

# City of Petersburg Citizens' Survey 2019

## **Introduction**

Thank you for completing this survey. This is an opportunity for residents of the City of Petersburg to share their opinion on the future growth and development of the City over the next 10 to 15 years. Your feedback is important and will be used by the Planning Commission and City's staff as we work to update the City's Comprehensive Plan.

### ***What is a Comprehensive Plan?***

A Comprehensive Plan outlines the community's vision for its future and the steps it can take to achieve that vision. The Comprehensive Plan is a general guide for City staff and elected officials as they make decisions about growth, development, fiscal spending, and service delivery, as well as other issues. The Code of Virginia requires all Virginia cities and counties to adopt a Comprehensive Plan and to update the plan every five years. The City of Petersburg's plan was last updated in 2014.

### ***Survey Deadline and Other Information:***

The survey will be available online November 15, 2019 and you may access it by following the link on the City's official website: [www.petersburgva.gov](http://www.petersburgva.gov).

**The survey will remain open through December 23, 2019.** Paper copies of the survey may also be picked up and dropped off at the following locations:

**Petersburg Planning Department**  
135 North Union Street – Third Floor

**Petersburg Public Library (available beginning November 15, 2019)**  
201 West Washington Street

**City Council Meetings (November and December 2019)**  
103 River Street

### ***Let's get started:***

1. What are the things you like best about living in the City of Petersburg?  
(check the five boxes that are the most important to you)

- Hometown feel
- Job opportunities
- Proximity to family and friends
- Location (close proximity to I-95, I-85, Route 460, Route 1)
- Affordable housing
- Recreation opportunities
- History
- Connections to the river and trails
- Safety and security
- Moderate traffic
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the things that concern you about the future of the City of Petersburg?  
*(check the five boxes that are the most important to you)*

- Lack of job opportunities
- The perception of crime
- Cleanliness
- City Government services
- Too much rental housing
- Environmental pollution
- Health of citizens
- Street maintenance
- Quality of schools
- Housing quality
- Lack of economic development
- Real Estate tax rate
- Lack of recreation opportunities
- High cost of housing
- Traffic congestion
- Historic Preservation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How important do you feel the following features are to the future of Petersburg?  
*(check only one box in each row)*

	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>
Community events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trees and parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness and beauty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services and shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental accountability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to healthcare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality and accreditation of schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality city government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connections to riverfront	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. How can the state of housing in Petersburg be improved?

*(check all that apply)*

- Encourage larger housing units
- New construction of housing (to include redevelopment and rehab)
- Decrease subsidized housing
- Greater variety of housing types (detached, townhouses, apartments, condos, etc.)
- Concentrate on maintenance and upkeep
- Decrease the proportion of rental housing
- Increase homeownership
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. As the City's population ages, what mix of residential development do you think would be desirable?

*(provide your ideal percentage mix - percentages should total 100%)*

- \_\_\_ % Single family homes
- \_\_\_ % Townhouses
- \_\_\_ % Apartments & condos
- \_\_\_ % Housing for the elderly / retirement communities

6. What mix of owner-occupied vs. rental residential units do you think would be ideal?

*(provide your ideal percentage mix - percentages should total 100%)*

- \_\_\_ % Homeowner occupied units
- \_\_\_ % Rental units

7. What type of jobs would you like to have in the City of Petersburg?

*(check all that apply)*

- Heavy manufacturing
- Light manufacturing and warehousing
- Retail, service, and restaurant
- Offices and high tech services
- Medical and healthcare
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

8. What should Petersburg’s priorities be for improving public facilities and community services?  
*(check only one box in each row for each public service)*

	<b>Highest Priority</b>	<b>Medium Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>
Internet access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public water & sewer systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stormwater management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subsidized housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling and trash pickup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire and rescue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services for the homeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

***For the following questions, please tell us to what extent you agree with the statement shown, choosing on a scale from 1 if you strongly disagree, to 5 if you strongly agree.***

9. Improvements in city streets and public transit are essential to Petersburg’s future.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

10. Improvements to sidewalks, walkability, and bikeability are essential to Petersburg’s future.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

11. I am satisfied with the quality of Petersburg’s public school system.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

12. Our youth have sufficient employment and other opportunities in the City of Petersburg.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

13. It would improve my quality of life to have greater shopping, entertainment, and recreation opportunities within walking distance of my home.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

14. Affordable housing is needed in the City to serve more residents that are at or below the poverty line.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

15. I am generally satisfied with the function and quality of Petersburg's city government.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

16. The city government provides good value for government services and facilities (schools, police, etc.) in relation to the taxes you pay.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

17. I would be willing to pay more in taxes to improve the quality of city schools, parks, law enforcement and other government services.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

18. I am satisfied with the maintenance and appearance of homes and businesses in my neighborhood.

*Strongly Disagree*    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**            *Strongly Agree*

19. Where do you or your family most frequently shop for the following goods and services?

	<b>Petersburg</b>	<b>Chesterfield</b>	<b>Colonial Heights</b>	<b>Prince George</b>	<b>Internet</b>	<b>Other</b>
<i>Groceries</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>General Merchandise</i> <i>(Walmart, etc.)</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Pharmacies</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Automobiles</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Furniture</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Clothing and shoes</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Home improvements</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	<b>Petersburg</b>	<b>Chesterfield</b>	<b>Colonial</b>	<b>Prince</b>	<b>Internet</b>	<b>Other</b>

Heights      George

Sit down restaurants	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fast food (Wendys, Wawa, etc.)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Medical care	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Automotive repair	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

20. In what area should Petersburg concentrate on commercial growth and economic development?

- Old Towne
- Crater Road
- Sycamore Street
- Route 36 (Washington Street)
- North South Street/University Boulevard
- Wagner Road
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

21. How often do you visit Old Towne/downtown business district?

- Every day
- At least once a week
- A few times per month
- A few times per year
- Only during festivals/events
- Never

When you have chosen to visit Petersburg's downtown, why did you go?  
(check all that apply)

- Restaurants
- Local Shops
- Socializing
- Entertainment Venues
- Convenience
- Recreational Opportunities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Not Applicable

When you have chosen not to visit Petersburg's downtown, why did you choose not to?

*(check all that apply)*

- No shops / venues of interest
- Difficult parking
- Too costly
- Safety concerns
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Not Applicable

22. How can Petersburg better use or develop along the Appomattox River (Riverfront)?

*(check all that apply)*

- Riverfront restaurants and shops
- Regional festivals and events
- Riverfront residential development
- More canoeing or kayaking opportunities
- Walking or cycling trails
- More boating or fishing opportunities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

23. If you have children in Petersburg public schools, how do they travel to school?

- Walk
- Bike
- Bus
- Car

24. Petersburg has ranked either the lowest or next to the lowest for the general health of residents in the State of Virginia 131 or 132 out of 133 localities. What policies should the City implement to improve community health?

*(check only one box in each row for each public service)*

	Highest Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Improve walkability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attraction of Grocery Stores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve access to healthcare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and recreation improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve availability of healthy food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25. How often do you visit City parks or attend City recreation programs?

- Every day
- At least once a week
- A few times per month
- A few times per year
- Never

26. I (or my family members) would like to see more of the following recreational amenities in the City:  
(check all that apply)

- Active parks (playgrounds and athletic fields)
- Passive Parks (trails and open spaces)
- Sports-related programs (youth or adult sports leagues and classes)
- Public swimming pool facilities
- Arts-related programs (youth or adult art, craft, or entertainment programs)
- River safety or waterfront programs/activities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***In this section, please tell us a little about yourself. Your name, address, or other identifying data will not be attached to your answers, and the information you provide will only be used by the City for community planning purposes, never sold for advertising or other commercial uses, as your name is not attached to this survey.***

27. What is your age?

- under 18 years
- 18 to 34
- 35 to 49
- 50 to 64
- 65 or over

28. Do you own or rent your residence?

- Home owner
- Renter

29. What Ward do you live in?

- Ward # 1 (Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith)
- Ward # 2 (Councilman Darrin Hill)
- Ward # 3 (Mayor Samuel Parham)
- Ward # 4 (Councilman Charlie Cuthbert)
- Ward # 5 (Councilman Howard Myers)



- Ward # 6 (*Councilwoman Annette Smith-Lee*)
- Ward # 7 (*Vice-Mayor John Hart*)

30. What is your approximate annual household income?

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 – \$50,000
- \$50,000 – \$75,000
- \$75,000 – \$100,000
- More than \$100,000
- Not applicable

31. Where is your place of employment?

- In Petersburg
- Richmond Metropolitan Area
- Military
- Home based business
- Retired
- Unemployed and over 21 years old
- None of the above

32. If you are employed outside of the City, how long is your commute to work?

- under 10 miles (one-way)
- 11-20 miles
- 21-30 miles
- Over 30 miles
- Not applicable

33. How long have you been a resident of Petersburg?

- under 5 years
- 5 to 15 years
- 16 to 25 years
- over 25 years

34. If you moved to Petersburg in the last 10 years, where did you move from, and why?

*Please use the space below for other comments, thoughts and recommendations (Please print):*