

Community	1. What do you like most about living in your community / area?	2. What do you like most about living in the Koochiching County area?	3. What don't you want to lose as the Koochiching County area changes over time?	4. If you were in charge and had unlimited resources what would you do to improve the Koochiching County area?
Ranier	everything	love the community experience close to l'Falls without being in the	family friendly feel	better entrance to Ranier, and updated park and playground equipment
Ranier	affordable housing	big city grew up here and we know	home town strength	better roads and jobs
Ranier	lived here all my life love the community activities for the families	everyone everyone knows everyone and help each other out	community connections	more opportunities for the new family's that are starting out
Ranier	great community activities for children	. family friendly town .Everyone is willing to help one another	small town atmosphere	more shopping just more jobs and maybe a grocery store with better prices than the two gas stations . They are way to high ! cheaper to drive to the falls.
Ranier	lower taxes and small town feel	another	free rein for dogs	get more small companys to open shops in area
Ranier	friendly people small town atmosphere, / low crime, / friendly people,/ natural beauty, / excellent coffee shop.	quiet neighborhoods	small town feel big company's coming in and running the town	maintain roads and streets better
East Rainy Lake		small town atmosphere,/ 4 seasons of weather,/ slower pace of living.	Don't want to lose the natural beauty, / don't want o lose outdoor recreation,	more professional job opportunities for the younger people, / grocery store.
International Falls	Job/is is small	friendly people Outdoor activities/four wheeling/Rainy Lake in summer	nothing - left blank feeling of confidence that my baby is safe	to keep people here - have things for kids of all ages to do/put in a kids zone for long winter days
Littlefork	Because my family lives here It's a small community where you get to know a lot of the people who live here. You can interact with them and understand their issues and complaints,	The freedom to use the area, whether it's hunting, fishing, 4-wheeling, walking down old logging trails, and not always seeing anyone when you do.	The ability of the residents to use the area for their recreation and well being.	open a community center with a pool and gym
Littlefork				Look at the projects that we have started and try to finish them by getting rid of the hurdles that are preventing us from moving forward, such as peat processing in Big Falls & gasification plant in Northome.

Littlefork	It is a friendly community. / I feel a great sense of responsibility and pride to be able to provide hardware service to our community and surrounding area.	It has a very laid back and outdoorsy feel to it, which I enjoy.	I would not like to lose any additional retail stores in our area/ or schools/ or medical facilities.	I would like to bring in some form of employment for the young adults, who currently are forced to leave our area to make a go of it.
International Falls	Easy access to stores and government offices	No traffic congestion/plenty of fresh water	Access to Rainy Lake	Focus on long-term solutions to employment of Kooch County residents/Short-term projects are OK to help the current stressed economy but a longer view needs to be embraced
International Falls	The lake	Nature/outdoor activities	people	Get a lake or riverview in town/more programs at RRCC to make populations gains like Bemidji has/bring in some new industries/ add new shops/ add new restaurants/ get a Target or Walmart
International Falls	The people are the friendliest you'll ever find/the town has a sense of pride like no other/It's really fun getting to know everyone!	I love being close to some of the most beautiful wilderness you'll ever see/Rainy Lake / Voyageurs Nat'l Park!	I don't want to lose the sports teams at FHS. I feel as though participant numbers are down in the last 10 years.	If I were the King of Koochiching, I would first gather input from as many residents as I possibly could – face-to-face, door-to-door, surveys, mailings, lunch breaks, etc. Then, with a group of my most trusted elected appointees (not prearranged appointees), we would sort out the fluff from reality and start to rank what we feel is most important to our community and most urgent. Then, we would formulate a plan, make announcements on the radio, in the newspaper, and by mail to let everyone know what the plan is and who specifically we need to assist (workers and volunteers). Lastly, we would execute the plan to the best of our abilities and enjoy as our community evolves!

indu school

My family lives here/rural, close community/feel safe/low crime rate/quiet/peaceful/not very many people/neighbors are good people, friendly, always willing to lend a hand when needed/neighbors are respectful of property that doesn't belong to them

The woods/the people/the rural recreational opportunities/small size/lots of farmland/a lot of area with not too many people/scenery along the Rainy River is beautiful in all four seasons/birds and wildlife are abundant/my family/deer hunting/stars/peace and quiet/4-wheeler and snowmobiling opportunities/chores

City parks/the forest/the people/the community/the outdoors programs and trails/small population/farms and animals/ability to enjoy ATVs and snowmobiling/small towns/deer/peace and quiet/the Indus school serves a purpose with small classes for students who struggle in other larger schools/Indus school employs 40+ local people and the loss of those jobs would be devastating to this end of the county

Allow more freedom for utility vehicles(ATVs, snowmobiles)/I like how it is now!/address road problems/keep the roads clean both on back roads and on the highway/try to fix lower incomes/build better stores/walmart/try to get a mall with some real cool stores/try to make the area more appealing to businesses/try to improve the economy/bring in wolf hunters/reopen the Grand Mound and operate it as a full interpretive center with guided tours on the history of the Laurel Indians, plus offer classes for local schools to bring students to the center for a day/find an investor to buy a riverboat and offer tours on the Rainy River between Int'l Falls and Baudette. There are areas of history all along the river: Grand Mound center, Loman where the West Fork River joins the Black River and dumps into the Rainy River, Nelson Landing in Birchdale, Frontier Landing, all areas of early settlers. We have a beautiful resource in this river that divides two countries/Black River Casino on native american property south of Loman/microbrewery using water from Loman flowing well of I. Falls award-winning water/winery using local ingredients: rhubarb, honey, blueberries/sow operation

International Falls	<p>Moved here 31 years ago with wife and three boys/were made welcome by everyone we met/boys were welcomed in high school/wife was hired right away by a local merchant/low crime rate/clean other than a few eye sores that are being eliminated</p>	<p>All of the above/we have many friends throughout the county and other communities/we have a wonderful recreation area for fishing/hunting/skiing/cabins/all this within 75 miles</p>	<p>friendliness of people/loss of business/loss of logging industry/fishing and recreation problem created by federal wetlands law/regulation on county recreation use and laws</p>	<p>get new businesses to locate here that would work within the needs of the people here/biggest drawback is that we are in a one-way situation unless it's a wood product/then your supply has to be shipped into the area/high freight cost of shipping raw materials/Example- car dealership - you have one shot then customer goes south/residents of other communities don't drive up here to shop</p>
International Falls	<p>This has been my family's home for over 100 years/my immediate family all lives in International Falls/Love the four seasons and most of all summertime/Like the closeness of the community/low crime rate/friendliness of neighbors/like school district 361</p>	<p>Enjoy serving Koochiching County as a Commissioner for the past 6+ years/Tried to maintain a low tax rate without giving up essential services/Enjoyable to travel around the county/knowing people/navigate without high traffic/enjoy the rural atmosphere</p>	<p>Clean water/lakes for everyone's use in the future/hunting/fishing/snowmobiling/ice fishing/boating/these items must be maintained by all government units</p>	<p>Fix all roads/work to bring lasting jobs to rural areas and towns/higher base pay for all workers/stop all petty politics between local government officials/if we are to succeed at any of these issues we need to work together, not in competition with one another</p>

International Falls	<p>small community/easy access to shopping and local business/no traffic/you can get to work in about five minutes/freedom to practice religion/vote/and join in activities offered by the community/I like the feeling that we can easily enjoy the outdoors day or night/safety/low crime rate/very supportive community when tragedy strikes - sandbagging</p>	<p>Rainy Lake/access to fishing/hunting/beaches/Voyageurs national Park</p>	<p>The small community living/good health care system/great hospital and services for the elderly</p>	<p>Those that are in leadership roles need to represent all that live in their respective areas/listen to residents recommendations and needs/many people not born and raised here don't feel welcome that needs to be addressed/more support for the elderly/offer more services where the need arises/taxes seem high compared to other cities</p>
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Minneapolis

I enjoyed their awareness of the artistic community, and how no matter where you turned, there was art and design to behold everywhere. People were very supportive of artists and the art museums were beautiful and very calming, and educating.

I enjoy the people and the outdoors. The people here are very friendly when they want to be. We unite together for emergencies like the Falls Flood. Can you imagine what this town would be like if we could unite together and work as a team like that for community events, education, and cultural awareness like art programs and events?

I do not want to lose our small businesses and entrepreneurs. I have noticed a large depletion in activities and business in our area since I was a child. Where have they all gone? How are we supposed to expect our locals to shop at small businesses in town for the holidays and other events and gift giving when all of our creative businesses are slowly leaving town because they cannot find the support they need to thrive?

I would highly recommend offering more programs for our youth. Artistic and Cultural Education. Museums./ Another thing that I've noticed is that we expect our youngsters to grasp the future and build upon it, when our schools do not offer any education on how to live when you graduate. What about those students that cannot rely on their parents after they graduate to help them through college, or taxes, or purchasing their first vehicle? We need to incorporate more "lifestyle management" classes at our schools. I think a large reason why so many Americans are in debt and have trouble finding work is in part because the fact that we are not taught these things in school! Let's learn how to do taxes, to set goals, to fend for ourselves and know where to ask for help when we need it! / Thank you for your time, I look forward to see where this program will be able to influence and affect our community. Sadly if things cannot change and improve, creatives like myself will not be able to stay here and help to impact the culture and artistic preservation of our community. We are in a full blown artistic and cultural crisis! Bring the arts and culture back to our businesses and storefronts in I Falls and the people will follow.

International Falls	know my neighbours	Outdoors/ fishing	<p>caring communities/ good educational opportunities/ good healthcare</p> <p>Jobs/We need to gain jobs in order to keep the young folks who grew up here/What is non-negotiable is the word NO because I am tired of hearing that for companies that have wanted to come in</p>	<p>get rid of the slumlords/ some of the apartments and rentals are just disgusting and can't possibly meet any safety and fire code//idealy I would look into it and get it cleaned up/ /We have a bloated infrastructure within the county and International Falls. We need to trim the fat. Case in point we have the most deluxe fire department in MN/ The pensions that police and fire retire on is more than their regular job and by age 50/ the benefits amount to more than a private for profit Boise at age 62 and the other benefits are more than most counties in MN or other for profit companies/ all this on the back of the taxpayer/ I would do a lot of investigation and put together a plan whereby charge people are held accountable for reasonable budgets and streamline jobs goods and services/ get benefits under control/ make sure the city council is not controlling voting to upgrade their own benefits such as reimbursement and medical premiums/ this needs to be handled by an unbiased HR group not a councilman appointed Human Resorces when they lack the education to function as such/ there are a lot of irregularities</p> <p>Try to capitalize on what we have here / Brings jobs and opportunities to our area/Every town is flourishing around us except us/Bring job opportunities to our community Get more shopping for retail so we can shop in our home town/More jobs so your young people stay here/Target/Kohls/Applebees</p>
Koochiching IFalls	Family Orientated/Easy going life style/Awesome for Sportsmen	You know the people in the county/No worries about major crime issues		
Koochiching IFalls	Small city living/Born and raised here/like it here because all my family is here	Snowmobiling/Fishing/Camping on beautiful Rainy Lake/4 wheeling/Hunting/Have a cabin	Our young peopel	

International Falls

The best thing about our area is the low stress, easy-going lifestyle. No driving around to find parking, no waiting in traffic all day, and if you live and work in the Falls, there is no commute!

Koochiching County has a lot of history. We live in the land of the voyageurs and that is an aspect that I don't think is emphasized enough.

I would hate to see our great local events gone. The community puts so much effort and time into Hometown Holiday Weekend, the 4th of July celebration, Ice Box Days and more! We are lucky to have great events like that in town!

-Jump on the new MN "North" campaign and promote us as "Way up North!" / -Start a downtown development authority and try to get something different in our downtown areas. Since we don't have a mall any longer, we need people to go downtown. People want different home-good items, check out 218 Gift Store in Bemidji. / -Feature artists, musicians, etc. in our town! Create a sculpture contest or something like that and have the winners displayed around town. / -Promote Smokey the Bear. Put memorabilia of Smokey in the museum, celebrate his birthdays, use him to draw people downtown! / -Something to promote us as the Ice Box of the Nation. There should be a Facebook or Instagram account where updates can be given on the cold and photos/stories of the area can be shared. Use hashtags to promote different events, etc. And I would bring back some sort of thermometer! / -Have a contingency go down to the capitol and lobby for our county. / -Take our history and use it to our advantage. Have a canoe race on the river or lake (this is actually my dad's idea from years back). Have people canoe the waters that the voyageurs canoed! I know everyone is jumping on the Dragonboat bandwagon, however this can be something that is unique to our area! / -Participate in Home/Travel/Sports shows in neighboring cities. / -Lodging. There needs to be decent places for FAMILIES to stay. Not just business people, hunters and fishermen, but families. They want to stay somewhere luxurious and fancy, with a lot to offer

Northome

What I like most about living in Northome is the quietness and the fact that our community is one big family. Not always getting along, but always have your back. / I love the woods, the nature, the wildlife. / I do not like cities and traffic and not knowing people's names when you walk down the street or go into a store. Here you don't have that. People wave to you when they pass you on the street, they come together when someone is in need.

What I like most about living in the Koochiching County area is the beauty and the nature, the solitude and the wildlife. The ability to travel miles and see woods and wildlife./ I also love the history of the area

I wouldn't want to lose the small town attitude or solitude. / The beauty of the surrounding area./ I can handle a bit more people. The right kind of people. (We do get in some questionable characters who are hiding from their past BECAUSE we are so secluded.) / I'd like to see a few more movers and shakers with new ideas moving into the area.

... would work to promote what our area has to offer. / I would somehow bridge the gap between International Falls and Northome. Northome has more in common with Itasca and Beltrami Counties than their own county because of the distance. I would work to form a closer relationship with those counties. / They have Ita- Bel-Koo and other organizations such as the NE Entrepreneur Fund and Business Development and input and help from North Itasca Electric... I would like to enhance those connections and explore new ones. / Center more meetings, events and programs IN Northome. (It is a a crossroads of three major highways.) I would work on getting housing in Northome.. I am contacted often with people looking for housing. I would organize a board to explore the answers to housing problems in the Northome area. Work with property owners to maybe create more rental units not only for the elderly but for low income and just "regular" housing. / Northome IS a bedroom community to Bemidji. I would not only explore how to enhance that but also work on some of the industries to see Northome as a viable area for satellite offices./ I would host meetings in the area for business owners even on training on "HOW to increase your business and maintain an edge in marketing" There are a couple business owners who "get it" but some who do not... For example the local grocery store. If they had training on improving their marketing and responding to the needs of their customers..and encouragement in that area, - People of the area may be able to go in there and be able to get EVERYTHING on their grocery list because it is there and in decent shape... instead of only being able to get half

Northome	The people,/ the nature, / and all the great lakes to explore and scuba dive in!/ lots of uncovered treasures! International Falls/The high quality of life because of the dedicated and talented community/Safe and family friendly/Art Programs/Music at Backus Community Center/Community Garden/Library/Community College/Festivals	The people,/ the nature, / and all the great lakes to explore and scuba dive in!/ lots of uncovered treasures! the Natural beauty/Biologic Diversity	the wildlife, as people move in and build bigger and better cabins/homes some are ruining the natural wildlife habitat. The quality of life/I think we should focus on sustainable development for small businesses/supporting and extending the arts and educational offerings/Build on the assets we already have. Do not mess with environment/environment has a lot to offer	I would make more efforts to raise money for more nature things. / there is not much at the county fair that really focuses on the area and what they have to offer, like the 4 wheeling trails, snowmobile trials, fishing lakes, and state owned hunting areas I would support small and local businesses/Expand Community College/Look at renovating the AM building/Add a Charter school/Add Teen Center/Have boys and girls club/Senior housing/More opportunities for kids/Kids indoor activities like a bouncy house/Batting cages/Laser tag/Ropes course to name a few More jobs/take advantage of what the area has/keep the young people in the area
Koochiching	The area/Rainy Lake/family is here/small town feel/job/where I grew up	The outdoors and everything it has to offer		
Int'l. Falls				
Int'l. Falls	The Simplicity/born & raised here/the commute to work	Rainy Lake/the woods/outdoor activities/the remoteness/small town atmosphere	Our young people	Find jobs/we need to recruit and retain young people/stop the political bickering between the city and county/work towards a common goal/pull together not apart
Rural	We live in the country between International Falls and Littlefork so my answer would be the rural setting	Recreational opportunities including golf course, lake, horse camping and horse trails in Big Falls	The golf course.	Job creation for younger people and families will always be at the forefront./ Also community attitude which I consider poor. / Along with attitude the messaging has to change from our leaders. / In my opinion people who have lived here their whole life really don't see it or get the big picture

International Falls	<p>The safety, the tranquility and the small town camaraderie & compassion. / Access to the amazing scenic beauty of Rainy Lake. / The originality of living in a small town that is known all over the world. Family bonds.</p>	<p>The rustic, country environment of living in greater Minnesota, with its unique geography, character and attributes. / The four distinct seasons; the lake systems (border waters).</p>	<p>Support for the logging culture, and paper & related industries; the quality of the air; beauty of the forests and waters (and wilderness areas);</p>	<p>More industry, production; / more marketing for tourism & other area attributes; / improved transportation; / more shopping and business; / more recreational venues; RV camping areas in the Falls near water; / school improvements; / more variety in professional services; / more access for visitors to use Rainy Lake; / more attention/representation from legislators; / less disharmony within government. / Also, more entertainment, in general, that keeps travelers in northern Minnesota vs. going to Canada.</p>
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International Falls	<p>Safety/small town atmosphere/historic buildings/Backus Community Center/the area is rich with arts and culture and talented people/medical services available/Rainy River Community College/overall good teachers/plenty of recreation programs for school age children/my historic home/Coffee Landing/the tradition of helping each other during a crisis/our sister city relationship with Fort Frances/hockey</p>	<p>Four seasons/Voyageurs National Park/Rainy Lake/low crime rate/trail systems/park's ice road/our lake cabin/proximity to Canada</p>	<p>Safety/Voyageurs National Park/our historic buildings/Boise/RRCC/trail systems/wilderness/the ability to keep owning our cabin despite island tax rates</p>	<p>Make a SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT in Highway 53 beautification/create a multi million dollar Angel Investment Fund for job creation/complete Airport project/maintain EDA ownership of VNP headquarters for future generations to benefit from lease revenues/be more intentional about inviting newcomers to the table and listen to what they have to say about our issues and opportunities/create a two or three day musical festival on the riverfront like they do in Duluth and Detroit Lakes/mandate a culture of respect and inclusion among elected officials and those who work with and for them/address housing and consider the need to redevelop the inner-core of the city of International Falls//convert AB into a historic housing complex/develop east river front with a new hotel with full amenities and vacation condos and a marina/get utilities into the Donahue property and market it to developers/get the rock out of the FTZ and put utilities in so it can be shovel ready like the Multi Modal District/KEDA and Falls EDA collaborate on a regular basis to help grow the area/Ask the Blandin Leadership Alum to come forward and publicly share what they learned at council meetings and at a county board meeting</p>
International Falls	<p>I love the people. The beauty of Rainy Lake, the fresh, piney "up North" smell in the air, and the passion to keep and restore the historical buildings. I especially enjoy the courthouse, library, and Backus Auditorium.</p>	<p>I am grateful for the "small-town" atmosphere and friendliness of the people. It's great to be away from the hustle and bustle of the big cities.</p>	<p>I would hate to see the town population fall any more than it has. I hope that Rainy Lake and Rainy River can stay clean and well-cared for. I also believe there is great value in preserving the beautiful older buildings.</p>	<p>I think we could benefit from an indoor recreation area which could include activities such as mini golf, a splash pad, or indoor track. We could benefit from another paved bike trail within city limits while maintaining the lake bike trail. Also, I would offer incentives to attract and keep businesses open downtown.</p>

				<p>... would bring to the area a manufacturing company, or some sort so that there would be both professional and labor jobs offered. It would be good wages and offer insurance benefits. / I would also bring a data entry center of some sort to offer computer jobs, as well as management positions. / I would either expand our medical care to include much more specialized medicine, or incorporate the hospital and clinic, as well as nursing home, under one operation. / I would see that the Good Samaritan nursing home was under new management, as it is being grossly mismanaged and cannot retain its employees. / I would add a lot of recreation to the area, other than hunting and fishing. / I would add a mini golf adjacent to Falls Country Club, / rock climbing wall, / hiking trail, / winter sliding hill, / waterslide park, / and a splash pad, all centrally located. I would make the splash pad at the old "3rd Street playground" location where the community garden is. This would be great for parents and young children. / I would make Smokey Bear Park more interesting with water fountains, statues, etc. / I would make City Beach a more fun & active location with paddle boat & Kayak rentals, concession stand, water slide, beach volleyball. / We need more centrally located things to do for people who don't have a boat or cabin. / I would turn the old Jim's Café into a smoothie, ice cream shop. / I would add a couple good chain restaurants/ and retail stores. / I would elect a new mayor. This leadership cares more about a personal agenda than moving our community forward. / I would get younger people ages 18-40 more involved in community growth, leadership and activities. / I would offer monetary assistance and-or rewards for small business</p>
Littlefork	It is a quiet, easy lifestyle, but also quite close to Int'l. Falls, where I run my business and do most of my shopping, errands, etc. / The school district is superior, as is the school pride.	It is not a busy metro area. / Life is pretty easy up here. / The ability to enjoy the outdoors in many different ways. / It is fairly safe/low violent crime.	I would not want to lose the feeling that this is "home". / I would not want to lose our slower-paced lifestyle. / I do not want to lose any more businesses. / I would not want to lose the medical care & facilities that we do have. / I do not want to lose RRCC.	Bring more businesses to town/Stop pushing people and businesses away
Koochiching	Born Here	Shack time/Hunting/Rainy Lake	Freedom on the Lake/Stay off my property	
Koochiching	Born Here	Outdoors	Freedom on the Lake/Keep Motor boats on Lake	More Manufacturing jobs

Koochiching	Small town feel/Country	Hunting/fishing/4 Wheeling	Small Businesses	More recreation things to do/More things to do for our kids
Koochiching	Rainy Lake/Hunting/Fishing	Changing of the Season/Rainy Lake	Work locally/Hunting	Better Shopping Centers
Koochiching	Born and Raised here so family is here Two minutes from everything/small town everything/ convenient	Rainy Lake	The small town feel/Love knowing neighbors/Freedom of Lake	Bring in better stores/Get rid of Kmart and Dollar stores/Bring in Target/More available jobs
International Falls		outdoor fun is close by	jobs	Build a YMCA look for more business opportunities other than tourism/higher paying jobs rather than seasonal jobs
International Falls	Closeness to the lake	Rainy Lake	no answer given	Better access to street information for sewers.
International Falls	Not much	Not much	My home	
International Falls	Rainy Lake	Rainy Lake	Lakeshore	More amenities for locals and tourists

Minneapolis (From I'F See Question 2
International Falls small town

Questions 1-3 are all really similar
for me. I liked living in the Falls
because I loved spending summers
on the lake and winters playing in
the snow. / I liked seeing people I
knew at the grocery store and
feeling like there was a community
surrounding me. / I LOVE the small
town football games and hockey
games; so much more fun when
you know everyone
small communities

See question 2
jobs

draws and increasing the general quality of what is available to
visitors. The hotel situation is not good. I can no longer
recommend the AmericInn after what happened with the carbon
monoxide, and the rest isn't appealing to a wide cross section of
potential visitors. A nice, family friendly hotel is needed. /
When people find out where I'm from (I live in the Twin Cities, so
it's generally people from here) they often ask if they should visit
and what they should do if they do. I say, "well, you could rent a
houseboat!" / I would LOVE to be able to tell them that there
are great campgrounds and cute bed and breakfasts on the lake.
It would be great to see a place that easily (and with moderate
pricing) rents canoes and kayaks (like Wheel Of Fun). / Then,
once there are places to stay, a couple of nice restaurants would
be a great addition. I just visited Bemidji and ate at Tutu Bene --
SO great. They also seem to have their branding down, what
with Paul Bunyan and the general plaid theme. I would love to
see the Falls update their image and come up with some cool
North themed items that are not camouflage, washed out neon,
frayed in any way, or just generally fit for a shack. This store in
Bemidji is a great example of what would be a cool addition if
tourism picks up: <https://www.facebook.com/218gift/> / It
seems that when people from the Falls talk about Ely they
always say, "Oh, but they have a casino." Nobody from the
metro area visits Ely for the casino. They go there go get away
and be in nature. They visit (and buy!) cabins, talk about the
great outfitter shops, and apparently like the food. The Falls
could totally be that! / I could be off base, but it really seems
I don't want to be in charge

International Falls	I love that I was able to afford a 40 acre farm with house that is just a couple minutes from town!/My community of choice because of my job./I love being by the national park.	All of the lakes and wilderness are great./I also like that it is a smaller community.	Bike and snowmobile trails/Voyageurs National Park	Make it more youth friendly/Get some outfitters, a brewery, live music, etc./Make it somewhere people want to live./Emphasize VNP more/Get rid of the mill smell!!! Our town shouldn't have to smell like farts!!! There's bacteria that can get rid of the smell./Is there any way to make the mill more attractive looking? We don't have the prettiest skyline/Add more walking and hiking trails around town/Use the river to our advantage - it's pretty!/Also, why does the border crossing area look like a factory bathroom!? Not the most welcoming to people passing through!
International Falls	community is small enough that we can recognize neighbors easily/we all know each other/community members willing to lend a hand for a fundraiser or getting a stalled car started/the intimacy of a small town	the area offers everything I enjoy doing/ hunting/ fishing/golf/many high school and recreation activities/plenty of open spaces	small intimate home town image/be flexible enough as we move forward to change without losing our small town image	get rid of past personal prejudices and personal agendas in local government/all of our elected officials are not looking out for the betterment of all of our community members/too many personal agendas getting in the way/too much political gamesmanship going on/we are too small of a community or county to allow this to keep happening/we need to overcome this type of thing before we can move forward with a united front
Rural - Outside of I Falls	I enjoy living in a rural setting. You don't get all the amenities that come with a city, but the pluses outweigh the minuses. First time in awhile I have immediate access to amenities	Low population area/Access to a lot of public land and waters.	There is a disturbing trend in other areas of large land holdings, that were once public access being sold to private and posted. I see that starting to happen here, I think it needs attention.	Elected officials need to stop bickering and work together./Economic development needs to focus on the small business end.
International Falls	for my family (health care, food)/Job is "close-ish" to home.	Friendly people/Good natural recreational resources./Close to amenities	Lack of health care./I want it to get stronger./I want stronger shopping and eating places.	Strengthen healthcare with tools, equipment and staff/Strengthen shopping, restaurants/Strengthen recreation pursuits including finish biking and walking path or lengthen more skiing and biking trails.

Ranier	My job/Orchestras/People/Lakes and boating	PEOPLE! Canadians too!	Rainy Lake Orchestra/Backus performances	Get the rights to Rocky and Bullwinkle!/Have musical festivals, film festivals at Backus - it's the best auditorium in Northern MN!
International Falls	Work and family here	Up north/Less cosmopolitan/Quiet/Close to Canada	Public access to hunting land and public recreation/Don't want to lose more jobs	Create more jobs/Get wood pellet plant/Create aquaculture project/Work with the MNR, Ontario, on Rainy Lake regs/Boise for Power for city generator water/Peat bog plant/Recreation access/Local lane at International Bridge
Loman	Beautiful/Love our house and property/Peaceful/Close to work/Far from crowds	Beauty of the waterways/Woods/Bogs/Wildlife/Sense of history/Small town friendliness and caring.	Small rural communities and wild places (undeveloped).	I would work on improving design in existing communities/Preserve what is uniquely ours in the built environment, history and natural areas./Promote that which embodies the spirit of this special place.
Blackduck	Had to move from I Falls when spouse got a job in Cass Lake (couldn't find one here), found a house in between.	Country living/Nature/I'm not a city person.	Naturalness	Try to diversify the economy/Encourage green industries to start up or relocate here.
International Falls	Being close to the lakes/Outdoor activities	Being close to the lakes/Outdoor activities	The International Falls area needs nothing but improvement. I can't think of one thing that the county has not neglected.	The roads/More employment opportunity/Stop the union from running the town/Fix the broken school district 361.
Littlefork	The small town atmosphere./The feeling of security, knowing there is not the crime that the bigger cities have.	The closeness of the lakes and rivers so I can fish./The abundance of snowmobile trails in the area.	Some of the good people who have to move away because there is not enough jobs.	Get a few more industries in the area so there are more job opportunities.

International Falls	<p>small town atmosphere/easy to get around/nature, trees, water, rock/different seasons/Backus Community Center/plenty of activities, things to do/the excellent job the city crews do on keeping the town looking and operating great/how nice the City parks and areas look</p> <p>It is small and close to the lake./There are still places you can go where you feel like no one else has been for awhile./Voyageurs and Canada wilderness</p>	<p>sparse population/outdoor activities and options/sense of wilderness</p> <p>The changing seasons/Ability to "get away" into the wilderness</p>	<p>any more jobs/Backus/friendliness of the town/historic buildings, Smokey Bear</p> <p>Access to Rainy Lake/Seclusion/Protection for our natural resources.</p>	<p>build an upscale hotel with a great restaurant and waterpark/hospital/clinic/add more classes and programs to Rainy River Community College/encourage more business to locate here/change the way the City and County government work with each other/end the back-stabbing by government officials - mayor/act like adults/end the vindictiveness in local government/the City and County need to focus on common goals/local government act for the betterment of the entire area not personal agendas or themselves/local government needs to work for the common good/add restaurants with more sophisticated menus/fix the potholes and streets that are in poor condition</p> <p>Get rid of the mill smell! There are bacteria that can do that./Build more hiking and walking trails./Outfitter that rents outdoor gear like kyaks and bikes./Brewery and live music scene like Ely.</p>
International Falls	<p>I was born and raised here and was fortunate to find a job here and raise a family.</p> <p>Near my work/Access to outdoor recreation/Away from the mill smell/Quiet</p>	<p>The lake, woods, and remoteness. Abundance of public lands for recreation/Lack of crime/Proximity to Canada</p>	<p>We can't lose anymore jobs in our area.</p> <p>Availability of outdoor recreation.</p>	<p>Surround myself with positive people who are willing to work together. We will not get anywhere until people work together/We need more job opportunities for our young people. Improve I Falls area by adding more shopping and entertainment opportunities./Build a community center in I Falls with recreation opportunities</p>
Ray	<p>the fact that our farm has been in the family since 1903</p>	<p>friendly neighbors</p>	<p>keep a friendly small town attitude</p>	<p>lower taxes</p>

Littlefork	Small town atmosphere and charm/Necessity after divorce, affordable housing, awesome school/Littlefork has all I need, hardware store, post office, grocery store, school, gas station, bank and restaurants.	Voyageurs National Park is at my front door. the four seasons we have/the activities to go along with the seasons	No more business closings/Maintain good relationship with Voyageurs	Improve medical services, bring doctors tot he area/Build RV park/Bring more businesses to the area/Beautify Highway 53 city corridor/Build YMCA/Repave main highways/Re-open the Grand Mound Center/Improve 53 from Cook North, if not 4 lane then add passing lanes.
International Falls	a safe community to live, work and raise a family in		Rainy River Community College	Hopefully attract several smaller businesses rather than one large employer
International Falls	good schools/safety/paper mill that provides good jobs	many outdoor activities offered	the Paper Mill/open use of Rainy Lake	continue to work on job creation/expand Rainy River Community College/add a vocational school/promote cold weather testing
Littlefork	Not having close neighbors./Rural Littlefork	Hunting/fishing/public access/Rainy Lake	More businesses	Fire everyone in charge and hire new. They are killing this area!!!
International Falls	Came to the area because of a job opportunity with the Park Service.	County transfer station with good recycling program, excellent staff.	The same as above.	Encourage businesses that entail educated and professional staff/give property tax incentives and favorable leases/Discourage thrift and dollar stores./Promote youth to travel out of the area for education and jobs.
International Falls	outdoors/friendliness/feel safe here/leave bike unlocked and don't worry/ feels like a rural community but with amenities of a city/not busy/not too many cars/traffic/lack of honking/noise level/low cost of living/short commute/use snowmobile if you want	forests/scenery/coming into city is beautiful/green trees/cabins/snow/below zero degree weather/ four seasons/contrast from where I used to live (Texas)/snow/closeness to Canada/ lake-living/sharing waters with Canada/friends in Canada/island property in Canada/forest industry	lakes/forests/wildlife/County Market Store/small town feel/forestry industry - paper-making/RRCC/people - no decline in population/small businesses/diversity of people/community theatre - Borealis Bards/Backus Community Center	add a free recreation club for kids/consistent entertainment/more movie theatres and variety/farmer's market getting a bus to get people downtown/eliminate the feel of a "ghost town"/draw more people to the lake events/concert outdoors/walleye tournament/engage tourists and local people for more entertainment options/get another big industry/build more interesting businesses downtown/build a mall/bring back The Musket Inn/ build a high-end lodge on the lake

International Falls	I came to the area because my husband accepted a permanent job with VNP.	I like the scenery and I like that there isn't a lot of people here.	The park, as it is the only reason we came here and are choosing to stay.	Local business owners need direction and consulting on how to properly run a business/There is currently a HUGE lack of customer service skills in this area.
International Falls	moved here when I married/stayed here because of friends we have made	love the lake and the four seasons/it's a remote area and has a lack of shopping/I like that you don't have rush-hour traffic and the busyness, noise and crowds of people	access to our lakes/keeping them clean and healthy	we need to attract another major employer so that what happened to Fort Frances doesn't happen to I Falls/with the internet we should be able to attract some business that will provide employment for a good number of people
Kabetogama	Close to VNP/water/fishing/activities we love to do/close to family and friends/middle point for driving for husband and me./	Open space/not crowded/lots of outdoor activities	Don't want to lose anymore in the job force/I feel we have taken a huge hit lately/Don't want to loose accessibility to trails (snowmobile) and other outdoor activities (bike, ski)	Give grants to local small businesses to freshen up their look with paint, new signs, things to look nice especially on the Main Street./Fill up empty store fronts downtown either with businesses offers, deals or create an ad to put in the window/I think Duluth did this at Christmastime/rent empty downtown window space to other businesses to promote their business that' not in the downtown.
International Falls	Four seasons/stunning natural resources/small community/proximity to Rainy Lake/the people	Four seasons/stunning natural resources	Airport/community college/community center/historic buildings/clean water/clean air/natural resources/cultural connections/Voyageurs National Park/Kooch Museum/hospital and clinic	Celebrate beauty and significance of Rainy River, art, music and culture/theater/distinct eating opportunities/shopping downtown/preservation of historic buildings/bike paths/hiking trails/connect communities more/sustainable (environmentally) economic ventures/expand educational opportunities at RRCC/passenger train on existing rail/waterfront condos/great restaurant and pub at Woody's in Ranier, maximize the view and the deck, offer shuttle boat rides, resort packages/special events/highlight the food of our area/highlight talent in the area/tap into the broad community partners to create special events.

International Falls	Safe for kids/great natural resources/people/low crime/Backus/Airport/Folks	Beautiful resources/great fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling	Downtown International Falls charm/hospital/VNP/amphitheater and public access at VNP headquarters/ good air and water quality/safe environment to raise kids/schools/City EDA/CVB	Sign contracts for the city leadership and county leadership to work together/Sign contracts for Mayor and City Council members to leave personal witch hunts behind and work together/If they fail, they have to give up their position/Sign contracts for KEDA to respect, value and work together with EDA (City) as strongly as the city EDA is collaborating with KEDA./Create long term planning and development guidelines that all agree on./No more metal buildings along major highway entrances./Zoning for development so that in the long term future everyone knows where a cell tower or a pellet plant, or a new business should be placed to create a professional "front porch" welcome to our visitors./Increase tourism./Put one-tenth of 1 cent tax on all purchases in the area except lodging that gets split equally between Falls CVB and Destination VNP for the sole purpose of marketing our area to visitors.
Koochiching County	I don't actually live in the city limits of I Falls but my life revolves around what happens withing the city/like the ease and pace with which we live/our city does provide a lot of culture and quality entertainment for a community that is so rural/have a lot of interesting and talented individuals who have chosen to remain in our community/being close to family and friends	the diversity of outdoor activities - camping, fishing, hiking, boating, snowshoeing/having these activities in our own backyards	access to Rainy Lake and Rainy River/I'm not sure everyone feels that way/don't want to lose sight of our history/need to keep our historic buildings because they represent who we are	while I understand when we think of our future we are always thinking about ways to keep or entice the younger generation to remain here/but with that comes the other side of the coin/if we don't create more programs and services and more senior housing options to keep our seniors active and healthy in our community they will have to move to find those services and their children who may be their caregivers will move with them/our aging population should be looked at and consider as economic development/they are a stable and secure source of income in our area

International Falls	born and raised here/friends are here/able to have a reasonable paying job/the area offers the things that interest me	no crime or violence/four seasons/lakes/forests	access to the land and water/airline services	more sewer and water/natural gas line extensions have city and county employees pay part of their insurances/let
Ray	spouse and grandparents/like privacy/outdoors	elected officials who will listen to other opinions	don't want to lose any more of our historical buildings and preserve them for future use	people clean up firewood after contractors have cut the wood and left smaller pieces of wood/when logging - leave a buffer zone of trees along the highway
International Falls	the food/the lake/trees, forests/open and free/not a lot of violence/calm and peaceful/non-violent, safe/slower pace/community gatherings - 4th of July, Bass Tournament/Littlefork school system/close to the Border/close to family/drink at 19 in Canada/schools - PSEO/cultural celebrations/Pull for Peace/no snakes or cockroaches	shack/four-wheeler/amount of trails/hunting and fishing/District Fair - Littlefork/feeling safe/good services - police, fire, ambulance/forests/camping - could be more campng	Forests/hunting and fishing/Ronnings/any more stores/old buildings/schools/activities for kids/girls' hockey/youth sports/The Mill/jobs/lose right to cross Border/community activities/PALS Program/low gas prices	Target Store/shopping in general/high speed limits/more eating places/Cafe Rio/Taco Bell/Buffalo Wild Wings/ Pizza HUT/an all-ages club/arcade/Starbucks/limit drug use/Hobby Lobby/a mall

International Falls	The Falls was not my choice - we moved here because of my husband's job/we would move elsewhere if the job required it/Likes: cultural relationships with people/safe environment/people help each other/fundraising efforts to help people in need	wilderness/quietness/beauty of nature/summers at our farm/getting to know people in the other small towns in the county - Ericsburg, Littlefork/opportunities for family/raise animals/pursue passions/hobbies	Airport/County Fair	Have a floating restaurant on Rainy Lake that's open summer and winter/Develop the Alexander Baker - AB Building into a fitness and arts complex that includes: first floor - swimming pool, second floor - fitness center, third floor - studio and long-term stay suites for tourists and artists, roof-top glassed and screened-in area for artists to paint, tourists to relax, restaurant, open year-round, using solar energy create well paying jobs so families would move here/start businesses that would create jobs and utilize the wood products and resources we have here
International Falls	Resources/Rainy Lake/ small community, family	Access to surrounding communities/Wooded land	Hospital/Community College/small businesses/school/use of VNP	
International Falls	Born and raised here/love the four seasons/Rainy Lake/ Canadian border/Fishing/Winter sports.	Slower paced living/no commuting issue or traffic/No loud noise of big cities.	jobs/schools/simpler lifestyle	Promote tourism/better paying jobs with benefits/Give back parents and teachers right to discipline.
International Falls	Choose this community because my family lives here and this is where I was raised/I have lived in larger community and prefer smaller.	Like the smaller community feel and slower pace/More time to spend with friends and family.	Employment and education opportunities for all residents of the community/Access to health care.	Increase education options for younger residents (i.e. more technical programs)/Increase employment and job training/More fun and educational programs for youth/Improve aesthetics of the community.
International Falls	Affordable housing/proximity to Rainy Lake/Family connections	Rich history	The wilderness/Lake/Park	Improve access to and quality of special education services/increase mental health services

	<p>The historic areas of the community/The Coffee Landing/Library/Backus Community Center/Like being on an international border with Canada/Our families feel safe/Our churches/The teachers who teach our community's children/Our School Superintendent and his team of people/Recreational opportunities for kids who otherwise would not be able to afford participating/our airport/active clubs and organizations/the river/hockey program</p>	<p>Voyageurs National Park/Lots of birds migrating through area/the sunsets/the trail systems for skiing and snowshoeing/snowmobile trails/hunting shacks/the quiriness of Birchdale/We like the feeling of safety/four distinct seasons/people who will help people during a crisis/two arenas</p>	<p>Access to land/safety/the shack/our teachers and schools/our airport/nature/RRCC/Backus Community Center/our tradition with sports</p>	<p>Diversify our economy with living wage jobs/Engage our youth/continually invest in our schools, teachers and education as a whole/Renovate AB into a moderate income living spaces/invest in the airport/continue to advocate for RRCC as an economic engine/Help Boise stay viable and grow/everybody and organization should think in terms of promoting economic development and healthy community/build a three day concert event like they have in Walker and Detroit Lakes/Market VNP/have more year round resorts/need another hotel in town that has a pool so we can attract more organized activities like tournaments for various sports/Add on to Kerry Park Arena/Get a sledding hill like Ranier has</p>
International Falls	<p>International Falls always has something fun to do not matter what the season</p>	<p>It is beautiful here</p>	<p>It is important to keep business alive here/attract new ones</p>	<p>Create an attraction that would be unique and alluring to tourists/Enable us to keep more of the tourist trade on this side of the order</p>
International Falls	<p>The small community feel/the willingness to step up and help when someone has a crisis with fundraisers/The people who are involved with making our community a better place to live.</p>	<p>The opportunity for outdoor recreation/No traffic issues/Voyageurs National Park/Feel safe.</p>	<p>The small town feel of all the communities/Support of schools/The PEG channel that opens up communications and information for community.</p>	<p>Have a Mayor who is progressive/Quit looking backwards and build for the future/Support all of our economic development organizations/there is a lot of work to do both in city and the rural areas and communities/Have a city council that works as a team and is inclusive of all members/Have more fairness and equity in who pays for services enjoyed by all, example is Airport.</p>

Ranier	Rainy Lake location/Citizens/Choices for family outings.	The wilderness/hunting/fishing/snowmobiling/vastness away from all the hoopla and big cities.	Recreational opportunities	Promote area for recreational opportunities/Make it a family area vacation point./TOURISM!/New form of industry
International Falls	Small town living gives you an opportunity to participate and make a difference./It's comfortable for average people to excel.	Rainy Lake/Ranier/Proximity to Voyageurs National Park and Fort Frances/You know people and share commonality.	Sense of community/Openness and friendliness of community.	Make area an attractive place for families./Fill needs of families with jobs, schools, culture, shopping, Main Street./Capitalize on internet for specialists and products./Rule out trying to compete with internet./insure people who want to live here can survive here./Bill Gates comes here to help.
Ranier	The first thing I like about living here is the people./friendly, fun and always smile./There is always a friendly face to greet you where ever you may go./I love our Ranier port to Rainy Lake, which I think could be developed much more./I love my airport, which gives everyone an open door to the world from INL.	Lower taxes/spaces to play/great hunting and recreation areas	AIRPORT SERVICE./It is the only link to the outside world. We have no bus or rail service to transport out of INL, so airline service is a must.	I would like to see more incentives to get business here, whether small or large./Also, we are sitting right on a national park, we need to expand tourism, it is an untapped resource.

International Falls	<p>our "international" location on the Border/recognition because of our "Icebox of the Nation" status/attractive Main Street/proximity to lakes, rivers, Voyageurs National park and Canada/outdoor opportunities/swimming, fishing, hunting, boating, snowmobiling/Fourth of July fireworks/isolation from bad things happening in the rest of the country and world/isolation also a curse</p>	<p>scenery/wildlife/Rainy Lake and River/light traffic/good roads/the people/uncomplicated lifestyle/living on Rainy Lake/summers</p>	<p>population/Backus - entertainment options we already have/Voyageurs national Park</p>	<p>keep up and improve our standard of living for all members of the population/attract new businesses/never forget to include Fort Frances and the surrounding area/keep roads in good condition and improve other modes of transportation/Make Kooch County the destination for tourists rather than passing through to Canada/more advertising/develop bike trails/advertise the disc golf at RRCC</p>
International Falls	<p>Falls Public Library/Backus and its many offering/sense of community/variety of recreation opportunities/outdoor beauty/four actual seasons/hospital, clinic and offerings/excellent police, fire, ambulance, EMTs, Sheriff/local farms and gardens fresh produce/excellent schools and Community College/community-wide effort in economic development/churches</p>	<p>all of the above/airport/upgraded Highway 53/fishing, hunting, seasonal recreation/clean water/clean air/reasonable land prices/the county's cities interact and support each other</p>	<p>space for outdoor recreation/clean water and air/airport/highway/college/Backus - arts, culture, entertainment opportunities</p>	<p>Complete Highway 53 all the way to I Falls/additional reasonable rental units/upgrade TV services/increase economic opportunities</p>

International Falls	small town/everyone knows each other/friendly and kind/good place to live/lack of congestion/lots of historical buildings - Backus/AB, post office, Mill, old depot/Rainy River/close to the Border	everything is close/nice drive to lake/fishing/beautiful scenery/outdoors/friendly people/Voyageurs National Park, picnic places/trails	friendly people/small town atmosphere/no freeway/scenery/no condos/Voyageurs National Park/Backus Community Center/scenery/lack of congestion/clinic/hospital/good schools/Border Concerts/Backus Concerts	Build a Target or Walmart/more quality entertainment opportunities/ better college with more variety of career training/more activities for young people/build a Boys and Girls Club/more live theater, plays, dinner theater/more after school and summer activities for kids/rides to City Beach in summer/keep tennis and basketball courts at Smokey Bear and Kerry Parks/keep Summer Lunch Program for kids and Community Cafe every night of week, perhaps open up a Community Cafe in Littlefork and Northome/add more camping for RVs, campers and tenters on the lake and river
International Falls	Rainy Lake/opportunities with Voyageurs National Park - trails, boating/outdoors/laid back people/cheap housing/10 minutes driving time to anywhere/no exit ramps	cheap taxes/forests/access to recreation on public lands/unique features - forests, water, swamp/	access to land and water areas/Voyageurs National Park/Jobs/the Mill/openess/educational opportunities/airport/Smokey Bear/Hwy system/hospital/Backus	Medical facilities need to cooperate/City and County government need to cooperate/City Council dysfunction currently/Mayor needs to change attitude and behavior/egos need to go away in local government/develop the area as a retirement area/more facilities like the Good Samaritan Center/develop a housing facility in the Alexander Baker AB Building/ need for baby boomers to return to I Falls/eliminate the international Border - no Border/a bullet train to Mpls./better broadband and internet connections
International Falls	opportunities for outdoor recreation/people who are mostly friendly/good environment	don't have the hustle and bustle of the Metro area/no traffic jams/easy to get around	the rights we have/right to snowmobile, hunt, fish/what we were raised on/loss of rights would take away from our heritage/wilderness/wildlife/ability to get out and drive	develop designated ATV trails or combination ATV and snowmobile trails/this would be an extra draw for the area/improve shopping, restaurants, theaters to attract professionals to the area/build the RECAP facility

International Falls	<p>Rainy Lake/outdoors/access to recreational opportunities/snow/ the area's greatest asset is it's a long way from anywhere/it's greatest hindrance is it's a long way from anywhere</p> <p>life-long resident - grew up here/ease of a small community/easy to get things done and find out answers/easy to say hi to lots of people/5-10 minute drive from anywhere/small town atmosphere</p>	<p>Hard to articulate other than driving through/to us Kooch County is International Falls/natural resources/ Voyageurs National Park/rivers/lakes/lots of timber/snowmobiling is top notch</p> <p>Easy access to recreation/cross country ski trails/rural feel/Rainy Lake/places where you can get away from people</p>	<p>access to the natural resources/Coffee Landing/Backus- opportunities to do stuff/Backus acts like a magnet drawing people together - people coming from outside-attracting new people/living wage jobs gotta stay here/the Mill/stores/grocery stores/airport/access to medical care/jobs or work opportunities able to support a city population of at least 6,000 people</p> <p>Living-wage jobs/jobs/Backus/schools/we need enough living-wage jobs to support the services and businesses in the community/more opportunities will be lost with a shrinking population</p>	<p>Healthcare improvements/K-12 education system doesn't know how to execute ideas or plans/lack of diversity in school hinders youth who move outside the area/lack of diversity in thought process/this community is the least welcoming place I've lived/bring outside ideas here/hard to break into the community/off-putting/very unprofessional functioning local governments/governed by Robert's Rules of Order - "Robert (Bob) Anderson's Rules of Order"/International Falls needs to get out of its own way/the Mill isn't going to get any bigger/Falls has a lack of diversity to its economic base and opportunities for employment/the community cannot afford to get any smaller or its ability to buy goods and services will diminish/tourism is not the best hook to hang our hat on - because we're so isolated/is there something that we have that other areas don't have? - No/people who live here must give up their tunnel vision/people are not inviting/we need to create another 500 jobs here over the next ten years to maintain the amenities that are here now/we need to begin building a diversified skill set of workers now/with the need for office paper declining - the Mill has a longevity of only 10 to 20 years/</p> <p>We need the enthusiasm of Backus Community Center to be replicated on the economic development side in our community/less animosity between City and County/less animosity within the City Council/ it isn't "Bob Anderson" - it's "International Falls"/we're all in this together/as Herb Brooks said - "It's not the name on the back of the jersey - it's the name on the front of the jersey"</p>
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International Falls	<p>Summer / smaller community / right-size community / ability to get everything you want / opportunities for kids / all the activities / small size / knowing so many people / knowing your neighbors</p>	<p>wildlife / isolation / like the distance away form other places / employment / environment / came here for a job and never left / don't like having to travel to buy special size clothing (slim Jim)</p>	<p>identity / county activities for people to get to know people all over the County / RRCC / Boise / Rainy Lake /</p>	<p>Have people talk kindly about Boise / more jobs to keep younger people coming back / no more Dollar Stores / better stores / passenger train to get people up here / add public transportation like a bus to go to the Cities / become a tourist destination / more activities like the Bass Fishing Tournament and crazy days / make it an encouraging place for people to come to attract new employers / get companies to expand up here / create more of a shopping district / start a water bottling company using glass instead of plastic so the water doesn't take on the plastic taste / start a micro-brewing company with our excellent water</p>
International Falls	<p>Born here and don't want to leave/easy to drive/nice choice of stores/Backus Community Center/Smokey/any of our resorts</p>	<p>Lakes/woods/wildlife</p>	<p>The mill/Backus as a whole - arts, all ages, open to all, businesses there/keep our lakes and woods clean/ hospital/school/any more resorts - don't want anymore to leave</p>	<p>streets/sidewalk plowing/City and County must learn to grow up and get along/City and County must work together/Blandin Community Leadership groups all need to go to meetings in full force</p>
International Falls	<p>Because the housing is cheap compared to Mpls. St. Paul/Because the cost of food is about 75%/Because there is little crime compared to Mpls/St.Paul</p>	<p>Cheap housing/cheap food/low crime rate/the friendliness of the people</p>	<p>Low crime rate forest areas / wilderness areas / the ability to drive 10 miles to get to the wilderness / keep low lake population</p>	<p>Get more foundation grants for Backus Community Center</p>
International Falls	<p>the people / knowing one another</p>	<p>wooded areas / Rainy Lake / scenery</p>	<p></p>	<p>clean up surrounding downtown areas - bulldoze 3rd and 4th Street and build duplexes - get rid of slums areas / keep our lake clean and pure / make it a retirement community</p>

International Falls	<p>small town living/safer/ recreation/woods/lakes safer schools/kid's safe/freedom to roam/ sense of community/ good resources/know police, teachers and doctors by first name/ easy to find the right person to go to if in trouble "Having my business here" / the people / access to water / outdoor activities / "our community is great helping out with benefits to raise money for good causes"</p>	<p>Family close in county/sense of tradition</p>	<p>Basic infrastructure such as airport/schools/sense of community/stability of community small family owned businesses Wagner construction, Corrin's Plumbing, Kantor Electric Lots of churches/Rainy River Community College - expand to trades</p>	<p>Highway 53 to downtown Int'l. Falls/families with life-sustaining jobs/companies with good wages/bring wealth to the community/bring home young people with families/bring more training in with local businesses Need to change the fact that the mayor and certain city and county officials are stifling economic development by their votes and behind the scenes maneuvering</p>
Rainy Lake	<p>small town / great place to raise kids / friendly / down town area /</p>	<p>lower housing prices / having access to shacks / access to farmland</p>	<p>small town service / school systems / small businesses</p>	<p>Put in a casino / start a bottled water company / more of a transit system for older people to go out of town to visit family / change the weather / more small businesses / more restaurants</p>
International Falls	<p>/</p>	<p>The beautiful outdoor opportunities close enough to visit in a day</p>	<p>The oldness of and vintage feel of the down town area</p>	<p>better cell phone reception and higher speed internet like Bemidji did Address the stranglehold on new businesses and the local economy that the union mentality has - an example is what happened at the Spot Restaurant</p>
Littlefork	<p>small town feel / outdoor opportunities</p>	<p>very rural</p>	<p>small town feel</p>	

International Falls	natural beauty / lake / proximity of the wilderness / proximity of all necessary services	remoteness / predominantly wilderness /	quaint down town feel / relatively undeveloped lake / small town feel /	Address Crony-capitalism of Boise Cascade and the City - current mayor is former Boise big-wig / investigation into chilling effect on new businesses and the causes i.e. why did Marvin and Polaris not set up here / ongoing public awareness of why new businesses are not encouraged / a local press that is going demand answers as to new business suppression / get rid of the all or nothing approach regarding unions /demand transparency of economic development people including regular reports to tax payers with concrete goals for bringing in new businesses and creating jobs / change the short-sighted mentality of just getting a job at Boise, getting a house on the lake, getting your hunting shack and getting your toys / eradicate selfishness / because unfortunately newcomers to this town don't have a voice, someone with the credibility of being born and raised here needs to champion any change
International Falls	wilderness adventures / hunting and fishing / the Lakes / small town / rugged culture	rural	quaint down town / safety / wilderness opportunities	get rid of union mentality / simplify voyageur's national park's reservation system and other other use restrictions - the mindset should be that the park is as much for the enjoyment and use of this generation as it is for future generations / get rid of mentality that international falls belongs only to those who were born and raised here / encourage and incentivize small businesses / reduce number of government jobs / more accountability for those tasked with economic development and salaried with tax dollars / more pressure on the school district to turn out well-educated graduates / have a fact finding process for why big employers such as Marvin, Polaris and others did not set up here

International Falls	the cold / county seat / borders Canada / the beauty / it is where our jobs are / close enough to family	rural / the type of people who live here	Fantastic opportunities for outdoor fun / access to beautiful lakes and forests	have people realize that the purpose of unions is to protect vulnerable and mistreated workers, not to choke out healthy competition
International Falls	The radio station (KBHW/Bridge) / Our friends far away are all aware of I Falls due to weather forecasts that highlight us / Living close to family and friends / This is where God has called me to be / Friendly people / How close people are / Access to Rainy Lake / Small town, closer feel than in a city / Slower pace of life / lower cost of living / Good place to raise kids / I appreciated the cooperation people had during the June 2014 flood	Access to and enjoyment of the wilderness / Four distinct seasons / Rainy Lake / No traffic / Slower pace / Just a few minutes' drive to anywhere in town / Wilderness, rural area / living on an international border / Low crime rate, high trust / Educational opportunities / Abundant outdoor recreation opportunities / Blueberries / People know and care about each other / Voyageurs National Park influence on the community / Unique places that grow Christmas trees and strawberries / Backus: it is still going, they try hard, and it is a nice experience to attend events there / Good roads which is important to our economy; they make a difference for out-of-towners to come to town easily	Low property taxes / Jobs to draw and keep people here / Good medical care / Friendliness and cooperation of a rural area / Churches' relationships with schools and community organizations / Our young people / opportunities here that will keep our youth here / Grass roots and community efforts / Volunteerism / caring law enforcement officers / The ability we have here to drop in on friends and knock on doors instead of making appointments / Wilderness area / undeveloped lake shores / the small industries we have / historic downtown area / Five-minute drive from town to the wood / Openness / No traffic	new small industry / Greater utilization of Rainy River Community College / More teaching of trades / Make sure our school system is one of the best, especially Senior High / Make our healthcare system is more than a stop-gap / Our county board, etc., do all they can to support new business / Encourage Boise to once again offer apprentice programs / Greater cooperation between churches and school / Public access to Voyageur National Park by greater use of the tour boat such as more day trips / Artist colony / Year round Conservatory as a respite from winter and tourist attraction / Change mentalities that we are so far away from everywhere else, that no one wants to live here, that it is so cold and miserable / Stop infighting amongst city and county, high school and college / Third Great Awakening, which would lead to decreased demand for drugs, empty bars and jails and reunited families / Alternate forms of entertainment to drugs and alcohol / clean up blight on Highway 53 driving north into I Falls and make it look more appealing / attract young people here / Local people should participate in the great opportunities we have around here / mandate an attitude that welcomes outside talent and technological innovation / utilized thermo heat like Lake LaCroix / ask people who live other places (including in Canada) what has worked for them / Clean up drug and alcohol problems, including an economy that glorifies alcohol consumption / Throw out the Wetlands Act / More family togetherness, especially at meal times / More help for parents / Reunite and help broken families / Spiritual revival / More welcoming of newcomers and new

	City water and sewer / Convenience / Close to necessities / Easy to get around / Family / The lake / 4th of July celebration / Family is here / Jobs are here / Commute to work is easy and quick / Familiar with most people / Compassionate community / Was born and raised here / Grew up here / Small town feel / don't worry so much about crime / safety small town / safe environment / lots of extended family / history	Outdoor activities / space / Affordable housing / Knowing my neighbors / Wages are good / Homes are affordable / Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, skating, boating, etc. are all accessible within a fairly short distance / Taxes are reasonable / Lakes and forests / Lake for fishing / Woods for hunting. Rural area / open space / recreation / no traffic / good place to raise family	Existing businesses / Natural resources / Small owner-operated businesses / Doctors and dentists / Access to water and shacks / Employment opportunities / Access to the lake / Population / Stores / water and sewer / Neighbors Medical care / jobs / businesses / property to federal government	Explore ways to capitalize on our natural resources such as camping sites, hiking areas and trails / Make access to the water available / Walking and biking paths along the river – next to the water / Camping available on the mainland on the lake so that a boat is not required / Someplace to launch and rent kayaks and canoes / Do away with the City Economic Development Director position and encourage KEDA to step up work on economic development / Assist existing businesses to succeed (i.e., Loon's Nest is really struggling due to Snowmobile Club change in trail route) / Improve Highway 53 to a 4-lane from Cook to IFalls / Make the lake more accessible / Pavilion on the lake / Running, walking and bike trails along the lake / Park area on lakefront Like Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis / More lodging and campgrounds / Bring in ice fishing business / Better hospitality / More new business to attract young families / Family-friendly, senior-friendly / Culture and fine arts / Keep the people who already live here / More senior services / More business-friendly: improving to draw people here and make them want to stay Get rid of "wetlands" legislation
International Falls				
Littlefork				

International Falls	slower pace of life / lower cost of living	natural beauty of the lakes, rivers and wilderness / proximity to Canada / abundant outdoor recreational activities	the wilderness and clean water / don't allow over development, especially on our lakeshores, even if it means less tax revenue	<p>put strict parameters on lake shore development by limiting size, and having buffer zones on lake shore development, and prohibit shoreline alteration / clean up the town and entry into town / get rid of the Northern Lumber disaster on the old Holiday property across the street / get rid of other junk properties on the way in and out of town / make the entry into town pleasant like in other small towns such as Ely, Grand Marais and Lanesboro / encourage out-of-the-box thinking for new business, business expansion and tourism / promote the uniqueness of voyageur's national park such as at the info stations at the Mall of America</p> <p>replace the k-mart with a target / more sports options like soccer / let you have a horse no matter where you live - horses are not livestock</p>
International Falls	I was able to get a cat	the lake / the peace and quiet	the programs and activities the town holds	

	the natural beauty of Rainy Lake/ trees / quietness / nice neighbors / the sounds of nature / my job / grocery shopping / ease of running errands / short drive to work / knowing people everywhere I go	access to Rainy Lake / hunting shack / cross country ski trails / VNP / Ranier Rink / Ranier / Resorts / City Beach / boat landings / trees / knowing business owners	Hospital / Clinic / Good Sam / Schools / RRCC / upnorth feel / small town feeling / churches / current businesses / beautiful scenery / Backus	Beautiful the river like Fort Frances did - trade the land that has semis parked on so the riverfront could be used and appreciated by all / put more money into our infrastructure so we look beautiful to companies deciding if they should move here or not / bury power lines / bring city water and sewer all the way out Sha Sha so all the resorts can upgrade which makes it more attractive to locals and tourists / build a huge complex with water park, indoor basketball, racquetball, tennis courts, and more and have it attached by walkways or tunnels to hotel, restaurants, shopping, wedding hall, and convention center - maybe even have some kind of concert hall / Get rid of unions so other businesses won't be so afraid to come here / improve roads / Add a grand entrance to Rainy River Community College with digital signage like BSU has / Upgrade RRCC and FHS buildings and Bronco Arena / upgrade Kerry Park Arena / MLS Realtors / Increase organized activities at City Beach so more people use it/ improve area parks to make them more appealing to young families
Rainy Lake	outdoor recreational opportunities / privacy/ quality time with kids and family / utilize natural resources / lifetime friends / small town atmosphere / friendly people / grocery shopping is a social event	shack / cabin time / families and residents help people in crisis and need / local businesses support events	rights and privileges to Rainy Lake/ small town feel / friendliness / helping each other / people trusting each other / the ability to leave doors unlocked / "RRCC helped me build my confidence"	have a technical business come here / bring in a business to manufacture something other than paper / more opportunity for a living wage / more permanent positions

International Falls	small town atmosphere/ events/ outdoor activities	freedom	jobs and the ability to live here	attract better paying jobs because I have to work two jobs and average 72 hours a week working to make what a Boise job pays and I have a college education/ attract more businesses to Koochiching county/ try to change the perception that the grass is greener elsewhere/ foster loyalty and spending locally such as a loyalty card or program for buying locally/ when I bought my car ;ocally I got chamber bucks it was great
International Falls	Can stay close to family and friends low population/everyone knows you	Outdoors/ freedom	friends/ outdoor activities such as fishing and hunting do not combine schools/spread of population	too many kids are coming out of school with no idea of what they want to do except stay in this area but they have no concept of what kinds jobs will keep them here and what education they need to pursue stay in this county that said we need to feed that information to them and start at an early age then continue to offer ongoing guidance mentoring and shadowing of jobs in our area
Littlefork		open spaces		Build a rec center/more hospitals services and care centers
Littlefork	Small town/freedom/outdoors/everyone knows you/homey/school pride	spread out community/quiet/outdoors/freedom of activity	school/stay one school district/freedom to use trails for recreation/boise/logging/Rainy River/Public use of Rainy Lake	better roads/more businesses/Target/Caribout Coffee/Polaris/Recreation Centers/Medical Jobs/Law Enforcement
Littlefork	small town/great place to raise family/small school/low crime/community activities centered around the school/going to the hunting shack/snowmobiling	outdoor activities/accessible public lands/lakes/rivers	LBF School/Littlefork Medical Center/small businesses/Boise/RRCC/movie theater	more activites for 20 somethings/more recreational trails/pool/kayak tube canoe rentals/use rivers for recreation/youth center/cross country ski and snowshoe rentals/hiking trails/boat rentals/shopping opportunities/utilize forest industry renewable resources/more campgrounds/racquetball courts/laser tag/rock climbing walls/waterslide/winterslide/economic diversity/youth centers

Littlefork	small town/everyone knows you/safe/nature	not crowded/nice people	Jackpine/friendly people/school pride	Target or WalMart/more restaurants
Big Falls	quiet/safe/hunting/fishing	snowmobiling/fourwheeling	no response	no response
Littlefork	small town/great school/safe area/family	small town/low population	School/Boise/RRCC/small businesses	more businesses for shopping/Target/more restaurants/better paying jobs/more technical programs at RRCC/fitness center
Littlefork	low crime/everyone knows you/lots of public land for recreation/good school/Littlefork Medical Center/Nursing Home/Assisted Living	small towns/local small town businesses/county services are very good	JOB	market renewable wood resources to other countries/upgrade and repair roads/make more recreational trails ATV snowmobile walking trails in greater Koochiching County/modernize elderly healthcare/make older generation more comfortable/better low income housing
International Falls	not my community of choice small/ everyone knows everyone / we're like one big family	small town feel / willingness of others to help someone in need	nature	"bring in more shopping areas so that it would not need to be a whole day wasted driving and planning it out just to go to a few stores"
International Falls	small town/isolated/small school with new and nice facilities	the atmosphere	no answer	no answer
Littlefork	small/ quiet	large county with low population	large forest areas/independent schools/Boise/logging companies/lakes/RRCC	More indoor things to do/new businesses/Buffalo Wild Wings
International Falls	good size	not much to like in the winter	no answer given	no answer given
International Falls	small community/ everyone knows everyone / safe	feels like a close community	the old buildings	make garbage clean up mandatory
Interntational Falls	outdoors/low crime/hunting/fishing/trapping/ quiet	outdoors	the great jobs this town has to offer	drug testing for welfare
International Falls	low population/hunting/fishing/solitude /Bigfork River	low population/hunting/fishing/solitude /Bigfork River	the spread of the community/the school/logging/lake/restaurants/parks	recreation center or YMCA/take down old buildings and put up new businesses/clean streets/more stores/business owners who want to improve

International Falls	"I moved here from Florida and LOVE living her - everyone is extremely friendly!"	Nice people/ great college / awesome baseball team	no answer given	no answer given
International Falls	small town	community events	no answer	no answer
International Falls	I go to college here	hunting/ fishing/ snowmobiling outdoor	parks available for playing sports like basketball, tennis, hockey , and disc golf	We need a bigger music community/ more regular musical events and concerts / smaller, less popular musical groups would give us something to do
Littlefork/International Falls	Outdoor activities	activities/snowmobiling/fourwheeling/hunting/peaceful	snowmobile trails/game regulations	opportunity for youth activities with the elderly to experience new things or things that people used to do
International Falls	"I don't like living here because the people don't have manners. Some do, but I found others that don't."	"It's a nice quiet area with activities you could think of."	"I don't want to lose the attitude of the people coming together in need."	"I would develop more activities and arenas for locals or foreigners to explore and have fun." more events here / more food places / more interesting companies
International Falls	beautiful view	trees	no comment made	
Littlefork	small town/knows everyone/safe place to live/trust most people/outdoor activities/easy acces to outdoors/great school	outdoor activities	outdoor activities/school system/small businesses/RRCC	open more outdoor activities such as ski areas
International Falls	not too busy/ not too noisy / can isolate yourself	"The community is pretty centered around its overall success."	The Hospital	put in a few more department stores like Target or Walmart
International Falls	atmosphere/ friendly people/ outdoors / summers / fishing/ snowmobiling / RRCC	friendly people / outdoors	Bowling alley / Cine 5	more shopping like Target and little shops / more hangout spots for teens
International Falls	my job/ opportunities like RRCC	sense of community with other towns in the area	.	"I would bring more activities and places for older kids to go. 14-18 year olds don't have things to do."

Littlefork	strong sense of community/support from community members both in business and personally/exceptional school system "This is my community of choice because this is where the college is located."	outdoor recreation/hunting/fishing/ATVs	use of natural resources through over regulation	more industry so that our children have more opportunity to remain in the area after college
International Falls		nothing, it's too cold easy to get to places because everything is small / safer than big cities	Dollar Tree	more stores/ Aldi's/ Walmart "I think that everyone should open their minds to more than just what's in Koochiching County. Broaden your horizons, think outside of small-town."
International Falls	born here / no traffic / safe		peaceful settings and towns / quiet at night / not busy	
International Falls	summer/ VNP / friendly people / cheap cost of living / Canada	woods / lakes / VNP	the woods	"Make a community between Canada and International Falls so we could work together because people are what makes a community good"/ Set up an initiative to get everyone their licenses / invite more business whether they are union or not / fix up our streets, like 6th Street and the surrounding neighborhoods / "get rid of the smokers who live off welfare and live in bad houses"/ "enable people to get jobs and off welfare"
International Falls	Born here	scenery/ tight community bond The local 4-H / The college / The small town atmosphere	scenery / nature	acceptance of diversity within the community
International Falls	born here	lake / woods / nature away from town	Backus the lake / woods / all nature / animals	Fix the rest of Backus / improve roads / improve parks
International Falls	born here	friendly people/ we welcome new people / "having the college here opens many different ethnic backgrounds to the community"	welcoming others	bring a Target store here/ better stores / more stores
International Falls	born here / we all get involved because it is a small town so community interaction is key			finding more for younger adults to do

International Falls	small/ citizen oriented / friendly / safe for families / offers a lot of activities / activities for tourists year-round	close-knit/ closely relate to the other towns in the county with clubs, groups, etc. / well organized / good goals for its people.	the outdoor-tourist feel draining lakes/ lowering pollution control	improve activities offered to younger people - a club, group, or farm related activity "more community activities so people have more things to do besides cause trouble"
International Falls	I grew up here	close to nature / well protected		
International Falls	"Having traveled all over the world, I have found that Fort Frances and International Falls give me all I need to be happy."	Isolated / safe	beautiful scenery	nothing
International Falls	Small town / A good safe place to raise kids. / "You're almost somewhere" / "People look each other in the eye." / "It's like you're home." / Rainy Lake / Nature / Low Stress / Natural resources / Community / Roots / Friendly / People clearly care about each other / Outdoors / Possibly the only internationally known small town of 6,000 people!	Voyageurs National Park / Rainy Lake / There are other communities in the county, each with their own flavor. / The towns help each other. / People rally to help when someone is in trouble. / The community is like a family. "Everyone's there for everybody." / Outdoors. Very little: the county is all swamp and not very appealing. But Rainy Lake is awesome!	Jobs / Industry / RRCC / The feeling of safety and security, especially the safety of children. / Attractiveness to young families. / That it's a good place to raise your kids. / Backsu / Open access to wilderness trails through private lands.	Promote tourism / Promote moving here with families / Make it a recreation destination / Improve access to the park and other recreational areas for folks with mobility issues. / More affordable simple campgrounds / Affordable ways to access nature. / Marketing the area. / Billboards at all entrances to International Falls showing where International Falls is on Rainy Lake.
International Falls	Hometown / Lake / Natural area / Draw of Rainy Lake		Not much about what we have is sacred.	Economy and growth. Ware are we one third the size we used to be? / More manufacturing jobs. Recreation for kids Indoors and outdoors/Gymnastics/YMCA/Roller rink/Water Park/Community Swimming Pool/See more people out more for free events/Less drinking and drugs/
Koochiching	Strong Community	Fishing/Hunting/Woods/Scenery/Beautiful/Lakes/Rivers/Camp Grounds	Fishing/Boise	

International Falls	Grew up here and returned from St Paul	Calmer lifestyle/Feel like part of a community and not just a face without a name/love our life on the river and lakes.	Become so big loss sense of community/open to changes	Create more jobs for area by bringing in a Casino or prison/Add a Target store so people shop local/more places for visitors to stay and activities for them to explore Rainy Lake & VNP
International Falls	friendly	Rainy Lake	Chocolate Moose	Amusement park
international falls	the snow/ basketball	Rainy Lake	Subway	Gym Facilities
International Falls	Small town	outdoors/ community theatre/ volleyball/ close to Canada	RRCC	jobs/ green energy
International Falls	hidden opportunities for personal development	outdoors/ schools	blank	blank
International Falls	Where I grew up/returned after college because of job opportunities/the community feel that didn't get in Twin Cities.	Rainy Lake/Convenience of small town - no traffic or commute time/close to family.	Accessible healthcare/good schools	Improve marketing of region to increase tourism/Seek out companies that can have headquarters anywhere like United Healthcare/Seek out companies that utilize cold temperatures or other natural resources/Create more good paying jobs to bring young families back.
International Falls	born here/ community college/ raising children	beautiful country side/ outdoor activities for all seasons	blank	blank
International Falls	snowmobiling/ small town	hunting/ fishing/ snowmobiling	community friendliness/ outdoor activities	better tourist attritions/ community businesses
Internation Falls	Born and raised/ RRCC	rainy lake/ summers/ money from tourists	RRCC/ rainy lake	high school schooling/ business expansions
International Falls	close community/ welcoming where is was born/ small community	the view	small town vibe/ close community	small town functions and gatherings/ festivals/ street dances
International Falls	community	rainy lake	RRCC/ small businesses	target/ food options/ better radio stations
International Fall	Raised here/outdoors/small town/friends and family nearby/lower cost of living.	Lower cost of living/good hunting and fishing/low population density.	Local medical care/over population/lose or harm access to local waters and woods including VNP.	Enhance local healthcare especially at public health level/invest in local public school system.

International Falls	My wife and her family are here/close to Fort Frances and Canada which is where from originally.	The Lake/being close to Canada	Everything is negotiable!	Bring a boat and water sport manufacturing or testing to area/Have only one marketing or economic development group/increase funding and participation in arts and education/improve or build new hotel and resorts/add a conference center to the area/use the tax free zone to become a mining industry distribution center for Fort France and Emo/start a micro-brewery/create more housing for professionals, temporary and long-term.
Rainy Lake	I love living on Rainy Lake/ having access to Voyager's National Park. people/ people give 110% all the time	The cost of living is quite a bit lower in Koochiching County than in the Twin Cities/ there are ample outdoor recreational opportunities/ It is a safe place to live/ I love knowing my neighbors/ We care about and watch out for each other	living wage jobs/ any more of our population	"If I could wave my magic wand, I would wish for seamless collaboration and cooperation between and among Economic development agencies (i.e. - IFEDA, KEDA, KDA). The breakdown in communication has hurt us and will continue to hurt us. Furthermore, it is embarrassing that in an area with so much need, and now money thrown at it, that the economic development "systems" in place are not working optimally."
International Falls		small town/ helpful	change is good	higher paying job
International Falls	Small town friendliness/ people greeting you/ quietness/ short lines/ customer service/ little traffic/ comfortable and safe/ all types of friends/ long family history living here	natural beauty/ large lake/ rivers/ forest	quiet beautiful places to visit/ trails	Add highway rest stops/ info centers along Hwy 71/ restrooms/ historical museum showcasing the area/ rest stop with walking trail
international Falls	Lake/ beauty of area/ family and friends/ nice/ small/ safe/ good to raise kids/ opportunities for children it is not cluttered/ there's not too many people	the unhurried place of life/ close to nature/ having a good job	beautiful environment/ lake	more hard working jobs/ bring young people back/ new ideas
Littlefork		the outdoors/ wildlife	the wildlife	I would change Kmart into a Target

International Falls	I like the secluded small town feel/ I enjoy the outdoors and the area has a variety of lakes and wooded areas to explore/ big cities are fast paces and that wasn't for me so I chose to come back to my home town	the ability to go hunting and fishing in your own background/ small town friendliness/ beautiful views it has to offer/ close to family and friends	my rights to enjoy the things that I love/ I loving hunting/ I love fishing/ being on the lake/ enjoying four-wheeling through the woods	I would create more activities for children to do/ I think a splash park open in the summer months would be a great addition to the county/ an updates hospital, being so far from any higher care puts people at risk during long transfers
International Falls	I am attending college to attain my AA degree/ play volleyball	the people are very friendly and helpful/ everyone looks out for each other	I would hate to lose small businesses in the area/ I enjoy eating out and buying items at local businesses where I personally know the owner and workers/ I would hate to see the Rainy River Community College go/ I have enjoyed my experience and the people at the college	I would enjoy a Target in International Falls/ I also think a larger variety of restaurants such as Jimmy Johns or Arby's would benefit the community
International Falls	Border crossing The community's way of coming together to support local teams and businesses	the north woods/ wilderness the snowmobile trails/ the forest area	shutting down schools menards/ easy-road system	I would have a waterpark built in the college rec center/ basketball courts/ open to public/ racquetball/ rock wall
International Falls	The people are always nice/ the border crossing is close I love that it's such a small tight knit community/ we feel like a family/ everybody knows everyone	the northern trees/ rural feeling/ hunting lands the area itself/ the wilderness and outdoors	snowmobiling/ trail access/ water access/ boarder access once again the area/ I like that we take pride in our forestry/ I would not like to see it disappear	I would open the border once a month or so to let people go across for free and easy maybe more things to keep children occupied/ rec center
International Falls	small community/ enjoy the snow filled winters/ lots of outdoor activities to do	I enjoy living in this area because it is a small community/ everyone makes you feel welcome	I am not sure	I wouldn't do anything to change it

International Falls	It's my community of choice because I was born and raised here and enjoy the small town atmosphere along with the many wilderness areas that are close by small town/ nice people/ close to everything/ not long drives/ Rainy River	I like the small town feel and close knit community/ The places to hunt/ fish/ enjoy the wilderness Rainy Lake/ everything is close/ woods (National Park)	I don't want to lose the many wilderness areas/ places to hunt/ places to fish/ the outdoors/ small town feel	I would try to get new businesses in town that had better paying jobs/ help promote the local businesses more
International Falls	hunting/ fishing/ border town/ disc golf/ being on the lake/ low crime rate/ fun summers/ good summer weather/ multiple cultures/ nice bowling alley/ good movie theater/ friendly people/ peaceful	hunting/ fishing/ forests/ outdoor recreation/ good weather/ plenty of trails/ small tight-unit/ peaceful availability of hunting and fishing/ coming together during a crisis/ school option between St. Thomas, FHS, LBF, Indus	wildlife/ business closure/ friends and family/ laws and regulations/ forests/ lake access/ size of town/ buildings Small town feel/ accessibility to voyagers and Rainy/ concerts in the park/ bass tournament/ ice box days	help control drugs and drinking/ more eating options/ more outdoor recreation places/ kid hangouts to keep them out if trouble/ attractions that will draw people up/ hotel- adventure park/ restaurant choices/ shopping options/ mall/ Target/ department stores/ more lake activates
International Falls	grew up here/ my business/ Rainy lake and river/ family/ friends/ woods/ hunting/ fishing	Fishing/ hunting/ the beauty of the area	Ability to use lakes and rivers	attitude of our elected officials to work together and achieve common goals/ make us a more welcoming community

London, Ontario	Chose to go to school here/ good dining/ entertainment/ good for children/ extra circular activities for young and old/ close to other communities	close to family/ the outdoors	"There is really nothing in Kooch Co. I feel they are very behind the times. The (new) existing city council is tearing the city apart. There is too much controversy between the city and county therefore nothing is getting done. Kooch Co. is the biggest county in the state with some of the best welfare benefits in the county. career opportunities/ opportunities in area/ further population costs/ low-cost woodstove usage for heating	Family attractions/ Rec centers for kids/ newer arena
Pelland	Little traffic/ friendly people/ low crime rate/ camping and fishing	low taxes/ forested area		high speed internet to all rural area at a reasonable price/ promote and support for alternative energy usage/ energy credits/ less zoning restrictions
International Falls	Affordable living costs	the lake/ wilderness	cabin on Rainy Lake	younger people a stronger voice in the community/ not much here to keep young people in the town
Littlefork	Good to raise children/ family and friends are close	the area is secluded and quiet/ little crime/ outdoor activities	the seclusion	improve roads/ offer choices and utilities/ improve our court system
International Falls	Snowmobiling/ lake and fishing/ seasons/ rural area/ friendly community/ hockey town/ community college and school	rural areas/ nature/ small towns/ no poisonous animals, insects, reptiles	jobs/ small town mentality/ the mill/ nature/ school sports	more jobs/ attractions/ Taco Bell/ more tourist attraction/ advertisement/ more snowplows/ heated roads/ better roads/ more schooling options/ electives and programs
International Falls	Clean Lake/ Remote Woods	Remote	ability to use the lake and land	Bring another factory in the southern part/ good paying jobs
International Falls	small town feel/ secure/ safe	beautiful/ nature	The calm/ small community aspect	not much/ sustainable long-term jobs

Big Falls	Raising children/ born and raised/ outdoor activities/ hunting/ fishing/ camping/ close town surrounding area/ friendly community/ helpful community/	Lakes/ forest/	logging/ wet lands/ clear water/ hunting/ fishing/ trapping rights/ trees/	clear ditches/ road conditions/ jobs/ hunting wolves to bring back deer population/
Big Falls	lived here for 55 years/ don't want to leave	Fishing/ abundance of public land to hunt/ nice place to raise kids	Access to public land/ fish and hunt/ Fed Park Area	Good paying jobs/ accelerate Global warming to make a friendly climate
International Falls	how close the community is/ everything is close/ Sandy's Place	National Park/ distance between town isn't too far/ sites on driving/ colorful in seasons	Sandy's Place/ Keep the small town feel/ holiday very convenient/ The airport	Chipotle/ college baseball field/ say goodbye to K-Mart/ be more environmentally friendly/ recreational facility
International Falls	Small town feel/ people/ the camo jackets/ the college is great "we love the college"	the forest and nature/ hunting and ice fishing/ gift shops are a plus/ gas prices	My identification as a member of International Falls/ being connected to nature/ small town/ great times and memories	Drinking age/ Buffalo Wild Wings/ Chipotle/ Improvements to the College/ Baseball field and hockey rink for the college

Birchdale	<p>the community, building/country life/quiet/the people/good place to raise a family/phenomenal natural resources/living on an international border lends the ability to travel to a foreign country within minutes/good meals and fellowship throughout the year at the church and at the community building/there are always events going on/privacy/you can always find something to do/good hunting and fishing/good pace to farm and log/interesting history going back more than 100 years/you can learn things from your ancestors and those who have lived here in the past/neighbors who care/sense of belonging/support from family and neighbors/strong church and community ties/strong community leaders who are a driving force in making this a very strong community</p>	<p>Income levels are fairly reasonable for many compared to cost of living/not too much political over site and inspection/ close to medical care not too much traffic/public services and road services are pretty good considering where we live/dependable electric power/good community events/easy access to grocery stores, parts stores/close to wood supply/it is easy to have friends and ties to all of the surrounding communities/lots of places to get exercise</p>	<p>Indus school/Birchdale church/Birchdale community building/the store in Birchdale which is the only single retail establishment within a 30 to 40 mile radius/hunting and fishing/Grand Mound as a cultural asset/good timber sales/current level of retail establishments in I. Falls area/level of work opportunities that we currently have/current level of population/homesites in rural areas not all turning into hunting shacks or seasonal residences/clean water/ fresh air/natural resources/Rainy Lake and Rainy River as recreational areas/Voyageurs National Park</p>	<p>Build an environmental learning center/use Birchdale hall for day camps, folk school/build a center in Birchdale that has moveable offices and high speed technology/80 acre gold mine in Birchdale/solar farm/increase technology and communication capabilities in Birchdale/promote Voyageurs National Park more/promote current trail system(snowmobile, ATV)/make Birchdale a destination by building a stronger retail business/plant lady slippers along the entire length of Highway 11 west between I. Falls and Baudette to replace all of the plants that were wiped out with the road construction project/paddlewheel riverboat cruises along Rainy River/beautify Birchdale/create a mystique centered around clean air and water/build a federal prison due to remoteness of area and access to good paying jobs/Google server farm/give every student who graduates from a school in Koochiching county 10 acres of county land in order to give them roots and ties to the area and a reason to stay here or come back here</p>
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International Falls	Forested lake and river community and the associated culture that goes with that.	i like the wilderness aspects of it. The different habitat types and forest communities. The rivers and streams and lakes and beaver ponds and all the lower Lake Agassis natural environment.	i don't want to loose its wildness.	Get sewer service all the way up the lake and long the river where it hasn't been done yet. I would give the county lots of money to enforce its zoning and ordinance. Reduce the amount of us versus them conflict. There are a lot of people making decisions behind the scenes about resource use and that needs to come out in the open.
International Falls	Safe/strong educational system/hunting and fishing opportunities/people are supportive of each other/snowmobile trails/county employees dealing with public are courteous	Education is made a priority in the area/access to public land through leasing/lots of undeveloped area	Access to outdoors and public lands/enthusiasm of organizers of community events/healthcare system and hospital	offer shuttle or transportation to river fishing in nearby areas/more cold weather business opportunities such as training for police or firemen/more wetland flexibility/promote other recreational opportunities canoeing, biking, trail riding (4 wheelers)/improve corridors into town appearance/stronger promotion of hunting and fishing opportunities/improve highway infrastructure/eliminate city and county fighting/eliminate semi-trailer parking lot along route to lake and Canada/improve services and product selection as it relates to water recreation/more public camping sites that can be driven to/promote 2nd largest Menards/get a Target store/remove 50 mile emission ban from VNP/Add horse trails/promote Big Falls camping/accelerate invasive species protection of lakes and waterways/
International Falls & E outdoors/VNP	Small town/friendly/sense of community/wilderness/hunting and fishing/know everyone/access to	Outdoors/option to go to multiple schools/no traffic/when you drive somewhere you feel like your getting away	our smaller business/access to parks and trails	build a recreation center including indoor pool, water slides,gym space/more kid activities/shopping mall with clothing stores/outdoor store like Cabellas/extended hours at the movie theater/more radio stations with variety of music/more course options at RRCC/improved healthcare options, provide more services locally/have a place to rent kayaks,canoes, bikes,jet skis,boats, tubes, snowmobiles, four-wheelers with marked trails

International Falls	easy commute to work/ no traffic / personal service at businesses because they know who you are / airport services	Rainy Lake / Lake Kabetogama / Ash River / boating / fishing / camping / snowmobiling / hiking / cross-country skiing / snowshoeing trails / need more bike trails / low population density	established businesses currently providing employment opportunities / Rainy River Community College / "The skilled, trained, professional workforce; don't want them to leave for jobs elsewhere, need to give them a reason to stay here	Utilize wood resources (i.e. wood pelletiaing production) / limit barriers to start or expand a business (local politics, funding, permit barriers etc.) / improve area's image (lack of synergy among public officials, climate, etc.) / expand access to health-medical services - providers / offer training to meet industry needs - need a skilled labor force / local school districts offer more Advanced Placement and college courses / encourage the business community to partner with the college to train workers / provide an express lane for local residents to cross the border / extend four lane highway to International Falls
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in culture as larger cities, we are very rich in natural resources. We embrace a truly magical change in seasons. We enjoy a robust lake (playground) in our own background. When I tell people I am from International Falls, people who are familiar with what the area has to offer deem me as very fortunate to live here. On a more personal note, I love having a very short commute to work, I do not have to wait in lines (except at KMart), I can live on an island in the summer, I know most of the people I encounter and I feel safe in my community. I also have had the ability to care for aging parents by being able to reside in the community I was raised in."?" This is a good place to raise children - my kids are blessed to have the experiences they have had by living here (i.e. hunting, fishing, riding in a boat, snowmobiling, walking in the

I have freedom to enjoy the outdoors without other people interfering (do not have to travel far to have privacy).

I do not want to lose our paper mill, any of our present business community or residents.

I would develop a means to better support / inspire those who are less fortunate in our community - partner to find employment opportunities, education, counseling, affordable housing and loans. I feel there is a distinct line between the haves and have not's in the county. "/" I would work hard to try and bring new large innovative businesses into the community - we need a means to bring our youth back to the area. "/" At present, we are an elderly community (mean age is high) - we need to continue to grow services that are affordable (housing, therapy, home health care, support groups) and support our aging population.

International Falls

International Falls	<p>I love that I take safety for granted, don't have to fight traffic and that I can make a good living with a company that cares for our natural resources and makes a valuable product. "/" International Falls is my community of choice because my loved ones live here, it is home and my job is here.</p>	Same	<p>Don't want to lose the paper mill and the good family-wage jobs it provides. "/" Wouldn't want to lose our schools (Bronco pride) or any of the existing stores and restaurants (yes, even KMart!).</p>	<p>Either our community leaders would get along and set aside their agendas or they would all be out of a job! Egos are getting in the way of paving a bright future for our community. How things stand today if the survey doesn't align to the vision of certain leaders then it will probably not go anywhere. "/" I would capture on tourism opportunities and on the Park. We need nice hotels and restaurants and we need to spiff up our storefronts, etc. I would force the business owners on Highway 53 to clean up their act so we can put our best foot forward so we have pride in our community and visitors are left with a good impression. Parks/benches, flowers, banners, lights, etc. through the community to make it more inviting. Begin a bike borrowing program where people can take bikes and return them."/ We also need to capitalize on RRCC and bring unique programs that attract people from all over the United States (drone technology, etc.?). If we attracted football players from Florida, they will come for unique opportunities. "/" I would also make the City workers provide services according to need - clean the snow promptly like they used to so older citizens are not homebound. Again restore pride in our community.</p>
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International Falls	Closest to work location.	Rainy Lake and Rainy River	Impact to the environment that would threaten our natural resources.	Exploit our greatest resources, the lake and river plus our proximity to Canada. Need to understand what draws people to resort areas. I wouldn't try and reinvent the wheel but copy a growth plan that has already been proven to increase the livelihood of a community. Granted we have fisherman that come to the area because of Rainy Lake and Rainy River but how do we get their entire family and several families here. We need places for them to stay, great access to water, good restaurants that serve good food and understand what service is and local merchants for shopping. Need to dress up the downtown area and have a theme. I have seen this work before for small communities that have lost their biggest employer and they survived and thrived. We also need to exploit Voyageurs National Park. Need to increase the number of summer activities that draw people from a distance to supplement the water stuff. Concerts, horseback riding, canoe races, etc. The first item that needs to be decided is what type of community do we want to be. If not known for being a resort community, then what? Need to have a plan that we align on and then start building on that. If it is a manufacturing community then what type of manufacturing could we support and what assets do we have to draw interest.
International Falls	Small, friendly, outdoor recreation. No hustle and bustle. There are enough amenities, movie theater, bowling, restaurants to provide some variety of entertainment.	Same	Outdoor opportunities (public land) and excessive population growth although I know that's not going to happen in my lifetime.	It's always jobs in rural areas and Koochiching County is no different. More middle class jobs would bring more variety of amenities.

Rainy Lake	woods / privacy / being on the lake / being able to see Canada / easy access to the lake	Easy access to the lake / great snowmobile trails / slow pace / no traffic except for deer / sense of community	lake / Boise / Downtown / easy access to woods and water	Politics - stop the in-fighting / get rid of Kmart and replace with Target / beautify down-town / clean up the blight / deodorize the Mill smell
International Falls	Nature / getting to be secluded when I want to be	outdoor activities / four-wheeling / fishing / lake / island camping / space between neighbors / bon fires	International Falls (the town) / small businesses / cleanliness of our environment / RRCC / Privacy / Bass Fishing Tourney	Change a lot of attitudes / look toward being more welcoming / stop the gossip of the middle-age group (high school teachers) - it needs to stop / more available things for younger people / we need to brag about this town / need more than a beer stand at the Bass Fishing Tournament
Bigfork, Littlefork, International Falls	Small / seems like a big family / knowing everybody / close knit / the freedom of the dogs in Ranier / nothing ever changes / consistency / outdoors/ lake / wilderness	lakes / wilderness / outdoor activities / hiking / hunting / snowmobile trails / camping	trees / amount of forest / roads - don't want highways / the Border / wildlife / small businesses / RRCC / churches / Sha Sha / Thunderbird / Resorts	Air fresheners or deodorizers / add a mall / Target Store / University / lower gas prices / Valley Fair / open a reindeer business with carriage rides / get a NHL team / get a NBA team / get rid of negative attitudes / open people's minds to new things / change the cold weather / add more solar panels / Cub Foods / Sam's Club / Big Outdoor Store / Big swimming pool / indoor, heated swimming pool / big Rec Center with tennis and racquetball courts / Wedding Hall / more radio stations / destination shopping connecting a rec center, hotel and shopping with walkways or tunnels to avoid the cold weather / Starbucks / improve everything medical
International Falls	Smokey Bear Park - it's peaceful / The woods / tourists / people / small community atmosphere / Main Street Architectural Designs / easy access to everything / four-wheeling / hunting / fishing / lake / river / wild animals / entrepreneurship	Four Wheeler riding / wildlife / woods / shack life / outdoor life / hunting / fishing / sense of community / small town / remote location	deer and wolf populations / lake life / VNP / small town feel / no customs building moving east to bypass City / history of city / history of county / RRCC	roads plowed more / change policy for VNP campsite issues - less red tape / bigger business / Target / Walmart / open up fishery to raise fish and sell them / more restaurants / Taco Johns / Qdoba / Mexican Food / advertise the museum more / high speed internet / better high tech stuff / more business on the lake / Gander Mountain / Better health care / more doctors and surgeons

International Falls	Rainy Lake / Community small community/outdoor activities/school size/access to college	"I don't like it. It's too far from everything."	Boise / People college/access to Rainy Lake and VNP/sense of community/good medical care	Target Store / Bigger - more people / more to do for younger people - like concerts / more food options / more restaurants create good paying jobs/bring more families back to town/eliminate negativity between officials, medical facilities, school and college
International Falls	Size/supportive community	Outdoor activities	Use of Rainy Lake	Create good paying jobs/have something to offer those who want to relocate here
International Falls	near my family/ lower cost of living than a large city	hunting/ fishing/ hockey games/ the support that people give to each other	knowing my neighbours/ the generosity of our county/ support for education/ keep our local businesses	hire public sector jobs by qualification not popularity and who knows who/ hold heads of departments to proper budgets and make cost saving recommendations/ as people retire justify why the job needs to be filled/ can positions be combined/ streamline all expenditures/ Try to attract more living wage jobs and industry/ support our mill/ buy locally in our county to support our businesses
International Falls/ Rainy Lake northome	Small town atmosphere/ comraderie /generous community/ Know a lot of people/ Rainy Lake the people	country life/ trees/ fresh air/ outdoors/ recreational activities/ not too crowded not crowded	fun community events/ frontier spirit/ do not want to be stifled by government regulations/ freedom to have recreational stuff like biking and walking/ relative safety/ good educational system businesses	dialysis/ less bickering among area leaders/ ambassadors for anyone moving to our area/ keep high paying jobs and keep the mill going/ provide opportunity for youth to find jobs here/ work together for the good of the county/ try to attract an emerging young company and give them our full backing and help to succeed/ Vo-tech education/ no response

International Falls	like the wilderness and Lake/ community events	boating/ fishing/ attending sporting events like hockey and football	Outdoor life/ reasonable cost of living/ access to the Lake	attract more jobs and make certain they are diversified/ be more friendly to newcomers/ make certain they feel welcome and are aware of what is available to them/ the hardest part about moving to the Falls was people had a closed attitude to a newcomer/ this is the first place I came to where the first criteria to be included was you needed to be attached to a Falls High School class or from here/ Case in point I have live here 20 years and have yet to be asked to join a social group like the Elk's/ If this is a surprise to you any transplant to your area can tell you how hard it is to feel accepted by the locals or be hired for a local job even if you have superior qualifications/ the community especially a small one wanting to attract visitors needs to bend over backwards to be welcoming/ smiles and a caring nurturing attitude where you go out of your way do not COST anything but is very attractive.
Littlefork	Our Littlefork school system/ small and friendly/ everyone supports each other and are happy for each other/	outdoor activities/ freedom / not too crowded	Our small towns/ do not want our school district 362 to merge with 361	attract more jobs that pay more than minimum wage/ expand Rainy River Community College courses or start a VoTech
International Falls	low taxes and cost of living/sporting events	freedom/ healthcare access/ community activities/ fishing/ we are a generous community	fresh air/ outdoor activities/ community events/schooling opportunities for our young people	jobs that pay enough to get people in our county off welfare/ work to change attitudes that we can't improve/ continue to retrain people in our county to get the skills needed for available jobs/ start a scholarship program for individuals to retrain regardless of age the criteria being from Koochiching and want to continue living here/ more support for our schools and programs that support self worth respect and what is right and wrong because if we don't the alternative will be scary

International Falls	<p>I wanted to raise my children near family and friends/ I wanted my children to experience the same sense of freedom I had growing up/ I still play hockey</p>	<p>I love the open air and freedom/ recreational activities/ hunting/snowmobiling/boating/ and best of all fishing year round.</p>	<p>Can't lose the privilege to use land leasing/ there is talk of changing this and it could affect hunting and recreational use/ in my opinion this would be a blow to the county and change it forever/ I hope the National Park service continues to use common sense and the community does not lose sight of how important the lake is to the County.</p>	<p>more self-sufficiency in the county other than the mill/ try to attract emerging young companies / what happened to the Pharma gasification plant/ start a Vo-tech here because our kids in this county are going to Wadena to train as lineman for Northstar Electric and MP&L/ they are going to Alexandria for carpentry and heavy machinery/Hibbing is doing diesel mechanics/stop the exodus/look at ourselves as the middle of the county not the end a 360 radius to attract votech /tourism is a dead horse but not manufacture for sports/build bush planes/ get skidoo to build tundras again as there is enormous demand for them as they are small and great for use in Canada northern US and Alaska for fishing hunting and trapping /Icefishing is getting popular again just look at what Brainerd is doing with it/advertise, advertise advertise that we are living in God's country/ the economic development team need to change and re-strategize / this Voyage forward team seems of to a good start/ hire the brightest and best qualified for economic development and change the good old boy's club hiring mentality hold this County back</p>
International Falls	<p>I have a lot of friends here and family/ good support system</p>	<p>low crime rate/ enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing boating and snowshoeing</p>	<p>the feeling of safety/ friendliness of the county</p>	<p>There are not enough jobs in the county paying decent wages to support families/ need jobs that pay benefits/ high MN state taxes are stagnating job growth and is not business friendly/ I would work to get taxes lowered and seek ways to attract business with grants and business incentives to locate here</p>

Ray

The Ray community (to me) consists of three townships (Ray, Meding, and Beaver) as well as part of the Southeast part of Rat Root East. Most of the families have been here for two to four generations and enjoy the rural setting. We usually let each family live the life style they want, without interference, but all come together in a time of need

Rural Koochiching County is sparsely populated with an abundance of unpopulated areas, plenty of wildlife, lots of scenic areas, vast watery areas, adequate roads for access, and room for all of us to get out and enjoy it all at any time of the year.

I want it to continue to be a multiple use area, and do not want to see all of the original homestead site go back to brush and trees./ I want the county to keep its' rural status and put development projects within village and city limits whenever possible.

I would like to see the people and government of International Falls accept the fact that they are a city in Koochiching County and not the only place in the county where development should take place. It usually seems, to me, that they are against almost anything that can benefit the rural parts of the county if it isn't under their direct jurisdiction and control./ I think that another thing that would improve the county as a whole would be to combine all of our school districts into one and have a central campus for all of our students and school activities. This would provide equal access to education and activities for all of our youth regardless of where they live in the county. / If we could all put our entire county first and our communities second in our planning for the future I feel that the majority of us would have a more enjoyable life in rural northern Minnesota.

<p>Littlefork</p>	<p>Recently moved to Kabetogama, I was born and raised in International Falls and have spent roughly 32 years living in and around International Falls./ As far as Kabetogama living, I love the lake, quietness of the area, sense of community, Voyageur's National Park at my doorstep./ As far as International Falls I like the small town feel, lower taxes, proximity to Rainy Lake, Rainy River, Voyageur's National Park and other public land.</p> <p>Kindness of people/friendly & helpful</p>	<p>What I like most about the area is access to outdoor recreation./ I am an avid hunter, fishermen and outdoorsman and Koochiching county has everything that is important to me./ We have a National Park out our back door with some of the best fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, scenery, etc in the state./ We have hundreds of thousands of acres of public land to recreate on with the park service, state, county, and PCA lands all within the area. / I also like the access we have to Canada and all the recreation opportunities they have to offer.</p> <p>It is far enough away from the congestion of large cities, but close enough to smaller cities that have the amenities I want.</p>	<p>I do not want to lose the access to the park service, state, county, and PCA lands./ I don't want to lose the paper mill because it will affect this town greatly and affect my family and many close to me./ I have a shack on a "Boise" lease that has been in my family for nearly 60 years and 4 generations, I don't want to lose that. / I don't want to lose the small town feel and the good International Falls water./ I don't want to lose what access we have left to Canada.</p> <p>I don't want to lose the tight-knit community feeling.</p>	<p>If I were in charge and had the resources to do so I would start big and with another country. / I would make Canada loosen up there non-resident fishing, hunting, camping, driving a vehicle on their gravel roads regulations. By doing that right there you would bring possibly hundreds of thousands more people through Koochiching County helping the economy and still keeping the small town./ I would bring more industry (not to much) to keep the town thriving but not lose the small town feel. / I would market the area more as a gateway to the only National Park in Minnesota and also as a border town (once the regulations were loosened). / I would bring one larger name higher quality restaurant to town, (applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, etc), I care about the local family owned restaurants so allowing one in town would please the locals and visitors as well as keep the family owned in business. / I would make the town of I. Falls smell better.</p> <p>Improvements in roads/condition of highways 217, 71, 6 are not good./Better clearing of ice & snow on these road/better shopping choices.</p>
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Littlefork	<p>It is a small town with close-knit, supportive community members./Littlefork is small enough to walk to anyplace in town you need to go, but still has restaurants, some shopping and parks./The great education our kids were getting from the BF School was what first drew us to Littlefork.</p>	<p>I enjoy the many outdoor recreational opportunities available/living close to family & friends.</p>	<p>High quality emergency & obstetrics services available at all times.</p>	<p>I would change the fact that there is a lack of good paying jobs which is a major factor in our population of young people not returning to our area./Do NOT believe that casinos would benefit our area,/instead add manufacturing & industrial businesses and we need to offer incentives for them to locate in our area. / Having access to high quality medical care is a major concern or potential community members. / Have high quality emergency & obstetric services available at all times.</p>
Littlefork	<p>As a family with small children, we love that we live in a community where our kids are always welcomed, watched over & feel loved./there are opportunities in our small school that larger towns don't have/we chose to move back to our small town so our children could have what we had growing up.</p>	<p>We love the small communities/outdoor opportunities</p>	<p>The Parks - Voyageurs National Park/wildlife/lakes/trails/trees</p>	<p>I would have more family friendly activities outdoors</p>
Littlefork	<p>Friendly neighbors/excellent school/community pride/safe streets/reliable city services</p>	<p>Voyageurs National Park & programming/local celebrations/public library</p>	<p>Historic sites/pristine wilderness</p>	<p>Subsidize cultural, historical, arts events/expand community college programs & activities/open Grand Mound to public/encourage cross-border events/efforts to sustain population</p>

International Falls	My family lives in Int'l. Falls./ I work in education & my husband works in the logging industry/small community.	Rainy Lake/outdoors/small community/hunting/fishing/gardening/great drinking water	I don't want to lose our cabin to the Park/logging industry/fishing/hunting/choice of grocery stores	I would improve the shopping/ and tourist recreation/more activities to do/create jobs
Littlefork	It's where my kids go to school & where my husband & I work/welcoming community with caring people & small businesses/L-BF School District is a great school with a wonderful history & awesome reputation. Friendly,helpful community/doesn't take too long to run errands/although you can't find everything here, you can find most basic necessities/friendly, prompt service.	Love the school and small town atmosphere/low crime rate.	We need to keep jobs here so we don't lose enrollment for the schools	We need better shopping/Target/anything else that would bring more jobs & people to the area.
Littlefork		Rural demographic/ability to hunt, fish, snowmobile, 4-wheel.	Don't know	Don't know
Littlefork	I loved growing up here. / great small town with supportive community/amazing school/perfect for raising a family/kids are safe/kids are receiving a top-rated education at ISD 362.	Small-town atmosphere/caring and involved community/where my children attend school in Littlefork/	Schools in the area/L-BF School/small town businesses	More industries/more jobs/new attractions to bring in tourists/continue to improve hospital, healthcare/bring in Target

Northome	Family	Family/few people/rural setting/willingness of local governments to represent people vs. St. Paul	Local rights & representation.	Don't give, trade, sell anymore land to governments (wetlands, forests, etc)/develop entire county, not just Int'l. Falls/cut costs by not paying board per diems for public events/provide transportation for elderly in southern part of county - not income based, but need based/move county seat to central county location/base social workers "out county" to reduce travel & time costs/provide county services equally throughout county - access without phone or transportation inequities/equal road services - private contractor in south not doing a good job.
International Falls	Small town atmosphere/access to lakes & rivers	Access to lakes & rivers/small town living/L-BF school district	Our jobs at Boise and ISD #362/Littlefork School	Develop riverfront to appeal to tourists and locals, similar to Ft. Frances/improve curb appeal to businesses, especially along Hwy 53 coming into Int'l Falls/ hotel and waterpark to draw tourists/more bike paths and hiking trails/new industries/more jobs/Target/continue to improve hospital.
Littlefork	We chose to move to this community because of its size/school district/community education programs/the invested business owners.	the natural beauty/spending time outdoors.	Educational programs/employment/family/activities for children.	Bring in businesses for new employment opportunities/especially for services and products that families need to get out of town for/continue to keep up the public outdoor family activities.
International Falls	I have lived in Int'l. Falls from the time I was 5 years old. I enjoy living in a small community where you know almost everyone/people help each other.	For the most part, people are honest/we can have cabins that we don't have to worry about being vandalized/sandbagging effort this past summer was a great testament to community comradery.	Allowing businesses that we have now to close is simply not acceptable. Need to find ways to keep them going & growing.	I would like to see more businesses allowed to come into the community/losing too many people as businesses are closing.
Littlefork	It is a small town/school district/family lives here.	the Northwoods/outdoor activities/lakes/lower crime	Our businesses & people	Improve law enforcement division, by getting stricter on drug and alcohol problems in county.

Littlefork	It is small/friendly/safe	I love the outdoors/friendly communities/great to raise kids	The Dollar Tree/Mexican restaurant/Voyageurs National Park	Add more stores like Target/more restaurants/more entertainment/more trails for walking, biking in Littlefork/would also like to see more recreational things for children to do in town (Littlefork) outside of school functions.
Littlefork	The caring people/medical center/police/fire dept./ambulance service/several churches/great school district. / Hometown businesses like hardware store, grocery, motel, restaurants, photography, computer repair, post office and more.	Voyageur's National park is our greatest asset.	Advanced medical care.	Development of tourism -make this area the Wisconsin Dells of the North/water park resorts/tours/shops Better cell service & prices/lower electric & propane prices/more competitive choices so they are lower priced utilities/better cancer treatments locally so don't have to drive an hour & half away.
Littlefork	Safe/great community to raise kids.	Smaller/rural/no congestion/low traffic/peaceful.	Woods/4-wheeler & snowmobile trails/campgrounds. Do not want to loose any more businesses/Do not want to loose any more population/do not want to loose more School Activities/Keep the spirit of the "Ice Box"	
Koochiching	The "Small town" atmosphere	The "Small Town" feel		Improve the Streets/Improve the Parks/Improve the Newspaper

Koochiching	Churches and grocery stores are close by/accessible/we have everything so don't need to go to Canada/Clean/New things/Small to Medium town/bus service/Garbage/HUD/Mail Servic 6 days a week	Roads fairly good/Beautiful area/Fishing/Easy Travel	Small business Preserved and Protected/Variety of churches/HUD stay the same with services/Cleanliness/Services for Abused Women/Humane society	Sidewalks need improvement/Care in the Winter/New People/More women on council/Get things done/More businesses/More clothing stores/more variety stores/No Consignment or Dollar stores/Lower snowbanks on corners/Lighted crosswalks/Lighted Backus/Lighted churches/Lighted Grocery Stores/ Lights because have a hard time crossing streets/Price food lower
Koochiching	Nice Community/Fishing/Camping/Not to Big/Not to Small/Born and raised here/Not a lot of Crime Nice people/nature is wonderful/every family member is close by.	Beautiful area/Not a lot of Pollution	Fishing/Hunting/county seat in I Falls/Backus Community Center	More businesses/More Jobs/More women in Local government/Improve the streets/More street repair/Better snow removal in public areas and streets/take the snow banks down on corners/Street lights back on main street
Littlefork		Rainy Lake/going to the beach in summer/nice community	Jackpine Grill/L-BF School/nature & trees/Dairy Queen	Get more places to eat/get something fun in Littlefork like a movie theater or bowling alley.
Littlefork	Small community/friendly	Lakes/recreation	More businesses/raising taxes	Promote more business to move into the area & make sure they are financially sound
International Falls	Upon discharge from the USAF we moved back to Int'l. Falls where there were jobs available at Boise. / We also wanted to be close to family, as our parents and grandparents were getting older. I grew up here. /We have very good school system for my children./Low crime/ Friendly small town.	We like the rural setting in Kooch. Co. where a family can enjoy woodsy outdoor activities summer & winter, like 4-wheeling, hiking, swimming, snow mobiling, skiing and ice skating. / we also like fall grouse hunting/deer hunting.	It would be sad if logging destroyed all the stands of needle trees in the area.	I would seek out more businesses to locate in Kooch Co.
Littlefork		Low crime/friendly communities/plenty of outdoor recreation/school systems.	Quality of education/low crime/well-paying jobs.	Bring more jobs to our area for our younger (high school & college-age) kids. We really do not have a lot of job opportunities for them. Increase well-paying jobs for everyone.

Littlefork	It's a small town/know most of your neighbors. This is where my family and I live.	I live in rural Kooch. Co. My family likes outdoor activities/we live on 80 acres of "play area"/lots of trails for 4-wheeling & hiking./ Hunting/lakes. Ability to enjoy nature, hunting, fishing.	All of our trees/ability to be outside with 4-wheelers, snowmobiles, etc. The freedom to enjoy hunting & fishing.	Add some bicycle & walking trails. Create more employment
Littlefork	Very small town with close neighbors/everyone knows each other.	Lots of outdoor activities and recreation year around, like hunting, fishing, snowmobiling.	We can't lose anymore small businesses and companies in the area. Don't want to lose the forestry & timber industry.	Allow other big business to come to the area, rather than pushing them away. / This would create jobs/increase population & economy. / Companies such as 3M, Polaris, Marvin Windows have tried to enter the area but get turned down - why?? / There is no longer any benefit for Boise since the paper machine shut down and many people lost jobs & left the area.
Littlefork	Small/ great place to raise kids.	The outdoors.		More businesses.
Littlefork	Family lives here. / Kids go to school here. / Great small town.	We get to enjoy all 4 seasons/not too big and not too small.	Lake privileges/Boise/Littlefork & Int'l. Falls combining schools & sports. (no)	Better plowing and salting of roads in winter/stricter rules for county clean-up/more businesses - NOT DOLLAR STORES/good jobs, not minimum wage.
Littlefork	It is where I work and live.	Peace & quiet	Privacy	I would charge people from other counties extra to hunt or fish our area to keep wildlife populations more stable for us./Discourage city people from depleting our natural resources.
Littlefork	Small population/no crime/medically accessible/ems/fire department.	Hunting/fishing/logging industry/outdoor activities/low population.	Do not combine schools./clinics, medical facilities/assisted living/mail carriers/logging industry/tourism.	Create more industry & jobs/bring in more shopping opportunities/road improvements/more specialized health care physicians/lower tax rates/abolish welfare cases not needed.

Littlefork	This is where my husband was living when I met him. When we got married he asked me if I had any objection to living in a small town. I like our small community./ Also, living in the country gave our large family room to grow, roam & play.	Friendliness of people./the lack of concrete everywhere I look. /Being able to enjoy country living. / the beauty around us/ability to go fishing, hunting, berry-picking, walking trails.	Ability to enjoy outdoor activities.	I don't know
Littlefork	Small town trust/overall safety/know my neighbors/most of all, the school system. L-BF is the best of the best in Kooch. Co.	Safety/slow pace/low crime rates.	JOB More businesses. / Do not raise taxes.	Make a bigger effort to get larger businesses & attractions to the area. / Add a casino. / Larger retail.
Littlefork	Small & friendly community.	The outdoor activities.		Promote businesses to move into our area.
Littlefork	People are nice./ There is a family feel to it.	The beauty that surrounds us/we are rural, yet close to amenities. No hurricanes/no tornadoes/no wildfires(hopefully)/no race riots/lots of family near.	I don't want to lose the serenity/like the slower paced lifestyle/happy without traffic.	I would bring in better businesses, not necessarily more, but different./ I don't like K-Mart, would prefer a Target./We have restaurants that have little customer service & mediocre cuisine. / The roads need lots of repair work done too.
International Falls	Family/slower pace of life.		Everything is negotiable, except family.	Get rid of Voyageur's National Park.
International Falls	Low population/low crime rate.	Close knit community.	The few shopping areas we do have.	I would try to have better drug control Persuade high tech companies to locate in southern part of county to increase employment/decrease brain drain of youth moving out of area for better jobs/make it economically feasible for people to continue living there.
Northome	My husband's job is located there/family in area.	Few crowds/ light traffic/know lots of people/fresh air outside of Int'l. Falls/green space.	Private property rights	

Littlefork	This is my community of choice because I love the area and I also love the school my daughter goes to./It's also a very homey and loving town to live in.	Koochiching Co. as a whole is an amazing place to live. We have a really great group of people who live in the area. I truly believe the people in the area are the best part of this small area.	I don't ever want to lose the small town feel. My family has lived here for 60 years and I want them to remain a part of this community. I just hope over the years it proceeds to grow.	I would improve the lack of jobs in the community. / I also think it will be beneficial for the community to start allowing big businesses in because the only real jobs are Boise and other jobs connected with Boise & the education system.
Littlefork	Don't have to fight with a lot of traffic/it's where we found a house with a lot of land.	Forests/wildlife	Don't want to lose anymore businesses.	Add more stores/pave my road.
Big Falls	Small towns are a good place to raise a family/I was raised here and work in logging industry.	Hunting/fishing/clean air and water/low crime rate.	Logging will always be allowed.	Find ways to use more of our natural resources.
Littlefork	Small community/friendly/great school/safe	Sparsely populated/outdoor opportunities/fishing/boating/snow mobile trails/4-wheeling/hunting	Quality EMT's/police & fire emergency services/rights to the outdoors/do not want more restrictions on trail riding, etc.	I would move the county seat to a more central location like Big Falls. Our county is huge & much of it is often overlooked. Many residents of Int'l. Falls couldn't even name the cities in our county. Others in our county should have access to great county jobs too. County services should be more accessible. / Northome needs their nursing home back! What a disservice to our elderly population! / Get a manufacturer to move in and I wouldn't expect them to pay union wages.
Littlefork	This is where we moved to about 2 years ago. Love the community & people in it. they have been very welcoming and have made it seem like home.	Caring people/feeling of home.	The family events that are still here.	Bring in more businesses/creating more jobs/look into more opportunities for people of all ages.
International Falls	Rainy Lake/ Community	"I don't - it's too far from everything"	Boise / People	Target Store / More people / more to do / concerts for younger people / more food options (restaurants)

Koochiching

Born and raised here/Just

Summer/Good Fishing/Good Scenery/Autumn pretty with Leaves
activities in the Park/Boise has a Changing/River/Lakes/Hunting/Clos
good party e knit family and friends/Fishing

Fishing/Hunting/Sports/4 Seasons

Bring in more jobs/More Businesses/Keep younger kids /More
shopping/Better Stores/Walmart/Target/Hobby Lobby/Tourist
Attraction/Roller Rinks/More activities in the Park/More
activities for the disabled/fishing/boating/Picnic/Burger
King/Arbys/Dog Park/Better hangout for Teenagers/Activity
Center with Basketball/pool table/arcade/swimming pool/Art
and Craft center/Cheaper place to have parties like
reunions/.birthday/any kind of party/More bands at the Band
shell

International Falls

small town feel / people helping
people / relatively safe
community/ cost of living is low
in comparison to other areas/
the quality of life is amazing /
outdoors / summer / don't have
long commutes / have time to
stop and smell the roses

same as #1 / quality of life /
unlimited wilderness / safe and
caring communities / low cost of
living / no long commutes

The beauty/ wilderness
opportunities / small town feel /
don't want to shrink anymore /
don't want poverty to go up

"Work toward eliminating the insane amount of local politics and realize we are all in this together and that if the City of I Falls, County, Economic Development Agencies and all of the smaller communities worked together we would all benefit. If one of our communities succeeds all will benefit. We don't do anyone any favors by the constant fighting, grandstanding and stroking egos. Multiple business opportunities have slipped away because of politics and how many have not even bothered to contact community leaders after reading about all of the politics. We have continued to see our communities shrink, poverty increase, young families leave the community, and our schools suffer and because of this have seen an increase in drugs, theft and general crime. We need to be innovative in our thinking and pursuing businesses that would be a good fit for our area - Can we use our colder weather to attract certain businesses other than Cold Weather Testing, for example businesses that pay high cooling costs (computer operations, etc.)? We need to quit chasing away opportunities such as RECAP that have huge potential to put us on the map for green and innovative technology, while creating good paying jobs. Before listening to people complain and say "not in my backyard", make sure they really understand what they are complaining about rather than making assumptions based on rumors. If we continue to chase away opportunities we will have nothing left but an gaining poverty stricken population, with more dollar stores and consignment shops than we already have."

				<p>improve education - looking at recent data some rural districts e.g. Ely was ranked in the top 20, they are no closer to a metro area and they are able to attract quality teachers. It will be impossible for business owners to grow and expand their businesses if they are unable to recruit young families."/ " The reality is that the current local labor pool lacks the necessary skills for business to compete in a technology based world."/ "Business owners need the basic tools (school and healthcare) to be able to attract knowledge workers." / " Improve healthcare. As Boomers (the largest population) age, they will be looking to be close to quality healthcare. Currently families in Kooch County need to travel even for the most basic care. When families travel for medical dollars are lost from our community not only on healthcare but, on everyday purchases when people visit Target, Wal-Mart, etc."/ "Healthcare has the potential to create new jobs but, organizations will still be unable to attract new, young, educated families unless there are improvements in the schools." / "Improved sports and recreation facilities. The sports facilities (esp. the skating facilities) are outdated. They do not allow the city/organizations to properly host tournaments which would bring dollars into the community (and there is no where to families to stay that participate in tournaments - addressed above in tourism)."/ "There is a need for a public pool - the high school pool does not serve as a community pool. I would suggest contacting the YMCA which assists with funding and grants in rural communities e.g. Ely and Grand Rapids."/ " Invest more in parks and recreation and trail systems to attract tourists." / "Sell the outdoors and what is unique to our area."</p>
International Falls	Close to family Born and raised here/ small town feel/ safe/ sheltered/ good work ethic/ friendly	Rainy Lake	"Voyaguer's National Park - Tourism has the potential to be a larger economy driver in our community if properly marketed." / "Invest more in parks and recreation and trail systems to attract tourists"/" It is critical that tourist have quality lodging options which currently NONE exists."	
International Falls	people/ steady economy	Hunting and sporting aspect/ outdoors	Hunting and fishing rights/ great outdoor experiences/ wildlife	More business (can't be a retirement community)/ would like to see the area as medium sized with more business opportunity

				more local businesses downtown - stores (not office space i.e. lawyers, dentist, but fun, cool places to buy things)/ more jobs, better 'store' signage esp. downtown/ winter activities at Smokey Bear Park/ give the community a sense of the possibilities / make Hwy 53 buildings look nice - improve look of entrance to town from south east
International Falls	small local businesses/ size/ after school activities/ library / community of people willing to try and change	outdoor activities / lake	library / wildlife and beauty of area / grocery store / pace of life	
Koochiching	Quiet area/friendly people/good community	Lakes/Forest/Hunting/Fishing/Snow mobiling/Four wheeling	Forest/Recreational activities	Fix the Roads/More recreational activities/More youth group activities Improve Tourism/Advertise more for tourism/Use our recourse as a National Park to improve tourism/Higher paying jobs/Better business climate for new companies to merge/Operate Trade zone not influenced by dominate businesses/Pellet plant/Renewable resources
Koochiching	Small Population/Lake	Hunting/Fishing/wilderness/Weather/Forest	Wilderness part	
Koochiching	Close together/Convenience	Wildlife/Woods/Fishing	Close to School/Close to relatives	Expand Mall/Better shopping/Family fun activities/Community center for hockey swimming basketball/Target store/Cheaper School activities/Chinese Buffet/Expand the College/Make the job and career day more fun to go to/Toys r us/Limited too clothing store/Best Buy Programs for Drug knowledge/Drug Testing/Drug Free environment/Bigger concerts inside
Koochiching	I do not like living here	Close to everything/Convenience	All the help/County Services	More things to do for kids/Adventure Zone/Children plays/More shopping for kids/bigger Parks/Water Parks in Motel/Bath and Body shop/Walmart
Koochiching	Convenience	Lakes/Fishing/Camping/Camping in back yard it's home with good people and few people	Bus service/County Service	
Northome	friendly people/good stores		stores/school/county fair	tax cuts for new business'
Northome	friendly people/good school/small town atmosphere	people/fresh air/openess	the towns and communities/can't lose more population and jobs	industries/jobs/more familys

Rainy Lake	Vastness/ adventures / unlimited playground/ can't see it all in a lifetime / the mystique / it's on the Border	Remoteness / Adventure / Hunting/ Shack Life	Businesses / Boise / Trees / Water / Fishing Privileges / People / Want to keep what we have / Schools / Hospitals	Give money to improve resorts to add swimming pools and upgrade units / add a passenger train from Canada to International Falls / Improve Tourism / make it easy for tourists to get on the water / more campsites and houseboat sites / more water accessible / add a lake boat casino and park it at different resorts each week
International Falls	The lake/gossip/my cousin/ small size / Dairy Queen / Close to the Border	Weather / Proximity to Canada	Smokey Bear / Rainy Lake / Hunting and Fishing rights / The Park in Big Falls / Band Shell / Giovanni's Pizza / Outdoor Rinks	Casino / NHL Team / Better Shopping / Target store / 4-lane HWY / underground, heated tunnels / Water Amusement Park / Edgewater Hotel like the one in Duluth / Curling Rink with Bar
International Falls	An international community/four seasons/Voyageurs National Park/Backus Community Center/arts and culture/The Coffee Landing/Rainy Lake/historic buildings/safe and secure community/family and close friends in the area/an international airport/the coming together during a crisis/safety/low crime rate/golf course	Abundant trails and waterways/A feeling of safety from the rest of the world/fishing/hunting/four seasons/An international airport/affordable housing/Voyageurs	Safety/security/natural resources/the arts/Backus Community Center/Voyageurs National Park	Four lanes on Highway 53 all the way up to the Falls/Get the new airport terminal project done /Diversify the economy creating less dependency upon Boise/Get the FTZ shovel ready so it can be promoted like the City's Intermodal District/Secure high paying jobs with benefits/Inspire and encourage more young people to run for local elected positions/Demand current elected officials lead without hidden agendas and vendettas/No more BS, game playing and negative energy (city of i.falls)/Need more higher end lodging facilities in the area./Convert Woody's old building into better lodging and revive the pub/Need large and scenic RV park at the Rainy Lake Visitors Center, on Rainy Lake, that could be owned by the Park Service and operated by a business/Need new Customs and Immigration port of entry/Improve Highway 53 appearance/Pass a school referendum to build a new school that would house Preschool through 12th grade/Improve Bronco Arena/Build a new hospital between the nursing home and clinic/Ranier should buy out Finstad's RV Park and develop it as a first class, well kept RV Park for Ranier/

International Falls

I love the people of this city./The people of International Falls are strong, stubborn, fun loving and generous./It may take them a while to accept that a non-native to International Falls will stay here - but when they do - you become family./The people of this area are the finest people on God's green (or white) earth.

I feel safe here./The world is a scary place these days and feeling safe and secure every day and every night is a blessing.

I would hate to see us lose the sense of community that we have./When someone is suffering, the community gathers around them to protect and support them./I think attitude is the same throughout the county - not just International Falls.

I would like to see 3-4 different businesses develop roots here. I would like to see that many so that we have several options and can weather changes to the economy./They could be on the smaller side - but they would pay well and offer benefits./ Ideally the developers would be from here or deeply invested in al that is International Falls./The would not do anything to harm the natural beauty of the area and will stay for the long haul.

International Falls	<p>home/welcoming people, sense of "belonging"</p> <p>here/Opportunity to have a positive impact on my home town through Backus/A sense of what happens at Backus and what I do is appreciated/City of International Falls has tremendous services, police, fire, ambulance, street dept, great water, the great job city crews do to make the town look great./I like that the city has a "heart" business, services, parks, Backus, Smokey Bear Park, band shell, etc. form a geographic core to the city./I appreciate the support that the City Council shows for events such as the Bass Tournament, Riverfest, 4th of July, Pull for Peace and Backus/I like the fact that the City has its own EDA with a motivated, skilled and passionate Director./I like the fact that I can live in my "family" home and look across</p>	<p>The feel of being "up north" - as far north as you can go in the continental U.S./The feel of "wilderness", vast forestland, sparsely populated./The history of the area, feel that we're still a "frontier" area./Rainy Lake, Rainy River, closeness to Canada, closeness to our family cabin on Lake Despair./Voyageurs National Park - preservation of the "wilderness" feel of the park area./Beauty of the rugged and remote landscape, the drive south on Hwy 53 through rock cuts that expose the oldest rock on the face of the earth./The feel of living on the edge of the "Canadian Shield"./Engagement currently with people in other communities in the county through Voyage Forward - sense that "we're all in this together"./The anticipation that while driving you may encounter a wolf along the highway.</p>	<p>The city's historic buildings: see above./Backus Community Center/Any more businesses in town./RRCC/Our youth, young people/City Economic Development Authority Director/Forward-thinking momentum generated by Voyage Forward/Medical Facilities</p>	<p>Follow through with the Voyage Forward initiative - develop a realistic vision for the future of our area focused on economic and community development./Eliminate the personal agendas, politics, cronyism in local government./Focus on city and county working together for the betterment of the entire area./Eliminate the "turf wars", speed up actions focused on development./Improve the entry corridors into the city./Change our thinking from "being at the end of the road" to the "beginning of the road."/Capitalize more on our "international" location: trade, transportation, medical facilities./Pay real attention and not just lip service to the study, conclusions and suggestions coming from Newmark consultants and use these to truly move the area forward./Put "community" above self interests when making development decisions./Mandate that KEDA and the City EDA work together on economic development./Improve customer service at all local businesses through actual "customer service" training that all employees take part in. Wear "welcome" name tags. Make sure all employees go through the "friendliness" course and practice that./Encourage young entrepreneurs and new business./Be sure we are ready to welcome new business to the area and move promptly, sites are ready for new business, offer incentives.</p>
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International Falls	The people are friendly/variety of services like the library, parks, cross country ski trails, sidewalks/schools and infrastructure/geographic proximity/Voyageurs National Park/Backus Community Center.	Has rural character/outdoor activities/recreation/wildlife/change of seasons/not over developed or over populated.	Small town atmosphere/strong community identity/open spaces/stage infrastructure improvements/control expansion.	Expand and diversity living wage jobs/recruit businesses to expand/not hotels or bars/expand and improve multi use trail system/market labor market to employers/expect, promote, and reward strong work ethic/expect progressive shared county investment in communities/upgrade and modernize housing/zoning controls to protect/protect private investment/fight blight.
International Falls	Outdoors/hunting and fishing/small community.	Same as number one.	Voyageurs National Park/certain businesses/medical options/keeping businesses large and small/bowling alley/tax base	Build a base of good paying jobs/attract businesses by using incentives/need better housing choices and availability/hotel by river near park headquarters/need a really good sports bar/need community bases sports center like a YMCA/city roads need to be in much better condition.
International Falls	Opportunity for actors who want to grow and act.	No out of control growth/nature readily available.	Backus Community Center	Do a full scale attack on culture/too much passiveness/need more motivation to change/stop brain drain/use ambition/instill ambition.
International Falls	The community.	Can get out in nature/places to go and get away from man made structures.	Nothing should be non-negotiable/Everything should be on the table.	Help people become long-sighted/Education and life long global understanding/demolish all school systems and start over/everyone would have the opportunity to read what they want at an early age to develop the love of reading.
International Falls	Love small towns/community has history and traditions and values/access to Rainy Lake and wilderness/Individuals can be part of the dialogue/Can be engaged in the community.	Same as how I answered number one.	Natural resources and beauty/access to natural resources.	If I were in charge, I would instill pride in the people who live here/Build a "we're special" feel/team building/respect for one another/Get rid of political posturing and competition between groups.

Ranier	<p>Quiet location/solitude/friendliness of the people</p>	<p>Grew up in country setting and like it here.</p>	<p>The smallness and friendliness of area.</p>	<p>There would be more tourism amenities/There would be jobs for young people/The area would be vibrant.</p>
Clementson	<p>It is a generational community/family-based/would like children to grow up here/taxes are low/like Indus school and what the school offers/neighbors/sense of community/peace and beauty/hunting/fishing/outdoor s/boating,canoeing,kayaking/varriety of geographical and natural surroundings/wildlife-wolves, eagles/awesome people/people can be individuals and characters and still get along with their neighbors</p>	<p>Feel a part of the county/connected to Indus school/our elected representatives seem connected to their constituents/Birchdale fire department/lots of volunteerism/neighbors helping neighbors(fire, flooding)/do their shopping in Koochiching county</p>	<p>Sense of community/keep it rural/don't lose rural "culture"/Birchdale landing has less boat traffic, noise and congestion than in Baudette so there is easier access, can be "alone", see wildlife and eagles/Indus school fills a need for a certain type of student, has a smaller group setting/community cares- people still come to school events even if they don't have kids there/opportunities at Indus for kids who may not excel at college level classes (Prostart, bluegrass club)</p>	<p>Buy large riverside home in Birchdale and use it as a religious retreat/senior housing/sales barn for bull sales in area/ quality high speed internet to enable telecommuting, college on line, options to connect with other countries, cities and jobs/internet capabilities to allow forward thinking for next generation and to open up possibilities-people could stay here if they had better access</p>

Loman	Remoteness/recreational opportunities/close to I. Falls/have always lived here/"It's home"/sense of community/ know neighbors/ volunteer opportunities/ can work with neighbors/low crime rate/safe/can borrow from neighbors/ depend on neighbors/lots of interesting area history	The wilderness comes to us/Rainy Lake/can walk with grandson to explore river and go to park/safety/clean/variety of scenery and ecosystems:swamps, Rainy Lake, Ranier, agricultural and farming areas/four seasons/ not so remote that you can't still travel to Bemidji, Duluth, Winnipeg/cheap land/fishing, hunting, trapping/people care about keeping their places clean and kept up/neighbors care(e.g. people from Birchdale and I. Falls came out to help sandbag during flooding	Rural feel/ having neighbors (meaning not so rural that there is no one here)/scenic highway/post office/church/volunteer fire department/Boise/logging and paper industry/jobs that already exist here	Build a brick and mortar business that through technology could actually be located anywhere yet could virtually reach out to people everywhere and ship product nation- or worldwide (e.g. Digi-Key)/start up a "Green Jobs" business dealing with wind power, solar, renewables/bring in a industry that could employ current population with living wage jobs, but not increase the area's population by 10,000/4 year tech college offering a forestry degree/ more tech offerings at RRCC/better high-speed communication in homes/deal with the impending hurdles coming in the future regarding natural resources laws (wetlands)/revisit tax-forfeited land policies/get people to move here/support and work for reasonable costs in energy (electricity) because it runs everything/redundancy regarding fiber optics/fiber optics going farther/recreation and trail development/find someone who left to come back/business that pulls money in not just from locals but from 30 states I know they are trying to get more jobs around here-but that is the negative part of living here-our kids and grandkids have to move away! Need to jump on wagon producing organic as Ely (Two Harbors) indoors
International Falls	Small town atmosphere, lots of outdoor activities through all four seasons	Same as above	Access to lakes, rivers, and woods	
Blank	Bemidji	Friendly, Rainy Lake, Chamber good at promoting, Citizens for Backus awesome	Too many environmental restrictions (freedom)	Youth activities, expand and promote MANKA, ski/hiking, promote more biking-skiing, single parent support groups

	good job/small school/good people//community support/no crowds/small town feel/beauty/wildlife/good community for children/peace and quiet/people are helpful/opportunities in the area	Rural/outdoor opportunities/quiet atmosphere/nature/people connect with each other/low population/hunting/fishing/hiking/freedom/beauty	Clean environment/outdoor opportunities/safety/do not sacrifice safety for job creation/fresh clear quiet lakes and woods/resources taken over by the government/freedom of land use/small town feel/small businesses/convenient public access to Rainy Lake and Rainy River/schools/	Need economic development to sustain and grow the population/cultural education opportunities for children/skills and trade educational opportunities/improve economics by growing business opportunities/tourism/create business opportunities/incentives for businesses/not big businesses/attract industry to create jobs/retain youth through job creation/need people to step up and help in this effort/get rid of K-Mart and get a Target instead/offer incentives for businesses to locate here/I have several ideas for community development that may be workable/small business incentives/clean environment connect artists in area to exhibit art/involve community members and children with art/publish real newspaper at northome/create small businesses that pay a living wage/create jobs that would benefit community
Northome	Beauty/privacy/lake living/fishing/friendly people/	Scenery/beauty/privacy/laid back community/low crime/people help each other/	Jobs and businesses/beauty of area/dumps or power plants	
Island Lake	friendly people/the way the community comes together/the community chose me/good neighbors/four seasons/generational families	Good place to raise family/safe/enjoy nature/slower pace of life/good neighbors/good schools/peace and quiet/hunting/fishing/trapping	local businesses/schools/low crime rate/good electric telephone and internet service/property due to tax increases	create more businesses so young people remain/tourism advertising/shop local/we need a good mix of young and older people
Northome	Fishing/hunting/snowmobile trails	solitude/access to public land Peace and	Public land/access to hunting/community activities/small business owners	improve biking/improve cell phone coverage/activities for youth/creation of opportunities for small business
Northome	Peace and quiet/good neighbors in town	quiet/fishing/wildlife/lake shore living	manage game fish appropriately	job creation/small business ownership/small cafe or restaurant

International Falls	College Activities / Shopping at Super One	It is very quiet / everyone is nice / community activities	Smokey Bear Park / The Bowling Alley / Super One / Rainy Lake Kmart / County Market / Super One / Rainy River Community College	More Stores / More Community Activities / Add a Walmart
International Falls	not much violence / small / quiet	everyone knows each other / snow / sledding / boot hockey		Amusement Parks / more community activities
International Falls	school programs/we like the feeling that it's a safe place to raise our family/strong support system for our family/not too big/good parks and trails Small town/quiet/I grew up here and want my kids to grow up here/kids go to Littlefork School and love it.	wide open area/not too populated/the outdoors and the many activities that can be done in them/good neighborhoods	assistance programs/our church(support system)/ability to hunt and fish/small town community pride	encourage small business growth/develop programs to keep kids and teens off the streets/allow bigger business to come in to be able to have more job opportunities/create more youth programs
International Falls	Small town/quiet/I grew up here and want my kids to grow up here/kids go to Littlefork School and love it.	small town/good people/quiet	not really sure	Have more things to do for family and kids besides fishing and hunting/We need a place like a play center - like a YMCA
International Falls	Small town/quiet/I grew up here and want my kids to grow up here/kids go to Littlefork School and love it.	small town/good people/quiet	not really sure	Have more things to do for family and kids besides fishing and hunting/We need a place like a play center - like a YMCA
International Falls	I was born here/family and friends	small community/hunting, fishing, snowmobile	Outdoor recreation	bring in more business
International Falls	My in-laws live here/it's a welcoming community	Everybody helps everybody out.	KMart and Dollar store/ there's not much here for shopping needs	the medical technology up here Unite and recruit effective leaders / create diverse high paying (well paying jobs / improve the Koochiching County to be a regional medical center / increase enrollment in schools / increase educational opportunities / become a regional shopping destination
International Falls	the people / small town / safe / school systems / family / Lake / Golf Course	same as #1 / airport	middle class / jobs / population / tax base / businesses / shopping opportunities / health care and health care facilities	

Rainy Lake	City sewer / Rainy Lake / Beach / close to restaurants / close to town	Rainy Lake / openness / more space / not so close to neighbors / scenery / wildlife / wolves / geese	wildlife / trees / Rainy Lake / scenery	"Bring city sewer all the way up the lake - especially to the resorts / bring City water all the way up the lake / clean up the areas not taken care of by owners / clean up Koochiching County -there's too much junk laying around - it's awful"
Rainy Lake	living on the lake	hunting / wide open spaces / wheeler riding	don't want more Park restrictions on houseboats or motor boats / ask what VNP's 100 year plan is	Need more for young people/ more jobs and careers / bring in software related businesses / do something with tax fee zones / make sure trucks leaving with loads of Boise paper return full of something else or have the truck return on the train to save fuel / get rid of unions - the union mentality scares businesses from coming to town / start a repackaging company where things are shipped in bulk, repackage ready to display on store shelves
Roaseau, Alabama, In	RRCC / family and friends are here / outdoors / small town USA / better place to raise kids / the commute to work is short small town / everyone knows each other / close knit community more like a big family / no crime / RRCC makes education accessible	fishing / hunting / trapping / close to Canada	land	more restaurants like Taco Bell / more jobs / more businesses / give Boise less control / encourage large and small businesses by giving deals like land for \$1.00 / quit spending money foolishly / rerouting the bridge line / make Koochiching a destination / get a casino / get businesses off Hwy 53 and over to Hwy 71 / bring in Gander Mountain / bring in Bass Pro Shop
Littlefork and International	enjoy the seasons / big fishing industry / outdoors / camping / RRCC education and athletics	the lakes / outdoor activities / fishing / hunting / tubing / nature / nature / the family feel here	nature / "our sanity - people from the City are crazy!"	No littering / have clean-up crews / bring in a nightclub / better snow management / open a hunting store / get rid of all the dollar stores
International Falls		family owned businesses	small town feel	trade Kmart for Walmart / opportunities for more jobs

International Falls	small town feel / support for RRCC and athletics / access to higher education	outdoors / camping / hunting / fishing / close to outdoor activities	RRCC / athletics	bring in more stores that relate to our community like Cabelas, Walmart, Dick's Sporting Goods
International Falls	Can get an education at RRCC / love RRCC teachers / diversity at RRCC / close knit RRCC basketball team feels like family	scenery	snow / RRCC	bring in a Boys & Girls Club / more workout facilities
International Falls	can continue playing basketball at college and get an education	not busy / people are nice	Hardee's milkshakes / the hotel hot tub across from Rainy Hall	bring in more restaurants / 24 hour gym / more local businesses
International Falls	"I go to college here because of all the support the community gives to the college athletes / I like the community life and being involved "	snow / trees/ lakes / fun things to do in the forests / fun things to do in the lakes people / nature / breathtaking woods / beautiful lakes / small town feel / knowing practically	RRCC / small-town feel/ tight knit community	expansion / big-name stores like Target
Littlefork	"I grew up here" / Littlefork High School / small town feel / great place to grow up	everyone / caring people/ tight knit group / familiar faces	the character / small town feel of the area / RRCC	Get some new businesses to generate excitement / new boutiques / healthy fast food options like Jimmy Johns or Qdoba / Get a Target Store
International Falls	"I grew up here" / business owner Close-kint community / lots of potential / safety / cheap living expenses	friendliness / opportunities / scenery	small town feeling / the people / small town businesses	more business oppourtunities / get people involved more
International Falls		an abundance of resources / sportsmen paradise	acreage / wildlife / my current job	outside jobs into the community / more involved people in our politics

International Falls	Close to the lake / close to Canada / small town / history of the town / Ice Box of the Nation / Best water in the Nation	The landscape / the town / the traffic	the tourists / the summer events / bass tournament / cheerleading program / the jobs	roads paved / new roads / Taco John's / Target not Kmart / Buffalo Wild Wings
Ray	peace and quiet / no law / little law / lots of room for playing with toys / close to work	history of Koochiching / low population / water / weather	jobs / land / people / peacefulness / closeness	more restaurants / better roads / better snowmobile trails / Relocate the Boise Railway station Bring in new stores and restaurants like Target, Taco Bell, Dick's Sporting Goods, Plato's Closet
International Falls	The Home-School Community There's a little bit of everything for everyone	safety to raise family	VNP / Public Library / RRCC	Sporting Goods, Plato's Closet
Cambridge	close community / everyone knows or has at least heard your name	Movie Theater	Stores	YMCA
Internatioanl Falls		isolated area / not too busy / privacy for those who seek it	Hospital RRCC brings higher education, culture and vibrancy to our community	Get rid of Kmart and put in Walmart or Target
Internatioanal Falls	employment	decent job / quality place to raise family		We must collaborate - ISD 361 needs to stop bashing RRCC
Itnernational Falls	small town / RRCC / old buildings / town history	wildlife / towns aren't close together / towns aren't cluttered	historical buildings	Target store to replace Kmart / more small businesses like Starbucks
International Falls	the outdoors / boating / sledding / husband has a job here	small school systems / good for grandkids / lakes / parks / boating	VNP / access to VNP / small businesses / the younger adult population / healthcare	Bring in a satellite plant (Polaris or Marvin Windows) / Bring in a business that makes things the area needs like canoes / "Break up the judicial system and the county board - cut out the political crap" / "crack down on city parks and get the druggies out" / have living wages for entry level positions / lower grocery prices

International Falls	outdoor activities throughout the four seasons / small, family-oriented community / isolated from cities and high populated areas / fishing	logging industry and how it preserves our forests while employing many people / land and water to enjoy year around / snowmobiling / wheeling / boating	Paper Mill and the people it employs	Create more jobs that will draw people here to work and live
Ranier	small community with friendly people/quiet, comfortable environment/ close to lake / great bar / attracts tourists from all over to enjoy boating and fishing on Rainy Lake / close to town/ more secluded/ small community/ less traffic	beautiful landscape/ life outdoors / private island / VNP/ Kettle Falls / Four seasons and the beauty that goes along with it / hunting / fishing / snowmobiling	wildlife / VNP / small businesses / employment options / paper industry / private land / population / tourism	more shopping opportunities like a mall / better variety of eating establishment / Taco Bell/ Applebee's / Bring another big employer into the area like Anderson Windows / Bring more full-time residents to the area
International Falls	it's quiet and peaceful	small town, so everybody knows everybody/ friendly people	Boise	have more community activities
International Falls	The sporty atmosphere	nice, friendly people	Human Resources Center	more jobs/build more stores, malls, etc. / build a hospital

International Falls	<p>Rainy Lake / small community / natural beauty of the area / four season recreation / feel a sense of community amongst neighbors / services here are top notch / small town living / local leaders are dedicated</p>	<p>Same as #1</p>	<p>sense of safety and security / low crime rate / positive policing / "I don't want property taxes to become prohibitive for individuals on fixed incomes" / continue economic development efforts to diversify our economy / businesses and individuals to continue to invest in the local economy / access to limitless recreational opportunities within VNP / "I want legislature to value and recognize the challenges of small, geographically isolated, rural communities" / community support for educational systems K-12 and higher ed</p>	<p>"The perception (or reality) that the City and the County are always 'at odds' about something" / "We limit our ability to progress and innovate when we fail to capitalize on opportunists to build strong, productive alliances (FHS & RRCC)"</p>
International Falls	<p>liberal place / classless area - there doesn't appear to be an upper, middle, or lower class / the flood last summer showed our true colors - everyone helped / love the people / "I know my neighbors and community members" / we celebrate everything together / RRCC / generous community</p>	<p>arts groups/ community groups / Backus Community Center / Charter school focusing on the Arts with 100 students enrolled / ordinary people doing extraordinary things / foreign policy discussion groups/ quality of life / good friends / we know our neighbors / good schools / good foundation / can be involved as much as you want / outdoors/ wilderness</p>	<p>RRCC / "RRCC gave me the opportunity in life and I have lifetime friends from it / RRCC is life-changing / RRCC offers continuing education, social skills and lifetime skills / Resorts on Rainy Lake / Healthcare / Houseboat businesses / Airport / Lake / VNP / Mike Ward / Newspaper</p>	<p>Internet and Wi-Fi availability across the entire county / lift restrictions on towers only going to 200' so more people can have internet access / the political environment to get along better than they have the past 3-4 years / stronger business possibilities where all people have an opportunity to be trained and hold good jobs</p>

International Falls	Cute town/ remote/ wilderness experience/ open land to explore/ State and County land access/ "access to hunt, fish, recreate, and research flora and fauna"/ small community feel / working and logging community / historical culture	friendly people/ Coffee Landing / welcoming, friendly, helpful, personable community	zoning to protect wilderness areas / safety / small town feel / don't want to lose all the wilderness to business/ small businesses	have safety measures in place / good communication within decision making groups/ access to lands
Ranier	Outdoors / Gateway to the outdoors / untapped potential	outdoors / you can be a big fish in a little pond here - you can kick start your future	"Tight-Knittedness" / chamber of Commerce / VNP / RRCC / Parks & Recreation / Boise	More youth oriented roles / assign every City Council member a student to be at their side to instill community work / develop more entertainment such as paintball club and music festivals that are youth oriented / internships for youth/ treat younger people more like adults/ "have the community have diversity committees - more ethnic groups/ increase broadband spectrum to attract big businesses
Littlefork and Internal	small community/safety/"I was forced to live here - I followed my husband for his job" / "I was born and raised here and I'm too dumb to leave" / "I love Littlefork school - it's #5 in the Nation" / it's pretty here/ I'm closer to family	rural/outdoors/water/seasons/living in the middle of nowhere/" I can see Canada from my back yard" / "I can look South into Canada" ?	RRCC / small town atmosphere/ Menards / Hospital/ Wildlife/ Woods/ Hunting/ Fishing / Freedom of access/ beauty	Jobs/ Market the area as a retirement area that's served by an airport so you can leave in the winter / more options for veteran's health services/ more retirement communities like Good Sam / more open minded feel to make new-comers feel welcome / more diversity / get rid of "Good 'Ol Boy system / keep upgrading / fish breeding / more opportunities for younger people / have jobs with onsite childcare/ have daycare at RRCC

Rainy Lake	Solitude/outdoors/beautiful surroundings	small town people/laid back lifestyle	"Boise - it's the key to everything, the key to our tax base"/Rainy River Community College	Have another major employer not in manufacturing/supplement the 500 jobs left in Boise/ get 10 to 15 smaller businesses employing 10 to 30 people each/ supply start-up costs or services for new businesses/ work with RRCC to provide education to new businesses' new employees
College group of 4 - I-	quiet/low key/smallness/good size/weather/sports/cross country skiing	cross country skiing/snow/lots of places to volunteer/rich history/strong heritage/lake/swimming/cabin	jobs/RRCC/don't want it to get bigger/free cross country skiing/VNP/sports/beach	more stores/more people involved/amusement park/good jobs/better jobs/more open mindedness about bringing new jobs and businesses in/more community activities/have beach parties/make Koochiching a destination to see Native history/bring in soul food/have a better variety of restaurants
Greater International	my family/my job	low traffic/the lake/scenery	"anymore stores and jobs"	"Bring in more stores/medical staff to do chemo and radiation in International Falls/more local medical and surgical care/bring in celebrity type shows to bring more people in"
International Falls	Everyone is always willing to smile and lend a hand to those in need/nature/trees/no large billboards or signs	the scenery/trees/wide open skies/stars/sunsets/wildlife/friendly , accepting communities	Community parks/VNP/wildlife/tours about the history of the area	more opportunities for volunteer and interning jobs/encourage "greener" living/more education for everyone to live environmentally friendly
International Falls	Rainy River Community College	camp grounds/Fair/Fishing/Fireworks/everything is 1.5 - 2 hours away (short drive)	Rainy River Community College/Boise/Nursing Home/Job Opportunities	"We need more for kids to do - McDonald's is not big enough"/Target store/more job opportunities/pay youth \$9 per hour hiring 12 to 15 yr olds to pick up garbage for 6 weeks, then hire another group for 6 weeks to pick up trash on highways and playgrounds"/build a big huge play zone/build a play park with slides and towers and parachute games/get a Boys & Girls' Club or YMCA/"cancel Drug Court - it doesn't work. they all start using again once probation is over. Send them to "Beyond Scared""/"Get more sports and if your school doesn't have your sport, allow kids to play for another school that does for a fee"

International Falls	<p>small town atmosphere/sense of community/know someone everywhere you go/friendly Preservation of natural habitat/opportunities to encounter wildlife that exist nowhere else in the state/fishing/enjoying the outdoors/love the attitude of local community as seen while stopping at the local grocer</p>	hunting/fishing	hospital/fishing areas - don't want them too congested	<p>improve schools/improve medical care/have more industry/tap into Railway system and trains/improve tourism, but not so much we're fighting for fishing spots/promote the golf course more/get a casino/get a hotel with water park/ prevent Boise from keeping other employers from coming to town</p>
Twin Cities Resident - store		relaxing atmosphere/fresh air/beautiful scenery	the ability to truly get away from human contact/ability to immerse yourself in a natural environment	continue to preserve the natural habitat of both the superior forest and border waters/"I would like to see lakefront land taken care of by the park system"
Falls and County	<p>County - trees and cheap rent, gardening/ quiet compared to town, no mill odors/the lake/small town feel/wildlife and night skies/ "gun shots don't mean a homicide"/don't have to worry about kids playing outside. IFalls - No rush hour, convenience.</p>	<p>Voyageurs National Park (3)/career opportunities/ quality of mental health care available to residents/ camping opportunities, trail systems, access to lakes/ Backus programs-meals and arts.</p>	<p>"What little we have available for kids" - minimal services, rec programs and opportunities - "movies all R-rated."/ the Library/ the medical care system/ community gardens and parks/ the jobs already here/ available and affordable housing/ shopping and cultural opportunities we have/ small town feel.</p>	<p>Power town by renewable energy/ expand internet capabilities/ provide more crisis beds in town/ indoor activity center for kids and adults-a discovery center, rock climbing, swimming pool, etc./ Sustainable planning and development - "balance of people, profit, and planet;" need more respect for air and water quality here/ Redevelop river and lakefronts for public use, including festivals/ better retail offerings/ restaurants with wholesome, healthy food; more organic choices in supermarkets/ community support (childcare) for parents needing retraining/ inpatient mental health capability/ teen services for chemical dependency, including Alanon for teens who have parents with addiction.</p>

Rainy Lake Being on the lake--the beauty,
not living in town, relative Caring church community--warm,
peace and quiet/ helping, caring supportive/ small town advantages-- Environmental quality, "the beauty is "like an alcoholic family."/
neighbors less congestion, laid back lifestyle. not despoiled," Offer free meals in Backus every day.

End conflict and friction-not conducive to progress/ make area more inviting to people from other areas by improving appearance of the communities, beautifying/ building and marketing tourism as a way of attracting new residents and new businesses. Change local attitude of keeping it to themselves, not welcoming and friendly. Transform like Traverse City did./ Change lack of transparency, nastiness behind scenes. The Falls

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The people who live here; a giving and generous community; feel safe to walk / Family here, beautiful generous people who rally around someone in need / Rainy Lake, playgrounds, recreational opportunities.
International Falls (2)

"Lakes are a treasure"; great natural beauty; peaceful / water, resorts, hunting-area rich in natural environment.

Not lose tourism - "If we're not welcoming, they'll move on." / Small town camaraderie and neighbor helping neighbor, community and school spirit / What we have in the schools- "don't lose any more."

More and better job opportunities, better paid and with benefits/ more decent middle class housing affordable for families; upgrade rental options to keep families here./ "provide a future here so you can stay here and not always be poor."/ change Boise's "keep other big businesses out practices."/ Eliminate conflict between medical providers, county and city, union and non-union and provide a "more open culture for job opportunities whether union or not."/ Expand RRCC's job prep programs and retraining options other than nursing; options for older generations to go back to school/ improve transit system for people who don't drive--extend to Ranier and up the lake-- could serve visitors as well./ Festival in summer and other seasons, especially winter--"promote what we have."/ Improve streets and intersection management/ provide youth center with free arts and education services/ summer parks and rec programs in the playgrounds--we used to have them! light up Smokey Bear Park and flood for skating in the winter. /spa near or on the lake--something for women.

<p>The Falls has a nice small town feel, family lives here, safe and secure feeling, little traffic / people come together when someone is in need, easy to network between agencies when someone has a need, Backus offers much for families International Falls, Ra and children. My children and extended Koochiching AEOA LIT family live here</p>	<p>Service providing wraps around whole county; people give their all-- want independence, to make it on their own; independent nature of people but still a lot of giving back to community.</p> <p>The Bus service</p>	<p>Access to medical services, independent school districts that reflect individual communities-- not to regionalize; Voyageurs National Park--"a beautiful asset" / at least the existing level of social services; the abundance of volunteers; feeling of safety-small town feel.</p> <p>Voyagers National Park/beaches/Smokey the Bear</p>	<p>Get rid of old grudges in moving forward--get more people involved in politics and government, both elected and appointed; change the environment of constant conflict./ Provide more funds for social programs, especially youth-- provide something like the Bemidji Boys and Girls Club. Make all school programs free for all kids--restore music, theater and other programs that build self-esteem./ Make it easier, provide support for starting small businesses with the strong entrepreneurial spirit here--e.g., provide a commercial kitchen available to rent, maybe in a community center with gym and banquet hall./ A beautiful building on riverfront for visitors-- hotel, etc. Easier access to Fort Frances. Campground near park./ Aesthetic multi-use development on riverfront/ Upgrade hospital, better coordination of services, more transparency in planning, ONE CAMPUS with services in proximity to each other/ homeless and transitional housing/</p> <p>Create jobs</p>
<p>Rainy Lake</p>	<p>No sprawl / no real traffic / NO BIG BOX STORES / Harsh weather / Jack pine savage roaming the streets / a couple of good dive bars / a real sense of community like existed in my childhood / Also the obvious real reason being how beautiful and humbling Rainy lake is and can be.</p>	<p>"Better to respond positively to change than try to predict managing it. We have a long way to go before anything would be a problem for me."</p>	<p>SPEND MONEY TO IMPROVE 53 coming into down by PLANTING TREES, it has been talked to death so many times over the years, that little saplings would be gorgeous now " / Enforce or tighten up building codes so business owners would at least repaint or repair what they have / Acknowledge that as a community we have lost our sex appeal. But that doesn't mean we can't still be rustic and rough around the edges.!!!</p>

International Falls	Small town with many opportunities for outdoor activities/ where I grew up and my family is located here/enjoy growing up here and wanted to raise my own family in a save caring community	broad range of hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities available	small town feel/employment opportunities for young and old/need more large business in the area	Develop our waterfront to be accessible to the community/increase outdoor activity opportunities/increase retail business
International Falls	Small town feeling/safe community/everyone says "hi"/comforting feeling here/Family is here	Natural resources/fishing/hunting/cabin-shack	no more businesses/need to grow population not get smaller	Bring a big business like "Marvin Windows" to town that would create 200+ jobs/need good paying jobs/energize the community to make parks, businesses, and homes more appealing to the eye
International Falls	people/lots of things to do quite/low crime rate/feel safe/nature	having things to do quiet/close community/super great school	recreational activities peacefulness/worry free way of life/nature	vandals being held accountable/more stores/more recreational activites
Littlefork				Add more businesses/add coffee shop/add recreation center/souvenir shops for tourists
Littlefork	small town/everyone knows each other/nice people/school/school pride	fair treatment/beautiful place/small population	Small town feeling/school/don't want to combine with another school/larger stores/RRCC/lakes/cabins on the lake	add more stores/add restaurants/add places for teenagers to go to do things in the winter/better medical places
Littlefork	safe town/nice school/school pride/outdoors/hunting/fishing /fourwheeling	outdoors/safety	population/school/pride/saftey	more activities for youth/place for youth to "hang out"
Littlefork	you know mostly everyone quiet/safe/nice environment/hunting/fishing/rafting on river	no smog	no response	no response
Littlefork		quiet/safe	school/don't combine school district	bring in more businesses/more careers in RRCC/recreation center

Littlefork	small town/big family/quiet/outdoor fun/fishing/snowmobiling/four wheeling/hunting/school/close relationships	large county with quiet nature/close relationships	outdoor recreation/snowmobile trails/hunting/shacks/owning large portions of land	allow businesses to come into county such as Polaris, Marvin Windows, 3M, etc rather than turn them down for the "bettering of Boise"
International Falls	Movie theater/bowling alley/"Rainy Lake is big enough to not feel enclosed but also has the variety and shelter of the islands"	Less populated "It's mostly rural" / it's a place for people to enjoy nature in their own way	L-BF School/large forest areas/Boise/logging business/RRCC/lakes/river	Add boardwalk/fix Boise smell/bring in businesses like Polaris, Marvin Windows/Target/more shopping/swimming pool/rec center/be open to non-union jobs with benefits/new hospital/living wage jobs/more technical programs at RRCC like cosmetology, carpentry, heating & cooling, diesel mechanics, law enforcement.
Rainy Lake on an island	There's never a quick trip to town because you always find someone you wish to stop and talk to		"The rugged individualism of the people" / "the sense that everybody is somebody"	expand high speed communication / encourage the development of businesses that don't depend on location for success
Northome		There is little pretention	Northome School	Have it work as a whole county and not as an International Falls county
Northome	Great community to raise children	Outdoor opportunities	Wonderful school/young people leaving our area to find jobs	More job opportunities
Northome	Near jobs and family This is where my wife is from/this is where my kids go to school	Outdoor recreation/wildlife	Access to medical care/first responders/fire department/school system	People in area need to have local access to the same services provided to larger areas/more housing and support for handicapped and elderly/more places to eat and have coffee
Littlefork		Safe	The value in education	Start a Boys and Girls Club or something similar

Northome	Grew up here/want children to have safe and serene childhood experience	Outdoors and activities	Large expanse of state and county land	Maintain what we have/try to attract businesses that can provide employment for residents
International Falls	Spouse offered a job at Boise/stayed because we could not sell house	Recreational choices	Did not answer family and economic losses/moving away from home and relatives	Need to attract more business
International Falls	Family ties	family ties/cemetery/relatives buried nearby	Parks/small community feel/atmosphere	More jobs/bring in more people from area such as alumni
Littlefork	Great small community/love the atmosphere	Location/assets/the area		Update what we have for example Menards/highlight area for tourism
Loman	Peaceful outdoor area	It is not a big city/friendly/people know each other	Jobs/small town atmosphere	Bring in jobs so young people have a reason to stay and raise families
Loman	Born and raised in this area/great place to raise my family/enjoy the river and small community	Rainy Lake/Voyageurs/wooded areas for hiking and four wheeling/safe for kids	Small churches/the freedom to access the rivers and lake	Improve the downtown area of International Falls/develop a Voyageur theme/develop more RV campgrounds with lake access/reopen the Grand Mound Center at Laurel/educate students as to the native people and their history
Birchdale	Everyone knows each other/this is where my husband wants to live	Fishing/hunting/lakes/rivers/people /country/rural woods	Indus School/young families/jobs	Bring in industries jobs people and families Reopen the Mound Center/More outdoor programs to educate on survival and canoeing/Program to prepare people for a Fall out shelter/More entertainment/Book stores/Outdoor stores to buy canoes and other outdoor activity items/More Educational options
Koochiching	Convenience to walk to area businesses and institutions	Voyagers Park/Enjoy the Scenery	Library/Museum	
Big Falls	Grew up here and family is close	hunting/fishing/nature	Natural resources	Create more jobs
Indus	Only place I would want to raise a family	Rural feel	small town feel	try to find jobs to bring in new families

Mizpah	Close to work/close to school/great recreational activities/fishing and hunting	Recreational opportunities	Friendly atmosphere	Develop more jobs to employ young people
Ranier	It is small & has everything I need	There is a lot more wilderness than sidewalks.	Public hiking trails	Add Walmart/add ice rink and snow terrain park
International Falls	Outdoors/school in Littlefork	Hunting/outdoors/safety	Safety of the area/L-BF School	Have better snow removal/add some shopping locations.
Littlefork	small size/easy to get to know people/community has a strong bond/surrounding countryside/a great school.	Availability to outdoors/awesome lakes/rural/peaceful.	L-BF School/lumber companies/Boise/small businesses/movie theater.	Invest in setting up manufacturing factories/set up a big outdoors-sports center store.
AEOA LIT	Convenience to get to the few stores in area	The beauty/lakes/trees	Convenience of the lake	Hire more committees for input so everyone can be heard/Businesses/Union and nonunion jobs/Clothing stores so we don't have to travel 3 hours/Sam's Club/More doctors/Casino/Entertainment centers not only the outside one/Community Pool/More Laundromats/Dance Hall to teaching different dances/Red Lobster/Country Buffet/Negotiate or incentives for businesses to come here
Littlefork	You know almost everyone/people are nice/spend time outdoors/no traffic/safe/everyone helps each other/quiet.	Woods are pretty/lakes are nice and relaxing/not much traffic/4-wheeling/lots of wildlife.	L-BF School/forests/small family-owned stores/4-wheeling/clean lakes/no pollution.	Add ski resort/get a Target instead of K-Mart/more hotels & resorts/build a boardwalk by water/better beach access other than city beach/inside mini golf & batting cage/better snow removal/more diverse jobs/more community get-togethers like picnics, sledding/good shopping mall/more entertainment in Littlefork like bowling/clubs/rock climbing wall/BMX track.
International Falls	I can go shopping whenever I want at larger stores/Rainy River/ not too big, but not too small.	Very woodsy/many lakes/safer than other counties/not much traffic.	Medical centers/Boise/small businesses	Get rid of K-Mart/add Target/add Olive Garden/add Gamestop.

Littlefork	Strong sense of community.	Proximity to National Park.	Outdoor recreation space. The schools/medical centers/hunting/losing public lands/Boise/small businesses/friendly people/safety/healthy lakes.	Encourage more small businesses/encourage more tourism from Canada/better road maintenance/add a ski resort.
Littlefork	Small town/everyone friendly/good school.	There is enough wilderness & woods for hunting/a lot of good lakes for fishing & boating/good camping sites.	Hunting/Boise/small businesses/clean water	Add Walmart/better restaurants/add more people to help move snow off of roads/add better hotels/make room to expand businesses to be able to hire more people.
Big Falls	Outdoors/river/safety/friendly people/hunting	Wildlife/lakes/no traffic	Hunting/Boise paper/small businesses/law enforcement system/clean lakes	Add fitness center in Big Falls/ski resort in the area/indoor batting cage/YMCA/later business hours
Littlefork	Everyone knows everybody/ we all work together as a community. Easy to get to know people/outdoors/don't have to worry about theft/people come to help those in need.	A lot of wilderness/awesome lakes/safety/wildlife	Littlefork Medical Center/public lands/lakes/4-wheeler trails/small businesses	Walmart/chain restaurant/drive-in movie theater.
Littlefork		wilderness/shack time/feel safe except for animals like wolves/never stuck in traffic.	Do not turn into big city/the Littlefork School/hunting/fishing/anything outdoors/Boise/Build-Rite	more shopping areas like K-mart, but better
International Falls	left blank	Love the woods for hunting/mudding/the lakes for fishing		Make a mud run area/truck shows
Littlefork	Outdoor area/ small town/everyone knows everyone/people are kind/great school/family-run businesses.	Wilderness area/hunting/fishing/safe/not much traffic/good roads	Littlefork School/Littlefork medical center/hunting/Boise/small family businesses/law enforcement system/clean area.	Add a chain restaurant like Olive Garden or Applebees/more help with snow removal in towns/waterpark/more specialized medical treatments/fix the road from the junction to Int'l Falls/better summer fair/bring back the rodeo/fix the "hangman" post at the arena.
Littlefork	Everyone knows each other/helpful/not very big/safe.	Not a lot of crime in the area.	The outdoors	Protect the outdoors.
Littlefork	Not much crime.	Not much traffic.	Four-wheeling	Add Target/a mall

Ranier	I've lived here ever since I was a baby. / The City Beach is fun to swim at. /Can have waterfront property/big yards.	Able to fish/hunt/swim/tube as much as you want. / safety / isolated	Boise/beaches/National Park	Get more businesses like Target/Wal-mart/a big mall/better beaches/ big convention center/ make more shops in Ranier/have a BMX dirtbike terrain park with jumps, rails & foam pits.
Big Falls	The outdoors.	Hunting/lakes	Hunting areas/lakes/rivers	Olive Garden/Gander Mountain/youth centers/Starbucks/Cherry Berry/somewhere to hang out for teens.
International Falls	I was raised here/many community events/easy to get along with co-workers/not too big/very safe/	A lot of wilderness/many lakes/summers aren't too hot/winters aren't too bad/roads are not too busy/a lot of wildlife/very trusting.	Don't want it to be overpopulated/would not want to lose L-BF School/Smokey the Bear/wouldn't want to lose many businesses/hunting/fishing.	Get a mall/Wal-mart/new factory/more street helpers/better playgrounds/water park/more hotels.
Littlefork	Enjoy spending time outdoors/I like knowing everyone/feeling safe/attending a small school/playing all varsity sports since 8th grade.	Many lakes & forests/not much crime in area/feel safe/people are friendly.	Don't want to see families leaving the area/would not want to lose L-BF School/movie theater/Littlefork Medical Center/Boise/Ronnings.	I'd have more entertainment for people/more activities for people to do on Rainy Lake/chain restaurant for Falls like Applebees, Olive Garden, Texas Roadhouse/put in good shopping mall.
Littlefork	It's where my mom moved & raised me/it's where I go to school/outdoors/my job. Small town/know a lot of people who are nice most of the time./Have friends close by/safe place to have kids.	Snowmobiling/fishing/hunting/four-wheeling/many lakes/community involvement.	L-BF school/medical center/hunting/fishing/Boise/small businesses.	Target/chain restaurant/advanced health care/better fair.
Littlefork		Outdoors.	Hunting/fishing/the lakes/Littlefork School/medical center/snow/police.	I would do what I can to help families who need help./Help keep businesses up & running/find new ways to get rid of the snow on the roads.

Littlefork

It's easy to get to know everyone/ people are nice/ outdoors / isolated/ trusting & safe/ community is very helpful to each other.

A lot of wilderness for hunting/ lakes/ safety. / No traffic/ wildlife.

L-BF School/ medical center. / Hunting/ land use/ Boise/ small businesses/ clean lakes - not polluted/ law enforcement throughout the county.

Wal-mart/ Target/ chain restaurant such as Olive Garden/Applebees. / Cabela's/ Gander Mountain/ shopping mall. / Factory for jobs/ manufacturing such as automotive. / Better snow removal in International Falls. / Rock-climbing wall/ terrain park for snowboarders & skiers/ One big nice hotel on the lake/ a sports center to buy & rent equipment/ amusement park/ water park & batting cages/ golf/ a boardwalk/ concession stand at City Beach. / Higher range medical facilities/ cardiology/ dermatology/ orthopedics/ orthodontist. / a 4-year college/ more organizations at RRCC for activities/intramurals/foreign studies/diesel mechanics program. / Have employers set higher standards for employees at businesses. / No run-down buildings/ enforce landscaping rules/ put up more stop signs in Int'l. Falls/more controlled intersections/ fix the highway from the Junction to Int'l. Falls. / Art structures/music stage/ concerts with better performers/country bands & rock popular artists where under 21 can get in. / Arena like the DECC or Sanford Center. / Drive-in theater/ under 21 club/ mudding area/ community get-togethers/ a better fair. / Cherry Berry/ Starbucks/Coldstone/ internet café in Littlefork/ cultural food fair. / shopping/ rodeo. / Open A&W in Littlefork again. / spa on the lake/ clean up Littlefork River. / restaurant open for sports teams later in Littlefork. / businesses work with the fair board.

Littlefork	Homey atmosphere/safety/outdoors/one big family/live by your relatives/hunting/fishing/snow mobiling/ATV-ing/Littlefork River/rafting/school pride/Jackpine Savage Grill/ our school is small, but well-known.	Small towns/less densely populated than big cities.	L-BF School/do not want to combine school district with Int'l. Falls/large forest areas/Boise/snowmobile trails/logging business/RRCC/Rainy Lake.	Bring businesses and industries into the area/Target/Polaris/more shopping/paintball court/YMCA/rec center/Buffalo Wild Wings/fast food restaurant in Littlefork/high end salon/good paying, non-union jobs with benefits/Marvin Windows/expand medical services/new hospital/physical therapy/orthopedics/cardiology/dental & orthodontics/more technical programs at RRCC such as criminal justice/psychology/cosmetology/carpentry/heating & cooling/engineering/diesel mechanic/law enforcement/dental. /A boardwalk area like Ft. Frances./ Fix the bad smell in Int'l. Falls. / Ski hill & snowboarding like Buena Vista/river rafting/disc golf. More job opportunities/more teen clothing stores/more camping sites without having to own a boat/Target/Kohls/Casino/Larger Community event center to hold concerts/large weddings/Conferences
AEOA LIT	Natural beauty of the trees/Lakes/Family	Nature/Lakes/Slow pace of living/less crime/Family/Friends	The natural beauty	
AEOA LIT	Close to work/Walk to stores/Close to grandchildren It is quiet, friendly, and relatively safe environment to raise children. / School is great. / Kids are respectful of each other.	FishingBiking/Walking/Parks for grandchildren	Small Community/Do not worry about criminal activities	Keep streets and side walks shoveled/City take care of city to keep it clean/More clothing stores/Target/Walmart/Kohls/ Would like to shop locally more
Littlefork		It offers many outdoor activities.	I would hate to lose any businesses that are currently open. / We need a stronger economic base.	I'm not really sure. It would be nice to see more business competition to lower some of the prices in the area.

Littlefork	School system/close-knit community/rural setting	Scenic outdoor areas/activities.	Locally owned & operated businesses/safe schools/access to lakes & outdoors for hunting & fishing.	Bring additional recreational opportunities for youngsters & families/water slide/sliding hill/mini golf/walking & hiking trails/motorized & non-motorized boat rentals./ Make City Beach a more utilized summer spot - concession stand/slide/rental water toys. Add technical business to the area with living-wage jobs/add factory-based business with skilled & unskilled labor jobs. / Add better health-care facilities with specialized services - dialysis, dermatology, pediatrics, radiation, OB-GYN. / Retail/restaurants need to grow, but think that these would if the above were added./Add entertainment/night-life to suit 20-30 year old age range. / Beautify Hwy. 53.
International Falls	I like the atmosphere in that the community is family-minded/small-town feel/protection. Peace and quiet/small population/People are not in such a rush/less Chaos	That it is full of close-knit communities/hard-working people.	Small, locally-owned businesses. Large companies are great, but small businesses bring personal attention. Any forward action should do 2 things: be progressive with the big picture, without losing any of the already established aspects/businesses of the community.	Improve health facilities to rival other nearby facilities/new hospital/more types of care offered/especially a better BIRTHING center & experience. / Another industry, like Boise, to bring in more families and new ideas./Provide living wage jobs for the area. / Provide more areas of study at RRCC/draw more people to the area.
AEOA LIT		Atmosphere of Nature/The folks are always friendly and have smiles	Businesses/factories/keep what we have here	Playgrounds/update the water tower and put our school colors on it/Fix the roads
AEOA LIT	Peacefulness/Friendliness of people/low populated neighborhoods/Natural beauty	Nature peacefulness/People/we find a way to do things without outside involvement	Don't want the friendliness and neighborhood attitude of everyone to become like the people in the cities	More Ma and Pa stores to give growth to the people and less big name companies overruling our small town/Don't want our community to grow too big as we would like/want the small town attitude so we don't lose what's important in life and end up in a rush for this and that

AEOA LIT	Shacks/outside scenery	Can walk around safely	Community stuff	Inside kid zone/climbing rock wall/Lazer tag Kick out bad people/Micro chips in all people/decorate more
AEOA	Family/friends	Conveniences to get to places/friends	Do not want this town to go away/Do not want to loss the Mall	around town to feel welcoming/decorate the schools for holidays/Broadway type theater
I. Falls, Ray, at the lak	Loves living on a little farm/walks in the fields/close to lake/lives in town for schools and activities/Ray is dwindling - no store/privacy, quiet, seeing critters/small town/unlocked doors/can do anything on a whim due to short distances and lack of crowding/lots of outdoor activities	Geologic diversity, prairie to forest to granite lake/fantastic scenery/great communities'wonderful people/diverse things to do/able to get to know people outside your own socio-economic group/friendly	airport/RRCC/friendliness/jobs	encourage small diverse businesses/elect an all female county board/increase zoning enforcement/add another skating rink/add a rec center/improve affordable housing/do something to stop current vandalism and help young people/expand cold weather testing/add tech programs at RRCC/expand vocational training/beautify Highway 53/plant more trees/consider using an architect to plan the 2 highways into town and Main St./look at Three Rivers, Or. where strict building codes were enforced to keep the character of the Main St. etc./improve recycling and add composting/stop hauling trash to another county

Littlefork

The best thing about living in Littlefork is that I live in the same area as my whole extended family. We are blessed to enjoy family, not only at holidays and special occasions, but on a daily basis. / I also have 2 college-age children who attend Bemidji State University, but live at home on the weekends and during the summer.

The best thing that Koochiching County provides to my family, besides an economic reason to live here, is that we are presented with 4 distinct seasons in which to enjoy many local cultural activities. / Koochiching County, however vast it is in size, presents a small-town vibe and culture.

I would hope to never lose access to Canada. I would never want to sever ties with our Canadian neighbor, and I hope that the US and Canada can maintain a strong and healthy relationship on both local and national levels. / I also hope to never lose the opportunity for young people to return to their own home town in Kooch Co. if they choose to do so. / I also hope that Kooch. Co. does not lose more young individuals and families that currently live here to opportunities elsewhere.

The biggest issue for me leads me to point out that Koochiching County is really perceived by the majority of residents as "International Falls." As our physical county seat, Int'l. Falls does represent Kooch. Co., but it is not "Koochiching County." This mentality is embedded and hinders growth. Overcoming this would be a great achievement. Our county needs to know all cities within the county matter. / I was disappointed in the Northome Nursing Home closure, and feel that if this would have been presented within Int'l. Falls, more attention, support & investment would have been provided. / Improving Kooch. Co. involves a "Good Neighbor" philosophy/ & residents need to feel that they matter for their county to survive and thrive. / With an aging population, I believe that a MEMORY CARE UNIT or "behavioral center" would be an asset to Kooch. Co., so that families do not have to experience their loved one being sent to a facility 150 miles away for long-term care. This would be an asset, not only as fulfilling a need, but as an investment with jobs, etc. We have an area which campaigns to "shop local", but we also need a campaign to "Live Local."/ Reality check: we send our expecting parents away to deliver their babies, and we send our aging population away to die.

Littlefork	This is our community of choice because my husband was born & raised here and he really, truly loves this community. I have come to enjoy living here & appreciate the small town atmosphere for raising my girls.	We travel to the metro area a lot, and really truly appreciate the natural beauty that encompasses our county, as well as the beautiful lakes and rivers.	I would like to see the intimacy of living in a rural area remain.	The area is desperate need of more businesses and jobs. I own a newspaper and in the last 10 years have seen many businesses close and not be replaced. This is a tough area to do business in. We have owned & operated ours for 24 years and we still must do significant business out of the county in order to make a living.
Ranier	Camaraderie of a small town.	Access to outdoor activities - hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling/The Park	Ability to access outdoor activities	End the bickering between elected officials/stop the "woe is me" attitude/Bring in more jobs and retail opportunities/Dump Kmart and bring in Target
International Falls	My family resides here	Small town comradare/Rainy Lake/Rainy River/Outdoor Activities/Access to County Land for Hunting and Fishing	Koochiching County Resources/County Land access to Lakes, Rivers and Trails	Improve the social services programs (i.e. communications between organizations and the general public so that they are seen as a helpful resource rather than a "danger zone.)/add more businesses to fit community needs (the "shop locally" statement should mean shopping locally can be done affordably/have a middle school or junior high/reduce illegal drug use/improve the court system by hiring more court staff to handle the hire volume of paper filing or instead go to electronic court filing/improve use of historic sites and museum/improve communications between city and county officials who should be working together

	small town/know lots of people/get to know neighbors/good networking with others at work/watch out for each other/sense of belonging/solitude/beauty/serenity	woods, lake/not too many people/great place to raise kids/summer/seeing stars at night/not too developed/know resources available and easy networking	pristine wilderness and natural beauty/VNP/openness of the lake/medical centers/current jobs/small town feeling
International Falls/at	Supportive community/close knit	Rainy Lake/four seasons	caring community/safety/

better internet connections for everyone/better paying jobs so both parents don't have to work/break up the good old boy network that seems to run everything/create a more diverse community and leadership structure/welcome minority people and give them participation in all parts of the community/create more jobs/ provide more money to the schools/add females to law enforcement/provide more substance free activities for teens after school and weekends/create a youth center with paid staff/accountability for abuse of substances and of people/elect people who listen to their constituents/improve customer service so that everyone who works in local business becomes an ambassador for the community/campsites for people visiting VNP/transparency in the assessment process so that taxes don't drive people out of their homes/increase our voice at the state level/get our own weather station seek wood based plant to locate here/provide good paying jobs/improve school district

<p>Rainy Lake, especially Voyageurs National Park (all respondents); outdoor activity opportunities; rural character, lack of traffic. / Isolation produces caring; sense of rural community, e.g. food shelf, community dinners, volunteers. / Decent connection to rest of world with airport, public radio. / Multi-generational roots (1 respondent). / Better than average medical services for a remote area and graduated care for the aging from senior years through nursing home. / Community amenities like Backus (serves whole county), broad range of worship options, good public library, and International Falls (3) community college.</p>	<p>Ease of getting to goods and services if you live in/near IFalls. / Access to Rainy and Kab lakes. / Scenery with water views. / Communities with character. / Interesting history. / People with disabilities more integrated than in urban areas. / Meet people from all walks of life and get to know them. / Safe place to raise children. / Affordable housing and good overall cost of living. / High percent of grads have stayed over time and/or returned to area. / Endless horse riding trails. / Cross- pollination of different views, international. / IFalls recognized everywhere you go.</p>	<p>Voyageurs National Park. / Quality of overall natural environment environment. / Airport that connects to a hub. / High speed internet. / Coffee Landing.</p>	<p>Better quality department store. / Improve political climate; end one negative man trying to run everything. / End company town mentality. / Broaden views of city council, county board, school board. / Market the little known services the library provides, e. g. high end software for learning a language. / Promote telecommuting like Telluride, CO has done; upgrade Internet. / Improve schools: figure out a healthy relationship between high school and RRCC to benefit all; offer languages, music, arts, etc.; use volunteer talent for creative classroom enrichment; strengthen academic core! better serve both high and low-end students. / Restore RRC theater facility. / Fix the fear of change; get rid of "this is the way we do it; this is the way we've always done it. / Infuse funding and energy into arts and creative small businesses. / Make IFalls a diverse economy; no more one industry town. / Provide more shopping opportunities; limited items available to shop local. / Provide more indoor winter opportunities, e.g. Lookout Ridge and spa. / Improve mental health services, especially for youth; not enough choice.</p>
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International Falls	If I didn't love my job I wouldn't live here/expansion and improvement of Menards and County Market.	Woods and water/VNP access	Rainy River Community College/Health care for all ages and medical conditions./job opportunities for all ages - a reason for young people to stay.	Need more hiking trails (Xcounty ski trails aren't good for walking)/Need a nice campground near Int'l Falls./ More recreational outfitters-rental of kayaks, canoes, etc or better advertising of those who do this/build a culture of quality and improvement./ Be more inclusive and open instead of isolationist./ clean up and improve appearance of homes & businesses especially along main roads./Locals need to do a better job of reaching out to welcome and include new people./businesses should make it easier for people to know what products and services are available in the area because yellow pages are insufficient and not all business have websites - Chamber?
International Falls	Easy access to public library/unique local shopping/everything is in close proximity - banking, groceries, etc.	Our natural landscape-we live in one of the most beautiful areas of the country / With the changing seasons there are so many different outdoor activities to enjoy.	Quality high-paying jobs with benefits/Rainy River Community College/Preserving our lakes and natural lands.	Search of innovative industries to bring into the community/ Being open to change Build a prison/build a casino/bring in new and more manufacturing even if it means stepping on Boise's toes.
Littlefork	Knowing most of the people. Friendliness/community events (especially in warm months)/natural beauty/local restaurants	Safety / Outdoor activities	Freedom/Safety	
International Falls		Access to natural resources/low crime	Preservation of natural resources	Four-lane highway to International Falls/invest in bringing in business/bring in the MLS/modern, high-end rentals
Ranier	Living near Rainy Lake/short walking distance/beaches	generous and caring people/forests/Backus Community Center/the art murals/golf course/cross country ski trails/fishing/VNP	The Mill/jobs/the outdoor life/ski trails/snowmobile trails/fishing	improve main street/make it a destination/more unique shops/don't need three dollar stores/embrace tourism/more hiking trails/more biking trails/advertise what is here like the golf course, lake, river and VNP/stops for tourists and families with playgrounds/lunch wagons/improve entrances into the city on Highways 53 and 71/water park

Falls	close knit community/low crime rate/low cost of living	close knit community/low crime rate/low cost of living	High School pool/Manka ski trails	Diversify business base/make political process more transparent
Falls	generosity of spirit/volunteerism/boot strap tenacity/fierce love of outdoors/live and let live neighborliness/pride of place/ Rural outdoors/ Good paying career / "My children get to grow up hinging, fishing and enjoying the outdoors in general."	people are independent/proud/capable	spirit of cohesiveness/Smokey Bear/ City Beach/ mom and pop motels/VNP/community park relationship/Shawn Mason/Backus Community Center	reduce the stubborn resistance to change/reduce cronyism/reduce generational retention/reduce the widely accepted level of mediocrity/change the attitude of animosity and distrust toward non-native residents/open communication so that locals would be more receptive to other perspectives/build a wine bar downtown/ open a micro brewery in Woodys in Ranier/build upscale restaurants/change to look of our corridor entries/no more aluminum or pole building permits/no more dollar stores/new full sized motel/eliminate dysfunction/identify those who are constipating the process with ego and misplaced agendas and remove them/build an ice cream parlor/more public art and cultural opportunities/better bike trails/sidewalks/better playgrounds
Kabetogama		Same as #1 / Very low cost of living - low housing costs, low property taxes	Rainy River Community College	"I would like to make mutual respect and collaboration truly happen. Individuals, businesses, politicians, and institutions must take off the 'battle armor' and come to the 'innovation table' in good faith."

<p>International Falls (on community /</p> <p>"I love living on Rainy Lake" / Small Community / Natural beauty / recreation in all four seasons / the feeling of</p>	<p>Same as #1</p>	<p>The sense of security/ low crime rate / positive policing / "I don't want property taxes to become prohibitive for individuals on fixed incomes." / "I don't want to lose sight of economic development efforts to diversify our economy." / I want to encourage local business and industry to continue to invest in the prosperity of our local economy." / limitless recreational opportunities within VNP / community support for our educational systems k-12 and higher education. /</p>	<p>"I want the legislature to value and recognize the challenges of small, geographically isolated, rural communities." / I would have the City and the County work together and not fight / I would look for more opportunities to collaborate.</p>
<p>International Falls (on Rainy Lake</p>	<p>Hunting/wide open spaces/wheeler riding</p>	<p>"I don't want more restrictions (Park restrictions) on houseboats, motor boats. You need to ask the Park what their 100 year plan is. They have one. You need to see it."</p>	<p>"We need more for young people - jobs and careers/ "Software related jobs. Litten developed the first microwave and moved to South Dakota on Minnesota Avenue. Minnesota lost lots of business to North Dakota - so many they named an Avenue 'Minnesota'" / Do something with tax free zones / "There are trucks leaving with loads of Boise Paper, they need to be full of something else when returning or put it on the train to return" / "We need to get rid of unions. The union mentality scares businesses from coming to town." / "One idea would be a repackaging business where things in bulk are repackaged to display packaging for store shelves."</p>

International Falls anc	small community/family/people work together/great networking/continuity of care	gets to see all of the county/some areas not serviced as well as others/travel, but live here	Hold on to what we have now/expand, if possible/need to be able to make things better	develop a transportation system, both county-wide and to Virginia and Bemidji/find chore, handy man services for elderly and disabled/more help for people who need it for navigating medical bills, etc./Deal with the large influx of homeless people in the 20 - 30 age range
International Falls anc	Convenience to services, shopping, etc./walkable/friendly neighbors/pretty community by and large/safe/less expensive, able to try different hats (try new things)/lots to do/natural beauty/elbow room	freedom to go anywhere/photo ops/natural beauty/friendly people who help each other/lack of traffic	quality of the natural environment/support services	Broadly educate elected officials on progressive thinking/also the broader population/ask people what they want/Improve the looks of the town while preserving historic neighborhoods/improve customer service in businesses/attract, foster, and retain young people and young families/improve diversity of shopping available (improves the image of the community)/Avoid the building of buildings that don't fit, e.g. water treatment plant/consider non-profits as part of economic development/keep seniors from leaving the community/schools should be as good as metro schools/ concern for growing unemployment among 20-40 year old males/insure access to food, transportation and health care for the underclass
AEOA LIT International Falls anc	Kind hearted people I.F.:Convenience to services, shopping, etc./walkable/friendly neighbors/attractive community/safe/less expensive/able to try new things (try different hats/lots to do At the lake: natural beauty/elbow room	Small town ambience Freedom to go anywhere/photo ops/natural beauty/friendly people who help each other/lack of traffic	Small Town neighbor hood feeling quality of the natural environment/support services	Better Public services for the homeless/More resources to stay more than 2 days when homeless/More options of businesses/More recreation for kids youth 12-18/Big Brother Broadly educate elected officials in progressive thinking/ same for the broader population/ask folks what they want/imprve the looks of the town while preserving historic neighborhoods and buildings

AEOA LIT	Littlefork/Close community/I enjoy farm and rural area	Beautiful environment/Lakes/Fishing/Nature	Beautiful environment and Natural surroundings/non violence/no gangs	Increase jobs and employment opportunities/increase entertainment opportunities/Casino/Concerts/skiing/YMCA
Littlefork	I like the small knit community that is accepting of people/this is a great place to raise a family.	I like the outdoors of hunting, fishing, & 4-wheeling at an easy convenience.	I don't want to lose anymore people from the area,	I would try to bring more economic diversity.
Ranier/International Falls	The small town atmosphere where everyone is a friend/it doesn't take long for newcomers to feel welcome	The beauty of the area/Rainy Lake and the wilderness/serenity that surrounds us/the experience of the four seasons/Voyageurs National Park/cold weather and IceBox of Nation keep promoting	Education and school opportunities/promote arts and culture and recreation for our youth/RRCC	More industry/better job opportunities for youth so they don't have to move away/provide transportation for better access to health care that can't be provided locally
Falls	Being surrounded by wilderness/proximity of Rainy Lake and Rainy River/sense of isolation/most local people are open and welcoming to those from the outside	Spend the bulk of my time in International Falls	A sense that we are unique because we are on the border/have excellent hunting and fishing/ known as the Icebox of the Nation contributes to our mystique	Highway 53 to be all four lane/Change the unwillingness of people to be open to new ideas for economic development/City-wide and county-wide cooperation is difficult perhaps because there is no consensus on either method or goal in this area/many government entities put protecting turf instead of cooperation/reduce the fear of change/people want things to be like they were 30-40 years ago/recreational possibilities should be more strongly marketed/make this area a destination rather than a through-point to Canada/change and diversify the economy from a one industry town to a more diversified one/civic leaders need to to develop a unified vision of what economic diversity should look like for our area
Falls	People willing to pull together/slow pace of life/sense of community	our county is beautiful/town not so much/	Our core values and standards/build on these for forward progress	Change the impetus for our core values/change from working against bullying to working for kindness and respect/change from working against blight to working for beauty/unity comes from what we work for not against

	The small town community where you know your neighbors/people support schools/benefits/fundraisers/community projects	Recreation on Rainy Lake/low crime/safe communities/snowmobile trails/international airport	Recreation opportunities on lakes and trails/safe community/international airport/health care	Strive for economic development/healthy downtown/expand bicycle trails and ATV trails/take advantage of recreational opportunities to promote tourism for winter and summer/improve schools with updated class selections and technology/promote arts and music
Falls				
Falls	Small town feel	The remote beauty	The natural beauty of the area The beauty of the natural resources and critters of the river lake and forest	Increase school funding to focus on the arts make highway 53 approach to I Falls and Main Street into I Falls much more attractive to visitors with better resorts and businesses
Falls	Living on Rainy Lake with quick access to the lake	Living in a small community without big city traffic		
	airport/public & private education/Backus community center/RRCC/friendly & progressive businesses/artists/craftsmen/ Border Concert Association/ service organizations/city beach/senior care & residences/ good city services/library/parks/roads/law enforcement/fire dept/excellent tasting water/clinic/hospital/professionals/restaurants/recreation/lodging/cold weather testing/dependable & committed workers/pride in the area by locals and those that have moved away	Rainy Lake/Rainy River/VNP/resorts/closeness to Canada/airport /beautiful scenery/accommodations/ law enforcement/senior services/health services	population/jobs/businesses/youth /community enthusiasm/medical services/tourism/resorts/recreation/community center/concerts/cultural base/ good leadership/professionals/innovators/county & city services/educational facilities/airport/senior services	better internet & cell services/support what we have/stay upbeat with no negativity/advertise the area/train employees, wait staff, clerks, etc so tourists are wowed with their service and appearance/promote VNP/ Post great photos of area on public and media sites/a bridge port at the airport/summer resident condos on golf course and water areas/advertise condos in the south/have solid good friendly medical services/ a tax break for small businesses/ beautify the downtown with a unique look/beautify the corridor coming into town/put something in the open spots downtown playground/sculpture/ flower garden/lamps/benches/trees/bottle Falls water/develop a recreation course for ATVs
Falls				

Falls Rotary Club Striv	Fishing/hunting/Rainy Lake/not a city/cold with lots of snow/wildlife/small/everyone knows one another/people wave/remote/edge of the wilderness/easy to navigate/looking out for disadvantaged/International border community/a good place to raise kids and they can get out of their comfort zone/people look out for others/smallness makes people learn how to solve conflicts	Great schools throughout county/more room for growth/diversity/mix of professional and blue collar jobs/caring nature/lot of trees/what you can do with them/lot of forest/loggers/rivers and lakes/surplus of state, federal and county land/public land for hunting/National Park/groomed snowmobile trails	School quality/friendliness of people/small town/hospital/water quality/small town feel/pretty positive community/opportunities for seniors - bus trips/border concerts/Backus/RRCC/Mill - must be filled with people/major employers/jobs/resiliancy/Shasha	Beef-up schools/campaign for better reading class/class standards up/offer AP classes - calculus, English/pave some roads/make others better/create a community center with a sports center, pool/like a YMCA/create more jobs/change concept of the national park/encourage more people to us/build bike trails/build a campground on Rainy Lake/more access into VNP/more bike trails/more places to get out and see nature/increase camping areas/ski trails/bring another major business in/a train from I Falls to Twin Cities/build a toilet paper factory
Falls	Nature/scenery/living on Rainy River/a bible-believing church/having a great job/being able to play volleyball/a school system that is good enough	Lack of people/beauty of the surroundings/big enough that you don't know everyone/small enough that some local business owners take time to say hello	Jobs/job that will pay the bills/without good jobs we would be forced to move/we are not career people and would move wherever the jobs were/a bible-believing church	Restore the Alexander Baker Building to house a variety of things roof-top cafe/coffee bar/ museum rooms/rental space/apartments/build a mini-golf amusement part/large wooden playground/refurbish the ICO building to sell food beverages and have a water-filling station/open ICE International Chocolate Emporium in the Jim's Cafe building/build greenhouses to grow produce to sell locally and ship out/build a plasma gassification facility
Northome	small town atmosphere/close knit/good school/church	peace and quiet/tranquility/wilderness	our community/another business	better paying jobs/housing/clean up the appearance of our community/attract younger people/provide job training

				we need to try to at least find a way to bring viable jobs to our area so we don't have to commute an hour to make a living/outreach facilities/satellite companies/enhance educational opportunities/workforce educational program/apprenticeships
Northome	the closeness of the community It is a very peaceful tightknit	peace and quiet/nature/wildlife/fishing/	don't want to lose the closeness of the community/don't want to lose peace and quiet	
Northome, MN	supportive community	quiet untouched wilderness	tranquility and wilderness	bigger variety of jobs/make it easier for businesses to locate here/more housing
Falls	Friendly people/people willing to help each other/I have no desire to move to a larger city	All the small towns in the county seem like one	The Mill/or any other businesses/entertainment/concerts	Bring in more business/settle the dispute between the Clinic and the Hospital
Falls	Friendly people/people willing to help each other/I have no desire to move to a larger city	All the small towns in the county seem like one	The Mill/or any other businesses/entertainment/concerts	Bring in more business/settle the dispute between the Clinic and the Hospital
Northome	Low crime/solitude/privacy/friendly people	no response given	Local businesses/schools/nursing homes	Move county seat to Big Falls/more jobs/signs advertising existing businesses/marketing person for locally made crafts/lower taxes/better markets for timber
Falls	Backus Community Center/encouragement of small business/feeling of being a family	Natural beauty of the area/cultural opportunities at community center/services such as health/police/fire/local bus service	Sense of caring unity/Backus community center	Assist small business/help our community center/improve sidewalks/provide infrastructure jobs

Rainy Lake

No response provided.

What I like most about living in the county is the peace and quiet. I am fortunate to have a place on Rainy lake. I have lived in Grand Rapids, Bemidji and the metro area before accepting a job in Koochiching county. There is no lake in MN that offers what Rainy does.

I can't think of a single thing that Koochiching County has to offer that I would miss. There is so much that is needed.

If I were in charge I would try to improve the community by basing sometype of business which employee 500 positions. These positions would be filled by EDUCATED people. I'm talking jobs that require a 4 yr degree. This community needs new familys from outside the area with new idea's. Young people who are driven. Those who able to raise the bar and have new ideas. / I would encourage this current tight knit community to open it's doors to change and new comers. I have been here 18 yrs. International Falls residents in my opinion are very unwelcoming. Though I only lived in Littlefork for 3 yrs, I feel they have a very welcoming and strong community. / I would set the bar much higher at the educational level. My son left high school in 11th grade to obtain his AA degree at the community college. He stated," high school is for the kids who need baby sat. The teachers don't teach well anyhow." Again, with the lack of professional carreers opportunity the bar is set very low for most children. / I feel change must come from the outside. / After living here for 18 yrs, I feel like the life has been sucked out of me. My wife has also expressed these feelings. I have guilt for staying here to raise a family. I wish this was offered 18 yrs ago when I had energy. I really hope change can happen here. My wife and I won't retire here, despite Rainy lake. We have missed out on many great things by not living in Hermantown, Grand Rapids, Duluth, Grand Forks simply because our jobs don't allow us to move at this point in our life.

International Falls	Communities willingness to help each other in times of need. / The beauty of the area both in winter and summer.	Sense of security and knowing your neighbors	Beauty and tranquility of the lake and surrounding environment.	Add industry/jobs to double the population so that the area would resemble the 1980's./ Increase recreational and leisure opportunities, such as creating a sports complex with ice rink, pool, tennis, racquetball, soccer field, climbing wall, obstacle course that is usable in winter and summer./ More mapped biking/snowmobiling paths and interconnection to entire county, International Falls to Virginia, Bemidji, & Baudette. Use these resources to draw people to the area by having rentals and guided tours./ Fund more school opportunities for the Arts, i.e. Art, Band, Choir, Theater and Dance so students appreciate the value and importance in their lives.
Northome	Family is here/raised here/people are friendly/the lakes/friendly people/born and raised in the area/the town/the people/school/I feel safe here/the school/convenience of small businesses close to my house/the people Out of town for the peace and quiet	Quiet/outdoor recreation/the seasons/hunting and fishing/outdoor activities/the people/outdoor activities/location	Small town living/outdoor recreation/services available/shopping/health services/job opportunities/keep what we have/our school/school/jobs	more effort to improve all communities not just the biggest ones/try to attract a company that would provide a lot of jobs/keep the dollars generated here spent here/more jobs/draw people to area with job development
AEOA		Small	Shopping we have	Target store/Mall with Teen clothes/Night time daycare
AEOA	ATV riding/Hunting/Fishing/Trapping Littlefork because that is where	Lots of woods/privacy	Forests/Small town	Target Store/Gander Mountain Store/Dirt bike trail/More hunting areas
AEOA	I grew up there Familiar people/Nice quiet little town	Good Education	Quiet and safe environment	More Higher Education opportunities More Language options in High school
AEOA		Community Events/4th July/Fair	Boise	More employment opportunities

AEOA	Nothing in town	Hunting and fishing	Rights to hunt and fish	Better paying jobs/Cabela's hunting and fishing store/More and better ATV trails/Larger 4th of July should have vendors and activities throughout the town
AEOA	Convenience	Like living in a small town	Quietness/Seclusion	Kids Center for all ages/Mandatory drug tests weekly for people on assistance/After hour day care/Daycare at College/Reasonable and nice rental places for youth/People to understand and not be judgmental if a person is on assistance expand angel investor and business incubator programs/expand maintain and promote recreational trail system/establish small transitional health care systems in each Koochiching County community/create a series of events in each community and one large event of national prominence within the county to attract tourism
Northome	Small town feel/friendly people/caring community/safe community/recreational opportunities	recreational opportunities/safe communities/strong volunteerism	community healthcare/jobs/local schools/	Draw varied employment opportunities to the county/educate people to welcome change/welcome people into community/encourage young families to remain here or move here
Littlefork	Rural setting/small town feel/safe environment to raise children	Rural setting/beauty of land and what it has to offer	people/jobs/ability for people and families to earn a living in Koochiching County	
Northome	My husband's job brought me here/I've never met better people/proud to call Northome home/friendly caring community/apex of 3 state highways/many small lakes for summer and winter fishing/not influenced by labor unions/camping and canoeing	Friendly supportive people/environment and recreational opportunities/small community is friendly supportive and has many recreational opportunities/open space/vast wilderness areas but therein lies the problem as there is not much you can do with 6000 square miles of swamp and wetland/Northome/clean air/quiet and solitude/low crime	Businesses and jobs/the remaining 14,500 residents/lets be very careful not to compromise a valued lifestyle on our journey to success/young people/family farms/trees	Embrace change/we are doing great things but we need to be open minded to change and how we can cooperatively improve our community/people need to be open minded to change/try new ideas to grow/put more emphasis on tourism and the service industry/main reason people come here is outdoor recreation and the wilderness experience/provide and do a better job of recycling garbage/better signage for visitors to area/emphasize tourism

Ardenhurst Township	<p>People are friendly/Environment is uncrowded and full of outdoor natural delights/Excellent media and communications services/Deal directly with an individual when we need services rather than a pre-recorded message/appreciate the change of season/fishing and hunting opportunities/abundance of public lands.</p>	<p>Rural environment/wilderness area close at hand</p>	<p>Merchants and services</p>	<p>Tourism is a fundamental pillar of Koochiching County/The full potential of the Bigfork River for recreational canoeing and kayaking is not adequately maintained or developed/Campsites are poorly maintained and ill-spaced/A comprehensive plan for adding and improving campsites providing for consistent maintenance and marketing could increase tourism in the county/Small businesses offer the most potential for growth and a program for nurturing small business startups might bear fruit and a mentoring program combined with carefully administered startup grants might result in one or two businesses that grow to be significant employers.</p>
Ranier	<p>Lack of density of people/ability of the extended community to come together.</p>	<p>Outdoor opportunities and availability of a wilderness experience close by.</p>	<p>Decent environment specifically pollution wise, maintenance of the land and water.</p>	<p>Term limits for politicians/Active training program for new politicians/Recruit leaders for the future. Start a leadership program to identify and recruit new leaders. Something like the Jaycees but actively recruit young people to be leaders/Rethink our future based on population changes.</p>
Ranier	<p>Being close to necessities (grocery stores, etc.) and the Lake/Knowing the people/</p>	<p>The beauty of the area, being so close to nature. Boating, trails, the Park is beautiful.</p>	<p>The smallness, don't want to see a large metro area!/ Improve medical facilities/get businesses here that pay a living wage/get people to accept the fact that VNP is here to stay/Identify business to support tourism, especially within VNP/Sewer will be going to Sha Sha's but we need to get water to the East end also! It's crazy we can't provide the basic necessities for survival to our citizens!</p>	

East of International F	Best part is the closeness of knowing everyone whether at the grocery store or wherever/The Lakes/	Wide area of things to do in the county/The outdoors, lakes, rivers, resorts/wouldn't trade the area for anything/County Commissioners do a good job but should have started sewer project in Baudette, they have a lot worse sewer problems than we do and would have cleaned the river/	More land to Voyageur National Park/A lot of people have lost their life time homes/Small town feel/hunting and land rights./Wouldn't want to lose Franze Jevne or the state and county park sites (Big Fork, Birchdale, etc.)	Make sure that all county roads were tared. Not just the ones on the lake but all county roads/Improve medical facilities/Good building for the humane society/
Pelland Junction	Community College provides excellent access to higher education/Grocery Stores, specifically Super One is very giving to the community/Small town, provide a greater sense of community.	You can be out in the wilderness but not so far out there isn't someone close by/The River/Trees/Water	The College/Smaller schools/Best Grocery Store in Town (Stewarts)/Don't want to lose Boise/Don't want to loose train bridge crossing/Peoples sense of independence.	Make the College what it can become and what the State starves it from becoming. The College is an essential part of growth to making this county what we can be.
The Lake (East)	The Lake/Environment/The North Woods/Natural Resources	Remoteness/Neighbors are not next to each other/Residents are more dependent on each other/Stronger People ties because we live in a remote area /Residents have a self belonging/Community Atmosphere is better because of remoteness./ In touch with nature/more connected because we are together more.	Community Sense/Concerns about Economic Development. Boise appears NOT to want any growth for fear of fighting for the same resources.	Improve Law Enforcement and VN Park relationships with citizens/Image of protect and preserve doesn't seem to be, law enforcement/Park has to build a trusting relationship with the community.

Ranier	Residents work together/small community/ access to the lake/	All the outdoors has to offer, forest, lakes, hunting, fishing/Voyageurs National Park/Rainy Lake/ Small Communities/Ability to get away from it all and not drive 100 miles!/The way people pull together for a common cause (flood 2014)	Small Community atmosphere and outdoor activities	The constant negativity and arguing among County Commissioners and International Falls City Council. It makes us look like we are backwoods and prevents us from making this community a better place/Improve communications. We have a newspaper that publishes twice weekly and one radio station that does very little to inform the community of what is going on. Unfortunately, neither one is well respected within the community.
International Falls	Warmth of our wonderful small community./ Typical small town – We are in our little area. / We are not reaching out to people five miles away./ I am not a native but have chosen to live here for forty years. I like the way the community embraced me and my husband. / We are small but we have a lot of opportunities other small towns don't have./ I like the beauty of our area, the scenery, Rainy Lake, fishing and water sports.	The county is close in inter-action even though we are far apart in distance. / The trees- I don't like wide open spaces. / Everything – nice road to travel to and from here – the airport – providing us the ability to get out of town. / Integration between us and Fort Frances./ Education in our area is superb / like summer in our town and the tourism.	The quality of a smaller town. / Safety of living here and being able to know everyone as well as I do now. / Good medical care. / Certain aspects of our culture: i.e.: fishing news, sports news etc. / Relationship of things that bring us together. / Education and generosity of people in our area.	We are good at coming together in a crisis. Would find a way to keep that togetherness going so it would become a way of life. It wouldn't change policy just change our hearts and redirect our spirit. / Would open another factory. / The paper mill is gradually closing. We need something that will provide jobs – something that will be successful over time. / Work very hard at bringing county and city government together. / Also I would bring schools together like Littlefork and the Falls etc. /
International Falls	Inexpensive cost of living / Low crime / No daily commute / Small town atmosphere	Inexpensive cost of living / Low crime / Easy access to public land / Rainy Lake	Safety and security, Close knit community feel	Build and promote an educated workforce / Bring in at least one additional major manufacturer / Replace KMart with a rival store / Clean up blight, especially along the major corridors

International Falls MN	the slower pace of life	the silence to hear thoughts	like minded people	make our area a pilot project for environmentally friendly industry"/"research and development of electromagnetic technology"/"make everyone be honest with themselves
International Falls	I grew up here and still have family that live here/ Rainy Lake	The cost of living such as housing and taxes is less here than what I was paying in the Twin Cities/	Home town feel "Would not want to lose FHS by combining with schools in the region" / our small businesses	Improved and more convenient health care/ Bring in additional industry that would contribute to additional and higher paying job opportunities/ Bring in additional retail that would provide jobs and a variety of shopping opportunities
International Falls	Small community / outdoors / Rainy Lake	Nature / camping in Birchdale and Kab		"Would like people to stay in the community instead of leaving"
International Falls	The four seasons / Rainy Lake / Fishing / Hunting / "We're within 1.5 hours of the best hunting, fishing, and outdoor experiences in Northern MN" / "We're in God's country" / Community / Everyone know everybody / "All my family is here." / "As a senior in high school, I couldn't wait to leave, later I couldn't wait to come back." / "No traffic jams in International Falls." / It's a great place to raise a family / Don't have to lock doors.	"I think this is a repeat of the first question." / Resources, lakes, forest, trails, parks / Boise land opportunities / "It gives my family good business (logging company)" /	Border crossing access to Canada / Accessibility to Canada / Use of teh Park / Boise / Wouldn't want it to get smaller / Natural resources - river, lake / SFIA (state forest initiative ___) gives public access to forestland for snowmobile trail access / Boise lease land / The College / The Hospital / the Clinic / The High School	"Stop another Dollar Store from going up" / " Start an initiative to encourage businesses to train their employees on customer service" / provide an incentive for businesses to expand / "provide a student loan repayment plan that would encourage employers to hire and recruit well trained people while helping the new employee repay their student loans." / better paying jobs / we need more things for people to do so they'll come for big hockey tournaments (there isn't enough for the families or parents to do when their teams aren't on the ice / easier border crossing for athletic teams / easier border relations for people to cross over to Fort Frances to use their dialysis equipment / more stuff to do - like a mall / mini put golf course - a good one / more stuff for families to do / expand the college's tech programs / have a four year college / larger conference center with a resort on the water / boat rentals to give more people access to the lake / event center / tap into the rails coming back and forth across the border - is there a way to develop something in the free trade zone?

<p>Pretty location, Nature, Small businesses are growing, I love knowing everybody everywhere I go, close knit community, during the flood this summer I loved how everyone helped and how businesses served food, atmosphere, lake, scenery,</p> <p>Int'l Falls, Lake area, A Voyageur's National Park</p>	<p>Drive any direction and you'll see woods, deer, nature, every town in Koochiching has beautiful surroundings, hunting, shack, cabin</p>	<p>Quietness, traffic keeps moving I don't want it to slow down or become congested or polluted, small businesses are unique, I like knowing business owners, small businesses bring towns closer together, small businesses are more personal, close knit, small class sizes of 80 per grade, I like knowing all my classmates, feeling of security and comfort, I do not want to combine schools, I like knowing people's stories like what they did in kindergarten, RRCC, RRCC is such a diverse place bringing people from all over, RRCC is like a melting pot, without RRCC we'd be an ignorant town of white people, RRCC keeps local kids here, RRCC encourages kids to stay, RRCC is safe, RRCC provides diversity, beauty, accessibility</p>	<p>Guard rails on every road possible, heated roads, need yellow signs that identify the edge of road corners, better infrastructure, improvements to RRCC to attract more students, build businesses for more occupational opportunities for people to move here, more entertainment, community center with swimming and rec center, YMCA, better use of taxes, parks need improvements, improve Backus AB 3rd floor floors are wavy, utilize buildings we already have, get garbage off roads, give town a face lift, paint, hospital needs to increase their ability to care for people instead of sending them other places, build up health care so we don't send people to Virginia or Duluth</p>
<p>Small town, secluded, lots of helpful people, out of city & private.</p> <p>Littlefork</p>	<p>Family & friends are all close.</p>	<p>L-BF school system, and Littlefork nursing home. Sometimes too focused on what not to lose instead of what to gain looking forward - RRCC on rebound, adding programs & growing, Boise, UHC, TruStar, grocery stores.</p>	<p>Get a new mayor, evaluate the leadership in decision-makers who are stalling progress. Need new fresh leadership for a fresh approach. Appearance of Falls needs improvement, Target over K-Mart, YMCA, pool.</p>

Littlefork	The closeness of the community, you know everyone, family-oriented community, school system.	Recreational activities, rural setting, busy life but not too busy, low traffic, RRCC.	The ability to enjoy county & state lands available to us, outdoors lifestyle. Quietness/Small Businesses brings towns together/Closeness/Small class sizes/Security/Comfort/College brings culture and diversity to the community	Enforce a bi-annual clean-up day for every homeowner. Other cities look more kept up, several areas are severely neglected. Hwy. 53, entrance into Int'l. Falls has tipped over signs, median between frontage rd. & Chocolate Moose. Need beautification on Hwy. 53, need to get funding for that like Mainstreet, paper mill should focus on that. Guard Rail on roadways/Heated Roads/More Caution Road Signs/Increase size of RRCC/Build businesses/bring more entertainment to the area/Better use of taxes/Provide Parks/Enhance Backus Community Center/Clean up the region/Blight/Improve Health Care Facilities
International Falls	Nature/Smallness of town/Close Knit/Lakes/VNP/Scenary	Woods/Environment/Hunting/Shack or Cabin		
Littlefork	It's a small community feeling with its own identity and I can have close, personal relationships with people. Safety, the school system.	The outdoors, hunting, remoteness.	The vast amount of public recreational land for use. Would not want to see it become privatized by a big company.	Retain young people in the area. Create things that offer opportunities for young people to stay here, create an appealing atmosphere for younger people.