



Lewis County 2045

Shaping the Future of Lewis County

Public Engagement Results

Updated May 23, 2024

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Engagement Process Overview

Lewis County 2045 Engagement Overview

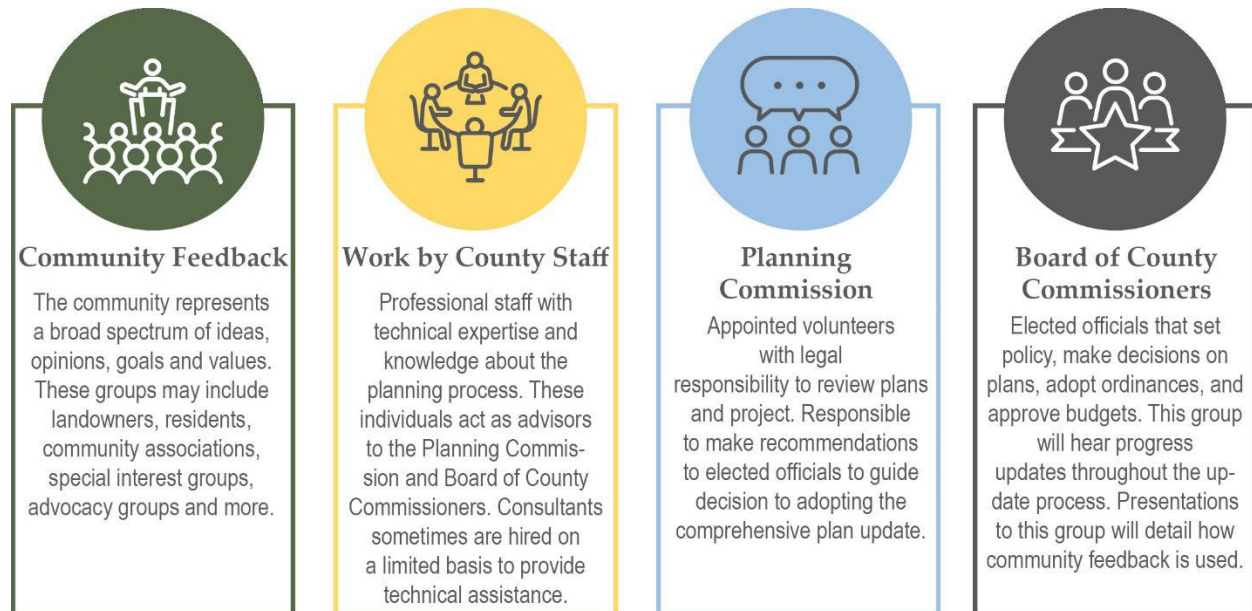
This Lewis County 2045 Community Engagement Plan outlines a program for participation to “involve a broad cross-section of the community, so groups not previously involved in planning become involved” ([WAC 365-196-600](#)). Staff will seek opportunities to meet the public where they are by participating in existing web-based surveys, online content, community-hosted events, interest groups’ reoccurring meetings (e.g., Farm Bureau), and other public meetings, as well as planning community ‘pop- ups’ in frequently visited locations.

The community engagement strategy goals are to:

- Engage with stakeholders early in the planning process.
- Understand community character, what makes Lewis County special.
- Build long-term, collaborative working relationships with community partners and stakeholders.
- Capture community vision.
- Balance state law and with community vision.
- Clearly communicate how feedback is used.
- Engage with the community in its full diversity to promote inclusivity.

Community engagement in support of Lewis County 2045 will take place from April 2024 to November 2024. The County has identified a range of engagement tactics to connect with stakeholders. This report will outline the engagement outcomes of the engagement tactics used throughout the project.

Lewis County 2045 Roles and Responsibilities



Stakeholders

A stakeholder is any individual who may have an interest in the future of Lewis County. Most stakeholders may fall into more than one group. All stakeholders are equally valuable to this process and the County desires to engage with community members from all areas. County staff are especially interested in hearing from stakeholders who have never participated in planning efforts, and those living in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

This list is not comprehensive and may be updated as the project progresses.

Key stakeholder groups

- Property owners
- Residents
- Part Time Residents
- Renters
- Business owners
- Employees
- Elected officials (including County Commissioners)
- Developers
- Tribes
- People with Limited English Proficiency
- Communities with Disabilities
- Churches
- Schools and school districts
- Library
- Individual cities, towns, unincorporated communities
- Community organizations
- Fire Departments
- Police Departments
- Water/Sewer Districts
- Tourists/Visitors
- Agricultural industry
- Seniors
- Youth
- Students
- Religious organizations

Community Engagement Outcomes

1. Community Vision Survey

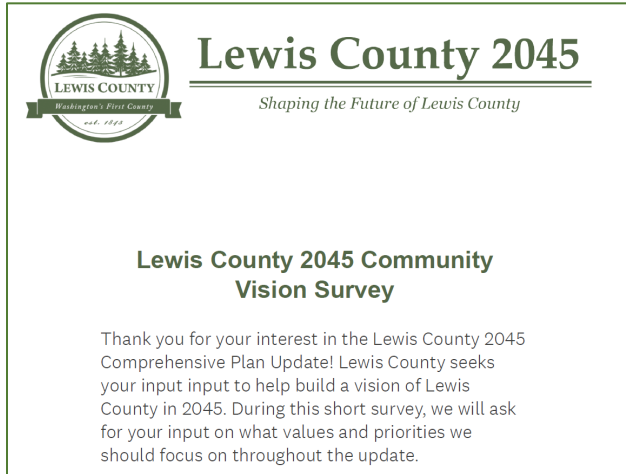


Figure 1 Survey Welcome Page

On March 28, 2024, Lewis County launched the Community Vision Survey on its website. This survey remained open through May 10, 2024. The survey was publicized through the Board of County Commissioner Facebook Page and through the Lewis County 2045 email list, as well as at local meetings including the Realtor's Lunch & Learn and Fire Chiefs monthly meeting.

Survey Goals

- Build awareness about the Comprehensive Update.
- Understand community priorities and values.
- Understand the community vision for Lewis County.
- Understand the overall satisfaction with the quality of life in Lewis County.

Survey Participants

95.08%	Live in Lewis County.
1.37%	Work in Lewis County.
13.82%	Own or operate a business in Lewis County.
1.23%	Visitor of Lewis County

Key Results



736
Survey responses



236
Signed up for project updates.



566
Report feeling very satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of life in Lewis County

Of the respondents who reported living within Lewis County, 296 reported living in area C (BOCC District 3), 243 reported living in B (BOCC District 2) and 179 reported living in A (BOCC District 1).



Key Community Values

Respondents were asked to report which values they felt best described Lewis County. Respondents chose the following values with the most frequency:

- 76.63% Rural Character**
- 29.89% Family Oriented**

Community Priorities

Respondents were asked to rank 8 different priorities to provide insight on what the community would like to focus on over the next 20 years. Responses revealed the following ranking (1-highest; 8-lowest):

1	Improving public safety (e.g., police, EMS)
2	Mitigating natural hazard (e.g., flooding, wildfire)
3	Increasing local job opportunities
4	Preserving agricultural and forestry land
5	Protecting natural and scenic resources
6	Improving utilities (e.g. water, internet)
7	Improving transportation infrastructure
8	Diversify housing options

2. Comprehensive / Climate Educational Event with Breakout Session

Introduction

This event was hosted by Centralia College as part of their “Climate Connections Film and Speakers Series”. Mindy Brooks was requested to speak about Lewis’s County’s Comprehensive Plan and the new start requirements regarding Climate Resiliency. The event was hybrid with in person and Zoom options.

Event Summary

The engagement event covered the following topics:

1. What is a comprehensive plan?
2. What is climate and resiliency planning?
3. How does climate change impact Lewis County?
4. Have you been impacted by natural disasters?

Key Results



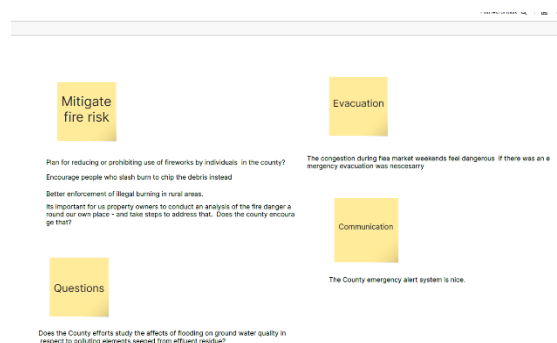
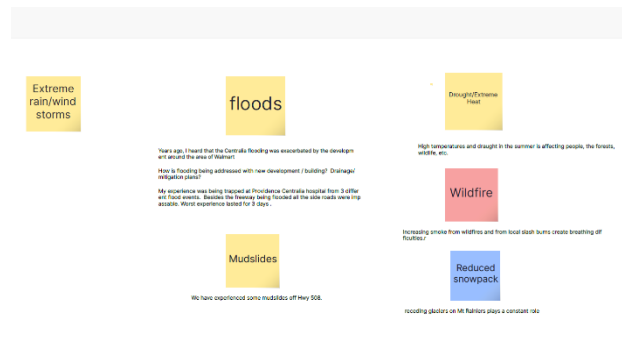
30
Attendees

Engagement Outcomes

Key comments from the in-person discussion included the following:

- Flooding risks and river bank erosion
- Concerns about the response time to wildfires
- Logging impacts related to landslide hazards
- Evacuation routes and education
- Invasive plant species controls

Zoom comments are captured in the figures below:



3. Community Meetings

Introduction

October 2023 through January 2024, the County hosted four (4) community meetings to ask the public to help scope the highest priorities over the next 20 years. The meetings were held in South County near Toledo, Salkum, Mineral and Randle. A total of 86 people attended the meetings.

Event Summary

Each meeting began with an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (see handout) and questions from the attendees. Then there was a facilitated workshop with the prompting question “What is your vision for Lewis County in 20-years?” Participants were asked to write 5-10 statements about what they hope Lewis County will be like in 2045, covering topics such as transportation, housing, land use, recreation, jobs, etc. Next, participants were asked to star the top 3 priorities. The participants paired up and shared their top 3 priorities. Together, each team was asked to agree on a combined 3 and write each priority on a notecard. These were shared with the whole group and organized, by the group, into topics. The results of the workshop are provided below. Finally, staff shared the next steps which are to produce notes from this meeting and each of the upcoming community meetings throughout the county and post them on the webpage.

Engagement Outcomes

The comments from the meetings are summarized below. The top themes were:

1. Protect the rural character of the County by maintaining farms and forests and keeping dense development and big commercial near Interstate 5.
2. Make sure infrastructure and services (e.g., roads, EMS, police, schools, internet, etc.) keeps pace with development.

Land Use

- Maintain rural character.
- Preserve small family farms.
- Make sure small, unincorporated communities (LAMIRDS) that have existing neighborhoods and services like schools are sustainable long term.
- Ensure that high density housing is provided in cities and urban growth areas, protecting rural areas for lower density housing that matches rural character.
- Ensure that tiny home parks are located in appropriate areas where there are adequate facilities and services.
- Growth locally owned, small businesses and prevent larger corporations from overtaking the unique character of Lewis County.

Key Results



86
Attendees

Economic Development

- Maintain and grow the timber industry.
- Remove barriers to keeping small farms in agricultural production.
- Provide excellent broadband everywhere in Lewis County to support new jobs, particularly in East Lewis County.
- Enhance Highway 12 as a Scenic Byway by encouraging protection of farms and forests, and encourage development that creates a visually appealing drive and supports tourism.
- Balance new jobs with rural character by ensuring that new employment centers are based on rural economies (e.g., farms, tourism) and scaled appropriately.
- Zone more properties that front I-5 for commercial and industrial development and encourage new businesses along the I-5 corridor and at on/off ramps.
- Ensure that new green energy facilities provide economic benefit to Lewis County residents.

Housing

- Provide housing that meets the needs of the community.
- Increase the amount and diversity of affordable housing options.
- Provide senior housing options in East Lewis County.
- Encourage new housing developments to be located away from major transportation corridors or screened/buffered from transportation corridors using trees and shrubs.
- Consider capping property value/property tax for residents.

Infrastructure

- Ensure that public facilities and services (e.g. fire districts, EMS, school districts, etc.) plan for and can support new rural development.
- Support and grow rural schools and educational opportunities.
- Improve cell services and broadband.
- Increase policing services in East Lewis County.
- Expand recycling services throughout East Lewis County and add plastic recycling.
- Provide more trash removal on county roads.

Recreation and Environment

- Preserve Lewis County's history and support tourism related to history
- Maintain and improve recreational facilities, particularly facilities like Riffe Lake that are critical to tourism and the local economy.
- Protect rivers, streams and lakes, such as Mineral Lake, to maintain water quality and preserve the "natural state" of the shorelines.
- Create more public parks/open spaces with connected regional trail system.
- Provide more access to federal and state public lands.
- Support and increase local events and festivals.
- Protect natural resources and maintain habitat for wildlife.
- Work with the state and federal governments to properly manage forests for timber production and as wildlife habitat.

Natural Hazards

- Complete flood control measures that have been under discussion for many years.
- Increase flood protection and mitigation throughout the County.
- Have a coordinated response to wildfires; increase the level of service of fire districts.
- Propose Firewise or other fire-ready programs in East County.
- Provide more education about evacuation routes.

Transportation

- Provide transportation options for seniors, people with disabilities and others.
- Improve traffic flow and safety throughout Lewis County.
- Add center turn lanes to State Routes and County arterials as those roads pass through more densely developed areas.
- Increase public transit services, more frequent service and extended serve to South and East Lewis County.
- Work with the Federal Department of Transportation to add a third land to Interstate 5.

Other ideas

- Less “red tape” across the board so it is easier for people to do the development and land use they want to do.
- Move Fair Grounds to SE corner of Exit 63 and add Equestrian Center
- Provide an all-encompassing housing and treatment facility for homeless residents.



November 30, 2023 Community Meeting at Mineral American Legion Building



Public Notifications

Describe how the event was advertised. Advertisements attached in **Appendix A**.

Public Comments/Summary of Discussion

Summarize the comments, discussions, and conversations at each event. Attach documented comments in **Appendix B** (if applicable).

A summary of the high-level takeaways is provided below:

- High level takeaways

3. Place Holder

Approach

Summarize the stakeholder approach here, methods to collect opportunities and concerns from the groups and how will the comments be incorporated into the planning process.

Questions

Write questions used here. Call out specific climate related questions or activities.

Findings

Summarize findings by topic and relate back to the comprehensive plan and policies.

Climate

Describe how findings impact the climate and resiliency element.

Stakeholders

List stakeholders here

A summary of the high-level takeaways is provided below:

- High level takeaways

Appendices

Appendix A. Community Vision Survey Results

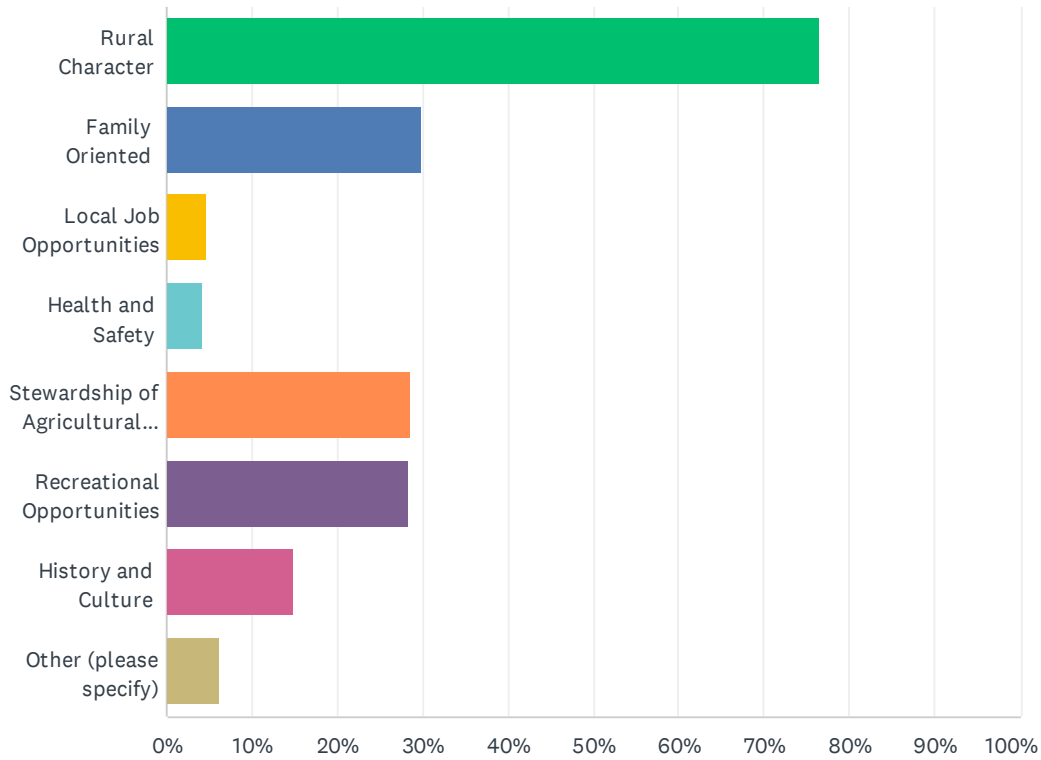
Appendix B. Public Comments & Questions

Appendix C. Stakeholder Interview Comments Submitted

Appendix D. Stakeholder Interview Meeting Notes

Q1 Pick two values that best describe Lewis County:

Answered: 736 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rural Character	76.63%	564
Family Oriented	29.89%	220
Local Job Opportunities	4.62%	34
Health and Safety	4.35%	32
Stewardship of Agricultural and Forestry Lands	28.53%	210
Recreational Opportunities	28.26%	208
History and Culture	14.95%	110
Other (please specify)	6.25%	46
Total Respondents: 736		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Family Farming	5/9/2024 10:19 AM
2	diversity	4/25/2024 9:37 AM
3	Difficult for minorities	4/6/2024 5:16 PM
4	Close minded and racist culture	4/5/2024 4:22 PM

Lewis County 2045 Community Vision Survey

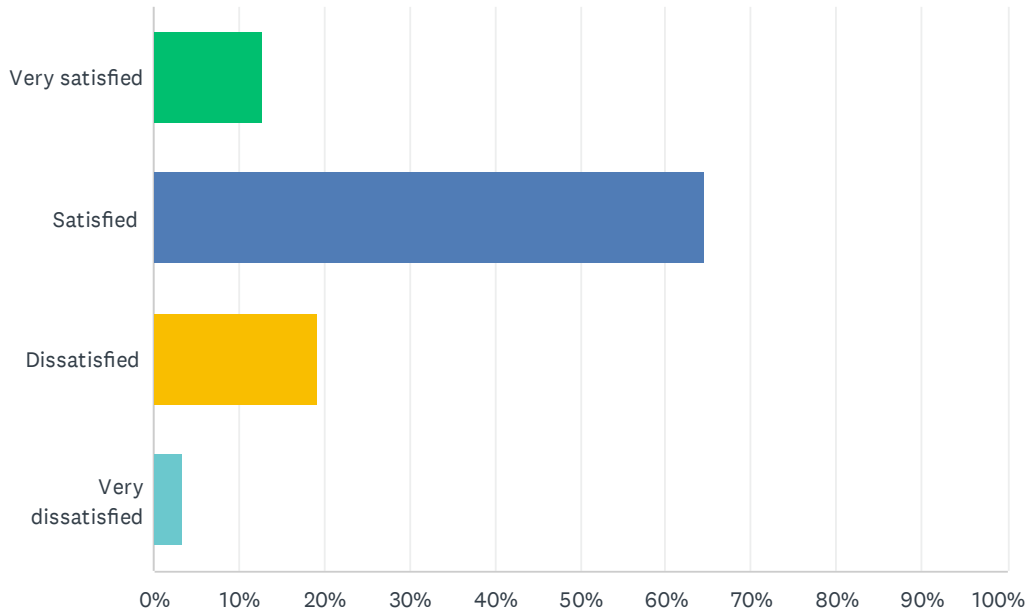
5	This question isn't worded well. Do you mean pick the two things we'd most like Lewis County to value? Or do you mean pick two things we already believe the country values? Because I'd say Lewis County has a rural character but this is not a "value"; it's an attribute that is in and of itself neither innately positive nor negative. It is not a "value", though an individual could engage in the act of valuing the rural nature of the county. Better wording here would get you more usable data.	4/5/2024 4:08 PM
6	Increasingly infested with transients	4/4/2024 3:03 PM
7	As a young adult, the county is conservative and comes across as not welcoming for people who aren't republicans. It gives off a vibe of bigoted, racist, and homophobic.	4/4/2024 8:51 AM
8	Dirty and homelessness	4/4/2024 8:42 AM
9	na	4/4/2024 5:03 AM
10	Constitutional law is followed	4/4/2024 4:42 AM
11	Community participation	4/3/2024 9:05 PM
12	Anti Liberal Antifa Commie LGBTQ	4/3/2024 8:45 PM
13	Full of transplants	4/3/2024 7:38 PM
14	Low crime	4/3/2024 4:53 PM
15	peaceful and quiet	4/3/2024 3:24 PM
16	It's not a blue county	4/3/2024 3:14 PM
17	None	4/3/2024 2:34 PM
18	Farm and agriculture, wildlife!	4/3/2024 1:47 PM
19	I don't feel any of the choices best describe this county but it would be nice if the county would pick some to focus on	4/3/2024 11:49 AM
20	Thieves, drugs, and a blind local government	4/3/2024 11:39 AM
21	Low crime rate and public safety	4/3/2024 11:37 AM
22	Walkable grocery shopping	4/3/2024 11:05 AM
23	Over crowded	4/3/2024 10:14 AM
24	Rude people with nothing better to do than cut trees	4/3/2024 9:04 AM
25	Poorly educated	4/3/2024 9:01 AM
26	Homelessness	4/3/2024 8:44 AM
27	Good ole boys club and shady deals	4/3/2024 8:12 AM
28	Poor infrastructure planning	4/3/2024 7:51 AM
29	Oh dear!	4/3/2024 7:44 AM
30	Affordable opportunities for business enterprises	4/3/2024 5:39 AM
31	-low income/ high income	4/3/2024 2:42 AM
32	We lost what made us special. To busy fighting now and not finding common ground on issues	4/3/2024 12:32 AM
33	Family oriented meaning inclusive of lgbtq families	4/3/2024 12:09 AM
34	Resources for those in need	4/2/2024 11:14 PM
35	Bedroom county	4/2/2024 10:50 PM
36	Conservative principles	4/2/2024 10:50 PM
37	Little services.	4/2/2024 10:33 PM
38	Self Sufficiency	4/2/2024 10:22 PM

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39	Housing	4/2/2024 8:27 PM
40	Racist/Bigots	4/2/2024 6:50 PM
41	Good old boys club	4/2/2024 5:08 PM
42	Good ole boys club	4/2/2024 4:26 PM
43	The up and coming next Seattle	4/2/2024 2:58 PM
44	Conservative	4/2/2024 2:53 PM
45	Giving in to outside influence	4/2/2024 2:35 PM
46	Small town friendly vibe	4/2/2024 1:22 PM

Q2 Are you satisfied with the quality of life in Lewis County?

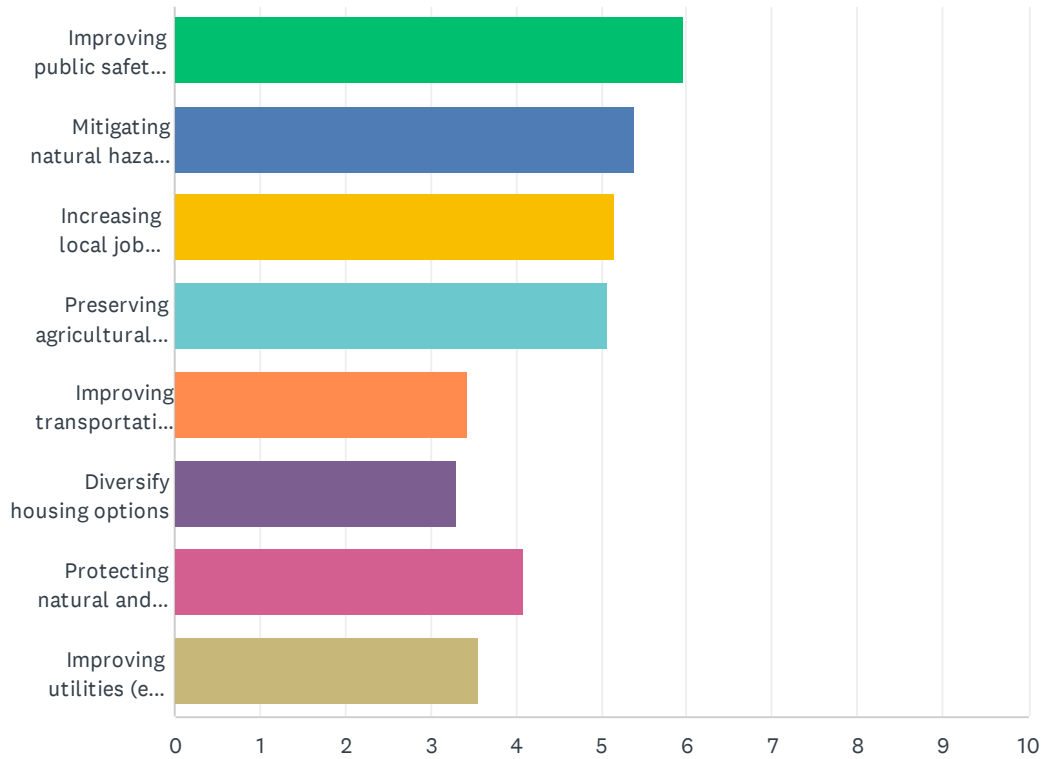
Answered: 731 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	12.72%	93
Satisfied	64.71%	473
Dissatisfied	19.15%	140
Very dissatisfied	3.42%	25
TOTAL		731

Q3 What should Lewis County focus on over the next 20 years? Please rank your priorities (1-highest; 8-lowest).

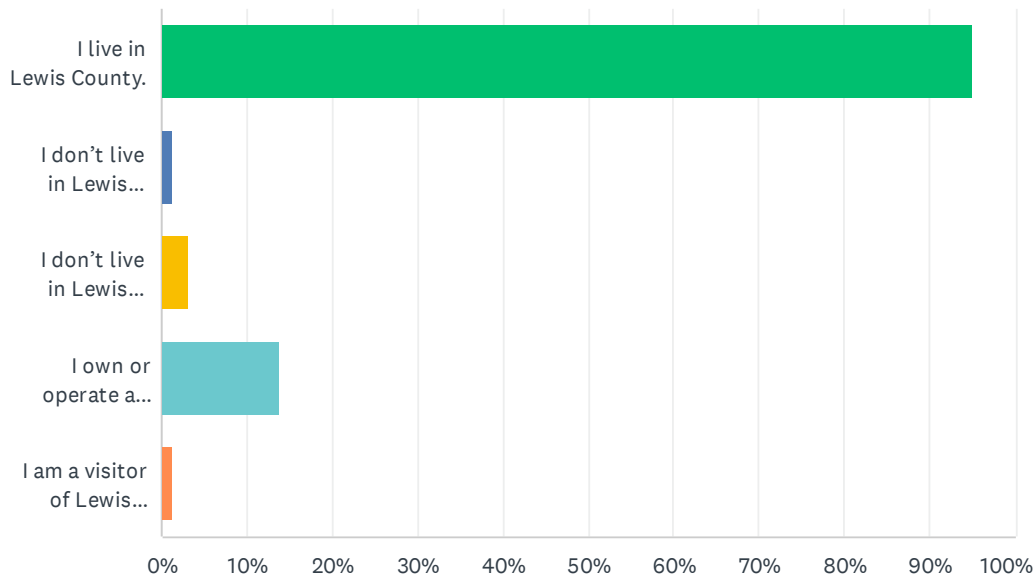
Answered: 736 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	SCORE
Improving public safety (e.g., police, EMS)	35.46% 261	16.03% 118	13.99% 103	11.28% 83	7.07% 52	5.98% 44	4.08% 30	6.11% 45	736	5.97
Mitigating natural hazard (e.g., flooding, wildfire)	14.27% 105	20.92% 154	18.21% 134	16.71% 123	11.28% 83	8.02% 59	6.52% 48	4.08% 30	736	5.40
Increasing local job opportunities	11.68% 86	18.75% 138	17.80% 131	12.36% 91	17.12% 126	11.28% 83	8.15% 60	2.85% 21	736	5.15
Preserving agricultural and forestry land	13.32% 98	13.72% 101	17.53% 129	18.48% 136	12.23% 90	12.23% 90	9.24% 68	3.26% 24	736	5.07
Improving transportation infrastructure	2.85% 21	4.76% 35	7.20% 53	9.92% 73	18.89% 139	21.20% 156	20.92% 154	14.27% 105	736	3.44
Diversify housing options	8.70% 64	7.34% 54	6.79% 50	6.39% 47	6.39% 47	13.72% 101	19.29% 142	31.39% 231	736	3.30
Protecting natural and scenic resources	8.56% 63	11.28% 83	10.60% 78	13.45% 99	10.60% 78	12.91% 95	17.80% 131	14.81% 109	736	4.10
Improving utilities (e.g. water, internet)	5.16% 38	7.20% 53	7.88% 58	11.41% 84	16.44% 121	14.67% 108	13.99% 103	23.23% 171	736	3.57

Q4 What best describes you? Select all that apply.

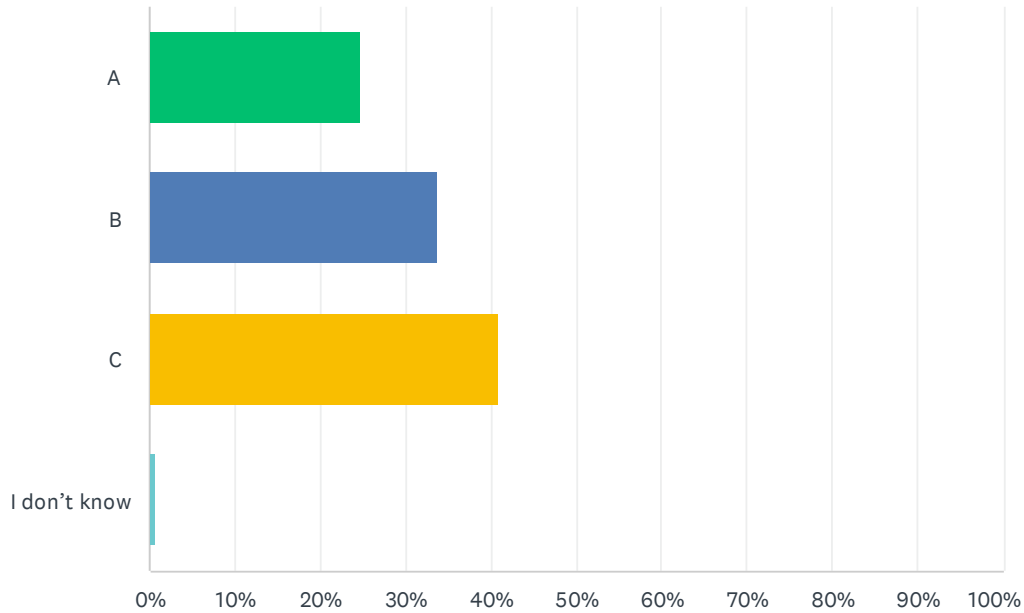
Answered: 731 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in Lewis County.	95.08%	695
I don't live in Lewis County, but I work in Lewis County.	1.37%	10
I don't live in Lewis County, but I own property in Lewis County.	3.15%	23
I own or operate a business in Lewis County.	13.82%	101
I am a visitor of Lewis County.	1.23%	9
Total Respondents: 731		

Q5 If you live in Lewis County, based on the map below, what District do you live in?

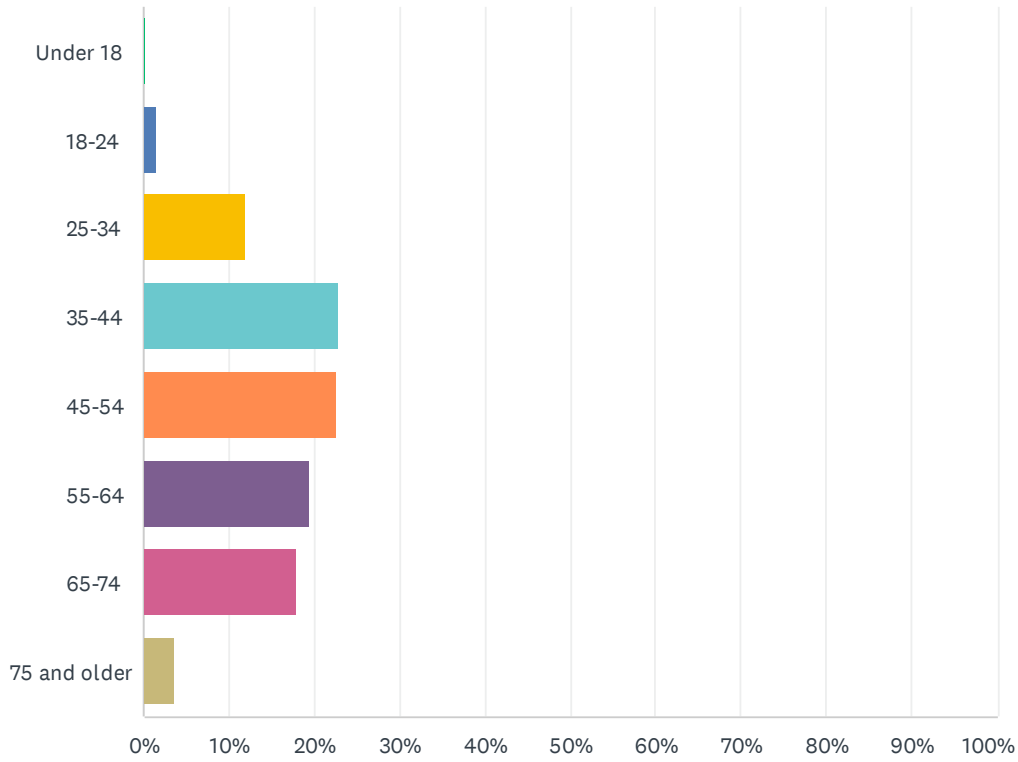
Answered: 723 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A	24.76%	179
B	33.61%	243
C	40.94%	296
I don't know	0.69%	5
TOTAL		723

Q6 How old are you?

Answered: 734 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.14%	1
18-24	1.50%	11
25-34	11.85%	87
35-44	22.89%	168
45-54	22.62%	166
55-64	19.35%	142
65-74	17.98%	132
75 and older	3.68%	27
TOTAL		734

Q7 If you speak a language other than English at home, what language do you speak?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 676

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	N/A	5/8/2024 7:29 AM
2	Spanish	5/8/2024 7:03 AM
3	Spanish	5/8/2024 1:17 AM
4	French and Spanish	4/17/2024 3:58 PM
5	English	4/9/2024 10:30 AM
6	N/a	4/6/2024 1:33 PM
7	Foul	4/5/2024 10:23 PM
8	Russian	4/5/2024 8:42 PM
9	ASL	4/5/2024 4:22 PM
10	Spanish	4/5/2024 2:59 PM
11	--	4/5/2024 9:55 AM
12	n/a	4/4/2024 3:02 PM
13	French, Arabic, Indonesian, Spanish	4/4/2024 12:03 PM
14	Spanish	4/4/2024 10:55 AM
15	English	4/4/2024 10:19 AM
16	English	4/4/2024 8:42 AM
17	Sometimes Spanish	4/4/2024 8:02 AM
18	Sign language	4/4/2024 7:12 AM
19	English	4/3/2024 11:16 PM
20	Na	4/3/2024 9:05 PM
21	no	4/3/2024 8:40 PM
22	None	4/3/2024 7:21 PM
23	n/a	4/3/2024 7:04 PM
24	No	4/3/2024 6:22 PM
25	No	4/3/2024 6:18 PM
26	N/A	4/3/2024 3:24 PM
27	N/A	4/3/2024 3:14 PM
28	N/A	4/3/2024 1:26 PM
29	Portuguese	4/3/2024 9:57 AM
30	None	4/3/2024 9:26 AM
31	English	4/3/2024 9:15 AM

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32	English	4/3/2024 9:02 AM
33	French	4/3/2024 8:39 AM
34	Na	4/3/2024 8:29 AM
35	NA	4/3/2024 8:27 AM
36	Spanish	4/3/2024 8:02 AM
37	N/a	4/3/2024 7:51 AM
38	N/A	4/3/2024 7:36 AM
39	Spanish	4/3/2024 7:29 AM
40	N/A	4/3/2024 5:56 AM
41	English, why is this even a question it shouldn't matter what language people speak in their own home.	4/3/2024 2:42 AM
42	No	4/2/2024 10:54 PM
43	English only	4/2/2024 8:21 PM
44	German	4/2/2024 7:53 PM
45	Ukrainian	4/2/2024 6:31 PM
46	N/A	4/2/2024 6:25 PM
47	Norwegian	4/2/2024 5:22 PM
48	Romanian, Spanih, Greek	4/2/2024 4:55 PM
49	Na	4/2/2024 4:50 PM
50	Russian	4/2/2024 4:24 PM
51	Spanish	4/2/2024 4:03 PM
52	N/A	4/2/2024 3:27 PM
53	None	4/2/2024 2:56 PM
54	NA	4/2/2024 2:27 PM
55	N/A	4/2/2024 2:22 PM
56	N/A	4/2/2024 1:59 PM
57	None	4/2/2024 1:45 PM
58	German	4/2/2024 1:36 PM
59	now	4/2/2024 1:32 PM
60	english only	4/2/2024 10:29 AM

Q8 If you would like to be added to the mailing list for Lewis County 2045 updates, please provide your email.

Answered: 236 Skipped: 500