



Nickerson Area

Community Workshop Recap

November 18, 2024

Participants: 26

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:

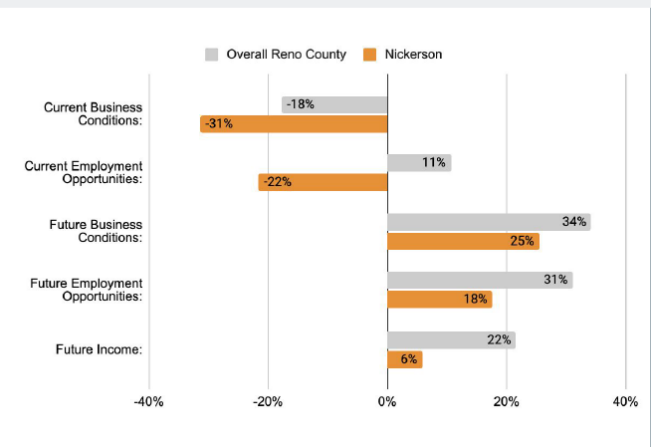
a. Business Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Bad <input type="checkbox"/> Normal	b. Employment Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs plentiful <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs not so plentiful <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs hard to get
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In 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?

- Unsure of support from community.
- No signage.
- Past business closures (Last Chance, Pizza Connection).
- Lack of business, construction of highway.
- Remove sales tax on sale of empty properties.
- The highway.

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

- Signage new.
- More businesses. Have buildings 😊.
- There is a need.
- Businesses that don't need highway.

Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey

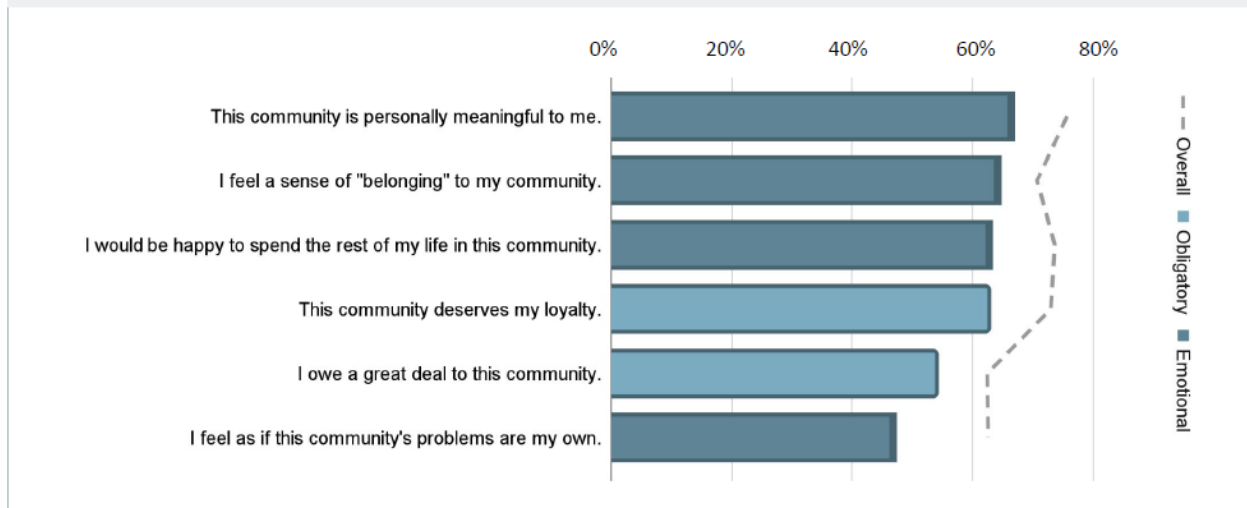
Please use the following scale to indicate how you feel about your community and leadership.

- 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

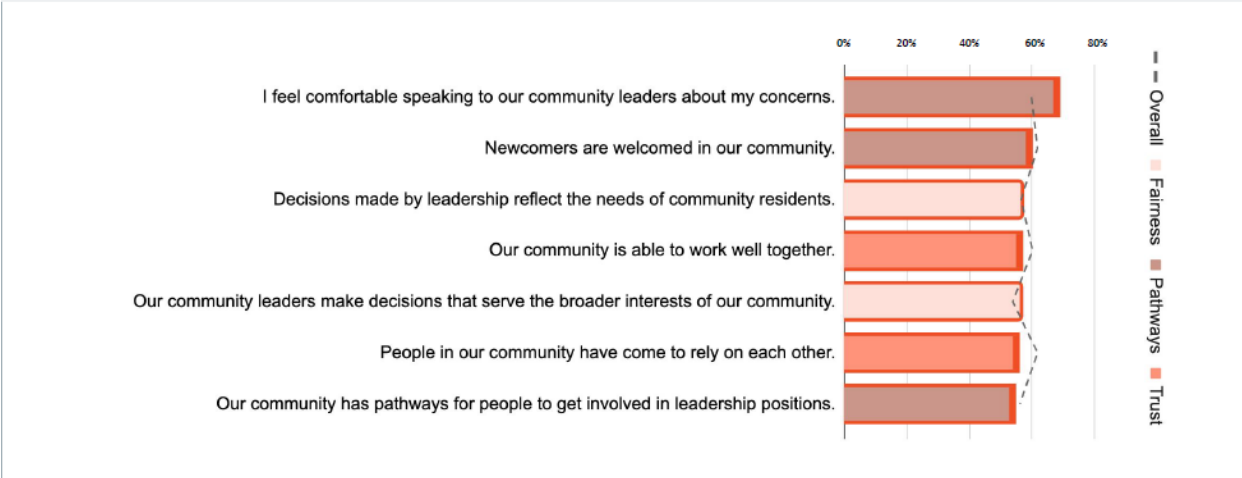
Community Confidence: Personal Commitment



Workshop Prompt: What might help residents feel more connected and attached to the Nickerson community?

- Create "events" not necessarily with an admission (a play day at the park for families, bring a covered dish for a meal).
- Get people involved.
- Town hall meetings
- Promote historical preservation and create ways for people to volunteer in helping with city preservation projects.

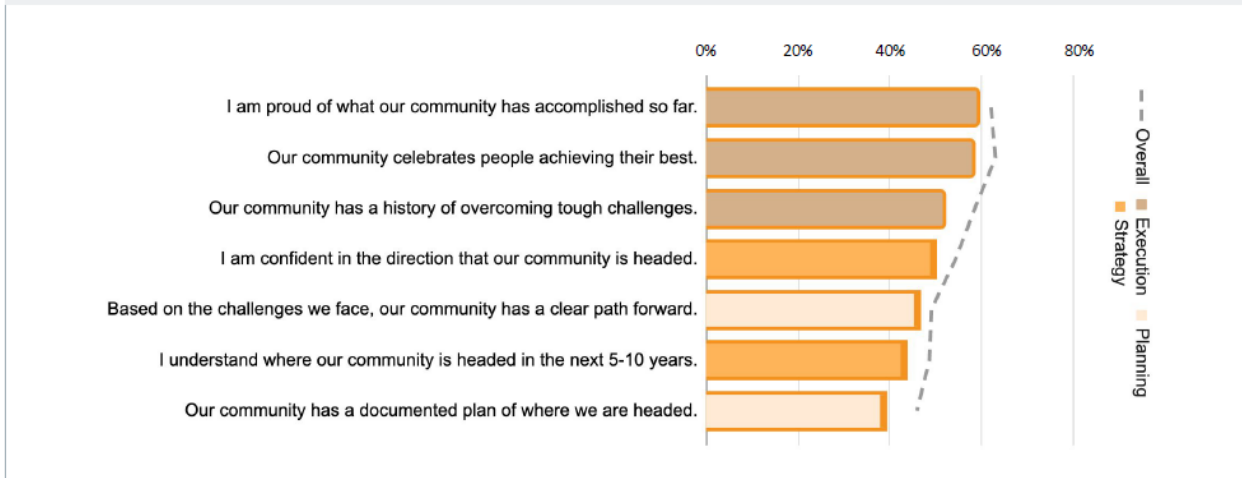
Community Confidence: Local Leadership



Workshop Prompt: What opportunities do you see here?

- Town halls.
- Youth leadership program teaching and training youth in rural leadership positions.

Community Confidence: Vision



Workshop Prompt: How might residents become more involved in shaping the community's vision and direction?

- Comprehensive plan & strategic plans.
- Show up to things.
- Seeing the specific change/progress from their efforts.

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?

- Attract new businesses. Acquire property on Main Street, especially empty lots.
- Remove/renovate blight. Continue enforcement of fines for homes considered an eyesore.
- City code enforcement.
- Grants for capital to start business.

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?

- Research how to effectively transition from being predominately a “bed sit community” to being more self-sustained.
- Number of new businesses launched: Give resources such as available grants for people wanting to open businesses.
- Find potential businesses that bring in a higher wage but also support the community’s needs.
- Business tax breaks
- Bring in more business.
- Promote businesses on social platforms.

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:

- Develop North of town – annex.
- More opportunities for community engagement.
- Different mediums for communication.
- Prioritize housing.
- Remove vacant properties.
- Repurpose old businesses.

LEADERSHIP IS AN ACTIVITY

Workshop Prompt: What can you do to immediately make progress on a big idea? Where do you have discretion and freedom to act? What can you do without more resources or authority?

Workshop Participant Responses:

- Voice at council – demand change.
- Incentives for homeowners to sell.
- More town hall meetings.