

Communities in Motion 2040

Potential Growth Scenarios Public Comment Summary

From May 7 – June 17, 2012, COMPASS solicited public comment on four potential growth scenarios for the Treasure Valley for the year 2040. Public comments will be used by the COMPASS Board of Directors and advisory committees to help create a preferred growth scenario that will be the basis for *Communities in Motion 2040*, the Treasure Valley's regional long-range transportation plan.

A total of 283 comments were received; 261 via comment form and 22 open-ended comments submitted via letter or email. A summary of responses from the comment forms are on the following pages, including results of quantitative questions (Questions 1, 4, 8 – 11, and 13 – 21) and summaries of comments from open-ended questions (Questions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 12). The numbers in parentheses after each comment indicates the number of times that comment was made.

Links to the 22 open ended letters and emails and links to all open-ended comments from the comment forms (verbatim) can be found at www.compassidaho.org/prodserve/cim2040-public_comments.htm.

Indicators

Question 1. Of the eight indicators listed, which are the most important to you in considering future local growth? (261 respondents)

Rank	Indicator
1	Walkability
2	Housing + transportation affordability
3	Traffic congestion
4	Jobs-housing balance
5	Population near transit
6	Population near parks and schools
7	Preserved agricultural land
8	Housing variety

Question 2. What other indicators, concerns, or issues not listed above are important to you when considering future growth?

Comment Summary

- Improve (plan for) transit (29)
- Improve biking/walking facilities (incl. trails, pathways, green corridors) (29)
- Preservation of/access to recreation/open space (17)
- Better planning (transportation, land use, infrastructure, zoning, coordinate comprehensive plans) (15)
- Environmental issues (water etc.) (14)
- More dense housing (infill, less sprawl) (11)
- Air quality (11)
- Mixed-use neighborhoods (design standards, zoning) (9)
- Connectivity (9)
- City/community character (6)
- Farmland preservation (6)
- Economic development/diversity of jobs (better paying) (6)
- Market-driven (growth, development)/freedom in growth (6)
- Neighborhood focal point/libraries/affordable events/dog parks (6)
- Financing (for transit, local option tax)/cost of implementation (5)
- Food security/access to grocery stores/local food (4)
- Expanding road ways (3)
- Affordable housing (3)
- Health impacts (3)
- LEED, green building (3)
- Safety (2)
- Access to freeway/better roads (2)
- Growth pays for itself (2)
- Population near parks, schools and jobs (2)
- Congestion (2)
- Noise (2)
- Diversity of people (1)
- Diversity of housing types (1)
- Access to medical facilities, first responders (1)
- Accessibility for people with disabilities (1)
- Equal distribution of resources for public schools (1)
- Refugee neighborhoods vs. integration of refugees (1)
- Redistricting (1)
- Work places that support energy efficient commuting (1)
- Keep state highways as state highways (high speed) (1)
- North-south connectivity (1)
- Re-development (1)
- Environmental justice (1)
- Don't increase crime (1)

Question 3. Do you have additional comments about the indicators?

Comment Summary

- Improve transit (24)
- Preserve farmland and (access to) open space (11)
- Improve biking/walking facilities (10)
- Better traffic management (lights, intersections, speed) (7)
- Development close to downtown (use existing infrastructure) (6)
- Retain city/community character (5)
- Housing diversity/variety (5)
- Mixed-use neighborhoods (4)
- Economic development plans/more industry/living wage (4)
- Housing affordability (4)
- North-south connectivity (3)
- Rural (low traffic, remote, with agriculture) neighborhoods (3)
- Market driven, "organic" growth/private property rights (3)
- Compare indicators to existing conditions or surrogate cities (3)
- Financing (how to pay for transit?) (3)
- Reduce congestion (3)
- Maintain current quality of life (2)
- Preserve and protect the environment (2)
- Trusting in proper use/consideration of public input (2)
- Reduce health impacts (2)
- Maintain funding for quality public schools (1)
- Consider (effects of) use of driverless vehicles in the future (1)
- Moratorium on growth at Eagle Road and Fairview Avenue (1)
- Indicators are interrelated and hard to differentiate (1)
- Seems to be beyond COMPASS' mission (1)
- Check against current comprehensive plans (1)
- Preserve local food sources (1)
- Noise pollution (1)
- Re-development (1)
- Provide meeting places (1)
- Aging in place (1)
- Simple exercise equipment in parks (1)
- More education to public about livable cities and transit (1)
- Expand road ways (1)
- Jobs-housing balance (1)
- Population near transit (1)

Scenarios

Question 4. Of the four potential growth scenarios, which best represented your preferred vision for the future of the valley? (250 respondents)

Rank	Scenario
1	Active Corridors
2	Outdoor Playground
3	Town and Country
4	Hometowns

Questions 5/6. What aspects(s) of your highest ranked scenario(s) do you like the most/least? What would you change to make it/them better?

Comment Summary:

Active Corridors - Most liked aspects

- Transit (44)
- Walkability (19)
- Higher density (9)
- Job-housing balance (9)
- Traffic congestion (7)
- Mixed use (7)
- Housing affordability (5)
- Cost efficient infrastructure (3)
- Open space (3)
- Preservation of agriculture (3)
- Housing variety (3)
- Park and schools (2)
- Preservation of environmentally sensitive areas (1)
- Downtown (1)

Active Corridors - Least Liked Aspects/Would Change

- Poor access to parks and schools (15)
- Traffic congestion (5)
- Jobs-housing imbalance (4)
- Lack of protection for environmentally sensitive areas (4)
- Need more high density (3)
- Not enough open space (2)
- Too much cost (3)
- Too much density (2)
- Not enough agriculture preservation (1)
- Need north-south mobility corridors (1)
- Need streetcar (1)
- Need express buses (1)
- Not what the market demands (1)
- Need a beltway (1)

Hometowns - Most liked aspects

- Jobs-housing balance (14)
- Walkability/bikeability (10)
- Traffic congestion (10)
- Existing infrastructure/reduce sprawl (7)
- Transit (5)
- Agriculture preservation (4)
- Parks and schools (4)
- Jobs-housing balance (3)
- Mixed use (2)
- Rural development—housing choice (3)
- Trails and parks (2)
- Infill (2)
- Environmental benefits (1)
- Downtown development (1)
- Aging in place (1)
- Quiet/noise pollution (1)
- Rural town preservation (1)

Hometowns - Least Liked Aspects/Would Change

- New highway construction (5)
- Need more transit options (4)
- Too much sprawl (2)
- Not enough affordability (2)
- Not enough infill (1)
- Jobs-housing imbalance (1)

Outdoor Playground - Most liked aspects

- Preservation of agriculture (24)
- Outdoor recreation (23)
- Walkability/bikeability (20)
- Access to Parks and schools (18)
- Appropriate density (urban/rural) (9)
- Infrastructure costs/reduce sprawl (6)
- Environment protection (6)
- Jobs-housing balance (5)
- Transit (1)
- Population near transit (1)
- Housing variety (1)

Outdoor Playground - Least Liked Aspects/Would Change

- Traffic congestion (7)
- Not enough walkability (5)
- Not enough transit (5)
- Not enough agriculture preservation (4)
- Not enough housing variety (2)
- Poor access to parks and schools (2)
- Difficulty of improving bike routes (1)
- Too much density (1)
- Need more density (1)
- Jobs housing imbalance (1)
- Low affordability (1)

Town and Country - Most liked aspects

- Agriculture (12)
- Walkability (11)
- Infrastructure (7)
- Parks and schools (7)
- Density (7)
- Transit (7)
- Mixed use (3)
- Housing variety (3)
- Rural, small towns (3)
- Jobs-housing balance (4)
- Transit (2)
- Minimal traffic congestion (1)
- Matches comprehensive plan best (1)

Town and Country - Least Liked Aspects/Would Change

- Poor walkability (8)
- Traffic congestion (8)
- Lack of small town growth (4)
- More transit (4)
- Need more agriculture preservation (2)
- Agriculture preservation is futile (2)
- Need more mixed use (2)
- Need more parks (2)
- Need more economic development (1)
- Too much density (1)
- Need better/more trails; outdoor recreation (1)
- Need to show entitlements (1)

Question 7. Do you have any additional comments on any of the scenarios?

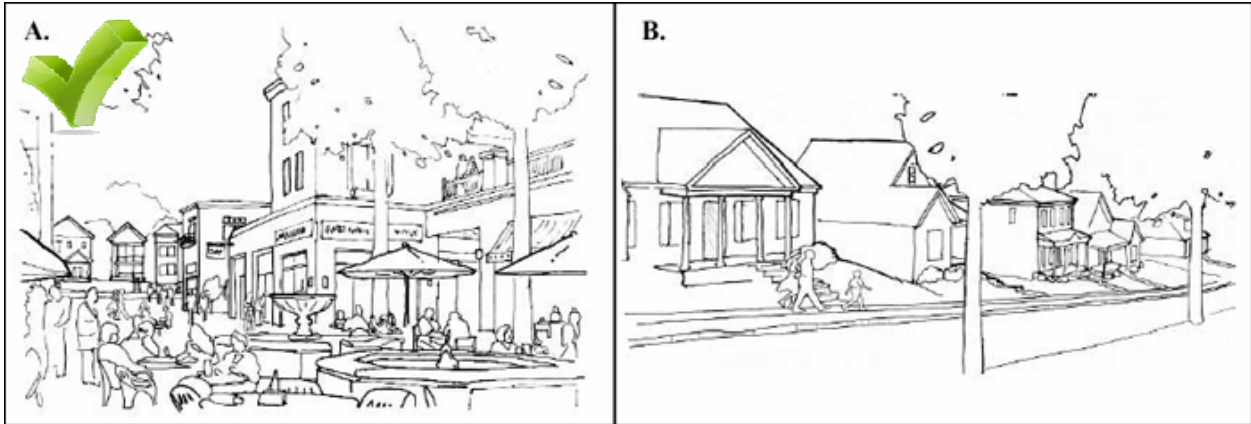
Comment Summary:

- Provide commuter train/light rail; more and better transit (12)
- More biking/walking facilities (8)
- Invest in existing communities and neighborhoods; upgrade existing infrastructure (6)
- Combination of all four (5)
- Fill in with/ show mixed-use (5)
- Consider city/local plans (4)
- Star rating (of indicators) is over-simplified/doesn't make sense (3)
- Provide smaller homes (3)
- Sustain environmental protection and conservation of nature (3)
- Like Hometowns (3)
- Like Town and Country the least (3)
- Combination of Active Corridors and Town and Country (2)
- Like Active Corridors (2)
- Hometowns is not practical (2)
- Any of the four would be better than unchecked growth (2)
- All four still depend on auto commuting (2)
- Should not radically differ from recent growth patterns and public tastes (2)
- Preserve open space (2)
- More access to freeways and other major routes (2)
- Maps are difficult to read and compare (2)
- Outdoor Playground needs more medium/high density residential around city centers (2)
- Combination of Active Corridors and Outdoor Playground (1)
- Combination of Active Corridors and Hometowns (1)
- Combine Outdoor Playground with Town and Country (1)
- Outdoor Playground is attractive but not feasible (1)
- Already have Town and Country with sprawl in between (1)
- Town and Country preservation of agricultural land is a plus (1)
- Hometowns segregates overall community (1)
- Hometowns should concentrate housing along the rail line (1)
- Disagree with parts of all four potential scenarios (1)
- Health considerations (1)
- Sustain jobs and economy (1)
- Enable mobility/travel for people with disabilities (1)
- Educate community (1)
- Should include Ontario and Mountain Home in the process (1)
- A plan with some "teeth" would be good (1)
- Intersection improvements (1)
- Don't increase traffic congestion (1)
- Vertical greenhouses (1)
- Lack of freedom, privacy, personal space (1)
- Lack of clean and breathable air (1)
- Noise problems (1)
- Residential high density is too low; medium should be seven dwelling units per acre (1)
- Create centralized locations within neighborhoods (school bus pick-up and drop-off) (1)

Nighborhood and Housing Preferences

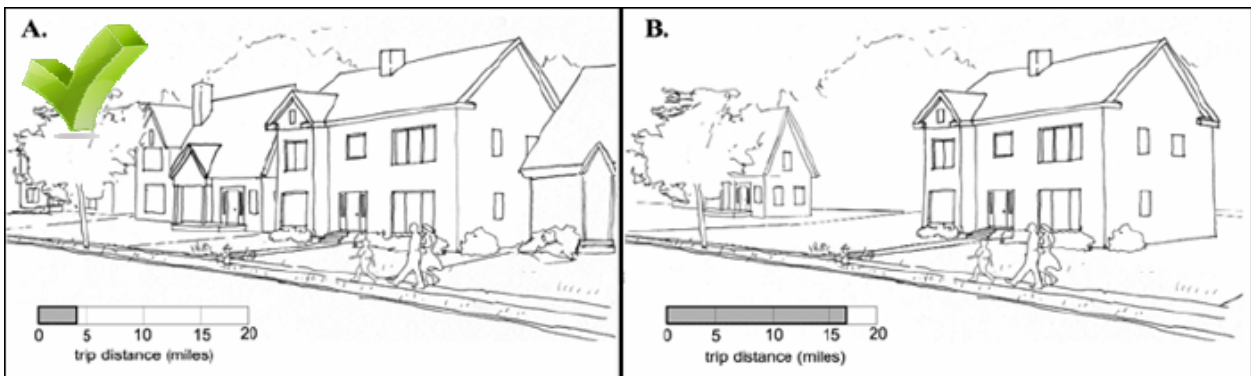
Question 8. In which of the following two types of neighborhoods would you prefer to live? (254 respondents)

- A. In a neighborhood with a mixture of housing types on various sized lots close to shopping and activity centers. **67.3%**
- B. In a neighborhood with single family houses on large lots further from shopping and activity centers. 32.7%



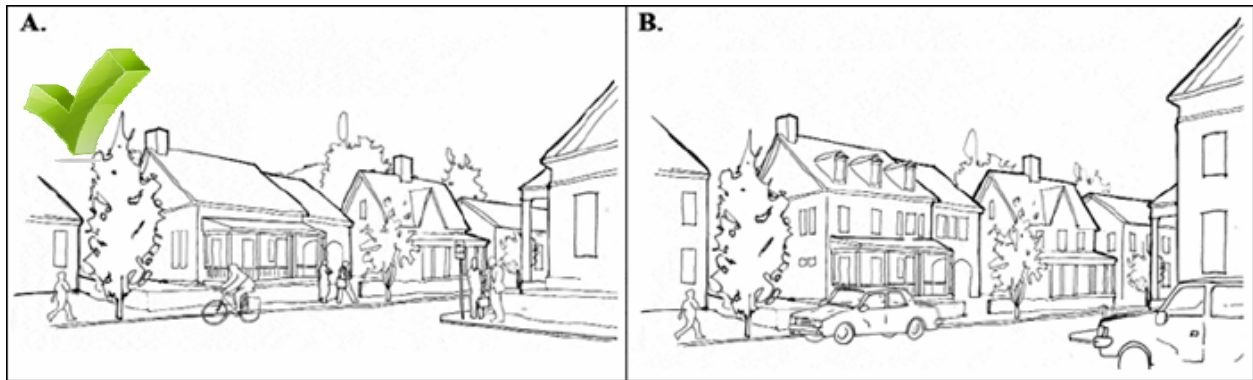
Question 9. In which of the following two types of neighborhoods would you prefer to live? (257 respondents)

- A. In a neighborhood with houses on smaller lots located close to work, school, or my other important destinations. **76.7%**
- B. In a neighborhood with houses on larger lots located further from work, school, or my other important destinations. 23.3%



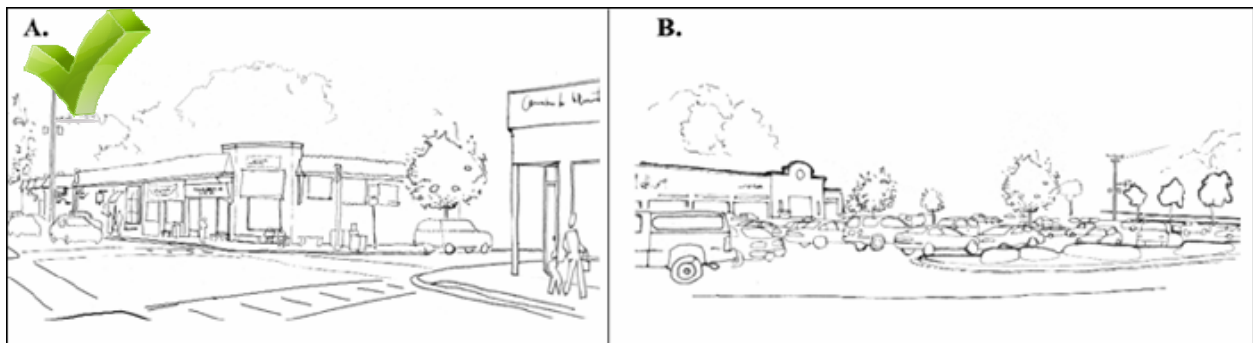
Question 10. In which of the following two types of neighborhoods would you prefer to live? (258 respondents)

- A. In a neighborhood with smaller homes, where I can walk, bicycle, or take public transit for some of my trips. **86.4%**
- B. In a neighborhood with larger homes, where I drive for all my trips. 13.6%



Question 11. What types of commercial areas appeal to you the most? (258 respondents)

- A. Commercial areas mixed with residential areas. **73.6%**
- B. Commercial areas separated from residential areas. 26.4%



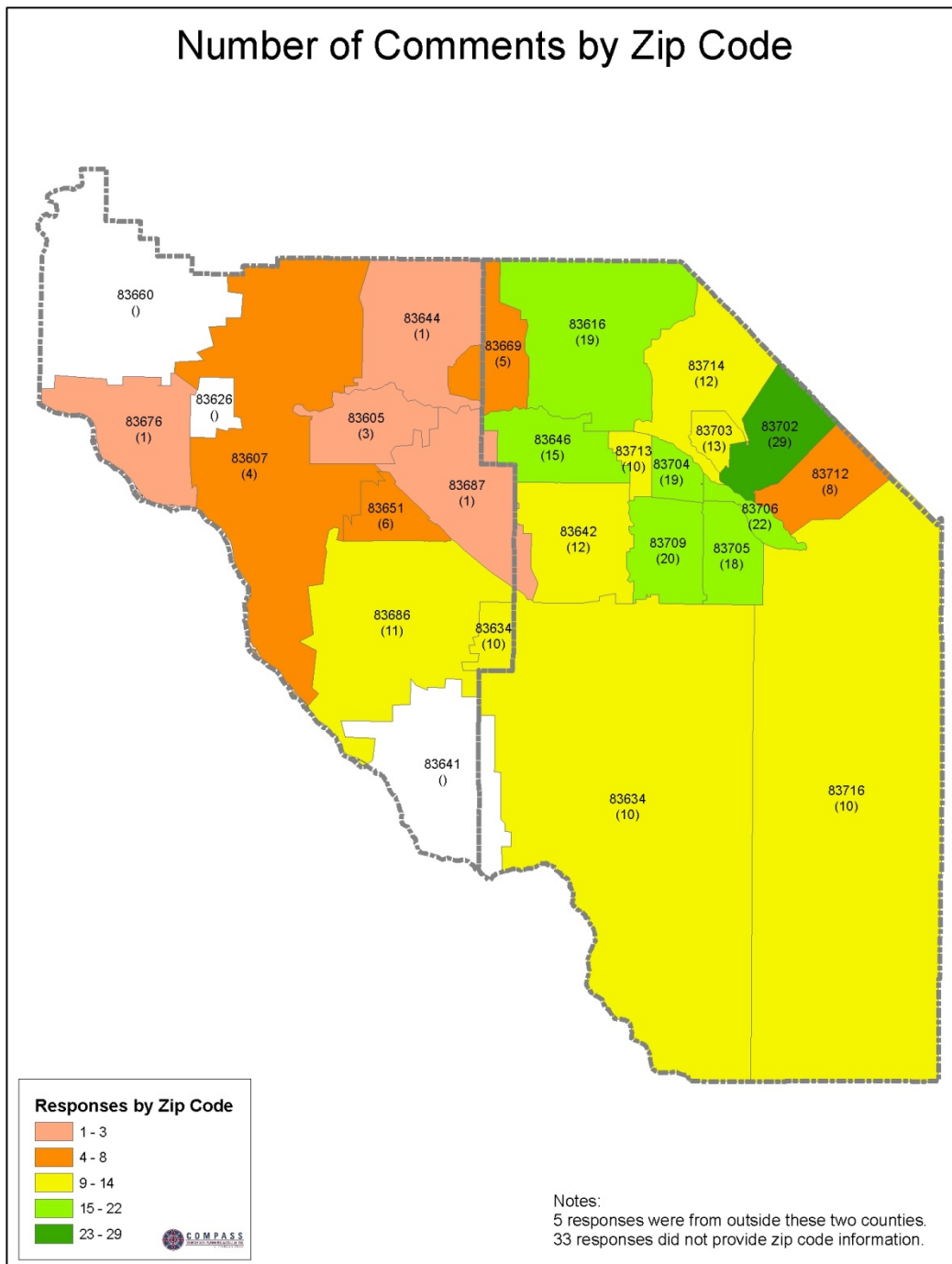
Other

Question 12. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the indicators, scenarios, neighborhood and housing preferences or this planning process?

Common Comments

- Support mixed use (24)
- Support density (8)
- Need a variety of housing and retail options/diverse neighborhoods (7)
- Want options of bike/walk/transit (6)
- Questions 8 – 11: Not enough options on housing choices/options too extreme (5)
- Want moderate/big house where I can bike/walk/use transit (5)
- Don't want to live near a strip mall or big box store (4)
- Choice of housing changes over time (4)
- Thanks/good survey/interesting study (4)
- Need to focus on transportation issues (3)
- Prefer large lots/single family housing (3)
- Need open space/trails/parks (3)
- Plan for growth (3)
- Difficult to make meaningful decisions/comments/need more time (3)
- Mixed use must be economically feasible (2)
- Planning for housing size not government's job (2)
- Support urban agriculture (2)
- Bown Crossing/Hyde Park are good examples (2)
- Unrealistic ideas (2)
- Biased survey (2)
- Improve/maintain quality of life (1)
- Stop urban sprawl (1)
- Protect farmland (1)
- Prefer to shop locally/avoid big box stores (1)
- Encourage variety through architectural concepts (1)
- Cars are not best for affordability and healthy lifestyle (1)
- Need more re-development (1)
- Need workforce housing (1)
- Density/mixed use more survivable in a low energy scenario (1)
- Like small town feel of close commercial areas but they have limitations (1)
- Smart Growth (1)
- Prefer visual preferences rather than words (1)
- Want easy access to commercial areas (1)
- Maintain right-of-way for Americans with Disabilities Act requirements (1)
- Like the idea of everything in my town (Hometowns scenario) (1)
- Bus system would be great – if workable (1)
- How do scenarios affect the natural environment? (1)
- How will the process be implemented? (1)
- Need to better define "large" vs "small" (1)
- None of the above scenarios are good (1)
- Multi use neighborhoods not always good; can also be crowded slums of large cities (1)
- Need to better use open space (1)
- Infill destroys the opportunity for open space (1)

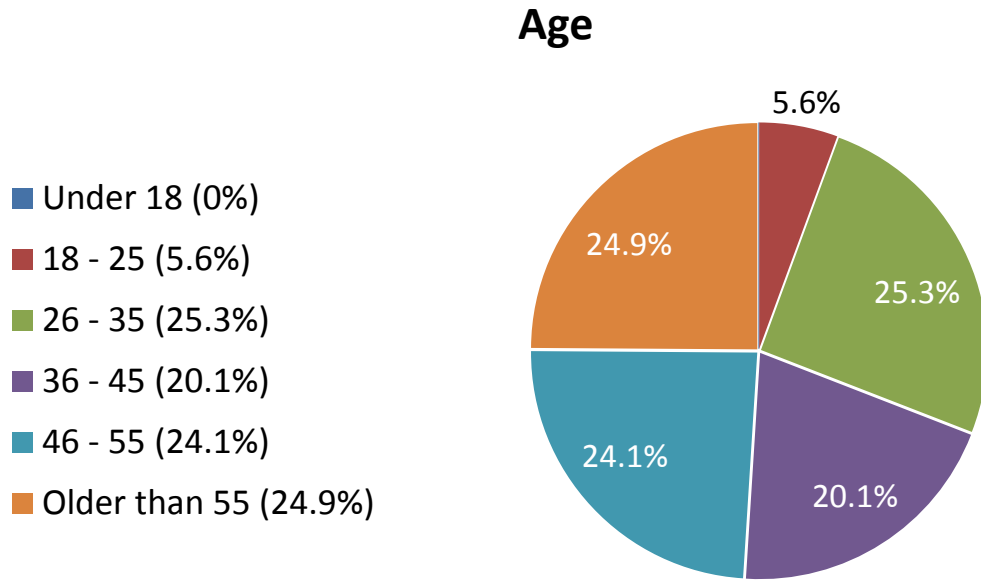
Question 13. What is your zip code?



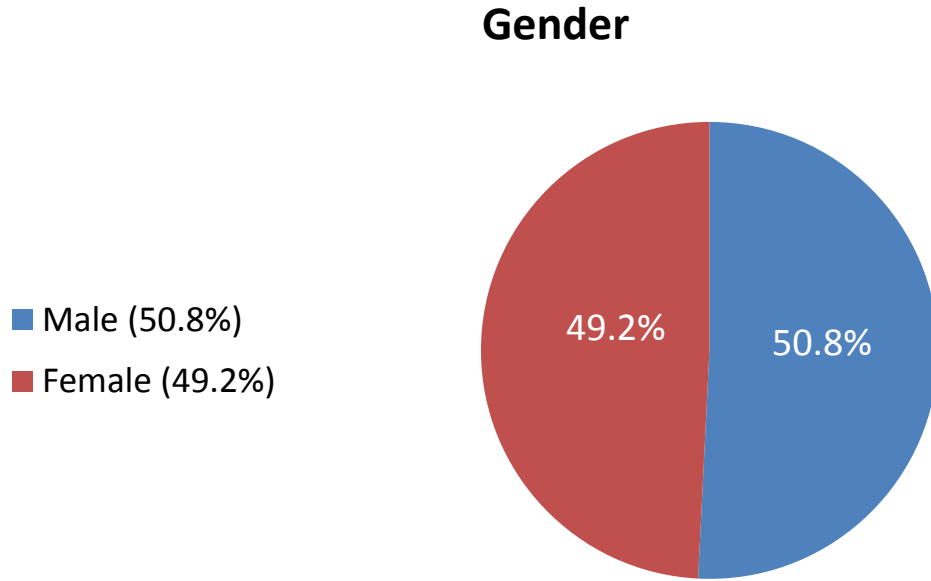
Questions 14/15. Check below if you would like to be added to an email list, have your name/organizational affiliation included with your comments, and/or would like to receive a personal response to your comment or question.

- Yes! Please add me to an email contact list. **(79 individuals)**
- Yes! Please include my name and organizational affiliation with my comments. **(36 individuals)**
- Yes! Please send me a response to my question/comment. **(31 individuals)**

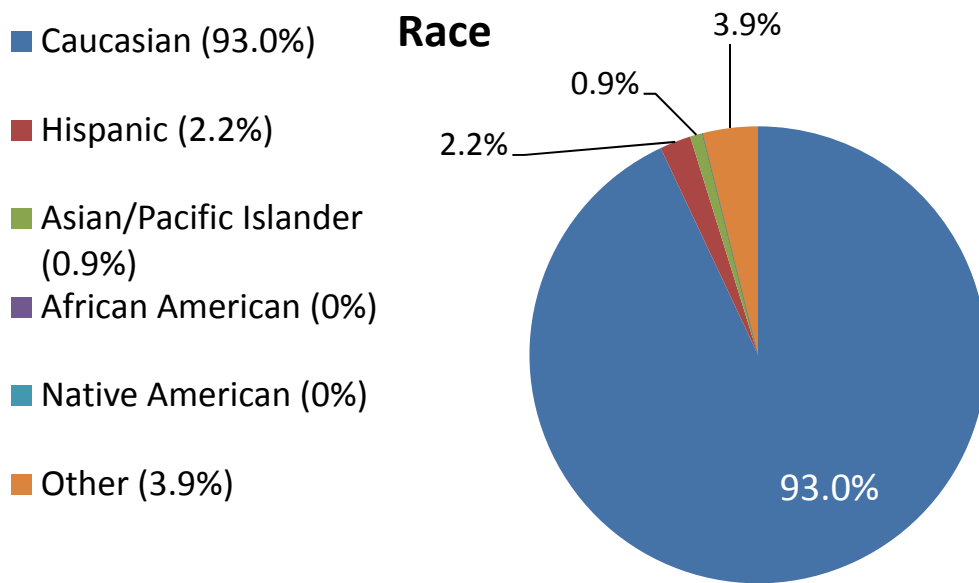
Question 16 (optional). What is your age?



Question 17 (optional). What is your gender?

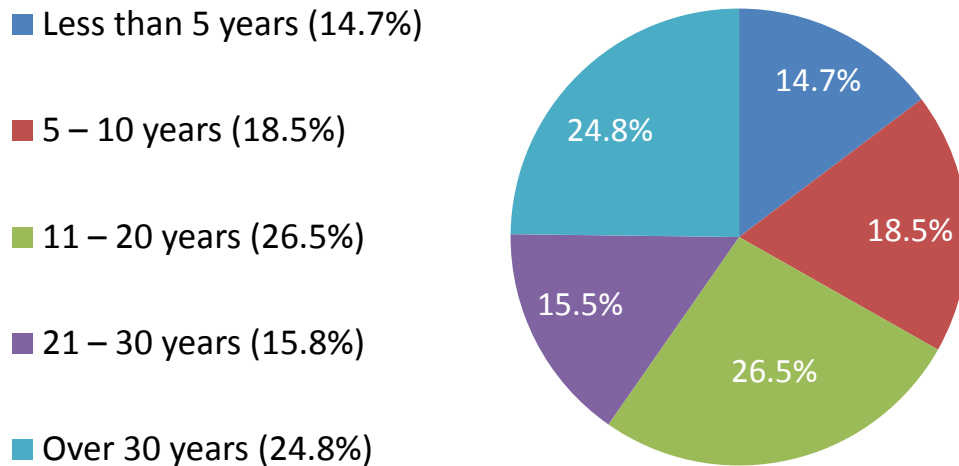


Question 18 (optional). What is your race?



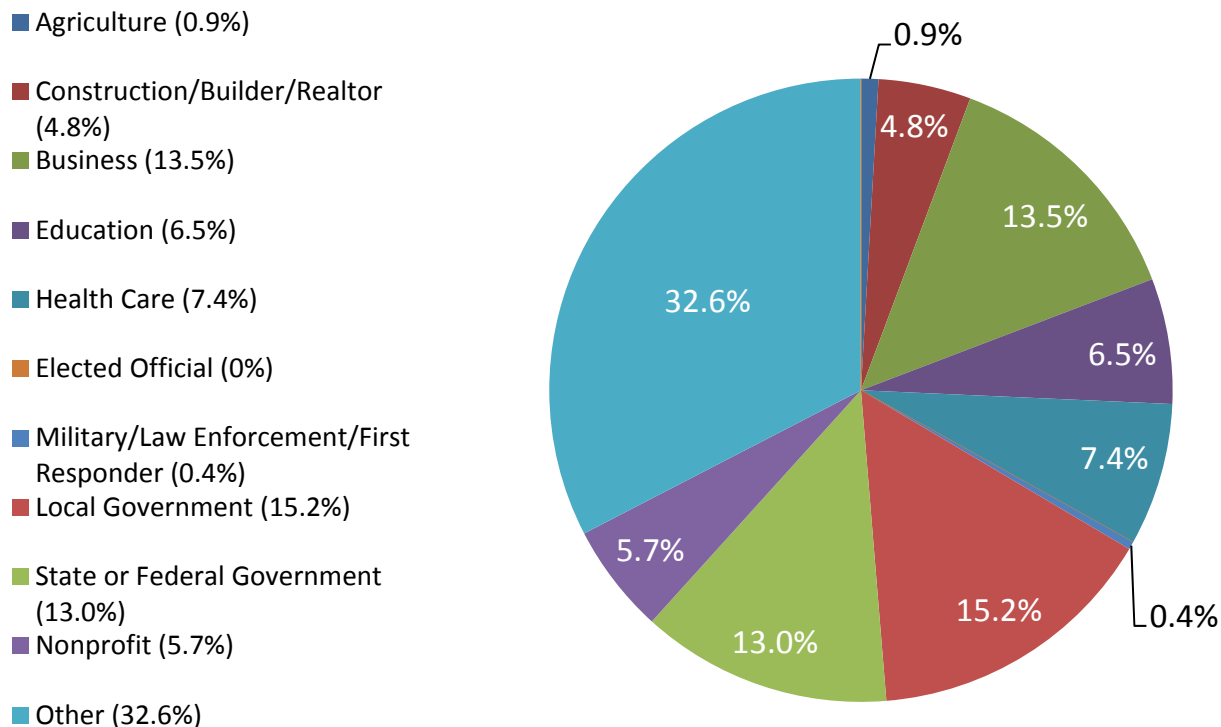
Question 19 (optional). How long have you lived in Ada and/or Canyon Counties?

Length of Time Lived in Ada/Canyon Counties



Question 20 (optional). What is your occupation?

Occupation



Question 21 (optional). Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions? (check any that apply)

Number of Individuals

