

QUESTION 1

“What makes Joplin Special?”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What makes Joplin special? That is an easy question but one with many answers! Joplin is a cohesive community that enjoys a small-town atmosphere. It is easy to see how cohesive we are as a community when reflecting not only on the recovery efforts following the 2011 tornado but to see the community support efforts such as building the new school on Dover Hill, Prop B, the Harry M. Cornell arts complex, and many non-profits. Did you know that as a community, we are the most charitable city in the state of Missouri? As of 2015, according to philanthropy.com, on average the Joplin community gave approximately 4.73% of personal income to charitable organizations. As a community, we take care of others, we give to others, we assist, and we support. Yes, we are cohesive, and it is a value statement, and our strength.

A strength is a positive quality, or for a city, something that can be leveraged to improve the community. I can't think of a better strength for a city to have than to be a cohesive community. If we are cohesive, we have the ability to achieve any outcome that we set our collective minds on. Joplin can rally together as it has done before to build a better community for future generations.

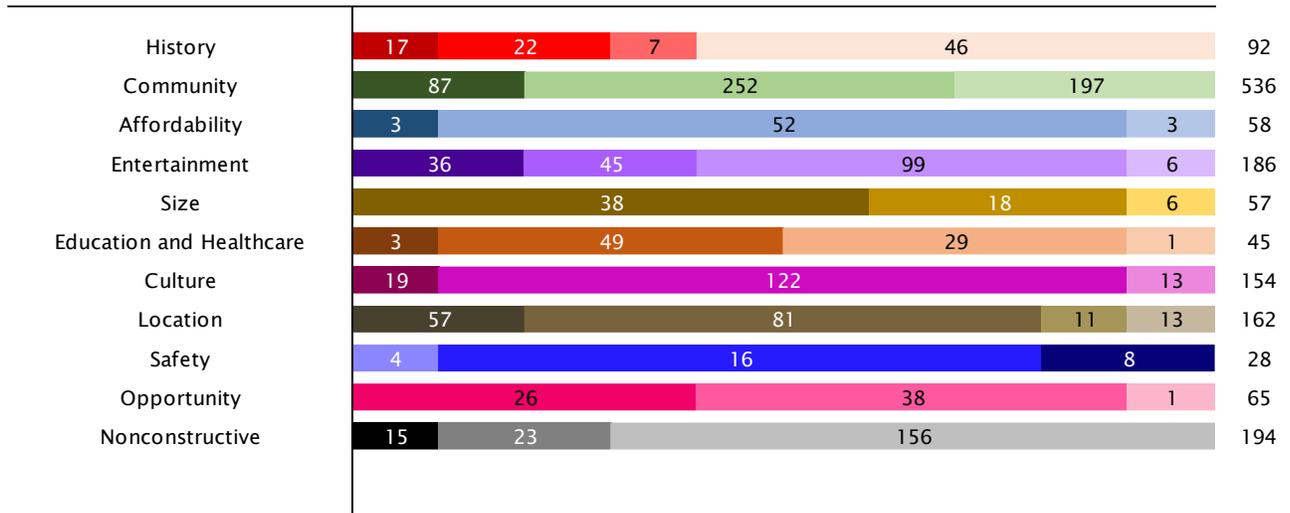
A strength must also be maintained, just like a muscle, Joplin should continue to use it's

cohesiveness, friendly atmosphere, and other strengths to maintain our character. If we don't maintain our strength, we risk losing the city's identity and the ability to improve the community.

As an organization, the City of Joplin, should encourage and support activities that build cohesiveness. This can take many forms but in essence, the City of Joplin should prioritize plans that improve quality of life initiatives that bring us together collectively around shared values and ideas and provide the ability to strengthen relationships. This could mean enhancing community events like Third Thursday, or to a greater degree, strengthening citizen engagement using models similar to previous efforts such as the Citizens Advisory Recovery Team (CART). On a neighborhood level, the North Heights neighborhood gives great examples such as Porchfest that provides the opportunity to build bonds and enrich our quality of life. The options and ideas that can bring us together are endless and exciting.

QUESTION #1 GRAPH

What makes Joplin Special?



Common Themes



DETAILED SUMMARY

COMMON THEMES

- HISTORY
- COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE
- COST OF LIVING
- ENTERTAINMENT AND RESTAURANTS
- CULTURE
- NON-CONSTRUCTIVE
- LOCATION
- SAFETY
- TRAILS AND PARKS
- POTENTIAL AND OPPORTUNITY
- SIZE

HISTORY

Many citizens enjoy the history behind Route 66, Bonnie and Clyde and their time in Joplin, the only mining days, Joplin's bootlegging and jazz roles. Recent history includes the tornado and post-recovery efforts.

COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE

People appreciate how the community came together after the tornado and in other tragedies such as COVID-19. They commonly mention how friendly the people in the community are. Everyone pitches in when they see someone in need. There are many ways to get involved in the community whether through leadership or groups/activities/volunteering. There is a sense of pride in Joplin. People here are hard-working with strong values. Some people were born and raised here, others find it an easy community to raise their families in, and some have come back after being away because they enjoy the community. For those not born and raised here they find the friendliness of the people and strong sense of community appealing.

COST OF LIVING

Affordable for families, retirees, budding entrepreneurs. Low cost of living but a high quality of life is still to be had. There is affordable entertainment for everyone.

ENTERTAINMENT AND RESTAURANTS

Joplin is a hub for shopping and local retail. The city has many major amenities and an abundance of restaurants both local and chains. There are always downtown events in the summer with Third Thursday being the biggest draw and appeal. Prior to COVID-19 there were always shows and entertainment being brought in. Many people enjoy the arts community as well as the freedom to host events such as pride fests, cruises, car shows, etc.

CULTURE

The conservative values of the area (a few of answers say it's the progressive values). The community has a strong religious/spiritual base. The entire community enjoys the "small town feel"

and atmosphere. There are many citizens here from a variety of backgrounds.

NON-CONSTRUCTIVE

Non-constructive statements consist of mask mandate complaints, City Council complaints or other derogatory and non-constructive statements/remarks.

LOCATION

Joplin is at the crossroads of America. It's a hub for surrounding cities for entertainment, food and events. It has a close proximity to other cities such as Northwest Arkansas, Springfield and Kansas City, which makes it a convenient location to live in. Joplin is the metropolitan area of the region. People enjoy Joplin's topography and it's mix of cityscape and rural areas. Due to its central location many people travel through the area from all walks of life statements/remarks.

SAFETY

Many appreciate Joplin's relatively low crime rate compared to surrounding areas, as well as that it feels like safe place to raise their families.

TRAILS AND PARKS

Joplin has many beautiful parks. There are areas of natural beauty, such as the Grand Falls and areas near the trails and parks. Our parks are clean and safe. Lately we have had an abundance of growth for trails and places to walk/ride bikes. They are good family areas.

POTENTIAL AND OPPORTUNITY

Joplin has great opportunities for small businesses, and there are quite a few in the city. The Chamber and growing entrepreneur population have the ability to grow Joplin and bring in other young professionals and major companies. There has been an uprising in growth since the tornado and a constant desire for improvement. There is plenty of potential in the city, as many feel. People enjoy the job/work opportunities. With continued investment in schools and higher wages Joplin could grow immensely, along with nurturing cultural growth. Optimal place for businesses to grow due to location.

"It's a city filled with potential..."



SIZE

Joplin is a small town with a "larger city" feeling. The population is small and a mix of rural and city living. People enjoy that while smaller in size it has everything they feel they need.