



Newberry Regional  
**PARTNERSHIP**

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Newberry Regional Partnership  
**STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

## **DRAFT STRATEGY IDEAS & POLLING SCORES**

*64 strategy ideas developed from community input, along with their rankings based on a community poll and draft strategy language for each idea.*

**FINAL**

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# Newberry Regional Partnership DRAFT STRATEGY IDEAS & POLLING SCORES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>OVERVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>STRATEGY IDEAS &amp; POLLING SCORES BY FOCUS AREA</b>	<b>5</b>
▪ Resilient Newberry Country – Wildfire & Public Safety	5
▪ Livable Newberry Country – Growth, Planning & Community Engagement	8
▪ Sustainable Newberry Country – Environment, Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation	11
▪ Thriving Newberry Country – Health, Wellness & Human Services	13
▪ Prosperous Newberry Country – Jobs & Economic Development	15
▪ Inspired Newberry Country – Education, Youth Activities, Arts & Culture	17
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>20</b>
▪ Community Poll Analysis by Geographic Area – A Closer Look at Rankings and Gaps	21

## Newberry Regional Partnership DRAFT STRATEGY IDEAS & POLLING SCORES

### OVERVIEW

This report presents draft strategy ideas and their polling scores based on the results of an online, non-scientific community poll of residents of South Deschutes County, also known as Newberry Country. The poll was conducted on behalf of Newberry Regional Partnership (NRP) and Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), and is part of a larger effort to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the region.

The report highlights **64 strategy ideas** in six focus areas and includes a priority score for each idea (based on the percentage of poll respondents selecting that idea), along with draft strategy language for each idea already under development. The report also includes **28 additional strategy ideas** that were not tested in the poll along with their draft strategy language.

Strategy ideas included in the poll were originally gleaned from 92 specific ideas suggested by the public as potential strategies for inclusion in the plan. Those ideas were summarized in the document entitled ***Strategy Ideas Based on Community Input*** (August 2024). Due to the sheer volume of ideas not all 92 could be tested.

The 64 ideas tested in the poll reflected issues and concerns based on community input previously gathered by NRP. In order to secure the participation of as many respondents as possible in the poll, these ideas were tested by their titles only — not by their more detailed draft strategy language. Up to 350 residents participated in the community poll. (A small number of additional responses came in following poll analysis, but made no significant statistical difference in poll findings.)

Participation in the poll closely reflected populated areas in Newberry Country, with the city of La Pine and La Pine area slightly over-represented (55% of poll respondents compared to roughly 50% of the region's population) and the Sunriver Owners Association and wider Sunriver Area (including Three Rivers) slightly under-represented (23% of respondents compared to roughly 25% of the region's population).

While there were a number of priority strategies common to all populated areas across the region, there were also some significant differences based on where people live. These differences are not readily discernible in overall poll results. An analysis of priority strategies by different geographic areas of the region ("Community Poll Analysis by Geographic Area – A Closer Look at Rankings and Gaps") can be found in the Appendix of this report.

Based on polling results and this further analysis, NPR's Advisory Committee, assisted by COIC, will develop a smaller slate of final draft strategies and bring them before key stakeholders and potential plan implementation partners for their consideration and refinement at the Newberry Country Action Summit in late October 2024.

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

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## Resilient Newberry Country WILDFIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

(10 Strategy Ideas tested in Community Poll. Respondents asked to choose top 3.)

### Strategy Ideas Tested in the Community Poll & Their Polling Scores (★ = Top 3)

- **★ Expand Enforcement of Illegal Camping Laws on Public Lands.**  
(Polling Score: 80.6%)  
Provide federal and state employees, including the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service, with increased funding and tools to enforce laws in forested areas where the homeless are illegally camping.
- **★ Implement New Traffic Safety Improvements on Highway 97 and Major Roads.**  
(Total Score: 50.0%)  
Improve driver safety by adding stop lights, roundabouts or related safety improvements to Highway 97 in the La Pine area, State Recreation Road, Paulina Lake Road, Burgess Road, 6th Street, and Finley Butte Road.
- **★ Support Fire-Safe Education and Funding for South County Residents and Property Owners.**  
(Total Score: 35.7%)  
Establish local government and homeowner association support for fire-safe education and funding for property owners' wildfire safety improvements. Secure subsidies to help property owners create defensible space, install fire-safe landscaping, and undertake building retrofits.
- **Expand Community Education on Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness.**  
(Total Score: 28.9%)  
Conduct regular community meetings with fire officials as a way to educate residents about wildfire preparedness and prevention steps. Engage property owners and neighborhoods about becoming a "Firewise" community. Connect property owners with resources for clearing brush and woody debris from their properties to mitigate for wildfire risk. Levy fines on absentee property owners who do not conduct fuel reduction work on their properties.
- **Form a Mental Health Crisis Response Team in South County.**  
(Total Score: 27.4%)  
Form a mental health crisis response team in South Deschutes County to assist law enforcement in incidents involving people experiencing mental or behavioral health crises.
- **Expand Wildfire Evacuation Routes Education and Signage.**  
(Total Score: 22.0%)  
Help familiarize residents and visitors with designated and alternate wildfire evacuation routes in the Sunriver, Three Rivers, and La Pine areas. Stress that some routes may not be the ones utilized in a wildfire. Develop a third fire evacuation route out of the Sunriver resort, with its complicated road system and large numbers of visitors during the summer

months. Install signs alongside roads and trails identifying wildfire risks and evacuation routes.

- **Establish and Enforce Restrictions on Hunting in Residential and Recreational Areas. (Total Score: 20.6%)**

Prohibit shooting of firearms and hunting in or near residential areas and designated recreational areas. Educate residents and visitors about areas that are both available, restricted or closed to shooting and hunting, including education programs, online resources, maps and signage. Install signage along trails to notify people where they are hiking or biking in a designated hunting zone so they can safely recreate.

- **Construct Pedestrian and Bicyclist Mobility Amenities and Safety Enhancements. (Total Score: 17.7%)**

Construct pathways and related safety improvements adjacent to Highway 97, Burgess Road, Sixth Street, and other roads to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

- **Provide Visitor Information and Promote Digital Literacy on Wildfire Safety. (Total Score: 9.7%)**

Provide wildfire prevention and safety information for South Deschutes County visitors and a “digital literacy” education program for both residents and visitors on how to access and understand important online or texted information during a wildfire event.

- **Expand and Improve ‘Safe Routes to Schools’ in South County. (Total Score: 7.4%)**

Expand ‘Safe Routes to Schools’ construction and education in South Deschutes County, to improve, educate, and encourage children in safely walking (by foot or mobility device) or biking to school. Explore ODOT funding to improve designated routes as needed and educate the community in their use.

### **Strategy Ideas NOT Tested in the Community Poll**

- **Support Updates of Community Wildfire Protection Plans in South County.**

Support ongoing updates of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) in South Deschutes County by Project Wildfire and the Deschutes County Forester, including the Sunriver, Greater La Pine and Upper Deschutes River areas, actively engaging local community members in the plan’s development and implementation.

- **Access Increased Federal Funding for Prescribed Burns and Forest Thinning.**

Access increased Federal Funding to conduct prescribed burns and to thin forested areas in South Deschutes County, returning areas forest to better health while private properties located adjacent to federal lands. Conduct prescribed burns earlier in the calendar year when air quality impacts are less, tourism numbers are lower, and conditions for burning are more secure.

- **Develop a New Sheriff's Office Station in La Pine.**  
Build a new Sheriff's office station in La Pine with increased space for personnel, equipment and safety-related facilities, including holding cells and an interview room.
  
- **Establish a New Traffic Safety Law Enforcement Unit in South County.**  
Establish a traffic safety law enforcement unit in South Deschutes County to control and reduce speeding and aggressive driving that endangers other motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists, and children walking to and from school.

**Livable Newberry Country**  
**GROWTH, PLANNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
(12 Strategy Ideas tested in Community Poll. Respondents asked to choose top 4.)

**Strategy Ideas Tested in the Community Poll & Their Polling Scores (★ = Top 4)**

- **★ Upgrade, Improve and Widen Highway 97 Including the Wickiup Junction Overpass. (Polling Score: 63.7%)**  
Upgrade Highway 97 from Bend to La Pine, expanding it to four lanes, with safety barriers between the northbound and southbound lanes. Improve safe and efficient access onto and off the highway. Encourage Oregon Department of Transportation to complete the unfinished bypass over Highway 97 at Wickiup Junction.
- **★ Identify and Implement Solutions for Long-Term Water Quality and Supply in South County. (Polling Score: 58.4%)**  
Secure funding to identify and implement solutions for water system improvements and long-term water quality and supply for South Deschutes County.
- **★ Improve Cell Tower Capacity and Satellite Internet Access across South County. (Polling Score: 45.7%)**  
Expand and improve cell tower capacity across South Deschutes County so it doesn't overload in an emergency or interfere with alert systems and other ways of notifying residents. Educate residents in areas with no Internet access about the availability of satellite services.
- **★ Upgrade Unpaved and Unimproved Side Roads In or Near Developed Areas of South County. (Polling Score: 44.8%)**  
Work with private road districts to upgrade unpaved and unimproved side roads in or near developed areas of South Deschutes County, including paving selected roads in Three Rivers, Deschutes River Woods, Cagle Subdivision, La Pine to enhance public safety, suppress dust, and improve air quality.
- **Expand Public Transportation Between South Deschutes County and Bend. (Polling Score: 41.0%)**  
Expand and improve public transportation service between South Deschutes County and the Bend area for people commuting to work and back, for seniors who need to access medical appointments and others services, and for teens and others who face dangerous winter driving conditions. Explore adding public transportation service between La Pine and Gilchrist in Klamath County.
- **Expand Habitat for Humanity's Critical Home Repair Program. (Polling Score: 28.6%)**  
Expand Habitat for Humanity's critical home repair program in order to reach more households, assisting lower income residents with maintenance expenses and home owners, and improving the area's housing stock.



- **Explore Stronger Regulations to Control Short-Term Rentals in Rural South County.**  
(Polling Score: 28.3%)

Explore stronger regulations to control the number, location and management of short-term rentals in rural South Deschutes County, limiting their undesirable impacts on community life and availability of housing for local residents.
- **Develop Protected Urban Bikeways and Pedestrian Pathways.**  
(Polling Score: 25.1%)

Build more protected urban bikeways and pedestrian pathways better connecting developed areas of South Deschutes County, including links between the north and south La Pine.
- **Restore and Preserve Older, Historic Buildings in La Pine.**  
(Polling Score: 20.4%)

Restore and preserve older buildings and structures in La Pine as a way to maintain connection to and honor its historical roots and small-town atmosphere. Adapt older buildings to compatible newer uses while preserving their character and history.
- **Support Improvements to Aging Manufactured or Pre-Fabricated Dwellings.**  
(Polling Score: 17.1%)

Support rehabilitation or improvement to aging manufactured or prefabricated dwellings in South Deschutes County, working with partner organizations to secure funding to improve the visual appearance and functionality of these homes.
- **Support Formation of a Nonprofit News Organization to Serve South County.**  
(Polling Score: 16.2%)

Working with the Fund for Oregon Rural Journalism, support formation of an independent nonprofit news organization to serve South Deschutes County, providing residents with news and information on key community issues, events and activities.
- **Develop a Collaborative Work Space to House Local Nonprofit Organizations.**  
(Polling Score: 10.6%)

Develop a collaborative work space to house and nurture the offices of local community nonprofit organizations that do not have or cannot afford to own or lease their own facilities.

#### **Strategy Ideas NOT Tested in the Community Poll**

- **Develop the La Pine BLM Property for New Housing.**

Develop and construct new housing on the Bureau of Land Management property in La Pine in a methodical, phased approach to control its impact on the community's infrastructure.
- **Construct High-Amenity Housing Business Owners, Executives, Physicians and Retirees in La Pine.** Construct larger, high-amenity homes, expanding housing options for business

owners, executives, physicians, retirees and others, enticing them to move to or remain in La Pine.

- **Study Potential for New and Expanded Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities in South County.**  
Secure funding to study and pursue new or expanded wastewater collection and treatment facilities for South Deschutes County communities, preventing septic leakage from getting into water tables and toxic substances from entering rivers.
- **Develop New Public Spaces that Invite People to Gather and Connect.**  
Develop greater community cohesion by creating new public, walk-friendly spaces that invite residents and visitors to gather, connect with their community, and communicate with one another in person.
- **Create a Volunteer Program to Assist Local Nonprofits and Community Groups.**  
Create a community volunteer program to assist nonprofit organizations, community groups and other public entities, providing valuable services for community-based groups and a useful outlet for the skills, talents and energy of community members with time and energy to get involved.
- **Promote Greater Communication and Collaboration between Sunriver and La Pine.**  
Promote greater communication and collaboration between the Sunriver and La Pine communities, bringing residents and leaders together at meetings, civic events and other activities as a way to foster cooperation on important South County issues and dispel stereotypes.

**Sustainable Newberry Country**  
**ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & OUTDOOR RECREATION**  
(10 Strategy Ideas tested in Community Poll. Respondents asked to choose top 3.)

**Strategy Ideas Tested in the Community Poll & Their Polling Scores (★ = Top 3)**

- **★ Clean Up Trash and Garbage from South County Forested Areas.**  
(Polling Score: 63.1%)  
Working with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other federal, State and local government agencies, clean up trash and garbage from South Deschutes County forested areas, including locations harboring homeless encampments.
- **★ Assist Property Owners in Addressing Septic System Failures Across South County.**  
(Total Score: 42.3%)  
Pursue additional funding opportunities to retrofit or upgrade failing septic systems, mitigating the impacts on water quality and the environment in South Deschutes County  
Explore opportunities to educate and assist property owners in improving their septic systems.
- **★ Expand Curbside and Drop-Off Recycling Services in Sunriver and La Pine.**  
Expand and improve curbside recycling and open drop-off recycling centers in both the Sunriver and the La Pine areas.  
(Total Score: 39.9%)
- **Develop a Community Aquatic Center in La Pine**  
(Total Score: 36.0%)  
Build a community aquatic center in La Pine with a swimming pool and other amenities for all ages, including seniors, youth and children, and disabled residents, particularly those who do not have access or transportation to nearby rivers and lakes
- **Expand and Develop Multi-Use Parks that Accommodate a Wider Range of Interests.**  
(Total Score: 30.1%)  
Develop more parks for a wide range of interests, including parks geared for children and families, cultural events, zip line enthusiasts, dog owners, and ATV riders. Build a multi-use riverside park with lawns and picnic tables.
- **Build More Pedestrian and Bike Paths in La Pine, Three Rivers, and Oregon Water Wonderland.**  
(Total Score: 26.5%)  
Build more pedestrian and bike paths in the La Pine, Three Rivers and Oregon Water Wonderland areas for people to more safely recreate and reduce vehicular traffic on local roads.

- **Develop More Put-In and Take-Out Locations for Kayakers.**  
**(Total Score: 19.1%)**  
 Develop more put-in and take-out locations for kayakers along the Deschutes and Little Deschutes rivers. Develop additional loading areas and parking lots for tourists seeking to float the Deschutes River in the Harper Bridge area near Sunriver.
- **Explore New, More Aggressive New Water Conservation Measures.**  
**(Total Score: 17.3%)**  
 Develop and implement new and more aggressive water conservation measures in South Deschutes County, reducing unnecessary water consumption by homes, businesses and public buildings. Work with Oregon Water Resources Department in identifying critical groundwater areas.
- **Promote Renewable Energy Use by Residences, Businesses and Public Buildings.**  
**(Total Score: 15.5%)**  
 Promote the use of renewable energy by private residences, businesses and public buildings in South Deschutes County, reducing carbon emissions and improving the environment. Promote resident participation in community solar programs offered by some utility companies.
- **Build a Community Skating Rink in La Pine.**  
**(Total Score: 10.4%)**  
 Build a community skating rink in La Pine that offers a range of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities on ice for area youth and families.

**Strategy Ideas NOT Tested in the Community Poll**

- **Construct the Lava Butte-La Pine Multi-Use Path**  
 Proceed in constructing the Lava Butte-La Pine Multi Use Path connecting south and north Deschutes County, creating a safer route for multi-modal travelers and accommodating bicyclists and hikers seeking longer excursions.
- **Construct New Trailheads and Trailhead Parking in South County.**  
 Construct new trailheads and parking areas in South Deschutes County to better disperse hikers and mountain bikers in the outdoors, and expand access for residents who are deterred by overcrowding or seek a quieter outdoor experiences.
- **Develop Fishing Access Sites Accommodating People with Disabilities**  
 Develop fishing access on local lakes and rivers that safely accommodates people with disabilities.
- **Develop a Public Shooting Range Facility.**  
 Develop a public outdoor shooting range offering safe, responsible firearm training and shooting opportunities for users that is compliant with state and local regulations and ordinances, and compatible with adjacent property uses, protecting the health and safety of nearby property owners and residents.

**Thriving Newberry Country**  
**HEALTH, WELLNESS & HUMAN SERVICES**  
(10 Strategy Ideas tested in Community Poll. Respondents asked to choose top 3.)

**Strategy Ideas Tested in the Community Poll & Their Polling Scores (★ = Top 3)**

- **★ Develop Critical Health Care Specialists and Emergency Room Services in South County.**  
(Total Score: 75.8%)  
Continue to improve health care services for South Deschutes County residents by increasing the number of specialists, opening a 24-hour emergency room and a trauma-informed practitioner network, adding infusion therapies, expanding telehealth options, and providing transportation for residents who have medical appointments and other needs in Bend.
- **★ Expand Behavioral Health Services throughout South County.**  
(Total Score: 36.8%)  
Working with Deschutes County and public health authorities, expand the availability of behavioral health services in South Deschutes County, assisting area residents experiencing mental health and addiction issues, and developmental disabilities. Prioritize populations who are Oregon Health Plan members, uninsured residents, people who are a danger to themselves or others, and youth who suffered significant mental health trauma during the Covid pandemic.
- **★ Promote Access to Fresh, Nutritious and Healthy Foods in South County.**  
(Total Score: 32.3%)  
Promote greater access to fresh, nutritious, healthy foods in South Deschutes County communities that are considered food deserts, including fresh fruits and vegetables, organically grown produce, and locally raised meats, poultry and dairy.
- **Develop a Shelter for Unhoused People in South County.**  
(Total Score: 31.7%)  
Develop a shelter for unhoused people in South Deschutes County, focusing on emergency and transitional housing, as well as shelter for families, women and children, and youth.
- **Mitigate Impacts of Wildfire Smoke on Residents, Children and Outdoor Workers.**  
(Total Score: 30.2%)  
Educate community members on the health impacts of wildfire smoke and take measures to mitigate the impacts of smoke on outdoor workers, children playing outdoors, and residents living in manufactured or older houses homes without air conditioning or filtration.
- **Open a Comprehensive Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center in South County**  
(Total Score: 26.7%)  
Open an alcohol-and-drug treatment center in South Deschutes County with inpatient and outpatient care, including stabilization services and substance-use disorder programs.

- **Open a Community Pharmacy Facility in Sunriver.**  
**(Total Score: 23.7%)**  
 Open a community pharmacy based in Sunriver, reviewing and dispensing prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines, offering vaccinations, and providing related pharmacy services.
- **Provide Home Health Care and Infusion Therapies in South County.**  
**(Total Score: 23.1%)**  
 Provide home health care and home-based infusion therapy services in South Deschutes County, bringing critical services into residential settings that save travel, time and expenses for medical patients.
- **Increase Organized Activities for Community Members with Disabilities.**  
**(Total Score: 11.4%)**  
 Partnering with the L'Arche USA, a nonprofit organization that creates community networks for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, increase the number of availability of organized activities for people with disabilities in South Deschutes County.
- **Promote Community Education on the Impacts of Poverty and Trauma.**  
**(Total Score: 8.4%)**  
 Educate and activate community members about addressing the needs of families and individuals most impacted by poverty and trauma.

**Strategy Ideas NOT Tested in the Community Poll**

- **Develop a Small Hospital in La Pine Serving South County and Nearby Rural Communities.**  
 Study the feasibility of constructing a small rural hospital in the La Pine area, providing critical access and serving patients with limited access to other hospitals, offering a small number of beds and emergency services.
- **Expand St. Charles Health Services to Provide Weekend Primary Care.**  
 Expand St. Charles Health System facility services in La Pine, including offering primary care for families on weekends.
- **Expand the Capacity of Assisted Living Residential Care Facilities in South County.**  
 Expand the number and capacity of comprehensive assisted living residential care facilities in South Deschutes County, including housing, health care management and monitoring, and assistance with daily living activities.
- **Expand Funding for the La Pine Community Kitchen and Senior Activity Center.**  
 Seek grants and other funding sources to expand operating capital for the La Pine Community Kitchen and La Pine Senior Activity Center, support the continuation of expansion of their community services.
- **Water Dirt Roads to Suppress Dust and Improve Air Quality.**  
 Absent paving, regularly water heavily traveled dirt roads in rural areas of South Deschutes County to suppress dust and improve air quality.

**Prosperous Newberry Country  
JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

(10 Strategy Ideas tested in Community Poll. Respondents were asked to choose top 3.)

**Strategy Ideas Tested in the Community Poll & Their Polling Scores (★ = Top 3)**

- **★ Collaborate with COCC to Increase Vocational Training in South County.**  
(Total Score: 57.4%)  
Collaborate with Central Oregon Community College to increase and enhance vocational and career-related training classes for residents of South Deschutes County.
- **★ Recruit a Competitively Priced Grocery Store with Healthy Food Options to La Pine.**  
(Total Score: 53.2%)  
Recruit a more competitively priced grocery store that offers a wider array of healthy food options to La Pine.
- **★ Foster Industry-Specific Job Apprenticeships and Certification in South County.**  
(Total Score: 45.6%)  
Working through Sunriver/La Pine Economic Development (SLED), identify opportunities for residents to participate in apprenticeship training and obtain industry-specific certification and credentials to enhance their career paths and earning potential.
- **Create a Defined Downtown Area in La Pine with Small Businesses and Better Traffic Flow.**  
(Total Score: 43.2%)  
Create a better defined downtown area in La Pine, with more shops and small, locally owned businesses. Relocate the post office as a way to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion in the downtown core. Redirect semi-trucks around downtown.
- **Develop Affordable Workforce Housing for Teachers, First Responders, Public Employees, Healthcare and Resort Workers.**  
(Total Score: 40.8%)  
Develop affordable workforce housing for teachers, first responders, public employees, healthcare and resort workers to assist people who work in South Deschutes County but have difficulty in finding affordable housing.
- **Promote La Pine’s Outdoor Recreational Assets to Attract Young Families and Businesses.**  
(Total Score: 21.2%)  
Promote and market the La Pine area’s vast outdoor assets as a way to attract young families and businesses to the area, giving a boost to the local economy and increasing school enrollments
- **Upgrade Sunriver Business Park as a Multi-Service Community Center.**  
(Total Score: 19.3%)  
Upgrade the Sunriver Business Park to reflect its status as a functioning, multi-service community center, with sidewalks, crosswalks, and additional parking. Explore rebranding

the business park to better reflect its mix of businesses, public facilities and community amenities and location outside Sunriver resort.

- **Support Development of New Retail on Existing Rural Commercial Lots in Three Rivers. (Total Score: 8.2%)**  
Support development of new retail on existing Rural Commercial zoned lots in the Three Rivers “Census Designated Place”. Conduct market analysis of commercial and retail needs for the area and coordinate with property owners to identify barriers to development.
- **Recruit a Large Animal Veterinary Practice to Locate in La Pine (Total Score: 7.3%)**  
Recruit a large animal veterinary practice to locate in La Pine and service the region’s ranches, farms, and horse-riding community.
- **Develop Signage and Improvements to Promote Alternate Routes to Mt. Bachelor (Total Score: 3.9%)**  
Develop new signage and related improvements to promote and publicize alternate routes from South Deschutes County to Mt. Bachelor, promote local lodging, restaurants and other services.

#### **Strategy Ideas NOT Tested in the Community Poll**

- **Recruit Small Central Oregon Businesses and Entrepreneurs to Locate in South County.**  
Take advantage of land costs and other advantages in La Pine to recruit entrepreneurs and new companies from the Bend area. Offer incentives to small Central Oregon businesses with 15 or fewer employees.
- **Improve Infrastructure in Advance to Promote Commercial Development in La Pine.**  
Strategically plan for new retail and commercial development in La Pine by improving infrastructure in advance of growth. Recruit developers to pre-build retail space for businesses in these areas.
- **Attract More Eateries and Restaurants to South County.**  
Attract and incentivize a greater diversity of restaurants and eateries to South Deschutes County, serving both locals and tourists, and providing jobs and local economic benefits.



**Inspired Newberry Country**  
**EDUCATION, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, ARTS & CULTURE**  
(12 Strategy Ideas tested in Community Poll. Respondents asked to choose top 4.)

**Strategy Ideas Tested in the Community Poll & Their Polling Scores (★ = Top 4)**

- **★ Expand After-School, STEAM and Summer Activities to Keep Students Engaged and Learning. (Total Score: 67.0%)**  
Working with Bend La Pine Schools and La Pine Park & Recreation District, expand the availability and accessibility of after-school programs and activities designed to keep South Deschutes County youth active, socially engaged and learning outside of traditional classrooms. Develop an after-school STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) program, enhancing student learning experiences and success in life.
- **★ Promote South County Collaborative’s Efforts to Increase Student Graduation Rates. (Total Score: 56.6%)**  
Promote the newly formed South County Collaborative in its mission to keep area students on track to graduation and success in life through four initiatives. Foster collaboration and communication among public and private educational providers and advocate for CTE classes and internships bridging careers and education.
- **★ Expand COCC Adult Education and Lifelong Learning at La Pine Park & Recreation. (Total Score: 51.3%)**  
Expand adult education and lifelong learning classes at La Pine Park & Recreation District, enlisting Central Oregon Community College to offer more classes that meet the various needs and interests of residents
- **★ Develop a Large Childcare and Preschool Facility in South County. (Total Score: 46.5%)**  
Develop and operate a large child care and preschool facility for South Deschutes County families to expand available and affordable childcare for working families. Offer preschool early childhood education at little or no cost to low-income, marginalized or disadvantaged families.
- **Expand Music Education in all South County Schools to Improve Student Outcomes. (Total Score: 37.1%)**  
Expand music education classes and instruction at all levels in South Deschutes County area schools. Utilize music education to improve student learning outcomes, language development and literacy, decrease anxiety and help heal trauma, and student resilience.
- **Engage Bend-La Pine Schools in a Dialogue on Equitable Investment in La Pine Area Schools. (Total Score: 36.2%)**  
Engage in a dialogue with the Bend-La Pine School District on the perceived inequity of financial investment in and resources for La Pine area schools and the lower-income communities they

serve. Mutually explore ways to improve investment in South County facilities and programs to ensure they are on par with the rest of the District.

- **Recruit Business Owners and Senior Volunteers for South County In-School Programs. (Total Score: 28.6%)**  
Launch a volunteer program for business people and seniors to donate their time assisting with in-school programs and activities.
- **Establish a Business/Foundation Supported Scholarship Fund for South County Students. (Total Score: 19.5%)**  
Establish a scholarship program through a foundation or local business for deserving South Deschutes County high school students pursuing a college degree.
- **Expand and Support Active Parent-Teacher Organizations in South County Schools. (Total Score: 18.2%)**  
Expand and support parent-teacher organizations (PTOs) in all south Deschutes County schools to increase parental involvement and volunteer activities in local schools.
- **Establish a Storefront Museum in La Pine for South County History and Heritage. (Total Score: 15.4%)**  
Work with Deschutes County Historical Museum to establish a storefront museum in Downtown La Pine featuring South Deschutes County history and heritage. Provide a permanent repository for documents, displays and oral histories from the region, including its indigenous peoples.
- **Form a South County Arts Alliance to Bridge the Urban/Rural Arts-and-Culture Gap. (Total Score: 12.6%)**  
Bridge the arts-and-culture “equity gap” between Deschutes County’s rural and urban areas by forming an arts alliance to support local artists, organize projects, and inform community members via an events calendar.
- **Foster Collaboration Between Arts Groups and State and Local Parks in South County. (Total Score: 11.0%)**  
Promote greater collaboration between arts groups such as Sunriver Stars and Sunriver Music Festival with Oregon State Parks and local parks and recreation districts in sponsoring music and arts events in South Deschutes County.

### **Strategy Ideas NOT Tested in the Community Poll**

- **Explore Alternative Class Times for Students with Different Class Schedule Needs.**  
Explore alternative class times for students who are unable for whatever reason to participate in regular class schedules, improving the quality of time spent at school and increasing opportunities for their academic success.

- **Engage with COCC to Develop a Satellite Program and Facility in La Pine.**  
Engage with Central Oregon Community College in a dialogue on developing a satellite COCC program and facility in La Pine. Explore a bond measure on a future ballot to expand COCC facilities and programs in South Deschutes County. Encourage a large employers to sponsor higher education classes.
- **Promote Greater Awareness and Knowledge of Indigenous Cultures in South County.**  
Building upon recent cultural activities at La Pine Frontier Days, promote greater awareness and knowledge of indigenous cultures in South County.
- **Offer More ‘Hands-On’ Music, Festivals and Art in Public Places in La Pine.**  
Offer more local, ‘hands-on’ music, festivals and events, and art in public places in La Pine. Involve local community groups businesses in sponsoring music and art, including large murals and outdoor art installations.
- **Develop a Permanent Home and Performance Space for Sunriver Stars Community Theater.**  
Develop a permanent home and performance space for Sunriver Stars Community Theater and other music, arts and performance groups in South Deschutes County.
- **Install an Electronic Reader Board to Communicate Important School Information.**  
Install an electronic schools reader board at a strategic location (adjacent to Highway 97 or at Day Road) as an effective way to communicate important school information.

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**Newberry Regional Partnership  
DRAFT STRATEGY IDEAS & POLLING SCORES**

**APPENDIX**

**Community Poll Analysis by Geographic Area – A Closer Look at Rankings and Gaps**

## RESILIENT NEWBERRY STRATEGIES

★ = Top Three Scoring Strategy

Strategies	Overall Rank	Overall Percentage	La Pine Area Rank	La Pine Area Percentage	Sunriver Area Rank	Sunriver Area Percentage	Percentage Gap La Pine v. SR
Expand Enforcement of Illegal Camping Laws on Public Lands	1.	80.6 percent ★	1.	88.6 percent ★	1.	68.8 percent ★	+19.8 percent (LaP)
Implement New Traffic Safety Improvements on Highway 97 and Major Roads	2.	50.0 percent ★	2.	54.5 percent ★	2.	41.4 percent ★	+13.1 percent (LaP)
Support Fire-Safe Education and Funding for South County Residents and Property Owners	3.	35.7 percent ★	3.	38.4 percent ★	3.	32.0 percent ★	+6.4 percent (LaP)
Expand Community Education on Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness	4.	28.9 percent	5.	28.0 percent	5.	28.9 percent	+0.9 percent (SR)
Form a Mental Health Crisis Response Team in South County	5.	27.4 percent	4.	32.7 percent	8.	19.5 percent	+13.2 percent (LaP)
Expand Wildfire Evacuation Routes Education and Signage	6.	22.0 percent	6.	22.3 percent	7.	21.9 percent	+0.4 percent (LaP)

<b>Establish and Enforce Restrictions on Hunting in Residential and Recreational Areas</b>	7.	20.6 percent	7.	14.2 percent	4.	31.3 percent	+17.1 percent (SR)
<b>Construct Pedestrian and Bicyclist Mobility Amenities and Safety Enhancements</b>	8.	17.7 percent	8.	11.4 percent	5.	28.9 percent	+17.5 percent (SR)
<b>Provide Visitor Information and Promote Digital Literacy on Wildfire Safety</b>	9.	9.7 percent	9.	6.6 percent	9.	14.1 percent	+7.5 percent (SR)
<b>Expand and Improve 'Safe Routes to Schools' in South County</b>	10.	7.4 percent	10.	3.3 percent	10.	13.3 percent	+10.0 percent (SR)

## LIVABLE NEWBERRY

★ = Top Four Scoring Strategy

Strategies	Overall Rank	Overall Percentage	La Pine Area Rank	La Pine Area Percentage	Sunriver Area Rank	Sunriver Area Percentage	Percentage Gap La Pine v. SR
<b>Upgrade, Improve and Widen Highway 97 Including the Wickiup Junction Overpass</b>	1.	63.7 percent ★	1.	73.2 percent ★	3.	46.0 percent ★	+27.2 percent (La P)
<b>Identify and Implement Solutions for Long-Term Water Quality and Supply in South County</b>	2.	58.4 percent ★	2.	57.1 percent ★	1.	60.5 percent ★	+3.4 percent (SR)
<b>Improve Cell Tower Capacity and Satellite Internet Access across South County</b>	3.	45.7 percent ★	4.	39.5 percent ★	2.	55.7 percent ★	+16.2 percent (SR)
<b>Upgrade Unpaved and Unimproved Side Roads In or Near Developed Areas of South County</b>	4.	44.8 percent ★	3.	55.1 percent ★	8.	29.0 percent	+26.1 percent (La P)
<b>Expand Public Transportation Between South Deschutes County and Bend</b>	5.	41.0 percent	5.	37.1 percent	3.	46.0 percent ★	+8.9 percent (SR)



<b>Expand Habitat for Humanity's Critical Home Repair Program</b>	6.	28.6 percent	7.	26.8 percent	7.	33.9 percent	+7.1 percent (SR)
<b>Explore Stronger Regulations to Control Short-Term Rentals in Rural South County</b>	7.	28.3 percent	9.	20.5 percent	5.	40.3 percent	+19.8 percent (SR)
<b>Develop Protected Urban Bikeways and Pedestrian Pathways</b>	8.	25.1 percent	10.	16.1 percent	5.	40.3 percent	+24.2 percent (SR)
<b>Restore and Preserve Older, Historic Buildings in La Pine</b>	9.	20.4 percent	6.	27.3 percent	12.	8.9 percent	+18.4 percent (La P)
<b>Support Improvements to Aging Manufactured or Pre-Fabricated Dwellings</b>	10.	17.1 percent	8.	22.0 percent	11.	9.7 percent	+12.3 percent (La P)
<b>Support Formation of a Nonprofit News Organization to Serve South County</b>	11.	16.2 percent	11.	14.6 percent	9.	19.4 percent	+4.8 percent (SR)
<b>Develop a Collaborative Work Space to House Local Nonprofit Organizations</b>	12.	10.6 percent	12.	10.7 percent	10.	10.5 percent	+0.2 percent (La P)

## SUSTAINABLE NEWBERRY

★ = Top Three Scoring Strategy

Strategies	Overall Rank	Overall Percentage	La Pine Area Rank	La Pine Area Percentage	Sunriver Area Rank	Sunriver Area Percentage	Percentage Gap La Pine v. SR
Clean Up Trash and Garbage from South County Forested Areas	1.	63.1 percent ★	1.	72.1 percent ★	1.	48.4 percent ★	+23.7 percent (La P)
Assist Property Owners in Addressing Septic System Failures Across South County	2.	42.3 percent ★	3.	40.7 percent ★	3.	44.4 percent ★	+3.7 percent (SR)
Expand Curbside and Drop-Off Recycling Services in Sunriver and La Pine	3.	39.9 percent ★	4.	36.3 percent	2.	45.9 percent ★	+9.6 percent (SR)
Develop a Community Aquatic Center in La Pine	4.	36.0 percent	2.	44.1 percent ★	7.	22.1 percent	+22.0 percent (La P)
Expand and Develop Multi-Use Parks that Accommodate a Wider Range of Interests	5.	30.1 percent	5.	33.8 percent	6.	23.0 percent	+10.8 percent (La P)
Build More Pedestrian and Bike Paths in La Pine, Three	6.	26.5 percent	6.	18.6 percent	4.	40.2 percent	+21.6 percent (SR)

<b>Rivers, and Oregon Water Wonderland</b>							
<b>Develop More Put-In and Take-Out Locations for Kayakers</b>	7.	19.1 percent	8.	14.2 percent	5.	28.7 percent	+14.5 percent (SR)
<b>Explore New, More Aggressive New Water Conservation Measures</b>	8.	17.3 percent	8.	14.2 percent	7.	22.1 percent	+7.9 percent (SR)
<b>Promote Renewable Energy Use by Residences, Businesses and Public Buildings</b>	9.	15.5 percent	10.	11.3 percent	7.	22.1 percent	+10.8 percent (SR)
<b>Build a Community Skating Rink in La Pine</b>	10.	10.4 percent	7.	14.7 percent	10.	3.3 percent	+11.4 percent (La P)

## THRIVING NEWBERRY

★ = Top Three Scoring Strategy

Strategies	Overall Rank	Overall Percentage	La Pine Area Rank	La Pine Area Percentage	Sunriver Area Rank	Sunriver Area Percentage	Percentage Gap La Pine v. SR
<b>Develop Critical Health Care Specialists and Emergency Room Services in South County</b>	1.	75.8 percent ★	1.	77.3 percent ★	1.	72.7 percent ★	+4.6 percent (La P)
<b>Expand Behavioral Health Services throughout South County</b>	2.	36.8 percent ★	2.	38.9 percent ★	4.	30.6 percent	+8.3 percent (La P)
<b>Promote Access to Fresh, Nutritious and Healthy Foods in South County</b>	3.	32.3 percent ★	3.	34.0 percent ★	4.	30.6 percent	+3.4 percent (La P)
<b>Develop a Shelter for Unhoused People in South County</b>	4.	31.7 percent	5.	30.1 percent	3.	34.7 percent ★	+4.6 percent (SR)
<b>Mitigate Impacts of Wildfire Smoke on Residents, Children and Outdoor Workers</b>	5.	30.2 percent	4.	30.5 percent	6.	29.8 percent	+0.7 percent (La P)
<b>Open a Comprehensive Alcohol and Drug</b>	6.	26.7 percent	6.	26.1 percent	7.	28.1 percent	+2.0 percent (SR)

<b>Treatment Center in South County</b>							
<b>Open a Community Pharmacy Facility in Sunriver</b>	7.	23.7 percent	9.	13.3 percent	2.	41.3 percent ★	+28.0 percent (SR)
<b>Provide Home Health Care and Infusion Therapies in South County</b>	8.	23.1 percent	7.	25.6 percent	8.	18.2 percent	+7.4 percent (La P)
<b>Increase Organized Activities for Community Members with Disabilities</b>	9.	11.4 percent	8.	15.3 percent	10.	5.8 percent	+9.5 percent (La P)
<b>Promote Community Education on the Impacts of Poverty and Trauma</b>	10.	8.4 percent	10.	8.9 percent	9.	8.3 percent	+0.6 percent (La P)

## PROSPEROUS NEWBERRY

★ = Top Three Scoring Strategy

Strategies	Overall Rank	Overall Percentage	La Pine Area Rank	La Pine Area Percentage	Sunriver Area Rank	Sunriver Area Percentage	Percentage Gap La Pine v. SR
<b>Collaborate with COCC to Increase Vocational Training in South County</b>	1.	57.4 percent ★	2.	56.2 percent ★	2.	58.3 percent ★	+2.1 percent (SR)
<b>Recruit a Competitively Priced Grocery Store with Healthy Food Options to La Pine</b>	2.	53.2 percent ★	1.	66.2 percent ★	5.	31.7 percent	+34.5 percent (La P)
<b>Foster Industry-Specific Job Apprenticeships and Certification in South County</b>	3.	45.6 percent ★	4.	47.8 percent	3.	40.8 percent ★	+7.0 percent (La P)
<b>Create a Defined Downtown Area in La Pine with Small Businesses and Better Traffic Flow</b>	4.	43.2 percent	3.	53.2 percent ★	6.	27.5 percent	+25.7 percent (La P)
<b>Develop Affordable Workforce Housing for Teachers, First Responders, Public Employees, Healthcare and Resort Workers</b>	5.	40.8 percent	5.	29.4 percent	1.	60.8 percent ★	+31.4 percent (SR)

<b>Promote La Pine's Outdoor Recreational Assets to Attract Young Families and Businesses</b>	6.	21.2 percent	6.	24.9 percent	7.	15.8 percent	+9.1 percent (La P)
<b>Upgrade Sunriver Business Park as a Multi-Service Community Center</b>	7.	19.3 percent	8.	6.0 percent	3.	40.8 percent ★	+34.8 percent (SR)
<b>Support Development of New Retail on Existing Rural Commercial Lots in Three Rivers</b>	8.	8.2 percent	9.	4.0 percent	8.	14.2 percent	+10.2 percent (SR)
<b>Recruit a Large Animal Veterinary Practice to Locate in La Pine</b>	9.	7.3 percent	7.	10.0 percent	10.	3.3 percent	+6.7 percent (La P)
<b>Develop Signage and Improvements to Promote Alternate Routes to Mt. Bachelor</b>	10.	3.9 percent	10.	2.5 percent	9.	6.7 percent	+4.2 percent (SR)

## INSPIRED NEWBERRY

★ = Top Four Scoring Strategy

Strategies	Overall Rank	Overall Percentage	La Pine Area Rank	La Pine Area Percentage	Sunriver Area Rank	Sunriver Area Percentage	Percentage Gap La Pine v. SR
Expand After-School, STEAM and Summer Activities to Keep Students Engaged and Learning	1.	67.0 percent ★	1.	63.2 percent ★	1.	73.9 percent ★	+10.7 percent (SR)
Promote South County Collaborative's Efforts to Increase Student Graduation Rates	2.	56.6 percent ★	2.	61.7 percent ★	3.	49.6 percent ★	+12.1 percent (La P)
Expand COCC Adult Education and Lifelong Learning at La Pine Park & Recreation	3.	51.3 percent ★	3.	55.4 percent ★	4.	44.4 percent ★	+10.0 percent (La P)
Develop a Large Childcare and Preschool Facility in South County	4.	46.5 percent ★	5.	39.4 percent	2.	57.4 percent ★	+18.0 percent (SR)
Expand Music Education in all South County Schools to Improve Student Outcomes County and Bend	5.	37.1 percent	6.	33.7 percent	5.	41.7 percent	+8.0 percent (SR)



<b>Engage Bend-La Pine Schools in a Dialogue on Equitable Investment in La Pine Area Schools</b>	6.	36.2 percent	4.	39.9 percent ★	6.	30.4 percent	+9.4 percent (La P)
<b>Recruit Business Owners and Senior Volunteers for South County In-School Programs</b>	7.	28.6 percent	7.	26.9 percent	7.	28.7 percent	+1.8 percent (SR)
<b>Establish a Business/Foundation Supported Scholarship Fund for South County Students</b>	8.	19.5 percent	9.	20.2 percent	9.	18.3 percent	+1.9 percent (La P)
<b>Expand and Support Active Parent-Teacher Organizations in South County Schools</b>	9.	18.2 percent	10.	17.6 percent	8.	20.0 percent	+2.4 percent (SR)
<b>Establish a Storefront Museum in La Pine for South County History and Heritage</b>	10.	15.4 percent	8.	21.2 percent	12	7.0 percent	+14.2 percent (La P)
<b>Form a South County Arts Alliance to Bridge the Urban/Rural Arts-and-Culture Gap</b>	11.	12.6 percent	11.	11.9 percent	11.	13.9 percent	+2.0 percent (SR)
<b>Foster Collaboration Between Arts Groups and State and Local Parks in South County</b>	12.	11.0 percent	12.	8.8 percent	10.	14.8 percent	+6.0 percent (SR)