

Q2 What do you think the City of East Lansing should do to deal with its approaching budget crisis?

Answered: 324 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No idea. I'm willing to pay more in taxes if necessary to keep the services we have, but unfortunately since this failed it's likely the only way to do that is by raising property taxes, which seems like it would cause more people to avoid buying in EL. Unfortunately we might have to start cutting services.	11/13/2017 1:41 PM
2	I would assume they need to increase some other tax	11/11/2017 1:11 PM
3	redo the election with much wider publicity.	11/11/2017 12:01 AM
4	Make cut and raise fees to the aquatic center and the Hannah Center. Renegotiate with MSU for services. Collaborate with other municipalities. Cut the pensions for new employees and move to a 401k.	11/10/2017 6:28 PM
5	Special purpose tax votes. Sidewalks and roads first. Close MSU fire substation.	11/10/2017 6:27 PM
6	Cut expenses. Get a mayor and city council that have common sense and are fiscally responsible.	11/10/2017 1:45 PM
7	Reduce services	11/10/2017 9:21 AM
8	Implement an 0.5% income tax on nonresidents who work in East Lansing and withdraw emergency services for MSU.	11/10/2017 8:35 AM
9	Go back in time and take 20 million from the University.	11/10/2017 8:29 AM
10	Fees for services must go up. Garbage, leaf pickup, parking, etc.	11/9/2017 10:50 PM
11	Try again to pass the income tax	11/9/2017 10:34 PM
12	Try some of the recommendations of the Finance Committee	11/9/2017 10:22 PM
13	Cut costs. Aggressively address unfunded liabilities by looking at retirement plans now and in the future.	11/9/2017 9:56 PM
14	Short term it's obvious that they have to cut services and headcount. Longer term it's simple. They need to broaden the tax base, but not in the traditional sense. They need to make it easier to do business in the city. All those vacant store fronts are not paying taxes. Get rid of the 50/50 food/alcohol rule so that more restaurants are inclined to set up shop in east Lansing. Stop TIF giveaways. Get rid of other troublesome regulations, like the one that requires a certain amount of senior apartments when building new buildings. How many seniors want to live next to Dublin Square? If the City wants to attract "grown up" businesses, they have to grow up and be ready to conduct business, and make it easier to conduct business here. Finally, stop frivolous initiatives such as funding art, requiring that 1% art support tax on new construction, get out of the business for providing things people didn't ask for (like the aquatic center), and just be in the business of providing robust infrastructure and making it easy to conduct business. The money will follow in due time.	11/9/2017 9:39 PM
15	Rough choices. Assessing closing fire dept on MSU campus seems wise (or maybe MSU wants to contribute). I really hate more property taxes as the solution.	11/9/2017 8:22 PM
16	Make budget cuts. Get rid of free leaf pick up, cut the free/subsidized yard waste pick up. Close the Aquatic Center, and Hannah Community Center. Reduce the number of maintained parks. I'm open to any suggestion, there seems like a lot of fat.	11/9/2017 7:02 PM
17	Bring different factions to the table for discussion. We may all have to tighten out belts and forego som Services. So be it. But threatening citizens and bullying tactics are not going to work.	11/9/2017 6:41 PM
18	At this point the city has little choice other that cutting services.	11/9/2017 6:01 PM

19	For starters, switch the city's employees from pension system to contribution system, like almost every other modern employer. Pensions set up too many long-term fiscal unknowns and sometimes are abused by excess overtime pay, sick days, etc. Until that's been done, it's hard to think the city is really serious about addressing its budget problems.	11/9/2017 5:58 PM
20	Make the necessary cuts, and we'll learn to live (or not) with fewer police, ambulance and fire crews. Don't bother with new tax proposals—the chiselers in Whitehills, Abbot Parkside, etc., aren't going to be convinced. The school district vacuumed up all of the available civic resources with their stupid 6-school rebuild plan six months ago.	11/9/2017 5:08 PM
21	It will have to cut services and staff.	11/9/2017 4:45 PM
22	So far, I can't think of anything better than what Mayor Meadows said at last night's (Nov. 8) council meeting.	11/9/2017 4:32 PM
23	- Explore plans to sell or transfer management of the Aquatic Center and/or soccer complex to Ingham County (similar to the arrangement for Potter Park zoo in Lansing) - Apply for fees for some services (which are nice) but exceptional-- could include: increasing parking fees, increase trash collection fees, charge fee for leaf collection, etc. - Follow the recommendations of the Financial Health team related to employee contributions to pension plans. Specifically, under Pension plan recommendations, the report recommends: "As a matter of equity, bargain in the future to increase employee contributions to not less than 5.5% of pay for non-uniformed employees, and 11% for police and fire. Bargaining should take into consideration the funded level for the employee group (MERS Division), current contribution rate (if any), and the pattern of compensation increases or concession over the past few years." This has not occurred, and renegotiating these contracts should be a priority. Other cities require much higher employee contributions to pension plans than East Lansing.	11/9/2017 4:27 PM
24	Fire and sue Mr. Meadows for putting the city in this position. He is a shameful embarrassment and disgrace to our town. I would also kick out most of the other board too. I had high hopes for some of them when I voted last time, but they have unfortunately also quickly adopted the awful policies promoted by their colleagues.	11/9/2017 4:23 PM
25	Prostitute Nathan Triplett. Ransom Brad Ballein. Turn the city into a pirate ship and board MSU campus, forcing Louanna Simon to swab the decks (cleaning up after game day). Has the city considered all funding options? I hear cryptolockers are quite lucrative.	11/9/2017 4:00 PM
26	I don't appreciate Mayor Meadows' threats of impending services cuts. Sour grapes. A confusing ballot proposal was defeated. Try working with MSU instead of being at adversarial odds. MSU should pay in greater than they already are.	11/9/2017 2:57 PM
27	Try reduce across the board rather than eliminate. Also, help property owners see the big picture in supporting a thriving community and what it takes.	11/9/2017 1:30 PM
28	Time to make cuts, the city could see this coming for many years and just now want to address it, sad. We don't need PACE or CADETS, Police can write parking tickets if need be. East Lansing does not need to operate a jail or a court! Time to close them.	11/9/2017 12:58 PM
29	I would like to think that the city has a backup plan for this eventuality which was always a likely outcome. For starters, EL should take MSU up on their financial offer. I would be very disappointed in the university if that offer were no longer on the table.	11/9/2017 12:44 PM
30	Gather legal input and begin billing MSU for services rendered . I was appalled that the city picks up the tab for my alma mater ! If they have 20 million , let's see it !	11/9/2017 12:39 PM
31	Rob some banks? They need to lobby the State for better assistance and institute a property tax on MSU. They should also lobby the state to change laws on sin taxes such as on alcohol. I'm a drinker, and I'd pay such a tax.	11/9/2017 12:31 PM
32	Get rid of everyone on Council and onboard people with some knowledge and decency.	11/9/2017 11:55 AM
33	Fire people in the parking office	11/9/2017 11:34 AM
34	Vote on an income tax again as soon as possible. Close down MSU. Increase the number of speeding tickets issued by 7000%.	11/9/2017 11:07 AM
35	1. reduce EL budget by 5% 2. work w/ MSU to receive fair value for services EL provides for them 3. new leadership on council	11/9/2017 10:22 AM
36	Cut programs	11/9/2017 9:48 AM

37	Cut the Prime Time Senior Program, cut much of the Parks and Rec Programming, and cut/sell/whatever the Aquatic Center. (This way, we can "punish" the young and old equally, I guess). These amenities are charming and nice, but they are money losers and they support a great deal of non-residents (who like the cheap summer camps, for example). Stop buying brand new PACE vehicles all the time. Stop buying "quasi-law enforcement" uniforms for PACE people. Close the campus fire station. Stop subsidizing parking downtown. Sell that controversial parking lot, and sell the Evergreen properties. Stop the city from entering into the development game (Avondale, etc.). Raise non-homestead tax rates (voters would vote for that!).	11/9/2017 9:40 AM
38	Stop all services currently providing to MSU. If state is not providing funding required by law then stop providing all services till state make city whole. It does not appear that MSU is doing anything to encourage the state to pay the city they are just out for themselves and expect to get free services. If state does not pay city, then MSU should and then they can get the reimbursement from the state. Yes, I know these are vital services but city residents should not lose our fire and police because MSU is not paying their fair share. Go back to more enforcement style policing especially with students. They are the ones causing the problems especially after games so tickets and arrest everyone causing problems and have very high fine structure.	11/9/2017 7:45 AM
39	DK	11/9/2017 7:28 AM
40	Trim the fat. All of the festivals need to be reassessed and paired down. Eliminate some of the community programs/classes that don't generate income or have active participation. Share more services with other municipalities. Stop giving tax credits to businesses.	11/9/2017 7:07 AM
41	Redo pensions so they are in line with everyone else. Stop giving tax breaks to developers. I hate this new development downtown. It is too big and giving them more tax breaks. Downtown is focused on students-good or bad. I prefer not to pay for their housing and shopping. Everyone I talk to agrees with me. They should listen to residents! They also need to get over their pride and resentment against MSU and work with them. East Lansing would be a small town without them as there is nothing else here. Perhaps MSU can do more on game days (i.e. mash units like at MSU) that council screams about how money draining it is.	11/9/2017 7:03 AM
42	They need to immediately reduce retiree benefits, privatize the waste & recycling service and things like park maintenance and mowing, outsource as many internal services as possible, make real estate development a priority not a bizarre complicated exercise, make nice with MSU and negotiate some kind of support program (like in Ann Arbor where the university there regularly buys fire trucks and police/emergency vehicles for the city).	11/9/2017 6:45 AM
43	I think there needs to be another conversation with MSU. I am curious how other towns, who have a similar university demographic, tax the university to pay a fair share.	11/9/2017 6:45 AM
44	This was the smartest resolution that would have had the least impact to residents. Too bad people couldn't see through the smoke screen. Now instead of a tax break, we'll see higher taxes.	11/9/2017 6:30 AM
45	They'll have to make some cuts, I imagine, to non critical services...and find ways for downtown development to bring in revenue.	11/9/2017 6:14 AM
46	Listen to why residents voted no and come up with a better proposal in 2018 (although Mayor Meadows has already indicated that he will not listen and would rather punish voters)	11/9/2017 4:42 AM
47	If the aquatic center or Hannah don't pay for themselves then close them or increase the fees. Increase fees to the rentals. Revisit costs for services to MSU. Cut the pensions for new employees move to a 401k.	11/9/2017 3:50 AM
48	Spend less. Don't live outside our means.	11/9/2017 3:36 AM
49	Cut city personnel and select services, and work with MSU better (which really should have been done and no vote taken on ballot 2). MSU likely will not hold the flawed negotiation against East Lansing and its mayor and Coty council so strategically repair the MSU - EL partnership (and certainly don't create friction with the most important employer in the city!!!).	11/9/2017 2:35 AM
50	Probably should've passed the income tax	11/9/2017 1:24 AM
51	Spending cuts, priority re-evaluation, and reconsideration of how money should be spent. If city council members, making an admittedly low salary for their work, are then investing their funding into political campaigns, perhaps our taxpayer dollars should instead go towards balancing the budget. For Ruth Beier in particular to donate \$500 to the Yes campaign because she sees raising income taxes and raising property taxes as the only two solutions seems counterintuitive. Put that \$500 towards balancing the budget instead, and remember that spending cuts are also a thing.	11/9/2017 1:09 AM

52	Sell fire station on MSU campus to MSU -- or have them pay us for its being there. Sell Aquatic Center. Stop tax give-aways. Cut services to match resources. Stay within budget.	11/9/2017 12:46 AM
53	The usual way which is to cut...cut ..cut.	11/8/2017 11:21 PM
54	Now that this option is dead, I don't know. I feel that the amount of debt we have, after paying some of the highest tax rates in the state, is indicative of colossal mismanagement and a slap in the face to residents. To be honest, I often think about moving.	11/8/2017 11:21 PM
55	Cut services. I'm not sure what else they can do.	11/8/2017 10:49 PM
56	Cut spending.	11/8/2017 10:41 PM
57	At this point, knowing the outcome, fire, police, PACE, as well as less noticeable, city hall services must be cut.	11/8/2017 10:30 PM
58	Stop being silly and take the money from MSU. It was stupid to turn it down earlier, and now it will be even more difficult since we know the income tax proposal failed. We have no backup and must take whatever MSU offers us.	11/8/2017 10:29 PM
59	Audit/consolidate certain city positions	11/8/2017 10:25 PM
60	Raise property taxes and stop raising things like parking fees. Also be more welcoming to people from other cities to encourage them to spend here.	11/8/2017 10:23 PM
61	Continue to cut unneeded waste. Additionally, charge the appropriate fees for services. Trash? Outsource. Library? Will joining CADL save money? Do it. Water? Raise rates, it's underfunded.	11/8/2017 10:19 PM
62	Freeze hiring. Stop spending money chasing initiatives like the income tax and lawsuit against a Charlotte farmer that are divisive. Focus on basic city services. Close the MSU fire department unless MSU pays. Start charging MSU for services. Send them an annual, itemized bill and publish it on the LSJ. They will look bad and probably pay something...much like they offered to in July and mark Meadows TURNED DOWN	11/8/2017 10:12 PM
63	Citizens need to stop wanting all the amenities of a college town without the "pesky annoyances of students and rentals". Honestly, we're lived in two other big ten towns - Urbana and Madison- and they are doing great because the community understand that the university and all that it brings with is vital to the community. Ready Lansing residents want ask the good without any of the very occasional inconveniences.	11/8/2017 10:11 PM
64	Cut other funds and work with the existing budget rather than adding more taxes to residents- or people will move out of East Lansing to a surrounding city with lower taxes!! Mayor should have taken the money president Simon offered and shouldn't be offensive.	11/8/2017 10:10 PM
65	Work with MSU to get them to pay their fair share of emergency services.	11/8/2017 9:54 PM
66	Find out what other cities have done when in the similar position and maybe follow those that were successful	11/8/2017 9:47 PM
67	Cut the budget and switch all city employees to a 401(k)	11/8/2017 9:46 PM
68	Find some way to combine with other close by municipalities to share burdens/costs of city services.	11/8/2017 9:20 PM
69	Pass an income tax	11/8/2017 9:11 PM
70	Reconsider MSU's proposal and also be more accurate in fixing the revenue sharing problem with the state	11/8/2017 9:03 PM
71	Act like a for profit organization in its management practices. Eliminate dead wood throughout the structure. There's plenty of it. Re-negotiate all contracts. If that can't be done, then file for bankruptcy which will allow re-structuring to occur so that the City can begin again with a clean slate.	11/8/2017 9:03 PM
72	At this point I feel going with a drastic reduction in services is our only choice. This may show the residents the opportunity we missed. Pot hole roads, close parks and library. That may get the attention needed to help everyone see that an income tax for non-resident workers is our only good option.	11/8/2017 8:48 PM
73	The council who claims 'we can't cut any more' hasn't put the effort into prioritizing every expense, making the tough decisions, and cutting nonessential services and personnel. I don't want more taxes to support a fat gov't. Show me all East Lansing expenses and how it is impossible to cut them!	11/8/2017 8:38 PM

74	Please publish the complete list of Financial Health Team's suggestions to clean things up that Don Power mentioned, along with detailed analysis by several commentators. Thanks	11/8/2017 8:36 PM
75	Not sure	11/8/2017 8:35 PM
76	stop patching roads leading onto campus. set up speedtraps on trowbridge and hagadorn	11/8/2017 8:21 PM
77	My husband & I believe the city council has not been creative enough. They should have taken the sum of money from MSU and cut other programs. Council could cut road commission & garbage services. Young families & MSU employees/students shouldn't have to bail out the poor decisions of the EL City Council. I didn't move my family to EL because of art festival or the garbage collection. I moved because of the greatschool system.	11/8/2017 8:19 PM
78	Renegotiate with MSU for some of the money. Cute some spending. Do a millage for police and fire only. Increase fees and hours at the Aquatic Center so more families can enjoy it after after work. Consider other options given by the financial review team.	11/8/2017 8:14 PM
79	It's best, making its options, process and decisions very public and accessible.	11/8/2017 8:07 PM
80	Decrease the level of services it provides to the EL community and to MSU.	11/8/2017 7:43 PM
81	Cut everything not fire and safety. The liberal agenda is not sustainable.	11/8/2017 7:35 PM
82	The city needs to do what everyone else has done- Balance the budget. Look at raising additional revenue for other things such as the aquatic center by raising rates for those that use it since it is not self funded.	11/8/2017 7:13 PM
83	Change the pension plans for future retirees to 401Ks and approach MSU for assistance with public work costs and hope they don't reject you because you turned them down the first time.	11/8/2017 7:11 PM
84	Regionalize services.!	11/8/2017 7:10 PM
85	Work WITH MSU to come to a resolution.	11/8/2017 7:08 PM
86	I think it will have to reduce police and fire services which will dramatically affect East Lansing	11/8/2017 7:02 PM
87	Now that the income tax didn't pack, then back to figuring out another budget plan.	11/8/2017 7:00 PM
88	A deal needs to be reached with MSU to pay for city services.	11/8/2017 6:22 PM
89	I thought they should have an income tax! I don't know what they should do, I'm not an expert in policy. I just don't want services to be cut, especially not anything at the library.	11/8/2017 6:22 PM
90	-Partner w MSU. Lots of smarts over there, lots of stubborn desperation over here. -Honestly I feel that MSU should buy EL n use it as a model. Nearly every program offered in some way (or so I've heard) would be applicable to EL for mutual benefit. -Long term I would ask that if you work for EL in ANY way, you MUST live here. -Get rid of those entitled cronies who "own" EL, tax the beegeezus out of out of town owners-of-student ghetto-rentals who have no idea that the Silver Dollar is now housing for international students. In resort areas, 'guests' are taxed Up The Ying and Yang to use food/lodging/taxi's etc--why can't that be done here? You can't tell me that every house in Delta Triangle is owned by someone who could be in EL in +/- 30 mins if it had blown to smithereens.....	11/8/2017 5:55 PM
91	Now I am not sure.	11/8/2017 5:49 PM
92	Mark Meadows resignation. Reduce future pension liabilities.	11/8/2017 5:46 PM
93	I don't know. I hope we can hold down property taxes and find another revenue source.	11/8/2017 5:44 PM
94	Reduce expenditures, and frivolous spending. We're broke, have to reduce it down to just the essentials.	11/8/2017 5:44 PM
95	Pressure Legislature to meet their obligation, work with MSU for fairness in cost, reduce some activities	11/8/2017 5:41 PM
96	Cut costs, reform pensions, stop handing out economic development incentives.	11/8/2017 5:35 PM
97	Find a way to stick it to MSU. They are completely irresponsible. Threaten bankruptcy.	11/8/2017 5:14 PM
98	I think Mark Meadows should go hat in hand to MSU, I also think we should look at privatizing the aquatic center	11/8/2017 5:07 PM
99	3rd +or - in State for highest property taxes ----enough already just deal with it	11/8/2017 5:07 PM
100	good question. close aquatic center, shorten hours at senior center, cut down services to MSU	11/8/2017 4:59 PM

101	1. Renegotiate the \$20 million MSU proposition that the City folks were not willing to accept when proposed. 2. Eliminate the MSU Fire station and/or sell it to MSU. 3. Rent out the top half of Hannah or sell it as a condo, and use similar thinking re other assets.	11/8/2017 4:56 PM
102	Let builders build. Shut down the waterpark if it can't fund itself. Contract out some city services. Ask for income tax only on City residents.	11/8/2017 4:55 PM
103	1. Negotiate with MSU again. 2. Don't try to grab all of our money - pick and chose which money makes sense and supports our strategic plan. 3. Why do we have so many polling booths with low-turnout voting? Every penny saved is important. I really don't want the option of cutting services. I like the current level of service.	11/8/2017 4:51 PM
104	Make tough choices. Take president Simons offer. Regionalize	11/8/2017 4:47 PM
105	Take another look at the Financial Review Team's report, bond issue directly related to sustaining fire, police and safety, more cooperation and coordination with other jurisdictions, actively solicit new and unique business partners for destination restaurants and venues, move the downtown away from catering to students and create a healthy mix of specialized adult, children and student bookstores, clothing and gift stores in addition to venerable stores like Mackerel Sky. Target is welcome and needed to make downtown liveable. Build a permanent farmers market. Build on projects now getting underway.	11/8/2017 4:26 PM
106	Come to an agreement with MSU on shard services. Suggest someone other than the mayor be the chief negotiator.	11/8/2017 4:25 PM
107	I have no idea. I have not been trained nor have I any experience in how to run a city.	11/8/2017 4:25 PM
108	Start by hanging out at Hannah every morning where the city workers gather for coffee until 9:30 or so before heading out to work. Then take a close look at staffing levels in the Parks and Rec Department. Finally, ask the mayor why he sat back and allowed the city administration to go on a hiring spree during his first tenure on city council, the legacy costs of which are now coming due.	11/8/2017 4:23 PM
109	Close splash pad, close fire station, charge MSU for services rendered.	11/8/2017 4:07 PM
110	I don't have sufficient knowledge to make a valid suggestion. Creating a viable downtown shipping area that will draw shoppers would help. Not over building would be nice. Cuts will have to be made in spending, MSU should pay a larger share to support police, fire, EMTs. Increasing DEV on houses and that tax rate would be counterproductive since people will leave as it stands, people are starting to be unable to afford living here	11/8/2017 4:03 PM
111	Legalize recreational marijuana and take advantage of the permitting fees, taxes and tourism that results	11/8/2017 3:53 PM
112	Cut services! For God's sake, DO NOT GET INTO THE MARIJUANA BUSINESS ANYWHERE OF ANY KIND, GROWING, TRANSPORTING, PROCESSING, TESTING OR DISPENSING. The Mayor and a couple of his cronys think that it is ok to prey on the sick and down troden by soothing their hurts by letting them get high. What was one of the things the Romans did, during the Fall of the Roman Empire? They got drunk, became gluttons and got high. Look it up!	11/8/2017 3:50 PM
113	We need to cut back. No one is going to enjoy it, but it has to happen. If we have \$100, we can't spend \$150. Stop maintaining all the parks. Put together volunteer park committees to help parks we want to keep, or of value to that community. Stop funding the aquatic center. Maybe it's a few years or 5 years, but stop throwing money at it if we can't afford it. Increase the rental fees, there is another apartment complex going up every other day. Students can live on campus. If they can afford off campus living, they should pay a premium for it. Do we really need new police cruisers? I don't know the answer to that? However many departments are running their vehicles longer because its not in the budget to get new ones. Stop street sweeping, i love having clean streets, but at what cost? There are 100 or more opportunities to save money here and there. Some are a few thousand per year, some are 100k or more a year. The point is you need to cut, and if you don't want to cut we all need to pay more housing taxes, and if we don't want to pay more housing taxes, we need to elect officials that can make fiscally responsible decisions.	11/8/2017 3:38 PM
114	DO NOT increase property taxes, fees, etc. Reduce spending to bring it in line with revenues and projected payments that will be required for employee pensions, health care, etc. Over many years, part-time politicians gave generous salaries, retirements, health care to city employees, while at the same time not fully funding those legacy costs. While at the same time spending money on feel good projects and programs for the city. You can not Tax Increase your way out of this. Have the political courage to make the hard decisions and implement them across the board.	11/8/2017 3:29 PM
115	Firstly, pray that MSU is still willing to start sharing in the burden of the services they benefit from.	11/8/2017 3:15 PM

116	Start cutting services, including those that people regularly use. If the city only cuts back on services that residents may never use, such as fire protection, it only perpetuates the perception that this financial crisis was fabricated (or exaggerated) by the city. If we truly have a financial crisis, then the city needs to cut services that people use. For example, the city should eliminate the free yard waste days and the bulk leaf pickup. This might only save \$10 to \$20k annually, but it's a popular service that many people use and likely, take for granted.	11/8/2017 3:14 PM
117	Go back to the negotiating table with MSU regarding fire/EMS services. Reconsider downtown development strategy, especially with regard to tax revenue and tax incentives.	11/8/2017 3:14 PM
118	Renegotiate w MSU, start charging MSU for services, top to bottom review of all financial expenditures & get rid of everything not associated with public safety & basic services	11/8/2017 3:02 PM
119	I'm not an economics expert, but they may need to come up with a compromise that those who voted against the income tax will find more appealing.	11/8/2017 2:51 PM
120	No clue. It's hard to stop throwing economic incentives at prospective developers because another community will always have their own deal lined up, but I imagine some developers would build in East Lansing without them. I'd like to think that we could capture even more revenue by ending TIF incentives, but I understand the challenge there. Hopefully the city can navigate this without drastic cuts to services and employees, but I don't see how that's possible.	11/8/2017 2:50 PM
121	Start billing for many of the emergency services that they currently do not bill for.	11/8/2017 2:40 PM
122	Restructure contracts so that city employees have 401k etc just like the rest of the world. Pensions are an out of date concept.	11/8/2017 2:33 PM
123	Close the msu fire station for starters. Renegotiate terms with msu (but I suspect the recent vote hurts the el negotiating powers)-- and use public services (police enforcement) as a leveraging point for negotiations. Try the tax referendum again in two years. Remove the special interest money from realtor interest groups to the extent possible	11/8/2017 2:29 PM
124	Beg MSU to renegotiate and deal in good faith	11/8/2017 2:25 PM
125	Cut spending dramatically. Cut government waste, and outsource all non-core functions.	11/8/2017 2:22 PM
126	reviews options; reengage with MSU as a source of support for services; view reasons for rejection and determine how they can be address; prepare for more program reductions.	11/8/2017 2:20 PM
127	Be very specific and very public about the cuts that must be made. Wait a year and put the same income tax proposal back on the ballot. We have to pay for our city. The university should have stayed out of this, which I say as a loyal 35 year-long faculty member.	11/8/2017 2:20 PM
128	I think it should work with the university, tax people who do not live in the city but work in it, and increase businesses.	11/8/2017 2:13 PM
129	Besides addressing it much sooner, get MSU to the table. EL's police and fire costs are driven by that. Get out of the waste business. Reduce staff.	11/8/2017 2:12 PM
130	No one thing is going to completely solve the debt problem. A measured approach of selling off land, completing development deals, reducing some services, and charging more for other services is the least painful. Spread the pain around as much as possible.	11/8/2017 2:01 PM
131	Revenue increases and budget cuts.	11/8/2017 2:01 PM
132	I can't imagine there are any good solutions.	11/8/2017 1:46 PM
133	Take the gift of \$20million MSU offered that the mayor turned down. This would offer the city some relief, but if I was MSU after the city rejected my gift and tried to pass the income tax, would I really want to offer it again? Also review who is managing the pension. Makes no sense how the market is on a record high with retirement funds gaining and City of EL seems to be only one losing retirement money.	11/8/2017 1:41 PM

134	1. Prioritize essential services. Police, fire, should be preserved. 2. I suspect that there are ways we can better collaborate with MSU to share the burden of services, especially on game days. Published reports suggest the relationship hasn't been great, so we should rebuild that and see what we can do together. 3. Take a look at regulation and consider the administrative cost of enforcing them. (A neighbor wanted to do work on his porch, and had to get a variance for the permeable surface ordinance, which was a hassle.) Making East Lansing a more homeowner friendly/business friendly city and reducing enforcement costs is a win-win. 4. Have a pro-growth mindset. Let's admit it: we're hostile toward new businesses, big development, and entertainment. Embrace who we are, develop it out, and grow the taxable base. 5. We have a lot of nice things--the water park, soccer fields. Consider fees for service to make them self-sufficient.	11/8/2017 1:41 PM
135	Have a City of East Lansing representative, other than Meadows, negotiate a fair transfer of resources from MSU to the city. Raise property taxes. Look at cutting services.	11/8/2017 1:40 PM
136	Is there a way to get money from MSU for police or fire costs? I know there was something discussed prior to the election, but now that the measure has failed and cuts are more imminent, maybe it could be revisited?	11/8/2017 1:37 PM
137	More revenue, probably public safety property tax millage. Support more aggressive development to build the tax base; lots of high density non-TIF student developments and remove senior / owner housing requirements. We have to accept that we aren't willing to pay for the kind of community we claim to want to be.	11/8/2017 1:37 PM
138	Quit giving away revenue to developers thru TIFs and the Parking Lot 1 scam. These big projects have a horrible track record and the promised increase in revenue at the end of the TIF period never materializes or we extend the TIF.	11/8/2017 1:35 PM
139	They should tighten their belt and cut out non essential costs until they can get a budget under control. They must be able to run the city with the taxes that come in and not overspend. They need to make hard decisions.	11/8/2017 1:23 PM
140	Rethink their policies, codes, laws, but they have these special commissions, boards, etc.. that go nowhere. REthink how they do business and the horrible reputation they really do have in economic and business circles. As a resident, our property taxes are too high!	11/8/2017 1:21 PM
141	Cut benefits, quit giving handouts to developers, get MSU and students to pay their share of the costs of the police force.	11/8/2017 1:20 PM
142	Reduce services.	11/8/2017 1:17 PM
143	Stop blaming other people/entities like the state of Michigan, realize we have a problem work with Michigan State to get revenue for police and fire and make cuts.	11/8/2017 1:14 PM
144	Keep trying to get a city income tax passed	11/8/2017 1:12 PM
145	Cut services on game days, make the university pick up the slack	11/8/2017 1:03 PM
146	Try next year for the income tax-in the interim, they will have to drop the police cadet program and put in a hiring freeze on safety personnel	11/8/2017 1:02 PM
147	Reduce expenditures. Perhaps institute or raise fees for licenses and other optional services. Eliminate extraneous services.	11/8/2017 12:58 PM
148	stop giving breaks to developers	11/8/2017 12:58 PM
149	Don't know enough but believe city owns property that should be looked into & possibly sold...	11/8/2017 12:49 PM
150	A smaller income tax (0.50%) and leave property tax in place.	11/8/2017 12:46 PM
151	1. Increase the fees on Rental licenses dramatically. Especially on multi-unit buildings. 2. Increase property taxes. 3. Make cuts in police and fire protection as the city council promised they would. 4. Increase fees and fines.	11/8/2017 12:46 PM
152	They will have to raise fees, I won't like it but there is little choice	11/8/2017 12:41 PM
153	Tell us where the money is going. How much less will be available. What are the priorities for cutting off or reducing funds. In short, what do we have to start saying "no" to. Annette Weinschank	11/8/2017 12:40 PM
154	We might need to discontinue some services, such as street cleaning. Maybe bringing more high profile stories like Target locally will help revenues?	11/8/2017 12:39 PM

155	I would imagine they'd consider shuttering the fire station on campus, perhaps a way to bring MSU back to the table and at least cover those costs. I would imagine that special millages for fire and police would be on the table. Any potential discussions of raising the property taxes would only discourage people from living in the city, and might force those living here to consider moving elsewhere	11/8/2017 12:37 PM
156	Be prudent. Stop making poor decisions related to downtown development without proper due diligence. Live within our means. Work more collaboratively with MSU.	11/8/2017 12:36 PM
157	I am not sure. It really needed to be addressed a long time ago. Trivially, they could pass autonomous vehicle standards for the city which -may- attract investment. But we need to start looking outside of the university, they are dragging us down, reducing our talent pool, destroying our reputation and reducing our community intelligence.	11/8/2017 12:32 PM
158	Don't give financing to big developers.	11/8/2017 12:30 PM
159	1. The mayor should step down. 2. City Council should aggressively re-visit entering into an agreement with the university related to police and fire services.	11/8/2017 12:28 PM
160	Start reducing 'services' like the aquatic center and focus on essentials like infrastructure.	11/8/2017 12:27 PM
161	A significant portion of our City population and nearby communities have no financial commitment to the community, yet enjoy a significant portion of the services. We have to find a way to get these users to help shoulder the services provided or cut services to these groups first when the cuts begin.	11/8/2017 12:27 PM
162	Tax income, sports tickets or user fees for non residents	11/8/2017 12:26 PM
163	1. Continue discussions with MSU to secure better reimbursement for city services provided to (or because of) the university. 2. Increased fees at point-of-use services (e.g., downtown parking), particularly ones that won't disproportionately affect lower income residents. 3. Propose another income tax, this time with adjustments so that low income workers (with AGIs of over \$5000 but less than the poverty line or similar) would be exempt. A \$5000 limit as unofficially suggested by City Council might exempt many undergrads from the income tax (even though MSU undergrads come from families of varying incomes), but it doesn't take into account graduate students--many of whom are living on a meager graduate assistant stipend, and whom I would imagine are more likely than undergrads to be registered to vote in East Lansing and less likely than undergrads to have full or partial financial support from their parents.	11/8/2017 12:22 PM
164	Reduce spending (just because headcount has been reduced over the years doesn't mean that there still isn't waste), negotiate a mutually deal with MSU on cost sharing, sell non-critical assets (e.g. aquatic center, Hannah Center).	11/8/2017 12:09 PM
165	No idea. There are going to be hard choices to make.	11/8/2017 12:03 PM
166	Continue to negotiate with MSU, though now their largest bargaining chip has been voted down by city residents. I do not know what the laws are, but I would like to see the income tax proposal re-introduced with perhaps some minor changes to encourage more yes votes.	11/8/2017 12:02 PM
167	It should wait until the state passes legislation to deal with unfunded health care and pension liabilities state wide.	11/8/2017 12:00 PM
168	Police and fire mileage	11/8/2017 11:59 AM
169	Start raising fines for things like DUI, Minor in Possession, Drunk /Disorderly and such to very high levels. Same with PACE enforcement, noise complaints, etc.	11/8/2017 11:58 AM
170	Make cuts to the public safety budgets and increase the fees for specific city services like yard waste pick-up. Also, rescind many of the restrictions on what type of housing and other types of developments can be built in downtown. The idea that seniors and retirees want to live next to and in the midst of students is dumb and not borne out by market forces. Let developers who already have funds lined up build and start refilling the city's coffers with commercial tax revenue instead of giving it away in the hopes of finding some golden unicorn that fixes all of the city's financial problems.	11/8/2017 11:58 AM
171	Somehow 'require' MSU to pay/generate funds for the city. Investigate if there are any cost savings for moving the library into the CADL system. Investigate moving the aquatic center into a county entity (similar to how Potter Park Zoo became a county based park vs city of Lansing run entity). Increase costs residents for some services, with scholarships available for lower income families. Work with other municipalities to lobby the state for increases in fund sharing.	11/8/2017 11:54 AM

172	A sensible plan that would include a cut in services, a modest increase in revenue and meaningful negotiations with MSU. I cannot believe our city mayor turned down \$20 million (over 10 years). It may not have completely filled the gap in revenue but we would be in a much better place than we are today.	11/8/2017 11:53 AM
173	I found the discourse between MSU leadership and the EL government quite absurd and disappointing. Neither party had any political finesse or real desire to fix the issue. I've worked at MSU for 8 years and strongly believe that the university needs to contribute more to support the services that the city provides to MSU employees and students. With that said, I've also been pulled over and ticked by the EL police department because my tags were expired by a couple of days. Is this really the best use of EL police resources (besides the income they gain by my ticket?). Both the city and MSU have struggled with the reduction of state resources. How about they come together to fix the problem?	11/8/2017 11:53 AM
174	Spend less.	11/8/2017 11:42 AM
175	Cut department budget and maybe some retirement benefits. When I retired I had my medical benefits cut. I adjusted and fine. We have heard horror stories on how much fire and police make in retirement. Someone needs to go line by line and reduce spending. Someone who can do it without emotion and get it done. We also need to be friendly with developers on projects which bring tax money into the city. Look at Abbot and Grand River what a travesty, years and still no project. Let's work with them rather than chasing them away. I do not agree with any of the marijuana growing or processing in a college town thou. Not smart at all	11/8/2017 11:40 AM
176	Put a substantially higher alternative tax on businesses that are not "home grown", and/or those businesses/restaurants that do not use and support local "makers/farmers/etc."... Non-MI chain restaurants and stores should be paying a heavy amount to use up EL storefronts and EL space. More support for local/state businesses will promote local/state vendors/producers... EL has been missing a bit of its soul for years now... we're missing those things that used to make this city standout... most of the people I grew up with have fled because they didn't want to be associated with the "couch-burning college town". Increase fines associated with destructive acts such as those... A sense of communal respect and responsibility are what tightened the bonds between MSU/EL residents; perhaps if the adults who choose to heighten the strain on those bonds received steep fines, the EL budget crisis may be balanced at an accelerated pace. Maybe it's just a coincidence that these major budget problems started to peak when adults began setting their own city on fire.	11/8/2017 11:38 AM
177	Close fire station on MSU campus. Go back into conversation with the university about costs of providing police, fire and EMS and get them to cough up more. Stop giving tax breaks to developers. Stop building apartments (renters pay no property tax) everywhere. Get more property on the tax rolls, not less...	11/8/2017 11:37 AM
178	gag Man-bun and fire Yeadon	11/8/2017 11:36 AM
179	There are a billion ways to deal with this, we show a shocking lack of imagination when we wring our hands. 1. Stop killing or shrinking developments by trying to micromanage them. OK, this won't help the budget this second, but if the city hadn't spent the last 20 years acting in this manner, it would be in a better place right now. Plan for the future, stop trying to micromanage city growth. 2. Immediately cease the lawsuit against Country Mill. I thought we were supposed to be a welcoming and inclusive city, but once again we are showing how "welcoming" we are by telling people they aren't welcome here. Rewrite the ordinance to make it clear vendors like Country Mill, who serve all customers at market, are welcome at market. 3. Generally, don't be scared to make what will strike some as radical changes that really aren't that radical. Try a web search on the wealthy city of Sandy Springs, GA, "the city that privatized everything". That's a bit of an exaggeration, they do have plenty of city employees, but something else you'll find is that 100% of their employees have defined contribution retirement plans. Shockingly (except not), they have not had problems hiring competent people because of that. 4. Consider shrinking the East Lansing police force, which is substantially larger than the police forces of many similarly sized cities. 5. Cities should do a few things, very well - East Lansing tries to do many things, which diminishes the quality of everything. A well-maintained public infrastructure and public safety service should be our primary concerns. We should seriously just selling or privatizing some or all city parking facilities, the aquatic center, the community center, and programs that take place in each. Ideas like this only sound crazy because they aren't what we're used to here, but in fact there are well-run cities all over the world where such things are operated, and operated better, by private entities. Government crowds them out and runs what could be profitable programs at a loss. Is the parking lot that has caused so much trouble for the center city development really valued at over \$10 million? Just sell the thing then! Just a few thoughts, I could do this all day.	11/8/2017 11:36 AM

180	Cut spending. reduce personnel legacy costs Stop public/private development subsidies (if development doesn't make economic sense, don't subsidize it) Stop spending on activities that are NOT core city responsibilities.	11/8/2017 11:33 AM
181	Cut police budget and lean on MSU to cover more of the costs it imposes on EL and EL tax payers.	11/8/2017 11:32 AM
182	Convince voters there are no other significant reductions in spending or strategies that have been suggested to cover the no vote.	11/8/2017 11:30 AM
183	Cut police and fire service around MSU. They should cover more of the cost.	11/8/2017 11:24 AM
184	I would like to see them look at legal methods for restructuring the pensions that we are bound to pay. MSU dealt with it in the 70's. What is taking us so long?	11/8/2017 11:23 AM
185	Unfortunately, further cuts to infrastructure and staffing will need to occur, while other, difficult revenue streams are pursued. If the University continues to siphon off city resources, the council will need to be increasingly strategic, savvy, and pointed in response. I feel like the no-vote was able to mobilize anti-tax sentiment much more effectively to shut down the measure, and now the city needs to develop a clear picture of what the consequences are—what is now on the chopping block as a result. This should have been more publicized before the vote to counter the opposition better.	11/8/2017 11:17 AM
186	Stop making threats about public safety. Public safety in East Lansing is mostly revenue generation - ticketing people for going 37 in a 35 zone, nailing 20 year olds for MIPs. It's harassment to garner revenue, not protecting the public.	11/8/2017 11:17 AM
187	Go back to the financial report they paid for and use an integrative approach to implement the dozens of actions that were suggested to improve the city's financial health. Work and negotiate with the retirees and possibly implement a change in the state constitution to relieve the retirement debt pressure on the city. Consider that many of us did not even live here when the irresponsible retirement debt obligation was incurred, and it is unfair to expect us to pay for those ~400 "Cadillac" defined benefit retirement plans that constitute the bulk of the city's debt (\$150M+) when many/most of us are trying to save for our own much more modest defined contribution plans (401K, 403b, etc.). Finally, work more closely with the university and other municipalities in the greater Lansing area to improve regional infrastructure, employ sustainable, market-driven development, offer better services to residents.	11/8/2017 11:17 AM
188	Spend less than it takes in. Act like big people making hard decisions.	11/8/2017 11:16 AM
189	see the above	11/8/2017 11:12 AM
190	Raise usage fees where feasible. Try again on income tax in a few years.	11/8/2017 11:12 AM
191	Somehow find a way to shed itself of debt that is over-burdening the budget and make a fresh start. Find a way to share costs of necessary services on a more regional level if that is more cost effective, and does not need to be duplicated by each municipality in the region.	11/8/2017 11:12 AM
192	Potentially re-open communication with MSU and try to get back their previous deal. Look at trimming services or uniformly increasing tax in an equitable way	11/8/2017 11:07 AM
193	See above	11/8/2017 11:06 AM
194	Examine every inch of the budget. Printing publications on newsprint instead of in color on glossy paper for instance. Little seemingly insignificant expenses add up. Stop tax give-aways to developers. Concentrate on neighborhood infrastructure improvement and reconstruction. Make the schools accountable for their spending. Give the tax payers value for their taxes. We are not NOT among the best places to live but we ARE among the most expensive tax wise.	11/8/2017 11:03 AM
195	Cut everything, especially the excess staff at city hall. Also, pay only the minimum for the retirement funding.	11/8/2017 10:59 AM
196	Control spending in more responsible fashion.	11/8/2017 10:58 AM
197	I think they worked very hard on this and I don't have a better solution. I'll have to work harder at thinking about alternatives, which usually do exist once the fog of disappointment clears a bit.	11/8/2017 10:56 AM
198	They need to stop giving developers tax breaks, stop buying properties and hold for years expecting a developer to come along. Lots of little things that do add up!!!	11/8/2017 10:53 AM
199	To start, play hardball with MSU and shutdown the MSU firehouse. Other low hanging fruit would include privatizing curbside trash collection, or similar services.	11/8/2017 10:53 AM

200	The City of East Lansing needs to focus its attention on maintaining basic services that make the city a good place to live. I live here because I like to walk downtown and to campus. I make use of the parks, library, walkable downtown, and I enjoy living on a residential street with separated sidewalks and attractive streetlights. The streets are in terrible shape, and I fear that the infrastructure we cannot see is worse. Whatever the city does, it cannot abandon the upkeep and maintenance of these amenities. The city must also ensure that we are not at risk of ballooning benefits payments again. It seems like we must consider consolidation/cooperation on some of our services, and cutting others. Perhaps the City can re-run the numbers and try again with the income tax idea. I suspect some people voted with their pocketbooks and others are not convinced the city has made all possible cuts first.	11/8/2017 10:52 AM
201	Lower expenses, add a sales tax, or increase it.	11/8/2017 10:52 AM
202	Whatever it needs to keep from getting an emergency manager.	11/8/2017 10:50 AM
203	Revisit the MSU connection and look at other commission recommendations. Consider a modified income tax proposal. Research the impact of income tax v. Increased property taxes on home values.	11/8/2017 10:49 AM
204	Adjust spending. There is an excess of spending on unnecessary things in the city (garbage cans and recycling bins, which are nice but not vital). Address new businesses coming in realistically, rather than imposing crazy hoops to jump through (I.e. Now vacant land at Abbott and Grand River). Allow additional liquor licenses in the city. Students are here, they have money to spend, allow them to do so. East Lansing has more residents than just those who are property owners, City Council is making too many decisions without their voices. If you want to compete with downtown Ann Arbor, or even come close, we need to stop throwing road blocks in our own way, which would help bring additional money into the City. My husband and I are actually planning to move out of the City based largely on the mismanagement of funds. We have a young family and feel that the property taxes are a barrier to our family and have little faith that income tax or not the City will be fiscally responsible enough to right the ship.	11/8/2017 10:47 AM
205	Na	11/8/2017 10:41 AM
206	Make personnel cuts. Why are you asking me what I think though? This isn't about what the electorate thinks, this is about reality.	11/8/2017 10:34 AM
207	No idea. That is why I voted for tax increase. Perhaps we should all be lobbying the state to increase revenue sharing.	11/8/2017 10:24 AM
208	Demand that the university provide funding	11/8/2017 10:21 AM
209	Approach the state legislature for more revenue sharing. Approach MSU for more and consistent yearly payments for public safety. Reduce our public safety employee number.	11/8/2017 10:17 AM
210	Make a solid plan to decrease entitlement spending, cut unnecessary personnel and services, add a city sales tax and "sin" taxes on alcohol, tobacco, sugary drinks, plastic bags, and non-returnable bottles.	11/8/2017 10:14 AM
211	Cut spending. Cut pensions. Charge MSU a fair price for the fire services.	11/8/2017 10:12 AM
212	I think they need to sell the Evergreen properties that they paid far too much for. I lived in one of those crappy rentals 25 years ago and it was terrible then. It is NOT WORTH the money they spent on it. It should be sold to another private developer, ASAP. I think the city should work to reduce services to Michigan State University. They are not paying for them.	11/8/2017 10:11 AM
213	Start talking to MSU. A deal can be worked out if we aren't being ridiculous about an all or nothing approach.	11/8/2017 10:09 AM
214	Work with MSU on fair payment for the services they receive. Explore charging property owners for certain 'included' things - trash? snow removal? THEN consider an income tax.	11/8/2017 10:00 AM
215	One example immediately comes to mind; a couple of weeks ago the street sweeping crews were sent out before the leaves had fallen. Seemed like a waste to me. I don't think they need to cut services - just be more responsible in providing them.	11/8/2017 9:59 AM
216	Sell the aquatic center, sell the larger of the 2 community centers (Hannah), privatize trash pickup, repeal ordinance 1384, sell city own property in downtown area and stop micro managing real estate development projects (let developers build what will sell), cut financing to city market (is \$400,000 correct?), Stop defined benefits for non unionized employees (why did the city switch back in 2010?), renegotiate contracts with police and fire, go back to MSU and negotiate in good faith this time.	11/8/2017 9:59 AM

217	Stop pensions and start 401k	11/8/2017 9:49 AM
218	Either try to work out a deal with MSU or raise property taxes even higher, I guess. The alternatives are to start cutting services which will only keep even more people away from living in the city.	11/8/2017 9:47 AM
219	Cut smaller services. Ask for money from the state/legislature. Get rid of pensions completely. Follow through with the suggestions made by the independent financial health team. Cut salaries at the top. Stop giving tax breaks to big developers.	11/8/2017 9:46 AM
220	Ideally go back to the voters with better explanations of why an income tax is needed;but probably realistically they'll start cutting--then we can see how we are going to suffer	11/8/2017 9:46 AM
221	get rid of current leadership	11/8/2017 9:43 AM
222	Start over again, with less lawyerly behavior and more commitment to proactive and reality-based policy making.	11/8/2017 9:41 AM
223	Attempt to broker a service sharing agreement with MSU so that the university contributes more to the costs the city incurs from police and emergency services that go disproportionately toward dealing with the off campus student population	11/8/2017 9:39 AM
224	Do cuts and try again.	11/8/2017 9:39 AM
225	raise property taxes to the extent possible. try income tax again in a few years once people realize EL with slashed services isn't very special.	11/8/2017 9:39 AM
226	They should have a more progressive earned income tax without the property tax reduction.	11/8/2017 9:37 AM
227	Hard to know. I expect they'll try for another property tax increase, but it may not pass, given recent big school bond. Budget cuts, I expect.	11/8/2017 9:36 AM
228	Obviously there are other options, cost sharing with MSU being a logical choice, but the relationship is problem now. Cutting a little bit here and there and like I said work with MSU...	11/8/2017 9:36 AM
229	I'm not intrinsically opposed to a combined income tax/property tax offset. However that needs to be properly aimed to not adversely affect people in the city who aren't faculty or executive level administrators. If it fails to do that, it will require an act of god to get it passed. At a fundamental level, the residents of the City of East Lansing need to determine whether it wants to essentially manage itself into decline or attempt to spark growth. Perpetual growth is, indeed, not possible. Dr. Altmann however is also wrong in referring to the idea as a "pyramid scheme." Pyramid schemes involve the use of an ever expanding multi-level base to channel funds upward. Engaging and encouraging development in East Lansing does not also fundamentally require that kind of disproportionate expense at the top end of city governance. Growth certainly would help provide additional tax base to help pay for the issues of the city, and the construction of FRIB and the teaching hospital on campus only further encourages relocation of high paying professionals to the region. However, it may be that the majority of permanent residents are un-accepting of change. They may want it to mostly still be a quiet Ag School that their homes are nearby regardless of what the reality is of the college that is there. If that is the case, then City Council should make it clear that the sorts of residential and commercial developments suggested for downtown are not viable options for the community and begin to prepare us for the new reality of fewer services, more targeted millages, etc. I personally find this to be a terrible strategy, but for many residents who arrived in the 1960s-80s, it may be the only way that they can accept the city. If they happen to be the majority, I don't think there's much to be done about changing their minds. The fear of finding vomit on a lawn one morning will outweigh the possibility of a diverse and growing metropolis no matter what anyone says or does.	11/8/2017 9:33 AM

230	I'm not entirely sure. I'm sure this is an extremely complex issue to deal with. I am not familiar with all of the (legal) ways cities can use to raise money. I can say this. Anecdotally, I see violations of city ordinances that are not enforced. I have neighbors with extremely long grass, garbage all over the front of their property, cars parked where they shouldn't be, etc. etc.. While I'm sure fines like these probably account for a pittance of money, it does tell me that there is some tightening down that could be done. I don't want EL to be a city where people have to run in fear of the PACE officers driving down their street. I do want the city to look at itself and determine where it could be operating more efficiently. I'm not so certain that these arrangements with large outside development companies are in our best interests. I am certain that having these awful blighted properties within the city are not helping our financial bottom line. Again this is an area where the city could be looking at itself and really trying to determine the best way that this could serve its needs. If the city center project really is the best thing for the city, then stop vacillating so much on its progress and get it done. In short, I think the city needs to tighten up any loose connections, and look at itself to make sure it is operating itself as efficiently and as responsible as possible.	11/8/2017 9:32 AM
231	Look at a "pay for play" fee for out-of-city residents who use essential services; reach out again to MSU to make a deal on cost-sharing on essential services	11/8/2017 9:30 AM
232	The income tax wasn't a bad idea. In lieu of that, make MSU pay up.	11/8/2017 9:29 AM
233	Stop retirement benefits when retirees start collecting social security, and cut benefits to 30-40% of salary! Layoff 1/2 cops and close MSU fire station	11/8/2017 9:28 AM
234	The financial health review developed 40-some options to help the city - I would recommend looking at some of these other options. I would also like the city to calculate costs of providing services to the MSU campus proper and enter into civilized negotiations with the University. Finally, I think that some cuts need to be made. The city is in a bad position because of past mismanagement and needs to be more conservative with spending to stay solvent.	11/8/2017 9:27 AM
235	First and foremost they should go back to the table with Lou Anna Simon and try and negotiate a financial agreement with MSU. The city has less leverage now, but MSU understands they are being subsidized and I hope will do what is right. Beyond that, I am really not sure. I do not want to see a cut in essential services nor non essential services. I like all that is currently offered in our community.	11/8/2017 9:27 AM
236	Honestly, I don't know. Cut services to the folks that didn't vote for the income tax. How will they like their trash getting picked up every two weeks or no more leaf pickup? On a serious note, the first things to go are always art and culture. So I suppose the City will cut investment there. Ratchet up fines and court costs for MIPs and the other most common student crimes. I'm at a loss. So, so demoralized and sad.	11/8/2017 9:25 AM
237	CUT CUT CUT thats the only plan b Maybe when police or fire don't show up folks will get the hint	11/8/2017 9:18 AM
238	Ask MSU to help with infrastructure expenses.	11/8/2017 9:17 AM
239	Police and fire have to be affected which in turn will affect our ability to offer timely services at MSU. Close the MSU fire station. Reduce trash pick-up to every other week like the recycling.	11/8/2017 9:13 AM
240	I don't know.	11/8/2017 9:12 AM
241	Above all, initiate a true PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING process that will provide true citizen input into the city's budget issues. If the majority of citizens feel they have a true say in where their money is going, then that majority will likely approve some kind of necessary tax/fee increase. This may help alleviate the distrust caused by the city's egregious financial mismanagement - particularly its overly generous subsidies for developers. Besides true citizen input into the budget process, this also includes more transparency, clarity and accountability in its communications with citizens and in its financial decision-making. Other: First, negotiate these overly generous pension benefits with the beneficiaries, if at all possible. I forget how Detroit handled this issue, but that's where the bulk of the crisis seems to lie. Second, find ways to get MSU to pay towards the unreimbursed costs it generates for East Lansing. This was about the only reason for voting yes on the income tax, but there were more reasons for voting against it.	11/8/2017 9:08 AM
242	Pass an income tax. Now that that won't happen, it's hard to know what to do. We no longer have the leverage to get MSU to contribute anything. We'll have to cut services and/or raise property taxes. The voters took the irresponsible path here.	11/8/2017 9:06 AM
243	Make cuts. Consolidate services. Cut out the crazy red tape that has developers tripping over themselves to get anything done. Maybe do some economic development. The 2017 East Lansing economic development highlight is going to be "Yay! We tore buildings down to vacant lots".	11/8/2017 9:04 AM

244	Not a clue!	11/8/2017 9:04 AM
245	Adopt the changes recommended by the financial health review. Restructure employee benefits and couple that with a new income tax in a more comprehensive proposal that addresses the entire problem for the long-term.	11/8/2017 9:03 AM
246	I have no idea!	11/8/2017 9:02 AM
247	Cut expenses for once and reduce pension liabilities they were clearly unrealistic promises they didn't save for. We have to save for our own retirement, pensions don't even exist anymore. Those on fixed income weren't even going to participate in this past proposal. No bailout.	11/8/2017 9:01 AM
248	Drop a festival, join CADL. I would be willing to have one less festival, less programming at Hannah. Our taxes are the highest in the area and we are probably one of the smaller populations (when not counting MSU students).	11/8/2017 9:00 AM
249	Cut services, there are definitely places to cut.	11/8/2017 8:59 AM
250	Move city employees to defined benefit plans instead of pensions like the university did (and almost everyone else) decades ago! Dont do anything to harm finally rising property values.	11/8/2017 8:54 AM
251	Look thoroughly how they got to this point. They can't continue giving benefits like it's the 80s or 90s. Most other business adjusted. They need to as well.	11/8/2017 8:53 AM
252	Since I'm taking this after the results are in, I have no idea. Cut city staff by another 30 percent? Stop the free leaf pickup days? Draconian fines for not shoveling sidewalks? Block-by-block GoFundMe campaigns to pave the streets?	11/8/2017 8:51 AM
253	Bring business to the city. The citizens of EL have budget crises and deal with it daily, taking part of their hard earned income is not a way to make up for EL mistakes.	11/8/2017 8:48 AM
254	Consider changing the regulations regarding the ballot language to combine the income tax and property tax issues into one question.	11/8/2017 8:47 AM
255	I have no suggestions.	11/8/2017 8:47 AM
256	take budget back to drawing board. there are things that can be done to increase revenue without raising taxes. A small example amonf many would be charging residents for trash service like the city of Lansing. MSU seemed willing to work with us too. Sure glad the mayor declined to accept their \$20m offer. Now that the income tax is declined, good luck getting that back.	11/8/2017 8:44 AM
257	Stop making/sending calendar, eg. Small things matter. Work with MSU to resolve spending issues. Revisit legacy costs.	11/8/2017 8:43 AM
258	Beg MSU for mercy or cut services.	11/8/2017 8:42 AM
259	Shut down Center City.	11/8/2017 8:42 AM
260	I read somewhere that there was a list of many things (101?) that the city could do to both increase revenue and cut expenses. Those options should be explored. Work with other police and fire departments in the area to share the load. Appeal to the State. Write some grants. Work with MSU. There must be other options. Maybe instead of viewing MSU as a burden, view it as a potential resource. Work hard to attract development downtown. Try to capitalize on visitors to EL during football games and other sporting events somehow.	11/8/2017 8:42 AM
261	No idea.	11/8/2017 8:41 AM
262	1.Negotiate for more monetary reimbursement from MSU for services provided. 2.Eliminate defined benefit plans and pre-Medicare health benefits for retired city employees from now on. As allowed by statute, change it for all present employees going forward. 3.Charge for parking on Sundays. 4.Hire a City Manager who is willing to accept responsibility and change things. 5.Enact all other recommendations of the FHT which have not as yet been done.	11/8/2017 8:41 AM
263	Make cuts and increase property taxes.	11/8/2017 8:40 AM
264	Stop handing out TIF funds like it's candy at Halloween, and later revisit the income tax proposal. It's not a bad idea.	11/8/2017 8:40 AM
265	I recommend an income tax, and that's why I voted for it.	11/8/2017 8:37 AM

266	Although all leverage is lost now, attempt to get money from MSU to cover emergency costs. Stop all pensions now. Lobby state gov't to restore local funding. Make it easier to do business downtown including alcohol restrictions. Ease up on the housing requirements so that we don't need to incentivize new developments so much. Implement a truly regional fire service. Explore the idea of annexing the Lansing Township land east of 127. Never do another Costco deal. They didn't need incentives to open a store. Remove the parking restrictions from the proposed building at Bogue and Grand River so that it can bring in more tax dollars without incentives. Allow further development in the Cedar Village area and provide some enticement to move rental licenses from the homes north of Grand River to student apartments that are better suited for students. Put the water bills and other services online. Set up the mayorship so that it is a separately elected position with a reasonable salary for a full-time job.	11/8/2017 8:37 AM
267	The City needs to continue to work on the pension obligations. If the city can't raise enough revenue to cover past, present and future obligations then the city can't afford DB plans anymore.	11/8/2017 8:36 AM
268	Stop giving away so much tax revenue via tifs. Also work with msu on working together..hopefully they didnt burn that bridge!	11/8/2017 8:35 AM
269	Sadly, I have no idea. Perhaps city workers can stand at the intersections by Frandor and ask for money from drivers. Oh wait, we already have people who do that.	11/8/2017 8:34 AM
270	How about decrease services to the "No" camp? If only. I think the City should look into other ways to increase revenue without further burdening property owners.	11/8/2017 8:32 AM
271	Close the aquatic center. Reduce non-essential City Services. Switch all new hires to a 100% defined contribution retirement plan so we can rid ourselves of this burden down the road!	11/8/2017 8:31 AM
272	I don't know. I voted for the income tax	11/8/2017 8:31 AM
273	Hold developers accountable, and stop offering exorbitant "incentives" to developers who propose city projects.	11/8/2017 8:31 AM
274	Seek increased resources from the state and MSU to cover services provided to or because of MSU.	11/8/2017 8:30 AM
275	They should better manage their budgets, rather than continue to spend dollars erroneously with the fallback plan being to simply tax us MORE than the high dollar amounts we already pay. For example, in what other areas are pensions fully funded by the employers rather than expecting some investment? While I am sure that is wonderful for the recipients, it is unfathomable in today's time.	11/8/2017 8:26 AM
276	I don't know. Whatever decision they make, it ain't gonna be pretty. Pretty sure the 'no' voters will come to regret their vote.	11/8/2017 8:25 AM
277	Hold public hearings and receive input from the highly educated and thoughtful citizens who reside here.	11/8/2017 8:24 AM
278	Cuts and private contracting. Priority based budgeting.	11/8/2017 8:23 AM
279	Renegotiate pension obligations.	11/8/2017 8:23 AM
280	Approaching? Isn't it already here? I have no idea what might be done at this point.	11/8/2017 8:23 AM
281	Leverage MSU to pay its fair share of service costs, especially for police, fire, EMT, PACE and other services directly related to students.	11/8/2017 8:21 AM
282	Hold a bake sale? Seriously, there isn't a good way to deal with this crisis that is available now. There will have to be serious budget cuts, presumably involving reducing staff and delaying infrastructure maintenance and improvements. Hearings on the budget should be well-publicized. The City also should pay attention to cutting small, unnecessary expenditures; this could affect citizens' attitudes. Council should consider putting a vote on an income tax on the ballot again in 2018 with another educational campaign. Perhaps negotiations with MSU can be tried again, once the consequences of the "no" vote on income tax becomes clear.	11/8/2017 8:21 AM

283	The university has to kick in with more revenue. The city needs to make the university aware of its needs. The city needs to work with the Michigan legislature to increase state shared revenue funds. Hopefully, with last night's election results nation wide, the Dem's will get back in office. They have consistently supported revenue sharing but have lost out to the Reps. I suppose the city might have to consider raising the property tax rate which will be a particularly unpleasant task. Some one time actions which will not provide long term results, but may provide a time buffer to find more answers would be to sell some of the city's assets (the aquatic center, some park land, etc.). There are not a lot of good alternatives to consider.	11/8/2017 8:21 AM
284	See above.	11/8/2017 8:20 AM
285	What all of us do. Start shaving expenses. I'm sure more can be done.	11/8/2017 8:20 AM
286	Cut spending and re-allocate the budget with prioritization of city services. Accept a deal with MSU to recoup emergency service funds.	11/8/2017 8:20 AM
287	Charge much higher fines for disturbance of the peace type violations to cover the cost of keeping the peace.	11/8/2017 8:19 AM
288	This will be painful. Had it been done earlier, it would have hurt, but now the disease has progressed so much further that it will be even more painful. Look at other options that the Financial Health Team proposed. Evaluate each of them carefully. There are NO quick fixes!	11/8/2017 8:18 AM
289	Cut services or raise revenue another way.	11/8/2017 8:18 AM
290	We will have to learn to live with cut backs and within a budget. The city needs to be more business friendly.	11/8/2017 8:17 AM
291	MSU needs to pay their share. We have to pay police overtime for sporting events, etc. mandatory garbage, leaf pickup charge. No overtime for police. I don't know. This is a nightmare	11/8/2017 8:17 AM
292	I don't have an answer.	11/8/2017 8:16 AM
293	Lobby for more money from the state.	11/8/2017 8:16 AM
294	Get advice from financial health experts and follow their advice poor management and large pensions part of the problem	11/8/2017 8:15 AM
295	Not sure, but hopefully something that doesn't unfairly impact students and renters.	11/8/2017 8:15 AM
296	Close the MSU firehouse. Refuse to share wastewater treatment with MSU until they make a significant payment to the city in lieu of taxes.	11/8/2017 8:15 AM
297	They will probably have to cut services that we have used over many years. Fire and police services will probably also get cut.	11/8/2017 8:13 AM
298	Take care of core city responsibilities and let state handle the rest.	11/8/2017 8:13 AM
299	I could tell from going door to door on the issue and participating in conversations via Next Door Neighbor that the outside groups funding opposition to the no vote were having an impact while there was very little money spent to inform voters about the yes side or counter some of the misleading information from the no campaign. I think another vote should be schedule on the income tax in 2018. I am concerned that reducing public safety, recycling, recreation and other services--or selling off public assets--will negatively impact our community.	11/8/2017 8:12 AM
300	Be responsible and do not try to provide services that are bloated beyond what is needed.	11/8/2017 8:12 AM
301	Actually promote growth and new development so that businesses will want to come here. They should also go back to the table and negotiate with MSU. They've already stupidly turned down 20 million but hopefully MSU will still be willing to invest more in EL.	11/8/2017 8:11 AM
302	Switch all new employees to defined contribution plans. Any type of defined benefit is unsustainable. To meet current obligations, they should look into an agreement with MSU.	11/8/2017 8:11 AM
303	Refuse permits for parties and other activities related to MSU students that involve expenses for the city, cut back on the services that benefit MSU.	11/8/2017 8:10 AM
304	Go back to the table and strike a deal with MSU to get at least some contribution. Begin a campaign to educate the public and reintroduce the ballot measure in 2018 when turnout should be higher. Probably the cohort that voted is not representative.	11/8/2017 8:09 AM

305	I wish I knew. If I knew I'd have run for a council seat. Ideas: work on getting MSU to carry more of the load (the U is largely free-loading off EL), let people feel the costs of NOT paying more (I am discouraged by the shortsighted, mean-spirited comments from 'no' voters, who persistently ignored FACTS--let them see what Kansas residents have seen result from low/no taxes, maybe then they'll be willing to pay a bit more).	11/8/2017 8:09 AM
306	Look at real estate and hire an expert. It's clear that the decades of botching City Centers has cost millions.	11/8/2017 8:09 AM
307	I would vote Yes for police, fire, pensions. Keep library functioning though .	11/8/2017 8:08 AM
308	File for bankruptcy. Redo the pensions. Too many employees	11/8/2017 8:08 AM
309	I do not know. I think the people (and MSU) now need the consequences and services will have to be cut.	11/8/2017 8:06 AM
310	Will have to cut its budget.	11/8/2017 8:05 AM
311	The only way is to cut back on services. Then maybe people will rethink how they should vote in the future. MSU police should have to cover more of East Lansing where student populations are high, especially on game days. Close the library on certain days or join CADL. How about homecoming/game day traffic control - does MSU pay into that sufficiently? Road repair - especially on Harrison, Hagadorn, Trowbridge, Abbot - does MSU pay into that (they should if they don't already)? Make residents pay more for trash pick up or by the weight of refuse that they generate. These are not ways to generate much money. Definitely services will need to be cut.	11/8/2017 8:04 AM
312	Pressure MSU to add ticket fees for all events that will go directly to our police, fire and EMS services. They also need to stop handing out tax deals to developers that place the risk on the backs of tax payers.	11/8/2017 8:02 AM
313	Cut police and fire service to MSU	11/8/2017 8:01 AM
314	Prove to us that every other avenue is in place to correct the shortfall. Stop giving away business tax breaks. Should have worked harder with MSU	11/8/2017 8:01 AM
315	no idea	11/8/2017 8:00 AM
316	I don't know but I think whatever the next proposal is, Council needs to be on the offense in promoting it. This election cycle felt like they were just on the defensive and reacting to the no campaign instead of leading what was going into the public.	11/8/2017 7:59 AM
317	Don't keep giving away property tax (TIF) income to developers. If they want to do business in the City, then they should pay their fair share.	11/8/2017 7:58 AM
318	Cut spending, recall big spending council	11/8/2017 7:55 AM
319	I think they should tighten up - for example insist that people rake their own leaves. It is probably cheaper to distribute bags and collect them than to use the street cleaners?	11/8/2017 7:55 AM
320	According to what I've read, it looks like they have no choice but to eliminate a lot of police and fire personnel as well as parks and rec. So no one can complain when the sidewalks and streets are dangerous and snow doesn't get plowed because that's coming!	11/8/2017 7:54 AM
321	Restart negotiations with MSU.	11/8/2017 7:54 AM
322	Cut services and try putting it up for a vote again.	11/8/2017 7:53 AM
323	No idea - try to push through an income tax another way?	11/8/2017 7:52 AM
324	We need long-term cuts in public safety. Up to 20% cuts in our police force through attrition over a ten-year period. It simply is not sustainable. Threaten to close the on-campus fire station, the university will pay up to cover its expenses.	11/8/2017 7:47 AM