

Final Report on Davie County Community Engagement

November 2021



Presented to
Davie County Board of
Commissioners



Presented by
Fountainworks

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN DAVIE COUNTY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FALL 2021

Davie County engaged Fountainworks to interact with the public to understand their perspectives on their priorities, particularly as they connect to the County's strategic plan. Between September and October 2021, Fountainworks conducted an in-person Community Conversation and five Focus Groups, receiving input from 103 participants. Both the Community Conversation and the Focus Group met attendance expectations and surpassed the expectations of participation levels within the meetings.

- Five Focus Groups – 57 participants
- Community Conversation – 46 participants

The groups were intentionally kept small to foster robust, engaging, and detailed conversation from all participants. This qualitative methodology promotes engagement and enables us to not just understand what priorities and concerns are, but why they are priorities or concerns. A summary of the findings of the citizen input is detailed here. More comprehensive results from the Focus Groups and the Community Conversation can be found in their respective reports.



Overall Feedback for Davie County

The key information gathered was that for the most part, community members felt the County was doing a good job in meeting the majority of needs and concerns of residents. The broad strategic planning focus areas the county has established are in line with the resident

expectations. While the feedback was overall supportive of the County, we did note certain items that need further attention. Overall, there was a strong consensus for the following:

Safe & Healthy Community

- Davie County is a safe community to live in with low crime rates.
- Increase support, funding, and resources towards mental health.
- Increase support, funding, and resources for persons with disabilities.
- Increase healthy, nutritious, and fresh foods in the community or schools.

Growth & Infrastructure

- Preserve the rural, agriculture nature of the county.
- Lack of affordable housing options available to a wide variety of populations and persons.
- Lack of assisted transportation options.
- Support for mixed used developments.
- Continue to be aware of adopted land use plans.
- Re-examine the County's zoning rules + regulations to protect the natural, rural environment.

Quality of Life & Amenities

- Participants enjoy the Parks and Recreation amenities.
- The Senior Center and the Public Library are great resources for the community.
- A need for investment into more programming, activities, and spaces for multiple populations (youth, young adults, seniors).
- A need for consistent high speed internet access across the County.
- Support for diversifying efforts to ensure all people can enjoy amenities.

Education

- Cognition + Ignite Davie are incredible resources for the community.
- Great K-12 programs in the County; a popular reason people move here
- DDCC is a great amenity for County residents to access.
- The County teacher supplement is too low and needs to be increased; losing teachers to surrounding areas.
- Vocational/technical training needs to be a focused investment to train people for needed jobs.
- High need for more childcare facilities.

Community Awareness

- Participants appreciated the County's efforts to listen to the public.
- Those that subscribe to County newsletters or familiar with the website are well informed.
- The County should explore other methods of communicating with the public.
- Some communities do not feel well-connected or represented by the County Government; leadership should be proactive in engaging with historically underrepresented groups.
- A community survey has the potential to be a good tool in gathering important feedback from citizens.
- Residents do not always know which level of government is responsible for various services (e.g. roads, traffic, development).

Key Findings from Citizen Input

With both the Community Conversations and the Focus Groups, the discussions centered around the strategic focus areas set by the County. Several common ideas, thoughts, and concerns emerged from the conversations despite the different composition of the groups. The information below is broken down into the strategic focus areas¹ along with input received regarding community awareness and a potential community survey.

Safe & Healthy Communities

There were numerous comments about Davie County being safe with good access to healthcare. Despite engaging with a variety of people and communities, when safe and healthy communities were discussed, the common issue was the lack of resources available for the mentally ill, physically disabled, chronically unhoused, and those with special needs or substance abuse issues. Several groups and individuals discussed how supplemental support needs to be provided to the core services provided by the Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCO). Some of the top comments across all conversations were:

- Lack of safe, clean, and affordable housing and/or temporary housing.
- Lack of assisted transportation services or support.
- Programs to support these populations.

Additionally, another common subject was:

- Lack of healthy, nutritious, local, and fresh foods in the community and schools.

Growth & Infrastructure

Across all groups, much of the conversation centered on issues related to growth and infrastructure. As participants enjoy the rural, agricultural nature of Davie County, they had concerns with losing some of what they love. Large numbers of people, both in the Community Conversation and the Focus Groups, identified the rapid growth and development of the County and a need for updated zoning regulations as a key issue that causes other problems to emerge in people's daily lives. Among these problems were:

- Lack of affordable housing and a housing shortage.
- Focus on the economic development of the County, specifically focusing on strategic recruitment and placement of new businesses.
- Traffic congestion and lack of transportation options.
- Loss of a rural feel to the County.
- Loss of the natural resources in the County, such as clean water and clean air.
- Impact on necessary services such as water and internet access.

Additionally, multiple groups identified that a possible solution to these problems would be updating the existing zoning regulations and rules around development and developers.

¹ Note that one of the County's strategic plan focus areas is "Business Operations." When asked, we received limited feedback on this topic. We did ask additional questions about communication and community awareness, which are included in the summary analysis.

Quality of Life & Amenities

Participants appreciate the small town and rural nature of the County, as well as the easy access to amenities in nearby cities. This was an area where a lot of positive feedback was provided. There were high marks given for the County's Parks and Recreation system, Library, Senior Center and other senior services, and general amenities. However, there was critical feedback given about the lack of these amenities in certain parts of the County, particularly in the eastern portion. The community of Cooleemee was a frequent example of a place where there was a lack of amenities and resources available to residents. Some top comments were:

- Additional programming and services for residents, particularly for youth. While also making sure these things are accessible.
- A community pool.

Education

The educational systems in Davie County are where some of the strongest praise was given. Several individuals and groups talked highly about the strength of the K-12 schools, the Davidson-Davie Community College, the Cognition Museum, and the Ignite Davie program. There were some issues that emerged from these conversations, with the most common being the low county-provided teacher supplement and the loss of teachers to surrounding areas. Some additional feedback was:

- Needed investment into quality childcare services.
- Need for vocational/technical education and workforce training and development to strengthen the workforce within Davie County to meet the needed jobs and attract outside employers.
- Focus and invest in educational programs for agricultural industries in Davie County to attract a new generation towards the industry.

Community Awareness

The various groups and individuals spent time discussing how they receive information about County activities, programs, and updates, their level of awareness of County operations, and if there were ways to improve that. Most people got their information from a combination of social media, local newspapers, County emails/newsletters, and physical bulletin boards. The most common issue that was discussed was that several communities are not well-connected and that the County needs to be more proactive in engaging with these communities. An example that was given was the African American communities in Davie County that are traditionally underserved and the County working to partner with African American churches to connect with these individuals. Other top comments were:

- Explore adopting new technologies or communications methods.
- Partner with and utilize other local organizations or business to spread the message and connect with people.
- Explore continuing active engagement activities, like the Community Conversation and focus groups, to be proactive in gathering input from residents.

Community Survey

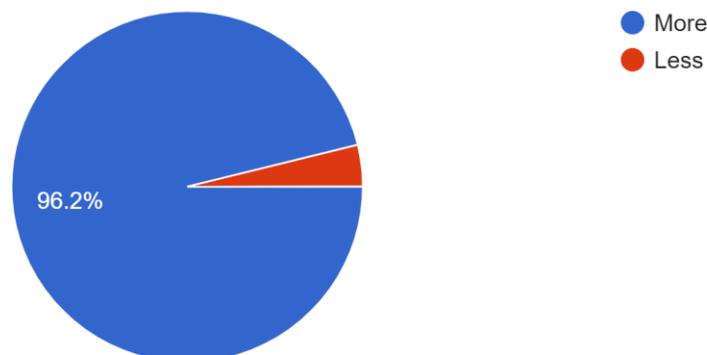
In addition to engaging people about Community Awareness, all Focus Groups were asked to provide feedback on a potential community-wide survey. The consensus across all five Focus Groups was that it would be helpful and informative, provided the County was thoughtful and proactive in engaging citizens. Some of the top comments were:

- Questions need to be quick, easy, creative, effective, and productive.
- Provide multiple options for people to complete (i.e., paper, online, etc.)
- Develop incentives for people to complete and/or enlist local businesses and organizations to help distribute.

The focus group participants were asked to complete a brief survey about their experience in the focus group. All of the participants appreciated the opportunity to provide input. Below we highlight the response to the question asking if there should be more or less opportunities for community engagement, with 96.2% saying there should be more.

The County is committed to more community engagement, this process was a step in this direction. Having gone through this process, do you want to see more or less of these opportunities?

26 responses



In Closing

Davie County sought community input to ensure that what the Board and staff believe to be strategic priorities align with the community's priorities. The original goal for this project was to solicit in-depth feedback from small groups and conversations with a variety of people from varying backgrounds. The in-person Community Conversation was designed to have approximately 30-50 residents present, with the final number being 46 Davie County residents. The Focus Groups were designed with the intention of having 8-12 participants each and the final number was an average of 11 residents per group. These numbers demonstrate that Davie

County was able to meet, and in some cases, exceed participation expectations, in spite of reduced engagement due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

This Executive Summary highlights the major themes that emerged from each conversation focusing on both the strengths of Davie County, and challenges that need to be addressed. The many voices that were heard led us to recommend the following advice to Davie County leaders:

1. Continue to prioritize public safety, while also increasing the emphasis on provision of services to meet mental and physical health needs.
2. Focus on managed (planned) growth in Davie County, with strategic investments in infrastructure.
3. Continue providing superior quality of life services, with a focus on reaching the underserved areas in the county.
4. Use the high praise for Cognition and Ignite Davie as a stimulus to prioritize recruitment and retention of educators – from infant through high school.
5. Continue engaging citizens to communicate their needs, wants, and concerns through future citizen surveys and ongoing community conversations throughout the county.

Davie County Community Engagement Community Conversation

September 27, 2021



Presented by:



Meeting Purpose

Davie County convened invited all community members to attend a two-hour Community Conversation to gather input from county citizens about their priorities and thoughts on Davie County's future. The County has a strategic plan and wants to make sure the plan is reflective of resident priorities. The meeting was held on September 27, 2021, at the Davie County Senior Center. Approximately 46 people attended the session.

The retreat was professionally facilitated by Fountainworks and included opportunities for participants to interact in open conversation around the County's strategic plan and focus areas for the County. Comments were captured as the conversation flowed and do not reflect any priority unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Terry Renegar welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked them for their time. County Manager David Bone and Budget and Performance Manager Cindy Chapman also provided welcoming remarks and a brief overview of the county budget and strategic plan.

Objectives:

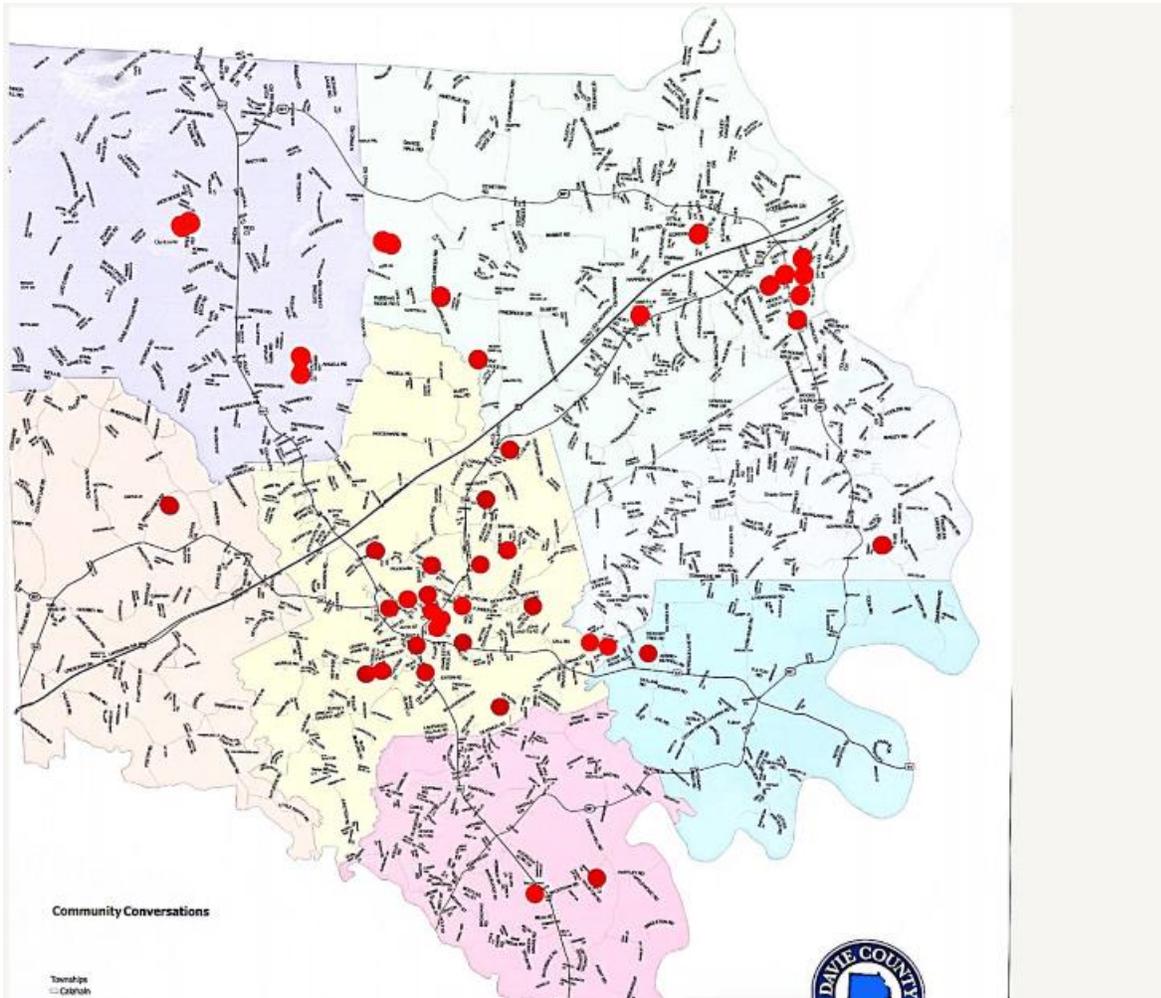
- Gather input from residents about their priorities and thoughts on Davie County. Then use this information to help develop a community engagement plan for Davie County.

Approach:

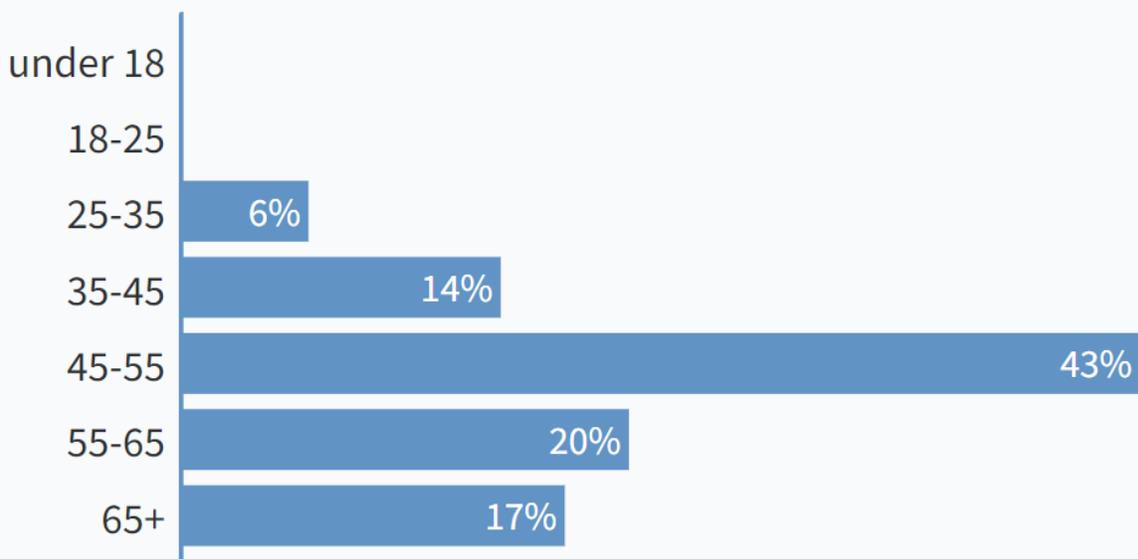
- Fountainworks facilitated the evening by focusing around the five focus areas in the Davie County strategic plan.
- After all focus areas had been covered, the discussion shifted to engaging the participants to share their "Davie County Headline" and the top themes that emerged from each table.
- Finally, as participants were leaving, they were asked to conduct a dot vote to show what topics gathered the most consensus amongst the group.

Getting To Know You

As participants arrived, they were asked to place a red dot on the part of the county in which they lived. The results are shown here.



What age range includes your age?



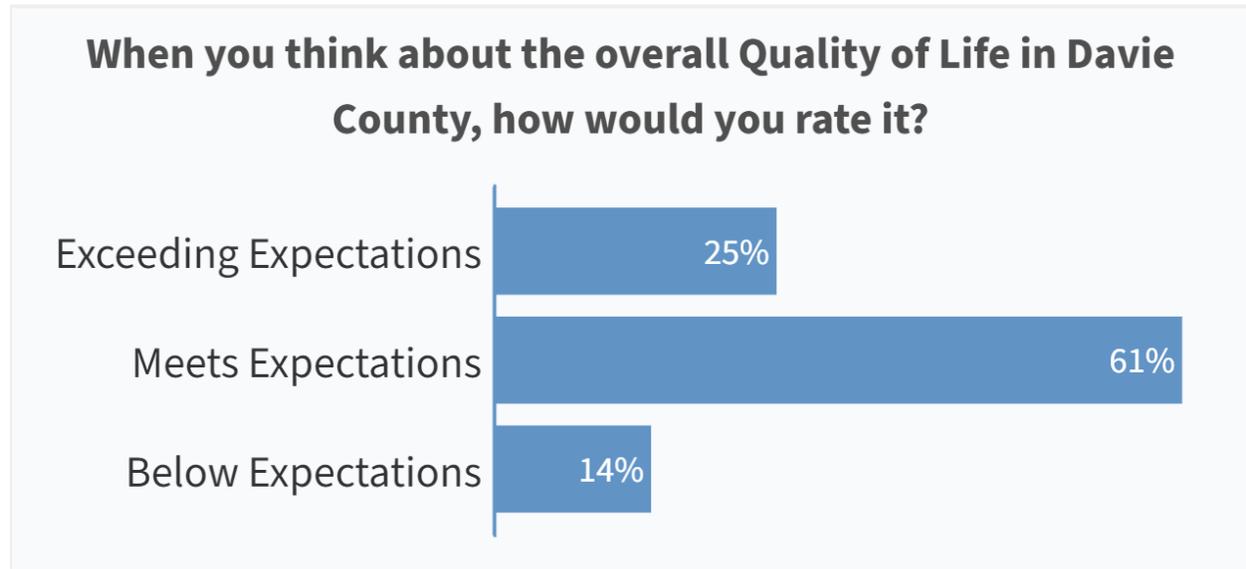
Thinking About Davie County

After getting to know the group, Fountainworks transitioned the discussion towards the specific focus areas. Each focus area started with a short poll, taking a temperature check on participants' feelings towards that area. This was then followed by a 10–12-minute small group conversation in which participants were asked to write down the thoughts and ideas that emerged. The following questions were provided to guide the conversations.

1. For those that think things are good (meets or exceeds) – why? (Outside of target)
2. For those that think things are not so good – why? (Second layer)
3. What is the key issue or need that should be addressed to make Davie County better in this area?

Each strategic focus area is below.

QUALITY OF LIFE & AMENITIES



Below are the items that emerged from the discussion group regarding this topic (when multiple tables mentioned the same topic, it is noted with a “+1”):

Good – Why?

- Low Crime, safe
- Small town feel
- New Community Park
- Rural Atmosphere
- Air Quality
- Quiet
- Good Roads
- High percentage of agriculture use in the land in the county
- Excited about Parks & Recreation
- Senior center, library, parks
- Recreation (+1)
- Arts
- Downtown Revitalization
- Sense of community
- Leadership
- Senior activities (+1)
- Growing in a healthy way
- Amenities
- Agriculture
- Lots of events + activities – parks and recreation (+1)
 - Normal for our size (probably more things to do than other areas our size)

- Schools are excellent
- Willing to try new things
- Managed + purposeful growth
- DMW – best here
- Health care
 - Doctors, eyecare
- Close enough to bigger cities to go out
- Rising entertainment
- Appreciate the outdoor activities, including concerts, and recommend continuing additional activities into the Winter.

Below Expectations – Why?

- Improvement needed on road paving in more distressed areas
- Some rezoning (recent) contradicts comprehensive plan desire for mixed-use walkable communities
- Need more jobs for graduates to stay in Davie County
- Some people w/ problems don't have services here.
- Need more communication between county commission, plans, + public.
- Younger generation needs + activity
- Collaboration w/ farms, winery, restaurants, boutiques business, sustainability
- Sales tax
- Senior care, better quality
- Safety and diversity need to be more open to minority community

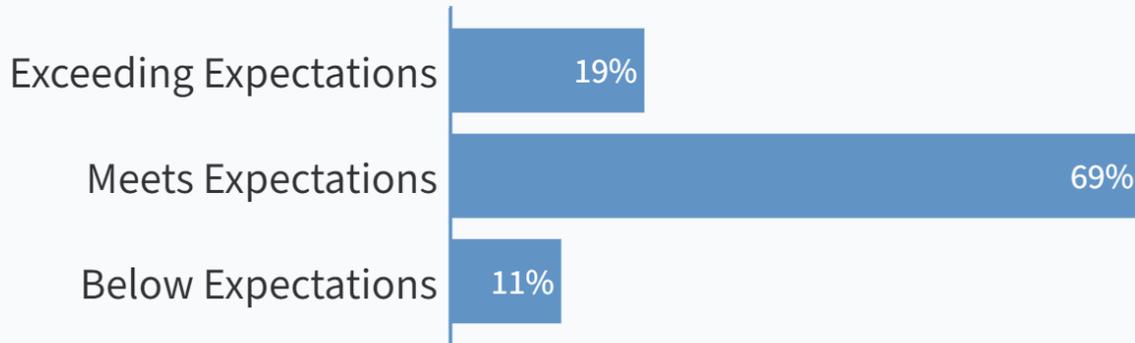
Ideas

- Walking trails
- Small neighborhood parks
- Follow new bike & ped plan
- Countywide transportation needed for handicapped persons.
- Need more supportive houses.
- Need activities for teens
- Need more sidewalks
- Teen hangout – 3rd place for teens; school, home, _____?
- Leadership picking
- Collaboration w/businesses
- Pool (+1)
- Diversity
- “Farm to Table”
- Sustainability
- Greenway additions
- More outdoor amenities for families
- Homeless/poverty/address housing shortage

- Community appearance - trash

SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

When you think about the overall Safeness and Healthiness in Davie County, how would you rate it?



Below are the items that emerged from the discussion group regarding this topic:

Good – Why?

- Safer compared to cities
- Unified Law Enforcement
- Services/infrastructure
- Available to serve seniors/ Senior services + the offering of more services
- Yvedi transportation services
- Parks + Recreation/Community Sports (+1)
- Social capital/accountability w/ neighbors
- Dragonfly house/smart services (+2)
- DHHS did good w/covid shots + testing

- Chamber spreading word
- Community Center
- Sheriff's Department
- Communication w/ all of emergency services
- Community policing program
- Community paramedic program
- E911 system
- Like what we have/law enforcement – low crime
- Runner – feels safe running early in the morning.
- High visibility law enforcement
- COVID response fantastic (+1)
- Health activities for older people
- New Hospital
- Healthcare access (+1)
- Grant
 - Non-profits
- Plenty of patrols, safety is above average
- Safety in homes
- Quick response times (+1)
- Peer support



Below Expectations – Why?

- Large gun ownership demographic
- Number of family physicians available (+pediatricians)
- Enhanced mental health services/ Reaching those who need mental health services (+2)
- More active lifestyle opportunities/health education
- Difficult to join close-knit community
- Mocksville P.D. was embarrassing
- Some people feel less police coverage in town - others feel more police coverage by DCSO.
- Pornography is issue
- Drug prevention + education needs to be better!
- Homeless shelters (+1)
- Financial literacy
- Healthy foods
- Farm to Table – local
- Activity + healthy outcome options for younger people
- Need more law enforcement
- Continue to deliver messaging in multiple fronts
- Leniency on inmates
- Mixed emotions about police/sheriff's department

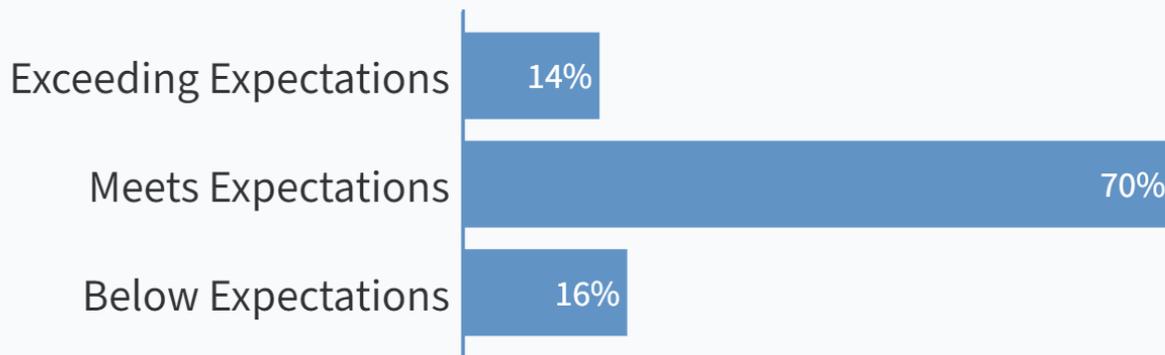
- Takes a long time to get permits
- Substance abuse programs

Ideas

- Substance abuse court
- Drug/opioid education
- More of a partnership with LME/MCO (partners)
- Menu’s w/ healthy option sections (icon)
- Sustainable energy source
- Mental health counselors
- Support increase of current programs
- Access upgrade to counsel
- Education – what is available?
- Cameras/Technology – educating community
- Shelters
- Recommend include additional strategies for helping Davie County residents stay healthier.

GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE

When you think about the overall Growth and Infrastructure in Davie County, how would you rate it?



Below are the items that emerged from the discussion group regarding this topic:

Good – Why?

- Comprehensive plan reflects county’s wants/vision...follow it!
- Davie County/Mocksville joined with water + sewer...share costs
- Parks + Rec is countywide
- County law enforcement is countywide

- Parks and Recreation is doing good things!
- Technology security + upgrades
- Creation of bike/ped plan
- Proactive in recruiting industry
- Grant for high-speed internet access
- Moderately fast growth
- Teacher pipeline – competitive compensation
- Healthy growth that we plan for + embrace
- Competent leadership listening to citizens
- Concerns with sustaining volunteer fire structure
- Sewer system; new water plant/easter Davie Sewer Rehab
- Good business recruitment
- Industrial strategic planning
- Sheriff's building
- Roads are overall good/maintained
- Prioritizing projects, fiscally responsible (staying in budget) for projects
- Industries brought in
- Growth is being planned + controlled or managed



Below Expectations – Why?

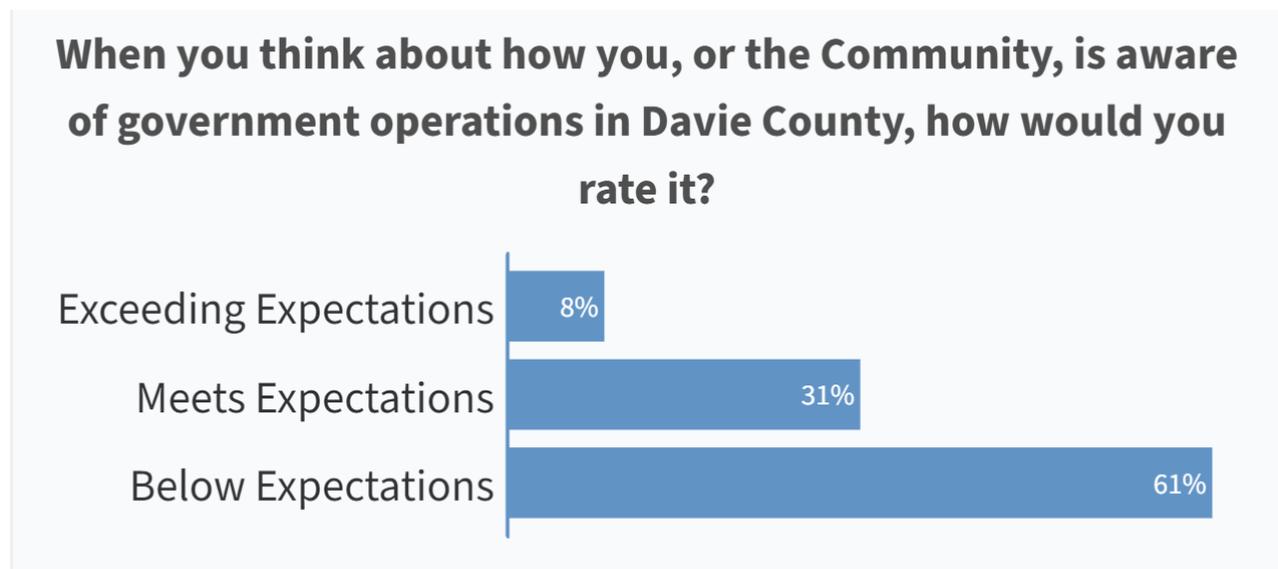
- Spot zoning over last 2 years is in conflict w/current comprehensive plan
- Land use plan to support soil conservation + water quality
- Departments within the county seem to work well together
- Need for county septic system
- Offering infrastructure to rural areas that won't peak (etc.)
- Quality of life components for industrial park to include housing + small retail as well
- Work harder on public transportation options
- Sewer issues
- H2O Supply poor – lack of hydrants
- What types of zoning?
- Traffic congestion
- Housing shortage + affordability (+2)
 - Retirement community – affordable
- Need sewage connectors
- Vacant buildings
- Retail strategic planning
- Internet issues/not available in areas
- Public transportation
- Equity in commerce as well

- There is a lot of construction throughout the area, with increased traffic, and one high school serving the county. What is the goal for sustaining the rural nature of Davie County?

Ideas

- Growth plan should drive utilities (not vice versa)
- Fiberoptics/5G networking
- Maintaining water quality/proactivity/soil conservation
- Use current industrial facilities
- Support southern Davie County
- Fiber in the homes as a utility
- Mixed use community + industrial + retail public urban development
- Plan for H2O/sewer – increased number of hydrants
- Develop plans to address the issues that are identified
- Increase awareness at successes + identify needs
- Affordable housing
 - Support
- More traffic circles
- Continue to follow the plans that are in place

COMMUNITY AWARENESS



Below are the items that emerged from the discussion group regarding this topic:

Good – Why?

- Some County Departments do well with social media/communication

- Davie Life – more often
- We have community resources – but people who need them don't know.
- Good website
- Digital signs in public spaces
- People willing to help when you call
- Synergy/communication improving
- Ease of access to government buildings/services
- Multiple online resources
- Community conversations
- Outreach meetings/groups

Below Expectations – Why?

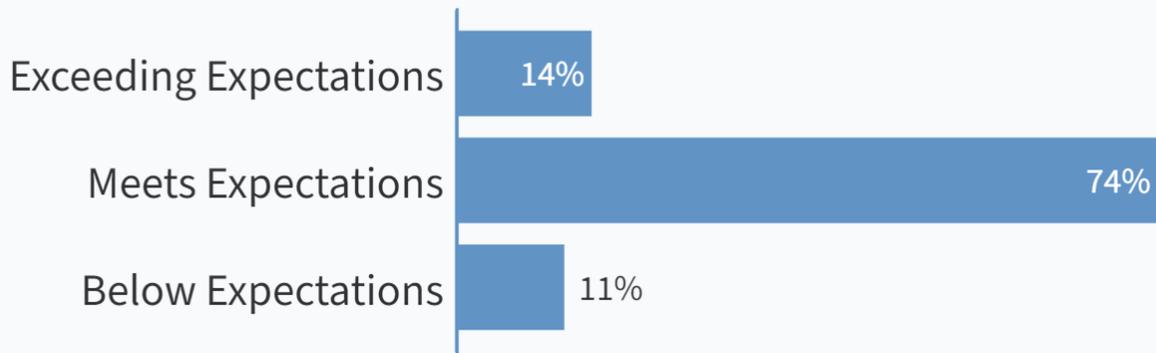
- People don't feel represented in County Government
- Increase awareness of Gov't activities through a variety of media, elec. + print
- Transient citizens; not ownership in community
- Community doesn't know services are available
- PR → we only hear negatives
- More engaging website
- "People don't pay attention to government till they need it"
- Social media
- Generational differences
- Community apathy towards what is going on
 - Lack of avenues to hear news, newsletters, direct mail?

Ideas

- Vote by district, not at large
- "Listening tour" of commissioners
- Leadership training – expand Leadership Davie
- Newsletter – list all activities in 1 place
- Info – kiosk w/community resources; "Discover Davie"
- Everyone spread thin
- How do we reach seniors?
- Communicate using all channels
- Social media, paper, flyers, post cards
 - Code red type service
- Keep static sources up to date
- More "focus group" type events
- Active activities
- Keep Community Conversations going
 - Each participant commits to getting neighbors etc. to come to next conversation!

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

When you envision the future in Davie County, how do you think Davie County is building towards it?



Below are the items that emerged from the discussion group regarding this topic:

Good – Why?

- Ignite Davie (+3)
- Downtown Vibrant
- YADTELL + increase broadband
- Music venue at Davie Central Park
- Mixed use community plan for walking communities
- Bike Path/Greenway
- Land, soil, + water conservation
- Co-op industrial kitchen for farmer's market to make added value products from produce
- Commissary to support new restaurants/food trucks
- Davie-Davidson CC
- MFG Day for students
- Working with a strategic plan
- Seek community input
- Set the stage for business growth
- Development of Parks and Recreation
- Our master plan is good
- Meetings on what is good + bad; want more of these
- County commissioners have a good plan in place
- Community needs to trust and provide feedback

Below Expectations – Why?

- Retaining/recruiting teachers

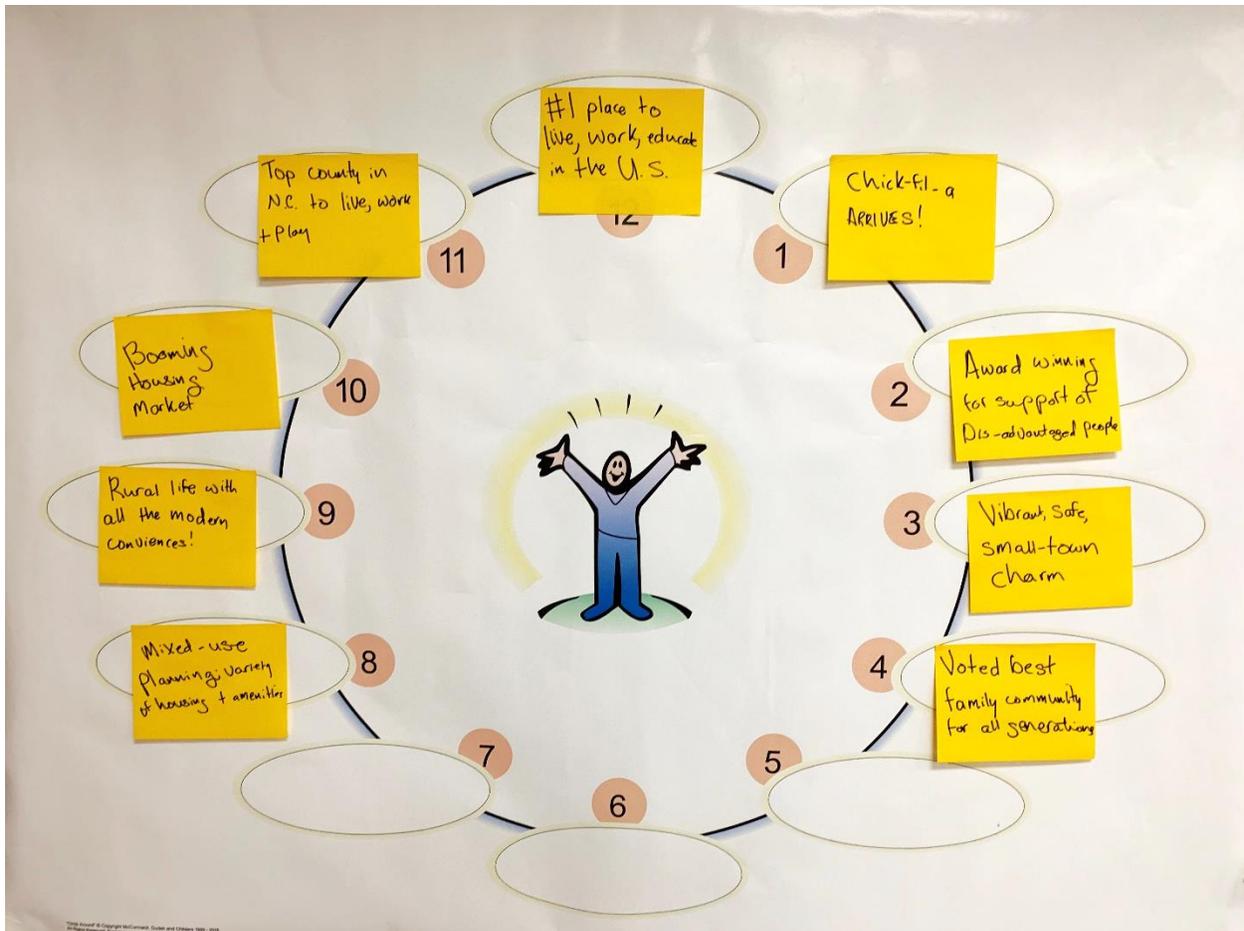
- Jobs/quality of life for youth + young families
- Planning too much too soon – growing too quickly
- More strategic focused planning
- Provide more for youth
- Community Park + Recreations
 - Disc golf
 - Vineyards
 - Events + 5Ks
- Need more hotels for future events – becoming a sports county; transit, rise, disc golf tournaments
- Elect commissioners by district, so everyone has a voice
- How the county communicates growth → SEEPR
- Teacher retention is very low
- Need affordable housing
- Prioritization of county resources (teachers)
- Things to do for teachers

Ideas

- Attract internet
- Entrepreneurs
- Small business incubators
- Planned mix community housing with co-working spaces/offices
- Music + cultural arts in all communities
- Don't want to lose charm + character of historic houses
- Offer incentives for historic preservation
- Leaders to be “forward thinking”
- Competitive pay to stay in county
- Training at DDCC
- Provide Context
 - “The Why + How” – Help people see the big picture
- Promote diversity → purposeful promotion
- Hold these meetings in places all around the county

Thinking About Davie County's Future

Moving forward from the strategic specific discussions, Fountainworks asked the participants to take a moment individually and respond to “*What does a newspaper headline about Davie County say in 10 years?*” and to include three detailed responses for that headline. An image of the top headlines is below and the fuller data from the responses follows that.



Top Headlines

- #1 Place to Live, Work, Education in the U.S.
- Top County in N.C. to live and work
- Booming Housing Market
- Rural Life with all the modern conveniences!
- Mixed-use planning; variety of housing + amenities
- Voted best family community for all generations
- Vibrant, safe, small-town charm
- Award winning for support of dis-advantaged people
- Chick-fil-a arrives!

Additional Headlines

- Davie County a Truly Progressive Success Story
- Davie – A County with the Flexibility to Change with its People
- Davie County, NC Becomes #1 Place to Live, Educate, and Work in the US
- Davie County – The South’s Premier Place to Live, Work, and Play
- Davie County Ranks Within the Top 10 US Counties for Place to Raise a Family
- Davie County Retains Rural, Small-Town Charm While Experiencing Controlled Growth

Consensus Thoughts

The final exercise of the night involved having the participants vote on consensus ideas that had been gathered from each small group and displayed publicly. Each table group nominated three top topics for the County to pay attention to. Each individual then “dot voted” two of the topics from amongst all the nominations provided by the table groups. Top ideas emerged from the vote and are represented below.



Quality of Life:

- Diversity within quality of life. To assure all groups are involved or at least informed more openly (6 votes)

Safety & Healthy Community

- Mental Health services (14 votes) (combined)
 - Expand mental health services (10 votes)
 - Mental Health issues + abuse (4 votes)
 - Increase access to help
- Improve supports for persons with disabilities; supported housing, countywide transportation, drug prevention education/programs (3 votes)

Growth & Infrastructure

- Mixed-use planned communities (11 votes)
 - Mixed housing
 - Recreation
 - Business varieties
 - Parks + Recreation
- Continue to follow strategic growth plans already in place (7 votes)

- Housing (3 votes) (combined)
 - Affordable housing to keep up with commercial development (1 vote)
 - Middle Class Housing (2 votes)
 - Housing
- County wide infrastructure (3 votes)
 - Roads
 - Fiber + technology
 - Hotels (creates revenue)
 - Transportation
- Invest in roads (more traffic circles)
- Continued persistence to retain + maintain human capital
 - Enablers: Affordable housing, Quality childcare, living wages
- How to maintain healthy and controlled growth rate?

Community Awareness

- How to communicate and engage DC citizens (of all ages) (4 votes)
- Open communication + transparency needs to be better between the county and ALL citizens (4 votes)
 - Newsletter
 - Consolidated source of info
- Explore direct mail communication for all government departments (1 vote)
- Getting the word out + point of contacts
- Re-invigorate County citizen participation in government practices
- Communication w/context and cross all channels (ex: Information outposts)
- Public relations (share and celebrate the good things about county government)

Envisioning the Future

- Prioritize education funding to attract/keep top educators (certified/licensed staff) (6 votes)
- Leadership + forward thinking decision making (5 votes)
 - Accountability of leaders
 - Continue + expand Ignite Davie
- Maintain the historical value of homes and public buildings (2 votes)

In Closing

Following the conclusion of the Community Conversation, Fountainworks will begin a series of Focus Groups. Each group will be focused on a specific demographic and consist of individuals not present at the Community Conversation. Upon conclusion of the focus groups, additional information will be compiled to further assist Davie County in their stated objectives and goals.

Appendix

Below is a collection of all the comments received from the Davie County Headline. Each section below captures an individual's idea of what Davie County will look like in 10 years. No identities are attributed to any of these answers.

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.
Davie County a Truly Progressive Success Story

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Hotel space for sports and training.
 - Public urban development or mixed-use communities.
 - Leadership – Individuals have been identified to assist Davie in improving all aspects of community development, communication, and infrastructure.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.
Davie – A County with the Flexibility to Change with its People

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Infrastructure – County utilities including internet to each home. Diversity with suburban to quasi-urban areas to meet each citizen's taste.
 - Leadership – Forward thinking leaders that serve 4-year terms.
 - Affordable homes intermixed with green areas and parks interconnected by green maps.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.
Davie County, NC Becomes #1 Place to Live, Educate, and Work in the US

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Infrastructure and utilities to meet housing, commercial, and industry.
 - Diversity in homeownership within all communities.
 - Every citizen has knowledge of all county resources to meet all needs.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.
Davie County – The South's Premier Place to Live, Work, and Play

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Thriving recreation and active communities dot the landscape.
- The place where top notch technology and growth opportunities meet home town communities.
- The premier place where industry and community meet - all with the statewide connectivity of I-40 (that is still under construction).

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Davie County Ranks Within the Top 10 US Counties for Place to Raise a Family

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Safe communities.
- Parks, trails, water activities.
- Chick-fil-A

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Davie County Retains Rural, Small-Town Charm While Experiencing Controlled Growth

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Several new housing developments across the county.
- Commercial development on Farmington Road.
- Industrial opportunities across the county.

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Davie Continues to be one of the Top Counties in North Carolina to Live, Work, and Play

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Competes regularly with counties that are bigger and have larger tax bases.
- Continues to have balanced growth.
- Has one of the highest rated education systems and lowest crimes rates in North Carolina.

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Top Place to Work, Live, and Play

There will definitely be a much higher population due to the great quality of life.

Small town, community atmosphere with good growth will be a challenge but it is possible!

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Following a comprehensive plan will be critical to continue the quality of life we have.
- Maintaining good jobs and a good work force will be critical.
- Having the amenities to meet the population and growth of the county will be critical.

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

A Vibrant, Safe Community that has the Small-Town Feel that Makes Davie so Charming

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- First rate county-wide fire and emergency coverage.
 - Controlled growth rate.
 - Tourist destinations.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Davie County Hosts Pool Party Open to All Residents

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Residents pull together and celebrate the pool.
 - Park opens pool.
 - Swim lessons for all ages or 2nd grade.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Davie has Record Growth for 10 Years! School System Used as Model for North Carolina

Best Place to Live: Davie County #1 Again

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Infrastructure projects give Davie County the boost to maintain exceptional quality of living.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Davie County Named Best Community in the Southeast

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Long range planning results in positive growth.
 - Educational opportunities bring young families to Davie.
 - Davie County best positioned among 100 counties according to all fiscal metrics.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Bigger and Better Community with more Opportunities for People

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Mental health will improve.
 - Education will be better in schools.
 - Housing is more affordable.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

What's Booming in Davie County?

- New business, commerce, and industry.
- New housing and expansive educational system brings new and returning families back to Davie County.
- Leisure, tourism, entertainment, and new parks development place icing on Davie County growth and infrastructure cake.

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Competitive industry growth.
 - Housing and education to match above.
 - Recreation and tourism growth
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

The Family Friendly Community of Davie County'

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Family friendly community that is inclusive of everyone. This includes homes and supports within individual residences that are built within traditional neighborhoods.
 - Transportation provided throughout the county to all citizens.
 - Youth driven activities that aren't necessarily church driven but county driven.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Davie County Earns Award for Compassion and Support of Disadvantaged Citizens

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Using a 10-year plan Davie implemented programs to support citizens toward healthier lives via supported and affordable housing and temporary shelter.
 - A focus on mental health established free transportation for persons with disabilities throughout the county.
 - A wellness center helps connect citizens to healthy opportunities and fosters community inclusion for persons of all abilities!
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

While other cities and counties in North Carolina have all ended up looking just alike with state of the art everything, Davie County has maintained its interesting history with an emphasis on maintaining historical homes and other buildings. A stroll through Mocksville shows you the signage describing the homes and families of years before. There is an emphasis in the schools for studying local history.

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- A brochure is available for learning more about Davie County history – forums are conducted regularly.

- Homeowners of structures in the National Historic Registry are compensated for maintaining their homes.
 - Schools are supplied with materials for learning more about local history – forums and reenactments are part of the curriculum.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.
Mocksville in Top 10 Places to Live in North Carolina!
Bermuda Run Becomes “Clemmons” of Davie County

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Quality of life is Davie County’s most valuable asset. Growth strategies should work towards retaining that asset.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Vibrant diverse communities that embrace the history of those who came before, while aspiring to enhance a community’s rich and positive flourishing experiences.

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Cradle to grave live, work, play opportunities.
 - Rich diversity in culture.
 - World class amenities while preserving rural heritage.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Rural Life With All the Modern Conveniences: Not Your Typical Euclidean-Zoned Community

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- The Best Kept Secret in North Carolina!
 - Young Professionals Love Davie!
 - Family Farms Contribute to Davie Success!
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Voted Top County in USA to Attract Next Generation Small Family Farmers

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Support for first time farmers.
 - Low rent and low risk land grants.
 - Most diversity in niche crops and marketing.
 - Highest numbers of self-sufficient young family farms.
-

Take a moment to envision what Davie County will be like in 10 years.

Leading the State: A Model in Education

Use these three bullet points below to describe 3 things in detail.

- Best place to work for teachers in our state.
 - Innovative and progressive educational programs for youth and students.
 - Educationally investing in our county's future through building, strengthening, and retraining our new workforce and county citizens.
-

Davie County Community Engagement Focus Group Summary Report Fall 2021

Davie County engaged Fountainworks to conduct Focus Groups with the goal of gathering feedback and input on the County’s strategic plan priorities. The five Focus Groups were conducted virtually via Zoom during the month of October 2021. Participants in the Focus Groups were grouped into identified populations across the County.

The Focus Groups were designed with the intent of having small, intimate gatherings where participants would have the time and space to deeply discuss their thoughts and ideas. The attendance at the Focus Groups exceeded expectations with strong participation throughout. The average Focus Group size was 11, falling within the desired range of 8-12 participants per Focus Group. The five Focus Groups and the attendance for each is noted in the following table. In total, 57 people attended across all Focus Groups. These numbers were reached through strong recruiting efforts from Davie County staff in conducting proactive outreach to various communities and populations in the County.

In the Focus Groups the emphasis was placed on obtaining qualitative data, rather than quantitative data. The goal was to gather in depth feedback on particular topics and frameworks to build out specific examples, experiences, and opportunities.

Focus Group	Description	Attendees
Parents of Young/School Aged Children	Individuals that represent parents of either young children or children who participate in county educational systems or homeschooling in Davie County.	9
Bridging Generations	A combination of residents that represent both older adults and younger adults that live or work in Davie County.	17
Underserved Voices	Individuals who come from an underserved group in the County. Ex: racial/ethnic identity, special needs person or parents of	12

	special needs person, gender identity, or another minority group.	
Community Leaders	Leaders of organizations that serve the County.	9
Merchants/Business Leaders	Local leaders or owners of small businesses and industries in Davie County.	10

The Focus Group participants were asked a series of questions centered around the Davie County strategic plan. Their responses were recorded on virtual white boards. Sample sections of the white boards are shown below, along with summaries of their responses. Each section starts with the most common responses across all Focus Groups.

At the conclusion of the Focus Groups, participants were asked to complete a brief survey to collect demographic information and provide any additional feedback. A total of 26 of the participants completed this survey. The responses are included at the end of this document.

What do you love about Davie County?

As participants introduced themselves, they were asked what they love about Davie County. This question provides valuable information on the key attributes that Davie County should maintain and emphasize. These key attributes include:

- The rural, agricultural feel of the County.
- Small, intimate, comfortable community.
- Welcoming, friendly, small-town vibe.
- Close knit community where people know each other and are willing to help each other.
- Good access and proximity to major urban areas, while still maintaining a small-town feel.
- Peaceful and quiet community with a family atmosphere and great people.
- It is a safe community with a low crime rate where people feel comfortable.

How is Davie County Doing Currently?

During this exercise each Focus Group was asked to reflect on issues or items that were affecting them or their group. The broad categories the comments were placed under came from the Davie County strategic focus areas. Below are the top comments that were captured from each group, along with any comments that were very common across all Focus Groups.

- **Everyone/More than one group:**
 - Safe & Healthy Communities
 - There is a lack of resources for individuals with disabilities or who suffer from mental illness.



- Growth & Infrastructure
 - Lack of affordable housing options for a wide variety of populations and persons in Davie County.
- Education
 - The county-provided teacher supplement is too low, causing a lack of teachers in the county and loss of teachers to surrounding areas.
 - Ignite Davie and Cognition Davie are great resources for the community.
- **Parents of Young Children:**
 - Safe & Healthy Communities
 - Lack of access to healthy, fresh, and local foods in school and available for purchase.
 - Lack of mental health services, resources, and support in the county. There are not enough places to meet the mental health needs.
 - Currently there is only one hospital. Several people have to go to Forsyth for care.
 - There are concerns about drug usage and substance abuse in the County, i.e., opioids and access to pills.
 - Quality of Life & Amenities
 - Strong Parks and Recreation system.
 - Desire for a community swimming pool.
 - More sidewalks: they are good for walking, strollers, and particularly ones connected to parks.
 - Explore adding a community garden.
 - Growth & Infrastructure
 - A need for more housing options.
 - Education
 - Excellent K-12 education system.
 - Stipend for teachers is too low. Causing Davie County to lose teachers to surrounding areas.
 - Desire for a 4-year college in Davie County so existing residents can stay.
 - Need improved access to appropriately paid childcare.
- **Bridging Generations:**
 - Quality of Life & Amenities
 - Increased supply and access to exercise equipment at the Senior Center after most was moved to the Brock Building, or a shuttle service between the two facilities.
 - Growth & Infrastructure
 - Davie County is growing fast, so now is the time to pay attention to what is being built.
 - More focus on water availability, quality, quantity, and high costs.
 - Concerns around traffic, especially at 158 and 801.
 - Would like to see the government quickly determining what is best for County solar. Better to make use of existing structures for solar than cutting down trees.

- Would like to see stronger focus on climate protections.
 - There needs to be more focus on housing to help younger people get jobs in the area.
 - Education
 - Currently losing teachers to surrounding areas due to lowest teacher supplement in the area.
 - Focus on quality childcare and potentially the county needs to invest in some childcare services.
 - Focus on training students for jobs that are available here. Vocational schools could be a good option for those who may not want to go to college.
 - Like the free tuition for the community college.
- **Underserved Voices:**
 - Safe & Healthy Community
 - Transportation is a challenge – one of the most underserved parts of the county is the furthest away (Cooleemee).
 - The Community Paramedic Program has helped with “frequent flyers” of 911 calls. It helps people stay in their housing.
 - Quality of Life & Amenities
 - Need for investment into more programming, activities, and spaces for young people while also ensuring that these new items are accessible and well-communicated into the communities of need.
 - Some activities are centrally located and hard to get to for those in more geographically separated parts of the County.
 - There are several households that cannot afford internet.
 - There are services being offered in the County that people are not aware of or do not know how to access them.
 - Explore having information kiosks across the County as a central point of information.
 - Growth & Infrastructure
 - Lack of public or assisted transportation options is harmful, especially for certain communities, like the unhoused or mentally ill. Need a way for these communities to safely get around the county. This can be a barrier for continued success for folks.
 - There is a lack of affordable and quality housing and supported housing in the county. Particularly there is a lack of access for individuals suffering from mental illness who may not have support. Need forms of safe housing for all people.
 - Housing on a spectrum: group home, mental health support.
 - Education
 - Ignite Davie has been successful in the transition from K-12 to community college.
 - Cognition Museum has been a big success and has several programs for various age groups.

- Additional funding for school facility improvements: heating, cleaning, ventilation.
 - Explore developing or expanding Vocational programs. A potential way to create a job placement workshop for developmentally disabled individuals.
 - Business Operations
 - Would like to see more of an emphasis on diversity when hiring Davie County staff, including diversity of age, experience, and identity. But diversity alone is not enough, there needs to be a focus on equity and inclusion in these spaces as well.
 - Develop a better understanding of certain populations so the county is better able to serve them, particularly those in poverty or with special needs.
- **Community Leaders:**
 - Quality of Life & Amenities
 - Increased internet access, particularly fiber and high-speed options. This is especially important for business owners.
 - Growth & Infrastructure
 - Explore refining the zoning and development processes with an emphasis on ensuring collection of good information and transparent, and increased, communication with the public.
 - Economic development is important to the growth of Davie County, including strategic recruitment of business into the community and locating them in good spots. And focus on keeping Davie County an attractive place for business to locate to.
 - Education
 - Ignite Davie and Cognition are great assets to the community.
 - There is a need for vocational training and workforce development to create a well-trained workforce in Davie County; this helps make Davie attractive to outside employers looking to expand. There needs to be focus on making sure there are enough jobs opportunities for those not attending a four-year college.
 - All of the educational systems matter in attracting people to Davie County.
 - There is currently difficulty in finding and retaining teachers.
 - Business Operations
 - Invest into technology infrastructure.
 - The Farmington Road building is a great addition.
- **Merchants/Business Leaders:**
 - Safe & Healthy Community
 - All around improvement on services for people with disabilities. Educate and create awareness about what is offered and supplement the Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCO) services with items that they do not offer.

- Concerns with hospital closures.
- There are tremendous resources available also, but communicating these resources is an issue. People do not always know what is available and how to access.
- Growth & Infrastructure
 - There needs to be a focus on preservation of agriculture and open spaces. Currently housing development is haphazard and encroaching on farms and greenspaces in the county. The reason to protect these areas is because the ag industry is struggling, the need to protect clean water & air, and area beauty.
 - Because of the increased and uncontrolled development, the quality of life is diminishing (traffic, clean water, clean air, education). Specifically, the eastern part of the county is getting hammered by this development.
 - Economic development is a crucial need for the county. It is what makes Davie County special. There are things that can be done to improve and strengthen economic development. These included:
 - Promoting wineries and farmers markets
 - Educating people on how to promote the economy AND agriculture
 - Explore updating the land use plan to identify ways to protect farmland and greenspaces while continuing economic growth as a means of protecting the aesthetic value of the county.
- Education
 - Current generations are removed from the farm and agriculture industry – people do not know usually where their food comes from. There needs to be a focus on educating younger people on food, agriculture, and the career possibilities in that industry. This includes encouraging people to eat local and supporting local agriculture products.
 - Higher focus on workforce development within the county to train younger people in the needed skills and jobs.

How is Davie County Meeting Your Needs?

This section focused on asking the Focus Groups to identify areas in which Davie County is successfully meeting either their individual needs/wants, or their group’s needs/wants. Below are the top comments that were captured from each group, along with comments that were quite common across all Focus Groups.

- **Everyone/More than one group:**
 - The County has a strong education system. Both the K-12 programs and the Davidson-Davie Community College, including the Ignite Davie and Cognition Davie programs.
 - Government officials are easy to reach and are responsive and have strong relationships within the community.

- **Parents of Young Children:**
 - The County Parks and Recreation is a key strength.
 - Cognition Davie, the YMCA, 4-H, and Library provide several crucial opportunities for children in the County.
 - The K-12 Education system is meeting the needs of families.
 - Downtown has improved significantly over the past several years and is steadily growing.
- **Bridging Generations:**
 - Easy access to government officials.
 - Variety of opportunities for both older and younger persons.
 - Community college cooperation with local businesses.
 - The Senior Services and County Library are great benefits that are well utilized.
- **Underserved Voices:**
 - Great school system and school staff with strong leadership throughout.
 - Great emergency services in the county. Seamless operations with the Fire Department, Sheriff's office, and EMS. It is impressive for a smaller county.
- **Community Leaders:**
 - There are strong relationships within the community among local leaders. They are reachable and responsive.
 - Several aspects that help a lot of people, educational systems, leadership, and foundations.
- **Merchants/Business Leaders:**
 - Local agricultural programs like 4-H, the Davie County extension office, and the high school FFA program.
 - The County is doing a great job in partnering with local organizations.
 - The County has a strong pro-business attitude. And the Chamber does a great job.
 - Ease of doing business and the County staff do their jobs well.
 - County educational assistance; work for scholarships.

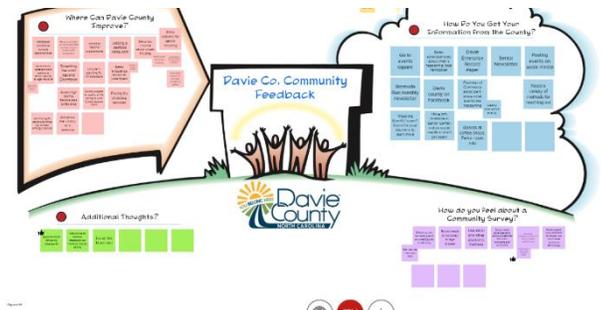
Where Can Davie County Improve?

This section focused on asking the Focus Groups how Davie County can improve in meeting their needs, where the County currently falls short. The Focus Groups reflected on ideas or solutions that would help meeting either their individual needs or their group's needs. Below are the top comments that were captured from each group, along with any comments that were common across all Focus Groups.

- **Everyone/More than one group:**

- There is a lack of safe and affordable housing, or temporary housing, situations for large numbers of people from varying backgrounds and groups. There needs to be a focus on expanding these opportunities, such as permanent housing options for lower socio-economic and/or older individuals and for those suffering from mental illness and substance abuse.
- There is a lack of supplementary services to LME/MCO for individuals suffering from mental illness.
- Be more proactive in engaging with and reaching out to traditionally underserved communities and groups, including socio-economic status, ethnicity, race, and geographic location in the County.
- **Parents of Young Children:**
 - Increase mental health services and availability.
 - Explore ways to improvement the affordability of childcare services.
 - Improve support of the local agricultural industry through various means.
 - Intentionally focus on increasing diversity in community leadership.
 - Explore ways to educate and develop younger generations for the workforce.
- **Bridging Generations:**
 - There needs to be more housing options for low-income senior citizens. There currently is an extensive waiting list to receive a spot in housing.
 - Increase the teacher supplements.
 - Explore ways to increase vocational school opportunities.
 - Improve communication outreach to expand beyond Mocksville.
 - Explore ways to support a facility for childcare services.
- **Underserved Voices:**
 - There are not enough homeless shelters for adults with mental illnesses or substance abuse issues. There need to be more options for individuals in need.
 - Provide more community supports not covered by Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCO), transportation, spaces, etc. There are currently not enough mental health services in Davie County and needs expansion. Davie County currently relies heavily on non-profits to provide this level of support.
 - Conduct more outreach to non-white communities in Davie County. There are few non-white individuals in leadership positions. This can be both volunteer leadership opportunities on boards or commissions, or more diverse hiring across County entities, Sheriff's office, Fire Department, Educational system.
 - Explore creating an advisory committee for issues such as mental health, special needs, and substance abuse populations.
- **Community Leaders:**

Figure 1: This is a screen capture from one of the Focus Groups, demonstrating how information was collected on virtual sticky notes. The notes have been transcribed for ease of reading.



- Individuals who are in a lower socio-economic groups or minority groups are not as well treated or cared for as those in a more advantaged situation. Services vary among these groups, especially those who live in different areas of the County. (*The community of Cooleemee was commonly used as an example*)
- Explore ways to attract and retain younger and non-Davie native individuals.
- Explore ways to get more services out in the community, particularly the underserved communities in the County.
- Have leaders be proactive in going out into the communities and talk to people in spaces that they would feel most comfortable in, i.e., a Church, community organization, etc.
- **Merchants/Business Leaders:**
 - Reach out more to not just local farmers, but the younger generations and develop and invest into educational programs around agriculture. Including creating more communications and awareness around potential programs and opportunities.
 - Explore changes in the current zoning regulations to promote systematic growth, protection of open and greenspaces, institution of impact fees (or comparable mechanism) on developers to reinvest funds back into amenities and services, and a maintaining of the “rural feel” of the County.
 - Explore improving the general transportation options in the County.
 - Focus on more open, greenspaces for healthy living.

How Do You Get Your Information?

This section focused on asking the Focus Groups how they most commonly receive important information from Davie County government and any ideas on how to better improve communications from Davie County to residents. Below are the top comments that were captured from each group, along with any comments that were very common across all Focus Groups.

- **Everyone/More than one group:**
 - Receive information through a mix of social media, email lists, newsletters, physical message boards, and the local newspaper.
 - Reach out to African American communities, or other underserved minority groups, through churches, or other organizations they are a part of.
- **Parents of Young/School Aged Children:**
 - Be more proactive in reaching out to traditionally underserved groups.
 - Follow the County social media pages.
 - Young people do not use the same media as older populations (Tik Tok, Snapchat, etc.).
 - Seniors use newspaper and word of mouth.
- **Bridging Generations:**

- Provide information at the Senior Center. Several individuals who use it are not on social or do not receive a newspaper.
- **Underserved Voices:**
 - Time did not permit discussion of this question.
- **Community Leaders:**
 - Attending town + county council meetings.
 - Local newspapers.
 - There needs to be a push to adopting new technologies or communications methods.
 - Chamber of Commerce email blast, newsletters
 - Real time info – use County website.
 - County social media pages.
 - Reach African American communities through their churches.
 - Utilize other major local organizations to help get out the word.
- **Merchants/Business Leaders:**
 - There is an awareness problem among citizens.
 - There is an opportunity available for individual businesses to help the County in promoting information. Potentially incentivize businesses to assist with this.

How Do You Feel About a Community Survey?

The final section focused on asking the Focus Groups if they felt there was any benefit, issues, negatives, or ideas about implementing a community-wide survey in Davie County.

CONSENSUS

The consensus among all the Focus Groups was that a community survey would be helpful and informative, provided the County was proactive in engaging all citizens, particularly communities that are traditionally left out of such activities. This would include going into the spaces those communities occupy and engaging directly with them and enlisting the help of community organizations and businesses to assist in distribution.

Below are the top comments that were captured from each group, along with any comments that were common across all Focus Groups. These comments also contain more depth with the types of ideas and suggestions provided to create a successful survey.

- **Parents of Young/School Aged Children:**
 - The questions need to be quick, easy, creative, effective, and productive.
 - The results will depend on how proactive the distribution is. Need to focus on reaching out directly to individuals/groups you want information from.
- **Bridging Generations:**
 - Have a paper copy available for those who do not have access to internet or technology.

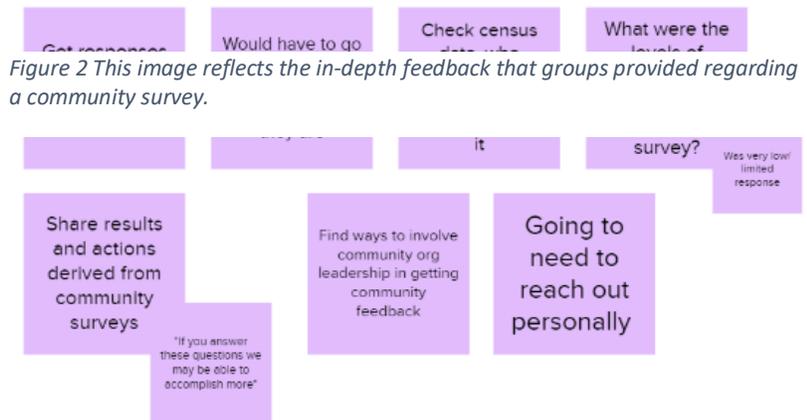
- Would like to receive professional input on what the County needs and its performance in addition to citizen feedback.
- **Underserved Voices:**
 - Time did not permit discussion of this question.
- **Community Leaders:**
 - Share the results and actions derived from the community surveys.
 - Reach out personally to different groups and individuals.
 - Use existing census data to understand who completed that and why.
 - Find ways to involve community organizations and leadership in getting community feedback.
- **Merchants/Business Leaders:**
 - Great tool to gather information and input.
 - It needs to be multiple choice and multiple answers.
 - Enlist local businesses and organizations in distributing.
 - Provide incentives for people to participate.

Focus Group Follow-Up Survey Results

A Google Forms survey was provided at the end of each Focus Group for participants to complete. The survey aimed to gather feedback on how participants felt about the Focus Group, the value in it, and if this were something they would like to see in the future. There was a total of 26 responses, out of the total 57 individuals who participated in a Focus Group. Overall, a strong majority of respondents had a positive response to the Focus Groups.

- 84.6% of respondents felt that they “definitely” were able to meaningfully contribute to the conversation and input on strategic direction.
- 88.5% of respondents said they felt the process for collecting their input was “very productive”
- 96.2% of respondents said that they would like to see more of these types of community outreach and engagement opportunities in the future.

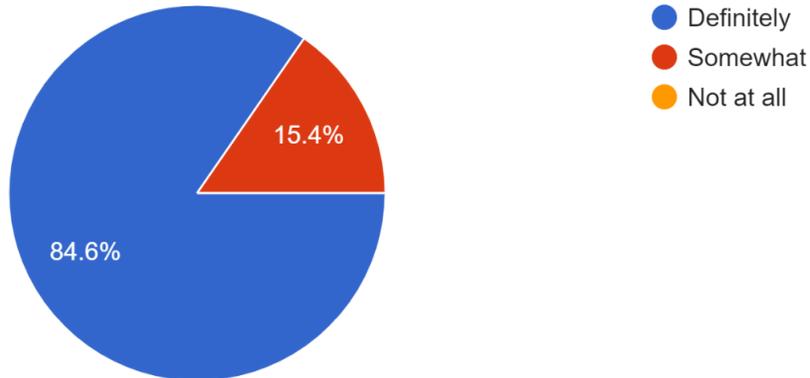
How do you feel about a Community Survey



The responses are captured below.

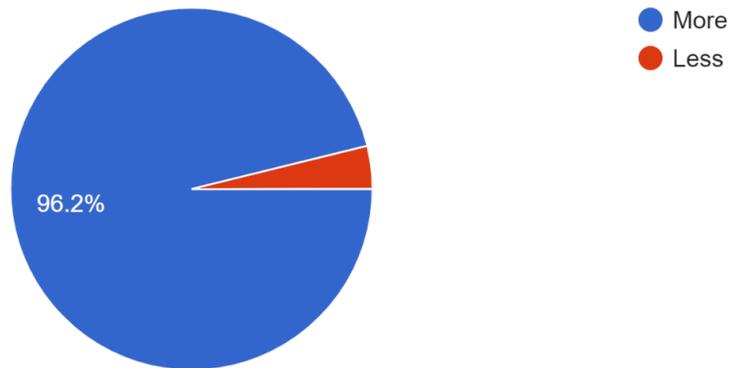
Did you feel you were able to meaningfully contribute to the conversation and input on strategic direction?

26 responses



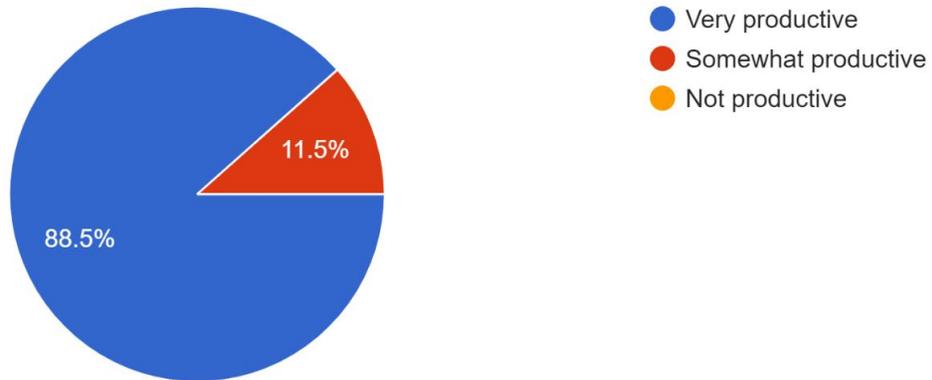
The County is committed to more community engagement, this process was a step in this direction. Having gone through this process, do you want to see more or less of these opportunities?

26 responses



Did you feel the process for collecting your input was productive?

26 responses



In Closing

When Davie County first set out to conduct the Focus Groups the goals and expectations were to keep the groups small and intimate to solicit in-depth and detailed feedback from people. The Focus Groups were designed with the intention of having 8-12 participants each and the final number ended at an average of 11 residents per group. These numbers demonstrate that Davie County was able to meet, and in some cases exceed, participation expectations, particularly during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, these numbers were achieved in large part due to County staff efforts to reach out to people and encourage them to attend and participate in this process.

Upon the conclusion of the Focus Groups, it was clear that a strong majority of the participants valued and appreciated the opportunity to connect with the County and provide feedback. Several were interested in the County continuing to conduct a community engagement process in some capacity moving forward, whether it be more Community Conversations, Focus Groups, or surveys. Additionally, it was stressed the importance of if the County does this again to go in-person to various groups and meet them where they are.