

1. How long have you lived in Albany?
  - Less than 1 year
  - 1-3 years
  - 4-9 years
  - 10-15 years
  - 16 or more
  
2. Community Issues. Identify whether the following are extremely important, very important, somewhat important or not too important to you:
  - Maintaining library services
  - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Regular maintenance of city parks and open space
  - Preventing crime
  - Building a Maintenance Center that the City owns rather than leases
  - Providing safe routes for bicycles and pedestrians
  - Improving the streetscape along San Pablo and Solano Avenues
  - Expanding the Senior Center

Ballot Measures. Within the next year, voters in the City of Albany may be asked to vote on particular revenue generating measures. Please indicate your support for the following:

3. Sales tax ballot measure  
Would you support a:
  - a. 1% increase in the sales tax from 8.75% to 9.75% (if yes, skip b)
  - b. 0.5% increase in the sales tax from 8.75% to 9.25%
  
4. Property transfer tax ballot measure  
Would you support an increase in the property transfer tax (tax on real estate transactions) from the current \$11.50 per \$1,000 of the value to a value of:
  - a. \$15 (if yes, skip b & c)
  - b. \$14 (if yes, skip c)
  - c. \$13Would you be more inclined to support the measure if it included a rebate program for seismic upgrades or other home improvements?
  
5. Do you have a preference for #3 (sales tax) or #4 (property transfer tax)?

6. Climate action plan

- a. Would you support a ballot measure requesting a 2% increase in the Utility Users Tax (charged on your PG&E bills) equating to approximately \$20/year per household, to help fund implementation of climate action projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- b. Increasing the Utility Users Tax by 2% would generate approximately \$200,000 in revenue. Prioritization of projects will be required since the funding will not cover all projects outlined within the City's Climate Action Plan.

What climate action projects provide the most benefit to your community and/or interest you most?

- i. Subsidized or free street tree planting
- ii. Rebate programs for energy efficiency improvements at your home
- iii. Rebate programs for energy efficiency improvements for local businesses
- iv. Financing programs for solar panel/alternative energy improvements to your home
- v. Financing programs for solar panel/alternative energy improvements for local businesses
- vi. Improvements to sidewalks and roadways to encourage safe pedestrian and bicycle access
- vii. Start up funding for an electric shuttle bus to transport riders around town and to the BART station
- viii. Help finance installation of solar panels and other alternative energy improvements at the local schools
- ix. "Green" infrastructure improvements such as mini-parks, demonstration gardens and increased landscaping
- x. Creation of additional community gardens

7. Paid Parking

Currently the City does not have parking meters or any type of fee for permit parking. The city is considering parking meters and permit parking to generate revenue and to encourage alternative means of transportation.

I'm going to read you a list of possibilities for parking meters or permit parking. Please indicate for each whether you strongly support it, support it, oppose it, or strongly oppose it.

- a. Paid Permit parking along Buchanan Street at the waterfront.

If oppose:

What if the revenue from the permits went to improvements at the waterfront

b. Parking meters on Solano Avenue

- What if the revenue from the meters went to improvements and maintenance on Solano Avenue?
- What if you could pre-pay or pay with your smart phone?

c. Parking meters on San Pablo Avenue

- What if the revenue from the meters went to improvements and maintenance on San Pablo Avenue?

d. If opposed to parking meters, please indicate which of the following reasons:

- Cost
- Inconvenience
- What if the revenue from the meters went to business district improvements? (more or less inclined)
- What if you could pay for parking by computer or cell phone? (more or less inclined)

e. Parking permits on residential streets:

- If oppose:  
What if revenue from permits went for improving bicycle or pedestrian safety?

8. In 1978, Albany voters passed an initiative requiring at least two parking spaces for every new residential unit, regardless of whether it is a studio, one bedroom, or senior housing unit.

Would you be willing to consider a proposal to have fewer than 2 parking spaces for certain units, if it can be shown that the spaces are not needed?

9. Long Term Lease Options

Entering into long term lease agreements for use of City property could help generate revenue for the City. Identify whether you support either of the following potential lease agreements:

- a. Would you support the City entering into a lease agreement with a wireless carrier for long term use of City property on Albany Hill to improve wireless signals within the City?
- b. Would you support the City entering into a lease agreement with a company that operates electronic billboards to install an electronic billboard near the I-80/580 freeways?

10. The City Library is currently a branch of the Alameda County Library. The City may wish to establish a locally controlled library that is not subject to cuts from the County system. Albany taxpayers currently pay \$66.00 per year in supplemental taxes to support the library. Estimated financial need is at least \$750,000 per year, plus \$500,000 start up costs. Would you be willing to increase your Library tax to maintain current Library service levels? (Note: Estimated increase needed: Approx. double)

- a. Additional \$70/year
- b. Additional \$50/year

11. Capital Projects – Develop questions to assess support for:

- a. **Solano avenue improvements:** Solano Avenue is the downtown of Albany, drawing residents and non residents to shop, dine and gather for various services. Lower Solano was renovated in 1999, and significant economic upgrade has resulted. The segment of Solano Avenue from Masonic up to Santa Fe is in a state of disrepair and needs streetscape renovation, including paving, lighting, trees and sidewalks. Estimated financial need is \$3 million for basic street work. General category: expanding the economy.
- b. **Pierce Street Project:** The city has purchased land for a joint maintenance center park and bicycle path linkage. The current maintenance center is leased and is poorly located in the city's redevelopment area. Removing the maintenance center from this area would open up a potentially important area for economic development. Building a maintenance center will save general funds that now go to an expensive lease. A new maintenance center will also be more energy efficient, and will help lower the city's carbon footprint and add many new sustainable features. The project also includes an adjacent neighborhood park, and the next link in the bike trail connecting to the SF Bay Trail. Estimated financial need is \$7 million. General category: expanding the economy, additional open space/park, alternative transportation, climate action plan.
- c. **Transportation and traffic safety:** The city has recently passed an "active transportation plan" and needs funding to implement capital improvements including bicycle and pedestrian trails and traffic safety improvements. The city also needs funds which can be leveraged as grant matching funds for these types. Estimated financial need is \$2 million, plus approximately \$200,000 annually. General category: climate action plan, alternative transportation.
- d. **Senior center expansion:** The city has purchased a parcel of land adjacent to the existing senior center. The existing senior center is too small and is used heavily. Being able to expand the senior center onto the new parcel would alleviate space for senior programs, and would also provide space for additional programming for adults and

youth. Estimated financial need is \$2.5 million. General category: expanding services for residents.

Other background question possibilities:

12. How frequently do you do the following in Albany? (2-4 times per week, once a week, 2-3 times per month, once a month, less than once a month, never)
  - a. Visit public parks
  - b. Shop locally
  - c. Dine locally
  - d. Attend city events
  - e. Attend or view City public meetings (City Council, Committee/Commission/etc)
  - f. Volunteer in Albany
  
13. In reflecting on the job the City of Albany is doing to provide services, are you: Very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied?