2. Follow rules & regulations always and be consistent with everyone.

3. No growth. Oregon used to be a lot like MT. Now there are too many people. The quality of life diminished. Save the Great State of MT. no growth.

4. The roads are not handling the new populations. Subdivisions should stop being built until the road will handle all the population. Maybe one way roads or more lane roads with overpasses.

5. Enacting zoning.

6. 1. Slowing down or even stopping new development. 2. Fire whoever thought constructing traffic circles in Montana was a good idea! 3. The next survey conducted should at least be contracted with an agency within the state of Montana, since our taxes are paying for it!

7. Allowing bicycle riding on roads with no shoulder, i.e. York Rd., Birdseye, Lincoln Rd. where legal speeds of 60-70 mph is an inexcusable OUTRAGE! The county sheriff and MHP and MDOT as regulators and enforcers are negligent enablers to a vocal minority. The share the road concept does not make it ok.

8. Standard culverts for drainage/more law enforcement. County commissioners have too much authority.

9. We are going to kill someone on North Montana Ave. from Bob’s Valley north if something isn’t done to improve the road.

10. Roads. My road is terrible. Gets bladed once a year whether it needs it or not.

11. Existing irrigation ditches are being filled in and altered. Causing problems to subdivision & agricultural land owner. We need to stop letting developers do what they want or just pay someone off. We need accountability and personal responsibility.
12. Reevaluate having 10 acre or less property sites. Increase size to at least 230 acres to limit wells and drain on aquifers.

13. Sorry, as an out of state landowner, we are not really cognizant of all these issues or problems. Will have septic when we build. Don't have a home yet. Will be private well.

14. New school and infrastructure in the North Valley as soon as possible.

15. You are looking for more tax $. There are more people in L&C County than the valley can handle. Don't get greedy for tax $. Most all the people can pay more. The income is not growing. No more tax.

16. Taxes on land based on use and water rights.

17. Less recreation land projects.

18. Make current subdivisions repair failed sewer systems and not county taxpayer funds.

19. We have government agents to handle these problems. Stop trying to duplicate services we already have. Use them. Stop taxing us. The developer should be paying these taxes. The developers start it, let them finish it.

20. Actually, the #1 area should be business development. Where is that addressed in the growth policy?

21. We have enough regulations already.

22. Clean air.

23. Green areas in subdivisions should remain green areas and not be allowed to be sold by the developer. Mandatory 2 separate roads for egress and access - in all subdivisions.

24. Flooding. If flooding is not addressed there will be a broad flood zone that will never be developed.

25. Schools?

26. No new homes should be built if the vacancy percentage in existing homes is above 10%, same with new business. We have too many homes and buildings not being used.
27. Who paid for this survey? The county government should stay out of the way of private ownership rights!

28. The use of bikes on narrow and heavily used roads.

29. Flooding in the Helena Valley!

30. We have to guard against do-gooders threatening private property rights.

31. Whoever develops should be held accountable for water, wastewater, roads, fire protection, etc.

32. There are no blanket solutions to the challenges in this poll. Flexibility according to areas needs to be allowed. Government intrusion is a sensitive issue - both from a cost standpoint & true needs.

33. Pave more secondary roads - lower standards.

34. Full disclosure of past and present lawsuits.

35. Curb development if it is exceeding the level of sustainability of resources.

36. Our water supply should be safe from wildfire and terrorism. Wastewater should have accountability. I think most of the roads have gone to hell. So apparently there is no hurry there. It all takes money, doesn't it? I'm moving from L & C to Arlee Montana where growth at any cost is not a mantra.

37. Drainage issues on most roads in the valley and surrounding areas. Culverts are always plugged on the country roads in our area when we need them the most.

38. Proper zoning -- commercial, agricultural, residential.

39. Decrease speed limit on I15 within city limits.

40. Flood Issues - Ten Mile needs to be diked. Apply for grants to engineer and develop effective stormwater and retention discharge. Plan according to the future growth needs. Peoples' homes should not be flooding. No reason for it.

41. The ditches along county roads should be mowed more often. The weeds and grass are extremely high in our area off John G. Mine, it poses problems seeing traffic, etc.
42. Slow down development till you can take care of what you have.

43. We believe that each person has a responsibility to protect our environment. Suburban sprawl must be kept in check throughout the county or we will all suffer the consequences. Continue to push awareness to the community and get involved as needed.

44. Zoning - Commercial v. Residential v. Agriculture

45. Overall number of people. Limit growth.

46. Speed limits on Lincoln Road East and West are too HIGH. It is difficult coming off the side roads when they are traveling 70 mph.

47. Lack of any road maintenance on rural county roads.

48. Improving dirt sections in between paved county roads (Lake Helena Drive, Valley Drive). Also, high traffic roads - (Hauser Dam Rd)

49. Stop light for North Valley interstate exit. Stop signs on N. Montana North of Lincoln Rd.

50. Open space land for native residents’ use. These lands were ours to use without restrictions and growth has not considered what every Montanan is losing. This is a travesty and all future generations will suffer from it.

51. Too damn many people moving in.

52. You covered it - improve & expand public infrastructure!

53. The developers who are making all the money from the development should have to pay for all of the infrastructure, including roads, water, sewer, and fire protection. If that means the homes cost more, so be it.

54. Open Space. Recreation Opportunities.

55. Maintain and Improve County roads in existing subdivisions. The county tends to list order developments as a local priority, thus we see very little maintenance while paying the same tax rate.

56. Fireworks, small apartment housing nest hole for drugs and alcohol, just like trailer courts.
57. Paving roads in subdivisions that should have been paved years ago.

58. Upgrading gravel roads. Walk/bike paths on Green Meadow. Timing of traffic lights for more traffic flow.

59. Roads inside at new subdivisions are not wide enough!

60. Develop more walking and bike paths from Valley to city.

61. Questionnaire sounds like you have already decided some issues.

62. Country Club Lane desperately needs to be redone. Bicycles should not be allowed on Birdseye or Country Club - they are dangerous on the roads.

63. I think taxes need to be raised in the County. There isn't enough revenue to do a satisfactory job of maintaining high quality services.

64. Deal Lane should be paved all the way from York to Lake Helena Drive. Various rock companies send their trucks across the shortcut (Deal) and they are loud and do not drive the speed limit. Paving Deal in its entirety would reduce noise and dust significantly from the summer traffic flow.

65. L&C County needs to plan 50 years into future, not for today.

66. Reducing litter, of which there is a great amount. Air pollution.

67. I feel growth is way too far ahead of infrastructure. Our streets, roads, intersections are about six years behind the growth of homes and business! Schools are about 10-20 years behind.

68. Ban fireworks as most cities have done.

69. Helena should stay within the current city limits and leave the county as a separate governmental unit.

70. There should be incentives to builders to annex subdivisions into the city. Helena has the most new homes built outside the city limits in the state.

71. The lawsuits. Money from the lawsuits would have been nice to spend on needs for the ones that pay taxes.
Responses to Citizen Survey Open Ended Questions

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72. Why is it necessary to farm our needs out to the East rather than continuing state & county concern. We know better what needs & concerns should be addressed.

73. Our county commissioners should start following the laws and stop costing the taxpayers millions of dollars in losing lawsuits. That's money that could be used to better our county in other ways.

74. Wildlife and stricter enforcement of animal welfare laws.

75. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. I do not want to subsidize development. Development should occur near existing roads & services. If people want to build in fire-risk areas or out beyond existing roads let them pay through their noses to do it, but don’t ask everyone else to.

76. Bring the Valley into the 21st century. Raise taxes to cover all roads be paved w/in 10 years including roads where houses exist but not county Rd.

77. I live 1/2 block outside city limits on Leslie between Joslyn & Linden. Cars speed down the unpaved block of Leslie from Country Club Drive. The dust is horrible. Children's safety & the safety of pets concern me greatly. The county needs to increase traffic patrol or install traffic controls in that area. Also, it should do something to control the dust.

78. I feel existing properties should be grandfathered with existing wells, septic tanks, & covenants.

79. Flood control.

80. Bike paths. Recreation centers built for the public use by the county would be very nice!

81. Helena Sand & Gravel should not be allowed to destroy prime agricultural land.

82. Keep up with the infrastructure and not fall behind as this could create a huge cost in the future.

83. You and people who want greater income want growth-we do not want to encourage growth that’s why we moved here. People who profit from growth-developers builders should have a tax on each home to pay for needed infrastructure.
84. We need a new city/county incarceration facility to deal with the increased and increasing workload of prisoners. Sound growth policy. Agricultural land preservation, etc., etc. a megabond issue we can’t afford.

85. More patrolling of county roads by local law enforcement. People drive too fast in & out of town.

86. Paving Lake Helena Drive between the causeway and Deal Lane.

87. Open space & bike/trail system with routes around traffic/bridges/tunnels. Flood mitigation. Air pollution from wood-burning stoves heat & from dust on the dirt/gravel roads.

88. Schools & snow plowing.

89. Why is paving of all interior roads at the Fairgrounds considered a priority when Green Meadow, Applegate etc. experience substantial traffic year round and have minimal maintenance?? Let’s pave these prior to the luxury of paving Fairgrounds!!! Due to high mineral content of well water, refill container w/reverse osmosis water for coffee maker, etc.

90. I do not need to be charged $60.00 to tell me how to care for my septic system.

91. Snow removal & road maintenance needs improvement!

92. I am totally frustrated at the incremental and steady rate of tax increases. If I improve ANYTHING, the idea of taking pride in one’s improvements is TAXED. I also do not understand why the increased horse ownership is not considered when the issue of septics is debated.

93. I think the USFS should be more responsible for removing beetle kill trees on their land. The USFS is my only neighbor that has not removed their dead trees. I think there should be pro-growth policies for future development.

94. Country Club/ Head Lane is a prime example of our roads poorly maintained.


96. Your anti-growth policies & other decisions have cost us taxpayers enough already. Wake up you sheep.
97. Need crosswalk for bridge creek subdivision across Mt Ave.

98. Urban decay or rural decay such as junk cars and trash in people’s yards. This makes some areas of Lewis County look like a third world country.

99. Flooding control. Quit wasting money on lawsuits with developers.

100. Misusing subdivision laws where there is no zoning.

101. Stop permitting development in forested and/or wildlife interface zones. The Scratch Gravel hills and nw side of Mt Helena are two areas the county (and city) have permitted housing development that is unsafe & inappropriate too. Get ahead of the valley development vs. water quality & quantity. Encourage demand better building!

102. Growth impact in school systems.

103. Lewis & Clark County government does not do much of what it attempts to do very well. Therefore, it should endeavor to do less!

104. Lower speed limits on York Rd/Wylie Dr get the valley cleaned up! Most of the valley looks like an auto/mobile home salvage yard! Make property owners clean this up! Canyon Ferry Rd is a gateway to the lake & 1/2 of it looks like a junkyard! Fix the roads!!! And did I say fix the roads? They are falling apart!

105. Traffic is getting worse-infrastructure needs to expand.

106. The county should maintain county roads that they discontinued maintaining a few years ago. Snow removal and grading are important to our neighbors. We are all also taxpayers!

107. Making roads accessible for ALL users, including bikes and pedestrians; requiring sidewalks/paths in all subdivisions and in all road projects. Adapt smart growth policies for new subdivisions. Adopt complete streets.

108. More closely monitor new development growth due to water issues!

109. School planning.

110. North Montana Ave above Linan Rd is horrid. It needs to be repaved. Chip sealing is a waste of tax dollars.
111. Comment- this survey seems very slanted in the wording of some of the questions (e.g. #6) avoid some questions seem totally illogical (#9-so??) I'll be interested in seeing if the results are useful ... or even made public!

112. Yes, I said roads. And our water is very important!!

113. Pedestrian/Bike trails along Montana Avenue from Sierra Road to Lincoln Road.

114. Helena valley must have its own sewer system. Not city of Helena. We need to develop our own system. I live outside of the city in order to avoid silly city politics.

115. Weed control- currently it is not adequate along county roads.

116. Buses!! No public transport in many areas. Speeding and/or noisy non-licensed vehicles running up and down inside a subdivision or close to others’ homes. There is very little to stop these dangerous drivers.

117. Need to watch the developers the most to take care & protect all areas. The private owners not so much.

118. Do not approve new subdivisions unless adequate school services exist. Ease flooding in Helena Valley.

119. Floodwater control. Survey work was done on much and there it sits with nothing being done! When are we going to get a timeline?

120. I believe everything has been covered.

121. There are too many government entities in everything at this point.

122. Build an onramp at Prairie Rd. to I-15.

123. North Montana Rd north of Lincoln Rd is terrible and there needs to be a traffic light at the 4 way stop at Bob's Valley Market to alleviate traffic in the mornings & evenings.

124. Stop wasting tax money on feasibility studies and fix ten mile creek flood problem.
125. Please consider having Canby employees stop driving heavy vehicles. Please also consider raising local gas tax. Also please consider increased economic development & support of taxed as a means of increased tax revenue for infrastructure development needs.

126. Develop a county wastewater system and a county plan. Don't get hung up on water availability. Thanks.

127. Developing (subdividing) the good agricultural land in the valley, especially irrigated areas. Are these areas being taken out of production for good reason? (i.e. building houses)

128. Too much growth and too fast.

129. My opinion on new growth - developers should shoulder most of the burden, then the new homeowner & then lastly, me the taxpayer.

130. Work that has been contracted by the county needs to be inspected to make sure it is done correctly. An example of poor work accepted by the county is the poor chip seal job in La Casa Grande Estates.

131. Subdivisions that are gravel roads who have paid taxes for more than 40 years and are choking on the dust and getting one scrape from a grader once a year.

132. Valley bus system please for seniors & disabled persons please...

133. Zone issues - e.g. land use, commercial, agricultural, junk, etc.

134. I feel the developers of subdivisions should make sure septic & groundwater are viable features before selling any lots or making a subdivision. Make sure there is adequate space to fix problems that arise.

135. What areas are left open/agricultural. Should subdivisions be encouraged and not 5-10 Acre plots - density of housing and infill.

136. Turning lanes by Rock Hand Hardware (in that stretch.) Light at Janet St & Hwy 12 by the car dealers.

137. Alternative transportation options for those in new subdivisions. School/busing and higher building standards.
138. Thanks for doing this survey.

139. County to take care of gravel roads more than one time a year.

140. Please consider putting a stop light at Montana & Lincoln Rd. I feel, and many others feel this will decrease congestion at key hours of the day.

141. I have been to meetings on these issues. I know in my heart that you people have your mind made up!

142. Property maintenance. Several homes are fire threats by junk car clutter around these homes.

143. Access roads to public lands.

144. Better system of sanding and clearing snow during winter hard-packed soil roads turn to gumbo & are not maintained well: add gravel or grade during spring thaw.

145. What about Law Enforcement? Just like firefighters they will need our increase. And we can't have volunteer police.

146. With the tax amount on subdivisions being much more than when the land was agriculture the roads within the subdivisions should be maintained by the county.

147. Availability of schools & parkland as part of new developments.

148. Maybe flooding issues.

149. In our neighborhood (off York Rd.) we have been trying for years to get the county to do something about a neighbor with a do-it-yourself non-inspected septic system! No luck. The latest is we can't trespass. So why did all the rest of us have to have approved & inspected systems???

150. Yes, developers should include more green space & many more multi-use trails & walking/bike paths. Too much money is being spent on soccer & softball fields. We need to get bikes & pedestrians off the roads & in a safe place.

151. Road repair & maintenance as a function of population increase in Birdseye.
152. The snowplows in the city plowed people in - in front of their own homes. We could not park in front our home because of what the snow plows did. We are elderly & disabled!

153. The road standards should be returned to the previous standard the new county road standards create a safety issue with increased crown and deep steep ditches. The dead trees should be removed, especially in the watershed.

154. No new taxes!!!

155. Fix Lake Helena Drive correctly - Fix the Causeway Bridge - Enforce speed limits - Raise fines for all traffic violations.

156. My biggest concern is how the railroad blocks my access to my house hours at a time. In the months of Dec., Jan., Feb. - 14 hours spent waiting for trains.


158. 1. Protecting the last of the agriculture land left with agricultural zoning. 2. Consistency in zoning for housing. Single wide trailers allowed only in specific areas. Abandoned trailers on land prohibited. 3. Preserve rural areas.

159. Flood plain areas.

160. Road maintenance and safety improvement is non-existent. Just a matter of time until a fatality occurs on Birdseye Rd due to poor conditions with increased volumes and biking/pedestrian traffic. The county is aware and chose not to ever plan for necessary upgrades.

161. Better run off paths for flood water.

162. Controlling growth residential & commercial to ensure the infrastructure is in place before it’s overwhelming.

163. Why do snowplows run up & down roads when there is 1 inch of snow - sometimes twice a day - then when we have a heavier snowfall they're not around for one drop. I live on Tizer Rd. which is a school route???

164. Currently subdivisions get away with murder - county should be pro-active in dealing w/ new subdivisions.
165. I hate seeing all the pollution in town from so many cars. I would like to see a clean fuel public transportation system. I also don't like all the coal trains; they help cause pollution.

166. Transportation outside the city limits for those who cannot drive.

167. School infrastructure!! Develop mass transit between our large cities.

168. Do not place homes on tracts less than 5 acres. Do not divide irrigated land into tracts that are less than 10 acres.

169. Contractors who build subdivisions should be responsible for making sure that 1, 2 & 3 then 4 are available before building.

170. Private sewage treatment facility, whole subdivision.

171. How far Helena City limits are expanding. I like it where it is now & worry on the county’s behalf that if Helena wants to move the limit the county will lose too much money.

172. Helena is a Closed System Valley, yet unrestricted development is still being encouraged. Those in charge are running the quality of life in this area. I plan to leave within the next few years.

173. Clean out ditches and build better water runoff ... dig Ten Mile out.

174. Require 2 acres for a well and septic tank and drain field.

175. Fairly applying existing land use and zoning laws to everyone.

176. Flooding and drainage in the valley are direct results of poor planning during road & subdivision development. This should be dealt with as well.

177. The discard of unused construction materials etc. that are never picked up. High winds blow these through all around for miles & could cause injury & even death to people. Car wrecks on the road for miles around, damage to other structures, etc. besides all the litter & the builders & contractors don't care.

178. Where can they get water from besides Ten Mile? What about improvement to Missouri River plant to provide more water for growth.
179. Consider spending more money on all four of these issues instead of spending massive amounts of money at the fairgrounds. There are more important things!

180. Quit patching roads over & over again (Country Club Lane, for example) and fix it right!!!

181. Property taxes are way too high especially on commercial property they are now punitive.

182. Right-of-way access to landlocked property.

183. Snowplowing. Numerous intersections with no signs in the Kessler Elementary School area. One will have a yield sign then the next a stop sign then the next has nothing. Why?

184. Stop forming RIDs with the notion that that makes the road a county road. Limit number of subdivisions in North valley. That is where your septic & water quality issues are coming from.

185. Speeding on the county roads.

186. Developers should contribute to a fund to upgrade/provide new schools required for development outside of the city.

187. Right now we would like more signs put up and the roads better maintained.

188. Public transportation outside city limits.

189. Why is the county contracting with a Massachusetts survey firm rather than the University of Montana public administration program. Faculty, staff & graduate students in that program would likely provide the same or better results at under cost!

190. There should be clear guidelines to building new subdivisions; water availability, road conditions, safely treat wastewater, and provide homeowners with a sense of safety

191. Stop development until infrastructure has caught up & old systems updated. Developers to pay for all infrastructure costs.

192. New schools come first! Development of subdivisions should not be allowed without infrastructure and new schools.

193. More county involvement in policing rural subdivision CCR’s and building codes.
194. Schools availability.

195. Although not an issue, I would like to see a park in the North Valley area.

196. Varied speed limits - Road shoulders (more uniform)

197. We need more parks in the Helena valley. The developers of new subdivisions should plan for them & be made to maintain them.

198. In new subdivisions (within) road be on grade with ditches & county improvements to be in place to include stop signs, road built with gravel base, not dirt & compacted.

199. The County Health Department has done a good job.

200. Maybe more retail stores to look at Helena so the majority of its residents wouldn't have to travel 80-120 miles for decent shopping.

201. New schools for elementary & middle school students in the valley. Less parks and more schools in subdivisions.

202. Enforcement of zoning junk vehicle laws. There are some real junky parcels that don't conform to standards. There is very little effort put forth for enforcement, as far as I can tell.

203. We could bring the sewer out into the valley for the 2-4 million they are paying in lawsuits.

204. Weed control.

205. Pave Lake Helena Drive. Since moving here 7 years ago there have been 7 cars that have gone off the road into our neighbor’s property. Does it take a death to get you people to move?

206. Roads in current subdivisions that were originally agreed to be maintained by the county should continue to be!

207. I believe that decision-making in Lewis & Clark County should be made by Montanans, not people from other states.

208. Poor decisions by commissioners have cost the county thousands in lawsuits.
209. Yes - I would put surface water run-off above your priorities and fix flooding: Lower some roads, use as flood drainage ways, upgrade culverts, just provide for floods.

210. Maintenance of improved roads (paved).

211. Letting residents know what is going on - what options we have - seems there are more surveys than action.

212. Need to focus on transportation & roads. Stress development and redevelopment within city limits.

213. Flooding - where the water route go when spring runoff comes

214. You build you pay. You as a homeowner/landowner are responsible for maintaining your water & wastewater. The new inspections are a good thing - maybe once every 10 years.

215. When new housing areas are built, roads & traffic should be a priority and roads should be maintained by the county (roads with heavy traffic.) The Birdseye Road is poorly maintained.

216. There should be an impact fee put on new homes in Lewis & Clark County. (outside the city limits) This would help pay school expansion & road maintenance. Start with $2000 per new home. City taxpayers shouldn't have to subsidize rich developers who don't have to worry about schools, fire departments, etc. The commissioners should not have allowed the permanent fairground levy to be on the upcoming ballot; we have more important issues than horse barns.

217. Do not force current homeowners on private wells to use city water. We do NOT want to be on city water!!

218. Businesses - more tech-type & more manufacturing, skilled labor and develop a wide range of tax benefits to get major companies to come to Lewis & Clark County.

219. Roads are not set up for how fast we are growing.

220. Schools in the Helena Valley. Schools should be built in the valley & paid for by residents via the county.

221. Poor/slow snow removal.
222. Careful to balance regulating with being too restrictive. County should focus on basic services - don’t need any more parks or fairgrounds fluff - roads, fire, law enforcement are basic services county should provide 1st.

223. This survey should have been conducted by a Montana company, NOT one in Massachusetts.

224. Curb urban sprawl.

225. Flood control.

226. With the development of new housing the county should use the increase it receives from more taxes to pave roads and the county fairgrounds should be self-sufficient since only a few people and businesses profit from it.

227. Need roads to be painted more often - and need lights on roads in town.

228. Need to remove all this red clay and use the required material or pave the roads. Clay is slick and dangerous.

229. Snow removal is very poor at best.

230. Private property rights.

231. They should write a survey which does not ask leading questions. The survey should allow comments on each question. I am very disappointed with the way the questions were asked.

232. The roads in the North Hill area are bad.

233. Education.

234. Fix Bobcat Road - The most traveled road in Treasure State subdivision and in the worst condition. Where does our tax money go?

235. Affordable housing!! That meets the needs of today’s population in Helena & moving to Helena.

236. Stop unrestricted subdivision; build in current subdivided areas. Unlikely, but I’d like to see growth slowed.

237. Air quality from wood burning.
238. Dust control on roads.

239. Make new subdivision builders responsible for road improvements to their new subdivisions, not just ones in the subdivisions.

240. Working with Forest Service to protect public lands from destruction by motorized vehicles. Priest Pass is one area that needs a thorough motorized vehicle plan.

241. Adding impact fees on development.

242. Very poorly-worded questions! Why an out-of-state firm contracted to do this survey?

243. Better and more intelligent zoning.

244. Yes - flood control from Ten Mile Creek.

245. If L&C County is facing a water shortage then there should be restrictions placed on usage (i.e. watering lawns, swimming pools, etc.).

246. Identify preferred growth areas, streamline process, and precipitate central water & sewer if possible.

247. County parks, making use of fairgrounds facilities (BLDGS) affordable.

248. Flood mitigation.

249. More deputies for patrolling the county.

250. Proper annexation and clean-up of blighted areas.

251. Urban sprawl. Contract was mostly outside L&C County.

252. Inadequate maintenance of Elkhorn Road, RID fees paid, last grading job knocked crown off this private road, estimate if loss to crown (5 years Montana) with put a crown this roadway will erode away leaving 4x4 ruts behind. Currently, seriously expensive issue!!

253. Every issue involving the people should be at least considered.

254. Tell citizens why taxes are so high in the county. We may buy in more to whatever if we know why you need more money than most counties to provide the same services.
255. Development of industry with adverse affect on agriculture, schools, roads & water resources.

256. Without good roads nothing else really matters. People like a rural life without government interference, and need to take responsibility for their own property, and be able to use their own property as they see fit. No private person should be held responsible for maintenance of county roads - that's for the tax base.

257. The cost of society and the community for the resources lost, by locking up in development (housing & commercial sites. ex: Ag, gravel, timber) Need to designate areas where priority is given for/to farming or gravel pits or timber land.

258. Condition of paved roads in East Gate. If not repaved soon, they will need to be repaved at county expense.

259. Flood control/prevention for new developments.


261. Schools.

262. Law enforcement service should be increased as population increases, especially the jail.

263. Subdivision regulations and costs need to be reduced. It is extremely difficult for 1-3 lot subdivisions to be created due to excess road requirements.

264. Pave the 2 miles of highway near the causeway!!!!


266. Stop making individuals who reside in L&C County pay for new housing subdivisions. Section 8 needs stronger monitoring in the East Valley. We are now living in a decaying neighborhood because the county does not stop or become involved with many issues, regulations, & city law.

267. Guidance for safety & evacuation plans on all new developments

268. A Helena Valley Waste Water Treatment Plant (or plants) should be designed/developed as priority #1.
269. Schools and parks in new development areas. There should be fees/assessments set up to pay for these when new development goes up.

270. Flood control of Ten Mile Creek down McHugh & Mill Rd.

271. Education on how the current situation got out of hand. The factors which contributed. A plan for addressing the issue and a time for completion or reason the issue can't be addressed correctly. This questionnaire is a wonderful start! More writing space.

272. Infilling & gentrification needs to receive the most support and can be the least expensive alternative. Also, modifying building codes to be practical for site & region.

273. Infrastructure, schools, parks.

274. No growth is good growth!

275. Work together.

276. Valley Drive and Lake Helena Drive. Big holes and cracking pavement. Big trucks from Helena Sand & Gravel are tearing up roads.

277. Don't raise my taxes! Don't add fees in place of taxes!

278. Developers who don't provide adequate resources for new homes, i.e. road maintenance, water, sewer.

279. Pave the Franklin Mine Road or Head Drive Road or both.

280. The county needs to do their homework and stop getting in lawsuits that the county settles on the backs of taxpayers.

281. Saving open space.

282. Increased railroad traffic - roads are often blocked for upwards of 30 minutes.

283. When there are new people moving to MT they should be told beforehand if they can have a basement or not, being that they don't know the area. Then let it be known that they know.
284. Inflation - higher building costs - look at needed long-term needs and address them now before it would result in high property taxes or means of funding passed on to an older or retired homeowner.

285. Because of growth, lower the speed limit in some areas like York Rd, McHugh, North Montana. It is extremely dangerous pulling on or off these roads with traffic approaching at 60+ mph.

286. Traffic being generated on county road due to large developments being built out of city limits. The train schedules.

287. Developing adequate drainage to prevent flooding!

288. Growth is good. Why are these forms sent out of state?

289. Flooding - particularly Prickly Pear and Ten Mile.

290. I feel planning for growth should be done, but plan for a huge future so taxpayers don't pay for the same thing over and over. Make roads, water systems & sewers way larger than the normal 10% growth. Build them big enough to sustain all growth.

291. Crime increase (Sheriff Dept.)

292. Reduce vehicle-deer collisions on Green Meadow Road. It is a dangerous situation. Improve Lincoln Rd at Green Meadow Road intersection. It is too dangerous.

293. County commissioners & planning board stop acting like all citizens are under their rule (as a king). Look at concerns of people in an area by area situation.

294. You are all doing a fabulous job. Don't get carried away. Please temper your decisions.

295. Maintain adequate sheriff services as the county grows.

296. General Comment. When considering a home out of developed areas, you should have enough of a brain to know you will have to live more primitive (less services) or pay to live more independently. You can't live in the forest yet expect all the services you receive in a city, unless you need a brain transplant or are willing to pay for the services yourself.

297. I think that local and state government should always tread lightly and seek to work with private and business interests. Not issue cast-iron edicts.
298. Sidewalk accessibility!

299. Developing a long-term road maintenance plan to eliminate the increasing number of RIDs, people. Pay to get basic snow removal and road maintenance services. This is a basic fundamental need that needs planning and funding county-wide.

300. Bike trails and keeping sidewalks clean.

301. The regional group developing new areas should be responsible for water, roads, and wastewater (now) and future of the development (fire protection also).

302. Road maintenance and bridge maintenance. Better public involvement in drastic policy changes. I.e. interim zoning.

303. County commissioners need to start thinking and listening so the county isn't sued every other week. Do your job, maintain the roads. Get real if you make a developer incur the cost, a home will be out of reach. Quit taking my money & giving it away in welfare & other social services and spend it where it belongs - roads, fire, police, parks.

304. This is a biased questionnaire and not particularly valid. The county and developers need to work together to achieve quality development.

305. All rural roads leading to taxpaying individuals.

306. If wastewater issues are a concern of the Helena Valley, residents outside the valley should not have to comply with the strict Helena Valley rules.

307. There needs to be a stop light at the Ten Mile Estates sub-division due to increased traffic. Many days I must wait for 40 cars to go by on Montana Ave. before I can pull out of a subdivision. With children in car, this is dangerous to try to pull out.

308. Roads, Roads, Roads!!!

309. Ten Mile Creek floods many times in the spring but there seems to be nothing done to deal with the runoff.

310. I think L & C County is doing the best it can.

311. People hooking into single dwelling septic systems with more dwellings.
312. Helena needs more shopping and friendly business. I shop out of town for major purchases.

313. Base your reasoning on facts, not opinions.

314. Nice houses and then let singlewide mobiles go next door. Schools - letting development go where no schools are.

315. I feel they are over doing the permitting on building!

316. Agriculture should be forced to go organic when using fertilizers and/or pest & insect control. Agriculture poses the single largest threat to our groundwater quantity and quality.

317. Availability of public schools in the neighborhood that the people live in out in the North Valley.

318. When people buy without covenants they should not be allowed to change it later to a zoned area. I bought my parcel without covenants and I want to see it stay that way.

319. I feel that in most areas of Montana, including my home area of Bozeman, that too much growth is being allowed!! Too many people coming in from out of state; more crime, more traffic, more drain on natural resources, loss of agricultural land - put some control on it. Us natives don't like the huge growth!!

320. Every time a new well is installed north and northwest of my house, the spring that feeds my pond gets less and less. Causes a concern for my turtles and frogs and the ducks that come every year.

321. The Helena Valley needs a Comprehensive Plan that addresses the issues listed herein that would guide valley development, water, sewer, firefighting, etc. Completed by a competent consulting engineering firm. The plan should drive the growth policy - not the other way around.

322. Get the city of Helena to redo West Main. There is too much bike, walk, hike, car and runner traffic to tolerate this 5 block stretch. Dangerous.

323. The county is inefficient and we do not have more money for it. Stop looking for more issues to spend on. Focus on our primary needs - law enforcement, roads and manage growth that doesn't make taxpayers poor and developers rich.
324. Schools, room for agriculture. Making sure open spaces exist. We need to stop encouraging growth that will make Helena the type of place people previously left.

325. Extending sewer lines into the Valley.

326. Utilities. Keeping above-ground lines clear of fire hazards (trees growing/standing too close to lines).

327. Schools! The Valley has a need for schools - that is where all the growth and increased population is, and where most of the kids are.

328. Schools for these new subdivisions and the density of homes, availability of law enforcement.

329. Stop monitoring what I flush down my toilet.

330. Better access to homes and other areas for emergency people (fire, medical, law enforcement, deliveries, etc.).

331. Zoning enforcement (i.e. running business out of garages or scrap vehicle accumulation).

332. Schools.

333. Fix all County Roads!!! Fix annexes to include both ends of the same roads!!! If you pay into the county road system, you should get all roads maintained!!! N. Diamond Springs Dr. needs fixed - 20 yr. pay no help.

334. Septic systems and wells are much too close, 5 acres is still close. Community wells and septic systems shouldn't be allowed. Double taxation for road upkeep is wrong. Plan ahead rather than looking for immediate income!


336. I believe homes are still being built without approval.

337. Note: get your facts correct on private water/sewer systems and don't push your beliefs on the area as a whole.

338. Flooding/Drainage!! McHugh to Sierra!
339. East Sierra Road to York Road needs resurfacing. Lake Helena Drive to Lincoln Road should be paved by the county.

340. Lewis & Clark Valley sewage treatment plant.

341. We need to develop and manage parklands & protect our riparian areas along the streams.

342. I live on the bench east of Lake Helena Drive. My subdivision has a public water supply and individual septic systems. That works for us because we are about 200 feet above the water table. That would not work down in the Helena Valley. Septic in the valley will eventually contaminate the ground water.

343. 1. County commissioners should be elected by voters in their specific districts 2. Develop paved road plan for existing gravel or unmaintained roads like where they serve multi-purpose use - public lands, commercial, school kids 3. Subdivisions need hydraulic studies for community wells & fire access and paving cost share where gravel roads will be transporting traffic to artery roads.

344. Development is #1. You need to work with the city to get water & sewer into the Valley. With every new subdivision on individual well & septic the future cost will go up to hook them up. #2 Work with the developer or community systems until the city or county can provide them.

345. Taxes are going up faster than wages so people have less money to even live on. Everything is based on $100,000 houses but almost all are valued at least $200,000.

346. The cost to homeowners being annexed into the city (upper west side). Need to find funding - grants? - to help defray costs of hooking up city water/sewer. Current costs are prohibitive (estimates I've been told) Not opposed to annexation, worried about cost.

347. Use locals for your survey.

348. Subdivisions should be required to have large trees and parks (greenspace) included. No deals. Westside roads are terrible. Build train overpass and eliminate or regulate train horn noise at midnight to 6 am. More sidewalks.

349. N. Montana Ave. is getting quite bad. Shouldn't the County either fix or require new subdivisions to fix it?
350. Animal control. Too many loose and barking dogs that the owners will not control. There should be a noise ordinance and the number of dogs allowed in subdivisions outside the city limits.

351. Expansion of city sewer to property on West side of Helena.

352. Traffic light increases are ridiculous.


354. Require developers to meet conditions of their subdivision approval before they can sell lots.

355. Stop moving city limits further out into the county & stop additional subdivisions in the county. Keep agriculture for agriculture, not subdivisions.

356. Build Country Club Road between golf course & Spring Meadow Park two two lanes and a walking path on the South side with funds from state/federal & Ft. Harrison, from Euclid to end of Ft. Harrison on Birdseye Rd.

357. If upgrading roads, please add adequate shoulders for walking or walking trails.

358. Instead of a reporting/fee system for septic owners – a septic system tax that would pay for pumping & inspection on a regular schedule for all.

359. The County should require that new developments do not affect the water rights of existing homeowners.

360. Taxes, county employees pension, wages must be reduced or controlled.

361. Proper development and regulation of commercial zones to increase commercial development outside city limits.

362. The county should make it very clear to individuals who elect to build in fire-prone areas that they bear the primary risk for fire protection, not the taxpayers through various agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service.

363. Most important is commissioners need to quit making illegal decisions that result in lawsuits.

364. Please keep the speed limits down. The valley is too residential.
365. A county wide zoning plan.

366. Law enforcement availability

367. We are overloaded in federal, county, city and state government. Why do we need four branches of government all doing the same thing? Let the state set the rules and enforce them. We are broke feeding the pig.

368. If annexation of areas currently not within Helena/East Helena occurs and results in increased taxes/fees, I will seriously consider moving out of Lewis & Clark County.

369. Keep development out of rural areas, wildlife needs a place to live too!!

370. Expand in the North Valley- there is more room for expansion.

371. Get better-qualified people and avoid million dollar lawsuits.

372. Traffic!

373. Conserve and protect agriculture land from development.

374. The County should pave more roads that are high-traffic areas.

375. We need more access to public water & sewer but hookup should not be mandatory.

376. The Helena Valley should only be developed by taxes and policies that encourage careful management of water/wastewater (ideally public sewer - not septic). The hills around Helena (with forests & view lots) should be developed for residential use. Policies should encourage growth in the hills and agriculture (s. water management) in the valley.

377. Stop subsidizing sprawl development through roads & schools. If individuals choose to live outside urban areas the taxpayers should not be responsible for providing the roads & schools or school transportation costs. Growth policy should include school issues.

378. The growth of the Helena Valley over the past 10 years is quickly changing the small town character of our community in a very negative way - slow development!

379. Dust control ...from winds.
380. Remember, many persons in our community live on fixed or low income. Do not legislate hardships on them! Think about community projects not government demands on them.

381. 1. I would like to see lawn fertilizers banned. My biggest concern is chemical contamination in our quarter. (i.e., parts of CA farmlands). 2. Limit size of lawns will help external lifetime of aquifer and slow septic fields’ failure rate.

382. By stepping up & taking responsibility instead of the song & dance we've seen for 10 years.

383. Flooding Plan - drainage systems i.e. lagoons, ditches....

384. Financing new sewer & water to valley & changing each residence to pay for over many years - also - do not force people to do any more than upkeep of current systems during interim.

385. You have a limited tax base that is paying too much for the services they get now. The county needs to learn how to properly spend the money they have before they ask for more.

386. Think like a bigger city; waste to energy concepts to climate change - don't be stupid/ it's science; crime/gang activity bike paths/walking.

387. The water table is getting lower - it is easy to see - also tax new houses for the administration of this planning function - we still have jails schools & fairgrounds to pay for.

388. Areas that engulf the whole community rather than supporting a project that helps a small portion of the county (new fairground)

389. Mainly roads - N. Montana is extremely dangerous (north of Lincoln Road.)

390. School population and infrastructure to provide for growth

391. Please look at the negative impacts on water quality from livestock. I have observed high nitrates near confined livestock concentrations. Examples - North Montana & many areas in North Valley. Please look at the amount of water contamination & evaporation losses from flood & sprinkler irrigation.

392. Schools- Jim Darcy is so overcrowded, they have to bus kids elsewhere. This area is just going to continue to grow. The number of new houses going up in the north valley is mind-boggling- a large number are going to have kids. Schools should be put at the top of the list.
393. Prohibit the use of wastewater permit loopholes and require all public wastewater systems discharge at levels protective of water quality.

394. Where are you going to get the sand & gravel (concrete) for future development if you continue to allow development on top of quality supply? You need to identify where the good rock is & protect for future use – also - need to implement more zoning in county (i.e.: Canyon Ferry Rd. from Costco to Glass Slipper.)

395. Need to quit lowering all of the speed limits.

396. Pre-fire protection should be up to the homeowner. Leaving things around the structure no more than 300' away and 100' either side of road leaving the structure.

397. There are too many new subdivisions being allowed to be developed & not enough water infrastructure to support them.

398. Flood control, parks maintenance, traffic accidents on Montana Avenue, turn lanes on Montana Avenue between Lyndale & Custer. Especially between Custer & Cedar.

399. Parks, Parks, Parks! Nobody seems to want to pay for county parks - yet most kids live outside Helena city limits.

400. I believe that taxes will become a major problem for homeowners in the future. The cost of schools and government will force people to have to move to a different area. Sad when taxes are more costly than buying a home (yearly cost)

401. The County should be concerned about staying out of our lives!!!

402. Decisions by county officials should support the desires of area residents and be within the guidelines of current laws.

403. More stringent evaluations/requirements for subdivisions & new development.

404. Terrible county roads embarrassing to people visiting - BAD for cars.

405. Future plans for consolidated community water system subdivisions N. Valley (Mt. Ave - Applegate/Lincoln- Prairie Rd.) Existing central systems accessing bedrock aquifer. More supply to valley alluvial aquifer.
406. I think it should be the county to upgrade roads to meet the traffic on new development on county roads.

407. Runoff from the Scratchgravel Hills after the fire of 2012. Maybe Kelly dips need to be made to keep the water & soil from coming all the way down. Some of the runoff has made huge ditches that are bringing lots of soil down. It's covering up culverts & ruining the present roads. I'm especially referring to a road next to us - the John G. Milne Rd. & up into BLM land, but Norris may need help also.

408. I believe companies like Fort Harrison and the VA or any subdivisions should have had to help improve roads as part of development - Country Club Rd. and Birdseye should have wide shoulders for safety & recreation to improve county.

409. We shouldn't have to pay more taxes to fund the growth of new development. This cost should rest on the developer & homeowner.

410. Questions seem to be worded in such a way as to make results of this survey pre-determined.

411. Raise the taxes on people in new subdivisions to pay the higher mill levy for the schools. These are the areas - overcrowding the schools, not us old retired residents. Also those building up on the hills, raise their taxes for creating the need to get fancy fire engines to fight building fires.

412. The County should quit trying to exert more authority over the constituents.

413. Spring breakup & runoff with fast melts of snow.

414. Police enforcement, crime control, traffic light synchronization, expansion of rental properties

415. Do something. Quit just delaying - growth good private jobs - People built this county not government.

416. I strongly oppose any program or activity that will cause any increase in the property taxes of L&C County.

417. Heavy metal poisoning via groundwater and agriculture is troublesome, as well as via breathing air.
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418. About road construction. The county should be held to the same standards as subdivision development, e.g. bicycle paths, signs (share the road doesn't cut it) Road base for good roads so the county doesn't have to rebuild within 10 yrs. Fire - remove dead trees, thin, we all need to be environmentally minded not to let environmental government dictate no removal of trees, or updating water systems.

419. Pave roads like Helena Drive that get hundreds of vehicles a day traveling through. Quit wasting county money on lawsuits you can't win.

420. Extra schools.

421. Zoning!

422. The county & city should work together to provide wastewater & water to the North of Helena city limits. ASAP

423. At some point - stricter regulations will be necessary - Many areas/businesses/homes in Helena and surrounding area are trashy & ugly. We need to become a bit more refined here. We need to get serious about interim infrastructure and plan ahead.

424. A fair mix of all would be nice. We'd have the money to do more if our commissioners spent more time on managing growth than denying most. Get out of court & into community development.

425. Approving developments faster!

426. Developing turn lanes into housing developments. Get off the idea that roundabouts are good. They are very dangerous.

427. East Helena area (outside the overpopulated area) may be impaired by East Helena (Asarco) issues. Specifically, water conduit impacts (drinking water wells) - plume energy activity.

428. Flood plains are arbitrarily designed with no input or research or public input. This must change - and the cost to fight you guys is outrageous!

429. I strongly agree with grey water technology. I would like the opportunity to water my lawn with shower water, washing machine water, or dish washing water, putting only waste water (toilet) in septic system.
430. Flooding on Mill Road and McHugh. It is urgent that flooding be addressed.

431. Roads & access.

432. Older developments are the responsibility of the people who live in them. For all above questions, new development is the responsibility of the developer or owner and it is the county’s responsibility to enforce proper developments. Use my tax dollars wisely, thanks.

433. The responsible use of the tax dollars that are paid - 5000 homes & 1000 lots have increased the tax base.

434. More recycling needed. Need less money for things like an urban assault vehicle. Leave existing neighborhoods alone - focus on the new developments.

435. The four areas above are most important.

436. Those building & designing subdivisions should be responsible to insure adequate funding for school growth in the area.

437. Leave the city limits where they are. The county commissioners should be responsible enough to know the county won’t maintain any new roads, they don’t now.

438. The increase in groundwater levels as more foundations are placed in the Helena Valley. Investigate recycling water for use rather than it going into wastewater system and perhaps leading to overflow/backups of community wastewater systems.

439. At what point does the County help homeowners with dreadful gravel roads? Although they should not have to pave it, they should help with plowing maintenance. Spring runoff is horrible with eroding & creating unsafe roads. But the cost is prohibitive to individual homeowners. And creates dangerous conditions. The county only helps with paved roads!!

440. I don’t understand how 100’s of homes can be built off of North Montana Ave adding hundreds upon thousands of dollars in county revenue yet the upper (north) 3 miles of North Montana Ave haven’t been repaved in over 29 yrs. – It’s rougher than most gravel roads & very dangerous to drive on.

441. Need to look closer at expanding city limits aggressively large population using city services but just outside established city limits
442. North Montana Ave needs to be widened!

443. Your questions should be more open ended - nothing about police (sheriff) protection - we have very little - seven people dead on our rural road (county) due to drugs. Speed - what did the county spend for out of state questionnaire- why not a Montana company?

444. Increase law enforcement capabilities - Sheriff's office is stretched quite thin with people coming to the area from metropolitan lifestyles.

445. The County has had tremendous growth/ yet never increased road budgets/fire budgets etc. Where does the money go?

446. Reports no one will use - septic monitor program - stop the county wasting money!


448. Adequate room in local schools.

449. Reduce the depth of ditches alongside roads that are subject to icy conditions that cause auto accidents.

450. Do something to decrease spring flooding - improve drainage. Repair the roads when needed instead of waiting until they are dilapidated. Make homeowners clean up their property.

451. I don't want the city to take over our sewer and water system.

452. Air pollution.

453. Large private landowners – ranchers - are being unfairly treated by smaller cabin owners in relation to fire and water issues.

454. Less government intervention.

455. Animal control, catching loose dogs, population overcrowding in schools.

456. Educating the public about keeping prescription drugs out of wastewater.

457. Lower taxes.

458. Police or sheriff protection - more robberies occurring in subdivided areas of valley.
459. Bicycle paths on major roads such as Birdseye Rd.

460. Planning department should stop overstepping its authority and making demands on subdivisions that result in lawsuits. Paying out county revenue to settle lawsuits is a waste of money.

461. Do not allow certain types of fireworks. This is a huge fire risk. I've had two pasture fires from this.

462. Curbs and sidewalks do not belong in low-lying, flat areas of the valley. Our ditches along property lines have kept our homes high and dry for over 35 years.

463. Schools & public transportation.

464. Schools.

465. Need speed limit signs on residential gravel roads such as Progress & Carolina.

466. I don't agree to expand the city limit lines and boundaries all the time!

467. Fix Lake Helena Drive!!

468. The inconsistent application of subdivision rules; inconsistent road maintenance on gravel roads (existing); use of taxes for intended purposes.

469. Zoning - would help prioritize where infrastructure needs are.

470. Quit extending the city limits. Stop building until roads, traffic, etc. are capable of meeting demands.

471. Need a good growth management plan, applied consistently.

472. With increased number of subdivisions off N. Montana Avenue, there is much congestion at peak traffic hours at Lincoln & Montana Avenue intersection. Would a traffic light be more appropriate than four-way stop signs?

473. Quit building houses on Mt. Helena.

474. Please publish results in newspaper and/or mailings.
475. Schools - too few in the valley!

476. Why are we the taxpayers being forced to pay for the illegal decisions made by the county commissioners and advised by their county attorney? They should all be unemployed and held accountable.

477. Better snow removal! And they need to get down to concrete! Terrible snow removal!

478. Enforce current regulations and close occasional sale loopholes.

479. Keeping property taxes from expanding at a fast pace.

480. Need more expansion on the roads for capacity.

481. Farming.

482. Pave Lake Helena Drive.

483. All the subdivisions - too many of them.

484. Birdseye Road is incredibly dangerous & sad, primarily due to bicyclists. Someone will be killed on this road someday, but all the county has done is put up share the road signs. There are no shoulders, it's hilly, narrow, winding, and all double-lined. It's a tragedy waiting to happen.

485. Ban the use of private fireworks in all counties except at public fairgrounds especially E. Helena. My backyard was set on fire by neighbors. That whole night is a war-zone. I stay in house and can't get away from the nightmare. I hate that day!!!! (Why can't people use all that money for food-not bombs!)

486. I hate how the traffic lights are so poorly timed.

487. Several years ago, there was a study done on availability of water in the North Valley which was a major concern. How come subdivisions continue, especially with individual wells? Who is responsible?

488. Get bureaucrats to do their work & publish the results of this survey.
489. Put some focus on zoning in the valley so we don't have to look at junkyards every time we pull out of our development or turn the corner. It's time the valley got cleaned up - junk cars, trash, building materials, old campers, etc. need to go.

490. Speed limit on Montana Ave & Green Meadow Dr. should be reduced to 45mph. Too many deer, pets, fast drivers, cell phone users & accidents. Reduce the speed!

491. Not allowing so much agriculture land to be developed.

492. Growth itself is the issue and no policy to manage it.

493. I see work crews laying pavement over already paved streets when there are dirt roads that need to be paved! Why?

494. Perhaps the county should follow the law until it can be shown they need to not make more.

495. More overpasses or underpasses on railroad crossings like Mountain Ave and Benton Ave.

496. Construction all over the County.

497. Stop trying to make our comfortable city into a Big City.

498. Flood relief in valley, weed control enforcement process, dog barking enforcement process.

499. Fort Harrison.

500. Need to put time limits on development bonds. Somehow make sure what the developer says what they are going to do gets DONE! Please find a way to stop the daily (weather control) spraying of chemicals.

501. Fixing all the potholes in the roads. You have to zigzag down the roads

502. Making sure there are adequate entrances and exits (more than there are) for emergency personnel and residents to new developments.

503. There are many lower income people who have been barely able to buy a modest home. To increase the financial burden on these folks who are struggling to survive runaway inflation on a fixed income would be unconscionable. Also, neither the people who work hard nor the government is responsible for supporting those who won't stand on their own two feet.
504. High traffic graveled roads should be paved when the traffic count exceeds county standards.

505. Making alternate travel routes into Helena - it’s very bottle-necked where roads come into Helena.

506. The possibility of having an emergency care center north of Sierra Rd.

507. Lower some property taxes.

508. Snow removal is too minimal & has gone down over the past 20 years. It reaches way too dangerous of a condition before they address it. As to these and other issues, the public does not need or want everything decided & done for them. We are capable of making wise decisions and choosing our own course of action & should be allowed to.

509. Schools - they were never thought about with the growth now.

510. No to zoning outside of incorporated area.

511. HOAs are not working. People do not follow rules or really care about what happens within them. The county should raise property taxes by the average HOA fees, increase tax for new employees. Then start annexing all subdivisions within a reasonable distance. Examples: roughly 3 miles above Bob’s Market, Blue Cloud, East Helena city limits, Jefferson County.

512. I have never seen a development in the county I didn’t love. Except if it is business - they will stop it every time.

513. 1) A hard look at chemicals used on roads, weed prevention, agriculture and what short and long term effects they have on our water quality, livestock and foods grown locally. 2) Recycling plastics, etc. 3) Proper disposal of pharmaceuticals.

514. Smart meter radiation.

515. Dust control - currently none by the county – needs to be included with road grading. Homeless camping should not be allowed in county - fire hazard. Limit new developments - need better fire, water planning.

516. Require downward facing night lighting to decrease light pollution. Minimum five acres per housing unit to protect rural setting outside city. No increase in coal transporting.
517. Airing communication from the past to the county.

518. If major subdivisions are approved then there should be adequate room in the nearest schools to include all the new students. Don't approve a subdivision if the schools can't support them. Or...have developers include funds to build them.

519. Having lived all over the US the county & city have no strategic plan!!!

520. Roads. Interchange exit at Forest Vale with four lanes going east to the valley to relieve traffic pressure of York, Canyon Ferry and Lincoln Rds.

521. Incorporation of parks with playground equipment for children within walking distance of all homes in a subdivision. Requirement that sidewalks be a part of all new developments, including road upgrades.

522. L&C should slow growth. We are on fast track to looking like Missoula. Priority should be protecting pastoral tracks in/around town. Is county's #1 priority about increasing the tax base? It sure looks like it.

523. Shooting of bows within developed areas and neighborhoods. They are a weapon!!

524. Closing Helena Valley for subdivisions.

525. Flood control through effective management of current and future infrastructure. Following established county rules ordinances which are adequate if followed and properly supervised.

526. Apparently you want to raise taxes. Between you and mill levies for schools us senior citizens cannot afford to live peaceably in this area.

527. North Montana Ave north of Bob’s Valley Market north of Lincoln Road is hazardous!

528. How to generate income for future projects without raising taxes?!

529. I think county and state should offer tax credits to homeowners into terrascape who use native or low water required grass and plants, and to farmers and ranchers who use lower water consumption methods of irrigation.

530. Hiring more employees to take care of these tasks.
531. Existing outdated septic systems especially around our lakes i.e. Canyon Ferry, Hauser, Holter & others – in fact, county-wide

532. Keep the county commissioners out of it. The lawsuits they've generated are a disgrace. That money could have been used to better all county services.

533. Please pave Head Lane.

534. Stop the fairgrounds ridiculous growth/tax plans.

535. We need adequate law enforcement! We need adequate mental health facilities.

536. Schools and education.

537. Some private roads need help - the fire department had a rough time and said it took them a little longer to get to a July road fire last year because of our road condition. Too many holes in the road in East Helena - horrible for the cars.

538. Chip sealing the gravel roads in the long range is less expensive to maintain.

539. Focus development close to existing services.

540. Stop allowing development of agricultural lands.

541. The dirt road on Lake Helena Drive & Deal Lanes - when are they going to finish paving it? They had the money and the county went and used it for something other than the road - it is so heavily used. It should be fixed.

542. Traffic lights should be synchronized to reduce gas consumption, human frustration, and accidents. Plus there needs to be a light at Montana & Lincoln (7 - 9 am and 3:30 - 5:30 pm) and should be blinking the rest of the day - lights need work!

543. Fort Harrison.

544. Repave the whole roads that need it instead of doing Band-Aid work on them – ex.: Birdseye Rd.
545. Address (control/manage) the propagation of homes who are putting in large, thirsty bluegrass lawns in areas where water is limited. Provide tax break incentives for people who instead have native/xeric landscaping.

546. As part of roads - make sure bike lanes are a high priority when working on existing roads & a requirement when building new ones.

547. I strongly disagree with the County's policy on septic systems. I think systems should be set up for pumping dependent on family size. I think inspections are a waste of money and don't tell the owner much. More rules & regulations are not the answer.

548. I'm tired of developers making money by suing us, the taxpayers, when they can't build their poorly thought out subdivisions. When the Corral fire was heading my way I realized I might have to cut fences and drive cross country. And the Emergency Info at that time was really hard to access!

549. Stronger zoning, avoid the odd mix of commercial & residential.

550. The County allows housing to be too dense, especially concerning mobile homes; groundwater will be affected sooner or later. Trailer parks need adequate septic systems. Mobile owners do not pay enough taxes to support required infrastructure.

551. Continue the killing of deer. Educate landowners that they are mostly responsible for all the issues raised above. Excellent survey!

552. There should be no development allowed outside city limits, while there is still a lot of infill to be done in the Helena City limits. Infill would boost revenue, which in turn would finance more infill.

553. Please fix the traffic issues at Lincoln Rd. and Montana Ave. Morning and evening backup is getting worse and improvement is needed.

554. 1. Subdivisions need to be collective and participation improvements for fresh and waste water 2. Our water supply has an expiration date. Let's conserve It!

555. Conservation of agricultural lands! There should be preservation of these lands so that local food can be a reality. We should not be allowing prime agricultural lands to be turned into subdivisions for soccer moms.
556. Lewis & Clark County has generally neglected basic responsibilities for decades - specifically road maintenance, sheriff/safety staff increased and fire department staffing. There would no be lawsuits or complaints about the County if they focused on the basic duties. First duties - infrastructure and emergency service. Once these two are mastered then LCC can give funds to non-profits, playgrounds, social services and public health.

557. Accept the fact that you can't stop progress and figure out ways to work with developers instead of trying to stop it. This will help bring good jobs to Helena Valley and will be a great boost to the overall economy. We are losing out to other communities who are progressive thinkers.

558. Roads are bad.

559. Open spaces & parks, trespass of development onto county lands! Please buy the White property in the West end of town above Overlook.

560. At some point these subdivisions need to be annexed in since the subdividers take no responsibility. Look at what happened at the Pleasant Valley Estates subdivision. The subdivider collected sewer charges, used that money to buy liquor and now the residents are paying for a new sewer system!

561. My own septic community drain field.

562. Too much rural sprawl.

563. I think the county roads in my area should somehow be made more safe for the increasing number of walkers and bikers.

564. Better customer service.

565. Invest in a sewage plant in the Valley (sewer and water problem solved!)

566. I strongly believe a lift station should be built in the valley, in a location so that as many homes/subdivisions can tie into it as possible. This would address both wastewater & water issues.

567. They should live within their means and have folks take a role in taking care of themselves. Taxes are getting out of control.
568. Widen York Road.

569. Making it easier for restaurants to come in.

570. Current boundaries should stay the same. There are reasons we purchased out of city limits. Also builders & homeowners should be responsible - not county that will raise taxes. If builders are required - it will raise home prices & then increase the values of existing homes.

571. Flood prevention, maintain drainage systems, be pro-active, keep culverts clear, etc.

572. I live in a fairly new subdivision in the valley. Expensive homes, but the roads are not wide enough to allow adequate emergency response. One fire hydrant for the entire subdivision. This should have been addressed by the developer, but I am the responsible party now because I bought the house. County taxpayers should not be responsible for infrastructure in new subdivisions - but differences between subdivisions of many houses and someone who wants to parcel off a piece of land for one or two building sites.

573. The county should pursue and/or support legislation that maximizes the county's ability to deny subdivisions that do not have proper infrastructure - sidewalks, lighting, curbs, etc. - without fear of constant lawsuits. Far-flung affordable housing is not worth poor quality infrastructure. Developers need to build quality or not build.

574. I live in the oldest portion of Golden Estates subdivision. Annexation to the city will require my moving because of increased taxes and water costs.

575. Finish the road between Lake Helena Drive and Deal Road. The County had the money and used it for other things. Please fix the road.

576. Insure that growth in the North Valley area will have adequate water and sewage disposal before authorizing building permits. Additional growth shouldn't come at the expense of lower groundwater supplies or contaminated wells. Stop reaching for the quick buck - think long-term sustainability.

577. Cost, higher taxes, how this affects current homeowners.

578. Availability of schools and public parks outside of Helena city limits.
Question #6: High quality in my opinion is a decent road base that does not break up every spring, not necessarily curb & gutter. Landowners who wish to develop in wild land interfaces should through private insurers work on defensible space for fire protection.

As the Helena Valley continues to grow - noise is a large problem not addressed here. As it continues to grow - noise ordinances- mufflers, fireworks needs to be added into covenants and growth. Addressing noise creates awareness!

Fort Harrison.

Those developing not being held accountable for mitigating their impacts on infrastructure that the existing taxpayer's have funded to those not benefitting from new development. Don't shoulder or subsidize their development with higher cost of service or lowering of safety.

It seems to me that the City of Helena bullies the county into submission by incorporating areas, taking school funds from outlying schools, choosing to bus, not promoting new valley schools and spending enormous dollar amounts such as central school rehab.

Lewis & Clark County should require all residents being served by a road (either access point) pay for that road.

Increase installment of roundabouts (traffic circles). They are safe and keep traffic flowing. Accidents decrease in areas that utilize traffic circles. The roundabouts at Canyon Ferry Road and Lake Helena Drive are wonderful and the county should strongly consider more.

City Sewer in E. Helena & surrounding areas.

City streets - the streets have not kept up with the city's growth.

Before the county approves subdivisions they should make sure the developer has confirmed an adequate water supply or water rights for the purpose. Water - quantity & quality is the nation's #1 resource - protect it.

The valley should not be overdeveloped. The infrastructure, water & wildlife cannot be sustained and the quality of life of those current homeowners is jeopardized by uncontrolled growth.
590. Get out of Agenda 21-ICLEI. Leave our freedoms intact then with new commissioners we can move forward as a concerned community, without socialist agendas. You shouldn't use our tax dollars to fund international agenda against American values.

591. Small subdivisions say five units or less should not be to the same standards as larger subdivisions.

592. Most definitely-schools-no more developing should occur in the valley without our school crowding getting resolved.

593. Developing intelligent road engineer design. Hire someone who can design an accessible market area and roundabouts intelligently. The county should work with the state to design new parks and infrastructure that improve the quality of life. What will the valley look like with 200,000 people?

594. More Homes-More Tax Revenue-More things the county should have money for without having to raise our taxes.

595. Regulations governing rundown buildings, junk areas, upkeep of grass/prairie land in outlying areas.

596. Somebody should be held accountable for the cost of paying for these lawsuits and judgments!! Our county government is out of control.

597. Fix/repave/widen Montana Ave North of Lincoln Rd.

598. Plan for growth location - zone according to needs for fire & water.

599. It is time to find the funding to build a new waste/sewer plant in the Helena Valley and find the funding to extend it to most of the subdivisions- this should be done so each homeowner has minimal costs-all new subdivisions have to hook up!

600. Someone has to protect current & future homeowners from unscrupulous developers & realtors. Existing homeowners are taking it on the chin. Property values must be protected.

601. Developers should pay impact fees for traffic roads affected outside the subdivisions/community development. They should be made responsible to pay all costs for infrastructure (paved
roads; sewer system; water supply) for the development. They are making lots of money
development- then are gone and everyone is left with the future problems.

602. Sewer plant and Valley sewer system in the future or limit subdivisions.

603. Stop wasting taxpayer dollars on law suits caused by commission actions.

604. If county residents have their taxes raised so someone else can pave and maintain roads, then
why aren't the roads being paved?

605. The law suit to take away our water rights and give them to the Ind. Ans.

606. Less taxes for quality of life.

607. The impact of growth in wildlife wintering areas- example North Hills- less elk winter there
because of homes.

608. Law enforcement is also important on area growing.

609. Infill future sites for sewer & water plants in the Valley! i.e. Protective buying like is done for
open spaces. This survey is based more on emotion than factual data should not be used for
policy making.

610. Some questions in this survey are skewed toward predictable results. Bottom line - we are
nearly at our taxable limit!

611. Cohesive long range road network and planning. Federal funding for water & waste water
treatment. Long term goal should seek to replace septic systems. Cost to individuals would
bankrupt most, assistance is a must.

612. There are housing areas being approved in areas of flooding & low water availability. I don't feel
this should be happening. I also feel builders are being allowed to build without responsibility for
these problems plus pond usage, tec. They are allowed to make their profits & just walk away
with no responsibility. I also feel the County Commissioners are allowing building that is not
responsible.

613. Construct a waterway through the low area in the valley to join ten mile creek again so the valley
will not flood there continually.
614. The supposed increase in Mountain lions and the wolf. Hunting them through baiting will be the best method.

615. The county should be working closely with Helena on a growth policy that affects all residents of the Helena area. Perhaps a return to joint planning of fire should be considered.

616. No! You do too much already!!

617. Jail capacity, public defender’s office, homelessness.

618. Speed on the frontage roads & section of highway in city limits should be lower.

619. Getting county commissioners who see the whole picture and use our money wisely.

620. Annexation.

621. Why a research group from Northampton Ma? Keep it in Montana?

622. Yes, quit spending our money on making the fairgrounds an enormous facility. We can't afford the maintenance and heating/cooling expenses in the future.

623. Unkept homes and trailers in neighborhoods.

624. Someone has to pay for all of this. The tax payer and it should be the person or group that develops the area.

625. Specifically re-constructing & improving Birdseye Rd.

626. Provide more lanes at traffic lights to decrease congestion.

627. Thank you for asking for input!

628. Checking more county covenants, too many businesses in county subdivisions.

629. They should be actually promoting and assisting retail development like a new indoor mall and big name restaurants and stores.

630. 1. Educational infrastructure-give the increase in population in outlying areas the availability of proper schools is also important. 2. Flooding-given the flooding in recent years, increasing drainage/culverts and holding areas is important for existing subdivisions and new subdivisions.
631. Noxious weeds.

632. Other roads in valley that they have quit doing maintenance on.

633. Leave us alone let us worry about our own property

634. We need to secure more public open space for non-motorized use and increase the base safety and appeal of non-motorized transportation (walkability; trails; bikeways).

635. Taxes are way too high - $6,300 for our house. Our income is less now & with inflation they must learn to stop spending so much on schools & other wasteful projects-fair grounds- that waste money- no new vehicles- keep for 8-10 years-stop dreaming up new projects.

636. Better street lighting.

637. Encourage development in non-agricultural areas, but make developers responsible for their own needs.

638. Integrity and consistency of permit process for water quality.

639. Montana Ave. needs to be widened past Lincoln Rd. to accommodate traffic & growth in the North Valley. We at least need turning lanes & a light on Lincoln Rd.

640. The Commissioners need to follow the law. The lawsuits that have been lost show they don't follow the law.

641. Placement & size of schools in developing areas should be considered. Bussing kids for an hour or more is silly!

642. Question #6- Faulty question design-There are many more than two options. Question #25- Not enough options- water conservation measure could be implemented for agricultural, development, and business.

643. Keep the densely populated subdivisions near the city. Protect larger land acreage in the county for open space & agriculture. Don't make the whole county a city!!

644. Limits on roads, highways.
645. Highway 12 east near mile marker 51 needs a turning lane into Prairie Nest subdivision. There is extreme danger with the large amount of semi traffic in this 70 mph zone. This issue needs to be addressed immediately!

646. The county should also take into consideration how much all of these regulations & laws cost the homeowner/landowner & are they necessary, or is it a way to keep government busy?

647. Look at how busy our roads are now-more 4-lane roads more stop lights instead of 4-way stops. Don't like roundabouts.

648. There should be more thought in subdivisions. All of our tax dollars are spent, roads, water, firefighting. We need to build higher not further out.

649. Making laws that keep undesirables off residents' homes less complicated and easier to do so, that puts the power in our favor.

650. Flooding around high septic areas.

651. The research group should be people from at least Montana if not Lewis & Clark County. Not someone in Maine.

652. City street planning - like the need for a connector between Lowes and Target. Also Boulder Ave. to Stanley to Billings Ave, should be paved.

653. Dead trees and the control of the wildlife.

654. You should consider a different survey with the ability to comment. Lewis & Clark County Volunteer Fire departments are augmented by state & federal firefighting resources. Finally- use my tax money more wisely.


656. A bond from the developer should be held to make sure their water/sewer facilities are adequate.

657. Consistency from year to year on wastewater regulations. Treat everyone equal.

658. Proof reading documents you send out.

660. Population of the Detention Center. Outdated when built and conditions are getting worse.

661. No more subdivision on Montana Ave. (Valley) until the road is rebuilt! North of Bob’s.

662. We here in Montana are not about to let our state or city to become a cluttered LA or NY. Stop trying to make Helena like them.

663. There are no affordable senior areas for seniors. Just the very low income ones. How about getting one! For us seniors who are still independent but want to be around people our age.

664. I never see the mosquito abatement done in my area. I feel the money is wasted on equipment & labor with no actual work being performed.

665. School improvement!

666. The randomness of scattered subdivisions- Where is the planning?

667. Lowering taxes.

668. Schools & bussing. More lighting on roads & neighborhoods

669. I would like to see more zoning. I am tired of seeing 15 horses put on a 1/2 acre plot. I am tired of having a business set up in a residential area.

670. Extremely biased survey questions!

671. County doesn't take much issue to problems in the valley-the spring floods for instance.

672. Building less houses in the valley.

673. Schools.

674. After over 30 years put in ditches on McHugh Road- don’t sticking your head in the sand.

675. Fire protection, water quality sewage, roads emergency situations & services, disaster.
676. A lot of the roads (dirt ones) past Lincoln are very dangerous when wet especially Green Meadow.

677. A lot of road work was done near our home last summer on Prairie Road between Green Meadow and Diamond Springs. It seems it would have cost less to pave Prairie rather than bring in and grade so much dirt and gravel!


679. Earthquake structural requirements, flood plain mapping & not building there, public health.

680. In the Helena valley almost every road has a different speed limit. I see no reason for this. All roads (major) should have the same speed limit so that new drivers and old drivers are not in a constant area of change and therefore breaking the law. Also the speed limit should be reasonable for the distance between points drive county & towns.

681. It seems to be working fairly well. We are concerned with adequate water in the valley.

682. Controlling housing developments in vulnerable areas- creating a visionary plan for the future, not just a reaction to the whims of developers. Use science and architectural innovation to create environmentally balanced, pleasant places for human beings.

683. Residents/owners of properties in remote areas should assume that there home will burn down in a wildfire. They should not have the right to complain or sue if the firefighters can't help them. They should have to sign a paper stating this.


685. Road condition and need for cycle & walking trails in Birdseye area.

686. It's 2014. New housing should be on solar low water use. At house water fitter system low water yards - mandatory recycling in the community- gray water systems what are we waiting for?

687. There are a few irrigation ditches that run from East Helena all the way past York Rd that have caused flooding and are a risk to small children that could easily be eliminated by setting irrigation water out of the ditch that runs through their property.
688. Flood mitigation - the county needs to lead us through our flooding issues.

689. Garbage enforcement in developing subdivisions recycling options encouraged & expanded.

690. 1) No dog barking ordinance in a subdivision of lots less than 1 acre. Nobody blames a dog for doing what a dog does, but owners should be held accountable for allowing their dogs to constantly bark all the time. 2) If an owner is living in the house, there should not be allowed to rent rooms in the house to non-family (no relation) persons without permission of the neighbors. (Harms property values) 3) No weed policy in a subdivision.

691. Weed control.

692. Institute zoning and many of these issues would be addressed.

693. More is not better: less is better; people are expensive in terms of what they require; schools, police, infrastructure, welfare. Montana is not a heaven for the masses. Do not extend development beyond your resources, as many American cities have. Be realistic!

694. The county must hold developers in check. The county has a long history of lower growth rate. Developers will compromise the stability of the area if they are given a free reign. I have witnessed this first hand.

695. Conserving agricultural land & open spaces (with public access, e.g. parks).

696. We have no planning!! Subdivisions created where ever and by whoever wants to subdivide. No protected areas in North Hills from growth. It seems any area can now become a city. The county now has to do city planning! No designated areas for growth- rural areas are being overrun! Not everybody wants 1500 neighbors. We need to stop some development in places.

697. People always burning their garbage all year round, at night! Can't leave windows open & I don't burn!

698. All the money the county wants to spend is putting a hardship on us that have worked to get our piece of heaven and now retired and on a fixed income can't afford this spending.

699. Thin standing dead trees and make available for firewood to defray costs. Increase sheriff & animal control in valley areas. More weed & mosquito control.
700. More scrutiny in the ability to put trailer houses, wells, septic to existing residences.

701. Increase of multi-family dwellings.

702. Your tax base is based on times when things were going good. Now we went thru bad time and it's getting better so you decided to raise taxes again. Let people breath and put a little money in the bank.

703. Zoning and planning for growth.

704. The only thing I see resulting from this survey is higher taxes. I will vote against ALL existing levys & higher taxes, until government is reigning in spending. I no longer trust city, state or federal government. I love my country & I will elect HONEST candidates. Stop ripping off we the people. We've had enough.

705. Loss of green space, displacement of wild life (antelope, etc.), dewatering of Ten Mile Creek, mining.

706. Floods.

707. Allowing homeowners on Helena Valley Canal to utilize for hydropower!

708. County should get better legal advice from experienced professionals so that it doesn't have to keep shelling out millions for dumb, stubborn mistakes in Montana Law interpretation.

709. A huge issue is that Lewis & Clark County Community Development & Planning is agenda driven, and sends out surveys with leading questions to sway public opinion. This survey is so filled with false premises it boggles the mind.

710. School/classroom availability, to maintain more development with more people causes overcrowding in schools.

711. Controlled speed signs & law enforcement at least some of the time. County needs to stop relying on the state for snow plowing early in AM hours- they need to get up & maintain county roads- Stop billing the state for a job they are getting paid to do.

712. Maintaining existing roads, especially Floweree. Look into traffic study @ Lincoln Rd. and Montana Avenue- Round About. Flood control.
713. Ten Mile Creek (and others) Flood Prevention!!

714. Develop and implement county zoning ordinances. County should have development regulations with no exceptions or waivers -zoning- let the market dictate housing development not making it affordable to all

715. Land preservation-maybe focus on getting people into existing homes. Because we build new homes and or subdivisions- maybe focus on cleaning up older neighborhoods and making them more attractive to people moving in. I understand it's an uphill battle trying to fix our spoiled society.

716. Green Meadow Rd. is dangerous & congested due to high traffic volumes. A walkway should be built along the road for pedestrians- especially children walk; to 4 Georgians & Capital High school. No further development should be done, unless the builders can pay to expand or improve Green Meadow Road.

717. The amount of closed businesses is depressing and concerning. When visiting Helena, it is unappealing to see dilapidated businesses that are shut down and a large mall with only one major store, while new ones are popping up. Finally, plant new trees, weed, pest, and erosion control should be encouraged and assisted.

718. East Valley high school-due to infrastructure needs.

719. Noxious weeds.

720. The planning department should be trying to bring growth and development to Helena, NOT trying to stop it. Growth=Jobs.

721. Encouraging less sprawl of subdivisions - rather more closely associated housing, with more green space for recreation & wildlife too.

722. Improve Montana Ave. north of Lincoln Rd.

723. Please avoid questions like # 24. Let's not pit agriculture vs. development. The prior appropriation doctrine works well and new water uses should not be able to fake an existing water right or property right. There are mechanisms in statute to offset adverse effects. Development needs to follow them.
724. The county should take care of what's theirs and not what belongs to the city, state or private interests! Not the fairgrounds!!

725. With all the flooding roads need to be fixed.

726. Natural gas into rural areas.

727. The county sometimes makes thing with development an improvement, more difficult than what it needs to be. There are sometimes simple fixes available!!

728. I feel the county has in the past been overly zealous in adopting new unproven technologies as a way of placating perceived issues without actual scientific proof of the need. This has resulted in numerous lawsuits and delays & extraordinary loss to developers and homeowners.

729. The county needs to have more guidelines regulations on how to build in higher risk areas - to mitigate the dangers- like flood areas, fire areas...

730. Lewis and Clark County (yet again) didn't require subdivision developers to assist in improving North Montana Avenue (North of Lincoln Rd.) Please, please, please, do something with this inadequate road!!! Chip seals are not the answer!!!

731. Entry and exit standards for new housing development areas.

732. I disagree with the amount of money spent on protecting homes in the flood plain. The people know it was in a flood plain and got a home there for less money and it seems we all pay for their bad choices. It’s not right.

733. Drainage! New subdivisions create drainage nightmares to older subdivisions.

734. I think the presentation is one sided against development - it contains false facts about water and sewer.

735. Expanding the availability of public water systems is a good idea for those with failing systems but those who have good working systems should not be forced to hook into them.

736. County should provide maintenance for public/county fee roads in existing older subdivisions by direct work or increase the allocation of taxes for this purpose.
737. Enforcement of traffic laws, neighborhood decay ordinances, and vehicles licensing on new residents moving in the area and keeping their vehicles licensed in other states.

738. There is currently not enough green space in Helena or the valley to accommodate the population. Need sports fields such as baseball & soccer fields for the expanded growth.

739. Flooding!


741. When buying or renting a home a person should be able to count on infrastructure: all the issues above, plus school accessibility and green space for parks in any new subdivision.

742. Should not allow lagoons. I lived by Pleasant Valley & Ten Mile & Treasure State. They both had & probably still have huge issues. We need public services in the valley.

743. The county should stay out of it & let homeowners assume their role as a homeowner & maintain their own property.


745. The traffic here is really starting to get out of hand. I really wish people would just stop moving here - but not likely. We need better traffic control.

746. School district & county should be working in tandem so there are schools where there is development.

747. They should discontinue use of magnesium chloride and other chemicals on gravel roads. It makes driving hazardous and will eventually have negative effects on groundwater. They should hold classes for residents who intend to burn on their property.

748. Crime is becoming a bigger issue. Areas like the fairgrounds should be supported by user fees. County taxes in this county are increasing too rapidly.

749. Need to slow the growth in the valley - there simply isn't enough water - our subdivision has run out of water more than once yet dozens of new houses are being built below us which impacts our safe water.
750. Taxpayers cannot continue to pay higher taxes and get less service! Road maintenance of public roads is totally a failure!

751. Crime rate will rise with population growth. Especially with lower cost housing.

752. Get your act together- so the county isn't being sued for stupid mistakes. Leave fire departments intact- as they are the best bang for the buck.

753. Zoning - we need more separation of commercial and residential.

754. More sidewalks around schools for kids’ safety to and from schools.

755. Many county roads are just dirt- they should be graded & graveled especially those adjoining rural subdivisions.

756. Plan a chip-seal in Bel Air subdivision for July or August of 2014 and make one more drain.

757. We have dirt roads all over the valley/ east Helena & Rimini, Priest Pass - They are just fine - City maintains them - They don't need to be paved. More people will drive faster on them - more wrecks- County doesn't need to spend money on paving a dirt road. Just keep maintaining them.

758. Limit new housing in areas with inadequate schools to serve the population.

759. No new wells on any property in the county that are smaller than five acres. No subdivision lots smaller than five acres. If you want city-type services move to town.

760. Flood prevention. Especially after this recent thaw/flood disaster.

761. Speed limits and passing zones on county roads. There seems to be no logic for either.

762. Law enforcement and communications.

763. Without water, development cannot occur - Sewer/waste water has to be managed to protect the greater population. Good quality, safe roads are a responsibility of all. Fire protection & abatement is the homeowner’s responsibility first.
764. Lake Helena Road is a disgrace. If the county approves a subdivision served by a substandard road or gravel road the county is responsible to pave it. Lake Helena should have been paved 20 years ago.

765. Snow removal policy- not adequate on city streets, amount of grit removal and timeliness with respect to ground water.

766. Build some trust into county commission (even a little) and people will support more of their actions.

767. The Health Dept is assessing property taxes under the guise of Section 16 MCA - This is not beneficial to property owners or the septic systems they claim to be helping. In their own words, it is for administrative costs. I advocate responsible property ownership which would mitigate many of the issues - fire, water, waste, roads you raise these questions.

768. Rural school bus transportation and bus stops consolidated.

769. Due consideration of individual property rights.

770. Stop wasting money on litigation!

771. Pine beetle control for existing homeowners planting new trees that pine beetles attack.

772. Need to proofread your survey. Question 1 was confusing to answer. Q #30 could have been worded shorter and simplified. Should stick to five answer selection to get better data results. Survey to wordy & long!

773. Increased access to cable internet and television would be advisable in the modern society.

774. Helena air pollution is only going to get worse...same with refuse.

775. Schools.

776. Helena Sand & Gravel is ruining Valley Drive with their heavy trucks. Canyon Ferry Road should have been four lanes, not two.

777. Stop building new subdivisions and fill up the houses open now and cut down on North Valley building.
778. No issues - but continue the process like this that get more input!

779. Restrict lawns- conserve water, encourage xeriscape & native landscaping.

780. Taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for developers of new subdivisions or other builders in undeveloped areas. The developers/homebuyers and other builders should be responsible for all of the costs for new/improved services for these properties. When I built my home over 30 years ago, I had to pay to be able to get water to, and sewer away from my home.

781. The leadership of the commissioners has been very poor. Fighting growth has not made things better, but worse. Work with developers and builders to make things better. It seems your plan is to ignore issues and hope they go away. Plan for growth! Use county dollars.

782. Flood control.

783. Absolutely no more fireworks allowed in city or valley or woods areas!!

784. Lobby the state to have more stringent waste water control (i.e., be able to require community septic systems on one acre subdivisions).

785. The valley needs more avenues to get to & from North Montana & Greenmeadow. The traffic on Custer is too much. Need more lanes or additional connections as stated above.

786. Removal of abandoned vehicles & other junk from properties. Stricter regulations regarding livestock.

787. Putting a cap on optional taxes/revenues. One has to be changed or removed before another can take its place. Homeowners should not continue funding poor budgeting.

788. The public's losing their property rights. I/we pay taxes and such - who should have say - (I think the property owner) or no taxes.

789. Speed limits on roads that now have more traffic than before.

790. A light out at the corner by Bob's Valley Market. Also the road above Bob's going north is dangerous. We have had such an influx of people that the road needs to be made wider. All we have had done is patching. Time to help us out there.

791. Strategies for dealing with flood waters.
792. Flooding, plugged culverts

793. Nix Agenda 21- sustainable development!!!

794. Make better decisions in dealing with developers to avoid the cost to the taxpayers of the county's poor decisions.

795. Use common sense and logic not politics in making decisions!

796. We need more help in the sheriff's department.

797. North Montana Ave north of Bob's valley Market is severely undersized for the amount of traffic it receives, much of which is school buses and families.

798. No more taxes. Don't raise my taxes any more. The new homes being built and taxed should be covering tax increases. I don't have a county road, kids in school, don't use the fairgrounds, and can only dream about retiring with all the increased expenses.

799. Construction work all over.

800. Sidewalks should be available in all new developments. The kids in my subdivision have to ride their bikes in the street.

801. I think the county should work more closely with the city of Helena and the city of East Helena to locate new development closer to existing infrastructure to reduce urban sprawl. The county could offer incentives to developers that provide community systems instead of blocking development. Work with developers and encourage density near existing infrastructure.

802. Hwy 12 east-west through Helena will someday need to be improved. Decide a by-pass or thru-way now for future development.

803. Opposed to multi-jurisdiction park district. Lots of tax issues coming at us - work together!

804. The subdivision I live in had ingress & egress when I bought in. Homeowners voted to close the egress. There was a confrontation during the Bucksnort fire between neighbors attempting to exit to a nearby road through a fence. Law enforcement had to open the fence, as I understand it, against the wishes of the property owners.
805. The commission should be following state laws when deciding on new subdivisions. It is pathetic that the county is having to budget two million dollars for anticipated lawsuit payouts.

806. Quality homes at reasonable prices, without too much government interference.

807. Slower speed limits on Wylie Drive!!

808. Too many subdivisions in areas that cannot support them.

809. All the junk automobiles parked around the homes & trailers and piles of litter should be controlled by the health department and the sheriff's department.

810. Flood zone - feel like the flood zone is too aggressive.

811. Schools are getting overcrowded, although if more programs like sex ed passes, homeschooling will take over that void. More walking & bike paths. Better hours for water parks.

812. For new homes with individual wells and septic systems, limit the lot size to five acres or more. All subdivisions should have a playground for kids. All subdivisions should have paved roads. The cost of a subdivision should be 100% paid by the subdivision.

813. Floods - floods - floods! In the Helena Valley.

814. Having recently built a new home in a near-by subdivision I found my property choices very limited. We need more property development.

815. If they approve a subdivision, the county needs to accept responsibility for its impact on water, waste, road & fire protection. If don't want responsibility don't approve them.

816. Maintenance of already existing roads in Lewis and Clark county needs to be increased dramatically.

817. Doing something about all of the law suits we are losing and we are wasting tax payer money that could be used in a much more useful way.

818. This is a crazy survey in that is seems set up to elicit the wanted responses.

819. I think there should be a water law in Montana (in all states). People waste so much water on their lawns!! For example: I have a neighbor who waters his lawn from early morning until late
evening, using two hoses, every day...EVERYDAY...he is on maybe 1/3 acre (out in the County). What a waste!! Should be very other day (odd or even addresses) for 4 - 6 hrs. max. very important!

820. Traffic. North Montana Ave north of Lincoln Rd is a disaster waiting to happen. New arteries are built with no thought to safety; 4 -way stop is pathetic at rush hours. Why no traffic light at Bobs Valley Market?

821. There should be zoning regulation of development, not the subdivision law controls. The fact is, growth is a problem and needs to be severely curtailed. All the issues of water, fire, waste, etc. are symptoms. Fix the problems, not the symptoms. Limit the growth.


823. Take care of paved roads. I have a county road up to my house that has not been re-paved in over 30 years. Don't force home owners to connect to city sewer & water.

824. North Montana Ave. above Bobs Market at the 4-way stop needs to wider -- way to much traffic.

825. I do not want to be forced on city water or sewer. I want to keep my well & properly maintained septic system.


827. Birdseye road is in desperate need of being widened and re-paved, but I watch the same roads being paved over and over while other roads are ignored. Birdseye Road should be looked at for a bike path - it's a perfect place for one and would enhance Helena as a whole!

828. If people continue to build in the hills/trees they need to pay for and assume the costs, established home in the valley should not be responsible.

829. I don't believe owners of new homes in new subdivisions should be over taxed to cover the fact that existing homeowners are not covering the costs for their areas now. Make it equitable and don't stifle growth.

830. First of all, this survey is very poorly written. Secondly, what about all the other needs associated w/ growth such as; schools, EMS, transportation (transit & bicycle/ped), open space, parks. Lastly, thanks for this good laughs my wife & I shared from this survey.
831. Spring thaw flooding in the North Valley.

832. Other issues include encroachment in key wildlife corridors, multimodal transportation options.

833. Impacts of roads and development on streams, lakes and surface water quality, critical wildlife habitat and winter range.

834. All counties have too much planning & forced intrusion on property rights & personal liberties- reduce planning and let people figure it out by themselves.

835. Regulations concerning livestock numbers and waste per acre.

836. Spending taxpayer money responsibly.

837. Road and schools aren't staying ahead of (or up with) new development. There is no single area that has grown as has the area north of Lincoln road and east of Lincoln road, yet there have been no upgrades to handle the traffic (big exit lanes right or left to minimize stopping/ slowing traffic).

838. Stop making it so hard for new businesses to come in. Be responsible, but growth is an evil that has to happen for a town to prosper.

839. When a minimum acreage policy is adopted, it should be adhered to here- not set aside by next elected body of commissioners - most of whom live in the city and understand little about rural life.

840. Making people in the valley clean up properties. There is so much junk and garbage off of Greenmeadow (i.e., old trailers houses, houses and junk). It needs to be addressed.

841. Sure you are listening but mostly in the past only passed laws, rules, and regulations that increase the city or county over private property owners. Proposition 21 and other laws invented as needed with no public vote.

842. Restrict size of irrigated lawns There comes a point that it will be necessary to restrict growth. Bigger is NOT always better.

843. We need more things for kids to do that are somewhat separate by ages, not super expensive, and gets them off their butts.
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844. Loose dogs & trash/landfills & recycling.

845. Flood waters & controlling/guiding flow of flood water.

846. Public safety enforcement of laws.

847. These are all most important. Other things are peripheral.

848. Local governments are so top heavy and overlapping that it is grossly inefficient (wasteful) and ineffective at critical times. We study issues so long that the question changes before we get the answers! Make a decision- take action!

849. These are the top concerns we have at this time - consider expansion of public transportation into the Helena area outside city limits, to reduce traffic pressure.

850. Whoever planned the roads in the past should have been let go! Whoever's putting useless rotaries in should also be let go. A 4-way light more cost effective. Home/land owners should be responsible to fix the septic & quality of their well, Yeah, it will create more jobs, but who's going to pay for it! Don't build anymore Helena housing places, there's enough! Everybody wants a hand out to include Lewis & Clark County, high taxes and commissioner who get us, the tax payer, in the hole $2.3 million from bad decisions by overpaid people.

851. There are many gravel roads in Lewis & Clark County around Augusta in pretty bad shape.

852. Zoning & enforcement.

853. We have a neighbor who blocks an irrigation ditch with dirt & garbage causing flooding in eight yards and putting our septic systems in jeopardy of over flowing & back up into the homes. Our well for a housing development is also along that ditch. This happens every spring. When it is reported nothing is done about it. It has already happened in March 2014.

854. We have a GREAT need for multiple family housing. Zoning will become an issue.

855. Millions being spent on lawsuits could be spent on road maintenance and crews. If a road or street is mandated by the county at the expense of the developer – then turned over to county for fee collection (driveway) it should be the county’s responsibility to do up keep, not the developer.
856. When planning road improvement make more center turn lanes for safety. As an example Canyon Ferry Road should have a center lane & turn lanes by the Boeing turnoff. York Rd. should have center turn lanes. People driving are idiots: make it safe for them & others because they do make bad decisions.

857. Avoid lawsuits resulting in huge expense to taxpayers!!

858. Stay out of people’s lives!

859. This certainly seems like the county has an agenda planned- much of fire safety is homeowners’ responsibility - all - roads- irrigation etc.

860. Keep agricultural taxed land at that level even when housing comes near. Otherwise the landowner needs to sell the land because of higher taxes, thus causing all the development.

861. Related to all at the above- stop urban sprawl!

862. Fixing the roads and tell the city they’re out of control and need to fix their overbearing ways.

863. If the county cannot deny a subdivision based on water quantity and/or schools, why bother asking about water issue and planning? School availability should be considered when planning development.

864. I strongly feel water should be expanded to all developing communities.

865. Keep off my property!

866. The county needs to be pro-business and industry, not wasting money on stupid questionnaires.

867. Taxes are too high!

868. Flooding, long term ideas for valley septic waste. Had the 24,000 homes paid the $5000 to $10,000, to develop a wastewater management system starting 20 years ago, would have been ideal.

869. They should put a hold on expanding into new subdivisions. It’s hard enough for current owners (i.e., schools, roads, stores).
870. Why are some roads like Frontage completely repaved (when it appeared to be in decent shape) and other county roads like Birdseye is a mine field of potholes? I don't understand.

871. Limit traffic circles - they stink!

872. Thank you for the survey- good way to involve the community.

873. Industrial toxins, chemical fertilizers, sprawl, access issues.

874. MT DEQ not providing active oversight and compliance assistance during design, development or construction of privately owned water and sewer systems. This leaves the county to pick up pieces when they fail.

875. Promote and plan new high school in East Helena and replacement schools in Helena. Plan and promote infrastructure for a (singular) business growth area.

876. Flooding. County need to direct water out of flooding areas. There are no adequate ditches, culverts or drainage to move water away from these areas. After the flood of 2011 the county talked about and promised many improvements - none have happened.

877. Too bad the county has so many lawsuits because of the inadequate commissioners - this money that is wasted on lawsuits could be used for more useful resources.

878. A new waste water plant should be built in the lower part of the valley to pick up the septics on the north and south that already exist. You could pick up the school and police academy also. The ideal piece of land is available.

879. Leave city limits where they currently are. Not spreading city water & sewer to the county residences.

880. Get public sewer service into the valley.


882. Adding another high school as the current ones in Helena are bursting at the seams and future class numbers keep increasing.
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883. Common sense planning. Maintain existing buildings within city limits. Partner with groups and organizations like MBAC to develop Helena.

884. Old roads, etc. that county will not accept into the system. New houses have been added. A few old residents cannot afford to maintain these for others use. We need some help in return for our tax dollar paid.

885. Planning for future development.

886. Drainage! After experiencing flooding in our neighborhood over the past three to four years, it is apparent that our area does not drain properly. This seems to be a valley wide problem due to lack of foresight on the part of the developers, and lack of maintenance by homeowners. It needs to be addressed.

887. Lower the speed limits on rural roads to safer speeds.

888. Run off drainage is poorest I have ever seen.

889. Schools.

890. Traffic flow.

891. There should be an actual road behind Albertsons & ShopKo on N. Montana Ave. instead of forcing people to drive through the receiving areas to get on Canyon Ferry Rd heading east. Also, lights on Canyon Ferry Rd. at Wyle and Valley Drive should flash yellow when it’s not rush hour traffic.

892. Those who do not live in city limits do so by choice. They assume the responsibility for services themselves. No annexations.

893. Law enforcement.

894. This questionnaire is somewhat loaded and limited in its choices. The county needs to be careful what it sticks its nose into. There needs to be affordable housing without taxes so high. The county does not need to be all things to all people!

895. Not sure what value this survey can have. There are so many ambiguities that its value is limited. Spend more time developing a professional quality survey instrument.
896. People should be able to build wherever, but should be totally responsible for their own protection, water, etc. Septics should meet standards. There should be limits on how many septic systems per acreage. Those with small lots should be on a public system.

897. Flood drainage

898. Speed limits on county roads are too fast. (i.e., York Rd. 60 mph? Should be 45 max.)

899. A. Use water from the Missouri. B. Have a master plan that includes contiguous green space for recreation, wildlife, etc. C. Focus on master planned communities supported by city/county services. D. Don't become another hodge podge development like Bozeman. F. More green projects.

900. Schools, Influx of students from Jeff County to Helena schools. Helena school district and East Helena school district should work together when considering new schools.


902. This survey is written in a deceptive way- all loaded questions. Unfair! I wonder who wrote it.

903. Taking over private roads which have become used by numerous residents due to growth.

904. Schools.

905. Fix Birdseye Rd. before someone gets killed because of the road. Country Club is also very dangerous.

906. The county planning and county Commissioners need to base their decisions on scientific data and be bound by the laws in making the rulings for subdivision & zoning not making bogus rulings.

907. Preserving agricultural ground and open spaces/wildlife and parks- air quality issues.

908. Developers should be held to a higher standard with regards to the property they develop. Prevent them from poor covenants. Unpaved roads and shoddy building.

909. With all the new property taxes collected from new subdivisions roads & maintenance should not be a problem for the county.
910. Housing permits so any new houses are built correctly. Helena has a lot of homes that were not built very good. The buyers are/can be paying a lot of money for substandard quality.

911. I am very disappointed that flooding isn't considered a key issue in our county. How long with the county continue to ignore this problem?

912. Community decay - several properties in the Helena area are disgusting from lack of care (examples - garbage & junk in yards and weeds). This lowers property values of homes around the higher value ones. More taxes - better service from county government would be a win-win for homeowners & county.

913. This is a fake questionnaire with superficial questions that is paid by the taxpayer because the county government is too corrupt and lazy to do its job. You already know water is inadequate & polluted. Open raw sewage encouraged on open lands which are surrounded by people.

914. Enforcing policies in subdivisions regarding the number of people per septic & the number of homes per acre - water quality.

915. Why is there no crosswalk at Bridge Creek Estate across Montana to the walking path so children can cross safely to get to the school? Why was the developer not responsible?

916. Be more strict on new subdivisions.

917. I feel there is an unfair advantage given to subdivision developments allowing homes closer together than a private property owner who cannot now sell or use their land in smaller portions without it being considered a subdivision. Dividing small sections to sell or give to family should not be classed the same as for developers.

918. If people are going to build & add subdivisions they should be responsible for their actions and checked upon before the house is built or sold.

919. Broadband Internet service.

920. Quit thinking that only educated county morons have all the answers and that common sense home owners don't know anything. And quit wasting money on these stupid surveys.

921. Would be nice to see some recycling sites in the valley, or areas out of town.
922. Over building for water use and flooding. With some planning & work I think it could be better controlled!

923. Non-motorized transportation routes throughout the Helena Valley

924. Too many campers parked full time on city & county roads & streets.

925. I am not sure why Lewis & Clark County is hiring a firm from Massachusetts to run a survey in this county.

926. Adequate maintenance of roads, including better snow plowing in the winter, pot hole repair in the spring and multiple ingress egress routes in and out of subdivisions. Also, become much more business friendly. This town is far below standards in terms of businesses and shopping opportunities that I would expect for a state capital. I’ve been to several across the US, this is by far the worst.

927. Working better to avoid huge losses in the taxpayer dollars in issues such as the road lawsuits.

928. Avoid paying out our tax dollars in law suits caused by your need to over-control.

929. Severely limit any future development of any more subdivisions.

930. Better planning for access and travel in and around strip malls.

931. The roads, especially Montana Ave outside of city limits is terrible!! It turns into unneeded/unwanted vehicle repairs; I would rather pay a little more to the county than 1,000s of dollars on repairs.

932. New developments should be required to dedicate park land within the development or help find a nearby park for kids instead of just paying the county a flat fee.

933. We need to live within our means and not turn to the federal government for handouts that come with serious strings attached. We need to protect our natural environment and wildlife above all and live in sustainable ways.

934. Flood policy need better study - and developing.

935. The dust from the unpaved roads
936. Flood water drainage needs to be addressed!!

937. Zoning - I live in a subdivision with homes that qualify as being quite elegant on one end with falling down mobile homes on the other end, fronted by seemingly unregulated commercial property. Degradation of private property is another pet peeve.

938. Answers are based solely on new developments and not uprooting or changing existing older homes. Commercial groups coming in should be responsible & not burden individuals.

939. I believe there should be fair equal standards that are equivalent for all builders & developers rather than looking at each one on a case by case basis. Seems to have been fragmented in the past based on the variety in the county.

940. Find a way to pave the Lake Helena Drive to the causeway!! It is heavily used & could be made much safer!! Needs guard rails by the embankments above the water. Increase 40 mph speed limit to 50 mph on Lake Helena Dr.

941. I am impressed on how well our roads are taken care of outside city limits; snow & ice in town are terrible! If back country roads were all smooth there would be so many more speeding accidents! Keep it rough & make drivers slow down!

942. The taxpayers should not be held responsible to cover the costs when someone decides to build in an urban/wildland interface. The homeowner accepts risks & responsibility when they build.

943. Who's going to buy all the homes being built? Seems to be more than we need. Think it depends on who you are or who you know decides on what you are allowed to do with your property (i.e septic & wells). Maybe some corruption??

944. MDT and their stupid, short-sighted road designs. Canyon Ferry road is main example. Why one lane with turn outs instead of 2-lane?? No designed bus stops for kids- dumb dumb dumb.

945. Being fair when deciding which developers get to build a subdivision.

946. It is important for developers to build roads that will hold up and not strap the taxpayer with undue burden down the road.

947. Better traffic control.
948. Better zoning regulations to ensure properly planned growth.

949. Educational facilities, designated parks & recreational paths for walkers, separate for motorized vehicles.

950. A system for ensuring home owners and private water systems maintain their septic systems.

951. Educate people instead of fining or taxing them and quit wasting so much money on surveys.

952. Flood management in the valley. We are not in the flood plain but have seen the devastation. Perhaps a few well-placed drainage ditches.

953. Light pollution.

954. Flooding - check on culverts being too small.

955. Ensuring homeowners follow existing mandates to have septic systems pumped & inspected and having those who live on property with high fire risk be responsible for reducing the risk at their own cost. Make people responsible for their own property & concentrate on the common use infrastructure. That's what pooled taxes are for, the common use & maintenance for the good of all not just for a few.

956. More stop signs needed at intersections in some areas where they are non-existent in East Helena city limits. Other than that you are doing a great job!

957. Clean up trash on road side areas!

958. Roads in our area (E. Helena) are not maintained well. We live on a major road & there are constantly pot holes in the road- snow removal is good!

959. Less law suits. Follow the law, we have to.

960. I don't want to be annexed by the city have city water or sewer

961. The county snow plowing & road maintenance is highly lacking in quality of performance. They are a waste of tax dollars. I rank them in bottom 10% of state counties.

962. New development should be at least 5 - 10 acres.
963. Recycling drops somewhere in county.

964. Birdseye road is falling apart. County should prioritize roads by danger, traffic, etc. and get the most important roads done first.

965. You need to pave Lake Helena Drive between the causeway and Deal Lane - this is ridiculous. The county has wasted millions of dollars on this - get a clue people! P.S. Thanks for asking.

966. Developers and county work together not against each other to resolve these problems. Seems to be a constant battle and getting nowhere.

967. Require building permits and hire building inspectors for the county.

968. This is a joke, just another way for the city of Helena to get what it wants. Control over everything, everyone and the ability to access all property in the Helena valley. This is about government control not safety.

969. City has a habit of annexing new development and leaving other places in the dust, even if they’re next door to new developments.

970. Schooling, school property, quit raising taxes for schools.

971. Why are businesses coming & going so quickly?

972. Due to the increased development north of Bobs there should be a traffic light at the corner of Montana & Lincoln Rd. not a roundabout!! North Montana needs to be completely redone.

973. Due to heavy traffic, including gravel & construction trucks, & heavy summer traffic, Lake Helena drive should be paved from the causeway to Deal Lane.

974. Schools - you need an elementary school in the valley. Quit allowing subdivisions that have houses so close together.

975. They can't take care of the issues they currently have, why should we give them more?

976. Don't allow building on ridges or hilltops that ruin the view for everyone. Implement zoning to protect agriculture and environmentally sensitive areas. Quit building in the flood plain. Extend public sewer to valley.
977. Please consider requiring a developer to extend Head Lane to Williams Street so it is a straighter way to get to Highway 12 heading west. Then pave Head Lane and Franklin Mine Rd. so there is another route for valley people to get to West Side without going through town!

978. The expertise and professionalism of Jim Wilbur and James Sweirc are commendable. Their work with MBMG on the Scratch Gravel Controlled Groundwater Area was very valuable. With the Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection District also.

979. Tea Road is not maintained by Lewis & Clark County but only one mile of it. Well there are many taxpayers above this point and there is public use every day in the north hills. This is unfair to us taxed people, the rest of the road needs to be done by Lewis & Clark County.

980. Howard Rd. should be paved. We get so much traffic and the road is always awful!! There’s enough side streets off Howard Rd & traffic.

981. Protecting our water has become ridiculous - requiring the expensive septic systems even where the drainage is very good!

982. Not excited about East Helena area ever becoming part of the City of Helena. There are reasons we chose to live here.

983. I think they should have been smarter and planned and saved all the tax money from the new housing in the county to solve these issues.

984. Dirt roads need to be maintained more regularly and areas in ‘rural’ need to be sprayed for bugs and grasshoppers, gnats, mosquitoes. We pay for it on property taxes but never does it get done!

985. The county commission and the greedy developers along with a state with a department of environmental quality that has become a joke created this problem. Unfortunately, the poor home owners will be the ones most adversely affected by these folks not working together and having sound growth policies. Little to no ramifications for developers who don't follow rules.

986. How new development affects runoff and flood drainage.

987. Expand the sewer system throughout the Valley and tax those that hook up to it to pay for it.

988. Hire good lawyers and stop the law suits
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989. Recycling of garbage, i.e. cardboard, paper, plastics, metals.

990. I am a civil engineer with experience in other counties; this is the most lax county I have dealt with. There is virtually no oversight of developers and they are allowed to do what they please. Our homeowners are being stuck with some development costs and repairs to sub-quality work and the county is actually considering this. Lewis & Clark County is an absolute joke.

991. Streamline water rights permitting processes & improve coordination between agencies that approve water rights.

992. Fire mitigation!!!! Programs!!!

993. Work with those who do not have public services available to them - water, garbage, recycling, roads, and fire protection. We live & work in the city limits & contribute each day to keep the economy going - work with us.

994. The county should take into account how much land and water has been ill-affected by big businesses such as Helena Sand and Gravel, Asarco Plant; and local mining operations. They should have to do their businesses further away from residential areas or pay the penalty for doing so.

995. Property upkeep standards & increased landscape requirements. Example-along Canyon Ferry Rd. All the vehicles on lots and poor property maintenance. Need code enforcement.

996. County should not be blindly signing off on permits without adequate inspection from beginning to end of development as they failed to do in Bridge Creek Estates.

997. We need a public sewer system in the entire valley.

998. Get rid of homeowners associations that do absolutely nothing and charge a bunch.

999. The train stopping and blocking road intersections. The train often stops and blocks Head Lane for as long as 1/2 hour at a time - that could make a big impact during a fire evacuation.

1000. Looking at the flood mitigation plan and making improvements before the plan is implemented.
1001. Encourage people to use common sense about fire protection /prevention and to check for adequate water & sewer before buying a house, anywhere that homes in treed areas/forests can’t be a priority and/or protected.

1002. No public wastewater treatment plants in the valley!!

1003. Garbage, trash, junk vehicles etc. not being taken care of properly

1004. I wonder how much money was spent having a group from Massachusetts do this survey. Was there no one in the county or state that could do it?

1005. Subdivision requirements for average landowners are onerous - costs too much to subdivide to leave family a lot or sell a small acreage for retirement.

1006. Upkeep of gravel/unpaved roads. Plowing & sanding of gravel roads

1007. 10% of the people taking up 90% of the county resources (i.e., frivolous law suits).

1008. Should be planning for improving & sustaining what is here now. Also plan for no growth!

1009. Developers & real estate agents. Apparently think they run the community. Like other interest groups, individuals, lobbyists, etc. They have a lot of money and use it as leverage & tools to deflate the public and get what they want.

1010. Need two routes of access for new subdivisions & some old ones. Future use of drones being used as toys by the public. Privacy issue. Clarify rules for keeping livestock in higher density subdivisions. Need bridge fund to allow larger discharge in some drainages. Road flood issue.

1011. Use science - based information to make decisions, NOT political agendas.

1012. Why is the road behind Walmart that goes under the viaduct unpaved and often un-drivable?

1013. The intersection of Lincoln Rd. and Green Meadow is hazardous. Speed limit on Lincoln Road needs to be reduced to 55 mph from mile marker 2 west until west of the 45 mph S curve. After the curve people accelerate to 80 mph until a 55 mph sign is posted. VERY dangerous!!!

1014. Please put in the water lines & sewer to the valley.

1015. More parks and wading pool areas
1016. Urban sprawl - our infrastructure cannot handle more homes & people in the valley.

1017. Freedom & property rights should be the primary concern. Individuals should have choice, not be forced by the government.

1018. Farm lands are disappearing & cattle land disappearing.

1019. County needs to quit requiring developers to improve road to the subdivision at 100% developer cost. Need to develop a legal cost share approach.

1020. We are in an RID & I'm tired of asking for repairs in our subdivision on roads, sewer/septic systems & plowing of exterior roads & the subdivision west of us having access through our subdivision & the speeding etc. !!!!!

1021. Adding a valley landfill should be on the development plan.

1022. Enforcement of covenants in newer subdivisions. They are required to be in place as a condition for building & development but are not enforced. This is the county's responsibility - can't require them & then leave homeowners with complaints high & dry with no recourse.

1023. Wasting taxpayers' funds by not understanding the law. Millions of dollars in judgments over roads!!!

1024. County taxes are too high for the services we receive.

1025. Sustainable development guidelines that plan for climate change resilience should be the #1 framework going forward.


1027. The county has not been accurate, factual or honest in the past. The county has cost the taxpayers too much for failed lawsuits. The county needs to be more pro-development. The county needs much better road & runoff design & maintenance.

1028. Safety for school districts; children & faculty.

1029. Road maintenance, infrastructure, lighting.

1030. Shoulders on existing highways for safety of wild animals, cars and people on roads.
1031. Filling pot holes on Kerr Dr.

1032. The special attention given to higher income areas is unfair to all the taxpayers of the county. Developers seem to get favorable treatment by the county.

1033. In Pennsylvania there is too much growth. Very hard to manage such growth. Limit the growth & development. We see no advantage with over growth, learn from the mistakes of over grown areas. Pass costs to the builders.

1034. Be objective in their decision making & new policies should be for the benefit of all not just those that are influential.

1035. Aid in bus service to out of city residents

1036. I think that the county officials and workers should focus on actually doing the job they were hired to do instead of just putting in their time & drawing a paycheck. How about instead of playing politics they do their job or get fired!!

1037. Rather than attempting to fix all these issues with county funds, we should mandate full disclosure of the condition of property, in these areas, to the potential buyer, with special emphasis on road and water issues.

1038. Address these issues before we ask for additional funding and mill levies for fairgrounds etc.

1039. Lewis & Clark County should use their resources for other purposes than suing homeowners and home owner associations for road issues that are not their business. Lewis & Clark County does not win these court cases.

1040. No more housing developments can be supported with the water we have now. My well went dry and it is now 660 feet deep from 220.

1041. Everyone knows the county commissioners are bought off by the developers. The commissioners have already stated they are not interested in the impact on ground water. The survey company will say what you tell them to say.

1042. If there is a water problem then limit the new building projects. Some years are worse than others but water restrictions means there is not enough water. Limit building projects, homes or businesses.
1043. Getting the whole valley on a waste water system.

1044. They should consider getting rid of all commissioners who have allowed new subdivisions that later proved to be inadequate and has cost this county too much money to recover.

1045. Road maintenance in E. Helena and Helena Valley. The roads I use every day are horrible and result in higher vehicle maintenance costs. Howard Rd. and Dusty Maiden only get graded maybe twice a year and they only last about one month before they need to be graded again.

1046. It's way too crowded!!

1047. I think land owners should be responsible for taking care of their land, mowing tall grass and weeds, clearing over growth etc. They want the land and they should have to take care of it.

1048. The county needs to join with the city and install a sewage treatment system that will serve the entire valley. There is probably federal stimulus money that will help. This piecemeal system won't work.

1049. For new developments, the developer should contract with the county for water & sewer and then share that cost with home owners.

1050. People with children should pick up cost of schools (at least the bulk), some of us paid our share.

1051. Public transportation.

1052. Why is this survey being done by and out of state firm?

1053. Smaller lot sizes - doesn't take up so much land - people don't need those large lots.

1054. No fireworks!

1055. High density neighborhoods in close proximity to Helena school should be annexed by the city. Lewis & Clark County should choose enhancing the quality of life for current citizens over further growth.

1056. Schools & transportation of students.
1057. I believe that one of the major issues facing growth outside of Helena city limits is the expensive and strict city permit and building laws. Lewis & Clark counties would have less problems if the city decreased building requirements.

1058. Additional residential construction inspections to ensure builders are meeting not only plumbing and electric codes, but also structural codes.

1059. Dust control for high traffic gravel roads. Banning the county commissioners from being involved with zoning - they have too many political interests to do a fair job.

1060. Clean up the area from junk yards & gas, oil, and grease going into the ground.

1061. Fix the roads, like Birdseye Road, and other county roads.

1062. It really seems the county commissioners are making bad calls. They penalize some developers & let others walk over the current residents.

1063. Waste water in the Valley should be pumped to the Helena waste water plant on Custer Avenue - should have been done 40 years ago.

1064. Quit the cheap spray tack and chip seal on Birdseye Rd. Fix the road, section by section, mile by mile or get the bikers & runners off. This road is dangerous to all who use it. The county is gonna get sued one of these days. Tack & chip seal does nothing.

1065. Let people take more responsibilities and the government stay out of it. We need less people to tell us what to do and when! We pay the bill.

1066. No other issues, looks like you have your plate full!

1067. Use RIDs to keep new subdivisions priced for entry level homeowner. Pressure city to develop incentives to build on infills (rather than punishing builders wanting to build in the city) reducing pressure on the County.

1068. Roads depend on how much traffic. If someone builds where there is little traffic they can maintain them. More traffic - more county involvement. Water & waste water need multiple unbiased evaluations. Fire protection should be encouraged, not mandated - it is far too complex and mandates would only be a band aid for some problems.
1069. Flooding in the valley.

1070. Crime prevention efforts should increase.

1071. Zoning in heavily populated areas of the county (outside the city limits).

1072. Emergency services/planning for disasters (i.e., earthquake or massive utility outages).

1073. Legal counsel for the county has been poor - costing considerable expense to the taxpayers.

1074. Stop/traffic light at Bob's intersection ASAP!!

1075. Business development, light pollution, air quality.

1076. County needs to increase road crews & level of service. Quit waiting for state to do it.

1077. The county needs to let private development occur & stay out of the way.

1078. Keep in mind that this is a free country and that free choice is a civil right. Please don't be overly heavy handed in applying new rules. Volunteer fire departments are outstanding. Keep in mind that we pay taxes for the services and deciding that people deserve fewer services is wrong.

1079. Enforcement of law in outlying areas i.e. speeding on gravel roads, routine patrols, especially at night.

1080. I feel the county is taking too much authority from the private land owner.

1081. Schools!

1082. The county needs to consider how new subdivisions impact the local school district, transportation, etc. Also, the county needs to consider the impact on law enforcement, also health emergencies.

1083. With all the money we pay in taxes the roads should be a lot better!!

1084. Annexation to city, growth, boundaries & zoning.

1085. Implement zoning regulations. Implement flood plan ASAP.
1086. The clog of traffic at Montana Ave & Lincoln Rd is of great concern. There needs to be a widened road & a light installed before someone is killed because of an accident.

1087. You will have your hands full with these four areas. These four are so interrelated, working together with developers & authority groups is necessary as growth is a natural tendency.

1088. Ground water management should be a top priority especially with regards to current flood areas & impact and future development.

1089. We need to be more concerned about flood protection. Right now it should be the county's #1 concern.

1090. Junk vehicles, loose dogs, weed control.

1091. Use better road mix material for maintaining roads or keep watching them fall apart and be more costly to redo.

1092. Too many subdivisions being built taking away productive agricultural land. Stop letting subdivisions being developed.

1093. Paying out thousands of dollars in lawsuits to private development.

1094. Re-pave Birdseye road and the section of road between Green Meadow Club and Fort Harrison. Way too much traffic for the safe condition of these roads.

1095. Junk on private property.

1096. Recreation facilities, both Helena & E. Helena.

1097. Schools.

1098. Development should be directed to the city & currently developed areas to keep our agricultural heritage viable.

1099. Traffic control – speed.

1100. Cleaning up areas that not are being kept up by home owners and charging the homeowner.
1101. Keeping rural areas rural. No high density housing outside city limits.

1102. Traffic! Growth in Helena and the Helena Valley should be limited for consideration of all topics above. I listed roads first not because of quality but the cost to build and improve the traffic conditions in the area.

1103. That ground water and surface water are interconnected. Allowing unlimited wells will decrease the water table and take water from in stream flows as well as farmers and ranchers who have prior appropriated water rights. Allowing urban sprawl to continue as it has been will have irreversible side effects on the aquifer.

1104. Widen North Montana Ave north of Bob's Valley market. I have lived out here for 30 plus years and other than fixing pot holes; no work has been done to that road.

1105. Too arbitrary. The world doesn't work this way. Any new taxes should be levied on a personal ability to pay basis. I'm sick and tired of subsidizing rich people!

1106. Draining and sewer.

1107. Open space/Access to public lands. Public recreation areas.

1108. Generally, following existing rules/laws provides more than adequate service and protection. County OVER involvement has cost citizens lots of money in many ways.

1109. Protecting water rights and property rights.

1110. Using the taxes from new homes wisely.

1111. Sending this survey out of state to put together data. These jobs should be kept in Lewis & Clark County or at least in Montana.

1112. Upgrading existing roads like Green Meadow.

1113. Get rid of the tax on septic tanks. We do not need the County telling us when to clean the tank and making decisions for us and having to prove to them it was pumped. We are not stupid or children needing the County to be our parents.

1114. Snow Removal. Road Maintenance not currently done by the county, yet those residents and homeowners pay their share of property taxes. What are the taxes used for?
1115. Making sure there are enough schools for the children living in these new subdivisions.

1116. Impact on schools?

1117. I endorse County wide zoning to implement growth policy goals and objectives. Current neighborhood zoning is reactionary and poor planning. Show some leadership and seek comprehensive land use planning through zoning.

1118. Need ongoing recycling program in city of Helena and County. Need adequate public transportation in the city of Helena and the county.

1119. Codes to clean up properties (zone residential) that turn into junk yards. Limit the number of animals, vehicles, & recreation equipment on property unless you live way out of town.

1120. There should only be one fire dept. in Lewis & Clark County with the Helena Fire Chief as administrator. There has never been a growth policy since the building started to come into the Valley in early 1970s and that is why we are where we are today. City limits should go to Lincoln Rd. All main roads and roads north of Lincoln Rd. should be paved. There is also a road dust problem that is growing more and more each year.

1121. It is a shame we cannot expand our jail at its current location. We may have a site in the middle of Helena.

1122. The County is doing a very poor job of maintaining road ditches to help prevent flooding. Flooding is a major issue in the Helena Valley and the County is moving at a snail's pace to help with this issue.

1123. Thank you for your work!

1124. It is not nice to mess with Mother Nature. You can only use what she can give you. People cannot be allowed to build subdivisions where the water is not able to take care of the people who will live there. I don't care if the developers have well drilling permits or not, because that shows all they care about is building and selling the houses. Forget the homeowners who have lived there most of their life. Mother nature first and foremost. It is like a bank account. You are only supposed to write checks/debits if you have the money.

1125. Doing channel work on Ten Mile and Prickly Pear to keep them contained and mitigating some of the flooding problems. Would also reduce the amounts of pollution entering these streams.
1126. It is unfair to ask people who may lack the education and value for the role of water used for agriculture purposes to choose between agriculture and development in Question 25. The fact that agricultural operations have the ability to return water to replenish groundwater systems should be valued and considered as a benefit to those who rely on groundwater resources.

1127. Trying to get the County Commissioners to listen to and act on your recommendations.

1128. Fairgrounds. Putting the new building in the infield was wrong! We never voted for that and there were so many other and better places to put it.

1129. Our HOA has our neighbors' wells checked periodically by a professional who sends the samples to the county (I think). Costs of services for developments should be shared by developer and county (roads into development).

1130. Subdivisions always show a picture of great beauty but they are never completed, leaving weeds, weeds, weeds! Another subdivision should NOT start till others complete fully.

1131. Very skewed survey. Not at all objective.

1132. This was an ineffective survey- There was no room for comments & discussion - some people have really good ideas! Why do we hire people from out of state to do our surveys - isn't there any businesses in Montana or Helena that could do this?

1133. Ferry Road, maintain all its length! It's only fixed half way up. The north portion is in a dreadful condition. No good conditions for emergency vehicles. At the end of last fall until the big frost the bottom half of road was repaired once a week with no need, while the upper half hasn't got any up keeping for long months! Fantasy Road (east) the residents were charged about $19,000 for upgrades to minimize the damages by thawing snow and for a general road upgrade. The road quality is getting deplorable and the goal to pay that much money was not achieved. Fix it or refund the residents! Stop raising taxes.

1134. Less development & more protection of land for agriculture.

1135. Why do county road department employees work four ten hour shifts Monday thru Friday and collect overtime if it happens to snow (for example) Friday, Saturday, or Sunday! Shouldn't they have a rotating shift?

1136. New small subdivisions & older neighborhoods that junk up their yards - lowers property values.
1137. Limit building. I don't believe this county's water can support all these new subdivisions.

1138. The developers telling the truth to adjacent homeowners to know how to react.

1139. I live off Birdseye Road and it's terrible.

1140. Consider looking at studies done in prior years regarding water quantity in Lewis & Clark County, since these studies were adopted by the county at the time. No need to reinvent the wheel.


1142. Less sprawl and more areas annexed into the city of Helena.

1143. We live on Winscott Lane just south of Goldrush Ave. Our Fire Department is Baxendale Rural Fire west of Helena and they must travel through Helena to Winscott Lane. Is there a rural volunteer Fire Department with better access to Winscott Lane?

1144. Money that is wasted by volunteer fire departments.

1145. Severely restricting the growth in the valley. New subdivisions should meet very strict standards. This should reduce the waste of resources & redirect development back into the city.

1146. If growth continues the way it is - what attracted people here will be lost!!

1147. Population control!

1148. Developers must include the costs for roads, water, and wastewater in the plans for developments prior to county approval of the development.

1149. Keep in mind who you work for. It's not yourself or special interest groups - especially those who have moved here with big city thinking. This is Montana. I did notice your waste of funds to hire outsiders to do this research. I guess it's just an exercise in futility.

1150. Nowhere in this survey are environmental concerns addressed except #1. All of these issues - roads, water, wastewater and fire protection have far reaching effects on the ecology of the Helena Valley. Please address this in growth planning.
1151. Require developers to do what they promise to do like pave the roads in developments that they said they would.

1152. Allowing public use and expansion of subdivision roads without requiring the new users to cover maintenance costs. The need for more turning lanes off of Highway 12 (safety issues).

1153. A valley sewer system should be top priority and then water. The longer you wait the more damage is done and the costs go up. Get moving.

1154. Stop the new wells and septic systems.

1155. Get county commissioners that use common sense.

1156. If people want to live in areas with timber/grasslands it is their responsibility to protect their property from wildland fires. If they choose not to make a buffer zone around their homes...it's their problem.

1157. Urban sprawl, ASARCO arsenic.

1158. Turn lanes at all main intersections. All entries to shopping centers & new developments. Highway access to North Valley roads (i.e., Sierra, Forestvale). North Montana off ramp going north to frontage. On ramps going south at Forestvale or Sierra. Bike paths in city and all main valley roads.

1159. Better, more consistent enforcement of existing regulations. Licensing of developers.

1160. Current road maintenance is pathetic. County Government should only be involved in infrastructure, law, & fire protection. Also, there are a lot of new potential tax increases on the horizon (schools, fairgrounds) that will be a very heavy burden.

1161. Widen roads - passing lanes on York Road, Canyon Ferry, Green Meadow, etc.

1162. Better snow removal with anti-icing materials. Snow/ice removal off the streets is pitiful and has been for decades.

1163. Flood control!

1164. Reducing the safety levy tax.
1165. The years required for testing of community water wells should be lowered especially with the rate of growth.

1166. Despite the recent lawsuit, I appreciate the county's efforts to try to hold developers responsible for their impact and hope they find a way to do so that can stand up to legal challenges - so the general county citizen doesn't foot the bill for private developers' profit (or mitigating development impacts).

1167. Spending money wisely.

1168. Adequate school sizes for new developments/subdivisions. Adequate schools to provide safe learning environments.

1169. Again, winter issues for building specifically out by Hauser Lake.

1170. Quality of life, sprawl, public transportation.

1171. You do a fine job!

1172. Use a research company that is in our state/region, not on the other side of the country.

1173. Climate change

1174. Deducting recent judgments from the pay of those responsible for making those decisions.

1175. Capacity of schools and need currently for more schools in valley. Establish greater permanent infrastructure for flood mitigation, better re-routing of flood waters.

1176. City water - drinking, private well – irrigation.


1178. Law enforcement needs to be increased in developing areas to improve individual safety!

1179. Protect values by enforcing the quality of construction & new subdivisions. The valley is full of trashy homes & subdivisions. Too much garbage allowed around homes. County should inspect visible trash and request clean up. Keep Montana beautiful.
1180. I think the city or county should provide a trash service free of charge to tax payers in and out of city limits even if it raises taxes.

1181. Very disappointed in county government! This L&C County is oppressive in its manners & intrusive and overbearing in its governance.

1182. Safer commuting options for non-automobile travelers - bike lanes, walking paths, park & ride. Continue to expand recreation opportunities and green space

1183. Greater consideration of wildlife impacts with new development.

1184. If people are concerned about fire protection, they should concentrate on obtaining adequate homeowners' insurance and any government money for fighting wildfire should go to local fire districts, not the state or the feds.

1185. I own a four plex in the North Star sub division. It is situated on one acre. There is a septic system with an above ground drain field. The infrastructure (i.e., paved street, sewer, water etc.) are all in place. Extra half acre would be ideal for another four plex. Duplex or single family dwelling! With that in mind I recently checked with county planning to find if it was possible to divide the acre and build myself or sell the half acre. Disappointed to find that with subdivision rules applied to dividing this parcel into two building sites it is so onerous and expensive it is not worth the effort. There are 10 parcels like mine that have ready infrastructure and septic systems of their own in the same position. Because of all rules and regulations and expense, all of those plots will always have a weed patch, prime for development and never done. I would assume that the county would look at this opportunity to in fill and open up prime building sites as something the county would want to facilitate.

1186. Roads Outside the city limits of Helena and East Helena. Question # 6 - "dense" housing developments (Lots vs acreage) should have curbs and street lights. Acreage Developments - ditching along the roads are appropriate. Question # 8 - County roads -In my humble opinion, any road, dirt/gravel/paved, that is available for general public use "public access" should be maintained by the county at the published road quality standard for that type of road. If the general public can use the road then the GENERAL PUBLIC should pay for the privilege of maintaining that road. Why should I have to pay to have the dirt road in front of my house to be graded and maintained so that someone can bring their truck with horse trailer and destroy the quality that I paid for? Wildland fires Question #17 - Fighting Fires - "dense" housing developments (lots vs acreage) the developer should be required to ensure that adequate water
is available to fight a household fire even if the development is in the wildland fire areas. However - those of us who purchased acreage in the wildland fire area and built our home on that acreage are responsible for ensure adequate water availability and in most cases we have accepted the risk that in the case of a fire (household or wildfire) it is at our own risk. Wastewater - I am totally disappointed that the county has allowed SO MUCH "dense" housing development to occur in the Helena Valley without having a plan for a LARGE public wastewater processing system. It is appropriate for those of us who have acreage that is large enough to be classified as "agricultural use" be on a septic system. Water - Again - I am totally disappointed that the county has allowed SO MUCH "dense" housing development to occur in the Helena Valley without a plan for providing adequate water from sources other than the relying on individual/"community" wells which draw from the aquifer. It is appropriate for those with acreage that is large enough to be classified as "agricultural use" be on a well system.

1187. #1 FIRE PROTECTION: This should have been addresses years ago! The "Pine Beetle" problem should have been taken care of when it started. The County should work directly with Forrest Service & B.M. to correct the problem. It should be the property owner’s responsibility to remove all dead and standing trees and to have an appropriate clear area around all structures. #2 ROADS: The road issue should be addressed when new subdivisions are in planning. The areas outside of the City limits should not have curbs and sidewalks. This is county living! If a road is designated for "Bike Riders" then there should be a "Bike Path". Perhaps a bike license or permit could be put in place for those using the roads. Ten years ago Hauser Dam Road was being graded (2) two times a year...Now there are a multitude of new homes and White Sandy was built...Hauser Dam Road is still being graded (2) two times per year...not counting snow plowing. Why not put a sur-charge for those using Black & White Sandy Campgrounds? Property owners already pay Road Tax. #3 & #4 WATER & WASTEWATER: Again, this should have been addressed years ago! Those living on 10 or more acres, should be responsible for their own systems. Those living within the city limits and in housing tracts, (within the valley) need to be tested on as needed basis.

1188. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf. We appreciate your attempts to bring common sense and order to the development of the Helena Valley. For far too long we have allowed the kind of helter-skelter expansion which, continued unchecked, will damage the quality of life most of us here hope to enjoy and maintain for many years to come. Generally, high density rural subdivisions should be discouraged in the Helena Valley, and allowed only where adequate access roads already exist. Where these developments are permitted, infrastructure
requirements should be as stringent as those within Helena city limits. And, no new rural subdivision should ever again become ‘a ward of the state’ as some are now. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize the cost of failed waste-water treatment systems that need to be better designed, constructed, maintained and funded by those who build and otherwise benefit from them. By discouraging high density mini-cities in rural areas we also avoid the problem of stretching our law enforcement, fire protection, and school systems beyond their capabilities. This usually results in greater costs and poorer service for us all. If developers and builders in Lewis and Clark County are given strong incentives to build and grow where they can connect to city sewer and water, and where good roads, fire and police protection already exist, none should be at a competitive disadvantage with another. And, we will all benefit from a more energy efficient, smart-growth community that will attract the type of growth and business that will respect, appreciate and contribute to our well-designed, well-managed community.

1189. Item #19 - Enforce rules in place. Possibly share responsibility of enforcement. Example, I know of home that recently sold for cash; had been listed with several real estate agents. Original septic was not put in and permitted with county. Since new buyer didn’t take out mortgage didn’t have to bring septic up to code. Has since moved more people onto property, living in small utility trailer, septic is in small multi-family area, with many small children, all families have own wells. How bad can this be? The real estate agents/ company that listed the property should have red flagged property when checking permit at county, title company could have requested status of septic at closing, court house could have requested when recording deed. In mean time quality of water continues to be exposed to their waste. In my opinion clerical help is cheap, progress is slow, and ignoring problems only gets more expensive to deal with in time. Impose stiff fines on property owners that don’t want to maintain their property. Home ownership should come with pride and responsibility. If you don’t want to assume that role don’t take it on, and consequently put the citizen of our fine state at health risk. If fines are high enough, they can pay for enforcement cost. If county building codes, covenants association rules are put in place and enforced property values hold or go up which benefits entire community. I am a tax paying citizen of L&C and property owner who takes pride in my home. This is just an FY of things the county should consider- it seems some of your actions are random and not terribly fair. In 1994 Applegate Dr. was issued an imposed RID to pave Applegate dr. Really it was a low grade oil and gravel. We were supposed to pay on it for 10 years and then the county would take over the maintenance. At 10 years it was reissued and we continued to pay maintenance. In 20 years the traffic has become unbearable with so much construction, the large trucks, equipment and new subdivisions creating even more traffic. In
turn we’ve had very little road maintenance but cement trucks, lumber trucks and equipment have increased the normal wear and tear. There was a recent attempt to fix the damage at the intersection of John G Mine and N. Montana with pavement but it’s already failing. Wasted money. With all the new people out here, why have my property taxes for the RID for Applegate INCREASED!! Why should I keep paying for something that was only supposed to be for 10 years? And then increase when there are so many more people who can absorb the cost? Trust me, the road has not been improved and it’s mostly hit and misses on patching pot holes. Two years ago a county truck came by to “clean out ditches” but only did a few random ditches. My ditch was pristine; culverts clean and adequate for run-off, ditch was mowed grass, and clean of any debris. The county worker dug out my ditch way too much, killing my lilac bushes and then used the dirt to fill holes in my neighbor’s driveway, but didn’t dig out his ditch or my neighbor’s across the street or neighbors south of me?? Why?? There were only a few ditches cleaned with many left undone that truly needed cleaning, while mine was destroyed and didn’t need cleaning at all. Why is nothing being done about loud trucks and cars that have no mufflers or exhaust systems that are very loud on purpose? Don’t we have a noise limit on vehicles? The cars and trucks are so loud I cannot hear the TV or talk on the phone when my windows and doors are closed. Forget trying to sleep in the summer with the windows open. In addition, since the liabation station opened at the corner of Applegate Dr. and Lincoln Rd west there is increased motorcycle traffic at 2:00 am because the drunks think they should sneak back to town on Applegate Dr instead of using Montana Avenue. I am three houses from the John G Mine/ Applegate Dr. 4-way stop sign so I hear all the shifting gears and roar of accelerating engines. Last year one motorcycle went into the irrigation ditch across the road at 2:00 a.m. and I had to fish him out. There is very little police presence at that time of night. Most people run that stop sign anyway and travel 50-55 mph on Applegate which is posted 35. I’ve never in 20 + years seen anyone stopped for speeding. I am considering moving. It’s becoming ridiculous. You cannot get blood out of a turnip. We cannot fight all of the narcissistic people who have no respect for Montana’s farmers and farm land and water ways and ground water that is a precious as gold. These narcissistic developers/ gold diggers/ psychopaths and sociopaths are all in to defying what is true. In the people’s best interests to maintain a peaceful and harmoniously run town, state community. Now if everyone runs out of water because there are too many wells who is going to take care of that after it is too late and who is going to laugh in everyone’s face the pushy one who was successful to make us thing we could defy nature, weather, dependency of farms and farmers. As they take their scam of money to the bank. Just like why does anyone allow anyone to burn the rain forests when educated minds (remember those?) know that the rainforests produce so much oxygen supply us with so many health
remedies have so many unknown life forms we have yet to know yet no one has stopped the burning; In the name of progress. To build, pour concrete, make more people souse the ancient tribes that have homes in the forests. Don’t they and their ways account for anything? Sometimes the bigger man/woman/l person knows when to say enough. I should not have to suffer with less or no water, because someone or some board of directors swayed by some self-serving developer so he can have a fat bank account and laugh behind your backs because all this fast talk to builders are is a mere game to them, doesn’t matter if they win the bundle for cash or make you a community, etc disabled. If people loved the big ghastly cities they lived in let them move out or back. Why did we hire a out of county, or out of state firm to do this work? 5. More funding for county road maintenance could be realized if there was not so much administration. Too much money is spent on office and supervisory positions instead of personnel and equipment that actually do the work. The Lewis and Clark county public works dept. is a good example. 11. Groups who stand in the way of government agencies who are trying to remove dead and dying timber should be held responsible for their actions if damages occur. 17. Personal property rights are involved. 19. The city of Helena and Lewis and Clark county should be preparing for a central sewer treatment plant in the lower part of the valley. (Near Lake Helena) might as well get started, because the problem isn’t going away. Dear research group, a much bigger and more urgent concern than any of the four areas on your survey is the lack of respect that is shown by the people living north of Helena city limits for their property and homes. If you drive north on Green Meadow road it looks like a dumping ground for debris, garbage, burned out and destroyed mobile homes and trailers, old vehicles, trash and other junk. Do we have no standards or requirements for property maintenance anymore? Why are we allowing this negligence for our beautiful valley to occur? Do we not have any laws or regulations requiring people to keep their environment clean and maintained so they don’t look like eye sores? This is an embarrassing problem. Is there a group or committee that would be willing to look into this huge problem and take on the issue of cleaning up our valley. Montana is a land of beauty we are allowing it to be ruined by folks who don’t care. Surely this problem is creating fire hazards that your research group is concerned about as much as timber and vegetation being too close to homes. I would welcome any comments and feedback regarding this issue and my concerns. Let’s take back our state and clean up our Valley? It's a disgusting mess. Need Less administration and more workers. Begin planning for sewer treatment plant in lowest area of the valley. Do channel work on 10 mile creek to reduce flooding in the valley. Do something about the flooding!
1190. Loaded Question- Need to decide to facilitate developers and owners rather than obstruct: Does me no good to send this to a research group what I am dissatisfied with is not included. It is a shame we cannot expand our jail at its current location. We may have a site in the middle of Helena. Flood control and proper drainage; The county is doing a very poor job of maintaining road ditches to help prevent flooding. Flooding is a major issue in the Helena valley the county is moving at a snails pace to help with this issue; There are 5 key issues and you are not addressing one of the major issues in the Helena area and that is flooding. Major damage and cost are our concern. Ten mile creek and others, for flood prevention. How can the county and city expand public water when we just keep growing and growing, the water supply is limited we don’t need to keep growing. Expand public water when it makes sense from multiple aspects cost, obstacles, opportunities and resources; Encouraging less sprawl of subdivisions rather more closely associated housing, with more green space for recreation and wildlife too. #24 strongly disagree, not enough water; #25 the county know which of the 2 generates more tax base for county improvements; Quit spending our money on making the fairgrounds an enormous facility we can’t afford the maintenance and heating/cooling expenses in the future. We need to secure more public open space for non-motorized use and increase the ease, safety and appeal of non-motorized transportation (walkability; trails, bikeways). #4 contractor/homes. #25 they are both needed this question has too many variables. #29 depends on a case by case. The county should also take in consideration how much of all of these regulations and laws cost the homeowner/landowner and are they necessary or is it a way to just keep government busy. Flooding around high septic areas. #6 depends on the area in the county; #29 depends on where it is at. Make the developer pay for their projects infrastructure. Fire prevention is the responsibility of the property owner. #23 very little threat because they are not close. A bond from the developer should be held to make sure the water/sewer facilities are adequate. #6 both listed options not thought out. Septic systems pose very little threat if properly maintained: We here in Montana are not about to let our state or city to become a cluttered LA or NY stop trying to make Helena like them. The county should build adequate roads; after all the builders is bringing new tax dollars; there are no affordable senior areas for seniors. Just the very low income ones. How about getting one for us seniors who are still independent but want to be around people our age. #25 agriculture, however, ag comes from the canal.

1191. School improvement. #6 Very bias question I have an opinion but it is neither of these; #8 again very bias question identifying growth areas and cooperative planning and development of infrastructure.#25 its not choice both. Extremely bias survey questions. Amount of road maintenance, they do the best they can with what they have.#17 strongly agree unless
conditions are met for protections. There should be only 1 fire department in Lewis and Clark County with Helena fire as administrator. There has never been a growth policy since the building started to come into valley in early 70’s and that is why we are where we are today. City line should go to Lincoln Rd. All main roads north and roads north of Lincoln rd should be paved. There is also a road dust problem that is growing more and more each year.