

MEMORANDUM

TO: Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

FROM: Jeremy Sharp, Associate Planner

COPY: Pat Coffield, County Administrator
Dale Cobb, Director of Community Development
Becky Earhart, Senior Planner
Calah Young, Kimley-Horn and Associates

DATE: August 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Final Survey Results

The "Survey on the Future of Augusta County" that was created by the Steering Committee to gather information on the opinions of County citizens was distributed as an insert to County residents in the Staunton News Leader, the Waynesboro News Virginian, and the Northern Augusta Journal on Tuesday June 28, 2005. Between those three newspapers, approximately 21,000 copies of the survey were distributed on that first day. The following week, another 1,000 copies were distributed to residents of the 22812 and 24486 zip codes as inserts in the Shenandoah Journal. This method of distribution was chosen for its ability to distribute surveys to a large amount of the population in a very cost effective manner. Unfortunately, there were some distribution problems related to using the newspapers, as many County residents, mainly living near Staunton, complained that they did not receive the insert in their papers. During the following month, most of the remaining 8000+ printed surveys were placed in various County offices, post offices, libraries, and some private stores as well as distributed individually by members of the Steering Committee and various government committees and commissions.

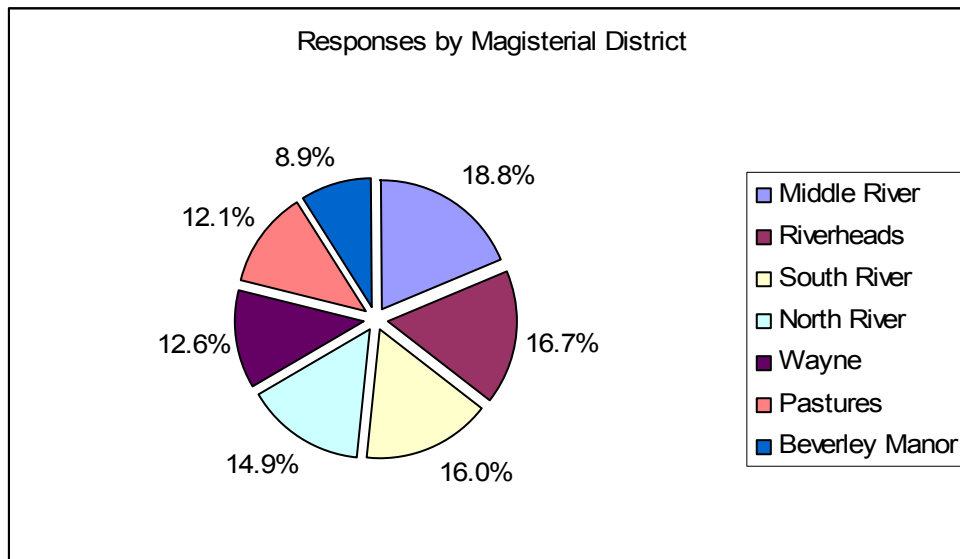
Of the more than 30,000 copies of the survey distributed throughout the County, 1,505 (or 5%) were completed and returned to Community Development by mail, by hand-delivery, or by completing the online version of the survey at the County's website between June 28th and August 9th. Of these responses, 351 (or 23.3%) were completed online while the remaining 1,154 were either mailed or hand-delivered. As a point of comparison, the survey produced for the previous

comp plan in late-1992 generated 600 responses (or 12%) out of about 5,000 surveys distributed. While the response rate was not nearly as good this time, the 1992 surveys were distributed to interested citizens at public meetings rather than to the general public prior to the start of public meetings. The results received from both surveys are attached.

Demographic Results

In general, while the number of responses was more than expected, the balance among various demographic categories was not very good. Overall, responses from older, more rural residents significantly outnumbered responses from younger residents living in more urban settings, though the rural/urban split was likely representative of the County population as a whole.

Representation from each of the seven magisterial districts was good, though certain districts are clearly represented better than others. Of greatest concern is the lack of responses from the Beverley Manor District, which only had 8.9% of the results compared to 12.1-18.8% for the remaining six districts. Since the populations of the seven districts are fairly equal, with each housing 13.9-14.8% of the total County population, this is rather disappointing. This disparity, though, may be somewhat explained by the distribution problems discussed above, particularly the fact that many County residents on newspaper routes that primarily serve city residents did not receive the insert. The responses by district are below:



When separated by the setting in which respondents say they live there is a similar divide among those living in more rural settings versus those living in more developed areas. 58.1% say they live either on a farm, in a rural area, or in a rural village. The remaining 41.9% say they live in an apartment/townhouse area, residential subdivision, or suburban lot. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 22.2% of Augusta County residents live in an urban setting, with the remaining 77.8% in a rural setting. Though this gives the appearance that the

respondents were more urban, on average, than the population of the County, it is unclear what percent of the survey respondents live in an urban setting by the definition used by the Census Bureau.

Beyond the locational trend of the responses, the answers to the following three questions tell us that older, long-time residents are overrepresented in the results. 57.4% of the respondents answered "more than 20" to the question asking them how many years they have lived in the County. Another 19.8% responded "10 to 20" meaning over three quarters of the respondents have lived in the County for more than a decade. Similarly, 38.8% of the respondents answered "Retired" to the question of where they work. Finally, 38.5% of respondents answered "50-64" when asked their age. Combined with the 30.4% who answered "65 or over," 68.9% of respondents were over the age of fifty. According to the 2000 Census, only 31.4% of the County population is over the age of fifty. This also was quite different from what was seen in 1992, when 41.8% of the survey respondents were over the age of fifty. For that survey, 41.1% of respondents were aged 35-49 compared to 22.1% this time.

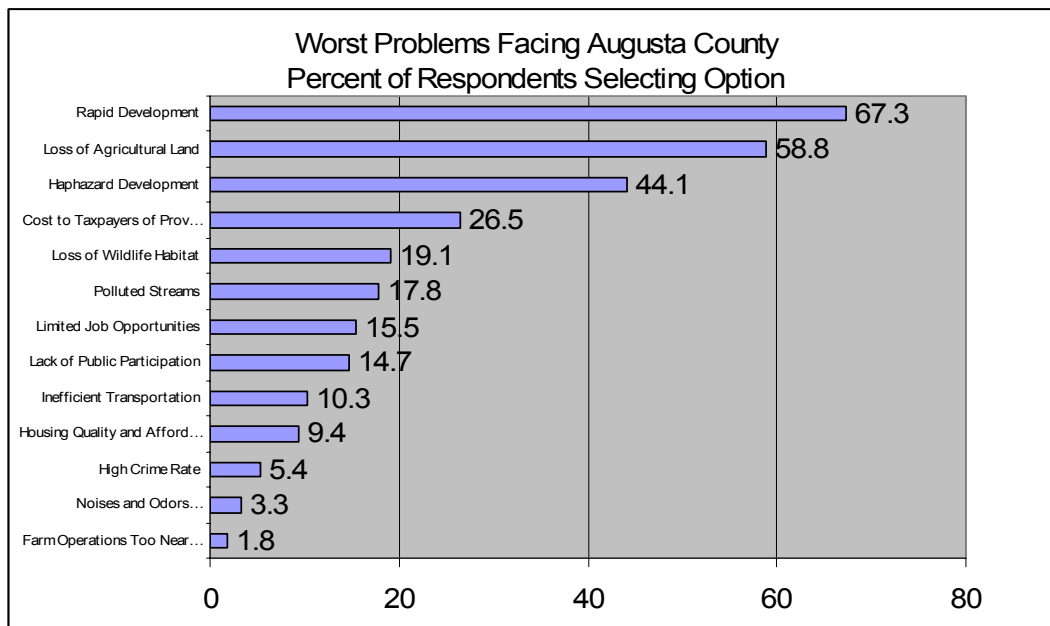
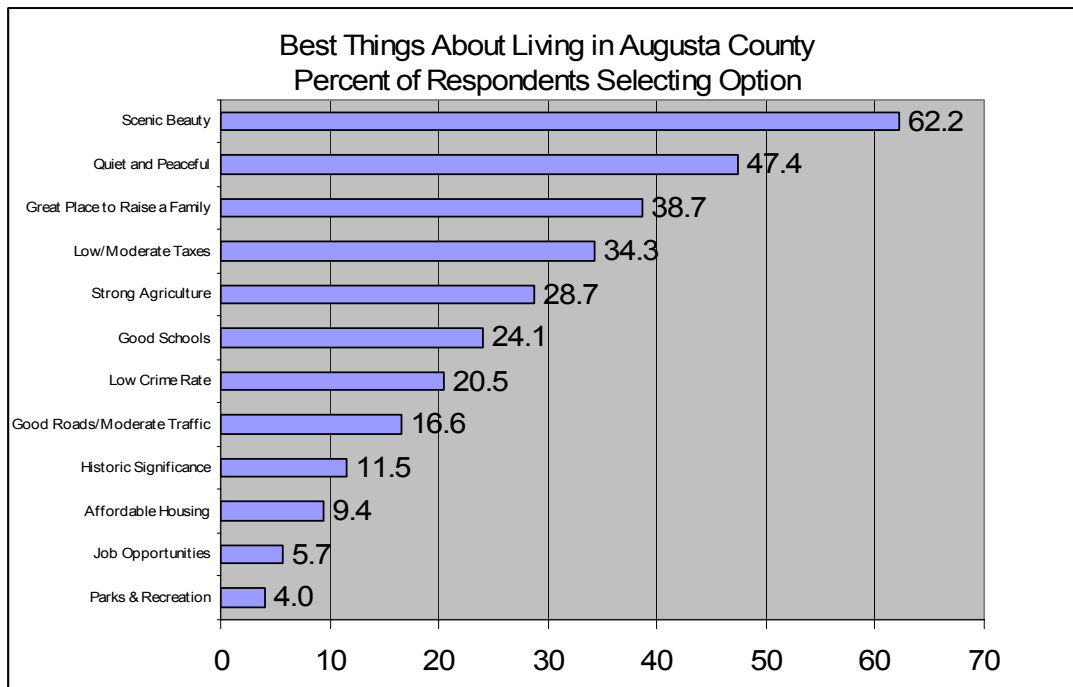
Some interesting demographic information can also be seen when the results are examined in greater detail. One interesting, but not surprising, result is the fact that 33.5% of Wayne respondents had lived in the County less than ten years, compared to 16.5-23.3% for the other six districts. Another similar result is the fact that 65.7% of Wayne respondents, 51.2% of Beverley Manor respondents, and 50.1% of South River respondents lived in one of the more urban settings compared to 13.6-24.1% for the other four districts. Finally, 52.3% of those respondents who have lived in the County for fewer than six years live in one of the more urban settings, compared to 29.6% of those who have lived in the County for more than 5 years.

Best/Worst Question Results

The second section of the survey asks respondents what they think are the best things about living in the County and the worst problems facing the County. Respondents were asked to choose three choices from each question but, since there was no way to control the number of choices they marked, often selected either more or fewer than three. All choices, no matter how many an individual selected, were recorded. The overall results were rather predictable but some interesting results can be seen when the data is broken down according to demographic categories.

The three choices that were selected most often for the three best things were "Scenic Beauty" (62.2%), "Quiet and Peaceful" (47.4%), and "Great Place to Raise a Family" (38.7%), while "Rapid Development" (67.3%), "Loss of Agricultural Land" (58.8%), and "Haphazard Development" (44.1%) were selected most often for the three worst problems. The results for each choice are found in the tables below. As a point of comparison, the top three responses to these questions in 1992 were "Scenic Beauty of Mountains," "Moderate Taxes,"

and “Scenic Beauty of Farmland” for the three best things and “Rapid Housing Development,” “Cost to taxpayers of providing public services and facilities to residents,” and “Haphazard Development” for the three worst problems. Though many of the response choices were different this time, it can clearly be seen that the issues were similar in 1992 to those in 2005 (also note that the percentages from the 1992 survey were calculated differently from those on the 2005 survey; the ranking of responses was not affected).



The #1 choices, “Scenic Beauty” and “Rapid Development” remain the top choices for almost every demographic category of the survey respondents. The only apparent exception to this is for the 18 to 34 age group, for whom “Great Place to Raise a Family” was the slight leader (by 50.8% to 49.2% for “Scenic Beauty”) in the three-best category. The second and third choices also largely remain the same no matter the demographic category. There are a few notable exceptions, though. One example is where “Low/Moderate Taxes” edges out “Great Place to Raise a Family” for the third most popular choice among new residents (0-5 years) for the three-best question. Another example is where “Loss of Agricultural Land” is selected for the three-worst question with increasing frequency (from the third choice at 45.2% for 0-2 year residents to the second choice at 62.2% for 20+ year residents) the longer the respondents have lived in the County. Finally, “Strong Agriculture” is one of the top three selections (#3 in both cases) on the three-best question by respondents from Riverheads and Pastures while being the #8 choice for Beverley Manor and Wayne and the #7 choice for South River.

Development Issues Questions

The leading responses to the statements about various development issues have remained unchanged since the first summary of results was distributed to the Committee on July 6th. In that time, only the percentages have changed, and even then not by any significant amounts. Not every respondent replied to each of the twelve questions in this section, many only replied to a few. In those cases, the answers left blank were recorded as “No Opinion.” In cases where the respondent skipped the section entirely, the results were recorded as skipped. The complete results are below:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
8. When new housing is built, it should be located in and around existing communities.	33% (486)	41% (609)	13% (186)	11% (164)	3% (38)
9. Construction of public facilities like water and sewer, roads, and schools that are needed to serve new houses should be funded by those new residents and/or developers.	46% (687)	35% (513)	7% (99)	10% (147)	2% (37)
10. The County is not doing enough to protect/encourage large-scale agricultural operations.	26% (390)	30% (448)	28% (412)	11% (170)	4% (63)
11. Most of the recent development in Augusta County is visually attractive.	4% (53)	38% (559)	20% (290)	28% (414)	11% (167)
12. All landowners in the County should be free to build whatever they like on their land, whenever they want.	12% (180)	13% (191)	6% (89)	37% (552)	32% (471)
13. New housing in the County should be located in areas served by public water and sewer facilities.	22% (333)	36% (536)	16% (238)	21% (312)	4% (64)
14. Owners of agricultural parcels should be able to break off and sell small lots for residential use whenever they choose.	9% (140)	27% (398)	11% (170)	34% (506)	18% (269)

15. The rural and agricultural areas in the County are more important for their scenic value than for their agricultural productivity.	4% (57)	15% (221)	16% (241)	46% (684)	19% (280)
16. Developers of new residential subdivisions should be required to install curbs, gutters, and sidewalks.	41% (611)	38% (568)	11% (156)	7% (109)	3% (39)
17. I would support higher densities, smaller lots, and flexible neighborhood design in designated areas to help protect agricultural and open space areas.	27% (403)	44% (653)	12% (171)	13% (195)	4% (61)
18. New construction should be required to adhere to certain architectural design and landscaping standards.	24% (353)	42% (630)	14% (206)	15% (224)	5% (70)
19. Augusta County is growing too fast.	40% (589)	30% (446)	14% (210)	13% (191)	3% (47)

As the results above show, the respondents have a clear opinion on most of these issues. Eight of the questions, highlighted above, have agreement/disagreement totals (the sum of responses who replied “Strongly Agree” and “Agree” or “Disagree” and “Strongly Disagree”) of 65% or higher. Additionally, only one question, the one asking whether recent development in the County is visually attractive (where 41% agree and 39% disagree), does not have a 50% total for either side. Question #10, with 28% of respondents marking “No Opinion” is far more one-sided than it appears at first glimpse.

The responses to most of these questions remained the same across most demographic categories. In cases where there were differences, there lacked an identifiable pattern, except in the case of Question #10 asking whether the County is doing enough to protect/encourage large-scale agricultural operations. On Question #10 there were clear distinctions between the opinions of new residents versus old residents and the more urban districts versus the more rural ones. Newer residents (0-9 years) overwhelmingly responded with a “No Opinion” to #10 while the remaining age groups all agreed. Similarly, residents of Beverley Manor and Wayne responded “No Opinion” while the remaining districts responded either “Agree” or “Strongly Agree.”

Tax Questions

As with the development issues questions, the responses to these questions have remained largely unchanged since the first update in July. Only Question #29, concerning affordable housing, has had a change in its leading answer since then, in this case from “Disagree” to “Agree.” Responses were recorded in the same fashion as in the previous section. A number of respondents simply marked “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” (a total of 64 respondents) for every question, many marking complete opposition to any new taxes on their form. The complete results are below:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
20. Better control flooding and stormwater runoff.	6% (83)	27% (390)	23% (331)	33% (488)	12% (179)
21. Improve the County's public schools.	17% (257)	40% (587)	16% (238)	17% (253)	9% (137)
22. Improve the County's fire/rescue services.	14% (202)	51% (755)	17% (251)	14% (200)	4% (64)
23. Build additional parks and public recreation facilities.	6% (93)	26% (389)	25% (363)	31% (452)	12% (175)
24. Protect agriculture and forestry.	25% (363)	40% (594)	15% (219)	15% (218)	5% (78)
25. Extend sewer and water lines to support housing developments.	3% (46)	16% (230)	14% (205)	40% (582)	28% (406)
26. Build or improve public library facilities.	7% (101)	34% (502)	27% (395)	24% (349)	8% (125)
27. Help local businesses to start and to expand.	4% (58)	20% (287)	24% (350)	36% (527)	17% (249)
28. Attract new industry.	6% (83)	23% (337)	20% (289)	34% (493)	18% (269)
29. Improve efforts to provide affordable housing.	6% (87)	30% (439)	24% (357)	27% (399)	13% (190)
30. Protect the quality of streams and groundwater.	24% (359)	50% (734)	12% (175)	9% (138)	4% (66)
31. Build new sewer and water lines within existing neighborhoods that do not now have service.	8% (116)	28% (412)	18% (272)	33% (479)	13% (192)
32. Create incentives for farmland preservation.	27% (401)	38% (555)	16% (231)	13% (197)	6% (88)
33. Subsidize public transportation (i.e. buses).	6% (84)	21% (306)	25% (373)	33% (483)	15% (226)
34. Supplement state and federal road money to improve the road system in the County.	10% (143)	34% (502)	20% (289)	27% (401)	9% (136)

In the case of the last section, the respondents had a clear opinion on most of the issues. That was not the case in this section. Only four questions in this case (highlighted above) showed a clear unified position with a 65% or greater total for one side. Only three other questions (#21 at agree and #27 & 28 at disagree) showed a greater than 50% total for one of the sides. The remainder of the questions show substantial disagreement among the general respondents.

One question that showed a clear difference in responses based on demographics is #20 asking whether respondents would be willing to pay additional taxes to better control flooding and stormwater runoff. In this case, 44% of the respondents from Pastures marked "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" while respondents from the remaining districts only marked those two responses 30% of the time. Question #23 asking about additional taxes for parks and recreation facilities also showed a clear difference in responses based on magisterial district. In this case, 40.6% of respondents from Beverley Manor and Wayne marked "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" while only 29.5% of the respondents from the other districts marked those two responses. Level of agreement with #23 also

appears linked to age, with about 40% of respondents under 35 agreeing with the statement while only about 24% of respondents over 65 agreed with the statement.

Additional Comments

Of the 1505 total responses to the survey, 697 (or 46%) of the respondents elected to make at least a minimal comment in the additional comments section. Of these, many made detailed constructive comments on issues that were covered in the survey as well as a variety of issues that were not considered. A more detailed listing of those comments will be made available at a later time.



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Wednesday, August 17, 2005

Results Summary

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Total: 1505

Visible: 1505

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Status: Enabled

Reports: Summary and Detail

2. Background Information

1. In which election district do you live?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Beverley Manor	8.9%	131
North River	14.9%	218
Riverheads	16.7%	244
Middle River	18.8%	275
Pastures	12.1%	177
South River	16%	234
Wayne	12.6%	185
Total Respondents		1464
(skipped this question)		41

2. Which setting best describes where you live?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Farm	22%	328
Apartment or townhouse area	1.7%	26
Rural village	8.9%	133
Residential subdivision	27.4%	408
Suburban lot	3.8%	56
Rural area	36.1%	537
Total Respondents		1488
(skipped this question)		17

3. How many years have you lived in Augusta County?

	Response Percent	Response Total
less than 2	5.8%	86
2 to 5	9.2%	137
6 to 9	7.8%	116
10 to 20	19.8%	296
more than 20	57.4%	857
Total Respondents		1492
(skipped this question)		13

4. Where do you work?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Student	0.5%	7
Retired	38.8%	567
Staunton	9.6%	141
Waynesboro	5.8%	85
Verona	8.1%	118
Fishersville	6.2%	91
Stuarts Draft	5.5%	80
Weyers Cave	2.4%	35
Elsewhere in Augusta County	12.6%	185
Harrisonburg	3.8%	56
Charlottesville	2%	29
Elsewhere outside Augusta County	4.7%	69
Total Respondents		1463
(skipped this question)		42

5. Your age is:

	Response Percent	Response Total
under 18 years	0.1%	2
18-34	8.9%	133
35-49	22.1%	330
50-64	38.5%	575
65 or over	30.4%	455

Total Respondents 1495
 (skipped this question) 10


3. Best Things/Worst Problems

6. What are the three best things about living in Augusta County?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Strong Agriculture	28.7%	426
Job Opportunities	5.7%	85
Low/Moderate Taxes	34.3%	509
Affordable Housing	9.4%	140
Good Schools	24.1%	357
Parks & Recreation	4%	59
Low Crime Rate	20.5%	304
Scenic Beauty	62.2%	923
Historic Significance	11.5%	170
Good Roads/Moderate Traffic	16.6%	247
Great Place to Raise a Family	38.7%	574
Quiet and Peaceful	47.4%	703
Total Respondents	1484	
(skipped this question)		21

7. What are the three worst problems facing Augusta County?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Rapid Development	67.3%	992
Loss of Agricultural Land	58.8%	866
Haphazard Development	44.1%	649
Cost to Taxpayers of Providing Public Services and Facilities to Residents	26.5%	390
Noises and Odors Associated with Agriculture	3.3%	48
Loss of Wildlife Habitat	19.1%	282
Inefficient Transportation	10.3%	152
Limited Job Opportunities	15.5%	228
Farm Operations Too Near Housing	1.8%	27
Lack of Public Participation	14.7%	216
Polluted Streams	17.8%	262
High Crime Rate	5.4%	80

Housing Quality and Affordability 

9.4% 138

Total Respondents 1473

(skipped this question) 32

4. Development Issue Questions

8. Please select one option from each of the following questions:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Total
When new housing is built, it should be located in and around existing communities.	33% (486)	41% (609)	13% (186)	11% (164)	3% (38)	1483
Construction of public facilities like water and sewer, roads, and schools that are needed to serve new houses should be funded by those new residents and/or developers.	46% (687)	35% (513)	7% (99)	10% (147)	2% (37)	1483
The County is not doing enough to protect/encourage large-scale agricultural operations.	26% (390)	30% (448)	28% (412)	11% (170)	4% (63)	1483
Most of the recent development in Augusta County is visually attractive.	4% (53)	38% (559)	20% (290)	28% (414)	11% (167)	1483
All landowners in the County should be free to build whatever they like on their land, whenever they want.	12% (180)	13% (191)	6% (89)	37% (552)	32% (471)	1483
New housing in the County should be located in areas served by public water and sewer facilities.	22% (333)	36% (536)	16% (238)	21% (312)	4% (64)	1483
Owners of agricultural parcels should be able to break off and sell small lots for residential use whenever they choose.	9% (140)	27% (398)	11% (170)	34% (506)	18% (269)	1483
The rural and agricultural areas in the County are more important for their scenic value than for their agricultural productivity.	4% (57)	15% (221)	16% (241)	46% (684)	19% (280)	1483
Developers of new residential subdivisions should be required to install curbs, gutters, and sidewalks.	41% (611)	38% (568)	11% (156)	7% (109)	3% (39)	1483
I would support higher densities, smaller lots, and flexible neighborhood design in designated areas to help protect agricultural and open space areas.	27% (403)	44% (653)	12% (171)	13% (195)	4% (61)	1483
New construction should be required to adhere to certain architectural design and landscaping standards.	24% (353)	42% (630)	14% (206)	15% (224)	5% (70)	1483
Augusta County is growing too fast.	40% (589)	30% (446)	14% (210)	13% (191)	3% (47)	1483
				Total Respondents		1483
				(skipped this question)		22

5. Tax Questions

9. I would be willing to pay additional local taxes in order to:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Total
Better control flooding and stormwater runoff.	6% (83)	27% (390)	23% (331)	33% (488)	12% (179)	1471
Improve the County's public schools.	17% (257)	40% (587)	16% (238)	17% (253)	9% (137)	1472
Improve the County's fire/rescue services.	14% (202)	51% (755)	17% (251)	14% (200)	4% (64)	1472
Build additional parks and public recreation facilities.	6% (93)	26% (389)	25% (363)	31% (452)	12% (175)	1472
Protect agriculture and forestry.	25% (363)	40% (594)	15% (219)	15% (218)	5% (78)	1472
Extend sewer and water lines to support housing developments.	3% (46)	16% (230)	14% (205)	40% (582)	28% (406)	1469
Build or improve public library facilities.	7% (101)	34% (502)	27% (395)	24% (349)	8% (125)	1472
Help local businesses to start and to expand.	4% (58)	20% (287)	24% (350)	36% (527)	17% (249)	1471
Attract new industry.	6% (83)	23% (337)	20% (289)	34% (493)	18% (269)	1471
Improve efforts to provide affordable housing.	6% (87)	30% (439)	24% (357)	27% (399)	13% (190)	1472
Protect the quality of streams and groundwater.	24% (359)	50% (734)	12% (175)	9% (138)	4% (66)	1472
Build new sewer and water lines within existing neighborhoods that do not now have service.	8% (116)	28% (412)	18% (272)	33% (479)	13% (192)	1471
Create incentives for farmland preservation.	27% (401)	38% (555)	16% (231)	13% (197)	6% (88)	1472
Subsidize public transportation (i.e. buses).	6% (84)	21% (306)	25% (373)	33% (483)	15% (226)	1472
Supplement state and federal road money to improve the road system in the County.	10% (143)	34% (502)	20% (289)	27% (401)	9% (136)	1471
				Total Respondents		1472
				(skipped this question)		33

6. Additional Comments

10.

View	Total Respondents	697
	(skipped this question)	808

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Survey Results: Percentage of Responses to Each Question

1. In which election district do you live?			
Beverley Manor (6.1%)	Middle River (19.3%)	North River (17.4%)	Pastures (18.0%)
Riverheads (11.9%)	South River (18.7%)	Wayne (8.6%)	
2. Which setting best describes where you live?			
Farm (47.6%)	Subdivision served by public utilities (23.7%)		
Apartment (1.0%)	Manufactured (Mobile) Home (1.7%)		
Subdivision or lot served by well and septic field (26.0%)			
3. How many years have you lived in Augusta County?			
less than 2 (2.4%)	2 to 5 (9.9%)	6 to 9 (9.4%)	10 or more (78.3%)
4. Where do you work?			
Staunton (11.7%)	Waynesboro (9.1%)	Verona (6.1%)	Fishersville (5.1%)
Stuarts Draft (8.9%)	Weyers Cave (2.3%)	Harrisonburg (4.4%)	Retired (23.3%)
elsewhere <u>in</u> Augusta Co. (22.8%)		elsewhere <u>outside</u> Augusta Co. (6.3%)	
5. Your age is:			
under 18 years (4.6%)	18-34 (12.5%)	35-49 (41.1%)	
50-64 (24.7%)	65 or over (17.1%)		

6. What are the <u>three best things</u> about living in Augusta County?	
Scenic Beauty of Farmland (14.6%)	Low Crime Rate (11.5%)
Job Opportunities (3.2%)	Scenic Beauty of Mountains (16.7%)
Moderate Taxes (15.9%)	Community Spirit and Pride (8.5%)
Affordable Housing (3.2%)	Good Roads, Moderate Traffic (6.1%)
Good Schools (12.1%)	Good Health Care (1.5%)
Safe Drinking Water (3.5%)	Hunting and Fishing (4.1%)

7. What are the <u>three worst problems</u> facing Augusta County now or in the future?	
Rapid Housing Development (18.3%)	Crime Increases (7.6%)
Contaminated Drinking Water (3.4%)	Haphazard Development (16.0%)
County and City Conflicts (7.8%)	Flooding (5.0%)
Cost to taxpayers of providing public services and facilities to residents (16.8%)	Limited Job Opportunities (10.3%)
Traffic Congestion (4.4%)	Conflicts between Farms and neighboring houses (10.4%)

Please give your opinion of the following statements by circling one response to each:

Roads		Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
8.	The limited highway funds available from the State should be used to pave or improve rural roads, rather than to widen or add new urban roads.	33.2%	35.5%	8.6%	17.2%	5.5%

Development		Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
9.	When new housing is built, it should be located in and around existing communities, rather than in the farming or forest areas.	46.8%	28.7%	6.1%	13.9%	4.5%
10.	Construction of public facilities such as water and sewer, roads and schools that are needed to serve new houses, should be funded by those new home buyers, not by existing County residents.	39.1%	25.5%	8.0%	19.3%	6.0%
11.	All landowners in the County should be free to build on their land whatever type of structure they want to build, whenever they want.	13.6%	16.4%	4.3%	36.3%	29.4%
12.	New housing in the County should be required to have public water and sewer facilities rather than individual wells and septic fields.	12.0%	18.2%	13.0%	36.4%	20.4%
13.	Augusta County is growing too fast.	30.0%	25.4%	15.1%	22.9%	6.2%
14.	Newly constructed buildings in the County should be required to be landscaped with trees and shrubs.	18.5%	33.2%	17.1%	22.0%	9.2%
15.	Local historic sites and buildings should be legally protected from development or destruction.	29.4%	40.9%	12.5%	12.7%	4.5%
16.	Most of the recent development in Augusta County is visually attractive.	4.6%	52.7%	17.7%	18.5%	6.5%

Taxes for Public Facilities and Services	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I would be willing to pay additional local taxes in order to:					
17. better control flooding and stormwater run-off.	6.0%	27.2%	17.6%	32.3%	16.9%
18. improve the County's public schools.	24.3%	43.4%	8.4%	16.3%	5.6%
19. build additional parks and public recreation facilities.	9.0%	25.8%	14.5%	31.6%	19.1%
20. build new sewer and water lines within existing neighborhoods that do not now have such service.	10.3%	34.1%	11.9%	29.2%	14.5%
21. extend sewer and water lines to new housing developments.	6.9%	24.2%	10.5%	33.6%	24.8%
22. build or improve public library facilities.	10.8%	34.4%	20.8%	24.0%	10.0%
23. help local businesses to start and to expand.	9.6%	27.8%	16.8%	29.2%	16.6%
24. attract new industry.	16.2%	29.8%	11.1%	24.8%	18.1%
25. improve efforts to provide affordable housing.	8.3%	34.7%	20.1%	23.9%	14.0%
26. protect the quality of streams and groundwater.	31.6%	44.1%	10.1%	8.3%	5.9%

Farmland

27. Farmland in Augusta County is being developed with houses at too rapid a rate.	45.8%	29.0%	10.5%	12.6%	4.1%
28. New intensive farm activities such as poultry houses and dairies should be required to be set farther back from neighboring property lines.	34.2%	30.2%	11.0%	13.0%	11.6%