



Community Conversations

2012 Session Results

Event Date	Time	Location	Number in Attendance
August 16, 2012 (Thursday)	5:30 pm to 8:30 pm	Senior Recreation Center (NW Area)	37
August 20, 2012 (Monday)	5:30 pm to 8:30 pm	Health Department (East Area)	19
August 23, 2012 (Thursday)	5:30 pm to 8:30 pm	GRU Downtown (Central)	20
August 25, 201 (Saturday)	9:00 am to 12:00 noon	Freedom Center @ Kanapaha (SW Area)	11
Total Attendance			87



The Community Conversation meeting process:

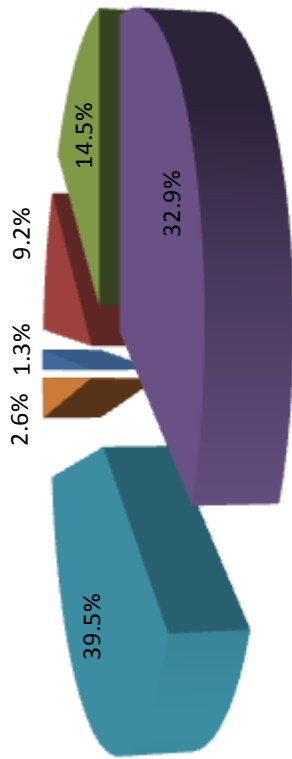
- Welcome from a Commissioner
- Opening Remarks from County Manager
- Small Group Conversations
- Audience demographic questions
- Financial information and budget briefing
- Citizen participation service level questions
- Table top activity—Budget Exercise
- Participant idea board responses

Small Group Conversations—Participants were asked to form small groups of no more than five to discuss questions such as:

- 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?

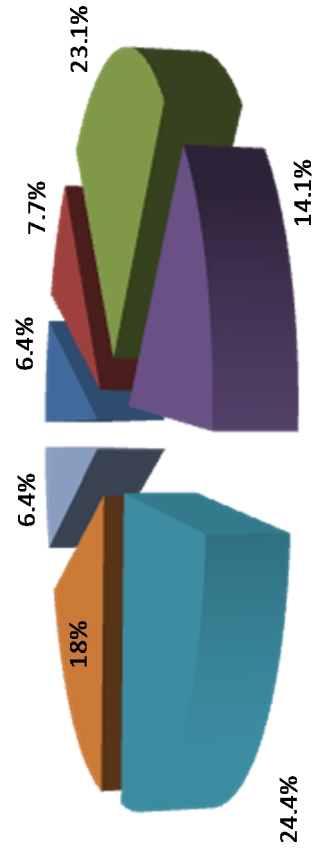
For the first question there were varied responses that included diversity, technology, natural environment, recreation, youth, and being a progressive community. The second question resulted in very different responses including more focused meetings, addressing 'big issues', feeling that our input means something, convenient location, parking, and times, and ensuring that basic needs are met then participation will increase.

How long have you lived in Alachua County?



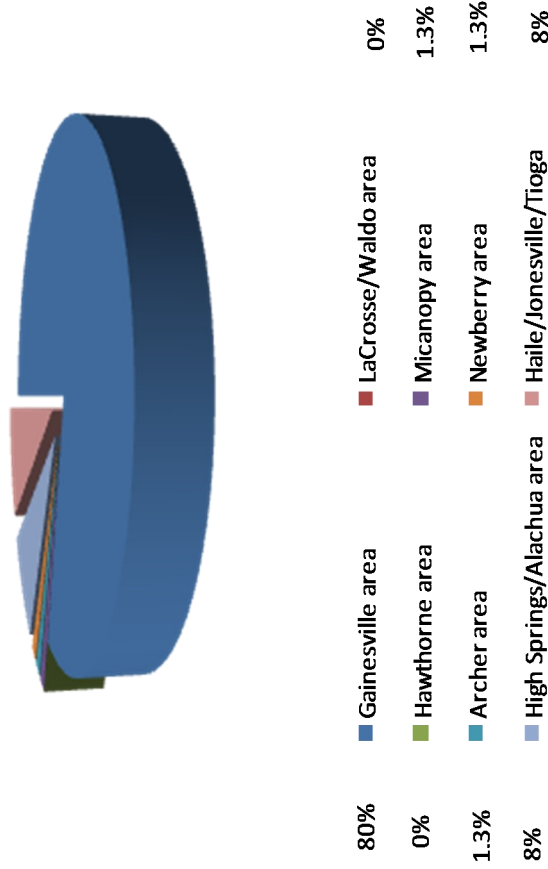
- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- More than 20 years
- Do not live in this County

What is your current age?

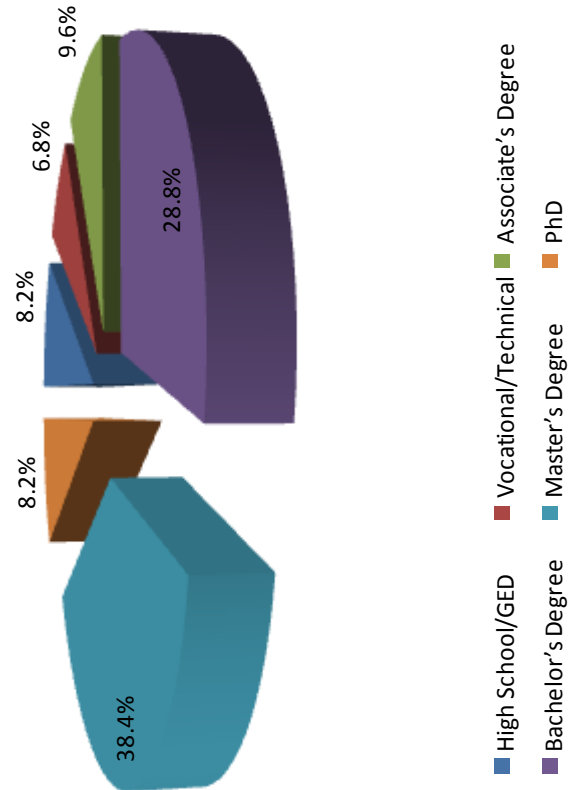


- Under 25
- 25 - 35
- 36 - 45
- 46 - 55
- 56 - 65
- 66 - 75
- Over 75

What area represents where you live?

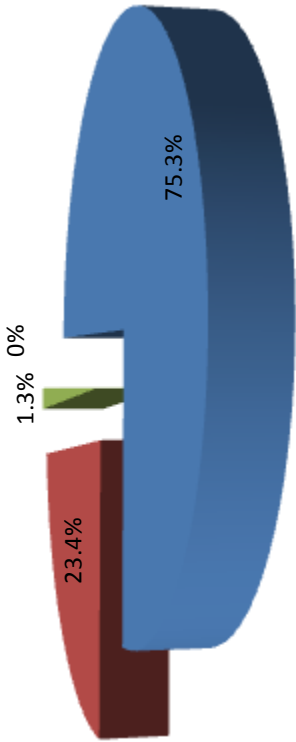


What is your highest level of education?



- High School/GED
- Bachelor's Degree
- Vocational/Technical
- Master's Degree
- Associate's Degree
- PhD

How many children live in your household?



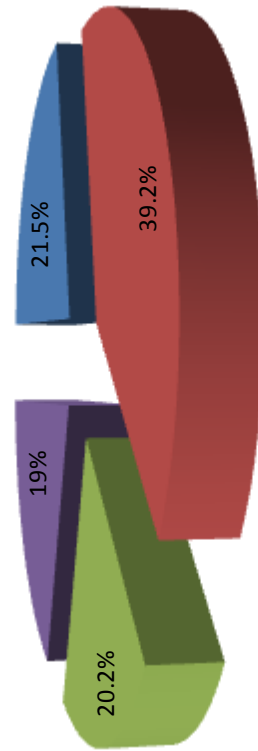
■ None ■ One or Two ■ Three to Five ■ Six or more

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



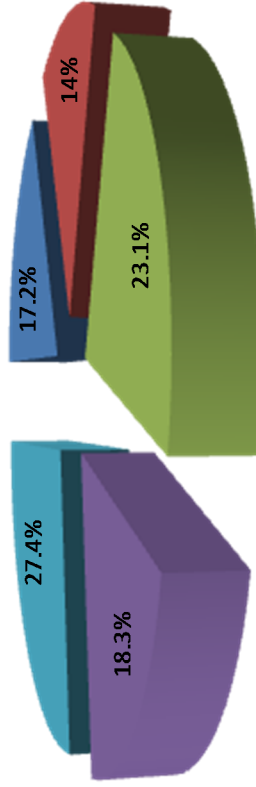
■ Attended a County Board meeting
 ■ Participated in a County Advisory Board
 ■ Attended a County Workshop/Info Meeting
 ■ Watched a County Meeting on the TV/web
 ■ Volunteered your time at a local nonprofit
 ■ Read a County Newsletter
 ■ Visited the County's website
 ■ None

How often do you talk or visit your immediate neighbors?



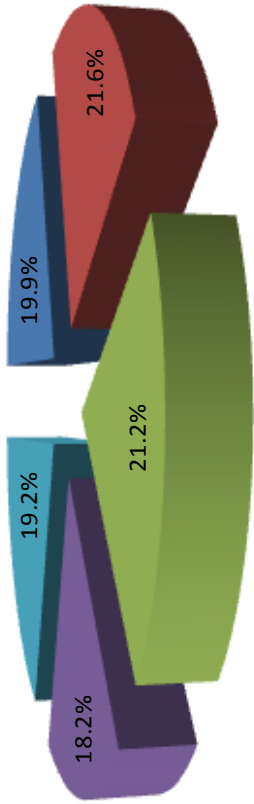
■ Daily ■ Several times a week ■ Several times a month ■ Hardly ever

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



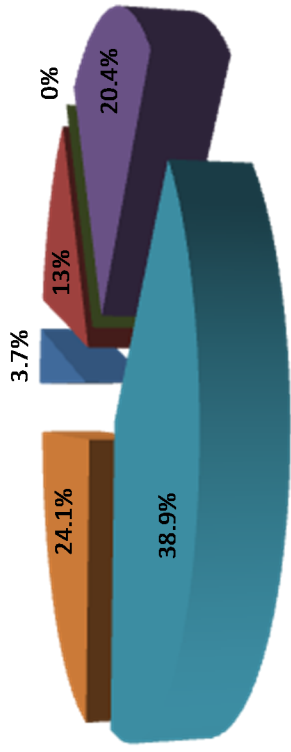
■ Police and Fire Protection ■ Roads and Transportation
 ■ Health and Human Services ■ Economic Development
 ■ Environmental Protection

How do you think Alachua County should respond to our continued fiscal challenges? (rank from most important to least important)



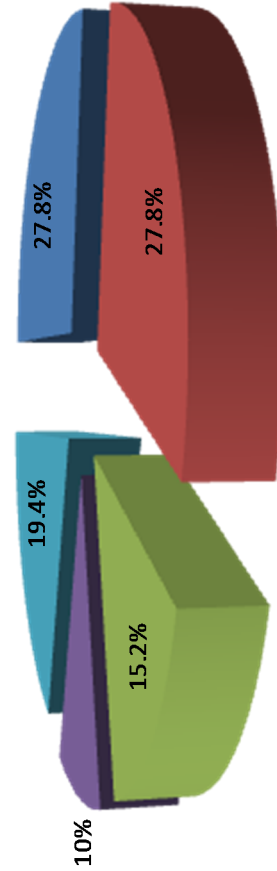
- Reduce services
- Increase efficiencies
- Consolidate services
- Increase property tax
- Diversify revenue sources

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



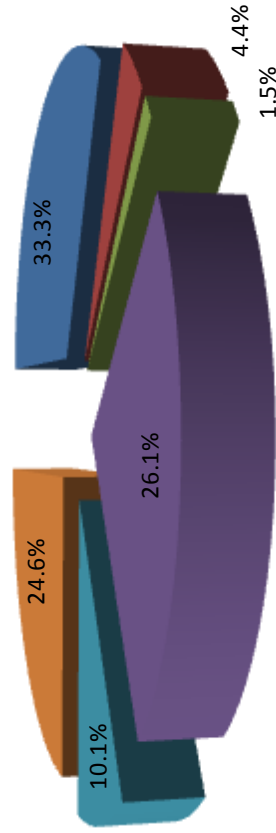
- Land Conservation
- Employee health insurance
- Crisis Center 24/7 hotline
- Public Health Unit funding
- Indigent Burials
- None are mandated

Which of the following services are mandated by State Law?



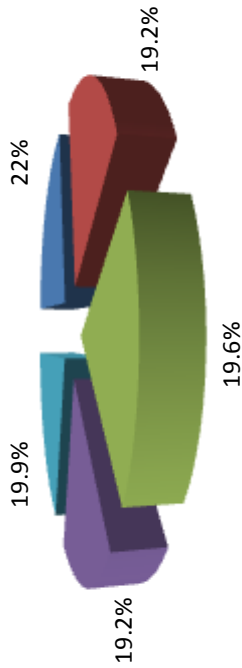
- ★ Comprehensive Planning
- ★ Budget Development
- Board meeting Public Broadcasts
- Ambulance Billing
- Veteran Services

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



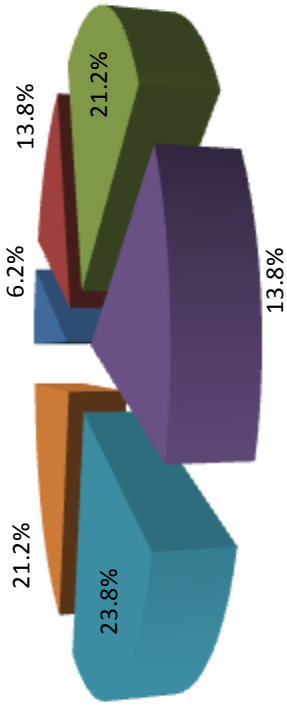
- Road maintenance
- Jail staffing
- Rescue units
- Substance abuse treatment
- Debt repayment
- Comprehensive Planning

What are your transportation priorities? (rank in order of importance)



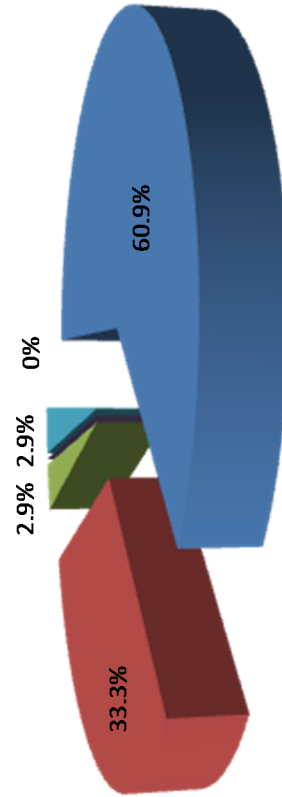
- Maintain existing roads
- Increase capacity by adding new connector roads
- Increase current bus service
- Develop bus rapid transit
- Promote bike/pedestrian facilities

Of the following proposed budget cuts, which would you restore? (select up to 2)



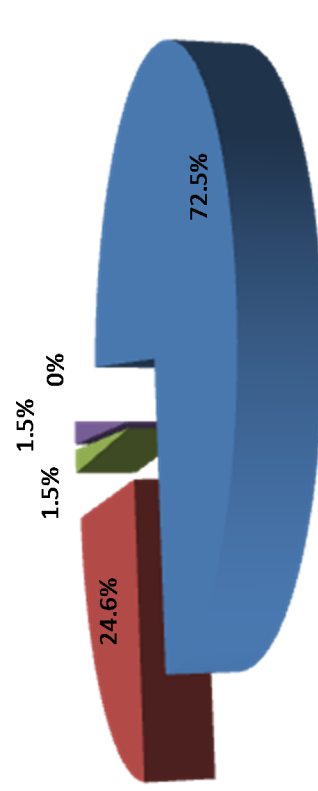
- Electronic Monitoring of offenders
- Jail Population Management Program
- CAPP program staffing
- 5% reduction to Meridian Behavioral Health
- Poverty Program staffing
- I would not restore any of the above

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



- Very safe
- Somewhat safe
- Somewhat unsafe
- Very unsafe
- Not sure how I feel

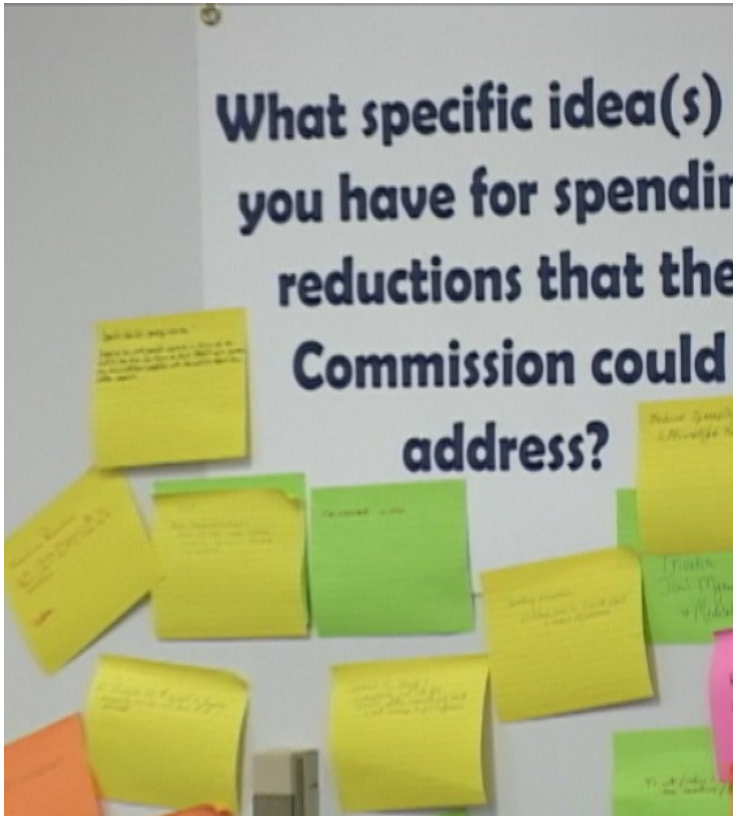
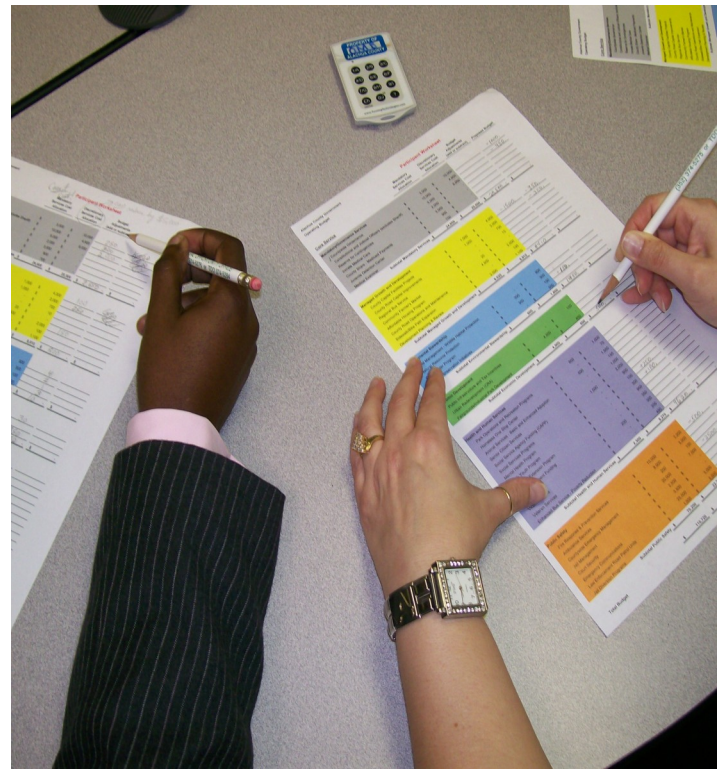
Overall, Alachua County is a good place to live....



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Neutral

Table Top Activity—Budget Exercise Results

- 87 Participants over 4 sessions
- 15 “Commission” tables (averages)
- Requested to reduce budget by \$5,000
- Participants could redistribute excess
- Recommendations:
 - 17% of cut from Managed Growth/Dev
 - 2% of cut from Economic Development
 - 56% of cut from Public Safety
 - 31% of cut from Governance
- Environmental Stewardship and Health and Human Services were recommended for increases of 5% and 2%, respectively, of the reallocated total.



Participant Idea Board Responses—**“What specific idea (s) do you have for a program, facility, or project that would improve our County?”** 44 participants completed sticky notes with 67 suggestions for the Commissioners to consider.

Participant Idea Board Responses— **“What specific idea (s) do you have for spending reductions that the Commission could address?”** 29 sticky notes were posted with 43 distinct recommendations for spending reductions.

We would like to thank the National Center for Government Performance and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for guidance and support for these events. A special thanks to Peter Block for his guidance in Community building.

For additional information, please contact Donna Bradbrook in the Alachua County Office of Management and Budget at 352/374-5262. Event details are also posted to our website at: <http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/OMB/Pages/OMB.aspx>