



**GEORGIA**  

---

*VERMONT*

# TOWN PLAN SURVEY 2024 SURVEY RESULTS

TOWN OF GEORGIA, VT

February 26, 2024

# INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

**Introduction.** In 2023, the Town of Georgia, VT began the process of updating its Town Plan, led by the Town of Georgia Planning Commission. Regrowth Planning LLC was contracted by the town to assist the Planning Commission with this Town Plan update effort, including facilitating public outreach, public meetings, and drafting a new plan document.

As an initial stage of this work, a town-wide survey was conducted to solicit public input on a variety of issues which would help inform the updated plan, and identify important topics which should be discussed in more detail. This document, prepared by Regrowth Planning, provides the background, details and final results of that survey effort.

## OPEN HOUSE

**Open House and Presentation.** In preparation for the design of the survey, a public “open house” style meeting was held on October 24, 2023 at the Georgia Fire & Rescue building, followed by a presentation and discussion. The purpose of this event was to inform locals that the Town Plan was being updated, provide information on the process, and invite them to consider what topics and issues were important to them which they would like to see addressed in the new Town Plan. Specifically, the event

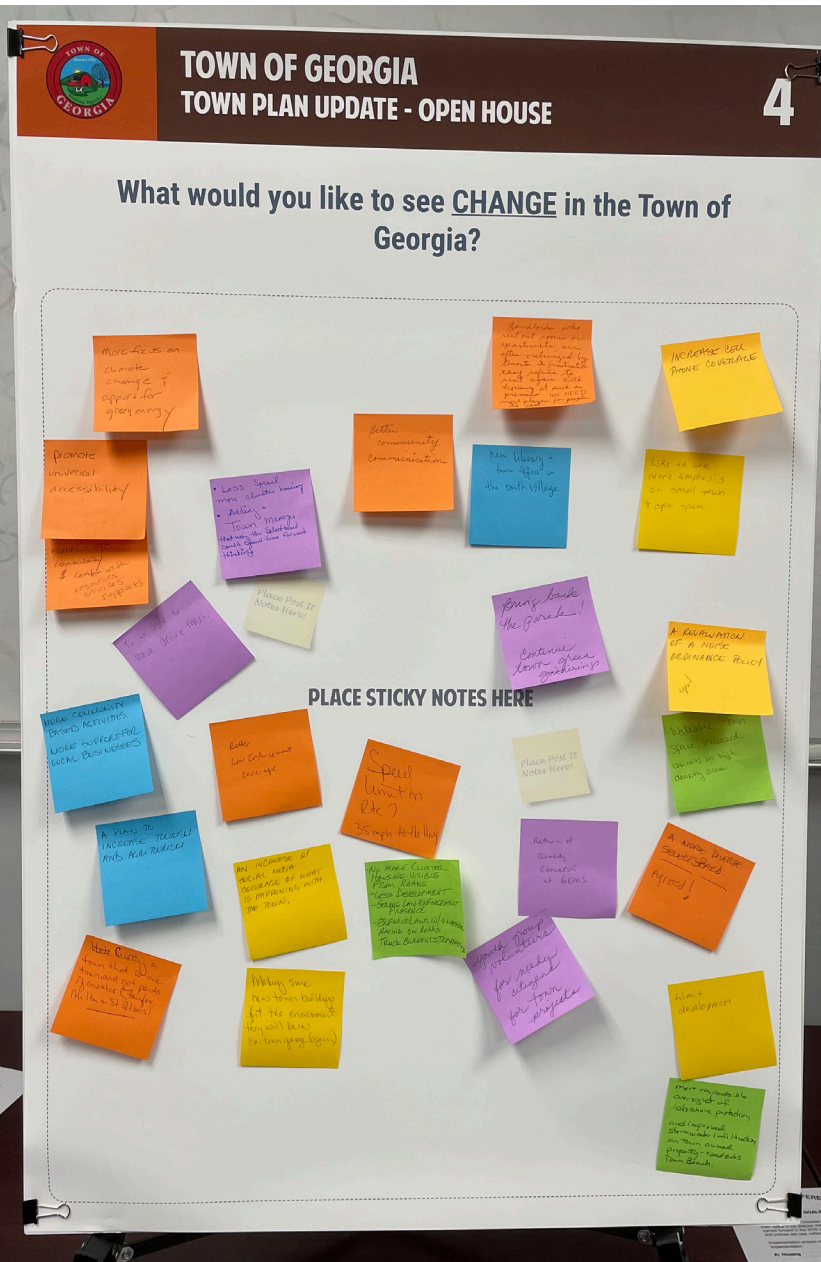
and discussion was used to identify what types of questions and topics should be included in the wider community survey.

The meeting was attended by approximately 35 people who participated in the discussion and provided comments on a series of interactive display boards. A copy of the public comments and meeting notes from this event, as well as a video of the presentation and meeting, were provided online.

## SURVEY DESIGN

The resulting public comments from the October 24th event were used to help develop the initial questions for the community-wide survey. Regrowth Planning drafted the initial survey questions, which were then reviewed and discussed with the Planning Commission. Over the course of several weeks the survey text was revised, new questions were added, and some questions removed or consolidated until a final survey was ready. The survey was designed to inquire on people’s thoughts on almost all of the topics identified in the open house event, gather additional input about those topics, and then ask people to rank the relative importance of those topics.





## DISTRIBUTION

**Paper Vs. Online.** In early discussions with the Planning Commission, the prevailing goal of the survey was to encourage widespread public participation to collect as much input as possible while keeping costs reasonably low. While an online survey would be easily accessible and inexpensive, it was noted that some people would simply prefer a paper copy or may not have access to online resources. For this reason, it was decided that the survey should be made available online, and printed paper copies should also be made readily available. For

the purpose of consistency, the paper and online surveys were designed with identical questions, without randomization.

Mailing a copy of the survey to every household was considered, however this would have resulted in much higher printing and postage costs to the town, as well as the cost to manually tabulate the results of every paper copy. For these reasons, it was decided that a hybrid approach of an online survey, while also making printed copies available for pick up at various locations, would be the best approach in terms of maximizing participation while reducing costs.

Printed copies of the survey were provided at the Town Offices, the Library, and at GEMS. In addition, the option to download and print a PDF copy of the survey at home was provided through the Town Plan Update project page at [www.regrowthplanning.com/georgia](http://www.regrowthplanning.com/georgia). A locked drop box was provided at the Town Offices to collect completed paper surveys.

## SURVEY ADVERTISEMENT

Over the course of the survey duration, it was locally advertised in a number of locations to increase awareness and participation. An 11x17 poster inviting people to take the survey was posted at the Georgia Elementary School, Town Offices, Georgia Public Library, Georgia Auto, Ascension Church, Bone Builders workout group and the Georgia Market. An email invitation was directly sent on December 15th to the participants of the Open House event, and an email invitation blast was sent on two dates to all people who had signed up for town email announcements. Small business card-sized handouts were produced inviting people to participate in the survey, which were distributed at various locations. Information about the survey was posted on the project webpage, and the Town’s website.

The survey was also advertised in the local **Georgia Vermont Facebook Group** (4,600 members) on December 15th, 18th, 23rd, 29th, January 4th, 9th, and 16th. It was advertised in the local **Georgia Vermont Community Forum (Uncensored) Facebook Group** (3,000 members) on December 15th, 21st, 27th, January 1st, 6th, 11th, and 16th. It was announced in the **Georgia VT Front Porch Forum** on January 9th, 10th and 14th. Finally, it was also advertised as part of a paid promotional **Instagram** post targeted to all users within a 5 mile radius of Georgia Center for 8 days between January 9th and January 17th. Similar advertising efforts were attempted utilizing the relatively new **Threads (by Instagram)** platform, however localized or targeted social media

posts to a certain geographic area were not effectively workable without established user groups or paid advertising options.

## SURVEY DURATION

The online survey was officially opened on December 15th, 2023 and the online link was kept open for 34 days until the morning of January 18th. Paper copies of the survey were accepted until January 18th.

## RESPONSES

During the survey duration, a total of 407 online survey results were collected, and 15 paper copies were returned, for a total of 422 responses.

**Online Surveys Completed: 407**


**Paper Surveys Completed: 15**

**TOTAL SURVEYS COMPLETED: 422**

Paper copies returned to the Town Offices were scanned and sent to Regrowth Planning for manual tabulation of the results so that they could be combined together with the online data to compile the final results. Any written (text) comments provided on the paper copies were inputted exactly as written, including spelling or grammatical errors and capitalization of words, in order to preserve them as public comments. In cases where the text responses included *emphasis* of words with the use of underlined text or ALL CAPS, the text was transcribed in ALL CAPS to preserve this emphasis since it was not possible to input underlined text in the digital record. In cases where any written comments were unclear or the writing was hard to decipher, a [?] was provided immediately after the word in question.

Some of the paper copy respondents provided extra/unsolicited comments or questions, often scribbled in the margins of the survey with circled words, arrows, exclamations or similar notations. Attempts were made to accurately record these additional comments by transcribing them in the comment field for that section/subject with an editorial comment provided in brackets to provide context, for example: “[Re: paving dirt roads] NO WAY!!!”

# TAKE THE SURVEY!




## Town of Georgia Town Plan Update

The Town of Georgia Planning Commission is conducting a survey to get public input for our Town Plan Update. All residents, property and business owners in the town are encouraged to participate!

### 3 OPTIONS TO PARTICIPATE:

**TAKE SURVEY ONLINE** EASIEST OPTION

Go online! Visit this address:  
[www.tinyurl.com/GeorgiaVTSurvey](http://www.tinyurl.com/GeorgiaVTSurvey)



- OR -


**DOWNLOAD & PRINT**

Download and print the survey at home, then return it to the Town Office.  
PDF here > [www.tinyurl.com/Georgiatownplan](http://www.tinyurl.com/Georgiatownplan)


- OR -

**PICK UP A COPY**

Pick up a printed copy at the Town Office, Library or GEMS front office, then return it to the Town Office.




For more information about this survey and the Town Plan update, please visit our webpage, located at:  
[www.tinyurl.com/Georgiatownplan](http://www.tinyurl.com/Georgiatownplan)



## Town of Georgia Town Plan Survey

You are invited to participate in a survey to get public input for our Town Plan Update. Please respond by January 17th!



Take the survey online at this address:  
[www.tinyurl.com/GeorgiaVTSurvey](http://www.tinyurl.com/GeorgiaVTSurvey)

Printed copies of the survey are also available to pick up at the Town Office, Library or GEMS front office.

## SURVEY VALIDATION

**IP Addresses.** Each of the online survey responses recorded the IP Address of the computer or device used to complete the survey. By using a formula to search for duplicate entries, it is possible to visually see if the same IP address was used to make multiple submissions to detect if there was any apparent effort to “ballot stuff” or skew the results.

A review of the IP Addresses used showed that a large majority of the responses all came from unique addresses. The highest number of responses originating from the same IP Address was 4, which occurred only twice. The second highest number of responses from the same IP Address was 3, which occurred 7 times. It is believed that the multiple responses recorded are likely the result of different members of the same family/ household participating in the survey, and not the result of any malicious efforts.

# TOWN SURVEY!



## Town of Georgia Town Plan Update

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- OR -

Printed copies of the survey are also available to pick up at the Town Office, Library or GEMS front office, or you can visit [www.tinyurl.com/Georgiatownplan](http://www.tinyurl.com/Georgiatownplan) to download and print a copy at home. Please return to Town Offices by January 17th!



## Town Plan Survey Town of Georgia Vermont

The Town of Georgia Vermont Planning Commission is conducting this survey to collect public input for the **Georgia Town Plan**. The confidential and anonymous public input collected as part of this survey will be used to identify issues of importance to the community and ideas for future improvement and discussion. The results of this survey will be used to identify topics for additional public meetings in the Spring of 2024 and will help inform the language of the updated Town Plan. Please take a moment to fill out this survey and return by mail addressed to: **Town of Georgia Survey, 47 Town Common Road, St. Albans, VT 05478** or leave at the dropbox located at the same address **no later than January 17th**. Thank you!

Prefer to take this survey online? Do other people in your household want to fill it out? No problem! Take the online version of this survey by using the QR Code at right with your smartphone camera, or by visiting the following webpage:

<https://tinyurl.com/GeorgiaVTSurvey>



### GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

**1 What is your opinion on the overall amount of growth and development in the Town of Georgia over the past several years? (Select one)**

- We could use a lot more growth
- We could use a little more growth
- It has been just about right
- We have seen a little too much growth
- We have seen way too much growth
- Unsure / No opinion

**2 In managing future growth and development within the town, how important are each of the following factors to you?**

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Top Priority	Unsure
Increasing revenue to support a healthy tax base	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting our small town, rural character and scenic views	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting our water quality and natural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



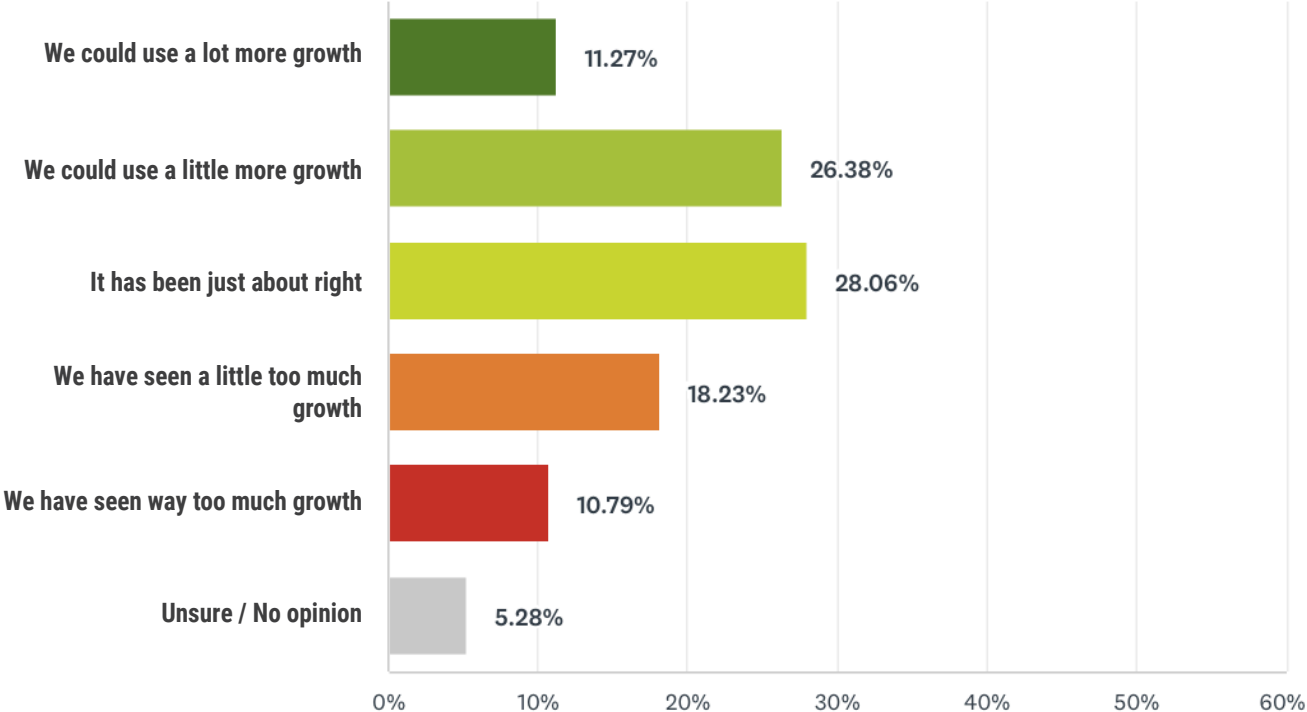
# **PART ONE**

## GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of Part One of the survey was to measure people's thoughts on growth and development in the Town of Georgia. At the Open House event, many people expressed interest or concern about this topic in general. Questions were developed to collect input on the amount of growth which the town has been experiencing, what factors were important to them in managing growth, what areas of town were more (or less) appropriate for additional growth, the potential for a focused growth center in South Village, what natural resources or scenic views they would like to see protected, and the potential local impact of short-term rentals.

**Q1 - What is your opinion on the overall amount of growth and development in the Town of Georgia over the past several years? (Select one)**

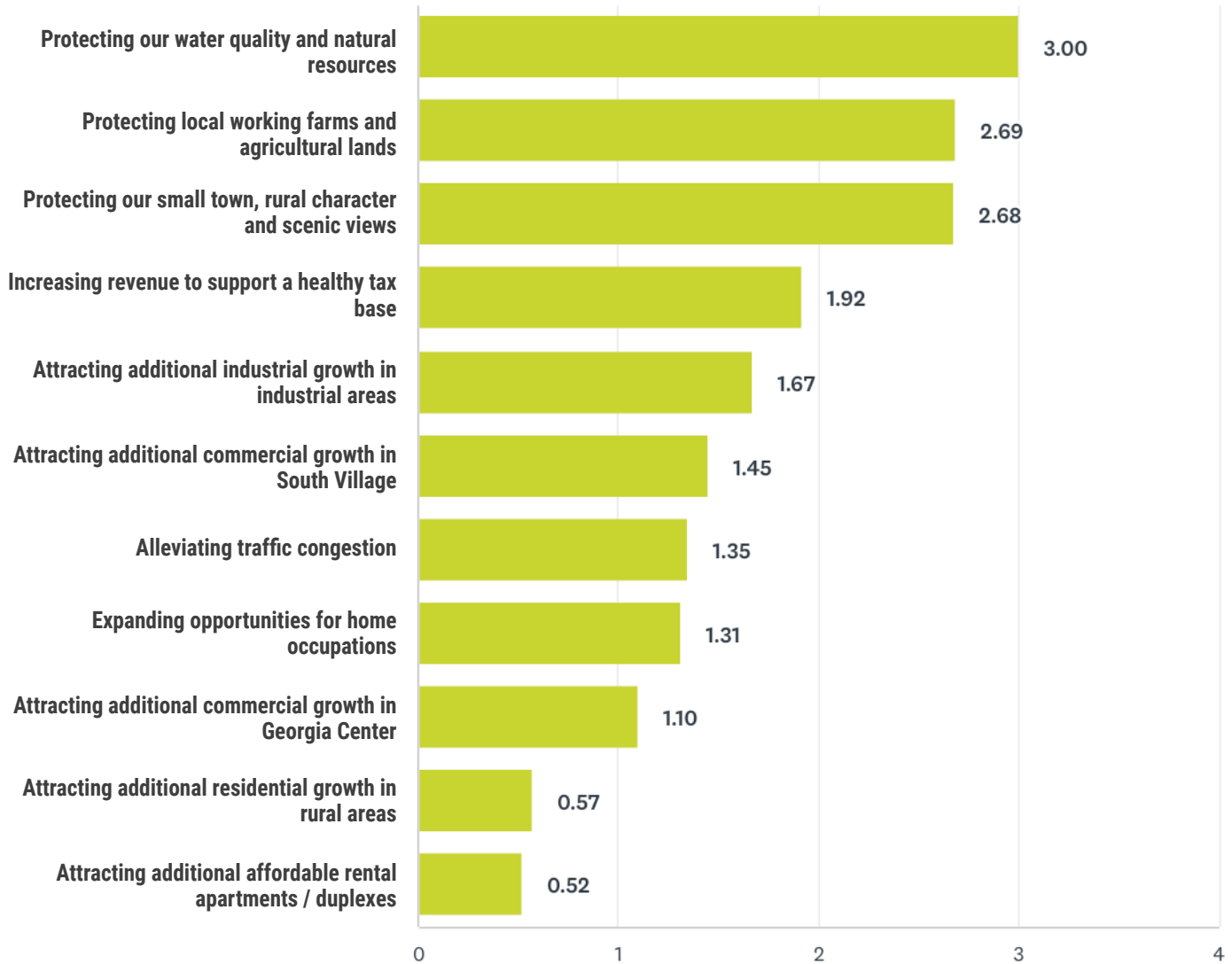
Answered: 417 Skipped: 5





**Q2 - In managing future growth and development within the town, how important are each of the following factors to you?**

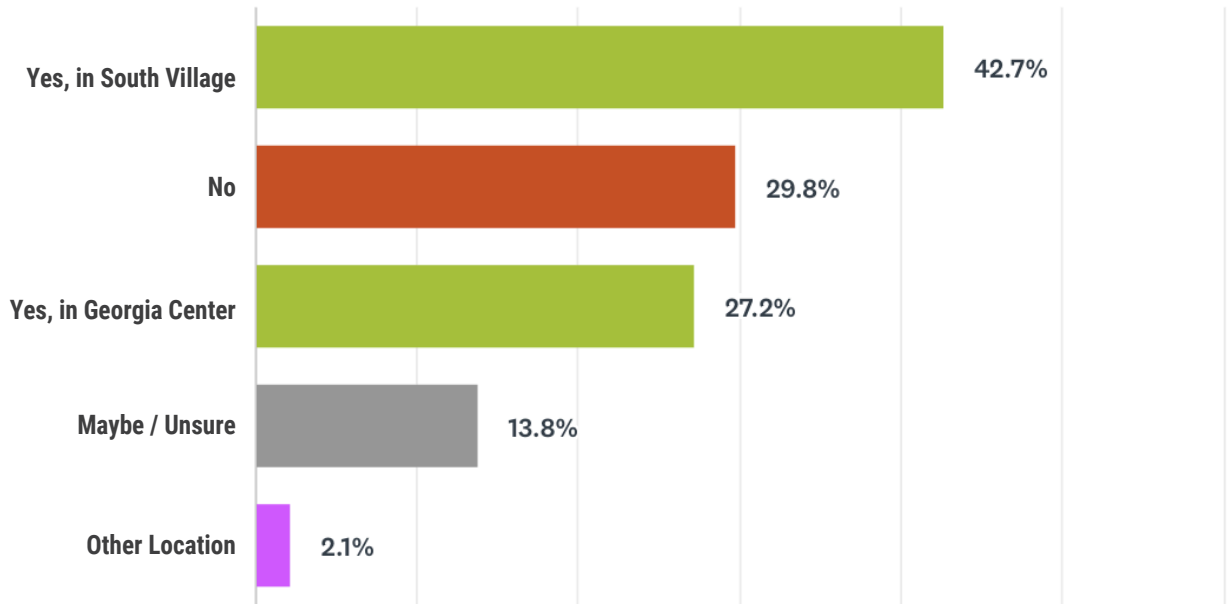
Answered: 420 Skipped: 2



**AVERAGE WEIGHTED SCORING.** Weighted scores were developed to summarize and compare each of the topics relative to each other. Points were assigned as follows: Not Important = -1.0; Somewhat Important = 1.0; Important = 2.0; Very Important = 3.0; Top Priority = 4.0; Unsure = 0.0.

**Q3 - Would you want to see the Town of Georgia work toward the development of a compact, pedestrian-friendly mixed-use commercial growth center, similar to a traditional downtown, in South Village or Georgia Center? (Select any that apply)**

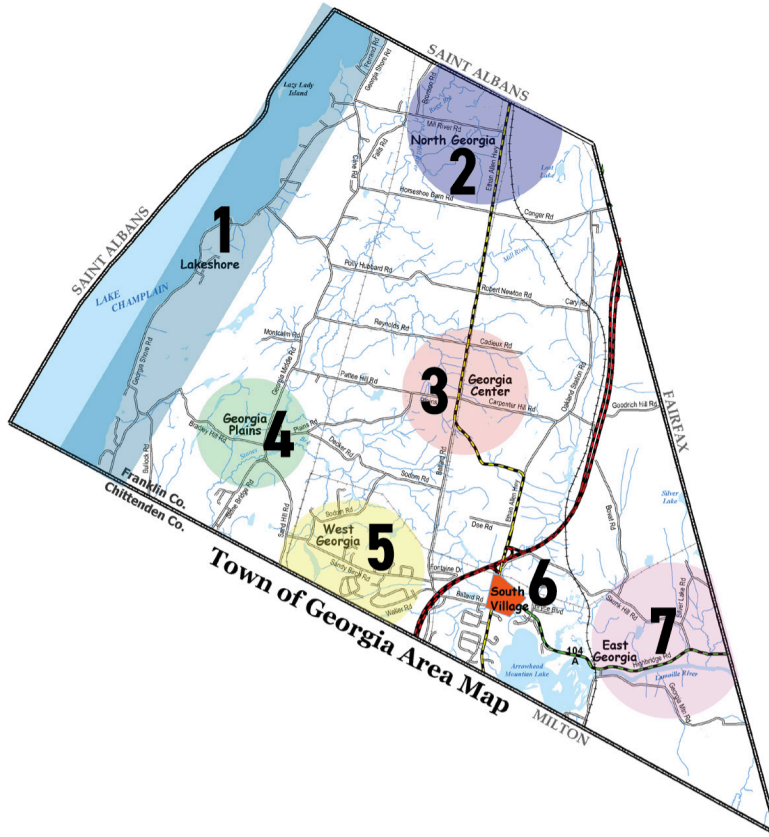
Answered: 419 Skipped: 3



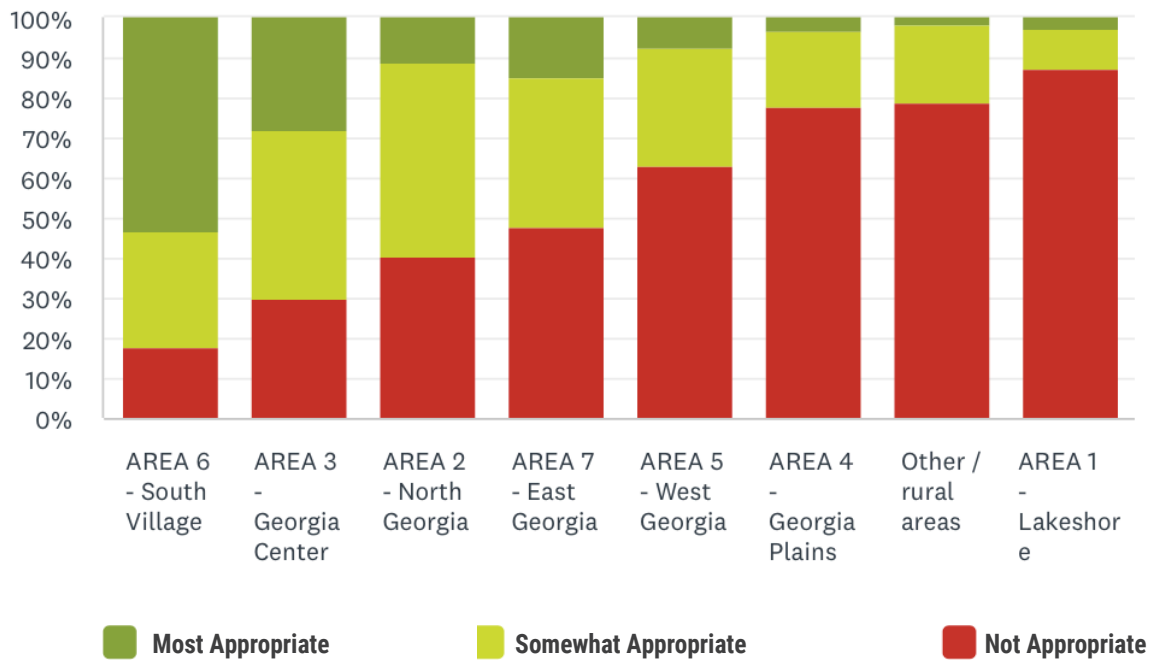
**Q3 - Write-in responses to “Other Location” are provided below:**

1. *Would love more safe walking areas*
2. *West Georgia*
3. *Not from info being leaked out so far*
4. *No more commercial*
5. *no*
6. *Hi*
7. *develop this slowly*
8. *Definitely NOT in Georgia Center!*
9. *Both areas could be utilized, especially with the new housing happening in Georgia Center and the proximity of the school.*

Q4 - Using the map below, how appropriate do you think each of the following areas of town are for new commercial growth? (Refer to map)

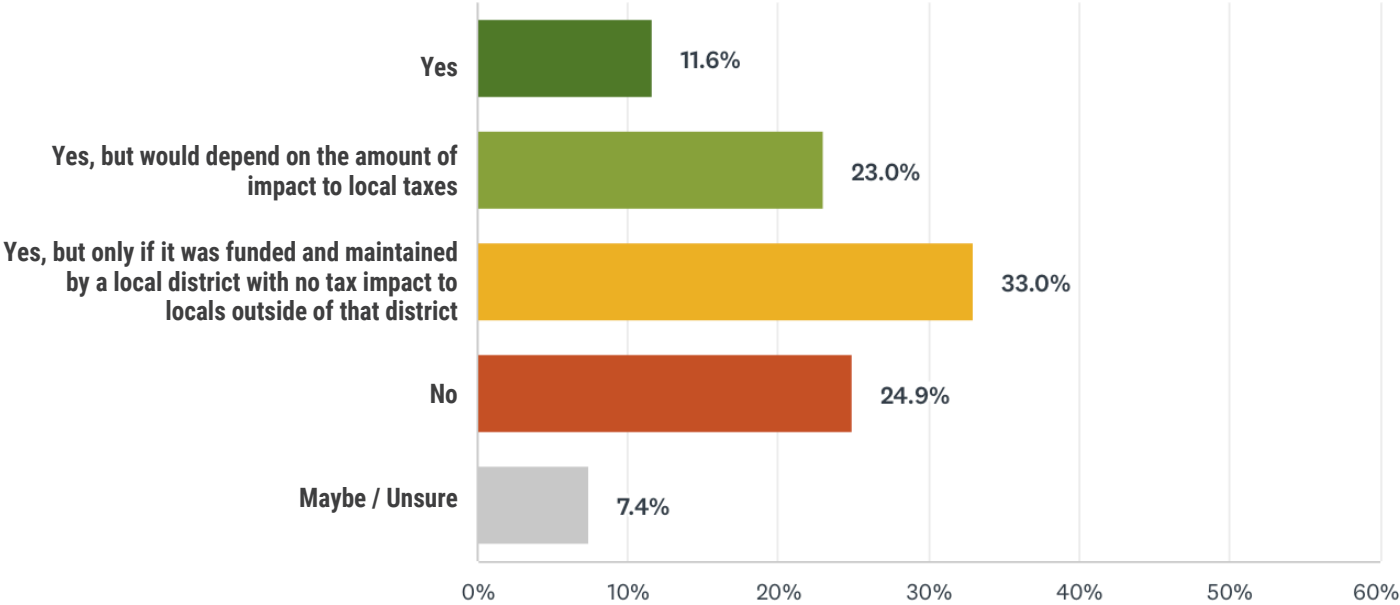


Answered: 420 Skipped: 2



**Q5 - Would you support the Town of Georgia providing water and/or sewer service to the South Village area to support new commercial and residential growth there? (Select one)**

Answered: 421 Skipped: 1



**Q6 - Are there areas of town or natural resources you would like to see protected? (Write in)**

1. *Yes! The lake shore and rural farm areas*
2. *Yes, stop cutting down trees. We don't need more development.*
3. *Yes, maintaining public access to Lake Champlain via Georgia Beach and maintaining and improving the Russell Greene area, access to Silver lake, and other public spaces would be important.*
4. *yes, fields and grasslands, the lake shore, and all wetlands. I am concerned the ZA is not well enough informed about the environmental impact of building, and we have to plan for flooding.*
5. *Yes, Arrowhead Mountain Lake and the Lamoille River leading up to it.*
6. *Yes not letting Boves build*
7. *Yes agricultural areas, lake area.*
8. *Wetlands. We do not need "improved" wetlands. They need to be left per state requirements*
9. *Wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes, wildlife habitat*
10. *Wetlands between Russell Greene Natural area and 104A. Deer Brook upstream of Russell Greene Natural Area.*
11. *Wetlands and their buffers, same with streams and their buffers.*
12. *West village should be protected from commercial development and kept residential*
13. *Unsure*
14. *unknown at this time*
15. *Top of Bovat Road around the town forest*
16. *There are many areas (wetlands) on the west side of Route 7 in the Georgia Village and north to St. Albans area that appear to be encroached upon.*
17. *The valley extending northward from Sodom Road following Route 7 to Reynolds Road. 2) The West facing hillside that follows Bovat Road 3) Mill River, Stone Brook, Lamoille River watersheds*
18. *The small town area feel. The old campground- no massive building that we can't sustain with emergency services and school enrollment. The Camisa project proposing development that forces the town to provide sewer. The Camisa / Fairbanks wetland area - deny it. Stop trying to build a city in a town that can't handle it.*
19. *The school as it is over crowded now*
20. *The same areas that are currently*
21. *The old mill on Stone Bridge Creek would be nice to actually see the nature trail that was rumored to be coming many years ago.*
22. *The lakeshore and Georgia Plains*
23. *The lakei*
24. *The lake!!!*
25. *The lake shores both Arrowhead and Champlain*
26. *The hiking areas - cannot recall their names, off 104A, off Georgia Beach road, the Georgia beach.*
27. *The Bechard farm and surrounding areas of Bradley Hill*
28. *Streams and rivers adjoining farmland's*
29. *Stop development with long drives- disrupting the forest ecosystem-there is a Vermont Statue addressing this issue*
30. *South village*
31. *Silverlake*
32. *Silver Lake, Arrowhead Lake, Lamoille River, Lakeshore*
33. *Silver lake area*
34. *Silver Lake and other trail systems*
35. *Silver lake*
36. *Silver Lake*
37. *Shoreline*
38. *Riparian areas, water quality for lake, keep forested areas*
39. *Protected spaces and no Boves!*
40. *Protect the entire lake shore. Let's not have the area around exit 18 to turn into storage units.*
41. *protect existing open land, like Georgia Town Forest. Need public places to walk and public access to the lake.*
42. *Protect agricultural areas and scenic views.*
43. *Pretty much everywhere. The South Village is essentially all private property; respect owners' rights and don't assume it can be turned into a town center unless the town is willing to buy out all the property owners at market price. Same goes for the rest of the town.*
44. *Please stop allowing the clear cutting of large swaths of forest to put in sprawling houses, e.g. on Sandy Birch rd*
45. *Please keep Georgia as scenic and rural as it is, with very focused areas of growth if the population agrees*
46. *Park at t intersection of Mill River road and Georgia Shore road.*
47. *Our school as it is full now*
48. *Our lake shore*
49. *Open and wooded areas outside of the South Georgia Area.*
50. *Oakland Station Road corridor and east. Lakefront generally.*
51. *No- Act 250 works for this question*
52. *No more growth.*
53. *No more development along our major water basins, including Lake Champlain and Arrowhead Lake/Lamoille River*
54. *No - by protecting land you are reducing the tax base.*
55. *no*
56. *no*
57. *no*
58. *No*
59. *No*
60. *No*
61. *No*
62. *N/A*
63. *n*

## Q6 - Are there areas of town or natural resources you would like to see protected? (Continued)

64. *Mill falls Park. Public access to the waterfront.*
65. *Make a recreational park with walking path on site of old campgrounds.*
66. *Library, beach area, food shelf*
67. *large contiguous blocks, with connectivity*
68. *Lamoille River*
69. *Lakeshore. Gordon Pond. All wetlands. Russell Greene protected natural area. Silver Lake Woods*
70. *Lakeshore, Town Forests and All trails, Lake Arrowhead,*
71. *Lakeshore, farm areas left as farms*
72. *Lakeshore, Eagle Mtn*
73. *Lakeshore needs more protection Farmland/field vistas need more protection Georgia Center needs beautification and more historical focus*
74. *Lakeshore area*
75. *Lakeshore area*
76. *Lakeshore and North Georgia*
77. *Lakeshore*
78. *Lakeshore*
79. *Lakeshore*
80. *Lakeshore*
81. *Lakeshore*
82. *Lakeshore*
83. *Lakeshore*
84. *Lakeshore*
85. *Lakes, wooded areas, rural roads*
86. *Lakes*
87. *Lakefront, forested areas, farmland*
88. *Lake water quality*
89. *Lake shore should be allowed to build higher than 16 feet. but only as high as 2 stories.*
90. *Lake shore & Natural Preserves*
91. *Lake shore*
92. *Lake Champlain waterfront Arrowhead Lake*
93. *Lake Champlain is most important for a variety of reasons*
94. *Lake Champlain Georgia beach Shoreline*
95. *Lake Arrowhead, Deer Brook, Lake Champlain, Mill River, Silver Lake Forest*
96. *Lake area, areas with historic structures, farmlands, Deadman curve*
97. *Keep Lake access.*
98. *Keep existing park areas (Silver Lake, Russell Green, Mill River falls area, and others (?)) protected. If there are other natural resources they should be protected.*
99. *it's ok now*
100. *It would be nice to have the lake protected and have a member of the community involved with an active organization.*
101. *Individual properties*
102. *I'm not certain what the town natural resources are.*
103. *I've travelled extensively throughout the State and I don't think Georgia has any viewsheds that are worthy of protection.*
104. *I'm new to the area, but always side with protecting as many natural resources as possible.*
105. *I'd like to see less traffic on our secondary roads. The views of the mountains ... Mt. Mansfield and Georgia Mountain should be protected.*
106. *I would like to see the waterways, lake shore and wetlands protected. Also would like to protect/ keep the combination of open field and forested areas protected from developing into subdivisions.*
107. *I would like to see the town owned lands to include maintained hiking paths.*
108. *I would like to see the south village remain the same and not become a residential hub.*
109. *I think the lake should be protected or any impacts considered if things were to be built around there (such as how a commercial property would dispose of toxic waste without disturbing the lake or surrounding wildlife)*
110. *Homes and land in neighborhoods around South Village need to be protected. There is a lot of discussion about South Village and its development that I am against due to the impact on neighborhoods nearby and to the overall makeup of Georgia and our rural nature. Many don't want a downtown feel here. We moved to Georgia to avoid this.*
111. *Ground water*
112. *Gordon Pond Lakeshore areas*
113. *Georgia Shore, lake Arrowhead, Mill River, natural areas that Georgia already owns. Georgia Beach and the park.*
114. *Georgia Shore Rd is covered in garbage. Litter along Lake Champlain is awful. We should be promoting this road as a bike route and it's shameful.*
115. *Georgia shore in st albans bay water quality is toxic in summer. Health hazard!*
116. *Georgia Beach, Mill River Park, Russel Greene Natural Area, Silver Lake, and GEMS rec properties*
117. *Georgia beach*
118. *Forest areas!*
119. *Farmland to the greatest extent reasonable, lakeshore*
120. *farmland*
121. *Farmers have been spreading manure as late as last week - concerned about water quality of lake*
122. *Farm land should not be "crowded out" by housing development around the fields. Protect Lake Shore (open) - perhaps conserve or purchase more lake shore on Champlain & Arrowhead. Wildlife connectivity - open land & forest connections betw. developments & across roadways.*
123. *Existing open land and wetlands*
124. *Eagle Mountain*

**Q6 - Are there areas of town or natural resources you would like to see protected?** (Continued)

- 125. Do not block the views of Mt Mansfield. That gives Georgia unique perspective and that VT look.
- 126. definitely the Georgia Beach Area. Our forests and natural trails must be preserved, as well as our lakes and riverways
- 127. Boat & Skunk Hill roads
- 128. Boat launch/ town park Mill river
- 129. Arrowhead Mountain Lake and its water table
- 130. Arrowhead Mountain Lake Lakeshore
- 131. Arrowhead Lake, Russel Greene trails, Silver Lake
- 132. Arrowhead Lake, Areas with river access and lakeshore
- 133. Arrowhead Lake where it borders 104A
- 134. Arrowhead lake area and surrounding.
- 135. Arrowhead lake
- 136. Arrowhead lake
- 137. Arrowhead
- 138. Arrow head lake
- 139. Areas with extensive plant and animal life especially if it's endangered.
- 140. Areas around Arrowhead lake, Russell Green Area, The beach, Silver Lake
- 141. Anywhere that the Bove brothers want to put up additional housing where they can neglect their properties and tenants.
- 142. Any residents along the Georgia Shore Road must have a functional septic system to protect the lake water quality.
- 143. any large bodies of water, and streams/streams
- 144. Any body of water. The Lake and river.
- 145. Any areas where it is classified as wetlands.
- 146. Already protected
- 147. All! We have a beautiful lake shore, great open land and we should keep them as us. They are what make Georgia special. If we keep building we will just become North Milton and South St Albans...
- 148. All wetlands, streams and waterbodies.
- 149. All rural areas
- 150. All of it. No more growth!
- 151. all of it.
- 152. All of it! Stop trying to make Georgia into something it's not!
- 153. All of it, stop developing.
- 154. All of it
- 155. All natural resources should be protected, but the lake water quality is most concerning. Something drastic needs to be done before it's too late, if it's not already.
- 156. All current rural areas
- 157. All
- 158. 1,3,3,4,5,6,7



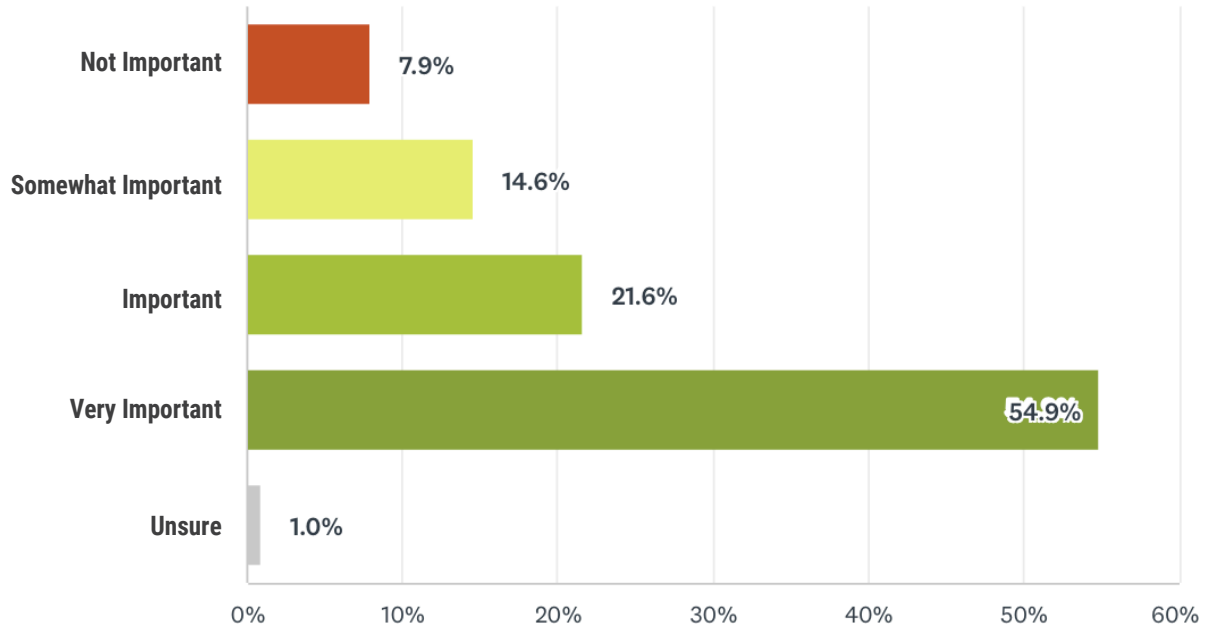
**Q7 - Are there scenic views or viewsheds you would like to see protected? (Write in)**

1. 104a from Rt 7 intersection to Fairfax
2. 7 to Mt. Mansfield
3. All of it
4. All of the shore
5. All views
6. Along Georgia shore
7. Any lakeview
8. Anything viewing Arrowhead Mountain Lake
9. Arrowhead Mountain
10. as many as possible
11. don't tell a property owner what they can do
12. down by the lake there's a walking trail thru woods and a small wet-land area
13. East Georgia to Mt. Mansfield
14. Exit 18 on I 89 to Milton Line
15. From Mountain View Drive
16. From Route 7 to the west (Adirondacks) at Accession Church
17. Georgia beach across lake Champlain
18. Georgia shore
19. Georgia Shore
20. Georgia Shore Rd and surrounding/Lake Champlain
21. Georgia Shore Road
22. Georgia Shore to the lake
23. Georgia south village
24. Lake
25. Lake Champlain
26. Lake Champlain all
27. Lake shore
28. Lake views
29. Lake Views Champlain
30. Lakefront
31. Lakeview
32. Land on lakeshore side of Georgia shore road just north of town beach.
33. Library
34. Mansfield
35. Mountain View, So. Village along 104A / Fairfax town line
36. Mt Mansfield along Rt 7 & 104A
37. mt mansfield from Rt 7 by library/interstate
38. Municipal beach
39. n
40. N/A
41. No
42. no
43. no
44. No
45. Open spaces, agricultural lands and lake views in central and north Georgia.
46. Polly Hubbard / lake
47. Route 7 in Georgia center across the farms into the little valley.
48. Route 7 of Mt Mansfield
49. route 7 to Mt Mansfield
50. Rt 7 looking west across from school. Hayfield across from interstate.
51. Rt 7 to Mt. Mansfield
52. Rt104A
53. Rte 7
54. Sea
55. Shoreland to Lake Champlain
56. Silver lake area to Georgia mtn
57. Silver lake area to Georgia mtn
58. Silver Lake Rd toward Mt Mansfield
59. Silver Lake. Why is there a cabin on the west shore?
60. South Village to Mt. Mansfield
61. The area around exit 18
62. The few ridges we have would not be negatively impacted by a few houses.
63. The lake shore
64. The mountain
65. Unsure
66. View from the Library to Georgia Mountain
67. Views from Oakland Station Road and the railroad tracks
68. Would like to keep the fields undeveloped on the west side of interstate 89. Keep the view from the library area open to Mount Mansfield
69. Yes, the route 7 area to lake shore and mountains.



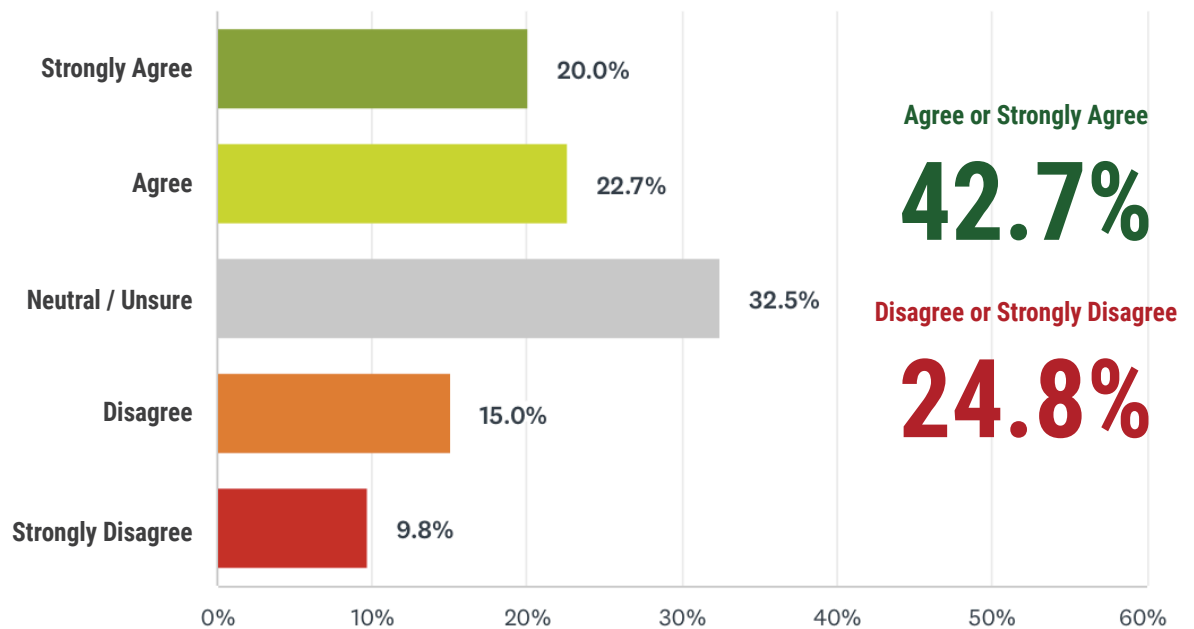
Q8 - How important is it to protect the view of the lake along Georgia Shore Road? (Select one)

Answered: 417 Skipped: 5



Q9 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) "I am concerned about the potential impacts of short term rentals (e.g. Airbnb, VRBO, etc.) on our neighborhood."

Answered: 419 Skipped: 3



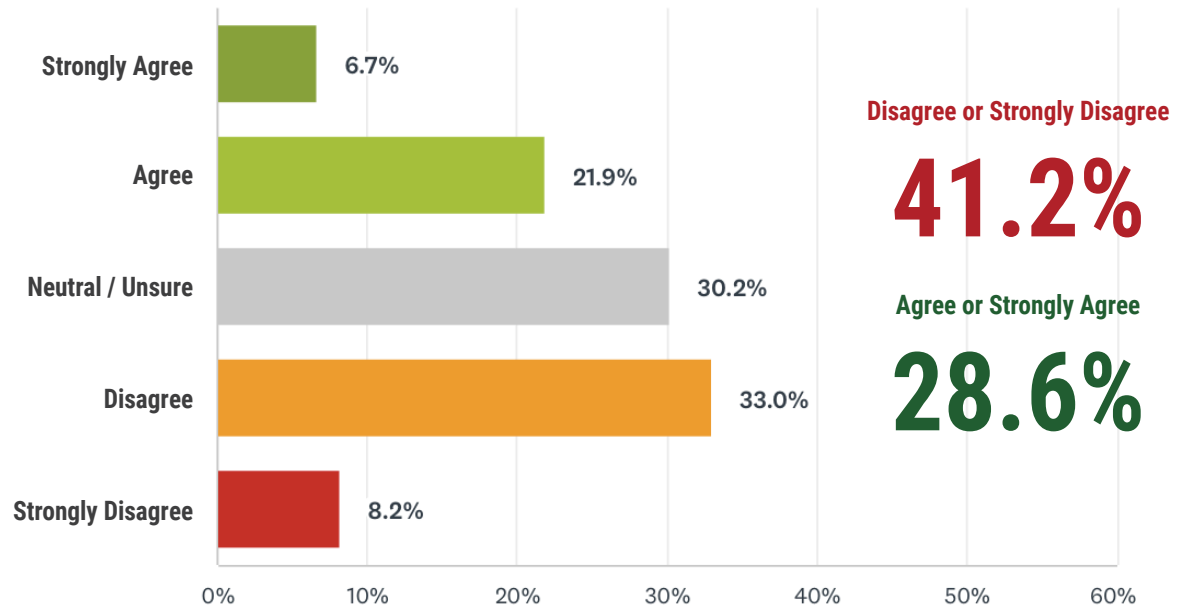
# **PART TWO**

## HOUSING

The purpose of Part Two was to solicit input on the current state of housing in the area. With many communities throughout the state and the country experiencing increased housing costs, it was important to assess how this may be impacting the community. Questions were developed to measure availability of housing, affordability of housing, what types of housing may be lacking, and what areas of town people felt were most appropriate for any new housing growth.

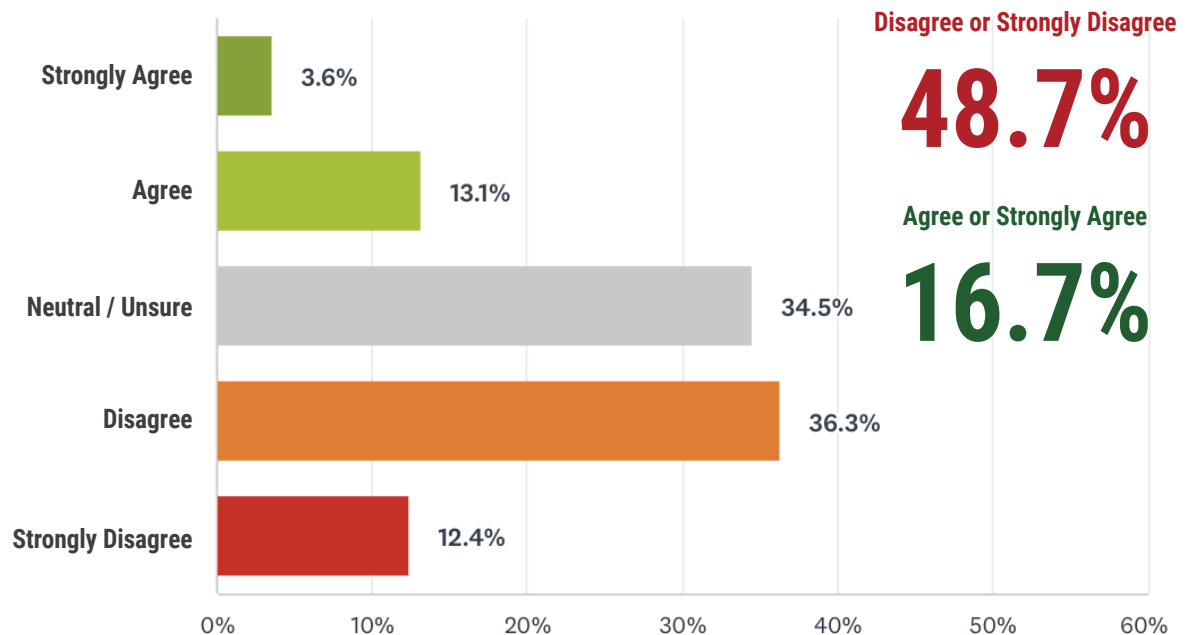
**Q10 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) "The needed housing types in the area are available in the Town of Georgia."**

Answered: 388 Skipped: 34



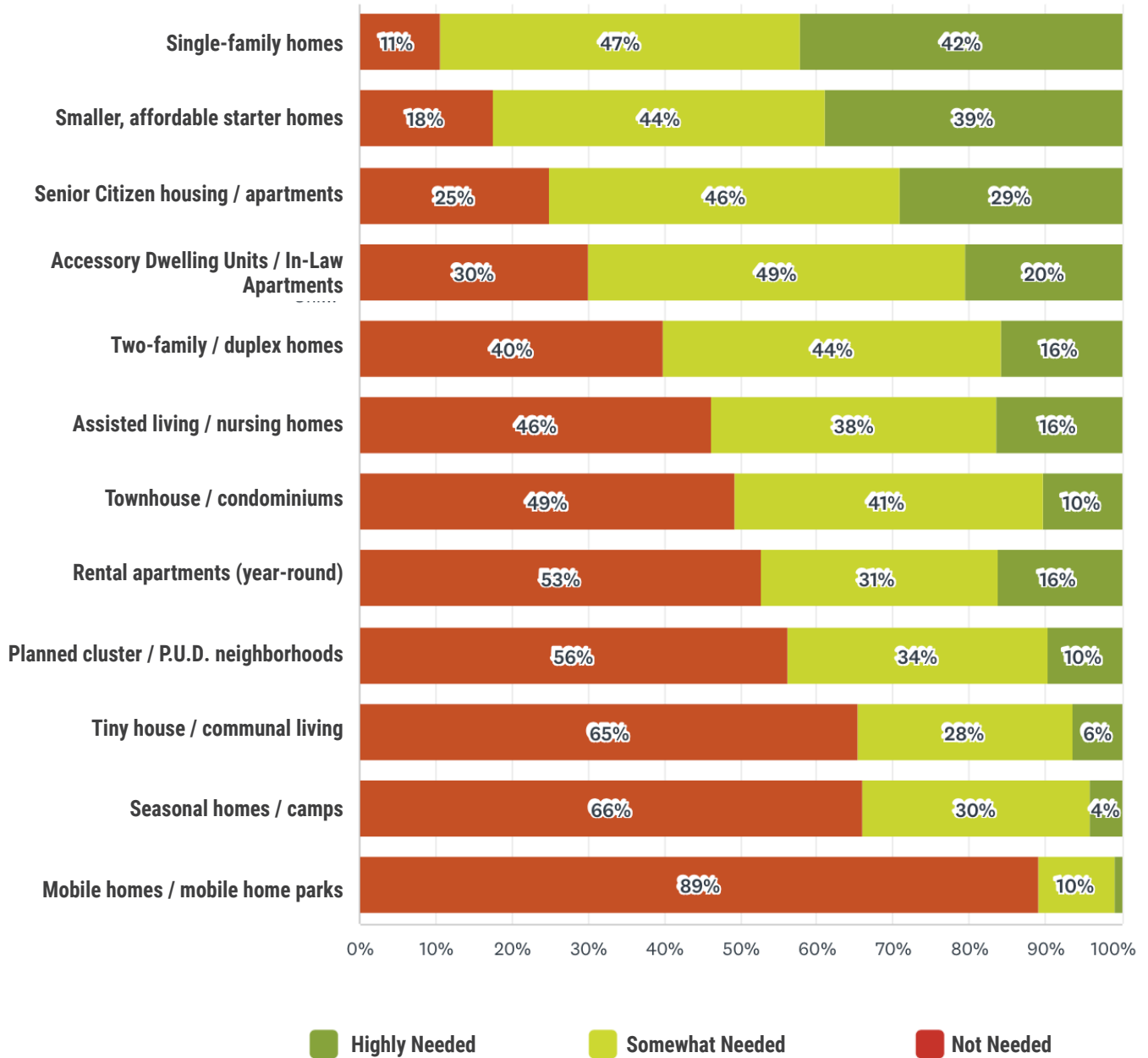
**Q11 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) "The needed housing types in the area are affordable in the Town of Georgia."**

Answered: 388 Skipped: 34

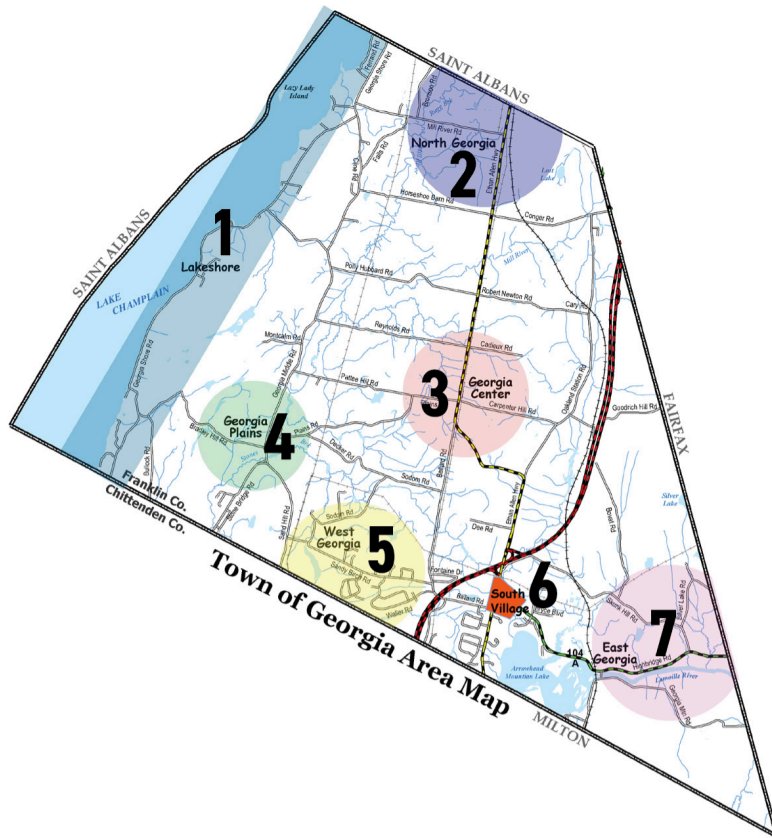


## Q12 - What types of housing do you feel are needed in the town?

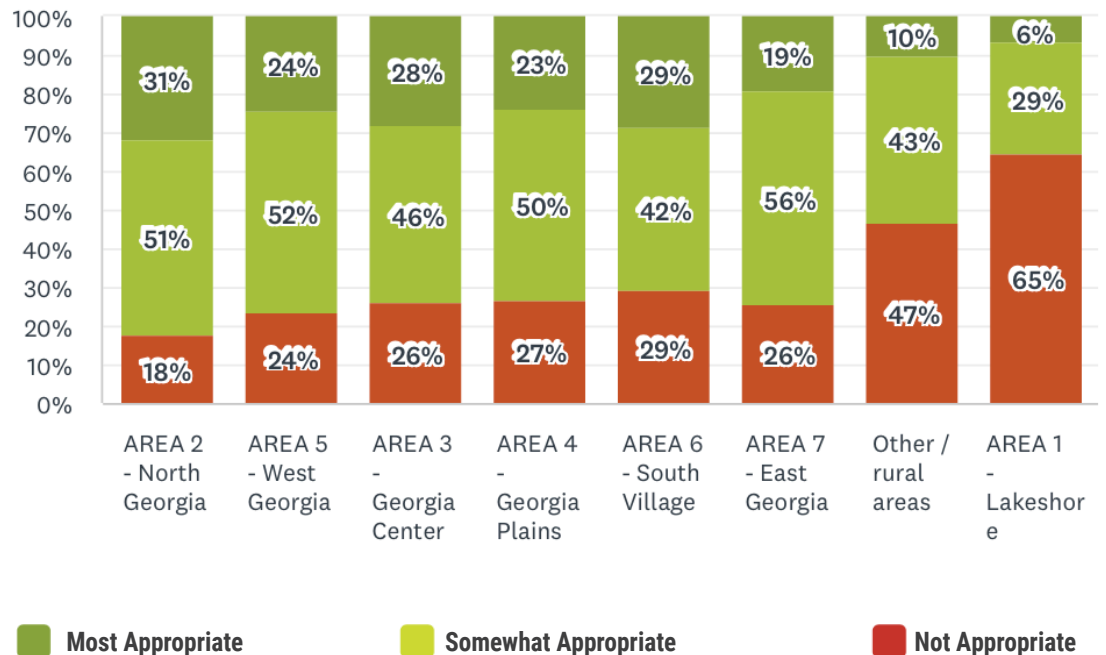
Answered: 386 Skipped: 36



Q13 - Using the map below, how appropriate do you think each of the following areas of town are for new housing growth? (Refer to map)



Answered: 384 Skipped: 38



# **PART THREE**

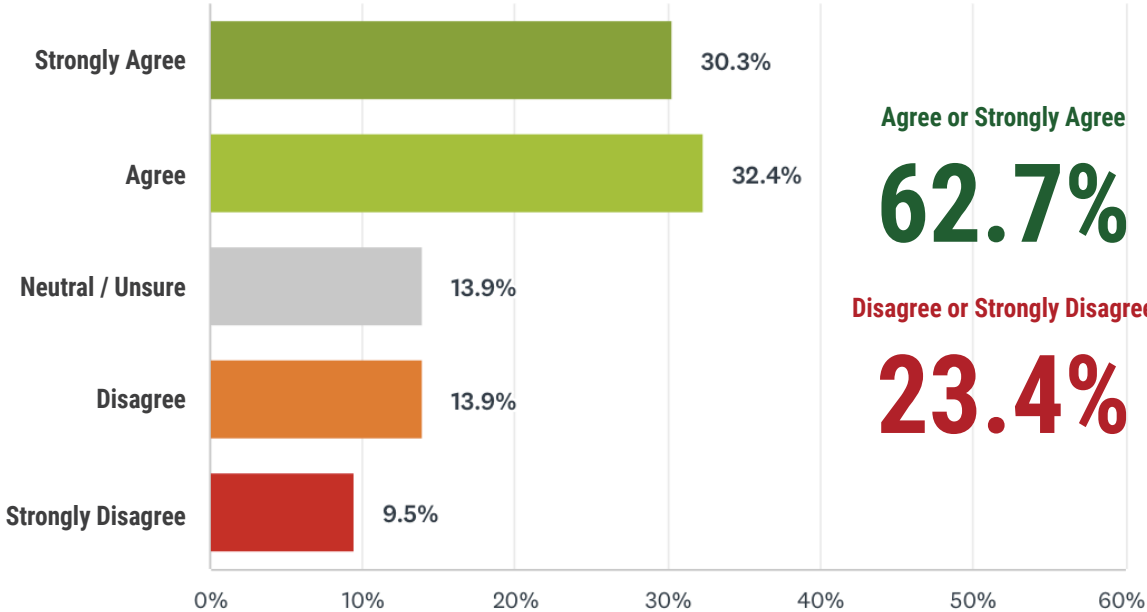
## LOCAL SHOPS & SERVICES

The purpose of Part Three was to conduct an assessment of the availability of local shops and services in the community. This issue was raised during the Open House, and some people noted that they need to drive out of town to often get many things which they need, and the neighboring town's are benefiting from this commercial activity more than Georgia. Questions were developed to measure if this is an issue to local residents, and what shops or services they might prefer to have locally.

While the town is not generally in control of what businesses chose to locate in Georgia, this information may be helpful in identifying what zoning changes may be helpful in attracting new business to the area, and soliciting specific businesses who may be in high demand.

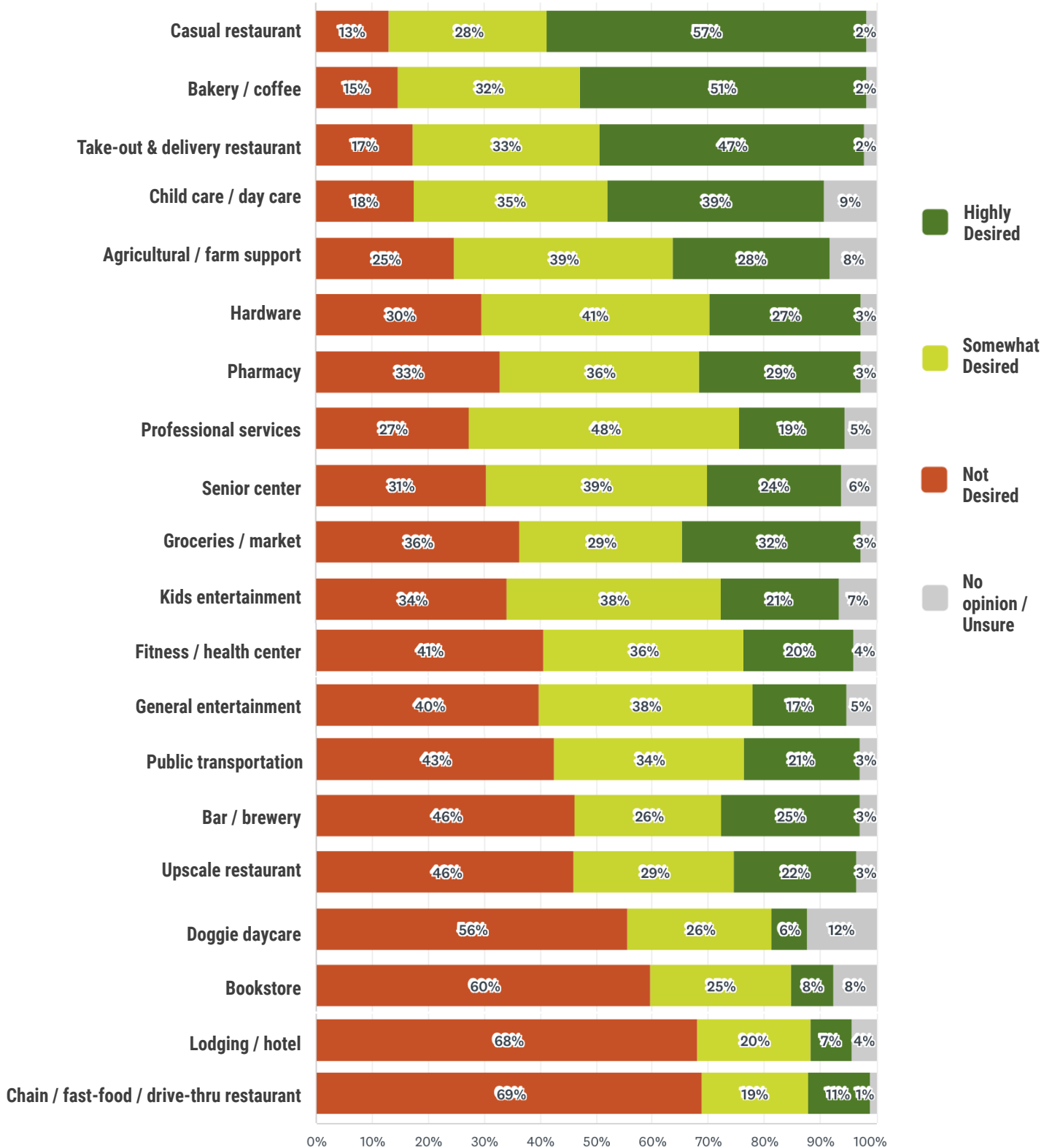
Q14 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) **“New commercial shops and services are desired within the town to serve locals, instead of having to drive outside of town.”**

Answered: 389 Skipped: 33



# Q15 - What types of shops and services do you feel are desired within the Town of Georgia?

Ar Answered: 388 Skipped: 34





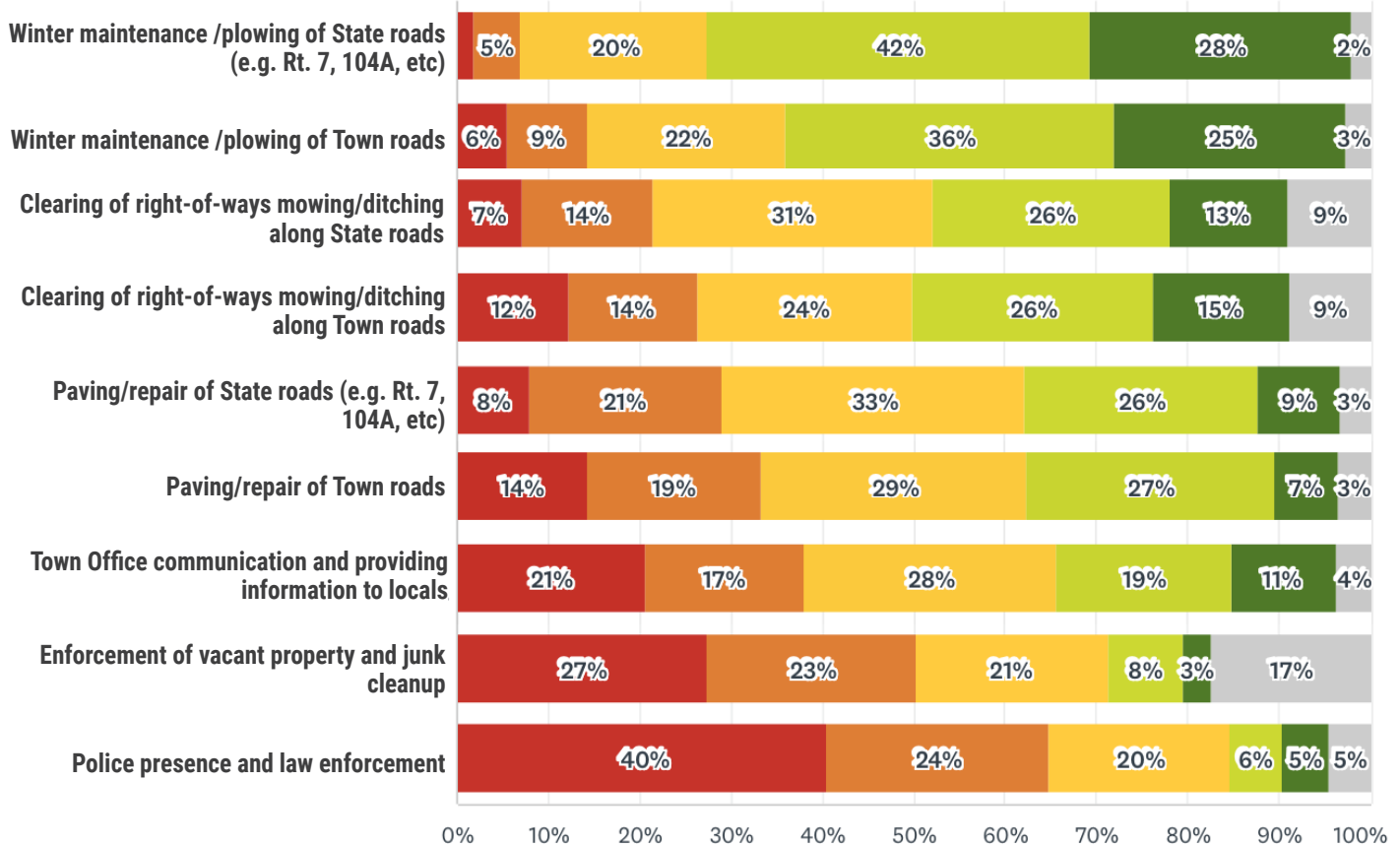
# **PART FOUR**

## COMMUNITY AMENITIES & SERVICES

The purpose of Part Four was to make an assessment of municipal services, including the parks, recreation, community events and other amenities available to residents, and what if any improvements may be needed. Questions were developed to cover topics of town maintenance and enforcement, parks and recreational facilities, potential shared community services, energy use and infrastructure.

**Q16 - On a scale of 1-5 (where 1 = Poor / 5 = Great) how would you rate each of the following services?**

Answered: 378 Skipped: 44



NOTE: The original SurveyMonkey results showed "Enforcement of vacant property and junk cleanup" scoring lower in these results than "Police presence and law enforcement", despite police presence having a noticeably lower rating. This appears to be due to the high number of "Unsure" responses to this item, which were given a score of zero points, which seems to artificially lower the weighted average score. A similar effect occurred with "Clearing of right-of-ways". The above results have been recalculated to omit scoring the "Unsure" responses.

**Q17 - In what ways do you think municipal services or communication could be improved? (Write in)**

1. *Why is the current board creating so much division in the town folks. The board seems to ignore the financial impact to the tax payer. Financial control is totally absent. The current treasurer is fighting an uphill battle, she is a bright spot in a dismal task. Why is the dept budget 3 to 5 times higher than other towns in our area, obscure. "DEI" is being pushed to the select chair and said it will be put in regardless of the general voter view. Not good.*
2. *Why are we no longer voting on fire truck purchases ??? Two tone paint is a significant cost and waste of tax payer money.*
3. *When mowing & ditching the sides of the rural roads it would be nice if it didn't take 2 years for the shredded material to be cleaned up and not look like a mutilated mess.*
4. *Well I tried to find this survey on the town website and it wasn't there. Only saw it when someone posted on FB.*
5. *Weekly newsletter, Facebook page communication*
6. *We need police presence before bringing in more apartments and public housing/public stores and restaurants*
7. *We need more police presence. And there are roads that should be paved but are not fully - such as carpenter hill road.*
8. *We do not use Facebook and do not get all town communications. Info on web sites is not readily available when posted on Facebook. Ridiculous that town will not pay to post job openings in the local Messenger is where many people would actually see to be able to also tell others! Seems staff wants to limit access and not even to pay like other local towns do? Always seeing other towns post in the Messenger. Very frustrating to watch the select board meetings on Comcast. Mostly feels very dysfunctional! The special meeting held for voting for fiscal calendar change seemed underhanded and should have gone to town meeting timeframe and placed on Australian ballot. New town employees and selectboard should learn functional responsibilities and not recreate the wheel without first finding out why things historically have been done for considering why to change or not change the process. Zoning administrator situation was underhanded in many ways in staffing and financial areas!*
9. *We didn't even hear about this survey until we went by the library, think that more work could be done to hear from all the residents on all issues.*
10. *Vermont Gas*
11. *Use the Town website and social media sites to better keep residence informed.*
12. *Use something outside of social media*
13. *Use of internet....local websites people can go to like a newspaper...with sections, advertisements, editorials, community notices and an EDITOR.*
14. *Unsure*
15. *Unsure*
16. *Town highway needs more manpower and more equipment. Fire Department needs more support from the town. The Town-hall needs to be moved to the current library location and the library should be defunded.*
17. *Town Clerk communicates via Facebook. How about sending top priority items to residents in the mail instead. I do not subscribe to Facebook and so miss out on all things related to Georgia VT*
18. *Total transparency and historical knowledge pertaining to decisions made by both the select board and other boards. Many times things appear to be done without understanding how certain rules came about. Governing is a process and as the boards change some of the previous decisions are not fully understood. Many of the recent changes seem to be self-serving which is never beneficial. There needs to be accountability in ALL of the hiring and job descriptions. Not everyone can be responsible for their own job. Checks and balances need to be in place.*
19. *Timeliness of notices. Also notices and announcements should be repeated. When the Town cuts trees along the road, they often do damage to trees with the methods used and leave the trees vulnerable. And the tree guys leave debris on property. I only agree with #18 if there is a succession plan for the old buildings.*
20. *They need more money in their budget so they can complete their projects and afford newer equipment.*
21. *The town will never get the commercial/retail/housing/restaurant/pharmacy needed with no municipal sewer and very limited municipal water.*
22. *The town clerk's office communications is a joke. The act first and ask permission later. Too much cronyism. Jobs to friends and raises to unqualified staff*
23. *The perception is that 2 or 3 people hold all of the positions. No oversight. No checks and balances. No repercussions.*
24. *Tech outside of Facebook*
25. *South Georgia currently looks bad and is not appealing.*
26. *Sidewalks.*
27. *Sending out a newsletter by mail.*
28. *Road maintenance and winter plowing on secondary/development roads. Traffic flow around interstate exit/on ramps and Rte 104a, Rte 7 exchange*
29. *Reynolds Rd is a shit show. Grading it doesn't do anything. The sub base has to be fixed or just pave it*
30. *Return communication could be better. Town office employees need to be friendly as they are dealing with people*
31. *Require clean up of yards*
32. *Replace the town administrator with a qualified town manager.*
33. *Replace everyone in the town office with competent employees who have actual experience in their positions.*
34. *Regular updates/postings to FPF or Facebook*
35. *Post a calendar residents can subscribe to and keep it current*
36. *Please plow Ballard Road*
37. *Perhaps the Town could announce in the Messenger what their paving/work schedule is so folks could plan. Not everyone is on social media. Also, whoever trims the roadside brush needs some assistance. Vegetation is terribly mangled. Perhaps advisement from a landscaping company on how best to trim back trees, and a sharper implement to avoid the shredding.*
38. *Pave Reynolds road!*
39. *Official Facebook page for communication of important dates, votes or issues.*
40. *Newsletter*

## Q17 - In what ways do you think municipal services or communication could be improved? (Continued)

41. *New selectboard*
42. *Need to use social media and ADVANCED notice. And update website so can be reliable place to check.*
43. *Natural Gas*
44. *N/A*
45. *N/a*
46. *n*
47. *My taxes are high for what the town provides. I do not have children in the school system and roads and road maintenance is horrible.*
48. *More updated website to let community members know everything going on in the town, not everyone is on Facebook or has children in school.*
49. *More public education for all ages as to how the town is actually legally set up and able to operate.*
50. *More mailings for people not on social media.*
51. *More law enforcement. Don't get carried away with this DEI project. Don't create issues where there aren't any*
52. *More involvement from town residents*
53. *More information should be posted about voting and town events*
54. *More Email communication or town group page*
55. *more detail in meeting agendas & meeting minutes. Go back to selectboard updates monthly (Carolyn used to do this) less secrecy - more public meetings - have public bulletin boards for townspeople to access info. Post regularly updates from all depts/boards. Use Town Clerk FB page to inform people of meetings/town happenings.*
56. *More communication*
57. *More advertising outside Town offices, where many people pass by throughout the day.*
58. *Monthly newsletter, salting in icy conditions.*
59. *Modernize the town website, provide means of signing up to receive regular communications (and then send them).*
60. *Make a regular weekly post about current updates going on. Keep the community engaged*
61. *mailings--expensive but can reach most residents email communication--town email list*
62. *Mailings*
63. *Letters to the residents. I just happened to stumble upon this survey. So how do all the residents no about it.*
64. *Letters to residents*
65. *Let the communities voice be heard and vote on decisions to build*
66. *Last years town report had many errors, proofreading prior to printing would be helpful and eliminate unnecessary special elections to correct those errors. Code of conduct for all town employees would be a step in the right direction*
67. *Junk ordinance / blight enforcement.*
68. *Junk ordinance*
69. *it's fine*
70. *It seems that route 7 is the only corridor of communication*
71. *Invest in law enforcement*
72. *Increased availability of Police options.*
73. *Increase funding to library. Grow the services that are succeeding currently- like the library rather than start new from Scratch.*
74. *If the town office staff worked more for the community than there own needs. Less staff. If the town clerk had enough free time to be the town administrator she wouldn't need two assistants for the clerk position and an additional one for the town administrator. The bookkeeper and treasurer were both part time positions and are now full time with payroll done by a third party. A zoning administrator making more than the previous one and also now has an assistant. Accurate information given other than a smoke show to keep you in the dark. Flush the toilet and start over.*
75. *I would love sidewalks!*
76. *I wish there was an email mailing list I could sign up for. I rent here and barely ever know what is going on unless I peruse the town Facebook page.*
77. *I wish the town clerks office and the maintenance crew were doing their jobs! Plowing and road maintenance is horrible and the town clerks office could step up their game.*
78. *I think they do a very good job.....*
79. *I pay almost \$10,000 in taxes and the amount of pot holes I have to drive around and through to get home on Reynolds Rd is unacceptable.*
80. *I know mailings are expensive, but what if a newsletter went out monthly or bi-monthly. I know it is up to individuals to keep up on what's going on in town. But most people don't. Some of my neighbors didn't know about this survey or the last vote on changing the date of it's fiscal year. Didn't get a mailing. Also, how about either starting a welcome wagon committee for newcomers, or perhaps a handout with information on services in and around town. This would show we are a welcoming community better than a DEI statement. [Re: Town offices and Library question 18: Why can't you consolidate the town library with the school library, would save money and resources.] [Re: Diversity question 19: We already have many laws in our State + Nation that cover this --> we have the constitution the Bill of Rights Civil Rights Act of 1964. I believe in the golden rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The words sound great but I have seen what trying to implement this DEI statement has done to our town. It has only divided it not brought it together.*
81. *I just came upon this survey. If I didn't happen to be on Facebook, I probably would have missed it. If there are important issues, they should be more clearly notified. Mailers are helpful. Relying on social media is an issue. I know that I stay off of the Georgia Facebook pages. They do not seem to bring out the best in people and I usually leave disappointed.*
82. *I have heard that people do not like the town administrator*
83. *I believe improvements are needed on the timeline to which community members are notified about upcoming meetings, votes, discussions, and decisions being made.*
84. *Hire a Town Administrator with the skills and focus to drive improvement initiatives, focus on grant opportunities and manage communication. Combining the Town Clerk position with the Town Administrator was unwise (penny smart and dollar foolish). The town should benchmark our labor*

**Q17 - In what ways do you think municipal services or communication could be improved? (Continued)**

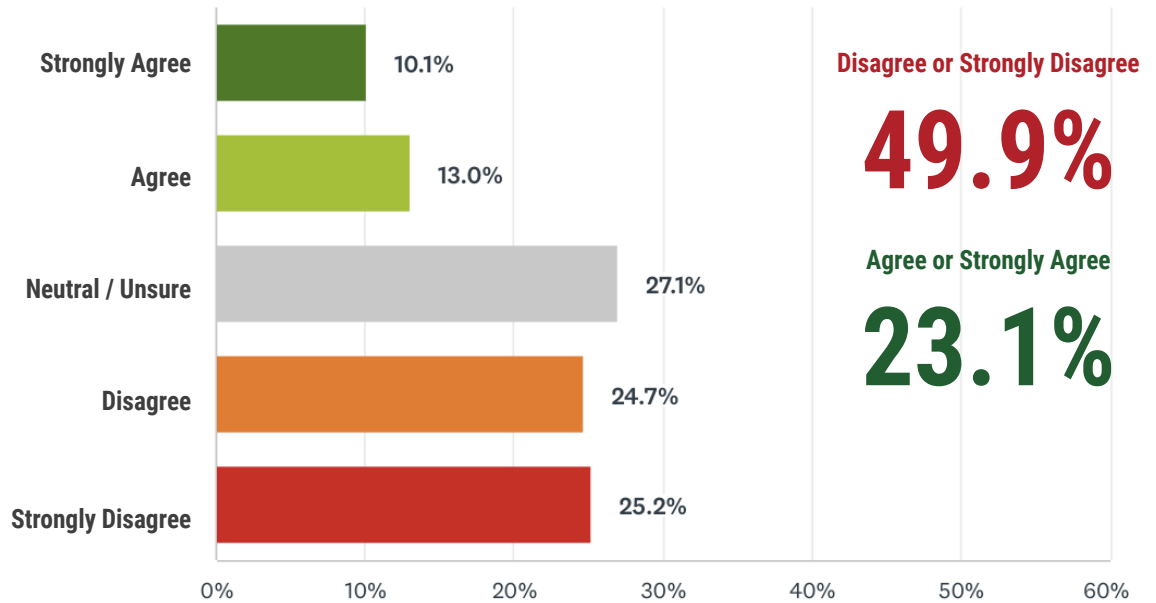
*expenditures for planning & zoning as compared to like size towns in our region. Other towns are getting the job done with far fewer paid staff.*

- 85.** *Hire a part-time trash collector to pick up litter along the lake shore... before it ends up in the lake*
- 86.** *Highly desire more police presence in the town.*
- 87.** *Get the message out sooner, less secrets, more open communication*
- 88.** *get the current select board out!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- 89.** *Georgia zip code*
- 90.** *For the love of god, the ditches on the middle portion Stone Bridge rarely get touched, which means homes across the street from ditches that fill up end up with flooded basements. Even with sump pumps, there's no ditch we can pump to as a ditch is only on the opposite side of the road. It would be so nice to see ditches cleaned out and the crushed/collapsing culvert pipes get replaced.*
- 91.** *For people who don't use the internet I'd like to see one of those digital message boards put in. That way you can share events, town meetings, voting info, etc... Nothing big like for example the Milton High School has as you enter the parking lot. Another example BFA Saint Albans.*
- 92.** *Finding this survey on the town website was difficult. Four clicks to get to the survey isn't user friendly. The town also needs an independent HR manager.*
- 93.** *Facebook is a dysfunctional nightmare. If used, should not have public ability to comment on informational posts. Maybe post a phone number where people can call with questions.*
- 94.** *Encourage bicycle safety by signage and education to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. This is particularly important in areas that are part of the Champlain Valley Bikeway and where the roads are in need of repair. Cyclists swerve to avoid potholes and risk being hit. Drivers are irritated because this is interpreted as cyclists think they own the roads.*
- 95.** *Email list serv, don't rely on social media*
- 96.** *Electronic signage to announce meetings & events in Georgia center and the South Village. An email directory that the Town could send announcements through. A Full-time Town Manager is needed.*
- 97.** *Efforts that are official in nature (not facebook posts!) that are thoughtful and concise. They should live on an official website/listserv, but could be shared via social media.*
- 98.** *e-newsletter, clearer zoning rules, voting option explanations, walking path maps*
- 99.** *E mail automated phone call*
- 100.** *Drainage ditch maintenance along Sandy Birch Road.*
- 101.** *Digital banner sign, Facebook updates*
- 102.** *Difficult in a splintered communications environment. Direct email, Front Porch Forum, and social media. We appreciate your efforts!*
- 103.** *Consistent outgoing e-mail updates of town events / meetings.*
- 104.** *communication is adequate*
- 105.** *Clearly, communication.*
- 106.** *Clarity on programs and updates on town progress*

- 107.** *Carpenter hill pavement to connect what is there now.*
- 108.** *By letting the voters decide on issues at the town meeting instead of having special meetings where only a small amount of voters are represented.*
- 109.** *Better use of the Town of Georgia social media sites*
- 110.** *better town road snow plowing for sure and getting a better salting truck, the one now, only spills salt in the middle of the road as he plows.*
- 111.** *Better police presence*
- 112.** *Animal control issues - cattle, dogs*
- 113.** *Adequate written notice by mail.p*
- 114.** *Actually communicate any information. Use modern forms of communication like social media or a weekly news letter. The news letter would not to be extensive. See other towns for examples.*
- 115.** *A sign board or two by major intersections or near the town garage would be helpful.*
- 116.** *A monthly newsletter or something via an email? Include reminders of how to sign up for absentee ballots and due dates? Open town positions, who is running, and bios? Maybe these exist and I haven't seen them.*
- 117.** *A better town website would be a start, maybe an email newsletter that goes out to town residents on a regular basis.*
- 118.** *.*
- 119.** *Not enough space in this box...b*
- 120.** *Better communication*

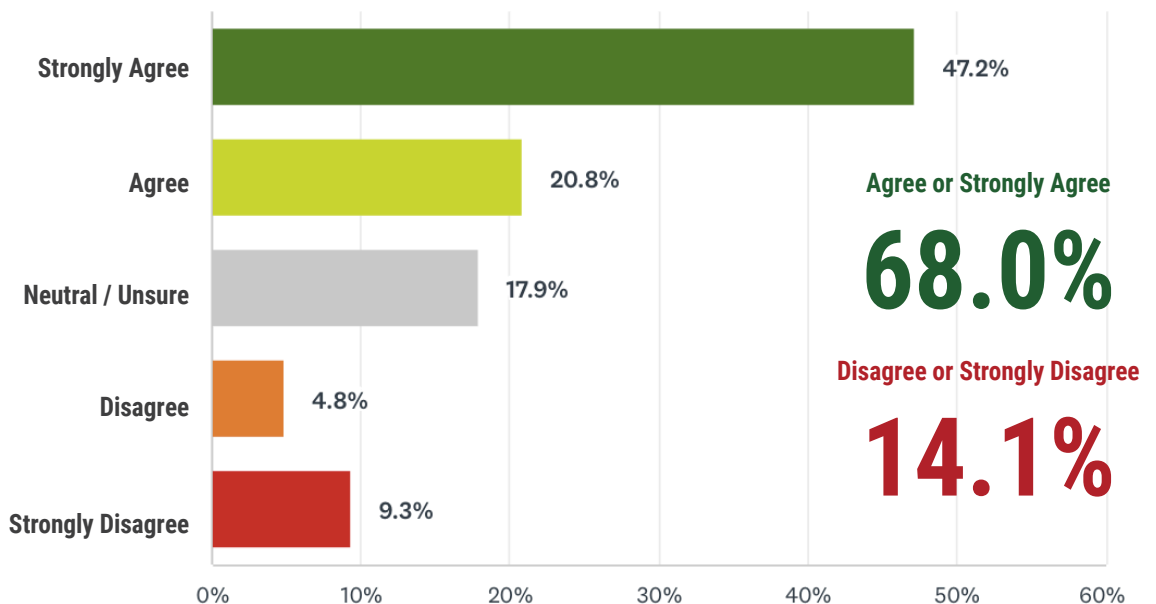
Q18 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) **“The Town Offices and Library services would serve locals better if they were located in new facilit(ies) in South Village as it is being developed.”**

Answered: 377 Skipped: 45



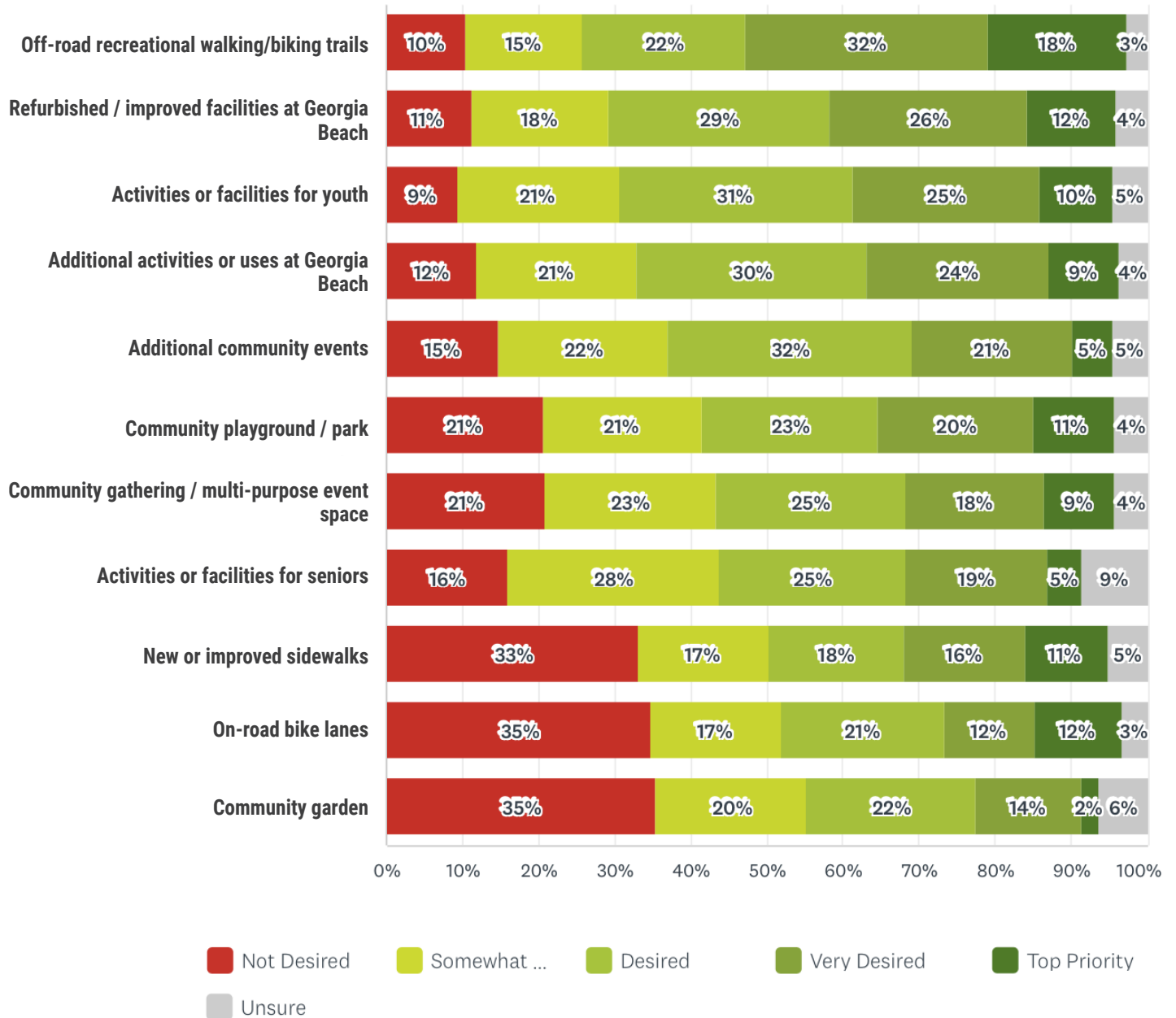
Q19 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) **“A community is improved by celebrating diversity and welcoming all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, or disability.”**

Answered: 375 Skipped: 47



### Q20 - What types of community amenities or activities do you feel are desired within the Town of Georgia?

Answered: 378 Skipped: 44



## Q21 - Regarding the question above, do you have any specific ideas or recommendations? (Write in)

1. *You don't need to move the library. The library needs more books. There are no good books at that library. That's why no one goes there. Bestsellers. New releases. Woodworking books. Anything.*
2. *You can improve the beach area to be inclusive of the other community needs: senior and youth activities, event space, dog park area. It would be easier to maintain and staff in one location. Now it's mostly a boat launch and baseball field.*
3. *Would love to see more options available for walking with dogs/young children. It's too dangerous to walk on our road (Sandy Birch) and most hiking trails aren't stroller friendly.*
4. *Whether there is more development or not there HAS to be sidewalks, bike path installed on Ballard Road between Rt. 7 and at least the underpass. Someone is going to be killed walking there.*
5. *what about a "round a bout " off of 104a & route #7 ??*
6. *We have playgrounds at both the schools & beach which could always be upgraded. Activities at the beach for our youth in the summer would be great. I don't think renting the beach out to events where the towns people cannot use the facilities is ok though. A walking path incorporated into the Beach property and upgrading the beach itself would be helpful for its use.*
7. *We had a brand new building all ready to go at the beach and because of a few loud busy bodies we lost a wonderful FREE building. Now you want tax payers to pay for one! Something wrong with this whole thing!*
8. *We don't need sidewalks.*
9. *We desperately need sidewalks in South Village! So many people walk along route 7 and it is dangerous!*
10. *We could have had a nice facility at the beach, gifted by a local businessman. We could have added to it easily. A few people decided the best way to receive a gift was to get arrogant. I do not want my property taxes to increase because these same people are active in this survey, and want a facility at the beach.*
11. *We are a rural community and I believe that is why most people moved here. Also having school choice for highschool. All these amenities sound nice but are available 10 to 15 miles away. I don't think our town can support all of this.*
12. *Unless they will be placed everywhere, insisting the sidewalk to nowhere on Sandy Birch is a waste of effort.*
13. *Turn campground into community rec center with a coffee/bake shop maybe senior center*
14. *There would have been a new beach facility if not for a few people with an agenda.*
15. *There should be a sidewalk from Laura's woods to the corner of Rt 7 & Ballard road. Lots of kids riding bikes and people walking*
16. *The town office help and select board need to do their jobs properly and never mind filling their pockets with money and stop worrying about new growth because they can't maintain what they have now*
17. *The total impact monetarily should be a priority. Many of the above suggestions come at a cost that would be prohibitively negative for the average taxpayer. Ideas that sound wonderful should be explored carefully. Needs vs Wants!*
18. *The snack bar at Georgia Beach is not up to health code and so cannot legally be used for Little League or other events. The bathrooms at Georgia Beach really should be open once Little League begins.*
19. *The sidewalk needs to go somewhere, not just in front of the building or development being built.*
20. *The only reason I'm saying not desired for bike lanes on roads is that speed limits are not followed, very very low enforcement, my road is supposedly 40 mph I see folks zipping down going at least 50 +, people pass me all the time when I follow the limit, even with limited line of site, weight limit on the bridge is not being honored even by local trucking companies, cement and loaded water tankers are definitely over the limit.*
21. *The library needs more funding.*
22. *The Georgia Beach is a wonderful asset for the town and should be used more. This space could be transformed into a year round facility and used for everything pretty much listed up above!*
23. *The bike way for cyclists is not used. They cut through cline road versus using the directed scenic route along the lake. The edges of the roads are narrow and very dangerous for pedestrians and motorists.*
24. *The beach recreational area has opportunity for addition events that can be planned. This may include a tennis tournament, upgrade the volleyball courts to allow for competitions, basketball tournaments, encourage a soft ball team. In the winter finding a place for public sledding or a skating rink!*
25. *The Georgia Beach pavilion and restrooms need to be upgraded. Also a permanent Pickleball court should be installed in one of the basketball court areas, reducing one basketball net and supporting the growing Pickleball community in town.*
26. *Support for facilities for community activities in addition to GEMS are desirable.*
27. *Stop asking property owners to pay to subsidize a small number of people to use the St Albans pool. It is crazy that someone on a fixed income should be asked to pay for this unless it is "needs" based.*
28. *Stone Bridge is part of the Champlain Valley Bike Path, and traffic is unforgiving to them and pedestrians. It would be nice to have safer spaces, especially on the corners and up the hill/curve near the bridge.*
29. *Statements like "A community is improved by celebrating diversity and welcoming all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, or disability." need to be changed. Using the word 'celebrate' refers to putting one group of people above others, when all should be treated the same: fairly. When we 'celebrate' groups, we are putting that group above all others, causing the rift between residents we are currently seeing. We don't feel the 'all people are created equal'.*
30. *South Village*
31. *Some sort of building that could be rented for gatherings or other events that residents could use.*
32. *Sidewalks longer than 6 feet would be nice, especially along rt 7*
33. *Sidewalks leading along Ballard towards South Village and along corridor near school and town offices*
34. *Sidewalks ideally should only be implemented once there are actually places to walk to, putting in sidewalks in neighborhoods that don't lead anywhere else doesn't make a whole lot of sense in my opinion.*



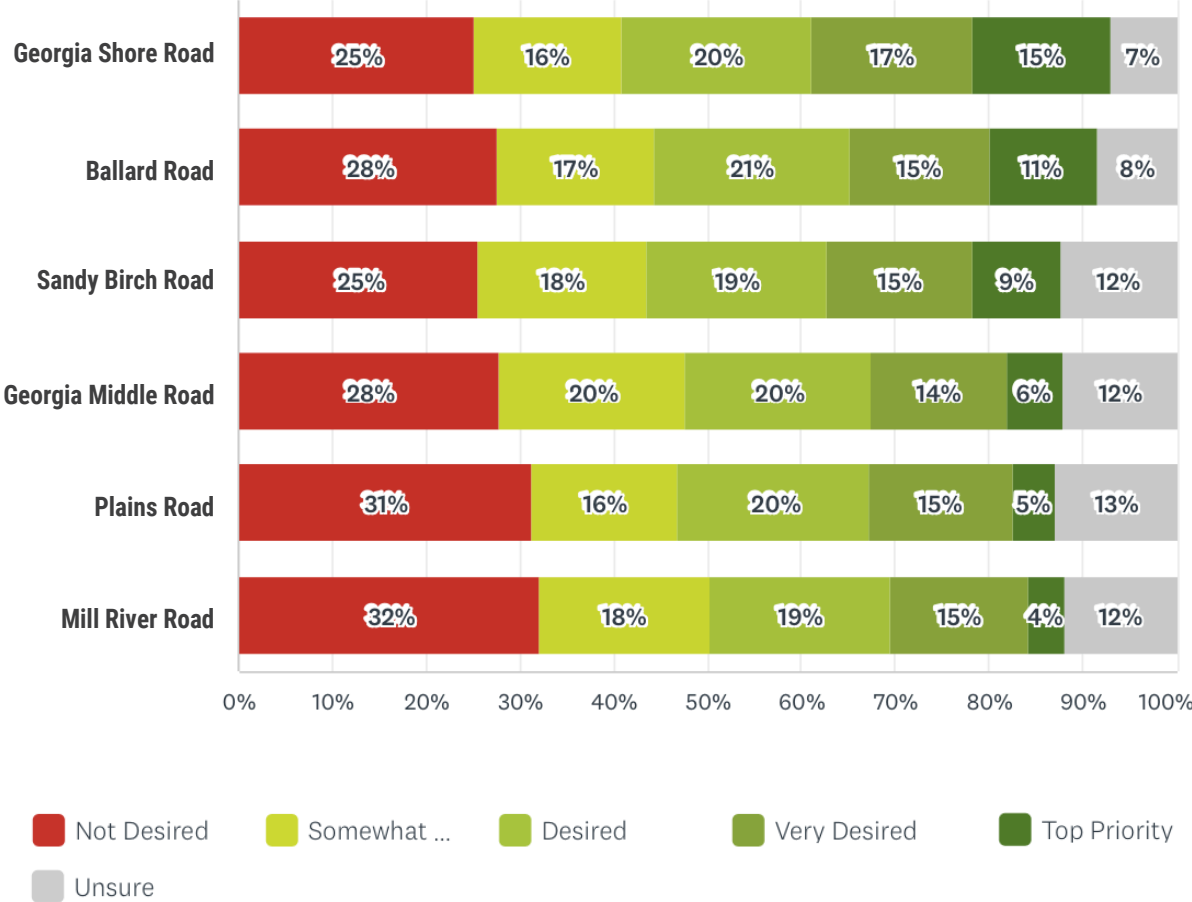
**Q21 - Regarding the question above, do you have any specific ideas or recommendations?** *Continued*

- 35. Sidewalks from south village to connect Russell Greene/lake arrowhead on 104a would be amazing
- 36. Sidewalks - not necessary. Do not development into a traditional downtown, keep us rural. Do not make your improvements at the expense of existing businesses/homeowners.
- 37. Sidewalk to school
- 38. Sidewalk from South Village to Arrowhead Industrial Park would be very beneficial to many Georgia residents and those employed in Georgia. This would also link South Village to Russell Greene Natural Area via Town Trail #4.
- 39. Sidewalk from Milton to Saint Albans
- 40. Sidewalk along Ballard and Sandy Birch would be incredibly welcome.
- 41. Seems a lot of this questions asked here already are in the beach area park to play ball, Activities the town host things now, getting some folks to slow down on our roads is to me an issue that needs attention.....
- 42. seek out more walking paths or sidewalks or central areas to shop/garher- town is too auto reliant
- 43. Sandy Birch Rd has the most residents and yet your plan is to build a sidewalk someday on Ballard Rd. That doesn't make a lot of sense to me.
- 44. Round-about us needed where 104A meets rte 7!!
- 45. Roads are poorly maintained. Please expand paved roads.
- 46. Refurbish or build a new pavilion at the beach. Remove the basketball hoop on the north side of the basketball court and create a permanent Pickleball court at the beach in it's place. This would allow people to play tennis and Pickleball at the same time.
- 47. Reduce town budget, fix problems don't make new ones.
- 48. paved wide shoulder down part of Ballard and Sandy Birch
- 49. Open-Ended Response
- 50. Ongoing attempts to put these networks in place should continued through Planning, DRB, and Grant writing
- 51. NOT a hockey rink. The town doesn't understand how expensive it is to maintain. It would be an astronomical waste of money. Sell the Zamboni and rink boards to fund improving the bathrooms at the beach. Don't expand the beach because it's unusable for most of the year with algae.
- 52. Nope
- 53. No more growth!
- 54. No
- 55. N/A
- 56. N/A
- 57. n
- 58. More pickleball courts at Georgia beach if not new courts, pant court lines on basketball court to create more courts. Courts also need resurfacing.
- 59. More native plants in areas that need town-mowing; improves pollinator population and reduces invasive species.
- 60. More direct route to Georgia Beach from Rte 7. Beautiful place but hard to get to/locate
- 61. More connectivity via sidewalks/bike path from South Village up and down Rte 7 and off nearby spurs (Ballard, 104A)
- 62. Mapped bike trail for visitors.
- 63. Many people use 104A for touring/biking. It hardly has any shoulders much room for bikers and it's windy. It needs to be widened and made more accommodating for bikers. Also, the speeds on that windy road, especially for the trucks and 18 wheelers, is crazy. We need to recognize it as a feeder road to the Interstate. It is also now one of the major thoroughfares from Maine across New England. Those issues need to be addressed from a state/regional point of view.
- 64. Make access for ATV trails.
- 65. Lines on road for biking and walking
- 66. limit the spending by the current board
- 67. Let's finally add sidewalks to Ballard Rd. Lot's of people walk along there but it's not safe. Would get a lot of use.
- 68. It would be great if there could be a bike lane from Georgia to Milton and to St. Albans
- 69. It is really frustrating that we could have had new facilitators at the beach for free, but some people ruined that opportunity. If we could get grants to help pay for new facilities that would be great.
- 70. Is there any way to make driving safer around dead man's curve? A clean and safe community park closer to the town center, south village would be fabulous. More clearly marked and available hiking/walking trails trails
- 71. Is there an old railroad right of way through town? Can that connect with existing trails?
- 72. Instead of trying to grow our small town just for the sake of money so that we can buy more unnecessary things, why don't we clean it up and protect the remaining wildlife and nature? Does the aim of every town have to be to get bigger and have more people and things?
- 73. Indoor spaces would be great so they could be available year-round. It would be cool to have something like a walking trail too but we would also need parking available nearby.
- 74. Increasing library funding would allow for many of these options to be realized (i.e., events, activities and facilities for all age groups, gathering/event space).
- 75. Improve bathroom facilities at beach.
- 76. If the South Village is further developed there needs to be sidewalks and improved traffic flow. It should not be developed further until there is such a plan. For running/bike paths, if there are paths that need help maintaining, that information needs to be shared more widely to find willing volunteers.
- 77. ice rink, pickleball courts
- 78. I would love to see our community make it easier to use alternative forms of transportation (biking, walking, bus, etc.)
- 79. I would love to have a network of walking/biking trails around town.
- 80. I don't want to see traffic lights
- 81. I don't know what land Georgia Town owns, but if they could make a trail network similar to what Milton has at Bombardier park, i think it would see a lot of use by residents.
- 82. Having a community/activity center would give children and adults the opportunity to gather together and socialize.
- 83. Government needs to provide safe roads, fire protection and education



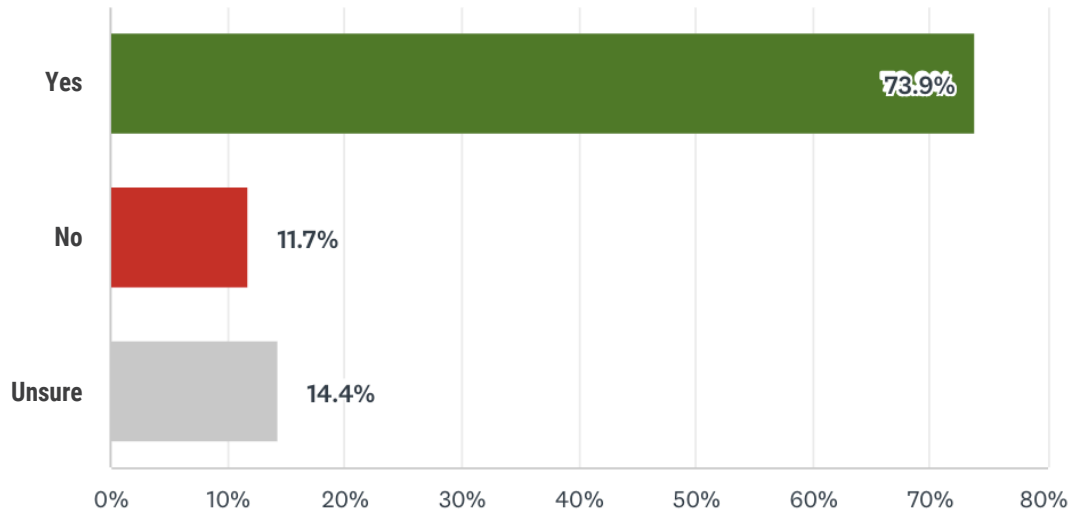
### Q22 - How much would you desire to see bike lanes or wider road shoulders added to the following roads?

Answered: 373 Skipped: 49



**Q23 - Should the town try to coordinate with adjacent municipalities to plan for shared community and recreation amenities, so that each municipality doesn't need to construct their own? (Select one)**

Answered: 376 Skipped: 46



**Q24 - What shared community and recreation amenities might you suggest? (Write in)**

1. Youth programs. I think the St albans community pool is great.
2. We should continue to support resident rates with St. Albans.
3. Walking path similar to the rail trail in St.Albans/Swanton
4. Use of exercise facilities, pools, and rental of event rooms.
5. Unsure
6. Trails, bike paths, event space
7. Town pool, walking paths
8. Town parks, hiking trails, sporting facilities
9. This town seems to cater to a very small populate of the town to provide them with services and enmities. This town cannot support new endeavors; we don't have the population to support it or compete with neighboring towns.
10. that should be an individual choise
11. Swimming,hiking,boating
12. Swimming, indoor exercise like Collins Perley.
13. Swimming pool, skating rink, courts.
14. Swimming pool, indoor track, rental/reservable room for small medium sized events.
15. Swimming pool
16. Swimming lessons, group bike rides, tennis and pickle ball lessons, a designated pickle ball court, biking and running events (Tour de Georgia, Ballard Hill Mile, Election Day 5K, Maquam/ Georgia Shore Half Marathon
17. Summer camps for children
18. St. Albans Hardact
19. St. Albans and Milton
20. St. Albans
21. St. Albans
22. St Albans used to allow Georgia residents to use their recreational passes for resident price, last I checked that had ended. A community meeting space would be great for folks just looking to meet or play games in a quiet space without having to spend money. The library is great when it's open, but schedules don't always match up.
23. St albans rec is incredibly pricey and should have lower rates.
24. St Albans pool and sports activity's through the rec dept.
25. St Albans
26. Sports programs for kids, adult enrichment
27. Small concert venue
28. Skating rink and gym facilities.
29. Shared use of pool, fitness facilities, indoor rec space.
30. Shared park program. Trail activity program akin to earning a patch if walked hiked each in each season. We don't need a pool. We need to embrace the outdoors for recreation in Georgia. Not put up more buildings. Any new town buildings should give homage to the history of the town and not be an eyesore

**Q24 - What shared community and recreation amenities might you suggest? Continued**

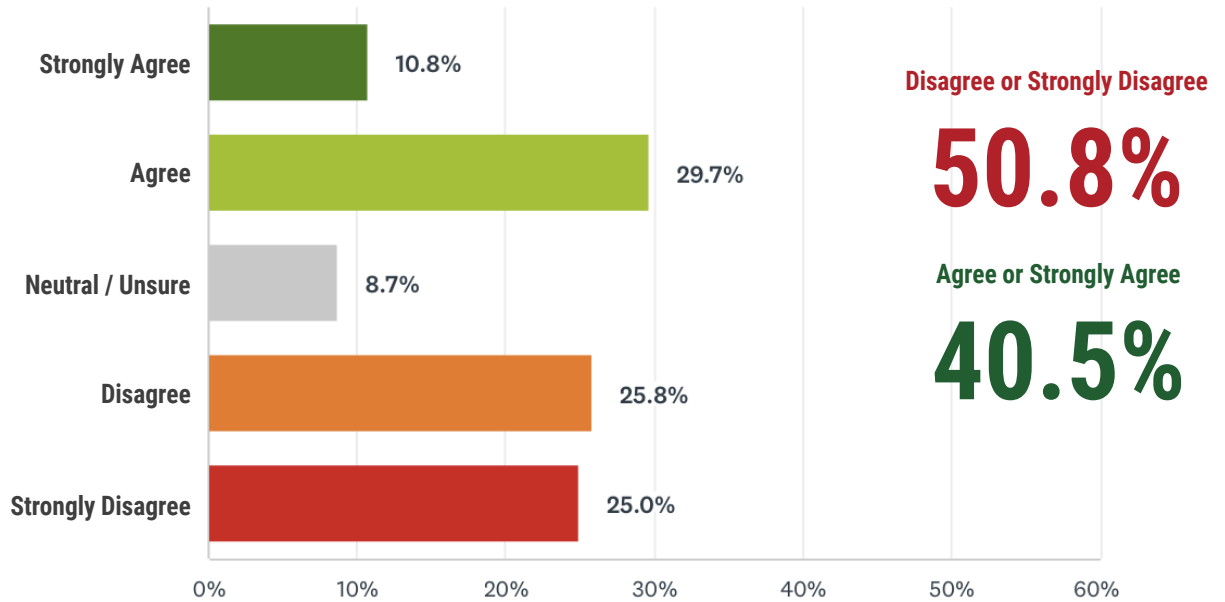
- 31. *Share pool with St. Albans. Possibly construct an outdoor skating rink to share with Milton and St. Albans. Perhaps a skate park. Or a put in for kayaks and canoes.*
- 32. *Saint Albans.*
- 33. *rink/ pool*
- 34. *Rest rooms and beach's grounds cleaning.....*
- 35. *Resident rate for st albans pool*
- 36. *Regional Recreation department*
- 37. *Rec programs Police services*
- 38. *Rec dept program costs should be county based, va town*
- 39. *Rec camp for summer vacations Athletics Fine and performing art*
- 40. *Pool, Rink, Theatre, Fields*
- 41. *Pool, kids programs*
- 42. *Pool, ice rink, gym*
- 43. *Pool useage, summer camps for kids, shared library, police.*
- 44. *Pool use, recreational activities*
- 45. *Pool at St Albans*
- 46. *Pool at Hardak*
- 47. *Pool access Gym membership Senior activities*
- 48. *Pool*
- 49. *Pool*
- 50. *Pool*
- 51. *Pickleball courts, indoor and outdoor*
- 52. *Pickleball courts*
- 53. *Pickleball coirts*
- 54. *Pickleball Bike paths*
- 55. *Pickle ball, tennis, horseshoes etc*
- 56. *Paved roads*
- 57. *Parks, Dog parks, walking / running trails, forest trails*
- 58. *Parks and rec with St Albans and Fairfax*
- 59. *parades, pool, sports teams, etc*
- 60. *none*
- 61. *None*
- 62. *none*
- 63. *Nature paths*
- 64. *N/A*
- 65. *Multi-use space/event hall. Hiking/biking trails.*
- 66. *More sports/exercise opportunities for adults and youth.*
- 67. *Milton/Fairfax*
- 68. *Milton and St. Albans both have great existing programs - help us pay "resident" rates.*
- 69. *Local access to hardack pool*
- 70. *Kids activities/ camp/ child care*
- 71. *It would depend on funding and ideas. All surrounding towns cover our current needs.*
- 72. *Investigate activities(sports,classes,camps) with nearby towns that by joining forces would assist economies of scale would help reduce Georgia residents cost to participate.*
- 73. *Instead of creating our own recreation Dept., we should work with St.Albans and Milton to participate in their recreation offerings at a reduced rate for Georgia residents.*
- 74. *Indoor skating and other indoor recreation (soccer, roller skating, fitness, etc) facility with room for meetings/event space*
- 75. *Indoor pool/rec center*
- 76. *indoor pool/exercise/recreation for all ages. A community center and combined library/media space. Fairfax/Georgia? Milton/Georgia? Georgia location shared with Franklin County in General?*
- 77. *Ice skating rink, pool(s), Park & Ride (north end of town)*
- 78. *ice rink, pickleball courts*
- 79. *Ice rink for winter time, roller skating for spring/summer/fall.*
- 80. *I love the coordination with St Albans for the pool. We should also look into coordinating efforts for things we don't offer. If we have basketball, baseball, soccer no need to work with another town.*
- 81. *I have found no issue with access to recreational amenities as I pay for this access.*
- 82. *Hockey rink, Indoor recreation*
- 83. *Hiking trails, off-road biking trails, tennis/basektball courts, kayak rentals*
- 84. *Hardack.*
- 85. *Hardack*
- 86. *Hard'ack, st Albans city pool, town mountain bike trails, Franklin county trails, Welden movie theater.*
- 87. *Hard'ack area; pool & trails*
- 88. *Gym, indoor recreation*
- 89. *Georgia being able to use pool and facilities at Hardack in St. Albans.*
- 90. *Gas*
- 91. *food forest/ park!*
- 92. *fire / ambulance / police / senior programs / youth sports / adult sports / parades / pickleball courts / boat dock / etc.*
- 93. *Fairfax*
- 94. *expand town forest?*
- 95. *Exercise or skills (crafts, other topics, etc) classes for adults. Shared ice rink, pool, other rec facilities. Seems to be plenty of activities for children/ youth, then seniors, but absolutely lacking for the adults in the middle that may or may not have children.*
- 96. *Dog park Better fishing/boat access at Georgia shore (same for arrowhead)*

## Q24 - What shared community and recreation amenities might you suggest? *Continued*

97. *Discounted Memberships as a Georgia resident to gyms, pools etc.*
98. *Continue the arrangement with St Albans for access to recreation programs at their in town rate.*
99. *Cont to work with St Albans rec for pool use and summer camp*
100. *Community gardens, more public gathering places both indoor and outdoor, more opportunities to connect with people, employers, businesses, service providers, in more interactive events,*
101. *Community Center, sports fields*
102. *Collins Perley. Bike path connected to Collins Perley or bike path. Big ask though.*
103. *children's activities, camps, dog parks, tennis courts, senior services and seminars*
104. *Bowling alley, recreational center; use of Hard'ack, Mt. Bike trails, snow shoeing/x-country skiing trails.*
105. *Athletics and rec dept.*
106. *Appreciate the support for Georgia residents use of Hardack pool and other recreational facilities.*
107. *Any that require construction*
108. *All.*
109. *All available rec amenities offered in the share.*
110. *All*
111. *Again...ideas should be researched carefully to balance cost with the taxpayer in mind!*
112. *A walking trail network would be great*
113. *A venue that hosts community events and concerts. If I had my say I would want walking trail, places for food trucks, and an all-ages arcade.*
114. *A park on Arrowhead Lake.*

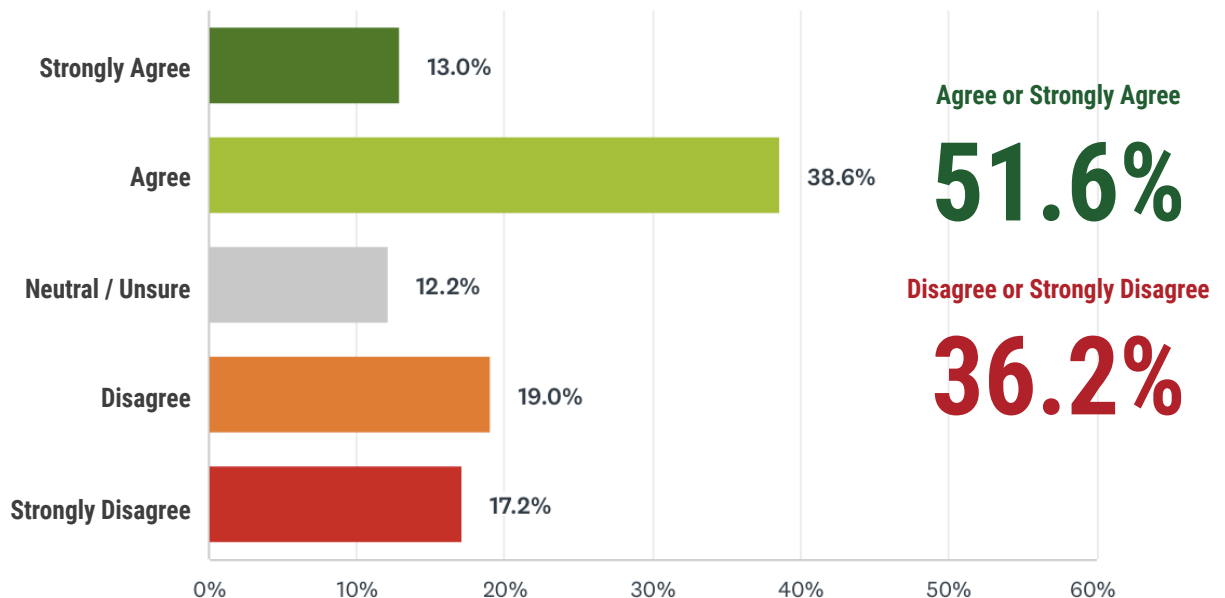
Q25 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) **“Cellular phone service within the town is adequate for my daily needs.”**

Answered: 380 Skipped: 42



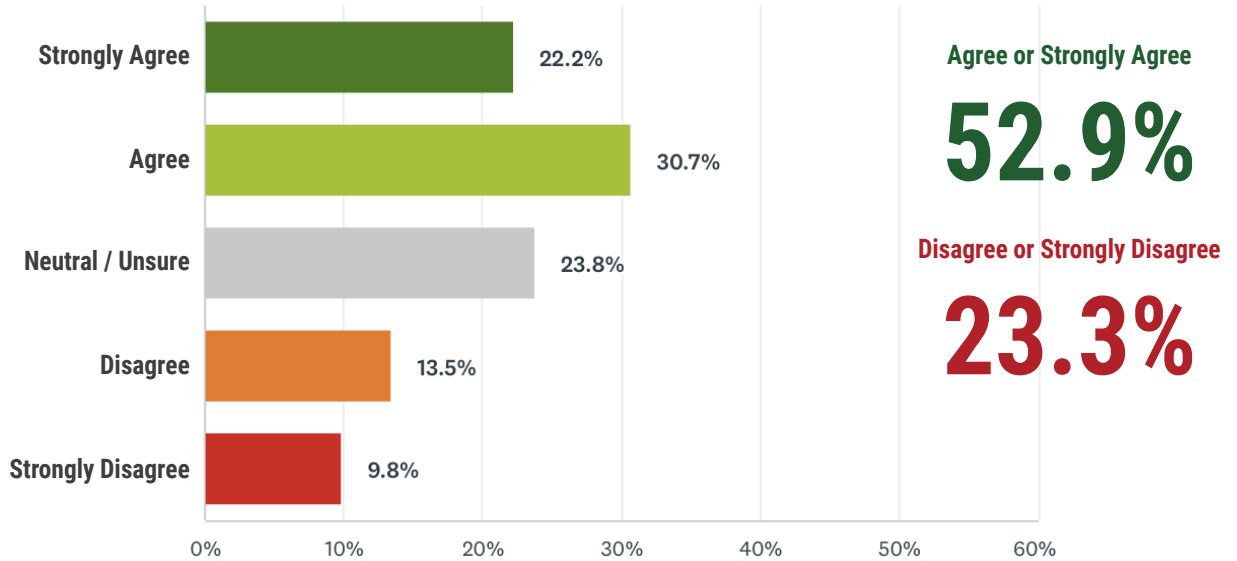
Q26 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) **“High-speed internet service within the town is adequate for my daily needs.”**

Answered: 378 Skipped: 44



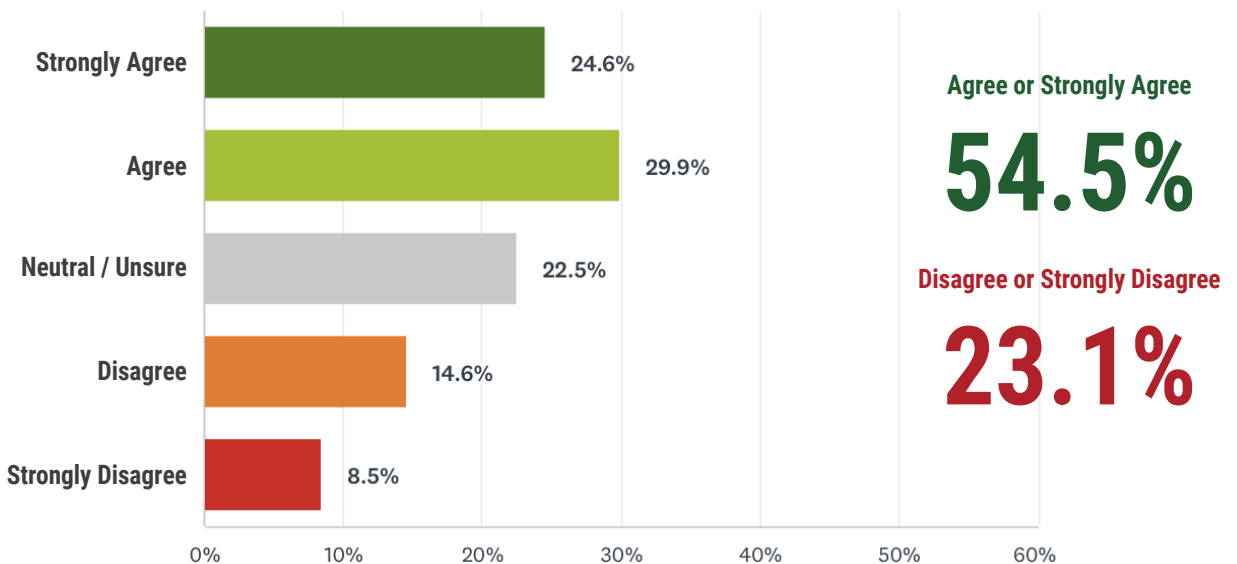
Q27 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) "The Town of Georgia municipality should work to pursue sustainable energy solutions for its operations, such as geothermal, heat exchangers, solar or wind energy sources, reduced energy use, and fossil fuel reductions."

Answered: 378 Skipped: 44



Q28 - How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one) "The Town of Georgia municipality should work to encourage and support ways in which homeowners and businesses can pursue sustainable energy solutions, such as geothermal, heat exchangers, solar or wind energy sources, reduced energy use, and fossil fuel reductions."

Answered: 378 Skipped: 44





# PART FIVE

## OVERALL PRIORITIES

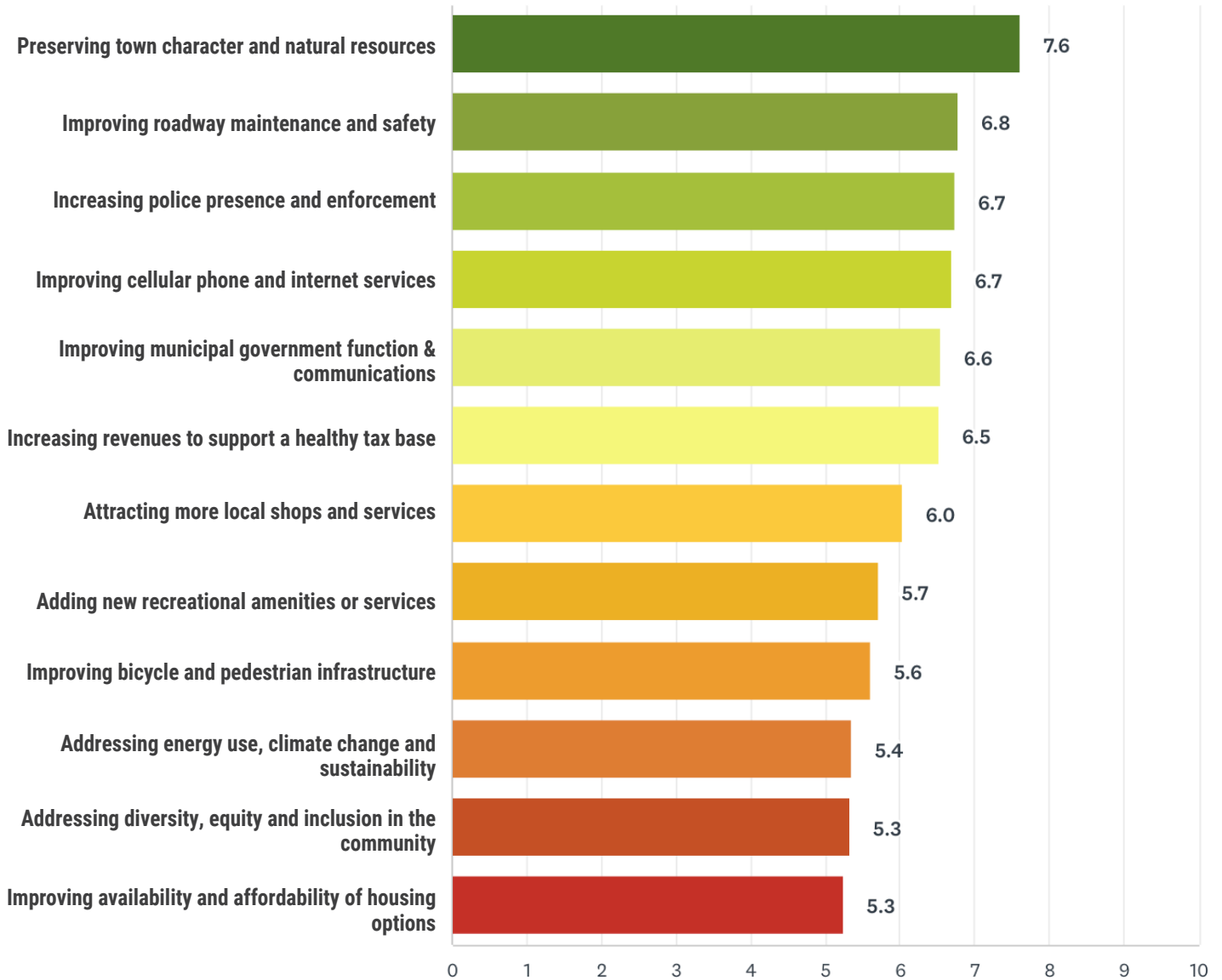
The purpose of Part Five was to measure the public's overall assessment of town priorities over the next several years going forward. This question was saved for last so that respondents would be more likely to consider their thoughts and answers to the previous questions in thinking about bigger picture priorities.

An option was provided for people to write-in any additional comments or suggestions they may have, in case there was a topic of interest to them which had not been covered in the survey.

Lastly, a question was provided asking if they would have any interest in volunteering to help on local committees or community groups. Respondents were given the option of providing contact info for this question. Because this survey is anonymous, all contact info provided has been omitted from this report and has been separated from the survey results by Regrowth Planning. The volunteer contact info will be provided to the Town Offices as a separate document unlinked from any survey data.

**Q29 - Considering your answers to the previous questions, please rank each of the following topics/issues on a scale of 1-10 in terms of their importance for the Town of Georgia to address over the next several years: (1 = Not Important, 5 = Average, 10 = Top Priority)**

Answered: 376 Skipped: 46



**Q29 - [Write-in responses to “Other” in Question 29]**

1. *you need to find better ways to increase revenue than increasing my taxes*
2. *We need to stop taxing the heck out of Vermonters so they won't leave the state.*
3. *The monopoly that Comcast has in our area needs to be challenged. Cable/cell/internet charges are ridiculous.*
4. *the key is to reduce spending that is the same as more revenue*
5. *The diversity issue although important should be addressed AFTER more pressing concerns have been mitigated.*
6. *SAFETY should be more important than recreation*
7. *Reduce budget*
8. *Please don't raise taxes. I pay enough and what I get for my money isn't worth it. Taxes are high enough!*
9. *P*
10. *Improving housing base will lend itself to improving equity and inclusion.*
11. *If increasing revenues means raising taxes again, NO. Very dissapointed that the current select board decided to tell all departments to present budgets with 5 percent increases. when budgets get don't get passed, that money has to come from somewhere. There are not sustainable, smart decisions being made.*
12. *If by more revenue it means from new housing and business and not from existing tax payers*
13. *I think we have a healthy stable tax base if you are able to increase the hours, pay rates and salaries of town employees with just a select board vote.*
14. *How are you going to do that?*
15. *Diversity is very important and I believe Georgia is a welcoming community so I don't think this issue requires considerable focus of town government.*
16. *Could just be me , but every time someone gets some extra money they spend it on something not really needed but then they say we have extra money and it wasnt used like a rainy day fund.....*
17. *Control budget*
18. *Communication in Georgia is a never-ending problem. We are a town with 3 sections--Fairfax, St. Albans, Milton. And each section takes its identity from those sections---even though people long to see themselves as part of a United Georgia. It will never happen unless we can find effective ways to communicate.*
19. *Case by case*
20. *Better done with trimming budgets. GFD budget has exploded town highway garage was allowed too much overrun*
21. *Addressing zoning regulations to keep slum lord/incompetent builders out of the housing mix.*
22. *[Re: sustainable energy question 27: not solar or wind energy sources]; [Re: sustainable energy question 28: encourage not mandate, not with tax monies]*
23. *"throwing out the old and buying all new" is NOT the way I operate in my life. I do not encourage the Town of Georgia to operate that way either.*

**Q30 - Please feel free to add any additional comments or suggestions you want to share for the Town Plan which were not covered in this survey:** (Write in) Note: Responses to this question have been organized by topic where possible. These responses also include written comments submitted via the Online Comment Form on the project website.

**ZONING / GROWTH**

1. *Zoning should ensure that land appropriate for water and sewer around south village is left open and available, not otherwise blocked, until infrastructure is created.*
2. *We need to grow slowly. I'd like more commercial property in the lower part of Georgia*
3. *We need a base of basic needs before expanding. Our infrastructure is crumbling, no police presence, our lake has such great potential and the bathrooms are embarrassing. We need to fix what we have before we expand and host more people in a public setting.*
4. *Though I believe they've been discontinued, I'm concerned about the potential use of a TIF district or it's like to fund some of these development ideas.*
5. *There will always be folks that want everything wright out there front door , and they lose track of why they wanted to live in Gerogia in the first place , of it being alittle queiter and peacefull than the high traffic area around here.....*
6. *The realization of the need to follow State and Regional Planning recommendations. This same process was done just about 5 years ago with very little of the recommendations being followed by the professionals paid to guide the town efforts as it relates to planning. Again this exercise is worthless if we are not keen enough to follow recommendations given by both citizens and regional planning years ago and now asking same questions 5 years later with no movement since last time you did this. South Village has been the prior leaders desire in the community. Let's get to work, it's been 15 years with that thought and no action still.*
7. *The main focus of town government should be on efficient management of expenses and planning targeted growth in the south village area.*
8. *I would like to see the town plan for positive growth with investing partners, rather than turn large plots of land over to out-of-town, money hungry, slum lords who do not care about our community. I would like to see the town focus more on the capacity of the community to grow before paving the way for large housing units to pop up that will add additional burden to our VOLUNTEER fire department, lacking police enforcement, questionable school capacity, etc. I would like to see the town put forth more effort into long range planning and goal setting, rather than the reactive nature that currently exists - especially the planning commission and select board. I would like to see the town put more effort into supporting the rich history of the town. I would like to see the town put more effort into building a positive community.*
9. *I personally believe Georgia Center should be the future of development in Georgia, specifically in terms of housing because of its proximity to the school. South Village should be utilized more for shops and services and not housing.*

10. Ever since I was a child there has been a drive to develop the town into something other than a bedroom community. Especially in the "south district". This money on research etc could be better spent on basic needs of the town not an unobtainable dream.

11. The Lakeshore height restriction for building has in my opinion created less visibility of the lake shore, it has increased the sprawl of the buildings themselves on the lots, where as a taller height might limit the building envelope in a better way.

12. Would like to see PUDs allowed in the L1 District.

13. The South Village needs to be rezoned. People on 104A are subject to ridiculous regulations where we can add livable space to our homes to grow with our family. Selling and building a larger home to stay in the school system is impossible now. There is no reason for 104A to be included in this vision of the South Village. Its only hurting the families that live here and driving them out. The campground and house in front needs to be cleaned up badly. Its an eye sore and reflects poorly on this town. If they are talking about waiving regulations for Bove then maybe its time to take a harder look at this envisioned "south village" and truly figure out how it will impact the town negatively INCLUDING the school that is already full. I don't feel that this had been looked into and people are using area schools to make judgment calls. My kids can't have friends come home on the bus with them because they are full.

14. I moved to our town as it is a small rural farming community. I don't want sidewalks and businesses and big buildings. I don't want apartment complexes. Let's keep Georgia the prize it is and stop the added homes.

15. Please stop making unilateral decisions, stop trying to make Georgia into an urban city. Stop turning people's property in commercial property! We chose to live in a rural town.

our town clerk should not be split in two directions. So many people trying to do the job of one is creating inconsistency and confusion. The town administrator position should not be simply absorbed by internal employees due to previous agendas.

5. The collusion in the town offices with brokers, builders, developers has led to significant mistrust of the leadership. Not showing all sides of the picture is a disservice to residents. Coming up with secret ways to get sewer approved in south village is dirty. Share the facts without pushing your agenda.

6. Suggest going back to two positions for Town Administrator or Town Manager to separate from Town Clerk to return to accountability at the highest level of Town government. Total disfunction in town government for town office and select board for huge turnover with no benefit to taxpayers.

7. Stop letting a single person view run the structure

8. Start "living within our means", TOO MANY Town employees @ TOO HIGH salaries compared to similar sized rural towns in Vt. we are way over staffed!

9. Newspaper coverage of town meetings, select board meetings, school board meetings etc.

10. Many of the items mentioned in this survey will depend on a sliding scale in regards to cost. I truly believe that most of the ideas have merit but we have pressing issues that need immediate attention. Georgia seems to be focused on WANTS rather than NEEDS. Communication will be paramount. Transparency and efficiency in our town government NEED to be addressed first! Can we streamline the workings of the town rather than creating a larger government? Should we be looking independently at every part of the inner workings of our town to assess what IS actually working or where there needs to be improvement, mitigation, restructuring or deletion!

11. If you want to make a change to support the community, one person one position. Play one person 80 paychecks for not working 80 hours is very disturbing. If the Town Clerk actually did their job, we would not need 2 part time clerk assistants.

## TOWN OFFICE / GOVT MANAGEMENT

1. Town permits that are reviewed for correctness and then enforcement that they are carried out correctly.

2. Town employee ethics and an appropriate policy should be addressed. Confidence in the new, and current, town office employees (not highway) is at an all time low due to, what I perceive, as highly questionable decisions and practices (at best). The daily town office is one big clique that appears to be operating their own agenda which generally comes across as the opposite of what the rest of the town desires. Additionally, the spending on unnecessary equipment and extremely bloated salaries is disgusting. Residents are told there is no money for X, Y, and Z but then it seems every month some new (bigger) purchase was made by employees, or PT positions are changed to FT. The list goes on. I think an audit of jobs and what they actually do on the daily could be incredibly enlightening and potentially reduce redundancy.

3. Town direction should be an ongoing process. I would see more forums for public input and discussion that might diffuse some of the "us vs. them" situations and the often crisis management decisions made, and lack of forward thinking tools available to DRB, Select board, and Planning. More need for education of the state legislature on how "hands tying" and disastrous the actual results of their "good intentions" are.

4. The positions at the town offices have been added at an alarming rate. One person should not be holding two full time positions. The attention of

## TAXES

1. Taxes are already high and will likely have to go up again this year, be mindful of adding things that increase taxes

2. No more taxes

3. Please no more growth and no more taxes. It's getting harder to afford to live here.

4. Need to consider effects on residential taxes when reviewing adding services, as my taxes have increased considerably over the past 4-5 years.

5. The town needs to bring in businesses, fix/maintain roads (especially in winter months), and most importantly- reduce taxes!!! Especially the out of control cost of the school overspending!!!

6. I think it would help to understand why Georgia is sort of 'middle of the pack' with taxes, but we don't have much for amenities. As a resident, its easy to always feel like taxes are high, and always going up, without seeing anything noticeable back.

7. I believe several areas can be more affordable if the expenses are properly handled - we do not need to raise our taxes to make up the difference.

8. Have you thought of adding a 1% sales tax for businesses. St. Albans and St. Albans town receive quite a bit from there. I realize they have more

shops and such but since you want to become more like them and Williston, something to consider. The town has a new garage and a new municipal building plus the roads are better. The city built they're swimming complex with help from that plus taxes are higher. I don't wish to see my taxes to go for things we can get 10 miles away.

- 9. Do t raise taxes!
- 10. "Increasing revenues to support a healthy/stable tax base"? I am not in

**DEI**

- 1. There is no DEI issue to address in Georgia. Trying to do something about it will only have the opposite impact and segregate our lovely town. Everybody is already welcomed here, but trying to force a political agenda by pushing DEI will only create resentment and division in our community.
- 2. The way DEI is being pushed in this town is having the exact opposite effect that it is claiming to champion. Citizens are being bullied into complying with this because of the color of their skin (white), their religion (Christian), and their sexual identity (straight/cis). We are being told we have no say in the issue because of our race, religion, and sexual orientation. This is the opposite of inclusive. The citizens of the town of Georgia are being bullied by a radical few into buying into this mind virus of CRT and DEI. This is a political ideology that is already wreaking havoc across our state. There has only been bad fruit from this ideology and the lawsuits are coming. The town of Georgia cannot afford to be one of the casualties of this divisive ideology.
- 3. The DEI committee has a brain infection and should not be considered in any fashion
- 4. the current board has brought more division to the town with the drive to put DEI. This is wrong.....
- 5. Stop focusing on DEI and focus on running the town and keeping scum like the Boves out.
- 6. I had the good fortune to attend the DEI Q&A hosted at the school library a few months back. In it a select few individuals pushed to amend our town charter with DEI language. In their words to 'put our town on the map' which would in turn attract more DEI advocates to our community. Since then I have also witnessed numerous interactions on our town's Facebook page regarding this topic from the small minority of individuals advocating for it. It was notable that in their interactions with community members both in person and especially online, they practice none of what they preach. But rather this DEI initiative appears to be a barrier to hide behind which absolves them of criticism for mistreating their fellow townspeople. The rudeness, hatred, divisiveness, and anger directed at neighbors, strangers and colleagues alike by each of the individuals pushing this agenda was shocking to me. It begs the question that if the stated goal in adopting DEI ideology as a town is to signal a welcome for more people of similar social malevolence, is the virtue signal worth the sacrifice of the freedom, safety, and peace of mind of our community? On the basis of what I and many others in our community have seen it most certainly is not. Our town would do well to dismiss this agenda as the distraction it is so we can refocus on the real issues in our town that actually need solving.
- 7. I feel we are already a very welcoming community!
- 8. Don't get to engrossed with DEI!

**HOUSING**

- 1. We do not want low income Apts or houses that will end up be slums and will not be maintained or upkept by the owners. Where people will be moving into over crowding the school.
- 2. Some of the questions are not only about should we have this, but how will it happen. Affordable living is necessary, but not to the cost of the community. Don't have a private citizen build affordable housing; someone who can ignore the problems that it may bring to the community and ignore any requests from the Town, neighbors or even the tenants. Discuss it with the state if they have interest in building a small apartment building here that fits the community needs and its landscape.
- 3. Residential growth is a net negative to the tax base. Need transfer of development regs. Relaxing development regulations just makes developers rich off the town with little to no gain to the existing residents.
- 4. No slumlords
- 5. More housing means more students at our school. There needs to be a plan for absorbing new students in the already full school.
- 6. I love our little "no stop light town". Responsible growth is important. Duplexes, apartments and condos will bring in the growth that I feel we don't need. Let the surrounding towns carry that load. They seem willing to. We don't need to keep up with them. It will overload our school even more than it is.
- 7. Please regulate Short Term Rentals, coordinate confirmation of adequate water/sewer capacity and function, and conduct public hearings to include neighbor notifications .
- 8. The ban on first floor housing within the South Village does not make housing more affordable, yet this is a stated goal of the Town Plan.

**ROADS / TRAFFIC**

- 1. Traffic lights at the interstate exits.
- 2. The roads are so poorly maintained that they become almost undrivable. I worry about the access to emergency vehicles when the roads are so poor. I wonder if paving maybe a better, long-term solution.
- 3. Slow down traffic on rt 7 in Georgia center.
- 4. please pave Carpenter Hill Rd soon...
- 5. I have a particular peeve about road naming in Georgia. I look around me and see this unique, beautiful place with its unique landscape, views, natural history and human history. The historical society was supposed to help people get together and come up with appropriate road names or if they couldn't, to do it for them. They did a so-so job, usually not doing much research other than naming a road after someone who lived there. Somewhere along the line the selectmen decided to take that back over and, in addition, to allow builders or developers to name the roads themselves. Roads are given names that often remain the same for literally HUNDREDS of years. They stand as historical markers and reminders of a place and a place in time. Do we REALLY want to mark Georgia's uniqueness with such silliness as (Milton's) "Chrisemily Drive?" (And MANY other inappropriate and/or self aggrandizing names chosen by whom? In Milton?) Did you know that in East Georgia on the Lamoille River there was at one time a large Abnaki Indian village that was there for OVER 200 (!) years? Yet there is not one name,

not one road or marker or reminder in all of Georgia that commemorates that. How many people have commented on how bad the name of "Sodom" Road is? Somewhere along the line someone cut its name from Sodom SALTWORKS Road. The Sodom SALTWORKS was a well respected and necessary industry that graced a Georgia for many years and was known all over the state. Peter Mallet was a force for good in countless community projects. Yet there is not one thing in Georgia that commemorates his considerable contribution to our community. Women, like some of the one-room school teachers who faithfully fulfilled their roles have never been named on anything. And unique phenomena like the ridge just east of the lake that extends through Georgia and into Milton and in the spring is abloom with thousands of white trilliums is known only to the people who live there. The name "Trillium Ridge Road" was turned down because it sounded "too much like Massachusetts." My sense is that road naming has an important part to play in the development, history and community consciousness of this unique place. We need to respect its power and the process we bring to it.

6. More money is needed for paving. [Partial comment separated from whole]
7. Build the sidewalks that have been in the town plan for years. (Ballard Rd, Rte 7) It's probably the cheapest thing we could do to increase activity in the town.

## SCHOOL & LIBRARY

1. Attention to library funding. Understaffed, underfunded!!!!!!!
2. Add onto the school. Georgia has a big enough population put our tax dollars into adding a high school. Over time it will Pay itself off.
3. I think that the library sees limited use and should be shared with other towns to save on costs that most taxpayers don't use. [Partial comment separated from whole]

## WATER / SEWER / ENERGY / INFRASTRUCTURE

1. I think that the town water supply should be investigated. Every where people have hard water. It's so bad as a renter I have to replace my shower head at least twice a year. There are calcium deposits in every faucet despite using a softener. Since moving here from Saint Albans my hair and skin have suffered so much because of the water problem. We can't drink it even from a filtered tap. It's the worst I've ever had to live with as a lifetime Franklin County resident.
2. Natural gas would be nice In other parts of the town.
3. [Re: sustainability] solar panels @ town garage, energy committee
4. Cell phone and internet for me isn't that there isn't a usable option that is usually adequate. The issue is that there is only one option and it is comparatively expensive to what is available in other areas.
5. State designation program for south village district (and municipal water and sewer)

## GENERAL / UNCATEGORIZED

1. Making the town an affordable place to live with an outstanding education system, while allowing aging residents and veterans the ability to afford to stay in town, should be a priority. Not the hoopla of new community event spaces - ignoring existing spaces - or diversity inclusion arguments that divide people.
2. I am in agreement with the goals of the 2017 Town Plan. Here are some of the things that are particular values to me: 1. More gathering spaces. This can include restaurants, cafes, parks, or community centers. Without any physical center of gravity, Georgia suffers from fragmentation. Loneliness and isolation are big problems, especially for seniors or families without kids in the school system. 2. Development of mixed-use trails. Someone mentioned at the meeting that this would add a lot of value to Georgia, and it would be much easier to do before other development happens. 3. Affordable housing. It is already difficult for lower-income people or even middle class families with a single income to afford to live here. We don't want to price them out as development continues.
3. Respect property owners
4. Housing, climate change, and DEI are all top priorities. In terms of community building, this town really needs a coffee shop/casual restaurant— but absolutely not fast food!
5. Zip code!!
6. Residents with dogs need to be more respectful of their neighbors; control the barking!
7. I would like our own post office for our own zip code
8. Whoever came up with this survey is completely out of touch with residents.
9. Nice job putting together this questionnaire.

**Q31 - Are there any issues covered in this survey which you would be willing to donate or volunteer time on to help improve the community?**

(Write in)

1. *Yes. Building, lands, community space*
2. *Water Quality Improvement and Stormwater Management*
3. *Town budget, spending controls*
4. *Sustainability and combating sprawl*
5. *Several*
6. *Road naming and research, development of an online community newspaper*
7. *Recreation, Library, History*
8. *Recreation*
9. *Preserving town character and natural resources*
10. *Please ask this again separate if this survey; perhaps in a follow up questionnaire.*
11. *not at this time*
12. *no*
13. *no*
14. *nature preservation and amenities*
15. *N/A*
16. *n*
17. *Library location in Georgia Center would improve access and allow sharing facility with school.*
18. *Killing any DEI initiatives*
19. *If the conservancy committee is seeking members I could potentially volunteer*
20. *I keep myself quite busy with my young family, but would volunteer my time if my schedule allowed.*
21. *I am willing to help if I can see a list of needs*
22. *Georgia Beach, a community center*
23. *DEI, infrastructure*
24. *Creation of the public forum/education opportunities eluded to above.*
25. *Cleaning up the lake and roadsides from litter*
26. *Biking or walking lanes initiatives!*
27. *be aware of the increased number of air & b because more strangers are coming inn*
28. *Absolutely*

# **PART SIX**

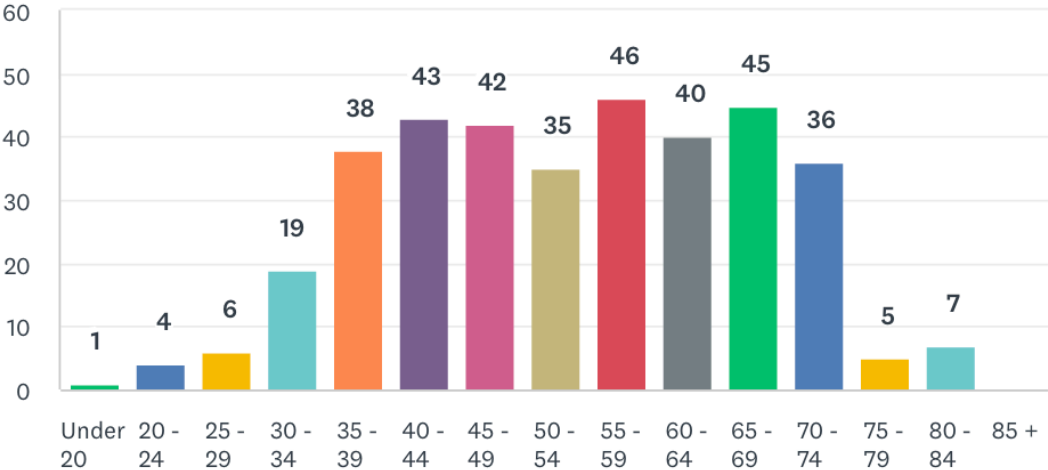
## ABOUT YOU

The purpose of Part Six was to help gather general demographic data of the survey responses to help understand the community, and the perspective of those taking the survey.



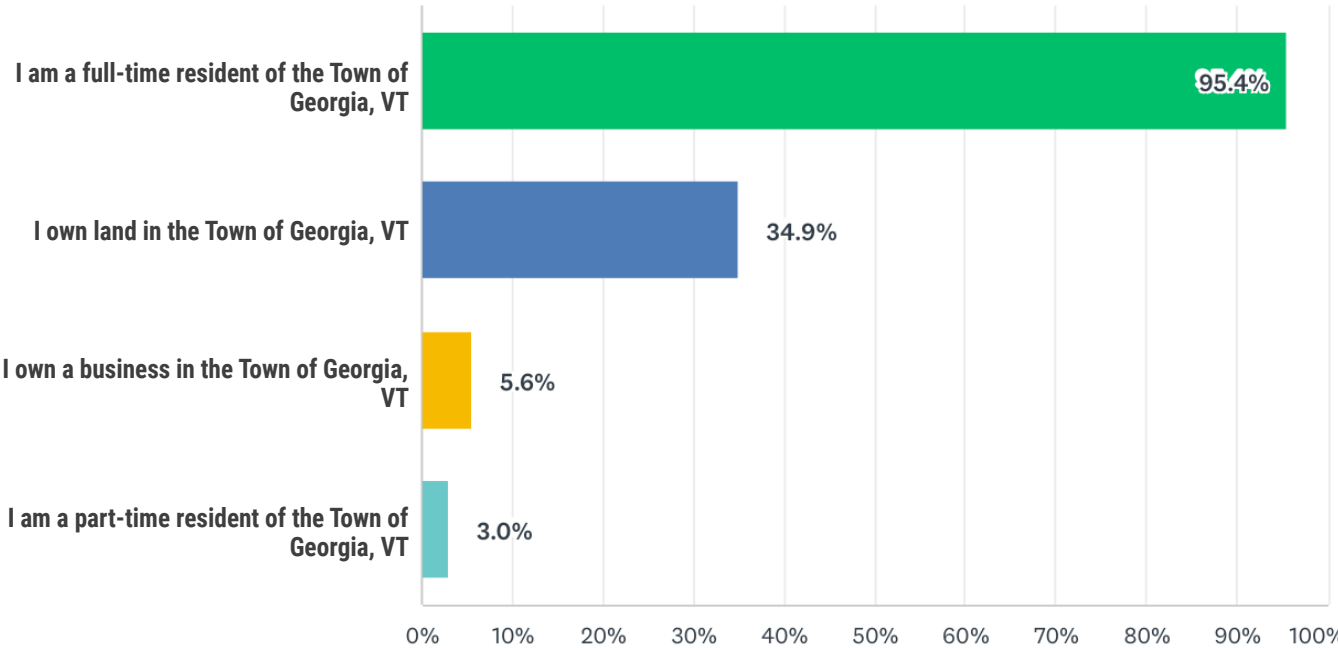
Q32 - **What is your age?** (Select One)

Answered: 367 Skipped: 55



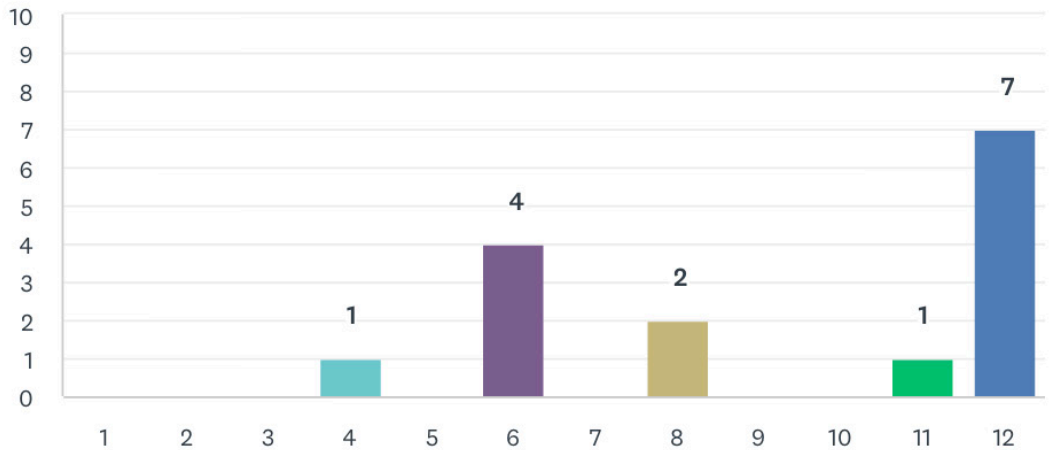
Q33 - **Check all of the following that may apply:** (Select all that apply)

Answered: 372 Skipped: 50



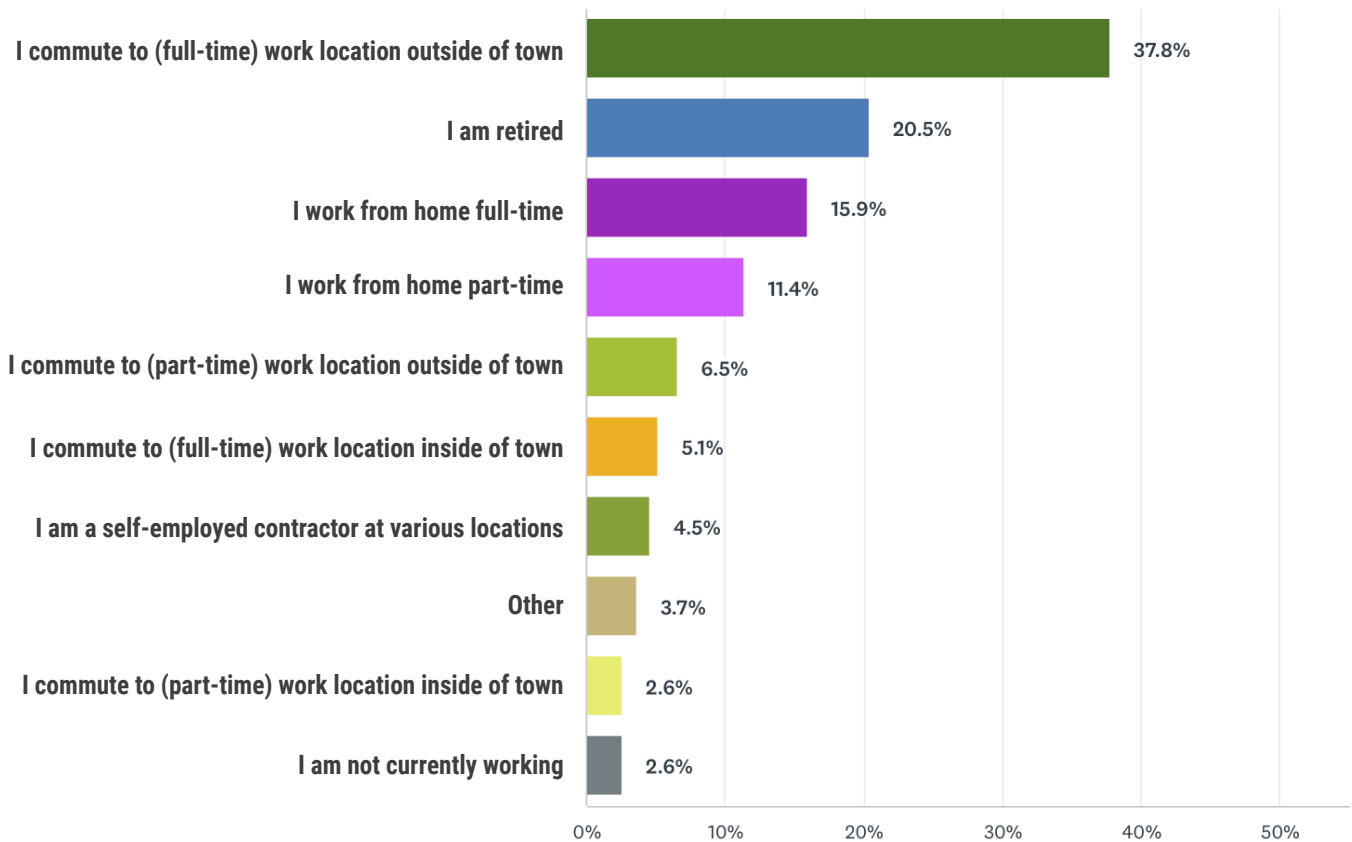
**Q34 - If you are a part-time resident, about how many months of the year do you typically live here in town?**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 407



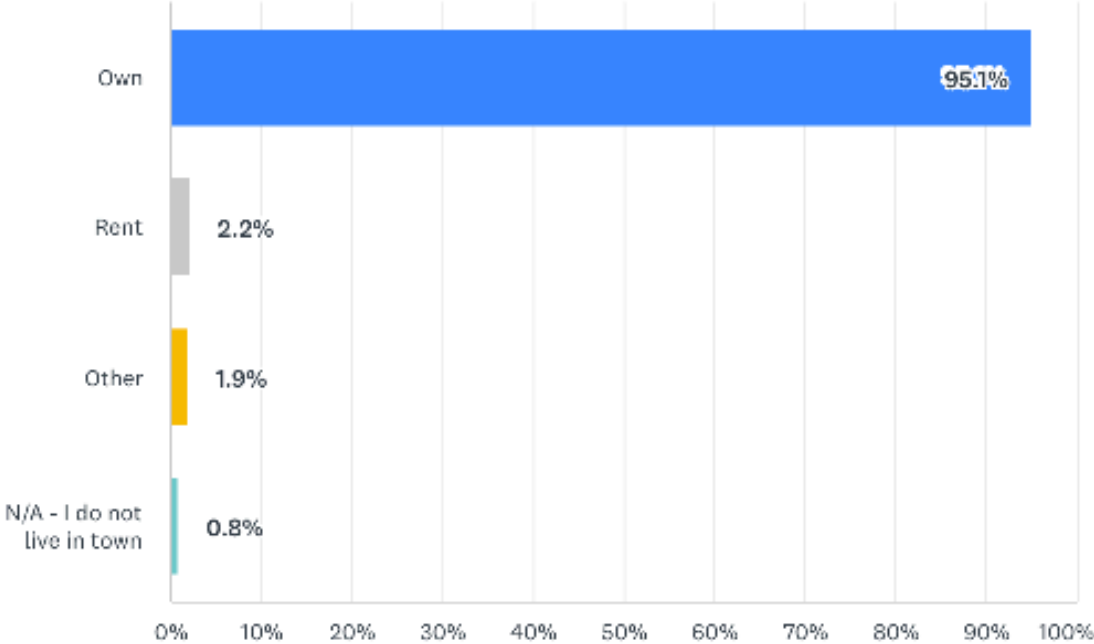
**Q35 - Where do you work? (Select all that apply)**

Answered: 352 Skipped: 70



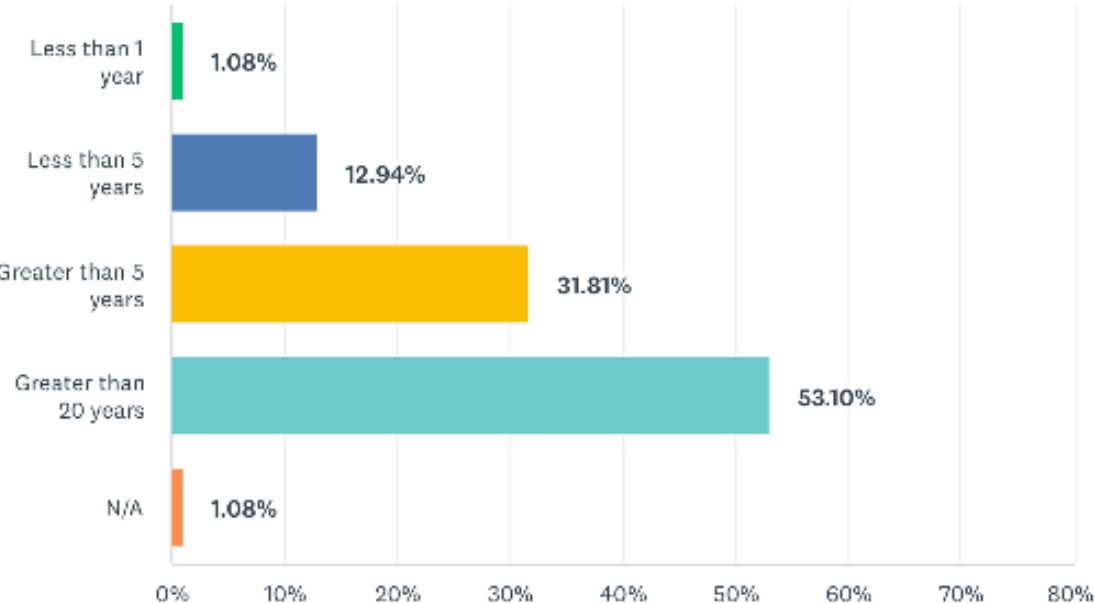
Q36 - Do you own or rent your place of residence in Georgia? (Select One)

Answered: 371 Skipped: 51



Q37 - How long have you lived in the Town of Georgia? (Select One)

Answered: 371 Skipped: 51



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