



Newberry Regional
PARTNERSHIP



Newberry Regional Partnership
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY POLL RESULTS

A ranking of 64 strategy ideas gathered from South Deschutes County area residents and tested in a community poll conducted in August 2024

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Newberry Regional Partnership COMMUNITY POLL RESULTS

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Newberry Regional Partnership COMMUNITY POLL RESULTS

OVERVIEW

This document provides the results of an online, non-scientific community poll of residents of South Deschutes County, also known as Newberry Country, conducted by the consultant on behalf of Newberry Regional Partnership (NRP). It is part of a larger effort to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the region. The poll had its origins in community input originally gathered from area residents through a variety of methods between June 2023 and June 2024.

NRP's *Summary of Community Input* (July 2024) provided a detailed analysis of that input, highlighting the community's most frequently mentioned issues and concerns. Based on the community's input, the consultant gleaned and further refined 92 specific ideas suggested by the public for consideration as potential strategies for NRP's strategic plan. They were organized into six focus areas and presented in a document entitled *Strategy Ideas Based on Community Input* (August 2024).

The next step was to conduct a community poll as a final check with the public to see which of these 92 ideas garnered the most support. Due to the sheer volume of ideas not all 92 could be tested. (The 64 ideas tested in the poll largely reflect top scoring issues and concerns from the *Summary of Community Input*.) In order to secure the participation of as many respondents as possible, ideas were tested by their titles only — not by more detailed strategy descriptions simultaneously currently under development.

Running for two and a half weeks, some 350 residents participated in the poll. (A very small number of additional responses were expected to come in following preparation of this report, but should make no statistically significant difference in its findings.) Participation in the poll closely reflected the distinct populated areas in the region, with the city of La Pine and La Pine area slightly over-represented (55% of respondents compared to approximately 50% of the region's population) and the Sunriver Owners Association and wider Sunriver Area slightly under-represented (23% of respondents compared to approximately 25% of the region's population).

This report presents the final results. For each focus area, respondents identified their top three or four ideas. (Two areas had a larger number of strategies for testing, so respondents were asked to choose an additional top idea.) Poll results offer a comparative ranking all ideas tested within a given focus area. Overall, there were 20 top-scoring ideas across all six areas.

It should be noted that there are significant differences in the priorities of populated areas of the region that are not reflected in overall poll results. A further analysis of those differences, including comparative priorities of different areas, will be presented to NRP. Based on polling results and this further analysis, NRP's Advisory Committee, assisted by its host organization Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, will develop a final slate of draft strategies and bring them before a summit meeting of key stakeholders and potential plan implementation partners for their consideration and refinement in the early fall.

Regardless of whether a given strategy idea ends up in the final strategic action plan, all ideas presented in this document will be archived for future reference and consideration.

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Resilient Newberry
WILDFIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
(10 strategy ideas tested)

Ideas ranked in order of percentage of total votes, from highest to lowest.

A total of 350 votes were cast in this focus area.

(★ = 3 top scoring ideas)

1. ★ Expand Enforcement of Illegal Camping Laws on Public Lands.
(Total Score: 80.6 percent)
2. ★ Implement New Traffic Safety Improvements on Highway 97 and Major Roads.
(Total Score: 50.0 percent)
3. ★ Support Fire-Safe Education and Funding for South County Residents and Property Owners.
(Total Score: 35.7 percent)
4. Expand Community Education on Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness.
(Total Score: 28.9 percent)
5. Form a Mental Health Crisis Response Team in South County.
(Total Score: 27.4 percent)
6. Expand Wildfire Evacuation Routes Education and Signage.
(Total Score: 22.0 percent)
7. Establish and Enforce Restrictions on Hunting in Residential and Recreational Areas.
(Total Score: 20.6 percent)
8. Construct Pedestrian and Bicyclist Mobility Amenities and Safety Enhancements.
(Total Score: 17.7 percent)
9. Provide Visitor Information and Promote Digital Literacy on Wildfire Safety.
(Total Score: 9.7 percent)
10. Expand and Improve 'Safe Routes to Schools' in South County.
(Total Score: 7.4 percent)

Livable Newberry
GROWTH, PLANNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
(12 strategy ideas tested)

Ideas ranked in order of percentage of total votes, from highest to lowest.

A total of 339 votes were cast in this focus area.

(★ = 4 top scoring ideas.)

1. ★ Upgrade, Improve and Widen Highway 97 Including the Wickiup Junction Overpass.
(Total Score: 63.7 percent)
2. ★ Identify and Implement Solutions for Long-Term Water Quality and Supply in South County.
(Total Score: 58.4 percent)
3. ★ Improve Cell Tower Capacity and Satellite Internet Access across South County.
(Total Score: 45.7 percent)
4. ★ Upgrade Unpaved and Unimproved Side Roads In or Near Developed Areas of South County.
(Total Score: 44.8 percent)
5. Expand Public Transportation Between South Deschutes County and Bend.
(Total Score: 41.0 percent)
6. Expand Habitat for Humanity's Critical Home Repair Program.
(Total Score: 28.6 percent)
7. Explore Stronger Regulations to Control Short-Term Rentals in Rural South County.
(Total Score: 28.3 percent)
8. Develop Protected Urban Bikeways and Pedestrian Pathways.
(Total Score: 25.1 percent)
9. Restore and Preserve Older, Historic Buildings in La Pine.
(Total Score: 20.4 percent)
10. Support Improvements to Aging Manufactured or Pre-Fabricated Dwellings.
(Total Score: 17.1 percent)
11. Support Formation of a Nonprofit News Organization to Serve South County.
(Total Score: 16.2 percent)
12. Develop a Collaborative Work Space to House Local Nonprofit Organizations.
(Total Score: 10.6 percent)

Sustainable Newberry
ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & OUTDOOR RECREATION
(10 strategy ideas tested)

Ideas ranked in order of percentage of total votes, from highest to lowest.

A total of 336 votes were cast in this focus area.

(★ = 3 top scoring ideas.)

1. ★ **Clean Up Trash and Garbage from South County Forested Areas.**
(Total Score: 63.1 percent)
2. ★ **Assist Property Owners in Addressing Septic System Failures Across South County.**
(Total Score: 42.3 percent)
3. ★ **Expand Curbside and Drop-Off Recycling Services in Sunriver and La Pine.**
(Total Score: 39.9 percent)
4. **Develop a Community Aquatic Center in La Pine.**
(Total Score: 36.0 percent)
5. **Expand and Develop Multi-Use Parks that Accommodate a Wider Range of Interests.**
(Total Score: 30.1 percent)
6. **Build More Pedestrian and Bike Paths in La Pine, Three Rivers, and Oregon Water Wonderland.**
(Total Score: 26.5 percent)
7. **Develop More Put-In and Take-Out Locations for Kayakers.**
(Total Score: 19.1 percent)
8. **Explore New, More Aggressive New Water Conservation Measures.**
(Total Score: 17.3 percent)
9. **Promote Renewable Energy Use by Residences, Businesses and Public Buildings.**
(Total Score: 15.5 percent)
10. **Build a Community Skating Rink in La Pine.**
(Total Score: 10.4 percent)

Thriving Newberry
HEALTH, WELLNESS & HUMAN SERVICES
(10 strategy ideas tested)

Ideas ranked in order of percentage of total votes, from highest to lowest.

A total of 334 votes were cast in this focus area.

(★ = 3 top scoring ideas.)

1. ★ **Develop Critical Health Care Specialists and Emergency Room Services in South County.**
(Total Score: 75.8 percent)
2. ★ **Expand Behavioral Health Services throughout South County.**
(Total Score: 36.8 percent)
3. ★ **Promote Access to Fresh, Nutritious and Healthy Foods in South County.**
(Total Score: 32.3 percent)
4. **Develop a Shelter for Unhoused People in South County.**
(Total Score: 31.7 percent)
5. **Mitigate Impacts of Wildfire Smoke on Residents, Children and Outdoor Workers.**
(Total Score: 30.2 percent)
6. **Open a Comprehensive Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center in South County.**
(Total Score: 26.7 percent)
7. **Open a Community Pharmacy Facility in Sunriver.**
(Total Score: 23.7 percent)
8. **Provide Home Health Care and Infusion Therapies in South County.**
(Total Score: 23.1 percent)
9. **Increase Organized Activities for Community Members with Disabilities.**
(Total Score: 11.4 percent)
10. **Promote Community Education on the Impacts of Poverty and Trauma.**
(Total Score: 8.4 percent)

Prosperous Newberry
JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(10 strategy ideas tested)

Ideas ranked in order of percentage of total votes, from highest to lowest.

A total of 331 votes were cast in this focus area.

(★ = 3 top scoring ideas.)

1. ★ Collaborate with COCC to Increase Vocational Training in South County.
(Total Score: 57.4 percent)
2. ★ Recruit a Competitively Priced Grocery Store with Healthy Food Options to La Pine.
(Total Score: 53.2 percent)
3. ★ Foster Industry-Specific Job Apprenticeships and Certification in South County.
(Total Score: 45.6 percent)
4. Create a Defined Downtown Area in La Pine with Small Businesses and Better Traffic Flow.
(Total Score: 43.2 percent)
5. Develop Affordable Workforce Housing for Teachers, First Responders, Public Employees, Healthcare and Resort Workers.
(Total Score: 40.8 percent)
6. Promote La Pine’s Outdoor Recreational Assets to Attract Young Families and Businesses.
(Total Score: 21.2 percent)
7. Upgrade Sunriver Business Park as a Multi-Service Community Center.
(Total Score: 19.3 percent)
8. Support Development of New Retail on Existing Rural Commercial Lots in Three Rivers.
(Total Score: 8.2 percent)
9. Recruit a Large Animal Veterinary Practice to Locate in La Pine.
(Total Score: 7.3 percent)
10. Develop Signage and Improvements to Promote Alternate Routes to Mt. Bachelor.
(Total Score: 3.9 percent)

Inspired Newberry
EDUCATION, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, ARTS & CULTURE
(12 strategy ideas tested)

Ideas ranked in order of percentage of total votes, from highest to lowest.

A total of 318 votes were cast in this focus area.

(★ = 4 top scoring ideas.)

1. ★ **Expand After-School, STEAM and Summer Activities to Keep Students Engaged and Learning.**
(Total Score: 67.0 percent)
2. ★ **Promote South County Collaborative’s Efforts to Increase Student Graduation Rates.**
(Total Score: 56.6 percent)
3. ★ **Expand COCC Adult Education and Lifelong Learning at La Pine Park & Recreation.**
(Total Score: 51.3 percent)
4. ★ **Develop a Large Childcare and Preschool Facility in South County.**
(Total Score: 46.5 percent)
5. **Expand Music Education in all South County Schools to Improve Student Outcomes.**
(Total Score: 37.1 percent)
6. **Engage Bend-La Pine Schools in a Dialogue on Equitable Investment in La Pine Area Schools.**
(Total Score: 36.2 percent)
7. **Recruit Business Owners and Senior Volunteers for South County In-School Programs.**
(Total Score: 28.6 percent)
8. **Establish a Business/Foundation Supported Scholarship Fund for South County Students.**
(Total Score: 19.5 percent)
9. **Expand and Support Active Parent-Teacher Organizations in South County Schools.**
(Total Score: 18.2 percent)
10. **Establish a Storefront Museum in La Pine for South County History and Heritage.**
(Total Score: 15.4 percent)
11. **Form a South County Arts Alliance to Bridge the Urban/Rural Arts-and-Culture Gap.**
(Total Score: 12.6 percent)
12. **Foster Collaboration Between Arts Groups and State and Local Parks in South County.**
(Total Score: 11.0 percent)