



CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA 2008

Report of Open-ended Question

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SURVEY BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™

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 survey methods and comparable results across The National Citizen Survey™ jurisdictions. Participating households are selected at random and the household member who responds is selected without bias. Multiple mailings give each household more than one chance to participate with self-addressed and postage paid envelopes. Results are statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of the entire community.

The National Citizen Survey™ customized for this jurisdiction was developed in close cooperation with local jurisdiction staff. The City of Sarasota staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community problems; they defined the jurisdiction boundaries NRC used for sampling; and they provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings. City of Sarasota staff also determined local interest in a variety of add-on options to The National Citizen Survey™ Basic Service.

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

ABOUT CLOSED-ENDED AND OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Questions can either be asked in a closed-ended or open-ended manner. A closed-ended question is one where a set of response options is listed on the survey. Those taking the survey respond to each option listed. Open-ended questions have no answer choices from which respondents select their response. Instead, respondents must “create” their own answers and state them in their own words. The verbatim responses are categorized by topic area using codes. An “other” category is used for responses falling outside the coded categories. In general, a code is assigned when at least 5-10% of responses will fit the code.

Advantages of an open-ended question include:

- Responses are not prompted, allowing respondents to provide answers that are not anticipated or well known.
- This type of question tends to capture response options that come to mind most quickly.
- The final result can be richer, since verbatim responses are included in an appendix, giving you and others a chance to “hear” the voice of respondents in their own words.
- There is a smaller risk of missing important dimensions.

VERBATIMS

Respondents were asked to record their opinions about Sarasota in the following question:

- What do you like most about the City of Sarasota?

The verbatim responses were categorized by topic area and those topics are reported in the following table with the percent of responses given in each category. Because some comments from residents covered more than a single topic, each topic mentioned by a resident was categorized and counted for the table below. Those verbatim responses are grouped by the first topic listed in each comment whenever a respondent mentioned more than a single topic. Verbatim comments that contain more than one topic nevertheless appear only once (in the category of the first topic listed), however the analysis in the table below counts each of the topic areas given by all respondents regardless where those topics appeared in the comment.

Results from the open-ended question is best understood by reviewing the table of frequencies that summarize responses as well as the actual verbatim responses themselves.

What do you like most about the City of Sarasota?	
	Percent of Respondents
Natural environment/water and beaches/scenery/natural beauty	34%
Culture/arts/education opportunities	19%
Quality of community/neighborhood/people, etc	15%
Quality of life general/lifestyle/everything/safe community	14%
Climate/weather/seasons	13%
Appearance/overall cleanliness/architecture	13%
Diversity/quality of opportunities (shopping, restaurants, business, downtown)	13%
Size of community/small town feel	11%
Parks/Recreation opportunities	11%
Nothing - negative response	9%
Location/convenience/proximity to amenities	8%
Quality/availability of services/transit/library/senior services	7%
Don't know	0%
Other	9%
Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one category.	

VERBATIM RESPONSES TO OPEN-ENDED QUESTION

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

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE CITY OF SARASOTA?

Natural environment/water and beaches/scenery/natural beauty

- (1) beauty caused me to move here 48 years ago (2) I resent the indifference to demolishing so much of our quaint history to make way for all the high rise condos for the wealthy only
- "air quality (except for red tide) cultural opportunities ""melting pot"""
- Bayfront & beaches - so proud!
- Beaches
- Beaches
- Beaches
- Beaches
- Beaches
- Beaches
- Beaches
- Beaches - air quality - winter weather - services to seniors -
- Beaches & culture
- Beaches museums, etc. - esp free day; library restaurants, downtown area Arlington park, celery fields, Payne park (without baseball diamond) dog park, dog beach - Venice island park
- Beaches parks very clean
- Beaches!
- Beaches, downtown, restaurants St. Armands dislike - harder for people on fixed income to retire in Sarasota. Taxes much to high
- Beaches, landscape, beauty! I love Sarasota
- Beaches, lifestyle things I dislike - intolerance to homeless people, law enforcement more interested in generating revenue than fighting actual crime.
- Beaches, living across from the bay its a beautiful city with all the beautiful high rise bld
- Beaches, parks, stores
- Beaches, the downtown improvements, but what about the new town area?
- Beaches, traffic, people
- Beaches, waterfront, clean shoreline, kids fountains libraries, number of parks, airport convience, emergency response, hospital and doctor care
- Beaches, weather, growing diversity of the population, potential.
- Beaches. Parks - neighborhood is very quiet and my job.
- Beaches; relatively small population
- Beautiful - cultured city, great weather the fantastic Sarasota orchestra
- Beautiful beaches
- Beautiful coast and nature
- Beautiful place to live! Somewhat safe. Free parking at beaches. However for new families of low income has been a struggle. No jobs opportunities and the pay is not compatible with we have to pay in order to live here. It is a shame. Right now I am doing all I can to not loose my home by having to move somewhere else to get a better pay job.
- Beautiful setting

- Beautiful, friendly, cultural
- Beauty
- Beauty, culture, events.
- Because it's quiet, the beaches and the small home town look please stop building the huge rises and marking it look like New York.
- Close proximity to the water.
- Enjoy the beaches, (good job) water front restaurants walking to enjoy scenery; do something about the flow of traffic during season.
- Environment, weather/easy to get anywhere in city & area. Most of all parks & walking - jogging paths
- Excellent air environment, safe social environment
- Excellent beach - siesta, cultural and arts, clean very classy city. Weather we do need to make it daylight savings time all year to give more daylight to do tourist activities.
- Free beaches/free beach parking
- Free beaches/free beach parking
- Geographical attributes; climate; friendliness
- Geography, services, cultural offerings community feel & size
- How beautiful and clean our city is kept and also the residents (most of them) are very friendly day in and out. It is very nice to walk down a street downtown & get a smile or a hello from a Sarasota resident walking by.
- I love Sarasota for the land the sun and the sea. (remember the city song from the fifties to now.)
- I love Sarasota. I was 25 when we moved here. Lido beach and the beautiful city , the reason we moved here, I am now 86. I love the Frank Berlin YMCA.
- I was born here but other than that it is difficult to find many desirable aspects beyond that and the beaches.
- I'm a boater and love the water ways of Sarasota. I wish we had another public boat ramp, though.
- It is a beautiful place to live. The proximity to water is very important to me. Without a partner in life, it would be very difficult to live here. It feels as though the city does not have direction at this time
- It is a pretty and most of the time very friendly
- It is a very beautiful place to live
- It is beautiful
- It is beautiful with much culture.
- It's a beautiful place to live. Hopefully the roads won't become any more congested than they are now.
- Its beautiful beaches also Sarasota downtown area is very nice but still needs improvement.
- It's beautiful. The beaches. The palm trees. The waterfront/roads. No ice & snow.
- Its beauty & location. The availability of arts & culture. The fact that it is a university town which makes for diversity across age groups
- It's beauty, clean air, flowers & trees, water views, historical information, city bus benches, open air spaces, i.e. Symphony, classroom on wheels, programs for the elderly, senior friends
- It's beauty. I was born here.
- Its home for 30 years. - doesn't that say it all - its beautiful - beaches are so beautiful to0 & wonderful to walk & play on. Really very pretty & especially around the holidays they are so pretty & nice.
- Its natural beauty (beaches & islands & the arts
- It's natural beauty

- Its natural beauty, its cultural diversity, its climate, its people on the whole, its a lovely town to have the priviledge to live in. We could use a more frequent bus service. The small fee for having valet parking is an inspired idea - much appreciated
- It's natural beauty but this is declining fast due to over or unwise development.
- Look at view
- Natural beauty
- Natural beauty
- -natural beauty-
- Natural beauty - Sarasota Bay & Gulf of Mexico
- Natural beauty climate
- Natural beauty, weather
- Natural resourses
- Near beach & university
- Open spaces think red sox plan is money wasted! Do not thing city commission acted with care in land purchase
- Overall beauty, availability of cultural facilities and good shopping and dining facilities and availability of outdoor recreational (beaches, biking, fishing, tennis and golf (public and private)
- Parts are very beautiful and cultural. Living so close to so many parks and beaches for my family.
- Public beaches, free downtown parking, cultural activities
- Sarasota in Florida and sits on the Gulf o Mexico, where I feel very close to the land, even though I live in N.W. Sarasota where the rain forest grows.
- Scenic, safe
- The access to beaches, the areas for over 55
- The aesthetics of the beaches and weather in the winter
- The availability of water ways the Gulf of Mexico - the Gulf and the bay.
- The bay front & park
- The bayside/the Barrior Islands I am somewhat dissappointed in the lack of effort made in retaining Sarasota's historic integrity
- The beaches
- The beaches
- The beaches
- The beaches 10th street waterfront the amount of churches
- The beaches and bus (scat) services
- The beaches and the bay waters. Clean them up! I am considering leaving the area because every summer the waters are polluted by either red tide or bacteria.
- The beaches, the type of people here pland floral road ways.
- The beaches.
- The beaches. Please don't harrass me out of Sarasota. After 21 yrs here & becoming disabled & turning 52 yrs old in Nov. '08, I'm leaving - moving out of Sarasota as fast as I can! Yes, I am a registered voter, & do vote! It's a shame that Sarasota has changed for the worst! From C.W.D.
- The beaches-all kinds of intertainment-all kinds of restaurants-many libraries-many book stores-many shopping malls-many gas stations-great police dept-fire dept-ambulance-emergency-hospitals-health food stores-the boot for me alternative healing-
- The beautiful beaches & shopping areas St Armands circle good restaurants
- The beautiful water and beaches
- The beautiful waterfront St Armands bridge
- "the beautiful year-round greenery (being lost and depleted as developers ""develop"" once open, close-to-water areas."

- The clean air and knowing my way around the town.
- The environment & cultural opportunities
- The environment
- The natural beauty & the people.
- The natural beauty of location in Florida the wonderful cultural events - great library! Selby gardens! Theater, opera, etc etc - it's a bit of paradise! We are so lucky!
- The ocean, and natural beauty. The few remaining diverse neighborhoods - Gillespie Park, the Rosemary District, Laurel Park.
- The outdoor, scenery, beaches & parks
- The physical beauty of the waterfront, the trees, the historical architecture (that remains), the clean air (some days) and sunshine, Arlington park pool where I swim regularly, the Ringling museum, Selby gardens. I hate the fact that it is being ruined by tasteless, over-scaled, development - the natural beauty is being destroyed.
- The scenic areas of Sarasota, including rural & waterfront; wide variety of cultural venues. The basic layout of the city.
- The sunsets/shopping/weather/beaches
- The view of the bay
- The view of the Gulf, but building a lift station entering the city at central park along highway 41 is very wrong when a concentration should be on preserving the beautification of our city!
- The water (bay, Gulf)
- The water (Gulf) & beaches
- The water!
- The water, restaurants
- The waterfront
- The waterfront, the size, burns court
- Trees
- Water - (ocean) clean streets attractive landscapes nice parks doggy parks
- Water, bayfront. However too many noise ordinances cant have music after certain time, too many restrictions, restaurants close too early in the city & town. Not geared toward younger people - 50 & under
- What can I say, its the best!! Beaches, people, restaurants

Culture/arts/education opportunities

- (1) the cultural opportunities available, the setting of the city on the bay (2) you didn't ask what I dislike most. As a downtown resident, I dislike the commission's caving into the "green acres" mentality CCNA and its no-growth allies. They will lead the city to decline. Cities that do not grow becomes victims of decline & decay."
- *obviously the cultural opportunities *why do not you ask what I like least?
- 1) cultural activities - ballet, opera, orchestra etc museums - music of all kinds 2) architecture - Sarasota school & contemporary 3) of course beaches & h2o mate marine aquarium/laboratory
- Access to cultural activities and the beauty of the waterfront
- Accessable cultural activities - environmental sensitivity - good mass transport (buses) - friendly people - low stress living (compared to big cities)...most things are easy here.
- All of the cultural and educational opportunities in this clean and beautiful city by the bay. How much better can you get!
- All the kid related activities they have & put on throughout the year.
- Art & cultural place!! Kind, honest people live here. Very nice weather!!
- Arts culture dining
- Availability & accessability of the arts - theatre, ballet, museums, opera, music. Wide range of choices & localities for the above!!
- Bayfront and boating cultural events intellectual community no snow
- Cosmopolitan
- Cosmopolitan, easy to get around, lovely surroundings
- Cultural & art activities landscape of our community 1 of the small best towns in America not too large and not too small
- Cultural activities availability waterfront area in which we live
- Cultural activities, restaurants, neighborhoods, downtown
- Cultural activities: number of choices, quality of choices, library services, theatre and museums. For me cultural activites are within walking distance but safe pedestrian access (dodging cars, etc.) Leaves a lot to be desired & street ambiance (trees, store fronts, etc) is poor
- Cultural activities waterfront
- Cultural amenities, waterfront, beaches, shopping
- Cultural events
- Cultural life (art, theater, movies, etc) living close to downtown restaurants
- Cultural offerings and recreational opportunities, weather, people
- Cultural opportunities
- Cultural opportunities - recreational parks excellent medical care - friendly neighborhood
- Cultural quality - opera, symphony, theatres, museums, libraries - and beaches -
- Cultural venues
- Culture
- Culture
- Culture - performing arts (orchestra, music festivals, opera, theater - all wonderful)
- Culture - support of the arts - people - well educated climate style of living -
- Culture and population diversity
- Culture appearance waterfront
- Culture it has to offer, beautiful surroundings, friendly
- Culture! Theater! Opera! Ballet! Symphony, availability of current movies! The Lida beach
- Culture, beaches, beauty, weather
- I love the cultural opportunities and the bayfront is beautiful

- I really enjoy culture we have plays, great restaurants especially downtown, the buildings downtown are very beautiful to look at. We have lovely beaches. Sarasota is the definition of Florida. It's a great place to live.
- I truly like the many arts available and the general appearance of the city and enjoy the lovely beaches without having to pay for parking.
- It has great opportunities for cultural events, continuing education and it is not too big - no interstate goes thru it!
- "It is the ""arts capital of the world"" friendly - multi cultural - we do need a ""strong mayor"" no leaders plenty of support for the arts!"
- It's a city with great cultural amenities, natural beauty, its own airport (such a pleasant airport!) And it feels like a small town. It's a terrific unusual combination.
- Its arts district. Without it I would not be in Sarasota - if bus service were expanded (by which I mean evening/Saturday service) I would just about quit driving
- "Low cost and free activities (particularly cultural) available. Diversity of population efforts to ""beautify"" (fountains, landscaping sculpture, etc)"
- Parade's
- Ringling museum - art galleries - downtown area - lido beach - St. Armands circle - restaurants
- Social activities
- Symphony, shopping
- The artist events downtown along with the beaches.
- The arts and it's slow pace, religious services
- The arts, culture, still small town feeling
- The arts: music, theatre, opera, ballet the location: beautiful beaches on paradise coast.
- The cultural ambiance
- The cultural institutions
- The cultural opportunities and library facilities
- The cultural opportunities, the legacy bike trail (sarimento) co.) Beaches, (north lido, south lido). P.s. Indebting the city for a baseball stadium is fiscally irresponsible and if the city proceeds, the existing commissioner need to be voted out of office
- The culture i.e. Theatre, music
- The culture the mix of people the near proximity of shops, restaurants, museums, Van Wezel opera house & ASOLO & airport
- The diversity of cultural opportunities and the downtown area. Hopefully it will continue to improve, especialey along the state road 30/corridor.
- The fact that there are so many varities of activities - and cultural aspects-
- The presence of artists & creative people & proximity to the Gulf of Mexico while relative safety from hurricanes -
- The wide range of active cultural & social activities in close proximity to housing & shopping in attractive settings
- What I don't like: -city commission -no mayor -discourages development downtown - discourages equality for all. It is, on the whole, a wonderful city with great entertainment, educational and medical facilities. The people are generous (all the charity functions), the institutions seem to work for people (not gov't). Great beaches, art, location especially to Tampa & south. Excellent transporation
- When there is free entertainment for instance the arts and crafts culture festival downtown and Saint Armands circle open market on Saturday morning downtown farmer's market
- Wonderful & close by cultural and recreational amenities! (in a small-town atmosphere)

Quality of community/neighborhood/people, etc

- Cultural diversity, restaurant/foods, beaches, shopping centers
- Diversity
- Diversity - beaches - parks - community center - clean streets - feeling of security -
- Family lives here.
- Friendly atmosphere excellent hospital
- Friendly beaches affordable senior housing bus service many churches
- Friendly people
- Friendly people, low crime.
- Friendliness comfortable size for retirement the arts, opera/ballet & theater
- Having all the family living here.
- Home town feel i.e., Sarasota has a down town, not just strip malls like a lot of Florida.
- I feel safe, not much crime overall. People are honest, most of the time.
- I love the diversity of population, the many cultural and educational opportunities, the courtesy of shop keepers & restaurateurs, the restaurants available, the joy of walking around downtown.
- I'm close to my son and his family
- It is a welcoming, hospitable city. It seems to care for and provide as well as it is able for its citizens. Our buses are too large and cumbersome. Mini buses, running more frequently could be an improvement.
- It very friendly and they will help if you need help I like it very much
- It's neighborhood like feel, like a mid-western superb with a tropical flair.
- I've lived here all my life. I like my neighborhood.
- Large number of well-educated, interesting people. Attractive city & outlying areas. Cultural activities, beaches, restaurants, climate.
- My neighborhood is walkable, landscaping is lush and tropical. Proximity to water, it's not too big or small. Could use some more density downtown-shops/restaurants are empty. Need more working age residents.
- Neighborhood I live in & shopping convenience
- Nice people, easy going, fun
- People
- People & attitudes - weather - coastal activities -
- People & environ
- People are friendly & clean air.
- People are kind and willing to help those who are in need.
- People I have grown up with
- People!
- Safety, beautification of areas, beginning focus on previously unattended communities.
- SCAT & service for disable persons.
- "security/recreational facilities/arts Sarasota is ""beautiful"""
- The Florida voices. It's pretty & safe.
- The friendly atmosphere of the people I meet. The weather.
- The friendly feeling from most people, the look of the place, have been here 30 yrs a seen a lot of growth. Weather is good, its a good place to be
- The neighborhoods that still have old houses and old trees.
- The nice people and small town feel and beauty of water
- The people
- The people - the beauty so may cultural centers - everything -
- The people, places, and weather.

- The people, the beaches ask what I don't like about the city of Sarasota.
- There are many opportunities to become involved with others. There is a very diverse population – at least in my neighborhood. There is much natural beauty here & in nearby parks.
- Very easy to get around & friendly. Beautiful bayfront park(s) & other parks. Wonderful free siesta key public beach (for swimming), also Lido & Turtle beach . Great walking areas & neighborhoods.
- Very friendly, beautiful, and clean

Quality of life general/lifestyle/everything/safe community

- A good place to live
- A great place to live and the service it provide. For family old & young a like
- All it has to offer - just a wonderful place to live.
- Easy living.
- Everything
- Everything
- Everything (if I did not I wouldnt be living here)
- Everything 40 yr resident
- Everything!
- Feels safe for our family - very limited random crime & safer - no hurricanes. Feels like a small town - wouldn't hesitate to contact the city commissioners w/ concerns. Big city amenities - expanded bus service, culture, downtown.
- Given its pro's & cons it is still paradise. (beaches) and - free parking (I am a resident since 1971)
- Good place to live
- Good place to live - hospitals - doctors - resterants
- I believe it is a nice city but dedicated to the wealthy
- I feel safe and secure in my neighborhood.
- "I have been here since the 60's and would not leave for anything. Great city to raise children and friendly people among a lot of ""likes"" about Sarasota."
- I have loved living in Sarasota for 46 years & for all reasons, I will continue to do so.
- I is a nice place to live, but it is becoming more expensive to live, (taxes), also a low crime rate is good.
- I just love living in Sarasota. It is such a beautiful place to live
- I like living here, but it is growing to big, I'm a older person & have been in Sarasota 45 yrs.
- I like Sarasota as a whole, but the city commission has wierd thoughts & actions. Like all the attention paid to getting the red sox. Forget & spend the money where it is needed-like beaches they really attract tourists. Which is our main stay!!
- I like where I live is best to raise kid
- I love it here - came to town in 1973 bought a home, lost two husbands and now live alone at 85 yrs old, I'm happy. Love the entertainment, & churches, & city.
- I love the city of Sarasota because it is home
- "I was born here 67 years ago. This is my hometown. Sarasota is great"""
- I was born in this city and spent most of my adult life here and to see the progress over the years make me proud to live here.
- I worked for the city for 20 years, and I think the city of Sarasota is great.
- It all right, need 27th St parking back the way it was removed some tree from the road leave each coner intersection tree's their, the other are fine.

- It is a good place to live
- It is a great place to raise a child and love the beaches.
- It is a very pleasant place to live
- It is in paradise!!! Also: size, things to do restaurants, shopping, neighbors/community airport, access to i-75, beaches (no particular order)
- It is my home-born & raised and proud of it. I regret the tremendous building of multi million \$ condo/homes and deplore the lack of understanding of the needs of those who work to keep this town working. I wish you would stop spending so much emphasis on the affluent side of our residents & start providing homes for those who keep this town running!
- It is paradise to me, I'm from Indianapolis, concrete & asphalt, however Sarasota is growing to tall, the skyline is important to me, if I can't see anything besides tall buildings, I'll move.
- It's a wonderful place to live. Big city amenities without big city problems. And the weather!
- It's ambiance
- Its ambiance climate cultural activities
- It's my paradise
- It's quiet, clean, a small & safe
- I've been living in Sarasota for 36 years and I love everything about it
- Just a nice place to live
- Just living here.
- Life weather tranquility, beach everything that was the reason I had moved in Sarasota. From France
- Most everything. The streets are kept trash free.
- Nice city for life.
- Over all, Sarasota is a very nice place to live in all ways
- Overall - a nice place to live with higher than average opportunities
- Peace & quite, garbage pick up on Morrel only the stuff in jar cans. They need to make an effort to go behind & pick up all garbage 1700 block Morrel
- Quality of life
- Quality of life for all age groups is diverse particularly involvement of the arts
- Quality of life we need more public restrooms downtown & at St Armands circle
- Sarasota is a wonderful place for retirees to live. We enjoy the arts, the bicycle trails, parks, beaches and the wonderful mobile home park where we live.
- "Sarasota is a wonderful place to live. It has everything for us to enjoy. My problem is that our city & county commissioners seem to live day to day with finances. Lets start now to plan for the future & save for a ""rainy day"" its our money not theirs. Stop trying to keep up with the ""Jones"""
- Slower pace of living
- The ambiance
- The ambiance, friendliness of people, good shopping
- The ambiance & location
- The crime is not real high. Most of the crime is drug related not killings. I feel somewhat safe here.
- The overall ambiance, closeness to beautiful beaches the excellent variety of the arts in every category. The small town ambiance (lets keep it that way) we have enough ugly huge condo buildings downtown! Please control growth - baseball stadium no we voted against it!!
- The relaxed living and availability to many cultural activities
- The thrill of driving across the causeway at night and seeing all the lights downtown reminds me how far we have come in the past 25 yrs to provide citizens with the best bang for the buck in south Florida

- There is something here for everyone
- We just like the overall area
- Well, I live Sarasota. It's a good place for our children grow up in here. Good school and good library. And safe place.
- What I like about Sarasota is that is calm and a nice place to live.

Climate/weather/seasons

- The weather, divers restaurants - I am taking the liberty of enclosing a memorandum of my strong thoughts I am enclosing this memorandum as I do not feel that the real problems we have in Sarasota are covered. No doubt you will take no notice of this as you are too far removed from what is actually happening here and folks seem afraid to voice their opinion. Code compliance the manager and his assistant are not doing the job they are overpaid to do. This also applied to the rest of the department. I have a unit opposite me that stores trash in the right of way almost seven days of the week. Not compliant. Next door is a unit who, in the last few months, have erected a chain link fence around the front yard. Erected a solid block wall around the back yard, replaced all the window and many other improvements and I am informed not once did they apply for permission. A few months back all the properties in my street, and some adjoining streets, received door hangers informing the owners that the houses needed painting and other matters. I gave my hanger to my landlord and his response was 'don't worry they never follow up and anyway when they see my name they will take no action.' he was right. One of our commissioners recently suggested that code compliance should be able to inspect properties that need improvement on the inside. Before this is undertaken the city should clean house and get staff who are interested in making Sarasota a cleaner healthy and better place and not be over concerned about their pay packet. I spend many hours in my garden and cannot remember when I last saw a code enforcement truck in the area. Trash pickup etc the roller barrel and recycling pick up is excellent (if noisy) but the garden waste and main trash is a lot to be desired. They pick up when they feel like it. At this moment I have on my right of way which has been sitting their three weeks. It complies with all the requirements regarding size and weight etc. Also waste is dropped and left on the pavement for the wind to deal with. The main reason for this, I believe is because they are allowed to go home when they have completed their daily round so they fly around as fast as they can. Why can't they work a full days work like every one else has to. People think that Sarasota is a beautiful place to live in. I some parts it is but improvements of the above could make such a vast improvement to our once clean city which is rapidly declining.
- Climate
- Climate - scenic beauty 0 arts/recreation/beaches, restaurants, relative quiet
- Climate evidence for major changes in future
- Climate friendly people
- Climate modest size cultural events
- Climate, beaches, arts
- Climate, convenience, safety, proximity to beach
- "Climate, cosmopolitan, population, proximity to bay & Gulf, my neighbors, special events, ""culture"" in its many facets."
- Climate, culture, restaurants, beaches, friendly people, good medical services.
- Climate, other than that the city police are very rude. Taxes and property values are extremely high. My property taxes in New York were lower.
- Climate, shopping, people, easy access to everything
- Climate, vegetation, water views, available waterside picnic areas, friendliness of residents

- Except to hurricanes, hot, humid, sunny weather Pina beach bacteria a problem and swallowed lido beach water & got career trash due to raw sewage dumped in bay I pity children a beach
- Fall & winter seasons
- Good climate, housing, medical facilities, and not too crowded.
- Good weather - not too big a city yet
- I like the climate, friendly people, convenience of shopping, the beaches and the medical facilities are readily available when necessary.
- I like the weather, and the fact that there are Hispanic people (some diversity.) Also, I like that it's peaceful, there are things to do...but it's not hussle bustle like Miami (small city environment.)
- Sunshine, water availability, beaches
- The beautiful weather and the bike lanes, wherever they exist.
- The climate
- The climate & the beauty!
- The climate and the little that is left of the small town feel.
- The climate, the bay front, the people.
- The nice weather, and enjoy my life and taking one day at a time
- The weather
- The weather
- The weather
- The weather
- The weather
- The weather + peoples + beaches + neighborhood park but the police is wrong just can't have fun, and about music play in your car that stuip?
- The weather in a pleasant small city (that, unfortunately has been overbuilt and has contributed to a severe market crash.
- The weather is great. The way we treat homeless people is shameful. Van Wegel used to be good, not anymore. Community activities are great. The pay scale stinks.
- The weather!
- The weather, the culture, water, water, water, ease of driving to desired destinations.
- The weather. Politicians are backward.
- The weather. What I like least! The ugly bank building on 301 across from court house, destroyed the friendly Sarasota atmosphere. Blocks out sunshine; and light. Me and my friend avoid driving in that area. Dismal and gruesome
- The winter weather is pleasant and sunny.
- Warm weather nearer Europe than the west coast was. Entertainment library friends
- Weather
- Weather
- Weather
- Weather - golf courses - restaurants citizens
- Weather & wonderful views friendliness of all - especially my neighbors neighborhood associations many opportunities to get involved with activities groups, arts etc.
- Weather and availability of cultural diversity
- Weather laid back
- Weather Nov - April
- Weather, daughter & grandchildren live here stores are good - roads getting better. Beaches are beautiful traffic is good except for season
- Weather, location on the water, cultural amenities, quality of light. Small-town feeling. Intimacy. Please do not lose this. Ringling museum.

- Weather, museums (cultural activities - ballet, opera, Selby, Ringling, Mate, galleries) book stores, restaurants, water
- Weather, overall cleanliness, proximity of cultural endeavors.
- Weather, sport and cultural facilities.
- Weather, water
- Weather.

Appearance/overall cleanliness/architecture

- "kept clean." "friendly"
- A clean safe environment friendly
- Appearance cleanliness
- Beautiful, small townish feel however the noise ordinances are very limiting & old crabby retirees seem to dominate - not much push to support young people.
- Clean & some how safe
- -clean public areas -preservation of natural areas -clear waters on beach
- Clean streets.
- Clean, quaint & not too overgrown with development/population/traffic
- Clean, safe, lots of places to go and visit excellent garbage and trash pickup.
- Clean. Friendly. Only city we have lived in where drivers will stop & allow you to exit from a mall!
- Cleaness, close to everything.
- Cleanliness
- Cleanliness
- Cleanliness, safety and the good care they take of their senior citizens.
- Cleanlynes, good schools, pet friendly
- General appearance
- Is clean
- Is very clean, parks beaches, beautiful place to live. (but everything is very expensive)
- It feels and looks clean and attractive.
- It is a good clean city to live in
- It's charm, the weather, the water nearby and the people.
- Its clean and good all around place to live code inforcement needs more active help.
- Its clean and green and always has lots of events
- Its clean and pleasing to look at with sights to see, but there almost seems to be more here for tourists and visitors than for the residents.
- Its setting, the cultural opportunities of which I heartily appreciate & partake & the friendly people
- Its tourist like appearance & its beaches.
- Landscaping - atmosphere
- Like the way it looks-attractive clearly-(clean) orderly
- "Mediterranean architecture art, music, culture, opera, theatre etc golf courses, beaches, basically ""all"" of it!!"
- Overall - looks - peoples behavior
- Overall, it is very clean.
- Relative cleanliness, pleasing residential & commercial architecture
- Sarasota city is a beautiful, safe and friendly place to live. Over development seems apparent and it is getting very expensive.

- Sarasota is beautiful & for the most part very clean to be as big as it is. It is also very easy to get around the way the main roads & streets are set up is perfect you can't get lost.
- "The ""world"" travels here, to this beautiful city - made up of the most caring people."
- The beauty of Sarasota.
- The beauty of the city.
- The beauty, the beaches, the arts.
- The city is clean
- The city is well maintained, clean and easy to navigate.
- The cleanliness, fishing could be better
- The way it looks. Clean in the city of Sarasota.
- Very clean, beautiful overall city, with a lot to offer.
- Very clean, but too much traffic, with people not respecting traffic sign
- Very clear, excellent SCAE services

Diversity/quality of opportunities (shopping, restaurants, business, downtown)

- Accessibility to shopping/restaurants/nite life. The beaches as a whole a very clean and enjoyable! We love the library system as well!
- Big city conveniences, services, infrastructure with smaller town attitude
- Downtown
- Downtown area and parks
- Downtown area, west of the trail areas, beautiful water scenery
- Downtown atmosphere
- Downtown growth & improvements
- Downtown night life and access to the Gulf
- Downtown, Saturday market, art exhibits, music venues
- Growing diversity of restaurants, food types and people who speak English.
- I have only lived in Sarasota since May 2008. Previous 6 years were in Bradenton. I love the sense of a downtown Sarasota. And I live that I can walk to it. My goal is to use the bus service but I haven't gotten time yet. Public transportation is essential to reduce global warming and I want to support it.
- Main St, bayfront festivals, Payne Park.
- Shopping
- Shopping malls, golf courses, cultural centers, recreational facilities, availability of professional services.
- Shops, restaurants, beaches
- The downtown Starbucks coffee shop
- Variety of good offerings

Size of community/small town feel

- A somewhat quiet city, with no, nonstop crime activity.
- Ease of finding my way around proximity to beaches schools better than manatee county
- Ease of getting around
- Highway & bridge construction. Parks, tree & bush planting museum, theatres, library, services music availability.
- I did like it because you felt like you were living in a small town with all kind of arts it didn't matter if you were poor or rich it was things to do. Now its for the people with money.

- "I do like part of the ""small"" town feel."
- I was born in Sarasota it is my home I remember when it was fresh and people were polite and very friendly. I hope we keep our roots and remember it is a small town
- It has a small town area, I come from a small town 80,000 Illinois
- It is a city - not a glorified resort. It is diverse - its offerings are diverse - ballet to baseball. It is a home town on the water.
- It is a relatively small town with larger town amenities.
- It is not overcrowded yet diverse. The new fancy hotels are nice, but if we don't put the brakes on, this is going to change the type and amount of people we share our space with.
- Limited growth/development. Great beaches & parks. Upscale environment. Good size of city, especially in respect to shopping, goods & services.
- Peace & quiet nobody bothers you.
- Quiet, easy shopping but very expensive!
- Quiet, not overcrowded. Organized and with plenty of things to do.
- Small close to work
- Small town feel - tropical in its feel
- Small town feel but city (cultural) opportunities
- Small town feel with a variety of activity.
- Small town feel with many advantages: climate, beaches, cultural opportunities, recreation, shopping & restaurants - all easy to reach. Airport is great. We like having spring training MLB here. City gov't - seems somewhat weak & subject to ignoring building codes at times.
- Small-town environment even though its size exceeds small-towns. Beauty and cleanliness of environment. Many available events and activities.
- "Still has a somewhat ""small town"" feel in the ease of getting around via car yet has everything to offer you find in a much larger cosmopolitan city. And the location on the Gulf of Mexico with free beaches & free parking."
- That it has a small town feel for a somewhat mid-size to large city. The downtown is becoming more vibrant and of course the water.
- The big city variety with a small town feel.
- The ease of getting around - overall cleanliness - friendliness of store owners - arts -
- "The small city feeling - the weather - the bay the culture, the accessibility of shops, restaurants recreation. -I dislike totally the ""tolerance"" for the downtown invasion of the ""homeless"" - it does nothing positive for our city."
- The small town feel the planting of more trees the artistic & colorful buildings.
- The small town feeling, culture, mid-western people, climate, foliage, higher education and forward thinking feeling (not really practices but feels progressive)
- Traffic, calm, beaches
- Very much in organization, very arts, clean, opera
- Walkability, arts, restaurants, public parks, bayfront ambience what I like least about SRQ cost of living is out of sight; particularly re taxes. Being on a fixed income, my wife & I may be forced to leave to a more affordable location, after living here 27+ years!
- "With the size of Sarasota, there seems to be a pretty good diverse group. Sarasota offers many options of ""things to do"" eg: arts, sports, community classes, etc."

Parks/Recreation opportunities

- Availability of water sports/fishing/boating *the structure of the city government is outmoded. We need a mayoral structure.
- City water front parks; beaches; Van Wezel performing hall, schools

- Close to beaches & state parks, shopping also past members born here in the 1920's the general history is cool!!
- Dogs are allowed in city parks -
- Great parks! Beautiful beaches, marina jacks waterfront park
- I like the recreational activities that I can take part in (i.e. Beaches, national parks, etc). I don't like the fact that I'm unable to find work after being laidoff from mote marine lab nine months ago. The job economy is poor here and because of my education, no one will hire me at a no-end job.
- I moved to Sarasota the 24th of April 2008 and this is a permenent move. As you can see I am not at all familier with all aspects of this city. I really do value the parks and open spaces ps I'm 91 yrs old
- I wit like to have more park for my childrens. I ha 4 under 18- to 6 more rode repair in my neighborhood more drinking water in my home wi can't dincking that water I live in Carolina state - 8th St. I like to earn more money in my job because I have 5 children
- "Lived here forty years & love walking the ""bayfront"". Hate the tall buildings!!!"
- Parks
- Parks and recreation, Van Webal, downtown shopping.
- Parks, beaches, cleanliness, weather, concern for historic buildings, demographics
- Parks, cultur
- Parks, downtown, library services
- Parks, transit services, library
- The oppourtunities are endless for recreation, beaches, theatre, etc & (community colleges). Near airport, beautiful Ringling museum, - Sarasota has an abundance of fun stuff.
- The parks and library services
- The parks. However many on the south side of Fruitville are becoming havens for drug dealers. The police focus a lot on the homeless, but from my experience, they are less dangerous then the dealers who will do anything to avoid being identified. Police need to start checking neighborhood park after dark. I would like to see the health clinic help those who are US citizens, hard workers, not pregnant. Even though I can barely afford to pay my rent every month, because I make more (cont'd) than \$1,000 a month, I can not get any help from the clinic. When I was applying @ the health clinic, there was a woman there with children. I worked with her husband and knew for a fact she nor her kids were legal, nor born here - in U.S. everyone in the family received free health care - her husband told me later. They both drive newer cars that they are paying on. I have done everything to limit my bills - no car payment - and can receive not even vitamins from the clinic (cont'd) how do my tax dollars benefit my health or just illegals.
- The waterfront park: marina jack's/O'Leary's area
- Waterfront area & arts what I like least is that elected officials ignore the results of referendums because their friends talks to them
- We especially appreciate the recreational parks and libraries here in SRQ. And how the city is always upgrading the downtown area while trying to preserve our history *we have lived in our home for almost 30 years and there is a drainage ditch next to our home when the habitat community was built behind our home the portion of the ditch beside our home was not connected and the ditch gets over run w/growth leading to standing water leading to mosquitoes. We have complained about this (cont'd) and were told we would have to pay for the connection ourselves.

Nothing - negative response

- As a 72 yr old (49 yrs in Sarasota) I find I can exist in Sarasota (bad bosses & jobs in town (electronic taxi driving & elec apprentice (digging) I am just making it.
- Basically nice town in process of being ruined by poor planning, catering to developers. Misuse of tax money (stadium, i.e.) And resistance to listen to taxpayer needs and wants. Commission doing poor job.
- Business need to kick in, they benefit - only us should not be on residents - we are already negatively impacted w/extra traffic & related pollution, safety concerns, etc. I would like say that it is bicycle friendly - many cities work w/P.D./S.O. & paint abandoned bikes & make available for communal use w/ lots of downtown area bike racks - helps reduce pollution/carbon generation, reduces transp/parking frustration, promotes community - so, I would say its natural beauty
- City is redundant and should be annexed by the county.
- City should be absorbed/annexed by county.
- Do not like using Payne Park or any part of 301 or 41 for a red sox stadium. Upgrade existing field on 12th St. Let red socks pay or other private groups. Have never met anyone who attended these baseball games. Highly overrated. Do not put a baseball field in city
- Have been here almost 30 years and growth is too fast and all land will be gone before you know it. Plenty of places to eat.
- Honestly, I would prefer to live in the county and will be moving back there soon. The only good thing is trash pick up 2x per week.
- "I find it difficult to say anything ""good"" about the city of Sarasota. My overall impression is the city is run by a group of individuals lacking in integrity & morality. Yet I understand remarks such as we will have no positive impact on change - thus I am resigned to leaving the area."
- I have lived here for my entired life (43 years) am a working person who finds it getting harder for the working class people to live in Sarasota.
- I liked it a lot better 20 years ago when it wasn't as congested as it is today. Every place you go to is waiting in line - driving, eating, shopping etc. Plus the cost of everything. The restaurants are fine but expensive.
- I used to love living here. But I can no longer afford it! There is no life worth living here. City & county & state government have made it impossible. We can't even get a city employee to return results of a test of our water done months ago! Phoning the city 4x results in nothing!
- I was born and raised in Sarasota so I dont like or dislike anything I'm only here to live then die
- I was born here
- I'm single and cant afford to go out I drive house to house for work and fuel is cutting into my vehicle and home maintainence budget is cutting into my food too people are typically rude - thats about the jest of it! I've worked all one. Fla people are friendlier elsewhere
- It was a great city, at one time, it was.
- Most dislikes police at light watching cars run lights, not using turn signels, hang out in groves at art & craft fairs talking about personal lifes, 2 officers watched me almost get hit from man who ran stop sign. Had flat tire & officer waved back at me & kept going female officers handle situations better.
- Most of the outside activities are now too expensive for me. I have loved living in Sarasota however a lot of these questions have a qualifier. Sarasota has moved from a diverse, family, working class and wealthy population to a wealthy population - high end housing & shopping - there is a lack of middle class jobs & housing.

- Most of the people in Sarasota are here by choice rather than by default. Because of that, they are more engaged in the battle against those who would exploit the community for personal gain at the expense of our quality of life.
- No comment
- No one thing
- Not a thing
- Not much, the city/county are catering to the rich people and also providing services to illegal aliens & colored folks with low incomes & forgetting about the white low income families who bust their butts everyday to make a living & can barely make ends meet
- Nothing
- Nothing - for the rich only not the poor
- Nothing at all
- Nothing I moved here in 1982. Which was a middle class paradise. Now only rude rich survive. Too many Mexicans too. Why do you think everyone is leaving. The smart Canadians all left. Despite the cold/think Canada is a good place to live. Poor wages & no respect here. The rich better learn how to fix their own cars & cut grass & cook. Enjoy or wealth w/no service
- Nothing! City-county government's ignorance & misinformation has handicapped the progress of the city/county. They have handicapped our security. Their leadership is not guided by the light of learning and reason. They confuse the rhetoric with reality. Their words do not convey conviction but they do convey belligerence. Their strength is not based on principle but on kickbacks to those who care nothing about the men, women & children of Sarasota. They have emasculated essential (cont'd) programs for the poor & middle class! Sarasota should be ashamed!
- Nothing, Sarasota has changed so much since I moved here from Bradenton. I used to like it. The laws and cost make it impossible to even fish, unless you have lots of money or free recreation. Cost of living for us on set income is awful here. I'd move elsewhere if I could and had the means to do so. Sarasota is all about money.
- Nothing. You would think a skilled person could get a job, but with such a poor economy its very hard to keep food on the table for my family. No body wants to hire some one for 3 months before the ship out for the navy. So much for supporting our troops!
- Old memories of what it use to be
- Pass on this one
- Please keep public boat ramps
- "Rent is extremely high it's a great place to live but a terrible place to find a job. Pay is pathetic. The city & county screw over the people who live here 12 months a year. They don't give a damn about us & all they care about are the ""intruders"" who come here for 5 or 6 months. We get screwed when they are here"
- The easy way that life used to be like here now it all \$\$\$!
- The only thing that sets it apart from the county services - twice weekly garbage collection. Not enough for the cost. Get rid of the extra lager of city politicians
- The parking lot on state St. Should never have been given away!
- The red sox coming to Sarasota and spending \$60 million is criming and a complete waist of time. The city manager is not doing a good job at all. We need a strong mayor. Since his arrival we are completely unsatisfied with his performance.
- The Ringling causeway bridge name! Next time ask your tax payers!
- There is nothing to like
- When they stop wasting tax dollars on excessive landscaping, useless trail signs and bad sculptures and subsidizing big business.

Location/convenience/proximity to amenities

- (1) Location on the bay (2) Sarasota is a city - a small city. (3) finally having someone on the council that opposes massive development (procenium) that will ruin this town.
- Access to beache's, airport - shopping - restarants
- Access to beaches, boat docks. Restaurants public library arts culture
- Accessibility to all necessities & it's destination location for many clients which allow our business to grow due to its beaches & hotel properties.
- Being on the Gulf.
- Closeness to shopping/medical/water
- Convenient location to work, beaches and i-75.
- Convenience
- Everything is close by (together)
- I can walk to downtown - have not had a problem parking when do drive. Lots to do - just the right size. Interesting mix of people do we really need to support Van Wesel? - improve stormwater system rather than ballpark for wealthy owners - players.
- I live downtown and find it very convenient to have so many shops close by.
- It's location
- Its location on the bay, its 1st Friday walks, proximity of good restaurants.
- Its on the water
- Location
- Location
- Location
- Location - on the bay.
- Location - warm weather
- Location but this survey was way too long
- Location! Location! Location!
- Location, arts. I am not as happy living in Sarasota as I was 21 yrs ago. Quaintness of downtown is gone. Property taxes and insurance are outrageous now. Everyone keeps building while traffic gets more jammed. More does not always constitute better. This is not a good place for a small family business such as mine, retail floorcovering, anymore.
- Location, schools, cultural activities, beaches
- Location, services, Sarasota bay: sailboat racing
- Neighborhoods close to the Gulf of Mexico bay - small town feel with ig city culture. Roads & police need more dollars - storm drains need improvement, public transportation needs to be worked!!
- Proximity to beaches.
- Proximity to excellent beaches; city parks (especially Bayfront & Payne park); main street, Towles court, Burns court; preservation of historic buildings; cultural opportunities (arts); colleges
- "take back the parking you have given away DT & to valet service at Mariner Jacks (1) proximity to the bay (2) a ""small-town"" good feeling. If you care to know this is an arts community. I am opposed to any money subsidizing a wealthy baseball team. Let them pay their own way like any business. Fix the roads - educate the children - feed the homeless, and let the young people have fun. Too many rules - lighten up! Let the music flow."
- The ability to live on the water and yet be so close to the downtown area for church, shops & rests

- The closeness to the beaches and overall cleanliness. It is fairly easy to get around. We need more multi-culture events. (ie) African American, Asian and Latino. I enjoy what culture we do have. And I enjoy the laid-back atmosphere.
- The location (west coast), shopping and location to hospitals and EMS, cleanliness for a city this size
- The location in Florida, culture, winters
- The proximity to the water & recreation. Being near family. Wide variety of cultural and civic activities.

Quality/availability of services/transit/library/senior services

- I love riding the SCAT bus, I like going down town
- Its service beauty and ever-delightful climate
- Los servicios publicos y lugares recreativos
- Public library art related activities (music/theater)
- SCAT bus services!
- Services to the elderly
- Some services, the open government

Don't Know

- I don't really know right now

Other

- Ability to vote out commissioners obsessing on baseball
- After a little over 50 yrs, I cannot imagine living anywhere else!
- Availability of needs
- City government openness, rec facilities, attempts at diversity although improvement is very imperative,
- Construction development by private developers
- Dog friendly, clean in most areas, generally safe, upscale but not overly pretentious
- Farmers market, sailboats in basin, clean up of area north of Fruitville. Bands/music outdoors, outdoor eating
- Flexibility & diversity
- For me my job keep me here cause I make more money. If then anywhere else I could go I am a CNA in a nursing home
- Free parking!
- Hope for what it could be
- I feel it has the possibility to do and be a more than highly exceptional.
- I have a job, beach availability, cleanliness variety of shops, freedom to walk the Ringling bridge variety of restaurants, access to nuisance abatement board
- I like the way the elected people perform their jobs. I think they are to be trusted.
- It is a planned community - we have a diffinate downtown area, unlike other cities - i.e. Tampa, Naples
- It is my home
- It's a very wealthy city!
- It's home.
- Low expense life low the bill elect water phone is too high for me the bills

- Mate marine laboratory, cultural activities, Sarasota bay, city size, networking opportunities, nice midwestern beach ground of much of population, weather, airport.
- Meet a comission meeting where mayor palmer is present, speak if possible. As to my cares
- Memories of when the lousy pay-scale matched the affordability of the area. Now it costs more to live and the payscale and jobs are still lousy! le: I like my memories of the city of Sarasota.
- Mostly the replace survey in each other
- My school (Ringling) and the beach
- Quick response to utility problems
- Reputation
- That there are a lot of people who realize that ed smith stadium should be renovated if necessary - save the 80 million you are dying to spend on worth while projects and help the helpless! 80 million/31 days of baseball per year!
- The history! The schools! The beach! The arts!