

Question 2 Results and Summary

These nine categories were valued the most by comment volume and are listed in order by number of comments.

Some 33% of the responses fell into the first four of these leading categories:

1. **All citizens need health care since healthy citizens lead to healthy communities.** Example comments included: lays the foundation for people to succeed and avoid other perils like homelessness and unemployment; reduces long-term health care costs; it's a human right reflecting a compassionate and sensitive society.
2. **Aging populations must be supported.** Example comments included: rapidly growing segment of the population; vulnerable and high needs population; valuable asset for transfer of knowledge and experience; certain services permit seniors to stay in their homes and remain independent which is cheaper for the county; large contingent of community's volunteers come from this population.
3. **Youth need to receive early education; social service assistance; and afterschool activities.** Example comments included: encourages youth to be successful and not go down the wrong path; promotes productive citizens and a safe and civil society; high return investment by reducing expensive public health and criminal costs over the long-term; creates critical channels to address crises as they arise.
4. **People with mental health problems need psychiatric care and attention.** Example comments included: rapidly growing segment of the population; vulnerable and high needs population that tends to be lower income; may be confronting multiple crises and family breakdowns; reduces drain on other county services; critical for preventing crime and other social problems.

Another 27% of the responses fell into the next five categories:

5. **Advance literacy; and access to media and information for all citizens.** Example comments included: supports an informed and knowledgeable public which promotes democracy and prosperity; strengthens community; related programs effectively become community and cultural centers; makes huge difference in people's lives; particularly those who don't have resources and are seeking work during economic downturns.
6. **Generally support our community's most vulnerable and at-risk populations.** Example comments included: rapidly growing segment of the population; high

needs population; circumstances leading to vulnerable condition are frequently not people's fault; community is likely to be less safe and functional if don't address; difficult economic times hit these groups hardest.

7. **Protect law-abiding citizens by enforcing crime and supporting public safety.**
Example comments included: promotes lawful society and discourages inappropriate behavior; safety is vital to the well-being of all citizens.
8. **Maintain and upgrade county infrastructure.** Example comments included: significant amount of current infrastructure is past its prime; infrastructure is bedrock of functioning society and promotes economy and jobs; allows people to travel easily and safely; more expensive to fix the longer community waits to do it; the big earthquake will come eventually.
9. **Address homelessness and ensure everyone in the community has housing.**
Example comments included: amount of people who are homeless is growing; current economy has been a significant factor in people becoming homeless; makes community more stable and increases stability for vulnerable populations; increases success of other social programs like addiction treatment; reduces panhandling and criminal activity; youth who are homeless are much less likely to succeed in future; reflects sensitive society.