



Community Conversations

Alachua County
Board of County Commissioners
August 15, 2011



Community Conversations

We would to thank the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and National Center for Civic Innovation for funding these conversations.

We would also like to thank Peter Block for his guidance in community building.



Community Conversations

Welcome to the Conversation!

Please take a seat at a chair and sit with someone you do not already know



Introduce yourself and get to know your new neighbors



Community Conversations

Welcome Statement



Community Conversations

Randall H. Reid,
Host



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What is the title on your
name tag today?



Community Conversations

Community Building for our Future

History shows us that a community is simply a collection of the individual behavior of its citizens. The world is filled with examples of how negative behaviors and lack of civility are destroying our sense of community. It is our hope that positive community engagement will make us a more sustainable community.

“Fundamentally, the behavior of citizens is what will be decisive in sustainable communities”

- *Peter Block*



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According to Peter Block, the social fabric of community is created one room at a time.

Today, you are sitting in one of those rooms.



Community Conversations

Community exists not in the absence of conflict but in the commitment of individuals to work together to reach decisions for the well being of the community.



Community Conversations

This meeting is an invitation to participate in a conversation among members of the community who may have different opinions and perceptions, but who we believe share an interest for the county they live in.



Community Conversations

We are hoping you allow us to use this process to help the County Commission learn about your ideas and opinions on what services you value that the County provides and your willingness to fund those services that you prioritize as important.

In a diverse community of citizens like you, this is not easy for your elected representatives to determine so we seek your help.



Community Conversations

- Governments are struggling to redefine their roles and what levels of service they can provide to citizens.
- Citizen expectations will have to change and citizen involvement will need to increase in order to meet the challenges ahead.



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- The theme of this year's budget is "enough". It stresses the importance of the balance between our resources and our expenditures.





Community Conversations

- We need to recognize the concept of a “community budget”. This refers to all the resources, of all the sectors of the community and its individuals, which can be directed toward community improvement. This includes civic clubs, faith based organizations and affinity groups based on hobbies and interests.



Community Conversations

- It is essential for a community to be concerned with the financial limits that every community faces in this economic time.
- Our budget must be balanced, we do not operate on a deficit.



Community Conversations

- The process for today
 - Citizen participation demographic questions
 - Financial information and budget briefing
 - Citizen participation service level questions
 - Budget simulation – table top activity
 - Closing remarks



Courageous Conversations

Courage is what it takes to
stand up and speak;

Courage is also what it takes
to sit down and listen.

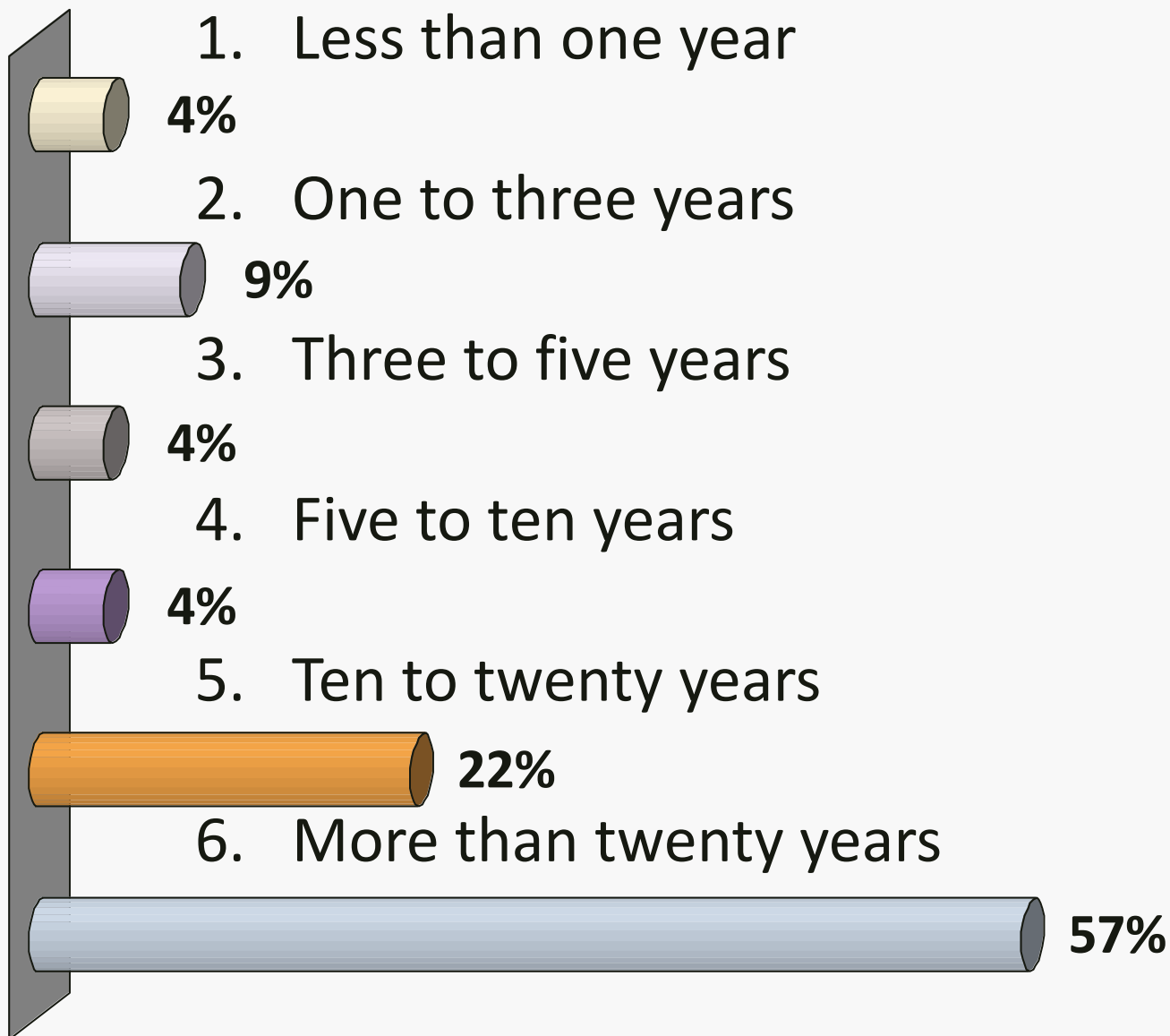
- Sir Winston Churchill



Community Conversations

Citizen Participation Demographics

How long have you lived in Alachua County?

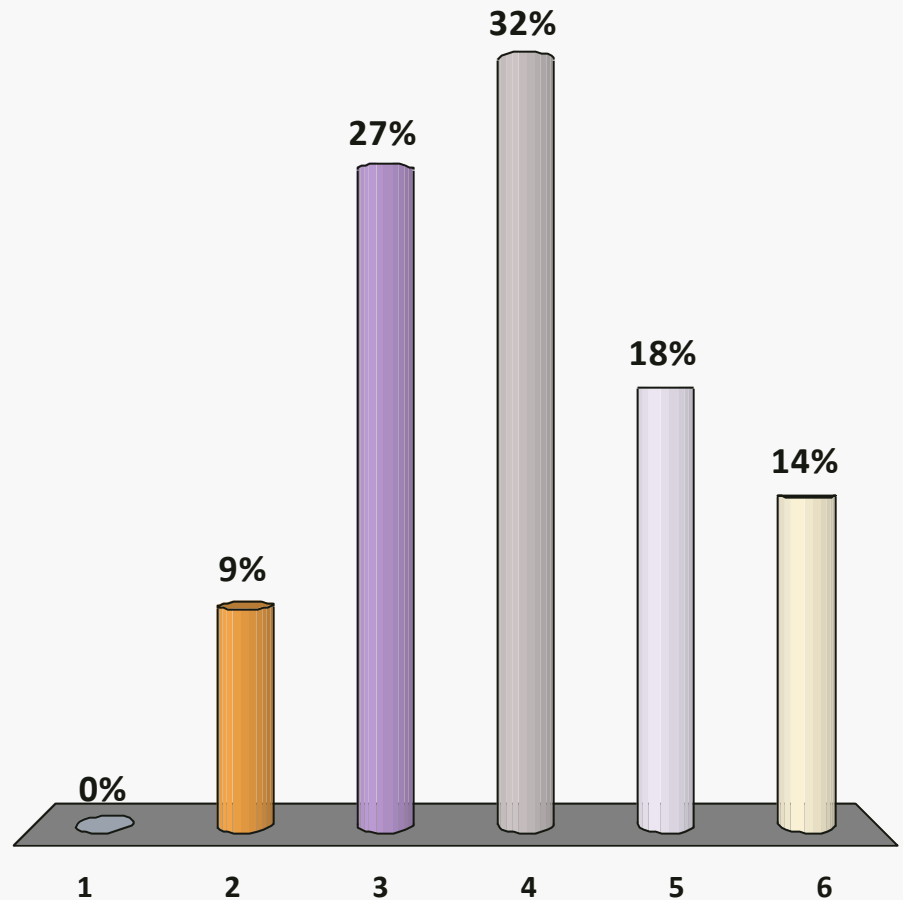


What area most closely represents where you live?

- 78% 1. Gainesville area
- 0% 2. LaCrosse area
- 0% 3. Waldo area
- 0% 4. Hawthorne area
- 0% 5. Micanopy area
- 0% 6. Archer area
- 0% 7. Newberry area
- 0% 8. High Springs area
- 0% 9. Alachua area
- 22% 10. Haile/Jonesville/Tioga area

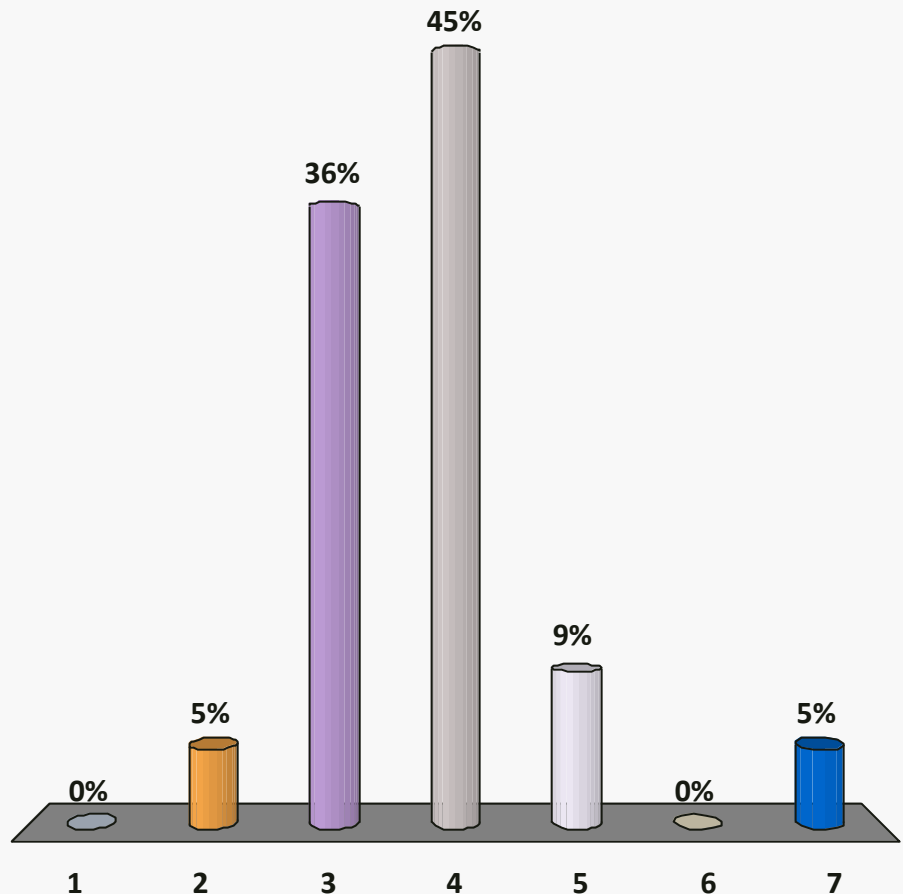
What is your current age?

1. Under 25
2. 26-35
3. 36-55
4. 56-65
5. 66-75
6. Over 75



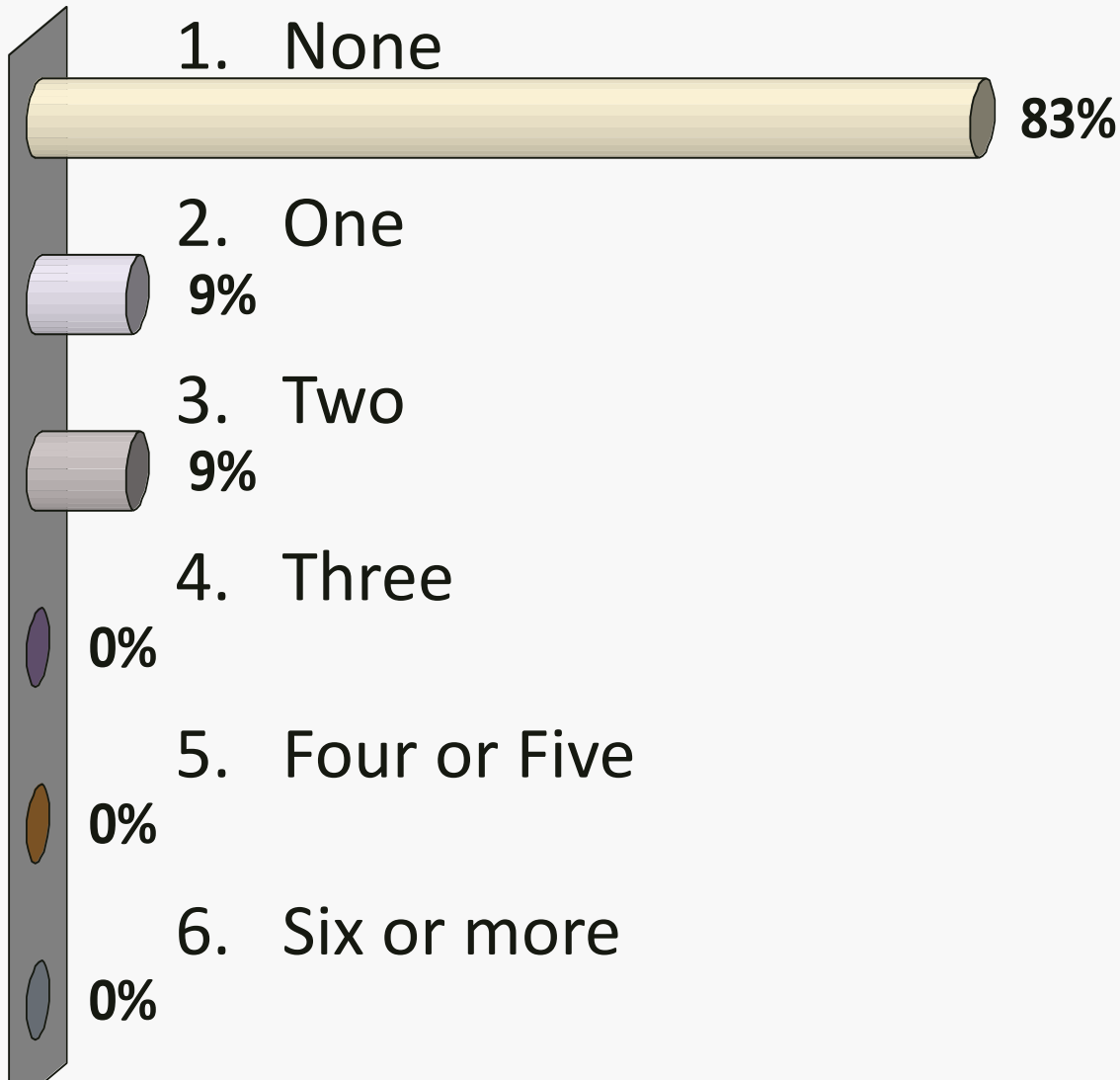
What is your highest level of education?

1. High School
2. Associate's degree
3. Bachelor's degree
4. Master's degree
5. PhD
6. Vocational/technical
7. Other



How many children live in your household?

(pets/spouse do not count)



How do you receive information on county public affairs? (select all that apply)

30% 1. County website

91% 2. Newspaper

61% 3. Television

30% 4. Radio/talk show

26% 5. County newsletter/press release

52% 6. Word of mouth

30% 7. Social Media



Community Conversations

Small Group Conversations



Community Conversations

What do you love most
about Alachua County
that you would never
want to lose?



Community Conversations

If you were to place one object, that represents Alachua County to you, into a time capsule to be opened in 50 years what would that be and what meaning do you hope it would have in 50 years?

Note: We've already included a newspaper and an almanac



Community Conversations

General Government Property Tax



Community Conversations

General Government Property Tax

- Revenue calculation is based on taxable property values as determined by the Property Appraiser's Office
 - 2007 Legislative Property Tax Reform limits growth from property tax revenue
 - January 2008 voter approved referendum increased property tax exemptions
 - Additional homestead, tangible personal property exemption, Save our Homes portability, 10% growth cap on non-homestead property



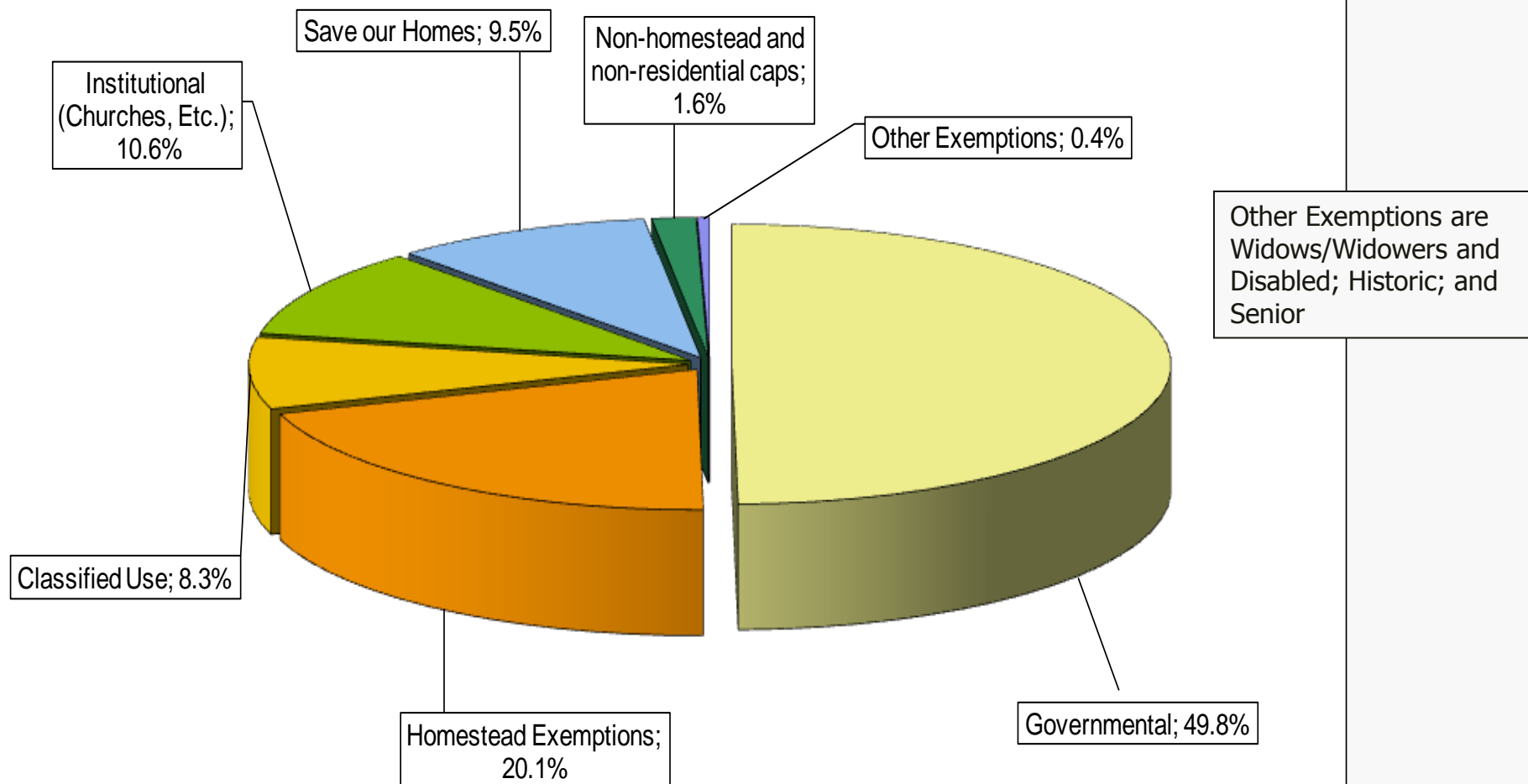
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General Government Property Tax

- Property valuation and tax exemptions
 - Only 51% of countywide property values are on the tax rolls
 - 57% of Leon and Marion County property values are on tax rolls
 - Lake County has 71% of property value on tax rolls



2010 Property Value Exemptions and Classified Uses



General Government Property Tax



2010 Municipal Millage Rate Comparisons

Municipality

2010 Millage Rate

Micanopy	8.0000
High Springs	6.1500
Waldo *	5.8686
Alachua	5.5000
Hawthorne *	5.3194
Archer *	5.0000
Gainesville	4.2544
Newberry *	3.8500
Unincorporated **	3.4225
LaCrosse	2.2908

* Archer and Hawthorne elected to participate in Fire and Law Enforcement MSTU's. Newberry participates in the Law Enforcement MSTU. Waldo participates in the Fire MSTU.

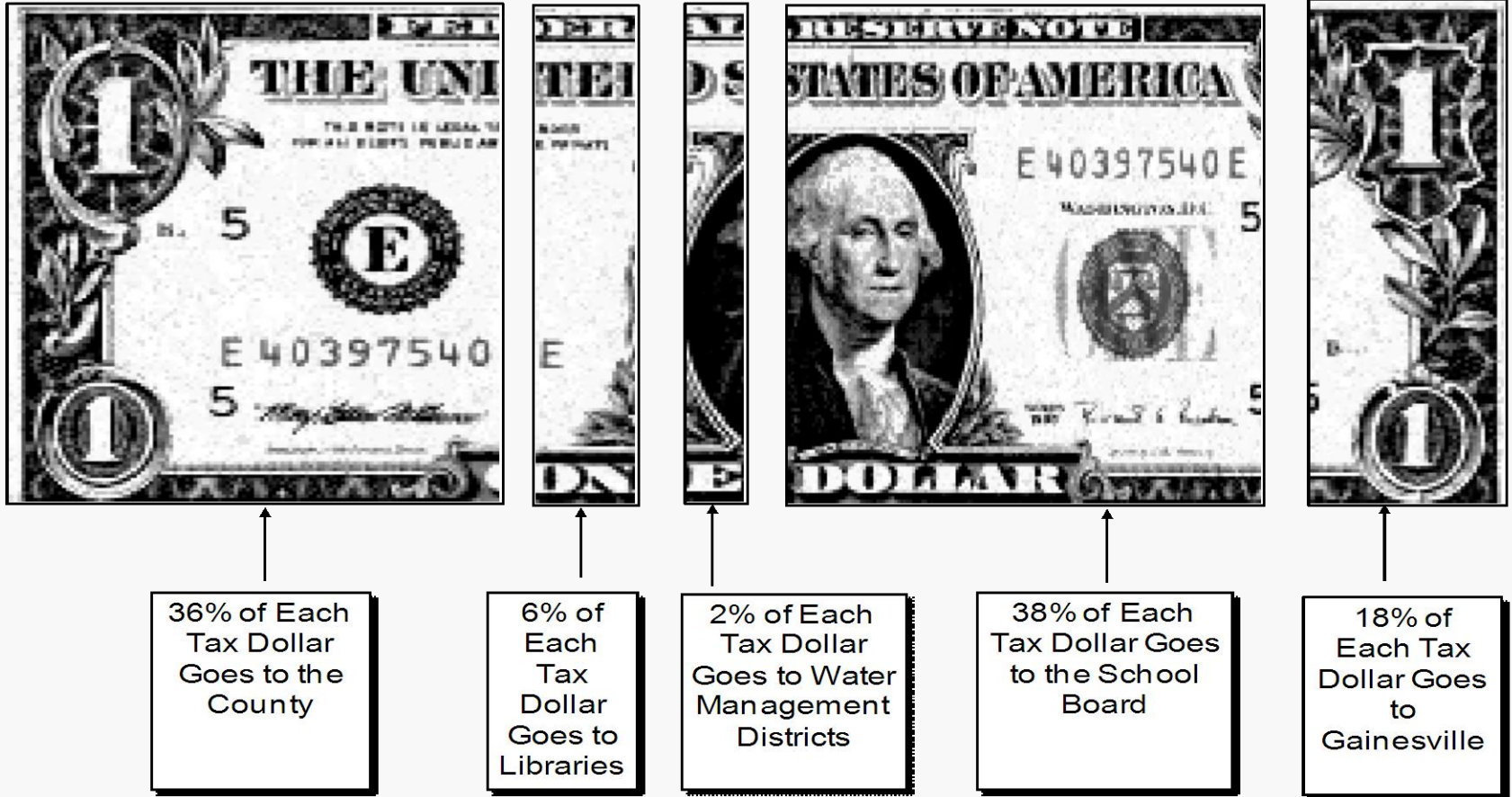
** Alachua County MSTU millage rates:
Unincorp. 0.4124
Law Enforce. 1.6710
Fire Protect. 1.3391



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General Government Property Tax

- Municipal type services funded from MSTU
 - Only property owners in unincorporated area pay MSTU millage
 - Exception only if Commissioners/Council of municipality elects to participate in an MSTU (ie. Fire protection)
 - Law enforcement; fire protection; environmental protection; parks; growth and development

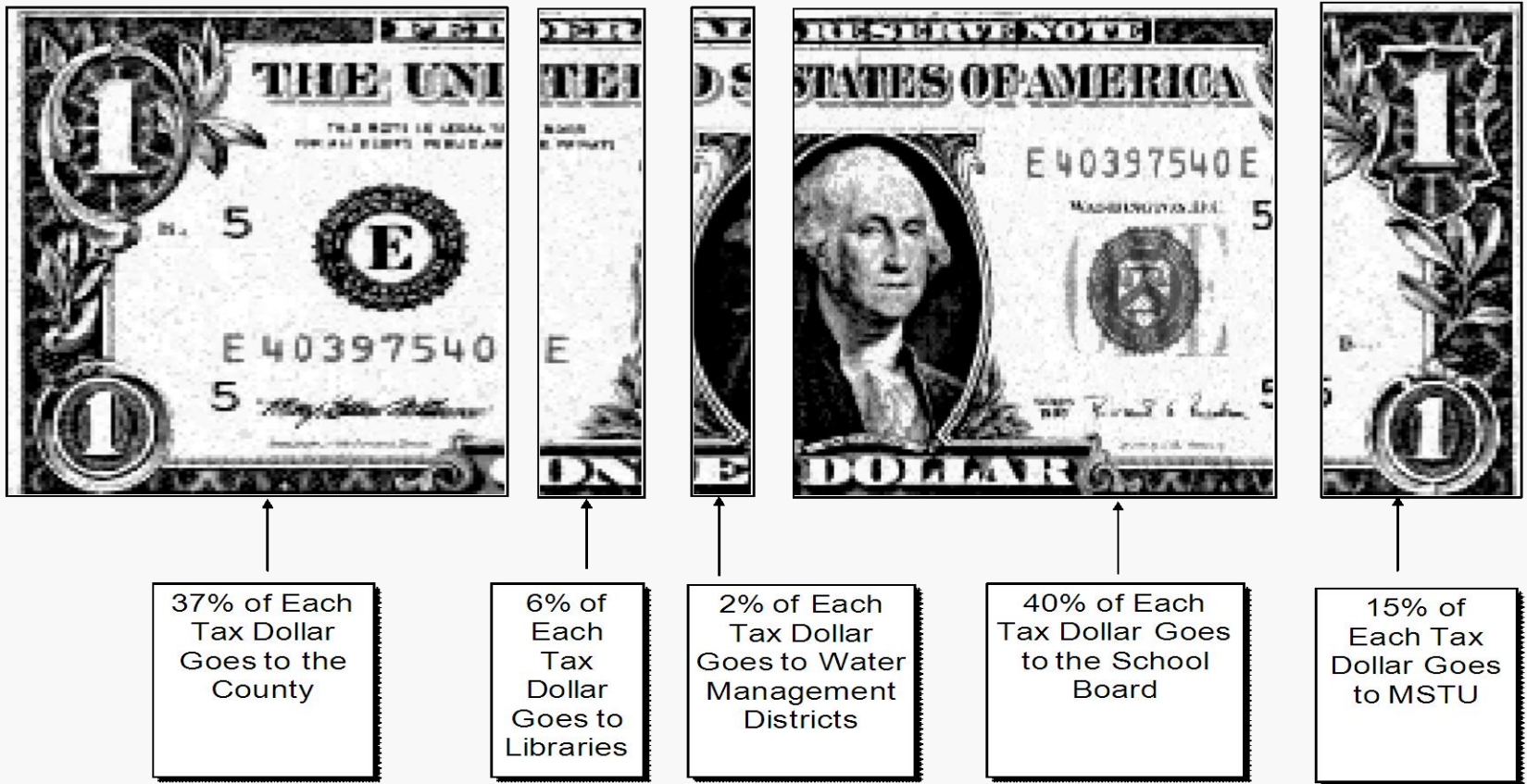


Example of Tax Allocation for a Property Located in the City of Gainesville, Alachua County

Taxing Authority	FY11 Adopted Millage Rates	Percentage of the Total
Alachua County - General	8.3763	35.1%
Alachua County - ACF	0.2500	1.0%
City of Gainesville	4.2544	17.8%
Alachua County School Board	9.1070	38.1%
Water Management District *	0.4158	1.7%
Library District	1.4736	6.2%
Total	23.8771	100.0%

Source: Alachua County Property Appraiser's Office.

* St. Johns River Water Management District millage rate is used as an example.



Example of Tax Allocation for a Property Located in the Unincorporated area of Alachua County

Taxing Authority	FY11 Adopted Millage Rates	Percentage of the Total
Alachua County - General	8.3763	36.3%
Alachua County - ACF	0.2500	1.1%
Unincorporated Area	3.4225	14.9%
Alachua County School Board	9.1070	39.5%
Water Management District *	0.4158	1.8%
Library District	1.4736	6.4%
Total	23.0452	100.0%

Source: Alachua County Property Appraiser's Office.

* St. Johns River Water Management District millage rate is used as an example.



General Government Property Tax

- Example Tax Year 2010 – Homeowner in City of Gainesville
 - Total Property Value \$260,900
 - Save our Homes - 65,400
 - Homestead Exempt. - 50,000
 - Taxable Value **\$145,500**
- Taxable value 55% of the total value
- 2010 Total Property Taxes - \$3,719



Community Conversations

County Government Budget Overview



Community Conversations

- Florida Statute requirements
 - Fiscal year (FY) from October 1st thru September 30th
 - FY12 ends on September 30, 2012
 - Required to have a balanced budget; not allowed to have deficit
 - Truth-in-Millage (TRIM)
 - Required notifications to property owners and general public
 - Required to hold two public hearings every year to adopt millage rates and adopt the budget



Community Conversations

- FY12 Tentative Budget was presented to the Board on July 7
 - Proposes increased millage rate for General Fund; same as current rates for MSTU's
 - Reduces Board department positions by 7.75 net
 - Funds 2012 Presidential Preference Primary for Supervisor of Elections
 - Funds equipment replacement plans for the Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and Fire Rescue



Community Conversations

- FY12 Tentative Budget was presented to the Board on July 7
 - Sets aside funding for 2% salary increase dependent upon realized retirement benefit savings and Board approval
 - Does not fund entire jail staffing request from the Sheriff for 48 additional positions

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Employee Adjustments Since Fiscal Year 2007 Up To And Including Fiscal Year 2012

Department	FY07 Adopted	FY08 Adopted	FY09 Adopted	FY10 Adopted	FY11 Adopted	FY12 Requested	FY12 Tentative
Non-Departmental (Prev in AD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Information & Telecomm Serv	51.00	49.00	49.00	48.00	46.00	(1.00)	45.00
General Government	49.00	48.00	49.00	47.00	46.50	0.00	46.50
Administrative Services (AD)	74.80	72.80	72.80	71.80	71.80	(1.75)	70.05
Community Support Services	70.00	68.00	72.00	69.00	68.00	0.50	68.50
Court Services	97.75	95.75	98.25	96.25	96.75	0.00	96.75
Public Safety	244.00	243.50	243.50	242.50	229.00	(2.00)	227.00
Environmental Protection	37.90	39.50	38.85	37.85	37.00	(1.50)	35.50
Growth Management (GM)	63.00	62.00	59.00	51.00	50.00	(2.00)	48.00
Public Works (PW)	232.47	233.06	232.00	225.00	223.50	(1.00)	222.50
Special Expense	1.00					0.00	0.00
Capital Projects (Prev in PW & GM)				3.00	3.00	0.00	3.00
BoCC Total	920.92	911.61	914.40	891.40	871.55	(7.75)	863.80
Constitutional Office							
Clerk of Circuit Court F&A	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
Court and Corrections	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00
Court Administration	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	14.00
Guardian Ad Litem	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00
Public Defender	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
Property Appraiser	58.00	58.00	57.00	56.00	54.00	0.00	54.00
Sheriff	819.67	824.50	849.50	849.00	852.25	48.00	900.25
Supervisor of Elections	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	0.00	13.00
Tax Collector	70.00	69.50	69.50	68.50	65.00	0.00	65.00
Constitutional Office Total	1003.67	1008.00	1033.00	1030.50	1028.25	48.00	1076.25

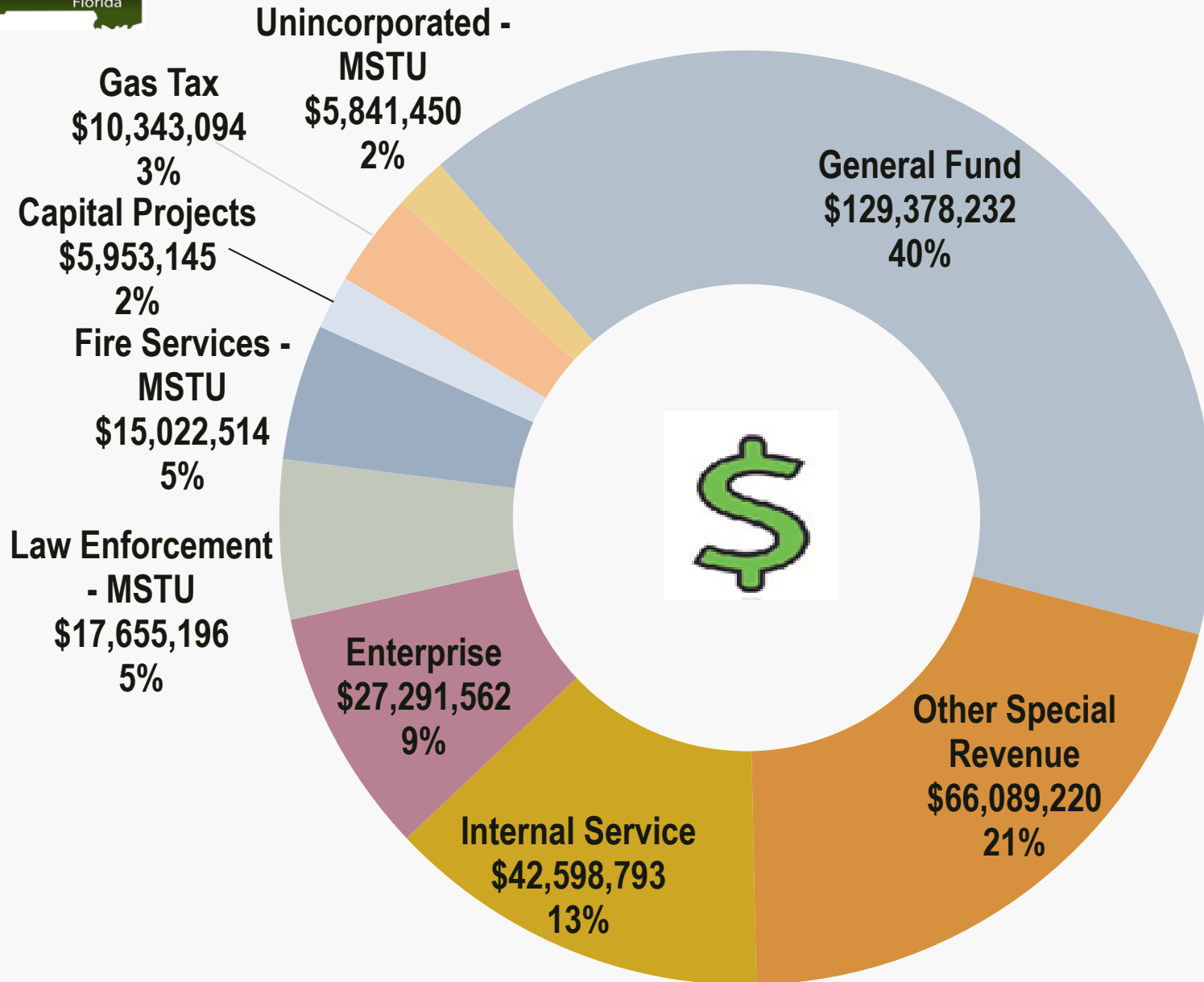
ALTERNATIVE FY12 MILLAGE RATES

Property Tax Revenue Only	General Fund	MSTU General	MSTU Law Enforcement	MSTU Fire Services
Property Value Growth	-3.19%	-3.40%	-2.09%	-3.38%
Current Millage	8.3763	0.4124	1.6710	1.3391
Projected Revenue	92,847,146	1,891,770	8,347,029	6,274,689
FY11 Adopted Budget	95,657,802	1,957,129	8,525,338	6,489,375
Difference	(2,810,656)	(65,359)	(178,309)	(214,686)
Revenue Stabilization	8.6299	0.4266	1.7067	1.3849
Projected Revenue	95,658,176	1,956,908	8,525,358	6,489,297
FY11 Adopted Budget	95,657,802	1,957,129	8,525,338	6,489,375
Difference	374	(221)	20	(78)
Simple Majority Cap	8.7704	0.4481	1.7403	1.4100
Projected Revenue	97,215,549	2,055,534	8,693,197	6,606,909
FY11 Adopted Budget	95,657,802	1,957,129	8,525,338	6,489,375
Difference	1,557,747	98,405	167,859	117,534
Rollback (up)	8.7224	0.4320	1.7308	1.4023
Projected Revenue	96,683,493	1,981,679	8,645,743	6,570,829
FY11 Adopted Budget	95,657,802	1,957,129	8,525,338	6,489,375
Difference	1,025,691	24,550	120,405	81,454
Super Majority Cap	9.6474	0.4929	1.9143	1.5510
Projected Revenue	106,936,661	2,261,041	9,562,368	7,267,601
FY11 Adopted Budget	95,657,802	1,957,129	8,525,338	6,489,375
Difference	11,278,859	303,912	1,037,030	778,226



FY12 Tentative Budget - All Funds

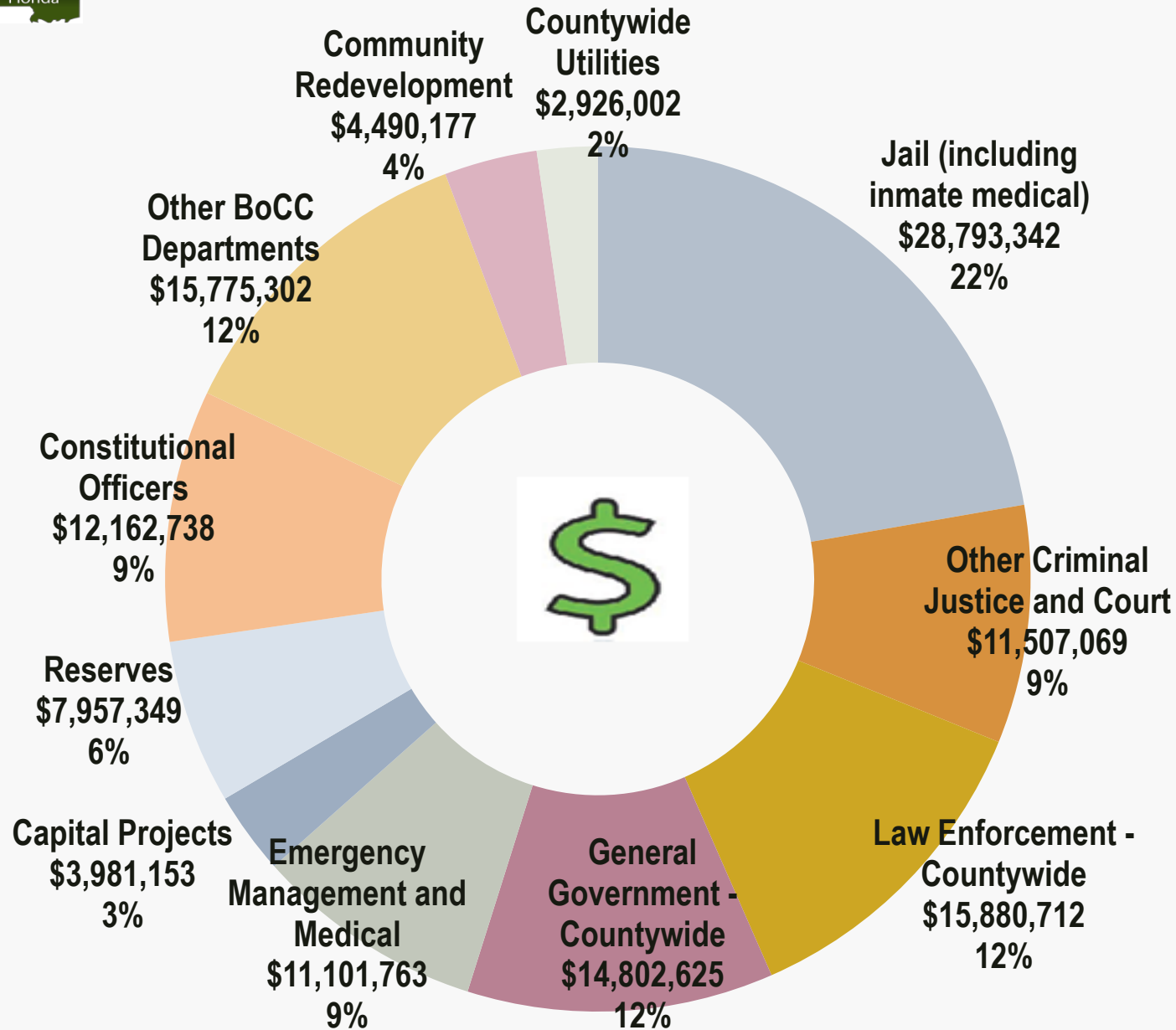
\$320,173,206





FY12 Tentative Budget - General Fund

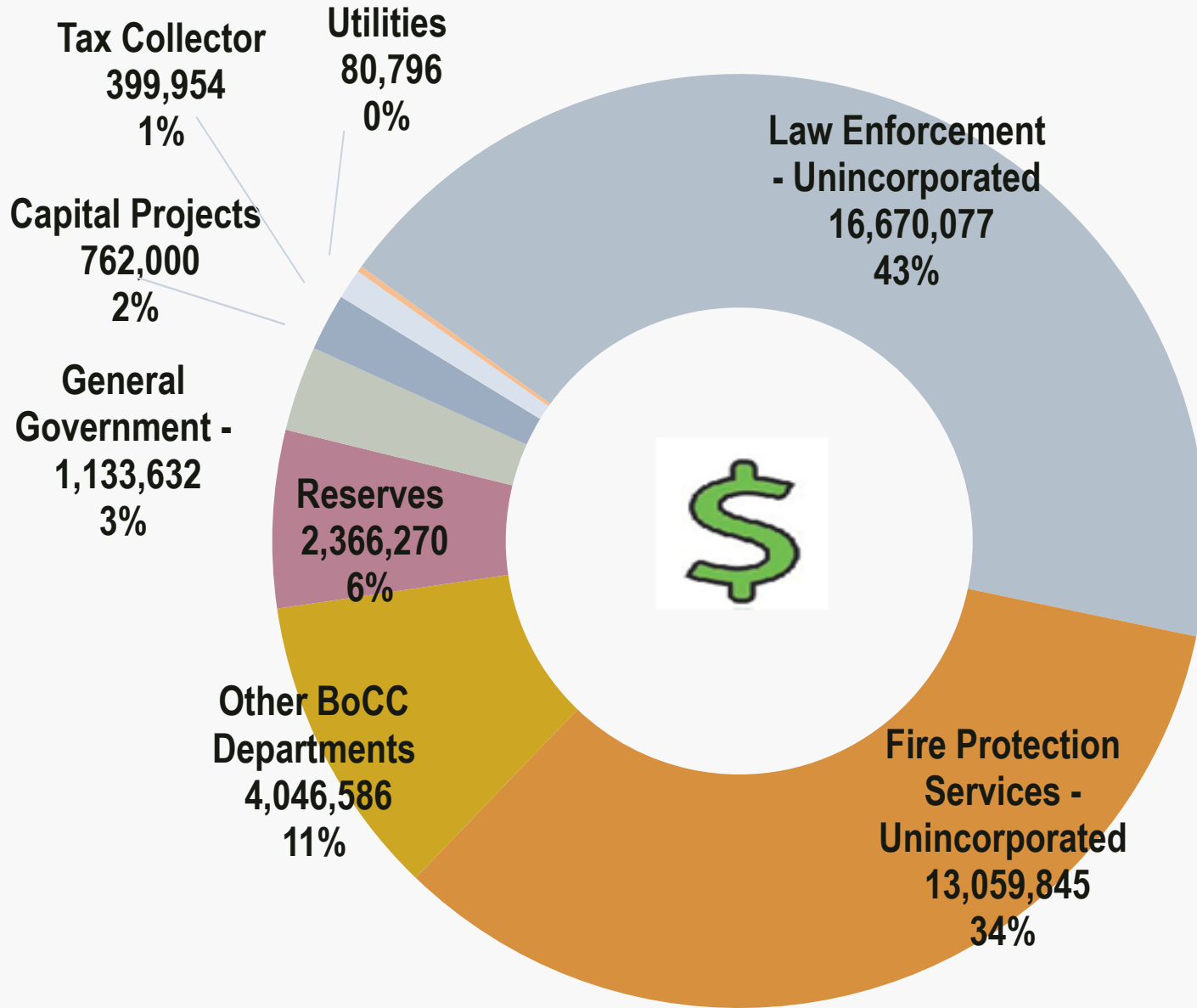
\$129,278,232





FY12 Tentative Budget - MSTU Funds

\$38,519,160






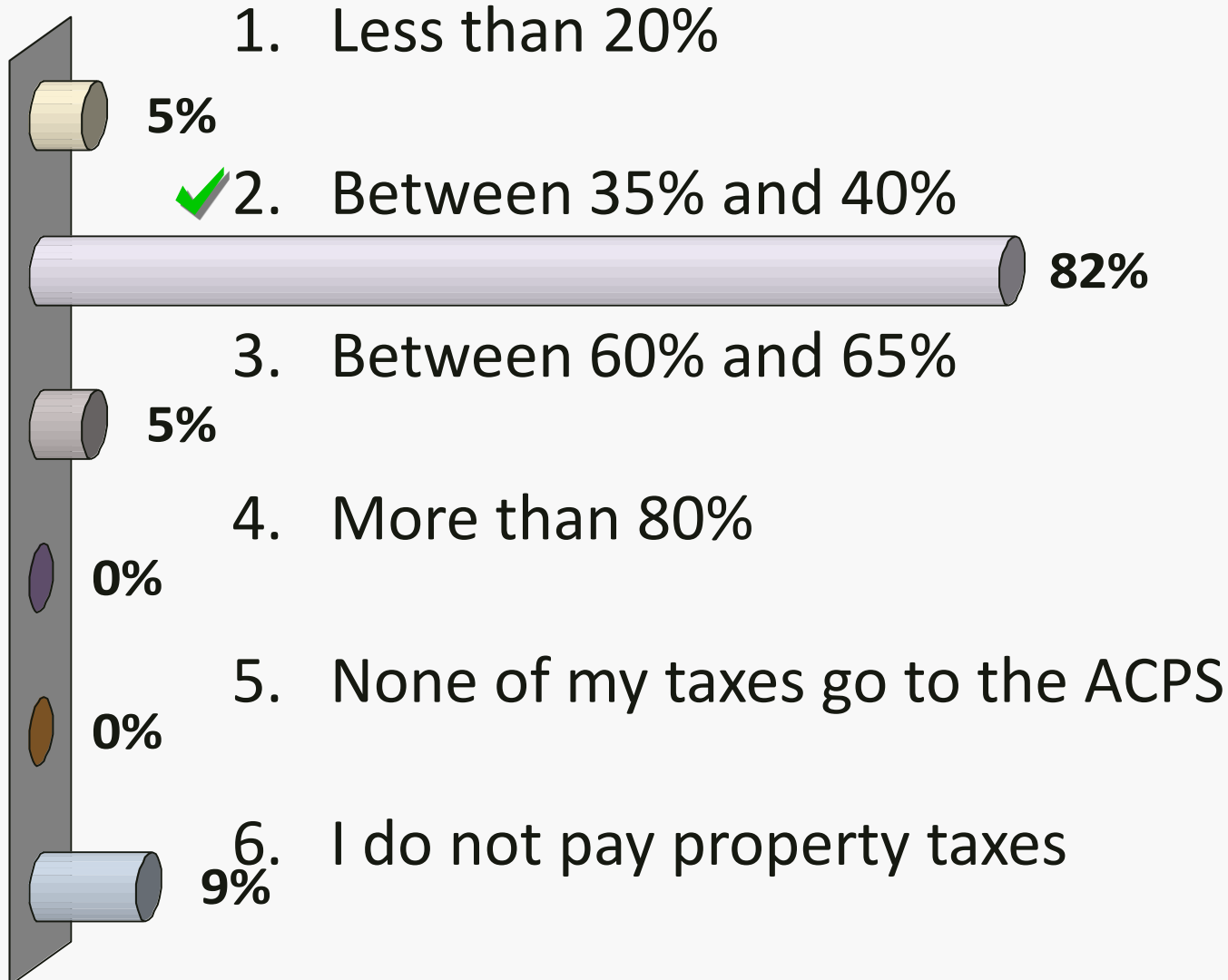
Community Conversations

Core Service Questions

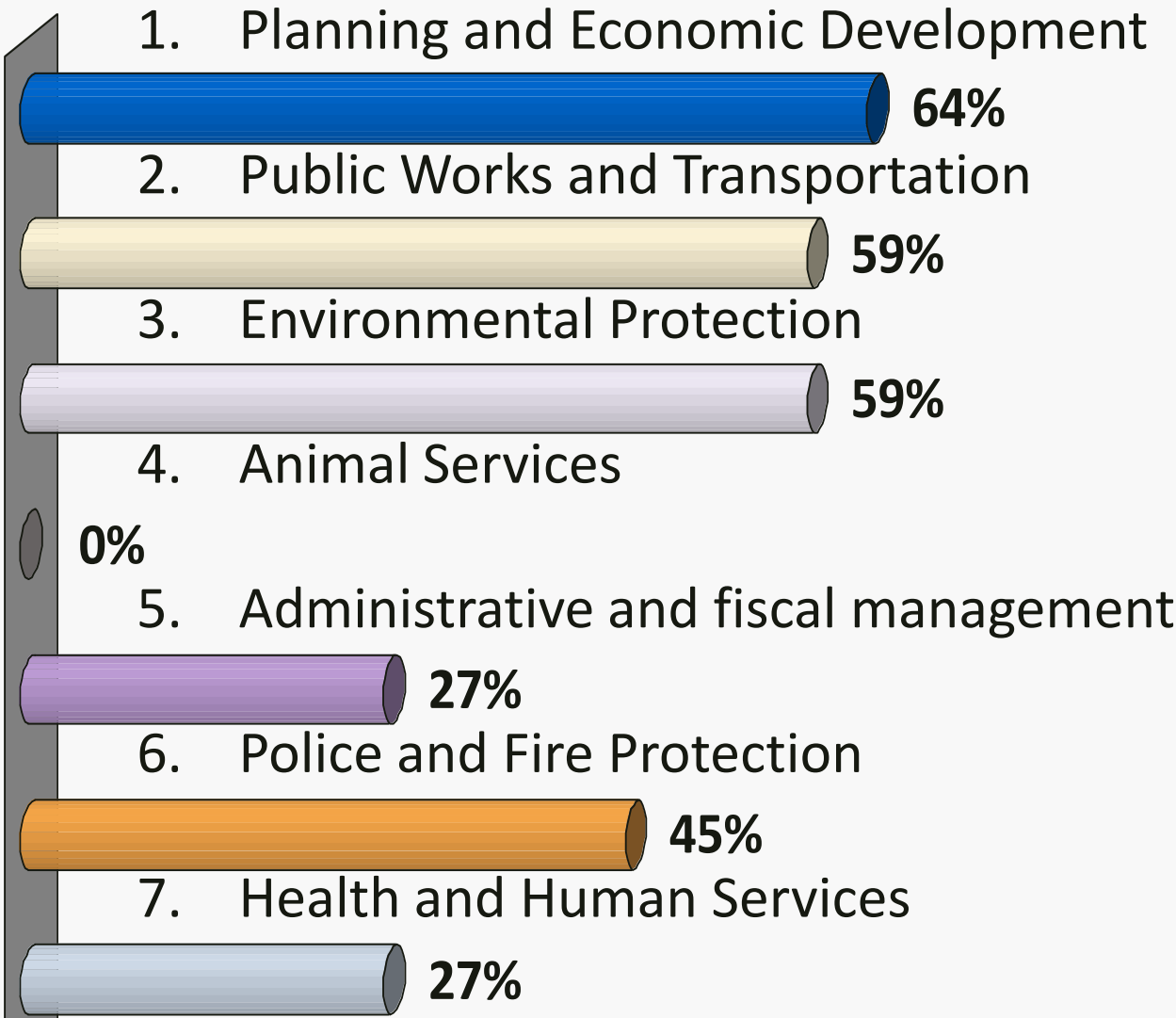
Which service listed below is not the responsibility of Alachua County Board of County Commissioners under State law?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 25% | 1. Paying for facilities for the state court system |
| 5% | 2. Medical Examiner's expense |
| 5% | 3. Annual financial audit |
| 0% | 4. Solid waste disposal |
| 10%  | 5. Collection of stray animals |
| 0% | 6. Maintenance of County roads |
| 0% | 7. Funding Sheriff's road patrol |
| 55% | 8. All are required services per state statute |
| 0% | 9. None are required service per state statute |

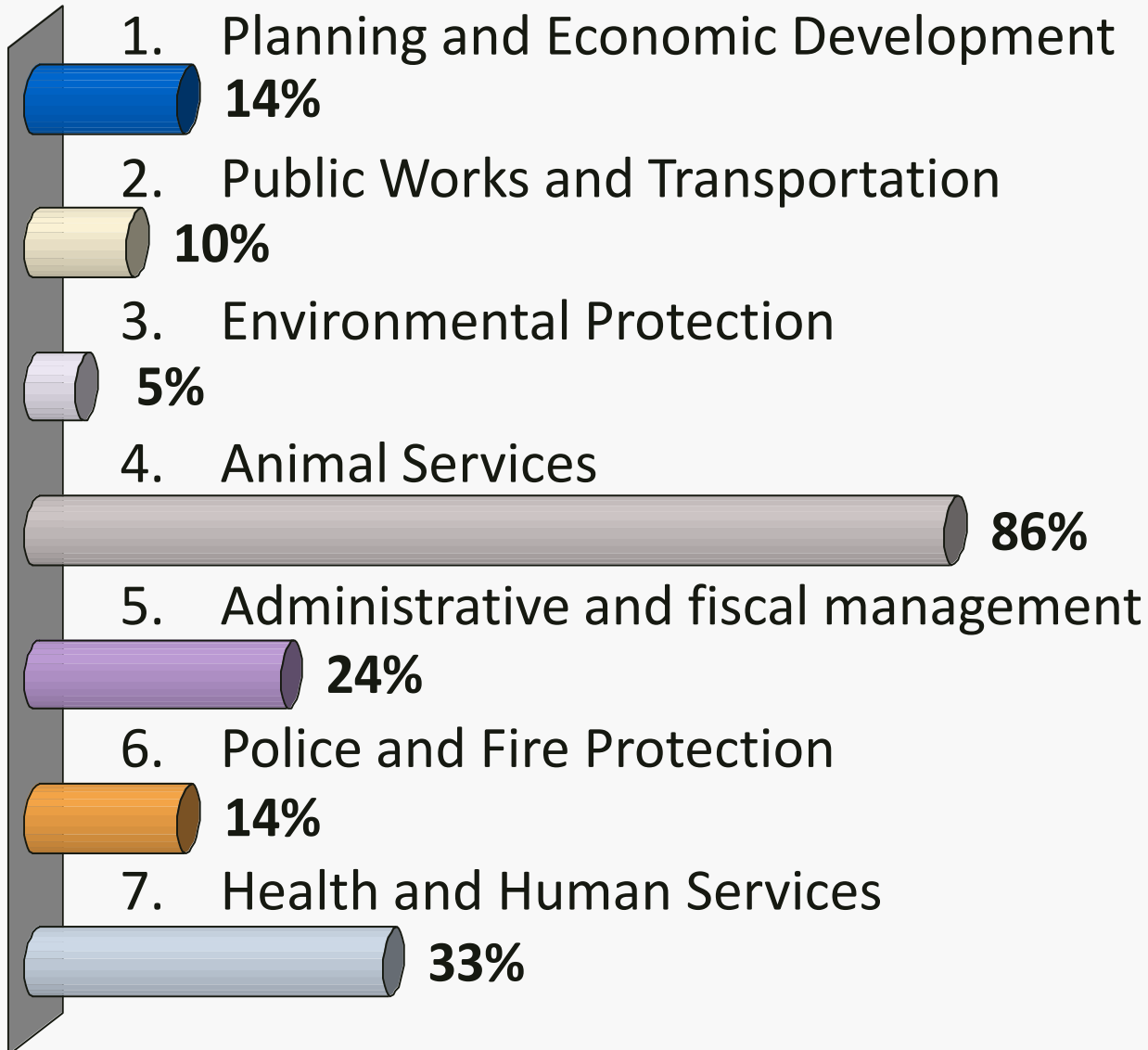
On average, what % of your property tax dollar goes to Alachua County Public Schools (ACPS)?



Which core areas do you believe are the most important to the future quality of life in Alachua County? (select three)



Which core areas do you believe are the least important to the future quality of life in Alachua County? (select two)



Which of the following strategies do you favor for dealing with the rising costs of incarceration of people in the county jail?
(select two)

-
- A horizontal bar chart with six rows, each representing a strategy. The percentage of respondents favoring each strategy is shown in a colored box to the left of the strategy text. The strategies are numbered 1 through 6. The colors of the boxes are yellow, light purple, grey, medium purple, orange, and light blue respectively.
- | Percentage | Strategy |
|------------|---|
| 59% | 1. Reduce sentences for non-violent offenders |
| 77% | 2. Increased community service and work program sentences |
| 23% | 3. Increase capacity for drug treatment programs |
| 32% | 4. Increase use of sentencing to electronic home monitoring |
| 5% | 5. Build additional jail beds and increase staffing |
| 5% | 6. Privatize jail management |
- 59% 1. Reduce sentences for non-violent offenders
 - 77% 2. Increased community service and work program sentences
 - 23% 3. Increase capacity for drug treatment programs
 - 32% 4. Increase use of sentencing to electronic home monitoring
 - 5% 5. Build additional jail beds and increase staffing
 - 5% 6. Privatize jail management

Which of the following County public infrastructure investments would you support funding with your tax dollars?

Pick three in order of importance to you

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 25% | 1. Road construction and maintenance |
| 2% | 2. Expansion of the County jail |
| 1% | 3. Development of fairgrounds |
| 13% | 4. Sidewalks, bike paths, trails |
| 6% | 5. Expansion of bus services |
| 15% | 6. Park and recreation facilities |
| 14% | 7. Purchase environmental lands |
| 22% | 8. Energy conservation and utility reduction |
| 3% | 9. Beautification and landscaping |
| 0% | 10. None of the above |

There is a major discussion of alternative public transportation needs in the County: under what conditions would you ride on a public transit system such as RTS (bus)? Pick all that apply.

62% 1. If it offered a clean, comfortable experience

29% 2. If the ride time is the same or faster than my car

0% 3. When I am not carpooling the kids

24% 4. I would only ride for special events (football game)

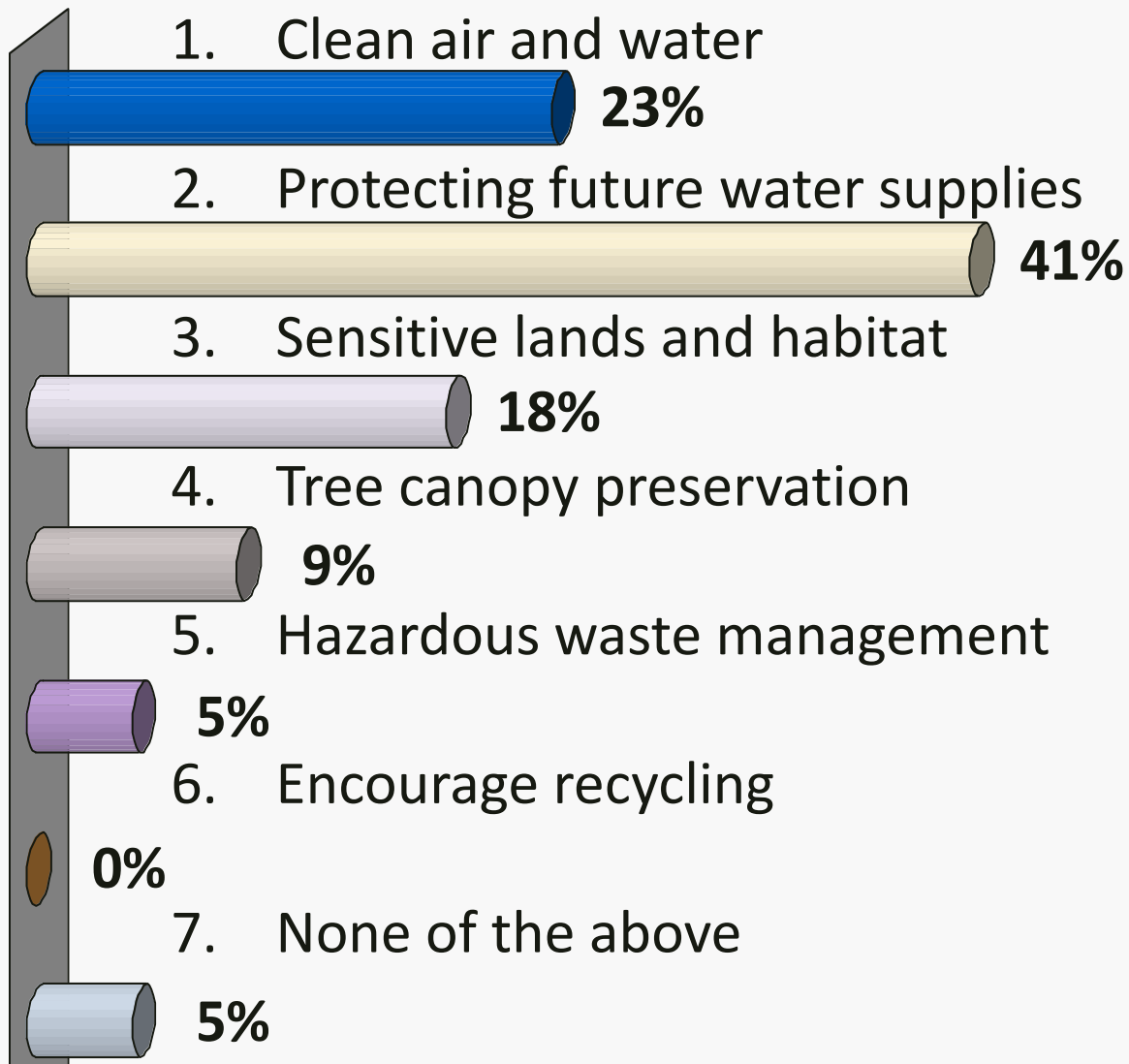
10% 5. If gas prices get much higher, I might

52% 6. If area routes picked up near my home

57% 7. If the bus goes where and when I want to go

14% 8. I would never ride the bus

Which of the following environmental issues are most important for Alachua County to address? (select one)



Which one of the following community service programs should the County invest in?

32% 1. Reducing Homelessness

45% 2. Youth protection and parenting skills

5% 3. Substance abuse prevention

0% 4. Mental health counseling

0% 5. Rent and utility assistance

0% 6. Transportation assistance

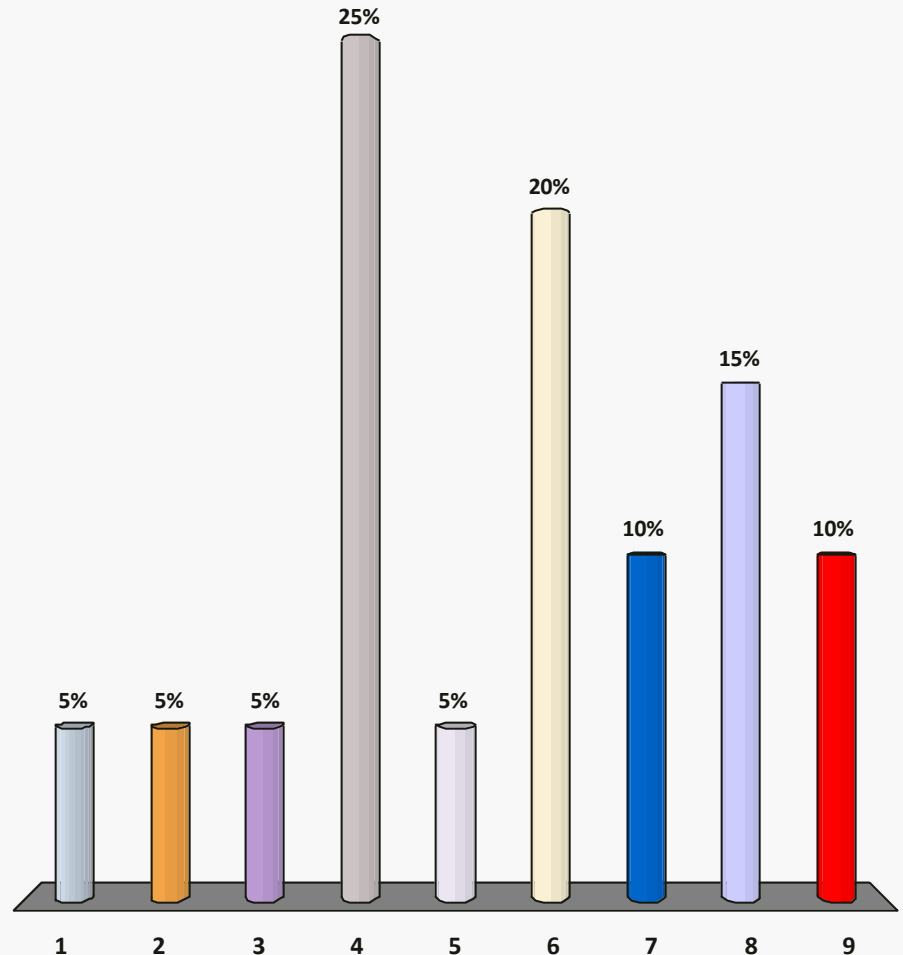
9% 7. Elder services

0% 8. Veterans support

9% 9. None of the above

What one is the best strategy for growing our local economy?

1. Provide tax incentives to new companies
2. Creating publicly funded industrial park(s)
3. Expanding roadways and utilities
4. Reduce or streamline business regulation
5. Ensuring site availability for industrial development
6. Business incubators and venture capital
7. Promote agriculture and local foods
8. Buy from local retailers whenever possible
9. None of the above





Community Conversations

Table-Top Activity



Community Conversations

Table Top Activity

- Reduce your budget by \$2,700
- Cannot reduce inmate medical cost, medical examiner



Community Conversations

Closing Remarks



Community Conversations

We would to thank the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and National Center for Civic Innovation for funding these conversations.

We would also like to thank Peter Block for his guidance in community building.



Community Conversations

Thank you for being here!

Please share your thoughts on the
“idea” board.



Community Conversations

Thank you for your participation!