

Resident Focus Group

What is one thing that you enjoy about the City of West Allis?

Themes

- Central location to everyday activities and interstate
- Highway 100 Shopping Corridor and Restaurants
- Big town, small feel, quiet, friendly, clean, peaceful, sense of community enhanced by community celebrations
- Excellent city services: police, fire, sanitation, health = fabulous
- Quality of community health care: Aurora, City Health Department

How do you desire to use technology to engage with departments and their services?

Themes

- Pay for all services online. Do not want to come to City Hall to make payments
- Next Door provides us with vital updates and emergency updates should be text messages
- Value the city newsletter (Pay for it with advertising)
- Technology must work smoothly

In your opinion, why is West Allis a desirable place to live?

Themes

- Good value, affordable (value = high level of services received for property taxes paid)
- Crime is under control (i.e. not on the front page every day and responsive police and fire departments).
- Growing diversity

What encourages you to stay living in West Allis?

Themes

- Neighbors come together, sense of community and small town feel with many events.
- Great location with easy access to metro region.
- Availability and access to healthcare (“No better place to have a heart attack”).
- Wonderful park system and city has a beautiful tree canopy.

Where do you see the City of West Allis in 5 years?

Themes

- Positive development and redevelopment.
- Greater mix of housing, too much starter housing, some larger homes that residents can transition too as they begin having families.

- What does West Allis aspire to be? (Need better leadership from Planning Commission, more than just streets, we need to address entire city infrastructure that is aging, need to differentiate our vision, we cannot be Wauwatosa.)
- How does City get control of state fair grounds and racetrack (much higher use potential)?
- Farmers Market should be a year round venue.

On a scale of 1 to 5 with one being no issue and 5 being a major issue, do you think that West Allis has a problem with image? Why do you think this way?

- 5 being a major issue (50 percent)
- 4 being an issue (40 percent)
- 1 being no issue (10 percent)

Themes

- Allis Chalmers has been gone for many years, time to move on.
- City needs to take control of image. Growing restaurant quality is a big plus, too many corner bars with names that portray less than positive image (i.e. Drunk Uncle, Drunken Duck, Stallis Palace, Westallion Microbrewery). Is there anything the city can do to encourage more appropriate business names?
- Landlocked = must tear down and rebuild areas while engaging residents in these efforts

Under tight budget constraints what services should the City consider eliminating? Do you think it is best to eliminate services or reduce the level of service? Why do you feel this way?

- Tough for us to answer. Did not really even realize that the city provided so many different services. What financial benefit is the city looking for? If services are cut, we want a clear explanation of the impact.
- Services that are Critical to Maintain
 - Safety (police, fire, health)
 - Streets (plowing, improvements)
 - Trash (weekly trash pickup) & recycling
 - Library (2nd largest in the state next to Milwaukee)
 - Library needs to become a destination (i.e. coffee/retail, capitalize on this asset)
 - Parks (county, city)

What efficiencies might you suggest to reduce city cost of service?

Themes

- Other communities in our region have consolidated police, fire, or dispatch services. West Allis should be open to exploring this if it creates efficiencies and reduces cost over the long-term.

- The school district is a large government unit. Would establishing joint purchasing agreements with the school district save the city money?
- As citizens, we need more information about city government to really provide input on establishing efficiencies