

What do you Think are the Top Five Priorities for Staunton in the Next Two Years?

(Summary of all 200 responses)

Flood Control and Infrastructure/Stormwater Mgt.	71 Better long term planning for extreme weather; wholistic approach
Greenways/Open space/pedestrian and bicycle/streetscape/sidewalks/trails	62 plant more trees; safe school routes; off road trails and paths; better signals and traffic light systems
City Schools - Facilities, programs, and teacher pay	53
West End development	51
Affordable Housing	49 families; rental units; seniors
Focus on small business/no big box chains/local economy	48 comments about downtown health, support for entrepreneurs, incubation and growth; diverse downtown but also outside downtown
Return/reimagine curbside recycling/improve new plan/more funding	39 either want to return to curbside or be more thoughtful about central plan to provide more access/ease
Advance diversity/racial justice/LGBTQ/welcoming culture/social justice practices	36 including representation on boards/commissions
Maintain/improve city infrastructure	34 roads, sidewalks, utilities, modernize water supply, ADA access
Well thought out economic development (citywide)	34 manageable growth; retain business; not only downtown; finish Staunton Crossing or at least move faster towards completing the vision; partnerships with JMU, UVA to revitalize local economy; to be welcoming for both small and large business; revisit Staunton Crossing business plan
City Council that works together/brings community together	27 Focus on local, not national issues; less focus on partisan issues; bring community together for better quality of life for all
Focus on transparency/forums/public engagement	25 use of technology to advance engagement; more and frequent ways to engage
Improve and add parks infrastructure, skate park, pools, etc.	22 add splash pad; GHP traffic issues with cars v. pedestrian/bikes; better park lighting; more shelters; more park area; more benches and places to sit/rest
Focus on Staunton history, museum, cultural attractions, arts, music	20 Public art; skating rink; botanical gardens; downtown amphitheater; support arts community
Close Beverley on weekends or permanently	14 Long term plan for Dine Out in Downtown
Environmental sustainability	14 address climate change; reduce carbon footprint; green solutions; EV charging stations; solar panels on city buildings
preserve historic downtown along with other areas of the city	12 including historic features of homes
Address vacant buildings and blighted lots/find uses	11 find best uses that benefit entire community
Safer city (doing more to curb illegal drugs, teen crime, heath issues)	10 response to COVID and public health initiatives including more spaces for outdoor activities
Improve public transportation	9 Include transportation between cities; bus stop shelters; more frequent trolley; more AMTRAK service
Beautification & sustainability (entrance corridors, citywide, downtown)	8 Greenville and Richmond Rds.
Fiscal responsibility (getting needs paid for)	8 comment on having no debt; desire to pay more to get things done
Adult and youth recreation/outdoor programs	8 Places for teens to hang out
Focus on renewable energy	7 reduce carbon footprint; focus on solar energy
Address homelessness	6
Work with County on court project	6
Do things to attract new, young families to the area	6
Tourism	6 Include promotion of the golf course as a destination; marketing the city as a destination
Focus on mental health initiatives	5
resolve golf course issues (9 holes, partnerships, etc.)	5 other uses than golf course
Support families and workforce	5 better jobs to support families; workforce training
Expansion of the city library/new facility	5 including programs such as Talking Book Center
Lower taxes	4 property; meals; maintain expenses to avaaible revenue (lowest level of gov't possible)
Police reform	3 move funds to mental health initiatives
Reduce jail population/community corrections	3 alternatives to jail; criminal justice reform
Light Pollution Strategy/Better lighting around the city	3 softer lighting; LED
Build community center/community spaces/city spaces	3 New public facilities including police station
Better water quality/supply	3
Childcare/preschool/more services for elderly	3 age in place services; services starting at birth
Focus on food scarcity/food deserts	3 address food insecurity and poverty; farmers market; community kitchen and food hub
Living wage for city employees	2 increase wages
City Council that listens	2
prevent disturbances in the park	2 intimidation, disruption of non-political events

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Improve pay for public safety, public works employees, city employees in general	2 including performing a study of all city positions, succession planning, retention efforts, etc.
Improve/modernize trash pickup	2
Improve/support Social Services	2
Preserve city natural areas	2 including conservation easements for landowners of properties that have woodlands, waterways, etc.
	2
Overhaul city inspections office/building services division	
Make Staunton 2A Sanctuary	2
Reliance upon staff expertise to make decisions	1
Marijuana legislation	1
Focus on remote work	1
Public bathroom for downtown	1
Rail and bus service to other locations	1
Educational opportunities/MBU partnerships	1
support feral cat initiatives	1
Reduce vehicles in GHP	1
Invasive plant eradication	1
city services at lower cost to low income residents	1
Citywide internet/broadband	1
Clearer policy on alleyways	1
Address parking issues	1
Deer management	1
Diversify tax base	1 other than tourism
Revisit 50% revenue sharing agreement with the schools	1

Priorities Identified by Frequency of 25 Mentions or More
(all combined 200 responses)

