



South Hutchinson

Community Workshop Recap

October 15, 2024

Participants: 7

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:

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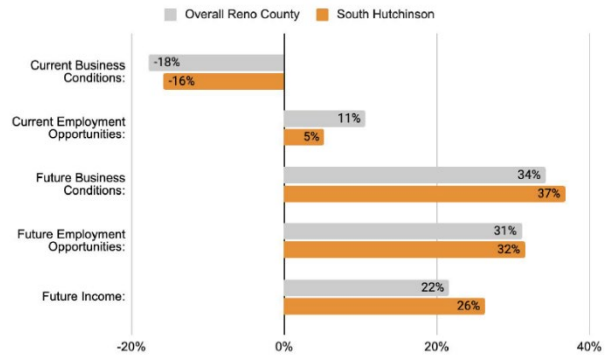
In regard to your community, what are your future expectations for the following.

Please select one answer for each of the following:

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

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Workshop Prompt: What might be behind the community's mixed perceptions of current business conditions and employment opportunities?

- Not a lot of businesses opening.
- Short lived businesses or jobs that are available but do not pay above average.
- Growth potential is here!
- We can handle potential...land!
- The location of the city.
- Location for large development.
- That S. Hutch has been the same for so long nothing is going to change. "Perception I hear."
- Not seeing new businesses entering the community.
- Company opens, one closes.

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

- The new excitement building in town especially with businesses.
- Engaged citizens, council and administration!
- Resources and location make growth & improvement seem approachable.

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

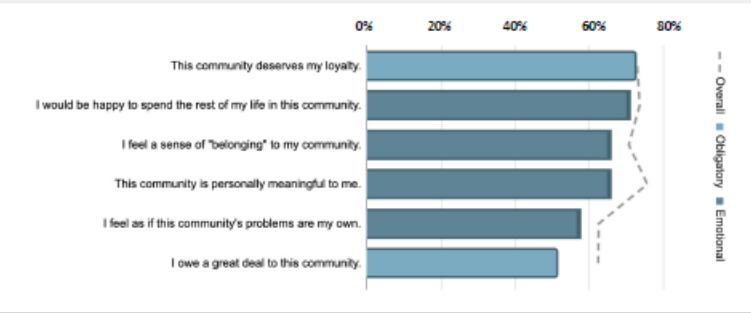
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Confidence In Our Local Community

Average Reno County Score

Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7)

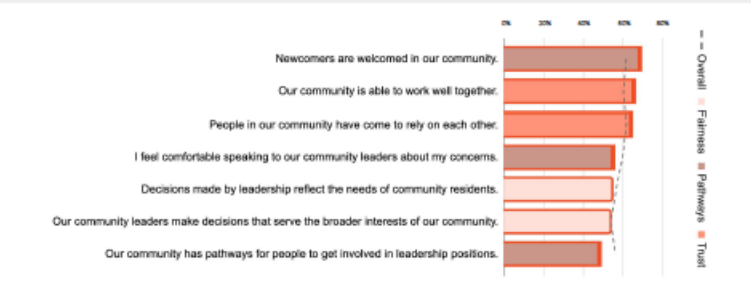
Community Confidence: Personal Commitment



Workshop Prompt: What would encourage a deeper sense of responsibility toward the community's success?

- 2500 people?? Investment into the community, older demographic???
- Outreach programs.
- Better community engagement & involvement with the government.

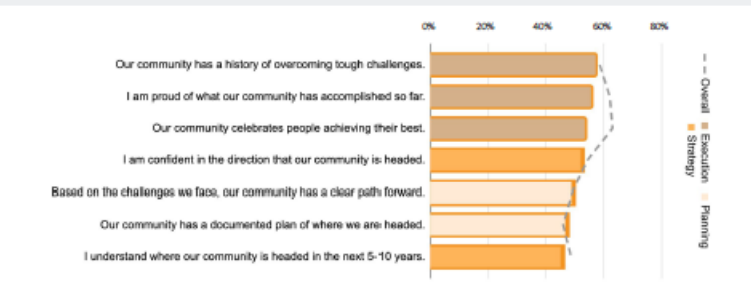
Community Confidence: Local Leadership



Workshop Prompt: What methods would improve communication between leaders and residents?

- Monthly/quarterly newsletters.
- More actions versus just ideas.
- Leaders being more accessible, intentionally.
- More accessibility to in person engagements.

Community Confidence: Vision



Workshop Prompt: How can the community foster more trust in its vision for the future?

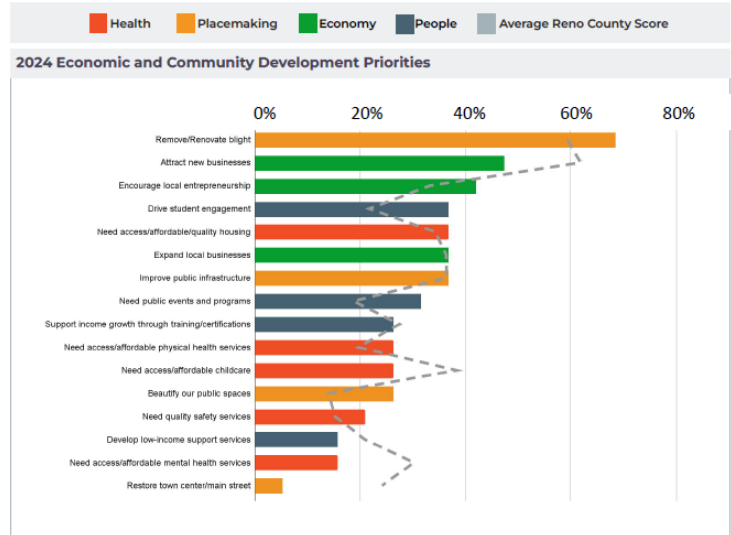
- Processes like this that invite community members to share their thoughts.
- Make and share the plans for change.
- Make sure they feel included.

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.)



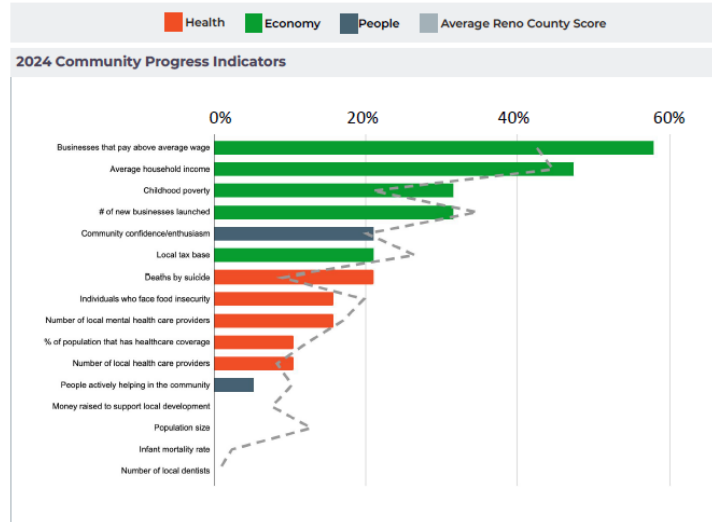
Workshop Prompt: What would it take to create change on the top priorities?

- Improve vacant building renovations.
- Incentives for new housing
- Market South Hutch to potential businesses, focus on great place to live.
- Create youth leadership with school & bring them to government events (council).
- No more storage units.
- Listen to community on blighted areas of concern.
- New business start-up incentives!

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?

- Consider regional solutions.
- Target businesses in industries with above average wages.
- Google it.
- Continue to pivot & try to reach larger groups of the community.
- Incentivize businesses to offer higher wages.
- Develop economic incentives & create a community that excites new business.
- Bring in core businesses.

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:

1. Building: Incentivize owners on Poplar to sell to a potential business or renovate their buildings to attract businesses to rent their buildings or buy them. Storefronts on Poplar. Pride on Poplar! – 8 votes
2. Develop a program across the county to bring builders into town, Ditto – add combined with business & local partnerships – 5 votes
3. Renovate the old hotel, replace with strip mall.
4. Grocery store and best one to vote for. Bold with Dillons in Reno County bringing in another grocery store.
5. Encourage building owners to either improve their buildings or sell to someone that will.
6. I would incentivize builders to engage in developing more housing. Code enforcement.

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:

- Increase foot traffic.
- Share the vision and idea.
- Get community shareholders involved.
- Engaging with the community to get a feel of what is expected of law enforcement in the area.
- Ask questions without fear of affiliation/retaliation.
- Develop incentive & disincentive programs for property owners.
- My opinion and voice have an impact.
- Discretion within the law
- Recruit outside resources and or authority.
- Talk to everyone – virus! Create a ‘what if?’ billboard.
- Get out as a department and get citizens informed and involved.
- Enforcement of anything criminal.
- Bring a team together and create a synergy in the vision of making Poplar great again.
- Influence others to see the vision.