

Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
 Bloomsburg Parking Enforcement Poll Summary
 January 2016

The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce created a two question poll related to Bloomsburg Town Council’s proposed changes to parking enforcement in the downtown commercial district. The poll was released on Friday, January 8th and closed at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 22nd. It was available electronically online at www.ColumbiaMontourVoice.com. A printed form, which is attached, was hand distributed to businesses in the downtown and Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble also distributed it to their subscribers via email.

There were 309 respondents to the poll, which included businesses and commercial property owners in the downtown, businesses from outside the downtown commercial district, residents, and downtown customers. Ten of the respondents provided no personal information, so their responses were not included in this summary to reduce the possibility of duplicate responses. The following summary is provided in two sets: all respondents who provided at least some personally identifiable information (299), and businesses and commercial property owners in the downtown commercial district. A number of businesses had multiple representatives that responded. Only one respondent per business was included in the second set of data. While the positions of all of the business respondents were not verified, their contact information is available should Council wish to verify that information.

Question 1: Do you support or oppose increasing the parking meter fee from 25 cents per hour to 50 cents per hour?

Question 2: Do you support or oppose changing metered parking enforcement times to 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday?

Response options: Strongly support, Somewhat support, Neutral, Somewhat oppose, Strongly oppose

All respondents	299	% of total		Businesses/Prop Own	77	% of total
Question 1				Question 1		
Strongly support	8	2.7%		Strongly support	2	2.6%
Somewhat support	15	5.0%		Somewhat support	4	5.2%
Neutral	5	1.7%		Neutral	1	1.3%
Somewhat oppose	32	10.7%		Somewhat oppose	8	10.4%
Strongly oppose	239	79.9%		Strongly oppose	62	80.5%
Question 2				Question 2		
Strongly support	5	1.7%		Strongly support	2	2.6%
Somewhat support	10	3.3%		Somewhat support	3	3.9%
Neutral	11	3.7%		Neutral	0	0.0%
Somewhat oppose	29	9.7%		Somewhat oppose	8	10.4%
Strongly oppose	244	81.6%		Strongly oppose	64	83.1%



Bloomsburg Parking Enforcement Poll

Bloomsburg Town Council's Administrative and Finance Committee is recommending changes to parking enforcement in the downtown commercial district. With the replacement of meters, the parking meter fee would increase from 25 cents per hour to 50 cents per hour. The reason being given by members of Council for this increase is to help pay for the new meters.

Enforcement would change from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday. The reasoning for this change is to deter people living in the downtown area from parking in public spaces, keeping those spaces available for business customers.

The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce has heard concerns from a number of business and property owners that these changes could impact customer patterns and be harmful to businesses in the downtown. This poll is intended to gather input from business and property owners in the downtown commercial district. The Chamber of Commerce has already asked Council not to implement these changes but to develop a more comprehensive strategy for managing Bloomsburg's parking inventory. The results of this poll will be presented at Town Council's next meeting on Monday, January 25th at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, so please provide your complete information. At that meeting, Council is expected to vote on advertising an ordinance that would implement these changes.

If you would like to speak at the Council meeting, contact Amy Seamans at Town Hall at 570-784-7703.

Please return this completed poll to the Chamber of Commerce at 238 Market Street, Bloomsburg or by fax to 570-784-2661 no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, January 22nd.

The poll and additional information are available online at www.ColumbiaMontourVoice.com.

1. Do you support or oppose increasing the parking meter fee from 25 cents per hour to 50 cents per hour?

Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose

Comments:

2. Do you support or oppose changing metered parking enforcement times to 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday?

Strongly support Somewhat support Neutral Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose

Comments:

Name: _____ Business: _____

Commercial Property Address: _____ Phone: _____