Q 1. What makes Kenosha a great community?

➢ Diversity – cultural, recreational, geography
➢ Location – accessibility/proximity to other locations and amenities, including lakefront, Chicago, and Milwaukee.
➢ Good size compared to Chicago and Milwaukee – small community atmosphere w/Big City – arts, transportation, airports, entertainment.
➢ City of Kenosha redevelopment – lakefront and Harbor Park
➢ Education
➢ Schools on local level
➢ Pro-family
➢ Civic/volunteerism, active people
➢ Neighborhoods
➢ Diverse activities
➢ Control growth
➢ Less traffic
➢ Aesthetic and care of community
➢ Green space – even in subdivisions, yards are planted
➢ Natural resources
➢ Fair society and legal system
➢ Peaceful and calm
➢ Good Communication
➢ Bike trails
➢ Ever-changing
➢ Good lay-out (grid-wise)
➢ Services
➢ Variety of development (urban ↔ rural)

Why is it important to you, personally, that Kenosha County is a great place to live, work, learn, and play?

➢ Proper planning to preserve and promote variety of development
➢ Future for youth
Q 2. What benefits have you experienced from the growth that has occurred in Kenosha County over the past several years?

- Good Momentum ➢ increased variety in education, commercial & recreational opportunities.
- Countywide library system
- Positive economic benefit from new residents
- Sewer capacity
- Neighborhood level planning in several areas
- Expanded retail – less outflow of local dollars
- Expanded health and public safety resources
- New & renewed interest in Green Preservation
- Schools are good
- Job opportunities – diversity in jobs and business growth
- Cost born to those that want or need by development
- Lakefront revitalization
- Diversity
- Family atmosphere

What negative impacts have you observed?

- Taxes up due to fast growth.
- Uncontrolled growth: impact on taxes and infrastructure.
- Infrastructure ➢ sewer/water issues, including sewer capacity.
- Zoning ➢ existing zoning plans vs. developers
- School taxes and growth concerns
- Jobs ➢ mixed bag (types of industry?)
- New residents searching for employment.
- Concerns about impact on environment ➢ water and air quality concerns.
- Over-consumption of natural resources (e.g., water)
- Growth requires economic balance and problems with bedroom communities; balanced development.
- Housing concerns ➢ less density; waiting lists (i.e., affordable housing concerns)
- Diminishing agricultural base – specifically dairy
- Loss of farmland ➢ change of life; also change in farming methods impacted farmland, even more so than sprawl.
- Disappearance of small farmers
- Need for economic balance ➢ residential growth puts too much load of tax base; diversify land use for economic diversity.
- Transportation: disconnect of City of Kenosha to freeway ➢ bypass
➢ Concern with roads and access; Highway 50 the only east-west hwy. in County; better East West system to get into City of Kenosha and Lakefront.
➢ Increase in traffic
➢ Inconvenient bus system
➢ Bars
➢ Litter

**HARVEST**

➢ Communication helps things happen.
➢ Redevelopment of brownfields and of downtown Kenosha – attracting business and diversity of people with job skills.
➢ Housing – more affordable and higher quality than Illinois
➢ More apartment houses
➢ Cost of services
➢ Variety in options – shopping, services, libraries, recreational, fitness
➢ Festivals in downtown Kenosha bring people downtown.
➢ Colleges draw teaching staff with broader skills and more students.

Q 3. **What conditions and structures will help or hinder our working together to strengthen our Kenosha County?**

**HELP:**
➢ Want local input for planning – home grown planning.
➢ Developing trust between developers, government agencies and citizens.
➢ Tax issues => taxing entities working together => provision of high quality services.
➢ Water divide issues – Great Lakes Annex

➢ What we are doing now is a step in the right direction. What is best for the whole group. Keep it going => Momentum.
➢ “Think futuristically.”

**HINDER:**
➢ Too many layers of government => takes too long to get approval.
➢ Time of putting together multi-jurisdictional agreements.
➢ Extra Territorial Zoning creates a war.
➢ Lack of inter-governmental cooperation – political egos (e.g., agencies)
➢ Self-interest
➢ Ordinances that discourage development.
➢ Not following through on plans.
➢ People not keeping their work.
➢ Outsiders coming in and “taking over” communities.
➢ Urban vs. rural issues ➞ prejudice and disconnect.
➢ Lack of trust between rural and urban – someone has to win or it's not a good deal.
➢ Focus not on benefit, but on what's missing.
➢ Lack of education and interest.
➢ Large city takes blame and that cascades and trickles down.
➢ Growth is a strain on public services – limited dollars.
➢ Density of housing impact on schools ➞ developers don't worry about it.
➢ Pressure from property taxes: relationship to Lake County, IL.

As we move forward with comprehensive planning, what can we do to create the best possible future for Kenosha County?

➢ Focus on the end result – keep eye on the prize
➢ Consult expertise
➢ Need strong leadership
➢ Build and grow communication
➢ More interest by community leaders
➢ More participation

Q 4. Imagine it is the year 2040 and we've done all that we can do to create the best possible future for Kenosha County?

What is Kenosha County like?

➢ 2040 – won't be relying on gas-powered cars
➢ “Healthy” communities/people
➢ Stay as is now, but with improvements like bike trails
➢ Traffic movement is independent
➢ United services: police and fire utilities
➢ Schools of higher education are greater part of Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie and Somers
➢ Energy, lively people
➢ Healthy options: run/walks

What is the one thing we should do together, now, to make this happen?

➢ Economic development – energy – incentives for solar and wind power and energy-related products – tax
➢ Generate local businesses – provide incentives – must be done on a countywide basis
➢ Attract businesses = more jobs
➢ Creation of jobs/careers
➢ Bio-fuels – tap into market through growing corn
➢ KRM
➢ East-West Transit corridor
➢ Increase in public transit, trail systems.
➢ Better planning/retro-fitting to reduce dependence on driving – walk and bike to places.
➢ Ecologically balanced development; green space requirements with development.
➢ Keep environmental protection local.
➢ Water issues: we have low H2O rates compared to others; concerns over infrastructure costs.
➢ Cluster zoning/green development/infill development/mixed use development.
➢ Have investment grow in Kenosha.
➢ Have individuals do more to help their children, becoming involved.
➢ Community involvement

What is the one thing that you will do to make this happen?
➢ Help youth plan for future.
➢ Walk around, find out about things.
➢ Involvement, fairs
➢ Be a role model/creative.
➢ Be a part of having government cooperate.

LEAVING HARVEST

What is your 2040 vision for Kenosha County?
➢ Communities must work together to make Smart Growth happen.
➢ Diversity, Economic Energy Producer 1% in County of Kenosha
➢ A diverse community with economic diversity, mass transit and strong zoning.
➢ A Green community with sustainability policies to protect the environment.
➢ Unified services.
➢ Healthy people
➢ Start providing incentives and training to build industries related to the wind and solar energy.
➢ Diversified economy while protecting the environment.
➢ Keep growth under control. Let's not have another Chicago in 50 years.
➢ Natural areas/Quality of life
➢ I see Kenosha County as part of urban sprawl of Milwaukee and Chicago Metro. Public transportation will be more available.
➢ Together we should create a comprehensive plan for forest preserve and open spaces.
➢ Keno Cty is a community where people love to live, work, play, etc. and a leader in bio-fuel alternatives.
➢ Countywide transportation
➢ Employment opportunities
➢ Great schools
➢ Maintain/preserve natural resource bases, esp. environmental corridors.
➢ Healthy
➢ Mass transit

What is the one (1) thing we should do to make this vision a reality?

➢ Keep working together.
➢ Participation is the key.
➢ Governmental leaders and boards need to communicate with each other. Leadership starts at the top.
➢ More diversified with proper infrastructure.
➢ Stick to the plan.
➢ Keep the lines of communication open - “don't drop the ball.”
➢ Stricter ordinances in planning depts.: more qualified employees.
➢ Change East/West mentality.
➢ Manage growth.
➢ How do we make the desirable Kenosha County vision happen? Key is a strong partnership of all cities/villages/towns being knit together by strong, focused leadership anchored at the County level.
➢ Make the community more attractive to commercial and the industrial business w/o forgetting to hold them accountable and remind them we like our community nice and clean. So that the youth have employment options.
➢ Proper planning of roads and main arteries.
➢ Mass transit to get cars and pollution off roads.

What is one (1) thing you will do to make that vision a reality?

➢ Get involved.
➢ Participate.
➢ Work well with others!
➢ We should get involved in community planning and speak out on the issues that are important to our community.
➢ Be a role model.
➢ Continue to attend events like today's to spread the word.
➢ Be a part of intergovernmental cooperation.
➢ Stay active in community government and planning.
➢ I will continue to donate my time to the MJAC and will continue this “conversation” with other citizens.

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