



Fairfield Area

Community Workshop Recap

November 13, 2024

Participants: 23

DATA WALK

Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey

II. Economic Perceptions In Our Community

In regard to your community, how would you assess current business conditions and employment opportunities.

Please select one answer for each of the following:

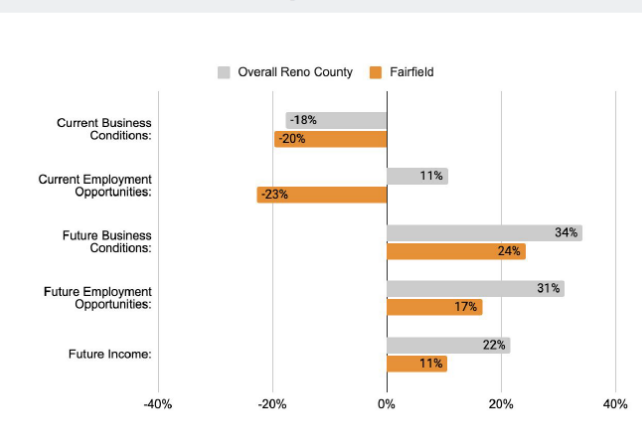
a. Business Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Bad <input type="checkbox"/> Normal	b. Employment Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs plentiful <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs not so plentiful <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs hard to get
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In regard to your community, what are your future expectations for the following.

Please select one answer for each of the following:

a. Business Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Better <input type="checkbox"/> Worse <input type="checkbox"/> Same	b. Employment Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Better <input type="checkbox"/> Worse <input type="checkbox"/> Same	c. Income <input type="checkbox"/> Increase <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease <input type="checkbox"/> Same
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Our Economic Perceptions Report, pg. 4



Workshop Prompt: What might be behind the uncertainty about the current economic conditions?

- Not knowing what is in the plans for the area communities.
- Lack of news of any upcoming business opening or new industry.
- Empty buildings downtown.
- More customers in Hutchinson for businesses.
- Low population.
- Fear of change. Be more open minded.
- Current housing and land prices.
- Big companies don't seem to be looking this way.
- Lack of business. Lack of housing.
- The condition of our town makes it hard to entice people to move here.
- Lack of housing to accommodate large families/ run down housing, no pride.

Workshop Prompt: What gives residents so much more hope for future economic conditions?

- Work with HRC Chamber. Learn what they can offer. Small towns need a plan for the future.
- We like to see the positive.
- It can't get much worse.
- Need more housing, high land prices.
- Interest rate & funding for small business.
- HCF helping.
- Rural people ARE hopeful people.
- Recent election, we hope.
- Gigabit internet. Need this in Sylvia.

Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey

Please use the following scale to indicate how you feel about your community and leadership.

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Somewhat Disagree
- 4 = Neutral
- 5 = Somewhat Agree
- 6 = Agree
- 7 = Strongly Agree

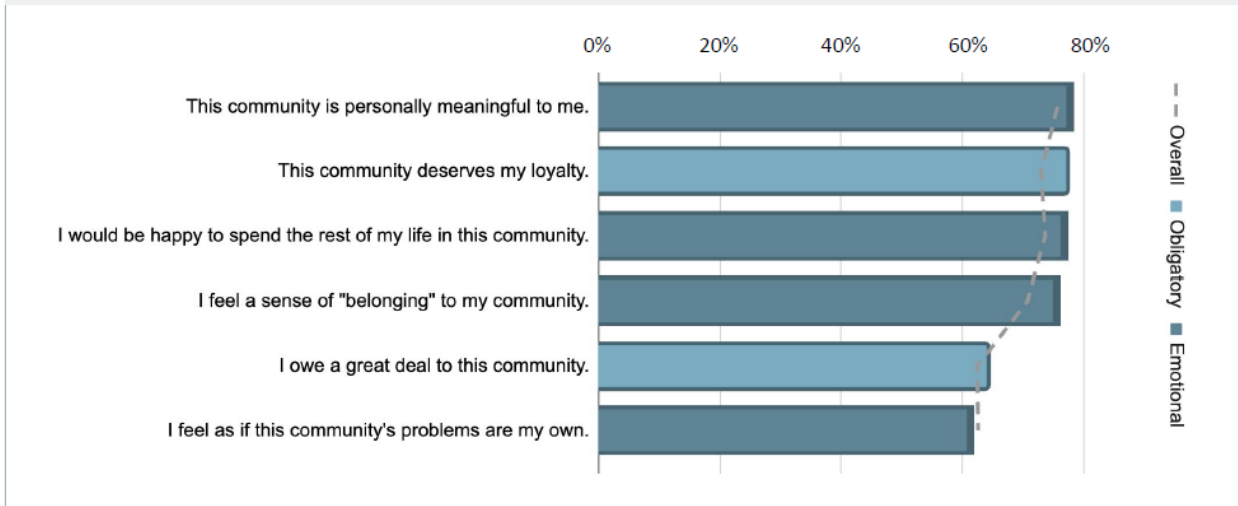
If you are unsure or do not want to respond, please use the following option:

0 = Do not know/No response

Report, pg. 7

Confidence In Our Local Community

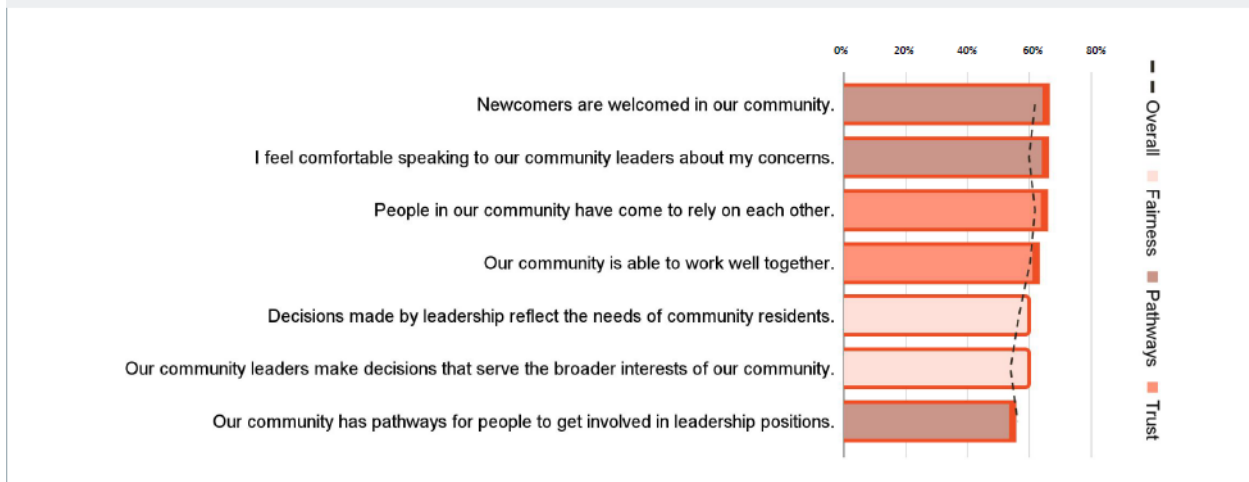
Community Confidence: Personal Commitment



Workshop Prompt: How might local leaders leverage this local enthusiasm and commitment?

- Communicate the good word!
- Better communication.
- Personally invited people to help.
- Helping others to get involved.

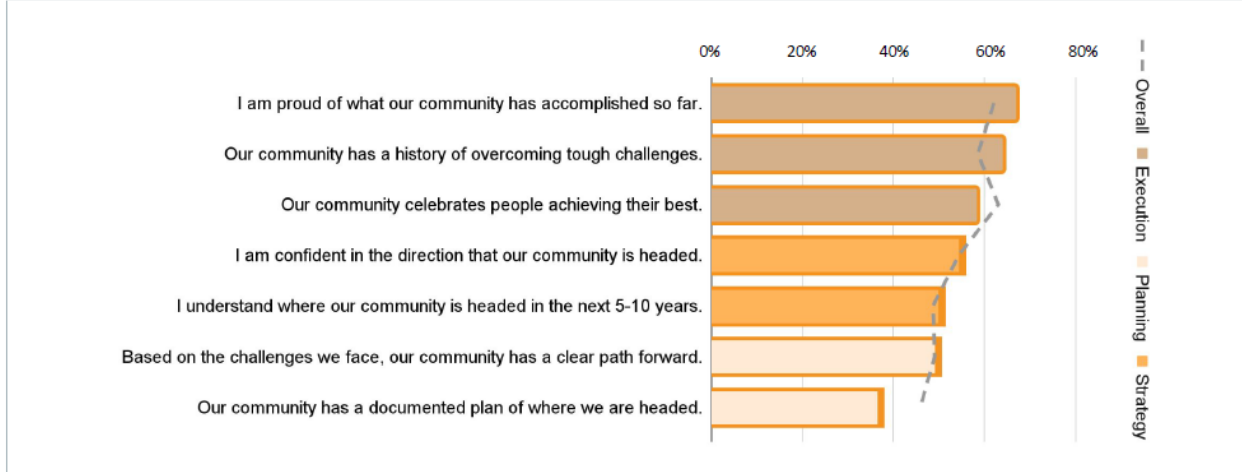
Community Confidence: Local Leadership



Workshop Prompt: What current local initiatives could benefit from more community involvement?

- Strategic planning with involvement of those positive and those naysayers.
- Personally invite volunteers.
- Bringing in more outside business.
- More people getting involved in events.
- Community activities "Helping hands."
- Arlington community pride group.

Community Confidence: Vision



Workshop Prompt: What opportunities do you see here?

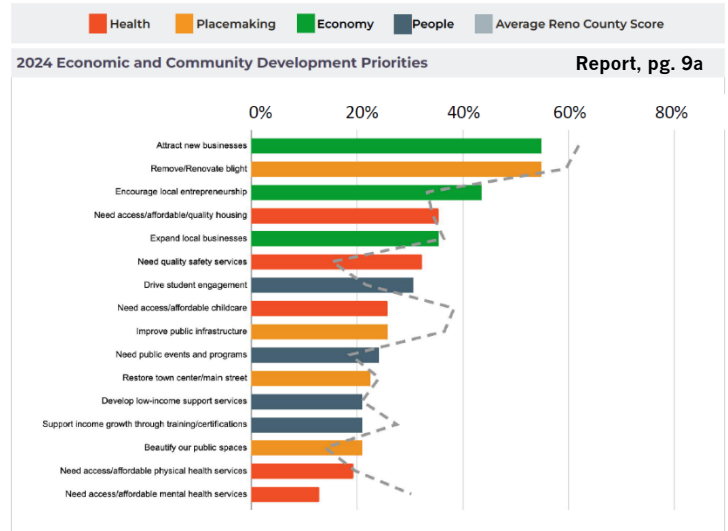
- There are great opportunities for improving the town & surrounding area.
- Great ideas need to be shared and listened to.
- Sheriff sub-stations.
- Cleaning up our town.
- Celebrate even the little achievements.

Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey

Understanding your communities economic and community development priorities **IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

Please select your top 5 economic and community development priorities.

- (Resilient Economy) Attract new businesses
- (Resilient Economy) Expand local businesses
- (Resilient Economy) Encourage local entrepreneurship
- (Vibrant Place) Remove/renovate run-down properties
- (Vibrant Place) Improve public infrastructure (sidewalks, roads, parks, etc.)
- (Vibrant Place) Beautify our public areas
- (Vibrant Place) Restore our town center and main street
- (Engaged Citizens) Create and refine programs to improve student engagement in the community
- (Engaged Citizens) Develop training and certification programs to support income growth
- (Engaged Citizens) Develop community pride through public events and programming
- (Engaged Citizens) Develop more effective low-income family support programs
- (Healthy Citizens) Expand access to quality and affordable (monthly payments <30% of household income) housing
- (Healthy Citizens) Expand access to quality and affordable childcare support services
- (Healthy Citizens) Address access and affordability of local Physical Health services
- (Healthy Citizens) Address access and affordability of local Mental Health services
- (Healthy Citizens) Improve the quality of safety and emergency services (Police, Fire, etc.)



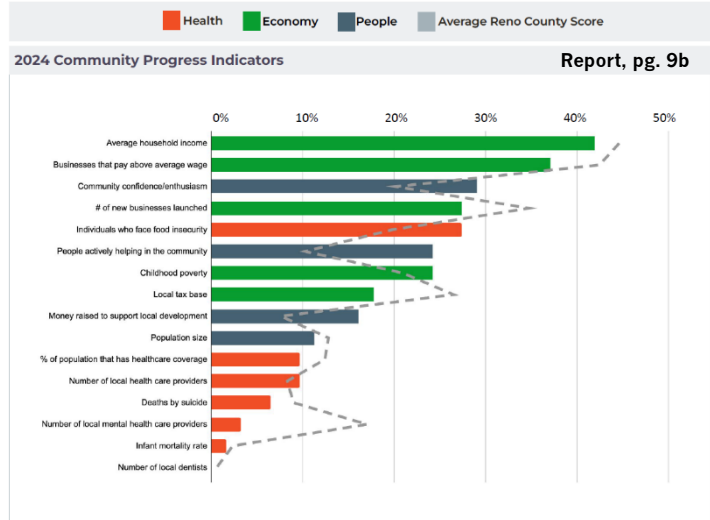
Workshop Prompt: What would it take to create change on the top priorities?

- Communication about programs to fix properties.
- Apply planning, contact knowledgeable people that can assist lots of good ideas just need to put into action.
- Communication of programs.
- Getting community on board with change. Get them to see and appreciate improvements.
- Sheriff officer based in town to deter crime.
- Tax breaks or financial breaks for new project or businesses.
- Open up ground for growth.
- Incentives for property owners to sell or fix up empty buildings.

Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey

In a span of 1-3 years, which community metrics would you hope to improve upon. Select up to 3:

- Number of new businesses launched in the community
- Number of new businesses that pay above average wages
- Average household income
- Population size
- Amount of money raised to support local development
- Local tax base (wages, sales, property)
- Number of people actively (>5 hours/month) engaged in community development
- Community confidence and enthusiasm
- % of local population who has some health care coverage
- Number of Mental Health Providers available locally
- Number of Primary Health Providers available locally
- Number of Dentists available locally
- Number of deaths caused by suicide
- Individuals who face food insecurity
- Childhood poverty rate
- Infant mortality rates



Workshop Prompt: What would it take to create change on the top progress indicators?

- Needing funding for improvements.
- Support from local government, state, federal.
- Getting citizens to take ownership. Getting citizens to WANT to be a part of the change.
- People with open minds.
- Require Startup Hutch to be involved in possible & appropriate for the community. Businesses. Also KS105.

BOLD IDEAS

Workshop Prompt:

- What one opportunity or priority could make the biggest difference in our community in the next year?
- If this community was 10 times bolder to make progress on it, what big idea would you recommend?

Workshop Participant Responses:

- Involve the community in cleaning up blight.
- More money.
- Unite communities in ways other than school.
- Housing & utilizing existing programs.