St. Mary's 2050: Charting Our Tomorrow Community Engagement Window #1 Report

Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
882	300	5,599	1,644

****

INTRODUCTION

From **January 16th to March 3rd, 2025**, all members of the community were invited to participate in **Community Engagement Window #1** (CEW #1). Residents, property and business owners, and community partners had the opportunity to share their thoughts and future vision for St. Mary's County by taking part in **12 Community Visioning Sessions** (10 in-person, 2 virtual). During the Visioning Sessions, which took place from January 16th to February 22nd, participants took part in small group discussions, completed a survey, and completed mapping activities. The same Visioning Activities were available online from February 3rd to March 3rd. This Dynamic Report shows how community members responded to all multiple-choice questions.

This report is organized into four sections:

1. Introduction (this section)
2. Summary of Engagement Responses
3. Participant Feedback
4. About the Participants

****

SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT RESPONSES

Please click this link to view a document summarizing the responses to all open-ended questions that were part of the Community Visioning Activities.

1. Land use in St. Mary's County should be balanced and support development and redevelopment in identified growth areas, while protecting the County's unique rural heritage, agricultural areas, and environmentally sensitive coastal areas.

|		
🟧	68%	**Strongly agree**
🟥	23%	**Agree**
🟦	4%	**Strongly disagree**
⬜	5%	**Others**
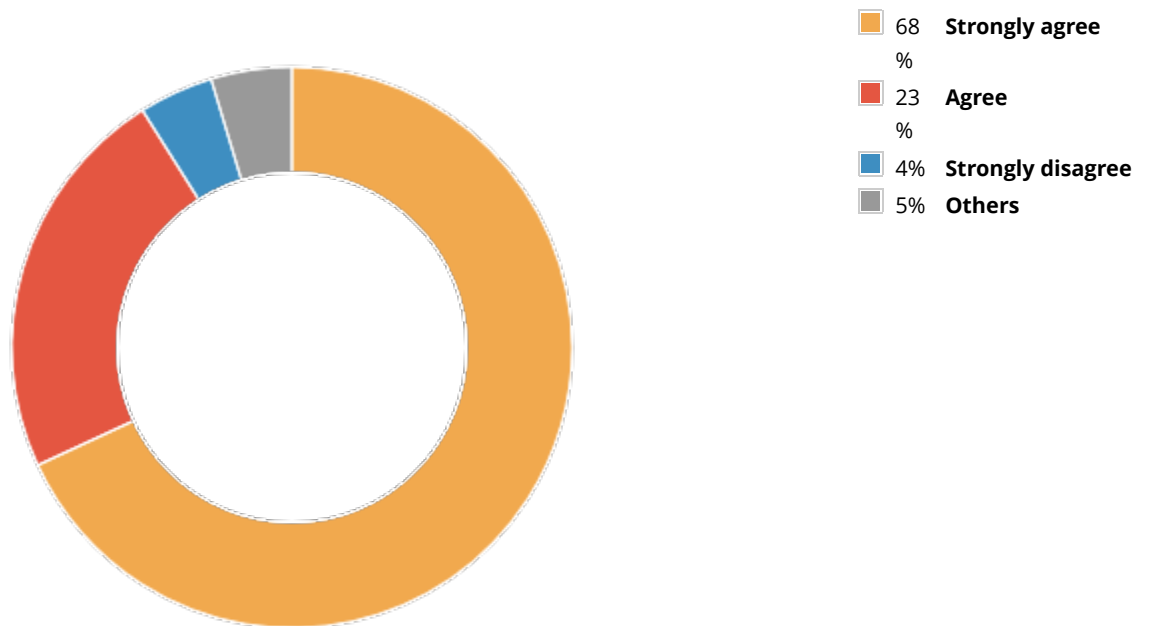
279 respondents

2. Two types of Growth Areas (Development Districts and Town Centers) should be the focus for new development and redevelopment by both public and private investment in transportation and other infrastructure (i.e., water, wastewater, roads, stormwater) improvements.

- 44% **Strongly agree**
- 34% **Agree**
- 10% **Neutral**
- 6% **Disagree**
- 6% **Strongly disagree**
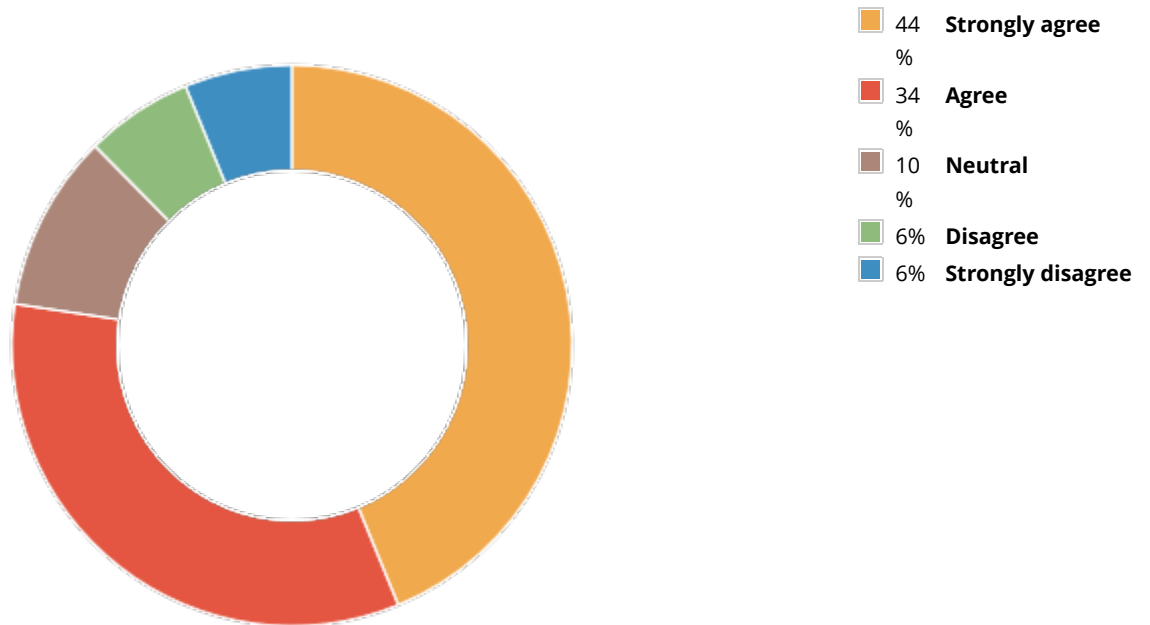
274 respondents

3. The third type of Growth Areas (Village Centers) provide meaningful opportunities for small-scale businesses that support local tourism and serve as local convenience shopping for residents in rural areas.

- 44% **Strongly agree**
- 40% **Agree**
- 8% **Neutral**
- 4% **Disagree**
- 4% **Strongly disagree**
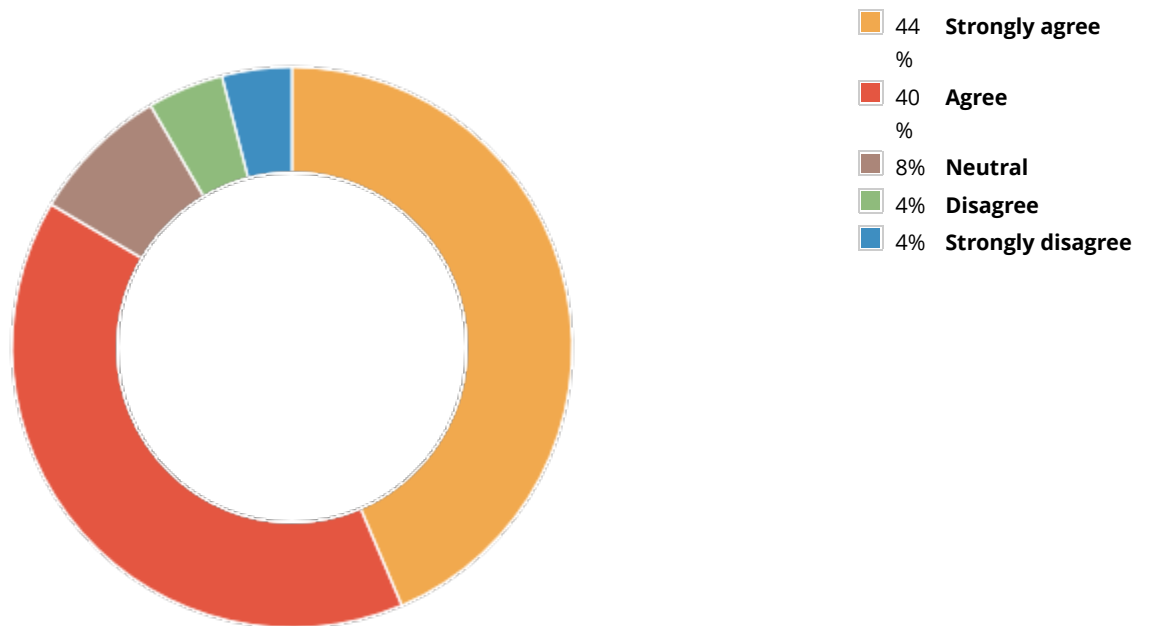
273 respondents

4. New infrastructure (i.e., water, wastewater, roads, stormwater) is needed to support future development in growth areas, which helps direct residential growth away from rural areas.
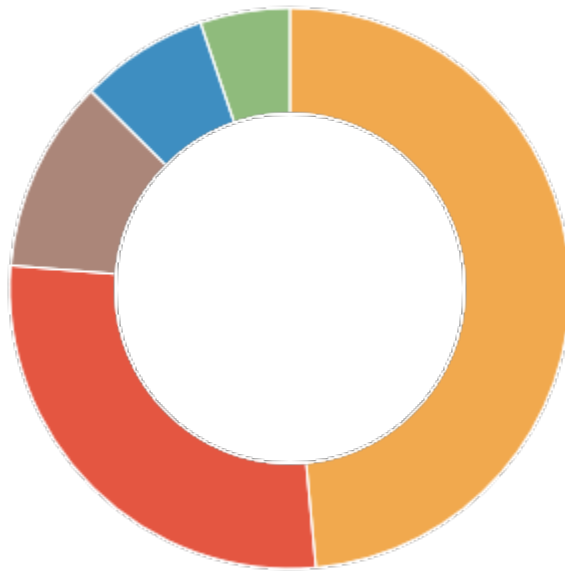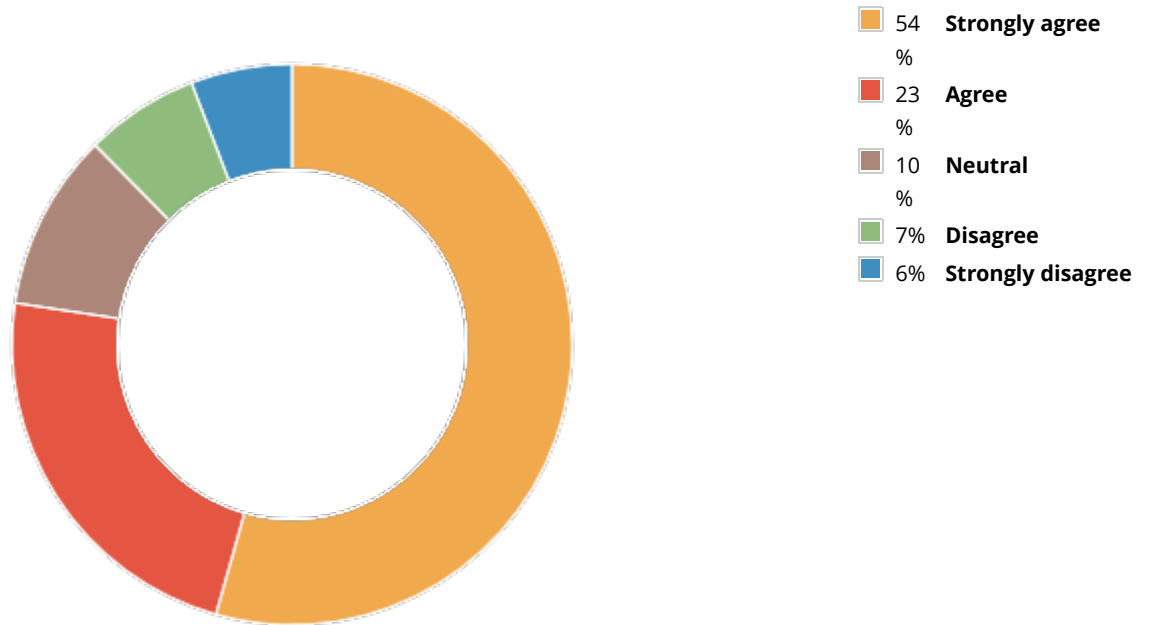

270 respondents

5. For rural lands outside of growth areas, **package plants** should be considered to provide wastewater services for existing homes and businesses in areas with failing septic systems.

Package plants definition: Package plants provide private sewage treatment to serve smaller communities/neighborhoods; not tied in to County-owned/maintained system.

|	
35%	**Agree**
28%	**Strongly agree**
24%	**Neutral**
7%	**Disagree**
6%	**Strongly disagree**
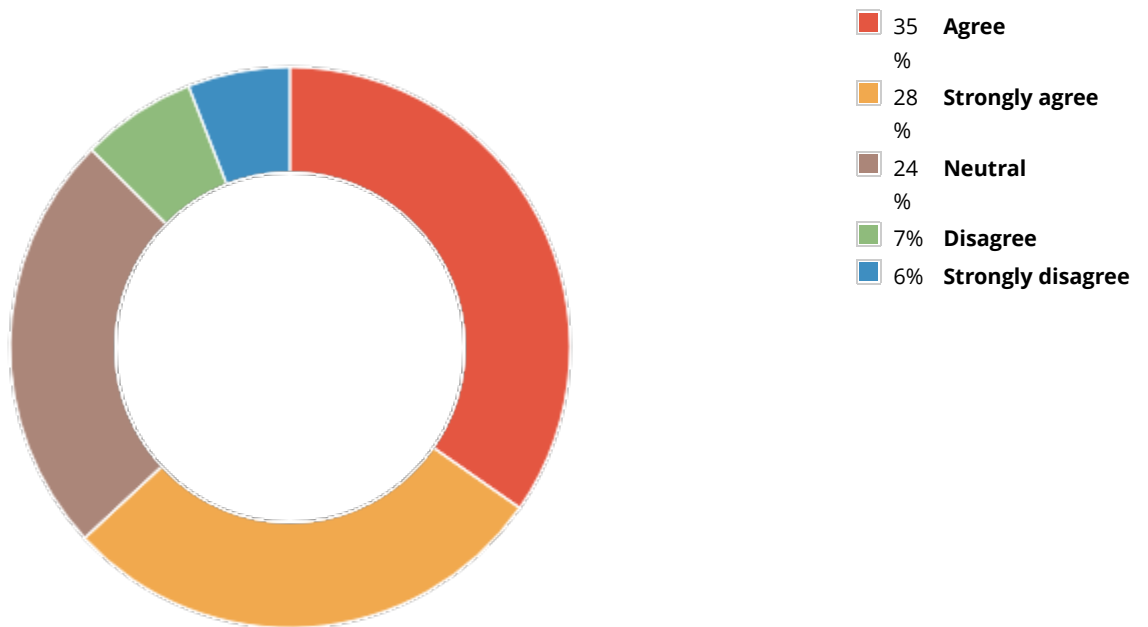
271 respondents

6. Adding more options for biking and walking between destinations and on trails for recreational use is an important investment for improving the county's transportation system.

|	
54%	**Strongly agree**
23%	**Agree**
10%	**Neutral**
7%	**Disagree**
6%	**Strongly disagree**

274 respondents

7. Providing a variety of housing options including **smaller homes and townhouses** in growth areas is an important solution to ensure that families with young children, new professionals, and critical employees (fire, police, nurses, teachers) can find housing in the county.

|	
50%	**Strongly agree**
26%	**Agree**
9%	**Neutral**
9%	**Strongly disagree**
6%	**Disagree**
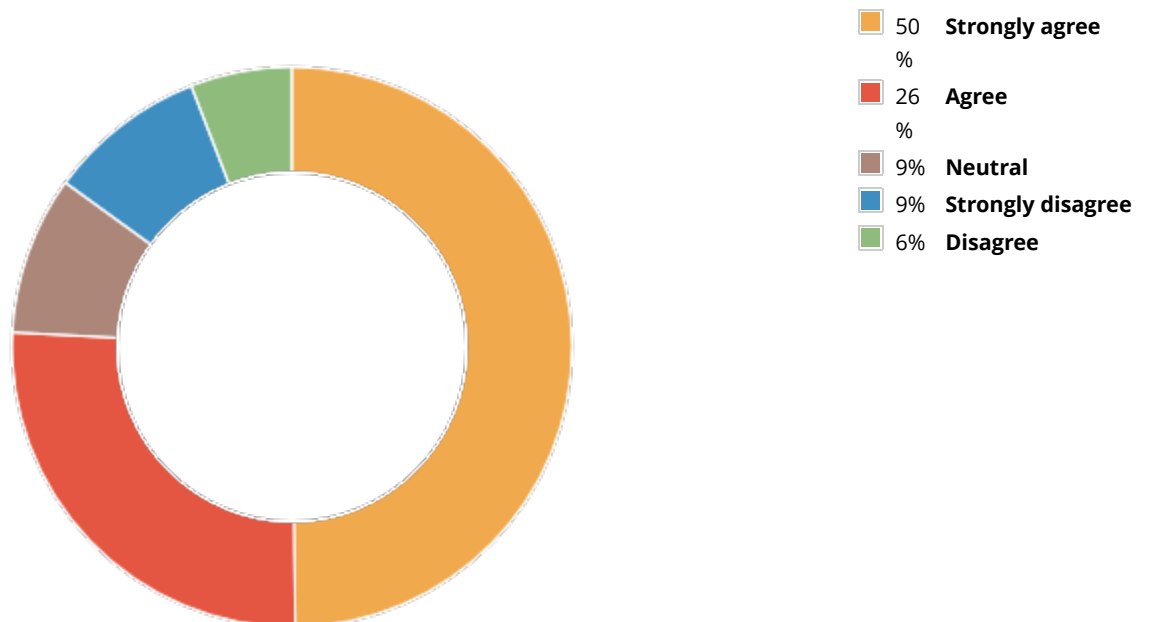
273 respondents

8. Providing new **multifamily housing** (apartments and condominiums) in growth areas is an important solution to ensure that families with young children, new professionals, and critical employees (fire, police, nurses, teachers) can find housing in the county.
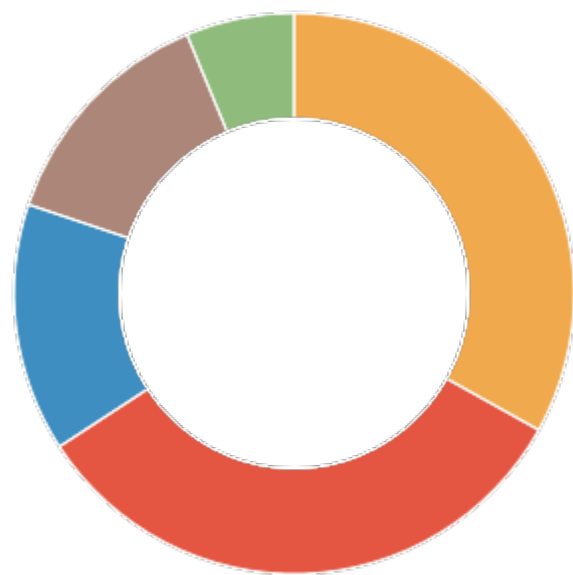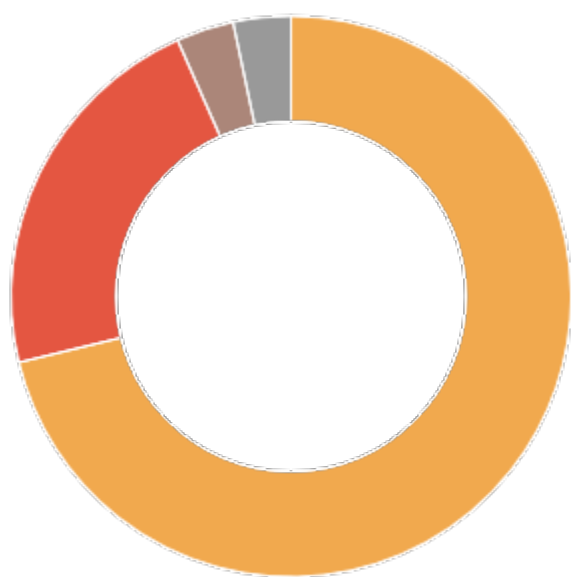

272 respondents

9. Providing new housing choices such as **manufactured and mobile homes** in growth areas is an important solution to ensure that families with young children, new professionals, and critical employees (fire, police, nurses, teachers) can find housing in the county.

■	22%	**Neutral**
■	21%	**Disagree**
■	21%	**Strongly disagree**
■	19%	**Agree**
■	17%	**Strongly agree**
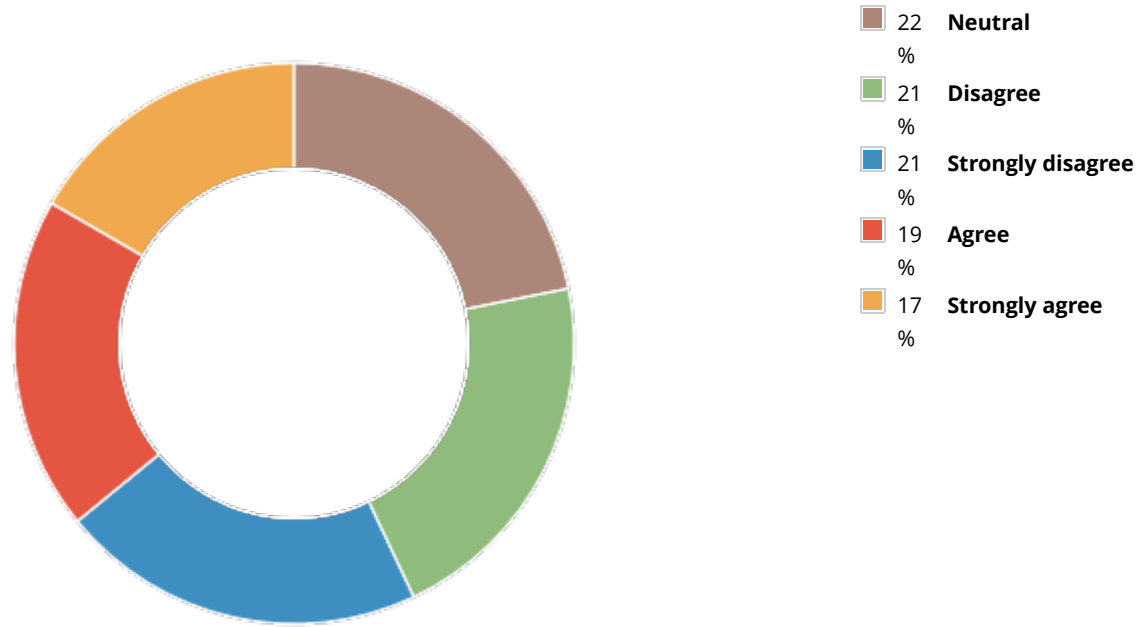
270 respondents

10. Coastal areas, wetlands, creeks, rivers and other natural resources should be protected from the impacts of development.

271 respondents

11. Rank the following in order of priority for public spending by dragging and dropping the listed items into your preferred ranking order. The top item conveys your highest priority and the bottom item conveys the lowest priority. If you believe that an item is missing from this list, click on the word "other" and type your response.

Important: You must drag each item up to where the text **YOUR TOP PRIORITY** is until it turns bright blue. **You must rank all eight options.** Your response **cannot be recorded unless the items have been dragged all the way to the top and turned blue.** When you've ranked all the items, click the green Confirm Priorities box, and move on to Question 12.

98%	Public Schools (facilities and staff)	Rank: 3.29	113 ✓
98%	EMS/Fire/Sheriff (staff and equipment and vehicles)	Rank: 3.46	113 ✓
100%	Road improvements (improvements to unsafe or high traffic areas)	Rank: 3.75	115 ✓
100%	Land Preservation (conservation easements)	Rank: 4.17	115 ✓
24%	Other	Rank: 4.39	28 ✓
97%	Public Utilities (water and sewer)	Rank: 4.70	112 ✓
100%	Recreation (expanded programs and facilities)	Rank: 4.82	115 ✓
98%	Development Plan/Permit Reviewers (staff)	Rank: 5.95	113 ✓
98%	Zoning inspection and compliance (staff)	Rank: 6.82	113 ✓

115 Respondents

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

1. Did you complete these online visioning activities during a Community Visioning Session?


49% Yes   51% No
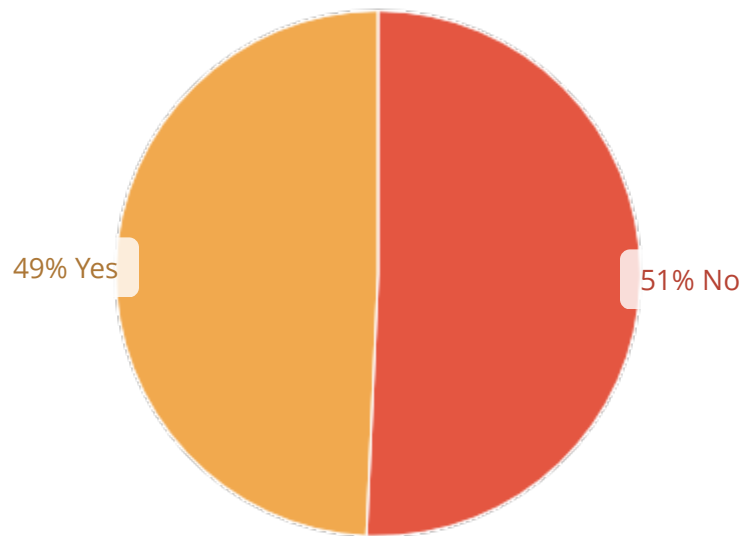
213 respondents

2. If you completed these online visioning activities during a Community Visioning Session, how did you hear about this event? Choose as many as apply to you.

|		
25%	I did not attend a Community Visioning Session	50 ✓
22%	Word of mouth	45 ✓
21%	Email sent by County	43 ✓
17%	Other	35 ✓
15%	Social media	31 ✓
12%	Email sent by third party	24 ✓
10%	County public meeting	20 ✓
9%	Project website	18 ✓

201 Respondents

3. How likely are you to participate in future St. Mary's 2050 public engagement activities? Choose one.
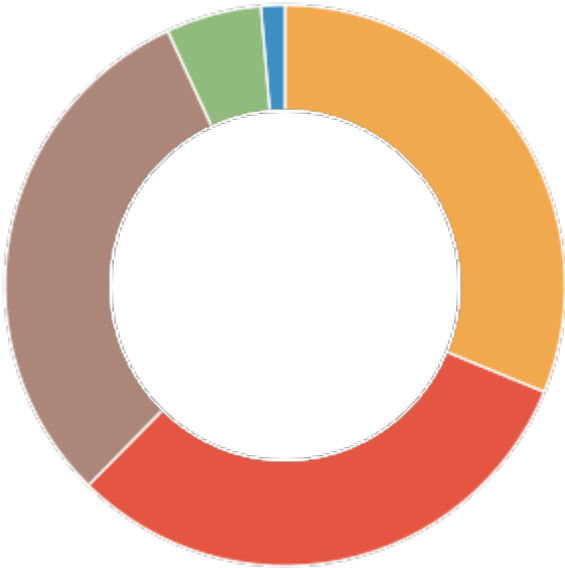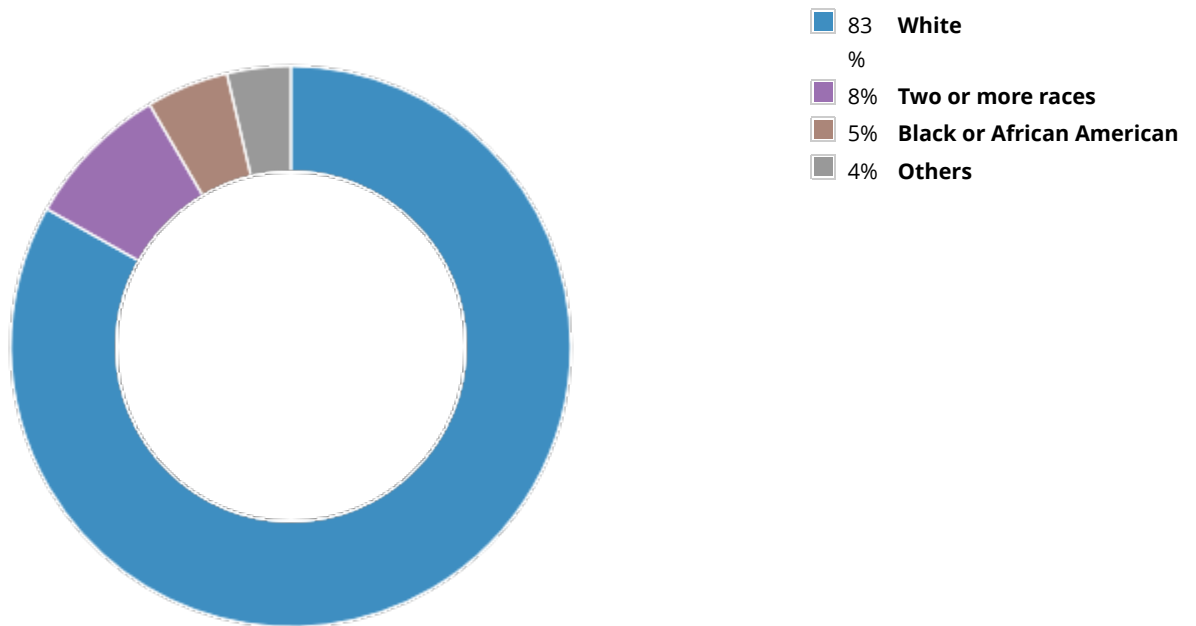
218 respondents

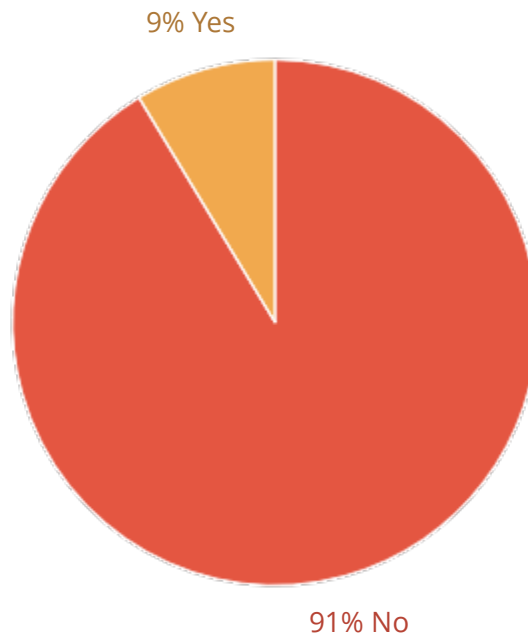4. Were you comfortable sharing your ideas and opinions today? Choose one.

80% **Very comfortable**

20% **Somewhat comfortable**

0% **Uncomfortable**
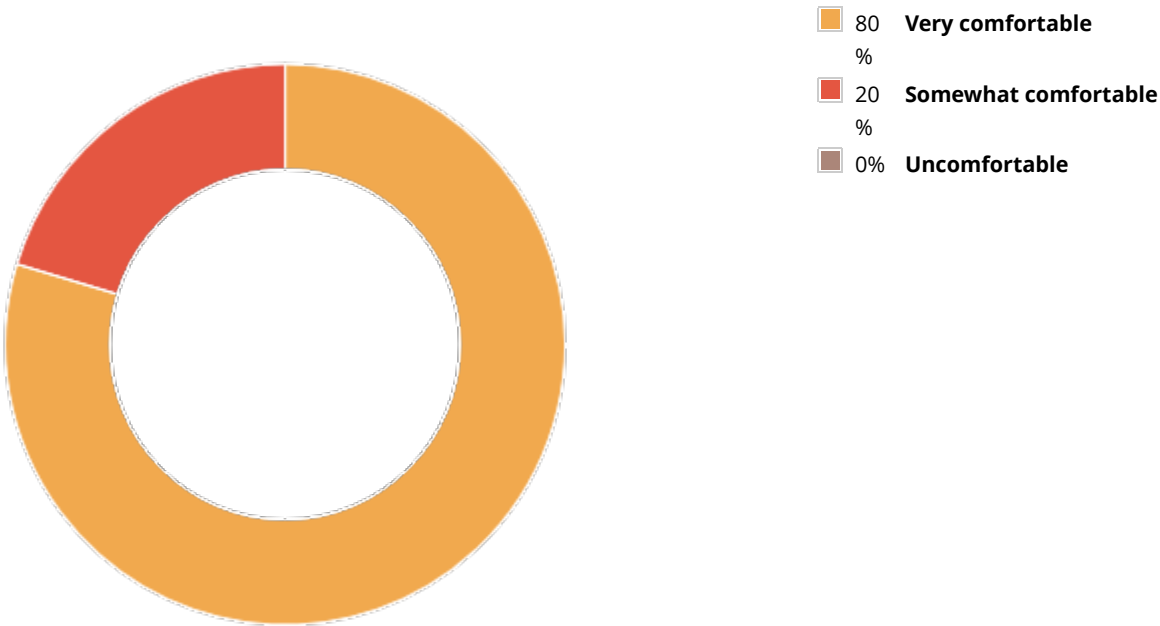
216 respondents

****

ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

5. What racial group do you most closely identify with?

83%	**White**
8%	**Two or more races**
5%	**Black or African American**
4%	**Others**

190 respondents

6. Do you identify as Hispanic/Latinx?

9% Yes

91% No

196 respondents

7. Do you live in St. Mary's County?

5% No

95% Yes
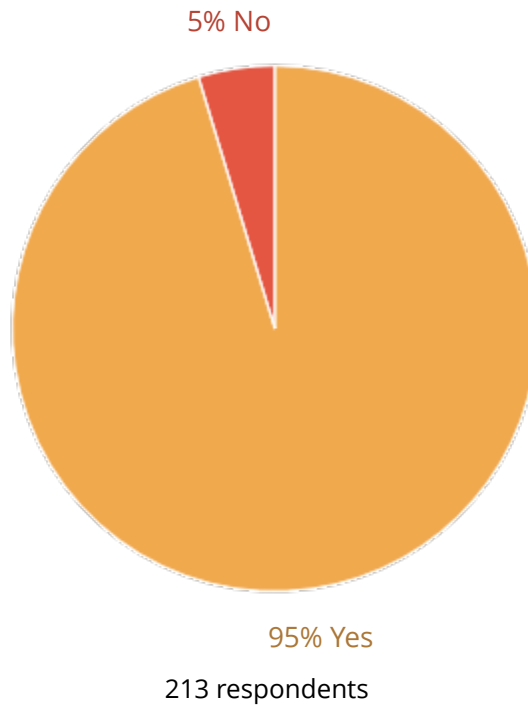
213 respondents

8. Do you work or are you seeking work in St. Mary's County?

29% No

71% Yes

209 respondents

9. What is your age?

30%	**65 years or over**
21%	**55-64 years**
18%	**45-54 years**
16%	**35-44 years**
9%	**25-34 years**
6%	**15-24 years**
0%	**0-14 years**
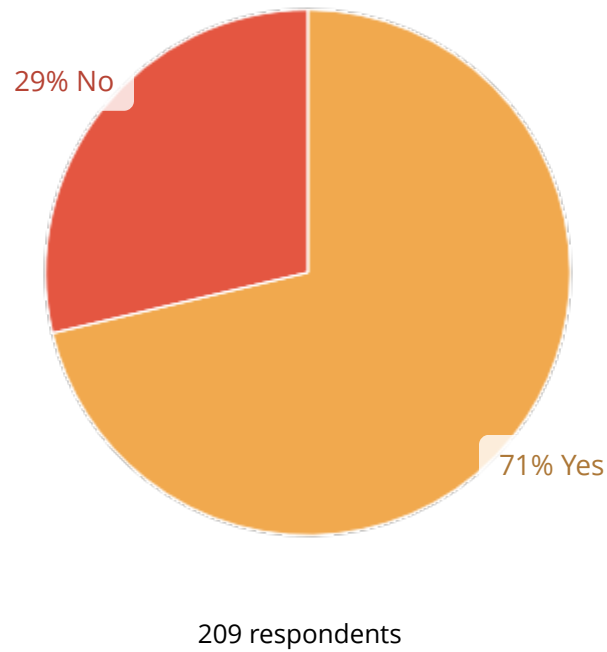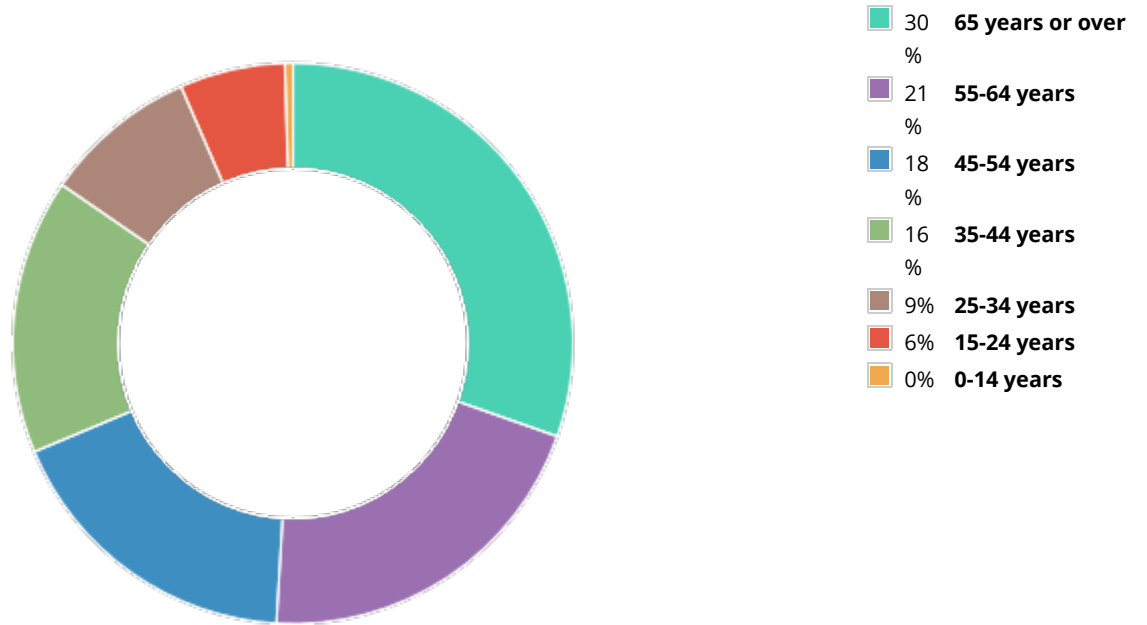
214 respondents

10. What is your home zip code?

20650

21 days ago

20653

21 days ago

20636

21 days ago

20684

21 days ago

20618

21 days ago

20690

22 days ago

20636

22 days ago

20650

22 days ago

20659

22 days ago

20636

22 days ago

20622

22 days ago

20619

22 days ago

20636

22 days ago

20692

22 days ago

20680

22 days ago

20636

22 days ago

20636

22 days ago

20659

22 days ago

20656

22 days ago

20653

22 days ago

20653

22 days ago

20619

22 days ago

20680

22 days ago

20690

22 days ago

20674

22 days ago

20619

22 days ago

20636

22 days ago

20624

22 days ago

20650

23 days ago

20624

23 days ago

20636

24 days ago

20653

24 days ago

20646

25 days ago

20634

25 days ago

20621

25 days ago

20636

25 days ago

20650

25 days ago

20636

26 days ago

20659

26 days ago

20653

26 days ago

20659

26 days ago

20653

26 days ago

20659

27 days ago

20650

27 days ago

20659

27 days ago

20653

27 days ago

20619

27 days ago

20619

27 days ago

20659

27 days ago

20650

27 days ago

20650

27 days ago

20650

27 days ago

20650

27 days ago

20636

27 days ago

20650

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20653

one month ago

21677

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20653

one month ago

20653

one month ago

20653

28 days ago

20636

29 days ago

20650

29 days ago

20659

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20630

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20634

one month ago

20626

one month ago

20634

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20653

one month ago

20653

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20634

one month ago

20636

one month ago

20636

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20657

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20606

one month ago

20624

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20619

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20634

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20619

one month ago

22015

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20692

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20609

one month ago

20680

one month ago

20619

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20692

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20690

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20626

one month ago

22401

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20653

one month ago

20653

one month ago

20653

one month ago

20650

one month ago

20606

one month ago

20684

one month ago

21114

one month ago

20628

one month ago

20650

one month ago

22231

one month ago

20628

one month ago

20619

one month ago

20619

one month ago

20619

one month ago

20619

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20659

one month ago

20619

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20622

2 months ago

20619

2 months ago

20619

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20619

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20634

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20657

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20657

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20690

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20619

2 months ago

20686

2 months ago

20692

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20634

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20659

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20674

2 months ago

20676

2 months ago

20690

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20634

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20653

2 months ago

20636

2 months ago

20686

2 months ago

20690

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago

20690

2 months ago

20650

2 months ago