

POCD/Vision Survey Questions

1. Community Character

1. Do you believe that Salem's has a distinctive community character?

Scale: Yes No Don't Know/No Opinion

2. If you believe that Salem has a distinctive community character, then what do you believe contributes to it?

Scale: Does Not Contribute.... to... Greatly Contributes, Not Applicable

- Its rural characteristics
- Its sense of community
- The volunteerism of its citizens
- The participation of its citizens in town affairs
- Its history

3. Does Salem give you a sense of community?

Scale: Not at All ... to... Very Much So, Don't Know/No Opinion

4. If Salem does not give you a sense of community, what would give you one?

[Freeform responses]

5. Is it important that Salem have a “green” focus?

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

6. If you believe that Salem should have a “green” focus then which of the following is necessary:

Scale: Not at all Necessary... to... Extremely Necessary, Not Applicable, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Recycling
- Renewable energy sources
- Energy efficient houses and businesses

7. If you believe that Salem should have a “green” focus then what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable.... to.... Very Acceptable, Not Applicable, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Seeing solar panels on houses
- Seeing wind turbines
- More and free recycling stations
- More energy saving requirements on new houses
- Community Composting
- Restrictions on pesticides and other chemical fertilizers

8. What other type of community character should Salem cultivate?

[Freeform responses]

2. Village Center

1. How important is it to you to have a Village Center in Salem?

Scale: Not At All Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

2. If you believe that a Village Center is important, then which of the following should be a part of it?

Scale: Not at all Necessary....to.... Extremely Necessary, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Retail shops
- Restaurant/café
- Coffee House
- Public Wi-fi
- Central meeting place
- Kiosk/bulletin board to advertise community events
- Pedestrian friendly environment (e.g., lamp-lit paths)
- Benches to sit on
- Pleasant place to go to, not just perfunctory shopping
- Village Center look and feel
- Housing integrated with commercial use
- Architectural landscaping (gardens, fountains)
- Farmers Market
- Outdoor pavilion (e.g., for concerts)
- Professional offices (e.g., accounting, real estate)
- Other (please describe)

3. If you believe Salem should create a Village Center, then how acceptable would each of the following be to you?

Scale: Not At All Acceptable... to ...Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Adopt Village Center District regulations, similar to what some other towns have done to preserve the New England village character (e.g., restrict permitted uses within Village Center).
- Change a designated area from residential to allow selective business activity not currently permitted
- Adopt building appearance design standards to preserve the New England village character within the Village Center

3. Agriculture

1. How would you rate Salem's effort to preserve its agricultural character?

Scale: Too Much... to... Not Enough, No Opinion, Not Enough Knowledge/Experience to Answer

2. How important to you is Salem's agricultural character?

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

3. If you believe that Salem's agricultural character is important, then which of the following should be part of it?

Scale: Not at all Necessary... to... Extremely Necessary, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Good and prime farmland soils
- Working family farms
 - Plants (e.g., grapes, corn, fruit and vegetables)
 - Animals for food and food products (e.g., cows, chickens)
- Working commercial farms
 - Plants (e.g., grapes, corn, fruit and vegetables)
 - Animals for food and food products (e.g., cows, chickens)
- Local agricultural related businesses (e.g.,)
- Availability of local fruits and vegetables in Salem
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)*
- Stone walls
- Old barns
- Pastures
- Other (please describe)

*This model is loosely defined as a private farm that sells shares of the year's produce to its participants.

4. If you believe Salem should maintain its agricultural character, then what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable... to ... Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Pay higher taxes to "subsidize" agriculture (*i.e., continue tax subsidies to keep agriculture in Salem*)
- Limit the land available for housing development (*by not permitting development in prime farm areas*)
- Limit the land available for business development (*by not permitting development in prime farm areas*)

4. Government/Infrastructure/Facilities/Services

1. How important are the following services to you?

Scale: Not at all important...to... Very Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Library
- Elementary/Middle School
- High School
- Road conditions
- Snow removal
- Ambulance Services
- Fire Services
- Police Services
- Town Hall - Facility
- Town Hall - Services (Town clerk, Tax collector, Tax Assessor)
- Recreation fields and facilities
- Recreation programs - Pre-school
- Recreation programs - Pre-teens and Teens
- Recreation programs - Adults
- Youth Services excluding Recreation
- Senior Services
- Health Services
- Visiting Nurse

2. How satisfied are you with the quality of these services?

Scale: Not at all Satisfied... to... Extremely Satisfied, No Opinion, Not Enough

Knowledge/Experience to Answer

- Library
- Elementary/Middle School
- High School
- Road conditions
- Snow removal
- Ambulance Services
- Fire Services
- Police Services
- Town Hall - Facility
- Town Hall - Services (Town clerk, Tax collector, Tax Assessor)
- Recreation fields and facilities
- Recreation programs - Pre-school
- Recreation programs - Pre-teens and Teens
- Recreation programs - Adults
- Youth Services excluding Recreation
- Senior Services
- Health Services
- Visiting Nurse

3. Below are infrastructure elements, facilities and services that Salem does not have. How high a priority would you give to each of them?

Scale: Do Not Need ... to... High Priority, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Community Center
- Senior Center
- Free wireless network
- Public transportation
- Network of multi user trails (for walking/hiking throughout Salem)
- Town Park
- Sewer
- Public water
- Garbage collection
- Paid full fire service
- Paid elected government

4. Which of the above items that you indicated as “High Priority” would you be willing to increase the town budget to provide and maintain?

Scale: Yes No Not Applicable (not a high priority item)

- Community Center
- Senior Center
- Free wireless network
- Public transportation
- Network of multi user trails (for walking/hiking throughout Salem)
- Town Park
- Sewer
- Public water
- Garbage collection
- Paid full fire service
- Paid elected government

Note: Need to insert a brief description of Salem's form of government here

5. How satisfied are you with Salem's current form of government?

Scale: Not At All Satisfied... to ... Very Satisfied, Don't Know/No Opinion

6. If you are not satisfied, why not, and what would you propose as an alternative form to best suit Salem's needs?

[Freeform responses]

5. Regionalism

1. Do you think it is important for Salem to partner, cooperate or enter into binding agreements with our regional neighbors to maintain or improve our:

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Library and its services
- Elementary school education services
- Middle school education services
- Public work services
- Police protection services
- Fire protection services
- Public transportation
- Open spaces
- Recreation opportunities
- Sports participation opportunities
- Opportunity to have contact with people less like us (increased diversity)
- Ability to provide services or opportunities we cannot current provide alone
- Ability to save money

2. If the town could save money by partnering, cooperating or entering into a binding agreement with our regional neighbors, would that be a sufficient reason to do it? [Select all that apply]

- It depends on the amount of money saved
- It depends on how much control we have to share
- No never
- Don't know/no opinion

6. Education

1. How satisfied are you with the quality of Salem public education?

Scale: Not at all Satisfied... to... Extremely Satisfied, No Opinion, Not Enough Experience/Knowledge to Answer

2. Is it important that Salem have high quality public education?

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

3. If you believe that Salem should provide a high quality education then what would be an acceptable cost to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable to Very Acceptable, Not Applicable, Don't Know/No Opinion

- A greater education budget supported by increased property taxes
- A constant education budget supported by no tax increases or decreases
- A voucher system that would pay a fixed amount toward going to the school of your choice

7. Finance

1. Do you believe that the town budget is:

Scale: Too Low for our Needs... to... Too High for our Needs, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Enough Experience/Knowledge to Answer

2. Would you be satisfied if Salem spent just enough to provide only the absolute minimum in public services?

Scale: Not at all Satisfied... to... Extremely Satisfied, Don't Know/No Opinion

8. Economic Development

1. How important to you is it that we encourage community appropriate economic development in Salem

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

2. If you believe that economic development is important, then which of the following should be encouraged?

Scale: Not at all Encouraged....to.... Strongly Encouraged, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Small corporate headquarters
- Green energy manufacturer (e.g. solar panels)
- Other green businesses
- Education or Training Facilities
- Winery/Vineyards
- Other vegetables/fruit/plant farms
- Healthcare/Wellness/Yoga
- Destination specialty retail/services
- Plant and Gardening Retail
- Small to medium-sized shopping village with cafes
- Drugstore
- Other (Free form explanation)

3. If you believe Salem should not encourage Economic Development, what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable... to ...Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Allow my taxes to increase at the rate required to support the town, since there will be few new businesses to bring in additional commercial tax revenue
- Limit the Town *to* services that taxes currently pay for (realizing the majority of our taxes cover education, which we have limited ability to reduce)
- Continue to drive *longer* distances for products and services not available in Salem

9. Housing

Sec. 8-39a of the State Statutes defines "Affordable housing" as "housing for which persons and families pay thirty per cent or less of their annual income, where such income is less than or equal to the area median income for the municipality in which such housing is located, as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development." Typically, affordable housing includes multi-family, mixed use, mixed income and low and moderate-income housing.

1. How important is it to you to increase housing choice and economic diversity in housing (multi-family, mixed-use, mixed income and low and moderate-income housing)
Scale: Not at all important... to... Very Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

2. How would you rate the following?

Scale: Too Much.... Not Enough, No Opinion, Not Enough Experience/Knowledge to Answer

- Salem's existing affordable housing stock or options
- Salem's efforts to increase/promote housing choice and economic diversity in housing (multi-family, mixed-use, mixed income and low and moderate-income housing)

3. If you believe that it is important to increase housing choice and economic diversity in housing, then how much should each of the following be encouraged?

Scale: Not at all encouraged... to... Strongly encouraged, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Multi-family dwellings
- Single-family attached townhouses
- Single family detached housing
- Mobile homes
- Affordable housing
- Age restricted housing
- Senior housing
- Housing integrated with commercial activities
- Clustered housing/conservation design

4. If you believe it is important to increase housing choice and economic diversity in housing, would you be willing to:

Scale: Strongly Agree...to... Strongly Disagree, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Modify existing zoning regulations for housing in designated areas (e.g., reduce 1,000 sq ft minimum size, reduce 2 acre minimum lot size)
- Change Salem's rural character (currently, Salem has predominantly single family homes on 2-acre minimum lots)
- Alter the demographic make-up of Salem to have more residents *who may not have the same characteristics as you* (e.g., economic status, demographics)

10. Historic and Archeological Resources

1. How would you rate Salem's efforts to protect the following?

Scale: Too Much...to... Not Enough, No Opinion, Not Enough Knowledge/Experience to Answer

- Old houses
- Old barns
- Other buildings on the State and National Historic Register
- Ancient cemeteries/burial grounds
- Scenic roads
- Stone walls

2. How important to you are Salem's archaeological and historic resources

Scale: Not At All Important.... to.... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

3. If you believe that Salem's archeological and historic character is important, then which of the following is necessary to maintain it?

Scale: Not at all Necessary.... Extremely Necessary, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Old houses
- Old barns
- Other buildings on the State and National Historic Register
- Ancient cemeteries/burial grounds
- Scenic roads
- Stone walls

4. If you believe Salem should maintain its historic and archeological resources, then what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not At All Acceptable... to... Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Restrict what people can do on their property to protect historic and archeological resources
- Limit the land available for development (housing, business) if the proposed development would destroy/damage a historic or archeological monument
- *Restrict* construction/maintenance of a new road if the work would destroy/damage a historic or archeological monument
- Pay additional taxes to educate residents about Salem's historic and archeological resources

11. Natural Resources

1. How would you rate Salem's efforts to protect the following?

Scale: Too Much...to... Not Enough, No Opinion, Not Enough Knowledge/Experience to Answer

- **Water resources:** Watercourses, Wetlands, Vernal pools, Aquifers, Surface water quality, Public water supplies, Lake resources, Stream/Wetlands buffers, Floodplains, floodways
- **Flora/Fauna:** Natural communities; Habitats; wildlife and migratory corridors; Grasslands; Native flora and fauna; Large, unfragmented forest blocks; Tree canopies, Ancient trees
- **Soil/Land:** Prime agricultural soils, Geology (e.g. special rock formations such as kettle holes), Mineral resources (quarries), Unique land forms
- **Visual/Recreational assets:** Natural landscapes, Vistas/viewsheds; Tree lines, Ridgelines, Night sky (absence of pollution), Open Spaces, Greenways, Preservation areas, Forestry/silvaculture

2. How important to you are Salem's natural resources?

Scale: Not At All Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

3. If you believe that Salem's natural resources are important, then which of the following are necessary to preserve?

Scale: Not at all necessary.... Extremely necessary, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Water resources
- Flora/Fauna
- Soil/Land
- Visual/Recreational assets

4. If you believe Salem should maintain its natural resources, then what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable... to ...Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Restrict what people can do on their property to protect natural resources
- Adopt more natural-resource friendly regulations (e.g. tighten impervious surface regulations, ...)
- Limit the land available for housing development (*e.g., by setting aside land for open spaces and/or restricting the permitted uses*)
- Limit the land available for business development (*e.g., by setting aside land for open spaces and/or restricting the permitted uses*)