

Community Conversation Questions

1. What do you like most about living in Prince William County?
 - Working and living in Prince William County
 - Having family live nearby. Diversity and opportunities.
 - The ability for constituents to participate. Opportunity is there to be part of discussions.
 - Great education and schools
 - Libraries and playgrounds

2. What do you like least about living in Prince William County?
 - Education here is not the best in the Country. Needs work and disadvantage those students that are advanced.
 - Some schools are good, but all schools are not created equal.
 - Virginia use to be a top state for schools but has fallen in rank. What needs to be done to make it better?
 - Need to find a way to teach kids to critically think.
 - Infrastructure in the County is not balanced (Schools/Parks). Historically, we have not bet investing in other areas resulting in equity issues.
 - Lack of recognition that that are inequities in certain schools.
 - Lack of outreach from School Board.
 - “Doughnut Hole” of Northern Virginia regarding sustainability. The County isn’t taking advantage and lacks a climate plan.
 - We need to put into place a clean energy plan.

3. If you were in charge, what would you change about Prince William County?
 - Come up with a Climate Action Plan. The County has the opportunity to be a leader in this field. I would like to see a shift to green and renewable energy. I would like climate sustainable added into the Strategic Plan.
 - Strategic Communication Plan that we act on. Including quantifiable metrics. We need to execute a plan that pushes information through various platforms. We need community involvement.
 - The County has a ton of information for residents but is difficult to find. Focus over the next four years to determine what information needs to be communicated. Focus on easy ways to access information. It seems that may of the programs that we have are reactive. Lack of vision on how we are investing our money and programs we are running. For example Building plans in other jurisdictions can be submitted electronically and we still don’t accept electronic building plans.
 - Affordable Housing needs to be a focus. Lack of affordable housing “stock”.
 - Prioritizing objectives. Important to identify objectives. Some are more critical than others. Important to be clear on prioritizing.

- Strategic thinking on infrastructure. Lack of fire stations. Need improved response times. Additional Police Stations and Libraries. We need to rethink what a library is. Transportation Plan is not the greatest based on current structure.
 - Incentives for keeping Prince William County residents working and staying in the County. Incentive for employers to hire from within the County.
4. What do you believe should be the **top 3 priorities for the community** over the next 4 - 5 years?
- Infrastructure investment, mental health/homeless facilities, communication, more parks (active and recreation)
 - Senior Living (all aspects), affordable housing
 - Affordable housing, cost effective energy implementation
 - Creation of a climate action and resiliency plan, Investment for clean energy, more resources given to low income communities
 - Education to keep community connected, resource sharing agreement with the Schools, connecting economic development with affordable housing, improving communication with constituents
 - Climate plan, walkable/bikeable communities, supporting underserved communities and communities of color.
5. What other comments or insights do you want to share that would be important to PWC's strategic planning process?
- We need to focus on business development
 - There needs to be analysis on if we succeeded after implementation of a Strategic Plan. Keep track on whether we are being successful.
 - More community meetings with regards to social movements. Our community voices need to be heard.
 - Concerns about the Bethlehem Road asphalt plant proposed to be placed near Mullen elementary school, a predominantly minority school and community. I really hope that the Board considers the vulnerabilities of these communities when they vote on September 8th