



TOWN OF POETRY

RESULTS OF THE LONG- RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

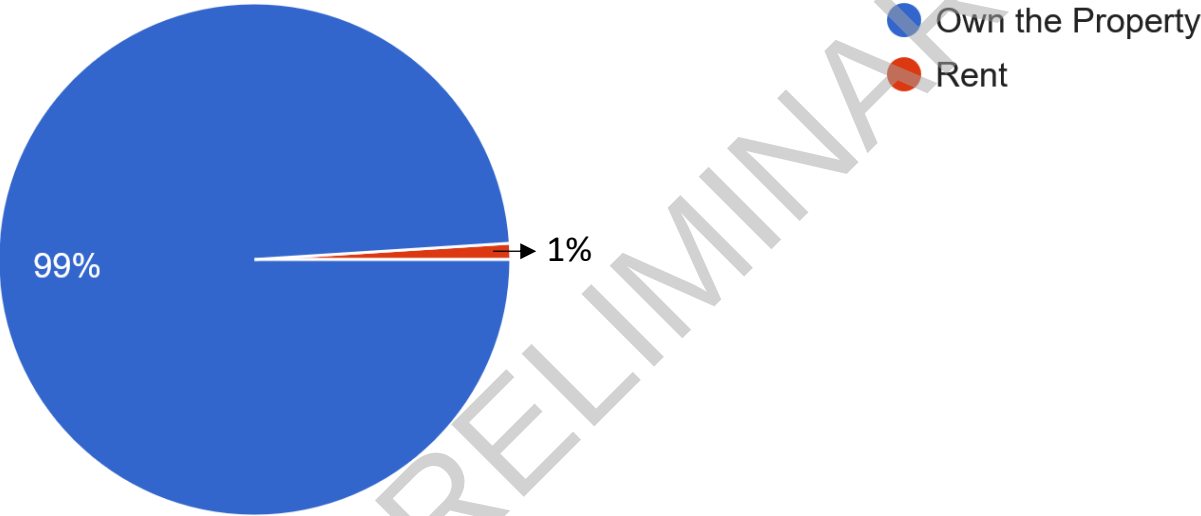
SURVEY CLOSED AUGUST 12, 2026



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

For the property where you live:

197 responses



☒ Own the Property

195 responses

☒ Rent

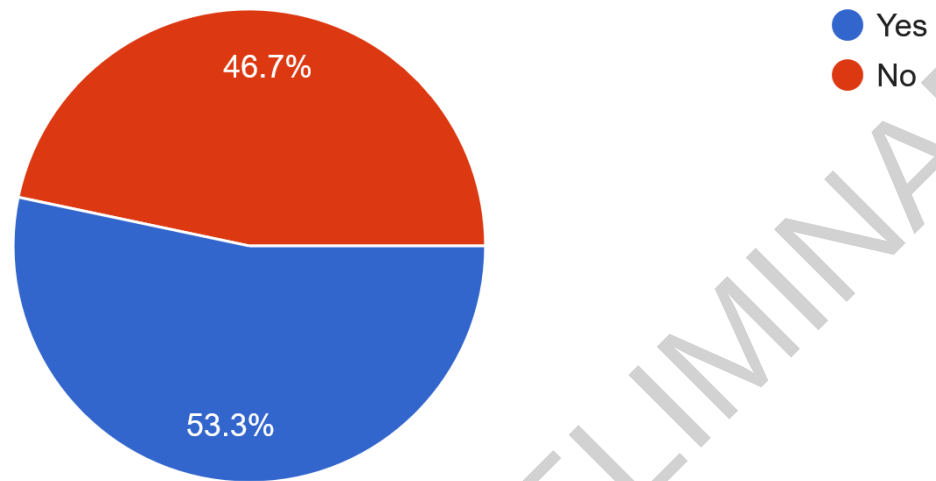
2 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

Do you own Property in the ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction) of the Town of Poetry?

197 responses



☒ Yes

105 responses

☒ No

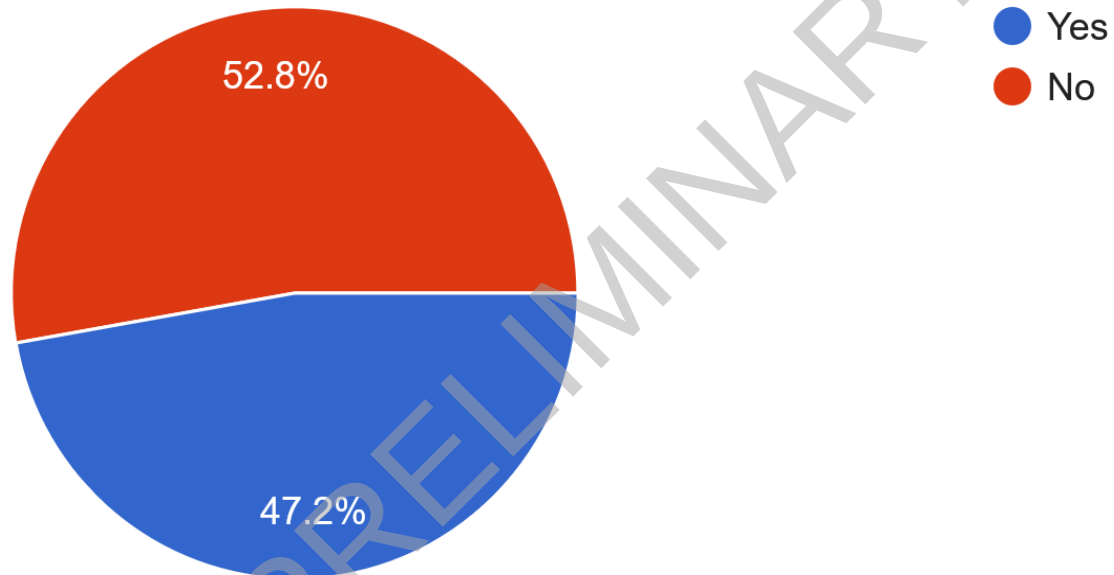
92 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

Do you pay a franchise fee of any kind to the Town of Poetry?

197 responses



☒ No

104 responses

☒ Yes

93 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

1. Are you aware that the Town of Poetry is approximately 622 feet wide and approximately 27 miles long?

197 responses



☒ Yes, I am aware

97 responses

☒ No, I was not aware

79 responses

☒ Neutral

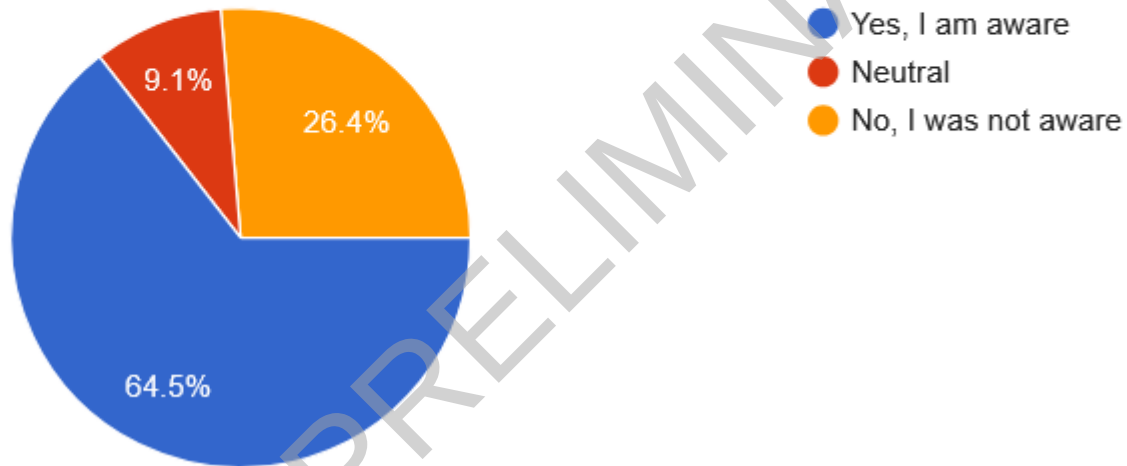
21 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

2. Are you aware that more than 95% of all parcels in the Town of Poetry are not entirely within the Town Limits; they are split between the Town and the County? In fact, a large percentage of homes are only partly in the Town.

197 responses



☒ Yes, I am aware

127 responses

☐ No, I was not aware

52 responses

☐ Neutral

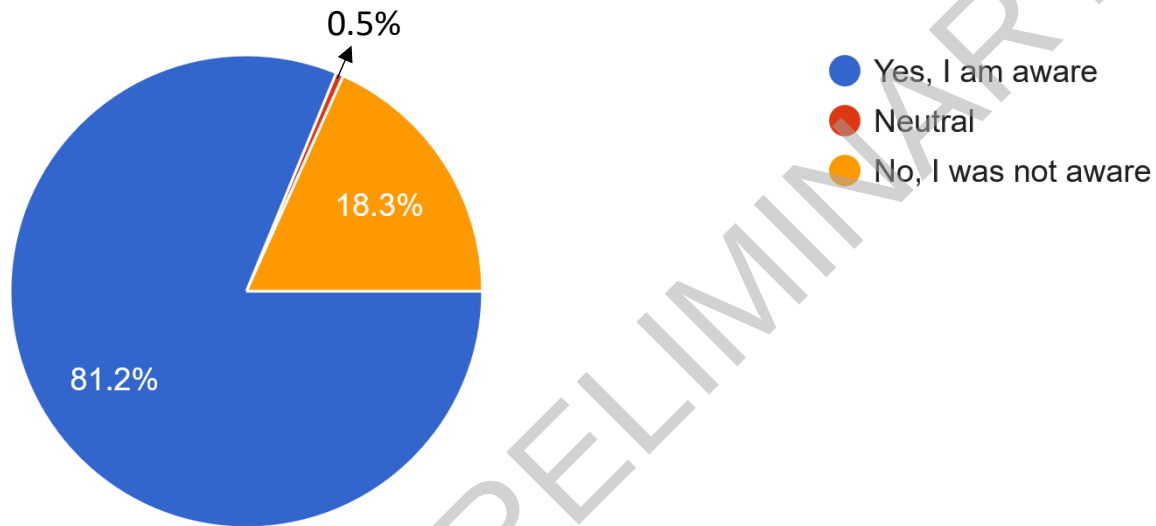
18 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

3. Do you understand that the Town of Poetry's primary sources of revenue are franchise fees (trash service and utilities) and a 1.5% sales tax on taxable items sold within the Town of Poetry?

197 responses



☒ Yes, I am aware

160 responses

☒ No, I was not aware

36 responses

☒ Neutral

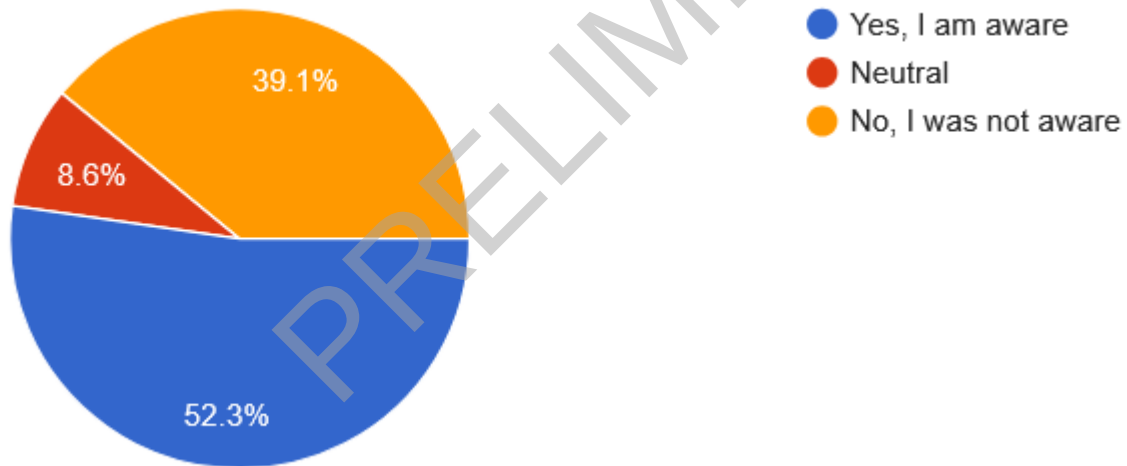
1 response



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

4. Are you aware that the Town of Poetry's total annual income is approximately \$300,000? This amount must cover operating costs, maintenance of approximately 29 miles of roads and bridges, future ordinance compliance, compliance with federal and state requirements, required insurance coverage, legal services, defense of the Town in legal matters, and other essential expenses?

197 responses



☒ Yes, I am aware

103 responses

☐ No, I was not aware

77 responses

☒ Neutral

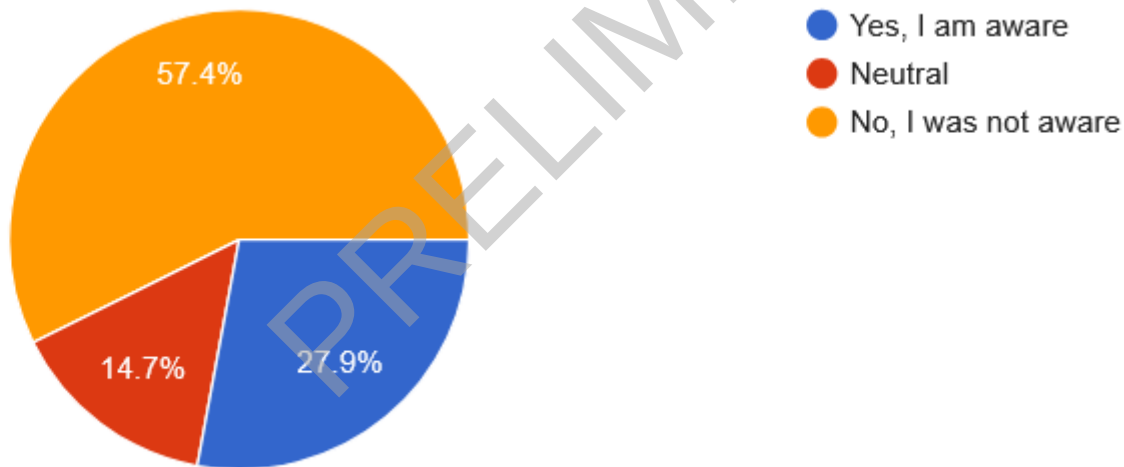
17 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

5. Are you aware that the Town of Poetry is currently out of compliance with certain state requirements, including maintaining a current Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) map and an up-to-date survey of the Town? The cost of an ETJ map is estimated by the Town's engineering firm to be \$35,500, and an on-the-ground survey of the Town is estimated by the Town's engineering firm to be more than \$350,000.

197 responses



☐ No, I was not aware

113 responses

☒ Yes, I am aware

55 responses

☐ Neutral

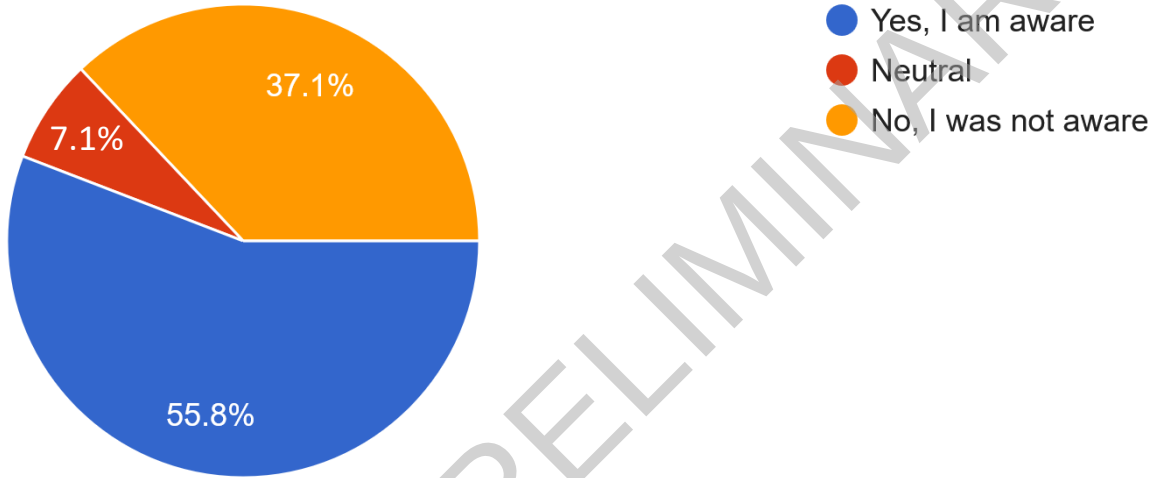
29 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

6. Are you aware that the Town of Poetry has a Zoning Ordinance that regulates what property owners may and may not do on their property?

197 responses



☒ Yes, I am aware

110 responses

☒ No, I was not aware

73 responses

☒ Neutral

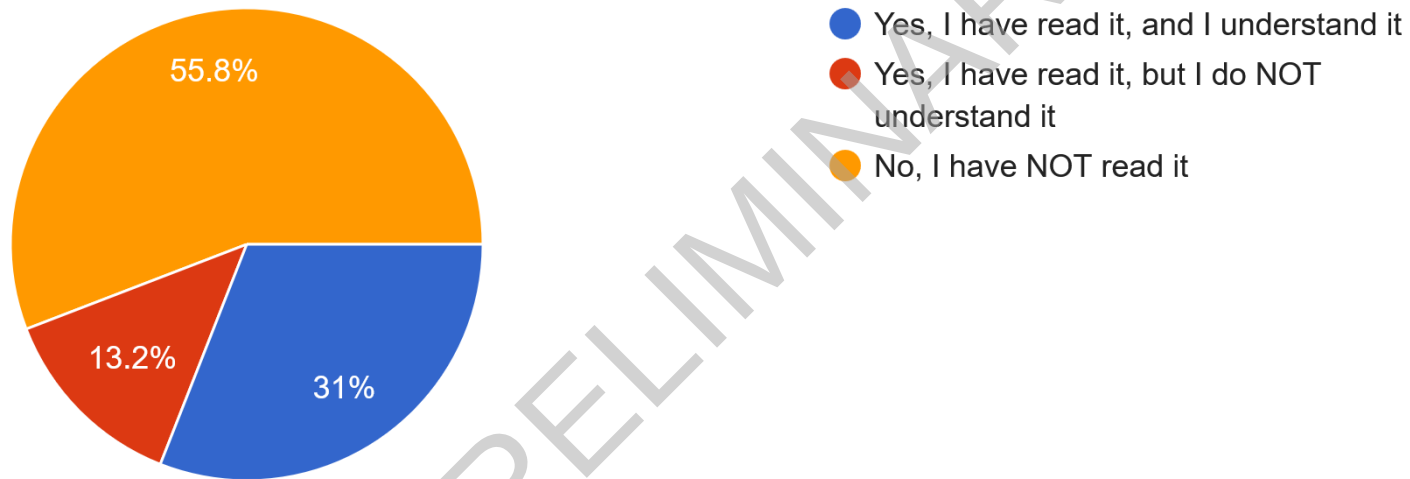
14 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

7. Have you read the current Zoning Ordinance, and do you have a reasonable understanding of its requirements?

197 responses



☐ No, I have NOT read it

110 responses

☐ Yes, I have read it, and I understand it

61 responses

☐ Yes, I have read it, but I do NOT understand it

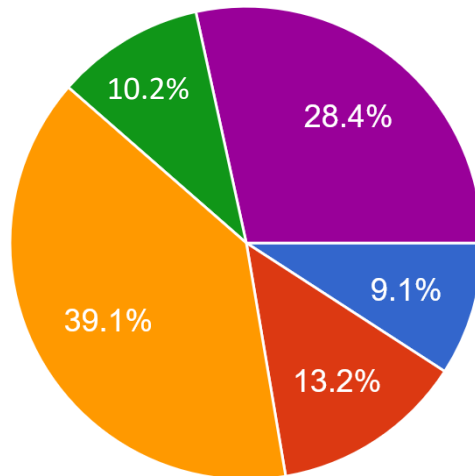
26 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

8. Do you support the current zoning regulations?

197 responses



- Strongly support the current zoning regulations
- Somewhat support the current zoning regulations
- Neutral / No opinion
- Somewhat oppose the current zoning regulations
- Strongly oppose the current zoning regulations

☒ Neutral / No opinion

77 responses

☒ Strongly oppose the current zoning regulations

56 responses

☒ Somewhat support the current zoning regulations

26 responses

☒ Somewhat oppose the current zoning regulations

20 responses

☒ Strongly support the current zoning regulations

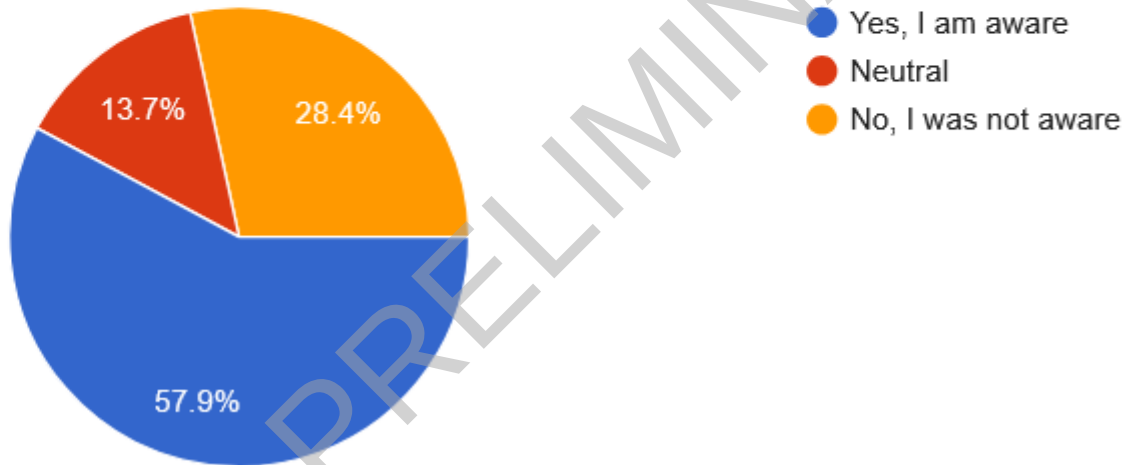
18 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

9. Are you aware that if a portion of your property is located within the Town's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), that the Town has very little authority to impose any regulations or controls over what can and cannot be built on that portion of your property?

197 responses



☒ Yes, I am aware

114 responses

☒ No, I was not aware

56 responses

☒ Neutral

27 responses



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

10. The Town of Poetry does not currently have a real property tax mechanism in place to assess or collect property tax. If an ad valorem tax of \$0.50 per \$100.00 of taxable value were implemented, the additional annual tax may be calculated as follows (examples):

$\$500,000 \div \$100 = 5,000$; $5,000 \times \$0.50 = \$2,500$

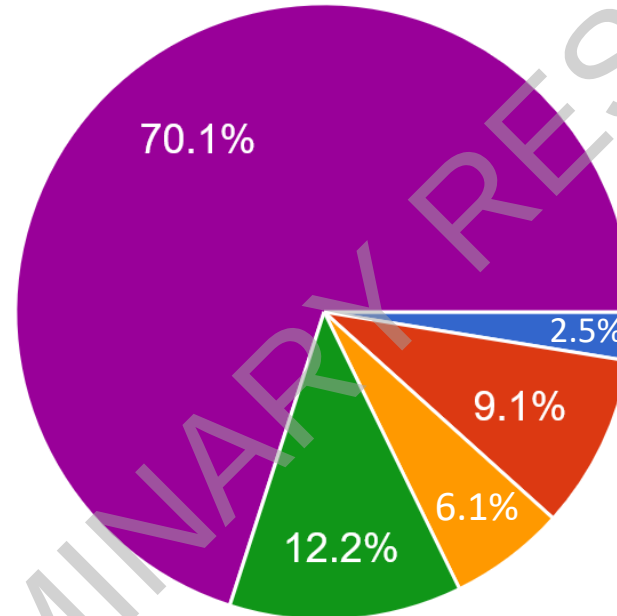
$\$750,000 \div \$100 = 7,500$; $7,500 \times \$0.50 = \$3,750$

$\$1,000,000 \div \$100 = 10,000$; $10,000 \times \$0.50 = \$5,000$

The total taxable value of property within the Town of Poetry is approximately \$173,112,913. At a rate of \$0.50 per \$100 of taxable value, this would generate approximately \$865,564 in annual property tax revenue. By comparison, rebuilding one mile of road and its substructure is estimated to cost approximately \$1,000,000.

Given the above information, how likely would you be to support an ad valorem property tax of \$0.50 per \$100.00 of assessed value to ensure the Town is adequately funded for the foreseeable future?

197 responses



- Strongly support a property tax
- Somewhat support a property tax
- Neutral / No opinion
- Somewhat oppose a property tax
- Strongly oppose a property tax

☒ Strongly oppose a property tax

138 responses

☐ Somewhat oppose a property tax

24 responses

☐ Somewhat support a property tax

18 responses

☐ Neutral / No opinion

12 responses

☐ Strongly support a property tax

5 responses



TOWN OF POETRY — RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

1	No way in hell
2	I think we should disincorporate and start over with only state maintained roads (986, 3486 and 1565) as roads in town.
3	Disincorporate Now
4	Probably time to unincorporate and redo things the right way
5	Probably time to unincorporate and redo things the right way
6	I do not want a property tax or a town with restrictions. I don't see why this town exists.
7	If you are not compliant of State Regs how is the town still operating? I do not want a property tax The town needs to go away
8	I appreciate the work the current mayor and council are doing for our community.
9	I would prefer to disincorporate before having a property tax for the Town of Poetry. Also, all the talk of permits and fees is not the country life we were planning to live in when we moved here.
10	What have we gained from becoming a town? It has only caused conflicts among our neighbors. We still pay a high amount of taxes to Kaufman county and receive nothing! A property tax would almost for sure run us out of business with the current County tax roll. We are in a industry that we can only charge what the market will allow. This tax would severely affect my Business. My thoughts are to go back to the way it was. Return to a community and let Kaufman County return to fixing our roads.
11	Is it 27 or 29 miles of roadway? Since Poetry's road maintenance has been removed from Hunt County's books, why are we still paying county tax for road maintenance? 99.9% of my driving is on state owned or city owned roads. I live on a private road so I have to pay to maintain that also. This whole incorporation deal has been a cluster from the beginning.
12	We live in the country, not an hoa for a reason. We don't want to be told what and how we can do stuff or not on our property. And Kaufman county taxes are high enough, we can't afford more.
13	Quit pushing an obvious effort to bankrupt the town or disincorporate.



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11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

14	We should disincorporate. We dont want taxes or Zoning ordinances. We dont want to live in an HOA thats why we live in the country.
15	The town needs to dissolve and start over with a fresh clean drawn map that is clear, concise and fair to everyone.
16	Incorporation should never have happened and should be reversed.
17	The town needs to dissolve and start over with a fresh clean drawn map that is clear, concise and fair to everyone.
18	The town needs to dissolve and start over with a fresh clean drawn map that is clear, concise and fair to everyone.
19	I own property that used to be in the ETJ but I removed it which was allowed by state statute.
20	We just moved to the area back in April, so not 100% sure if we are in the town of Poetry. Has the town of Poetry considered annexing additional land? The town should consider expanding from 34 all the way to 276. With that additional land that would be part of the town the town should be able to redistribute taxes that go to Terrel and Royse City to Poetry. Then Poetry would need to consider adding a Post Office and eventually a school somewhere. Then leave police and fire department services to the nearest town. We onced lived in an area that did that.
21	What's the point of having zoning ordinances if the town can't enforce or protect it? We already pay property taxes so pull from that! If the property taxes we currently pay no longer pay for roads and everything that we used to get services for by paying the taxes then we should get a rebate for all taxes we pay but no longer receive services for such as road maintainence, trash pickup, etc. and then that refunded money stolen from us for the last 5 years since incorporation can be put into Poetry coffers as it should be! We Should not be taxed for services not rendered! If it cost \$1,000,000 per mile to repair roads how did Poetry manage to get so much roadwork done while [REDACTED] was mayor? (I was not involved in any of that volunteer work btw just saying). Don't even think of taxing me for any kind of school taxes period! Why is there a new sign on 2434 saying road maintenance ends? I'm sure I have more questions but thats what I think of for the moment. The screw fees that the lawyers and surveyors of maps etc. are assinine and are a highway robbery!



TOWN OF POETRY — RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

22	Our property is on a private road and we would not benefit from a property tax or franchise fees.
23	Will we allow more commercial property to help bring in sales tax? Have you considered hiring staff (even part time) to perform etj survey? Or can the survey be piecemeal built over multiple years?
24	I support a plan for the future of the Town of Poetry in hopes to create a sustainable future the town and for its citizens.
25	The town needs to dissolve and start over with a clean slate. New map that is fair and everyone can understand it.
26	You need to look at other ways to raise money.They are trying to do away with property taxes in the county.
27	Need to change the boundaries to include all the land and not just using the streets for boundaries
28	Why should the land owners have to pay so much. Why not every household pay the same amount. It's like I am being penalized for owning my acreage. I think we need to just disincorporate
29	Is the sales tax rate the same in Hunt and Kaufman counties?
30	we already pay a property tax and school tax. can some of that be deferred to town of poetry?
31	No tax - disincorporate now
32	Hard to drive on 323 everyday coming through " city limits" annd drive past the " city hall" and my county road is in much better shape. Please ask the county to fix the road since you can't. It's terrible.
33	The County collects my taxes and always have. They maintained the roads. I suggest unincorporation.....
34	Is the proposed property tax in ADDITION to the already absurd property tax we pay to Kaufman county? If so, isn't that basically a double tax on the same property?



TOWN OF POETRY — RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

35	Disincorporate
36	I know that we must maintain road. I'm just worried that a property tax would go down a slippery slope to a much higher rate. Could a cap be put on a property tax?
37	I did not support or vote for incorporation from the very beginning, and have not changed my mind.
38	We already pay very high taxes here. I'm not opposed to tax, but I think it needs to be less.
39	I feel you have to work hard to get information about the town. If you aren't on social media, you know nothing.
40	The map is very difficult to read without road numbers. Would be helpful if I was able to see where we are exactly. Thanks for all of your service and transparency.
41	Why don't we have ditches cleaned out so water doesn't erode the roads? Isn't it cheaper to fix the problem than having to repair the asphalt? [REDACTED]
42	Do away with the town
43	Terrell was never gonna get out this far. stupidest thing that the people have done is to for this covid style hat trick. STUPID!
44	I can barely afford my home as is implementing a property tax would force me to have to sell my property and move out of the town. I understand the need to balance a budget and improve infrastructure. And that property taxes may be the only option, but I think for now, we should only implement an incredibly cheap property tax. That just gets us by. Maybe ten cents per hundred dollars of value versus fifty cents. Also question 8 needs an additional checkbox for those of us who haven't read, the requirements
45	Fix our roads
46	Road maintenance needs to improve



TOWN OF POETRY — RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

47	Long term, what would be the consequences of disincorporating?
48	Why keep beating a dead horse? Get rid of the city and go back to county jurisdiction. At least the roads got attended to from time to time. By the way, which is it? 27 miles or 29 miles?
49	My road is not in the EJT which I am ok with. I am definitely opposed to a property tax!!! I was excited about Poetry becoming a "town" but after everything I have seen at meetings and heard through emails and projects - wish it never happened. Maybe should unincorporate.
50	I didn't vote for the town before and wouldn't vote for it now. We already pay so much tax to Hunt and Kaufman counties and cant afford another dime in taxes. I think the town should go away and things should go back to where they were before.
51	All I want is more freedom on my property, no development, and deer in my backyard. That's why I moved here. If I wanted a city I'd stayed in a city. Poetry was created to keep a farming and ranching community in tact. Let's focus on keeping us rural.
52	need to know what all is in for body
53	There were 2 maps of Poetry done awhile back so to say there wasn't one done is wrong. There has been very little road work on my portion, still dodging pot holes. Everytime it rains water is splashed in my mail box caused by a rut that has never been fixed.
54	Your survey comes across negative about your own town! Your #1 and #5 are misleading questions. You have wrong information, too. I heard your lawyer say three times that you are NOT required an on the ground survey. Terrell is over a hundred years old and does not have an on the ground survey. They only do them for specific building projects in small areas. You also fail to mention that both Hunt and Kaufman county meet us halfway in taking care of our roads—supplying labor and equipment costs. I supported a survey, but this one misses the mark and comes across as skewed, biased, and misleading. I expected more professionalism from our elected officials.
55	We had no such issues until this new group took over. If you cannot run the town, step down.



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11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

56	First of all why wasn't this survey mailed out where everyone could get a copy? There a folks in the town of Poetry that don't have computers or cell phones. If you really want a fair survey that includes everyone then mail it. If you start property taxes then you better have sewage system, fire protection, and police services because it takes forever for the sheriff to show up. I want this to stay country!
57	There are several very large parcels of land that have now been listed for sale. Please do not let developers move in and start building out here.
58	The map of the town is absurd and makes any possible attempt at zoning or taxation unfair and uneven. With the boogeyman of annexation rendered a non-issue by Governor Abbott the stated reason for incorporation in the first place (blocking Terrell) is no longer valid. In my opinion there is no way, even if an unfair and biased property tax were to be passed, that the town can stay fiscally solvent and maintain its roads, maps, surveys, and all of the other items required to be a town in good standing in the State of Texas. No zoning! No property tax! No town! It is time to disincorporate and revert back to the Counties, particularly for road maintenance. The unincorporated community served the citizens perfectly well for many years before 2020 and can do so again.
59	Based on the researched and knowledgeable comments by our previous Mayor: "the City of Terrell laughed at (this) when I asked." I strongly oppose both the survey and any proposed tax rate. The tax rate used in the example would rank with one of the highest property tax rates in the state of Texas. Also, the survey fails to mention the very important fact that Poetry pays only for the supplies cost of road repair with Hunt and Kaufman counties providing equipment and labor. .If [REDACTED] is pushing this it has to be a bad idea. Having attended Town Hall meetings at one time regularly for two years, I can attest that [REDACTED] never spoke about anything at any meeting I ever attended that I believe would prove beneficial to our town I'm just saying!
60	I have lived in Poetry for 20+ years. I pay Hunt and Kaufman county taxes. I pay for water and trash pick up with a septic system. Poetry road has never been properly maintained by either county and excessive speed is a constant issue. I have seen law enforcement a total of 4 times over that period. Why should I pay additional taxes for services I doubt I will see any benefit from.



TOWN OF POETRY — RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

61	stay country
62	Any chance Poetry could attract a retail tenant for sales tax revenue? Is Poetry collecting sales tax from Amazon and WalMart deliveries?
63	Id prefer to hand governance back to the county
64	I would like the town of Poetry to be returned to the county.
65	What is the point of your survey? We are 5 years into incorporation are we still discussing this and allowing the naysayers to give us a survey to stir up trouble? My goodness let it go! We don't want any property taxes so get a plan to make the budget work. Hopefully you're on the side of the people. You wonderful council election is coming up soon. Why would our town need to spend additional monies on an ETJ map? Talk about not stewarding the funds that we have effectively. WE Need our Roads Fixed!! How about some town services instead of worrying about the ETJ!
66	The reason we Incorporated was so we didn't have to deal with Terrell or Hunt County coming in and tell us what we could and couldn't do if y'all put a property tax on us or regulations or make us pull permit. We might as well just let Terrell come in. We moved to the county to get away from the city life and I think it needs to go back to being a county. If y'all put a property tax on us I will strongly try to get the town disincorporated
67	The reason we Incorporated was so we didn't have to deal with Terrell or Hunt County coming in and tell us what we could and couldn't do if y'all put a property tax on us or regulations or make us pull permit. We might as well just let Terrell come in. We moved to the county to get away from the city life and I think it needs to go back to being a county. If y'all put a property tax on us I will strongly try to get the town disincorporated
68	I'd like to see a report of which roads you are planning to spend that tax money on. It looks as though most roads in the City limits are FM or CR roads maintained by TxDOT and Counties, as well as HOA's (like Holly Creek Rd). Also, my understanding is that public roads in the city's ETJ are generally the county's responsibility. Based on this survey, it seems as though the property tax revenues would be spent on roads, if there are other items, I'd be interested in seeing a budget that lays out what it will go to.
69	Not sure if I'm in the etj or not



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11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

70	Survey question 9 seems to contradict section 1.3. Of the zoning ordinance “The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all land, buildings, structures, and uses thereof located within the Town of Poetry and its extraterritorial jurisdiction unless an exclusion is provided by the terms of this ordinance or as otherwise exempted by state law.” If the territory located within the ETJ is not regulated, I'd like to know exactly where ETJ begins on my property; the statement regarding the city of Poetry is 622 feet wide by 27 miles long suggests the ETJ begins 311 feet from the center of the road.
71	How far from the road is considered city limits? I am unaware of what the ETJ looks like. We moved here with the desire for lower taxes than Tarrant county. Did not realize Kaufman was going to nail us and Hunt was going to jack up our appraisal and be unreasonable. Very disappointed and worried since we are retired.
72	We already pay too many taxes. Not going to agree with a new tax implementation
73	I don't understand why the counties (Hunt and Kaufman) do not maintain the county roads. I understand that some of the roads are private, but shouldn't the state or the applicable county take care of the other roads?
74	No comment at this time
75	The current governing body is doing a great job!
76	Keep it simple.
77	No comment
78	You need to apply for grant money. It is out there and available.
79	DISINCORPORATE NOW
80	The roads need to be addressed.



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11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

81	The boundaries of the town were drawn before we, in [REDACTED], were aware of a town proposal. No one on my street or the next street were surveyed. It appears that the powers went down the streets with some of the newest houses in this area and included them if they were within 300' of the center line of the road. They could have gone all the way down to the Rockwall county line at Poetry Rd , which as I understand it, would have somewhat protected us from high density home developments that will probably go in shortly on the vacant land on either side of Poetry Rd. So now, we have that possibility, worse roads despite the valiant effort of the few, a possible tax to be levied, and franchise fees. We really get nothing...while the area that is really in Poetry remains lovely. It smacks of a land grab for future taxation and used fears of annexation to push it over. At least if we were within Terrell city limits, which I am not for, we would have brush removal (which we definitely need) and better roads, This whole town divided our sweet area into two camps....
82	Are we not able to utilize funds from the taxes we pay to Hunt county to repair and maintain the roads? Outside of the road expense, does our current revenue cover the remaining town expenses?
83	Best not to comment
84	Unincorporate
85	You don't need the wildly expensive 'on the ground survey' if you don't do a property tax. Once a property tax exists, you could just raise it regularly. I don't think people will want this. (And, I don't believe the million dollars a mile line for a minute. We're not making highways out here.) Besides, how will you charge it? A lot of people's houses aren't technically in Poetry. Are you going to just charge property tax on the bit of land they have inside city limits?
86	22 Tex. Admin. Code § 138.95 - Descriptions Prepared for Political Subdivisions does not require a physical, on-the-ground survey. A licensed surveyor can gather information based on existing public records as long as those references are cited / "quoted". The \$350k is entirely too much for this type of work, especially since Kaufman has applied in-town and out-of-town divisions that can be quoted directly, such as "incorporating Kaufman County property ID 123XYZ". This is one of the issues I have with our legal counsel. He/they may be ready to defend anything the town put on the books, but he/they should be giving advice as to what is strictly, legally necessary rather than simply waiting for a legal challenge.
87	Onerous property taxes steal property from old, retired people! We pay enough taxes already!



TOWN OF POETRY — RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

88	Since Poetry inhabits a large percentage of Retired or Senior citizens on Limited Income, a Property Tax would force them to Sell their Beloved Homes/Property, which would be a Real Shame in Light of the Cashflow dilemma we're currently involved within, for the sake of Developer Protection or the Poetry Road Project. Also, something I have Never Understood, is why does our town get held responsible for Terrell ISD / State Hospital, when so Few Kids attend the school, plus with Terrell's Aggressive Development actions, we will be overloaded in paying their infrastructure fees, when we virtually get NOTHING in Return? I Appreciate All the Efforts of our current Mayor and City council trying to correct what the previous admin created, but why don't we Determine a Solution to Eliminate Kaufman taxes, so those taxes can be Used to Our Benefits?
89	Need clarity on breakdown of proposed property taxes.
90	I feel like the town needs to figure out how to do a blanket tax for every distinct property that exists instead of what's on the property within the arbitrary range of feet. It's wrong that someone wouldn't have to pay taxes just because their house is 10ft inside the invisible line but they still use all the roads like everyone else.
91	You as a town do not have my signature agreeing to a binding ad valorem tax , if the tax is imposed the town refuses to repair or maintain our private road , any taxes imposed must legally be used to represent the taxpayers , not just balance the town budget . we should get some representation for a heavier tax burden . it may take the Texas supreme court to intercede , in 2019 the state capped population towns under 30,000 to only 2.5 cents per 100 dollars , not the 50 cents cited in your survey , look it up or talk to a state attorney in Austin , i did . the town would be in legal hot water if it collects more ad valorem taxes than are allowed by law .
92	I do not see any Zoning Ordinances to keep Poetry country. 2 1/2 acres lot sizes. No restrictions on Commercial development. So a trucking company, storage units-lot, wrecking yard, adult book store, data center and other undesirable uses can be in Poetry.
93	We pay taxes to both Hunt and Kaufman counties even though our property is in Hunt County - I could support property taxes for Poetry if I didn't have to pay taxes to Kaufman County but I am not for an added tax. Neither County benefits me as my road is considered private. I'm afraid a property tax would result in a lot of people being unable to afford their homes and forced to sell them.



TOWN OF POETRY — RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

94	1) Why have we never seen much benefit from the taxes Hunt County imposes on us? For at least the last 35 years, they've done little more than fill pot holes in our roads and replace culverts. It is hardly worth the taxes we've all been paying to Hunt County all these years and they do a poor job with those repairs too! 2) Who laid out the town boundaries the way they did in the first place?? 622 feet wide? What an embarrassment! What can be done to make the town boundaries like a real town or city? 3) If the town of Poetry imposes a new property tax on all off us (those within only the 622 feet width), will we finally have roads that at least meet MINIMUM standards? I have my doubts. 4) You should consider fixing the town boundaries first, before imposing new property taxes. Otherwise, those property owners affected will never vote to include their own properties into the town of Poetry knowing it means a higher property tax bill! 5) IMPORTANT POINT: I don't see anything on this questionnaire about municipal bonds. Other cities in Texas create municipal bonds by identifying capital improvement needs, authorizing the debt through voter approval or certificates of obligation, and issuing the securities to investors. Haven't you all considered this? It seems it would take far less property tax revenue to pay the interest on such bonds and the needed improvement could become a reality.
95	On question #10 I'm opposed because it's not fair due to the spider town configuration.....(even if you implement a Tax there is not enough to sustain the town needs).....when you do the Math the town is set up totally wrong to become a town that would have income to sustain any features a town needs to offer , money to pay for all the roads, employees (code enforcement, policy, firemen, Sewer service...etc).....Finally after doing All the Math the ONLY feasible solution is to START OVER & set up a town the Right Way.... that is my 5 year plan.....as it has been stated before this town is 1 major Storm or 1 major lawsuit away from bankruptcy. Thank you for this Survey that was needed 2-4 years ago.
96	I know that many, many hours have been put in to us being a Town. I would hate to see all that work be wasted, but the numbers above show that there isn't a good solution to come up with the funds needed. For sure against a city tax since it would be so unfair and not be enough to provide for the town. If the town could be redone to a geometrical shape and a lower, fair tax to maintain our town, then I would consider it as a possibility. Also, if ONE area could be zoned commercial and bring in a busniess, resturant etc. and that would bring in tax dollars then maybe we could make it financially.
97	Why did Poetry decide to become a town?



TOWN OF POETRY — RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

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98	Stay the course. Remember that the town is debt-free, which is far better than the financial position of most cities and towns. More money usually leads to more spending, and more spending can eventually lead to the degradation of what most folks in Poetry love about Poetry — our rural character. I firmly believe that if the town had significantly more funds available, there would be pressure to spend those funds on things that a town our size simply doesn't need, such as a city manager, additional code enforcement, and expanded zoning requirements. Those things would likely create the need for even more funding down the road. The solution is simple: bring in just enough resources to cover our state obligations, legal obligations, and roads. And our roads do not need to be perfect — they just need to be safe, functional, and properly maintained. You are all doing a great job. The town is in the black, we are covering our needs, and we are maintaining the qualities that make Poetry special. Stay the course. If additional resources are ever needed, consider soliciting volunteers for some of the tasks that currently cost the town money. You might be surprised by how many residents would be willing to help. Another option would be voluntary citizen donations that residents could opt into or out of at any time to help fund specific town needs. You might be surprised by how many people would be willing to contribute \$20, \$30, or even \$50 per month if it meant helping improve our roads while avoiding additional taxes. If such a program were created, clearly explaining exactly where the funds would go would be important. If contributions qualify for a tax deduction, that could be an additional incentive, subject of course to applicable tax rules. We don't need to become a bigger, more expensive town to be a better town. Let's protect what makes Poetry special, remain financially responsible, and continue doing more with less.
99	N/A
100	Extremely against all of the above and beg you to reconsider.
101	We already pay Hunt county for THESE roads!!!!!!!!!! Get that money back from them, but don't come for more of MY hard earned money! This tax would be awful for those who have most of their value within the town while others will pay less than \$100 annually with their value in the ETJ. Don't put a tax on that will never even cover the roads. Time to let the "town" go back to the county.



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102	This seems like a terrible idea. We already pay taxes in two counties. I've heard that y'all think it's worth paying more money to live in Poetry a "Poetry tax" is ridiculous.
103	Forcing tax will run out the good people.
104	would like to understand more of what's happening in Town of Poetry
105	President John F. Kennedy once said, "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." That same spirit applies to building a town and building a community. The work is not easy: it takes vision, patience, cooperation, and the willingness to solve problems that do not have simple answers. But meaningful things rarely come from choosing the easy path.
106	I strongly support DIS-INCORPORATION of the town of Poetry and any plan of taxation to property owners, either by state or local entity. Because of the absence of voter records to prove the initial incorporation was legal, I strongly question any and all plans requiring taxation, etc that will affect residents. Current and past elected administrators & support staff of the town have done little if anything significant to improve the area(s) of the town or enhance the way of life residents enjoyed siting need for taxation causing only strife and ill feelings. The main issue facing Poetry is the illegal election which brought a government not needed by the people and until addressed, will always serve as reminder that the town started off via corruption and NO AMENDS have been initiated - such as a new election.
107	The incorporated town limits were the product of secrecy, ill-conceived planning and fearmongering. The foreseeable result is a gerrymandered town that arbitrarily discriminates against residents who own smaller amounts of property, who will be unfairly forced to bear the majority of a property tax burden. To add insult to injury, such property tax will never be adequate to properly maintain the town's roadways.



TOWN OF POETRY – RESULTS OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING CITIZEN SURVEY

11. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or concerns you would like to share with the Governing Body of the Town of Poetry.

108	General; • We were not included or allowed to vote on the Town of Poetry Incorporation/Configuration because our property/home is located in the ETJ. Why are you asking for our opinion in this survey?. • Town of Poetry Incorporation / Configuration has caused multiple challenges/problems and will continue to do so in the future • Need Guidelines + Requirements to address the following; • Excessive / Loud Music all hours of Day and night • Excessive / Loud Dogs, barking Noises, all hours of Day and Night • Need Small Business - Guidelines + Requirements which are located in Town of Poetry + ETJ – most of these are adjacent to other properties or very close to other neighbors/homes Business Types which need to be addressed; • Dog Kennels / Breeding – Loud barking of multiple Dogs + Odors + Visual + Waste • Auto Repair Shops – Loud Noises + Sounds + Odors + Visual + Waste • Gun Range / Shooting – Loud Noises + Sounds • Music / Parties / Events – Loud Noises + Sounds + Time Limitations • Be considerate of your Neighbors Need some Guidelines + Requirements for the following; • Business Signs • Odors • Visual Impacts • Excessive Loud Noises + Dogs Barking + Music + Sounds • Sanitary Waste + Storm Runoff concerns • Parking + Traffic concerns
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110	I hope Poetry remains a country town and does not allow residential, commercial, or industrial developments to come in and take over. We enjoy the beautiful landscape and wildlife as it currently is and hope we can continue to raise our family in safe and rural community. We moved out here for peace and to raise our kids in the country.
111	Mayor [REDACTED] is doing an excellent job at running the Town! He is very honest and transparent.



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112	If you're gonna dance you've gotta pay the fiddler
113	Mayor and Council are doing a great job. However, we don't need the Town. It costs too much and we don't get anything for it. Only problems since incorporation. Don't like zoning either. Need to disincorporate now
114	My property is already taxed heavily by Hunt County and a hospital district that does not understand a budget. I would only support taxes to the town if they were shifted from my current absurdly high tax bill. I understand this is not within the control of our town, but adding more taxes on top of this is unreasonable. Property tax is a rent we pay to the government to own the land we live on.
115	I live on Social Security and cannot afford an additional property tax. My current taxes are over \$4,000.00 per year
116	I think .50 per \$100.00 is too high. I think that adding this tax in addition to a county tax may price many residents out of their homes. My other concern is that there have been recent discussions concerning development in Poetry which I am adamantly opposed to. We have such a special place here - would love to see it stay that way.
117	Don't understand ad valorem tax. Think it is the amount of TAXABLE value