

Community Conversation

1. What do you like most about living in Prince William County?

- Balance of closeness to DC and yet further out with less cost of living
- Affordability of county
- Good schools
- Diversity – majority -minority county
- Love being at home
- Love library system, electronic services
- Parks, trails
- Far enough from DC that we have space and country style and yet close enough to enjoy amenities of DC
- Shopping
- Still easy to get around
- Have grown and still have housing opportunities for the elderly,
- Aging opportunities
- One elderly citizen said: Police force has evolved – doing great job, officer comes and checks on her on occasion
- Small businesses in community – how welcoming the county is to new businesses
- Community involved in social services and very involved in providing services
- Faith-based community involved with community – a lot of collaboration
- Resources in eastern part of CO.
- Great place to raise a family
- Local govt officials are willing to reach out to the community
- Higher standard of living
- Govt open to resident participation
- Nice mixture of diverse population
- Govt employees do their job
- Good civic involvement – 50th yr of LOCCA and Police Dept
- Location between city and Mountains
- Social services, PD admits mistakes and open to hearing from community
- County had delimited development area and rural area

2. What do you like least about living in Prince William County?

- Worry about fragile people in county – older people and individuals needing assistance
- Affordable housing for lower income workers

- Traffic
- Efforts to turn us into Fairfax or Loudoun Co
- Roads they built with traffic lights – build roads that can handle traffic to come
- Prices of housing going up
- Not seeing homes being built for seniors
- Would like to see more open-mindedness and tolerance from people
- Divide between East and West
- Inequity between our schools
- Lack of rooms to rent
- Lack of walkways and bike lanes
- Do not pave over history and neighborhoods for data centers
- Do not like that Planning Dept and Supervisors approve plans for dense housing – eating up open spaces
- Lack of major corporate development
- Fostering small businesses in county
- Minimum wage
- Care for immigrant communities with Rt 1 development
- George Mason needs to expand to full university with dormitories for housing
- Loudoun Co. reduced residential taxes with taxes of data centers
- Not utilizing resources for data centers etc. that can reduce taxes
- Balance of environment and places people living
- Planning Commission look at balance of expanding population and need for clean industry
- More options for parents in early childhood education
- Childcare and family day care
- We do not have robust sense of philanthropy
- Gap in mental health care resources and coordination of those services for children and teens
- Health disparities
- Life expectancy varies by census tract up to 18 years
- Attempts of BOCS to raise taxes
- We have not felt full impact of COVID – impact on businesses – do something proactively
- Sense of cultural belonging – is it sticking with younger population?
- How to we get various cultures into conversations

3. If you were in charge, what would you change about Prince William County?

- Bring blue line from Springfield to Woodbridge
- Affordable housing – designate certain amount of new housing affordable (State guidelines should be an option approved by BOCS)
- In Lake Ridge Affordable housing integrated into East side of CO.
- Increased procurement opportunities specifically for minority owned businesses
- Housing
- Offer universal Pre-K – partner with public and private settings
- More inclusive with minorities
- Cleaner transportation choices
- Hear out constituents in regard to current social movements
- Create clean energy plan
- Create sustainability plan in regard to current climate change
- More funding for education and psychology
- Loudoun data centers bringing in large tax base for schools, social services etc.
- Board has tendency to steamroll their views over those knowledgeable of the issues – need to respect and learn from people that show up and are passionate
- More broadly inclusive community events
- Care and protection for immigrant families
- Care for homeless
- Underground utilities
- Support those most vulnerable in the community
- Keep all citizens safe – what it looks like in the future differ from the past
- Strategic economic development for higher paying jobs
- Continue community that cares for each other
- More mental health resources in the community
- More planned green accessible spaces in communities
- High tech jobs in the CO
- COVID changing workplace design and we need to be more responsive
- More access to affordable and healthy and organic food
- Need economic development authority
- County needs to think about seniors donating time to serve on planning Comm and other services – giving back to community and trusts etc. – Contribute in meaningful ways
- Mental health services – public-private partnerships for facility one East similar to Manassas
- SP should be proactive to include safety for minorities and marginalized – have commission at address
- Diversified curriculum K-12

- SP to increase annual spending for procurement from minority-owned business
- Ensure minority-owned businesses are ready to do business in community

4. What do you believe should be the top 3 priorities for the community over the next 4 - 5 years?

- Transportation
- Education - schools
- More jobs in the county
- Balancing development with affordable housing
- Developing revenue streams
- Early childhood education
- Road map to get to 35%
- Trades, skilled manual labor
- Plan for Legalization of marijuana
- Funding social services
- High speed internet – 5 G
- Capture data centers
- ADA compliance and convenience
- Invest in nonprofits so they can pay staff a living wage
- Economic development
- Transportation for special populations
- Clean energy in county
- Intra-county transportation
- More awareness of diversity, interaction, STEM program
- Streaming cross- county transportation
- Messaging to county a creed that we are diverse, tolerant of all ideas and sensitive to those less fortunate

5. What other comments or insights do you want to share that would be important to PWC’s strategic planning process?

- Young people engagement and ownership, belonging and commitment
- SP - Goals areas, measurable objectives and periodic briefing from staff posted on website – same with comp plan – Accountability for meeting benchmarks
- We need office for Young Children with services for parents to access for children health, well-being etc.
- Messaging regarding county values such as diversity, equity and inclusion woven throughout strategic plan
- Need another commission on the future – looking 20 -30 years down the road
- Ways to pay for “wants’ without burdening taxpayers