

The National Citizen Survey™

Englewood, CO

Open Ended Responses

2014

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The National Citizen Survey™
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Summary

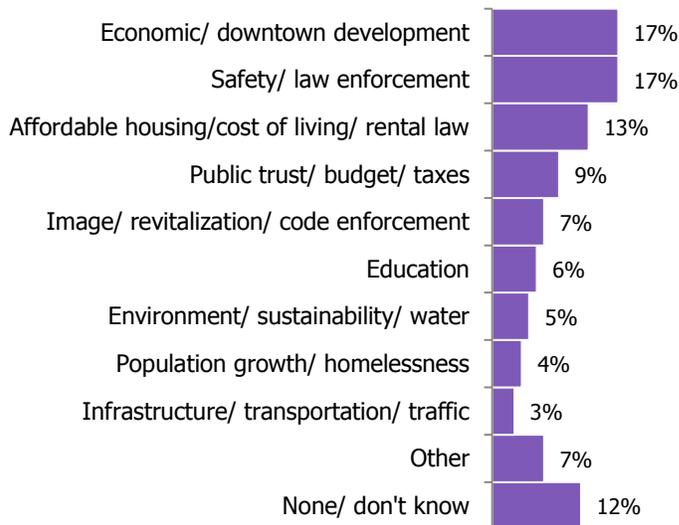
The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. This report includes the verbatim responses to an open ended question included on The NCS 2014 survey for Englewood. Additional reports and the technical appendices are available under separate cover.

Respondents were asked to record their opinions about the single most important issue facing Englewood over the next 12 months in the following question:

- What do you think will be the single most important issue facing the City of Englewood over the next 12 months?

The verbatim responses were categorized by topic area and those topics are reported in the following chart with the percent of responses given in each category. Results from the open-ended question are best understood by reviewing the frequencies that summarize responses as well as the actual verbatim responses themselves. A total of 296 surveys were completed by Englewood residents; of these 194 respondents wrote in responses for the open-ended question. Most respondents felt that economic/ downtown development and safety/ law enforcement were the most important issues facing Englewood over the next 12 months. Population growth/ homeless and infrastructure/ transportation/ traffic were the least important issues according to residents.

Figure 1: What do you think will be the single most important issue facing the City of Englewood over the next 12 months?



Verbatim Responses to Open Ended Question

The following pages contain the respondents' verbatim responses as written on the survey and entered in the web survey and have not been edited for spelling or grammar. Responses have been organized by coded topic areas.

What do you think will be the single most important issue facing the City of Englewood over the next 12 months?

Economic/ downtown development

- Attracting businesses & keeping them in Englewood.
- Attracting more upscale development both retail & residential
- Attracting some major. Business such as Cabellas.
- Balanced economic growth.
- Business development
- Continue to rebrand the city as a desirable place to live for young professional. Need better business, food, education to attract better residents.
- Economic dev.
- Economic development
- Economic development
- Economic development of Broadway.
- Economic development, crime prevention
- Economic opportunities
- Economic problems.
- Employment and housing
- Growth & there is always need of or more money! Which I support. Let's get family's buck in Englewood & fill up our first rate new schools! Money to hire the best teachers to attract students & families back to Englewood.
- Growth does not exist. We do not need anymore apartments in this city! Perhaps a decent eatery/restaurant would be nice I get plenty tired of driving 15-20 mins to eat some where. Focus on increasing tax base by decent business development not medical marijuana shops! or liquor stores!!
- Improving the Broadway corridor & downtown Englewood
- It should be important for the city to bring in a decent hotel/motel chain for people to stay at. The motels along the main roads are not decent places to tell friends and family to stay.
- Keeping a cash flow in the downtown area by offering an attractive proposal for new businesses to set up shop. Also keeping Broadway smooth.
- Keeping or attracting young people besides SU college students-also having more restaurants for young couples to eat at or have a cocktail/wine/beer at. I'm 28 and weekly my boyfriend and I struggle to find a place to go on a date to get a drink at.
- Lack of commitment to support businesses in Englewood. Examples destroying public parking, making businesses pay for street/sidewalk repairs when residents don't, etc. These things tend to drive out businesses, and hence, your sales tax. If you drive a way all the small business by zoning, etc. You will be in even worse shape than you are now.
- More restaurants and dress shops
- New business growth.
- New business. The voters approved the sale of marijuana I don't understand why the council is allowed to change the vote to no. Existing business should be allowed to re open and new business should be encouraged. The tax revenue would be large.
- Promoting economic growth-attracting new & relevant businesses to Englewood.
- Removing open space for commercial buildings, determining parameters for recreational cannabis
- Restore decent entertainment at city center. Improve management & quality in restaurants except for country buffet which is excellent.

- Revenue and new business development
- The overall continuing economic situation. Recovery is just too slow. A-64 has helped Co. or will, in the long run. I think E'wood could benefit from relaxing its laws re: pot, both med and rec.
- The quality of new business will shape the city around it. E.g. "Washington park" Gaylord st. "Highland neighborhood" 32nd street. "Lower wash park" Pearl st. It would be nice to see this anywhere in Englewood.
- To improve more jobs.

Safety/ law enforcement

- 1) Reducing the drug crime along Broadway. 2) Improve housing in Englewood. 3) Support the police to fight crime.
- Adequate police protection and enforcement
- Apprehending criminals
- Bad press from speed traps
- Crime & safety. To people at my seminary, Englewood is known as Englehood. During the summer the smell of marijuana smoke permeates the air and at night I would not walk alone.
- Crime (home break in is on the rise) need to catch these people, force gangs out of our city
- Crime, too many criminals in Englewood. Too many lowlives in and around Broadway. (I mean all of Broadway, right through the heart of Englewood).
- Don't know but getting rid of all the drug addicts in Englewood would be a good start
- Drugs & the crimes contributed to drugs
- Drugs drug sales in Englewood
- Drugs!
- Increase in crime (mostly drug oriented) in the city core
- Its considered a drug town
- Keep my neighborhood safe & crime free.
- Maintain safety in the neighborhoods too many homes with drugs
- Marijuana legislation-how will recreational sales tax affect our community? We need to figure this out how before the state takes over this issue in our community. Comments: All of the Englewood police that our household come in contact with in the community make us feel unsafe. Many blow through stop signs and speed in the school zone by our house. When someone is pulled over for a traffic violation at least 4 on duty cars partake in the event. (Waste of resources overall. Unfriendly presence in the community. A simple smile or wave never hurt anyone. Also i see cars police parked in handicap spaces and/or blocking entrance/exits at local business establishments on a daily basis. The ADA would not appreciate this!
- On the whole I feel Englewood Council + has done an excellent job managing city + budget. The next challenge is money & is connected to safety. I am amazed by the increase in graffiti in the past 12 months. I am not sure what changed.
- Overall safety
- Regulation of the marijuana dispensaries. Ie. trash and the smell!
- Safety
- Safety & schools.
- Safety & security
- Safety + its citizens
- Safety and economic growth
- Safety in shopping center parking lots
- Safety, noise, animal control-barking dogs all over.
- Safety,health care,employment enrichment opportunities for law abiding, bill paying residents protection from gangs, criminals & the mentally ill.
- Safety/security at light rail stations
- Security + policing due to marijuana activity.
- Speeding side streets,running stop signs,need more police presence,still stay within a budget.
- Sure our property butts up to the new Kent Place Development our main concerns is safety-walking to the shops-need more outside walk lines-and traffic-where are all the cars going to park when their 2 spaces per apartment is too little-?
- The enforcement and rights associated w/the legalization of marijuana.

- The police department is awful. When my property was broken in to and things were stolen. The police never came to my house and told me over the phone that I live in a bad area so I should just expect things like that to happen. The police are supposed to prevent crime! Not ignore it. Very dissatisfied and upset.
- To keep improving the area around Broadway & Belleview. Englewood PD needs to be friendlier & not write frivolous tickets for petty traffic offenses. In example no front license plate. A young girl was almost abducted at a park down the street guys get away. My car had no license plate I get a ticket. Lame!
- Trying to improve parts & certain neighborhoods. Overall englewood is a safe place but you can (in parts) go down a block and feel out its a different area and less safe. This can turn people away who are looking to move here. Overall, I love englewood and my favorite part is the homes & preservation of the history. My home is from 1941 & I love that most of the city has preserved the homes.

Affordable housing/cost of living/ rental law

- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing and water making sure it's safer for consumption.
- Affordable housing-rental & for sale. Speed bump on S. Bannock St between Floyd & Emerson
- Be able to afford a home or apartment to live and lowering rent
- Continuing to thrive in safety & affordability. As Denver housing continues to go up in cost, more people will move here-keeping it clean, safe & accesible will be a challenge b/c of new residents who don't know or respect this great community.
- Cost of houses
- Cost of living
- Housing prices are very high and may keep the people who live here already, from staying.
- How it is going to treat its business community-specifically its "industrial businesses"? Englewood has a thriving industrial community who provide excellent jobs and small business ownership. Yet, Englewood is thinking about tearing it down and putting up cheap/transient rental cages.
- Keeping property costs low without losing the neighborliness and safety
- Make it affordable for young families to live, shop and work in eng. Not much here, transportation take people out of city for every thing. Young people can not afford family homes here-they all go elsewhere where it's affordable for them.
- Make plans for seniors to stay in their homes with help from a vetted list of helpers who will be paid by seniors themselves.
- New laws-for landlord-rental. Rental more sayso <more law on rental side>.
- Rental and landlord-Rental need more law on there side. Rentals has no rights. By law.
- Senior housing
- The prices of the housing for first time buyers and bad credits.

Public trust/ budget/ taxes

- Balancing the budget
- Citizenship
- Finances
- Finances
- Get rid of the exsisting city council & replace with compentent people, less \$ on police, surv. cameras, more on replacing dead street lamps, general clean-up of the city & pave the alleys!
- Honesty in elected officials
- I have only lived here 6 months. In that time this is the 1st time I have heard anything about or from the city of Englewood. Perhaps communication?
- Jobs, spending & pretending that taxes will increase, city government secrets-Top heavy in all dept. Not being truthful with citizens, the good ol boy/girl club within depts
- Lack of leadership,go to a city council & you find out there is no one using their own mind in any issues. They all stick together like glue, never ever think of what or how the people would want you vote on a issue-only how they or their friends would benefit. Forgetting why we voted them in office-can't see past their own issues. They should be ashamed of "selling the depot" to who they did & why they did. Does ex city council members business partner smell right. NO NO
- Lack of transparency of city council

- Make sure the school bond of 50 million does not exceed. To much money for such few kids that are in Englewood
- Pensions-city employees don't deserve them
- Raising revenue with out raising taxes on home owners or local business
- Selection of a new city manager
- Stabilizing property tax
- Tax revenue, what i don't understand is you won't let a legal mariuana store open (i don't use) but this is free tax money.
- The federal government. I have included my opion with this form it is in the recording I made. It explains in detail the biggest fight you are going to have. Please give me the time to be heard.
- To keep our city strong and continue to keep an eye on the city's budget.
- What a good attempt for school restructure but failed miserably, what a cheap job where did the money go on this bond approval

Image/ revitalization/ code enforcement

- A successful and thriving city begins with citizen safety, attention to appearance and civic pride. Currently, the general impression when entering englewood is it looks downtrodden. The downtown area by the post office and king soopers is not inviting to the passerby on broadway. In the rest of the city, too many of the single family homes are not occupied by their owners and it shows in the disrepair of the structures and the overgrown foliage. It is likely that most transient renters do not have the same civic pride as tax-paying resident homeowners. All homeowners should be made to comply with the municipal codes that address most of the violations readily visible. Successful businesses and homeowners will not even consider moving to a city that has a shabby appearance and panhandlers loitering around the grocery store in its downtown area. South Broadway also has a large number of transient pedestrians that seem to walk between one rundown motel or apartment to the next with all their possessions in tow. Not sure anything can be done about the pedestrian traffic, but the motels and apartments are not currently adding a positive image to our main thoroughfare. New school buildings and "mixed use" development will not, in and of itself, improve the quality of life in Englewood.
- Alley paving-un paved alleys are an eyesore-and dumping grounds.
- Alley should be cleaned more to much trash and long weeds
- Better code enforcement of private properties. New codes to better clean up the environment of neighborhoods. examples such as cars parked on lawn, weeds, junk building up in private homes... trailers & rec vehicles on street or in driveways. home repair, example-neighbors on both side have 9 cards each plus campers, etc., all parked on street.
- Cleanup dead trees and weeds that infringe on alley ways and sidewalks. Visibility on intersections due to bushes that are over grown
- Continue to clean up south broadway-i feel that's The "face" of englewood. Look to downtown Littleton these days!
- Englewood has a reputation for urban sprawl and pushing for business growth without neighborhoods support & growth without a community that wants to and can easily purchase those goods-businesses fail. Make it a community people want to live in and feel comfortable in that's a challenge while pushing for growth.
- Forclosed and abandoned homes and lack of code enforcement
- Housing residents & city crews cut and trim trees & bushes from neighborhood streets at stop signs. very many blind spots!
- I believe Englewood needs to be revitalized to attract young couples to buy and live in the community. Residential neighborhoods need to be cleaned up and maintained.
- I would enjoy walking my dogs more or running alone but I am too scared. Too much garbage blows around.
- Image of our city-publicizing the good things occurring here working to improve some of our neighborhoods that are looking very trashy; esp. Rentals
- Improving the image of Englewood-mainly old downtown & older some what mixed industrial & residential housing areas. (Dtc & cherry hills are fine and taken care of better than the more common persons areas.)
- Maintain quiet environment
- Make it welcoming & inviting

- Neighborhood areas near Broadway & D4 area to be "charged" for unkept lawns and trash. I think these areas make our city look unsafe and not inviting at all.
- Neighborhood yard clean up.
- Now that you mention it in #15. It would be a good thing if the city could begin a program to pave alleys. May be that upgrade would help people to not view the alley ways as trashpits & dumps. If that can't be done, may be the city could at least persuade home owners to keep weeds & lawns cut to a respectable height & not accumulate junk & degrading neighborhoods.
- Stop noise from Gothie after 10:00 pm and mostly the noise from the pool hall patio after 10:00 pm on the corner of Bannock & Floyd
- Try to rejuvenate some of the "old" neighborhoods-plant trees
- Zoning of businesses and private residence parking. Keeping green spaces and public parks.

Education

- Continue with educational improvements-schools projects-the children are the future of Englewood. Also Englewood in to be commended for the support given seniors, Malloy Center, rec center.
- Educating our children and keeping citizens safe
- Finishing the high school on time and on budget and protecting that investment.
- Hope education!
- How to get the kids to come back to Englewood schools after spending all the tax payers money to build the high school.
- I would like to see more money put into education.
- Keeping schools up & quality faculty
- More youth programs for our children & improvement on education.
- Our schools are ranked so poorly. A community needs good schools. Families will not want to move here or continue living here if we don't improve our schools.
- School enrollment
- School enrollment maintaining rental properties (yard, alley)
- School improvement k-12.
- Schools not great

Environment/ sustainability / water

- Clean environment-keep up public transportation, help, citizens get solar, public trash/recycling/compost. gee, this is too much!
- Community especially emergency preparedness but also overall sustainable lifestyle-urban gardening, bartering, "farmers" markets, promoting local business "buy local"
- Environment
- I think water conservation is critical & Englewood never has restrictions-if the surrounding areas are on restriction why isn't Englewood? Probably not an issue right now so much but water conservation has to be continuous for the future.
- I walk everywhere and see sprinklers operating while it is raining, see most of the water running into the sewer & see some sprinkler heads are a fountain of water or shooting into the street. I mean to say I see 10's of 1000's of gallons of water going straight down the drain most every day during the summer.
- Need to improve your water. Just moving into Kent ulg and have spent \$1900 on water system just to clean it.
- Not sure if this fits this question, but it would be awesome to add recycling pick up w/trash at no additional cost, It might be an incentive to those that don't currently recycle.
- Preserve the old ditch system for the historical value & as a refuge for wildlife.
- Water quality
- Water, transportation, school, family

Population growth/ homelessness

- Growing population. Homeless folks/families-children
- Homeless shelter availability

- I see a lot of homeless people, I feel sorry for them but I don't like being asked for money & cigarettes, they need a shelter to go to but a lot of them have told me they do not like shelters because they do not like curfew & they want to stay outside & drink, smoke pot & be free, yet they want me to give them something, I do not like that & it makes me feel somewhat unsafe, especially nights
- Over population.
- Provide help for homeless. Jobless
- The homeless & transients at the RTD station
- We allow too much density in new multiple dwelling projects. Traffic, congestion, and lack of adequate parking will result. I.e. University blvd & Hampton.

Infrastructure/ transportation/ traffic

- -Better bus options when not located right next to the light rail. Comment: Having private trash/recycling services results in almost daily noise & trash bin visibility. It is much better to have this city-run so trash pick up is the same day/time for all
- Don't know enough about community to have an opinion I do know the sidewalks and too-steep curb cuts keep me from venturing out in my wheelchair but rarely.
- Flooding in our area. Drain is not properly placed- it is in my backyard! and we flood every there is a heavy rain.
- Traffic is awful on Hampden from Santa Fe to I-25. Need healthy stores like Sprouts & a 24 hour fitness. What happens to the cinderella drive-in? River Point center is awful.
- Traffic on Broadway, especially at Ankerng Sept.
- Traffic: 285 between Broadway and Inca. People not stopping at stop signs parking too close to corner, obstructing view
- Traffic-so slow on Hampden going west; also new King Soopers on University getting out of parking lot is slow. Timing on lights?
- Upkeep and quality infrastructure is always a concern as is keeping neighborhoods safe and affordable for all. As same neighborhoods age I've seen a number of condos/townhomes move in. Areas are bound to see an increase in higher-density living structures but an overall balance between older single-family units and these apartment-like units should be preserved.

Other

- Allowing recreational marijuana to be sold in Englewood, which would benefit the city with the taxes collected. The ballot for this issue was so poorly written, most people could not understand.
- Building a real sense of community between Englewood locals and the many transplants that have moved in from around the country.
- Growth & "health" of the community getting people committed to this community
- Limit city codes, too many to count! Don't like big brother binging my every move! Freedom very important!
- More populations because Englewood is a very safe place.
- Planning for the next 30 years. Don't wait for a crisis to arrive. (city planner) We moved here because of location. Light rail, parks, and lower cost than Denver.
- Quality of life issues. Vs economic growth.
- Support for the aging population.
- The growing number of illegal aliens. Some of you might know them by their more politically correct name of, "undocumented workers".
- The issue will be the same as the issue for our country, America, exactly. Family values, or loss of them, big business/greed, people not born in America being used by business for profit only leading to the downfall of American values and life, terrible health care issues, (business/greed). In summary the loss of the country my father, (marine, WWII) fought so hard to be able to give to his children and grandchildren. I have a great life but I see things slipping for my children. My grandkids?
- Thinking through thoroughly (cost, money, people, usefulness) and why someone wants something

None/ don't know

- Can't think of anything
- Couldn't tell ya

- Doing what your doing. Its great.
- Don't know
- Having just moved here in April 2014 it is difficult to say, but i hope that this city will prove to be independent of Denver and treat its citizens like part of a community.
- Home bound, no idea, only go 4 blks when i Leave
- I don't know. I do not participate in the community as a whole. At my age I don't use many community services.
- I honestly do not know; have not lived here that long
- I truly don't know. I have lived in my home for 46 yrs, and truly love the community. I play bridge at the Malloy center every Tuesday and have for the last 15 yrs.
- I'm almost age 90 and I have no opinion
- NA
- No idea, i need to be better informed. Unclear what "downtown" Englewood means. What is our identity as Englewood? I've been told there is rich history here but it seems no one cares to make Englewood unique or well known for anything today. Sense of apathy. Need to find central time to restore refreshed identity. Opportunity. Innovation.
- Not quite sure. I've lived here for 15 years I really like the ease in which to get around. I moved from Aurora and love it here with it's small town feel in the middle of the big cities. Car insurance is cheaper also. It's kind of sad to see Englewood high go down as all 3 of my children went & grad there. Mayor Renn was my son's football coach. My husband & his 7 siblings also grad. from englewood. The new middle & high schools looks beautiful. I will have to tour it sometime. Please just keep the small town feeling. I love it!
- Not sure
- Not sure how to answer this!
- Really don't know. Have no thoughts about this
- Since i am almost 92-i'm not sure about a lot of these questions.