



# *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



## *Community Conversations*

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*



## Community Conversations

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.



## Community Conversations

- 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?

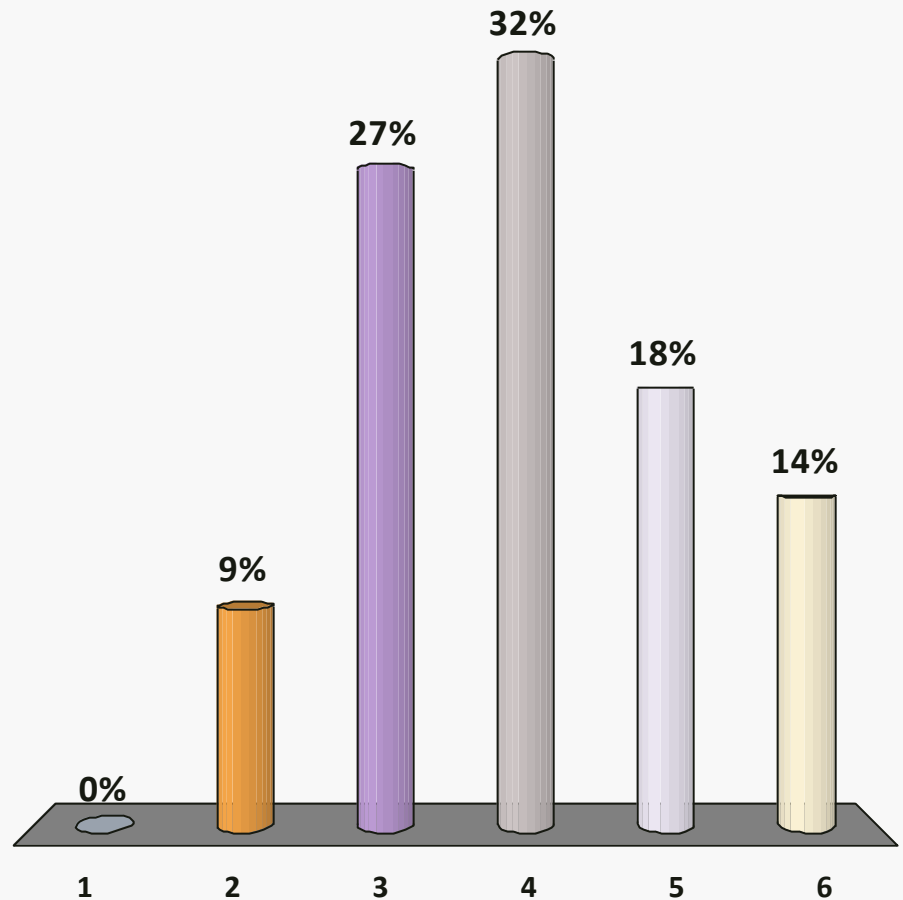


# What area most closely represents where you live?

- 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

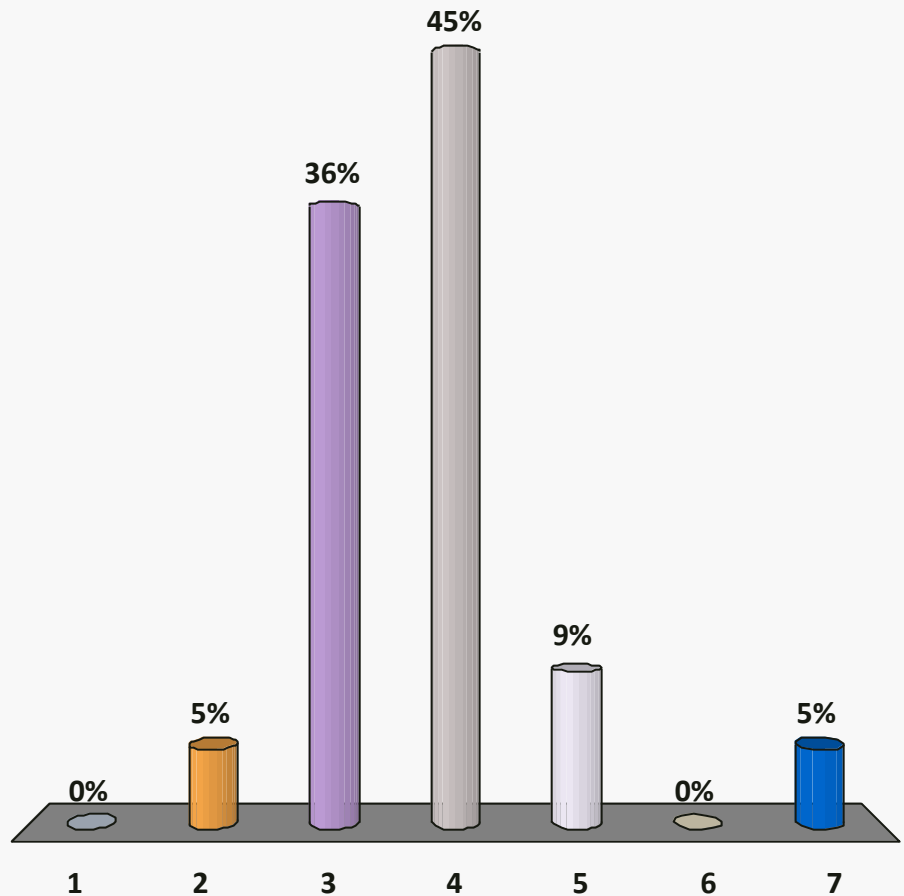
# What is your current age?

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



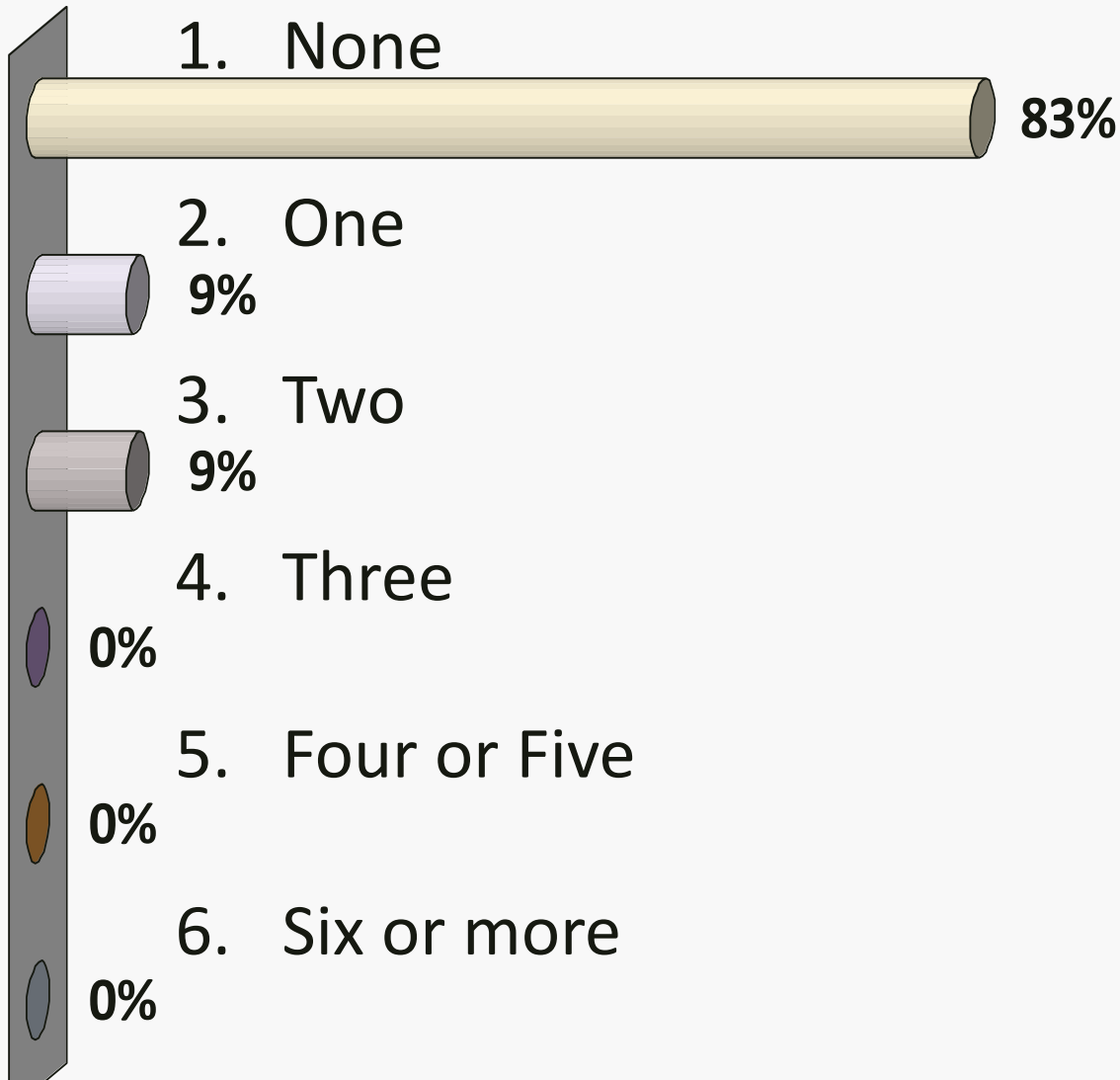
# What is your highest level of education?

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



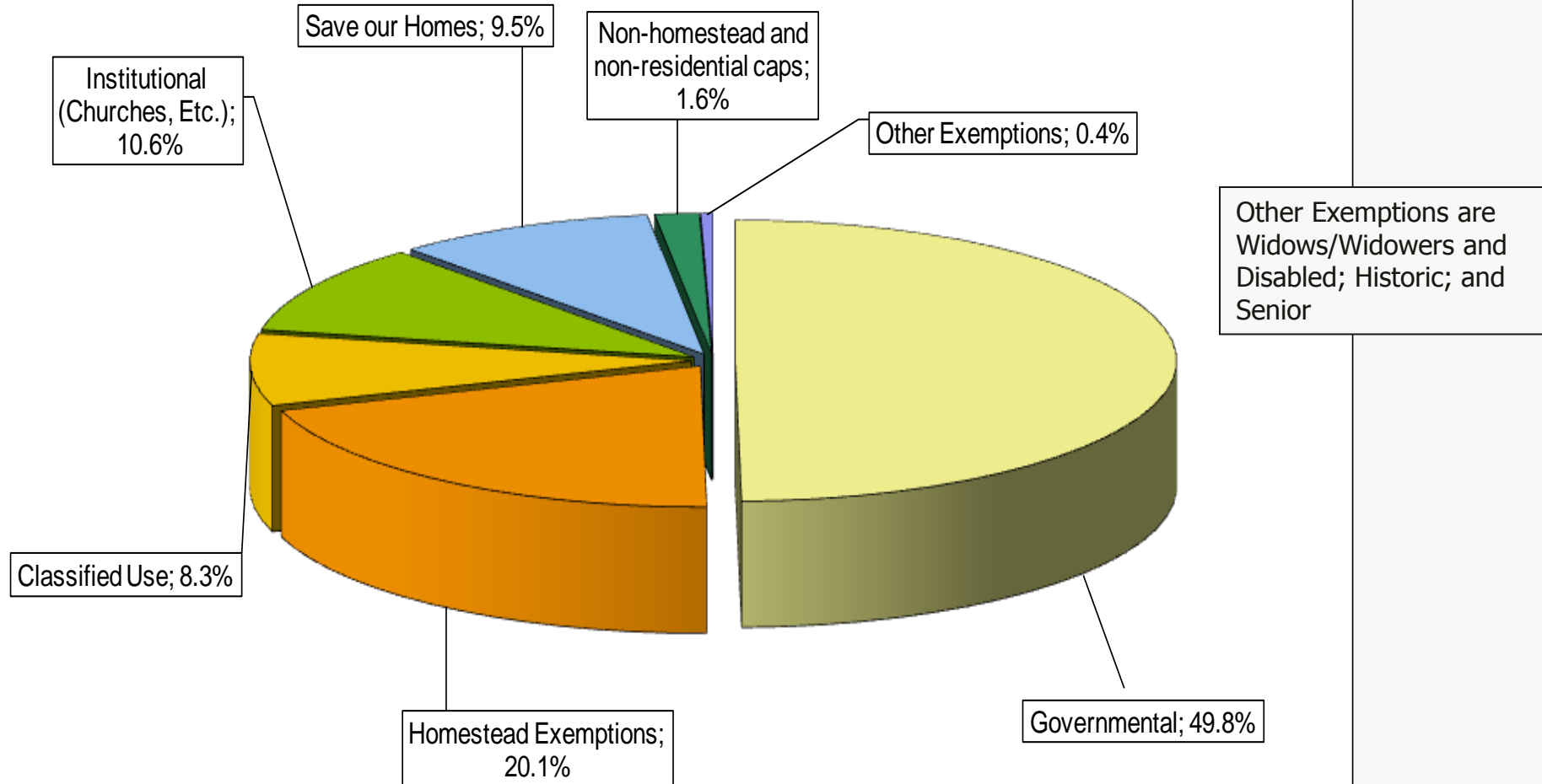
## Community Conversations

### 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

<b>Micanopy</b>	8.0000
<b>High Springs</b>	6.1500
<b>Waldo *</b>	5.8686
<b>Alachua</b>	5.5000
<b>Hawthorne *</b>	5.3194
<b>Archer *</b>	5.0000
<b>Gainesville</b>	4.2544
<b>Newberry *</b>	3.8500
<b>Unincorporated **</b>	3.4225
<b>LaCrosse</b>	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.

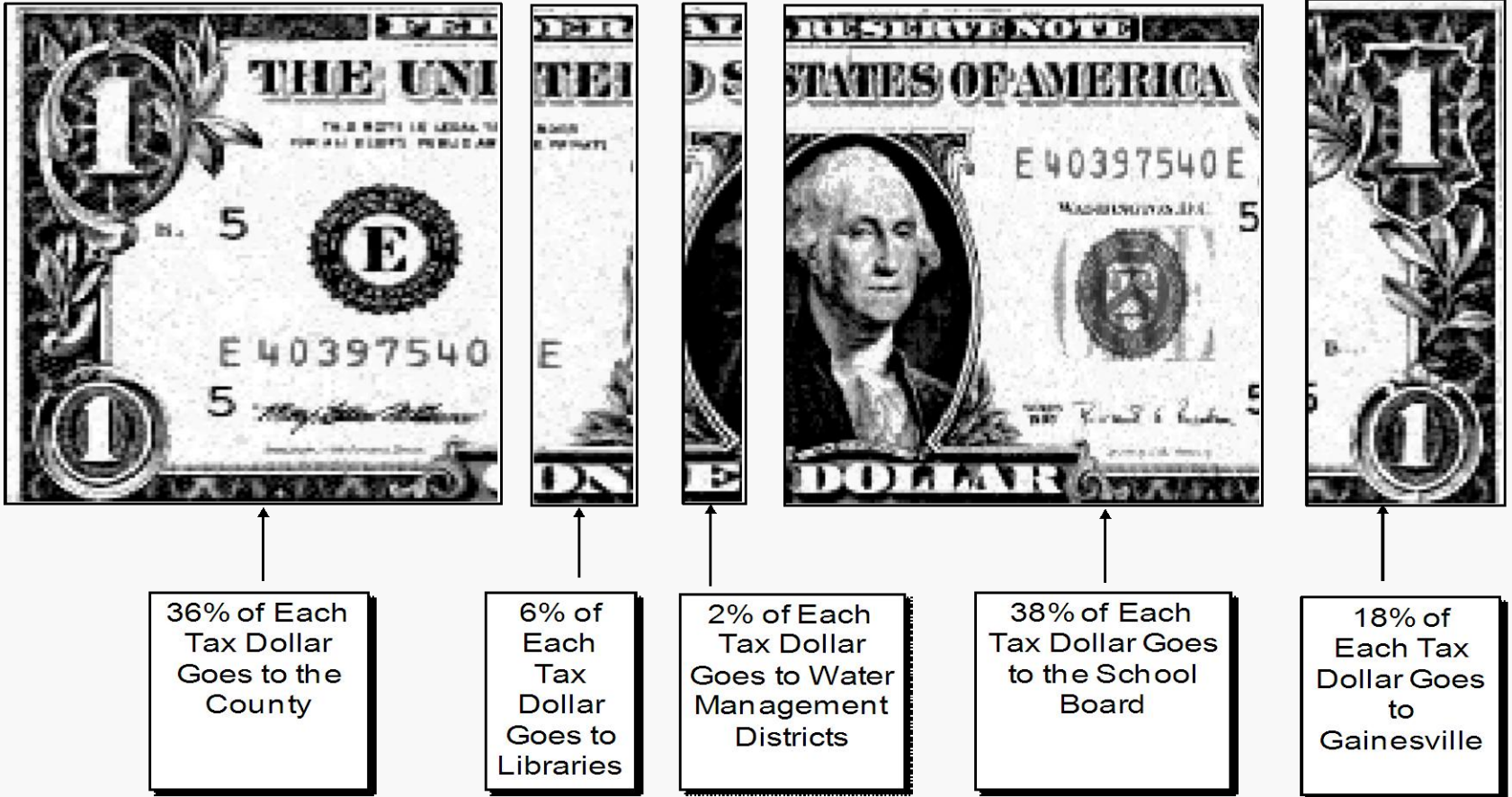
\*\* Alachua County MSTU millage rates:  
Unincorp. 0.4124  
Law Enforce. 1.6710  
Fire Protect. 1.3391



## Community Conversations

# 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

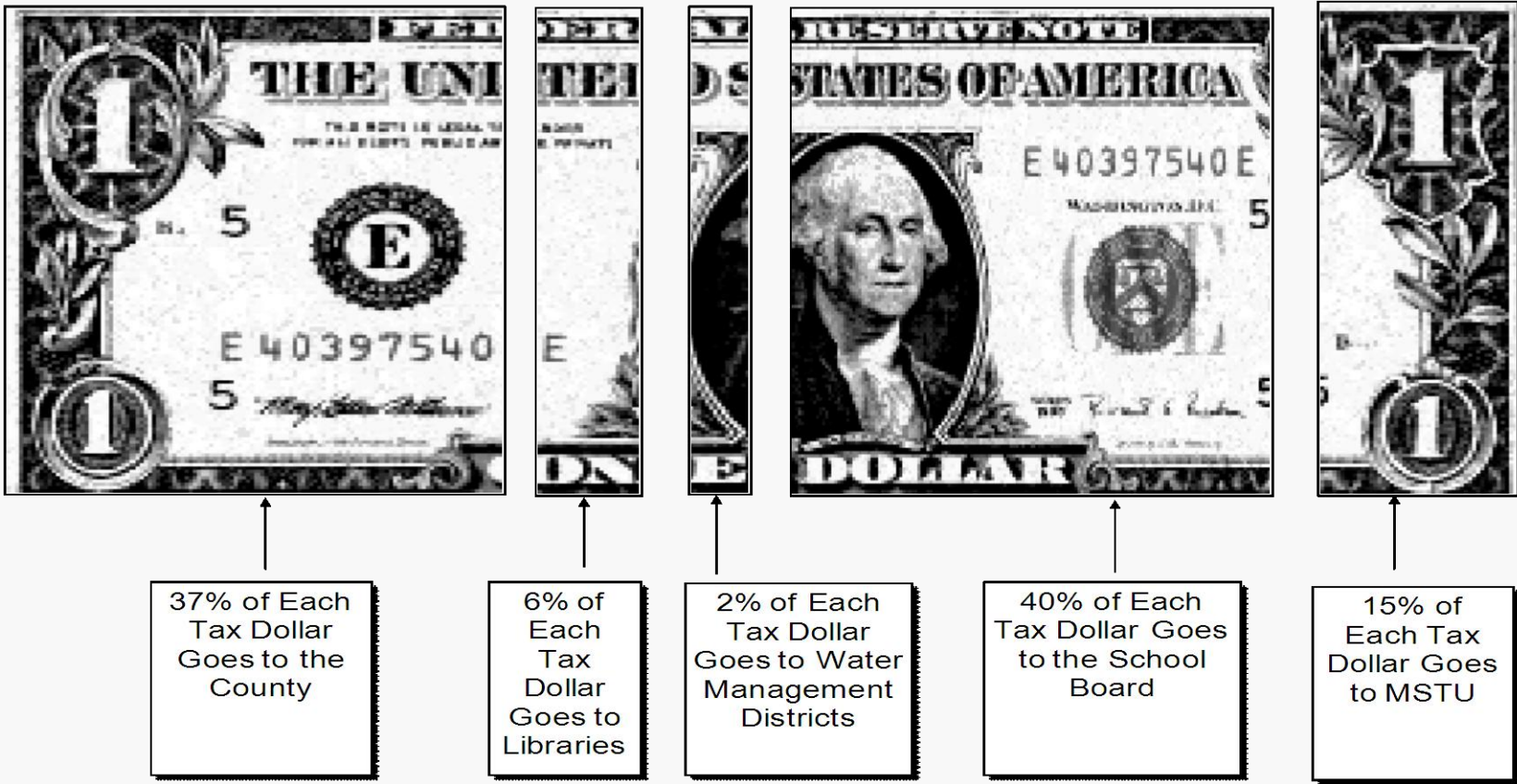


**Example of Tax Allocation for a Property Located in the City of Gainesville, Alachua County**

<b>Taxing Authority</b>	<b>FY11 Adopted Millage Rates</b>	<b>Percentage of the Total</b>
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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.8771</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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**

<b>Taxing Authority</b>	<b>FY11 Adopted Millage Rates</b>	<b>Percentage of the Total</b>
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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.0452</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup>
    - 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**

<b>Department</b>	<b>FY07 Adopted</b>	<b>FY08 Adopted</b>	<b>FY09 Adopted</b>	<b>FY10 Adopted</b>	<b>FY11 Adopted</b>	<b>FY12 Requested</b>	<b>FY12 Tentative</b>
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
<b>BoCC Total</b>	<b>920.92</b>	<b>911.61</b>	<b>914.40</b>	<b>891.40</b>	<b>871.55</b>	<b>(7.75)</b>	<b>863.80</b>
<b>Constitutional Office</b>							
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
<b>Constitutional Office Total</b>	<b>1003.67</b>	<b>1008.00</b>	<b>1033.00</b>	<b>1030.50</b>	<b>1028.25</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>1076.25</b>

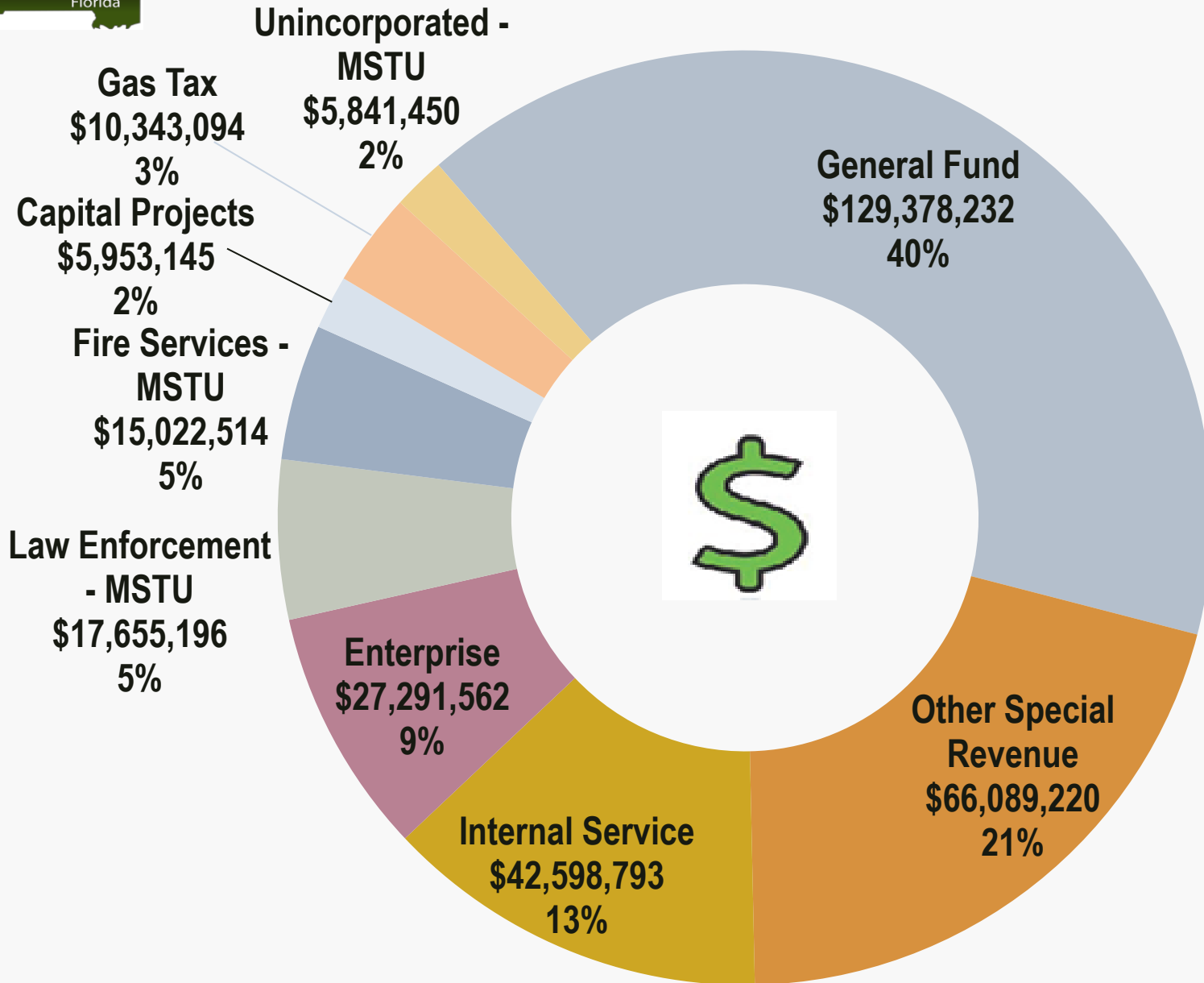
# ALTERNATIVE FY12 MILLAGE RATES

Property Tax Revenue Only	General Fund	MSTU General	MSTU Law Enforcement	MSTU Fire Services
<b>Property Value Growth</b>	<b>-3.19%</b>	<b>-3.40%</b>	<b>-2.09%</b>	<b>-3.38%</b>
<b>Current Millage</b>	<b>8.3763</b>	<b>0.4124</b>	<b>1.6710</b>	<b>1.3391</b>
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	<b>(2,810,656)</b>	<b>(65,359)</b>	<b>(178,309)</b>	<b>(214,686)</b>
<b>Revenue Stabilization</b>	<b>8.6299</b>	<b>0.4266</b>	<b>1.7067</b>	<b>1.3849</b>
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	<b>(221)</b>	20	<b>(78)</b>
<b>Simple Majority Cap</b>	<b>8.7704</b>	<b>0.4481</b>	<b>1.7403</b>	<b>1.4100</b>
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
<b>Rollback (up)</b>	<b>8.7224</b>	<b>0.4320</b>	<b>1.7308</b>	<b>1.4023</b>
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
<b>Super Majority Cap</b>	<b>9.6474</b>	<b>0.4929</b>	<b>1.9143</b>	<b>1.5510</b>
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

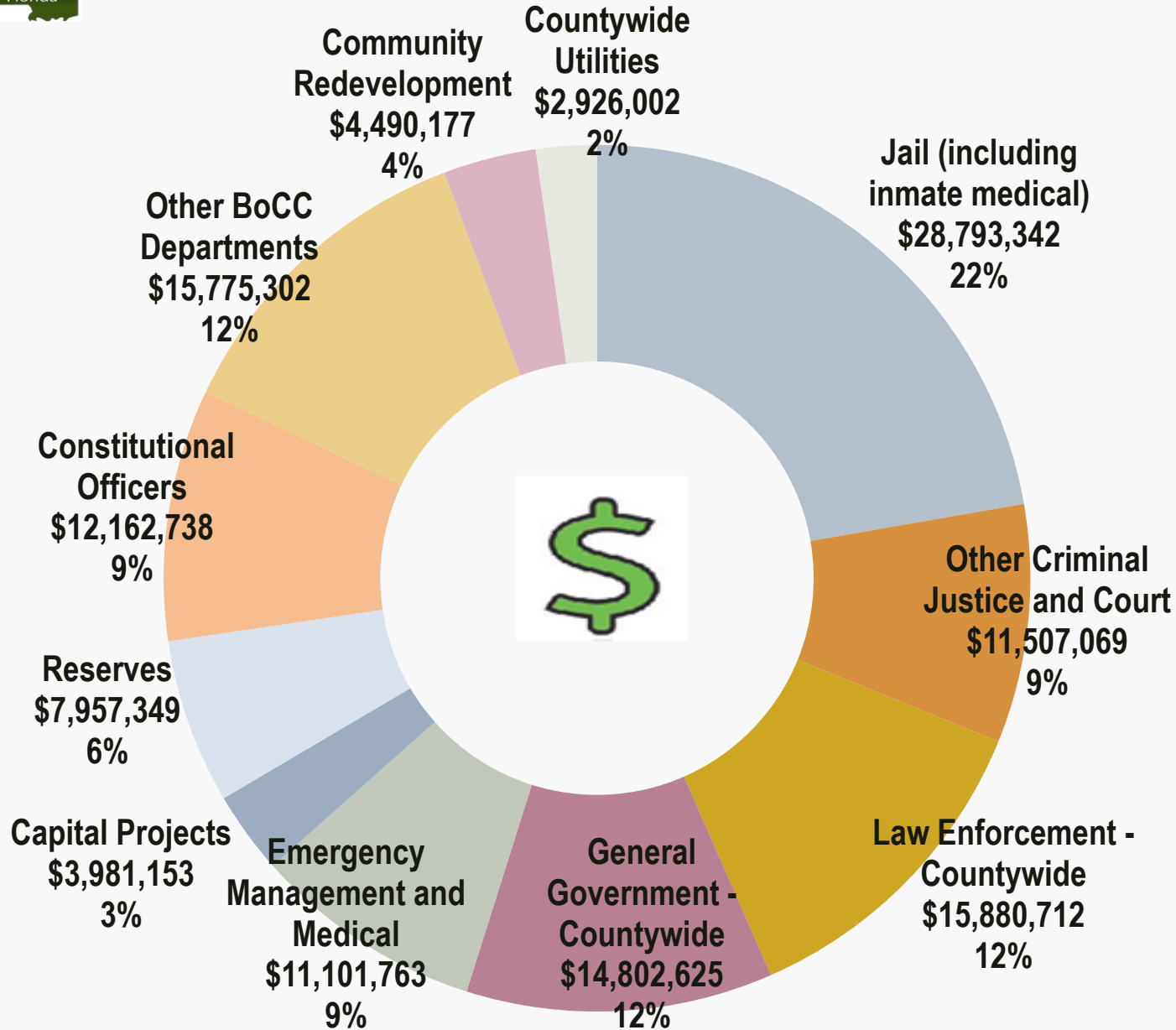
**\$320,173,206**





# FY12 Tentative Budget - General Fund

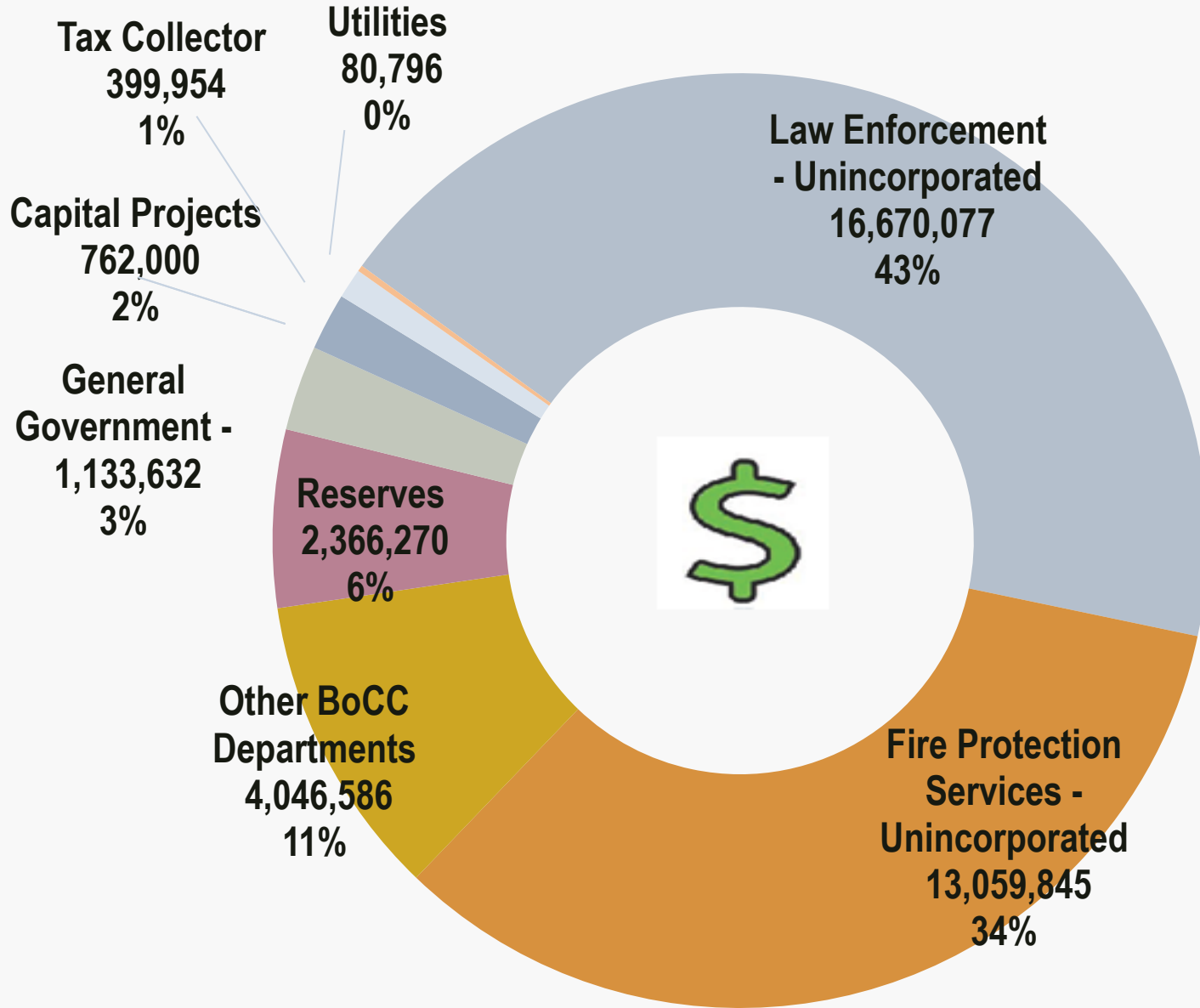
## \$129,278,232





# FY12 Tentative Budget - MSTU Funds

## \$38,519,160






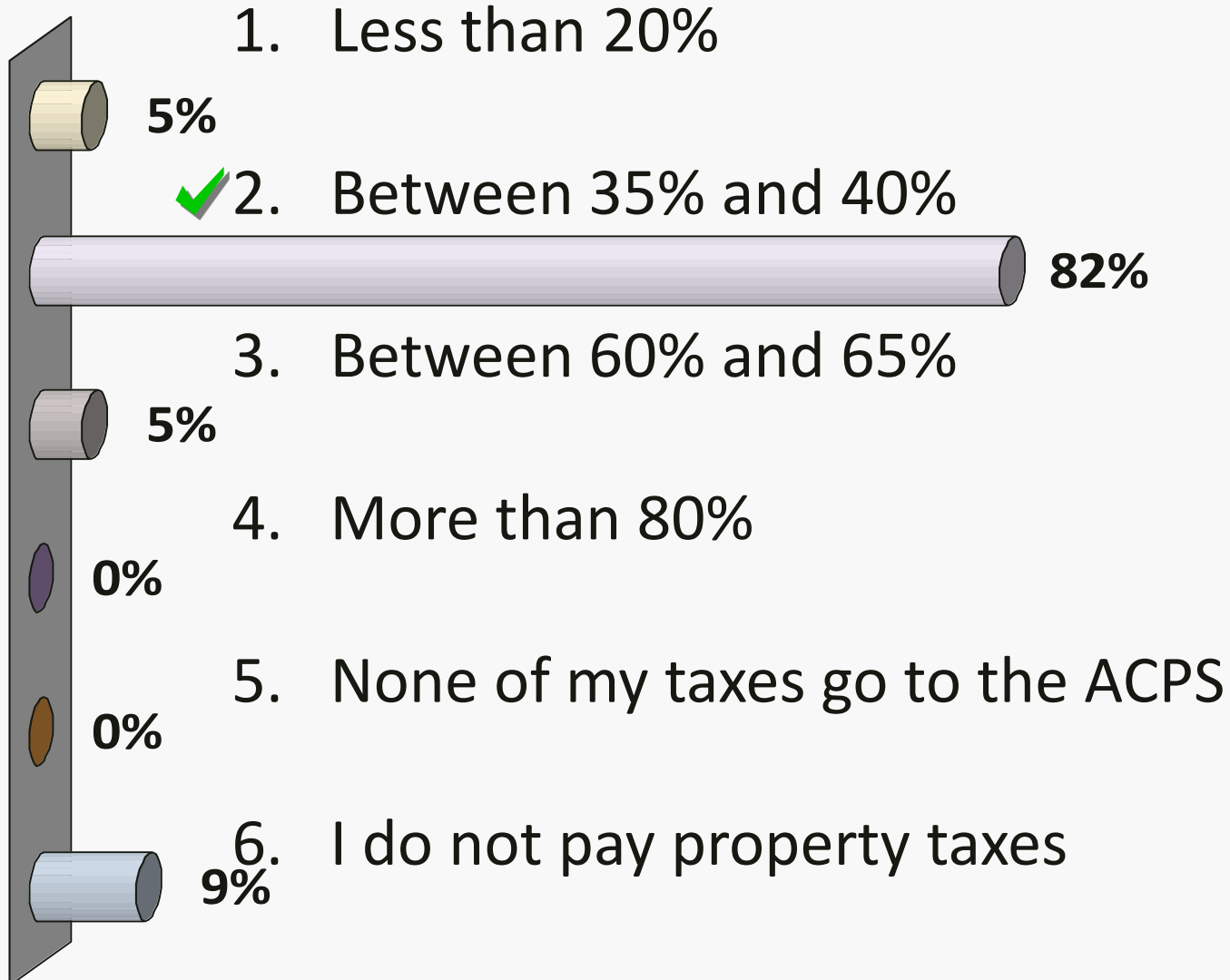
# *Community Conversations*

## Core Service Questions

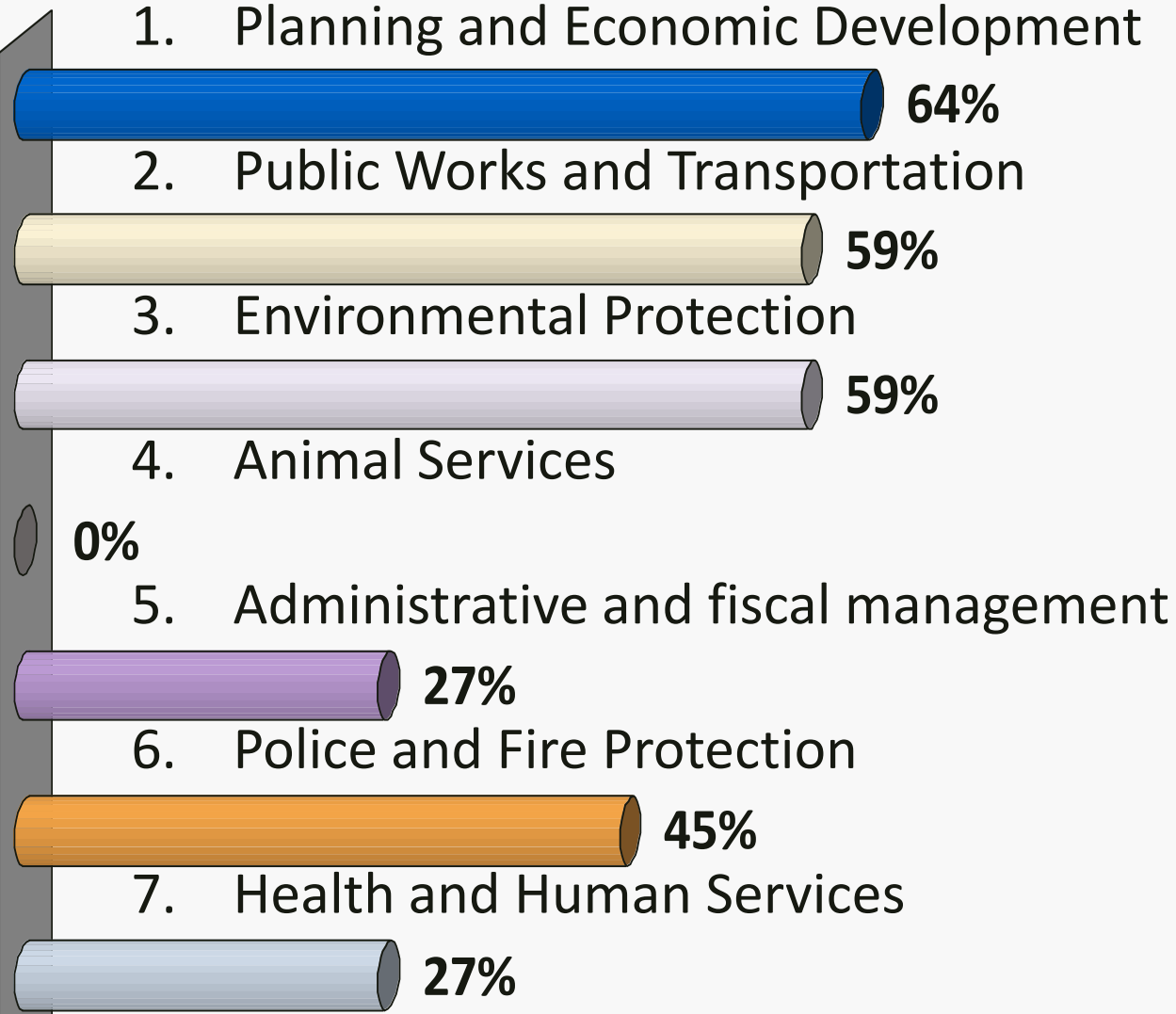
Which service listed below is not the responsibility of Alachua County Board of County Commissioners under State law?

- 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

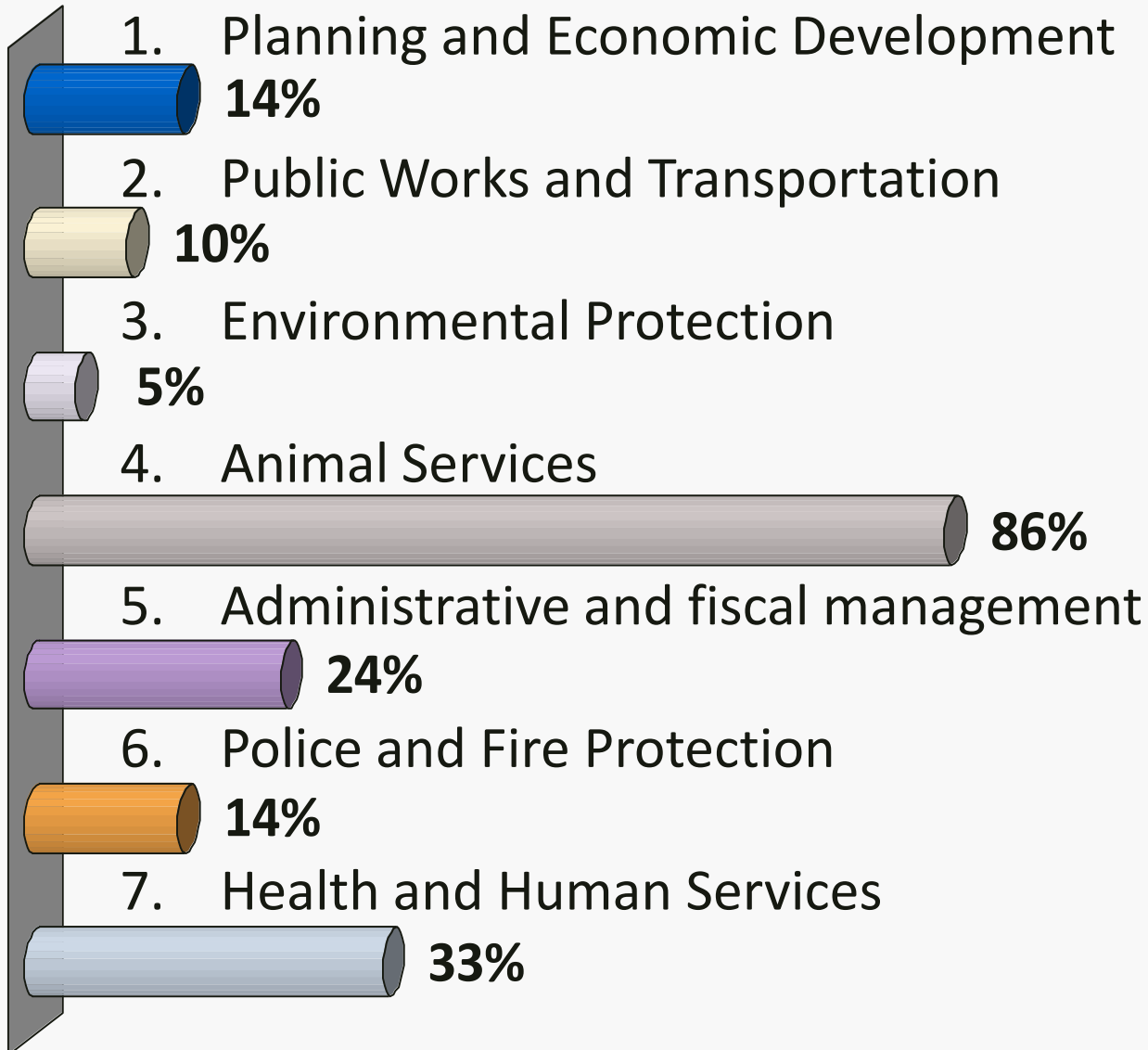
On average, what % of your property tax dollar goes to Alachua County Public Schools (ACPS)?



# 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)

- 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)

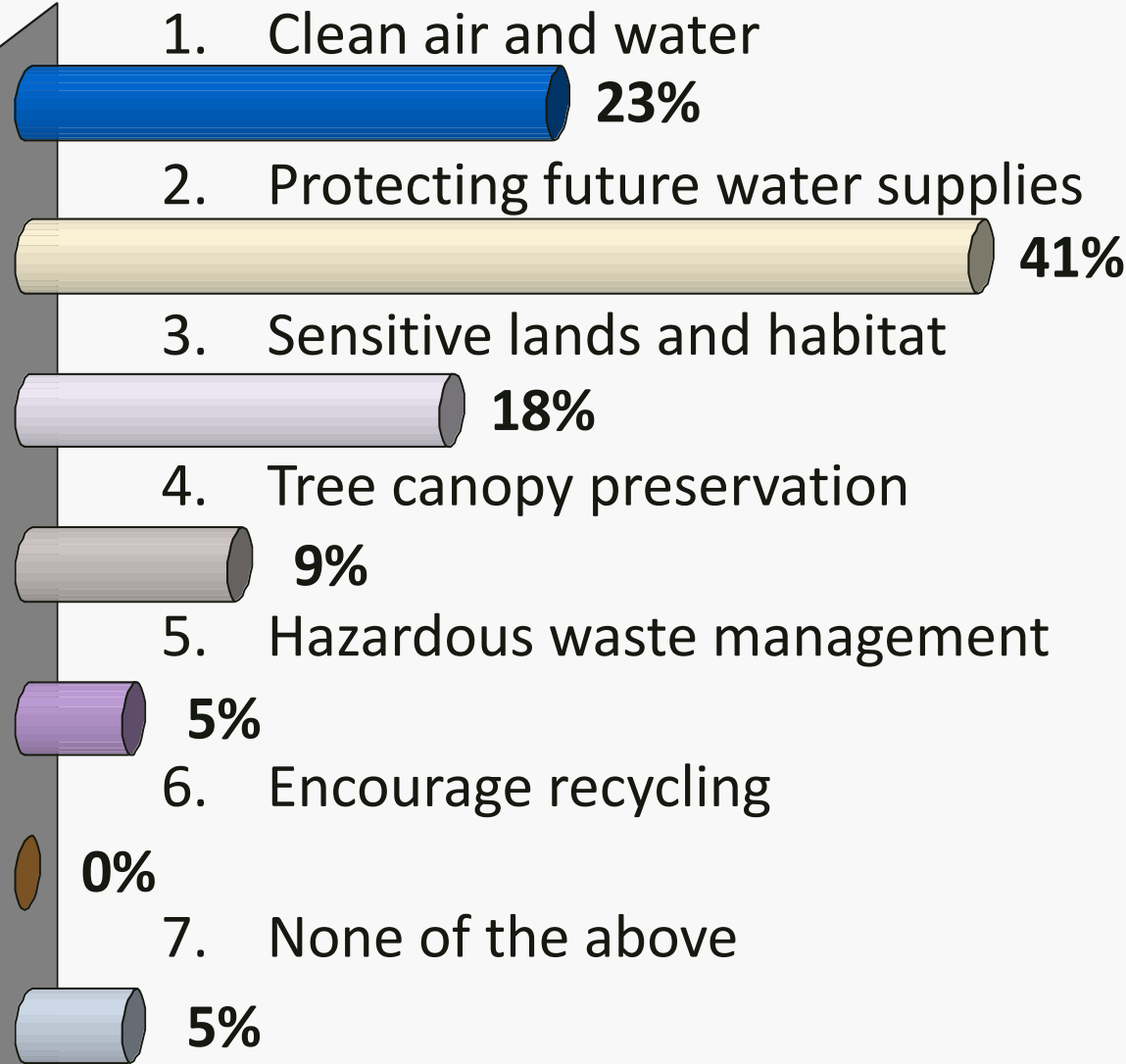
10% 5. If gas prices get much higher, I might

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

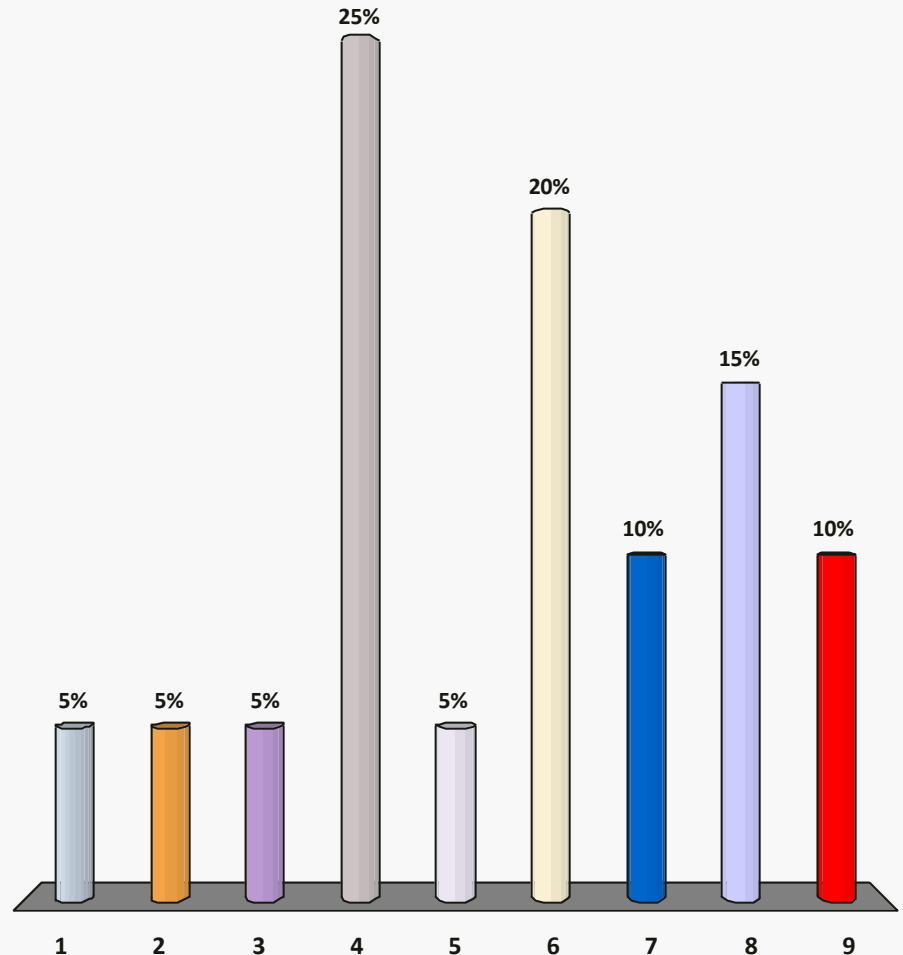
9% 7. Elder services

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!