



# TILDEN YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

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March 30, 2022



**RURAL PROSPERITY NEBRASKA**

## About the Tilden Youth Survey

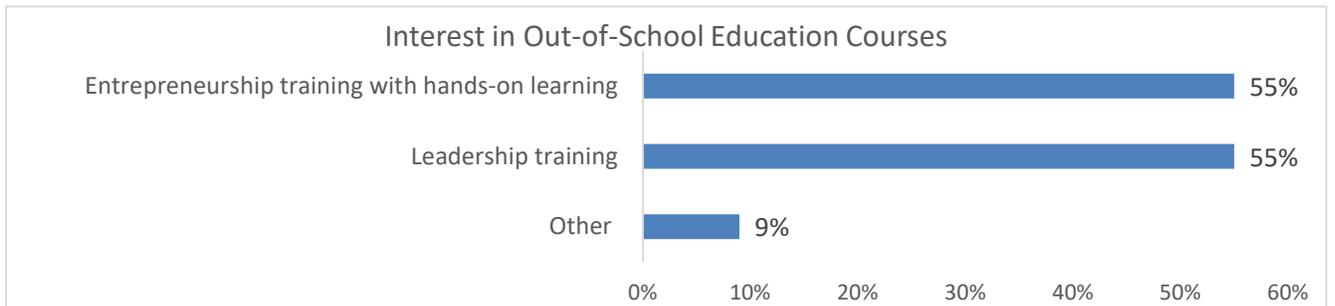
The Tilden youth survey is an online tool to measure perceptions of current Tilden high school students. They are asked various questions about their impressions of Tilden, future career plans and interest in remaining or returning to Tilden.

## Tilden Youth Survey Process

In Tilden, the youth survey was given to all students in grades 9 – 12 at the local high school. A total of 55 youth completed the survey.

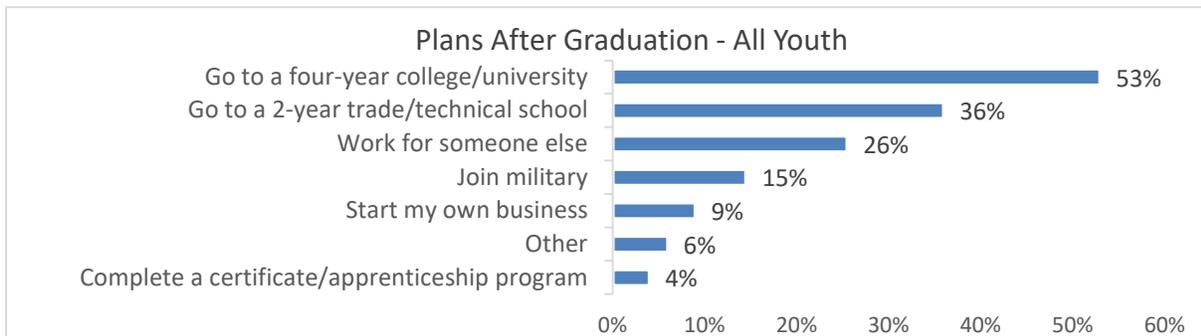
## Interest in Educational Courses

The youth were first asked what out-of-school education courses would be of interest to them. Most youth (55%) are interested in both entrepreneurship training and leadership training. Just over one-half (55%) are interested in entrepreneurship training that includes hands-on learning experiences as well as leadership training for personal growth and community opportunities. One individual suggested aviation as another educational course of interest.

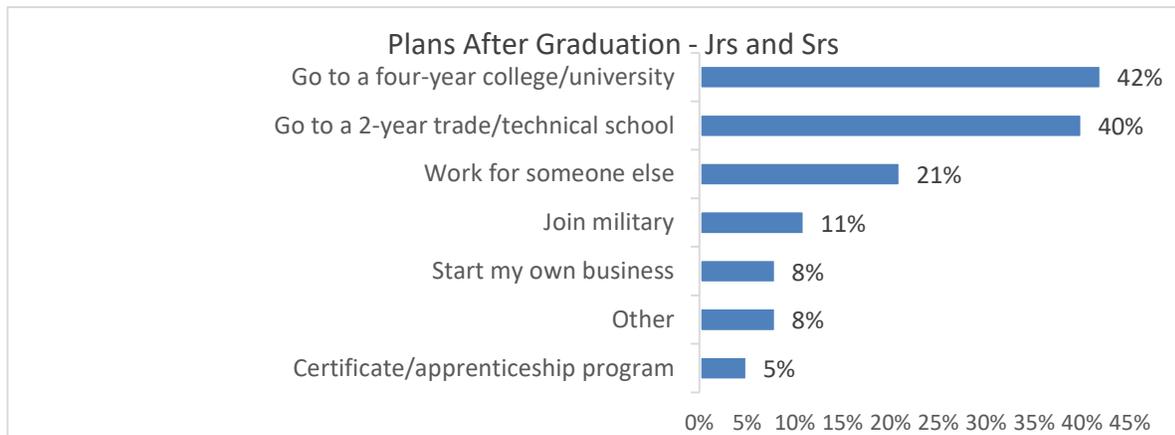


## Future Plans

When all students were asked about their plans after graduation, most youth plan to further their education. Just over one-half (53%) plan to attend a four-year college or university. And, over one-third (36%) plan to go to a two-year trade or technical school or community college. Just over one-quarter (26%) plan work for someone else and 15 percent plan to join the military.



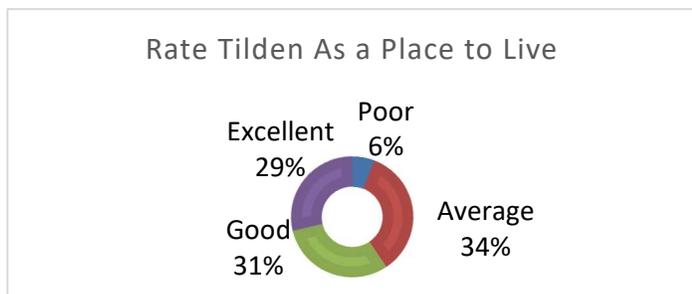
When responses from just juniors and seniors are examined, 42% plan to go to a four-year college or university and 40% plan to attend a two-year school. Twenty-one percent would like to work for someone else.



## Community Impressions

Six in ten youth rate Tilden as either a good (31%) or excellent (29%) place to live.

When asked what they see as Tilden’s strengths, 53 youth responded. The responses included mentions of the following themes:



- Close, tight knit or caring community (30)
- community amenities (5)
- people (5)
- school (3)
- strong community (3)
- safe community (3)
- family friendly (2)
- and other (9) - Other responses mentioned nice community, clean, great community, community structures and negative responses.

The complete list of responses is included in Appendix Table 1.

When asked what amenities they would most like to see added or improved, 53 responses were received. The top response categories included:

- more restaurants (11)
- new pool or improvements (10)
- activities for teens or youth (7)
- theater or drive-in theater (6)
- other responses (15) including gas station (2), new gym, updating the bowling alley, and roads.
- auditorium (4)
- more housing (3)
- a new track (3)

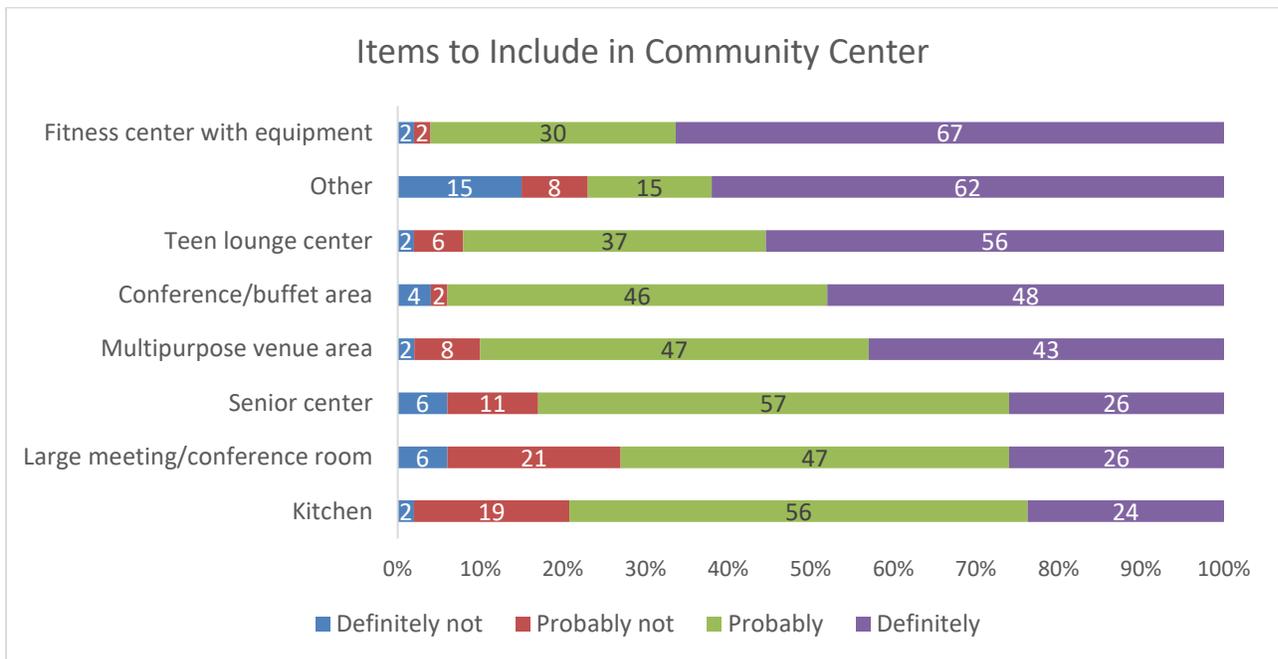
The complete list of responses is included in Appendix Table 2.

Students were then asked if they were the mayor of Tilden what they would do to provide a good life for its citizens and 47 youth responded. The top themes of responses included:

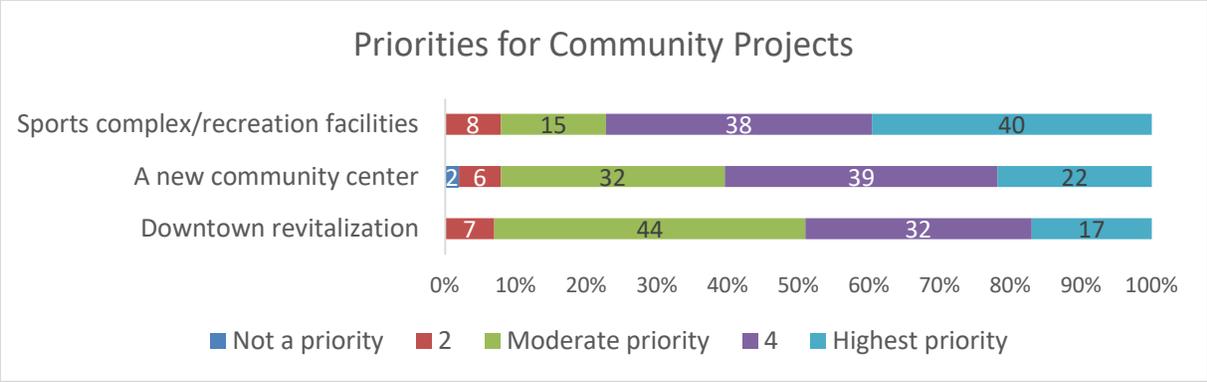
- fix roads and streets (10)
- more community activities (8)
- more stores or businesses (8)
- more restaurants or food choices (6)
- other (12). Some of the other responses included: listening to the citizens (2), don't know (2), and better school.
- more entertainment options (4)
- maintaining or improving the community appearance (3)
- new pool or improvements to pool (3)

The complete list of responses is included in Appendix Table 3.

The youth were given a list of items and were asked which they would like to see included in a community center if one were to be built. At least four in ten said they would definitely like to see the following included in the community center: fitness center with equipment (67%), other (62%), teen lounge center (56%), conference/buffet area (48%), and multipurpose venue area (43%). Some of the other options listed include: pool, food place, skate park, and movie theater or arcade.



The youth were next asked what priority level they would rate various community projects. Most youth rated a sports complex/recreation facilities (78%) and a new community center (61%) as a high or the highest priority. Just under one-half (49%) rate downtown revitalization as at least a high priority.

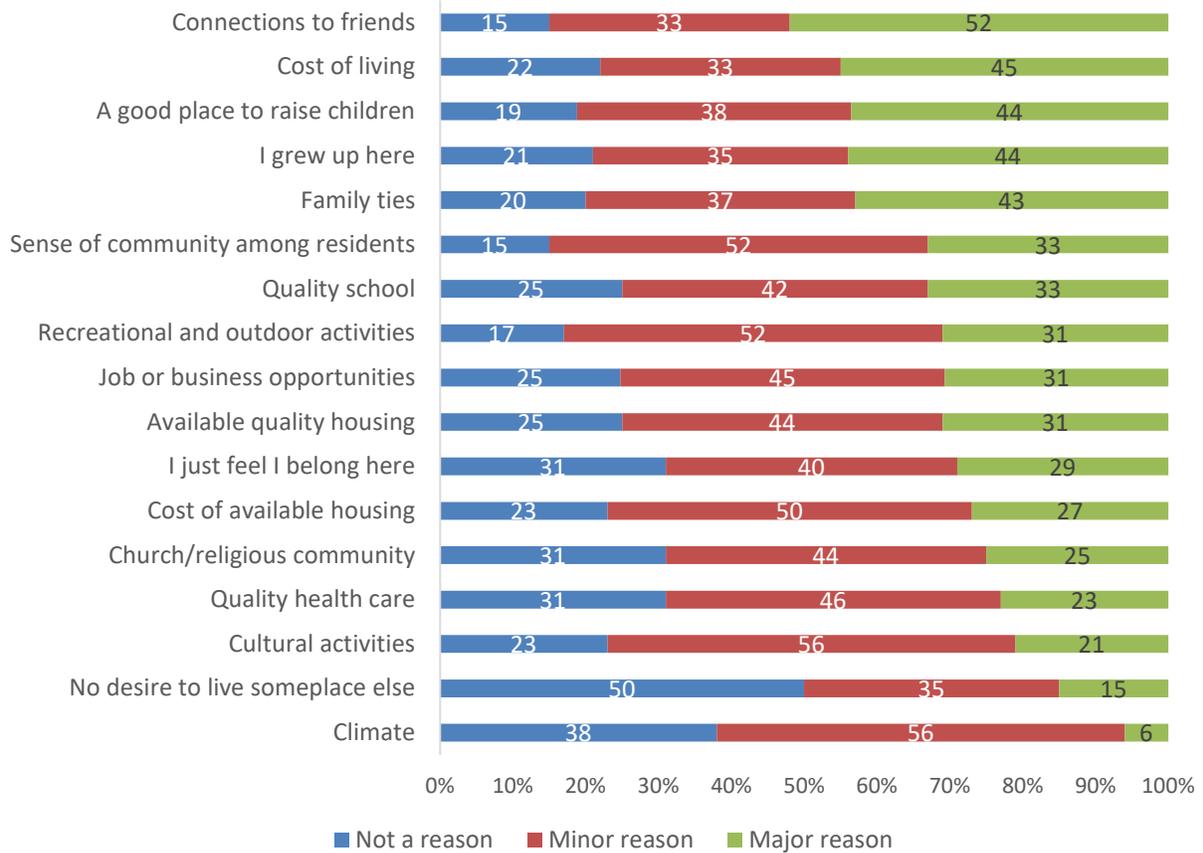


Youth were next asked what types of community events they would like to see in Tilden. Out of the 40 responses received, the top categories included: sporting events (12), music (concerts and dances) (6), children’s activities (4), more events like Prairie Days (4), and food events (3). Other responses (17) included items such as parades, teen activities, and tree lighting. The complete listing is found in Appendix Table 4.

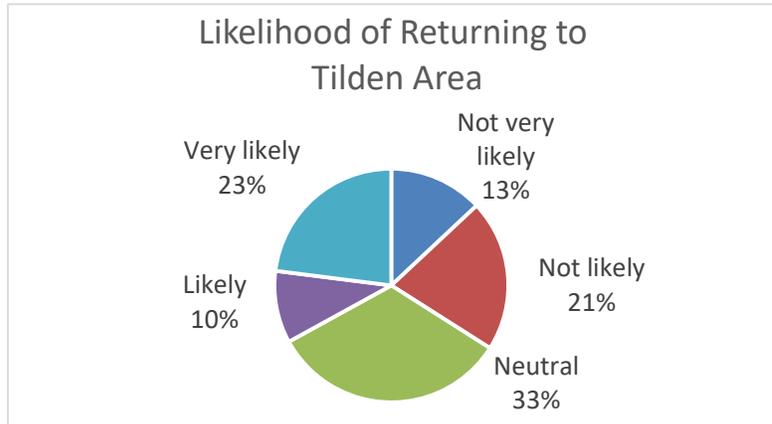
### Reasons to Stay in or Return to Tilden

The youth were then given a list of reasons and were asked to say if each was a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason they would stay in or return to the Tilden area. Many youth say the following are major reasons: connections to friends (52%), cost of living (45%), a good place to raise children (44%), I grew up there (44%), and family ties (43%).

### Reasons to Stay in or Return to Tilden



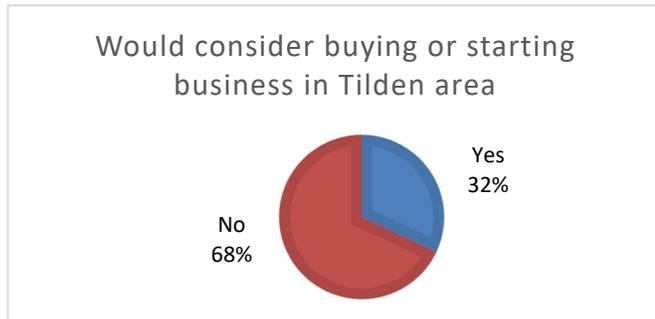
Next, students were asked if they would return to the Tilden area to live in the future if quality career or business ownership opportunities were available. Approximately one-third (33%) said it is likely that they would return to the area in the future. Just over two in ten said it was very likely they would return to the area in the future (23%) and one in ten said it was likely (10%).



When asked what type of jobs/opportunities would encourage them to stay or return to Tilden to work, the top responses included:

- healthcare occupations (9)
- professional occupations (6)
- trades occupations (5)
- teaching positions (4)
- more businesses or jobs (3)
- service occupations (2)
- other (9) including bigger pool and jobs with livable wages.

Next, they were asked if they would consider buying or starting a business in or around Tilden someday. Almost one-third (32%) said they would consider buying or starting a business.



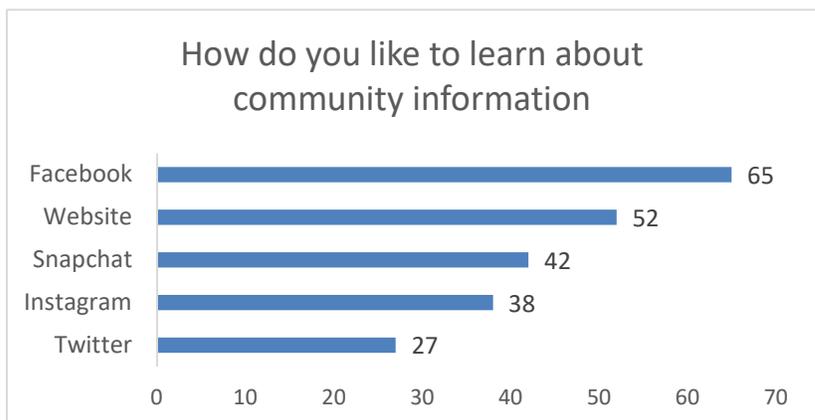
The types of businesses they are interested in starting include:

- healthcare (5)
- food related (3)
- not sure (2)
- retail businesses (1)
- service businesses (1)
- trades businesses (1)
- professional businesses (1)

Next, they were asked if there are additional lifestyle or job requirements that would be necessary for them to consider staying in or moving back to the Tilden area. The responses included: none (11), don't know, jobs/businesses (5), community amenities (2) and other.

## Where Students Like to Learn about Community Information

The youth were asked how they would like to learn about community information in Tilden. The top choices include: Facebook (65%), website (52%), Snapchat (42%), Instagram (38%) and Twitter (27%).



## Demographics

Finally, students were asked what year in school they are. The responses were:

- Freshmen (7)
- Sophomores (10)

- Juniors (9)
- Seniors (29).

**Appendix Table 1. What do you see as Tilden’s strengths?**

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***close or tight knit or caring***

Tight knit community

how close we are as a community

A small community that cares about its members

The community is very close and helpful

The fact that the community comes together to support citizens in time of need.

The small community is a great way for everyone to get together.

People help each other out.

Being a tight community.

Everybody knows each other

Community

All community members are caring and helpful when there is someone in need.

staying together, helping others

Community help and lots of leadership

Strong community. Always helping each other.

Being together community wise.

The cannon that is on the outskirts of town. Also the sense of community

Support

Strong community always helping each other

Small town so everyone knows everyone.

Coming together as a community

small community so that people know others and we can help support a family in need

Close community. Everyone’s willing to help others out.

Very supportive community; everyone knows everyone; very safe town

Community

People are pretty nice. If you need anything, someone will definitely help you.

I think the people of Tilden our the greatest strength Tilden has. Many members of the community will always go out of their way to help others.

Our community is pretty nice.

The Welcoming environment and kind-hearted folks.

How the community comes together

People working together as one

***amenities***

Pool

Church and the park

The daycares and parks

The river, the parks

I see the new to u store, the school, and that it has a lot of nice art on the buildings.

**people**

Its a great environment. And a great place to start a family or raise kids. There are so many kind people that live here.

Nice people, good opportunities.

Tilden has good people

People are pretty nice. If you need anything, someone will definitely help you.

I think the people of Tilden our the greatest strength Tilden has. Many members of the community will always go out of their way to help others.

**safe**

Very supportive community; everyone knows everyone; very safe town

Rare crimes and the community is nice

No crime

**school**

I see the new to u store, the school, and that it has a lot of nice art on the buildings.

The school education

School sports

**strong community**

Strong community

Strong community. Always helping each other.

Strong comunity always helping each other

**family friendly**

Its a great environment. And a great place to start a family or raise kids. There are so many kind people that live here.

Were a small family friendly community.

**Other**

Water tower

Tilden has a nice community.

great community

Producing people that tear other people down.

No cops

Clean for the most part

Cats

The roads

A little less than half of tildens population is Karen's.

**Appendix Table 2. What amenities would you most like to see added or improved in Tilden?**

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**restaurants**

Food places

fast food (mcdonalds)

Small fast food restaurants

Food places

Subway

a theater, more restaurants

New pool, or more food places  
Drive in, more restaurants  
More places to eat  
Subway, dollar general, more venues, Laundromat  
More places to eat

**pool**

Pool  
City pool  
Swimming pool and Auditorium/Tennis Courts  
New pool, or more food places  
Big pool  
A new pool or another gas station.  
A new pool.  
The pool house  
The pool could use some improvements.  
Pool, auditorium and basketball court

**youth activities**

I would like to see a place for younger people to go.  
More entertainment options for kids such as an arcade.  
More things to do for teens  
Skatepark.  
A skatepark  
More things to do  
More things to do

**theater**

a movie theatre  
Drive in theatre  
A drive-in  
a theater, more restaurants  
Drive in, more restaurants  
A movie theatre

**auditorium**

I would like to see the auditorium used for more purposes. I think it has more potential to be a place for fun activities other than just a basketball court.  
Swimming pool and Auditorium/Tennis Courts  
The auditorium and downtown  
Pool, auditorium and basketball court

**housing**

That storefront buildings be used are stores/businesses or apartments  
More housing, better service  
More places to live.

**track**

Track facility  
A track

Track

**gas station**

A Casey's gas station

A new pool or another gas station.

**Other**

anything

The food in school

New Gym

Upgrade the bowling alley

nothing, we do great

Entertainment options, dirt bike track

elm st. road turning on to highway

Better roads.

Nothing to do here/ boring

More vending Machines in school.

Turn the gravel roads in town into pavement

Strip club

Highschool softball and many other sports

**Appendix Table 3. If you were the mayor of Tilden, what would you do to provide a good life for its citizens?**

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***fix roads***

Put some more buildings into town. Fix the pot holes  
More stores and fix roads.  
Make more housing, improve some backroads, more work places  
Keep the city going and fix some roads  
If I were mayor in Tilden i would provide better roads, more cross walks.  
I would fix the roads, and add more business.  
I would add more homes, fix the roads, and host community events.  
Fix all the roads  
Expand more and update the streets  
Better roads, more eating places.

***more activities***

more big community events  
Update buildings and give us more things to do  
Start more activities for the community to participate in.  
Many activities to participate in  
I would have more activities for the community to participate in, so people can get to know each other more and create a stronger bond throughout our community.  
I would bring more business's to town and bring the community together more by having more activities  
I would add more homes, fix the roads, and host community events.  
Have a food fest every weekend

***more stores***

If you were the mayor of Tilden, what would you do to provide a good life for its citizens?  
Well I'm not the mayor so I wouldn't have any clue what they're capable of. Maybe a new and improved Gas station?  
More stores and fix roads.  
Make more housing, improve some backroads, more work places  
I would fix the roads, and add more business.  
I would bring more business's to town and bring the community together more by having more activities  
Gas price and a dollar general and more food places  
Add more to the stores  
A shoe store

***food choices***

get a mcdonalds  
Places to hang and more restaurants  
More food choices  
Gas price and a dollar general and more food places  
Better roads, more eating places.

Better food

**entertainment options**

Skatepark and more places for people to interact.

Make a skate park

I would want to make it so citizens wouldn't have to travel outside of Tilden to do most of their activities. I would want to provide a safe place for children to have fun, which would stress the parents out less since they wouldn't have to worry about their children driving to Norfolk or farther.

Add a skatepark.

**appearance**

Keep the city up, and always looking nice

I would make Tilden look more appealing and make sure everyone in the community is satisfied.

I would keep the community clean by enforcing laws.

**pool**

update pool

Work on a new pool because the current pool breaks down often and is older than most of the residents here

Big pool

**Other**

create stop signs at the alleys where there are fences blocking the view

Make peoples housing bills easier

Make more crosswalks

Make EVERYTHING equal.

Listen to the citizens

I would provide more learning environments for students and children.

I would make sure our town was safe and everything was taken care of.

I genuinely don't know. I don't really think I would be a good mayor

I don't know.

Better school

Ask the people of Tilden what they would like to see done to better the community.

Add a strip club

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**Appendix Table 4. What types of community events would you like to see in Tilden?**

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**sports**

Water polo

Football leagues and basketball camps

Basketball tournament anyone can join.

Basketball tournaments in the summer

Concerts, sports

Music in the park, theater, game days

a tennis court

Games and grills

Track meets

The community events i would like to see in Tilden are a ping pong teams, cheerleading teams, bingo teams.

Track, more sports, more summer events like prairie days.

More sports, or more town events like prairie days

**music**

dances

Concerts, sports

Music in the park, theater, game days

saturday night dances, wine tasting, pot lucks

Street Dances,

Concerts

**Children's activities**

any activities that not only adults can participate in but also children

more things for kids

A pop up zoo for little kids and others. Some actual shoe company's

Anything to get kids more active

**like Prairie Days**

I would like to see more fun activities such as the ones we have during Prairie Days. I think if we had more events throughout the year, people would enjoy it more.

More days like prairie days and community get togethers

Track, more sports, more summer events like prairie days.

More sports, or more town events like prairie days

**food activities**

What types of community events would you like to see in Tilden?

Farmer's Markets, Food trucks for town events

saturday night dances, wine tasting, pot lucks

Games and grills

**Other**

a grand opening of mcdonald

ldk

Parades

Not sure

Chinese New Year

Shoe company

Activities for teens/preteens that include everyone

I don't know.

I do not know and do not care

More events like the tree lighting.

Skate park

I'm not entirely sure.

For the 4th of July lite of fireworks for the town

Strip clubs

Idk I like all the ones we have  
It's fine  
Community service

**This Youth Survey Report is a product of**

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