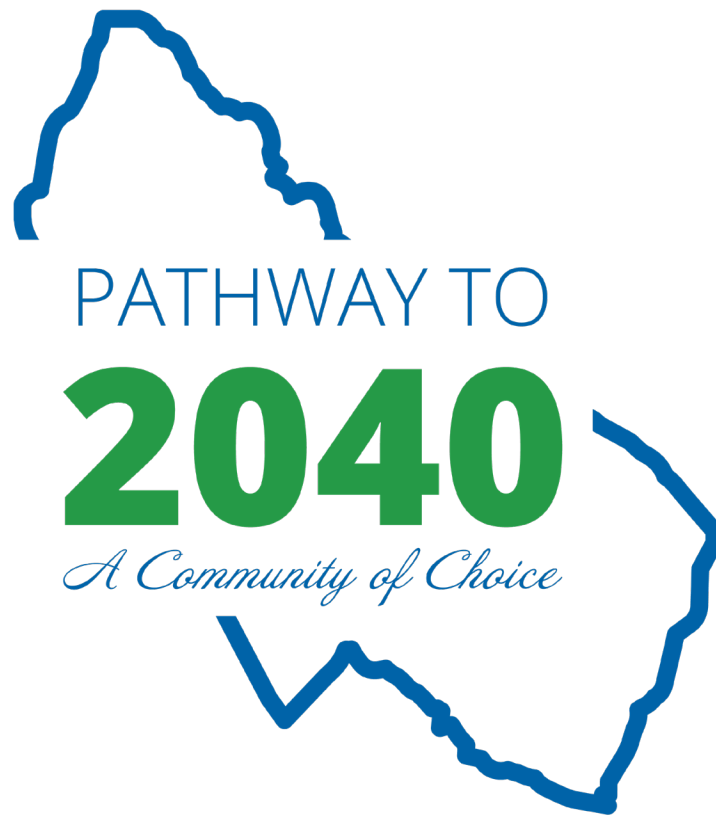


Prince William County Comprehensive Plan Update

Community Poll Summary



May 2021

Overview

The Prince William County Planning Office is continuing its effort to update the County’s Pathway to 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Throughout 2021, the County is working with a team of consultants to update the Plan’s Land Use, Housing, and Mobility elements. To raise awareness about the Plan and update process, the County launched a poll as an initial step to understand residents’ concerns and priorities for the future, as well as to encourage the public to begin thinking about the future of the County.

Process & Poll Questions

Open from **February 22, 2021 - April 19, 2021**, the poll was conducted using SurveyMonkey and was available in both English and Spanish versions. The poll was advertised and promoted through a variety of sources, including on the Prince William County Planning Office website, through Board of Supervisors communications to constituents, via multiple press releases and e-blasts, and through County social media platforms. There were **1,979 total responses** (1,972 English poll responses and 7 Spanish poll responses).

The poll asked residents a series of three questions about future land use, housing, and mobility priorities and concerns. For each of these questions, residents were asked to choose their top three priorities from a list of options. Poll questions included the following:

1. When you think about future land use in the county, which of the following considerations are most important to you? (*Check up to THREE options*)
 - a. Availability of shopping and dining options
 - b. Racial/ economic equity
 - c. Preserving rural areas of the county
 - d. Neighborhood character
 - e. Mixed-use development
 - f. Availability of local job opportunities
 - g. Parks, open space, and recreation
 - h. Tree/ forest preservation
 - i. Environmental protection/ climate
 - j. Preserving the county’s history and historic resources
 - k. Creating more affordably priced housing options
 - l. Community safety
 - m. Other

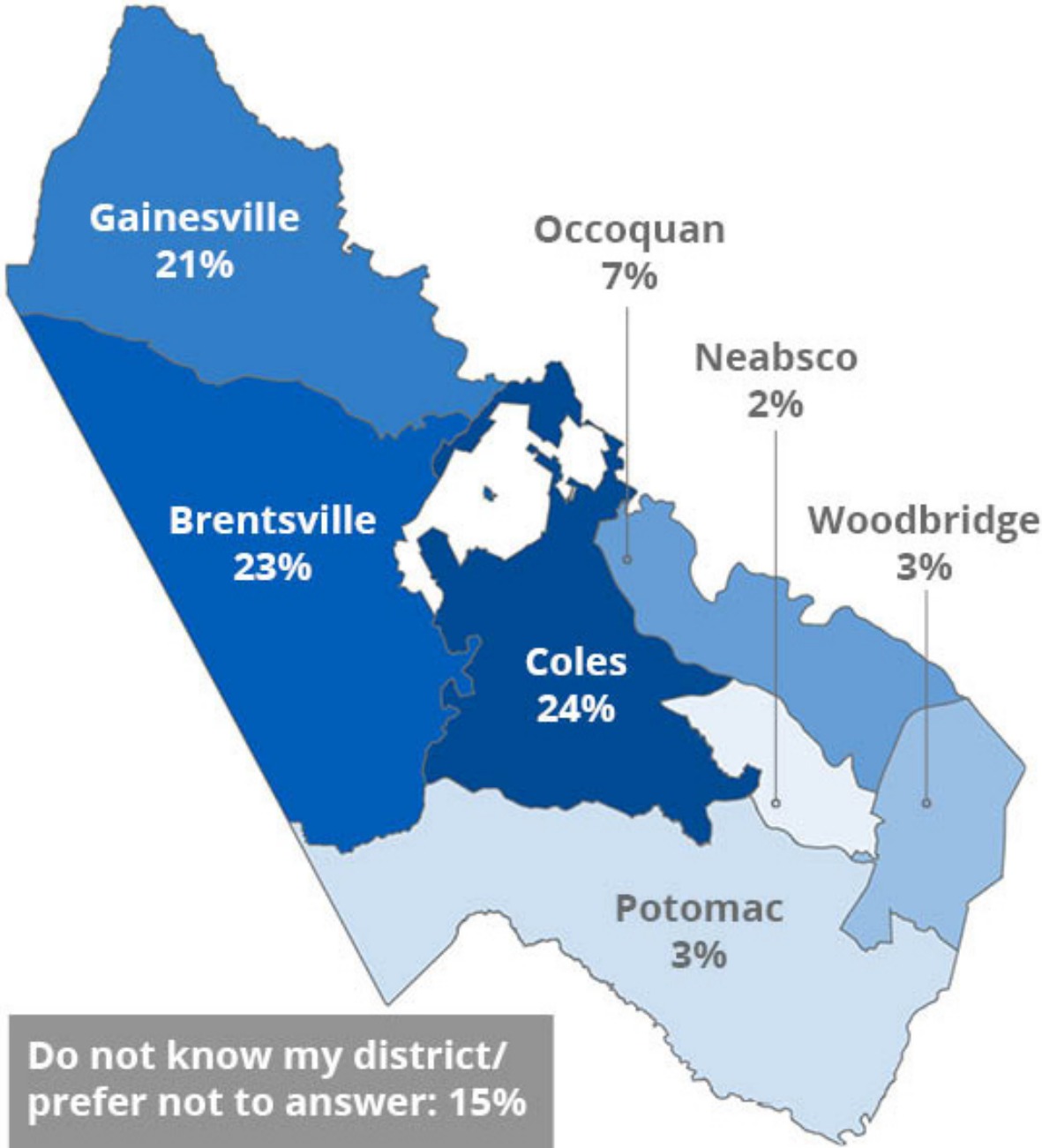
- 2. Which of the following housing needs do you feel are most important to address in the future? *(Check up to THREE options)*
 - a. The cost/ affordability of housing
 - b. The quality and types of housing options available
 - c. The location of housing options
 - d. Availability of senior housing
 - e. Homeownership opportunities
 - f. Housing options that can accommodate multi-generational families
 - g. Additional rental housing options
 - h. Funding assistance to rehabilitate my home or apartment
 - i. Other

- 3. Which of the following transportation needs do you feel are most important to address in the future? *(Check up to THREE options)*
 - a. Addressing traffic congestion/ commute times
 - b. Improving road safety
 - c. Availability of public transit services
 - d. Walkability
 - e. Bikeability
 - f. Being able to drive less often
 - g. Better driving options
 - h. Trails and greenways
 - i. Bike Share and micro-mobility
 - j. Other

Each question included an open-ended “other” category for individuals to note other priorities not reflected in the multiple-choice options. The poll also asked respondents to identify the magisterial district in which they live, to provide their email address, and to indicate whether they wished to be added to an email list for future County communications about the Comprehensive Plan.

Where Respondents Live

In total, there were a total of 1,979 total responses (1,972 English responses and 7 Spanish responses) across all seven magisterial districts. Respondents were asked to identify their magisterial district, if known or willing to share. The breakdown for each magisterial district is as follows:



**Do not know my district/
prefer not to answer: 15%**

**Do not live in Prince
William County: 1%**

Magisterial District	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Brentsville	446	23%
Coles	479	24%
Gainesville	420	21%
Neabsco	47	2%
Occoquan	145	7%
Potomac	59	3%
Woodbridge	64	3%
Do not live in Prince William County	25	1%
Prefer not to answer/ Skipped Question	294	15%
Total	1,979	99%*

*Rounding results in a total percentage less than 100%.

The distribution of responses by magisterial district varied, with the largest number of respondents coming from districts located in the western part of Prince William County. **Collectively, residents of the Brentsville, Coles, and Gainesville districts represented 68% of all respondents.**

Because the geographic distribution of responses received was not equal across all magisterial districts, overall poll data is not representative of the county population as a whole. As such, this summary includes both overall poll data and district-level data to highlight some variations in priorities across districts.

Results

The results of the poll are summarized below and grouped by survey question. In addition to overall (countywide) results, the top three priorities at the district level are also noted. In addition, the multiple-choice options that were selected by the largest proportion of respondents, as part of their three selections, are also noted.

Results were tabulated by pooling the top three priorities selected by all respondents and totaling the number of times each multiple-choice option was selected in all poll responses. Category percentages were calculated by dividing the total number of times an individual option was selected by the total number of all options selected by all respondents.

Responses to the “other” option under each question were categorized and tabulated to identify additional priorities noted by respondents.

QUESTION 1: LAND USE PRIORITIES

Overall

- Overall, the top three priorities for respondents were: **preserving the rural areas of the county, tree/ forest preservation, and parks, open space, and recreation.**
- To a lesser extent, respondents also noted both **preserving the county's history and historic resources** and **environmental protection / climate** as priorities.



Other Key Findings

71% of all respondents selected “**preserving rural areas of the county**” as one of their three land use priorities

41% of all respondents selected “**tree / forest preservation**” as one of their three land use priorities

All other multiple-choice options were selected by a smaller percentage of respondents.

District Level

Priorities at the district level reflect some geographic variation in priorities:

- **Preserving rural areas, tree/forest preservation, and parks, open space, and recreation** remain top priorities in all districts.
- Respondents from *western districts* prioritized preserving the rural areas of the county to a greater degree than those from other districts.
- Preservation of the county's history was a top-three priority in both the Brentsville and Coles districts.
- Community safety was a top-three priority in the Woodbridge district.



Other Priorities

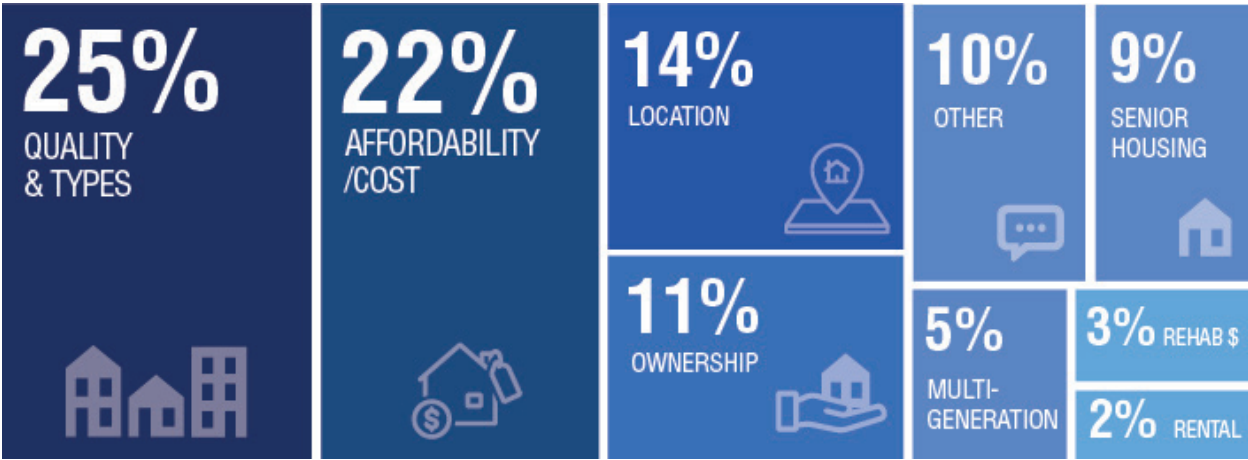
Among respondents selecting “other,” these individuals noted a variety of additional priorities, as listed below. Of these, the priorities mentioned most frequently overall (countywide) related to **transportation infrastructure, educational facility capacity, and senior housing and affordability**. *Note:* Some priorities identified in comments were also multiple-choice options under this or other questions, but are noted again here.

- Transportation infrastructure
- Economic development
- Trail systems
- Wildlife preservation
- Tree/ forest preservation
- Senior housing and affordability
- Educational facility capacity
- Equestrian and agritourism activities/facilities
- Waterway conservation/ protection
- Preserving rural areas of the county
- Military base expansion
- Transfer of Development Rights and Purchase of Development Rights programs
- Less development
- Physical infrastructure (water, sewer, waste management, etc.)
- Public transportation
- Community revitalization
- Climate change resilience
- Residential density
- Multimodal infrastructure
- Agritourism

QUESTION 2: HOUSING PRIORITIES

Overall

- Overall, the top three housing priorities included: **the quality and types of housing options available, the cost/affordability of housing**, and the **location of housing options**.
- To a lesser extent, respondents also noted **homeownership opportunities** as a future housing need.



Other Key Findings

53% of all respondents selected **“the quality and types of housing”** as one of their three housing priorities

47% of all respondents selected **“the cost / affordability of housing”** as one of their three housing priorities

All other multiple-choice options were selected by a smaller percentage of respondents.

District Level

Priorities at the district level reflect some geographic variation:

- At the district level, the **quality and types of housing** and **cost/affordability** remain the top two priorities in all districts.
- **Location of housing** emerged as a third priority among respondents in the Brentsville, Coles, Gainesville, and Potomac districts.
- **Homeownership opportunities** was a third priority among both Occoquan and Woodbridge respondents.
- **Senior housing** was a third priority among Neabsco respondents.



Other Priorities

Among respondents selecting “other” under this question, these individuals noted a variety of additional priorities, as listed below. Of these, the priorities mentioned most frequently included **property tax concerns, housing density, rural housing pattern preservation, and public utility infrastructure.**

- Property tax concerns
- Cost of new utility infrastructure
- Housing code violations (renting of rooms)
- Preservation of rural housing patterns
- Transit-oriented housing development
- Senior housing tax relief
- Zoning code reform
- Density of housing
- Smart growth development / less sprawl
- “Green” housing and development
- Senior housing options
- Public utility infrastructure capacity
- Homeless housing
- Less development
- Zoning code reform (including accessory dwelling units - ADUs)
- Neighborhood preservation
- Housing for people with disabilities

QUESTION 3: MOBILITY PRIORITIES

Overall

- Overall, the top three mobility-related priorities included: **addressing traffic congestion/commute times, trails and greenways**, and **improving road safety**.
- To a lesser extent, respondents also identified **public transit services** and **walkability** as additional priorities.



Other Key Findings

72% of all respondents selected **“traffic congestion / commute times”** as one of their three mobility priorities

41% of all respondents selected **“trails and greenways”** as one of their three mobility priorities

All other multiple-choice options were selected by a smaller percentage of respondents.

District Level

District-level results reflect some geographic variation:

- At the district level, **traffic congestion / commute times** was a top concern in all districts
- Respondents from western districts (Brentsville, Coles, Gainesville) and the Potomac District noted **trails and greenways** as a second priority, while it was tied for third (with **walkability**) among Woodbridge respondents.
- Woodbridge and Occoquan respondents identified the **availability of public transit** as a second priority, while it was third among Gainesville, Neabsco, and Potomac respondents.
- **Improving road safety** was the second priority for Neabsco respondents and a



third priority for Occoquan, Coles, and Brentsville respondents.

Other Priorities

Among respondents selecting “other,” these individuals noted a variety of additional priorities, as listed below. Of these, the priorities mentioned most frequently included **transportation system maintenance**, the **extension of the Metro to Prince William County**, and **ensuring that new transportation infrastructure is built before additional development occurs**.

- Transportation funding
- ADA accessible transit
- Transportation system maintenance
- Metro extension to Gainesville/
- Haymarket
- Frequency of public transit service
- Proximity of jobs to transit and homes

Next Steps

This initial poll on land use, housing, and mobility in Prince William County will be considered along with feedback received at March 2021 community meetings as the project team continues work updating the Land Use, Housing, and Mobility sections of the Comprehensive Plan. Throughout the coming months, more community engagement activities and outreach will take place to help inform and guide the development of these chapters. Upcoming public engagement activities will be posted on the Pathway to 2040 website.