

Economic Vitality

How Can We Improve Our Community?

One of the reasons people participate in discussion forums is to let others know how they feel about certain issues. Now that you've had a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you are thinking. Your opinions, along with those of others who participated in forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be distributed to state and local leaders, the media, and other citizens in the region.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements listed below?

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
Our community has a good chance of attracting a major employer if we just spend money on improving our infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>				
We should focus more on supporting small businesses rather than trying to attract a major employer	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Our community has natural, historic and/or cultural assets around which we can build new businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Workforce issues - including employability problems such as drug addiction - are the main thing holding our community back	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Income inequality - the gap between the well-off and everyone else - is a growing problem in our community	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Everyone should be able to make it on their own if they just work hard enough	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Addressing problems such as teen pregnancy in order to get children started on a good path in life will go a long way towards making us a more economically vibrant community	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. Do you support or oppose the actions listed below?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
We should spend money to attract industry, EVEN IF there is no guarantee these industries will stay, or even come	<input type="checkbox"/>				
We should cut business taxes, EVEN IF this means that less funding will be available for education and other government programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
We should focus on building our economy around our existing businesses and strengths, EVEN IF they may not generate a lot of money	<input type="checkbox"/>				
We should encourage students to be entrepreneurs, EVEN IF this lifestyle may be financially risky	<input type="checkbox"/>				
We should require a living wage for all employees, EVEN IF this may mean some businesses will need to cutback on new hiring or even layoff existing workers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
We should establish government purchasing policies that give preference to local businesses, EVEN IF that means paying more for goods and services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I am personally willing to buy more from local businesses, EVEN IF it means spending more	<input type="checkbox"/>				

3. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum?

Yes No

If Yes, please explain:

4. Do you see ways for people to work on this issue that you didn't see before?

Yes No

If Yes, please explain:

5. What do you think is the most important thing the community can do to address this issue?

6. What, if anything, would you personally be willing to do to help move the community forward on this issue?

7. What else, if anything, would you like to share about this topic?

Optional (to help us see if different groups are thinking differently):

8. Age:

24 and under 25-39 40-54 55-69 70 or older

9. Are you:

African American Asian American Native American Hispanic or Latino
 White/Caucasian Other

10. Where do you live:

Rural area Small town Big city Suburban area

11. In which state do you live?

Thank you! Please give your completed questionnaire to the forum moderator.