



American Rescue Plan Act

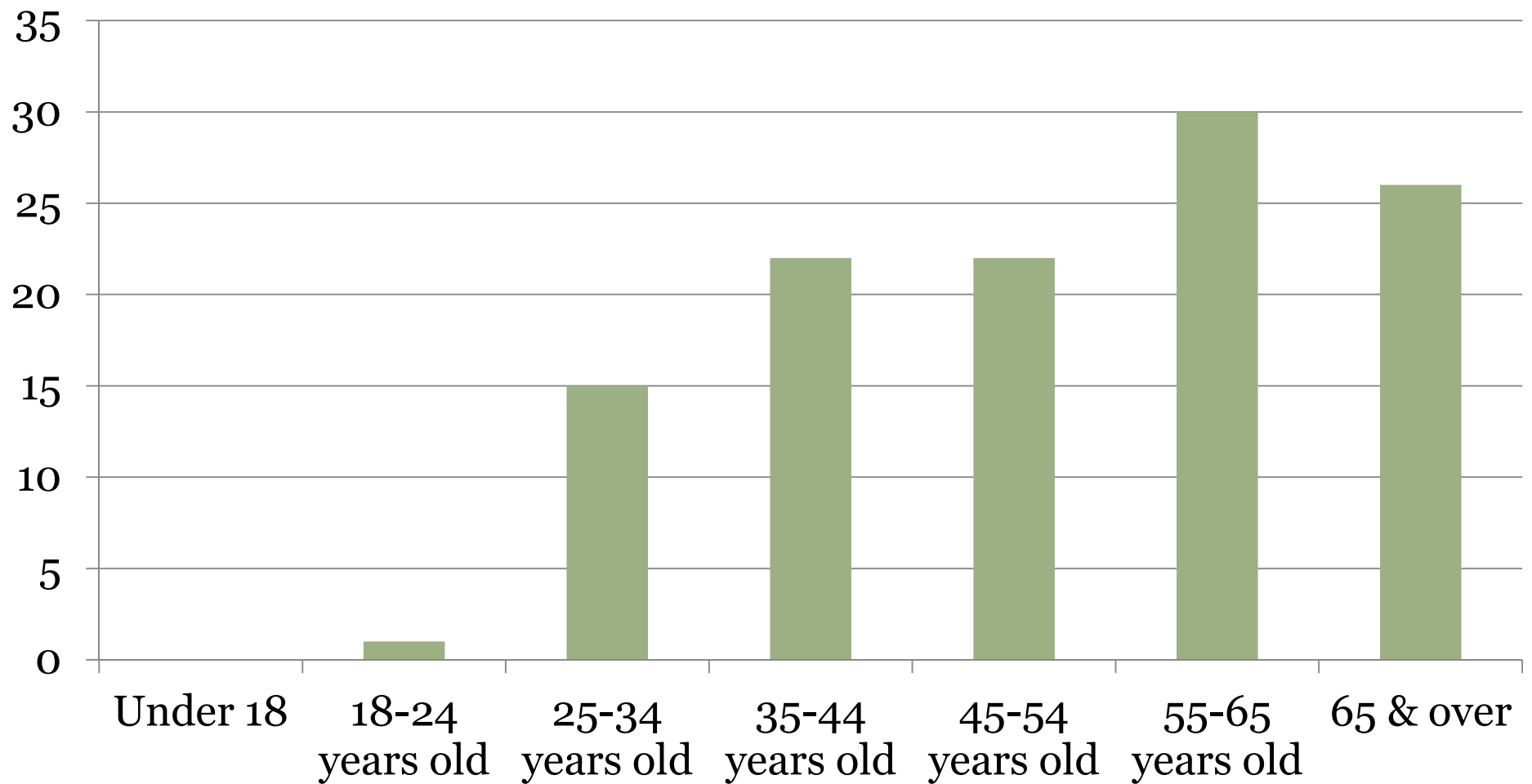
City of New London Survey Results

LIVEWORKINVEST
New London

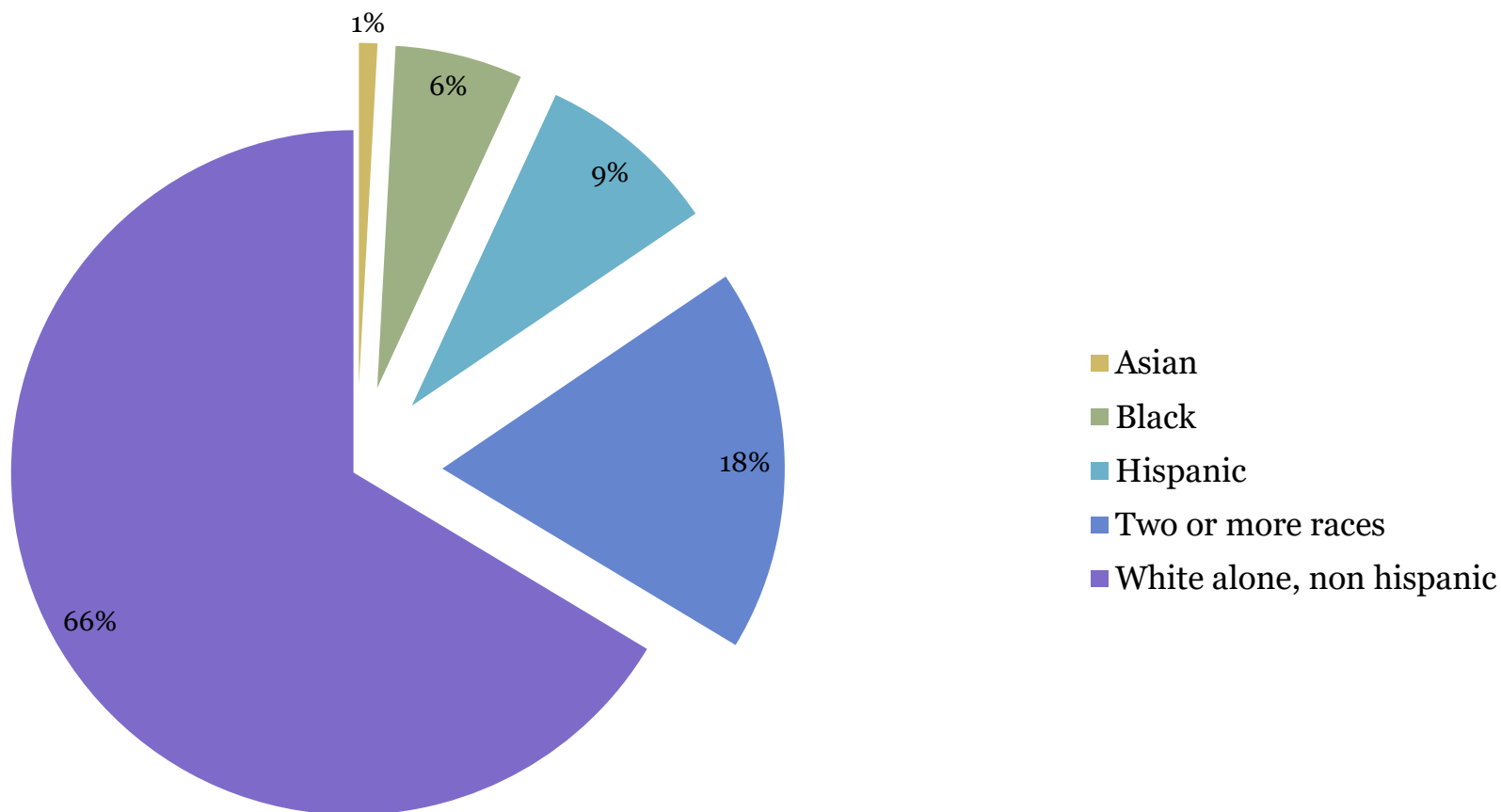
Survey Questions

- Name & Contact Information
- Affiliation to New London (Resident, Business Owner, Community Leader)
- How would you rank the following sectors?
(Transportation, Human Services, Economic Development, Youth Services, Public Health & Recreation, Environmental, Education, Parks & Infrastructure)
- How has Covid-19 affected you most?
- Should the city create programs & initiatives that would benefit residents long term?
- Provide the city your ideas on how ARPA money should be spent.

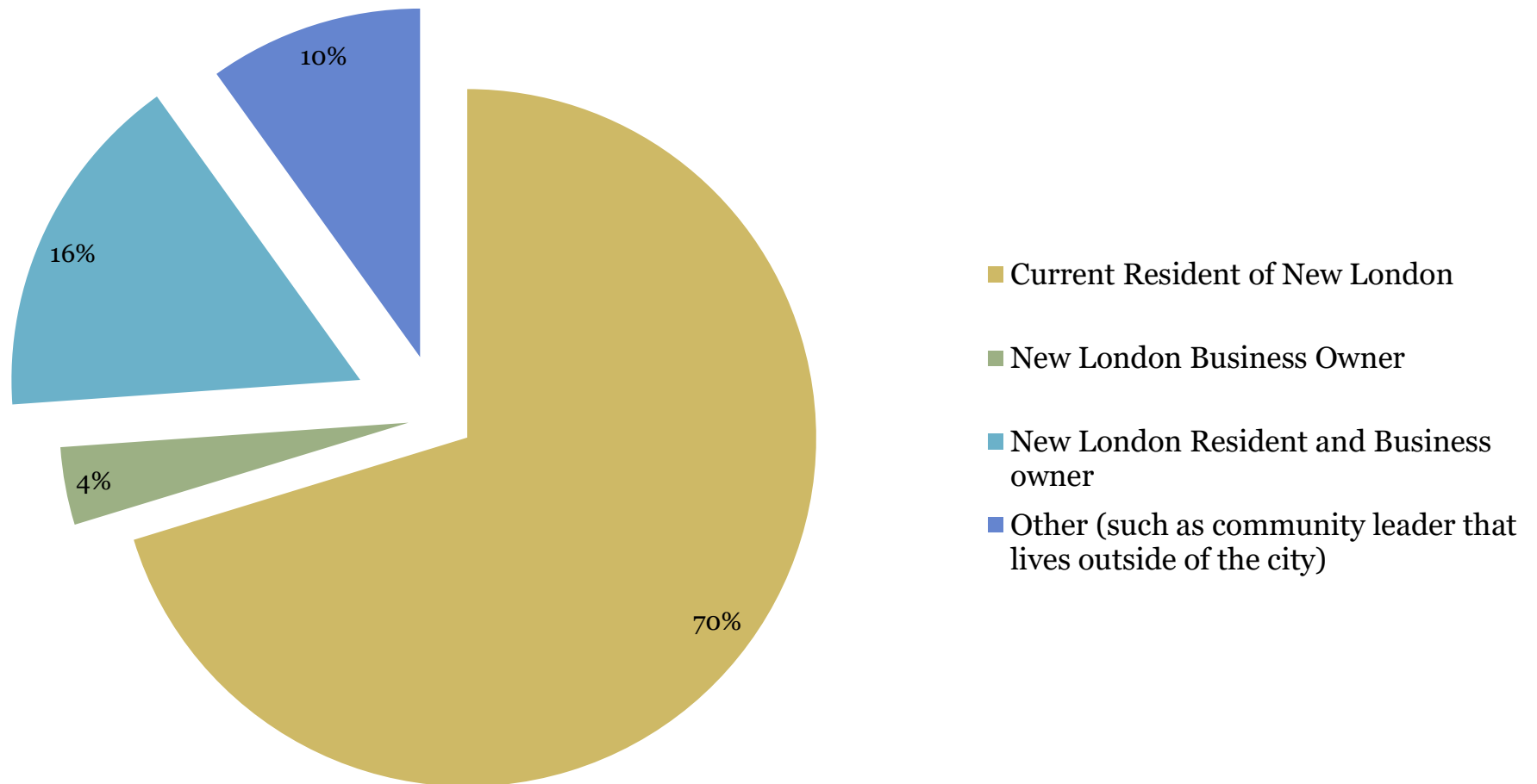
Survey Respondents: (Age)



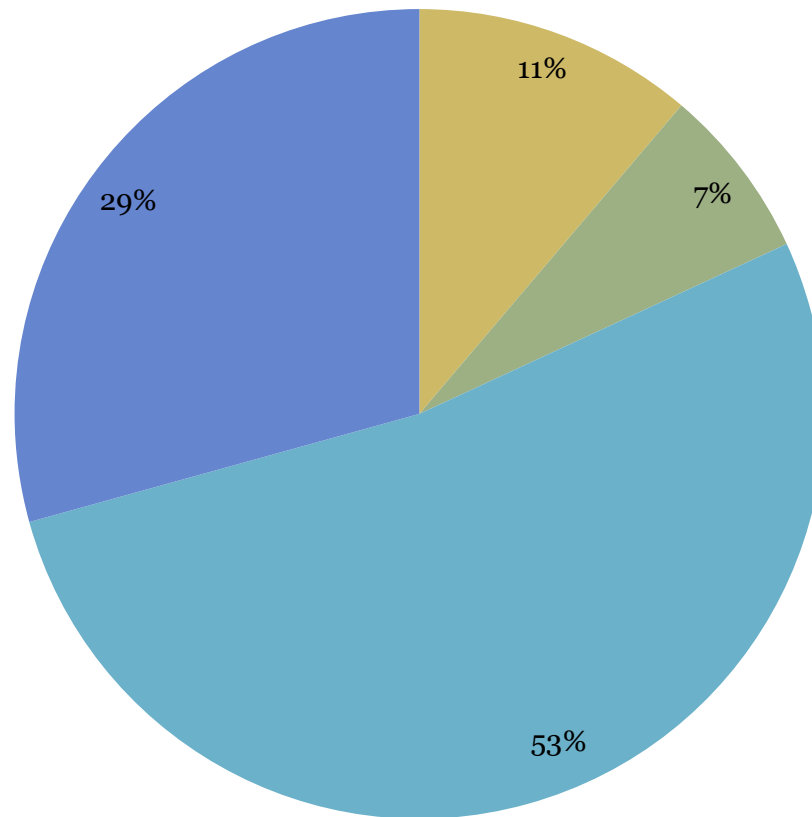
Survey Respondents: (Race)



Survey Respondents: (connection to New London)

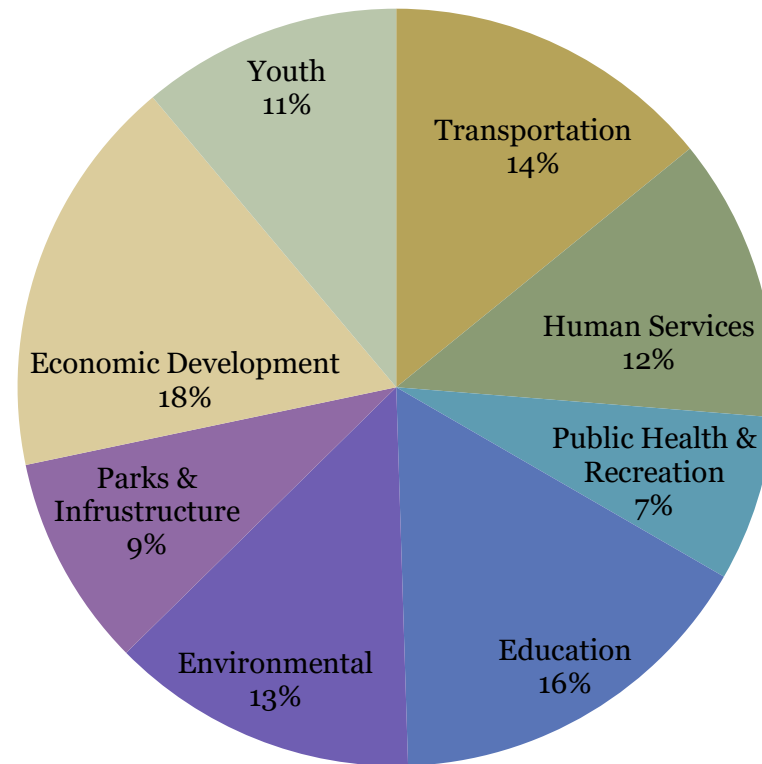


How has Covid-19 affected you most?



- Unmet needs (including inability to pay rent/mortgage, diapers, utilities, internet, food, medicine, transportation, child care)
- Education (negative effects due to remote learning)
- Health (physical and/or mental health, loss of a loved one)
- Financially (job loss, food insecurities, housing)

How would you rank spending priority?



Economic Development ranked the highest priority while Parks & Infrastructure ranked the lowest

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Economic Development)

- City has lacked in supporting its small businesses for years. City needs a data base of offerings from local small businesses we pay the taxes and support the community it seems the outsiders always get the business. There needs to be a reach out through meetings with local businesses to see how they can support government services
- Get our store fronts built back up- help new business owners start up in NL successfully
- Emphasize investment towards vacant spaces downtown; a rentable studio space for rehearsing/recording musicians
- Downtown NL development
- Funding social services programs that serve vulnerable underserved populations to help build health equity and prevent adverse outcomes.
- Grants to homeowners eliminate blight such as painting house, roof or gutter repair
- Grants to help revitalize vacant buildings and new businesses.
- Look to develop more land in the state pier area for commercial use.
- Grants towards homeowners to maintain residence and stay out of elderly housing
- More assistance for handicapped elderly homeowners to maintain and stay in home
- Money allocated to the Community Land Trust to help built a stock of permanently affordable housing (home ownership)
- Subsidies for developers of upper floors of downtown buildings
- Provide security deposits for people in need; pay back rent to landlords on the condition that they don't evict; expand housing conservation funds to multi-family houses on the condition that the landlord keeps rents affordable for low or moderate income households for a set number of years, with amount of funding tied to level of affordability.

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Economic Development)

- Help those who needed help with rent and mortgages
- Encourage more small businesses perhaps by offering tax incentives.
- Support for permanently affordable home ownership opportunities for New Londoners through the Community Land Trust, restoring currently blighted, abandoned and condemned properties that drag down our neighborhoods.
- Changing traffic patterns and parking easier and free downtown to encourage economic development. I suggest making State St one way towards the train station. I think that both State St and Bank St should have angled pull in parking spots all along their length. Parking should be free up to 4 hours in both the municipal parking lot on Eugene O'Neil Drive as well as on the streets.
- Just hire a crew to clean the city. 3 people @ 54k annually. If you get good people they could really keep NL nice
- Grant to hire temporary workers
- Subsidy program for new small businesses; Incubator space for the arts (rehearsal and performance space); arts coordinator position for the city; steady outdoor programming of events from spring through fall
- Operating capital needs for businesses. Get Eversource to lower delivery fees
- Revitalize downtown New London (I believe that is the current plan) to attract outsiders
- Focus on rebuilding our downtown. Make the owners fix up their buildings and make them rentable. Hold out of state landlord's accountable. Stop focusing on disposable money when there is nothing for them to dispose it of in our city. Help small businesses stay and prosper on bank and state. Stop looking outside of NL to fix the problem use this money to fix our problems so business will want to come and can afford to spend the rents. Build better long term relationships.

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Economic Development)

- We need more business to want to operate here. Use money to make it more advantageous to open downtown.
- Grants to start small business
- Funding Sources and professional services. Builders, tradespeople, CPAs, Real Estate Lawyers
- Developing and funding programs for local upstarts, visionaries, and business owners. Economic incentives for a vibrant and full downtown, economic disincentives for dead and vacant storefronts as opposed to continuous courting of outside investors with little connection to the community or desire to do anything with the buildings they purchase for a song off market and sit on with minimum effort in hopes of a premium renter, a lucrative flip, or to (allegedly) launder ill-gotten assets.
- Individual artists (visual artists, graphic designers, theatre actors, performers and musicians) make up a large percentage of the NL population. They are represented by every gender, race and age. The City should figure out a way to assist these individuals financially, in the short term, and develop programs or projects for these individuals to have a chance of thriving in the long term. Small Business is the backbone of any economy, the taxes they pay contributing to our city's vitality. Creating programs to help the arts community would serve small businesses well in a city like New London.
- Supporting small businesses with signage and unowned housing using Community Land Trust to make permanent affordable home in our community.
- Creating a committee to brainstorm ways to bring more business to New London. Downtown is mostly empty storefronts, while Pequot Avenue is hopping and City Dock is also attracting visitors. RD86, Muddy Waters, Hot Rods, On the Waterfront, Shellfish, Fred's Shanty are doing it right. We need to help those businesses continue to thrive while attracting new business.

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Economic Development)

- More business owned by African Americans
- Court businesses such as rock climbing gyms, yoga studios, small restaurants. One caveat: any business New London courts should enhance the quality of life for the residents. Please do not try to attract night clubs or bars that intend to play loud music late at night. This has been an issue with past establishments and has a significant impact on quality of life.
- Incentivize owner occupied properties in some way. That's the only way to get rid of the blight.
- It would be very advantageous to have somewhere sizeable that people could learn various “trades” and “businesses” to promote more startups in the area. Would probably require purchase of some equipment. Business incubation 21st century. Areas such as the one in Hartford where you can flexibly rent business areas/offices for those businesses that are too new to be able to rent expensive office suites or commit to long term leases. Should include training and help on starting up a business. Possibly small manufacturing, IT, baking/cooking, expanding art into commercial ventures (critical for our art community - there's more to art than selling originals and prints), and other business ideas where people can make some halfway decent money. Possibly even help and guidance with getting a government position since we do have government employers in the area.
- Funds for small businesses crushed by the COVID restrictions
- Small business grants for businesses and restaurants to open in empty downtown storefronts. These grants should be up to 3 years, renewable each year so that business can really get established. There should also be access to small business support services through such already existing resources through the SECT Chamber of Commerce, Women's Business Council, etc. The city should create an Economic Development Council to create a 10 year development plan for downtown with actionable steps and fosters public private partnerships.

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Economic Development)

- grants for repair of downtown business structures and support
- We have a vibrant downtown with many unique businesses. The city should collaborate with local businesses to run events that benefit our city residents!
- lower property taxes
- Pave and clean up streets and sidewalks
- Paint Ocean Beach buildings promote & upgrade Sandbar Cafe (The Gam) to a destination, possible year round, quality sea/food restaurant. Confer with NL Arts Council for colors and possible murals. Annual sand sculpture contest.
- Efforts to create more momentum downtown with events, arts/ cultural fairs, public and live performances, etc. Make it as easy and economically feasible for those creating and executing such events so they aren't also responsible to pick up the tab.
- provide maintenance funds for organizations who cannot cover all their expenses - keep the downtown vital and sound; support what businesses/organizations are trying to hang on not new businesses (with no local roots or investment)
- Renter assistance and small business assistance, with property tax relief included
- improved subsidized housing
- Attract more small businesses/shops/restaurants to the downtown area
- Create favorable lease agreements with artist, restaurants and businesses that want to move into downtown New London.
- Provide grants for homeowners and renters to raise the equity of their homes. Encourage private housing ownership to teach tenants about ownership and provide more rent to own opportunities for our residents so they can have an investment in this town! When people own stuff they take better care of it!

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Economic Development)

- Give residents New London gift cards that can only be spent in New London small businesses/arts and culture venues that demonstrate a drop in revenue or have opened since the pandemic began.
- Help bring back businesses that failed during Covid
- Designate State and Bank Streets as Federal Historic Districts, establish all "businesses" therein as not-for profit arts & culture hub.
- Small grants for resident homeowners to renovate
- "The Wharf reestablished Washington, DC, as a waterfront city and destination.
- This remarkable, mile-long stretch along the Potomac River comes to life with restaurants, retailers, residences, and businesses—all complemented by
- Monumental views and a vibrant culture.
- With the first phase of The Wharf complete and thriving, it's easy to forget how much time and effort went into making it happen."
- Launch voluntary municipal composting operations in public parks. Bob Stuller and I can help. It will reduce waste, reduce waste hauling and associated costs, lower emissions, less road wear, and create a few local jobs doing good work that will benefit the town. It's also great for community building and improving quality of life. A great economic development idea that could have big ripple effects.
- Adds on the radio
- We need more business to want to open on upper bank street. New apartment complex provides more foot traffic. Reduce property tax to make it advantageous for businesses.

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Economic Development)

- Have more incentives to bring in small businesses especially for downtown. If people don't maintain their homes there should be fines and also the law needs to be changed if an owner has a driveway or can park on the street in front of their homes they should not be parking on the lawn in the front of the house, I feel this brings the neighborhood down. If store fronts have empty windows than something should be placed on the front windows such as some art work or pictures instead of just having empty windows.
- Help out vacation rental owners who have lost so much income. Most of us are just folks who rent their places out, not big businesses. People think because we are in Neptune Park, we are wealthy. That certainly is not my situation. I need the income in order to keep the house that I live in part of the year and rent to vacationer's part of the year. I take the income on taxes as rental income, so I don't qualify for business loans or payroll relief.
- Stimulus Payment to every family
- Break down the silos. Create equity by developing a business pathway or opportunity for advancement, or at minimum information (e.g. internships) for our youth in schools, those un-employed, faith community, and non-profits by engaging higher-education institutions, integral employers in the area, and community based agencies. Everyone needs access to the same information and opportunities.
- Marketing initiatives and highlighting downtown businesses, arts, & culture. There still is a stigma against downtown New London and there needs to be a more concerted effort to attract people to visit once more businesses have been established.
- I believe certain funding and grants allocated again to Community Level Up Inc. would provide job opportunities, and allow the organization to expand their education programs and all their services they have to offer the community, such as business creation, unique sports programs such as lacrosse, and expand their music production department.

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Education)

- Accessible childcare
- Hiring additional interventionists/teachers that are certified in the respective content areas of math and reading to help struggling students due to the Covid 19 impact on education.
- Thorough training of ALL staff, specifically the paraprofessionals, THOROUGH criminal and background checks on all new employees
- Secure Wi-Fi throughout city
- in school and after school enrichment/supplemental programs
- Diversity/equity training for teachers and school staff
- Hire teachers, train them, and hire great administrators who can motivate teachers and students and parents. - Teach needed skills and job development with local businesses.
- Cap all class size at 20 students per classroom; provide all students in that classroom with one special education teacher and one content area teacher. Save money by removing all toxic technology from the classroom.
- Anything is better than what you continually throw at the wall
- Reinstate Spanish program for nonnative Spanish speakers at Jennings
- Improve student access to the internet for online education and support of in-school programs through enhancing low-cost, high-speed broadband availability to persons of all economic levels.
- Building a system that works for children both inside and outside of the classroom especially during the pandemic and lack of in person class time updating technology affording access to all folks in New London making New London students a priority

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Education)

- As children suffer increased mental health and behavioral issues as a result of the pandemic, we should devote more resources to supporting children's mental health and creating a robust restorative justice system in our school system.
- Work with the school superintendent/Board of Ed to identify and fund pandemic-related needs. (I'm not a parent so I don't know what the needs are, but I'm sure they exist.)
- Permanent hybrid options for education
- As a former teacher start from the top. Force everyone to live in the city. Stop allowing the board and upper admins do as they please and have no consequence. Start talking to teachers and listen when they tell you something. Realize that the children of NL are losing which in turn means our city will lose.
- The education budget needs to be addressed, there are too many administration positions and most are paid too much money. Get rid of a lot of these positions and put that money into more teachers where needed. The budget is too high for the size of New London, due to wasted positions.
- Hire better teachers and principles
- Recycling program badly needed using roll containers with a label on the inside lid about what is and isn't recyclable.
- Education Programs like teaching New London Youth to swim in Alewife Cove
- Community Level Up Inc. will be targeting the students who struggle the most in typical public school settings, as well as students who have not recovered from distance learning. The funds would help create more alternate programs to help these students from falling further behind, or even from dropping out altogether.
- Promote bilingual reading among young people with Reading Clubs with financial incentives (gift cards, museum tickets, etc.) for attendance and completion of programs

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Education)

- Create illiteracy programs since many people do not read or write both in English and in Spanish.
- More programs to educate the community about various medical and emergency sectors"
- Invest in skilled trades training & recruitment program. Earn & learn training.
- Having GREAT school with bring families to our community we need to work together to make sure we are giving our children the best education experience we can offer.
- It seems like N.L. educational funding is too top heavy--a significant amount of educational funding goes to administration. Let's re-evaluate how educational funding is allocated. What are the 5 year goals, 10 year, 20 year? Have there been assessments of outcomes for NLHS graduates? What do our students do after graduation? Are they prepared for success?
- The New London school systems have completely failed the children of this generation. More money should be spent on training and development. Learning Cultural differences would help these teachers, help our youth. It seems like they don't care because they're re not from the same places and do not live in the same neighborhoods.
- Pay for the school renovations
- More experiential learning and smaller classroom sizes, as well as increasing alternative pathways to teaching which recruits people of color to become teachers.
- Help fun unique out of school learning opportunities for our community! Financial Literacy is something that should be offered in all low income housing areas in our town!
- More neighborhood hubs for free hi-speed internet with access to computers and essential programs like CAD and Excel, and language/writing support. Basically off-campus mini computer labs supported by the school system.

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Education)

- Restorative Practices increased
- Educate the residents thru a letter in their car tax bill, that way you reach the most people. About the transfer station and its hours and Saturdays that it is open. In the letter we can tell the residents what is free, like mattress and TV, key boards, computers, motor oil, batteries, recycling materials, scrap metal. The key word is FREE. And also list the things that cost money, construction debris, garbage, brush, refrigerator's etc and their associated cost.
- Education equity town wide Free Wi Fi for students and social service support
- Education serves a big role in our sustainability. The youth will inherent our society and that society happens to be in turmoil. Not just economically. We are experiencing divides in society that get deeper every day. The city must be mindful of the role education can play in preparing our youth for the issues THEY will face tomorrow because these are issues WE are facing today. Race relations needs to be addressed in schools in some capacity. This doesn't necessarily address the effects of COVID, directly, but if we are all allowed to think its okay to stay divided all the money in the world won't help us. I'm saying that these funds have a better chance of helping us succeed if the goal - even without the money - that we are all working towards is equality.
- Mask mandates and vaccine requirements for all school staff and students, Online education access and hybrid programs continue
- Fund the NL Public Library like it should be for a city this size. Compared to other libraries in the region, NLPL has limited funds to procure materials & provide a unique array of community services.
- Better funding for schools
- Reduce class sizes

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Environmental Issues)

- Stop developing the green spaces and instead, restore the existing structures!
- Create a Million Oysters Project for the lower Thames, modelled on NYC's Billion Oyster Project. Use volunteers from Coast Guard Academy, Conn College.
- Fix the sewage and water impacting me on Garfield Avenue New London
- we should work on better use of recycle and trash support for city
- The Health of Alewife Cove which is part of Ocean Beach is critical. It needs to be dredged
- Increasing the planting of trees and beautifying green spaces would benefit the future generations in NL.
- With the severe deterioration of the city's appearance due to EXCESSIVE trash everywhere, invest in covered trash receptacles for residents & in public areas which are bird/animal proof, larger recycling bins to encourage more & compost containers for home owners.
- Need to plant more trees and preserve open spaces
- purchase land to preserve/create new marshes, with sea-level rise; curb shoreline development; use undeveloped parcels to create resident garden allotments; plant trees
- Fix flooding issues in downtown, Solar systems for green energy use in city buildings
- Utilize the storm water fees collected on our water bills to make improvements in trash and contamination reduction into the water
- Reduction of water and sewer fees for NL residents. Being that surrounding and outlying towns utilize our NL facilities and resources, all should pay higher use fees, which in turn could be utilized to provide NL residents reductions to our water/sewer fees.
- Flooding is a major issue in this City. Unrelated to COVID but needs to be addressed immediately.

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Environmental Issues)

- Controlling the amount of trash and runoff that flows to the river from businesses.
- Plant flowers around the city
- Sustainability Energy/CO2 reduction
- More trash cans on the streets outside of downtown. Cracking down on slum lords that don't maintain their properties.
- Climate change initiatives for businesses, municipality, and homeowners to use clean energy, reduce paper consumption, and maintain buildings.
- Carbon reduction and recapture
- Address long term problem of waste management by funding medium sized composting operations to alleviate strain on sanitation, educate residents about where our garbage goes and be a model for other communities. At least 40% of what we all throw away (except for us backyard composters) is very heavy and easily diverted into a valuable resource— rich, healthy soil!!
- Summer internships for students to address environmental education
- Clean our neighborhoods
- Self-Sustainability. Teach how to grow food and build and create clean energy sources on our own.
- Put recycle bins and garbage cans throughout the city. Pave the roads with white paint, put solar panels on school roofs, plant more trees and stop building buildings when we have tons of them falling down. Give tax breaks to home owners who add solar, clean up their yards, and make any changes that will reduce their carbon footprint. Shut down Bank Street and make it bike and foot friendly. The traffic on that street is insane

Ideas from Survey Respondents: (Environmental Issues)

- Advertise for adult volunteers and our youth to meet at different locations in New London to do group clean-ups. Allow the kids to earn volunteer hours needed for High school and create incentives for the most trash cleaned up. (gift cards, certificates, recognition)
- Also, ensure our trash and recycling employees do better at ensuring all trash and recyclables get taken accordingly. So often, they lack skills needed to properly dispose of items in the truck, leaving trash behind."
- Mandate better environmental care
- More modern ideas on cleaning up the city
- Litter removal
- Alewife Cove and Ocean Beach see 500,000 visitors a year. Dredge Alewife Cove

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Parks & Infrastructure)

- Invest in shoreline recreation. Enhance the Ocean Beach Park venue. The main building is outdated and doesn't offer much to the public. I would love to see a new restaurant and small coffee bar (open early in the morning) go in at the beach. Evaluate the current lease for the fitness center. I had a membership there a few years ago and really liked the facility, but I canceled membership prior to Covid because it had very limited hours and shutdown from Oct-June.
- We desperately needs sidewalk and road repairs, my street hasn't had them done since the 80's which is ridiculous. More focus on what the homeowners who occupy their home in New London want and need.
- Community center would combine youth development, access to healthy recreation for NL-ers, educational opportunities. Also need broadband throughout the city with sliding rates so no child is excluded from online learning
- Fix the roads
- Keep improving the infrastructure of the city for the long term benefit of the citizens
- Upgrade roads and sidewalks. Not just downtown
- Not enough funding is being spent on maintaining city property both in terms of Mowing and trimming etc. as well as litter pick up. In some areas the city looks like an unkempt trash heap and that's what people see when they come into our city.
- "Have the area major makeover ' make it inviting for tourism/ example Washington D.C
- The Wharf reestablished Washington, DC, as a waterfront city and destination.
- This remarkable, mile-long stretch along the Potomac River comes to life with restaurants, retailers, residences, and businesses—all complemented by Monumental views and a vibrant culture.

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Parks & Infrastructure)

- With the first phase of The Wharf complete and thriving, it's easy to forget how much time and effort went into making it happen."
- Fix all the roads and sidewalks
- Small fabrication workshops managed by our city parks dept. where anyone can sign up for a class focused on Trade/skilled labor. Can also be used by Boy/Girl Scouts and clubs to build community projects, local artists, and anyone in need of skilled training. Partner with local business owners (engineering, manufacturing, and mechanics) who need skilled employees. Invest in the oldest and youngest people in our workforce. If you want to talk more about this concept, I ran skilled labs in NYC for a University in woodshops, ceramics, 3D printing, textiles, and printmaking. All necessary for the future of industrial design and project management.
- Time traffic lights correctly!
- Our infrastructure in New London is very bad. The roads especially need to be all repaired as to make the city more appealing to come into, to visit or invest in New London.
- Fix the roads.
- Add to existing parks
- Create a community center
- I would like to suggest the city spends some of the funding to replace the perimeter fencing at Ocean Beach Park. The present fence is in need of replacement. Also more security and or cameras as the place is constantly get vandalized. The beach is New London's treasure and 225,000 people go thru the gates in the paying season on a good year. Presently the city puts no money into the park to maintain it. I realize the city has an agreement with Centerplate to run and maintain but they don't have the funding to put into a new perimeter fence. This would be a long term improvement for our beloved beach park. Thank you!!!

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Parks & Infrastructure)

- Park and curbside maintenance, street cleaning, parking lot beautification needs far more attention than NL can currently afford.
- City looks shabby and dirty. Catch basins full of garbage as you drive by. Infrastructure should not be done in commercial district during business hours if possible also road work in areas like Pequot Ave in the prime of summer should be avoided at all costs. Very poor coordination between the city and contractors. Lids need to be on garbage cans especially near the water as seagulls pull the garbage out. CLEAN CLEAN CLEAN.
- Clean the streets, they continue to be an embarrassment.
- Beach access expansions
- Free Wi-Fi throughout city
- Hire local people to supervise our parks in a non-law enforcement capacity so that the children can play under adult supervision from dawn-to-dusk during our summer months.
- Reduce storm water pollution with a variety of storm water upgrade techniques such as storm water retrofits, create low-impact development requirements that include tree plantings and rain gardens on all properties, install rain gardens/bio swales around city storm drains, create financial incentives for homeowners who implement best practices for managing storm water on their property, create curb cuts throughout the city to absorb rain water into the ground before it gets to a storm drain.
- Upkeep for Waterfront Park and Parade Plaza; redesign track crossings at Waterfront Park to make more inviting for pedestrians and connect to the downtown.
- Standardize attractiveness of all parks & "clean up" look of New London infrastructure
- The Riverside Playground needs to be safer for our children, would be nice if they could finish the park by the water and offer a small platform similar to fort Trumbull for fishing, or leisure, it's a beautiful park that just needs a little more love.

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Parks & Infrastructure)

- Add more funding for Ocean Beach Park. Allow residents pay less to enter and charge separate rates for out of town and out of state.
- I believe that infrastructure is a very nonpartisan issue. Like anything, it can be made political, but it has a good chance of lending itself to a project that both sides of the aisle can get behind. The city has a good chance at creating some unity among factions that seem in perpetual disagreement. The area I personally wish to see focused on in this regard is our city parks. I walk through one of our biggest parks every week (Fulton Park) to go to work, have for five years, and it has always seemed like a park the city forgot about. It's sprawling, next to our police department and situated between two large apartment complexes. This park needs to be a meeting place and its surrounding area regularly maintained. This would go far in improving the mental health of some of the youth that don't currently view it as a place worth going to. The effects of COVID are not only measured in dollars and cents...
- Improve rainwater runoff management, particularly in low-lying, flood-prone areas, both to reduce potential damage to public and private property and to minimize discharge of untreated runoff into the Thames River and Long Island Sound estuaries.
- Community center rooms that can be used by small groups, example Girl Scout Troops
- Rentable scooters; Bicycle lane expansion (perhaps through Colman and Broad Street); cobble stone sidewalks/pathways in downtown
- Extensive work is required to repair OBP boardwalk support structures. Hire a professional concern to accomplish needed and/or required repairs before it's too late.
- More money should be spent in the area of the blight officer and their efforts. Again, the city looks terrible because we are letting landlords get away without taking care of their rental properties. It's putting us deeper and deeper into the look of a slum which does nothing for getting decent people into the city

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Parks & Infrastructure)

- update water and sewer system in city
- Street maintenance, holding landlords accountable for urban blight. Crews to pull do general upkeep like pulling weeds and picking up trash.
- Demolish blighted properties.
- make more public parks/playgrounds and maintain them
- I think NL would be stunning if a little class act came and re zoned a lot of junk. It's awful seeing backs of store fronts along your drive through.
- Eye sores everywhere! Fix the roads too they are terrible. Any building empty? Sell or get owner to sell or lift the lien to auction.. It hurts the town!
- Let some developers come and refurbish them. They are amazing structures that could be good again and bring \$\$ in. NL started looking ""better"" there was effort made that group needs to be paid and organized /and have financial help.
- The City Dock is great! Could doctor up some of the flaws. Get the police patrols back on the beat! That creates a good feel for people to want to shop and roam. "
- Hyperloop, High Speed Rail, bike and pedestrian friendly neighborhoods
- Winterize Ocean Beach pool & use complex for Fall-Spring recreation center. Coordinate transportation with Seat bus. Free admission for NL residents to Ocean Beach & more pool activities like adult water aerobics.
- More things geared towards STEM
- Invest in maintenance needs, road infrastructure, sewer, pipes, water system

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Parks & Infrastructure)

- Figure out a better way to phase out billboards, razor wire fences, and blight. Strengthen zoning regulations so that used car and vehicle maintenance are no longer concentrated in the middle of downtown residential neighborhoods, which should be packed with shops, eateries, and services for the residents.
- Connecting the colleges, Conn. College, Coast Guard and Hodges Square to Downtown and Ocean Beach with the bike trail.

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Public Health & Recreation)

- Provide rent assistance to individuals and families that need it.
- More outdoor free things for resident to do and enjoy.
- give taxpayers refunds so they'll have money to spend
- More food justice
- Provide health services, outreach in neighborhoods with low health engagement
- I think all people who rent should catch a break. Rents are sky high and pay is total opposite. Which in my book again is wrong? Prices everything raises except income!? Why?
- More community health workers to address vaccinations, health equity issues and ability to access medical care
- Open air exercise trails. Continuing the pier over to Fort Trumbull would be great.
- Upgrade senior center & programs & incorporate senior center with new recreation center
- "I have a location in New London (dormant for 30 years) and proposal to develop a culturally sensitive and competent Community Wellness Center that would address substance use disorder/opioid use disorder and social drivers of health (SDOH) of disadvantage persons providing trauma informed and racial informed clinical and support/services. Addressing issues of racial trauma within healthcare is a must, specifically within impoverished communities it is oftentimes unidentified, overlooked & underestimated in our traditional healthcare system. In addition providing spiritual, vocational, and real-life opportunities with coaching and peers that resemble population is invaluable. Many health conditions that drive overutilization of acute care services (Emergency Depts., Inpatient Psychiatry Units, and Emergency Services) could be addressed by health education/literacy, lifestyle changes, and coaching. Too many people are dying prematurely as healthcare cost continues to increase.

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Public Health & Recreation)

- I think this fits under Economic Development as well, because as communities become healthier, entrepreneurs and other business opportunities will evolve, and those who formally may have drained the system will begin to contribute to the development of a healthier community in every aspect of the word; economically, spiritually, educationally, etc. Whole- person care. Thank you!"
- A community center with a pool
- Mask mandates and vaccination requirements if health allows
- "Create health insurance that benefits undocumented people.
- For the one that have medical insurance, they have to be taught what their benefits are. "
- Boost income for essential workers.
- Provide a convenient location for a community recreation center with an indoor pool.
- Integrate an evidence-based Mindfulness program/center for improving community mental health. See the MBSR by Dr. Kabat-Zinn: <https://www.ummhealth.org/umass-memorial-medical-center/services-treatments/center-for-mindfulness/mindfulness-programs/mbsr-8-week-online-live>
- Provide accessible medical outreach to the community; create a nice recreational center for numerous programs, including swimming and basketball.
- More things kids can be involved in like a water park
- More vaccines
- Work together to keep each other healthy & safe.

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Public Health & Recreation)

- Allow community fridges to be placed throughout New London and be kept and maintained by individuals agreeing to do so. This allows all New London residents despite location, to have access to healthy fresh food, for free, 24/7. New York has them placed everywhere as well as some places in New Haven and Bridgeport. There has never been an incident reported of any safety issues or vandalism with the community fridges that have already been established. We can combat food insecurity, promote community partnership and ensure no person in New London goes to sleep hungry, including our homeless. FRESH has already agreed in assisting with this idea. When you give to your community and allow the community to be a part of and access what is given, you create a trusting, loving environment; a strong community.
- Have other towns support shelter, have sober houses pay higher taxes or contribute to community. The impact of shelter and Stonington Institute on community is significant. Also more affordable housing for NL residents to purchase.
- Buy/build affordable housing. Rehab houses.
- There are so many opportunities for Health & Recreation. A sports facility would be an economic driver for New London
- More Mental Health Therapists available at Schools, Colleges, Community Health Organizations
- Community Center
- More sports and enrichment team based activities for youth and teens
- Find a way to provide pedestrian and bicycle access between Water Street and Fort Trumbull.
- Providing services for mental and physical health supporting organizations that support folks that are already dealing “in the system” creating bridge between need accessible
- Get that community recreation center going –

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Public Health & Recreation)

- Facilitate better access to outdoor recreation. 1) Open gates to Ocean Beach Park no later than 6 am every day. Last summer I began doing early morning swims at the beach as an alternative to indoor pools. Occasionally, the gate would still be closed by 7 am, which makes a morning swim impossible on a workday. Many other residents swim or walk the boardwalk in the mornings. Early, reliable access to the beach would benefit many of us! 2) Increase access for water sports such as paddle-boarding. This could be done by allowing a small section of Green Harbor Beach and the NE end of Ocean Beach Park to be used for paddle board exit/entry. 3) Consider adding a running/biking trail that loops throughout the city (similar to the fitness trails in Washing DC). Trails could have workout stations along with bathroom and water stations in some spots.
- Education around the Covid 19 Delta variant
- the parks and programs for all age groups should be enhanced
- Allocate money to support people's mental health needs as well as diverting people with mental health issues or addiction issues away from the criminal justice system and towards the health and support services they need.
- Community center with basketball and a pool
- The extreme dangerous conditions to Public safety and health issues from the sewage and water issue occurring on Garfield and Jefferson Avenues
- more bike lanes
- Put the community center at the Learning Center you're buying and get real BUSINESSES in Fort Trumbull.
- New London Rec has always done a great job at offering activities that benefit the community, how about some fund be placed into that program and maybe a space similar to what the Martin a center was for New London Rec. I believe the building of the Martin Center was sold, but it should have been remodeled to benefit our youth. If New London Rec could offer programs for children between 10 and 13 years old that would eliminate the gap that currently exists.

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Public Health & Recreation)

- More funding for Syringe services staff
- Community center with a swimming pool large enough for lap swimming
- More parks & rec class options, more playgrounds in the less affluent parts of town

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Public Safety)

- Do not defund the police department.
- Hire more police men and women.
- Fully fund the police force, 80 officers
- Main streets in city protection like dirt bikes, speeders, noise.
- We need more police patrol
- Stop people from speeding on Pequot.
- Please pay bonus hazard pay to city employees who worked without break during pandemic.
- A more visible Police force
- mortgage assistance services to families who were unable to qualify for help
- Public safety depends on much more than police and fire protection and infrastructure that is seamless. Public safety also depends on programs that provide respect for and inclusion of all ... educational, cultural, social, economic and healthcare in both the short term and long-term.
- A proper police force, riding solo with barely enough officers to cover call is insane
- More training and programs to build trust with the youth and adults
- Tie in with public health and educate and vax for delta variant
- Funding to enhance substance use disorder prevention, treatment and supports.
- More police/fire and mental health advocates
- The hazardous sewage and water conditions on Garfield and Jefferson Avenues have not been addressed due to resources to pay cost for these public infrastructure and environmental needs.
- hire more police officers

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Public Safety)

- There seems to be much more drug and robbery activity in NL since I moved here almost 25 years ago. All of the shootings, stabbings and even a car hijacking are very disconcerting as well. The gangs that come around and steal from unlocked cars is also upsetting. Whenever my dog barks, I have to go look outside. Two years ago my dog alerted me several times to a car parked across the street. The guy was watching the house. When he saw me he sped off.
- A few months ago my neighbor on Neptune Ave was the victim of an early morning home invasion and theft. It feels like the city is getting less and less safe. Please do something about it!!! I am not a police officer, but I bet they have some good ideas about making the situation better and with proper funding could implement them.
- Patrolling policeman
- More money for affordable housing and increasing the amount of voucher payments so individuals can access a real apartment and not hotels for a residence
- Sidewalks throughout the city are either nonexistent or impassable because of crumbling cement and/or overgrown hedges including on several major streets (e.g., Ocean, Willett's). People often trip/fall but even more dangerous is having to walk in the road due to the sidewalk deterioration. Repave/re-cement so this city can become more walkable & spend less time in cars.
- Provide for an adequate police service, and balance with social workers.
- City needs to be safe. In these times you need people walking the beat downtown. Police need to be visible to the community and there needs to be outreach to property and residents alike.
- We need a registration of bully breed dogs so people can avoid those streets. My neighbor's dog was attacked by a pit bull and it is a REAL problem that the city ignores.

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Public Safety)

- Enforce traffic and blight laws/ordinances
- Look into building a new public safety complex and continue replacing equipment on a regular basis
- Increase pay for first responders that were directly affected by COVID-19
- As a community health worker I think that direct contact with the public or patient is very important since sometimes just referring someone to help is not the same as bringing help in person, many people including the elderly do not use technology or some do not write or read and others have just arrived in the city of NL and they have to be given all the attention they need until they can take care of themselves. "

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Transportation)

- Keep the rates reasonable for taxi services and the SEAT buses.
- More bus routes or train routes that go to surrounding towns
- NL as a transportation hub connecting NY, LI, Boston, and SECT
- offer Uber rides for job interviews (might be cheaper and more targeted than bussing)
- Better bike/ped and public transit, fewer cars. We need better short and long-term bike parking citywide, especially at schools, grocery stores, and the train station, everywhere. Most grocery stores don't have adequate bike parking. The train station needs safe, reliable, long-term bike parking. Lots of folks don't know when and where the bus runs, so let's set up several bus stops around town with easy-to-read information about when and how to ride the bus. Where can you even get a bus ticket in New London?! There should be a ticket office with public water fountains and clean bathrooms available at the transportation hub. In addition to getting more people to ride the bus, we also need to reduce the emissions of our bus fleet by converting them from fuel-powered to electronic buses. This applies especially to school buses, where children are exposed to the pollutants that will create a lifetime of high cost health care needs. Launching an electric bus fleet for SEAT Bus or the school buses would be a great use of COVID funds, so would improving the bus stop next to Union Station.
- Can the city have city owned bikes stationed in different places that would be rented to residents at low prices? Equipped with a GPS chip and maybe an electronic payment method, or even a partnership with zip cars to have vehicles available for those whom can't afford to own a vehicle, could there be a subsidy out aside for low income to be able to afford some of this, a special card that works only on transportation, including the bus?
- Bus service 7 days a week
- programs where people can make payments towards transportation
- Street revitalization i.e. Jefferson Ave speeds and safety

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Transportation)

- Get our roads and bridges in good shape for long term benefit
- Special trolley-style buses that run a loop through town and down to the beaches throughout the day in the summer (free for seniors and youth) as a way to encourage enjoyment of all parts of the city by all residents and it's a cool link to our city's history. Example: <https://hometown-mfg.com>
- Improve sidewalks and pedestrian routes, more crosswalks
- Have more access and availability for families to access transportation to essential needs; medical appointments, social service appointments, grocery stores, etc.
- Create a bikes-only bike lane from Ocean Beach Park to Conn College, running along Water Street to keep bikes off Bank Street, which is dangerous and congested.
- Create a micro bus circulation system from the colleges to downtown to Ocean beach
- Redesign gateways into the city from 95N & 95S and 32; get rid of one way traffic wherever possible; paint lines, parking spaces, bike lanes, cross walks especially in downtown
- We already have a great transportation system
- Better bus system
- Install electric vehicle charging stations in downtown parking lots and neighborhood parks.
- Free transportation from various parts of the city to Ocean Beach (since New London Public Schools students enter the beach for free, they should have a free means of transport to get to it). Likewise, there is an imperative need to put speed bumps in large streets such as Montauk Avenue or Ocean Avenue.
- support electric vehicles, bicycles, commuter trains

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Youth Development)

- Improving availability of high quality day care in New London, especially for infants and toddlers.
- Perhaps focus on job training/internships for city youths in alignment with city businesses (retail, admin, housing landscaping/yardwork)
- Spend more money to develop programs for teens. We want to build a computer lab, Audio Video room, & store front at our center on State St. We also want to continue to build upon our youth sports to provide more opportunities for our youth!
- Help teach the kids about things that matter most like climate change and how we need to make changes now to ensure their future.
- Generate AFFORDABLE, local organizations and programs that offer various resources that serve our youth's interests and needs. Identify the strengths and difficulties our youth face by collecting data from teachers, parents, NLPD, psychiatrists, coaches and students. Based on importance/popularity, decide which programs are most beneficial and will most likely be utilized. Plan accordingly based on logistics. Hire and train employees who have experience in the programs decided to execute a weekly plan for their youth to participate in and create incentives for continuous participation. (i.e. credits for high school, volunteer hours, tournaments, certificates of completion, etc.)
- Examples of programs I believe would benefit our youth include: Sports clubs- learn to enhance individual skill, stay in shape, compete, mini-tournaments. Swim clubs- see if Ocean Beach will donate their pool, swimming lessons, swimming competitions, etc. Job Search/Driving Programs- Help the youth build a resume and apply for jobs, offer transportation, teach finances and define what exactly taxes are and how they come out of their checks and why, help students learn and take their driving course, both writing exam and driving exam. (Utilize Ocean Beach/school parking lots w/ cars specifically for driver's education. Help students obtain funds needed to take driving test and teach teens the purpose of insurance, plates, titles, etc.) Dance, photography, flag football, etc. "

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Youth Development)

- Community centers for the youth
- Fixing up one of the many abandoned building or the Martin Center building for a Youth Club and development programs. Like a YMCA.
- Community center with a swimming pool large enough for lap swimming
- I believe funds would be well utilized at Community Level Up Inc. nonprofit, to fund the Audio Visual room, and Education programs they have, such as financial Literacy. This will help provide opportunity and development for at risk youth, for long term success in today's world.
- Provide funding for more extracurricular activities for our youth!
- creating more opportunities for youth development such as more youth programming, a community center for our NEW LONDON youth
- Create a center so that young people can develop their artistic skills (pottery workshops, theater, etc.) or musical (rehearsal rooms)
- Community center
- Youth center
- more for community center
- Develop programs for youth, i.e. with the police department, the coast guard academy, colleges, and the local BOE.
- There are a lot of youth programs in New London— a robust REC program and a lot of nonprofits who provide services to youth; especially little kids. The programs thin out as young people get older. This is not a fully formed idea, but I'm thinking about a Corps of young adults who educate residents about recycling, who run the composting program, who develop skills in carpentry as they help renovate houses for the land trust... and see themselves as valuable members of our community... and imagine their future here in New London.

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Youth Development)

- Summer jobs for youth.
- Recreation Center is desperately needed for youth. Allow for exposure and creativity.
- Rec center where children can hang out and get away from the days challenges
- summer camps for children
- Rec center but NOT in Fort Trumbull, it needs to be closer to the middle and high school, within walking distance, think Edgerton.
- Build knowledge & skills to further educate for future
- Many of my staff & clients struggled with childcare during COVID due to schools & daycares frequently & unexpectedly closing. Offer subsidized or free childcare through a neighborhood center.
- Funds to support, supervise strengthen youth based activities organized & unorganized
- Something like a YMCA center
- Have youth help run institutions the Garde, the beach etc....
- Student-focused program teaching youth the possibilities that exist in municipal careers, to encourage more local hires in city departments. Could include shadowing of and possible mentoring by current city employees
- Provide housing and 360 services for teens who are unhoused
- education fund for young dreamers in the area
- Connecting nonprofits and other organizations to work directly with schools from primary to secondary education with wraparound benefits for all including food services and hygienic home utility needs

Ideas from Survey Respondents:

(Youth Development)

- Evaluate the plans for the proposed Community Center in N.L. to make sure it is appropriate for our community and will provide positive activities for the majority of our youth--and that transportation is accessible; we need to talk to families, children, teens about what activities they want. Then how will the City financially manage/maintain the Center without over burdening those who use the facility and/or fellow tax payers. Young people need somewhere to go!
- The youth in this area would get into less trouble if they had nice community centers to go to. I had a great childhood in New London; we had multiple community centers EX. The Drop and Learning Center. My mother's side of the family, starting with my generation has had almost a dozen college graduates. To this day this generation in my family continues to get there education. We had solid foundations, communities, and upbringing.