



2012 *Community Conversations*

Alachua County

Board of County Commissioners

Community Conversations 2012

Combined Results Presentation



2012 *Community Conversations*

Community Conversations 2012 Combined Results Presentation

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2012 *Community Conversations*

Meeting General Information

4 Meetings conducted between August 16th and August 25th, 2012

Total Attendance = 87

Average Attendance per Meeting = 22

Conducted four (4) sessions – Total in attendance = 87

August 16, 2012 – Thursday @ Senior Recreation Center (NW area)

Total in attendance 37

Of 36 on RSVP listing – 10 were no-shows
11 signed-in without prior RSVP

August 20, 2012 – Monday @ Alachua County Health Department (East area)

Total in attendance 19

Of 20 on RSVP listing – 5 were no-shows
4 signed-in without prior RSVP

August 23, 2012 – Thursday @ GRU Downtown (Central)

Total in attendance 20

Of 25 on RSVP listing – 6 were no-shows
1 signed-in without prior RSVP

August 25, 2012 – Saturday @ Kanapaha Freedom Center (SW area)

Total in attendance 11

Of 24 on RSVP listing – 15 were no-shows
2 signed-in without prior RSVP.



2012 *Community Conversations*

Small Group Conversations:

What makes you most proud of our community?

What would excite and engage you enough to participate (or participate more frequently) in Alachua County government?

While the County used reasonable efforts to collect audience comments, the following was scribed manually by staff and may not include exact word for word detail.

Community Conversations – August 16, 2012

What makes you most proud of our community?

- Diverse community
- Progressive programs
- Community involvement
- Family oriented community
- Variety of support groups
- Recreation
- Recycling programs
- Environmental values
- Education
- Hospitals
- University
- Technology

What would excite and engage you enough to participate (or participate more frequently) in Alachua County government?

- Internet/TV coverage
- More focused board meetings
- Easy parking
- Encourage local community meetings/smaller neighborhood meetings
- Access programs – highly interactive
- Additional information on-line
- Asking for community comments
- If our needs are met by the meetings
- Enhanced feeling of being part of something

Other audience points:

- Pre-trial intervention is very important – will this continue?
- How do you get awarded bids? How do you become a vendor? Ensure that all construction projects are bid – no matter how large or small.

Community Conversations – August 20, 2012

What makes you most proud of our community?

- University
- Progressive community
- Various cultural activities
- Environment
- Youth
- Access to government
- Community provides for people to have a good life
- Good trash disposal
- Recycling program
- Animal control
- Activities to get an education

What would excite and engage you enough to participate (or participate more frequently) in Alachua County government?

- Commissioners need to get to the point
- Public engagement
- Respect big issues
- Reasonable agenda and follow it/Agenda management
- Reluctant to put their voice in record
- Feel their input means something
- Meeting to be held at convenient times for the public
- When things start to go wrong citizens will get involved
- If they really love something

Other audience points:

- My taxes are lower. Why drop millage when things are bad?

Community Conversations – August 23, 2012

What makes you most proud of our community?

- Natural resources/Environmental mindedness
- Public involvement/Activism
- Open mindedness
- Progressiveness
- Quality of residents
- Diversity
- Communication
- Access to activities
- Natural resource protection
- Historic site preservation
- Residents more educated
- Transportation considerations (buses & bike lanes)
- Cultural options
- Younger demographics
- Innovative government

What would excite and engage you enough to participate (or participate more frequently) in Alachua County government?

- A simple way to know about all opportunities
- If meetings were less boring
- If participation focused around citizen's available free time
- More time certain about important issues
- More scandals
- Real dialog/less hot air
- Commissioners become less single minded about their own issues/personal feelings
- More relevant issues

Community Conversations – August 25, 2012

What makes you most proud of our community?

- County is mindful of Citizens & their needs
- Active participation rate of Citizens
- County runs smoothly in an ebb & flow atmosphere
- County parks & recreation
- County's spirit of innovation

What would excite and engage you enough to participate (or participate more frequently) in Alachua County government?

- Networking opportunities for interested Citizens
- Community forum on County website/Information smartphone compatible
- Beautification to attract large companies
- Logistics of meetings – accessible to all
- County must meet basic needs (food/shelter) before citizens will be engaged in participation



2012 *Community Conversations*

Audience Response Questions

(Clicker technology)

Demographic and Service Level

**Community Conversations 2012
Audience Response Technology - Results**

Session Data	16-Aug	20-Aug	23-Aug	25-Aug	Response Totals	
1.) How long have you lived in Alachua County?						
Less than 1 year	1	0	0	0	1	1%
1-5 years	2	3	0	2	7	9%
5-10 years	7	1	1	2	11	14%
10-20 years	7	7	8	3	25	33%
More than 20 years	9	7	10	4	30	39%
Do not live in this County	2	0	0	0	2	3%
Totals	28	18	19	11	76	100%

2.) What area represents where you live?						
Gainesville area	22	16	18	4	60	80%
LaCrosse/Waldo area	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Hawthorne area	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Micanopy area	0	1	0	0	1	1%
Archer area	0	0	0	1	1	1%
Newberry area	1	0	0	0	1	1%
High Springs/Alachua area	5	0	0	1	6	8%
Haile/Jonesville/Tioga	0	0	1	5	6	8%
Totals	28	17	19	11	75	100%

3.) What is your current age?						
Under 25	0	3	0	2	5	6%
25 - 35	2	2	1	1	6	8%
36 - 45	5	3	7	3	18	23%
46 - 55	3	2	5	1	11	14%
56 - 65	9	5	5	0	19	24%
66 - 75	7	3	2	2	14	18%
Over 75	3	0	0	2	5	6%
Totals	29	18	20	11	78	100%

4.) What is your highest level of education?						
High School/GED	3	1	0	2	6	8%
Vocational/Technical	3	0	2	0	5	7%
Associate's Degree	2	2	1	2	7	10%
Bachelor's Degree	7	8	3	3	21	29%
Master's Degree	11	6	10	1	28	38%
PhD	1	1	3	1	6	8%
Totals	27	18	19	9	73	100%

5.) How many children live in your household? (pets/spouse do not count)						
None	20	14	16	8	58	75%
One or Two	8	3	4	3	18	23%
Three to Five	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Six or more	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Totals	29	17	20	11	77	100%

**Community Conversations 2012
Audience Response Technology - Results**

Session Data

16-Aug

20-Aug

23-Aug

25-Aug

Response Totals

6.) Which of the following have you done in the past 12 months? (Select all that apply)

Attended a County Board meeting	11	11	12	5	39	12%
Participated in a County Advisory Board	8	8	2	5	23	7%
Attended a County Workshop/Info Meeting	14	13	18	3	48	15%
Watched a County Meeting on the TV/web	18	10	7	8	43	14%
Volunteered your time at a local nonprofit	20	13	16	9	58	18%
Read a County Newsletter	15	11	11	8	45	14%
Visited the County's website	19	15	15	10	59	19%
None	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Totals	105	81	81	48	315	100%

7.) How often do you talk or visit your immediate neighbors? (people within 10-20 households closest to you)

Daily	8	1	3	5	17	22%
Several times a week	6	12	9	4	31	39%
Several times a month	8	1	5	2	16	20%
Hardly ever	9	3	2	1	15	19%
Totals	31	17	19	12	79	100%

8.) What is the current (FY 12) millage rate for the General Fund?

6.00	6	4	2	2	14	18%
8.5956	10	9	11	4	34	45%
9.0215	2	0	0	0	2	3%
10	0	0	0	1	1	1%
Do not have a clue	9	5	7	4	25	33%
Totals	27	18	20	11	76	100%

9.) What is the % of property value in Alachua County that is taxable?

80%	1	0	2	0	3	6%
75.1%	0	5	5	4	14	27%
60%	0	4	9	4	17	33%
51%	2	8	4	3	17	33%
Totals	3	17	20	11	51	100%

10.) Of the average homeowner paid property taxes—what amount do you think supports Board of County Commissioner services?

All of it	1	0	5	1	7	9%
75%	2	0	1	1	4	5%
50%	5	7	4	3	19	25%
37%	21	11	10	5	47	61%
Totals	29	18	20	10	77	100%

**Community Conversations 2012
Audience Response Technology - Results**

Session Data	16-Aug	20-Aug	23-Aug	25-Aug	Response Totals	
11.) Which core areas do you believe are the most important to the future quality of life in Alachua County? (select up to 3)						
Police and Fire Protection	14	4	10	4	32	17%
Roads and Transportation	8	6	8	4	26	14%
Health and Human Services	14	16	9	4	43	23%
Economic Development	11	9	6	8	34	18%
Environmental Protection	11	15	15	10	51	27%
Totals	58	50	48	30	186	100%

12.) How do you think Alachua County should respond to our continued fiscal challenges? (Rank in order of preference)						
Reduce services	15	15	18	10	58	20%
Increase efficiencies	17	18	20	8	63	22%
Consolidate services	21	15	16	10	62	21%
Increase property tax	15	16	15	7	53	18%
Diversify revenue sources	16	15	18	7	56	19%
Totals	84	79	87	42	292	100%

13.) Which of the Alachua County services listed below is mandated by State law?						
Land Conservation	1	0	0	1	2	4%
Employee health insurance	4	0	0	3	7	13%
Crisis Center 24/7 hotline	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Public Health Unit funding	7	2	0	2	11	20%
<i>Indigent Burials</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	21	39%
None are mandated	6	4	0	3	13	24%
Totals	22	17	3	12	54	100%

14.) Which of the following services are mandated by State Law? (Select all that apply)						
<i>Comprehensive Planning</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	53	28%
<i>Budget Development</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>8</i>	53	28%
Board meeting Public Broadcasts	10	9	5	5	29	15%
Ambulance Billing	9	2	5	3	19	10%
Veteran Services	15	9	6	7	37	19%
Totals	69	46	47	29	191	100%

15.) Which service/program do you think should receive additional funding?						
Road maintenance	10	3	6	4	23	33%
Jail staffing	1	2	0	0	3	4%
Rescue units	0	0	0	1	1	1%
Substance abuse treatment	6	5	3	4	18	26%
Debt repayment	2	3	1	1	7	10%
Comprehensive Planning	2	6	9	0	17	25%
Totals	21	19	19	10	69	100%

**Community Conversations 2012
Audience Response Technology - Results**

Session Data	16-Aug	20-Aug	23-Aug	25-Aug	Response Totals	
16.) What are your transportation priorities? (Rank in order of importance to you)						
Maintain existing roads	18	17	17	11	63	22%
Increase capacity by adding new connector roads	16	15	15	9	55	19%
Increase current bus service	16	17	14	9	56	20%
Develop bus rapid transit	13	18	15	9	55	19%
Promote bike/pedestrian facilities	14	17	17	9	57	20%
Totals	77	84	78	47	286	100%

17.) Of the following proposed budget cuts, which would you want to restore? (Select up to two)						
Electronic Monitoring of offenders	0	4	1	0	5	7%
Jail Population Management Program	4	0	3	0	7	10%
CAPP program staffing	3	4	4	2	13	19%
5% reduction to Meridian Behavioral Health	4	2	0	4	10	15%
Poverty Program staffing	4	7	6	2	19	28%
I would not restore any of the above	4	2	5	3	14	21%
Totals	19	19	19	11	68	100%

18.) Overall, how safe do you feel where you live, work, and play in Alachua County?						
Very safe	10	12	12	8	42	62%
Somewhat safe	8	7	5	2	22	32%
Somewhat unsafe	1	0	0	1	2	3%
Very unsafe	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Not sure how I feel	1	0	1	0	2	3%
Totals	20	19	18	11	68	100%

19.) Overall, Alachua County is a good place to live...						
Strongly Agree	14	13	16	7	50	72%
Agree	4	6	3	4	17	25%
Neutral	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Disagree	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Totals	20	19	19	11	69	100%



2012 *Community Conversations*

Table Top Activity Simulated Budget Exercise Results

<u>Core Service</u>	<u>Mandatory Services Cost Allocation</u>	<u>Discretionary Services Cost Allocation</u>	<u>Average Reductions/Enhancements</u>	<u>% of Total Reductions/Enhancements</u>
Mandatory/Governance Services				
Countywide Governance	\$ 3,000	\$ 10,000	\$ (1,003)	-19%
Constitutional and Judicial Officers (excludes Sheriff)	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,500	\$ (390)	-7%
Reserve for Contingencies	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ (343)	-6%
Inmate Medical Care	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	0%
County Share - Medicaid Payments	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 33	1%
Juvenile Detention Center	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Medical Examiner	\$ 700	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Subtotal Mandatory Services	\$ 24,600	\$ 20,500	\$ (1,703)	-31%
Managed Growth and Development				
County Capital Facilities Projects	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,000	\$ (637)	-12%
County Road Capital Improvements	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ (203)	-4%
Regional Bus Service	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ -	0%
Community Farmer's Market	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ -	0%
Affordable Housing Program	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ -	0%
County Road Operations and Maintenance	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,000	\$ -	0%
Sidewalk/Bike Path Expansion	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 23	0%
Development Planning & Review	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,100	\$ (113)	-2%
Subtotal Managed Growth and Development	\$ 8,520	\$ 9,910	\$ (930)	-17%
Environmental Stewardship				
Land Management - Wildlife Habitat Protection	\$ -	\$ 900	\$ 47	1%
Natural Resource Protection	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 70	1%
Clean Water Program	\$ 300	\$ 100	\$ 93	2%
Energy Conservation Initiatives	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 60	1%
Subtotal Environmental Stewardship	\$ 600	\$ 1,800	\$ 270	5%
Economic Development				
Public Infrastructure and Tax Incentives	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ (3)	0%
Urban Redevelopment (CRA)	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Fairgrounds/Industrial Park Development	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ (127)	-2%
Subtotal Economic Development	\$ 4,500	\$ 500	\$ (130)	-2%
Health and Human Services				
Park Operations and Recreation Programs	\$ 600	\$ 1,000	\$ (13)	0%
Homeless One Stop Center	\$ -	\$ 70	\$ 20	0%
Animal Services - Basic and Enhanced Adoption	\$ 500	\$ 1,500	\$ (180)	-3%
Senior Citizen Services	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 57	1%
Social Service Agency Funding (CAPP)	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 47	1%
Social Services Programs	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ (13)	0%
Mental Health Program	\$ -	\$ 900	\$ 53	1%
At Risk Youth Program	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 60	1%
Agriculture Extension Program	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ (7)	0%
Health Department Funding	\$ -	\$ 950	\$ 13	0%
Crisis Center	\$ -	\$ 350	\$ 3	0%
Victim Services	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ 3	0%
Veteran Services	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 70	1%
Enhanced Bus Service - Poverty Reduction	\$ -	\$ 450	\$ (13)	0%
Subtotal Health and Human Services	\$ 2,300	\$ 9,270	\$ 100	2%
Public Safety				
Fire Response & Prevention Services	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,200	\$ (157)	-3%
Ambulance Services	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,000	\$ (97)	-2%
Countywide Emergency Management	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ (33)	-1%
Jail Management	\$ 20,000	\$ 7,000	\$ (1,713)	-32%
Court Security	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Emergency Communications	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Law Enforcement Road Patrol Units	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000	\$ (1,387)	-26%
Jail Diversion Programs	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 367	7%
Subtotal Public Safety	\$ 70,200	\$ 22,300	\$ (3,020)	-56%
Total Budget	\$ 110,720	\$ 64,280	\$ (5,413)	100%



2012 *Community Conversations*

Participant Idea Board Question:

What specific idea(s) do you have for a program, facility, or project that would improve our County?

Participants Submitting Suggestions = 44

Total Suggestions = 67

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/FACILITIES – 8/16/2012 Meeting

1. We need local programs to protect and increase local water quality and quantity!
2. Development of clean business parks – especially on east side – and attracting such businesses
3. Education and mental health services and programs for people “on the edge” (instead of jail)
4. More pedestrian walkways/bike paths
5. Grocery stores, hardware stores on east-side of G’ville.
6. Jobs programs!
7. More clean water and water conservation enforcement
8. County energy conservation improvement for county buildings.
9. County support for community gardens and food security/local farms
10. Implement “Transitions” Handbook
 - a. Energy reduction
 - b. Food security
 - c. Alt. Transportation
11. Build bat houses for Mosquito Control
12. Non-Governor appointed commissioner
13. A Sheriff that can manage her budget
14. Pay increase for staff. Need to retain high quality staff. They are needed for the complex issues facing local gov’t
15. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements. Over 60% of large farms are owned by people over 65. Most of their kids don’t want to farm. The barrier to new farmers is the cost of land. Purchasing Development Rights off of agricultural land:
 - a. Lowers cost for new farmers
 - b. Gives current generations some retirement income
 - c. Gives current generations some farm improvement income
 - d. Keeps food local saving gas, emissions, jobs
 - e. Keeps farming in local landscape
 - f. Keeps land on tax rolls, at agricultural rate
 - g. Breaks up Urban/Suburban sprawl
 - h. Enhances adjacent property values
16. Food security
 - a. Offer free fruit trees each yr. to lower income neighborhoods.
 - b. Mentor youth in garden skills.
 - c. Community Gardens through ext. serv. or parks dept
17. Mandatory cisterns for new construction.
18. Water conservation measures – get rid of lawns!

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/FACILITIES – 8/20/2012 Meeting

1. Increase funding for restoring health to upper Santa Fe River
2. Increase the user fees for bus services to offset some of the costs.
3. Daycare + Afterschool care
4. Expansion of RTS services and hours for city routes. Most of the funds to support campus @ UF and SFC
5. Mobile food trucks for neighborhoods with “food deserts” no major food market nearby
6. “4W Network Inc.” Empower women through workshop + seminars for parenting – abuse, self esteem to promote personal + professional development
7. Provide a clothes closet for the community
8. Provide a food closet for the community
9. Weight each commissioners vote on the basis % of votes received at his or her elections
10. One stop medical and dental clinic
11. Exercise mindful adherence to our carefully crafted mission statement and guiding vision statements in all endeavors
12. Continue to hire the best staff you can find, and pay them well.
13. Better alternatives to incarceration
 - a. Pairing minor offenders with community needs
 - b. Elderly home owners needing yard work and repairs
 - c. This would require staff to coordinate but quality of life + improved self esteem of offender – long discussion to address these values
14. Increase funding for environmental protection to cover water planning and monitoring for upper Santa Fe Basin
15. Address the Fairgrounds issue. Spend the money now to make it a proud County centerpiece that could be used for a multitude of activities year round.
16. Focus on innovation Gainesville
17. Pave our roads and fix the potholes
18. Focus on Landscaping our roads
19. Education alternative programs targeting domestic violence, intimate partner violence which targets males and females alike.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/FACILITIES – 8/23/2012 Meeting

1. Park and ride system for the commuters travel to + from Gainesville from the outer edges of the County
2. Fund land conservation & natural resource management
3. A community bike program in partnership with the University
4. Consider anaerobic digester for treating solid waste and creating energy. Look at University of Wisconsin/Madison example. It is unacceptable that we ship our waste out County. This is a resource.
5. Limit/reduce travel for county officials/employees
6. Leave the Fairgrounds/Industrial Park Development alone. In other words leave this project on hiatus Do Not Develop
7. Eliminate/Reduce Tax Incentive (Economic Development)
8. Off-Highway bike routes between Gainesville & outlying areas
9. Fair water prices to reflect the real costs of clean water
10. Programs to require grey water use for private + public
11. Increased funding for the Dept of Environmental Protection
12. Pressure Water Management Districts to impose a moratorium on new water permits until we have a working groundwater model approved by both the public + independent scientists
13. Clean + abundant water is foremost –
 - A. Conserve
 - B. Protect
 - C. Restore our waters!
14. Not so much a program but a way to let people know how/when they can serve on a board. If people do not know then participation decreases. When people are in the know participation increases.
15. This may sound fatally blue-eyed, but I believe a lot of county residents would be willing to add a voluntary contribution to our property tax check if we can earmark it (within reason) I would certainly do that, as would my husband.
16. Proactive water conservation efforts – some mandatory – reduce fertilizer use – taxing lawn owners more – proactive – more education on conserving H2O + reducing waste

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/FACILITIES – 8/25/2012 Meeting

1. Hire the best County Manager you can find!
2. Hire the best Budget Director you can find!
3. Address talent loss proactively!
4. Rails to Trails Northwest 6th St
5. Consolidation of governments
6. Bring back the Green belt! Please.
7. Filter every decision through the carefully crafted vision statement.
8. Revise drug laws – don't put possession charges in jail.
9. Revoke DOMA-type law/referendum
10. Increase Medicaid to include more contraception education.
11. Raise millage tax rate Raise sales tax slightly to be in line w/ other Fla. counties.
12. Add cell phone locator capacity to dispatch center for use by:
 - a. 911 operators
 - b. Transit demand management software protocol
 - c. Road maintenance crew dispatcher
 - d. GRU response, especially during countywide emergencies
13. Incorporate basic object technology concepts into real-time response of various county service providers, thus reducing burden of inefficient central command (learn from military's experience in Iraq.)
14. 1% pay raise for Cty Commission & employees to match Social Security COLA



2012 *Community Conversations*

Participant Idea Board Question:

What specific idea(s) do you have for spending reductions that the Commission could address?

Participants Submitting Suggestions = 29

Total Suggestions = 43

REDUCTIONS – 8/16/2012 Meeting

1. Less extras for Sheriff's Office
2. Less business tax incentives or industrial development
3. Less road patrol for Sheriff's Office
4. Less for Capital Facilities projects
5. Reduce Law Enforcement Road Patrol units by about 15%
6. Insist on Jail and ACSO benchmarks. As Gainesville annexes, ACSO should cut, GPD should increase. Not Both!
7. Model after LaCrosse
 - a. Don't have L.E.
 - b. Reduce L.E.
 - c. Increase prevention
 - d. Increase voluntary fire depts. + community patrols
8. Get rid of the Tourism Development Counsel to save \$
9. The BoCC should raise the millage this year to cover expenses
10. Programs to keep people out of jail.
11. Alternatives to jail
12. Get citizens more involved in government as volunteers (trained of course!)
13. Small buses that run more often to more locations

REDUCTIONS – 8/20/2012 Meeting

1. Crime is falling. Call loads are falling. Cut or hold Sheriff's Budget. How many Nite Vision Goggles & Bearcats do we really need?
2. Animal Control
3. Please put as much money into Road Maintenance and take money out of building New Roads.
4. Put each construction project out for public bid instead of to a select few, which is the way it was for at least 25 years. Gives everyone an equal shot at each project, and saves the Public Tax Dollars.
5. Promote higher incentives for county employees to conserve their \$ drain –
 - a. ie – save energy + water in offices
 - b. save gasoline expense
6. Reduce no. of meetings
7. Decrease the County Commissioners salaries & perks
8. Decrease County Environmental Protection Staff and Budget. Let citizens pay for those services on an as needed basis
9. Delay new Fairgrounds until the economy improves
10. The consolidation of services between the County and the City of Gainesville in areas where they overlap

REDUCTIONS – 8/23/2012 Meeting

1. Travel – use technology to have meetings without having to travel, especially out-of-state travel
2. Encourage more Regional Bus Service
3. Do not cut costs for Environmental Services
4. Implement a policy that promotes energy conservation in government buildings by increasing/decreasing the thermostat a few degrees, ie from 68 degrees to 72 degrees, in the summer. It's Okay to be a little chilly in the winter and little warm in the summer.
5. Travel
6. Fairgrounds + Industrial Park dev.
7. Tax incentives to business
8. Evaluate every county budget item and ask the question (both from inside the dept. + outside);
 - a. How could we make this more efficient? Do not overlook small things that provide savings in efficiency.
 - b. Have depts. collaborate in finding efficiencies – work together
9. Make cuts equitable across departments; small cuts improve efficiency; large cuts hurt quality of service and reduce morale.
10. More bus services
11. More spending on Environmental Protection

REDUCTIONS – 8/25/2012 Meeting

1. Consider areas for consolidation of City-County government.
 - a. Police
 - b. Fire
 - c. EMT
2. Libraries percent of budget seems high (6%) compared to other counties. Perhaps it can be trimmed back.
3. Use 911 operator to triage calls to reduce # of calls resulting in immediate dispatching of two vehicles by 30% while allowing for delayed dispatching of second vehicle 50% of time. Definition of “delayed” is > 60 sec. Monitor outcomes and adjust protocol for delay. Both initial information and subsequent information to operator may be considered.
4. I second this ↑ opinion!
5. Don't reduce spending beyond constant search for efficiency improvements.
6. Raise millage to maintain our vision and quality of life, as needed, mindfully.
7. Make road repair the priority till we get caught up with the backlog. PAVE BABY – PAVE!
8. Stop widening sidewalks to 10ft. We need sidewalks but not that wide.
9. Efficiency and combine offices (any overlapping?)



2012 COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Presented by:
Alachua County
County Manager's Office
August 20, 2012



Welcome to the Conversation!

- Please take a seat near people that you do not already know.
- Introduce yourself and get to know your neighbors.



WELCOME:



Host:
Richard 'Rick' Drummond
County Manager



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 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.



The importance of fostering successful community partnerships begins with engaging all parties in the exchange of knowledge and skills, being mindful that each and every partner bring a wealth of diverse experiences and perspectives to the partnership process.



This meeting is designed to encourage participatory conversation among members of the community who may have different opinions and perceptions, but who have a shared interest in building a better community within Alachua County.

CHALLENGES AHEAD



- Declining property values
- Medicaid billing backlog - state mandate
- Jail operational staffing analysis
 - Increased jail daily population
- Anticipated Institutional knowledge loss

TODAY'S ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



- Citizen Participation
 - Small group conversations
 - Demographics
 - Budget & financial overview
 - Service level expectations
- Break
- Interactive Budgeting Activity
- Closing



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS



**What makes you most proud of our
community?**



Think about the community activities you currently participate in....

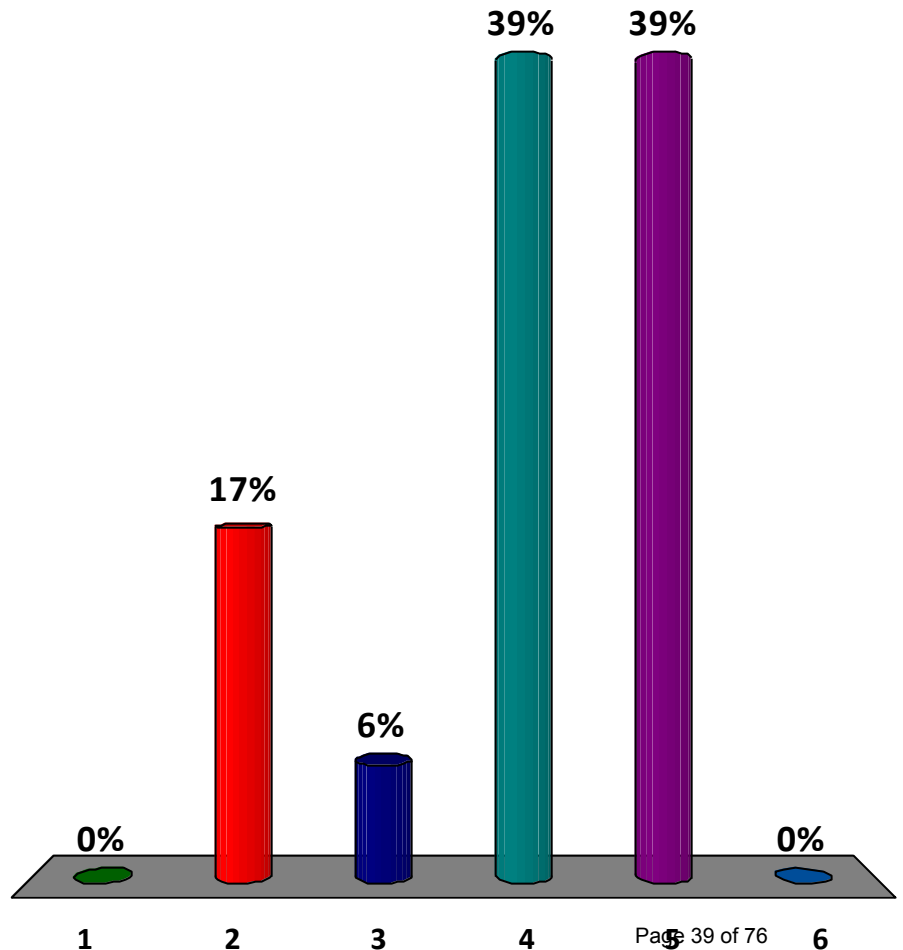
What would excite and engage you enough to participate (or participate more frequently) in Alachua County government activities such as Board Meetings, Advisory Boards, volunteering, etc ?



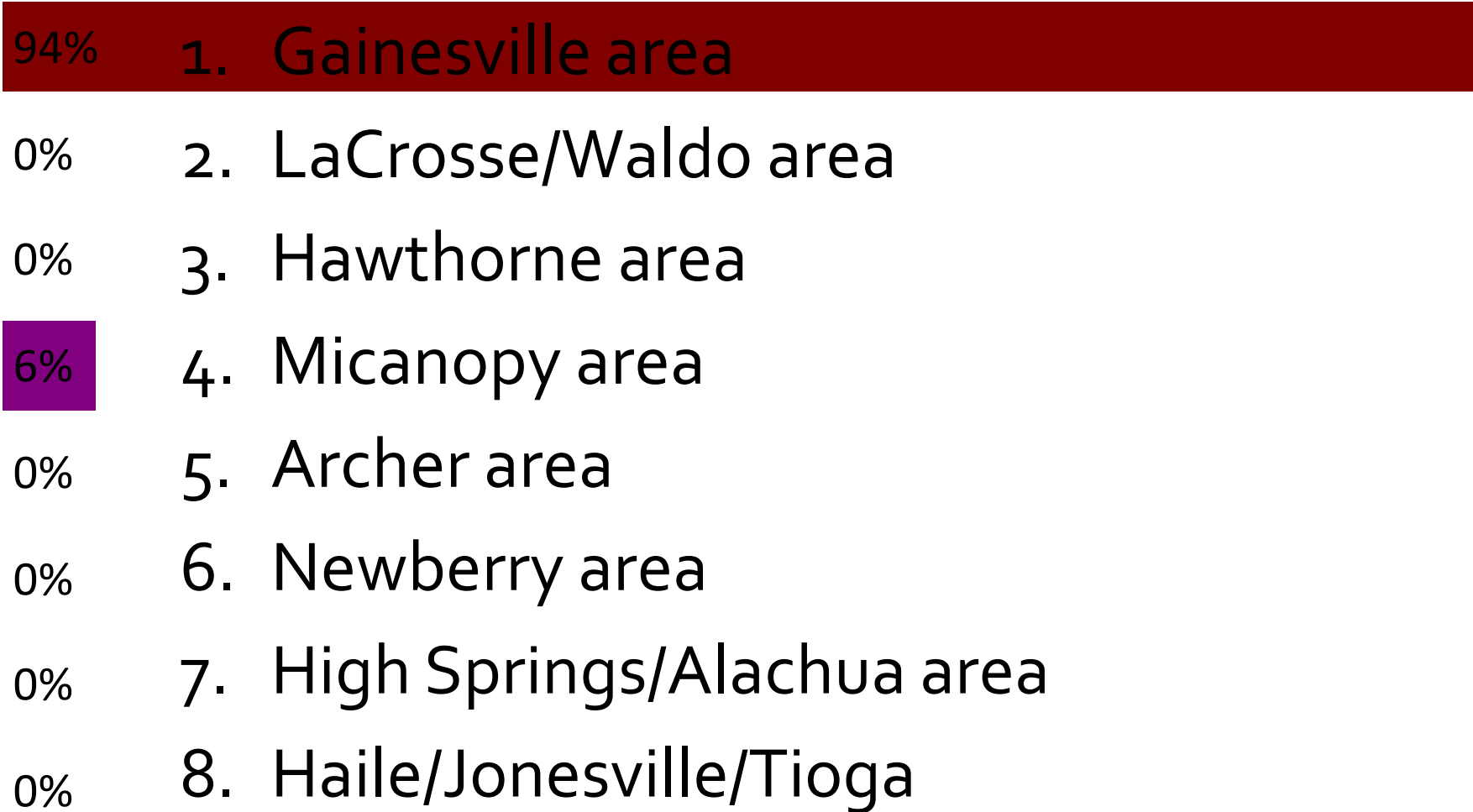
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: DEMOGRAPHICS

How long have you lived in Alachua County?

1. Less than 1 year
2. 1-5 years
3. 5-10 years
4. 10-20 years
5. More than 20 years
6. Do not live in this County

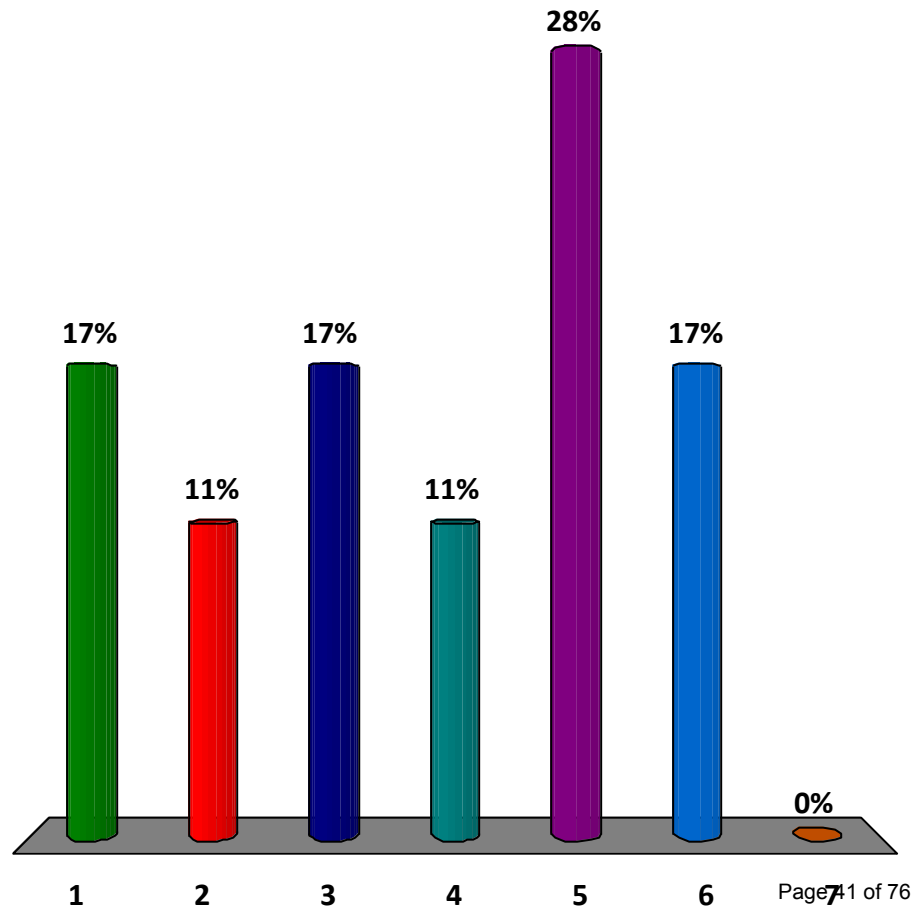


What area represents where you live?

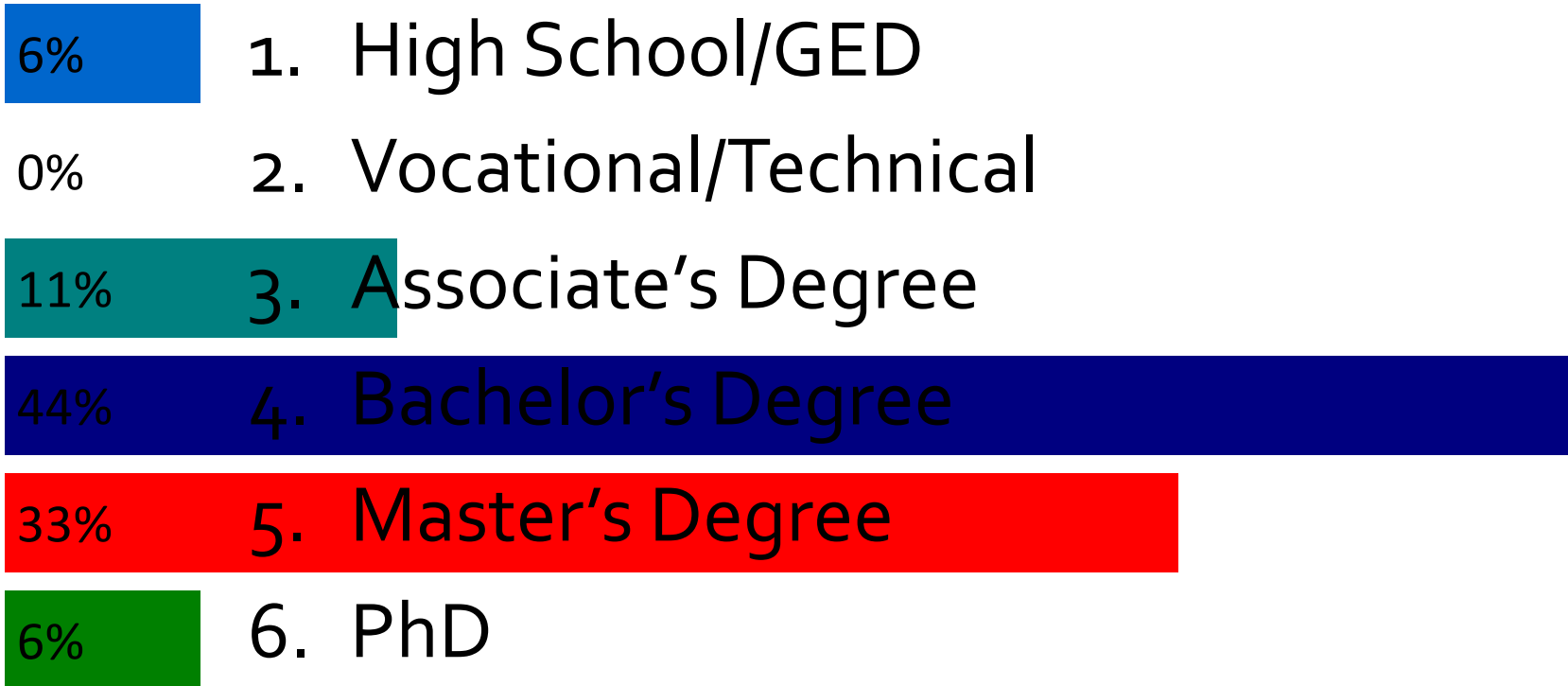


What is your current age?

1. Under 25
2. 25 - 35
3. 36 - 45
4. 46 - 55
5. 56 - 65
6. 66 - 75
7. Over 75



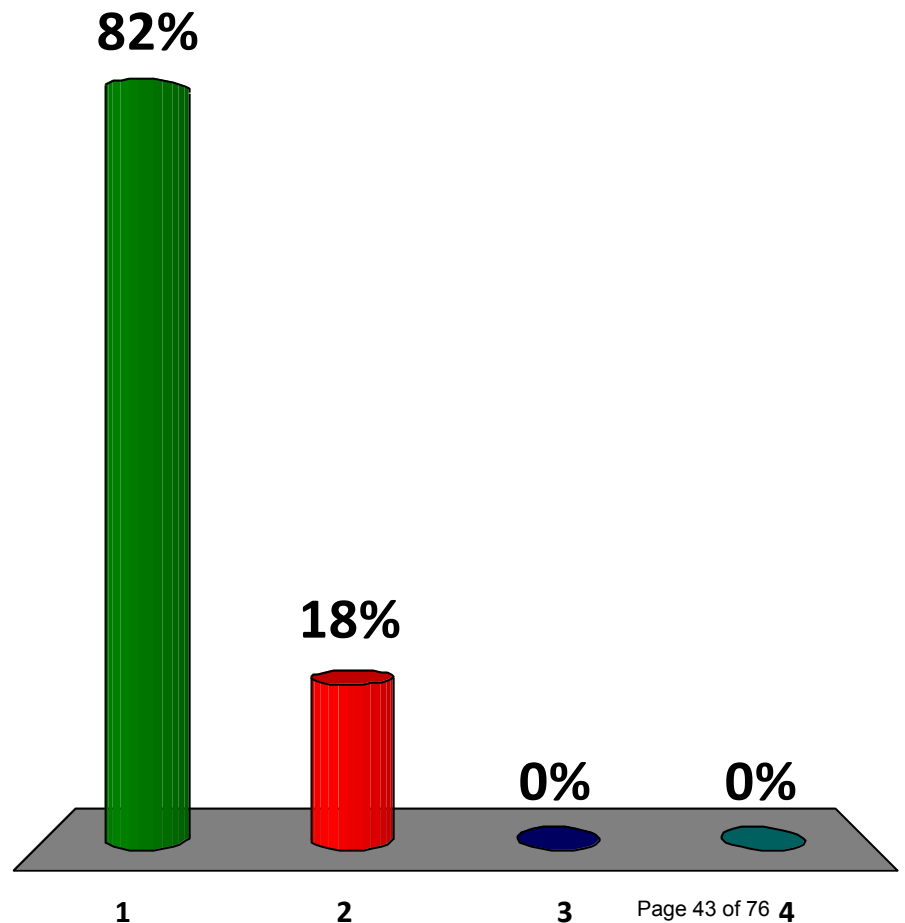
What is your highest level of education?



How many children live in your household?

(pets/spouse do not count)

1. None
2. One or Two
3. Three to Five
4. Six or more



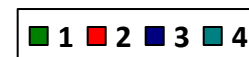
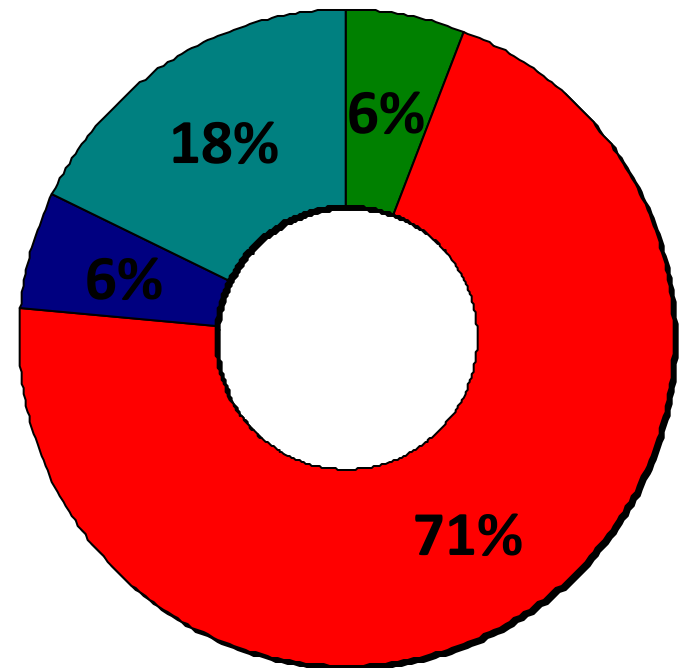
Which of the following have you done in the past 12 months? (Select all that apply)

- 61% 1. Attended a County Board meeting
- 44% 2. Participated in a County Advisory Board
- 72% 3. Attended a County Workshop/Info Meeting
- 56% 4. Watched a County Meeting on the TV/web
- 72% 5. Volunteered your time at a local nonprofit
- 61% 6. Read a County Newsletter
- 83% 7. Visited the County's website
- 0% 8. None

How often do you talk or visit your immediate neighbors?

(people within 10-20 households closest to you)

1. Daily
2. Several times a week
3. Several times a month
4. Hardly ever





CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: BUDGET/FISCAL OVERVIEW



Florida Statute Requirements:

➤ For all Counties:

- Fiscal Year (FY) is October 1st through September 30th
- Required to have a balanced budget - not allowed to run a deficit
- Truth-in-Millage (TRIM)
 - Required notifications to property owners and the general public
 - Required to hold two public hearings to adopt the millage rates and adopt the budget

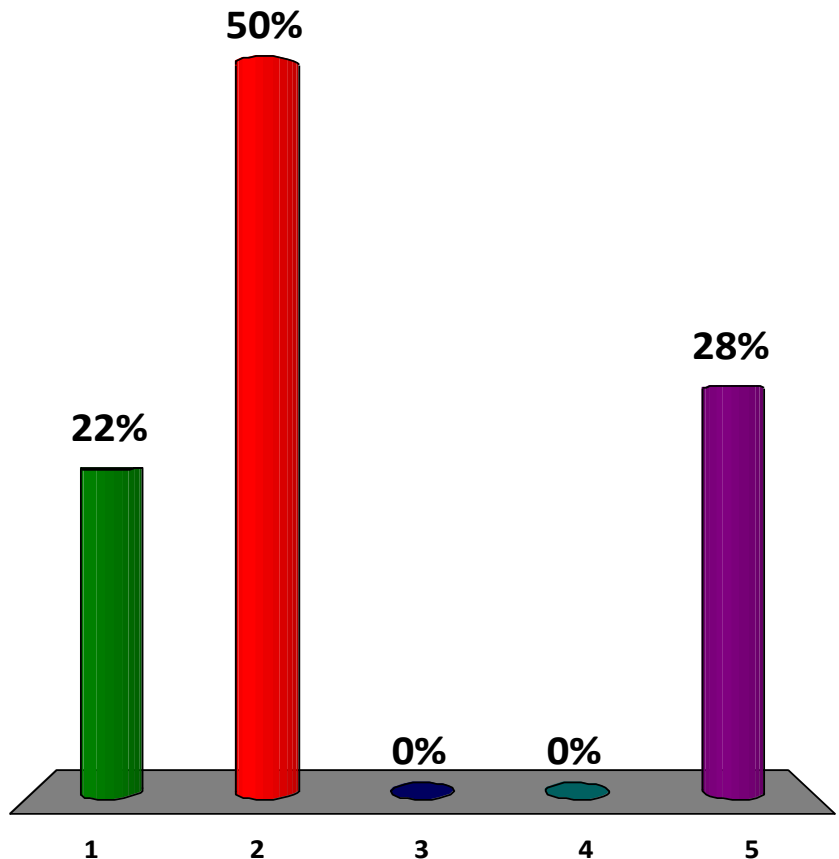


➤ Tentative Budget FY 13

- Presented to the Board on July 10th
- Board approved setting the current millage rate for:
 - General Fund, Law Enforcement MSTU, Fire MSTU, and Unincorporated MSTU
- Recommended the following:
 - Communications Center equipment replacement
 - Additional staff for the Jail
 - Enhancement to Law Enforcement staff
 - Salary adjustment for all staff

What is the current (FY 12) millage rate for the General Fund?

1. 6.00
- ✓ 2. 8.5956
3. 9.0215
4. 10
5. Do not have a clue



ADJUSTED TENTATIVE BUDGET FY13 MILLAGE RATES

Property Tax Revenue Only	General Fund	MSTU General	MSTU Law Enforcement	MSTU Fire Services
Property Value Growth	-3.38%	-2.67%	-2.33%	-2.66%
Current Millage	8.5956	0.4124	1.6710	1.3391
Projected Revenue	92,057,664	1,839,401	8,157,817	6,102,099
FY12 Adopted Budget	95,277,978	1,891,770	8,347,029	6,274,689
Difference	(3,220,314)	(52,369)	(189,212)	(172,590)
Revenue Stabilization	8.8963	0.4241	1.7098	1.3770
Projected Revenue	95,278,118	1,891,587	8,347,239	6,274,804
FY12 Adopted Budget	95,277,978	1,891,770	8,347,029	6,274,689
Difference	140	(183)	210	115
Simple Majority Cap	9.6247	0.4869	1.8843	1.5319
Projected Revenue	103,079,179	2,171,690	9,199,147	6,980,663
FY12 Adopted Budget	95,277,978	1,891,770	8,347,029	6,274,689
Difference	7,801,201	279,920	852,119	705,974
Rollback (up)	9.0215	0.4289	1.7319	1.3927
Projected Revenue	96,618,993	1,912,996	8,455,131	6,346,347
FY12 Adopted Budget	95,277,978	1,891,770	8,347,029	6,274,689
Difference	1,341,015	21,226	108,102	71,658
Super Majority Cap	10.0000	0.5356	2.0727	1.6851
Projected Revenue	107,098,589	2,388,903	10,118,916	7,678,774
FY12 Adopted Budget	95,277,978	1,891,770	8,347,029	6,274,689
Difference	11,820,611	497,133	1,771,887	1,404,085

GENERAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY TAX

Municipality	2011 Millage Rate
Micanopy	8.0000
High Springs	6.1500
Waldo *	5.8686
Alachua	5.5000
Hawthorne *	5.3194
Archer *	5.2000
Gainesville	4.2544
Newberry *	3.8500
Unincorporated **	3.4225
LaCrosse	2.5777

* 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.

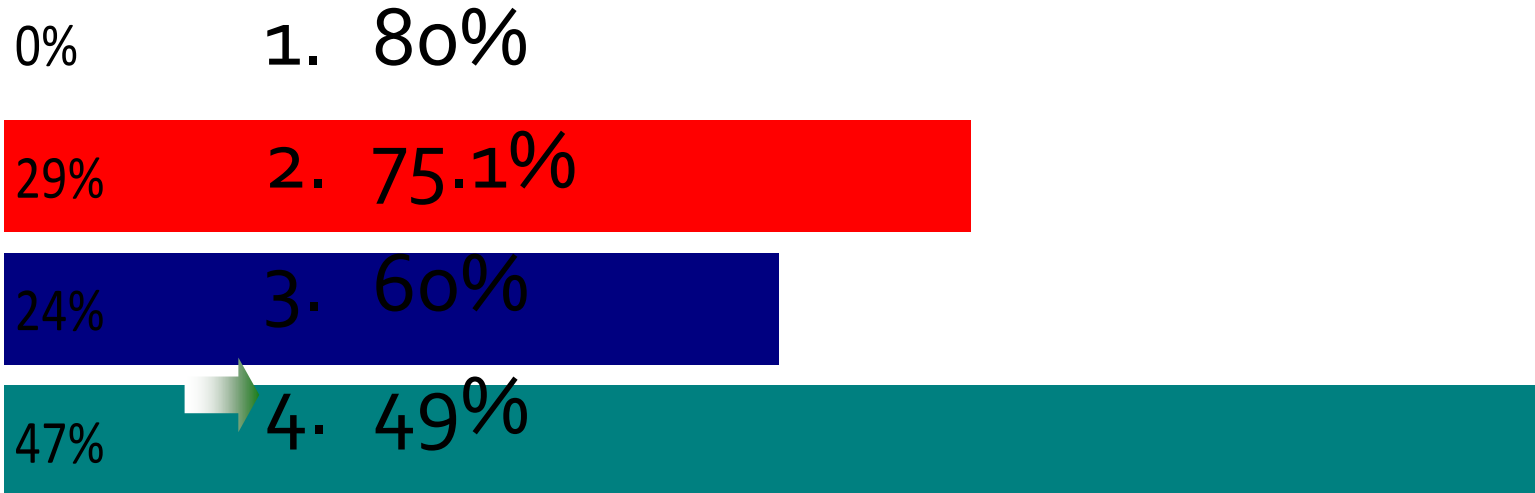
** Alachua County MSTU millage rates:
Unincorp. 0.4124
Law Enforce. 1.6710
Fire Protect. 1.3391



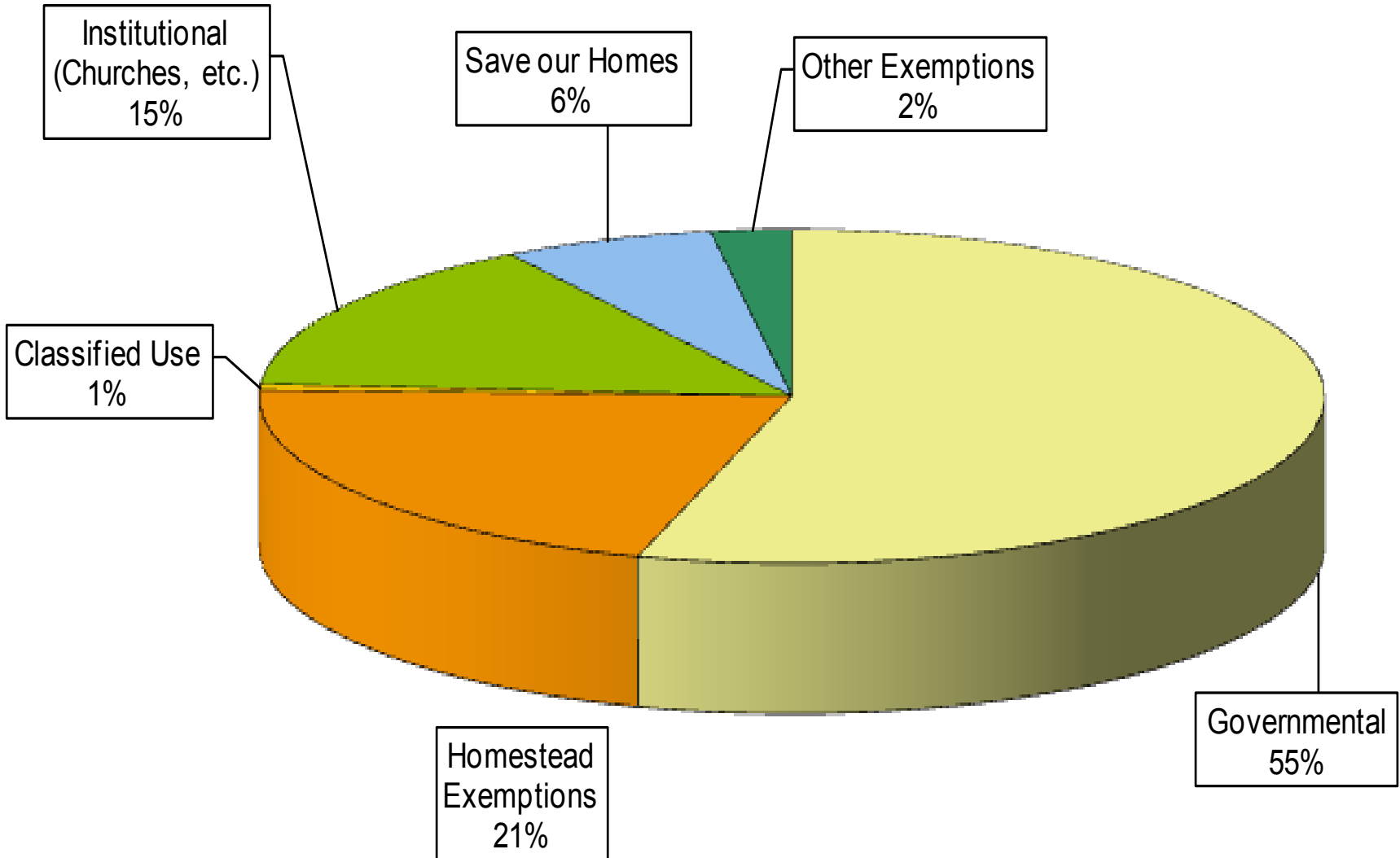
Property Taxes

- Revenue calculation is based upon taxable property values as determined by the Property Appraiser's Office
- Exemptions allowed by State Statute decrease the value that is subject to property taxes
 - Agriculture, homestead, institutional, government
 - Statewide the % of taxable property is 75.1%

What is the % of property value in Alachua County that is taxable?

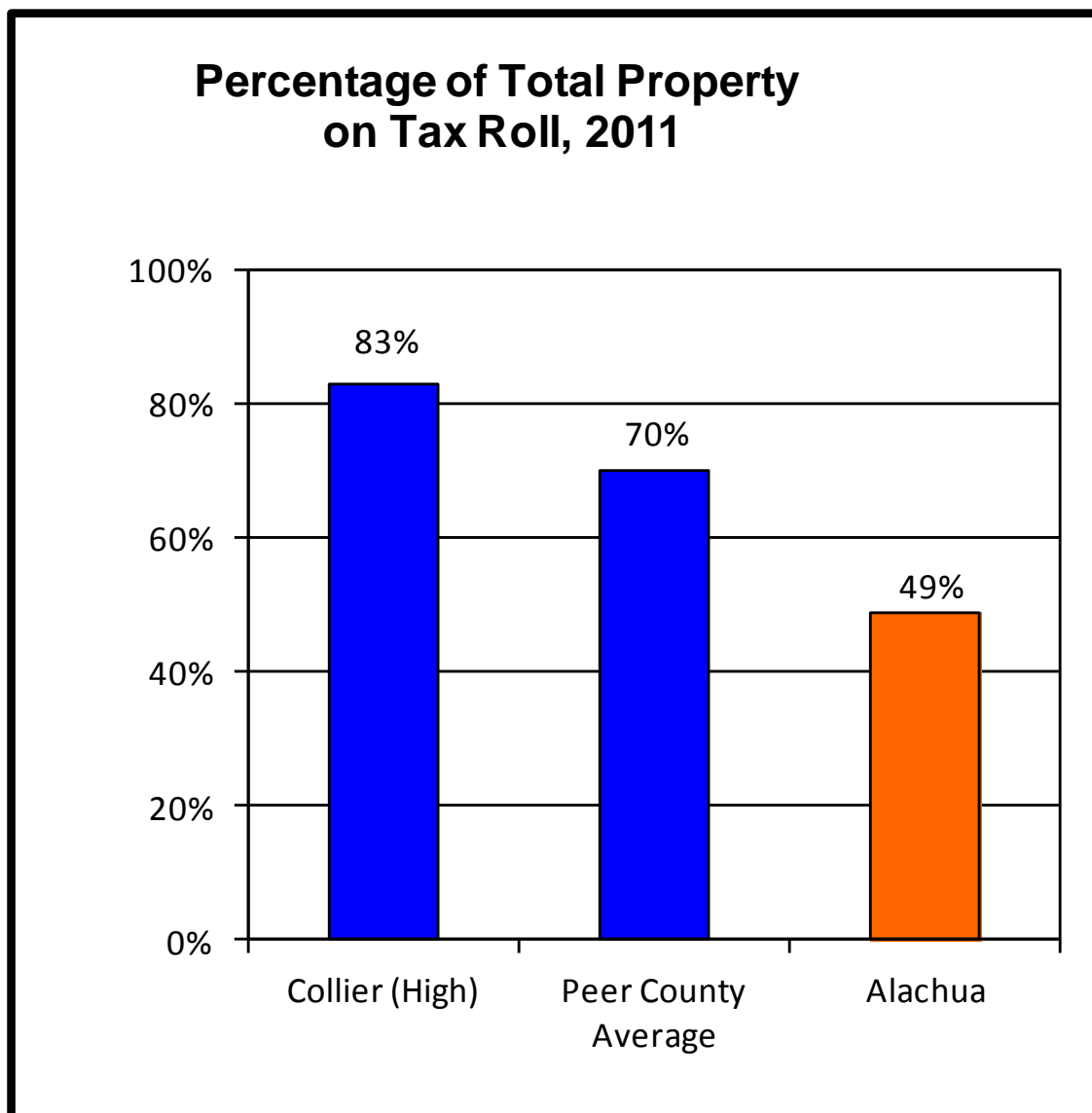


2011 Property Value Exemptions and Classified Uses



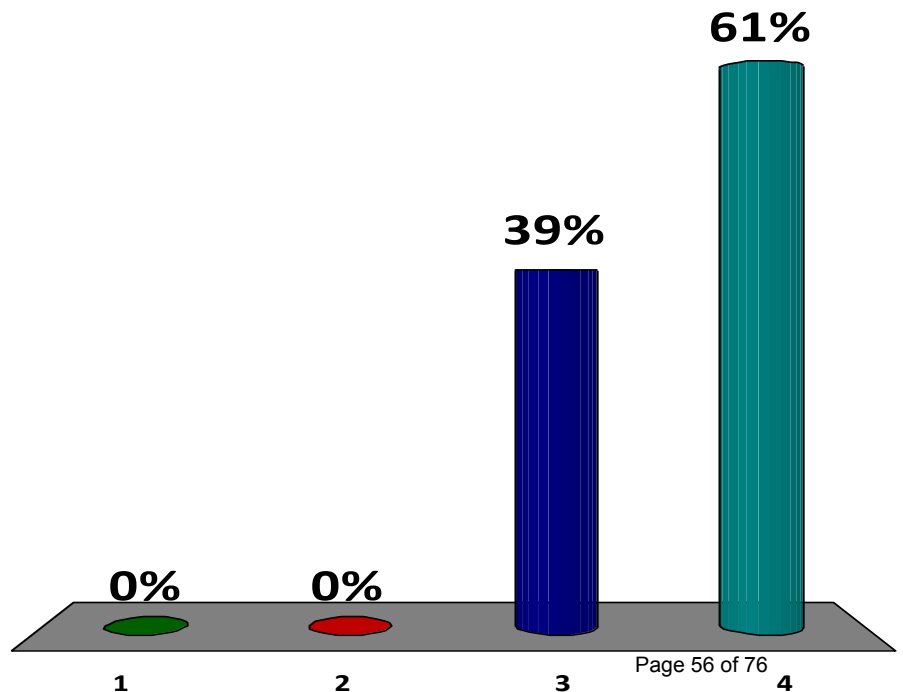


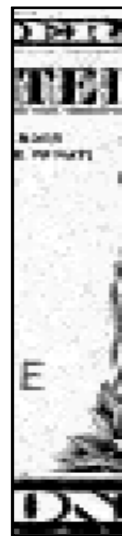
Taxable Property Value Comparison



Of the average property taxes paid – what amount do you think supports Board of County Commissioner services?

1. All of it
2. 75%
3. 50%
4. 37%





37% of Each Tax Dollar Goes to the County

6% of Each Tax Dollar Goes to Libraries

1% of Each Tax Dollar Goes to Water Management Districts

38% of Each Tax Dollar Goes to the School Board

18% of Each Tax Dollar Goes to Gainesville

Example of Tax Allocation for a Property Located in the city of Gainesville:

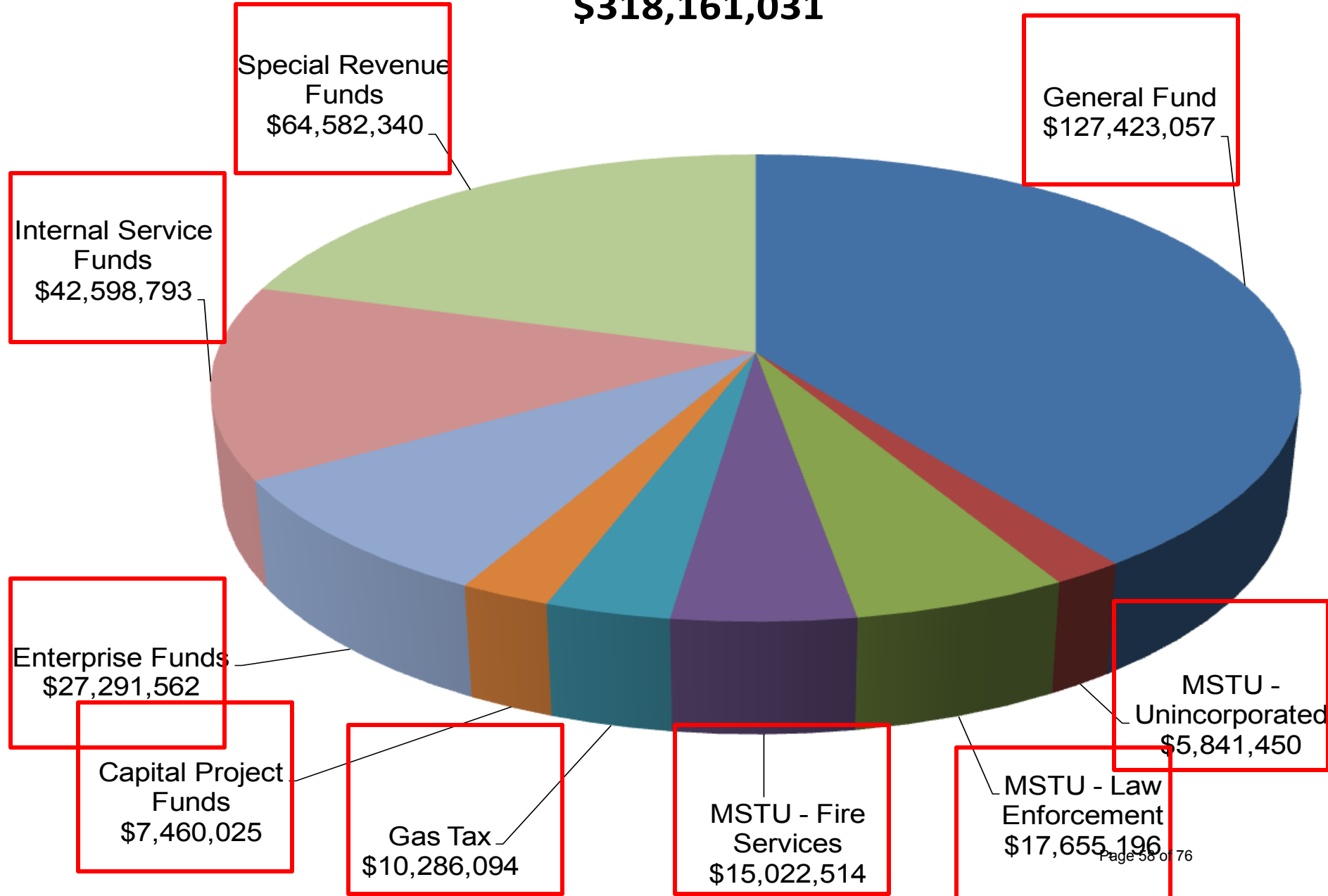
Taxing Authority	FY12 Adopted Millage Rates	Percentage of the Total
Alachua County - General	8.5956	35.81%
City of Gainesville	4.2544	17.72%
Alachua County - ACF Voted	0.2500	1.04%
Alachua County School Board	9.0920	37.88%
Water Management District *	0.3313	1.38%
Library District	1.4790	6.16%
Total	24.0023	100.0%

Source: Alachua County Property Appraiser's Office.

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

FY 2012 Adopted Budget - All Funds

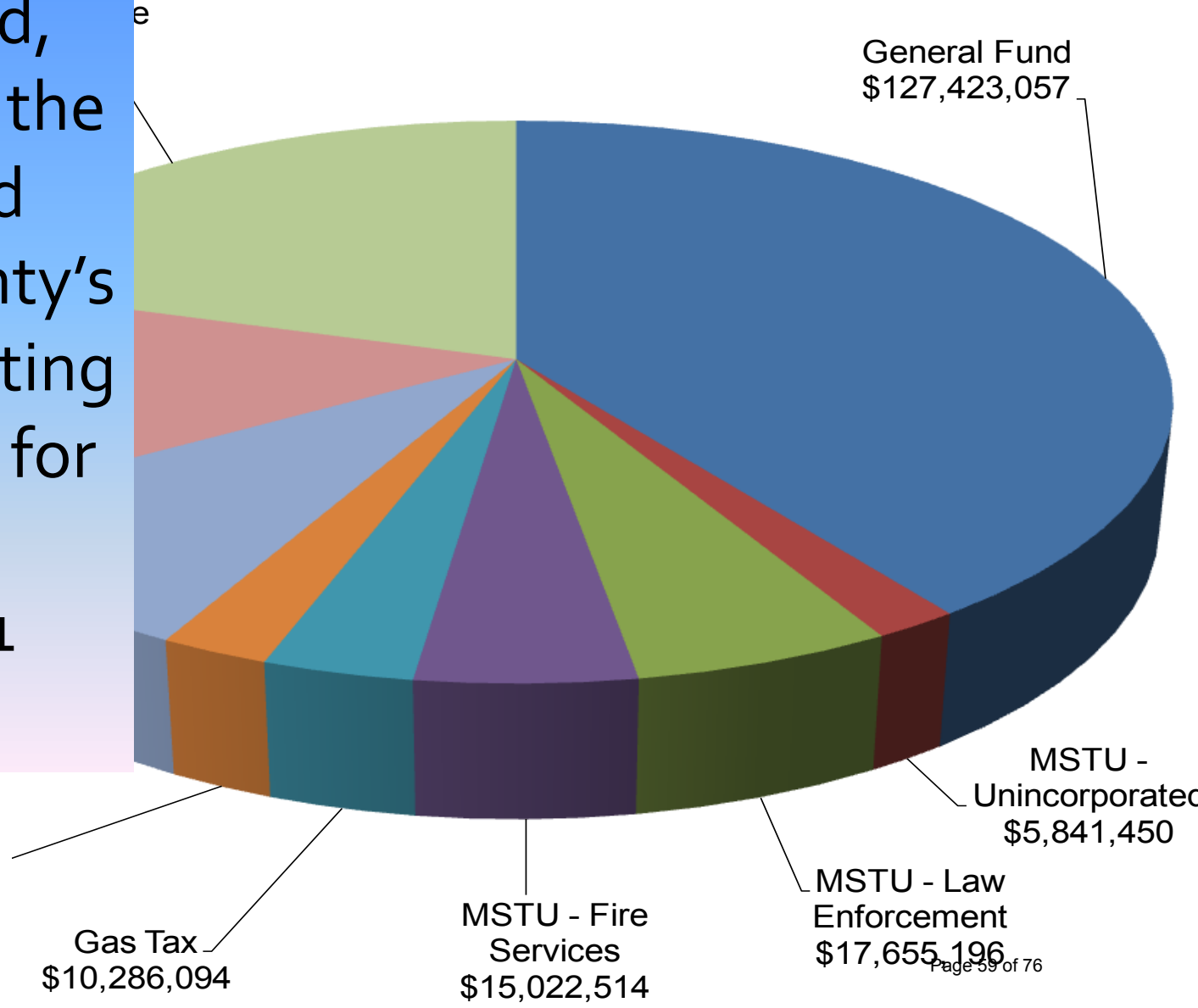
\$318,161,031



FY 2012 Adopted Budget - All Funds

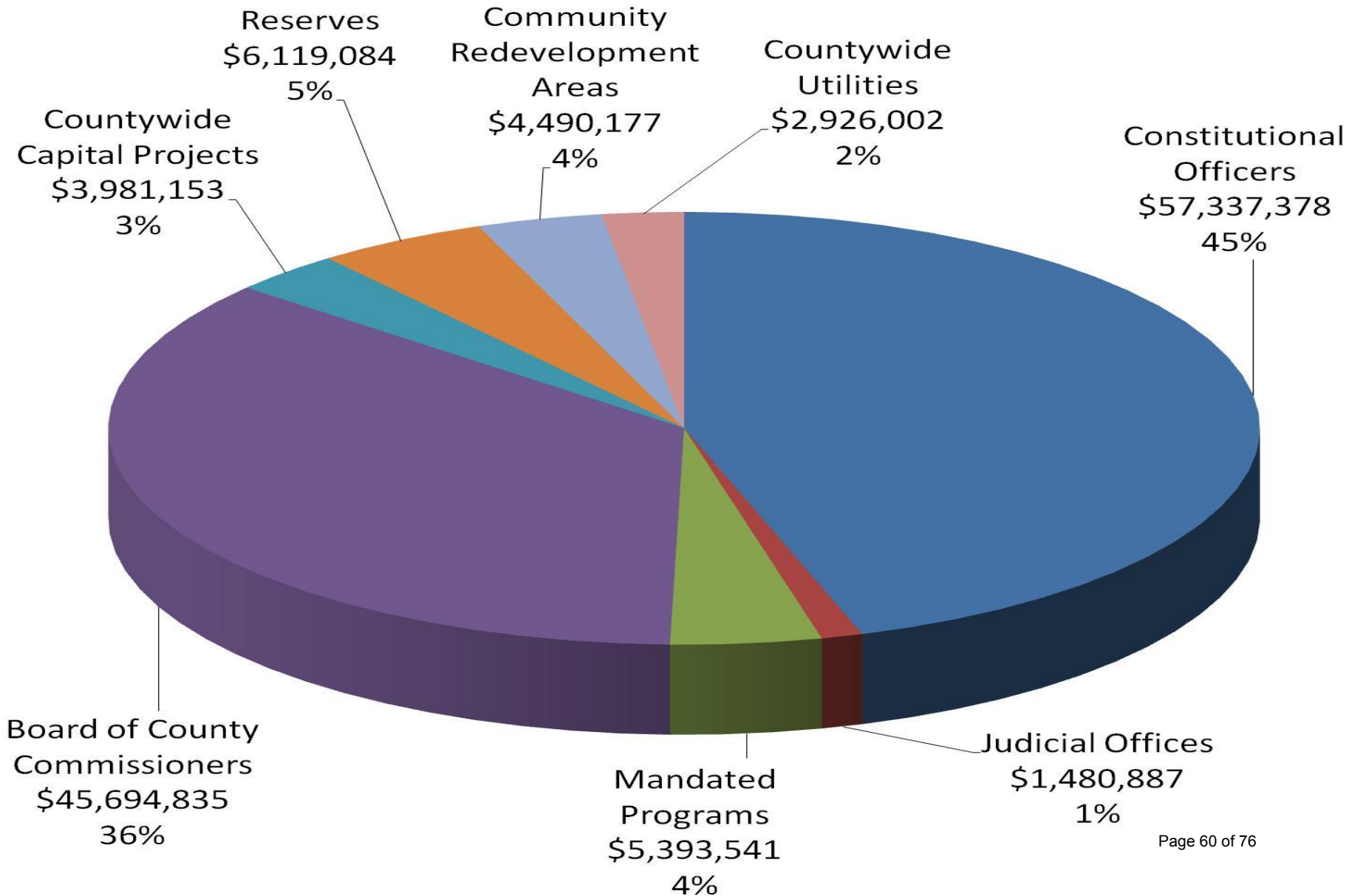
\$318,161,031

General Fund, MSTU's and the Gas Tax Fund are the County's major operating funds. Total for FY12 is \$176,228,311



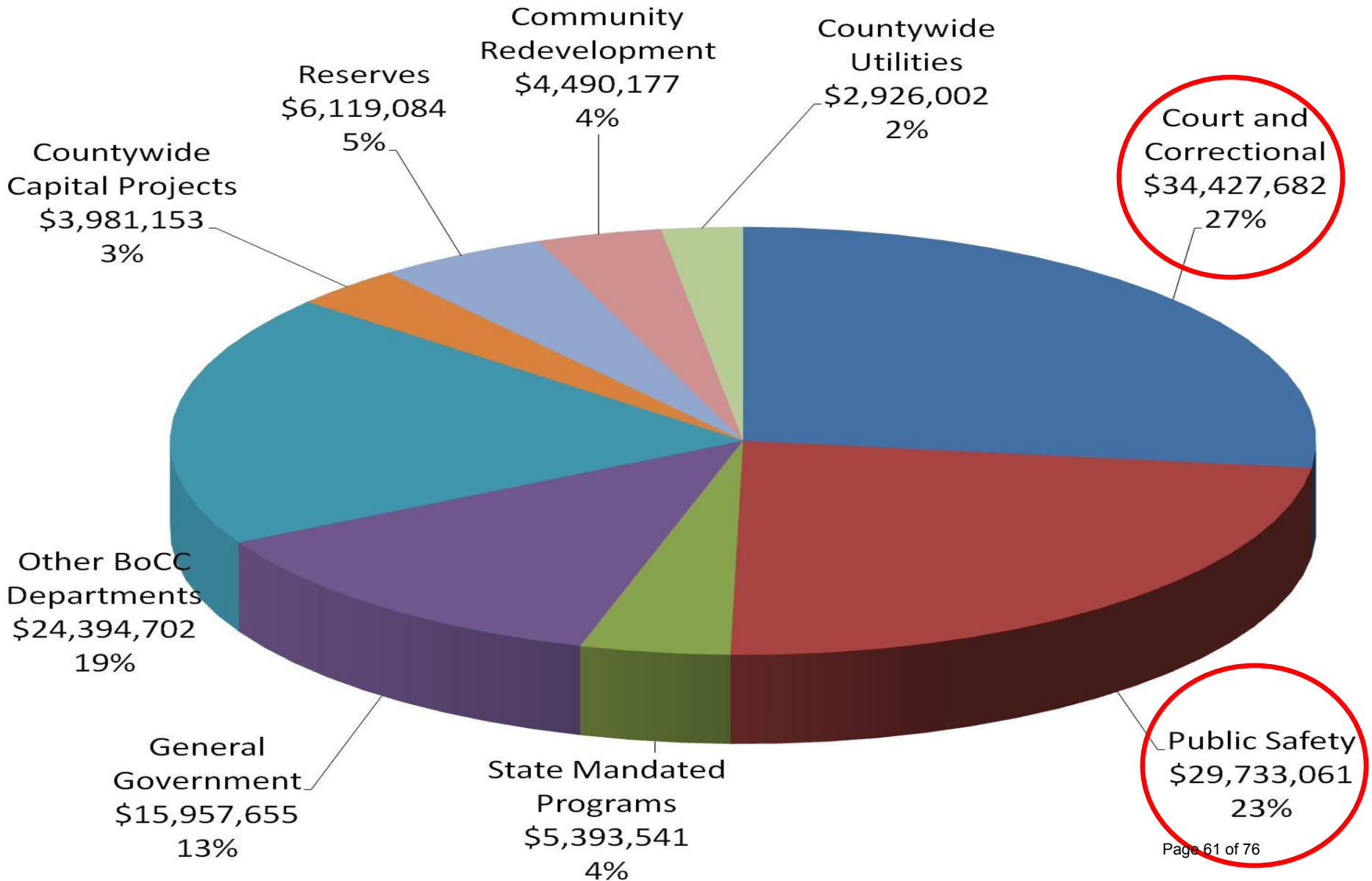
FY 2012 Adopted - General Fund

\$127,423,057



FY 2012 Adopted - General Fund

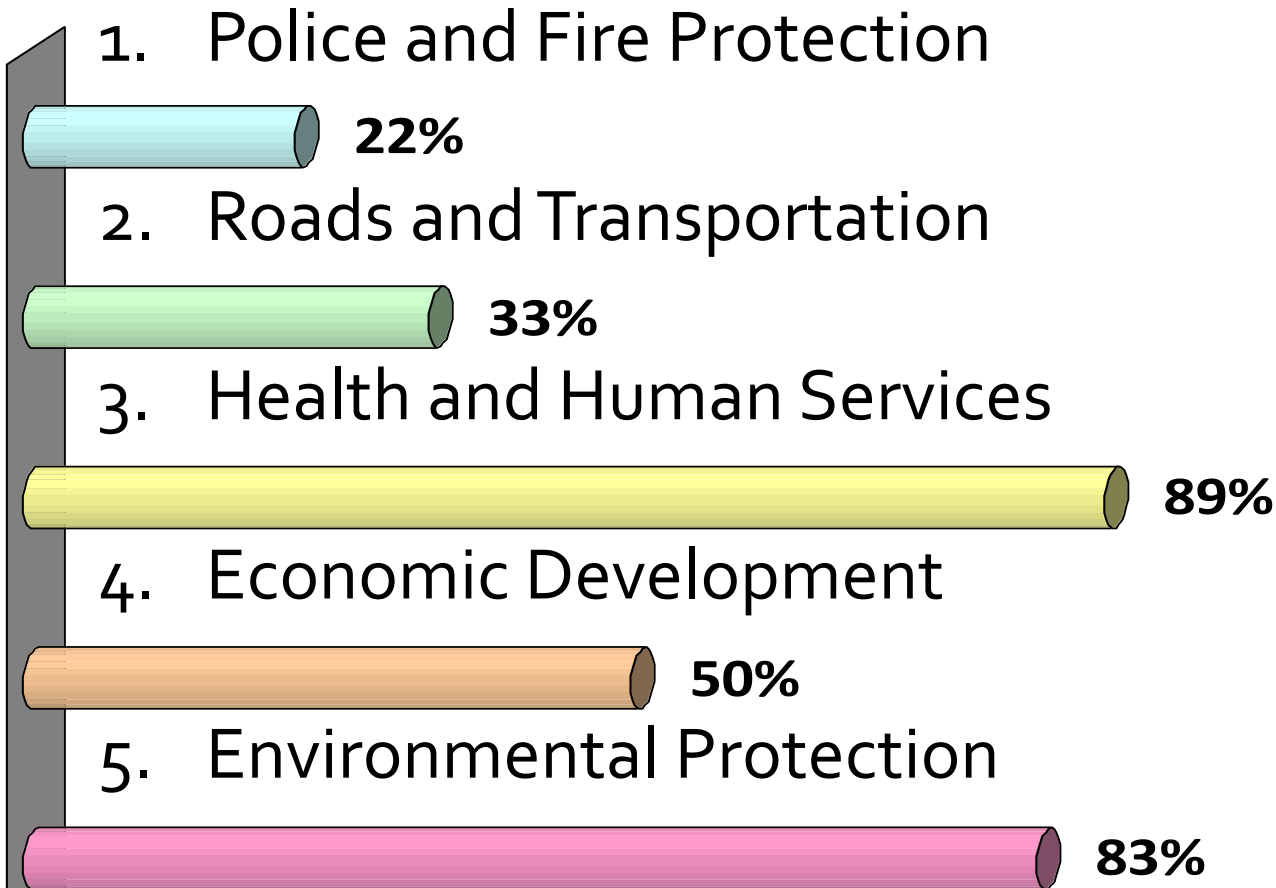
\$127,423,057





CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: SERVICE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

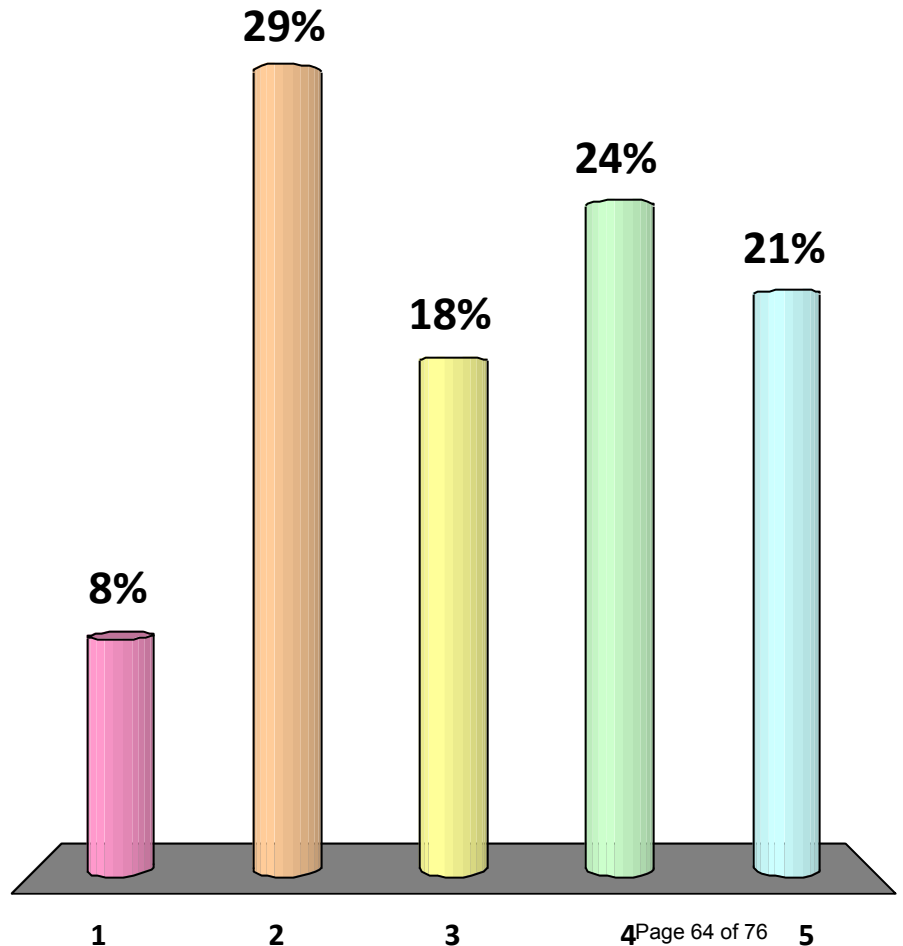
Which core areas do you believe are the most important to the future quality of life in Alachua County? (select up to 3)



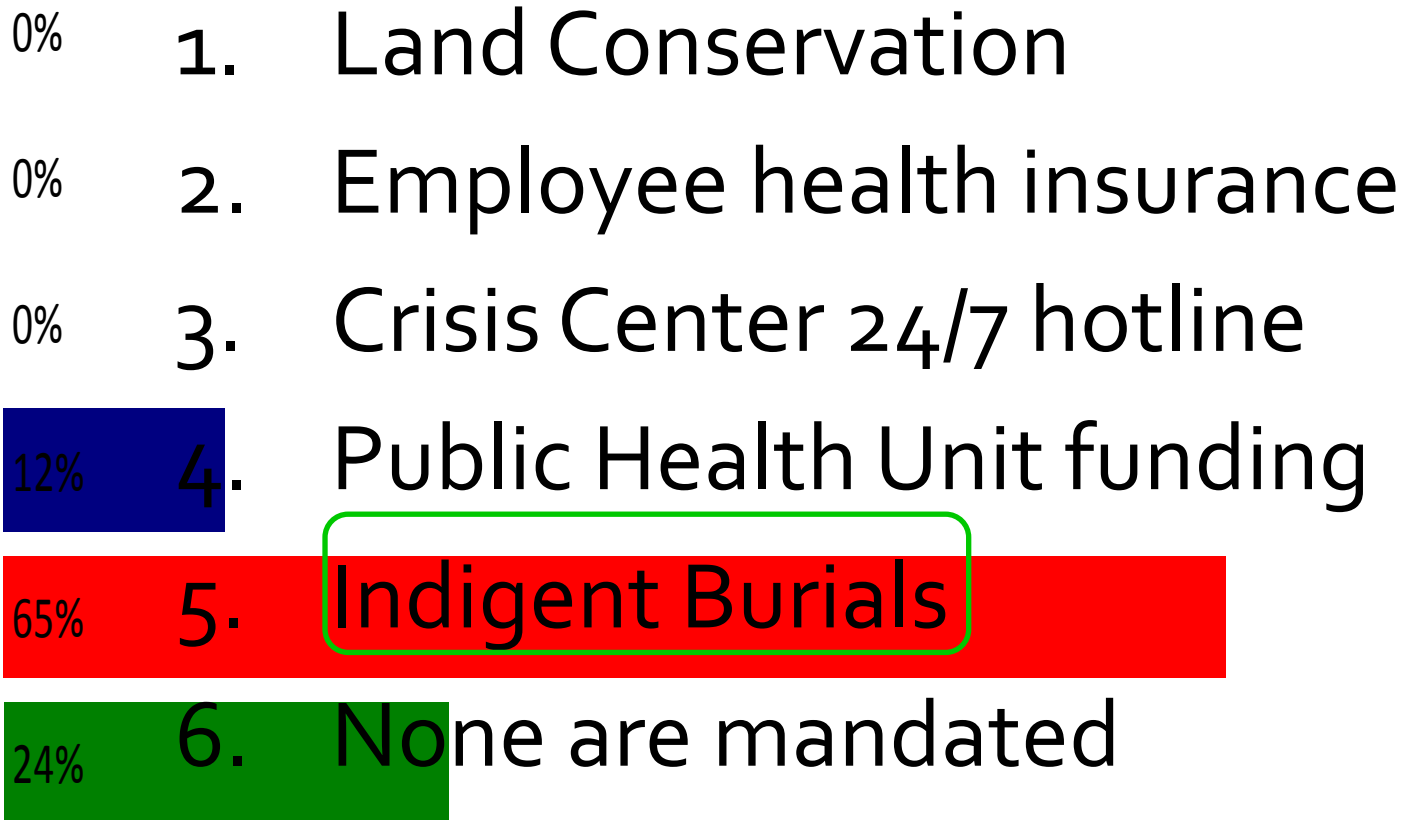
How do you think Alachua County should respond to our continued fiscal challenges?

(Rank in order of preference)

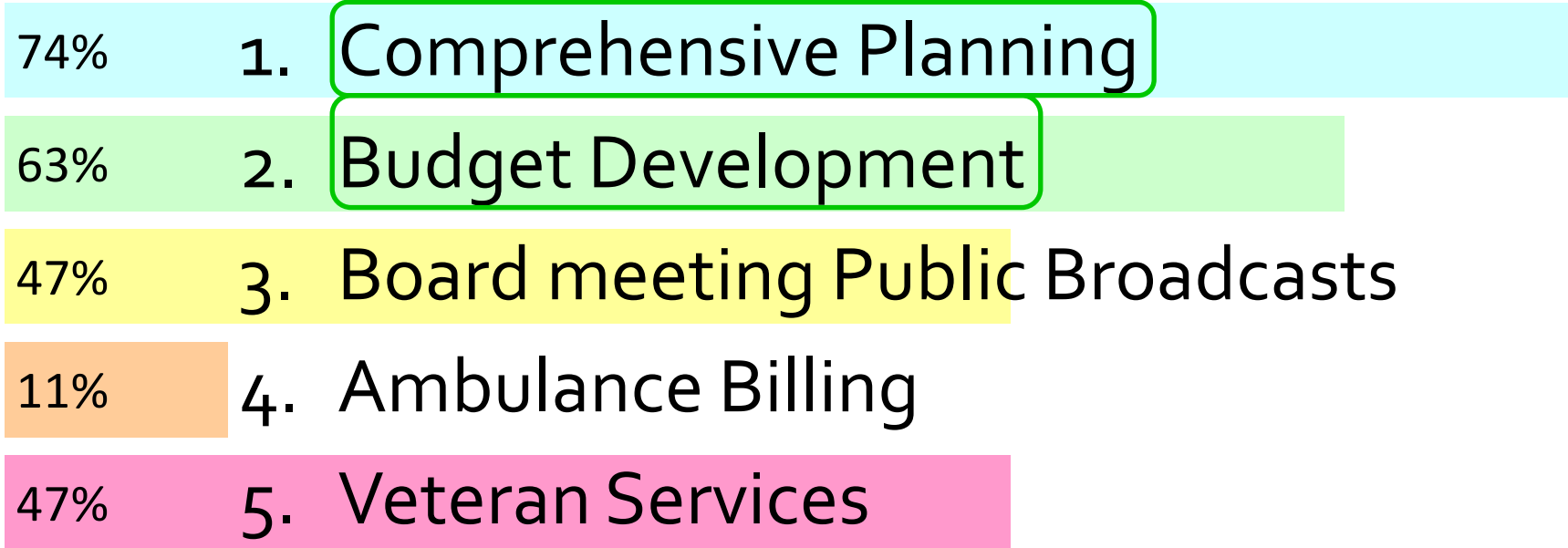
1. Reduce services
2. Increase efficiencies
3. Consolidate services
4. Increase property tax
5. Diversify revenue sources



Which of the Alachua County services listed below is mandated by State law?

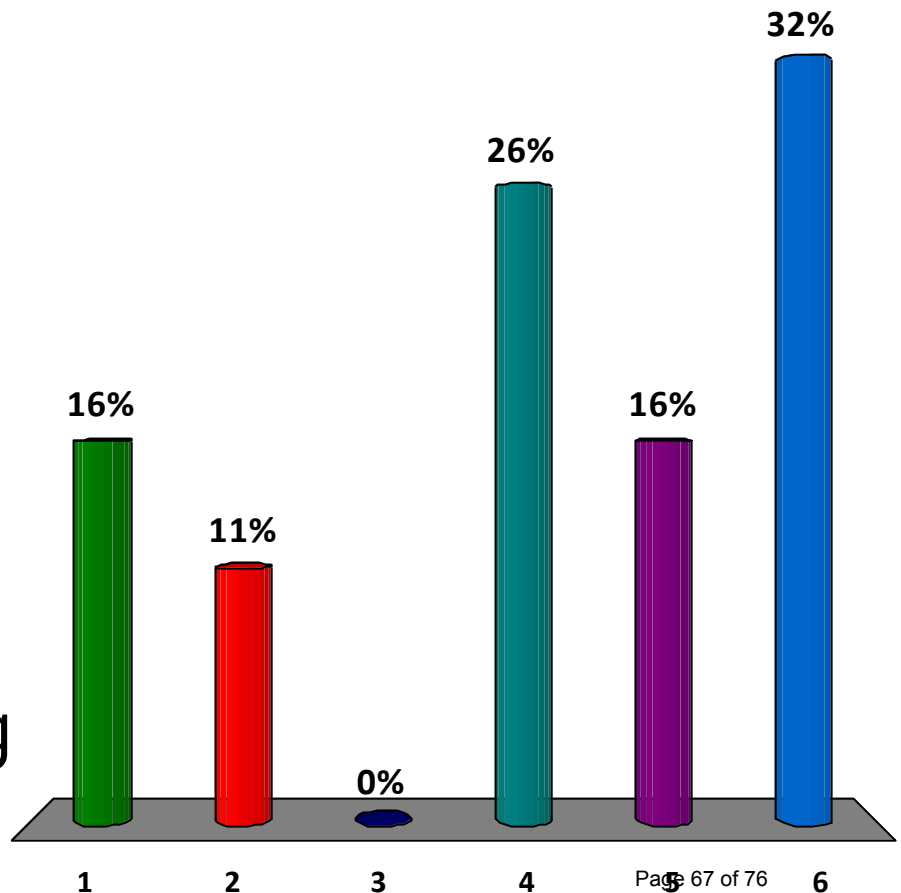


Which of the following services are mandated by State Law? (Select all that apply)



Which service/program do you think should receive additional funding?

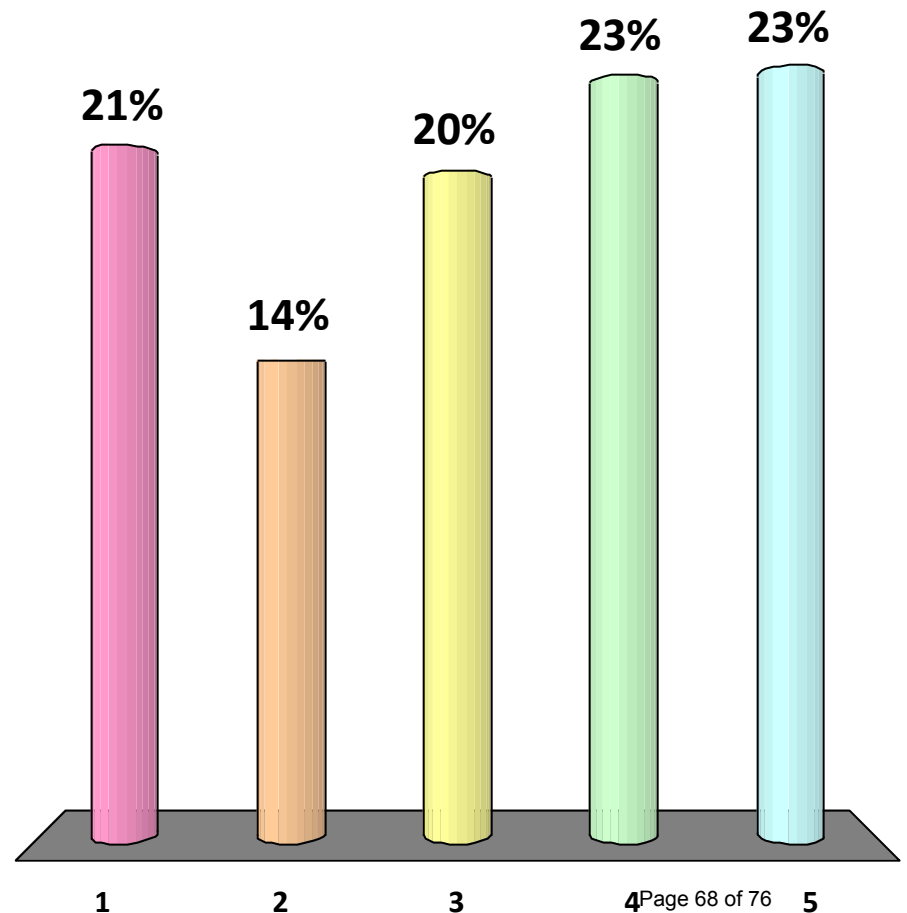
1. Road maintenance
2. Jail staffing
3. Rescue units
4. Substance abuse treatment
5. Debt repayment
6. Comprehensive Planning



What are your transportation priorities?

(Rank in order of importance to you)

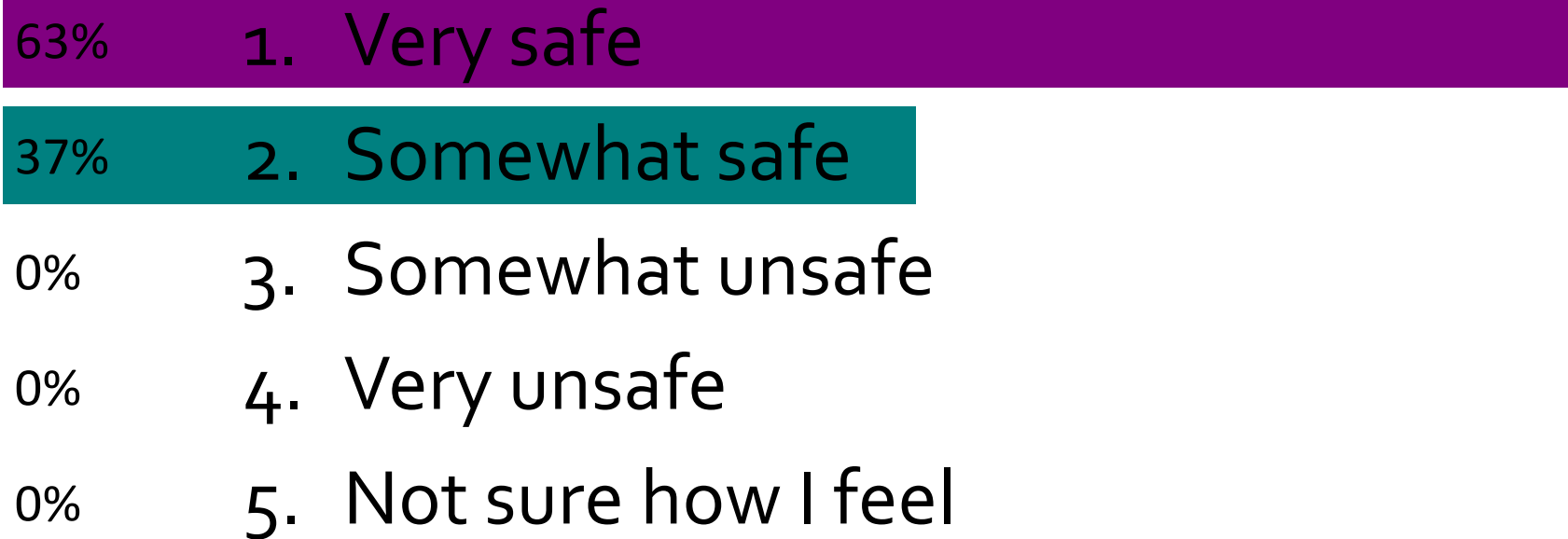
1. Maintain existing roads
2. Increase capacity by adding new connector roads
3. Increase current bus service
4. Develop bus rapid transit
5. Promote bike/pedestrian facilities



Of the following proposed budget cuts, which would you want to restore? (Select up to two)

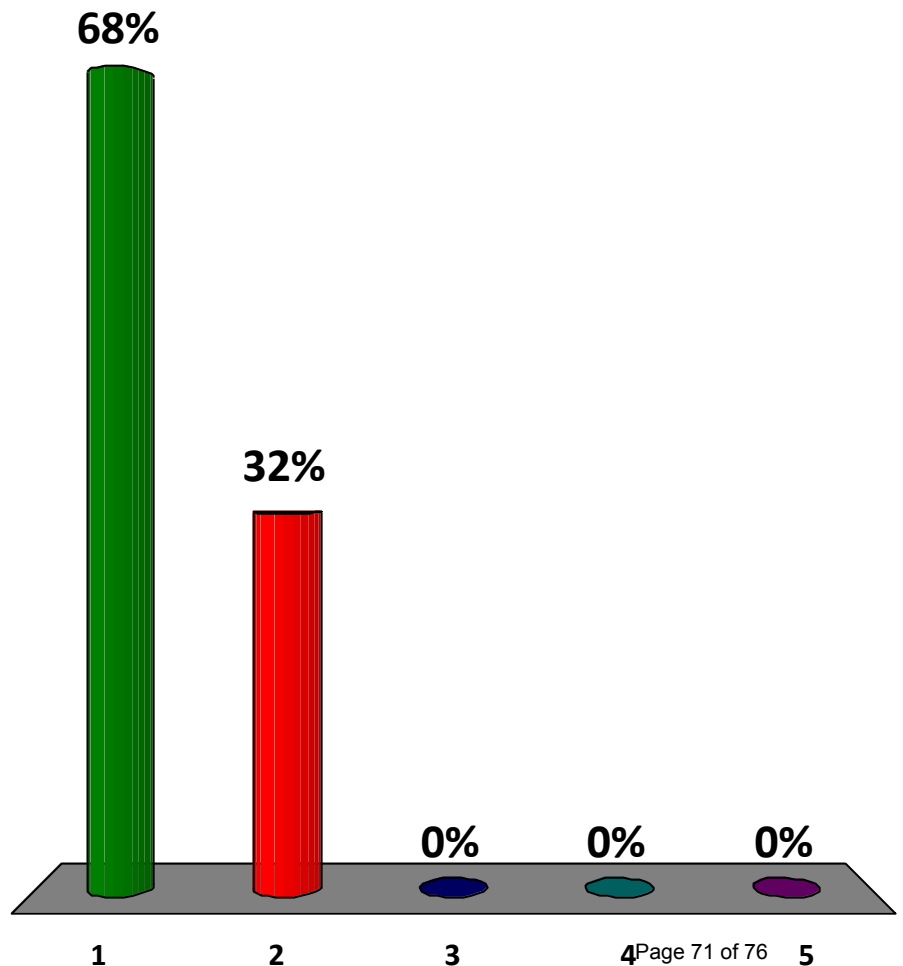
- 21% 1. Electronic Monitoring of offenders
- 0% 2. Jail Population Management Program
- 21% 3. CAPP program staffing
- 11% 4. 5% reduction to Meridian Behavioral Health
- 37% 5. Poverty Program staffing
- 11% 6. I would not restore any of the above

Overall, how safe do you feel where you live, work, and play in Alachua County?



Overall, Alachua County is a good place to live...

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree





CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: TABLETOP ACTIVITY



Net budget reduction of \$5,000

- Each table is considered a “Board of County Commissioners”
 - Majority of the Board must agree on the budget adjustments
- Cannot decrease “mandatory” expenses



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

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



Thank you for being here and sharing!

As you exit, please post your suggestions on the "idea" board.



THANK YOU